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 7ú Márta 2025
Dated 7th March 2025

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

Tuairisc Bhainistíochta Mhíosúil an Príomhfheidhmeannach – 28th February 2025
Chief Executive's Monthly Management Report – 28 Feabhra 2025

A Chara,

I enclose the above report for your statutory consideration which will be placed on the March 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.

1. **Place Making:**
   - Delighted to report that Westgate planning application has been approved by An Bord Pleanála. The Council are currently reviewing the Planners report. The Westgate Vision project aims to regenerate and develop the Westgate area in Drogheda, enhancing its urban environment and infrastructure.
2. **Community Support**:
   - The Council won 'Best Green Sustainable Initiative' at LAMA Community and Council Awards.
   - Over 200 applications received for the Local Enhancement Programme 2025.
3. **Storm Éowyn Response**:
   - No fatalities reported.
   - 234 calls handled by our Customer Service Desk.
   - 180 storm-related incidents addressed, mainly fallen trees and debris.
   - We are currently awaiting an after-action report that took place with all the staff as to how we can identify learning from the event.
4. **Strategic Economic Development**:
   - Launch of the rebranded Visit Louth website and the development of a Tourism Strategy for the County.
   - €6 million funding for Carlingford Lough region development.
   - Drogheda retained its Purple Flag status for night-time economy.
5. **Local Enterprise Office**:
   - 37 business advice appointments provided.
   - Launch of Local Enterprise Week from 3rd to 7th March.
6. **Fire & Emergency Services**:
   - 1,253 incidents responded to in 2024, a slight increase from 2023 of 1,200.
7. **Housing**:
   - 278 individuals presented as homeless.
   - 42 housing allocations made.
8. **Financial Reports**:
   - Housing expenditure: €9,479,172 (13% of budget).
   - Road Transportation & Safety expenditure: €4,554,179 (16% of budget).
   - Total income to 28th February 2025: €48,880,775 (27% of budget).
9. **Information & Communication Technology**:
   - 566 IT support calls logged, 87% completed.
10. **Environmental Services**:
    - 23 waste complaints received and investigated.
    - 126 litter investigations completed.

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

Is mise le meas.

_____

David Conway
Chief Executive

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Seirbhísí Tacaíochta
Support Services

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

Ina chuid den freagrachtaí eile, Techneolaíocht Faisnéise agus Chumarsáide

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

Other responsibilities include, Information & Communication Technology

Bernie Woods
Stiúrthóir / Director

Tuairiscí Airgeadais / Financial Reports

Caiteachas go dtí 28 Feabhra 2025 / Expenditure to 28th of February 2025

Rannóg / Section	Actual Expenditure to 28/02/2025 / Caiteachas Iarbhír go dtí 28/02/2025	Caiteachas Buiséadaithe 2025 / Budget Expenditure 2025	% Caite go 28/02/2025 / % Spent to 28/02/2025
Tithíocht / Housing	€9,479,172	**€73,683,142**	13%
Iompar Bóthair agus Sábháilteacht / Road Transportation & Safety	€4,554,179	**€28,591,697**	16%
Seirbhísí Uisce / Water Services	€1,322,611	**€7,538,273**	18%
Bainistíocht Forbartha / Development Management	€2,980,260	**€25,940,360**	11%
Seirbhísí Timpeallachta / Environmental Services	€3,095,747	**€24,948,899**	12%
Áineas agus Conláiste / Recreation and Amenity	€1,398,420	**€12,548,436**	11%
Talmhaíocht, Oideachas, Sláinte agus Leas / Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	€145,743	**€1,431,271**	10%
Ilghnéitheach / Miscellaneous	€1,226,335	**€9,312,306**	13%
	€24,202,467	**€183,994,384**	**13%**

Ioncam go dtí 28 Feabhra 2025 / Income to 28th of February 2025

Rannóg / Section	Ioncam Iarbhír go dtí 28/02/2025 / Actual Income to 28/02/2025	Ioncam Buiséadaithe 2025 / Budget Income 2025	% Sonraisc Curtha do dtí 28/02/2025 / % Invoiced to 28/02/2025
Tithíocht / Housing	€7,369,371	**€73,685,224**	10%
Iompar Bóthair agus Sábháilteacht / Road Transportation & Safety	€442,718	**€16,613,589**	3%
Seirbhísí Uisce / Water Services	€848,134	**€6,557,586**	13%
Bainistíocht Forbartha / Development Management	€1,370,485	**€15,522,127**	9%
SeirbhísíTimpeallachta / Environmental Services	€443,897	**€4,474,236**	10%
Áineas agus Conláiste / Recreation and Amenity	€150,868	**€1,947,561**	8%
Talmhaíocht, Oideachas, Sláinte agus Leas / Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	€43,979	**€469,209**	9%
Ilghnéitheach / Miscellaneous	€128,558	**€17,760,538**	1%
Rátaí / Rates	€36,188,399	**€35,598,115**	102%
Deontas Ilfheidhmeach / General Purpose Grant (LPT)	€1,894,366	**€11,366,198**	17%
	€48,880,775	**€183,994,383**	**27%**

The above is the current position as of the 28th of February 2025. The allocation of the Central Management Charge is estimated in the above figures as the allocation is not completed till mid-month. The full rates demand for 2025 is included in the above figure.

Collection rates as of 28th of February 2025 are as follows:

Féichiúnaithe mar atá 28 Feabhra 2025 / Debtors to 28th of February 2025

	Iarmhéid Tosaigh / Opening Balance	Sonraisc / Invoices	Fáltais / Receipts	Díscríobhanna / Write Offs	Iarmhéid Deiridh / Closing Balance
Féichiúnaithe Rialtais / Government Debtors	**€23,981,720**	€10,791,949	(€15,340,806)	(€0)	**€19,432,863**
Uadaráis Áitiúla Eile / Other Local Authorities	**€106,006**	€175,625	(€201,704)	(€0)	**€79,927**
Rataí / Rates	**€5,467,565**	€36,188,399	(€5,861,128)	(€17,497)	**€35,777,339**
Cíosanna / Rent	**€3,098,058**	€3,008,538	(€2,806,795)	(€134)	**€3,299,667**
Iasachtal / Loans	**€301,464**	€373,540	(€374,472)	(€0)	**€300,532**
Tobhaigh Forbartha / Development Levies	**€12,384,064**	€161,668	(€204,358)	(€0)	**€12,341,374**
Táilí Seirbhíse Dóiteáin / Fire Charges	**€892,596**	€131,952	(€120,062)	(€8,619)	**€895,867**
Ilghnéitheach / Miscellaneous	**€3,103,465**	€2,664,975	(€1,024,145)	(€2,466)	**€4,741,829**
Féichiúnaithe Iomlána / Total Debtors	**€49,334,938**	**€53,496,646**	**(€25,933,470)**	**(€28,716)**	**€76,869,398**

Above are the debtor balances as of 28th of February 2025. The Miscellaneous debtor figure includes the Irish Water SLA recoupments, Corporate, Community & Enterprise, LEO, Planning, Enforcement, Environment, Sports, Vets, Arts, Roads, Library, Museum and Finance miscellaneous billings.

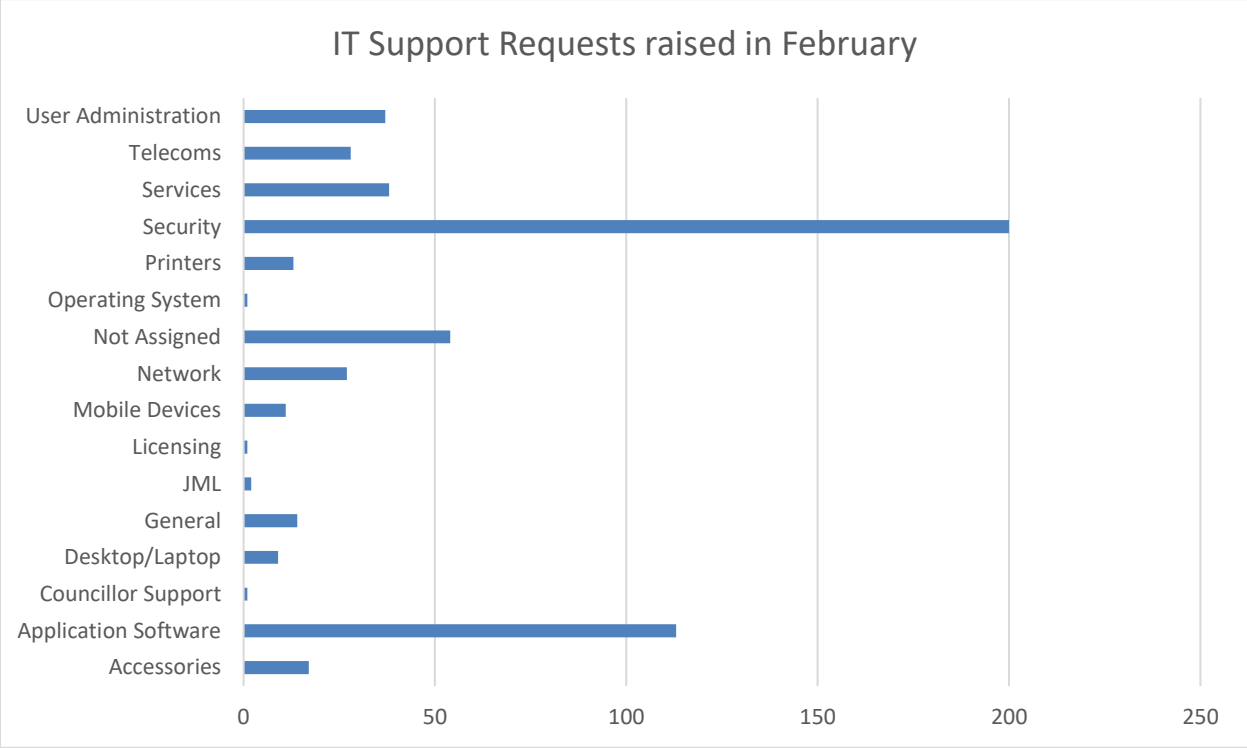
Annual Financial Statement

Work is continuing with 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 01/02/2025 and the 28/02/2025 there were 566 support calls logged in the IT support system. 87% of these calls have been completed.



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

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 01/02/2025 – 28/02/2025 31% of inbound e-mails were identified as potentially harmful.

Inbound Emails 186,116	Blocked Sender 3,218
Blocked at gateway 17,489	Blocked by spam /virus 37,062
Blocked by content rules 485	Potentially harmful emails 31.32%

Suíomh Gréasáin Comhairle Chontae Lú / Louth County Council Website

There were 18,890 unique page views of www.louthcoco.ie between 1st and 28th February 2025.
The below table shows the pages which received the highest number of page views in February.

Page URL	Pageviews
/en/	4,615
/en/services/planning/online-planning-and-maps/	860
/en/services/	765
/en/home/	771
/en/services/library/	761
/en/services/dog-pound/	693
/en/services/planning/	572
/en/contact/louth-county-council/	437
/en/services/housing/	451
/en/louth_county_council/	468

The below chart shows the Channel Type through which visitors accessed the Louth County Council website in February:

Channel Types

CHANNEL TYPE	VISITS	ACTIONS
Direct Entry	5,119	19,630
Search Engines	1,722	8,430
Websites	471	2,225
Social Networks	120	298
Campaigns	1	3

Fadhb Cuardaithe Gréasáin / Website Search Issue

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

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 6,109 views between 01/02/2025 and 28/02/2025, an average of 226 views a day.

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

LCC have published an online Story Map and Dashboard which allow the public to read about the history of the cemetery and search the burial records for Saint Patick's Cemetery Dowdallshill, Dundalk. There have been 1,336 views of the burial register between 01/02/2025 and 28/02/2025. An average of 46 views per day.

The system can be accessed from this link.

LCC provide an online Planning Register Map Viewer which can be accessed from the Online

Forbairt Gheilleagrach Straitéiseach
Strategic Economic Development

Tá trí eochairfhreagracht ag an Stiúrthóireacht seo:

Forbairt Eacnamaíoch, an Oifig Fiontair Áitiúl 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 Peanáil 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 the Civic Offices, Ardee, on Tuesday 18th February.

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

The Louth LECP sets out the objectives and actions needed to promote and support the economic development and the local and community development of Louth, both by the Council directly and in partnership with other economic and community development stakeholders. A monitoring group for the LECP is being established and will include the Chair and two members of the Economic Development & Enterprise Support SPC. The lead partners assigned to the actions in the LECP have been contacted to obtain their plan to complete their respective actions.

Age Friendly Business

The North Leinster Citizens Information Centre (Dundalk) and The Redeemer Family Resource Centre (Dundalk) received their Age-Friendly Charters on the 24th of February. Both are now accredited as Age-Friendly Services after completing the workshop and implementing changes within their premises and now have two designated Age-Friendly Champions.

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

Saidbe & Sharon from the North Leinster Citizens Information Centre (Dundalk) and Peter & Jackie from the Redeemer Family Resource Centre (Dundalk) receiving their Age-Friendly Services Charter

Turasóireacht / Tourism

Visit Louth

The newly rebranded Visit Louth website and branding were launched on 25th February in the Monasterboice Inn by the Cathaoirleach Cllr. Kevin Callan to an audience of over 120, which included elected representatives, Council staff and representatives from all areas of tourism across the county.

The Visit Louth branding features a refreshed logo, tagline, and website designed to showcase Louth as a must-visit destination in Ireland.

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

The newly designed Visit Louth website enhances the visitor experience, providing an engaging, user-friendly platform that highlights the county's best attractions, activities, and hospitality.

The redesigned Visit Louth logo is inspired by the county's rich heritage, scenic beauty, and vibrant communities. Featuring a modern and welcoming design, it captures Louth's storied past while

embracing its promising future as an emerging tourism destination.

The new Visit Louth website serves as a comprehensive digital hub that aims to inform, inspire, and connect visitors with the best experiences the county has to offer.

Key features include:

- Curated guides to top attractions, from the historic sites of Drogheda and Monasterboice to the scenic Cooley Peninsula.
- Local insights and travel itineraries tailored to various interests.
- Recommendations for accommodation, dining, and activities.
- Up-to-date event listings, festivals, and cultural highlights.
- A seamless, mobile-friendly design for easy trip planning on the go.

The website was created by Zoma and the branding and new logo was created by Bammedia, with input and assistance from the Tourism Department.

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

Cathaoirleach Cllr. Kevin Callan with David Conway, Chief Executive, at the Visit Louth Launch Event

Sabhbh Ní Mhaolagáin, Tourism Officer, Bridget Kerrigan, Founder & Creative Director, Bammedia, David Kieran, Managing Director, Zoma taking part in a panel discussion at the Visit Louth Launch Event

County Louth Tourism Strategy

Runda Hospitality and Tourism Solutions held a workshop in relation to the Louth Tourism Strategy and Action Plan 2025 – 2030, on 25th February, following the Visit Louth launch. There was great interaction with everyone in attendance and further workshops are planned.

