



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 6^ú Eanair 2025
Dated 6th January 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,

Tuairisc Bhainistíochta Mhíosúil an Príomhfheidhmeannach – 31st December 2024
Chief Executive's Monthly Management Report – 31 Mi na Nollag 2024

A Chara,

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

I would like to take the opportunity to highlight several aspects of the December performance: -

- The assistance given by the Council to Christmas Public Realm enhancements and events in Dundalk, Drogheda and Ardee.
- The positive news that Ardee Castle Works are now gone to construction tender. It is also hoped that there will be no further appeals on the Ardee Bypass which was before the courts recently.
- The ongoing programme of activity under the Town Centre first theme which now has planning activity in Dunleer, Clogherhead, Castlebellingham and Collon.

As you all know David Conway will commence as Chief Executive on January 20th and I know you will all wish him well in his endeavours and I would like to thank you for the co-operation whilst I have been “*standing in*” since September last.

Happy New Year

Is mise le meas.



Joe McGuinness
Temporary Chief Executive

Clár an Ábhair / Contents

<u>Seirbhísí Tacaíochta / Support Services</u>	4
Tuairiscí Airgeadais / Financial Reports	
Teicneolaíocht Faisnéise agus Chumarsáide / Information & Communication Technology	
<u>Forbairt Gheilleagrach Straitéiseach / Strategic Economic Development</u>	12
Forbairt Gheilleagrach / Economic Development	
Oifig Fiontair Áitiúil / Local Enterprise Office	
Caidreamh Eorpaigh / European Relations	
Oidhreacht / Heritage	
Seirbhísí Dóiteáin agus Éigeandála / Fire & Emergency Services	
Cosaint Shíbhialta / Civil Defence	
Pleanáil / Planning	
Bainistíocht Forbartha / Development Management	
Forfheidhmiú Pleanáil / Planning Enforcement	
Pleanáil Chun Cinn / Forward Planning	
<u>Comhfhorbairt Áite agus Forbairt Fhísticiúil / Placemaking and Physical Development</u>	23
Seirbhísí Bóithre agus Áitiúla / Roads & Local Services	
Déanamh Áite / Place Making	
Forbairt Fhísticiúil / Physical Development	
<u>Forbairt na hEagraíochta / Organisational Development</u>	57
Seirbhísí Corporáideacha / Corporate Services	
Tacaíocht Pobail agus Spórt / Community Support & Sport	
Inbhuanaitheacht / Sustainability	
Seirbhísí Tréidliachta / Veterinary Services	
Acmhainní Duine / Human Resources	
<u>Forbairt Shóisialta / Social Development</u>	79
Tithíocht / Housing	
Seirbhísí Cultúrtha / Cultural Services	
An Chartlann / Archives	
Leabharlanna / Libraries	
Na hEalaíona / Arts	
An Iarsmalann / Museum	

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^ú Mí na Nollag 2025 / Expenditure to 31st of December 2025

Rannóg / Section	Actual Expenditure to 23/12/2024 / Caiteachas Iarbhír go dtí 23/12/2024	Caiteachas Buiséadaithe 2024 / Budget Expenditure 2024	% Caite go 23/12/2024 / % Spent to 23/12/2024
Tithíocht / Housing	€62,640,036	€62,912,092	100%
Iompar Bóthair agus Sábháilteacht / Road Transportation & Safety	€29,765,351	€27,583,468	108%
Seirbhísí Uisce / Water Services	€6,850,190	€8,804,737	78%
Bainistíocht Forbartha / Development Management	€32,467,794	€27,259,532	119%
Seirbhísí Timpeallachta / Environmental Services	€21,093,399	€23,558,956	90%
Áineas agus Conláiste / Recreation and Amenity	€10,471,991	€11,234,063	93%
Talmhaíocht, Oideachas, Sláinte agus Leas / Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	€1,364,210	€1,491,272	91%
Ilghnéitheach / Miscellaneous	€9,011,073	€8,839,470	102%
	€173,664,044	€171,683,590	101%

Ioncam go dtí 31^ú Mí na Nollag 2025 / Income to 31st of December 2025

Rannóg / Section	Ioncam Iarbhír go dtí 23/12/2024 / Actual Income to 23/12/2024	Ioncam Buiséadaithe 2024 / Budget Income	% Sonraisc Curtha do dtí 23/11/2024 / % Invoiced to 23/12/2024
Tithíocht / Housing	€64,070,291	€64,380,831	100%
Iompar Bóthair agus Sábháilteacht / Road Transportation & Safety	€16,227,686	€16,558,010	98%
Seirbhísí Uisce / Water Services	€5,664,031	€8,131,617	70%
Bainistíocht Forbartha / Development Management	€23,396,824	€17,277,072	135%
Seirbhísí Timpeallachta / Environmental Services	€3,978,792	€4,348,102	92%
Áineas agus Conláiste / Recreation and Amenity	€1,461,640	€1,683,163	87%
Talmhaíocht, Oideachas, Sláinte agus Leas / Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	€620,037	€558,596	111%
Ilghnéitheach / Miscellaneous	€6,068,781	€11,372,937	53%
Rátaí / Rates	€34,751,977	€34,507,064	101%
Deontas Ilfheidhmeach / General Purpose Grant (LPT)	€11,366,197	€11,366,198	100%
Soláthar faoi Iarmhéid Dochair / Provision for Debit Balance	€0	€1,500,000	0%
	€167,606,256	€171,683,590	98%

The above is the current position as of the 23rd of December 2024. The allocation of the Central Management Charge is estimated in the above figures as the allocation is not completed till mid-month. The full rates demand for 2024 is included in the above figure.

Collection rates as of 23rd of December 2024 are as follows:

Féichiúnaithe mar atá 31^ú Mí na Nollag 2025 / Debtors to 31st of December 2025

	Iarmhéid Tosaigh / Opening Balance	Sonraisc / Invoices	Fáltais / Receipts	Díscríobhanna / Write Offs	Iarmhéid Deiridh / Closing Balance
Féichiúnaithe Rialtais / Government Debtors	€28,733,539	€254,448,945	(€252,673,300)	(€0)	€30,509,184
Uadaráis Áitiúla Eile / Other Local Authorities	€93,780	€1,462,874	(€1,367,947)	(€8,220)	€180,487
Rataí / Rates	€5,352,580	€34,751,977	(€31,939,331)	(€2,552,638)	€5,612,588
Cíosanna / Rent	€2,913,161	€16,280,436	(€15,703,674)	(€84,817)	€3,405,106
Iasachtal / Loans	€297,248	€2,175,859	(€2,052,856)	(€101,475)	€318,776
Tobhaigh Forbartha / Development Levies	€10,756,762	€25,187,689	(€12,285,751)	(€11,274,636)	€12,384,064
Táilí Seirbhíse Dóiteáin / Fire Charges	€756,633	€695,879	(€492,963)	(€35,266)	€924,283
Ilghnéitheach / Miscellaneous	€2,345,328	€11,986,133	(€10,938,612)	(€209,917)	€3,182,932
Féichiúnaithe Iomlána / Total Debtors	€51,249,031	€346,989,792	(€327,454,434)	(€14,266,969)	€56,517,420

Above are the debtor balances as of 23rd of December 2024. The Miscellaneous debtor figure includes the Irish Water SLA recoupments, Corporate, Community & Enterprise, LEO, Planning, Enforcement, Environment, Sports, Vets, Arts, Roads, Library, Museum and Finance miscellaneous billings.

As we were closed over the Christmas period the above accounts still have to be updated for funds received over this period.

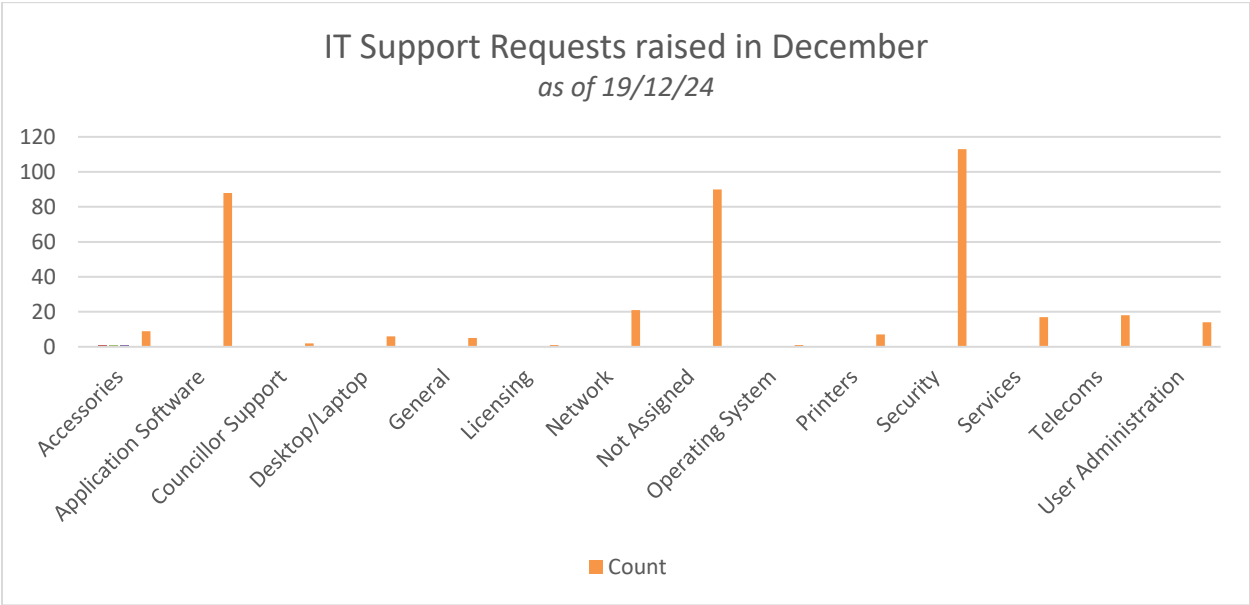
Annual Financial Statement

Work has commenced on the Annual Financial Statement and the above figures will change when yearend accruals and claims are posted. Once completed the Annual Financial Statement will be presented to Council.

Techneolaíocht Faisnéise agus Cumarsáide / Information & Communication Technology

Deasc Chabhrach / Helpdesk

Between 01/12/2024 and the 19/12/2024 there were 688 support calls logged in the IT support system. 72% of these calls have been completed.



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

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 01/12/2024 – 18/12/2024 34.5% of inbound e-mails were identified as potentially harmful.

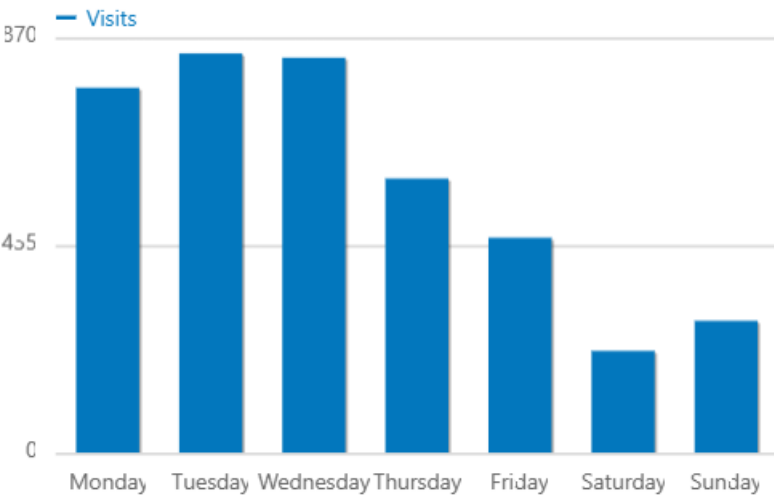
Inbound Email count	Blocked Sender	Blocked at gateway
 109,437	 397	 11,112
Total blocked by spam/virus	Blocked by content rules	Potentially harmful emails
 26,103	 159	 34.5%

Suíomh Gréasáin Comhairle Chontae Lú / Louth County Council Website

There were 14,033 unique page views of www.louthcoco.ie in between 1st and 19th December. The below table indicates the channel types which led visitors to the Louth County Council website during this period.

CHANNEL TYPE	VISITS
Direct Entry	2,721
 Search Engines	938
 Websites	183
 Social Networks	98

The Louth County Council website received most visits on mid-weekdays during December. Tuesdays and Wednesdays were the days of the week which received most visits.



Fadhb Cuardaithe Gréasáin / Website Search Issue

The IT department continue to work on a resolution for the issue where invalid links are being listed when a search is undertaken on the LCC website. A number of 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

LCC 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 3,055 views between 01/12/2024 and 19/12/2024, an average of 170 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. The Geographical Information Systems (GIS) team within the IT department developed the story map and the online interactive graveyard mapping tool. There was a considerable amount of work involved with quality checking the data and applying a consistency to the records, and the GIS Team worked closely with Jim Kerley of the Old Dundalk Society on this.

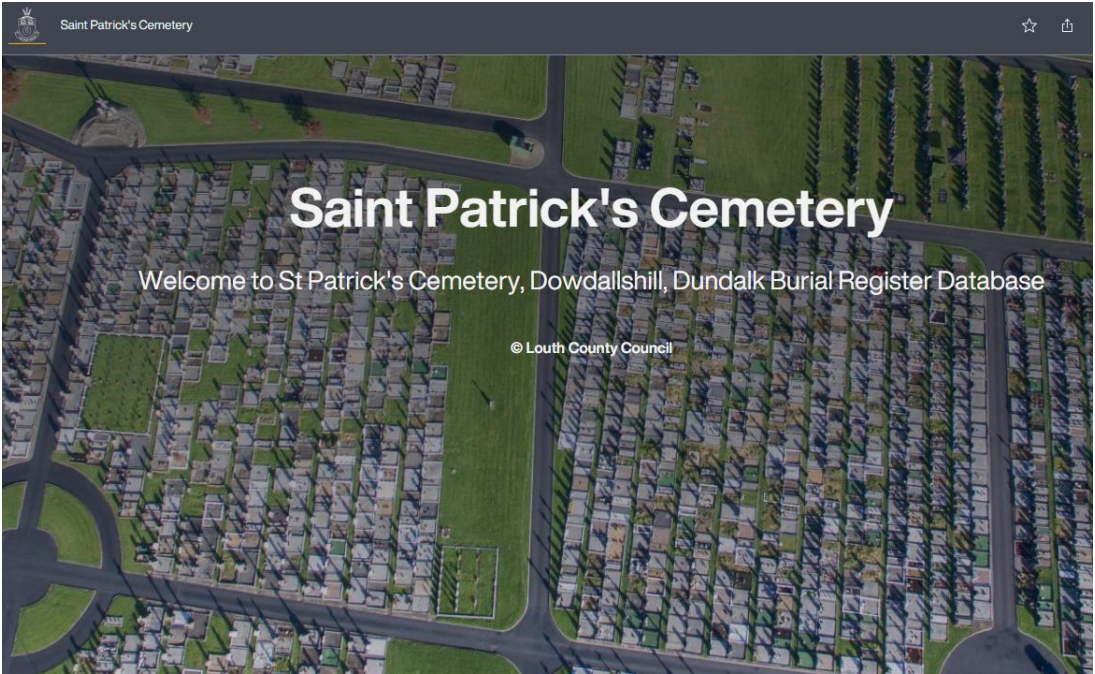


Image showing the Story Map for Saint Patick's Cemetery Dowdallshill, Dundalk

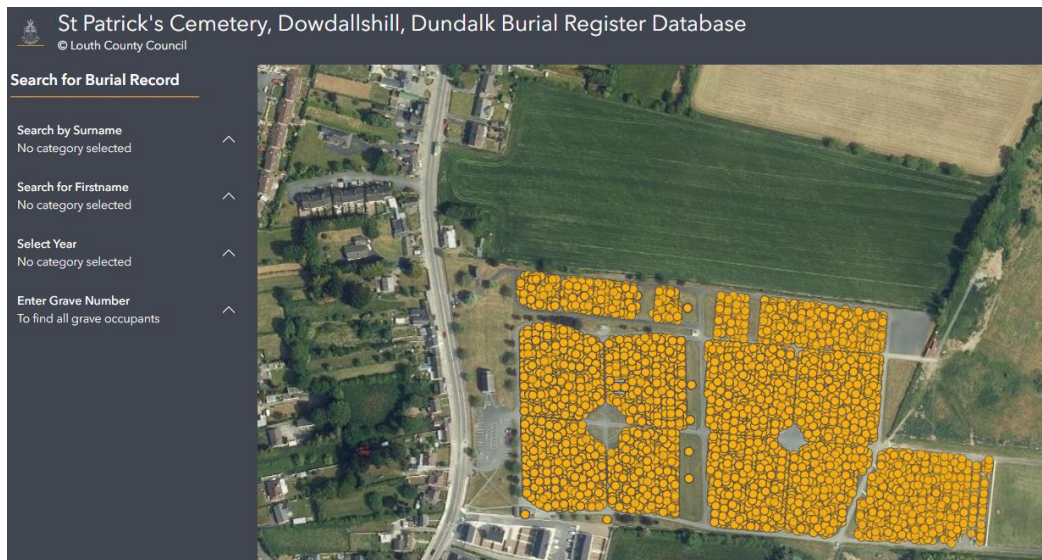
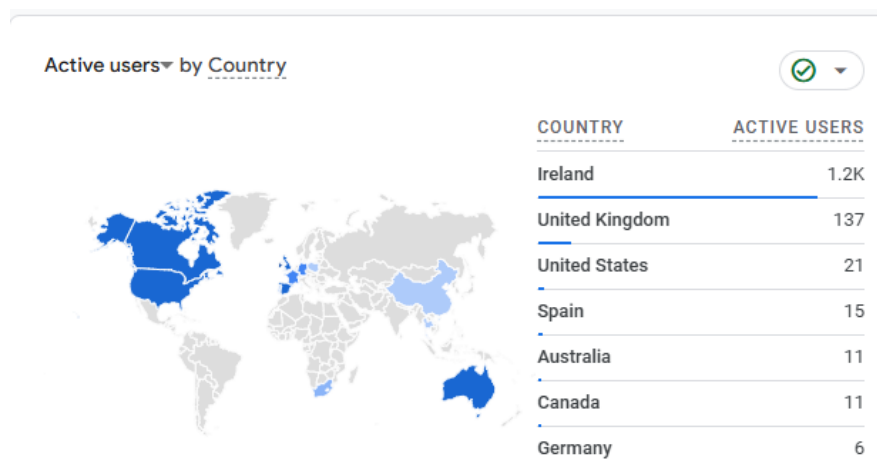


Image showing the Burial Register Application for Saint Patick's Cemetery Dowdallshill, Dundalk. The application was launched on 05/012/2024. There have been 5,165 views of the burial register between 01/12/2024 and 19/12/2024. An average of 272 views per day.



