



# Chief Executive Report

## December 2025 – January 2026

Longford County Council

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# December/January Highlights

## Employee Appreciation Day

On 5, December 2025 Longford County Council held its annual Employee Appreciation Day to thank all employees for their continued service and contribution to Longford County Council.

Special guest was Shaunagh Connaire, Emmy-nominated journalist and filmmaker — and proudly a Longford native. She has travelled the world reporting for the BBC, Channel 4, and PBS Frontline, and has also worked with the Clooney Foundation for Justice.

Long Service Recognition Awards were presented for staff of 20- and 25-years' service.

Employees who had completed third level education as part of the Open Learning Scheme (supporting lifelong learning) were recognised.

Certificates were presented to employees who qualified as certified Coaches during 2025.



## Unlocking Opportunities in the Upper Shannon Erne Region

A unique inter-county promotional event was held in the Irish Embassy in London in December, highlighting the attractiveness of Longford and neighbouring counties as a viable business location. The unique initiative also offered potential investors, entrepreneurs, or those who are passionate about regional development a unique opportunity to connect, learn, and be inspired by the investment potential of Longford and its' neighbouring counties. Longford County Council was represented at the event by Cathaoirleach, Cllr Garry Murtagh; Chief Executive, Paddy Mahon; Directors of Services John Brannigan and Michael Nevin and Catherine Kane of the Longford LEO (Local Enterprise Office). The keynote speaker at the event was CEO of IDA Ireland Michael Lohan and it was compered by former RTE news journalist and broadcaster, Brian Dobson.



## Launch of Longford Lights 2026

Longford Lights 2026 was unveiled at Áras an Chontae in January, offering a vibrant preview of Ireland's largest Midlands arts festival as it prepares for its spectacular finale in February.

Now in its fifth and final year, Longford Lights has become a cornerstone of the region's cultural calendar, attracting almost 12,000 visitors annually. Organisers revealed an exciting programme to an audience of artists, schools, community groups and funders, including Longford

# December/January Highlights

County Council, the Arts Council, Creative Ireland and Mide Arts Group, Longford Tourism and Longford Local Community Safety Partnership.

This year's theme, 'Lightly Playful,' promises a joyful celebration of colour, creativity and imagination. The festival runs from Thursday, 19 to Sunday, 22 February, transforming Longford Town into a glowing wonderland.

Among the standout features is 'Glow on the Go,' Ireland's first-ever nighttime illuminated bicycle parade. Over two nights, members of the Irish Wheelchair Association's Longford branch and Heartland Wheelers Cycling Club will take to the streets on specially adapted tricycles and 'Frankenstein bikes' adorned with lights and percussion instruments, creating a moving spectacle of sound and colour.



## THRIVE Connolly Barracks Reimagined project moves to tender stage

Longford County Council announced in January that the landmark THRIVE Connolly Barracks Reimagined project entered the tender stage, marking a major milestone in the regeneration of one of Longford Town's most historic sites.

The €7 million redevelopment, cofunded by the Government of Ireland and the European Union through the ERDF Southern, Eastern & Midland Regional Programme 2021–2027, will breathe new life into the former military barracks in the county town, creating a vibrant cultural and community hub for the region.

The ambitious plans include a county museum, creative makerspace, podcast and recording studio, meeting rooms, music facilities, and a rear extension housing a flexible conference and community event space. Sustainability features such as solar panels and rainwater harvesting will complement accessibility improvements, ensuring the site serves all sectors of the community.



Rialtas na hÉireann  
Government of Ireland



Ana tionscailte ag  
an Aireamh Eorpach  
Co-financed by the  
European Union



Tionól Béarlaíseach  
an Dúinéarú  
Southern Regional  
Assembly



# Corporate Services

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## Corporate Management Supports and Customer Services

The Customer Services desk received 3,574 calls during the months of December and January, as well as 715 emails via the CRM.

## Register of Electors

Work continues to improve the accuracy of the Register. The Franchise Team is currently preparing for a busy year ahead and have begun work on a number of data cleansing exercises. A new fieldworker campaign will run in early 2026 to support the work in improving the Register. The Franchise Team is also preparing ahead of the migration to the new Voter.ie portal. Rollout of the new portal will begin in February 2026, with Longford scheduled to migrate in Wave Two in April 2026, with the aim of going live on the system in May of this year.

As ever, all electors are strongly encouraged to check their details on the Register, *even if you are already registered to vote*, to ensure that your date of birth, PPSN and Eircode are included on your entry. This enables the team to ensure the accuracy of the Electoral Register.

If you have changed address recently, you must update your details on [www.checktheresister.ie](http://www.checktheresister.ie) to ensure that any correspondence issues to the correct address and that you are at the correct address on the Register for electoral event purposes. This also reduces the possibility of duplicate entries and encourages greater accuracy of the Register.

In addition, everyone aged 16 and 17 years can now pre-register online and will be automatically added to the Register when they turn 18 years. The easiest way to add or update your details is to go to [www.checktheresister.ie](http://www.checktheresister.ie)

## Official Languages Act

Corporate Services are responsible for overseeing Longford County Council's efforts in meeting the obligations under the Official Languages Act (Amendment) 2021. Among the obligations under the Act, the Local Authority is obliged to ensure that:

- at least 20% of annual advertising is carried out in Irish.
- 5% of the advertising budget is to be spent on advertising in Irish on Irish language media.
- Documents setting out public policy proposals, audited accounts or financial statements, annual reports and strategy statements are published simultaneously in Irish and English.
- All signage placed by a public body or on its behalf must be in Irish or bilingual, in accordance with the regulations.

A review held in January showed a fantastic response from each section in Longford County Council in meeting the obligated advertising target, leading Longford County Council to well exceed the 20%

# Corporate Services

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compliance target, with over 33% of advertising placed in Irish in 2025.

