



Longford County Council Chief Executive Report March 2021

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March Highlights

Royal Canal Greenway launch highlights local tourism

Destination Longford hits the headlines again as the Royal Canal Greenway is launched virtually in March



Lighting up in lockdown for good causes

Longford County Council and local landmarks went green at the end of the month to highlight the importance of talking about organ donation and carrying an organ donor card as well as lighting up yellow for Daffodil Day on March 26.



Funding announced for Camlin Quarter Regeneration Project

A combined national and local €14million will see the heart of Longford town transformed into a better place to live, work, play and do business.



Longford's Green, Keep It Clean campaign begins

A new campaign to help keep Longford lovely started this month, with free litter pickers, gloves and bags available. Start your own 'Litter Pick' today!



Community & Enterprise

Community Development

CLÁR Funding 2021

A new round of CLÁR funding was announced this month, providing support for small-scale infrastructural projects, with targeted support for locally identified priorities.

Funded by the Department of Rural and Community Development, it is delivered by local authorities in consultation with local community groups.

Measures to be funded are:

- Schools/Community Safety Measures
- Outdoor Community Recreation Facilities
- Community Gardens and Allotments

More information and application forms are available on longfordcoco.ie. Email completed forms and supporting documentation to clar@longfordcoco.ie by 4pm on 19 April.



Community Grant Support Scheme
Grants totalling €12,658 were approved at the meeting of the CPG.

Supporting Women and Diversity in Local Government

A working group meeting was held in March. There is continued targeting of women from diverse backgrounds for participation in the See Her Elected (SHE) Introduction to Politics programme, with 24 participants starting the programme this month. The local government information booklet is near completion.

Intercultural Working Group

Seven community groups have applied for intercultural funding to enhance and support their work with new communities.

Comhairle na nÓg

Foróige appointed Joanna Casey as Longford Comhairle Coordinator. Members continue to meet online and are working on a new recycling project with the Environment Department.

Longford Age Friendly Programme

Recruitment of a Local Coordinator under the Healthy Homes Programme is progressing the programme. Longford had been identified as one of nine counties to pilot this programme.

Community Resilience Fund

This fund is ongoing with initiatives rolled out through partners, in support of older and isolated people, in particular.

Healthy Ireland Programme

This programme is ongoing with an extension in place until December 2021 due to COVID-19.

Local Economic & Community Plan

LECP review is ongoing.

Community & Enterprise

Library, Heritage and Archives

Longford County Library Service

Library doors may be closed but employees continue to provide valuable telephone, online and housebound services. Online events for Spring are aimed at engaging families, schools, older and vulnerable citizens. Weekly engagement metrics show over 70,000 views for our online gardening, cookery, singing, mindfulness and storytelling programmes.

Grow It Forward

With Healthy Ireland and Libraries Ireland, Longford libraries will roll out Grow It Forward, aimed at inspiring and encouraging people to grow their own food and plants at home. It is also hoped this will help connect friends and family by encouraging participation. Demand from individuals, schools, and community groups has been high, even before packs have arrived. We cannot wait to get growing!

Decade of Commemorations

Dr Eileen Reilly's lecture on the anniversary of the death of Sean Connolly, a native of Ballinallee, was very well attended. The Bureau of Military History is the focus of April's lecture. This lecture will explore the work of the bureau and the very valuable resources that can be accessed online.

Longford Age Friendly

Longford is one of nine counties taking part in a two-year pilot of the Healthy Homes programme. Designed for older people at risk of entering long-term residential care, the aim is to ensure support is given to help them continue to live in their own homes and communities for as long as possible. Recruitment has begun, with the programme set to begin in mid-April.

Creative Ireland

Grant funding has been received for three projects celebrating creativity in older people. The Bealtaine Festival will take place throughout May and all three Longford Literary Festivals celebrating Longford writers from the past, Edgeworth, Goldsmith and Colum, will take place online.

Edgeworthstown Library

The site is closed due to Level Five restrictions.

Heritage Programme

The Heritage Office is administering the DHLGH Built Heritage Grants, the Built Heritage Investment Scheme 2021 and Historic Structures Fund 2021.

