



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 7^ú Aibreán 2025
Dated 7th April 2025**

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, 2001

Tuairisc Bhainistíochta Mhíosúil an Príomhfheidhmeannach – 31 Márta 2025
Chief Executive's Monthly Management Report – 31st March 2025

A Chara,

I enclose the above report for your statutory consideration which will be placed on the April 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. Some highlights of activity are listed below:-

1.0 Financial Reports:

- Housing expenditure: €14,675,232 (20% of budget).
- Road Transportation & Safety expenditure: €7,001,976 (24% of budget).
- Total income to 31st March 2025: €55,748,351 (30% of budget).

1.1 Information & Communication Technology:

- Interest shown in the online Dundalk Graveyard resource

2.0 Strategic Economic Development:

2.1 Local Enterprise Office:

- 37 business advice appointments provided.
- Launch of Local Enterprise Week from 3rd to 7th March.

2.2 Economic

- St. Patrick's Day Delegation to New York

2.3 Planning

- Adoption of Dundalk Local Area Plan on 6th March.

3.0 Organisational Development:

- Customer Services handled 7,033 calls, 1,201 emails, and 7,088 counter queries in March 2025.
- 3,314 valid Sugar CRM cases recorded, 13.03% unresolved.

3.1 Community Support Initiatives:

- Dog Fouling Campaign launched.
- Green School Assessments conducted.
- National Spring Clean preparations ongoing.

3.2 Ukraine Humanitarian Response:

- 84 properties offered, 41 currently occupied.

3.3 Sport:

- Men's Basketball Sports Night and fitness classes for teenage girls with physical disabilities in collaboration with HSE.

3.4 Waste Management:

- 21 waste complaints received in March 2025.
- Diesel laundering waste cleanup cost approximately €21,250 in 2025.

3.5 Climate Action:

- Participation in EU Climate Adaptation Mission training.
- Distribution of native Irish Apple trees to primary schools.

4.0 Housing:

- 205 individuals presented as homeless from February 18 to March 17, 2025.
- 60 housing allocations made up to March 21, 2025.
- 47 relet/void properties as of March 21, 2025.

4.1 Cultural Services:

- Carlingford Library awarded €42,500 for window repairs.
- Various events and workshops held for Seachtain na Gaeilge and International Women's Day.

4.2 Arts:

- Creative Ireland projects underway, including theatre production and storytelling sessions.

4.3 Museum:

- Seachtain na Gaeilge events and Local History week activities held.
- Recent acquisitions include a collection of golf ball markers.

These highlights provide an overview of the key activities, achievements and issues addressed by Louth County Council in March 2025, I would like to especially thank all the executive and staff of Louth County Council for their work and commitment, which is outlined in more detail in the attached report.

Is mise le meas.



David Conway
Chief Executive

Tuairisc Bhainistíochta Mhíosúil an Príomhfheidhmeannach –31 Márta 2025
Chief Executive's Monthly Management Report – 31st March 2025

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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, **Technolaíocht 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 Mi Márta 2025 / Expenditure to 31st March 2025

Rannóg / Section	Actual Expenditure to 31/03/2025 / Caiteachas Iarbhír go dtí 31/03/2025	Caiteachas Buiséadaithe 2025 / Budget Expenditure 2025	% Caite go 31/03/2025 / % Spent to 31/03/2025
Tithíocht / Housing	€14,675,232	€73,683,142	20%
Iompar Bóthair agus Sábháilteacht / Road Transportation & Safety	€7,001,976	€28,591,697	24%
Seirbhísí Uisce / Water Services	€1,803,691	€7,538,273	24%
Bainistíocht Forbartha / Development Management	€4,595,758	€25,940,360	18%
Seirbhísí Timpeallachta / Environmental Services	€4,748,946	€24,948,899	19%
Áineas agus Conláiste / Recreation and Amenity	€2,355,654	€12,548,436	19%
Talmhaíocht, Oideachas, Sláinte agus Leas / Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	€223,843	€1,431,271	16%
Ilghnéitheach / Miscellaneous	€2,362,573	€9,312,306	25%
	€37,767,673	€183,994,384	21%

Ioncam go dtí 31 Mi Márta 2025 / Income to 31st of March 2025

Rannóg / Section	Ioncam Iarbhír go dtí 31/03/2025 / Actual Income to 31/03/2025	Ioncam Buiséadaithe 2025 / Budget Income 2025	% Sonraisc Curtha do dtí 31/03/2025 / % Invoiced to 31/03/2025
Tithíocht / Housing	€11,594,418	€73,685,224	16%
Iompar Bóthair agus Sábháilteacht / Road Transportation & Safety	€747,564	€16,613,589	4%
Seirbhísí Uisce / Water Services	€1,325,804	€6,557,586	20%
Bainistíocht Forbartha / Development Management	€2,294,180	€15,522,127	15%
Seirbhísí Timpeallachta / Environmental Services	€625,320	€4,474,236	14%
Áineas agus Conláiste / Recreation and Amenity	€684,392	€1,947,561	35%
Talmhaíocht, Oideachas, Sláinte agus Leas / Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	€80,045	€469,209	17%
Ilghnéitheach / Miscellaneous	€279,979	€17,760,538	2%
Rátaí / Rates	€36,222,283	€35,598,115	102%
Deontas Ilfheidhmeach / General Purpose Grant (LPT)	€1,894,366	€11,366,198	17%
	€55,748,351	€183,994,383	30%

The above is the current position as of the 31st of March 2025. 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 2025 is included in the above figure.

Collection rates as of 31st of March 2025 are as follows:

Féichiúnaithe mar atá 31 Mí Márta 2025 / Debtors to 31st of March 2025

	Iarmhéid Tosaigh / Opening Balance	Sonraisc / Invoices	Fáltais / Receipts	Díscríobhanna / Write Offs	Iarmhéid Deiridh / Closing Balance
Féichiúnaithe Rialtais / Government Debtors	€26,232,975	€22,106,092	(€40,030,581)	(€0)	€8,308,486
Uadaráis Áitiúla Eile / Other Local Authorities	€106,006	€228,117	(€230,720)	(€0)	€103,403
Rataí / Rates	€5,466,111	€36,222,283	(€12,753,115)	(€697,262)	€28,238,017
Cíosanna / Rent	€3,098,524	€4,394,774	(€4,211,976)	(€134)	€3,281,188
Iasachtal / Loans	€300,764	€558,884	(€547,477)	(€0)	€312,171
Tobhaigh Forbartha / Development Levies	€10,912,245	€1,198,939	(€3,347,751)	(€447,898)	€8,315,535
Táilí Seirbhíse Dóiteáin / Fire Charges	€851,125	€203,464	(€158,927)	(€8,619)	€887,043
Ilghnéitheach / Miscellaneous	€2,746,807	€3,264,538	(€1,750,932)	(€3,945)	€4,256,468
Féichiúnaithe Iomlána / Total Debtors	€49,714,557	€68,177,091	(€63,031,479)	(€1,157,858)	€53,702,311

Above are the debtor balances as of 31st of March 2025. 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.

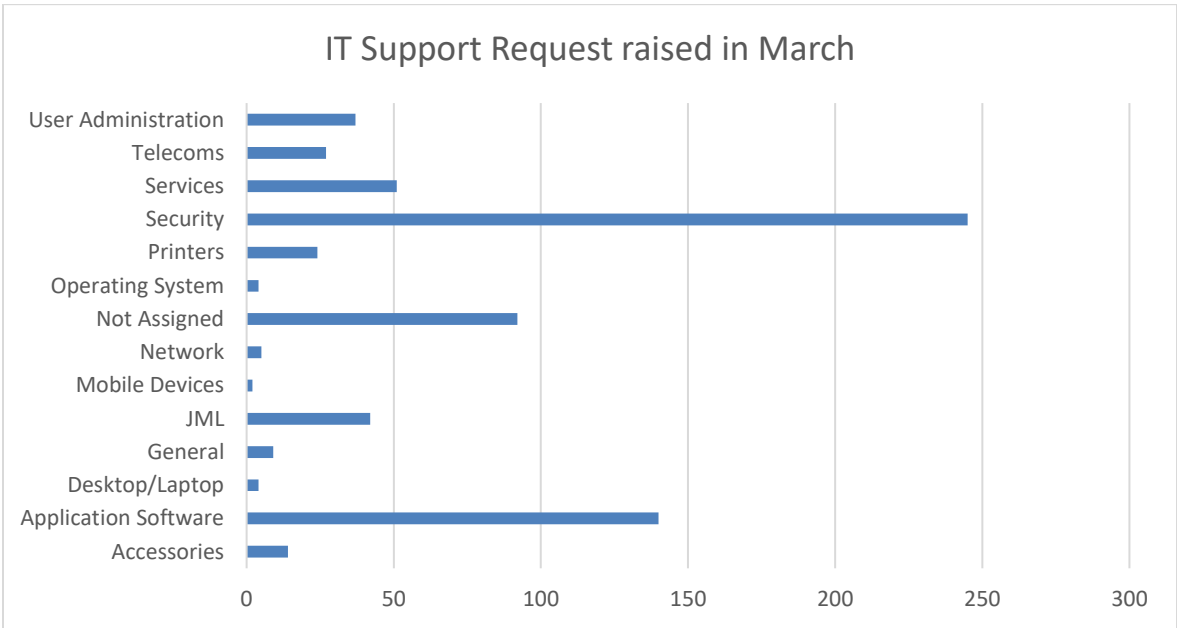
Annual Financial Statement

The 2024 Annual Financial Statement is now complete and on the agenda for the April Council meeting.

Techneolaíocht Faisnéise agus Cumarsáide / Information & Communication Technology

Deasc Chabhrach / Helpdesk

Between 01/03/2025 and the 31/03/2025 there were 696 support calls logged in the IT support system. 82% of these calls have been completed.



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

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. From 01/03/2025 – 31/03/2025 34% of inbound e-mails were identified as potentially harmful.

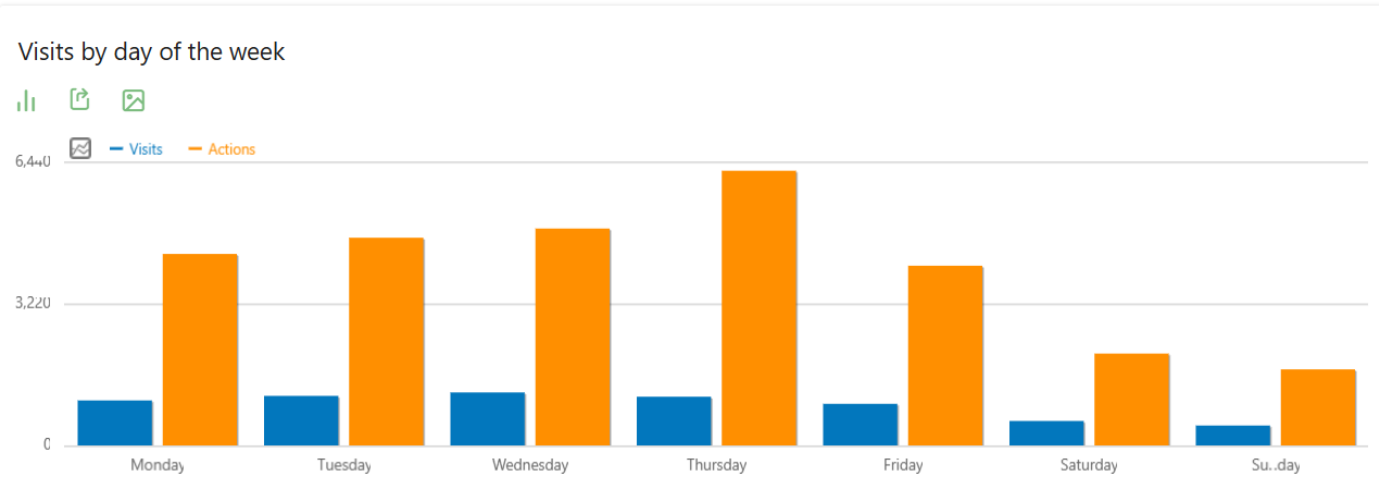
 Inbound Emails 170,044	 Blocked Sender 6,793
 Processed on Gateway 170,044	 Processed on Protect 0
 Blocked at gateway 20,032	 Blocked by spam /virus 29,955
 Blocked by content rules 383	 Potentially harmful emails 33.62%
 Emails Deleted by Protect 0	

Suíomh Gréasáin Comhairle Chontae Lú / Louth County Council Website

There were 16,681 unique page views of www.louthcoco.ie between 1st and 31st March 2025. The below table shows the pages which received the highest number of page views in March.

PAGE URL	PAGEVIEWS
 en	21,875
 services	11,258
 planning	2,939
 dog-pound	1,481
 housing	1,396
 library	1,264
 community	620
 arts	530

The below chart shows the visits and actions on the Louth County Council website in March per 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 our 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.

ArcGIS Online – Public Planning Register Map Viewer

The Council provide an online Planning Register Map Viewer which can be accessed from the Online Planning Application and Maps section user Services> Planning on the Louth County Council website. This application is updated regularly to include all planning applications. There were 6,475 views between 01/03/2025 and 31/03/2025, an average of 209 views a day.



ArcGIS Online – Saint Patick’s Cemetery Dowdallshill Burial Register Database

The Council have published an online Story Map and Dashboard which allow the public to read about the history of the cemetery and search the burial records for Saint Patick’s Cemetery Dowdallshill, Dundalk. There have been 1,255 views of the burial register between 01/03/2025 and 31/03/2025. An average of 40 views per day.



The system can be accessed from [this link](#).

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 Eacnamaíoch Straitéiseach / Strategic 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.

Forbairt Gheilleagrach / Economic Development

Economic Development & Enterprise Support Strategic Policy Committee (SPC)

A meeting of the Economic Development & Enterprise Support SPC took place on Tuesday 25th March. One of the key items on the agenda was the consideration of a ‘Scheme for the Waiver of Rates’.

Economic input to Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) 2024 - 2029

The Louth LECP sets out the objectives and actions needed to promote and support the economic development and the local and community development of Louth, both by the Council directly and in partnership with other economic and community development stakeholders.

A monitoring group for the LECP has been established and includes the Chair and two members of the Economic Development & Enterprise Support SPC. The lead partners assigned to the actions in the LECP have been contacted to obtain their plan to complete their respective actions.

Age Friendly Business

An Age-Friendly Business workshop took place on 31st March. The workshops were delivered by staff from the Economic Development office. The workshops were attended by representatives from several businesses across the county who completed Stage One towards receiving Age-Friendly Business Accreditation. These

representatives will become the Age-Friendly Champion for their business.

An open call is in place for businesses who wish to take part in the Age-Friendly Business Programme workshops. Businesses wishing to take part, and for further information, should email econdev@louthcoco.ie.

Shopfront Improvement Grant Scheme 2025

It was agreed at the January meeting of the Economic Development & Enterprise Support SPC to open the Shopfront Improvement Grant Scheme to applications from Monday 7th April, with a scheme closing date of Friday 26th September 2025.

The scheme is open to non-domestic commercial properties in County Louth.

For full details of the scheme please visit: <https://www.louthcoco.ie/en/services/economic-development/business-incentive-schemes-retail-prospectus/>.

Turasóireacht / Tourism

Visit Louth



The newly rebranded Visit Louth website and branding were launched on the 25th February. The Visit Louth branding features a refreshed logo, tagline, and website designed to showcase Louth as a must-visit destination in Ireland.

With its vibrant new slogan, ‘Out Here, It’s Legendary!’, this initiative marks a significant milestone in the county’s tourism development, celebrating Louth’s rich heritage, breathtaking landscapes, and thriving local culture.

The newly designed [Visit Louth](http://www.visitlouth.ie) website enhances the visitor experience, providing an engaging, user-friendly platform that highlights the county’s best attractions, activities, and hospitality.

The redesigned Visit Louth logo is inspired by the county's rich heritage, scenic beauty, and vibrant communities. Featuring a modern and welcoming design, it captures Louth's storied past while embracing its promising future as an emerging tourism destination. There has already been increased participation on the website and uptake of the new branding.

If anyone wishes to submit an event or attraction to be listed on the Visit Louth website, they can do so via this [link](#).

Launch of Annual Cross-Border Tourism Conference

The Senior Executive Officer from the Tourism Section attended the launch of the Cross-Border Tourism Conference. The conference, hosted by Dundalk Chamber of Commerce, and sponsored by the Council, will be held in the Four Seasons Hotel Carlingford on 2nd April. It will feature a talk from the Tourism Officer on Visit Louth and the future of tourism in the county. The Visit Louth team will also have a stand at the conference. Registration for the conference can be found here: <https://www.dundalk.ie/event/cross-border-tourism-conference-2025/>.



Launch of the Cross-Border Tourism Conference

St. Patrick's Day 2025

The Council provided financial support to Dundalk, Drogheda and Ardee St. Patrick's Day Parades. The parades were a huge success with Drogheda being featured on the RTÉ news.



Drogheda St. Patrick's Day Parade featuring on RTÉ News

A delegation from the Council travelled to New York to meet representatives from Tourism Ireland, the IDA, Enterprise Ireland and attended the St. Patrick's Day Mass at St Patrick's Cathedral. They also attended a series of events where County Louth was promoted including attending the Consulate General of Ireland and taking part in the New York St. Patrick's Day Parade. The delegation promoted County Louth as a vibrant and strategically located county on the Dublin Belfast Economic Corridor. Visit Louth gift packs were given to those they met, containing information on tourism and investment opportunities in County Louth.



Louth Delegation at Tourism Ireland in New York



Louth Delegation at IDA Ireland in New York

County Louth Tourism Strategy

Runda Hospitality and Tourism Solutions are preparing the Louth Tourism Strategy and Action Plan 2025 – 2030, and there will be further workshops planned throughout late April. Details to be announced soon.

Shared Island Fund

Following the Council's submission to the Shared Island Unit of a feasibility study to develop the greater Carlingford Lough region we were delighted with the announcement of €6 million towards the development of trails, trailheads, water access points and marketing of the region.

Festival Grants 2025

Eighty applications were received under the 'Festival Grant Initiative 2025' and the 'Regional Festivals and Participative Events Programme 2025', sixty-five letters of offer issued to the successful applicants.

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

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. A final draft copy of the report has been agreed. Louth County Council will be the lead council partner on this project and are working on creating a steering group for the Táin Trail Reimagined.

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. Work is progressing on various signage types and locations.

Boyne Valley Flavours (BVF)

Boyne Valley Flavours are in the process of creating a brief for a branding update which will be circulated for quotes in the next month.

Work is continuing on the implementation of the BVF Strategy. Progression of the Boyne Valley Bites, Boyne Valley Food Series and member engagement initiatives are also continuing.

The Centre of Food Culture, Boyne Valley

The Centre of Food Culture, Boyne Valley partnered with The University of Gastronomic Sciences, Italy to co-ordinate a first study trip to the Boyne Valley

region from 10th – 16th March. A group of fourteen from the leading gastronomy university visited seventeen producers and food services providers across Louth and Meath over the week. The trip focused on learning about the territory, and topics including distribution, sustainability, and food tourism. This trip marks a significant step in our working towards creating greater awareness and understanding of our food culture internationally.



Students from the University of Gastronomic Sciences, Italy visiting Carlingford Oysters and Muchgrange Farm

Geilleagar Oíche Dhroichead Átha / Drogheda Night-Time Economy

Drogheda Comedy Festival Returns



Drogheda Comedy Festival Returns

After a hugely successful inaugural launch in 2024, the Drogheda Comedy Festival returned from 7th to 9th March, taking another step in solidifying its place in Ireland's comedy calendar. With funding from the Council's Festival grant scheme and support from the Night-Time Economy Adviser for Drogheda, this year saw a significant expansion, with available tickets increasing from approximately 2,000 to 3,000. The festival activated nine town centre venues, bringing energy and a footfall into the heart of Drogheda over the weekend. A total of thirty-five acts performed, ranging from emerging Irish talent to well-established names from the UK and USA. The festival's growing reputation is evident, with strong audience numbers and wider recognition within the industry. The ambition remains to develop a flagship cultural event that strengthens Drogheda's night-time economy while boosting its

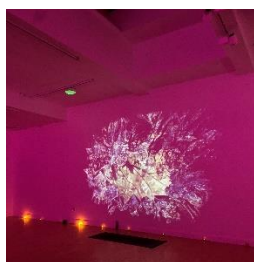
national profile as a destination for live entertainment.

Night Moves Programme launches with Night Tones

The Night Moves programme officially launched on 7th March for its second year, introducing new late-night cultural experiences in Drogheda. The first initiative, Night Tones, delivered two immersive ambient music events featuring local electronic musician Ógy Collins alongside professional yoga instructor Elaine Tobin. Exploring wellbeing over the late-night setting, these unique sessions blended live electronic music with yoga and guided meditation, creating a space for deep listening and relaxation within the Droichead Arts Centre gallery. Night Moves is an ambitious project led by Droichead Arts Centre and funded by the Night-Time Economy Adviser for Drogheda, aiming to activate non-traditional venues and encourage alternative night-time experiences throughout the town. Future events will extend to late-night cafés with cultural programming, opera, and poetry. Next up in May, Night Moves will expand with a late-night multi-space experience curated by SJ McArdle, featuring live music, an ambient DJ set, and a bespoke art installation by Vivienne Byrne. The initiative is designed to broaden Drogheda's night-time economy beyond traditional entertainment models, fostering creativity and cultural engagement in the town centre.



