



Comhairle Contae **Lú**
Louth County Council

**Tuairisc Bhainistíochta Mhíosúil an
Príomhfheidhmeannach maidir le feidhmeanna a
rinneadh le linn an mhí roimhe sin / Chief Executive's
Monthly Management Report in relation to functions
performed in the preceding month**

**Dátaithe 6th Samhain 2024
Dated 6th November 2024**

Ullmhaithe faoi Alt 136 (2) den Acht Rialtais Áitiúil, 2001, agus Alt 51, an tAcht Rialtais Áitiúil (Athchóiriú), 2014 agus i gcomhlíonadh le Alt 138 den Acht Rialtais Áitiúil, 2001. /Prepared under Section 136 (2) of the Local Government Act, 2001, as inserted by Section 51 of the Local Government (Reform) Act, 2014 & in compliance with Section 138 of the Local Government Act,

Tuairisc Bhainistíochta Mhíosúil an Príomhfheidhmeannach – October 2024
Chief Executive's Monthly Management Report – Deireadh Fomhair 2024

A Chara,

I enclose the above report for your statutory consideration which will be placed on the November Monthly Agenda of Louth County Council for your consideration. This report has also been prepared under Section 136 & 138 of the Local Government Act, 2001, advising you of the performance of executive functions in the last month and planned works.

I would like to take the opportunity to highlight several aspects of the October performance which is reported in this month's report: -

- The delivery of the Lu Festival in Drogheda which again was very well received.
- The completion of Termonfeckin Playground and again you will note the wonderful images shown.
- A small item within the Report that already shows examples of the Municipal and Event usage being used in our new offices in Drogheda with both a Library event and more unusually the provision of a polling place for the Moldovan Elections. We look forward to all forms of uses being made of this fine public space

I need to point out also that this will be the last month that I will be reporting the Ukrainian Response as a separate Directorate, as this work is being taken over by the Department (DCEIY), whilst the Organisational Development through their Community Section will lead on the Local Authority Integration Team.

Is mise le meas.



Joe McGuinness
Temporary Chief Executive

Tuairisc Bhainistíochta Mhíosúil an Príomhfheidhmeannach – 31st Deireadh Fomhair 2024
Chief Executive's Monthly Management Report – 31st October 2024

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Seirbhísí Tacaíochta Support Services

Cintíonn an Stiúrthóireacht seo go bhfuil bainistíocht airgeadas an Chomhairle déanta ar bhealach éifeachtach agus tráthúil, comhlíontach leis an dlí ábhartha, agus go bhfuil luach ar airgead bainte as gach gníomhaíocht agus clár ag an gComhairle, thar ceann shaoránaigh Lú.

Ina chuid den freagrachtaí eile, Techneolaíocht Faisnéise agus Chumarsáide

This Directorate ensures that the financial management of the Council is carried out in an efficient and timely manner, compliant with all relevant legislation, and that all of the activities and programmes of the Council represent good value for money for all the citizens of Louth.

Other responsibilities include, Information & Communication Technology

Bernie Woods
Stiúrthóir / Director



Tuairiscí Airgeadais / Financial Reports

Caiteachas go dtí 31^ú Deirdeadh Fomhair 2024 / Expenditure to 31st of October 2024

Rannóg / Section	Actual Expenditure to 31/10/2024 / Caiteachas Iarbhír go dtí 31/10/2024	Caiteachas Buiséadaithe 2024 / Budget Expenditure 2024	% Caite go 31/10/2024 / % Spent to 31/10/2024
Tithíocht / Housing	€49,127,816	€62,912,092	78%
Iompar Bóthair agus Sábháilteacht / Road Transportation & Safety	€19,861,256	€27,583,468	72%
Seirbhísí Uisce / Water Services	€5,558,938	€8,804,737	63%
Bainistíocht Forbartha / Development Management	€23,601,115	€27,259,532	87%
Seirbhísí Timpeallachta / Environmental Services	€16,736,228	€23,558,956	71%
Áineas agus Conláiste / Recreation and Amenity	€8,129,301	€11,234,063	72%
Talmhaíocht, Oideachas, Sláinte agus Leas / Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	€1,022,206	€1,491,272	69%
Ilghnéitheach / Miscellaneous	€6,438,370	€8,839,470	73%
	€130,475,230	€171,683,590	76%

Ioncam go 31^ú Deireadh Fomhair 2024 / Income to 31st of October 2024

Rannóg / Section	Ioncam Iarbhír go dtí 31/10/2024 / Actual Income to 31/10/2024	Ioncam Buiséadaithe 2024 / Budget Income	% Sonraisc Curtha do dtí 31/10/2024 / % Invoiced to 31/10/2024
Tithíocht / Housing	€42,969,324	€64,380,831	57%
Iompar Bóthair agus Sábháilteacht / Road Transportation & Safety	€7,905,690	€16,558,010	36%
Seirbhísí Uisce / Water Services	€4,759,378	€8,131,617	53%
Bainistíocht Forbartha / Development Management	€16,600,952	€17,277,072	87%
Seirbhísí Timpeallachta / Environmental Services	€2,483,756	€4,348,102	46%
Áineas agus Conláiste / Recreation and Amenity	€1,023,144	€1,683,163	53%
Talmhaíocht, Oideachas, Sláinte agus Leas / Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	€451,988	€558,596	72%
Ilghnéitheach / Miscellaneous	€5,772,878	€11,372,937	47%
Rátaí / Rates	€34,702,423	€34,507,064	101%
Deontas Ilfheidhmeach / General Purpose Grant (LPT)	€11,366,197	€11,366,198	83%
Soláthar faoi Iarmhéid Dochair / Provision for Debit Balance	€0	€1,500,000	0%
	€128,035,730	€171,683,590	61%

The above is the current position as of the 31st of October 2024. The allocation of the Central Management Charge is estimated in the above figures as the allocation is not completed till mid-month. The full rates demand for 2024 is included in the above figure.

Collection rates as of 31st of October 2024 are as follows

Féichiúnaithe mar atá 31^ú Deireadh Fomhair 2024 / Debtors as of 31st of October 2024

	Iarmhéid Tosaigh / Opening Balance	Sonraisc / Invoices	Fáltais / Receipts	Díscríobhanna / Write Offs	Iarmhéid Deiridh / Closing Balance
Féichiúnaithe Rialtais / Government Debtors	€28,733,539	€150,816,490	(€141,984,068)	(€0)	€37,565,961
Uadaráis Áitiúla Eile / Other Local Authorities	€93,780	€1,200,935	(€1,204,917)	(€8,220)	€81,578
Rataí / Rates	€5,352,580	€34,702,423	(€29,746,029)	(€1,652,339)	€8,656,635
Cíosanna / Rent	€2,913,161	€13,623,416	(€13,240,576)	(€79,028)	€3,216,973
Iasachtal / Loans	€297,248	€1,810,415	(€1,774,873)	(€101,475)	€231,315
Tobhaigh Forbartha / Development Levies	€10,756,762	€20,313,813	(€5,696,518)	(€9,691,966)	€15,682,091
Táilí Seirbhíse Dóiteáin / Fire Charges	€756,633	€566,941	(€410,479)	(€30,251)	€882,844
Ilghnéitheach / Miscellaneous	€2,345,328	€10,291,724	(€9,153,268)	(€41,127)	€3,442,657
Féichiúnaithe Iomlána / Total Debtors	€51,249,031	€233,326,157	(€209,210,728)	(€11,604,406)	€69,760,054

Above are the debtor balances as of 31st of October 2024. 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.

Budget 2025 Meeting

The date for the 2025 Draft Budget Meeting was agreed for Monday the 18th of November 2024 directly following the normal monthly council meeting. We are in the final stages of preparing the Draft Budget for 2025. We are still waiting for clarification from Central Government on some of our key funding.

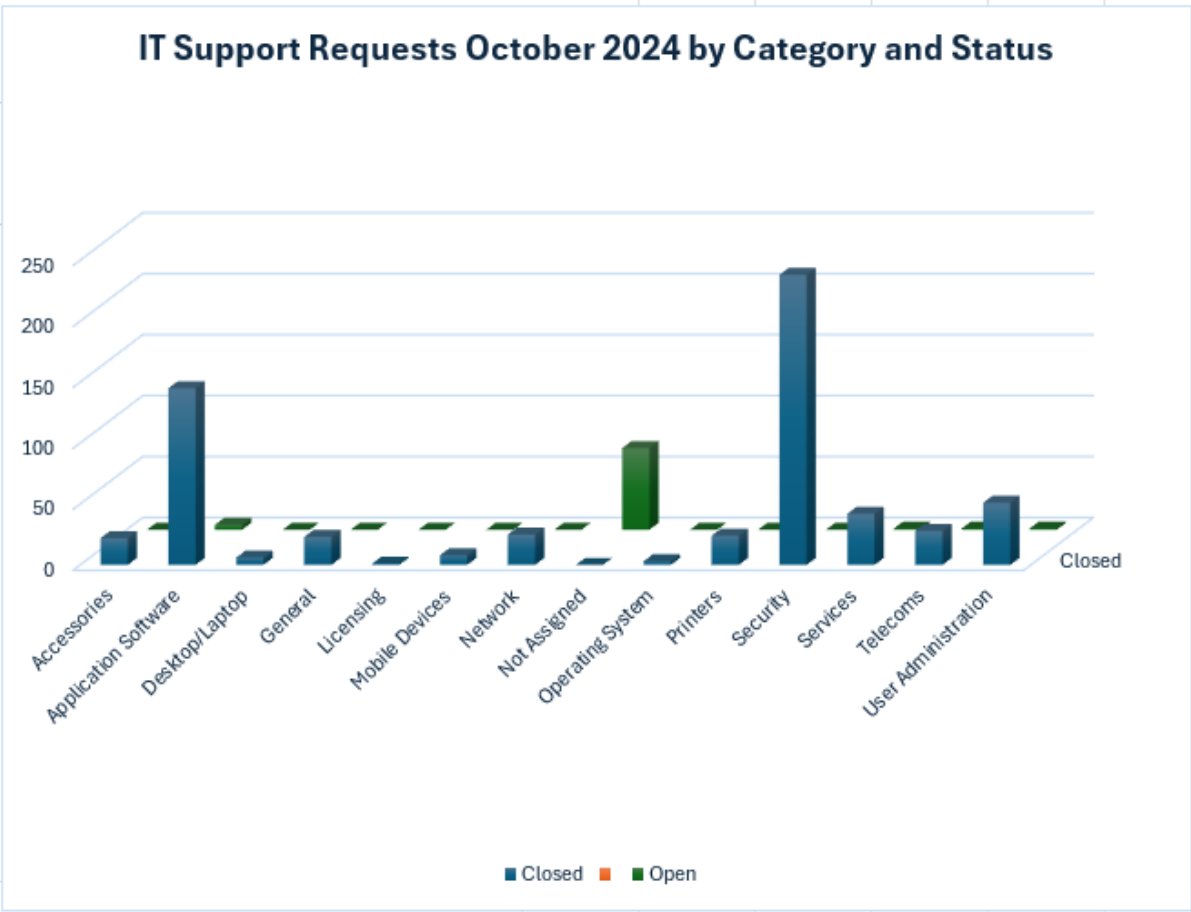
Power Up Grant

The Government announced the Power Up Grant as part of Budget 2025 to assist businesses in the Retail and Hospitality sectors. Louth County Council has commenced emailing businesses who may be eligible for this grant of €4,000, providing details on the registration process. More details in relation to this Power Up Grant including eligibility may be found at www.enterprise.gov.ie/powerup The deadline for registration is Friday, 8th November 2024.

Techneolaíocht Faisnéise agus Cumarsáide / Information & Communication Technology

Deasc Chabhrach / Helpdesk

Between 01/10/2024 and the 31/10/2024 there were 687 support calls logged in the IT support system.



Security and Application Software were the highest category of support requests in October.

Córas Idirscartha Ríomhphoist / E-Mail Filtering System

Louth County Council continues to be targeted with phishing, and spam e-mail. We utilise an e-mail filtering system to scan all e-mail being received into the organisation. In October 34.1% of inbound e-mails were identified as potentially harmful.

Inbound Email count	Blocked Sender	Blocked at gateway
 190,201	 822	 19,665
Total blocked by spam/virus	Blocked by content rules	Potentially harmful emails
 44,044	 381	 34.1%

Suíomh Gréasáin Comhairle Chontae Lú / Louth County Council Website

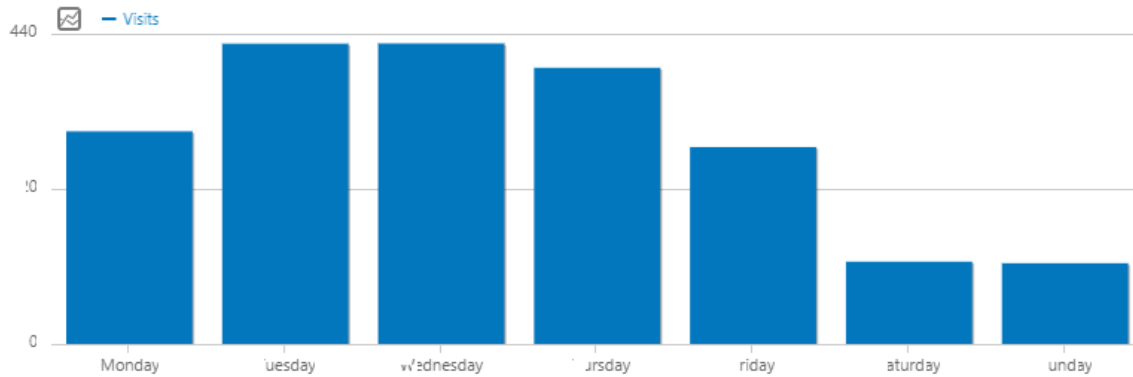
There were 17,420 unique page views of www.louthcoco.ie in October.

The below table indicates the pages on the website with the highest number of Page Views in October.

Page URL	Pageviews
/en/	3768
/en/louth_county_council/vacancies/	1130
/en/services/planning/online-planning-and-maps/	897
/en/services/dog-pound/	868
/en/services/planning/	664
/en/home/	679
/en/services/	540
/en/services/library/	569
/en/contact/louth-county-council/	479
/en/services/planning/online-planning-and-maps/e-planning.html	415
/en/services/housing/	316
/en/publications/development-plans/	331

The Louth County Council received most visits on mid-weekdays during October. In September, most visits to the LCC websites occurred on Mondays. In October Tuesdays/Wednesdays were the most popular.

Visits by day of the week



Fadhb Cuardaithe Gréasáin / Website Search Issue

The IT department continue to work on a resolution for the issue where invalid links are being listed when a search is undertaken on the LCC website. Several links have been repaired to date, but work is still ongoing to identify and fix all invalid links. We have commenced a review of our website with a view to a major upgrade of the site in 2025.

Tá trí eochairfhreagracht ag an Stiúrthóireacht seo:

Forbairt Eacnamaíoch, an Oifig Fiontair Áitiúil san áireamh, agus obair le comhpháirtithe agus foinsí maoinithe lasmuigh den Stát

Seirbhísí Éigeandála – Seirbhís Dóiteáin, agus Cosaint Shibhialta, san áireamh, agus ag pleanáil agus ag cur i bhfeidhm straitéisí chun chabhrú le muintir Chontae Lú a bheith slán sábháilte

Is é Pleanáil an slí a eagraímid an timpeallacht thógtha i gContae Lú

This Directorate has three key areas of responsibility:

Economic Development, including the Local Enterprise Office, and work involving partners and funding outside the state.

Emergency Services – including the Fire Service, and Civil Defence, and the planning and implementation of strategies which help to keep our citizens safe.

Planning, the way in which we organise the built environment in our county.

Thomas McEvoy
Stiúrthóir / Director of Service



Forbairt Gheilleagrach / Economic Development

Climate Change Adaptation Strategy

Part of our assessment of projects currently includes their impact on the environment.

Two key supports for micro and small businesses in Louth to assist develop the green and sustainable agenda are the “Green for Micro” and the “Energy Efficiency Grant”. Further details at www.localenterprise.ie/green and www.localenterprise.ie/louth.

Louth Economic Forum

The next meeting of the Louth Economic Forum is scheduled to take place on the 20th of November next.

Drogheda Business Improvement District (BIDS) 2025 – 2029

Following the plebiscite count on the 20th September, the proposed Business Improvement District Scheme was passed by the Elected members at the October Council meeting held on the 21st October.

Age Friendly Business

Following the Age Friendly Business workshops which took place in April, a further two businesses received their accreditation on 24th October.



Susan L. Murphy, Economic Development presenting Anne Larkin of Greenore Co-Op Railway Museum and Tearooms with their Age Friendly Business Charter



Susan L. Murphy, Economic Development presenting Suzanne Bergin of Coastal Ballet School their Age Friendly Business Charter

Following attendance by the Economic Development Unit at the Louth Age Friendly Expo in Ardee on 2nd October and providing a talk to business' in attendance, a further workshop took place on the 10th October 2024.

Visit Louth had a promotional stand at the Louth Age Friendly Expo where the Tourism Officer, spoke to those in attendance in relation to all there is on offer in Co. Louth.



Sabhbh Ní Mhaolagáin, Tourism Officer, at the Louth Age Friendly Expo in Ardee

If any business is interested in availing of a future workshop, they can email econdev@louthcoco.ie.

Turasóireacht / Tourism

Festival Grants

Twenty-four applications were received under the 2024 'Festival Grant Initiative', twenty-three of which received offers of funding.

Ten applications were received under the 2024 Fáilte Ireland funded 'Regional Festivals and Participative Events' scheme, eight of which received offers of funding.

For information on all festivals and events happening across the county please visit: <https://www.visitlouth.ie/whats-on/>.

Visit Louth

Work is underway on the new Visit Louth website; the new website will be a fresh design with an accessible and more user-friendly experience. The Visit Louth website aims to attract visitors with an engaging 'What's On'. The new website will be launched in early 2025. The new site will also make it easier to see our various brands, Drogheda.ie and sealouth.ie.

We have now appointed a communications company to assist us with our promotion of the county through media channels.

A request for quotes was sent out to start the process of redeveloping our Visit Louth logo. A survey was issued to various stakeholders. The survey closed on the 29th October last and the results will help inform our new logo.

Fáilte Ireland Engagement

The Tourism Officer met with Fáilte Ireland representatives at the bimonthly stakeholder meeting.

Táin Trail

Fáilte Ireland has engaged the Paul Hogarth Company to review the current Táin Trail route and to recommend opportunities to reimagine it into an internationally compelling experiential route that engages local communities and visitors. They are working with the local authorities in the Táin Trail region on same.

Reimagined Boyne Valley Drive

Fáilte Ireland has engaged the Paul Hogarth Company to review the current Boyne Valley Drive Cluster Orientation route and to provide recommendations on opportunities to reimagine it into an internationally compelling experiential route that engages local communities and visitors. They are working with the local authorities in the region on same.

Urban Animation – Lú Festival of Light

The Lú Festival of Light took place from 25th October until 3rd November. The Spooks parade launched the festival. This year's festival incorporated several new initiatives including the shop window decoration grant, an Oíche Lán Gaeilge where all the shows were delivered through the Irish Language and a new interactive installation at Scotch Hall during the day that allowed participants become part of the Milky Way.

There was national coverage in the run up to the festival in the Sunday Times magazine and the Sunday Independent Life Magazine. The Tourism Section took part in several radio interviews to raise awareness of the festival. The festival was also promoted on the 9pm RTE news on Sat. 26th October.

Tenders

Our Tourism Strategy and Action Plan 2025 - 2030 consultant has been appointed and will begin working with the Tourism Officer on the new Tourism Strategy for County Louth.

Boyne Valley Tourism

The Boyne Valley Tourism Strategy was launched on Friday 4th of October in Emerald Park. The strategy calls out several key initiatives for Louth, including a master plan for Millmount Museum and a conservation plan for Ardee Castle.



Launch of Boyne Valley Tourism Strategy in Emerald Park



Launch of Boyne Valley Tourism Strategy in Emerald Park

Boyne Valley Flavours (BVF)

Boyne Valley Flavours are working through the Action Plan in the new Boyne Valley Food Development Strategy 2024 - 2028.

An independent review of the Discover Boyne Valley Flavours brand to ensure the brand and brand messaging is effective in how they engage with consumers, stakeholders and members of the network commenced in July, with the report due shortly.

Boyne Valley Flavours attended the Blas na hÉireann awards in Dingle from the 3rd to 6th October.

Blas na hÉireann, now in its 17th year, is the largest competition for quality Irish produce, celebrating the best in Irish food and drink. There were 9 finalists from County Louth with 4 being members of Boyne Valley Flavours. The Louth Local Enterprise Office sponsored the Best in Louth winners. They also sponsored a Boyne Valley Flavours table in the "Eat the Island" area of the Blas village, showcasing Boyne Valley Flavours finalists where producers were offered a table to sample or sell their products over the weekend.

McCloskeys Bakery was awarded Best in Louth, taking home 8 awards. Other Louth winners included Carlingford Oyster Company, Mac Namee's Tea, Nature's Best, Hilton Foods and Dundalk Bay Brewing.



Boyne Valley Flavours table in the 'Eat the Island' area at Blas na hÉireann in Dingle



Boyne Valley Flavours group photo from Blas na hÉireann awards in Dingle

The Centre of Food Culture, Boyne Valley

The launch event for Samhain Festival of Food and Culture took place in the Bookmarket Cafe Kells on Wednesday 25th September, marking the launch of the festival programme. Samhain Festival of Food and Culture will take place from the 7th to 10th November. Further information is available on <https://foodcultureireland.ie/samhain>.

The Development Manager at the Centre of Food Culture, Boyne Valley joined the Bord Iascaigh Mhara (BIM) remote classroom on the 1st October to speak to students on Irish food culture and how they can get involved in The Centre.



Ella Ryan presenting at BIM Remote Classroom

The first masterclass focused on food service took place on Monday 21st October at Sheridan's Cheesemonger's HQ. At this masterclass chefs, restaurant managers and front of house learnt about Irish farmhouse cheeses.

Geilleagar Oíche Dhroichead Átha / Drogheda Night-Time Economy

Spooks Parade

On 25th October, the Lú Festival festivities were launched by the Spooks Parade, a community-led celebration part-funded by the Council's Night-Time Economy Adviser. This support has enabled the community to take an active role in the festival, enhancing Drogheda's night-time vibrancy and encouraging local engagement in the town's evolving Night-Time Economy.

The parade, programmed by Droichead Arts Centre, brought a lively atmosphere along the route from Barlow House to St. Laurence's Gate, with extraordinary, artist-led lighting displays adding choreographed colour and energy throughout. This ambitious lighting, created with local artists, drew families and residents together, setting a high standard for future grass roots Night-Time Economy initiatives in Drogheda.



Spooks Parade

Lú Lanterns and Window Decoration Scheme

The Lú Lanterns and Window Decoration Scheme represents a combined initiative designed to encourage local businesses to actively participate in the Lú Festival of Lights by decorating their shop fronts and windows, thereby attracting attention to their businesses while adding a welcoming vibrancy to Drogheda. To support this, the Council established a window decoration scheme offering eligible businesses up to €200 to create eye-catching displays themed around the Lú Festival or Halloween.

