



Chief Executive Report September 2024

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Community Development

Longford Local Community Development Committee

A Longford Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) meeting was held on 10 September.

Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme (SICAP)

At a September meeting of the LCDC, the revised Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme (SICAP) Annual Plan 2024 was approved. There was an additional allocation by the Department of Rural and Community Development of €8,947 for New Arrivals.

This brings the overall SICAP budget for 2024 to €746,017. This is being delivered by Longford Community Resources CLG (LCRL).

IPB Pride of Place Competition 2024

The IPB Pride of Place Competition 2024, in association with Co-Operation Ireland includes two entries from County Longford, they are:

- 1798 Ballinamuck commemoration committee in the Population category
- Clonbalt Woods Estate in the Urban Neighbourhoods and Better Estates category

Judging has already taken place, with visiting judges impressed by the energy and enthusiasm of both communities, as well as the overall presentation of their area.

This is an all-island competition to acknowledge the work done every day by communities.

The awards ceremony will be held in the Hillgrove hotel in Monaghan on Saturday, 2 November.

Longford Comhairle na nÓg

A new Longford Comhairle na nÓg coordinator was appointed by Foróige. They are assigned for two days a week to support the work of Comhairle na nÓg and will be based in the Attic House.

Cllr Niall Gannon was appointed as the new Comhairle Steering Committee Chair. Their meeting was held on Wednesday, 25 September in the Council Chamber.

Healthy Longford

Period Poverty Project

Department of Health funding has helped local community partners to update their sanitary products and dispensers, this includes a number of new community partners who have engaged with this funding to receive their new items.

Healthy Longford is linking with local secondary schools to deliver one-off workshops with the support of the facilitator, Mojo Matters. These workshops will look at menstrual health for adolescents and targeted to TY students. This work is set to start in November.

Community Development

Green Ribbon Day – Suicide Prevention Month

HSE Resource Officer for Suicide Prevention Patrick Jones promoting See Change and the Green Ribbon 2024 campaign for mental health awareness in the Council Chamber. Patrick was available to direct people towards mental health and suicide prevention resources and to show how we can support one another. This was organised in cooperation with help from the Employee Health and Wellbeing team.



Healthy Ireland Funded Projects

Seventeen community partners received Healthy Ireland funding through Healthy Longford in 2024. This includes funding for diverse projects and programmes focused on delivering the following outcomes:

- Increase in % of adults and children meeting physical health guidelines.
- Increase in positive mental health as per Energy and Vitality index.

We are Breastfeeding Friendly Longford

We are Breastfeeding Friendly Longford is a Healthy Longford initiative led by Longford Breastfeeding Project, an interagency working group.

This interagency working group is made up of Cuidiú, Healthy Longford, the HSE, HSE Health Promotion, Longford Libraries, Sláintecare Healthy Communities, Longford Westmeath CYPSC, Longford Community Resources Limited, Longford Women's Link, Bridgeways Family Resource Centre, Lus Na Greine Family Resource Centre, TUS Athlone, Longford Westmeath Community Families, Foróige Longford (Leap Project) and Longford County Childcare Committee.

Longford Breastfeeding Project is marking National Breastfeeding Week 2024 with the launch of We're Breastfeeding Friendly Longford which will take place in Edgeworthstown Library 11-1pm on Monday, 7 October. All are welcome.



Longford Local Sports Partnership

Age Friendly National Award nomination

The Moving for Better Balance programme in County Longford libraries has been nominated for the Age Friendly National Award. This recognises the programme's impact on the health and wellbeing of older adults in the community.

Designed to enhance strength, stability, and coordination, it has helped to reduce falls and promote independence among participants. It has an inclusive and community-centred approach. Local healthcare providers, community organisations, and volunteers who worked together to ensure the programme's success.

This national recognition underscores the importance of the Moving for Better Balance initiative as a model to strive towards to support older adults to live active and independent lives.

HER Outdoors Week 2024

HER Outdoors Week 2024 saw 147 participants take part in activities such as kayaking, cycling, horse riding and archery. This initiative encourages women to engage in outdoor physical activities and attracts participants of all fitness levels. It also promotes physical wellbeing, community engagement and awareness of outdoor activities.