Shared Island Fund

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

Festival Grants 2025

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

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

Táin Trail

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

been agreed and will be available in early 2025. Louth County Council will be the lead council partner on this project.

Reimagined Boyne Valley Drive

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

Boyne Valley Flavours (BVF)

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

Work is continuing the implementation of the BVF Strategy.

The Centre of Food Culture, Boyne Valley

The Centre of Food Culture, Boyne Valley, is working with The University of Gastronomic Sciences, Pollenzo, Italy in arranging a study trip to the Boyne Valley region from 10th – 16th March. A group of fourteen from the leading gastronomy University will visit fifteen producers across the region, as well as several hospitality providers, focusing on learning about the territory, and topics including: distribution, sustainability, and food tourism. The university offers study trips in Italy, Europe and further afield to their students as part of their courses to complement their learning at the university. This trip marks the first study visit to the Boyne Valley region for the university.

Geilleagar Oíche Dhroichead Átha / Drogheda Night-Time Economy

Drogheda Retains Purple Flag Status

This month Drogheda successfully retained its prestigious Purple Flag status, a mark of excellence for vibrant and well-managed night-time economies, akin to the Blue Flag for beaches and the Green Flag for parks. Awarded by the Association of Town and City Management (ATCM), this recognition reflects Drogheda's commitment to fostering a safe, diverse, and welcoming night-time experience.

Co-ordinated by the Night-Time Economy Adviser in collaboration with Love Drogheda, this achievement is the result of a strong partnership effort, with organisations across the town working together to enhance the night-time offer. The town benefits from an exceptional culture of collaboration and community engagement, continuously striving to improve the experience between 5.00pm and 5.00am. Contributing highlights include the award-winning Lú Festival of Light, the Night Moves activation programme led by Droichead Arts Centre, the NTA's promotional campaign for later public transport, and new events such as the Drogheda Comedy Festival. Additionally, the Drogheda Implementation Board's Suicide Awareness Campaign with Drogheda United played an important role in ensuring well-being remains central to the town's night-time offer.

The Purple Flag partnership group, which also serves as the steering group for the Night-Time Economy Adviser pilot, will continue to meet regularly throughout the year in preparation for the 2025 audit by ATCM.

The group has also agreed on a new logo for Drogheda's Purple Flag initiative, incorporating the town's iconic star and crescent. This will further establish Drogheda's identity and reputation, ensuring it continues to punch above its weight on the international stage.

Night-Time Economy Pilot Review

The Government's Night-Time Economy Unit has commissioned a review of the nine pilot areas, including Drogheda, as part of its evaluation of the National Night-Time Economy initiative. The Night-Time Economy Adviser posts were a key recommendation of the Night-Time Economy Taskforce, designed to act as advocates and agents of change in their respective towns and cities.

Drogheda's Night-Time Economy Adviser has been in post since August 2023, and this review provides an opportunity to capture key learnings and insights from the Council and local stakeholders.

On Wednesday, 19th February, representatives from Love Drogheda, Drogheda and District Chamber of Commerce, and Droichead Arts Centre met with Government reviewers at the Fair Street Civic Offices to share their experiences and perspectives. The evaluation will inform recommendations on the future of the pilot, with key findings expected to be presented to the Government for consideration later in March.

Oifig Fiontair Áitiúil / Local Enterprise Office

Business Advice Clinics

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

Green for Business

The Green for Business programme is a free programme which aims to help businesses identify cost savings and improve their green credentials. This is achieved by looking at the business from an environmental perspective. Projects vary from assessing energy, water and waste costs, guidance with the environmental management system, to the greening of the product or business to adapt to the changing marketplace.

LEO Louth continues to welcome new applications.

Business Training

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

Four training courses were held in February, Start Your Own Business, Leveraging Chat GPT for Business, Lunch & Learn in Ardee Library and Data Protection consideration for Direct Marketing.

Lunch and Learn in Ardee Library

Grow Digital Voucher

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

Digital For Business

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

LEO Louth have received five applications year-to-date and continues to welcome new applications.

LEO Louth Mentor Programme

Fourteen businesses were appointed Mentors during the month of February to provide practical and strategic one-to-one advice and guidance.

Microfinance Ireland (MFI) Business Loan

Microfinance Ireland
Small Business Loans

LEO Louth offers expert assistance to complete MFI Loan Applications, Business Plans and Cashflow Projections. MFI have now doubled its lending limit to €50,000. This measure is part of the government's recently announced package of measures to support small businesses.

LEAN for Business Programme

Lean for Micro

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

Local Enterprise Week

Local Enterprise Week, 3rd – 7th March, was launched in February with the full schedule of events finalised and published on https://www.localenterprise.ie/Louth/Training-Events/Local-Enterprise-Week-2025/.

Sarah Mallon, LEO Louth and Aoife Fegan, LEO Meath with Gerry Kelly, LMFM, post their interview about Local Enterprise Week

Energy Efficiency Grant

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

grant of €10,000. The aim of the scheme is to support enterprises implement sustainability projects which will reduce the business impact on the environment and should increase the agility and resilience of these businesses to operate in a sustainable manner.
For further information on this grant please visit: https://www.localenterprise.ie/Louth/Financial-Supports/Energy%20Efficiency%20Grant/.

LEO Louth continues to welcome new applications.

Brazilian Ambassador Visit to Louth – Wednesday 5th February 2025

On Wednesday 5th February, the Counsellor to the Brazilian Embassy, George de Oliveira Marques, visited LEO Louth, marking an opportunity to strengthen ties between Brazil and local businesses in County Louth. The visit focused on exploring potential trade partnerships, investment opportunities, and collaborative initiatives that could benefit both Brazilian and Irish enterprises.

George Marques, Counsellor of Brazil Embassy and Niall Gallagher, LEO Louth

Oidhreacht / Heritage

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

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

The six Third Party applications received were in relation to:

Stream 1 (for continuing monument conservation works):
- Bellew's Castle, Castletown, Dundalk
- Glaspistol towerhouse, Clogherhead
- Taaffe's Castle, Carlingford

Stream 2 (for grants for research and planning future works):
- Hatch's Castle, Ardee
- Carlingford Tholsel

Stream 3 (for improving access to monuments and for their interpretation)
- Millmount Museum, Drogheda

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

Stream 1:
- Millmount (repairs to the ramp up to the 'Martello tower' and to the wall around the base of the motte)

Stream 2 (studies and surveys to inform the future conservation of):
- The circuit of Drogheda's town walls (no tender response was received in 2024)
- The Magdalene Tower, Drogheda
- The West Gable of the North Aisle of 'The Old Abbey', Drogheda.

Work also went into an application to the Irish Walled Towns Network's funding schemes concerning Featherbed Lane in Drogheda.

A funding application was also submitted to the Heritage Council's Heritage Plan funding scheme.

Seirbhísí Dóiteáin agus Éigeandála / Fire & Emergency Services

Fire Service

The table below shows the number of emergency incidents attended by Louth Fire Brigades in 2024.

Incident Types within Station Areas 2024

Type	Ardee	Carlingford	Dunleer	Drogheda	Dundalk	Meath	Other Areas	Total
Fire/Aircraft	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	**0**
Fire/Alarm Activation	16	8	7	91	88	17	1	**228**
Fire/Bus/Coach	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	**1**
Fire/Car	8	4	6	45	16	9	0	**88**
Fire/Caravan	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	**1**
Fire/Chimney	1	2	0	5	7	1	0	**16**
Fire/Controlled Burning	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	**0**
Fire/Domestic	7	1	7	26	19	9	1	**70**
Fire/Persons Reported	1	1	1	13	9	6	0	**31**
Fire/Fire (General)	3	1	1	13	7	5	0	**30**
Fire/Forest	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	**0**
Fire/Gorse	0	1	0	3	1	1	0	**6**
Fire/Grass	0	0	0	5	1	4	0	**10**
Fire/Hay/Barn	0	0	1	2	1	2	0	**6**
Fire/Industrial	0	0	1	6	8	1	0	**16**
Fire/Institutional	1	0	1	1	1	3	0	**7**
Fire/Motorcycle	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	**1**
Fire/Oil/Petrol	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	**1**
Fire/Small/Bin/Skip	6	2	7	121	82	38	1	**257**
Fire/Smoke Issuing	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	**0**
Fire/Truck	3	1	1	1	5	2	0	**13**
Fire/Vegetation	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	**0**
SS/Alarm/Carbon Monoxide	0	0	1	1	4	5	0	**11**
SS/Ambulance Assist	7	5	4	49	30	15	0	**110**
SS/Animal Rescue	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	**3**
SS/Electrical	1	0	2	2	5	3	0	**13**
SS/Entrapment	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	**3**
SS/Explosion	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	**1**
SS/Flooding	0	0	0	2	0	2	0	**4**
SS/Garda Assist	1	1	3	4	3	0	0	**12**
SS/Gas Leak	1	0	1	1	1	0	0	**4**
SS/Hazardous Material	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	**3**
SS/Lift Persons Trapped	0	0	0	3	1	0	0	**4**
SS/Lockout	3	0	1	5	6	0	0	**15**
SS/Make Scene Safe	0	0	1	4	3	2	0	**10**
SS/Marine Emergency	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	**0**
SS/Oil Spillage	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	**3**
SS/Other	9	0	0	5	3	1	0	**18**
SS/River Rescue	0	0	0	8	3	0	0	**11**
SS/RTA	24	11	24	52	72	43	5	**231**
SS/Smell of Gas	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	**1**
SS/Trees Down	1	0	1	4	1	4	0	**11**
SS/Water Leak	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	**3**
Total no. of Incidents:	**95**	**38**	**71**	**485**	**381**	**175**	**8**	**1253**

There was a total of 1,253 incidents responded to in 2024. The following table compares this with previous years. There was an increase from the 2023 total of 1,200 and the total number of incidents responded to in 2024 was the highest since 2020.

Comparative Period	No of Incidents	% Difference +/-
2020	1291	13.15%
2021	1147	-11.15%
2022	1224	6.71%
2023	1200	-1.96%
2024	1253	4.42%

The comparison of incidents attended with previous years shows the following:

- Drogheda was the busiest Fire Brigade in Louth in 2024, with 485 incidents in its own area and 175 incidents in Meath, a total of 660 calls.
- Ardee was the busiest county brigade with 95 emergency incidents attended in its own area during 2024 (and additional incidents attended in other station areas).
- The number of calls to Meath has increased in recent years and remains high.
- A large decrease in house fires compared to 2023, from 96 to 70.
- A further large increase in ambulance-assist calls in 2024 to 110 in 2024, following a similar increase in 2023.
- The most common type of incident was skip/rubbish fires, a total of 257 in 2024, up from 192 in 2023.
- Only 6 gorse fires in 2024, compared to 77 in the peak year of 2020.

The Fire Service went to tender on eTenders on 20th January for new battery-powered road rescue equipment for all Brigades in the county. This comprises a total of 53 items, including cutters, spreaders, combination units and rams and includes batteries, chargers and ancillary equipment. The tenders were assessed on 26th February and this equipment is being ordered from the successful tenderer.

Fire Service Training courses during February were as follows:

- Fulltime fire fighter Stephen Harmon completed the 17-week Recruits course in Dublin Fire Brigade. The pass out ceremony was on 19th February.
- A national Breathing Apparatus Wearers Course was run in Dundalk Training Centre from 10th to 21st February.

The Recruitment Plan for newly retained fire fighters continued in its implementation during February. Three applicants for recruit fire fighter posts completed station tests and were interviewed on 25th February.

Major Emergency Management

The North-East Regional Major Emergency Working Group meeting took place in County Hall on 11th February. It was chaired by An Garda Síochána. The main topic was Storm Éowyn. There were East Region Mobilisation Centre resilience issues in Meath, Monaghan and Cavan, with no service in certain locations, but not in Louth. There was also a recommendation that the ESB be represented in the Local Co-ordination Group for future Red Category severe weather events.

Climate Adaptation Strategy

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

Building Control

The National Building Control Office arranged two joint visits to building sites in Louth during February with Building Control staff.

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

This Section continues to follow up with Estate Agents requiring Building Energy Rating Certificates for properties for sale or rent.

Cosaint Shibhialta / Civil Defence

Following damage to power lines in Meath during Storm Eowyn, the ESB requested that Louth Civil Defence's drone team assist them for the week following the storm in the Mullagh, Kells and Moynalty areas. This assistance by the drone team continued into February.

Training during February:

- Weekly Training
- Visit to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) HQ in Dublin
- Drone Presentation to Boyne Fishermen's Rescue & Drogheda Fire Service

Duties during February:

- St. Brigid's Light Show, the Square, Dundalk for two days
- Rás na hÉireann Cross Country Races
- Missing Person Search, Drogheda

Pleanáil / Planning

Bainistíocht Forbartha / Development Management

The Planning service indicators for the Council for the month of January 2025 are given below in tabular form. There were 57 planning applications received during the month of January of which 48 were valid. In addition, there were 21 responses received during the month to requests for further information and 19 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 Developments	(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	3	13	41	0	57
(ii) Líon na gcinntí inar iarradh breis eolais / No. of decisions determined which required further information	2	3	13	0	18
(iii) Céatadán na n-iarratas a diúltaíodh / Percentage of applications refused	33.33% (1)	69.23% (9)	17.07% (7)	0.00% (0)	29.82% (17)
(iv) Líon na n-achomharc a cinneadh / Number of appeals determined	0	0	1	0	1
(v) Céatadán na gcinntí a cuireadh ar ceal ar achomharc / Percentage of decisions overturned on appeal	0.00% (0)	0.00% (0)	0.00% (0)	0.00% (0)	0.00% (0)

Forfheidhmiú Pleanála – Forbairt Neamhúdaraithe / 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	
	Eanáir 2025 / January 2025	Bliain go dtí seo / Year to Date	Eanáir 2024 / January 2024	Bliain go dtí seo / Year to Date
Líon na nGearán maidir le Forfheidhmiú Pleanála a Imscrúdaíodh / Number of Planning Enforcement Complaints Investigated	17	17	24	24
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	20	20	15	15
Líon na Litreacha Rabhadh a eisíodh / Number of Warning letters issued	15	15	16	16
Líon na bhFógraí Forfheidhmiúcháin a eisíodh / Number of Enforcement Notices issued	0	0	0	0
Líon na cásanna a tarchuireadh le haghaidh imeachtaí dlí / Number of cases referred for legal proceedings	0	0	0	0
Líon na n-urghairí / Number of Injunctions	0	0	0	0
Líon na n-ionchúiseamh / Number of Prosecutions	0	0	0	0

Pleanáil Chun Cinn / Forward Planning

Chief Executive's Report on submissions received to proposed Material Alterations to the Draft Dundalk Local Area Plan

The Chief Executive's Report in response to the submissions received to the proposed Material Alterations to the Draft Dundalk Local Area Plan was circulated to the Elected Members on Friday 7th February. A total of fifteen submissions were received during the public consultation.

