



Chief Executive Report September 2025

Longford County Council

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September Highlights

€7m THRIVE funding to transform historic Connolly Barracks into dynamic cultural hub

Longford County Council secured €7 million in funding for the redevelopment of Connolly Barracks into a vibrant community and cultural facility that will serve as the beating heart of Longford Town.

The substantial investment comes from the Town Centre First Heritage Revival Scheme (THRIVE Strand 2) a €90 million EU-backed fund designed to revitalise heritage buildings throughout Irish town centres for community use. The funding enables the local authority to immediately proceed to tender for the project, building on last year's THRIVE allocation of €200,000 that allowed completion of essential design works.

The ambitious transformation will see the vacant barracks – empty since the Army's departure in 2009 – house a county museum, community café, creative makerspace, podcast and recording studio, meeting rooms, and music facilities. A rear extension will provide a flexible conference and performance space alongside training facilities. The project incorporates accessibility improvements, sustainability features including solar panels and rainwater harvesting, plus enhanced public spaces.



Longford County Council Sports Bursary 2025 recipients announced

Longford County Council Sports Bursary 2025 recipients were announced at a special celebratory event in Áras an Chontae buildings which took place on Tuesday, 23 September.

This bursary recognises the achievements of sportspeople who have the ability and potential to achieve success at a national and an international level. Recipients shared in a bursary of €10,000, which will be used to help them in their sporting career.



Longford Library Services launch breastfeeding support initiative

Longford County Council and Longford Library Services launched a pioneering breastfeeding support initiative across all six library branches in County Longford.

The launch took place at Ballymahon Library on Monday, 8 September with Cathaoirleach Cllr Garry Murtagh presiding over the event.

September Highlights

Libraries in Ballymahon, Drumlish, Edgeworthstown, Granard, Lanesborough and Longford now feature dedicated breastfeeding baskets stocked with practical items including muslin squares, baby wipes, breast pads and nappy bags. Comfortable support chairs for nursing mothers have been installed alongside curated reading materials for mothers and young children. New changing facilities have been installed across all six library branches.



Roscommon Longford Garda Youth Awards recognise dedication and resilience

Longford County Council hosted the seventh annual Roscommon Longford Garda Youth Awards ceremony, celebrating exceptional young people whose actions demonstrate courage, compassion, and community spirit.

The ceremony took place at Áras an Chontae on Wednesday, 10 September with a large attendance including nominees, families, schools, and community groups from across Longford and Roscommon.

This year's awards recognised three individuals and two groups across five categories, acknowledging outstanding acts of courage and selflessness by young people in their

September Highlights

communities. The awards are supported by both Longford and Roscommon County Councils.



September Highlights

Minister O’Sullivan launches Longford Biodiversity Action Plan and new Birdwatching Library initiative

Minister for Nature, Heritage and Biodiversity Christopher O’Sullivan officially launched the Longford Biodiversity Action Plan 2025-2030 alongside an innovative birdwatching backpack loan scheme at Edgeworthstown Library in September.

The comprehensive five-year action plan establishes Longford County Council’s formal commitments to improving biodiversity throughout the county. The strategy focuses on protecting and enhancing natural habitats, fostering collaboration with community groups, and encouraging widespread public participation in biodiversity improvements.

Complementing the plan’s launch, the new birdwatching backpack loan scheme offers residents access to equipment through their local libraries. The initiative, funded by the National Parks and Wildlife Service and Longford County Council through the Local Biodiversity Action Fund, includes BirdWatch Ireland starter packs and bird detective magazines provided through a partnership with BirdWatch Ireland.



September Highlights



Corporate Services

Meetings Administration

Meetings and events which took place in September are detailed below:

1 September	Longford County Council in committee
5 September	Elected Members Workshop
10 September	Corporate Policy Group Meeting
10 September	Longford County Council
15 September	Special Meeting Longford County Council (Presidential Meeting)
22 September	Granard Municipal District Meeting
24 September	Longford Municipal District in committee
24 September	Longford Municipal District

Communications

The Communications Office continues to meet the requests for support from all sections of the county council through online, website, social media and traditional print and broadcast media. A number of high-profile events took place during the month of September including the Roscommon Longford Garda Awards, the successful Thrive application and €7m of funding for the Connolly Barracks, the launch of a breast-feeding support initiative in County Longford Library Services, the

launch of the Gum Litter Taskforce, the visit of Minister Christopher O' Sullivan to launch the County Longford Biodiversity Action Plan, the Age Friendly Information Day and assistance in the planning of the Home of Halloween Festival. All of these events require the assistance and support of the Communications section including pre and post publicity, event management, invitations, digital content creation and press releases. Work includes press releases, radio interviews, national and local coverage, media relations, communications strategy, crisis communications, media queries from local and national press, radio advertising, digital communications strategy, ongoing communications assistance to all council sections, Ministerial visits, official openings, event planning, 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 issued (September): 20- range of issues, representative of all council sections.

