



Chief Executive Report June 2023

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June Highlights

New Cathaoirigh Elected as Annual Meetings take place

Cllr Colm Murray is the new Longford County Council Cathaoirleach. Cllr Paul Ross is the Ballymahon Municipal District (MD) Cathaoirleach; Cllr Turlough McGovern is Granard MD Cathaoirleach and Cllr Martin Monaghan is Longford MD Cathaoirleach.



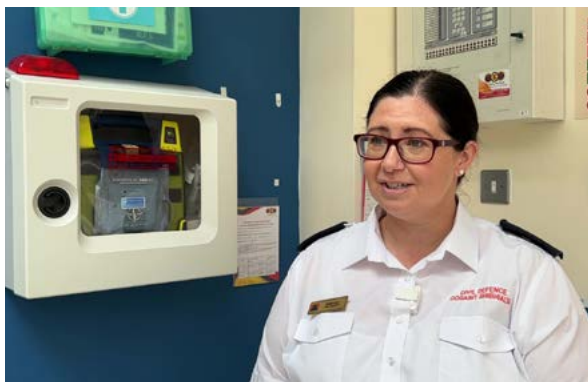
2023 Cathaoirleach Awards Ceremony takes place

Local people and groups were recognised at the 2023 Cathaoirleach Awards ceremony which was held in Aras an Chontae. The event included a live performance from singers of the Six Hearts, One Voice CD.



Local groups and public urged to Register Defibrillator locations

Civil Defence Officer Emma Reid is appealing to the public and to local groups to register defibrillator locations near them on the new online register and help save lives.



Contracts signed for new Longford Skatepark

The signing of the contracts for the Skatepark at Longford Greyhound Track took place. Work is due to start in August with an anticipated finish date in late 2023.



Library, Arts, Heritage and Archives

Age Friendly Longford

Bealtaine Festival

Longford County Council Age Friendly Bealtaine programme was an action-packed schedule of entertainment, creativity, and culture.



Sweet Memories Dementia Choir

From music to local history talks, film screenings, poetry and art expo launches, flower arranging or just a cuppa and a chat, there was something to suit almost all tastes.

Over 350 people attended the wide range of events that took place in Longford Libraries over the last few weeks.

One of the highlights this year focused on a more serious theme. The award-winning Age Friendly Programme 'Putting Your House in Order - Think Ahead' seminar was delivered in three libraries: Granard, Edgeworthstown and Longford.

Presented by the Irish Hospice

Foundation Public Engagement Team, it was delivered in partnership with local solicitors EC Gearty & Co.

Feedback was excellent with full turnouts to the presentations in each location.



Putting Your House in Order - Think Ahead, Granard

Let's Talk Climate Action

Longford Age Friendly Programme recently hosted a Climate Action workshop delivered by Age Friendly Ireland (AFI) and Climate Action Regional Offices (CARO) for older members of our communities in Longford and Westmeath in Ballymahon Library on Monday, 26 June.

The aim of the workshop was to engage people in climate discussion and to better understand the need for climate action at a local level. Topics covered included an introduction to climate science, impacts and solutions, and a focus on energy saving, carbon footprint and home energy upgrades.

Library, Arts, Heritage and Archives

The workshop concluded with a facilitated workshop to discuss and identify possible climate actions at a local level. Gavin Harte from CARO delivered the workshop.

There was also an introductory talk by Longford County Council Climate Action Officer Gary Brady with regard to the development of the local climate action plan.

Lunch was followed by a presentation and a visit to Longford Biosphere at Corlea and Lanesboro. This was led by recently retired Senior Planner Donall Mac An Bheatha, and Kirsty Naughton, both from the Longford County Council Planning Department.

Feedback from the workshop was very positive and it is hoped that it will assist individuals and community groups to improve local environmental innovation and encourage more climate action projects.

Archives and Records Management

GAA Archive

St Mary's GAA Club, Granard, has deposited several digital items to the County Longford GAA Archive. A small quantity of items have come from the shop of the late Michael Sheahan, a photographer in Longford town.

Corporate Records Management

The County Archivist continues to be

involved in the records management project in Corporate Services. There is considerable work planned on record management in the Library, Archives, Arts and Heritage services over the summer months.

Decade of Centenaries Event

A rescheduled ceremony to mark the centenary of the Civil War was held on 14 June in the Remembrance Garden, Great Water St, Longford. It included the presentation of prizes to the winners of the two Decade of Centenaries schools' projects that took place in the spring. This was a well-attended event with a planting of an Irish oak tree and pollinator-friendly plants by the Cathaoirleach and elected members.



