

# Longford County Council Chief Executive Report November 2021

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# November Highlights

## Historic opening of Edgeworthstown Community Library

A wonderful day for the community when the brand new Edgeworthstown Community Library opened its doors on Monday 22 November 2021.



## Shop Local #ShopLongford!

Local people are being urged to support local businesses and help communities to thrive by shopping local and shopping Longford this Christmas.



## Santa Claus came to Longford Town!

Around the county, towns and communities are lighting up for the festive season. Longford and Granard introduced their Christmas spirit in the last week of November, with the Holly King and Winter Queen in Granard and the man himself officiating in Longford!



## First Inclusive Athletics

Longford Sports Partnership teamed up with Longford Athletics Club to introduce Inclusive Athletics training opportunity for young people in Longford.





# Community & Enterprise

## Community Development

### Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)

A meeting of the LCDC took place on Tuesday, 9 November.

#### LEADER

Two LEADER projects were approved for funding of over €137,039 at the LCDC meeting in November.

### New Community Activities Fund

On 11 November, Minister for Rural and Community Development, Heather Humphreys TD, and Minister of State with responsibility for Community Development and Charities, Joe O'Brien TD launched this new scheme to support community and voluntary groups impacted by COVID-19.

This one-off fund is to be allocated under the Department's Community Enhancement Programme and it will be administered locally by the Local Community Development Committees (LCDCs). €264,769 has been allocated to Longford LCDC.

1. The Community Activities Fund will support groups, particularly in disadvantaged areas, with their running costs such as utility (for example, electricity or heating charges) or insurance bills, as well as with improvements to their facilities.
2. Groups will also be able to use the funding to carry out necessary repairs and to purchase equipment such as tables and chairs, tools and signage, laptops and printers, lawnmowers, canopies and training equipment.

Further information including details of how to make an application will be provided. Similar to the Community Enhancement Programme, the funding has been allocated to each local authority area based on deprivation and population levels.

### Intercultural Working Group

Work continues with community groups in providing support from the intercultural fund to engage with new communities. Support was provided to Longford Women's Link to work with a migrant women's group shown here on a trip to Dublin Zoo.



*Outing to Dublin Zoo*

Support was also provided to Lus na Gréine Family Resource Centre to run a variety of activities including craft classes to encourage various cultures to come together to mix and learn new skills.





# Community & Enterprise

## Community Development (Contd)

### Comhairle na nÓg 2021 AGM

Cathaoirleach Cllr Peggy Nolan opened the event which took place online on Friday, 12 November. The AGM was a huge success with 71 young people representing all nine post primary schools and youth services from across the county. Discussions were held on many topics pre-selected by the young people. Minister Roderic O’Gorman addressed the event in a pre-recorded message and guest speaker Lindsay Bennett delivered an inspirational speech on her journey of strength and gratitude.

### LGBTI Dormant Accounts Funding

Funding of €21,500 was successfully secured following an application submitted to the Department of Rural and Community Development to run specific projects in 2022.

### Pilot Community Development Programme for County Longford

The Department of Rural and Community Development allocated €125,000 to the Council to administer to Longford Community Resources Clg (LCRL) under the guidance of the LCDC.

This programme will put in place a community development project managed and run by members of Roma and new communities. This aims to engage people directly with decision-making structures and to work in partnership with service providers and other agencies.

## Tourism



The Royal Canal Greenway has been shortlisted in the All Ireland Community and Council Awards as one of the Best Tourism Initiatives in 2021, and will go forward to the final.

The 2021 Awards Ceremony, which is presented by the Local Authority Members Association (LAMA) will now take place in April 2022.

The enchanting Royal Canal Greenway is 130K of level towpath, ideal for walkers, runners and cyclists of all ages and fitness levels. Starting in cosmopolitan Maynooth, it follows the 200 year old canal through friendly Enfield and lively Mullingar, to charming Cloondara in Longford, with cafés, picnic spots and attractions along the way.

Rustic and industrial landscapes combine, with rolling fields, pretty waterside villages, working locks and historic landmarks.

County Longford is one of four counties along the Royal Canal Greenway along with counties Westmeath, Meath and Kildare.

# Community & Enterprise

## Library, Heritage & Archives

### Edgeworthstown Community Library is open!



*The beautiful interior of the new Edgeworthstown Community Library is airy and filled with light, with the latest technology at your fingertips.*

The new community library in Edgeworthstown opened its doors to the public for the first time on Monday 22 November - an historic and joyful day for the town.

Unfortunately due to public health guidelines, Minister for Rural and Community Development Heather Humphreys TD was unable to officially open the library, with this visit has been postponed to a later date. Cathaoirleach Cllr Peggy Nolan cut the ribbon on the new library in a scaled back opening ceremony.

From the moment the doors opened, customers have been streaming through the library every day, with many members of the public joining their library for the first time. The library also hosted its first book launch with a book on Maria Edgeworth. All proceeds were donated to the local Edgeworth Society.

