



# Longford County Council Chief Executive Report November 2020

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# November Highlights

## #ShopLongford Campaign

Shop Local has become a significant part of the governments messaging this year to try and support hard pressed retailers who have suffered most during this Pandemic.

Our Cathaoirleach Cllr. Paul Ross has produced an amazing video as part of the #ShopLongford Campaign that really brings to life the faces and personalities behind our local shops and businesses. The video is a county wide look at our retail sector and highlights the wide range of products and services that can be bought locally this Christmas.



## Longford County Council

Chief Executive Report  
November 2020

Longford County Council taking the prestigious award for "Outstanding Initiative through the Municipal Districts"

The award recognised Longford County Councils strive for innovation and leadership in adopting digital technology to allow the elected members continue to serve their communities.



## Longford County Council adopted over €57.2m Budget 2021

On Monday 23rd November, Longford County Council adopted a Revenue Budget of over €57.2m, this represents an increase of nearly 20% on the previous year's budget of €48m. What makes it even more remarkable is that it was achieved in the most challenging environment experienced in the sector in memory. Together with a range of welcome supports from Central Government, prudent decisions taken at a local level and a collaborative determination between the Elected Members and the Management Team the value of the approach developed and adopted in Longford cannot be understated. We have managed to frame a Budget that enables Longford County Council to not only cope with and survive the current challenges, but will also help us to thrive and maximise any post COVID buoyancy that might arise in the better times ahead. (More details in Page 4)

# November Highlights

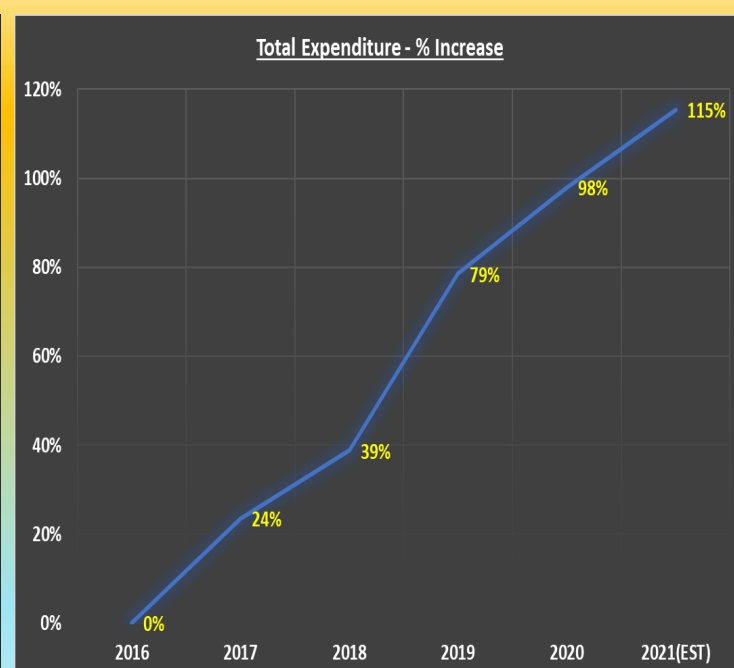
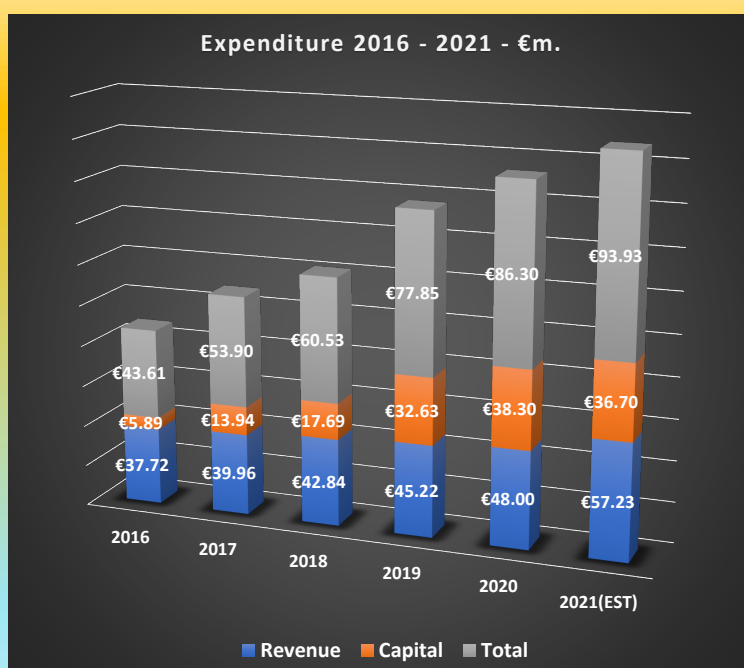
## Budget Metrics