Corporate Services has purchased an advertising package for 2026 with Tuairisc.ie which will support

Longford County Council in meeting the obligation to spend 5% of the annual advertising budget on Irish Language advertising in Irish language media.

## Freedom of Information/Access to Information on the Environment/Office of the Ombudsman

	December 2025	January 2026	Year to Date
No. of Freedom of Information (FOI) requests received	3	12	12
No. of Access to Information on the Environment (AIE) requests received	0	2	2
No. of Office of the Ombudsman complaints received	0	0	0

## Meetings Administration

Meetings and events which took place in December 2025 and January 2026 detailed below:

<b>3 December</b>	Corporate Policy Group Meeting
<b>4 December</b>	Ballymahon Municipal District Committee Meeting
	Ballymahon Municipal District Meeting
<b>5 December</b>	Granard Municipal District Committee Meeting
	Longford County Council Meeting
<b>14 January</b>	Place Naming Committee Meeting
	Corporate Policy Group Meeting
	Longford County Council Meeting
<b>22 January</b>	Ballymahon Municipal District Committee Meeting
	Ballymahon Municipal District Meeting
<b>26 January</b>	Granard Municipal District Committee Meeting
	Granard Municipal District
<b>28 January</b>	Longford Municipal District Committee Meeting
	Longford Municipal District Meeting

# Corporate Services

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## Communications

January 2026 saw a number of flagship communication related work projects get underway including a review of the recent Communications Audit and work on a new five-year Communications Strategy as well as working on the tender document for a new website for Longford County Council and a new Tourism website for Q2 of 2026. January also included a Ministerial visit, the LGMA Housing Focus campaign, LEO Business Forum presentation, launch of Longford Lights 2026 as well as a number of other initiatives and events.

All of these events require the assistance and support of the Communications section including pre and post publicity. Work includes event planning and management, invites, press releases, radio interviews, national and local coverage, media relations, communications strategy and advice, media queries from local and national press, radio advertising, digital communications strategy, Ministerial visits, official openings, management of all social media platforms, video content creation, paid social media advertising campaigns, content management of Longford County Council website and dealing with website content requests from all sections of the county council.

## Press Releases

A total of 12 press releases were issued in January 2026 on a range of issues, representative of all council sections as referenced above.

## Media enquiries

A total of 7 media queries were received and processed by the Communications Section in January 2026 from both local and national print, online and broadcast media with common themes including planning, housing related queries, derelict sites and dog welfare issues.

## Staffing

The new Digital Communications Officer Kevin McGillicuddy joined Communications Officer Mairead O'Shea and Digital Communications Officer Aaron Murphy in December.

This now means there is a full complement of staff for the Communications team, who will now have more scope to better help all areas of the Council and generate more proactive messaging. The Communications Team also has the valuable support of Clerical Officer Louise Connaughton on a part-time basis and is overseen by our Meetings Administrator Lorraine McKee and SEO Martina McGrath.



# Corporate Services

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## Communications Strategy

A Communications Audit was conducted by RPS Consulting Engineers during 2025 and the findings and recommendations were circulated to management for consideration. The Audit was undertaken using both qualitative and quantitative research to inform the recommendations of the audit report.

The findings and recommendations from this audit will help inform the content for a new five-year Communications Strategy for Longford County Council 2026-2030.

The audit found approximately 70% of Council staff and 40–45% of Public Participation Network (PPN) survey respondents reported noticing increased or enhanced communications activity by the Council over the past 12 months.

Almost 60% of Elected Members surveyed stated that they have noticed enhanced social and digital media by the Council.

## THRIVE

Work was also undertaken in January 2026 in relation to a detailed THRIVE Communications Plan outlining objectives, goals, target audience, content plan, key messages and timelines. The €7m Connolly Barracks Reimagined project is co-funded by the Government of Ireland and the European Union through the ERDF Southern, Eastern and Midland Regional Programme 2021–2027. There are very specific ERDF Communications and Visibility Requirements under EU regulations as part of the grant award particularly in

relation to online, print, social media, billboards, video, publication and stakeholder engagement. As part of the stakeholder engagement process a public engagement evening took place in December 2025 and the Communications team assisted in the preparation and communications elements of this event with an explainer video forming a key part of this event.



## Training

Members of the Communications Team attended Social Media Dublin Conference in January 2026 which was a major event for the Irish social media and communications industry, bringing together over 350 attendees. The conference looked at trends and case studies in 2026 and onwards. A highlight of #SMDublin is showcasing successful social media campaigns from Ireland and beyond. Our new Digital Communications Officer is also enrolled on the LGMA Certificate in Local Government.

## LCC Website

Work was ongoing in 2025 between the Communications and IT sections in relation to the development of a new LCC website and preparations continued in January 2026 to go to tender for this project. Work also

# Corporate Services

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continued on a detailed clean-up/audit of existing content and pages with a view to having all existing website pages ready for migration to a new website during 2026.

## New Tourism related website

The Communications Team held numerous meetings with the Tourism Officer during 2025 to assist in the development of a new Tourism related website and the selection of a website developer to proceed with this project. The Digital Communications Officer will continue to work with the Tourism Officer and the website developer in relation to a site map and migration to a new Tourism website in Q2 of 2026.

## Social Media Stats

### Website

The following statistics cover the period from 1 December 2025 to 21 January 2026 and are compared against the same period from 1 December 2024 to 21 January 2025.

Longfordcoco.ie recorded 16,494 visits, representing a decrease of 2,232 visits (11.9%) compared to this time last year.

