



# Longford County Council Chief Executive Report January 2022

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# January Highlights

## Walking the walk with Operation Transformation

Three OT walks organised by Longford Local Sports Partnership with Edgeworthstown and Drumlish Community Sports Hubs took place on 16 January.



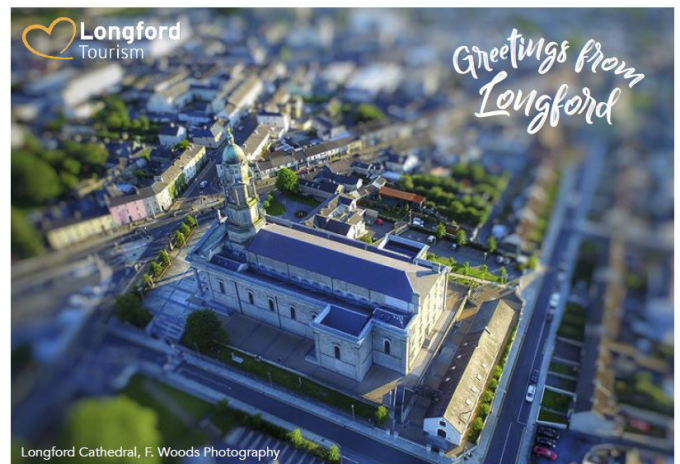
## Edgeworthstown Urban Greenway complete

The new Edgeworthstown Urban Greenway connects housing estates with essential services and amenities.



## Greetings from Longford!

"Greetings from Longford" greeting cards are currently in design stages and will soon be available from Longford Tourism for the spring-summer season.



## USEFE and LEOs announce combined Virtual Jobs Fair

Longford, Cavan, and Leitrim Local Enterprise Offices with the Upper Shannon Erne Future Economy Project will host a Virtual Jobs Fair on Wednesday, 23 February 2022.



# Community & Enterprise

## Community Development

### Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)

No meetings took place in January. The next meeting of the LCDC will be Tuesday, 8 February 2022.

### Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme

The Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme (SICAP) Monitoring Subcommittee of the LCDC held a meeting in January to carry out the Annual Performance Review of the implementation of SICAP in 2021. The Annual Plan for 2022 was also considered at this meeting.

The Department of Rural and Community Development allocated an additional 5% increase in funding to the SICAP programme in 2022.

Longford Community Resources CLG is contracted to deliver the SICAP programme. There is an allocation of €584,865.00 for this work with disadvantaged groups and individuals in 2022.

### Comhairle na nÓg

The Comhairle Na nÓg funding allocation is increased to €25,000 (from €20,000) for 2022 from the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth.

Foróige is contracted to support the work of Comhairle Na nÓg and work is overseen by an interagency steering committee.

### Community Activities Fund

The new Community Activities Fund provides grants for community groups. This funding can be put towards running costs, carrying out necessary repairs and improvements to their facilities or to purchase equipment. Online application forms must be completed by the community group's chairperson, secretary or treasurer.



The online application form, as well as further information, is available on [Longfordcoco.ie](https://longfordcoco.ie). An online technical support information session for community groups was held on Monday, 24 January and this recording is also available online.

The closing day is Wednesday, 16 February at 4pm. The funding is provided by the Department of Rural and Community Development. An allocation of €264,769 came to Longford LCDC from the total national funding of €9m.



# Community & Enterprise

## Community Development (Contd)

### Sláintecare Healthy Communities

Launched nationally last year, the Sláintecare Healthy Communities Longford-Westmeath implementation group is now established. Longford County Council is represented on this group.

Agencies in Longford are selected to deliver the social prescribing, parenting and We Can Quit Smoking programmes. Funding is anticipated for the Healthy Food Made Easy programme. Training dates for all programmes are being organised.

Funding of €250,000 was also secured for enhancement work under this programme. This includes the installation of cycleways and enhanced pedestrian connections, with associated public lighting, road crossings and environmental improvements for Ballyminion, Longford.

To support the delivery of the Sláintecare Healthy Communities programme, €75,000 is being made available. A local development officer will be employed to engage with communities within the Sláintecare Healthy Communities programme area. This person will also engage with local non-government organisations (NGOs) to address the wider context that may impact on people's health.

The funding will be used for initiatives, projects, or research in the programme area that the local development officer and Longford County Council identify from the community engagement.

## Tourism

### Longford Hamper

Longford Tourism linked up with Ballymahon company Wilder & Gold to create the Longford Hamper. This new product will be launched soon. Longford Tourism will also be giving away some hampers in competitions happening throughout 2022.

### Greetings from Longford

"Greetings from Longford" greeting cards are currently being designed and will soon be available from Longford Tourism.

### The Farrell Clan International Rally Brochure

A new brochure on "The Farrell Clan International Rally" will be launched shortly, ahead of the event which is due to take place in July.

The Farrell Clan International Rally is the most important event for its clan members around the world. Taking place since 1993 and held in Longford every four years, this five-day gathering sees Farrells from around globe, coming together in celebration of shared ancestral roots.



# Community & Enterprise

## Library, Heritage & Archives

### Longford Live and Local

Longford Live and Local: Spring into Summer was announced in January. This is a follow-up from the very successful summer and winter programmes.

