



# Chief Executive Report June 2025

Longford County Council

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# June Highlights

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## **Cllr Garry Murtagh elected as new Cathaoirleach of Longford County Council**

The new Cathaoirleach of Longford County Council, Cllr Garry Murtagh has vowed to work tirelessly for the betterment of County Longford and bring his valuable experience of community work to his new role. The Fine Gael man was elected to the role of Cathaoirleach at the council AGM which took place on Friday, 20 June. He replaces Cllr Mark Casey who held the role of Cathaoirleach for the past year. Cllr Niall Gannon was elected Leas Cathaoirleach of Longford County Council for the year ahead.

Cllr Murtagh was joined in the council chamber by a large gathering of friends, family and supporters from North Longford and he noted that it was “a great day of celebration” which he would always remember.

The new Fine Gael Cathaoirleach noted a number of top priorities for the year saying, “It is a huge honour for me to be elected as the new Cathaoirleach of Longford County Council. I will work tirelessly to ensure that a number of projects are delivered during my tenure including turning the sod on the new IDA development for County Longford, the Thrive application for the Connolly Barracks and the development of The Mall as well as the development of active travel projects in North Longford and Ballymahon.” Cllr Murtagh praised the outgoing Cathaoirleach Cllr Mark Casey for this stewardship and leadership over the past year.

Outgoing Cathaoirleach Cllr Mark Casey was praised for his strong work ethic over the past year and described as having represented County Longford with great pride and distinction at a local, national and international level. Cllr Casey thanked his fellow county councillors, council executive and staff for their assistance over the past year. Cllr Peggy Nolan was also commended for her great pride and love of County Longford and for bringing her wisdom and experience to the role of Leas Cathaoirleach over the past year.





## June Highlights

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### New Cathaoirleach for Ballymahon Municipal District

At the Annual General Meeting of Ballymahon Municipal District Cllr Martin Skelly was elected as the new Cathaoirleach, taking over from Cllr Pat O'Toole.

Cllr Sean Mimmagh was also elected as Leas Cathaoirleach for the coming year.





# June Highlights

## New Cathaoirleach for Granard Municipal District

At the Annual General Meeting of Granard Municipal District, Cllr Turlough McGovern was elected as the new Cathaoirleach, Cllr Garry Murtagh. Cllr Padraig McNamara was also elected as Leas Cathaoirleach for the coming year.



## New Cathaoirleach for Longford Municipal District

The Annual General Meeting of Longford Municipal District Cllr Uruemu Adejinmi was elected to the role of Cathaoirleach. She replaces Cllr Seamus Butler who held the role of Cathaoirleach for the past year.

Cllr Kevin Hussey was elected Leas Cathaoirleach of Longford Municipal District for the year ahead.



# June Highlights

## Minister Sean Canney opens Longford's groundbreaking €3.5m Battery Road Pedestrian and Cycle Scheme

Minister of State at the Department of Transport, Sean Canney officially opened Longford's transformative Battery Road Pedestrian and Cycle Scheme in June marking the completion of the third phase in the county's ambitious Pathfinder project.

The €3.5 million scheme delivers 1.3km of dedicated cycling infrastructure along the R198 Battery Road, featuring Ireland's first coloured cast-in-situ separator kerb and comprehensive traffic calming measures. The project connects Longford Town centre to the N4 Axis Centre via a 700-metre stretch from McDonald's Roundabout to St Alban's entrance. The Pathfinder Programme is focused on reducing carbon emissions in the transport sector, by enabling the shift to cleaner transport choices.

Minister Canney praised the council's leadership in active travel provision during the opening ceremony, which involved local school pupils saying, "Through this project, Longford County Council is demonstrating what can be achieved when there is ambition and a determination to deliver. Capturing the true spirit of the Pathfinder Programme, this project showcases how a network of safe cycle routes can provide people with a feasible and healthy transport alternative, especially for short journeys."





# June Highlights

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# Regeneration

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## Storm Eowyn Repairs

The repairs to the Centre Parcs perimeter walk have been successfully completed. This extensive restoration marks the conclusion of repair efforts following Storm Eowyn.



## Community Recognition Fund

The upgrade works for the Mc Eoin Park recreational area have commenced.

## Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme 2023

Work is due to commence at Granard Lights, and Legga car park.

## Town and Village Renewal Scheme 2023

The official opening of the Sensory Playground in Longford Town, located at the site of the former dog track, is scheduled for July 17 at 7.30pm. The event will be inaugurated by Dara Calleary, T.D., Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht.



# Town Centre First

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## Thrive

Under Thrive funding €199,020 was received for the preparation of Part 8 planning drawings, detailed design, and business case for the redevelopment of Connolly Barracks. The Part 8 application was approved in March, 2025. Work is ongoing in relation to an application for Strand 2 which is expected to be announced at the end of the summer.



## Town Centre First Plan – Granard

Following on from the Town Centre Health check carried out by Queen's University, Belfast under Measure 1, a facilitator has been commissioned to provide facilitation services for the establishment of Granard Town Team, followed up with a Granard Town Team Outcomes Report. The establishment of a Town Team is imperative to inform and contribute to the development and enhancement of Granard as an attractive place to live, work, visit and invest in.



## Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) and Derelict Sites

The Town Centre First Department are actively executing the CPO Activation Programme, launched in early January 2023, to swiftly identify and activate vacant and derelict properties across the county. Additionally, proactive measures are being taken to update the Derelict Sites Register (DSR). Notably, this year, the imposition of the Derelict Sites Levy on properties listed as derelict in the register aims to incentivise property owners to address dereliction and take necessary actions. This has resulted in the initiation of one CPO in 2024 and preparation of a number of other properties for CPO in 2025.

## Croí Cónaithe

The Croí Cónaithe grant continues to be administered to support people to redevelop properties and addressing vacancy and dereliction in towns and villages. A total of 210 applications have been received under this grant scheme of which 141 have been approved, 28 paid out to date, ten withdrawn and 21 rejected.

# Tourism

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## EU Just Transition Fund

There were 15 successful applicants to the Just Transition Fund and final evaluations and decisions are awaited on three further applications with the end of June now being signalled for finality on the funding front.

Over 110 new and existing sustainable and regenerative tourism operators took to the waters of lower Lough Ree and the River Shannon recently as part of a very successful inaugural networking event.

It was the first of a series of networking and peer learning events for the counties surrounding Lough Ree and Suck Valley Way through the Fáilte Ireland EU Just Transition Fund Tourism initiative.

Programmed and produced by the four Just Transition Tourism Activators of Longford, Westmeath, Roscommon, and Galway East the 'Collaboration Cruise' afforded those engaged in tourism who are either building their business or re-orientating it to become more sustainable and regenerative and to learn from other operators around the country. The network aims to help operators understand more about collaborative opportunities presented by the newer visitor activities and accommodation offerings coming on stream.