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
- Conservation Plan for the plaster Oliver Goldsmith statue (Pallas) by John Henry Foley
- Longford Wetlands Survey 2021
- Longford Popular Music Research Project

Community & Enterprise

Local Sports Partnership

Keep Active Campaign

The Keep Active Campaign is ongoing. Spirit hamper packs were delivered to Syrian families and the Lus Na Gréine Family Resource Centre in Granard, with activities that can be done at home. This was funded by the Healthy Ireland Community Resilience Fund.



Online Activities

With Sports Hub Edgeworthstown and National Governing Body officers (from GAA, FAI and Leinster Rugby), LSP continues to deliver online activities, including coaching in primary schools, dance for people with disabilities, exercise for older adults, fitness classes, TY skills challenges and yoga.

Steps into Spring Challenge

The Longford County Council Employee Health and Well-Being Steps into Spring Challenge, took place throughout March. The take-up and number of steps registered for this was impressive. Well done to all involved!

5K Your Way

Over six weeks, the 5K Your Way programme saw over 115 people taking part. Participants were given a weekly plan to follow, with two online weekly zoom sessions (one on strength and another on advice). The goal for most participants was to train for the St Patrick's Week Virtual Ireland Run.

St Patrick's Week Virtual Run

Hosted by Longford Athletic Club and supported by LSP, this run took place virtually from 15 to 21 March. Over 400 people registered to run, jog or walk 3km, 5km, 10km or a half marathon.

A promotional poster for the St Patrick's Day Virtual Ireland Run. It features a green and yellow t-shirt with the event logo. Text on the poster includes: 'LONGFORD ATHLETIC CLUB', 'St Patrick's Day VIRTUAL IRELAND RUN', 'KIDS 3K', 'ADULT 5K & 10K', 'HALF MARATHON', 'ENTRY €3 FOR KIDS RACE €10 FOR ADULTS RACES', 'OPTION TO PURCHASE EVENT T-SHIRT AND/OR MEDAL', 'ADD RESULTS ON MYRUNRESULTS.COM FROM 15TH TO 21ST MARCH', 'REGISTER ON MYRUNRESULTS.COM', and logos for Longford Athletic Club, OBOYLE AND CO, and the Irish Olympic Committee.

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	14
Participants	269

Mentoring	
Total Participants	40

Brexit

Group Workshops	1
Participants	15
1-to-1 Brexit Advisor Businesses	11

Trading Online Vouchers

Applications	6
Approvals	18
Value of Approvals	€40,835

Local Enterprise Week 2021

Local Enterprise Week took place at the start of March. Highlights from local online events included:

- Brexit and Customs Mentoring Clinics
- Growing Lean: Lean Information Webinar
- Remote Work Opportunities with Grow Remote
- A Digital Marketing Plan for Your Business

Student Enterprise Programme

Longford's County Final of the Student Enterprise Programme took place mid-March. Seven schools and 320 students participated. Over 100 students made the final, which was viewed by 200 people online.

The winners who will represent Longford in the National Final on 14 May are:

- R&C Controller Stands from Ardscoil Phadraig, Granard (Junior Winners)
- Handy Hooks from Cnoc Mhuire, Granard (Intermediate Winners)
- Picture It from Ballymahon Vocational School (Senior Winners)
- Save Your Breath from Mean Scoil Mhuire, Longford (Most Creative Business Idea Winner)

Special guests at the event were Longford native and Irish international swimmer Darragh Greene who is heading for the Olympics in Tokyo later this year and Cathaoirleach of Longford County Council, Cllr Paul Ross.



Green for Micro Launch

Local Enterprise Week also saw the launch of the new Green for Micro programme, which is now accepting applications from small businesses wishing to green their business.

Community & Enterprise

Tourism

The Royal Canal Greenway

The Royal Canal Greenway was officially launched on 24 March by Waterways Ireland and Environment Minister Eamon Ryan along with the Chief Executives of the four local authorities involved. Longford is a key section of the 130km trail and will host 11 storyboards along the route. The greenway is the longest of its kind in Ireland and will be a major attraction and bringing plenty of visitors to Longford once restrictions are lifted.