- Budget Expenditure Increased by €9.2m for 2021
- €57.23m Budget means:
  - » €1,402 spend per Citizen
  - » €3,327 spend per LPT Payer
  - » €38,487 spend per Rate Payer
- Longford Model
- €18m grant funding already secured for 2019 & 2020, match funded by +15% LPT Variation.
- Longford Model
- Additional €38.5m in applications for 2021 currently in progress.
- +15% LPT Variation means:
  - » €248 extra spend per Citizen
  - » €598 extra spend per LPT Payer
  - » €12,048 extra spend per Rate Payer

## Budget Highlights

- No Commercial Rates Increase.
- No Change in Local Property Tax Rates from 2020.
- No Vacant Property Levy.
- Continued ability to attract unprecedented levels of funding due to utilisation of Longford Model.
- General Municipal Allocations (Pillar of Longford Model) remain intact.
- Reasonable Expectation of Continued Government Support.
- Central Government subsidising lost Rates Income from Lanesborough Power Station (2021).
- Service Levels maintained and enhanced in some areas.
- 'Business as usual' approach to all Regeneration Projects.
- Further €38.5m in potential projects in pipeline for 2021.
- No Cutbacks.
- No Service Suspension.
- No Austerity.

## Overall Expenditure Acceleration – 2016 - 2021.



Draft Annual Budget 2021



## Community & Enterprise

### Community Development

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

The next meeting of the Local Community Development Committee is scheduled to take place on Tuesday the 8th December 2020.

The last meeting of the LCDC was held on 10th November 2020. Cllr. Colm Murray was selected as the new Chairperson, while Cllr. Seamus Butler was selected as Vice-Chairperson.

At the LCDC meeting on 10th November 2020, **6 LEADER projects** were approved for funding totalling **€665,636.63**.

#### Community Grant Support Scheme 2021

The Longford County Council Community Grant Support Scheme for 2021 is now open for applications. The scheme was advertised in the Longford Leader dated Friday 13th November 2020.

Application forms and guidelines are available on Longford County Council's website: [www.longfordcoco.ie](http://www.longfordcoco.ie), by telephone (043) 3343313 / 3343472 or email to [commgrants@longfordcoco.ie](mailto:commgrants@longfordcoco.ie).

Completed application forms and supporting documentation should be emailed to [commgrants@longfordcoco.ie](mailto:commgrants@longfordcoco.ie) no later than 26th February 2021.

**Comhairle na nÓg Capital Grant for ICT Hardware**  
Funding of €2,554.99 was secured from the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth (DCEDIY) for ICT hardware to support the development and implementation of a blended and in person approach, in the delivery of the Comhairle na nÓg. This funding will enable a potential increase in the number of young people who can participate and improve the reach and retention of Comhairle members.

#### Longford Comhairle na nÓg AGM 2020

On Friday the 13th of November, Cathaoirleach of Longford County Council Paul Ross opened Longford Comhairle na nÓg AGM. The event was held via Zoom with 65 youth participants representing all post primary schools and youth services in the County. The theme was "Although Apart, Technically Together". Workshops took place in break out rooms and the topic for discussion was "Covid-19 and the world we live in today". The findings were recorded using group map software, which participants completed during the workshop. Two guest speakers discussed the issues of physical health and mindfulness with an emphasis on developing positive mental health strategies. The closing address was delivered by Councillor Colm Murray Chairperson of Longford Comhairle na nÓg Steering Committee.

#### Playgrounds

The children's play adventure trail in the Albert Reynolds Peace Park The Mall has been refurbished with the introduction of new equipment. This project was part funded by the Dept of Children and Youth Affairs. The Adult gym equipment in the Fair Green in Edgeworthstown has been replaced and refurbished this project was funded by the Healthy Ireland fund.



## Community & Enterprise

### Longford Sports Partnership

#### 4 X 4 Walking Challenge:

Longford Sports Partnership and Longford GAA want to help bring people in Longford together virtually anyway to improve their physical and mental health as part of the Keep Well Campaign. So, we have set the people of Longford the 4 FOR 4 Parish Walking Challenge. Our 4FOR4 challenge is encouraging the people of your parish to complete 4 walks each week of 4k distance for 4 weeks from Monday the 23rd of November to Sunday the 20th of December. After 3 days we had 733 walkers signed up and 6345km already walked, really looking forward to seeing what the end results are.

#### COVID- 19 Small Grant Scheme:

Longford Sports Partnership managed the Small Club COVID-19 Grant fund on behalf of Sport Ireland for sports clubs in Longford and we were successful in being awarded €40,422 in funding for clubs. In total 39 clubs in Longford will benefit from this funding, club names listed on website. This is a welcome boost to clubs who have had to make significant investment to make sure their sport is as safe as possible. We have also been successful in obtaining a further €12,000 to support our communities through this difficult time.

