



Longford County Council Chief Executive Report July-August 2020

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July-August Highlights

Roadworks Taking Place Throughout County Longford

The summer months are a particularly busy period for the Roads Department with Roadworks taking place throughout the County.

The N4 Mullingar to Longford (Roosky) Project is being progressed in accordance with the TII Management Guidelines (PMG). It is currently in Phase 2. Options Selection and work has commenced on the Option Selection Process.

In Longford Town Work has commenced on the N63 Market Square to Flancare Pavement Scheme. Priority Construction were the successful tenderer and they will progress works on this Scheme over the coming months.

Design Works are continuing on the N4 Newtownforbes Pavement Scheme and N55 Ballymahon Main Street Pavement Scheme with construction due to commence in 2021.



Official Opening of Newcastle Woods Greenway

The Newcastle Woods Greenway at Newcastle Woods, Ballymahon, Co. Longford was officially opened on 20 July 2020 by Cathaoirleach Cllr Paul Ross. This Greenway links Newcastle Woods with the Royal Canal Greenway and will allow users travel from Dublin along the Greenway and into Center Parcs. This will increase the attractiveness of Longford and the wider Hidden Heartlands as a destination of choice for holiday makers.



Bee Hive Project Launch

Longford County Council was one of the first councils to sign up to the all-Ireland Pollinator Plan which aims to help struggling pollinators survive and thrive in Ireland. The Council is committed to helping develop pollinator and biodiversity zones across the whole of County Longford.



Community & Enterprise

Community Development

Longford Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)

A meeting of the LCDC was held on 30th July 2020.

LEADER 2014-2020



At the LCDC meeting held on the 30th of July, 11 Leader projects were approved for funding totalling €1,185,394.66.

11 LEADER projects approved	€1,185,394.66 Value of Approvals
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SICAP

The mid-term review of the SICAP Annual Plan 2020 was approved at the LCDC meeting on the 30th July 2020 subject to an adjustment in the reporting of Key Performance Indicators.

Community Enhancement Programme 2020

The LCDC allocated grant aid totalling €55,317 to fifty-one organisations at its meeting on 30th July. Proposed projects included the Development/Upgrade of Community Facilities, once-off maintenance of premises, Purchase of Equipment, Public Realm/Streetscaping and Adaptations or equipment needed as a result of COVID-19.

On 10th August 2020, the Department of Rural and Community Development advised of a new €5m fund being provided nationally towards Community Centres and Community Buildings. €109,088 has been allocated to Longford LCDC. This fund will provide capital grants towards the maintenance, improvement and upkeep of community centres and community buildings. Similar expenditure on other community facilities will also be allowed. The funding is aimed at measures that stimulate local economies, addressing disadvantage in each area's Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP).

Application Forms and Guidelines are available on the Council's website. Application forms and supporting documentation should be emailed to Longford Local Community Development Committee (LCDC): LCDC@longfordcoco.ie ie no later than 12 noon on Wednesday 16th September, 2020.

Covid – 19 Community Response Forum and Helpline

A further meeting of the Community Response Forum was held on 30th July with participating organisations reporting satisfactory progress on assistance provided to at-risk members of the public in accessing non-emergency and non-medical supports and advice during the current public health emergency. The meeting noted a continuing reduction in the number of calls to the Helpline.

Community & Enterprise

Longford Sports Partnership

- National Play Day took part on the Saturday 4th July – 350 packs distributed to families from Longford, and two summer camps supported.
- Women on the Water took place over 5 evenings with 120 women taking part, videos here <https://www.facebook.com/longfordsportspartnership/videos/1572562362911623/>

Women On The Water 2020

Beginning Tuesday the 21st of July

3 Options Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday at 7pm

€35 per person

Register on Eventbrite

Women's Kayak Programme

Our 6 week Women On The Water Kayak programme takes place from Clondra Harbour beginning Tuesday July 21st.

One evening over 6 weeks from Clondra

longfordsportspartnership

SPORT IRELAND

Waterways Ireland

- Horse Riding and Welfare Education Programme saw 10 children from disadvantaged communities coming together to learn about horses and how to care for them.



- Summer Walking Series 8 walks throughout the county on our beautiful scenic walks, finals number to be confirmed but an average of 50 people per evening, so 400 participants including virtual challenge. Newcastle woods walk here <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U-bN2XGYNUw>
- Covid -19 club Small grant scheme released, closing date the 2nd September <http://www.longfordsports.ie/what-we-do/latest-news/longford-sports-partnership-covid-19-club-small-grant-scheme-guidelines.html>
- Daily social media take over from our NGB Development Officer at 11am with challenge and ideas to keep active, please like or follow us to get the updates - <http://www.longfordsports.ie/what-we-do/stay-active-online-hub/national%20development%20officers/>
- Update of our Stay Active Online Hub on our website, <http://www.longfordsports.ie/what-we-do/stay-active-online-hub> with lots of activities, challenges and home workouts as well as the return to sport protocols and information.
- Mediation and Relaxation programme, football skills & couch to 3k online created for people with disabilities.
- Daily workout from the Sports Hub and Zoom classes continue
- Sports Hub, IRFU, GAA and FAI delivering their workplans

Community & Enterprise

Corporate Services

Corporate Services COVID 19 Business Response Plan continues to be implemented.

Corporate Management Supports & Business and Customer Services

Our Customer Services desk responded to a total of **4,751** calls during the months of July & August.



Calls to the Community Call helpline since early August are received at the Customer Services Desk and responded to by a designated employee.

The Council continue to encourage members of the public to communicate and transact their business where possible by phone or email as we navigate through the current response phase of COVID-19.

Communications

Keeping County Longford Informed

The primary focus and objectives of the Council's communication with the people of Longford as we continue to live with COVID-19 is to keep our citizens informed and up to date with latest national and local information.

