



Longford County Council Chief Executive Report October 2020

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October Highlights

'Stronger Together - Local Action' videos generated over 27,000 views online

The Council released a new video to remind people of the importance of adhering to public health advice, as we work together to address increasing COVID-19 numbers in County Longford. Full article in Page 6.



Supports to the Small Medium Enterprise (SME) Sector

Up to the end of October 2020, Longford County Councils Finance Section had distributed **€4.547m** in Restart, Re-Start Plus and Top Up Grants to **646** Ratepayers in County Longford. Full article in Page 11.

Our Health & Safety Management System has now been certified to ISO 45001

The NSAI completed their external audit on the 6th and 7th October 2020. Longford County Council have now successfully migrated its safety management system from OHSAS 18001 to ISO 45001. Well done to all involved.



HEALTH & SAFETY
I.S. ISO 45001:2018
NSAI Certified

Longford County Council shortlisted in six categories of the Chambers Ireland Excellence in Local Government Awards



Chambers
Ireland

Local Government
AWARDS 2020

SHORTLISTED

The projects are -

- Putting a heart back into Edgeworthstown in Supporting Sustainable Communities
- Royal Canal Greenway - Longford Section in Supporting Tourism
- County Longford Regeneration Initiative in Sustainable Environment
- Embracing Remote Working Technology to Support Community and Voluntary Groups in Initiative through the Municipal Districts
- Albert Reynolds Peace Park Accessibility and Urban Connectivity initiatives in Enhancing the Urban Environment
- Longford at War: Commemorating 1913 – 1923 in Commemorations and Centenaries

Community & Enterprise

Community Development

Longford Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)

The next meeting of Longford Local Community Development Committee is scheduled to take place on Tuesday 10th November, 2020.

Community Enhancement Programme 2020 – Fund for Community Centres and Community Buildings

Sixty-five applications were received under this new funding announced by the Department of Rural and Community Development (DRCD) in August.

At its meeting on 13th October, 2020, Longford LCDC approved funding allocations totalling €109,088 towards fifty-two proposed projects. All applicants have been advised. The closing date for the draw down of these grant allocations is Friday 29th January, 2021.

The Albert Reynolds Peace Park won the prestigious Green Flag Award

This award is the 5th year in the running and this is the 4th time the Mall has been awarded the Green Flag.



CLÁR Funding 2020

Seven applications submitted under Measure 1 have been approved by the Department of Rural and Community Development (DRCD) for funding of €253,125.30. In addition to this, one application under Measure 2 has been approved by the DRCD for funding of €12,542. 40.

When the DRCD Funding Agreement has been entered into by Longford County Council, staff in the Community Development Section will liaise with all successful applicants to outline the terms and conditions of the grant prior to the commencement of approved works.

2020 CLÁR Programme

€5 million under 3 measures

- Measure 1: Schools/Community Safety measures
- Measure 2: Community Recreation Areas
- Measure 3: Community Wellbeing Supports, comprising: Meals on Wheels and linked services - Mobility and Cancer Care Transport

An Roinn Forbartha
Tuaithe agus Pobail
Department of Rural and
Community Development

Measure	School Name/Community Facility Name/LDC	Project Description	Amount of CLÁR funding requested
1	Aughnaccliffe Village - Colmcille Area Development Group	Construction of access footpath & public lighting	€43,950.00
1	Ardagh NS	Pedestrian crossing, widen footpath, signage	€45,303.30
1	Drumligh Ballinamuck Community Development Clg	Footpath	€42,480.00
2	The Green - Edgeworthstown District Development Association Clg	Outdoor seating, picnic areas, landscaping, outdoor events space at The Green	€12,542.40
1	Lanesboro Community College	Footpath and railing	€15,118.20
1	Fr. McGee Park - Colmcille GAA Club	Car park, footpath, lighting and related works	€46,273.80
1	Carrickedmond GAA	Develop parking facilities	€30,000.00
1	Ballymore GAA	Car park resurfacing	€30,000.00

Community & Enterprise

Longford Sports Partnership

Fit for All Resources for People with Disabilities took place between 12th October 2020 – 18th October 2020. Fit For All is a national initiative by CARA aimed at increasing awareness among people with disabilities, families/carers and disability services on the benefits of regular exercise, healthy lifestyles and opportunities to participate within the local community. During this week we made people aware of what is available in Longford and encouraged others to get involved in promoting their activities.

