



# Longford County Council Chief Executive Report February 2021

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# February Highlights

## Longford.ie is now live

Promoting Longford as a place to visit, live and invest in. The website also links to Your Council.



## Longford student wins at the Relove Fashion competition

Congratulations Lily Hemus, student at Cnoc Mhuire, Granard, on winning 'most innovative' at the Relove Fashion National Final.



## Keenagh Village lights up

Keenagh Village sees new cast iron and energy efficient lighting, enhancing the streetscape.



## Longford Reads as part of Ireland Reads



# Community & Enterprise

## Community Development

### Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)

A meeting of the LCDC took place on 9 February.

### Second Round of the COVID-19 Emergency Fund 2020

In December 2020, the Department of Rural and Community Development announced this second round of funding. Funding of €1.7m nationally includes €42,964 allocated to Longford LCDC. It was recommended that 30% of funding be ring-fenced for grants of €1,000 or less.

Applications were invited from community and voluntary groups. Eligible projects included:

- service and operations adaptations to fit the new COVID-19 reality
- involvement in the Keep Well campaign
- grants may also be provided to support groups with day-to-day running costs

A meeting of the committee to evaluate applications was held on 1 February. The committee made their recommendations to the LCDC for consideration at their meeting on 9 February. Thirty-five applications were approved for funding by the LCDC. This came to a total of €42,964.

### Supporting Women and Diversity in Local Government

A meeting of the working group was held on 4 February. Services are targeting women from diverse backgrounds to participate on the programme. The group is also working on an information booklet to assist in the delivery of the programme.

### Intercultural Working Group

During the month of February, work continued with community and voluntary groups in supporting them to submit grant applications to the LCC Community Grant Scheme under the intercultural theme.

### SICAP Monitoring Committee

SICAP held a meeting on 1 February to undertake the Annual Performance Review 2020 and make a recommendation to the LCDC. At the LCDC meeting on 9 February, the SICAP Annual Performance Review 2020 and the Annual Plan 2021 were approved. The amount of €87,817.67 was paid to LCRL for January and February 2021.

### Longford Age Friendly Programme

This programme is being progressed through the recruitment of a Local Coordinator for the Healthy Homes Programme. Longford has been identified as one of nine counties to pilot the programme.

### Community Resilience Fund

A number of initiatives are being rolled out to support Longford people, in particular those who are older or isolated. Initiatives are being rolled out through the libraries, Longford Sports Partnership and other partners.

# Community & Enterprise

## Library, Heritage and Archives

### Longford County Library Service

While libraries remain closed, staff continue to provide services by telephone, online, collection and delivery. Longford Civil Defence continues to assist with our deliveries. Online spring events for adults, especially aimed at those isolated or living alone, are being delivered through the Community Forum Network, social media and local media outlets.

### Ireland Reads

February was National Ireland Reads month, aimed at getting everyone to pledge time for reading on 25 February. In Longford, we had a wonderful response from writers and readers from all ages and all walks of life.

### Creative Ireland

The annual open call grant application has been issued inviting submissions for innovative creative projects with a closing date of 1 March. There are a large number of applications in with a wide range of very innovative proposals.

### Clonfin Ambush Commemoration

As part of Longford Decade of Centenaries, the Commemoration of the Clonfin Ambush which occurred on the 2 February 1921 took place online on 7 February. Nationwide also broadcast an interview with Sr Maeve Brady, daughter of Tom Brady, a member of the Flying Column.

### Longford Age Friendly

Age Friendly Ireland announced Longford as one of nine counties to take part in a two-year Healthy Homes pilot initiative. This programme targets older people at risk of entering long-term residential care, with the aim of supporting them to continue living in their own homes and communities for as long as possible. The programme will start in April.

### Keep Well Programme

Events continue to be rolled out, helping older people to stay connected, eat well, mind their mood, switch off and be creative. Four out of the five Saturday programmes with Shannonside radio have also been completed, with a wide range of topics and interesting speakers on each programme.

### Edgeworthstown Library

The site is closed due to Level 5 restrictions.

### Heritage Programme

The Heritage Office is administering the DHLGH Built Heritage grants, the Built Heritage Investment Scheme 2021 and Historic Structures Fund 2021, the closing date for which was the 22 February. There were a high number of applications.

Funding has been sought from the Heritage Council to undertake the following projects under the County Heritage Plan 2019-2024: Longford Heritage Awareness & Engagement Programme; a Conservation Plan for the Plaster Oliver Goldsmith Statue (Pallas) by John Henry Foley; Longford Wetlands Survey 2021 and the County Longford Popular Music Research Project.



# Community & Enterprise

## Sports Partnership

### ASPIRE Graduate

Local Sports Partnership welcome our new ASPIRE Graduate to the team. The ASPIRE Graduate Employment Programme (through Sport Ireland) was established to enable recently qualified sport and physical activity graduates to gain relevant experience in sector-based organisations for an 11-month period.

