

**TOGETHER WE CAN  
MAKE A DIFFERENCE!**

**Longford County Council**  
**Chief Executive Report**  
May 2020

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# May Highlights

Longford County Council welcomes New Cathaoirleach Gerard Farrell & newly coopted Cllr. Colin Dalton



## Keeping County Longford Informed

The Council continued to actively communicate with Longford citizens throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Primary focus and objectives:**

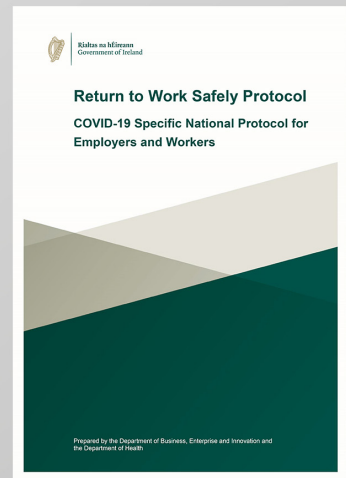
- convey up-to-date national and local COVID-19 information
- promote wellbeing campaigns such as In This Together and #HoldFirm
- ensure Longford Community Call services are promoted
- facilitate accessing Community Call by our diverse communities in County Longford through translation of Community Call messages to different languages.

**It was noteworthy that our main messages were shared and retweeted to wider audiences by**

- the MerrionStreet.ie
- Department Housing, Planning & Local Government
- LGMA
- Healthy Ireland
- Embassy of the Republic of Poland in Dublin
- Embassy of Latvia in Ireland

## Return to Work Safely - Local Authority COVID-19 Work Safely, Health and Safety Guidance

The Chief Executive assigned responsibility for COVID-19 compliance to the Acting Health and Safety Officer for the duration of the pandemic. The Acting Health and Safety Officer attends regular meetings with Senior Management to report and advise on compliance.



The Health & Safety section reviewed the LGMA suite of Standard Operating Procedure guidance documents structured to reflect the operational activities of local authorities and amended as appropriate to include Longford County Council practices in the form of risk assessments. Health & Safety guidance and advice was provided and each section supported in the preparation of their plans for phased return to work of employees during the month.

Monitoring compliance is an important measure to protect the health and safety of employees, contractors and members of the public and will require ensuring that

- physical distancing
- hygiene rules
- COVID-19 control measures are being adhered to and maintained in order to reduce the risk of the spread of COVID-19.

## Community & Enterprise

### Community Development

#### Community Call Helpline

The helpline is continuing to operate 7 days a week from 9am to 5pm.



**The Community Call**

*Collection & delivery of food, medicine, other essential items. Social isolation support. Garda related issues. Other medical or health needs*

Community Call will respond to the needs of the vulnerable members of our community

Call **043 3344255** or **1800 300 122**  
Email **covidsupport@longfordcoco.ie**  
from 9am until 5pm. 7 days a week



#### Longford Community Development Committee

The meeting scheduled for 9th June 2020 has been deferred to July 2020.

#### SICAP Programme

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.

#### Comhairle na nOg

The Comhairle is continuing to hold virtual meetings and discussions on various topics as per their work programme.

#### Albert Reynolds Peace Park

There are planned improvements for the Albert Reynolds Peace Park in conjunction with the Regeneration Department including improvements to the entrance at the Battery Road, increased lighting and a continuation of tarmac paths around the entire park. The refurbishment of the Adventure Trail is to commence shortly, this work had been held up by weather and the Covid-19 restrictions.

#### CLÁR Funding 2020

Michael Ring TD, Minister for Rural and Community Development recently launched the 2020 CLÁR programme. Applications for **Measure 1: Schools/ Community Safety** (expanded in 2020) and **Measure 2: Community Recreation Areas** (new) are to be submitted directly to Longford County Council by 23rd July, 2020. Scheme Outline and application forms will be available to Schools, Community Groups and Local Development Companies on Longford County Council's website or by emailing 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; email CLAR@DRCD.gov.ie or see DRCD website; closing date 28th August, 2020.

Longford County Council has been granted €16,000 from Department of Children and Youth Affairs for the refurbishment and extension of Granard Playground. Tenders will be sought for this work in the near future.

## Community & Enterprise

### Longford Sports Partnership

- We are doing daily social media post at 11am with workouts, challenge and ideas to keep active, with some other posts throughout the day – please like or follow us to get the updates.
- Creation of 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.
- We ran a four week programme in collaboration with the Longford Leader, as not everyone has online access, we identified ambassadors in our community finding out what they recommend to encourage people to stay fit and active.
- Profiles of our Sports Bursary Winners in Longford will provide positive advice for people. The profile considers what they are doing to stay active, healthy and fit, this will include videos of their favourite workouts.
- National Workplace Wellness Day for all Longford County Council staff took place on Friday the 1st May with the kick off of our staff 2km challenge. We had 38 people take part in Yoga, Bodyweight workout and Pilates, with 10 people requesting videos. 90 people took part in the 2km challenge and donated a total of €1468 were given to St Christopher's Sports Activities.
- Creation of exercise booklet for older adults to be given out with Newsletter.