Centenary of An Garda Síochána

A book Celebrating the Centenary of An Garda Síochána in Longford was launched in Edgeworthstown Community Library on 21 June. Edited by Jim McDonald and Eamonn Brennan, it was launched by local historian David Leahy. The proceeds of the sales of

Library, Arts, Heritage and Archives



books will be donated to the Hospice, Ireland.

'Requiem for the Big House'

The documentary 'Requiem for the Big House', by Dr Charles Lambert and Ronan Daly, has been selected for screening at the History International Film Festival in Enns, Austria, in August. This film was commissioned as part of the Decade of Centenaries programme in 2022. Best wishes to the team in this competition.

Right to Read Programme

Summer Stars is the public library's national summer reading programme for children that runs from 12 June until the end of August.

All children are invited to join the adventure by enjoying the fun and pleasure of reading and writing over the summer. Summer Stars is non-

competitive and every child who reads even one book/e-book is regarded as having completed the programme – and it's all completely free!

Longford Libraries is actively encouraging children to take part in our Summer Stars programme. Children are encouraged to join the initiative and place their own reading stars on the windows of their local libraries. All children that register for the Summer Stars will be entered into a draw for a book hamper worth over €160. With over 700 children already signed up, Longford Library hopes to reach our target of 1,000 Summer Stars this season.

My Little Library Book Bag

My Little Library Book Bag is a public library programme to help children navigate starting school. The 'My Little Library Book Bag' initiative is a

Library, Arts, Heritage and Archives

collaboration between libraries, the Department of Rural and Community Development, and the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth as part of the 'First 5 Strategy'.

As part of the initiative, a 'My Little Library Book Bag' is available free to every child starting school in 2023 to help them prepare for this big step. Children and their parents or guardians can collect the bags at any library around Longford over the summer. Book bags are available in both Irish and English. Each My Little Library Book Bag contains:

- Three books on starting school, making friends and being comfortable being yourself
- A story card on going to the library
- A postcard the child can write or draw on and send to their new teacher, or bring to give to the teacher on their first day at school
- Their very own library card and special 'My Little Library' cardholder

Longford STEAM Programme

As part of the Longford Library STEAM Programme, Biodiversity Week was celebrated in May with biodiversity workshops and talks aimed at national schools.

These workshops focused on the creation of compostable bird feeders using natural ingredients and compostable plant pots from

newspapers and planted sunflowers.

Rosie Fay, from the STEAM Team, also gave a talk on the importance of supporting the wildlife in your own garden. Longford Climate Action Officer Gary Brady also gave an informative talk in some of the library branches on biodiversity.

All events were well attended with great support from local schools for this programme.

Cruinniú na nÓg

On Saturday, 10 June, Longford Libraries were a hub of activity with 37 free Cruinniú workshops, music classes, slime labs, magicians, storytellers and much more.

There is a huge range of free creative activities that stretches the imaginative muscles of young people in Longford.



Library, Arts, Heritage and Archives

Community partners, Backstage Theatre, Youth Theatre and Knights and Conquest also opened their doors and offered free workshops to children of all ages.

The biggest positive in regard to Cruinniú na nÓg is the wonderful opportunity for the young people to make new friends, connect with their communities, try a new creative activity and even show off a little.

There were also some developmental projects for teens including acting and play development, music video making and film development via workshops which started in April 2023. The teens were able to showcase their projects in various locations around the county.

FAI/Libraries Ireland Activity Book Launch

Graham Kane, the FAI Development Officer, along with three talented players from Longford Town Football Club U-17 ladies' team, paid a visit to Edgeworthstown Library on Thursday, 15 June.

Two fourth classes from St Mary's NS Edgeworthstown were also invited to join them for an action-packed soccer skills session and a Q&A with the players.

This special event marked the launch of the 'FAI Activity Book', a fantastic collaboration with Libraries Ireland, celebrating the Irish women's soccer team who are participating in the 2023 World Cup. The children loved asking

the players questions about training and competing for Longford Town. As a bonus, details were shared about the amazing summer events in Longford Libraries, and everyone left with their very own free activity books. A fantastic morning was had by all!

Healthy Ireland(HI)

An engaging programme of library-based community projects is currently being assembled to be rolled out across Longford Libraries.

To date, Libraries have hosted Breast Cancer Information Sessions, a Nutrition for Kids workshop, walking groups and coffee mornings and they will soon be welcoming the Irish Heart Foundation mobile unit in July to four branches.

The planned 'Healthy Ireland at Your Library' Programme will cover a diverse range of topics including menopause, physical health, mental health and nutrition to name but a few. It is hoped to roll these out in the coming months and large attendances are anticipated. Longford Libraries have partnered with the Healthy Ireland Officer to offer some additional programming, which will be available in September. All six libraries will host HI talks, workshops, sensory play sessions and much more.

