



Longford County Council Chief Executive Report July-August 2022

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July-August Highlights

Excellence in Local Government Awards 2022

Four Longford County Council projects have been shortlisted for the Excellence in Local Government Awards 2022. They are: the Urban Horse Project, the LIFT (Longford Inclusive Fitness Trails) Programme, Longford Text Alert initiative and Edgeworthstown Community Library.



Get Active in Nature

County Longford Get Active in Nature: Out and About is a new booklet by Longford Tourism. Packed with many ways to enjoy nature, get yours from Longford Tourism, Longford Libraries, in Longford County Council or on Longford.ie.



Heritage Week 2022

National Heritage Week took place in August, and included Water Heritage Day. Forty-five events were organised, including twenty-five workshops and many events for children. Pictured below is a scene from the marking of the centenary of the death of Michael Collins, which took place during the week.



Exhibiting at Dublin Horse Show

Longford Local Sports Partnership exhibited at the Positive Strides stand at Dublin Horse Show, along with colleagues in Longford and Leitrim County Councils and other partners. This helped to promote the work of the Urban Horse Project.



Community & Enterprise

Community Development

Longford Agricultural Show

The Longford Agricultural Show, one of the oldest such shows in Ireland, took place in July. Longford County Council proudly exhibited at the event, along with Longford Community Safety Partnership, Age Friendly Longford, Sláintecare, Local Enterprise Office Longford.

The roadshow also attended Granard Agricultural Show. Minister for Rural and Community Development Heather Humphries TD attended.



Local Community Development Committee

Meetings of the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) took place on 14 June and 26 July.

Empowering Community

The Empowering Community Programme has been developed by the LCDC, with €120,000 allocated to deliver the programme through Longford Community Resources clg (LCRL).

Community Grant Support Scheme

The Community Grant Support Scheme 2022 Round Two opened for applications. The scheme supports activities and projects focused on different areas including the arts, community development, the environment, sports and recreation, and more. The scheme closes on 5 September.

Roma and New Communities Community Development Project

Longford Roma and New Communities Community Development Project is a pilot programme delivered by LCRL. The project is funded by the Department of Rural and Community Development (DRCD) through the LCDC.

The project aims to be a voice for Roma and other new communities in Longford, working in partnership with local organisations and service providers. One full-time and two part-time community development workers have been employed to work on the project.

Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme

Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme (SICAP) mid-year performance review was approved at the July meeting of the LCDC.

The DRCD have allocated an additional €46,613 to SICAP for supports to the Ukrainian community living in County Longford. This funding was allocated to programme implementers LCRL.

LEADER

Three LEADER projects were approved for funding of over €468,281 at the June and July meetings of the LCDC.

Community & Enterprise

Library, Heritage & Archives

Summer Stars

Summer Stars, a free children's programme to encourage reading during the summer holidays, took place. Children registered at their local library.

There were plenty of rewards and incentives to keep kids interested, including a competition with prizes from Longford Local Sports Partnership. Other incentives included events and activities, such as creative storytimes, crafts, dance, and music.

My Open Library

Longford Libraries were also successful in applying for a new My Open Library service for Lanesborough Library and for upgrades to existing My Open Library services in Ballymahon and Granard libraries.

It is hoped that Ballymahon and Granard My Open Library service will open in September, and for Lanesborough's services to open by the end of 2022.

Little Library Book Bag

Children starting primary school picked up their Little Library Book Bag as part of a First 5 initiative. The initiative is supported by Longford County Council, Libraries Ireland and the Government of Ireland.

Creative Ireland Programme

Lakelands, a Longford-based film by Harp Media and supported by Longford County Council Creative Ireland programme premiered at Galway Film Fleadh.

The film won Best Irish Film and the Bingham Ray New Talent Award for lead actors Éanna Hardwicke and Danielle Galligan.

The Cruthú Arts Festival saw locals and visitors come together to enjoy pop-up art galleries across Longford Town. The six-day event also saw plenty of free live music, street art and theatre and literary events.

The Threading the Táin Tapestry launch took place in Edgeworthstown Community Library. This five-panel inter-county tapestry project was inspired by the Irish legend the Táin Bó Cuailgne.



It was produced by An Táin Arts Centre in association with Creative Spark and developed through Creative Ireland in collaboration with Longford County Council. The Longford panel was created by artist Catherine Gray with the Willow Quilters.

The launch of the 'Chasing Shadows' poetry anthology supported by Longford Creative Ireland Programme was held at The Green, Edgeworthstown. It was the first event held in this new outdoor event space.

Community & Enterprise

Library, Heritage & Archives (Contd)

Longford Age Friendly

At the July meeting of Age Friendly, Pat Hughes (Health Service Executive) presented on the recently-launched Integrated Care Programme for Older Person's and Integrated Care Programme for Chronic disease.

The Healthy Age Friendly Homes Interim Report was published. It outlines the progress this joint-programme between Age Friendly Ireland and Sláintecare has made in its first year

Ballymahon Library is the Longford venue for the Making Music in the Midlands initiative, a Music Network and Age Friendly Ireland collaboration. The project focuses on sharing the joy of music-making. Taking place over eight weeks, project tutors are local musicians Dan Brouder and Angleina Carberry.

