




# Longford County Council Annual Report 2025



**Prepared in accordance with Section 221 of the Local Government Act, 2001, as amended. Adopted by the elected members of Longford County Council at a meeting held on Wednesday, 08 April 2026.**



Scenic Photos by Lissette Carcamo and Colm Mulligan

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# Message from the Cathaoirleach

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As Cathaoirleach of Longford County Council, it is my honour to present the Annual Report 2025. This report is a record of what your Council delivered for the people of County Longford across the past year — in our towns, our villages and our rural communities.

Roads remain the backbone of everyday life in Longford. In 2025, road expenditure totalled €14,124,884, including a €2,315,315 contribution from Transport Infrastructure Ireland. A new Road Safety Action Plan 2025–2027 was unanimously adopted by the elected members in November, aligning local action with Ireland’s National Road Safety Strategy 2021–2030.

Active travel took a significant step forward with the opening of the €3.5 million Battery Road Cycle and Pedestrian Scheme in June. The 1.3 km segregated route — which includes Ireland’s first coloured cast-in-situ separator kerbs — connects Longford Town to the N4 Axis Centre and has already improved daily life for schoolchildren, commuters and residents alike.

A landmark moment for inclusive play came with the opening of the ‘Sunflower’ Playground in Longford Town. Designed for children with additional needs and funded through the Town and Village Renewal Scheme (€379,000) with additional Council support, it stands as a tangible expression of our commitment to every child in the county.

In housing, 25 affordable housing units were approved for Longford Town by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage and elected members — the first delivered under the Affordable Housing Purchase Scheme in recent years in the county. Energy retrofitting work was completed on 51 housing units across four estates. These are real numbers behind real homes.

# Message from the Cathaoirleach

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Funding secured during 2025 will shape Longford for years to come. Chief among these is €7 million in THRIVE funding for the Connolly Barracks Reimagined project – a future county museum, cultural hub, makerspace and performance space at the heart of Longford Town. The €7 million Ballymahon Pobal Le Chéile project also moved into detailed design, with construction expected to commence in August 2026 while exciting plans are also afoot for the Granard Motte project.

Culture and community were alive throughout the year. Longford Lights expanded across four days in February, with over 11,000 people attending which generated significant footfall for hospitality and retail businesses during a traditionally quieter trading period. The Dead of Night parade marked its twentieth anniversary in style. Co:worx in Edgeworthstown won the national Creative Communities category at the IPB Pride of Place Awards. Locally made film 'Brown Bread' debuted at the Galway Film Fleadh and was subsequently acquired by Disney+ for release across Europe.

The Longford Microsoft Dream Space Showcase ran for the third year, with more than 500 primary school students taking part. The initiative won the Digital Inclusion Award at the Ireland eGovernment Awards and the Judges' Choice Award at the Public Sector Digital Transformation Awards.

I want to thank our Chief Executive Paddy Mahon and his senior management team, and every employee of Longford County Council. My thanks also go to my fellow elected members for their service and commitment throughout the year. Above all, I thank the people of Longford – the community and voluntary organisations, local businesses and all those who engage with and trust in our Council.

**—Longford County Council Cathaoirleach, Cllr Garry Murtagh**

# Message from the Chief Executive

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As Chief Executive, I am pleased to welcome you to Longford County Council's Annual Report 2025. This report captures the work of an organisation that continued, through a challenging year, to deliver for the people of County Longford.

The external context remains complex as pressures on housing, cost of living and public services have not eased. Migration into Ireland continues, and Longford's Local Authority Integration Team, established in 2024, has grown into its role — providing a structured, compassionate response to the needs of our newer communities.

Against this backdrop, the Council's performance in 2025 is one we can be proud of. We secured €7 million in THRIVE funding for the Connolly Barracks Reimagined project — the most significant single investment in Longford Town's cultural future in a generation. The Ballymahon Pobal Le Chéile project advanced to detailed design stage. The Longford 2040 Town Centre First Strategy, launched in 2024, is now generating real momentum, with a second Town Team developing in Ballymahon.

Longford's people were well served by their Council in 2025, and the Council's national standing reflects this. For the eleventh consecutive year, we were honoured at the NISO Awards, again winning the Local Authority category and the Consistent High Achiever recognition. We received the Health and Safety Award in the Public Sector category at the Health and Safety Excellence Awards for the third year running. These awards measure the daily diligence of our people.

# Message from the Chief Executive

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The Longford Microsoft Dream Space Showcase won two national awards in 2025, recognising the Council's role in leading meaningful digital inclusion. Our Biodiversity Action Plan 2025–2030 was adopted by the full Council in September, and the Albert Reynolds Collection was officially opened at Longford County Library in November — a permanent addition to our cultural memory.

Our Corporate Plan 2024–2029 provides the strategic frame for everything we do. The work across housing, roads, climate action, enterprise, arts and sport during 2025 reflects the breadth of what local government does quietly and consistently — often without fanfare, but always with purpose.

I would like to acknowledge An Cathaoirleach Cllr Garry Murtagh for his leadership throughout the year, and to thank all elected members for their continued engagement and support. My sincere thanks go to the senior Management Team and every Longford County Council employee for their professionalism and hard work.

As my term as Chief Executive draws to a close in 2026, I want to take this opportunity to thank and acknowledge my colleagues on the Management Team and across every Department of Longford County Council along with the Elected Members for your support and significant contribution to the development of County Longford during my time with the Council.

**—Longford County Council Chief Executive, Paddy Mahon**





# Elected Members of Longford County Council

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## Ballymahon Municipal District



Cllr Mick Cahill



Cllr Mark Casey



Cllr Sean Mimmagh



Cllr Pat O'Toole



Cllr Paul Ross



Cllr Martin Skelly

## Granard Municipal District



Cllr Colin Dalton



Cllr. David Cassidy



Cllr Turlough McGovern



Cllr Padraig McNamara



Cllr Garry Murtagh

# Elected Members of Longford County Council

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**Cllr Uruemu Adejinmi**



**Cllr Seamus Butler**



**Cllr Niall Gannon**



**Cllr Gerry Hagan**



**Cllr Kevin Hussey**



**Cllr Martin Monaghan**



**Cllr Peggy Nolan**

# Ballymahon Municipal District

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**Meetings:** A total of eight meetings took place, including an Annual General Meeting and a General Municipal Allocation meeting and six committee meetings.

**Cathaoirleach:** Councillor Martin Skelly was elected Cathaoirleach, and Councillor Sean Mimmagh was elected Leas Cathaoirleach at the Annual General Meeting in June.

**2025 Register of Electors:** 11,854 were registered to vote in the Ballymahon Electoral Area (Rolling Register).

**General Municipal Grant Allocation:** €110,000

**Funding awarded under the Community Grant Support Scheme:** €109,148.00

## Project Updates

### Ballymahon Pobal le Chéile Project

The planning for €7 million Rural Regional Development Fund (RRDF) Pobal Le Chéile project was adopted in September 2025. Detailed Design has started and tenders for construction will be published in April. Construction is expected to start in August 2026. This will be the first phase of Pobal Le Cheile and will be the delivery of the Convent Site, which will include renovation of the convent building and the construction of a community centre space at the rear of the convent.

### URBACT UR Impact Project

Longford County Council continued to engage with the local community on the implementation of the URBACT UR Impact project, leading to the finalisation of the UR Impact Integrated Action Plan in December. This plan identified a number of key actions to support the local community in the integration of social impact in urban regeneration projects, including the development of a Men's and Hen's Shed and a Youth Café. The project concluded with a local community gathering, bringing together representatives from other Men's Sheds around Longford to bring their expertise to the local community interested in setting up a Men's Shed

# Ballymahon Municipal District

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and Foróige Youth Services, to inform the young people about the opportunities and benefits of being involved in the Foróige programme. The event was very well attended by the local community.

## **Town Centre First**

Ballymahon was identified as the second town for the development of a Town Centre First Plan in County Longford. This has supported the expansion of the Town Team and meetings with them on a regular basis continued during 2025. Public consultation and engagement continued which included student engagement with Ballymahon Vocational School and the Mercy Secondary School. TU Students completed a design project for Ballymahon Town during 2025. A graphic illustrator/visual note taker was engaged to attend a Town Team Meeting to assist with ideas and present back a visual presentation of discussion of the Town Team. These actions will inform and support the development of the forthcoming Ballymahon Town Centre First Plan.

Ballymahon town was also focused upon for addressing dereliction and vacancy. A number of surveys and inspections were carried out during 2025 regarding placing a number of properties on the Derelict Sites Register.

## **Active Travel**

### **R392 Pedestrian and Cycle improvement scheme**

This project aims to provide dedicated cycle connection and improved pedestrian footpaths along the R392 between St. Matthew's National School and the Moigh Road junction.

The project also aims to introduce traffic calming measures through narrowing and realignment of the R392 and the introduction of raised pedestrian crossing points.

# Ballymahon Municipal District

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Part VIII planning was adopted for this project in June 2025. Site surveys have taken place on the underground and overhead services network and works on detailed design have progressed up to end of 2025 and continue into 2026.

## **Raised zebra crossings and footpath works Keenagh and Legan**

In Keenagh the existing zebra crossing at St. Dominic's National School was upgraded to a raised crossing with local carriageway narrowing. This has given increased priority for pedestrians to and from the school and has had a significant traffic calming effect in the area around the school. With the inclusion of school pencil bollards this enhances the school zone effect at this location.

Similarly, the existing zebra crossing in Legan village at the National school has been upgraded to a raised crossing, also with the addition of a new second raised zebra crossing at the GAA grounds. A new footpath was installed along the GAA grounds towards the village providing a vital safe link for pedestrians and cyclists into the village. These features have greatly helped to calm traffic in the area.

## **Item Adopted by Members were:**

- General Municipal Allocations 2025
- Municipal District Works Programme for 2025
- Community Grants 2025

For notices of motion discussed by elected members, items highlighted and discussed by members, estates and roads taken in charge, byelaws adopted, and Ballymahon Municipal District road works programme 2025, **see Appendix 1 on page 242.**

# Granard Municipal District

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**Meetings:** A total of eight meetings took place, including an Annual General Meeting and a General Municipal Allocation meeting. In addition, there were six Committee Meetings.

**Cathaoirleach:** Councillor Turlough McGovern was elected Cathaoirleach, and Councillor Padraig McNamara was elected Leas Cathaoirleach at the Annual General Meeting in June 2025.

**General Municipal Grant Allocation:** €110,000.

## Items Adopted by Members

- Draft Municipal District Report for inclusion in Longford County Council 2025 Annual Report
- Schedule of Granard Municipal District Works
- Nomination for Cathaoirleach Awards
- Special Projects and Discretionary Fund 2025
- Community Grant Support Scheme 2025
- General Municipal Allocation 2026
- Proposed dates for 2026 MD meetings

For notices of motion discussed by elected members, Part VIIIs approved, presentation to Elected Members, estates and roads taken in charge, byelaws adopted, and Ballymahon Municipal District road works programme 2025, **see Appendix 2 on page 248.**

# Longford Municipal District

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**Meetings:** A total of eleven meetings took place, including one Annual General Meeting, one General Municipal Allocation meeting and ten committee meetings.

**Cathaoirleach:** Councillor Uruemu Adejinmi was elected Cathaoirleach, and Councillor Kevin Hussey was elected Leas Cathaoirleach at the Annual General Meeting in June 2025.

**Register of Electors:** A total of 13,227 were registered to vote in the Longford Local Electoral Area.

**General Municipal Grant Allocation:** €110,000

**Community Grant Support Scheme:** €110,000 in funding was awarded under the Community Grant Support Scheme.

## Funding

- THRIVE – Strand 2 Connolly Barracks – €7m funding approved in 2025
- Town and Village Longford Peace Park upgrade - €500,000 funding approved in 2025
- Just Transition funding for Old Post Office - €793,000 funding approved in 2025

## Works Completed

- Battery Road Pedestrian and cycle scheme - €1.12m funding from NTA in 2025.
- Farnagh Hill Footpath scheme - €49k funding from NTA in 2025
- Aghadegnan Hared footpath scheme - €145k funding from NTA in 2025
- Scoil Mhuire Clondra Safe Routes to School project - €265k funding from NTA in 2025
- Melview National School Zone - €15k funding from NTA in 2025

# Longford Municipal District

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## Item Adopted by Members

- Annual Report Submission from Longford MD 2024
- 2025 Roads Programme
- Footpath Programme 2025 – 2027
- Paid parking charges adopted

For notices of motion discussed by elected members, items highlighted and discussed by members, estates and roads taken in charge, Part 8s approved byelaws adopted, and Ballymahon Municipal District road works programme 2025, **see Appendix 3 on page 251.**

# SPC Committees 2024-2029

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## Social Development SPC 2025

**Members:** Paul Ross/Kevin Hussey/Sean Mimmagh/Padraig McNamara/Colin Dalton

**Met:** Four Times – (February, April, July and October)

### Discussions Included:

- Draft Midlands Region Homelessness Action Plan 2025-2029
- Rolling Rent Review
- Properties to be excluded from the TP Scheme
- Not Around Us Initiative
- Update on Second Hand Acquisitions
- Eligibility Criteria for Affordable Housing
- Housing Aid for Older People Grant
- Housing Update
- Longford County Council's Scheme of Priority for Affordable Dwelling Purchase Arrangements
- Update on Family Resource Centre
- Healthy Ireland Update
- Update on Energy Retrofit
- Review of Allocation Scheme
- Review of Work Programme

# SPC Committees 2024-2029

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## Physical Development SPC 2025

**Members:** Turlough McGovern/Peggy Nolan/Martin Skelly/Uruemu Adejinmi/Seamus Butler

**Met:** Four Times – (February, April, July and October)

### Discussions Included:

- Report on Contactless Parking in Longford
- The Longford Town Local Area Plan
- Noise Action Plan
- Phase 2 Local Road Safety Action Plan 2025-2027
- Biodiversity Action Plan
- Climate Action Plan – First Annual Review
- Litter Management Plan
- Cemetery Bye Laws
- Regional EV Charging Strategy
- Paid Parking
- Fire Service Charges Policy
- Phase 1 Review of Traffic Calming Policy
- Policy and Procedure for Abandoned Vehicles
- Casual Trading Bye Laws
- Supplementary Development Contribution Scheme – Longford's Development Contribution Scheme 2023-2027
- County Development Plan and the National Planning Framework Implementation – Housing Growth Requirements
- Phase 2 Review of Traffic Calming Policy
- Review of Work Programme

# SPC Committees 2024-2029

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## **Economic, Enterprise and Rural Development SPC 2025**

**Members:** Mark Casey/Niall Gannon/Martin Monaghan/Garry Murtagh/Seamus Butler

**Met:** Four Times – (February, April, July and October)

### **Discussions Included:**

- Small Business Support Scheme 2025
- Night-Time Economy Presentation
- Commemorative Plaques and Monuments Policy Review
- Rates Rebate Scheme for New Business in Unoccupied Premises
- Twinning Policy
- Arts Strategy
- Heritage Strategy
- Vacant Homes
- Business Incentive Scheme
- Appointment of Two Members to the LECP/Implementation Plan Advisory Steering Group
- Review of Work Programme

# SPC Committees 2024-2029

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## Governance SPC 2025

**Members:** Pat O'Toole/Mick Cahill/David Cassidy/Gerry Hagan/Turlough McGovern

**Met:** Three Times – (February, May and October)

### Discussions Included:

- Small Business Support Scheme 2026
- Annual Financial Statement 2024
- Presentation by Communications Officer
- County Longford Digital Strategy
- GDPR Update
- Review of Work Programme





# Economic Development

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**Director of Services: John Brannigan**

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# Corporate Services

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## Customer Services

In 2025, Longford County Council's Customer Services handled over 12,000 calls, alongside walk-in inquiries and over 2,600 emails, with response times governed by their Customer Services Charter. This Charter outlines service standards and expected customer behaviour, and includes feedback and complaint forms available online and at Council offices.

## Protected Disclosures

There was one protected disclosure reported under the Protected Disclosures Act 2014. The Protected Disclosures Policies and Procedures and Annual Reports are available on the Council website at [Longfordcoco.ie](https://www.longfordcoco.ie).

## Register of Electors

In terms of voter registration, the introduction of the Rolling Register under the Electoral Reform Act 2022 allows individuals to register anytime and enables those aged 16 and 17 to pre-register. Currently, 35,494 voters are registered in County Longford, with Longford Municipal District having 13,157 voters, Ballymahon Municipal District with 11,759, and Granard Municipal District with 10,578. The Council processed nearly 1,000 applications for new registrations and updates, while efforts continued to enhance the accuracy of the Register through outreach to over 1,500 electors reminding them to update their details online.

In August and September 2025, the Franchise team conducted a Fieldwork program, deploying 11 Field Workers to visit over 1,300 properties across various Polling Districts. Despite nearly 50% of visits resulting in unanswered doors, they were able to confirm details for over 2,300 electors, processing new registrations and address updates ahead of the Presidential Election.

Longford County Council also participated in a national data cleansing project to prepare for migration to a centralised electoral database called Voter.ie, which will improve data accuracy and accessibility for more than 3.7 million electors. Phase one of this project involved rectifying 2,625 data points and translating over

# Corporate Services

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1,500 location names, while phase two focused on removing duplicate entries, identifying 1,026 potential duplicates in Longford's Register for verification. The migration to Voter.ie is expected to occur in Summer 2026.

Additionally, the Council engaged in various promotional initiatives throughout the year, including a presence at the Longford Agricultural Show and educational events to raise awareness about voter registration, particularly for those aged 16 and 17, as well as media campaigns to promote [checktheregister.ie](https://www.checktheregister.ie).

In preparation for the October 2025 Presidential Election, the Franchise team supported the Local Returning Officer by organising the electoral register and processing postal vote applications ahead of the statutory deadlines. On Polling Day, they provided assistance to both voters and presiding officers.

## **Official Languages (Amendment) Act 2021**

Under the Official Languages (Amendment) Act 2021, Longford County Council surpassed the legislative requirements by achieving 37.32% of advertisements in Irish or bilingual formats and directing 5.5% of their advertising budget to Irish language media.

In 2025, the Irish Language Officer participated in a national project led by researchers at DCU to refine and verify Irish language versions of street names for the national placenames database ([logainm.ie](https://www.logainm.ie)). Local authorities were tasked with validating and providing appropriate Irish translations for street names. The initiative addressed 13,200 entries lacking verified Irish versions, leveraging collaboration with DCU to enhance accuracy and accessibility. The project was successfully accomplished with assistance from the Longford library archivist.

The Irish Language Officer organised various events for Seachtain na Gaeilge during the first two weeks of March, collaborating with local Irish language writers and performers to engage primary and secondary school students in branch libraries. A celebration of Irish culture was also held at Ballymahon Library, bringing together members of local "comhrá" groups to enjoy Irish poetry, music, and song. These activities were funded by Creative Ireland at a total cost of €2,260.

# Corporate Services

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In 2025, the Irish Language Officer ordered Irish language materials for all branch libraries, utilising €3,500 from the library book fund. They also served as the primary contact for inquiries related to the Irish language received by the Council during the year.

## Freedom of Information and Access to Information on the Environment

Regarding information requests, there were 61 Freedom of Information (FOI) requests and six Access to Information on the Environment (AIE) requests, with two internal reviews conducted on AIE requests in 2025.

## Meetings Administration

### Council meetings in 2025 included:

- **Longford County Council:** 14 meetings + three Committee meetings
- **Ballymahon MD:** Eight meetings + six Committee meetings
- **Granard MD:** Eight meetings + six Committee meetings
- **Longford MD:** 11 meetings + ten Committee meetings
- **Finance/Budget Meetings:** Two meetings

### Strategic Policy Committees

- **Physical Development SPC:** Four meetings
- **Governance SPC:** Three meetings
- **Social Development SPC:** Four meetings
- **Economic, Enterprise and Rural Development SPC:** Four meetings
- **Corporate Policy Group:** 11 meetings
- **Meeting with Members of Oireachtas for the Longford Westmeath constituency with Cathaoirleach and Management Team:** One meeting
- **Protocol and Procedures Committee:** Two meetings
- **Place Naming Committee:** Three meetings

# Corporate Services

## Longford County Council meetings included:

- Presentation from Community Safety Partnership
- Presentation from The Backstage Theatre
- Presentation by IDA
- Presentation by Longford Comhairle na Óg

At the Longford County Council Annual Meeting on 20 June 2025, Councillor Garry Murtagh was elected Cathaoirleach and Councillor Niall Gannon was elected Leas-Cathaoirleach.



# Corporate Services

## Civic Events

### Civic Receptions and Cathaoirleach Awards

Civic receptions are held to honour and recognise achievement by communities.

#### Two Civic Receptions held in 2025:

- Civic Reception in honour of the Longford Minor Football Team, winners of the Leinster Championship Final 2024
- Cathaoirleach Awards held on 14 May 2025



# Corporate Services

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## Communications

Throughout 2025, the Communications team continued to work with sections from across the Council to effectively promote the work of the organisation to our audiences, primarily County Longford citizens, community groups, stakeholders, public representatives as well as local and national media.

A number of high-profile events took place throughout the year and the Communications Office provided ongoing support in terms of online, website, social media and traditional print and broadcast media coverage. Communications worked with teams across the Council to highlight public safety messages, the newly set-up Emergency Response Hubs, reporting tools for road obstructions in light of Storm Éowyn at the beginning of the year.

Other key events included Longford Lights 2025, Minister Heather Humphrey's visit to County Longford, and the new Night Time Economy Safe and Sound campaign, Minister Sean Canney's official opening of Longford's Battery Road Pedestrian and Cycle Scheme, Minister Dara Calleary's visit to open the Sunflower Playground in Longford Town and the revitalised Granard sports courts as well as the visit by Minister Christopher O' Sullivan to launch Longford's Biodiversity Action Plan and new Birdwatching Library initiative.

Other key events during 2025 included the announcement of the €7m in THRIVE funding for the Connolly Barracks, Microsoft Dream Space Showcase 2025, Men's Health Week, Roscommon/Longford Garda Youth Awards, the Sports Bursary Awards, the launch of the Albert Reynolds Collection with Longford Library Services, Home of Halloween Festival, Age Friendly Information Day, Longford Sports Star Awards, LEO events, the Cathaoirleach Awards, the launch of the Road Safety Action Plan, Young Photographer's Competition, Innovation in Politics award, the Public Sector Digital Transformation Awards and the Civil Defence Presentations 2025.

All of these events require the assistance and support of the Communications section including pre and post publicity. Work includes event planning and management, invites, press releases, radio interviews, national and local coverage, media relations, communications strategy and advise, media queries from local

# Corporate Services

and national press, radio advertising, digital communications strategy, Ministerial visits, official openings, management of all social media platforms, video content creation, paid social media advertising campaigns, content management of Longford County Council website and dealing with website content requests from all sections of the county council.



## Press Releases

A total of **162** press releases were issued during 2025 on a range of issues, representative of all council sections as referenced above. This represents a substantial increase of **70%** on the number of press releases (95) issued during 2024.

**Controlling the News Cycle**

AN LONG FORT  
Comhairle Chontae An Longfort  
Longford County Council

CONNECTED  
From Next Generation

**162**  
Press Releases  
Issued in 2025

A 70% increase compared to 2024

Processed 108 media queries (up 15%) on planning, housing, and environment.

# Corporate Services

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## Media enquiries

A total of **108** media queries were received and processed by the Communications Section during 2025 from both local and national print, online and broadcast media with common themes include planning, presidential campaign nominations, housing related queries, social housing, local property tax, paid parking, environmental issues and fire services. This represents an increase of **15%** on the number of media queries processed during 2024.

## Staffing

Communications welcomed its new Communications Officer Mairead O'Shea and new Digital Communications Officer Aaron Murphy in April and May and Digital Communications Officer Kevin McGillicuddy in December. The Communications Team also has the valuable support of Clerical Officer Louise Connaughton on a part-time basis and is overseen by our Meetings Administrator Lorraine McKee. This now means there is a full complement of staff for the Communications team, who will now have more scope to better help all areas of the Council and generate more proactive messaging.



# Corporate Services

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## Communications Audit

A Communications Audit was conducted by RPS Consulting Engineers during 2025 and the findings and recommendations were circulated to management for consideration. The Audit was undertaken using both qualitative and quantitative research to inform the recommendations of the audit report. The research methods undertaken included:

- Research interviews with 15 respondents held across September and October 2025 on MS Teams with the Chief Executive, Director of Service, staff from across the Council, Elected Members and representatives of local media outlets
- Desktop analysis of media coverage and social media activity relating to the Council over a three-month period
- Analysis of survey results with four key groups: LCC staff (108 respondents), LCC Elected Members (7 respondents), members of LCC's Public Participation Network (31 respondents) and members of LCC's Comhairle na nÓg (7 respondents).

It is considered that a broad range of stakeholder feedback on Longford County Council's communications has been gathered and reflected in the analysis and recommendations within the report.

The findings and recommendations from this audit will help inform the content for a new five-year Communications Strategy for Longford County Council 2026-2030.

**The Message is Landing**  
Independent Communications Audit (RPS Consulting)

**AN LONGFORD**  
Cathairle Chaitríúil na Longfoirt  
Longford County Council

**CONNECTED**  
RPS CONSULTING

- ✓ **70%** of Council staff noticed increased activity.
- ✓ **60%** of Elected Members noticed enhanced social media.
- ✓ **40–45%** of PPN respondents reported noticing increased activity.

# Corporate Services

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## THRIVE

The €7m Connolly Barracks Reimagined project is co-funded by the Government of Ireland and the European Union through the ERDF Southern, Eastern and Midland Regional Programme 2021–2027. There are very specific ERDF Communications and Visibility Requirements under EU regulations as part of the grant award particularly in relation to online, print, social media, billboards, video, publication and stakeholder engagement. The LCC Communications team attended training with the Southern Regional Assembly for a briefing in relation to THRIVE communications requirements. As part of the stakeholder engagement process a public engagement evening took place in 2025 and the Communications team has assisted in the preparation and communications elements of this event with an explainer video forming a key part of this event. Work was also undertaken in relation to a detailed THRIVE Communications Plan outlining objectives, goals, target audience, content plan, key messages and timelines.



# Corporate Services

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## Training

The Communications Team took part in numerous training opportunities during 2025. Intensive online training related to an LCDC communications campaign and media briefing was undertaken in a bid to sustain greater awareness of the LCDC role and initiatives, as well as ensuring consistent stakeholder engagement, and maintaining focus on communications.

Both the Communications Officer and Digital Communications Officer took part in a Media Liaison Training programme as part of the Education, Training and Exercise Subgroup of the Midlands Region Working Group. This course was targeted at personnel who will undertake the key role of Media Liaison Officer during the multi-agency response to a Major Emergency within the Midlands Region.

The Communications Officer and Digital Communications Officer also attended the LGMA Communications Conference in Kilkenny during 2025. This was a great opportunity to network and connect with Communications Officers from Local Authorities throughout the country with topics such as digital transformation and AI in the public sector up for discussion. The Communications Officer also attended the NOAC workshop on enhancing Customer Experience in Local Government. Our new Digital Communications Officer is also enrolled on the LGMA Certificate in Local Government.



# Corporate Services

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## **LCC Website**

Work was ongoing in 2025 between the Communications and IT section in relation to the development of a new LCC website and preparations are underway to go to tender in 2026 for a new county council website. As part of the preparation in advance of a new LCC website a detailed clean-up/audit of existing content and pages began towards the end of 2025 with a view to continuing this work in 2026 with a view to having all existing website pages ready for migration to a new website during 2026.

As part of ongoing development, work was also undertaken in relation to revisions for the existing Intranet and internal communication channels.

## **New Tourism related website**

The Communications Team held numerous meetings with the Tourism Officer during 2025 to assist in the development of a new Tourism related website and the selection of a website developer to proceed with this project. The Digital Communications Officer will continue to work with the Tourism Officer and the website developer in relation to a site map and migration to a new Tourism website in Q2 of 2026.

## **Publications**

Communications produces the monthly Chief Executive Report which details the ongoing work of the different sections of Longford County Council. Communications also helped in the publication of the Annual Report 2024 and the Service Delivery Plan 2025.

## **Digital Content Creation**

Throughout 2025, the Digital Communications Officer produced video content to support key initiatives, including the launch of the Albert Reynolds Collection at Longford Library, coverage of ministerial visits for the opening of sensory playgrounds and sports courts, as well as heritage site visits; promotional content for key events such as the Garda Youth Awards, Longford Sports Awards, Men's

# Corporate Services

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Health Week initiatives, and the launches of the Biodiversity Action Plan and *Not Around Us* campaign; and the development of a promotional video for the Longford Sports Partnership's Ability Coaching Programme.

In addition to these projects, the primary focus during 2025 was on enhancing the council's digital presence. This involved restructuring and updating webpages across the main council website and the Longford Library website.

The creation of short form video/digital content is a key aspect of the communications plan going forward and the video content creation work during 2025 has already seen a significant increase in traffic to LCC social media platforms with a positive impact on metrics over the past year.

## Social Media Stats

Throughout 2025, Longford County Council's corporate social media pages continued to grow. Follower count at the end of 2025 was as follows:

- Facebook: 8,973 (up 1,208)
- Twitter: 3,624 (up 18)
- Instagram: 2765 (up 550)
- LinkedIn: 1,683 (up 479)
- TikTok: 963 (up 417)

Overall increase of **119%** across all platforms.

## Key Social Media Statistics – 2025

Social media activity and performance in 2025 showed strong year on year growth across all four platforms of Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn with Facebook now established as the main social media platform for LCC engagement levels followed closely by Instagram, LinkedIn and lowest levels of engagement on X.

# Corporate Services

Statistics across all four social media platforms used by Longford County Council show:

- 3,348 posts published across social platforms, representing a **101% increase** compared to 1,669 posts in 2024.
- 3,957,915 total impressions, an **increase of approximately 1,300%** on the 281,544 impressions recorded in 2024.
- 4,769 post shares, reflecting a **40.1% increase** compared to 3,405 shares in the previous year.
- 19,321 post reactions and likes, **an increase of 79.2%** from 10,779 in 2024.

## Surging Engagement



**101% Increase**  
Posts Published



**40.1% Increase**  
Post Shares



**79.2% Increase**  
Reactions & Likes



**119% Increase**  
Overall Follower Growth

Overall, these figures demonstrate significantly enhanced content output, reach, and audience engagement throughout 2025.

## Key Video Performance Statistics

Facebook and Instagram are the primary platforms for video. The key performance statistics for these accounts in 2025 are outlined below.

### Facebook

- Video content generated 581,700 views over the reporting period.
- Total watch time reached 13 days and 8 hours, representing a 129.2% increase compared with the previous period, indicating significantly improved audience retention and interest.
- 1.8K interactions, representing a 34.4% increase compared with the previous period.

# Corporate Services

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## Instagram

- Video content achieved 612,100 views across the platform.
- Content interactions totalled 5,300, reflecting a 100% increase year-on-year and strong growth in audience engagement.

## The Power of Visual Storytelling



Featuring: Minister Visits, DreamSpace, THRIVE Announcements

## Official Languages Act

In 2025, Longford County Council Communication section met its Official Languages Act obligations regarding advertising in the Irish language on the Council's corporate social media channels. The advertising package with Tuairisc.ie has also been renewed for 2026. Overall, Longford County Council achieved a compliance rate of **32.53%** in 2025 which surpasses the statutory requirement.

## Website

In 2025, Longfordcoco.ie recorded 153,701 visits, representing a decrease of 4,684 visits (2.9%) compared with 2024. Total page views for the year amounted to 312,985, a reduction of 36,376 (10.3%) year-on-year.

The most popular sections were:

- Planning (54,505)
- Housing (34,644)
- Careers (35,728)
- News (31,212)
- Roads (23,963)
- Environment (20,153)

# Corporate Services

## Social Media Best Performing Posts:

### Facebook Top posts



**Longford County Council**  
Jun 23, 15:00

🎉 Congratulations to our Digital Broadband Officer in Longford County Council, Christine Collins, who has been honored with another top award! 🏆 Christine was recently

**207** likes



**Longford County Council**  
Jan 27, 15:58

#StormEowyn 🇮🇪 Longford County Council Civil Defence is available to call to vulnerable people across County Longford and can deliver water and collect food and

**168** likes



**Longford County Council**  
Apr 29, 14:02

🏆 Longford County Council is proud to be named the overall winner of the Public Sector category at the 2025 Health and Safety Excellence Awards! 🏆 This marks our

**142** likes

### Instagram Top posts



**longfordcoco**  
Jun 05, 18:00

Men's Health Week is just around the corner, running from Monday, 9 June to Sunday, 15 June. 📺 In this video, Micky Quinn from WNOW (When No One is Watching) talks about

**101** likes



**longfordcoco**  
Nov 26, 11:01

🎉 Celebrating Midlands STEM Success on Ireland AM 🇮🇪  
A huge thank you to the team at Virgin Media TV for welcoming us on Ireland AM this Monday morning. 🙌 It was

**74** likes



**longfordcoco**  
Sep 17, 11:56

Big news for Longford! 🇮🇪 Longford County Council has secured €7 million in EU THRIVE funding to transform the historic Connolly Barracks into a vibrant cultural and

**69** likes

### LinkedIn Top posts



**Longford County Council**  
Jun 17, 12:00

🚲 Longford Launches Innovative Battery Road Active Travel Scheme 🇮🇪 Today, Minister Sean Canney TD will officially open the €3.5 million Battery Road Pedestrian and

**146** reactions



**Longford County Council**  
Sep 17, 11:56

Big news for Longford! 🇮🇪 Longford County Council has secured €7 million in EU THRIVE funding to transform the historic Connolly Barracks into a vibrant cultural and

**85** reactions



**Longford County Council**  
Oct 26, 14:37

New Deputy Chief Executive Appointed 🇮🇪 Longford County Council is delighted to announce the appointment of John Brannigan as our new Deputy Chief Executive. This

**82** reactions

### X Top posts



**longfordcoco**  
Nov 03, 12:30

🎉 Opening today! 🇮🇪 'The Albert Reynolds Collection' is now on display at Longford County Library. Donated by the Reynolds family, it offers a rare glimpse into the life and

**5** likes



**longfordcoco**  
Nov 26, 11:00

🇮🇪 Thanks to Virgin Media TV for having us on Ireland AM to showcase Midlands STEM 🇮🇪 Siobhán Grealley and Christine Collins joined Ronan and Clodagh to share how these

**4** likes



**longfordcoco**  
Sep 17, 11:56

Longford secures €7m EU THRIVE funding to transform historic Connolly Barracks into a cultural hub with a museum, café, studios & more - creating jobs, boosting

**4** likes

# Corporate Services

## Online/Print Coverage

**longfordlive**

HOME LOCAL NEWS SPORT NATIONAL NEWS WHAT'S ON LIFE MAGAZINES PICTURES & VIDEOS PROPERTY MOTORING WEATH

You are in: > LONGFORDLEADER > LOCAL NEWS

### Longford County Council Sport Bursary 2025 recipients announced

Recognising local sporting talent and potential for national and international achievement



Recognising local sporting talent and potential for national and international achievement

**longfordlive**

HOME LOCAL NEWS SPORT NATIONAL NEWS WHAT'S ON LIFE MAGAZINES PICTURES & VIDEOS PROPERTY MOTORING WEATH

### 'Pioneering initiative': All Longford libraries now feature dedicated breastfeeding areas

Unique partnership creates welcoming spaces for nursing mothers in Ballymahon, Drumlish, Edgeworthstown, Granard, Lanesboro and Longford



You are in: > LONGFORDLEADER > MOTORING

### Road safety in Longford 'demands sustained action' to achieve Vision Zero

The strategy addresses all aspects of road safety through the internationally recognised Safe System approach



The strategy addresses all aspects of road safety through the internationally recognised Safe System approach

### Council work in the News

Some of our recent work as reported on by national and local media

**RTE**

#### 'Blueprint' for rural sustainable travel opens in Longford

Updated 7 hours, 57 min ago, 13:52



By Michael Hussey Midlands Correspondent

**longfordleader**

#### Cllr Mark Casey receives plaudits for 'raising the bar' in Longford

Mark Casey has been named as the best councillor in the county for the year 2024.



By Michael Hussey Midlands Correspondent

**RTE** News Sport Entertainment Business Lifestyle Culture Gaelic | Player TV Radio

News • Leinster • Politics Regional Ireland Middle east Climate Nuacht World Programmes

### Collection of gifts owned by former taoiseach Albert Reynolds goes on display

Updated / Monday, 3 Nov 2025 13:40




Albert Reynolds served as taoiseach from 1992 to 1997

By Siobhán Hussey Midlands Correspondent

### Longford public invited to discover exciting vision for reimagined Connolly Barracks

The event will offer people an opportunity to view artist impressions of the landmark



You are in: > LONGFORDLEADER > LOCAL NEWS

### Longford's Dream Space wins esteemed award at Public Sector Digital Transformation Awards

The prestigious win places Longford amongst the leading digital driving local authorities



The awards recognise and celebrate excellence and innovation in the delivery of public sector digital transformation.

# Corporate Services

## Data Protection

Number of Data Breaches in 2025	12
Number of Data Agreements signed in 2025	5
Number of Data Subject Access Requests received in 2025	8
Number of Data Protection Impact Assessments completed in 2025	9
Number of Data Protection queries received in 2025	303

### The Data Protection Policies renewed in 2025:

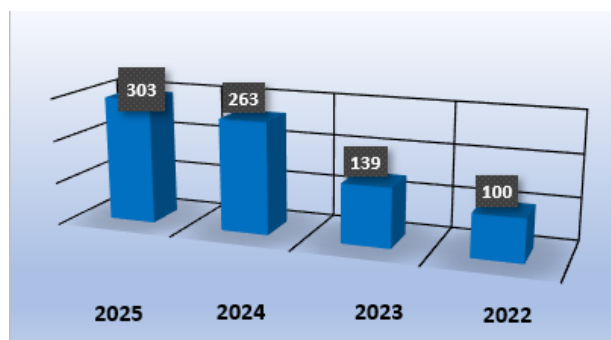
- Longford County Council's Clean and Clear Desk Policy
- Longford County Council's Data Protection Policy
- Longford County Council's Personal Data Breach Policy
- Longford County Council's Data Subject Rights Policy
- Longford County Council's Representations Policy

## Training and Awareness

Mandatory Data Protection training was successfully delivered to over 300 staff members within Longford County Council in 2025 and Data Protection Induction Training was delivered to 29 new Council entrants.

The Data Protection Team continued to roll out their quarterly Data Protection Newsletter to all Longford County Council staff in 2025. The purpose of which is to keep colleagues up to date with current data protection news within Longford County Council and some tips and guidance from the Council's Data Protection and Information Compliance Officer.

The number of queries received by the Data Protection Team have been steadily increasing since 2022 and have on average increased by 98%



# Corporate Services

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over the past four years, which shows Longford County Council's Data Protection Awareness programme is a success.

The Data Protection and Information Compliance Officer continues to sit on the National DPO Network and the Regional DPO Network. She is also a member of the National DPO Working Group that reviews National Data Agreements on behalf of all 32 Local Authorities.

Longford County Council was one of the first Local Authorities in the country to produce an Audio-Visual Video explaining Longford County Council's Privacy Policy which explains how the Council process personal data. It was advertised on all Longford County Council social media platforms. It reached 209,283 social media accounts and received a total of 423,918 views.

## Health and Safety

### **Certification to ISO 45001:2018**

Longford County Council (LCC) has successfully maintained its certification to ISO 45001:2018 following a two-day surveillance audit carried out by the National Standards Authority of Ireland (NSAI). The audit covered all departments within the Council, reflecting the organisation's comprehensive approach to occupational health and safety.

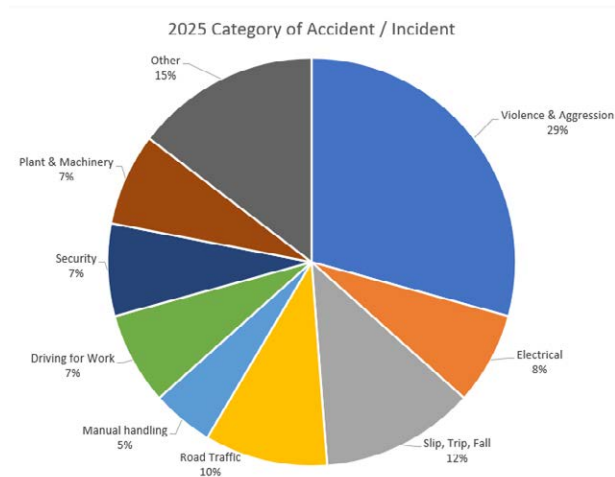
Maintaining this certification is a significant achievement for Longford County Council. It demonstrates the Council's continued commitment to the effective management and ongoing improvement of health and safety systems, helping to ensure that Longford County Council remains a safer place for employees and for the wider community it serves.