Review of the Record of Protected Structures

A review of the Record of Protected Structures in the county is being undertaken. This review will consider additions, deletions, or amendments to the Record of Protected Structures. The public consultation opened on Tuesday 4th February and will continue until Wednesday 30th April. Submissions are being sought from the entire community including property owners whose property is currently included in the Record of Protected Structures or property owners who would like their property to be added to the Record of Protected Structures. Full details of how to make a submission are available on the Council Consultation Portal.

Comhfhorbairt Áite agus Forbairt Fisiceach

Placemaking and Physical Development

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

- **Seirbhísí Bóithre agus Áitiúla, agus Forbairt Fhisiciúil**

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

- **Roads and Local Services and Physical Development**

David Jones
Stiúrthóir / Director

Placemaking Progress Report for February 2025

Seirbhísí Bóithre agus Áitiúla / Roads and Local Services

Ceantar Bardasach Dhún Dealgan / Municipal District of Dundalk

Ceantar Dhún Dealgan agus Cuailgne / Dundalk and Cooley Area

Piocadh Bruscair / Litter Picking	**Suíomh agus méadar sa mhí / Location and metres per month**
Litter pick for these areas: **Removing rubbish from Bottle Banks daily and cleaning around them** **Work Carried out by Contractor:** **John Long with flail cutting ditches at Old Newry Rd Dead end in preparation for cleaning footpaths** **Pedestrian Barriers Repaired:** **St. Vincents School** **Barrack Street**	River Walk to Tain Bridge Inner Relief Rd to Racecourse Rd Old Newry Rd, Lennon Melia, Riverside Cresent, Fairgreen Rd Bypass at St Helenas, Quay St, Point Rd, Old Coes Rd. Barrack St. Centenary Rd Ramparts York St. Patrick St. John St. Phillip St. Castletown Rd Castleross Seatown Place St. Brigid's Tce Castle Rd Fairgreen Rd Avenue Rd Tom Bellew Rd Mary St. South Williamsons Place Mooreland Rd Ashling Pk Estate Bottle Banks at Long Walk Harp Car Park Meadow Grove Removing rubbish from Bottle Banks daily and cleaning around them Collecting and shredding fallen branches Hoey's Lane, Toberona Red Barns Rd Dublin Rd
Collecting and shredding fallen branches from these areas:	Hoey's Lane, Toberona Red Barns Rd Dublin Rd

Folmhú Araidí Poiblí / Emptying of Public Bins Emptying of bins in Carlingford, Omeath, Greenore, Templetown Car Park, Gyles Quay Area Dundalk – nightly by contractor Cleaned borders around Town The bulbs are beginning to show, and tiered planter in good colour 4 bins replaced with new ones in St Helenas Park	**Líon agus minicíocht / Numbers and frequency** Circa 240 litter bins throughout the town
Scuabadh Bóithre / Road Sweeping Contract sweeper as per contract nightly, daily, weekly and monthly as per contract Centre Island Bollard cleaning on N52 from the Red Cow roundabout to St. Helenas Park, Armagh Rd, and Newry Rd. Path and cleaning paths at St. Patrick's Cemetery.	**Bealaí gach tseachtain / Routes per week**
Folmhú Araidí Salachar Madra / Emptying Dog Waste Receptacles By Contractor Nightly as part of the street bin collections	**Líon gach tseachtain / Number per week**
Seiceál Baoithe Tarrthála / Ring Buoy Checking Ring Buoys checked Weekly Report sent to Water Safety Officer for Dundalk Lifebuoy issues this month of Areas included Ice House Hill, Toberona and new ropes added to lifebuoy	**Líon Seiceáilte gach tseachtain / Number checked weekly** 27 Checked Weekly submitted to Water Safety Officer
Seiceál Trealamh Áiteanna Sugartha agus Corpacmhainne / Checking of Playground and Gym Equipment Daily/Weekly check lists carried out by Parks Caretaker Litter Pick Parks Chainsaw training for 2 men for Parks Section over an 8 day period from the 10th - 19th February Shrub planting and mulch in borders around Town Windfallen trees removed from areas in Town Verge trimming in Areas	**Suíomhanna Seiceáilte Laethúil / Number of sites checked daily** Six

Equipment repaired in play areas Other parts taken for repair		
	Suíomh / Location	**Nótaí / Notes**
Deisiú Bóithre / Road Repairs	***Cooley*** ***Dundalk*** Ard Easmuinn beside St. Bridget's School Fr Murray Pk O Hanlon Pk St. Alphonsus Rd Coes Rd East Mountain Court Barrack St Lennonstown Manor Ardee Rd Tom Bellew Av. Avenue Rd / Hill St. Bridge The Cresent Patrick St. Meadow Grove	
Feabhasúchán Draenála / Drainage Remediation	***Cooley*** ***Dundalk*** *Oaks Enviro:* Dundalk Town approach roads, Estates and Town Centre: • Inner relief Rd / N52 • Dublin Rd • Priorland Rd • Mullaharlin Rd • Long Avenue Rd • Marrion Pk • R132 *River Grilles:* All checked and cleaned pre & Post storm Eowyn	
Crainn Leagtha nó Chontúirteacha / Fallen or Dangerous Trees	2 Trees St. Patrick's Cemetery Avenue Rd / Rock Rd Branches lifted	
Cothabháil Cosán / Footpath Maintenance	***Cooley*** ***Dundalk***	
Deisiú Soilse Tráchta / Traffic Light Repairs	Haynestown Cross Castletown Rd / Ecco Rd	

Marcáil Bóithre / Road Markings	None at this time	
Comharthaíocht / Signage	***Dundalk*** Red Barns Rd Mill St. Pearse Pk Friary School McEntee Av Market Square Hoey's Lane Market Square Ramparts Rd St Brigid's School R172 Buttercrane Lane St. Gerards Square	
Dumpáil Neamhdhleathach / Illegal Dumping	***Dundalk*** Williamsons Place Hoey's Lane Castletown Rd / Woodview Saltown / Fatima Red Cow Roundabout N52 Avondale Bachelors Walk	
Glanadh Graifítí / Graffiti Removal	Red Barns Rd Inner Relief Rd	

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

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

Scuabadh Bóithre / Road Sweeping	**Bealaí gach seachtain / Routes per week**
Folmhú Araidí Salachar Madra / Emptying Dog Waste Receptacles	**Líon gach seachtain / Number per week**
Seiceál Baoithe Tarrthála / Ring Buoy Checking	**Líon Seiceáilte gach seachtain / Number checked weekly** Blackrock – 7 checked weekly Annagassan – 11 checked weekly
Seiceál Trealamh Áiteanna Sugartha agus Corpacmhainne / Checking of Playground and Gym Equipment	**Suíomhanna Seiceáilte Laethúil / Number of sites checked daily** Killanny, Louth Village, Castlebellingham – checked weekly Blackrock – checked weekly

	Suíomh / Location	Nótaí / Notes
Deisiú Bóithre / Road Repairs	Tar patching on LP-3097 Jonesborough Road, LS-7093 Feede, LS-7105 Dungooley Kilcurry, LS-7106 Lennonstown Kilcurry, LS-7100 Faughart Upper, LT-7108 Monascrebe Faughart, Rd198 N2- Arthurstown Little Rd197 Arthurstown – Rahanna, Rd206 Crowmartin, Rd201 Thomastow	Road repairs and patching & cleaning up Tree pruning/vegetation maintenance/verge trimming Resurfacing/overlay works (by contract)

Feabhasúchán Draenála / Drainage Remediation	R171 Ardee – Tallanstown, N52 from Duffy's Cross – Fane Bridge and on Rd166 Castlebellingham – Annagassan, LS-7108 Balregan Kilcurry, LS-7126 Cortial Road Kilkerley.	Drainage maintenance – cleansing and gully cleaning, opening outlets & storm drains, preparation for surface dressing.
Crainn Leagtha nó Chontúirteacha / Fallen or Dangerous Trees		Clearing fallen trees & debris.
Cothabháil Cosán / Footpath Maintenance	Dublin Road	Footpath renewal
Deisiú Soilse Tráchta / Traffic Light Repairs	Xerox Junction, Haynestown, Kilkcurry, Faughart	Major repair works completed
Marcáil Bóithre / Road Markings	Blackrock N/A	Renewal of junction markings Renewal of existing and provision of additional road markings
Comharthaíocht / Signage	LP-3136 Newtown Knockbridge, R178 Carrick Road, LS-7127 Kilkerley	Cleansing/repair/replacement New signage
Dumpáil Neamhdhleathach / Illegal Dumping	LS-7109 Balriggan, Kilcurry, LS-7112 Castle Roche, Hackballscross, L-7100 Whitemill Faughart, LS-7103 Carn More Kilcurry, LS-7162 Clermont Road Haggardstown, Seabank	Collection of dumped waste for disposal. Collection & disposal after community clean up
Glanadh Graifítí / Graffiti Removal	N/A	

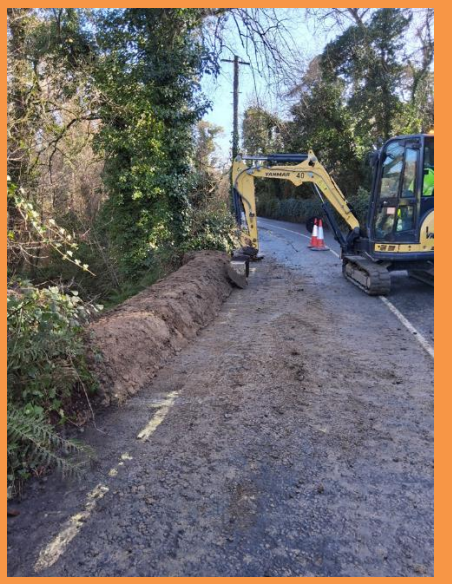
Ceantar Bardasach Bhaile Átha Fhirdhia / Ardee Municipal District

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

Piocadh Bruscair / Litter Picking	**Suíomh agus méadar sa mhí / Location and metres per month**
All routes in Ardee Town Clogherhead Car Park daily cleanup around bins	

Folmhú Araidí Poiblí / Emptying of Public Bins Ardee Town Dunleer town Collon Installation of bin at Riverside Walk Installation of bin at Link road	**Líon agus minicíocht / Numbers and frequency** 37 Daily 20 Tuesday and Thursday 3 Tuesday and Thursday
Scuabadh Bóithre / Road Sweeping All routes in Ardee Town	**Bealaí gach seachtain / Routes per week** 5.2km per day
Folmhú Araidí Salachar Madra / Emptying Dog Waste Receptacles	**Líon gach seachtain / Number per week**
Seiceál Baoithe Tarrthála / Ring Buoy Checking Ardee - River Dee Salterstown Port Beach	**Líon Seiceáilte gach seachtain / Number checked weekly**
Seiceál Trealamh Áiteanna Sugartha agus Corpacmhainne / Checking of Playground and Gym Equipment Maintenance and cleaning of Fairgreen and Dunleer parks and playgrounds complete with daily checks of the playground and exercise equipment at both locations.	**Suíomhanna Seiceáilte Laethúil / Number of sites checked daily**

	Suíomh / Location	Nótaí / Notes
Deisiú Bóithre / Road Repairs	• L-1260-0 John Street to Shanlis • L-5234-0 Bog Road Ardee, • L-1233-7 Artnalivery Ardee, • L-12972-0 Everitt's Lane, • L-5210-0 Mountrush, • L-1297-0 Kells Road Collon, • N2 Roundabout Ardee, • L-5267-0 Funshog, • L-52291-0 Sean O Carroll St	

Embankment repairs	L-2321 King Williams Glen	
Photo – prior to works	Photo – during works	Photo – works completed
		
Feabhasúchán Draenála / Drainage Remediation	• R-170 Dromin, • L-1297-0 Kells Road Collon, • L-12972-0 Everitt's Lane	
Crainn Leagtha nó Chontúirteacha / Fallen or Dangerous Trees		
Cothabháil Cosán / Footpath Maintenance		
Deisiú Soilse Tráchta / Traffic Light Repairs		
Marcáil Bóithre / Road Markings		
Comharthaíocht / Signage		
Dumpáil Neamhdhleathach / Illegal Dumping		

Glanadh Graifítí / Graffiti Removal		

<u>Ceanntar Buirge Dhroichead Átha / Borough District of Drogheda</u>

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 Clogherhead Beach Port Beach Termonfeckin Baltray Seapoint Carpark	7 Daily 8 Daily 6 Daily 6 Daily 3 Daily 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 cleared Daily during working week. Also all Bring Banks in Drogheda urban are checked and cleared Saturday p.m. Drogheda Rural Bring banks are cleared daily during working week. Remove dumping at North Strand, Bullys Acre, Dummies Lane, Barrack Lane, Moneymore, St Laurence Drive & Rathmullen Pk. Litter picking at Fair Green, Fair St, Windmill Rd, Peters St, Dominics St, Market Sq and O Reillys Carpark.
Folmhú Araidí Poiblí / Emptying of Public Bins	**Líon agus minicíocht / Numbers and frequency** Drogheda town centre, litterbins emptied daily circa 60 early mornings. 234 litter bin (including 10 no. Solar bins) are emptied weekly in town. Dominic's Park & Mell River Walk emptied daily. South Louth Drogheda Municipal district rural area's public Litter Bins are emptied twice a week or daily when needed especially at

	beaches/Portoriel/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 & Tenure. Drogheda town Boyne River walkways are swept 3 times per week (Monday, Wednesday & Friday. Particular attention to road sweeping at approach roads North & South and Town Centre. Multi-Hog, Pedestrian Road sweeper cleaning of cycle lane and street bollards, Town Centre, carparks, slip ways and bridges. Multi-Hog, Power washer pedestrian sweeper, West St outside St Peters Church & Thosel. Clean up and removal of trees after recent storms at Newtown Termonfeckin Rd & Millmount. Erecting of safety barriers at storm damaged buildings at Bolton St, Scholes Lane & William St. Power washing of steps at Rosemary Lane, Highlanes & Dublin Rd to Marsh Rd.
FolmhúAraidí Salachar Madra / Emptying Dog Waste Receptacles	**Líon gach seachtain / Number per week** Empty about 35 once a week, washed and disinfected.
Seiceál Baoithe Tarrthála / Ring Buoy Checking	**Líon Seiceáilte gach seachtain / Number checked weekly** 89 ring buoys checked each week Town area (Thursday)

