

Chief Executive Report May 2026

Longford County Council

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Corporate Services

Corporate Management Supports and Customer Services

The Customer Services desk received over 3,377 calls during the months of February and March, as well as 685 emails via the CRM.

Register of Electors

National Voter Registration Day

The Franchise Team participated in this year's National Voter Registration Day which took place on April 30, 2026. National Voter Registration Day (NVRD) is a nationwide initiative aimed at promoting voter registration and increasing political participation in Ireland, with a particular focus on reaching minority groups, disadvantaged communities, and young people.

A stand was set up in the atrium of Áras an Chontae which allowed the team to engage with staff and members of the public alike and assist them to check and update their details on the Register. The team also ran a social media awareness campaign aimed at promoting voter registration and increasing political participation in Ireland. Both campaigns proved successful with an encouraging response received.



Data cleansing work is continuing on the Register of Electors, with the aim of improving the quality of the register ahead of the migration process from the current checktheregister.ie website to the new voter.ie portal. Longford County Council are on target to move to the new portal on June 8. The establishment of this new central electoral registration system is a key part of the electoral registration measures introduced in the Electoral Reform Act 2022. The new Voter.ie will significantly improve the ability of local authorities to administer the electoral register, including by facilitating greater integration between local authorities for when people are deceased or move address – these are critical elements of ensuring an accurate and complete register.

Official Languages Act

Work continues to meet obligations under Section 10A of the Official Languages Act (Amendment) 2021. Among the obligations under the Act, the Local Authority are obliged to ensure that:

- at least 20% of annual advertising is conducted 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.

Corporate Services

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

To date in 2026, currently 11.25% of advertisements placed comply with the Acht Teanga.

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

	Year to Date
No. of Freedom of Information (FOI) requests received	42
No. of Access to Information on the Environment (AIE) requests received	9
No. of Office of the Ombudsman complaints received	3

Meetings Administration

Meetings and events which took place in April and May 2026 detailed below:

8 April	Corporate Policy Group Meeting
	Longford County Council Committee Meeting
	Longford County Council Meeting
14 April	Corporate Policy Group Meeting
20 April	Longford Municipal District Committee Meeting
	Longford Municipal District Meeting
	Granard Municipal District Meeting
5 May	Corporate Policy Group Meeting
	Longford County Council Meeting
11 May	Granard Municipal District Committee Meeting
	Granard Municipal District Meeting
13 May	Corporate Policy Group Meeting
	Longford County Council Meeting
26 May	Ballymahon Municipal District Committee Meeting
	Ballymahon Municipal District Meeting
27 May	Longford Municipal District Committee Meeting
	Longford Municipal District Meeting

Corporate Services

Civic Recognition Granard Municipal District

Longford County Council recently hosted a Civic Recognition ceremony to honour the outstanding sporting achievements of Cnoc Mhuire Senior Football Team and Moyne Community School U16 Football Team. The event took place on Monday, 11 May 2026 in Granard Library, following a unanimous decision of the elected members of the Granard Municipal District.

Civic Recognition is one of the highest honours awarded by Longford County Council and is reserved for individuals and groups whose achievements bring pride to the county and their local communities.

Cnoc Mhuire Senior Football Team were recognised following a historic season, which saw the team complete a clean sweep of North Leinster, Leinster and All-Ireland Senior B honours during the 2025/26 campaign. The team secured the All-Ireland Post-Primary Schools Senior B title, defeating St Nathy's College, Ballaghaderreen in the final.

Moyne Community School U16 Football Team were honoured after an undefeated season, culminating in victory in the Leinster Post-Primary Schools Junior (U16) Football Final. This marked only the second Leinster Junior title in the school's history and the first provincial boys' title since 2002.

The Civic Recognition ceremony brought together players, coaches, elected members and school representatives to mark what was described as a proud occasion for the Longford–Cavan border region and the county as a whole.



Corporate Services

Communications

April and May 2026 saw a number of positive news events in Longford County Council including the launch of the One @ One Night Time Economy Late -Night pilot bus service, the Bealtaine Festival, launch of the My CoCo online payments platform for housing rents, a visit by the Turkish Ambassador to Ireland, Ms Esra Cankorur, and Commercial Counsellor, Mr. Haluk Koç, National Bike Week, launch of the Garda Youth Awards, opening of Sports Bursary applications.

Other highlights included Longford County Council being announced as the overall winner of the Public Sector category of the Health and Safety Excellence Awards, a Civic Recognition event for local school football champions, the graduation of Longford students from Maynooth University with 'Introduction to 21st Century STEM Skills', national awards for Longford students at the Enterprise Finals, official opening of MacEoin Park Multi Use Games Area and the establishment of the first Higher Education Partnership with TUS Learning Gates across Longford Library Services and the Better Estate Awards 2026.

Work continued on a number of flagship communication related work projects this month including work on a final draft of a new five-year Communications Strategy as well hosting website tender presentations for the development of a new website for Longford County Council and a new Tourism website for 2026.

All of these events require the assistance and support of

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

Press Releases

A total of 24 press releases were issued in April and May 2026 on a range of issues, representative of all council sections as referenced above.

Media enquiries

A total of 10 media queries were received and processed by the Communications Section in April/ May 2026 from both local and national print, online and broadcast media with common themes including, housing related queries, dog welfare, environmental issues, planning and parking issues.