#### Your Personal Best Month:

Is an exciting project encouraging men to stop making excuses and to engage in 30 minutes of moderate physical activity five days a week. The campaign is also being supported by the nationwide network of Local Sport Partnerships, who will provide practical support on the ground with resources available at [www.sportireland.ie](http://www.sportireland.ie). Longford Sports Partnership are delighted to support this campaign in Longford and encourage Men around the county to get involved. It fits into the Keep Active section of the government Keep Well Campaign. We will have weekly motivating videos and pictures with links to national resources as well local opportunities including online classes, if anyone is interested in these initiatives please contact [dmulligan@longfordcoco.ie](mailto:dmulligan@longfordcoco.ie), visit our social medias or website [www.longfordsports.ie](http://www.longfordsports.ie)





# Community & Enterprise

## Corporate Services

- Corporate Services COVID 19 Business Response Plan continues to be implemented.
- Our Customer Services desk responded to a total of 1,463 calls during the month of November.



Customer  
Services desk

**1,463**  
Calls

- The Community Call helpline continues to operate, reaching out to help the most vulnerable in society.
- The Draft Register 2021/2022 was published and made available for inspection from 1st November 2020.
- Claims for correction to the Draft Register of Electors 2021/2022 were accepted up to 25th November.
- Claims for correction to the Draft Register of Electors will be considered at Revision Court Sitings to be held in Longford Courthouse on Friday, 4th December 2020, and in Granard and Ballymahon Libraries on 9th December 2020.

The Council continues to encourage members of the public to avail of its online facilities so they can transact their business safely from their homes at this time of pandemic restrictions.

## Longford County Council

Chief Executive Report  
November 2020

### Communications

*Keeping County Longford Informed*



Promoting national Keep Well campaign and a range of wellbeing activities and initiatives delivered by the Council with local partners happening in County Longford under the #KeepWell tagline and on the dedicated wellbeing page on our website and social media.

Promoting national Be Winter Ready campaign.

Supporting #ShopLongford & #LookForLocal campaigns.



### Social Media:



4,065 followers  
97 messages & stories posted  
Our Posts were seen 75k times.



2,737 followers  
65 messages tweeted  
Our Tweets had 56k impressions.

# Community & Enterprise



## Health & Safety

Following the Government's announcement in October the whole country moved to Level 5 of the Framework for Living with COVID-19. As providers of essential services, Longford County Council put in place the following measures to comply with Level 5 restrictions:

- Meetings and visits to the Council offices were by 'by appointment only'.
- Services were provided online or by appointment only.
- Plans were put in place to extend the Community Call service.
- There was increased focus on resilience and wellbeing, requiring our Libraries, Arts Office, Creative Ireland, Heritage and Archives, Healthy Ireland and Sports Partnership to develop programmes to support our citizens and communities.
- Dog and horse control operated a callout service only
- Activity relating to anti-social behaviour operated on emergency and callout basis only.
- Rent collectors did not call to houses
- Maintenance work on housing stock only take place in emergency situations.
- Rental inspections took place if a house was vacant.
- The swimming pool and leisure centre closed.
- SOGs were reviewed by the LGMA and updated to reflect the new Level 5 restrictions.
- Statutory Council meeting could be facilitated remotely

## Health & Safety Inspections

- 7 Health & Safety Inspections were undertaken by the Health & Safety Section.

## Elected Members Supports & Meetings Administration

Longford County Council Meetings being held in a physical place during the COVID-19 Pandemic continue to adhere to H.S.E. advice regarding social distancing, and all necessary precautions to prevent the spread of Coronavirus are in place at meeting venue in Longford Rugby Club.

- LCC Meeting – 11th November
- LCC Budget Meeting – 23rd November
- Granard MD – 24th November
- Longford MD – 25th November
- Ballymahon MD – 26th November

## Corporate Governance

### Data Protection

2 Policies Approved and circulated to all employees: Data Protection Policy and The Elected Representatives Representations Policy

2 Data Subject Access Requests received and responded to within 30 day statutory deadline

Presentation delivered to the CPG on the Elected Representatives Representations Policy which was adopted at the November Meeting of Longford County Council.

Freedom of Information	November 2020	Year to Date
No. of F.O.I. requests received	12	57
Number of A.I.E. requests received	1	3

The F.O.I. Disclosure Log for Quarters 1, 2 & 3 2020 are available on the Council website.