Longford Arts Service

St John's Eve – Granard

Friday, 23 June was the eve of the feast day of St John the Baptist. Traditionally a night marked by bonfires, music, and

Library, Arts, Heritage and Archives



Participants of the Creative Places Programme

dancing along the west coast of Ireland. Knights & Conquests Heritage Centre with support from County Longford Arts Services organised the inaugural St John's Eve event at the site of the Motte & Bailey in Granard.

The event comprised of a bonfire on the hill, complemented by two fire drawings, was created especially for the occasion by local artists. It is the intention of the organisers to develop this into a larger annual festival event.

A key objective of Longford Arts Service is to supporting artists and communities like these to further increase arts festival capacity locally.

Grant Awards

Longford Arts Service was successful in applying for several grant awards to support and enhance the delivery of arts services in May/June.

Arts Council Creative Places Research Award €35,000

Longford Arts Services worked with community groups in Edgeworthstown to develop a grant submission that would facilitate research to be carried out on the best approaches to arts development in the area. The Arts Council's Creative Places programme supports investment in places that have had fewer opportunities to take part in the arts. The programme is rooted in socially engaged arts practice and community-development principles and will be a great boost to Edgeworthstown's diverse and growing community.

Arts Council Commission Award €14,000

Longford Arts Service was successful in applying for a commission for visual artist Caroline Conway and local music composer Niamh Ni Mheara. The commission is part of a wider plan to develop youth arts programmes and a

Library, Arts, Heritage and Archives

youth arts festival in the Autumn 2024. The artists have been commissioned to produce a projection artwork onto a prominent building façade in Longford town in November 2023.

Department of Rural and Community Development Community Recognition Fund €72,000

Longford Arts Service applied for funding for a Gigrig under the Community Recognition Fund. This equipment will be operated by Longford County Council and will enhance festival and event infrastructure in the county going forward.

Shared Island application

The Arts Service in partnership with Northwest Carnival has applied for the Creative Ireland Shared Island programme. The project is called 'Seeking Solas' and is an ambitious partnership between Longford Town and Derry/Londonderry, that seeks to activate and engage diverse community stakeholders and artists in a programme of community art skill-sharing and street spectacle.

Seeking Solas will provide opportunities for local citizens and artists to develop skills, make art, and participate in a series of community arts events taking place in Longford, Sligo, and Derry/Londonderry.

The project will build on existing skills, art forms, and events that exist in each community and will be augmented

by skilled inputs from leading national artists and musicians.

Arts Bursary Awards

Longford Arts Service made €21,000 available for artist development bursaries in April and May. The grant process was open to all Longford artists and gave priority to new or emerging artists to help support capacity building within the local arts community. The awards were advertised in February and March. Twenty-four applications were received and eighteen awards were offered.

County Art Collection Tour

For the first time in over two decades, the County Longford Art Collection was toured. Longford Arts Service partnered with the new digital hubs Co:Worx in Edgeworthstown and The Yard Hub in Abbeyshrule. The Arts Service recently invested in 20 art easels, which are now available on request for organisations and groups countywide.



Discover
ART
EXHIBITION

Thursday
04 | 05 | 2023
3.00 pm - 5.00 pm, Co:worx,
Edgeworthstown, Co. Longford, N39AH64

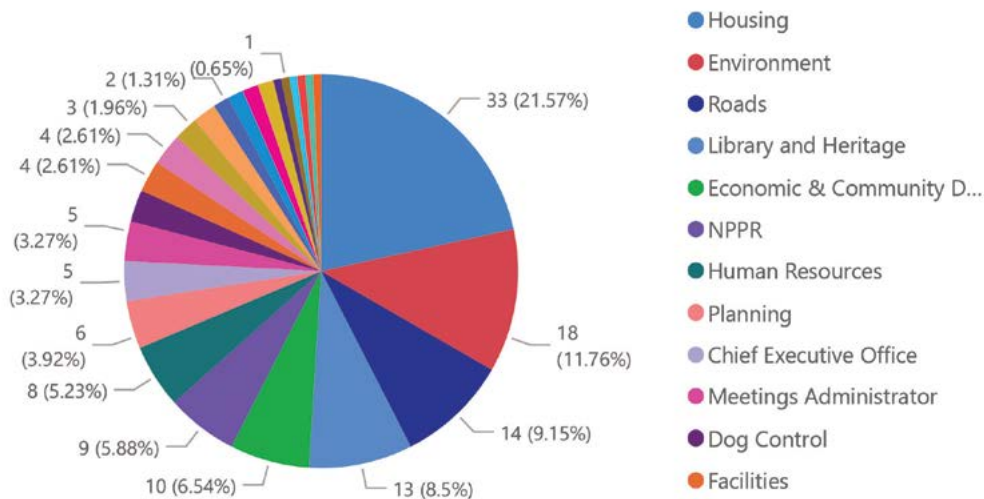


Co:worx
space to go further

Free

Exhibition of select art works from the County Longford arts collection

Corporate Services



Customer Services

The Customer Services Desk responded to 1,669 calls in May and June as well as walk-ins and internal customers.