New Walking Brochure

Work continues on the design and content of a new walking brochure which will feature 13 popular trails throughout Longford.

EZexploring

Longford Tourism received delivery of seven walking trail maps of different towns and places to explore in Longford. EZexploring is a fun and educational way of sightseeing and is suitable for all ages. Longford Tourism will be rolling out these new walking trail maps very soon to various visitor attractions, schools and libraries. The seven walking trail maps are for Ardagh, Ballymahon, Longford town, Edgeworthstown, Granard, Lanesborough and the Royal Canal Greenway.



Tourism Promotion

- Continued updating on longford.ie, including the Events Calendar and News section
- Monthly Events Guide published in the Longford Leader
- Continued positive promotion and support of Longford attractions and businesses on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter

Community & Enterprise

Corporate Services

Ongoing Corporate Services

- Corporate Services COVID-19 Business Response Plan continues to be implemented
- The Community Call continues to reach out to help the most vulnerable in society

Corporate Management Supports and Customer Services

- The Customer Service desk remains available to respond to all calls during normal office hours
- All general queries from public continue to be received, monitored and dealt with through our customer care email



Customer Service Charter

- Public consultation on the draft charter has commenced with the public survey and draft charter published on longfordcoco.ie
- Advertisements have been placed in the Longford Leader and on Shannonside
- A survey has been issued to the Elected Members and to all employees, with a closing date of 2 April

Elected Members Supports and Meetings Administration

Longford County Council Meetings held in March continued to be held remotely due to COVID-19 Level 5 restrictions.

Date	Meeting
9 March	Corporate Policy Group
10 March	Longford County Council
23 March	Granard Municipal District
24 March	Longford Municipal District
25 March	Ballymahon Municipal District



Freedom of Information

	March	YTD
FOI requests received	2	10
AIE requests received	0	0

See FOI Disclosure Log on longfordcoco.ie.

Data Protection

- DPO attended Regional DPO Network and the LGMA National DPO Network
- Data Subject Access Requests received and completed: 2
- Records of processing completed for most sections, just two remaining

Community & Enterprise

Communications

Ongoing Communications

- Media Queries Processed: 14
- Press Releases Issued: 5
- Advertising features: 2

Coverage and Campaigns

- The Council received significant press coverage on foot of the announcement of Camlin Quarter Regeneration Project and with the announcement of funding for two new walkways in Ballymahon and Newtownforbes
- Communications supported "Longford's Green Keep It Clean" campaign and participated in the iRadio TikTok Mic Drop Road Safety initiative, along with 10 other local authorities
- Communications also supported Council participation in the national virtual launch of the Royal Canal Greenway with Waterways Ireland, generating positive press coverage

Social Media

Online communications continue, especially in relation to COVID-19, Keep Well and other matters relevant to a Longford audience, with an increased utilisation of Instagram. Here is the month of March in numbers:

- 77 posts on the LCC Facebook page earned 75k impressions among its 4,281 followers
- 68 tweets on Twitter earned 51k impressions via its 2,854 followers
- 41 posts on Instagram earned 13k impressions with 654 followers

Health & Safety

Health and Safety Inspections

There were 13 safety inspection completed by the Health and Safety section and the management team in March.

Safety Statement

Revision 16 of Longford County Council Safety Statement was published. The Health and Safety Section are in the process of communicating the contents of the safety statement to all employees.

Internal Audit

Health and Safety Internal Audits were completed in the following sections – Libraries, Building Facilities, Fire Services and Water Services.

Human Resources

Health and Well-Being

- Longford County Council's Steps into Spring Challenge took place with 101 employees and 16 teams participating
- The Stress Control Programme is currently taking place for employees
- A webinar was held for Sleep Hygiene for all employees

Recruitment

- Three competitions advertised
- 25 candidates interviewed
- Three employees commenced
- Two employees resigned

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.