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

	Suíomh / Location	Nótaí / Notes
Deisiú Bóithre / Road Repairs	**Drainage Works** 1. Gully Cleaning Contract has now commenced – 858 Gullies cleaned to date – Approach roads and Drogheda Town Centre. 2. LCC Crew – drainage repairs at North Rd, Greenhills, Hardman Gardens & St Laurence St. **LCC's crew** **3.** Pothole repairs at Barrack St, IDA Rd, Crosslanes, Yellowbatter, St Patrick's Day Parade Route, Bolton St, Georges St, North Quay, Marsh Rd, Boyle O Reilly Tre & St Mary's St. 4. Removal of sandbags after storm Eowyn at Wellington Quay, North Quay, Ushers Corner & Queensborough. 5. Monitoring of Traffic / Pedestrian management at dangerous structures at Bolton St, William St & Scholes Lane. 6. Erection of safety barriers at stream between St Laurence Pk and public housing estate – high water level. **Road Works Programme – Resurfacing works 2025** Roads Survey now complete, and we intend to commence contract documents in March Crosslanes Rathmullan Pk Cord Rd College Rise	

	Broadmeadows Bothar Brugha R132 / Crosslanes / Cement Rd Junction Collon Rd. **CIS Lanes 2025** Funding allocation has now been confirmed, and we intend to survey roads in March.	
Feabhasúchán Draenála / Drainage Remediation	Annual Drogheda Gully cleaning programme ongoing 858 Gullies cleaned to date – Approach roads and Drogheda Town Centre.	
Crainn Leagtha nó Chontúirteacha / Fallen or Dangerous Trees	• Removal of fallen trees from pervious storms at Millmount and Newtown Termonfeckin Rd.	
Cothabháil Cosán / Footpath Maintenance	• Currently in the process of compiling a list of footpaths for reinstatement, with the intent to commence in April.	
Deisiú Soilse Tráchta / Traffic Light Repairs	• DR03 R132 James St - Scotch Hall Jct (R132C), Ireland –Vehicle phase lamp fail – GREEN • DR04, R132 @ Bull Ring/North Quay/South Quay Jct (R132D) –vehicle phase lamp phase D green • DR07, M1 Link - Cement - Cross Lanes (R132H), Ireland vehicle phase lamp phase E Red • DR12 Marsh Rd - Scotch Hall Jct, Ireland –red lamp fail • Donegan's R132 – Pedestrian Crossing (lamps out • DR30 Ballymakenny Road - Knockdown Repair • DR52 - Ardee ped @ Castle (vehicle phase lamp phase A Amber fail) • DR29 Platin Rd/Beamore Rd Drogheda – Detector fault, AX2	
Marcáil Bóithre / Road Markings	Survey of existing road markings with intention to renew sites in order of priority.	
Comharthaíocht / Signage	• Reinstate taxi pole and signs at Shop St. • Reinstate the parking pole and signs at Bessexwell Lane. • Stop sign replaced at Sundays Gate. • Reinstatement of flexi bollards at Hardman Gardens. • Reinstate Stop sign at Rathmullan Rd, after RTA. • Reinstatement of directional bollards at Cord Rd.	

Marú fiailí / Weed killing		
Díghalrú glantacháin boscaí bruscair / Litterbin cleaning disinfecting	On-going on weekly basis.	
Glanadh Graifítí / Graffiti Removal	Removal of graffiti on Street furniture, town centre.	
Dumpáil Neamhdhleathach / Illegal Dumping	Monitoring & removal of dumping – operations / environment team – Bessexwell Lane, North Strand, Bully's Acre, Dummies Lane, Barrack Lane, Moneymore, St Laurence Drive & Rathmullan Pk Alleyways.	

Comhfhorbairt Áite / Placemaking

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

West Gate Vision (Drogheda)

The Westgate planning application has been Approved by An Bord Pleanala. LCC are reviewing the Planners report.

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

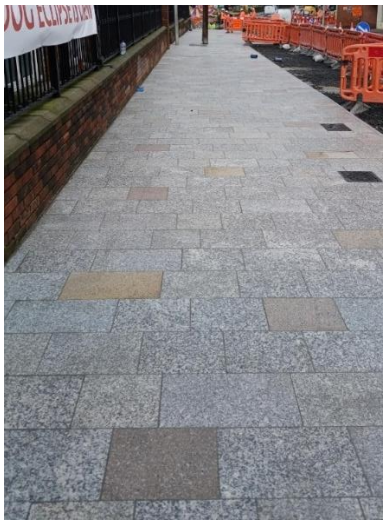
Artist impressions of Westgate project

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. Phases A, B and D have been largely completed. Works to the LHS of Phase C are also nearing completion and the contractor has moved to the RHS of Phase C which is the final phase to be completed on Bridge Street prior to moving onto Clanbrassil Street. Phase C works are scheduled to be completed by the end of March. The associated road closure scheduled from mid-November to February has now been lifted and no more road closures/diversions are required for the remainder of the scheme except for a short period while road surfacing is being carried out.

Works Complete to Bridge St. (Phase B)



Paving Complete to Bridge St. Phase C (LHS)

Works ongoing to Bridge St. Phase C (RHS)

The contractor has, in agreement with the Council, the consultant design team and relevant stakeholders commenced work on Phases F and E in the vicinity of the Fairgreen and works are progressing well.

Pedestrian access will always be maintained and deliveries to and from all businesses will be

accommodated to minimise the impact as much as possible.

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

Phase 2 – Backlands Area of St Nicholas Quarter

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

Artist impressions of St. Nicholas Quarter Phase 2

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

Engagement with property owners is ongoing with in Drogheda and Dundalk. Several properties have entered the planning process, been put up for sale or have now begun development works. Significant focus is ongoing in Drogheda with several vacancy notices being placed on buildings.

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

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

Ardee Castle

The tender process for a main contractor has closed. The tender assessment process is ongoing with a contractor due to be appointed in Q1 2025.

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

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

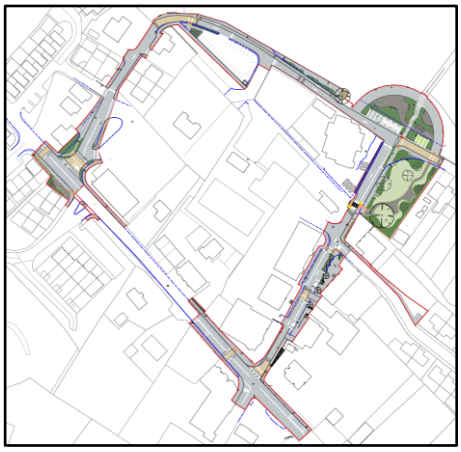
Living in Carlingford Visiting Carlingford

Artist impressions of Carlingford

The tender for the procurement of consultants for heritage led detailed design has been published. Tenders will close at the end of January 2025. Tender process is currently under review.

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. Inspection is scheduled to be carried out in early March following completion of snagging and tree planting.



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 Pleanala.

Tionscadail Breise / Additional Projects

St Laurence's Gate Plaza, Drogheda

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

Play Spaces

St Dominic's Park & The Glen

AA Screening Stage 1 report has been completed for the Glen and Part 8 documents are being reviewed by LCC for publication in 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

The Department of Rural & Community Development (DRCD) has announced the successful applicants for Call 2 of the Community Recognition Fund (CRF) 2024. Louth has received €576,945 in funding in this call, for projects including the upgrade of the sensory garden and playground at ABACAS School for Children with Autism in Drogheda, the upgrade of M.A.D Youth Theatre in Dundalk and the refurbishment of the changing rooms at St. Mary's LGFC in Ardee.

Funded by the DRCD, the CRF recognises the huge efforts made by local communities in welcoming and supporting new arrivals from Ukraine and other countries.

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

In this call, Louth County Council sought expressions of interest for projects from communities with the highest level of new arrivals. In Louth, these areas are: Drogheda, Dundalk, Ardee, Termonfeckin, Clogherhead, Collon and Drumcar.

The application window for Call 3 is now closed and expressions of interest are currently being appraised.

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.

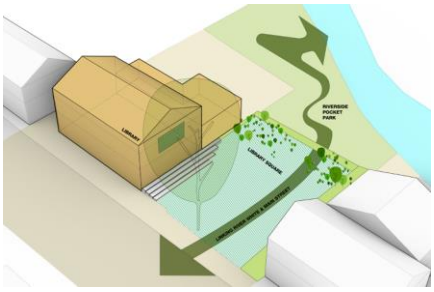
ORIS is available to assist with the development of our natural amenities such as our mountains, lakes, rivers, beaches, blue-ways, bogs, forest walks and upland areas.

Up to 90% of the total project cost is available to successful projects. The remaining 10% match funding must be contributed by the successful applicant.

Expressions of interest under Measure 1 and Project Development Measure closed in January 2025. However, the window for expressions of interest for projects under Measures 2 and 3 of the schemes remain open until 3rd March 2025. A brief overview of each measure, deadline dates, expression of interest forms and links to the scheme outline 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



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

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

Town Centre First Plan – Clogherhead

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

THRIVE – Town Centre First Heritage Revival Scheme

Louth County Council were successful in a bid for Strand 1 funding in April 2024 to support a design team to explore and develop concepts for the restoration of vacant or derelict heritage buildings in public ownership and to assist with the revitalisation of Drogheda Town Centre, bringing valued heritage buildings back into use as community assets and delivering on New European Bauhaus and Town Centre First policies.

Having appointed Shaffrey Architects, the Council are in partnership with the design team proceeding towards a Strand 2 application which will allow for funding of up to €7 million towards a heritage initiative.

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

The Council will stage a further public consultation event allowing further refinement before proceeding towards a Part 8 Planning application and application for Strand 2 Funding in April 2025.

Drogheda Digital Innovation Hub

The tender for the appointment of a contractor for works to part of the former O'Reilly building on Narrow West Street has closed and returns are being assessed with appointment of a contractor due to take place in Q1 2025.

Town Team Support Fund

Louth County Council were successful in receiving funding under the Town Centre First Suite of Supports towards Town Centre Health Checks for both Castlebellingham and Collon.

Following appointment of Craftstudio Architects, Louth County Council are reviewing initial findings from surveys with a view towards completion in March 2025.

Vacant Homes Officer

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

Vacant Homes Officer will be issuing a further tranche of Vacant Homes Notices, which will be taking place in the next few weeks.

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

Both members of the public and councillors are encouraged to report any suspected or known vacant homes on www.vacanthomes.ie for inspection by the Vacant Homes Officer. So far, 12 new properties have been logged for 2025.

Forbairt Fhisiciúil / Physical Development

Tionscadail Bóithre / Roads Projects

Narrow Water Bridge
Wearing course has been completed on the R173 and roundabout and Temporary Traffic Management has been amended.

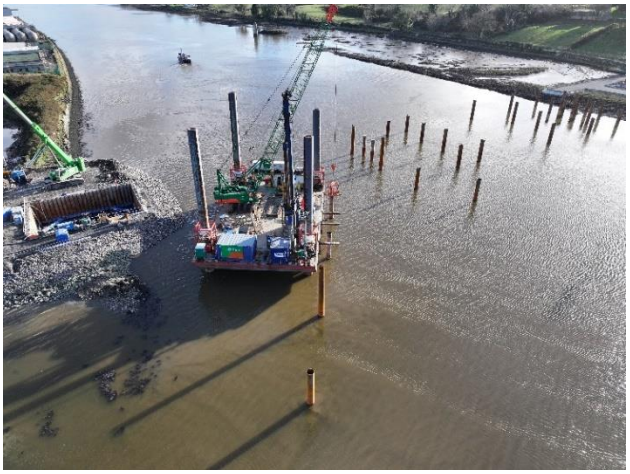
Control building construction ongoing, the building is now weather proofed. Plastering commencing this week.

Southern abutment: Most of the structural walls have been poured. Internal walls ongoing.

Northern Works: Proposed surface water diversion works has commenced in the North. The 92 piles for the bascule abutment are now complete. Excavation of bascule abutment has commenced. Marine Piling: Commenced on 8th January, fender piles currently being installed. All marine piling due for completion in early March.

Southern Abutment ongoing R.C. works

Northern Bascule Abutment



Marine Piling Works

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).

High Voltage ESB Network Diversion

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

ESB have commenced works on the relocation of the 38kv overhead network, however these works will be delayed due to reallocation of ESB personnel for the clean up after Storm Éowyn.

N52 Ardee Bypass

The applicant lodged a Supreme Court Application for Leave to Appeal the High Court Decision on the 20th of December 2025. In mid-January An Bord Pleanála lodge their notices seeking an Order affirming the decision of the High Court and dismissing the appeal. The scheme remains at a standstill until the legal matter are resolved.

Boyne Enterprise Link Road

Ongoing consultations including a valuation process has taken place with stakeholders / landowners to acquire adjoining roadway resulting with an offer being submitted by LCC. This offer has now been accepted and has progress to legal teams for contracts. Subject to prove of title etc both parties will progress to closing out sale in the coming weeks via solicitors.

Note: The CPO process has continued in conjunction with the valuation process. The CPO has been advertised and submissions to An Bord Pleanála close on the 11th of January. No submissions were received. Upon successful transfer of these lands to LCC, LCC will progress completion of the final element of this road as per original Part 8 planning.

R178 Cavan to Dundalk Strategic Route Improvement Scheme

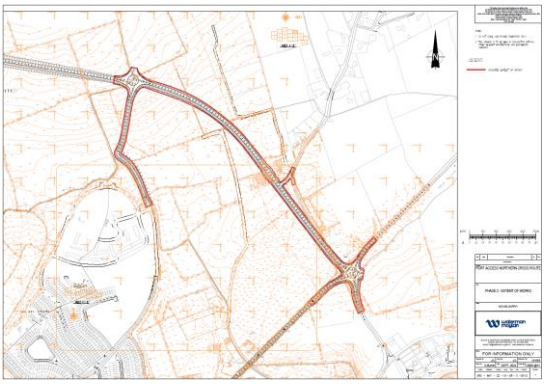
Department of Transport have approved the Council to appoint the Consultant through to optioneering phase of the project, with a view that subject to funding approvals further phases will follow on through to planning consent stage.

Pre-start meeting with appointed Consultant, RPS Group, took place on the 23rd of January, with phase 1 to commence in Feb.

Draft Project Execution Plan has been submitted and is currently being reviewed. Consultant currently finalising concept and feasibility report before commencing with phase 2 – option selection.

Port Access Northern Cross Route (PANCR) Phase 2.

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



PANCR Phase 2 Extent of Works

<u>Glasbhealaí / Greenways</u>

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

Section 1, & Section 2 complete from Carlingford to the border at Cornamucklagh.

Road Safety Audits 3 & 4 were carried out on 20th Jan 2025.