The focus during July and August centered around:

- Keeping our citizens informed with national and local COVID-19 information
- Focusing on staying safe and healthy through the latest reopening stages
- Highlighting work of all sections of the Council in supporting Longford communities during COVID-19, through the local authority sectoral initiative #YourCouncilDay July 1st
- Promoting national campaigns of #InThisTogether, #StaySafe and #HoldFirm

It is noteworthy that Council's messaging was shared and re-tweeted to wider audiences by:

- Department of Rural and Community Development
- Failte Ireland
- Healthy Ireland
- Leave No Trace Ireland
- Creative Ireland

Social Media:

National COVID-19 communications were tailored to ensure up-to-date, relevant information was available to all. Authentic image-based content and Longford-focused messaging continued to be a feature of the Council's innovative approaches in keeping our citizens informed.



July

3,743 followers

86 messages posted

Our Posts were seen 115k times.



July

2,617 followers

89 messages tweeted

Our Tweets had 61k impressions.



August

3,804 followers

44 messages posted

Our Posts were seen 68k times.



August

2,648 followers

50 messages tweeted

Our Tweets had 35k impressions.

Community & Enterprise

Elected Members Supports & Meetings Administration

Council meetings continue to be convened during the COVID-19 Pandemic in a physical place in accordance with advice from the Department of Housing, Planning & Local Government.

All 9 meetings held in July were in accordance with HSE guidance and advice regarding social distancing with necessary Health & Safety protocols to prevent the spread of Coronavirus in place at the meeting venue- Longford Rugby Club.

Health & Safety COVID 19

- Return to Work Safety protocol and procedures continue to be implemented.
- COVID 19 Risk Assessment Communication ongoing to ensure current information regarding controls measures to prevent the spread of the virus

Safety Inspections

- 10 Safety Inspection completed by the Health and Safety Section in July & August

National Safety Authority of Ireland Safety Audit

- Dates fixed for Audit of Council's Safety Management System against the 45001 Standard with preparation ongoing.
- Internal Safety audits completed:
- Housing Section - 20th August
- Civil Defence & Regeneration Sections- 27th August

Risk Assessment Review Programme

- Commenced and currently underway with number of risk assessments with employees as part of the consultation stage.
- Revised updated Risk Assessments will be issued and communicated to employees.

Corporate Governance

Data Protection

Policies Adopted:

- Data Protection Policy Framework Adopted
- Longford County Council's Privacy Statement

Policies in Consultation Process (2):

- Clean & Clear Desk Policy
- Data Subject Rights Policy

Policies under Development:

- Data Protection Policy

Data Protection Awareness Training delivered to:

- Management Team
- Senior Officers Group

Number of Data Protection queries received and handled in Jul/Aug 2020

26

Number of Data Subject Access Requests received and responded to within 30-day legislative timeframe

1

Records of Processing Activities progressed with sections within the Council, as required under Article 30 GDPR

Data Protection Officer participated in

- National DPO Network workshop for July 2020
- Local Authorities Working Group reviewing use of CCTV in relation to Litter & Waste Management

Freedom of Information

Freedom of Information	July & Aug 2020	Year to Date
No. of F.O.I. requests received	8	38
No. of F.O.I. requests Granted	1	13*
No. of F.O.I. requests Part-Granted	3	8
No. of F.O.I. requests Refused	5	16*
No. of F.O.I. requests Withdrawn & handled outside F.O.I.	0	1
No. of F.O.I. Internal Reviews	1	2
Number of A.I.E. requests received	0	1

*Figure includes Decisions made relating to FOI's from 2019 – one Granted and one Refused
FOI Quarterly disclosure published on Council's website

Community & Enterprise

Local Enterprise Office

Performance Metrics to 28 August 2020

Measure 1

Number of Applications Received:

Feasibility/Priming/Business Expansion/TAME 13

Measure 2

Training/Development Programmes
(All Training and Networking events)

Total No. of All Programmes (Training/
Networking/Events/Seminars) 37

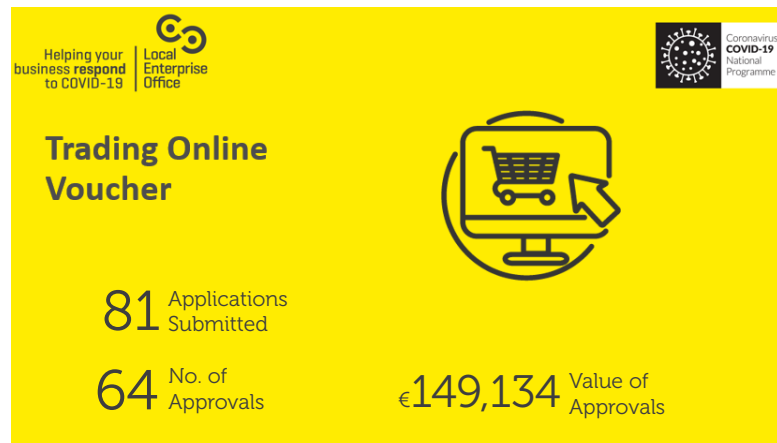
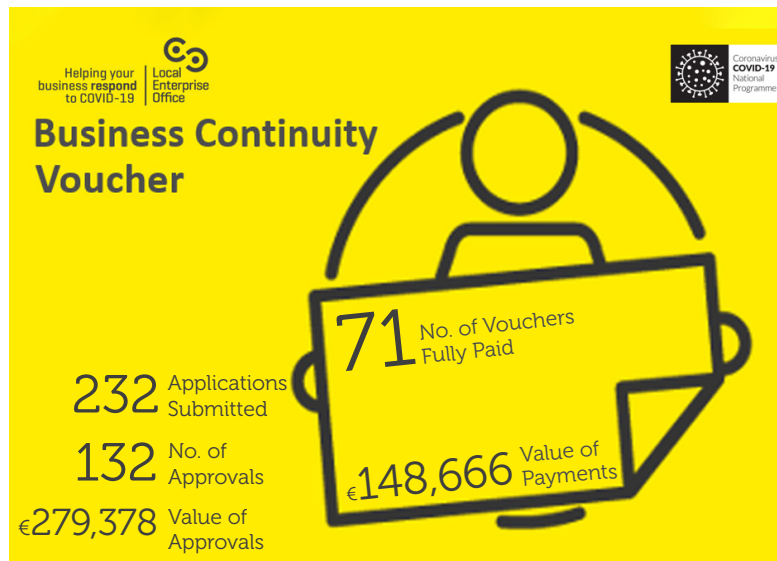
Total No. of all Participants participating in
above Programmes 731