This project was approved by Government with support from the Dormant Accounts Fund.

### Online Workshops and Courses

In February, the LSP delivered numerous online workshops. Nutritionist Clare Farrell delivered the first of four Nutrition and Health Habits workshops in late February.

Two Sport Ireland Safeguarding Courses were also delivered where all sports Coaches, Club Children's Officers (CCO) and Designated Liaison Persons (DLP) must first complete the three hour Child Welfare & Protection Basic Awareness Workshop.

### St Patrick's Week Virtual Ireland Run

We look forward to the St Patrick's Week Virtual Ireland Run in March. This is promoted by Longford Athletics Club and the Employee Health and Wellbeing and Longford Sports Partnership Steps into Spring Challenge.

### Keep Well Campaign

The Keep Well Campaign is ongoing. Longford Local Sports Partnership, along with the Sports Hub Edgeworthstown, delivered a number of activities namely the Couch to 5K, dance for people with disabilities, exercise for older adults, online fitness classes, inclusive fitness programmes, TY Skills Challenge and online yoga over the month of February.

For the Local Sports Partnership 5km Your Way, over 115 participants have signed up to this six week virtual programme. Every week they are given a bespoke plan to follow along with the option to avail of two online weekly zoom sessions, a strength session and an advisor session.



# Community & Enterprise

## Local Enterprise Office

### Measure One

Grant Aid	
Applications	6
Approvals	6
Value of Approvals	€94,000

### Measure Two

Training and Development Programmes	
Programmes	3
Participants	71

Mentoring	
Total Participants	28

### Brexit

Group Workshops	1
Participants	15
1-to-1 Brexit Advisor Businesses	7

### Trading Online Vouchers

Applications	3
Approvals	15
Value of Approvals	€34,460

### Job Creation

In February, LEO Longford approved €94,000 in funding to six local projects, under Measure One Grant Aid. It is hoped that this will lead to the creation of nine full-time jobs.

## Local Enterprise Week 2021

Local Enterprise Week takes place at the start of March, with more than 200 events planned throughout Ireland by Local Enterprise Offices.

Longfod LEO has been working throughout February organising events for local businesses and entrepreneurs. Our events include:

- Brexit and Customs Mentoring Clinics
- Start Your Own Business Course
- Growing Lean: Lean Information Webinar
- Remote Work Opportunities
- A Digital Marketing Plan for Your Business
- How to Master Your VAT in One Day

There are also National Spotlight events including:

- Launch of Green for Micro Programme
- Enabling Your B2B Online Opportunities
- S.M.A.R.Tech for StartUps
- Trading Online Voucher Information Session

Further details are on [localenterprise.ie/longford](https://localenterprise.ie/longford)

## Tourism

### Longford.ie

Longford Tourism's new website is now live. Check out the visit section on [longford.ie](https://longford.ie). The website has built in accessibility tools and is available in over 100 languages. News and events in County Longford are also available.

To explore this new website, visit [longford.ie](https://longford.ie)

# Community & Enterprise

## Corporate Services

- Corporate Services COVID-19 Business Response Plan continues to be implemented
- Community Call Helpline continues to reach out to the most vulnerable in society
- The Live Register was published on 1 February and came into effect on 15 February.

## Elected Members Supports and Meetings Administration

Due to COVID-19, Longford County Council Meetings, were held remotely, via MS Teams, including:

- Placemaking Strategic Policy Committee Meeting (1 February)
- Governance Strategic Policy Committee Meeting (2 February)
- Climate Action & Planning Strategic Policy Committee Meeting (3 February)
- Strategic Infrastructure Strategic Policy Committee Meeting (4 February)
- Corporate Policy Group Meeting (9 February)
- February County Council Meeting (10 February)
- Longford Municipal District Meeting (24 February)

## Freedom of Information

	February	YTD
FOI requests received	5	8
AIE requests received	0	0

See FOI Disclosure Log on [Longfordcoco.ie](http://Longfordcoco.ie).