Night Tones



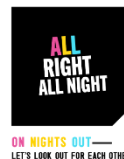
Launch of the NightSafe Resource

As part of a new initiative from the Night-Time Economy Adviser for Drogheda, in partnership with the Drogheda Purple Flag Group, the NightSafe resource folder has been launched to help venues, hospitality businesses, and event organisers create safer, more inclusive, and vibrant night-time experiences. This folder includes a range of safeguarding materials, tools, and training

resources designed to support businesses in ensuring that their spaces are welcoming, safe, and attractive to all audiences.

The NightSafe resource is a valuable tool for businesses looking to promote and embed best practices in safeguarding by committing to initiatives like Ask for Angela, Safe Gigs Ireland, and All Right, All Night, venues not only enhance safety for customers, staff, and performers but also improve their reputation, create a positive atmosphere, and ultimately draw more people into the night-time economy. Businesses that prioritise safety attract a wider audience, contributing to a stronger, more sustainable night-time economy in Drogheda. This folder will continue to be updated with new training materials and resources to support businesses in building a safe and thriving night-time environment. For further information on accessing these resources, interested parties can contact the Night-time Economy Adviser at mark.davies@louthcoco.ie.

All Right, All Night – Train the Trainer



The Night-Time Economy Adviser for Drogheda is supporting the All Right, All Night campaign's Train the Trainer initiative and all partners in the region are being asked to help. Expressions of interest are being sought from partners who work with young people or young staff to take part in free training sessions. This bystander intervention programme is designed to equip young people (16 - 24) with the confidence and skills to recognise harmful behaviour on nights out and intervene when it is safe to do so. All Right, All Night empowers young people to challenge unacceptable behaviours and shift social norms, establishing a higher standard for what is acceptable in social spaces. By creating a network of trainers committed to delivering this message, the initiative aims to build a nationwide culture where individuals actively look out for each other and stand against harmful behaviour. The goal is to foster a safer, more respectful night-time culture where young people feel both safe and supported when socialising. Future training sessions will invite

regional partners to Drogheda, offering an opportunity for wider collaboration and impact. Expressions of interest are welcomed by community leaders, professionals, and anyone working directly with young people. All partners are being asked to share this message, those interested are encouraged to email mark.davies@louthcoco.ie by 17th April. For more information about the All Right, All Night campaign, please visit [All Right All Night - On nights out, let's look out for each other](#).

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](#).

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

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 the 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



The Schedule for training for 2025 is currently being updated and all scheduled training courses are available to view and book online: <https://www.localenterprise.ie/Louth/Training-Events/Online-Bookings/>.

Four training courses were held in March, two Start Your Own Business courses, AI for Social Media Marketing and e-Tenders and Tendering together with the schedule of Events organised for Local Enterprise Week.

Grow Digital Voucher

The Grow Digital Voucher is a valuable initiative that offers small and medium businesses with up to fifty employees financial support to integrate and embrace digital technology into their operations. This support aims to enhance business efficiency, competitiveness, and innovation through the adoption of digital solutions. A Digital for Business project report must be completed within the previous two years before applying for the voucher. Funding is provided as grant aid, covering 50% of eligible project costs with a minimum grant of €500 up to a maximum of €5,000 per application. This support allows businesses to invest in their digital transformation and support their continued growth.

LEO Louth Mentor Programme



Twenty-five businesses were appointed Mentors during the month of March to provide practical and strategic one-to-one advice and guidance.

Microfinance Ireland (MFI) Business Loan



LEO Louth offers expert assistance to complete MFI Loan Applications, Business Plans and Cashflow Projections. MFI has now doubled its lending limit

to €50,000. This measure is part of the government's recently announced package of measures to support small businesses.

LEO Louth has received six applications year to date and continues to welcome new applications.

LEAN for Business Programme



LEO Louth continues to offer the LEAN Programme to small businesses locally. The fee to participate in this programme has been reduced to €150 for businesses.

LEO Louth has received two applications year-to-date and continues to welcome new applications.

Digital For Business

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.

LEO Louth has received seven applications year to date, including two in March and continues to welcome new applications.

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 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.

For further information on this grant please visit: <https://www.localenterprise.ie/Louth/Financial-Supports/Energy%20Efficiency%20Grant/>.

LEO Louth has received four applications year-to-date and continues to welcome new applications.

Business Advice Clinics

Fifty-seven business advice appointments were provided by telephone and video conference to entrepreneurs throughout the county during March together with nine Financial Business Advice Clinics.

Local Enterprise Week – 3rd to 7th March

A busy week was had in LEO Louth for Louth Enterprise Week which ran from Monday 3rd to Friday 7th March. An extensive schedule of events and workshops were held across the county culminating in the county finals of the Louth Enterprise awards which were held in the Monasterboice Inn on Friday 7th March.

Awards were presented in three categories; Fierce Mild Brewing secured the Best Start-up Award for their non-alcoholic pale ale which is transforming the non-alcoholic beer market. Peter Larkin with his company Safeshel received the Innovation award for their inflatable rescue shelter designed for emergency response and Mark Coan and his company Moneysherpa won the Best-Established Business and the overall Enterprise award and will now go on to represent Louth at the National Awards in the Mansion House in May.



LEO Office Team at the Louth Enterprise Awards



Niall Gallagher, LEO Louth, Cathaoirleach Cllr. Kevin Callan, Thomas McEvoy, DOS, David Conway, Chief Executive and Sarah Mallon, LEO Louth



Award Winners: Peter Larkin, Safeshel, Mark Coan, Moneysherpa and Cathal Byrne, Fierce Mild Brewing



Miriam Simon, Gerry Kelly and Senator Alison Comyn at the Louth Enterprise Awards

Benelux Ambassadors Visit to Louth – 12th March 2025

On Wednesday 12th March Netherlands Ambassador Maaïke van Kioldam, Luxembourg Ambassador Florence Enschedé and the Ambassador of Belgium Katrijn Coppens visited the Town Hall to meet members of Dundalk Chamber of Commerce together with Cathaoirleach Cllr. Kevin Callan and the Chief Executive to discuss opportunities for Louth based businesses to make links and trade with the Benelux nations.



**Back row: Leas-Cathaoirleach Cllr. John Reilly, David Conway, Chief Executive, Paddy Malone, PRO Dundalk Chamber, Thomas McEvoy, DOS
Front row: Hanna McDonnell President Dundalk Chamber, Ambassador of the Netherlands, Maaïke van Koldam, Ambassador of Luxembourg, Florence Enschedé, and Deputy Katrijn Coppens of the Belgian Embassy**

Student Enterprise Awards – 13th March

On Thursday 13th March, The Fairways Hotel in Dundalk was alive with energy and enthusiasm as local secondary school students and their teachers gathered for the Louth Student Enterprise Awards 2025. This year's event saw an impressive 130 students, representing 51 innovative enterprises, present their entrepreneurial ideas and showcase their hard work.

The Louth Student Enterprise Programme is a collaboration between LEO Louth and local secondary schools. More than 1,500 students from 19 schools across the county took part this year. They learned what it takes to develop a business idea, launch it, and bring it to market. The programme culminates in the County Final — a much-anticipated opportunity for students to present their businesses to a panel of expert judges and compete for an award.



**Junior Winner: Darragh Grimes
Scoil Uí Mhuirí, Dunleer**



Intermediate Winner: Oran Cassidy
St. Joseph's Secondary School, Drogheda



Senior Winner: Riley Finnegan
Scoil Uí Mhuirí, Dunleer

Hungarian Embassy Visit to Louth – 26th March 2025

On Wednesday 26th March Hungarian Trade Commissioner Katalin Negyessy and Trade Officer David Horvath visited the Town Hall to meet members of Dundalk Chamber of Commerce. They were welcomed by Cathaoirleach Cllr. Kevin Callan and reps from LEO Louth and Dundalk Chamber. Local businesses had the opportunity to discuss trade and commercial links with Hungary as part of this visit.



David Horvath, Hungarian Embassy, Paddy Malone, Dundalk Chamber, Katalin Negyessy, Hungarian Embassy, Cathaoirleach Cllr. Kevin Callan, Nikki Campbell, LEO Louth

Oidhreacht / Heritage

Funding Schemes

The Community Monuments Fund is 100% funded by central government and administered locally by the Heritage Office. Conservation works can be funded up to €100,000 (and up to €130,000 in exceptional circumstances), while there are other funding streams for conservation studies (assessments and planning) and for the enhancement of access to and for interpretation of monuments.

Six private applications to the Community Monuments Fund were received by the Heritage Office before the deadline of 31st January 2025. These applications were assessed and forwarded to the National Monuments Service, with a request for funding.

The six Third Party applications received were in relation to:

Stream 1 (for continuing monument conservation works):

- Bellew's Castle, Castletown, Dundalk
- Glaspistol Towerhouse, Clogherhead
- Taaffe's Castle, Carlingford

Stream 2 (for grants for research and planning future works):

- Hatch's Castle, Ardee
- Carlingford Tholsel

Stream 3 (for improving access to monuments and for their interpretation)

- Millmount Museum, Drogheda

The Heritage Office also submitted four applications in relation to monuments for which the Council is responsible, either as owner or guardian.

Stream 1:

- Millmount (repairs to the ramp up to the 'Martello tower' and to the wall around the base of the motte)

Stream 2 (studies and surveys to inform the future conservation of):

- The circuit of Drogheda's town walls (no tender response was received in 2024)
- The Magdalene Tower, Drogheda

- The West Gable of the North Aisle of 'The Old Abbey', Drogheda.

Seirbhísí Dóiteáin agus Éigeandála / Fire & Emergency Services

Fire Services

Louth Fire Service received DHLGH approval for the replacement of all road traffic accident tools with battery-powered tools at a total cost of approximately €340,000. This includes cutters, spreaders, rams, and door entry tools and will be installed on frontline appliances and emergency tenders in all Fire Brigades in Louth. The battery powered tools will be quicker and easier to deploy at road traffic accidents than the current units and will all have the same or improved level of performance. An Assistant Chief Fire Officer and Station Officers carried out practical assessments of the tools on 5th March. They will be going on the run in all Brigades from June onwards.

Fire Service Training courses during March were as follows:

- Attendance of Sub Officer on Fire Service Trainer Course
- Mental Health First Aid course
- Abrasive Wheels course

The Recruitment Plan for new retained fire fighters continued in its implementation during March with a new fire fighter appointed in Dundalk and others awaiting training courses.

Louth Fire Service took part in St. Patrick's Day parades in Dundalk, Drogheda, Ardee, and Blackrock. There were a range of current and vintage vehicles in the parades. This included the Dundalk and Drogheda Merryweather appliances, dating from the 1930s. Both vehicles have been extensively upgraded and restored by the Council in recent years. Due to their historic significance, these vehicles have been in regular demand in Louth and in Northern Ireland.

Major Emergency Management

The North-East Regional Major Emergency Steering Group met in County Hall on 5th March. The MEM Working Group subsequently met remotely on 12th March. Both groups are chaired by An Garda Síochána.

Climate Adaptation Strategy

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

Building Control

The Building Control Officer is presenting a case study on the 3D Printed Building development in Dundalk at the National Building Control Office Modern Methods of Construction CPD event on 2nd April in Athlone.

The National Building Control Office arranged a further visit to a building site in Louth during March with Building Control staff.

The main workload of the Building Control Section is processing Disabled Access Certificate applications and Certificates of Compliance on Completion and the backlog of these resulting from the significant increase in applications during 2024.

Cosaint Shibhialta / Civil Defence

The new Assistant Civil Defence Officer started on 24th March and has commenced defined duties to assist the Civil Defence Officer in his role. This appointment will ensure a continuous delivery of service, taking account of leave and absences, and will also facilitate an increase in the number of volunteers.

The following training was provided during March:

- Weekly Training each Thursday
- First Aid Responder (FAR)
- National volunteer CPD day in Tullamore attended by 2 volunteers from Louth
- People Handling

The following duties were attended and medical cover provided:

- National Radiation Exercise
- Garda vs African Communities charity soccer match.

Civil Defence also took part in the St. Patrick's Day parade in Dundalk and provided medical cover afterward

Pleanáil / Planning

The Planning service indicators for the Council for the month of February 2025 are given below in tabular form. There were 75 planning applications received during the month of February of which 66 were valid. In addition, there were 26 responses received during the month to requests for further information and 26 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	5	11	36	0	52
(ii) Líon na gcinntí inar iarradh breis eolais / No. of decisions determined which required further information	1	3	9	0	13
(iii) Céatadán na n-iarratas a diúltaíodh / Percentage of applications refused	20.00% (1)	45.45% (5)	2.78% (1)	0.00% (0)	13.46% (7)
(iv) Líon na n-achomharc a cinneadh / Number of appeals determined	1	2	7	0	10
(v) Céatadán na gcinntí a cuireadh ar ceal ar achomharc / Percentage of decisions overturned on appeal	100% (1)	0.00% (0)	28.57% (2)	0.00% (0)	30.00% (3)

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 údaráíodh / Enforcement in relation to unauthorised development		Forfheidhmiú maidir le forbairt nár údaráíodh / Enforcement in relation to unauthorised development	
	Feabhra 2025 / February 2025	Bliain go dtí seo / Year to Date	Feabhra 2024 / February 2024	Bliain go dtí seo / Year to Date
Líon na nGearán maidir le Forfheidhmiú Pleanála a Imscrúdaíodh / Number of Planning Enforcement Complaints Investigated	22	39	28	52
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	24	44	11	26
Líon na Litreacha Rabhadh a eisíodh / Number of Warning letters issued	9	24	24	40
Líon na bhFógraí Forfheidhmiúcháin a eisíodh / Number of Enforcement Notices issued	3	3	2	2
Líon na cásanna a tarchuireadh le haghaidh imeachtaí dlí / Number of cases referred for legal proceedings	0	0	1	1
Líon na n-urghairí / Number of Injunctions	0	0	0	0
Líon na n-ionchúiseamh / Number of Prosecutions	0	0	0	0

Planning Enforcement – Dangerous Structures / Forfheidhmiú Pleanála – Déanmhais Chontúirteacha

The Planning Indicators listed below are in relation to Notices issued under the Local Government (Sanitary Services) Act, 1964 for the period January to March 2025.

Tá na Táscairí Pleanála thíos liostaithe bainteach le Fógraí a eisíodh faoin Acht Rialtais Áitiúil (Seirbhísí Sláintíochta) 1964 sa tréimhse Eanáir go Márta 2025.

Description / Cur Síos	Enforcement in relation to Dangerous Structures/ Forfheidhmiú maidir le Déanmhais Contúirteacha	
	January to March 2025 Eanáir go Márta 2025	Year to Date / Bliain go dtí seo
Number of Dangerous Structures files opened / Líon na gcomhad Déanmhais Contúirteach a osclaíodh	16	16
Number of Section 3 (1)(a) Notices – Directing Owner to carry out work / Líon na bhFógraí Alt 3 (1)(a) – Ag Tabhairt ordú d’úinéir obair a dhéanamh	12	12
Number of Section 3 (2)(b) Notices – LCC carry out works / Líon na bhFógraí Alt 3 (2)(b) – Obair le déanamh ag CCL	0	0
Number of Section 2 Notices – Dangerous Place / Líon na bhFógraí Alt 2 – Áit Chontúirteach	0	0
Number of Dangerous Structures entered on the DS Register	12	12
Number of cases referred for legal proceedings / Líon na gcásanna a tarchuireadh le haghaidh imeachtaí dlí	2	2
Number of Prosecutions / Líon na n-ionchúiseamh	0	0
Number of Dangerous Structures Removed from the DS Register	2	2
Number of cases closed / Líon na gcásanna a dúnadh	3	3

*Please note: figures up to 20th March 2025 only.

Pleanáil Chun Cinn / Forward Planning

website and Consultation Portal, at Customer Service counters and in public libraries.

Dundalk Local Area Plan 2025 - 2031

The Dundalk Local Area Plan 2025 - 2031 was adopted, by resolution, at a special Council Meeting held on Thursday 6th March 2025, and shall come into effect on 16th April 2025. Copies of the Plan will be available for inspection online on the Council’s

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



Placemaking Progress Report for March 2025

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	Litter pick for these areas
Ardee Road	
Avenue Road	
Ashling Park Estate	
Armagh Road	
Barrack Street	
Bay Estate	
Castletown Road	
Castle Road	
Castle Ross	
Cox's Demesne	
Centenary Road	
Carrick Road	
Carroll Village	
Dublin Road	
Fairgreen Road	
Former Harp Lager Car Park	
Inner Relief Road at St. Helena's Quay Street,	
John Street	
Lennon Melia	
Long Walk (incl Bottle Banks)	
Mary Street South	
Meadow Grove	
Moorland Road	
Muirhevnemor Estate	
Old Coe's Road	
Old Newry Road	
Patrick Street	
Philip Street	
Point Road	
Quay Street	
Racecourse Road	
Ramparts Road	
River Walk to Tain Bridge	
Riverside, Crescent,	
Seatown Place	
Southern Link Road	

St. Brigid's Terrace
Tom Bellew Avenue
The Ramparts
Williamsons Place
York Street.

Strimming around verges and walls
Grass cutting in progress in all areas around town
Removing rubbish from Bottle Banks daily and cleaning around them
Collecting and shredding fallen branches on the Inner Relief Road, Dundalk.

Folmhú Araidí Poiblí / Emptying of Public Bins	Líon agus minicíocht / Numbers and frequency
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Emptying of bins in Carlingford, Omeath, Greenore, Templetown Car Park, Gyles Quay Area.

Cleaned borders around Town.

Bin repaired on Dublin Road.

4 bins replaced with new ones in St Helenas Park.

New bins also installed at Navvy Bank, Seatown Place and the Red Barns Road.

New liners installed in bins on Clanbrassil Street.

Daffodils are flowering in all areas of Inner Relief Rd, Parks. Joceyln Drive and the Cluan Enda Island

Planters and Containers are looking good for St Patrick's weekend.

Replaced plants in areas. Areas also Mulched.

Dundalk – nightly by contractor 200 Bins.

Scuabadh Bóithre / Road Sweeping	Bealaí gach tseachtain / Routes per week
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Contract sweeper as per contract nightly, daily, weekly and monthly as per contract

Centre Island Bollard cleaning on N52 from

The Red Cow Roundabout to St. Helena's Park.

Dublin Road (broken glass at Ladywell Shrine)

Grain spilled on the road from Red Cow Roundabout to Ballymascanlon Roundabout swept and made safe.

Folmhú Araidí Salachar Madra / Emptying Dog Waste Receptacles

As per bin management

Líon gach tseachtain / Number per week

Seiceál Baoithe Tarrthála / Ring Buoy Checking

Ring Buoys checked weekly using Pro-works and loaded onto Pro-works Dashboard for Water Safety Officer

Lifebuoy issues are now visible on Dashboard for Pro works

Líon Seiceáilte gach tseachtain / Number checked weekly

27 Checked Weekly submitted to Water Safety Officer

Seiceál Trealamh Áiteanna Sugartha agus Corpacmhainne / Checking of Playground and Gym Equipment

Daily/Weekly check lists carried out by Parks Caretaker

Suíomhanna Seiceáilte Laethúil / Number of sites checked daily

6 and 8 as Fridays as our Parks Caretaker checks the play areas in Kilcurry, Blackrock and Stephenstown

Lordship, Cooley, Carlingford, Omeath

Checked by Outdoor Staff.

Other activities include

Litter Pick Parks

Shrub Planting and applying Mulch in borders around Town – ongoing

Verge trimming in play areas

Equipment repaired in play areas

Other parts taken for repair Red Barriers place around the part of the unit remaining

Grass cutting started in early March, verges and estates

<i>Suíomh / Location</i>	<i>Nótaí / Notes</i>
Deisiú Bóithre / Road Repairs	<u>Cooley</u> Ongoing patching of local roads also isolated pothole within the area R173 Bush, Ravensdale Park, patching Crosslaney L. S. 70620, patching grey-acre road. <u>Dundalk</u> Stapleton Place Anne Street Ath Leathan/Racecourse Road Ardee Road Tom Bellew Avenue Avenue Road/Hill Street Bridge The Crescent Patrick Street Meadow Grove Mooreland Road R178 at Oriel Park Works carried out by Tar Stone fixing sunken manhole covers. Racecourse road Castletown Road Fairgreen Road Crossroads at St. Helena's Park The Avenue Road The Newry Road The Ramparts Road Park Street Works carried out by Dundalk Operations Team. Cleaning overgrown footpaths at Old Newry Road Removal of multiple loads of fly tipped rubbish and spoil.
Feabhasúchán Draenála / Drainage Remediation	<u>Cooley</u> Drainage Upper Jeninstown, L.P. 30844, R173 Omeath Village, Drummullagh Omeath, Carlingford Village.