The most popular sections were:

- Planning (7,090)
- Housing (4,620)
- News (3,565)
- Environment (3,180)
- Roads (2,338)

During this period, the following view counts were recorded across other council websites:

- Longford Sports (744)
- Longford Libraries (2,742)
- Longford.ie (4,094)

### Key Social Media Statistics

The following statistics cover the period from 1 December 2025 to 21 January 2026 and are compared against the same period from 1 December 2024 to 21 January 2025.

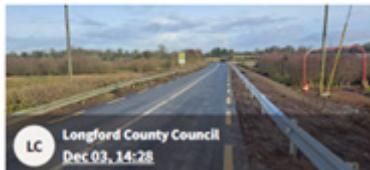
- 426 posts published across social platforms, representing a **40.1% increase** compared to 304 posts.
- 745,250 total impressions, an **increase of 191%** on the 255,804 impressions recorded in the previous period.
- 683 post shares, reflecting a **56.78% increase** compared to 436 shares in the previous period.
- 3,279 post reactions and likes, **an increase of 273%** on the 879 reactions/likes in the previous period.
- **Followers increase by 11.8%** (17,165) compared to the 15,357 in the previous period.
- Video views **increased by 19.8%**, rising to 7,900 compared with 6,596 in the previous period.

These metrics highlight how the increased use of video content and more creative social media graphics is driving stronger visibility and deeper audience engagement across our platforms.

# Corporate Services

## Social Media Best Performing Posts:

### Facebook Top posts



NS5 reopens to traffic this evening! Works on the NS5, between Edgeworthstown and Ballymahon, by Ulisce Eireann and Longford County Council are now substantially

103 likes



County Longford's tourism sector is coming together like never before. The newly launched Longford Tourism Network unites tourism businesses, community attractions,

96 likes



Great turnout at Áras an Chontae last night for our Connolly Barracks Reimagined information evening! Residents, community members and Longford County

84 likes

### Twitter Top posts



County Longford's tourism sector is coming together like never before. The newly launched Longford Tourism Network unites tourism businesses, community attractions,

55 likes



Longford Lights 2026 is coming together beautifully. Over 60 local, national and international artists recently joined community groups at the Longford Lights

48 likes



Midlands Students Make History with First TUS STEM Passport Graduation. Congratulations to the Transition Year students of Meán Scoil Mhuire, Longford, who

41 likes

### LinkedIn Top posts



Big News for Longford & the Midlands! The Midlands Region of Ireland – including County Longford – is among 72 cities from 46 countries joining UNESCO's Global

48 reactions



Women in Business Event – Longford Arms Hotel. Over 70 female entrepreneurs and business leaders from Longford, Leitrim, and Westmeath gathered for an evening

42 reactions



Midlands Students Make History with First TUS STEM Passport Graduation. Congratulations to the Transition Year students of Meán Scoil Mhuire, Longford, who

38 reactions

### X Top posts



@Longfordcoco joined 120+ local authority staff at the EU event in Monaghan, sharing ideas on heritage & adaptive reuse to deliver Connolly Barracks Reimagined – a €7m

2 likes



Status Orange Wind Warning for Longford. Storm Bram bringing strong winds and severe gusts today. Secure outdoor items, check on vulnerable neighbours, charge

1 likes



Great turnout at Áras an Chontae for the Connolly Barracks Reimagined info evening! Residents viewed €7m plans & met the project team. Tender in Jan 2026. Tune in to

1 likes

# Corporate Services

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## Data Protection

### Data Protection Training

Data Protection mandatory training was delivered to 305 staff of Longford County Council in November 2025 and January 2026.

### Data Protection Queries

The Data Protection & Information Compliance Team have received 316 Data Protection Queries since the beginning of January 2025 and 26 Data Protection Queries received in January 2026.

Common themes of queries received were in relation to:

Sharing personal data, releasing personal data, sharing personal data with third parties, CCTV, representations from Elected Representatives, consent, photographs, videos, complaints and Data Protection Impact Assessments.

All Data Subject Access Requests and Data Breaches continue to be completed and reported (where applicable) within the statutory timeframes.

## Health & Safety

### Health & Safety Inspections

A total of 11 Safety Inspections were completed by the Health and Safety section and the Management Team.

### Health and Safety Training

Ongoing risk assessment briefing sessions are held with each section of the Council.

A total of nine new employee Health & Safety inductions were completed.

### Risk Assessment Review Program

A revision of several risk assessments have commenced as part of a five-year planned cycle. Revised and updated risk assessments are issued and communicated to the relevant employees and included in the monthly health and safety report to all employees.

### Internal Audit

Audit schedule has been reviewed for 2026. Upcoming audits includes Libraries, Facilities Management and Housing Social.

# Library, Archives, Arts and Heritage

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## Age Friendly Storm Ready Packs Initiative

At the first meeting of Longford Age Friendly Older Person's Council following Storm Eowyn, a discussion arose on the possible provision of suitable aids that might help the most vulnerable cope with future adverse weather events.

Following on from this, Longford Age Friendly Programme collaborated with other sections of Longford County Council including Climate Action and Community Safety Partnership to secure funding for a Storm Ready Pack. The Age Friendly Alliance partners, the Longford Community Gardaí, Citizen Information, Age Friendly Healthy Homes co-ordinator and the Civic Defence assisted with the distribution of the packs to the most vulnerable, older members of the population.

A solar power bank, two litre flask and a head torch were the agreed items for the pack by the Older Person Council allowing recipients to power up their phone, get some hot water and move around the house whilst keeping their hands free during adverse weather events. An emergency check list was also included with key emergency phone numbers and practical tips on how to prepare and stay safe during storm events.