There were 176 emails to the dedicated customer services email address.

The graph above demonstrates which section the email cases generated over the two months were directed to.

Official Languages Act

Work continues on meeting our obligations under Section 10A of the Official Languages Act (Amendment) 2021.

From May to June 2023, there were 281 advertisements reported as placed in various media, with 107, or 38.1%, of these adverts placed in Irish or bilingually. This surpasses the 20% target for such adverts.

Check the Register

In May and June, 287 applications were processed through checktheregister.ie including both new registrations and updates to existing electors.

Those already registered need to add their date of birth, personal public service number (PPSN) and Eircode to help ensure the accuracy of the Electoral 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.

Encouraging registrations

A number of initiatives were rolled out to encourage members of the public to register and/or update their details, including:

- Presentation to Ard Scoil Padraig in Granard
- Presentation to Moyne Community School

Corporate Services

- Presentation to AkiDwA, Migrant women's group
- Awareness campaign rolled out through the PPN and social media
- New versions of forms and posters delivered to Citizen's Information, Longford Library, Longford Post Office, Longford Garda Station and Granard Post Office

Freedom of Information

Freedom of Information (FOI) and Access to Information on the Environment (AIE) requests, as well as Office of the Ombudsman complaints received are detailed below:

	May	June	YTD
FOI requests	6	3	29
AIE requests	0	1	9
Ombudsman complaints	0	2	3

Data Protection

The Data Protection Officer attended national and regional Data Protection Officer meetings. Presentations were also made to the Management Team and the Senior Officers Group. Also in May and June:

- One data breach closed and two data processing complaints resolved
- One Data Subject Access Request completed and one data protection impact assessment reviewed
- 24 data protection queries received and closed

Health and Safety

Health & Safety Inspections

Twelve safety inspections were completed by Health and Safety and management.

Internal Audit

Health and Safety Internal Audits were completed in Corporate, IT, HR, Planning, Finance, Housing and a Temporary Traffic Management Audit and Inspection was carried out with the Roads section. An audit schedule is in place for other sections.

Health and Safety Training

Health and Safety briefings were held with Road Design, Active Travel and Housing employees. These were in relation to the section risk assessments and relevant Standard Operating Procedures.

Workers Memorial Day

Workers Memorial Day is a day to remember those who have died or been seriously injured in workplace accidents. The Health and Safety Section took this opportunity to hold a Risk Assessment briefing session with some office-based sections to highlight hazards of the workplace. Toolbox talks were also held with the Roads outdoor employees on the introduction of Standard Drawings for surface dressing projects and road closures on local roads.

Corporate Services

Elected Members Supports & Meetings Administration

Meetings held in May/June 2023

3 May	Longford Municipal District (MD)	Hybrid
9 May	Corporate Policy Group	Hybrid
10 May	Longford County Council	Hybrid
23 May	Granard MD & In Committee Meetings	In-person only
24 May	Longford MD & In Committee Meetings	Hybrid
25 May	Ballymahon MD & In Committee Meetings	In-person only
13 June	Corporate Policy Group	Hybrid
14 June	Longford County Council	Hybrid
22 June	Ballymahon Municipal District Annual Meeting	In-person only
27 June	Granard Municipal District Annual Meeting	In-person only
28 June	Longford Municipal District Annual Meeting	Hybrid
29 June	Longford County Council Annual Meeting	Hybrid



Longford County Council AGM 2023



Ballymahon Municipal District AGM 2023



Granard Municipal District AGM 2023



Longford Municipal District AGM 2023

Corporate Services

Highlights included:

- ALLG Module 3 training for elected members
- Adoption of Roadside Memorial Policy
- Adoption of Local Road Safety Plan 2022-2024
- Hosted regional launch of the National Women's Council Family Friendly Toolkit Launch on 29 May 2023
- Celebrated the 2023 Cathaoirleach Awards with a Civic Reception in Aras an Chontae on 9 June 2023
- Ballymahon MD Annual Meeting took place on 22 June 2023
- Granard MD Annual Meeting took place on 27 June 2023
- Longford MD Annual Meeting took place on 28 June 2023
- Longford County Council Annual Meeting took place on 29 June 2023

Communications

Media queries responded to: 12

Publicity campaigns/statements: 12

Key work items included promotion and support of:

- Establishment of County Register of Defibrillators via a new online form with support from Civil Defence
- Cathaoirleach Awards 2023
- Longford Skatepark Contract Signing
- Opening of Granard Greenway

- Contract signing for Colmcille Terrace, Granard
- Commemoration of centenary of ending of Civil War

Digital Communications

	Facebook	Twitter	Instagram
Posts	117	45	50
Stories	12		58
Reach / Impressions	50.9K	18.8K	5.3K
New Followers	78	33	92

*Reach: The number of people who had your page's post enter their screen. Used for Facebook and Instagram.