### Longford Age Friendly programme

Longford Age Friendly programme has focused on keeping our older citizens connected and supporting their mental health and wellbeing throughout the COVID-19 crisis. Aligned to this, a Positive Ageing Information Day was hosted by Longford Age Friendly Alliance in November at Longford Rugby Club, officially launched by Cathaoirleach Cllr Peggy Nolan.

Ninety-five older people from across the county attended, including members of Active Age groups, Day Care Centres and Family Resource Centres. All service providers who work with older people attended, giving updates on their services. These included the HSE, Gardaí, Longford Community Resources, Alone and Age Action. Also included were sections from the local authority including Housing, Sports Partnership, Library, and Public Participation Network.

### Archives Digitisation

The Jude Flynn Collection (a collection of 524 cassette tapes) is being digitised at present. The archives relating to the Irish Revolution (1912-23) are also being digitised.

### Decade of Centenaries

The schools' resource pack entitled "Ireland and Longford in Times of War and Revolution 1914-23" has been distributed to all primary and secondary schools in the county.

A one-day online conference was held on 6 November to mark the centenary of the Clonfin ambush. A free supplement commemorating the War of Independence in County Longford was distributed in the Longford Leader on 19 November.

# Community & Enterprise

## Library, Heritage & Archives (Contd)

### Longford Live & Local winter programme got underway

Longford Live & Local winter programme is the second phase of the very successful summer programme which saw many concerts and arts initiatives take place throughout the county earlier this year. This winter version was officially launched on 22 November.

For winter's Longford Live & Local, Longford County Council has been awarded a grant of €143,000. This will be used to engage local artists, musicians and creative communities for delivering a wide variety of performance and cultural events throughout November and December.



Events are coordinated by the Longford Creative Ireland programme, supported by local Events Manager Shane Crossan and Republic of Culture. Over 67 live cultural events will take place in towns and villages around County Longford. All events

will be strictly managed observing COVID-19 public health guidelines, with a number of events streamed live to online audiences.

### Heritage

Community-based archaeological conservation management plans have been advanced for key archaeological sites. Works fall under the Community Monuments Fund and include the repair of the Tower House at Abbeyshrule Abbey and the conservation assessment of the monastery at Saints Island.



Conservation guides have been developed for the motte-and-bailey castle at Granard which is known as the 'Moat of Granard'. This work has been done with help from the National Monuments Service and the Office of Public Works.



# Community & Enterprise

## Local Sports Partnership

### Let's Get Cycling

Saturday morning's Let's Get Cycling programme began along the Royal Canal Greenway. This programme gives an opportunity to people who want to try cycling for the first time, offering basic cycling skills in a safe and friendly environment.



Sunday mornings' focus turns to Social Cycles, in partnership with Longford Racing and Cycling Club. These cycles help people who want to return to cycling, as well as guiding people that want to try cycling with a club. Both programmes are proving to be a great opportunity get out in a group for a safe and leisurely cycle.

### Inclusive Athletics

Longford Sports Partnership have been working with Longford Athletics Club on their first inclusive athletics training sessions. Two groups of children and young people meet on Friday evenings for an opportunity to try athletics activities. A huge success, this programme will continue to be offered into the future.

### Socia-Ball

Socia-Ball, a new women's basketball initiative emphasising fun, participation and fitness is being offered by Longford Phoenix Basketball Club, supported by Longford Sports Partnership.



Highly-social and fun in nature, women will learn the key basketball skills and play in a supportive environment, without the pressure of competition.

This four-week programme is aimed at beginners as well as those with previous experience. It is an ideal opportunity to revisit basketball or try it for the first time, all while making new friends along the way.

### Men on the Move - Kenagh

Men on the Move, a physical activity programme aimed at men who have been away from sport and exercise for a prolonged period of time, has started its second group in Kenagh this month.

This 12-week programme offers men an excellent chance to get active again. Participants should expect to see increases to their fitness levels. They can also expect improvements in their overall health and well-being, as well as plenty of friends being made along the way!

# Community & Enterprise

## Corporate Services

### Ongoing Corporate Services

- Corporate Services COVID-19 Business Response Plan continues to be implemented
- Customer Services desk responded to 972 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

The Council's November meetings were held strictly adhering to COVID-19 public health guidelines.

Date	Meeting
9 November	Corporate Policy Group
10 November	Longford County Council
15 November	Finance Meeting
22 November	Longford County Council Budget Meeting
23 November	Granard Municipal District
24 November	Longford Municipal District
25 November	Ballymahon Municipal District

### Franchise

The Draft Register 2022/2023 was published and made available for inspection from 1 November, with the closing date for corrections on 25 November.

Applications were made. These will be considered at Revision Court Sitings held in Longford Courthouse on 6 December, Granard Library on 7 December and Ballymahon Library on 8 December.