EU funded project

Longford Sports Partnership Outdoor Recreation Officer Michael Reilly will participate in a working group on the EU funded Moving On project. The project looks to enhance the inclusion of Roma, Sinti, and Traveller communities through sport. Participation in this working group will be as one of two experts from the five participating counties who:

- Are actively engaged in sports as practitioners, athletes, or educators
- Possess the expertise needed to promote anti-discrimination and inclusion within Roma, Sinti, and Traveller communities through sports

This role will include collaborating with experts across Europe to develop and implement strategies aimed at increasing the participation of marginalised communities in sports. It will involve contributing to policy reviews and developing a code of conduct within European sports organisations, focusing on fostering inclusion, preventing discrimination, and ensuring equal access to sports for all. It will also be very beneficial to Longford Sports Partnership in promoting inclusion through sports.

St Christopher's Day Services Inclusive Soccer Programme

Over the four-week Inclusive Soccer Programme, 16 participants from St Christopher's Day Services have taken part in weekly sessions at the Mall with their tutor. The programme

Longford Local Sports Partnership

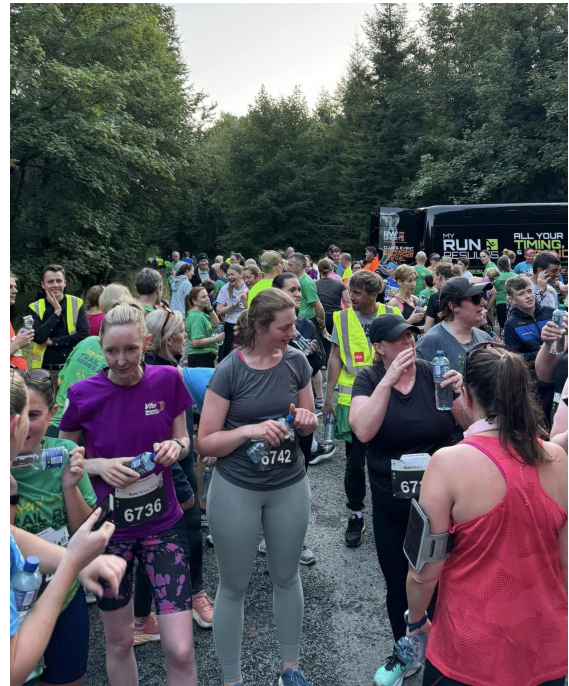
focused on developing key soccer skills such as dribbling, passing, and positioning. There is also an emphasis on goal-scoring drills.

Each week participants showed significant improvement in their skills, scoring more goals, and gaining confidence. The programme fostered teamwork, inclusion, and personal growth, making it a rewarding experience for everyone involved.



trails. Over 400 runners and 150 walkers registered. The series boosts participation in running and walking in a non-competitive and enjoyable environment.

The support of Civil Defence, Mullinalaghta GAA club, Longford Slashers GAA club, Forgnay GAA club, Centre Parcs Longford Forest and Coillte was invaluable to the success of these events.



Longford Trail Run and Walking Series 2024

Longford Sports Partnership annual Longford Trail Run and Walking Series 2024 took place. Events were organised in collaboration with Longford Tourism and Longford Athletics Club.

For this, four runs and eight walks were held across Longford on some of the county's most scenic

Human Resources

Learning and Development

Business skills training which took place included:

- Microsoft Teams Training
- New Teams Phone Training
- LGMA, EDI Workshop
- Future Towns and Cities Conference
- Graduate Mentoring Training
- VAT Treatment of Goods
- VAT Treatment of Services
- Standards for Rented Houses
- Project Management Fundamentals for Planning Professionals
- Cybersecurity Training
- Minute Taking for Meetings
- Mastering Senior public Leadership
- Mental Health and Human Rights in the Workplace
- Moving into Management
- Intermediate Excel

Health and safe training which took place included:

- First Aid Refresher
- First Aid Responder
- Fire Warden Training
- Safe Pass
- Driver CPC Module 1
- DSE – VDU Risk Assessors Course

Health and Wellbeing

Physical Wellbeing

Human Resources collaborated with Longford Sport Partnership to promote the Summer Trail Run Series and the Summer Walking Series. This included encouraging staff to participate and engage in these activities.

We Can Quit Stop Smoking Programme, which is facilitated by the EDI Centre Longford, came to Longford County Council. For this, representatives discussed the resources available and shared insights on the benefits of taking part in their seven-week programme to help people to stop smoking.

Mental Wellbeing

To mark World Suicide Prevention Day, a drop in event was held on in September. HSE resource officers were available to discuss mental health resources, suicide prevention and ways to support one another. This was organised with Healthy Longford.

Social Wellbeing

To celebrate the sunshine, Hamilton's Ice Cream Van visited Áras an Chontae with employees enjoying the social interaction and their cool sweet treat.

