



Longford County Council Chief Executive Report June 2020

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June Highlights

Longford County Council welcomes all newly elected Cathaoirleach and Leas Cathaoirleach



June saw a host of meetings ringing in the election of all our Cathaoirleach and Leas Cathaoirleach in Longford County Council and our Municipal Districts.

At the 2020 Annual Meeting of Longford County Council, **Councillor Paul Ross** was elected Cathaoirleach and **Councillor Turlough McGovern** was elected Leas Cathaoirleach.

At the Longford Municipal District 2020 Annual Meeting, **Councillor Peggy Nolan** was elected Cathaoirleach, with **Councillor Uruemu Adejinmi** elected Leas Cathaoirleach of Longford MD. At the Ballymahon Municipal District 2020 Annual Meeting, **Councillor Colm Murray** was elected Cathaoirleach, with **Councillor Mick Cahill** elected Leas Cathaoirleach of Ballymahon MD. At Granard Municipal District 2020 Annual Meeting, **Councillor Garry Murtagh** was elected Cathaoirleach, with **Councillor Turlough McGovern** elected Leas Cathaoirleach of Granard MD.

Chief Executive Office

Longford County Council's Chief Executive Office carried out Customer Satisfaction Pilot, which will be rolled out to all staff within the Organisation.

Longford County Council on the Roadmap to Reopening

June brought Phase 2 and Phase 3 of Reopening, with our services, including Longford Libraries, opening back up to Longford people.

Increased activity is also seen across many sections, including a great increase in Road Works, Planning activities, as well as in Regeneration. We cannot wait to continue #SafelyBackToWork



Community & Enterprise

Community

Community Call Helpline

While the helpline is continuing to operate, the number of calls being received has significantly reduced, indicating that the combined community effort from voluntary groups, charities, individuals and state agencies has been successful in meeting the needs of Longford's elderly and vulnerable citizens.

Longford Community Development Committee

The June 2020 meeting of the LCDC was deferred and is now scheduled for 30 July 2020.

Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme (SICAP)

Longford Community Resources Clg is continuing to roll out the SICAP programme as per their Local Community Response Plan and engaging with the COVID 19 Community Response Forum.

2020 Communities Integration Fund

This fund was announced by the Dept. of Justice and Equality on the 19 June with a closing date of the 16 July.

CLÁR Funding 2020

Michael Ring TD, Minister for Rural and Community Development recently launched the 2020 CLÁR programme. Applications for Measure 1, Schools and Community Safety (expanded in 2020) and Measure 2, Community Recreation Areas (new) are to be submitted directly to Longford County Council by 23 July 20.

Scheme Outline and Application Forms are available to Schools, Community Groups and Local Development Companies on Longford County Council's website or by email to CLAR@longfordcoco.ie. The maximum grant per project is €50,000.

Applications under Measure 3(a) to assist organisations providing meals on wheels and related services and Measure 3(b) to assist groups providing mobility and cancer care transport services to people living in CLÁR areas can be made directly to the Department by email to CLAR@DRCD.gov.ie or by visiting the DRCD website. Closing date 28 August 20.

Community & Enterprise

Community Enhancement Programme 2020

Longford LCDC invites applications for small capital grants to enhance community facilities under the Community Enhancement Programme 2020, which is funded by the Department of Rural and Community Development. €2M has been provided nationally, with €55,317 allocated to Longford LCDC.

Some funding is ring-fenced to provide small capital grants of €1,000 or less. Projects which are complementary to the County Longford Local Economic and Community Plan 2016–22 and demonstrate that completion of the project will improve the quality of life for residents or provide tangible supports which address disadvantage will receive priority.

Closing date is 12pm on 23 July 20. Application Forms and Guidelines are available on Longford County Council's website or by email to LCDC@longfordcoco.ie.

Comhairle na nÓg

The Steering Committee held a meeting on the 24 June. All meetings and work with young people are continuing online. The Department of Children & Youth Affairs engaged Mazars to develop a 5 Year Development Plan for Comhairle na nÓg.

Longford County Council is participating on a national steering committee and is in the process of gathering information and supporting the establishment of focus groups for the consultation process.



Community & Enterprise

Longford Sports Partnership

Longford Sports Partnership have been doing daily social media post with workouts, challenges and ideas to keep active every day at 11am, as well as other fitness-related posts throughout the day

Our Stay Active Online Hub is regularly updated on longfordsports.ie/what-we-do/stay-active-online-hub with lots of activities, challenges and home workouts, as well as our return to sport protocols and information. Daily workout from the Sports Hub and Zoom classes continue.

Inclusive Home Fitness and Pilates programme for Longford people with disabilities.

Profiles of our Sports Bursary Winners in Longford are providing positive advice for people, including videos of the winners' favourite workouts.

Morning Movers programme continues to take place twice weekly with online meetings for walking and jogging groups

Delivering Sports Hub, IRFU, GAA and FAI workplans

National Be Active Day took place on Sunday, 28 June



Longford Sports Partnership are getting lots of shares and recognition from national organisations and trying to make sure as many people as possible from Longford see them. Like and follow us to get our updates and help spread our messages further.

Community & Enterprise

Corporate Services

Corporate Services continue to deliver and support the Council's focused response in Phases Two and Three of Government's and Local Authority Sector Roadmap for the Phased Reopening of Services.

