



Longford County Council Chief Executive Report September 2020

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September Highlights

Longford County Council

Chief Executive Report

September 2020

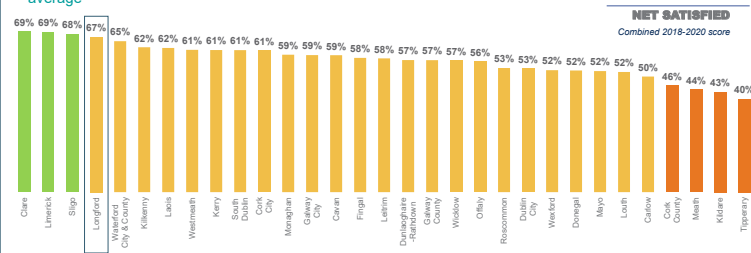
Longford County Council Ranked Fourth Nationally in Local Authorities Satisfaction Survey 2020

Longford scored very highly in the satisfaction rating with a 67 % score, fourth highest score of the 31 local authorities surveyed and just 2 % below the highest satisfaction score of 69%.

SATISFIED WITH LOCAL COUNCIL

The combined 2018-2020 satisfaction score is 57%. Clare, Limerick and Sligo record above average scores whereas Cork County, Meath, Kildare and Tipperary are below average

57%

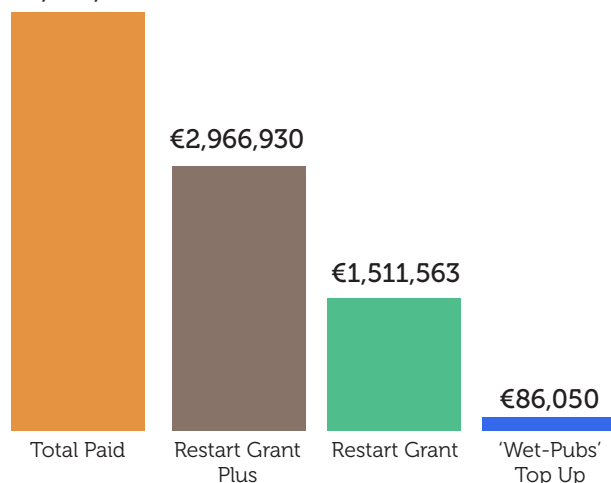


Restart Grants Helping Longford Businesses to Reopen



To date Longford County Council have paid out a total of **€4,564,243** under the Restart, the Restart Plus and the 'Wet-Pubs' Top up schemes. Full breakdown of these monies shown in Page 11.

€4,564,243



A New Interactive Outdoor Experience, The National Famine Way, Was Launched

The cycling and walking tourism market will provide a significant opportunity for County Longford as Outdoor Adventure and Activity Tourism such as walking and cycling have been identified as particular growth sectors nationwide.



Operation Phoenix Announced

At the September meeting of the Joint Policing Committee An Garda Síochána & Longford County Council announced plans to work in partnership in Longford Town Centre to improve the quality of life of those operating a businesses, those living & those shopping in the County Town. We will engage with the relevant organisations & businesses to understand what needs to be done to improve the attractiveness of the town centre & to address the anti social behaviour experienced in recent times. From this month onwards members of the Gardai will patrol Ballymahon Street, Main Street & Dublin Street daily as part of what is being termed Operation Phoenix.



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 13th October 2020.

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

The Department of Rural and Community Development (DRCD) launched a new fund on the 10th August under the CEP, which will provide capital grants towards the maintenance, improvement and upkeep of community centres and community buildings and for adaptations or equipment needed as a result of COVID-19.

€5m has been provided nationally with €109,088 allocated to Longford LCDC. This funding is targeted at measures that stimulate local economies, while enhancing community facilities for individuals and communities that are impacted by disadvantage as identified in the Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP). Applications for the fund were advertised on the 11th August and a total of 65 applications were received by the closing date of the 16th September 2020. The CEP Evaluation Committee is scheduled to meet on the 29th September to evaluate the applications, their recommendations will be sent to the LCDC members for consideration at the LCDC meeting on the 13th October 2020.

SICAP

Longford Community Resources Clg, the Programme Implementer for the SICAP Programme, is continuing where feasible to roll out the programme. Staff are engaging with individuals and groups virtually. The LCDC approved the Midyear review of SICAP subject to minor adjustments to the recording of Key Performance Indicators. Pobal has provided clarification and guidance on the matter and a further meeting is scheduled to finalise the matter.

Comhairle na nOg

Virtual meetings will continue. Members conducted a survey on the impact of Covid-19 on young people's mental health, social health and education. Members are beginning preparations for their AGM scheduled for November. The AGM will be held virtually which will require a significant amount of work with all the post primary schools and youth services throughout the county.

Resettlement Programme

Respond will continue to provide support to the Syrian community in Ballymahon and Granard following the approval of an extension to November 2020.