We also created a Resource Booklet for Children with Disabilities with a sports pack. This is designed with the child in mind and is super easy, colourful and fun. It come with adaptations for various disabilities and contains a record card to mark down your Fit from 6 Activities. To receive your free booklet and sports pack, contact Orla 086-6021716 or odempsey@longfordcoco.ie to arrange a collection. We also launched the Activities for All Booklet created in association with Sport Ireland. The Activities for All resource will help people of all abilities to build physical activity in to their daily routine.



Dormant Accounts:

Sport and physical activity in Longford received a welcome boost, with €111,500 being allocated to Longford Sports Partnership through the Dormant Accounts Fund. This investment aims to engage with communities across the country, focusing on people with disabilities, people who are educationally disadvantaged and from disadvantaged communities. Included in the allocation to Longford Sports Partnership is €61,000 for Community Sports Hub in Drumlish, €20,000 for Sports Hub in Edgeworthstown, €10,000 for Sports Inclusion Disability Project, €14,000 for Volunteer Supports and €6,500 for Youth Leadership on each day of the week.



Community & Enterprise

Corporate Services

- Corporate Services COVID 19 Business Response Plan continues to be implemented.
- Our Customer Services desk responded to a total of 1,449 calls during the month of October.
- The Community Call helpline continues to operate, reaching out to help the most vulnerable in society.
- The Draft Register of Electors for 2021/2022 has been published.



Customer
Services desk

1,449
Calls

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

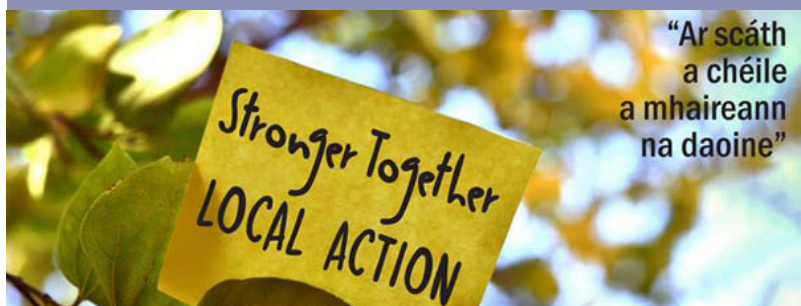
Chief Executive Report
October 2020

Communications

Keeping County Longford Informed

The Council launched a new social media campaign 'Stronger Together – Local Action' aiming to raise awareness and to remind people of the importance of adhering to COVID public health advice, especially among young people in County Longford:

- The campaign videos received a great engagement on social media and generated over 27,000 views online.
- The video was also created in the following different languages: Polish, Lithuanian, Romanian and Portuguese.
- The Council expanded its communication channels and are now on Instagram and TikTok platforms.



Communications office ran the following information campaigns:

- October – ReUse month
- Register of Electors 2021/2022
- Restart Gran Plus
- Beware of unauthorised Waste Collectors operating in your area
- Fire Safety week



3,997 followers

110 messages posted

Our Posts were seen 136k times.



2,702 followers

92 messages tweeted

Our Tweets had 67k impressions.



We are now on
 Instagram

Community & Enterprise

Health & Safety

Working from home self-declaration

All employees who are remote working have been requested to complete the remote working self-declaration questionnaire. In line with the Remote Working Policy HR-PR-01.

COVID-19 Risk Assessment Communication
ongoing to ensure current information regarding controls measures to prevent the spread of the virus.

Safety Inspections

4 Safety Inspection completed by the Health and Safety Section in July & August.

National Safety Authority of Ireland Safety Audit
Longford County Council have now successfully migrated its safety management system from OHSAS 18001 to ISO 45001.

Risk Assessment Review Programme

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



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.

The Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Darragh O'Brien TD, signed an Order on the 20th October which will allow County Councillors to hold Council Meetings remotely and vote remotely. However, Councils may convene meetings using a hybrid approach – part physical and part remote.

7th October - October County Council Meeting.
27th October - Granard Municipal District.
28th October - Longford Municipal District.
29th October - Ballymahon Municipal District.