**Impressions: The number of times your page's post entered a person's screen. Used for Twitter.

Across social media, posts reached people just over 40,000 times. This includes #YourCouncil Day which was held on 23 June. Your Council Day posts were mainly videos, putting into practice recent smartphone video training, which included storyboarding, shooting and editing video.

Longfordcoco.ie

A new form is now live on LongfordCoCo.ie for the registration of defibrillator locations. This was supported by a video on social media video featuring the Longford Civil Defence Officer urging people to register their local defibrillator.

A newly designed monthly events guide and supporting social media videos will be launched by Longford Tourism from August. This piece of work came from the Communications Working Group.

Local Enterprise Office

National success for Longford student at Student Enterprise Awards

Caitlin Morris, a student from Moyne Community School, has created history by winning first prize in the Intermediate Category at this year's Student Enterprise Programme National Finals.

The awards took place in Croke Park on Friday, 5 May, and this is the first year that Longford has had a main category winner at national level.



Financial support to Longford businesses

A total of €117,669 was awarded between six businesses in County Longford who are in the process of starting and/or expanding their business and increasing employment opportunities.

LEO wins at Africa Day 2023

The team at Longford LEO was delighted to be presented with the 'African Allies' Award at the 2023 Africa Day event. The day is an annual event

that is organized by the Longford Africans Network which was held on Saturday, 27 May 2023 at Longford Slashers GAA Club.



The award was presented in recognition of the continued dedicated support of Longford Local Enterprise Office in promoting equity and inclusion of Africans in Longford.

Export Programme

The Local Enterprise Office (LEO), Longford has partnered with Full Circle Management Solutions to deliver a capability building programme to LEO client businesses, designed to challenge and support small businesses in scaling their export potential.

Made up of a series of workshops and one-to-one mentoring sessions, the programme will culminate with each participating business being set up with two potential buyer meetings in their relevant export market.

Ten participating businesses from county Longford are taking part in the programme which runs until October 2023.

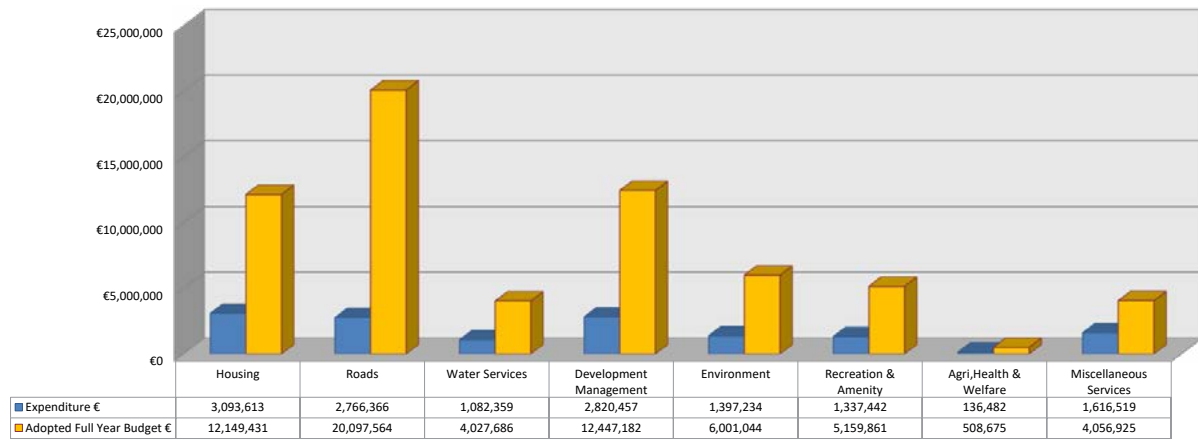
Finance

Revenue and Account Income and Expenditure Summary by Service Division Year to date to quarter end 31 March 2023