Mentoring:

Total Number of individual mentoring – 78
(participants availing of one to one mentor-
ing – one to one engagement by a Mentor
with one client)



COVID-19 Supports



Tourism Office

- Ongoing work being done on design & content for North Longford cycle trail boards
- Event Guide recommenced
- Longford Tourism Advert on Shannonside commenced end of July – will run for 12 weeks
- Tourism AGM was held on 3rd July
- Summer Walks series started in July – in conjunction with Sports Partnership and sponsored by Longford Tourism
- Final edits of National Famine Way passport information
- Signage for information boards commenced (first one will be for top of Corn Hill promoting the other walking trails in the county)
- Updated Google maps with visitor attractions in Longford
- Ongoing consultation with ptools with regard to website
- Ongoing consultation with Harp Media to finish Autumn video



Community & Enterprise

Longford County Library Heritage and Archive

Edgeworthstown Community Library

Work is progressing well on this project. There is great interest & anticipation in the local community. We are hopefully working towards a finish date end of 2020 - early 2021.

Longford County Library service continued to connect with customers throughout the lockdown with a particular focus on cocooners. All of our branch Libraries are now open to the public with limited opening hours from Monday to Saturday. A housebound book delivery service which was run by library staff in each Branch library with assistance from family members of cocooners and Civil Defence continues to operate for those who need it. There continues to be a big growth in demand for the online services including, e-books, e-audio books, online newspapers, language learning and much more. Staff continue to deliver a full range of online programmes for children: storytime, book competitions, coding, creative writing, animation etc. and for adults Cookery, gardening, genealogy and Minding your Mental health. A total of 161 videos received 75,360 views which shows the level of community engagement with the programmes.

Heritage Week this year ran from 15th-23rd August with a very exciting and full programme programme which focussed on local community involvement with our natural and built heritage. Every part of the county featured in talks and walks with a combination of virtual and live events including talks, walks, videos and projects. One of the highlights was a creative project called Lockdown Longford Lore which invited people from around the globe to engage with some of the wonderful folklore collected by Cait ni Bradaigh from Granard. All of the projects can be viewed on facebook.com/LongfordHeritageArchives & www.longfordlibrary.ie.

Longford Age Friendly Programme

Keeping people connected! The strong focus of this programme throughout Covid19 was on keeping our older citizens connected and minding their mental health and wellbeing. Regular telephone calls and a buddy system was promoted where each older person agreed to call at least two other older neighbours on a regular basis for a chat. Two community newsletters for each MD were distributed by Longford Civil Defence to over 1500 families through our countywide network of family resource centres, libraries, postoffices, garda stations etc. The Irish Independent featured a Longford couple who were cocooning as part of a series on how our older citizens were surviving in lockdown. Very positive feedback is being received from our older citizens in particular about how well cared for they felt by all the services statutory and voluntary throughout the pandemic.

Creative Ireland

Most of the planned annual programme is now going ahead online although many of the annual festivals had to be cancelled. The Still Voices Film Festival went ahead online this year in August with over 150 films being featured. Throughout Covid 19 we have kept in contact with our artists and creatives and with Backstage Theatre and have supported them as much as possible in delivering programmes online and using social media. We also highlighted the importance of having an online presence and made them aware of grants available through LEO and the Arts Council. We successfully applied for funding for an intergenerational choir project on getting children and their grandparents singing together and will be rolling this project out in the autumn with a primary school, St. Christophers and Longford Older Persons Council.

Longford Decade of Centenaries programme

Longford was one of the counties with the most intense activity in the War of Independence, especially in 1920-21. The month of November has been designated as History Month in County Longford and a full programme of events is planned focussing largely on Ballinalee and Granard this year. A schools education pack is being developed for all schools in the county and the overall programme will have a strong focus on making our children and young people more aware of their rich history and heritage. Plans are in train to adapt the programme to deliver it online if required.



Community & Enterprise

Human Resources

Over the last month HR have focused on

- Business Response Planning
- Communications with employees
- Supporting employees
- Employee Health and Wellbeing
- Learning and Development
- Delivering the Recruitment Programme through the use of digital medium
- Contract Management
- Progression of the Core HR project (Transition from V19-V28)
- Changing work practices and increasing the use of digital technology

Business Response Planning

The HR section continues to operate on a rota basis attending the office and remote working. The use of digital technology has enabled the section to maintain service delivery during COVID-19 while protecting the safety, health and welfare of employees.

Communications to Employees

On behalf of the Management Team, four communication were provided to all employees during the month of July. Updates are provided to employees following Business Response & Management Team meetings. The purpose of the employee update is to keep employees up to date with public health advice, changes nationally, locally and decisions of the Management Team. for re-opening Services amongst other national updates and decisions of the Management Team.

Employee Health & Wellbeing

During the month of July, yoga and body circuit classes were organized for employees. They took place on a weekly basis. Employees were able to participate in a fitness class from the comfort of their own home. The classes had a total of 94 employees in attendance.

Learning & Development

During the month of July, Commercial Vehicle Road Worthiness Training, Driver Vehicle Induction, Temporary Traffic Management Design, Level 1 & 2 and End User IT Security Training took place online. Manual Handling training continues to take place via digital medium.

Recruitment

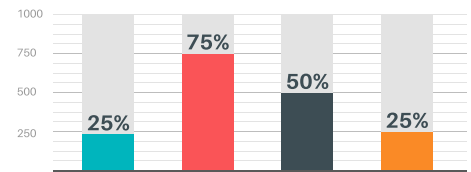
The recruitment programme progressed during the month of July & August with the interviews being held online using Microsoft Teams.