Tourism

What's On in Longford

A new What's On in Longford communication channel through WhatsApp. The channel will appear in your Updates section on WhatsApp if you subscribe to it by scanning the QR Code with the camera app on your phone and opening the link.

The channel allows people to browse through images and notices on events taking place in Longford on their phones, without having to log on or sign up to social media.

A monthly events guide is also published in the Longford Leader and available to view online on Longford.ie under the Festivals and Events section. Anyone with events to publicise is invited to email tourism@longfordcoco.ie for free inclusion.

You can also follow Longford Tourism on Facebook, Instagram, X and on [Longford.ie](https://www.longford.ie).

Fáilte Ireland EUJTF Learning Network

The Fáilte Ireland EU Just Transition Fund (JTF) Learning Network Programme is now open for applications. Whether you're embarking on a new tourism venture, expanding your existing business, representing a community enterprise, a public agency, or considering a fresh career in tourism, this opportunity is for you.

This is a fully sponsored programme, led by best-in-class tourism industry specialists. It provides professional learning and development to guide you to achieve tourism growth in a commercial, equitable, socially responsible, and environmentally sustainable way.

Engage in inspirational seminars, structured learning, and benefit from invaluable insights to develop a successful and sustainable tourism business or propel your personal career in the tourism sector.

Applications close on 17 October at 12pm. You will need a Fáilte Ireland account to register. More information is available on [FailteIreland.ie](https://www.FailteIreland.ie).

Successful German Tour Operators Visit

As part of a familiarisation trip to Ireland's Hidden Heartlands, Cloughan Farm and Cookery School, Abbeyshrule and the Maria Edgeworth Centre in Edgeworthstown recently hosted a group of German tour operators.

The trip was organised by Tourism Ireland with support from Fáilte Ireland. It also included bike hire provided by Ballymahon Greenway Cycles.

During the trip, Longford Tourism presented the group with information packs and German language audio players of the walking tour of Longford Town.

A video of the group and their experience in Abbeyshrule can be found on the Facebook Page for Fiona Egan Cloughan Farm and Cookery School.



Tourism

Investment Grant-Aid Scheme for Private and Community SMEs

Support is being provided to a large number of private and community small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) who have been approved at expression of interest (EOI) phase and are now applying for funding under the Just Transition Regenerative Tourism and Placemaking scheme.

It is hoped that the scheme may see the development of a number of new visitor attractions, small-scale accommodation offerings and improvement of accessibility to existing tourism and hospitality businesses in Longford and across the Just Transition territory.

As this fund is being allocated on a first come, first served basis, successful EOI applicants in Longford are being encouraged to submit their full applications as soon as possible in order to be considered.

Only fully completed applications will be allowed to enter the evaluation process in order to be approved for funding. Once all of the available funding is awarded to successful projects the scheme will close.

The deadline for submitting fully completed applications is 13 January 2025, however, it is not currently known if the fund will remain open right up to that date.

All projects must be completed and operational by summer 2026. If planning permission is required for projects, this and all other relevant statutory consents must be in place before completed applications are submitted.

Anyone who is preparing an application is encouraged to email tourism@longfordcoco.ie if they need guidance or assistance. Scheme guidelines remain available to view on FailteIreland.ie.

Longford Regenerative Tourism Network

A new tourism networking bringing together established and new tourism offerings is being developed. The new tourism offerings would include those projects arising from EU Just Transition Fund Investment Grant-Aid Scheme for Private and Community SMEs under the Regenerative Tourism and Placemaking Scheme for Ireland's Midlands 2023-2026.

To date, those with EOI stage approval have been linking in with weekly online calls as they progress their applications. Moving forward, Tourism will take steps to develop a regular in-person gathering to support networking, clustering and cross-selling of visitor experiences and accommodation throughout the county.

Fáilte Ireland National Quality Assurance Framework

Longford Tourism is working with Fáilte Ireland to support existing accommodation providers to register under the National Quality Assurance Framework (NQAF) to access the range of learning benefits and advertising available through it. The NQAF also helps all providers improve to their offering. There are a number of different welcome standards that can be applied for. See FailteIreland.ie for more information.