The Storm Ready Packs were launched on 15 December 2025 by An Cathaoirleach Cllr Garry Murtagh and Longford County Council Chief Executive, Mr Paddy Mahon with members of Longford Age Friendly Alliance, Midlands Age Friendly

Regional Programme Manager Eileen Hughes and Longford Age Friendly Older Person's Council members also in attendance.

Packs were distributed by Longford Community Gardai, Citizen Information and Longford Age Friendly Healthy Homes Co-ordinator to vulnerable older persons before Christmas. Packs are available on a referral basis through Longford Age Friendly Programme, Civil Defence, Longford Community Safety Partnership, Healthy Longford, PPN or Longford Libraries. Please contact [agefriendly@longfordcoco.ie](mailto:agefriendly@longfordcoco.ie) for details.

## Unlocking Your Digital Skills

One-to-one tutor led digital skills sessions continue until mid-January in all library branches with booking slots still available. Participants are encouraged to bring their own personal devices so that they are guided on devices that they are familiar with and can navigate confidently.

## Moving for Better Balance Exercise Classes

The new cycle of Moving for Better Balance Exercise Classes commenced on Monday, 12 January and will again run in five Libraries: Ballymahon, Edgeworthstown, Granard, Lanesboro and Longford Town.

## Climate Course for Over 55's

A free six-week Age Friendly climate course facilitated by Jacinta Barrins, retired UN diplomat and Climate

# Library, Archives, Arts and Heritage

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Mentor started on 13 January in Edgeworthstown Library. The course was organised by Longford County Council Age Friendly and Climate Action Teams. It will run for two hours each Tuesday morning for six weeks. The course is about helping the 55+ to demystify climate change. For example, Jacinta will explain the science behind the link between the cup of tea and climate change.

## Archives Report

The Archives Service received two interesting donations recently. One is of brochures of Backstage Theatre productions and records concerning the All-Ireland One-Act Drama Festivals in Backstage in 1998 and 2009. The other are archives, including roll books, from Clonback NS, Colmcille.

## Arts Report

Longford County Council and Mide Arts Group have officially announced the appointment of the artistic team creating Longford Lights 2026. Caroline Conway will once again take the helm as artistic director. The festival will run over four days from Thursday, 19 to Sunday, 22 February.

The launch of Longford Lights was held in Áras an Chontae on 14 January. The Atrium was filled with photographs from the Longford Lights competition winners. These photos captured what was special about this festival. This is the fifth and final year of Longford Light in its current location. This year's festival embraces a joyful spirit of playfulness, captured in the theme 'Lightly Playful'.

It is a family-focused celebration, filled with colour and imaginative artworks, many of which have been created by the community. The Night Bike Parade is a new element of the programme which will feature 'Glow on the Go' through a route through Longford Town.

Over 20 community groups and more than 1,800 Longford citizens are involved in the creation of the artwork for the exhibition. This festival continues to champion inclusivity, the use of environmentally friendly and recycled material and local creativity.

Tickets are available on <https://www.tickttaillor.com/events/countylongfordartsservice/1993484>

## Healthy Ireland

The focus in Quarter 4 of 2025 was on bespoke exercise classes. Children's Yoga classes with Therese Lanigan were delivered in Lanesboro and Granard Library while Ballymahon and Edgeworthstown library both had Mother and Toddler Yoga, building on the relationship with breastfeeding parents using the libraries. A four-week block of bi-weekly lunch time Pilates classes were held in Ballymahon Library during November and December.

The Healthy Ireland team are working with Healthy Ireland Longford and Sports Partnership to organise a quality programme in 2026 focusing on inclusivity, mental and physical wellbeing.

# Library, Archives, Arts and Heritage

## Heritage Report

### Conservation Grants for 2026

The Built Heritage Investment Scheme 2026 and the Historic Thatched Buildings Stream were opened for applications in July and closed at the end of September. A large number of applications were received, including three historic thatched buildings, two of which are Protected Structures, and the third is not on the Longford County Council RPS, but it is a historic building retaining the traditional scraw, and should be supported. The allocation for Longford County Council is €120,000 with an additional €5,000 for historical thatched structures. The applications are being assessed and submitted to the department for final decisions with the announcement on Friday, 23 January. Local grant recipients will be contacted by the Heritage Office, outlining the terms and conditions of the funding. The grant-aided elements of work may commence immediately and should be completed by October 2026.

The Historic Structures Fund 2026 is now open for applications until 16 January. The HSF seeks to assist the conservation and enhancement of historic structures and buildings for the broader benefits and communities and the public. Please contact [heritage@longfordcoco.ie](mailto:heritage@longfordcoco.ie) for details.

The Community Monuments Fund 2026 is open for applications from Local Authorities, State-funded organisations, private owners, custodians and community groups for the care, conservation, maintenance, protection and promotion of

archaeological monuments. There are three possible streams for funding.

- **Stream 1:** Essential repairs and capital works archaeological monuments
- **Stream 2:** Development of Conservation Management Plans/Reports for conservation of archaeological monuments and/or improving public access.
- **Stream 3:** Enhancement of access infrastructure and interpretation.

## Right to Read programme

### Calendar launch

Longford Libraries 2026 Calendar was launched on 10 December which featured artwork from 12 talented secondary school students across the county.

The calendar celebrates the winners of the Longford Libraries Art Competition, which invited young people to interpret the theme 'Reading Takes You Places'. The launch event took place in Longford Library, bringing together students, families, schools and Creative Ireland representatives.

This initiative strengthens the connection between libraries and secondary school students whilst spotlighting artistic talent in the county.

The competition attracted entries from schools throughout Longford, with organisers hoping to establish it as an annual fixture in the cultural calendar.