Communications Strategy

Work continued on the development of a new five-year Communications Strategy in conjunction with RPS Consulting Engineers following a Communications Audit.

Corporate Services

The Communications Officer has held weekly workshops with RPS to draft and develop the new five-year strategy, and the final draft is near completion and will be presented to management for feedback.

LCC Website

The Communications and IT section held tender presentations for the development of a new county council website, and the winning tender was awarded in May. As part of the preparation in advance of a new LCC website work our Digital Communications Officer continued work on a detailed clean-up/audit of existing content and pages with a view to having all existing website pages ready for migration to a new website during 2026. The Communications section will work with the newly appointed website developer on the development of the new website this summer.

New Tourism related website

The Digital Communications Officer worked with the Tourism Officer and the website developer for the development of a new Tourism website and the launch of the new Tourism website is expected to take place in June 2026.

Social Media Stats

Key Social Media Statistics

The following statistics cover the period 25 March to 25 May 2026 and are compared against the same period from 25 March to 25 May 2025.


- 525 posts published across social platforms, representing a **8.2% decrease** compared to 572 posts.
- 1,498,809 total impressions, an **increase of 220%** on the 468,181 impressions recorded in the previous period.
- 2,441 post shares, reflecting a **181% increase** compared to 868 shares in the previous period.
- 14,235 post reactions and likes, **an increase of 420%** (2,736).
- **Followers increase by 14.1%** (18,511) compared to the 16,218 in the previous period.
- Video views **increased by 387%**, rising to 30,456 compared with 6,256 in the previous period.

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

Corporate Services

Social Media Best Performing Posts:


Top posts



Longford County Council
May 11, 10:58

Day 16! Raising awareness about dementia The FTD Brothers Jordan and Cian Adams are overwhelmed with Longford support as over 1,000 people turn out at The Mall, Longford Town this morning. The brothers are on a mission to complete a marathon in every county in Ireland. The brothers have runs in Rosendick and Ballinacreek #FTDBrothers #dementiaawareness


1,388 likes



Longford County Council
May 17, 17:01

Update on the pups found in Longford Town 🐶🐶 Longford County Council's Dog Control Service can confirm that the five Labrador cross pups found straying in the Longford Town area on the morning of 11 May 2026 are now safe and well. ✅ The pups are in the care of Longford Dog Pound, where they are being properly looked after. The owner has been

1,093 likes




Longford County Council
May 13, 18:00

Public Notice – Abandonment of Dogs at Longford Dog Pound 🐶 Longford County Council wishes to advise that two Maltese dogs, believed to be a mother and her pup, were abandoned at the gates of Longford Dog Pound between 5pm on Friday, 8 May and 10am on Saturday, 9 May. The dogs were left without food or water. This matter is being treated

928 likes


Top posts



longfordcoco
May 13, 13:01

Public Notice – Abandonment of Dogs at Longford Dog Pound 🐶 Longford County Council wishes to advise that two Maltese dogs, believed to be a mother and her pup, were abandoned at the gates of Longford Dog Pound between 5pm on Friday, 8 May and 10am on Saturday, 9 May. The dogs were left without food or water. This matter is being treated


1,277 likes



longfordcoco
May 17, 17:01

Update on the pups found in Longford Town 🐶🐶 Longford County Council's Dog Control Service can confirm that the five Labrador cross pups found straying in the Longford Town area on the morning of 11 May 2026 are now safe and well. ✅ The pups are in the care of Longford Dog Pound, where they are being properly looked after. The owner has been

771 likes




longfordcoco
May 11, 13:17

Longford County Council was proud to support The FTD Brothers as they set off on Day 16 of their marathon mission to raise awareness of dementia. 🐶 The brothers have strong Drumlish and Ballinacreek roots and were delighted to see over 1,000 people turning out at The Mall in Longford Town today! 🐶🐶 #FTDBrothers #dementiaawareness

444 likes


Top posts



Longford County Council
May 11, 16:17

Longford leg complete! 🎉 Brilliant to see such strong support for Jordan and Cian Adams as they finished the Longford leg of their incredible challenge – proudly wearing the primrose and blue at the line 🏆 The FTD Brothers are taking on 32 marathons in 32 days across Ireland to raise awareness and funds for research into Frontotemporal Dementia


97 reactions



Longford County Council
Apr 10, 11:00

Dream Space 2026: Inspiring the Next Generation of STEAM Leaders in Longford 🌟 Innovation, creativity and problem-solving took centre stage as more than 700 primary school students from across County Longford showcased their incredible STEAM projects at the Microsoft Dream Space Showcase! From coffee solutions that support non-verbal and autistic

55 reactions




Longford County Council
Apr 10, 09:00

Pay Your Rent Anytime, Anywhere with MyCoCo 🏠 Longford County Council has launched MyCoCo, a new secure online payments platform that makes paying your housing rent easier, safer and more convenient. ✅ Local Authority housing tenants can now pay rent online at a time and place that suits them, while still having the option to