Finance

Revenue Account Income and Expenditure Summary by Service Division

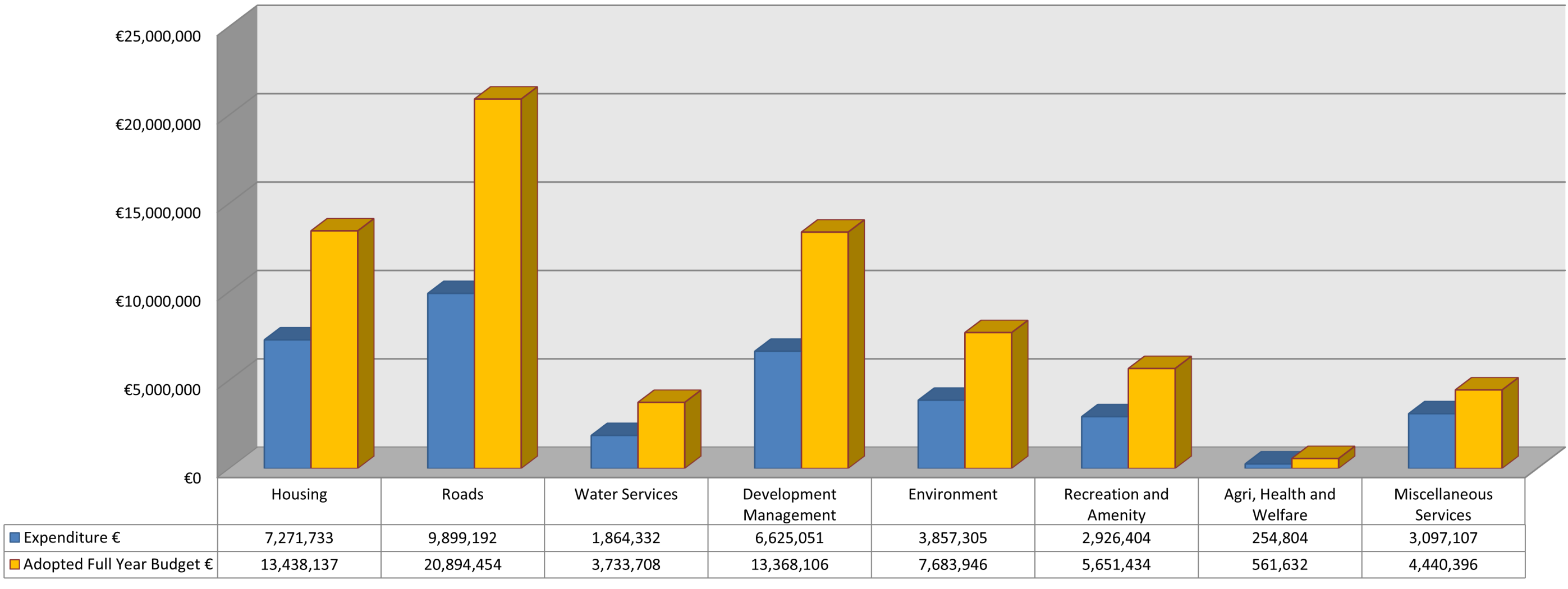
Year to Date to Quarter End 30 June 2024

	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	7,271,733	13,438,137	54%	6,166,404	7,474,609	12,736,928	59%	5,262,319	202,876
Roads	9,899,192	20,894,454	47%	10,995,262	7,006,842	16,507,927	42%	9,501,085	(2,892,350)
Water Services	1,864,332	3,733,708	50%	1,869,376	1,701,122	3,527,710	48%	1,826,588	(163,210)
Development Management	6,625,051	13,368,106	50%	6,743,055	3,832,243	7,199,080	53%	3,366,837	(2,792,808)
Environment	3,857,305	7,683,946	50%	3,826,641	448,167	1,861,508	24%	1,413,341	(3,409,138)
Recreation and Amenity	2,926,404	5,651,434	52%	2,725,030	610,841	1,100,368	56%	489,527	(2,315,563)
Agri, Health and Welfare	254,804	561,632	45%	306,828	146,604	264,213	55%	117,609	(108,200)
Miscellaneous Services	3,097,107	4,440,396	70%	1,343,289	4,310,983	6,469,629	67%	2,158,646	1,213,876
Local Government Fund					5,364,281	10,728,561	50%	5,364,280	5,364,281
*Commercial Rates					4,626,301	9,375,889	49%	4,749,588	4,626,301
	€35,795,928	€69,771,813	51%	€33,975,885	€35,521,993	€69,771,813	51%	€34,249,820	(€273,935)