## Health & Safety

### All Ireland Occupational Safety Awards

Longford County Council is delighted to have won two awards, the Regional Award (Midlands) and the Continuous High Achiever Award, at the recent 30th Annual Occupational Safety Awards Ceremony.



These awards are held in conjunction with the National Irish Safety Organisation and Northern Ireland Safety Group and recognise how organisations manage health and safety at work.

The many entrants that participate in the Awards, including large numbers of repeat entrants. This is testament to the quality of the process, the high regard that the awards command and the value it brings.

Longford County Council has been a consistent achiever in the NISO/NISG competition since first entering in 2014. The Council has secured a safety award each year since, with these awards recognising our Council employees commitment to maintaining the highest standards of Occupational Health, Safety and Welfare.

# Community & Enterprise

## Corporate Services (Contd)

### Communications

- Media Queries responded to: 8
- Publicity Campaigns commenced: 11
- Advertisements/Features prepared: 9

#### Highlights included:

- Promotion of Freedom of County to be conferred on Shaunagh Connaire in the coming month
- Working on the preparation of internal and external video communication campaign
- Coordination of promotion of Longford Live & Local Winter 2021 programme, in print, on the airwaves and through our own digital channels. This also includes the promotion of the associated community event fund.
- Promotion and celebration of Longford County Council's major regional win at the 30th annual Occupational Safety Awards Marking of Longford Connected project's next step as contracts are signed
- Coordination and promotion of #ShopLongford, an initiative from Longford Local Enterprise Office and Longford Chamber of Commerce. Channels of promotion included print, radio, on social media.



- Promotion of the historic opening of new Edgeworthstown Community Library
- Marking of signing of contracts for The Yard Hub project in Abbeyshrule

### Social media

Social media messaging focused on activities across the Council, including public health messaging, community and cultural events, #ShopLongford and awareness raising activities.

	Facebook	Twitter	Instagram
Posts	73	75	34
Stories	16	-	16
Reach*	85K	-	1.2K
Impressions**	99.1K	24K	13K

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

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

### Freedom of Information (FOI)

	November	YTD
FOI requests received	2	59
Access to information on Environmental Request	4	9
Office of the Ombudsman complaints received	0	3

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

### Data Protection

- Issued Data Protection Compliance Reports for 2021 to all sections as part of the Data Protection Compliance and Monitoring programme
- Data Protection queries: 8
- Clean and Clear Desk Policy and Personal Data Breach Policy communicated to all employees via the Corporate Training and Policy Platform

A data protection complaint reported to the Data Protection Commission was successfully closed.



# Community & Enterprise

## Local Enterprise Office

### #ShopLongford

As part of the second year of this campaign, everyone is being asked to #ShopLongford and help our local economy healthy this Christmas and into the new year.

Longford County Council and Longford Local Enterprise Office, in association with Longford Chamber of Commerce, are highlighting the many Longford businesses you can buy from in the run up to Christmas this year.



Throughout the months of November and December, the #ShopLongford campaign is showcasing many local businesses you can buy from either in-store or online.

Take a look at Local Enterprise Office's social media and [Localenterprise.ie/Longford](http://Localenterprise.ie/Longford) for #ShopLongford to point you in the right direction when it comes to buying locally this season!

Five top reasons to get Involved with #ShopLongford:

- Every €10 spent locally generates almost €50 for Longford community.
- Buying local adds to value for money, quality, traceability, and sustainability.
- Local businesses have a smaller carbon footprint and are more likely to recycle.
- Local businesses donate 5 times more to groups in the community.
- Local businesses typically buy from other local businesses

The popularity of the campaign, as well as the huge response from the business community, has led Longford LEO to keep promoting businesses into December.

This is alongside Longford LEO's #ShopLongford Best Window Display Competition which will see €500 given away for the best shop window display.

Find out all the details on Longford Local Enterprise Office's Facebook @LongfordLEO.



*Cathaoirleach Peggy Nolan and Cllr. Seamus Butler at the launch of the ShopLongford campaign with local business owners Sharon Devlin and Sadie Donnelly.*

# Community & Enterprise

## Local Enterprise Office (Contd)

### Student Enterprise National Launch

As Chair of the National Student Enterprise Programme sub-committee, Michael Nevin attended the launch of the 21/22 programme in November. Seven of the nine secondary schools in County Longford will take part this year in the competition that involves students setting up and running their own mini-enterprises.



*Michael Nevin pictured with students and Sean Finn, Limerick Hurling Team and ambassador for the Student Enterprise Programme.*

### Management Development Programme

Longford Local Enterprise Office continues to roll out its intensive business training supports to its client base. Working alongside neighbouring Westmeath Local Enterprise Office, Longford LEO launched a six-month Management Development Programme with renowned business consultant Blaise Brosnan in November. A total of 20 small and medium-sized enterprises are participating on the programme.