The following Strategic Policy Committee Meetings were held via Microsoft Teams –

19th October - Placemaking Strategic Policy Committee.
20th October - Governance Strategic Policy Committee.
21st October - Climate Action & Planning Strategic Policy Committee.
22nd October - Strategic Infrastructure Strategic Policy Committee.

Corporate Governance

Data Protection

Policies Approved and Circulated to all employees:

- Data Subject Rights Policy
- Clean & Clear Desk Policy

Policies gone through Consultation Process (2) now await management approval:

- Data Protection Policy
- Elected Members Representations Policy

SOPs under Development

- Management of a Data Breach
- Management of a Data Subject Request
- Data Protection Impact Assessment Guidance Document
- Data Protection Guidance on the use of Photographs & Videos at Council Events

Training

Data Protection Awareness Training delivered to all employees in Longford County Council.

Presentations

Data Protection presentation delivered to the Audit Committee.

Freedom of Information	October 2020	Year to Date
No. of F.O.I. requests received	2	45

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 launched its shop local campaign for 2020 under the tagline #shoplongford. This Campaign will be run across the different digital platforms and will hopefully encourage local people to support local businesses at this critical time for them. The campaign will put up a post of a different business each day during November to highlight the large number of enterprises that are continuing to trade during the current lock-down. During December the campaign will ask consumers to send in evidence of local purchases made for a chance to be entered into a weekly draw.

The campaign will be important to help retailers throughout the County in the run up to Christmas but will also help the LEO office to highlight the large numbers of businesses that have an on-line offering to complement their physical stores.



Over **100** businesses have been approved for a Trading on Line voucher to date this year by the Longford LEO.

Tourism Office

The Royal Canal Greenway

Longford Tourism along with Longford County Council continues work on the Royal Canal Greenway in conjunction with Waterways Ireland, Kildare, Meath and Westmeath County Councils. Longford will have 11 storyboards, both in English and Irish, along the Longford section of the Canal. A company called Springboard has been commissioned by the working group to work on the launch and promotion of the Royal Canal Greenway. All storyboards should be in place before Christmas.

Longford Town Audio Trail

This is an audio version of the existing Longford Town Walking Trail. In Hand Guides are the company who are working on this product. It is now completed in English, Irish, French and German and when launched will be available from Longford Tourism and Longford Library. We are also looking at producing a video from the Audio with old pictures of Longford Town and snippets of the Audio. Overall, this will be an excellent product and very suitable for school tours.

Website

Work continues on the content for Longford.ie which will become the new Tourism website.

Fáilte Ireland Regional Festival & Participative Events Fund 2020

This festival fund from Fáilte Ireland has been distributed.

Promotion

The information boards outside the post office and train station have been updated and painted. The new Artwork was designed by Rusty Lemon Design.

Journalist Domhnall O'Donoghue recently visited Longford and has put together an excellent article on Longford which will be in the January edition of the Ireland of the Welcomes Magazine.





Community & Enterprise

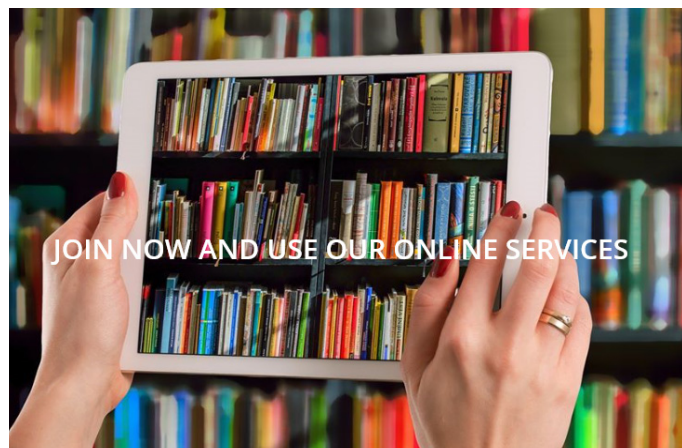
Longford County Library Heritage and Archive

Edgeworthstown Community Library

Work continues to progress well on this project. However due to a number of factors it is now running about 8 weeks behind schedule.

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 being rolled out for our older citizens.