Keeping Longford Informed

The Council continue to actively communicate with Longford citizens during COVID 19. The primary focus and objectives for these lines of communication include:

- Keeping the public up-to-date on local and national COVID 19 information, especially, on the Roadmap to Reopening
- Promotion of both #InThisTogether and #StaySafe as we entered Phase Three
- Ensuring the continued promotion of Longford Community Call
- Promoting the work of all sections of the Council in support of our communities during COVID 19
- Our COVID 19 section on longfordcoco.ie continued to be updated, including with reopening information on as we entered Phase Three

Our messaging was shared and retweeted to wider audiences by:

- Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government
- Healthy Ireland
- Creative Ireland
- CCMA
- LGMA

Social Media

Unique image-driven content and Longford-focused messaging through our regularly updated social media increased engagement and positioned our Council as a Council here to inform and support Longford people.

Focus remains on COVID 19 communications from Government Departments, tailored to a Longford audience and ensuring up-to-date and relevant information is available:

- Posted 65 messages on a corporate Council's Facebook page, now with 3,666 followers. Posts were seen 123K times.
- Tweeted 85 messages on a corporate Council's Twitter page, now with 2,582 followers. Tweets had 66K impressions.

Publication

The second in a series, the Let's Stay Healthy leaflets targeted the elderly members of our community who may not have access to internet technology, keeping them informed during COVID 19. 1500 were distributed.



Community & Enterprise

Corporate Governance

- Policies Adopted: Body Worn Camera Policy
- Standard of Operations: Management of a Body Worn Camera
- Training: Data Protection Awareness Training delivered to the Traffic Section prior to commencement of Body Worn Cameras
- Data Protection Impact Assessment template for Overt & Covert CCTV created for CCMA Environment Committee Working Group.
- Hosted June's Regional DPO Workshop through Microsoft Teams
- Participated in the National DPO Network workshop for June 2020
- 2 Data Subject Access Requests completed with 30-day legislative timeframe
- 18 Data Protection queries received in May 2020

Corporate Management Supports & Business & Customer Services

- Corporate Services Business Response Plan continues to be implemented.
- Customer Services Desk remained available to respond to all calls during normal office hours, with 2407 calls received in June. All general queries from members of public continue to be received, monitored and dealt with through our Customer Care email.

Elected Members Supports and Meetings Administration

The following meetings were held in the Sports Hall, Leisure Centre, Albert Reynolds Peace Park during June:

2020 Annual Meeting of Longford County Council: Councillor Paul Ross was elected Cathaoirleach and Councillor Turlough McGovern was elected Leas Cathaoirleach.

Longford Municipal District

June Municipal District Meeting and 2020 Annual Meeting: Councillor Peggy Nolan was elected Cathaoirleach and Councillor Uruemu Adejinmi was elected Leas Cathaoirleach.

Ballymahon Municipal District

2020 Annual Meeting: Councillor Colm Murray was elected Cathaoirleach and Councillor Mick Cahill was elected Leas Cathaoirleach.

Granard Municipal District

2020 Annual Meeting: Councillor Garry Murtagh was elected Cathaoirleach and Councillor Turlough McGovern was elected Leas Cathaoirleach.

Community & Enterprise

Freedom of Information

Disclosure Log up to 30 June 2020 is now available on Longfordcoco.ie

Freedom of Information	June 2020	YTD
FOI Requests Received	5	30
FOI Requests Granted	2	12*
FOI Requests Part-Granted	1	5
FOI Requests Refused	1	10*
FOI Requests Withdrawn/ Handled Outside FOI.	0	1
FOI Requests Transferred	0	0
FOI Requests Open at Month End	-	3
FOI Internal Reviews	0	1
AIE Requests Received	0	1

*Includes decisions made relating to FOIs from 2019 (one granted, one refused)



Health and Safety

Safety Inspections: recommenced in all sections. COVID 19 is now included on the Safety Inspection Checklist to help monitor COVID 19 Compliance across the organisation. Those carrying out safety inspections should at all times promote good hygiene practises and social distancing measures to all personnel.

Safety Audits: Internal safety audit was completed in the Machinery Yard on the 11 June.

COVID 19: Health and Safety Section, in conjunction with each section, are continuing to carry out COVID 19 safety inspections and communication of COVID 19 risk assessments.

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
- Recommencement of the Recruitment Programme through the use of digital medium
- Recommencement of 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, three staff communications were provided to all employees during the month of June. 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 and decisions of the Management Team.

Employee Health & Wellbeing

During the month of June, 40 employees attended a webinar hosted by GROW Mental Health Movement called Stress Management while Working from Home. The webinar focused on: What causes stress; recognising the signs; alleviating stress; assisting colleagues and the need to have the conversation about stress management and mental health.

Learning & Development

During the month of June, Freedom of Information Decision Maker training, Safety Representative and MS Excel training took place online. Manual Handling training continues to take place via digital medium and one employee attended Safe Pass training in a classroom setting.

Recruitment

The recruitment programme recommenced during the month of June 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 recommenced during the month of June. The transition will focus on the re-structure of the CoreHR system and the transition to a more effective HR software solution.