Dormant Accounts Funding for LGBTI Groups

Funding of €10,000 was secured from the Department of Rural and Community Development for work with two LGBTI groups in Co. Longford.

Longford Intercultural Strategic Plan

Longford Intercultural Working Group is continuing to meet and share information. Members are presently updating actions in the Strategy. Support is ongoing with migrant groups to enable them to access various funding streams.

National Integration Fund 2020

An application was submitted for an Integration Officer under this funding stream. This need was identified in the 2018-2022 Intercultural Strategic Plan.

CLÁR Funding 2020

A total of ten applications under Measure 1 Support for Schools/Community Safety Measures and Measure 2 Community Recreation Areas were submitted to the Department of Rural & Community Development by Longford County Council on 28th August 2020. The Department expects to decide on applications by the end October / early November 2020.

Community & Enterprise

Longford Sports Partnership

BikeWeek is a celebration and promotion of all that's great about bikes and cycling and ran from Saturday, September 19th to Sunday, September 27th with bike themed events organised by Longford Sports Partnership, Longford County Council, local clubs and organisations. This year's schedule of event was packed with events suitable for all levels and ages. There was a Women on the Wheels programme starting, secondary schools cycled along the beautifully regenerated canal, lunchtime spinning classes, family cycles and even learn to cycle days in some of our creches. Free bike checks were offered in our local shops of Kevin Martins and Halfords. We offered a free draw to anyone who cycles into work during this week or sends us in a picture of you and about enjoyed your cycling. There was a cycling event or more on each day of the week.



European Week of Sport ran from the 23rd – 30th of September. A European Commission led initiative; European Week of Sport aims to increase the level of participation in sport and physical activity in the EU. European Week of Sport aims to tackle the inactivity crisis and reduce obesity levels by encouraging Europeans to embrace a healthier and more active lifestyle. During this week Longford Sports Partnership and Edgeworthstown Sports Hub ran a mixture of face to face and online events. All events were free of charge and ranged from lunchtime fitness classes, morning sunrise yoga, morning fitness classes, the mall mile with goody bags, taster session in stand up paddling and kayaking, walks, Nordic walking workshop, taster sessions in Pickleball, Table Tennis, seated Pilates, Badminton and much more. For volunteers we had an autism in sport workshop, a nutrition workshop and again much more.

European Week of Sport
23rd to 30th September
 Roscommon, Longford and Westmeath
 Joint SIDO Programme Timetable

#BEACTIVE
 EUROPEAN WEEK OF SPORT
 23 - 30 September

23RD SEPTEMBER - 30TH SEPTEMBER

Fit from 6 x 10 minutes Challenge and get your free Physical Activity Resource Pack for Children with Disabilities. Limited number of packs are available for collection. Please contact your local SIDO in Roscommon, Longford and Westmeath to arrange for collection from the LSP Office.

23RD SEPTEMBER - WEDNESDAY (12PM - 1PM)

Home Fitness Workout- Through Irish Sign Language
 Information and Taster session of the upcoming 4 weeks Home Fitness workout for adults Deaf or Hard of Hearing (OVER 18) Via Microsoft Teams.
 Delivered by John Smyth Personal Trainer and Nutritionist

25TH SEPTEMBER - FRIDAY (6.30PM - 9.30PM)

Autism in Sport Workshop for Sports leaders, coaches, volunteers, teachers, principals, special needs assistants (SNAs), parents or anyone who has an interest in making their sport accessible and inclusive for people with Autism. (Over 16+). Delivered by CARA.

28TH SEPTEMBER - MONDAY (6PM-8.30PM)

Nutrition talk - Through Irish Sign Language for adults Deaf or Hard of Hearing (OVER 18) Via Microsoft Teams. Limited places Book Via Eventbrite
 Delivered by John Smyth Personal Trainer and Nutritionist

29TH SEPTEMBER TUESDAY (11AM - 12PM)

Information and Taster session of the upcoming Seated Pilates 4 weeks programme for adults with visual impairments (OVER 18) Via Zoom for the Live classes and pre recorded session by YouTube link. Delivered by Lisa Kenny

30TH SEPTEMBER WEDNESDAY (12PM-1PM)

Week 1 of the Home Fitness Workout- Through Irish Sign Language
 4 weeks Home Fitness workout for adults Deaf and Hard of Hearing (OVER 18) Via Microsoft Teams.
 Delivered by John Smyth Personal Trainer and Nutritionist

Contact your local Sports Inclusion Disability Officer for more information:

Roscommon: Elaine Igoe Email: elaine@rosactive.org phone: 090 6630853
Longford: Orla Dempsey Email: odempsey@longfordcoco.ie phone: 043-33 43495 / 086-6021716
Westmeath: Mary Duignan Email: Mary.Duignan@westmeathcoco.ie phone: 044-9338921

Community & Enterprise

Corporate Services

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

Corporate Management Supports & Business and Customer Services

Our Customer Services desk responded to a total of **1,471** calls during the month of September. The Community Call helpline continues to operate, reaching out to help the most vulnerable in society.