## Data Protection

- DPO attended Regional DPO Network and the LGMA National DPO Network.
- Data Subject Access Requests received and completed: 1
- Data Protection Induction Training has commenced
- Data Protection Presentation to Management
- New Internal Data Sharing process piloted
- Records of Processing completed for Civil Defence, Health and Safety and Fire Service

## Human Resources

### Health & Wellbeing

- For World Cancer Day on 4 February, employees were able to take part in the 'Eating to Reduce Cancer Risk' webinar

### Learning & Development

- Climate Action Training continued for all employees
- The six week course on Preparing for Retiring commenced
- Training on HR Policies commenced

### Recruitment

- 2 competitions advertised
- 13 candidates interviewed
- 9 employees commenced
- 1 employee resigned

### FOI / Data Access Requests

- 1 Data Subject Access Request completed
- 1 Freedom of Information Request completed



# Community & Enterprise

## Communications

Ongoing Communications work for February included:

- Media Queries Processed: 14
- Press Releases Issued: 2
- Media Statements Issued: 2
- Advertising features: 2

### Press Releases and Statements

The Communications Office worked on a number of press releases and statements that were issued including:

- The announcement of Longford County Council as the first Local Authority to introduce eduroam Wi-Fi hotspots in town centres. Feedback was positive on local and regional media coverage, as well as from elected representatives, on local and national platforms
- Longford County Council featured as part of the Sunday Business Post's NISO Awards edition for its win in the Annual Safety Awards announced in January
- Further advertising and promotional content is being prepared for the Public Sector Magazine publication to be released in April

### Communications Guidelines

Corporate Communications continues to work on the development of Communications Guidelines, including elements that will feed into the overall Communications Strategy for Longford County Council.

## Social Media Communications

The Council communicated with our Longford-based audience and the wider public via our social media channels throughout February.

Messaging is focussed very much on COVID-19, communicating up-to-date national and local public health guidance. There is also continued use of the COVID-19 segment on longfordcoco.ie.

Included as part of this information, is the rollout of the COVID-19 vaccination programme and what we all can do to #KeepWell at this time. This allows a positive focus for our messaging.



On Longford County Council's social media channels for February:

- We generated 91 posts on the Council's Facebook page, which were seen 70K times and we increased our Facebook follower count by 261
- We tweeted 90 messages earning 55K impressions on Twitter and we increased our Twitter follower count by 173

Our posts and tweets were shared to a wider audience by:

- Waterways Ireland
- Libraries Ireland
- SHE Project
- National Museum of Ireland
- Grow Remote

# Community & Enterprise

## Health & Safety

### Safety Inspections

There were seven Safety Inspections completed by Health and Safety and the Management Team.

### Sunday Business Post

Our achievements at the NISO Occupational Safety Awards were recognised in the Sunday Business Post on 14 February.


### Employee Acknowledgement

The Management Team, the Health and Safety Section and the Learning and Development Section extends thanks to all employees for their participation in the Safety Management System and the Health and Wellbeing Programmes.

In 2020, increased focus was placed on employee health and wellbeing. We hope both programmes have been helpful for Longford County Council employees' physical and mental wellbeing.

Employees continued participation in the Safety Management System is reflective of our successful migration to ISO 45001 and winning two awards (Council / Local Authority Award and Continuous High Achiever Award) in the recent All-Ireland Annual Occupational Safety Awards.


Last year was an unprecedented year that created many difficulties, bringing change and unforeseen challenges. To acknowledge and thank all employees, each employee has been provided with a Longford County Council corporate jacket.






### Achieving Excellence in Health & Safety

 **OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AWARDS**


- ♦ 2019 Council / Local Authority & Continuous High Achiever Awards
- ♦ 2018 Council / Local Authority & Continuous High Achiever Awards
- ♦ 2017 Council / Local Authority
- ♦ 2016 Silver Award
- ♦ 2015 Council / Local Authority
- ♦ 2014 Presidents Award for New Entrant



HEALTH & SAFETY  
I.S. ISO 45001:2018  
NSAI Certified



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# Finance & Regeneration

## Finance

Longford County Council  
Revenue Account Income & Expenditure Summary by Service Division  
Year to Date to Quarter End 31/12/2020

	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	9,511,745	9,531,177	100%	19,432	10,433,350	10,415,527	100%	(17,823)	921,605
Roads	18,587,919	11,455,775	162%	(7,132,144)	13,745,447	6,455,754	213%	(7,289,693)	(4,842,472)
Water Services	4,011,508	3,769,218	106%	(242,290)	3,887,405	3,569,405	109%	(318,000)	(124,103)
Development Management	15,720,870	9,487,625	166%	(6,233,245)	11,485,254	4,954,354	232%	(6,530,900)	(4,235,616)
Environment	5,539,849	5,802,869	95%	263,020	614,675	534,239	115%	(80,436)	(4,925,174)
Recreation & Amenity	4,287,653	4,207,740	102%	(79,913)	770,374	563,739	137%	(206,635)	(3,517,279)
Agri, Health & Welfare	462,876	449,029	103%	(13,847)	229,916	204,768	112%	(25,148)	(232,960)
Miscellaneous Services	7,596,164	3,335,187	228%	(4,260,977)	6,699,127	2,820,018	238%	(3,879,109)	(897,037)
Local Government Fund					9,224,711	9,224,711	100%	0	9,224,711
* Rates					8,632,835	9,296,104	93%	663,269	8,632,835
	€65,718,584	€48,038,620	137%	(€17,679,964)	€65,723,094	€48,038,619	137%	(€17,684,475)	€4,510

**These are draft preliminary figures for 2020, and are subject to change**

These figures are due for submission to the Department on Friday 5th March.