Community & Enterprise

Local Enterprise Office

Measure One

Applications Received:

Feasibility, Priming, Business Expansion and TAME Grants	13
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Measure Two

Training and Development Programmes (All Training and Networking Events)

Total Programmes	35
Total Participants	596

Mentoring

Total Individual Engaging in Mentoring	46
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Covid-19 Planning for Re-Opening

LEO COVID 19 Supports



Tourism

Longford Tourism Office have been:

- Advising tourism operators on safety guidance around re-opening
- Preparing for the reopening of the tourism office
- Information boards for Towns & Villages almost completed
- Trailhead boards and brochures for Royal Canal Greenway and work ongoing with Waterways Ireland and partner counties

Community & Enterprise

Longford County Library Heritage & Archives

Reopening Libraries

Longford Libraries continued to promote our online services, as well as helping customers with book selection and distributing book boxes to older people who are cocooning or in isolation. On 8 June, as part of the Roadmap to Reopening, all of our Libraries opened for a Call and Collect Service and from 23 June our Libraries reopened, allowing customers to browse and using printing and photocopying services.

Online Services & Social Media

Throughout COVID 19, our online events have proved very popular, with library staff promoting the work of local creatives. Our 45 videos received 103,000 views, testament to community interest and engagement.

Edgeworthstown Library

Work recommenced on 18 May, with new timelines being organised for completion of work which will most likely be year end. We are working with our engineers, The Edgeworth Society and the artist who created the Maria Edgeworth sculpture with a view to relocating it onto the library plaza on the Main Street.



Creative Ireland

Most public events have been cancelled but we are assisting creatives and organisers to create online programmes and to ensure that artists get paid for work they have already created. We have been working with The Backstage Theatre helping some of the events that were planned for their 25th anniversary to now go ahead online, which helping promote grants available through LEO and the Arts Council for helping creative businesses get online.

Community & Enterprise

Longford Age Friendly: Keeping People Connected!

This programme aimed to keep our older citizens connected and minding their mental health and wellbeing. Weekly texts were sent to cocooners informing them of the Community Call Helpline and other key services. 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 were distributed by Longford Civil Defence to over 1500 families through family resource centres, libraries, post offices and garda stations

Cruinniu na nÓg

Their Annual Creative Day for Children was held online on 13 June. A full programme of online events running throughout the day included a video in celebration of the great traditional music talent in Longford. 38 children took part from the three Comhaltas groups in Longford, with the children were filmed at their own homes by local videographer Shane Crossan with assistance from Paul Gurney music studios in Longford. The video was chosen by RTE for their Home School HUB. Longford also featured on RTE News roundup from the Cruinniu Day.

Decade of Centenaries

November has been designated as History Month in County Longford, with events focussing particularly on Ballinalee and Granard, which were places of intense activity during Ireland's War of Independence, with the burning of Granard and an attack on Ballinalee on 3 Nov 1920.

Schools Education Packs are being developed, with overall programme to have a strong focus on making young people more aware of their rich history and heritage.

Heritage Office

On the 10 June, Minister Josepha Madigan of the then Dept. of Culture, Heritage & an Gaeltacht, approved funding for conservation grants administered on their behalf by Longford County Council.

Three important structures received €55,000 under the Historic Structures Fund and a sum of €60,000 was allocated between seven Protected Structures under the Built Heritage Investment Scheme 2020. Applicants were notified and work is commencing on all.

Heritage Week runs from 15-23 August, with a full programme of events focusing on local community involvement with our natural and built heritage planned for Longford, mainly delivered online following NPHE guidelines

Finance & Regeneration

Finance

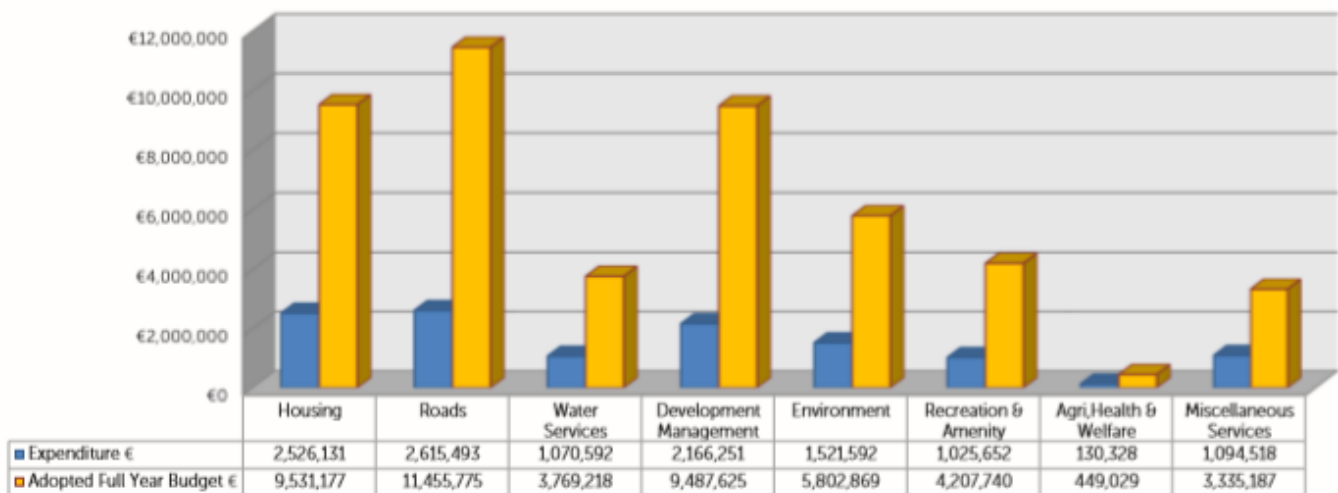
Longford County Council Revenue Account Income & Expenditure Summary by Service Division Year to Date to Quarter End 31/03/2020