Longford County Council has again been awarded €143,000 to engage local artists, musicians and creative communities to deliver performances and cultural events from February to June 2022. We are looking forward to what is in store!

### Creative Ireland Programme

The 2022 Creative Ireland Funding Open Call for innovative, creative and cultural initiatives in County Longford went out in January.



Three funding applications under the Creativity in Older Age strand were submitted in January: one music project with Men's Sheds, one film project and one follow-up book to Longford Memories. This funding stream closes to applications on Monday, 14 February.

### Longford Age Friendly programme

The Longford Age Friendly programme continues to keep older people connected through regular newsletters, emails and phone calls.

Basic Digital Skills classes have begun in Ballymahon. There are also plans run these classes in Edgeworthstown, Granard and Longford.

A pilot inter-generational project in partnership with Foroige where younger people will assist older people with technology is due to be rolled out shortly through the library branches.

### Longford Libraries

All Longford libraries have resumed their normal pre-COVID-19 opening hours, which includes late evenings and Saturdays. Customers are cautiously returning, with bookclubs, writers, art and music groups, and exhibitions recommencing.

The new Edgeworthstown Community Library, which opened last November, has recorded 4,320 visits with 600 new members so far.

### Archives

The terms-of-use of images from the Pakenham Papers, which were digitised last year, have been agreed with the Pakenham family and County Longford Historical Society, which funded the work. Public access to this collection is a huge step forward.

The Decade of Centenaries 2022 Plan was drafted for submission to the Commemorations Unit.

Internally, advice on record retention was also given to the Human Resources, Motor Tax and Community Development sections within the Council.



# Community & Enterprise

## Library, Heritage & Archives (Contd)

### Heritage

Built heritage conservation grants for County Longford were advertised and will be managed on behalf of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage. This scheme closed for applications on 31 January.

The Community Monuments Fund 2022 is also being managed and closes for applications on 15 February.

The Heritage Office applied to the Heritage Council for three County Heritage Plan projects for 2022:

The first project is the County Longford Heritage Research Programme. This will research up to three surveys: Wetlands Heritage Field 2022 survey, Black Pigs Dyke LiDAR survey and a thatch buildings survey.

The second project is the County Longford Heritage Awareness and Engagement Programme. This will include publishing the Geological Survey of Ireland Geological Heritage Survey in memory of Dr Matthew Parkes, as well as publishing a book on mills and milling in County Longford, and other projects.

The final project will be the second phase of the Popular Music Heritage Project. This will see the expansion of the database, as well as oral history interviews.

## Local Enterprise Office

### Job Creation in 2021

An Tánaiste and Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment Leo Varadkar TD announced the 2021 Local Enterprise Offices (LEOs) Annual Results. LEO-supported companies created 7,440 jobs in 2021, up from 5,585 for 2020, with Longford LEO creating 65 jobs.

The figures released also showed over 900 people participated in training delivered by LEO and 32 businesses were awarded Trading Online Vouchers.



*Nationwide, 7,440 jobs were created by Local Enterprise Offices in 2021*

### Virtual Job Fair

Work has started on a virtual job fair which will showcase local job opportunities on Wednesday, 23 February. Longford LEO is working with its counterparts in Cavan and Leitrim on this exciting event. Businesses from across the three counties will be in attendance. Find out more on Longford LEO social media pages.



# Community & Enterprise

## Local Sports Partnership

### Kayak Leader Skills Training

Abbeyshrule Canoe Club and Inny Kayak Club members began Kayaking Leader Skills Training. This four-week programme prepares participants for helping lead club groups in the summer, including practicing important rescue and self-rescue skills.



### Operation Transformation National Walks

Longford Local Sports Partnership, along with Edgeworthstown and Drumlish Community Sports Hubs organised three walks in Longford on 16 January, as part of Operation Transformation National Walks.

### Drumlish Sports Hub balcony refit

Drumlish Local Sports Hub balcony has been refitted and is now an open area providing added space for fitness classes and gym sessions. New equipment has also arrived. This area can also be rented by sports teams for strength and conditioning training.



This equipment and the new balcony are both funded by Longford Local Sport Partnership's successful application for the Sports Capital grant back in December 2021.

### Couch 2 5K

Couch 2 5K is a new group in partnership with Healthy Ireland and Longford Athletics Club. On Tuesdays and Thursdays, participants go from beginner to running 5K.

Participants can progress to a Fit 4 Life recreational running group. The group aims to start together, train together and support each other, with advice and a weekly programme also provided.



# Community & Enterprise

## Corporate Services

### Ongoing Corporate Services

- Corporate Services COVID-19 Business Response Plan continues to be implemented
- Customer Services desk responded to 944 calls
- General queries from the public continue to be received, monitored and dealt with through our customer services email and at public counters

### Elected Members Supports and Meetings Administration

Longford County Council's January meetings were held in context of COVID-19 public health guidelines. Meetings were hosted via Microsoft Teams.

Date	Meeting
12 January	Longford County Council Committee
18 January	Corporate Policy Group
19 January	ESB Presentation for Longford County Council Committee Longford County Council
21 January	Climate Action and Planning Strategic Policy Committee
25 January	Granard Municipal District Committee Granard Municipal District
26 January	Longford Municipal District
27 January	Ballymahon Municipal District
31 January	Placemaking Strategic Policy Committee

### Franchise

Work was ongoing in January on the preparation of the Live Register of Electors for 2022/2023.