# Corporate Services

## Summary of Accident/Incidents Reports for 2025

The reporting of accidents and incidents is an important element of the safety management system and serves as a key tool in identifying opportunities for continuous improvement.

A total of 41 accidents and incidents were reported in 2025. Of these, three reportable accidents and one dangerous occurrence was reported to the Health and Safety Authority (HSA) in accordance with statutory reporting requirements.



## Safety Statement

Longford County Council's Safety Statement, including the Fire Services Safety Statement, was reviewed, updated and communicated to employees in 2025.

The Longford County Council Safety Statement also received the 'Plain English' Mark from the National Adult Literacy Agency, recognising the document for its clarity and accessibility. Longford County Council was the first County Council in Ireland to receive the Plain English Mark for its Safety Statement.

## Safety Inspections

Longford County Council's Safety Inspection Programme was carried out across each directorate at both fixed and mobile work locations during 2025. In total, 123 safety inspections were completed by Council employees and the Management Team.

These inspections are an important tool for assessing compliance with health and safety requirements and for identifying areas where improvements may be required. A quarterly report on inspections is provided to the Management Team.

# Corporate Services

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Any instances of non-compliance or issues identified during inspections are recorded on an electronic action tracking system, ensuring that all actions are assigned, monitored, and addressed by the relevant section until they are fully resolved and closed.

## **Health and Safety Auditing**

In 2025, Longford County Council continued its programme of auditing the Health and Safety Management System.

A total of 11 days of internal auditing were completed during the year. In addition, the National Standards Authority of Ireland carried out two days of external auditing as part of the surveillance process for ISO 45001:2018 Occupational Health and Safety Management Systems certification.

All audit findings are recorded on Mirashare, a software system used to capture corrective actions and track them through to completion, ensuring that identified issues are addressed and formally closed.

In addition to Council employees carrying out Temporary Traffic Management (TTM) auditing and inspections, the Council also engaged the services of Tobar Segais, an external TTM consultant. As part of this engagement, four days of TTM auditing were completed within the Council's Roads Sections.

## **Communication and Consultation**

Longford County Council consults and communicates with employees on health and safety matters through a number of mechanisms. These include the preparation and review of Risk Assessments and Standard Operating Procedures, the delivery of Health and Safety Inductions, and the circulation of monthly safety reports.

Employee consultation is also facilitated through Safety Representatives and a Health and Safety Steering Group.

# Corporate Services

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In addition, health and safety matters are regularly discussed at Safety Monitoring Consultative Committee meetings, Safety Management Committee meetings, and Management Team meetings, ensuring that safety issues are communicated effectively and addressed across all levels of the organisation.

## Contractors

Contractors working on behalf of Longford County Council continue to be assessed in line with the requirements of the Safety, Health and Welfare at Work (Construction) Regulations 2013.

In 2025, a total of 37 contractors were assessed and approved to undertake work on behalf of the Council. As part of this process, each contractor is required to complete a Health and Safety Questionnaire, which is reviewed by the Council to determine their competency and compliance with relevant health and safety requirements.

This assessment process helps ensure that contractors engaged by the Council meet the necessary standards for safe working practices.

## Health and Safety Awards

For the eleventh consecutive year, Longford County Council (LCC) was honoured at the National Irish Safety Organisation (NISO) Awards. The Council won the Local Authority / Council Award and was recognised once again as a 'Consistent High Achiever' at the annual ceremony, which is run in conjunction with the \*\*Northern Ireland Safety Group (NISG).

Longford County Council has consistently been acknowledged as a top performer at the NISO Awards, achieving successive wins every year since first entering. This outstanding record is a testament



# Corporate Services



to the commitment and dedication of all employees to health and safety within the organisation.

In addition, the Council was awarded the Health and Safety Award – Public Sector category at the Health and Safety Excellence Awards and was also a finalist in the Health and Safety Excellence Grand Prix. This marks the third consecutive year that the Council has received this recognition.



These awards highlight the Council's ongoing commitment to continually improving its safety management system and serve as positive recognition of the organisation's dedication to the highest standards of health and safety.



# Library, Archives, Arts and Heritage

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2025 saw an 8% increase in the visitor numbers to County Longford Libraries. There has been a steady increase in numbers since the COVID closures. The libraries are staffed for 237 hours collectively a week, with an additional 168 hours of access via the My Open Library service. It is welcoming to note these opening hours, in combination with the number of events, activities and promotions of resources organised by the library staff has witnessed this steady increase in visitor numbers. The libraries were also used as a community response unit providing support and resources for their local area after Storm Éowyn damage.

2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
6.68	2	1.06	2.86	3.06	3.84	4.15
273020	81890	43308	133502	143046	179388	194076

Longford Libraries, alongside all library authorities in the Republic of Ireland, take part in four national programmes. There are library teams in place for each of these national programmes:

- Right to Read
- Healthy Ireland at Your Library
- Skills for Life
- Age Friendly

## Right to Read

The Right to Read programme includes four festivals: Spring into Storytime, Summer Stars, Children’s Book Festival and Family Time at the Library. Under this programme, there were 115 events organised for all age groups with 422 class visits to the library from ELC to secondary schools. Over 1,000 Little Library Bags were provided to children starting primary school in September 2025.

A total of 1,395 children took part in the Summer Stars programme, which is 42% of the 5–9-year-old population.

## Library, Archives, Arts and Heritage

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Other events organised by the Right to Read team included the Battle of Wits, a regional competition planned in conjunction with library teams from Laois, Offaly and Westmeath. In the regional final on 4 December, Longford was represented by Moyne Community College: Adam Smith, Sean Brady, Kevin Conefry and Ryan Farrell and St. Mel's College: Jonah Flanagan, Diarmuid Galvin, Nathaniel Flood, Ben Clarke. After a very keenly contested quiz, Athlone Community College was crowned Battle of Wits 2025 champions, with St. Brendan's Community School, Birr, in second place and Moyne Community School in third place.

There was a new Art Competition for secondary school students funded by Creative Ireland, with the winning 12 entries used to produce a Longford Library calendar. The artistic theme is 'Reading takes you places'. The calendar launch was held on 10 December. This initiative strengthens the connection between libraries and secondary school students whilst spotlighting artistic talent in the county.

There were over 950 entries for the 'Design a Bookmark' Competition. This competition encourages primary school children aged 4 – 13 years old to design a bookmark for Longford Library service. The winners were:

- **Four to Eight Age Category:** 1st – Sophia Gregory, Granard Branch Library and
- **Nine to Thirteen Age Category:** 1st – Hafsa Abrar Yasmin, Longford Branch Library.

Sophia and Hafsa's designs were professionally printed and distributed across all Longford Libraries, ensuring these young artists' work will be enjoyed by readers countywide. Each of the six winners also received a special art set in recognition of their talent.

The Explore Longford Young Photographers' Competition was aimed at six to thirteen-year-olds, encouraging them to capture the county's landscapes, heritage and hidden corners through their unique perspectives. First prize was awarded to Finn Mulfaul, aged 12, who received a framed copy of his photograph, which has been printed as a greeting card, and a guided electric bike tour for a family of up to five people with Ethical Tours, Ballymahon, valued at €225. Second prize went to Emilia Holkovic, aged 13, who received a framed copy of her photograph,

# Library, Archives, Arts and Heritage

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a greeting card print, and a family pass for four to Alan's Yippee Kayaking for supervised kayaking on the Royal Canal, worth €100. Third prize was awarded to Michael Ledwith, aged ten, who received a framed copy of his photograph, a greeting card print, and a €50 National Book Token. The first, second and third prize photographs have been printed as greeting cards and are available through Longford Tourism Office.

The Right to Read team organised an information stand for the Dyslexia in Adulthood information day held in Athlone on 8 October. This was an action of the Regional Adult Literacy Coalition (Longford / Westmeath)

A total of 13 events were organised for Science Week in 2025, which celebrates its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary with the theme: Then. Today. Tomorrow. Over 500 students attended these events. Science and research have shaped lives over the last few



# Library, Archives, Arts and Heritage

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hundred years. The STEAM programme in Longford is always promoting the importance of curiosity, problem-solving and critical thinking. The showcase event was The Bohemian Quartet organised in conjunction with Midlands Science, giving a spellbinding performance to young and old which combine music and science.

## Healthy Ireland at Your Library

The Healthy Ireland at Your Library programme organised 63 events with an attendance of 899. The events included physical exercise in collaboration with Sport Partnership, mindfulness, and brain health. The showcase event for the programme was the launch of Longford Breastfeeding Friendly supports held on 8 September in Ballymahon Library. Longford Libraries worked closely with the HI Longford co-ordinator to deliver this project. Each library now features dedicated breastfeeding areas with baskets containing practical essentials including muslin squares, baby wipes, breast pads and nappy bags. Purpose-designed support chairs provide comfort for nursing mothers, whilst carefully curated reading materials cater specifically to mothers and young children. New changing facilities have been installed across all six library branches.



# Library, Archives, Arts and Heritage

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## Skills for Life

Skills for Life is a new nationwide programme delivered through Ireland's public libraries, offering people across the country access to practical learning opportunities to support everyday life. This programme has six main themes.

- Basic Digital Skills,
- Financial Literacy,
- Media Literacy,
- Business and Employment Skills,
- Health Awareness and
- Sustain Lifestyles and Environmental Awareness.

A total of 18 workshops were organised with a variety of different themes, including biodiversity, Fraud Awareness, Digital Skills Sessions with the Irish Girl Guides, who ran in-house digital skills sessions in Edgeworthstown Library, along with Repak's recycling and waste awareness workshops.



## Age Friendly

The Age Friendly programme is a whole council approach. Eamonn Brennan is the new Longford Age Friendly Ambassador. Eamonn succeeds Declan Nerney and special thanks is extended to Declan for his contribution to the Age Friendly Programme over the past number of years.

The Older Persons Council (OPC) and Longford Age Friendly Alliance held regular meetings during 2025. Some projects were proposed by the OPC and delivered via the Age Friendly programme.

## Library, Archives, Arts and Heritage

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One of the objectives of the Age Friendly programme in Longford is to keep older people living independently in their homes for longer. Throughout 2025, there were several exercise programmes designed specially for older people. These include Movement for Better Balance, Prime time of your life, and Stay Safe, Stay Active programme. Nearly 500 older people participated in these programmes.

The Age Friendly Information Day celebrates community connection and active ageing. Longford County Council through the Age Friendly programme team, together with the Longford Age Friendly Alliance and Longford Older Person's Network, hosted a successful Age Friendly Information Day at the Longford Arms Hotel, bringing together older residents and key service providers in an atmosphere of community spirit and shared learning. The day-long event featured an impressive range of activities designed to inform, engage, and connect older people with services that matter most to their daily lives. The theme of this year's event was 'Stay Active, Stay Strong, Stay Young' as part of celebrations for Positive Ageing Week, which also commenced on the same day. From digital skills workshops delivered by Longford Library Services to chair yoga sessions and salsa dancing, the programme struck the perfect balance between practical information and joyful participation.

Longford and Laois County Council developed a project called 'Mo Bosca Beo' through Creative Ireland funding in partnership with Age Friendly programme managers and the Healthy Ireland coordinators for both counties. The project is a way for anyone to record their life story through a series of prompts. The older person council members in both Laois and Longford were involved in a consultation process to select 80 different questions, which would prompt people to tell their story. These questions are presented on a prompt card and grouped into ten different categories, which are colour coded. The notebook is designed into coloured coded sections which correspond to the different categories. A family tree booklet is also included, so a detailed family history can be included. This Bosca Beó is designed as a memory box to hold all these items, including additional sentimental items like small pieces of jewellery, perfume/ aftershave, or even a pack of their favourite smokes. The hope is that this keepsake will become a legacy for loved ones. There is an element of reminiscence therapy with people

# Library, Archives, Arts and Heritage

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looking back over their lives, recalling and sharing meaningful memories, enhancing emotional well-being and cognitive function. This Bosca Beó can also be used as a memory box if there are future health issues, like Dementia.



## Storm Ready Packs

The Age Friendly Storm Ready Packs Initiative is provision of suitable aids that might help the most vulnerable cope with future adverse weather events. Funded by Longford County Council, via the Age Friendly programme, Libraries, Climate Action and Community Safety Partnership. The pack consists of:

- A solar power bank,
- Two litre flask and
- A head torch

An emergency check list with key emergency phone numbers and practical tips on how to prepare and stay safe during storm events.

The Storm Ready Packs were launched on 15 December 2025 by An Cathaoirleach Cllr Garry Murtagh and Longford County Council Chief Executive, Mr Paddy Mahon. Packs were distributed by Longford Community Gardai, Citizen Information, and Longford Age Friendly Healthy Homes Coordinator to vulnerable

# Library, Archives, Arts and Heritage

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older persons before Christmas. Packs are available on a referral basis through Longford Age Friendly Programme, Civil Defence, Longford Community Safety Partnership, Healthy Longford, PPN or Longford Libraries.

Other Library improvements include a new Sensory Room in Ballymahon Library on 8 October, which is a very welcome addition to the library. It is a wonderful space that can be booked by individuals looking for a quiet space or school visits. There was a mini- refurbishment of Drumlish Library with new window seats, display units, a computer area and a new library desk. This is a boutique library with a specially curated book collection. The My Open Library Service is now available in three libraries in Longford – Ballymahon, Edgeworthstown and Lanesborough. This service provides access to these libraries, 365 days a year, for 14 hours per day. Library users must sign up for the service via our application form and undertake a full induction by library staff in one of these three locations. During My Open Library, there is computer access, Wifi, book lending, printing, photocopying, scanning and study facilities available during these times.



## **THRIVE Connolly Barracks Reimagined**

The Library Service, Planning and the Town Centre First team applied and secured THRIVE funding for the Connolly Barracks Reimagined project of €7m. THRIVE is co-funded by the Government of Ireland and the European Union through the ERDF Southern, Eastern and Midland Regional Programme 2021–2027. The project is being delivered under the Town Centre First Heritage Revival Scheme (THRIVE), launched by Minister Kieran O’Donnell in February 2024.

# Library, Archives, Arts and Heritage

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This strategic project will see the redevelopment of the historic officers' building into a multi-functional civic and cultural facility, comprising a county museum, community café, creative makerspace, podcast and recording studio, meeting rooms, music facilities, and a flexible performance and training space. The scheme also includes accessibility enhancements, sustainability measures such as solar panels and rainwater harvesting, and significant improvements to the surrounding public realm. Aligned with the principles of the New European Bauhaus, sustainability, aesthetics, and inclusion, the project supports architectural conservation while responding to demographic growth and evolving community needs. It will foster intergenerational engagement, enhance tourism and local enterprise, and contribute to employment creation within the region.

## Longford County Archives

The Archives Service had another very busy and productive year in 2025. Work progressed in archives, records management, and commemorations.

## The Albert Reynolds Collection

The most high-profile deposit received was the Albert Reynolds Collection, which includes photographs, a large number of letters to Albert and his widow Kathleen, and many presentations to him, including honorary doctorates. To mark the opening, there was an exhibition of items from the collection.



# Library, Archives, Arts and Heritage

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Minister for Public Expenditure, Infrastructure, Public Service Reform and Digitalisation, Jack Chambers, officially opened the 'Albert Reynolds Collection' in Longford County Library on 3 November (Albert's birthday). The Collection is made up of items, personal effects and memorabilia donated by the Reynolds family to Longford County Library and Archives. It offers a rare opportunity of a glimpse into the life, work and memories of a major political figure through the items he personally treasured. In time, many items will be housed at the new Longford Museum and cultural hub, located in the Connolly Barracks Reimagined building.



## Other Deposits

This was a particularly strong year for deposits, with the following coming in: Seán Lynch Papers, c. 1917-1990s; Legan parish material, 20<sup>th</sup> century; MacGuinness family archives and artefacts, c. 1917-c.1925; an account book from J.J. Killian's shop, Edgeworthstown, 1894-1909; GAA County Board and CCC minutes and programmes, 2024; a collection of political pamphlets, flyers and newspapers, early 20<sup>th</sup> century; items from the Albert Reynolds Fianna Fáil Cumann, Longford; a register from Tipper NS, Cashel, 1910-13; Cashel PTAA book, 1926-51; Backstage Theatre programmes and papers concerning the All-Ireland One-Act Festivals, mostly 1998, 2009; additional Patrick J. Greene papers; the Jude Flynn Collection; a Cullyfad NS register, 1895-1952; and Moxham family papers, 1752-1940. In all cases, the collections were sorted and packed in archival-quality materials.

# Library, Archives, Arts and Heritage

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## Research Room

The refurbishment of the research room was completed and is open to the public.



## Records Management

The Assistant Archivist worked on records management in several departments including Roads, Cultural Services, Sports Partnership and Community. The work included authorising the disposal of records. The Archives Service advised several departments on general recordkeeping matters.

## Commemorations

The following projects were given funding from the allocation assigned for Commemorations by the Department of Culture, Sport and Communications:

- A book on Cumann na mBan in County Longford
- A film on the Drumlish Land War
- The Padraic Colum Gathering on 4 October
- The Remembrance Sunday ceremony, Market Square, Longford, on 8 November

# Library, Archives, Arts and Heritage

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## County Museum Plans

The Archivist led a co-design committee of local stakeholders that contributed to the detailed planning of the County Museum in Seán Connolly Barracks. The committee agreed on themes to be addressed in the exhibition and an outline of the kind of objects to be displayed.

## Collaborative Projects

The Archives Service was a partner in the Longford-Westmeath Argentina Emigration Oral History Project, together with Longford Heritage Office, the Heritage Office in Westmeath County Council and the Longford-Westmeath Argentina Society. The interviews will be held in the Archives for future research. Some family papers were loaned for scanning as part of the project.

The Archives Service is also helping to organise the County Longford Field Names Project, in collaboration with the Heritage Office and County Longford Historical Society.

## Small Grants for Local Books

The Archives Service organised a small grants scheme for local books. One book received the maximum grant of €1000.

## Arts Service

### Longford Lights

Longford Lights took place across four days from Thursday, 20 to Sunday, 23 February in 2025. A longer and larger event than previous years, for the first time the festival expanded outside of Connolly Barracks and included artwork up to Longford Market House. Audiences were entertained by 33 separate art exhibits and many performances and interactive elements. It was all produced by 54 artists, led by artistic director Caroline Conway and Tommy Casby. As always, a signature component of the festival is its substantial engagement with community groups.

# Library, Archives, Arts and Heritage

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Over 60 volunteers supported the festival delivery, including many from Longford County Council and Longford Volunteering Centre. The festival was supported by a broad range of departments within the Council, including Housing, Roads, Communications, Tourism, Libraries and Night-Time Economy. The principal funders were Longford County Council, Arts Council and Creative Ireland.



## Street Performance Training for Artists

Longford Arts Service organised spectacle training for local Longford artists and was delivered by Spraoi Waterford, the renowned spectacle production company. The training focused on up-skilling artists in design, prop making, costuming and street performance. This was a hands-on, collaborative training experience with an emphasis on peer-to-peer learning. The outcomes from the training were that participants have a greater understanding of core principles of spectacle/street performance and develop a network of peer artists with similar interests and work practices.

# Library, Archives, Arts and Heritage

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There is a new Makerspace located on the Old Athlone Road, which will provide a workspace for Longford Artists. This resource will be a pilot location until the new Makerspace is open in the Connolly Barracks Reimagined building.

## **Blind Fiddle Master's Concert**

Longford Arts Service was successful in securing funding for the Culture Night Late grant. 'The Blind Fiddle Master's Concert' in Longford's Connolly Barracks Square reexplored the 19th-century musician Thomas 'Blind' Fiddler Kernan's legacy. This late-night outdoor concert blended his rediscovered fiddle tunes with bold reinterpretations by artists including Kila, M.A.D, and the Yershov Sisters. Thomas Kernan from Drumlish was a celebrated fiddle player and music teacher from the 19th Century. He transcribed hundreds of tunes to paper with a mixture of self-compositions and older tunes. His influence, as a music teacher, is still seen today with a signature playing style. In tandem with the live music, three visual artists, Mary Fleming, Sergii Khazdava and Anna Wiercioch were commissioned to create a digital projection mapping, timed with the music and an art information piece about Thomas Kernan. 'The Blind Fiddle Master's Concert' was heralded in the Irish Times as a can't-miss event. Over 400 people attended.

## **Fire and Shadows Parade**

Marking the twentieth anniversary of the Dead of Night parade – the Fire and Shadows Parade on Halloween Night was a stunning presentation of the abundance of creative talent that exists in Longford. The parade floats and costumes were made by Longford-based artists, overseen by the Longford Art's Service and the spectacle was performed by over 150 local volunteers. The parade was the signature event of the Samhain Home of Halloween Festival programme and gathered a street audience of over 3,000 attendees despite the weather. The project was funded through LCC, Creative Ireland and Failte Ireland's Fire and Shadows pilot programme.

# Library, Archives, Arts and Heritage

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## **Repaired Arts Circular Economy (R.A.C.E)**

Longford and Mayo County Councils launched an innovative joint research project designed to research and assess how artists and creatives can reduce waste through repair, reuse, and upcycling of art materials. The project has recruited a researcher and two trainers to deliver key research and training phases. The Repaired Arts Circular Economy (R.A.C.E) is designed to research and assess how artists and creatives can reduce waste. 16 artists took part in the training and research day in October. The innovative project is being led by Longford and Mayo Arts Officers and is supported by both councils' Climate Change Officers. The project is funded through the Environmental Protection Agency's Circular Economy Programme.

## **Art Bursaries**

The Art's Service offered four different Art Bursaries in 2025.

- Arts Projects Award 2025
- the Arts Bursary Awards 2025
- the Film Mentorship Awards 2025
- and the Short Film Bursary Award 2025

These schemes are funded by Longford County Council in partnership with the Arts Council of Ireland.

## **Making Moving Art**

Longford Arts Service were heavily involved in an ambitious arts program, Making Moving Art, delivered by Longford Schools Completion Programme, which engages Traveller and Roma children and helps prepare them for transition to secondary school. It builds on the participants' natural sense of play and unique cultural heritage. It introduces them to artforms that nurture their curiosity and desire to express themselves while also directing their own creative experiences. Artforms include circus, music, dance and drama. This group participated in the Dead of Night Halloween Festival.

The Creative Place Edgeworthstown report was finalised and will support the Creative Places application for further funding in 2026.

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## Creative Ireland

Creative Ireland Longford continues to provide support to Longford Communities in 2025. One such project is the short film 'Brown Bread' written and directed by local acclaimed Emmy-nominated journalist and filmmaker Shaunagh Connaire. The film is a modern twist on the Irish emigration story. Filmed exclusively in County Longford, this film debuted at the Galway Film Fleadh, with a screening in the Backstage Theatre in July. The film was selected for the San Jose International Film Festival. Disney + has acquired 'Brown Bread' and it is now available to view on Disney + across Europe.



## Cruinniú na nÓg



Cruinniú na nÓg is a day of free creativity for children and young people throughout County Longford, which took place on 7 June 2025. This year, Creative Ireland Longford supported eight Cruinniú na nÓg-specific grant applications from groups and creatives to host a wealth of events and workshops, many of which were held by Longford Libraries. Three other events were programmed directly by the Cultural and Creativity Team on the day. One of the new initiatives in 2025 was the Creative Cruinniú for budding

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artists, and Lego play for fledgling engineers and builders. Over 1,000 children took part in the Cruinniú programme around the county. This year, there was also a collaboration with the Comhairle na nÓg and Night-Time Economy to deliver a Glow Rush event in Eden nightclub.

## Heritage

### Built Heritage and Conservation Grants

There were nine successful Built Heritage Investment Scheme 2025 conservation grant applications. The full allocation of €120,081, plus €5,000 for the Historic Thatched Buildings Stream, was claimed by the applicants. The grants were matched by €131,629.94 from the applicants, resulting in essential repairs undertaken to historic architectural features in County Longford to the value in excess of €256,710.94 and generating a minimum of 320 days of labour across multiple companies and skills in the construction industry in the county. Minister for Biodiversity, Nature and Heritage, Christopher O’Sullivan TD visited a number of these sites in July of this year and was impressed by the scope and nature of the works undertaken and the collaborative approach taken by Longford County Council with building owners and communities.



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## Community Monuments Fund

The Community Monuments Fund was first established in 2020 to provide investment in Ireland's archaeological heritage. Over the past number of years, Abbeyshrule Abbey has received in excess of €200,000 funding, while St Brendan's Church in Clondra has received €173,000 from the Community Monuments Fund. In County Longford, this grant has supported the urgent repair and conservation of the towerhouse at Abbeyshrule Abbey and the medieval chapel at St. Brendan's Church, Clondra, in addition to conservation management plans for other archaeological sites and monuments. These were community-driven projects which have secured the monuments for future generations.

Two projects are being funded through the Community Monuments Fund (CMF) in 2025.

- Phase 1 capital stabilisation works to the medieval abbey chapel.
- A Conservation Management Plan for the ecclesiastical ruins and graveyard at Saints' Island

€130,000 was claimed by these two projects.

## Heritage Week

The theme for Heritage Week 2025 is exploring foundations, which invites people to delve into the building blocks of heritage, not just the structures, but the



# Library, Archives, Arts and Heritage

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landscapes and cultural activities that have shaped us. Community groups received funding to host various events for Heritage Week.

One event for Heritage Week was the Irish Native Rare Breed Livestock Show organised by Heritage Office, Longford / Westmeath Farmers Mart, and Irish Native Breed Livestock Society. The event showcased the work of breed societies and other organisations in devising and maintaining conservation strategies and educating the public about the historic, heritage and genetic significance of the breeds, raising awareness of the place of these breeds in agricultural practices historically as well as currently.

## **Local Biodiversity Action Fund (LBAF)**

There were nine different Local Biodiversity Action Fund (LBAF) projects in 2025. Longford Heritage Office received 96,299.03 in funding to deliver these projects, with 15% matched funding by Longford County Council. A showcase project is the Nature Summer School, which took place in Abbeyshrule from Tuesday, 5 August to Friday, 8 August, for children aged eight-twelve years. Young explorers discovered the remarkable ecosystem and biodiversity thriving in County Longford, learning about diverse habitats including peatlands, woodlands, farms, hedgerows, and waterbodies alongside the plants and animals that inhabit them. The Yard Hub in Abbeyshrule hosted this educational adventure. Expert-led sessions featured field trips to Corlea Trackway and Newcastle Wood, with specialists from Biodiversity in Schools, Coillte, NPWS, OPW and Longford County Council sharing their knowledge. This summer school is a joint initiative between Longford Library Services and the Environment section of Longford County Council.

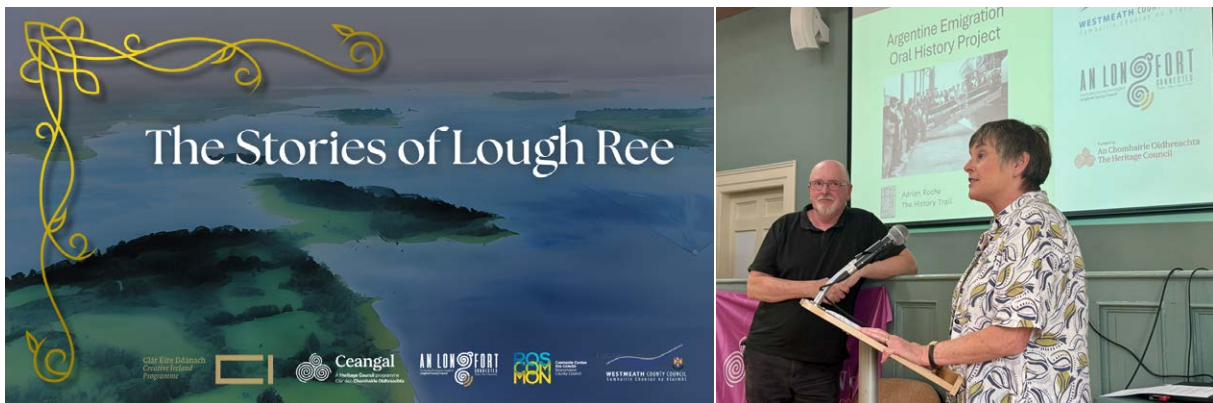
On 24 September, another LBAF-funded project, the bogland workbook, was launched in Corlea Bog visitor centre. The workbook was commissioned by the Biodiversity and Heritage Officer, illustrated by Rusty Lemon and information provided by Biodiversity in Schools. This workbook will be distributed to primary schools all over Longford.

# Library, Archives, Arts and Heritage

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On 25 September, Minister for Nature, Heritage and Biodiversity Christopher O’ Sullivan TD launched the Biodiversity Action Plan, and the Longford Birding backpacks in Edgeworthstown Library. There was also a biodiversity open day with various stalls and information stands dotted around the library by both local and national organisations. The Longford birding backpack was funded by the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) via the Local Biodiversity Fund and Longford County Council. This project is the first of the Citizen Science lending collection.

## Heritage Projects



# Regeneration and Active Travel

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## Overview

In 2025, Longford County Council achieved major milestones in regeneration and the expansion of the county's cycling and walking network. Significant progress was made in heritage-led redevelopment, delivery of inclusive community amenities, enhancement of public realm infrastructure, and intensification of efforts to tackle vacancy and dereliction. These initiatives were strongly supported by national funding streams and policy frameworks.

## Major Achievements in 2025

### Connolly Barracks Reimagined

In 2025, Longford County Council secured €7 million under THRIVE Strand 2 to transform the historic Sean Connolly Barracks into a flagship cultural, creative and community hub. The project will deliver a county museum, creative studios, café, performance and training spaces, addressing long identified deficits in tourism infrastructure. Connolly Barracks Reimagined is co-funded by the Government of Ireland and the European Union through the ERDF Southern, Eastern and Midland Regional Programme 2021-27.



### 'Sunflower' Special Needs Playground

A major achievement in inclusive community infrastructure was the opening of the 'Sunflower' Playground in Longford Town. Designed for children with additional needs, it features sensory equipment, accessible swings and safe equipment. The project was funded through the Town and Village Renewal Scheme (€379,000)

# Regeneration and Active Travel

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with additional Council support. The playground is integrated with a new parkland trail linking to the Royal Canal Greenway, enhancing accessibility and family recreation in the town centre.



## **Newcastle Woods Trailhead Car Park**

A new highcapacity trailhead car park was developed to address growing visitor numbers at Newcastle Woods, particularly since the opening of Center Parcs. The project improved accessibility for people with disabilities and replaced informal roadside parking with a managed, environmentally sensitive facility developed in consultation with residents and recreation groups.

## **Leebeen Park Trail Enhancement**

The Leebeen Park Trail in Aughnacliffe underwent a major upgrade. The project enhances accessibility while strengthening the linkages to the Aughnacliffe Heritage Trail.

## **Battery Road Cycle and Pedestrian Scheme**

June 2025 marked the official opening of the €3.5 million Battery Road Active Travel Scheme, a 1.3 km segregated pedestrian/cycle route connecting Longford Town to the N4 Axis Centre. Delivered under the national Pathfinder Programme,

# Regeneration and Active Travel

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the scheme includes Ireland's first coloured castinsitu separator kerbs, signalised junction upgrades, and comprehensive traffic calming. It was praised nationally as a blueprint for rural sustainable transport and is already improving safety and accessibility for schoolchildren, commuters and residents.



## **New link Road and Active Travel route completed in Granard**

December 2025 saw the opening to the public of a vital new link road between Market Street and Barrack Lane in Granard town. This project which is fully funded through the National Transport Authority also comprises a new Active Travel route linking from Main Street Granard to Ard Scoil Phadraig on the R194 Longford Road. Students of all three schools in the town along with local residents can now avail of this new Active Travel facility on their daily trips while the new road will relieve congestion on main street and open up the back lands area of Granard for future development.



# Regeneration and Active Travel

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## **Aghaduignan to Clonbalt Woods shared footpath**

Works were completed on a new shared path linking from Clonbalt Woods to Aghaduignan along the R198 in Longford Town. These works are funded through Active Travel and delivered in conjunction with Longford County Council's Mid Area District. The new path which is over half a kilometre in length provides a shared facility for both cyclists and pedestrians. The new widened three metre path also has a traffic calming effect with the carriageway width being reduced.

## **Aghafad Pedestrian and Cycle Link**

Construction began in late 2025 on the Aghafad pedestrian/cycle link connecting the industrial estate, Slasher's GAA grounds and the Royal Canal Greenway. The project includes drainage upgrades, watermain replacement, boundary improvements and new public lighting. It is funded by the NTA through the Active Travel Programme and scheduled for completion in 2026.

## **Footpath connection Farnagh Hill**

A missing link in Longford Town's walking network was resolved through the completion of a footpath at Farnagh Hill, enabled through cooperation with private landowners. The project delivers safe and continuous access to schools, shops and town centre services.

## **Raised Crossings and School Safety Measures**

The Council installed raised pedestrian crossings and traffic calming measures at a number of school and village locations including Keenagh NS, Drumlish NS, St. Teresa's Clontumpher, Melview NS, and Legan. These NTA funded works support safer travel for children and residents. Further similar project to be rolled out in 2026.

# Regeneration and Active Travel

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## Safe Routes to School – Scoil Mhuire Clondra

The National School in Clondra reopened in September to a vastly different and improved front of school environment and along school approaches. As part of this Safe Routes to School initiative, which is funded through the National Transport Authority, new widened footpaths were installed along with a series of raised crossings on the approach routes to the school. The project also incorporated coloured road markings, pencil bollards and signage which all work together to create a school zone effect. The key aim of this project is to improve safety for pedestrians at the school gate and to give increased priority to vulnerable road users along the approach routes to encourage Active Travel and to reduce traffic congestion at the school.



## Funding secured in 2025

In 2025, Longford County Council secured a substantial package of national development investment under the Town and Village Renewal Scheme (TVRS) and the Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS). These approvals supported both the development of strategic community infrastructure and the enhancement of Longford’s growing network of walking, cycling, and outdoor recreation amenities.

# Regeneration and Active Travel

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## Active Travel Funding Secured in 2025

A total of €3.25 million in grant funding from the National Transport Authority was fully utilised on Active Travel projects in Longford during 2025. This funding not only relates to the completed projects listed above but was also used in progressing a number of key Active Travel schemes that will be delivered over 2026 and beyond.

## Town and Village Renewal Scheme (TVRS)

### Lanesborough Eco Activity Park

- Planning and Design (Allocation: €49,500)

This approval enables the preparation and submission of a full planning application for the proposed Lanesborough Eco Activity Park. The work includes integrated design for waterbased recreation, improved access infrastructure, and the consolidation of existing and future amenities into a landmark, inclusive town park on the shores of Lough Ree.

### Lanesborough Sensory Garden and Incubation Hub

- Restoration and Enhancement (Allocation: €109,017)

Funding was granted to restore and enhance the existing Sensory Garden and Incubation Hub, reinforcing their role as accessible community assets while supporting enterprise activity, biodiversity enhancement, and inclusive public use.

### Longford People's Park

- Allocation: €500,000

Longford People's Park is a major community-led redevelopment of the former greyhound track, delivering new recreational facilities and public realm improvements to create an inclusive and accessible park for the town.

# Regeneration and Active Travel

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## Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS)

### Inny River Walk

- Design and Assessment (Allocation: €50,000)

Funding supports the design of an expanded Inny River Walk linking Ballymahon with Newcastle Woods and Center Parcs, positioning the project for future capital investment.

### North Longford Bridal Track

- Design and Route Assessment (Allocation: €50,000)

This allocation enables design and feasibility work for a longdistance bridle and walking route in North Longford, strengthening the county's trailbased tourism potential.

### Aughnacliffe Heritage and Waterfall Trails

- Upgrade Works (Allocation: €40,000)

Improvements include resurfacing and maintenance on key sections of this popular heritage route.

### Ballinalee Walkway

- Enhancement Works (Allocation: €40,000)

Funding supports repairs to fencing, surface renewal, and safety upgrades.

### Commons North Trail

- Safety and Maintenance Programme (Allocation: €40,000)

Works focus on widening, fencing, and safety interventions on the upper section of the trail.

# Regeneration and Active Travel

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## Lough Gowna Viewing Area

- Construction of Scenic Viewpoint (Allocation: €40,000)

A new dedicated viewing location overlooking Lough Gowna enhances visitor experience and supports local recreation.

## Inny River Kayak Access

- Infrastructure Upgrades (Allocation: €30,528)

This project enhances safe access to the River Inny for kayaking and waterbased recreation.

## Legga to Moyne Walking and Cycling Trail

- Allocation: €200,000

This project will develop a new shared walking and cycling trail connecting Legga Cross to Moyne, providing a safe and sustainable activetravel link.

## Lissard–Cranalagh More Green Trail, Edgeworthstown

- Allocation: €200,000

Funding supports the construction of a 4.2 km limestonedust walking and cycling route across three townlands, strengthening Edgeworthstown's recreational infrastructure.

## Longford Trails Upgrade 2025

- Countywide Programme (Allocation: €495,846)

This largescale approval delivers upgrades to 15 existing trails to meet national standards for safety, accessibility and user experience, raising the overall quality and consistency of Longford's outdoor recreation network.

# Town Centre First

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## **Town Regeneration**

The Longford Town Centre First (TCF) Strategy launched in 2024 is an ambitious plan that sets out a pathway for the revival and revitalisation of the county town of Longford. This strategy sets out the following 16-year vision for the town, outlining ambitions to be realised by Longford by 2040.

## **THRIVE**

Under THRIVE Funding Strand 1, €199,020 was received for the preparation of Part 8 Planning drawings, detailed design and business case for the redevelopment of Connolly Barracks. The Part 8 Planning application was approved in March, 2025.

Under THRIVE Funding Strand 2, €7 million was confirmed for the construction works at Connolly Barracks and this is due to commence in May, 2026.

## **Granard Town Centre First Measure 1**

Town Centre First Measure 1 funding was provided to support the establishment of a Town Team in the Granard area, including the provision of baseline data on the current status of the town. Queen's University Belfast carried out a Health Check to develop the baseline data and identify the challenges and opportunities within the town. Public consultation and engagement is ongoing with a public meeting held in February 2025 to inform the community and garner interest in the Town Team and a consultation with Castlepollard is planned for 2026.

## **Ballymahon Town Centre First Measure 2**

Extensive surveys and community engagement has taken place, including workshops with Ballymahon Vocational School and Mercy Secondary School Students to inform the development of the Town Centre First Plan. Engagement with the Town Team continues to keep them informed. Work on the preparation of the Draft Plan was ongoing and is expected to be completed in February 2026.

# Town Centre First

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## **Weaver's Hall/Annaly Park Carpark/Garvey's Yard – Measure 3 Project Development Measure**

Work is ongoing in relation to the engagement of consultants for the design and development of this area of Longford Town with €50,000 funding secured for Garvey's Yard.

## **Residential Zoned Land Tax**

The Residential Zoned Land Tax (RZLT) is a new tax aimed at increasing housing supply by activating zoned, serviced residential development lands for housing. Greenfield and brownfield land identified and zoned for housing will be potentially subject to tax. The tax is a commitment under the Government's Housing for All Plan. Longford County Council is required to prepare annual draft maps of the land considered to be in scope for the RZLT. Interested individuals or parties may make submissions in respect of land on the annual draft map. Residential properties, although included on the map, are not subject to RZLT if they are subject to Local Property Tax. Land appearing on the annual draft maps, unless amended following the outcome of submissions and rezoning requests made, will be included on the annual final map of land showing where the tax applies in the local authority area. This final map will be published in February 2026. This land will be subject to the tax in 2026 unless it is exempt as a residential property, or qualifies for any other exemption, as provided for in legislation. The administration of the RZLT is a matter for the Revenue Commissioners.

## **Derelict Sites**

Derelict sites can have a detrimental impact on the social, economic, commercial and visual aspects on the surrounding neighbourhood. It is important that they are reported, investigated, and rendered non-derelict. The Derelict Sites Act requires that the owner and occupier of land ensure that the land or structures do not become or remain a derelict site.

The Act defines a derelict site as any land which detracts, or is likely to detract, to a material degree from the amenity, character or appearance of land in the neighbourhood of the land in question because of:

# Town Centre First

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- structures which are in a ruinous, derelict or dangerous condition, or
- the neglected, unsightly or objectionable condition of the land or structures, or
- the presence, deposit or collection of litter, rubbish, debris or waste

The Act imposes duties on the local authority to:

- maintain a Derelict Sites Register
  - make the Register available for public inspection
  - serve a notice on the owner/occupier specifying works to be carried out to prevent or stop dereliction
  - acquire by agreement or compulsorily any derelict site
  - impose an annual levy on any derelict site in an urban area
- The Derelict Sites Act and process is being used as a vehicle to minimise dereliction and vacancy in the towns of County Longford.