## Community & Enterprise

### Local Enterprise Office

The LEO office continues to roll out the #ShopLongford Campaign encouraging people to shop local this Christmas. Shop Local has become a significant part of the governments messaging this year to try and support hard pressed retailers who have suffered most during this Pandemic.

The campaign is run over the LEO's social media channels and has been well supported by the retail sector locally and by the different Trade Associations in the County.

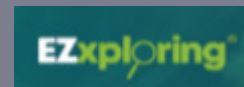
In addition our Cathaoirleach Cllr. Paul Ross has produced an amazing video as part of the #ShopLongford Campaign that really brings to life the faces and personalities behind our local shops and businesses. The video is a county wide look at our retail sector and highlights the wide range of products and services that can be bought locally this Christmas. Th is our Cathaoirleach's second video during the course of the Pandemic and there are rumours that he has appointed an agent to handle the large demand for his services.

The video can be viewed on Longford County Council's youtube and social media platforms.



To support business to trade on line the LEO off has this year approved **117** small businesses with a Trading on Line voucher at a cost of €227,000. The majority of these business es should be able to handle on-line enquiries in time for the Christmas Season.

### Tourism Office



Longford Tourism in collaboration with the Heritage & Archivist services are currently working with a start up company from Carrick-On-Shannon called EZxploring. EZxploring are commissioned to do a EZxploring Heritage trail for 5 County Longford Towns, namely, Granard, Edgeworthstown, Longford, Lanesborough and Ballymahon. This is an new exciting initiative with County Longford being the first County to work with this brand. Look forward to doing an EZxploring trail in County Longford in 2021.



## Community & Enterprise

### Longford County Library Heritage and Archive

#### Edgeworthstown Community Library

Work continues to progress well on this project. Windows have just been installed and work has commenced on the plaza at the entrance to the library.

#### Longford County Library Service:

The library has had to close its doors during phase 5 but it continues to connect with its customers by telephone, email and through its broad range of online services: ebooks, eaudio books, online newspapers, language learning and much more. The housebound service for older people has been reactivated and the schools are being supported through block loans of class novels, Zoom and teams workshops, literary competitions etc. An extensive online programme of events to engage adults particularly those who are isolated or living alone is being developed. Basic Digital Skills training tailored to individual needs is running on a pilot basis with members of Longford OPC.



#### 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. Over 400 Information packs promoting all the services available to our older citizens have been distributed around the county and through Family Resource Centres by Longford Civil Defense. A full online programme of events has been developed with the most popular being the Music and Singing, Gardening, Art and Cookery.

#### Creative Ireland

Most of the planned annual programme has been completed and a number of additional projects under the Keep Well programme. These creative projects have been run in partnership with the Family Resource Centres and Backstage Theatre.

A local Community Television studio which is mobile has been set up with a view to involving all ages in making their own local programmes.

#### Longford Decade of Centenaries programme

History Month in November was a great success, with five recordings local events 100 years ago going live during the month. As of now, there have been about 2,800 views in total. The conference on 14 November was also very successful, with 61 people joining-in, including a number from outside Longford.

There is one further recording in preparation: to commemorate the burning of parts of Ballinalee in mid-December 1920.

## Community & Enterprise

### Human Resources

#### Employee Health & Wellbeing

Employees are taking part in a 6-week Stress Control programme hosted by the HSE and Healthy Ireland.

#### Learning & Development

During the month of November 8 training courses were completed with 55 attendees. Temporary Traffic Management Planning and Design, Line Management Training, First Aid Responder, Abrasive Wheels, Signing, Lighting and Guarding, Safe Pass and Chainsaw Training was delivered. Where possible Learning and Development continues to be delivered via digital medium.

**TAKE CONTROL WITH STRESS CONTROL**  
OCTOBER: Commencing Monday 5th October

	What is Stress?	Monday 05/10/2020 2pm and 8:30pm
	Controlling your Body	Thursday 08/10/2020 2pm and 8:30pm
	Controlling your Thoughts	Monday 12/10/2020 2pm and 8:30pm
	Controlling your Actions	Thursday 15/10/2020 2pm and 8:30pm
	Controlling Panicky Feelings and Getting a Good Night's Sleep	Monday 19/10/2020 2pm and 8:30pm
	Controlling your Future	Thursday 22/10/2020 2pm and 8:30pm

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

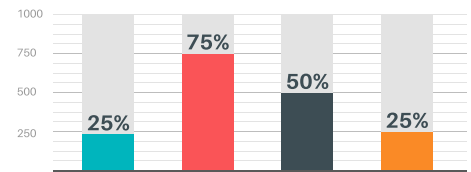
 

#### Recruitment

The recruitment programme progressed during the month of November with the interviews being held online using Microsoft Teams. 28 candidates were interviewed during the month.