Archives

A collection of photographs of Ballycloghan National School, 1977-2013, and a resolution from the Home Rule Union to Longford Town Commissioners, 1887 were received into Longford County Council Archives.

Decade of Centenaries Programme

A plaque in memory of Field Marshal Sir Henry Wilson was unveiled at Currygrane, Ballinalee. A Michael Collins commemoration also took place in Granard. It included an exhibition on County Longford and the War of Independence.

Heritage

National Heritage Week took place in August, and included Water Heritage Day. Forty-five events were organised, including twenty-five workshops and many events for children.

Events included Norman People by the Knights and Conquests Visitor Centre, and the centenary of the death of Michael Collins was also marked. The Corlea Trackway Visitor Centre partnered with Ardagh Heritage and Creativity Centre to develop a unique re-telling of Tochmarc Etáine (The Wooing of Etáin) in two acts across both venues.



The centenaries of the attack on Ballymahon Royal Irish Constabulary Barracks in August 1920, the assassination of Field Marshall Sir Henry Wilson and the burning of Currygrane House in August 1922 were also marked. The former had been previously postponed due to COVID-19.

Community engagement events took place at the site of St Catherine's Church of Ireland Drumlish and Corboy Presbyterian Church. A music concert took place at St Paul's Church, Newtownforbes.

The Colmcille Ploughing and Heritage Day returned. Events celebrating traditional markets and Irish cultural heritage took place at Granard Buttermarket.

Community & Enterprise

Local Enterprise Office

Digital Start workshop

Digital Start is a new initiative supporting small business to streamline and manage their operations with digital technologies.



Eligible businesses may receive consultancy support up to the value of €4,500. Projects can focus on internal process optimisation, enhancing customer digital experience and becoming a data driven business.

An information seminar was held in July. Industry expert John Shanahan (Lean BPI) outlined how different aspects of a business can become more competitive and efficient by embracing digitalisation. Clients at the event were from manufacturing, engineering and retail sectors.

Green for Micro

Green for Micro, which helps business prepare for the economy of the future, had a Green for Retail information session. Hosted by Local Enterprise Office Longford, expert advice was offered by local company Eco-Merit to local businesses.

Nigeria Ireland Trade and Investment Summit

The Nigeria Ireland Trade and Investment Summit took place in July. Head of Enterprise Michael Nevin, Cllr Ureumu Adejinmi and John McDermott of Midland Engineering Profiles Ltd were in attendance. All are pictured below along with the Irish Nigerian Business Alliance President, Aliyu Adu.



Community & Enterprise

Local Sports Partnership

Urban Horse Project and Positive Strides

Urban Horse Project 2022 has expanded to promote animal welfare and include those from disadvantaged communities. Two groups are running in the Mosstown Stables with expert instructors.



Longford Local Sports Partnership also exhibited at the Positive Strides stand at Dublin Horse Show, along with colleagues in Longford and Leitrim County Councils and other partners. This helped to promote the work of the Urban Horse Project.

The programme is funded by the Department of Agriculture, Food and Marine and Longford County Council. Local Authority Veterinary Service, Longford Local Sports Partnership and Longford Community Resource clg work together on the project.

HER Outdoors Week

HER Outdoors Week saw women participate in kayaking, archery, golf, yoga and much more. Many women noted their desire to participate more in local sports. All events were sold out, with around 20 women participating in each event.

National Play Day

National Play Day had 610 children participating in many events in Longford. All activities were inclusive, encouraging children from different backgrounds and abilities to play together. It is funded by the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth.



LEAP Soccer

An eight-week LEAP Soccer initiative has started. Run with Longford Local Community Safety Partnership, it gives children opportunities to play soccer, including potential progression to their local clubs.

Trail Run Series

Longford Local Sports Partnership, Longford Tourism and Longford Athletics Club came together for the Trail Run Series. The series included many 5K runs across scenic trails, including Derrycassin Woods, Newcastle Woods and Corlea Bog. Around 150 people took part each evening of the series.

GAA Cúl Camp

The first Longford GAA Cúl Camp for children with additional needs took place. An initiative by Longford GAA and Local Sport Partnership, it took place in Drumlish Community Centre. Everyone received a Cúl Camp Kit and enjoyed playing together.

Community & Enterprise

Tourism

Get Active in Nature: Out and About
County Longford Get Active in Nature: Out and About is a new booklet detailing the many activities and ways to enjoy nature in the county.



Readers can find out how to navigate the county's many scenic routes, tracks, trails and waterways. It is also filled with activities for kids, lovers of the arts and keen cooks. Readers can also use the booklet to help spot native flora and fauna.

Funded by Healthy Ireland, the booklet also aims to encourage activity among all people. The booklet is available from Longford Tourism, County Longford Libraries and Longford County Council. Online versions are also available on Longford.ie.