In tandem, the Night-Time Economy Adviser for Drogheda commissioned 50 bespoke Lú Shield Lanterns, developed in collaboration with local artists and led by artist Vivian Byrne, who also contributed to the Spooks Parade. These LED lanterns, shaped to reflect Lú's distinctive shield,

have added an innovative layer to the festival's visual identity, seamlessly integrating with shopfront displays and festival elements. Positioned in windows and key sites, the lanterns have significantly enriched the festive ambiance and have been warmly received by both residents and visitors. This initiative furthers the long-term vision to foster community-driven lighting projects, building Drogheda's night-time appeal and setting a benchmark for future Night-Time Economy efforts.



Lú Lanterns on display

Don't Forget to Remember

On 17th October, the Council, alongside the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media, presented the acclaimed documentary 'Don't Forget to Remember' at Droichead Arts Centre in partnership with the centre and production company Motherland. This special screening, supported by the Night-Time Economy Adviser for Drogheda, included a post-screening Q&A with director Ross Killeen and street artist Asbestos, whose deeply personal journey with his mother's Alzheimer's diagnosis is chronicled in the film. Through his artwork, Asbestos explores the resilience of memory and family bonds, showcasing art's power to process loss and spark dialogue.

This Drogheda event is part of a national tour across Ireland's nine Night-Time Economy Adviser pilot areas, raising awareness of Alzheimer's and celebrating inclusive night-time experiences. The screening also contributes to Drogheda's evening offerings by bringing engaging, thought-provoking events into the town's Night-Time Economy.

Sluagh Horror Film Festival

The Sluagh Horror Film Festival, held on 4th October at Droichead Arts Centre, brought an intense evening of Irish horror to Drogheda, transforming the usually tranquil venue into a cinematic “house of horrors”. This one-day festival, organised by the team behind the Boyne Valley International Film Festival, featured two programmes of Irish horror short films, including ‘You’re Not Home’ by Derek Ugochukwu, ‘Callus’ by Ciarán Hickey, and ‘Postpartum’ by Tania Nataro. Audiences were treated to Q&As with filmmakers, offering insights into the art of horror filmmaking and the power of storytelling in this genre.

Supported by the Arts Council of Ireland, Louth County Council, Meath County Council, and the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts and Recreation, the festival also benefited from the involvement of Drogheda’s Night-Time Economy Adviser, who funded an award for Tania Nataro’s ‘Postpartum’. Additionally, the fund covered the attendance of feature filmmaker Liam Gavin, whose film ‘A Dark Song’ headlined the festival. Gavin’s live interview with Sinead Brassil was a highlight, drawing horror enthusiasts and elevating Drogheda’s status as a growing hub for film and festival culture. Together, these contributions helped establish Sluagh as an exciting new offering within Drogheda’s Night-Time Economy.

Storyzone: An Immersive Storytelling Experience

Commissioned by the Night-Time Economy Adviser for Drogheda, Storyzone has been introduced as an immersive storytelling experience to enhance the Lú Festival of Lights and explore potential new directions for the festival. This event, held at Little Duke Theatre on 30th October, showcased master storyteller Gráinne Rafferty as she brought local lore, ghost stories, and hidden history to life, surrounded by haunted objects sourced from Drogheda. Rafferty’s performance captivated the audience with tales of the eldritch and arcane, offering a rich exploration of the town’s dark heritage.

Storyzone also featured the launch of ‘Whispers Down the Boyne’, a Samhain podcast of true-life paranormal stories shared by reliable witnesses. With two family-friendly shows and an adult-only 9 pm performance, Storyzone encourages audiences

of all ages to engage with Drogheda’s supernatural side. This addition to the Lú Festival demonstrates the Night-Time Economy Adviser’s commitment to trialing unique cultural events, deepening Drogheda’s festival experience, and celebrating the town’s mystical heritage.

Spirits & Spectres Candlelight Concert

Commissioned by the Night-Time Economy Adviser for Drogheda, Spirits & Spectres brings an evocative blend of classical music and local folklore to the Lú Festival of Lights. Set to take place on 1st November at St. Peter’s Church of Ireland, this unique candlelit concert is presented by Drogheda Classical Music in collaboration with Droichead Arts Centre and Love Drogheda. Audiences will be taken on a supernatural journey through Drogheda’s haunted history, guided by master storyteller Gráinne Rafferty, author Dave Rudden, and the renowned RTÉ Con Tempo Quartet. Featuring spine-tingling compositions by Schubert and Bartók, the concert combines gothic tales like ‘The Haunting of the Tholsel’ and ‘The Lady of the Boyne’ with an immersive lighting installation by John McGovern. This atmospheric event highlights Drogheda’s heritage and the innovative potential of the Lú Festival, aligning with the Night-Time Economy Adviser’s vision to trial engaging, culturally rich experiences. Spirits & Spectres promises to be a multi-sensory celebration of Drogheda’s past and a forward-thinking addition to the town’s Halloween offerings, showcasing the creative spirit of the town and the strength of its partnerships.



Night-Time Culture Forum

The Night-Time Culture Forum, held on 21st October in Cork’s Millennium Hall, highlighted the importance of nightlife to the cultural sector and brought together representatives from Ireland and across the world. Organised by the Arts Council, in partnership with the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport & Media, and Cork City Council, this vibrant event featured panel discussions, networking opportunities, and insights from Carly Heath,

Bristol's Night-Time Economy Adviser, alongside event organiser and drag artist Candy Warhol.

Drogheda was prominently represented with the Night-Time Economy Adviser for Drogheda, participating in a panel on the role of arts and culture in shaping cities and communities after dark. Collette Farrell of Droichead Arts Centre also contributed on a panel discussing the value of nightlife to the cultural sector. This key event, attended by approximately 120 leaders in arts, culture, and public sector roles, celebrated inclusivity and creativity in night-time culture. The forum provided a valuable platform for Drogheda, showcasing its growing reputation and connecting it with national Night-Time Economy initiatives and peers.

Autumn Boyne Valley Bites Campaign

This autumn, the Night-Time Economy Adviser for Drogheda partnered with the Boyne Valley Food Business Development Officer, to trial the inclusion of alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages in the Boyne Valley Bites Campaign. This initiative aims to inspire local eateries and hospitality venues to showcase Boyne Valley's finest local food and drink, enhancing the area's appeal as a culinary destination while supporting local industry, growers, and producers. The addition of non-alcoholic options reflects the growing demand for a broader and more inclusive range of drink choices, aligning with shifting consumer preferences.

The workshops, which regularly introduce local chefs and hospitality representatives to the potential of local produce, were expanded this season to include a recorded demonstration. Hosted at Lismullin Cookery School, the session featured dishes and drink pairings led by expert Judith Boyle and was attended by chefs from venues across the Boyne Valley. The recording, shared with those unable to attend in person, is an innovative trial to engage a wider audience.

Oifig Fiontair Áitiúil / Local Enterprise Office

LEO Business Supports

Updated information on the range of business supports available can be found at the following website: [Local Enterprise Office - Louth](https://localenterprise.ie/Louth).

Businesses seeking support from LEO Louth should email: info@leo.louthcoco.ie or they can call to our office at Town Hall, Dundalk.

'Look for Local' / 'Shop Local'

LEO continues to host a Louth 'shop local' online directory available at: www.louthcoco.ie/ShopLocal.

New businesses can be included on the Louth online directory by emailing: lookforlocal@leo.louthcoco.ie.

Green for Business



The Green for Business programme is a free programme which aims to help businesses identify cost savings and improve their green credentials. This is achieved by looking at the business from an environmental perspective.

Projects vary from assessing energy, water and waste costs, guidance with environmental management system, to the greening of the product or business to adapt to the changing marketplace.

LEO Louth continues to welcome new applications.

Business Training



During October LEO held five training courses - VAT and Tax Returns, Paid Advertising on Google, Advanced Canva for Small Business, How to Develop a Winning Business Plan and Create a WordPress Website.

All scheduled training courses are available to view and book online: <https://www.localenterprise.ie/Louth/Training-Events/Online-Bookings/>.

Trading Online Voucher Scheme



LEO continues to offer the Trading Online Voucher Scheme to assist businesses get online or enhance their online presence, under which LEO can provide 50% support up to a maximum grant of €2,500.

Trading Online training workshops to assist applicants apply continue to be delivered on a regional basis with Cavan and Monaghan LEOs.

Twenty-four Trading Online Voucher applications have been received in October.

Business Advice Clinics

Fifty-four business advice appointments were provided by telephone and video conference to entrepreneurs throughout the county during October.

LEO Louth Mentor Programme



The Mentor Programme is designed to match up the knowledge, skills, insights and entrepreneurial capability of experienced business practitioners with small business owner / managers who need practical and strategic one-to-one advice and guidance.

Twenty-six businesses were appointed Mentors during the month of October.

Microfinance Ireland (MFI) Business Loan



LEO Louth offers expert assistance to clients to assist the completion of Microfinance Loan applications, Business Plans and Cashflow Projections.

Microfinance Ireland have now been mandated by the Department of Enterprise, Trade & Employment to double its lending limit to €50,000. This measure is part of the government's recently announced package of measures to support small businesses.

LEO mentors are continuing to assist MFI applicants.

LEAN for Business Programme



LEO Louth continues to offer the LEAN Programme to small businesses locally.

The programme helps businesses to identify issues and potential improvement areas and provides support to implement these as well as achieve savings and improvements in capability and capacity to deliver. The fee to participate in this programme has been reduced to €150 for businesses.

Digital Start

Digital for Business provides support to obtain digital strategy, technical and / or advisory services for eligible businesses. Our expert digital consultants help the business to develop a unique digital strategy that transforms their businesses by identifying where they are on their digital business journey, developing a digital adaptation plan based on identified needs and assisting to implement a digital plan.

Energy Efficiency Grant



The Energy Efficiency Grant supports the investment in technologies and equipment identified in a Green for Business Report, Green Start Report or a SEAI Energy Audit. The grant has been increased to 75% of eligible costs up to a maximum grant of €10,000.

The aim of the scheme is to support enterprises to implement sustainability projects which will reduce the business impact on the environment and should increase the agility and resilience of these businesses to operate in a sustainable manner.

Eligible costs include Meters (electricity, gas, diesel, oil, water, steam & loggers) and installation costs, Smart energy controls e.g., heating, cooling, lighting, automatic on / off systems, parasitic load controls; replacement / upgrade with more energy efficient system e.g. Heat Pumps (including air, water, and ground source) for manufacturing heating process and heat recovery. Upgrade lighting to LED (only as part of a package of eligible cost measures) and more. For further information on this grant please visit: <https://www.localenterprise.ie/Louth/Financial-Supports/Energy%20Efficiency%20Grant/>.

LEO Louth continues to welcome new applications.

Drogheda and District Chamber Budget Breakfast

LEO Louth sponsored the Drogheda Chamber's Budget Breakfast Briefing, which took place on Wednesday 2nd October at Scholar's Townhouse in Drogheda. This event gave Chamber members an opportunity to delve into the details of Budget 2025 with experts from Grant Thornton giving insight and analysis on the impacts to local businesses.

LEO Louth also attended the event to give details of business supports and upcoming events.



Drogheda & District Chamber Budget Breakfast



Cathaoirleach Cllr. Kevin Callan, Chamber President Naomi Tully and Niall Gallagher from LEO Louth

NWED – Monasterboice Inn, Thursday 17th October

LEO Louth held a joint event with LEO Meath on Thursday 17th October in the Monasterboice Inn to celebrate National Women's Enterprise Day. Over 100 female entrepreneurs attended the event, listening to a fantastic panel of speakers and learning from their experiences in starting and growing a business.



Panelist Elizabeth Oakes, Niall Gallagher LEO Louth, Panelist Geraldine Johnston, Cathaoirleach Cllr. Kevin Callan, Keynote Speaker Caroline O'Neill and Panelist Emma Gavin



Panel discussion during the National Women's Enterprise Day Event

Louth Business Awards – Saturday 19th October

LEO Louth attended the 2024 Louth Business Awards which were held in the Carrickdale Hotel on Saturday 19th October. LEO Louth sponsored the Best Start Up Award, and the winner was Mojo & Co.



Dundalk Chamber President Patrick McCormick, Maureen Hoey, Mojo & Co., Gráinne McKeown LEO Louth & Thomas McDonagh, Dundalk Chamber of Commerce

Oidhreacht / Heritage

Community Monuments Fund (CMF) 2024

Conservation works were carried out on the sole remaining upstanding (above-ground) remains of Ardee's town defences at Cappocksgate in Ardee. We must submit reports from the conservation architect and from the archaeologist to the Department to recoup the funding offered.

Conservation works, funded by CMF2024, continued at Bellew's Castle, within the grounds of the St. Louis Convent School at Castletown, Dundalk. The Heritage Office secured additional funding for this project due to previously unforeseen regulatory requirements.

Community Monuments Fund (CMF) 2023

An archaeologist's and architect's report was received on planned works that had received grant aid from CMF2023, at Taaffe's castle, Carlingford. This document was forwarded to the Department and we will only pay the applicant once the Department has approved the reports.

Additional funding for works at Glaspistol towerhouse, near Clogherhead was approved to deal with unplanned complications, i.e. the exposed vault of the castle is in poor condition and should not be left exposed over the winter. This has led to an unavoidable short delay in completing works, paying the grant and subsequent recoupment.

Conservation works on these monuments, and the others mentioned above, are not fully complete and we will be applying for additional funding in 2025 and, quite possibly, in subsequent years. The CMF can only support two third party projects per county per year, while we have supported conservation works on three towerhouses over the last two years and these will all be seeking continuing grant assistance in future.



Before (south side)



After (south side)



Before (north side)



After (north side)

Images from Cappocksgate works

Seirbhísí Dóiteáin agus Éigeandála / Fire & Emergency Services

Fire Service

The Council finalised the contract with the successful tenderer for the supply of 130 sets of fire gear in 2024. Fire service members were sized for the new fire gear with expected delivery in about two months. A second set of new fire gear for all personnel will be ordered in 2025.

A second meeting with the Design Team for the upgrade of Dundalk Training Centre took place on 10th October. The development will include an extension to the training building, an extension to the breathing apparatus building and a new training tower. Detailed design proposals are being drawn up for the Part 8 Planning process.

Following the commitment of Capital funding to Louth Fire Service by the Department of Housing Local Government and Heritage, the following purchases are being made:

- Two new Peugeot large vans, which run on HVO fuel, have been ordered. They will be fitted with crew cabs for the transport of up to 6 fire service members. These vehicles were in stock which will speed up the process and they are expected to be put on the run during November 2024.
- The tender process was completed on eTenders for the purchase of 21 new battery powered cutters, spreaders, rams and combi tools for use at road traffic accidents and other incidents. The tenders were assessed, and this equipment will shortly be purchased.

Fire Service Training courses in October were as follows:

- Station Trainer course to enable Sub Officers to instruct at drills
- Emergency Service Driving course
- Water Awareness course
- Compartment Fire Behaviour Refresher course
- Commencement of the Fire Service Transition Year Programme. This offers TY students a range of skills.

The Recruitment Plan for newly retained fire fighters continued in its implementation during October.

Four new recruits will be doing their three-week Recruits course in late November.

The HR Section has applications for all brigades and interviews and station tests will be arranged during November.

There has been a continuation in requests to the Fire Prevention Section during October to inspect properties for the accommodation of International Protection applicants.

The large increase in fire safety certificate applications and commencement notices received during 2024 is continuing. There have been 195 Fire Safety certificate applications to date in 2024, compared to 151 in all of 2023.



Compartment Fire Behaviour Refresher Course in Hackettstown, Carlow

Major Emergency Management

The chairing of the regional Major Emergency Management Steering and Working Group meetings by Louth County Council ended in September and An Garda Síochána took this over in October.

The annual DHLGH Major Emergency Management conference was held in Trim, Co. Meath on 17th October, and was attended by staff from the Council.

Climate Adaptation Strategy

Dunleer Fire Station and Dundalk Training Centre extension will include a range of features to limit carbon emissions. The Climate Action Plan includes Fire Service and Building Control requirements.

Building Control

There was a CCMA workshop on the Apartment Defects Remediation Scheme in Tullamore on 22nd October, attended by staff from all Building Control Authorities. This scheme is administered by the

Housing Agency and applications for remediation have been received by them.

There was a joint inspection of two large-scale residential developments in Louth on 22nd October, carried out by the National Building Control Office and Louth County Council Building Control Section.

Cosaint Shibhialta / Civil Defence

During October, medical cover was provided at the Age Friendly Expo, Ardee.

There were three callouts to cardiac cases by Civil Defence volunteers during October under the Cardiac First Responder Scheme.

Pleanáil / Planning

Bainistíocht Forbartha / Development Management

The Planning service indicators for the Council for the month of September 2024 are given below in tabular form. There were 101 planning applications received during the month of September of which 87 were valid. In addition, there were 30 responses received during the month to requests for further information and 25 Pre-Planning Requests received.

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) Cur Síos / Description	(B) Forbairtí Tithíochta / Housing Developme nts	(C) Tithe Aonair / Individual Houses	(D) Iarratais Eile – ní gá MTT / Other application s-not requiring EIA	(E) Iarratais Eile - MTT de dhíth / Other applications - requiring EIA	(F) Iomlán na bhforbairtí sa chontae / Total for all categories of development in County Area
(i) Líon na n-iarratas a cinneadh / Number of applications determined	6	7	40	0	53
(ii) Líon na gcinntí inar iarradh breis eolais / No. of decisions determined which required further information	3	2	15	0	20
(iii) Céatadán na n-iarratas a diúltaíodh / Percentage of applications refused	16.67% (1)	28.57% (2)	15.00% (6)	0.00% (0)	17.00% (9)
(iv) Líon na n-achomharc a					

cinneadh / Number of appeals determined	1	1	2	0	4
(v) Céatadán na gcinntí a cuireadh ar ceal ar achomharc / Percentage of decisions overturned on appeal	0.00% (0)	0.00% (0)	50.00% (1)	0.00% (0)	25.00% (1)

Forfheidhmiú Pleanála – Forbairt Neamhúdaraíthe / Planning Enforcement – Unauthorised Development

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

Cur Síos / Description	Forfheidhmiú maidir le forbairt nár údaraíodh / Enforcement in relation to unauthorised development		Forfheidhmiú maidir le forbairt nár údaraíodh / Enforcement in relation to unauthorised development	
	Meán Fómhair 2024 / September 2024	Bliain go dtí seo / Year to Date	Meán Fómhair 2023 / September 2023	Bliain go dtí seo / Year to Date
Líon na nGearán maidir le Forfheidhmiú Pleanála a Imscrúdaíodh / Number of Planning Enforcement Complaints Investigated	15	208	25	174
Líon na gcásanna Fhorfheidhmithe Pleanála nuair nár ghá obair bhreise / Number of Planning Enforcement cases received which did not require follow up	0	0	0	0
Líon na gcásanna dúnta / a réitíodh le hidirbheartaíocht / Number of cases closed / resolved through negotiation	12	182	9	77
Líon na Litreacha Rabhadh a eisíodh / Number of Warning letters issued	9	189	7	121
Líon na bhFógraí Forfheidhmiúcháin a eisíodh / Number of Enforcement Notices issued	2	13	1	7
Líon na cásanna a tarchuireadh le haghaidh imeachtaí dlí / Number of cases referred for legal proceedings	0	3	0	5
Líon na n-urghairí / Number of Injunctions	0	0	0	0

Líon / Number of Prosecutions	0	0	0	0
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Pleanáil Chun Cinn / Forward Planning

Draft Dundalk Local Area Plan (LAP) 2024 – 2030

Following submissions to the above draft plan, the Chief Executive Report was circulated to all Members on 8th October. Within six weeks, Members must consider this report and the draft plan and by resolution make, amend or revoke the Dundalk Local Area Plan.

Comhfhorbairt Áite agus Forbairt Fisiceach

Placemaking and Physical Development

Cuireann an Stiúthóireacht seo réimse seirbhísí ar fáil mar bhonn agus mar thaca ag an reachtáil éifeachtúil an saol eacnamaíochta agus sóisialta Chontae Lú, ag obair i dtreo comhlíonadh an dlí maidir leis an timpeallacht, agus chun páirceanna phoiblí glan agus sábháilte a chinntiú. Ina chuid den fhreagrachtaí tá:

- Seirbhísí Bóithre agus Áitiúla, agus Forbairt Fhisiciúil

This Directorate provides a range of services which underpin the efficient and smooth running of the economic and social life of our county, working to ensure our environment adheres to legislative standards, and to provide clean and safe parks throughout Louth. Responsibilities include:

- Roads and Local Services and Physical Development

David Jones
Stiúrthóir / Director



Seirbhísí Bóithre agus Áitiúla / Roads and Local Services

Ceantar Bardasach Dhún Dealgan / Municipal District of Dundalk

Ceantar Dhún Dealgan agus Cuailgne / Dundalk and Cooley Area

Piocadh Bruscair / Litter Picking

Suíomh agus méadar sa mhí / Location and metres per month /

Carlingford, Omeath, Gyles Quay

Templetown

Riverside Walk

Armagh Road

Avenue Road

Ramparts Road

Quay Street

Barrack Street

Fairgreen Road

Castletown Road

Patrick Street

Carroll Village

Moorland/Lennon Melia Crescent

Racecourse Road

Mourne View Walkway

Ardee Road

Carrick Road

Ashling Park Estate

Bottle Banks at Long Walk

Harp Car Park

Meadow Grove

River Walk

Old Newry Road

Dublin Road

Southern Link Road

Muirhevnemor Estate

Coxs Demesne

Bay Estate Fatima Cleaning of outlet chamber at Balmer's Bog Bottle Bank burned out at Barrack Street, area cleaned up and new bottle bank replaced Strimming around verges and walls Removing rubbish from bottle banks daily and cleaning around them Grass cutting in progress in all areas around the Town Removing suckers from trees	
Folmhú Araidí Poiblí / Emptying of Public Bins Emptying of bins in Carlingford, Omeath, Greenore Templetown Car Park, Gyles Quay Area	Líon agus minicíocht / Numbers and frequency Nightly by contractor – 200 bins New litter bins needed in some areas around town
Scuabadh Bóithre / Road Sweeping	Bealaí gach tseachtain / Routes per week Nightly, daily, weekly and monthly as per contract
Folmhú Araidí Salachar Madra / Emptying Dog Waste Receptacles	Líon gach tseachtain / Number per week By contractor as part of the street bin collections All dog waste receptacles are now removed as dog waste is now deposited in the general bins
Seiceál Baoithe Tarrhála / Ring Buoy Checking Lifebuoy issues this month included Ice House Hill and the Navvy Bank, all replaced and new ropes added Completed the Water Safety Officer in Cooley	Líon Seiceáilte gach tseachtain / Number checked weekly 27 checked weekly and report submitted to the water safety officer

Seiceál Trealamh Áiteanna Sugartha agus Suíomhanna Seiceáilte Laethúil / Number of sites checked daily
Corpacmhainne / Checking of Playground and Gym Equipment

Lordship, Cooley, Carlingford and Omeath

Daily/Weekly check lists carried out by the Parks Caretaker

Ashling Park vandalism reported again this month, damage to bollards at the front

New signage in six parks

Suíomh / Location		Nótaí / Notes
Deisiú Bóithre / Road Repairs	<u>Cooley</u> Ongoing patching of local roads Preparation of flood damaged roads for remedial works	
	<u>Dundalk</u> Cleaned borders around town Grass cutting all areas Strimming of areas along the Inner Relief Road and behind and under the barriers at the Inner Relief Road Verge trimming at By Pass to Ballymascanlon Roundabout area at Ramparts, Hoey's Lane for allotments site, area for Men's Shed No major damage caused re: Storm Ashley but branches broken in St. Helena's New playground works continuing at St. Helena's <u>Potholes Repaired at:</u> Fatima Demesne Park Street Shore Road Mooreland Road Red Barns Road Marion Park	