- Morning Movers programme takes place twice weekly for morning walking and jogging groups where they meet online meetings.
- Men on the Move programme has started running online.
- Fitness programme every week for a disadvantaged hard to reach group with 8 participants.
- Upcoming Inclusive Home Fitness programme for Longford people with disabilities starting on Wednesday 3rd of June 11am -12 noon. This is 6 weeks programme with a home programme and food plan to do at home.
- Daily workout from the Sports Hub and Zoom classes have begun.



LONGFORD  
SPORT  
INCLUSION  
DISABILITY  
PROGRAMME

## 6 WEEKS - INCLUSIVE HOME WORKOUT SESSIONS

EVERY WEDNESDAY  
STARTING 3RD OF JUNE  
VIA ON-LINE  
11AM - 12PM

Contact Sports Inclusion Disability Officer Orla Dempsey  
for more information and how to register .

Limited Places and cost €5

Email: [odempsey@longfordcoco.ie](mailto:odempsey@longfordcoco.ie)  
043-3343495 / 086-6021716



[www.longfordsportspartnership.ie](http://www.longfordsportspartnership.ie)

# Community & Enterprise

## Corporate Services

Corporate Services COVID 19 Business Response Plan Phase 1 developed and continues to be implemented.

### Communications Office

#### *Keeping County Longford Informed*

- 3 Press Releases for May
- Longford, Let's Stay Connected leaflets



- Social Media:  
Engaging messages with visual graphics created and updated social media channels with unique content to enhance our engagement with the public and keep our people connected with each other and our county



3,542 followers

59 messages posted

Our Posts were seen 98k times.



2,572 followers

74 messages tweeted

Our Tweets earned 76k impressions.

## Longford County Council

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### Elected Members Supports & Meetings Administration

COVID-19 Meetings Protocol developed and introduced for all Council Meetings.

Municipal District Meetings continue to be held in the Sports Hall, Leisure Centre, Albert Reynolds Peace Park, Longford. A meeting of the Corporate Policy Group was also held on the 20th May.



Councillor Gerard Hagan was appointed to the vacancy in the position of Leas Cathaoirleach.



Councillor Colin Dalton was elected to the vacancy for the Granard Electoral Area, occasioned by the election of Micheál Carrigy to Seanad Éireann.



AN LONGFORD  
CONNECTED

mind your  
mental  
health

# Community & Enterprise

## Corporate Management Supports & Business and Customer Services

Customer Services desk remained available to respond to all calls during normal office hours. All general queries from members of public continue to be received, monitored and dealt with through our customer care email.

## Risk Management & Health & Safety

The Safety Inspection Programme and Safety Inspection Forms were reviewed and updated to reflect the changed requirements in relation to COVID-19 compliance. Those carrying out safety inspections should at all times promote good hygiene practices and social distancing measures to all personnel.

Work commenced and is ongoing on development of plans for future phases including developing protocols for the operation of public counters and reopening of Libraries.

## Freedom of Information

Freedom of Information	May 2020	Year to Date
No. of F.O.I. requests received	3	25
No. of F.O.I. requests Granted	1	10*
No. of F.O.I. requests Part-Granted	2	4
No. of F.O.I. requests Refused	1	9*
No. of F.O.I. requests Withdrawn & handled outside F.O.I.	0	1
No. of F.O.I. requests Transferred	0	0
No. of F.O.I. requests Open at month end		3
No. of F.O.I. Internal Reviews	0	1
Number of A.I.E. requests received	0	1

\*Figure includes Decisions made relating to FOI's from 2019 – one Granted and one Refused

## Corporate Governance

Policy Adopted & Implemented – Personal Data Breach Policy.

Developed Standard of Operations 1 - Management of a Personal Data Breach.

Data Protection Advisory Report on Longford Town Community CCTV completed and provided to IT & Finance.

Data Protection Guidance issued on Processing Employee Data During COVID19.

Data Protection Notices prepared for various funding applications for Community Section.

Data Protection Guidance issued in relation to the Data Protection Commissions recent Audit Report on Cookies.



No of Data Protection queries received and responded to in May 2020.

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# Community & Enterprise

## Local Enterprise Office

Performance Metrics to 31/5/2020

### Measure 1

Number of Applications Received:

Feasibility/Priming/Business Expansion/TAME 7

### Measure 2

Training/Development Programmes  
(All Training and Networking events)

Total No. of All Programmes (Training/  
Networking/Events/Seminars) 28

Total No. of all Participants participating in  
above Programmes 520

Mentoring:

