



Chief Executive Report May 2025

Longford County Council

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Corporate Services

Customer Services

Our Customer Services desk received over 1,475 calls during the months of April and May to date, as well as 630 emails and many in-person customers.

Register of Electors

[Voter.ie](https://voter.ie/)/[Vótáil.ie](https://votail.ie/) Migration Project has started. To prepare, all 31 local authorities have to migrate their electoral registers from iReg to one central database called Voter.ie. This combined database will contain data 3.7+ million electors, with enhanced functionality and security, and consistent data standards implemented across all local authorities. One combined system will reduce duplication of electors across multiple electoral areas or constituencies and make it easier for electors to keep their details up to date.

Phase one of the cleansing of electoral data for migration to Voter.ie is well underway with 83% of the checks completed to date. This involves the checking and rectification of 2,625 potential data points that could block migration. Work includes the translation of over 1,500 townlands, polling places, Electoral Divisions and Polling Districts, of which approximately 1,200 of the translations have been confirmed and are currently being updated. The remaining outstanding translations will be reviewed by our Irish Language Officer and a researcher from DCU, in conjunction with Logainm. Together they will propose accurate translations for the

remaining townlands. Once these have been approved and adopted as the official Irish translations, they will be updated on iReg.

Longford County Council are processing applications received through the checktheregister.ie website as they are received, as well as applications received by post. Work continues to improve the accuracy of the Register and correspondence is being issued to electors seeking information such as Eircodes and advising them of their obligation to update their details on checktheregister.ie. Over the last few months, the Franchise team have written to households where Polling Information Cards were returned undelivered in 2024 and previous electoral events and where no response has been received after three contact attempts, a letter will issue to notify them of our intention to remove them from the Register of Electors. If you have changed address recently, you must change your details on CheckTheRegister.ie to ensure that any correspondence issues to the correct address and that you are at the correct address on the Register for electoral event purposes.

Even if you are already registered to vote, you need to add your date of birth, PPSN and Eircode. This enables us to 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. The easiest way to add or update your details is to go to CheckTheRegister.ie

Corporate Services

FOIs, AIEs and Office of the Ombudsman

The following Freedom of Information (FOIs), Access to Information on the Environment (AIEs) and Office of the Ombudsman complaints were received in April and May.

| | April | May | Year to Date |
|---|-------|-----|--------------|
| FOI requests received | 8 | 1 | 23 |
| AIE requests received | 1 | 0 | 3 |
| Office of the Ombudsman complaints received | 0 | 0 | 1 |

Meetings Administration

Meetings and events which took place in April and May detailed below:

| | |
|----------|---|
| 9 April | Corporate Policy Group |
| | Longford County Council |
| 22 April | Longford Municipal District In-Committee |
| | Longford Municipal District |
| 28 April | Physical Development Strategic Policy Committee (SPC) |
| | Social Development SPC |
| 29 April | Economic, Enterprise and Rural Development SPC |
| 14 May | Corporate Policy Group |
| | Longford County Council |
| | Cathaoirleach Awards 2025 |
| 27 May | Longford Municipal District In-Committee |
| | Longford Municipal District |
| | Granard Municipal District In-Committee |
| | Granard Municipal District |
| 28 May | Governance Strategic Policy Committee |

Official Languages Act

Work continues to meet our obligations under Official Languages Act (Amendment) 2021. Among our obligations under the Act, the Local Authority are obliged to ensure that:

- at least 20% of annual advertising is to be done in Irish

- 5% of the advertising budget is to be spent on advertising in Irish on Irish-language media
- Documents setting out public policy proposals, audited accounts or financial statements, annual reports and strategy statements are published simultaneously in Irish and English.

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- All signage placed by a public body or on its behalf must be in Irish or bilingual, in accordance with the regulations.

In relation to advertising, we are currently sitting at 9.8% for our 20% compliance target.

