



Longford County Council Chief Executive Report April 2021

Contents

April Highlights

Longford's Vaccine Centre ready for action	3
Huge success for Grow it Forward campaign	
Nominations roll in for Garda Youth Awards	
€6m Rural Regeneration funding for Ballymahon	

Finance & Regeneration

Finance	11
Regeneration	14
Information Technology	15

Community & Enterprise

Community Development	4
Library, Heritage and Archives	5
Local Sports Partnership	6
Local Enterprise Office	7
Tourism	7
Corporate Services	8
Human Resources	9
Communications	10
Health and Safety	10

Strategic Infrastructure & Climate Action

Housing	16
Planning	17
Roads	18
Water	19
Environment	20
Veterinary	20
Fire Services	21
Civil Defence	22
Climate Action	23

April Highlights

Longford's Vaccine Centre is ready for action

Longford's Vaccine Centre in Newtownforbes was prepared for action by the HSE, Longford County Council and the local community during the month of April and opens in May.



Nominations roll in for Garda Youth Awards

Longford County Council and Roscommon County Council are working together with An Garda Síochána to host the Roscommon Longford Garda Division Garda Youth Awards Ceremony in May.



Huge success for Grow it Forward campaign

Almost 800 seedpacks were distributed around the county over the past two weeks. The programme was launched by Cathaoirleach Paul Ross in the garden of a County Longford Library Service customer from Ballymahon Mrs Philomena Fallon.



€6m Rural Regeneration funding for Ballymahon

The project will bring a number of vacant buildings located in the centre of the town back into use to provide key services for the local community.



Community & Enterprise

Community Development

Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)

A meeting of the LCDC took place on 13 April 2021.

LEADER

The first projects under the LEADER Transitional Programme were approved at the April LCDC meeting, three projects were approved amounting to €241,346.97 in grant aid.

The LCDC members were also notified of an increase in funding under the Transitional Programme at the April meeting, the initial €20m budget has been increased to €65m, €20m of this will be funded from the European Union Recovery Instrument (part of the EU National Recovery and Resiliency fund), and will be used to support the recovery of rural communities and private enterprises from the effects caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Longford's increased budget amounts to a total of €2,244,752 which includes €1,683,564 for projects and €561,188 for admin and animation of the programme.

Intercultural Working Group

The Intercultural Working Group held a meeting on 29 April to network on national and local initiatives in relation to supporting intercultural and integration activities. At the April meeting of Longford County Council Intercultural Funding of €15,800 was allocated across a number of community and voluntary groups and to Longford Sports Partnership to promote and support the integration of new communities.

Comhairle na nÓg

The Interagency Steering Committee held a meeting on 26 April. There are 34 members of Comhairle na nÓg representing schools and youth services across the county. Youth members are represented on the youth work committee of Longford Westmeath ETB, CYPSC youth participation project and the Urbsecurity committee of Longford County Council.



During the month of April members participated at the Comhairle regional networking event to discuss topics of interest to young people and they also put forward nominations for discussion groups on the National Climate Action Plan 2021 and the UNCRC review on the rights of the child. They are presently working in conjunction with the Council on making benches out of recyclable materials which can be used along the canal.

Healthy Ireland

The update of the Keep Well weekly metrics data hub for the Dept of Housing, Planning & Local Government through the LGMA has commenced. Work is ongoing on inputting data retrospectively to 1 January 2021.

Community & Enterprise

Library Heritage & Archives

Edgeworthstown Community Library

The Library project has re-commenced with the builders back on site since the last week in April. An updated timeline for the completion of the project will issue shortly.

Longford County Library Service

The library doors are closed but the staff continue to provide a valuable service to customers, by telephone, online and through a housebound service. All branch libraries in the county will reopen for customers to come in and browse and borrow books from 10 May. The Grow it Forward gardening initiative in partnership with Healthy Ireland and Libraries Ireland is proving to be very popular with all ages. Almost 800 seedpacks have been distributed around the county over the past two weeks. The programme was launched by Cathaoirleach Paul Ross in the garden of a library customer from Ballymahon Mrs Philomena Fallon.

Longford Age Friendly

A meeting of the joint SPC's Housing and Placemaking was arranged for 22 April with the Chief Officer of Age Friendly Ireland Catherine McGuigan giving an overview of progress and priorities. Longford has been selected as one of nine counties to take part in the two-year pilot Healthy Homes initiative. The target population is older people at risk of entering longterm residential care and the aim is to ensure that they are given the support that

they need to continue living in their own homes and communities for as long as possible. The new appointee is expected to take up their role next month.

Creative Ireland

The Bealtaine festival celebrating the creativity and resilience of our older people will take place next month. A full programme of largely online events is planned. The first live music event will take place outside ten local nursing homes and day care facilities with a quartet of professional musicians including Longford Soprano Emer Barry. Three Longford literary festivals celebrating Longford's great writers from the past Edgeworth, Goldsmith and Colum will take place online during the month of May. A grant application for €90,000 of Faoin Spéir funding was submitted in April. This is being sought to run a number of outdoor cultural events focused on the Camlin Quarter.

Heritage Programme

The Heritage Office is administering the DHLGH Built Heritage Grants, the Built Heritage Investment Scheme 2021 and Historic Structures Fund 2021.