The Council continues to promote online facilities so that members of the public can successfully transact their business from the safety of their homes.

Communications

Keeping County Longford Informed

Register of Electors 2021/2022 Advertising Campaign in context of COVID-19

- Created Social Media Advertising campaign aiming to raise awareness about the Register of Electors 2021/2022 and encourage Longford people to register/check their details online to make the Registration process more user friendly and to enhance the accuracy of the Register
- Public now able to apply to Register to Vote with new On-Line application provided on Council website.

A graphic advertisement with a dark blue background. On the left is a white ballot paper with the word 'VOTE' at the top, a green cross mark, and several checkboxes. On the right is a map of Longford County. Above the map is the 'AN LONGFORD' logo with the tagline 'CONNECTION' and 'People - Place - Opportunity'. Below the map, the text 'Are you Registered to Vote?' is written in large white letters. At the bottom, it says 'REGISTER OF ELECTORS 2021/2022'.

Social Media:



3,849 followers
94 messages posted
Our Posts were seen 86k times.

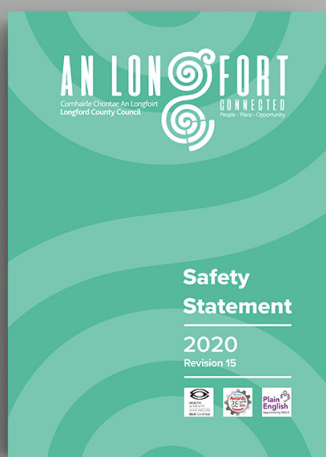


2,670 followers
93 messages tweeted
Our Tweets had 66k impressions.

Community & Enterprise

Health & Safety

- There was 5 Safety Inspection completed by the Health and Safety section and the Management Team.
- **Internal Safety Audits** were completed in Environment Section and Health & Safety Section
- **External Safety Audit** The surveillance audit for Longford County Council's Safety Management System is scheduled to take place on the 6th and 7th of October. This year we are hoping to migrate from OHSAS 18001 to ISO 45001. Two auditors from the National Standards Authority of Ireland will carry out the audit.
- Revision 15 of the Safety Statement is available to view on the employee intranet with hard copies available from the Health & Safety office.



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 venues.

During the month of September, there were 5 Council meetings held, one of which was held via Microsoft Teams:

- Longford County Council held in Longford Rugby Club
- Longford County Council Committee Meeting held in Longford Rugby Club.
- Granard Municipal District Meeting held in Granard Community Library.
- Longford Municipal District Meeting – held in Longford Rugby Club.
- Ballymahon Municipal District Meeting held in Ballymahon Community Library
- Policing Committee Meeting held via Microsoft Teams

Corporate Governance

Data Protection

- 2 Policies gone through Consultation Process now await management approval
- 2 Policies under development
- 3 SOPs under development

Freedom of Information

Freedom of Information	September 2020	Year to Date
No. of F.O.I. requests received	4	42
Number of A.I.E. requests received	1	2

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

Community & Enterprise

Local Enterprise Office

Performance Metrics to 23 September 2020

Measure 1

Number of Applications Received:

Feasibility/Priming/Business Expansion/TAME 19

Measure 2

Training/Development Programmes
(All Training and Networking events)

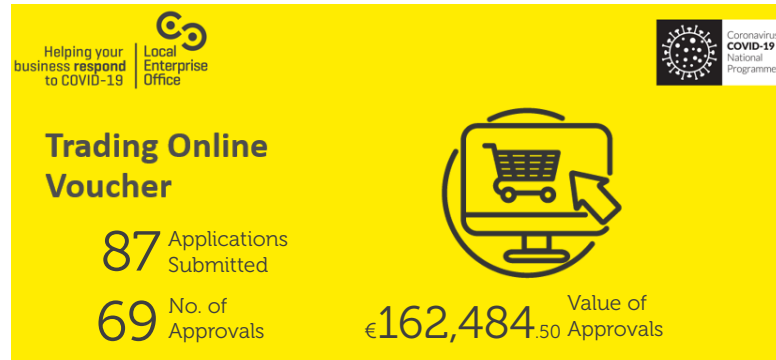
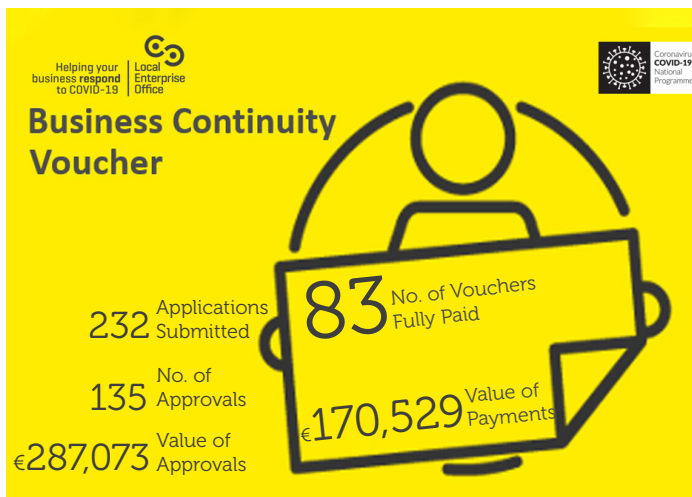
Total No. of All Programmes (Training/
Networking/Events/Seminars) 41