# 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

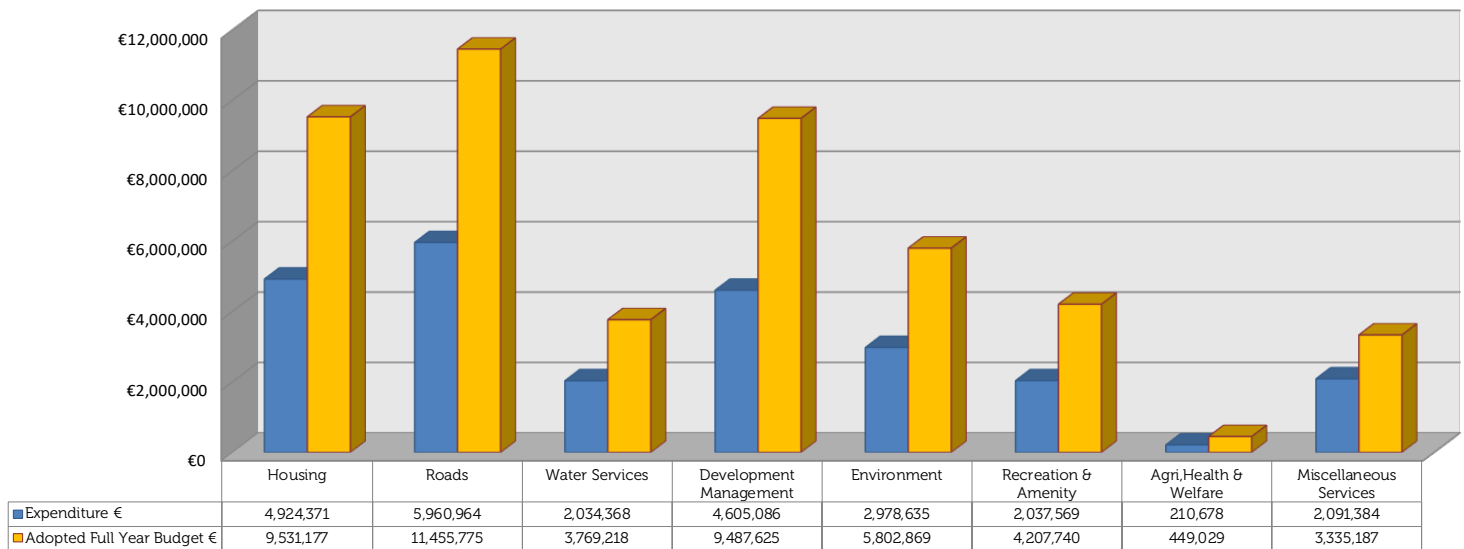
Estimated extra Covid-19 related expenditure for full year 2020 currently amounts to circa €815k