	Avenue Road	
Feabhasúchán Draenála / Drainage Remediation	<u>Dundalk</u> Gully/Drain maintenance with Multihog at the below locations: Bay Estate Roden Place Jocelyn Street Seatown Place Barack Street Quay Street Chapel Street Gully/Drainage Maintenance: Mooreland Road Townparks Beechmont Drive Mullaharlin Park	
Crainn Leagtha nó Chontúirteacha / Fallen or Dangerous Trees	None at this time	
Cothabháil Cosán / Footpath Maintenance	<u>Dundalk</u> The Crescent Garrybawn Woodlands Ladywell Square Clann Chullainn Cooley Park Park Green Coulter Place Aisling Park	
Deisiú Soilse Tráchta / Traffic Light Repairs	Traffic lights out of order at: Castletown Road Fatima R125 at The Windsor Barack Street Avenue Road	

	Fairgreen Road Roden Place Cluan Enda	
Marcáil Bóithre / Road Markings	<u>Dundalk</u> Dealing with damaged barriers at the top of the Castletown Road/Quinns Funeral Home after RTA	
Comharthaíocht / Signage	<u>Dundalk</u> Signage maintenance and upgrade at Ard Easmuinn, Marshes Road and Francis Street	
Dumpáil Neamhdhleathach / Illegal Dumping	<u>Dundalk</u> All the usual areas Dumping continues at Ashling Park and along the By-Pass Bags of litter picked up from all estates weekly	
Glanadh Graifítí / Graffiti Removal	None currently	

Na Creagacha Dubha, Fochaird , agus Ceantar Tuaiscirt Lár-Lú / Blackrock, Faughart and North Mid-Louth Area

Piocadh Bruscair / Litter Picking	Suíomh agus méadar sa mhí / Location and metres per month
Folmhú Araidí Poiblí / Emptying of Public Bins	Líon agus minicíocht / Numbers and frequency Blackrock – 6 days a week Knockbridge – once a week Dromiskin – once a week Tallanstown & Louth Village – once a week
Scuabadh Bóithre / Road Sweeping	Bealaí gach seachtain / Routes per week

Folmhú Araidí Salachar Madra / Emptying Dog Waste Receptacles **Líon gach seachtain / Number per week**

Seiceál Baoithe Tarrthála / Ring Buoy Checking **Líon Seiceáilte gach seachtain / Number checked weekly**

Blackrock – 7 checked weekly

Annagassan – 11 checked weekly

Seiceál Trealamh Áiteanna Sugartha agus Corpacmhainne / Checking of Playground and Gym Equipment **Suíomhanna Seiceáilte Laethúil / Number of sites checked daily**

Killanny, Louth Village, Castlebellingham – checked weekly

Blackrock – checked weekly

Suíomh / Location		Nótaí / Notes
Deisiú Bóithre / Road Repairs	Tar patching on Rathory and Rosybrook R199 Arthurstown Springhill Road and Duffys Cross R151 at Rockgate LS-7184 Dunmahon Haggardstown LT-71282 Rathmore Kilerley LT-31252 Clonalenagh Hackballscross Lennon Melia Terrace Shore Road Demense Dundalk LT-51372 Ballinloughan LS-5137 Little Ash Knockbridge	Road repairs and patching and cleaning up
		Tree pruning/vegetation maintenance/verge trimming Resurfacing/overlay works (by contract)
Feabhasúchán Draenála / Drainage Remediation	R171 Ardee – Tallanstown N52 from Duffy's Cross – Fane Bridge and on R166 Castlebellingham – Annagassan LS-7108 Balregan, Kilcurry	Drainage maintenance – cleansing and gully cleaning, opening outlets and storm drains, preparation for surface dressing.

	LS-7126 Cortail Road Kilkerley LS-7103 Raskeagh Kilcurry LS-7114 Killin LS-7129 Little Mills Kilkerley LS-7135 Dunbin Knockbridge	
Crainn Leagtha nó Chontúirteacha / Fallen or Dangerous Trees		Cleaning fallen trees and debris
Cothabháil Cosán / Footpath Maintenance		Footpath renewal
Deisiú Soilse Tráichta / Traffic Light Repairs	Xerox Junction Haynestown Kilcurry Faughart	Major repair works completed
Marcáil Bóithre / Road Markings	Blackrock	Renewal of junction markings Renewal of existing and provision of additional road markings
Comharthaíocht / Signage	R132 near Mullins Cross	Cleansing/repair/replacement/new signage
Dumpáil Neamhdhleathach / Illegal Dumping	L-7100 Whitemill Faughart LS-7103 Carn More Kilcurry LS-7162 Clermont Road Haggardstown Seabank	Collection of dumped waste for disposal Collection and disposal after community clean up
Glanadh Graifítí / Graffiti Removal	N/A	

Ceantar Bardasach Bhaile Átha Fhirdhia / Ardee Municipal District

Gnó Deiscirt Chontae Lú (Ceantar Tuaithe) / South Louth Operations (Rural Area)

Piocadh Bruscair / Litter Picking		Suíomh agus méadar sa mhí / Location and metres per month	
All routes in Ardee Town (5.2km per day)			
Clogherhead car park daily cleanup around bins			
Folmhú Araidí Poiblí / Emptying of Public Bins		Líon agus minicíocht / Numbers and frequency	
Ardee Town			
Dunleer Town			
Collon			
Erecting of bin at Riverside Walk			
Erecting of bin at Link Road			
Scuabadh	Bóithre / Road	Sweeping	Bealaí gach seachtain / Routes per week
All routes in Ardee Town (5.2km per day)			
Folmhú Araidí Salachar Madra / Emptying Dog Waste Receptacles		Líon gach seachtain / Number per week	
Seiceál Baoithe Tarrthála / Ring Buoy Checking		Líon Seiceáilte gach seachtain / Number checked weekly	
Ardee Town – River Dee			
Salterstown			
Port Beach			

**Seiceál Trealamh Áiteanna Sugartha agus Suíomhanna Seiceáilte Laethúil /
Corpacmhainne / Checking of Playground and Number of sites checked daily
Gym Equipment**

Maintenance and cleaning of Fairgreen and Dunleer parks and playground complete with daily checks of the playground & exercise equipment at both locations.

Suíomh / Location		Nótaí / Notes
Deisiú Bóithre / Road Repairs	R215 Ardee LP-1220-14 Richardstown to Dromin LP-2255-0 Stifyans to Philipstown LP-1233-7 Townspark Ardee LP-2253-0 Shamrock Hill to Rathescar LP-2239-0 Mountainstown Road Dunleer N2 Drogheda Road Ardee	
Feabhasúchán Draenála / Drainage Remediation	LS-5262-16 Analog installing new gullies and drainage works LS-5266-0 opening outlets	
Crainn Leagtha nó Chontúirteacha / Fallen or Dangerous Trees	Trees down caused by Storm Ashley: R170 Harristown Dunleer N52 Kells Road N52 Duffys Cross R166 Station Road Castlebellingham	
Cothabháil Cosán / Footpath Maintenance	N2 Drogheda Road Footpath	
Deisiú Soilse Tráichta / Traffic Light Repairs		
Marcáil Bóithre / Road Markings		

Comharthaíocht / Signage		
Dumpáil Neamhdhleathach / Illegal Dumping		
Glanadh Graifítí / Graffiti Removal		



Playground upgrade works in Ardee

Ceanntar Buirge Dhroichead Átha / Borough District of Drogheda

Ceantar Baile Dhroichead Átha / Drogheda Town Area

Piocadh Bruscair / Litter Picking

Suíomh agus méadar gach mí / Location and metres per month

Steps and lane ways weekly 22 steps when resources allow and green areas.

Hotspots on Monday – decided by Supervisor following inspection.

Bring Banks in Drogheda urban are checked and cleared Daily during working week. Also all Bring Banks in Drogheda

	urban are checked and cleared Saturday p.m. Drogheda Rural Bring banks are cleared daily during working week.
Folmhú Araidí Poiblí / Emptying of Public Bins	Líon agus minicíocht / Numbers and frequency Drogheda town centre - litterbins emptied daily circa 60 early mornings. 234 litter bins (including 10 solar bins) are emptied weekly in town. Dominic's Park & Mell River walk emptied daily. South Louth Drogheda Municipal district rural area's public litter bins are emptied twice a week or daily when needed especially at beaches – Port Oriel/Seapoint/Termonfeckin/Baltray – at least 40 bins per day. Approach roads in Drogheda town emptied twice a week. Power washing street paving & footpath at St Laurence St – after spillage from concrete private works. Removal of dumping at Rathmullen Park. Removal of Bonfire material at various locations.
Scuabadh Bóithre / Road Sweeping	Bealaí gach seachtain / Routes per week Town centre daily. Approach roads fortnightly. Social Housing Estates swept every 2 months. Private Housing estates swept every 3 months. When resources allow. Hotspots weekly on Monday after weekend – decided daily by supervisor after checking Drogheda urban area. Villages are swept once per month – i.e., Termonfeckin, Baltray, Sandpit, Monasterboice, Tullyallen & Tenure.

					Drogheda town Boyne river walkways are swept 3 times per week (Monday, Wednesday & Friday). Road sweepers town centre / approach roads with particular attention to routes for Lu festival – St Laurence’s St, West St, St Dominick’s St, Fr Connolly way & Wellington Quay. Road sweepers town centre / approach roads with particular attention to Dublin Rd, Rathmullen Rd, St Marys Villas, Donore Rd & Bottle Lane. Slane Road – LCC contact developer to regularly clean road when construction traffic entering / exiting site. Preparation for Drogheda Motor show at St Laurence St – extra street cleaning & power washing of steps at High lanes prior to event. Preparation for Drogheda Lu Festival at St Laurence St, St Peters Church, Old Abbey Lane & Haymarket Bridge – extra street cleaning organised for event over two weekends – placing of pedestrian barriers at St Laurence’s Gate, St Peters Church & Haymarket Bridge. Preparation of sand bags & monitoring of high tide levels prior to storm Ashley at Wellington Quay, North Quay, Ushers Corner & Queenborough.
FolmhúAraidí Salachar Madra / Emptying Dog Waste Receptacles					Líon gach seachtain / Number per week Empty about 35 once a week, washed and disinfected.
Seiceál Baoithe Tarrthála / Ring Buoy Checking					Líon Seiceáilte gach seachtain / Number checked weekly 89 ring buoys checked each week Town area (Thursday). 9 ring buoys checked each week at Rosehall (Friday).

Seiceál Trealamh Áiteanna Sugartha agus Corpacmhainne / Checking of Playground and Gym Equipment	Suíomhanna Seiceáilte Laethúil / Number of sites checked daily
	Between 4 & 5 daily (4 playgrounds in Drogheda town, Skate Park, adult exercise equipment). 3 Playgrounds in Drogheda rural area) + disinfected.

Suíomh / Location		Nótaí / Notes
Deisiú Bóithre / Road Repairs	Pot hole repairs at Forest Grange, Ropewalk, Ballymakenny Rd & Hardman Gardens Sluice gate at Flaxmill Lane, wall & gate repairs – contractor appointed, and material ordered. Martello Villages – reinstatement of kerbs, Manholes & road surface is now complete. Street Bollards reinstated at West Court, Matthews Lane & Elmwood. Preparation of sand bags & monitoring of high tide levels prior to storm Ashley at Wellington Quay, North Quay, Ushers Corner & Queenborough. Clean up after Sorm Ashley, Public Light knock down at Dual Carriageway Drogheda & Ballymakenny Rd & Flooding on St Marys St. Road Works Program – Resurfacing works 2024 Contractor has commenced resurfacing 20/08/2024 To date the Following roads completed: 1. Newfoundwell Rd 2. Platin Rd 3. Dual Carriageway 4. Bredin St	

	5. Boyne Rd 6. Bull Ring 7. Duleek St 8. Patrick St / Bolton St Junction 9. Martello Villages 10. Traffic calming ramp at Congress Ave. Additions resurfacing works will commence on Bolton St & Patricks St on week commencing 4/11/24. CIS Lanes. Contractor appointed and works due to commence in November. Drogheda Improvement Accessibility Scheme 2024 Contacto is now appointed & works are commenced at: Pearse Park / Hardman Gardens Junction	
Feabhasúchán Draenála / Drainage Remediation	Tenders for road gully cleaning contract have now been submitted, tender report to follow.	
Crainn Leagtha nó Chontúirteacha / Fallen or Dangerous Trees	Trees fallen during Storm Ashley at Dual Carriageway, King Billys Glen & Grangebellew.	
Cothabháil Cosán / Footpath Maintenance	Commenced planned footpath repairs at • Patrick's Street • Wheaton Hall • Moneymore • Dublin Road	
Deisiú Soilse Trácht / Traffic Light Repairs	Periodic speed sign at Walshe town repaired	

Marcáil Bóithre / Road Markings		
Comharthaíocht / Signage	High-vis tape placed on pedestrian railings at R132 / Crosslines / Cement Rd junction. Flexi-bollards at West court Estate. Reinstated bollards on IDA Road. Reinstate bollards on Patricks Street. Remove bollards at St Peters Church for access for Lú Festival. New no entry signs at St Dominick's / West Street Junction	
Maur fiailí / Weed killing		
Doghair glantacháin boscaí bruscair / Litterbin cleaning disinfecting	On-going on weekly basis.	
Dumpáil Neamhdhleathach / Illegal Dumping		
Glanadh Graifítí / Graffiti Removal		



Storm Ashley damage – Ballymakellett Road



Millmount Road Footpath Works

Comhfhorbairt Áite / Placemaking

Athghiniúint Uirbeach agus Forbairt Tionscadail Cistí / Urban Regeneration and Development Fund Projects (URDF)

West Gate Vision (Drogheda)

The Westgate planning application is currently with An Bord Pleanála for determination. The Council has responded, as requested, to submissions made to the Bord and are awaiting further information and/or planning report to be issued.

The Westgate planning documents, including the suite of drawings, the EIAR and the AA Stage 2 reports, represent a large volume of material and full details of the proposed works are available here:

<https://consult.louthcoco.ie/en/consultation/westgate-2040>



Artist impressions of Westgate project

St. Nicholas Quarter and Backlands Regeneration (Dundalk)

Phase 1

Glas Civil Engineering Ltd. are currently on site; to minimise the impact on residents and businesses the works will be completed on a phase-by phase basis. Phase A has commenced on Lower Bridge

Street, from St. Nicholas Church to the Castletown Road. To complete these works, this section of Bridge Street has been closed to traffic since mid-August. Diversion routes are in place via Patrick Street, Philip Street, and the Castletown Road.

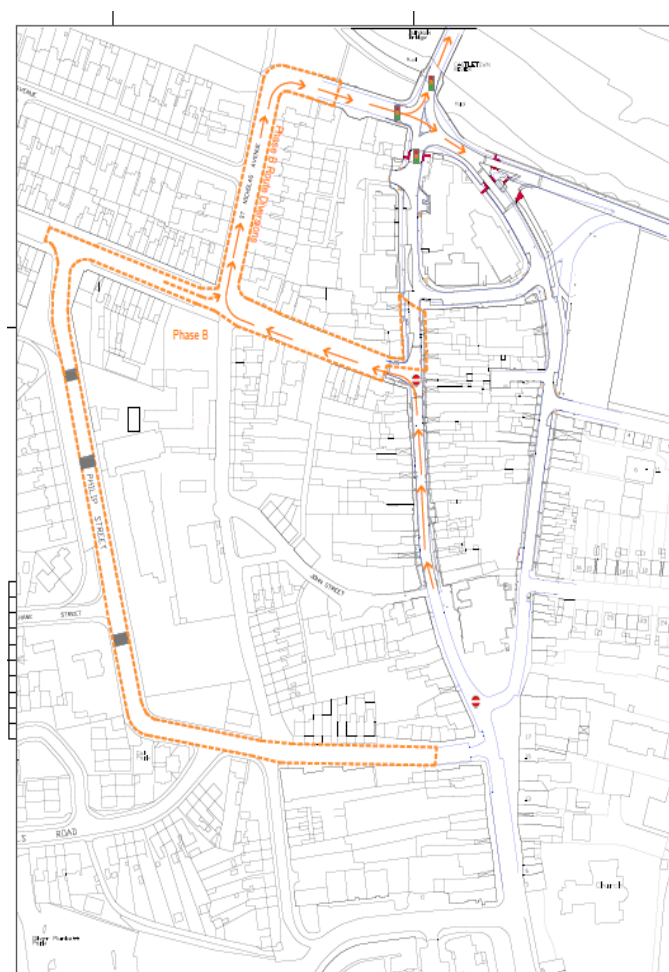
The contractor is commencing works on Phase B with the associated road closure scheduled from mid-November for approximately 3 months. Diversion routes are in place via Castletown Road and St. Nicholas Avenue.

The contractor has, in agreement with the Design Team, LCC and relevant stakeholders commenced work on Phase D (North Gate Street) footpaths ahead of the planned programme.

Pedestrian access will always be maintained and deliveries to and from all businesses will be accommodated to minimise the impact as much as possible.

Glas have appointed a dedicated Liaison Officer for any queries, John Caffrey jcaffrey@glascel.ie

Phase B Closure and Diversions



Phase 2 – Backlands Area of St Nicholas Quarter

Phase 2 of the St. Nicholas Quarter project involves initial feasibility, analysis and preparation of a design concept for the re-development of the Backlands area of the St. Nicholas Quarter. The accepted concept will then be developed to Part 8 Planning with full public consultation. BDP Ltd are the appointed consultant team, following the tender process for design stage.

BDP are currently engaged with the Council in the initial feasibility and analysis stages in preparation of a design concept for St Nicholas Quarter – Phase II. Engagement with project stakeholders was completed in August.

BDP have made initial presentations on the project. A follow-on summary report and programme for the project is currently being completed.



Artist impressions of St. Nicholas Quarter Phase 2

AUCF Éileamh a Trí, Leithdháileadh Maoinithe / URDF Call Three Funding Allocation.

On-site inspections and negotiations with property owners are ongoing regarding buildings in Dundalk and Drogheda. Several properties have entered the planning process, been put up for sale and started works since engagement began.

Several properties have been identified as appropriate and valuations have been acquired on an initial group of properties. Discussion are ongoing regarding possible purchase of properties and their eventual end use.

Athghiniúint Tuaithe agus Ciste Forbartha / Rural Regeneration and Development Fund (RRDF)

Ardee Castle

Ardee Castle has received approval from the Department of Rural and Community Development (DRCD) to go to tender for the refurbishment of Ardee Castle.

The tender for a main works contractor is currently open with site visits ongoing.

The project is part funded under the Rural Regeneration Development Fund as well as by Louth County Council.

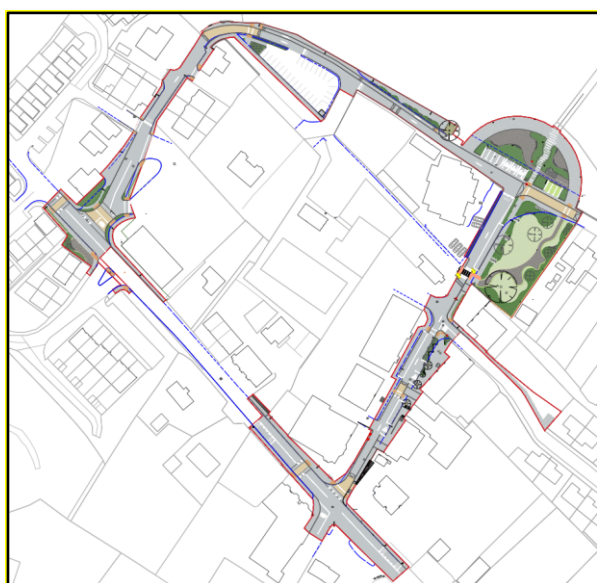
Living in Carlingford Visiting Carlingford



The Council are currently preparing a brief for detailed design which is programmed for Q4 2024.

Omeath Placemaking Scheme

The Placemaking project at Omeath is now completed on site with making good of defects and snagging ongoing by the main contractor, GLAS Civil Engineering.



Ardee 2040

The Council are currently engaged with TII in relation to pre-planning approval for the main street. Turley Planning are in the process of completing the final design Audits, reports and planning documents for Ardee 2040. Once approval from TII is issued, the planning submission will then be lodged with An Bord Pleanála.

Tionscadail Breise / Additional Projects

St Laurence's Gate Plaza, Drogheda

Further environmental reports that are required for the Part 8 planning process are in progress and are being prepared for St Laurence's Gate Plaza.



Tionscadail Tras-Rannóg / Cross Departmental Projects

Play Spaces

Termonfeckin

The playground, designed and built by Kompan, has been completed and handed over to the Council. Footpath works have also been completed and disabled parking space and railing will be completed in the first week of November.





St Dominic's Park & The Glen

AA Screening Stage 1 report has been completed for the Glen and Part 8 documents are being prepared for Q4 2024

AA Screening Stage 1 report for proposed works in St. Dominic's Park playground is currently being prepared in addition to Part 8 documents for Q4 2024.

Tionscadail Tosaíochta do Lár an Bhaile / Town Centre First Projects

Town Centre First Plan - Dunleer



Funding of €50,000 has been awarded to Dunleer under the Town and Village, Project Development Measure funding stream. The funding will allow for the appointment of a design team to complete the initial design stages for the Library Square project. The Library Square project is one of the main initiatives that has arisen through the Dunleer Town Centre First plan and proved very popular at public consultation events and online surveys.

The funding allows for a consultant team to complete the initial design stages including successful planning permission. The project will create a new public space adjacent the soon to be completed Library building (former Bank of Ireland) on the main street. The existing unused public toilets will make way to create much needed public pedestrian space in the heart of the town. The project will include new hard surfacing, kerbing, street furniture, feature lighting, planting, cycle parking and associated signage.

Town Centre First Plan – Clogherhead

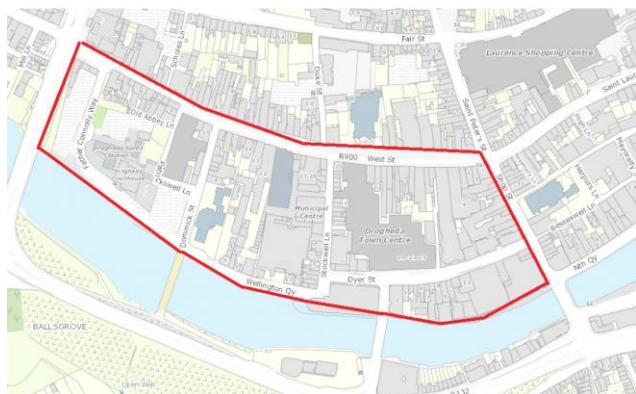
The appointed design team BDP are currently assessing the information gathered from public consultation and data analysis.

A parking survey was carried out in August to assess the parking dynamic during the summer

period. Other surveys and investigation work are ongoing.

THRIVE – Town Centre First Heritage Revival Scheme

Louth County Council were successful in receiving the maximum amount of €200k under Strand 1 THRIVE funding stream for Drogheda.

