

TO EACH MEMBER OF LOUTH COUNTY COUNCIL

Monthly Management Report – 31st March 2018

Dear Councillor

I attach the Management Report up to 31st March 2018

Yours faithfully

**Joan Martin
Chief Executive
6 April 2018**

Finance Report to 31st March 2018

Expenditure to 31st March 2018

Section	ACTUAL EXPENDITURE TO 31/03/18	BUDGET EXPENDITURE 2018	% SPENT TO 31/0/18
Housing	4,929,753	23,072,404	21%
Road Transportation & Safety	6,525,218	19,613,150	33%
Water Services	2,664,588	7,034,240	38%
Development Management	2,855,605	16,197,124	18%
Environmental Services	3,607,469	15,700,738	23%
Recreation and Amenity	1,894,744	8,284,259	23%
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	288,809	1,384,695	21%
Miscellaneous	1,506,848	11,937,862	13%
	24,273,034	103,224,472	24%

Income to 31st March 2018

Section	ACTUAL INCOME TO 31/03/18	BUDGET INCOME 2018	% INVOICED TO 31/03/18
Housing	6,866,531	25,488,641	27%
Road Transportation & Safety	1,783,205	10,979,713	16%
Water Services	2,179,541	6,762,465	32%
Development Management	1,466,468	9,328,492	16%
Environmental Services	334,183	2,009,350	17%
Recreation and Amenity	177,066	847,827	21%
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	42,426	452,133	9%
Miscellaneous	795,516	5,573,406	14%
Rates	31,898,523	31,916,247	100%
General Purpose Grant (LGF)	1,644,366	9,866,198	17%
	47,187,825	103,224,472	46%

The above is the current position as at the 31st March 2018. The Annual Financial Statements for 2017 are now complete and will be presented to the Council at the April monthly meeting. The full rates demand figure is included in the above. The allocation of the Central Management Charge is estimated in the above figures as the allocation is not completed till mid-month.

Collection rates as at 31st March 2018 are as follows:

DEBTORS AS AT 31st MARCH 2018

	Opening Balance	Invoices	Receipts	Write Offs	Closing Balance
Government Debtors	7,675,938	7,939,052	(10,662,319)	0	4,952,671
Other Local Authorities	63,193	46,210	(39,346)	0	70,057
Rates	12,504,700	31,898,523	(7,318,546)	(93,253)	36,991,424
Rents	5,089,880	2,900,596	(2,979,621)	(4,035)	5,006,820
Loans	362,039	186,885	(292,168)	0	256,756
Development Levies	12,123,334	230,136	(351,174)	0	12,002,296
Fire Charges	1,594,374	67,192	(64,100)	0	1,597,466
Miscellaneous	2,725,633	1,069,494	(1,554,058)	(13,617)	2,227,452
TOTAL DEBTORS	42,139,091	44,338,088	(23,261,332)	(110,905)	63,104,942

Above is the debtor balances as at the 31st March 2018. The Miscellaneous debtor figure includes the Irish Water SLA recoupments, Corporate, Community & Enterprise, LEO, Planning, Enforcement, Environment, Sports, Vets, Arts, Roads, Library, Museum and Finance miscellaneous billings.

Economic Development

Louth Economic Forum

The last meeting of the Louth Economic Forum was held on the 28th March 2018. The new Education & Training Plan has been sent to print and will be launched in April.

Festival Grants

The closing date for applications under Louth County Council Festival Grant Initiative 2018 was Friday 23rd February. Festival funding was subsequently approved for the following events:-

Name of Community Group	Name of Event	Fund Approved
Carlingford & Cooley Tourism Association	Carlingford Oyster Festival 2018	€2,000
Dundalk BIDs Office	Independent Traders Day	€2,000
Blackrock Tourism & Development Group	Blackrock Film Festival	€1,500
Brigid's Way Celtic Pilgrimage	Brigid's Way Celtic Pilgrimage	€600
Red Fish Events	SeaFood Rocks	€2,000
Scoraiocht Lannleire	Wren Boys Festival	€500
Cairde na Cruite	An Chúirt Chruitireachta - International Festival for Irish Harp	€2,000
Blackrock Tidy Towns	Blackrock Raft Race & Family Day	€1,000
Glyde Inn	Taste of Togher	€1,200
Brigid of Faughart	Brigid of Faughart Festival 2018	€1,500
Omeath Action Group	Omeath Christmas Festival	€1,000
Drogheda Civic Trust	Geneology Fun Day	€600

Drogheda & District Bridge Congress	Drogheda & District Bridge Congress 2018 25 th Anniversary	€300
Grange District Residents Association	Grange Community Fun Day 2018	€200
Ablevision	Ablevision International Film Festival	€500

The Irish Maritime Festival 2018

The Irish Maritime Festival for 2018 was launched on the 6th April and will take place over the weekend of the 16th – 17th June. Virgin Media, Ireland’s fastest broadband network has come on board again this year as the main sponsors of the festival.

Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann

Westgate House and the DYD building has been painted by Louth County Council in an effort to commence the improvement of the entrance into the town in preparation for the Fleadh and it is hoped this will encourage other property owners to commence improvement works to their properties. A number of other projects are being considered at present.

Shopfront Improvement Grant Scheme

In 2016 Louth County Council launched the ‘Shopfront Improvement Grant Scheme’, as part of their suite of Business Incentives. Due to the popularity of these grants the scheme has been extended through 2018. A press release will issue in April to promote this initiative which is available in Ardee, Drogheda and Dundalk.

Cross Border Tourism Conference

A cross-border tourism conference ‘Learn from the Best’ will take place on the 11th April in the Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford. It is organised by Dundalk Chamber of Commerce and sponsored by Louth County Council, Local Enterprise Office Louth and the Four Seasons Hotel. The event will host a number of key speakers from across the tourism industry. There will be a Tourism Advisory Clinic with exhibits from the Local

Enterprise Office Louth and Louth County Council Planning Office. Louth County Council will also be hosting a stand at the event and will use the opportunity to promote VisitLouth.ie, The Irish Maritime Festival, Drogheda Arts Festival and Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann.

Arts

Louth people were the recipients of two major awards in the area of music in recent months, bringing both a national and international spotlight to the wealth of music to be found in our county.

1. Louth Contemporary Music Society

A major European-wide award has been awarded to Dundalk man, Eamonn Quinn, in recognition of his commitment to contemporary music. Eamonn is the co-founder of Louth Contemporary Music Society (LCMS) and has succeeded in establishing our county as an important centre for the commissioning, performance and recording of new work by composers from all over the world. This commitment was rewarded by the award of the Forberg-Schneider-Stiftung's Belmont Prize, which brings both a financial reward and great honour to Eamonn and his work.

Louth County Council works closely with LCMS and new musical work can be heard at Drogheda Arts Festival on the 5th May and at a special two-day festival in Dundalk on the 22nd and 23rd June entitled The Book of Hours. Both events are supported by Louth County Council and full details can be found on <http://www.louthcms.org/>.

2. Pádraigín Ní Úallacháin

Pádraigín Ní Uallacháin was presented with an Outstanding Contribution Award at the TG4 Gradam Ceoil Awards in Belfast in February. The Award was made in recognition of a lifetime's dedication to preserving, recording and performing the songs and music of Oriel, the region of north Louth, south Armagh, and south Monaghan. A native of County Louth, Pádraigín has recorded many cds, but it is probably her publication of A Hidden Ulster in 2003 which brought both her and the music of Oriel to an international audience.

Padraigín initiated Éigse Oirialla, a festival of music, song and language which celebrates the cultural traditions of Oriel in Omeath each year. Louth County Council has supported this and other initiatives of Pádraigín's over many years, which have brought recognition to the store of music in our county. See www.orielarts.com for more details.

Heritage

The Heritage Office of Louth County Council has been awarded funding by the Heritage Council for two projects to be carried out in 2018. These are: 1) a survey of plaques and memorials across County Louth and 2) a 'Historic Landscape Study of the Louth/Armagh cross-border region.

The Heritage Office submitted two funding applications to the Irish Walled Towns Network during March. These were for funding to implement the Public Realm plans for the area around Laurence's Gate (developed in 2017) and to conserve the Drogheda town wall at Featherbed Lane. The results of these applications are awaited.

The application to the Heritage Council for €200,000 funding under its new 'Historic Towns Initiative' to carry out public realm works in Old Abbey Lane, Drogheda was unsuccessful.

The Heritage Office worked with the Infrastructure Section to floodlight Drogheda's Laurence's Gate in green for Saint Patrick's Day. Millmount and the Boyne Viaduct were lit up purple for an Epilepsy Awareness Project.

LEO Louth

Local Enterprise Week (LEW)

LEW Louth ran from Monday 5th to Friday 9th March with 12 events taking place throughout the county, including Dundalk, Drogheda, Ardee and Castlebellingham. All of the events were well attended with over 550 attendees registered. The week culminated with the announcement of the Louth winners of the National Enterprise Awards with the overall county winner, Celtic Testing, progressing to represent Louth at the national finals in May.

Business Training

During March the following business training workshops took place throughout the county:

- Optimize Your Online Business Video 15 participants
- Social Media for Small Business 46 participants
(3 Workshops in Dundalk, Ardee & Drogheda)
- Small Business Finance & Book-keeping 20 participants

Three Start Your Own Business Programmes that ran in Dundalk, Drogheda and Ardee from January concluded in March, with 51 participants completing the programme.

The next Programmes (x3) will commence in Ardee, Drogheda and Dundalk on the 17th/18th of April.