### Data Protection

Data Protection Day was celebrated on 28 January. The Data Protection Office offered tips for protecting personal data, as well as tips for business owners via a social media campaign.

The Data Protection Blog was launched by the Data Protection Unit for employees of Longford County Council offering the latest news in the world of data protection.

Eight internal data protection queries were dealt with and resolved during the month.

### Freedom of Information (FOI)

	January	YTD
FOI requests received	3	3
Access to information on Environment Request Office of Ombudsman complaints received	0	0
	2	2

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

### Health and Safety

#### Inspections

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

#### Internal Audits

Health and Safety internal audits were completed for Environment and Civil Defence. An internal audit schedule is also in place for other sections.

# Community & Enterprise

## Corporate Services (Contd)

### Communications

- Media queries received: 4
- Media queries responded to: 4
- Publicity campaigns commenced: 8
- Advertisements and features prepared: 6

#### Highlights included:

- Preparation and publication of communication campaigns, including:
  - burning of agricultural waste prohibited
  - Iora Nua Open Call
  - Just Transition study information session
  - International Data Protection Day
  - A whole new world at Longford Libraries
  - Granard Destination Town €1.4m investment
- Coordinating coverage of Ashling Murphy community remembrance event online
- Coordination of IT advertising campaign for Broadband Connection Points (BCPs) and the opening of Co:Worx in Egdeworthstown
- Work has started on the Longford Live & Local Spring into Summer programme, as well as the remaining events under the previous Longford Live & Local Winter Programme
- Working on Longford County Council website to enhance end user experience

### Social media

Longford County Council's continues to use social media to inform and connect with Longford people. The new Community Activities Fund, new courses happening at Longford's Broadband Connection Points and the national #BeWinterReady campaign were all highlighted throughout January.

Social media also worked with Data Protection for the promotion of International Data Protection Day 2022. The Creative Ireland Funding Open Call and the Iora Nua Open Call were also highlighted.



**Iora Nua**  
SQUIRRELS REIMAGINED

OPEN CALL

	Facebook	Twitter	Instagram
Posts	55	50	30
Stories	1	-	1
Reach*	62K	-	1.3K
Impressions**	64K	19.9K	10.6K

\*Reach: number of people who had a post enter their screen

\*\*Impressions: number of times a post entered a person's screen



# Community & Enterprise

## Human Resources

### Employee Numbers Q4 2021

Longford County Council had a total of 377 employees as of Q4 2021. These include:

- Managerial: 4
- Administrative: 167
- Technical: 69
- Outdoor: 96
- Retained Fire Fighter: 42



### Recruitment

- External competitions completed: 2
- Internal competitions completed: 2
- External candidates interviewed: 29
- Internal candidates interviewed: 6
- New starters: 3
- Existing employees commenced new roles: 1
- Employee ceased employment: 1

### COVID-19 Response

COVID-19 employee updates continue to keep employees aware of public health advice, as well as any changes to advice and any decisions from Management.

### Learning and Development

Training held throughout month of January included

- Performance Management
- Customer Service
- Safe Pass training



### Health and Wellbeing

- An online eight-week Pilates for Beginners programme started in January
- Invitation to join the Mental Health Engagement Local Forum meeting went out to employees. This meeting is for anyone using mental health services, and can also be of benefit to family members and carers.
- The Power of People: Dealing with the Fallout of the Pandemic on Employee Health and Wellbeing webinar took place this month.

# Finance & Regeneration

## Finance

Year to Date to Quarter End 30/09/2021

	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	7,315,016	9,292,019	79%	1,977,003	7,756,433	10,522,822	74%	2,766,389	<b>441,417</b>
Roads	12,349,771	19,991,409	62%	7,641,638	8,753,448	15,078,605	58%	6,325,157	<b>(3,596,323)</b>
Water Services	3,194,637	3,906,342	82%	711,705	2,787,703	3,679,017	76%	891,314	<b>(406,934)</b>
Development Management	7,433,648	10,100,980	74%	2,667,332	3,104,054	5,078,053	61%	1,973,999	<b>(4,329,594)</b>
Environment	4,466,994	5,863,098	76%	1,396,104	647,063	507,244	128%	<b>(139,819)</b>	<b>(3,819,931)</b>
Recreation & Amenity	3,296,463	4,272,545	77%	976,082	558,656	647,068	86%	88,412	<b>(2,737,807)</b>
Agri, Health & Welfare	371,832	474,695	78%	102,863	223,772	217,012	103%	<b>(6,760)</b>	<b>(148,060)</b>
Miscellaneous Services	6,045,150	3,328,889	182%	<b>(2,716,261)</b>	6,275,061	3,480,440	180%	<b>(2,794,621)</b>	<b>229,911</b>
Local Government Fund					6,931,723	9,242,297	75%	2,310,574	<b>6,931,723</b>
*Commercial Rates					7,515,834	8,777,418	86%	1,261,584	<b>7,515,834</b>
	<b>€44,473,511</b>	<b>€57,229,977</b>	<b>78%</b>	<b>€12,756,466</b>	<b>€44,553,747</b>	<b>€57,229,976</b>	<b>78%</b>	<b>€12,676,229</b>	<b>€80,236</b>

These figures were submitted to the Department on Tuesday 16th Nov 2021.