Where Covid-19 related expenditure has been incurred, corresponding Deferred Income from Central Government has been accounted for.

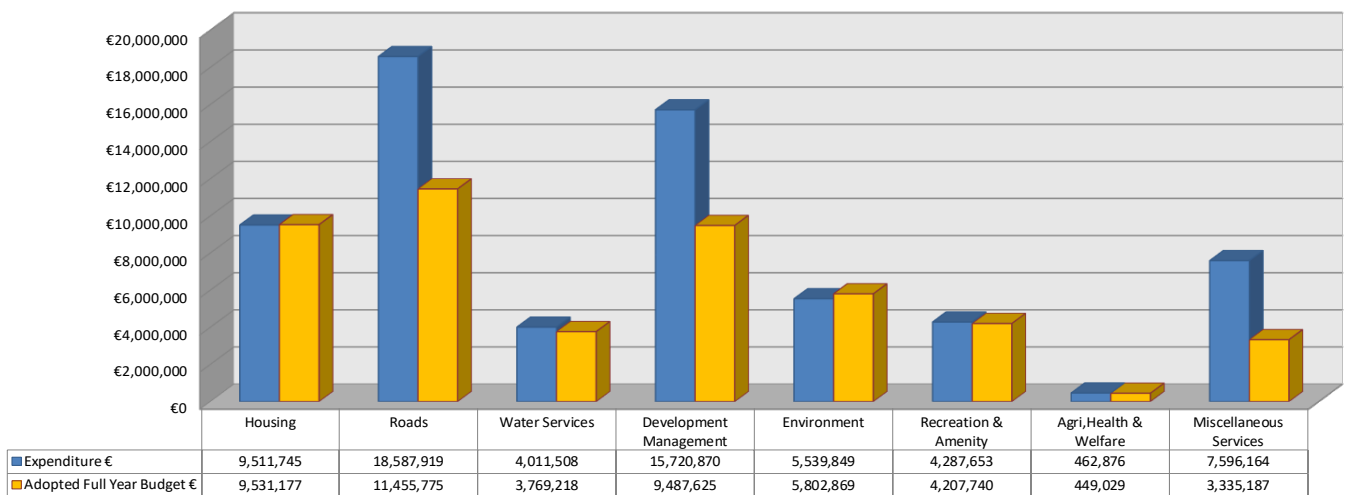
Full Year AFS 2020 will be due for review at the May Council Meeting.



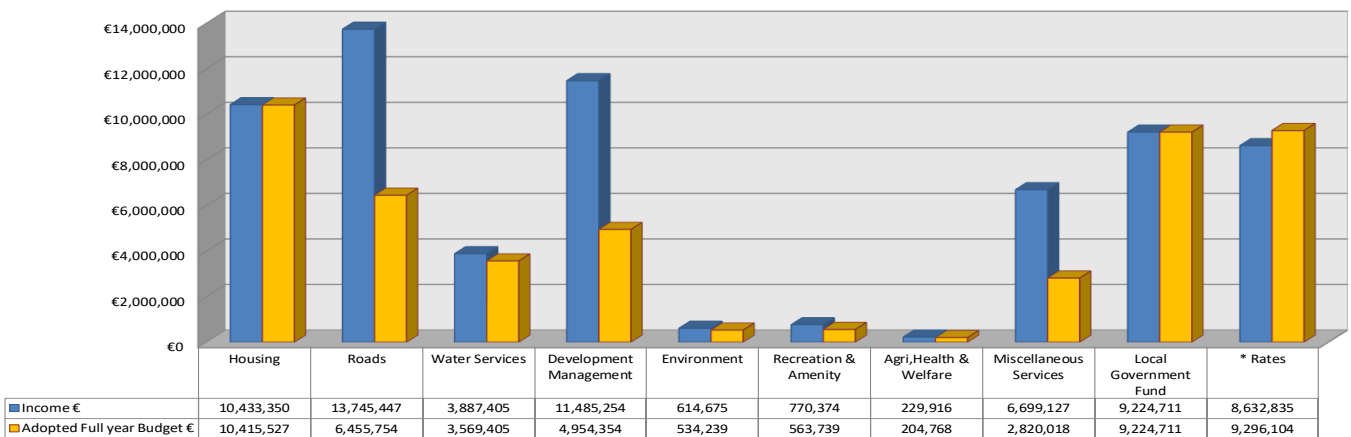
# Finance & Regeneration

## Finance (Contd)

**Expenditure V Budget - Quarter 4, 2020**



**Income V Budget - Quarter 4, 2020**



# Finance & Regeneration

## Finance (Contd)

### SUMMARY OF MAJOR REVENUE COLLECTIONS - QUARTER 4, 2020

	Opening Arrears	Billed	To be Collected	Collected	Closing Arrears	Collected
Quarter 4, 2020	€	€	€	€	€	%
*Rates	€1,033,827	€8,632,835	€5,727,569	€4,614,033	€1,113,536	81%
Rents (inc. RAS)	€736,999	€7,101,310	€7,838,309	€6,960,295	€878,014	89%
Housing Loans	€624,595	€751,783	€1,376,378	€892,464	€483,914	65%