JOIN NOW AND USE OUR ONLINE SERVICES

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. We hosted our first Longford Older Persons Council meeting on Teams this month and most of the members were able to join and give us very good feedback on how people are coping in their community. There was great praise for all the service providers and for the great community spirit that is alive in our county.

Creative Ireland

Most of the planned annual programme is going ahead although in a very different format with all programmes and events moving online. Under the Governments new Keep Well programme a number of projects will be delivered.

A local Community Television project starting with a programme focussing on Remembrance Day is planned for 8th November.

Longford Decade of Centenaries programme

Longford was one of the counties with the most intense activity in the War of Independence, especially in 1920-21. The month of November has been designated as History Month in County Longford and a full programme of events has been developed which will focus largely on Ballinalee and Granard this year. A large element of the programme will be delivered online.



Community & Enterprise

Human Resources

Communications to Employees

On behalf of the Management Team, 3 COVID 19 Employee Update were prepared and issued to all employees.

Updates are provided to employees following COVID-19 Business Response & Management Team meetings. The purpose of the employee update is to keep employees up to date with public health advice, changes nationally, changes locally and decisions of the Management Team.

Employee Health & Wellbeing

During the month of October, 182 employees took part in Health Screening and 44 employees availed of the Flu vaccination.



Employees were also invited to take part in a 6-week Stress Control programme hosted by the HSE and Healthy Ireland.

Learning & Development

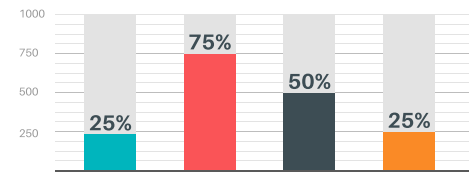
During the month of October 12 training courses were completed with 244 attendees. Data Protection Awareness Training, Excel, and Manual Handling were delivered online. Where possible Learning and Development continues to be delivered via digital medium.



Recruitment

The recruitment programme progressed during the month of October with the interviews being held online using Microsoft Teams. 10 days of interviewing, 3 days of shortlisting, 5 appointments were made and 1 employee resigned.

Finance & Regeneration



Finance

Supports to the Small Medium Enterprise (SME) Sector:

Up to the end of October 2020, Longford County Councils Finance Section had distributed €4.547m in Restart, Re-Start Plus and Top Up Grants to 646 Ratepayers in County Longford.

The average payment to these Ratepayers stands at €7,440 each.

There is estimated to be another €1.35m to be distributed by way of these essential business supports by the end of 2020.

These grants are reclaimable from the Department of Business, Enterprise and Innovation.

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

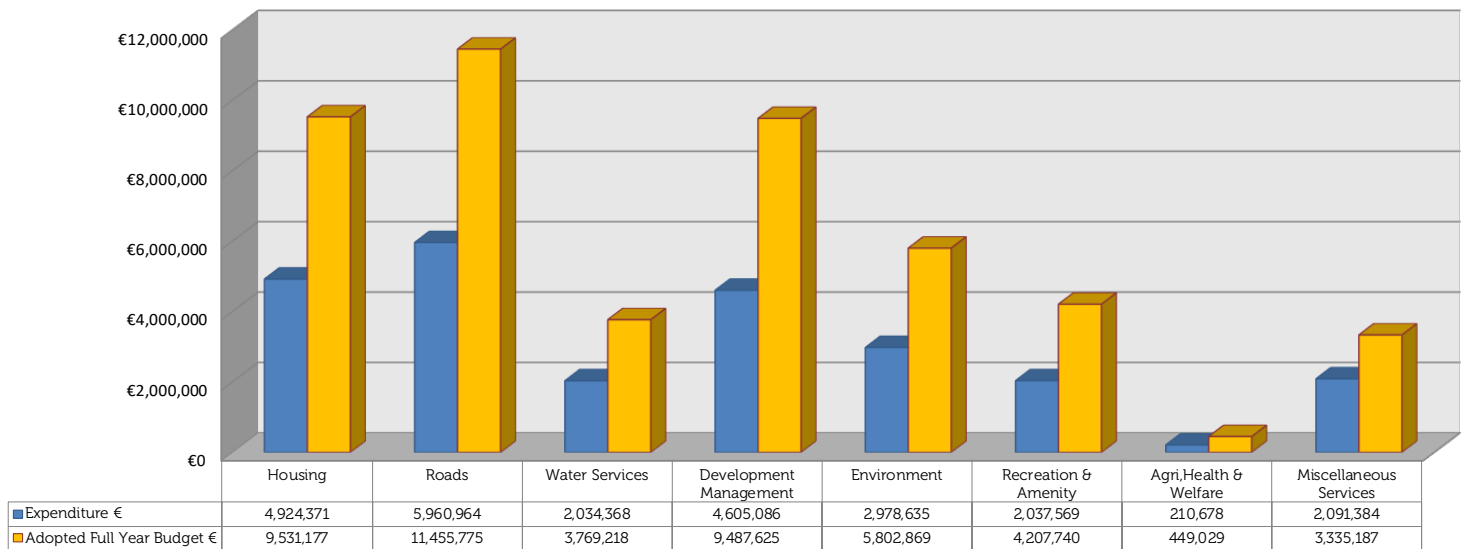
Estimated extra Covid-19 related expenditure for full year 2020 currently amounts to circa €815k