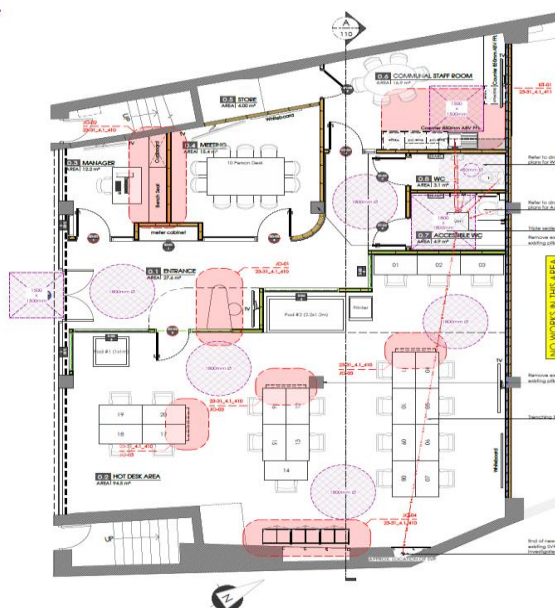


The funding will go towards the appointment of an Integrated Design Team that will lead on the creation of an Integrated Urban Strategy for the centre of Drogheda. The consultant team will also complete a design and Part 8 planning procedure for a Heritage building in the area.

A consultant is set to be appointed with initial meetings taking place at the start of November. Public consultation will follow before Christmas.

Drogheda Digital Innovation Hub

The tender for the appointment of a contractor for works to part of the former O'Reilly building on Narrow West Street has closed and returns are being assessed.



Town Team Support Fund

Louth County Council were successful in receiving funding under the Town Centre First Suite of Supports 2024 - Measure 1 Town Team Support Fund.

€10k was awarded to both Castlebellingham and Collon. The funding will go towards appointing a consultant to carry out a Town Centre Health Check for each town.

A consultant has been appointed; the Health Checks are to be complete by March 2025.

Vacant Homes Officer

A dedicated Vacant Homes Officer is now in place, and they have been engaging with the owners of Vacant Homes regarding their properties and the supports available to return them to use. Vacant Homes notices have been affixed to several properties in the county where there is no easily identifiable owner in order to drive engagement. A small pilot has returned an over 75% response rate on these notices so far leading on to engagement with these owners.

Suspected or known Vacant Homes can be referred to the Vacant Homes Officer via vacanthomes.ie by members of the public.

Forbairt Fhisiciúil / Physical Development

Tionscadail Bóithre / Roads Projects

Narrow Water Bridge

Construction of the formation level of the main carriageway and roundabout are ongoing, surfacing of the main carriageway and roundabout has commenced, temporary traffic diversion for the R173 and the greenway are in place.

Southern abutment base steel reinforcement has been placed and concrete poured on the 29th of Oct.

Northern Works: Proposed surface water diversion works has commenced in the North. Construction of the embankment has commenced. Works on diverting the existing final effluent pipe has commenced. Piling works for the northern abutment to comment early November.



Reinforcement Works Southern Abutment



Finished Concrete Pour Southern Abutment Base



Concrete Pour Operation Southern Abutment



Embankment Works Northern Approach.



Concrete Pour Operation Southern Abutment



Piling Platform Northern Embankment

Engagement with DFI Infrastructure, Loughs Agency, NPW, etc. will be ongoing throughout the contract. Land Valuation Services are ongoing, and they are liaising with the agents of landowners.

A Consultant has been appointed for mussel fishermen valuation service and has commenced meeting fishers affected by the scheme.

N53 - Dundalk to Castleblayney Road Phase 4. Hackballscross to Rassan

The design team continues to engage with the landowners, their agents, and other stakeholders.

Archaeological Phase delays due to landowners have now been overcome and test trenching have recommenced in the remaining plots.

A T2 budget submission for the entire project has been submitted to the TII for their review and approval, to allow the scheme to progress to tender.

The Council still await a date from ESB on relocation of 38kv overhead network. When these works will progress.

N2 Ardee to Castleblayney Road Scheme

Currently no allocation of funding from TII was provided to Monaghan Co. Council to progress the major project, and the design work continues to be suspended.

The N2 Project Team can be contacted by landowners and members of the public via the N2 Project Phoneline 087 340 3786, or email: ArdeeCastleblayney@N2MonaghanLouth.ie

N52 Ardee Bypass

The hearing in respect of the grant of leave to appeal was heard on the 15th of Oct. 2024, and Judge O'Regan reserved judgment in this matter. It is currently unknown when the High Court judge will decide on the appeal.

Boyne Enterprise Link Road

Louth Co. Council Section of the road is now complete. Final account has been agreed.

Ongoing consultations including a valuation process are taking place with stakeholders / landowners to acquire adjoining roadway. The CPO process has also commenced in conjunction with the valuation process.

R178 Cavan to Dundalk Strategic Route Improvement Scheme

Only one Tender for consultancy services was received. Department of Transport have now approved the Council to appoint the Consultant through to optioneering phase of the project, with a view that subject to funding approvals further phases will follow on through to planning consent stage.

Glasbhealaí / Greenways

Carlingford Lough Greenway - Omeath to Newry (Joint project with Newry, Mourne and Down District Council and East Border Region)

Section 1 – Carlingford Tourist Office to Carlingford Marina

Main civil works in Carlingford complete. Trailheads complete in Carlingford.

Section 2 - Omeath to the Border

Mainline route of greenway now complete. Substantial completion achieved.

Landowner engagement ongoing on the acquisition of the CPO land parcels. The Council has appointed a land valuer for the land acquisition in Section 2 and negotiations are ongoing.

Section 3 – Northern Ireland

Works continue to progress on the construction of the boardwalk.



Substructure of Boardwalk being assembled



Substructure including Piles

Glasbhealaí Cistithe ag B.I.E / TII Funded Greenways:

Dundalk Bay to Carlingford Greenway

As part of the PCD 2 the total number of submissions received as part of the Route Corridor Options consultation stage was 1,657.

These submissions will now be reviewed by the project consultants and will inform the process in determining an emerged preferred route corridor, which will be subject to the next public consultation phase. Further details on the project can be found on the dedicated website www.dundalkcarlingfordgreenway.ie, including contact details for the Project Liaison Officer.

TII approval received to move the project into options phase.

As part of the development of route corridor options for the project, the Consultants (RODA) will be carrying out several ecological walkover surveys within the identified study area from public roads and public lands, to undertake wintering bird surveys.

An Independent Agronomist has been engaged the Council during the route corridor option selection stage to assist landowners through the project considering any relevant agronomy issues. The Independent Agronomist will be made available to landowners to fully and fairly assess the impact of the proposed Greenway on their property types. The Independent Agronomist / Property Advisor will assist in identifying a route which minimises the impact of the scheme on affected properties.

The Project Agronomist / Property Advisor will also assist in agreeing upon appropriate accommodation works and access arrangements in consultation with the farmer / landowner.

The Total Performance Period for the Contract is 40 months (Phase 1 – 6mths, Phase 2 – 8mths, Phase 3 – 20mths, Phase 4 – 6 mths).

Scéim Bonneagair Áineasa Aeraíochta / Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme, beach accessibility.

Applications under the ORIS Fund Measure 2 have been successful for Port (Lurganboy) and Templetown beaches.

Tender Documents for construction of both Templetown and Port were issued to a market of 81 suppliers, however only one tender was received with a value which substantially exceeds the funding from ORIS. The Council are currently exploring options of how to overcome the shortfall if possible.

Tionscadail LIHAF / LIHAF Project:

Mount Avenue Road Upgrade

Substantial completion has now been reached with small snagging works and recommendations from the road safety audit to be completed. Subject to the above works a Safety File will be compiled and handed over to the Council.

Tionscadail Corparáideach / Corporate Projects

Dunleer Fire Station

Final purchase of the lands process is on-going but in latter stages of purchase process being completed.

Stage 1 Report consisting of Project Inception and Preliminary Investigation was submitted in Dec 23. Approval to proceed to stage 2 will now be sought from the funding body when site fully acquired.

Dundalk Fire Station Training Centre

A negotiated tender process to procure a consultant has been successfully completed and Stage 1 Report consisting of Project Inception and Preliminary Investigation has commenced.

Tionscadail Cosaint ar Thulite Chontae Lú agus Creimeadh Cósta / Louth Flood Defence and Coastal Erosion Projects

Dundalk & Ardee Flood Relief Projects

The Consultant Engineers continue to work on Stage 1 of the Dundalk Flood Relief Project. The baseline hydraulic modelling is essentially complete with the model outputs currently undergoing quality assurance assessment.

A long list of proposed flood relief measures for Dundalk and Blackrock have been identified and are being hydraulically assessed.

The most hydraulically effective shortlisted measures will be combined into several potential flood relief options.

Public participation days to discuss the emerging options are programmed for early to mid-2025.

The Site Investigation tender for the project is continuing to be assessed. Other surveys such as topographical, environmental and archaeological surveys are in progress to inform the project development.

The Draft Ardee Options Report has been received and reviewed by the Steering Group.

Monthly project briefing notes are being issued to the current relevant stakeholders. The Project website being hosted by OPW can be reached at: www.floodinfo.ie/frs/en/dundalk/home

Drogheda and Baltray Flood Relief Project

The Consultant Engineers, RPS are continuing to work on Stage 1 of the Project. A review of the modelled flood extents has been undertaken and this has identified where flood defences will be required along the River Boyne and its tributaries. The defence locations are also under review, this is to check their effectiveness against present day scenarios and climate change scenarios. A stakeholder's collaborative workshop, held in September 2024. The workshop was an opportunity for those attending to establish goals and objectives and how these would bring added value to the project through a joined-up approach to public sector works.

A contractor has been appointed also to undertake an underwater archaeology survey. Liaison is also underway with environmental specialists regarding updating the baseline data. An additional overwintering bird survey commenced in September and will continue until March 2025.

The Project website being hosted by OPW is now complete and can be reached at: www.droghedabaltrayfrs.ie

Carlingford and Greenore Flood Relief Project

The appointed CCTV and Topographical survey Contractors are on site gathering the information needed to inform the prospective Hydraulic model. The Topographical Survey elements are now complete, and the CCTV/Culvert Surveys are continuing.

The OPW are continuing to develop a brief for consultants to carry out the scheme. A Draft Brief has been provided to LCC and a Review Meeting has been planned for November 2024.

The Local Authority have appointed an engineering staff member to progress the project.

Tionscadail Muirí / Marine Projects

Coastal Protection Works – Drummullagh (Omeath), Bellurgan and Ballynamoney/Ballagan.

Louth County Council submitted 3 No. Section 177AE Planning Applications to An Bord Pleanála on January 18th for proposed coastal protection works at the following locations:

- Drummullagh, Omeath, consultations with the Marine Area Regulatory Authority have been finalised. Subsequently an amended Section 177 AE has been submitted to An Bord Pleanála.
- Bellurgan Point (Section 177 AE ongoing),
- Ballynamoney/Ballagan, Greenore (Section 177 AE ongoing).

The submitted plans and particulars are available to view on:

<https://consult.louthcoco.ie/en/browse>

Thereafter, and subject to Section 177AE approval, tender documentation is to be prepared, and it is now anticipated to procure a civil engineering contractor in Q1/2 2025, with subsequent construction works programmed in accordance with the individual sites ecological constraints.

Tionscadail Cláir Scoileanna / Schools Programme Projects

Ardee E.T.N.S.

Works on site continue to progress, Progress to date since previous monthly reporting:

- Blockwork Wall ongoing 90%
- Roof Trusses to corridor sections 90% complete
- Reinforced concrete beams are now in place
- Masonry support to Special Needs Unit area 90% complete.
- Electrical chasing for SNU has been completed
- Surface water attenuation trench – 60%
- Joisting to flat roofs – 80%.
- Cavity closers to windows – 50%
- First delivery of roofing materials on site for SNU – rest of materials due w/c 23/09/24.

Monthly Forecast Works

- Complete Rising Blockwork

- Measure of windows for fabrication.
- Completion of roof to SNU
- Complete attenuation trench
- Commence mechanical & electrical containment to SNU

The status of the ongoing Active Travel projects are as outlined in the table below:



Internal Works

Ríomhchlár Infheistithe Tasaitil Gníomhaigh / Active Travel Investment Program

2024 Budget Allocation

On the 7th of February 2024, The National Transport Authority (NTA) awarded Louth County Council a budget allocation of €4.5 million to advance thirty-two (32) Active Travel Projects.

The status of the ongoing Active Travel projects are as outlined in the table below. For ease of referencing, the National Transport Authority (NTA) allocate projects into particular Cost Bands depending on the total estimated project cost including, fees, land acquisitions and constructions as follows.

Band 1	€0 - €5M;
Band 2	€5 - €20M;
Band 3	> €20M;

They also divide the evolution of a Capital Investment project into a seven-phase process, i.e. (Phase 1 to Phase 7 inclusive) with seven Gateways Reports where local authorities are to prepare and submit Gateway Reports before obtaining approval to advance to the next phase.

The seven different phases are as outlined below:

- PHASE 1: Scope and Purpose
- PHASE 2: Concept Development and Option Selection
- PHASE 3: Preliminary Design
- PHASE 4: Statutory Processes
- PHASE 5: Detailed Design and Procurement
- PHASE 6: Construction and Implementation
- PHASE 7: Close-out and Review

Tionscadail Tasitil Gníomhaigh / Active Travel Projects

Project Name	Allocation 2024	Project Band (updated March 2024)	Current Phase	October 2024- Project update	Anticipated Part 8 Completions, subject to NTA approval of Gateways
Drogheda: R132, Bridge of Peace to Train Station (incorporating Marsh Road)	€200,000	Band 2 €5 - €20M	Phase 3 – Preliminary Design	The Active Travel Team received Gateway 3 approval from the NTA in September 2024. The Design Team have now considered all submissions received as part of the first Non-statutory Public Consultation process held in Sept / Oct 2023 and have incorporated some observations into the Preliminary Design i.e. Phase 3 Gateway 3 Report. The recent Gateway 3 Report and preliminary design Drawings were amended to reflect the New Cycle Design Manual. A workshop between LCC & NTA was held in June 2024. All scheme layouts now approved by the NTA including amended junction layouts for Rathmullan Rd / Bridge of Peace and John Street Junctions from the initial consultation drawings. The Active Travel Team held a second Non-Statutory Public Consultation event in Drogheda Library Stockwell Lane Tuesday 5th November 2024. Councillor Engagement held online on 14th October 2024. 	Proposed Part 8 display late Q4 2024
Drogheda: R166 Termonfeckin Rd, design.	€100,000	Band 2 €5 - €20M	Phase 3 – Preliminary Design	Consultants RPS Group have completed draft Gateway 3 Report. It is anticipated to have an on-line briefing on the proposed scheme to Drogheda Borough District Councillors in Nov 2024 in advance of non-statutory public consultations.	Proposed Part 8 display early Q1 2025
Drogheda: R168 Collon Rd, Hill of	€100,000	Band 2 €5 - €20M	Phase 3 – Preliminary Design	The Active Travel Team held a non-statutory consultation day in Drogheda Library on Thursday 22 nd Feb 2024 between 3pm – 7pm. Councillors and Elected Official were invited to attend a closed session	Proposed Part 8 display Q1 2025

Project Name	Allocation 2024	Project Band (updated March 2024)	Current Phase	October 2024- Project update	Anticipated Part 8 Completions, subject to NTA approval of Gateways
Rath RAB and Rosehall RAB.				between 2pm – 3pm prior to opening to the public. All relevant observations / comments are now incorporated into the preliminary design. The final Gateway 3 Report is due to be submitted to the NTA by the end of Nov 2024, to allow the Active Travel Team to proceed to Part 8 public Consultation in early 2025  <u>View of Collon Rd looking South East from Mell Roundabout</u>  <u>View of R166 looking East from Hill of Rath Roundabout</u>	
Drogheda: Rathmullan Road including Marley's (Pathfinder Project)	€150,000	Band 2 €5 - €20M	Phase 3 – Preliminary Design	A non-statutory consultation day was held, and the Design Team have now considered all submissions received as part of the Non-statutory Public Consultation process in order to inform the Preliminary Design i.e. Phase 3 Gateway 3 Report. The Active Travel Team received GW 3 report (drawings, costing, Road Safety Audit) approval from the NTA on the 16th September 2024. An On-line briefing on Part 8 drawings was held on 14th October 2024 to	Proposed Part 8 display Q4 2024

Project Name	Allocation 2024	Project Band (updated March 2024)	Current Phase	October 2024- Project update	Anticipated Part 8 Completions, subject to NTA approval of Gateways
				Drogheda MD members. Part 8 Public Display 22nd October 2024 in County Hall Dundalk & Drogheda Civic Office until 3rd December 2024. Also available on the National Portal https://planning.localgov.ie/en/part-8/application/bacd54f4-8bc0-11ef-a181-005056880cd6  View of Marley's Lane looking South from Aura Leisure	
Drogheda Dublin and North roads, design.	€100,000	Band 2 €5 - €20M	Phase 2 - Concept and Options	An update on the scheme was given to Drogheda and Bettystown / Laytown Municipal Districts on Tuesday 16th January 2024. The Active Travel Team are having on-going discussions with Irish Rail regarding Dublin Road Bridge and interaction with the Dart North Coastal Project. A inter agency meeting was held on Friday 20th September to examine proposals on Active Travel measures under the Dublin Rd, railway bridge. Gateway 3 (Preliminary Design Report) due to be completed by the end of Nov. 	North Rd, Drogheda - Proposed Part 8 display Q1 2025 Dublin Rd, Drogheda - Proposed Part 8 display depending on dialogue with NTA / Irish Rail.

Project Name	Allocation 2024	Project Band (updated March 2024)	Current Phase	October 2024- Project update	Anticipated Part 8 Completions, subject to NTA approval of Gateways
				<u>View of Dublin Rd, Drogheda Rd looking South</u>	
Dundalk: R132 Inner Relief Rd. (Pathfinder Project)	€250,000	Band 2 €5 - €20M	Phase 5 Detailed Design	SAQ Documents have been issued to form a framework of contractors that tender documents will be issued to. Detailed design is also currently being undertaken.  <u>View of Inner Relief Rd. Dundalk looking north from Hoeys Lane Roundabout extract from Fly Through</u>	Completed
Dundalk: Dublin Rd Xerox Junction to Ladywell Bridge	€150,000	Band 2 €5 - €20M	Phase 4 Statutory Process	Project progressing through the Part 8 process. Public consultation closed on 15/10/2024. 6 No. submissions received. Consultants reviewing submissions and collating comments. 	In progress

Project Name	Allocation 2024	Project Band (updated March 2024)	Current Phase	October 2024- Project update	Anticipated Part 8 Completions, subject to NTA approval of Gateways
				<u>View of Dublin Rd, Dundalk looking north at DKIT Entrance</u>	
Dundalk: Ard Easmuinn Rd to Train Station / Friary School Dundalk & Dundalk Bus Station to Rail Station.	€150,000		Phase 3 /4 Preliminary Design / Statutory Process	NTA descoped elements of the project. Consultant is working on re-issuing Gateway 3 Reports in line with the new site extents.  <u>View of Ard Easmuinn Looking North from China Bridge</u>	Proposed Part 8 Q1 2025
Transport / Mobility Plans: Including Dundalk, Drogheda, Ardee, Clogherhead, Dunleer, Termonfeckin & Castlebellingham	€450,000	Band 1 €0 - €5M	Phase 2 - Concept and Options	Drogheda Area Based Transport Assessment (ABTA) Drogheda Online survey completed and synopsised. ATOS completed and GIS specialist has prepared new drawing and superimposed "Proposed Active Travel Links" as a layer to each of the ATOS Results maps. The NTA directly are going to task one of their Framework Consultants to develop the next steps of the ABTA. Dundalk Area Based Transport Assessment (ABTA) The Local Transport Plan (LTP) was placed on public display alongside the Draft Dundalk Local Area Plan from Wednesday 17th July 2024 until 4.30pm on Tuesday 10th September 2024 (inclusive). The closing date for submissions has now expired and the Active Travel Team are now reviewing all transport related observations / commentary.	N/A
Hoey's Lane, Dundalk	€165,000	Band 1 €0 - €5M	Phase 3 – Preliminary Design	GW3 Reports are being reviewed by the NTA. Public consultation proposed for December.	Proposed Part 8 Q1 2025

Project Name	Allocation 2024	Project Band (updated March 2024)	Current Phase	October 2024- Project update	Anticipated Part 8 Completions, subject to NTA approval of Gateways
Mill Street, Dundalk	€145,000	Band 1 €0 - €5M	Phase 2 - Concept and Options	GW2 comments received from NTA 23/10/2024. Consultants reviewing and will revert with revised drawings.	2025
Hill Street Bridge to Train Station, Dundalk	€235,000	Band 1 €0 - €5M	Phase 2 - Concept and Options	LCC Active Travel Team have submitted Gateway 2 Reports (Options Development) to the NTA on 22 nd May 2024 and we are currently awaiting approval. The Active Travel Team are engaging with Irish Rail / CIE with regards to possible route selections.	2025
R132 Dublin Road, (Rank Xerox Junction to Greengates)	€160,000	Band 1 €0 - €5M	Phase 3 - Preliminary Design	GW3 Reports are being reviewed by the NTA Second public consultation day along with stakeholder engagement meetings planned for November.	Proposed Part 8 Q1 2025
Moneymore, Active Travel elements	€100,000	Band 1 €0 - €5M	Phase 5 - Concept Proposals	Design Consultants (RPS Group) appointed in Mid July 2023 and have design completed for the proposals. We are liaising with relevant landowners on a preferred route. LCC looking at the potential of CPO Lands	N/A
Drogheda improvement of accessibility	€50,000	Band 1 €0 - €5M	Phase 3 - Preliminary Design	Various locations in the town of Drogheda Works to be completed in Q4 2024	N/A
Dundalk improvement of accessibility	€60,000	Band 1 €0 - €5M	Phase 3 - Preliminary Design	Various locations in the town of Dundalk Works to be completed in Q4 2024	N/A
Ardee improvement of accessibility	€40,000	Band 1 €0 - €5M	Phase 3 - Preliminary Design	Various locations in the town of Ardee Works to be completed in Q4 2024	N/A
Safe Routes to Schools (Round 1) 1. St Louis Secondary School Dundalk	€930,000	Band 1 €0 - €5M	Phase 3 - Preliminary Design	In accordance with the provisions of Section 38 of the Road Traffic Act, 1994 as amended, proposed works at schools 1, 3 & 4 were advertised in the local press and Consult Louth for a period of two weeks from Tuesday 9th July, 2024 to Tuesday 23rd July, 2024 inclusive.	N/A

Project Name	Allocation 2024	Project Band (updated March 2024)	Current Phase	October 2024- Project update	Anticipated Part 8 Completions, subject to NTA approval of Gateways
2. Rehab Care Mill Street Dundalk 3. Saint Brigid's and Saint Patrick's School, Drogheda 4. Scoil Aonghusa, Drogheda				Contractor & Project Supervisor Design Stage selected from winning Tender. Contractor now appointed and programme of works agreed with all school principals. Works relating to Rehab Care on Mill Street, will be incorporated as part of Mill Street, Active Travel Project. Works underway in Dundalk & Drogheda and expected to be completed by end of November. Road Closure will be in place for Sundays Gate from 19th -22nd November inclusive for essential pavement & civil works. Diversion Routes will be in place during this period.	
Safe Routes to Schools (Round 2) 1. Bellurgan National School 2. Callystown National School 3. St Mary's NS, Knockbridge 4. St. Malachy's GNS, Dundalk	€125,000	Band 1 €0 - €5M	Phase 2 - Concept and Options	The Design Team were appointed in March 2024 and have commenced Option Development and Preliminary Design. Section 38 to be displayed by Q4 2024 It is anticipated that all design and public liaison will be completed in 2024 for Round 2 schools and all infrastructure delivered in 2025.	No part 8's but possible Section 38's

Forbairt Na hEagraíochta

Organisational Development

Áiríonn an Stiúrthóireacht um Fhorbairt na hEagraíochta na seirbhísí lárnacha a theastaíonn chun an tÚdarás Áitiúil seo a chothabháil agus a riaradh. Áirítear leis seo Acmhainní Corparáideacha agus Daonna. Áiríonn sé freisin na feidhmeanna Pobail agus Aeráide agus gach gné de Sheirbhísí Bainistíochta Dramhaíola agus Sheirbhísí Tréidliachta.