Media enquiries received (September) 8- most of the media queries in September related to the Presidential Election hearings and potential nominations from Longford County Council. Other queries included traffic related issues and planning issues.

Social media (1 July-27 August): Posts seen by people **413K** (increase of **18.3%** compared to the last month,

Corporate Services

1 June – 27 July) May - July saw an increase of **18.4%**

Website: Improvements on Longford.ie with Longford Tourism and Fáilte Ireland.

- Longfordcoco.ie webpages were viewed **48,824 times** this period, with Planning (8.1K page views), Housing (5.1K page views), and Careers (8.8K) the most popular sections.
- Other Council websites (such as Longford.ie, LongfordSports.ie, LocalEnterprise.ie/Longford) were viewed **12.3K** times this period.

Research interviews and surveys for Communications Audit

Work continues on planning for a new Communications Strategy. The Communications team continue to work with RPS Consulting Engineers as part of a Communications Audit which will help inform the future Communications Strategy. RPS began desktop work on this audit in August and work got underway in September on a series of interviews and surveys with internal and external audiences. Surveys were distributed to all staff, to county councillors, PPN members and to Comhairle na nÓg members. Once all feedback from the surveys has been gathered and compiled work will begin on a series of recommendations and completion of the audit.

Media Liaison Training

Both the Communications Officer and Digital Communications Officer will take part in a Media Liaison Training programme as part of the Education, Training and Exercise Subgroup of the Midlands Region Working Group. This course is due to take place in early October and is targeted at personnel who will undertake the key role of Media Liaison Officer during the multi-agency response to a Major Emergency within the Midlands Region.

LGMA Communications Conference

The Communications Officer and Digital Communications Officer are due to attend the LGMA Communications Conference in Kilkenny in early October. This is a great opportunity to network and connect with Communications Officers from Local Authorities throughout the country with topics such as digital transformation and AI in the public sector up for discussion.

Digital Content Creation

The Digital Communications Officer continued to work on the creation of digital content during the month of September, including a range of video projects to highlight key initiatives and events. This included the production of a highlights video for the Garda Youth Awards, showcasing the achievements of the young people who were recognised for their outstanding contributions to the community. Video content was also recorded at the launch of the Biodiversity Action Plan, showcasing the council's commitment to

Corporate Services

protecting and enhancing local biodiversity. In addition, short-form social media story content was developed around the Sports Bursary Awards, helping to celebrate recipients and extend the reach of the event to a wider audience online.

Short-form video content was produced from the Head of IT, Danny Lynch's interview on Transform Gov, the digital government podcast. Key snippets from the conversation were edited into branded, captioned clips designed for social media. These highlighted the positive impact of the Microsoft Dream Space event on young people in Longford, showcasing the value of the initiative in an engaging and accessible format. The clips were very well received across social media, with one in particular gaining strong momentum, reaching over 6,000 views and attracting more than 100 likes in one week.

The creation of short form video/digital content is a key aspect of the communications plan going forward and the video content creation work has already seen a significant increase in traffic to LCC social media platforms with a positive impact on metrics over the past number of months as well as sponsored/paid online advertising.

Best Performing Posts – September



See insights and ads

Boost post

147

10 comments 18 shares

Like

Comment

Share

**THRIVE Funding Announcement
– Facebook – 147 reactions, 10
comments, 18 shares**



See insights and ads

Boost post

Ballinamuck Longford, County Longford PPN and 101 others

8 comments 5 shares

Like

Comment

Share

**Transform Gov Podcast Clip –
Facebook – 103 likes, 8 comments, 5
shares**

Corporate Services



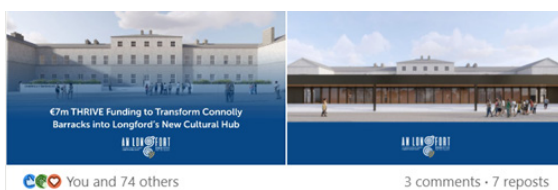
Garda Youth Awards – Instagram – 35 likes



THRIVE Funding Announcement – Instagram – 69 likes

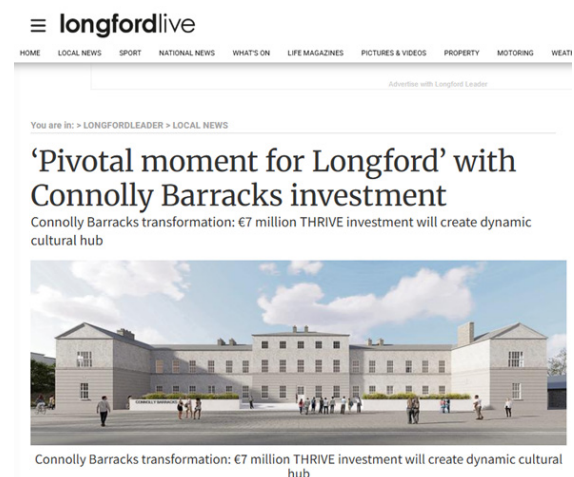


eGovernment Award for Digital Inclusion- LinkedIn – 54 reactions, 2 comments, 1 repost