### Engenuity

Engenuity is a network of engineering companies from across the midlands who are working together on collaborative projects, training programmes and sales efforts. In November, the Network was represented at the Manufacturing & Supply Chain Expo in the RDS.

### Live & Local Winter Programme

Following on from the very successful summer Live & Local programme, this winter programme has kicked off! This latest version of Longford Live & Local is being funded under phase two of the Local Live Performance Programming Scheme from the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media. It will be administered by Longford County Council.

Along with Creative Communities from Creative Ireland, Longford Live & Local will develop cultural activities and events in the run up to Christmas. These will support the objectives of the Longford Culture and Creativity Strategy 2018-22. Aligned to this, it aims to nurture and showcase the vibrant music, literary, arts and cultural activity in the county.

The full programme of events is available on [Longfordcoco.ie](http://Longfordcoco.ie).



# Community & Enterprise

## Human Resources

### Recruitment

- Competitions advertised: 3
- Candidates interviewed: 79
- Competitions completed: 3
- New starters: 1
- Existing employees commenced new roles: 3
- Employee ceased employment: 3

### Learning and Development

Training held during the month November included:

- Performance Management Development System (PMDS) continues to be rolled out in the Strategic, Infrastructure and Regeneration Directorate
- Climate action raising awareness training for grade three and analogous started in November, with this to be completed by 23 December
- Traffic signs guidance manual training was provided, with this designated for staff working on public roads
- Confined spaces high risk training provided to designated staff in Water Services & Roads Department
- Learning and Development Officer attendance at Disability Awareness Training

### Health and Wellbeing

- Flu vaccinations were provided to employees throughout November
- To mark International Men's Day which took place this month, the Engaging Men webinar was delivered.
- EU Alcohol Awareness Week ran from 15-19

November. This was the ninth annual awareness week on alcohol-related harm. Longford County Council invited employees to attend the 'Alcohol's impact on the immune system and brain' webinar to raise awareness in relation to alcohol related harm



WEBINAR INVITATION

**Alcohol's impact on the immune system and brain**

**Date** 18th November 2021  
**Time** 3pm

**SPEAKERS**

- Prof Cliona O'Farrelly, Professor of Comparative Immunology, TCD
- Dr Dara Cannon, Senior Lecturer, Neuroanatomy Director, Clinical Neuroimaging Laboratory, NUIG
- Dr Helen McMonagle, Alcohol-Related Brain Injury Rehabilitation Coordinator, Alcohol Forum Ireland

Logos: HSE, hi, ask about alcohol

- In conjunction with the HSE, the Time to Take Time for You – Minding your Wellbeing campaign was made available to all employees





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

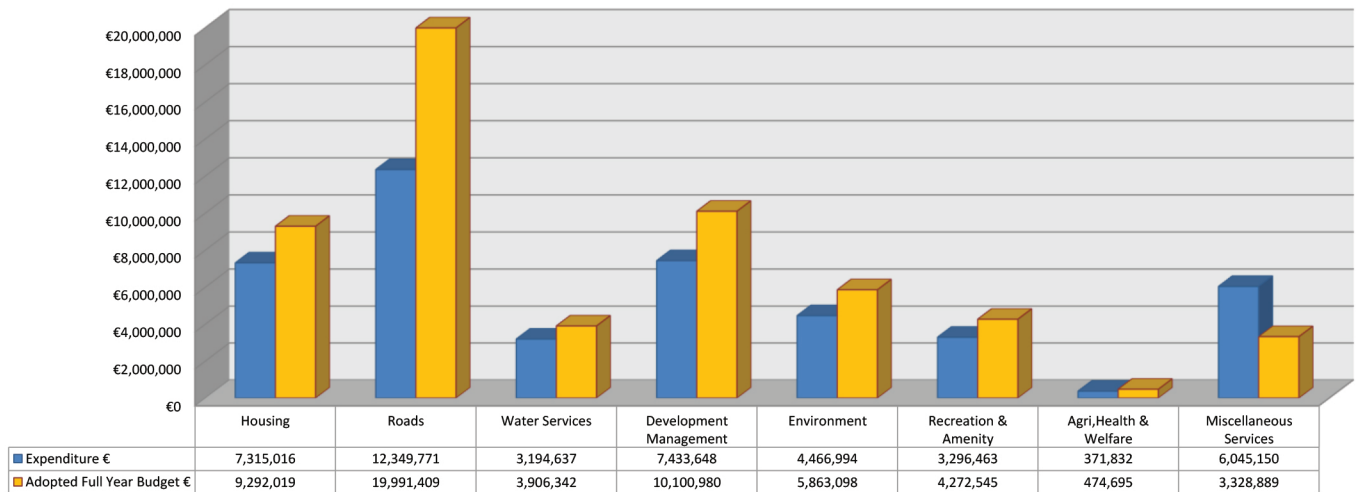
Where Covid-19 related expenditure has been incurred, corresponding Deferred Income from Central Government has been accounted for.