Funding has been sought from the Heritage Council to undertake the following projects under the County Heritage Plan 2019-2024:

- Longford Heritage Awareness & Engagement Programme
- A conservation plan for the plaster Oliver Goldsmith statue (Pallas) by John Henry Foley
- Longford Wetlands Survey 2021
- County Longford Popular Music Research Project

Decade of Commemorations

An online lecture on the very valuable resources of The Bureau of Military History took place in April. Sean O'Suilleabhain will deliver a lecture on the North Longford Flying Column during the month of May.

Community & Enterprise

Local Sports Partnership

Active Schools Month

During the month of April, we promoted sports and activity in Longford's primary Schools. Each school was set a four-week challenge where pupils had to perform skills set by Longford's GAA, soccer, rugby and athletics coaches. Pupils practiced each skill using a video demonstration and information booklet sent to schools



and they then tried each challenge. Active Schools Week took place over the last week in April with the aim of encouraging children to gain more active minutes each day. Longford Sports Partnership challenged school children in Longford to get moving and be active with our daily activities. Schools that encouraged pupils to take part were in with a chance to win a school prize.

Online workshops and Programmes

We continued to provide online workshops and programmes throughout April. This included nutrition, safeguarding and online exercise classes.

Schools Programmes

This month we were happy to restart our school programmes following COVID-19 guidelines and each school's safety protocols. Our Parkour coaches have been busy helping the children get active while learning new parkour movements using our mobile parkour equipment. Parkour teaches jumping and tumbling movements to move over everyday obstacles.

We also started our schools Sports Hall Athletics days. In normal times we would have just finished our very popular Sports Hall Athletics programme with our county finals. For this year each school will have the opportunity to have their own school Sports Hall Athletics days.

Older Adults and Inclusion Programmes

Our popular Bike Balance Ability programme took place with children in ASD units in Longford primary schools. Under the Healthy Ireland Keep Well Community Resilience Fund in partnership with Longford County Council and local partners we also continued to deliver spirit hamper packs to local groups, families and schools to help keep people active and keep well.

We were delighted to support Lus Na Greine Family Resource Centre's Women in Touch programme with online exercise classes suitable for older adults.



Community & Enterprise

Local Enterprise Office

Support

Grant Aid Applications	12
Approvals	11
Value of Approvals	€163,000

Training & Development Progs

Total Programmes	17
Total Participants	355

Mentoring

Total Participants	61
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Brexit

Total Group Workshops	1
Total Participants	15
1-to-1 Brexit Advisor Businesses	11

Trading Online Vouchers

Total Applications	14
Total Approvals	24
Value of Approvals	€54,455

Successful webinar with Chamber of Commerce



Outdoor Seating and Accessories for Tourism and Hospitality Business Scheme

Longford County Council teamed up with Longford Chamber of Commerce to outline the different range of supports available to local businesses from the different

County Council departments. Head of Finance John

McKeon presented information on the Rates Waiver Scheme; Gillian Tilson, Administration Officer with Income Generation outlined the details in relation to the Small Business Assistance Scheme, while Michael Nevin from LEO provided information on all the LEO supports available. He also explained how the new Outdoor Dining Scheme could benefit the different towns in the county and how the scheme will be administered.

Outdoor Dining Scheme key features:

- Up to €4,000 for tourism and hospitality businesses for purchase or upgrading outdoor seating
- Applicants under last year's scheme can apply for an additional €2,000
- Applications close 30th September 2021
- Eligible expenditure April 1st 2020 to 30th September 2021

Tourism

County Longford is being featured as part of the Ireland County by County TV series. This was filmed from 21 to 23 April 2021. The series will be aired on US cable TV



and shown on Aerlingus inbound flights. We in Longford Tourism are really excited to see the end product to highlight Longford's attractions to a very large audience.

Promoting Tourism Together Event

Longford Tourism and Longford LEO held an online networking event for tourism providers on 27 April. Over 50 participants heard speakers from Fáilte Ireland's Welcome Standard and Ireland's Hidden Heartlands. We also presented social media advice and nine elevator pitches from activity providers in County Longford.

Community & Enterprise

Corporate Services

Ongoing Corporate Services

- Corporate Services COVID 19 Business Response Plan continues to be implemented.
- The Community Call helpline continues to operate, reaching out to help the most vulnerable in society.

Corporate Management Supports and Customer Services

- The Customer Service desk remains available to respond to all calls during normal office hours
- All general queries from the public continue to be received, monitored and dealt with through our customer care email



Freedom of Information

	April	YTD
FOI requests received	10	21
AIE requests received	1	2
Ombudsman complaints rcvd	2	2

See FOI Disclosure Log on longfordcoco.ie



Longford County Council Chamber at Aras an Chontae

Elected Members Supports and Meetings Administration

Longford County Council Meetings in April continued to be held remotely due to COVID-19 Level 5 restrictions.