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

Section 3 – NI

Works continue to progress on the construction of the boardwalk.

Substructures complete between border and Rough Island

Substructure substantially complete between Rough Island and Victoria Lock

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 have been complied into a separate Feedback Report and uploaded to the website for the public to view. In tandem persons who submitted a submission and provided contact details were issued correspondence directing them to the appropriate sections within the report on the concerns they raised.

The design team are now concentrating on determining an emerged preferred route corridor, which will be subject to the next public consultation phase. Further details on the project can be found on the dedicated website:- *www.dundalkcarlingfordgreenway.ie* including contact details for the Project Liaison Officer and the independent appointed agronomist.

TII approval has been received to move the project into options phase.

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

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

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.

Topographic Surveys of the study area to determine ground levels throughout the study area have been completed.

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

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

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

Tionscadail Corparáideach / Corporate Projects

Dunleer Fire Station

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

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

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 been completed to aid final design. Site Investigation surveys began in Jan 2025 and are near completion. Draft submission of Stage 1 Report and Cost Plan have been finalised and are currently being reviewed with intention to shortly submit to National Fire Directorate for their approval to proceed to Stage 2 (Full Design).

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.

Shortlisting potential fluvial and coastal flood relief options is underway, with modelling of proposed measures and combinations integrated into a streamlined process. Preliminary measures are being reviewed with the Client and Steering Group to refine the shortlisted options further. The next steps include incorporating these options into the development report and preparing for a Public Participation Day early to mid-2025.

Site Investigation works are due to commence on site in April 2025. The Archaeological Impact Assessment (AIA) has been prepared to identify any potential impacts of the Site Investigation works on local archaeology and built heritage. This will be discussed with National Monuments Service (NMS) for preparation of licensing for the monitoring of works by a licensed archaeologist.
A Public Liaison Officer from the Consultant Engineers working on the scheme is currently establishing communication channels with landowners/private property owners that may be affected by the proposed Site Investigation works. The Public Liaison Officer will carry proof of identification.

The Draft Ardee Options Report has been received and reviewed by the Steering Group. Monthly project briefing notes are being issued to the current relevant stakeholders. The Project website being hosted by OPW can be reached at: *www.floodinfo.ie/frs/en/dundalk/home.ie*

Drogheda and Baltray Flood Relief Project

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

RPS are continuing to undertake hydraulic model simulations to ensure that the proposed scheme provides the required standard of protection to properties. RPS are also continuing to develop the Scheme Analysis and Development report.

Underwater archaeology and geophysical survey contractors are currently on site. This survey will provide data to inform the Scheme Analysis and Development phase of the project and is commenced in February.

RPS are also liaising with other environmental specialists regarding updating the baseline data. The aquatic ecology and walkover surveys are currently underway. An additional overwintering bird survey commenced in September and will continue until March 2025.

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

Carlingford and Greenore Flood Relief Project

CCTV and Topographical survey data has been quality assessed for use in building the hydraulic model, including on site validation checks.

A geospatial contractor has been engaged by Louth County Council to provide topographic aerial surveys relating to the Carlingford and Greenore Flood Relief Scheme. The surveys to be conducted are non-intrusive and involve the flying of drones to determine the topography of the study area.

The data from this survey will be used to inform the modelling for potential development of future flood defences. The area to be surveyed includes Carlingford Town, Greenore, Commons, the entire coastline from north Carlingford to Whitestown inclusive

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

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

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

Tionscadail Muirí / Marine Projects

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

- Drummullagh, Omeath: Section 177 AE has been approved by the Board and construction tender documents are being drafted

- Bellurgan Point: Section 177 AE has been approved by the Board and construction tender documents are being drafted.

- Ballynamony/Ballagan, Greenore: Section 177 AE has been approved by the Board and construction tender documents are being drafted.

The Contract Documents have been prepared with procurement of a civil engineering contractor expected within the coming weeks, 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:

- Rising blockwork 100%
- Attenuation trench 100%
- Joisting to flat roofs 100% complete
- Membrane installation on flat roofs 80%
- Foundation for wall @ entrance 95% complete
- Window installation 70%
- Joisting to flat roofs 100% complete
- Decking to roof 100% complete
- Kalzip roof – 95% facia to finish, 45% GP Hall
- Sub frames to SNU 100% complete
- M&E pipework and boxes to SNU –95%
- Battens and membranes for cladding – 100% complete
- Damp course at eaves 100%
- Watermain installation 60% complete
- EIR ducts installation 85% complete
- Installation of gullies 60% complete
- Floor finish 45%
- Electrical Containment 60% complete
- 1st coat spray finish to blocks 100%
- SHS 80x80 installation 100%
- Canopies 50% - pad stones installed

Proposed Works Forecast
- Ongoing roof installation
- Complete flat roofs
- Complete foundation to wall along the road boundary
- Installation of EIR duct at Road
- Complete attenuation trench
- Ongoing installation of M&E containment
- Completion of window installation
- Floor finish ongoing
- Canopy installation
- Complete spray finish to blockwork
- Internal render

Active Travel Investment Program

2025 Budget Allocation

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

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

The current status of the ongoing Active Travel projects is as outlined in the table below. For ease of referencing, the National Transport Authority (NTA) allocate projects into particular Cost Bands depending on the total estimated project cost including, fees, land acquisitions and constructions as follows;
Band 1 €0 - €5M;
Band 2 €5 - €20M;
Band 3 > €20M;

They also divide the evolution 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, were local authorities are to prepare and submit Gateway Reports for sign-off before obtaining approval to advance to the next phase.

The seven different phases are as outlined below...

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

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

Tionscadail Tasitil Gníomhaigh / Active Travel Projects

Project Name	Allocation 2025	Project Band	Current Phase	March 2025- Project update	Anticipated Part 8 Completions, subject to NTA approval of Gateways
Drogheda: R132, Bridge of Peace to Train Station (incorporating Marsh Road)	€270,000	Band 2 €5 - €20M	Phase 3 – Preliminary Design	The recent Gateway (GW) 3 Report and preliminary design drawings were amended to reflect the New Cycle Design Manual. The Active Travel Team held a second Non-Statutory Public Consultation event in Drogheda Library on Tuesday 5th November last, which was very well attended, with a prior briefing to Drogheda MD members online on 14th October 2024. All observations, comments and feedback obtained during the 2nd Non-Statutory Public Consultation event have been reviewed by the Design Team and are now incorporated into amended design drawings. With the new information our designers envisage that this project will be brought forward for Part 8 public display in early 2025. Louth County Council (LCC) have received GW3 approval from the NTA in January 2025 	Proposed Part 8 display early Q2 2025
Drogheda: R166 Termonfeckin Rd, design.	€50,000	Band 2 €5 - €20M	Phase 3 – Preliminary Design	Consultants RPS Group have completed draft Gateway 3 Report. It is anticipated to have an on-line briefing on the proposed scheme to Drogheda Municipal District Councillors in March 2025 in advance of non-statutory public consultations.	Proposed Part 8 display early Q2 2025
Drogheda: R168 Collon Rd, Hill of Hill of Rath Roundabout (RAB) and Rosehall RAB.	€100,000	Band 2 €5 - €20M	Phase 3 – Preliminary Design	The Design Team are currently progressing with preliminary design following non-statutory public consultation with this design expected to be completed by April 2025. Thereafter, the Active Travel Team will proceed to Part 8 public display	Proposed Part 8 display Q2 2025

Project Name	Allocation 2025	Project Band	Current Phase	March 2025- Project update	Anticipated Part 8 Completions, subject to NTA approval of Gateways
				 View of Collon Rd looking South East from Mell Roundabout View of R166 looking East from Hill of Rath Roundabout	
Drogheda: Rathmullan Road including Marley's **(Pathfinder Project)**	€120,000	Band 2 €5 - €20M	Phase 3 – Preliminary Design	Part 8 approval received on 10th February, 2025 by Drogheda Municipal District. The Design Team are currently progressing with GW4 deliverables and detailed design. View of Marley's Lane looking South from Aura Leisure	Part 8 approved on 10th February, 2025. Project no proceeding through detailed design.

Project Name	Allocation 2025	Project Band	Current Phase	March 2025- Project update	Anticipated Part 8 Completions, subject to NTA approval of Gateways
Drogheda Dublin and North roads, design.	€400,000	Band 2 €5 - €20M	Phase 2 - Concept and Options	The Active Travel Team are having on-going discussions with Irish Rail regarding Dublin Road Bridge and interaction with the Dart North Coastal Project. A inter agency meeting was held to examine proposals on Active Travel measures under the Dublin Rd, railway bridge. Further meetings are planned. Consultants AECOM via the NTA are currently developing options for the section relating to the under-bridge of the Navan Railway Line North Road - Gateway 3 (Preliminary Design Report) approval received in February 2025. The design team are currently preparing pre-planning i.e. Part 8 documentation. View of Dublin Rd, Drogheda Rd looking South	Dublin Rd, Drogheda - Proposed Part 8 display depending on dialogue with NTA / Irish Rail. North Rd, Drogheda - Proposed Part 8 display Q2 2025
Dundalk: R132 Inner Relief Rd. **(Pathfinder Project)**	€2,625,000	Band 2 €5 - €20M	Phase 5 Detailed Design	Tender Document to establish a restricted panel of competent contractors was advertised on etenders and Official Journal of the European Union (OJEU). Closing date for submission was 17th December 2024. It is anticipated that a panel of contractors will be formed and detailed tender documents will be issued to this panel in Q1 2025.	Completed – Part 8 Approval on the 10th September 2024 Construction Tender Procurement Stage May 2025

Project Name	Allocation 2025	Project Band	Current Phase	March 2025- Project update	Anticipated Part 8 Completions, subject to NTA approval of Gateways
				 View of Inner Relief Rd, Dundalk looking north from Hoeys Lane Roundabout extract from Fly Through	
Dundalk: Dublin Rd Xerox Junction to Ladywell Bridge	€25,000	Band 2 €5 - €20M	Phase 4 Statutory Process	Part 8 proposals were brought to Dundalk MD Meeting on the 10th December 2024. View of Dublin Rd, Dundalk looking north at DKIT Entrance	Part 8 Approved in December 2024.
Dundalk: Ard Easmuinn Rd to Train Station / Friary School Dundalk & Dundalk Bus Station to Rail Station.	€100,000		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 Park to deliver key elements associated with pedestrian provision and Safe Routes to School infrastructure.	Proposed Part 8 Q2 2025

Project Name	Allocation 2025	Project Band	Current Phase	March 2025- Project update	Anticipated Part 8 Completions, subject to NTA approval of Gateways
				View of Ard Easmuinn Looking North from China Bridge	
R132 Inner Relief Road Tain Bridge	€50,000	Band 1 €0 - €5M	Phase 3 - Concept and Options	Phase 2 approved by the NTA in December 2024. Phase 3 commenced with a proposed non-statutory consultation in April 2025.	No part 8's but possible Section 38
Hoey's Lane, Dundalk	€60,000	Band 1 €0 - €5M	Phase 3 – Preliminary Design	GW3 Reports approved by the NTA in Dec 2024. Public consultation proposed for 20th March, 2025. Dundalk MD Councillors will received an on-line briefing in advance of PCD.	Proposed Part 8 Q2 2025
Mill Street, Dundalk	€75,000	Band 1 €0 - €5M	Phase 2 - Concept and Options	GW3 comments received from NTA and a workshop held with NTA, LCC and consultants on 20th November 2024. Resulting from this workshop the drawings will be updated and a non-statutory public consultation will be held in early Q2 2025, however the Active Travel Team are conducting meetings with key stakeholders such as schools and Bus Eireann.	2025
Hill Street Bridge to Train Station, Dundalk	€50,000	Band 1 €0 - €5M	Phase 2 - Concept and Options	GW3 comments received from NTA and a workshop held with NTA, LCC and consultants on 20th November 2024. Resulting from this workshop the drawings will be updated and a non-statutory public consultation will be held in Q2 2025.	2025
College Heights to Tom Bellew Avenue, Dundalk	€150,000	Band 2 €5 - €20M	Phase 2 - Concept Development & Option Selection	GW2 report approved by the NTA in Dec 2024.	2025

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

Project Name	Allocation 2025	Project Band	Current Phase	March 2025- Project update	Anticipated Part 8 Completions, subject to NTA approval of Gateways
4. Scoil Aonghusa, Drogheda					
Safe Routes to Schools (Round 2) 1. Bellurgan National School 2. Callystown National School 3. St Mary's NS, Knockbridge 4. St. Malachy's GNS, Dundalk	€950,000	Band 1 €0 - €5M	Phase 2 / 3 - Concept and Options & Preliminary Design	The Design Team were appointed in March 2024 and have completed preliminary designs. GW3 Reports submitted to NTA at the end of February 2025. Workshop scheduled to be held with the NTA in March 2025 to obtain approval to progress to S. 38. Section 38's proposed to be placed on public display in April 2025.	No part 8's but possible Section 38's
Safe Routes to Schools (Round 3) 1.SN Chaoimhin Naofa, Philipstown, Dunleer 2. Scoil Phadraig Naofa , Kilcurry 3.Mullaghboy NS.	€50,000	Band 1 €0 - €5M	Phase 2 - Concept and Options	Louth County Council were informed in Q4 2024 of three new schools to be included as part of Safe Routes to School Round 3. Funding was received 13th Jan 2025. Tender Documents to be prepared seeking Design Consultants for the Design of Proposed works.	No part 8's but possible Section 38's
Bus Enhancement Programme	€500,000			Funding to allow for the upgrade of bus stops in various locations across the county including the installation of bus poles and hardstanding areas plus bus shelters in agreed locations.	N/A
Mobility Hubs	N/A	N/A	N/A	The Government Climate Action Plan (CAP 23/24) has identified shared mobility as a key mechanism for reducing car dependency and car ownership. Dundalk Town has been identified as a potential location for the delivery of a pilot project to test the effectiveness of mobility hubs. The hubs would provide short-term access to a variety of modes of travel including ebikes, escooters and Electric Vehicles (EVs).	N/A

Project Name	Allocation 2025	Project Band	Current Phase	March 2025- Project update	Anticipated Part 8 Completions, subject to NTA approval of Gateways
				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.	

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 Tréidlíachta.

Tá cúig eochairfhreagrachta ag an Stiúrthóireacht seo:

- **Seirbhísí Corporáideacha**
- **Tacaíocht Pobail agus Spóirt**
- **Inbhuanaitheacht**
- **Seirbhísí Tréidliachta**
- **Acmhainní Duine**

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

This Directorate has five key areas of responsibility.