# Library, Archives, Arts and Heritage

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All six libraries across the county will stock the calendar, which is available free to the public. The project was proudly sponsored by Creative Ireland

## Battle of Wits

The Regional Final of Battle of Wits took place in the County Council Chamber in Athlone on 4 December 2025. Longford was represented by Moyne Community College: Adam Smith, Sean Brady, Kevin Conefry and Ryan Farrell and St. Mel's College: Jonah Flanagan, Diarmuid Galvin, Nathaniel Flood, Ben Clarke. They competed against teams from Offaly, Laois and Westmeath. The quizmaster on the day was Longford's Archivist Martin Morris. Both teams were fantastic and after a very keenly contested quiz, Athlone Community College was crowned Battle of Wits 2025 champions with St. Brendan's Community School, Birr in second place and Moyne Community School in third place. St. Mel's College finished strongly and were unlucky not to be in a prizegiving position.

This is an annual event done in conjunction with the library services in Laois, Longford, Offaly and Westmeath.

## Design a Bookmark Competition

Longford Libraries announced the winners of this year's 'Design a Bookmark' competition, in December. The initiative sparked incredible creativity among young readers, with over 950 entries received from across County Longford.

The competition invited children aged 4–13 to design bookmarks celebrating

their love of books and reading. Entry forms were distributed to every primary school in the county and made available in all six branch libraries.

After much deliberation, the judges selected the following winners:

### 4–8 Age Category

- **1st:** Sophia Gregory, Granard Branch Library
- **2nd:** Harry Cassidy, Longford Branch Library
- **3rd:** Clóda Corcoran, Granard Branch Library

### 9–13 Age Category

- **1st:** Hafsa Abrar Yasmin, Longford Branch Library
- **2nd:** Lillie Byrne, Granard Branch Library
- **3rd:** Lara Cristina, Ballymahon Branch Library

The first-placed designs in each category were professionally printed and distributed across all Longford Libraries, ensuring these young artists' work will be enjoyed by readers countywide. Each of the six winners also received a special art set in recognition of their talent.

## Family Time at Your Library

During December, many events are organised as part of the initiative Family Time at Your Library. Granard library hosted a 'Post Your Letter to Santa', Mrs. Claus storytelling event

# Library, Archives, Arts and Heritage

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Musical Family friendly workshops as well as Christmas movies.

Granard library also hosted a seven-week clay modelling workshop and a Revamp painting workshop as part of a Creative Ireland programme.

## My Open Library Service

The My Open Library Service is now available in three libraires in Longford – Ballymahon, Edgeworthstown and Lanesborough. This service provides access to these libraries, 365 days a year for 14 hours per day. Library users must sign up for the service via our application form and full induction by library staff in one of these three libraries. Longford Libraries via the My Open Library service has increase library access for members to 405 hours per week.

During My Open Library, there is computer access, Wifi, book lending, printing, photocopying, scanning and study facilities available during these times. The libraries are staffed for 237 hours collectively and provided other enhanced services. Feedback from the community has been very positive, particularly from students and those using the library as a study space.

Call into Ballymahon, Edgeworthstown and Lanesborough to get an application form and book an induction session.

## One Mystery, One Town Project

The launch of the One Mystery, One Town Book Project took place on Wednesday, 7 January at 12.30pm at Edgeworthstown Library. The project is a collaboration between Longford Home School Liaison Team, local

national schools St Mary's and St John's NS, Edgeworthstown Library and Creative Ireland. The book selected is called 'The Case of the Vanishing Painting' by Irish Childrens' author Brian Gallagher. At the launch, Enda Ward Home School Liaison Lead and Kim Taylor, Branch Manager Edgeworthstown Library outlined the vision behind 'One Mystery, One Town' highlighting the educational benefits of shared reading, strong family-school and library partnerships and how the project will encourage children and adults to engage with the same story, fostering discussion, curiosity, and a sense of collective involvement. There is a programme of activities planned with the artist in residence Sophie Carroll Hunt. The Age Friendly Ambassador Eamonn Brennan created an audio version for the book with consents from the author and O'Brian Press. This will be distributed by the schools to interested parents. The final event in the programme will be a visit by the author Brian Gallagher on 27 February featuring the unveiling of the creative project by both schools and a visit from RTE news.

## Skills for Life programme

This new national programme ran from October to December in all branches of Longford Libraries. Felt Art Exhibitions by St. Christopher's Day Care Centre attendees were displayed in Ballymahon in November. Upholstery workshops for adults and some information sessions about Bees and other pollinators throughout the county also took place.

# Local Enterprise Office

## Unlocking Opportunities in the Upper Shannon Erne Region

A unique inter-county promotional event was held in the Irish Embassy in London in December, highlighting the attractiveness of Longford and neighbouring counties as a viable business location. The unique initiative also offered potential investors, entrepreneurs, or those who are passionate about regional development a unique opportunity to connect, learn, and be inspired by the investment potential of Longford and its' neighbouring counties. Longford County Council was represented at the event by Cathaoirleach, Cllr Garry Murtagh; Chief Executive, Paddy Mahon; Directors of Services John Brannigan and Michael Nevin and Catherine Kane of the Longford LEO (Local Enterprise Office). The keynote speaker at the event was CEO of IDA Ireland Michael Lohan and compered by former RTE news journalist and broadcaster, Brian Dobson.



## Tri-County Women in Business Networking Event

Seventy female entrepreneurs from Longford, Leitrim, and Westmeath attended a networking event at the Longford Arms Hotel, organised by the Local Enterprise Offices of the three counties. The evening featured keynote speaker Su Carty, award-winning leadership and performance coach, and guest speaker Clare Frances Cassells, an acclaimed wedding and portrait

photographer. Hosted by Noel Davidson of Entrepreneurs Academy, the event included an inspiring panel discussion and networking session, fostering collaboration and knowledge sharing among businesswomen. The Women in Business series, delivered in partnership with Enterprise Ireland, continues to provide vital supports including funding, mentorship, and training to help female entrepreneurs grow and succeed.