	EXPENDITURE				INCOME				NET
	Expendi- ture €	Adopted Full Year Budget €	% Budget Spent to date	Budget Remain- ing €	Income €	Adopted Full year Budget €	% Budget Raised	Budget out- standing €	Actual Overall Surplus/ (Deficit) €
Housing	2,526,131	9,531,177	27%	7,005,046	2,734,276	10,415,527	26%	7,681,251	208,145
Roads	2,615,493	11,455,775	23%	8,840,282	1,384,545	6,455,754	21%	5,071,209	(1,230,948)
Water Services	1,070,592	3,769,218	28%	2,698,626	1,021,668	3,569,405	29%	2,547,737	(48,924)
Development Management	2,166,251	9,487,625	23%	7,321,374	1,050,404	4,954,354	21%	3,903,950	(1,115,847)
Environment	1,521,592	5,802,869	26%	4,281,277	187,437	534,239	35%	346,802	(1,334,155)
Recreation & Amenity	1,025,652	4,207,740	24%	3,182,088	117,776	563,739	21%	445,963	(907,876)
Agri, Health & Welfare	130,328	449,029	29%	318,701	44,569	204,768	22%	160,199	(85,759)
Miscellaneous Services	1,094,518	3,335,187	33%	2,240,669	976,016	2,820,018	35%	1,844,002	(118,502)
Local Government Fund					2,306,178	9,224,711	25%	6,918,533	2,306,178
Rates					2,099,787	9,296,104	23%	7,196,317	2,099,787
	€12,150,557	€48,038,620	25%	€35,888,063	€11,922,656	€48,038,619	25%	€36,115,963	(€227,901)

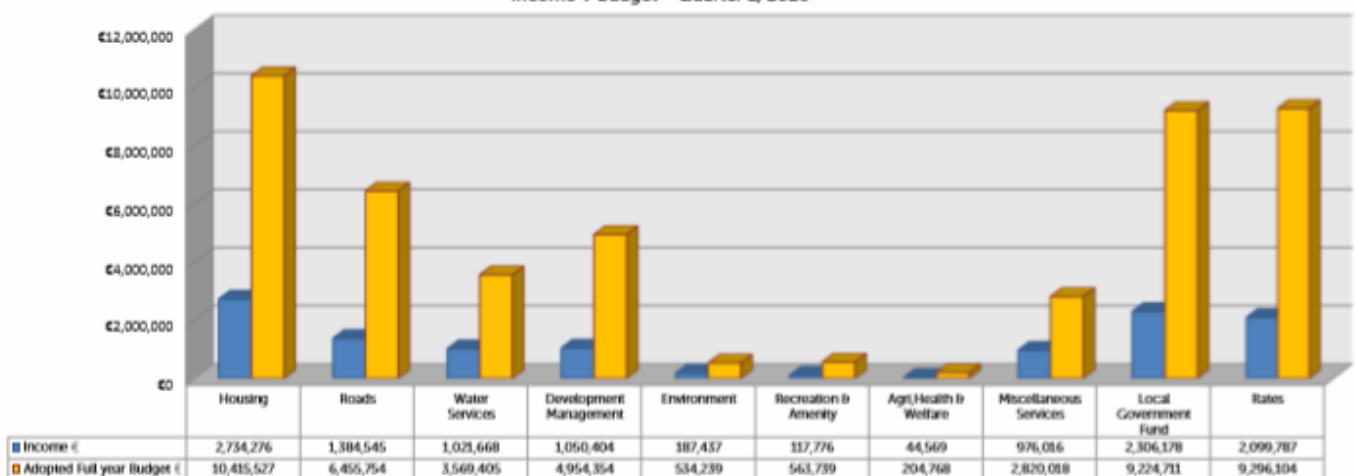
Finance & Regeneration

Finance (Contd.)

Expenditure V Budget - Quarter 1, 2020



Income V Budget - Quarter 1, 2020



Finance & Regeneration

Finance (Contd.)

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

Work continued on many projects including Edgeworthstown Library & Public Realm, Edgeworthstown Enterprise Hub, The Mall Complex, ORIS and Towns & Villages projects. LED Street Lighting was installed in Edgeworthstown, greatly enhancing the streetscape (photograph inset).

Funding Announcement

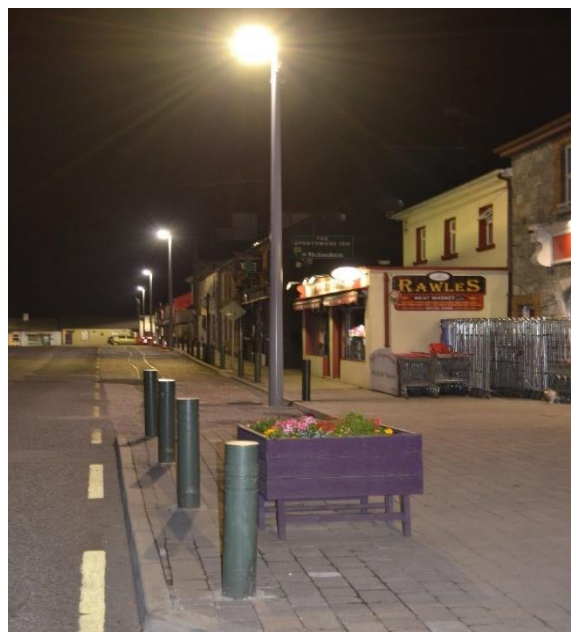
Successful Category Two Application from the Second Call under the Rural Regeneration and Development Fund, which closed in February 2020, with €468,750 awarded for Enhancement of Attractiveness of Lanesborough as a Tourism Destination.