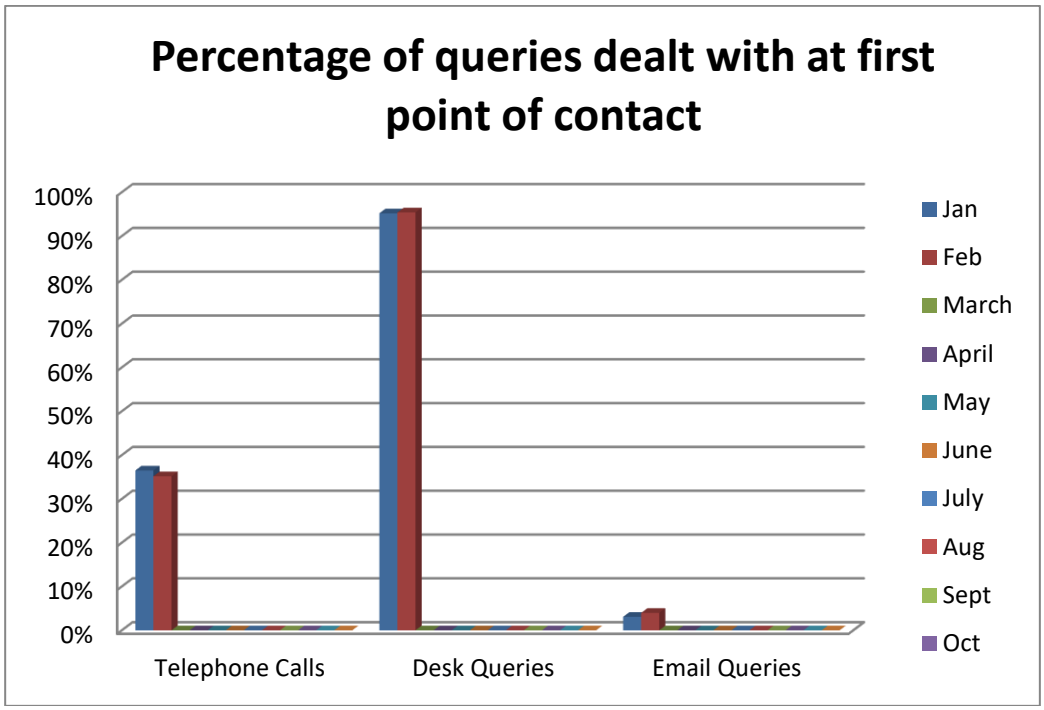
- **Corporate Services**
- **Community Support & Sports**
- **Sustainability**
- **Animal Welfare**
- **Human Resources**

Joe McGuinness
Stiúrthóir /Director of Service

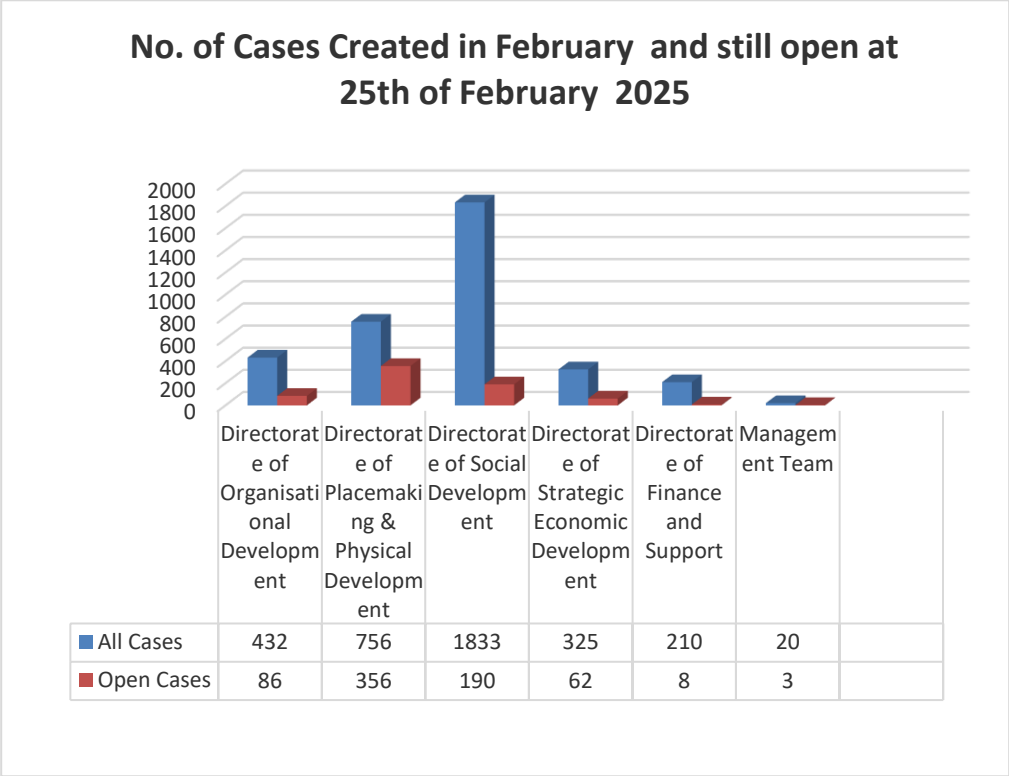
Seirbhísí Corporáideacha / Corporate Services

Tuairisc ar Sheirbhísí Custaiméirí / Customer Services Report

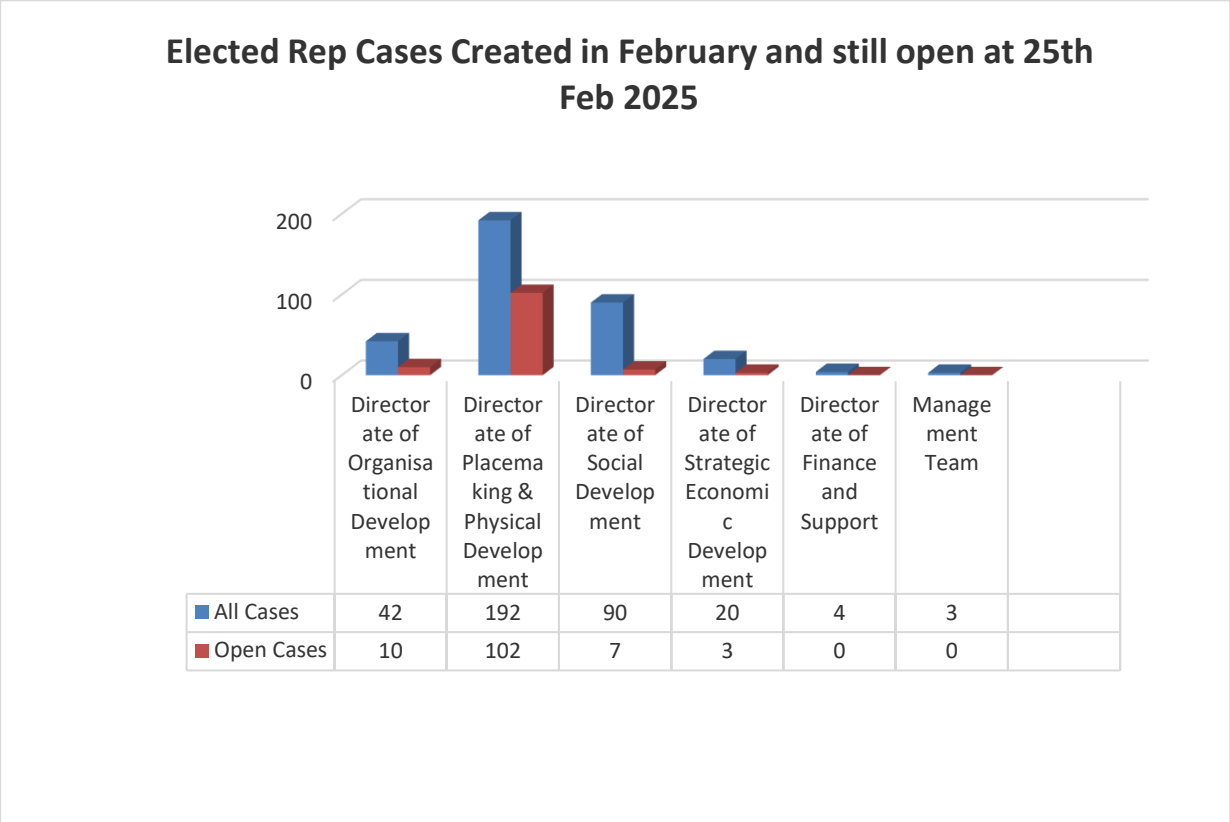
During the month of Feb 2025 Customer Services dealt with queries 7,465 calls, 1,305 e-mails and 7,457 counter queries.



There were 3,576 valid Sugar CRM cases recorded during February of which 705 (19.7%) remain unresolved, broken down by directorate as follows:



During Feb 2025, 351 elected reps. cases were recorded on Sugar of which 122 (34.75 %) remain unresolved broken down by Directorate as follows:



The table below illustrates activity in the redress area.

Request Received	2024 Total Jan- Feb	2025 Total Jan - Feb	2025 Feb only
FOI REQUEST	27	28	14
DSAR	1	2	0
DATA PROTECTION REQUEST	5	15	5
(AIE) INFORMATION	1	1	1
OMBUDSMAN REQUEST	5	4	4
COMPLAINTS	11	4	1

Clár Toghthóirí / Electoral Register

The Franchise Section are actively engaged in a data cleansing task in advance of the transfer of data to the National Voter.ie system which is envisaged will be live in early 2026. Voter.ie will strengthen accuracy and data management of constituents registered to vote.

As part of this data cleansing process, letters have been sent to 1370 electors who are registered in dwellings with no valid Eircode registered on the iReg system. The Eircode detail ensures accuracy and that electors are registered within the correct Electoral Division. These constituents are asked to return this detail at their

earliest opportunity to the Franchise Section or via register@louthcoco.ie. Failure to make contact with us may result in the elector's removal from the Electoral Register.

It is envisaged that when this project is completed within the coming weeks, that Louth County Council will have 100% Eircodes recorded for our Electors, which will result in the most accurate Register in the Country.

Tacaíocht Pobail / Community Support

Contae Lú atá Báúil le hAois / Age Friendly Louth

Louth County Council Wins 'Best Green Sustainable Initiative' at LAMA Community and Council Awards

The Council was proud to announce its recent success at the prestigious Community and Council Awards, organised by the Local Authority Members Association (LAMA), where it was awarded Best Green Sustainable Initiative. The award ceremony was held on 22nd February at the Rochestown Park Hotel in Cork.

This recognition highlights the Council's longstanding commitment to fostering an Age Friendly Society in County Louth. As the first county in Ireland to gain Age Friendly accreditation from the World Health Organization (WHO) in 2008, Louth has consistently led the way in embedding age-friendly principles across its services.

The award specifically celebrates the success of the Ardee Garden Care & Repair Programme, a community-driven initiative launched as a pilot scheme in 2024 with the financial backing of Ardee Municipal District Councillors. This innovative programme provides a free gardening service to older and vulnerable residents in Ardee, helping to improve their wellbeing through the maintenance of accessible, safe, and welcoming outdoor spaces.

The initiative reflects the power of community collaboration, bringing together Louth County Council, Ardee Tidy Towns, An Garda Síochána, Dee Hub, and Age Friendly Louth. This partnership not only enhances the environment but also strengthens community ties, ensuring that older residents feel supported and valued.

Cathaoirleach of Ardee Municipal District, John Sheridan, commented on the achievement, saying, "This award is a testament to the hard work and dedication of all those involved in making County Louth a leader in age-friendly and sustainable initiatives. The Ardee Garden Care & Repair Programme is a shining example of how community partnerships can make a real difference in people's lives."

Louth County Council remains committed to leading by example in promoting age-friendly practices and sustainable community initiatives, continually striving to improve the quality of life for all residents.

Pictured receiving the award for 'Best Green Sustainable Initiative' are L-R Cllr. Paddy McQuillan, Mr. Joe McGuinness Director of Services, Cllr. Jim Tenanty, Mr. Finbar Gethins, Senior Executive Officer, Mr. Joe Grogan, Chairperson of Older People's Council

Local Enhancement Programme 2025

The Local Enhancement Programme 2025 closed for applications on 23rd February 2025. More than 200 applications were submitted by community and voluntary groups from across the county. These applications will be reviewed and presented to the LCDC in March. The Minister for Rural and Community Development will announce the successful applicants in the coming months.

Louth Comhairle na nOg

On the 18th February Louth Comhairle na nOg held the first Louth Comhairle na nOg Advisory Network meeting for 2025. This network brings together the members of Comhairle na nOg with the various stakeholders from agencies and organisations that are working with and for young people in Louth. The members get to highlight the key issues for young people that were identified at the Annual Conference in November and the agencies give their experience and expertise in delivering local services.

Twenty-two Comhairle members from Dundalk, Drogheda and Mid Louth took part in the event and gave an overview of the key issues relating to education, mental health, drugs and vaping and services for young people. The young people have decided to highlight the issues around vaping as it came up several times at the conference and is a major concern in all three communities in the County.

The organisations that make up the Advisory Network are Louth County Council – Finbar Gethins, Louth Children and Young Peoples Committee – Joanne Murphy, Louth Meath Education and Training Board – Aaron Fowler, Louth Local Development – Christina King and Dundalk Outcomers – Lorna Costello. The event started with a Who's Who? with the various agency representatives which gave the young people a chance to discover the different organisations and the work each does.

This will be a very busy year for Louth Comhairle na nOg with many of the members attending Regional and National Consultations for young people including Dail na nOg Annual Showcase, National Youth Assembly, DCEDIY Youth Data Advisory group and the LMETB Youth Services Committee so far.

In addition, the Comhairle will continue with the strong cross border links developed with Newry, Mourne and Down Youth Council and will continue to develop iLÚminate – the youth E Zine started in 2024.

Louth Comhairle na nOg Advisory Network Meeting

Public Participation Network (PPN)

February 10th – Louth PPN hosted Public Speaking Training which took place in Creative Spark, Dundalk. Participants honed skills such as vocal techniques, body language and storytelling to better prepare them for speaking in public.

February 12th – Louth PPN's Secretariat met for the first time in 2025 in The Mill, Drogheda. The thematic projects for 2025 were agreed as follows:

- Female Participation in Sport – aimed at teenage girls who traditionally drop out of sport and older women to encourage them back to activities they previously enjoyed.
- Community Peer-to-Peer Mentoring
- Environmental – focussed on making Rathescar lake more accessible around the entrance with improved access and signage.
- Youth – This project will focus on the use of vaping in the young population. This issue was raised as a concern by youth members across the County as a project they would like to undertake in 2025. There is potential to collaborate with Healthy Louth, Community Gardai, HSE and CYPSC to highlight the ease of obtaining vapes, identify businesses which are not complying with the age restriction for sales and create a short film by youth members on the issue.
- English Through Sewing - This project will integrate English language learning with sewing to support non-native English speakers to

improve communication skills, boost confidence and social inclusion. This 12-week course will be run in the Barbican Centre in Drogheda with a final showcase event happening at the PPN awards towards the end of the year. This project is being run in collaboration with the Council's Arts Office and Integration Team.