Tá cúig eochairfhreagrachta ag an Stiúrthóireacht seo:

- Seirbhísí Corparáideacha
- Tacaíocht Pobail agus Spóirt
- Bainistíocht Dramháil, Gníomh Comhshaoil, Uisce Tuaithe & Gníomhú ar son na hAeráide
- Seirbhísí Tréidliachta
- Acmhainní Duine

The Organisational Development Directorate includes the central services required to maintain and administer this Local Authority. This includes Corporate and Human Resources. It also includes the Community and Climate functions and all aspects of Waste Management Services and Veterinary Services.

This Directorate has five key areas of responsibility.

- Corporate Services
- Community Support & Sports
- Waste Management, Environment Rural Water & Climate Action
- Veterinary Services
- Human Resources

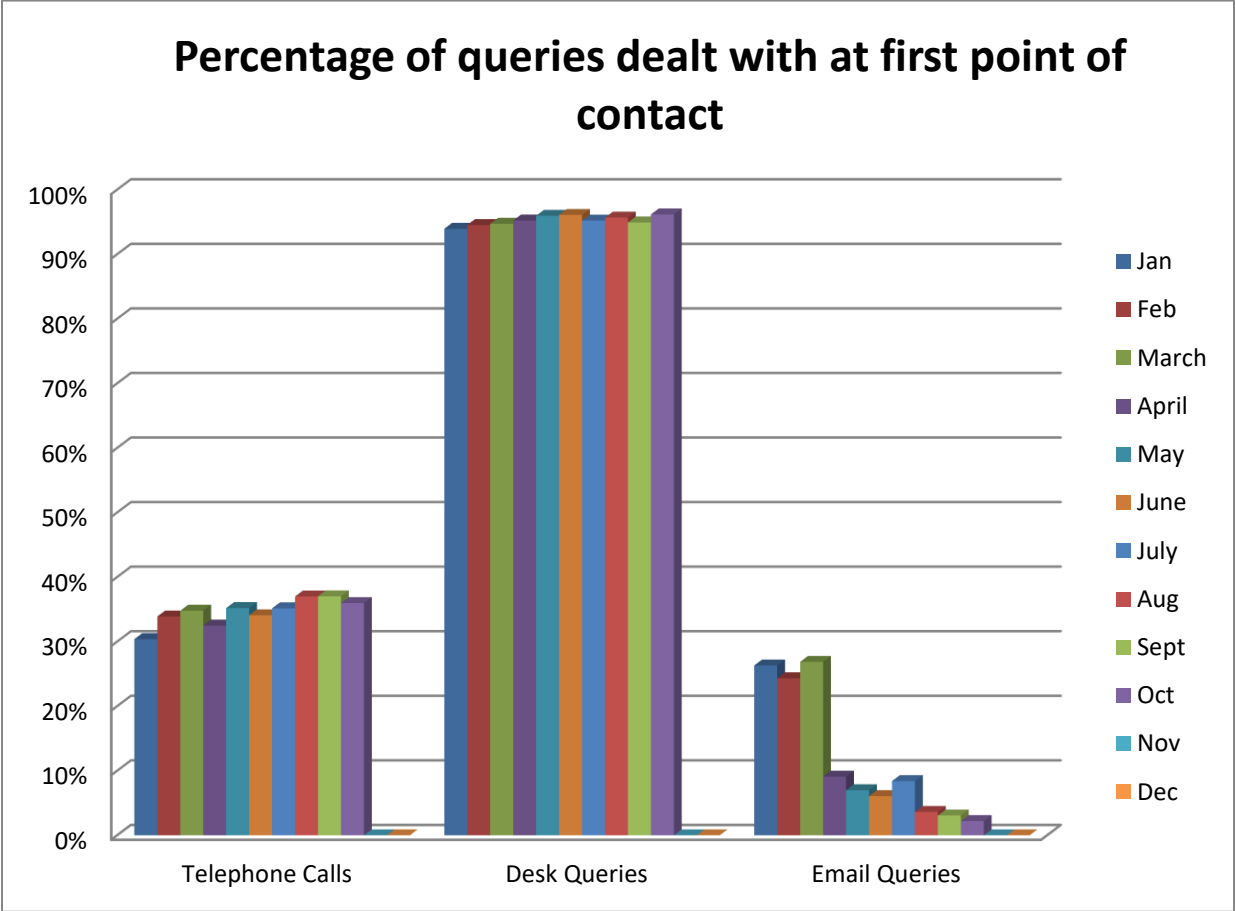


David Hanratty
A/Stiúrthóir / A/Director of Service

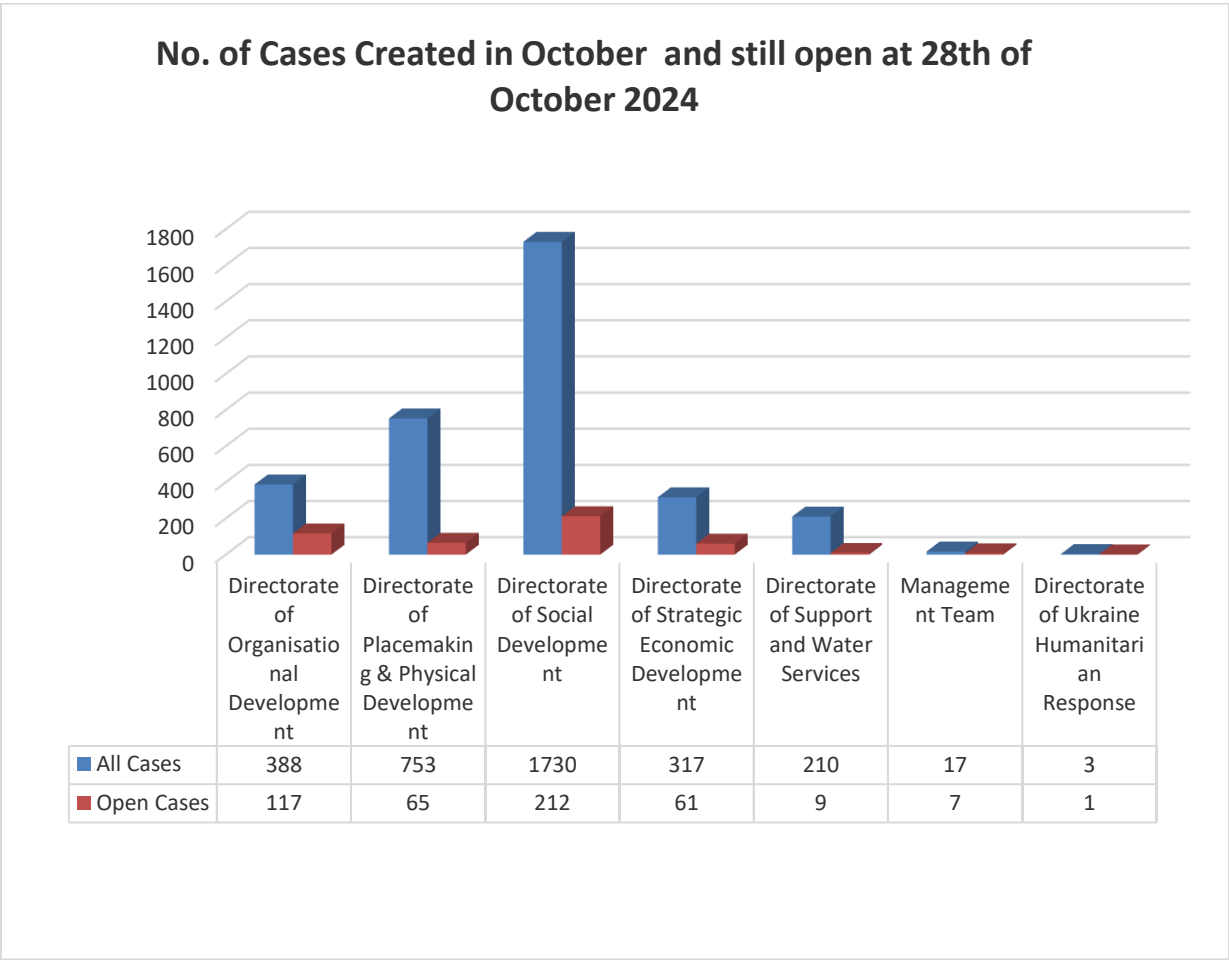
Seirbhísí Corparáideacha / Corporate Services

Tuairisc ar Sheirbhísí Custaiméirí / Customer Services Report

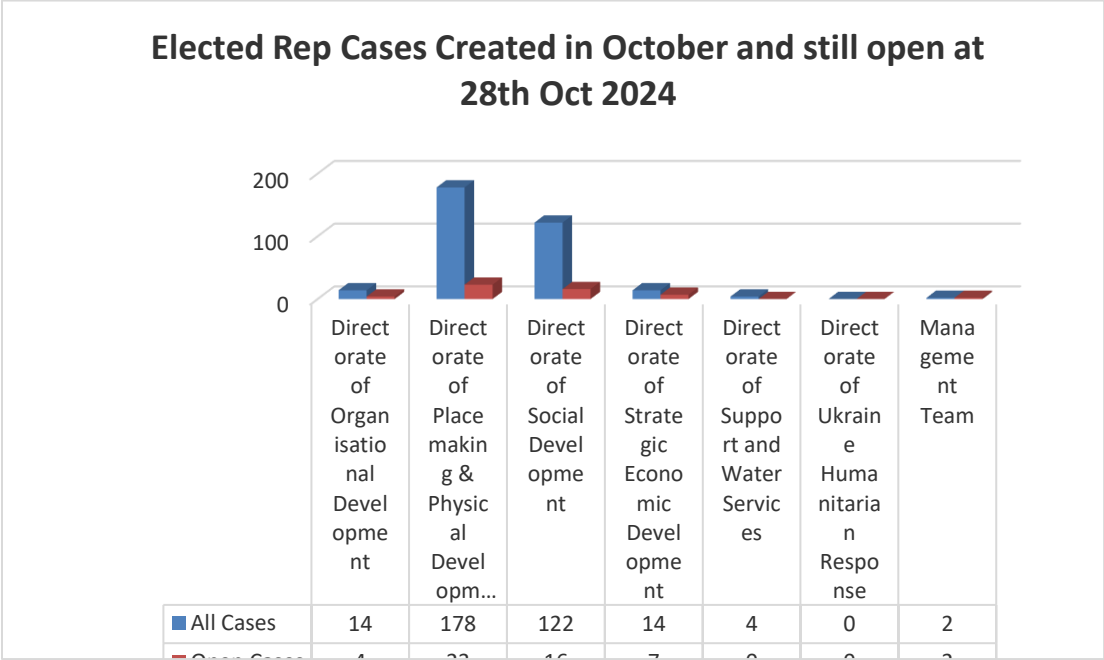
During the month of Oct 2024 Customer Services dealt with queries 8,046 calls, 1,225 e-mails and 7,224 counter queries.



There were 3,418 valid Sugar CRM cases recorded during October of which 472 (13.8%) remain unresolved, broken down by directorate as follows:



During October 2024, 334 elected reps. cases were recorded on Sugar of which 52 (15.5 %) remain unresolved broken down by Directorate as follows:



The table below illustrates activity in the redress area.

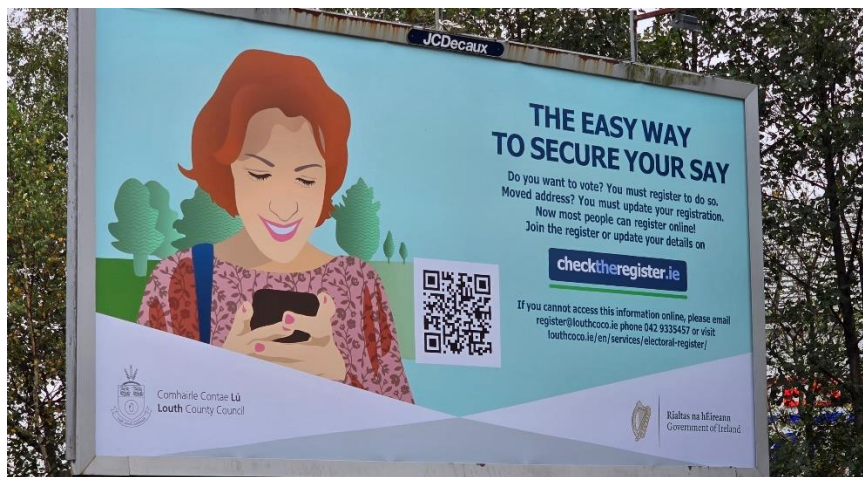
Request Received	2023 Total Jan-Oct	2024 Total Jan - Oct	Oct only 2024
FOI	103	129	14
DSAR	10	12	1
Data Protection Request	6	15	5
AIE Requests	19	14	2
Ombudsman	17	18	2
Complaints	29	35	0

Clár Toghthóirí / Electoral Register

Preparations are underway for the upcoming General Election (official date to be announced).

The Franchise section are undertaking an extensive advertising campaign over the coming weeks to encourage all citizens to ensure their details are accurate and up to date on the Electoral Register. Most importantly, as only “Irish” Citizens are entitled to vote in the upcoming General Election, the most important check is to ensure that citizens’ nationality is accurate. The most effective way of checking this is via www.checktheregister.ie

Awareness campaigns are being run nationally via television & radio advertisements, however, Louth County Council have also advertised in all Local Newspapers, Local Billboards, Bus Shelters and via X (formally twitter).



Drogheda Civic Offices

In the last month we used our new civic space to facilitate the Moldovan Election process with their citizens living in Ireland using this space to cast their vote.

Dundalk Municipal District Awards

On Thursday 24th October, the Cathaoirleach and members of Dundalk Municipal District recognised a total of 13 inspirational individuals and groups for their outstanding achievements, service to the community and those who represent their community nationally or internationally.



Tacaíocht Pobail / Community Support

Contae Lú atá Báúil le hAois / Age Friendly Louth



Louth Age Friendly EXPO 2024

Age Friendly Louth welcomed over 250 people to the Ardee Parish Centre on 2nd October 2024 to celebrate Positive Ageing Week.

Gavin Duffy, Age Friendly Ambassador for Co. Louth, opened the event and spoke about the work of the Age Friendly Programme in Co. Louth. He also emphasised the positive aspects of ageing and the significant roles older people play in our communities and families and highlighted the positivity and vitality of older age.

The EXPO then featured several key speakers on topics such as positive ageing, ageism, the importance of physical activity and movement as we age and the importance of maintaining good diet and hydration as we grow older. Presenters were from the HSE, DKIT and the Louth Older People's Council (OPC).

In addition to the suite of speakers there were over 35 service providers, community groups, organizations and state agencies exhibiting at the Expo. They were showcasing the services and supports they offer to older people in County Louth to enable and support people to age well. These included exhibitors providing information and help on safety & security, community supports, finance, health and wellbeing, sports & leisure, recreation & technology to name but a few.



Louth Age Friendly EXPO 2nd October 2024 in Ardee Parish Centre

Climate Action Week 2024

Age Friendly Louth were delighted to partner with the Climate Action Team in The Council to celebrate Climate Action Week 2024.

Wizard of Creation Aga Hutchinson hosted a sustainable fashion workshop on 15th October showing people how to upcycle and reuse clothes, jewellery and accessories. The workshop took place in Dundalk Library and was open to the public and community groups. Members of Cooley Connect Well attended the event.

Aga also hosted a sustainable art workshop in Ballsgrove Drogheda on 24th October. The Wizard of Creation (Artist) specialises in upcycling and reusing everyday household objects. The members reused old teacups bought in a second-hand shop and used them as a base for a sustainable and creative Halloween themed display. All flowers, herbs and cuttings were from the artist's own garden.



Participants at the Sustainable Fashion Workshop in Dundalk Library

Age Friendly Ireland NGO Networking Day

The Louth Age Friendly Programme Manager represented County Louth at the Age Friendly Ireland Networking Day in Dublin on 9th October. She gave a presentation to the NGO attendees on the Ardee Garden Care & Repair Project. This project provides free gardening services to older people in Ardee and has been part funded by the Ardee Municipal District Councillors through their discretionary fund. The project has been shortlisted for an Age Friendly Ireland Award under the environment theme.



Older People Council Meeting (OPC) Meeting

Louth OPC members held their latest meeting on 24th October in Dundalk. Members meet on a regular basis to discuss issues of interest and concern to older people across the county. It was a busy Agenda with presentations on the Age Friendly Sporting activities taking place in The Lourdes Stadium Drogheda and Dundalk Sports Centre. There were also updates on all local, regional and national age friendly events and activities. The next meeting is scheduled to take place on 27th November 2024 in Drogheda.



Members of the Older People Council

The Five Ways to Wellbeing: Opportunities for Community Health in Louth.

The Age Friendly Team had an information stand at The Five Ways to Wellbeing: Opportunities for Community Health in Louth. This event was held in The Fairways Hotel on Wednesday 23rd October. The event promoted health and wellbeing and celebrated the community organisations that support our health and well-being. Social connection, diversity, and a healthy voluntary sector are hallmarks of a healthy and vibrant community supporting health and wellbeing. Age Friendly Louth promote all aspects of the 5 ways to Wellbeing through the Age Friendly programme, events, activities and projects.



Age Friendly Information Stand at The Five Ways to Wellbeing event in the Fairways Hotel Louth Comhairle na nOg



Cross Border Project

The Cross Border Youth Conference held at the Lisdoo Inn on Saturday 19th October was the final element of an 18-month long project working with young people from Drogheda, Dundalk, Ardee, Newry, Kilkeel and Crossmaglen.

The day-long event involved group discussions with participants sharing personal experiences of life in a cross-border community. Attendees also discussed ways to overcome barriers, break down stigma, tackle inequality, as well as ways to capitalise on opportunities to foster positive relationships through cross-border community engagement.

The project was delivered in partnership between Louth Comhairle na nÓg, Dundalk Youth Centre, Newry and Mourne Youth Council and the Education Authority Northern Ireland. It was supported under the IFI Communities in Partnership Programme (CiPP) which aims to build progressive partnerships that will deliver meaningful benefit for communities on both sides of the border, raise awareness of the issues and challenges while also contributing to the wider peacebuilding work of the IFI.

As part of the overall project, nine dialogue events were held with a focus on building stronger links across border communities. A series of films were also produced, showcasing the stories and experiences of young people from both sides of the border.

Participants also engaged directly with local political representatives from Louth, Newry and Mourne, raising issues of importance with representatives while participants also had the opportunity to visit both Dáil Éireann and Stormont.

The key benefits of the events that have taken place so far are as follows:

- New relationships have been developed between young people from both communities on both sides of the border
- Young people have shared their views and experience of growing up on the border
- Young people have identified a range of issues that they would like to explore further and to connect their ideas and voices with decision makers
- New working relationships have been developed at an organisational level between the partner organisations
- Commitment has been secured from local politicians and decision makers to support the project and to involve young people in the development of initiatives under the MOU agreement between The Council and Newry, Mourne and Down Council.



Participants at the Cross Border Youth Conference at the Lisdoo, Dundalk

Public Participation Network (PPN)

Meetings

The following meetings took place in October:
Secretariat Meeting – Wednesday 16th October
Plenary Meeting – Thursday 17th October in The Barbican, Drogheda

SPC Representatives

Louth PPN sought nominations for the 19 Community Representative seats for the new SPC Scheme (2024-2029) and the nomination period closed on Friday 11th October. 24 nominations were received and 15 of the 19 representatives were ratified at the Plenary Meeting on Thursday 17th

October. 3 of the seats are currently out to a vote via an online poll open to our Community & Voluntary pillar. This poll will close on Friday, November 1st.

Strategic Work Plan 2025 – 2029 and Budget & Work Plan 2025

These two documents were proposed to Louth PPN's membership at the three MD meetings which took place in September, and they were also made available for comment on Louth PPN's website. Both documents were ratified at Louth PPN's Plenary Meeting which took place on Thursday October 17th in The Barbican Centre, Drogheda.

Healthy Louth

Healthy Louth Celebrates National Breastfeeding Week

As part of National Breastfeeding Week (1st – 7th October), Healthy Louth celebrated the launch of a new HSE-led Breastfeeding Support Group in Dunleer on October 1st, 2024. This weekly group provides a dedicated space for breastfeeding mothers to share experiences and receive guidance from healthcare professionals, contributing to the "We're Breastfeeding Friendly Louth" campaign's mission to foster breastfeeding-friendly environments across the county.

As part of the week's celebrations, Healthy Louth also visited the well-established breastfeeding support group in Blackrock. These events reflect Healthy Louth's collaborative efforts with the HSE's Public Health Nursing Department to strengthen local support networks for breastfeeding families, ensuring mothers feel confident and supported in their breastfeeding journeys.

The success of these initiatives underscores the importance of continued collaboration to normalise breastfeeding and create a more inclusive, supportive environment for all families in Louth.



We're Breastfeeding Friendly Support Group Launch in Dunleer



Visit to Breastfeeding Support Group in Blackrock

Louth LCDC Health & Wellbeing Sub-Committee Meeting – 18th October 2024

The Louth LCDC Health & Wellbeing Sub-Committee convened on Friday, 18th October, at County Hall, Dundalk, to review the progress of the Healthy Ireland Programme of work across the county.

Paula Keenan, Healthy Ireland Coordinator for Louth, provided an update on various ongoing projects, highlighting the positive momentum across different sectors. The meeting also featured a

progress update on the Healthy Ireland Fund Year 2 (2024) implementation plan, with valuable input from the implementing partners. There was a focused discussion on the Healthy Ireland Plan for Louth (2018–2022), where members explored the application of the Place Standard Tool to assess and improve public spaces.

Updates were shared on Creative Ireland-funded projects, including 'Step into My World' and 'Dear Future Me'. The committee also discussed preparations for the upcoming "Five Ways to Wellbeing" event and the launch of the CommUnity Connect initiative.

The meeting concluded with a commitment to advancing health and wellbeing initiatives, with the next and final meeting of 2024 scheduled for December.

Healthy Louth Update to LCDC – 21st October 2024

The Healthy Louth Coordinator delivered a high-level update to the Louth LCDC, emphasising the ongoing progress of the Healthy Ireland Programme and its positive effects across various sectors in the county. The discussion encompassed updates on the implementation of the Healthy Ireland Fund Year 2 (2024), engaging dialogues about the 'We're Breastfeeding Friendly Louth' initiative, and the application of the Place Standard Tool for assessing public spaces, along with insights on Creative Ireland-funded projects, highlighting our commitment to promoting health and wellbeing initiatives throughout Louth.

The ‘5 Ways to Wellbeing’, Opportunities for Community Health in Louth and the Launch of CommUnity Connect Louth & Meath

The "Five Ways to Wellbeing: Opportunities for Community Health in Louth" event, held on 23rd October 2024, at The Fairways Hotel, successfully gathered approximately 150 attendees, including health professionals, community groups, and members of the public. The event featured over 30 stands, each mapped to the '5 Ways to Wellbeing' framework, showcasing a diverse mix of services and community groups, including Active Travel,

Creative Arts, Age Friendly and Louth Library Services, all providing opportunities for attendees to engage in practices that support the five ways to wellbeing:

- Connect:* Building strong relationships with others.
- Be Active:* Engaging in physical activity and movement.
- Take Notice:* Being mindful and aware of your surroundings.
- Keep Learning:* Pursuing new skills and knowledge.
- Give:* Contributing to the community and helping others.