CoreHR Transition from V19 – V28

The CoreHR transition project which will move from version 19 to version 28 continued during the month of July. The transition will focus on the re-structure of the CoreHR system and the transition to a more effective HR software solution.



Finance & Regeneration



Finance

Year to Date to Quarter End 30/06/2020

	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	4,924,371	9,531,177	52%	4,606,806	5,422,374	10,415,527	52%	4,993,153	498,003
Roads	5,960,964	11,455,775	52%	5,494,811	3,214,307	6,455,754	50%	3,241,447	(2,746,657)
Water Services	2,034,368	3,769,218	54%	1,734,850	1,968,435	3,569,405	55%	1,600,970	(65,933)
Development Management	4,605,086	9,487,625	49%	4,882,539	2,416,954	4,954,354	49%	2,537,400	(2,188,132)
Environment	2,978,635	5,802,869	51%	2,824,234	311,460	534,239	58%	222,779	(2,667,175)
Recreation & Amenity	2,037,569	4,207,740	48%	2,170,171	219,899	563,739	39%	343,840	(1,817,670)
Agri,Health & Welfare	210,678	449,029	47%	238,351	74,788	204,768	37%	129,980	(135,890)
Miscellaneous Services	2,091,384	3,335,187	63%	1,243,803	1,693,549	2,820,018	60%	1,126,469	(397,835)
Local Government Fund					4,612,356	9,224,711	50%	4,612,355	4,612,356
* Rates					4,337,747	9,296,104	47%	4,958,357	4,337,747
	€24,843,055	€48,038,620	52%	€23,195,565	€24,271,869	€48,038,619	51%	€23,766,750	(€571,186)

* The above figures do not take into account the Covid-19 related lost Rates Income, these will be accounted for at the end of 2020.

Estimated lost rates income for full year 2020 currently amounts to circa €5.5m

Estimated lost rates Goods & Services income for full year 2020 currently amounts to circa €2.7m

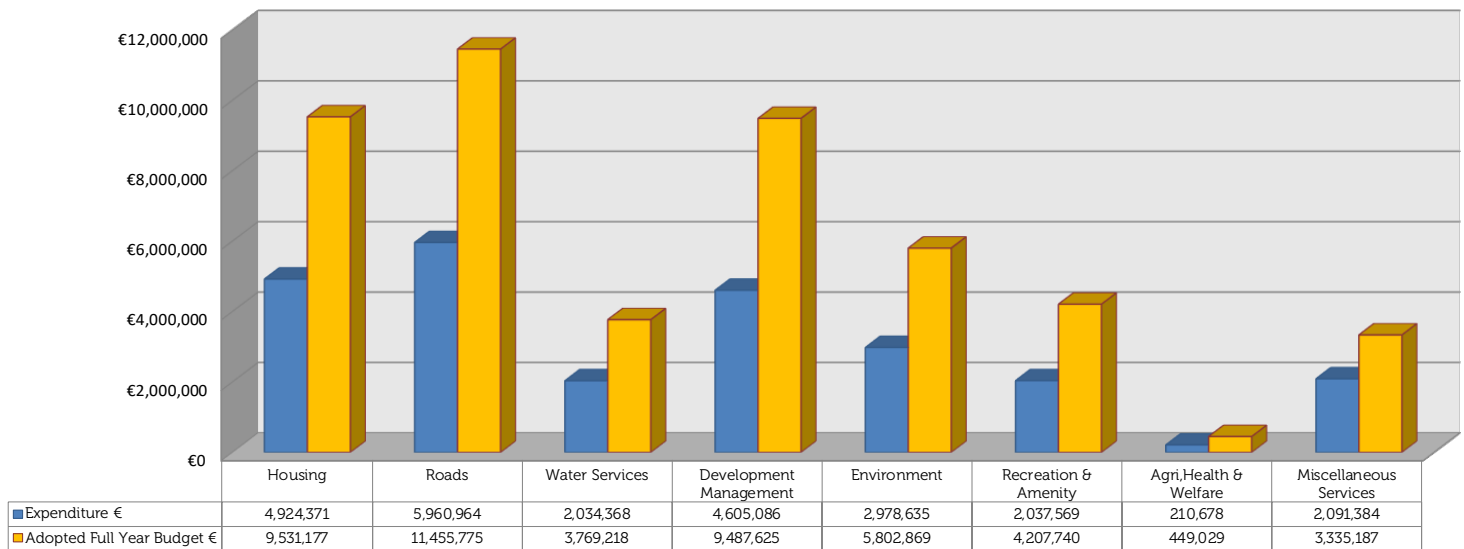
Estimated extra Covid-19 related expenditure for full year 2020 currently amounts to circa €815k