51 reactions

Top posts



longfordcoco
Apr 10, 14:00

Scéim Fostaíochta Samhraidh do Mhic Léinn 🎓 Fíach na sonraí ionlána agus an chaoi le hiaratas a dhéanamh 📄 <https://www.longfordcoco.ie/your-council/careers/> <https://twitter.com/longfordcoco/status/204260737181516183/photo/1>

1 likes

@longfordcoco
May 25, 12:36

Uisce Éireann is reporting a water disruption in the Enybegs area. Details at <https://mapalerter.ie/?ref=T274N>. Includes traffic issues. 🚗 Get free alerts for your area 📍 <http://mapalerter.ie/longford> #YourCouncil <https://www.mapalerter.ie/alert?ref=5D4514A832005424296FE91F12000104>

likes

@longfordcoco
May 25, 09:48

Uisce Éireann is reporting a water disruption in the Aghnaculiffe area. Details at <https://mapalerter.ie/?ref=T254E>. Includes traffic issues. 🚗 Get free alerts for your area 📍 <http://mapalerter.ie/longford> #YourCouncil <https://www.mapalerter.ie/alert?ref=5D4517138BA980A296FD98F390256C0>

likes

Corporate Services

Website

The following statistics cover the period from 25 March to 25 May 2026 and are compared against the same period from 25 March to 25 May 2025.

Longfordcoco.ie recorded 26,158 visits, representing an increase of 2,119 visits (8.8%) compared to this time last year.

The most popular sections were:

- News (3,970)
- Planning (3,676)
- Housing (3,443)
- Careers (3,336)
- Environment (2,347)

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

- Longford Sports (1,189)
- Longford Libraries (4,168)
- Longford.ie (5,841)

Health & Safety

Health & Safety Inspections

A total of 19 Safety Inspections were completed by the Health and Safety section and the Management Team.

Health and Safety Training

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

A total of nine new employee health & safety inductions were completed.

Lone working

Isle systems completed two training sessions on 28 April on the use of the lone working app and fobs to employees identified as requiring a lone working device as part of their work activities.

Manual training

Road's dashboard manual training refresher training was completed with the Esker Depot Crew on selection and use of Type B temporary traffic management plans on 8 May.

Risk Assessment review program.

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

Workers Memorial Day – 28 April

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.

Internal Audit

Health and Safety Internal Audits were completed in the following section – Civil Defence, Environment, Planning, Sports Partnership, Economic

Corporate Services

Development, Integration, Night-Time Economy and Tourism and IT.

Audit schedule in place for other sections.

Health and Safety Awards

Longford County Council was announced as the overall winner in the Public Sector category at the Health and Safety Excellence Awards, presented at a special ceremony held in the Crowne Plaza Hotel, Santry, Dublin, on Thursday, 30 April 2026. This marks the fourth consecutive year that Longford County Council has received this prestigious award, reflecting the organisation's strong commitment to, and excellent culture

of, health and safety. The award recognises the continued hard work and dedication of Longford County Council employees in creating and maintaining a safe and healthy working environment for staff and the wider community.



Library, Archives, Arts and Heritage Service

Age Friendly

The National Bealtaine Festival, now in its 31st year, celebrates the lives and creativity of older people. In County Longford, Longford Age Friendly Libraries and Longford County Council have organised a varied programme of events running throughout the month of May. The theme of this year's festival is Lust for Life! It encourages people aged 50 and over to explore their creativity, stay active and remain connected to their communities. The programme also recognises the important contribution older people make to community life. Events took place across County Longford and include music, dance, arts and crafts, literature, health and wellbeing activities. There was something to suit all interests.

The annual Bealtaine Concert with Songbirds took place in Ballymahon Library on Friday, 1 May. On Wednesday, 6 May, Longford Age Friendly Ambassador Eamonn Brennan led a local history walk through the Mall. This is the first in



a series of local history walks which will take place monthly during the summer months continuing along the River Camlin, Connolly Barracks, St John's Church up town finishing at St Mel's Cathedral.

Arts and literature were celebrated throughout the month. Local author Jo Nestor, author of 'Swimming Donkeys,' read in Ballymahon Library on Saturday, 9 May. A 'Found Poetry' workshop will take place in Lanesboro Library on Thursday, 28 May to mark World Poetry Day.

Bosca Beo

Longford and Laois County Creative Ireland, Age Friendly and Healthy Ireland sections have recently collaborated on Bosca Beo, an innovative project designed to help people record, collect, cherish and share their life memories with loved ones.

Bosca Beo takes the form of a beautifully illustrated memory box, styled after a vintage suitcase. Inside, there is space to safely store keepsakes, photographs, documents, and other important personal items.

The box contains a set of eighty prompt cards with gentle questions to help spark memories and conversations. These cards are ideal for sharing stories with family members of all ages, making it a wonderful intergenerational activity. Included is a life journal where people can write about their experiences, from childhood through to the present day. In addition, Bosca Beo includes a family tree booklet, allowing users to record details about

Library, Archives, Arts and Heritage Service

themselves and previous generations, helping to preserve their family history for the future.

Bosca Beo are now available free of charge though the library networks in both counties. The Bosca Beo project was awarded funding under the Creative Health and Wellbeing in the community scheme 2026-2028. This funding will expand the project to include new partners in Age Friendly and Healthy Ireland partners in Westmeath and Offaly County Councils.