## Christmas Markets

As part of 'Christmas on the Square,' Pig Market Lane hosted a festive Christmas market showcasing locally produced gifts, crafts and artisan food, providing a valuable trading opportunity for small businesses in the leadup to the Christmas period. Running from early afternoon, the market attracted strong footfall and was supported by live local music, enhancing the visitor experience and towncentre vibrancy. The initiative supported the LEOs #ShopLongford campaign by promoting local enterprise, encouraging community engagement and driving economic activity within Longford Town.



## Finance

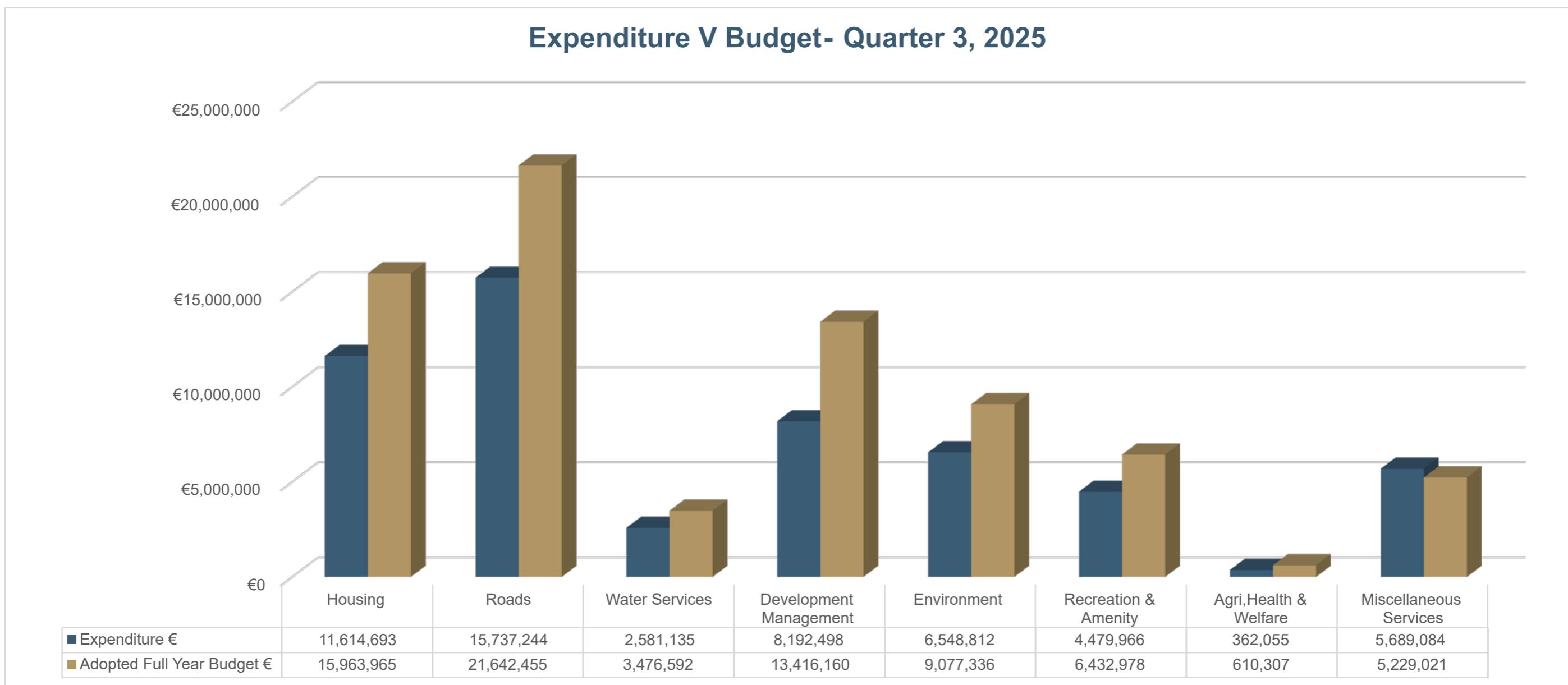
### Revenue Account Income and Expenditure Summary by Service Division