Participants on the cruise heard first hand of the experience of relatively new accommodation providers, network operators and activity providers about the key lessons they learned from working with groups, collaborative marketing, keeping costs down and growing sales.

The short, practical and panel moderated sessions were followed by intensive questions and answers in the Hodson Bay Hotel before boarding one of Lough Ree's most significant hire fleet and an EU Just Transition funded vessel – 'Viking Mike'.

## Visitor Information Signage

The visitor information sign at St Mel's Cathedral in Longford Town has been reinstated with Fáilte Ireland contractors due to replace the information panels in mid-June.

This is an Ireland's Hidden Heartlands bilingual sign that points towards different visitor attractions in the region.

Work is continuing on the upgrading of the Longford Tourism provided visitor information boards in towns and villages throughout the county.

Longford Tourism is also working with the Regeneration Section on the preparation of signage for locations in Longford Town and around the county.

## Festivals and Events

The Fáilte Ireland Regional Festivals and Participative Events fund Round II closed to applications in early June and is being evaluated with organisations to be advised of their funding in the coming weeks.



# Tourism

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## Longford County Tourism Committee

The second meeting of 2025 was held on Friday, 25 May with kind thanks to all who attended in person and online. The meeting was well attended, with positive discussion around resourcing, network development, representation of Longford Tourism operator interests at national level, including continued engagement with the OPW and events planning.

## Longford and Westmeath partnership for Home of Halloween

Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment, Peter Burke, has announced that a partnership between Longford and Westmeath is one of five destinations selected to receive funding under Fáilte Ireland's new Home of Halloween Pilot Destination Development Scheme.

A total of €1.5 million will be invested over the next three years (2025–2028), as part of the 'Ireland, Home of Halloween Strategy' which aims to establish Ireland as the authentic global home of Halloween.

The partnership receives €100,000 for the joint project: 'Samhain: Fire, Folklore & Feasting in Ireland's Hidden Heartlands'. It will be a collaborative initiative, transforming Ireland's Hidden Heartlands into a captivating cultural corridor, utilising the theme of the ancient route of An Esker Riada, from the middle of October ending with Samhain an Uisneach mid-November.

The successful local authorities are: Galway City Council, Longford County Council and Westmeath County Council (joint project), Meath County Council and Louth County Council (joint project), Kerry County Council and Fingal County Council.

The projects are expected to attract 270,000 additional visitors over three years, generating €17 million for local economies, and supporting over 500 direct and indirect jobs.

## Maria Edgeworth Festival



One of the most important festival events of the year in Longford took place in Edgeworthstown from 8-11 May, with a jam-packed line up including events such as 'Fashion in the Lifetime of Maria Edgeworth, A Glimpse into the Georgian Wardrobe.'

The thought provoking and modern treatment of the legacy of Maria across Literature, Education, Science and Women's Independence by the Provost of Trinity College Dr Linda Doyle as the opening keynote; gave many of the capacity attendance food for thought.

# Tourism

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Dr Doyle was very enthusiastic of the work carried out by the centre management and volunteers to date and indicated that Trinity and the centre would strengthen their engagement with the legacy and story of Maria with small practical steps.

Highlights included art workshops & exhibitions, Open Mic, Mostrim Youth Theatre, live music, song and comedy performances, pop up bookshop, storytelling, lace making, writing, culture, ballroom dance and etiquette and poetry workshops, outdoor yoga. Also featured the two-day Mindful Meadow Event including various stands and a yoga tent, the artisan and craft market and the famous 18th century Mostrim tea party, all provided nearly 1,000 event attendees with wonderful memories and moments.



## Goldsmith Literary Festival, Ballymahon/Abbeysrule

The theme of the 41<sup>st</sup> annual Goldsmith Literary Festival asked: 'Where wealth accumulates and men decay, must economic progress mean social inequality?' The third

longest running festival of its type in Ireland, this festival celebrates the literary genius of Oliver Goldsmith and promotes Goldsmith Country as a tourist attraction across a variety of locations in Longford and Westmeath. Hugely well attended, the festival has created a destination in South Longford for an entertaining celebration of literature, culture and debate.

## Gaelforce Great River Swim

Longford Tourism attended and provided support to Gaelforce Powered by Killary and the communities in Ballyleague and Lanesborough for the Gaelforce Great River Swim which had over 700 participants and brought thousands of people into the two villages over the weekend of Friday and Saturday 16 and 17 May.

The event drew elite swimmers from all over the world for the first 12km river swim ever held in Ireland, starting in Tarmonbarry and finishing at the duck pond in Lanesborough. Other distances included 5.8km, 3.5km and 800m.

The support from Ireland's Hidden Heartlands and Fáilte Ireland for the event was also evident on the day, with giant deckchairs and colourful banners delivered to the locality adding a festive vibe to the wonderful weather for the occasion.

Longford Tourism represented County Longford and Visit Roscommon, with support from Ireland's Hidden Heartlands at an information stand throughout the day and also sponsored the operation of

# Tourism

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a shuttle bus to help competitors get back to their cars at St Faithleach's from the finish point in Ballyleague.

Longford Tourism looks forward to supporting Lanesborough as it takes its rightful place as an ideal location for the hosting of elite sports activities and competitions, with work underway to support the Two Provinces Triathlon coming up on 12 July.



## Microsoft Dream Space

Longford Tourism met with hundreds of children at the annual Microsoft Dream Space schools event in Edgeworthstown on Friday, 23 May 2025 passing out information on Longford's playgrounds, walking and cycling trails and local entertainment and events.

## Destination Experience Development Plan

Work is continuing on building the Destination Experience Development Plan for the Mid Shannon and Midlands Region, with Longford Tourism represented on the steering group committee alongside local and regional stakeholders with neighbouring counties.

## Just Transition Strategic Projects

Public consultation is being undertaken over the summer on the feasibility of the Lanesborough Amphitheatre Project with Longford Tourism continuing to support the completion of this work as far as possible.

Significant work is also being carried out by the Regeneration Team on the business case for the Clondra Community Enhancements.

Longford Tourism is also linking in with the Office of Public Works to support the options study for the future development of the Corlea Trackway and Visitor Centre.

All of these projects support the strategic objectives of the County Longford Tourism Strategy 2023-2027.



# Tourism

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## **2027 Year of the Normans**

The Longford Tourism team attended a stakeholders meeting at Dublin Castle in early June on the plans for 2027 'The Year of the Normans' which proposes to celebrate the legacy of the Normans in Ireland upon the millennium of the birth of William the Conqueror.

## **Longford Tourism Website**

Work continues on the redevelopment of the Longford.ie website into a new visitor facing website that will support a positive visitor experience for all coming to spend time in Longford. The website is being funded by the Digital Transformation Strand of the EU Just Transition Scheme as part of Fáilte Ireland's Regenerative Tourism and Placemaking Scheme.