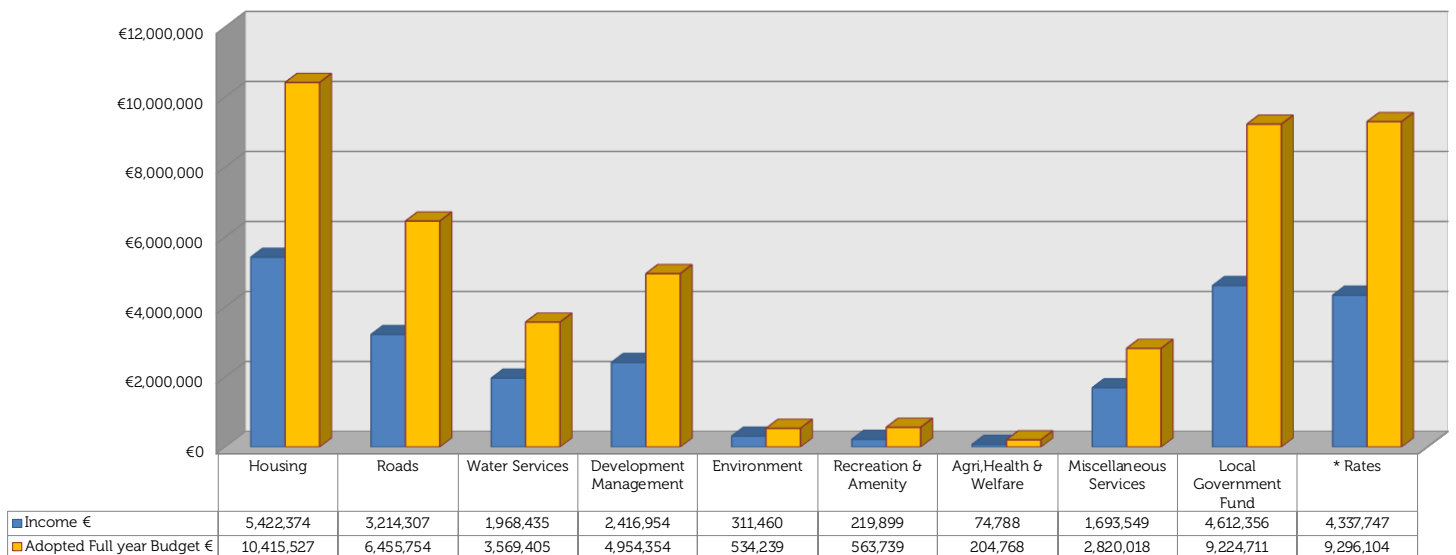
# Finance & Regeneration

## Finance

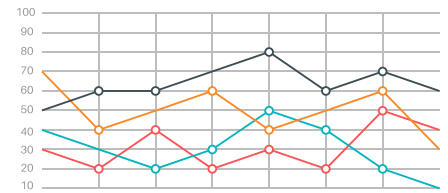
### Expenditure V Budget - Quarter 2, 2020



### 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

### Rural Working Hubs Webinar

On 24 November 2020 the Regeneration Department, with our project partners in Leader Aisapari in Finland held a very successful webinar to discuss rural working hubs with over ninety participants taking part from across Ireland, Finland and Europe. Among the speakers from Ireland and Finland were Minister Robert Troy, Tracy Keogh, co-founder of Grow Remote Ireland and Stephen Carolan, Western Development Commission. The discussion provided participants with an insight into the policy context, strategic approach and good practices in the development of rural working hubs, as well as practical experience from a community perspective. We hope that by sharing best practice, both nationally and internationally, we will help to develop a network of hubs across the county that will allow people to have a healthier work life balance and help to regenerate our towns and villages.

### World Urbanism Day

Each November World Urbanism Day is celebrated in 30 countries on four continents. It is a special day to promote the role of planning in creating liveable communities. Longford URBACT Local group and the Regeneration team work together in support of sustainable social, economic and environmental development in urban and rural areas throughout County Longford. We continue to engage with EU networks to develop, learn and ensure our projects are aligned with best planning practice.

**The Mall Walk, Longford town**  
Upgrade works which include fencing, street lighting and tarmacadam to upgrade the surface has completed on the entrance trail from St Johns Church Battery Road to The Albert Reynolds Peace Park in Longford town. Due to its proximity to the town centre and accessibility, the area is very popular for walking and running, as well as those involved in organised sports. These enhancement works to the existing trail which is 2.6kms approx. in length will be greatly welcomed by the many users of this facility.



# Finance & Regeneration

## Information Systems

### IT Infrastructure Section works completed:

- Tender evaluation completed and contract awarded for new Hyper Converged Infrastructure.
- Regular monthly patching of client systems and servers and deployment of hardware and software to employees.
- Windows 10 feature upgrade progressed.
- Server room A/C unit complete.
- Hybrid Teams Council meetings facilitated.
- New servers deployed for SQL upgrade and consolidation project.
- Asset tracking process developed and deployed on existing internal application.
- DEASP API switchover to live completed.
- Eduroam wifi set up and deployed at libraries.
- ServiceDesk stats for November 2020: **543 calls**
- Community CCTV
  1. Design and implementation report completed for Granard and Edgeworthstown CCTV.
  2. Longford CCTV steering group meeting held
  3. Application for Section 38(3) (c) authorisation for upgrade and expansion of Longford town CCTV system submitted.
  4. Longford town CCTV Stage 1 Community CCTV Grant Aid funding application submitted.
  5. Longford town CCTV tender published on eTenders and resulting queries addressed.

### Digital Services works completed:

- National Excellence in Local Government Award – LCC taking the prestigious award for “Outstanding Initiative through the Municipal Districts”. The award recognised Longford County Councils strive for innovation and leadership in adopting digital technology to allow the elected members continue to serve their communities.
- Digital consultations to inform Local Digital Strategies has been approved by Finland (lead partner) and is now included to the Interreg Europe Policy Learning Platform <https://bit.ly/34tIJI0>
- Longford’s Broadband Connection Points/Community WIFI
  1. Broadband infrastructure installed at Abbeyshrule Airfield
  2. Clár funding for 3 BCP’s - Colmcille, Carrickedmond and Ballymore GAA
  3. Town & Village Funding – work has commenced at Moydow Community Centre
  4. Town & Village Funding – to kit out BCP’s - procurement completed & equipment delivered to each BCP.
- Eduroam (education roaming) pilot project completed with Longford Library
- Online interview process presented to Mayo, Monaghan, Cavan, Leitrim, Louth, Offaly, South Dublin and LGMA
- New Members Extranet
- Council meetings (hybrid model) commenced
- Microsoft Team events: PPN County Plenary Meeting 2020 & County Longford & the war of independence