Cathaoirleach Awards 2025

The Cathaoirleach Awards are an annual initiative to acknowledge and reward voluntary activity which contributes greatly to the quality of life in communities across County Longford.

The 2025 awards took place on Wednesday, 14 May in Áras an Chontae.

The recipients of this year's Cathaoirleach Awards were:

- Aiden Ganly, Cathaoirleach Award, nominated by Cllr Mark Casey, Cathaoirleach of Longford County Council
- Colmcille Area Development Group and the landowners of the Aughnacliffe Heritage Trail, nominated by Cathaoirleach Garry Murtagh, Granard Municipal District
- John Ryan, nominated by Cathaoirleach Pat O' Toole, Ballymahon Municipal District
- The staff of Longford Post Office, nominated by Cathaoirleach Seamus Butler, Longford Municipal District



Corporate Services

Communications

Communications welcomed its new Communications Officer Mairead O'Shea and new Digital Communications Officer Aaron Murphy in April and May. This now means there is a full complement of staff for the Communications team, who will now have more scope to better help all areas of the Council and get more proactive messaging out there on the great work of all sections.

Help with Events

Communications are working to help on the many events of the Council. In April and May, this included:

- Microsoft Dream Space Showcase 2024, which took place on 23 May
- Unveiling of the Fraternity statue which celebrated the twinning between Longford Town and Noyal-Châtillon-sur-Seiche, in France

Communications are also helping with the planning for upcoming events, such as Men's Health Week and the officially opening of the Active Travel scheme on Battery Road in Longford town.

Press Releases

In April and May, 34 press releases were issued on work from across the Council, including on the Council's win at the Health and Safety Awards, Africa Day, the Not Around Us anti-smoking and anti-vaping campaign and much more.

Media Queries

In April and May, 16 media queries were dealt with. Communications worked with sections across the Council to ensure these queries from both local and national journalists were responded to in a timely manner.

Social Media

See below for our social media reach and follower count analytics for April and May 2025.

| | *Reach or Impressions | Follower Count |
|-------------|-----------------------|----------------|
| Facebook | 65.1K | 8,221 (+164) |
| Instagram | 6.7K | 2,411 (+84) |
| X (Twitter) | ** | 3,615 (-2) |
| LinkedIn | 3.2K | 1,379 (+113) |
| TikTok | 2,710 | 678 (+109) |
| Total | 77.7K | 16,304 (+433) |

* Reach: Number of people who had post enter their screen. Impressions: Number of times post entered a screen.

** Analytics are no longer available on the non-paid for version of X.

Websites

Work is being undertaken with Longford Tourism to help them with their moves to get a new website. This work has included clearing up of old and out-of-date content on the current Longford.ie website.

Longfordcoco.ie had 21,846 visits in April and May. The most popular sections were:

- Planning (7K page views)

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- Careers (6.6K page views)
- Housing (5.5K page views)

Other Council websites had 14,108 visits in the same period.

Data Protection

Privacy Policy in Audio-Visual

Data Protection introduced our Privacy Policy in Audio-Visual. A 2.5-minute video, explaining our Privacy Policy with motion graphics and plain English has been produced. The aim of this Audio-Visual project is to ensure we continue to safeguard the most vulnerable in our society, by protecting their rights and prioritise the protection of individuals personal data.

We have made this available on the main County Council Website and on all Longford County Council Social Media Platforms. Please see [Longford County Council's Privacy Policy in Audio](#).

AFS Audit with Local Government Auditor

Data Protection were audited by the Local Government Auditor in April 2025.

Data Protection Compliance Reports

Data Protection issued the yearly Data Protection Compliance Reports to all Departments in April 2025.

Data Protection Quarterly Newsletters

The Data Protection Team continue to issue their Quarterly Newsletter to Staff. These Newsletters include real life scenarios within Longford Council. This would include breaches, sharing of personal data etc.

Data Protection Induction Training

The Data Protection Team continue to provide induction training to all new employees of Longford County Council. To date this year, Data Protection has provided induction training to 16 new employees.