Planned business workshops in April include:

- 10th April - Marketing for Small Business
- 12th April - Snapchat & Instagram
- 19th April - Creating an Online Business
- 26th April - Stress Management for Entrepreneurs

Student Enterprise Programme

The Student Enterprise Programme was delivered in all 18 second levels schools to 1,160 students throughout Louth from September 2017 to March 2018. This culminated with the County Final in the Carrickdale Hotel on the 13th March. Three business projects, from Sacred Heart Secondary School (Junior & Intermediate) and Ardee Community School (Senior), were selected to go forward and represent Louth at the national finals in May.

North East LEAN Network

One of LEO Louth's business support priorities in 2018 is a focus on LEAN and improving competitiveness in local businesses. LEO Louth is a member of both the recently launch North East Lean Network and its Steering Group. The next steering meeting and the networks first company visit are scheduled for April. Businesses with an interest in improving competitiveness should contact LEO Louth to discuss how the LEAN programme and the LEAN Network can be of assistance.

IBYE (Ireland's Best Young Entrepreneur)

The IBYE National Final initially scheduled for Sunday 4th March at Google's HQ was postponed to Sunday 22nd April due to the recent weather conditions. Nikki Reddy of Celtic Adventures, Clogherhead, Co. Louth will represent the North East region in the Best Established Category.

Boyne Valley Food Network

The Boyne Valley Food Network (established under the Louth-Meath Food Strategy) delivered a workshop 'From Kitchen to Shop Shelf' on the 5th March as part of Local Enterprise Week Louth.

Co-Innovate

LEO Louth is delivering the Co-Innovate Programme in the county. A number of companies have undertaken a Business Status Review and are planning to progress to an Innovation Audit post a selection panel in April. Recruitment for the programme continues with a workshop planned in Louth for early June.

Innovate Accelerate

A new innovation and export programme for LEO clients who cannot progress through Co-Innovate but which plan to innovate and increase their capacity to export will be launched in April 2018. The aim is to support up to 7 businesses each year to participate on the programme which includes tailored intensive mentoring.

Mentoring

During March, 21 individuals took part in LEO Louth's 'one to one' mentoring clinics in Dundalk and Drogheda.

Age Friendly Economy (EU Erasmus+ Project)

Louth County Council/LEO Louth hosted the second international partnership meeting for the Age Friendly Economy Project. Partners from Denmark, Spain, Northern Ireland and Ireland attended a two day meeting in Dundalk which incorporated a visit to the Great Northern Haven in conjunction with Network Casala and DKIT. Prior to this the project team held a stakeholder meeting in relation to assessing the skill sets in the local economy to help companies create new products and services for the ageing economy. Louth County Council are leading this section on the project and are compiling the feedback from other project partners to help shape further stages in the programme.

Trading Online Vouchers

LEO Louth continues to offer Trading Online vouchers to local small businesses in 2018. This grant scheme offers financial assistance up to €2,500 alongside training and advice to help businesses trade online.

Regional Action Plan for Jobs

LEO/Louth County Council provides the Secretariat to the Regional Action Plan for Jobs. The most recent progress report for the NE/NW region is available to view at: <http://www.regionalapj.ie/Regions/North-East-North-West/North-East-North-West.html>. The final progress report to the end of 2017 is currently being compiled.

Food Tourism Programme at DkIT

A new Certificate in Applied Business Development for Food Tourism at DkIT was formally launched on Tuesday 6th March 2018 with fourteen small food tourism businesses from across the Boyne Valley Region on board. This level 7 certificate is the first of its kind in the region and was developed in conjunction with LEO Louth and Meath, with the Local Enterprise Offices subsidising the participation fees of local business owners. Full details (brochure and programme description) are available at the link: <http://courses.dkit.ie/index.cfm/page/course/courseId/955>.

Other Business Support initiatives

In addition to its client engagement, business advisory and funding roles, LEO Louth continues to be involved in a number of other ongoing business support initiatives, including the LEO-SuperValu-Bord Bia Food Academy, the Regional Enterprise Development Fund and assisting a number of Louth applicants under this Fund, MicroFinance Ireland's loan scheme which is processed in Co. Louth by the LEO, Dundalk BIDS Company, the Evaluation Committee of the LEADER Programme and contributing to the New Frontiers Entrepreneur Programme.

The Head of Enterprise is a member of the LCDC/LAG, member of the Louth Economic Forum, chair of the Economic Forum's Broadband Steering Group, chair of the Economic Forum's Indigenous working group, member of InterTrade Ireland's Acumen Committee, member of the NE Regional Skills Forum, member of Enterprise Ireland's Exceptions Committee governing the transfer of clients between EI and the LEOs, member of the steering group of the PLATO Network, member of the DCCAE Working Group that inputs into the Government's Task Force on Mobile Broadband, and a Board Director of the five community enterprise companies in the county (Louth County Enterprise Fund CLG, Creative Spark CLG, Drogheda Enterprise Centre CLG t/a The Mill, Ardee Community Development CLG t/a Ardee Business Park and Dundalk Enterprise Development CLG t/a Oriel Hub), which all contribute to supporting enterprise in the county.

Planning

Development Management

The Planning service indicators for Louth County Council for the month of February 2018 are given below in tabular form.

There were 83 planning applications received during the month of February of which **75** were valid. In addition there were 31 responses received during the month to requests for further information. The service indicator figures in relation to **planning decisions and decisions on appeals made** during the month, broken down by category, and with a total figure for all categories (column F), are given below:

(A) Description	(B) Housing Developments	(C) Individual Houses	(D) Other applications- not requiring EIA	(E) Other applications- requiring EIA	(F) Total for all categories of development in County Area
(i) Number of applications determined	0	12	61	1	74
(ii) No. of decisions determined which required further information	0	8	21	1	30
(iii) Percentage of applications refused	0% (0)	0% (0)	1.64% (1)	0% (0)	1.35% (1)
(iv) Number of appeals determined	0	0	4	0	4
(i) Percentage of decisions overturned on appeal	0% (0)	0% (0)	25% (1)	0% (0)	25% (1)

Planning Enforcement

The Planning indicators are given below in relation to Enforcement complaints regarding unauthorised developments received during the month.

Description	Enforcement in relation to unauthorised development		Enforcement in relation to unauthorised development	
	February 2018	Year to Date	February 2017	Year to Date
Number of 1 st Reminders (from Commencement Notices)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Number of Other Reminders	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Number of 14 day letters	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Number of Planning Enforcement Complaints Investigated	20	29	19	27
Number of Planning Enforcement cases received which didn't require follow up	0	0	4	10
Number of cases closed/resolved through negotiation.	17	30	15	31
Number of Warning letters issued.	9	15	11	13
Number of Enforcement Notices issued.	0	1	4	7
Number of cases referred for legal proceedings	0	0	0	0
Number of cases struck out where issues resolved and costs paid.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Number of Injunctions	0	0	0	0
Number of Prosecutions	1	2	0	6

Planning Enforcement – Dangerous Structures

The Planning indicators listed below are in relation to Notices Issued under the Local Government (Sanitary Services) Act, 1964 for the period January – March 2018.

Description	Enforcement in relation to Dangerous Structures	
	Jan - Mar 2018	Year to Date
Number of Section 3 (1)(a) Notices – Directing Owner to carry out work	8	8
Number of Section 3(2)(b) Notices – LCC carry out works	1	1
Number of Section 2 Notices – Dangerous Place	0	0
Number of cases closed	9	9
Number of cases referred for legal proceedings	0	0
Number of Prosecutions	0	0

List of Estates not Taken in Charge

	Estate Name	Address/Town	Number of dwellings built within the estate	Is the estate currently the subject of a TIC application?
1.	Abbey Court	Louth	22	No
2.	Abbey Court	Carlingford	18	Yes
3.	Ard Cullen	Omeath	15	No
4.	Ard na Mara	Clogherhead	50	No
5.	Ard na Tana	Riverstown	6	No
6.	Ard Na Tuire	Ardee	13	Yes
7.	Ard Shee	Blackrock	25	No
8.	Arda Raith Wood	Tullyallen	29	No
9.	Ardee Road	Dromin	5	Yes
10.	Ashbrook	Dundalk	65	Yes
11.	Ashbrook Avenue	Dundalk	95	No
12.	Ashwalk	Ardee	6	No
13.	Ballydonnell	Baltry	5	No
14.	Beacon Court	Dundalk	26	Yes
15.	Beaulieu Cross	Termonfeckin	10	No
16.	Beaulieu View	Drogheda	23	Yes
17.	Beech Park	Blackrock	48	No
18.	Beechgrove	Castlebellingham	13	Yes
19.	Belfry Grove	Dundalk	5	No
20.	Bellewsbridge Place	Dundalk	8	No
21.	Bellingham Heights	Castlebellingham	27	Yes
22.	Bishops Court	Dundalk	35	No
23.	Bishops Court	Termonfeckin	13	Yes
24.	Blackhall Wood	Blackhall	3	No
25.	Blackwater Court	Dundalk	24	No
26.	Blakley Close	Dundalk	16	No