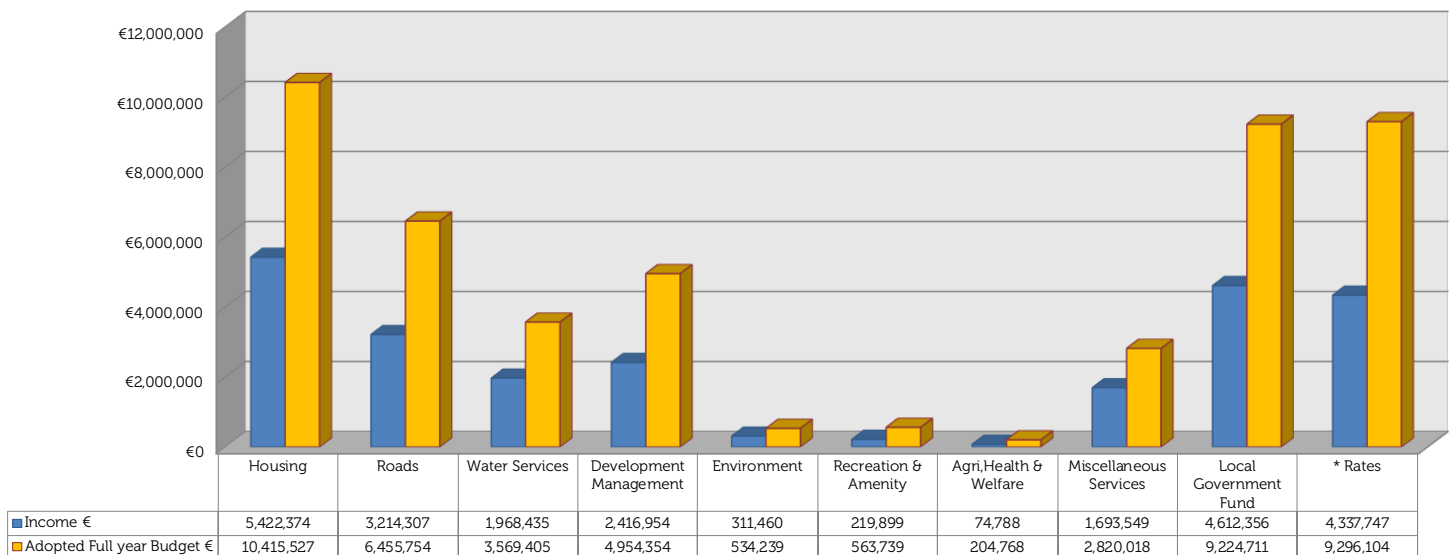
Finance & Regeneration

Finance

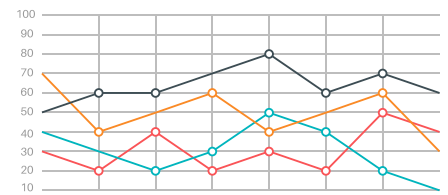
Expenditure V Budget - Quarter 2, 2020



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

Chambers Ireland Excellence in Local Government Awards 2020

4 Regeneration Department projects have been shortlisted for the Chambers Ireland Excellence in Local Government Awards 2020. Full list of shortlisted projects in page 3.