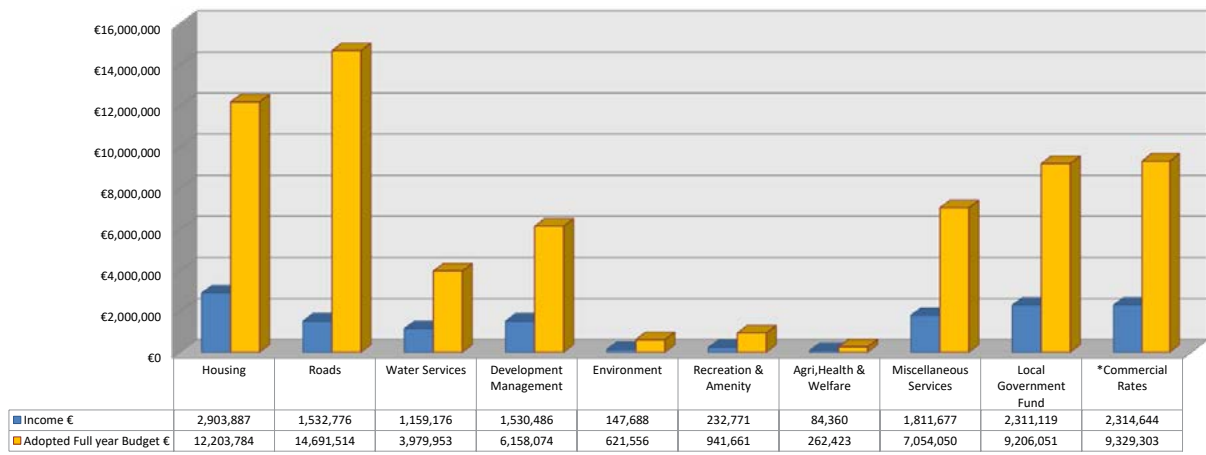
	EXPENDITURE				INCOME				NET
	Expenditure €	Adopted Full Year Budget €	% Budget Spent to date	Budget Remaining €	Income €	Adopted Full year Budget €	% Budget Raised	Budget outstanding €	Actual Overall Surplus/ (Deficit) €
Housing	3,093,613	12,149,431	25%	9,055,818	2,903,887	12,203,784	24%	9,299,897	(189,726)
Roads	2,766,366	20,097,564	14%	17,331,198	1,532,776	14,691,514	10%	13,158,738	(1,233,590)
Water Services	1,082,359	4,027,686	27%	2,945,327	1,159,176	3,979,953	29%	2,820,777	76,817
Development Management	2,820,457	12,447,182	23%	9,626,725	1,530,486	6,158,074	25%	4,627,588	(1,289,971)
Environment	1,397,234	6,001,044	23%	4,603,810	147,688	621,556	24%	473,868	(1,249,546)
Recreation & Amenity	1,337,442	5,159,861	26%	3,822,419	232,771	941,661	25%	708,890	(1,104,671)
Agri, Health & Welfare	136,482	508,675	27%	372,193	84,360	262,423	32%	178,063	(52,122)
Miscellaneous Services	1,616,519	4,056,925	40%	2,440,406	1,811,677	7,054,050	26%	5,242,373	195,158
Local Government Fund					2,311,119	9,206,051	25%	6,894,932	2,311,119
*Commercial Rates					2,314,644	9,329,303	25%	7,014,659	2,314,644
	€14,250,472	€64,448,368	22%	€50,197,896	€14,028,584	€64,448,369	22%	€50,419,785	(€221,888)

Finance

Expenditure versus Budget - Quarter 1, 2023



Income versus Budget - Quarter 1, 2023



Finance

Summary of Major Revenue Collections - Quarter 1, 2023

	Opening Arrears	Billed	To be Collected	Collected	Closing Arrears	Collected
Quarter 1, 2023	€	€	€	€	€	%
*Rates	€859,492	€9,258,578	€10,118,520	€465,809	€9,652,711	5%
Rents (inc. RAS)	€882,623	€1,864,815	€2,741,773	€2,154,457	€587,316	79%
Housing Loans	€346,022	€276,318	€622,340	€300,435	€321,905	48%

	Opening Arrears	Billed	To be Collected	Collected	Closing Arrears	Collected
Quarter 1, 2022	€	€	€	€	€	%
*Rates	€966,941	€8,896,524	€9,334,230	€2,290,362	€7,043,868	25%
Rents (inc. RAS)	€800,153	€1,838,963	€2,639,012	€1,788,238	€850,774	68%
Housing Loans	€457,955	€230,107	€688,062	€269,704	€418,358	39%

	Opening Arrears	Billed	To be Collected	Collected	Closing Arrears	Collected
VARIANCE YOY	€	€	€	€	€	%
*Rates	(€107,449)	€362,054	€784,290	(€1,824,553)	€2,608,843	-20%
Rents (inc. RAS)	€82,470	€25,852	€102,761	€366,219	(€263,458)	11%
Housing Loans	(€111,933)	€46,211	(€65,722)	€30,731	(€96,453)	9%

Water

Leakage Reduction Programme for 2023

The proposed leakage target for Longford in 2023 is a leakage reduction of 0.35 MLD. This will now be based on a 12-month rolling average period from 2023 onwards.