Several workshops around the Bosca Beo took place in Longford Libraries during Bealtaine. The Longford Age Friendly and Creative Ireland teams were also delighted to deliver a Bosca Beo Workshop at the National Convention of Older Person's Councils hosted on 7/8 May by Westmeath County Council at Sheraton Hotel in Athlone. This convention brought together over 250 Older People's Council members from across all 31 local authority areas as well as Age Friendly Programme staff. This conference was an opportunity to showcase the Longford project, network, hear about new service and policy developments, listen to older people's issues, and discuss solutions.

Archives Service

Donations

The Archives Service received several donations recently. They include: a collection of election flyers and periodicals, 1916-17, from the family of the late Hubert Wilson, Longford; files from the late Frank Small,

Newcastle, Ballymahon: items from Ardagh Convent; and papers of the writer and broadcaster, Aidan O'Hara.

Records Management

The Archivist drafted a records retention schedule for Sports Partnership which will be used by staff in managing their records. Martin will continue to advise staff on record-keeping matters.

Projects

The Archives Service continues to support the County Longford Field Names Project, which is a partnership involving the Heritage Office and County Longford Historical Society. Recently, some new collectors of information were included in the project. The Archives provided a grant from the Commemorations Fund (provided by the Department of Culture, Communications and Sport) towards the Farrell Clan Schools' Heritage Project, launched on 20 May. This project is the first of its kind and is in preparation for the Farrell Clan Rally in July. Several schools in the county produced projects on famous Farrells and particular places associated with the clan.

Arts

Longford County Council's Arts Office and the Longford School Completion Programme (LSCP) announced the launch of Longford Circus Camp – a landmark first for County Longford and a transformative new opportunity for the county's young people. The camps are taking place this summer at the Temperance

Library, Archives, Arts and Heritage Service

Hall, Longford Town, the camp will introduce children and teenagers to the captivating world of circus arts. This is an initiative way to introduce creativity, confidence and new skills to the youth of County Longford. This is an excellent example of what can be created when education and arts services work together for the benefit of children.

Running across two dedicated age-group sessions from Monday, 29 June to Friday, 10 July 2026, the half-day camps will immerse participants in the disciplines of aerial performance, balance, object manipulation, juggling, acrobatics, and clowning. Places are now open for booking, with Junior Circus sessions (ages 8–12) running from 10am to 1pm and Senior Circus sessions (ages 13–14) from 2pm to 4.30pm.

The Longford Circus Camp is a centrepiece of the Making Moving Art programme, delivered by Longford School Completion Programme and funded by County Longford Arts Service and the Arts Council of Ireland. The camps are led by acclaimed circus educator Isab Ela, formerly of Galway Circus School, and supported by facilitators Gavin Smith and Niamh Dennehy.

Creative Ireland

Granard Booktown Festival

Granard Booktown Festival took place from 16 -19 April, bringing a vibrant weekend of literary celebration to the town. The festival featured an impressive lineup of speakers, writers, and artists, and was a resounding success. Ongoing support from

Creative Ireland Longford has been instrumental in helping the festival grow from strength to strength. The festival also features as the Creative Ireland Longford Hero Project for 2026, further highlighting the programme's commitment to creativity and community engagement locally.



Brown Bread

The short film '*Brown Bread*,' written and directed by Longford native Shaunagh Connaire and filmed entirely in County Longford with the support of Creative Ireland Longford, continues its trailblazing success. The film recently won a Remi Award at the WorldFest-Houston International Film Festival and has been selected for several other prestigious festivals, including the Orion International Film Festival, the Dubai International Film Festival, and the Fastnet Film Festival,

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West Cork. Further cementing its success, *'Brown Bread'* has been acquired by Disney+ and will also be screened on Aer Lingus long-haul flights from 1 July 2026. This is a wonderful opportunity to showcase the talent in Longford and beauty of the county.

Libraries

Healthy Ireland

Prime of life and Move for Better Balance classes continue Monday and Fridays in library branches in conjunction with Longford Sports Partnership with full attendance at all sessions.

Longford Libraries has announced the launch of a new Radon Monitor Loan Scheme, enabling members of the public to borrow digital radon monitors to check radon levels in their homes. The initiative forms part of the national Healthy Ireland at Your Library programme and is supported by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Radon is a naturally occurring radioactive gas that can accumulate indoors. It is the second leading cause of lung cancer in Ireland after smoking. Testing is the only way to know if radon is present in a home. Through this scheme, library members in both Ballymahon and Granard Libraries can borrow a digital radon monitor just like a book, allowing them to gain a snapshot reading of radon levels in their homes. While the monitors do not replace the recommended three-month radon test, they provide a valuable first step in identifying potential radon

issues and raising awareness. The initiative has already seen success in several counties and is now being rolled out in additional library services nationwide. The EPA has supported the scheme by providing monitors, staff training and promotional materials.

Healthy Eating talks with Dietician Sharon Murtagh took place in three libraries during April and May.

A series of Brain Health talks with Pauline Lee HSE took place in four library branches during April.

A fusion of food and Dance, Grow Eat and Groove workshops teaches people how to grow their own food, eat healthy and keep fit. These four-week workshops took place in April in Ballymahon and Granard Libraries.