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

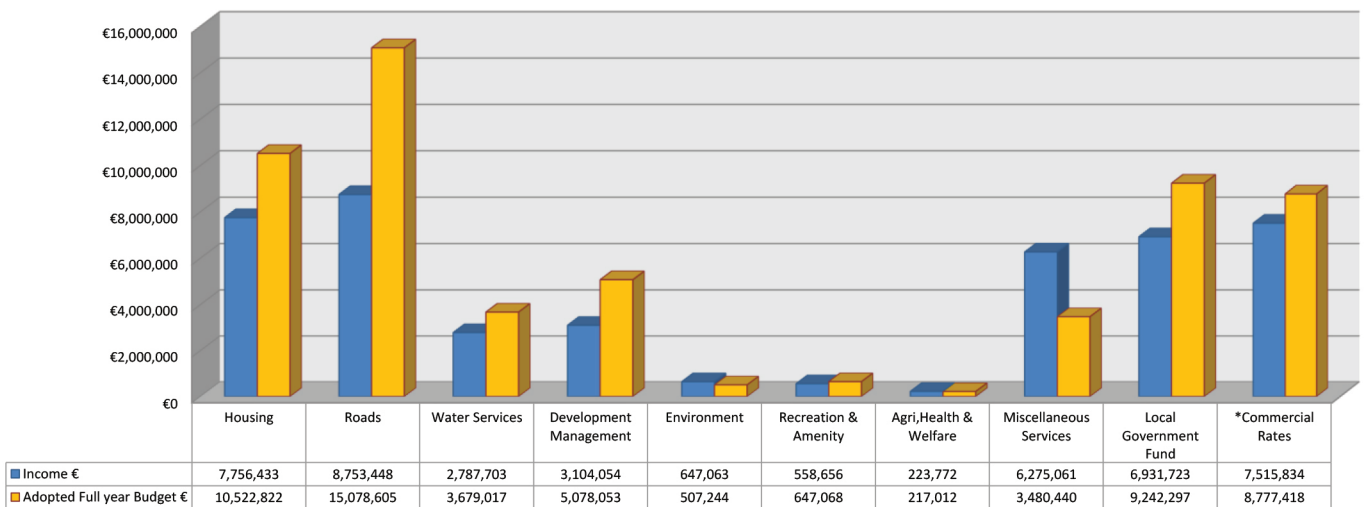
# Finance & Regeneration

## 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

### Contract signing at Abbeyshrule

Contracts have been signed with Doyle Construction Limited for the redevelopment of the Old Canal Stores in Abbeyshrule into a new rural working hub. Work has already commenced. The project will offer a mix of offices and co-working spaces, as well as a purpose-built unit for Abbeyshrule Canoe Club.

Aligned to the national Our Rural Future: Rural Development Policy, this project is an excellent example of bringing vacant and derelict buildings back into active use, creating space for economic development in communities in Longford.



### NOAC Good Practice in Local Government Awards

Regeneration and IT presented a video on the Rural Working Hubs Strategy and Digital Strategy at the National Oversight and Audit Commission (NOAC) Good Practice in Local Government Awards.

The first Irish local authority to develop a Rural Working Hubs Strategy, addresses the 3,300 plus

workers traveling outside the county for work (Census 2016). It aims to provide an opportunity to work within the local community, preventing the loss of economic and social activity .

### Longford Connected project contract signing

Work is progressing on the €4m Urban Regeneration and Development Fund (URDF) Longford Connected project in Longford town.

The St Mel's Road section of the project will be substantially completed by December. On completion, works will improve accessibility, appearance and pedestrian amenity along this route linking Albert Reynolds Peace Park, St Michael's School, Longford Shopping Centre and St Mel's Cathedral.

Additionally, the construction contract for the public areas at Longford Shopping Centre and Market Square was awarded to P&D Lydon. Work is expected to start in early-2022.

### ORIS Funding announced

Outdoor Recreational Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS) funding was secured for 10 projects. Projects include:

North Longford Rebel Trail - Granard Greenway	Construction of a 2.1K greenway, accommodating for pedestrians and cyclists at Rathcronan and Higginstown in Granard
Aughnaclyffe Heritage Trail	Development and enhancement of 4.2K trail connecting the Dolmens and the Deserted Village in Aughnaclyffe
Derrycassin Woods Enhancement	Upgrade to 6.5K trail in Derrycassin Woods in Mullinalaghta

# Finance & Regeneration

## Information Technology

### Connected Hubs Call

- Connected Hubs Call develops remote working facilities around the county
- Refurbishment is completion in Moyne's Latin School Community Centre
- Refurbishment work has started in Abbeyshrule
- Equipment procurement is ongoing for Moydow, Mullinalaghta and Co:worx, Edgeworthstown