Total No. of all Participants participating in
above Programmes 827

Mentoring:

Total Number of individual mentoring – 84
(participants availing of one to one
mentoring – one to one engagement by a
Mentor with one client)

COVID-19 Supports



Tourism Office

- The National Famine Way was officially launched on 9th September
- Longford Tourism Winter video was completed during Septemebr
- New Longford Tourism Twitter account has been set up
- 1,200 new County brochure/map delivered to John Nally, Ballymahon last week. Working with Center Parcs Ireland in organising 1,200 hampers for staff Christmas gifts, which will include all local Longford products and each hamper will include a Longford Tourism brochure, good way of promoting the county and its attractions
- Audio Tour of Longford now completed with Inhand Guides
- Advert for 9 regional newspapers (both print & digital editions) to run from end of this month to promote Longford as a staycation destination, potential reach of 1.5 million people. Four places of interest featured; Corlea Trackway, Knights & Conquests, Maria Edgeworth Centre and Fiona Egan Cookery School.
- Festival Funding - €2k remaining to distribute, Lough Ree Angling taking €1k for recent Angling Festival, either Dead of Night or Edgeworthstown Halloween to receive other €1k.





Community & Enterprise

Longford County Library Heritage and Archive

Edgeworthstown Community Library

Work is progressing well on this project although it is approx. 6 weeks behind schedule. There is great interest & anticipation in the local community. We are working towards a finish date end of 2020 -early 2021.



Longford County Library

The library continues to connect with customers and has increased our opening hours across all of our branches which now operate 6 days Monday to Saturday. Footfall is slowly increasing among our older customers and families with a big demand on our IT, photocopying and printing services. There continues to be a big growth in usage of our online services including, e books, e audio books, online newspapers, language learning and much more. Compared with the same period last year usage of our BorrowBox service has doubled in line with the experience of other library authorities nationwide.

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 have applied for funding to run basic digital skills training to assist them to keep in touch with family and friends and to do some of their business online. The training will be tailored to their individual needs. We are exploring the best method of delivering this safely through a combination of online and inviting small groups who are not using technology to the library.

Creative Ireland

Most of the planned annual programme is now going ahead online although many of the annual festivals had to be cancelled. This is a very difficult time for working artists as there are no opportunities to perform live or earn an income from their work. Our focus has been on giving them a platform to create work and present it online. A collaborative project with Backstage Theatre allowed us to offer 3 theatre residency bursaries of 5,000 euro each to three professional Longford writers to create new work or to develop projects to completion stage. Culture Night which took place on Friday 18th September was a great success with our Cathaoirleach opening the event at Ballymahon Library and 7 online cultural events receiving a very high online viewership. A successful application for funding for an intergenerational choir project getting children and older people singing together is now being developed in partnership with local schools and Longford Older Persons Council.

Longford Decade of Centenaries programme

Longford was one of the counties with the most intense activity in the War of Independence, especially in 1920-21. The month of November has been designated as History Month in County Longford and a full programme of events has been developed which will focus largely on Ballinalee and Granard this year. A schools education pack is being worked on for all schools in the county and the overall programme will have a strong focus on making our children and young people more aware of their rich history and heritage. A large element of the programme will be delivered online.

Community & Enterprise

Human Resources

Communications to Employees

On behalf of the Management Team, one COVID-19 Employee Update was prepared and issued to all employees.

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

Employee Health & Wellbeing

During the month of September Suicide Prevention Training was offered to all employees and we supported and promoted the 'Escape your Chair' campaign held by the Irish Heart Foundation.



Learning & Development

During the month of September Competency Based Interview Board Training, Women in Leadership, Essentials of Innovation, End User IT Training and Preparing for Retirement was delivered online. Where possible Learning and Development continues to be delivered via digital medium.

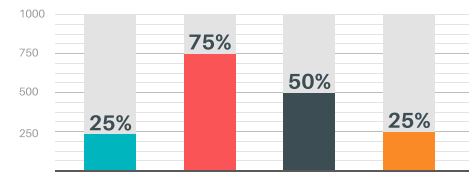
Recruitment

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



Learning & Development

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

RESTART GRANTS:

To date Longford County Council have paid out a total of **€4,564,243** under the Restart, the Restart Plus and the 'Wet-Pubs' Top up schemes.