27.	Boice Manor	Tinure	22	Yes
28.	Bothar Buí	Omeath	6	No
29.	Brickfields Gardens	Dundalk	34	No
30.	Bridewell Place	Collon	21	No
31.	Brookside Lodge	Drogheda	10	No
32.	Brookwood Lawns	Dundalk	50	Yes
33.	Carlinn Hall	Dundalk	Under Construction	No
34.	Cairnes Court	Drogheda	51	No
35.	Cashlann	Dundalk	10	No
36.	Castle Court	Castlebellingham	9	No
37.	Castle Heights	Dundalk	46	No
38.	Castle View	Callystown	14	Yes
39.	Castle View	Ardee	4	No
40.	Chapel View	Louth Village	30	Yes
41.	Chapel Hill	Clogherhead	11	Yes
42.	Cherry View	Jeninstown	8	No
43.	Cherrybrook	Ardee	110	Yes
44.	Church Grove	Louth	5	No
45.	Church Park	Blackrock	4	Yes
46.	Claddagh Park	Dundalk	70	No
47.	Clermont Manor	Blackrock	32	Yes
48.	Clocha Tra	Knocknagoran	4	No
49.	Clonmore	Ardee	147	Yes
50.	Clooneevan	Dundalk	45	No
51.	Clos Na Rian	Rampark	8	No
52.	Cloughan Bridge	Ardee	16	Yes
53.	Cloughanvary	Ardee	62	No
54.	Cluain na Mara	Omeath	12	Yes
55.	Cluain na Táin	Jeninstown	6	Yes

56.	Cois Abhainn	Ardee	20	No
57.	College Manor/Heights	Dundalk	293	Yes
58.	Commons Grove	Dromiskin	35	Yes
59.	Coopers Place	Castlebellingham	8	Yes
60.	Cordoogan Court	Cordoogan Monasterboice	6	No
61.	Coulter Place	Dundalk	132	Yes
62.	Crockaraney	Ardee	6	No
63.	Cul na Bala	Carlingford	18	No
64.	Cul na Raite	Omeath	23	Yes
65.	Doylesfort Grove	Dundalk	24	Yes
66.	Dromin Manor	Dromin	5	No
67.	Duffs Farm	Termonfeckin	4	Yes
68.	Dunmore	Dundalk	48	No
69.	Elm Park	Blackrock	38	Yes
70.	Elmore Lawns	Omeath	18	Yes
71.	Fernwood	Dundalk	12	Yes
72.	Fortfield Manor	Faughart Lower	6	No
73.	Fort Terrace	Dundalk	6	Yes
74.	Foster Close	Ardee	8	No
75.	Foxfield	Dromiskin	5	No
76.	Garrybawn	Dundalk	94	Yes
77.	Glenwood Close	Dundalk	12	Yes
78.	Goirt Na Mara	Blackrock	90	Yes
79.	Greenpark	Drogheda	20	Yes
80.	Hamilton	Blackrock	26	No
81.	Harbour Cottages	Carlingford	66	Yes
82.	Heathergate Court	Ardee	18	Yes
83.	Innislinn	Dromiskin	50	Yes
84.	Knockfergus	Louth	14	No

85.	Knockshee	Blackrock	16	Yes
86.	Liscorrie	Drogheda	180	No
87.	Lis na Dara	Dundalk	92	Yes
88.	Lismullen Grove	Dundalk	143	No
89.	Malthouse Gardens	Castlebellingham	14	No
90.	Mariner's Court	Blackrock	18	No
91.	Marlmount	Dundalk	318	Yes
92.	Marlmount (Sandfield Gardens)	Blackrock	9	Yes
93.	Mill Race	Termonfeckin	9	No
94.	Milltown Lodge	Termonfeckin	6	Yes
95.	Moorehall Rise	Ardee	116	Yes
96.	Mount Avenue	Dundalk	6	No
97.	Mount Rath	Dundalk	11	No
98.	Mourne View Terrace	Dundalk	5	No
99.	Mullary Manor	Tinure	10	Yes
100.	Mullavally Close	Louth Village	8	No
101.	Newtown Heights	Knockbridge	6	Yes
102.	Nuns Walk	Collon	8	No
103.	Oakfield	Grangebellew	6	No
104.	Oriel Heights	Collon	23	Yes
105.	Oriel Cove	Clogherhead	114	No
106.	Oyster Cove	Carlingford	4	No
107.	Oyster Haven	Carlingford	6	No
108.	Parkwood	Drogheda	48	No
109.	Premon Height	Carlingford	12	No
110.	Priorland Gardens	Dundalk	28	No
111.	Priory Lodge	Termonfeckin	53	Yes
112.	Railway Cottages	Jeninstown	12	No

113.	Railway Village	Jenkinstown	32	Yes
114.	Rath Abbey	The Bush	11	No
115.	Rath Park	Dundalk	8	No
116.	Rathmount	Blackrock	174	No
117.	Riverbank	Drogheda	206	Yes
118.	River Court	Drogheda	56	No
119.	Rivermill	Termonfeckin	8	No
120.	Riverside	Ardee	16	Yes
121.	Rivervale	Dunleer	127	No
122.	Riverwell	Dundalk	84	No
123.	Rockfield	Ardee	185	Yes
124.	Rockville	Blackrock	7	No
125.	Roschoill	Drogheda	153	Yes
126.	Station Heights	Carlingford	9	Yes
127.	Sandy Grove/Close	Blackrock	64	Yes
128.	Sandymount Drive	Blackrock	14	Yes
129.	Seabrook	Dromiskin	13	No
130.	Seacrest Manor	Dundalk		Yes
131.	Sea View	Termonfeckin	10	Yes
132.	Seaford Gardens	Blackrock	6	Yes
133.	Seantobar	Clogherhead	20	Yes
134.	Sheetland Drive	Termonfeckin	3	No
135.	Shore Court	Omeath	16	No
136.	Springfield	Blackrock	8	No
137.	St Kevins Drive	Mountainstown, Dunleer	6	No
138.	St Mary's Court	Louth	9	No
139.	Stamanaran	Blackrock	49	Yes
140.	Stephen's Fields	Stifyans	3	No
141.	Stranacarry Court	Dundalk	6	No

142.	Strand Hill	Clogherhead	61	No
143.	Suil na Mara	Dundalk	32	Yes
144.	Tallonsfield Manor	Tallanstown		No
145.	The Brambles	Grangebellew	4	No
146.	The Breakers	Templetown	6	Yes
147.	The Cloisters	Collon	33	No
148.	The Cornmill	Ardee	14	Yes
149.	The Cottages	Blackrock	4	No
150.	The Drive	Drogheda	14	No
151.	The Feckins	Termonfeckin	10	No
152.	The Forge	Dunleer	17	No
153.	The Glen	Tullyallen	11	No
154.	The Links	Blackrock	9	Yes
155.	The Meadows	Blackrock	10	No
156.	The Old Rectory	Collon	42	No
157.	The Orchard	Ardee	12	Yes
158.	The Orchard	Blackrock	7	No
159.	The Orchard	Dunleer	8	No
160.	The Saltings	Annagassan	20	No
161.	The Stables	Termonfeckin	22	Yes
162.	The Village	Ardee	43	No
163.	Townley Manor	Tullyallen	76	No
164.	Townparks	Ardee	5	No
165.	Tudor Grove	Dundalk	24	Yes
166.	Village Green	Omeath	24	No
167.	Village Green	Blackrock	11	No
168.	Waterview	Dundalk		Yes
169.	Westwood	Drogheda	17	No
170.	Wheatfields	Stabannan	10	No
171.	White River Manor	Tinure	6	No

172.	Willow Grove	Dundalk		Yes
173.	Willow Grove	Drogheda	10	No
174.	Willowbrook	Dromiskin	14	No
175.	Willowbrook	Galroostown	3	No
176.	Wilton Green	Dundalk	8	Yes
177.	Windmill Cottages	Termonfeckin	15	No
178.	Woodbrook	Sandpit	8	No
179.	Woodgrove Heights	Dunleer	50	No
180.	Woodlands	Dunleer	222	Yes
181.	Woodlane	Drogheda	36	No

Forward Planning

Draft Westgate Vision			
1	January 2018 - March 2018	Preparation of draft Westgate Vision	Background research and preparation of draft Westgate Vision

ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE REPORT – MARCH 2018

GENERAL– There were 5 waste complaints in March 2018. There are a number of Waste Management Act related cases going through the District and Circuit Courts at present.

Two cases have been referred for legal action, one under the Local Government (Water Pollution) Act 1977 as amended and the other under the Water Services (Amendment) Act 2012. Two cases under the Air Pollution Act have been referred for legal action; one case has been recently heard but is now under appeal. The other case will be heard in the coming months. The RMCEI plan for 2018 and annual statistics for 2017 in relation to environmental inspections and enforcement have been submitted to the EPA.

The RMCEI plan for 2018 and annual statistics for 2017 in relation to environmental inspections and enforcement have been submitted to the EPA.

DIESEL LAUNDERING WASTE – There were two incidents of dumping during March 2018 containing 4 IBCs. The approximate cost of clean-up and disposal of the material is €4,500. 1 IBC was found at Carrickarnan which was followed by 3 IBC's at Scotch Green, Balregan, Kilcurry.

ANTI-DUMPING INITIATIVE –

LCC was successful in securing funding from the DCCAE (via WERLA) for six Anti Dumping Initiatives for the following locations:

- Carrickarnan Farm Access Track, (north Louth)
- N33 Interchange clean up
- Clean-up of lands adjacent to the Ramparts Road, Dundalk
- Rathmullen Housing Estate area Drogheda and Doolargy Housing Estate area Dundalk.
- Skellys Lane, St. Laurence's Drive, Moneymore in Drogheda
- Waterunder, (South Louth)

INTRODUCTION OF A NATIONWIDE LOW SMOKE ZONE (LSZ) -

Minister Denis Naughten has announced that, from autumn 2018, Ireland will be the first country in Europe to introduce a nationwide ban on the marketing, sale, distribution and burning of bituminous coal or 'smoky coal'.

Currently the ban on the burning of smoky coal and certain other fuels applies in all Low Smoke Zones (LSZs) and complements the ban on the marketing, sale and distribution. Dundalk and Drogheda have been designated as smokeless zones since 1998 under the Sale Marketing and Distribution of fuels Regulations 1998. Both smokeless zones were expanded significantly in 2012 under The Air Pollution Act (Marketing, Sale, Distribution and Burning of Specified Fuels) Regulations 2012 (SI No 326 of 2012). The extension of the ban nationwide from Autumn 2018 will have the effect of designating the entire State a Low Smoke Zone (LSZ).