### IT Infrastructure

- ServiceDesk for November: 457 tickets
- Regular patching of client and server systems
- Edgeworthstown Community Library's IT equipment configuration and planning is ongoing
- IT support for statutory and Teams hybrid meetings
- Security gap analysis has progressed
- Security policies are being reviewed and updated
- Hybrid meeting software is being installed in three meeting rooms locations

### Geographic Information Systems

- Data cleansing for migration of data to private rental housing inspection app
- Longford County Council folio data acquired from Property Registration Authority of Ireland (PRAI) for development of a property registration application and the reconciliation of fixed assets register
- Scripts and templates were completed to facilitate iHouse housing data cleanse

### Broadband Connection Points

- Broadband Connection Points (BCPs) have free high-speed broadband for public use
- In November, there were 22 new users and 118 returning users to Longford's BCPs
- Mullinalaghta Community Centre are hosting beginners painting classes with artist Oonagh Latchford every Monday
- Skillshare courses are available at Longford's BCPs, with free online courses on many topics, including graphic design, illustration, UI/UX design, marketing and more. For more, email [broadbandofficer@longfordcoco.ie](mailto:broadbandofficer@longfordcoco.ie).
- Moydow and Mullinalaghta Community Centre BCPs and Longford Westmeath Education Training Board now offer courses to help people make the most of their device. Register your interest on 0876450530.

### Digital Services

- IT presented with Regeneration on the Digital Strategy and the Rural Working Hub Strategy at the National Oversight and Audit Commission (NOAC) Good Practice event
- WIFI4EU, which offers free Wi-Fi in Longford, Ballymahon and Drumlish had 994 new users and 1812 returning users
- Customer Relationship Management (CRM) app is progressing
- Longford Text Alert app, which brings together community updates, is in development. This is part of the Our Rural Future Digital Innovation programme.
- Corporate Services' digital eService Plan is at implementation stage
- eDocument management project is progressed

# Finance & Regeneration

## Housing

### Antisocial Behaviour Strategy

The Antisocial Behaviour Strategy is due for renewal in 2022, coinciding with the Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP), Age Friendly Strategy and Integration Strategy all due for renewal next year.

For this Antisocial Behaviour Strategy, the Estate Manager, with the Community Safety Coordinator and Regeneration, are exploring the possibility of developing an internal group to share information and work together.

Additionally, while the new Local Community Safety Partnership (LCSP) is at research stage, the feedback from its consultations can be utilised to form action plans which can be incorporated into the Antisocial Behaviour Strategy. For this, consultation with community Gardaí is ongoing, with the overall objective to create a safe community.

### Residents Associations

The Housing Liaison Officer is currently working with for local authority estates to help set up new residents associations.

Work is also taking place with MacEoin Park residents to establish a pilot Residents Working Group, supported by the Council.

In lieu of the annual competition or award ceremony, Housing have awarded a bonus payment to the existing groups to encourage groups to take pride in their estates.

### Housing projects

Work is ongoing on the following:

- 6 units Rose Cottage, Ballinalee
- 6 remaining units Campbells Lane
- 14 units O'Haras site, Richmond Street
- 11 units at Alder field, Farnagh



*Campbells Lane, Longford*

### Refurbished Voids

- Vacant properties refurbished to date: 30
- These properties were refurbished under the Voids Programme 2021, with these properties brought back into social housing stock for tenants.



# Strategic Infrastructure & Climate Action

## Roads

### Roadworks Programme

Works on Active Travel Schemes, Community Involvement Schemes and Safety Improvement Schemes are continuing in each Municipal District (MD).



*Safety improvement work at Coolaherty to improved sightline at the junction*

Drainage and Bridge Works are also ongoing in the MDs, and the three-year Roads Programme for 2022-2024 has also been submitted to the Department of Transport.

### National Road Schemes.

- Newtownforbes Pavement Resurfacing Scheme is progressing, with completion due in the next few weeks
- The N63 Majors Well Road project is ongoing, with the contractor Priority Construction. Footpath and drainage works will be progressed over the coming weeks.

### Local Improvement Scheme

The Local Improvement Scheme provides funding to help local authorities carry out improvement works on private and non-publicly maintained roads.

Funding is provided by the Department of Rural and Community Development. €393,041 was allocated to Longford County Council in 2021, allowing the Council to complete works on 14 Local Improvement Schemes across the county.

### Road Safety

Irish Road Safety Week which ran in October and was a major success, with local schools taking part in road safety activities and competitions run by the Local Authority Road Safety Officer.

In November, road safety goodie bags and spot prizes were awarded to all who took part.



*Children from first and second class at St Columbas National School, Dring receiving their road safety goodie bags.*



*Children from first and second classes at St John's National School, Edgeworthstown receiving their road safety goodie bags*

# Strategic Infrastructure & Climate Action

## Water Services

### Find & Fix Programme

Longford County Council Find & Fix team are operating in the Prucklish, Clooncoose and Longford Town-West District Metered Areas (DMAs). The team fixed a substantial leak in the Clonbalt area of Longford, saving approximately 96,000 litres of drinking water per day.