Podcasting

Longford Tourism are working with Inhand Guides for a podcast series showcasing County Longford tourism organisations. So far organisations that have taken part include Backstage Theatre, Knights and Conquest Heritage Centre, Midland Karting and Paintballing and St Mel's Brewing. The podcast is available on Longford.ie, Acast and Spotify.

Go West Magazine

Longford Tourism have worked with the official magazine of Ireland West Airport Knock, Go West Magazine. The feature promotes County Longford, including all there is to see and do and the county's many hidden gems. The promotion will be seen by people entering Ireland via the airport. It is also available to read online.

Travel Tales with Fergal

Ireland's number one travel podcast, Travel Tales with Fergal put the spotlight on County Longford. This promotion was also helped with nationwide features on County Longford in Tipperary (Tipp FM), Clare (Clare FM) and Carlow (The Nationalist).

Longford Trail Run Series

Longford Tourism provided funding for the Longford Trail Run Series, which was organised in conjunction with the Longford Local Sports Partnership and Longford Athletics Club. All ages took part in walks and runs around beautiful trails in the county.

Marquee in Drumlish

Longford Tourism provided funding towards the Marquee in Drumlish festival. The festival proved to be as popular as ever, coming back after a three-year COVID-19-related absence.

Community & Enterprise

Corporate Services

Customer Service

Customer Service responded to 969 calls in July and 859 calls in August. Public queries continue to be dealt with via public counters and the Customer Relationship Management system.

Meetings Administration

July meetings were hybrid, with the exception of Strategic Policy Committee (SPC) meeting which were held online. No meetings took place in August.

Date	Meeting
4 July	Oireachtas Members
12 July	Corporate Policy Group
13 July	Longford County Council
18 July	Placemaking SPC
19 July	Governance SPC
20 July	Climate Action and Planning SPC
21 July	Strategic Infrastructure SPC
25 July	Granard Municipal District (MD) Granard MD Committee
27 July	Longford MD Longford MD Committee
28 July	Ballymahon MD Ballymahon MD Committee

Official Languages Act

Work is ongoing in anticipation of new advertising requirements under the Official Languages Act, which will come into effect in October.

Data Protection

Data Protection continue to work on Data Protection Compliance Reports for 2022, the File Management and Information Compliance Project, and enhancements to the Council's Privacy Statement.

Freedom of Information (FOI)

	July	August	YTD
Freedom of Information requests	4	13	40
Access to information on Environment requests	2	1	7
Office of the Ombudsman complaints	1	1	4

See FOI Disclosure Log on Longfordcoco.ie.

Franchise

Following an electoral polling scheme review and public consultation, the County Longford Polling Scheme 2022 was adopted by the Council in July.

Work is ongoing to increase electoral register accuracy. Over 4,000 electors were written to to update their details, with a 37% response rate. These details are now entered on iReg, a Register of Electors system. Further leaflet drops are organised for September, targeting over 400 households in Longford Town.

The Electoral Reform Act 2022 was signed into law in July, but the Commencement Order is not expected to be signed until October.

The iReg system was updated in August to accommodate the provisions for a new rolling register. This new register will be continuously updated, therefore there will no longer be a draft register prepared in November each year.

Community & Enterprise

Corporate Services (Contd)

Health and Safety

Health and Safety Inspections

Seven safety inspections were completed by the Health and Safety section and the Management Team in July and August.

Health and Safety Authority Inspection

The Health and Safety Authority (HSA) completed an inspection on a Major's Well Road project. Longford County Council are the client on this project. The inspector issued a Report of Inspection. Three issues were raised by the inspector and addressed by the project supervisor construction stage.

One correspondence was received from the HSA. The response has been returned.

Temporary Traffic Management Audit and Inspection

An audit and inspection of temporary traffic management was completed within the Roads and Water Services sections. Four sites participated in the Temporary Traffic Management Audit and Inspection.

Safety Monitoring Consultative Committee Meetings

One meeting of the Safety Monitoring Consultative Committee was held in August with the Planning and Project Delivery Directorate.

These Safety Monitoring Consultative Committee meetings are chaired by the relevant Director of

Service. The meetings afford the opportunity for Longford County Council Safety Representatives to any raise concerns regarding health and safety issues.

Health and Safety Internal Audits

Internal health and safety audits were completed in the following sections of Longford County Council:

- Community and Enterprise
- Corporate
- Human Resources
- Finance
- Planning

Health and Safety Training

Health and Safety briefings were held with the the following sections of the Council:

- Corporate
- Human Resources
- Finance
- Housing
- Roads
- Water Services
- Planning

These briefings were held in relation to updated risk assessments and standard operating procedures.

Community & Enterprise

Corporate Services (Contd)

Communications

Press Releases

Twelve press releases were issued in July and August. These included:

- Longford County Council shortlisted at the Excellence in Local Government Awards 2022
- Explore County Longford with newly-launched Get Active in Nature Out and About booklet
- Dog fouling awareness campaign to 'Help Scally be a good boy'
- Farrell Clan Rally kicks off with civic reception hosted by Longford County Council

Media Enquiries

Communications received and responded to 24 media enquires throughout July and August.