EUROPEAN RELATIONS

Memorandum of Understanding

The advisory forum of the MoU will meet on the 10th of April and will receive a presentation on the Peace IV programme. The next meeting of the MoU Committee is the 18th of April in Louth County Council where the Members will get an update on the Ireland 2040 plan.

INTERREG VA

Carlingford Lough Greenway

Construction is approaching completion on the section of the Greenway project from the Albert Basin in Newry to Victoria Lock (funded by Newry Mourne & Down Council). This will be open to the public soon.

It is expected that the procurement of the Design Consultants for the Greenway will be completed soon. Detailed progress reports and financial claims have been submitted to the SEUPB. The Project Steering Committee continues to hold monthly meetings.

Peace 1V Programme

The Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB) has initially approved projects with a combined value of €2.2m

The Final Letter of Offer has been received by Louth County Council. It has been signed and returned to SEUPB.

A total of 13 projects have been funded as follows:

- Children & Young People – 5 projects
- Shared Spaces & Services – 3 projects
- Building Positive Relations – 5 projects

The procurement process for the Peace 1V Programme will commence soon and is expected to take a number of months.

Louth Peace IV Partnership and LCDC have approved a plan to rebid for the remaining €1.3 million ring fenced for Louth. This has been submitted to SEUPB.

The official launch of the Louth Peace IV Action Plan is scheduled to take place on **Tuesday 8th May 2018. All Members will receive a formal invitation in due course.**

SUSTAINABLE ENERGY AND PROPERTY

Public Sector Energy Efficiency Performance

The Council has submitted its updated energy information for 2017 to SEAI in accordance with the Council's obligations under the Public Sector Monitoring and Reporting (M&R) System.

We do not yet have the score card result of that energy use for 2017 from SEAI but we expect that to record a modest reduction in energy use against a slight increase in activity during the year.

We are continuing to monitor the Council's energy consumption with particular focus on our significant energy users and seeking to identify further opportunities for improved energy efficiency.

Better Energies Communities Energy Funding 2018

The County Council has again submitted an application for grant funding from Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland under their Better Energy Communities funding programme. The Council led community project is entitled “The Louth County Council Sustainable Energy Forum” and proposes energy improvement works by 9 beneficiaries/partners and seeks grant aid of over €400k for a total eligible project spend in excess of €1.2Million.

As in previous years the Council has partnered with Dundalk Institute of Technology to complete and manage the application for the various beneficiaries.

SEAI has now advised that the Council’s project has been successful in the evaluation stage of the 2018 programme and outstanding financial documentation must be submitted to SEAI in order for a formal Letter of Offer to be issued.

Zero Energy Plus Project

EU Directive 2010/31/EU (EPBD2) requires that new buildings occupied and owned by public authorities erected after 2018, and all other new buildings erected after 2020, must be “nearly zero energy” (nze).

This is transposed into Irish Law by amendment of the Irish Building Regulations 2011 - Technical Guidance Document L Conservation of Fuel and Energy – Dwellings. That document was revised as a January 2017 edition with amendments incorporated to provide for NZE requirements.

Louth County Council actively engaged with other Northern European Partners to develop and submitted an application for funding under the Northern Periphery Arctic Programme. The project partners recognise that the absence of specific targets for NZE mean that member states can adopt different practices.

In essence, the applicant project will create and provide a platform for leadership in NZE by public bodies that could be taken up and used by the private sector for NZE new builds and NZE retro-fits.

ISO 50001

The Council has now formally received a Certificate of Registration of it’s

Energy Management System to I.S. EN ISO 50001:2011.

NSAI certified that Louth County Council has been assessed and deemed to comply with the provisions of the standard referred to above in respect of:-

The management of the electrical energy, thermal energy and other fuels usage within public buildings, public lighting and transportation under the direct control of the authority.

The Energy Management System certification ISO 50001 will be the vehicle for sustaining our energy efficiency. We are continuing to monitor the Council's energy consumption with particular focus on our Significant Energy Users and developing and maintaining our energy management system documentation, as part of the requirements for the Energy Management System Certification.

GenComm Interreg Energy Storage Project

The Launch of the GenCom Interreg energy storage project took place in Belfast on 13 September 2017. The project was successful in obtaining €9.39m of Interreg North West Europe Funding. Louth County Council is an associate partner in the project.

The second GenComm Associate Partners meeting was held on Tuesday 20th March 2018 in NUI Galway. The Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment, Denis Naughten TD skyped the conference and launched the *GenComm Hydrogen Energy Position Paper* which outlines the potential role of hydrogen meeting the demands in a future energy system and its synergies with renewable energy sources.

Housing, Communities, Library, Fire & Emergency Services Progress Report

I attach details of the Progress report across the following specific areas. This report addresses the following areas.

1. **Housing** Demand
2. Social Housing Supports
3. Housing Stock
4. Private Rented Activity
5. Stock Maintenance
6. Capital Investment Programme
7. Other Future Developments
8. Housing Assistance Payments (HAP)
9. Approved Housing Bodies
10. Tenancy Management
11. Rent Management
12. Homelessness
13. Anti Social Behaviour
14. Abandoned Properties
15. Grant Assistance
16. **Communities**
17. **Library Services**
18. **Fire & Emergency Service**

1. HOUSING DEMAND AT 28TH FEBRUARY 2018

Housing List (excluding HAP Transfers)

Month	Ardee MD	Dundalk MD	Drogheda MD	Total
Jan 18	568	919	993	2480
Feb 18	505	901	1014	2420
<i>difference</i>	-63	-18	+21	-60

Transfer List from HAP

Month	Ardee MD	Dundalk MD	Drogheda MD	Total
Jan 18	188	1056	755	1999
Feb 18	202	1093	767	2062
<i>difference</i>	14	37	12	63

There are a total of **183** applicants on the list for transfer (**Non-HAP**) within Social Housing including **17** applications from the Approved Housing Bodies.

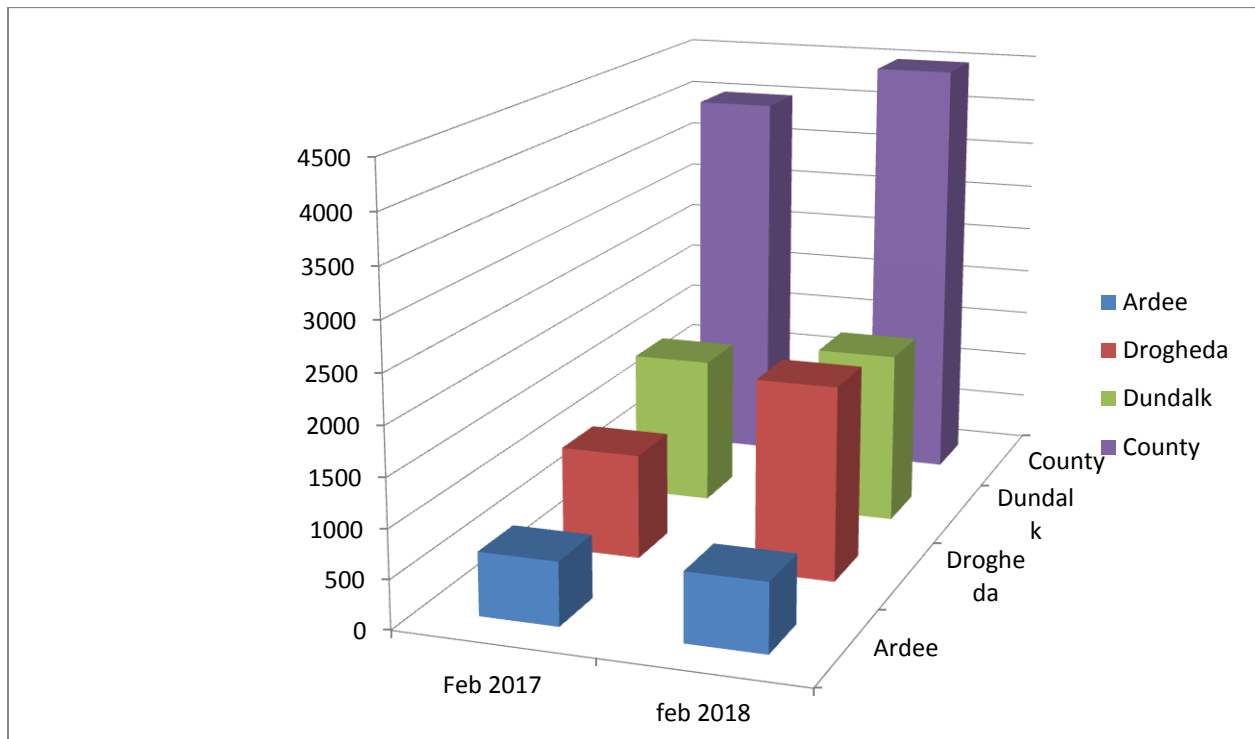
2 HOUSING ALLOCATIONS AS AT 28TH FEBRUARY 2018

Numbers Allocated	Allocations- Social	Allocations - Voluntary	Refusals – Social	Refusals – Voluntary
Ardee MD	2	0	0	0
Dundalk MD	4	7	1	2
Drogheda MD	4	23	1	2

Transfers Approved within Social Housing at 28th February 2018

Year	Ardee MD	Dundalk MD	Drogheda MD	Total
2017	1	17	12	30
2018	0	3	2	5

Choice Based Letting went live in Louth County Council on May 16th 2017. This will be the method of choice for allocating general housing going forward.