The application has been accessed by people all over the world. The chart and map below show the countries where people have accessed the map from.



The system can be accessed from [this link](#) or by scanning this QR code.



Scan to open on your phone

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 in County Hall, Dundalk on 19th December 2024.

Age Friendly Business

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

Christmas Lights

The Council were delighted to once again be one of the key sponsors for Frostival and the Christmas Lights in Dundalk. The Frostival Parade of Light took place on Sunday 17th November and was a great success.

The Council were also a key sponsor for the Christmas Lights in Drogheda. The Drogheda Christmas Lights were turned on, on Friday 15th November and there was a great turnout.

The Council are also a key sponsor of the Ardee Christmas Lights which were turned on, on Sunday 1st December and there was a great atmosphere in Ardee on the day.

Turasóireacht / Tourism

Festival Grants 2025

Applications under the Festival Grant Initiative 2025 and the Regional Festivals and Participative Events Programme 2025 is due to close on 10th January. Applications will then be assessed and successful applicants will be notified.

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

Visit Louth

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

Curio PR have been appointed to assist with the promotion of the county through all media channels. They promoted the various events available in the county over the festive period.

Work is progressing with a new Visit Louth logo with an initial meeting with the appointed designers. The new logo will be ready for launch alongside the new website in early 2025.

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.

County Louth Tourism Strategy

Runda Hospitality and Tourism Solutions have been appointed to work with the Tourism Officer on the

new Tourism Strategy and Action Plan 2025 – 2030 for County Louth. Consultation with members and stakeholders will commence late January 2025.

Urban Animation – Lú Festival of Light

It was agreed that the Lú Festival of Light will be led by Drogheda BIDS in 2025 with the support of Louth County Council.

Boyne Valley Flavours (BVF)

Boyne Valley Flavours issued a call for tender through LEO Louth for a 'Management Development Programme' for food and drink producers who wish to supply the foodservice market. Responses are being assessed, with a trainer due to be appointed shortly. The programme will commence in March.

The Centre of Food Culture, Boyne Valley

- Entries have been received from schools across Louth and Meath taking part in this year's Boyne Valley Transition Year Young Cooks competition on 23rd January.
- Progress has been made on the development of The Centre of Food Culture database following connections with the Samhain Symposium where Ireland's food networks were gathered by The Centre of Food Culture.

Geilleagar Oíche Dhroichead Átha / Drogheda Night-Time Economy

Drogheda Comedy Festival Returns



December marked the exciting announcement of the return of the Drogheda Comedy Festival for its second edition in March 2025, alongside the launch of ticket sales. Following the success of its debut in 2024, the festival will take place from 7th – 9th March and feature 18 shows with top comedians like Troy Hawke, Jason Byrne, Reginald D. Hunter, and Emma Doran. With tickets now available and more information at www.droghedacomedyfestival.ie, the festival is set to be a major cultural highlight. Drogheda's vibrant Night-Time Economy and venues in proximity makes it the perfect setting for this dynamic event, further establishing the town as a hub for entertainment and creativity. The Council continues to support the festival in partnership with Avian Talent and Love Drogheda.

South Korean Night-Time Economy Delegation Visit to Ireland

Ireland's innovative approach to the Night-Time Economy (NTE) is gaining international attention, with initiatives like the Irish Purple Flag and the Government's NTE pilot programme attracting interest from abroad. From 14th – 17th December, a delegation of 28 academics and industry professionals from South Korea visited Ireland to explore these developments. Drogheda were represented at an event in Dublin on 16th December, where the delegation learned about Ireland's NTE strategies. This visit highlighted the growing recognition of Ireland's efforts to develop a vibrant and sustainable night-time economy.

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.

'Look for Local' / 'Shop Local'

LEO Louth continued their annual Look for Local campaign to encourage people to shop local and support local this Christmas to protect local jobs and

communities. Advertising was placed in the local papers, on online media and on social media channels. Radio advertising and a competition was run with LMFM.

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

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



Look for Local Campaign

Business Advice Clinics

Sixteen business advice appointments were provided by telephone and video conference to entrepreneurs throughout the county during December together with three Financial Business Advice Clinics.

Trading Online Voucher Scheme



On 13th December, the Trading Online Voucher Scheme administered by the LEO to assist businesses get online or enhance their online presence, providing 50% support up to a maximum grant of €2,500, closed on a permanent basis. There was a lot of interest, as expected, in the scheme towards the end.

Thirty-five Trading Online Voucher applications were received in December.

LEO Louth Mentor Programme



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

Seventeen businesses were appointed Mentors during the month of December.

Microfinance Ireland (MFI) Business Loan



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

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

LEO mentors are continuing to assist MFI applicants.

Digital Start

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

on identified needs and assisting to implement a digital plan.

Energy Efficiency Grant



The Energy Efficiency Grant supports the investment in technologies and equipment identified in a Green for Business Report, Green Start Report or a SEAI Energy Audit. The grant has been increased to 75% of eligible costs up to a maximum grant of €10,000.00.

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

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

LEO Louth continues to welcome new applications.

Visit by Slovenian Embassy Attache Tina Lampelj – Tuesday 10th December 2024

Slovenian Embassy Attaché Tina Lampelj visited Dundalk on Tuesday 10th December and was met by Cathaoirleach Councillor Kevin Callan and Staff from the LEO Office. She also met with local businesses to discuss trade links. These visits have been a huge success in helping local companies to create links with foreign companies.



Sarah Mallon, Louth LEO, Tina Lampelj, Slovenian Embassy Attaché, Hanna McDonnell, Dundalk Chamber and Cathaoirleach Cllr. Kevin Callan



Tina Lampelj, Slovenian Embassy Attaché and Cathaoirleach Cllr. Kevin Callan

Oidhreacht / Heritage

Funding Schemes

December 2024 saw the completion of the recoupment of funds due to the Council from the Heritage Council, for works carried out under the Community Monuments Fund 2023 and 2024.

The Community Monuments Fund 2025 is now open for applications, as are funding opportunities for works under the Irish Walled Towns Network.

Two other Heritage Council funding schemes are also open for applications. These are the Heritage Organisation Support Fund (for regional heritage organisations) and the Heritage Stewardship Fund, which helps non-heritage officers of state bodies carry out heritage-related projects.

The Heritage Officer assisted with the processing of built heritage grants and with the naming and numbering of new housing developments.

Seirbhísí Dóiteáin agus Éigeandála / Fire & Emergency Services

Fire Service

Further meetings with the Design Team for the upgrade of Dundalk Training Centre took place on 28th November and 12th December. The development will include an extension to the training building, an extension to the breathing apparatus building and a new training tower. The design of the training building extension is nearly finalised. This new training building layout would allow two courses to be run simultaneously. Detailed design proposals are being drawn up for the Part 8 Planning process. The paved area of the Training Centre will be increased as part of the development, increasing flexibility for training courses. Once completed, this development will greatly increase the attractiveness of Dundalk as a Regional Training Centre and the demand for courses with income for the Council.

The DHLGH 2024 Fire Service Long Service Awards ceremony took place at the Knightsbrook Hotel, Trim, Co. Meath on 14th November. There were awards for 40 years' service, 30 years' service and 20 years' service. These awards were presented to the Chief Fire Officer, Assistant Chief Fire Officer, Station Officers, Sub Officers and Fire Fighters.

Fire Service Training courses during December were as follows:

- Pump Operations Refresher courses
- Fulltime fire fighter attendance on Dublin Fire Brigade Recruits course
- Dignity at Work Training

The Recruitment Plan for new retained fire fighters continued in its implementation during December. Four new retained recruits completed their three-week Recruits courses on 13th December and started in Carlingford, Dunleer and Drogheda brigades.

The HR Section has further applications for fire fighter posts. Interviews and station tests will be arranged in January / February 2025.

There was a large increase in fire safety certificate applications and commencement notices received during 2024. There have been 229 Fire Safety certificate applications to date in 2024, compared to 151 in all of 2023.

Major Emergency Management

Members of the Council's Severe Weather Assessment Team attended national Teams meetings in relation to Storm Darragh from 5th to 7th December. This was mainly a severe wind and rain event and the effect on Louth was not as significant as Western and Northern counties.

Building Control

The Chief Fire Officer attended a National Building Control Advisory Board meeting in Dublin on 12th December. A concern arising in Louth and nationally is the increasing number of '**Opt Out Commencement Notices**' for single houses, since they were introduced in 2015. It is expected that improvements will be put in place nationally, including better public information, improved supervision and certification.

The Building Control Section continued with the inspection programme and the processing of Disabled Access Certificate applications and Certificates of Compliance on Completion.

This Section has followed up with Estate Agents requiring Building Energy Rating Certificates for properties for sale or rent.

Cosaint Shibhialta / Civil Defence

During December Louth Civil Defence provided medical cover at the following events:

- Northern Lights in Dundalk for two nights
- Cyclocross, Jenkinstown
- Christmas Market, Castlebellingham

The following training was provided during December:

- Weekly training
- Cardiac First Responder
- Two Manual Handling courses
- Emergency Medical Technician Workshop

There were two missing person searches during December:

- On 13th December, a missing person search in Ardee. Louth search team and drone team deployed. A search dog from Meath Civil Defence was also deployed.
- On 15th December, a missing person search in Dundalk. A drone team deployed to assist Gardaí.

Louth Civil Defence took on 19 new recruits in 2024, with a total active membership of 69 volunteers, including 7 officers and 8 at leader level.

During 2024, Louth Civil Defence attended 48 Community duties and 64 cardiac callouts.

Louth Civil Defence ran many training events locally and volunteers provided external Emergency Medical Technician upskilling and assisted with exams in other counties.

Louth Civil Defence took delivery of a new Polaris Ranger Utility Vehicle as well as a new DJI M30T drone, both of which will significantly enhance Civil Defence's capabilities.

New uniforms are currently being provided to all volunteers.

Pleanáil / Planning

Bainistíocht Forbartha / Development Management

The Planning service indicators for the Council for the month of November 2024 are given below in tabular form. There were 107 planning applications received during the month of November of which 84 were valid. In addition, there were 29 responses received during the month to requests for further information and 21 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 Developmen ts	(C) Tithe Aonair / Individual Houses	(D) Iarratais Eile – ní gá MTT / Other applications -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	46	1	63
(ii) Líon na gcinntí inar iarradh breis eolais / No. of decisions determined which required further information	4	4	19	1	28
(iii) Céatadán na n- iarratas a diúltaíodh / Percentage of applications refused	20.00% (1)	54.55% (6)	17.39% (8)	0.00% (0)	23.81% (15)
(iv) Líon na n- achomharc a cinneadh / Number of appeals determined	3	0	4	0	7
Céatadán na gcinntí a cuireadh ar ceal ar	0.00% (0)	0.00% (0)	25.00% (1)	0.00% (0)	14.29% (1)

achomharc / Percentage of decisions overturned on appeal					
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Forfheidhmiú Pleanála – Forbairt Neamhúdaraíthe / Planning Enforcement – Unauthorised Development

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

Cur Síos / Description	Forfheidhmiú maidir le forbairt nár údaraíodh / Enforcement in relation to unauthorised development		Forfheidhmiú maidir le forbairt nár údaraíodh / Enforcement in relation to unauthorised development	
	Samhain 2024 / November 2024	Bliain go dtí seo / Year to Date	Samhain 2023 / November 2023	Bliain go dtí seo / Year to Date
Líon na nGearán maidir le Forfheidhmiú Pleanála a Imscrúdaíodh / Number of Planning Enforcement Complaints Investigated	15	241	22	218
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	17	220	15	103
Líon na Litreacha Rabhadh a eisíodh / Number of Warning letters issued	29	221	20	165
Líon na bhFógraí Forfheidhmiúcháin a eisíodh / Number of Enforcement Notices issued	2	15	2	11
Líon na cásanna a tarchuireadh le haghaidh imeachtaí dlí / Number of cases referred for legal proceedings	0	3	0	10
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 October to December 2024.

Tá na Táscairí Pleanála thíos liostaithe bainteach le Fógraí a eisíodh faoin Acht Rialtais Áitiúil (Seirbhísí Sláintíochta) 1964 sa tréimhse Deireadh Fómhair go Nollaig 2024.

Description / Cur Síos	Enforcement in relation to Dangerous Structures/ Forfheidhmiú maidir le Déanmhais Contúirteacha	
	October to December 2024 Deireadh Fómhair go Nollaig 2024	Year to Date / Bliain go dtí seo
Number of Dangerous Structures files opened / Líon na gcomhad Déanmhas Contúirteach a osclaíodh	14	51
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	13	55
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	9	45
Number of cases referred for legal proceedings / Líon na gcásanna a tarchuireadh le haghaidh imeachtaí dlí	0	6
Number of Prosecutions / Líon na n-ionchúiseamh	0	0
Number of Dangerous Structures Removed from the DS Register	4	24
Number of cases closed / Líon na gcásanna a dúnadh	0	27

Pleanáil Chun Cinn / Forward Planning

Proposed Material Alterations to the Draft Dundalk Local Area Plan 2024 - 2030

The Proposed Material Alterations to the Dundalk Local Area Plan and associated SEA and AA documents were placed on public display from Friday 6th December 2024 until 4.30pm on Monday 13th January 2025 inclusive. Full details can be found at:

<https://consult.louthcoco.ie/en/consultation/proposed-material-alterations-draft-dundalk-local-area-plan-2024-2030>.

Next Steps:

Following the public consultation period, a Chief Executive's report will be prepared on any submissions or observations received. The report will be submitted to the Elected Members for consideration. Members shall consider the Proposed Material Alterations and the Chief Executive's Report and shall, no later than a period of six weeks after the Chief Executive's Report has been furnished to the members, make or amend the Local Area Plan as appropriate.

Historic Structures Fund (HSF) 2025

Applications are now being accepted for the Historic Structures Fund 2025 and Historic Thatched Buildings Stream 2025 towards the repair and conservation of protected structures. The HSF will offer grants from €50,000 up to €200,000 only (up to 50% of eligible costs), and focus on larger enhancement, refurbishment or reuse projects involving heritage structures, and where:

- a) a clear community or public benefit has been demonstrated, or
- b) a clear residential benefit has been demonstrated (such projects must be advanced through the planning process as necessary).

Closing date for receipt of completed applications is 4.30pm on Friday 17th January 2025.

Full details available at:
<https://www.louthcoco.ie/en/services/planning/consultation/new-historic-structures-fund-2025.html>
<https://www.louthcoco.ie/en/services/planning/consultation/new-bhis-historic-thatched-buildings-stream-2025.html>.