	<u>Dundalk</u> Drainage works carried out by Dundalk Operations team. Installation of new soak pit and cleaning of drainage ditches. Drawing away eight loads of fly tipped rubbish at Moorland Road. Drainage works carried out to alleviate flooding on Priorland Road. These works are ongoing. Other Drainage works St. Mary's Road/Castle Road Cross. St. Brigid's Terrace/Castle Road. Father Murray Park Pearse Park behind the Brewery. Priorland Road.	
Crainn Leagtha nó Chontúirteacha / Fallen or Dangerous Trees	None at this time	
Cothabháil Cosán / Footpath Maintenance	<u>Cooley</u> Replacing footpaths in St. Michael's Terrace, Carlingford, Co. Louth.	
Cothabháil Cosán / Footpath Maintenance	<u>Dundalk</u>	
Deisiú Soilse Trácht / Traffic Light Repairs		
Marcáil Bóithre / Road Markings		
Comharthaíocht/ Signage	<u>Cooley</u> Ongoing maintenance of advance warning signs at all junctions, also replacing liners at Junctions. <u>Dundalk</u> Fatima/Bellewsbridge Dundalk Port R178 Newry Road Chapel Street Racecourse Road Inner Relief Road Ard Easmuinn St. Vincents Secondary School The Ramparts Mullaharlin Road.	

Dumpáil Neamhdhleathach / Illegal Dumping	<u>Dundalk</u> Williamsons Place Castletown Road/Woodview Saltown/Fatima Mary Street South	
Glanadh Graifítí / Graffiti Removal	None at this time	

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 no. checked weekly Annagassan – 11 no. 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	Road repairs, patching & cleaning up.
	LT-51372 Little Ash Knockbridge, LT-7096-2 Monascreebe Faughart, LP-3113 from Drumbilla Cross to Hackballscross, Lp-3125 from Hackballscross LP-3161 Haynestown, LS-7159, Wallace's Road Blackrock, LT-31252 Hackballscross, R171 Knockbridge Road, LP-3136 Newtown Knockbridge, N53 Dundalk Castleblayney Road, R178 Dundalk Carrick road, Rd198 N2- Arthurstown Little and on Rd197 Arthurstown – Rahanna, Rd206 Crowmartin, Rd201 Thomastown	
	N/A	Tree pruning/vegetation Maintenance/Verge trimming
	N/A	Resurfacing/overlay works (by contract)
Feabhasúchán Draenála / Drainage Remediation	R171 Ardee – Tallanstown, N52 from Duffy's Cross – Fane Bridge and on Rd166 LP-3167 Stephenstown Road Knockbridge, LS-7162 Clermont Road Haggardstown, LS-7129 Little Mills Knockbridge, LS-7093 Feed Faughart.	Drainage maintenance – Cleansing and gully cleaning, Opening outlets and storm drains. Preparation for surface dressing.

Crainn Leagtha nó Chontúirteacha / Fallen or Dangerous Trees		Clearing fallen trees and debris.
Cothabháil Cosán / Footpath Maintenance		Footpath renewal
Deisiú Soilse Tráchtá / Traffic Light Repairs	Xerox Junction, Haynestown, Kilcurry, Faughart.	Major repair works completed.
Marcáil Bóithre / Road Markings	Blackrock	Renewal of Junction Markings.
Comharthaíocht / Signage	LP- 3136 Newtown, Knockbridge. R178 Carrick Road, Dundalk. LS-7127 Kilkenny.	Cleansing/Repairs/Replacement. New Signage.
Dumpáil Neamhdhleathach / Illegal Dumping	LS-7109 Balriggeran Kilcurry, LS-7112 Castle Roche, HBX. L-7100 Whitemill Faughart, LS-7103 Carn More Kilcurry, LS-7162 Clermont Road Haggardstown, Seabank	Collection of dumped waste for disposal. Collection & 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		37 Daily	
Dunleer Town		20 Tuesday and Thursday	
Collon		3 Tuesday and Thursday	
Erection of bin at Riverside Walk			
Erection 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 - River Dee			
Salterstown			
Port Beach			
Seiceál Trealamh Áiteanna Sugartha agus Corpacmhainne / Checking of Playground and Gym Equipment		Suíomhanna Seiceáilte Laethúil / Number of sites checked daily	
Maintenance and cleaning of Fairgreen and Dunleer parks and playgrounds complete with daily checks of the playground, & exercise equipment at both locations.			

Suíomh / Location		Nótaí / Notes
Deisiú Bóithre / Road Repairs	• 1209-0 Cookstown Cross, • L-5256-0 Baltrasna, • L-62370 Cappoge • R168 Drogheda Road Collon • L-2253-47 Philipstown • R211 Dunleer • L-2223-30 Finvoy • L-62742 Burren • L-5232-0 Coole • L-5234-0 Silverhill • L-6269-0 Knockacleva • L-1210-41 Knockcurlan • L-5257-0 Roestown • L-12972-0 Everitt's Ln. Collon • L-1260-0 John Street Ardee - R170 Hale Street Ardee	
Feabhasúchán Draenála / Drainage Remediation	• R211 Dunleer • L-5207-0 Churchtown • L-5257-0 Roestown • L-62742 Burren • L-12972-0 Everitt's Lane Collon	
Crainn Leagtha nó Chontúirteacha / Fallen or Dangerous Trees		
Cothabháil Cosán / Footpath Maintenance		
Deisiú Soilse Tráchtá / Traffic Light Repairs		
Marcáil Bóithre / Road Markings	• School Road markings at L-2226-0 St Finians N.S Adamstown	
Comharthaíocht / Signage		
Dumpáil Neamhdhleathach / Illegal Dumping		

Glanadh Graifítí / Graffiti Removal		
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Ceanntar Buirge Dhroichead Átha / Borough District of Drogheda

Ceantar Baile Dhroichead Átha / Drogheda Town Area

Piacadh Bruscair / Litter Picking	Suíomh agus méadar gach mí / Location and metres per month 7 Daily Port Oriel Pier, Clogherhead 8 Daily Clogherhead Beach 6 Daily Port Beach 6 Daily Termonfeckin 3 Daily Baltray 3 Daily Seapoint Carpark 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. Remove dumping at Rathmullen Pk, Ballsgrove (Green Area), Dummies Lane (rubble), Mayoralty St (household rubbish), North Quay (pallets), Marsh Rd, Bully Acres (Electrical goods), Johns St (General Rubbish) & O Reillys Carpark. Litter picking at St Dominics Pk, Windmill Rd, Boyle O Reilly, Market Carpark, Fair St, Trinity St, Mill Lane. All Bottle bank site cleaned on weekly basis
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 bin (including 10 no. 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.
Scuabadh Bóithre / Road Sweeping	Routes per week / Bealaí sa tseachtain • Town Centre daily. Approach roads fortnightly. • Public 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). • Particular attention to road sweeping for St Patrick's Day Parade, William St, Palace St, St Laurence St, West St, St Dominics St, Wellington Quay, Dyer St, Shop St, St Marys Bridge & North Quay. • Road sweeping approach roads North & South of Drogheda on alternative days. • Road sweeping town centre on daily basis. • Multi-Hog, Pedestrian Road sweepers at Town Centre daily, car parks at Kings St, Mell, Donore Rd, Calvary carpark, Abbey carpark and Meat Market Lane, Fair St, Fairgreen, Windmill Rd, Patricks St & Park view. • Multi-Hog, Power washer pedestrian sweeper at Meat Market Lane (before & after St Patricks Day Parade), St Laurence St, West St, Peters St & Shop St. • Pedestrian Green machine on town centre streets each day. • Power washing and disinfecting of Rosemary Lane, Highlanes Steps & Watery Hill. Clean up of Bessexwell Lane, Bachelors Lane on daily basis.

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	Drainage Works 1. Gully Cleaning Contract ongoing – 900 Gullies cleaned to date – Approach roads, Drogheda Town Centre & Housing Estates (Cedarfield & Marian Pk) 2. Road Gully Repairs at Magdalene St, Sundays Gate & Hardman Gardens. 3. Surface water manhole frame & cover replacements at North Strand, Trinity St, Cement Rd, Shop St, Hardman	

	Gardens, Duke St, Barrack St, Mell, Rope Walk, Marsh Rd & Brookville LCC's crew works 4. Pot hole repairs at Pearse Pk, William St, Palace St, St Laurence St, Shop St, St Marys Bridge, North Quay, Hardman Gardens, Rope Walk, Hill of Rath, Shamrock Villas, Yellowbatter, Windmill Rd, Dublin Rd, Poorhouse Lane, Rathmullen Rd, Cedarfield & Beechgrove. 5. Speed ramp reinstatement, including road markings at Hardman Gardens. 6. Road resurfacing at Rope Walk. 7. Placing sandbags at Wellington Quay, North Quay, Ushers Corner & Queenborough in predicted high tides, weekend end of March. 8. Monitoring of Traffic / Pedestrian management at dangerous structures at Bolton St, William St & Scholes Lane. 9. Erection of permanent fence at stream between St Laurence Pk and public housing estate – high water level. 10. Erection of temporary barriers at Barrow House on Narrow West St, following RTA. 11. Preparation for St Patrick's Day Route – pothole repairs on route, manhole repairs at Shop	
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	St / Dyer St junction, repairs to bollards at West St, removal of bollards at St Peters Church, washing of pavements on West st and planned street cleaning prior to and after parade. 12. Dropped kerb access and tactile paving on existing footpaths at entrance to Martello Village. 13. Pedestrian barriers reinstated at Bull Ring after RTA. Road Works Program – Resurfacing works 2025 Contract documents are now complete and intention to go out to tender by end of March. Crosslanes Rathmullen Pk Cord Rd College Rise Broadmeadows Bothar Brugha R132/Crosslanes/ Cement Rd Junction Collon Rd. Trinity Gardens. CIS Lanes 2025 Tender report is now complete and intention to issue for approval by end of March include: • Carstown • Walterstown	
Feabhasúchán Draenála / Drainage Remediation	Annual Gully Cleaning Programme ongoing. Gully Cleaning Contract has now commenced – 900 gullies cleaned to date – Approach roads, Drogheda Town Centre & Housing Estates (Cedarfield & Marian Pk)	

Crainn Leagtha nó Chontúirteacha / Fallen or Dangerous Trees	Inspection of trees at Blackbush lane with intention to serve section 70 on property owner, for survey of all trees and necessary works to be carried out.	
Cothabháil Cosán / Footpath Maintenance	We are in the process of compiling a list of footpaths for reinstatement, with the intention of commencing in April. • Minor Footpath repairs carried out at Moneymore housing estate, Boyle O Reilly Tre, Greenhills & Mell. Met with IWA in March to discussed works carried out in 2024 and planned works for 2025 (dropped kerb access to include tactile paving) IWA will provide a priority list of locations for consideration	
Deisiú Soilse Tráchtá / Traffic Light Repairs	• DR03 R132 James St - Scotch Hall Jct (R132C) – Lights out • DR12 Marsh Rd - Scotch Hall Jct –Lights out • DR03 – Scoth hall, Marys St – Lamp fault – J/GRN • DR35 St Mary's School Bryanstown, –Lamp fault – B/RED • DR25, Trinity St (Lwr Mell) Ped, –VA Detector Fault.	
Marcáil Bóithre / Road Markings	Speed ramp & road markings at Hardman Gardens.	
Comharthaíocht / Signage	• Speed limit signs on Cement Rd. • Flexi bollards and directional signage at Poorhouse Lane. • Reinststate stop signs at Patrick's St / Hardman Gardens.	

	• Reinstatement of traffic light signage at Marsh Rd / Bull Ring. • Remove pole on signage on St Dominics St to facilitate vehicles on St Patrick's Day • Route. Re-instate speed sign on Collon Road.	
Marú fiailí / Weed killing		
Díghalrú glantacháin boscaí bruscair / Litterbin cleaning disinfecting	On-going on weekly basis.	
Dumpáil Neamhdhleathach / Illegal Dumping /environmental issues.	Monitoring & removal of dumping – operations / environment team – Bessexwell Lane, Bachelors Lane & West St.	
Glanadh Graifítí / Graffiti Removal	Removal of graffiti on street furniture, town centre on St. Patrick's Day route.	

Comhfhorbairt Áite / Placemaking

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

West Gate Vision (Drogheda)

The Westgate planning application has been Approved by An Bord Pleanála.

The Westgate planning documents, including the suite of drawings, the EIAR and the AA Stage 2 reports, represent a large volume of material. Full details of the planning submission and An Bord Pleanála Inspectors Report, Direction and Order are available here:

<https://www.pleanala.ie/en-ie/case/318758>



Artist impressions of Westgate project

St. Nicholas Quarter and Backlands Regeneration (Dundalk)

Phase 1

Glas Civil Engineering Ltd. are currently on site, works are being completed on a phased basis to minimise impact on residents and businesses. Phases A and D have been largely completed apart from public lighting installation and commissioning. Progress is continuing in Phases B, C, E1 and F.

Stakeholder meetings continue bi-weekly and have been largely positive to date.

Archaeological Monitoring is ongoing with no significant finds to date. A medieval road and foundation was uncovered in Phase E1, however, these were recorded and covered in situ.



New Lighting to Bridge Street



New exposed aggregate concrete at Fairgreen



Works ongoing to Northgate St

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 2 – Backlands Area of St Nicholas Quarter

BDP Ltd are the appointed consultant design team for Phase 2 of the St. Nicholas Quarter project and are working with the Council and stakeholders on feasibility, analysis and a design concept for the re-development of the Backlands area. The accepted concept will be developed to Part 8 planning with full public consultation. A briefing for Councillors took place in January. Property owner and stakeholder engagement is due to commence in the coming weeks following development of a property owner booklet outlining the proposed scheme.



Artist impressions of St. Nicholas Quarter Phase 2

The Long Walk Urban Framework Plan (Dundalk)

The Council has launched The Long Walk Urban Framework Plan project. This project aims to create a framework plan for regeneration of the Long Walk area, that supports town centre growth, and meets the needs of the town's residents, visitors and businesses.

LUC is the appointed Integrated Urban Design Team lead. As part of the initial stages of the Urban Framework plan, a public consultation event will take place at The Long Walk on April 10th and an online survey is now also open. This engagement seeks input from the wider community to understand the current uses and issues and the future possibilities and opportunities for The Long Walk area. The initial public engagement will be translated into urban framework plan proposals and will also be subject to further rounds of public engagement in the summer of 2025.

The Long Walk online Questionnaire is available here:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/GQNNTNC>

For project updates visit the Longwalk Urban regeneration Facebook page here

<https://www.facebook.com/people/The-Long-Walk-Urban-Regeneration-Project/61574154397623/>

Or email

longwalkregeneration@tbla.eu



Share your ideas...

Pop in and see what your community are saying about the Long Walk area of Drogheda. This is an opportunity to provide feedback on existing issues and opportunities within the area as part of the Long Walk Urban Regeneration Project. All are welcome to this family friendly event.

- The Community Room, beside the Longwalk Shopping Centre, Main entrance of the Long Walk Shopping Centre, Longwalk Road, Drogheda.
- Thursday 10th April 12 to 6pm

- You can complete an online survey by scanning the QR code

- For updates visit our Facebook page at

- <https://www.facebook.com/people/The-Long-Walk-Urban-Regeneration-Project/61574154397623/>

- For more information contact us by email to:

longwalkregeneration@tbla.eu



Online Survey



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

Engagement with property owners is ongoing with in Drogheda and Dundalk. Significant focus is ongoing in Drogheda.

Additionally, investigations are actively being conducted to explore the potential purchase of select properties, with a focus on determining their long-term viability and intended use in the future.

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

Ardee Castle

The tender process for a main contractor has closed. The tender assessment process is ongoing with a contractor due to be appointed.

The project is part funded under the Rural Regeneration Development Fund and the council.

Once the tender report is finalised a final business case will be made to the Rural Regeneration Development Fund for permission to appoint the main contractor.

Living in Carlingford Visiting Carlingford



Artist impressions of Carlingford

The tender for the procurement of consultants for heritage led detailed design has been published. The Council are now progressing the appointment of the Design Team. It is hoped that this will be completed in the next few weeks.

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. Once approval from TII is issued, the planning submission will be lodged with An Bord Pleanála.

Tionscadail Breise / Additional Projects

St Laurence's Gate Plaza, Drogheda

Engagement with the National Monuments has commenced as part of the consultation for the Part 8 process.



Play Spaces

St Dominic's Park & The Glen

AA Screening Stage 1 report has been completed for the Glen and Part 8 documents have been prepared; public consultation will commence in April 2025.

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

Capital Delivery Team

Community Recognition Fund 2024

Funded by the Department of Rural & Community Development (DRCD), the Community Recognition Fund (CRF) recognises the huge efforts made by local communities in welcoming and supporting new arrivals from Ukraine and other countries.

The third call for expressions of interest in the CRF 2024 was advertised in November 2024. The application window for Call 3 is now closed and expressions of interest for Louth, totalling €740,227, have been progressed to the next stage of formal application for appraisal by the DRCD.

Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS) 2024/25

The Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS) provides funding for the development of new and existing outdoor recreational infrastructure in rural areas. Under the 2024/25 ORIS scheme, Louth County Council have submitted six applications under measures 1, 3 and Project Development, seeking funding of €693,500 across all measures.

The Department of Rural & Community Development will assess the applications in the coming months.

Rural Regeneration and Development Fund (RRDF)

The Department of Rural and Community Development (DRCD) recently sought applications under Category 2 of the Rural Regeneration and Development Fund (RRDF). Category 2 provides funding for successful projects for design and to bring the project through the planning process. A criteria for Category 2 was to be related to a developed plan for a town. Louth County Council submitted two applications requesting funding for over 1 million:

- Dunleer (Dunleer Town Centre First Plan)
- Louth Village Louth Village Community Development Plan).

Town and Village Renewal Scheme 2025

The Department of Rural and Community Development (DRCD) has recently announced the Town and Village Renewal Scheme 2025. The scheme is designed to support the revitalisation of rural Ireland and to build greater resilience into our town and village centres through regeneration projects including plaza development, green space or recreational amenity development, streetscape enhancement, community centre refurbishment and bringing vacant and derelict buildings back into use as multi-purpose community spaces.

Funding is available under three measures – the Building or Land Acquisition Measure (B/LAM) (closing date 7th April 2025), the Main Scheme (closing date 30th May 2025) and the Project Development Measure (closing date 30th May 2025). Full details of each measure, the Scheme Outline and Expression of Interest forms are available on the Louth County Council's Consultation Portal - <https://consult.louthcoco.ie/en/browse>

Tionscadail Tosaíochta do Lár an Bhaile / Town Centre First Projects

Town Centre First Plan - Dunleer

The Council are preparing tender documents for the appointment of an architectural consultant to prepare a design for a public space adjacent to Dunleer Library.

The tender will allow progression of the proposed scheme to Part 8 stage. The proposed scheme will be designed in partnership with the Council and Town Team and will provide a transformative space for residents and visitors alike.

Town Centre First Plan – Clogherhead

The regeneration team is continuing ongoing consultations with local stakeholders and with consultants towards the preparation of a Town Centre First Plan for Clogherhead. The team in consultation with local stakeholders will refine proposals before a final public consultation event and publication of the final plan.

THRIVE – Town Centre First Heritage Revival Scheme



The Council were successful in a bid for Strand 1 funding in 2024 to support a design team to explore and develop concepts for the restoration of vacant or derelict heritage buildings in public ownership.

Works are ongoing on an Integrated Urban Strategy that will outline these concepts and highlight a pipeline of possible projects in the town centre.

Following public consultation and stakeholder engagement the council are proceeding with a Part 8 Planning Procedure for West Gate House and the Drogheda Youth Development building. This will go on public display on 31 March.

The council are proceeding towards a Strand 2 funding application closing on 15 April.

The Council staged an initial public consultation event in November 2024 following feedback from that event have been engaging with local stakeholder in developing a specific proposal focussed on the Westgate area.

A second public consultation event is to take place in April in Drogheda Civic offices.

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 with appointment of a contractor due to take place in April 2025.

Town Team Support Fund

Work is nearing completion on the Town Centre Health Checks for Castlebellingham and Collon and will be complete in April.

Vacant Homes Officer

Efforts to engage with and support property owners who are interested in returning their properties to use will remain a priority for the Vacant Homes Officer.

Public feedback regarding notices has been overwhelmingly positive, with many showing strong support. Owners identified following the previous notice distribution have been contacted via registered post to discuss options for reactivating their properties.

Both members of the public and councillors are encouraged to report any suspected or known vacant homes on www.vacanthomes.ie for inspection by the Vacant Homes Officer. So far, 23 new properties have been logged and assessed for vacancy for 2025. The process of identifying owners of these properties are underway.

Forbairt Fhisiciúil / Physical Development

Tionscadail Bóithre / Roads Projects

Narrow Water Bridge

Control building construction ongoing, external render and internal plastering has been completed.

Southern abutment – the majority of the structural walls have been poured. Internal walls ongoing. Last of the skid piles being placed this week.

Northern Works: New filter lane excavation has commenced. NIE ducting works ongoing.

Bascule abutment has been excavated to formation level. Water proofing of the bascule commenced.

Marine Piling – Completed on 1st March.