3 HOUSING STOCK AS AT 28TH FEBRUARY 2018

Housing Stock Managed by the Council	Dundalk	Drogheda	Ardee	Total
Council owned	1748	1444	598	3790
Community Houses	4	4	0	8
Long Term Leased	185	29	23	237
Totals	1937	1477	621	4035
Approved Housing Bodies Stock (CLSS & CAS)	-	-	-	769
Council stock managed by Approved Housing Bodies	76	0	20	96
Payment & Availability Agreements with AHB's	88	47	7	142
Mortgage to Rent with AHB's	9	12	4	25

4. PRIVATE RENTED ACTIVITY AS AT 28TH FEBRUARY 2018

No. of properties inspected to date	19
No. of advisory notes issued to landlord	0
No. of improvement notices issued	0
No. of prohibition notices issued	0
No. of Rent Book Notices issued	0
Inspections (HAP)	18
Improvement Notices (HAP)	0

CURRENT PROHIBITIONS NOTICES ARE ALSO LISTED ON THE WEBSITE.

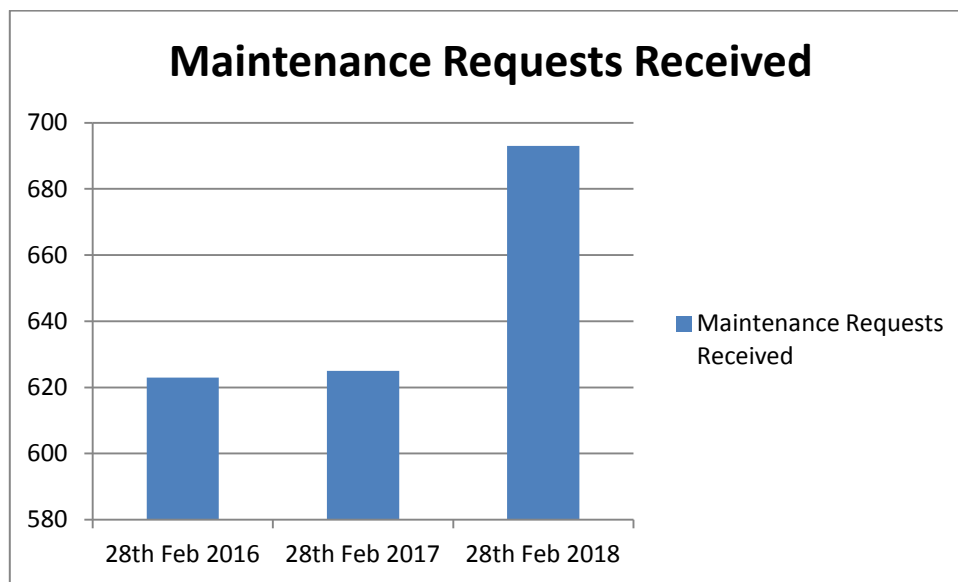
5. STOCK MAINTENANCE ACTIVITY AS AT 28TH FEBRUARY 2018

The table below summarises the level of maintenance and works activity to existing stock.

Categories of Work	Total
No. of Maintenance Requests Received	574
No. of Requests Outstanding	203
Vacant Properties (un-tenanted & un-occupied) - Requiring Major refurbishing	32
Vacant Properties (un-tenanted & un-occupied) – Requiring Minor Works	26
Vacant Properties (un-tenanted & un-occupied) – Awaiting Allocation	4
Total Vacant Properties (excluding Un-tenanted Properties)	62
Un-tenanted properties (un-tenanted BUT occupied)- properties not vacant	7
% Stock Vacant(Total Vacancies/Total Stock)	1.54 %
Number of Applications approved for Disability Adaption Works 2017	59
Number of Applications approved for Disability Adaption Works 2018	32
Number of Units with Disability Adaption Works completed 2017 2*(remainder to be completed in Q1 2018prog.)	53
Number of Units with Disability Adaption Works 2018 Prog-completed	0

LCC have completed the delivery of energy upgrade works through the SEAI Better Energy Communities Scheme 2017 (Full Energy Upgrade of units). The Department of Environment, Building Fabric Energy Upgrade Scheme, (Partial Energy Upgrade of units by means of cavity wall and attic insulation) is ongoing.

LCC upgraded housing stock with the latest technology in heating controls – ‘Climote’ - as part of ongoing improvements to LCC Housing Stock. The Boiler Servicing Programme for is ongoing.



6 Capital Investment Programme

Over the period 2018 to 2021, a target has been set for the provision of **1147 units of which 208** are to be delivered in 2018. These targets will also include matters such as Part V provision, Acquisitions, Mortgage to Rents, Long Term Leases, Repair and Lease and Buy & Renew Acquisitions. The 2018 delivery pipeline progress is detailed at the end of this Section.

Schemes currently in approval process or under construction for the above period 2018 – 2021
(This list is indicative and can change as matters are being approved or schemes withdrawn)



Municipal District Ardee

Location	Auth	Social	I.P.S.	CAS	Calf	Total	Start Date	Scheduled Completion	Current Position
Tierney Street, Ardee	Oaklee	0	0	7	0	7	Q4 2018	Q3 2019	Stage 3 Approved by Department of Housing
Dunleer	National Development Financial Agency	80	0	0	0	80	Q4 2018	Q4 2020	Tender process in progress.
Castleguard, Ardee	Tuath	0	0	0	106	106	April 2017	Q4 2018	Remaining phases on site.
Fr Finn Park Phase 2, Louth Village	LCC	17	0	0	0	17	Q1 2019	Q1 2020	Stage 2 Approved
Total	-	97	0	7	106	210	-	-	

Municipal District Dundalk

Location	Auth	Social	I.P.S	CAS	CALF	Total	Start Date	Scheduled Completion	Current Position
Cox's Demesne Phase 2B	LCC	22	0	0	0	22	Q2 2019	Q3 2020	Stage 2 Approved by Dept of Housing
Clos Na Manach	Tuath	0	0	0	10	10	Q1 2017	Q1 2018	On site
Saltown	North & East	0	0	7	0	7	Q1 2018	Q3/4 2018	Stage 2 Approved. PP granted.
Barrack Street	SIMON	0	0	10	0	10	Q1 2018	Q1 2019	Awaiting Stage 1 Approval from Dept.
Clontygora Phase 2 Muirhevnamor	Cluid	0	0	11	30	41	Unknown	Unknown	Full project review
5 Slieveroe Crescent Dundalk	Cluid	0	0	1	0	1	Q2 2018	Q4 2018	PP received
Castletowncooley, Riverstown, Dundalk	Tuath	0	0	1	0	0	Unknown	Unknown	Detailed design in progress
Bishops Court Dundalk	Tuath	0	0	0	2	2	Q2 2018	Q4 2018	At tender
Mounthamilton, Dundalk	Cluid	0	0	0	43	43	Ongoing	Q3 2018	On site
Coulter Park, Armagh Road, Dundalk	Tuath	0	0	7	0	7	Unknown	Unknown	Stage 1 Approved
Mount Avenue, Dundalk	LCC	75	0	0	0	75	Unknown	Unknown	Stage 1 Approved
Haggardstown, Dundalk	Tuath	0	0	0	112	112	Unknown	Unknown	Part V Compliance
Knockshee, Blackrock	Cluid	0	0	0	3	3	Ongoing	Dec 2017	Complete
Halliday's Mill	Tuath	0	0	0	64	64	Q2 2018	Q2 2019	Construction Tender Preparation
Total		97	0	37	264	397			

Municipal District Drogheda

		Social	I.P.S	CAS	CALF	Total	Start Date	Schedule Completion	Current Position
Boice Court, Mell, 2 nd Phase	LCC	49	5	15	0	69	Q3 2018	Q4 2019	Stage 2 Approved
Scarlett Street	NEHA	0	0	0	15	15	Q1 2018	Q2 2019	On site
Rathmullan Road	NEHA & Tuath	0	0	0	105	105	Q3 2017	Q2 2019	On site
1 Unit at McArdle Green Moneymore, Drogheda	NEHA	0	0	1	0	1	Q1 2018	Q4 2018	On site
Liscorrie, Bog Road, Drogheda,	Tuath	0	0	0	41	41	Q3 2016	Q1 2018	Complete
Aston Village, Drogheda	Respond	0	0	0	8	8	Q2 2018	Q2 2019	Department CALF Approved.
Grove Court, Hardmans Gardens, Drogheda	Foscadh	0	0	0	4	4	Not Known	Not Known	Department CALF Approved
Total	-	49	5	16	173	243	-	-	-
Delivery Plan for County 2018 -2021		243	5	60	543	851			

Vacant Home Initiatives

Scheme	Ardee MD	Dundalk MD	Drogheda MD	Total
Repair & Lease	0	8	4	12
Tenanted and Complete	0	0	0	0
Buy & Renew (Original CPO Pilot) Acquired	7	46	8	52
Tenanted and Complete	0	26	4	30

2018 Delivery Target of 208 Units Complete (New & Additional at 28th Feb 2018)

Local Authority Construction	0
AHB CAS	0
AHB CALF	34
Part V	0
Local Authority Acquisition	0
Long Term Leases	0
AHB Mortgage to Rent	3
Buy & Renew	5
Repair & Lease	0
Total	42

Definitions

AHB = Approved Housing Body

CAS = Capital Assistance Scheme which provides 100% funding to AHBs to build or acquire units for disabled or homeless applicants with a non- repayment mortgage in favour of the Housing Authority to ensure that the Housing Authority has both nomination rights and security over the asset created by public funds.