Data Protection Queries

The Data Protection and Information Compliance Team have received 138 Data Protection Queries since the beginning of January 2025. Common themes of queries received were in relation to:

- Sharing personal data
- Releasing personal data
- Sharing personal data with third parties
- CCTV
- Representations from Elected Representatives
- Consent
- Photographs and videos
- Signage at Events
- ROPAs

All Data Subject Access Requests and data breaches continue to be

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completed and reported (where applicable) within the statutory timeframes.

Data Protection Stats

| | To date |
|-----------------------------------|---------|
| Data Breaches | 2 |
| Data Subject Assess Requests | 1 |
| Data Protection Impact Assessment | 4 |
| Data Agreements | 3 |
| Data Protection Queries | 138 |

Health and Safety

Health and Safety Inspections

There were 14 safety inspections were completed by the Health and Safety section and the Management Team.

Health and Safety Training

Ongoing risk assessment briefing sessions are held with each section of the council. 11 new employee health and safety inductions were completed.

Event Management

Health and Safety assisted with events in May organised by Longford County Council

- Longford Microsoft Dream Space Showcase in Edgeworthstown Community Centre on Friday, 23 May 2025.
- Longford Garda Community Spirit Sports Day on Wednesday, 7 May 2025.

Workers Memorial Day

Each year on 28 April, we pause to remember those who have lost their lives or been injured in work-related incidents. This day serves as a powerful reminder of why safety, health, and welfare at work must remain a top priority.

Health and Safety Awards

Longford County Council won the Public Sector Award at the recent Health and Safety Excellence Awards 2025 which took place on Thursday, 17 April at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, Santry, Dublin. This is the third year Longford County Council have won this award. Longford County Council were shortlisted along with:

- Board na Mona
- Uisce Éireann.

This award recognises Longford County Council's employees continued hard work creating and maintaining a healthy and safe working environment for all our employees and the wider community.



Longford Local Enterprise Office

National Award for Longford Students at Enterprise Finals

Celebrating Ireland's finest young student entrepreneurs, students from Longford have taken second prize in senior category at this year's Student Enterprise Programme National Finals. The finals of this Local Enterprise Office initiative took place on Thursday, 8 May in Mullingar.

Supported by Local Enterprise Office, Longford, the students from Moyne Community School won second prize in the senior category. The winning students were Mia Kiernan, Emma Brennan, Aoife Cadam, Emma Gantley, Kate McKeon, and Kelly Davis. They all worked under the guidance of their teacher, Pádraig Doherty. Their student enterprise was called 'It's a Dose'. They developed fitted shoulder straps to aid with animal medical treatment application, improving animal handling and user safety.



There were 85 student businesses in contention across three main categories for the Final in what is Ireland's largest entrepreneurship programme for second level students. The initiative, funded by the Government of Ireland through

Enterprise Ireland and delivered by the 31 Local Enterprise Offices in local authorities throughout the country, saw over 30,000 students from 500 secondary schools across the country take part.

Employment Training and Information Fair

Employment Training and Information Fair took place on 10 April. Supported by LEO, Community, Human Resources and Longford Sports Partnership, 427 people attended on the day where all the local services were on hand to promote and advise attendees.

Human Resources

Learning and Development

The following training courses were arranged in April and May:

Business Skills Training

- LGMA QQ1 Level 6 Certificate in Coaching
- FOI Expert Level Training
- Line Manager Training
- Derelict Sites and Dangerous Structures
- AI in the Workplace
- PAPS – Pensions Training Foundation
- Seminar on Key Updates in the Planning and Development Act 2024
- Standards in Private Rented Accommodation
- Pension Adjustment Order Administration for Public Sector
- Competency Interview Preparation Training
- C1 Truck Driving Lessons
- Freedom of Information Decision Maker Training
- Public Sector Procurement Framework
- Forward Planning Fundamentals
- Courtroom Skills for LA Staff
- Introduction to Public Procurement
- RCT Training
- Clerical Officer Programme