Date	Meeting
13 April	Corporate Policy Group
14 April	Longford County Council
20 April	Governance SPC
21 April	Climate Action & Planning SPC
22 April	Placemaking SPC
22 April	Strategic Infrastructure SPC
22 April	Joint Placemaking & Strategic Infrastructure SPC
28 April	Longford Municipal District

Community & Enterprise

Human Resources

Recruitment

- Three open competitions advertised
- Three confined competitions advertised
- Three candidates interviewed
- Shortlisting for GO competition completed
- One employee retired
- One new starter

FOI / Data Access Requests

- One FOI request in progress

Learning & Development

- Climate Action Training continuing for all employees, all Grade VI employees completed in April
- Performance Management Development System Training commenced with Senior Officers in the Pilot Directorate
- Interview Board Training
- First Aid Responder Training
- Nominations for Women in Leadership Training
- SLG Roadworks
- Personal Safety at Work

Core HR

- Data cleanse of CoreHR v19 completed
- Restructure of CoreHR completed successfully on Test and Live on CoreHR v19
- Subsequent payrun completed successfully
- The go-live for Core v28 date set for 11 June 2021

Document Management

- Review of HR Files in Machinery Yard completed
- Review of HR Files in Eircom buildings 60 per cent completed, work progressing well to completion

Health & Wellbeing

- Continuation of Health & Wellbeing online wellness seminars – with the focus on resilience & coping for the month of April
- Promotion of online webinar on skin cancer
- Continuation of Stress Control Programme
- Completion of Choirworks programme in preparation for the IBEC Workplace Choir of the Year with Cork International Choral Festival



Community & Enterprise

Communications

Ongoing Communications

- Media queries processed: 8
- Press Releases/Statements issued: 4

Coverage and Campaigns

In April, the Communications function worked on important and interesting media campaigns and statements including:

- Rural funding of €6m allocated to Ballymahon under RRDF
- Promoting the call for nominations to the Garda Youth Awards
- The publication of the expression of interest for Longford's public services Civic Centre
- Outdoor Seating and Accessories for Tourism & Hospitality Scheme
- The ongoing COVID-19 County Response feature on Shannonside
- The Let's Walk with Let's Talk feature on Shannonside
- The launch of the government's Be Summer Ready campaign
- €2.2million announced for Longford walking & cycling routes
- Join the Climate Change Conversation - the government's public consultation on our climate future

Communications continues to work on the development of Communications Guidelines, including elements that will feed into the overall Communications Strategy for Longford County Council. The Communications Officer is also involved in the editing of a number of internal and external documents and publications that are currently being prepared for release.

Social Media

The Council social media channels are used to keep citizens informed on Council works and services. These channels continue to play a key role in our COVID-19 communications highlighting important #KeepWell messages and public health guidelines with an increased recent focus on the vaccination programme rollout.



Here is the month of April on social media in numbers:

- 78 posts on the LCC Facebook page earned 49.2K impressions among its 4,337 followers
- 55 tweets on Twitter earned 46.9K impressions via its 2,875 followers
- 39 posts on Instagram earned 9.6K impressions with 709 followers

Health and Safety

Safety Inspections

There were six safety Inspections completed by the Health and Safety section and the Management Team.

Scheduled Internal Audit

The following internal audits were completed:

- Fire Services
- Water Service
- Community & Enterprise
- Local Enterprise Office
- Human Resources
- IT
- Corporate
- Planning
- Finance

Finance & Regeneration

Finance

Longford County Council
Revenue Account Income & Expenditure Summary by Service Division
Year to Date to Quarter End 31/12/2020

	EXPENDITURE				INCOME				NET
	Expenditure €	Adopted Full Year Budget €	% Budget Spent to date	Budget Remaining €	Income €	Adopted Full year Budget €	% Budget Raised	Budget outstanding €	Actual Overall Surplus/ (Deficit) €
Housing	9,511,745	9,531,177	100%	19,432	10,433,350	10,415,527	100%	(17,823)	921,605
Roads	18,587,919	11,455,775	162%	(7,132,144)	13,745,447	6,455,754	213%	(7,289,693)	(4,842,472)
Water Services	4,011,508	3,769,218	106%	(242,290)	3,887,405	3,569,405	109%	(318,000)	(124,103)
Development Management	15,720,870	9,487,625	166%	(6,233,245)	11,485,254	4,954,354	232%	(6,530,900)	(4,235,616)
Environment	5,539,849	5,802,869	95%	263,020	614,675	534,239	115%	(80,436)	(4,925,174)
Recreation & Amenity	4,287,653	4,207,740	102%	(79,913)	770,374	563,739	137%	(206,635)	(3,517,279)
Agri,Health & Welfare	462,876	449,029	103%	(13,847)	229,916	204,768	112%	(25,148)	(232,960)
Miscellaneous Services	7,596,164	3,335,187	228%	(4,260,977)	6,699,127	2,820,018	238%	(3,879,109)	(897,037)
Local Government Fund					9,224,711	9,224,711	100%	0	9,224,711
* Rates					8,632,835	9,296,104	93%	663,269	8,632,835
	€65,718,584	€48,038,620	137%	(€17,679,964)	€65,723,094	€48,038,619	137%	(€17,684,475)	€4,510