CALF = Capital Advance Loan Fund which provides Department funding for up to 30% funding to AHBs to provide units for general use on the basis that they enter into a Payment and Availability agreement with the Housing Authority who will provide all the tenant nominations.

CPO = Compulsory Purchase Scheme allows the local authority to land or property without the consent of the owner by means of a compulsory purchase order (CPO). This is being used to acquire vacant or derelict houses which are being returned to use as social housing units.

IPS = Incremental Purchase Scheme

7 OTHER FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS

The council continue to maintain land banks in the following locations, which can be developed if an appropriate project and funding is forthcoming.

Location	Average
Mullavalley, Louth Village	8.82
Kilkerley	11.59
Ballymakenny	16.53
Mount Avenue	7.64
Point Road	5.2
Various Individual Sites	0

8 Housing Assistance Payment (HAP) as at 28th February 2018

Work continues on promoting the Housing Assistance Payment model of Social Housing Support. Louth County Council is one of the Phase One Implementation sites and data on this support is now reported in monthly municipal district housing reports.

The total number of applications in HAP is **2062**. Once an applicant's housing needs have been met under HAP they are no longer included be on the local authority's [housing waiting list](#). However, if an applicant wishes to have access to other social housing supports, such as local authority housing or housing provided by a [housing association](#), they can apply to the local authority for a transfer. If an applicant applies for a transfer **within 2 weeks of getting the letter confirming their HAP payment**, any time that they spent on the housing list can be taken into account when Louth County Council considers their application. If they apply for a transfer at a later date, the time that was previously spent on the housing waiting list won't count.

Ardee Municipal District	Dundalk Municipal District	Drogheda Municipal District	Total
202	1093	767	2062

9 Approved Housing Bodies

- The members should note that there is progress being made nationally in developing a regulatory framework for the Voluntary Sector which will see an increased role from this sector. The Department have now also confirmed when considering proposals from this sector, priority shall be given to Approved Housing Bodies (AHBs) that have signed up to the Voluntary Regulation Code – “Building for the Future”.
- Louth County Council continues to meet all AHBs operating in the county on a periodic basis. The most recent of these meetings was on December 20 last.
- A new Call for Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS) Projects has been issued nationally, Louth County Council will tailor that call for our specific needs

10 Tenancy Management

The table below illustrates activity with regard to general estate management for the month of February last

Tenancy Activity	TOTAL
Pre Tenancy Training	4
Tenancy (House) Inspections	13

11 Rent Management

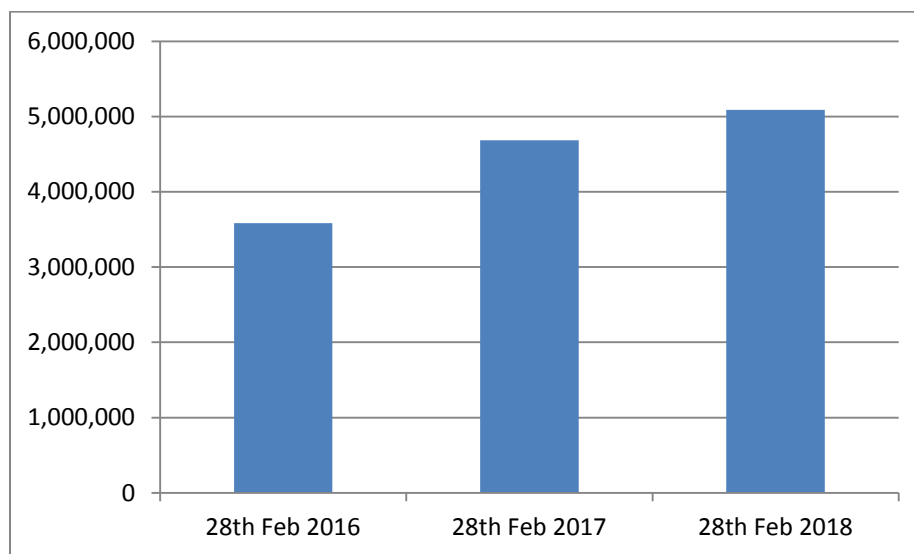
A new rents scheme came into effect on 2nd February and is available on our website. Under the standard tenancy agreement, tenants are obliged to notify us of any occupancy change and/or change in financial circumstances. The council will continue to encourage tenants to comply with this requirement.

At the start of February 2017, all differential rent tenants were issued with letters informing them of their rent for 2017. A small number of remaining Long Term Leased and RAS accounts are currently being assessed.

The table below refers to the number of rents and annuities accounts that are in arrears and highlights the liability owed to Council and the workload involved in managing this area. The number of tenants who paid rent by Household Budget in February 2018 was **1103**

Current Rents Arrears as at 28th February 2018	Number of Account	Value
Rents between 4-6 weeks old	196	€59,946
Rents between 7-12 weeks old	217	€125,771
Rents greater than 12 weeks old	1443	€4,900,338
TOTAL	1830	€5,086,055

RENT ARREARS



Housing Support Services

12 Homelessness

As the Responsible Housing Authority for the North East Region, Louth County Council continues to manage this area and achieve the goals set out in the North East Homelessness Action Plan, 2013-17.

Presentations of Homelessness February 2018	Ardee MD	Dundalk MD	Drogheda MD	Total
Number of Person who presented as Homeless to the Housing Authority	3	21	26	49
Offered advice, support (including fast tracking H.A. for Rent Supplement eligibility)	1	7	14	22
Placed in Temporary Emergency Accommodation	2	12	11	25
Refused Offer of Temporary Emergency Accommodation	0	2	1	3
Not eligible from outside county or non HRC	0	1	1	2
Number of Tenancies being supported : Sustainment Packages funded by the Housing Authority in order to prevent Homelessness	2	3	2	7

Our Rough Sleeper count took place unannounced on Wednesday 15th November 2017 at 2.30am in Dundalk and Drogheda. No persons were found to be sleeping rough

The Department of Housing continue to request a report based on a specific, week in time, to be submitted based on the number of people placed in emergency accommodation by Louth, Cavan and Monaghan County Councils. To see the published report please go to:

<http://www.housing.gov.ie/housing/homelessness/other/homelessness-data>

The tables below reflect monthly returns submitted to the Department with regard to Homeless Numbers. In the NORTH EAST REGION

This anonymised and aggregated return of all individuals accessing emergency accommodation is returned to the Department of Housing on a monthly basis.

The following information has been returned relating to the timeframe, 19th February to 25th February last, across the following headings

- 1.) Gender;
- 2.) Age group (as per CSO);
- 3.) Accommodation type;
- 4.) County.
- 5.) Breakdown of families with dependent children

Table 1: Gender

Gender	Total
Male	89
Female	66
Total	155

Table 2: Age Groups

Age Group	Total
18-24	25
25-44	96
45-64	28
65+	6
Total	155

Table 3: Accommodation Type

Accommodation Type	Total
Private Emergency Accommodation (PEA)	100
Supported Temporary Accommodation (STA)	53
Temporary Emergency Accommodation (low support)(TEA)	2
Unique Total (note, clients may have accessed multiple accommodation types during the week)	0
Minus people accessing multiple accommodation types during the week	0
Total unique individuals	155

Table 4: County

County	Total
County Louth	150
County Monaghan	1
County Cavan	4
Total	155

Table 5 - Families with dependent children breakdown

	No. of families with dependent children	No. of Individual Adults	No. of Dependents
Individuals with dependent children	34	34	68
Couples with dependent children	29	29 couples (40 adults)	87
Total	63	92	155

Work has commenced on the development of a new Regional Homeless Action Plan.

Inspections of Private Emergency Accommodation

Since December 2017 the Homeless Office have carried out random and unannounced inspections on all B&Bs , Hotels and Hostels providing Private Emergency Accommodation on behalf of Louth County Council. This will continue on a monthly basis

4 premises in Dundalk, 8 premises in Drogheda and 2 premises in rural Drogheda area were inspected in February and all were found to be of an acceptable standard. The majority of Homeless clients were present on inspection.. These inspections will be augmented by visits by our Fire Officers to carry out Fire Safety inspections.

13. Anti Social Behaviour to 28th February 2018

ASB INVESTIGATION CASES	DBD	AMD	DMD	TOTAL
ASB investigations ongoing	5	2	5	12
ASB investigations completed	4	2	8	14
Total ASB investigation cases	9	4	13	26

ACTION TAKEN	DBD	AMD	DMD	TOTAL
No further action required, no ASB found (unfounded/malicious)	1	1	3	5
No further action – Advice given	0	0	0	0
Verbal Warning issued	3	1	3	7
Tenancy Notification	0	0	2	2
Tenancy Warning	0	0	0	0
Notice To Quit Served – Application for possession requested	0	0	0	0
Exclusion Orders sought	0	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0	0
Total Action Taken	4	2	8	14

TENANCY OUTCOMES	DBD	AMD	DMD	TOTAL
Eviction following Notice To Quit/ Tenancy Warning	0	0	0	0
Exclusion Orders in place	3	2	1	6

14 Abandoned Properties to 28th February 2018

Possible Abandoned properties to 28th February 2018	4
Properties returned after investigations/serving of notices	1
Tenants investigated returned to their properties. Potential breach of tenancy	1
Tenants contesting residency after Section 15(1) served	0

15 Grant Assistance to the Elderly and Disabled

Please note that the Housing Grants Scheme is now open for consideration of applications. The grant scheme will remain open and grants awarded will be based on the normal priority basis

- Housing Adaption Grants - Priority 1, which will assist those who need wholetime care in the home
- Housing for Older People – Priority 1 to works that will preserve the integrity of the dwelling
- Mobility Aids Grants - Priority 1, which will assist those who need wholetime, care in the home.