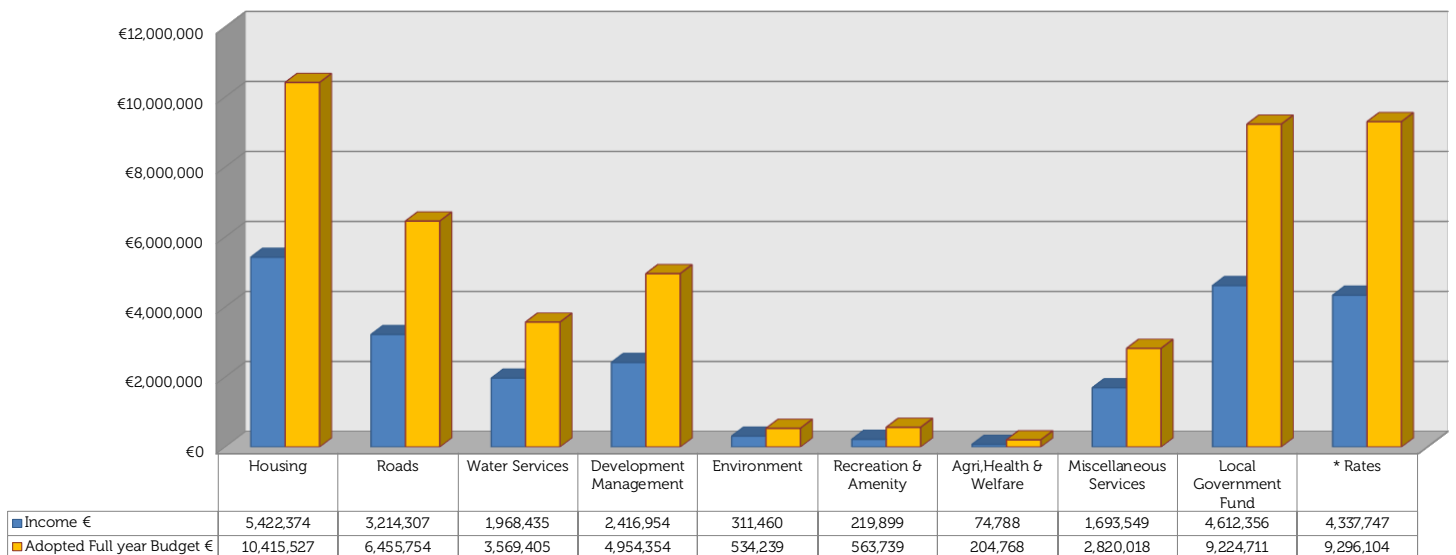
Finance & Regeneration

Finance

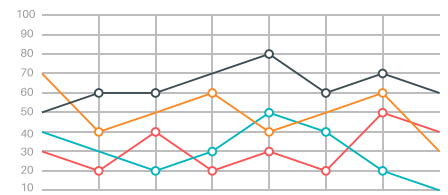
Expenditure V Budget - Quarter 2, 2020



Income V Budget - Quarter 2, 2020



Finance & Regeneration



Finance

SUMMARY OF MAJOR REVENUE COLLECTIONS - QUARTER 1, 2020

	Opening Arrears	Billed	To be Collected	Collected	Closing Arrears	Collected
Quarter 1, 2020	€	€	€	€	€	%
Rates	€1,033,827	€8,681,974	€9,715,085	€1,386,944	€8,328,141	14%
Rents (inc. RAS)	€736,999	€1,772,479	€2,509,478	€1,758,440	€751,038	70%
Housing Loans	€624,595	€239,661	€864,256	€222,567	€641,689	26%

	Opening Arrears	Billed	To be Collected	Collected	Closing Arrears	Collected
Quarter 1, 2019	€	€	€	€	€	%
Rates	€1,410,968	€8,187,639	€9,563,752	€1,113,489	€8,450,263	12%
Rents (inc. RAS)	€415,696	€1,381,063	€1,795,626	€1,408,462	€387,164	78%
Housing Loans	€672,732	€220,392	€893,124	€208,410	€684,714	23%

	Opening Arrears	Billed	To be Collected	Collected	Closing Arrears	Collected
VARIANCE YOY	€	€	€	€	€	%
Rates	(€377,141)	€494,335	€151,333	€273,455	(€122,122)	3%
Rents (inc. RAS)	€321,303	€391,416	€713,852	€349,978	€363,874	-8%
Housing Loans	(€48,137)	€19,269	(€28,868)	€14,157	(€43,025)	2%

Finance & Regeneration

Regeneration

Contracts Signed for 'The Yard Hub', Abbeyshrule:

On 2 July 2020 contracts were signed for the appointment of architects de Blacam and Meagher to 'The Yard Hub' project in Abbeyshrule. The Yard Hub project involves the redevelopment of a derelict site in Abbeyshrule village to create space for economic and enterprise development. This facility will provide local people currently facing long commutes the opportunity to work close to home, and it will also bring economic activity to the village centre. The Regeneration department has worked closely with our elected members, the local community group and Waterways Ireland in development of this project. The Yard Hub will form part of the network of hubs in Co. Longford which contributes to the achievement of a low carbon economy and enhances the work/life balance of our citizens.



Contracts Signing with de Blacam and Meagher for 'The Yard Hub', Abbeyshrule

Contracts Signed at Granard Motte, Granard: In 2019 Longford County Council Regeneration department were successful in securing funding of €2.8 million under RRDF for creation of a Heritage Park at the base of Granard Motte. As part of the development, Failte Ireland granted €640k towards the "Norman Heritage Park". Contracts for this Interpretative Centre were signed with DMW Creative Limited on 23rd July 2020. Agreement on the purchase of the 12th century Motte by Longford County Council was also finalised during the month. This development forms a vital part of the Hidden Heartlands attractions, greatly enhancing tourism in the area and will contribute to the economic and social regeneration of Granard town and surrounding areas for many years to come.



A submission for a National Music Museum under the Platforms for Growth Call has been submitted to Failte Ireland by the deadline of 31 August 2020.

Finance & Regeneration

- Pilot process underway for migration of users from desktops to laptops.
- Corporate wifi extended to Council Stores and additional access point installed in Town Hall.
- OGP mini-competition process for renewal of managed print service commenced.
- House DEASP API implementation works started.
- ServiceDesk stats for July – 700 calls
- ServiceDesk stats for August – 564 calls

Information Systems

IT Infrastructure Section works completed:

- Regular monthly patching of client systems and servers.
- Continued deployment of hardware and software to facilitate remote working for staff.
- Significant number of support requests related to remote working addressed by technical support staff.
- Update of internal data communications hardware, equipment has been configured and will be scheduled for install in the next number of weeks.
- Forest Exit, all major works completed. Decommissioning and removal of legacy equipment is currently underway.
- Procurement competitions carried out for renewals of support on virtual infrastructure, backup environment and security software estate.
- Community CCTV
 1. Draft Version 6 report prepared based on changes requested from previous CCTV steering group meeting and outcome of recent site visits including estimated civil costings for each location.
 2. Alternative Solutions Report completed for consideration of Steering Group
 3. Work on Connolly Barracks mast move progressed
- Multi Factor Authentication deployed to all council email users.
- Multi Factor Authentication deployed to all remote working users.
- End user security training provided to all employees.
- Initial works have started to upgrade server room AC units.