Comhfhorbairt Áite agus Forbairt Fisiceach

Placemaking and Physical Development

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

- Seirbhísí Bóithre agus Áitiúla, agus Forbairt Fhisiciúil

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

- Roads and Local Services and Physical Development

David Jones
Stiúrthóir / Director



Seirbhísí Bóithre agus Áitiúla / Roads and Local Services

Ceantar Bardasach Dhún Dealgan / Municipal District of Dundalk

Ceantar Dhún Dealgan agus Cuailgne / Dundalk and Cooley Area

Piocadh Bruscair / Litter Picking	Suíomh agus méadar sa mhí / Location and metres per month
Carlingford/Omeath/Glyes Quay	Litter pick for these areas
Templetown	
Ramparts Road	
Racecourse Road	
Quay Street	
Barrack Street	
Fairgreen Road	
Castletown Road	
Lennon Melia Tce	
Riverside Crescent	
Patrick Street	
Armagh Road	
Carroll Village	
Centenary Road	
Ramparts	
York Street	
Patrick Street	
John Street	
Philip Street	
Long Walk	
River Walk to Tain Bridge	
Inner Relief Road to Racecourse Road	
Bypass at St. Helena's, Quay Street and Point Road	
Old Newry Road	
Old Coes Road	

Dublin Road Southern Link Road Muirhevnemor Estate Cox's Demesne Bay Estate Carrick Road Fatima Adree Road Avenue Road Ashling Park Estate Bottle Banks at Long Walk Harp Car Park Meadow Grove <u>Flail Cutting Ditches:</u> Mullaharlin Road Moorland Road <u>Tree Surgeon:</u> Castletown River	
Folmhú Araidí Poiblí / Emptying of Public Bins Emptying of bins in Carlingford, Omeath, Greenore, Templetown Car Park, Glyes Quay Area Dundalk – nightly by contractor	Líon agus minicíocht / Numbers and frequency 200 Bins
Scuabadh Bóithre / Road Sweeping Contract sweeper as per contract – nightly, daily, weekly and monthly	Bealaí gach tseachtain / Routes per week

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, and report sent to the Water Safety Officer in Dundalk

Líon Seiceáilte gach tseachtain / Number checked weekly

By the Water Safety Officer

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

Daily/Weekly check lists carried out by Parks Caretaker

Litter pick carried out in the parks

Suíomhanna Seiceáilte Laethúil / Number of sites checked daily

Suíomh / Location

Nótaí / Notes

Deisiú Bóithre / Road Repairs

Cooley

Ongoing patching of local roads also isolated pothole within the area at R173, Bush

Euro Services were in patching section of the R173, Bellurgan Straight, Lordship Village, Bush, Riverstown, R176, Carlingford, Greenore Junction, Carlingford Village

Consists of digging out patches and replacing with hot tar

Dundalk

Oaklawns
Hardy's Lane
Coe's Road East
Coe's Road West
Bishops Court
Meadow Grove
Roden Place
St. Brigid's Special School
St. Patrick's Cemetery

Feabhasúchán Draenála / Drainage Remediation	<u>Cooley</u> Glenmore, Omeath, Moneycrockroe LP3084, Aghameen LP308424, Upper Jenkinstown – work consisted of cleaning back drains, opening culverts, Jet-Vac lorry in cleaning gullies, Bellurgan Straight, R174 Ravensdale, Carlingford, Omeath, Piedmont <u>Dundalk</u> Batchelor’s Walk Mary Street North Grey Acre Road Broughton Street St. Patrick’s Cemetery Medhbawn Priorland Road Demesne Shopping Centre The Magnet Mary Street South <u>River Grilles:</u> Mill Road Bellewsbridge Road Fatima P.S. Fiels Crossing Point, Ardee Road Rear of Houses, Alphonsus Road Avenue (Opp. ESB Buildings) Greenacres Coes Road Grey Acre Bridge Dublin Road, Ladywell Bridge between Stapleton Place and Thomas Street Martins Garage Ramparts Car Park East North of Ramparts Car Park Bridge at St. Patrick’s Cathedral River Lane Williamson’s Place Jocelyn Street Quay Street	
Crainn Leagtha nó Chontúirteacha / Fallen or Dangerous Trees	Clearing trees after Storm Darragh	
Cothabháil Cosán / Footpath Maintenance	<u>Cooley</u> Greenore R175 – replacing section of footpath	

	<u>Dundalk</u>	
Deisiú Soilse Trácht / Traffic Light Repairs	Castletown Road/Fatima	
Marcáil Bóithre / Road Markings	<u>Cooley</u> <u>Dundalk</u>	
Comharthaíocht Signage	<u>Cooley</u> Ongoing maintenance of advance warning signs at all junctions, also replacing liners at junctions <u>Dundalk</u>	
Dumpáil Neamhdhleathach / Illegal Dumping	<u>Cooley</u> <u>Dundalk</u>	
Glanadh Graifítí / Graffiti Removal	Red Barns Road Inner Relief Road	



Footpath improvement works at Greenore



New salt silo at Faughart yard

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
	Dromiskín – 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 As per bin management	Líon gach seachtain / Number per week
Seiceál Baoithe Tarrthála / Ring Buoy Checking	Líon Seiceáilte gach seachtain / Number checked weekly Blackrock – 7 checked weekly Annagassan – 11 checked weekly

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

Suíomhanna Seiceáilte Laethúil / Number of sites checked daily

Kilanny, Louth Village, Castlebellingham – checked weekly

Blackrock – checked weekly

Suíomh / Location		Nótaí / Notes
Deisiú Bóithre / Road Repairs		Road repairs and patching and cleaning up Tree pruning/vegetation maintenance/verge trimming Resurfacing/overlay work (by contract)
Feabhasúchán Draenála / Drainage Remediation		Drainage maintenance – cleansing and gully cleaning, opening outlets and storm drains, preparation for surface dressing
Crainn Leagtha nó Chontúirteacha / Fallen or Dangerous Trees		Cleaning fallen trees and debris
Cothabháil Cosán / Footpath Maintenance		Footpath renewal
Deisiú Soilse Tráichta / Traffic Light Repairs		
Marcáil Bóithre / Road Markings		Renewal of junction markings Renewal of existing and provision of additional road markings
Comharthaíocht / Signage		Cleansing/repair/replacement/new signage
Dumpáil Neamhdhleathach / Illegal Dumping		Collection of dumped waste for disposal Collection and disposal after community clean up

Glanadh Graifítí / Graffiti Removal		
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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
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
As per bin management	
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	L-1209-0 Cookstown, L-1260 Shanlis, Salterstown Pier removing algae, L-6220 Dunany R165 Shanlis to Blakestown N52 Ballybailie Cross N2-475 Drogheda Road Ardee N2 Roundabout for Carrickmacross	
Feabhasúchán Draenála / Drainage Remediation	L-5267 Funshog, L-5268 Belpatrick, L-1260 Shanlis	
Crainn Leagtha nó Chontúirteacha / Fallen or Dangerous Trees	Dromin Shanlis Cardistown	
Cothabháil Cosán / Footpath Maintenance		
Deisiú Soilse Tráchtá / Traffic Light Repairs	Main Street, Ardee – lamp fault identified DR52 – Pedestrian crossing at the castle	
Marcáil Bóithre / Road Markings		
Comharthaíocht / Signage	Installing Tidy Towns Signs in Collon	

Dumpáil Neamhdhleathach / Illegal Dumping		
Glanadh Graifítí / Graffiti Removal		

Ceanntar Buirge Dhroichead Átha / Borough District of Drogheda

Ceantar Baile Dhroichead Átha / Drogheda Town Area

Piocadh Bruscair / Litter Picking	Suíomh agus méadar gach mí / Location and metres per month
Port Oriel Pier, Clogherhead	7 Daily
Clogherhead Beach	8 Daily
Port Beach	6 Daily
Termonfeckin	6 Daily
Baltray	3 Daily
Seapoint Carpark	3 Daily
	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 cleaned daily during working week, all are also checked and cleared every Saturday afternoon
	Drogheda Rural Bring Banks are cleared daily during working week
Folmhú Araidí Poiblí / Emptying of Public Bins	Líon agus minicíocht / Numbers and frequency
	Drogheda Town Centre – litterbins emptied daily circa 60 every morning
	234 litter bins (including 10 Solar Bins) are emptied weekly in town
	Dominic's Park & Mell River Walk emptied daily

	South Louth Drogheda Municipal District rural area's public litter bins are emptied twice a week or daily when needed especially at beaches – Port Oriel/Seapoint/Termonfeckin/Baltray – at least 40 bins per day Approach roads in Drogheda town emptied twice a week
Scuabadh Bóithre / Road Sweeping	Bealaí gach seachtain / Routes per week 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 and Tinure Drogheda Town Boyne River walkways are swept 3 times per week (Monday, Wednesday & Friday) Road sweepers town centre/approach roads with particular attention to Boyne Road, Riverwalk, Carparks, Ballsgrove Hill, Paradise Place, St. Peters Place, Marian Court, Poorhouse Lane and St. Mary's Street General maintenance and cleaning at St. Dominic's Bridge, Grove Hill and Ramparts Cleaning and removing of debris at the Glen Stream off Newtown Termonfeckin Road Commenced power washing of pavements on West Street

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, 3 in Drogheda Rural Area, skate park, adult exercise equipment cleaned and disinfected)

Suíomh / Location		Nótaí / Notes
Deisiú Bóithre / Road Repairs	Pot hole repairs at Townrath, Rathmullan Road, Platin Road, Duleek Street and Baltray Road Preparation of sandbags and monitoring of high tide levels prior to Storm Darragh at Wellington Quay, North Quay, Ushers Corner and Queenboro Road Works Programme – Resurfacing Works 2024 The following roads have been completed: Newfoundwell Road Platin Road Dual Carriageway Bredin Street Boyne Road Bull Ring	

	Duleek Street Patrick Street/Bolton Street Junction Martello Villages Traffic Calming Ramp at Congress Avenue	
Feabhasúchán Draenála / Drainage Remediation	Gully cleaning contract has now commenced – 500 gullies cleaned in November/December – approach roads and Drogheda Town Centre Gully repair at Ballsgrove & Mary's Street	
Crainn Leagtha nó Chontúirteacha / Fallen or Dangerous Trees	Clean up after Storm Darragh, trees blocking roads at Newfoundwell Road, Termonfeckin Road, North Road, Old Slane Road, Duleek Street, Millmount, Beamore Road, Rosevale and Hill of Rath.	
Cothabháil Cosán / Footpath Maintenance	Commenced planned footpath repairs at: Georges Street/R132 Yellowbatter	
Deisiú Soilse Tráchtá / Traffic Light Repairs	Donegan's R132 – Pedestrian Crossing not working School warning signs Termonfeckin DR04 – R132 at Bull Ring North (traffic light head twisted) DR07 – R132 at Cement Road/Crosslanes DR12 – Marsh Road/Scotch Hall (green lamp out)	
Marcáil Bóithre / Road Markings	Road markings due to be laid at Patrick Street and Bolton Street	
Comharthaíocht / Signage	New directional bollards replaced at island on R166 Newtown Road following RTA Steep embankment signs placed at walkway on Poorhouse Lane	

	Additional flexi bollards at Beamore, Railway Bridge	
Marú fialí / Weed killing		
Díghalrú glantacháin boscaí bruscair / Litterbin cleaning disinfecting	On going on a weekly basis	
Dumpáil Neamhdhleathach / Illegal Dumping		
Glanadh Graifítí / Graffiti Removal	Meatmarket Lane Marsh Road Steps	



Bollards replaced at Termonefeckin



Tree removed at St. Dominic's Park

Comhfhorbairt Áite / Placemaking

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

West Gate Vision (Drogheda)

The Westgate planning application, lodged in December 2023, is currently with An Bord Pleanála for determination.

The Westgate planning documents, including the suite of drawings, the EIAR and the AA Stage 2 reports, represent a large volume of material and full details of the proposed works are available here: <https://consult.louthcoco.ie/en/consultation/westgate-2040>



Artist impressions of Westgate project

St. Nicholas Quarter and Backlands Regeneration (Dundalk)

Phase 1

Glas Civil Engineering Ltd. are currently on site, works are being completed on a phased basis to minimise impact on residents and businesses. Phase A has been completed and works are ongoing on Phase B. The associated road closure is scheduled from mid-November for approximately 3 months. Diversion routes are in place via Castletown Road and St. Nicholas Avenue.



Works as they are being completed to Bridge St. (Phase B)



Works as they are being completed to Northgate St. (Phase D)

The contractor has, in agreement with the Council, the consultant design team, and relevant stakeholders, commenced work on Phases D and F.

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.



Artist impressions of St. Nicholas Quarter Phase 2

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

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

Investigations are ongoing regarding possible purchase of properties and their eventual end use.

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

Ardee Castle

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

The tender process for a main works contractor has closed. The tender assessment process is ongoing.

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

Living in Carlingford Visiting Carlingford



Artist impressions of Carlingford

The tender for the procurement of consultants for heritage led detailed design has been published. Tenders will close at the end of January 2025.

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

Further environmental reports are required for the Part 8 planning process and are being progressed.



Play Spaces

St Dominic's Park & The Glen

AA Screening Stage 1 report has been completed for the Glen and Part 8 documents are being prepared for Q1 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 for Q1 2025

Capital Delivery Team

Community Recognition Fund 2024 - Call 3

The third call for expressions of interest in the Community Recognition Fund (CRF) 2024 was advertised in November 2024 on the Council's website and consultation portal.

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

In this call, Louth County Council sought expressions of interest for projects from communities where the highest level of new arrivals is located. In Louth, the areas with the highest number of new arrivals are Drogheda, Dundalk, Ardee, Termonfeckin, Clogherhead, Collon & Drumcar.

Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS) 2024/25

The 2024/25 Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS) provides funding for the development of new and existing outdoor recreational infrastructure in rural areas.

It will see the development of our natural amenities such as our mountains, lakes, rivers, beaches, blue-ways, bogs, forest walks and upland areas.

Up to 90% of the total project cost of a project under the Scheme will be provided for any individual project. The remaining 10% match funding must be contributed by the successful applicant.

Louth County Council is seeking expressions of interest for projects under all measures of the scheme. A brief overview of each measure, deadline dates and links to the scheme outline and individual expression of interest forms can be found on:
<https://www.louthcoco.ie/en/services/placemaking-physical-development/funding/outdoor-recreation-infrastructure-scheme-oris/>

Tionscadail Tosaíochta do Lár an Bhaile / Town Centre First Projects

Town Centre First Plan - Dunleer



Funding of €50,000 has been awarded to Dunleer under the Town and Village, Project Development Measure funding stream. A tender is to issue in early 2025 for an architectural consultant to design a high-quality new public space. The consultant will advance this project through the planning and environmental screening stages for future development of the town to create a town centre that functions as a viable, vibrant and attractive location for people to live, work and visit, while also functioning as the service, social, cultural and recreational hub for the local community.

Town Centre First Plan – Clogherhead

A meeting was held with the town team in Clogherhead in November in relation to the opportunity sites coming forward through process.

Work on opportunity sites and possible uses are ongoing.

THRIVE – Town Centre First Heritage Revival Scheme

The Council hosted a public engagement event in the Fair Street offices on the 28th of November for the purpose of gathering views from groups and individuals on the future of the West Street area. The Council were assisted by Shaffrey Architects and Workhouse Union in staging the event which had a significant attendance with a broad range of stakeholders. The Council is reviewing the feedback received from the event and will be holding further meetings with key groups identified from the event.



Drogheda Digital Innovation Hub

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

Town Team Support Fund

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

€10k was awarded to both Castlebellingham and Collon. Craftstudio Architects have been appointed by the Council with survey work and assessments ongoing. The health check will

analyse the current trends in both towns and present these as a Town Centre Health Check documents in Q2 2025.

Vacant Homes Officer

Engagement with property owners throughout the county regarding their properties explanation of the supports available is ongoing. Vacant Homes notices continue to be affixed to several properties in the county where there is no easily identifiable owner in order to drive engagement.

All members of the public and councillors are encouraged to log suspected or known vacant homes on www.vacanthomes.ie

Forbairt Fhisiciúil / Physical Development

Tionscadail Bóithre / Roads Projects

Narrow Water Bridge

Southern Works: Surfacing of the roadways and footways has commenced, temporary traffic management for the R173 and the greenway are in place. Wearing course has been completed on the R173 and roundabout. Control building construction ongoing, up to wall plate level. Ring beam has been poured. Southern abutment wall steel reinforcement has been placed and concrete poured on the back wall with further pours on diaphragm walls.

Northern Works: Proposed surface water diversion works has commenced in the North. Construction of the embankment has largely been completed. Works on diverting the existing final effluent pipe has commenced. Piling works for the northern abutment commenced early November, 56% of piles now installed.



R173 Roundabout



Southern Abutment ongoing R.C. works



Piling Platform Northern Embankment

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

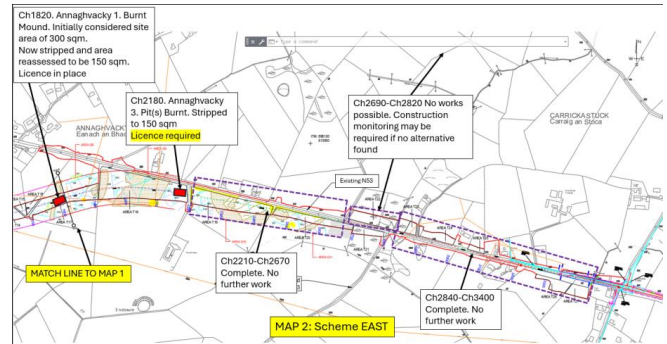
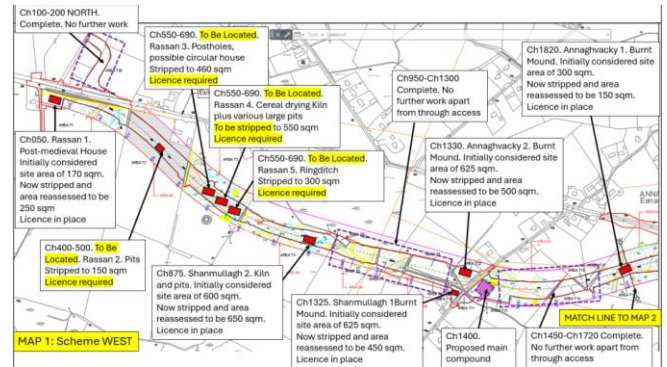
A Consultant has been appointed for mussel fishermen valuation service and has commenced meeting fishers affected by the scheme.

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

The design team, 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.

Following this and on receipt of licences Stage (ii) Archaeology will be undertaken at 10 No. sites identified during phase (i).



Test Trenching

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.

The Council await a date from the ESB on the relocation of the 38kv overhead network and when these works will progress.