These are draft preliminary figures for 2020, and are subject to change

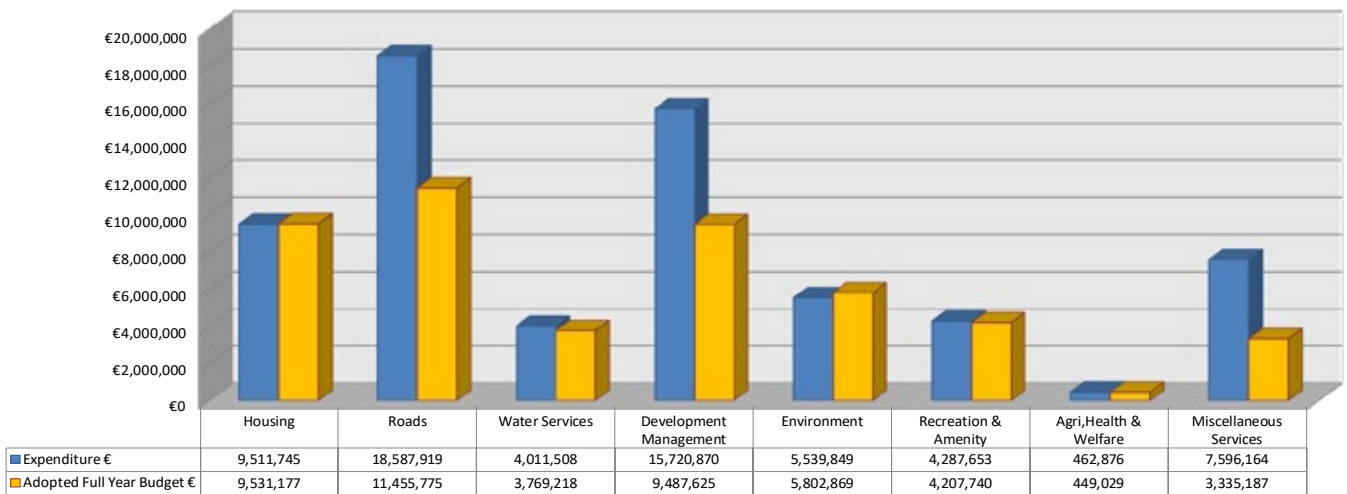
These figures are due for submission to the Department on Friday 5th March.

Where Covid-19 related expenditure has been incurred, corresponding Deferred Income from Central Government has been accounted for.

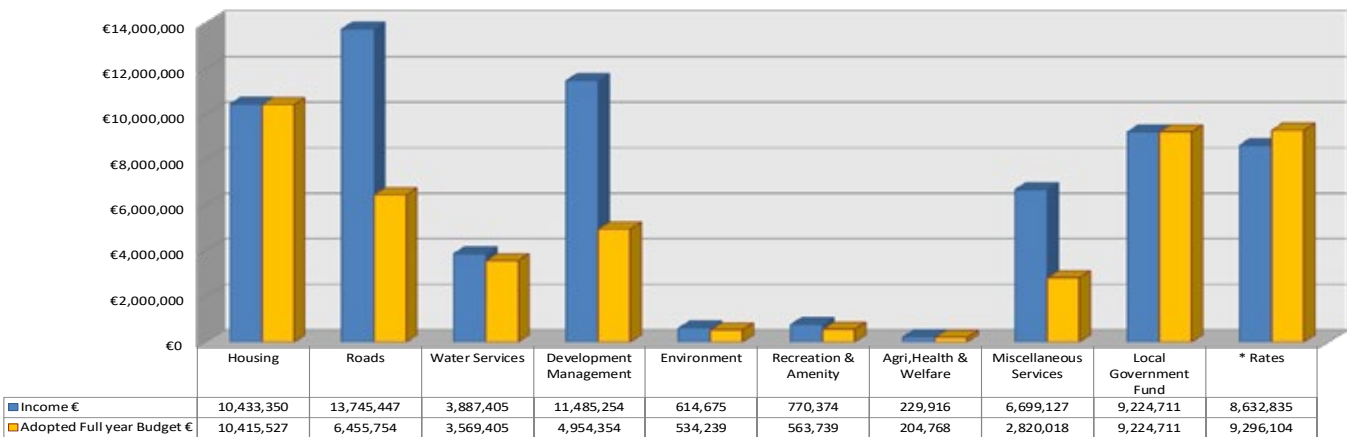
Full Year AFS 2020 will be due for review at the May Council Meeting.

Finance & Regeneration

Expenditure V Budget - Quarter 4, 2020



Income V Budget - Quarter 4, 2020



Finance & Regeneration

SUMMARY OF MAJOR REVENUE COLLECTIONS - QUARTER 4, 2020

	Opening Arrears	Billed	To be Collected	Collected	Closing Arrears	Collected
Quarter 4, 2020	€	€	€	€	€	%
*Rates	€1,033,827	€8,632,835	€5,727,569	€4,614,033	€1,113,536	81%
Rents (inc. RAS)	€736,999	€7,101,310	€7,838,309	€6,960,295	€878,014	89%
Housing Loans	€624,595	€751,783	€1,376,378	€892,464	€483,914	65%

	Opening Arrears	Billed	To be Collected	Collected	Closing Arrears	Collected
Quarter 4, 2019	€	€	€	€	€	%
*Rates	€1,410,968	€8,147,038	€8,401,429	€7,367,602	€1,033,827	88%
Rents (inc. RAS)	€415,696	€6,829,239	€7,216,120	€6,479,121	€736,999	90%
Housing Loans	€672,732	€875,569	€1,516,783	€892,188	€624,595	59%