# Night-Time Economy

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## Safe and Sound Campaign

The Safe and Sound campaign continues to promote responsible nightlife and reduce anti-social behaviour across Longford. This ongoing initiative is visible on the two clear channel digital screens in Longford Town and at the Omniplex Cinema. It is also being actively promoted on social media. The campaign aims to create safer environments for both employees and patrons, contributing to a more secure and welcoming night-time economy.

## Cruinniú na nÓg – GlowRush Event

In collaboration with Creative Ireland and a local youth group, the GlowRush event was held on Saturday, 6 June as part of Cruinniú na nÓg. The event saw fantastic engagement from young people, with over 100 attendees at the main celebration. This vibrant and inclusive event highlighted the creativity and energy of Longford's youth and demonstrated the value of youth-led cultural programming in the night-time space.



## Café Lates

The Café Lates initiative took place on Thursday, 29 May, and continued on Thursday 26 June with four local cafés participating. This programme supports cafés in trialling extended evening hours and offering cultural programming after 6pm. The goal is to foster a vibrant, alcohol-free night-time café culture. Funded by Longford County Council and the

# Night-Time Economy

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Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media, Café Lates helps increase footfall, support local businesses, and diversify Longford's night-time offerings.

## W.A.L Fest – New Arts Festival

NTE supported the inaugural W.A.L Fest (Writers, Artist, Longford), which took place on 4–5 May across multiple venues in Longford Town. This new festival celebrated the arts in all forms, including music, poetry, dance, visual art, and performance. Highlights included:

Family-friendly programming on Sunday with book readings, writing workshops, and a fire show in Market Square.

Adult-focused events on Monday, including poetry readings, visual art exhibitions, and a meditation session. The festival was well-attended and showcased both local and national talent, contributing to a lively and inclusive cultural atmosphere.

## Online Safety Training Portal

All nine NTE Advisors are currently co-designing an Online Safety Training Portal for night-time stakeholders, workers, and businesses. This is being developed in partnership with Joe Cox Brown (Night-Time Economy Solutions) and Charlie MacKellar. The portal will offer accessible, practical training to support safety and wellbeing in night-time settings. More information: Night-Time Economy Solutions

## Live Data Collection Platform

The advisors are also collaborating with Matthew Hopkins, Managing Director of Didobi, to develop a live data collection platform. This tool will enable real-time tracking and analysis of night-time activity, providing valuable insights to inform planning, policy, and funding decisions.

## Lads & Dads Walk

In partnership with Longford Sports Partnership, the Lads & Dads Walk took place to mark Men's Health Week. This intergenerational community walk encouraged open conversations around mental and physical health. The event started at Market Square and concluded with refreshments at Athena Café, promoting wellbeing and community connection.





# Night-Time Economy

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## Culture Night

A joint funding application with the Arts Office has been successful. A total of €16,000 has been awarded for Culture Night and Culture Night Late programming, in addition to the €5,000 already secured from the Department. This funding will allow an expansion of cultural offerings and deliver a dynamic programme for September.

## Walking Tour

Hosted by the ReShape project and supported by TUS Athlone the event brought together a wide range of stakeholders to explore Longford towns streets, shared spaces and derelict buildings in a new light.