THRIVE Funding Announcement – LinkedIn – 75 reactions, 3 comments, 7 reposts

Online/Print Coverage – September



Corporate Services

Data Protection

Data Protection Quarterly Newsletters

The Data Protection Team issued the Q3 2025 newsletter to staff in September 25. These newsletters include real life scenarios within Longford County Council. This include breaches and sharing of personal data etc.

Data Protection Induction Training

The Data Protection Team continue to provide induction training for new employees of Longford County Council. To date this year, Data Protection has provided induction training to 29 new employees.

Audio visual video of Longford County Council’s privacy policy

Over a three-month boosted social media campaign across all Longford County Council social media platforms, a 2.5-minute audio visual video, explaining the Privacy Policy has reached 205,000 accounts and has gained 418,000 video views from people in County Longford.

You can view the video here [Longford County Council’s Privacy Policy in Audio](#)

Data Protection Queries

The Data Protection & Information Compliance Team have received 259 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, videos, signage at events, and ROPA’s.
- All data subject access requests and data breaches continue to be completed and reported (where applicable) within the statutory timeframes.

Data Protection Stats for 2025 to date:

Data Breaches	6
Data Subject Assess Requests	2
Data Protection Impact Assessment	7
Data Agreements	5
Data Protection Queries	259

Corporate Services

Health & Safety

Health & Safety Inspections

Seventeen 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.

Nineteen new employee health & safety inductions were completed.

Summer students completed a health & safety induction in July as part of their 8-week work experience programme.

Risk Assessment review program

A revision of several risk assessments 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.

Internal Audit

Health and Safety Internal Audits were completed in the following sections –Libraries, Building Facilities, Housing, Regeneration, Active Travel and Roads. Audit schedule is in place for other sections.

Health and Safety Authority (HSA)

The Health and Safety authority completed an inspection at Ballymahon Fire Station on 26 August and will be calling to other Fire Stations within Longford over the coming months.

Libraries, Arts, Archives and Heritage

Age Friendly

The Staying Safe and Stay Active Programme is a community-led collaborative initiative of Longford Age Friendly, Community Safety Partnership, and Longford Sports Partnership, led by the Physical Activity for Health Officer. This programme is designed to support the health, well-being, and personal safety of older adults across County Longford.

This eight-week pilot programme commenced in early July with members of Longford Age Friendly Older Persons' Council in Longford and featured weekly sessions that blended three key components of physical activity, which comprised of a short activator pole walk session facilitated by trained library staff. Self-defence classes involves simple, age-appropriate self-defence techniques in a bid to help older adults develop awareness, assertiveness, and basic protective skills. These sessions focus on prevention and confidence-building rather than confrontation. The third element was safety education, which was delivered in partnership with local organisations such as An Garda Síochána (Community Garda section), Longford Civil Defence and the Fire Service, to equip participants with practical knowledge and resources to stay safe at home and in their communities. Following the success of the pilot, this programme is now being rolled out in Granard and will be hosted in Granard Library commencing in early September.

Longford Age Friendly Information Day 2025

Planning was underway this month for the Annual Age Friendly Information Day of talks, demos and fun activities which took place on Monday, 29 September in The Longford Arms Hotel. The theme this year was 'Stay Active, Stay Strong, Stay Young' as part of celebrations for Positive Ageing Week, which commenced on the same day.

Midland Taster Day

This event will take place in TUS, Athlone on 3 October. Age Friendly programme managers in partnership with Sports Partnerships in each of the five regional counties, Longford, Westmeath, Laois, Offaly, and Roscommon, will showcase and provide taster demos on many of the different programmes that sport partnerships provide to older people. Spaces are limited to 25 per county.

Climate Action Course for Over 60's

Planning is underway between Longford Age Friendly and Longford Climate Action Team for the rollout of a six-week programme hosted by climate expert Jacinta Barrins. The Age Friendly Ambassador Eamonn Brennan and Older Persons' Council Chair Kitty Burkhill have agreed to act as 'hosts' and assist with its promotion to recruit forty attendees. The course is free for all and will be hosted in Edgeworthstown Library starting in January 2026. Registration is required and is available from your local library.

Libraries, Arts, Archives and Heritage

Movement for better balance

Fitness classes aimed at older people restarted in library branches during the second week of September.