The breakdown of these monies are as follows:

Scheme	No. of Applications	Successful	Rejected	Appealed	€
ReStart	512	482	30	*160	€1,511,563
ReStart Plus	622	557	65	n/a	€2,966,930
'Wet-Pubs' Top Up	50(automatic)	50	0	n/a	€86,050
TOTAL	1,184	1,089	95	160	€4,564,243

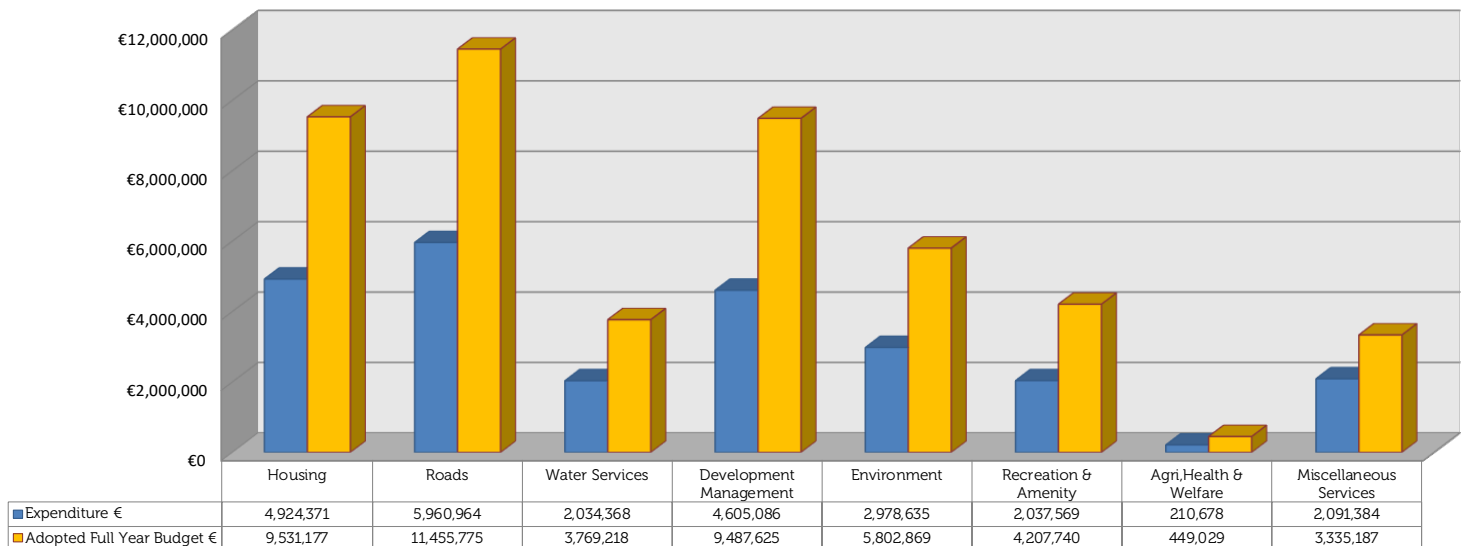
* Includes appeals due to ReStart Grant Application deadline being pulled back.