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

- Restart Grant appeals software support
- Mapping of tourist trails
- N55 Road Corridor Mapping
- Derelict Site & Dangerous Structures Register App
- Electoral Register Eircoding

## Strategic Infrastructure & Climate Action



### Housing

- The Summary of Social Housing Assessment was completed this month, the purpose was to capture the total number of households qualified for social housing support across the county whose social housing need is not being met, in order to understand the level of need for such support. Nearly 300 qualified households were reviewed to ensure that they still want and qualify for support, and to ensure that the detail of the applicants' household is up to date and accurate.
- The Homeless Action Team met this month; the focus of this interagency group is to discuss the needs of homeless people and put in place support services to enable them to secure accommodation and tenancy sustainment.
- Our Housing Liaison Officer attended a Virtual meeting of the Intercultural Hub of the Longford Community Resources clg (LCRL) in which she discussed her job role within the Housing Department and provided details on the Housing application process and housing options available. There was also a lengthy Q&A session in which our Housing Liaison Officer answered any queries posed by 50+ participants.



- The Housing Section have recently allocated a property under The Choice Based Letting Scheme at 7 Greville Court, Granard, Co. Longford. Choice Based Letting (CBL) is a method that can be used for the allocation of Social Housing which is designed to offer more choice and involvement for applicant households in selecting a new home.
- Works are progressing well on a number of projects on site currently including: 6 OPDs at Rose Cottage, Ballinalee; 1 no. unit, Fairgreen View, Longford and 1 no unit Cloonahard, Longford. The 5 no. units, Church Street, Edgeworthstown, the 18 /22 units at Legan and 16 no. units at Farnagh Hill, Longford will be completed in early December.





## Strategic Infrastructure & Climate Action

### Environment Services

Environment conducted a large clean-up of Palace Crescent and Environs removing 7 tonnes of waste from open spaces and abandoned properties.

*Longford County A Safer County*  
*Longford County A Greener County*



### Veterinary Services

Longford County Council Dog Control Service is funded through dog licencing. Longford County Council encourages all dog owners in County Longford to have a dog licence.

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

1308 dog licences have been purchased to date.

#### RMCEI

At the recent National RMCEI Coordinators Conference, major changes in RMCEI reporting for 2021 was flagged. The Council has to submit its annual report using the new format by February 2021





## Strategic Infrastructure & Climate Action

### Roads

In Longford Town, work on the N63 Market Square to Flancare Scheme is continuing.

Pavement works at Market Square and Harbour Row are progressing well.

Works funded under the 2020 Regional and Local Road Grant Allocations were completed in each Municipal District.

Routine Works such as Street Cleaning, Hedge Cutting, Pothole Repair, Drainage works etc also continued in each Municipal District.

Construction Works Active Travel Measures Schemes and Climate Change Adaptions Schemes continued during November in each of the Municipal Districts.

An Active Travel Scheme in Granard involved narrowing of the road and widening of the foot/ cycle path on the approach to Ardscoil Padraig on the R194. This area has a history of high speed traffic within a 60kph zone on the approach to a Secondary School. The objective of this scheme is to facilitate pedestrians and cyclists using the shared surface of a new wider path and at the same time narrow the road to promote slower traffic approach speed to the Secondary School area.



### Light up for Road Safety on World Remembrance Day

'World Remembrance Day for Road Traffic Victims' took place on Sunday 15th November. Longford County Council and Emergency Services participated in this event to remember crash victims, survivors, their families and those on the frontline who respond to collisions.





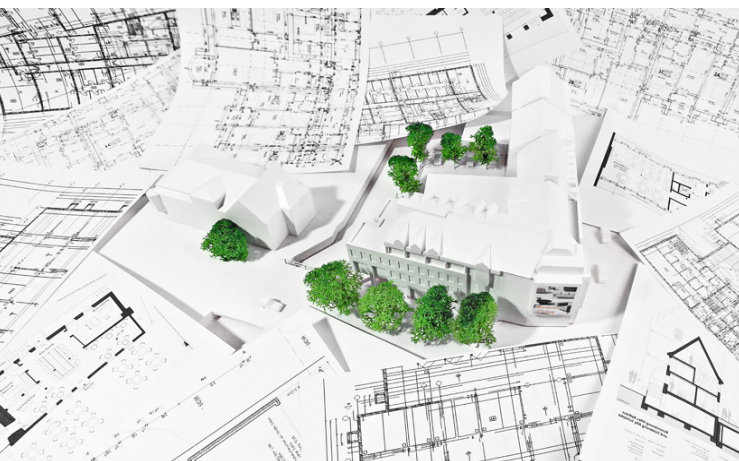
## Strategic Infrastructure & Climate Action

### Planning Service

Planning service fully maintained both in office and remotely. Planning administrative office, public counter and technical advice and reports kept fully functioning during Level 5 Pandemic restrictions.