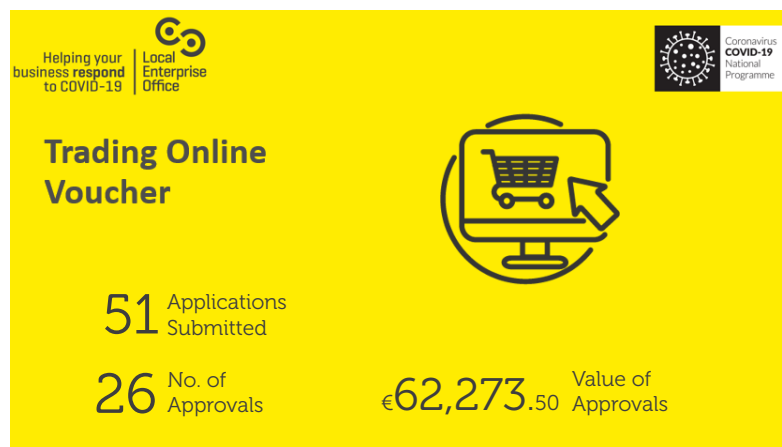
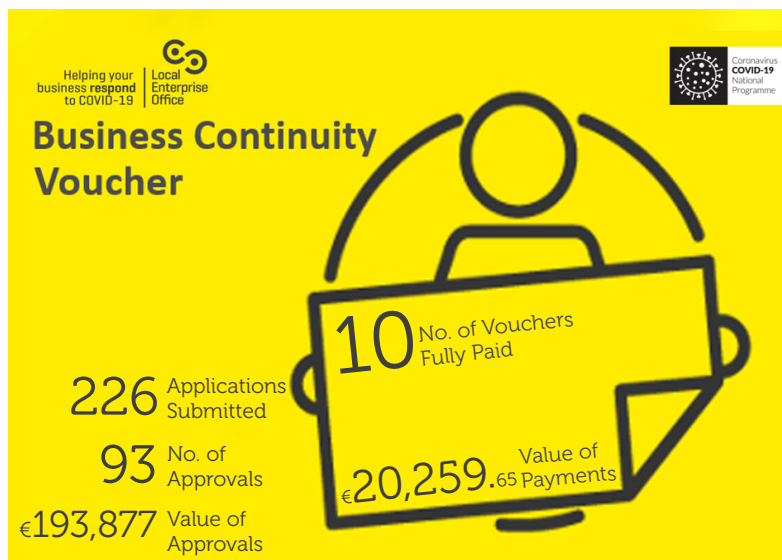
Total Number of individual mentoring – 40  
(participants availing of one to one mentor-  
ing – one to one engagement by a Mentor  
with one client)



## Longford County Council

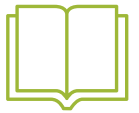
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### COVID-19 Supports



## Tourism Office

- Promoting County Longford through paid advertising on Facebook
- Information boards for Towns & Villages for North Longford Cycling Route – work ongoing
- Trailhead boards and brochure for Royal Canal Greenway – work ongoing with Waterways Ireland and adjoining Counties
- Postcards for County Longford – 3 new designs printed



## Community & Enterprise

### Longford County Library Heritage and Archive

#### Reopening Libraries

Longford Libraries have continued to promote all of our online services and each branch library has been helping customers with book selection and distributing book boxes to older people who are cocooning or are in isolation. From June 8th as part of the governments roadmap towards reopening society and business all public libraries will be offering a call and collect service but our library buildings will not be accessible to the public until a later phase. We are working with the Facilities Team and Health and Safety around physical measures that need to be implemented to make our buildings safe and accessible for both staff and customers. Works have been completed on Granard Community Library to allow it operate as our second Open Library in the county.

#### Online services on social media

We have a full programme of online events scheduled to run throughout each week. Our staff have been promoting the work of local artists, gardeners and the Cloughan Farm Cookery school through weekly online programmes and classes. All of the programmes will form part of the legacy archive from Covid 19.

#### Edgeworthstown Library

Work re-commenced on May 18th and new timelines are 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 St.

#### Bealtaine

Celebrating creativity in older people  
Working in partnership with Longford Community gardai, Longford Older Persons Council and Active Age groups around the main objective this year was to keep our older people connected through music, song and story. We hosted our first virtual Bealtaine Concert in the grounds of Thomond Lodge Nursing home Ballymahon. Much of the programme was recorded in people's homes and gardens and everyone was able to join the concert from the comfort of their own armchairs on Thursday 28th May. The programme brought families together in many different locations and received a great response from many parts of the world. It can be viewed on Longford Libraries facebook and youtube channels.

#### Creative Ireland

Most public events have been cancelled but we are assisting Creatives and organisers where possible to create online programmes and to ensure that artists get paid for work they have already created. We have been working closely with Backstage Theatre re some of the joint events that were planned as part of their 25th anniversary celebrations and most of the programme will now go ahead online.

#### Decade of Commemorations

A full programme of events was planned for later in the year but we are reviewing this now in light of all that is happening.

#### Heritage Office

The Heritage Office is progressing with the three County Heritage Plan projects - the field surveys of the wetlands and corn/flour mills ready to go to tender. The Heritage Office also celebrated Biodiversity Week 2020, with a series of specially-commissioned daily videos by Longford Environmental Alliance, Dromard Men's Shed and Swift Conservation Longford, highlighting the significance of our natural heritage and how the public can support efforts to protect biodiversity. The Longford Beekeepers also produced a video marking World Bee Day.



# Community & Enterprise

## Human Resources

Over the last month HR have focused on

- Business Continuity Planning
- Communications with Employees
- Supporting Employees
- Employee Health and Wellbeing
- Learning and Development
- The Temporary Assignment Scheme
- Working with & supporting the Community Call Team
- Changing work practices and increasing the use of digital technology

### Business Continuity Planning

The HR section has prepared a business continuity plan and a risk assessment based on the organisational business response plan to assist with the management of the section during COVID-19 and to protect the safety, health and welfare of the employees during this time.