Rural Regeneration & Development Fund 2019

The Third Call for Category One Applications opened during in June. The Fund is seeking to support large-scale, ambitious capital projects that have planning in place and are ready to commence at the date of application, with a minimum funding request of €500,000. The Regeneration Department have contacted town teams and will be arranging meetings to engage with them in relation to potential projects that may fit the criteria for the RRDF. Deadline for applications is 1 December 2020.

Just Transition Fund

Four applications with regard to climate action, economic and community development, tourism, employment and natural amenity have been submitted for projects to progress the Just Transition process in County Longford by the deadline of 12 June 2020.



Town & Village Renewal Scheme 2020 Launch

Several Expressions of Interest have been received from town and village groups interested in receiving funding under this Scheme by the deadline of 17 June 2020. They are currently being reviewed by the section for selection and application to the Department.

Finance & Regeneration

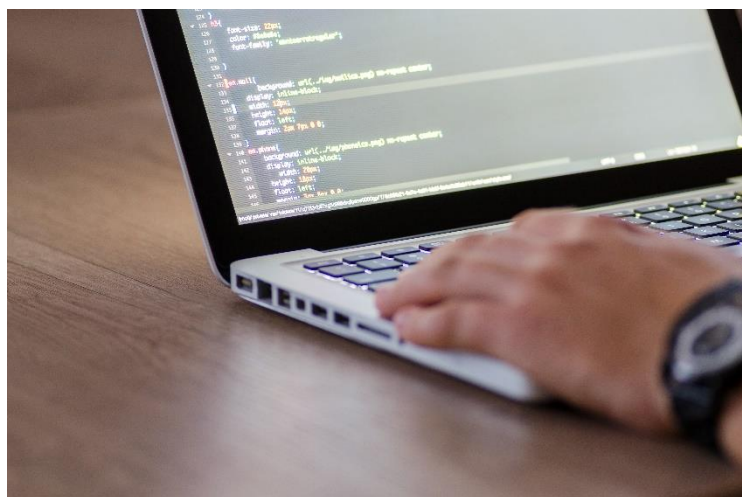
Information Systems

June 2020 IT Section works

- Regular patching of systems and servers
- Continued deployment of hardware and software facilitating staff remote working
- Support requests related to remote working addressed by technical support staff
- Update of internal data communications hardware, equipment has been purchased, with an upgrade planned in July
- Forest Exit: all major works completed. Now at the decommissioning stage for the old network. 100% of users, computers and servers have been migrated. Project planned for July completion
- Procurement competitions carried out for renewals of support on security software estate, virtual infrastructure and backup environment
- Update of mobile device management software policies for compatibility with Android Enterprise
- iReg 4.0 upgrade completed
- Rollout of Microsoft Teams to outdoor staff commenced
- Service Desk Stats for June: 759 Calls

Community CCTV:

- Draft Version 5 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
- Installation of new mini-pillar at Spring Lawn completed and pole re-cabled to resolve connection issues at this location
- Report completed for consideration of Steering Group on public consultation
- Report progressed on alternative measures for existing and newly proposed locations
- Work on Connolly Barracks mast move progressed



Finance & Regeneration

Geographic Information Systems (GIS) works completed:

- Implementation and support of the Business Restart Grant system
- Generation of iHouse automated reported for current view of housing vacant properties and mapping application. <https://arcg.is/140Hb1>
- Workflow and training provided for Roads Section to produce interactive maps to accompany road closure notices on website and social media, for example: <https://bit.ly/2ND69kZ>
- Update of internal GIS Roads Viewer to include storm sewer cleaning programme, public lighting, speed limit and housing stock data
- Processed ESB for update to ESB Dig Request Application
- Processed OSi mapping data to all required formats and projections
- Creation of digital maps for Low Smoke Zones around Longford Town
- Update of car parking maps for website

Digital Services works completed:

- Working with National Broadband Ireland to ensure Longford's Broadband Connection Points (outside WIFI access) are operational. BCPs have been prioritised, LEADER Funding applications progressed, and work commenced at Abbeyshrule Airport, Ballymore GAA Ground, Corlea Heritage Centre and Mullinalaghta Community Centre
- Health & Safety documentation progressed for contractors for WIFI4EU project
- Support provided for Microsoft Team meetings to ensure all users could participate, including Community Call Forum, Elected Members MD Meetings, LCDC, Age Friendly Alliance and Regeneration
- Training documentation and videos created to support external agencies and users accessing Microsoft teams.
- First Draft of Digital Strategy for Longford developed
- Corporate digital communication tool-process commenced (joint project with GIS Officer)
- Roll out for internal staff communications during COVID 19, ensuring customers receive timely, targeted notifications on LCC service areas.
- Social Media posting in multiple languages including English, Irish, Polish, Latvian and Lithuanian

Strategic Infrastructure & Climate Action

Housing

Energy Efficiency Programme:

- Works under Phase 1 are complete
- Midland Energy Retrofit Pilot Programme: Programme was on hold due to COVID 19

Capital Programme:

- 6 OPDs at Rose Cottage, Ballinalee: Stage Four approval received. Contract to be signed shortly
- 5 No. Units, Church Street, Edgeworthstown: Construction works ongoing
- 1 No. Unit, Fair View Green, Longford: Stage Four approval received. Contract to be signed shortly
- Park Road, Longford: Stage Two approval received. Part Eight is well advanced by external consultants
- Colmcille Terrace, Granard: Tuath Housing Association is progressing this project. Preplanning meetings have taken place
- 1 No. Unit Cloonahard: Stage Four approval received. Contract to be signed shortly
- 3 No. Units Abbeylara: Demolition complete. 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 29 February 2020	2
Works Ongoing	3
Contract Awarded	1
Tenders Being Prepared	2
Out to Tender	0

Pre-Lets

31 houses have been completed and allocated to date.

Incremental Purchase Scheme:

10 No. applications have been received this year.

Housing Need Assessment

No. Approved Households on 30.6.20 930

RAS/Leasing

	RAS	Leasing
Agreements at 1.1.20	203	126
Agreements at 30.6.20	217	129

Housing Allocations

	Month	YTD
Offers 1.1.20 to 30.6.20	9	101
Tenancies Agreed 1.1.20 to 30.6.20	4	81

Strategic Infrastructure & Climate Action

Housing Grant Private Houses	Grants Approved in 2020	Value of Grants Approved
Total Approved	32	€180,172
Housing Grant for People with a Disability	11	€97,521
Mobility Aid Grants	7	€42,185
Housing Aid for Older People	14	€70,194

Grants Local Authority Houses	Applications Received YTD	Works Carried Out	Value
Medical Need	28	3	€29,587.18

Loans	Applications Received YTD	Applications Approved YTD	Loans Paid Out YTD
RIHL	10	5	5

Mortgage to Rent Applications	
Applications Considered YTD	0
Agreements Made Since YTD	0

Repairs and Maintenance	
Repairs requested to 30.6.20	942
Valid Repairs to 30.6.20	830
Outstanding Repairs Requested at 30.6.20	108

Homelessness YTD	
Individuals Presenting as Homeless	42

Strategic Infrastructure & Climate Action

Environment

- **Inspections:** RMCEI inspections ongoing. Due to COVID 19, most routine inspections involving face-to-face engagements have been suspended. Work not involving face-to-face interaction are continuing as much as possible by phone and email
- **Annual Environmental Returns** from Waste Permit Holders and Waste Collectors are being validated by Environmental Pollution Officers
- **Mall Engineering Report:** topographical survey work and preliminary flow modelling completed for comparison with historical flood events. Awaiting consultant to complete survey. Work recommenced on surface water drainage pipes. Preliminary Report to be delivered to LCC
- **Maintenance drainage work for Arterial Drainage District Works:** section identified for cleaning in 2020 is Clonfin Spur off the Camlin River, in the Longford Drainage District. Appropriate Assessment Screening and Tender Documents are nearing completion
- **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. Application for funding was submitted to Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government seeking approval to proceed. LCC are awaiting a decision

- **Flood Relief Work for Longford Town:** engineering consultancy services contract documents for have been reviewed by OPW



Waste Enforcement

	Up to 30.6.20
Environmental Pollution	
Complaints received	998
Complaints investigated and closed	845
Litter Fines issued	67
Enforcement Actions	33

Strategic Infrastructure & Climate Action

Environment Updates:

- **Biodiversity Programme for Community Groups:** educational material and online workshops facilitating environmental and biodiversity have been made available to community groups by our Environmental Awareness Office
- **Invasive Species:** mapping new sites of invasive species damaging to the environment has been ongoing
- **National Tree Week:** allocation of trees to community groups, which was due to take place in March, have now been allocated to community groups throughout Longford. The allocation consisted of Rowan, Alder, Oak, Common Birch and Silver Birch
- **River Camlin:** A clean-up between Council Offices on Water Street and Bridge Street took place in June. Shopping trollies, prams, furniture, domestic waste and two wheelie bins were removed by Local Authority staff
- **Climate Action:** Communications, Climate Action and Environment Minister has approved the extension of the ban on the marketing, sale, distribution and burning of bituminous coal ("the smoky coal ban") to 13 additional towns, to include Longford Town effective from September 2020

Planning Services

Planning have been fulfilling our statutory responsibilities and keeping our service fully operational during COVID 19, implementing our business continuity plan, remote-working and laptop and mobile phone communications.

Planning Applications and Enforcement

Planning deadlines are now restored, with a substantial backlog of planning decisions due are being dealt with., as well as continuing to manage the various planning applications, including housing, industrial, extension of permissions, Part 8 Proposals and CPOs. Pre-planning and Enforcement meetings continue to be held electronically. We continue to organise Planning Systems to manage applications electronically at this time.

Development Plan

Our Development Plan Review is continuing. The Draft Plan is currently due to be presented to Councillors on 20 August 2020. Preparation for Development Plan Review is ongoing with Microsoft Teams meetings to consider future strategies, policies and GIS mapping. Management of Development Plan team and consultants on Climate Change, Core Strategy, population, housing, Economy, Environment and other chapter heading strategies. Ensuring compliance with Strategic Environmental Assessment and Appropriate Assessment.