Events

Communications assisted the Council's Meetings Administrator with the following events:

- Farrell Clan civic reception
- Longford Leader civic reception
- Official welcoming event for members of the Ballinamuck/Essert Twinning Committee

Publications

Communications continues to assist with the Longford County Council Annual Report 2021 as it is translated into Irish.

Social Media

Social media continues to be used to effectively communicate with Longford people. In July and August, Communications shared updates on the Longford Connected project, Heritage Week 2022 and the arrival of the Gum Litter Taskforce to Longford.

Social media shared details of Council events such as the Longford Leader civic reception. The work of many Council sections were also promoted, including environmental campaigns, such as Scally the Dog Always Pick Up the Poop campaign.



Longford Connected



	Facebook	Instagram	Twitter
Posts and Stories	149	49	133
Reach or Impressions	143.8K	19K	20.8K

Reach: number of people who had a post enter their screen
Impressions: number of times a post entered a person's screen

Community & Enterprise

Human Resources

Employee Numbers

Longford County Council had 395 employees as of July 2022. These include:

- Managerial: 7
- Administrative: 172
- Technical: 73
- Outdoor: 101
- Retained Fire Fighter: 42

Recruitment

The Council completed the following recruitment procedures in June and July:

- Competitions completed: 9
- Candidates interviewed: 88
- New starters: 14
- Existing employees commenced new roles: 17
- Employee ceased employment: 5

Learning and Development

Training included Business Skills training and Health and Safety training.

Business Skills training included:

- Disability Awareness
- Cybersecurity Awareness
- Certificate in Professional Irish
- Minute Taking
- Access to Information on the Environment
- Customer Service Training
- Climate Action Green Procurement Awareness
- Age Friendly Housing and Public Realm
- Public Procurement Training

- Understanding Procurement Frameworks
- Longford County Council Policy and Procedure for the Protection and Safeguarding of Children
- Official Languages (Amendment) Act 2022

Health and Safety training included:

- Personal Safety at Work
- Chemical Spill
- Water Treatment Plant Operator Refresher
- Mobile Elevated Work Platform
- Scaffold Inspection
- Medium Risk Confined Spaces

Health and Wellbeing

The following Health and Wellbeing initiatives took place:

- Choirworks 2022 was completed, including a live performance for the Cathaoirleach Awards
- Pride Month was promoted with the Pride flag flown at Longford County Council
- Men's Health Week was promoted, including a webinar on 'Masculinity and Men's Health' and distribution of a Man Manual booklet
- Financial wellbeing presentation took place, facilitated by the Money Advice and Budgeting Service (MABS)
- During the warm weather, an ice-cream van was organised for all employees

Finance & IT

Finance

Revenue and Account Income and Expenditure Summary by Service Division Year to date to quarter end 31 June 2022

	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	5,044,084	10,026,917	50%	4,982,833	5,425,453	11,032,967	49%	5,607,514	381,369
Roads	7,739,431	20,380,160	38%	12,640,729	5,283,218	15,289,857	35%	10,006,639	(2,456,213)
Water Services	2,167,122	4,260,760	51%	2,093,638	2,300,641	4,158,150	55%	1,857,509	133,519
Development Management	5,411,979	11,417,181	47%	6,005,202	2,967,447	6,058,853	49%	3,091,406	(2,444,532)
Environment	2,998,290	6,178,587	49%	3,180,297	319,895	729,751	44%	409,856	(2,678,395)
Recreation and Amenity	2,614,100	4,891,511	53%	2,277,411	609,830	853,625	71%	243,795	(2,004,270)
Agri, Health and Welfare	271,543	499,303	54%	227,760	147,971	255,030	58%	107,059	(123,572)
Miscellaneous Services	3,208,102	3,925,448	82%	717,346	3,072,161	5,027,742	61%	1,955,581	(135,941)
Local Government Fund					4,622,238	9,244,474	50%	4,622,236	4,622,238
*Commercial Rates					4,425,755	8,929,416	50%	4,503,661	4,425,755
	€29,454,651	€61,579,867	48%	€32,125,216	€29,174,609	€61,579,865	47%	€32,405,256	(€280,042)

These figures were submitted to the Department on Wednesday 24 August 2022.