The presentation segment, compèred by Dr. Sean Owens, included an address from Maeve Harkin, who acknowledged the funder, SICAP, and emphasised the importance of community wellbeing; Danny McCormack, who discussed the benefits of social prescribing; Mark Garvey, who presented on the Stop Smoking Service; and Paula Keenan, who launched the CommUnity Connect '5 Ways to Wellbeing' Guide. The event concluded with a networking lunch, fostering collaboration among attendees. Feedback was overwhelmingly positive, reflecting a strong commitment to promoting wellbeing across Louth.



Speakers at the “5 Ways to Wellbeing, Opportunities for Community Health in Louth” Event in the Fairways Hotel



Attendees at the “5 Ways to Wellbeing, Opportunities for Community Health in Louth” Event in the Fairways Hotel

Healthy Louth and Dundalk FC Unite to Promote Smoke and Vape-Free Spaces for Young Players

Following a positive pilot in April 2024, Dundalk FC in collaboration with Healthy Louth successfully re-launched the Trí Little Birds School Football Programme Booklet on the 23rd October. Developed by Dundalk FC's Football Social Responsibility Officer Aoife Burns and programme co-creator Tom O'Connor in partnership with FAI's "Futsal in the Yard," this programme is now supported by Healthy Louth's “Not Around Us” campaign.

The programme targets primary schools across Co. Louth, offering an inclusive football experience designed to promote wellbeing, teamwork, and mental health. Since its inception, the programme has engaged over 700 children in 17 Dundalk schools, with a goal to reach an additional 12 schools in 2025.

Healthy Ireland's “Not Around Us” campaign joined in August, reinforcing the programme's objectives by fostering smoke and vape-free environments around young people, contributing toward a Tobacco-Free Oriel Park. Through this partnership, creative activities—such as colouring competitions and T-shirt design contests—are now included to further spread the campaign's message in an engaging way.

Additionally, with Not Around Us campaign funding, participating schools and clubs are invited to halftime mini-matches at Oriel Park, where children showcase their skills while wearing branded bibs that promote smoke-free areas in family and vendor sections.

Aoife Burns expressed her appreciation, saying, “Healthy Louth's involvement allows us to extend this programme to more schools, creating a greater impact within the community.” Paula Keenan, Healthy Ireland Coordinator, added, “This partnership creatively engages teachers, students, and families, fostering collective support for the Not Around Us initiative.”

This collaboration exemplifies Healthy Louth's ongoing commitment to community-led, health-focused projects that encourage safe and supportive spaces for young people.



Relaunch of Trí Little Birds School Football Programme Booklet in Oriel Park

LEADER Programmes



LEADER 2014-2020 and LEADER Transitional Programmes

Both the LEADER Programme 2014-2020 and LEADER Transitional Programme 2021-2022 are now closed. The total amount of funding awarded to successful projects, under both Programmes, in Co Louth was **€6,305,142.81**, with grant amounts ranging in value from €1,254.61 to €199,701.70. Funding support was county wide across the 3 Themes of:

- Economic, Enterprise and Job Creation
- Social Inclusion
- Rural Environment

LEADER 2023-2027 Programme

The LEADER 2023-2027 Programme continues to support private enterprises and community groups to improve the quality of life and economic activity in communities throughout County Louth. There is approximately €3.75 million available for project funding in Louth throughout the life of this Programme.

Anyone considering applying for LEADER Funding or who have questions regarding eligibility etc., should contact: Mary O'Neill at Louth Local Development: 087 1735168 or email at mary.oneill@lldc.ie

Project Funding Approved

The LAG at its recent meeting approved funding support, in the amount of €196,588.85 for one LEADER project. The project supported is located in the Dundalk area.



Social Integration and Community Activation Programme 2024-2028 (SICAP)

A SICAP Support Workshop, was held by Pobal in Navan on 3rd October. Covering topics such as SICAP Programme Updates, including programme changes, Communication and Publicity Requirements and an excellent Q&A session, it was an opportunity for both SICAP frontline staff and LCDC staff to share experiences in delivering the SICAP 2024-2028 Programme.

The SICAP Annual planning process will commence shortly. The LCDC must review the Annual Plan and provide feedback to Pobal by 29th November. Final approval of the 2025 plan must be given by 28th February.

CLÁR 2024 Funding Scheme

The Community Support Team in Louth County Council is delighted to announce that six projects have recently been approved by the Department of Rural and Community Development for funding under the CLÁR 2024 Scheme.

Cooley Kickhams	Painting of Ball Wall with lines and onsite café	€7,662
Cooley Kickhams	Sports Pitch Fencing	€50,000
Cúchulainn Gaels	Storage Space	€49,500
Foy Centre - Carlingford CDC	Permanent Storage Unit	€50,000
Glenmore Athletics Club	Addition of toilet facilities at club	€49,500
St Olivers NS Carlingford	Creation of a soft play area in the school yard	€37,800

The Community Support Team wishes the six groups every success with their projects.

Dog Fouling Awareness Campaign

The Community Support Team has embarked on a Dog Fouling awareness campaign, taking to the airwaves of LMFM throughout the entire month of October. This initiative is designed to elevate consciousness about responsible dog ownership, particularly addressing the persistent issue of dog fouling. By utilising the influential platform of LMFM, the team aims to reach a broad audience and emphasise the importance of maintaining clean public spaces through conscientious pet ownership. The campaign underscores the role each individual plays in fostering a cleaner, more pleasant environment for all community members.

PEACEPLUS



Special EU Programmes Body
Comhlacht na gClár Speisialta AE
Special EU Skemes Boadie



PEACEPLUS
Northern Ireland - Ireland

Co-funded by the
 European Union  UK Government

The Louth PEACEPLUS Action Plan was approved by SEUPB. There are some minimal clarifications which need to be provided before the Letter of Offer can be provided.

The eleventh PEACEPLUS Partnership Meeting was held. It was agreed at this meeting to proceed with a Pre-Procurement meeting for potential tenderers to PEACEPLUS and to begin establishment of PEACEPLUS Tender Assessment Committees.

Spórt / Sport

Ionad Spóirt Dhún Dealgan / Dundalk Sports Centre

Pickleball

Pickleball has become increasingly popular over the past months with Oriel Pickleball Dundalk booking slots from Monday straight through to Sunday. On top of those bookings regulars in the Sports Centre have noticed the increase in popularity and have become interested in the sport as well. On the 20th of October we hosted the clubs first inter county tournament. St. Mary's Post Primary school has also started a programme for their Transition Year students to learn the rules of pickleball, bringing them to the Sports Centre weekly.



Pickleball at Dundalk Sports Centre

National Quality Standard Outstanding Award

Dundalk Sports Centre was awarded the Outstanding award in the National Quality Standards Awards (NQS) 2024 following the audit process. To receive these awards Customer service, Safety, Hygiene and HR standards must be met. DSC has consistently been receiving these awards since 2019 through hard work and commitment year after year.

Lourdes Athletic Stadium Capital Works

The stadium has seen many improvements, going back to the start of this year and October has seen all the finishing touches put in place. All the developments were funded by The Council and the Sports Capital Grant Programme.

The most recent update to the Lourdes Stadium has been the opening of the outdoor toilets. The new outdoor disability toilet was funded by the Local Sports Partnership. They have been a major addition to the stadium especially during club bookings.

The addition of the MUGA and studio room have provided the stadium with the opportunity to run programmes and activities.

The final finishing touch to the stadium was the new reception area where a hatch was installed.



Capital Works at Lourdes Athletic Stadium

Louth Local Sports Partnership

Coach & Volunteer Education Programmes 2024

Louth Local Sports Partnership facilitated the following coach education programmes during October 2024.

Safeguarding

Activity	Date	Venue
Safeguarding Level 1	3 rd October 2024	Online
Safeguarding Level 1	22 nd October 2024	Online

First Aid for Sport

Activity	Date	Venue
Sports First Aid	22 nd October 2024	Online

Autism in Sport

Activity	Date	Venue
AIS Training	23 rd October 2024	Online

Men on the Move in Tallanstown

Louth LSP's 12-week Men on the Move in conjunction with Glyde Rangers GFC took place in Tallanstown in October with 30 men aged 35+ participating.

The Men on the Move Programme encourages men to get more active, have fun and improve their fitness levels through twice weekly activity sessions. The programme offers men the chance to learn and take part in safe, effective exercises tailored to suit their needs.

Participants should experience both physical and psychological benefits such as improved mood, increased energy, weight loss/control and improved mobility and greater functional fitness.

The twice weekly one-hour physical activity sessions focus on aerobic exercises for forty minutes and work on core strength and flexibility for twenty minutes.



Men on the Move in Tallanstown

Louth LSP Staff attend HSE Wellbeing Event to mark World Mental Health Day

Louth LSP staff members Julie Duffy and Mia Grimes recently attended the Louth Meath HSE Wellbeing Event on October 10th in celebration of

World Mental Health Day. This event served as an important platform to emphasise the positive impact of sport and physical activity on mental health and well-being. Julie and Mia highlighted the various opportunities available within the local community for people to engage in physical activity, reinforcing the message that staying active is not only vital for physical health but also plays a key role in maintaining good mental health.



LLSP Stand at HSE Wellbeing Event

Boyne Hockey Club – Hockey for All

Louth LSP was thrilled to support Boyne Hockey Club in re-launching their Hockey for All programme in October, which caters to children with additional needs. This inclusive initiative provides young people with disabilities the chance to become active members of the local hockey community, promoting both physical health and social engagement through a fun, team-oriented sport.

Louth LSP contributed by providing funding to Boyne Hockey Club to purchase essential equipment for the programme, ensuring that all participants have what they need to play. Additionally, Louth LSP offered specialised training in Autism in Sport and Disability Inclusion for the volunteers and coaches involved, equipping them with the skills to create a safe and supportive environment for all participants. This collaboration highlights the importance of

inclusivity in sports and the commitment to offering meaningful opportunities for young people of all abilities to stay active and connected.



Participants at Hockey for All, Boyne Hockey Club

Couch to 5k Programmes

In October, two new Couch to 5K programmes were launched in Dundalk and Drogheda, with the goal of encouraging participants to become more active and prepare for a local 5K run. These initiatives offer structured support to individuals as they train for their local Parkrun events and other recreational running activities.

Couch to 5K is a running plan designed for absolute beginners, facilitated by a qualified coach. The programme's effectiveness lies in its gradual approach, beginning with a mix of running and walking to build fitness and stamina over time. In Week 1, participants will run for just one minute at a time, creating realistic expectations and making the challenge feel achievable right from the start.

These programmes are designed to promote fitness and community involvement, providing a welcoming and supportive environment for people of all fitness levels to achieve their running goals.



Couch to 5K participants in Drogheda

Women's Social Soccer Dundalk

Women's Social Soccer returned to Dundalk in October, providing a fantastic opportunity for women of all ages and abilities to enjoy a fun and relaxed game of soccer. This social initiative promotes an inclusive, non-competitive environment where participants can engage in weekly matches purely for enjoyment and fitness. Whether you're a seasoned player or have never kicked a ball before, no prior experience is necessary.

The programme is open to anyone looking to stay active, meet new people, and be part of a welcoming community.

All equipment needed for the game is provided, making it easy and accessible for everyone to participate. Women's Social Soccer is not just about the game - it's also about creating friendships, building confidence, and promoting overall wellbeing through physical activity. It's the perfect way to combine fitness and fun in a supportive setting, where enjoyment and inclusion are the key goals.

8 WEEK WOMEN'S SOCIAL SOCCER

Starts Monday Oct 21st
7pm - 8pm

DKIT Indoor Sports Pitches

€20

CONTACT: ODHRAN DOHERTY

odhran.doherty@louthcoco.ie

086-1367457

Bainistíocht Dramháil, Gníomh Comhshaoil 7 Aeráide / Waste Management, Environment & Climate Action

A total of 20 complaints were received and investigated by the Waste Enforcement team in October 2024, some of which remain open pending further investigations.

A total number of 317 complaints have been received in 2024 to date and these are further detailed as follows:

Complaint Type	Received in Oct 2024	Total Received in 2024
Air & Noise	11	105
Waste/C&D	9	212

Waste Facility Permits/Certificates of registration

One Waste Facility permit review application has been received in October. There is also an additional Waste Facility Permit application under Class 5 for the backfilling of soil and stone which is currently being assessed.

Segregation, Storage and Presentation of Household and Commercial Waste Byelaws 2019

The Councils Environment Section have started the process of issuing Fixed Payment Notices under the above byelaws for failing to remove bins from a public place. FPN payments which have not been received within the 21 days will now be referred for legal action.

Bin presentation surveys are continuing to be carried out in the town area of Dundalk where breaches of the byelaws persist. FPN's will be issued accordingly.



Diesel Laundering Waste

There were 3 Integrated Bulk Container's (IBCs) dumped in October 2024 costing approximately €3,750. The total cost for clean-up of diesel laundering waste so far in 2024 is €43,683.50.

Multiagency Checkpoint

Waste Enforcement Officers took part in a multiagency checkpoint on the M1 with AGS, RSA and the NTFSO. 6 waste vehicles were inspected. 1 Fixed Payment Notice was issued, and 1 vehicle was impounded for offences under the Waste Management Act.

Litter Enforcement & Investigations

Litter wardens continue to deal with all litter matters within the county daily responding to complaints

from members of the public, councillors and engaging with tidy towns groups and communities.

In October, Litter Wardens completed 89 investigations in response to dumping reported by members of the public. 5 Fixed Penalty Notices were issued in October where evidence was found under the Litter Pollution Act 1997.

A 5-hour foot patrol was carried out by all Litter Wardens in October covering Dundalk Town and the large estates in Dundalk. The main emphasis of this foot patrol was to raise awareness of cleaning-up after your dog.

In preparation for the Halloween season, the Councils team of litter wardens working in conjunction with the Waste Enforcement team have issued leaflets and advice to businesses to remind them of their responsibilities under the Waste Management Act 1996 regarding the correct storage of waste.

Below are some photos of waste and stock piling for Halloween, removed from various locations - Roscan Factory, Tullyallen, Callystown, Bonfire Material at Strand Road, Dundalk.





Litter Warden on 5-hour Foot Patrol in the Dundalk and Surrounding area



Rialachán Chomhshaoil / Environmental Regulation

Water Quality and complaints

6 Water pollution complaints were received in October, 2 of which related to general water pollution and 4 related to agriculture complaints. Investigations and site visits were carried out in all cases and all complaints were subsequently closed out.

Farm survey Inspections

During the month of October, the Council carried out:

- 13 planned farm survey inspections
- 2 follow-up inspections

River Water sampling and Water framework directive

Routine surveillance and operational monitoring of rivers for the water framework directive programme has been completed for October 2024. LAWPRO has commenced initial fieldwork in the Glyde Catchment upstream in adjoining counties. Sampling for the Glyde catchment in Louth is due to commence in Winter 2024.

Discharge Licences

Assessment inspections were carried out on 15 monitoring results received by the Council in October for Section 4 Discharge Licences.

Licenced landfills

Monthly monitoring of groundwater, surface water and leachate was carried out in October at Dundalk landfill and monthly monitoring of perimeter gas monitoring points was completed at Dundalk, Drogheda and Whiteriver as required by EPA licences for the site. No incidents were uploaded onto the EPA EDEN website in October. Investigation of the gas pipe, well and manifold network is on-going at Dundalk landfill.

Septic Tanks

As a result of septic tank inspections carried out during the summer, 4 advisory notices were sent out to 4 sites. Follow-up inspections were carried out at 3 of these sites to close out the notices.

Rural Water Programme

Capital Funding for Group Schemes

The Council in consultation with the Group Water Schemes applied to the Department for Housing, Local Government and Heritage under its call for bids from Local Authorities for funding under a planned three-year Multi Annual Rural Water Programme 2024 – 2026.

Group Water Scheme Subsidies

6 Group water schemes have been approved grants this year, and payments of these subsidies have now been made.

The overall purpose of the MARWP and other grants is to provide the necessary funding to improve the quality, quantity and reliability of the water services relied upon by rural dwellers, where no public water services are available.

Individual Domestic Water Supplies Grant

12 applicants received payments in October to the sum of €29,547.50 in relation to Individual Domestic Water Supplies (more commonly called private wells).

Domestic Wastewater Treatment Systems Grant

There were no Domestic Wastewater Treatment Systems (more commonly called septic tanks) grants issued in the year to date.

Domestic Lead Remediation Grant Scheme

Two applications were received to date and payment will be issued in due course.

Climate Action

Louth County Council Climate Action Plan 2024 – 2029

The Climate Action Team continues to implement the Council's Climate Action Plan, 2024 – 2029.

Climate action topics are being prepared to help inform the drafting of the new Sustainability SPC work program.

The Climate Action Team recently attended a number of in person and online webinars on the DZ Zone which were run by CARO, focusing on building environment opportunities, community activation and natural environment opportunities.

EU Mission, Adaptation to Climate Change

Members of the Climate Action Team are taking part in a series of training organised by the EU Climate Adaptation Mission. This is designed to build capacity for stakeholder engagement specifically around climate adaptation.

The Council has applied for funding from the EU government's CLIMAAX project, to carry out an enhanced climate risk assessment for County Louth.



Climate outreach

The Climate Action Team have continued to support the Creative Ireland funded Louth Urban Food sanctuary project.

The Community Climate Action Officer attended 'The Gathering' at the Aviva Stadium in October, where Creative Ireland showcased Spark and Ignite projects including the Louth Urban Food Sanctuary.



Melissa Hayes, Creative Communities Engagement Officer, Philip Boucher Hayes, Journalist, Róisín Cotter, Organic Gardener and Fiona Lennon, Community Climate Action Officer at 'The Gathering' in the Aviva Stadium on behalf of the LUFS Project

The Climate Action Team attended 'The Five Ways to Wellbeing: Opportunities for Community Health in Louth' at the Fairways Hotel in Dundalk in October.

Climate Action Week 2024

The Council's Climate Action Team hosted a series of events as part of Climate Action Week 2024 (14th – 20th October).



On Monday 14th October the Council's Climate Action Team began Climate Action Week by turning Public Building green to raise awareness of climate change and Climate Action Week.



County Hall lit up green for Climate Action Week 2024

On Tuesday 15th October a sustainable fashion workshop was held at Dundalk Library with Aga Hutcheson and the Climate Action and Age Friendly Louth Team focusing on clothing upcycling and repair.



On Wednesday the Climate Action Team ran a Smoothie Bike Challenge, with the Smoothie Bike Company and a bicycle repair workshop, with the Cycle and Trophy Shop in Dundalk at 'The Still' at Dundalk Library which was very well attended.



On Thursday the Community Climate Action Officer and Executive Librarian from Louth Libraries called out to the schools that had a winning entry in the recent 'Sustainable Development Goals' Artwork Competition



1st Place Senior Category Sandpit N.S Drogheda



All schools that took part in the Sustainable Development Goals Artwork competition will receive a native Irish apple tree to plant on their school grounds.

On Friday 18th the Climate Action Team and Louth Libraries hosted a climate change webinar for school pupils in Louth with author Oisin McGann. On Friday afternoon a Halloween costume swap took place in Dundalk library which was well attended and encouraged donations and recycling of unused or old Halloween costumes.



On Saturday 19th, for the final event of Climate Action Week a tour of Drogheda Allotments took place along with an organic gardening workshop by Róisín Cotter and pickling workshop by a member of Drogheda Allotments.





The events were all very well attended and the Climate Action Team would like to thank everyone who attended and celebrated Climate Action Week in Louth.

Community Climate Action

The Community Climate Action fund was launched by Minister Ryan. Training around state aid and administering this fund was attended by the Climate Action Coordinator and Community Climate Action Officer.

The Community Climate Action Officer has contacted 22 successful groups who have been approved for funding under the Community Climate Action Fund to discuss their projects.

The 22 successful groups continue to work with the Community Climate Action Officer as they enter the delivery phase of their projects.

Biodiversity Action

A new Louth Biodiversity Working Group has been set-up to support the development, delivery and implementation of the 'Louth County Council Local Biodiversity Action Plan 2025-2030'. Operating as a non-statutory advisory group, it will meet quarterly during the development and implementation of the plan. Membership of the group has been agreed by the Council Management Team with representatives drawn from a wide range of representative groups including:

- Local Elected Representatives
- Local Government Officials
- State Agencies
- Community & Voluntary Organisations

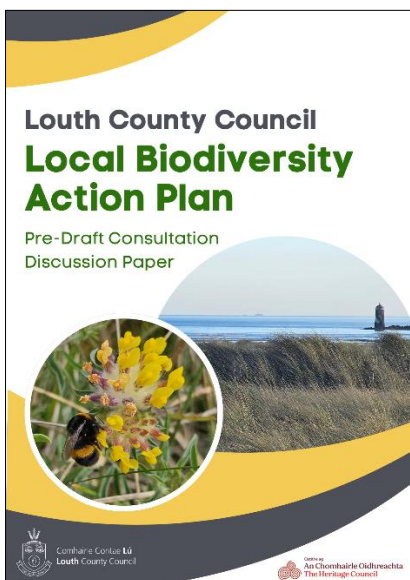


- Landowners & Farming Representatives
- Educational Institutions
- Local Development & Business



Guests and Members at the launch of the new Louth Biodiversity Working Group

The inaugural meeting of the group was held on 25th October 2024 at the Ballymascanlon Hotel, Dundalk. The group heard from guest speaker Éanna Ní Lamhna about the importance of Louth's biodiversity, with Biodiversity Officer, Helen Hanratty setting out the aims of the group and the vision and process for the development of the Louth Biodiversity Action Plan.



Louth County Council Local Biodiversity Action Plan Pre-Draft Consultation Discussion Paper

A Pre-Draft Consultation on the Louth County Council Local Biodiversity Action Plan was launched at the meeting. The Council are seeking feedback on how to address biodiversity loss locally and what actions should be prioritised in Louth to inform the development of the Plan. Submissions are sought from all interested parties including members of the public, community groups and organisations during this first phase of the development of the Plan. A series of drop-in events will be held over the 6 week consultation period. The consultation closes at 4pm on Friday 6th December 2024.

Have your say!



Louth County Council
Local Biodiversity Action Plan

Pre-Draft Consultation

Attend a drop-in event:

Dunleer Library:	3-5pm Tue 19 November 2024
Carlingford Library:	3-5pm Fri 22 November 2024
Dundalk Library:	3-5pm Fri 29 November 2024
Drogheda Library:	10-12pm Sat 30 November 2024
Ardee Library:	3-4.45pm Sat November 2024

Complete an online survey: <https://consult.louth.ie/>

Send an email: biodiversity@louthcoco.ie



Scan the QR code or follow the link to find out more



Deadline for responses:
4pm Friday 6 December 2024



Comhairle Contae Lú
Louth County Council



An Chomhairle Oidhreachta
The Heritage Council

ENERGY

Varcities Project at Co Library & Museum

The Council's Ursula Conlon, Executive Planner attended and presented as Guest Speaker at the 60th ISOCARP World Planning Congress held in Sienna on Friday 11th October 2024. The Council was invited to present its experience of implementing Nature-Based Solutions in the Varcities Project at the Dundalk Pilot site.