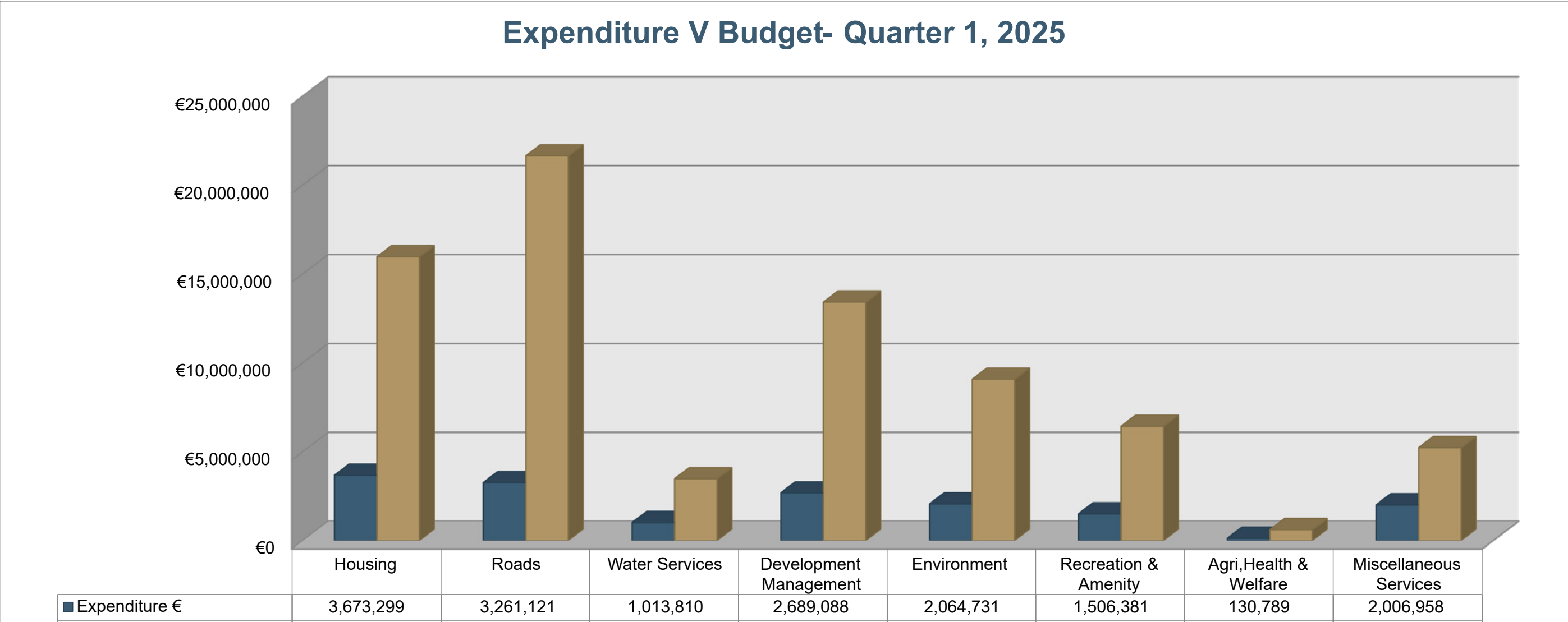
# Finance

## Revenue Account Income and Expenditure Summary by Service Division

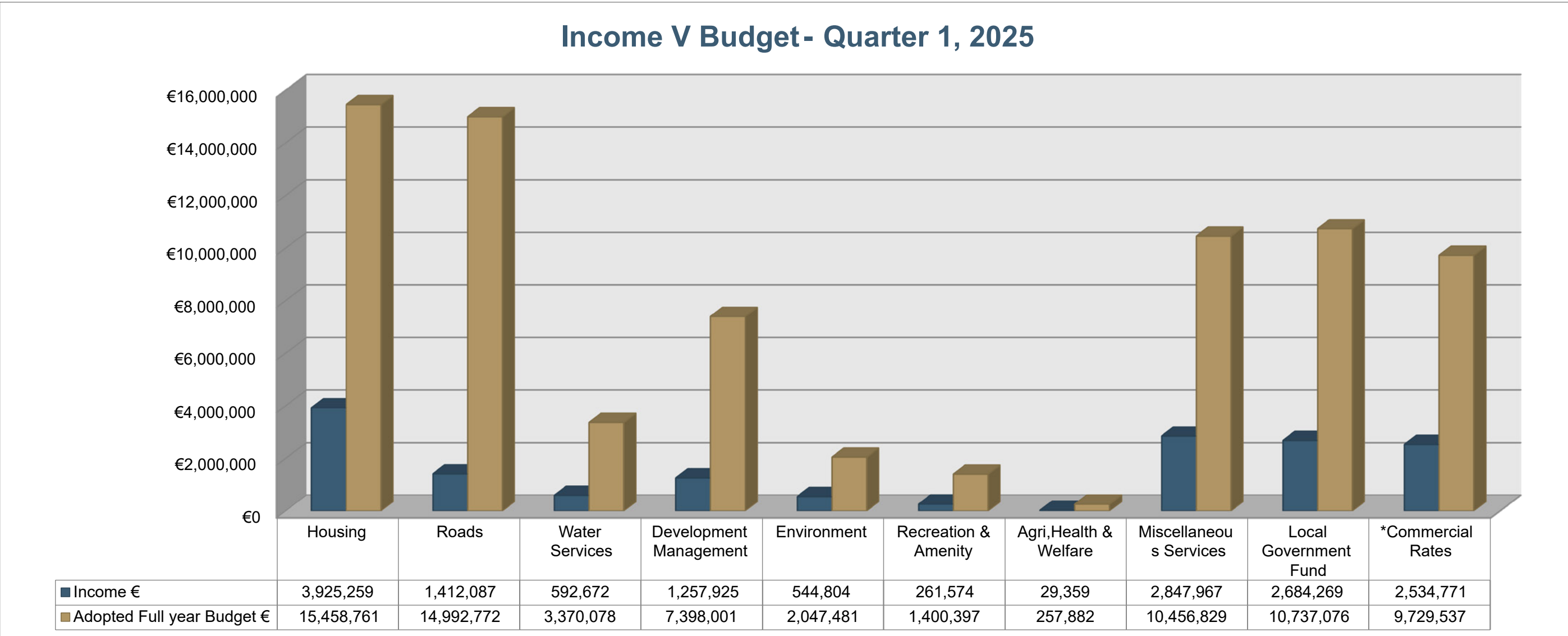
Year to Date to Quarter End 31 March 2025

	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	3,673,299	15,963,965	23%	12,290,666	3,925,259	15,458,761	25%	11,533,502	251,960
Roads	3,261,121	21,642,455	15%	18,381,334	1,412,087	14,992,772	9%	13,580,685	(1,849,034)
Water Services	1,013,810	3,476,592	29%	2,462,782	592,672	3,370,078	18%	2,777,406	(421,138)
Development Management	2,689,088	13,416,160	20%	10,727,072	1,257,925	7,398,001	17%	6,140,076	(1,431,163)
Environment	2,064,731	9,077,336	23%	7,012,605	544,804	2,047,481	27%	1,502,677	(1,519,927)
Recreation and Amenity	1,506,381	6,432,978	23%	4,926,597	261,574	1,400,397	19%	1,138,823	(1,244,807)
Agri, Health and Welfare	130,789	610,307	21%	479,518	29,359	257,882	11%	228,523	(101,430)
Miscellaneous Services	2,006,958	5,229,021	38%	3,222,063	2,847,967	10,456,829	27%	7,608,862	841,009
Local Government Fund			0%	0	2,684,269	10,737,076	25%	8,052,807	2,684,269
*Commercial Rates					2,534,771	9,729,537	26%	7,194,766	2,534,771
	<b>€16,346,177</b>	<b>€75,848,814</b>	<b>22%</b>	<b>€59,502,637</b>	<b>€16,090,687</b>	<b>€75,848,814</b>	<b>21%</b>	<b>€59,758,127</b>	<b>(€255,490)</b>

These figures were submitted to the Department on Friday, 23 May 2025.







# Finance

## Summary of Major Revenue Collections: Quarter 1, 2025

	Opening Arrears	Billed	To be Collected	Collected	Closing Arrears	Collected
Quarter 1, 2025	€	€	€	€	€	%
*Rates	€1,150,292	€10,136,708	€11,273,630	€3,303,475	€7,970,154	29%
Rents (inc. RAS)	€1,947,411	€2,724,991	€4,672,402	€2,593,873	€2,078,529	56%
Housing Loans	€275,575	€305,437	€581,012	€323,199	€257,813	56%
	Opening Arrears	Billed	To be Collected	Collected	Closing Arrears	Collected
Quarter 1, 2024	€	€	€	€	€	%
*Rates	€1,200,532	€9,252,602	€10,453,134	€1,965,921	€8,487,213	19%
Rents (inc. RAS)	€907,238	€2,229,989	€3,134,124	€2,084,426	€1,049,698	67%
Housing Loans	€350,875	€282,470	€633,345	€298,568	€334,777	47%
	Opening Arrears	Billed	To be Collected	Collected	Closing Arrears	Collected
VARIANCE YOY	€	€	€	€	€	%
*Rates	(€50,240)	€884,106	€820,496	€1,337,554	(€517,059)	10%
Rents (inc. RAS)	€1,040,173	€495,002	€1,538,278	€509,447	€1,028,831	-11%
Housing Loans	(€75,300)	€22,967	(€52,333)	€24,631	(€76,964)	8%



# Community

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## Longford Local Community Development Committee

A meeting of Longford LCDC was held on 13 May 2025.

## LEADER 2327 Programme

Two LEADER projects were approved at the May LCDC meeting to a value of just over €314,560.

A targeted call was advertised by LCRL under Theme 3 Sustainable Development of Rural Environment and Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation, sub-theme 3c Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation. The budget for the call was €100,000 with grants of between €5,000 and €20,000 at a maximum rate of aid of 75%. EOIs were accepted up to the 11 June after which all EOIs will collectively be assessed for eligibility and will be considered by the LCDC at their July meeting.