	Opening Arrears	Billed	To be Collected	Collected	Closing Arrears	Collected
VARIANCE YOY	€	€	€	€	€	%
*Rates	(€377,141)	€485,797	(€2,673,860)	(€2,753,569)	€79,709	-7%
Rents (inc. RAS)	€321,303	€272,071	€622,189	€481,174	€141,015	-1%
Housing Loans	(€48,137)	(€123,786)	(€140,405)	€276	(€140,681)	6%

*** Covid-19 Commercial Rates waivers amounted to €3,060,386 in 2020. These have been taken account of in the 'To be Collected' figures above.**

Finance & Regeneration

Regeneration

RRDF Funding

The Regeneration team is delighted to welcome the announcement of €6million funding for Ballymahon by Minister Heather Humphreys. This project involves the renovation of three historic town centre buildings including the vacant former convent building, the old Boys School and the former Dean Egan Library into a Co-Working Space, Youth Hub and a Community Centre. This is a transformational regeneration project for Ballymahon to address the social, economic and physical needs of the town. The project will bring a number of vacant buildings located in the centre of the town back into use to provide key services for the local community including enhanced family support services, a new dedicated youth club, enhanced elderly care services and a new rural working hub. The project will have a significant and sustainable impact on the social and economic development of the community by delivering a campus of scale that will provide community services and deliver sustainable regeneration.

Newtowncashel Town & Village 2020 Project

Newtowncashel Tidy Towns committee are currently working with the Regeneration team on a project to provide public realm enhancement works consisting of outdoor seating, tables and movable plant display in the village. This provision of seating facilities in the public realm amenity areas will encourage people to



spend more time in the village and will benefit the area economically. The project is at an advanced stage and is funded by Longford County Council and the Department of Rural and Community Development under the Town & Village 2020 scheme.

Self-Guided Walking Trail Maps Tourism Initiative

The Regeneration team have recently launched a series of self-guided walking trail maps for the main towns of Longford, Ballymahon, Edgeworthstown, Granard and Lanesborough. These maps which feature



places of interest can be used by locals and visitors to explore the towns through walking trails. The towns featured on the maps will be promoted by Longford Tourism nationally to raise awareness of the rich heritage and beauty of the towns in Longford to encourage greater numbers of tourists and visitors to come to Co Longford. The maps are available in the Tourist Office, Market Square, Longford and libraries throughout the county. The project was funded by Longford County Council, Longford Tourism and the Department of Rural and Community Development under the Town & Village 2020 scheme.

Longford URBACT

An online meeting of Longford Urbact local group was held on 19 April 2021. The Regeneration officer welcomed new members from An Garda Síochána, Chamber of Commerce and Comhairle na nOg and presented an overview of the status of the UrbSecurity project and the Mechelen transnational meeting held in March 2021. The project will continue with a further transnational and ULG meeting planned for May 2021.

Finance & Regeneration

Information Technology

IT Infrastructure Section works completed

- Remote working equipment configured and deployed for new starters
- IT support for statutory meetings
- Windows Server EOL upgrades progressed
- New DR environment set up and ready for end user testing
- Updated backup and DR policies prepared
- Windows 10 feature update pilot completed, and rollout commenced
- IT prerequisites progressed for Core v28 upgrade
- PCI vulnerability scan complete
- ServiceDesk stats for April 2021: 435 tickets



Digital Services works completed

- Digital Performance Management Development System project progressed with iterative UX design commenced
- Digital Divide project progressed
- Electronic document management project has

progressed

- Broadband Connection Points/Community WIFI: In April, 15 new users were recorded with 120 returning users logging on
- The free WIFI4EU network available in Longford, Ballymahon and Drumlish had 684 new users in April
- IT took part in the Shape your Future Longford event on 14 April 2021, following a request from Senator Micheál Carrigy, presenting on the National Broadband Plan and BCP Network
- Hybrid Video meeting solution for Longford Chamber – tenders have been reviewed and invited to present on their proposed solution
- Elected Member training ongoing
- There have been 74 film submissions to date for the Grow Remote Longford Creative Film Project



Geographic Information Systems (GIS) works completed

- Small Business Assistance Scheme (SBAS) system test environment configuration with testing complete and live environment implemented.
- iReg electoral register – pilot for digital review complete.
- iHouse Area of Choice defined and mapped.
- Training on iHouse GIS viewer complete.
- Mapping for 2021 Roads Programme by municipal district and funding category complete.
- LabWorks application upgrade complete.

Strategic Infrastructure & Climate Action

Housing

Revised Social Housing Assessment Regulations

These revised regulations came into force on 19 April 2021 to provide for:

- A revised Social Housing Support Application
- The removal of the cap on percentage increases on the income eligibility threshold in respect of each household member aged less than 18 years
- Introduction of a medical/disability form (replaces current consultant letter). This form is for anyone who is applying for social housing or a social housing transfer due to disability or on medical grounds. The information provided will be used to assess if priority status should be awarded to an application.
- Changes to the assessment process
- Revised housing means policy

Housing & Disability Steering Group

Longford's Housing & Disability Steering Group, coordinated by Longford County Council, has started work on drafting a new strategic plan for accommodating social housing applicants in the county who are living with a disability. Our existing action plan is being reviewed and a draft Strategic plan for 2021-2025 must be prepared by the end of May 2021.