The Excellence in Local Government Awards 2020 (ELG Awards), sponsored by the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government, which take place on 26 November 2020, are held to recognise and celebrate the outstanding work being carried out by local authorities all over Ireland.

Longford Connected Public Realm Enhancement Project

RPS Consulting Engineers Limited has been appointed by Longford County Council as the Project Managers and Designers for the Longford Connected Public Realm Enhancement Project. The Longford Connected €4 million approx. project focusses on enhancements to the public realm at Market Square and The Shopping Centre as these form focal points within Longford Town. The Project aims to enhance the pedestrian experience with new and improved surface treatments, more efficient lighting and signage, new street furniture and soft landscape installations. Consultations are currently taking place with RPS Consulting Engineers Limited seeking the public's view on the final designs of the scheme prior to commencing the engineering design and progressing towards a product fit for construction.

Towns & Villages Scheme 2020

On 12 October 2020 the Minister for Rural and Community Development, Heather Humphreys announced details of the projects that have been approved for funding under the third round of the enhanced Town and Village Renewal Scheme 2020 that supports towns and villages to respond and adapt to COVID-19. Longford County Council Regeneration department are happy to announce that a total of €116,790 has been awarded to the county under round three of the Scheme.

Indoor Gymnasium, The Mall, Templemichael, Longford

Over the past number of months construction of a single storey gymnasium with a reception area and auxiliary works has been underway at the Albert Reynolds Peace Park. Work is expected to be complete in mid-November 2020. The development will complete the facility to regional standard and it will provide a vital asset to the citizens of Longford.



Finance & Regeneration

Information Systems

IT Infrastructure Section works completed:

- Switch stack upgrade completed.
- Server room A/C unit in progress.
- Tender evaluation completed for managed print service OGP mini competition.
- New internal ordering process set up for the supply of IT equipment and peripherals.
- Procurement competitions ran for security software and support systems.
- Regular monthly patching of client systems and servers and deployment of hardware and software to employees.
- Windows 10 feature upgrade process commenced.
- ServiceDesk stats for October 2020: 621 calls
- Community CCTV
 1. Preliminary design report completed for Granard and Edgeworthstown CCTV.
 2. Longford CCTV scope of works completed
 3. Application for Section 38(3) (c) authorisation for upgrade and expansion of Longford town CCTV system completed.
 4. Longford town CCTV Stage 1 Community CCTV Grant Aid funding application completed.

Digital Services works completed:

- Longford's Broadband Connection Points/ Community WIFI launched in Mullinalaghta
 1. Broadband infrastructure installed at St. Colmcille GAA, Carrickedmond GAA & Moydow Community Centre
 2. Town & Village funding – 3 quotes received from Moydow Community Centre – work to commence in next few days.
- WIFI4EU project live in Longford, Ballymahon & Drumlish
- Digital Communication Platform (joint project with GIS Officer) implemented
- Instagram & TikTok accounts created to support Stronger Together – Local Action campaign
- Teams live tested – enables users to broadcast video and meeting content to large online audience
- Eduroam (education roaming) pilot project commenced with Longford Library
- Online interview process updated



Geographic Information Systems (GIS) works completed:

- Restart Grant Plus application and Commercial Waiver software support
- Winter Gritting Routes – Providing GIS viewer and analysis for planning route updates and expansion of routes.
- Digital Communication Platform - MapAlerter launch and training of the business area administrators.
- Development of a web viewer of Environment Section
- Incorporation of speed limit data into Roads viewer

Strategic Infrastructure & Climate Action



Housing

- The Housing Section have recently advertised a property to let under The Choice Based Letting Scheme. Those wishing to bid on a property advertised under the Choice Based Letting Scheme must have an open and approved Housing Application. Households that wish to be considered in the allocation of a bid dwelling must, within three weeks of the publication of the notice, apply in writing and supply any supporting information specified in the notice. 16 expressions of interest have been received to date for the property 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.