### Longford to Lanesborough Network Upgrade

Water Services Capital Section are liaising with Irish Water in identifying and delivering network upgrades to enable water supply from Longford Central Supply Zone to the Lanesborough Supply Zone.

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

### Capital Network Schemes

Water Services Capital section are currently liaising with Irish Water to progress three capital network rehabilitation schemes:

- Cahanagh-Prucklish: replacement of c.400 l/m of problematic watermain between Cahanagh Cross and Prucklish (along the R198). This project has been substantially completed and the new watermain has been commissioned.
- Rathcline Road, Lanesborough: replacement of

approximately 2.5km of problematic watermain between Lanesborough and Carrowroe reservoir

- Creevy, Granard: replacement of approximately 500 metres of problematic watermain

These works ensure security of supply and contribute to reducing leakage. These works are funded by Irish Water's National Leakage Reduction Programme.

### 2021 Pressure Management Works

Water Services have recently completed the repair and replacement of 8 pressure reducing valves (PRVs). This will help maintain and improve the existing water supply network. Works were installed by Longford County Council Water Section and completed at the end of November.



*A recently installed Pressure relief valve fitted by the Find & Fix team*



# Strategic Infrastructure & Climate Action

## Planning

### Longford Town Plan

Work is ongoing on the review of the Longford Town Plan to include a Transport Study, Affordable Housing, Climate Change, Active Travel and co-ordinating various development projects. Public Consultation will start early-2022, with Town Plan to be adopted early-2023.



### Applications and Enforcement

Planning application systems fully operational. Public counter are open to accept planning applications. Pre-Planning meetings available online.

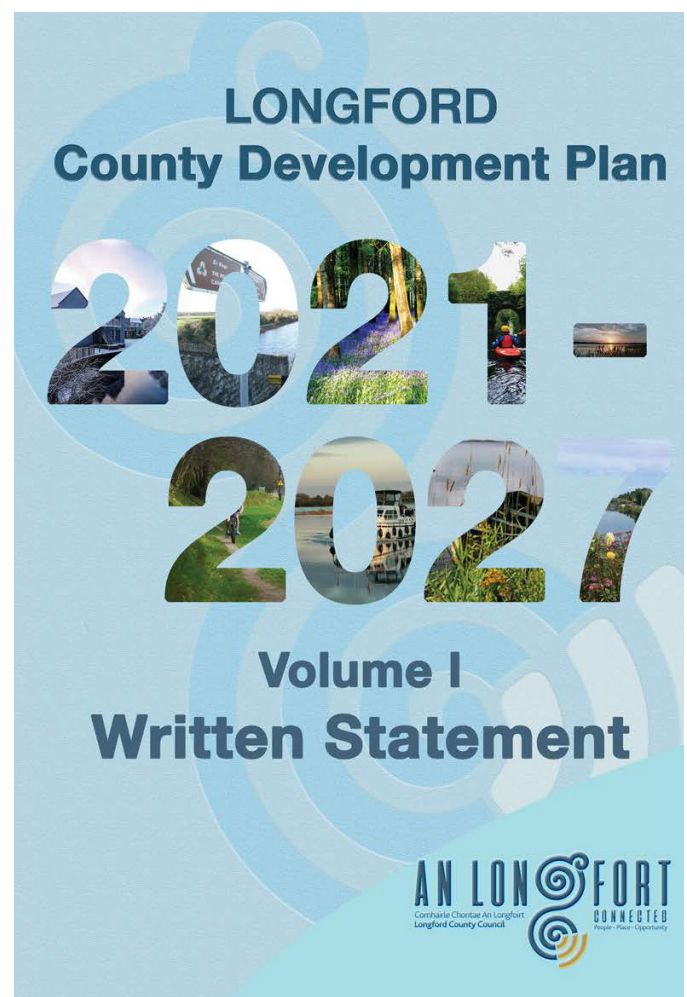
Statutory requirements maintained:

- Managing the various planning applications, housing, retail, industrial proposals, Section 284 license applications for outdoor seating and broadband, Part 8 planning schemes, CPOs, and enforcement
- 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

### County Development Plan

Longford County Development Plan 2021-2027, adopted in October, came into effect on 30 November. Work is ongoing to amend the final document, as required and publishing the plan.

The adopted plan is currently available to view on [Longfordcoco.ie](http://Longfordcoco.ie).





# Strategic Infrastructure & Climate Action

## Fire Services

### Operations

- Total callouts in November: 26. Note this also includes 28-31 October
- All stations remained fully operational

### Health and Safety

- No injuries or near misses to report

### Training

- Five personnel attended three-day chainsaw refresher training held in Edgeworthstown.
- A one-day road traffic collision and electric vehicle extrication courses took place in Longford, Granard and Edgeworthstown, with 29 personnel attending
- One sub-officer attended a station officer training course in Bray
- Six personnel attended a three-day rope rescue course in Kilkenny

### Major Emergency Management

- The regional major emergency management (MEM) working group met for the last time this year in November
- The HSE will take over the chair of this group for 2022

### Fire Prevention

- Five Fire Safety Certificates were processed
- The Fire Service assessed a fireworks application for a display in Granard.
- One dangerous substance application was processed.