Please Note

- Any persons who made application in 2017, who were awarded Priority 1 are not required to make a further application.
- Any person who was deemed Priority 2 or 3 in 2017 will need to reapply if they feel their circumstances need to be reassessed.

The Staff will be able to advise applicants from 2017 which category they were in. Details of grants applications received for 2017 (Table 1)

Table 1
Final Allocation of Grants 2017

	Applications Received 2016 rolled over to 2017	Applications Recd 2017	Value of grants rolled over 2016	Applications Received 2016/2017 approved	Estimated Value of Grants on hand	Annual Allocation 2017	Total applications on Hand rolling into 2018
HOPS	0	81		81	€511,899.16	€511,899.16	8
HAGS	46	143	€650,000	102	€1,324,230.33	€1,324,230.33	78
MAGS	0	6		26	€88,550.00	€88,550.00	9
OT COSTS					€30,000.00		
TOTAL	46	250	€650,000	209	€1,954,679.49	€1,954,679.49	95

Allocation for 2018 has been provisionally confirmed as 65% of 2017 allocation (€1,954,679.49) i.e. €1,270,542

Grant Allocations 2018

Rollovers from 2017 €1,684,965.00 estimated

- HAGS 78
- HOPS 8
- MAGS 9

New Applications 2018 €1,306,259 estimated

- HAGS 58
- HOPS 66
- MAGS 26

Communities

Local Economic Community Plan (LECP)

The collection of updated information from all Lead Partners for the next progress report is underway. There are 189 Community actions to be updated with progress on delivery recorded with narrative, as per the traffic light reporting system, as at 30/6/17 and also 31/12/17.

Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)

SICAP 2015 – 2017:

The End of Year process has been completed and the SICAP Sub Group acknowledged the work carried out by the Programme Implementer and highlighted the fact that both headline targets had been exceeded and that expenditure was in compliance with the budget set.

SICAP 2018 – 2022

Following approval of the End of Year report the final payment for Qtr 1, 2018 (March) was issued to the programme implementer Louth Leader partnership Ltd.

Leader Programme

There is € 2.6 million available for projects in 2018. Promoters are encouraged to contact the Project team of Mary O Neill and Tony Mc Cready. At the most recent LCDC/LAG meeting held on 26th March 2018 the members approved two projects for funding support with a combined value of circa € 16,000.

The LAG agreed to open a targeted call for funding support under Strategic Action 26 of the Local Development Strategy relating to Renewable Energy Capital Supports with funding of € 156,000.00. Full details of the LEADER Programme in County Louth are available on www.countylouthleader.com.

PPN

Louth Public Participation Network held its Secretariat meeting in March, where the community PPN representative vacancies that currently exist on the Secretariat, Louth Leader Partnership, SPC (Infrastructure, EU, Cross Border Affairs/Sustainable Energy strategic policy committee) and Dundalk Drugs and Alcohol Forum were discussed. It was agreed to commence a nomination/election process in April.

The PPN Capacity subgroup organised GDPR Data Protection for community groups in Cooley on 24th March, which was attended by 15 community groups.

Louth PPN Secretariat participated in the Louth Healthy Ireland Consultation Workshop on 22nd March.

Following on from presentations at the plenary, Louth PPN met with registered community groups from Collon and Termonfeckin (Community/Voluntary) and from Dundalk (Social Inclusion Pillar).

2018 CLAR Programme

The Minister for Rural and Community Development announced the 2018 CLAR programme during March. CLÁR provides funding for small scale capital projects in rural areas that have experienced significant levels of depopulation. The programme, which has a budget of €5 million this year, forms part of the Government's Action Plan for Rural Development and will support investments such as play areas for children/communities; traffic calming measures around schools/communities and support for emergency responders. All eligible schools have been made aware of the programme and Louth County Council has communicated details of the programme on their website, through the weekly Friday communiqué and Twitter.

Age Friendly Recognition Awards

Louth Age Friendly (AF) submitted 2 projects to the National Age Friendly Recognition Awards, Louth Citizens Information Advice Booklets for Older People and Dunleer Better Energy Community Energy Ambassadors Programme. Louth AF is delighted to have Dunleer BEC shortlisted. An awards ceremony is planned for April 11th in Monaghan and Louth AF wishes Dunleer BEC every success.

Age Friendly Intergenerational Programme

Ardee Community School and Ardee Active Retirement developed and delivered a very exciting intergenerational project called "I Remember When" and published a booklet capturing stories gathered by the young people of older people remembering their experiences when JFK died, Louth won the All Ireland, 9/11 and the troubles in Northern Ireland.

Memory Technology Resource Rooms (MTRR)

Louth Age Friendly is supporting the development of 2 Memory Technology Resource Rooms, one in Dundalk, in the Great Northern Haven and the second in Drogheda in

Singleton House. Initially, the MTRRs will be used by the mental health for older people and primary care services. It is hoped to recruit an OT in the medium term for a 12 month period. Launch of the MTRRs will be announced in the near future.

Age Friendly Business

Louth AF is progressing with the Acorn pilot project, a digital device to make accessing the internet easy for older people. Louth is in partnership with Fingal and Limerick and it is hoped that there will be 30 participants in all three counties. Work is ongoing on accessing funding for the project.

The Louth LEO facilitated an Age Friendly Business workshop in Creative Spark. Louth AF attended and will support the programme to achieve its objectives in making businesses Age Friendly.

“Junk Kouture” Eastern Finals 2018

Seventeen entrants that were successful on the sixth annual “Trashion Fashion” event in January and took part in “Junk Kouture”, Eastern Finals at the Helix held on the 5th March 2018.

The “Trashion Fashion” event continues to go from strength to strength and is run annually in association with Louth Tidy Towns Together.

Greens Schools Programme

Louth County Council continued their long-term commitment to the Green Schools initiative during 2018 with assessment school visits carried out during the month and completed by 23rd March. There were twenty four schools in County Louth that were assessed by the team and seven assessed nationally under An Taisce’s Green Schools Programme. The themes include Biodiversity, Travel, Energy and Water. All these schools continue to work towards receiving their Green Flags. A total of 31 schools in the Louth are due to be awarded at the regional Green Flag awards ceremony to be held on 17th May, in Gormanstown. This number has doubled since last year.

Amenity Grants

The Amenity grant scheme for 2018 is now closed. Successful applicants will be advised once approval has been obtained from each Municipal District area. The applicant lists have been compiled for the Municipal District April meetings. The number of applicants is as follows: Drogheda MD applicants – 52, Ardee MD Applicants- 60, Dundalk MD applicants- 122.

National Spring Clean Month

Preparations are underway for An Taisce's anti-litter campaign, to heighten awareness of litter and waste issues and encourage clean ups throughout April. Community groups and organisations are currently registering their interest. The Dundalk Tidy Town group has organised a "Big Spring Clean" running from the 23rd-28th April, which Louth County Council helped to promote through our website, twitter and Friday communiqué.

National Tree Week 2018

Louth County Council together with Dundalk Tidy Towns and the Redeemer Girls and Boys schools will hold a tree planting ceremony on the 12th April, when schools re-open after the Easter Break. 100 saplings were received from the National Tree council and have been distributed to schools and community groups throughout the county.

Tidy Towns 2018

The National Tidy Towns competition for 2018 is due to be announced by the Department within the next few days.

Comhairle na nOg

Training for new Comhairle members continues in Dundalk, Drogheda and Ardee with 34 children recruited to take part in Comhairle na nOg activities in 2018.

Comhairle members attended the Healthy Ireland Consultation organized by Louth County Council on the 22nd March in Castlebellingham.

On the 26th March two Comhairle na nOg members attended regional networking events delivered by the Department of Children and Youth Affairs.

The Comhairle has almost completed its North South Youth Council project with 5 events completed. On the 24th March the Louth Comhairle planned and delivered a cross border conference. This event brought the youth councillors from Louth, Cavan, Newry and Mourne, Armagh, Dungannon and South Tyrone and Monaghan together with local decision makers to highlight the issues in the region. The remaining event is as follows:

Theme	Location	Date	Outcome	Status
Study Visit	Dáil Eireann	April	Connect with decision makers and gain insight into policy development	TBC- renovation works ongoing

Louth Sports Partnership

Louth Local Sports Partnership was shortlisted for an Irish sports industry award under the diversity and inclusion category for the sports units Inclusibility sports programme. The event took place on Wednesday 7th March in Dublin; however the Louth Partnership was not an award winner on this occasion.

A Sports Camp took place in the Dundalk Sports Centre over Easter with over 40 children attending.

The Sports Leadership programme for 14 – 16 year olds took place from 3rd – 6th April with 30 teenagers training in Sports Leader Level 1.

Libraries, Archives and Museum.

Louth County Libraries

Launch of Healthy Ireland at Your Library

Phase 1 of this initiative came to an end at the end of March, 2018. Following a national evaluation it is hoped that funding will be made available by the Department of Health for phase 2 of the initiative.

The Healthy Ireland at Your Library initiative, supported by €400,000 Department of Health funding, has delivered a national marketing and PR campaign that promotes the local library as one of the 'go to' supports around health and wellbeing.

A further collection of health related books and electronic resources have been added to the collection of each of Louth's five branches to supplement the existing range of health titles. These reflect the six pillars of the Healthy Ireland Programme: Healthy Childhood; Healthy Eating and Active Living; Wellbeing and Mental health; Positive Ageing; Alcohol and Tobacco Free. This initiative is providing equal health information and support service for all, in that the smallest branch has the same stock as the largest branch in the county. The Healthy Ireland collection is approved and validated by professionals who are the best in their field.