To support the animation of the call three information events were organised by LCRL in the three MD areas.

## Community Development

### Africa Day 2025

Africa Day celebrations are organised by Irish Aid at the Department of Foreign Affairs in partnership with African embassies in Ireland and local authorities around the country.

Longford County Council secured a maximum of €7,036 on behalf of Longford African Network who hosted an event in May in Longford Athletic Centre.

This year's theme was 'Celebrating Excellence and Diversity' which celebrated the unity, achievements and cultural richness of Africa and its diaspora.



## Longford Family Resource Centre Application

Longford Family Resource Centre Steering Group have submitted an application to Tusla Commissioning office for a Family Resource Centre in Longford Town with outreach to Edgeworthstown. The need for an FRC in Longford Town was recognised over a decade ago, with an unsuccessful application made in 2017/2018. Since then, the context has only intensified, Longford now has one of the highest levels of deprivation in the country, with 34.65% of residents born overseas, 6% identifying as members of the

# Community

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Traveller community, and over 24% of residents living with a disability. Child protection referrals are among the highest nationally, while poverty, housing instability, and school avoidance continue to rise. The need for a universal, community-led, wraparound support service is urgent, enduring, and undeniable. What makes Longford truly ready for this opportunity is not only the scale of need it's the strength of collaboration, trust, and preparedness.

Over the past 18 months, a representative, community-led Steering Group has been built up and is rooted in the lived experience of disadvantage and supported by local agencies including Longford County Council, Tusla Midlands, Foróige, Longford Community Resources, Longford Women's Link, Healthy Longford, An Garda Síochána, and many more. Together, a robust Needs Assessment, has been commissioned and has mapped referral pathways, engaged stakeholders, and begun delivering outreach activities in local community houses.

## Longford Comhairle na nÓg

Comhairle members were very busy during the month of May. They worked closely with the Climate Action Team in developing an idea to run a 'Repair and Reuse' workshop to raise awareness around upcycling. Members volunteered at the event held in the Temperance Hall on 7 May and on the 2 May, two members participated in a radio interview to promote the event. On 23 May, three members hosted a virtual reality workshop at the Dream Space event

held in Edgeworthstown Sports Hub, where they had an opportunity to interact with young people from primary schools across County Longford. On 25 May members proudly showcased their study packs projects at the Foróige Citizenship Programme event held in Athlone. Foróige projects and clubs from Westmeath, Offaly, Longford and Roscommon were in attendance.



Laura McPhillips and Kin Hang Tung with members of Longford Comhairle na nÓg.



Laura McPhillips and Kin Hang Tung with members of Longford Comhairle na nÓg showing participants the VR headsets at the recent Dream Space event.



# Community

## Longford Local Community Safety Partnership

The Longford Local Community Safety Partnership (LCSP) has continued its active involvement in community-focused initiatives, strengthening collaboration and promoting safety and wellbeing across the county. The key events include:

### Kids Court

Longford LCSP, in collaboration with An Garda Síochána Longford, delivered the Kids Court initiative at Colehill National School. This interactive educational session provided students with a child-friendly introduction to concepts of fairness, responsibility, and the importance of rules, while also emphasising community safety.



### Trauma Informed Care Conference

Longford LCSP supported the 2025 Trauma Informed Care Conference, organised by Longford Westmeath CYPSC alongside key local stakeholders. This impactful event focused on enhancing awareness,

sharing best practices, and strengthening inter-agency collaboration in trauma-informed approaches to care and service delivery.



### Garda Community Spirit Sports Day

Organised by Longford LCSP, in collaboration with An Garda Síochána Longford and Longford Sports Partnership, this event welcomed 6th class pupils from schools across South Longford. The day promoted physical activity, community engagement, and positive relationships between young people and Gardaí.



# Community

## Healthy Longford

### Not Around Us Campaign

Launched to link with World No Tobacco Day 2025; this is an ask from young people to not smoke or vape in specific areas. The key campaign message is, if you smoke or vape, to consider your activity when around children and young people and listen to the ask from young people - 'Not Around Us.'

The purpose of 'Not Around Us' in Longford is fourfold:

1. Helping to protect children and young people from second-hand smoke exposure.
2. Contributing to the de-normalisation of smoking for children and young people through raising awareness and support amongst all stakeholders in the county on tobacco/vape free Ireland.
3. Reduce Environmental Nuisance, the cost of cleaning and damage that discarded tobacco products leave.
4. Signposting to HSE Quit services.

The focus for 'Not Around Us' in Longford for 2025 is to establish links with playgrounds, outdoor gyms and skateparks. In 2026 it is envisaged to extend this to businesses/ organisations and events.

The 'Not around Us' campaign in Longford has been progressed by Longford County Council, Healthy

Ireland and supported by LCDC, Longford Comhairle na nÓg, Longford Westmeath Children and Young Peoples Services Committee, Longford Youth Services, HSE, EDI Centre Longford and An Garda Siochana, Longford.



### Tic-Tac Conference

The Trauma Informed Care taking Action Collectively Conference took place on Wednesday, 28 May in The Shamrock Lodge in Athlone. This is a multi-agency collaborative approach towards a trauma informed model of care across child, youth, and family services in the Midlands area. Healthy



# Community

Longford was delighted once again to collaborate with the many agencies involved in this conference.



free haircuts, and blood pressure checks.

3. Longford Athletics Hub-Friday 13 June: Events took place from 6.30am until 3pm that afternoon. Beginning with 'When No One is Watching' (WNOW) early morning exercise session with Mickey Quinn, TOA Lifestyle Portable Ice Bath and Compression Boots were also in attendance, a Triathlon Challenge took place which was open to all, Tai Chi Sessions, Irish Heart Foundation van and a nurse were also present.

## Men's Health Week

National Men's Health Week took place 9-15 June with a theme of 'Shoulder to Shoulder Connecting for Health'. A programme of events took place throughout the week in Longford linking with various community partners.

1. Ballymahon Library-Monday 9 June: Open morning took place with Exercise Class with free haircuts.
2. Edgeworthstown Library: Wednesday 11 June: Open morning with exercise class,

# Longford Sports Partnership

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## Inclusive Pitch & Putt Collaboration



In April, Longford Sports Partnership's Sports Inclusion Disability Officer (SIDO) collaborated with Pitch & Putt Ireland to introduce the sport to adults with additional needs. The initiative took place at St. Mary's Community Centre and the Sports Hub in Edgeworthstown. Development officers from Pitch & Putt Ireland travelled to Longford to deliver a taster session, providing participants with a fun, engaging, and inclusive experience.

Building on the success of this event, it was fantastic to welcome Pitch & Putt Ireland back to Longford for an Inclusive Summer Camp, taking place from 8- 10 July. This camp will be open to children, teenagers, and adults with additional needs, offering a supportive environment to enjoy and explore the sport.