A budget of approximately €6.6 million has been allocated to assist in achieving the leakage target in Longford, in addition to improving the overall below ground assets.

In relation to mains replacement, approximately 18.2 kilometres (km) is due to progress to construction in 2023. Of this, 9.7km is design only.

Progress against the national and local authority level leakage targets will be provided on a quarterly basis. It will be provided via the National Leakage Report issued by the Uisce Éireann National Leakage Team.

There will be ongoing meetings to discuss progress and identify areas for improvement between each Local Authority Water Services, Uisce Éireann and the Leakage Reduction Programme Regional Contractor.

The following projects have been approved to design and construction for 2023.

- Polladooey-Smear Water Treatment Plant (WTP) (800m)
- Cornadrung-Smear WTP (1,450m)
- Drumnacross Old Group Water Scheme (GWS) (Glannagh District

Metered Area) (2,700m - 2022 carry over project)

- Bracklon - Edgeworthstown (2,255m)
- Moatfield Outlet (100m)
- Moatfield to Granardkill (300m)
- Ballymahon Trunk Mains (9,300m design only)
- Goldsmith Terrace Ballymahon (140m)
- Colmcille Terrace, Granard (320m)
- Dublin Street, Granard (415m)
- Viewmount (420m design only)

Further needs will be assessed in an ongoing manner.

Water Mains Rehabilitation

As part of its commitment to upgrade and improve water supplies across the county, Uisce Éireann in partnership with Longford County Council are progressing a specific project to replace almost 3 kilometers of water mains at Bracklon, Edgeworthstown.



Watermain replacement works at Bracklon, Edgeworthstown

Fire Services

Health and Safety

One near miss reported to Health and Safety, with no injuries to report.

Training

Three recruits completed initial Firefighter Skills training in Bunclody in May.

All drills and training have been postponed since 6 June due to industrial action taken by firefighters nationwide. This included:

- Three days of Compartment Fire Behaviour training due to take place in June
- Senior Officers Fire Engineering seminars in Limerick

Operations

Total callouts: 36 in May and 43 in June.

All stations remained fully operational throughout May.

Due to industrial action, Senior Officers were required to carry out the role of Command Support by providing all radio messages to the regional control centre in Dublin.

In week one of the industrial action in June, all stations remained fully operational, however week two involved rolling non-availability of fire crews in two stations per day.

Industrial action is ongoing, resulting in Firefighters non-attendance at drills or training.

Major Emergency Management

A regional working group meeting took place, which reviewed the training programme for the second half of the year.

Fire Prevention

- Six fire safety certificates were processed
- One section 24 licencing application was processed.
- Two dangerous substance licence applications were processed
- A total of 28 commencement notices

Recruitment

No recruitment drive is in place at present due to industrial action. Longford County Council have a number of vacancies within the Fire Service and are accepting applications of interest.

Equipment

A new road traffic collision jeep for Longford has arrived. A tender process will now begin to fit out the vehicle for fire service use.

All firefighter helmets have been serviced by qualified personnel.

Climate Action

As part of "no mow May" Longford Fire Service have left all green areas uncut.

Regeneration



Granard Greenway was officially opened by 2022/23 Cathaoirleach Cllr Turlough McGovern

Official opening of Granard Greenway on North Longford Rebel Trail takes place

The Granard Greenway on the North Longford Rebel Trail, was officially opened by Longford County Council Cathaoirleach Turlough McGovern on Wednesday, 28 June 2023.

The project included the construction of a 2.1 kilometer long greenway in the hinterlands of Granard town, helping to link schools and sporting facilities.

It links the R194 to the north of Granard with the Higginstown Sports Ground to the south of the town.

The project incorporates a bridge over a stream and fencing to include a loop through the forestry to accommodate both pedestrians and cyclists.

Funding for the project was provided under the Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS) 2021 Measure 2.

Blessing of Derrycassin Woods Enhancement Project

The Derrycassin Woods Enhancement project was also formally blessed on 28 June 2023.

This project upgraded approximately 6.5 kilometers of the surface of the pathway which had become degraded in parts

The new finish ensures comfort and accessibility for users of the forest, as well as increasing safety by providing fencing at a number of exposed locations.

Funding for the project was provided under the Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme 2021 Measure 2.



Regeneration

Pobal le Chéile

On 9 December 2022 contracts were signed with Kenny Lyons & Associates Architects (KLA) for the Ballymahon Pobal le Chéile project.

This community hub project will become home to many local services in the heart of the town, bringing several vacant buildings in Ballymahon back into active use.