A block of three-week Mindfulness/ Meditation sessions took place in Longford, Edgeworthstown with Aine Hughes and Lanesboro and Drumlish with Charlotte O' Ferrall during May.

Preparations are underway for Men's Health week in June. Events will include exercise classes, men's haircuts and Scooch Games in Ballymahon and Granard Libraries.

Right to Read

Spring into Storytime

Spring into Storytime ran throughout the month of April. Longford Library Service held 26 events, in all library branches. This included six sessions from Music Generation, four workshops with primary schools by local author Halyna Budilova, story times, arts and crafts with staff, and family movies.

Library, Archives, Arts and Heritage Service

My Little Library Bags

My Little Library Bags have been delivered and will be given to all children due to start Primary School in County Longford in September 2026.

A national press release was issued on 8 May, and families will be invited to the library to collect their own My Little Library Bag. The bag contains picture books to help children with the big step of starting school, finding friends and dealing with big emotions. Books are available in both Irish and English. This initiative will be promoted on our social media channels, in our local media and in all primary schools and Early Learning Centres.

Summer Stars

Planning is well under way for this year's Summer Stars reading programme aimed at all primary school children throughout the county. Events will take place in all branches throughout the month of July. It is a similar format to last year, with monthly draws for prizes, and all reading cards will be entered into a Mega Draw in September.

'Explore Longford' young photographers' competition will once again take place in conjunction with Longford Tourism.

Literacy Champion Training

All library staff received a full day training as part of the Literacy Champion programme organised by the Regional Literacy Co-ordinator funded by the Adult Literacy for Life-Anne-Maria Egan.

This training is a roadmap for inclusion, by talking about literacy, reducing stigma, raising awareness, removing barriers, including literacy at the heart of policy and practice at work, using plain language in promotion and signposting for support.

This training is essential for upskilling for the library staff. Literacy affects everyone, everywhere. It is important for the library to highlight how literacy friendly library branches are and to also signpost people to where they can find more supports.

TUS Learning Gates Partnership

All six Longford libraries branches have officially joined the TUS Learning Gate network, creating connected local access points to higher education and supporting wider participation in flexible, online and part-time learning opportunities across County Longford. The Technological University of the Shannon: Midlands Midwest (TUS), in partnership with Longford County Council, has formally signed a Memorandum of Understanding establishing Longford Library Services as part of the growing TUS Learning Gate network. The signing event took place in Granard Library on Thursday, 7 May 2026, and marked an important step in expanding access to flexible higher education opportunities across County Longford.

A TUS Learning Gate is a collaborative partnership that connects community institutions to the Technological University of the Shannon through a distributed and connected network of local and regional access points to

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higher education. Through the TUS Learning Gate network, individuals in communities across Longford are made aware of the wide range of TUS flexible, online, part-time and accredited programmes, including programmes across NFQ Levels 6–9.

These include micro-credentials, certificates, undergraduate degrees, postgraduate diplomas and master’s programmes. Many programmes may also be eligible for funding supports such as Springboard+, SUSI, and other national initiatives, alongside a broader range of fee-paying opportunities. The Longford partnership will help increase local awareness of these opportunities and support individuals who may wish to return to education, upskill, reskill, progress in their careers, or explore new learning pathways, while living and working in Longford, as all programmes are delivered online.

The partnership also reflects a shared commitment between TUS and Longford County Council to widening participation in higher education, supporting lifelong learning, and strengthening regional and community development. This partnership with Longford County Council represents a significant milestone in the continued development of the TUS Learning Gate network. While the network has traditionally included hubs, community spaces and enterprise centres, Longford Library Services is the first county library service to join as a TUS Learning Gate partner, highlighting the important role libraries can play in widening access to higher education. As part of the event, the Memorandum of

Understanding was formally signed, confirming the partnership between TUS and Longford County Council.

The libraries will also be hosting community lectures as part of a new community learning initiative called the Demystifying series. The first lecture called Demystifying Power of Attorney took place online hosted by Library HQ on Friday, 15 May.



Highlight events

Edgeworthstown Library Friendship Postcards Exhibition

A major UK–Ireland creative collaboration celebrating Jane Austen’s 250th anniversary was celebrated on 15 May as Edgeworthstown library hosted the Friendship Postcards exhibition. Developed in partnership with British Council Ireland, British Embassy Dublin, and the National Library of Ireland, this exhibition brings together more than 800 creative postcards created by young people aged 13 to 18 years old from thirty-five schools across Ireland, Northern Ireland, Scotland, Wales and England. Each postcard offers a fresh and

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imaginative interpretation of the theme 'Friendship,' inspired by excerpts from Jane Austen's novels, the work of her Irish contemporary Maria Edgeworth, and illustrations from the National Library of Ireland's Prints & Drawings Collection. Its arrival in Edgeworthstown brings the project full circle by celebrating the literary connection between Austen and Edgeworth.



Longford Library Photography Exhibition

Longford County Council recently hosted 'Through an Irish Lens,' the latest exhibition of photographs by the Edgeworthstown Library Photography Club. The exhibition which opened on Tuesday, 5 May in Longford Branch Library, showcases images of Irish life — captured and framed by club members whose eye for the everyday has produced works of real quality.