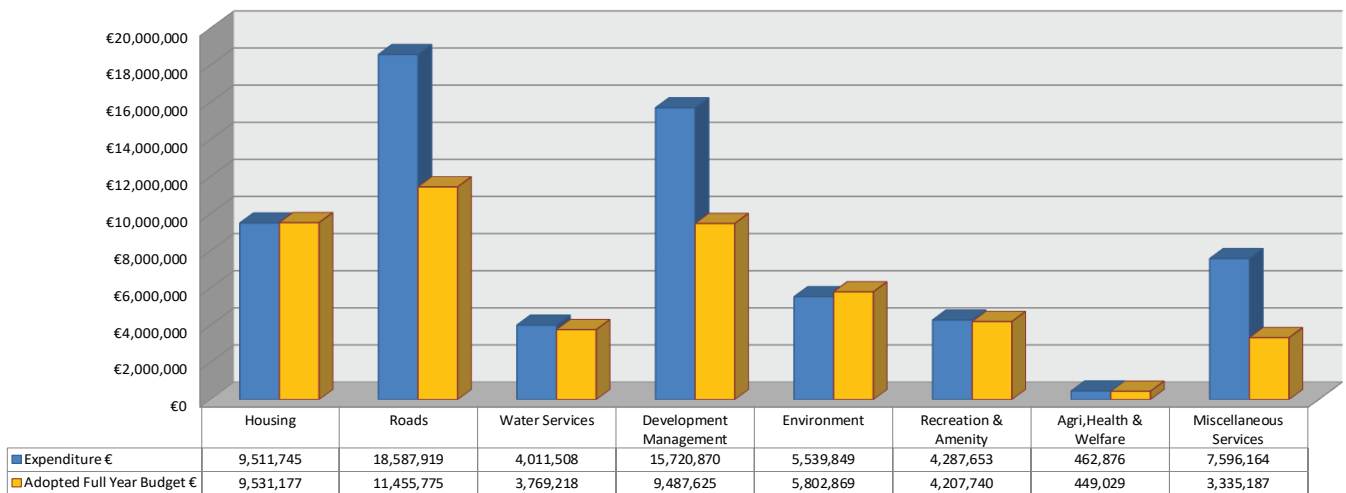
Where Covid-19 related expenditure has been incurred, corresponding Deferred Income from Central Government has been accounted for.

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

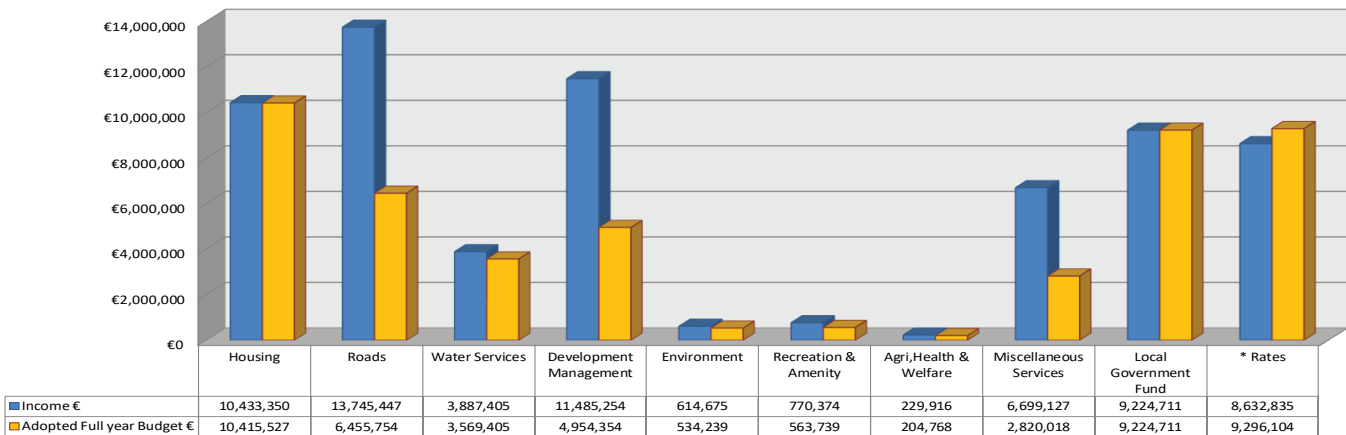
Finance & Regeneration

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

Urban Regeneration Development Fund (URDF)