In addition, as part of the Ability Coaching Programme, Pitch &

Putt Ireland will provide adults with additional needs or those from disadvantaged backgrounds the opportunity to train and qualify as certified Pitch & Putt coaches. This initiative represents a significant step forward in promoting inclusion, empowerment, and long-term engagement in sport.

Sincere thanks is extended to Pitch & Putt Ireland for their ongoing support, collaboration, and commitment to making sport accessible to all. Their dedication has been instrumental in bringing these opportunities to life for the Longford community.

## Activator Pole Walking Class



The Activator Pole Walking Exercise Programme is a free, 8-week community-based physical activity programme run through the Physical Activity for Health initiative aimed at adults with chronic disease and older adults in Longford. This takes place in the Longford Sports Hub (Athletics Centre). The programme focuses on improving fitness, health, and overall well-being through walking. The poles provide extra support, making it easier and safer

# Longford Sports Partnership

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to move around and enjoy being active again while improving posture and flexibility. Activator poles are particularly suitable for use by older adults with low fitness levels, with balance concerns or mobility issues, with conditions such as arthritis, Parkinson's Disease, multiple sclerosis, and those recovering from hip or knee surgery. Activator Pole Walking is an inclusive walking programme suitable for all fitness levels.

## Overview of Men's Health Week



Men's Health Week in Longford was a collaborative, week-long initiative aimed at raising awareness of key health issues affecting men and boys, encouraging healthier lifestyle choices, and promoting access to local health supports. Organised in alignment with Men's Health Week, the Longford programme brought together a range of stakeholders, including the HSE, Longford County Council, local sports partnerships, community health organisations, and social inclusion services, to deliver a diverse and engaging series of events.

The 2025 theme, 'Shoulder to Shoulder: Connecting for Health' focusing on heightening awareness of preventable health problems for males of all ages, supporting men and boys to engage in healthier lifestyle choices/activities and to encourage the early detection and treatment of health difficulties in males.

## Key Activities

- Health checks and pop-up screening clinics in community centres and local libraries
- Lads and Dads walk-and-talk sessions and community cycles for social connection and cardiovascular health.
- Exercise classes tailored for men, including strength and mobility sessions.
- Engagement with Men's Sheds and other men's groups helped to promoting sustained connections to care.

## Impact and Significance

Men's Health Week in Longford not only increased health literacy and engagement among local men but also fostered a sense of inclusion, reduced stigma around health-seeking behaviours, and is helping to build momentum for year-round health initiatives for men.



# Longford Sports Partnership

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## Multicultural Community Engagement



needs, challenges, and preferences of the group.


These initiatives reflect Longford's ongoing commitment to inclusion, community participation, and the design of meaningful programmes shaped directly by the people they are intended to serve.

The Multicultural Men's Walk & Talk Programme, co-designed with participants through a series of community workshops, continues to grow in strength. The programme has created a safe, inclusive space for men from diverse backgrounds to engage in low-intensity weekly nature walks while discussing key themes such as health, confidence, and personal development.

As part of this initiative, participants recently completed a Financial Management Workshop in collaboration with Longford MABS, which provided valuable tools for everyday budgeting, saving, and financial decision-making. This marks a significant step in embedding wraparound supports into the group.

In parallel, the co-design phase of a new women's programme with the Multicultural Women's Group in Edgeworthstown is now underway. The group has already completed empathy mapping and solution-focused workshops, and a tailored, community-led programme is on the cusp of delivery to reflect the real

# Housing

Project (Number of Houses)	Status
Cranleymore, Abbeylara (3)	Stage 4 approved. Contractor appointed. To start on site shortly.
St Rita's Park Road Phase 1 (6)	Stage 2 approved. Part 8 Planning approved for Phase 1 (6 houses). Stage 3 to be submitted shortly. Tender for contractor to follow.
St Rita's Park Road Phase 2 (7)	Phase 2 draft plans under review.
Radharc na Muileann, Lanesborough (22)	Stage 2 approved. Awaiting Part 8 planning approval
Drynán, Ballymahon (13)	On hold. Awaiting update of WWTP by Uisce Éireann.
Cnoc na Greine, Granard (6)	Stage 2 approved. Part 8 planning approved. Progressing stage 3.
Clough Dillons, Keenagh (4)	Unfinished estate. On hold.
Lamagh, Newtownforbes (6)	Stage 2 approved. Part 8 planning approved. Progressing stage 3.
2 Legion Terrace (4)	Complete
Corneddán, Oghill, Drumlish (1)	 Complete
Houricans Hotel, Granard (8, and parking)	Stage 1 approved. Awaiting flood risk assessment. To tender for consultant to progress to Stage 2.
Butchers, Market Street, Granard (3)	Stage 1 approved. Progressing Stage 2.
Aghaboy, Killoe, Ennybegs (5)	Stage 2 submitted. Awaiting approval.
Casey Court, Keenagh (1)	Infill site. Stage 1 approved. Progressing Stage 2.
Shanmullagh, Ballinamuck	Combined Stage 2 & 3 submitted. Awaiting approval.
Canal Court, "Fondermans" (2)	Stage 1 to be submitted shortly.
Project (Number of Houses)	Status
Willow Park Halting site (2)	Proposals submitted to CENA. CENA to submit Stage 1 shortly.
Farrells, Ballinalee (4)	On hold
Longford Road, Ballinalee (14)	On hold – New submission to be made.

# Housing

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## Turnkey Housing Developments/Scheme

### Land for the provision of Social and Affordable Housing

Longford County Council received a positive response to recent advertisements seeking Expressions of Interest from developers, contractors, land and property owners with regard to the provision of schemes of houses and/or land within the county. All responses received are currently under consideration, to support and enhance the provision of both Social and Affordable Housing options in Longford.

### Affordable Housing

Longford County Council recognises the need to provide affordable housing in the county and is actively pursuing options for delivery from 2026 onwards.

### Housing Pre-Let and Voids Programme

In addition to ongoing pre-let works in progress, Longford County Council has secured Departmental approval for the inclusion of 36 properties on the voids programme for 2025. Works has commenced on the refurbishment of these properties to support re-letting in 2025.



## Climate Action – Energy Retrofit Programme

Longford County Council received a preliminary allocation of 50 units from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage in February. Energy retrofitting works are now complete on all 22 units in Casey Court, Keenagh. All these upgraded units in Casey Court achieved a post-works BER rating of A3 or B1. Retrofit



# Housing

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works have also commenced on eight units in McEoin Park, Longford. The works involve the installation of external insulation, new windows and doors and a renewable Air to Water heating system.