Strategic Infrastructure & Climate Action

Roads

This is a particularly busy period for the Roads Department with Roadworks taking place throughout the County, and further roadworks are in the planning stages:

- The first Public Consultation for the N4 Mullingar to Longford (Roosky) commenced in May and is ongoing with completed questionnaires were due on 26 June
- Consultants are due to be appointed to provide technical services for TII Overlay Schemes at various locations on the N63
- LCC have also received TII approval to appoint consultants to complete the design for Majors Well Road Pavement Overlay Scheme
- The Market Square Pavement Scheme is currently at Tender Assessment Stage and it is envisaged that Works will commence on this Scheme in July/August
- The N4 Newtownforbes Pavement Scheme will go to tender in August/September
- The Roadworks at the Hill in Ballymahon are now substantially complete
- P&D Lydon Contractors have been appointed to carry out rehabilitation/ replacement works at various bridges in the County. These works are due to commence in early July at Ballinamuck, Foygh and Killinastra
- Safety Barrier Repair Works are ongoing throughout the County

Work on the Roads Programme progressed well in June in each Municipal District with the main focus on Restoration Improvement Works and Restoration Maintenance Works. In Ballymahon MD the primary focus for June was on Restoration Improvement (RI) Works.

Works were completed at the following locations:

N63 - Bornacoor
R392-1629 Terlicken 3 roads to Corlea 3 roads
R399-567 from Colehill 4 roads to Ratharney 3 roads (at Bridge)
L-1166 from Tullyvrane 3 roads (South) to Turreen 4 roads (West)
L-1165 from Bleanavoher 4 roads to Turreen 4 roads (West)
L-5245 from Ballyrevagh 3 roads (North) to Claras 3 roads (West)
L-1131 from Garrynagh 3 roads to Rathmore 3 roads (South)
L-1139 from Forthill 4 roads to Ledwithstown 3 roads
L-5224 from Keel 3 roads (South) to the County boundary at Keel Bridge
L-1106 from Abbeyshrule 3 roads (at Graveyard) to Cloghan 3 roads
L-1095 from Crossea Cross to Cross 3 roads (West)
L-5173 from Twentyacres 3 roads to Rathvaldron 3 roads
L-5227 from junction with L-5228-0, L-5221-0 & L-5227-0 in Loughan Td
L-5228 from Abbeyderg 3 roads to Loughan 4 roads

Strategic Infrastructure & Climate Action

In Granard MD, the following RI Works were completed:

L-50791 from Cornadrunn 3 roads to Noble's gate
L-10421 from Cleenrath to Mollyglass (PART)
L-1060 from Dring (West) to Mullinroe 3 roads with branch to Mullinroe 4 roads (PART)
L-5089 from Dunbeggan 4 roads to Aghakine 3 roads
L-1073 from Ballywillin 3 roads to Abbeylara (PART)
L-1078 from Higginstown to Robinstown
L-1059 from Tober 4 roads to Ballinrooey 4 roads (PART)
L-50781 from Enaghan to M. Reilly
L-5107 from Cartronmarkey to Cartronmarkey
L-1030 Cloone Road, Drumlish
R-194 Ballinasclaw R-194 Rhyne
L-1041 Clontumpher L-1080 Drumeel
L-1036 Fostragh L-51551 Lisnagh
L-1015 Ballinamuck

Restoration Maintenance (RM) Works were also completed on the following roads:

L-1830 from junction with R194 to John O'Hara's in Muckerstaff Td.
L-10591 From Local Rd.
L-1059 to Cuffes in Rathbracken Td.
L-5123 From Carragh to Cloghchurnel
L-50662 Edenmore
L-51231 Cul de sac Estate Road Carragh
L-10573 From Mullinroe to Dermody's House
L-51292 Ballyreaghan L-1046 Lislea
L-10151 Fearglass L-10133 Barraghbeg
L-51292 Lisameen L-10121 Drumbad
L-5037 Fardrommin L-5060 Enybegs
L-5160 Edgeworthstown L-10132 Barraghbeg
L-5085 Kilshruley L-5113 Kilshruley

In Longford MD, the following RI Works were completed:

L-5143 From Whiterock 3 roads (Middle) to Feraghfad 3 Roads (West Trunk T.3) (Part)
L-50391 From Stonepark 3 Roads (at Dash Bridge) to Lisduff 4 roads (Part) L-1002 From Ballykenny Bridge to Kilmore Lower 4 roads on N5 (part)

RM Works were also completed on the:

L-5004-0 from Lismore 3 roads to Corry 3 roads (North)
L-5003-0 from Cartrons 3 roads (Railway Bridge) to Lisnabo 3 roads (West)
L-50011-0 from jnc with N5 at Lisanurlan to laneway leading to Duffy's house at Mullagh Bog Td.
L-10182-0 from jcn with R-198-434 to jcn with L-1018 in Clonrollagh townland
L-1009-0 from Drumlish 3 roads (R198 South-West) to Cartrongar L.B. (Letter Box) at entrance to the Hermitage
L-1011-0 Jcn with L-1040-0, R-194-959 & R-194-336 in Kilnatruan td
L-1011-0 Jcn with R-194-336 in Kiltyreher
L-10404-0 Jcn with L-1008-0 in Currygranny townland

DG Works were completed on the:

R-393-23 from Junction with N63-594 at cathedral to junction with R-393-259 at Knockahaw

Strategic Infrastructure & Climate Action

Water Services

Continuity of Water Services is, at the present time, considered a significant priority both locally and nationally. Longford County Council continues to plan and deliver Water Services throughout Longford.