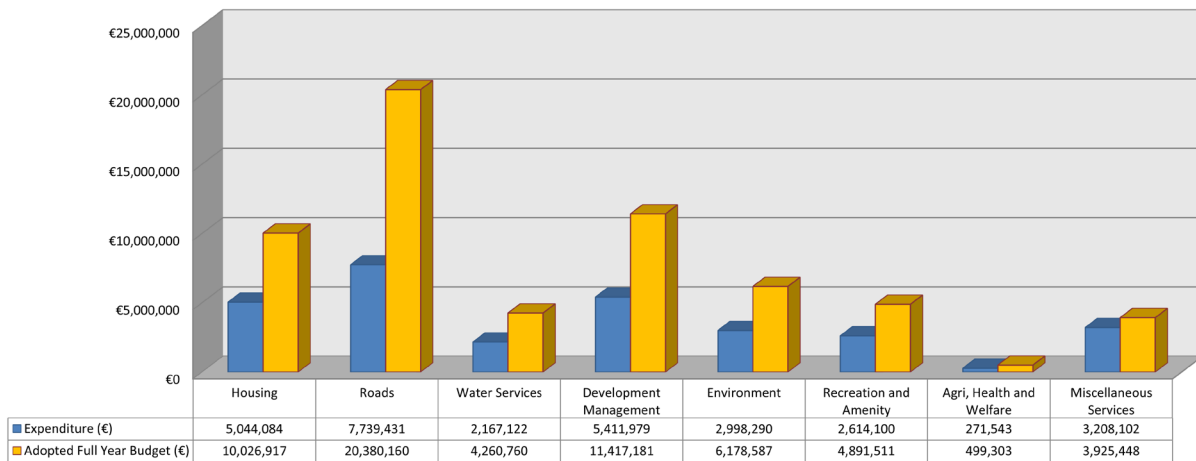
Where COVID-19-related expenditure has been incurred, corresponding Deferred Income from Central Government has been accounted for.

*The amount of commercial rates waived under the 2022 three-month waiver scheme for Q1, 2022 was €465,872.

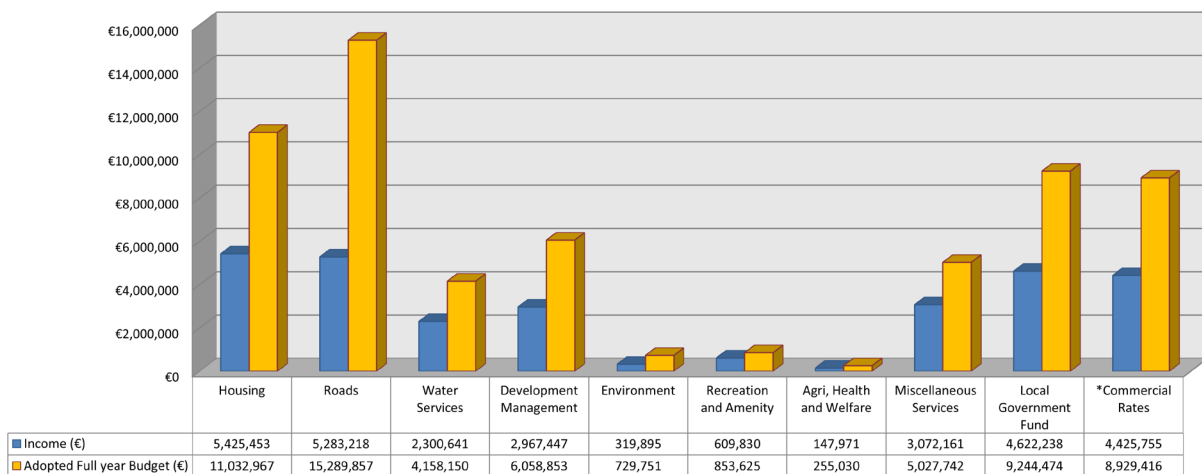
Finance & IT

Finance (Contd)

Expenditure v Budget Quarter 2, 2022



Income v Budget Quarter 2, 2022



Finance & IT

Finance (Contd)

Summary of Major Revenue Collections Quarter 2, 2022

	Opening Arrears	Billed	To be Collected	Collected	Closing Arrears	Collected
Quarter 2, 2022	€	€	€	€	€	%
*Rates	€966,941	€8,851,510	€9,267,072	€4,536,850	€4,730,222	49%
Rents (inc. RAS)	€800,153	€3,693,715	€4,483,135	€3,615,388	€867,747	81%
Housing Loans	€457,955	€488,534	€946,488	€535,519	€410,969	57%

	Opening Arrears	Billed	To be Collected	Collected	Closing Arrears	Collected
Quarter 2, 2021	€	€	€	€	€	%
*Rates	€1,124,618	€10,021,112	€9,397,540	€3,337,142	€6,060,398	36%
Rents (inc. RAS)	€839,673	€3,612,656	€4,450,408	€3,506,899	€943,509	79%
Housing Loans	€481,344	€473,512	€954,856	€469,634	€485,222	49%

	Opening Arrears	Billed	To be Collected	Collected	Closing Arrears	Collected
VARIANCE YOY	€	€	€	€	€	%
*Rates	(€157,677)	(€1,169,602)	(€130,468)	€1,199,708	(€1,330,176)	13%
Rents (inc. RAS)	(€39,520)	€81,059	€32,727	€108,489	(€75,762)	2%
Housing Loans	(€23,389)	€15,022	(€8,368)	€65,885	(€74,253)	7%

* COVID-19 commercial rates waivers amounted to €465,872 in Q1 2022.
These have been taken account of in the 'To be Collected' figures above.