	Opening Arrears	Billed	To be Collected	Collected	Closing Arrears	Collected
Quarter 4, 2019	€	€	€	€	€	%
*Rates	€1,410,968	€8,147,038	€8,401,429	€7,367,602	€1,033,827	88%
Rents (inc. RAS)	€415,696	€6,829,239	€7,216,120	€6,479,121	€736,999	90%
Housing Loans	€672,732	€875,569	€1,516,783	€892,188	€624,595	59%

	Opening Arrears	Billed	To be Collected	Collected	Closing Arrears	Collected
VARIANCE YOY	€	€	€	€	€	%
*Rates	(€377,141)	€485,797	(€2,673,860)	(€2,753,569)	€79,709	-7%
Rents (inc. RAS)	€321,303	€272,071	€622,189	€481,174	€141,015	-1%
Housing Loans	(€48,137)	(€123,786)	(€140,405)	€276	(€140,681)	6%

\* Covid-19 Commercial Rates waivers amounted to €3,060,386 in 2020. These have been taken account of in the 'To be Collected' figures above.

# Finance & Regeneration

## Regeneration

### Mid-Shannon Wilderness Park

Considered an essential service, work continued on the Mid-Shannon Wilderness Park. The construction of a new 2.4K trail, accommodating walking and cycling through the Cloonbearla section of the Lanesborough to Clondra Bog Walk has been completed. A key piece of tourism infrastructure, this will ultimately link the Royal Canal Greenway at Clondra with Lanesborough. The completion of this project will have an impact on the delivery of tourism infrastructure within Longford and the Hidden Heartlands. It is also an important element in the delivery of the Mid-Shannon Wilderness Park Greenway.

### Aughakine Community Centre

The upgrading of the Aughakine Community Centre, Moydow, and installation of a Broadband Connection Point (BCP) is near completion. It will accommodate remote working facilities which has been identified as one of the locations for the installation of a BCP within Longford. The works included removal and refitting of doors and windows, insulation, removal and reinstatement of kitchen and tiling, electrical and paintworks. This project allows the people of Moydow to continue to work from their community and supports the development of economic activity in the area.

### Broadband Connection Points

The fit out of BCPs in seven identified centres was completed this month, with support from Longford County Council Broadband Officer. These centres are Moydow Community Centre, Mullinalaghta Community Centre, Colmcille, Ballymore, Carrickedmond GAA Clubhouse, Moyne Latin School and Longford Aviation Ltd.

Each facility has been provided with a smart screen, multi-functional printer, desks and chairs, screens and necessary electrical equipment. A dedicated room has been identified in each building for future remote working facilities. This project is important particularly now with many people working remotely. It brings added value to the BCPs and ensures accessible points outside the buildings which greatly benefits the communities where they are located.

### Keenagh Village Enhancement

The final part of a village enhancement plan, drafted by Keenagh and District Development Association, was completed recently. The project included the replacement of electricity and telephone poles with new cast iron poles and energy efficient lighting, greatly enhancing the village's streetscapes and visitor experience. This adds to the other developments in the plan, for example: the new community playground; the new walk and cycle ways along the Royal Canal, in Corlea Bog and around the village; and artwork installed in the village. To date, the enhancement plan has increased visitor and tourist numbers and benefited businesses in the village.



# Finance & Regeneration

## Information Technology

### General IT

- Three projects were submitted for consideration to the 2021 Public Service Innovation Fund

### IT Infrastructure Section Works Completed

- Tender completed for Longford town CCTV upgrade and extension
- Contract prepared for Longford town CCTV upgrade and extension
- HyperConverged Project progressed and VM migration underway
- Testing started on managed print service
- Remote working equipment configured and deployed for new starters
- IT support for statutory meetings
- Windows Server EOL upgrades started
- ServiceDesk stats for February: 606 tickets

### Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Works Completed

- Database migration SQL 2008 to SQL 2016 ongoing
- Completion of return for National Social Housing Data Map
- Development of planning enforcements digitising app
- Eircodes quarterly update
- Roads Viewer: addition of sub-engineering areas, completed low cost improvements and roads with weight restrictions
- N4 Mullingar–Longford (Roosky) public consultation map viewer