Midland Region Local Authority & Approved Housing Forum

The first meeting of the Midland Region Local Authority and Approved Housing Forum took place this month. The aim of the group is to improve the coordination

and cooperation across the midlands region as outlined in Circular 40/2019 issued by the Department. These meetings will take place on a quarterly basis and will focus on housing delivery and the operation of the housing services with the approved housing bodies.

Local Traveller Consultative Committee

The Local Traveller Consultative Committee met in April and a presentation was given to the members by CENA, a Traveller led approved housing body that establishes and develops close working relationships with Traveller families and can apply for funding to buy/improve units or build houses.

Midlands Retrofit Programme

As part of the Midlands Retrofit Programme, work was commenced in April on the retrofitting of four Council owned properties in Ballinalee. The work that is being carried out includes the installation of insulation and heat pumps. New windows and doors will also be installed. The Building Energy Ratings of the properties which are being upgraded will be improved to a B2 standard. When the works are completed the properties will be much more energy efficient and more comfortable to live in.

Kians Kennel's Fundraising

In February and March, the Housing team organised a 2K walk/cycle/run challenge and raised much needed funds to support a local charity Kian's Kennels, which aims to provide therapy dogs for people and children with serious illnesses.

Strategic Infrastructure & Climate Action

Housing Projects

Work has recommenced on all housing projects since the lifting of the public health restrictions. The following projects are now complete:

- 1 unit Cloonahard
- 5 units Kenagh
- 8 units Alder Field
- 4 out of the 9 units in Sli Corglass, Legga

Work is ongoing on all other projects. These include:

- 1 unit Fairgreen View
- 5 remaining units Sli Corglass, Legga
- 6 units Rose Cottage, Ballinalee
- 21 units Campbells Lane
- 14 units O'Haras site, Richmond Street



*Housing Project at Cloonahard
Before (above) and after (below)*



Refurbished Voids

Five void properties were recently refurbished with the Building Energy Ratings (BER) of all improving, generally from a G to a C1 or C2. Another six void properties are due for completion shortly. Their Building Energy ratings will also have improved.

Planning

Applications and Enforcement

Statutory Requirements maintained:

- Managing the various planning applications, housing, retail, industrial proposals, Part 8 planning schemes, CPOs
- Planning administrative office, public counter and technical advice and reports kept fully functioning
- Assisting in the implementation of the housing, regeneration and climate change programme



Lough Ree, April 2021

Development Plan

The Review of the County Development Plan is ongoing, as a statutory requirement, setting out the template for the county's development from 2021 to 2027. Second phase public consultation on the Draft Plan is now complete. The substantial number of submissions received have now been analysed and the Chief Executive's report on these submissions was presented to members on 30 March. Based on the issues raised in the various submissions it is expected that a Revised Plan will be presented to members for their approval in late June. The Draft Plan should be completed by October/November 2021 for members' adoption.

Strategic Infrastructure & Climate Action

Roads

Essential Maintenance

Due to COVID-19, Level 5 restrictions continued to be in place throughout the month of April. Longford County Council employees continued to be restricted to essential maintenance works on public roads to maintain the operational capacity and safety of the road network. These essential maintenance works include drainage, pothole repair, patching, winter maintenance, emergency call outs etc.

Road Safety

Due to current COVID-19 restrictions the AXA Road Safe Roadshow, which aims to promote road safety among young road users, was unable to be delivered locally. Instead four of our local schools, capturing 275 Transition Year pupils and teachers, signed up to a live national presentation on 22 April, in conjunction with Mayo County Council, Emergency Services and AXA Insurance, organised in conjunction with the Longford Road Safety Officer.

Additional Outdoor Infrastructure Fund 2021

The Dept of Transport has advised that additional funding of €15 million is available to support local authorities in quickly implementing improvements to traffic management, roads, streets, and to the public realm in urban areas. The fund will be administered by the National Transport Authority and applications are required to be submitted by Friday 14 May 2021.

N63 Market Square to Flancare Scheme



Before the works (above) and after the works (below)



Strategic Infrastructure & Climate Action

Water Services

Upgrades of the Granard and Gowna Water Plants

In April the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) undertook audits of the water treatment systems of the Granard and Gowna water plants. These audits



follow significant capital investment by Irish Water and extensive work on the ground by Longford County Water Services staff over the last 12 months. On 30 April, the EPA confirmed that both supply zones were approved for removal from the Remedial Action List (RAL) where drinking water supplies are at risk of failing to consistently supply safe, clean drinking water.

Works completed included upgrading chemical treatment processes, refurbishment of filters and improvements in telemetry and monitoring instrumentation. These upgrades have modernised and improved the water treatment processes at the plants. In total 6,000 water customers served by the Gowna and Granard water supplies will now benefit from these enhancement works.

Above Granard Water Treatment Plant is pictured during the upgrade works. And here, Gowna Water Treatment



Plant is pictured, showing the upgraded clarifier in place.