Notably, this year, the imposition of the Derelict Sites Levy on properties listed as derelict on the register aims to incentivise property owners to address dereliction and take necessary action.

## **Breakdown below of activities on Derelict Sites in 2025:**

2 no.	Section 8(2) Notice of Intention to enter on the Derelict Sites Register
10 no.	Section 8(7) Notice that property has been entered on the Derelict Site Register
16 no.	Section 11 Notice of Measure to be taken in relation to the Derelict Site.
4 no.	Derelict Sites removed from Derelict Sites Register
11 no.	Section 22 Notice of Valuation
11 no.	Section 23 Demand Notices
1 no.	CPO Vested

# Town Centre First

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## **Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) and Derelict Sites**

Town Centre First Department and the Vacant Homes Unit at Longford County Council are actively executing the CPO Activation Program, launched in early January 2023, to swiftly identify and activate vacant and derelict properties across the county. Additionally, proactive measures are being taken to update the Derelict Sites Register (DSR). Notably, this year, the imposition of the Derelict Sites Levy in January 2025 on properties listed as derelict in the register aims to incentivise property owners to address dereliction and take necessary actions.

## **Vacant Homes Unit**

The Vacant Homes Unit remains committed to executing housing projects outlined in the Vacant Homes Action Plan 2023–2026, aiming to identify and repurpose recoverable vacant properties to enhance housing supply and rejuvenate local communities.

## **Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant (CROI CONATHE)**

The Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant Scheme continues to support property revitalisation, offering up to €50,000 for vacant properties and €70,000 for derelict ones. As of the latest update, details of applications for Longford County Council are below:

- 255 total applications
- 67 paid out to date
- 182 approved to date
- 21 withdrawn
- 24 rejected

# Local Enterprise Office

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## Job Creation

In 2025, the number of client companies in the Local Enterprise Office, Longford portfolio was 258. Over the course of 2025, a total of 35 additional new jobs were created in companies who are clients of LEO Longford.

## Business Training and Mentoring

During the year 2025 a total of 1,050 people from the county participated in online and in person training events held by the Local Enterprise Office. Of this number, 196 individuals took part in the 'Start Your Own Business' programme which reflects the strong interest from people exploring the possibilities around self-employment.

There was also strong participation amongst those already established in business with 62 business owners participating in the LEO Management Development Program to hone their managerial skills.

Twenty-three companies availed of a Digital for Business Consultant to review their operational activities and identify opportunities for digital solutions to help streamline operations. The value of these reports that is fully funded by LEO was €45,000 in 2025.

Of the 23 businesses that completed the Digital for Business in 2025, eight have already completed and received approval for the Grow Digital Voucher with a total value of €37,550 for the year with many more in the pipeline for 2026.

LEO Longford also assisted six businesses to successfully apply for funding from Microfinance Ireland

## Employment Fair

Organised by a subcommittee of Services to the Unemployed including the Local Enterprise Office, a Longford Employment, Training and Information Fair took place on 10 April in Longford. A total of 427 people attended on the day where

# Local Enterprise Office

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participants met a range of organisations to learn about the wide range of services on offer, including education, training, job opportunities, volunteering and other activities available across the county.

## Technology for Growth – Building Smarter Local Businesses

During 2025, Longford County Council, in collaboration with the Local Enterprise Office, delivered the 'Technology for Growth: Building Smarter Local Businesses' event at the Longford Arms Hotel, supporting local enterprises to better understand the role of technology and artificial intelligence in business development. The event attracted strong participation from the local business community, highlighting the increasing need for practical, accessible guidance on digital adoption.



# Local Enterprise Office

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The programme, hosted by broadcaster Matt Cooper, included expert presentations from Microsoft and Futurewise.ie, which provided businesses with practical insights into digital transformation, operational efficiency and emerging technologies. A panel discussion involving digital consultants and a local business owner shared realworld experiences of early technology adoption, illustrating the tangible benefits for small enterprises across different sectors.

The event also facilitated direct engagement between businesses and a range of digital service providers through exhibitions and structured networking, enabling participants to identify relevant supports and solutions aligned with their individual needs. Overall, the initiative strengthened local enterprise capacity by improving digital awareness, encouraging innovation and enhancing business resilience. It formed part of the Council's and Local Enterprise Office's ongoing programme to support sustainable growth, competitiveness and longterm economic development within County Longford.

## Financial Supports

- In 2025, €355,820 in financial assistance was awarded to 18 new and expanding projects in County Longford.
- €247,698 in Energy Efficiency Grants to 27 small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs)
- **Market Explorer Grant:** Seven businesses availed of the new Market Explorer Grant scheme that is design to assist businesses access new export markets over an 18-month custom designed targeted export marketing campaign. €36,000 was committed to this scheme in 2025.
- €37,551 in Grow Digital grants were awarded between eight businesses who were implementing digital solutions to the operation.

## Local Enterprise Week 2025

Local Enterprise Week is celebrated nationally every March. In Longford, events were held to highlight the LEO supports available to small businesses and to focus on the value of enterprise and entrepreneurship to local economies.

# Local Enterprise Office

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## County and National Enterprise Awards

The County Enterprise Awards, a highlight of Local Enterprise Week, recognises the outstanding contribution and success of Longford's small business community. This year's overall winner was Willie Monaghan & Sons Ltd, a family-run firm in Coolarty renowned for truck body building and steel fabrication. The company went on to represent LEO Longford at the National Enterprise Awards in Dublin in May.



## Celebrating Longford's Cosmopolitan Business Community Event

As part of Local Enterprise Week 2025, the Local Enterprise Office, Longford County Council, hosted a successful event on 3 March at the Longford Arms Hotel to celebrate the contribution of international entrepreneurs to County Longford. The well-attended morning gathering featured keynote speaker Conall Ó Móráin, host of 'That Great Business Show', who shared practical insights on business growth and networking. A podcast was recorded on the day showcasing four international-owned businesses now thriving in Longford. Attendees also availed of free mentoring sessions



# Local Enterprise Office

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and enjoyed a vibrant networking opportunity. The event highlighted the diversity and vitality of Longford's business community and the supports available through the Local Enterprise Office.

## Women in Business

### Tri-County Women in Business Networking Event - December

Seventy female entrepreneurs from Longford, Leitrim, and Westmeath attended a networking event at the Longford Arms Hotel, organised by the Local Enterprise Offices of the three counties. The evening featured keynote speaker Su Carty, award-winning leadership and performance coach, and guest speaker Clare Frances Cassells, an acclaimed wedding and portrait photographer.

Hosted by Noel Davidson of Entrepreneurs Academy, the event included an inspiring panel discussion and networking session, fostering collaboration and knowledge sharing among businesswomen. The Women in Business series, delivered in partnership with Enterprise Ireland, continues to provide vital supports including funding, mentorship, and training to help female entrepreneurs grow and succeed.



# Local Enterprise Office

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## Unlocking Opportunities in the Upper Shannon Erne Region – Irish Embassy, London

A unique inter-county promotional event was held in the Irish Embassy in London in December, highlighting the attractiveness of Longford and neighbouring counties as a viable business location.

The unique initiative also offered potential investors, entrepreneurs, or those who are passionate about regional development a unique opportunity to connect, learn, and be inspired by the investment potential of Longford and its' neighbouring counties.

Longford County Council was represented at the event by Cathaoirleach, Cllr Garry Murtagh; Chief Executive, Paddy Mahon; Directors of Services John Brannigan and Michael Nevin and Catherine Kane of the Longford LEO (Local Enterprise Office).

The keynote speaker at the event was CEO of IDA Ireland Michael Lohan. The event was compered by former RTE news journalist and broadcaster, Brian Dobson, who himself is a regular visitor to the region. The panel discussion



# Local Enterprise Office

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featured contributions from Raj Singh of Center Parcs, Longford; Ann-Marie Kelly, Managing Director of CWS Hygiene Ireland Ltd; Barry Regan, President of Freudberg Medical and Caroline Ashe Brady of KORE Insulation.

## Student Enterprise Programme

### National Award for Longford Students at Student Enterprise Finals

Celebrating Ireland's finest young student entrepreneurs, students from Longford took Silver in the senior category at this year's Student Enterprise Programme National Finals. The finals of this Local Enterprise Office initiative took place on Thursday, 8 May in Mullingar. Supported by Local Enterprise Office, Longford, the students from Moyne Community School won second prize in the senior category. The winning students were Mia Kiernan, Emma Brennan, Aoife Cadam, Emma Gantley, Kate McKeon, and Kelly Davis. They all worked under the guidance of their teacher, Pdraig Doherty. Their student enterprise was called 'It's a Dose'. They developed fitted shoulder straps to aid with animal medical treatment application, improving animal handling and user safety. There were 85 student businesses in contention across three main categories for the Final in what is Ireland's largest entrepreneurship programme for second level students. The initiative, funded by the Government of Ireland through Enterprise Ireland and delivered by the 31 Local Enterprise Offices in local authorities throughout the country, saw over 30,000 students from 500 secondary schools across the country take part.

The successful Moyne CS senior team qualified from the SEP County final which took place in March. A total of 427 Longford students took part in the program through their schools in 2025.



# Local Enterprise Office

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## Christmas Markets

As part of 'Christmas on the Square', Pig Market Lane hosted a festive Christmas market showcasing locally produced gifts, crafts and artisan food, providing a valuable trading opportunity for small businesses in the leadup to the Christmas period.



Running from early afternoon, the market attracted strong footfall and was supported by live local music, enhancing the visitor experience and towncentre vibrancy. The initiative supported the LEOs #ShopLongford campaign by promoting local enterprise, encouraging community engagement and driving economic activity within Longford Town.

## EU Just Transition Fund

Longford County Council, through the Local Enterprise Office, was successful in securing funding under the EU Just Transition Fund Programme 2021–2027 for two separate projects.

€793,822 was secured to develop Longford Enterprise and Energy Centre. This landmark project will transform the former old Post Office, a historic red brick building in Longford Town, into a modern hub for business, tourism and climate action. The centre will feature Longford Town's first co-working space, a relocated County Tourism Office and dedicated facilities for climate education, accredited green skills training and energy advice. This project is currently ongoing and aims to be completed by September 2025.

A further €200,860 was also secured under the EU Just Transition Fund to undertake a feasibility study and pilot training with a view to developing a Circular Economy Centre of Excellence in Longford Town. It is proposed that Longford County Council and the EDI Centre will partner on this transformative project. The study is currently ongoing and will be completed in early 2026.

# Local Enterprise Office

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## Night-Time Economy 2025

2025 was a year of consolidation and expansion for the Night-Time Economy in Longford Town. As one of the nine national pilot locations identified by the Department of Culture, Communications and Sport, Longford continued to progress the implementation of its Night-Time Economy Action Plan with a clear emphasis on structured evening activation, safety, inclusion, and collaboration. The focus throughout the year was on increasing activity after 6pm, supporting local enterprise, embedding national safety standards, and ensuring that the town centre remained welcoming and accessible to all demographics.

In 2025, over €100,000 was secured from the Department of Culture, Communications and Sport to support the delivery of Night-Time Economy initiatives in Longford Town, representing significant national investment in the town's evening economy development. Through the Night-Time Economy Funding Scheme, more than 30 local groups and organisations were supported in delivering evening events and programming. This investment facilitated activity across all seasons and enabled a coordinated approach to town-centre animation.

The Night-Time Economy Advisor worked closely with colleagues across Tourism, Regeneration, Local Enterprise Office, Municipal District and Community sections, in addition to An Garda Síochána, the Longford Community Safety Partnership and national partners. This cross-departmental approach ensured that night-time initiatives were aligned with broader strategic objectives for the town.

## Winter Activation: Longford Lights

Longford Lights returned from 20 to 23 February 2025 and once again established itself as a flagship winter event for the town. Over four evenings, Longford Town and Connolly Barracks were transformed through large-scale projection mapping, immersive light installations and interactive illuminated artworks. The festival drew attendances in excess of 11,000 people and generated significant footfall for hospitality and retail businesses during a traditionally quieter trading period.

The scale and quality of delivery demonstrated Longford's capacity to host high-impact evening events and confirmed the importance of winter activation within

# Local Enterprise Office

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the Night-Time Economy calendar. The event also provided opportunities for local artists and creative practitioners to collaborate on the production and presentation of work in a public setting.



## **St Patrick's Eve: Civic Celebration After Dark**

St Patrick's Eve 2025 marked a significant reimagining of the town's traditional parade format and was delivered on Sunday, 16 March as a structured afternoon-to-evening civic celebration. The revised format was intentionally designed to extend engagement beyond a daytime event model and to position St Patrick's Eve as a key activation within Longford Town's Night-Time Economy calendar.

Activity commenced at 4pm on Ballymahon Street, where a curated live performance programme created early footfall and a family-focused festival atmosphere. Music Generation Longford, local school groups and community performers formed part of the opening programme, ensuring strong local representation and intergenerational participation. This early activation encouraged visitors into the town centre well in advance of the parade itself and supported extended dwell time.

The parade began at 5.30pm and followed a stewarded route through Main Street and adjoining streets, drawing substantial crowds to the town centre. The Sunday delivery, combined with the early evening timing, was a deliberate decision aimed

# Local Enterprise Office

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at maximising attendance while encouraging families to remain in town for the duration of the programme. The atmosphere was inclusive, community-led and strongly attended, with significant spectator presence along the full route.

Considerable operational planning underpinned the event. Road closures and traffic management plans were implemented in coordination with An Garda Síochána and relevant council departments. A designated sensory area was provided to support individuals with additional needs, and accessibility guidance was communicated in advance to ensure inclusive participation. Stewarding, crowd management and clear communication protocols ensured safe and effective delivery.

Following the parade, live music and street entertainment continued in the town centre, sustaining activity beyond the formal procession. This extended programme encouraged visitors to remain in local cafés, restaurants and hospitality venues, contributing directly to evening trade and reinforcing the economic impact of the event.



# Local Enterprise Office

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The reimagined St Patrick's Eve celebration demonstrated how a traditional civic event can be adapted to align with Night-Time Economy objectives. By structuring the programme across the afternoon and into the evening, Longford successfully transformed St Patrick's Eve into a flagship early-season activation that strengthened town-centre vibrancy, supported local enterprise and reinforced inclusive community.

## **Café Lates: Development of an Evening Café Culture**

Café Lates was introduced in Longford Town on 29 May and 26 June 2025 as part of a coordinated national pilot across the nine Night-Time Economy locations. The initiative sought to diversify the town's evening offer by encouraging cafés to extend opening hours beyond 6pm and host curated cultural programming.

Four cafés participated in the initial phase, delivering acoustic music sessions, poetry readings, storytelling events and themed social gatherings. The objective was to create alcohol-free, inclusive spaces where people could meet, socialise and experience cultural programming in a relaxed environment.

RTÉ visited Longford to capture the initiative in operation and reported positively on the atmosphere and uptake. The national coverage highlighted Longford as an example of how late-night café culture could complement traditional hospitality offerings. The initial pilot was widely regarded as successful, and Café Lates returned during the autumn and winter months under The Evening Edit banner. The continuation of the programme demonstrated demand and provided evidence that extended café trading can form a sustainable element of the town's night-time economy.



# Local Enterprise Office

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## Youth and Community Engagement: Early Summer Initiatives

As part of Cruinniú na nÓg, GlowRush was delivered in June 2025 as a youth-focused evening celebration. The event attracted over 100 attendees and extended creative programming into the early evening, strengthening youth participation within the Night-Time Economy framework. This initiative reflected a commitment to ensuring that evening programming is inclusive of younger age groups and not solely focused on adult audiences.

Men's Health Week also featured within the Night-Time Economy programme through the delivery of the 'Lads & Dads Walk', commencing at Market Square and concluding in a participating café. The event promoted wellbeing, social connection and positive use of public space during evening hours. It demonstrated that the Night-Time Economy can support preventative health and community-building objectives alongside cultural programming.



## Funding Support and Capacity Building

The Night-Time Economy Funding Scheme supported more than 30 local groups and organisations throughout 2025. Grants ranging from €500 to €2,000 enabled the delivery of live music events, youth initiatives, family-friendly programming, arts workshops, seasonal activations and community gatherings. The scheme significantly increased the frequency and diversity of structured activity after 6pm and provided opportunities for emerging organisers to test new ideas within a supported framework.

# Local Enterprise Office

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In October 2025, 'The Night Shift' Event Masterclass was delivered to over 30 participants, including business owners, creatives and community organisers. The training covered event planning, marketing and public relations, audience development and sustainable programming models. This capacity-building initiative strengthened local expertise and enhanced the quality and professionalism of events delivered within the town.



## **The Evening Edit: Sustaining Autumn and Winter Activity**

Launched in early September and running through to late November 2025, The Evening Edit was a threemonth coordinated autumn and winter NightTime Economy campaign designed to sustain structured activity in Longford Town from Sunday to Thursday. The campaign was intentionally focused on quieter trading nights, recognising the need to support midweek footfall and to provide consistent, visible programming beyond peak weekend activity.

The Evening Edit functioned both as a curated programme and as a promotional umbrella for grant-supported events. A consolidated schedule was developed and widely circulated, ensuring that residents and visitors could clearly see what was happening in the town each week after 6pm.

Programming during the campaign was deliberately varied in order to appeal to different age groups and interests. Sunday evenings featured the popular Sunshine Sessions, which created a relaxed and welcoming environment in participating venues. These sessions combined acoustic music, conversation and social connection, encouraging intergenerational attendance and providing a softer close to the weekend.

# Local Enterprise Office

Midweek activity included structured bingo evenings, community quiz nights for U-18 audiences, live podcasts, DJ sessions, art exhibitions and film screenings. The U-18 quiz nights were particularly significant, as they provided safe, supervised evening activity for young people in the town centre and reinforced the NightTime Economy’s commitment to inclusive programming beyond adult audiences.

Cafés, cultural spaces and licensed venues collaborated in delivering events, with crosspromotion strengthening the overall campaign. The Evening Edit maintained a steady rhythm of activity across three consecutive months, contributing to sustained footfall and reinforcing Longford Town as an active evening destination throughout the autumn and early winter period.

The Evening Edit maintained vibrancy in the town centre during the autumn period and demonstrated the value of coordinated scheduling and promotion.



## Culture Night and Culture Night Late: A Full Evening Programme

Culture Night 2025 in Longford Town was delivered as a comprehensive early evening and latenight programme, with activity commencing in the late afternoon and continuing through to the Culture Night Late headline concert.

# Local Enterprise Office

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More than 16 free events were delivered across multiple venues in the town, with a clear emphasis on accessibility and family participation up to 9pm. Early evening programming included yoga sessions for parents and toddlers, storytelling and cultural exchange events delivered in partnership with community networks, classical and contemporary music performances in Longford Library, and interactive creative workshops in accessible towncentre spaces.

Pig Market Lane and adjoining venues hosted children’s entertainment, including circus skills workshops and DJ skills sessions designed specifically for young people. These practical, hands-on workshops allowed children and teenagers to actively participate rather than simply observe, reinforcing Culture Night’s ethos of engagement and creativity.

Family-friendly events were intentionally scheduled between 5pm and 9pm to encourage households to attend together and to activate multiple locations simultaneously. The town centre experienced steady footfall throughout the evening, with cafés, cultural venues and public spaces operating in tandem.

At 9pm, the programme transitioned to Culture Night Late, with The Blind Fiddle Master’s Concert in Connolly Barracks Square serving as the headline event. Supported through Culture Night Late funding, the concert featured nationally recognised musicians and drew a substantial audience. The seamless progression from family programming to latenight cultural performance demonstrated Longford’s capacity to deliver a full-spectrum nighttime cultural offering within a national framework.



# Local Enterprise Office

## Home of Halloween: Destination Hub Collaboration with Westmeath

Home of Halloween 2025 represented one of the most significant and strategically important activations within the Night-Time Economy calendar. Longford participated as a designated destination hub in partnership with Westmeath under the national Ireland, Home of Halloween campaign. This cross-county collaboration positioned the Midlands as a joint seasonal destination within Ireland’s Hidden Heartlands and strengthened the regional tourism offering.

The partnership between Longford and Westmeath involved coordinated programming, shared branding, aligned marketing and joint promotional messaging. By operating as a combined destination hub, both counties benefited from enhanced national visibility and greater visitor dispersal across the region. Visitors were encouraged to experience events across both counties, extending dwell time and overnight stays within the Midlands.



# Local Enterprise Office

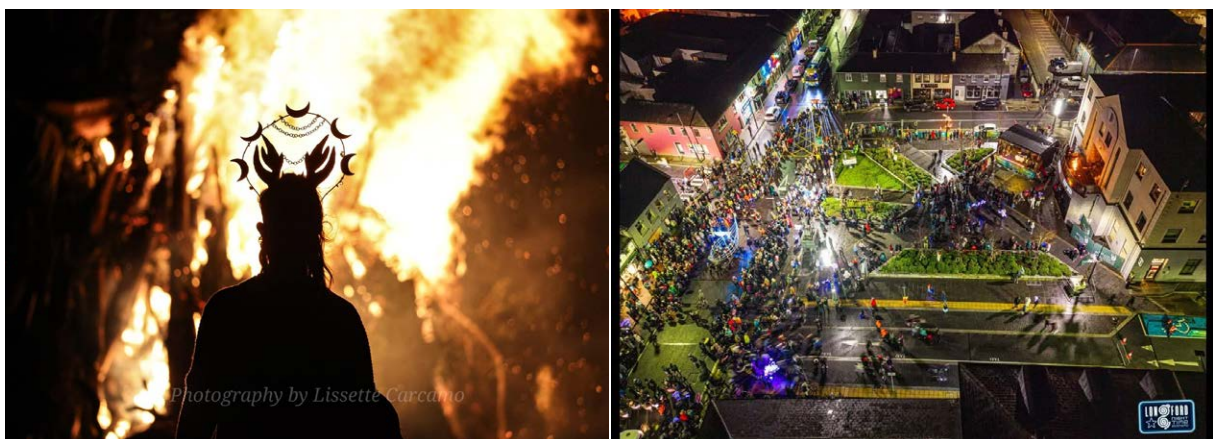
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In Longford Town, activity extended across the Halloween period, culminating in the Fire and Shadows Procession on 31 October. The procession featured large-scale illuminated puppets, fire performers, choreographed drumming ensembles, stilt walkers and theatrical elements that transformed the town centre into an immersive performance space. Production planning was undertaken at significant scale, including route mapping, road closures, steward coordination, emergency planning and close collaboration with An Garda Síochána and regional partners.

The scale of attendance was substantial, with thousands of spectators lining Main Street, Bridge Street and Market Square for the finale event. The cross-county marketing approach contributed to increased visitor numbers, drawing audiences from neighbouring counties and reinforcing Longford's role within the wider regional programme. Hospitality and retail businesses reported heightened evening trade, and the town centre experienced sustained footfall throughout the festival period.

Beyond the headline procession, themed cultural and community events were delivered in the days leading up to Halloween night. This extended programming supported repeat visitation and strengthened the perception of Longford and Westmeath as a cohesive Halloween destination rather than isolated single-night events.

The success of Home of Halloween 2025 demonstrated the value of cross-county collaboration within the Night-Time Economy framework. By aligning programming, marketing and operational planning with Westmeath, Longford strengthened its regional profile, enhanced economic impact and delivered a high-production-value event at scale while maintaining robust safety and event management standards.



# Local Enterprise Office

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## Christmas on the Square: Festive Activation and Town-Centre Footfall

Christmas on the Square took place on 30 November 2025 and marked the formal commencement of the festive season in Longford Town. The event was structured as a full day and early evening activation, culminating in the Christmas lights switch on ceremony.

Pig Market Lane hosted a craft market from early afternoon, featuring local traders and artisan producers. Market Square and adjoining streets were animated with live music, children's entertainment, facepainting and festive storytelling sessions hosted in participating cafés and cultural venues.

Santa's arrival and the official switch on of the Christmas lights drew significant crowds to Market Square. The atmosphere was family focused and community centred, with sustained footfall from mid afternoon into the evening. The event was supported by coordinated stewarding and traffic management to accommodate the volume of attendees.

Festive projection displays continued in Market Square on selected evenings in December, extending the visual impact of the event beyond the launch day itself.

Christmas on the Square attracted thousands of attendees across the afternoon and evening and provided an important boost to town centre trade at the start of the Christmas shopping period. The event demonstrated the NightTime Economy's ability to support large scale civic celebration while directly contributing to local economic activity.



# Local Enterprise Office



## Safety, Training and National Programme Integration

Training and professional development formed a central component of Night-Time Economy delivery in 2025 and were embedded across major events including Home of Halloween, Culture Night and The Evening Edit.

Prior to large-scale seasonal events such as Home of Halloween, safety briefings and operational coordination meetings were held with event stewards, production teams and participating stakeholders. These sessions ensured that all partners were

## Local Enterprise Office

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aligned on crowd management, safeguarding responsibilities, communication protocols and emergency procedures. This structured approach strengthened inter-agency collaboration and reinforced consistent safety standards.

The Safe and Sound campaign operated locally throughout 2025 via digital screens, cinema advertising and social media messaging promoting respectful behaviour and shared responsibility within the town centre. The campaign messaging was visible during major activations including Home of Halloween and Christmas on the Square.

In September 2025, the Department of Culture, Communications and Sport launched the national Safe and Sound training programme for Night-Time Economy workers. Businesses in Longford Town were provided with free access to online modules covering safeguarding awareness, drink spiking awareness, anti-harassment measures and bystander intervention. Engagement with this training supported the professionalisation of local venues and aligned Longford with national best practice standards.

In April 2025, the All Right All Night bystander intervention programme, developed in partnership with University College Cork, was launched nationally. The programme offered 5,000 free online training places for young people aged 18 to 24 and formed part of the wider national safety framework accessible to Longford as a pilot location. Promotion of this training was incorporated into youth-facing programming and communications.

In October 2025, The Night Shift Event Masterclass provided in-person capacity building for over 30 participants including event organisers, venue operators and community groups. This training focused on event production, marketing strategy, audience development and sustainable programming. Participants were equipped with practical tools to enhance the scale, safety and quality of events delivered in the town.

# Local Enterprise Office

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Throughout 2025, Night-Time Economy Advisors across the nine pilot locations collaborated on the development of an Online Safety Training Portal to provide accessible, structured guidance for businesses and workers. Longford's participation in this collaborative national initiative ensured that local stakeholders benefited from shared learning and consistent standards.

The integration of structured training, national campaigns and local safety initiatives strengthened the resilience, professionalism and sustainability of Longford Town's Night-Time Economy.



## Conclusion

2025 demonstrated measurable growth in the scale, diversity and professionalism of Night-Time Economy programming in Longford Town. Seasonal activation, the success and national recognition of Café Lates, integration with national campaigns, structured capacity building and the embedding of national safety standards have strengthened Longford's position as an inclusive and vibrant evening destination.

The consistency of delivery across all seasons confirms the Night-Time Economy as a strategic function within the continued development of Longford Town.

# Tourism

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## **EU Just Transition Fund & Tourism Development in 2025**

2025 saw the completion of the second full year of the EU Just Transition Fund's Regenerative Tourism and Placemaking Scheme under Fáilte Ireland. By the year end, over €2.5m had been announced under Scheme B for some 16 Private and Community SME Projects including accessible and sustainable additions to accommodation and activity offerings.

A further €866,000 was announced for Local Authority partnership projects as well as the €8.9million combined funding that has been allocated to the rejuvenation of the old Longford Post Office and Connolly Barracks, also in Longford Town.

That level of allocation towards visitor-facing operations in the county has boosted confidence which is clearly demonstrated by the investment of some €1.7million of matching funding towards private projects outside of the EU JTF grant aid scheme.

Longford Tourism continues to work in collaboration with the Regeneration Team, Longford Local Enterprise Office and Longford Sports Partnership among many other stakeholders to promote the development of additional product that will increase dwell time and visitor-driven economic activity.

There are some four projects practically completed, and work under way with six while the remaining finalise their procurement processes. Those who are still finalising this with less than 12 months to go to the official completion deadline, are still being mentored and encouraged.

The EU Just Transition Tourism Activator is pleased to report that LEADER is now also supporting some exciting new tourism projects for the county with a few more in the pipeline.

Community-led visitor attractions gathered in Q4 2025 to work towards the development of a new dedicated tourism business network in the county that will drive the Longford visitor experience onwards together.

# Tourism

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The Just Transition Tourism Activator continues to support the Tourism Officer and Night-time Economy Officer in the collaborative project work that engages visitor elements of our portfolios in events, marketing, signage, grant aid writing and strategic operations.

## 2025 Tourism Publicity Campaigns

- Longford Life Magazine – Staycations
- Ageing Well Magazine
- Longford Leader monthly event guides
- St Patrick’s Eve Festival
- Longford Lights Festival
- Digital Displays in Longford Town - Staycations
- Home of Halloween Campaign in partnership with Visit Westmeath
- Christmas in the Square & Christmas Market 2025
- Accommodation Profiling in Longford – Social Media
- Go West Magazine
- Your Daily Visitor Guide

## Tracks & Trails

In 2025, filming and production took place for Longford’s upcoming feature on Tracks and Trails. This episode will spotlight the National Famine Way, in partnership with Roscommon County Council, and will also showcase key local attractions including The Royal Canal Greenway at Cloondara, the Corlea Trackway Visitor Centre and Amenity Bog Walk, Cairn Hill, as well as Limetree Avenue at Mosstown, Kenagh. The collaboration aims to highlight Longford’s rich heritage and natural beauty, while strengthening regional tourism links. The episode is scheduled for screening in April 2026.

# Tourism

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## Tourism supported Festivals, Events & Promotional Opportunities

- RDS Holiday World Show – January
- Longford Lights – promotional work - February
- St Patrick’s Eve Festivities, Longford Town – March
- Gaelforce Great River Swim – May
- Young Photographers Competition – Summer 2025 & October 2025 in partnership with Longford Libraries
- Home of Halloween Hub in partnership with Visit Westmeath
- Christmas on the Square & Christmas Markets 2025
- Milwaukee Irish Fest – Tourism represented by HOH/LCSP & Cllr Niall Gannon
- Pathway to Funding Community Information Clinics – January 2025
- Microsoft Dream Space – May 2025
- Two Provinces Triathlon – Lanesborough Ballyleague
- Ballymahon Market

## Tourism Training & Networking

- Tourism Officers Network
- Tourism Learning Network, Failte Ireland
- Festivals & Events Masterclass, Limerick – Dec 2025
- Midlands Ireland Food and Drinks Food Tourism & Awareness Group – gathered in Co:Worx Edgeworthstown
- Just Transition Tourism Activators Workshop, Tullamore
- Home of Halloween Hub Workshops
- Táin Trail Steering Group
- Irish Association of Visitor Experiences and Attractions conference
- Smart Towns and Villages – Reimagining Rural Ireland hosted by Leitrim County Council
- Longford and North Westmeath Familiarisation Trip
- Great Western Greenway – Greenway activation trip

# Tourism

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## **Mid Shannon & Midlands DEDP**

Work is continuing on building the Destination Experience Development Plan for the Mid Shannon and Midlands Region, with Longford Tourism represented on the steering group committee alongside local and regional stakeholders with neighbouring counties. Industry and community consultations are expected to take place in early 2026.

## **Signage & promotional schemes underway in Longford**

### **Royal Canal Greenway Interpretation / Animation Project – Waterways Ireland and Tandem Consultants**

This scheme involves the concept, design and delivery of interpretive signage at 26 discovery points along the Royal Canal Greenway, a digital app, signage at five trailheads, waymarkers at regular intervals and installations and landscaping at four signature points. Anticipated project completion is August 2026.

### **Waterways Ireland Shannon and Shannon Erne Interpretation Project**

This new interpretation project aims to increase the dwell time of visitors in the area, by introducing a series of Discovery Points along the Shannon and Shannon Erne and to interpret the Shannon through creative interventions. Three discovery points will be located in Longford along the banks of the River Shannon as part of the Waterways Ireland Shannon and Shannon Erne Interpretation Project. These will be located at Clondra, Red Bridge and Lanesborough/Ballyleague. Clondra and Lanesborough/Ballyleague will see double sided totems erected, while a lectern will be erected at the Red Bridge. Clondra Harbour is also set to benefit from a proposed artistic feature on the lock wall.

### **Reimagined Táin Trail**

A draft SLA is under consideration by Longford County Council which will see an officer appointed across the five counties involved in the Reimagined Táin Trail. This Officer will be responsible for driving forward the implementation plan for the Reimagined Táin Trail.

# Tourism

## National & Global Famine Way

An officer has been appointed to develop and promote the National Famine Way. The National Famine Roadshow was well attended in Longford and work is at an advanced stage on the completion of the new website.

## Longford Together Sustainable Tourism Network Launch

Over 80 tourism operators, community visitor attractions and Just Transition project promoters attended the launch of the new-look Longford Tourism Network in St Mel's Cathedral.

The launch confirmed a €14 million tourism investment pipeline for the county over the next 30 months and outlined a new operational model for delivery.



# Tourism

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Longford’s tourism approach is now firmly rooted in sustainability — economically, socially, and environmentally.

Our not-for-profit tourism company will act as a supporter and driver of community-led social enterprise, working alongside commercial operators and voluntary groups.

## **Tourism Minister Peter Burke – Briefing**

Longford Tourism was delighted to be afforded the chance to brief Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment Peter Burke TD on the important developments and challenges that face Longford here as an emerging Tourist destination of choice within Ireland’s Hidden Heartlands.



# Tourism

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## New Visitor Attractions Opened in 2025

### Reopening of Knights and Conquests Centre

Having been closed for much of the year to date, the Knights and Conquests Heritage Centre reopened to the public in early September with new manager Boni Plant at the helm. The centre also held a spectacular "Scare" at Halloween event.

### 1920 Coffee, Ballinalee

Offering specialty coffee and modern food in an historic Irish cottage, '1920 Coffee' has opened at the Rose Cottage War of Independence Centre in Ballinalee. Brothers Jack and Enda Macken are locally based and have a passion for local history which enhances the visitor experience for those arriving at Rose Cottage, the headquarters of General Seán Mac Eoin.



### Firecracker Sauna, Aughnacliffe

Firecracker Sauna invites locals and visitors to reconnect, recharge and relax in an authentic wood-fired lakeside sauna experience at Leebeen, Aughnacliffe. This new business was launched co-funded by the Government of Ireland and the European Union through the EU Just Transition Fund. For further information see [firecracker-sauna.ie](http://firecracker-sauna.ie)

# Tourism

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## **The Lost Exit, Ballymahon**

A brand-new visitor activity has opened recently in Parkside Business Park in Ballymahon. The Lost Exit is an escape room centre where only your logic, creativity, and fellow team members can help you escape. Suitable for all ages, more information is available on [thelostexit.ie](http://thelostexit.ie)



## **County Longford Tourism Committee**

The quarterly meetings of 2025 were well attended, with kind thanks to all who devoted their time and attention, in person and online. The meetings included positive discussions around resourcing, network development, representation of Longford Tourism operator interests at national level, including continued engagement with the OPW and updates on events planning.

Work is underway on the updating of the Committee Terms of Reference with a draft submitted to Longford County Council for consideration at the next SPC Meeting in early 2026.

## **Longford and Westmeath partnership for Home of Halloween**

Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment, Peter Burke, announced that a partnership between Longford and Westmeath would be one of ultimately seven destinations selected to receive funding under Fáilte Ireland's new Home of Halloween Pilot Destination Development Scheme.

A total of €1.5 million will be invested over the next three years (2025–2028), as part of the 'Ireland, Home of Halloween Strategy' which aims to establish Ireland as the authentic global home of Halloween.

The partnership receives €100,000 for the joint project: 'Samhain: Fire, Folklore & Feasting in Ireland's Hidden Heartlands'. It will be a collaborative initiative, transforming Ireland's Hidden Heartlands into a captivating cultural corridor,

# Tourism

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embracing the theme of the ancient celtic highways where all routes lead to the most sacred of locations, with programming running from the middle of October and ending with Samhain on Uisneach in early November.

An extensive programme of over 40 events was compiled, marketed, and managed for the Ireland, Home of Halloween Campaign as part of a partnership between Longford and Westmeath County Councils.

With Longford taking the lead role on behalf of hub programming and marketing for this year, the events team comprises Longford Tourism, Longford Community Safety Partnership, Longford Night-Time Economy, Longford Civil Defence, Longford Arts Service with key infrastructural support from the Health and Safety team of Longford County Council, Longford Municipal District Area Team, An Garda Síochána and Longford Fire Service as well as many other local and national colleagues and industry partners.

The artist community in particular have had a huge role to play alongside our Night Time Economy offerings with tourism and hospitality operators stepping up to deliver quality events, venues and products throughout.



# Tourism

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The event programming is funded by Fáilte Ireland, Longford County Council and the Night-Time Economy Task Force in the Department of Arts, Sport, Culture and Media.

The successful local authorities are: Galway City Council, Longford County Council and Westmeath County Council (joint project), Meath County Council and Louth County Council (joint project), Kerry County Council and Fingal County Council.

The projects are expected to attract 270,000 additional visitors over three years, generating €17 million for local economies, and supporting over 500 direct and indirect jobs.

The initial return in 2025 in Longford Westmeath saw over 22,000 people attending events across both counties, with a 90 per cent satisfaction rate based on Fáilte Ireland conducted research.



# Tourism

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## **Longford Tourism Website**

Throughout the year, work has continued on the redevelopment of the Longford. ie website into a new visitor facing website that will support a positive visitor experience for all coming to spend time in Longford. The new website is being 100 per cent funded by the Digital Transformation Strand of the EU Just Transition Scheme as part of Fáilte Ireland's Regenerative Tourism and Placemaking Scheme. The anticipated completion of the website is due in Q2 2026.





# Integration and Ukrainian Humanitarian Response

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**Director of Services: Michael Nevin**

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# Local Authority Integration Team (LAIT)

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The Local Authority Integration Team (LAIT) is comprised of the Integration Support Coordinator, Integration Support Worker, and an Assistant Staff Officer.

## **LAITs provide support for:**

- Applicants for International Protection (IP)
- People who have been granted refugee status or other forms of protection, such as subsidiary protection or permission to remain
- Refugees who have been resettled in Ireland through a government programme
- Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection (BOTPs)

The Local Authority Integration Team in Longford continue to support the Ukrainian Community through the 'Offer a Home Programme' and also work collaboratively with all agencies through the Community Integration Forum to offer support in all areas of integration.

The successful integration of the Ukrainian Community has demonstrated the wonderful generosity of the Longford Community in welcoming, supporting and fully embracing a community in crisis.

The LAIT hold regular clinics to promote integration and inclusion in the County Longford to promote the integration and inclusion of BOTP's (Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection) and IPA's (International Protection Applicant's)

There are currently 72 Ukrainians in state provided accommodation in Longford.

# Local Authority Integration Team (LAIT)

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There are 140 International Applicants residing in two IPAS Centres (Richmond Court, Bridge Street) in Longford Town.

In conjunction with Healthy Ireland and the Sports Partnership in Longford and Westmeath a very successful six-week soccer programme took place in Autumn 2025. The aim of the programme was to support people living in IPAS accommodation. The main focus of this programme was around Health Literacy by introducing a range of workshops to suit the needs of the group. The participants all participated and engaged wholeheartedly in the project.

The LAIT also held events to celebrate Refugee Week, held a Christmas event in the IPAS centre in Richmond Street, supported other events supporting integration such as Africa Day etc.

Under the Irish Refugee Protection Programme, Longford County Council has committed to housing 129 refugees in local authority houses on a phased basis. In August 2025 a Resettlement Support Worker was recruited to work directly with these families. To date four families have settled in Longford and the Resettlement Support Worker is working directly with this cohort to assist them in all aspects of their integration into the community.





# Finance, Innovation and IT

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Director of Services: John McKeon

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# Finance

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**Revenue Budget for 2025:** €75.8m

**Rates Collection:** 92%

**Rents Collection:** 82%

**Housing Loans Collection:** 86%

**No Housing loan applications received:** 51

**No Housing loan applications approved:** 27

**No Housing loan applications refused:** 22

**No Housing loans advanced:** 22

**No Motor Tax transactions:** 13,829

**Value of Motor Tax transactions:** €2,043,329

**Interest penalties incurred:** None

**2025 Budgeted adopted by Elected Members:** Yes

# Finance

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## Payments to Councillors in 2025

Local Government Act 2001 – Section 142 Expenditure	
Mayor and Other Allowances	€65,858.19
Entertainment and Associated Expenses	€18,310.33
Representational Payments, Expenses of Members and Representation at Conferences	€814,303.53
<b>Total</b>	<b>€898,472.05</b>

## Motor Tax:

Motor Tax Transactions	2025		2024	
	No	€	No	€
Vehicle Licence Discs	10,889	1,866,950	10,667	1,859,647
Vehicle registration certificates, trade plates and other transactions	2,940	176,379	3,011	176,927
<b>Total motor tax transactions</b>	<b>13,829</b>	<b>2,043,329</b>	<b>13,678</b>	<b>2,036,574</b>

# Finance

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## Governance Statement

### Purpose

The purpose of this governance statement is to provide relevant information on the governance structures and governance arrangements within the local authority including on council, committees, senior management, and related areas. It demonstrates our commitment to effective governance, recognises key legislative and good governance requirements and affirms the Council's compliance with the Local Government Code of Governance obligations.