Year to Date to Quarter End 30/09/2025

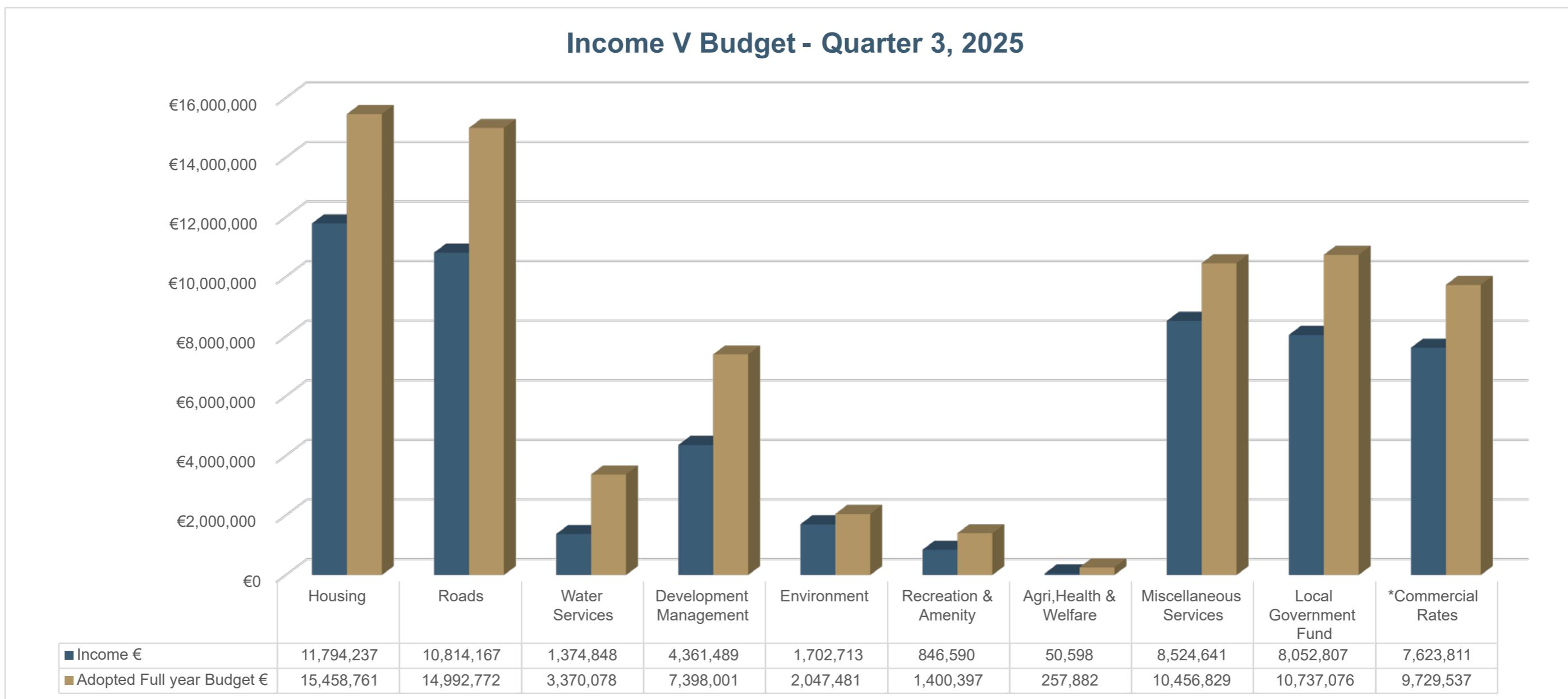
	EXPENDITURE				INCOME				NET
	Expenditure €	Adopted Full Year Budget €	% Budget Spent to date	Budget Remaining €	Income €	Adopted Full year Budget €	% Budget Raised	Budget outstanding €	Actual Overall Surplus/ (Deficit) €
Housing	11,614,693	15,963,965	73%	4,349,272	11,794,237	15,458,761	76%	3,664,524	179,544
Roads	15,737,244	21,642,455	73%	5,905,211	10,814,167	14,992,772	72%	4,178,605	(4,923,077)
Water Services	2,581,135	3,476,592	74%	895,457	1,374,848	3,370,078	41%	1,995,230	(1,206,287)
Development Management	8,192,498	13,416,160	61%	5,223,662	4,361,489	7,398,001	59%	3,036,512	(3,831,009)
Environment	6,548,812	9,077,336	72%	2,528,524	1,702,713	2,047,481	83%	344,768	(4,846,099)
Recreation & Amenity	4,479,966	6,432,978	70%	1,953,012	846,590	1,400,397	60%	553,807	(3,633,376)
Agri,Health & Welfare	362,055	610,307	59%	248,252	50,598	257,882	20%	207,284	(311,457)
Miscellaneous Services	5,689,084	5,229,021	109%	(460,063)	8,524,641	10,456,829	82%	1,932,188	2,835,557
Local Government Fund			0%	0	8,052,807	10,737,076	75%	2,684,269	8,052,807
*Commercial Rates					7,623,811	9,729,537	78%	2,105,726	7,623,811
	<b>€55,205,487</b>	<b>€75,848,814</b>	<b>73%</b>	<b>€20,643,327</b>	<b>€55,145,901</b>	<b>€75,848,814</b>	<b>73%</b>	<b>€20,702,913</b>	<b>(€59,586)</b>

These figures were submitted to the Department on Monday 24th Nov 2025.

## Finance



## Finance



## Finance

### Summary of Major Revenue Collections: Quarter 3, 2025

	Opening Arrears	Billed	To be Collected	Collected	Closing Arrears	Collected
Quarter 3, 2025	€	€	€	€	€	%
*Rates	€1,150,292	€10,165,082	€11,275,157	€8,310,826	€2,964,331	74%
Rents (inc. RAS)	€1,947,411	€8,227,519	€10,150,244	€7,907,009	€2,243,235	78%
Housing Loans	€275,575	€988,001	€1,263,576	€1,015,107	€248,469	80%
	Opening Arrears	Billed	To be Collected	Collected	Closing Arrears	Collected
Quarter 3, 2024	€	€	€	€	€	%
*Rates	€1,200,532	€9,257,889	€10,451,376	€7,431,263	€3,020,113	71%
Rents (inc. RAS)	€907,238	€8,003,501	€8,888,039	€7,102,919	€1,785,120	80%
Housing Loans	€350,875	€846,821	€1,196,455	€913,541	€282,914	76%
	Opening Arrears	Billed	To be Collected	Collected	Closing Arrears	Collected
VARIANCE YOY	€	€	€	€	€	%
*Rates	(€50,240)	€907,193	€823,781	€879,563	(€55,782)	3%
Rents (inc. RAS)	€1,040,173	€224,018	€1,262,205	€804,090	€458,115	-2%
Housing Loans	(€75,300)	€141,180	€67,121	€101,566	(€34,445)	4%

# Human Resources

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## Learning and Development

The following training courses were arranged during the months of December and January.