### Communications to Employees

On behalf of the Management Team, three communications were provided to all employees during the month of May. Updates are provided to employees following Business Continuity Management Team meetings. The purpose of the employee update is to keep employees up to date with changes nationally and decisions of the Management Team. The employee updates included information on the Roadmap for Re-opening Society and Business, the Return to Work Safely Protocol and the Local Authority Roadmap for re-opening Services amongst other national updates and decisions of the Management Team.

### Learning & Development

The three Manual Handling Instructors came together, prepared and delivered the first manual handling training course online via Microsoft Teams. It is intended to continue to deliver the theory part of manual handling via this digital medium over the coming months. This will assist with business continuity for all sections.

### Recruitment

The completion of recruitment competitions remained postponed during the month of May. The Human Resources section is continuing to review ways to conduct recruitment competitions using digital technologies.

### Temporary Assignment Scheme

As part of a unified public service response, temporary assignments across the Civil and Public Service are a necessary response by Government to the unprecedented national crisis arising from the COVID-19 pandemic.

As part of the temporary assignment scheme 105 employees were identified to take part in the temporary assignment scheme which may require employees to work in a different role and/or organization to meet critical work needs. Employees are now being removed from the temporary assignment scheme as the Local Authority Roadmap for re-opening Services progresses.

### Employee Wellbeing

To mark National Wellbeing Day, Longford County Council took part in initiatives for National Workplace Day on Friday 1st May 2020. Employee and Elected Members participated in a 2k challenge during the month of May. A total of €1468.00 was raised for St. Christopher's Yoga, Bodyweight Workouts and Pilates classes were organised and took place on 1st May 2020.

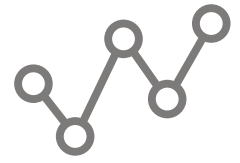


# Finance & Regeneration

## Finance

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

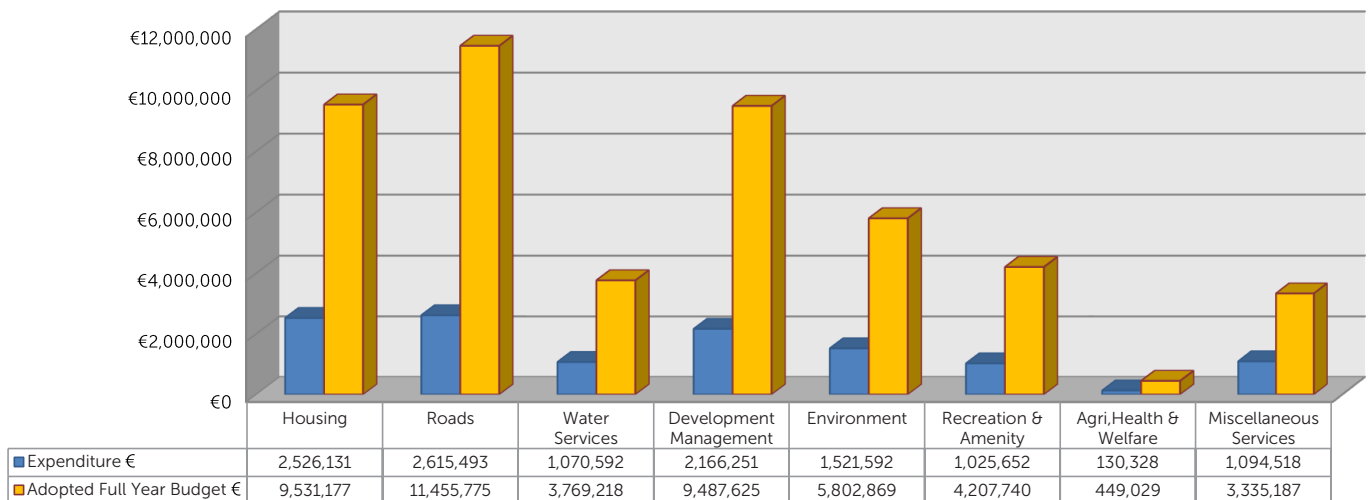
	EXPENDITURE				INCOME				NET
	Expendi- ture €	Adopted Full Year Budget €	% Budget Spent to date	Budget Remain- ing €	Income €	Adopted Full year Budget €	% Budget Raised	Budget out- standing €	Actual Overall Surplus/ (Deficit) €
Housing	2,526,131	9,531,177	27%	7,005,046	2,734,276	10,415,527	26%	7,681,251	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)