### Digital Services works completed:

- Eduroam launched in Longford, Ballymahon and Drumlish town centres and in Granard, Ballymahon and Longford Libraries. Longford became the first county council in Ireland to introduce eduroam Wi-Fi in town centres
- Electronic Document Management Project commenced
- Procurement of a solution for Electronic PMDS commenced
- Digital Hub Engagement: Connections for The Yard Hub and CO:worx. An information session on the development of rural working hubs is scheduled for 3 March
- Broadband Connection Points (BCP) and Community WIFI: soft launch at the Latin School Moyne. Integration of Esendex services into Microsoft Forms with real-time SMS communication to BCP Caretakers.
- National Broadband Ireland presented at council meeting and to engineering staff
- Tender for hybrid video meetings solution for Council Chamber published on eTenders
- Public service innovation fund application submitted for the provision of a one-stop cross-county travel and information platform to promote the benefits of local exploration to reduce our carbon footprint (Longford, Leitrim, Cavan and Westmeath)
- Longford.ie is now live and includes Visit, Live, Invest and Your Council sections
- WIFI4EU: Free Wi-Fi in Longford, Ballymahon and Drumlish had 542 new users in February

# Strategic Infrastructure & Climate Action

## Housing

### Energy Efficiency Retrofitting Programme 2021

The Department of Housing, Heritage and Local Government announced revised Energy Efficiency Retrofitting Programme for 2021. The programme provides Local Authorities with an allocation and target number of units to be delivered under this programme.

This is the first year of a ten year programme involving significant upscaling on works completed by Local Authorities to date. Nationally, it will target 2,400 social homes for upgrade works in 2021. Preliminary allocation for Longford County Council for 2021 is €523,091, with a requirement to retrofit a minimum of 19 properties to a B2/ Cost Optimal Standard. All works under the programme must be completed by the end of October 2021. This preliminary allocation has been calculated on a stock percentage basis.

This revised programme provides for a significant upscaling in the level of funding available. It also focuses on ensuring that the fabric of the home is upgraded and an energy efficient heating system is provided.

### RAS Recoupment Procedure

Revised RAS Recoupment Procedure came into effect in January 2021, local authorities may only claim the difference between the actual tenant contribution rent received and the amount the local authority pays the landlord.

### RAS Recoupment (Contd)

All local authorities were directed to implement these changes per Circular 6 of 2021: Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS).

### Housing Projects

COVID-19 Level 5 restrictions have affected the construction industry, with work stopped on several projects.

Work has been permitted to restart on:

- 1 unit at Fairgreen View, Longford

Work is ongoing on the other essential designated status projects including:

- 1 unit at Cloonahard
- 8 units at Alder Field, Farnagh
- 5 units at Cartrons Kenagh
- 9 units at Sli Corglass, Legga

It is hoped that the remaining projects on hold can recommence shortly:

- 6 units at Rose Cottage, Ballinalee
- 21 units at Campbells Lane, Longford

Work continues on completing the remainder of voids under the 2020 Voids Stimulus Package.

Part 8 planning to convert an existing disused former healthcare facility into a 4-bed bungalow for special needs applicants, in Newtownforbes has been advertised.

IT are assisting with the mapping of all complete and current social housing projects.

The Housing section is surveying and preparing plans for future projects.

# Strategic Infrastructure & Climate Action

## Planning

### Planning Applications and Enforcement

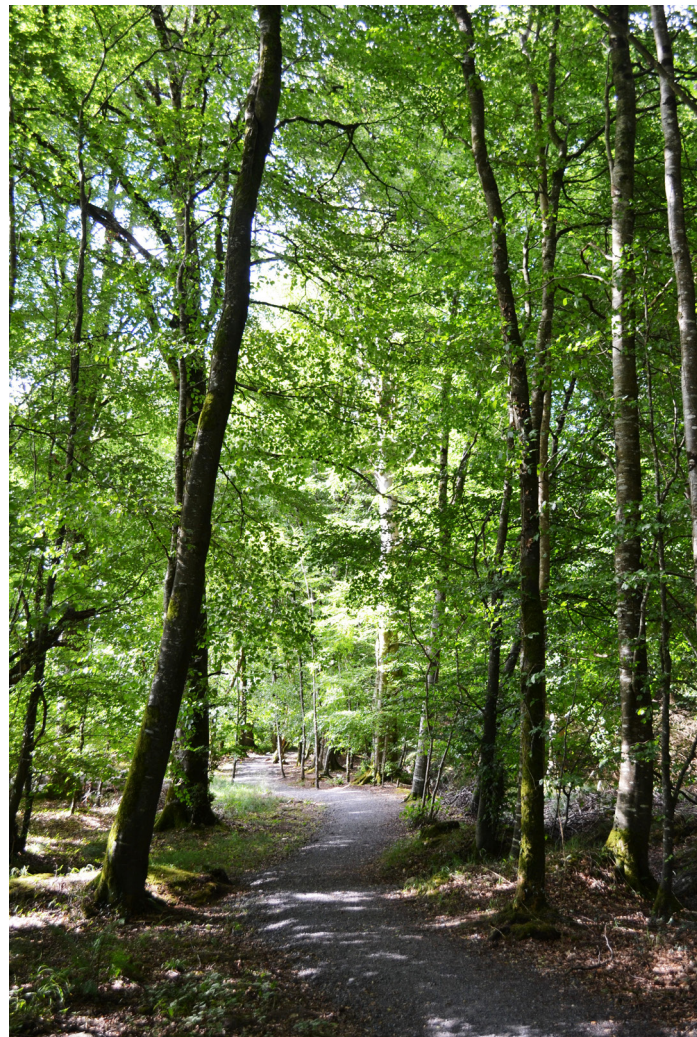
Statutory requirements maintained, including:

- Managing various planning applications, housing, retail, industrial proposals, Part 8 Planning Schemes and CPOs
- Planning administrative office, public counter, technical advice and reports were also kept fully functioning
- Assisting in the implementation of the Housing and Climate Change programme.

### Development Plan

Statutory requirements maintained, including:

- Development Plan Review, setting out a template for county development up to 2027 is ongoing
- Second Phase Public Consultation on the Draft Plan is now complete
- Analysis of the submissions received is ongoing, in preparation for the Chief Executive's Report.
- Based on the issues raised in these submissions, the Revised Plan is expected to be presented to members in June
- Draft Plan is to be complete November 2021 for members adoption
- Every sector of County Longford's future development potential has been analysed and detailed with strategies, policies and GIS mapping developed. Improving the wellbeing and lives of Longford people is the ambition of the plan.





# Strategic Infrastructure & Climate Action

## Roads

### Regional and Local Road Grant Allocations

On 15 February Longford County Council were notified of the Regional and Local Road Grant Allocations for 2021 (see below). The Roads Programme is currently being prepared.

#### Total Allocation per Grant

Department Grant	Allocation
Restoration Improvement	€4,240,500
Restoration Maintenance	€709,500
Supplementary Restoration Maintenance	€507,000
Discretionary Grant	€1,328,000
Bridge Rehabilitation Grant	€441,955
Specific Improvement	€370,000
Safety Improvement Works	€265,500
Cycle Signs	€2,000
Former National Roads	€300,000
Active Travel	€257,143
Climate Adaption	€34,974
Training Grant	€34,000
Community Involvement Scheme	€248,500
Drainage Works	€332,089
PSCI: Survey Support	€12,000
Total	€9,083,161

### N4 Mullingar to Longford (Roosky)

The Second Public Consultation on the Route Corridor Options for the N4 Mullingar to Longford (Roosky) commenced in late January, with submissions accepted until 19 March.

### Essential Maintenance Works

Due to COVID-19, Level 5 restrictions continued to be in place throughout February. Therefore, Longford County Council employees continued to be restricted to essential maintenance works on public roads to maintain the operational capacity and safety of the road network. These essential maintenance works include drainage, pothole repair, patching, winter maintenance and emergency call outs.

### Road Safety

Longford County Council's Road Safety Section is currently engaging with iRadio, in conjunction with other local authorities in the north-east, north-west and midlands, to promote road safety via an iRadio Tik Tok competition. This will run over three weeks, from 8-26 March, with additional promotion via iRadio's social media, as well as local promotion via the Council's social media, the #RoadSafety and outreach to local schools and clubs.

### County Fatalities 2020



# Strategic Infrastructure & Climate Action

## Water

### Water Service Continuity

The Water Service Section is a significant priority at the present time, and continues to plan and deliver services throughout Longford.

The Water Services Capital section continues to provide services during COVID-19, ensuring continued service of drinking water, particularly in areas with headroom or supply issues.

### Find & Fix Programme

Longford County Council and Irish Water's Find & Fix programme continues to reduce water leakage in the network. County Longford comprises of 51 district metered areas (DMAs). Find & Fix crews are currently operating in the:

- Granard DMA
- Lanesborough Rural DMA



Utilising advanced flow measurement and acoustic leakage detection, Longford County Council's Find & Fix team investigated, found and repaired a major leak in the Lanesborough area in February, achieving a saving of approximately 12,000 litres of water per hour.

It is anticipated that the Find & Fix programme will continue as the year progresses.