These figures were submitted to the Department on Friday, 23 August 2024

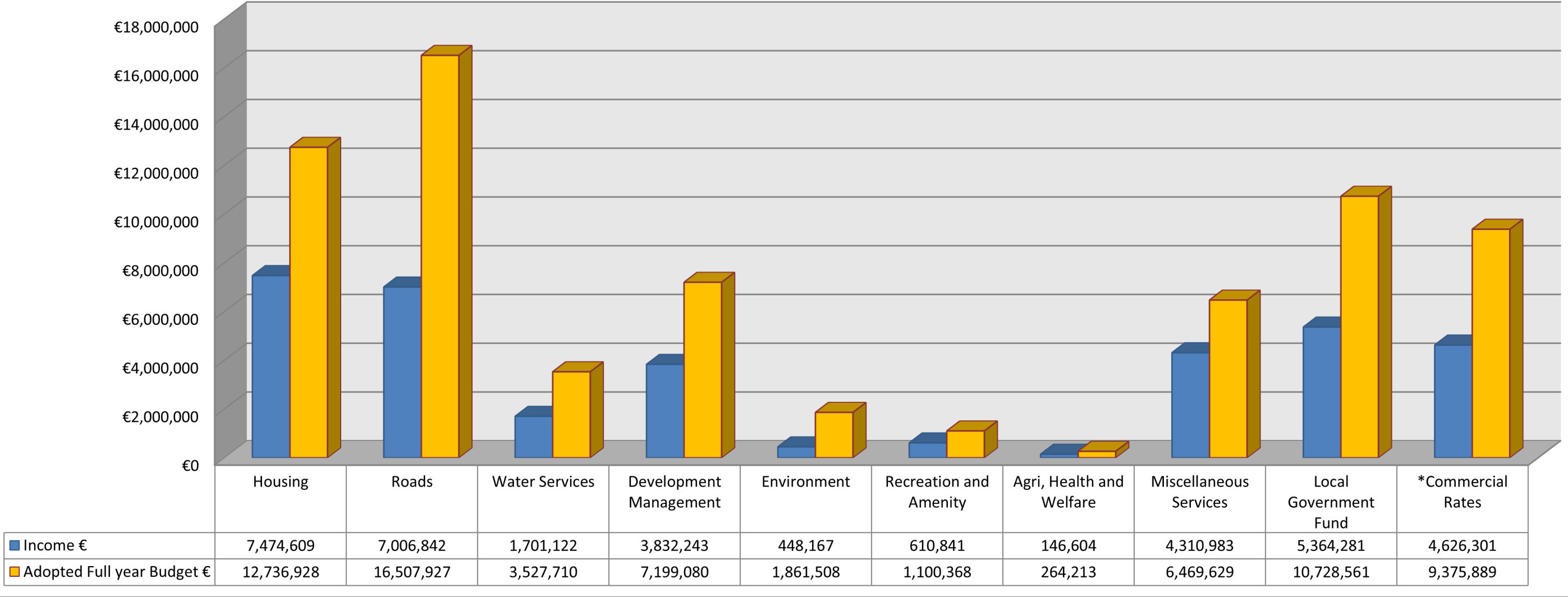
Finance

Expenditure V Budget – Quarter 2, 2024



Finance

Income V Budget – Quarter 2, 2024



Finance

Summary of Major Revenue Collections: Quarter 2, 2024

	Opening Arrears	Billed	To be Collected	Collected	Closing Arrears	Collected
Quarter 2, 2024	€	€	€	€	€	%
*Rates	€1,200,532	€9,253,035	€10,451,479	€5,343,183	€5,108,296	51%
Rents (inc. RAS)	€907,238	€4,973,365	€5,858,403	€4,560,713	€1,297,690	78%
Housing Loans	€350,875	€558,668	€909,543	€599,136	€310,407	66%
	Opening Arrears	Billed	To be Collected	Collected	Closing Arrears	Collected
Quarter 2, 2023	€	€	€	€	€	%
*Rates	€859,492	€9,258,578	€10,107,936	€5,303,714	€4,804,222	52%
Rents (inc. RAS)	€882,623	€3,725,933	€4,584,938	€3,746,755	€838,183	82%
Housing Loans	€346,022	€544,620	€890,642	€586,147	€304,495	66%
	Opening Arrears	Billed	To be Collected	Collected	Closing Arrears	Collected
VARIANCE YOY	€	€	€	€	€	%
*Rates	€341,040	(€5,543)	€343,543	€39,469	€304,074	-1%
Rents (inc. RAS)	€24,615	€1,247,432	€1,273,465	€813,958	€459,507	-4%
Housing Loans	€4,853	€14,048	€18,901	€12,989	€5,912	0%