## **Regional Homelessness Action Plan 2025-2029**

The Midland Region Homelessness Action Plan 2025–2029 was adopted by the full council. It sets out a coordinated, housing-led strategy to prevent and reduce homelessness across Longford, Laois, Offaly, and Westmeath. It focuses on early intervention, Housing First, tenancy sustainment, interagency collaboration, and tailored supports for vulnerable groups. For Longford, key priorities include addressing repeat homelessness, enhancing local supports, expanding Housing First, and developing dedicated family accommodation.

## **Housing Disability Steering Group**

At the recent meeting of the Housing Disability Steering Group, members agreed the new Terms of Reference, which will guide the group's work going forward. In addition, work is progressing on the 2025 Workplan, with priorities being developed in line with the updated terms.

## **Social Housing Applicants**

There are currently 38 households listed who have valid Notice to Quits and are being assessed for alternative social housing supports.

Longford County Council has an overall social housing need of 605.

162 Social Housing Applications have been received in 2025. 34 of these are fully assessed and accepted onto the list, 128 are in the workflow.

## **County Longford Housing Stock**

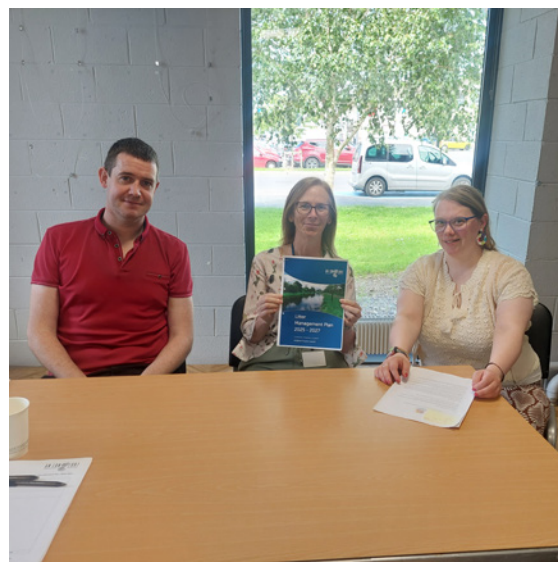
At the end of first Quarter of 2025, there were 2,267 properties in the local authority housing stock.

# Environment and Climate Change

## Public Consultation Draft Litter Management Plan

The Environment Team carried out public consultation on the Draft Litter Management Plan. This consultation marks an important step in shaping the council's approach to litter prevention, public awareness, enforcement, and environmental enhancement across County Longford for the coming years. The draft plan outlines strategic actions to address litter-related issues and promotes a cleaner, greener environment for all County Longford residents and visitors.

calling 043 33 43462 or emailing [environment@longfordcoco.ie](mailto:environment@longfordcoco.ie).



## Draft Cemetery Bye-Laws

Members of the public are invited to have their say on the Draft Cemetery Bye-Laws 2025. This important document proposes updates to the current bye-laws to ensure the respectful and consistent management of all cemeteries under the council's control.

In addition to newspaper, radio and social media advertising, the team held in-person consultations in libraries in Edgeworthstown, Ballymahon, Longford and Granard. Clients and staff from St Christopher's attended sessions in Ballymahon and Longford, and provided very useful feedback, on the Litter Management Plan.

Both sets of Draft Bye-Laws are available to view from 4 June 2025 to 4 July 2025 on the council's website at [www.longfordcoco.ie](http://www.longfordcoco.ie). Hard copies can also be requested, free of charge, from the Environment Section by



# Environment and Climate Change

## Successful Litter & Waste Prosecutions

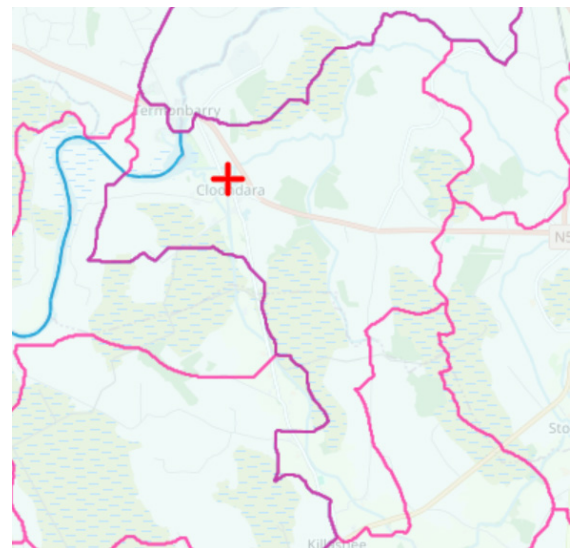
It is the policy of the Environment Section to initiate legal proceedings in relation to non-compliance with relevant environmental legislation. Longford County Council was the first Local Authority to successfully implement CCTV to prevent, deter and detect dumping, using the provision of the Circular Economy and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 2022, and in compliance with GDPR. The first prosecutions relying on the CCTV evidence were brought before the May 2025 District Court. The council had successful outcomes in all three cases.

Successful Litter & Waste Prosecutions in May 2025			
	Fine	Court Imposed Costs	Total
Case 1	€200	€750	€950
Case 2	€400	€470	€870
Case 3	€350	€470	€820
Case 4	€250	€490	€740
Case 5	€150	€530	€680
Total	€1,350	€2,710	€4,060

## Agriculture-Farm Inspections

Under the National Agricultural Inspection Plan (NAIP) Longford County Council is obliged to carry out 77 farm inspections for 2025. Longford County Council is focusing on areas at risk in the county i.e. showing poor status. One such area is the Shannon (Upper) \_090 river

catchment, which under the Water Framework Directive 2000, needs to reach at least 'Good' status by 2027. Inspections have been focused in this area and to date 40 have been completed. Nutrients, particularly e.g., phosphorus and sediment have been highlighted as the main issues impacting on water quality in this river catchment. There has been good communication with farmers to date.



## Subsidy for Group Water Schemes

An integral part of maintaining and improving the quality and reliability of rural water supplies is the annual subsidy, payable by local authorities, towards the operational



# Environment and Climate Change

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and management costs of group water schemes supplying water for domestic use.

Applications are invited in relation to eligible expenditure incurred during 2024. The closing date for receipt of applications is 30 June 2025. Further information is available on the council's website at [www.longfordcoco.ie](http://www.longfordcoco.ie).

## Macro-invertebrate/Kick sampling

In other catchments where water quality is at risk e.g. Legga\_020 river, river walks and macro invertebrate monitoring are being carried out. Small stream risk scoring (SSRS) is a quick and effective way of monitoring a stream's water quality. This is carried out by conducting a kick sample and assessing the macro invertebrates that live on the bottom of the stream – this method gives a good indication of what is happening in an area and allows potential point sources of pollution to be narrowed down.