N52 Ardee Bypass

A High Court Judicial Review judgement in respect of challenges made to Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and Appropriate Assessment (AA) screening decisions made by An Bord Pleanála (not to direct an EIA or AA), were made by Ms. Justice Miriam O'Regan on 14 May 2024.

The judgement by Justice O'Regan which was in favour of An Bord Pleanála was subsequently subjected to an application for a certificate for leave to appeal. The application request was

refused by the High Court on the 05 November. The deadline for any application for leave to appeal to the Supreme Court expired on Monday, 23 December 2024.

Boyne Enterprise Link Road

Ongoing consultations including a valuation process are taking place with stakeholders / landowners to acquire adjoining roadway. The CPO process has also commenced in conjunction with the valuation process. The CPO has been advertised and submissions to An Bord Pleanála close on the 11th of January.

R178 Cavan to Dundalk Strategic Route Improvement Scheme

The Department of Transport have approved the Council to appoint the Consultant through to optioneering phase of the project, with a view that subject to funding approvals further phases will follow on through to planning consent stage. Pre-start meeting with appointed Consultant is scheduled to be held in early January 2025

Glasbhealaí / Greenways

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

Section 1 – Carlingford Tourist Office to Carlingford Marina

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

Section 2 - Omeath to the Border

Mainline route of greenway complete. Substantial completion achieved.

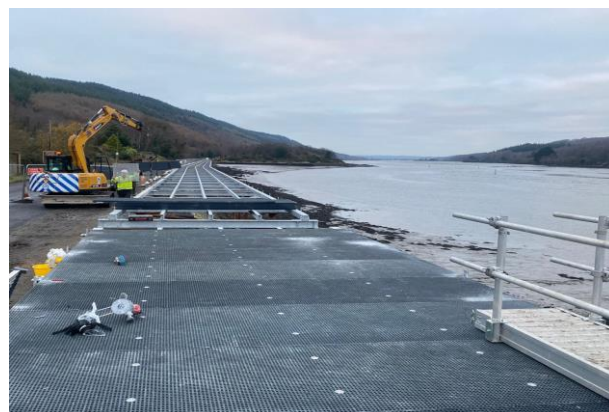
Landowner engagement ongoing on the acquisition of the CPO land parcels. The Council has appointed a land valuer for the land acquisition in Section 2 and negotiations are ongoing.

Section 3 – NI

Works continue to progress on the construction of the boardwalk.



Substructures complete between border and Rough Island



Boardwalk deck installation between border and Rough Island

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

Dundalk Bay to Carlingford Greenway

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

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

Procurement exercise is ongoing for preliminary topographical survey services. Appointment due early Q1 2025.

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.

The Independent Agronomist will be made available to landowners to fully and fairly assess the impact of the proposed Greenway on their property types. The Independent Agronomist / Property Advisor will assist in identifying a route which minimises the impact of the scheme on affected properties. The Project Agronomist / Property Advisor will also assist in agreeing upon appropriate accommodation works and access arrangements in consultation with the farmer / landowner.

An initial meeting with IFA and project team in relation to the project took place on Tuesday 19th November.

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

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

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

Tionscadail 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 will now be sought from the funding body when site fully acquired.

Dundalk Fire Station Training Centre

Stage 1 Report consisting of Project Inception and Preliminary Investigation has commenced.

Design Team co-ordination meetings are on-going. Site surveys (Topographical and GPR) have commenced to aid final design. Site Investigation surveys to begin in Jan 2025.

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

Dundalk & Ardee Flood Relief Projects

The Consultant Engineers continue to work on Stage 1 of the Dundalk Flood Relief Project. The hydraulic modelling is complete with the model outputs currently undergoing final quality assurance, with the final hydraulic modelling report Fluvial & Tidal expected early January.

The long list of proposed flood relief measures for Dundalk and Blackrock have been identified and are being hydraulically assessed, with the draft shortlisted options presented to the steering group for review.

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

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

The Site Investigation Tender Report is complete, and the Letter of Intent issued to successful contractor. It is envisaged to hold a commencement meeting in January with investigation works commencing shortly afterward. Other surveys such as environmental and archaeology are in progress which will also inform the project development.

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

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

Drogheda and Baltray Flood Relief Project

The Consultant Engineers, RPS are continuing to work on Stage 1 of the Project. A review of the modelled flood extents has been undertaken to identify where flood defences are required along

the River Boyne and its tributaries, and these are also review to check their effectiveness against present day and climate change scenarios.

A contractor has been appointed to undertake an underwater archaeology survey - this survey will provide data to inform the Scheme Analysis and Development phase of the project. The Consultant is liaising with environmental specialists regarding updating the baseline data. An additional overwintering bird survey commenced in September and will continue until March 2025.

The Consultant is developing the Scheme Analysis and Development report which will provide details of the preferred options for the scheme, demonstrating how it is economically viable, environmentally acceptable whilst also being acceptable to the local community and other stakeholders.

The Consultant has developed Technical Notes which consider the buildability of the proposed scheme with regards to existing structures including quay walls and listed buildings. RPS are liaising with the Steering Group to seek agreement on the way forward.

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

Carlingford and Greenore Flood Relief Project

CCTV and Topographical Survey Contractors have completed their initial works on site and the data is being quality assessed for use in building the Hydraulic model.

The Council and OPW are continuing to develop a brief tailored to the requirements of study area to issue to the market to appoint project consultants to develop the scheme. The Council are currently compiling a list of constraints & opportunities to potential options for incorporation into proposed brief.

In the interim the Local Authority are compiling a list of minor works which could improve the conveyance characteristics of Carlingford drainage system.

Tionscadail Muirí / Marine Projects

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

- Drummullagh, Omeath: an amended Section 177 AE (Natura Impact Statement) has been submitted to An Bord Pleanála and we await a decision on same.
- Bellurgan Point: Section 177 AE has been approved by the Board and construction tender documents are being drafted.
- Ballynamoney/Ballagan, Greenore: Section 177 AE has been approved by the Board and construction tender documents are being drafted.

It is anticipated to procure a civil engineering contractor in Q1/2 2025, with subsequent construction works programmed in accordance with the individual site's ecological constraints.

Tionscadail Cláir Scoileanna / Schools Programme Projects

Ardee E.T.N.S.

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

- Blockwork Wall ongoing 98% complete
- Roof Trusses 100% complete
- Ring Beam 100% complete
- Masonry Support 100% complete
- Attenuation Trench 80% complete
- Joisting to flat roofs 95% complete
- Cavity closers to windows – 95% complete
- Decking to roof 80% Complete
- Kalzip roof has commenced to SNU complete – Southwest wing 60% complete
- Damp course at eaves 80% complete, area at GP Hall to complete
- Watermain installation 60% complete
- Eir ducts installation 85% complete
- Plywood to flat roofs 80% complete
- Gullies 60% complete
- Entrance works along Jervis Street have commenced – wall is down, and trees removed.

Proposed Works Forecast

- Complete Rising Blockwork
- Ongoing roof installation
- Complete finish of flat roofs
- M&E containment to SNU
- Foundation of wall to Jervis St



Sewage Pumping Station under construction



School Roof under construction



Access Road under construction

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

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

They also divide the evolvement 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.

Active Travel Investment Program

2024 Budget Allocation

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

Tionscadail Tasitil Gníomhaigh / Active Travel Projects

Project Name	Allocation 2024	Project Band (updated March 2024)	Current Phase	January 2025- Project update	Anticipated Part 8 Completions, subject to NTA approval of Gateways
Drogheda: R132, Bridge of Peace to Train Station (incorporating Marsh Road)	€200,000	Band 2 €5 - €20M	Phase 3 – Preliminary Design	The Design Team have now considered all submissions received as part of the first Non-statutory Public Consultation process held in Sept / Oct 2023 and have incorporated some observations into the Preliminary Design i.e. Phase 3 Gateway 3 Report approved by the NTA in September 2024. The recent Gateway 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, which was very well attended, with a prior briefing to Drogheda MD members online on 14th October. All observations, comments and feedback obtained during the 2nd Non-Statutory Public Consultation event will be reviewed by the Design Team and were necessary incorporated into amended design drawings. With the new information our designers envisage that this project will be brought forward for Part 8 public display in early 2025. 	Proposed Part 8 display early Q1 2025

Project Name	Allocation 2024	Project Band (updated March 2024)	Current Phase	January 2025- Project update	Anticipated Part 8 Completions, subject to NTA approval of Gateways
Drogheda: R166 Termonfeckin Rd, design.	€100,000	Band 2 €5 - €20M	Phase 3 – Preliminary Design	Consultants RPS Group have completed draft Gateway 3 Report. It is anticipated to have an on-line briefing on the proposed scheme to Drogheda Municipal District Councillors in January 2025 in advance of non-statutory public consultations.	Proposed Part 8 display late Q1 2025
Drogheda: R168 Collon Rd, Hill of Rath Roundabout (RAB) and Rosehall RAB.	€100,000	Band 2 €5 - €20M	Phase 3 – Preliminary Design	The final Gateway 3 Report was submitted to the NTA in Dec. 2024, to allow the Active Travel Team to proceed to Part 8 public Consultation in early 2025.  <i>View of Collon Rd looking South East from Mell Roundabout</i>  <i>View of R166 looking East from Hill of Rath Roundabout</i>	Proposed Part 8 display Q1 2025

Project Name	Allocation 2024	Project Band (updated March 2024)	Current Phase	January 2025- Project update	Anticipated Part 8 Completions, subject to NTA approval of Gateways
Drogheda: Rathmullan Road including Marley's (Pathfinder Project)	€150,000	Band 2 €5 - €20M	Phase 3 – Preliminary Design	Part 8 Public Display commenced on 22nd October 2024 with all submissions by the closing date of the 3rd of Dec. 2024. Documents were available on the National Portal https://planning.localgov.ie/en/part-8/application/bacd54f4-8bc0-11ef-a181-005056880cd6  <i>View of Marley's Lane looking South from Aura Leisure</i>	Proposed Part 8 CE Report to be brought to Drogheda MD in Feb 2025.
Drogheda Dublin and North roads, design.	€100,000	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 on Friday 20th September to examine proposals on Active Travel measures under the Dublin Rd, railway bridge. Further meetings are planned. Gateway 3 (Preliminary Design Report) was completed in Dec 2024.  <i>View of Dublin Rd, Drogheda Rd looking South</i>	North Rd, Drogheda - Proposed Part 8 display Q1 2025 Dublin Rd, Drogheda - Proposed Part 8 display depending on dialogue with NTA / Irish Rail.

Project Name	Allocation 2024	Project Band (updated March 2024)	Current Phase	January 2025- Project update	Anticipated Part 8 Completions, subject to NTA approval of Gateways
Dundalk: R132 Inner Relief Rd. (Pathfinder Project)	€250,000	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 Q1 2025.  View of Inner Relief Rd, Dundalk looking north from Hoeys Lane Roundabout extract from Fly Through	Completed – Part 8 Approval on the 10th September 2024 Construction Tender Procurement Stage May 2025
Dundalk: Dublin Rd Xerox Junction to Ladywell Bridge	€150,000	Band 2 €5 - €20M	Phase 4 Statutory Process	Part 8 proposals were brought to Dundalk MD Meeting on the 10th December 2024.  View of Dublin Rd, Dundalk looking north at DKIT Entrance	Part 8 Approved in December 2024.

Project Name	Allocation 2024	Project Band (updated March 2024)	Current Phase	January 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.	€150,000		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 Parks to deliver key elements associated with pedestrian provision and Safe Routes to School infrastructure.  <i>View of Ard Easmuinn Looking North from China Bridge</i>	Proposed Part 8 Q1 2025
Transport / Mobility Plans: Including Dundalk, Drogheda, Ardee, Clogherhead, Dunleer, Termonfeckin & Castlebellingham	€450,000	Band 1 €0 - €5M	Phase 2 - Concept and Options	Drogheda Area Based Transport Assessment (ABTA) Transport consultants Systra appointed in September 2024 and are progressing Stage 2 – Options Development. Dundalk Area Based Transport Assessment (ABTA) The Elected Members, having considered the draft Dundalk Local Area Plan 2024 – 2030, of which the Transport Plan forms part of the background documentation, and the Chief Executive's Report on submissions received and following a series of Special Meetings, resolved, at the monthly Council meeting on 18th November 2024 to amend the draft Dundalk Local Area Plan 2024-2030. A copy of the Proposed Material Alterations are on display from Friday 6th December 2024 until Monday 13th January 2025 (inclusive)	N/A

Project Name	Allocation 2024	Project Band (updated March 2024)	Current Phase	January 2025- Project update	Anticipated Part 8 Completions, subject to NTA approval of Gateways
Hoey's Lane, Dundalk	€165,000	Band 1 €0 - €5M	Phase 3 – Preliminary Design	GW3 Reports approved by the NTA in Dec 2024. Public consultation proposed for Q1 2025.	Proposed Part 8 Q1 2025
Mill Street, Dundalk	€145,000	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 Q1 2025.	2025
Hill Street Bridge to Train Station, Dundalk	€235,000	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 Q1 2025.	2025
R132 Dublin Road, (Rank Xerox Junction to Greengates)	€160,000	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 to closed on 12th December 2024. Design Team will be reviewing comments in order to update Preliminary Design Drawings.  <i>View of entrance to Xerox Campus Looking to Xerox Junction</i>	Proposed Part 8 Q1 2025

Project Name	Allocation 2024	Project Band (updated March 2024)	Current Phase	January 2025- Project update	Anticipated Part 8 Completions, subject to NTA approval of Gateways
Moneymore, Active Travel elements	€100,000	Band 1 €0 - €5M	Phase 5 – Concept Proposals	Design Consultants (RPS Group) appointed and have design completed for the proposals. CPO notice placed on display and on site, with proposal on display from 17th December 2024 to 11th February 2025.	N/A
Drogheda improvement of accessibility	€50,000	Band 1 €0 - €5M	Phase 6 – Construction	Various locations in the town of Drogheda Works completed in Q4 2024	N/A
Dundalk improvement of accessibility	€60,000	Band 1 €0 - €5M	Phase 6 – Construction	Various locations in the town of Dundalk Works completed in Q4 2024	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 Patrick's School, Drogheda 4. Scoil Aonghusa, Drogheda	€930,000	Band 1 €0 - €5M	Phase 6 – Construction	In accordance with the provisions of Section 38 of the Road Traffic Act, 1994 as amended, proposed works at schools 1, 3 & 4 were advertised in the local press and Consult Louth for a period of two weeks from Tuesday 9th July, 2024 to Tuesday 23rd July, 2024 inclusive. Works relating to Rehab Care on Mill Street, will be incorporated as part of Mill Street, Active Travel Project. Works completed in Dundalk & Drogheda with minor snags to be completed in Jan 2025. Below are images of Sundays Gate Drogheda Works.	N/A

Project Name	Allocation 2024	Project Band (updated March 2024)	Current Phase	January 2025- Project update	Anticipated Part 8 Completions, subject to NTA approval of Gateways
Safe Routes to Schools (Round 2) 1. Bellurgan National School 2. Callystown National School 3. St Mary's NS, Knockbridge 4. St. Malachy's GNS, Dundalk	€125,000	Band 1 €0 - €5M	Phase 2 - Concept and Options	The Design Team were appointed in March 2024 and have commenced Option Development and Preliminary Design. Section 38 to be displayed by Q1 2025 Workshop held with the NTA in December 2024 on preliminary Design Drawings and approved in principle. It is anticipated that all design and public liaison will be completed in Q1 2025 for Round 2 schools and all infrastructure delivered in 2025. 	No part 8's but possible Section 38's

Project Name	Allocation 2024	Project Band (updated March 2024)	Current Phase	January 2025- Project update		Anticipated Part 8 Completions, subject to NTA approval of Gateways
						
Transport Mobility Hubs				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, escooters 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
- Veterinary Services
- Human Resources