A full programme of health related events has been running in all branches. To date, over 20 events were held, to approximately 650 members of the public. Upcoming highlights include:

Dundalk Library:

- "It's a Mini Moving Me", Puppet Art Workshop for children promoting sport, movement & activity with artist Susan Farrelly, Friday, April 6th, 11:30am.
- Moo Music: Interactive Music Session for toddlers, Wednesday April 18th, 10:30am.

Drogheda Library:

- "It's a Mini Moving Me" Puppet Art Workshop for children promoting sport, movement & activity with artist Susan Farrelly, Thursday April 5th, 11:30am.
- Tree of Life Workshop combining meditation and painting, Tuesday April 24th, 11:30am.

Ardee Library:

- "It's a Mini Moving Me" Puppet Art Workshop for children promoting sport, movement & activity with artist Susan Farrelly, Tuesday April 3rd, 11am.
- 'Get Summer Ready', workshops and talks, late April. (dates tbc)
- Talks on Cooking for one and the Fussy Eater (dates tbc)

Right to Read Initiative: a national initiative to support and enhance literacy work in local authorities.

Louth Libraries have an ongoing role to promote reader development and literacy and the importance of reading in children's lives from the earliest age.

A Louth County 'Right to Read' Network has been set up by the Right to Read Library coordinator to work with key representatives from a number of local agencies and organisations in Louth involved in developing or supporting literacy. These include the Genesis Programme, Louth County Childcare Committee, Home School Liaison officers and the LMETB. New partners for 2018 include Drogheda Women and Children's Refuge and Louth Sports Partnership.

Collaborative and co-operative initiatives with network partners will take place in 2018 focusing on those children and families most in need of literacy support in the county.

Upcoming Right to Read initiatives include:

- **Spring into Storytime** is a national initiative taking place in libraries throughout the month of April. Parents and young children are encouraged to visit the library to celebrate the importance of families reading together and sharing stories.

Dundalk Library:

- Storytelling suitable for ages 3 to 7 years,
 - Wednesday April 4th, 11.30am
 - Wednesday April 18th, 3.30pm
 - Saturday April 28th, 11.30am.

Drogheda Library

- Spring into Storytime for ages 3 to 6 years,
 - Tuesday April 3rd, 11:30am
 - Friday April 13th, 3:30pm
 - Saturday April 21st, 11:30am
 - Saturday April 28th, 11:30am

Ardee Library

- Spring into Storytime for invited classes
 - Tuesday, April 8th, 10am & 11am

Dunleer Library:

- Spring into Storytime for ages 3 to 6 years
 - Wednesday April 4th at 3pm. All welcome

Carlingford Library:

- Spring into Storytime for ages 3 to 6 years
 - Wednesday April 11th at 10am for invited class

Baby Book Club

Explore the benefits of reading to your baby from an early age

- Dundalk Library, second Thursday of every month, at 11am.
- Drogheda Library, first Friday of every month at 10.30am.
- Ardee Library, first Friday of every month at 10.30am

Parent & Toddler groups meet weekly and new members are always welcome:

- Dundalk Library, every Thursday at 10am.
- Drogheda Library, every Wednesday at 10.30am.
- Ardee Library, every Friday at 10.30am.

Highlights of April/May Events programme

Bealtaine 2018

May is the month of Bealtaine, Celebrating creativity in older age. Events include:

Dundalk Library

- **'Days of Yore', An evening of photographs and memories of old Dundalk with Harry Lee & Larry O'Hagan**, Tuesday May 1st at 6:30pm.
- **Bealtaine Table Quiz**, Thursday, May 10th at 2:30pm
- **Stitching Craft Workshop**, Tuesday, May 15th at 3pm.
- **Dundalk Men's Sheds Choir**, Thursday May 24th at 12 noon.

Drogheda Library

- **Drogheda Men's Sheds Information Session**, Friday, May 11th at 10.30am
- **Creative Writing Bealtaine Special** : A look at memoir, local history & landscape in writing with author Nicola Cassidy, Tuesday, May 15th at 11.30am
- **Summer Flower Arranging with Mary Bell Ryan**, May 24th at 3pm
- **Researching Family History Information Session**, Saturday May 26th at 11.30am
- **Healthy Food with chef and author Tara Walker**, Thursday, May 31st at 3pm

Ardee Library

- **Movement Medicine**, Tuesday, May 15th at 6.30pm

Computer Classes

In line with the National Digital Strategy and in recognition of the importance of Digital Literacy the Library service continues to schedule Computer Classes to suit busy lives. All classes are FREE, open to everyone, and demand is extremely high.

Forthcoming computer classes include:

Digital Skills for Citizens: Computer classes for adults in association with the Department of Communications, Climatic Action and environment and funded by EU, Classes run in

- Dundalk, next course runs from April 19th – 27th. 2 classes per day at 11am & 2pm
- Ardee, next course runs from Tuesday April 10th – May 3rd at 10am
- Drogheda, April 10/11/12/13/17, 12.30pm & 2.45pm

Getting Started Age Action Computer Classes.

- Drogheda Library, every Friday at 10.30am. Next course begins May 4th.

Work Matters Hot Desk Space in Dundalk, Drogheda and Ardee Libraries.

Work Matters service aims to support job seekers and budding entrepreneurs.

A dedicated **Work Matters Hot Desk Space** is available in Dundalk, Drogheda and Ardee Libraries.

Resources include a dedicated seating and table area, Free WiFi, a designated PC or Laptop, printing and photocopying, books, newspapers, information, and a jobs board.

Users can also avail of a suite of free digital resources including, online courses, eBooks, Ezines, newspapers and online language learning.
<https://www.louthcoco.ie/en/Services/Library/Online-Services/>

Work Matters Events

- **English for Employment** – 6 week English language course commenced Tuesday April 3rd at 6pm in Dundalk Library.
- **Homeinstead- presentations on Caring as a career** in:
 - Dundalk Library, Wednesday April 11th at 11am
 - Drogheda Library, Thursday, April 19th at 6pm
 - Ardee Library, Thursday, April 26th at 5.30pm

For updates see www.louthcoco.ie/en/Services/Library/

Follow [#LouthLibraries](#) on Twitter and [LouthCountyLibraries](#) on Facebook

Louth County Archives

National Retention Policy Records Management Working Group (Co Archivist a member): work on revising the retention schedule for the functional area of housing is nearing completion. Once completed, the final draft schedule will be sent to the housing sections for comment.

Records Management: Survey work and appraisal on groups of non-current records of Louth County Council is being carried out in preparation for drawing up disposal schedules as managing records forms part of the role of the Archivist.

Cataloguing: work is being carried out on small archival collections including the Collon Unionist Volunteers and the Major Brush, Brohatna estate collection. Revising existing collection catalogues to ISAD(G) standard is ongoing.

Digitisation: quality checks are being carried out on a group of minute books relating to Dundalk Municipal Corporation, Town Commissioners and UDC that were digitised for preservation, security and access reasons.

Other activities include assisting researchers with research queries and assisting staff on record retention queries in addition to accessioning, preserving and processing archive collections.

County Museum, Dundalk

The Museum was one of two venues visited by His Excellency, *István Pálffy*, Hungarian Ambassador to Ireland on Monday March 26th. He received a guided tour of the Museum, expressing a particular interest in the Museum's industrial exhibition. He then proceeded to County Hall where he met Cllr. Colm Markey, Cathaoirleach Louth County Council and Joan Martin, Chief Executive.

The *One Team, One Dream* exhibition continues at the Museum. The exhibition has been extended by popular demand will run through spring and into the early summer.

The Museum was the venue for a rescheduled lecture by Donal Hall entitled 1919-The Transformation of *Dundalk which examined the changes in Dundalk in the immediate aftermath of WW1. (This lecture was originally planned for February 28 but was postponed due to Storm Emma.)*

Work continues on the forthcoming Peter Rice exhibition with two galleries set to house this major exhibition. The larger exhibition will reflect his work and inspirations; the second is a photographic exhibition of a selection of the projects he was involved in over his career.

In addition to the above the Museum continues to accept, record, catalogue items donated by the public as well as operating guided tours of the galleries. It is planned that we will launch information pertaining to our walking tours of the town shortly after Easter. The Museum is planning a number of workshops to mark International Museums' Day on May 18. These events will be geared towards schools will focus on the nature and management of collections.

Fire & Emergency Services

After a large increase in emergency incidents attended by Louth Fire Brigades in 2017, the number of emergency incidents has declined slightly so far in 2018.

Louth Fire Brigades attended a serious incident which gutted Foleys Tea Rooms in Castlebellingham on 19th March 2018. This was a lengthy incident with the priority being to prevent fire spread to other properties.

Louth County Council received capital funding for its fleet from the DHPLG in 2017 and purchased a second hand emergency tender in the UK last year and has started taking delivery of five second-hand Scania fire appliances this year. A new Scania fire appliance to be assigned to Drogheda Fire Station is expected to be delivered during April 2018.

Work on the Dundalk Training Centre road traffic accident training ditch started in mid March and is expected to be completed by end April 2018. This training ditch will allow serious road accidents to be better simulated on training courses and will increase business for Dundalk Training Centre.

Preparations for the Fleadh Cheoil 2018 emergency arrangements are ongoing with liaison between the CFO and Event Management Company in relation to the event licensing application. Inspections of competition venues are completed and inspections of concert venues have commenced. Existing large nightclubs and bars in Drogheda will also be inspected.

The Fire Prevention Section has commenced inspections of properties used for the emergency accommodation of homeless persons.

The Fire Prevention Section has been following up on ongoing referrals from the Housing Section in relation to HAP properties where there are fire safety concerns. Some of these have resulted in enforcement action.