Local Enterprise Office

Student Enterprise National Finals

Students from Longford have taken 3rd Prize in the intermediate category and the Junior Sustainability Award at this year's Student Enterprise National Finals. The Finals of the Local Enterprise Office initiative took place in May in Mullingar. Supported by Local Enterprise Office Longford, the students from Moyne Community School and Ardscoil Phadraig Granard won 3rd prize in the Intermediate category and the Junior category Sustainability Award.



The winning students, Martinss Martinsons Moyne CS and James Denny Ardscoil Phadraig Granard worked under the guidance of their teachers, Pdraig Doherty and Linda Reilly respectively. Their student enterprise was called: Fern & Foam and Boot Buddy. Fern & Foam is a homemade soap made with mostly recycled materials and Boot Buddy is a novel football boot drying rack upcycled from building material.

Outreach Information Days

The Outreach Information Days hosted by Longford Community Resources were held recently in Drumlish, Edgeworthstown and Kenagh. The purpose of these events was to provide outreach and information services to those seeking employment and educational support. The Local Enterprise Office attended these events promoting the 'Start your Own Business' Course along with highlighting the other mentoring and training services and supports available at your local LEO office.

Women in Business - AI Advantage: Empowering Women to Transform Their Small Business

LEO Longford, Leitrim and Westmeath hosted 'AI Advantage', a session focused on helping women in business navigate a rapidly changing landscape. The event emphasised clarity, confidence and practical tools to support business growth while managing time pressures.

Miriam Simon, an award-winning business strategist and executive

Local Enterprise Office

coach, delivered the main session. Her session explored current challenges facing SMEs and provided practical strategies to improve efficiency, build resilience and drive sustainable growth.

Longford was represented by Anna Peters (Athena Art Gallery & Café) for panel discussion. Athena Art Gallery & Café is Longford's first combined gallery, café and studio, supporting Irish artists. Through Athena, Anna has championed Irish artists and makers, offering art classes for adults and children, and provides a vibrant, welcoming cultural hub at the heart of the local community.



Information Systems

Climate Action Update

1. The section continues to progress and implement several paperless projects which will have an instant positive impact on the organisation's carbon footprint.
2. ePMDS software for 2026 has been updated and used by existing and new employees, saving paper, time, and travel.
3. The Blended Working App, now in its fourth year continues to be used as new employees commence and existing employees make renew applications, the app saves on multiple page paper applications and related processing and catches key environmental metrics for blended working.
4. A new platform is being rolled out to digitise business process with the Affordable Housing Scheme the most prominent of applications to be digitised.

IT Infrastructure and Digital Projects

- ServiceDesk stats for April and May 2026: 1,009 tickets.
- The rollout of online forms continued with new grant application forms and processes developed for Community and post go-live support for the new Affordable Housing Application form.

- MyCoCo payments app live for the online payment of housing rents.
- Tender for new CMS system for the Longford County Council websites progressed in collaboration with Communications team.
- CE Orders app from Galway County Council being customised for Longford County Council use.
- Updates made to Roads complaints system to incorporate SMS notifications.
- New Health and Safety PowerApp being developed to digitise H&S forms and processes.
- Implementation of MyCoCo Vacant Property system commenced.
- Support provided and automations developed for the upgrade and implementation of a new receipting application for the financial management system upgrade.
- Project commenced with Roads department for the replacement of the end-of-life traffic fines application.
- Supported the libraries application for Small Scale Capital Works 2026.
- Migration project to voter.ie supported and progressed with Corporate Services and the LGMA.
- Procurement processes completed for licence renewals and software purchases.

Information Systems

Information Security projects

Broadband & STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics) Initiatives

National Broadband Plan

National Broadband Ireland (NBI) the company delivering the Government's National Broadband Plan (NBP) is highlighting significant progress on Ireland's largest telecommunications infrastructure project, and confirming the first part of its roadmap for the completion of main build works with Longford among the first counties expected to reach this milestone this summer.

There are 9,000 premises in County Longford included in the State's Intervention Area, where NBI is delivering minimum speeds of 500 megabits per second to homes, businesses, farms, and schools. As the biggest investment in rural Ireland since rural electrification, County Longford has received €34m of Government investment under the National Broadband Plan.

Broadband Connection Points (BCP)

A total of 890 users connected to the BCP's in Longford in April.

TY Longford Students graduate from Maynooth University

Students from St. Mel's College, Lanesboro Community College, Ardscoil Phádraig and Moyne Community School recently graduated with a university accredited Level 6 National Framework of

Qualifications (NFQ) module, 'Introduction to 21st Century STEM Skills'.

Mairead Reynolds from St Mel's College graduated on the day and also received the Outstanding School Engagement Award. This award recognised St Mel's College as having shown exceptional commitment to the programme, with lead teacher Mairead Reynolds and staff supporting students every step of the way.

Longford County Council piloted the STEM Passport for Inclusion programme in local hubs the Latin School Moyne and EDI Centre during the 2023/2024 academic year. Following its ongoing success, the programme has expanded for the 2025/2026 academic year and is now being offered and delivered across all nine postprimary schools in County Longford.



Major laptop investment strengthens digital learning in Longford primary schools

Longford County Council is proud to announce that 92% of primary schools participating in STEM-related activities across the county have now

Information Systems

received ten or more laptops per school.