Find & Fix Programme Achieves Significant Savings

Drinking water is a valuable resource and its production requires high energy use therefore water conservation plays a major role in the way that Irish Water and the Local Authorities mitigate and adapt to climate change. Significant progress has been made with the reduction of water leakage through the implementation of the Find & Fix programme at both a local and national level, with large leakage reduction savings having been reported since the commencement of the programme in 2019. Longford County Council Find & Fix team are currently operating in the Whitehill and Granard areas. The team has achieved significant savings of approximately 110,400 litres of drinking water per day during the month of April through its Find & Fix activities.



Strategic Infrastructure & Climate Action

Environment

Longford's Green Keep it Clean

In April, the Longford's Green Keep It Clean Campaign continued in earnest.

Longford's Green Keep It Clean
The clean-up continues

After the launch last week of the Longford's Green Keep It Clean Campaign 2021, Longford County Council were delighted to receive more photos and reports of clean ups continuing at pace across the county. The great Longford Clean-up is certainly under way with more and more communities and families getting involved and doing their part in keeping their local roads and countryside clean and tidy. Longford County Council would like to say well done and thank you to all the volunteers who have taken part so far in the Longford's Green Keep It Clean Campaign 2021.

AN LONGFORT
COUNCIL

Comhairle Chontae Liatroma
Leitrim County Council

Local Authority's Waters Programme

Pesticides social media post

Pesky Pesticides

Longford County Council also launched a press and media campaign in conjunction with Leitrim County Council and the Local Authority Waters Programme. It is aimed at raising awareness of the need to reduce the use of pesticides in our gardens and recreational spaces.

Your Local Council
Promoting the Protection of Drinking Water from Pesticides in the Lough Rinn Forbes Catchment Area
Do you need to use pesticides in your garden, on driveways or around your sports grounds?
As well as providing drinking water, our rivers and lakes sustain biodiversity and are vulnerable to pesticide contamination.
A single drop of pesticide is enough to breach the drinking water limit in a small stream for up to 30 kilometres!
Find out what you can do to Protect our Drinking Water from pesticides by contacting your local council below.

For more information contact the Environment Department of Your Local Council

Longford: PH: 043 3343462
Email: environment@longfordcoco.ie
Website: www.longfordcoco.ie

Leitrim: PH: 071 9620005
Email: environment@leitrimcoco.ie
Website: www.leitrimcoco.ie

Pesticides campaign newspaper advertisement



AN LONGFORT
COUNCIL

Comhairle Chontae Liatroma
Leitrim County Council

Local Authority's Waters Programme

Pesticides social media post

Veterinary Services

Urban Horse Project Summer Programme

The Longford Urban Horse Project proved successful again in 2020 and will be submitted as an example of excellence in public service to the LGMA.



Strategic Infrastructure & Climate Action

Fire Services

Operations

- Total callouts in April: 35
- All stations remained fully operational

Health & Safety

- No injuries to report.

Training

- Training courses are being rescheduled on an ongoing basis because of COVID-19.
- Weekly drills are back and up and running. Every fire fighter in the county has completed a one-day training day to catch up on fire drills missed due to the Level 5 restrictions.
- Five fire fighters have completed training to become instructors in the operation of our Snorkel Aerial Appliance.

Major Emergency Management

- Regional Working Group meetings are now held fortnightly by teleconference working on COVID-19 measures.
- A business plan has been put together to seek funding from the NDFEM for digital equipment for the four local authorities in the midlands region for remote coordination and management of severe weather or major emergency events

Fire Prevention

- One fire safety cert has been processed in April
- Fire Service inspections and community fire safety activities have been suspended for the duration of COVID-19.

Business Continuity Planning

- The Fire Service have prepared and implemented business continuity measures for both operational personnel and HQ staff. These measures are managed by the Longford Fire and Rescue Service Action Tracker Plan for COVID-19.
- Fire Brigade HQ is always being manned.

Recruitment

We have vacancies in three Fire Stations:

- Granard (2)
- Edgeworthstown (1)
- Lanesborough (2)

To date, we have received three applications.

Vehicles

A Snorkel Aerial appliance to be located in Longford Town was purchased from Humberside Fire Service. Training has been completed for this appliance and it is operational as from 30 April 2021. The old Bronto vehicle will be sold off at a later date