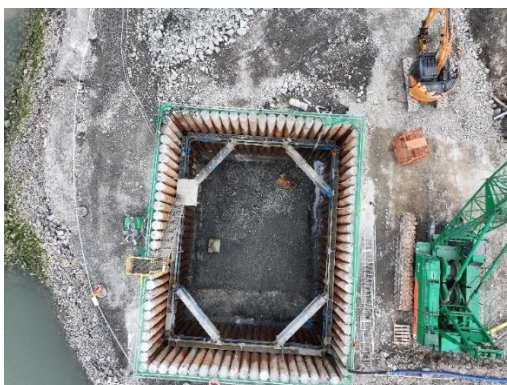
Completed Marine Piling Works



A2 Filter Lane Construction



Control Building



Northern Bascule Abutment

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, valuers, LCC and WMNRO continue to engage with the landowners, their agents, and other stakeholders on accommodation works, access and compensation.

Stage (i) Archaeology Testing is complete, and the Archaeologist is presently working on finalising the Stage (i) report for submission.

Stage (ii) works are ending and on receipt of the reports will determine if additional archaeological works are required.



Stage II Archaeology works



Stage II Archaeology works

A Target Cost 2 budget submission for the entire project has been submitted to the TII in October 2024 for their review and approval and to allow the scheme to progress to tender.

ESB has completed the works on the relocation of the 38kv overhead network, however the works for the relocation of the MV network is yet to commence.

Progression of the scheme is subject to funding stream from the TII.

N52 Ardee Bypass

The applicant lodged a Supreme Court Application for Leave to Appeal the High Court Decision on the 20th of December.

The Supreme Court has delivered its judgment in respect of the Applicant's application for leave to appeal, granting leave to the Applicant to appeal to the Supreme Court in respect of the validity of the Board's determination given the absence of site-specific conservation objectives for the SPA, while leaving over the question to the main Supreme Court hearing as to whether this issue is properly within the scope of the appeal. Leave to appeal was refused in respect of all other grounds in the application for leave notice.

The Court adjourned the matter generally pending the outcome of the CJEU reference in *Power v An Bord Pleanála* once a judgment in *Power* is given, then this case will be re-entered before the Supreme Court with "all deliberate speed."

Boyne Enterprise Link Road

Ongoing consultations including a valuation process has taken place with stakeholders / landowners to acquire adjoining roadway resulting with an offer being submitted by LCC.

This offer has now been accepted and has progress to legal teams for contracts. Subject to prove of title etc both parties will progress to closing out sale in the coming weeks via solicitors. Note: The CPO process has continued in conjunction with the valuation process. The CPO has been advertised and submissions to An Bord Pleanála close on the 11th of January. No submissions were received.

Upon successful transfer of these lands the Council, funding dependent, will progress completion of the final element of this road as per original Part 8.

R178 Cavan to Dundalk Strategic Route Improvement Scheme

A draft Project Execution Plan and Constraints Study have been submitted and are currently being reviewed. Consultant currently finalising concept and feasibility report before commencing with phase 2 – option selection.

Port Access Northern Cross Route (PANCR) Phase 2.

Phase 2 of the PANCR is to be delivered by developers. Detailed design to be submitted to the Council in March for review and approval prior to road construction commencing. A notice to enter was issued to several landowners on the expected extent of the work, and the Council Team will be engaging with these affected landowners.



PANCR Phase 2 Extent of Works

Glasbhealaí / Greenways

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

Section 1, & Section 2: Works are substantially complete from Carlingford to the border at Cornamucklagh. Road Safety Audits 3 & 4 were carried out on 20th Jan 2025.

Landowner engagement ongoing on the acquisition of the CPO land parcels. The Councils valuer for the land acquisition continues to negotiate with Landowners agents.

Section 3 – Northern Ireland: Works continue to progress on the construction of the boardwalk. Boardwalk substructure and gabion wall installation complete with handrail installation commencing in April.



Approaches to boardwalk under construction

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

Dundalk Bay to Carlingford Greenway

As part of the Public Consultation Day 2 a Consultation Feedback Report was prepared and uploaded to the project website for the public to view.

The design team are now concentrating on 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 and the independent appointed agronomist.

TII approval has been 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 by the Council during the route corridor option selection stage to assist landowners through the project considering any relevant agronomy issues. Declan Phelan – Philip Farrelly & Co. is the agronomist.

Topographic Surveys of the study area to determine ground levels and create a digital terrain model throughout the study area have been completed and the processing of the data is underway.

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.

Construction of both Templetown and Port are due to start in April with a completion date of mid-May.

Tionscadail Corparáideach / Corporate Projects

Dunleer Fire Station

Final purchase of the lands process is nearing completion with documents with the solicitors on-going.

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

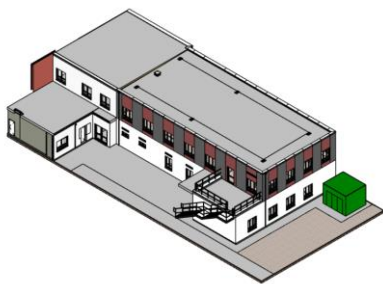
DHLGH have advised that this project is to be put on hold until 2 years minimum.

Dundalk Fire Station Training Centre

Stage 1 Report consisting of Project Inception and Preliminary Investigation has commenced and is to be finalised this week.

Design Team co-ordination meetings are on-going. Site surveys (Topographical and GPR) have been completed to aid final design. Site Investigation surveys began in Jan 2025 and are now completed. Stage 1 Report and Cost Plan have been finalised and are currently being reviewed with intention to shortly submit to National Fire

Directorate for their approval to proceed to Stage 2 (Full Design).



Concept Preliminary Option

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. Preliminary fluvial and coastal flood relief measures are being reviewed by the Steering Group to refine the shortlisted options further. The next steps include incorporating these options into the development report and preparing for a Public Participation Day mid-2025. A Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) for these shortlisted options is being carried out to inform the Multi Criteria Analysis.

Site Investigation works are due to commence in April 2025. The Archaeological Impact Assessment (AIA) has been prepared to identify any potential impacts of the Site Investigation works on the local archaeology and built heritage. The AIA has been discussed with National Monuments Service (NMS) at a site meeting and an Application for licensing for the monitoring of works is to be lodged.

A Public Liaison Officer from the Consultant Engineers working on the scheme is currently establishing communication channels with landowners/private property owners that may be affected by the proposed Site Investigation works. The Public Liaison Officer will carry proof of identification.

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.ie

Drogheda and Baltray Flood Relief Project

The Consultant Engineers continue to work on Stage 1 of the Flood Relief Project.

RPS are continuing to undertake hydraulic model simulations of potential options to ensure that the proposed scheme provides the required standard of protection to properties. Work continues on the development of the Scheme Analysis and Development report.

Underwater archaeology and geophysical survey work currently on site. The survey will provide data to inform the Scheme Analysis and Development phase of the project.

RPS are also liaising with other environmental specialists regarding updating the baseline data. The aquatic ecology and walkover surveys are currently underway.

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 Geophysical Contractor has completed the Drone Surveys of the project study area to determine the ground levels. The data from this survey will be used to inform the modelling for potential development of future flood defences. The area surveyed included Carlingford Town, Greenore, Commons, the entire coastline from north Carlingford to Whitestown inclusive.

The Local Authority and OPW are continuing to develop a brief tailored to the study area and recent flood event mechanisms to issue to the market for appointment of a project consultant engineer.

The Council are continuing to compile a list of constraints & opportunities to potential options for incorporation into proposed brief. The Steering Group Meeting are currently carrying out a Risk Assessment exercise to fine tune the consultants brief and procurement route.

In the interim the Local Authority are compiling a list of minor works which could improve the conveyance characteristics of Carlingford drainage system. A number of these minor improves have been completed.

Tionscadail Muirí / Marine Projects

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

- Drummullagh, Omeath: Section 177 AE has been approved by the Board and construction tender documents are ready
- Bellurgan Point: Section 177 AE has been approved by the Board and construction tender documents are ready
- Ballynamoney/Ballagan, Greenore: Section 177 AE has been approved by the Board and construction tender documents are ready

Procurement via ETenders of a civil engineering contractor, will follow the final document compliance checks by the Local Authorities procurement team, with subsequent construction works programmed in accordance with the individual site's ecological constraints.



Front on the new School



Entrance onto the Existing N52

Tionscadail Cláir Scoileanna / Schools Programme Projects

Ardee Educate Together National School

Ardee Educate Together National School.

Works on site continue to progress, Progress update since previous monthly report:

Summary of progress below.

- Eir ducts to building – 85%
- Foul pipework and manholes – 55%
- Electrical containment – 100%
- External windows and doors – 90%
- External plaster – 60%
- Plumbing pipework – 50%
- Surrounds to windows and doors – 80%
- Floor Screed - 90%
- Roof - 99% - flashing to fit
- Library partitions - 80%
- Shaft ceilings - 95%



Newly formed Roof Window

Active Travel Investment Program

2025 Budget Allocation

On the 13th January last, The National Transport Authority (NTA) awarded the Council a budget allocation of €6,300,000 million to advance twenty eight (28) Nr Active Travel Projects.

The Active Travel Projects funded are for promoting Walking and Cycling Infrastructure and development of transport studies for Drogheda and Dundalk.

The current status of the ongoing Active Travel projects is 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 involvement of a Capital Investment project into a seven-phase process, i.e. (Phase 1 to Phase 7 inclusive) with seven Gateways Reports i.e. hold points, where local authorities are to prepare and submit Gateway Reports for sign-off 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

The current status of the ongoing Active Travel
projects is as outlined in the table below.

Tionscadail Tasitil Gnómhagh / Active Travel Projects

Project Name	Allocation 2025	Project Band	Current Phase	April 2025- Project update	Anticipated Part 8 Completions, subject to NTA approval of Gateways
Drogheda: R132, Bridge of Peace to Train Station (incorporating Marsh Road)	€270,000	Band 2 €5 - €20M	PHASE 4: Statutory Processes	The recent Gateway (GW) 3 Report and preliminary design drawings were amended to reflect the New Cycle Design Manual. The Active Travel Team held a second Non-Statutory Public Consultation event in Drogheda Library on Tuesday 5th November 2024, which was very well attended, with a prior briefing to Drogheda MD members online on 14th October 2024. All observations, comments and feedback obtained during the 2nd Non-Statutory Public Consultation event have been reviewed by the Design Team and are now incorporated into amended design drawings. The National Transport Authority (NTA) approved revised preliminary Design Drawings in Feb 2025. With the new information our designers envisage that this project will be brought forward for Part 8 public display in May 2025. 	Proposed Part 8 display May 2025
Drogheda: R166 Termonfeckin Rd, design.	€50,000	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 Municipal District Councillors in April 2025 in advance of non-statutory public consultations.	Proposed Part 8 display late Q2 2025
Drogheda: R168 Collon Rd, Hill of Rath Roundabout (RAB) and Rosehall RAB.	€100,000	Band 2 €5 - €20M	Phase 3 – Preliminary Design	The Design Team are currently progressing with preliminary design following non-statutory public consultation with this design expected to be completed by April 2025. Thereafter, the Active Travel Team will proceed to Part 8 public display	Proposed Part 8 display Q2 2025

Project Name	Allocation 2025	Project Band	Current Phase	April 2025- Project update	Anticipated Part 8 Completions, subject to NTA approval of Gateways
				 <u>View of Collon Rd looking Southeast from Mell Roundabout</u>  <u>View of R166 looking East from Hill of Rath Roundabout</u>	
Drogheda: Rathmullan Road including Marley's (Pathfinder Project)	€120,000	Band 2 €5 - €20M	Phase 3 – Preliminary Design	Part 8 approval received on 10th February, 2025 by Drogheda Municipal District. The Design Team are currently progressing with GW4 deliverables and detailed design.  <u>View of Marley's Lane looking South from Aura Leisure</u>	Part 8 approved on 10 th February, 2025.

Project Name	Allocation 2025	Project Band	Current Phase	April 2025- Project update	Anticipated Part 8 Completions, subject to NTA approval of Gateways
Drogheda Dublin and North roads, design.	€400,000	Band 2 €5 - €20M	Phase 2 - Concept and Options	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 to examine proposals on Active Travel measures under the Dublin Rd, railway bridge. Further meetings are planned. Consultants AECOM via the NTA are currently developing options for the section relating to the under-bridge of the Navan Railway Line (MacBride Train Entrance to McGraths Lane). North Road - Gateway 3 (Preliminary Design Report) approval received in February 2025. The design team are currently preparing pre-planning i.e. Part 8 documentation.  <u>View of Dublin Rd, Drogheda Rd looking South</u>	Dublin Rd, Drogheda - Proposed Part 8 display depending on dialogue with NTA / Irish Rail. North Rd, Drogheda - Proposed Part 8 display Q2 2025
Dundalk: R132 Inner Relief Rd. (Pathfinder Project)	€2,625,000	Band 2 €5 - €20M	Phase 5 Detailed Design	Tender Document to establish a restricted panel of competent contractors was advertised on etenders and Official Journal of the European Union (OJEU). Closing date for submission was 17th December 2024. It is anticipated that a panel of contractors will be formed and detailed tender documents will be issued to this panel in Mid Q2 2025.	Completed – Part 8 Approval on the 10th September 2024 Procurement of Contractors on-going

Project Name	Allocation 2025	Project Band	Current Phase	April 2025- Project update	Anticipated Part 8 Completions, subject to NTA approval of Gateways
				 <u>View of Inner Relief Rd, Dundalk looking north from Hoeys Lane Roundabout extract from Fly Through</u>	
Dundalk: Dublin Rd Xerox Junction to Ladywell Bridge	€25,000	Band 2 €5 - €20M	Phase 4 Statutory Process	Part 8 proposals were brought to Dundalk MD Meeting on the 10th December 2024.  <u>View of Dublin Rd, Dundalk looking north at DKIT Entrance</u>	Part 8 Approved in December 2024.

Project Name	Allocation 2025	Project Band	Current Phase	April 2025- Project update	Anticipated Part 8 Completions, subject to NTA approval of Gateways
Dundalk: Ard Easmuinn Rd to Train Station / Friary School Dundalk & Dundalk Bus Station to Rail Station.	€100,000	Band 3	Phase 3 /4 Preliminary Design / Statutory Process	Workshop held with the NTA in October, and we intend to accelerate parts of the scheme, namely, McEntee Avenue, Mulholland Avenue & Pearse Park to deliver key elements associated with pedestrian provision and Safe Routes to School infrastructure.  <u>View of Ard Easmuinn Looking North from China Bridge</u>	Proposed Part 8 Late Q2 2025
R132 Inner Relief Road Tain Bridge	€50,000	Band 1 €0 - €5M	Phase 3 - Concept and Options	Phase 2 approved by the NTA in December 2024. Phase 3 commenced with a proposed non-statutory consultation planned for June 2025.	No part 8's but possible Section 38
Hoey's Lane, Dundalk	€60,000	Band 1 €0 - €5M	Phase 3 – Preliminary Design	GW3 Reports approved by the NTA in Dec 2024. Public consultation held on 20th March, 2025. Event was very well attended.	Proposed Part 8 Q2 2025
Mill Street, Dundalk	€75,000	Band 1 €0 - €5M	Phase 2 - Concept and Options	GW3 comments received from NTA, and a workshop held with NTA, LCC and consultants on 20th November 2024. Resulting from this workshop, the drawings will be updated, and a non-statutory public consultation will be held in early Q2 2025, however the Active Travel Team are conducting meetings with key stakeholders such as schools and Bus Eireann.	2025
Hill Street Bridge to Train Station, Dundalk	€50,000	Band 1 €0 - €5M	Phase 2 - Concept and Options	GW3 comments received from NTA, and a workshop held with NTA, LCC and consultants on 20th November 2024. Resulting from this workshop the drawings will be updated, and a non-statutory public consultation will be held in Q2 2025.	2025
College Heights to Tom Bellew Avenue, Dundalk	€150,000	Band 2 €5 - €20M	Phase 2 - Concept Development	GW2 report approved by the NTA in Dec 2024.	2025

Project Name	Allocation 2025	Project Band	Current Phase	April 2025- Project update	Anticipated Part 8 Completions, subject to NTA approval of Gateways
			& Option Selection		
R132 Dublin Road, (Rank Xerox Junction to Greengates)	€135,000	Band 1 €0 - €5M	Phase 3 – Preliminary Design	Second public consultation day along with stakeholder engagement meeting held on the 28th November 2024. Louth Consult portal for submissions closed on 12th December 2024. Design Team have reviewed all submissions and are currently updating preliminary design drawings to reflect these submissions.  <u>View of entrance to Xerox Campus Looking to Xerox Junction</u>	Proposed Part 8 Q2 2025
Moneymore, Active Travel elements	€200,000	Band 1 €0 - €5M	Phase 4 – Statutory Processes	CPO public consultation ended 11 th February, 2025. 9 submissions received. Awaiting decision from An Bord Pleanala.	N/A
Safe Routes to Schools (Round 1) 1. St Louis Secondary School Dundalk 2. Rehab Care Mill Street Dundalk 3. Saint Brigid's and Saint	€40,000	Band 1 €0 - €5M	Phase 6 – Construction	Works completed at Schools 1,3 & 4 in Dundalk & Drogheda with minor snags to be completed in Feb 2025. Concrete surface outside Saint Brigid's and Saint Patrick's School, Bothar Brugha Drogheda to be renewed in April 2025. Works relating to Rehab Care on Mill Street, will be incorporated as part of Mill Street, Active Travel Project.	N/A

Project Name	Allocation 2025	Project Band	Current Phase	April 2025- Project update	Anticipated Part 8 Completions, subject to NTA approval of Gateways
Patrick's School, Drogheda 4. Scoil Aonghusa, Drogheda				 Images : Scoil Aonghusa, Drogheda	
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	€950,000	Band 1 €0 - €5M	Phase 2 / 3 - Concept and Options & Preliminary Design	The Design Team were appointed in March 2024 and have completed preliminary designs. GW3 Reports were approved by the NTA on the 7th March 2025. It's planned that proposals for the schemes will be published via Section 38 of the Road Acts. On-line briefing to councillors will be planned for mid- April 2025.	No part 8's but possible Section 38's
Safe Routes to Schools (Round 3) 1.SN Chaoimhin Naofa, Philipstown, Dunleer 2. Scoil Phadraig Naofa , Kilcurry 3.Mullaghboy NS.	€50,000	Band 1 €0 - €5M	Phase 2 - Concept and Options	Louth County Council were informed in Q4 2024 of three new schools to be included as part of Safe Routes to School Round 3. Funding was received on 13th Jan 2025. Tender Documents to be prepared seeking Design Consultants for the Design of Proposed works.	No part 8's but possible Section 38's
Bus Enhancement Programme	€500,000			Funding to allow for the upgrade of bus stops in various locations across the county including the installation of bus poles and hardstanding areas plus bus shelters in agreed locations.	N/A

Project Name	Allocation 2025	Project Band	Current Phase	April 2025- Project update	Anticipated Part 8 Completions, subject to NTA approval of Gateways
Mobility Hubs	N/A	N/A	N/A	The Government Climate Action Plan (CAP 23/24) has identified shared mobility as a key mechanism for reducing car dependency and car ownership. Dundalk Town has been identified as a potential location for the delivery of a pilot project to test the effectiveness of mobility hubs. The hubs would provide short-term access to a variety of modes of travel including ebikes, scooters and Electric Vehicles (EVs). The pilot project is being led by the National Transport Authority in conjunction with the Department of Transport with funding being provided by the Climate Action Fund. The DOT has submitted a Preliminary Business Case to the Department of Environment Climate and Communication who manage the Climate Action Fund and approval in principle to progress the pilot has been received. AECOM Consultants have been appointed to further develop a detailed business case. Representatives from both the DOT and AECOM have met with Louth County Council and work is now ongoing regarding the identification of potential location sites and the planning implications surrounding the delivery of the hubs.	N/A

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
- Inbhuanaitheacht
- 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
- Sustainability
- Animal Welfare
- Human Resources