Over €192,000 has been invested in laptops which have now been delivered to participating primary schools as part of Longford County Council's continued commitment to advancing STEM and STEAM education. This investment ensures that students across the county have greater access to the digital tools required to develop essential skills in science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics.

This initiative is supported through funding from the Government of Ireland and the European Union, under the Just Transition Fund Programme 2021–2027.



Future Engineers Take the Stage at Longford's VEX Robotics Competition

STEM has become an important part of the educational curriculum at all levels across Ireland. Recently in Longford, this was evident as the Junior Cycle VEX IQ Robotics Competition took place in the Temperance Hall Longford, enabling student teams from a number of

post-primary schools to compete in battles of engineering wits, coding and teamwork collaboration.

VEX IQ is a STEM program organised by Longford's County Council's IT Department designed to enhance students' digital skills, foster engagement in STEM education and encourage greater participation in subjects such as design, science, coding and ICT skills.



Geographic Information Systems (GIS)

- Successful migration of the ArcGIS Online platform from US-hosted infrastructure to EU-hosted services.
- Mapping and visualisation of Just Transition funded training programmes to support regional development across the Midlands.
- Update and maintenance of MapAlert service disruption subscriber data to ensure accurate communication coverage.
- Review of system requirements for the validation of Protected

Information Systems

Structures within the Planning process.

- Completion of database migration for the Pollution Complaints system, improving data security, integrity and accessibility.
- Ongoing GIS support for the iReg data validation project.
- Update of the public car parking dataset, reflecting current availability and infrastructure.
- Spatial analysis of the Residential Zoned Land Tax dataset.

Human Resources

Learning and Development

The following training courses were attended during the months of April and May 2026.

Business Skills Training

- Derelict Sites & Structures
- IPA Moving into Management – G5
- LWETB – Developing your Leadership Style
- LWETB – Managing Time & Meetings
- LGMA Annual Coaching Conference
- Introduction to Public Procurement
- Pension Adjustment Training
- Irish Planning Institute Conference
- Maintaining Our Nation’s Infrastructure & Assets
- Excel – Beginner
- Excel - Intermediate
- SPS Leadership Accelerator Programme 2026
- Women in Leadership
- SoRSA Ireland Conference 2026
- Local Authority Housing Loans Schemes
- Compulsory Purchase Orders & Dereliction
- Nature-based Solutions for Surface Water Management, Climate Resilience and Place Making Training
- Conflict Management & De Escalation Skills

- Green Public Procurement Implementation training course.
- Public Sector Procurement Frameworks
- Drone Compliance and Operating Principles
- RSTG Conference
- Urban Design Course
- Build Practical HR Confidence
- Presentation and Public Speaking skills
- AIE Decision Maker
- Practical Implementation of Green Public Procurement in Local Authorities for Procurement Officers
- Women in Leadership - Conference
- IPA Competency based Interview Prep
- People XD Workshop
- National Agricultural Inspection Programme training
- Green Cert

Health & Safety Training

- Chainsaw Refresher
- Safety Representative
- Slinger/Signaller
- Driving for Work Seminar
- DSE/VDU Risk Assessment
- Manual Handling
- Safe Pass

Human Resources

Health & Wellbeing

The following events relating to the four Pillars of Wellbeing as identified in the LGMA Wellbeing Strategy – Mental Wellbeing, Physical Wellbeing, Social Wellbeing and Financial Wellbeing took place during the months of April and May 2026

Physical Wellbeing

- Lunchtime Circuits classes continue Tuesdays and Thursdays in the Longford Athletics Centre.
- Noel McManus Run/Walk- This took place on Good Friday, 3 April, at Lough Rynn Castle in Leitrim. Participation remained strong with 52 staff taking part. This event continues to be a significant feature of the Health & Wellbeing calendar, offering staff an opportunity to come together, and support a meaningful community initiative.



- Bike Week lunchtime cycle took place on 13 May as 46 staff joined the 7km circuit around Longford Town and along the Royal Canal.



Financial Wellbeing

- Employee Financial Wellness Programme. Monthly online masterclasses and one-to-one guidance clinics are ongoing. A total of 384 staff engaged with the programme year to date.
- Annual Planning for Retirement course. Monthly online masterclasses and onetoone guidance clinics continue to run, with strong engagement across the organisation. To date, 384 staff have taken part in the programme. Sessions have focused on key financial topics including savings and investments, AVCs, and planning your financial future, supporting staff to make informed longterm decisions.

Human Resources

Social Wellbeing

- Line Dancing Classes – Programme ongoing on Monday evenings in Atrium, full class of 20 participants.
- Jordan and Cian Adams, The FTD Brothers, - welcomed and supported the brothers to Longford on 11 May as part of their nationwide challenge of 32 marathons in 32 days to raise awareness and funds for Frontotemporal Dementia.



Mental Wellbeing

Mental Health Champion training took place on 30 April. A total of 13 staff attended the session, which focused on recognising mental health challenges, providing effective support, and promoting a stigmafree workplace culture. This brings to over 60 staff members are now trained as Mental Health Champions.

Roads and Transportation

Municipal District Works

The Roads Programme was adopted by the three Municipal Districts and details submitted to the Department in April. Restoration Improvement (RI) Works are progressing well in each of the Municipal Districts. Restoration Maintenance (RM) Works (Surface Dressing) will commence when temperatures improve. These works will continue throughout the summer months.