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

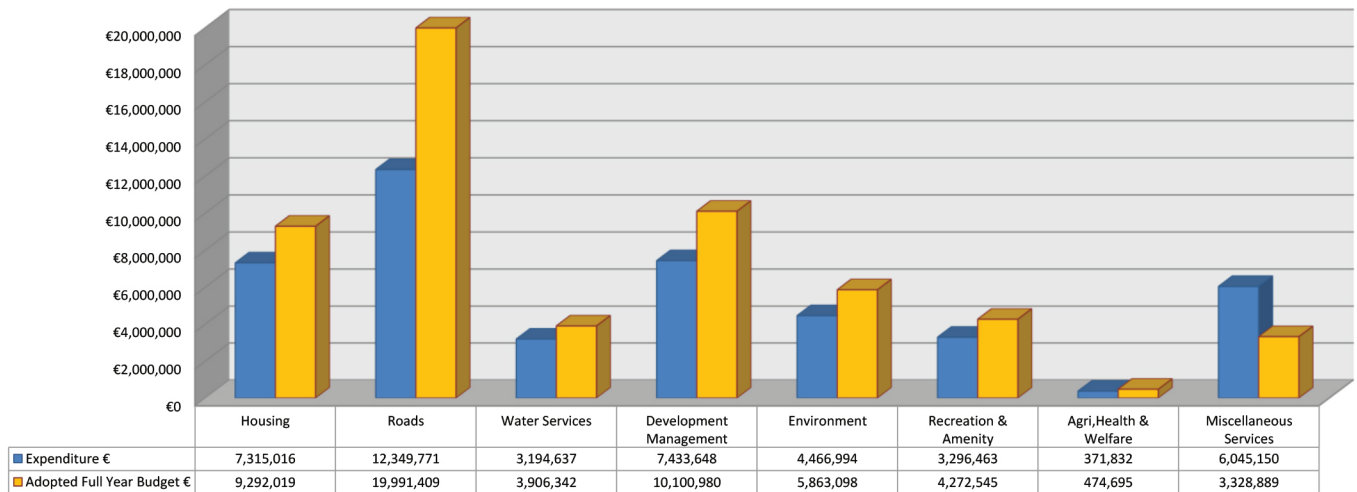
\*The amount of Commercial Rates waived under the 2021 9-month waiver scheme for Q3, 2021 was **€2,616,522**



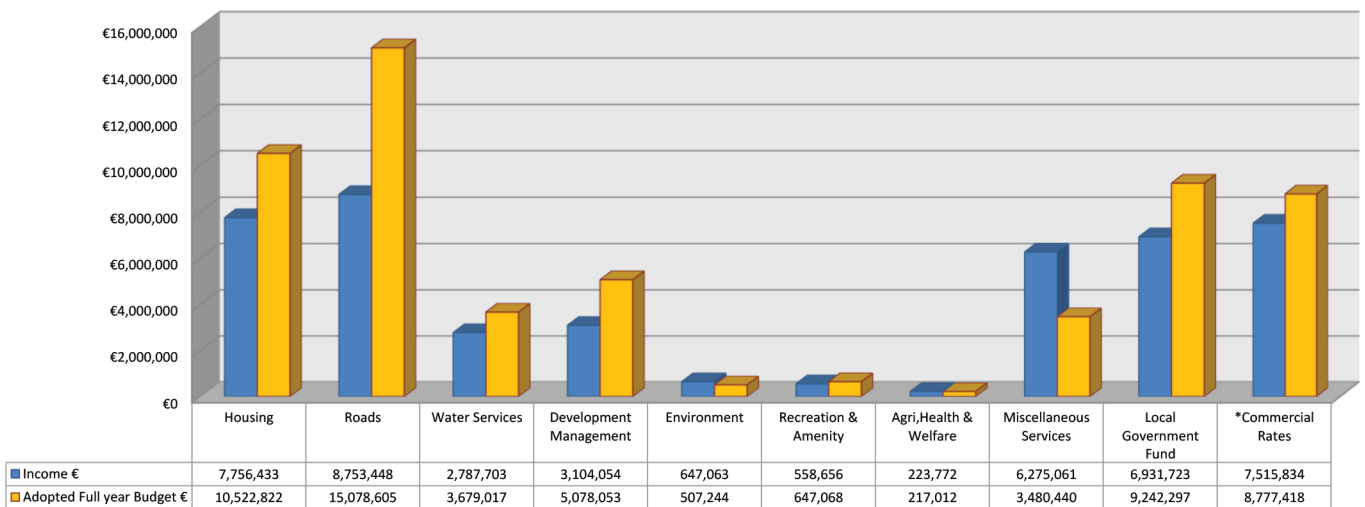
# Finance & Regeneration

## Finance (Contd)

**Expenditure V Budget - Quarter 3, 2021**



**Income V Budget - Quarter 3, 2021**



# Finance & Regeneration

## Finance (Contd)

### SUMMARY OF MAJOR REVENUE COLLECTIONS - QUARTER 3, 2021

	Opening Arrears	Billed	To be Collected	Collected	Closing Arrears	Collected
Quarter 3, 2021	€	€	€	€	€	%
*Rates	€1,124,618	€10,021,112	€8,526,659	€4,398,415	€4,128,244	52%
Rents (inc. RAS)	€839,673	€5,428,702	€6,266,455	€5,367,992	€898,463	86%
Housing Loans	€481,344	€717,407	€1,198,751	€719,299	€479,452	60%