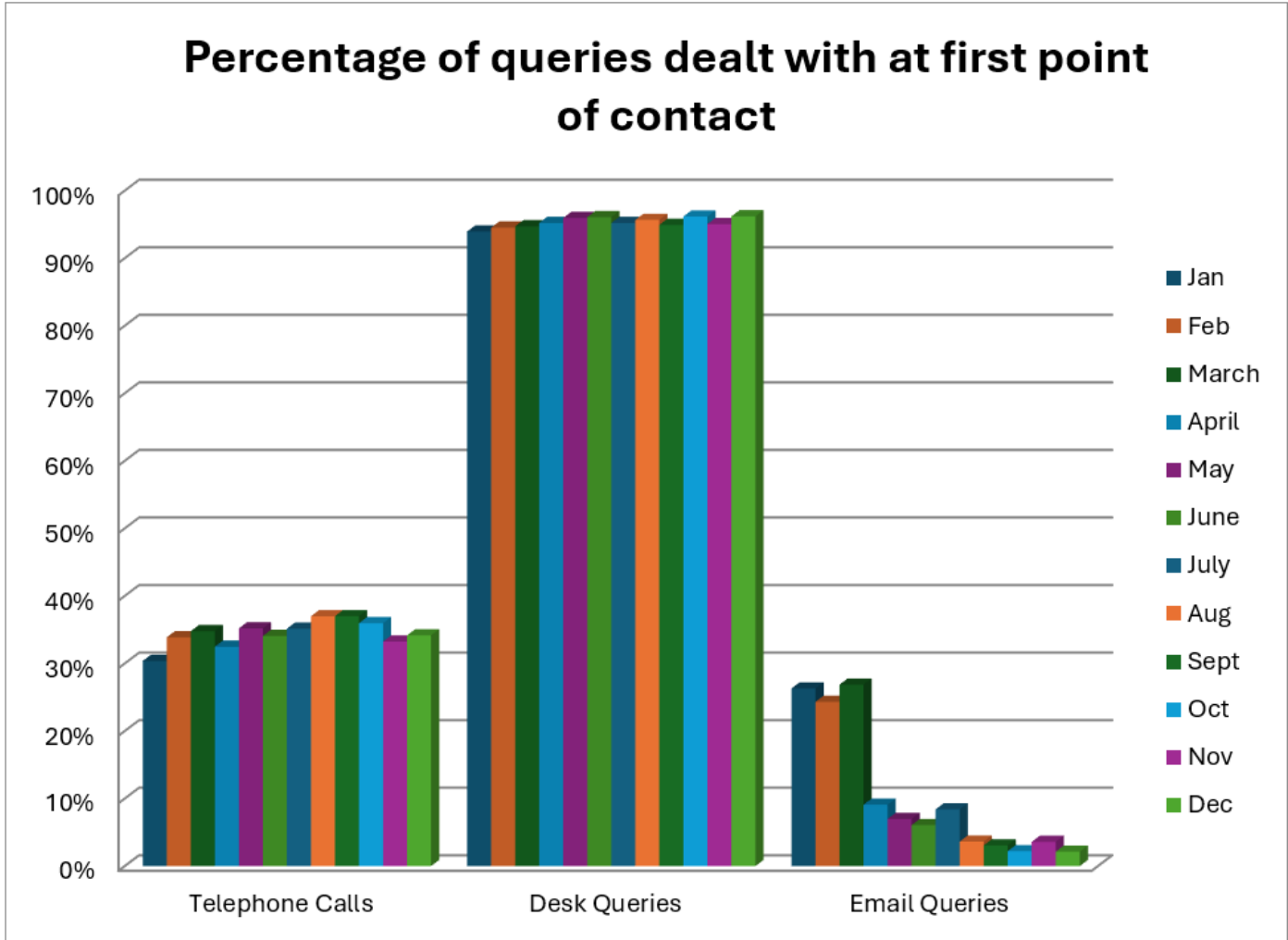


David Hanratty
A/Stiúrthóir / A/Director of Service

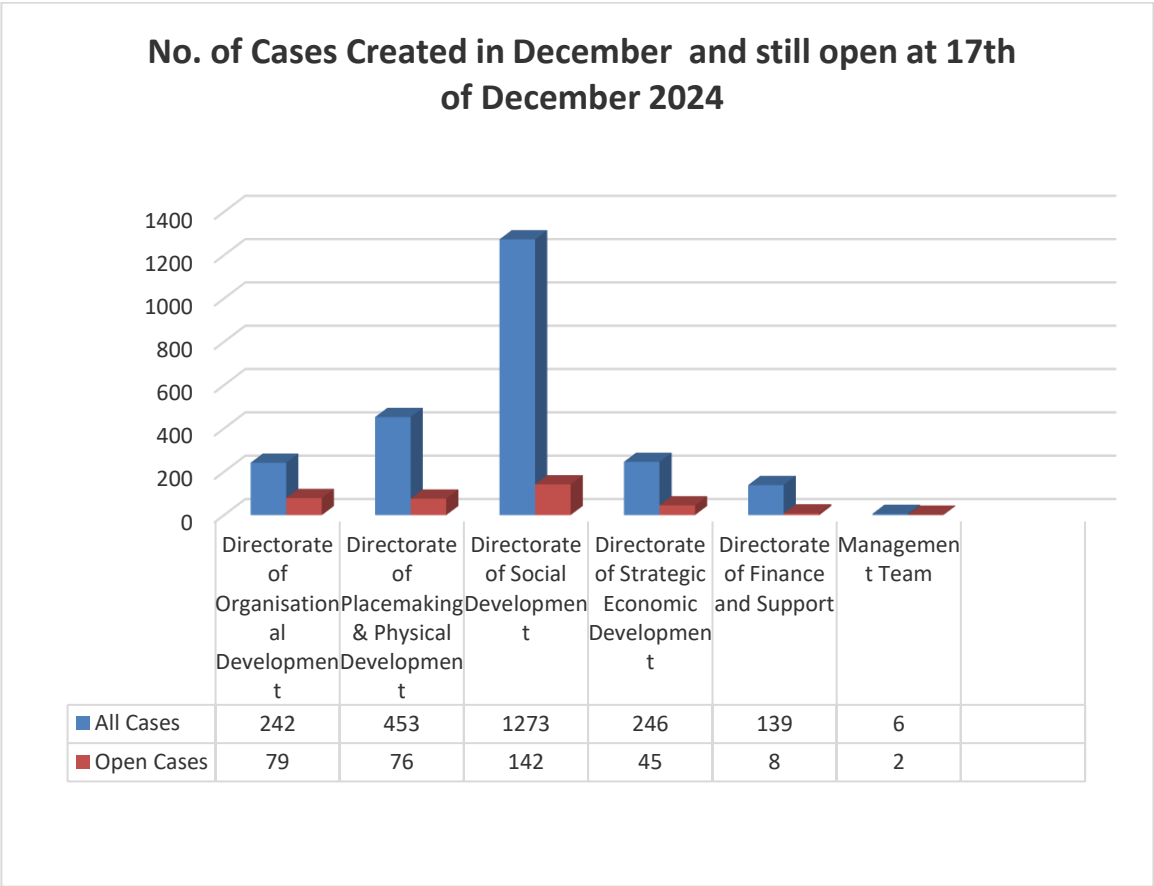
Seirbhísí Corporáideacha / Corporate Services

Tuairisc ar Sheirbhísí Custaiméirí / Customer Services Report

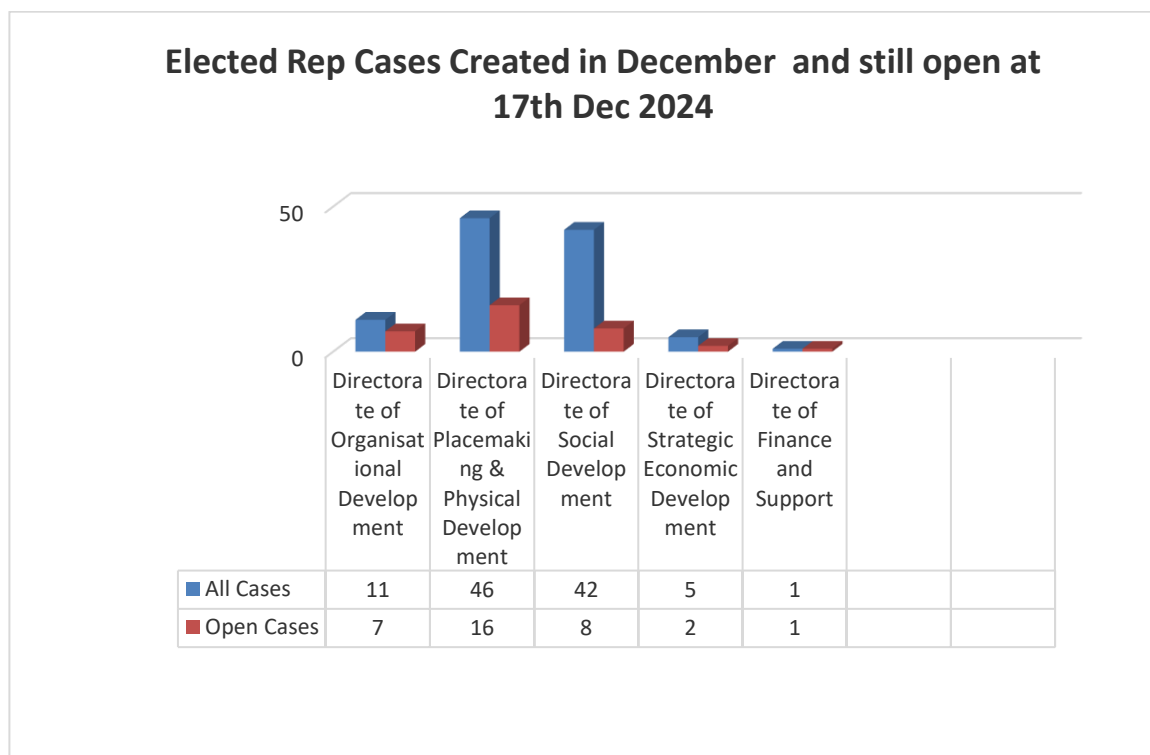
During the month of December 2024 Customer Services dealt with queries 5,064 calls, 656 e-mails and 4,946 counter queries.



There were 2,359 valid Sugar CRM cases recorded during December of which 352 (14.9%) remain unresolved, broken down by directorate as follows:



During December 2024, 105 elected reps. cases were recorded on Sugar of which 34 (32 %) remain unresolved broken down by Directorate as follows:



The table below illustrates activity in the redress area.

Request Received	2023 Total Jan- Dec	2024 Total Jan - Dec	Dec only 2024
FOI REQUEST	122	149	7
DSAR	13	12	0
DATA PROTECTION REQUEST	9	20	3
(AIE) INFORMATION	19	17	1
OMBUDSMAN REQUEST	22	22	1
COMPLAINTS	39	38	1

Clár Togthóirí / Electoral Register

Following the General Election which took place on the 29th November, the Franchise Section has received very positive feedback on the accuracy of the Register of Electors from Elected Members, staff and members of the public.

It was an extremely busy period for Franchise Staff in the lead up to the Election however all applications were processed on time. However, it is noted that there are approximately 1,500 new applications and updates that require processing by the Franchise Section, all received after the closing of the balancing list.

It was evident that the national & local advertising campaign run by both the Electoral Commission & Louth County Council created a lot of awareness with the public.



Tacaíocht Pobail / Community Support

Contae Lú atá Báúil le hAois / Age Friendly Louth



Promoting Positive Ageing in Drogheda

Age Friendly Louth hosted a workshop in The Barbican Centre Drogheda on 28th November 2024. The purpose of the workshop was to discuss and agree a suite of projects to promote positive ageing in Drogheda & South Co Louth.

Members of the local community including members of the Louth (OPC) Older People's Council, young people from Ballymakenny College, St Marys Secondary School and Coláiste na Hinse, as well as community representatives from across Drogheda & South Louth attended the workshop.

There was lots of engaging discussion among the participants as they co designed several creative arts, intergenerational and awareness raising projects to challenge ageism and reframe the conversation around ageing in Drogheda and south Co Louth.

A common theme across all project proposals was encouraging social connections and providing opportunities to talk and chat and share experiences across the generations.

Age Friendly Programme Manager Sinead McVerry will now craft the discussions into definite project proposals and identify funding streams to apply for financial supports and identify project partners to help deliver on the co-designed projects.



Co Designing projects to Promote Positive Ageing in Drogheda, Co Louth.



Age Friendly Christmas Bags

The Community Team in Louth County Council packed and prepared over 250 Christmas bags full of sweets, treats and goodies for older and vulnerable people in Co Louth.

The bags were distributed to our community partners including Meals on Wheels, An Garda Síochána, Louth libraries house bound service and memory cafés in Dundalk & Drogheda, for delivery to older and vulnerable people across the county.

Age Friendly Louth funded the project and members of the Louth Older People's Council have helped to distribute the bags amongst the community.



Maeve from Drogheda Memory Café, Rose from Meals on Wheels & Harry from Cooley collecting Christmas Bags to distribute among older members of the community



Christmas Bags in Library for Memory Café and being distributed to house bound library clients

Evaluation of Challenging Ageism Drama Project

Participants in the Challenging Ageism Drama Project took part in a focus group to evaluate the project and measure attitudes to ageism of participants, facilitators and technical staff involved in the project.

Researchers from DKIT have been engaged to undertake a full appraisal of the project, to evaluate if/how the project contributed to health and wellbeing of participants and to identify features relevant for transferability, replication, and sustainability for future challenging ageism projects.



Participants in Challenging Ageism Drama Project

Healthy Louth

Healthy Louth provides an update on the Healthy Ireland Programme of Work to the Louth Homeless Action Team

On 4th December 2024, the Healthy Louth Coordinator, Paula Keenan, attended the Louth

Homeless Action Team meeting to provide an update on the Healthy Louth Programme of work. Homelessness and individuals at risk of homelessness are priority target groups identified in the current Healthy Ireland Fund 2023-2025 Local Strategy for Louth.

During the meeting, Paula delivered a comprehensive overview of the ongoing programme activities and highlighted the challenges faced in engaging with this vulnerable group. The discussion underscored the need for a targeted and collaborative approach to ensure meaningful impact.

As a follow-up, it was agreed that a planning meeting would be arranged in early 2025. This meeting will focus on designing Healthy Ireland Funded activities specifically tailored to support those living in homelessness services across Louth, reflecting the ongoing commitment of Healthy Louth to improving health outcomes for marginalised groups through strategic, inclusive, and sustainable measures.

Update from the Healthy County Coordinator to the Connecting for Life (CFL) Implementation Group – 11th December 2024

The Healthy County Coordinator Paula Keenan provided an update on the progress of the CommUnity Connect Louth & Meath project, specifically highlighting developments with the 5 Ways to Wellbeing Guide.

Key points of the update included:

- The Community Connect Louth & Meath resource was successfully launched at the Health & Wellbeing Event held on 23rd October in the Fairways Hotel, Dundalk.
- Distribution of the Guide: The guide has been shared with key community partners and local organisations through both in-person events and online platforms. Efforts are underway to ensure broad accessibility, particularly for harder-to-reach communities.
- Training and Recruitment Plans: Work has begun on the recruitment of Community Connect Champions, who will be trained to promote the guide and facilitate its integration into community

initiatives. This training programme aims to empower local representatives to become advocates for wellbeing.

- **Feedback and Engagement:** Early feedback on the guide from community groups and stakeholders has been overwhelmingly positive. The guide's practical approach to wellbeing has resonated with those involved, reinforcing the importance of maintaining momentum in its promotion.
- **Next Steps:** Looking ahead, the focus will remain on expanding the reach of the guide, supporting champions in their roles, and fostering collaboration between groups in the network. These steps will further embed the wellbeing framework into community life while ensuring the sustainability of the project.

The update concluded by reinforcing the guide's potential as a key resource for embedding wellbeing principles into community life and its alignment with the Healthy Ireland agenda. The CFL Implementation Group expressed their support for the next stages of the project and their commitment to continuing collaboration on this initiative.

Louth LCDC Health and Wellbeing Sub-Committee Final Meeting of 2024 – 12th December 2024

The Louth LCDC Health and Wellbeing Sub-Committee played a pivotal role in the success of the Healthy Louth programme throughout 2024. Their dedication and collaborative efforts have been instrumental in driving key initiatives, ensuring the programme's growth and positive impact across the community.

The final meeting of the year was an opportunity to reflect on the achievements of 2024 and to discuss plans for 2025. The Sub-Committee's ongoing support and strategic guidance will be critical as we continue to create and enhance health and wellbeing opportunities for all residents in County Louth.

Key highlights discussed during the meeting included:

- Acknowledgment of 2024 achievements and initiatives driven by the Healthy Louth programme.
- Strategic planning for 2025 to build on existing successes and introduce new opportunities for health and wellbeing in the community.

Healthy Louth and the wider Community Team would like to say a huge thank you to the Louth LCDC Health and Wellbeing Sub-Committee for their commitment throughout the year and we look forward to working together to create an even healthier and stronger community in 2025.



Louth LCDC Health & Wellbeing Sub-Committee Meeting

Dear Future Me Exhibition Saturday 14th December 2024 - Event Highlights

The closing event of the 'Dear Future Me' project for 2024 took place at the Spirit Store and was a resounding success. The event, held in collaboration with Emergence, featured a showcase of young musical talent, a captivating performance by Brendan Lambe and his magical bunnies Abra and Cadabra, and even a special visit from Santa.

The atmosphere was festive, with attendees thoroughly enjoying the creative and interactive elements of the day.

This event was brought to you by Creative Ireland, Creative Health and Wellbeing in the Community Fund, Shared Island Initiative and marked the

conclusion of our 2024 'Dear Future Me' project. Stay tuned for more exciting developments in 2025.



Performers at the 'Dear Future Me' Event in the Spirit Store, Dundalk



Attendees pictured with Santa at the 'Dear Future Me' Event in the Spirit Store, Dundalk

LEADER Programmes



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

LEADER Project Funding Approved

The LAG at its December meeting approved funding support, in the amount of €82,639.70 for 4 LEADER projects. The projects supported are across the county under the Themes of: Rural Environment & Climate Change and also Economic Development and Job Creation.



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

The DRCD have confirmed the following budget allocations in respect of the delivery of the Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme (SICAP) for 2025 for Louth.

Louth SICAP Annual Budget 2025	
SICAP Budget 2025	New Arrivals Budget 2025
€1,703,245.00	€238,309.00

The annual planning process is drawing towards completion, which will see the Draft SICAP 2025 Plan for Louth submitted by Wednesday 18th December. The annual plan outlines the proposed actions for the year ahead and the targets and outcomes that will be achieved as a result. It also provides an opportunity to link SICAP core areas of work and actions with the LECP priorities. The LCDC must review the annual plan and assess it to ensure it is in line with local priorities and with the SICAP Programme Requirements. This process begins in January, with final LCDC approval by 28th February 2025.