Digital Services works completed:

- Restart Grant Plus web infrastructure in place and grant applications being processed
- Longford's Broadband Connection Points (outside WIFI access for the community) progressed with two sites going live in August
- Health & Safety documentation completed for contractor for WIFI4EU project
- Work progressed on WIFI4EU broadband infrastructure



Geographic Information Systems (GIS) works completed:

Restart Grant Plus application software implementation and testing.

- Hedge cutting programme web mapping application for internal Road users and separate app for contractors <https://bit.ly/2BBAzBF> of all NP/NS/R junctions and ad hoc cutting requirements.
- Record of Protected Structure digital map production.
- Digital Communication Platform – configuration and acceptance testing.
- Submission on LCC Community Call Centre for DPER COVID-19 Innovation report will be launched as part of this year's Public Service Innovation week from 19th – 23rd of October.
- Collaborating with Broadband Officer on applications for the Chambers Ireland 2020 Excellence in Local Government Awards.

Strategic Infrastructure & Climate Action



Housing

Energy efficiency programme:

- Midland Energy Retrofit Pilot Programme – Currently on site surveying houses.

Capital programme:

- 6 OPDs @Rose Cottage, Ballinalee – Due to commence on site shortly.
- 5 no. units, Church Street, Edgeworthstown in progress
- 1 no. unit, Fair View Green, Longford –Due to commence on site shortly.
- Park Road, Longford - Part VIII is well advanced by external consultants.
- 1 no unit Cloonahard – Work commenced on site 27th July 2020.
- 3 no units Abbeylara – Site cleared and fenced off. Awaiting full removal of Japanese Knotweed to progress further.
- 18 /22 units Legan – Construction works ongoing.
- 16 no. units Farnagh Hill, Longford – Construction works ongoing

VOIDS 2020

Completed to 26th August 2020	3
Works Ongoing	2
Contract Awarded	1
Tenders being prepared	2
Out to Tender	1

PRE-LETS

40 houses have been completed and allocated to date

INCREMENTAL PURCHASE SCHEME

16 no. applications have been received this year.

HOUSING NEED ASSESSMENT

No. Approved households
@ 26th August 2020

959



116 Housing Offers made to date & **106** Tenancies agreed

SOCIAL LEASING AND HAP

- RAS agreements **206** & Leasing agreements **132**
- **370** Active Tenancies on the Housing Assistance Scheme

GRANTS/LOANS

- **46** Private Housing Grants approved at a value of **€282,602**
- **3** Local Authority Housing grants completed at a value of **€29587.18**
- **20** RIHL loan applications received with 8 approved and 6 paid at a value of **€352,551**
- **1294** Housing Maintenance Repairs requested with **1104** valid repairs logged

VULNERABLE

52 presented as being Homeless in Longford to date

Strategic Infrastructure & Climate Action

Environment Services

- **Inspections:** RMCEI inspections are ongoing.
- **Anti-Dumping initiative work** is continuing on the vacant sites at Ballyminion.
- **Security fencing** has recently been installed on the The Great Water Street Site.
- **Annual Environmental Returns** from Waste Permit Holders and Waste Collectors are being validated by the Environmental Pollution Officers.
- **The Mall Engineering Report** - Topographical survey work and preliminary flow modelling completed for comparison with historical flood events. Draft report delivered to LCC for review and comment, any necessary amendments will be included in final report.
- **Flood Relief Work for Longford Town** - Contract documents for engineering consultancy services have been reviewed by the OPW.
- **Maintenance drainage work for Arterial Drainage District Works** - The section identified for cleaning this year is 'Clonfin Spur' off the Camlin River which is in the Longford Drainage District, tender process is completed and LCC are currently assessing the emerging preferred tenderer.
- **Elfeet site Remediation Scheme** - LCC sought tenders for "Project Management, Engineering and Environment Consultancy Services for Elfeet Site Remediation Scheme" and the Letter of Intent issued to the emerging preferred tenderer. An application for funding was submitted to Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government seeking approval to proceed and LCC are awaiting a decision.

The issuing of fines for littering and enforcement action continues

Waste Enforcement	Up to 31/08//2020
No. of Environmental Pollution Complaints received	1229
No. of Complaints investigated and closed	1069
No. of Litter Fines issued	76
No. of Enforcement Actions taken (warning letters, statutory notices, etc.)	62



Positive Result

Another successful prosecution under the Waste Management Act, resulting in a four month jail sentence for the offender
Judge Hughes praised Longford County Council's proactive role in taking cases.

Biodiversity Programme for Community Groups

Educational material and online workshops facilitating environmental and biodiversity have now been made available to community groups by our Environmental awareness office

Invasive Species

Mapping new sites of invasive species in the county damaging the Environment is ongoing

Smoky Coal Ban to be extended to Longford Town

From 1st September 2020, the burning, sale and marketing of smoky coal will be prohibited in Longford Town

Strategic Infrastructure & Climate Action

Roads

Consultants WS Atkins Ireland Limited have been appointed to provide technical services for TII Overlay Schemes on the N63 at Lanesborough, Barnacor, Aghnaskea and Gowlan.

Consultant appointment being finalised to provide technical services for N55 Pavement Overlay Schemes at Edgeworthstown north, Fowlards Bridge and Meeltanagh. LCC are also appointing Consultants to complete the design of the Majors Well Road Pavement Overlay Scheme in Longford town.

P & D Lydon Contractors were appointed to carry out rehabilitation/replacement works at various bridges in the County. These works at Ballinamuck Bridge, Foygh Bridge and Killinlastra Bridge are 85% complete.

Funding Applications under Active Travel Measures Allocation and Climate Change Adaptions Allocations were submitted under the National Stimulus Plan.