	Opening Arrears	Billed	To be Collected	Collected	Closing Arrears	Collected
Quarter 3, 2020	€	€	€	€	€	%
*Rates	€1,033,827	€8,666,050	€4,763,300	€4,612,208	€151,092	97%
Rents (inc. RAS)	€736,999	€5,329,478	€6,067,092	€5,174,128	€892,964	85%
Housing Loans	€624,595	€683,257	€1,307,851	€664,309	€643,542	51%

	Opening Arrears	Billed	To be Collected	Collected	Closing Arrears	Collected
VARIANCE YOY	€	€	€	€	€	%
*Rates	€90,791	€1,355,062	€3,763,359	(€213,793)	€3,977,152	-45%
Rents (inc. RAS)	€102,674	€99,224	€199,363	€193,864	€5,499	0%
Housing Loans	(€143,251)	€34,150	(€109,100)	€54,990	(€164,090)	9%

**\* Covid-19 Commercial Rates waivers amounted to €2,616,522 in Q3,2021. These have been taken account of in the 'To be Collected' figures above.**

# Finance & Regeneration

## Regeneration

### Granard Destination Town funding

Funding of €1.1m for the Granard town was announced by Minister for Rural and Community Development Heather Humphreys TD. Under the Rural Regeneration and Development Fund, this funding supports the purchase of key sites for the project.

It will also be used to design and plan the development of multi-use open space and parkland and to enhance public areas, increasing connectivity and reducing congestion. This project seeks to build on the strengths of Granard, to optimise economic opportunities, and enhance the built and natural environment.

### Edgeworthstown Urban Greenway

Edgeworthstown Urban Greenway connects housing estates with essential services and amenities, including the national school, community centre, green recreational area and the town centre.

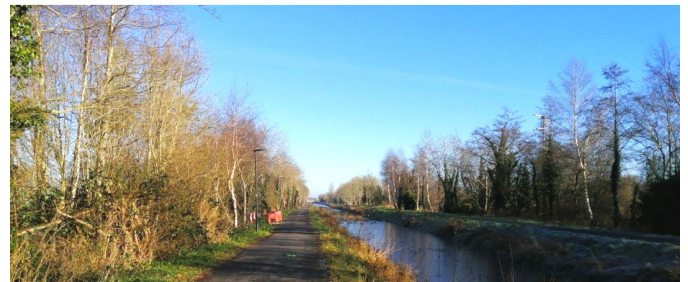
Work on this project was completed in December and included dropping existing public footpaths' kerbs to allow for safer crossing points. It also included modifying and constructing footpaths, and creating pedestrian access point to central green area and community hall.

This project enhances connectivity, allowing people to walk to town. It also encourages drivers to slow down and creates safer pedestrian facilities.

### Royal Canal Greenway refurbishments complete

Longford County Council Regeneration worked in partnership with Waterways Ireland to complete this project.

Trail head and storyboard signage, as well as picnic places, benches, bicycle racks, shelters and lifebuoys have been installed along the Royal Canal Greenway from Churchland Bridge to Longford Town.



### Barry Village Enhancement

The enhancement of Barry village was completed in January. Specifically this enhancement involved undergrounding utility lines and upgrading lighting to more energy efficient LEDs.

Work included excavating trenches, the provision of ducting, installing public lighting columns and connections to all properties in the village.

This project makes Barry more attractive for the local community and visitors. It also helps the Council towards meeting its energy saving targets.



# Finance & Regeneration

## Information Technology

### Free WI-FI hotspots

- This month, 704 new users and 1,595 returning users used the free WI-FI in Longford, Ballymahon and Drumlish.
- Their average usage time was 17 minutes per person.

### Broadband Connection Points

- Broadband Connection Points (BCPs) have free high-speed broadband for public use
- In January, there were 30 new users and 134 returning users to County Longford's BCPs
- 3.3TB of data was used throughout the month
- The Latin School Community Centre in Moyne is the most used BCP

### Digital Services

- ePerformance Management Development Scheme (ePMDS) software is being used daily by all indoor employees
- The digital eService Plan is being used for the Council's annual service plans and reports
- Customer Relationship Management (CRM) app is in progress
- Housing inspection app is in progress
- Longford Text Alert app is in development. This will unify community updates from initiatives and groups across the county and is part of the Our Rural Future Digital Innovation programme
- eDocument management project is progressing

### IT Infrastructure

- ServiceDesk for January: 421 tickets
- Regular patching of client and server systems
- IT support for statutory and hybrid meetings
- Security policies continue to be reviewed, updated and implemented
- Hybrid meeting software continues to be installed in three meeting room locations
- Preliminary infrastructure works have started for a new library management system
- Windows 10 feature upgrade is being rolled out
- Deployment of a new device encryption software has started

### Geographic Information Systems

- Work is ongoing on the development of a Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Property Registration application to facilitate the reconciliation of a fixed assets register
- Sports Ireland national database of sports and recreation amenities has started with the collation of soccer club data
- Roads GIS viewer with 2022 Roads programme is being updated
- National Broadband Ireland pole drop date for Section 253 Application is being supported
- Winter gritting maps were updated



# Strategic Infrastructure & Climate Action

## Housing

### Social Housing acquisitions 2022

The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage issued a circular setting out the arrangements for social housing acquisition in 2022. All acquisitions under the Social Housing Investment Programme or by an Approved Housing Body under the Capital Advanced Leasing Facility will be limited to 200 nationally. Acquisitions will focus on the key priority areas of:

- one-bedroom units to deliver on Housing First and meet short supply
- properties that allow individuals and family to exit homelessness
- housing required or suitable for individuals with a disability or other priority needs

A sunset clause applies in the timeframe for completion of refurbishments required for any acquisitions. A six-month turnaround is expected for the completion and drawdown of funding of any refurbishments approved.