There are now six locations for these classes with five courses of eight-week classes throughout the year. This initiative is supported by Sport Partnership, HSE, Healthy Longford and Longford Libraries. These classes are fully booked in all locations.

Skills for Life

The Skills for Life is a new nationwide programme delivered through Ireland's public libraries, offering people across the country access to practical learning opportunities to support everyday life. This is one of the objectives of the public library strategy- 'The Library is the Place: Information, Recreation, Inspiration'. Whether you want to feel more confident online, manage your finances, understand media, or live more sustainably, your local library is here to help.

There is a Skills for Life coordinator in each Local Authority, and this is the action plan.

Basic Digital Skills

Longford and Westmeath Libraries funded through the ALL fund will be hosting an eight-week programme of one-to-one digital skills workshops in all six libraries in Longford. These sessions are free of charge, and booking is essential. The focus of the session will be to focus on the current online local and national government services now available online. There is a national move that 90% of local

and national government services will be available online by 2030.

Financial Literacy

Community partners in Bank of Ireland, Longford will deliver upcoming fraud awareness workshops in the libraries.

Media Literacy

The LWETB Digital Media Literacy Officer will deliver talks on misinformation and disinformation.

Health Awareness

Healthy Longford and Sláintecare received funding via the ALL strategy for a programme, 'Class on the Grass' initiative (six weeks of soccer for both male and female members of new communities). This is a health and well-being, and literacy programme. The libraries will be taking part by running information sessions about their service, both in-person and online services. There will also be a tour of Longford County Library.

Sustainable Lifestyles and Environmental Awareness

- Willow bird feeder making workshops.
- Revamping and upcycling sessions, including upholstering and recycling furniture.
- Two sewing workshops delivered in partnership with the Local Enterprise Board
- Repak and Mulleady's: upcoming recycling and waste awareness workshops.

Libraries, Arts, Archives and Heritage

The Skills4Life initiative continues to build strong connections between the library service and the wider community, combining practical skills, lifelong learning, and social inclusion.

Healthy Ireland

Healthy Ireland at your library is a well-established programme with events throughout the year. A four-week block of Yoga classes with Therese Lanigan was delivered in Ballymahon, Lanesboro, Edgeworthstown and Granard Library during July and August. The feedback was very positive, with attendees eager to do more classes in the future. It is now possible to borrow activator poles from all six library branches.

Angela Tuite will give 'Art for Mindfulness' classes this September. These classes are full, and the feedback from participants is always very positive. Melissa Horan will host meditation workshops in September at Granard Library.

All libraries in Longford are Breastfeeding Friendly Supports for nursing mums. There is a breastfeeding support basket, a nursing chair, changing units for babies and a supportive reading collection to support parents in their feeding choices.

Free children's yoga (6-12 yrs.) classes in Lanesboro and Granard during October. Spaces are limited, so please book with your local library.

Right to Read Programme

Summer Stars is the free national reading programme for children that takes place in all public libraries and online each summer. It ran from 6 June – 31 August 2025.

Workshops ran across all six libraries during June, July and August. These included arts and crafts workshops, biodiversity workshops, puppet shows, movie sessions, and much more!

The annual Summer Stars Reading programme also took place with 1,394 children across Longford registered. All registrations were entered into monthly draws, and two winners were selected in June, July and August winning family passes for local attractions. In early September, there will be an overall draw for all young readers to give them a chance to win some great prizes which include a bike and a Tablet.

DEIS camps were facilitated in libraries with library tours, movies, and workshops. All of these children were also informed about the free activities that were taking place over the summer and they were registered for the Summer Stars reading programme.

A photography competition for children is also running in conjunction with the Tourism office. There are two age categories, and the winner in each category will have their photo made into a greeting card to promote Longford.

Libraries, Arts, Archives and Heritage

Children's Book Festival

The annual Children's Book Festival helps spread the enjoyment of books and reading among children and families, authors and illustrators, teachers and librarians all over Ireland.

The aims of the festival:

- to encourage children to enjoy the experience of reading and support their reading development.
- to provide activities and events in collaboration with writers/illustrators/storytellers
- to promote children's books and stories
- to increase engagement with families and schools and to attract new members.

A wide range of author visits and events will take place across six libraries during October for the Children's Book Festival.

The annual 'Design a Bookmark Competition' will also take place. In 2024, there were over 900 entries.

Regional Adult Literacy Coalition

As part of the Regional Adult Literacy Coalition, an action plan will be put together with representatives from different sections in Longford and Westmeath. One of those actions is organising a Dyslexia in adulthood information day on 8 October which is World Dyslexia Day. This event will be held in Athlone. Longford Libraries

will be hosting an information booth at this event to highlight the various supports available for children and adults with dyslexia. These supports include reading windows, reading rulers, reading pages, C-pens, TTRS licences and a dyslexia friendly book collection. Online resources also include audiobooks and eBooks with dyslexia friendly settings.