Our discussion highlighted the innovative strategies employed to enhance urban resilience and sustainability through nature-based interventions.

personal energy pledges and share innovative ideas. The event cultivated a lively atmosphere for knowledge exchange, promoting collaboration and creativity among participants. Exciting prizes were awarded throughout the day, adding an element of fun while reinforcing the importance of energy conservation.



Energy awareness event at County Hall for all staff members



Pledge Wall at the Energy awareness event where staff competed energy pledges to reduce energy

Heating Procedures and the Council’s Heat Plan for Winter 2024 / 2025

The Council has updated our Heating Plan Procedure for our buildings and has displayed it in all of our Substantial Energy User (SEU) buildings. The heating plan helps to inform staff of the heating strategy goals, along with informing staff of the yearly schedule for heating.



Staff Notice Board showing The Council’s Heat Plan and an Energy Tip

The workings and optimum settings of all space heating radiators at Dundalk Town Hall and at County Hall Buildings have been thoroughly assessed and the findings will be sent to the Facilities section for corrective action.

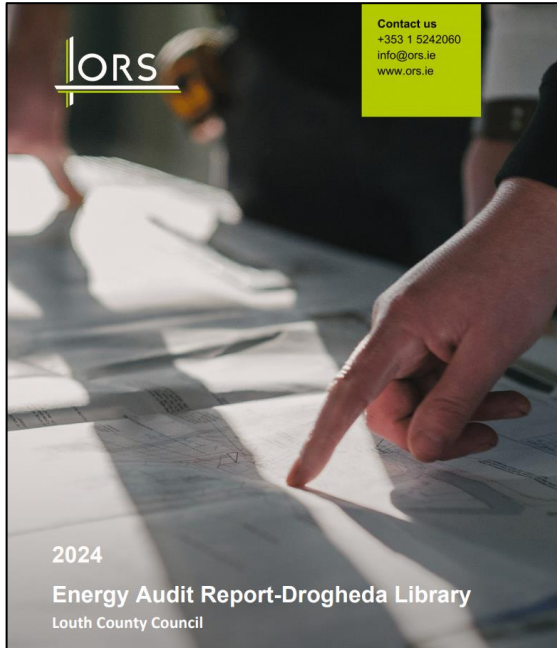


Green mark denotes the optimum setting ('sweet spot') for this radiator

Energy Audits

The Council has received draft energy audit reports for a significant portion of its building portfolio. These

audits will be used to identify, inform and develop Energy Upgrade Projects for Council owned buildings for 2025 and onwards.



Display Energy Certificates

The Council's Energy Team are presently progressing Display Energy Certificates (DECs) for the following council buildings:

- Dundalk County Hall
- Dundalk Town Hall
- Dundalk Library
- Dundalk Museum
- Dundalk Archives
- Dundalk Sports centre
- Drogheda Fair Street
- Drogheda Library
- Ardee Civic Office
- Ardee Library
- Dromiskin Animal Compound

These DECs are essential for ensuring our compliance with ISO 50001 accreditation, in preparation for the upcoming surveillance audit slated for January 2025.

Non-Domestic Building Energy Ratings (NDBERs)

The Council's Energy Team are also in the early stages of procuring Non-Domestic Building Energy Rating (ND-BERs) Certification for a small number of council buildings. These include:

- Dundalk Library and Bookstore
- Dundalk Museum
- Drogheda Fair Street

The Council requires these for pre- and post-upgrade works SEAI's Pathfinder Funding for energy projects.

SEAI Monitoring & Reporting 2030

The Energy Team is now in the final stage of completing Monitoring and Reporting (M&R) 2030 Phase 2 to SEAI.

To date, the "Buildings" data reporting has been completed, with work on the remaining topics almost complete. Reporting will be finalised to SEAI's portal in time for the 15th November 2024 deadline.

Drogheda Fair Street Machinery Yard Security Update

The Council is in the process of improving security systems for the Machinery Yard at Drogheda Fair Street.

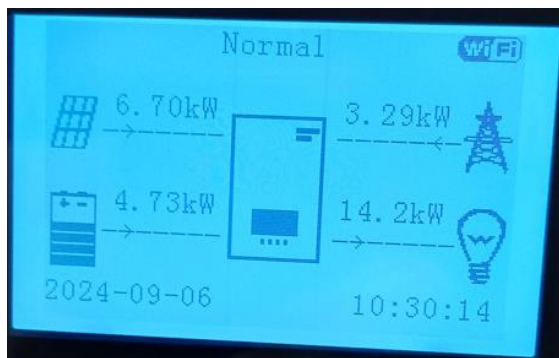
Quotations have been submitted and are being assessed. A contractor is expected to be appointed for that work in November 2024.



Security Improvements are planned for the Council's Machinery Yard at Fair St. Drogheda

Further Energy Improvement at the Council's Animal Pound

A new hybrid Solar PV system with a 10kWh battery pack was recently commissioned at the Council's Animal Compound in Whiterath.



Display Screen at the Council's Animal Pound Dromiskin - the 14.2kW electrical load at the site provided entirely from sustainable energy – solar PV, battery back-up and wind generator.



Energy Improvements at the Council's Animal Pound – it is approaching NZE

The Animal Pound is now approaching Nearly Zero Energy (NZE) and it is the first of the Council's Buildings to do so. This is the latest in such energy improvements at the Pound, which have been

championed by the Council's CVO Garrett Shine supported by one of the animal wardens Padraig McKeown. The Council's Energy & Facilities Teams have also assisted the energy improvement works and they further demonstrate the importance of Partnership and Collaboration on the road towards achieving the national 2030 Climate Change targets.

Seirbhísí Tréidliachta / Veterinary Services

Food Safety Authority of Ireland (FSAI)

As of the 30th September 2024, the Council's Veterinary Section, under a Service Level Agreement with the FSAI, enforces food safety standards on one abattoir and fourteen meat processing plants under its supervision in the County. Two new food businesses were registered and approved in the past month.

Smacht ar Mhadraí / Control of Dogs

Control of Dogs Act 1986

Dogs through the pound October 2024	
Total dogs through the pound	25
Seized under Section 16	0
Strays	13
Surrendered by owners	12
No dogs reclaimed by owners	7
No of dogs rehomed direct	7
No of dogs rehomed to welfare groups	14
No of dogs on hand in Pound at 31/10/2024	2

Dog Licences October 2024	
No of Licences sold	512
Licence Checks:	
House calls	438
Section 16 Notices issued (request to produce licence within 10 days)	208

Fixed Penalty Notices	8
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Control of Horses

Control of Horses Act 1996
Control of Horses Byelaws 2003

Horses through the pound October 2024	
Horses seized, and reason for seizure:	1 Reported straying on public road
Horses reclaimed by owner	0
Horses rehomed	1
Horses disposed of	0
No of horses on hand in Pound on 0/09/2024	0

Dog Breeding Establishments

Dog Breeding Establishments Act 2010

Dog Breeding Establishments October 2024	
Total no of registered DBE's in Louth (as at 31/10/2024)	6
Hunt	1
Boarding Kennels	2
Training Kennels	1
Welfare	2

This month saw the introduction of new regulations on XL Bully type dogs under the Control of Dogs Act, which will prohibit the ownership, keeping, purchase, disposal (whether by sale or otherwise), abandonment, allowing to stray, breeding or importation of XL Bully type dogs after the 1st of October. More details are on the Council website, <https://www.louthcoco.ie/en/services/dog-pound/xl%20bully%202024>.

The dog wardens and the CVO attended two one day training courses in September and October on XL Bully dog identification organised by the Department of Rural and Community Development.

Tá dhá eochairfhreagracht ag an Stiúrthóireacht seo:

Tithíocht, a chuimsíonn gach tionscnamh agus de chuspóir acu ná na riachtanais agus na haicmhainní ar fad atá ar fail a chur le chéile go hinbhuanaithe ar fud ár gContae

Seirbhísí Cultúrtha, réimse leathan tionscnaimh agus cláir atá deartha chun saol spreagúil, sásúil, sábháilte a chur ar fail i gContae Lú, na healaíona, agus ár leabharlanna san áireamh

This Directorate has two key responsibilities:

Housing, which encompasses all initiatives which aim to match need and available resources in a sustainable way throughout our county.

Cultural Services, a wide range of initiatives and programmes designed to make living in Louth a stimulating, safe and rewarding experience, including the arts, and our libraries.

Ger Murphy
Stiúrthóir / Director of Service



Titíocht / Housing

Ag Déileáil le hEaspa Dídine / Addressing 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 Strategy 2021-2024. The following work done within County Louth in the period 20th September – 19th October 2024 can be summarised as follows:

Tábla 1: Gníomhartha atá déanta ag Seirbhísí do Dhaoine gan Dídean / Table 1: Actions by Homeless Services

20th September to 19th October 2024	Ardee MD	Dundalk MD	Drogheda MD	Total
Offered advice, support (including fast tracking H.A. for Rent Supplement eligibility)	2	131	97	230
Placed in Temporary Emergency Accommodation	0	33	20	53
Refused Offer of Temporary Emergency Accommodation	0	3	4	7
Not eligible from outside county or non HRC	0	0	0	0
Total number of Person who presented as Homeless	2	167	121	290

Tables 2 - 4 below reflect details of the adults who were in emergency accommodation in County Louth on 19th October 2024. Also included at Table 5 is

the breakdown of families in emergency accommodation at that date.

Tábla 2: Inscne / Table 2: Gender

Gender	Total
Male	111
Female	120
Total	231

Tábla 3: Aoisghrúpaí / Table 3: Age Groups

Age Group	Total
18-24	33
25-44	128
45-64	65
65+	5
Total	231

Tábla 4: Saghas Loistín / Table 4: Accommodation Type

Accommodation Type	Total
Private Emergency Accommodation (PEA)	128
Supported Temporary Accommodation (STA)	103
Total unique individuals	231

Tábla 5: Teaghlaigh le paistí cleithiúnaí / Table 5 - Families with dependent children

	No. of families with dependent children	No. of Individual Adults	No. of Dependents
Individuals with dependent children	47	52	86
Couples with dependent children	21	42	59
Total	68	94	145

Tábla 6: Tithíocht ar dtús / Table 6 - Housing First

Number of tenancies established	47
Number of individuals currently in tenancy	35

Leithdháileadh Tithíochta suas go dtí 18 Deireadh Fomhair 2024 / Housing Allocations up to 18th October 2024

District	LA	LA Refusal	AHB	AHB Refusal
Ardee	35	6	3	1
Drogheda	117	20	185	15
Dundalk	100	9	92	10
Total	252	35	280	26

Aistrithe / Transfers

District	Number
Ardee	4
Dundalk	18
Drogheda	10
Total	32

Liosta Tithe / Housing List

18 th October, 2024	Ardee	Drogheda	Dundalk	Total
Housing List	393	697	1141	2231
HAP Transfer List	298	1000	1633	2931
Total Housing List	691	1697	2774	5162

There are **334** applications on the transfer list (Non-HAP) within Social Housing including 72 applications from the Approved Housing Bodies.

Íocaíocht Cúnaimh Tithíochta / Housing Assistance Payment

The total number of applications in HAP is **2,931**

Ardee Municipal District	Drogheda Borough District	Dundalk Municipal District	Total
298	1000	1,633	2,931

Bainisteoireacht Chíosa / Rent Management

The total number currently paying rent by Household Budget is **932**.

Current Rents Arrears at 22 nd October 2024	No of Accounts	Value
Rents between 4-6 weeks old	206	€77,505
Rents between 7-12 weeks old	208	€148,296
Rents greater than 12 weeks old	899	€3,155,101
TOTAL	1,313	€3,380,902

Rent arrears are monitored on an ongoing basis and letters are issued to customers within two weeks of their falling into arrears. Failure to address these arrears will result in a second letter being issued and if necessary, a third and final reminder. Failure to respond at that point will result in the escalation to tenancy warning. The following correspondence was issued in October 2024:

Letter Type	Month/Year	Number Issued
1 st Reminder	October 2024	149
2 nd Reminder	October 2024	49
Final Reminder	October 2024	36
Total issued		234

Customers that fall into arrears may enter into a payment plan for full repayment over an agreed period of time. 78 new payment plans commenced in October 2024 (up to and including 22nd October).

Airíonna Re Lig & Neamhní / Relet and Void Properties

Relet / Void Properties on 21 st October 2024	Total
Ardee Municipal District	6
Dundalk Municipal District	14
Drogheda Municipal Borough District	28
Subtotal (re-lets) Vacant Properties	48
CPO units not yet ready for occupation (All County)	2
Total Number of Properties (Relets & CPO)	50

Note: Social units being used as short-term accommodation for homeless or emergency are not included in the above figures.

Cuairteanna Chothabhála / Maintenance Calls

Maintenance	22 nd September to 20 th October 2024	Total (YTD)
No. of Maintenance Requests Received	1182	6492
No. of Maintenance Requests Completed	1077	5429
No. of Maintenance Requests in Progress	47	766
No. of Maintenance Requests Refused	58	297

Ríomhchlár Aisfheistithe Éifeachtúlachta Fuinnimh / Energy Efficiency Retrofit Program (EERP)

The 2024 EERP allocation for Louth, as confirmed by the DHLGH, is 140 units. The number of commenced or completed units is as follows

Municipal District	Number of Commenced/ Completed Units
Ardee MD: Cherrywood Park, Tallanstown Smarmore, Ardee Ferdia Park, Ardee	47
Dundalk MD: Hillview Dundalk, Barton Park, Dundalk Market Street, Dundalk Defenders Row, Dundalk	32+10
Drogheda BD: Ascal a Haon/ Do/ Tri, Drogheda Sunnyside Cottages, Drogheda Rathmullan Park, Drogheda Bredin Street, Drogheda John Kirk Park, Clogherhead	61

Ten additional units have commenced in Barton Park, these are over the allocation of 140 but will be completed W/C 4th November. Should the DHLG have a shortfall in units these shall be recouped in 2024 otherwise they will come off the 2025 allocation.

Cigireachtaí ar Tithe Príobháideacha atá ar fáil ar cíós / Private Rental Inspections

	20 th September to 21 st October 2024	Total (YTD)
Properties inspected monthly	146	1,492
Advisory Letters issued	48	963
Improvement Notices issued	3	18
Private Inspections	0	3
Prohibition notices issued	0	2
HAP Inspections	120	862
RAS Inspections	0	0
AHB Inspections	0	442

Private Re-Inspections	0	3
HAP Re-Inspections	23	160
RAS Re-Inspections	0	0
AHB Re-Inspections	1	2
Inspections from Complaints	2	21
Properties made Compliant	16	78

Páirtíocht Tionóntachta / Tenancy Engagement

20 th September to 21 st October 2024	Drogheda	Ardee	Dundalk	Monthly Total	Yearly Total
No. Tenants who attended Pre-tenancy training	14	1	11	26	263
Post-tenancy inspections	0	0	18	18	159
Tenancy Investigation Visits	19	7	18	44	344

Iompraíocht Fhrithshóisialta / Anti-Social Behaviour

20 th September to 21 st October 2024	Drogheda	Ardee	Dundalk	Monthly	Yearly
ASB Cases* Received	4	2	10	16	162
ASB cases Ongoing	7	3	10	20	-
ASB cases complete	5	0	8	13	137

Case = a unique incident of anti-social behavior, not the number of complaint forms received

Fógraí a D'eisigh le haghaidh Sáru Tionóntachta / Notifications Issued for Tenancy Breaches

20 th September to 21 st October 2024	Drogheda	Ardee	Dundalk	Monthly	Yearly
Verbal Warnings	2	0	2	4	36
Written Warnings	0	0	0	0	2
Tenancy Notifications	0	0	1	1	9
Tenancy Warnings Housing Act, 2014	0	0	0	0	5

Déisiú agus Léas / Repair and Lease

To reflect the national ambition for the repair and leasing scheme (RLS), as committed to in Housing for All, national delivery targets were set for RLS of 660 units for 2022 – 2026

Units	Address	Beds	Notes
1	Dundalk	2	Allocated.
1	Dundalk	2	Ready to Allocate.

Tithíocht Inacmhainne / Affordable Housing

Funding approval has been sought from the DHLGH for an affordable housing scheme in Drogheda due for completion in Quarter 1 of 2025. It is expected that advertising of both approved schemes will commence towards the end of 2024 with the application portal opening early 2025. Discussions are ongoing with developers regarding further schemes in Drogheda and Dundalk area which are expected to come on stream in 2025 & 2026.

Morgáiste go Cíos (MGC) / Mortgage to Rent (MTR)

Active MTR Applications Total	33
AHB MTR Applications Active	18
AHB MTR completed 2024	0
Private MTR Applications Active	12
Private MTR completed 2024	5
MTR Application Awaiting Purchaser	3

Under MTR, a borrower gets to stay in their home and agrees to give ownership of the home to the MTR provider. This means the borrower becomes a social housing tenant of their local authority or Approved Housing Body (AHB). This arrangement is entered into voluntarily and agreed between the borrower, their lender and the MTR provider. After five years has passed, the borrower may be given the option to buy the home back if they are in a position to do so.

Deontas Athchóirithe D'áras Folamh / Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant

Applications Submitted:	220
Approved:	149
Rejected:	14
Withdrawn	20
Other (FI Requests, First Site Inspections)	37
Legal Stages before Funding issued	16
Funding Issued to Applicant	19
Principal Private Residence	162
Rental Applications	58

Iasacht Tí Údaráis Áitiúil / Local Authority Home Loans

2024 Budget Allocation	€7,230,000
LAHL Approvals at 22/10/2024	€2,723,020
Breakdown of LAHL applications processed at 22nd October, 2024	
Total Number of Applications at 22/10/2024	42
LAHL carried over from 2023	6
Invalid/Returned	9
Approved	17
Declined	11
For Review	2
Outstanding – waiting on further information	9

Gnóthaithee/Acquisitions

The Council is actively working with tenants and landlords in relation to the tenant in situ scheme where tenants have been given a notice to quit, some of whom may be in receipt of HAP. The Council is purchasing properties for applicants who are homeless and or have a disability. In October, the Council purchased 3 properties.



Recently acquired properties in Dundalk

Cúnamh Deontais do Sheandaoine agus do Dhaoine faoi Mhíchumas / Grant Assistance to the Elderly and Disabled

Grants are available to households where adaptations are required to render a house more suitable for the accommodation of a person with a disability. Persons aged 66 and above who are living in poor housing conditions can also apply for a grant towards necessary repairs or improvements, household income and limits apply. Priority is given where adaptations are needed to help the person leave hospital/residential care. Applicants over the age of 65 requiring help with their application forms can contact the Louth Health Age Friendly Homes Co-ordinator, Adrienne McCann at amccann@meathcoco.ie or go to the website at <http://agefriendlyhomes.ie/topics/social-health-care/healthy-homes/>.



Bathroom Adaptation in Dundalk completed in October part-funded by a HAG



New Windows and door fitted in Dundalk in October funded by a HOPS

Status	HAG	MAG	HOP	Month	YTD
Grants Approved 2023	159	27	117	-	303
Applications on Hand 22/10/2024	81	9	327	-	417
Grants Approved 20/09/2024 to 22/10/2024	13	2	27	42	248



Access ramp in Drogheda completed in October part-funded by a HAG

Seachadadh Caipitil Tithíochta / Capital Housing Delivery

Ferrard Park, Twenties, Drogheda

The Council acquired 28 new houses in the residential development of Ferrard Park, Twenties, Drogheda. The units comprise a mix of 2 bed and 3 bed houses. All houses are A-Rated energy efficient

homes. The houses have been acquired through the Part V and Turnkey delivery mechanism.



Ferrard Park, Drogheda – Part V & Turnkey Housing



Listoke, Drogheda – Part V Housing



Ferrard Park, Drogheda – Part V & Turnkey Housing

Listoke, Ballymakenny Road, Drogheda

The Council acquired 15 new housing units in the residential development at Listoke, Ballymakenny Road, Drogheda. The housing units have been acquired through the Part V delivery mechanism and comprise a mix of 2 bed houses and 2 bed apartment/3 bed duplex units. All housing units are A-Rated energy efficient homes.