Housing

Project (Number of houses)	Status
Cranleymore Abbeylara (3)	Stage 3 approved. Site currently being cleared following receipt of licence for removal of Japanese knotweed. Tender for contractor to follow.
St Rita's Park Road Phase 1 (6)	Stage 2 approved. Part 8 Planning approved for Phase 1 (6 houses). Site currently being cleared following receipt of licence for removal of Japanese knotweed. Stage 3 submission and tender for contractor to follow.
St Ritas Park Road Phase 2 (7)	Phase 2 draft plans under revision. Once agreed by all to advertise for part 8.
Radharc na Muileann, Lanesborough (22)	Stage 2 approved. Advertised for Part 8 planning in August 2024. Awaiting approval.
Drynan, Ballymahon (13)	Stage 1 approved. Stage 2 to be submitted shortly. Planning to wait until WWTP updated by Uisce Éireann.
Cnoc na Greine, Granard (8)	Stage 1 approved. Revised layout under review. Stage 2 to be submitted shortly.
Clough Dillons Keenagh (4)	Unfinished estate. Stage 1 approved. Legal issues to be sorted before can proceed.
Lamagh, Newtownforbes (6)	Stage 2 approved. Advertised for Part 8 planning May 2024. Further Information submitted August 2024. Pre-connection enquiry submitted to Uisce Éireann with Confirmation of feasibility received. Consultants appointed.
2 Legion Terrace (4)	On site. On hold awaiting Uisce Éireann connection. Road closure applied for. Completion delayed until September 2024.
Richmond Street (23)	On site. All houses and connections complete. Site works ongoing and due for completion September 2024.
Corneddan, Balliallee (1)	On site. Due for completion Q1 2025.
Houricans Hotel, Granard (8 and parking)	Site investigations complete. Updated plans under review. Due to go to Stage 1 submission September 2024
Butchers, Market Street, Granard (2)	Structural survey complete. Preliminary plans under review.
Aghaboy, Killoe, Ennybegs (4)	Site investigations complete. Consultant appointed. Site layout and house type to be reviewed.
Casey Court, Keenagh (2)	Infill site. Stage 1 approved. Consultant appointed. Site layout and house type to be reviewed.

Housing

Project (Number of houses)	Status
Shanmullagh, Ballinamuck (10)	Site Investigations complete. Consultant appointed. Stage 1 to be submitted shortly.
Canal Court, "Fondermans" (2)	Existing building formerly used for district heating. Decommissioned and cleared out. Consultant to be appointed shortly.
Willow Park Halting site (2)	Proposals submitted to CENA. CENA to submit Stage 1 shortly.
Vacant/Derelict houses, Great Water Street (15)	Draft tender for consultants and brief under review. To advertise for tender September or October 2024.
Farrell's Ballinalee (4)	Turnkey approved. Not started, awaiting contracts. New submission to be made.
Forthill, Aughnacliffe (13)	Turnkey approved. Complete.
Forthill, Aughnacliffe Phase 2 (4)	Turnkey approved. On site. Due for completion Q4 2024.
Longford Road, Ballinalee (14)	Turnkey approved. Not yet started on site.
Market Square (2)	Turnkey approved. On site. First complete. Second due for completion September 2024
Colmcille Terrace, Granard Phase 1 (19)	On site. 4 completed in Q4 2023, 7 complete to date in 2024. Remaining 8 due for completion September 2024

Repair and Leasing

Works are underway on seven apartments at 42 Main Street, Longford. This an Approved Housing Body (ABH) led scheme with Kilkenny Voluntary Housing Association and comprises of four one-bed apartments and three two-bed apartments.

New Tenancies

To date in 2024, 118 new local authority, AHB, Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS) tenancies have started.

Applications and Assessments

Until the end of August, 344 new social housing support applications have been accepted. Currently there are 640 approved housing applicants on our waiting list. A further 113 are within the assessment process and 21 applicants have been allocated a property and await appointment.

Traveller Accommodation Programme 2025-2029

Longford County Council is required under the Housing (Traveller Accommodation) Act 1998 to

Housing

prepare the next five-year Traveller Accommodation Programme (TAP) 2025-2029.

This will replace the current Traveller Accommodation Programme 2019-2024 which expires on 31 December 2024.

The draft is available for inspection at Longford County Council offices for two months up to 4pm on Monday, 23 September. It is also available on Longfordcoco.ie.

Climate Change

The Energy Efficiency Retrofit Scheme is ongoing with this year's focus on targeting the houses with the lowest BER rating. In 2024, the Department set a target of 45 units. To date, works have been completed on 17 units at Canal Court, Longford. Works have started on six units at St Anne's Ballymahon. The tender has been awarded for six units at Abbeycartron Lane and tenders are being prepared for six units at Casey Court, Kenagh. Energy efficiency works are also planned for Council stock with 12 units submitted for Department approval to date.