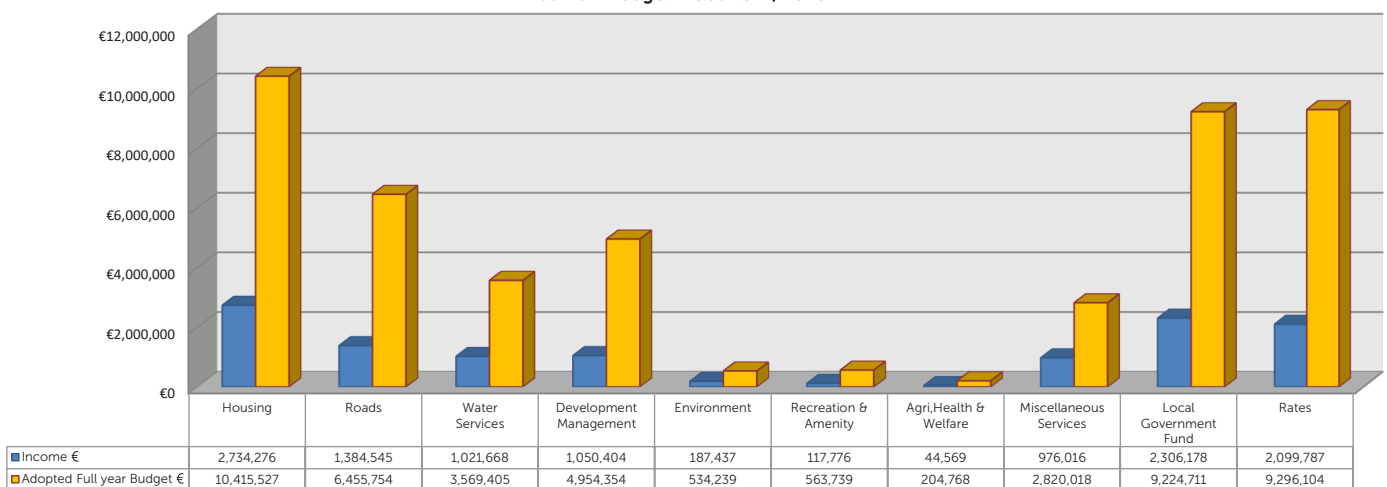
# Finance & Regeneration

## Finance

Expenditure V Budget - Quarter 1, 2020



Income V Budget - Quarter 1, 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

From 18 May 2020, work has recommenced on many projects following the lifting of Covid 19 restrictions on Outdoor Construction Work including the Edgeworthstown Library & Public Realm, Edgeworthstown Enterprise hub, The Mall Complex, ORIS and Towns & Villages projects.

### Urban Regeneration and Development Fund 2020

Following consultation with the Management Team, an application has been made under the URDF second call by 29th May 2020, a decision on the application is anticipated over the next two months.

### Rural Regeneration and Development Fund 2019

Project Management and Design Consultants selected, and letter of offer sent out to the successful applicant of Abbeyshrule Rural Working Hub and Enterprise Project. It is expected that the consultants appointed will commence work in June/July 2020.

### Master Planning Lanesboro

Project identified under RRDF 2020. Contract awarded to Consultants Future Analytics Consulting Limited. Teams meeting held between LCC, Roscommon County Council and consultants to discuss economic strategy and development of Lanesborough Ballyleague area.

### Just Transition Fund

Expressions of interest have been invited for projects to progress the Just Transition process in County Longford to be submitted by 12th June 2020. Work on projects is underway in this regard in relation to climate action, economic and community development, tourism, employment and natural amenity.

### Platforms for Growth

One project successful in progressing to Stage two. Stage three application due 30th June 2020. Ongoing work with consultants in preparation of application.

### Town & Village Renewal Scheme 2020 Launched

This year's scheme will, in particular, support projects that aid the economic and social recovery of towns and villages in response to COVID-19. Expressions of Interest are sought from town/village groups who may have a suitable project for consideration under the Scheme by 17th June 2020.



### Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme 2020 Launched

Funding will be provided to a maximum of 90% of total project costs. This increased funding level has been introduced in recognition of the difficulty in raising match funding due to the impact of COVID-19. The deadlines for submission of applications to the Department are 30th September 2020 for Measure 1 and 30th November 2020 for Measures 2 and 3.

# Finance & Regeneration

## 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.
- Remote meeting of CCTV Steering facilitated, and number of items progressed relating to tender
- Update of internal data communications hardware commenced, this is currently at the planning and procurement stage. It is planned to start the replacement of this legacy equipment in late June/July. Due to the added demands on remote working due to Covid19 this will ensure sufficient capacity for internal staff and the public availing of the call centre.
- Hyper-Converged update commenced, with business case presented to and approved by Management Team
- Community CCTV – Tender
- Site visit carried out to investigate power supply options for all new locations including estimates for required civil works. Alternative transmission relay options for Crossans and Tesco Car Park locations checked and confirmed as suitable alternatives to pole replacements.
- Community CCTV – Connolly Barracks Mast

- Mast plans progressed in conjunction with regeneration and planning section. Part 8 work commenced.
- Forest Exit. All remaining users and PC's migrated from the LGMA national domain which is being retired to new self-managed domain. 95% of servers and applications migrated (last remaining server and application due for migration in June). Decommissioning process of old domain infrastructure commenced and will continue in June.
- iReg upgrade - New infrastructure provisioned for iReg 4.0 upgrade.
- MDM upgrade - Mobile device management software upgrade required to ensure compatibility with newer mobile devices. Trial set up and currently being carried out on several mobile devices.
- Water Services devices – New mobile devices and associated accounts provisioned and deployed to facilitate digital working for Water Services staff.
- Service Desk Stats for May – 824 Calls