Listoke, Drogheda – Part V Housing

Seachadadh Caipitil Tithíochta / Capital Housing Delivery

Seachadadh SHIP / SHIP Delivery

Project Name	Project Phase	Total Number of Social Units Expected	Project Status	Projected Substantial Completion Date	Unit Type
Muirhevnamore, (Infill) Dundalk	1/1	11	On Site	31/03/2025	3 * 2 bed & 8 * 3 bed
Boice Court, Mell, Drogheda (Phase 2)	1/1	72	On Site	06/06/2025	27 * 3 bed, 4 * 4 bed, 8 * 1 bed Apt, 25 * 2 bed Apt & 8 * 3 bed Apt
Mount Avenue, Dundalk	1/1	93	On Site	31/09/2025	29 * 2 bed, 23 * 3 bed, 9 * 4 bed, 10 * 1 bed Apt, 6 * 2 bed Apt, 16 * 3 bed Apt
Rathmullen Park, Drogheda Infill	1/1	4	Stage 2 Approved	27/05/2026	2 * 2 bed, 1 * 3 bed, 1 * 4 bed Apt
Point Road, Dundalk	1/1	44	SHIP Accelerated Delivery, Stage 2 Approved	31/12/2026	31 * 2 bed, 10 * 3 bed, 3 * 4 bed
Dunleer (Ravel Grange)	1/1	70	SHIP Accelerated Delivery, Stage 2 Approved	31/12/2026	45 * 2 bed, 20 * 3 bed, 5 * 4 bed
Ballymakenny Road, Drogheda - West	1/1	97	SHIP Accelerated Delivery, Stage 2 Approved	31/12/2026	52 * 2 bed, 32 * 3 bed, 13 * 4 bed
Mullavalley, Louth Village	1/1	58	SHIP Accelerated Delivery, Stage 2 Approved	31/12/2026	28 * 2 bed, 24 * 3 bed, 5 * 4 bed, 1 * 5 bed
Greenhills, Drogheda	1/1	46	SHIP Accelerated Delivery, Stage 2 Approved	31/12/2026	42 * 2 bed, 3 * 3 bed, 1 * 5 bed

Anne St. Dundalk	1/1	16	Stage 1 Approved	31/12/2026	8 * 2 bed Apt, 8 * 3 bed Apt.
Ballymakenny Road - East Site, Drogheda	1/1	130	PPP Bundle 5 Funding Approved	15/12/2027	52 * 2 bed, 47 * 3 bed, 4 * 4 bed, 1 * 5 bed, 26 * 1 bed Apt
Mullagh Close, Clogherhead	1/3	4	Completed	03/10/2024	4 * 3 bed
Mullagh Close, Clogherhead	2/3	4	On-site	31/03/2025	4 * 3 bed
Mullagh Close, Clogherhead	3/3	4	On-site	30/06/2025	4 * 3 bed
Knockshee, Old Golf Links Road, Blackrock, Dundalk	1/1	12	On-site	31/03/2025	12 * 2 bed Apt.
Ferrard Park, The Twenties, Drogheda	1/4	7	Completed	22/08/2024	2 * 3 bed, 5 * 2 bed
Ferrard Park, The Twenties, Drogheda	2/4	7	Completed	13/09/2024	2 * 3 bed, 5 * 2 bed
Ferrard Park, The Twenties, Drogheda	3/4	7	Completed	03/10/2024	2 * 3 bed, 5 * 2 bed
Ferrard Park, The Twenties, Drogheda	4/4	7	On-site	31/10/2024	2 * 3 bed, 5 * 2 bed
Quarry Court, John St. / Stoneylane, Ardee, Co. Louth	1/1	20	On-site	28/02/2025	11 * 3 bed, 3 * 3 bed Apt, 6 * 2 bed Apt.
Derryveigh House, Hoeys Lane, Dundalk	1/1	2	Contract Awarded	30/09/2025	1 * 3 bed, 1 * 4 bed
Clontygora, Dundalk	1/1	2	Funding Approved	31/12/2025	2 * 4 bed
Potters Field, Cappocks Green, Ardee, Co. Louth	2/3	8	On-site	30/06/2025	7 * 3 bed, 1 * 2 bed

Potters Field, Cappocks Green, Ardee, Co. Louth	3/3	1	Funding Approved	30/06/2025	1 * 2 bed
Listoke Elms & Listoke Willows	1/3	3	Completed	02/07/2024	3 * 2 bed
Listoke Elms & Listoke Willows	2/3	12	Completed	16/10/2024	6 * 2 bed Apt, 6 * 3 bed Duplex
Listoke Elms & Listoke Willows	3/3	2	Funding Approved	31/03/2026	1 * 2 bed Apt, 1 * 3 bed Duplex
Bothar Glas / Ard Patrick, Green Road, Louth Village	1/1	5	Completed	02/09/2024	5 * 3 bed
Medebawn Court, Dundalk	1/1	2	Completed	04/09/2024	1 * 2 bed Apt, 1 * 3 bed Duplex
Seabrook, Commons Road, Dromiskin	1/1	2	On-site	31/10/2024	2 * 3 bed

Seachadadh CAS / CAS Delivery

Project Name	AHB	Total Number of Social Units Expected	Project Status	<u>Projected</u> Substantial Completion Date	Unit Type
Coulter Park, Dundalk, Co Louth	Tuath	10	On Site	30/11/2024	Five * 2 Bed house, One * 2 Bed ambulant unit, One * 4 Bed Communal unit
Barrack Street, Dundalk, Co Louth	Dublin Simon	30	Stage 2 Approved	15/09/2026	Nineteen * 1 Bed apartments Three * accessible units Eight * Studio apartments
Highfield, Newry Road, Dundalk, Co Louth	Women's Aid Dundalk	12	Stage 2 approved	02/09/2026	Five * 1 bed apartments Seven * 2 bed apartments

Seachadadh CALF / CALF Delivery

Project Name		Total Number of Social Units Expected	Non-Part V / Part V	Project Status	Projected Substantial Completion Date	Unit Type
Newtown View, Marsh Road, Drogheda Respond Housing	2/3	37	33/4	On site	01/11/2024	* 26 Three Bed Houses * 11 Two Bed Houses
Newtown View, Marsh Road, Drogheda Respond Housing	3/3	56	51/6	On Site	01/12/2024	* 16 Two Bed Houses * 40 Three Bed Houses
Dublin Road, Dundalk Respond	3/3	40	36/4	On Site	01/12/2024	* 19 One Bed Apts * 12 Two Bed Apts * 9 Three Bed Apts
An Caislean, Flaxmill Lane, Yellowbatter Drogheda North & East	1/1	17	14/3	On site	30/11/2024	* 7 One Bed Apts * 7 Two Bed Apts * 3 Three Bed Apts
Friary Place, Mill Lane Drogheda Tuath	1/1	49	44/5	On-Site	30/11/2024	* 27 One Bed Apts * 22 Two Bed Apts
Racecourse Meadows with Circle	1/3	18		On Site	30/11/2024	* 18 three Bed Houses
Racecourse Meadows with Circle	2/3	8		On Site	30/03/2025	* 8 Three Bed Houses
Racecourse Meadows with Circle	3/3	19	12/7	On Site	30/06/2025	* 10 Three Bed Houses * 9 Two Bed Houses
Connollys Field, Dundalk Fold Housing	1/2	30	19/11	On- Site	01/04/2025	* 20 One Bed Apts * 10 Two Bed Apts

Connollys Field, Dundalk Fold Housing	2/2	40		On- Site	01/04/2025	* 31 One Bed Apts * 9 Two Bed Apts
Harbour View, Coulter Place, Dundalk Cluid	1/1	18		On-Site	14/03/2025	* 12 One Bed Apts * 6 Two Bed Apts
Gullion Park, Finnabair, Dundalk Co-Operative	1/1	142	128/14	Funding Approved	05/11/2025	* 48 One Bed Apts * 70 Two Bed Apts * 24 Three Bed Apts
Avourwen Meadows, Drogheda, Co. Louth Oaklee	1/1	50	45/5	Funding Approved	10/11/2025	* 18 One Bed Apts * 32 Two Bed Apts

Seirbhísí Cultúrtha / Cultural Services

An Chartlann / Archives



Archives Entrance Gate Sign

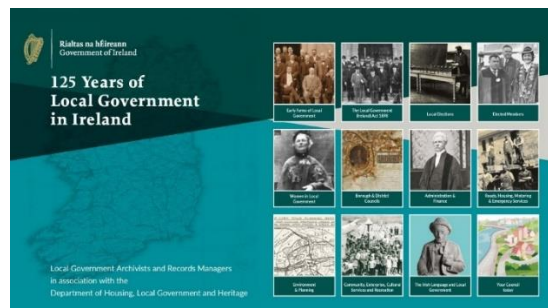
National Retention Policy Records Management Working Group

The County Archivist is assisting with draft records retention schedule revisions and regularly assists staff with queries on the management of records and advises on the preparation of records both for destruction and for transfer to the Records Centre and the County Archives. Work is continuing to take place in reviewing and appraising records for retention as archives or for destruction with work on Operations' and on Planning records being carried out recently.

125 Years of Irish Local Government

2024 is the 125th anniversary of Irish Local Government. The Local Government Act of 1898 abolished the Grand Jury system and established County Councils, Rural District Councils and Urban Councils and granted many Irish people the right to vote for the first time. A digital exhibition has been produced by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage in cooperation with the Local Government Archivists and Records Managers network. The exhibition explores the history of Irish local government going back to the first local elections in 1899 and the important services carried out by local councils. These are illustrated in the exhibition by records that are preserved and made accessible by local government archivists. The digital exhibition can be

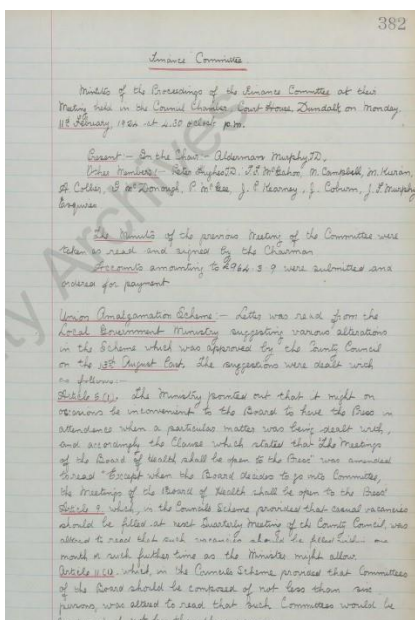
accessed [here](#) and the launch video can be viewed [here](#). A printed version will also be available from local councils.



125 Years of Local Government in Ireland digital exhibition

Commemorations Grant

As part of the Commemorations Grant 2024, a quantity of County Council archives relating to the 1924 period have now received conservation treatment and a quantity have been digitised. Conservation treatment assists in stabilising vulnerable archives in poor condition so that they can now be accessed by researchers, while digitisation will provide an important preservation security copy. This project will support local research and scholarship and a free public access copy to the digitised volumes will be placed online soon on the County Archives website, thereby improving the democratisation of access to records. The Commemorations Grant is funded by the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media.



Digitised page from Louth Co Council Finance Committee Minute Book, 1924

Catalogue Upgrade

Under the upgrade process for the service's cataloguing software, a second round of testing is now taking place. When complete, the system will be upgraded to a modern one with enhanced features and improved speed. It will be hosted on the Cloud.

Research Enquiries

The preservation of archives is a vital need for our society and the service receives a steady volume of enquiries on archives. Research enquiries include those from private individuals, academics (historians, archaeologists, social scientists, etc), professionals (solicitors, engineers, planning consultants, etc), family historians, students and state agencies. The Archivist also supports staff in various sections with many business-related enquiries.

Leabharlanna / Libraries

Louth County Council Commemorative Programme 2024



An Roinn Turasóireachta, Cultúir, Ealaíon, Gaeltachta, Spóirt agus Meán
Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media

The final talk in Louth County Council Commemorative Programme 2024 entitled 'The Irish Diaspora' by Turtle Bunbury took place on Thursday October 10th in Ardee Library. Turtle traced the story of the Irish abroad from the first missionaries through the seafarers, warriors and explorers of centuries past. Homing in on a variety of convicts, imperialists, emigrants, famine refugees and political activists, a picture emerged of a truly astonishing legacy that pushed Ireland to the forefront in the present age.




Comhairle Contae Lú
Louth County Council

An Roinn Turasóireachta, Cultúir, Ealaíon, Gaeltachta, Spóirt agus Meán
Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media

THE IRISH DIASPORA

with Turtle Bunbury



THURSDAY
10th October



6:30pm



Ardee Library




No booking required.

Since 1800 an estimated 10 million people have left Irish shores. Today, more than 80 million people worldwide claim Irish descent. Turtle traces the story of the Irish abroad from the first missionaries through the seafarers, warriors and explorers of centuries past. Homing in on a variety of convicts, imperialists, emigrants, famine refugees and political activists, a picture emerges of a truly astonishing legacy that has pushed Ireland to the forefront in the present age.



Right to Read



Drogheda library staff facilitating storytime



Children's fantasy author Valinora Troy in Drogheda Library with St. Peter's National School



Library staff welcome local schools to a presentation in Drogheda Library



Linda Elmore from Moo Music, providing fun, interactive music classes for preschool aged children



Harry Potter Club in Drogheda Library



Library Assistant Aoife with a display of Dyslexia friendly titles in Drogheda Library



Nicola Pierce in Drogheda Library for Children's Book Festival

The Schools Library Van visited Footprints Preschool and Scoil Beag Crèche & Pre-School for a Children's Book Festival Storytime.

In collaboration with Meath Library Service, author Erika McGann held a children's event in Mosney. Dundalk Library continued their magical reading

journey with The Harry Potter Reading Circle each Thursday.

Dyslexia friendly titles and C-Pens were promoted on World Dyslexia Day which took place on October 8.



Schools' storytime at Footprints Preschool, Blackrock

Louth Library Service Drop-in Digital Help Hub

Louth Library Service is hosting Drop-in Digital Help Hubs in collaboration with LMETB to provide digital literacy support. Members of the public are invited to bring along their own device whether it is a phone, laptop or tablet and avail of one-to-one tutor support in using their device and supporting digital literacy needs. This service is free and confidential with no booking required.

Visit the Digital Help Hub at the following library branches to get support from a dedicated tutor who is ready to help:

Drogheda Library (041-9876162): Every Monday from 1pm – 4pm

Dundalk Library (042-9353190): Every Monday from 2pm – 5pm

Ardee Library (041-6859023): Every Wednesday 2pm – 4pm

This initiative is part of the Adult Literacy for Life Programme

World Harp Day

Dundalk Library was thrilled to host All Ireland Champions, the Martin Family for a special pop-up

performance on October 19, World Harp Day. The talented local family created a magical atmosphere leaving attendees captivated.



Music Generation Harpists

Climate Action

Louth Library Service celebrated Climate Action week from October 14 - 20. Library branch displays promoted available titles on climate, sustainability and bioeconomy.



Dundalk Library display celebrating Climate Action Week

Bioeconomy Week

Kian-Louet Feisser from Carlingford Oyster Company held a talk to celebrate Bioeconomy Ireland Week in Dundalk Library. Kian spoke about the privilege of working in the heart of Carlingford Lough where oysters have thrived for many centuries. Attendees had the opportunity to try some oysters and learn more about the amazing oysters that grow on our doorstep.



Kian-Louet Feisser from Carlingford Oyster Company

A fashion upcycling workshop with Aga Hutcheson took place with the Climate Action Team and Age Friendly Louth on clothing upcycling and repair.

Costume Swap

Dundalk Library hosted a Hallowe'en Costume Swap, a community-driven event that emphasised sustainability and the joy of reusing. This initiative invited families to donate pre-loved costumes and accessories that their children have outgrown or no longer need, ensuring that young trick or treaters can benefit from them.



Costume Up Cycle at Dundalk Library

By participating in this swap, library members contributed to reducing waste and fostering an eco-friendly environment.

We had some amazing costumes donated and some very happy children and parents left with a new sustainably sourced costume in time for Hallowe'en.



Trick or Treat costume swap in Dundalk Library



Hallowe'en costume change at Dundalk Library

Healthy Ireland at Your Library



A Dyspraxia Information talk took place in Drogheda Library on October 16. The talk by Dyspraxia/DCD Ireland provided information on a range of matters which impact people with Dyspraxia/DCD and their families. Attendees had the opportunity to ask questions and seek advice.



Sharon Lane from Dyspraxia Ireland with two of the attendees

Drogheda Memory Café

Drogheda's Alzheimer's Memory Café was held in Drogheda library on October 8 with Ann Shortt from the local branch of the Alzheimer Association of Ireland. The guest speaker was Michael Maher from Mahers Totalhealth Chemist on West Street. Michael spoke about what your local pharmacy can do for you. This was followed by a Q&A session. The next meeting will take place on Tuesday November 12. The café provides a welcoming space for people living with dementia. All are welcome to attend.



Ann Shortt from Tredagh Lodge Daycare Centre and Michael Maher from Mahers TotalHealth Chemist

e-Services

Borrowbox Now!

The Argus and Drogheda Independent have recently been added to the newspaper titles available on the app. So, as well as audiobooks and eBooks Borrowbox now offer access to online newspapers, ebooks and magazines in one handy app available through your library. The new 'ePress' section in the app is where you can locate your favourite magazines and newspapers.



BorrowBox is free to access as a library member

Read local newspapers anytime, anywhere.
Download the APP now:

1. Install the Borrowbox App
2. Select Louth Library Service

3. Activate with your library membership number and PIN
4. Read national, international, and local newspapers
5. Please email Libraryhelpdesk@louthcoco.ie if you have any queries

Na hEalaíona / Arts

Creative Ireland

Louth Urban Food Sanctuary (LUFS) headed for the Aviva Stadium in October for a special networking event with other Creative Climate teams.

LUFS will be hosting two more events before the year's end. On Tuesday November 19 in Dundalk Institute of Technology (DKIT) there will be a special food fair and food tasting event from 11am – 1pm. Students from DKIT Culinary courses are devising gorgeous recipes as part of the LUFS project to compliment all the produce grown not just as part of the project, but by local food producers. All are welcome to attend and for further details on this event and the LUFS project contact the team on creativeireland@louthcoco.ie.

The final event will be on Monday December 2 in Creative Spark with a short presentation on the findings of the project and further networking opportunities for growers and those interested in the project. For details on this and all other events please see the LUFS website at <https://louthurbanfoodsanctuary.com/>

Droichead Arts Centre

The annual Leanbh festival took place once again in October with a huge range of workshops and events for all the family. There was a programme for Schools in Drogheda and East Meath and a photography exhibition. Droichead Arts Centre theatre hosted Strong Women in Science, Circus 250 and Joe the Magician bringing a mix of exciting performances to the stage. And the ever-popular Spooks Parade delighted all those across Drogheda with their Samhain inspired theme of 'Disco Ain't Dead'



Spooks Parade 'Disco Ain't Dead'

Droichead's online book club returned in October with the novel *In Her Place* by Edel Coffey. The book club is open to new members and each month the sessions are held online to make them as accessible as possible for all. Each session also will feature the author joining for a Q & A.

For more details on the book club and all other events happening check out Droichead Arts Centre's website <https://www.droichead.com/>

Highlane's Gallery

Exhibition, Talks and Workshop - As part of the current exhibition by Caomhín Gaffney, "All at Once Collapsing Together", the gallery held a number of family friendly workshops and events throughout October including exploring watercolours and the environment, nature and reusable materials. Caomhín also lead an artists' evening masterclass workshop around the use of prose and text. And

there was also a practical adult workshop with artist Breda Marron exploring themes through various mediums including drawing, collage and text.



One of the family workshops exploring nature and reusable materials at Highlanes

For more details on the 'All at Once Collapsing Together' exhibition which is taking place in the upper gallery see:

<https://highlanes.ie/exhibition/caoimhin-gaffney-all-at-once-collapsing-together/>

An Táin Arts Centre

The Hallowe'en season was in full swing in An Táin Arts Centre with a range of spooky workshops throughout the month including Hallowe'en Spooky Pottery workshops with ceramicist Etain O'Reilly and Pumpkin Painting with Jenny Slater.

Granny Jackson's Dead

This 'off site' event in partnership with Big Telly Theatre Company was a unique style of site-specific theatre, hijacking the familiar, using game, technology and place. It was a really fun and enthralling experience for all!



The cast of Granny Jackson's Dead!

An Táin also hosted a number of lectures in October including Child Psychologist Dr David Coleman talking about coping with anxiety in teenagers and children, The Old Dundalk Society member Frank O'Callaghan gave a talk "Up the Hill" on the history of the townland of Dowdallshill and forensics lecturer Jennifer Rees talked about the Psychology of Serial Killers. Not for the faint hearted!

Exhibition: The annual Artist in Residence exhibition from Creative Spark launched on Wednesday 8th October in the basement gallery. 'Reside', features a range of works from artists who benefitted from the Artist In Residence Programme in Creative Spark in 2022/2023/2024. The diverse collection of works featured a range of mixed media from both national and international artists. The exhibition runs until 16th November.

For all events and exhibitions in An Táin Arts Centre see <https://www.antain.ie/whats-on/> for details.

Funding Opportunities

There are a number of schemes opening with the Arts Council of Ireland now over the last few weeks of 2024 including the following:

- Festivals Investment Scheme
- Theatre Project Award
- Co-Funding Award
- Creative Production Supports
- Touring of Work Scheme

For details on all of the above funding streams with the Arts Council see <https://www.artscouncil.ie/available-funding/>

An Iarsmalann / Museum

Museum News

The month of October has been a particularly busy one for the Museum, putting together a number of exhibitions, hosting storytelling sessions, lectures and training days as well as attending a number of conferences over the month. The Museum had a stand at the Age Friendly Expo in Ardee and the



Stand at the Age Friendly Expo

The Museum is rightly proud of its strong links with community groups throughout the county. In this regard the Museum had its most full schedule ever this month, starting with a lecture on the nature of its work with the Women's Shed in early October. In addition to this, the Museum hosted a lecture by the local branch of Conradh na Gaeilge which highlighted the noted Gaelic scholar Peadar Ó Dubhda's achievement in translating the Bible into Irish. The Museum organised an exhibition featuring samples of his work courtesy of Louth Library Service Reference Collection in Dundalk branch.



Celebrating Peadar O'Dubhda

The Museum hosted the Old Dundalk Society's Diamond anniversary celebrations on October 23. The event featured a lecture by archaeologist, lecturer and writer, Paul Gosling. The event also comprised an exhibition of some of the items donated to the Museum since its foundation.

The Museum also hosted a lecture by UCD's Dr. Edward Burke on 'Ulster's Lost Counties – Loyalism and Paramilitarism since 1920'.



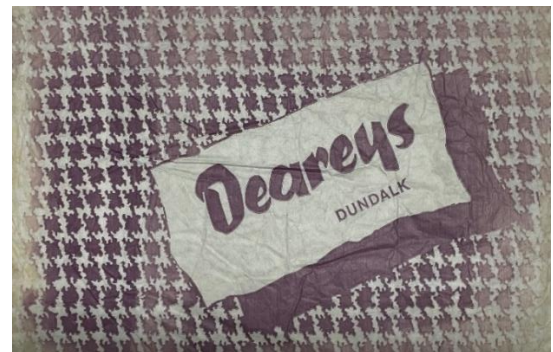
The Old Dundalk Society's 60th Anniversary at the County Museum, Dundalk



Dundalk Tidy Town's Latest Awards

Recent acquisitions

The collection at the Museum continues to grow with the acquisition of a variety of items representing all aspects of life in the county. Amongst those items acquired are a paper shopping bag from the former Dearey's of Dundalk; an Orange Order badge from Ballymascanlon Lodge; as well as the most recent awards presented to Dundalk Tidy Towns - its Gold Medal awarded for 2023 as well as the Community Achievement Award presented by Dundalk Chamber of Commerce.



Memories of Dundalk's commercial past



Ballymascanlon Orange Order badge



Hotel Transylvania – October 29
Ghostbusters (1984) – October 30
Hocus Pocus - October 31
Goosebumps – November 1
Monster House – November 2

Hallowe'en at the Museum

As is by now traditional the Museum continues to host a selection of Hallowe'en films for children over the afternoons of mid-term break. Young viewers are encouraged to dress up in their costumes for the 2pm showings. Admission is free.



Hallowe'en at the Museum

Freagairt Dhaonnúil na hÚcráine Ukraine Humanitarian Response

Is cruthú sealadach í an Stiúirthóireacht seo chun ceannaireachta a thabhairt ar an bhfreagairt ar Fhreagra Dhaonnúil Úcráin agus tá sí faoi stiúir ag an té atá sínithe thíos.

This Directorate is a temporary creation to lead on the response to the Ukraine Humanitarian Response and is led by the undersigned.

Yvonne O'Brien
Stiúirthóir Gníomhach/ Acting Director



Freagairt Dhaonnúil Úcráin / Ukraine Humanitarian Response

Property Figures as at 31/10/2024

Properties offered in September	2
Families moved into properties in September	1
Expressions of interest in being accommodated received from families in September	10
Property offers recorded to date	78
Owners successfully contacted to date	77
Properties currently occupied	39
Beneficiaries currently assigned	132
Assessments carried out to date	57
Assessments currently underway	0
Properties assessed as suitable to date	40
Properties with minor works required	0
Properties withdrawn to date	17
Properties not viable to date	21

Emergency Refurbishment Ukraine Programme (ERUP) to date

Cumulative Offers of properties to ERUP	38
Unsuitable / withdrawn	27
Under evaluation in September 2024	0
DCEDIY Letter of Intent Issued to date	11
No. of beds combined for delivery	615
DCEDIY contracts issued	3
No of beds delivered	315 incl LCC refurb

*224 beds delivered by LCC pre ERUP

The Community Integration Forum

The Forum met during again during October. Meetings will move to quarterly basis and sub committees are being established to focus more effectively on specific topics, such as

- Children and Young People
- Housing and Accommodation
- Healthcare, Mental Health, and Disabilities
- Social and Cultural Integration
- Education, Skills and Training

Local Authority Integration Team (LAIT)

The team attended the second in person national event at LGMA HQ. Topics included GDPR and Wellbeing building resilience. Amongst the speakers on the day was Dr Eddie Murphy, Head of Psychology for HSE Midlands.



The Dept of Social Protection hosted a Work and Skills fair with a focus on migrants in partnership with the LAIT in the Marcy Hotel, Drogheda on October 21st.

The LAIT team attended the Louth Local Development Company presentation to International Protection applicants who completed training with LLDC. The LAIT team provided referrals to LLDC who in turn provided training ranging from manual handling and safe pass to QQI healthcare training. The achievements of all involved have had a profound effect on each participant and they feel more confident applying for jobs after completing the training.



CommUnity Connect Louth & Meath: 5 Ways to Wellbeing

The LAIT team met with numerous members of the local community highlighting and promoting the work done by the LAIT in supporting migrants with integration from day one.