- Youth e-Zine - The online magazine ilLUminate was created last year as Louth PPN's youth thematic project. It is an online ezine created by youth members for youth members. It is proposed to issue 4 editions throughout 2025 but licences and some graphic design support will be required to support this ambition.

February 14th – The Council received the DRCD's layout for the Income & Expenditure Report 2024. This document is due to be completed and returned to the DRCD by 28th March.

General

Preparations are underway for Louth PPN's upcoming MD meetings due to take place as follows:

- Dundalk MD Meeting – Monday 10th March @ 6pm
- Drogheda MD Meeting – Wednesday 12th March @ 10am
- Ardee MD Meeting – Wednesday 12th March @ 2pm

Louth PPN are reviewing their MoU with the Council which is due to be co-signed before 26th April.

Healthy Louth

The Trí Little Birds School Football Programme supported via the Healthy Ireland Fund

Programme Overview:

Six schools recently participated in The Trí Little Birds School Football Programme, an initiative aimed at promoting physical activity, teamwork, and inclusion through sport. Delivered in partnership with the FAI and Dundalk FC, the programme provided students with an engaging football experience designed to encourage active lifestyles and social connection.

Key Outcomes & Impact:

- Increased physical activity and engagement among participating students.
- Promotion of teamwork, inclusion and social interaction through structured football activities.
- Enhanced awareness of the 'Not Around Us' campaign, which encourages smoke and vape-free environments for young people.
- Strengthened collaboration between Healthy Louth, the FAI, and Dundalk FC to support health and wellbeing initiatives in schools.

Acknowledgements:
Healthy Louth extends its appreciation to Aoife Burns, Dundalk FC, and Mick Neville, FAI, for their role in delivering this initiative.

Aoife Burns (Dundalk FC) and Mick Neville (FAI) pictured with students from St. Brigid's Special School and Ardee Educate Together, two of the six schools that participated in the programme delivering this initiative.

Healthy Louth Launches the Community Connect 2025 Calendar

The CommUnity Connect 2025 Calendar has been launched, as a centralised resource to keep communities across Louth informed and engaged throughout the year. This initiative provides easy access to:

- Upcoming community events
- Training sessions
- Funding opportunities

The calendar includes key national awareness dates and will be regularly updated with local activities as they arise, ensuring it remains a relevant and valuable resource for communities.

Key Objectives & Impact:

- Enhancing communication between community organisations, service providers, and the public.
- Increasing awareness of local and national events, training, and funding streams.

- Supporting collaboration across sectors to strengthen community engagement.

Ongoing Maintenance & Access:
The Council Community Team will oversee calendar updates, ensuring its content remains accurate and up to date.
Public Access Link: Community Connect Calendar 2025

Next Steps:
- Promotion of the calendar through local networks, social media, and partner organisations.
- Ongoing collaboration with community groups and stakeholders to expand content.
- Regular review to enhance usability and engagement with the resource.

This initiative has been supported by the Healthy Ireland Fund, Age Friendly Louth and the Louth PPN.

Creativity for Wellbeing Networking Event

Date: 5th February 2025
Location: Dublin
Project: Dear Future Me
Lead Organisation: Healthy Louth
Partners: Dundalk Youth Centre, Magnet Centre (Newry)
Funding Support: Creative Ireland – Shared Island Health and Wellbeing Fund

Overview:
Healthy Louth, in collaboration with Dundalk Youth Centre and the Magnet Centre in Newry, is leading the 'Dear Future Me' project, an initiative funded through the Creative Health and Wellbeing Fund under the Shared Island stream.

On 5th February 2025, Paula Keenan (Healthy Ireland Coordinator, Healthy Louth) and Rachael Winters (Dundalk Youth Centre, Dear Future Me Coordinator) presented the project's progress at the Creativity for Wellbeing Networking Event in Dublin, hosted by Creative Ireland.

Project Aims & Impact:
- Cross-border collaboration between young people in Louth and Newry.
- Promoting mental health and wellbeing through creative engagement.
- Strengthening a sense of belonging among participants.
- Encouraging self-expression through interactive initiatives.

The presentation highlighted the project's successes to date and the next steps for its development.

Next Steps:
- Continued engagement with youth participants and partner organisations.
- Development of further creative and wellbeing-focused initiatives under the programme.
- Ongoing evaluation of project impact and long-term sustainability.

This initiative exemplifies the power of creative approaches to youth mental health and wellbeing, reinforcing the value of cross-border collaboration in community development.

Ms. Rachael Winters, Dundalk Youth Centre speaking about the 'Dear Future Me' Project

Ms. Paula Keenan presenting at the Creativity for Wellbeing Networking Event

Healthy Louth Newsletter – February/March 2025

The 13th edition of the Healthy Louth Newsletter has been published, providing key updates on health and wellbeing initiatives across Louth. This bi-monthly publication serves as a vital resource to inform communities, stakeholders and partners about ongoing programmes, events and available resources.

Key Focus Areas:
The newsletter aligns with Healthy Ireland priority themes, including:

- Mental Health
- Nutrition
- Physical Activity
- Sexual Health
- Tobacco & Alcohol Awareness
- Workplace Wellbeing
- Older People's Health
- Spaces & Places for Health & Wellbeing

Engagement & Distribution:
The newsletter is widely circulated among community groups, organisations and stakeholders and is accessible online.
Read the full edition here: Healthy Louth Newsletter Feb/March 2025

Contributions for the next edition are welcomed from community groups and partners. For submissions, contact: Paula Keenan, Healthy Ireland Coordinator for Louth at healthylouth@louthcoco.ie
Social Media Promotion:

- Twitter/X: @HealthyLouth | @louthcoco
- Facebook**:** Louth PPN | Louth Local Sports Partnership

This initiative continues to support community engagement and information sharing, reinforcing Louth's commitment to health and wellbeing for all.

LEADER Programmes

LEADER
Development led by local communities

LEADER 2023-2027 Programme

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

LEADER Project Funding Approved

The LAG at its February meeting approved funding support, in the amount of €211,537.35 for LEADER projects. The projects supported are across the county under the Themes of:

- Rural Environment & Climate Change
- Economic Development and Job Creation

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

SICAP End of Year Review

The LCDC, at their February meeting, approved the SICAP 2024 End of Year Review. As part of this review, Louth Local Development submitted a video case study titled "SICAP & The Drogheda Implementation Board: A Focus on Quality Community Development & Collaborative Approaches." Pobal commended the video as an excellent example of SICAP's core work.

To watch the video, simply click the link below:

https://youtu.be/yBBZdhi51TQ

SICAP 2025 Annual Plan

The LCDC also approved the 2025 SICAP Annual Plan, which demonstrates a clear commitment to addressing the needs of vulnerable communities and individuals in Louth.
The SICAP annual planning process is now complete.

Green School Assessments

The Community Support Team is actively engaged in conducting green school assessments in various primary and secondary schools across Louth. Our team has been meeting with the schools' green committees and teachers to discuss and assess their commitment to environmentally sustainable practices.

Over 70 schools were contacted, informing them about the Green School's programme and extending an invitation for an assessment visit. The primary objective of these visits is to assess and promote the adoption of eco-friendly initiatives aligned with the schools' particular themes. E.g. litter & waste theme, energy theme, etc. Schools that demonstrate success in incorporating sustainable practices will be honoured with a Green Flag at a dedicated ceremony scheduled for May in County Louth this year.

Scoil Dairbhre Green School Committee

Amenity Grants Scheme 2025

The community support team launched the Amenity Grant Scheme for 2025 on Monday 3rd February with a closing date of Friday 14th March. The initiative is tailored to provide essential financial support to voluntary community groups across County Louth, actively engaged in projects fostering community participation, development, and climate action.

By specifically recognising the invaluable voluntary efforts of residents, community organisations, Tidy Towns and environmental groups, the Council aims to bolster the ongoing initiatives that make Louth a vibrant, resilient and environmentally conscious community.

This year applications can be obtained from the Louth County Council website at

https://www.louthcoco.ie/en/services/community/funding/amenity-grant-scheme/ or through Louth County Council's Consult portal at https://consult.louthcoco.ie/en/applications.

Tidy Town Project Scheme

The Tidy Town Project Scheme closed for applications on the 31st of January 2024. 18 applications have been received and appraised and are currently going to Municipal Districts for Approval in February & March. Letters of Offer will issue shortly afterwards. This scheme is geared towards enhancing the marks given to Tidy Town groups participating in both the National Tidy Towns Competition and local competitions.

Relove Fashion Competition

The Relove Fashion Competition is a platform aimed at fostering sustainable practices in the fashion industry, specifically targeting secondary students across 11 Local Authority Areas in the Eastern, Midlands, and Dublin regions. Developed as a response to the environmental and social impacts associated with traditional fashion production, the competition urges participants to explore the manufacturing processes of their clothing and to explore innovative approaches to reuse, such as upcycling, repairs, alterations and mending.

We were delighted to have 4 submissions shortlisted to take part in the virtual interviews scheduled over the next few weeks and 2 winners will be selected to be the Louth Finalists for this year's competition.

PEACEPLUS

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

PEACEPLUS
Northern Ireland - Ireland
Co-funded by the
European Union | UK Government

Preparatory work is underway for submitting a planning application for St. Nicholas Church of Ireland in Dundalk.

Preparations are also in progress for the Louth PEACEPLUS Action Plan launch event on 10th April 2025.

An invitation to the PEACEPLUS partnership meeting at County Hall on 12th March 2025 was sent to members on 10th February.

Ukraine Humanitarian Response

Offer A Home Programme
Property Figures as at 24/02/2025

Properties offered in February	3
Families moved into properties in February	0
Expressions of interest in being accommodated received from families in February	6
Property offers recorded to date	83
Owners successfully contacted to date	82
Properties currently occupied	39
Beneficiaries currently assigned	133
Assessments carried out to date	59
Assessments currently underway	1
Properties assessed as suitable to date	43
Properties with minor works required	0
Properties withdrawn to date	19
Properties not viable to date	21

Emergency Refurbishment Ukraine Programme (ERUP) to date

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

*224 beds delivered by LCC pre ERUP

Local Authority Integration Team

The LAIT team in partnership with Louth GAA Head of Games, Pierce Caherty, hosted a training programme for men with Dowdallshill GAA club in Dundalk. Over three weeks, residents from centres in Dundalk attended Gaelic Football training. As a result of the programme, eight of the participants have signed up with Dowdallshill to play Gaelic Football.

Training Programme at Dowdallshill GAA Club

The Integration team attended Vicarious Trauma training hosted by the Fingal LAIT team on 11th February in Blanchardstown. The Training was provided by Spirasi who work with victims of torture.

Participants at Vicarious Trauma training in Fingal

The first sub-committee meetings from the CIF began in February. The Health, Social & Cultural and the Housing committees met to discuss the issued faced by stakeholders and residents in the accommodation centres located throughout County Louth. The sub-committees will meet each quarter and will report back to the Community Integration Forum.

Sport

Dundalk Sports Centre
Over 50s Pickleball and Badminton

With pickleball increasing in popularity around the country the Sports Centre decided to allocate a Friday morning slot at 11am to pickleball and badminton for over 50s. Over the last few weeks, the numbers increased from 3 people in the first week to 14 in the most recent class. It has been great fun and all participants chose to play pickleball rather than badminton, which shows its popularity.

Development Basketball

Development basketball is a way for teenagers to be introduced to basketball informally before they decide to join a team. The session is every Saturday from 12-2pm in partnership with Dundalk Ravens basketball club. The age ranges from 12-17 years old with a fantastic turnout of 30+ participants in recent weeks. The session is a great way for teens from all over Louth to make friendships through sport without competitiveness.

Development Basketball Session at Dundalk Sports Centre

After-school Futsal Activity

At the beginning of this month our highly missed Futsal after school activity returned. Futsal is indoor football with some differentiating rules to outdoor football, such as no high balls, sly tackling or heading the ball. A futsal is smaller and heavier to keep the play low and as it is played indoors in a small area, it is great for improving speed and close contact skills which can be transferred outdoors. The session is every Tuesday from 4-5pm for boys and girls aged 8-12 years old.

After-school Futsal Class at Dundalk Sports Centre

Lourdes Stadium

Run a mile with a Smile

The Lourdes Stadium has added an additional lunchtime class 'Run A Mile With A Smile'. Classes are beginning to expand and grow in popularity. This addition will be the Lourdes Stadiums fifth programme.

Track bookings

February has seen an increase in track school bookings, with secondary school students using the track to carry out their Leaving Cert P.E assessments.

Louth Local Sports Partnership

Coach & Volunteer Education Programmes 2025

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

Activity	Date	Venue
Safeguarding Level 1	13th February	Online
Safeguarding Level 1	27th February	Online
Disability Awareness in Sport	5th February	DKIT College Campus
Autism in Sport Training	12th February	Online

School Basketball

The School Basketball programme continued through February in local primary schools in Drogheda. This is a 6-week long programme that is run in conjunction with the Drogheda Wolves Basketball Club. The children learn the fundamental skills of dribbling, passing and shooting. The added benefits of this were that the children got to engage in teamwork while improving their physical activity levels.

Ten schools are involved in the programme from the greater Drogheda area.

School Basketball in Drogheda

Industry Placement with Louth LSP

We were delighted to welcome James Lambe to Louth Local Sports Partnership this month for a 12-week industry placement from Dundalk Institute of Technology. James is currently in his 3rd year studying for a BA (Hons) in Health & Physical Activity.

James will be working alongside our Development Officers, lending his skills and energy to various projects during his time with us.

James Lambe, Industry Placement Student with Louth Local Sports Partnership

Autism In Sport

Louth Local Sports Partnership successfully delivered an online Autism in Sport training session on February 12th. The course was attended by coaches, teachers, and volunteers from various sports clubs and community groups across the county.

This specialised training aimed to provide participants with a greater understanding of autism and how it may impact individuals in a sporting environment. The session covered key strategies to create more inclusive and supportive opportunities ensuring that participants can engage in physical activity in a way that meets their needs.

Louth LSP Strategic Plan Community Consultations

Louth Local Sports Partnership is excited to announce the development of its Strategic Plan for 2025-2029, which will shape the future of sport and physical activity across the county.

As part of this process, community consultations took place in February, offering residents, clubs, schools and community groups the opportunity to share their insights and ideas. These sessions are designed to ensure the strategy reflects the needs and aspirations of the local community.

These sessions were open to everyone, and the LSP encouraged all stakeholders to attend and share their perspectives. Feedback from these consultations will help shape priorities and create opportunities to enhance sport and physical activity for all in County Louth.