Battle of Wits TY Quiz

In conjunction with Offaly, Westmeath and Laois libraries, Longford Libraries run an annual TY table quiz. There are three rounds to the competition. The school round in October involves a County Final in Ballymahon Library in November and the Regional Final will take place in Athlone in December with the top two teams from each county taking part. This initiative has run since 2015. All nine secondary schools in Longford take part in this initiative.

My Little Library Bag

All Longford children starting school for the first time in September are entitled to receive a free 'My Little Library Bag' which contains books relevant to starting school and a library card wallet, available to collect at your local library.

Little Library at Bedtime

All Longford children aged 0-5yrs can collect a free specially selected bedtime book and a library card wallet in their local library. Events will run in October to promote this programme.

Libraries, Arts, Archives and Heritage

Tiny Little Library

In the neonatal unit in Mullingar General Hospital, there is a collection of books to encourage parents to read to their children as part of their development. This time in a baby's life is so important, with touch and speech helping with baby's development. A mirror collection of this collection is available for loan in Longford libraries.

Class Novels

Longford Libraries have a wide range of services available to schools, including 82 sets of class novels (30 copies of each title) and 100 TTRS licences.

Art Competition for secondary school students

A new competition funded by Creative Ireland will result in Longford Library calendars. The artistic theme is 'Reading takes you places'. This year's theme invites you to illustrate the limitless power of reading to move us — not only across places and time, but also through emotions, ideas, and perspectives. The competition is open to students at any secondary school in County Longford. Entries will be exhibited across Longford Libraries and online on the website. There are two categories: Junior Cycle (1st – 3rd Year), Senior Cycle (4th- 6th Year). The winning 12 artworks will be chosen by members of the Longford Cultural Team. Winners will receive €50.

Social Media

Longford Libraries maintain an active presence on social media, with a page boasting several thousand likes and 3,554 followers with steady engagement from the public.

Creative Ireland Longford

Creative Ireland Longford continues to provide support to applicants from its 2025 open call. One such project is the short film 'Brown Bread' written and directed by local acclaimed journalist and filmmaker Shaunagh Connaire. Filmed exclusively in County Longford, this film debuted at the Galway Film Fleadh, with a screening also in the Backstage Theatre in July. It has now been officially selected for the San Jose International Film Festival, which takes place in October.

Arts Office



Longford Arts was successful in securing funding for the Culture Night Late grant. 'The Blind Fiddle Master's Concert' in Longford's Connolly Barracks Square reimagined the 19th-century musician Thomas 'Blind'

Libraries, Arts, Archives and Heritage

Fiddler Kernan's legacy. This late-night outdoor concert blended his rediscovered fiddle tunes with bold reinterpretations by artists including Kíla, M.A.D, and the Yershov Sisters.

Thomas Kernan from Drumlish was a celebrated fiddler player and music teacher from the 19th Century. He transcribed hundreds of tunes to paper with a mixture of self-compositions and older tunes. His influence, as a music teacher, is still seen today with a signature playing style. In tandem with the live music, three visual artists, Mary Fleming, Sergii Khazdava and Anna Wiercioch were commissioned to create a digital projection mapping timed with the music and an art information piece about Thomas Kernan.

Longford's Culture Night, in particular, 'The Blind Fiddle Master's Concert' which took place on 19 September, was heralded in the Irish Times as a can't-miss event.

Heritage

The summer months and early Autumn were a busy time for the Heritage Council with the first Longford biodiversity Summer School for 8-12-year-olds, a whole programme of events for Heritage Week, and the public consultation for the new Heritage Strategy.

On the 24 September, the bogland workbook was launched in Corlea Boy visitor centre. The workbook was commissioned by the Biodiversity and Heritage Officer, illustrated by Rusty Lemon and information provided by Biodiversity in Schools.

This workbook will be distributed to primary schools all over Longford.

On the 25 September, Minister for Nature, Heritage & Biodiversity Christopher O' Sullivan TD launched the Biodiversity Action Plan, and the Longford Birding backpacks in Edgeworthstown Library. There was also a biodiversity open day with various stalls and information stands dotted around the library by both local and national organisations. The Longford birding backpack was funded by the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) via the Local Biodiversity Fund and Longford County Council. This project is the first of the Citizen Science lending collection. The birding backpacks can be borrowed from the library service for three weeks.

Local Enterprise Office

Financial Assistance

The Evaluation Committee approved four applications for grant aid with a total of €105,000 awarded in funding to expanding businesses across the county. €53,000 in Energy Efficiency Grants was awarded to six businesses while one business availed of a Digital Voucher to the value of €5,000.