Roads

National Road Schemes

Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) have given approval to award the N4 Newtownforbes to Cloniher pavement overlay contract. This is a 4km overlay. Discussions are ongoing with the contractor to finalise arrangements and award the contract.

HD28 resurfacing pavement works will start at the following locations in October:

- N55 at Carrickboy
- N63 Earl Street and Market Square junction

Municipal District Works

Road maintenance works continued in each municipal district (MD). These works include footpath repairs, drainage, and pothole repairs.

Restoration improvement and maintenance works on regional and local roads are well underway and almost nearing completion in each MD.

An allocation of €564,965, was awarded to Longford County Council for Local Improvement Schemes in 2024. Works are progressing on 11 of these schemes. These will be completed in October for grant drawdown by 8 November.



Works on two Community Involvement Schemes are soon to start. These are both footpath schemes: one on the Ballymaurice Road Granard and the other on the old school road in Drumlish.

The Bridge rehabilitation programme is ongoing with the following progress made:

- A box culvert bridge will be installed on the L-1080 at Drumeel/Breaghy with the works to be completed and the road to be reopened on 1 October
- The rehabilitation works to the masonry arch bridge on the L-5165 at Liscahill/Gneeve have been progressed and are nearing completion



Roads

Safety Improvement Schemes

Safety Improvement Works will be progressed at the following locations in 2024:

- L-1010-1/R198 Drumlish Crossroads Junction with R198
- R198 Drumlish: Pedestrian Crossing near playground/creche
- L-1037 Smear Cornadrung two junctions
- R393/L-3007 junction of R393 Dublin Road with L-3007 Teffia Park
- L-1011-0 Knockloughlin
- L-11751-1 Gleann Riada
- L-1132-0 Kilcommock Glebe Kenagh

Hedge Cutting

Hedge cutting season has started. Notices will be published in the Longford Leader and on social media reminding landowners of their responsibilities regarding hedge and tree maintenance. Hedges and tress can be cut between now and 28 February 2025.

Public Lighting

Maintenance and improvement work continue to progress, including:

- Lighting upgrade to R392 and N55 Main Street, Ballymahon is nearing completion.
- Funding for upgrades to lighting on N4 at Glennons roundabout has been approved, works order issued.
- New lighting installed at Smear, Aughnaccliffe.

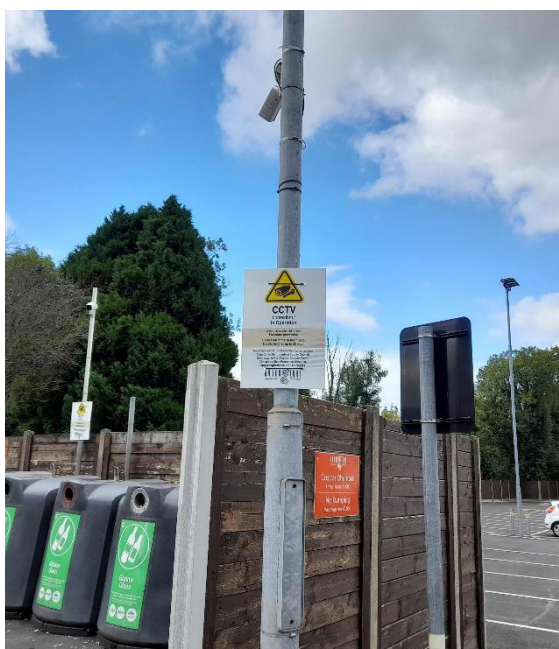
Environment

CCTV

A pilot programme to install CCTV at multiple locations in County Longford and Longford Town for a one-month period, with funding received under the Anti-Dumping Initiative (ADI). The pilot aims to:

- Identify and prosecute polluters
- Keep streets and natural heritage clean and safe for use by the public
- Demonstrate the ability to quickly adapt to changing legislation and technologies
- Determining whether CCTV can act as a deterrent to those who may consider littering

The work follows from the Circular Economy and Miscellaneous Provisions Act 2022, which amended the Litter Pollution Act. This legislation allows local authorities to use CCTV in certain circumstances to combat littering and illegal dumping.



Successful Waste Case Prosecution

After 17 court appearances and four years of work by the Environment team, including the issuing of a bench warrant, a tenant has removed a large accumulation of waste from a house in a residential area of Longford Town to an authorised facility.