## Household Hazardous Waste Collection

Longford County Council recognise the importance of properly disposing of hazardous waste to help protect the environment, to ensure it does not end up in landfills or other areas where it is able to seep into groundwater. Contaminated groundwater is not only dangerous to humans, but also to wildlife, animals, and ecosystems.

To promote the correct and proper dispose of hazardous waste, the Environment Section with the assistance from the Municipal District staff, held a household hazardous waste collection service in May 2025. The collection was a huge success, with upwards of 100 vehicles attending on the day. Customers were facilitated to pay by cash or card.



# Environment and Climate Change

## Enforcement for hoarding of Metal Waste

There was a large volume of predominately metal waste hoarded on farmland in Ballinalee, County Longford. A Section 56 Notice, under the Waste Management Act 1996 (as amended), which empowers the local authority to take measures to prevent or limit environmental pollution caused by waste, was issued to the landowner. The landowner immediately proceeded to remove the waste. Failure to do so could result in Longford County Council removing the waste and recovering associated costs.



## An Taisce Green Schools Flags

Longford County Council has extended congratulations to two local schools recognised at the An Taisce Green-Schools Awards Ceremony, held at the Radisson Hotel, Athlone, on Wednesday, 21 May 2025. Scoil Bhríde, Glen National School in Edgeworthstown made history as the first school in County Longford to

achieve all ten Green Schools Flags, receiving the Global Citizenship Food & Biodiversity Flag - a remarkable milestone reflecting years of dedication to environmental education and action. St. Michael's Boys National School in Longford Town was also celebrated, earning the Global Citizenship Marine Environment Flag for their outstanding efforts in promoting marine awareness and sustainability.





# Environment and Climate Change



## Biodiversity week 2025

Biodiversity week 2025 ran from 16 to 25 May. A range of events were organised by the Biodiversity Officer. These included collaborative talks and demonstrations such as an aquatic invertebrate display with LAWPRO, a forest walk with Coillte, an organic farm walk and talk with a local farmer and Teagasc. Events also included a bumblebee monitoring scheme demonstration, and two Corlea bog walk and talk events given by the biodiversity officer. Dream Space was also attended by the Climate Team on the 23 May with a table hosted by the Climate Action Officer and the Biodiversity Officer.

The final day of Biodiversity Week coincided with World Africa Day and saw the Biodiversity Officer give a talk on the connected biodiversity between Ireland and Africa with many thanks to Cllr Uruemu Adejinmi and the Africa network for the invite to talk at the event.





# Environment and Climate Change

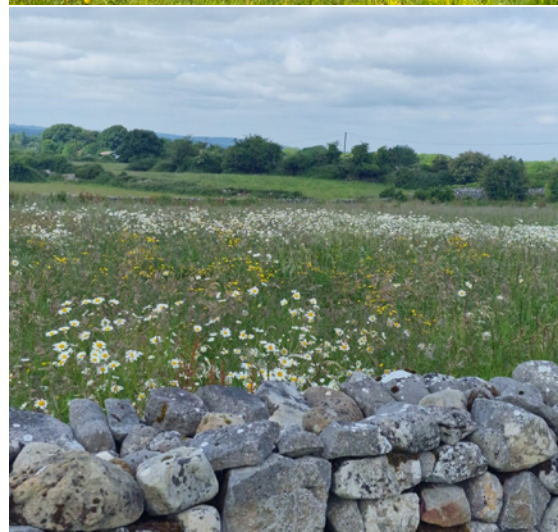
## Domestic Wastewater Treatment System Inspections

Longford County Council planned and executed 10 DWWTS inspections in 2024. The failure rate was 30%. Advisory notices were issued to householders whose systems failed and the council followed up to ensure malfunctioning systems were repaired. The council is often queried about the number of DWWTS inspections. As per the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) risk assessment, County Longford is primarily at low risk of pollution from DWWTS. The current National Inspection Plan mandates that the council carry out a minimum of four DWWTS inspections annually. The council carries out 10 - 12 inspections annually and works hard to ensure remedial actions are carried out.

The latest EPA report ranks Longford County Council fifth nationally for the percentage of faulty DWWTS repaired, - 94%.

## Other Activities

Some of the other activities the team were involved in included the, 'Not Around Us' initiative, Relove Fashion Event, and An Taisce National Spring Clean.



# Fire Service

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## Health and Safety

There are no injuries to report. There was a HSA inspection of Edgeworthstown Fire Station in June.

## Training

The Station Officer in Granard completed the Module 2 – Managing Fire Service Incidents Course in Sligo in May. A driver in Edgeworthstown and a sub officer in Longford completed an Effective Decision Making training course in the Hydra Training Suite in Clonmel. All sub officers completed an IT training course run by the local LWETB.

## Operations

Total of callouts of 66 in the two month May-June 2025 period.

## Fire Prevention

Two Fire Safety Certs were processed. One District Court licence application was processed. Two DSA Licence applications were processed.

## Recruitment

Recruitment pre-selection assessments are currently being carried out in Longford Fire Station, successful candidates will be interviewed late summer/early autumn 2025.

## Equipment

The National Mobilisation and Communications System (NMACS) and Dublin Fire Brigade have run a tender for the supply of additional fire ground hand portable radios with

funding from the National Directorate for Fire and Emergency Management (NDFEM) within the Department of Housing. The tender has been awarded and Longford have an order placed for the new radios. A new scanner/printer has been installed in each fire station. New PPE has been recently purchased.

## Major Emergency Management

The severe weather plan has been updated and will be going before the Management Team for approval in July. Information Management refresher training is scheduled for July.



# Longford Civil Defence

## Duties

Longford Civil Defence provided medical cover at the following 21 events.

- Longford Town FC soccer match (five events)
- Longford tri a tri
- Garda sports day
- Darkness into Light
- Horse Show Granard (two events)
- Cycle week lunchtime cycle
- Longford County Council Dream Space event
- Community games (three events)
- Vintage Show
- Aquathon
- Ballinalee Connemara Pony Show
- Longford Pride Parade
- Two Province Triathlon Lanesborough
- Official opening of the Battery Road



## Training and operations

The Civil Defence Officer, Assistant Civil Defence Officer and three volunteers attended a reception in Áras an Uachtaráin, hosted by President Michael D Higgins, to mark 75 years of the Civil Defence in Ireland.



Four members of the unit travelled to Lourdes to take part in the 65th annual military pilgrimage. One volunteer was presented with their Lourdes medal, having attended the pilgrimage on three occasions.





# Longford Civil Defence

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Volunteers attended the Men's Health Week event in Edgeworthstown library where they provided blood pressure checks.

Members of the Civil Defence visited the Little Angels Crèche. The children had a look around the ambulance and practised some bandaging and first aid skills!

Volunteers attended the Garda open day which was held in Longford Garda station where a range of equipment was displayed.



Seven volunteers attended community first responder training and four volunteers commenced their first aid responder course.