Greener Christmas Poetry Competition 2024

The Community Support team proudly announced the successful conclusion of the 'Greener Christmas Poetry Competition 2024' as part of its Seasonal Christmas Waste Management campaign. The awards presentation ceremony, held on Thursday, December 12th, at the Fair Street Offices, Drogheda, recognised the efforts of primary schools

across the county in promoting a festive season where we try to reduce waste, recycle more and consider the impact our choices have on Food and Waste.

This year we awarded prizes to schools from the Municipal Districts of Ardee and Dundalk and the Borough District of Drogheda, with the winning school from each of the three areas receiving a prize of €200. There were individual pupil awards for 1st, 2nd and 3rd prize-winners and an overall county winner. The winning poems will be broadcast on LMFM over the Christmas & New Year period as part of Louth County Council Seasonal Christmas Waste Management Campaign.



Cathaoirleach Cllr Kevin Callan and Mr. Finbar Gethins, Senior Executive Officer, pictured with winners from the Municipal Districts of Ardee and Dundalk and the Borough District of Drogheda

PEACEPLUS



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



PEACEPLUS
Northern Ireland - Ireland
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The date for Tender Submission Training has been set as Wednesday 15th January 2025 at 9.30 am. Invitations have been circulated to those who attended the PEACEPLUS Pre-Procurement meeting held on 21st November 2024, and to a wider audience including the PEACEPLUS Partnership, the Public Participation Network, the Louth Local Enterprise Office and wider PEACEPLUS contacts.

Ukraine Humanitarian Response

Offer A Home Programme

Property Figures as at 18/12/2024

Properties offered in December	1
Families moved into properties in December	0
Expressions of interest in being accommodated received from families in December	6
Property offers recorded to date	80
Owners successfully contacted to date	79
Properties currently occupied	39
Beneficiaries currently assigned	133
Assessments carried out to date	58
Assessments currently underway	0
Properties assessed as suitable to date	40
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	5
No of beds delivered*	375 incl LCC refurb

*224 beds delivered by LCC pre ERUP

Local Authority Integration Team

The team continued their training programme with courses provided by Crosscare, Drogheda Women's Refuge and Ruhuma. The training was focussed on Migrants Rights, Domestic Violence and Sex Trafficking.

Dundalk FM hosted the LAIT along with several stakeholders who have supported us throughout 2024. The purpose of the interview was to promote the positive work and contribution that migrants are making in Co. Louth. Ina McCrumlish from Louth Local Development Company, Kayleigh Mulligan from Louth Volunteer Centre and Declan Cassidy from Eurav participated in the conversation which was hosted by Cathal McCooley.



Interview hosted by Dundalk FM

On December 4th, Louth Local Development hosted Leah O'Shaughnessy and Melanie Martin, authors of *We Are Human*. The LAIT team were invited along to attend the event. The book is a collection of stories from people who have sought refuge in Ireland. The ladies were inspiring and outlined their reasons for writing this book. The LAIT team hope to host the ladies in 2025.



Ms. Leah O'Shaughnessy & Ms. Melanie Martin at event hosted by Louth Local Development

Sport

Dundalk Sports Centre

Santa visits for Disability Groups

On December 10th a very special guest arrived from the North Pole! The group began class as usual doing chair exercises and as Santa appeared, the room filled with screams of joy and the participants ran to greet Santa. All participants got a picture with Santa and a selection box.



Santa Visit at Dundalk Sports Centre

Older Adults Christmas Party

On Wednesday the 11th of December the Sports Centre hosted a Christmas Party for the older adults that attend all our classes. There was a high demand for tickets to attend the party, with 150 people arriving on the day. The day began with a Zumba class followed by bingo, a quiz, music from a Traditional Band and finger food. Our sports hall was unrecognizable after the set up needed to prepare for the day. There were spot prizes for bingo and the

quiz, and the day ended with a raffle where all collections were in aid of North Louth Hospice.



Dundalk Sports Centre ready for the Older Adults Christmas Party

Children’s Christmas Activities

As the year ended for Afterschool’s and Junior Wheelchair basketball, the children enjoyed fun games and Christmas music followed by meeting Santa and receiving selection boxes. All were extremely grateful and looking forward to Christmas.



Children from the Afterschool’s Basketball at Dundalk Sports Centre



Junior Wheelchair Basketball Players with Santa at Dundalk Sports Centre

Louth Local Sports Partnership

Coach & Volunteer Education Programmes 2024

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

Safeguarding

Activity	Date	Venue
Safeguarding Level 1	10 th December 2024	Online
Safeguarding Level 1	17 th December 2024	Online

Sport Ability Day a huge success in Termonfeckin

Louth Local Sports Partnership was delighted to celebrate International Day for persons with a disability by hosting a Sportability event on Sunday December 1st in St Fechin’s GAA to showcase the wide range of accessible sport and physical activity opportunities for persons with a disability in Louth.

The event provided attendees with an opportunity to experience a range of activities provided by local clubs such as GAA, Football, Boccia, Dance, Yoga, Wheelchair Basketball and many more.

Information stands were also part of the event with organisations such as IWA Sport, Active Disability Ireland, Vision Sport Ireland and Special Olympics Ireland in attendance to provide information on their activities.



Sport Ability Day at St. Fechins GAA in Termonfeckin



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

Sustainability

Waste Enforcement

Summary of Complaints

A total of 12 complaints were received and investigated by the Waste Enforcement team in December 2024, some of which remain open pending further investigations.

A total number of 264 complaints have been received in 2024 to date.

Waste Facility Permits/Certificates of registration

One Waste Facility Permit review application has been reviewed in December 2024.

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

Fixed Payment Notices continue to be issued under the byelaws for failing to remove bins from a public place. To date, a total of 17 FPNs have been issued under the byelaws. FPN payments which have not been received within the 21 days are being referred for legal action.

Bin presentation surveys are being carried in areas where bin presentation and storage of bin receptacles is an issue. FPNs are being issued accordingly.

Article 27 By-Products

By-product notifications are made to the EPA through an online portal. The Councils Waste Enforcement Section have a role to carry out site inspections at sites of origin and/or sites of destination to check material meets criteria of notification.

A total of 36 notifications have been received to date in 2024 for investigation.

Solid Fuel Regulation

In Dec 2024, the council carried out 7 Solid Fuel inspections in Co. Louth which involved a formal inspection of retailers selling or distributing solid fuels including service stations, supermarkets and hardware stores. Overall good compliance with the Solid Fuel Regulations was noted. The labelling of solid fuels was inspected, and no issues were identified.



Diesel Laundering Waste

There were no Integrated Bulk Containers dumped so far in December 2024. The total cost for clean-up of diesel laundering waste so far in 2024 is approximately €53,750.

Anti-Dumping Initiative (ADI)

In Dec 2024, the Department issued payment of €76,774.52 to the Council under the ADI scheme for the completion of the Mattress and Sofa Amnesty Events held at sites in Dundalk, Drogheda and Ardee in Sept 2024.

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 December, Litter Wardens completed 95 investigations in response to dumping reported by members of the public. 19 Fixed Penalty Notices were issued in December where evidence was found under the Litter Pollution Act 1997.

Attached are some photos of waste, and clean ups carried out by the Council Litter Wardens throughout the county:

- Templetown Beech
- Williamsons Place, Dundalk
- ESB Substation





Environmental Regulation

Water Quality and Complaints

There were 10 Water pollution complaints received in November, 7 of which related to general water pollution and 3 related to agriculture complaints. Investigations and site visits were carried out in all cases and all complaints were investigated with four complaints remaining open.

Air & Noise Pollution Complaints

Two air pollution complaints were received this month. They were investigated and closed out. Four noise pollution cases were received, 2 of which have been closed out and 2 are in progress.

Farm survey Inspections

During the month of December, the Council carried out 6 planned farm survey inspections under the Good Agricultural Practice Regulations.

Complaints were received in December regarding slurry spreading during the closed period. Following inspection and reporting they were referred to the Department of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries for cross compliance.

River Water sampling and Water framework directive

Routine surveillance and operational monitoring of rivers for the water framework directive programme and EPA schedule has been completed for December 2024.

Discharge Licences

Assessment inspections were carried out on 8 monitoring results received by the Council in December for Section 4 Discharge Licences.

Licensed landfills

Monthly monitoring of groundwater, surface water and leachate was carried out in December 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. Two incidents were uploaded onto the EPA EDEN website in December. They related to flare operation at Drogheda landfill and Whiteriver landfill. The incident at Whiteriver has now been closed off. Corrective action has been taken at the Drogheda landfill incident.

Septic Tanks

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

Rural Water Programme Capital Funding for Group Schemes

The Council in consultation with the Group Water Schemes applied to the Department for Housing, Local Government and Heritage under its call for bids from Local Authorities for funding under a planned three-year Multi Annual Rural Water Programme 2024 – 2026. The Department has now processed Measure A1 and the Group Water Scheme have been notified. The expert panel are continuing with their evaluation under the remaining measures A4, A5 & A9 and notification of any successful application will follow in due course.

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

Individual Domestic Water Supplies Grant

A total of €314,582.52 in grants was paid in 2024 for Individual Domestic Water Supplies (more commonly called private wells).

Domestic Wastewater Treatment Systems Grant

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

Domestic Lead Remediation Grant Scheme

There were no applications received in December for Lead Replacement.

Climate Action

Louth County Council Climate Action Plan 2024 – 2029

The Climate Action Team continue to implement the Councils Climate Action Plan, 2024 – 2029.

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

EU Mission, Adaptation to Climate Change

Members of the Climate Action Team are taking part in a series of training organised by the EU Climate Adaptation Mission. This is designed to build

capacity for stakeholder engagement specifically around climate adaptation.

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



Climate adaptation

Climate Outreach GAA Green clubs' event

The Councils Climate Action Team joined forces with GAA clubs from across Louth for the counties first ever Green Club event in the Louth GAA centre, Darver, on 27th November. Over 60 representatives attended from GAA clubs across the county.

The Green Club Programme, a partnership between the GAA and local authorities, was established in 2020 to support GAA, LGFA and Camogie clubs in acting across the five areas of Energy, Waste, Water, Biodiversity, Travel & Transport and is funded with support from the Department of Environment, Climate and Communications.

Organised by the Councils Climate Action team in collaboration with Louth GAA and featuring a range of GAA and expert speakers, the event showcased examples of how Louth clubs can work to future-proof financially and physically, whilst benefitting their communities and the environment by engaging in green projects.

Speakers at the event included: Colm Marry, Louth GAA Vice Chairperson, Colm Holmes, Safety and Facilities Officer Louth GAA, Míde Ní Shúilleabháin, Green Programme Advisor (Croke Park), Pádraig Fallon, Chair of the Green Club Committee (Croke Park), Brian Cafferty, Geraldines GFC, Susan Richardson, Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI), Ashling Burns, Dunleer Energy team, Helen Hanratty, Biodiversity Officer Louth County Council and Naomi O' Donoghue, Dundalk Credit Union.

With the launch of Phase 3 in the programme, the aim of the Louth Green Club event was to promote sustainability within the GAA communities and encourage participation and awareness raising around the themes which all are crucial to climate action.

The GAA, LGFA and Camogie Associations are inviting new clubs to apply to become Green Clubs. Applications are open from now until January for the next round of the Green Club programme.



Helen Hanratty Biodiversity Officer LCC, Fiona Lennon Community Climate Action Officer LCC, Ashling Burns Dunleer Energy team, Elizabeth Kearney Dunleer Energy team, Tracy Fitzpatrick Climate Action Officer LCC, Padraig Fallon GAA Green Club's Chairman Croke Park, Gerry Reaburn Dunleer Energy Team

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.

To date, two projects have completed in full under the Community Climate Action Fund. Drogheda Town F.C have replaced their halide floodlighting with LED lighting to become more energy efficient

and improve their carbon footprint. This project consisted of upgrading 22 lighting poles.



New LED lighting at Drogheda Town F.C

Dundalk Schoolboys League have also completed their project under the Community Climate Action Fund. The club have upgraded their halide lighting on their training pitch to LED lighting to increase energy efficiency. The project consisted of upgrading 6 lighting poles.



New LED lighting at Dundalk Schoolboys League training pitch

Both projects have shown to deliver direct carbon savings while also empowering low carbon communities, meeting the objectives of the Community Climate Action Fund.

Biodiversity Action

The Louth County Council Local Biodiversity Action Plan Pre-Draft public consultation closed on 6 December 2024.

A series of drop-in events were held over the 6-week consultation period with sessions being held in each of Louth's libraries. The consultation was also promoted in local media, on social media at the Louth Science Festival and at the Louth GAA Green Clubs event. More than 35 responses were received from local individuals and organisations. The feedback is greatly appreciated and will help to shape the Plan and the actions we take. The Biodiversity Officer will be working over the next few months to prepare the final plan.

Have your say!

Louth County Council

Local Biodiversity Action Plan

Pre-Draft Consultation

Attend a drop-in event:

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

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

Send an email: biodiversity@louthcoco.ie

Deadline for responses:
 4pm Friday 6 December 2024

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

Comhairle Contae Lú Louth County Council

Comhairle An Chomhairle Oidhreachta The Heritage Council

Council Facilities

Dundalk Museum – Boiler Replacement

Work commenced in December to restore heating at Dundalk Museum. The works included stripping out and replacing the old boilers and all associated ancillary network. This work will be supplemented in Q1 2025 with the procurement of a new Heat Pump for the County Museum.



Works in progress to replace the gas boiler at Dundalk Museum with a temporary gas boiler system

Lighting Upgrades

Work has commenced for LED Lighting upgrades at the following Louth County Council Buildings:

- Dundalk Library & Bookstore
- Ardee Civic Office
- Millmount Museum

These upgrades came from the energy team's Energy Projects Plan 2024. The goal for these works is to help the Council achieve our Public Sector obligations and targets for 2030.



Lighting Upgrades at Ardee Civic Centre & at Dundalk Bookstore

Carlingford Fire Station Solar PV

An application has been submitted to SEAI for Non-Domestic Micro-Generation (NDMG) for the installation of a 7.9 kWp Solar PV System. The Energy Team will use this site to trial the Solar PV to battery Pilot Scheme. This project should be completed Q1 2025.

Drogheda Fair Street Francis Johnson Building Planned Upgrades 2025

Planning for Upgrade of 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

The Facilities Team recently completed refurbishment works around the Carpark and associated areas at Drogheda Leisure Centre operated by Aura for the Council. Logic Security Ltd. has now been engaged by the Council to improve the Fire Alarm at the Leisure Centre. The works have commenced and are expected to be completed early in 2025.

Ardee Civic Centre and Ardee Court House Roof Work

Works to repair the roof at Ardee Court House are completed. A new Liquid Seal was applied to the roof of the Court House, located at Ardee Civic centre. In addition, the works included internal ceiling repair. The works were undertaken for the Council by contractor Dublin Flat Roof Specialists.



Repair Works at Ardee Court House Roof Oriel Centre, Dundalk - South Gable

New works to improve weather resistance of the building were undertaken at the Oriel Centre, Carrickmacross Road, Dundalk recently. The works involved the replacement of lead around the roof of the south gable wall and chimney and removal of moss and overgrowth. The works also included new

lime pointing to full wall area. The works were undertaken for the Council by McGuigan Builders of Co. Monaghan and inspected by Liam Mulligan, Conservation Architect.



New Works to reduce Water Ingress at Oriel Centre Dundalk

ENERGY

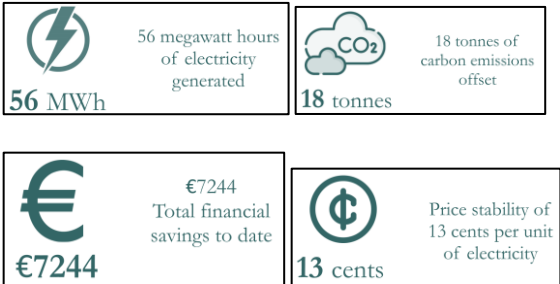
Louth County Council Energy Use

Optimising Power @Work Programme and Energy Initiatives

County Hall Solar PV Review

As part of our Optimising Power @ Work Programme, the Solar Photovoltaic (PV) System at County Hall was reviewed and the salient outputs are as follows:

- Price stability of 13 cents per unit of electricity
- 56 megawatt hours of electricity generated
- 18 tonnes of carbon emissions offset
- €7,244 Total financial savings to date



Graphics Showing Benefits for Solar Panels at County Hall

Reduce your Use November '24

The Council continues to participate in the Government's "Reduce Your Use" energy efficiency campaign.



This month's focus is Christmas Power Down and minimising the demand on the national electricity network at peak times.

We promoted the ESB Network's programme Is This a Good Time? and signed-up to get information and tips via email and SMS to help people take control of their electricity usage at home.

At work, promotions focused on devices and safely switching off and/or unplugging before leaving work and especially when leaving for holidays to reduce electricity demand at peak times.



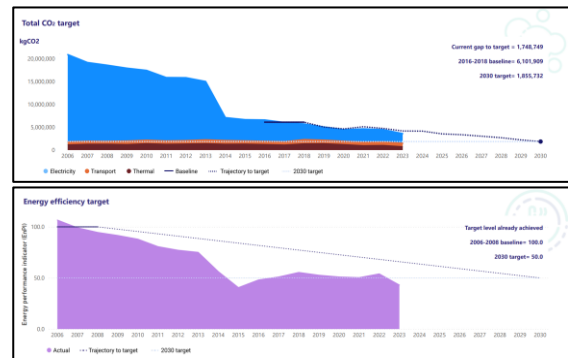
Reduce your Use Posters

SEAI Monitoring & Reporting 2030

SEAI has now issued a Final Score Card for the Council's energy use in 2023. The following are key takeaways:

- Fossil CO2 emissions reduced by 26.5% compared to our baseline;
- Total CO2 emissions reduced by 40.9% compared to our baseline;
- Energy Performance improved by 56.9%, which is above the 2030 target.