### Business Skills Training

- Competency Based Interviewee Training
- Planning Technical Report Writing Skills
- Makodata Explorer Training
- Diploma in Coaching
- Leading for Transformational Change – Women’s Leadership
- WRC & Labour Court Preparation
- Customer Service Training
- Coaching Information Session – LGMA/Kingstown College
- Courtroom Skills
- IPA HAP Training
- Introduction to Public Procurement
- Working With County Councillors
- Data Protection Training
- Competency Based Interviewer Training

### Health & Safety Training

- Manual Handling
- CSCS Site Dumper – New Entrant
- Safe Pass
- Abrasive Wheels
- Mobile Elevated Platform

## Health & Wellbeing

### Physical Wellbeing

Lunchtime circuits classes continue in the Longford Athletics Centre

### Financial Wellbeing

The Employee Financial Wellness Programme 2026 relaunched on 8 January. An in-person session was held for outdoor staff. Monthly online masterclasses and guidance classes recommenced and will continue until December 2026.

### Social Wellbeing

#### Employee Appreciation Day

On 5, December 2025 Longford County Council held its annual Employee Appreciation Day to thank all employees for their continued service and contribution to Longford County Council.

Special guest was Shaunagh Connaire, Emmy-nominated journalist and filmmaker – and proudly a Longford native. She has travelled the world reporting for the BBC, Channel 4, and PBS Frontline, and has also worked with the Clooney Foundation for Justice.

Long Service Recognition Awards were presented for staff of 20- and 25-years’ service.

Employees who had completed 3<sup>rd</sup> level education as part of the Open Learning Scheme (supporting lifelong learning) were recognised.

# Human Resources

Certificates were presented to employees who qualified as certified Coaches during 2025.



## Upcycling Christmas Jumper Competition

In collaboration with the Climate Action team, HR assisted in organising a 'Upcycled Christmas Jumper Competition' encouraging everyone to get creative and give new life to old jumpers, promoting sustainability and creativity.



## Christmas get together for retired employees

A Christmas get together was held for all retired employees of Longford County Council on 11, December 2025 in the Atrium, the afternoon gave past and present employees an opportunity to meet and maintain friendships.



# Roads

## National Road Schemes

Embankment and pavement resurfacing works on the N55 near Fowlard's Bridge were completed in December and the road reopened to traffic on 3 December.

Works on the watermain continued under traffic management.

N55 Edgeworthstown Streets – Resurfacing of 300m of the N55 from the junction with the N4 to the junction on Main Street, Edgeworthstown was completed.

Design work continued on a number of National Road Schemes throughout the county.

A combined Road Safety and Pavement Scheme for 1.8km of the N63 is currently at design stage. Clandillon Civil Consulting Engineers have been appointed to progress the design.

Longford County Council continue to promote and support the N4 Mullingar to Longford Scheme, which is a scheme to upgrade a 52km section of the N4 between Mullingar and Longford (Roosky).

The scheme is currently at Phase 3 – Design and Environmental Evaluation.

A Ground Investigation (GI) Contract has been awarded to Irish Drilling Limited and investigation works are ongoing.

Longford County Council received TII approval to proceed to Phase 2 (Option Selection) for the N55 Granard By-Pass Scheme in October 2025. Longford County Council are in the process of appointing a consultant to progress the design of the scheme.



## Municipal District Works

Works on footpaths, drainage, pothole repair and general road maintenance continued in each Municipal District during December and January.

Maintenance works on tracks and trails also took place during these two months.

Area staff are currently preparing annual procurement tenders for Plant and Materials, Health & Safety Files,



# Roads



Preliminary Traffic Management Plans etc for the 2026 Roads Programme.

2026 Allocations for Regional and Local Roads are expected to be announced in February.

## Phase 2 of the National Speed Limit Review

Following a direction from the Department of Transport, Longford County Council has commenced Phase 2 of the National Speed Limit Review.

Phase 1 was the review of speed limits on rural local roads where the national default speed limit of 60km/hr was introduced, and Longford County Council introduced special speed limit byelaws in relation to some rural roads.

Phase 2 is a review of Urban and Built-up areas. (all the towns and villages in County Longford).

As part of this review consideration will be given to the following;

- Introduction of 30km/hr speed limits in urban / built-up areas.
- Introduction of 30km/hr speed limits at schools in urban / built-up areas.

In November 2025, notification was sent to An Gardai Síochána, adjoining Local Authorities, Longford County Council Elected Members and Longford County Council District Engineers of the proposed speed limit review of speed limits on roads in urban/built-up areas advising them that the review was commencing and inviting submissions.

The key dates in this review are 30 October 2026 which is the date that it is expected the new bye-laws will be adopted and 31 March 2027 when the special speed limits will be enacted nationally.

## Road Safety

Longford County Council is dedicated to promoting Road Safety. A Road Safety Working Together Group (RSWTG) has been established in County Longford to co-ordinate road safety activities.

A review of the 2025 actions contained in the Local Road Safety Plan 2022-2024 was conducted by the Road Safety Working Together Group. This report will be presented to the Physical Development Strategic Policy Committee in February and will be published on the Longford County Council website in early 2026.

# Roads

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## Traffic Department Data 2025

Offence	Fines Issued Q1 2025	Fines Issued Q2 2025	Fines Issued Q3 2025	Fines Issued Q4 2025	Total fines 2025
Parking Fines	122	87	98	105	<b>412</b>
Non-Display of Tax	76	55	34	44	<b>209</b>
Breach of Parking Regulations 1997	36	22	54	76	<b>188</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>234</b>	<b>164</b>	<b>186</b>	<b>225</b>	<b>809</b>

## Climate Change

The Roads Department in collaboration with the Longford County Council Climate Action Team are continuing a fleet review with a view to achieving reduced energy usage.

The Roads Department has introduced an element of Green Procurement into a number of annual tenders in 2026.