- Planning Development Management Fundamentals
- Condensation Mould and Damp Training Course
- Facilitation Skills
- National Agricultural Inspection Programme (NAIP)
- Online Census Webinar
- Leading for Transformation – Women's Leadership Programme
- Workshop on Risk Assessment and Risk Management of Private Group Water Schemes and Small Private Supplies
- Revit 2026: Key features in Practice
- Summit 2025 Thriving Through Change

Health and Safety Training

- ROAR Basic Refresher x 2
- Abrasive Wheels
- Safe Pass
- Safety Representative
- CPC Module 1
- Preparing and Responding to a Serious Incident Senior Officer
- Chainsaw New Entrant Training

Climate Action

- Practical Implementation of Green Public Procurement in Local Authorities Raising Awareness

Human Resources

Health and Wellbeing

Physical Wellbeing

The following Fitness Programme classes were delivered to staff:

- Lunchtime Spinning
- After Work Spinning
- Lunchtime Running Group
- Lunchtime Circuits

Bike Week Bikers Cycle and Lunch

Staff guided cycle around Longford town and Canal followed by lunch al fresco.



Financial Wellbeing

Employee Financial Wellness Programme

We have engaged EFW to deliver a programme of webinars, guidance clinics and masterclasses that are specifically designed for employees of Longford County Council. Our first session will take place in May and the programme will continue during 2025 and into 2026.

Planning for Retirement

An annual course designed for staff planning to retire within the next few years.

Mental Wellbeing

Mental Health Week

Throughout the week, we will share information and resources related to Mental Health.

Mental Health Champion Training

Staff gain practical tools on how to enhance mental health awareness within Longford County Council and promote a stigma free atmosphere.

Social Wellbeing

Sweet surprise: there was a visit from a local ice cream van.



Roads

Municipal District Works

The Roads Programme was adopted by the three municipal districts (MDs) and details were submitted to the Department in April.

Restoration improvement works and restoration maintenance (surface dressing) works are progressing well in each of the MDs. These works will continue throughout the Summer.

Drainage works, climate adaption works, bridge rehabilitation works, community involvement schemes, safety improvement works will be progressed over the next few months.



National Road Schemes

Longford County Council has received an allocation of €2,959,951 for National Roads Improvement and Maintenance Works for 2025. This allocation is over 1.8 million euro less than the 2024 allocation.

The majority of the funding is for the N4 Newtownforbes to Clooniher Pavement Scheme, which is now substantially complete.

Westmeath County Council received an allocation of 2.5 million euro for the N4 Mullingar to Longford (Roosky) Scheme which will facilitate work continuing on this Scheme in 2025.



Roads

Road Safety

National Bike Week

As part of National Bike Week which ran from 10-18 May, Longford County Council Road Safety Department invited all primary schools to take part in a 'Road and Bike Safety Colour Poster Competition'.

All primary schools were encouraged to take part in this very important campaign with the idea of getting students thinking more about road safety and best practices to keep themselves safe on the roads and to become familiar with the Road Safety Authority's Rules for Safe Cycling.

Dream Space Showcase 2025

The Road Safety Department took part in Dream Space Showcase 2025 which was held in Edgeworthstown Community Centre on 23 May. Key aspects of Road Safety were exhibited such as the importance of wearing PPE as pedestrians/cyclists. Alcohol and drug impairment goggles were demonstrated by use of an interactive road map to showcase the level of impairment on vision and balance, alcohol and drugs can have.

This was done in a fun interactive way with hundreds of students in attendance on the day. The students engaged with the remote car track racing, Impairment station and were able to avail of face painting, free PPE and road safety merchandise.

CCTV

Longford County Council is committed to the development of innovative policies aimed at enhancing its quality of service to the public and improving the quality of life within the community.