Training & Mentoring

A total of 172 businesses availed of training and mentoring over the two months ranging from Starting Your Own Food Business, Digital Marketing, AI, Craft Specific Training and one-to-one sessions addressing topics specific to their business.

The Local Enterprise Office supported four companies at the National Ploughing Championships where they showcased their innovation and quality. Lough Ree Distillery represented the county at both the Local Enterprise Tent and the Midlands Flavours Tent, highlighting Longford's growing reputation in premium spirits. Joining them at the Midlands Flavours Tent were Heartlands Orchard Ltd., Farmhouse Trees and Bees Ltd., and Uche Nuts, each demonstrating the diversity and excellence of Longford's agri-food sector. Their participation reflects the county's strong entrepreneurial spirit and commitment to promoting local produce on a national stage.



Finance

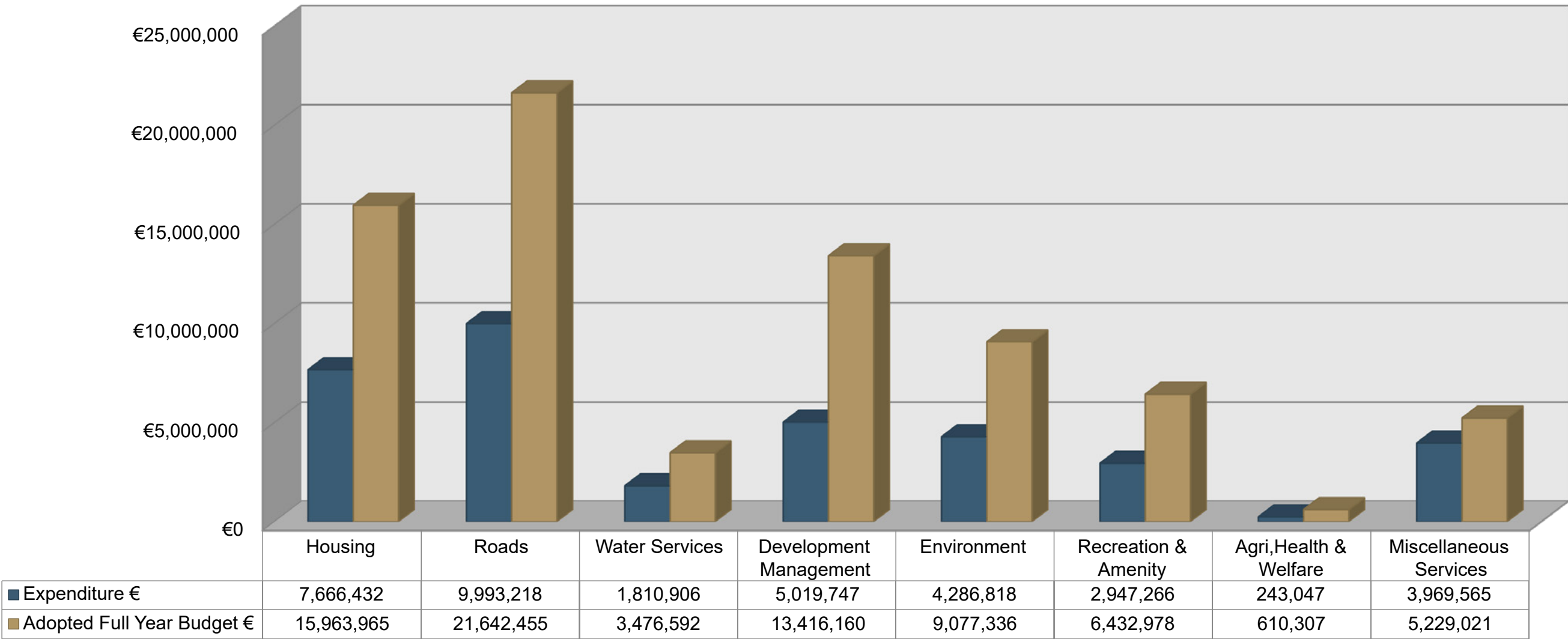
Revenue Account Income and Expenditure Summary by Service Division