### Capital Network Schemes

Longford County Council and Irish Water are progressing with the installation of approximately 1400m of new watermain, replacing existing old watermain at Ballymakeegan, as well as the installation of a new watermain and connections to Templemichael and Bannon Terrace, Longford. Both schemes will improve the water network and increase security of supply, with completion due in early 2021.

Longford County Council and Irish Water have also recently commenced watermain rehabilitation in Clonboney, Lanesborough where approximately 500l/m of watermain will be replaced with new PE watermain pipe.

### Early Contractor Involvement (ECI) Water Programme

Irish Water and Longford County Council has recently commenced the ECI Programme in County Longford. This national programme carries out improvement works at water treatment plants, ensuring continued delivery of safe drinking water. To date, Irish Water have assessed over 811 sites and completed upgrade works to over 230 sites.

The programme is at final construction stage at the Lough Kinale, Granard and Lough Gowna, Smear water treatment plants with works due to commence at the Lough Forbes, Longford water treatment plant. Longford County Council Water Service continues to work closely with the contractor to ensure the continued safe operation of the water treatment plants during the construction phase.

# Strategic Infrastructure & Climate Action

## Environment

### Relove Fashion Competition

Longford County Council is proud to congratulate Lily Hemus, student at Cnoc Mhuire, Granard on winning 'Most Innovative' at the Relove Fashion Competition Grand Final.



Longford County Council is one of 10 local authorities in the Eastern Midlands Region involved in the competition. Relove Fashion encourages students to examine how clothing is made and to explore creative reuse options, such as upcycling, repairs and alterations.

Longford County Council Environmental Awareness Officer Gary Brady says the competition is a wonderful way to generate environmental awareness in the school-going generation. "I'd like to congratulate Lily and her teacher Charmaine Hetherton at Cnoc Mhuire in Granard on their victory. It's great to see the work of local schools being recognised at the Grand Final".

### Climate Action Training

Climate Action training for the Climate Action Team commenced on 24 February. The 'Building Capacity' course will be run over 6 half-days, ending on 12 March. Further training modules for all employees will be rolled out over the coming year.

### RMCEI

Environment submitted its RMCEI Plan for 2021 to the EPA. The Plan reports the environmental enforcement work done in 2020 covering waste, litter, environmental awareness, water, air and noise. It also details the planned environmental inspections for 2021.

## Veterinary Services

### Dog Control Services

The numbers of stray, seized and surrendered dogs in Longford County Council halved in 2020, compared to 2019, reflecting the national trend in people wishing to have a dog during the COVID-19 restrictions.

Longford Dog Control Service continue their cooperation with An Garda Síochána in relation to controlling dogs, particularly those on the Restricted Breeds List and the danger that they pose to people and to livestock.

Also Local Authority tenancy conditions in relation to keeping dogs is being emphasized.



# Strategic Infrastructure & Climate Action

## Fire Service

### Operations

- Total Callouts in February: 45
- All stations remained fully operational

### Health and Safety

- No injuries to report

### Training

- Training courses are rescheduled on an ongoing basis due to COVID-19
- Weekly drills restarted in mid-February

### MEM

- Regional Working Group Meetings are held weekly by teleconference due to COVID-19
- Longford IT Section are leading a project for an electronic management system for major emergency or severe weather events, in conjunction with the other Primary Response Agencies in the Midland Region

### Business Continuity Planning

- The Fire Service have prepared and implemented business continuity measures for both operational and HQ staff, managed by the Longford Fire and Rescue Service Action Tracker Plan for COVID-19
- Fire Brigade HQ is always manned

### Recruitment

Currently there are vacancies in Edgeworthstown (1), Granard (2) and Lanesborough (1). It is hoped to run a recruitment campaign soon.

## Civil Defence

### Book Deliveries

Volunteers assisted Longford libraries with their book deliveries.

### Training

- 6 volunteers completed Mandatory Manual Handling Training
- 7 volunteers are currently undertaking their First Aid Responder training
- EMTs are completing their privileging process
- 12 volunteers are completing TUSLA e-learning Child Protection refresher

### COVID-19 Community Response

Civil Defence attended the online COVID-19 Longford Community Response Forum to provide an update and offer support for ongoing community response in the area.

### COVID-19 Upskilling

Practitioners are upskilling to ensure they are up-to-date on skills if called to assist with the COVID-19 Vaccination programme. CPGs have been updated and issued to EMTs.

### Civil Defence Magazine for 2020

The Civil Defence Magazine for 2020 has been published and has been distributed to all members.

# CONNECTED

People • Place • Opportunity

Management Report for January 2021 prepared in accordance with Sec 136 (2) of the Local Government Act 2001, as inserted by Sec 51 the Local Government Reform Act 2014. The report outlines key aspects of our service delivery and performance in February 2021 in securing the objectives set out in the Council's Corporate Plan.

Signed:



Paddy Mahon  
Chief Executive





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