### Digital Services works completed:

- Web form and middleware to link financial systems to grant form developed and implemented for Business Restart Scheme. Training provided to Finance staff to operate system.
- Working with National Broadband Ireland to ensure that Longford's Broadband Connection Points (outside WIFI access for the community) are operational as soon as possible. The following BCP's have been prioritised, leader funding applications progressed and work commenced at each location:
  1. Abbeyshrule Airport
  2. Ballymore GAA ground
  3. Corlea Heritage Centre
  4. Mullinalaghta Community Centre

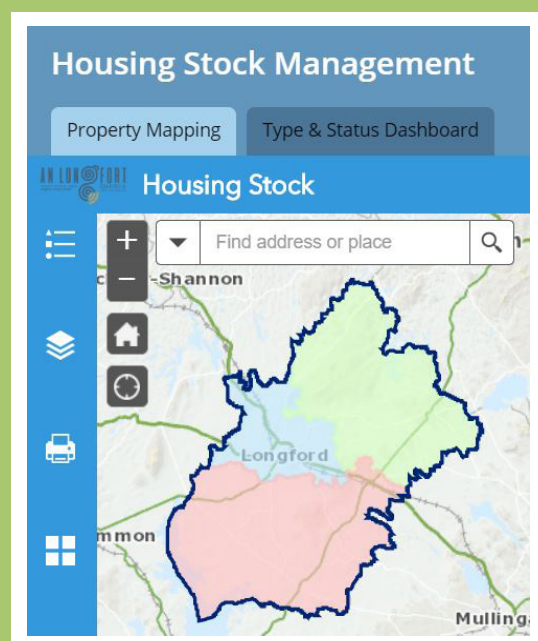
## Finance & Regeneration

- Health & Safety documentation progressed for contractors for WIFI4EU project.
- Support provided for Microsoft Team meetings to ensure all users could participate e.g. Community Call Forum, Elected Members MD meetings, LCDC, Age Friendly Alliance, Regeneration etc.
- New section on LCC website for Covid-19 - updated daily <http://www.longfordcoco.ie/your-council/covid-19/the-community-call-longford.html>
- Training documentation and videos created to support external agencies/users accessing Microsoft teams.
- First draft of Digital strategy for Longford developed.
- Corporate digital communication tool – process commenced (joint project with GIS Officer). Rolled out for internal staff communication's during COVID-19. This will ensure customers receive timely, targeted notification's on LCC service areas.
- Social Media posting in multiple languages English, Irish, Polish, Latvian and Lithuanian

### Geographic Information Systems (GIS) works completed:

- Core Management & Remote Working Dashboards finalised <https://arcg.is/1Lyqmu>
- Developed Housing Dashboard for iHouse visualisation <https://arcg.is/140Hb1>
- Developed public Planning Application Dashboard <https://arcg.is/nP9mb>

- Added Clar Area boundary to Roads Viewer to facilitate Clar Applications
- Processed the Eircode Q1 2020 data release for integration with all GIS applications and to accommodate user needs.
- Processed Land Parcel Identification System (LPIS) data for the Environment section.
- Created an automated email with report for referrals from Planning Section of planning applications that fall within the N4 constraints / study area to Roads section (NRA Liaison Engineer) and Westmeath County Council -NRO, this solution was shared with Westmeath County Council who hope to implement same. Planning Referral.html
- Incorporated an analysis widget into the Planners Inquiry and Analysis app that will run spatial analysis of planning application that fall within 1km of datasets such as NPWS, sites and monuments, water sources, development plan layers etc. and output a report.
- Supply of data to consultants for Granard and Lanesborough/ Ballyleague regeneration study.



# Strategic Infrastructure & Climate Action



## Housing

### Energy efficiency programme:

- Works under Phase 1 are complete.
- Midland Energy Retrofit Pilot Programme – The programme was on hold as a result of the Covid-19 crisis.

### Capital programme:

- 6 OPDs @Rose Cottage, Ballinalee – Stage IV issued to Department. Awaiting received to proceed to Construction stage subject to some changes
- 5 no. units, Church Street, Edgeworthstown – Construction works well advanced. 75% complete. Site has reopened.
- 1 no. unit, Fair View Green, Longford – Stage III approval received. Stage IV submitted to the Department 2/6/2020.
- Park Road, Longford - Stage II approval received so Part VIII is being prepared by external consultants.
- Colmcille Terrace, Granard – Tuath Housing Association is progressing this project. Preplanning meetings have taken place
- 1 no unit Cloonahard – Stage III approval received. Stage IV submitted to Department on 25/5/2020.
- 3 no units Abbeylara – Demolition were carried out 25th and 26th May. With the site not cleared and fenced off.
- 18 /22 units Legan – Construction works well advanced. Site has reopened.
- 16 no. units Farnagh Hill, Longford – Construction works well advanced. Site has reopened.