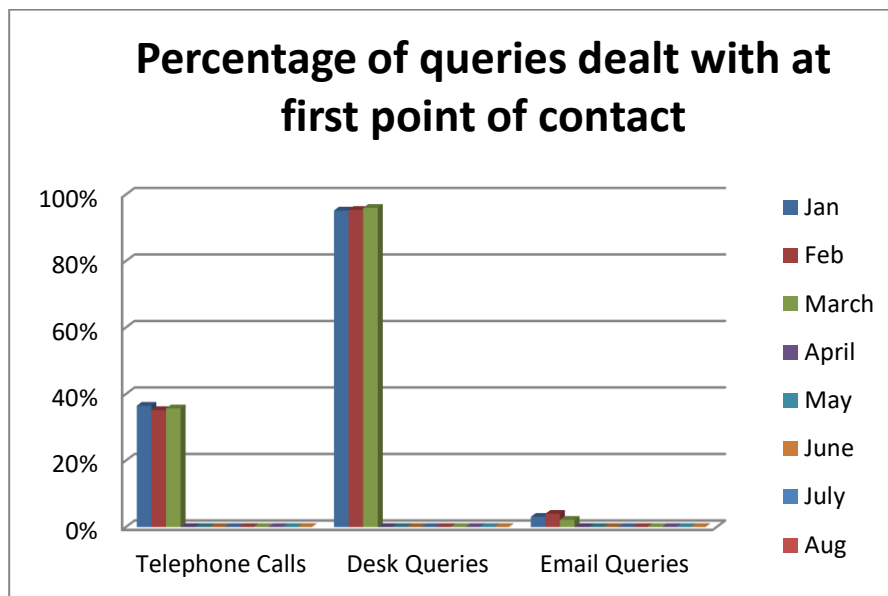


Joe McGuinness
Stiúrthóir /Director of Service

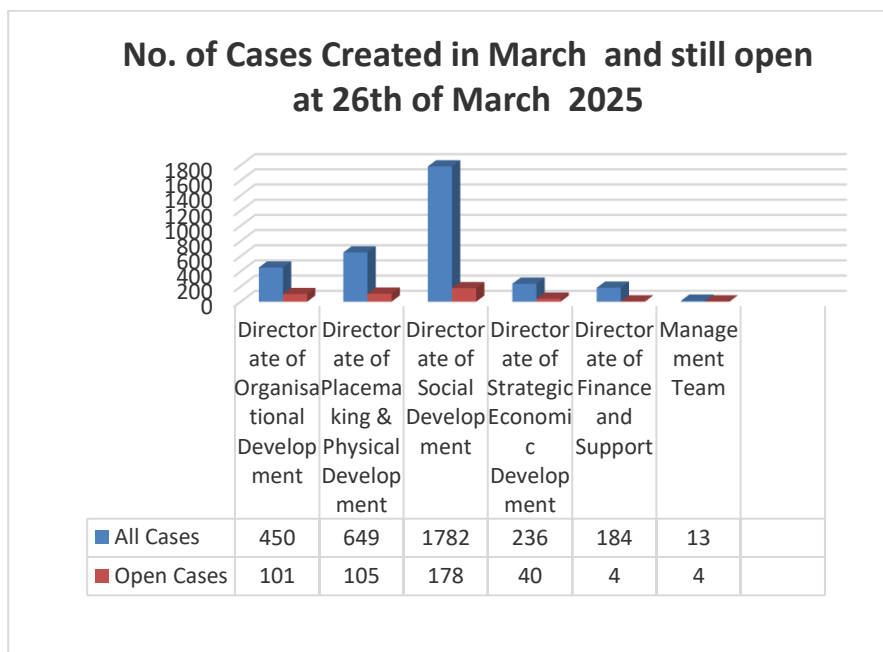
Seirbhísí Corporáideacha / Corporate Services

Tuairisc ar Sheirbhísí Custaiméirí / Customer Services Report

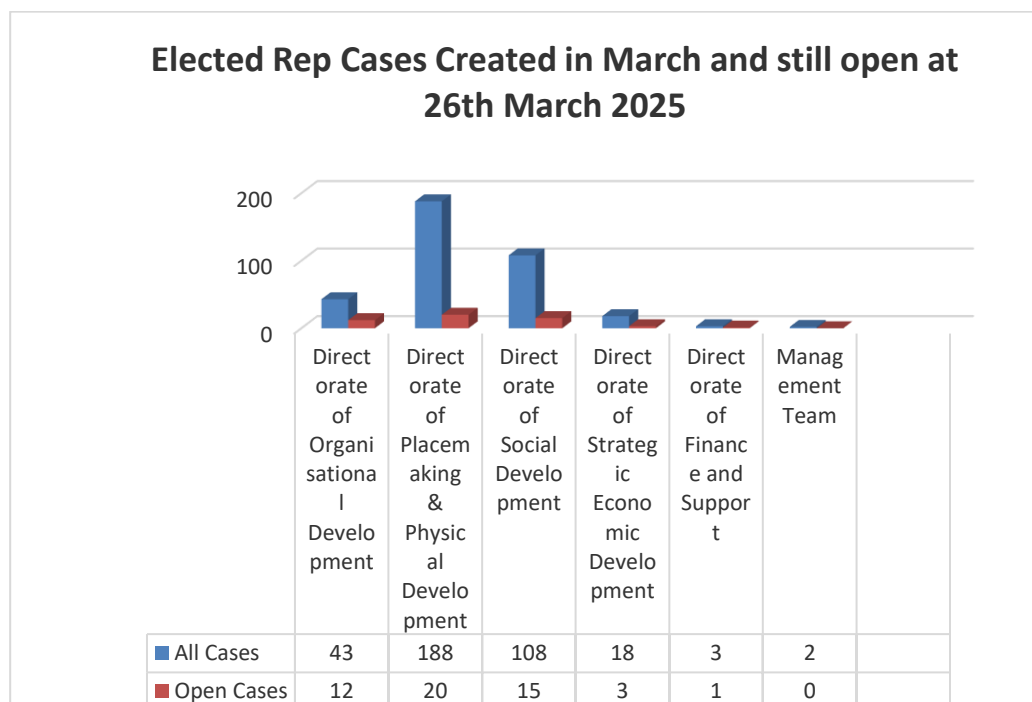
During the month of March 2025 Customer Services dealt with queries 7,033 calls, 1,201 e-mails and 7,088 counter queries.



There were 3,314 valid Sugar CRM cases recorded during March 2025 of which 432 (13.03%) remain unresolved, broken down by directorate as follows:



During March 2025, 362 elected reps. cases were recorded on Sugar of which 52 (14.30 %) remain unresolved broken down by Directorate as follows:



The table below illustrates activity in the redress area.

Request Received	2024 Total Jan- Mar	2025 Total Jan - Mar	2025 Mar only
FOI REQUEST	35	37	6
DSAR	3	3	1
DATA PROTECTION REQUEST	7	18	3
(AIE) INFORMATION	3	2	1
OMBUDSMAN REQUEST	6	8	3
COMPLAINTS	17	6	2

Clár Toghthóirí / Electoral Register

Data cleansing continues for the Voter.ie system which will be introduced nationally in early 2026. Voter.ie will strengthen accuracy and data management of constituents registered to vote.

Constituents who have no Eircode recorded on their record are at risk of removal from the Electoral Register. A process commenced in late February where 1370 electors were contacted via letter to update their details. A second attempt was made in early March and in early April the third and final attempt will be made to garner this information. Those electors who fail to provide this information will be deleted from the register in the coming weeks.



Tacaíocht Pobail / Community Support

Local Enhancement Programme 2025

At the March meeting of the Louth Local Community Development Committee (LCDC), the members approved capital funding of €193,075 and current funding of €34,172 to 125 local community & voluntary groups in Louth, through the Local Enhancement Programme 2025 (LEP).

The LEP is funded by the Department of Rural and Community Development and administered by the Local Community Development Committees (LCDCs) in each Local Authority area. The Programme supports groups, particularly in disadvantaged areas, to carry out necessary repairs and improvements to facilities, energy efficiency type projects, purchase of equipment etc. and also provides funding to be used to cover running costs e.g. rental/lease costs, utility bills, insurance costs.

The groups receiving funding will be announced by the Minister for Community and Rural Development in the coming months.

Louth Comhairle na nOg



Louth Comhairle na nOg are currently progressing their chosen topic which is “Young People and Vaping”. The group have started to research the issue and have begun meetings with various services to identify the causes and impacts on young people’s lives. There are huge issues with vapes including accessibility, regulation, health impacts, drug use in vapes and the huge environmental impact. The young people are starting to get a sense of the size of the problem.

On 10th March the group met with Samantha Tether who is a Peer Education Consultant. They explored the possibility of developing a peer education

programme for 5th and 6th class students that could be piloted in local schools.

On the 24th March the group met with Mark Garvey from the HSE Health Promotion Unit and discussed the HSE information on vaping and the “Not around Us Campaign”. Over the next few weeks, the young people will refine their project and develop a clear plan of action.

Sophie Campbell from Dunleer continues to represent Louth on the Comhairle na nOg National Executive and attended the meeting on 22nd March.

Public Participation Network (PPN)

Municipal District Meetings

Louth PPN held its first round of 3 MD meetings in Dundalk, Drogheda and Ardee as follows:

- March 10th - Creative Spark, Dundalk at 6pm
- March 12th - The Mill Enterprise Centre,
Drogheda at 10am
- The Dee Hub, Ardee at 2pm

These meetings were well attended and were an opportunity for member groups to network and receive updates from Louth PPN’s community representatives while being informed of the work Louth PPN is undertaking on their behalf and the supports and resources available to them.

Income & Expenditure Report 2024

Louth PPN’s 2024 Income & Expenditure Report was issued to the Department of Rural & Community Development (DRCD) on 13th March ahead of the March 28th deadline along with a copy of the current Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between LCC and LPPN and the Work Plan and Budget for 2025. The timely submission of these documents to the DRCD is a requirement for departmental funding to be released.

Secretariat Meeting

Louth PPN held its latest Secretariat meeting on Wednesday 19th March at 10.30am in Ardee. Issues discussed include:

- 2025 Budget update
- Update on thematic projects
 - Capacity building and training for member groups
 - Up-coming events, including the Plenary meeting due to take place on Monday 7th April in Ardee at 6pm.

Crisis Communications Training

Louth PPN held Crisis Communications training online for its member groups to undertake on Tuesday 25th March at 7pm. The course was at full capacity and covered topics such as:

- What is Crisis Communications - Definition and importance in a non-profit context; Differences between non-profit and corporate crisis communications.
- Identifying a Crisis - Types of crises non-profits may face (e.g., public relations issues, operational disruptions, funding loss); Recognising early warning signs.
- Developing a Crisis Communication Plan - Key components of a crisis communication plan; Roles and responsibilities within the organisation during a crisis.
- Crafting the Message - Principles of clear, compassionate and transparent messaging; Dos and don'ts of messaging under pressure.
- Managing Stakeholders and Media - Engaging with stakeholders, donors, and beneficiaries; Media handling strategies for non-profits.
- Social media in a Crisis - Using social platforms for real-time communication; Monitoring social sentiment and managing backlash.
- Recovery and Rebuilding Trust - Steps for post-crisis evaluation, Strategies for rebuilding trust with the community and stakeholders.

Healthy Louth

Louth LCDC Health & Wellbeing Sub-Committee Meeting 6th March 2025

The first Louth LCDC Health & Wellbeing Sub-Committee meeting of 2025 took place at The Still, Dundalk, a unique urban wellbeing space developed as part of the Varcities Project. The location provided

an inspiring setting for productive discussion and collaboration.

There was strong attendance and active engagement from members, reflecting a continued commitment to advancing health and wellbeing initiatives across Louth. The meeting focused on current priorities, upcoming opportunities, and fostering cross-sectoral collaboration.

Exciting plans are in place for the year ahead as the committee works collectively to support healthier communities throughout the county.



Louth LCDC Health & Wellbeing Sub-Committee Meeting at The Still, Dundalk

SICAP Celebrates International Women's Day, 7th March 2025, The Four Seasons, Carlingford

Healthy Louth hosted an information stand at the International Women's Day 2025 event in the Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford, on 7th March. The event, themed #AccelerateAction, was organised by Louth Local Development Company through the SICAP programme, and brought together women from across Louth to celebrate, connect, and inspire.

The day featured powerful contributions, including a panel of inspirational local women, a motivational speaker and a session exploring the history and significance of International Women's Day. The event highlighted the strength, resilience and leadership of women in our communities.

Healthy Louth was proud to be part of this collaborative initiative, sharing resources and information on health and wellbeing supports, while championing equity, empowerment and positive community action.



Ms. Paula Keenan, Healthy Louth Co-ordinator & Ms. Ciara Coombes, Healthy Louth Support Officer at the International Women's Day Celebration in Carlingford

Irish Homeless Street League Launches in Louth, 25th March 2025

Louth County Council, in collaboration with the Irish Homeless Street League (IHSL), Dundalk Simon, and Health Promotion HSE, has launched a new initiative aimed at supporting individuals affected by homelessness through sport. Funded by the Dundalk Municipal District Councillors and supported by the FAI through the provision of auxiliary coaches, the project is being led by Paula Keenan under the Healthy Ireland Programme.

The initiative uses football as a tool for social inclusion, wellbeing and personal development, offering participants the opportunity to build confidence, improve physical and mental health, and connect with others in a supportive environment. Weekly training sessions officially commenced on Tuesday 25th March 2025 at Quay Celtic, Dundalk, and will continue every Tuesday from 11:00 AM to 12:00 PM for 40 weeks.

The sessions are open to individuals who are supported by local homeless services, as well as those with lived or had past experience of homelessness or who are at risk of becoming homeless. The programme aims to help participants build stability, resilience and a sense of community as part of a wider effort to break the cycle of homelessness.

The Council extends thanks to Quay Celtic FC for their support in hosting the sessions and contributing to the success of the initiative.



Mr. Christopher O'Brien, Chief Executive, Irish Homeless Street League & Ms. Paula Keenan, Healthy Louth Co-ordinator

We're Breastfeeding Friendly Louth – Flyer Drop, 20th March 2025

As part of the ongoing We're Breastfeeding Friendly Louth campaign, Paula Keenan and Ciara Coombes from the Healthy Louth team carried out community outreach to local businesses, encouraging them to sign up and show their support for breastfeeding families.

The initiative aims to create a more inclusive and supportive environment for parents and babies across the county. By registering, businesses publicly demonstrate their commitment to welcoming breastfeeding in their premises.

The team engaged positively with several businesses during their visits and shared campaign resources, including window stickers and information packs. This outreach forms part of wider efforts to normalise and promote breastfeeding through community engagement and public awareness.

Businesses interested in joining the campaign can contact HealthyLouth@louthcoco.ie for more information.



Ms. Ciara Coombes & Ms. Paula Keenan, Healthy Louth, conducting a Flyer Drop for the We're Breastfeeding Friendly Louth Campaign



Launch of Irish Homeless Street League at Quay Celtic, Dundalk



messages, with winning entries displayed on bins and prizes awarded.

Dog Fouling Campaign

The Community Support Team has launched a six-month campaign to tackle dog fouling and promote responsible pet ownership. The campaign was officially launched on 7th March at County Hall.

Dog fouling is a serious issue that affects public health and the cleanliness of shared spaces. The campaign aims to remind pet owners of their responsibility to clean up after their dogs.

The Community Support Team in partnership with Tidy Towns groups will install dog bag dispensers in areas identified as dog fouling hot spots, along with footpath stencilling and local awareness campaigns.



St. Patrick's Day Parade

As part of the Dog Fouling Campaign, the Community Support Team, in partnership with Dundalk Tidy Towns, entered the St Patrick's Day Parade in Dundalk on 17th March to help raise awareness around the issues of Dog Fouling. It was a very successful day with the float winning 'Best Innovation' on the day.



Launch of Dog Fouling Campaign at County Hall, Dundalk

Dog Fouling Art Competition

A key element to the dog fouling campaign is the sticker and poster art competition, running from 14th March, through five county libraries and schools. Young participants will design awareness



Ms. Paula Gribben, Louth Community Support & Ms. Helen Byrne from Dundalk Tidy Towns accepting the award from the St Patrick's Day Festival Committee for 'Best Innovative Float'



Louth Community Support & Dundalk Tidy Towns at St. Patrick's Day Parade in Dundalk



Green School Assessments

The Community Support Team has been successfully conducting green school assessments across primary and secondary schools in the county. To date 20 renewal visits have taken place. Deadline day for applications is the 28th of March with successful schools invited to an award ceremony on the 21st May 2025.



Students in the Green School Committee of Tallanstown National School with their Green school assessors at their recent green school renewal visit

Amenity Grants Scheme 2025

The Amenity Grant Scheme for 2025 closed on the 14th of March and a significant number of applicants applied this year. The applications are currently being processed. The next step involves submitting these applications for approval by elected members at the County Council May meeting.

Tidy Town Project Scheme

The Tidy Town Project Scheme is an annual fund geared towards enhancing the marks given to Tidy

Town groups participating in both the National Tidy Towns Competition and local competitions. In 2025, 18 applications have been approved by the Municipal Districts in March. Letters of Offer have been issued to the successful applicants.

National Spring Clean

The community support team have been busy in the lead up to the National Spring Clean by raising awareness, encouraging groups to register, supporting them by supplying litter picking equipment and advising them on how to plan a cleanup event. Groups and individuals were also encouraged to reuse and recycle where possible and to heighten awareness of litter and waste, within their communities.

Louth has had a great response with over 100 registered for the event this year with An Taisce. In addition, Tidy Towns groups around the county organised big clean ups within their areas. Community groups, resident's associations and schools are still contacting the team to request supplies. Well done to all who got involved.

The National Spring Clean will take place during the whole month of April and encourages every sector of society to actively participate and take responsibility for litter by organising clean ups in their own communities.

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 Planning application for renovations to St Nicholas Church of Ireland, Dundalk was submitted on 3rd March.

The Special European Union Programmes Body (SEUPB) have paid the initial lump sum for preparatory work on the Louth County Council PEACEPLUS Action Plan on 5th March.

The 12th PEACEPLUS partnership meeting was held in County Hall on 12th March 2025 and a review of progress so far was given.

Ukraine Humanitarian Response

Offer A Home Programme

Property Figures as at 24/03/2025

Properties offered in March	1
Families moved into properties in March	2
Expressions of interest in being accommodated received from families in March	10
Property offers recorded to date	84
Owners successfully contacted to date	83
Properties currently occupied	41
Beneficiaries currently assigned	140
Assessments carried out to date	60
Assessments currently underway	0
Properties assessed as suitable to date	44
Properties with minor works required	0
Properties withdrawn to date	19
Properties not viable to date	21

Emergency Refurbishment Ukraine Programme (ERUP) to date

Cumulative Offers of properties to ERUP	38
Unsuitable / withdrawn	30
DCEDIY Letters of Intent Issued to date	11
DCEDIY Letters of Intent Withdrawn	3
No. of beds combined for delivery	635
DCEDIY contracts issued to date	6
No of beds delivered*	377 incl LCC refurb

*224 beds delivered by LCC pre ERUP

Local Authority Integration Team

The LAIT attended the International Women's Day event hosted by Louth Local Development Company

in the Four Seasons Hotel in Carlingford. The event was a powerful gathering of women, sharing stories, inspiration, and support. From engaging speakers to meaningful conversations, it was a day filled with empowerment, connection, and celebration.



LAIT attending the International Women's Day Event in Carlingford

Information Sessions

We held our third information session in the council offices in Drogheda. The session was hosted by MABS which covered the topic of budgeting and managing finances. Attendees were given the budgeting tools such as a household budget plan and a home planner to help them manage their finances.



MABS Information Session held in Drogheda Council Offices

Weekly Clinics

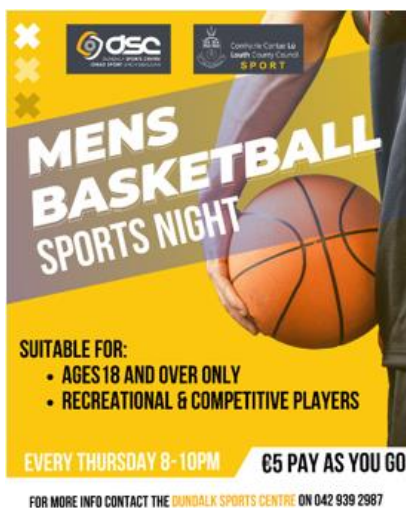
The Integration Support Workers continue to hold their weekly clinics with residents located in the

centres throughout the county. They met with 35 clients dealing with various issues including accommodation, education and health.

Sport

Men's Basketball Sports Night

The numbers have increased to around 30 participants in the last month for the men's basketball evening every Thursday. This sports night is a great way to learn a new sport and make friends with similar interests. The sports night is also very popular with those playing field sports looking for extra training. Although the session is not coach led, the participants work together to organise drills and games to make the most of the night.



HSE Collaboration

This month the Centre held fitness classes for teenage girls with physical disabilities in collaboration with the HSE. We received referrals to attend the class for girls looking to improve their strength and cardiovascular endurance. The class takes place every Wednesday at 3:45pm for 45 minutes of strength work using dumbbells, ankle weights, resistance bands and more. The class usually ends with a fun hand eye coordination game.

Every week the HSE uses our studio for their own classes for older adults with COPD and other

chronic illnesses. They reached out to us to give a talk on our older adult classes to let the participants know about the other classes they could attend in our Centre. This is a great opportunity for more older adults to attend our classes and be made aware of what we do.



Lourdes Stadium

Women in Sport Week 3-9 March

The Lourdes Stadium celebrated Women in Sport Week through fun activities and challenges within our various programmes such as Bootcamp, Lunchtime Classes, Pilates and Strength & Balance.



Women in Sport Activities at Lourdes Stadium

Chair Pilates

March has seen the introduction of an additional class at the Lourdes Stadium, with Chair Pilates being rolled out to older adults. This class aims to improve emotional well-being through mindful movements and focused breathing through low

impact controlled movements. Activites happening in the Lourdes Stadium are contsantly increasing and evolving.



Louth Local Sports Partnership

The month of March has seen the first release of the Local Sports Partnership Newsletter. Within this newsletter the public can get an insight into our past work and programmes and our upcoming events along with contact information and a QR Code to join our mailing list.



Coach & Volunteer Education Programmes 2025

Louth Local Sports Partnership facilitated the following coach and volunteer education programmes in March 2025.