### Good Governance

Fundamentally, good governance in the local government sector and wider public sector is about delivering priorities, achieving objectives, behaving with integrity, and acting in the public interest, in ways that are consistent with legal, regulatory and government policy obligations. Governance refers to the framework of rules, relationships, systems, and processes by which the local authority is directed, controlled, and held to account and whereby authority within an organisation is exercised and maintained. It encompasses authority, accountability, stewardship and leadership, direction, and control.

### Good Governance Principles

- **CORE PRINCIPLE 1** - Good governance means focusing on the purpose of the authority, on outcomes that deliver sustainable economic, community and wider societal benefits and on implementing a vision for the local authority.
- **CORE PRINCIPLE 2** - Good governance means promoting and demonstrating public service values through upholding high standards of conduct and behaviour.
- **CORE PRINCIPLE 3** - Good governance means members and officials working together to achieve a common purpose within a framework of clearly defined functions and roles.

# Finance

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- **CORE PRINCIPLE 4** - Good governance means developing the organisational capacity and the leadership capability and competencies of members and officials to operate effectively and fulfil the purpose of the organization.
- **CORE PRINCIPLE 5** - Good governance means taking well-informed and transparent decisions and managing risks and performance.
- **CORE PRINCIPLE 6** - Good governance means engaging openly and comprehensively with local people, citizens, and other stakeholders to ensure robust public accountability.
- **CORE PRINCIPLE 7** - Good governance means actively contributing to the furtherance and achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals by delivering on the priorities and actions within the Climate Action Plan and the provisions of the Climate Act.

## Our Commitment to Good Governance

As the Cathaoirleach and Chief Executive of the council, and on behalf of the elected members, management and staff we confirm that;

1. We have adopted the governance principles as the fundamental bedrock and philosophy on how we operate as a governing body and as an executive.
2. The Local Government Code of Governance has been adopted and the extent to which the Council is in compliance with the Code has been reviewed and assessed.
3. The Statement of Internal Financial Control is submitted by the Chief Executive to the Elected Members and to the Audit Committee. The Audit Committee reviews the SIFC and provides an assurance on an annual basis to the Elected Members. Mechanisms are available to the Audit Committee to notify the Elected Members of any issues that arise outside of the normal annual reporting.
4. Compliance with legal and regulatory obligations are acknowledged and adhered to.
5. There is clarity of roles and responsibilities based on the reserved and executive functions and based on committee terms of reference.

# Finance

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6. Codes of Conduct and ethics declarations for members and employees are in place.
7. Procedures are in place for the making of protected disclosures in accordance with section 21(1) of the Protected Disclosures Act 2014 and confirmation that the annual report required under section 22(1) of the Act has been published.
8. The Council and Committees review their own performance on a periodic basis.
9. We have instituted appropriate governance oversight arrangements in respect of subsidiary, associated and related companies.
10. As part of our commitment to effective oversight and accountability, we have developed and continue to enhance our overall assurance framework utilising external and internal assurance sources to ensure good performance as part of our governance culture.
- 11.

  
Cathaoirleach/ Mayor

  
Chief Executive

Date: 28-5-26

Date: 28/5/26

# Finance

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## Statement of Internal Financial Control (SIFC)

### Acknowledgement of Responsibility of the Chief Executive

As Chief Executive of Longford County Council, I acknowledge my responsibility for the system of internal control in Longford County Council, including putting in place processes and procedures for the purpose of ensuring that the internal control system is operating, maintained and effective.

The system can provide reasonable and not absolute assurance to Longford County Council that assets are safeguarded, all risks are managed, transactions authorised and properly recorded, and that material errors or irregularities are either prevented or detected in a timely period.

Below, I confirm the key structures and elements of the control environment at Longford County Council.

### Risk Management

Longford County Council has put in place a risk management framework which provides the basis for effective and embedded risk management processes and reporting. A risk management process is in place which identifies the key risks and evaluates and grades them according to their significance. The outcome of these assessments is used to plan and allocate resources to ensure risks are managed to an acceptable level. The risk register details the controls and actions needed to mitigate risks and responsibility for operation of controls assigned to specific staff.

The Senior Management Team undertakes regular reviews of the Corporate Risk Register as part of the Council's system of internal control. The Audit Committee reviews and provides oversight of the Council's risk management arrangements, including consideration of key risks as reported from directorate or service-level registers, in accordance with its statutory responsibilities and annual work plan.

The organisation has a risk appetite statement. Our key risks and appetite are considered in the context of the annual service plan and corporate plan. A staff member at an appropriate level has been delegated responsibility to oversee Risk Management.

# Finance

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The risk management framework supports Longford County Council in managing risk. It does not eliminate risk but supports the organisation in identifying and managing risk within tolerable levels.

## Internal Control Environment

### Financial Control Environment

I confirm that a control environment containing the following elements is in place:

- Financial responsibilities have been assigned at management level with corresponding accountability
- Regular reviews by senior management of periodic and annual financial reports which indicate financial performance against budget forecasts
- Formal procedures have been established for reporting significant control failures and ensuring appropriate corrective action
- There is an appropriate budgeting system with an annual budget which is kept under review by senior management at service division level.

## Administrative Controls and Management Reporting

I confirm that a framework of administrative procedures and regular management reporting is in place including segregation of duties and a system of delegation and accountability and, in particular, that there are:

- control procedures for key business processes across the organisation
- systems aimed at ensuring the security of the ICT systems and data
- systems in place to safeguard the assets of the local authority
- appropriate capital investment control guidelines and formal project management disciplines in operation to ensure compliance with the Public Spending Code
- agreements in place with shared service providers, and
- subsidiary companies have been established in line with company law with Boards of Directors and oversight mechanisms in place to ensure appropriate accountability to the local authority.

# Finance

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## **Annual Review of the Effectiveness of the Internal Control Systems**

I can confirm that the Annual Review of the effectiveness of the Internal Control System was conducted for 2025 in accordance with Code of Corporate Governance for Local Authorities (2024) and accompanying guidance as issued by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage and supported by an Assurance Map that has been developed for Longford County Council.

The internal control system was found to be effective with the exception of the items disclosed at the end of this Statement.

## **Procurement Compliance**

Longford County Council ensures that there is an appropriate focus on good practice in purchasing and that procedures are in place to ensure compliance with all relevant procurement regulations.

Procurement compliance is monitored in accordance with procurement requirements and guidelines and where instances of non-compliance were noted, corrective procedures were put in place to ensure non-recurrence.

## **Senior Management Team**

I confirm that a Senior Management Team (SMT) is in place, which supports me in operating and maintaining the system of internal control. Appropriate governance and assurance structures support the system of internal controls and the SMT monitors Risk Management, the organisation's budget, key procurement activity and the close-out of external and internal audit recommendations.

## **Audit Committee**

I confirm that an Audit Committee is in place in accordance with the requirements of Section 122 of the Local Government Act 2001 (as amended), and that the Committee operates in accordance with the Guidance for Audit Committees in Local Authorities (2014).

# Finance

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I acknowledge the Audit Committee's independent role in advising the elected Council on financial reporting processes, internal control, risk management and audit matters as part of the systematic review of the control environment and governance procedures of Longford County Council.

## **Internal Audit**

I confirm that Longford County Council has an internal audit function with appropriately trained personnel and capacity, which operates in accordance with a written charter and in line with internal audit standards. Its work is informed by analysis of the key risks to which Longford County Council is exposed, and its annual internal audit plan is based on this analysis, with the plan approved by the Audit Committee (following SMT input).

Internal Audit also carries out an annual quality assurance of the Council's compliance with the Public Spending Code including an in-depth review of a sample of projects.

I am satisfied that there are procedures in place to ensure that the reports and recommendations of the internal audit function are followed up in a timely manner. The Audit Committee keeps under review the effectiveness of the Internal Audit function and provides advice to me on matters of internal audit effectiveness and capacity.

The Internal Auditor has a direct reporting line to myself as Chief Executive, and to the Chair of the Audit Committee.

## **External Audit**

I confirm that, in line with our statutory obligations under Section 108(6) of the Local Government Act, 2001, the draft annual financial statement for 2025 was provided to the Local Government Auditor. My organisation supports the assigned Local Government Auditor in conducting their work by providing timely access to information and responses to any queries arising.

# Finance

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I am satisfied that there are procedures in place to ensure that any findings and recommendations arising from the Local Government Auditor's work will be followed up in a timely manner.

## **National Oversight and Audit Commission**

I confirm that Longford County Council engages fully with the National Oversight and Audit Commission (NOAC) and that there are procedures in place to implement actions arising from NOAC's reports as they relate to the organisation and furthermore to examine recommendations which have sectoral application.

## **Other Third-Party Assurances**

I can confirm, additionally, in the context of the system of internal control and assurances, that Longford County Council engaged as required with third party reviewers and assurance providers which further complemented other elements of the control environment.

I am satisfied that there are procedures in place to ensure that any findings and recommendations arising from the third parties are followed up in a timely manner.

## **Disclosures**

The following are material weaknesses or breaches in internal controls which arose during the period of this statement.

None noted



**Signed by Chief Executive:**

**Dated:** 28/5/26

# Information Systems

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The Information Systems Department provides operational and strategic ICT services for the Council while it also drives the digital agenda in County Longford's communities. The Department is responsible for the ICT infrastructure and Digital requirements of the organisation and the Local Digital Agenda for County Longford. In an operations capacity, the Department has responsibility for multiple ICT systems spread across the county in a Wide Area Network (WAN) infrastructure.

2025 was another challenging but rewarding year for the section with completion of the first Digital Strategy for County Longford, continued work on the technical infrastructure and digital transformation drive within the organisation along with increased investment in cyber security and the hybrid meetings infrastructure.

The following were the key areas of focus in 2025:

## Network Infrastructure

### IT applications and development

Longford County Council's ICT network is made up of several complex components which require on-going management, maintenance and monitoring.

- Software upgrades and procurement competitions carried out for licensing and hardware purchases
- Provided IT resources and support for summer student programme
- Technology upgrades completed in branch libraries
- Procurement and deployment of solutions for digitisation of business processes
- Upgrades completed on business applications
- Works carried out on server room to reduce energy consumption
- End-of-life hardware replaced
- Maintenance of all mobile devices on new mobile device management software
- 6,393 IT helpdesk calls/issues resolved in 2025

# Information Systems

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## GIS and Database Systems

Geographic Information System (GIS) continued to play a fundamental role throughout all business areas in 2025, some notable projects and work completed during 2025 included:

- Development of mobile applications to support the mapping of trail routes and infrastructure
- Development of mobile application to support electoral register validation
- Development of mobile applications to support Heritage Field Name Survey, Road Programme Survey and Farm Inspection Survey
- Development of mapping application to support enforcement of unauthorised peat extraction
- Development of survey application to support Storm Éowyn field response

## IT Cyber Security

Cyber security is a significant part of the Department's remit with a number of notable projects and work completed during 2025 included:

- Privileged Access Management platform implemented
- PCI compliance achieved
- Quarterly PEN testing
- Collation of business access register
- External reviews carried out of multiple platforms
- Vendor management agreements updated
- Ongoing - Phishing simulations; Cyber Security Awareness training; Incident and Alert responses

# Information Systems

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## Digital Projects

Digital continues to play a fundamental role in how the organisation works, some notable projects and work completed during 2025 included:

- Enhancement of the eService Planning and ePMDS apps, allowing senior staff digitally enter and review service plans based on the organisation's Corporate Plan, the Apps are used by all indoor based employees for performance management and planning
- Procurement of a new Customer Online Portal was commenced
- New cloud-based phone system procured and implemented throughout the organisation

## Longford Digital Strategy

2025 saw the completion of the first Longford Digital Strategy with a new strategy being created in 2026 as part of a wider Digital Strategy for the organisation.

2025 saw the Longford Microsoft Dream Space Showcase being held for the third year running in May at St. Mary's Community Campus in Edgeworthstown. The event was a standout success, led by the IT Department in partnership with Longford Libraries. More than 500 primary school students participated, transforming the venue into a vibrant centre of creativity as they presented innovative projects developed during a 10-week STEAM programme. Guided by their teachers, Longford County Council's STEM Engagement Officer, Siobhán Grealy, and the Microsoft Dream Space team, students created sophisticated responses to the UN Sustainable Development Goals, demonstrating exceptional problem-solving and digital skills. The event also highlighted strong cross-departmental collaboration within Longford County Council and reflected the growing impact of its strategic investment in STEAM education, supported by the Government of Ireland and the European Union's Just Transition Fund Programme 2021–2027. Creative Ireland funding further strengthened this initiative by enabling the foundational creative elements of the programme.

The event is key to achieving the Digital Strategy's aim to see Computer Science as a Leaving Cert option in all nine secondary schools in the county.

# Information Systems

The third Longford Post Primary Tech Awards was held in December with three Secondary schools with Leaving Cert Computer Science students presenting projects designed to help solve real world problems in Longford in 2025. The event was sponsored by IPB and attended by industry giants Microsoft and Ericsson. Students from Meán Scoil Mhuire scooped the overall award at a very enjoyable evening for students and teachers in Áras an Chontae.

2025 also saw the second year of the Just Transition Transport funded work experience for County Longford TY students attending Ericsson in Athlone for a weeklong work experience in software development.



# Information Systems

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## National Recognition and Awards

The impact and quality of the Longford Microsoft Dream Space Showcase has been recognised at national level through a series of prestigious awards and shortlistings. The initiative won the Digital Inclusion Award at the Ireland eGovernment Awards, recognising its success in widening access to digital skills and ensuring that no community is left behind. In 2025, Dream Space was further recognised with the Judges' Choice Award at the Public Sector Digital Transformation Awards, highlighting it as an exceptional and standout example of innovation in the public sector. In addition, the programme was shortlisted for a LAMA Award, reflecting its strong alignment with local government leadership, community impact and best practice. Collectively, these accolades demonstrate that the Longford Microsoft Dream Space Showcase is not only delivering locally but is setting a national benchmark for how local authorities can lead meaningful, inclusive digital transformation within their communities, creating new pathways to enterprise and employment.

Further national recognition was achieved in 2025 when Christine Collins, Broadband Officer with Longford County Council, was awarded the *Women in Digital Award* at the National Digital Awards. This accolade recognises Christine's sustained contribution to advancing digital inclusion, broadband enablement and community focused digital innovation across County Longford. Her work has been central to translating strategy into practical outcomes for schools and communities, and it strongly reflects Longford County Council's ambition, innovation and leadership in ensuring that digital investment delivers meaningful and positive impact for communities.



# Information Systems

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## Broadband Projects

The Section continued to play a major role in the promotion of the digital agenda within the wider County. During 2025, some notable projects and work completed included:

### STEM Passport for Inclusion Initiative

The STEM Passport for Inclusion initiative (a program for Transition Year students) continued in Longford in 2025. The innovative initiative jointly led by Maynooth University, Microsoft Ireland, Science Foundation Ireland (SFI), and the Department of Education provided Longford TY students with the opportunity to gain a level 6 NFQ and CAO bonus points (50–60 points) for STEM related courses in: Maynooth University, Technological University of the Shannon (TUS) and Munster Technological University (MTU).

### Broadband Connection Points (BCP's):

BCPs are public locations which have high-speed connectivity. Longford has nine BCP's. All BCP's offer external access to high-speed broadband, and some offer internal access.







# Social Development

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Director of Services: Samantha Healy

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# Community

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## **Longford Community Development Committee (LCDC)**

The LCDC is a committee of Longford County Council which brings together local authority members and officials, State agencies and people actively working with local development, community development, and economic, cultural and environmental organisations to implement a joined-up, cross-sectoral approach to local and community development programming.

Seven meetings were held in 2025. The committee's main tasks are to develop and implement the Local Economic and Community plan for the County and co-ordinate, plan and oversee local and community development funding.

## **Rural Development Programme (LEADER)**

LEADER is a community-led approach to development delivering EU funding to rural businesses and communities through Ireland's Rural Development Programme 2023-2027. County Longford was allocated €5.8m under the Rural Development Programme 2023-2027 to support sustainable development.

The programme promotes social inclusion, poverty reduction, economic development and addressing the challenges posed by climate change in rural areas. It does this through targeted supports that focus on themes and priorities identified in the Longford Local Development Strategy – a community-led action plan for Longford. Implementing Partners (IP) are responsible for delivering actions on behalf of the LAG and are a point of contact for enquiries and applications.

In Longford, [Longford Local Community Development Committee \(LCDC\)](#) is the LAG (Local Action Group), [Longford Community Resources Clg](#) is the IP (Implementing Partner) and Longford County Council is the financial partner of the LEADER programme.

In 2025 18 LEADER projects were approved by the LCDC to a value of €1,366,489.18.

# Community

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## **Local Enhancement Programme 2025**

The LEP is funded by the Department of Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht. (DRCDG) and is administered by Longford LCDC. This funding is targeted towards supporting communities that are impacted by disadvantage as identified in the *County Longford Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) 2023 - 2029*.

Community groups can use the capital element of funding to carry out necessary repairs and improvements to their facilities and purchase equipment. Groups can also use the current element of funding to support their non-pay running costs. In 2025 Longford LCDC awarded 121 Local Community Groups €123,354 in Capital Funding and €21,832 in Current Funding.

## **Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme (SICAP)**

The Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme (SICAP) operates under the Department of Rural, Community Development and the Gaeltacht through the LCDC. The programme aims to tackle poverty and social inclusion at local level through engagement with disadvantaged groups, individuals, and in partnership with community organisations and public sector agencies. Longford Community Resources clg. were awarded the contract to implement the programme in County Longford for the period 2024-2028. In 2025, Longford Community Resources clg. received an annual budget of €747,166, which consists of €663,300 for SICAP and a budget of €83,866 for New Arrivals.

## **Roma and New Communities Community Development Programme**

This is a pilot programme delivered by Longford Community Resources clg. under the guidance of the Department of Rural, Community Development and the Gaeltacht and the LCDC. The aim of the programme is to develop an autonomous community development project managed and run by members of the Roma community supporting them to engage directly with decision making structures and work in partnership with service providers. In 2025 the Department allocated an annual budget of €125,000.

# Community

## 2025 International Roma Day Celebration

The programme celebrated their fourth consecutive International Roma Day on April 11, 2025, at the Temperance Hall Longford. The vibrant event showcased Roma culture through music, food, and traditional dance performances by children and young people known as the 'Romani Stars.' Local Roma bands, including the SICAP Roma Men's Music Group, entertained a crowd of over three hundred attendees.



Members of the Roma community

## Empowering Communities Programme

This is a pilot programme targeted at smaller areas experiencing challenges. Longford Community Resources clg. deliver the programme in an area in Longford Town under the guidance of the Department of Rural, Community Development and the Gaeltacht and the LCDC. In 2025, an annual budget of €120,00 was allocated to Longford Community Resources clg. to run this programme.

# Community

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## Community Development and Participation

### Longford Comhairle na nÓg

In 2025 Longford County Council secured €25,000 from the Department of Children, Disability and Equality to support Longford Comhairle na nÓg. Cllr Niall Gannon is the chair of the Comhairle Steering Committee which held four meetings in 2025. Foróige is contracted to support the work by employing a Co-ordinator based in the Attic House for two days a week. Comhairle members have an important role in ensuring the voice of young people is heard and represented on various local and national committees.

### National Showcase Event 2025

Taoiseach Micheal Martin and Minister Norma Foley presented Longford Comhairle na nÓg with a Certificate of Achievement Award at the Comhairle na nÓg National Showcase 2025, on Tuesday, 15 April in Dublin Castle. Longford Comhairle members presented their project which addressed student exam stress and student mental health.



Taoiseach Micheal Martin, Anna Adler, Pietro Gino and Minister Norma Foley



Members of Longford Comhairle na nÓg in Dublin Castle

# Community

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## Annual Youth Conference

Leas Cathaoirleach Cllr Niall Gannon opened Longford Comhairle na nÓg Annual Youth Conference on Thursday, 23 October in the Longford Arms Hotel. The conference was a huge success with young people in attendance from all nine post primary schools and youth services from across the county. Discussions were held on a variety of topics of interest to young people and Music Generation provided some very entertaining workshops. Exam Stress, Transport and Youth Facilities were the three topics identified at the conference which members agreed to work on.



Pictured at the Comhairle Conference were Ciaran Murphy LCC, Leas Cathaoirleach Cllr Niall Gannon, Kin Hang Tung Foróige, Comhairle members, Grainne Reid CYPSC, Gary Nugent Foróige and Laura McPhillips LCC.

## Comhairle Presentation to Longford County Council

Representatives of Longford Comhairle were invited to make a presentation on their work at a Council meeting held on Wednesday, 12 November 2025. The presentation was very informative for Council members who commended the young people on ensuring the voice of young people is heard. Council members acknowledged the valuable contribution they are making to the development of County Longford.

# Community

## Africa Day 2025

Africa Day celebrations are organised by Irish Aid at the Department of Foreign Affairs in partnership with African embassies in Ireland and local authorities around the country. In recognition of this day Longford County Council secured funding from the Department of Foreign Affairs on behalf of Longford African Network to organise events for Africa Day. On Sunday, 25 May 2025, Longford Africans Network hosted an event at Longford Athletics Centre. In line with the 2025 theme – Celebrating Excellence and Diversity the event showcased the unique offerings of African countries through dance performances, music entertainment, craft displays and staple foods. Entertainment by local artists and musicians provided a day of celebrations for all.



# Community

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## **Intercultural Grants 2025**

In 2025, €9,002.67 was drawn down by community groups to assist in running a variety of projects and initiatives to support new communities to actively engage and participate in community life in County Longford.

## **Dormant Accounts Funding for LGBTI Groups**

LGBTI+ Dormant Accounts Funding of €17,000 was successfully secured following an application to the Department of Rural Community Development and the Gaeltacht on behalf of Lus na Gréine Family Resource Centre. This project commenced in 2025 and will run to November 2026. The funding has enabled the expansion of the Young LGBTI peer support group, and the drop-in service while also providing a designated facilitator to support young people through various challenges, raise awareness and provide training.

## **Healthy Longford**

Healthy Ireland aims to create a country where everyone can enjoy good physical and mental health, and wellbeing to their full potential; and where well-being is valued and supported at every level of society and is everyone's responsibility.

In 2025 funding of €75,000 was secured for the ongoing delivery of Healthy Longford through Healthy Ireland Fund overseen by POBAL. Healthy Longford through consultation set the following outcomes for period of Healthy Ireland 2023-2026

- Increase in % of adults and children meeting physical activity guidelines.
- Increase in individual's level of positive mental health as per Energy and Vitality Index

Under these outcomes projects that received Healthy Ireland funding in 2025 through Healthy Longford were Lus Na Gréine Family Resource Centre, Bridgeways Family Resource Centre, Longford Traveller Primary Healthcare Project of Offaly Traveller Movement, Longford Women's Link, Longford Sport's Partnership with their four programs being SIDO, Community Connect, Physical Activity Program for Health and Inclusion and Diversity, Longford Libraries, Cuidiú Longford/

# Community

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Roscommon, Mental Health Longford, EDI Centre Longford, Longford African Network, Lanesboro Triathlon Club, Springlawn Childcare, Edgeworthstown District Development Association and Ardagh/Moydow GAA All Stars.

## Period Dignity Initiative

The Department of Health provided funding of €8,000 for the Period Dignity Initiative which is a follow on from funding received for this initiative in 2024. This funding allowed Longford County Council to provide free period products and to restock the existing dispensers from 2024 funding and installing dispensers in facilities that now require them. Work also involved engagement with new Community projects and distributing products and dispensers. Services who work with disadvantaged and vulnerable people who received products and dispensers in 2024 were updated and new services were identified. Arrangements were made for provision of free period products to these services. Also, a program of Menstrual Health workshops took place online with the support of Edufit Limited. These included a Menowell Longford an online program to support, empower and educate women as well as a Training and Female Menstrual Cycle online workshop targeted at adolescent girls; this program took place both online and in person. In 2026 Healthy Longford aims to continue working with facilitators to deliver more Menstrual Health workshops for young people throughout Longford.



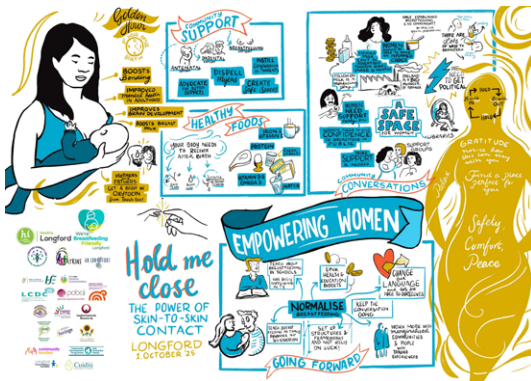
## Longford Breastfeeding Project

Longford Breastfeeding Project is an interagency group made up on representatives from HSE, Cuidiú Longford/Roscommon, Longford County Council, Sláintecare Healthy Communities, Healthy Longford, Longford Libraries, Longford Community Resource Centre, TUS Midland Midwest, Longford County Childcare Committee, Longford Westmeath Child and Young Person Service Committee (CYPSC), Longford Westmeath Community Families, Longford Women's Link, Foróige -Leap Youth Diversion Project, Bridgeways Family Resource Centre and Lus Na Gréine Family Resource Centre.

# Community

In 2025 a number of actions were achieved by Longford Breastfeeding Project including:

- Phase one of the Feeding Upgrade in Longford Shopping Centre has been successfully completed in collaboration with Longford Shopping Centre Management Services Limited.
- Collaboration with Longford Libraries to launch their Breastfeeding Support Initiatives which have been made available in all six libraries; including Breastfeeding Baskets, Comfortable Seating, Breastfeeding Support Books and updated changing facilities.
- Community Education event, which took place during National Breastfeeding Week 2025 where a graphic recorder was present who completed a graphic on the morning which contains illustrates plans and future direction for Longford Breastfeeding Project.
- Promoting Longford Breastfeeding Project at all Community Events including the Longford Agricultural Show where comfortable Breastfeeding chairs were made available to mothers who needed them.



# Community

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## Community Safety and Wellbeing Expo 2025

Healthy Longford worked with the Sláintecare Healthy Communities Programme and the Longford Community Safety Partnership to host a Community Safety and Wellbeing Expo on 19 November in Athletics Hub, Longford. The purpose of the event was to highlight the initiatives of the three programmes but also to highlight all of the services available to communities in Longford and in doing so, help improve a sense of community safety, health, and wellbeing.

There were over thirty exhibitors on the day as well as over 300 students present and there were also interactive taster sessions on the day from Longford Fire Service, Longford Sports Partnership, Longford Civil Defence and from Longford I.T. STEM Engagement Officer.

Chris Connolly of (GetBetterwithChris) was the keynote speaker on the day who brought energy and inspiration to his keynote speech. He spoke his truth and the impact of physical activity, active living, and community connection.

The event was an enormous success with lots of learning and it is planned that this event will take place again in 2026.



# Community

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## Men's Health Week 2025

Men's Health Week took place 9-15 of June in 2025 under the theme of 'Shoulder-to-Shoulder: Connecting for Health'. Focusing on the specific health needs of men and boys, the week aimed to support men and boys:

- to engage in healthier lifestyles and activities
- to build awareness of preventable health problems affecting males of all ages
- to encourage early detection and treatment of health problems for men and boys

Local events that took place in Longford were organised by Longford County Council, including Healthy Longford, Sláintecare Healthy Communities, Longford Community Safety Partnership, Longford Sports Partnership, Longford Libraries, and Longford Nighttime Economy as well as collaborating closely with external partners.

Men's Health Week 2025 in Longford was an active week with exercise classes, free barber haircuts and health checks taking place in Ballymahon and Edgeworthstown Library at the beginning of the week. The week finished up with a targeted Men's Health Day taking place on Friday, 13 June in Longford Athletics Centre where a full day of events took place including a When No One is Watching Morning session, Exercise classes, Triathlon Sessions, Pétanque, Lads and Dads walks and support on the day from Stop Smoking, Social Prescribing and Gambling Addiction.

## Not Around Us 2025

Not Around Us aims to create smoke/vape-free environments for children and young people. It seeks to:

1. Protect young people from second-hand smoke.
2. Denormalise smoking and vaping for future generations.
3. Reduce litter and environmental damage.
4. Raise awareness of tobacco-free initiatives.
5. Promote HSE Quit services.

# Community

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Not Around Us is *an ask, it's not an order*: people are being asked to consider the health of children and young people when deciding whether or not to smoke or vape in places that may have children and young people present. Not Around Us is rolled out locally in County Longford by Longford County Council and Healthy Longford. It is supported by Longford Comhairle na nÓg.

There are also numerous collaboration and support partners, including Longford Local Community Development Committee (LCDC), Longford Westmeath Children and Young Peoples Services Committee, the Department of Health, Longford Youth Services, the Health Service Executive (HSE), EDI Centre Longford and An Garda Síochána Longford.

In 2025 Not Around Us focused on County Longford playgrounds, outdoor gyms and skateparks to create smoke and vape free environments.

In 2026, the campaign aims to work with local businesses, organisations and events taking place in the county to make them smoke and vape-free also.



# Community

## CLÁR 2025

CLÁR is a targeted investment programme for designated rural areas that aims to provide funding for small infrastructural projects. It is funded by the Department of Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht and administered by Longford County Council via a new online grant application system.

In late November, Mr. Dara Calleary TD announced that funding of €455,897 was approved towards nine projects in County Longford under Measure 1 of the 2025 CLÁR programme.

The approved projects include resurfacing carparks, wheelchair accessible parking bays, energy-saving lighting, the development of a handball facility, and play equipment for a sensory garden. These projects will be delivered by sports clubs and community groups, with Longford County Council providing additional funding of up to 5% of the approved project cost. These projects will make a valuable contribution to the lives of citizens and visitors to County Longford.



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## Community Grant Support Scheme 2025

Longford County Council, through the Municipal Districts, is committed to working in partnership with the community to encourage, develop, support and sustain a wide range of activities/projects (eg recreational, artistic, cultural, social and community support and business group initiatives) which:

- Make a positive contribution to County Longford
- Promote the development of strong local communities
- Improve the quality of life of citizens.

The Community Grant Support Scheme 2025 was reviewed and approved by the elected members and the grants awarded under the scheme supported activities/projects under the following headings:

- Active elderly
- Arts
- Community involvement
- Environment
- Events
- Heritage
- Inter-cultural
- Sport and recreation

In 2025 funding was awarded to various Community Groups under the Community Grant Support Scheme as follows, Longford MD €64,630, Granard MD €110,200, Ballymahon MD €109,591.22.

Please see [www.longfordcoco.ie](http://www.longfordcoco.ie) for the list of awarded grants.

## Playgrounds

The CLÁR 2024 project commenced in 2025 for the refurbishment of Granard Tennis and Basketball courts. The official reopening took place on 17 July 2025 by Minister for Social Protection, and Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht Dara Calleary.

The National Play Day supported by Longford LCSP also took place in Granard 10 July in the Higginstown Sports Complex with over 100 children in attendance. The 2025 theme, *'The Power of Play'*, highlighted the positive impact of play on wellbeing, social connection, and development.

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Longford County Council plan to bring National Play Day to different towns each year to ensure children get to experience all the excitement that comes with National Play Day.

Longford County Council received €18,400 from the Department of Children Disability and Equality in 2025 for capital works for a new play space in the Albert Reynolds Peace Park. This is a new 50 metre circle exercise zone and hang out area for children that don't use the existing playground.

The Community Recognition Fund project for MacEoin Park commenced in 2025. The funding of €182,946.00 was allocated for this project and the reopening date is scheduled for March 2026.



## **Sláintecare Healthy Communities Programme**

Funding of €75,000 was secured for the ongoing delivery of the Sláintecare Healthy Communities programme. This fourth year of the programme, which aims to improve the health and wellbeing of the people living in Longford Town, continued to develop projects such as the 'Community Houses' initiative, Targeted Homework clubs and social exercises initiative.

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Sláintecare Healthy Communities works alongside Longford Community Safety Partnership to oversee the Community Houses based in Ardnacassa and MacEoin Park. Engagement with local communities is progressing well in both areas. The Community Houses are co-funded by Longford County Council, the Longford Community Safety Partnership and Longford Sláintecare Healthy Communities Programme, with support from the Department of Justice and Department of Health. The community houses have a wide variety of activities to engage community members and are open to community groups and local agencies seeking to engage with the communities in those areas.

## **Targeted Homework Club**

Sláintecare Healthy Communities funds a targeted homework club initiative through the Longford School Completion Project and in partnership with the Home School and Community Liaison Network. This initiative is to support children in primary school from second class to sixth class who would not have access to homework support otherwise. The targeted homework club is rolled out in four venues throughout Longford Town with 50 children engaging in the programme and a waiting list is in place.

## **Family Resource Centre in Longford Town**

Longford Family Resource Centre Steering Group have submitted an application to Tusla Commissioning office for a Family Resource Centre in Longford Town with outreach to Edgeworthstown. The need for an FRC in Longford Town was recognised over a decade ago, with an unsuccessful application made in 2017/2018. Since then, the context has only intensified, Longford now has one of the highest levels of deprivation in the country, with 34.65% of residents born overseas, 6% identifying as members of the Traveller community, and over 24% of residents living with a disability. A representative, community-led Steering Group has been built up and is rooted in the lived experience of disadvantage and supported by local agencies including Longford County Council, Tusla Midlands, Foróige, Longford Community Resources, Longford Women's Link, Healthy Longford, An Garda Síochána, and many more. A robust Needs Assessment, has been commissioned by Longford County Council, in partnership with Sláintecare Healthy Communities, the Longford Community Safety Partnership, and Healthy Longford, to explore the need for a Family Resource Centre. This report was

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launched by the Steering Committee for a Family Resource Centre on 23 July in the Attic House. The committee has agreed to continue to advocate for this need and work towards the needs of the community. The National Tusla commissioning office have received funding for ten additional family resource centres in budget 2026 and the committee are working towards reiterating the need for a Family Resource Centre for Longford town at every given opportunity.

## **Place Standard Tool Exercise Report**

In April 2025, Longford County Council and partner agencies piloted the Place Standard Tool (PST) in the new Ardnacassa area of Longford Town to better understand local experiences of place and to identify priority areas for community improvement. The areas surveyed were Oakvale, Springlawn, Ardnacassa Avenue, Palace Crescent, Grian Ard, Palace Drive, Ardeevan, Cluain Ard and Ardnacassa Avenue. The PST enables residents to assess where they live across 14 key themes, covering both the physical environment and social factors that shape quality of life. Engagement activities brought together stakeholders including Longford Women's Link, Longford Community Resources Clg, An Garda Síochána, and Longford County Council with a total of 44 individuals participating across all engagement methods. Feedback highlighted strengths such as existing childcare services, helpful neighbours, and a positive community spirit in parts of the estate. A series of priority actions have been identified to respond to community needs, including the establishment of street-level resident groups, development of a community garden, improved signage, expanded use of the Community House, and a focus on promoting safety and social connection.

## **Longford Westmeath JIGSAW project**

The Sláintecare Healthy Communities Programme is working with various agencies including Westmeath County Council, the HSE, Tusla, CYPSC MRDATF, Foróige and Youth Work Ireland Midlands on a two-county approach to secure improved mental health services for young people in Longford/Westmeath. A working committee has been set up to explore a potential application to secure a Jigsaw service for the two counties. JIGSAW is a mental health charity that provides free therapy and support to young people living in Ireland.

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## National Pride of Place Award for Creative Communities

Ireland’s largest community awards, the IPB Pride of Place Awards, were hosted by Limerick City and County Council on November 7, 2025 in The Strand Hotel in Limerick with 108 community groups represented.

Co:worx, Edgeworthstown, was named national winner in the Creative Communities category, nominated by Longford County Council, the award recognises its outstanding innovation in transforming a derelict heritage building into a vibrant digital hub that is reshaping the town’s future. The judges recognised co:worx for its innovation, creativity, and the lasting impact it has made on both the local economy and community spirit.

Co:worx has become a blueprint for rural regeneration—proving how a community-led idea can help shape the economic and cultural future of a town.



## Longford Local Community Safety Partnership

Longford Local Community Safety Partnership (LCSP) continued its commitment to building safer, stronger communities throughout 2025. Through collaboration with local agencies, community groups, and national partners, LCSP delivered a wide range of initiatives promoting safety, wellbeing, and engagement. Below is a summary of key milestones and events in 2025:

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## St. Patrick's Day – Longford Town

Longford LCSP proudly supported St. Patrick's Day celebrations in Longford, helping to create a safe and welcoming environment for families and visitors. LCSP involvement ensured that the festivities were not only vibrant and enjoyable but also underpinned by strong community safety measures. This partnership showcased local pride and strengthened community spirit, reinforcing Longford as a place where cultural heritage and public safety go hand in hand.

## Garda Clinics

In partnership with An Garda Síochána, Longford LCSP introduced Garda Clinics in local community houses, providing residents with direct access to Gardaí in a friendly setting. This initiative strengthens community safety, improves communication, and ensures local policing is more visible and responsive.

## Garda Community Spirit Sports Day

Organised by Longford LCSP in collaboration with An Garda Síochána Longford and Longford Sports Partnership, this event welcomed 6th class pupils from schools across South Longford. The day was designed to promote physical activity, teamwork, and positive engagement between young people and Gardaí.



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Through fun sporting activities and interactive sessions, students learned about the importance of community safety while building trust and understanding with local Garda members. This initiative continues to play a vital role in fostering respect and co-operation between young people and law enforcement.

## Trauma-Informed Care Conference

Longford LCSP supported the 2025 Trauma-Informed Care Conference, organised by Longford Westmeath CYPSC alongside key local stakeholders. This impactful event brought together professionals from health, education, and community sectors to share best practices and strengthen inter-agency collaboration in trauma-informed approaches. The conference highlighted the importance of understanding trauma in service delivery and provided practical tools to improve outcomes for vulnerable individuals and families. LCSP involvement reflects LCSP's commitment to promoting safety and wellbeing across the county.



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## Kids Court

Kids Court was delivered in collaboration with An Garda Síochána Longford and Longford County Council at Colehill National School. It has been a fantastic way to engage with primary school children across County Longford while tackling important issues like speeding and road safety.

Kids Court is an innovative educational initiative that introduces primary school students to concepts of fairness, responsibility, and the importance of rules. The programme also addresses road safety by involving children in real-life decision-making. Drivers caught speeding in 50 km/h zones are given the option to explain their actions to students in Kids Court rather than accepting penalty points. This approach empowers children, raises awareness about road safety, and fosters community accountability.



## Men's Health Day

Longford LCSP proudly supported Men's Health Day, a full day dedicated to promoting men's physical and mental wellbeing. Activities included fitness sessions, mental health workshops, free health checks, and support services for issues such as smoking cessation and gambling addiction. The event created a positive space for men to connect, learn, and take proactive steps toward healthier lifestyles.

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## National Update– Establishment of Local Community Safety Partnerships

Minister O’Callaghan signed regulations under the Policing, Security and Community Safety Act to formally establish Local Community Safety Partnerships nationwide. Following this, the National Office for Community Safety issued guidance on their structure and operation. Longford began re-establishing its committee membership, with the first meeting anticipated in autumn.

## Longford Agricultural Show

Longford LCSP attended the annual Agricultural Show, using this popular event as an opportunity to showcase ongoing work, share information on community safety initiatives, and engage directly with members of the public. LCSP presence helped raise awareness of local safety programmes and encouraged community participation in shaping safer environments.



## Old School, New School Event

Longford LCSP attended this community event at St. Mel’s College, engaging with residents and providing information on local safety initiatives. Events like this strengthen community ties and offer valuable opportunities for dialogue on safety and wellbeing.

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## **Family Resource Centre Needs Assessment Launch**

The Needs Assessment Report was launched by the Longford Family Resource Centre Steering Committee, highlighting the urgent need for a Family Resource Centre in Longford Town with outreach to Edgeworthstown. The report, launched by Micheál Carrigy TD, identified service gaps for vulnerable groups and concluded that establishing a centre is essential for providing a safe, inclusive hub for support and integration. Longford LCSP part funded the Needs Assessment and is proud to be part of this important initiative, in efforts to create a welcoming and inclusive space for families and communities across Longford.