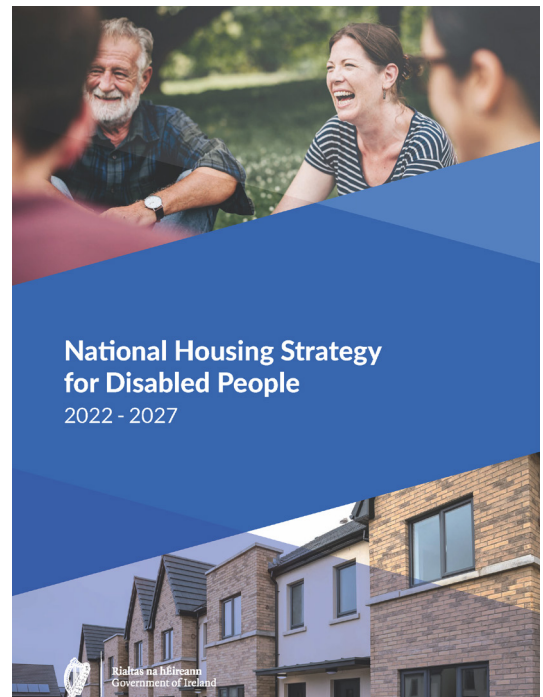
Limited Capital Assistance Scheme acquisitions will be approved, focusing on our vulnerable persons. This includes housing for older people, homeless individuals and families, and for disabled people.

It is the government policy to deliver social homes through a build programme under Housing for All. Longford County Council's targets are:

Year:	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	Total
Build:	75	74	76	82	83	391

### National Housing Strategy for Disabled People 2022-2027

The National Housing Strategy for Disabled People 2022-2027 was launched mid-January. This Strategy's vision is to facilitate disabled people to live independently with choices and control over where and how they live and who they live with. This helps promote inclusion within our communities. The strategy is available on [Longfordcoco.ie](https://longfordcoco.ie).



### Create 2021 funding

Under Create 2021, Longford County Council and HSE Disability Services Longford and Westmeath, secured funding of €100,000. Create 2021 is a new pilot project to support and promote access to digital and assistive technologies by up to ten disabled people currently living in social housing or who are applicants on the housing waiting list in Longford.

# Strategic Infrastructure & Climate Action

## Housing (Contd)

### Housing Capital Programme

Project	Units	Status
O'Hara's Site, Richmond Street	14	On site
St Patrick's Court, Ballinamuck	8	On site
Alderfield, Farnagh	1	On site (23 complete)
Campbell's Drive	2	On site (21 complete)
Cranleymore, Abbeylara	3	Stage 3 approved. Tender drawings being prepared.
St Rita's Park Road	11	Stage 2 approved. Due to go for Part 8 Planning.
24 Congress Terrace	2	Stage 2 approved. Part 8 Planning advertised.
Woodland Path, Keenagh	4	Stage 1 approved
Clough Dillons, Keenagh	4	Stage 1 approved
Radharc na Muileann, Lanesborough	22	Stage 1 approved
Drynán, Ballymahon	13	Stage 1 approved
Cnoc na Greine, Granard	6	Stage 1 approved
2 Woodview, Newtownforbes	2	To be submitted for Stage 1. Single Stage approval
2 Legion Terrace	4	To be submitted for Stage 1. Single Stage approval
Lettergeeragh, Drumlish	1	To be submitted for Stage 1. Single Stage approval

## Planning

### County Development Plan

Longford County Development Plan 2021-2027 policies and strategies are being implemented. The basic draft has been published. Work on publishing the final document for March 2022 is ongoing.

### Longford Town Plan

Work is ongoing on the review of the Longford Town Plan. This Plan includes climate adaptation, regeneration, employment, transport, including active travel, housing and coordination and implementation of development projects.

Specific design work on the draft Active Travel Plan for Longford Town's Main Street will be presented to councillors in February 2022

### Applications and Enforcement

Planning continues to assist the public with planning projects, applications, and by dealing with queries and planning issues for developments in the county. Planning also assists across various Council services, including the implementation of the housing, regeneration, environment and infrastructural programmes.

The statutory requirements are broad and include managing various applications for housing, retail, amenity, industrial, compulsory purchase orders, and enforcement among others. The planning office, public counter and technical advice including planning enforcement have remained fully functioning and busy at all times.



# Strategic Infrastructure & Climate Action

## Roads

### Active Travel allocation for 2022

Active Travel allocations for 2022 were announced in January. Longford County Council has been allocated €2,382,668, an increase of €326,668 on the 2021 allocation.