Activity	Date	Venue
Safeguarding Level 1	13th March	Online
Understanding Sport Literacy	26 th March	Dundalk Sports Centre

Women’s Social Soccer

An 8-week social soccer programme launched on 24th March. It offers friendly and social soccer games exclusively for women and no prior experience is needed.



Men Get Active Programme

The Men Get Active Programme Registration Night was on Monday 24th March, with the programme running every Monday & Wednesday night from 7:00pm – 8:00pm for 7-week duration. The Men Get Active 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 take part in several different sessions with circuit training every Wednesday and other different activities every Monday. Some of these activities will include Badminton, Pickleball, Yoga and Activator Walking.

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.

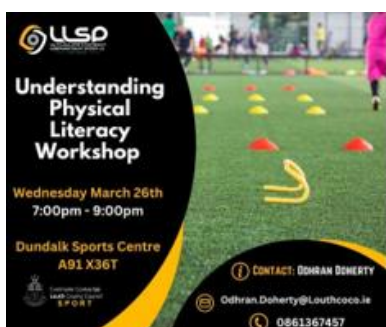
Participants should see both physical and psychological benefits such as improved mood, increased energy, weight loss/control and improved mobility and greater functional fitness.



Physical Literacy Workshop

Louth LSP Celebrated 'Understanding Physical Literacy Week' with a free workshop on 26th March. The interactive 2-hour session provided participants with a deeper understanding of physical literacy, covering:

- The origins, definition and key elements of physical literacy
- The relationship between these elements and their importance
- Whether individuals can be considered 'physically literate'
- If and how physical literacy can be assessed



Nordic Walking

Louth Local Sports Partnership were delighted to introduce a 6-week Nordic Walking programme at Saint Helenas Park, Dundalk which commenced on Tuesday 18th March 18th at 11am.

This programme is perfect for anyone looking to enjoy the great outdoors and get some exercise in a relaxed setting. Nordic Walking is a fantastic way to improve your fitness levels while taking in the beautiful scenery around you.



Activator Pole Walking

The 'Activator Pole Walking' Programme commenced in Drogheda this month. All the participants met at Drogheda library and set off to St Dominic's Park for their exercise session.



Participants in the Active Pole Walking Programme in Drogheda

Women in Sport Week

Louth Local Sports Partnership celebrated Women in Sport Week from 3rd to 9th March, with events through Louth LSP, Dundalk Sports Centre & Lourdes Stadium Drogheda.

The aim of Women in Sport Week is to:

- Celebrate every woman and girl who plays, coaches, officiates, volunteers, works in and leads in sports.

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

**Sustainability
Waste Enforcement
Summary of Complaints**

A total of 21 complaints were received and investigated by the Waste Enforcement team in March 2025, some of which remain open pending further investigations.

Complaint Type	Received in March 2025	Total Received in 2025
Waste/ C&D	21	70

Waste Facility Permits/ Certificates of Registration

One new waste facility permit application, and one review application has been received in March 2025.

Diesel Laundering Waste

There were seven Integrated Bulk Containers (IBCs) dumped so far in March 2025 with the approximate cost of this being €8,750. The total cost for clean-up of diesel laundering waste so far in 2025 is approximately €21,250.

Article 27 By-Products

Article 27 of the European Communities (Waste Directive) Regulations 2011 (S.I. 126 of 2011) makes a distinction between the regulatory regime for substances or objects that are defined as ‘waste’ and those that are instead to be viewed as a ‘by-product’ and certain criteria must be met for it to be considered a by-product and not a waste.

The National criteria for site-won asphalt and greenfield soil and stone negate the need to make a by-product notification to the EPA for determination. Instead, the production of site-won asphalt or greenfield soil and stone as by-product that complies with the national criteria is required to be registered with the EPA. The Waste Enforcement Section has a role to carry out site inspections at site of origin

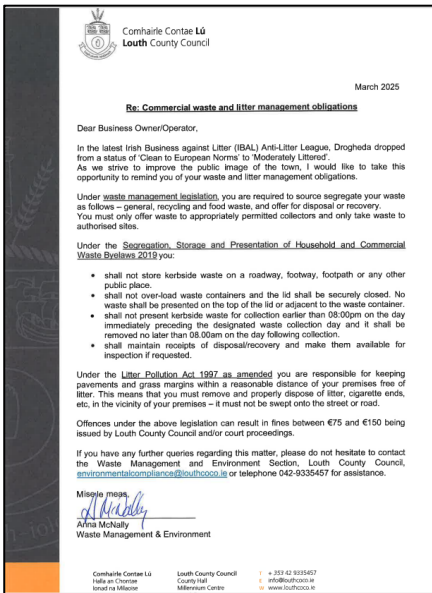
and/ or site of destination to check material meets the criteria of registration.

In March, a total of 4 site inspections were completed of source sites in Co. Louth. Two of the sites inspected were Council housing developments.



Waste Enforcement

Waste Enforcement Officers received several complaints this month in relation to presentation of waste issues from commercial premises particularly in Drogheda. Waste Enforcement have worked with the Litter team and Operations to try and address these issues. The letter below has been drafted for distribution to commercial premises to remind them of their obligations in relation to waste management.



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 March, Litter Wardens completed 122 investigations in response to dumping reported by members of the public. 23 Fixed Penalty Notices were issued in March where evidence was found under the Litter Pollution Act 1997.

The Council Litter Wardens had successful court convictions in March. In one case, the Judge convicted and fined the Defendant the sum of €150.00. She also directed the Defendant to discharge County Council expenses of €450.00 and legal costs of €500.00.

In a second case where there were three separate offences, the Judge convicted and fined the Defendant the sum of €2,000.00 for each offence.

Dog Fouling Awareness

The Council Litter Wardens carried out a foot patrol in Drogheda in March to raise awareness of dog litter.



Environmental Regulation

Water Quality and Complaints

4 water pollution complaints were received in March. Investigations and site visits were carried out in all cases and all complaints were investigated with one complaint remaining open. Five agricultural complaints were received in relation to spreading and odours. One case was referred for legal action under the Good Agricultural Practice Regulations 2022.

Air & Noise Pollution Complaints

14 air pollution complaints were received this month. All complaints were investigated and related to backyard burning and agricultural odours.

2 noise pollution cases were received. All complaints have been investigated and closed out.

Farm Survey Inspections

So far during the month of March, the Council carried out 6 planned farm survey inspections under the Good Agricultural Practice Regulations (GAP). Annual returns for agricultural inspections have been submitted to the EPA.

River Water sampling and Water framework directive

Routine surveillance and operational monitoring of all rivers for the water framework directive programme is scheduled for April 2025.

Photo attached is of poultry manure being stored in a field. Under GAP Regulations 2022 this is a non-compliance. If not removed the landowner can be liable for cross reporting with the Department of Agriculture.



Photo below is of silt discharge to stream at construction site.



Discharge Licences

Assessment inspections were carried out on 10 monitoring results received by the Council in March for Section 4 Discharge Licences.

Licensed landfills

Monthly monitoring of groundwater, surface water and leachate was carried out in March at Dundalk landfill. Monthly monitoring of perimeter gas monitoring points was completed at Dundalk, Drogheda and Whiteriver as required by EPA licences for the sites.

Noise survey was completed at Dundalk landfill as required by the licence. Corrective action has been carried out at Dundalk and Whiteriver in relation to VOSC's exceedance detected in February.

One incident was uploaded onto the EPA EDEN website in March. This related to an unscheduled power outage at Whiteriver which will shut off pumps, flare and scada system. This incident has since been closed off.

Annual environmental reports, landfill gas surveys and pollution inventory reports are in preparation. These are due for submissions by the 31st of March 2025 for each site.

Septic Tanks

All advisory notices in relation to septic tank inspections conducted in 2024 have now been closed off.

4 queries received from members of the public regarding eligibility for grants.

Petroleum Vapour Regulations

One certificate was issued in March.

Rural Water Programme

Individual Domestic Water Supplies Grant

A total of €78,034.85 was paid to applicants in the first quarter of 2025 for Individual Domestic Water Supplies (more commonly called private wells).

Domestic Lead Remediation Grant Scheme

A total of €5,000.00 was paid in the first quarter of 2025 for Lead Replacement.

Climate Action

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 climate action team are also involved in the Local Authority Climate Action Training Programme webinar series. The Council's Climate Action Co-ordinator Dr. Rory Sheehan presented at the 1st Local Authority Climate Action webinar series. The webinar focussed on climate change adaptation-planning for climate resilience and included local authority staff that are directly and indirectly involved in climate action responses and service delivery activities that are impacted by climate change, EPA and DECC representatives. Rory gave an overview of planning for greater resilience in Louth and the successful EU funding for risk assessments.

The Climate Action Team recently distributed native Irish Apple trees to primary schools in Louth that have participated in the Sustainable Development Goals Artwork Competition to celebrate National Tree Week.



GAA Green Clubs

16 Clubs from across County Louth have signed up to GAA Green Clubs phase 3. This will run from March 2025 to November 2026. All the successful clubs were invited to an orientation event in Croke Park on Saturday 22nd March. The Green Club programme will help clubs to identify and implement simple measures to protect our natural heritage and secure a sustainable future for our local communities.

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.

The Community Climate Action Officer has been busy assisting each active project with queries and technical input. The administration of the funding paperwork requirements to meet the fund's rules as

set out by DECC is a key role of the Community Climate Action Officer. There is almost daily contact between LCC and DECC to clarify questions about this fund. This is to provide the best service to the community groups to ensure that they can complete their projects in the easiest and most successful manner.

During March, three more projects have completed their works phase and are now moving into the drawdown of funding phase, a number of projects are ongoing and are in the process of completion under the Community Climate Action Fund.

The Community Climate Action Officer would like to acknowledge the work of all community groups who are currently working on projects as part of the Community Climate Action Fund.



Solar panels that have recently been installed at the Drogheda Women and Children's Refuge.



Solar Panels recently installed at the Cooley Kickham's GAA Club.



The Geraldine's GAA Club have also recently installed solar panels on their club house under the Community Climate Action Fund, they are now beginning works on upgrading their indoor lighting to LED sensor lighting.

The Climate Action Team also recently attended the opening of the Muirhevnamor Community Gardens, Muirhevnamor Community Gardens are one of the community groups across Louth that have received funding through the Community Climate Action Fund.



The Community Climate Action Officer would like to acknowledge the work of all community groups who are currently working on projects as part of the Community Climate Action Fund. A full list of all approved projects can be found on Louth County Council's website at <https://www.louthcoco.ie/en/services/environment/climate-action/community-climate-action-funding-strand/>

If you would like to know further information on the Community Climate Action Fund please email climateaction@louthcoco.ie

Biodiversity Action

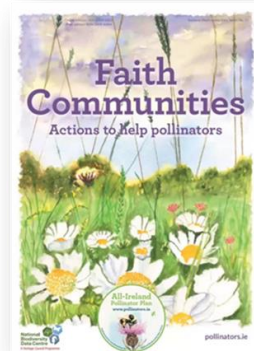
The Biodiversity Officer, Helen Hanratty has applied for funding to deliver the biodiversity work programme for 2025.



NPWS

An tSeirbhís Páirceanna
Náisiúnta agus Fiadhúlra
National Parks and Wildlife
Service

Under the Local Biodiversity Action Fund she has applied for funding for a "Louth Faith Communities Return to Nature" project to support the Catholic Church Laudato Sí initiative and the Irish Bishops Conference target to return 30% of church ground to nature by 2030.



All-Ireland Pollinator Plan Guidance for Faith Communities on Actions to help pollinators

Following the success of a pilot in County Clare in 2024, and subject to funding, the project proposes to work with around 6 churches from across Louth. An ecologist shall carry out an assessment of the sites identifying key habitats and species of importance with findings informing a suite of biodiversity enhancements to support native flora and fauna. Actions will include reduced mowing, the planting of native trees, hedgerows, heritage apple trees, spring bulbs and the installation of bird boxes, bat boxes. Church communities are asked to work together to deliver the actions on the ground and raise awareness of the project. The Biodiversity Officer has been working with Bishop Michael Router to encourage uptake of the initiative in Louth. The Biodiversity Officer presented to 12 representatives from interested parishes at an

evening webinar on 18th March. Nominations will be proposed through Bishop Router. Feedback on the success of applications and the availability of funding is expected in late March or early April.



Photo: Reduced mowing at a County Clare church ground as part of the 2024 Return to Nature Initiative, subject to funding, a similar project is proposed in Louth in 2025

The Biodiversity Officer attended the Heritage Council quarterly Local Authority Biodiversity Officer meeting in Dún Laoghaire on 11th & 12th March. The programme included a site visit to Killiney Hill Goat Grazing Pilot Project where Local Authority Biodiversity Officers from across Ireland learned about the work that Dún Laoghaire and Rathdown Biodiversity Officers have been carrying out using goats to graze land help to manage scrub growth and the creation and management of fire-breaks. Insight to their work on red squirrel restoration in this urban area was shared with discussions also considering the management of both native and non-native species on Dalkey Island.



Photo: Killiney Hill Goat Grazing Pilot Project

Workshops were held with colleagues from LAWPRO, sharing knowledge and learning on a range of topics from mainstreaming nature-based solutions to wetland and river restoration with time spent considering potential opportunities for collaborative projects.



Photo: Biodiversity Officers and Teagasc Farm Advisors sharing best-practice advice

On 6th March the Biodiversity Officer joined hedgerow expert Catherine Keenan and her farm advisor colleagues from Teagasc at Ballyhasie College in Cavan for hedgerow planting, management and biodiversity day. Local Authority Biodiversity Officers and Teagasc farm advisors discussed opportunities for collaboration at a local level and how to promote greater engagement on management of farmland for biodiversity and awareness of best practice approaches.

Teagasc host weekly webinars on sustainable farm practices as part of their Signpost Series, to sign up or watch-back see:

<https://www.teagasc.ie/environment/climate-change--air-quality/the-signpost-series-webinars/>

The Biodiversity Officer joined National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) Conservation Ranger for North Louth on 19th March to learn how monitoring for the Irish Wetland Bird Survey (I-WeBS) is carried out in Dundalk Bay. Dundalk Bay Special Protection Area (SPA) is one of the most important wintering waterfowl sites in Ireland and one of the few [protected sites](#) that regularly supports more than 20,000 waterbirds. Four species; Light-bellied Brent Goose, Knot, Black-tailed Godwit and Bar-tailed Godwit occur in numbers of international importance and a further 19 species in numbers of national importance.



Skilled volunteers from NPWS and BirdWatch Ireland monitor wintering waterbird populations at wetland sites across Ireland to record the numbers and species of wetland birds and the status of their populations. To find out more about this survey please see: [Irish Wetland Bird Survey \(I-WeBS\) - BirdWatch Ireland](#)



Photo: Dundalk Bay supports international important populations of Light-Bellied Brent Goose (John N Murphy, BirdWatch Ireland)

Sustainability Facilities

Drogheda Fair Street Francis Johnson Building Planned Upgrades 2025

Preparation of Tender Documents for improvement works for the Council's Francis Johnson Building at Fair Street Drogheda is almost complete, and the works are expected to be offered for tender shortly.

Drogheda Leisure Centre

Logic Security Ltd. has now commenced works to improve the Fire Alarm at the Leisure Centre. The works are expected to be completed shortly.



Photos: The old & new Fire Alarm Panels at Drogheda Leisure Centre.

Millmount – Walls Repairs and Governor's Mansion Improvement

The Council has engaged an archaeologist to submit a method statement to the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage for supervise repair works to the walls at Millmount. Such measure is necessary to comply with the Ministerial Consent for the repair works. Once the approval of the Department is forthcoming, works to repair the walls will commence. That is expected in the next two months.

The Council's Facilities team is liaising with the Old Drogheda Society to improve the Governor's House at Millmount complex in Drogheda. Old Drogheda Society has been offered a grant from Pobal for improvement works there and the improvements must be managed to comply with conservation requirements and planning regulations.



Photo: Millmount Tower at Drogheda celebrated St Patrick's Day coloured in Green

Carlingford Library

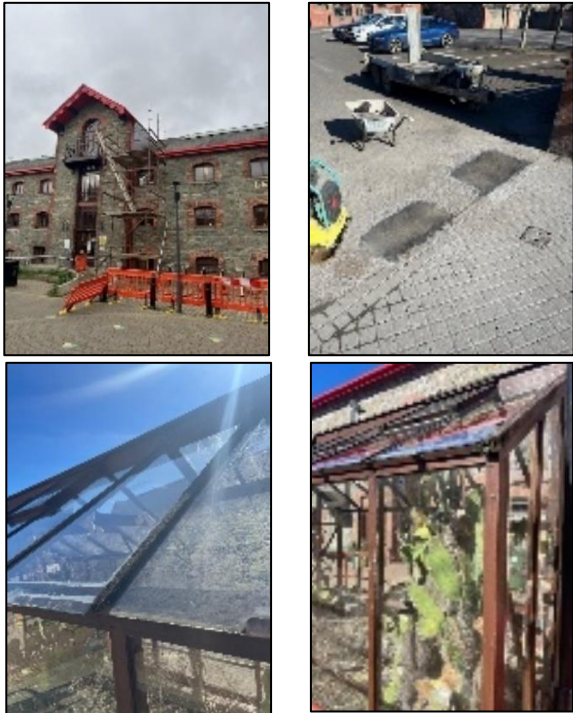
The Council's Facilities Team engaged a contractor to undertake a clean-up of the exterior of Carlingford library recently. That work is now complete.



Photos: Clean-up of Carlingford Library Dundalk County Library

The Council's Facilities Team engaged a contractor to undertake repair the roof at the County Library Dundalk. Pavement repairs were also completed there in March.

Glazing repairs, arising from storm damage at the greenhouse at the County Museum were also completed in March.



Photos: Repairs at Dundalk Library & at County Museum Dundalk are now complete

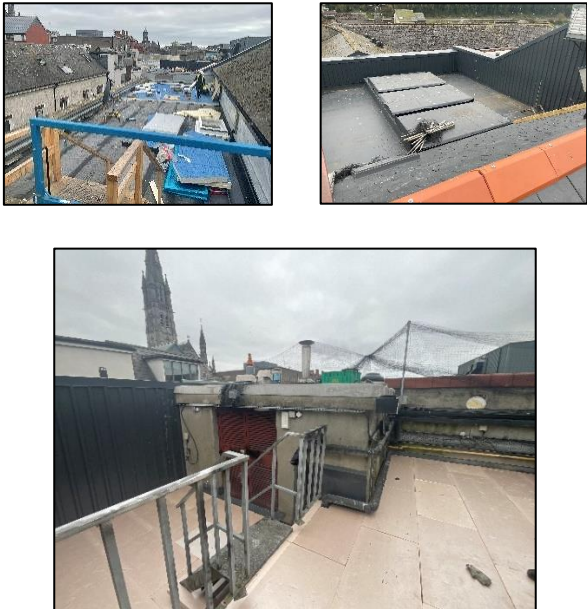
Roof Repair Works at Drogheda Municipal Centre incorporating Drogheda Arts Centre and Drogheda Library

Drogheda Municipal Centre, incorporating Drogheda Library and Drogheda Arts Centre, has been the subject of serious and ongoing water ingress over a long number of years. The water ingress had impacted on the existing use of the building to the point that it presented a high risk of disruption to the Council service and support to Drogheda Arts Centre.

Temporary works to enable the services to be maintained in the building were undertaken in 2023 and 2024. The Council also appointed a consultant engineer, Duffy Chartered Engineers, to develop Detailed Design Tender Documents for substantial

roof repair works. The consultant also supported the Council to procure a Specialist Contractor for the Construction Phase for Repairs to the roof of Drogheda Municipal Centre.

In January 2025 the Contractor, Frontline Contracts from Co. Cavan commenced works to repair the roof. The works involve removal and disposal of existing and outdated equipment from the roof and complete replacement of the roof membrane structure to eliminate the risk of water ingress. In addition, the works involve improvement in thermal insulation of the roof necessary to reduce energy emissions at the building. The works are expected to be completed by end of April.



Photos: Works in Progress at Roof of Drogheda Municipal Centre

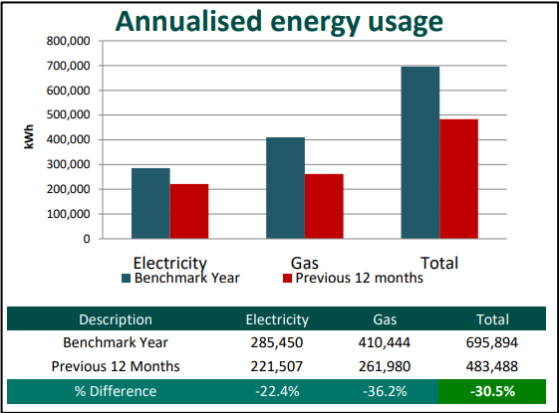
SUSTAINABLE ENERGY

Optimising Power @Work

County Hall Building

Energy consumption in this building has reduced by 31% since joining the Optimising Power @ Work campaign in 2016. The total annual unit consumption of energy has decreased from 695,894 kWh to 483,488 kWh. Electricity consumption on site has reduced by 22%. The number of units of electricity has decreased from 285,450 kWh to

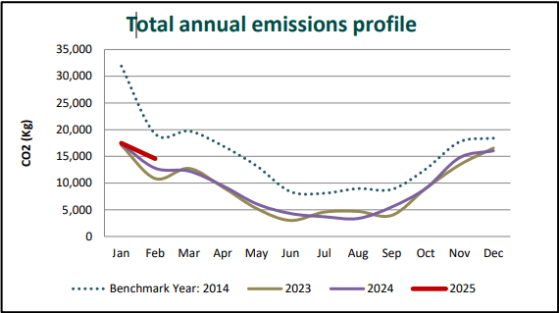
221,507 kWh. Gas consumption on site has reduced by 36%. The number of units of Gas has decreased from 410,444 kWh to 261,980 kWh.