### VOIDS 2020

Completed to 29th February 2020	2
Works Ongoing	2
Contract Awarded	1
Tenders being prepared	2
Out to Tender	1

### Pre-Lets

31 houses have been completed and allocated to date

### Interagency disability steering group

Meeting scheduled for 6th April 2020 was deferred.

### Incremental purchase scheme

10 no. applications have been received this year.

### HOUSING NEED ASSESSMENT

No. Approved households  
@ 31st May 2020

# 928



### RAS / LEASING

	RAS	LEASING
No. Agreements at 1/1/2020	203	126
No. Agreements at 31/5/2020	207	133
HOUSING ALLOCATIONS	MONTH	YEAR TO DATE
No. Offers 1/1/2020 to 31/05/2020	0	92
No. of Tenancies agreed 1/1/2020 to 31/05/2020	11	77

### HOMELESSNESS YTD

No of Individuals presenting as Homeless in 2020 36



## Strategic Infrastructure & Climate Action

### HOUSING ASSISTANCE PAYMENT

Total No. of Tenancies set up	489
Total No. Of Active Tenancies	338
Total No. of Tenancies set up since 1/1/2020	38

### HOUSING GRANTS PRIVATE HOUSES

	No. Grants approved 2020	Value of Grants approved
<b>Total approved</b>	25	€180,172
Housing Grant for people with a Disability	6	€91,962
Mobility Aid Grants	5	€35,365
Housing Aid for Older People	14	€52,845

### GRANTS LOCAL AUTHORITY HOUSES

	Applications Received YTD	Works Carried out to	Value
<b>Medical Need</b>	22	3	€29,587.18

### LOANS

Loan Type	Applications Received YTD	Applications Approved YTD	Loans paid out YTD
<b>RIHL</b>	9	5	5

### MORTGAGE TO RENT APPLICATIONS

	Applications Received YTD
<b>Applications considered YTD</b>	0
<b>Agreements made since YTD</b>	0

### REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE

<b>Repairs requested to 31/5/2020</b>	743
<b>Valid Repairs to 31/5/2020</b>	669
<b>No. of outstanding repair requests as at 31/5/2020</b>	94



# Strategic Infrastructure & Climate Action

## Environment Services

- **Inspections:** RMCEI inspections are ongoing. Due to Covid-19 most routine inspections involving face to face engagements with the public have been suspended. Work that does not involve person to person interactions is continuing and maximum use is being made of phone and email.  
**Many of the Environment staff except the litter wardens are working from home until the COVID-19 restrictions are eased.**
- **Annual Environmental Returns** from Waste Permit Holders and Waste Collectors are being validated from home by the Environmental Pollution Officers.
- **The Mall Engineering Report** - Topographical survey work and preliminary flow modelling completed for comparison with historical flood events. Awaiting Consultant to complete some survey work on surface water drainage pipes (all site work on hold due to COVID-19) and preliminary report to be delivered to LCC.
- **Floor 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. Appropriate Assessment Screening and Tender Documents are currently in preparation.

- **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.

Waste Enforcement	Up to 29/05/ 2020
<b>No. of Environmental Pollution Complaints received</b>	<b>858</b>
<b>No. of Complaints investigated and closed</b>	<b>682</b>
<b>No. of Litter Fines issued</b>	<b>52</b>
<b>No. of Enforcement Actions taken (warning letters, statutory notices, etc.)</b>	<b>28</b>

While the issuing of on the spot Litter fines is on hold since Friday 27th March, investigation details are being logged and appropriate enforcement is being taken

## News

- Longford County Council Environment Section recently secured a conviction in the District Court under Section 32(1) of the Waste Management Act 1996 for the holding of waste at a site at Lisnanagh, Longford. The defendant received a five months prison sentence.
- Longford County Councils Environment Section made safe the Dangerous Structure on Main Street, Ballymahon, and is seeking to recoup costs from the registered owner.
- The CPO for Granard Motte & Bailey has been confirmed.
- The SEAI Public Sector Monitoring Report has been submitted in respect of the Council's energy performance for 2019.

# Strategic Infrastructure & Climate Action

## Planning Service

Fulfilling statutory responsibilities and keeping the Planning Service fully operational during the Pandemic and related suspension. Implementing business continuity plan, remote working, Laptop and Mobile phone communications.

### Planning Applications and Enforcement

Statutory Requirements:

Now that these deadlines are restored there is a substantial back log of planning decisions due. Managing the various planning applications housing, Industrial proposals, extension of permissions, Part 8 planning schemes, CPO's etc. that they continue to be dealt with. Pre-planning and Enforcement meetings continue to be held electronically. Continue to organise the Planning System to manage planning applications electronically during Covid 19 crises.

### Development Plan

Statutory Requirements:

Development Plan review now commenced. Draft Plan currently due to be presented to Councillors on 20th August, 2020. Preparation for Development Plan Review ongoing with Microsoft Teams meetings to consider future strategies, policies and GIS mapping. Management of Dev. 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.

## Roads

From March 27th the Roads Department were providing a reduced Service Programme in accordance with Covid 19 Government Guidelines .Only essential services including street cleaning , servicing of litter bins, emergency road repair, public lighting repair, traffic light maintenance, winter gritting and emergency call out were being provided.