SEAI expects to issue its Annual Report for energy use by Public Bodies in Q1 of 2025.



Graphics from SEAI show Louth County Council Total Emissions below the Glide Path for 2030 and Energy Efficiency below the 2030 target.

Display Energy Certificates Update

The Council has procured and engaged a service provider (360 Energy Ltd.) to provide Display Energy Certificates (DECs) for a significant number of Council buildings. This work is scheduled for completion by end December.

Non-Domestic Building Energy Ratings (NDBERs)

The Council has engaged a separate Consultant (KRA Renewables) and is in the process of finalising arrangements for the Consultant to undertake Non-Domestic Building Energy Rating (NDBER) Certification for a select number of Council buildings, including:

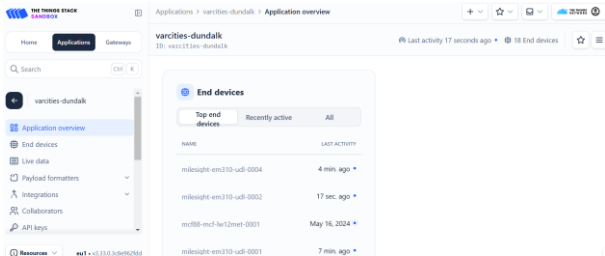
- Dundalk Library and Bookstore
- Dundalk Museum
- Drogheda Fair Street

The completion of these certifications is expected early in 2025.

Varcities Project Update - 'The Still'

The Council is liaising with partners to finalise a report for the project relating to Key Performance Indicators (KPIs). Measurement at the various pilot sites before the implementation of project Visionary Solutions and measurement of changes at the sites after the implementations are an important aspect of the project. The project KPIs use data from sensors

installed on-site to measure the changes and report on the impact of the Visionary Solutions.



Graphic Showing Data Monitoring from Sensors at Dundalk Pilot Site

Another important aspect of the project is Social Return on Investment. This concept seeks to assign a monetary value to the value of the visionary solutions to various stakeholders. The Council plans to have a focused meeting with a selected group of stakeholders to seek to measure the Social Return for that group on Wed. 18 Dec. 2024.



Ursula Conlon, Louth County Council, with representatives from other partners at the 60th World Planning Congress of ISOCARP in Siena, Italy

Discover more:
<https://scanner.topsec.com/?d=1400&r=show&u=https%3A%2F%2Fvarcities.eu%2Fdundalk-presents-their-pilot-at-isocarp-world-planning-congress%2F&t=6e9cda1efb4cdf1bea29e7e9c279b733950e8dd6>

Seirbhísí Tréidliachta / Veterinary Services

Food Safety Authority of Ireland (FSAI)

The contract with the FSAI ends on the 31st December 2024 and the supervision of the food business organisations will be transferred to the Department of Agriculture. The CVO, Garrett Shine, will also transfer to the Department of Agriculture.

The section has carried out 148 inspections in the year to date, including ante-mortem and post-mortem inspections in the abattoir.

Smacht ar Mhadraí / Control of Dogs

Control of Dogs Act 1986

Dogs through the pound December 2024	
Total dogs through the pound	16
Seized under Section 16	3
Strays	6
Surrendered by owners	7
No dogs reclaimed by owners	2
No of dogs rehomed direct	5
No of dogs rehomed to welfare groups	7
No of dogs on hand in Pound at 31/12/2024	6

Dog Licences December 2024	
No of Licences sold	250
Licence Checks:	

House calls	102
Section 16 Notices issued (request to produce licence within 10 days)	60
Fixed Penalty Notices	0

Control of Horses

Control of Horses Act 1996

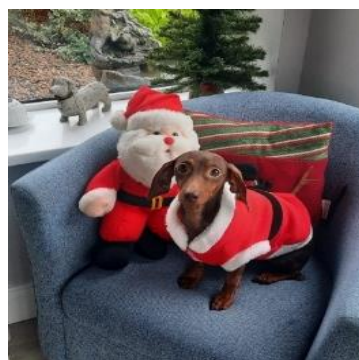
Control of Horses Byelaws 2003

Horses through the pound December 2024	
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 31/12/2024	0

Dog Breeding Establishments

Dog Breeding Establishments Act 2010

Dog Breeding Establishments (DBEs) December 2024	
Total no of registered DBE's in Louth (as at 31/12/2024)	6
Hunt	1
Boarding Kennels	2
Training Kennels	1
Welfare	2



**Coco,
rehomed from the Pound, is all set for the arrival of
Santa Paws!**

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 North East Homelessness Strategy 2024-2026. The following work done within County Louth in the period 18th November – 17th December 2024 can be summarised as follows:

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

18 th November to 17th December 2024	Ardee MD	Dundalk MD	Drogheda MD	Total
Offered advice, support (including fast tracking H.A. for Rent Supplement eligibility)	2	124	85	211
Placed in Temporary Emergency Accommodation	1	33	15	49
Refused Offer of Temporary Emergency Accommodation	0	4	3	7
Not eligible from outside county or non HRC	0	0	0	0
Total number of Person who presented as Homeless	3	161	103	267

Tables 2 - 4 below reflect details of the adults who were in emergency accommodation in County Louth on 17th December 2024. Also included at Table 5 is

the breakdown of families in emergency accommodation at that date.

Tábla 2: Inscne / Table 2: Gender

Gender	Total
Male	119
Female	118
Total	237

Tábla 3: Aoisghrúpaí / Table 3: Age Groups

Age Group	Total
18-24	37
25-44	125
45-64	69
65+	6
Total	237

Tábla 4: Saghas Loistín / Table 4: Accommodation Type

Accommodation Type	Total
Private Emergency Accommodation (PEA)	127
Supported Temporary Accommodation (STA)	110
Total unique individuals	237

Tábla 5: Teaghlaih 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	46	52	84
Couples with dependent children	17	34	55
Total	63	86	139

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

Number of tenancies established	48
Number of individuals currently in tenancy	35

Leithdháileadh Tithíochta suas go dtí 17th Nollaig 2024 / Housing Allocations up to 17th December 2024

District	LA	LA Refusal	AHB	AHB Refusal
Ardee	41	10	4	1
Drogheda	168	28	220	22
Dundalk	125	14	120	12
Total	334	52	344	35

Aistrithe / Transfers

District	Number
Ardee	4
Dundalk	16
Drogheda	27
Total	47

Liosta Tithe / Housing List

17 th December, 2024	Ardee	Drogheda	Dundalk	Total
Housing List	364	694	1081	2139
HAP Transfer List	296	970	1619	2885
Total Housing List	660	1664	2700	5024

There are **327** applications on the transfer list (Non-HAP) within Social Housing including 70 applications from the Approved Housing Bodies.

Íocaíocht Cúnaimh Tithíochta / Housing Assistance Payment

The total number of applications in HAP is **2885**

Ardee Municipal District	Drogheda Borough District	Dundalk Municipal District	Total
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296	970	1619	2885
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Bainisteoireacht Chíos / Rent Management The total number currently paying rent by Household Budget is **936**

Current Rents Arrears at 16 th December 2024	No of Accounts	Value
Rents between 4-6 weeks old	190	€75,595
Rents between 7-12 weeks old	185	€140,118
Rents greater than 12 weeks old	944	€3,253,860
TOTAL	1,319	€3,554,243

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 December 2024:

Letter Type	Month/Year	Number Issued
1 st Reminder	December 2024	10
2 nd Reminder	December 2024	59
Final Reminder	December 2024	5
Total issued		74

Customers that fall into arrears may enter a payment plan for full repayment over an agreed period of time. 51 new payment plans commenced in December 2024 (up to and including 16th December).

Airíonna Re Lig & Neamhní / Relet and Void Properties

Relet / Void Properties on 17 th December 2024	Total
Ardee Municipal District	10
Dundalk Municipal District	13
Drogheda Municipal Borough District	24
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 the homeless or emergency are not included in the above figures.

Cuairteanna Chothabhála / Maintenance Calls

Maintenance	21st November- 17 th December 2024	Total (YTD)
No. of Maintenance Requests Received	1148	8734
No. of Maintenance Requests Completed	761	7047
No. of Maintenance Requests in Progress	342	1292
No. of Maintenance Requests Refused	45	395

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

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

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

Ten additional units have been completed in Barton Park- these are over the allocation of 140 and are now completed. The DHLG have funded these units in 2024.

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

	21 st November to 17 ^h December 2024	Total (YTD)
Properties inspected monthly	174	1805
Advisory letters issued	103	1193
Improvement notices issued	4	23

Prohibition notices issued	0	2
Private Inspections	0	3
HAP First Inspections	101	1072
RAS First Inspections	0	0
AHB First Inspections	53	495
Private Re-inspections	1	5
HAP Re-inspections	18	203
RAS Re-inspections	0	0
AHB Re-inspections	0	2
Inspections from Complaints	1	26
Properties Made Compliant	5	94

Páirtíocht Tionóntachta / Tenancy Engagement

21 st Nov to 16 th Dec 2024	Drogheda	Ardee	Dundalk	Monthly Total	Yearly Total
No. Tenants who attended Pre-tenancy training	12	0	6	18	310
Post-tenancy inspections	1	0	4	5	203
Tenancy Investigation Visits	12	5	13	30	403

Iompraíocht Fhrithshóisialta / Anti-Social Behaviour

21 st Nov to 16 th Dec 2024	Drogheda	Ardee	Dundalk	Monthly	Yearly
ASB Cases* Received	6	2	4	12	190
ASB cases Ongoing	5	1	3	9	-
ASB cases complete	9	1	13	23	170

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

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

21 st Nov to 16 th Dec 2024	Drogheda	Ardee	Dundalk	Monthly	Yearly
Verbal Warnings	4	1	3	8	50
Written Warnings	0	0	0	0	2
Tenancy Notifications	0	1	0	1	10
Tenancy Warnings Housing Act, 2014	0	0	0	0	5

Déisiú agus Léas / Repair and Lease

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

Tithíocht Inacmhainne / Affordable Housing

Affordable housing applications for two schemes in Drogheda have been submitted to DHLGH for funding which we are awaiting approval on. Developers of both schemes have given provisional completion dates before the end of quarter one

2025. Subject to funding approval, it is anticipated that promotion and advertising of both schemes will commence as soon as feasible. Discussions are ongoing with various other developers regarding further schemes in Drogheda and Dundalk area which are expected to come on stream in late 2025 & 2026.

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

Active MTR Applications Total	35
AHB MTR Applications Active	19
AHB MTR completed 2024	0
Private MTR Applications Active	14
Private MTR completed 2024	6
MTR Application Awaiting Purchaser	2

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

Deontas Athchóirithe D’áras Folamh / Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant

Applications Submitted:	238
Approved:	171
Rejected:	16
Withdrawn	27
Other (FI Requests, First Site Inspections)	24
Legal Stages before Funding issued	17
Funding Issued to Applicant	36

Principal Private Residence	180
Rental Applications	58

Iasacht Tí Údaráis Áitiúil / Local Authority Home Loans

2024 Budget Allocation	€7,230,000
LAHL Approvals at 16/12/2024	€3,262,970
Breakdown of LAHL applications processed at 16 th December, 2024	
Total Number of Applications at 16/12/2024	51
LAHL carried over from 2023	6
Invalid/Returned	15
Approved	20
Declined	13
For Review	0
Outstanding – waiting on further information	9

Gnóthaithee/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 and or have a disability.

In December, the Council purchased four properties in Dundalk. DHLGH has now advised the Council there is no further funding available for acquisitions in 2024.



Recently acquired property in Dundalk



Recently acquired property in Dundalk

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

Grants are available to households where adaptations are required to render a house more suitable for the accommodation of a person with a disability or where a person is aged 66 and above and living in poor housing conditions. On 1st December a revised Housing Grant scheme was released. The new scheme introduced an increase in the maximum Housing Adaption Grant for Disabled People to €40,000 (an increase of €10,000) and an increase in the maximum level of the Housing Aid for Older People Grant to €10,700 (an increase of €2,700). Grants are no longer permitted for new standalone fossil fuel boilers. Full details are available on the Council's website at [Housing Grants - Louth County Council](#).

Status	HAG	MAG	HOP	Month	YTD
Grants Approved 2023	159	27	117	-	303
Applications on Hand 16/12/2024	70	8	302	-	380

Grants Approved 21/11/2024 to 16/12/2024	6	1	20	27	298
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Level Access Shower completed in Drogheda during December part-funded by a HAG

Seachadadh Caipitil Tithíochta / Capital Housing Delivery

Completion of Social Housing Project at Grange Close, Dundalk

The Council completed Ireland's first houses constructed using concrete printing technology. The housing project at Grange Close in Dundalk commenced construction in May 2024 and consists of three two-storey, three-bedroom A2 energy rated homes. They will provide accommodation for families on the social housing list, who will be the first residents in Ireland to live in 3D construction printed homes.



Grange Close, Dundalk – completed 3D Concrete Printed Housing

The Grange Close development represents a significant milestone in efficient, high-quality housing development, setting a new precedent in Ireland's construction sector. This award-winning project by Harcourt Technologies Ltd (HTL) which was constructed on behalf of the Council has also received the 'Standards Innovation Award' from the National Standards Authority of Ireland (NSAI).



Grange Close, Dundalk – completed 3D Concrete Printed Housing

Seachadadh Caipitil Tithíochta / Capital Housing Delivery

Seachadadh SHIP / SHIP Delivery

Project Name	Project Phase	Total Number of Social Units Expected	Project Status	Projected Substantial Completion Date	Unit Type
Muirhevnemor, (Infill) Dundalk	1/1	11	On Site	31/03/2025	3 * 2 bed & 8 * 3 bed
Boice Court, Mell, Drogheda (Phase 2)	1/1	72	On Site	06/06/2025	27 * 3 bed, 4 * 4 bed, 8 * 1 bed Apt, 25 * 2 bed Apt & 8 * 3 bed Apt
Mount Avenue, Dundalk	1/1	93	On Site	30/09/2025	29 * 2 bed, 23 * 3 bed, 9 * 4 bed, 10 * 1 bed Apt, 6 * 2 bed Apt, 16 * 3 bed Apt
Rathmullen Park, Drogheda Infill	1/1	4	Stage 2 Approved	27/05/2026	2 * 2 bed, 1 * 3 bed, 1 * 4 bed
Point Road, Dundalk	1/1	44	SHIP Accelerated Delivery, Stage 2 Approved	31/12/2026	31 * 2 bed, 10 * 3 bed, 3 * 4 bed
Dunleer (Ravel Grange)	1/1	70	SHIP Accelerated Delivery, Stage 2 Approved	31/12/2026	45 * 2 bed, 20 * 3 bed, 5 * 4 bed
Ballymakenny Road, Drogheda - West	1/1	97	SHIP Accelerated Delivery, Stage 2 Approved	31/12/2026	52 * 2 bed, 32 * 3 bed, 13 * 4 bed
Mullavally, Louth Village	1/1	58	SHIP Accelerated Delivery, Stage 2 Approved	31/12/2026	28 * 2 bed, 24 * 3 bed, 5 * 4 bed, 1 * 5 bed
Greenhills, Drogheda	1/1	46	SHIP Accelerated Delivery, Stage 2 Approved	31/12/2026	42 * 2 bed, 3 * 3 bed, 1 * 5 bed

Anne St. Dundalk	1/1	16	Stage 1 Approved	31/12/2026	8 * 2 bed Apt, 8 * 3 bed Apt.
Ballymakenny Road - East Site, Drogheda	1/1	130	PPP Bundle 5 Funding Approved	15/12/2027	52 * 2 bed, 47 * 3 bed, 4 * 4 bed, 1 * 5 bed, 26 * 1 bed Apt
Mullagh Close, Clogherhead	1/3	4	Completed	03/10/2024	4 * 3 bed
Mullagh Close, Clogherhead	2/3	4	On-site	31/03/2025	4 * 3 bed
Mullagh Close, Clogherhead	3/3	4	On-site	30/06/2025	4 * 3 bed
Knockshee, Old Golf Links Road, Blackrock, Dundalk	1/1	12	On-site	31/03/2025	12 * 2 bed Apt.
Ferrard Park, The Twenties, Drogheda	1/4	7	Completed	22/08/2024	2 * 3 bed, 5 * 2 bed
Ferrard Park, The Twenties, Drogheda	2/4	7	Completed	13/09/2024	2 * 3 bed, 5 * 2 bed
Ferrard Park, The Twenties, Drogheda	3/4	7	Completed	03/10/2024	2 * 3 bed, 5 * 2 bed
Ferrard Park, The Twenties, Drogheda	4/4	7	Completed	05/11/2024	2 * 3 bed, 5 * 2 bed
Quarry Court, John St. / Stoneylane, Ardee, Co. Louth	1/1	20	On-site	28/02/2025	11 * 3 bed, 3 * 3 bed Apt, 6 * 2 bed Apt.
Derryveigh House, Hoeys Lane, Dundalk	1/1	2	Contract Awarded	30/09/2025	1 * 3 bed, 1 * 4 bed
Clontygora, Dundalk	1/1	2	Funding Approved	31/12/2025	2 * 4 bed