The Active Travel team in the Roads section has advanced preliminary designs to the National Transport Authority (NTA) for pedestrian and cycle schemes at the N63 Ballinalee road and at Ennybegs. Following NTA feedback both schemes are being progressed towards Gateway Three project approval status.

The Active Travel team are also engaged with Green Schools and An Taisce on the Safe Routes to Schools schemes at Templemichael College in Longford Town and Scoil Mhuire in Newtownforbes.

The project delivery plan for both schemes is expected to be issued in the first quarter of 2022.

### Municipal District works

Works continue in each municipal district on footpaths, drainage, pothole repair and general road maintenance.

From 1 January, the Council are applying Chapter 8 of the Traffic Signs Manual (2019) Temporary Traffic Measures and Signs for Roadworks standard, with associated Temporary Traffic Management Operations and Design Guidance.

### National Road Schemes

N63 Majors Well Road works continued in January with the installation of underground services.

Works are also continuing on the N4 at Newtownforbes with undergrounding of overhead services and erection of public lighting. When all works on services are finished the remaining footpath and pavement works can be completed.



All works in Newtownforbes should be completed before the end of March.

### Road Safety

Each local authority Road Safety Officer will liaise with the Road Safety Authority (RSA) to develop plans for a county-specific Local Road Safety Action Plan in line with 'Our Journey Towards Vision Zero: Ireland's Government Road Safety Strategy 2021–2030' launched last month.

Longford's Action Plan will be developed by the Longford Road Safety Working Together Committee.

Representation on the committee is across different agencies involved with road safety. They will ensure the Action Plan provides a coordinated, collaborative and consistent approach to improving road safety for all road users.

# Strategic Infrastructure & Climate Action

## Water Services

### Irish Water Service Level Agreement Performance

Longford County Council Water Services continue to deliver a strong performance under the Service Level Agreement with Irish Water.

Under the 2021 Annual Service Plan and associated targets, Longford achieved a Quarter 4 (Q4) outturn of 95.1%, amongst the highest scores nationally.

This score for Q4 is achieved from measurements across four pillars: Learning and Growth, Customer; Internal Process and Compliance, and Financial. Longford County Council's scores against each pillar were as follows:

Pillar	Weight	Performance
Learning and Growth	20%	20%
Customer	25%	20.9%
Internal Process/Compliance	30%	30%
Financial	25%	24.2%

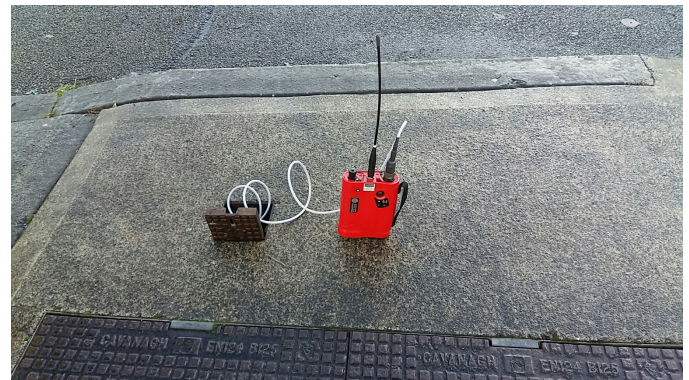
### Longford to Lanesborough Network

The Water Services capital section continues to liaise with Irish Water to deliver network upgrades to enable water supply from Longford Central Supply Zone into the Lanesborough Supply Zone.

This work includes the design and installation of a pump station and other infrastructural works. This will improve the resilience of the water network and provide security of supply to the Lanesborough area.

### Find & Fix Programme

Longford County Council Find & Fix team are operating in the Longford Town-South District Metered Area, as well as in the Whitehill, Glannagh and Edgeworthstown areas. This work helps reduce water leakage throughout the network and is done in partnership with Irish Water.



*Leak detection using correlator at Dun Darrach housing estate in Longford Town*

### Capital Network Schemes

The Water Services capital section continue to liaise with Irish Water to progress two capital network rehabilitation schemes:

- Ballywillan to Creevy, Granard: replacement of approximately 500 meters of problematic watermain is now substantially complete. Water Services have recently secured a further 2.5km of watermain replacement in this area and this work is due to start in February.
- Rathcline Road, Lanesborough: replacement of approx 2.5km of problematic watermain between Lanesborough and Carrowroe Reservoir. This work is progressing well with over 1km of new 250mm watermain laid on the Rathcline Road. Design for Phase 2 to Carrowroe Reservoir is currently progressing.

# Strategic Infrastructure & Climate Action

## Environment

### Recommended Minimum Criteria for Environmental Inspections

Environment has prepared the annual Recommended Minimum Criteria for Environmental Inspections (RMCEI) Report for submission to the Environmental Protection Agency.

This report reviews all environmental enforcement activity undertaken in 2021 and sets out the plan for 2022. The topics covered by the report include litter, waste, water monitoring and pollution control, air pollution and noise.

The key findings:

- 171 litter fines issued in 2021
- 4,254 environmental inspections (planned inspections and pollution investigations) in 2021
- 228 enforcement actions initiated in 2021.
- 1,810 complaints received in 2021 (with 1,781 RMCEI related)
- Local authority issued permits valid on 31 December 2021 were:
  - 11 Waste Facility permits
  - 23 Certificates of Registration permits (for importation of clean soil and stone)
  - 6 Section 4 Effluent Discharge licences
  - 20 Air Emissions-related permits."