Choice Based Letting

The following property is available for Choice Based Letting **7 Greville Court, Granard, Co. Longford**

To apply for this property please complete a Choice Based Letting Expression of Interest Form available at the Housing Office, Town Hall, Market Square, Longford or to download at <https://www.longfordcoco.ie/Services/Housing/Housing-Form/General/Choice-Based-Letting-Expression-of-Interest-Form.docx>

!!!
Closing Date for expressions of interest for this property is 3pm on 28th OCTOBER 2020

housingoffice@longfordcoco.ie
www.longfordcoco.ie

The property is ground floor level and comprises of Hallway, Bathroom, Kitchen/Dining/Living area and 2 bedrooms. Only qualified applicants whose requirements are for 2 bedroom accommodation will be considered for this property.



IN LONGFORD
CONNECTED

- The Homeless HAP Place Finder has recently been appointed to Longford County Council, previously this was a shared services role with Westmeath County Council. The role of the Homeless HAP finder will be to identify and source private rented accommodation in county Longford with a view to transitioning individuals and families directly from homeless services into the private rented sector under the Housing Assistance Payment Scheme (HAP).
- The Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Darragh O'Brien TD, has allocated €3.3 million to Longford County Council for the retrofitting of local authority-owned houses in the county. The retrofitting of homes in Granard, Longford and Ballymahon Municipal Districts will result in warmer, more comfortable homes and benefit householders' health through improved air quality
- Works are progressing well on a number of projects on site currently including: 6 OPDs at Rose Cottage, Ballinalee; 5 no. units, Church Street, Edgeworthstown; 1 no. unit, Fairgreen View, Longford and 1 no unit Cloonahard, Longford. The 18 /22 units at Legan and 16 no. units at Farnagh Hill, Longford will be completed before the end of the year.

Strategic Infrastructure & Climate Action

Environment Services

Environmental Awareness October was National Reuse Month

A series of reuse and repair advertisements were run on local radio and in the local paper. Interviews were held on local radio stations to highlight Reuse Month and local groups got involved in up cycling and reusing old materials. Three secondary schools are also entered into the all Ireland re love fashion competition.

Anti-Dumping Initiative 2020

The Environment Department installed 450m of fencing and removed 8 tonnes of waste in a major clean-up of the Ballyminion link road and environs on the outskirts of Longford Town. The project cost €14,000 and was funded by the Anti-dumping Initiative 2020.



Treatment of Japanese Knotweed across Co Longford took place during the month of October and was completed last week.

Over 270 stands were treated using stem injection and foliar spraying.



Glen National School completed their eco art school entry (water conservation) during the month of October



Maintenance drainage work for Arterial Drainage District Work Completed

The section completed for cleaning this year was 'Clonfin Spur' off the Camlin River which is in the Longford Drainage District. Photo of Clonfin bridge by Lakeland Civil Engineering.



Successful Conviction under the Waste Management Act
In the district court on October 6th, the Environment Section secured a conviction under Section 32 of the Waste Management Act for the dumping of waste. Both pleaded guilty, the first culprit received a four month sentence and the second received a seven month sentence.

Strategic Infrastructure & Climate Action

Roads

The N4 Mullingar to Longford (Roosky) Project is being progressed and is currently in Phase 2, Option Selection. Traffic counts associated with the Scheme were completed in October. Route Options Public Consultation is scheduled to take place in January.

In Longford Town, work on the N63 Market Square to Flancare Pavement Scheme is continuing. Resurfacing works on the N4 and N5 in County Longford are ongoing at various locations.

Construction Works commenced on Active Travel Measures Schemes and Climate Change Adaptions Schemes during October in each of the Municipal Districts.

2021 Funding Applications were submitted for Regional & Local Road Low Cost Safety Schemes and Bridge Specific Grants.

Works funded under the 2020 Regional and Local Road Grant Allocations , Local Improvement Schemes , Clar and Regeneration were progressed in each Municipal District.

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



Footpath works taking place at Market Square/
Harbour Row Longford.



Road Pavement Works in Edgeworthstown

Strategic Infrastructure & Climate Action

Planning Service

Longford Mid Shannon Wilderness Park/ Biosphere

- Planning service fully maintained both in office and remotely. Planning administrative office, public counter and technical advice kept fully functioning during Covid 19 restrictions and fully functioning within Level 5 Pandemic restrictions.
- Fulfilling statutory responsibilities and keeping the Planning Service staffed and fully operational during the Pandemic. Implementing business continuity plan, in office and remote working, Laptop, Teams and Mobile phone communications.