#### Planning Applications and Enforcement

- Statutory Requirements: Managing the various planning applications, housing, retail, industrial proposals, extension of permissions, Part 8 planning schemes, CPO's etc. Assisting in the implementation of the housing and regeneration programme. Pre-planning and enforcement meetings continue to be held on line.



### Development Plan

#### Statutory Requirements:

- Statutory Requirements: Development Plan review ongoing setting out the template for the County's development until 2027. Draft Plan now out for public consultation until Mid-January 2021. Every sector of County Longford's future development potential has been analysed and detailed strategies, policies and GIS mapping developed.

#### Planning projects

Ongoing work to deliver Mid Shannon Wilderness Park/Lough Ree Biosphere etc.



Planning Landscaping and greenway surfacing works at Newcastle Woods, Nov. 2020.



# Strategic Infrastructure & Climate Action

## Water Services

The business continuity of the Water Service section is considered to be of significant priority for both the county and the state at the present time while Longford County Council continues to plan and deliver the functions of the Water Services section throughout the county.

The Water Services Capital section continue to provide services during the current COVID-19 pandemic in terms of ensuring continuation of service of drinking water for the County particularly in areas with headroom/supply issues.

### Capital Network Schemes

Irish Water in partnership with Longford County Council have recently commenced the installation of approximately 1400m of new watermain to replace the existing old problematic watermain at Ballymakeegan and will shortly commence the installation of a new watermain and connections to Templemichael Terrace, Longford. Both schemes will improve the water network and security of supply in these areas.



### Flow Meter Stimulus Works

Water Services Capital section have recently secured funding for the installation of reservoir inlet flow meters at four of our reservoir sites in County Longford. These works will enable accurate recording of water flows from the water treatment plants into the reservoirs and network which will greatly aid with leakage management of the water distribution system.

Works are currently progressing well and the photo below shows new inlet flow meter being installed at the Edenmore Lower reservoir recently:



### Pressure Management Improvement works

Water Services Capital section have recently secured funding for pressure reduction improvement works and have identified two sites which will benefit from pressure reduction at Gelsha & Granardkill. Funding has been secured to replace two problematic pressure reducing valves (PRV's) in the network which when completed will aid pressure management of the water network and improve access to the PRV's for future maintenance works.

### ECI Water Programme

Irish Water in consultation with Longford County Council has recently commenced the ECI (Early Contractor Involvement) Programme in County Longford. This is a national programme aimed at carrying out appropriate improvement works at water treatment plants throughout the country to ensure the continued delivery of safe drinking water. To date Irish Water have assessed over 811 sites and completed upgrade works to over 230 sites.

The programme is currently at detail design and planning stage for the Lough Forbes WTP while works are progressing well at Lough Kinale (Granard) WTP and Lough Gowna (Smear) WTP.

## Strategic Infrastructure & Climate Action



### Fire & Emergency Services

#### Health & Safety:

- No injuries to report.
- A new draft Fire Service safety statement is being prepared. This document is to be written in plain English.

#### Training:

- Training courses are being rescheduled on an ongoing basis because of COVID-19.
- Courses completed in November were as follows. 1 person attended Compartment Fire Behaviour refresher course was held in Tubbercurry. 3 no. Emergency First Responder Courses were held with 23 participants.

#### Operations:

**51**  
Total callouts  
November



- All stations remained fully operational and staffed accordingly in Level.
- Lanesboro Fire Brigade attended a Fatal house Fire in Co. Roscommon.

#### M.E.M.:

- Regional Working Group meetings are now held Monthly by teleconference working on COVID-19 measures.
- A Project initiation document is being drafted for the Electronic Management of Major Emergency or Severe Weather events in conjunction with I.T.

#### Fire Prevention:

**4**

Fire Safety Cert's  
have been processed  
in November.



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

#### 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

### Civil Defence

Volunteers assisted the Local Authority with the distribution of over 300 Keep Well packs to Community Groups throughout the County.



Volunteers provided welfare checks.

Manual Handling training was completed.

Civil Defence volunteers across the Country held a virtual candle lighting ceremony to remember deceased family members, friends and colleagues.

Hi-Vis vests were distributed to community groups and garda stations throughout the County on behalf of the Road Safety Officer.



## CONNECTED

People • Place • Opportunity

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

Signed :



Paddy Mahon  
Chief Executive







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