With LCSP support, along with the Sláintecare Healthy Communities and Healthy Ireland team, the Longford Town FRC Steering Groups submitted a comprehensive application to Tusla to join the FRC Programme.

## **Milwaukee Irish Fest**

Longford LCSP Co-ordinator, Janine Bartley, joined Fáilte Ireland to represent Longford and Westmeath at the Home of Halloween stand at Milwaukee Irish Fest. With over 90,000 attendees, LCSP shared the story of Samhain and its influence on modern Halloween traditions, while promoting tourism in the Midlands. This international engagement strengthens cultural ties and supports local economic development.



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## Roscommon Longford Garda Youth Awards

Longford LCSP was delighted to support this inspiring celebration of young people who are making a real impact in their communities. Supported by Longford County Council, the event recognised exceptional achievements in areas such as community safety, special accomplishments, and individual contributions. This event highlights the importance of acknowledging and empowering young leaders dedicated to building safer, stronger communities.

## Domestic Violence Homicide Risk Training

LCSP co-funded a two-day training conference hosted by Longford Women’s Link, focusing on recognising signs of coercive control, and strengthening interagency support for victims. Over 160 participants from 35 agencies attended, including Tusla, HSE, Gardaí, and community organisations. The training, led by Professor Jane Monckton Smith, provided critical knowledge to prevent domestic violence fatalities.

This training is vital because early identification of high-risk factors and patterns of coercive control can save lives. By equipping frontline professionals and community organisations with the tools to recognise warning signs and collaborate effectively, we can intervene sooner, reduce harm, and ultimately prevent tragedies. Strengthening interagency co-operation ensures that victims receive timely, coordinated support, making communities safer and more responsive to those in crisis.



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## Place Standard Tool Training

The Longford LCSP team travelled to Glasgow for training led by Public Health Scotland as part of a pilot project exploring the Place Standard Tool from a community safety perspective. The two-day programme included a walkabout exercise to identify local challenges and develop practical solutions. This hands-on experience provided valuable insights that LCSP staff were excited to bring back to Longford.

## Road Safety Week

LCSP supported an educational event for Transition Year students at Longford Fire Station, promoting road safety awareness through interactive demonstrations. This initiative reinforces the importance of safe driving habits among young people.



## Home of Halloween Festival

Longford LCSP was proud to support the launch of *Ireland: Home of Halloween* – an exciting new chapter for Ireland’s Hidden Heartlands. For the first time, Longford and Westmeath unite as one of seven national Halloween hubs, celebrating Samhain at its source in the ancient landscapes of bogs and waterways.

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This year's programme featured the spectacular Dead of Night Festival, a county-wide celebration blending folklore, fire, theatre, and community creativity. From lantern-making and mask workshops to spooky drives, storytelling, and the iconic Haunted House at Connolly Barracks, the festival brought magic and myth to life across Longford. The grand finale, *Fire & Shadows Procession: Morrigan's Revenge*, transformed Longford Town into a living stage of fire dancers, drummers, and mythical spirits, showcasing Halloween in its most authentic form.

By supporting this initiative, Longford LCSP helps strengthen community connections, promote cultural heritage, and position Longford as a key destination for immersive, family-friendly experiences. This festival is more than entertainment, it's a celebration of identity, creativity, and the stories that bind us together.

## **LCSP Committee Update**

Members of the Longford LCSP were officially appointed by the Minister for Justice on 2 October. At the November meeting, Seamus Boyle was elected Chairperson and Cllr Seamus Butler Vice-Chairperson. The next meeting, scheduled for January 2026, will set the work programme for the year ahead ensuring strong governance and collaborative action on community safety.

## **Community Safety and Wellbeing Expo**

Longford LCSP, in partnership with Healthy Ireland and Sláintecare Healthy Communities, hosted an event featuring safety talks, interactive workshops, and information stands. Transition Year students from Longford Town schools were invited to engage in vital conversations about health, wellbeing, and community safety. Guest speaker *Get Better with Chris* inspired attendees with his message of active living and community connection through Longford Athletics Club. Events like this play a key role in empowering young people, promoting healthier lifestyles, and building stronger, safer communities.

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## **Longford Sports Partnership**

Every day in communities across the country, Sport Ireland through its network of Local Sports Partnerships (LSP) helps people to get active and removes barriers to sport and physical activity. Working with trusted professionals and valued volunteers the Longford Sports Partnership engages communities across the county to deliver inclusive, impactful, and sustainable opportunities tailored to local needs, getting Ireland more physically active, involved in sport, and improving the mental and physical health of the nation. 2025 was an extremely active and productive year for Longford Sports Partnership.

The Sports Inclusion and Disability Officer, Physical Activity for Health Officer, Outdoor Sports and Diversity Inclusion Officer, Community Sports Development Officer, Outdoor Recreation Officer, ESF Social Innovation Officer and Administration staff all worked together to provide a suite of opportunities right across the whole life spectrum of participants in Longford. During 2025 Longford Sport Partnership supported 25,795 participants with 658 programmes. Below is a selection of the participation programmes and activities Longford Sports Partnership offered during 2025.

## **Community Sport and Physical Activity Programmes**

Longford Sports Partnership community sports and physical activity programmes contributed enormously to the health and well-being of people of all ages throughout County Longford in 2025. Engaging the local community was greatly assisted through strong partnerships with local sports clubs, community groups, community services and schools. Programmes and events designed and promoted in collaboration with these community groups proved very successful again in 2025. Programme highlights included the Summer Walking Series, 5K Run Series, Zero to Tri Beginners Triathlon, Women on The Water programme, Bike Week, Cycle Right schools safe cycling programme, Her Outdoors Week, Women in Sport Week, Sports Hall Athletics Programme and Her Moves programmes to name a few.

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**Try A Tri Triathlon:** This event in partnership with Longford Triathlon Club supported a beginners triathlon introduction programme where beginners took part in three sessions of swim, bike and run each week for ten weeks leading up to a Try a Tri event. Over sixty participants took on the challenge of this Try a Tri triathlon in Coral Leisure Longford and Albert Reynolds Peace Park.

**Women on the Water:** Throughout the summer months over 80 women experienced the joy of paddling County Longford's Lake and rivers as part of the popular women's kayaking programme. The programme guided participants through a beginners learn to kayak programme. Participants gained new skills and become confident on the water.

**Sports Hall Athletics** was again very popular in 2025. Primary schools participated in school-based taster sessions in the lead up to the exciting County Longford Sports Hall events days in March. Primary school children experienced the benefit of run, jump, throw activities in what is a friendly and participation focused environment. Twenty-seven schools and 2,000 primary school children participated in the programme.

**The Summer Walking Series** held in conjunction with Longford Tourism proved extremely popular in 2025 with 150 participants taking part. The series encouraged walkers to get active in nature by using some of the wonderful walking trails in County Longford. The series ran through August with eight walks right across the county. Participants that completed all eight walks in the walking series challenge received a walking series t-shirt. This year's 5k Run Series was promoted by Longford Athletics Club. The series took place on the Royal Canal Greenway in Longford Town during August. The series is focused on attracting beginners and recreational runners and encouraging participation. This year over 300 participants took part over the duration of the series.

**The Girls Get Active Day** programme in March saw almost 120 teenage girls participate in an exercise and wellness day in Edgeworthstown Sports Hub. This was followed by the Girls Get Active programme with Transition Year students in

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secondary schools. Over the course of four weeks students experienced a range of exercise and fitness class options designed to improve confidence and encourage greater participation.

**MenoWell** is the six-week online physical activity and health education programme for women in all stages of menopause. In 2025 the programme was organised in collaboration with Healthy Longford. Almost 100 women participated in the programme. Two 40-minute online exercise classes and one 40-minute 'MenoModule' health education workshop was held per week. The MenoModule health education workshops are delivered by experts every week focusing on different topics relating to the menopause journey!

**Bike Week** in Longford was filled with a variety of cycling events and workshops designed to promote great levels of bike usage and cycling for leisure and active travel. In 2025 Longford Sports Partnership on behalf of Longford County Council hosted employee, community, club, schools, and family cycles. Bike maintenance and safe cycling workshops were also held. Almost 1,000 people participated in 18 Bike Week events. A new addition in 2025 was a very successful Women's' Gravel Cycle in partnership with Longford Cycling and Racing Club and Cycling Ireland.

**Cycle Right Programme** is a Transport for Ireland programme delivered through Longford Sports Partnership. It provides safe cycling training to primary school children. The programme takes place over eight weeks, leading up to a supervised safe road cycle where students are supported to put into practice safe cycling skills and knowledge gained over the previous weeks. In 2025, 22 primary school groups participated in the Cycle Right Programme with 481 children benefiting.

Longford Sports Partnership supported several national sport and physical activation campaigns throughout 2025. These campaign initiatives highlight the positive benefits of sport and physical activity involvement and create awareness around participation opportunities that exist within the community. In 2025 a range of events, programmes and taster sessions were organised. Campaigns included, European Week of Sport, Her Outdoors Week, Women in Sport Week, National Walking Week, Men's Health Week and more.

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## **Physical Activity Officer for Health**

Supporting healthy ageing requires accessible, inclusive programmes that promote physical activity, independence, and confidence while addressing the broader safety and well-being needs of older adults and people living with chronic conditions. Programmes provided by Longford Sports Partnership such as Woodlands for Health, Moving for Better Balance, and Staying Safe and Active provide an age friendly and chronic conditions focused community-based approach to health promotion that enables people to remain active, connected, and safe within their own communities. Through Longford Sports Partnership (Sport Ireland and HSE funding) many different physical activity programmes were conducted throughout 2025- the following highlights only a few.

Woodlands for Health offers a gentle entry point into physical activity for people managing long-term conditions such as those suffering from mental health problems who experience a range of conditions like anxiety, depression impacting their thoughts, feelings and behaviours. Guided walks in local woodland settings (Newcastle Woods, Derrycassin Woods etc) provide a supportive environment where participants can move at their own pace, pause when needed, and focus on what their bodies can do. The natural setting reduces stress and fatigue while encouraging regular movement, social interaction, and a sense of achievement that often translates into greater confidence in daily life.

For those who need a more structured approach, Moving for Better Balance focuses on the physical challenges commonly associated with chronic conditions, including reduced strength, balance, and endurance. The programme is specifically designed to help participants improve functional movement, reduce fall risk, and regain trust in their bodies. Exercises are adapted to individual ability and delivered in a supportive group environment, where participants learn practical strategies for managing symptoms while staying active. Over time, many report improved confidence in walking, standing, and performing everyday tasks.

Physical activity alone is not enough if people do not feel safe or supported in their wider environment. Staying Safe and Active recognises this by integrating practical safety education into exercise programmes. Delivered in partnership with local Gardaí, fire services, and pharmacy professionals, the programme addresses issues that

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disproportionately affect people living with chronic conditions, such as medication safety, fall prevention in the home, personal safety, and managing risk in the community. Gentle self-protection and confidence-building elements help participants feel more secure and empowered to remain active outside structured classes.

Together, these programmes reflect a holistic approach to supporting people with chronic conditions and older persons. By combining adapted physical activity programmes, safety education, and strong community partnerships, they help individuals move beyond fear and limitation toward greater independence, confidence, and quality of life. Rather than focusing on illness, the emphasis is on capability, participation, and enabling people to live well in their own communities.



## **ESF+ Social Innovation in Sport Officer**

In 2025, the ESF+ Social Innovation Officer led the delivery of a broad range of inclusive, community-led physical activity initiatives across County Longford, with a strong emphasis on co-design, reducing barriers to participation, strengthening well-being, and creating sustainable pathways into sport. Programmes engaged multicultural women and men, Traveller and Roma communities, people with disabilities, socially isolated individuals, and those experiencing disadvantage, resulting in multi-sport programmes, walking initiatives, Zumba, Couch to 5K, swimming, soccer, dance, tag rugby, and tailored personal training.

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Key developments included participant-designed programmes delivered in partnership with organisations such as St. Christopher’s Disability Service, Leinster Rugby, MABS Longford, and the Traveller Primary Health Project, alongside culturally responsive initiatives such as the Urban Horse Project with children from the Travelling Community. The work also supported individual progression through sport-based employment pathways and early intervention engagement with at-risk young people, demonstrating the wider social, personal, and inclusion outcomes that can be achieved through sustained, community-driven social innovation in sport.



## Outdoor Recreation Officer

Longford County Outdoor Recreation Plan was developed with support from the Department of Rural and Community Development. The process was led by Outscape between December 2024 – May 2025 on behalf of a Project Team consisting of Longford outdoor recreation stakeholders. The process followed the guidance set out in ‘Guidelines for Development - County Outdoor Recreation Plans’ developed by DRCD (2024). The Project Team included:

- Longford County Council (LCC)
- Longford Sports Partnership
- Longford Community Resources
- National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS)
- Fáilte Ireland
- Bord na Móna
- Coillte
- Waterways Ireland
- Roscommon LEADER Partnership (National Trails Register)

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In line with the national guidelines, the Project Team drove the direction of the Plan's development. The County Outdoor Recreation Committee continues to develop and progress with great enthusiasm to develop all the opportunities that Longford has to offer.

The new Outdoor Recreation Officer for Longford started in the role in early September. As ORO they have been networking and collaborating with the various departments which are linked to the role along with external organisations which are key to the development of Outdoor Recreation within Longford.

The Longford County Outdoor Recreation Plan continues to be developed and is now entering the final stages. The final version of the Plan has commenced the screening process, this will ensure that the proposal is appropriate, sustainable, and aligned with broader goals. Once the screening is complete it will allow the plan to be launched and pave the way for a more collaborative approach towards unlocking the positive impacts of Longford's outdoor recreation.

## **Sports Inclusion Disability Officer (SIDO)**

In 2025, the SIDO Programme delivered 70 inclusive programmes, engaging 1,993 participants across County Longford. These programmes provided meaningful, accessible opportunities for people with additional needs to participate in physical activity and sport within safe, welcoming, and supportive environments.

A wide range of inclusive programmes were delivered throughout the year, including Inclusive Tai Chi, Gym and Gymnastics, Inclusion Athletics, Chair Exercise Programmes, Learn to Cycle, the Disability Services Boccia League and Tournament, the first Secondary Schools Special Education Classes Boccia Tournament, Inclusion Sports Days and Ability Cúl Camps delivered in collaboration with Longford GAA, and inclusive summer programmes such as Pitch and Putt in collaboration with Pitch and Putt Ireland. Activities were delivered across a variety of accessible venues throughout County Longford.

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A key highlight of 2025 was the continued partnership with the HSE Children’s Disability Network Team (CDNT) Longford. The jointly delivered Inclusion Athletics Programme was presented at the HSE CDNT National Conference and shortlisted for the Ann Beckett Award, recognising excellence in inclusive practice.

The Ability Coaching Programme was successfully launched in Longford with support from Sport Ireland Dormant Accounts Funding. The programme enabled 69 adults with additional needs and/or from disadvantaged backgrounds to achieve coaching qualifications through partnerships with Longford GAA, Handball Ireland, Athletics Ireland, Volleyball Ireland and Orienteering Ireland. Participants also completed Safeguarding Level 1 training, Disability Inclusion Training with Active Disability Ireland, and Basic First Aid training, strengthening inclusive coaching capacity within the county. A number of newly qualified coaches have since commenced active coaching roles within inclusive clubs, GAA clubs, and within their own communities or services. They are an inspiration to all and clearly demonstrate what is possible when inclusive opportunities are provided.

Looking ahead, Longford Sports Partnership will continue to expand inclusive opportunities in 2026. The official launch of the Drumlish Inclusive Sports Club in January 2026 will represent a significant milestone in the development of sustainable, community-based inclusive sport pathways in County Longford. Longford Athletics Centre will lead the way in 2026 by supporting the sustainability of the Inclusion Athletics Programme through the waiver of venue hire. Local Athletics Tutors will continue to deliver this programme, ensuring the ongoing provision of a vital inclusive athletics opportunity within the county.



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## **Outdoor Sports and Diversity Inclusion Officer**

A six-week boxing programme was delivered during October and November at The Green, Edgeworthstown, in collaboration with LCRL Youth Services. The group met once a week for one hour, facilitated by a qualified boxing coach, Nathan, who acted as tutor throughout the programme. This activity was highly requested by the group and proved very successful. Participants gained significant benefits, including improved fitness levels, boxing technique, and overall enjoyment from taking part. Archery for Youths was a four-week programme run in conjunction with Youthreach Longford. The group were shown the basics and safety of the sport, along with hands-on coaching from experienced instructors, building self-confidence and having plenty of fun along the way. Sports Taster Sessions took place during the Halloween holidays with taster sessions involving soccer, handball and table tennis. The sessions attracted 20 boys and girls from ages 5-12. Each group enjoyed 45 mins at each sport. Each sport was run by a suitably qualified tutor.

Roma Men's Soccer was a ten-week programme offering men from the Roma community in Longford and surrounds an opportunity to improve overall physical health and promote social inclusion through the universal appeal of soccer. Participants developed teamwork, discipline, and a stronger sense of belonging within their community. Also, a ten-week gym and swim programme where a group of men from the Roma community in Longford committed to showing up for their health, with a weekly gym session followed by a swim at the local pool. This led to improved fitness, better wellbeing, more confidence, and a solid sense of routine.

Multicultural Women's' Yoga ran over six weeks in Edgeworthstown, this yoga programme was aimed at improving both mental and physical well-being. The sessions facilitated by a qualified Yoga instructor created a calming space for relaxation, stress reduction, and self-care, fostering community connections among participants from diverse cultural backgrounds. Swim lessons took place in September 2025. The Outdoor Sports and Diversity Inclusion Officer from Longford Sports Partnership collaborated with a group from LCRL to undertake a set of swimming lessons. The lessons took place in Coral Leisure Longford for a total of five weeks with nine participants from Ardnacassa Women's' Group. The programme consisted of basic swim instruction as most were non swimmers. Along with water confidence tips and exercises, the participants also learned about

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water safety. Feedback from the group was positive with the participants hopeful of doing another set in 2026. In the meantime, they reported feeling more confident about attending the pool as recreational users to practice and have fun with members of their families. A tennis programme for women in Edgeworthstown took place over six weeks during September and October. For one hour each week a qualified tennis coach helped improve skills, increase confidence, with plenty of laughs shared along the way.



## Governing Body (NGB) Sport in the Community

Longford County Council support the Football Association of Ireland (FAI), Irish Rugby Football Union (IRFU) and the Gaelic Athletic Association (GAA) to provide National Governing Body (NGB) community programmes in Longford, managed by Longford Local Sports Partnership. The initiative is provided by each organisation through local development officers who plan and organise programmes and initiatives that focus on supporting clubs and coaches, increasing participation, and improving retention rates. Longford County Council Community Development

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Officers work with community sport clubs and local primary and secondary school and community groups. In 2025 schools and clubs throughout County Longford benefited from NGB Development Officer support.

## **Community Sports Hubs**

Longford Sports Partnership continue to support Community Sports Hubs in Drumlish, Edgeworthstown and Longford. Community Sports Hubs are managed independently by local committees with community sports facilities. Community Sports Hubs focus on increasing physical activity and sports participation rates at a local level. Particular attention is placed on participation rates amongst less frequent users. In 2025, a wide range of activities and initiatives took place in County Longford hubs. These included schools' programmes, sports club programmes, community fitness programmes, older adult programmes, minority and inclusion programmes, coaching and leadership programmes.

## **Club Development and Volunteer Support Grant**

The Club Development and Volunteer Supports Grant supports not-for-profit organisations. In 2025, 46 organisations secured grants of €21,550 to support their structures, coaching, education, and target group initiatives. Organisations benefitting from this grant include many local GAA and football clubs, as well as many other sports clubs.

## **Longford Sports Star Awards**

The Sports Star Awards, in association with Longford Leader were held on Saturday, 30 November in the Longford Arms Hotel. This was a brilliant event which recognised the achievements of Longford's high performing athletes and dedicated coaches' volunteers and officials.

The Overall Sports Person of the Year Award was presented to Cian McPhillips, for his exceptional achievement of representing Ireland in the World Athletics Championship Final and becoming an Irish 800m record holder.

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Other category winners on the night included:

- Hall of Fame to Liam Fenelon, Longford's magnificent 'Marathon Man.' The Longford Marathon began in 2002 and it was organised to mark the completion of Liam's 100th Marathon – and for the record he has completed hundreds more in the intervening years.
- Club Volunteer of the Year went to Rheda Quinn, County Longford Golf Club. Her leadership and effective management has meant the junior section has thrived to become a vibrant part of Longford Golf Club and a vital element of its future with numbers growing from 25 to 100.
- Team of the Year went to Killoe Senior Footballers, whose tremendous winning record in Senior Football Championship finals continued with a single point success over Colmcille in 2025. Putting the seal on a treble for the club as they claimed the Junior A and C football championship titles on the same weekend while the Killoe ladies were crowned county intermediate queens.
- Junior Sportsperson of the Year was Robin Óg Murphy, who captured four national titles and the 17-year-old star also performed on the World Athletics Race Walking Tour at events in Spain, Slovakia, and Poland.
- Sports Ability Award went to Seán Keenan who has been involved in sport for the past 27 years. Seán is a member of Longford Special Olympics Bowling Club, Longford Phoenix Special Olympics Basketball Club and Mullingar Shooting Stars Special Olympics Club, where he plays soccer and floorball, along with that, being a valued member of Longford Rambler and Hikers Club.

In addition to the above the following sportspersons were awarded for the huge talents and achievements in their sport: Andrew Fitzpatrick, Athletics, Fionn McCormack Crowe, Soccer, Cian McPhillips, Athletics, Micheál Mulcahy, GAA Hurling, Evelyn Murray, Equestrian, John Nevin, Boxing, Orla Nevin, Ladies Football, Goodness Ogbonna, Soccer, Mia Rowan, Rugby and Joe Shannon, Snooker.



# Community

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## Longford Sports Bursary Awards

Longford County Council provided €10,000 in Sports Bursary Awards for some of Longford's outstanding sports people in 2025. These sports bursaries are awarded to help support local athletes that are performing at an elite international level and bringing positive recognition to Longford. This year's recipients were:

Jake Bermingham is a freestyle kayaker from Colehill, Ballymahon. Jake placed 15th in European Freestyle Kayak Championships in Austria 2024 and was also proud to become the Canoeing Ireland Junior Male Freestyle Kayaker of the Year 2024.

Cian McPhillips is a middle-distance athlete from Ardagh. During the Senior World Championships 2025 in Tokyo Cian won his heat and the semi-final and finished an incredible 4th place in the final. During this event he broke the 800m national record in the semi and then again in the final, making him the current national 800m record holder.

Darragh Greene is a swimmer from Newtownforbes. He proudly represented Ireland at the 2024 Paris and 2020 Tokyo Olympics. Darragh is an Irish Champion and National record holder in the 50m, 100m and 200m breaststroke, and holds the record for the first Irish swimmer to break 60 seconds in the 100m breaststroke. He was a finalist in multiple European/World Championships and was a World University Games Finalist in 2017.

Robin Óg Murphy is a track and field athlete from Kenagh. Robin was selected by Athletics Ireland to be part of the National Performance Pathway Squad for 2025. Recently, she secured gold in the U18's World Athletics Race Walking Tour in Warsaw.

Joe Shannon is a snooker player from Kilmore. Joe is the current National U14 Champion and National U16 Champion.

Emma Brennan is an athletics champion from Drumlish. In 2024, Emma won gold as part of the Irish U17 team in 1500m steeplechase.

Shane McGuigan is a rugby player from Granard. Shane captained the Longford U18 rugby team that won the Leinster plate in May 2025. After trials, he joined the Leinster U19 combined schools and club side for summer 2025.

# Community

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Jakub Pasieczny is a basketball player from Longford Town. Jakub has represented Ireland on the International stage multiple times for the U18 panel. After receiving the American Junior College Men's Basketball Scholarship in Kansas in August 2024.

John Nevin is an amateur boxer from Longford Town. John is currently training with the Olympic Boxing Club in Galway. He won three consecutive All Ireland titles in 2023, 2024 and 2025, also becoming the 2024 U17 Denmark International Box Champion.



## Resourcing and Funding

Longford Local Sports Partnership secured €881,811.50 for sport and physical activity in Longford in 2025, with larger funding coming from:

- Sport Ireland Core Funding €307,059
- Dormant Accounts €124,540
- ESF Funding €125,650.73
- Physical Activity for Health €94,667
- Healthy Ireland €31,590

# Community

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A heartfelt thank you to the Longford Sports Partnership board, all partners, funders, and participants who made these programmes possible in 2025. With your support, Longford Sports Partnership is paving the way for a more active future in sports and physical activity.

## County Longford PPN

### Workplan 2025 – Key Focus Areas

The PPN Workplan for 2025 focused on three core areas: Membership and Representation, Information Sharing, and Capacity Building.

### Membership

As of 31 December 2025, County Longford Public Participation Network (PPN) had a total of 665 registered member groups. This represents continued growth in the network and reflects strong engagement across the county.

Membership breakdown by pillar is as follows:

- Community: 567 groups
- Environment: 17 groups
- Social Inclusion: 81 groups

Membership by Municipal District:

- Longford Municipal District: 279 groups
- Ballymahon Municipal District: 198 groups
- Granard Municipal District: 188 groups

### PPN Representatives on Decision-Making Bodies

PPN representatives continued to play a vital role in ensuring the voice of communities is heard at local decision-making tables. During 2025, PPN representatives served across a wide range of boards and committees as outlined below:

# Community

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- Local Community Development Committee (5)
- Strategic Policy Committees (SPCs):
  - Social Development SPC (3)
  - Physical Development SPC (3)
  - Economic and Rural Development (1)
  - Good Governance SPC (2)
- Local Community Safety Partnership (9)
- County Longford Tourism (2)
- Longford Sports Partnership (3)
- County Longford Childcare Committee (1)
- County Longford Drug and Alcohol Forum (1)
- Longford Community Resources CLG (2)
- Sláintecare Healthy Communities (2)
- Granard Town Team [5]
- Board of HIQA (1)
- TFI Local Link (1)

These roles ensure that community perspectives continue to inform local policy development, planning, and service delivery across the county.

## **Longford PPN Disability Network**

Throughout 2025, the Longford PPN Disability Network continued to be a strong and consistent voice for people with life challenges, advocating for inclusion, accessibility and equality across the county. The Network worked collaboratively with An Garda Síochána on issues relating to parking permits and disability badges, helping to raise awareness and improve understanding of everyday barriers faced by people with disabilities.

Disability representatives actively used local and national radio platforms to advocate for the rights and needs of people of all abilities, ensuring lived experience was central to public discussion and policy considerations.

# Community

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In addition, the Disability Network held meetings, supported peer engagement, and ensured the disability sector was represented on Strategic Policy Committees and other key decision-making bodies, embedding disability perspectives into local planning and governance processes.

Longford PPN staff took part in a Community Safety Place Standard/Walkability Audit in Edgeworthstown, helping assess and improve safety, accessibility, and wellbeing in public spaces as part of a collaborative pilot project with Public Health Scotland, the Scottish Community Safety Network, Longford Library Service, the Age Friendly Programme, and the Town Centre First Programme.

## **Information Sharing**

Throughout 2025, Longford PPN operated as a central information and co-ordination hub for 665 member groups across the county. With just two staff members supporting an ever-growing network, the PPN ensured that communities remained informed, connected, and ready to engage with local and national opportunities.

A continuous flow of clear and timely information was shared on funding opportunities, public consultations, events and emerging priorities, often within short timeframes and with complex criteria. Updates included schemes such as the Local Enhancement Programme, Healthy Ireland funding, CLÁR, Town and Village Renewal, Culture Night grants and Climate Action funding, alongside a wide range of national and local supports. This proactive approach enabled member groups to plan ahead, access funding, and actively participate in consultations and community initiatives.

PPN staff also partnered with LCC on their 'Pathway to Funding Roadshow' supporting new groups to register and existing members to update their contact details.

Staff participated in information days such as Age Friendly Alliance and LEO's Technology for Growth.

# Community

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Longford PPN brought the community together through two County Plenary Meetings and three Municipal District meetings, featuring expert speakers, lively networking, and key information sharing.

## **Capacity Building**

Building confidence, skills, and capacity across the PPN network remained a core focus in 2025.

Supports provided during the year included targeted SPC representative training, committee skills training delivered by Carmichael to over 60 PPN groups, and digital skills training in collaboration with Longford County Council IT. This work was further supported through Municipal District plenary engagement sessions, tailored one-to-one group support, and participation in regional and national events, ensuring community representatives were well equipped to engage effectively in decision-making processes at local, regional, and national level.

## **Advocacy, Leadership and National Engagement**

In 2025, Longford PPN continued to play an active and influential role not only at local level, but also regionally and nationally, strengthening the voice of communities well beyond county boundaries.

PPN Co-ordinator, Siobhan Cronogue, was invited to act as a Community and Voluntary Awards judge for Offaly, Laois and Waterford County Council awards, recognising innovation, commitment and impact across the community and voluntary sector. This role highlights the expertise within Longford PPN and its growing reputation for good practice nationally.

Siobhan Cronogue, in conjunction with Kildare PPN, also presented to the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Social Protection, Rural and Community Development, advocating on behalf of PPNs nationwide in relation to funding, sustainability and the future development of the PPN network. This engagement ensured that the lived experience of communities and PPNs was directly represented at national policy level.

# Community

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Longford PPN staff, four Secretariat members, and Laura McPhilips, Administrative Officer for Community and Enterprise, Longford County Council, attended the National PPN Conference on 17 October 2025. The two-day event provided valuable opportunities for learning, networking and sharing best practice. The work of PPNs across the country was publicly acknowledged at the conference, with Minister Gerry Buttimer praising the vital role PPNs play in supporting inclusive local democracy and community participation.

Throughout the year, Secretariat members and staff also actively participated in five regional Midlands Regional PPN (MRPPN) meetings, contributing to shared learning, identifying common challenges, and progressing issues for escalation to national level.

At national governance level, Siobhan Cronogue, Amy Leavy and Secretariat member Tess Murphy represented Longford PPN on the National PPN Workers Network, the National PPN Secretariat Network and subgroups. Through this work, they collaborated with PPN colleagues from across the country, Local Authority representatives and Department of Rural and Community Development officials, contributing to the ongoing development, strengthening and sustainability of the PPN structure nationally.

Longford PPN staff actively participated in the Building Resilience for Times of Emergency national survey, workshops, and the publication of the report as part of this joint PPN initiative. The report highlights the significant role PPNs have played in responding to emergencies, particularly through communication with their extensive network of community groups and the provision of other vital supports. It draws on experiences from diverse emergencies across Ireland, identifies challenges faced by PPNs, and emphasises the potential of PPNs to enhance community resilience and support effective emergency responses. The initiative underscores the importance of consulting communities, facilitating their resilience, and ensuring all stakeholders learn from past experiences to improve future emergency preparedness.

# Community

Longford PPN supported the Needs Assessment for a proposed Family Resource Centre in Longford Town. Siobhan Cronogue represented Longford PPN on the Steering Committee overseeing the assessment. In addition, 314 PPN community groups from Longford Town and Edgeworthstown signed a letter of support, which was submitted as part of the FRC application to Tusla.



## Funding

In 2025, Longford PPN received increased funding from the Department of Rural and Community Development of €14,700. Additional supports included €10,000 from Longford County Council and €3,100 from Longford Environmental Alliance.

## Acknowledgements

Longford PPN acknowledges the ongoing commitment and contribution of all member groups and PPN representatives. Sincere thanks are extended to the PPN Secretariat, Longford County Council, Elected Members and partner organisations for their continued support and collaboration.

# Human Resources

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The Human Resources section operates in accordance with the Local Government People Strategy focusing on three priority areas:

- Workforce of the future
- Capacity and Capability
- Effective Management

This in turn supports the delivery of the objectives of the Corporate Plan. The Human Resources delivered on work programmes in the following areas:

- Policy development
- Employment law and compliance
- Workforce planning and succession planning
- Recruitment and selection
- Learning and development
- Employee engagement
- Health and wellbeing
- Equality and diversity
- Contract management
- Attendance management
- Performance management and development
- Payroll and Pensions
- Statutory reporting and departmental returns
- Record and document management
- Employee assistance and support

## Employee Appreciation

In December 2025, Longford County Council held its Annual Employee Appreciation Day thanking all employees for their continued service while focusing on equality and mental health. Employees were recognised for the following:

- Shaunagh Connaire was invited as a keynote speaker to share her inspiring journey as an Emmy nominated journalist and film maker, she has also worked with the Clooney Foundation for Justice.
- Long Service Recognition Awards were presented for staff of 20, 25 and 30-years' service.
- Employees who had completed third level education as part of the Open Learning Scheme supporting lifelong learning were recognised.

# Human Resources

- Newly qualified coaches who will provide guidance and encouragement to help colleagues grow in confidence, skill, and wellbeing across the organisation.

A Christmas get together of retired Longford County Council staff took place on 11 December 2025.



# Human Resources

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## Recruitment and Selection

Recruitment and selection procedures are operated in a fair and transparent manner in line with good practice for recruitment and selection standard, employment legislation and relevant departmental circulars and guidelines.

The following is a summary of the recruitment programme for 2025.

Competitions advertised	<b>46</b>
Applications Received	<b>1176</b>
Interview Days	<b>83</b>
Appointments	<b>90</b>
Promotions	<b>38</b>
Retirements	<b>12</b>
Resignations	<b>21</b>

## Learning and Development

Longford County Council enables continuous and lifelong learning.

Organisational and personal development training delivered during 2025, included skill development in areas such as Leadership, Management and Supervisory, Business, IT, Legislation and Governance.

Training for 53 different competencies was delivered during 2024, with 807 attendees.

Statutory Health and Safety training is required by law or deemed necessary through risk and/or organisational needs assessment. This is to ensure the Safety, Health and Welfare of employees and others who may be affected by Longford County Council's work activities.

During 2025, Training for 27 Health and Safety competencies was delivered with 364 attendees.

# Human Resources

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As part of the external audit process of the Safety Management System the National Standards Authority of Ireland recognised the health and wellbeing programme as a strength within the organisation.

## Open Learning Scheme

Longford County Council, through its Open Learning Scheme, aims to support employees who wish to undertake studies in further education building capacity across the organisation.

A total of 20 employees participated in the Open Learning Scheme for the 2025/2026 academic year.

Graduates from the scheme are recognised for their personal contribution and engagement in the development of a culture of lifelong learning at Longford County Council.

## Employee Health and Wellbeing

The Health and Wellbeing Strategy was developed in 2024 and embodies an unwavering commitment to enhancing the quality of life for every member of the community. At its core, this strategy is about creating an environment where all individuals can thrive, regardless of age, background, or circumstance.

The employee Health and Wellbeing programme is delivered under four pillars.

- Mental Wellbeing
- Physical Wellbeing
- Social Wellbeing
- Financial Wellbeing

A total of 23 programmes were designed and delivered through the Health and Wellbeing programme.

# Human Resources

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The programme included Couch to 5KM Running and Walking challenge, Preparing for Retirement Training, Sun Smart programme, Financial Planning, Winter Flu vaccinations and collaboration with Sports Partnership for Lunchtime Fitness Programmes.

It supported Men’s Health Week, World Menopause Day and Awareness, Breast Cancer Awareness month and Mental Health Awareness Month through information sessions and sharing of materials.



## Statutory Reporting and Departmental Returns

Statutory and Departmental Returns were submitted to the relevant government departments on time during 2025.

# Housing

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The Housing Section continued to play a central role in advancing Longford County Council’s strategic ambition to build connected, sustainable and thriving communities, as outlined in the Corporate Plan 2024–2029.

This plan places people at the heart of service delivery and prioritises inclusion, environmental responsibility, and the creation of vibrant, resilient places across County Longford.

Throughout 2025, the housing programmes focused on expanding supply, improving the quality and sustainability of existing stock, and delivering responsive and equitable services to individuals and families.

The Housing Section’s work went beyond the provision of homes, it supported safe communities and helped enhance social wellbeing across the county.

Guided by strategic objectives, the Housing Section continued to collaborate with internal and external partners to ensure the delivery of effective solutions that address local needs and strengthen Longford’s capacity to grow and thrive.



# Housing

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## **Summary of Social Housing Needs Assessment 2024**

The annual summary of Social Housing Needs Assessment was carried out on 3 November 2025. A total of 642 households made an application for social housing support prior to this date in 2025. A total of 300 of these households qualified for social housing support.

On 31 December 2025 a total of 657 applications were approved for social housing support. A total of 343 of that number were already in receipt of support and were seeking a transfer from existing council or HAP tenancies leaving the total nett need of 314.

## **Housing Assistance Payment (HAP)**

HAP plays a vital role in the delivery of affordable housing to the residents in the county. It is a form of social housing support whereby the Council provides financial assistance to qualified households renting in the private rented sector. There were a total of 250 active tenancies on 31 December 2025. A HAP Place Finder Service commenced in August 2024. The service provides guidance and financial support to those households who find themselves in homelessness or with impending homelessness.

## **Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS)**

The RAS Scheme continued to operate in a very challenging environment. Many landlords sought to terminate the tenancies as they wished to sell their properties and given the limited availability of alternative properties, resources concentrated on the provision of alternative solutions for these tenants. Despite these challenges the total active tenancies at year end were 198, including Approved Housing Body properties.

## **Leasing of Property**

A total of 221 active lease agreements are in place with both private landlords and Approved Housing Bodies under various social housing leasing scheme. All of these are rented by the Council to qualified applicants on the social housing waiting list.

# Housing

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## **Mortgage to Rent Scheme**

On 31 December 2025, 40 homeowners were successfully housed in the scheme. Activity in this area continues to increase which is beneficial for homeowners who are at risk of losing their homes and becoming homeless.

## **National Housing Strategy for Disabled People 2022-2027**

The National Housing Strategy for Disabled People 2022 to 2027 was launched in January 2022. Developed under the guiding principles of Housing for All, the Government's National Plan for Housing to 2030, the strategy seeks to support disabled people to live independently with appropriate choice and control over where, how and with whom they live. Working together with the relevant agencies, the Council continues to meet the objectives and targets set out in the Local Strategic Plan for Housing People with Disabilities 2022 to 2027, supported by quarterly meetings with a broadly representative membership that provides ongoing oversight and coordination.

## **Homelessness Supports and Services**

The housing department deals with homeless presentations on a daily basis. In December 2025, 20 adults and two children were accessing emergency accommodation in Longford. Longford County Council has service level agreements with The Good Shepherd, Midlands Simon and the Peter McVerry Trust to deliver programmes for homelessness prevention, tenancy sustainment, accommodation solutions and support for applicants with complex needs. The Council continues to roll out Housing First, with nine active tenancies in place on 31 December 2025.

Homelessness Supports and Services are guided by the Midlands Regional Homeless Action Plan 2025 to 2029, adopted in 2025, which sets the shared regional framework for prevention, emergency response and long-term housing solutions across the midlands.

# Housing

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## **Traveller Accommodation Programme**

Longford County Council continued its work during the year to meet the accommodation needs of Traveller families in line with the statutory requirements of the Housing (Traveller Accommodation) Act 1998. The Traveller Accommodation Programme 2025 to 2029 provides the policy framework for this work and outlines the commitments of the council over the lifetime of this programme.

The Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee meets quarterly and ensures that the views of Traveller families inform decisions on the provision and management of accommodation. This committee plays a central role in guiding the development and implementation of the Traveller Accommodation Programme in Longford.

The Council will continue to meet its annual housing targets through a range of social housing options, including standard local authority housing, HAP, RAS and voluntary housing bodies, and planning has commenced for the delivery of two Traveller specific group housing units.

## **Estate Management Programme**

The Estate Management Programme includes pre-tenancy training, tenant liaison, estate enhancement and grant scheme. A total of 127 local authority tenancies were created in 2025. All new tenants completed pre-tenancy training prior to receiving the keys to their local authority properties.

The estate management programme continues to play a central role in supporting safe and well managed communities across the Council's housing stock. Through ongoing engagement with tenants, coordinated liaison with relevant agencies, and a consistent application of policy, the programme delivers on its commitment to address and reduce incidents of anti-social behaviour in social housing.

# Housing

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During the year the council recorded 107 complaints relating to anti-social behaviour and ten tenancy warnings were issues during this period. The department regained possession of one property during the year by invoking the provisions of Section 15 relating to abandoned dwellings, ensuring that the appropriate legislative process was fully applied.

## Capital Delivery Programme

The Social Housing Capital delivery programme supports the delivery of social housing. The Housing Department successfully delivered 20 units in 2025 as part of the capital delivery programme, with numerous others in the pipeline at various stages of design or on site. The table below provides a summary of the projects delivered in 2025.