Safety Barrier Repair Works are ongoing throughout the County.

Routine Works such as street cleaning, hedgecutting, pothole repair, drainage works etc continued in each Municipal District.

Work on the Roads Programme continued apace in July and August with the main focus on Restoration Improvement Works and Restoration Maintenance Works. In Ballymahon MD the primary focus for July/August was on Restoration Maintenance (RM) Works.

Works were completed at the following locations;
(SD 09) L-5210 From Currycreaghan School to Monement (Momin) 3 roads

(SD 10) L-5180 From Barney 3 roads (North) to Barney 3 roads (South) (Trunk T. 31)

(SD 11) L-1098 From Cross 3 roads (West) to Moor 3 roads

(SD 05) L-5172 From Rathvaldron 3 roads to Barneygole 4 roads

(SD 06) L-1111 From Rath 3 roads (North) to Cloghan 3 roads

(SD 07) L-1117 From Corraabaun 3 roads (Barry Old School) to Corrabola 4 roads

(RI 06) L-5245 From Ballyrevagh 3 roads (North) to Claras 3 roads (West)

(RI 05) L-1165 From Bleanavoher 4 roads to Turreen 4 roads (West)

(RI 02) L-1166 From Tullyvrane 3 roads (South) to Turreen 4 roads (West)

(RI 11) L-1106 From Abbeyshrule 3 roads (at Graveyard) to Cloghan 3 roads

Other Works also undertaken in Ballymahon MD were at The Walks Edgeworthstown

N55 Strengthening and Surfacing

Surfacing at Junction R392/N55 Ballymahon

R398 Strengthening – ongoing

L-1119 / L-1121 Center Parc 7: Newcastle Bridge Improvement Works

In Granard MD the following RI Works were completed.

R-198-2587 From Corrinagh to Moyne (PART)

R198 - 2868 From Moyne 4 roads to County Boundary at Crannagh Bridge (PART)

L - 10372 Rosduff to Rosduff (Mc Naboes)

L - 1026 From Cloonback to Lega (PART)

L - 1032 From Rathmore to Cloonback (PART)

L - 5121 From Prucklishtown to Killeen (PART)

L - 51301 From (L-05132 to Killeen (Reynolds to Clarkes)

Restoration Maintenance (RM) Works were also completed on the following Roads;

R198 - 2868 From Moyne 4 roads to County Boundary at Crannagh Bridge (PART)

L - 5061 From Fihoragh to County Boundary at Fihoragh

L - 5087 From Aghacordrinan to Mulvanny's Bridge

L - 1026 From Cloonback School to Legga (R198) (PART)

L - 1032 Rathmore to Cloonback

R198-2587 From Corrinagh to Moyne (Part)

L - 51341 From Local Rd. L-5134 to Dawson's house in Leitrim Td.

L - 10431 Dunbeggan to Cleenrath

L - 5150 From Killasona 3 roads (East) in Rinroe

L - 5153 From Rinroe to Rincoolagh

L - 50554 Drumury to Drumury

R396-2720 From Coolcraff Lane to the County Boundary at Camagh Bridge (PART)

L - 10761 Duffy's, Spring Park in Coolagherty Td.

L - 10822 From Local Rd. L-1082 to Joe Blake's house in Castlenugent Td.

L - 1032 Rathmore to Cloonback

L - 50552 From Ballyduff Bridge to O.Reilly's

L- 50555 Drumury to Frank Reilly's

L - 5137 From Feriskil to Aghaboy (PART)

In Longford MD the following RI Works were completed

L-5022 Lismoy to Sragarrow

L-5077 Clooneen Br. To Tomisky

L-5016 Kilmacannon to Currygranny

L-5178 Ferefad to Cooleeney

RM Works were also completed on the

L-5146 Cartron Big to Lissardowlan

L-11714 Clondra to Cloonard

Strategic Infrastructure & Climate Action

Planning Service

Planning service fully maintained both in office and remotely. Planning administrative office, public counter and technical advice kept fully functioning during Covid 19 restrictions. Fulfilling statutory responsibilities and keeping the Planning Service staffed and fully operational during the Pandemic and related suspension. Implementing business continuity plan, in office and remote working, Laptop and Mobile phone communications.

Planning Applications and Enforcement

Statutory Requirements:

After planning deadlines were restored the substantial back log of planning decisions were dealt with efficiently and on time. Managing the various planning applications housing, retail, industrial proposals, extension of permissions, Part 8 planning schemes, CPO's etc. Pre-planning and Enforcement meetings continue to be held electronically and in office. Continue to organise the Planning System to manage planning applications both in office and electronically during Covid 19 restrictions.

Development Plan

Statutory Requirements:

Development Plan review well underway setting out the template for the County's development until 2027. Pre Draft Plan written and now presented to Councillors on 20th August, 2020. Every sector of County Longford's future development potential has been analysed and detailed reports provided. Preparation for Development Plan Review includes Microsoft Teams meetings to consider future strategies, policies and GIS mapping. Management of Dev. Plan team Population and Environmental consultants on Climate Change, Core Strategy, population, housing, Economy, Environment, Tourism and other chapter headings. Ensuring compliance with Strategic Environmental Assessment and Appropriate Assessment.



Strategic Infrastructure & Climate Action

Water Services

Water Operations

During this period of July and August Water Services Section working closely with Irish Water continued to operate on a business as usual basis. All 40 no. Longford County Council staff including technical, administrative and outdoor have been carrying out their roles by utilising a combination of remote working, site working and using our new real time county wide scada / telemetry system.

The power outages caused by the severe weather during mid August impacted mainly on supplies in Longford, Newtowncashel for a period of 2 days. All water bursts were attended to and repaired as required. A major burst occurred on the Ballymahon supply in mid August however this was repaired within 24 hours. It should be noted that there were no significant drinking water quality issues in Longford during this period.

Reservoir cleaning and upgrade works are also ongoing across the county at various site locations to ensure the maintenance of water quality parameters on the water network.