It should be noted that as a result of the Iranian War there has been significant increases in material prices which will result in a reduction of the number/length of roads which can be completed under the RI and RM Programmes.

Drainage Works, Climate Adaption Works, Bridge Rehabilitation Works, Community Involvement Schemes, Safety Improvement Works etc will all be progressed over the next few months.

Work continues Phase 2 of the National Speed Limit Review. The Speed Limits Team are currently preparing draft byelaws for further consultation with the Members towards the end of June.



National Road Schemes

Pavement Works were completed on a one-kilometre section of the N55 at Cloghchurnel in April as part of the HD28 Programme.

Substantial Pavement Works will be carried out on the N63 at Gowlan. These works will be 2.5km in length and will require a 6-week road closure during July/August. The value of the works will be in excess of €1.5m.

Roads and Transportation

An allocation has been provided for an Emergency Pavement Scheme on the N4 at Tomisky Roundabout. It is anticipated that these works will take place in Q3 of 2026. These works are currently at tender stage.

There are HD28 resurfacing works required at various locations on the N4, N5, N55 and N63.

Other maintenance works are scheduled on the National Road Network at various locations under the TII Defects Scheme.

The N4 Mullingar to Longford (Roosky) Scheme is currently progressing well through Phase 3 (Design and Environmental Evaluation) of the TII Project Management Guidelines.

Ground investigation works, topographical surveys and environmental surveys along the extent of the N4 corridor continued through the months of April and May.

Longford County Council is appointing Consultants Atkins Realis Ireland Ltd to progress the N55 Granard By-Pass Scheme through Phases 2, 3 and 4 of the TII Project Management Guidelines.



Road Safety

As part of National Bike Week which ran from Saturday, 9 May to Sunday, 17 May 2026, 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 campaign with the aim of creating awareness among students about the importance of Road Safety and best practices. The campaign also aimed to advise students how to keep themselves safe on the roads and to become familiar with the Road Safety Authority's Rules for Safe Cycling.

Parking Byelaws

Longford County Council is currently in the process of reviewing the Parking Byelaws within the Pay and Display areas of Longford Town. The focus is to ensure that the regulations are clear, up to date, and aligned with operational and enforcement requirements. The review includes enhanced provisions for the management of electric vehicle (EV) infrastructure, such as the designation and proper use of EV charging bays and measures to prevent misuse. It also includes age-friendly parking measures, including the provision and appropriate use of dedicated spaces to support older persons and those with reduced mobility, in line with wider accessibility objectives. In addition, the review is examining broader improvements to traffic management, parking controls, and the overall user experience across all council-operated car parks. Stakeholder engagement will form a

Roads and Transportation

key part of the process, with a public consultation period expected to commence in Q2 of 2026 following which the revised Bye-Laws will be progressed for formal adoption.

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.

Traffic Department Data Q1 2026

Offence	Fines Issued Jan-March 2026
Parking Fines	137
Non-Display of Tax	48
Breach of Parking Regulations 1997	64
TOTAL	249

Forward Planning and Enforcement

Forward Planning

Longford County Development Plan 2021-2027

Longford County Council prepared a Proposed Variation (No.1) of the Longford County Development Plan 2021 – 2027. The Proposed Variation consists of the amendment to the ‘Strategic Residential Reserve’ Zoning Objective text contained in Volume 2: Appendices. The reason for Proposed Variation no. 1 is in light of the updated policy objectives and growth projections set out in the First Revision of the National Planning Framework (2025) and associated guidelines, acknowledging the constrained delivery of housing in recent years. As such the Proposed Variation of the Development Plan now seeks to facilitate appropriate development proposals on lands zoned ‘Strategic Residential Reserve’. Activation of these lands will be subject to the principles of infrastructure-led compact growth, as well as the environmental considerations that underpin the Development Plan.

The Proposed Variation and associated environmental reports went on public display from 20 March 2026 to 17 April 2026. A total of 13 submissions were received from the public. A Chief Executive Report on the submissions received has been completed and submitted to the Elected Members for their consideration.

EMRA RSES Review

EMRA have commenced a review of the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES). This is an important phase for the future of the region. It is envisaged that this feedback will help shape the preparation of a new draft RSES that supports sustainable social, environmental and economic development for Longford in the future. The current stage is the ‘Pre-Draft Public Consultation – Strategic Issues Paper’. The public consultation dates are from 26 March to 22 May inclusive. During this time a meeting was held with Longford County Council and the Eastern Midland Regional Authority as part of the review of the Regional and Economic Strategy. A submission has been prepared and submitted by Longford County Council.

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 2026, ten new cases were opened, 15 warning letters were issued, and one enforcement notice was issued. There were 0 referrals for prosecution and five files closed. In May 2026, seven new cases were opened, 12 warning letters were issued, and one enforcement notice was issued. There was one referral for prosecution and four files closed.

Forward Planning and Enforcement

Taking in Charge

Work has continued in 2026 with EC Gearty's to carry out the final part of the taking in charge process where 69 estates are being registered in Longford County Council's name. A total of 62 estates are currently being worked on and queries being resolved. The remaining seven files are being prepared to go to Gearty's.