# Housing

Scheme	Project Name	No of Units Delivered
SHIP Construction	Cranleymore, Abbeylara	3
SHIP Construction Turnkey	2 Hazelwood, Cloonaugh, Drumlish	1
SHIP Construction Turnkey	Forthill, Aughnacliffe	8
LA Acquisitions	Parnell Row, Granard, County Longford	1
CAS acquisitions	89 Mostrim Oaks, Edgeworthstown	1
CAS acquisitions	90 Mostrim Oaks, Edgeworthstown	1
LA Acquisitions	40 Clonguish Court, Newtownforbes	1
LA Acquisitions	1 Hazelwood, Cloonaugh, Drumlish	1
LA Acquisitions	4 Sliabh Rua, Drumlish, County Longford	1
LA Acquisitions	12 Sliabh Rua, Drumlish, County Longford	1
LA Acquisitions	45 Great Water Street, Longford	1
<b>Total</b>		<b>20</b>
<b>Rental Accommodation</b>		
Rental Availability Agreement	44 Cnoc na Gaoithe, Lanesboro, County Longford	1
Rental Availability Agreement	44 Cnoc na Gaoithe, Lanesboro, County Longford	1
<b>Total</b>		<b>2</b>

# Housing

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## Affordable Housing Purchase Scheme

Approval was sought and received from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage for the delivery of 25 affordable housing units in Longford Town. These will be the first units delivered under this scheme for the county in recent years.

## Private Rented Inspection Programme

The national target for the inspection of private rental accommodation for compliance with the Housing (Standards for Rented Houses) Regulations 2019 of **25%** of private rental tenancies.

The Government is committed to ensuring that a stock of high-quality accommodation is available for those who live in the private rented sector. The Department sets targets for the inspection of private residential tenancies for each local authority, using Residential Tenancy Board (RTB) data.

The target for Longford County Council in 2025 was 533 properties. The completed initial inspections were 523, which represented 98% of the target.

The actual number of inspections carried out was 755. This included follow up inspections of properties to achieve compliance.

This was an increase on the previous year and was due to increased resources and engaging an external contractor to assist with the inspections.

The target set out by the Department accounts for the initial inspection of a property in a calendar year. Additional inspections may be required to achieve compliance. However, only the initial inspection is considered for annual targets.

- Of the total 755 inspections 249 (33%) were in compliance, while 506 (67%) failed.
- Of the initial 523 inspections 249 (47%) passed and 274 (53%) failed.

# Housing

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## Energy Retrofitting Scheme

In 2025, under the national Energy Efficiency Retrofitting Programme, the Housing Department completed works on 51 housing units in four of its housing estates and other single units throughout the county:

- 6 at St Anne's, Ballymahon
- 21 at Casey Court, Keenagh
- 6 at Abbeycartron Lane, Longford
- 9 at McEoin Park, Longford
- 9 at various other locations



# Housing

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## Maintenance and Refurbishment

In 2025 the Housing Department continued to actively reduce the vacancy rate within its housing stock resulting in the vacancy rate being successfully reduced from 5.6% in 2022 to 3.84% in 2023 and to 2.65% at the beginning of 2025. The Housing team responded to more than 3,708 maintenance requests in 2025, this includes the housing response to Storm Eowyn in January 2025.

The majority of reported issues related to plumbing, which accounted for 40% of all repair requests, highlighting ongoing demand for maintenance in this area. Electrical issues were the second most common category, representing 24% of requests, while the remaining cases covered a range of other maintenance needs.

Overall, the volume and nature of requests reflect the importance of continued investment in the upkeep and improvement of the Council's housing stock to ensure safe and habitable living conditions for tenants.

## Voids Programme

Longford County Council successfully secured €396,000 in Departmental funding to carry out essential works on 36 approved Council-owned properties across the county. These dwellings had been vacant and in a state of disrepair. The Council prioritised targeted refurbishment measures to restore the properties to an appropriate standard for re-letting.



# Housing

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These properties had been vacant and in disrepair, the Council focussed on undertaking essential refurbishment works to bring the properties to good letting standards.

In addition to the 36 void properties, pre-letting repair works were completed on a further 20 properties. The scope of works across all properties included key safety upgrades such as electrical improvements, interior refurbishment, plumbing and heating works, and external maintenance. This programme of work resulted in these properties being brought to a high standard in preparation for new tenants taking up residence in their new homes.



# Housing

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## Stock Condition Surveys

Longford County Council successfully completed 40 stock condition surveys in 2025 as part of its ongoing asset management and housing quality improvement programme. These surveys were undertaken to assess the structural integrity, energy performance, and overall condition of the Council's housing stock, ensuring compliance with current regulatory standards and best practice guidelines.



The programme involved detailed inspections of building fabric, roofing, insulation, windows and doors, heating systems, and accessibility features. The data collected will inform the Council's planned maintenance schedule, capital investment planning, and retrofit priorities, particularly in relation to energy efficiency upgrades and climate action targets.

## Disabled Persons Grants

A total of nine adaptation projects were undertaken in 2025 to meet the needs of affected tenants. The Council's Housing Section successfully sought Departmental funding amounting to a total of €350,579 under the Disabled Persons Grant Scheme.

Adaptation works completed included installation of level-access showers, ramps and hold rails, and the building of extensions under the terms of the Improvement Works in Lieu (IWIL) scheme to two approved properties.

The works completed as a result of this funding greatly improved the quality of life for affected tenants and their families. In many cases the completed works allowed tenants to continue to live independently and outside of a residential care setting.



# Physical Development

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**Director of Services: Barbara Heslin**

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# Roads and Transportation

## Roads Expenditure

Road expenditure for 2025 for County Longford was €14,124,884. This included a contribution from Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) of €2,315,315 to Longford County Council for national roads in 2025. This included:

Improvement Works	<b>€1,110,994</b>
National Primary and National Secondary Maintenance	<b>€408,564</b>
Highway Design Pavement Renewals and Surveys	<b>€559,443</b>
Route Lighting NP	<b>€32,291</b>
Route Lighting NS	<b>€55,636</b>
Winter Maintenance	<b>€148,387</b>

Longford County Council contributed €885,696 to Non-National Roads in Longford. The Department of Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht contributed €685,484 to enable local authorities carry out improvement works under the Local Improvement Scheme (LIS) on private and non-publicly maintained roads. The Department of Transport contributed €10,238,389 for non-national roads. This included:

Specific Improvement Grant	<b>€96,808</b>
Restoration Improvement Works	<b>€5,538,709</b>
Restoration Maintenance Works	RM+SRM: <b>€1,243,709</b>
Discretionary Maintenance Grant	<b>€1,309,376</b>
Low-Cost Safety Improvement works	<b>€270,383</b>
Drainage	<b>€298,999</b>
Bridge rehabilitation	<b>€463,300</b>
Training Programme	<b>€33,790</b>
Community Involvement Scheme	<b>€258,322</b>
Speed Limit Signage	<b>€158,817</b>
Climate Change Adaption and Resilience Pavement Survey Condition Index Survey Support	<b>€296,976</b>
Pavement Survey Condition Index Survey Support	<b>€12,000</b>
Former National Roads	<b>€257,200</b>

# Roads and Transportation

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## **N4 Mullingar to Longford (Roosky)**

The N4 Mullingar to Longford (Roosky) Scheme is currently at Phase three – Design and Environmental Evaluation. The preferred option was confirmed in Q1 2025.

In 2025, Environmental surveys were progressed, and all other surveys, investigations and assessments required in this phase were commenced.

Phase three will continue through 2026 with completion of this phase envisaged in late 2027.

## **N55 Granard By-Pass**

Longford County Council received TII approval to proceed to Phase two (Option Selection) for the N55 Granard By-Pass Scheme in October 2025. Longford County Council is in the process of appointing a consultant to progress the design of the scheme.

## **National Road Pavement Improvement Schemes**

National Road Pavement Improvement Schemes are selected on the basis of recent condition surveys of the network. The following works under this scheme were carried out in 2025:

- N4 Newtownforbes to Clonihier – Pavement Resurfacing – Resurfacing of a 4 km section of the N4 took place in spring 2025. Project cost €1.8 million
- N55 Royal Canal Way (at Fowlard’s Bridge) – Emergency Pavement Scheme – A 200m section of the N55 adjacent Fowlard’s Bridge was reconstructed in November 2025. Project tender cost €856,141.
- N55 Kilcurry (adjacent to Fowlard’s Bridge) – HD28 pavement resurfacing – Resurfacing of 1km section of the N55 took place in Nov/Early December 2025. Cost - €300,000
- N55 Edgeworthstown Streets – HD28 pavement resurfacing – Resurfacing of 300m section of the N55 from the junction with the N4 to the junction on Main Street Edgeworthstown was completed. Cost - €250,000

# Roads and Transportation

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**N55 Royal Canal Way – Emergency works**

## Defects Maintenance Pavement Repairs

TII Ordinary Maintenance Defects Allocation funding for 2025 was used on the following schemes:

- N55 Ballywalter
- N4 Lisnagrish
- N55 Ballindagny
- N55 Ballybrannigan
- N4 Tomisky
- N63 Gowlan
- N4 Minard
- N63 Farannyhoogan

## Regional and Local Roads

2025 was the first year of the Multi-Annual Restoration Improvement Programme 2025-2027 for non-national roads.

An ambitious programme of works was implemented in the Municipal Districts and included the following notable achievements in 2025:

- Regional and Local Road Improvement Works to a value in excess of €5.5 million.
- A total of 98 Regional and Local Road Projects were completed under the Restoration Improvement Programme resulting in over 58.233km of road being improved.

# Roads and Transportation

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- Restoration Maintenance Works (Surface Dressing) to a value in excess of €1.2 million.
- A total of 64 Regional and Local Roads were completed under the Restoration Maintenance Programme resulting in over 69.983km being surface dressed.

## Bridge Rehabilitation Works

Longford County Council received an allocation of €463,300 in 2025 for Bridge Rehabilitation works. This money was used to carry out on the following bridge improvements in 2025.

- Cloonshannagh/Lehcurragh
- Castlebaun
- Esker Old Hall Bridge
- Kilnacarrow Bridge
- Kiltycreevagh Cornacullev Bridge
- Drumlougher Bridge
- Monascallaghan Bridge
- Clonee Culvert
- Moatfarrell Bridge (part)



**Kilnacarrow Bridge, Ballinalee**

# Roads and Transportation

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## Specific Improvement Grants

- R392 Abbeyshrule Road Jn -Road re-alignment and resurfacing works were carried out.

## Former National Roads

- Resurfacing works were completed on the former National Road at Ballyminion.

## LMD Footpath Programme

- Commencement of €2 million footpath programme to upgrade footpaths over a three-year period.

## Low-Cost Safety Improvement Grants

The Low-Cost Safety Improvement Grants enable low-cost safety improvement works on regional and local roads. Work under this scheme included completion of junction improvement, traffic calming, new footpaths, additional line marking and signage.

The following Low-Cost Safety Schemes were completed in 2025:

- Carrowroe, Rathcline Cemetery Junction of L-1167 and L-11673 - Sightline improvement projects
- Derraghan at R393 -Installation of driver feedback signs
- Ballymakeegan: Narrowing of approach road to reduce speed and the installation of new signage/line marking at junction.
- Dublin Road, Longford between Golf Club and Viewmount: Installation of driver feedback signs at this location.
- Junction of R193 and L7008 at Feraghfad - Installation of new drainage and junction improvement works.
- Doherty's Cross Esker/Kilnacarrow Townlands R-194-959 – Junction widening and realignment at crossroads, part one completed in 2025, part two to follow in 2026.
- T-JN- L-1058 with L-1057 at Dring/Carrickduff to Dring – Improvement of sightlines at T Junction at "The Rocks" on the Granard to Mullinalaghta Rd, turn off to Dring.
- Cooney's Cross – Corneddan/Clontumper L-1027 – Improvement of sightlines at two T Junctions along the Drumlish to Esker South (L-1027).

# Roads and Transportation

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## Climate Change Adaption and Rehabilitation Grant

The following schemes were completed under the Climate Change Adaption and Rehabilitation Grant:

- R-392-1629 Foygh - Embankment construction.
- L-1091 Bracklin Road - Storm drainage improvement works.
- L-1510 Cloontrim: Road and embankment repair.
- L- 5007 Cloneen: Existing road level raised which is in a flood plain.
- Ringowney Lane L-51611 Realignment of 900m of the road to move it away from the river where regular flooding was eroding the road edge.

## Local Improvement Schemes

The LIS provides funding to help Local Authorities carry out improvement works on private and non-publicly maintained roads. It is funded by the Department of Rural and Community Development and 22 schemes were completed across the county in 2025.



Local Improvement Scheme at Killeen, Legan

# Roads and Transportation

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## Community Involvement Schemes

Six approved schemes were completed under the Community Involvement Scheme in 2025. All schemes were in the Granard Municipal District. The schemes included a mix of sightline improvements at junctions, drainage works and new footpath construction. The works were completed in conjunction with local community groups.

## Drainage

Drainage works to the value of €731,968 were carried out at various locations throughout the county.

## Phase Two: National Speed Limit Review

Following a direction from the Department of Transport LCC have commenced Phase two of the National Speed Limit Review.

Phase one was the review of speed limits on rural local roads where the national default speed limit of 60km/hr was introduced and Longford County Council introduced special speed limit byelaws in relation to some rural roads.

Phase two is a review of urban and built-up areas. (all the towns and villages in County Longford). As part of this review consideration will be given to the following;

- Introduction of 30km/hr speed limits in urban / built-up areas.
- Introduction of 30km/hr speed limits at schools in urban / built-up areas.

In November 2025, notification was sent to An Gardai Siochana, adjoining Local Authorities, Longford County Council Elected Members and Longford County Council District Engineers of the proposed speed limit review of speed limits on roads in urban/built-up areas advising them that the review was commencing and inviting submissions.

The key dates in this review are 30 October 2026 which is the date that it is expected the new byelaws will be adopted and 31 March 2027 when the special speed limits will be enacted nationally.

# Roads and Transportation

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## Parking Fines

Longford County Council issued 600 parking fines, also called fixed charge offence notices, in 2025. These fines help to tackle careless or illegal parking. There were also 209 fines issued for not displaying a of tax disc.

Offence	Fines Issued 2025				Total fines 2025
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	
Parking Fines	122	87	98	105	<b>412</b>
Non-Display of Tax	76	55	34	44	<b>209</b>
Breach of Parking Regulations 1997	36	22	54	76	<b>188</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>234</b>	<b>164</b>	<b>186</b>	<b>225</b>	<b>809</b>

## Parking Permits

The Council issued 74 quarterly permits for off-street car parks, 86 resident permits, six over-65s permits and 402 Council employee carpark permits.

## Paid Parking

As part of Longford County Council Strategic Business Plan 2025-2029 an increase in paid parking charges were implemented from 1 September 2025. The installation of 10 new dual Pay and Display machines in Longford Town in 2025 provided the public with the option of paying with cash or card.

## Road Opening Licenses

A map road opening licensing system for works by statutory organisations and others through this system is operated by the Council. This supports the improvement of service infrastructure and the rollout of broadband in the county.

# Roads and Transportation

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## Public Lighting

Of the 6,090 public lights taken-in-charge by the Council, 5,195 are now upgraded to more energy-efficient LEDs (85% now LED's). The Council will continue upgrading public lighting to LEDs in 2026.

## Road Safety

Longford County Council's Road Safety Team coordinated and attended a number of events over the year to promote road safety including the following:

- Longford Microsoft Dream Space showcase, targeting in excess of 400 primary school children
- Longford Community Safety and Wellbeing Expo targeting in excess of 700 TY students
- Motorcycle safety radio and social media campaign over October bank holiday weekend
- In collaboration with local GAA clubs and An Garda Síochána Longford County Council launched GAA campaign promoting road safety targeting 18–35-year-olds
- Colour competitions for Bike Week
- Walking/running events throughout the county

## Road Safety Plan

Longford County Council is dedicated to promoting road safety. A Road Safety Working Together Group (RSWTG) has been established in County Longford to coordinate road safety activities. It was designed to ensure a collaborate and consistent approach to improve road safety.

In 2023 representative members of the committee from Longford County Council, An Garda Síochána, TII, RSA and the HSE prepared and adopted a new Local Road Safety Action Plan to cover the period 2022-2024 in line with the Government Road Safety Strategy 2021-2030.

# Roads and Transportation

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A review of the 2024 actions contained in the Local Road Safety Plan 2022-2024 was conducted by the Road Safety Working Together Group and published on the Longford County Council website in January 2025.

## Road Safety Action Plan 2025-2027

Phase two of the Longford County Council Road Safety Action Plan 2025-2027 was prepared in consultation with the Road Safety Working Together Group. This plan aligns with the objectives of Ireland's National Road Safety Strategy 2021-2030 and outlines targeted actions for implementation at national and local level. In September, the Physical Development Strategic Policy Committee recommended the plan for consideration and adoption by the Corporate Policy Group (CPG) and the full council. In November the CPG considered and approved the plan for consideration and adoption by the full council. At the council meeting which followed the plan was unanimously adopted by the elected members. The adoption of this plan represents Longford County Council's leadership in promoting safer roads, responsible road use and sustainable transport systems within the county.



Launch of the Road Safety Action Plan 2025-2027

# Environment and Climate Action

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## Executive Summary

2025 marked a significant year for environmental governance in County Longford, with the Environment and Climate Action function consolidating its role as a core corporate service supporting regulatory compliance, climate transition, community resilience, and quality of life.

The section brings together activity across waste and litter management, water quality protection, air quality monitoring, biodiversity and nature actions, climate action and community initiatives, enforcement and compliance, public engagement, and dog control.

Highlights include progress on illegal dumping deterrence and clean-ups, successful prosecutions assisted by CCTV, targeted farm and septic tank inspections in high-risk water catchments, the adoption and high-profile launch of the County Longford's Biodiversity Action Plan 2025–2030, expansion of EV charging, household hazardous waste collection, and continued support to TidyTowns and community groups.

The section handled a significant environmental complaint workload and sustained public-facing campaigns on responsible dog ownership, anti-littering, and seasonal safety messaging, while advancing strategic energy and decarbonisation projects.

### Key Metrics:

- Total Complaints: 1,635 (Litter and Waste 1,546; Air, six; Water 67; Noise nine; Other seven).
- Rural Water Programme Grants: seven private well grants (€31,134.14) and three Group Water Scheme (GWS) subsidy grants (€19,977).
- Domestic Wastewater Treatment Systems (DWWTS): 11 inspections performed (55% first time pass rate) with three grants issued totalling €23,256.
- Farm inspections: 78 completed, with 26 in 'Areas for Action' (four cross-reported).
- Dog Control: 110 dogs in care.

# Environment and Climate Action

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- Ambient Air Monitoring: €45,000 funding supporting PM2.5 monitoring/mitigation, diffusion tubes (NO2/SO2), and planting of 40 London plane trees.
- Community Climate Action Fund: €328,000 to 14 projects (Strand 1) and €61,100 (Strand 1A – Shared Island).
- EV infrastructure: two additional 22 kW public chargers commissioned in Granard and six fleet chargers under construction at Longford County Council Dog Pound site.
- Anti-Dumping Initiative (ADI) projects: Including CCTV deployments (€39,526.05) and removal of 10.6 tonnes of illegally dumped waste (€10,401.14).
- Regional Household Hazardous Waste collection in Longford Town: Over 400 households participating.

## Waste and Litter Management

In 2025, the Litter and Waste Team took significant steps to address dumping in County Longford. The team investigated a total of 1,546 litter and waste complaints, demonstrating a strong commitment to protecting the environment and maintaining public amenity.

As a result of these investigations, 123 litter fines were issued, generating income of €13,714, plus legal costs. Failure by individuals to pay fines, resulted in the initiation of 15 prosecutions under the Litter Pollution Act.

A further 113 enforcement actions were initiated with 85 warning letters and 28 statutory notices issued under the Waste Management Act and Litter Pollution Act.

Illegal dumping remained a priority throughout 2025. The section deployed a multi-pronged approach combining prevention, enforcement, education, and clean-up. This included CCTV installation at identified black spots and the implementation of Anti-Dumping Initiatives (ADI). The first prosecutions relying on CCTV evidence were brought to the District Court in May 2025 with successful outcomes in all three cases.

# Environment and Climate Action

Improved accessibility and inclusion facilities were advanced through provision of County Longford's first accessible bring banks, with low-level posting ports for glass and cans at three locations.

The section also continued to support National Spring Clean and delivered local anti-litter campaigns with TidyTowns partners and the promotion of responsible dog ownership.



# Environment and Climate Action

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## Enforcement and Compliance

Environment enforcement remained a core governance priority. The section processed over 1,600 environmental complaints during the year, reflecting both a high level of public engagement and a strong operational response capacity.

The section operated fully within the Recommended Minimum Criteria for Environmental Inspections (RMCEI) framework. Complaint handling continued at scale across waste, water, air, and noise. The team applied the 'Polluter Pays Principle (PPP)' in decision-making and pursued legal proceedings where warranted.

Recording technology introduced under the Circular Economy and Miscellaneous Provisions Act 2022 enabled more effective evidence gathering and contributed to successful legal outcomes in litter and waste prosecutions.

Several significant enforcement actions were progressed under the Waste Management Act and Litter Pollution Act, including statutory notices, prosecutions, and site remediation, reinforcing the Council's regulatory role and commitment to environmental standards.

This strengthened enforcement environment contributes directly to

- Improved compliance behavior
- Reduced environmental risk.
- Increased public confidence in regulatory systems.

## Water Protection and Rural Water Programme

Inspections focused on priority waterbodies identified through the Water Framework Directive (WFD) and 'Areas for Action.' In 2025, 26 of 78 planned farm inspections were completed in priority catchments (including Aughnacliffe, Legga, Black South and Edgeworthstown areas).

Four inspections led to cross-reporting to the Department of Agriculture, Food, and the Marine (DAFM) for significant non-compliances. Inspections emphasised nutrient management (especially phosphorus) and surface water pathways from farmyards to watercourses.

# Environment and Climate Action

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Oversight of Separately, Domestic Wastewater Treatment Systems (i.e., DWWTS / Septic tanks) continued in high-risk areas under the National Inspection Plan. Eleven DWWTS inspections were conducted with a 55% first-time pass rate. Advisory letters were issued for the remaining cases, with access to remediation grants as appropriate.

Small private water supplies (13) and three group water supplies were monitored, alongside river and lake sampling programmes informed by the River Basin Management Plan.

Through the Rural Water Programme in 2025, seven well grants were issued (€31,134) and three Group Water Scheme subsidy grants were paid (€19,977). Additionally, three DWWTS grants totaling €23,256 supported household system upgrades following inspections.

Knowledge Transfer (KT) and outreach to the agriculture sector remained central. Approximately 100 farmers attended evening talks across Dromard, Granard, Bunlahy, Ardagh and Kilcogy, focusing on legislation, good practice, and local water quality issues. Engagement with Teagasc staff helped align inspection expectations and information requirements.



# Environment and Climate Action

## Air Quality and Monitoring

Funding of €45,000 from the Department of Climate, Energy and Environment (DCEE) supported monitoring, mitigation, and awareness activities to address PM2.5 in Longford Town. Measures included installation of diffusion tubes for NO2 and SO2 at strategic locations over the winter, deployment planning for PM2.5 monitors at six sites, and planting of 40 London plane trees to help intercept particulate matter and improve local air quality.

Complementary communication encouraged best practices in solid-fuel use and highlighted health risks associated with particulate pollution, especially during the heating season.



## Biodiversity and Nature Initiatives

The County Longford Biodiversity Action Plan 2025–2030 was adopted by the Plenary meeting of the full Council on 10 September, and formally launched on 25 September at Edgeworthstown Library by the Minister of State with special responsibility for Nature, Heritage and Biodiversity, Christopher O’Sullivan TD.

The plan contains 59 actions across five thematic areas and was showcased through a well-attended event with partner organisations and schools.



# Environment and Climate Action



Community-facing initiatives ran throughout the year that include biodiversity talks on Ireland's insects in libraries; a first-ever Longford Biodiversity Summer School in August with field trips and hands-on learning; partnership with Sports Partnership to deliver a Mall Orchard, and an active Biodiversity Week programme with LAWPRO, Coillte and local farmers.

Partnership with the Irish Prison Service (IPS) delivered the construction of 50 bird and bat boxes distributed to national schools across the county, alongside the rollout of bird-watching backpacks through Longford Libraries.

**FREE POLLINATOR WORKSHOP**

Learn how to plant for pollinators & protect biodiversity.  
Hosted by Aoife Munn.  
Register via link in description

 Friday, 22 August 2025

 Longford County Council, Great Water Street N39 NH56 Longford

 An Chomhairle Oidhreachta  
The Heritage Council

 AN LONGFORT  
COUNCIL

# Environment and Climate Action

## Climate Action and Community Projects

Under the Community Climate Action Fund, grants of €328,000 were approved for 14 community groups (Strand 1) with a further €61,100 awarded under Strand 1a (Shared Island). Projects are progressing on an 18-month delivery window.

EV charging capacity expanded with two additional public 22 kW chargers were commissioned in Granard, a regional EV strategy is being developed with neighbouring counties, and construction began on six local-authority fleet chargers at the Dog Pound site.

The Environment Section EV fleet grew to three vehicles, and HVO trials commenced in selected North Longford MD vehicles.



Additional climate-related projects included securing €40,000 social funding from the Housing Finance Agency for an allotments site near the N4/N5 split, and advancing design under the Pathfinder decarbonisation project for Áras an Chontae and Camlin Court (consultants appointed Q1 2025).

# Environment and Climate Action

## Public Engagement and Education

The section maintained year-round outreach through school visits, Youthreach and agricultural demonstrations, citizen-science style river macro-invertebrate sessions, and social media campaigns.

Topics included dog rehoming, 'Bag It. Bin It.' anti-litter messages, algal bloom alerts, Not Around US, climate and biodiversity events, and consultations on draft bye-laws.



A regional household hazardous waste collection hosted at Pearse Park on 23 August drew over 400 householders, ensuring safe disposal of paints, cleaners, oils, pesticides, medicines, and batteries. Earlier in the year a local hazardous waste collection also saw strong participation.

# Environment and Climate Action

The section progressed public consultations on the Draft Litter Management Plan and Draft Cemetery Bye-Laws (4 June–4 July), including in-person sessions in local libraries with strong input from community and advocacy groups.



## Dog Control

The Dog Control Service emphasised public safety and humane outcomes. In 2025, 110 dogs came into the Council’s care: 56 were rehomed, 33 reclaimed by owners and four euthanised. The service collaborated closely with An Garda Síochána (AGS), particularly in relation to restricted breeds and public-order incidents, and relied on animal-welfare charities for placements where appropriate.

Public awareness focused on responsible ownership, sheep-worrying risks, and rehoming opportunities. XL regulations requiring Certificates of Exemption from 1 February 2025 were communicated to owners to ensure compliance.

## TidyTowns and Community Support

Support to TidyTowns groups continued through practical engagement and the IPB Master TidyTowns Insurance Policy, with 18 groups included and further groups being assisted toward inclusion. An engagement event on 1 March drew 16 local groups and featured expert input on adjudication and dereliction challenges.

# Environment and Climate Action

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The section congratulated local award-winners at the National TidyTowns ceremony and will continue collaborative work in 2026. Complementary initiatives with local committees and ongoing provision of litter-picking equipment through community programmes will continue.

Cemetery management and support were maintained: essential works (approx. €104,000) across several cemeteries, and grants of €9,094 to 24 groups under the Cemetery Support Scheme to assist maintenance and presentation.

## Major Projects and Strategic Work

The 'Green Hub' initiative was launched to help hospitality businesses and secondary schools in Longford Town improve waste segregation and reduce climate impacts, providing tailored support, materials, and recognition for participating sites through to May 2026.

Draft Casual Trading Bye-Laws were prepared and progressed through the Strategic Policy Committee (SPC) and to full Council approval post public consultation, reflecting increased trading activity and the need for consistent county-wide management.

Data reporting under RMCEI and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Local Authority Performance Framework continued, alongside preparation of 2025 enforcement plans and National enforcement Priorities (NEP) progress reporting.

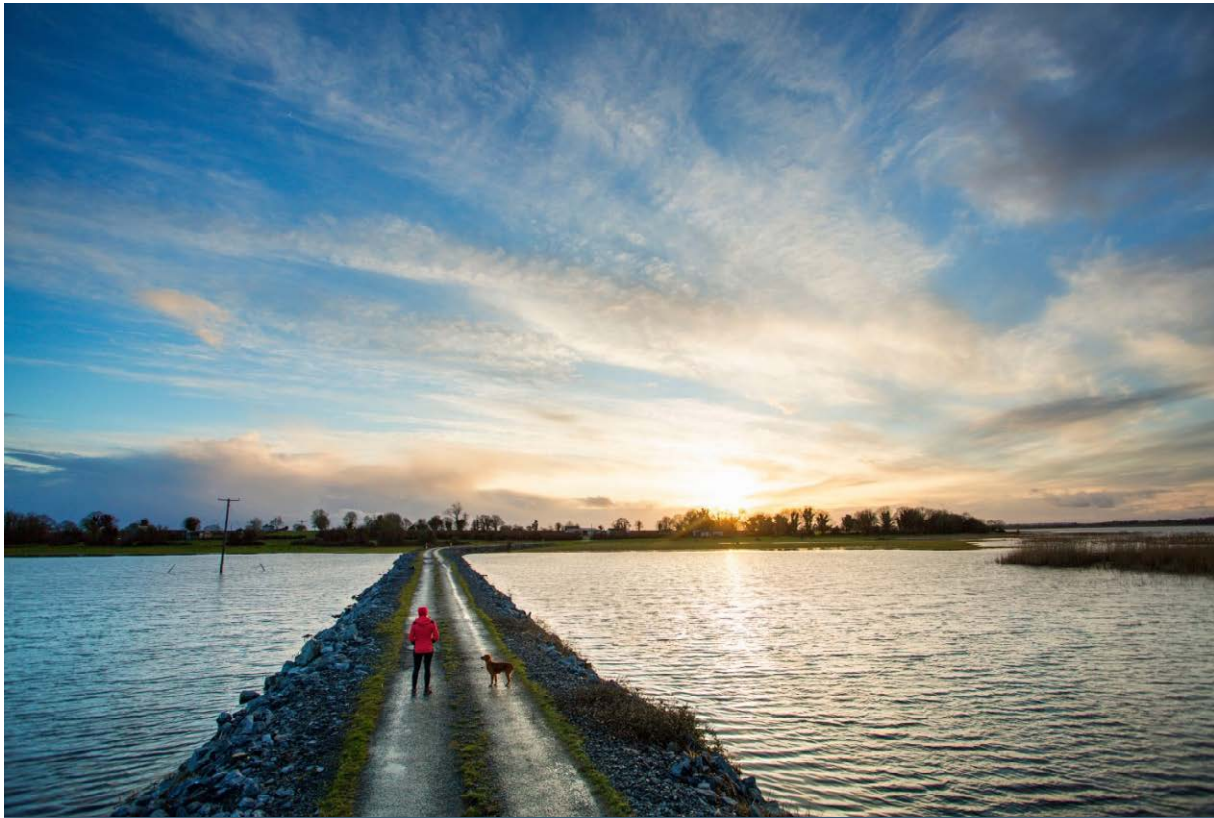
## Looking ahead to 2026

Work in 2026 will consolidate 2025 gains: continued CCTV-supported enforcement at dumping black spots, further EV infrastructure roll-out, implementation of Biodiversity Action Plan measures, delivery of funded community climate projects, and sustained focus on priority water catchments and ambient air quality.

Partnerships with communities, agencies and the voluntary sector will remain central to achieving measurable environmental outcomes.

# Development Management

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Saints Island – Newtowncashel

## Part 8 Planning

Part 8 planning applications arise when a Local Authority applies to itself for planning permission for various public projects. These works can include developments such as housing, roads, and public amenities. In 2025, ten Part 8 planning applications were processed.

## Section 5 Applications

Section 5 applications are submitted where an applicant seeks a determination as to whether a proposed development is considered exempted development. In 2025, 33 Section 5 applications were assessed by the Planning Authority, many of which related directly to the Vacant Homes Grant.

# Development Management

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## **ePlanning**

The Local Government Online Planning Portal was designed to streamline the application process for planning permission across all local authorities in Ireland. The portal is easy to use and transitions the planning process into a more environmentally friendly, user-focused system. Applicants can register their own accounts, submit documentation online with their application, and upload additional documents at a later stage if required. Users can also view previously submitted applications through their dashboard and quickly check the status of each application. Planning permission in Ireland is increasingly moving towards a paperless and environmentally sustainable system, providing applicants with 24/7 access to their planning applications.

## **Planning Applications**

Planning applications cover different types of developments including residential, employment, retail, agriculture and amenities. In 2025, 381 planning applications were received, 210 were granted, with 36 refused and 20 appeals to An Bord Pleanála.

Some of these applications included the proposed expansion of Kepak in Ballymahon, the development of a new Lidl retail store in Ballymahon, a large-scale 130-hectare solar farm at Foigha, and the expansion of Technimark's manufacturing facilities in Longford.

## **National Housing Policy**

The Planning Section works with the Housing Section to identify suitable lands for housing development under the National Housing Policy. This work includes carrying out site assessments and preparing designs for a number of sites to determine their development potential. Planning also assists in the acquisition of sites, including the preparation and implementation of Compulsory Purchase Orders.

# Development Management

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## Development Contributions

The Development Contribution Scheme 2023–2027 came into effect on 1 June 2023. Its primary objective is to generate funding for infrastructure, including land acquisition, the provision of open spaces, recreational and community facilities, roads, car parks, and footpaths. The scheme was updated in 2024 to reflect indexation, and a review of the scheme is scheduled to take place in 2026.

The Development Contributions Team continues to pursue outstanding development contributions by issuing invoices as commencement notices are lodged and by following up on existing accounts to ensure payments are kept up to date.

## Office of the Planning Regulator (OPR) Review

The Office of the Planning Regulator (OPR) undertook a review of the Planning Section, and a series of meetings and workshops were held in 2025. A report outlining the outcomes of this review will be issued by the OPR in the coming period.



**Brannigan Bridge**

# Forward Planning and Enforcement

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## **Longford Town Local Area Plan 2025-2031**

On 22 April 2025, the Elected Members of Longford Municipal District agreed by resolution to adopt the plan as presented in accordance with the recommendations of the Chief Executive Report on the Proposed Material Alterations to the draft plan.

Final proofing of the adopted Plan was completed, and the Longford Town Local Area Plan 2025-2031 came into effect on 3 June 2025.

## **County Development Plan**

The implementation of the Longford County Development Plan 2021-2027 is ongoing. No variations have been carried out to date on the Plan.

Some background research was undertaken in relation to the new County Development Plan which will be a ten-year plan prepared under the Planning and Development Act 2024.

## **NPF Implementation: Housing Growth Requirements: Guidelines for Planning Authorities**

In July 2025 guidelines were issued under Section 28 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended). As per these guidelines each Local Authority is required to review the current CDP against the requirements to develop housing in line with the new targets.

The housing targets for Longford for the period 2025 to 2034 are the same as that required in the current County Development Plan (CDP). Local Authorities are also to consider the provision of headroom of up to 50%. Local Authorities are required to vary the current CDP if additional residential zoned land is required.

# Forward Planning and Enforcement

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A Chief Executive Report on the 'NPF Implementation: Housing Growth Requirements: Guidelines for Planning Authorities' was prepared and circulated to the elected members ahead of a Corporate Policy Group meeting, where it was discussed. The report which recommended no change was further considered at the December Council meeting and agreed by resolution.

## Physical SPC Update

In February, the Physical SPC was given a presentation on the Longford Town Local Area Plan.

In October, the Physical SPC was provided with a presentation in relation to a Forward Planning Update. This covered the following topics: the NPF Implementation: Housing Growth Requirements: Guidelines for Planning Authorities; New ten-year Development Plan; extension of existing Development Plan; Hierarchy of Plans; Revision of existing RSES.

## Planning Enforcement

The Planning Enforcement Section involves investigating complaints from the public regarding unauthorised developments and non-compliance with planning conditions attached to planning permissions. In 2025, 95 new planning enforcement cases were opened, 91 warning letters were served and 44 enforcement notices were served. There were six referrals for prosecution and 63 files closed.

## Taking in Charge

Work has continued throughout 2025 with EC Gearty's to conduct the final part of the taking in charge process where 69 estates are being registered in Longford County Council's name.

# Forward Planning and Enforcement

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## **Ministerial Visit**

A visit by Minister of State for Local Government and Planning, John Cummins, took place on 24 July. As part of this visit the Minister received a presentation on the County Development Plan preparation process in the context of the National Planning Framework (preliminary work undertaken).

## **Office of the Planning Regulator (OPR) Review**

The OPR undertook a review of the Planning Section and meetings and workshops were held in 2025. A report will be issued by the OPR in the first quarter of 2026.

## **Submissions and input to other plans and strategies**

The Forward Planning Unit made submissions and/or provided input into the preparation of a number of other documents including:

- Climate and Flood Risk Planning - CCMA Planning and Land Use Committee
- National Housing Plan 2025-2030
- Midlands Enterprise Property Portfolio Project

# Fire and Emergency Services

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## Introduction

Longford Fire and Rescue Service has fire stations in Ballymahon, Edgeworthstown, Granard, Lanesboro and Longford. These stations are manned by retained fire-fighters who respond to both fire and rescue incidents.

The Fire Department also assess fire safety certificate applications, planning applications and court licence application referrals. The Fire Department was active in promoting fire safety throughout the year, bringing the fire safety message to all primary schools in the county. The fire service also participated in Dream Space and the Longford Community Safety and Wellbeing Expo.



# Fire and Emergency Services

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## **Budget**

Longford Fire Service cost €4,142,460 to operate for 2025 for both its operational response and mitigation work streams. This figure will rise in the future when the fire-fighter vacancies are filled.

## **Recruitment/Leavers**

Longford Fire Service recruited eight new retained fire-fighters in 2025 and have scheduled a recruit Fire-fighter Skills Course for January 2026. Recruitment to the fire service continues to be ongoing with seven retained fire-fighter vacancies to be filled in 2026.

Station Officer Kevin Madden left the service after 26 years with the Lanesboro unit of the brigade.

Firefighter Colm Madden left the service after 18 years with the Longford unit of the brigade.

## **Capital Funding**

The National Directorate for Fire and Emergency Management in the Department of Housing provided capital funding for the purchase of new battery-operated Road Traffic Collision extrication equipment and 60 new breathing apparatus sets. Tenders will be advertised for the procurement of these items on the e-tenders platform in Q1 2026.

HPMP coachbuilders are currently building a new class B fire engine for Longford Fire Service. It is hoped to have the new fire engine completed by early 2026.

# Fire and Emergency Services

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## Training

The Fire Fighter Training/Drill Programme was completed in accordance with the Fire Service Annual Operational Plan 2025. Crew members in each station attend 40 drill nights throughout the year.

The following training courses were attended by Longford Fire Service personnel in 2025:

- Incident Command course
- Fire Station trainer course
- Smoke Detector Installation (delivered by Ei Electronics)
- 2.5-day Rope Line Rescue refreshers
- 1-day Breathing Apparatus refreshers
- 1-day Compartment Fire Behaviour refreshers
- 2-Day Haz Mat CPC wearers course
- Module 1 NDFEM course – (Two FF's)
- Module 2 NDFEM course – (One Junior Officer)
- Breathing Apparatus Initial Wearers course – Nine recruits from Longford County Council
- Two-day Hydraulic Platform operators' refresher course
- One-day pump operators refresher course
- Three-day chainsaw refresher course
- Two-day First Responder refresher
- CAFS training course – Longford Unit
- One-day Firefighter Skills course

# Fire and Emergency Services

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## Operational and Building Control Statistics 2025

### Operational

Station Callsign	Fire Station	Personnel	Fire Service Callouts *
LD11	Longford	10	205
LD12	Granard	8	60
LD13	Ballymahon	10	72
LD14	Edgeworthstown	10	109
LD15	Lanesboro	7	50
<b>Total</b>		<b>45</b>	<b>496</b>

\*The figures refer to both first turnout and assisting fire brigade units

### Building Control

Building Control - Fire Safety Certificates	
Number of Fire Certificates processed in 2025	<b>31</b>

# Building Control

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The Building Control Management System or BCMS facilitates the electronic administration of building control matters. Owners, builders and construction professionals use the BCMS to upload building control forms, construction drawings, design and compliance documents, and statutory certificates. Building control carry out site inspections and monitor work practices and materials standards used on site.

The Building Control Department of Longford County Council processes the following:

- Commencement Notices
- Disability Access Certificate applications
- Fire Safety Certificates
- Certificates of Completion

The table below highlights the number of notices Longford County Council Building Control department issued in 2025.