Potters Field, Cappocks Green, Ardee, Co. Louth	2/3	8	On-site	30/06/2025	7 * 3 bed, 1 * 2 bed
Potters Field, Cappocks Green, Ardee, Co. Louth	3/3	1	Funding Approved	30/06/2026	1 * 2 bed
Listoke Elms & Listoke Willows	2/3	12	Completed	16/10/2024	6 * 2 bed Apt, 6 * 3 bed Duplex
Listoke Elms & Listoke Willows	3/3	2	Funding Approved	31/03/2026	1 * 2 bed Apt, 1 * 3 bed Duplex
Bothar Glas / Ard Patrick, Green Road, Louth Village	1/1	5	Completed	02/09/2024	5 * 3 bed
Medebawn Court, Dundalk	1/1	2	Completed	04/09/2024	1 * 2 bed Apt, 1 * 3 bed Duplex
Seabrook, Commons Road, Dromiskin	1/1	2	Completed	07/11/2024	2 * 3 bed
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

Seachadadh CAS / CAS Delivery

Project Name	AHB	Total Number of Social Units Expected	Project Status	Projected Substantial Completion Date	Unit Type
Coulter Park, Dundalk, Co Louth	Tuath	10	On Site	30/11/2024	Five * 2 Bed house, One * 2 Bed ambulant unit, One * 4 Bed Communal unit
Barrack Street, Dundalk, Co Louth	Dublin Simon	30	Stage 2 Approved	15/09/2026	Nineteen * 1 Bed apartments Three * accessible units Eight * Studio apartments

Highfield, Newry Road, Dundalk, Co Louth	Women's Aid Dundalk	12	Stage 2 approved	02/09/2026	Five * 1 bed apartments Seven * 2 bed apartments
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Seachadadh CALF / CALF Delivery

Project Name		Total Number of Social Units Expected	Non-Part V / Part V	Project Status	Projected Substantial Completion Date	Unit Type
Newtown View, Marsh Road, Drogheda Respond Housing	2/3	37	33/4	On site	31/12/2024	* 26 Three Bed Houses * 11 Two Bed Houses
Newtown View, Marsh Road, Drogheda Respond Housing	3/3	56	51/6	On Site	31/12/2024	* 16 Two Bed Houses * 40 Three Bed Houses
Dublin Road, Dundalk Respond Housing	3/3	40	36/4	On Site	31/12/2024	* 19 One Bed Apts * 12 Two Bed Apts * 9 Three Bed Apts
An Caislean, Flaxmill Lane, Yellowbatter Drogheda North & East	1/1	17	14/3	On site	31/12/2024	* 7 One Bed Apts * 7 Two Bed Apts * 3 Three Bed Apts
Friary Place, Mill Lane Drogheda Tuath	1/1	49	44/5	On-Site	15/12/2024	* 27 One Bed Apts * 22 Two Bed Apts
Racecourse Meadows with Circle	1/3	18		On Site	30/01/2025	* 18 Three Bed Houses
Racecourse Meadows with Circle	2/3	8		On Site	30/03/2025	* 8 Three Bed Houses
Racecourse Meadows with Circle	3/3	19	12/7	On Site	30/06/2025	* 10 Three Bed Houses * 9 Two Bed Houses
Connollys Field, Dundalk Fold Housing	1/2	30	19/11	On- Site	01/04/2025	* 20 One Bed Apts * 10 Two Bed Apts

Connollys Field, Dundalk Fold Housing	2/2	40		On- Site	01/04/2025	* 31 One Bed Apts * 9 Two Bed Apts
Harbour View, Coulter Place, Dundalk Cluid	1/1	18		On-Site	14/03/2025	* 12 One Bed Apts * 6 Two Bed Apts
Gullion Park, Finnabair, Dundalk Co-Operative	1/1	142	128/14	Funding Approved	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	Funding Approved	10/11/2025	* 18 One Bed Apts * 32 Two Bed Apts
MacNeill View, Ecco Road, Dundalk Co. Louth Cluid Housing	1/1	45	40/5	Funding Approved	15/12/2024	* 5 One Bed Apt * 31 Two Bed Apts * 9 Three Bed Apts
Crushrod Avenue Drogheda Co. Louth Cluid Houisng	1/2	20	15/5	Funding Approved	30/01/2025	*20 Two Bed apt/ Duplex
Crushrod Avenue Drogheda Co. Louth Cluid Housing	2/2	33		Funding Approved	28/02/2025	*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

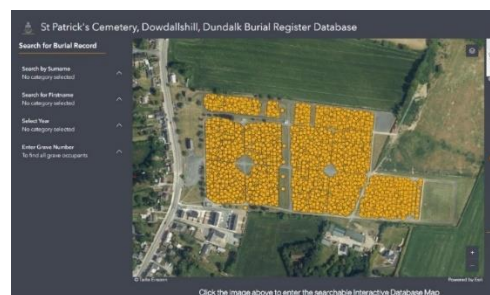
National Retention Policy Records Management Working Group

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

St Patrick's Cemetery Burial Register Database

A free, searchable database of burials for St Patrick's Cemetery, Dundalk was launched in December. The database contains a transcription of data from the burial records held in the County Archives. The transcription was produced by local historian Jim Kerley of the Old Dundalk Society, with the help of volunteers while the Council's GIS Officer developed the searchable database application. The purpose of the database is to provide a valuable resource for those researching their family history or locating a grave while also assisting with local history research. The cemetery opened in 1895, and users can now search for over 22,000 records contained in the burial registers. Users can search by surname, first name, year and grave number and view the grave location on an interactive map. The resource also features images from the Dundalk Joint Burial Board's Rules book and an original drawing of the cemetery, both produced in 1895 and held in the County Archives. In addition, the County

Archives has made available the digitised first five volumes of the burial registers from 1895 – 1993. The burial database and the digitised registers can be accessed [here](#).



Screen-grab of the burial register database for St Patrick's Cemetery, Dundalk

Recent Acquisitions

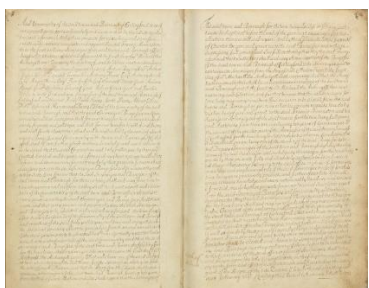
Minutes of meetings, programmes and choral work, music copies and recordings, were amongst the archive collection for the Setanta Choir, Dundalk that was donated recently. The collection will be catalogued before being made available for research.



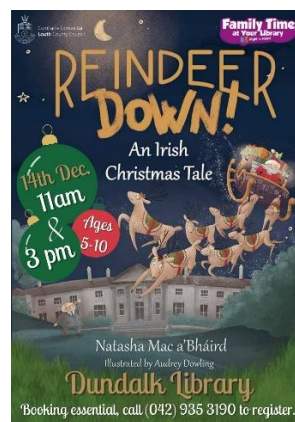
Programmes of Setanta Choir, Dundalk

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.



Pages from the minute book of Carlingford Corporation, 1694-1835, that was recently used for research



Reindeer Down! Workshops

Leabharlanna / Libraries



Family Time at Your Library



Lots of events took place during December to celebrate Family Time at Your Library. This fun reading initiative supports a family-focused approach to reading with children as part of the national Right to Read programme.

At “Reindeer Down!” workshops, writer Natasha Mac a'Bhàird and French illustrator Audrey Dowling, children learned to draw Santa and Rory the Reindeer while making a Christmas card.

There was a *Late Late Library Storytime* on December 6 in Dundalk Library with hot chocolate, Christmas jumpers and music in advance of the Late Late Toy Show. On December 17 Drogheda Library staff facilitated a Baby Book Club event for Louth Local Development’s Incredible Years Parent and Baby Group.



Library Assistant Ciara Brodigan and Micheal O'Brien in Dundalk Library for the Late Late Storytime.



Dr. Barry Fitzgerald in the new Dunleer Library with second class from Scoil Bríde Lann Léire

The ever-popular Superhero Scientist Dr. Barry Fitzgerald held “The Secret Science of Santa Claus” workshops where he explained the amazing science of how Santa gets around the world in one night!



Barry Fitzgerald Santa Claus workshop with two classes from Monastery NS Ardee

Mosney Village

Louth Library Service visited Mosney Village for an e-Services Roadshow on Tuesday December 3. Library staff demonstrated access to free e-services such as Borrowbox, Transparent Language, and LOTE4Kids, which provides electronic access on a tablet or smartphone to children's storybooks in languages other than English. Library staff provided information on regular events in Drogheda Library including Family Time at Your Library, regular parent and toddler and baby book club events. Staff promoted the benefits of library membership, including My Open Library and the range of digital services available in Drogheda Library.



Senior Library Assistant Amy Branigan with Suzie O'Connell, Mosney Village, at the e-Services Roadshow

Louth Library Primary Schools Service

There were several visits to the Early Learning Centres and crèches for storytelling sessions during Family Time at Your Library, including Cooley Community Playgroup and Spraoi Early Education

Centre, Dunleer. This is part of our aim to spread the joy of reading to children from an early age and focus on building links with our youngest members.

Between September and December 2024, we visited 45 schools and 4 ELCs. More than 2,060 visitors boarded the van to borrow over 4,787 books for their classrooms. There were 90 new teacher library membership cards issued, and 168 memberships renewed.



Seasonal books on the Schools Library Service Van

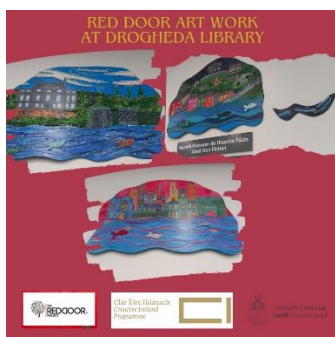


Schools Library Service Van outside Spraoi Early Education Centre, Dunleer for Storytime

Creative Ireland

Red Door Boyne & Beyond Art Project

With support from Creative Ireland, Louth Library Service worked with artist Alison O'Grady and attendees from the Red Door on an installation for the adult library section in Drogheda library. Alison facilitated several workshops in Drogheda library and in The Red Door where attendees created a colourful 3D wall art for the adult section in Drogheda library.



Some of the artwork in the adult library section

The Boyne & Beyond project began with a series of dynamic group discussions and brainstorming sessions, where the participants explored the significance of the River Boyne, both historically and personally. As the project evolved, the group decided to create six thematic boards, each representing a different aspect of the Boyne's influence from its mythology and ancient history to its modern-day environment and social connections. The artwork is now installed in the adult library section. A launch was held in early December to celebrate the installation.

Dundalk Memory Café

Dundalk Library welcomed Cainigi to the Memory Café Christmas get-together with their festive selection of acapella music. Maeve Montgomery, Louth Dementia Advisor entertained the party with games, quizzes and crafts. The next Memory Café will take place on Tuesday February 11 at 2:30pm.



Library Assistant Marcella Reynolds passes out the Age Friendly Louth Christmas bags at Dundalk Library

Ardee Library Christmas Gathering 2024



Gathering in Ardee Library

On Wednesday December 11 Ardee Library hosted an afternoon of festive cheer to highlight the many groups that meet all year round in the library. It was the perfect opportunity for library users to meet group members and join a group of your interest. There was seasonal music from local Ardee ukulele group Uke'n'Rollers and light refreshments served.



Uke'n'Rollers at the Ardee Christmas Gathering

Drogheda Memory Café

Drogheda's Alzheimer's Memory Café was held in Drogheda library on December 10. Dementia Advisor for Louth Maeve Montgomery and some local carol singers provided a morning of festive fun. The next meeting will take place on Tuesday February 11, 2025. The café provides a welcoming

space for people living with dementia. All are welcome to attend.



Helen Barron, Tredagh Lodge Daycare Centre, and Louth Dementia advisor Maeve Montgomery

Na hEalaíona / Arts

Creative Ireland

Creative Ireland Grants 2025

The 2025 Creative Ireland Grants are open for application. Applications are invited from professional artists or community groups who are seeking financial support for an artistic project, training or development. Closing date for applications will be Thursday February 6 at 4p.m.

Application forms and guidelines can be found on our arts website <https://createlouth.ie/funding/>. You can also email creativeireland@louthcoco.ie for details.

Cruinniú 2025 Consultations

Consultations have begun with local children and young people to inform the 2025 Cruinniú na nÓg programme. Craobh Rua and Cox's Demesne Traveler Youth Groups started working with Eoin Maguire in December on writing a song about their culture and producing a music video to accompany it – particularly important as the group in Cox's Demesne is new.



Children at our Cruinniú 2024 consultations last year embracing their creative side!

Elsewhere various primary schools and after schools across Dundalk and Drogheda have been working on a variety of creative consultations with creative facilitators such as Little Sunflower and Daire Stanley.

Arts

Art Grants 2025

The 2025 Louth Arts Grants are open for application. Applications are invited from professional artists or groups who are seeking financial support for an artistic project, training or development. Closing date for applications will be Thursday February 6 at 4p.m.

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Droichead Arts Centre

The renowned Fishamble Theatre company brought 'Outrage' by Deirdre Kinahan to the Droichead stage at the end of November. Following the story of 2 sisters, Outrage is a play that explores the true nature of women's role in the Irish revolutionary wars, and particularly the Civil War in 1922.

Absinth and Absence is the new and incredible exhibition from Jackie Hudson Lawlor, which launched in Droichead's Gallery Space on November 16 and runs until January 25, 2025. The exhibition seeks to make visible that which we typically seek to hide from: the effects of trauma, the ignored pain of women, and the prejudice against ageing.

For more details on all other events happening check out Droichead Arts Centres website <https://www.droichead.com/>

Drogheda Traditional Music & Singing Weekend

The annual DTMSW took place from November 22–24. Run in partnership with Droichead Arts Centre this year's festival featured appearances from Matt Molloy, John McCarthy, Vivienne Conway and Eva & Paula Carroll.

Highlanes Gallery

Exhibition, Talks and Workshop

John Graham's exhibition Familiar Things opened on Saturday November 16, including an in-person conversation event with the artist himself, facilitated by Sarah McAuliffe, curator of Irish Art at the National Gallery of Ireland. The talk was also given through ISL (Irish Sign Language) and the exhibition will run until January 25, 2025.

For more details on the exhibition see: <https://highlanes.ie/exhibition/john-graham-familiar-things/>



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

Highlane's continued their series of Family Workshops throughout November, along with several talks including a poetry reading event with Drogheda Creative Writers, a special performance from the Réalta Chamber Choir and a gorgeous Christmas Clay Workshop with artist Maureen Finn.

For details on all upcoming events at Highlane's please see <https://highlanes.ie/all-events/>

An Táin Arts Centre

Oriel Traditional Orchestra held their annual charity event at An Táin on Sunday November 24. This year the event commemorated the centenary of the death of Irish born composer Charles Villiers Stanford.



The Oriel Traditional Orchestra

IMPACT – is a new play by Theatre Company in Residence, Chalk on the Wall. Exploring the pressing challenges faced by Irish road users today, revealing the human cost behind stark statistics, the play was told through a heartfelt narrative weaving together poignant stories of those whose lives have been changed forever.

Exhibition: Identity, a Scope of Liminality is an exhibition by Carlos Navarro. In a society where traditional values are fading and uncertainty prevails, his work emerges as a search for lost individuality and authenticity. Navarro's abstract and geometric portraits represent the complexity of the modern being. The exhibition runs until January 18, 2025 and details can be found at: <https://www.antain.ie/event/exhibition-identity-a-scope-of-liminality/>

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

Creative Spark

The Arts Service has joined forces with Creative Spark to offer bursaries to Louth-based artists seeking to gain new qualifications and skills to expand their practice through the FAB Academy and Creative Spark.

There will be four bursaries of €500 which will be awarded through an application process. For details of the bursary and the course see:

<https://creativespark.ie/fab-academy-bursary-.html>

Arts Council Funding

The Arts Council of Ireland have several funding streams opened at the moment with many more due to open in early 2025.

For full details of all funding streams see <https://www.artscouncil.ie/available-funding/>

An Iarsmalann / Museum

Museum news

Christmas activities for National School children of Louth are in full operation at the moment. In keeping with the Christmas traditions, the crib from PJ Carroll's in Clanbrassil Street is on display, whilst the reception area has been decorated to take on a winter wonderland appearance. Over the course of December schools from throughout the county visited the Museum experiencing the Christmas decorations and enjoying the festive area in the AV Theatre.



Former PJ Carroll's crib at the County Museum, Dundalk



It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas ... (at the Museum)



A cold bewitching figure at the County Museum



Lecture at University of Galway

Curator Brian Walsh was invited to address post-graduate students at University of Galway on the work of the Museum. Speaking to Masters and PhD students, Mr. Walsh spoke of the rich and varied nature of the collection, highlighting the importance of recording the story behind each item that the Museum holds.

Archaeology Ireland feature

As part of the Dundalk Museum's 30th anniversary celebrations an article featuring a selected item from the collection was featured in the winter edition of Archaeology Ireland. The chosen item was the compass rescued from the SS Dundalk before it sank in a U-boat attack in October 1918.



'Museum Piece' from the Winter 2024 Archaeology Ireland

Recent acquisitions

Amongst the Museum's recent acquisitions is this magnificent nineteenth-century dowry chest.



***A recent acquisition to the collection
- a 19th-century dowry chest***