Graph: Extract from OPW’s monthly report for County Hall shows reduction in Annualised Energy Use

Town Hall Building – Carbon Dioxide Emission Reductions

Compared to the base year of 2014 the carbon emissions over the last twelve months have reduced by 37%. Monthly comparison data shows that the February 2025 CO2 Emissions are 24% lower (05 Tonnes) than February 2014.



Graph: Extract from OPW’s monthly report for Dundalk Town Hall for February 2025 shows Reduction in Total (carbon) Emissions

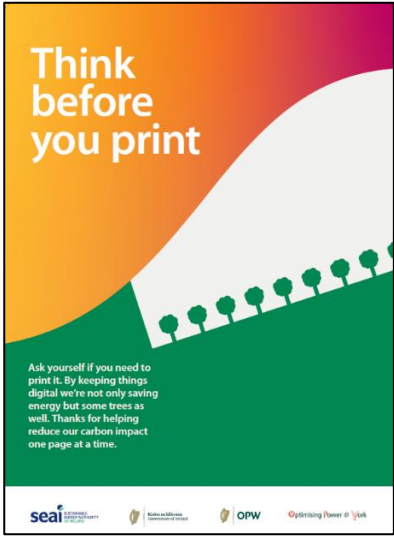
Staff Energy Awareness Programme Reduce Your Use Campaign

Louth County Council remains committed to the Reduce Your Use winter campaign, running until March 2025. Led by the SEAI and the Office of Public Works, this initiative supports public bodies in promoting energy awareness among staff while

maintaining or improving on the savings achieved in previous winter campaigns.

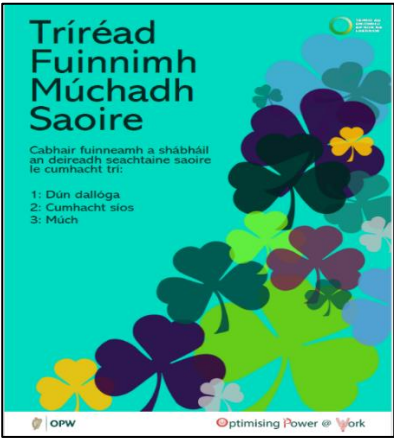
To drive engagement, we are actively promoting this campaign through a poster campaign, all-staff email reminders with energy-saving tips, and video tutorials.

This month, our focus has been on **Water, Office Equipment, and Lighting**, providing staff with practical guidance on reducing energy consumption and fostering a more sustainable workplace.



Graphic promoting Energy Saving St Patrick’s Weekend

As always, with a bank holiday approaching and offices closing for an extended period, staff are reminded to power down, switch off, and shut down the heating system to help conserve energy.



Graphic promoting Energy Saving at the Bank Holiday Weekend

Varcities (H2020 Funding) & Dundalk Pilot Update and Cubbie

As part of the Varcities Project a new ‘Cubbie’ was installed in Dundalk library.

What is Cubbie and what are its benefits:

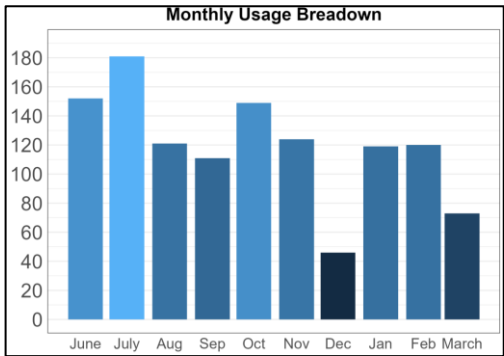
It is an Immersive multi-sensory space that reduces anxiety and encourages participation in less than 15 minutes.



Photo: Cubbie at Dundalk Library

Occupational Therapists design personalised sensory breaks, digitally for Cubbie sessions based on the users’ needs and preferences. The equipment digitally records progress to constantly improve the programs.

Since its installation at Dundalk County Library in June 2024, monthly data reports have shown huge usage and health benefits to all those who have been using it.



Graph – Graph from Monthly Cubbie Report

Cubbie Report March 2025 – Key Statistics Recorded from Use

Thursday was most popular day with 25% of all usage.

Total of 1215 sessions accessed, averaging at 6 daily 29 weekly 111 monthly.

10:30 – 13:00 was the most popular time, with 36% of all usage coming between these times.

18 individuals have availed Cubbie’s OT Service after using Cubbie in Dundalk Library.



Graphic – Extract from Cubbie Report March 2025 - 88% of sessions were successful, with users reporting a wellbeing improvement / feeling happy and regulated after their Cubbie break

One of the new components installed as part of Visionary Solution 2 for the VARCITIES Project is New Coloured Floodlights at Dundalk Library. They went Green for St Patrick’s Weekend.



Photo: Dundalk library all dressed in green for St-Patrick's Day using the new lighting system installed as part of their #VisionarySolution 2! #Varcities

Seirbhísí Tréidliachta / Veterinary Services

Control of Dogs

Control of Dogs Act 1986

Dogs through the pound March 2025

Total dogs through the pound	22
Seized under Section 16	0
Strays	15
Surrendered by owners	7
No dogs reclaimed by owners	6
No of dogs rehomed direct	5
No of dogs rehomed to welfare groups	9
No of dogs on hand in Pound at 31/03/2025	6

Dog Licences March 2025

No of Licences sold	435
Licence Checks:	
House calls	509
Section 16 Notices issued (request to produce licence within 10 days)	128
Fixed Penalty Notices	11

Control of Horses

Control of Horses Act 1996

Control of Horses Bye-Laws 2003

Horses through the pound March 2025

Horses seized, and reason for seizure:	0
Horses reclaimed by owner	0
Horses rehomed	0
Horses disposed of	0
No of horses on hand in Pound on 31/03/2025	0

Dog Breeding Establishments

Dog Breeding Establishments Act 2010

Dog Breeding Establishments March 2025

Total no of registered DBE's in Louth (as at 31/03/2025)	6
Hunt	1
Boarding Kennels	2
Training Kennels	1
Welfare	2



Some of the dogs who entered the Dog Pound during March 2025

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 Northeast Region, Louth County Council continues to manage this area and achieve the goals set out in the Northeast Homelessness Strategy 2024-2026. The following work done within County Louth in the period February 18– March 17, 2025, can be summarised as follows:

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

February 18 to March 17, 2025	Ardee MD	Dundalk MD	Drogheda MD	Total
Offered advice, support (including fast tracking H.A. for Rent Supplement eligibility)	5	102	53	160
Placed in Temporary Emergency Accommodation	1	19	20	40
Refused Offer of Temporary Emergency Accommodation	0	4	1	5
Not eligible from outside county or non HRC	0	0	0	0
Total number of Person who presented as Homeless	6	125	74	205

Tables 2 - 4 below reflect details of the adults who were in emergency accommodation in County Louth on March 17, 2025. Also included in Table 5 is the breakdown of families in emergency accommodation at that date.

Tábla 2: Inscne / Table 2: Gender

Gender	Total
Male	98
Female	101
Total	199

Tábla 3: Aoisghrúpaí / Table 3: Age Groups

Age Group	Total
18-24	37
25-44	104
45-64	51
65+	7
Total	199

Tábla 4: Saghas Loistín / Table 4: Accommodation Type

Accommodation Type	Total
Private Emergency Accommodation (PEA)	102
Supported Temporary Accommodation (STA)	97
Total unique individuals	199

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	44	60	68
Couples with dependent children	10	21	29
Total	54	81	97

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

Number of tenancies established	49
Number of individuals currently in tenancy	34

Leithdháileadh Tithíochta suas go dtí Mharta 21, 2025 / Housing Allocations up to March 21, 2025

District	LA	LA Refusal	AHB	AHB Refusal
Ardee	8	1	1	0
Drogheda	31	2	96	7
Dundalk	21	3	46	3
Total	60	6	143	10

Aistrithe / Transfers

District	Number
Ardee	0
Dundalk	0
Drogheda	18
Total	18

Liosta Tithe / Housing List

March 21, 2025	Ardee	Drogheda	Dundalk	Total
Housing List	364	680	1118	2162
HAP Transfer List	299	933	1613	2845
Total Housing List	663	1613	2731	5007

There are **329** applications on the transfer list (Non HAP) within Social Housing including 71 applications from the Approved Housing Bodies.

Íocaíocht Cúnaimh Tithíochta / Housing Assistance Payment

The total number of applications in HAP is **2845**

Ardee Municipal District	Drogheda Borough District	Dundalk Municipal District	Total
299	933	1613	2845

Bainisteoireacht Chíos / Rent Management The total number currently paying rent by Household Budget is **930**

Current Rents Arrears at March 19, 2025	No of Accounts	Value
Rents between 4-6 weeks old	182	€76,416
Rents between 7-12 weeks old	176	€137,021
Rents greater than 12 weeks old	991	€3,548,703
TOTAL	1349	€3,762,140

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 March 2025

Letter Type	Month/Year	Number Issued
1 st Reminder	March 2025	69
2 nd Reminder	March 2025	20
Final Reminder	March 2025	68
Total issued		157

Customers that fall into arrears may enter a payment plan for full repayment over an agreed period of time. 30 new payment plans commenced in March 2025 (up to and including March 21, 2025).

Airíonna Re Lig & Neamhní / Relet and Void Properties

Relet / Void Properties on March 21, 2025	Total
Ardee Municipal District	6
Dundalk Municipal District	7
Drogheda Municipal Borough District	34
Subtotal (re-lets) Vacant Properties	47
CPO units not yet ready for occupation (All County)	2
Total Number of Properties (Relets & CPO)	49

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	February 20 – March 21, 2025	Total (YTD)
No. of Maintenance Requests Received	1142	3552
No. of Maintenance Requests Completed	848	2646
No. of Maintenance Requests in Progress	231	706
No. of Maintenance Requests Refused	63	200

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

The 2025 EERP allocation for Louth has been confirmed by the DHLGH as 140. Two units submitted over our allocation in 2024 will be taken out of this total. Two Units in Hillview are accounted for under

the 2024 figures so the total for 2025 shall be shown as 138.

Municipal District	Number of Commenced/ Completed Units
Ardee MD:	-
Dundalk MD: Hillview Dundalk, Ladywell Dundalk	14
Drogheda BD:	-

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

For Feb 19 – March 20	March	YTD
Properties inspected monthly	294	557
Advisory letters issued	193	476
Improvement notices issued	5	10
Prohibition notices issued	0	1
Private Inspections	0	0
HAP First Inspections	98	231
RAS First Inspections	0	0
AHB First Inspections	101	175
Private Re-inspections	1	2
HAP Re-inspections	40	94
RAS Re-inspections	0	0
AHB Re-inspections	54	54
Inspections from Complaints	0	1

Properties Made Compliant	18	37
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Verbal Notification Letters	2	0	3	5	8
Written Notification Letters	0	1	0	1	2
Tenancy Warnings Housing Act, 2014	0	0	0	0	0

Páirtíocht Tionóntachta / Tenancy Engagement

February 20 to March 19, 2025	Drogheda	Ardee	Dundalk	Monthly Total	Yearly Total
No. Tenants who attended Pre-tenancy training	7	4	8	19	57
Post-tenancy inspections	0	1	20	21	35
Tenancy Investigation Visits	7	2	16	25	86

Déisiú agus Léas / Repair and Lease

There have been no Repair and Lease Applications submitted for the month of March.

Tithíocht Inacmhainne / Affordable Housing

The affordable housing scheme at Ballymakenny Park, Drogheda opened for applications on Monday February 10, 2025 and closed on Monday, March 3, 2025. A total of 65 applications were received and formal letters of offer are due to issue to successful applicants before the end of March 2025.

Iompraíocht Fhrithshóisialta / Anti-Social Behaviour

February 20 to March 19, 2025	Drogheda	Ardee	Dundalk	Monthly	Yearly
ASB Cases* Received	6	6	8	20	50
ASB cases Ongoing	3	8	12	23	-
ASB cases complete	6	1	6	13	24

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

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

Active MTR Applications Total	27
AHB MTR Applications Active	15
AHB MTR completed 2025	1
Private MTR Applications Active	11
Private MTR completed 2025	1
MTR Application Awaiting Purchaser	1

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 have passed, the borrower might be given the option to buy the home back if they are in a position to do so.

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

February 20 to March 19, 2025	Drogheda	Ardee	Dundalk	Monthly	Yearly
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Deontas Athchóirithe D'áras Folamh / Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant

Applications Submitted:	265
Approved:	188
Rejected:	16
Withdrawn	32
Other (FI Requests, First Site Inspections)	29
Legal stages before Funding issued	14
Funding Issued to Applicant	46
Principal Private Residence	196
Rental Applications	68

Iasacht Tí Údaráis Áitiúil / Local Authority Home Loans

2025 Budget Allocation	€6,610,000
LAHL Approvals at 21/03/2025	€1,081,402
Breakdown of LAHL applications processed at 21st March, 2025	
Total Number of Applications at 21/03/25	9
LAHL carried over from 2024	9
Invalid/Returned	3
Approved	7
Declined	1
For Review	1
Outstanding – waiting on further information	6

Gnóthaithe/Acquisitions

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

In March, the Council purchased one property. DHLGH has not advised the Council yet what funding is available for acquisitions in 2025.



Recently purchased house in Drogheda

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 or where a person is aged 66 and above and living in poor housing conditions. From December 1, 2024 the maximum Housing Adaption Grant for Disabled People is €40,000 and the maximum Housing Aid for Older People Grant is €10,700. Grants are no longer permitted for new standalone fossil fuel boilers. Full details are available on the Council's website at <https://www.louthcoco.ie/en/services/housing/housing-grants/>



Access Ramp completed in March 2025 in Dundalk, part-funded with a HAG



Bathroom Adaptation in Dundalk, completed in March with grant assisted with a HAG

Housing for All Social Housing Build Delivery				
Year	Target	Actual	Projected	Total
2022	660	227	-	227
2023	156	365	-	365
2024	160	438	-	438
2025	172	0	614	614
2026	175	0	377	377
Total	1,323	1,030	991	2,021

Status	HAG	MAG	HOP	Month	YTD
Grants Approved 2024	116	26	185	-	327
Applications on Hand 21/03/2025	53	9	262	-	324
Grants Approved 20/02/2025 – 21/03/2025	4	2	4	10	79

Seachadadh Caipitil Tithíochta / Capital Housing Delivery

Seachadadh Nua Tóg / New Build Delivery

Current Approved Social Housing Delivery Units	
SHIP	758
CALF	518
CAS	42
TOTAL	1318

Seachadadh SHIP / SHIP Delivery

Project Name	Project Phase	Total Number of Social Units Expected	Project Status	Projected Substantial Completion Date	Unit Type
Muirhevnemor, (Infill) Dundalk	1/2	6	On Site	31/03/2025	2 * 2 bed & 4 * 3 bed
Muirhevnemor, (Infill) Dundalk	2/2	5	On Site	30/04/2025	1 * 2 bed & 4 * 3 bed
Boice Court, Mell, Drogheda (Phase 2)	1/2	13	On Site	31/05/2025	6 * 3 bed, 2 * 4 bed & 5 * 2 bed Apt
Boice Court, Mell, Drogheda (Phase 2)	2/2	59	On Site	30/09/2025	21 * 3 bed, 2 * 4 bed, 8 * 1 bed Apt, 20 * 2 bed Apt & 8 * 3 bed Apt
Mount Avenue, Dundalk	1/2	45	On Site	30/11/2025	14 * 2 bed, 16 * 3 bed, 3 * 4 bed, 2 * 1 bed Apt, 4 * 2 bed Apt, 6 * 3 bed Apt
Mount Avenue, Dundalk	2/2	48	On Site	31/03/2026	9 * 2 bed, 13 * 3 bed, 6 * 4 bed, 10 * 1 bed Apt, 10 * 3 bed Apt
Rathmullen Park, Drogheda Infill	1/1	4	Stage 2 Approved	25/12/2026	2 * 2 bed, 1 * 3 bed, 1 * 4 bed
Blackwater Meadow, Point Road, Dundalk	1/1	44	Stage 2 Approved	31/08/2027 - TBC	31 * 2 bed, 10 * 3 bed, 3 * 4 bed
Ravel Drive, Ravel, Dunleer	1/1	70	On-Site	31/12/2026	45 * 2 bed, 20 * 3 bed, 5 * 4 bed
Bakery View, Ballymakenny Road, Drogheda	1/1	97	On-Site	31/03/2027	52 * 2 bed, 32 * 3 bed, 13 * 4 bed
An Mullach, Mullavally, Louth Village	1/1	58	On-Site	31/12/2026	28 * 2 bed, 24 * 3 bed, 5 * 4 bed, 1 * 5 bed

Greenhills Grange, Newtown Link Road, Drogheda	1/1	46	On-Site	31/12/2026	42 * 2 bed, 3 * 3 bed, 1 * 5 bed
Anne St. Dundalk	1/1	16	Stage 1 Approved	31/08/2027	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	2/3	4	On-site	30/06/2025	4 * 3 bed
Mullagh Close, Clogherhead	3/3	4	On-site	30/11/2025	4 * 3 bed
Knockshee, Old Golf Links Road, Blackrock, Dundalk	1/1	12	On-site	30/11/2025	12 * 2 bed Apt.
Quarry Court, John St. / Stoneylane, Ardee, Co. Louth	1/1	20	On-site	31/03/2025	11 * 3 bed, 3 * 3 bed Apt, 6 * 2 bed Apt.
Derryveigh House, Hoeys Lane, Dundalk	1/1	2	On-site	30/09/2025	1 * 3 bed, 1 * 4 bed
Clontygora, Dundalk	1/1	2	On-site	30/11/2025	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	30/06/2026	1 * 2 bed
Listoke Elms & Listoke Willows	3/3	2	Funding Approved	31/03/2026	1 * 2 bed Apt, 1 * 3 bed Duplex
Seven Winds, North Road, Drogheda	1/2	12	On-site	30/06/2025	12 * 1 bed Apt

Seven Winds, North Road, Drogheda	2/2	24	On-site	31/12/2025	12 * 2 bed Apt, 12 * 3 bed Duplex
Ballymakenny Park, Drogheda Phase 2	1/2	12	On-site	30/06/2025	12 * 2 bed Apt
Ballymakenny Park, Drogheda Phase 2	2/2	6	On-site	30/06/2025	4 * 1 bed Apt, 2 * 2 bed Apt
Ballymakenny Park, Drogheda Phase 3	1/2	6	On-site	30/06/2025	4 * 3 bed, 2 * 4 bed
Ballymakenny Park, Drogheda Phase 3	2/2	2	On-site	30/06/2025	2 * 2 bed Apt
Ellwood Park, Ballymakenny, Drogheda	1/1	3	Proposal	30/09/2025	3 * 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
Barrack Street, Dundalk, Co Louth	Dublin Simon	21	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

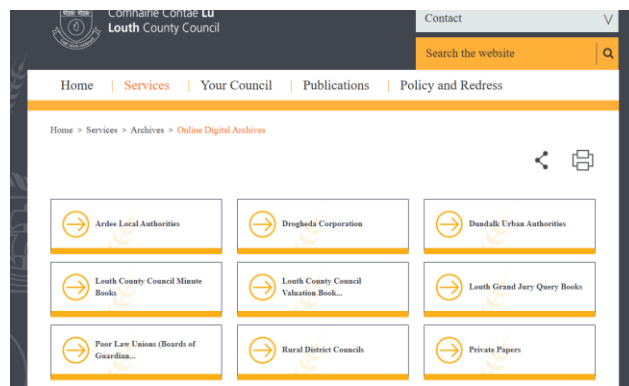
Project Name		Total Number of Social Units Expected	Non-Part V / Part V	Project Status	Projected Substantial Completion Date	Unit Type
Racecourse Meadows with Circle	1/3	18		On Site	30/05/2025	* 18 Three Bed Houses
Racecourse Meadows with Circle	2/3	8		On Site	30/06/2025	* 8 Three Bed Houses
Racecourse Meadows with Circle	3/3	19	12/7	On Site	30/08/2025	* 10 Three Bed Houses * 9 Two Bed Houses
Connolly's Field, Dundalk Fold Housing	1/1	70	59/11	On-Site	01/06/2025	* 51 One Bed Apts * 19 Two Bed Apts
Gullion Park, Finnbair, Dundalk Co-Operative	1/1	142	128/14	On-Site	31/01/2026	* 48 One Bed Apts * 70 Two Bed Apts * 24 Three Bed Apts
Avourwen Meadows, Drogheda, Co. Louth Oaklee	1/1	50	45/5	On-Site	10/11/2025	* 18 One Bed Apts * 32 Two Bed Apts
Crushrod Avenue Drogheda Co. Louth Cluid Houisng	1/2	20	15/5	On-Site	31/05/2025	*20 Two Bed apt/ Duplex
Crushrod Avenue Drogheda Co. Louth Cluid Housing	2/2	33		On-Site	30/08/2025	*8 One Bed Apt *16 Two Bed Apt *2 Two Bed House *7 Three Bed House

Seirbhísí Cultúrtha / Cultural Services

An Chartlann / Archives



Archives Entrance Gate Sign



Screen-grab of the online digital archives page on Louth County Archives' web-pages

National Retention Policy Records Management Working Group

The County Archivist is assisting the LGMA-led Working Group on revising the record retention schedules of the National Retention Policy. Schedules for both Community and Legal Services have been approved and issued recently.