<b>Building Control Notices and Certificates issued in 2025</b>	
Commencement Notices	<b>95</b>
Fire Safety Certificates	<b>31</b>
Disability Access Certificates	<b>31</b>
Certificates of Completion notices	<b>19</b>

# Longford Civil Defence

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Civil Defence is a voluntary based organisation that supports the principal response agencies, An Garda Síochána, The Health Service Executive and the Local Authority, alongside Government departments and state agencies to assist with the national, regional and local emergency and non-emergency events. The five core services as set out in the 'Towards 2030' policy is, Emergency Response, Search and Rescue, Medical response, Community assistance and radiation monitoring.

Volunteers are recruited and trained locally and attend the Civil Defence college in Roscrea for more advanced training. Training is provided in First Aid up to emergency medical technician level and in areas such as manual and people handling, communications, missing person search, severe weather driving, child protection and radiation monitoring and critical incident stress management.

Civil Defence supports Principal Response Agencies in dealing with emergency situations such as severe weather events, major emergencies, and displaced persons. Civil Defence also supports locally held community events and assists other counties, where required. There are currently 28 volunteers in Longford Civil Defence.

## Activities

Longford Civil Defence completed 101 duties and taskings in 2025.

These involved:

- 19 local authority events
- 23 sporting events
- 44 community events
- Nine welfare events
- One emergency taskings – Storm Eowyn

Duties and taskings included medical and first aid cover to various events such as, Longford Lights, Longford Town FC, Longford GAA, Darkness into Light, Longford Marathon, Cycle events, 5 and 10k races, Community games, Dead of Night Festival, Civil Receptions, Agricultural shows, Dream Space, Pony Shows, vintage shows and tractor runs.

# Longford Civil Defence

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Welfare taskings included provision of administration and canteen assistance to Irish Blood Transfusion service Longford clinic.

During Storm Eowyn, Longford Civil Defence volunteers assisted the community for a period of three weeks. Volunteers provided welfare checks and delivered fresh water and supplies.

Longford Civil Defence took part in the annual radiation exercise as part of a national Civil Defence exercise. Volunteers took soil, grass and air samples and transported them to the Environmental Protection Agency for analysis. The TETRA communication network was also tested on the day.

A National Evacuation exercise took place in Roscommon. Volunteers were involved in setting up a rest centre in case of local emergency. This ensured volunteers were knowledgeable of equipment and the new policy documents. Longford County Council staff attended this exercise.



# Longford Civil Defence

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## Training

Training provided to volunteers in 2025 included:

- Cardiac First Responder
- First Aid Responder
- Manual and people handling
- Missing person search
- Food safety level 2
- Critical incident stress management peer-to-peer mentor
- Mandatory training for new recruits
- Recertification training for instructors
- Severe weather driving
- Multi disciplined weekly training.

Volunteers also attended a missing person search seminar and emergency medical technicians attended continuous professional development training days.

## Vehicle fleet

Dormant account funding of €35,000 was received following an application to Department of Defence, Civil Defence branch. This enabled the unit to upgrade a vehicle and a new Maxus van was purchased. Statutory inspections were carried out on all vehicles.

## Policy and Operations

Civil Defence is 70% funded by the Department of Defence and 30% by the Local Authority. Grant funding from the Department of Defence in 2025 was €110,500. The total expenditure, including grant funding, incurred by Longford County Council in relation to the Civil Defence section was €182,061.

Statutory inspections of equipment took place, and the unity was included in an internal audit.

# Longford Civil Defence

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The unit moved from their current premises to a rented warehouse. This will store fleet and equipment and holds a training room and canteen for volunteers. The Department of Defence provided €9,400 in grant aid to assist with the move.

There were some updated policies from the Civil Defence branch.

- Welfare policy, which included evacuation centre and standard operating guidelines
- Induction presentation
- Volunteer charter

Five volunteers attended a ceremony held in Áras an Uachtaráin, held by former President Michael D Higgins in commemoration of Civil Defence 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. The unit then attended an event held in Maynooth university. Commemoration medals were awarded to all members of Civil Defence.

A presentation evening was held in November. Five volunteers were awarded 10-year service medals and probationary volunteers received their volunteer stripes. Certificates of training achievements were presented on the night.





# Appendices

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# Appendix 1: Ballymahon Municipal District

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## Notices of Motion discussed by Members were:

- That Longford County Council seek a low-cost safety scheme on the R393 at the Drumbawn Junction Ardagh, County Longford. This is a dangerous junction where a number of crashes have occurred and the siteline needs to be improved on the Carrickboy side.
- That Longford County Council include the road from Ardagh NS to Crossea (L-1095-0) in the salting programme in the interest of road safety.
- That Longford County Council take immediate action to identify and secure an alternative site for a children's playground in Keenagh village as the lease on the existing playground is due to expire in 2026.
- That Longford County Council carry out the necessary works to tighten the junction that leads to Lanesboro Primary School, and to provide a Pedestrian Crossing to ensure the safety of school children and other pedestrians.
- That Longford County Council assess the possibility of providing a footpath on the R392 from Peter Hanley Motors in Terlicken to the entrance of the Royal Canal Greenway and to include the project in the next round of funding under the Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme.
- That Longford County Council consider the provision of a walkway/cycle path on the L1173-0 (old N4, C&D) and the L5163-0 to avoid people having to use the N4 in the interest of road safety.
- That Irish Water conducts an immediate review on the water power and capacity on the approach roads to Ballymahon that feed the industrial units that are just outside the town. As the recent fire at the agricultural stores on the Lanesboro side has shown, there must be a sufficient supply of water in the event of a fire emergency .
- That Longford County Council develop the Town Park in Lanesboro for residents and tourists and also improve access to the Shannon for swimmers / triathlon, canoe/kayak and fishing.
- That Longford County Council investigate the possibility of installing a cycle lane on the old Dublin Road, Edgeworthstown to facilitate the large volume of people who work and live on the road.
- That Longford County Council seek funding to upgrade and improve the public realm and streetscape outside The Maria Edgeworth Literary Centre which is the county's only museum.

# Appendix 1: Ballymahon Municipal District

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- A pedestrian crossing be installed at Church St, Edgeworthstown at the Main Street junction in the interest of public safety.
- That Longford County Council consider under the Active Travel Scheme the provision of a footpath / cycle path from the Moigh Road Junction Ballymahon to the entrance of the Royal Canal Greenway at Drinan Ballymahon.
- That Longford County Council open discussions with Bús Eireann on the possibility of providing two bus shelters at Upper Main Street Ballymahon.
- That Longford County take in charge the lane beside Bridgeways Family Resource Centre that leads to Ballymahon Soccer pitch and the local vets practice.
- That Longford County Council seek to take in charge the road from Main St, Ballymahon up to the Soccer Pitch in Ballymahon. This road is very narrow with poor sight lines onto the Main Street. This road also accesses two businesses with constant pedestrian and vehicular traffic on the road. It was requested that this road be taken in charge in the interest of public safety.
- That Longford County Council upgrade the drainage at the Ball Alley in Legan village as the current drainage system is not fit for purpose and causes regular flooding which affects the freshwater well, which is located very close to the drain and is widely used by the people of the parish.
- That Longford County Council commission a report on Forthill crossroads Newtowncashel, with a view to access and safety for transport approaching the junction. This is a dangerous crossroads where accidents repeatedly happen, and action needs to be taken before a really serious collision occurs. This is one of the main access roads to Newtowncashel, Saints' Island and Barley Harbour.
- That Longford County Council investigate the possibility of installing a raised pedestrian crossing at Lenamore NS, Legan in the interest of public safety.
- That Longford County Council examine the junction at The Moor Ardagh off the R393 road to improve the safety.
- That Longford County Council review the signage in the Ardagh village area as the signage as on the approach to the village the signs have gone into a poor condition.
- That Longford County Council progress the development of the recently acquired site in Lanesboro.

## Appendix 1: Ballymahon Municipal District

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- That Longford County Council review the signage for the Corlea Heritage Centre to create a greater awareness of its importance and location.
- That Longford County Council review traffic calming measures in Abbeyshrule in the interest of road safety.
- That Longford County Council consider erecting digital speed safety signs on the Mullingar Road R.392 before the entrance to the Creevaghbeg Housing Estate, and on the Edgeworthstown Road the N.55 where the current speed limits start from the Edgeworthstown direction.
- That Longford County Council erect safety signs regarding dangerous undulations on two roads that should be on the programme for road upgrades in 2026. Ledwithstown Ballymahon to Derrycolumb Newtowncashel and Corlea to Keenagh village.
- That Ballymahon Municipal District write to the Minister of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage and the Minister at the Department of Climate, Energy and the Environment to procure funding to facilitate the remedial works required at the disused and abandoned Piggery at Elfeet, Newtowncashel. This financial assistance is required to prevent a major environmental disaster in the area which are on the shores of Lough Ree.
- That Longford County Council have the grass area on the heritage centre side of Ardagh enhanced to become a more attractive approach to this heritage village.
- That Longford County Council review the drainage and water flow on the R393 between Ballycloughan and Drumming Ardagh as this section of road is very prone to flooding during wet weather and presents a major risk of Aquaplaning and causing a crash.
- That Longford County Council put in a speed ramp in Sli Na Moinear in Moydow.
- That Longford County Council place a bus shelter at McGiff's crossroads.
- That Longford County Council carry out works to alleviate the flooding issue at the Factory in Abbeyshrule.

# Appendix 1: Ballymahon Municipal District

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## Items highlighted and discussed by Members were:

- Schedule of Ballymahon Municipal District Works
- Consideration of Part 8 – No. 123 A new housing development of 22 houses with associated services, access roads and car parking at the proposed greenfield site, including boundary walls/fences, car parking, pedestrian entrances, landscaping, connection to existing services and associated works, Radharc Na Muileann, Knock, Lanesborough, County Longford
- Consideration of Part 8 Part VIII No 128 Pedestrian and Cycle Improvement Scheme on the R 392 (Ballymahon)
- Declaring the road from R392 Main Street Ballymahon to Tara Park Soccer Grounds (Tara Park Access Lane) to be a public road
- Presentation from Matt Farrell on Maria Edgeworth Visitor Centre

## Estates Taken in Charge were:

There were no estates taken in charge in Ballymahon MD in 2025

## Roads Taken in Charge were:

There was one road taken in charge in Ballymahon MD in 2025. Tara Lane Ballymahon County Longford L-11284-3

## Bye-Laws Adopted:

There were no bye-laws adopted in Ballymahon MD in 2025.

# Appendix 1: Ballymahon Municipal District

## Ballymahon Municipal District Road Works Programme 2025

The Ballymahon Municipal District has responsibility for the maintenance and repair of 70km of Regional Road, 519km of Local Road 46km of National Road. The below Road Works Programme 2025 was approved by the Municipal District.

### TII Grant

#### Pavement Schemes

- N55 Royal Canal Way (at Fowlard’s Bridge): reconstruction of failed embankment. Scheme complete. Tender Sum – €856,141. Final account to be agreed in 2026.

#### HD28 Schemes

- N55 Fowlard’s Bridge to Kilcurry: €300,000 Scheme Complete
- N55 Edgeworthstown from N4 to Jn at Quinn: €250,000 Scheme Complete
- TII Ordinary Maintenance Defects Allocation (Category A) funding for 2025 was used on the following schemes:
  - N55 Mart to Antley

### Restoration Improvement Grant

Ballymahon Regional Road	<b>€469,496</b>
Ballymahon Local Road	<b>€1,656,394</b>

### Restoration Maintenance Grant and Supplementary Restoration Maintenance Grant

Ballymahon Regional Road	<b>€91,260</b>
Ballymahon Local Road	<b>€409,402</b>

# Appendix 1: Ballymahon Municipal District

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## Discretionary Grant

<b>Local Road Maintenance</b>	
Includes patching, repair, drainage, verge trimming, culverts road markings	<b>€252,348</b>
<b>Regional Road Maintenance</b>	
Includes patching, repair, drainage, verge trimming, culverts road markings	<b>€112,908</b>
Low-Cost Safety Scheme	<b>€50,000</b>
Bridge Rehabilitation Grant	<b>€113,220</b>
Specific Improvement Grant	<b>€200,000</b>
Drainage Grant Allocation	<b>€99,666</b>
Climate Adaption Allocation	<b>€69,000</b>

# Appendix 2: Granard Municipal District

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## Notices of Motion discussed by Members

- Proposed three-year footpath plan, similar to the three-year road plan
- Consideration of additional roads on the Winter Maintenance Plan
- Installation of Road Safety barriers at Gaigue, Ballinamuck and in Monaduff, Drumlish
- Speed ramps both sides of the Community Centre and St. Mary's National School in Drumlish where the same issue exists
- Development of a dog park (off the leash) in a green space in conjunction with the walkway in Granard
- Cleaning of all signage in Granard Municipal District
- Safe Routes to Schools Project
- Implementation of a raised pedestrian crossing and junction tightening and traffic calming measures in village of Aughnacliffe
- Installation of LED Street lighting in Kellegher Court Estate in Drumlish. Part of this estate is not serviced with public lighting.
- Off street parking in Granard
- Construction of a footpath and installation of public lighting from the Glasseen estate, Drumlish on the L-1009 to connect with the existing footpath to the village of Drumlish on the R198
- Request to write to Transport for Ireland (TFI) Local link for Longford and the National Transport Authority (NTA) to request additional services on routes
- Explore options to maintain the Ballinalee walkway
- Traffic calming measures in the village of Ennybegs, Killoe, alongside Killoe Development Group
- Extra traffic calming measures in the village of Ballinalee from the school to the village and also at the traffic lights
- Explore the possibility of and seek funding for constructing a public walkway from the village of Ballinamuck to the 98 Bar/Johnny's Cottage
- Low-Cost Safety Schemes at Esker, Killoe, Gelsha junction
- Improve sightlines and widening of junction at Corinahga
- Provision of bottle banks at the new car park in Derrycasin woods/ Mullinalaghta
- Works in Granard Cemetery

# Appendix 2: Granard Municipal District

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## Part VIII approved

- No. 127 – walking trail – cycle path at Legga, Moyne
- No. 125 – Cnoc na Gréine

## Presentations to the Elected Members

Lus na Gréine – Family Resource Centre

## Estates Taken in Charge

There were no estates taken in charge in Granard MD in 2025.

## Roads Taken in Charge

There were no roads taken in charge in Granard MD in 2025.

## Bye-Laws Adopted

No bye-laws were adopted in Granard MD in 2025.

## Granard Municipal District Road Works Programme 2025

The Granard Municipal District has responsibility for the maintenance and repair of 59km of Regional Road, 636km of Local Road and 13km of National Road. The below Road Works Programme 2024 was approved by the Municipal District.

## Appendix 2: Granard Municipal District

### Department of Transport (DoT) Grants

#### Restoration Improvement Grant (Extra funding approved during 2025 by DoT)

Granard Regional Road	<b>€476,970.5</b>	Final outturn was	<b>€402,445</b>
Granard Local Road	<b>€1,835,778.5</b>	Final outturn was	<b>€1,926,053</b>

#### Restoration Maintenance Grant (now includes Supplementary)

Granard Regional Road	<b>€131,658</b>	Final outturn was	<b>€128651.1</b>
Granard Local Road	<b>€400,058</b>	Final outturn was	<b>€392,144</b>

#### DoT Discretionary Grant:

##### Local Road Maintenance

This includes patching, repair, drainage, verge trimming, culverts road markings	<b>€285,552</b>
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##### Regional Road Maintenance

This includes patching, repair, drainage, verge trimming, culverts road markings	<b>€84,681</b>
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Low-Cost Safety Scheme	<b>€100,400</b>
Bridge Rehabilitation Grant (Managed by Road Design Section)	<b>€304,500</b>

Drainage Grant Allocation	<b>€99,666</b>
Climate Adaption Allocation	<b>€130,000</b>
Own Resources Funding	
Patch and Repair	<b>€265,720</b>
Bridges (Small works)	<b>€10,000</b>

# Appendix 3: Longford Municipal District

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## Notices of Motion discussed by Members

- To include the road from Melview cross to Kiernan's Forge cross on the salting programme with immediate effect
- To commence the first year of the multiple year footpath rehabilitation programme with the funds from parking fees and fines
- On the N63 – Possibility of removing bollards and installing a left turn filter lane from Longford Town side after the Railway Bridge into the Farneyhoogan area, which accommodates a large housing estate, numerous industrial units, retail units and office buildings
- To clear/cut back the roundabout at McDonald's to enable better traffic sightlines on entrances
- That a programme for the replacement of windows and doors is drawn up for the Local Authority Houses in the St Emer's Estate, Ballinalee Road
- To take steps to address the longstanding dereliction of the former LEVI factory site by engaging with the property owners or, where necessary, initiating a Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO), with a view to facilitating future housing development at this strategically located site
- To take immediate action to address the following issues. The increasing presence of groups of youngsters who are intimidating local business owners, residents, and visitors in our town centre. Potential measures could include increasing Gardai patrols in the town centre during peak hours, implementing and engaging more with community outreach programs aimed at engaging youth in positive activities, and collaborating with local schools and organisations to address the underlying causes of such behaviour. Other towns and counties have introduced initiatives such as Gym Justice (Antrim), more comprehensive CCTV cover (Rathdown). Early intervention programmes (Ballymun) and many more we could surely learn from
- To request that safety and traffic calming measures be implemented outside Mean Scoil Mhuire on Convent Road in Longford Town. Hundreds of students from all around the county attend this school. There are serious concerns for the safety of these students as they cross the road to access different parts of the campus. The recent tragic incident on this road, which resulted in the loss of a life, highlights the urgent need for improved safety measures. It was

## Appendix 3: Longford Municipal District

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requested that measures such as speed bumps, pedestrian crossings, or other traffic calming devices be considered as these measures would significantly enhance the safety of the students and the wider community

- To erect two digital speed warning signs at Stonepark, one for each direction at St Anne's Church of Ireland and c 300m the Longford side of Stonepark NS. It has been proven that speeding is endemic on this stretch of road as witnessed at a Children's Court held last year in Stonepark NS supported by the LCSP
- To undertake improvement works to upgrade the lighting and pedestrian crossing poles at the crossing located in Market Square, Longford Town, in the interest of pedestrian safety and improved visibility
- To provide an update on when the special needs playground on Park Road will open
- To provide an update on the Providers building
- To take immediate steps to install toilet facilities, benches, and litter bins at the new Special Needs Playground to ensure it is fully accessible, inclusive, and user-friendly for all families and carers using the space. Furthermore, that Longford County Council include a temporary car parking measures to support access and usability during ongoing development works
- That the urgent replacement of windows and doors at properties in St Emer's Estate is fast tracked before Winter as many windows cannot be properly closed and are in danger of falling out
- To turn the lights of the building blue and pink as a remark of respect for International Baby Loss Awareness Day on 15 October at 7:00 PM. The memorial will be held in the memorial garden opposite the Council buildings.
- To undertake a comprehensive programme of emptying and cleaning all roadside gulleys, drains, and water traps within the Municipal District area. This work is required to ensure effective drainage, reduce the risk of localised flooding, and maintain safe road conditions, particularly in advance of the winter period
- Furthermore, that the Council provide members with a schedule for this maintenance programme, and that a report of works completed be circulated to the Municipal District to ensure accountability and ongoing monitoring

## Appendix 3: Longford Municipal District

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- To introduce vehicle clamping or other strong enforcement measures in Longford Town to address the ongoing issue of illegal parking, in particular vehicles parking unlawfully in disabled bays, loading bays, and the taxi rank at Market Square
- To relocate to a suitable area, the existing MUGA games area in the Albert Reynolds Peace Park currently used for Petanque (Boules), during the forthcoming works, to another suitable place within the park
- To carry out a survey of the back lanes in Teffia Park with a view to improvements bringing them to an agreed standard with the residents
- To urgently establish a Local Community Safety Taskforce, led by the Garda Superintendent in collaboration with Council services and the Clonbalt Woods Residents Association, to address repeated criminal and arson incidents in the estate. The Taskforce should develop an action plan to restore safety and support residents, with progress reported to the next Longford Municipal District meeting
- To clear out all gullies and drains in Clonbalt Woods Estate. The residents are experiencing great difficulty with flooding on roads throughout the estate due to blocked drains and gullies

### Items highlighted and discussed by Members

- Town Twinning visit to Longford and installation of Fraternity Statue in the Dog Track, unveiling on 10 April 2025
- Successful Town Twinning visit on 18 June to Noyal Chatillon -sur -Seiche which included a trip to war memorial, Mont St Michel in Normandy, Melview NS twin school, École St Amand, a trip to city of Rennes and concluded with a launch of the local Photograph Competition followed by an excellent meal at the restaurant Le Castel
- Longford Town Local Area Plan 2025-2031 which came into effect on 3 June 2025
- Proposed paid parking charges
- Proposed new playground in the Mall
- Proposed new Orchard in the Mall

# Appendix 3: Longford Municipal District

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## Estates Taken in Charge

None.

## Roads Taken in Charge

None.

## Part 8's approved

- No. 124 - Recreational Development of the estate green at Palace Crescent, Ardnacassa, Longford Town, County Longford
- No. 129 - Re-development of the former Officers Building, Abbeycarton, Longford, County Longford, to a multi-purpose community facility, a protected structure, situated within the grounds of Sean Connolly Barracks
- No. 132 - Proposed storm water management system to facilitate re-development of the former Officers Building, Abbeycarton, Longford
- No. 133 - Re-development of the former Longford Post Office, Main Street, Longford, County Longford, to a multi-purpose tourism and community/energy hub, a Protected Structure (RPS: 458)
- No. 134 – Canal Walk, Park Road, Longford Town, County Longford
- No. 135 – The redevelopment of the Longford Greyhound Stadium into a new Community Amenity and Sports Facility (Longford Peoples Park). Development Site located at Townsparks, Longford Town

## Byelaws Adopted

- Cemeteries Byelaws 2025 adopted

## Appendix 3: Longford Municipal District

### Longford Municipal District Schedule of Road Works 2025

<b>Restoration Improvement Grant</b>	
Longford Regional Road	€365,963
Longford Local Road	€653,180
<b>Restoration Maintenance Grant</b>	
Longford Regional Road	€20,100
Longford Local Road	€ 110,000
<b>Supplementary Restoration Maintenance Grant</b>	
Longford Regional Road	€20,243
Longford Local Road	€84,099

#### Discretionary Grant:

<b>Local Road Maintenance</b>	
includes patching, repair, drainage, verge trimming, culverts road markings	€128,174
<b>Regional Road Maintenance</b>	
includes patching, repair, drainage, verge trimming, culverts road markings	€37,636
Low-Cost Safety Scheme	€117,394
Bridge Rehabilitation Grant	€26,031.23
Specific Improvement Grant	€ None
Drainage Grant Allocation	€ 97,176

# Appendix 4: Town Twinning Report

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Town Twinning is a long-term partnership to help to foster a spirit of cooperation between County Longford and various countries, cities, communities and schools. Longford County Council endeavours to support and encourage this partnership, through which many cultural, educational, business, and technical exchanges take place.

County Longford Town Twinning arrangements include:

- Ballinamuck and Essert, France
- Longford Town and Noyal-Châtillon sur Seiche, Brittany France
- Ballymahon and Landévant, France
- Granard town and East Rouen in Normandy, France

## **Ballinamuck and Essert, France**

Preparation for the twinning is an all-year-round process with fundraising events like a quiz night in March, bag-packing in May and fortnightly (now weekly) selling of lotto in conjunction with Fr. Manning Gaels. It also involves meetings with the parents as well as regular communication with the group in Essert and preparatory meetings with the Irish children to plan activities. The review of previous years always brings changes to the itinerary of events. This year the theme was Digital Censorship.

The group of children from Essert arrived on Wednesday, 23 July 2025 and were met by host families. They enjoyed some tea/scones, and an outline of the upcoming week was explained before they returned home to host families to relax for the evening.

On Thursday, the group met in Ballinamuck and using the recently constructed pathway they walked to Monaduff to the Fr. Manning Gaels football grounds. They played GAA games assisted by the FMG/ St. Helen's players which was enjoyed by everyone, and they also enjoyed lunch. They continued walking to Drumlish on the pathway to take part in other sports in Drumlish Community Centre. In the afternoon they availed of Warton's public transport to Longford for some shopping and got the return bus back to Ballinamuck in the evening.

## Appendix 4: Town Twinning Report

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Friday, 25 July was a day of youth centred activities in The Attic, Longford. This was facilitated by staff of The Attic as well as leaders from the twinning group and it gave the group an opportunity to practice digital skills including 3D printing. The French adults arrived at Ballinamuck on Friday afternoon and were collected by their host families and spent a relaxing evening.

On Saturday, the group of children/ leaders travelled to Shannon Adventure Centre, Rooskey for a full day of adventure activities and overnight camping. Here they got an opportunity to take part in water activities, set up tents, light fires and cook marshmallows on open fire and returned on Sunday morning for a well-earned rest before the afternoon activities began. On Saturday, the adults had an early start with a group of 20 people including French and Irish who travelled with Donnelly's Bus, driven by Seamus, to Belfast to visit the Titanic Museum. When they arrived, they had tea/scones in the Titanic Quarter followed by a three-hour tour around the three-storey museum. They then travelled to the city centre where they enjoyed some shopping and admired the activities and colour of the gay Pride march. On the way back they enjoyed a meal in the Hillgrove Hotel in Monaghan.

The traditional Treasure Hunt was revamped on Sunday to a photo rally where adults / children divided into teams and walked around the village and historic sights gathering clues, taking photos and trying to get back first to win the prize. This was a very exhausting but enjoyable activity which educated everyone about the history of Ballinamuck and it is always included in the Twinning list of activities. This was followed by a barbeque with Irish music in The 98 pub where the video of the 225 Commemoration complete with French subtitles was screened.

The much-anticipated beach day at Bundoran on Monday was enjoyed by all the children while the adults sampled the tourist delights of Longford and what turned out to be the highlight of the trip. They collected bikes in Ballymahon Greenway Cycles and drove along the canal to Cloughan Farm where Fiona Egan welcomed the group with some tea/scones. They had an opportunity to make some scones/ brown bread and toured the farm, polytunnels and fed lambs before having a delicious lunch. In the evening, they called to Torc chocolate where they took part in a chocolate making and eating activity. Later that evening Longford County Council hosted a Civic Reception in the 98-hall attended by local councillors,

## Appendix 4: Town Twinning Report

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CEO and staff of Longford County Council, French visitors, host families, locals and twinning committee. Some entertainment was supplied by local dancers and musicians.

On Tuesday, the children again got public transport to The Attic to finish a short video of the week's events. On Tuesday, the adults travelled to the Cavan Museum and saw the display of World War 2 material and the recreation of trenches and then onto Ballyjamesduff where the group of French/Irish took part in a needle felt class and afternoon tea.

Tuesday evening was the last night for both adults and children and they finished up with a traditional bring a bowl. There was plenty of food for everyone and the results of the much-anticipated Photo Rally were announced. The children also got an opportunity to speak publicly about the week.

Plans are in place for a group of children and adults from Ballinamuck to travel to Essert in July 2026.



## Appendix 4: Town Twinning Report

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### **Longford Town and Noyal-Châtillon sur Seiche, Brittany France**

2025 was a busy year for the Twinning celebrations. In April, a small delegation was hosted from Noyal who gifted a Fraternity Statue celebrating the Twinning by the artist Maxim Libiot with a copy of the same statue unveiled in Noyal in June 2023. Maxim arrived on Wednesday 9 April with his family from Brittany along with the statue. Thanks is extended to hosts Donagh and Jane McDonnell. With the help of Longford County Council outdoor staff, the statue was erected that evening in the People's Park, Park Road adjacent to the skatepark with Mayor Sébastien Guéret, Deputy Mayor Annie Coent and Noyal Twinning organiser André Guyomard in attendance. Guests were hosted by the Igoe family.

The following morning, an official visit to Melview NS took place with a view to school twinning hosted by the headmaster Mr Bryan Kennedy. Later that afternoon the official unveiling of the statue took place in beautiful sunshine. Visitors and host families then enjoyed an evening in the Midtown Restaurant. Guests were driven to Dublin Airport on Friday 11 and the Libiot family departed Clondra on Saturday, 12 April for the Brittany Ferry in Cork.

On Wednesday, 18 June a group of 12 Longfordians travelled to Noyal arriving at the very convenient St Jacques airport in Rennes. The group included three musicians namely Thomas Igoe, Eamon O 'Ceallaigh and Charlie Dunne. After meeting the wonderful host families, they enjoyed an evening reception with wine and song.

On Thursday they enjoyed a day trip to a war memorial and then onto the beautiful Mont St Michel in Normandy. On Friday morning a Twinning business meeting was held in Mayoral Offices, followed by a trip to the Melview NS twin school, École St Amand. After lunch at the local Creperie they enjoyed a day trip to the nearby City of Rennes. That night musicians participated in the local open air Music Festival to great acclaim.

On Saturday, the launch of the local Photograph Competition was followed by an excellent meal at the restaurant Le Castel with more music and song.

The group departed for Nantes Airport at noon on Sunday bringing home memories and renewed friendships.

# Appendix 4: Town Twinning Report

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In July of 2026 Longford will host Noyal friends coinciding with a music festival in Longford.

Sincere thanks was extended to Director of Services John Branigan and Lorraine McKee and especially to all the generous home hosts.



## **Ballymahon and Landévant, France**

Two main highlights of 2025 included; the visit of a group of adults from Landévant in May and a group of teenagers in October. A total of six committee meetings including an AGM and a meeting with the French Twinning Committee took place while they were in Ballymahon. At the AGM, the officers of that time were re-elected. The Community Support Grant application was completed and received funding in December.

Visitors arrived on 16 May and a welcome reception took place in Cooney's Hotel after which they settled in with their host families. Later that evening they attended the opening of an Art exhibition in Skelly's Bar where a wonderful selection of food was provided. It was an enjoyable evening of conversation and culture. The following day, the group plus hosts set off by coach to Galway. They were treated to a display of traditional Breton dancing as it was Brittany Fest in Galway at that time. After a stroll along the Corrib, they visited St Matthew's Church in the centre of the city and

## Appendix 4: Town Twinning Report

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then guests enjoyed a traditional fish and chip lunch in the famous McDonagh's. In the afternoon, the guests were free to explore the city by themselves. On return to Ballymahon, they enjoyed a delicious meal in The Rustic Inn.

On Sunday, Paddy Egan gave an excellent lecture on the history of Ballymahon in the Bog Lane theatre. This was followed by a delicious lunch and an afternoon of rousing ceili music provided by the brilliant Glenside Ceili Band. The audience were bathed in warm sunlight and treated to demonstrations of Breton dance and Irish set dancing. It was an interactive affair with each group trying out the other's dance. Further down in the garden, a boules tournament was being fiercely fought. Overall, a highly successful and enjoyable day.

On Monday, the group visited Bridgeways family Resource Centre and learned about the multiple ways that this centre helps the community. Visitors were extremely impressed with the sterling work carried out by Breege Campbell and her great team. They were able to view the garden and a woodwork class. This was followed by a visit to St Matthew's primary school. Lunch, with accompanying music was in the Daycare centre. After lunch visitors enjoyed local craftsmanship in Pat Lynch's bog oak workshop. The evening was rounded off by the official reception in Ballymahon Library. The Chairman of Ballymahon Municipal District, Cllr Pat O'Toole, welcomed visitors and emphasised the importance of the links between the two towns. Refreshments were provided by Longford County Council. A local choir provided musical entertainment in the form of traditional Irish songs and some of these songs were as Gaeilge.

On Tuesday, the group enjoyed taking part in a craft workshop in Ballymahon Library. In the evening, a summer soiree took place in Castlecor House in its famous Octagonal Room where guests enjoyed canapés while listening to classical music.

On Wednesday morning a fond farewell was bid to the visitors.

On Monday, 27 October, a group of teenagers aged between 13 and 16 arrived in Dublin where they were met by four committee members. PRO Matt Nolan, who is a registered tourist guide delivered a very entertaining two-day walking tour of Dublin which included a visit to Dublin Castle, the Chester Beatty Library

## Appendix 4: Town Twinning Report

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and the National Art Gallery. Matt was a mine of information on historic buildings and monuments like The Spire. On Wednesday, the group made their way to Ballymahon where they settled into Castlewood Adventure Park in Newcastle House. The following morning, Thursday, they enjoyed the amenities in Newcastle. In the afternoon, they had a get together with local teenagers and got to experience traditional Irish music provided by local musicians. On Friday morning they enjoyed an energetic soccer match against the locals. In the evening, they enjoyed the fantastical 'Dead of Night' Parade in Longford. The rain could not dampen the festive spirit.

Saturday morning, organisers bid farewell to the happy group with promises to be in contact for a return visit to Landévant in September 2026.

2026 promises to be even busier with a visit to Landévant and the 25-year celebrations in May.

### **Granard town and East Rouen in Normandy, France**

A major step forward for the Association occurred this year. Students from Ard Scoil Padraig and Cnoc Mhuire Granard travelled to East Rouen on Sunday, 23 January to spend a week in East Rouen. A huge vote of thanks to teachers Sandra Durkan and Shane O' Grady who accompanied the students on this historic visit. They enjoyed a varied programme and had a wonderful time. This trip was supported by the committee.

February saw the start of preparations for the return visit and the committee and both schools prepared a busy schedule for the visiting students and staff. The students arrived on Sunday, 23 March. From their arrival the committee played a key role in supporting the schools and ensuring the success of the trip. A huge word of thanks to Longford County Council and local public representatives who supported the official welcome evening on Thursday, 27 March. It was a tremendous success, and a lot of tears were shed as the bus pulled out of Granard.

Both trips were advertised widely on social media and the committee was delighted to assist this first visit.

## Appendix 4: Town Twinning Report

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In April thoughts turned to the Bastille Brunch and ideas for the Norman Centenary Celebrations in France 2027. ([www.normandie.fr](http://www.normandie.fr)).

Sunday, 13 July dawned bright and sunny for the Bastille Brunch. This is a major fundraiser and opportunity for the community to celebrate all things French. It was a busy day for the committee, cooking, selling tickets, preparing and erecting posters, welcoming visitors, preparing the venue, setting tables which all resulted in a wonderful day.

At the next meeting, the ideas for the Norman Centenary Celebrations were discussed. It was decided to produce a short film 'The Arrival of the Normans.'



## Appendix 5: Council Membership of Committees

Committee	Councillor(s)
Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly	Paul Ross, Garry Murtagh
Chairpersons to four Strategic Policy Committees	Paul Ross, Turlough McGovern, Garry Murtagh, Pat O'Toole
Longford Local Community Development Committee	Martin Skelly, Seamus Butler, Colin Dalton, Paul Ross.
Longford Local Community Safety Partnership – Steering Group	Niall Gannon, Paul Ross, Padraig McNamara, Peggy Nolan, Uruemu Adejmi, Seamus Butler, Colin Dalton
Longford Sports Partnership	David Cassidy, Niall Gannon, Martin Skelly
Association of Irish Local Government	Paul Ross, Mick Cahill, Padraig McNamara, Martin Skelly.
Local Authority Members Association	Gerry Hagan
Longford and Westmeath Education Training Board	Peggy Nolan, Niall Gannon, Padraig McNamara, Pat O'Toole
Regional Health Forum, Dublin Mid-Leinster	Peggy Nolan, Paul Ross, Uruemu Adejmi
Midlands Regional Transition Team	Mark Casey
Midland Regional Drug and Alcohol Task Force	Gerry Hagan
Midlands Energy Agency	Martin Skelly
Irish Public Bodies Mutual Insurances Ltd	Garry Murtagh
County Longford Tourism Committee	Sean Mimmagh, Peggy Nolan, Padraig McNamara

## Appendix 5: Council Membership of Committees

Committee	Councillor(s)
Longford Pool Construction Ltd	Peggy Nolan, Martin Monaghan, Paul Ross
Longford Enterprise Development Company Ltd.	Uruemu Adejmi, Garry Murtagh, Martin Skelly
Backstage Theatre	Niall Gannon (Director); Paul Ross, Kevin Hussey (Members)
Longford County Council Audit Committee	John Browne, PJ Reilly
Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee	Mark Casey, Martin Monaghan, Gerry Hagan, Peggy Nolan, David Cassidy, Martin Skelly
County Rural Water Monitoring Committee	Garry Murtagh, Paul Ross, David Cassidy
Comhairle na nÓg Steering Committee	Niall Gannon
Regeneration Committee	All
Creative Ireland Culture Team	Sean Mimmagh, Niall Gannon, Garry Murtagh
Heritage Forum	Mick Cahill, Gerry Hagan, Colin Dalton
Biodiversity Working Group	Uruemu Adejmi, Martin Skelly, Colin Dalton
County Business Incentive Scheme Committee	Seamus Butler, Padraig McNamara, Paul Ross
Tender Committee	Kevin Hussey, Peggy Nolan, Mark Casey
Place Naming Committee	Garry Murtagh, Mark Casey, Paul Ross, T Turlough McGovern, Pat O'Toole,
Protocol and Procedures Committee	Mark Casey, Paul Ross, Mick Cahill

## Appendix 6: Conferences attended by Elected Members

Date (2025)	Conference	Location	Attendance
30-31 January	LAMA Spring Seminar	Kilford Arms Hotel, Kilkenny	Paraic Brady, Niall Gannon, David Cassidy, Gerry Hagan, Turlough McGovern, Sean Mimmagh, Garry Murtagh, Peggy Nolan, Paul Ross
5-6 February	AIR Training Seminar	Radisson Hotel, Athlone	Gerry Hagan, Martin Skelly, David Cassidy, Paul Ross, Sean Mimmagh
20 February	AILG Module 1	Fairways Hotel, Dundalk	Mick Cahill, Mark Casey, David Cassidy, Pdraig McNamara, Sean Mimmagh, Martin Monaghan, Paul Ross, Martin Skelly
20 March	AILG Module 2	Falls Hotel, Ennistymon	Pdraig McNamara, Martin Monaghan
22 March	AILG Module 2	Clayton Hotel, Galway	Mick Cahill, Mark Casey, David Cassidy, Niall Gannon, Gerry Hagan, Turlough McGovern, Sean Mimmagh, Garry Murtagh, Peggy Nolan, Paul Ross, Martin Skelly
2-3 April	AILG Annual Conference	Limerick Strand Hotel	Kevin Hussey, Turlough McGovern, Pdraig McNamara, Sean Mimmagh, Garry Murtagh, Peggy Nolan, Paul Ross, Martin Skelly, Uruemu Adejinmi, Mark Casey, Niall Gannon, Gerry Hagan,
10-11 April	IPI Annual Conference	Salthill Hotel, Galway	Colin Dalton, David Cassidy, Kevin Hussey, Martin Skelly, Niall Gannon, Pdraig McNamara, Paul Ross, Sean Mimmagh
24 May	AILG Module 3	Rose Hotel, Tralee	Kevin Hussey, Niall Gannon, Pdraig McNamara, Peggy Nolan, Colin Dalton, Mick Cahill, Turlough McGovern, Sean Mimmagh, David Cassidy, Paul Ross, Mark Casey, Gerry Hagan, Garry Murtagh, Martin Skelly

## Appendix 6: Conferences attended by Elected Members

Date (2025)	Conference	Location	Attendance
29 May	AILG Induction Training	Athlone Springs Hotel	Colin Dalton
21 June	AILG Module 4	Hillgrove Hotel, Monaghan	Mick Cahill, Colin Dalton, Uruemu Adejinmi, David Cassidy, Kevin Hussey, Sean Mimmagh, Peggy Nolan,
17-19 July	MacGill Summer School	Highlands Hotel, Glenties	Peggy Nolan, Pdraig McNamara, Niall Gannon, Gerry Hagan, Martin Skelly, Sean Mimmagh, David Cassidy, Colin Dalton, Kevin Hussey
17-18 September	AILG Autumn Seminar	Westport Woods Hotel	Mick Cahill, Mark Casey, David Cassidy, Colin Dalton, Niall Gannon, Gerry Hagan, Kevin Hussey, Pdraig McNamara, Sean Mimmagh, Peggy Nolan, Martin Skelly,
2 October	IPI Autumn Planning Conference	Gibson Hotel, Dublin	Martin Skelly, Colin Dalton
9 October	AILG Module 5	Arklow Bay Hotel, Wicklow	David Cassidy, Colin Dalton, Sean Mimmagh, Paul Ross, Martin Skelly
11 October	AILG Module 5	Horse & Jockey Hotel, Tipperary	Mick Cahill, Mark Casey, Niall Gannon, Pdraig McNamara, Peggy Nolan
16-17 October	LAMA Autumn Seminar	Amber Springs Hotel, Gorey	Mick Cahill, David Cassidy, Gerry Hagan, Kevin Hussey, Pdraig McNamara, Turlough McGovern, Sean Mimmagh, Peggy Nolan, Paul Ross, Colin Dalton
15 November	AILG Module 6	Radisson Hotel, Athlone	Mick Cahill, Colin Dalton