Early March saw the announcement of a combined central government and Longford County Council fund of nearly €14 million for the Camlin Quarter Regeneration Project under the URDF. Funding was confirmed by Minister Darragh O'Brien (Housing, Local Government and Heritage) and Minister Peter Burke TD (Local Government and Planning and Longford Westmeath TD). This ambitious project, together with the already commenced €4 million Longford Connected Project, will transform the core of Longford town, increasing footfall from both locals and visitors by improving the commercial environment and attracting future investment.

ORIS Funding Announcement

Minister Heather Humphreys TD (Rural and Community Development) announced funding for projects under Measure Two of the Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme, focused on the development, promotion and maintenance of outdoor amenities such as trails, walkways, cycleways, and blueways. €200k was received for Newtownforbes Bog Walk, a development of 2.9km trails linking Newtownforbes with the nearby countryside. €200k was also received for phase one of the construction of a walkway and cycleway linking Ballymahon with Newcastle Woods, along the River Inny.

Ballinalee Forest Walk

The development of a 1.1km walkway around Coillte forestry, from the Shantobar residential development in Ballinalee to Sean Connolly GAA club and the Acres Pitch and Putt Club has recently been completed. This project provides an important link between the residential areas of the village and the local amenity facilities, encouraging locals to use it as a walk, as well as a way to access to the local recreational facilities.



Rural Working Hubs Webinar

Regeneration hosted an information webinar providing individuals and groups interested in establishing rural working hubs with an insight into the setting up and running of a hub, as well as the importance of building a strong community within the hub. Contributors to the webinar included Stephen Carolan (Western Development Commission) and Leah Fairman (The Base Enterprise Centre, Donegal), both leaders in the development of hubs in rural Ireland.

Finance & Regeneration

Information Technology

IT Infrastructure Section Works Completed

- HyperConverged Project completed
- Cloud based disaster recovery environment set up commenced
- Remote working equipment configured and deployed for new starters
- IT support for statutory meetings
- Windows Server EOL upgrades progressed
- ServiceDesk stats for March: 591 tickets



Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Works Completed

- National Map for the Broadband Connection Points (BCP) and WIFI4EU networks
- Electoral Register review and statistics report
- Electronic fieldworker book for proof of concept to validate the electoral register
- Small Business Assistance Scheme (SBAS) systems training and setup
- Processed Eircode and OSi Mapping updates
- iHouse townland and area of choice analysis and update

Digital Services works completed:

- Digital Performance Management Development System project commenced with technical design and procurement of consultants completed
- Digital Housing Inspections App project commenced with Dynamics environment created and application deployed
- Digital Divide project commenced
- Electronic document management project commenced
- Next2Met Webinar on Citizen Participation hosted by Finland presented on Longford's Digital Consultation Process.
- Longford host TAG (Telecommunications Action Group) meeting on the integration of Esendex services into Microsoft Forms to create real-time communication via SMS with the Broadband Connection Point (BCP) Caretakers
- Tender for a Hybrid Video meetings solution for the Council Chamber progressed
- Ptools upgraded to Version 7
- Working with Donegal County Council to produce National Map for the BCP and WIFI4EU networks
- Grow Remote Longford Transition Year Project: second workshop completed.
- Digital hub engagement ongoing with connections for The Yard Hub and CO:worx
- Longford's BCPs and Community WIFI: marketing materials ordered for Colmcille GAA Club, Latin School Community Centre Moyne, Corlea Trackway Visitor Centre, Abbeyshrule Airport. Support to Moydow Community Centre in drawing down funding
- WIFI4EU - free WiFi networks in Longford, Ballymahon and Drumlish have had 586 new users in March

Strategic Infrastructure & Climate Action

Housing

New National Housing Strategy for People with a Disability

The National Housing Strategy for People with a Disability (2011-2016 and extended to 2020) will come to an end this year. The Housing Agency is developing a new National Strategy for facilitating the provision of housing options and related services to disabled people, allowing individual choice and supporting independent living. A questionnaire to share views on the older strategy and what should be included in the new National Strategy can be accessed on housingagency.ie.