The County Archivist 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 continues to take place in reviewing and appraising records for retention as archives or for destruction, with work on Peace, Enforcement and on Planning records in progress.

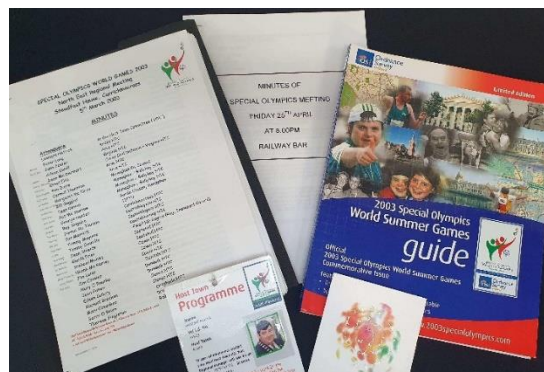
Digitisation Project

The historical minute books of Drogheda Corporation from 1649 – 1898 are currently in the process of being digitised. This project is kindly funded by the County Louth Archaeological and Historical Society.

The purpose of the digitisation is to provide a public access copy to the volumes which will be placed on the County Archives website. Through the provision of free online public access to original archival sources this will improve the democratisation of access to records and will assist local history research. Archives digitised to date can be accessed <https://www.louthcoco.ie/en/services/archives/online-digital-archives/dundalk-urban-authorities/>.

Recent Acquisitions

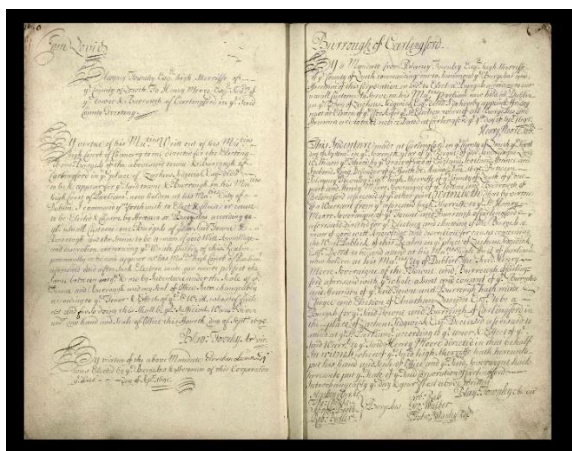
An archive collection relating to the Ardee Host Town Committee for the Special Olympics 2003 was recently donated. It consists of correspondence, minutes of meetings, photographs, and other items such as a host town programme and a volunteer programme. The collection will be catalogued as resources permit and will then be made available for research.



Ardee Host Town Committee for Special Olympics 2003

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.



Extract from the minute book of Carlingford Corporation, recently used by an academic researcher

Leabharlanna / Libraries

Historic Structure Funding for Carlingford Library

Minister of State for Nature, Heritage and Biodiversity, Christopher O'Sullivan, TD, announced on March 27 that over €3.5 million will be awarded to 28 projects throughout the country to help repair and protect landmark buildings as part of this year's Historic Structures Fund (HSF).

Carlingford Library has been awarded €42,500 towards the cost of preserving and repairing seven arched steel windows to the Courthouse part of the library building. Operated on a match-funding basis, HSF promotes the investment of private capital into the preservation and rejuvenation of our architectural heritage.



World Book Day

Dundalk Library celebrated World Book Day, March 6, with a special storytime session and Drogheda Library had storytime and songs.

De La Salle College in Dundalk hosted a Dragon's Den book competition as part of the celebrations and Librarian Claire Cronin was invited to be a member of the judging panel by school librarian Angela McGinn. There were participants from both junior and senior cycle with students from St. Louis Secondary School taking part in the competition, where students gave insightful presentations on their favourite books and authors.



Dragon's Den Books event – group of participants and judges in De La Salle College, Dundalk

The Schools Library Service was delighted to visit the Little Rascals Early Years Centre in Tullyallen, as part of our World Book Day celebrations, and the Lios na nÓg Playgroup in Dundalk. Staff facilitated storytime sessions and all the children visited the school's mobile van to select some story books for their playrooms.

Seachtain na Gaeilge

Louth Library Service invited everyone to give a 'leabhar Gaeilge' a go during Seachtain na Gaeilge. Children's Books Ireland published a new Irish language reading guide 'Treoirléabhar Léitheoireachta' which is available in each branch in County Louth. Dundalk Library celebrated with an Irish themed Baby Book Club featuring 'Cá bhfuil Bran?'

Dundalk library was also delighted to host pupils from Dun Dealgan NS and Muchgrange NS for 'Tráth na gCeist' a library quiz on Tuesday March 18th as part of our Seachtain na Gaeilge celebrations.



Winning team from the 3rd & 4th class category



Winning team from the 5th & 6th class category

Youth Libraries Conference

Executive Librarian Leona Burgess presented on the neonatal intensive care reading project 'Baby Talk' at the Youth Libraries Conference in Mayfair Library, Kilkenny on March 12 and at Monaghan Branch Library on March 26. The conference theme was "Recommending with Confidence: Success Stories" where practical tips and best practices from around the country were shared with attendees.



Executive Librarian Leona Burgess presenting at the Youth Libraries Conference in Mayfair Library in Kilkenny

Adult Events

Irish Astronomy Week

Drogheda Library welcomed Seán Ó'Cearrúlláin from Boyne Valley Astronomical Society and astrophotographer Marty McCormack from the Irish Astronomical Society for an astronomy talk entitled "Capture The Cosmos - Exploring The Night Sky Through Astrophotography" as part of Irish Astronomy Week.

International Women's Day

Louth Library Service hosted an information stand at Louth Local Development's SICAP celebration for International Women's Day in The Four Seasons Hotel in Carlingford on the March, with over 300 women in attendance.



Leona Burgess & Celia McParland at International Women's Day Celebration in Carlingford

Dundalk Library celebrated International Women's Day with a painting workshop with Helen from Pebble Lane Art Studio.

Participants had the opportunity to unleash their creativity, connect with each other and celebrate the power of women through art.



***Helen from Pebble Lane Art Studio
at Dundalk Library***



Some of the artwork created by the attendees



Some Dundalk participants' artwork



Artist Susan Farrelly

Artist Susan Farrelly from Abbey Art Studios facilitated an adult art workshop as part of International Women's Day in Drogheda library.

Drogheda and Dundalk Memory Cafés

Drogheda's Alzheimer's Memory Café was held in Drogheda library on March 11 with Louth Dementia Advisor Maeve Montgomery. The guest speaker was Glenda McCourt from Dovidia, previously known as Home Instead. Glenda spoke about the services provided by Dovidia. This was followed by a Q&A session. The next meeting will take place on Tuesday, April 11. The café provides a welcoming space for people living with dementia. All are welcome to attend.



***Louth Dementia Advisor Maeve Montgomery,
Helen Barron from Tredagh Lodge Daycare and Glenda
Mccourt from Dovidia***

Dundalk Library Memory Café welcomed Paula Owens from Specsavers who gave a very informative talk on hearing loss, checking hearing aids and answering questions.

Music was provided by the Active Retirement Group Choir from Carroll Meade. The next meeting takes place on Tuesday April 8 at 2:30pm and all are welcome to attend.



**Maeve Montgomery and Paula Owens
at Dundalk Memory Café**

Activator Pole Walking Programme

A five-week Activator Pole Walking Programme commenced in Drogheda library on Wednesday March 5. Run in collaboration with Louth Sports Partnership, attendees meet in the library to get information about the health benefits of using Activator Poles while walking, before taking them for a test run on some local walking routes. The poles are available for borrowing in Drogheda library for a 3-week period.

Children's Events

Ireland Reads

As part of Ireland Reads 2025 Brian Gallagher gave a talk to 6th Class CBS students in Dundalk Library. Brian is an author of Irish historical fiction for children and young adults with some well-known titles including Spies, Pawns and Arrivals.

There was some great participation from the students, including visiting Spanish students, who got to experience a little taste of Irish libraries.



**Author Brian Gallagher gave a talk to 6th class CBS
students in Dundalk Library**

Engineers Week

DkIT Schools Quiz

Drogheda library was delighted to welcome Gareth Kelly from DkIT as part of Engineers Week. One of the regional qualifying rounds for the DkIT quiz was held in Drogheda library and the winning team progressed to the final held in DkIT in March. Teams from local primary schools in the Drogheda area had their knowledge tested in Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths.



Gareth Kelly from DkIT

Anyone4Science Schools Workshop

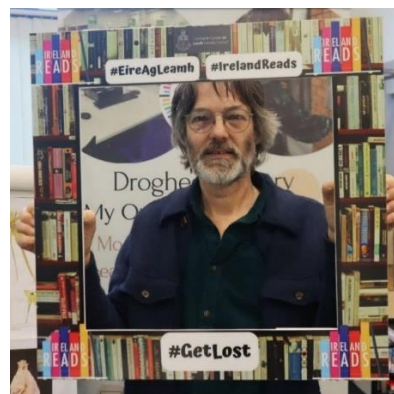
Staff from Anyone4Science facilitated bilingual engineering workshops for primary school children in Drogheda and Dundalk libraries to celebrate Seachtain na Gaeilge and Engineers Week. The theme was "Forces test the strength of Jelly Sweets" and other fun physics challenges.



**Pupils from St Malachy's Girls NS enjoyed the bilingual
science workshops in Dundalk Library**



Anyone4Science who facilitated the event



Hugh McElveen



Artwork created by the attendees



5th class pupils from Scoil Aonghusa who attended the Anyone4Science workshop in Drogheda Library

Saturday Origami Club

Drogheda library is delighted to collaborate with Hugh McElveen who is hosting a free monthly Origami Club for families on the last Saturday of every month. It is suitable for ages 10 and over. No booking is required, and all children are to be accompanied by an adult.

Neurodiversity Awareness in Dundalk Library

On March 21 Dundalk library celebrated Neurodiversity Awareness Week with pupils from Realt na Mara NS. Staff presented sensory interactive storytelling including Social-Ability games using the Magic Table (Tovertafel) in floor mode.



Using the Magic Table in Dundalk Library

Na hEalaíona / Arts

Arts Officer, Moya Rodgers, was honoured to be invited to Áras an Uachtaráin for a special St Patrick's Day evening reception to celebrate community arts, imagination and the nation.



President Michael D. Higgins speaking at the St. Patrick's Day Reception for Arts Officers and members of Community Arts Organisations at Áras an Uachtaráin

In a memorable twenty-minute speech the President highlighted *"the powerful and transformative role of the arts and creativity in the making of Ireland as a republic and as an idea"* and spoke of how *"the arts encourage us to go where the pain of doing things right takes you."*

The President was joined by Ciaran Benson Emeritus Professor at UCD, previous Chair of Poetry Ireland and author of the groundbreaking document known as 'The Benson Report' of 1979 which examined the position of arts in education in Ireland. Prof Benson spoke about the continued importance of arts today and its parallels to democracy in how it should be *'Of the people, By the people and For the people.'*

In hosting his last St Patrick's Day reception President Higgins was certainly enthusiastic in his reflections declaring how *"we are living in testing times where dangerous forces are yielding immense unchecked power"*. He was encouraging to all those who were in attendance to play their part, to continue to dream, encourage and to create.



Arts Officers from across the country with President & Mrs Higgins at Áras an Uachtaráin on St. Patrick's Day evening.

An Táin Arts Centre

The Spirit Store was the venue for **Seisiún Palaistíneach** on Friday March 21. Originally commissioned by Muireann O'Sullivan for Culture Night 2024, this is an unforgettable evening of music and unity as Irish and Palestinian musicians come together. A unique event that blends the soulful strains of traditional Irish music and with the rich, evocative sounds of Palestinian melodies.

Exhibition – coming up in April is the annual exhibition from Dundalk Photographic Society. Launching on April 12 this year marks the 46th anniversary since the foundation of the society and features over 100 images.

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

Creative Spark

Following the success of their pop-up Brigid exhibition at the Downtown Hub, Creative Spark Print Studio held a 'Snakes' exhibition during March in honour of St. Patrick. The artwork included pieces by artists Claire McAteer, Sean Cleary, Grainne Murphy, Viola Wang and Omin.

Oriel Centre – played host to The Vaselines on March 22. The band that Kurt Cobain called his favourite songwriters in the world, this performance was one of only three Irish dates they have this year.

For more information on upcoming events in the Oriel Centre please see <https://orielcentre.ie/>

Highlane's Gallery

Exhibitions:

Ignite – Teenagers/Youth Curate – Teenagers from Highlanes Youth Panel curated an exhibition from the collection with new acquisitions by artists Diarmuid Woodcock & Asha Murray, who were in attendance for the launch with a brief introduction to the work. The exhibition opened on March 22 and will close on April 5.

As the **Gutter Habit** exhibition by Alexis Harding and Emma Roche comes to a close on April 12, Highlanes will be straight into set up for **Divining**, by Erin Lawlor. Opening on April 26 this exhibition explores a sense of place.

Highlanes Gallery celebrated **St. Patrick's Day** in style with a Drop-In Drawing Day for all the family. They also had St. Peter's Male Voice Choir perform for a special lunchtime event.



St. Peter's Male Voice Choir at Highlanes.

For details on all upcoming exhibitions and events at Highlanes please see <https://highlanes.ie/all-events/>

Droichead Arts Centre

As part of their **Spring/Summer Theatre Club**, Droichead Arts Centre hosted Mary Kate Flanagan and her production "**Making A Show Of Myself**" on March 21. This unique theatre piece was rooted in Seanchas (the Irish tradition of live storytelling). Mary Kate showed how stories save our sanity and

connect us, illustrating her case with six captivating true-life tales that have earned her Grand Champion Storyteller titles in both Ireland and America.

To celebrate **World Poetry Day**, Drogheda Creative Writers held a special event in the arts centre on Saturday March 22 where poets from all corners of the world living in Drogheda were invited to read at the event promoting peace, creativity, and inclusion.

The **Droichead Youth Theatre Drama** classes are still going for 2025, along with the **Droichead Film Club** and **Droichead Book Club**. For more details on the drama workshops, film club or book club see <https://www.droichead.com/whats-on.html>

Drogheda Classical Music Series

DCMS held its penultimate event of the 24/25 series on March 28 with a special evening featuring the **Contempo Quartet and Friends**. Known as the ABBA of the classical music world the Quartet performed a one-off programme of octets by Mendelssohn and Glière. The DCMS final event will take place on Friday April 11 with one of Europe's most prestigious pianists at the moment, **Katya Apekisheva**. The series finale will feature works by Tchaikovsky, Schumann and Nicole Kapustin. For full details and tickets see <https://droghedaclassicalmusic.com/>

Funding

The **Arts Council** of Ireland have a range of funding streams open throughout the year. Currently open for submission are the Agility Award, Creative Schools Initiative and Writers in Schools Scheme. For details on these, and other funding streams, with the arts council please see <https://www.artscouncil.ie/available-funding/>

The **Louth County Council Arts Grants** have all now been assessed and letters issued to all applicants with regards to the outcome of their submissions at the end of March. A list of all successful recipients will be listed on the arts service's website <https://createlouth.ie/funding/>

A call out will issue in April for submissions from artists and organisations to take part in this year's Culture Night in September. Application forms and guidelines will be available also on the website <https://createlouth.ie/funding/> before Easter.

Creative Ireland

Our first in-house led project for 2025 is underway with Rehab Care and their upcoming theatre production in the Autumn 'Frankenstein.' Participants will be learning about costume and set design, as well as film making, with a short documentary on the development process also being developed over the coming months.

Our Community Grant awards were announced at the end of March, and we look forward to seeing the projects unfold over the coming weeks and months. Successful projects include a series of storytelling sessions in nursing homes in conjunction with An Táin Arts Centre and facilitator Sarah Guppy; the design and creation of a Hex Based sculpture with Boomerang in Drogheda; the creation of a series of personalised self-portraits with Dundalk Active Retirement group and artist Shauna Swords; and the completion of a children's illustrated book that encourages a sense of stewardship over ecology and wildlife in the area with artist Sean Cleary.



Soprano Lisa McGuinness with a resident in Moorehall Lodge in Ardee during one of our Creative Ireland projects, in partnership with Meath Culture And Creativity Team and facilitator Music & Health Ireland

For more information on our creative Ireland programme email creativeireland@louthcoco.ie or

check out the list of projects on the Louth page of the national Creative Ireland website <https://www.creativeireland.gov.ie/en/louth/>

Projects will be posted on the website over the coming weeks as they begin.

An Iarsmalann / Museum

Museum news, March 2025

The month of March has been an exceptionally busy one at the Museum, with events highlighting the rich diversity of the county's historic, linguistic and mythological richness.

Seachtain na Gaeilge

This year the Museum organised a number of talks and lectures for both Primary and Secondary schools to illustrate the broad nature of the Irish language. Over the course of the week the Museum hosted a range of topics highlighting the topicality and continued relevance of the language.

Speakers included influencer and singer, Máire Ní Churraoin, who led a number of workshops on sean nós singing, and Doireann Ní Chorrágáin, an actor and co-writer of the television series Crá, who spoke on the use of the language in film and television. Poet, novelist and playwright, Celia de Fréine, talked of her Shortlisted – An Post Irish-Language Book of the Year 'An Dara Rogha' and her new children's book on the Rising.



Máire Ní Churraoin



Doireann Ní Chorragáin

In addition to the events for *Seachtain na Gaeilge* the Museum hosted an exhibition by St. Vincent's Secondary School students entitled *Stamping Our Story – Louth; Landmarks, Landscapes, Legends and Lore*. The exhibition features a series of 'stamps' inspired by aspects of Louth's physical, historic and mythological heritage as exhibited in the Museum.

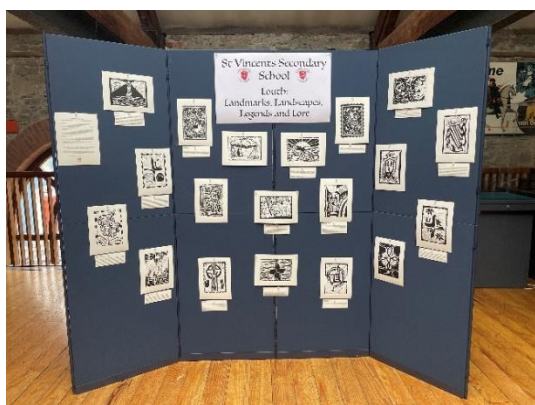
Local History Events

Over the past number of years, the Museum has promoted the latter half of March as Local History week. This year has been no different with the inclusion of a Lego brick festival celebrating the county's rich architectural landscape.



Celia de Fréine and attendees at the museum auditorium

School art exhibition



Louth exhibition by students



Knotwork pattern from Muirdeach's Cross, Monasterboice, recreated using LEGO

Through the organisation of specific workshops schools participating are invited to construct significant historic buildings or features in their area. This idea has inspired budding engineers and architects to construct their own take on Monasterboice's Round Tower, the decoration on Muirdeach's Cross and even the industrial chimney which once stood near the Rampart Road.



Monasterboice's Round Tower recreated in LEGO

Additional Activities

The Museum will host the Old Dundalk Society's March lecture with Tony Martin discussing *The FCA (Forsa Cosanta Áitiúil) The History of Volunteering Soldiering in Ireland from 1929 to 2005*

History of Volunteering Soldiering



The Old Dundalk Society's Lecture
Thursday 27th of March 2025
8.00 pm Louth County Museum. A91 EFY9

The FCA (Fórsa Cosanta Áitiúil) (Local Defence Force) the History of Volunteering Soldiering in the newly independent Ireland from 1929 until the standing down of the FCA in 2005, also referring to notable local people who served in the ACoy 8th Battalion Dundalk.

Tony served in the FCA initially as a private soldier, in the same unit (ACoy 8th Battalion) where he quickly moved through most NCO ranks, and he was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in 1981 and retiring as a captain in 2003.

Email: info@olddundalksociety.ie
Website: www.olddundalksociety.ie

The Museum will also host a coffee morning familiarisation trip for service providers in the area to

help create and enhance ties within the county's tourism sector.

Recent acquisitions



Collection of golf ball markers

Amongst the Museum's most recent acquisitions is this remarkable collection of golf ball markers. Coming from a range of golf competitions and courses from throughout the world (including the Carroll's Irish Open, the Eddie Macken Golf Classic, the US Masters, and the Open Championship), the collection reflects an obvious lifetime love of the game and its traditions.



Golf ball marker for the Carroll's Irish Open