# Appendix 7: Performance Indicators

## Housing (indicators H1–H7)

Topic	Indicator	Value
Housing: H1, H2 & H4	A. Number of dwellings in the ownership of the local authority at 01/01/2024	2213
	B. Number of dwellings added to the local authority owned stock during 2024 (whether constructed or acquired)	79
	C. Number of local authority owned dwellings sold in 2024	24
	D. Number of local authority owned dwellings demolished in 2024	0
	E. Number of dwellings in the ownership of the local authority at 31/12/2024	2268
	F. Number of local authority owned dwellings planned for demolition under a DHLGH approved scheme at 31/12/2024	0
	A. The percentage of the total number of local authority owned dwellings that were vacant on 31/12/2024	2.69 %
	The number of dwellings within their overall stock that were not tenanted on 31/12/2024	61
	A. Expenditure during 2024 on the maintenance of local authority housing compiled from 1 January 2024 to 31 December 2024, divided by the no. of dwellings in the local authority stock at 31/12/2024, i.e. the H1E less H1F indicator figure	€1500.49
	Expenditure on maintenance of local authority stock compiled from 1 January 2024 to 31 December 2024, including planned maintenance and expenditure that qualified for grants, such as Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) grants for energy efficient retro-fitting works but excluding expenditure on vacant properties and expenditure under approved major refurbishment schemes (i.e. approved Regeneration or under the Remedial Works Schemes).	€3403102

## Appendix 7: Performance Indicators

Topic	Indicator	Value
Housing: H1, H2 & H4	PI 2023: H1E. Number of Dwellings In Ownership at 31/12/2023	<b>2223</b>
	Cross-Check H1A with PI 2023 H1E	<b>H1A does not match 2023 H1E</b>
Housing: H3 & H5	A. The time taken from the date of vacation of a dwelling to the date in 2024 when the dwelling is re-tenanted, averaged across all dwellings re-let during 2024	<b>46.71 wk</b>
	B. The cost expended on getting the dwellings re-tenanted in 2024, averaged across all dwellings re-let in 2024	<b>€43990.88</b>
	The number of dwellings that were re-tenanted on any date in 2024 (but excluding all those that had been vacant due to an estate-wide refurbishment scheme)	<b>48</b>
	The number of weeks from the date of vacation to the date the dwelling is re-tenanted	<b>2242 wk</b>
	Total expenditure on works necessary to enable re-letting of the dwellings	<b>€2111562.16</b>
	A. Total number of registered tenancies in the LA area at 31 December 2024	<b>2135</b>
	B. Number of rented dwellings inspected in 2024	<b>230</b>
	C. Percentage of inspected dwellings in 2024 not compliant with the Standards Regulations	<b>92.31 %</b>
	D. Number of dwellings deemed compliant in 2024 (including those originally deemed non-compliant)	<b>93</b>
	E. The number of inspections (including reinspections) undertaken by the local authority in 2024	<b>280</b>

## Appendix 7: Performance Indicators

Topic	Indicator	Value
Housing: H6	A. Number of adult individuals in emergency accommodation that are long-term (i.e. 6 months or more within the previous year) homeless as a percentage of the total number of homeless adult individuals in emergency accommodation at the end of 2024	<b>47.06 %</b>
	The number of adult individuals classified as homeless and in emergency accommodation on the night of 31 December 2024 as recorded on the PASS system	<b>17</b>
	The number out of those individuals who, on 31/12/2024, had been in emergency accommodation for 6 months continuously, or for 6 months cumulatively within the previous 12 months	<b>8</b>
Housing: H7	A. (1) Total number of houses retrofitted between 01/01/2024 and 31/12/2024 under the Social Housing Retrofit Programme	<b>34</b>
	A. (2) Number of houses that achieved a BER rating of B2 or above between 01/01/2024 and 31/12/2024 under the Social Housing Retrofit Programme	<b>34</b>
	A. (3) Number of heat pumps installed in those houses between 01/01/2024 and 31/12/2024 under the Social Housing Retrofit Programme	<b>34</b>
	B. Total annual energy savings in MWh from houses retrofitted between 01/01/2024 and 31/12/2024 under the Social Housing Retrofit Programme	<b>426.0 MWh</b>
	C. Total carbon emission reduction tCo2 from houses retrofitted between 01/01/2024 and 31/12/2024 under the Social Housing Retrofit Programme	<b>110.1</b>

## Appendix 7: Performance Indicators

### Roads (indicators R1–R3)

Topic	Indicator	Value
Roads: R1, R2 & R4	A. (a) The percentage of Regional roads that received a PSCI rating in the 24 month period prior to 31/12/2024	
	A. (b) The percentage of Local Primary roads that received a PSCI rating in the 24 month period prior to 31/12/2024	<b>97.08 %</b>
	A. (c) The percentage of Local Secondary roads that received a PSCI rating in the 24 month period prior to 31/12/2024	<b>96.85 %</b>
	A. (d) The percentage of Local Tertiary roads that received a PSCI rating in the 60 month period prior to 31/12/2024	<b>94.95 %</b>
	B. (a.1) The percentage length of Regional roads that received a PSCI rating of 1-4 in the 24 month period prior to 31/12/2024	
	B. (a.2) The percentage length of Regional roads that received a PSCI rating of 5-6 in the 24 month period prior to 31/12/2024	
	B. (a.3) The percentage length of Regional roads that received a PSCI rating of 7-8 in the 24 month period prior to 31/12/2024	
	B. (a.4) The percentage length of Regional roads that received a PSCI rating of 9-10 in the 24 month period prior to 31/12/2024	
	B. (b.1) The percentage length of Local Primary roads that received a PSCI rating of 1-4 in the 24 month period prior to 31/12/2024	<b>0.06 %</b>
	B. (b.2) The percentage length of Local Primary roads that received a PSCI rating of 5-6 in the 24 month period prior to 31/12/2024	<b>11.57 %</b>
	B. (b.3) The percentage length of Local Primary roads that received a PSCI rating of 7-8 in the 24 month period prior to 31/12/2024	<b>37.03 %</b>

## Appendix 7: Performance Indicators

Topic	Indicator	Value
	B. (b.4) The percentage length of Local Primary roads that received a PSCI rating of 9-10 in the 24 month period prior to 31/12/2024	<b>48.43 %</b>
	B. (c.1) The percentage length of Local Secondary roads that received a PSCI rating of 1-4 in the 24 month period prior to 31/12/2024	<b>0.16 %</b>
	B. (c.2) The percentage length of Local Secondary roads that received a PSCI rating of 5-6 in the 24 month period prior to 31/12/2024	<b>11.76 %</b>
	B. (c.3) The percentage length of Local Secondary roads that received a PSCI rating of 7-8 in the 24 month period prior to 31/12/2024	<b>41.43 %</b>
	B. (c.4) The percentage length of Local Secondary roads that received a PSCI rating of 9-10 in the 24 month period prior to 31/12/2024	<b>43.51 %</b>
	B. (d.1) The percentage length of Local Tertiary roads that received a PSCI rating of 1-4 in the 60 month period prior to 31/12/2024	<b>4.92 %</b>
	B. (d.2) The percentage length of Local Tertiary roads that received a PSCI rating of 5-6 in the 60 month period prior to 31/12/2024	<b>11.82 %</b>
	B. (d.3) The percentage length of Local Tertiary roads that received a PSCI rating of 7-8 in the 60 month period prior to 31/12/2024	<b>26.42 %</b>
	B. (d.4) The percentage length of Local Tertiary roads that received a PSCI rating of 9-10 in the 60 month period prior to 31/12/2024	<b>51.79 %</b>
	A.1 Kilometres of regional road strengthened during 2024	<b>2.9 km</b>
	A.2 The amount expended on regional roads strengthening work during 2024	<b>€730176.66</b>
	A.3 The average unit cost of regional road strengthening works per square metre (€/m <sup>2</sup> )	<b>€35.21</b>
	B.1 Kilometres of regional road resealed during 2024	<b>6.7 km</b>

## Appendix 7: Performance Indicators

Topic	Indicator	Value
	B.2 The amount expended on regional road resealing work during 2024	<b>€297363.14</b>
	B.3 The average unit cost of regional road resealing works per square metre (€/m <sup>2</sup> )	<b>€6.97</b>
	C.1 Kilometres of local road strengthened during 2024	<b>50.7 km</b>
	C.2. The amount expended on local road strengthening work during 2024	<b>€5106725.26</b>
	C.3 The average unit cost of local road strengthening works per square metre (€/m <sup>2</sup> )	<b>€24.28</b>
	D.1 Kilometres of local road resealed during 2024	<b>46.9 km</b>
	D.2 The amount expended on local road resealing work during 2024	<b>€970106.84</b>
	D.3 The average unit cost of local road resealing works per square metre (€/m <sup>2</sup> )	<b>€4.96</b>
	A. Total number of T2, T2 <sup>1</sup> , T3, T4s issued by the local authority between 01/01/2024 and 31/12/2024	<b>435</b>
	B. Total number of T5 notifications received from licence holders between 01/01/2024 and 31/12/2024	<b>418</b>
	C. Percentage of licences that have been reviewed by the local authority prior to entering the Guarantee Period	<b>87.00 %</b>
	D. Percentage of licences that have been subject of an inspection prior to entering the Guarantee Period	<b>57.00 %</b>
Motor Tax: R3	A. The percentage of motor tax transactions which were dealt with online (i.e. transaction is processed and the tax disc is issued) in 2024	<b>78.84 %</b>

## Appendix 7: Performance Indicators

### Water (indicators W1–W2)

Topic	Indicator	Value
Water: W1 & W2	Percentage of drinking water in private schemes in compliance with statutory requirements	98.80 %
	The number of registered schemes monitored by each local authority as a percentage of total schemes registered	100 %
	How many local authority registered schemes were monitored in 2024	15
	Total number of registered schemes in 2024	15

### Waste/Environment (indicators E1–E6)

Topic	Indicator	Value
Waste: E1	A. The number of households which availed of a 3-bin service offered by a licensed operator at 31/12/2024	9272
	B. The percentage of households within the local authority that the number at A represents	57.21 %
Environmental Pollution: E2	A. Total number of pollution cases in respect of which a complaint was made during 2024	1705
	A. Number of pollution cases closed from 01/01/2024 to 31/12/2024	1694
	A. Total number of pollution cases on hands at 31/12/2024	122
	The opening number of pollution cases carried forward from the year end 2023	111
	(PI 2023 Return) Total number of pollution cases on hand at 31/12/2023	111
	Cross-check opening no. cases carried forward from 2023 with PI 2023 cases on hand at EOY	<b>Opening Cases matches the 2023 no. of cases on hand</b>

## Appendix 7: Performance Indicators

Topic	Indicator	Value
Litter Pollution: E3	A1. The percentage of the area within the local authority that when surveyed in 2024 was unpolluted or litter free	46 %
	A2. The percentage of the area within the local authority that when surveyed in 2024 was slightly polluted	42 %
	A3. The percentage of the area within the local authority that when surveyed in 2024 was moderately polluted	8 %
	A4. The percentage of the area within the local authority that when surveyed in 2024 was significantly polluted	4 %
	A5. The percentage of the area within the local authority that when surveyed in 2024 was grossly polluted	0 %
Green Flag Status: E4	A. The percentage of schools that have been awarded/renewed green flag status in the two years to 31 December 2024	59.57 %
	Schools which attained a Green Flag for the first time in 2024	0
	Schools which renewed their Green Flag in 2024	12
	Schools which held a Green Flag from 2023 and therefore do not require renewal until 2025	16
Energy Efficiency: E5	A. The cumulative percentage of energy savings achieved by 31/12/2024 relative to baseline year (2009)	-39.21 %
Public Lighting: E6	A. Total annual consumption of the public lighting system	1483.28 MWh
	B. Average wattage of each public light	65.03 W
	C. Percentage of the total system that LED lights represent	82.26 %

## Appendix 7: Performance Indicators

Topic	Indicator	Value
Public Lighting: E6	Number of LED lights in the public lighting system	<b>4951</b>
	Number of non-LED lights in the public lighting system	<b>1068</b>
Climate Change: E7	1 a) Does the local authority have a designated (FTE) Climate Action Coordinator?	<b>Yes</b>
	1 b) Does the local authority have a designated (FTE) Climate Action Officer?	<b>Yes</b>
	2. Does the local authority have a climate action team?	<b>Yes</b>

### Planning (indicators P1–P5)

Topic	Indicator	Value
Planning: P1	A. Buildings inspected as a percentage of new buildings notified to the local authority	<b>16.00 %</b>
	Total number of new buildings notified to the local authority i.e. buildings where a valid Commencement Notice was served in the period 01/01/2024 to 31/12/2024 by a builder or developer on the local authority	<b>125</b>
	Number of new buildings notified to the local authority in 2024 that were the subject of at least one on-site inspection during 2024 undertaken by the local authority	<b>20</b>
Planning: P2 & P3	A. Number of local authority planning decisions which were the subject of an appeal to An Bord Pleanála that were determined by the Board on any date in 2024	<b>15</b>

## Appendix 7: Performance Indicators

Topic	Indicator	Value
Planning: P2 & P3	B. Percentage of the determinations at A which confirmed (either with or without variation of the plan) the decision made by the local authority	<b>73.33 %</b>
	Number of determinations confirming the local authority's decision (either with or without variation)	<b>11</b>
	A. Total number of planning cases referred to or initiated by the local authority in the period 01/01/2024 to 31/12/2024 that were investigated	<b>40</b>
	B. Total number of investigated cases that were closed during 2024	<b>38</b>
	C. Percentage of the cases at B that were dismissed as trivial, minor or without foundation or were closed because statute barred or an exempted development	<b>23.68 %</b>
	D. Percentage of the cases at B that were resolved to the local authority's satisfaction through negotiations	<b>21.05 %</b>
	E. Percentage of the cases at B that were closed due to enforcement proceedings	<b>55.26 %</b>
	F. Total number of planning cases being investigated as at 31/12/2024	<b>85</b>
	Number of cases at B that were dismissed as trivial, minor or without foundation or were closed because statute barred or an exempted development	<b>9</b>
	Number of cases at B that were resolved to the local authority's satisfaction through negotiations	<b>8</b>
	Number of cases at B that were closed due to enforcement proceedings	<b>21</b>

## Appendix 7: Performance Indicators

Topic	Indicator	Value
Planning: P4 & P5	A. The 2024 Annual Financial Statement (AFS) Programme D data divided by the population of the local authority area per the 2022 Census	<b>€39.79</b>
	AFS Programme D data consisting of D01 - Forward Planning, D02 - Development Management, D03 - Enforcement (inclusive of the relevant Programme D proportion of the central management charge) for 2024	<b>€1860450</b>
	A. The percentage of applications for fire safety certificates received in 2024 that were decided (granted or refused) within two months of their receipt	<b>69.70 %</b>
	B. The percentage of applications for fire safety certificates received in 2024 that were decided (granted or refused) within an extended period agreed with the applicant	<b>24.24 %</b>
	The total number of applications for fire safety certificates received in 2024 that were not withdrawn by the applicant	<b>33</b>
	The number of applications for fire safety certificates received in 2024 that were decided (granted or refused) within two months of the date of receipt of the application	<b>23</b>
	The number of applications for fire safety certificates received in 2024 that were decided (granted or refused) within an agreed extended time period	<b>8</b>

## Appendix 7: Performance Indicators

### Fire Service (indicators F1–F3)

Topic	Indicator	Value
Fire Service: F1	A. The Annual Financial Statement (AFS) Programme E expenditure data for 2024 divided by the population of the local authority area per the 2022 Census figures for the population served by the fire authority as per the Risk Based Approach Phase One reports	<b>€82.76</b>
	AFS Programme E expenditure data consisting of E11 - Operation of Fire Service and E12 - Fire Prevention for 2024	<b>€3869012</b>
Fire Service: F2 & F3	A. Average time taken, in minutes, to mobilise fire brigades in Full-Time Stations in respect of fire	
	B. Average time taken, in minutes, to mobilise fire brigades in Part-Time Stations (retained fire service) in respect of fire	<b>6.66 min</b>
	C. Average time taken, in minutes, to mobilise fire brigades in Full-Time Stations in respect of all other (non-fire) emergency incidents	
	D. Average time taken, in minutes, to mobilise fire brigades in Part-Time Stations (retained fire service) in respect of all other (non-fire) emergency incidents	<b>7.28 min</b>
	A. Percentage of cases in respect of fire in which first attendance at scene is within 10 minutes	<b>39.82 %</b>
	B. Percentage of cases in respect of fire in which first attendance at the scene is after 10 minutes but within 20 minutes	<b>53.85 %</b>
	C. Percentage of cases in respect of fire in which first attendance at the scene is after 20 minutes	<b>6.33 %</b>

## Appendix 7: Performance Indicators

Topic	Indicator	Value
Fire Service: F2 & F3	D. Percentage of cases in respect of all other emergency incidents in which first attendance at the scene is within 10 minutes	<b>33.05 %</b>
	E. Percentage of cases in respect of all other emergency incidents in which first attendance at the scene is after 10 minutes but within 20 minutes	<b>55.93 %</b>
	F. Percentage of cases in respect of all other emergency incidents in which first attendance at the scene is after 20 minutes	<b>11.02 %</b>
	Total number of call-outs in respect of fires from 01/01/2024 to 31/12/2024	<b>221</b>
	Number of these fire cases where first fire tender attendance at the scene is within 10 minutes	<b>88</b>
	Number of these fire cases in which first fire tender attendance at the scene is after 10 minutes but within 20 minutes	<b>119</b>
	Number of these fire cases in which first fire tender attendance at the scene is after 20 minutes	<b>14</b>
	Total number of call-outs in respect of all other emergency incidents (i.e. not including fire) from 01/01/2024 to 31/12/2024	<b>118</b>
	Number of these non-fire cases in which first fire tender attendance at the scene is within 10 minutes	<b>39</b>
	Number of these non-fire cases in which first fire tender attendance at the scene is after 10 minutes but within 20 minutes	<b>66</b>
	Number of these non-fire cases in which first fire tender attendance at the scene is after 20 minutes	<b>13</b>

## Appendix 7: Performance Indicators

### Library Service (indicators L1–L2)

Topic	Indicator	Value
Library Service: L1	A. Number of visits to libraries per head of population for the local authority area per the 2022 Census	3.84
	B. Number of items issued to library borrowers in the year	127221
	C. Library active members per head of population	0.20
	D. Number of registered library members in the year	7179
	Number of visits to its libraries from 01/01/2024 to 31/12/2024 per automatic counters if used	179388
Library Service: L2	A. The Annual Financial Statement (AFS) Programme F data for 2024 divided by the population of the local authority area per the 2022 Census	€60.80
	B. The annual per capita expenditure on collections over the period 01/01/2024 to 31/12/2024	€2.61
	A. AFS Programme F data consisting of F02 - Operation of Library and Archival Service (inclusive of the relevant proportion of the central management charge for Programme F) for 2024	€2842643
	B. The annual expenditure on new stock acquired by the library in the year	€122033

## Appendix 7: Performance Indicators

### Youth and Community (indicators Y1–Y2)

Topic	Indicator	Value
Youth and Community: Y1 & Y2	A. Percentage of local schools involved in the local Youth Council/Comhairle na nÓg scheme	<b>100 %</b>
	Total number of second level schools in the local authority area at 31/12/2024	<b>9</b>
	Number of second level schools in the local authority area from which representatives attended the local Comhairle na nÓg AGM held in 2024	<b>9</b>
	A. The number of organisations included in the County Register at 31/12/2024 and the proportion of those organisations that opted to be part of the Social Inclusion College within the PPN	<b>12.48</b>
	Total number of organisations included in the County Register (maintained in accordance with section 128 of the Local Government Act 2001) for the local authority area as at 31/12/2024	<b>601</b>
	Total number of those organisations that registered for the first time in 2024	<b>82</b>
	Number of organisations that opted to join the Social Inclusion Electoral College on whatever date they registered for the PPN	<b>75</b>

## Appendix 7: Performance Indicators

### Corporate (indicators C1–C5)

Topic	Indicator	Value
Corporate: C1, C2, C4 & C5	A. The wholetime equivalent staffing number as at 31 December 2024	<b>356.71</b>
	A. Percentage of paid working days lost to sickness absence through medically certified leave in 2024	<b>2.91 %</b>
	B. Percentage of paid working days lost to sickness absence through self-certified leave in 2024	<b>0.20 %</b>
	Total number of working days lost to sickness absence through medically certified leave in 2024	<b>2561 day</b>
	Total number of working days lost to sickness absence through self-certified leave in 2024	<b>163 day</b>
	Number of unpaid working days lost to sickness absence included within the total of self-certified sick leave days in 2024	<b>2 day</b>
	Number of unpaid working days lost to sickness absence included within the total of medically certified sick leave days in 2024	<b>201 day</b>
	If any staff are on long-term sick leave (i.e. a continuous period of more than 4 weeks), include a text note of the number of staff on long-term sick leave	<b>24</b>
	A. All ICT expenditure in the period from 01/01/2024 to 31/12/2024, divided by the WTE no.	<b>€3445.26</b>
	Total ICT expenditure in 2024	<b>€1228957.45</b>
	A. All ICT expenditure calculated in C4 as a proportion of Revenue expenditure	<b>1.68</b>
	Total Revenue expenditure from 01/01/2024 to 31/12/2024 before transfers to or from reserves	<b>€73176710</b>

## Appendix 7: Performance Indicators

Topic	Indicator	Value
Corporate: C3	A. The per capita total page views of the local authority's websites in 2024	<b>12.13</b>
	B. The per capita total number of followers at end 2024 of the local authority's social media accounts (if any)	<b>1.31</b>
	The cumulative total page views of all websites operated by the local authority for the period from 01/01/2024 to 31/12/2024 obtained from a page tagging on-site web analytics service or equivalent	<b>566861</b>
	The total number of social media users who, at 31/12/2024, were following the local authority on any social media sites	<b>61200</b>
	The number of social media accounts operated by the local authority	<b>26</b>
	Indicate if there was a change to the cookie policies on the local authority sites and the date this came into effect	<b>Regular software updates only</b>

## Appendix 7: Performance Indicators

### Finance (indicators M1–M4)

Topic	Indicator	Value
Finance: M1 to M4	A. Cumulative surplus/deficit balance at 31/12/2020 in the Revenue Account from the Income & Expenditure Account Statement of the AFS	€250963
	B. Cumulative surplus/deficit balance at 31/12/2021 in the Revenue Account from the Income & Expenditure Account Statement of the AFS	€359729
	C. Cumulative surplus/deficit balance at 31/12/2022 in the Revenue Account from the Income & Expenditure Account Statement of the AFS	€365106
	D. Cumulative surplus/deficit balance at 31/12/2023 in the Revenue Account from the Income & Expenditure Account Statement of the AFS	€384471
	E. Cumulative surplus/deficit balance at 31/12/2024 in the Revenue Account from the Income & Expenditure Account Statement of the AFS	€418914
	F. Cumulative surplus or deficit at 31/12/2024 as a percentage of Total Income in 2024 from the Income and Expenditure Account Statement of the AFS	0.55 %
	G. Revenue expenditure per capita in 2024	€1565.24
	H. Revenue expenditure per capita in 2024 excluding significant out of county/shared service expenditure	
	The 2024 Total Income figure from the Income and Expenditure Account Statement of the AFS	€76618551
	The 2024 Total Expenditure figure from the Income and Expenditure Account Statement of the AFS	€73176710

## Appendix 7: Performance Indicators

Topic	Indicator	Value
Finance: M1 to M4	The 2024 Revenue expenditure excluding county/shared service expenditure for the service providers of HAP, MyPay, DRHE and Dublin Fire Services and is only applicable to Dublin City, Laois and Limerick	
	A. (a) Collection level of Rates in Appendix 7 of the AFS for 2020	<b>81.0 %</b>
	A. (b) Collection level of Rent & Annuities in Appendix 7 of the AFS for 2020	<b>89.0 %</b>
	A. (c) Collection level of Housing Loans in Appendix 7 of the AFS for 2020	<b>65.0 %</b>
	B. (a) Collection level of Rates in Appendix 7 of the AFS for 2021	<b>84.0 %</b>
	B. (b) Collection level of Rent & Annuities in Appendix 7 of the AFS for 2021	<b>90.0 %</b>
	B. (c) Collection level of Housing Loans in Appendix 7 of the AFS for 2021	<b>69.0 %</b>
	C. (a) Collection level of Rates in Appendix 7 of the AFS for 2022	<b>90.0 %</b>
	C. (b) Collection level of Rent & Annuities in Appendix 7 of the AFS for 2022	<b>89.0 %</b>
	C. (c) Collection level of Housing Loans in Appendix 7 of the AFS for 2022	<b>77.0 %</b>
	D. (a) Collection level of Rates in Appendix 7 of the AFS for 2023	<b>87.0 %</b>
	D. (b) Collection level of Rent & Annuities in Appendix 7 of the AFS for 2023	<b>89.0 %</b>
	D. (c) Collection level of Housing Loans in Appendix 7 of the AFS for 2023	<b>77.0 %</b>
	E. (a) Collection level of Rates in Appendix 7 of the AFS for 2024	<b>88 %</b>

## Appendix 7: Performance Indicators

Topic	Indicator	Value
Finance: M1 to M4	E. (b) Collection level of Rent & Annuities in Appendix 7 of the AFS for 2024	<b>83 %</b>
	E. (c) Collection level of Housing Loans in Appendix 7 of the AFS for 2024	<b>82 %</b>
	E. (d) Collection level of HAP SSC for 2024	
	A. Per capita total cost of settled claims for 2024	<b>€7.19</b>
	IPB Insurance: Number of notified claims for 2024	<b>38</b>
	IPB Insurance: Number of settled claims for 2024	<b>33</b>
	IPB Insurance: Total cost of settled claims for 2024	<b>€336020.29</b>
	Total cost of claims settled under excess for 2024	
	Self-insured: Number of notified claims for 2024	
	Self-insured: Number of settled claims for 2024	
	Self-insured: Total cost of settled claims for 2024	
	A. Overall central management charge as a percentage of total expenditure on revenue account	<b>15.85 %</b>
	B. Total payroll costs as a percentage of revenue expenditure	<b>41.21 %</b>
	Overall central management charge from the Local Authority FMS and defined in the Annual Budget	<b>€11598787</b>
	Total payroll costs from Appendix 1 of the AFS for 2024 (including Salaries, Wages and Pensions)	<b>€30159465</b>

## Appendix 7: Performance Indicators

### Economic Development (indicators J1–J5)

Topic	Indicator	Value
Economic Development: J1 to J5	A. The number of jobs created with assistance from the Local Enterprise Office during the period 01/01/2024 to 31/12/2024 per 100,000 of population	<b>81.28</b>
	The number of jobs created with assistance from the Local Enterprise Office during the period 01/01/2024 to 31/12/2024	<b>38.0</b>
	A. The number of trading online voucher applications approved by the Local Enterprise Office in 2024 per 100,000 of population	<b>68.45</b>
	B. The number of trading online vouchers that were drawn down in 2024 per 100,000 of population	<b>25.67</b>
	The number of trading online voucher applications approved by the Local Enterprise Office in 2024	<b>32</b>
	The number of those trading online vouchers that were drawn down in 2024	<b>12</b>
	A. The number of participants who received mentoring during the period 01/01/2024 to 31/12/2024 per 100,000 of population	<b>472.72</b>
	The number of participants who received mentoring during the period 01/01/2024 to 31/12/2024	<b>221</b>
	A. Does the local authority have a current tourism strategy?	<b>Yes</b>
	B. Does the local authority have a designated Tourism Officer?	<b>Yes</b>
	The spend on local economic development by the local authority in 2024 per head of population	<b>€321.73</b>
	The spend on local economic development by the local authority in 2024	<b>€15041077.58</b>

# Appendix 8: Corporate Plan Progress Report

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## Our People

<p><b>Library</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hosted multiple 2025 festivals—Longford Lights, Culture Nights, Home of Halloween, WAL Festival, Granard Book Festival, Maria Edgeworth Festival, and Goldsmith Festival—each integrating sustainability models and providing family-friendly experiences.</li> <li>• Received over €120K in 2025 BHIS funding and €128K through the Community Monuments Fund, complemented by two county visits from Minister of State Christopher O’Sullivan</li> <li>• Delivered one cross-departmental think tank and three major Arts Office-led events—Longford Lights, Culture Night, and the Halloween Parade—enhancing arts visibility and positioning Longford as an event destination.</li> <li>• Hosted information sessions for Longford’s Twinning Committees, delivered three funding-information sessions, and broadened event promotion, including RTÉ coverage of the Albert Reynolds Archive Collection launch.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Vacant Homes</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Croi Conaithe vacant Property Refurbishment Grant:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– €2,935,664 paid to date</li> <li>– 247 Applications received</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>Sports Partnership</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Local Sports Partnership advanced participation in sport and active recreation across diversity, disability, community, and Healthy Longford programmes.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Integration</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Secured and managed suitable accommodation solutions to meet the short-term needs of Ukrainian refugees.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Active Travel</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cycleways &amp; Greenways Delivery - Progress on key active-travel projects.</li> </ul>

# Appendix 8: Corporate Plan Progress Report

<p><b>Roads</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Road Safety Measures             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Adoption of the Local Road Safety Action Plan 2025–2027</li> <li>2. 5 km of segregated walking/cycling lanes</li> <li>3. 10 improved junctions/crossings</li> <li>4. 10 enhanced bus stops with safe access</li> <li>5. 5 Safe Routes to School schemes,</li> <li>6. 2 annual minor national-road upgrades</li> <li>7. Rollout of urban 30 km/h zones</li> </ol> </li> <li>• Severe Weather and Flood Plans updated; training delivered in Major Emergency Media Liaison, Information Management, and Controller of Operations.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Community</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SICAP funding increased to over €747,000 for 2025, supporting ongoing assistance for New Arrivals via LCRL.</li> <li>• LCDC awarded €145,186 under the Local Enhancement Programme 2025, supporting 118 community projects across Longford.</li> </ul>

## Our Place

<p><b>Active Travel</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minister Sean Canney opened Longford’s groundbreaking €3.5m Battery Road Pedestrian and Cycle Scheme.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Corporate</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Communications Audit completed with a new 2025–2028 Communications Strategy in development, including enhanced crisis-communications planning.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Just Transition</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Just Transition Activator supporting delivery of 15+ approved projects to ensure full compliance with Scheme requirement.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Library</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minister Christopher O’Sullivan launched Longford Biodiversity Action Plan and new Birdwatching Library initiative.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Environment</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New EV points completed. Expansion of LCC’s leased EV fleet and ongoing engagement on ZEV EV Charging Strategy.</li> <li>• Pathfinder project initiated and consultants appointed for historic landfill assessments.</li> <li>• Comprehensive 2025 review of operational risk registers, including climate-related risks.</li> </ul>

## Appendix 8: Corporate Plan Progress Report

<b>Climate Action</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Climate and policy objectives advanced under Longford Town Local Area Plan; RZLT reports completed.</li> </ul>
<b>Planning</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Planning website enhanced for Protected Structures and Enforcement; illegal peatland removal and Carrickglass Manor dereliction actively addressed.</li> </ul>
<b>Civil Defence</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Civil Defence provided medical support at community events and assisted affected residents following Storm Éowyn, supporting those isolated or without utilities.</li> <li>• Provided a coordinated suite of supports to ensure the new communities are supported to integrate fully into local community life .</li> </ul>
<b>Town Twinning</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New statue unveiled at Park Road Leisure Park - 'Fraternity' statue celebrates bonds of friendship between Longford Town and Noyal-Châtillon-sur-Seiche.</li> </ul>

### Our Opportunity

<b>Roads</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A comprehensive works programme was delivered across all Municipal Districts, investing over €10.2 million in public regional and local roads and more than €700,000 in private roads to enhance connectivity and accessibility for businesses, communities, and visitors. It included the following notable achievements in 2025:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regional and Local Road Improvement Works to a value in excess of €5,548,000.</li> <li>• Restoration Maintenance Works (Surface Dressing) to a value in excess of €676,000.</li> <li>• Supplementary Maintenance Works (Surface Dressing) to the value of €591,500.</li> <li>• Maintenance and Rehabilitation Works on Bridges to the value of €463,300.</li> <li>• Drainage works to the value of €299,000 were carried out at various locations throughout the County.</li> <li>• Community Involvement schemes allocation of €273,900 in 2025 – 6 schemes completed.</li> <li>• LIS Funding of €746,096 received – 22 schemes completed.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
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## Appendix 8: Corporate Plan Progress Report

<b>Regeneration</b>	€7M THRIVE funding to transform historic Connolly Barracks into dynamic cultural hub.
<b>Housing</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduced vacant stock turnaround from 46 to 34 weeks. Increased delivery on the Efficient Energy Retrofit Programme from 45 in 2024 to 55 in 2025.</li> <li>• Housing for All Targets – Progressed delivery on pipeline in place. Strong Direct Build programme in place and in progress.</li> <li>• Energy Retrofit Programme – Meet target for 2025/ Private Rented Inspections – Meet target for 2025</li> <li>• Homelessness - Manage Homelessness in accordance with the Midlands Regional Homeless Action Plan.</li> </ul>
<b>Roads</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Longford County Council commenced critical road upgrades on the N55 working in collaboration with Uisce Éireann who are also set to replace over 5.4km of aged water mains with new pipes along the N55.</li> </ul>
<b>Enterprise</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Longford County Council has facilitated a major expansion for US-based healthcare manufacturer Technimark, paving the way for the creation of up to 120 new jobs in Longford Town.</li> </ul>
<b>Derelict Sites</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Derelict Sites Levy applied to 3 properties in 2025 and works underway to apply to a further 11 in 2026.</li> </ul>
<b>Tourism Office</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Tourism Officer, Just Transition Activator and Night-Time Economy Officer help to ensure that Longford is connected to key tourism partners and involved in significant collaborative efforts as they arise.</li> </ul>
<b>Enterprise</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Over 40 firms supported with consultancy or small grant support to adopt greener business practices.</li> </ul>
<b>Information Technology</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Over 500 students showcase groundbreaking STEAM projects at Longford’s Microsoft Dream Space Event. Recognised and successful at various events in 2025.</li> </ul>
<b>Community</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• LCDC Local Action Group awarded €748,000 + funding towards 11 local projects in Longford under the LEADER Programme 23/25 to 30 Nov 2025.</li> </ul>
<b>Roads</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• LCC continues to support the N4 Mullingar–Longford Scheme.</li> </ul>

# Appendix 8: Corporate Plan Progress Report

<b>Tourism</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tourism Office actively promoting Longford at trade fairs; development of new website largely completed, launching Q2 2026.</li> </ul>
<b>Enterprise</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• LEO engaged with 50+ businesses on digitalisation and hosted an AI/digital event for 120+ local businesses.</li> <li>• Collaboration with IDA to secure a site for a new Advanced Building Solution, with acquisition expected in 2025 and design/site preparation in 2026.</li> </ul>

## Our Public Services

<b>Corporate</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Data Cleansing ongoing as part of National Data Validation Project for Migration to Voter.ie by April 2026, Field Work Project progressed to address some of the Key Areas of concern on Registers as identified in the Electoral Commissions Oversight Report. Successful Seanad Election Campaign overseen locally by the Register of Election Team.</li> <li>• Longford County Council launched Ireland’s first public-sector audiovisual Privacy Policy video—reaching over 209,000 accounts and 423,000+ views—to clearly explain data-processing practices and support accessibility, including for individuals with intellectual disabilities.</li> <li>• Successful Cathaoirleach Awards.</li> </ul>
<b>Finance</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All councillor payments issued year-to-date, with annual expenditure statistics published in April.</li> </ul>
<b>Information Technology</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintained and strengthened IT infrastructure with enhanced cybersecurity, upgraded systems, and modern digital platforms to ensure secure, resilient, and efficient service delivery.</li> <li>• Awarded five-year Abavus contract for a cloud-based digital forms platform and customer portal, supporting the national 2030 target of 90% services online.</li> </ul>
<b>Finance</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MyCoCo rents and rates platform on track for launch before Christmas 2025, serving 2,000+ tenants and all ratepayers.</li> </ul>

# Appendix 8: Corporate Plan Progress Report

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<b>Corporate</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Received Exceptional High Achiever Award at the 34th NISO Annual Safety Awards and successfully maintained ISO 45001 certification.</li> <li>Awarded the 2025 Health &amp; Safety Excellence Award – Public Sector and shortlisted for the overall Grand Prix Award.</li> </ul>
<b>Environment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Adoption of Cemetery Bye-Laws, Biodiversity Action Plan, Litter Management Plan, and new internal policies on dog euthanasia and abandoned vehicles.</li> </ul>
<b>Environment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ongoing review of the County Longford Climate Action Plan and commencement of Casual Trading Bye-Laws.</li> </ul>
<b>Planning</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Longford Local Area Plan progressed with online public submissions.</li> </ul>
<b>Finance</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Comprehensive review of operational risk registers completed following IPB workshops.</li> </ul>
<b>Planning</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All planning decisions issued within statutory timeframes.</li> </ul>

# Appendix 9: Public Sector Equality and Human Rights Duty Progress Report

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## Longford County Council Annual Report 2025:

Extracts related to the Council's Public Sector Equality and Human Rights Duty.

### Introduction

This document presents selected extracts from the Longford County Council assessment that align with the Council's obligations under Section 42 of the Irish Human Rights and Equality Act 2014, known as the Public Sector Equality and Human Rights Duty. These extracts reflect the Council's commitment to promoting equality and protecting human rights.

### Corporate Services

Our Customer Services – Ensuring Social Inclusion and Equality.

The Customer Services Charter outlines the expected standards of service delivery to our citizens. This includes:

- **Diversity and Accessibility:** We are dedicated to making our services diverse and accessible, ensuring equal treatment for all. We leverage new technologies and social media to reach a broader audience.
- **Language Access:** Services can be availed in Irish, and there are provisions for translation and interpretation where language barriers exist.
- **Representation and Engagement:** We work collaboratively with local community groups, ensuring diverse representation on our committees to address various needs and opinions.
- **Inclusive Communication:** Our strategy promotes the use of accessible formats and plain English, and we offer Irish Sign Language services upon request to cater to individuals with different communication needs.

# Appendix 9: Public Sector Equality and Human Rights Duty Progress Report

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## Policy Making

- **Partnership with local groups:** Policy-making engages community groups to diversify opinions. The Strategic Policy Scheme mandates balanced representation on our Strategic Policy Committees.
- **Digital Strategy:** The Digital Strategy 2021-2025 fosters opportunities for social inclusion, ensuring that all citizens can participate in and benefit from digital resources, enhancing their connectivity and engagement with Council services.

## Human Resources

Elimination of Discrimination and Promotion of Equality of Opportunity.

- **Recruitment and Promotion:** Our recruitment processes include accommodations as needed, ensuring fair opportunities for all candidates.
- **Employee Support:** We have established contracts, occupational health resources, and training to promote employee wellbeing and professional growth.

## Community Development Programme

The Local Economic and Community Plan (2023-2029) aims to address social inclusion and development through targeted initiatives such as:

- **Sports Inclusion and Diversity Programmes:** Designed to enhance participation in sports among diverse groups.
- **Community Activation Initiatives:** Funding aimed at tackling poverty and social exclusion, supporting particularly vulnerable groups, including refugees and members of the Travelling Community.
- **LEADER Programme:** Focuses on rural development, promoting social inclusion and economic growth.

# Appendix 9: Public Sector Equality and Human Rights Duty Progress Report

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## Budgeting/Grant Procurement

- **Integrity in Procurement:** Our procurement processes align with the principles outlined in the Treaty of Rome, ensuring non-discrimination and promoting employment opportunities for disadvantaged individuals.

## Planning

- **Inclusive Land Use Planning:** The preparation of land use plans incorporates policies to support social inclusion, including housing for members of the Travelling Community and accessibility considerations for all community members.

## Housing

The strategic policies in housing aim to prevent discrimination and promote equality, focusing on:

- **Social Housing:** Addressing the needs of people with disabilities.
- **Traveller Accommodation:** Implementing the Traveller Accommodation Programme to support this community.
- **Homeless Services:** Developing a regional action plan to address homelessness effectively.

## Environment

- **Accessibility Initiatives:** Recent tenders include provisions such as an Induction Loop System at public counters to improve accessibility, based on recommendations from the Irish Wheelchair Association.

## Conclusion

Longford County Council remains committed to fulfilling its obligations under the Public Sector Equality and Human Rights Duty, ensuring that all citizens can participate fully and equally in community life and accessing services. The Council will continue to review and improve these initiatives to further promote equality and human rights within its jurisdiction.