Finance & IT

Information Technology

Town WIFI

In July, 1,410 new guest and 1,941 returning guests used the free Town WIFI in Longford, Ballymahon and Drumlish. There was an average usage time of five minutes per user.

Broadband Connection Points

In July, 28 new guests and 288 returning guests used the Broadband Connection Points (BCPs) available in County Longford.

Digital Services

Work has started to support additional Council sections under the Customer Relationship Management system. There has also been continued progress and support of several digital services projects, including:

- eDocument management project
- A housing inspection app
- ePerformance Management Development Scheme (ePMDS) software
- eService Plan project
- Longford Text Alert



Technology Infrastructure

ServiceDesk dealt with 613 enquiries in July. Several new security policies and a new cyber security training plan are being implemented.

There have also been security improvements to Core infrastructure. A financial management system upgrade has started.

Procurement competitions have been completed for end-user IT equipment and peripherals. Data loss prevention rules have also been implemented.

There has been continued progress and support of several infrastructural projects, including:

- Patching of client and server systems
- Hybrid meetings
- Review, updating and implementation of security policies
- Mobile phone administration and support

Geographic Information Systems

New polling districts have been defined and mapped to support the proposed polling scheme amendments.

Data has been collated and supplied to consultants working on various road projects.

Updates have taken place for an internal roads viewer application to reflect the latest data.

There is also continued support for the rollout of Longford Text Alert.

Infrastructure, Housing & Innovation

Social Housing

Social Housing Support Applications

Figures relate to July and August.

- Approved households on Longford County waiting list: 746
- Accepted new social housing applications: 73
- Incomplete applications returned to applicants: 41
- Assessed and reassessed applications as eligible for housing supports: 47
- Assessed and closed ineligible or withdrawn applications: 52

Social Housing Assessments 2022

On 11 August, the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage issued the circular for the Summary of Social Housing Assessments 2022. All assessments must be carried out by 1 November 2022. All households under review will be contacted to update their application for social housing supports, as required.

Housing Adaptation Grant for Older People and People with a Disability

Longford County Council is performing strongly in this area of housing adaption grants for older people and people with a disability.

Up to 31 July, 23 Housing Adaptation Grant for People with a Disability, 33 Mobility Aids Grant and 67 Housing Aid for Older People Grants were paid. Longford County Council also had the highest percentage drawdown of over 80%.

Cross Sector Improvement Initiatives

Social Housing works with Housing Capital, Environment and Community Development to enhance social housing developments in the Longford town area.

A new community house in Ardnacassa is undergoing work. Social Housing and other stakeholders hope to support it to open its doors in the near future.

The Estate Management team continue to work collaboratively on improving the appearance of a number of social housing developments in the Longford Town areas. This work includes various initiatives, such as litter picks, competitions and clean ups.

Infrastructure, Housing & Innovation

Roads

Community Involvement Schemes

Community Involvement Schemes 2022 funding of €273,900 was allocated to the Council from the Department of Transport. Offers have been made to five schemes on a priority basis. Works will start once offers have been accepted and relevant community contributions have been paid.

Road Safety

Longford County Council's Road Safety team presented to 115 pupils from seven County Longford national schools. This was part of a road and bike safety poster competition during Bike Week.

National road schemes

The N63 Lanesborough Overlay Scheme is complete. The N63 Aghnaskea (Killashee) Overlay Scheme has been tendered, with construction due to start.

The N4 Garryandrew Overlay Scheme has been tendered. Construction is due to start, with a six-week construction period. Under Active Travel works, the provision of a footpath on the N63 Killashee Street is almost complete.

Municipal District works.

Road maintenance works continued in each municipal district. Restoration improvement and maintenance works on regional and local roads are near completion. Works will start on Local Improvement Schemes and Low Cost Safety Schemes shortly.

Water Services

Capital Network Schemes

The 2023 priority list for network watermain rehabilitation schemes, as well as backyard and lead service replacement schemes has been completed and submitted to Irish Water. These schemes aim to maintain and improve County Longford's water network.

Water Services also continue to liaise with Irish Water to progress the capital network rehabilitation schemes, including:

- Project to replace 2.5K of problematic watermain between Lanesborough and Carrowroe Reservoir is now complete and commissioned.
- Carrowmore Reservoir will shortly be taken offline for routine internal cleaning and planned leakage inspection and repairs
- Ballywillan to Creevy, Granard replacement of problematic watermain is now complete.

Find & Fix Programme

Longford County Council Find & Fix team are operating in the Newtownforbes, Granard and Bunlahy district metered areas (DMAs) and achieved significant water leakage savings in July and August.

As part of the leakage reduction programme, the Find & Fix team installed network improvement infrastructure. This includes additional bulk water meters, flow loggers and sluice valves to aid water conservation.

Infrastructure, Housing & Innovation

Environment

Dog fouling campaign launched

A new dog fouling campaign was launched in July by Longford County Council Cathaoirleach Cllr Turlough McGovern. The regional campaign features the Scally the dog in videos highlighting the consequences of not picking up after your dog.