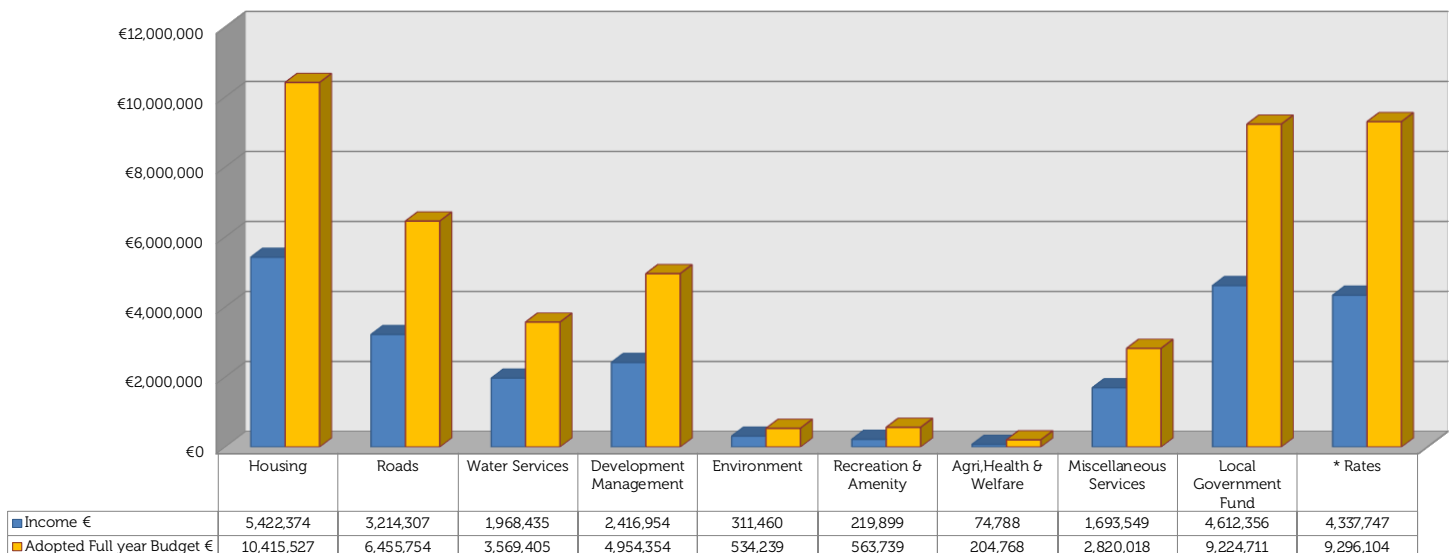
Finance & Regeneration

Finance

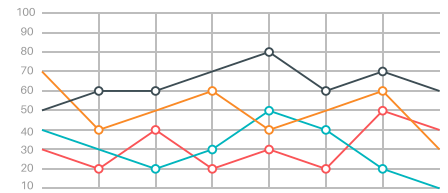
Expenditure V Budget - Quarter 2, 2020



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

Towns & Villages Scheme 2020

On 11 September 2020 Heather Humphreys, Minister for Rural and Community Development announced details of the projects approved for funding under the second 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 **€86,843** has been awarded to the county under round two of the Scheme. This follows on from €104,040 awarded on 3 August 2020 under round one of the Towns & Villages Scheme 2020. Funding is being provided under round three of the scheme for larger towns as an exceptional measure and we await an announcement on the applications submitted by the Regeneration team. Further applications are being submitted to the Department by 30 September 2020 under the Main Scheme.

Edgeworthstown Library and Public Realm

Undergrounding of services is complete and street lighting is operational along Edgeworthstown Main Street. Consultant architects have been appointed for public realm works and detailed design is complete. Construction work is progressing well on the library with the structural timber currently being erected. The project is due to be completed by the end of 2020.

Just Transition Fund

Applications were put forward with regard to climate action, economic and community development, tourism, employment and natural amenity for projects to progress the Just Transition process in Lanesborough, County Longford. Funding for projects €100,000 and under were announced in September 2020, with Longford County Council Regeneration team securing funding for the preparation of a large-scale feasibility study for Lanesboro Renewable Energy Transition - Anaerobic Digestion facility and potential associated enterprise development. It is expected that the feasibility study will outline the benefits and impacts of the facility on the horticultural, agricultural, industrial and transportation sectors in the region and outline a programme of stakeholder involvement to ensure the transition to a socially and environmentally sustainable, low carbon economy.

Mid Shannon Wilderness Park

Clandillon Civil Consulting Limited have been appointed to carry out detailed design and environmental assessments for the development of a greenway network throughout the Mid Shannon Wilderness Park, linking it with existing routes in the south of the County and national and regional networks, including a bridge crossing at Kilnacarrow. The Mid Shannon Wilderness Park in Longford will be developed in partnership between the various owners including Bord na Móna, local communities and Longford County Council



Finance & Regeneration

Information Systems

IT Infrastructure Section works completed:

- Regular monthly patching of client systems and servers and deployment of hardware and software to employees.
- Forest Exit work complete
- Switch stack upgrade to be completed by end of September.
- RFQ completed for server room A/C unit replacement. Works scheduled to begin in October.
- Procurement in progress for new hyper converged and DR infrastructure.
- SRFT prepared and submitted for Managed Print Service OGP mini-competition.
- Process underway for migration of users from desktops to laptops.
- ServiceDesk stats for September 2020: 606 calls
- Community CCTV
 1. Draft Version 6 tender report complete, Alternative Measures and Public Consultation report complete and approved by steering group. Part 8 commenced on Connolly Barracks Mast
 2. Community CCTV Grant Aid funding application completed.
 3. Tendering process for upgrade and expansion commenced.
 4. Section 38 3(c) authorisation process for new locations commenced.

Digital Services works completed:

- Longford's Broadband Connection Points/ Community WIFI
 1. Two Sites live Mullinalaghta Community Centre and Ballymore Shamrocks GAA Club
 2. Funding received under Town and Village Accelerated Scheme
 - i. To renovate Moydow Community Centre
 - ii. To fit-out all 8 Broadband Connection Points
- WIFI4EU project live in Longford, Ballymahon & Drumlish
- NBI commenced surveying in Longford
- Websites updated with SSL certs (https) & cookies updated to ensure GDPR compliant
- Digital Communication Platform (joint project with GIS Officer)
 1. Automated alerts on social media platforms
 2. Agreed approach with NBI on notifications & design with developer
- Microsoft teams corporate background rolled out
- Working with the Longford Charter – Grow Remote

Mullinalaghta Community Center Broadband Connection Point

1 2 3

Enter your mobile number so we can send you a passcode

08*****

Next

powered by **vodafone business**



Geographic Information Systems (GIS) works completed:

- Restart Grant Plus application software support and update for Wet Pub Top Up.
- Digital Communication Platform – configuration and acceptance testing.
- Roads Winter Maintenance GIS Analysis for optimised gritting routes
- Supply of digital mapping to consultants for Mid Shannon Wilderness Park design
- Broadband Connection Point mapping application
- CCTV mapping updates

Strategic Infrastructure & Climate Action



Housing

- The Summary of Social Housing Assessment has commenced, the purpose being 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. 300 qualified households will be reviewed whom are not currently in receipt of social housing support, 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 recommenced meeting 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.
- Disabled Persons Grants (DPGs) / Improvement Works in Lieu (IWILS) 2020 Allocations were recently announced, Longford County Council allocation is €208,613.42, 90% of this is exchequer funded with 10% match funding required by the Council.
- 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; 1 no unit Cloonahard, Longford; 18 /22 units Legan; 16 no. units Farnagh Hill, Longford.
- A total of 67 units have recently been approved for funding of €1,886,813.00 under the **Voids Programme 2020 and July Stimulus Funding**, for standard voids and long term voids / vacant units. Works are progressing well with over half complete to date.



Rath Reagh, Legan

Strategic Infrastructure & Climate Action

Environment Services

- **Inspections:** RMCEI inspections are ongoing.
- **Anti-Dumping initiative work** is continuing on the vacant sites at Ballyminion.
- **Annual Environmental Returns** from Waste Permit Holders and Waste Collectors are being validated by the Environmental Pollution Officers.
- **The Mall Engineering Report** - Topographical survey work and preliminary flow modelling completed for comparison with historical flood events. Draft report delivered to LCC for review and comment, any necessary amendments will be included in final report.
- **Flood Relief Work for Longford Town** - Contract documents for engineering consultancy services have been reviewed by the OPW.
- **Maintenance drainage work for Arterial Drainage District Works** - The section identified for cleaning this year is 'Clonfin Spur' off the Camlin River which is in the Longford Drainage District, tender process is completed and LCC are currently assessing the emerging preferred tenderer.
- **Domestic wastewater treatment systems** - Environment staff selected and completed the required number of inspections of domestic wastewater treatment systems under the National Inspection Plan.

The issuing of fines for littering and enforcement action continues

Waste Enforcement	Up to 30/09/2020
No. of Environmental Pollution Complaints received	1355
No. of Complaints investigated and closed	1177
No. of Litter Fines issued	85
No. of Enforcement Actions taken (warning letters, statutory notices, etc.)	66

Anti-Dumping Initiative

Protecting our Environment

Under the Anti-Dumping Initiative 2020, Longford County Councils Environmental Team organised a Large Goods Collection and a separate collection for Hazardous Waste

23.8 Tonnes of Waste was collected under the Large Goods Collection

The photo below was taken during the Hazardous Waste Collection in Longford which amounted to a total weight collection of 12 Tonnes



Successful Court Conviction

The Environment Team had another successful conviction in the District Court this month under the Litter Pollution Act. The offender was fined €750 plus €500 costs.

Invasive Species

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

Strategic Infrastructure & Climate Action

Roads

Roadworks continued throughout the County during September.

The N4 Mullingar to Longford (Roosky) Project is being progressed and is currently in Phase 2, Option Selection. Traffic counts associated with the Scheme commenced on September 21st. In Longford Town work on the N63 Market Square to Flancare Pavement Scheme which commenced on August 24th is continuing. Priority Construction are currently constructing new kerblines, footpaths etc and will continue to progress works on this Scheme over the coming months.

Rehabilitation/replacement works at Ballinamuck Bridge, Foygh Bridge and Killinlastra Bridge are complete.

Safety Barrier Repair Works have been completed in most of the County except Newtownforbes where additional barrier works are due to take place in October.

Design Works are continuing on the N4 Newtownforbes Pavement Scheme, N55 Ballymahon Main Street Pavement Scheme and various other Schemes throughout the County.



Successful funding applications under Active Travel Measures Allocation and Climate Change Adaptions Allocations were submitted. Construction Works on these Projects to commence as soon as possible.

Tender Assessments on a New Public Lighting Maintenance Tender and Traffic Signals Maintenance Tender are ongoing.

2021 Funding Applications are currently being prepared for Regional & Local Road Low Cost Safety Schemes and Bridge Specific Grants.

Works funded under the Roads Programme, C.I.S., Active Travel Measures, Climate Change Adaption, L.I.S., 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.



Strategic Infrastructure & Climate Action

Planning Service

- Planning service fully maintained both in office and remotely. Planning administrative office, public counter and technical advice kept fully functioning during Covid 19 restrictions and made safe for the resumption of normal services.
- 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. Pre-planning and Enforcement meetings continue to be held electronically and in office. Continue to organise the Planning System to manage planning applications both in office and electronically during Covid 19 restrictions.