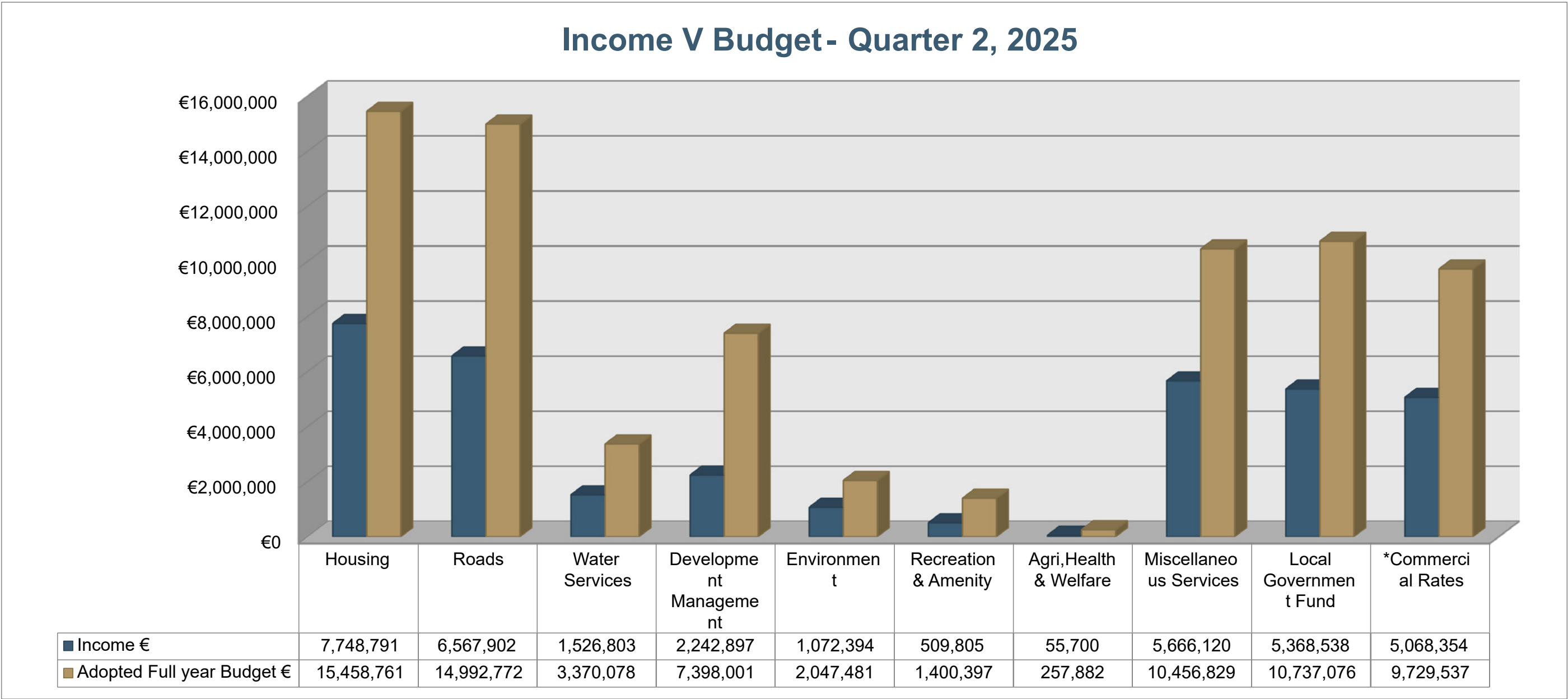
Year to Date to Quarter End 30 June 2025

	EXPENDITURE				INCOME				NET
	Expenditure €	Adopted Full Year Budget €	% Budget Spent to date	Budget Remaining €	Income €	Adopted Full year Budget €	% Budget Raised	Budget outstanding €	Actual Overall Surplus/ (Deficit) €
Housing	7,666,432	15,963,965	48%	8,297,533	7,748,791	15,458,761	50%	7,709,970	82,359
Roads	9,993,218	21,642,455	46%	11,649,237	6,567,902	14,992,772	44%	8,424,870	(3,425,316)
Water Services	1,810,906	3,476,592	52%	1,665,686	1,526,803	3,370,078	45%	1,843,275	(284,103)
Development Management	5,019,747	13,416,160	37%	8,396,413	2,242,897	7,398,001	30%	5,155,104	(2,776,850)
Environment	4,286,818	9,077,336	47%	4,790,518	1,072,394	2,047,481	52%	975,087	(3,214,424)
Recreation and Amenity	2,947,266	6,432,978	46%	3,485,712	509,805	1,400,397	36%	890,592	(2,437,461)
Agri, Health and Welfare	243,047	610,307	40%	367,260	55,700	257,882	22%	202,182	(187,347)
Miscellaneous Services	3,969,565	5,229,021	76%	1,259,456	5,666,120	10,456,829	54%	4,790,709	1,696,555
Local Government Fund			0%	0	5,368,538	10,737,076	50%	5,368,538	5,368,538
*Commercial Rates					5,068,354	9,729,537	52%	4,661,183	5,068,354
	€35,936,999	€75,848,814	47%	€39,911,815	€35,827,304	€75,848,814	47%	€40,021,510	(€109,695)

These figures were submitted to the Department on Friday 22nd Aug 2025.