Water Services Capital Section continue to provide services during COVID 19, including ensuring continuation of drinking water for County Longford, particularly in areas with headroom and supply issues.

Rural Water Programme

Water Services are facilitating Group Schemes that were successful in obtaining funding. Bids for the Multi-Annual Rural Water Programme 2019-21 were submitted in March 2019. Water Services are now looking for possible bids for the next rolling period.

€225,400 total funding under the Multi-Annual Rural Water Programme was notified to the Council in October 2019. While no works were undertaken in 2019, it is anticipated that some of this funding will be drawn down in 2020.

Find & Fix Programme

Longford County Council and Irish Water commenced the Find & Fix Programme in County Longford in May 2019., a National Project aiming to deliver major water leakage savings.

Crews have completed the first sweep of Find & Fix works in the District Metered Areas (DMAs) of Ballymakeegan, Ballymahon, Killashee Street, Richmond-Moygh and Edgeworthstown-Crossea, with significant progress being made in identifying and repairing leaks in the water network.

Find & Fix crews are currently operating in the Longford Town South, Ballymakeegan (Second Sweep) and Granard DMAs.

It is anticipated that the Find & Fix works in County Longford will continue as the year progresses.



Strategic Infrastructure & Climate Action

ECI Water Programme

Lough Gowna (Smear) WTP Major Capital Upgrade Works commenced onsite in June 2020 at Smear Water Treatment Plant in order to upgrade infrastructure and optimise the treatment process onsite. The works are scheduled for completion in Quarter 1 of 2021. Design works for Capital Upgrade Works at Lough Kinale are also ongoing and are due to commence onsite in Quarter 3 of 2020.

Capital Works recommenced onsite at Lough Forbes Water Treatment Plant where the filtration system is undergoing targeted upgrade works.

Individual Well Grants (Up to 30.6.20)

Applications received	6
Applications approved	4
Applications refused	0
Grants paid	1
Value of Grants Paid	€1,593

Civil Defence

Longford Civil Defence continue to assist the Primary Response Agencies and the Local Authority during COVID 19.

Up to 25 June, 15 Civil Defence volunteers completed 76 taskings and provided 460 Volunteer Hours to their community.

Taskings in June included transportation of test samples to laboratories, distribution of leaflets on behalf of the Council, distribution of well-being packs on behalf of Longford Libraries, collection and delivery of food supplies on behalf of the PPN & Longford Women's Link. to families in need.



Civil Defence also provided administrative and canteen assistance to the Irish Blood Transfusion service at their Longford Clinics.

Volunteers are currently undertaking COVID 19 Online Induction Training, with one volunteer starting Communications Instructor Training.

Strategic Infrastructure & Climate Action

Fire & Emergency Services

Business Continuity Planning: Fire Service have prepared and implemented business continuity measures for both operational personnel and HQ staff, with these measures managed by the Longford Fire and Rescue Service Action Tracker Plan for COVID 19 and Fire Brigade HQ continually manned.

Operations: 25 total callouts, with several bog and gorse fires of long duration due to the long dry spell. All stations remained fully operational and staffed accordingly.

Fire Prevention: 3 Fire Safety Certificates were processed in June. Fire Service Inspections and Community Fire Safety Activities have been suspended for the duration of COVID 19.

Fleet Management and Equipment Checks: Although the weekly training drills are suspended, fire-fighters continue to carry out weekly equipment checks, which is co-ordinated by Station Officers to keep numbers in stations to a minimum.

Health & Safety: No injuries in June.

MEM: Regional Working Group meetings are held weekly by teleconference working on COVID 19 measures. A training exercise was held in conjunction Westmeath Fire Service using High Volume Pumps (based in Athlone) for use in the event of severe flooding. This training was completed in Clondra.



Training: Training courses are been rescheduled due to COVID 19. Courses recommenced in June with a Breathing Apparatus refresher course in Lanesboro. 45 Fire Fighters completed this training. Safety Rep Refresher Training was also completed.

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 COVID 19. Longford County Council's Veterinary Service has produced their Pandemic Action Plan, a Business Continuity Plan and a Resource Recovery Template. In addition, Veterinary Services, in conjunction with LGMA, provided a COVID 19 Animal-Related Queries document to support the Community Call Helpline Service

LGMA and 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 in the longer-term.

Longford County Council Dog Control Service continued to provide essential services to our community throughout COVID 19. Team member, Hilary Robinson, continues to care for stray and unwanted dogs. Stray dogs are hazardous to people, farm animals and other pets and the Veterinary Service keeps the community safe, while also being committed to animal welfare

Veterinary Services	Up to 29.6.20
Dogs seized	124
Dog Licenses purchased	694
Stray Horses seized	24



Responsible dog ownership and having a Dog License are the two most important actions that individuals can make to support Longford Dog Control Service. Dog Licenses cost €20 and may be purchased at any Post Office or online at [Licenses.ie](https://www.licenses.ie)

CONNECTED

People • Place • Opportunity

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

Signed: _____



Paddy Mahon
Chief Executive





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A Longford County Council Publication 2020