Development Plan

Statutory Requirements:

Development Plan review well underway setting out the template for the County's development until 2027. Pre Draft Plan written and now presented to Councillors on Microsoft Teams on the 17th September and in person on the 21st September 2020. Every sector of County Longford's future development potential has been analysed and detailed reports provided. Preparation for Development Plan Review includes future strategies, policies and GIS mapping. Management of Dev. Plan team Population and Environmental consultants on Climate Change, Core Strategy, population, housing, Economy, Environment, Tourism and other chapter headings. Ensuring compliance with Strategic Environmental Assessment and Appropriate Assessment etc. Councillors considerations now being included in pre-Draft Plan for October meeting.



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.

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:

- Killashee Street (2nd Sweep)
- Ballymakeegan (2nd Sweep)
- Granard
- Edgeworthstown-Castlepollard DMA's.

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

Photo below shows a leak repair completed by the Find & Fix team in Granard recently:



Asset Needs Briefs (ANB's)

Water Services Capital Section continues to submit Asset Needs Briefs to Irish Water for defective watermain identified during the Find & Fix programme in order to secure funding for watermain upgrade 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 have recently commenced at Lough Kinale (Granard) WTP and Lough Gowna (Smear) WTP:



Rural Water Programme

We are facilitating the group schemes that were successful in potential funding. Bids for the Multi-Annual Rural Water Programme 2019-2021 were submitted in March 2019 and we are now looking for possible bids for the next rolling period. Clonmore/Kilmore have received tenders for consultancy work for upgrade works on their group water scheme. Total Funding under the Multi-Annual Rural Water Programme in the sum of €225,400 was notified to Longford Co. Co. in October 2019. It is anticipated that some of this funding will be drawn down in 2020.

Individual Well Grants, Up to 30/09/2020

No. of IWG applications received	8
No. of IWG applications approved	5
No. of IWG applications refused	1
No. of IW grants paid	3
Total value of grants paid to date	€5,656.16

Strategic Infrastructure & Climate Action



Fire & Emergency Services

Health & Safety:

- No injuries to report.

Training:

- Training courses are being rescheduled on an ongoing basis because of COVID-19.
- Courses completed in September were Water Awareness First Responders Course held in Ballymahon and Compartment Fire Behaviour refresher course run in Ballinrobe.

Operations:

42

Total callouts
September



- All stations remained fully operational and staffed accordingly.
- One Firefighter contracted Covid 19 through a close contact and is currently in self isolation.
- Three firefighters self isolated while a close contact was tested – all returned to work after negative test results were received by their close contact.

M.E.M.:

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



Fire Prevention:

2

Fire Safety Cert's
have been processed
in September



- Fire Service inspections and community fire safety activities have been suspended for the duration of COVID-19.
- A new National E – licensing System commenced in July ran by the Courts Service for the annual Liquor and Dance licence renewals. Licensing inspections were carried out prior to Licensing Court held on Tuesday 22nd of September.

Fleet Management/Equipment Checks:

- Fire-fighters continue to carry out weekly equipment checks, which is co-ordinated by Station Officers to keep numbers in stations to a minimum.

Business Continuity Planning:

- The Fire Service have prepared and implemented business continuity measures for both operational personnel and HQ staff. These measures are managed by the Longford Fire and Rescue Service Action Tracker Plan for COVID-19.
- Fire Brigade HQ is always being manned.

Recruitment:

- There are still three vacant Fire Fighter positions, 2 in Granard and 1 in Edgeworthstown Fire Brigades.

Strategic Infrastructure & Climate Action

Veterinary Services

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

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

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

LGMA/CCMA continue to negotiate with the FSAI to ensure adequate funding of Official Veterinary Controls, particularly in support of Longford's local meat producers, and to secure all the other functions of the local Authority Veterinary Section for the long term.

The Dog Control Service assisted An Garda Síochána at checkpoints in county Longford recently to assist in counteracting illegal dog movements and dog thefts.

The Dog Warden continues to care for stray and unwanted dogs all through the year.

Stray dogs are hazardous to people, farm animals and other pets and our service keeps all of our community safe while also being very committed to the welfare of these dogs

Veterinary Services, up to 30/09/2020

132	987	30
No. of Dogs seized	No. of Dog Licences purchased	No. of Stray Horses seized

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

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

Civil Defence



- Deliveries of Supplies on behalf of the PPN
- Return to provision of Medical cover at Longford Town Soccer Matches
- Mandatory Training Resumed
- EMT's completed CFRA
- Assisted at Longford Blood Bank
- The Department of Defence made an application for funding from the Dormant Accounts Fund in 2019. This was approved in November 2019 and €1 million was allocated to the Civil Defence budget in 2020 to improve its four-wheel drive capability. Longford Civil Defence has received a 4 x 4 Ford Ranger from this funding.



CONNECTED

People • Place • Opportunity

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

Signed :



Paddy Mahon
Chief Executive





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