In the drive to reduce the incidence of crime, anti-social behaviour, public disorder, vandalism and the general fear of crime, Longford County Council support An Garda Síochána in securing public order by facilitating the deterrence, prevention and prosecution of offences and anti-social behaviour through the use of Community CCTV schemes.

Traffic and Paid Parking

Longford County Councils Roads Traffic Section has responsibility for enforcement of illegal parking, non-display of valid parking ticket, permit or motor tax disc, or failure to pay the appropriate parking fees in enforceable parking areas. See below table for the type and number of fines issued from January to March this year.

| Offence | Fines issued from January-March |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Parking Fines | 122 |
| Non-Display of Tax | 76 |
| Breach of Parking Regulations 1997 | 36 |
| Total | 234 |

Planning

Forward Planning and Enforcement

Longford Town Local Area Plan 2025-2031

On 22 April, the Elected Members of Longford Municipal District agreed by resolution to adopt the plan as presented in accordance with the recommendations of the Chief Executive Report on the Proposed Material Alterations to the draft plan.

During May 2025, these changes are being incorporated into the document. This has been sent to the Environmental Consultants in order to complete a full update of the draft environmental report (SEA), Natura Impact Report (AA) and SFRA to reflect any changes between the draft and final version of the LAP. Final proofing of the Plan has also been undertaken.

The Longford Town Local Area Plan 2025-2031 comes into effect on 3 June 2025. The Local Area Plan, relevant documents and summary of progress to date is available on [Longfordcoco.ie](https://longfordcoco.ie).

Longford County Development Plan 2021-2027

The implementation of the Longford County Development Plan 2021-2027 is ongoing. No variations have been carried out to date on the Plan.

Longford County Council will commence the statutory preparation of the next County Development Plan no later than end of November 2025. The new plan will be a 10-year plan to be prepared under the Planning and

Development Act 2024. Background research is currently underway.

A tender process is currently underway in relation to the appointment of consultants to carry out the SEA, AA and SFRA of the County Longford Development Plan 2027-2037 to be prepared under the Planning and Development Act 2025.

Submissions and input to other plans and strategies

The Forward Planning Unit made submissions and/or provided input into the preparation of a number of other documents including:

- Climate and Flood Risk Planning – CCMA Planning and Land Use Committee
- National Housing Plan 2025-2030
- Midlands Enterprise Property Portfolio Project

Planning Enforcement

The Planning Enforcement Section involves investigating complaints from the public regarding unauthorised developments and non-compliance with planning conditions attached to planning permissions.

In April 2025, eight new cases were opened, six warning letters were issued and three enforcement notices were issued. There were no referrals for prosecution and five files were closed.

In May 2025, 1 new case was opened, 4 warning letters were issued

Planning

and 3 enforcement notices were issued. There were no referrals for prosecution and 3 files were closed.

Taking in Charge

75 estates have been taken in charge but are yet to be registered in Longford County Council's name and E C Geartys are currently carrying out this final part of the process.

Residential Zoned Land Tax (RZLT)

In early 2025, the Council sought submissions regarding the inclusion/exclusion from the Draft Map for 2026 or re-zoning of land included in the 2025 Final Map. An advertisement was placed in the Longford Leader along with notifications on Longfordcoco.ie, with a closing date of 8 April 2025 for receipt of submissions. Four submissions were received. All redacted submissions were uploaded onto the Council website under the RZLT section.

The submissions are being reviewed, with further information sought where necessary and relevant planners' reports compiled.

In terms of upcoming dates, the 30 June 2025 is the last date to issue communication to landowners regarding intention to undertake or not to undertake amendment to zoning. The 1 July is the last date to issue determinations on submissions challenging proposed inclusion or exclusion on the Annual Draft Map for 2026.

Development Management

ePlanning Files

ePlanning files have increase from previous months. Currently 85% of planning applications have been received online.

Office of the Planning Regulator Review

Confirmation has been received from the Office of the Planning Regulator (OPR) with regards to the review process. The OPR will commence their workshops with the planning department teams in June.