On the final court sitting earlier this year, the tenant was fined €500 and an additional €1,500 to pay towards Longford County Council's extensive costs in bringing the prosecution to court. The tenant has 11 months to pay and has also been placed on the Waste Convictions Register. The total legal cost for the Council in bringing this case to a close was €2,221.25. A prison sentence had been considered by the judge at one of the court appearances if waste was not removed.

This conviction follows close to four years of work from when a first complaint was made in October 2020 regarding a large accumulation of waste at a house in a residential area in Longford Town.

Investigations started on the following day on 22 October 2020. There were approximately 50-60 black bags of waste at the side of the house, including an overflowing black bin. There were also approximately 10 black bags of waste and waste timber at front of the house. Environment employees spoke to the tenant.

A follow up warning letter was issued to remove the waste; however, improvement was made. A Section 55 of the Waste Management Act was issued in November 2020. No waste

Environment

was removed. A reminder letter was issued before progressing legally and still no improvement.

Legal proceedings started in June 2021 in contravention under Section 32 of the Waste Management Act 1996, as amended and for the non-compliance with Section 55 notice.



Environmental Awareness Digital Campaign

ADI funding of €7,500 has been used for an eight-week environmental awareness digital communications campaign. The campaign has two main messages: to disposal of cigarette butts responsibly and to discourage and report illegal dumping.

This campaign was seen across Facebook, Instagram, TikTok, Google

Ads, LongfordLeader.ie, Shannonside.ie and Council social media channels. The campaign was successful as these adverts were shown over 1.7million times and clicked on 1,721, bringing them to a Council webpage.

Bulky goods and mattress collection day

Around 26 tonnes of bulky goods and 35 mattresses were collected recently at a collection at McEoin Park and Ardnacassa housing estates in Longford Town. The bulky goods included furniture, carpet, bicycles, wood, metal, and hard plastics.

Collections such as this help to prevent illegal dumping. This was funded by the ADI. It was organised by the Environment team working with local upcycling enterprises and Longford Municipal District.



Environment

Historic Landfill Monitoring

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) completed their assessment of the Ballymulvey, Ballymahon Historic Landfill. This assessment was in accordance with the Waste Management (Certification of Historic Unlicensed Waste Disposal and Recovery Activity) Regulations, 2008. A Certificate of Authorisation (CoA) was issued for the site. The Council now have two years to implement the remediation measures as per the CoA issued.

The EPA have noted that it is their intention to complete their consideration of the other two CoAs, submitted by the Council, in Q4 2024: Cartron Big and Ballymaurice Historic Landfills.

Council Environment Pollution Officers continue to complete the quarterly sampling and monitoring programme of these three historic landfill sites. This provides baseline data to validate the CoA applications.

New Electric Dog Warden Van

The new dog warden electric vehicle (EV) is the first EV purchased by the Council. This purchase highlights the commitment of the Council to creating a greener county.



Mini Sweeper

A seven-week trial of a mini sweeper from company Multihog has been arranged. The sweeper will be used in Longford Town to sweep public realm works around the Market Square, Longford Shopping Centre car park and Grafton Court. It will also be trialled on the new cycleways and in the lanes and alleys around the town. Attachments are also available to clean pavements and to clean out gullies.

It is hoped that the use of this type of vehicle will improve Longford Town's standing in the national IBAL (Irish Businesses Against Litter) Anti-Litter League.



Civil Defence

Duties

Longford Civil Defence provided medical cover at 17 events during August and September., including:

- Blood bank clinic.
- Summer series 5k run (four events)
- LTFC soccer matches (four events)
- Longford Marathon.
- Carrick Camino walk.
- Newtownforbes parish jubilee event.
- Farmer Phil's charity tractor run.
- Charity tractor run in Ballinamuck.
- King of the lakes fishing competition (two events)
- Longford Athletics cross country races.



Training and Operations

- Community first responder courses were delivered to 16 Longford Town Football Club coaches and stewards and to 12 gymnastic instructors from Longford Gymnastics.
- Medical instructors received recertification training.
- Civil Defence were represented at a remembrance mass for the Peter Keenan branch of the Organisation of National Ex-Service Personnel (ONE).
- Emergency medical technicians and first responders attended the RESPOND CFR conference in Mullingar.
- Volunteers were on duty at the National Civil Defence stand at the National Ploughing Championships. Volunteers demonstrated a variety of skills and equipment to members of the public.
- Driving assessments for probationary volunteers were carried out by the approved driving instructor.