Expenditure V Budget- Quarter 2, 2025





Finance

Summary of Major Revenue Collections: Quarter 1, 2025

	Opening Arrears	Billed	To be Collected	Collected	Closing Arrears	Collected
Quarter 2, 2025	€	€	€	€	€	%
*Rates	€1,150,292	€10,136,707	€11,246,822	€7,116,465	€4,130,357	63%
Rents (inc. RAS)	€1,947,411	€5,284,132	€7,231,540	€5,242,000	€1,989,540	72%
Housing Loans	€275,575	€618,505	€894,079	€649,988	€244,091	73%
	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	€1,973,365	€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
VARIANCE YOY	€	€	€	€	€	%
*Rates	(€50,240)	€883,672	€795,343	€1,773,282	(€977,939)	12%
Rents (inc. RAS)	€1,040,173	€3,310,767	€1,373,137	€681,287	€691,850	-5%
Housing Loans	(€75,300)	€59,837	(€15,464)	€50,852	(€66,316)	7%

Roads

National Road Schemes

N55 works between Edgeworthstown and Ballymahon

Ward & Burke on behalf of Uisce Éireann commenced critical upgrade works, replacing over 5.4km of aged watermains with new pipes along the N55 in August. These works will continue to be progressed in the coming months.

Approximately 2km of new water main has been laid by the contractor to date.

The N55 is closed to facilitate these works.

The closure will also facilitate essential roadworks in the vicinity of Fowlard's Bridge which will commence in October.

Diversions are in place and Longford County Council has requested all motorists to use the diversion routes which are signposted.

Longford County Council is liaising with all parties including Uisce Éireann, An Garda Síochána etc to try and minimise disruption to motorists resulting from the closure.

Weight restrictions are being placed on some local roads in the area to deter HGVs from using these routes.

Municipal District Works

Road Maintenance works continued in each Municipal District in August/ September. These works included footpath repairs, drainage, pothole repairs etc.

Restoration Improvement and Restoration Maintenance Works on

Regional and Local Roads are well underway in each of the Municipal Districts and almost nearing completion.

A Specific Improvement Scheme is in progress at Forgney on the R392 near Abbeyshrule Road junction. Works ongoing include drainage improvements, localised widening and resurfacing works.

Works on the new footpath programme in Longford Municipal District commenced on 1 September. A new section of footpath was completed in Glack.

There are six Community Involvement Schemes included in the 2025 programme and works are ongoing.

Longford County Council is currently in the process of gathering applications for the Community Involvement Scheme 2026-2027. Advertisements have been placed in the Longford Leader with Friday, 26 September the closing date for receipt of applications.



Roads

To date Longford County Council has received eight applications. Following the closing date a plan will be prepared and an application will be made to the Department of Transport for funding.

Local Improvement Schemes were offered to 28 applicants this year. To date six applications have been withdrawn, 17 of these schemes are now completed and five schemes are at offer stage (pending local contribution and required paperwork). Longford County Council is intending to draw down a grant amount of €713,527 providing the final five schemes proceed.

Road Safety

A meeting was held on the 18 September with the Road Safety Working Together Group to finalise the Longford County Council Phase 2 Action Plan 2025-2027. The Road Safety Officer presented the plan which was approved by all members. Additionally, a list of events for 2025 including upcoming events was shared with the group for their review and information. The Action Plan 2025-2027 will be presented at the Physical Strategic Policy Committee in October.

The Road Safety Team was out and about at events throughout August and September promoting road safety supplying the public with hi-viz vests, bags, pens, and drink bottles. In addition, a targeted Road Safety Promotion took place over the August Bank Holiday weekend focusing specifically on motorcycle safety. Radio advertisements were broadcasted at prime times on the

local radio station and shared on the council website and social media platforms.



Hedge Cutting

Hedge Cutting season is now open. As is normal practice at this time of year, the Roads Section arranged for notices to be published in the Longford Leader and on social media reminding landowners of their responsibilities regarding hedge and tree maintenance. Hedges and trees can be cut between now and 28 February 2026.

Climate Action

Longford County Council has carried out an operational review of the 26T lorries in their fleet. The review has been carried out in consultation with colleagues in the Climate Change Section in order to reduce the Longford County Council carbon footprint and improve operational efficiency. As a result of the review it has been decided to relocate a number of drivers from their current base to a new base.

Roads

Bridges

Bridge rehabilitation works are in progress at various locations throughout the county.

Works at Kilnacarrow Bridge, Esker Old Hall Bridge and Drumlougher Bridge have been completed this month.

Work has commenced on Kiltycreevagh Bridge and work on Monascallaghan Bridge is due to commence shortly.



Planning

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 August 2025, nine new cases were opened, three warning letters and six enforcement notices were issued. Three cases were referred for prosecution and four files were closed. In September 2025, ten new cases were opened, 12 warning letters and six enforcement notices were served, three cases were referred for prosecution and eight files were closed.

Taking in Charge

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