This campaign is part of continued efforts by Environment to look for innovative ways to help combat the issue of dog fouling.

Gum Litter Taskforce visit Longford

The Gum Litter Taskforce visited Longford in July, with a new gum litter education campaign launched urging people to 'Bin It!'.



River Camlin Clean Up

Longford County Council worked with Longford Tidy Towns to help clean up the River Camlin before National Tidy Towns 2022 judging began. The Mid Longford Municipal District and County Longford Scuba Divers also took part in the clean-up. Shopping trolleys, bikes and prams were all taken from the River Camlin.

Veterinary

Welfare of Animal Training

County Veterinary Officer and the veterinary team held a training day in Edgeworthstown. Fifteen participants from the Midlands took part, achieving a Certificate of Competence Training.



Training participants will be issued with the European Union (EU) certification required under EU Regulation 1099/2009 for the welfare of animals and poultry in slaughterhouses.

Infrastructure, Housing & Innovation

Fire Services

Operations

Total callouts of 55 in July and 36 in August.

Health and Safety

No injuries or near misses to report.

Training

Rope line rescue training was completed in two fire stations. One person completed breathing apparatus training.

Fire Prevention

Five fire safety certificates have been processed. There were four court licence applications and two dangerous substances licence applications. There was also one inspection carried out during a performance at a festival.

Equipment

Tender documents have been prepared for fire tunics. An annual service of fleet and equipment is complete. A new road traffic collision van is operational in Lanesborough.



Civil Defence

Duties & Taskings

Civil Defence provided medical cover events, including the following:

- Four Longford Town Football Club matches
- Farrell Clan civic reception
- Longford Vintage Show
- Community games rounders finals
- Aquathon opening in Abbeysrule
- Old School New School car show
- Community games Leinster finals
- Cruthú Arts Festival



Training and Operations

- Three emergency first responders completed recertification training
- One student qualified as a pre-hospital emergency care council registered emergency medical technician
- One volunteer successfully completed a people moving instructor course
- Cardiac first responder training was provided to Longford County Council employees
- Communications unit was re-sprayed and equipment purchased for its internal fit out
- Statutory inspections of equipment took place

Planning & Project Delivery

Regeneration

Longford Connected

The Longford Connected project is underway, with construction works nearing completion at Market Square. Works are due to start at the Longford Shopping Centre and Grafton Court shortly.



These works will improve connectivity and accessibility between established focal points in the town centre. A dedicated email address (publicrealm2022@longfordcoco.ie) has been set up to address queries, such as works programme, and traffic and pedestrian arrangements.

UrbSecurity

Longford's URBACT local group have submitted their UrbSecurity Integrated Action Plan to their European partners for final approval. The plan contains actions for to enhance security in Longford Town.

The plan has also been submitted to the Longford Local Community Safety Plan for incorporation into their initiatives.

Additionally, Garvey's Yard was the focus of a small scale action as part of this project. For this, a sculpture was installed to make the area more inviting to pedestrians.

Edgeworthstown Town and Village Project

An outdoor covered public space in Edgeworthstown has been delivered. This project included installation of foundations, stone seating, and the fitting of an awning.

This covered space will accommodate the hosting of events within the town. Greatly enhancing the town's facilities, the project is aligned to the Integrated Action Plan 2019 for the development of a theatre and performance space.

Funding

Longford County Council has recently been allocated funding under three different schemes.

Under the Connected Hubs, €120,000 was allocated for improving facilities at four working hubs throughout Longford. These hubs are Abbeyshrule Air and Space Association Committee, the Latin School Community Centre in Moyne, Ardagh Remote Working Hub, and Moydow Community Centre.

Under the Town and Village Renewal Building Acquisition Measure, €165,000 was allocated. This will be used for the purchase of buildings for use as multi-purpose community spaces, with Edgeworthstown and Keenagh set to benefit.

Under the Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Schemes, €89,000 was awarded for three projects:

- Phase Two of the reinstatement of the 'Bog Line' to provide a walking trail for the local community at Purth
- Shelters along exposed sections of trails in Drumlish, Cloonbearla, Danes Hill, Corlea and Newcastle
- Viewing bay along Smear Hill in Aughnacliffe

Planning & Project Delivery

Planning

County Development Plan

Longford County Development Plan 2021-2027 policies and strategies are currently being implemented. Design and print consultants for the printing of the final plan are engaged.

Longford Town Plan and Longford Town Local Transport Plan

Tender competitions have been completed for various assessment for both the Longford Town Plan and the Longford Town Local Transport Plan. Assessments include strategic environmental assessment, appropriate assessment and strategic flood risk assessment.

Work is progressing on the production of the Longford Town Transport Study in advance of the production of the Longford Town Plan. An issues paper on the Longford Town Plan is being prepared for public consultation purposes.

Active Travel

Planning continue to provide support and guidance on Active Travel, including Mall Park Bridge eastern access, dog track and Church Street proposals. Part 8 planning applications are being prepared for public consultation.