McEoin Park Clean-Up



As part of the Litter, Waste and Estate Management Plan for McEoin Park, Housing and Environment worked on a major clean-up of the area. The Estate Manager encourages community engagement with estate tenants and has established a litter pickers group who are maintaining the communal areas. High visibility out-of-hours patrols were performed, with no further incidents of dumping to report. Ongoing co-operation between Waste Enforcement and the Estate Manager will ensure that tenants comply with Waste Presentation Byelaws.

Draft Strategic Plan 2021-2025

The Housing and Disability Steering Group, coordinated by the Council, has started work on drafting a new strategic plan for housing social housing applicants who are living with a disability. The existing action plan is being reviewed and a draft Strategic Plan for 2021-2025 must be prepared by the end of May.

Housing Projects

COVID-19 Level Five 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:

- One unit at Cloonahard
- Eight units at Alder Field, Farnagh
- Five units at Cartrons Kenagh
- Nine units at Sli Corglass, Legga

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

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

Under the Midland Energy Retrofit Pilot Programme, site surveying is ongoing. Under the 2021 Energy Efficiency Retrofit Programme, a submission was made to the Department for the first group of 20 houses this month. Work is continuing on completing the remainder of the voids under the 2020 Voids Stimulus Package.

Strategic Infrastructure & Climate Action

Planning

Applications and Enforcement

Statutory Requirements Maintained:

- Managing the various planning applications, housing, retail, industrial proposals, Part 8 planning schemes, CPOs
- Planning administrative office, public counter and technical advice and reports kept fully functioning
- Assisting in the implementation of the housing, regeneration and climate change programme

Development Plan

Statutory Requirements:

- The Review of the County Development Plan is ongoing, setting out the template for the county's development from 2021 to 2027
- Second phase public consultation on the Draft Plan is now complete. The substantial number of submissions received have now been analysed and the Chief Executive's report on these submissions was presented to members on 30 March
- Based on the substantive issues raised in the various submissions it is expected that a Revised Plan will be presented to members for their approval in late June
- The Draft Plan should be completed by November 2021 for members' adoption
- Longford's future development potential has been analysed and detailed strategies, policies and GIS mapping developed. Improving Longford people's lives is the ambition of the plan



Strategic Infrastructure & Climate Action

Roads

Active Travel Allocations 2021

The National Transport Authority announced funding for the following Active Travel Schemes.

Active Travel Scheme	Allocation
Active Travel Strategy	€30,000
Longford Town Mobility Plan	€100,000
Harbour Row/Killashee Road Junction Improvement	€100,000
Royal Canal Permeability Links Study	€507,000
Battery Road (Pedestrian & Cycle)	€300,000
Aghafad (Pedestrian & Cycle)	€441,955
Ballymahon (Pedestrian & Cycle Improvement)	€200,000
Market Street to Barrack Lane, Granard (Pedestrian and Cycle)	€200,000
Longford Road, Granard (Pedestrian & Cycle)	€120,000
Longford Town (Pedestrian & Cycle)	€200,000
Light Segregation Cycle	€50,000
Low-Cost Junction Tightening Pedestrian Crossing Schemes	€200,000
Low-Cost Permeability Measure	€50,000
Safe to Schools-Support Ennybegs (Pedestrian & Cycle Improvements)	€150,000
Total	€2,020,000

This multi-annual programme aims to develop high-quality walking and cycling infrastructure to encourage more active travel, and help combat climate change.

Essential Maintenance

Due to COVID-19 Level Five restrictions, employees continued to be restricted to essential maintenance works, maintaining operational capacity and safety of the road network.



Climate Adaptation and Resilience Works 2021

€15 million is available to Local Authorities, under the Department of Transport's Regional and Local Road Maintenance and Renewal Grant Programmes for Climate Adaptation and Resilience Schemes. The Council have submitted an application for funding for schemes in Longford.