Strategic Infrastructure & Climate Action

Civil Defence

Duties & Taskings

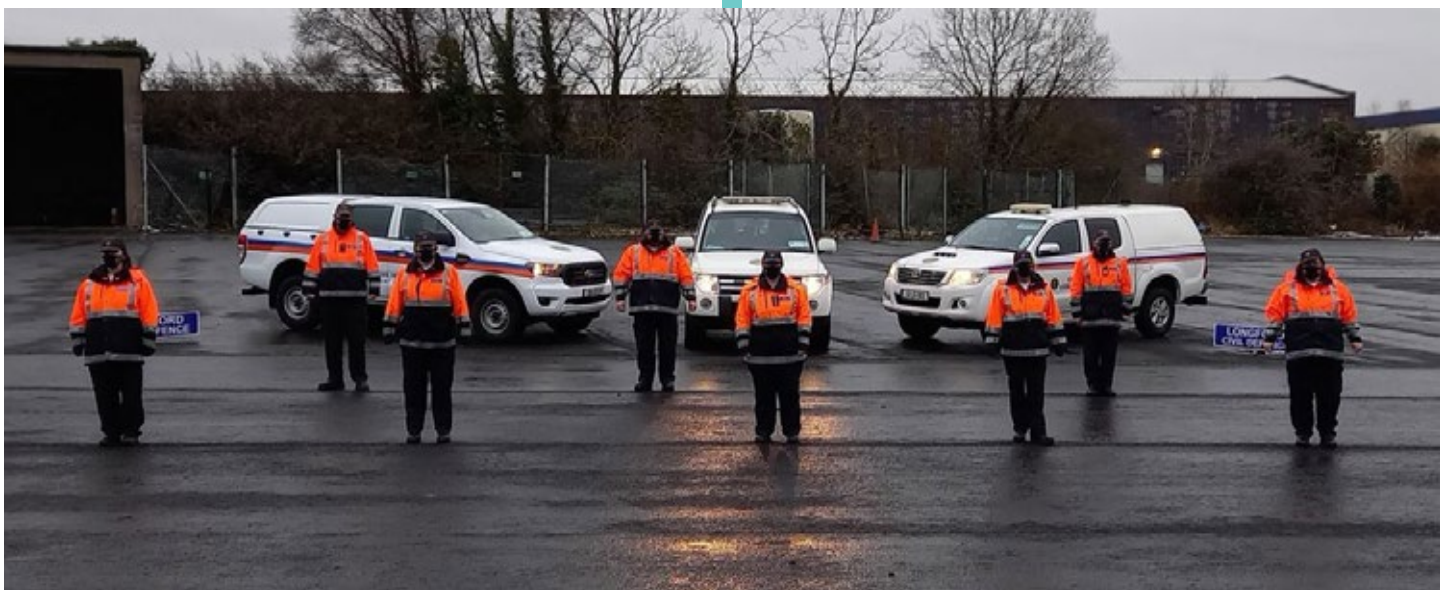
- Volunteers provided medical cover at three Longford Town soccer matches
- Volunteers carried out a delivery on behalf of the Community Forum
- Transport was provided to a vulnerable person for their COVID-19 vaccination

Training

- Six volunteers completed their First Aid training and passed their MCQ and practical exams
- Eight volunteers completed their People Handling Training
- Our Paramedic Instructor passed the First Aid Responder (FAR) recognised Prior Learning process and is now certified to instruct at FAR level

Operations

- Attendance at Community Response Forum meetings online to provide update and offer support for ongoing Community Response in Longford
- Training equipment procured from the equipment grant which was provided by the Civil Defence Branch
- Ongoing tender for 4X4 vehicle which will be funded by the Dept Dormant Accounts Fund. The Command and Control Unit is in the final stage of procurement
- One obsolete asset is being sent for auction



Strategic Infrastructure & Climate Action

Climate Action Initiatives

Environment

In accordance with Action 165 of the National Climate Plan 2019, Longford County Council has nominated Longford Town as its “Decarbonisation Zone”. Work will now commence on a Spatial Energy Demand Analysis to establish the baseline for the implementation plan which must be completed by the end of 2021.

Civil Defence

- A smaller table top refrigerator with a more energy efficient rating was purchased for headquarters.
- A hose, bucket and vehicle brush were purchased to avoid overuse of power washer and to help conserve water when washing vehicle fleet.

Fire Services

A survey was undertaken of our Fire Fighting foam stock to determine if we any of our foams are harmful to the environment. All future foam purchases shall not contain PFOA derivatives which are harmful to the environment (green procurement).

Freedom of Information

- No longer requesting hardcopy records for FOI requests. Records are instead scanned and emailed. Adobe Acrobat Pro has been purchased which has the facility to redact and organise PDF documents.
- For the recent production of the Register of Electors, TDs and Senators were encouraged to accept electronic copies of the Register, rather than the hardcopies that were historically sent.

Planning

The Development Plan review includes a specific Chapter on Climate Change and each individual chapter has a Climate Change check list the end.

Roads

Longford County Council has 5,624 public lights fully taken in charge. A total of 3,270 of these are now LEDs. In 2020, LCC upgraded 612 lights to LED - meeting our planned targets. These 612 lanterns give us 13,660 kw in savings.

Tourism

The Promoting Tourism Together event was held in an environmentally friendly way online. Participants were invited by email, phone calls and social media so there was no printing required and even though we had such a large attendance, nobody had to travel to the event.

Regeneration

- Tendering for feasibility study on Anaerobic Digestion and the Circular economy in Lanesborough and Ballyleague
- Completion of rural working hubs project - reducing the need to travel

Housing

Five void properties were recently refurbished with the Building Energy Ratings (BER) of all improving, generally from a G to a C1 or C2. Another six void properties are due for completion shortly.

Water Services

Longford County Council Find & Fix team are currently operating in the Whitehill and Granard areas. The team has achieved savings of approximately 110,400 litres of drinking water per day during the month of April.

CONNECTED

People • Place • Opportunity

Management Report for April 2021 prepared in accordance with Sec 136 (2) of the Local Government Act 2001, as inserted by Sec 51 the Local Government Reform Act 2014. The report outlines key aspects of our service delivery and performance in April 2021 in securing the objectives set out in the Council's Corporate Plan.

Signed: 
Paddy Mahon
Chief Executive





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Longfordcoco.ie

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