The key locations of these buildings will allow a clustering of service providers and increase accessibility to social services for the community.

It will also enhance connectivity and the visual presentation of the area.

Works will include the transformation of the original convent building to accommodate Bridgeways Family Resource Centre (FRC), as well as the Convent Day Care Centre.

The Dean Egan Library will be the new home of a youth club.

The Old Schoolhouse (The Den) will be renovated for remote working and will accommodate the Ballymahon Men's Shed. The works will also present the area as a distinct quarter of the town.

This project is funded under the Rural Regeneration and Development Fund (RRDF) through the Department of Rural and Community Development and Longford County Council.

Schedules of Accommodation in respect of the three buildings have been submitted by the various stakeholder

groups and are currently under review by KLA and Longford County Council. It is hoped that the project will go to planning before the end of the year.

Active Travel

Local Transport Plan (LTP)

A draft Local Transport Plan has been prepared and consultants are currently updating the corresponding Environmental Report.

A four week public consultation period will commence on completion of this report.

Pathfinder Programme Schemes

R198 Battery Road Pedestrian and Cycle Scheme

Assessment of tender applications has been completed and Longford County Council is awaiting approval from the National Transport Authority to proceed with appointing the recommended contractor. It is anticipated that construction will commence in August 2023.

This project will tie in with the now complete 'light segregation' cycleway in place on either side of Battery Road Lower.

This rapid build scheme is being assessed for suitability to extend the permanent cycling infrastructure of the upper Battery Road scheme further into Longford Town.

Regeneration

Aghafad Pedestrian and Cycle Scheme

Currently within Part 8 planning submission period until 4 July 2023, a decision at the meeting of Longford County Council is due in mid-July.

The scheme seeks to improve the footpath and cycleway provision to and from the Royal Canal Greenway at Longford Slashers GAA grounds and westwards along the L1127.

N63 Ballinalee Road Pedestrian and Cycle Scheme

Assessment of tender applications has been completed and Longford County Council requires approval from the National Transport Authority to proceed with appointing a contractor upon completion of required reports. It's anticipated construction should get underway by August 2023.

Low cost permeability measure at Fee Court

Construction works are due to be completed in early July, delivering a shortcut link to the Mall Walk to the rear of St John's Church and aligning with the Green Bridge across the River Camlin.

Ennybegs shared path to St Teresa's National School

Works are ongoing to include construction of a boundary wall and subsequent pathway build-up and

kerbing.

Periphery fencing has been erected, overhead lines have been undergrounded and appropriate drainage and culvert works have been completed.

Other Pedestrian and Cycle Schemes

Several pedestrian and cycle schemes are at preliminary design stages and will require National Transport Authority approval.

These project locations include the R393 Ballymahon, R194 (Longford Road) Granard and Barrack Lane, Granard.

Planning

Planning Applications

There are currently a number of large planning applications being considered by the Planning Section.

A large application for the construction of a Gas Insulated Switchgear (GIS) at the Lanesboro Power plant site has been submitted.

The development contribution waiver scheme will be implemented, pending direction from the Department.

ePlanning has been fully implemented and significantly reducing paper waste within the section.

County Development Plan

Longford County Development Plan 2021-2027 policies and strategies are being implemented. The Planning Department is about to commence the two year review of the County Development Plan.

Longford Town Local Area Plan

Work is now progressing on the production of the Longford Town Local Area Plan. It is in an advanced stage of production.

Longford Town Local Transport Plan

Consultants with responsibility for the Longford Transport Plan and the associated assessments (including Strategic Environmental, Appropriate and Strategic Flood Risk assessments)

have provided a draft document which will soon be made available to the public.

Lough Ree Biosphere Reserve

Consultants have been appointed to prepare the application to UNESCO for Biosphere Reserve status for Lough Ree. A public consultation process is due to begin in the near future.

Compulsory Purchase Orders

A number of properties have already been identified for potential CPO in 2023.

The planning section is also moving forward in providing the administrative backup and liaising with the Housing Agency in relation to the CPO process.

This involves significant collaboration with both the Housing section of Longford County Council, the Regeneration Team and also legal representatives.

Residential Zoned Land Tax

Under the RZLT legislation, submissions were invited and reviewed regarding any changes required from the draft map initially published. No additional land was identified, so no supplemental map is required to be published.

A final map will be published on 1 December, 2023.

CONNECTED

People • Place • Opportunity

Management Report for June 2023 prepared in accordance with Sec 136 (2) of the Local Government Act 2001, as inserted by Section 51 the Local Government Reform Act 2014. The report outlines key aspects of our service delivery and performance in June 2023 in securing the objectives set out in the Council's Corporate Plan.

Signed: 
Paddy Mahon
Chief Executive