Water Capital Works

Capital upgrade works under Irish Water's Early Contractor Involvement (ECI) programme are ongoing at Smear Water Treatment Plant and these will continue for the next six months. The aim of this project is to upgrade and modernise the circa 40 year old existing water treatment plant. This will increase the ability of the plant to meet the needs of the surrounding environs i.e. the north east of the county, while maintaining water quality parameters and reducing the risk of THM formation. In addition a separate ECI project has also commenced in late August 2020 at Lough Kinale Water Treatment Plant. Again the aim of this capital project is to upgrade and modernise the treatment process to assist in the increased ability of the plant to meet the needs of the surrounding area which includes the town of Granard and its environs.

Rural Water Programme

We are facilitating the group schemes that were successful in potential funding.

Bids for the Multi-Annual Rural Water Programme 2019-2021 were submitted in March 2019 and we are now looking for possible bids for the next rolling period. Clonmore/Kilmore have received tenders for consultancy work for upgrade works on their group water scheme.

Total Funding under the Multi-Annual Rural Water Programme in the sum of €225,400 was notified to Longford Co. Co. in October 2019. It is anticipated that some of this funding will be drawn down in 2020.

Individual Well Grants, Up to 31/08/2020

No. of IWG applications received	7
No. of IWG applications approved	4
No. of IWG applications refused	1
No. of IW grants paid	3
Total value of grants paid to date	€5,656.16



Strategic Infrastructure & Climate Action

Fire & Emergency Services

Health & Safety:

- No injuries to report.

Training:

- Training courses are being rescheduled on an ongoing basis because of COVID-19. Courses completed in July/August were an instructor's course for Working at Height's in Longford town and a Refresher course for our Hydraulic Platform Operators in Longford and Ballymahon.

Operations:



- All stations remained fully operational and staffed accordingly.

M.E.M.:

- Regional Working Group meetings are now held Monthly by teleconference working on COVID-19 measures.



Fire Prevention:

3

Fire Safety Cert's
have been processed
in July/August.



- Fire Service inspections and community fire safety activities have been suspended for the duration of COVID-19.
- A new National E – licensing System commenced in July ran by the Courts Service for the annual Liquor and Dance licence renewals.

Fleet Management/Equipment Checks:

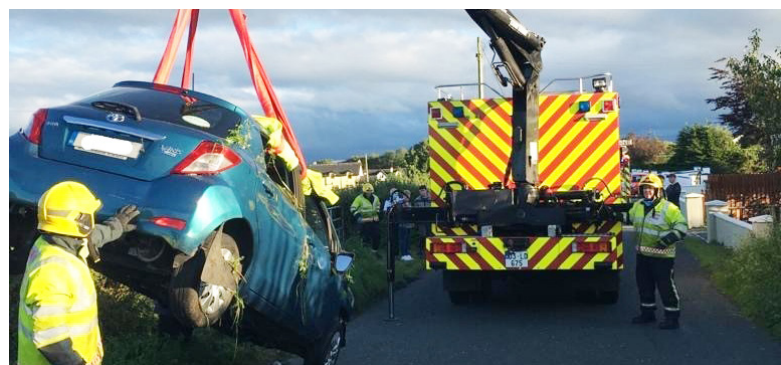
- Fire-fighters continue to carry out weekly equipment checks, which is co-ordinated by Station Officers to keep numbers in stations to a minimum.
- All Vehicles were serviced in July and a voluntary CVRT test completed.

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:

- Fire Fighter positions were advertised for both Granard and Edgeworthstown Fire Brigades.
- No applications were received.



Strategic Infrastructure & Climate Action

Veterinary Services

Veterinary and Dog and Horse Control services are identified as essential services to support safe local food production and animal welfare and animal control during the Coronavirus Covid-19 Pandemic.

The Local Authority Veterinary Service has produced a Pandemic Action Plan, a Business Continuity Plan and a Resource Recovery Template.

In addition, the Local Authority Veterinary Service, in conjunction with the LGMA, provided a COVID-19 Animal Related Queries document to support the LA Community Call service

LGMA/CCMA continue to negotiate with the FSAI to ensure adequate funding of Official Veterinary Controls, particularly in support of Longford's local meat producers, and to secure all the other functions of the local Authority Veterinary Section for the long term. Longford County Council Dog Control Service continued to provide essential services to our community throughout the Covid 19 pandemic.

Team member Hilary Robinson continues to care for stray and unwanted dogs all though the year. Stray dogs are hazardous to people, farm animals and other pets and our service keeps all of our community safe while also being very committed to the welfare of these dogs

Veterinary Services, up to 31/08/2020

130	927	30
No. of Dogs seized	No. of Dog Licences purchased	No. of Stray Horses seized

Responsible dog ownership and each person's dog having a Dog Licence are the two most important actions that individuals can make to support our great Dog Control Service in County Longford.

Dog Licences cost €20 and may be purchased at any Post Office or online at [Licences.ie](https://www.licences.ie) Dog Control Service in County Longford

Civil Defence

Longford Civil Defence have continued to Assist the Local Authority and Primary Response Agency during the Covid19 Pandemic.

July

- Transportation of Test samples to the Laboratory
- Distribution of Leaflets on behalf of the Local Authority libraries Section
- Delivery of supplies on behalf of the PPN
- Assistance was provided to vulnerable members of the community as tasked by the Community Call Centre
- Statutory Inspections of Vehicles were completed
- Return to duty and training Health and Safety documentation prepared
- Volunteers completed Covid19 induction training
- Volunteers completed Covid19 Compliance Officer training
- Civil Defence Branch finalised the Governance Validation Framework

August

- Deliveries of Supplies on behalf of the PPN
- Return to provision of Medical cover at Longford Town Soccer Matches
- Risk Assessments finalised and Communicated to Volunteers



CONNECTED

People • Place • Opportunity

Management Report for July-August 2020 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 July-August 2020 in securing the objectives set out in the Council's Corporate Plan.

Signed :



Paddy Mahon
Chief Executive





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