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 programme. Pre-planning and Enforcement meetings continue to be held electronically and in office. Continue to organise the Planning System to manage planning applications both in office and electronically during Covid 19 restrictions.

Development Plan

Statutory Requirements:

- Development Plan review well underway setting out the template for the County's development until 2027. Draft Plan written, presented to Councillors and now out for public consultation on 27th October 2020. Every sector of County Longford's future development potential has been analysed and detailed strategies, policies and GIS mapping developed. Management of Environmental consultants on compliance with Strategic Environmental Assessment and Appropriate Assessment etc.

The Planning Section participated in the NSAI Audit on the 7th October 2020. The Auditor was very satisfied with the Health and Safety practises and procedures that are in place.

Draft Longford County Development Plan



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.

Lough Forbes Filter Upgrade Works

Longford County Council in partnership with Irish Water are currently undertaking water filter upgrade works at the Lough Forbes water treatment plant in order to improve the water treatment process at the plant. The works comprise of re-coating of the filter walls and replacement of the sand filter media:



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.

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.



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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 have recently commenced at Lough Kinale (Granard) WTP and Lough Gowna (Smear) WTP.

Find & Fix Programme

Longford County Council and Irish Water commenced the Find & Fix programme in County Longford in May 2019.

This is a national project aimed at delivering major water leakage savings.

Find & Fix crews are currently operating in the:

Ballymakeegan (2nd Sweep), Edgeworthstown-Castlepollard Drumlish District Metered Areas (DMAs).

Crews have recently completed a sweep of the Granard DMA where leakage savings of 5m³/hr were achieved. It is anticipated that the Find & Fix works in County Longford will continue as the year progresses.

Strategic Infrastructure & Climate Action



Fire & Emergency Services

Health & Safety:

- No injuries to report.

Training:

- Training courses are being rescheduled on an ongoing basis because of COVID-19.
- Courses completed in October were as follows. 1 recruit completed an initial Breathing Apparatus Course held in Athlone. A Compartment Fire Behaviour refresher course was held in Ballinrobe. Water awareness training was completed in Ballymahon. 1 student attended a Sub Officer course in Bray for 1 week.

Operations:

68
Total callouts
October



- All stations remained fully operational and staffed accordingly in Level 5.
- Two firefighters self isolated while a close contact was tested – all returned to work after negative test results were received by their close contact.
- The National Directorate for Fire and Emergency Management carried out a Capacity Review of Longford Fire Service. This review is part of a national Capacity review for all Fire Services in the Country.

M.E.M.:

- Regional Working Group meetings are now held Monthly by teleconference working on COVID-19 measures.
- New Frameworks for Severe Weather and Flood events has been published. New Severe Weather and Flood plans for Longford will have to follow the guidance in these Frameworks.

Fire Prevention:

2

Fire Safety Cert's
have been processed
in October



- Fire Service inspections and community fire safety activities have been suspended for the duration of COVID-19.
- The National Fire Safety week was held in the first week of October. The Fire Service ran a media campaign this year in the Local Press, Local Radio and on Social Media.



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

On 23rd October there was a decision by the Department of Health to provide an increase in funding in relation to the FSAI/Local Authority Service Level Agreement in respect of food controls delivered by the Local Authority Veterinary Service.

Contract extensions will now be signed to 31st December 2021 to ensure continuity of current arrangements while the parties involved progress the development of a new service contract model and so continue an effective service by the local government sector.

Civil Defence

- Civil Defence will continue to assist the Primary Response Agencies and the local Authority during Covid19 Level 5 period where required.



- The Civil Defence section was included in the NSAI Audit.
- During October Volunteers provided Medical cover at Longford Town Soccer Matches.
- Mandatory CFR training was completed.
- Volunteers assisted the Road Safety Section with the distribution of Hi-Vis.
- The Approved Driving Instructor Candidate resumed training.
- Preparation for Winter Ready plan underway.



CONNECTED

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

Signed :



Paddy Mahon
Chief Executive





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