### Litter

This month, 172 complaints were received and logged on Environment's complaints system. Most complaints were related to illegal dumping throughout County Longford.

Other complaints were related to the misuse of bottle bank facilities, particularly in Longford Town.

To date, five litter fines have been issued, with four of these relating to the Longford Town area.

### "Smoky Coal" Inspections

Longford County Council is currently carrying out inspections of premises selling solid fuels in Longford Town to ensure compliance with solid fuel regulations.

Under these regulations, Longford Town is a designated a 'specific low smoke zone'. This means that selling, marketing, distributing and burning smoky (also known as bituminous) coal is prohibited within Longford Town.

Follow-up inspections will be carried out where necessary to ensure all retailers are complying. The protection of air quality in Longford Town is high priority work for Longford County Council's Environment Section.

### Dog Control Services in 2021

Longford Dog Control Services continue to promote responsible dog ownership and also help with rehoming through their Dog Shelter in Longford Town. In 2021 Longford Dog Service:

- handled 139 cases of unwanted or stray dogs (with 20 reclaimed by their owners and 107 transferred to dog welfare groups)
- noted a marked reduction in sheep worrying
- continued to work on the control of restricted dog breeds
- continued to operate subsidised dog neutering
- inspected dog breeding establishments under the Dog Breeding Establishments Act
- continued to work with Dogs Trust, An Garda Síochána and other stakeholders
- maintained low numbers of dogs being put to sleep



# Strategic Infrastructure & Climate Action

## Fire Services

### Operations

- Total callouts in January: 39
- Callouts included seven road traffic incidents
- All stations remained fully operational

### Health and Safety

- No injuries or near misses to report

### Training

- The annual drill and training programme has been prepared for 2022
- No drill training was completed in January due to COVID-19 restrictions

### Major Emergency Management

- The Major Emergency Management Regional Working Group meeting was held in January. This group will be chaired by the HSE for the next two years.

### Fire Prevention

- Two Fire Safety Certificates were processed
- One dangerous substance application was processed

### Recruitment

Five vacancies in three fire stations continue to be advertised with a number of applications received. Pre-selection tests will be held in early-February.

### Equipment

- A new van was delivered to Lanesborough Fire Station. This will carry road collision and other equipment.

## Civil Defence

### Duties & Taskings

- Civil Defence provided medical cover at two sporting events.
- Administration duties and assistance at the post-donation canteen was also provided to the Irish Blood Transfusion service at their three Longford clinics.



*Longford Civil Defence Officer Emma Reid*

### Training and Operations

- Two emergency medical technician students continued their training
- Emergency medical technician monthly training recommenced
- Statutory inspection of vehicles took place
- Portable appliance testing was carried out at Civil Defence headquarters
- Quarterly safety inspections and medication stocktake was completed
- Civil Defence took part in an internal Health and Safety audit
- Forward planning for Civil Defence operations took place. This included fleet assessment requirements under the Dormant Account Fund.

# Strategic Infrastructure & Climate Action

## Climate Action Initiatives

### Community Development

Working with IT and an external contractor, Community Development developed an online application process for the Community Activities Fund Open Call. This eliminates the need for paper applications and associated waste.

### Libraries

Longford's libraries, along with their counterparts across the Midlands and led by the Midlands Energy Agency, are applying for the Community Climate Action Programme's Community Climate Action Fund. This funding is sought to help raise environmental awareness and deliver training to communities within libraries across the region.

Longford Library will take part in a pilot project as a local growing hub, developing supports and tools to assist communities to take climate action. This is part of the Local Government Management Agency's Libraries Unit initiative under the Climate Action Fund.

### Human Resources

Climate action information is included in all recruitment competitions and on all contracts of employment.

Climate action awareness and building capacity training was completed in January.

### Information Technology

Several paperless projects are progressing and being implemented. These include an online application process for a new Community Activity Fund with

### Community Development.

#### Housing

As part of the Midlands Retrofit Programme, work is ongoing on the retrofitting of two Council estates in Ballinalee: Cois na hAbhainn and Hill View.

The tender is in progress for St Matthew's Park, Ballymahon and an assessment of works required is being considered for the 46 local authority houses.

Under the National Energy Efficiency Programme work is ongoing on 16 houses in Slí na Móna, Ballymahon.

#### Planning

Climate adaptation actions preparations are ongoing. This includes work on renaturing of bogs, woodland, amenity areas, walkways and cycleways. It will be critically important to work positively with all sectors of Longford society to achieve positive outcomes for all.

The preparation of a preliminary list of actions, is ongoing. These included the implementation of the Lough Ree UNESCO Biosphere proposal.

#### Roads

Roads are considering increasing the use of roadmaking materials with a lower carbon footprint than traditional materials used for pavements.

Road recycling of local roads continues in each Municipal District.

#### Fire Services

Lanesborough Fire Station's new and more energy-efficient van is in use, replacing a 25-year old vehicle.

# CONNECTED

People • Place • Opportunity

Management Report for January 2022 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 January 2022 in securing the objectives set out in the Council's Corporate Plan.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_



Paddy Mahon  
Chief Executive







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