Route Options Public Consultation for Realignment at Forgney

The first Public Consultation on the Route Corridor Options for the R392 Realignment at Forgney commenced in February. The deadline for submissions was 1 April.

N63 Longford Town

Construction works on the N63 Market Square to Flancare Roundabout Scheme are substantially complete.

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 also continues to provide services with new construction projects at a number of locations.

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
- Glannagh DMA

Significant progress has been made through the implementation of the Find & Fix programme at both local and national level with large leakage reduction savings having been reported to date. 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 replacement watermain at:

- Ballymakeegan / Ferefad
- Templemichael and Bannon Terrace, Longford

Both projects are now substantially completed, however, work within the boundaries of the dwellings located in Templemichael and Bannon Terrace are still outstanding and will be addressed when COVID-19 restrictions are eased.

Works are ongoing on the replacement of a watermain at Clonboney, Lanesborough where approximately 500l/m of watermain are being 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.

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

National Tree Week

Due to COVID-19, National Tree Week went online, with high energy and impact maintained. Coillte, the Tree Council of Ireland and Longford County Council joined together to distribute 300 saplings to groups across the county. The saplings were all native species and included oak, alder, common birch, silver birch and willow.



Longford's Green, Keep It Clean!

In conjunction with Spring Clean Week the Longford's Green, Keep It Clean campaign was launched. The campaign is receiving a fantastic response from the public and has resulted in a mammoth effort of cooperation between Longford County Council and many local communities. This project has been more difficult than usual due to the need for social distancing but nonetheless, has been a real success.

Climate Action Training

Raising Awareness Training continues to be rolled out with a number of employees having successfully completed the course.



Raising Awareness

Local Authority Climate Action
Training Programme

Veterinary Services

Dog Control Service

Longford Dog Control Service continues 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.

Cooperation between the Dog Control Service and Housing in relation to tenancy conditions regarding the keeping of dogs and/or restricted breeds is ongoing.

Spring is here, along with the issue of sheep worrying. Minister Charlie McConalogue (Agriculture, Food and the Marine) recently launched the Bonzo Sheep Worrying video campaign to raise awareness among dog owners that every animal is capable of turning back to their basic instinct.

Strategic Infrastructure & Climate Action

Fire Service

Operations

- Total Callouts in March: 52
- All stations remained fully operational

Health and Safety

- No injuries to report
- An independent Health and Safety audit was undertaken by Quadra in preparation of the Fire Service migrating to ISO 45001 2018 accreditation in 2021

Training

- Training courses are rescheduled on an ongoing basis due to COVID-19
- Weekly drills are back up and running

Major Emergency Management

- Regional Working Group meetings are held fortnightly by teleconference

Business Continuity Planning

- The Fire Service have prepared and implemented business continuity measures for both operational and HQ employees, 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). These posts are currently advertised.

Fire Prevention

- No Fire Safety Certs have been processed in March
- Inspections and community fire safety activities are suspended due to COVID-19

Civil Defence

Operations

- Volunteers provided medical cover at three Longford Town soccer matches
- Volunteers carried out a delivery on behalf of the Community Forum
- Basic First Aid presentation to LWL Migrant Group
- Attendance at online COVID-19 Community Response Forum to provide update and offer support for ongoing Community Response in Longford
- Preparation of Fire Safety Plan for Headquarters

Training

- Six volunteers completed FAR Training
- EMTs have completed their privileging process and are re-registered with PHECC until March 2022
- Practitioners have completed HSE Vaccine webinar training to ensure readiness if called to assist at vaccination centres
- Garda Vetting has been updated for volunteers

Equipment Purchase & Upgrading

- Equipment purchased for Headquarters
- Training equipment being procured
- Upgrading of 4x4 vehicle and auction of obsolete 4x4 vehicle in process

CONNECTED

People • Place • Opportunity

Management Report for March 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 March 2021 in securing the objectives set out in the Council's Corporate Plan.

Signed: 
Paddy Mahon
Chief Executive





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