From Monday May 18th Longford County Council Roads Department recommenced providing a full service Programme following induction training for all Roads Personnel . All Work Operations must comply with Public Health Measures currently in place and Health and Safety Documentation has been modified to take into account these Measures.

The Roads Department have recommenced maintenance and construction works on Regional and Local Roads & Bridges. The following works will take place over the next few weeks;

- Street Cleaning & Servicing of litter bins.
- Road & Bridge Maintenance Repairs.
- Grass Cutting.
- Restoration Improvement Works Programme.
- Restoration Maintenance Works Programme.
- Maintenance of Public Lighting & Traffic Route Lighting.
- Engagement of contractors to carry out works on Roads, Bridges, Safety Barriers etc

The first Public Consultation for the N4 Mullingar to Longford (Roosky) commenced in May and is ongoing with completed questionnaires due back by June 26th.

LCC received confirmation of funding for Local Improvement Schemes from the Department of Rural and Community Development towards the end of May.

# Strategic Infrastructure & Climate Action

## Water Services

During May Water Services has continued to operate on a Business as Usual position since the commencement of the COVID 19 pandemic. All staff both technical, administrative and outdoor have been carrying out their roles by utilising a combination of remote working, site working and our real time county wide scada system.

During the lockdown, additional technical and engineering personnel were trained up in the water treatment plants to assist, and to ensure there is always adequate cover for all the water treatment plant operations and to ensure the supply of safe drinking water within the County.

Plant operators and network maintenance crews continue to maintain supply on a 24 hour basis.

All efforts in water services have remained constant during the month, and all necessary repairs at the treatment plants including maintenance works have been addressed and dealt with promptly. All water bursts were attended to and repaired as required. There are no matters outstanding currently.

It should be noted that there were no drinking water quality issues in Longford during the month of May with all drinking water in compliance with Drinking Water Regulations. Longford County Council remained in close communication with Irish Water compliance team during the month.

Water demand has increased during the month, and the treatment plants are all running at full capacity to meet this demand, to date there are no water supply issues, however this situation could change as drought conditions worsen and Longford County Council on behalf of Irish Water would like to see everyone remain aware of their water usage to ensure the security of supply.

### Water Capital Works

Major Capital investment works which have been progressing through the design process for the Smear WTP have now reached site and are scheduled to last approximately 6 months. This will assist in increasing water quality over the long term for customers served from this plant.

### Wastewater

Wastewater Services staff continued to operate as normal during May under the current Covid -19 restrictions. Following reports of blockages Staff inspected a number of such issues on site during May, and of these three had to be dealt with by an Irish Water contractor. The seventeen Waste Water Treatment and associated pump stations were kept operating by as normal in this time of COVID-19, with any faults that arose repaired in a short period of time.

### Rural Water Programme

Bids for the Multi-Annual Rural Water Programme 2019-2021 were submitted in March 2019.

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

### Individual Well Grants, Up to 29/05/2020

No. of IWG applications received 6

No. of IWG applications approved 4

No. of IWG applications refused 0

No. of IW grants paid 1

Total value of grants paid to date €1,593



# Strategic Infrastructure & Climate Action

## Fire & Emergency Services

### Health & Safety:

- No injuries in May.

### Training:

- Training courses are being rescheduled on account of COVID-19 and will recommence in June with a Breathing Apparatus refresher course in Lanesboro.
- The weekly drill training programmes in stations have also restarted.

### Operations:

# 43

Total callouts



- There were several bog/gorse fires of long duration due to the long dry spell.
- All stations remained fully operational and staffed accordingly.

### M.E.M.:

- Regional Steering Group and Working Group meetings are held weekly by teleconference working on COVID-19 measures.
- M Lough has prepared a P.P.E. pack for distribution to Funeral Directors. This pack was provided by the HSE.

### Fire Prevention:

# 3

Fire Safety Cert's  
have been  
processed  
in May



- Fire Service inspections and community fire safety activities have been suspended for the duration of COVID-19.

### Fleet Management/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.

### 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.

# 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 are negotiating with the FSAI to ensure continuity of Official Veterinary Controls, particularly for local meat producers, beyond June 30th when the current Service Contract between CCMA and FSAI expires.

### Veterinary Services, up to 29/05/2020

112	588	21
No. of Dogs seized	No. of Dog Licences purchased	No. of Stray Horses seized

## Civil Defence

- Longford Civil Defence continue to assist the Primary Response Agencies during the COVID19 Pandemic emergency.
- Volunteers have been provided with a list of online training courses from Civil Defence Branch. Any Volunteer who completes any of these courses will have the Certificate added to their Volunteer Register file.
- Volunteers have been assisting the HSE with the transportation of test samples.
- Volunteers have distributed Newsletters on behalf of Longford Libraries and have been calling to Vulnerable persons throughout the County and have collected and delivered supplies to various Community Groups.
- As of 26th May, Longford Civil Defence have provided 310 Volunteers man hours and have undertaken and completed 52 taskings.



## CONNECTED

People • Place • Opportunity

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

Signed :



Paddy Mahon  
Chief Executive





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