### Recruitment

We have five vacancies in three fire stations:

- Granard (2)
- Edgeworthstown (1)
- Lanesboro (2)

Three candidates were interviewed with two being successful.



*Bluelight display for World Remembrance Day for Road Crash Victims on 21 November 2021 at Longford Fire Station*

### Equipment

- Capital funding was secured for road traffic collision cutting equipment, a thermal imaging camera and six specialist fire blankets to deal with fires in hybrid and electric vehicles
- Capital funding was also secured for road traffic collision van and fit out
- Annual service completed on pumps, ladders, road traffic collision equipment and winches

# Strategic Infrastructure & Climate Action

## Civil Defence

### Duties & Taskings

Civil Defence provided medical cover at the following local and community events:

- One Longford Town Soccer match
- Two Longford Live & Local events



### Training and Operations

- Induction and critical incident stress management training took place for probationary volunteers. Risk assessments and policies and procedures were also communicated.
- Two emergency medical technician (EMT) students are continuing their training
- Water awareness training was completed
- One volunteer passed the C1 vehicle licence test
- Transport was provided to elderly persons for their COVID-19 booster vaccinations
- One 4X4 vehicle has been purchased following a tender process. Funding was provided by the Department of Defence under the Dormant Accounts Fund. This vehicle is now being readied for inclusion in the fleet.
- Statutory inspection of equipment was carried out

## Environment

### Veterinary

The proposed revised changes for dog pound fees were proposed by Cllr Garry Murtagh and seconded by Cllr Seamus Butler at November meeting of Longford County Council. The below table outlines the revised fees.

	Current Fee (2012)	Revised Fee (2021)
Surrender fee	€40	€50
Impounding fee in respect of first occasion	€40	€50
Impounding fee for repeat impounding	€80	€100
Impounding fee for first occasion on which a dog of a restricted breed is impounded	€100	€150
Repeat impounding fee in respect of a dog of a restricted breed	escalated by additional €100 for each time dog is impounded	escalated by additional €150 for each time dog is impounded
Kennel fee from second day onwards	€10 per day	€15 per day
Rehoming fee	€40 (including dog licence)	€100 (plus dog licence)

### National Environmental Awards



Longford County Council Environmental Awareness Officer Gary Brady, Cathaoirleach Cllr Peggy Nolan and Cllr Paraic Brady.

# Strategic Infrastructure & Climate Action

## Climate Action Initiatives

### Regeneration

- Remote working facilities currently being developed in Abbeyshrule will aim to encourage workers to stay close to home for work. This will avoid long commutes, with less emissions from vehicle use benefiting the environment.
- Development and maintenance of walkway trails throughout the county will encourage people to walk or cycle instead of using cars and other vehicles, again reducing emissions.

### Information Technology

- Several paperless projects are progressing which will have an instant positive impact on the organisation's carbon footprint. This includes the eCorporate Planning app which is now live. The ePMDS app will be launched shortly also. Each app will see a significant reduction in paper, printing and energy usage on a per employee basis
- Work has started with Community and Enterprise to facilitate a paperless community grants

### Housing

- Part of the Midlands Retrofit Programme, work is ongoing on the retrofitting of four council estates in Ballinalee. The River Crescent and Camlin View are now completed, while Cois na hAbhainn and Hill View are on-going
- Additionally, the tender is in progress for St Matthews Park in Ballymahon and an assessment of the works required are being considered on the 46 local authority houses around the county
- Under the National Energy Efficiency Programme, work has commenced on the retrofitting of 20 houses at Sli na Mona in Ballymahon

### Roads

- Roads are now fully in charge of 5,729 public lights. With proactive upgrading, 3,563 of these public lights are now more energy efficient LEDs. This is an increase of 293 LEDs since April this year.
- The remaining 2,166 public lights will be upgraded over the next few years

### Planning

- Working with Environment, Planning is preparing a town forestry proposal and preliminary work on a Longford carbon neutral town initiative
- The Development Plan Review includes a specific chapter on climate change, with all chapters also having a climate change checklist at the end
- Following the adoption of the County Plan, consideration is being given to drawing up climate change actions in the county. This will include work on active travel for Longford town and preparing the application for the Lough Ree UNESCO biosphere proposal.

### Fire Services

- The new fire engine ordered for Longford Fire Service will be provided with a plastic body which will be recyclable and reusable
- This vehicle will also be provided with ad blue, which will help to give out cleaner fuel emissions



# CONNECTED

People • Place • Opportunity

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

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



Paddy Mahon  
Chief Executive





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