Regeneration projects

Planning continuing to provide support and guidance for regeneration projects. Design work has been undertaken on the preparation of a regeneration

drawing for the dog track. This will be presented to the Municipal District Elected Members in September.

Compulsory Purchase Orders

Work is underway on the review of several Compulsory Purchase Orders (CPOs) Planning reports concerning the acquisition of semi-derelict properties.

Planning is providing administrative backup relating to the CPO process. This involves collaboration with the Council's Housing and Regeneration sections, as well as legal representatives.

Mid Shannon Wilderness Park

Planning Enforcement section is working with external bodies on the designation of the Mid Shannon Wilderness Park as an UNESCO site.

Residential Zoned Land Tax

The Planning Section is working on a statutorily-required map for the Revenue Commissioners under Residential Zoned Land Tax legislation.

Planning & Project Delivery

Housing Capital

Repair and Leasing Scheme

Local authorities have been advised of a pilot expansion to the Repair and Leasing Scheme. This will remove the requirement that property owners must be unable to fund or access funding to bring vacant properties into compliance with the Housing (Standards for Rented Houses) Regulations 2019. It applies to:

- vacant commercial properties
- vacant units associated with a commercial property
- vacant former institutional buildings
- unfinished developments vacant for a significant period of time

Approval must be granted by the local authority or Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, where appropriate, by 31 December.

Croí Cónaithe (Towns) Fund

The Croí Cónaithe (Towns) Fund of €50 million will support people to live in towns and villages by refurbishing vacant properties, for occupation of the homeowner. Properties should be:

- Within a town or village boundary
- Walkable distance to town or village centre
- Must be vacant for two years or more and built before 1993

A grant up to €30,000 is available. An additional top-up grant up to €20,000 may be available in some cases. Full details and terms and conditions on Longfordcoco.ie.

The fund will be managed by local authorities on behalf of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH).

Housing Capital Programme

Project	Units	Status
O'Hara's Site, Richmond Street	14	On site, due for completion July 2022.
St Patrick's Court, Ballinamuck	8	On site, due for completion July 2022.
Alderfield, Farnagh	1	On site (23 complete), due for completion July 2022.
Campbell's Drive	2	On site (21 complete) due for completion July 2022.
Cranleymore, Abbeylara	3	Stage 3 approved. Tender drawings being prepared.
St Rita's Park Road	11	Phase 1 for six units to go to Part 8. Phase 2 for six units to follow.
24 Congress Terrace	2	Stage 3 approved. Tender documents in progress.
Woodland Path, Keenagh	4	Combined Stage 2 and 3 submitted to DHLGH.
Radharc na Muileann, Lanesborough	22	Design progressing. Site investigation to take place.
Drynan, Ballymahon	13	Design progressing. Site investigation to take place.
Cnoc na Gréine, Granard	6	Design progressing. To submit Stage 2.
2 Woodview, Newtownforbes	2	Part 8 approved by Longford Municipal District.
2 Legion Terrace	4	To be submitted for single stage approval.
Lettergeeragh, Drumlish	1	Part 8 approval pending.
Colmcille Terrace, Granard	19	Tuath application for Capital Assistance Scheme and Capital Advance Leasing Facility Construction funding approved in July 2022.

Planning & Project Delivery

Climate Action Initiatives

Libraries, Archives and Heritage

Biodiversity, sustainability and climate change were addressed at several events throughout Heritage Week, including events for both children and adults.

Such events included the launch of the Whitworth Aqueduct amenity space in Abbeyshrule. There was also a one-day sustainable gardening class by horticulturalist Aoife Munn. This was hosted by Edgeworthstown District Development Association and Longford Heritage Office. Thirty-one participants from across Ireland attended and the event generated excellent feedback.

Water Heritage Day was also celebrated in Edgeworthstown and at Ballinalee, featuring readings by author John Connell.

Information Technology

Several paperless projects are having a positive impact. This includes the electronic Performance Management and Development System app which is now live. A digital divide project will see less paper used by our outdoor staff.

A digital-first bases for schemes continues to be rolled out. This includes a paperless community grants application system. Increased power saving policies have been applied to all computers.

Roads

Training in Green Public Procurement is ongoing with the Roads section. This will aim to help reduce the Roads section's carbon footprint.

Regeneration

Works has started in Longford Town for an enhanced and accessible pedestrian-prioritised environment. This work aims to promote walking as the primary transport mode within the town centre.

Interconnected initiatives will promote inward investment in the core area in the longer-term. This will be in support of sustainable and compact urban growth that supports public transport development and prioritises walking and cycling.

Actions identified in the UrbSecurity Intergrated Action Plan will enhance the perception of security within Longford Town. This will encourage the use of carparks to the rear of the main streets, thereby promoting more sustainable multi-use car trips.

Fire Services

Fire Services have moved to using recycled paper for printing.

CONNECTED

People • Place • Opportunity

Management Report for July-August 2022 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 July-August 2022 in securing the objectives set out in the Council's Corporate Plan.

Signed: 
Paddy Mahon
Chief Executive





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