From these meetings, the Local Sport Partnership will be able to shape their strategic plan to better suit the needs of all clubs and groups within County Louth. The last consultation was conducted online on the 25th of February to allow any clubs or groups that weren't able to attend the meetings to give their opinion on what they believe would benefit sport within County Louth.

Volunteer Sport Award

Congratulations to Pat Greene from Seapoint Pitch & Putt Club, who has been named the Louth recipient of the 2024 Federation of Irish Sport Volunteer in Sport Award. Volunteers are the heart of sport, and Pat's dedication has truly made a difference in his club and community. This year saw a record number of nominations from across 53 sporting activities, highlighting the incredible commitment of volunteers nationwide.

Mr. Pat Greene pictured with Ms. Mary Coyle at Seapoint Pitch & Putt Club

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

Sustainability

Waste Enforcement
Summary of Complaints
A total of 23 complaints were received and investigated by the Waste Enforcement team in February 2025, some of which remain open pending further investigations.

Complaint Type	Received in Feb 2025	Total Received in 2025
Waste/ C&D	23	45

Waste Facility Permits/ Certificates of Registration
One Technical amendment was completed on a waste facility permit and a review application has been received in February 2025.

Diesel Laundering Waste
There were four IBCs dumped so far in February 2025 with the approximate cost of this being €5,000. The total cost for clean-up of diesel laundering waste so far in 2025 is approximately €12,500.

Waste Enforcement

Waste Enforcement Officers received a number of complaints this month in relation to Waste Collection Permit holders collecting prior to 6am in town areas. All complaints are under investigation and contact has been made with the relevant waster collector. Any collection between the hours of 6am and 10pm in area where a 60km per hour or lower speed limit, without prior agreement, is a non-compliance with the conditions of their Waste Collection Permit.

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 February, Litter Wardens completed 126 investigations in response to dumping reported by members of the public. 20 Fixed Penalty Notices were issued in February where evidence was found under the Litter Pollution Act 1997.

Some cases attended by the Litter Wardens in February are as follows:

Dog Fouling Awareness

In February Litter Wardens continued to carry out foot patrols with a focus on dog fouling. Leaflets were handed out and bin stickers were replaced in locations around the County.

Environmental Regulation

Water Quality and Complaints

7 water pollution complaints were received in February. Investigations and site visits were carried out in all cases and all complaints were investigated with one complaint remaining open.

Air & Noise Pollution Complaints

4 air pollution complaints were received this month. All complaints were investigated.

5 noise pollution cases were received. All complaints have been investigated.

Farm Survey Inspections

So far during the month of February, Louth County Council carried out 3 planned farm survey inspections and 3 farm follow-up inspections under the Good Agricultural Practice Regulations.

Annual returns for agricultural inspections are in the process of being drafted and will be submitted to the EPA.

No agricultural complaints were received in February regarding slurry spreading.

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 February 2025.

Discharge Licences

Assessment inspections were carried out on 11 monitoring results received by Louth County Council in February for Section 4 Discharge Licences.

Licenced landfills

Quarterly monitoring of groundwater, surface water and leachate was carried out in February at Dundalk landfill, Whiteriver and Drogheda landfills.

Monthly monitoring of perimeter gas monitoring points was completed at Dundalk, Drogheda and Whiteriver as required by EPA licences for the sites.

Flare emission testing and surface volatile organic carbon survey were carried out at Dundalk and Whiteriver landfills. Two incidents were uploaded onto the EPA EDEN website in February. They related to exceedance of VOC's at two points at Dundalk landfill and exceedance of CO_2 at a number of perimeter gas monitoring points at Whiteriver landfill. Corrective action is being progressed for incidents to be closed out.

Annual environmental reports, landfill gas surveys and pollution inventory reports are in preparation. These are due for submission in March 2025 for each site.

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 submitted an application to the Department for Housing, Local Government and Heritage for funding under a planned three-year Multi Annual Rural Water Programme 2024 – 2026. The expert panel are continuing with their evaluation

of applications under the remaining measures A4, A5 & A9 and notifications 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 €21,122.25 was paid to applicants in February 2025 for Individual Domestic Water Supplies (more commonly called private wells).

Domestic Lead Remediation Grant Scheme
There was one application received and processed for Lead Replacement.

Climate Action
EU Mission, Adaptation to Climate Change

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

The Council have been successful in their application to the EU Climaxx funding scheme- Climate risk and vulnerability assessment framework and toolbox. This is a Horizon Europe project that will provide financial and practical support to improve regional climate and emergency risk management plans.

This grant funding will provide a full data driven climate risk assessment for the County. This will inform the delivery of an inclusive climate adaptation strategy, with adaptation solutions that the citizens have co-designed using local, regional, and EU knowledge to deliver this first of a kind project for Ireland.

Climate adaptation

Community Climate Action

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

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

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

The Community Climate Action Officer has been busy assisting each active project with queries and technical input. The administration of the funding paperwork requirements to meet the fund's rules as set out by DECC is a key role of the Community Climate Action Officer. There is almost daily contact between LCC and DECC to clarify questions about this fund. This is to provide the best service to the community groups to ensure that they can complete their projects in the easiest and most successful manner.

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

Polytunnels at Muirhevnamor Community Garden, which have been installed on their grounds to produce locally grown food under the Community Climate Action Fund.

Photos from Naomh Mairtin GAA club who have recently installed infrared heating panels under the Community Climate Action Fund.

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

A full list of all approved projects can be found on Louth County Council's website at https://www.louthcoco.ie/en/services/environment/climate-action/community-climate-action-funding-strand/

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

Biodiversity Action

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

An Chomhairle Oidhreachta
The Heritage Council

Under the Heritage Council administered **Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP) Scheme 2025** Local Authority Biodiversity Officers can apply for funding to either undertake the development of a Local Biodiversity Action Plan or to implement key actions of the plan if already completed. Match funding of 25% monetary contribution has been provided by Louth County Council. Decisions on the success of applications and the availability of funding in expected in March.

NPWS
An tSeirbhís Páirceanna Náisiúnta agus Fiadhúlra
National Parks and Wildlife Service

Similarly, the delivery of priority biodiversity action in local authorities is delivered through the National Parks and Wildlife Service administered **Local Biodiversity Action Fund (LBAF) Scheme 2025**. Local Authorities alone are eligible to apply to this fund. LBAF provides funding for local authorities to carry out projects that target the objectives of Ireland's 4th National Biodiversity Action Plan (NBAP) 2023-2030.

The focus for 2025 is on strengthening the evidence base for biodiversity, supporting practical conservation and restoration projects, enhancing ecological capacity through knowledge transfer and training and to engage communities in education and awareness activities. The Biodiversity Officer has prepared a number of applications, which align

with the NPWS national priorities, under this fund. Match funding of 15% monetary contribution has been provided by Louth County Council. Decisions on the success of applications and the availability of funding in expected in March.

To celebrate **World Wetlands Day** on Sunday 2nd February 2025**,** the Biodiversity Officer hosted a wintering waterbird guided birdwatching walk along the banks of the lower reaches of Castletown Estuary, Dundalk.

Dundalk Bay is an important protected site for wintering waterbirds, nationally but also in a European and international context.

Photo: Wintering Waterbirds in the Castletown Estuary on World Wetlands Day.

Waterbirds are an important indicator of the health of our wetlands. Each winter skilled volunteers from National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) and BirdWatch Ireland monitor wintering waterbird populations at wetland sites across Ireland. The Irish Wetland Bird Survey (I-WeBS) is coordinated by BirdWatch Ireland and funded by the National Parks and Wildlife Service. To find out more about this survey please see: Irish Wetland Bird Survey (I-WeBS) - BirdWatch Ireland

The walk was led by Derek Watters from the BirdWatch Louth Branch with support from Jennifer Lynch, North Louth Conservation Ranger, NPWS and Helen Hanratty, Biodiversity Officer Louth County Council.

Photo: Event hosts - Derek Watters, BirdWatch Louth Branch, Helen Hanratty, Biodiversity Officer, Louth County Council & Jennifer Lynch, Conservation Ranger NPWS.

More than 50 participants joined the event to find out more about the wealth of birdlife the feed and breed in Dundalk Bay. Twenty-seven species of bird were recorded on the day, including; Teal, Shelduck, Lapwing, Oystercatcher, Redshank, Curlew, Buzzard, Goldcrest and Stonechat.

If you'd like to learn more about the birds that you can see in Louth please see Ireland's Birds - BirdWatch Ireland

Photo: Event participants – More than 50 participants attended the World Wetlands Day Wintering Waterbirds Watch and Watch Event.

Collecting data and submitting records or the birds you see can help to improve understanding of the health of our wetlands Recording Ireland's Wildlife: A Beginner's Guide gives information on how to get involved in biological recording. You can submit records through Ireland's Citizen Science Portal find out more here.

The Heritage Council in partnership with Louth Library Services have made ecological recording

equipment like binoculars and field guides available for the public to borrow through their **Environmental Science Kits for Ecological Recording (ESKER) Scheme** – please see here for more information Environmental Science Kits for Ecological Recording (ESKER) | The Heritage Council

Photo: Environmental Science Kits for Ecological Recording can be borrowed by contacting Louth Library Services.

The first meeting of the Louth Bat Group was held on Saturday 22nd February 2025 in Dundalk Library.

Twenty interested individuals joined the meeting to find out more about how they can take an active role in recording, surveying, providing bat habitat and bat rehabilitation in County Louth.

Photo: Attendees at the first meeting of the Louth Bat Group.

The event was hosted by Biodiversity Officer, Helen Hanratty with support from Anna Collins, a dedicated volunteer with the Kildare Branch of Bat Conservation Ireland and Jennifer Lynch, North Louth Conservation Ranger, NPWS.

Bats and their roosts are protected by Irish and EU law because all species have declined and some are threatened or endangered. Participants learned about the suite of legal protections for bats in Ireland and the role of the NPWS in providing public advice about bats in houses, how they link with licensed rehabilitators in treatment of injured or grounded bats and their responsibilities around issuing licences and the enforcement of wildlife offences.

The group was given an overview of the 9 species of bats resident in Ireland, how they depend on a structures like old buildings, trees and ivy to nest and roost and how a healthy biodiversity environment with linear features like rivers, meadows and hedgerows are important in supporting them to feed safely. Bats are very sensitive to light, with the impact of street and residential lighting being highlighted as a concern.

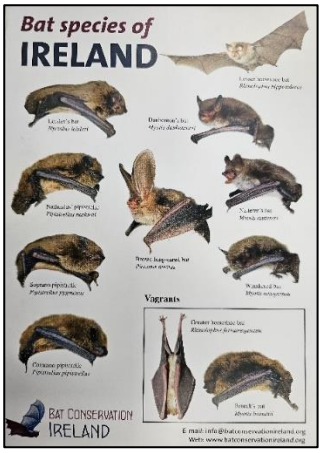


Photo: Bat Species of Ireland

To find out more about the work of Bat Conservation Ireland please see their website: www.batconservationireland.org

If you would like to become a member of the Louth Bat Group please contact Helen Hanratty, Biodiversity Officer Louth County Council on biodiversity@louthcoco.ie, all members of the group

should also be members of Bat Conservation Ireland for affiliation and insurance purposes.

Photo: Bat display at the first Louth Bat Group.

Sustainability
Facilities

Oriel Centre, Dundalk - South Gable
The south gable wall and chimney/ventilation stack has suffered problems with dampness for several years mostly related to water penetration through defective joints in the coping stones and masonry quoins. New works to improve weather resistance of the Oriel Centre, Carrickmacross Road, Dundalk are complete. The works involved the replacement of lead around the roof of the south gable wall and chimney, removal of moss and overgrowth and restoration of lime-mortar pointing to the full wall. The works were undertaken for the Council by McGuigan Builders of Co. Monaghan and inspected by Liam Mulligan, Conservation Architect.

Photos: New Works to reduce Water Ingress at Oriel Centre Dundalk

Drogheda Fair Street Machinery Yard Security Update
Louth County Council Facilities Team have procured a PSDP, Designer, PSCS and Contractor to complete the following security upgrades at Drogheda Fair Street Machinery Yard:

- Underground Automation of Vehicle Gate
- Safety Sensors for Automated Gate
- Access Controls Readers for Vehicle Gate Including Long Range Reader
- Access Controls for Machinery Office Door
- Access Controls for Clocking in Machine Door
- Pedestrian Gate Access Control
- Installation of 11 Additional HD Mega Pixel IP Cameras

A pre-commencement site meeting is being arranged to enable work to commence in March 2025.

Photo: Existing Entrance to Machinery Yard at Greenlanes, Drogheda

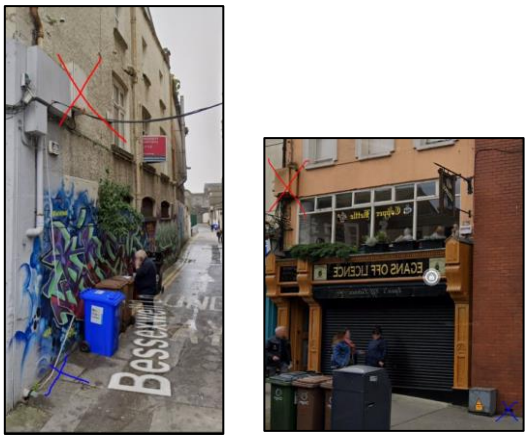
Drogheda Festive Lighting Connection Upgrades
Staff from the Council's Facilities Team have identified and agreed proposed locations for new, Safe-Electric-compliant festive lighting connection boxes and mini pillars at West St Drogheda with a

Louth County Council nominated electrical contractor and ESB Networks.

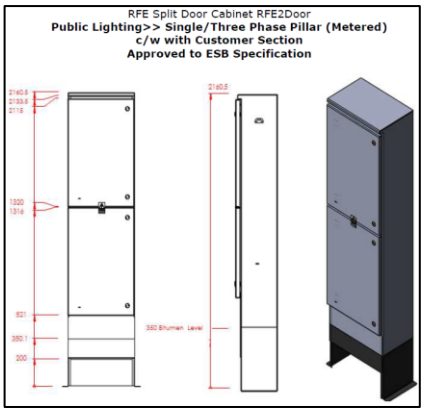
6 no. Locations have been agreed to allow the existing high level, wall mounted, connection boxes, be completely replaced. Those existing (old) connection boxes presented a danger to pedestrians and the work will eliminate that risk.

Some typical locations of existing vs. proposed options are as below with the red X being the new Mini pillar location:

Bessexwell Lane



Photos: Proposed Locations for new festive lighting connection boxes and mini pillars (at End of West Street, junction at Magdalene Street and Bessexwell Lane)



Sketch: Proposed Split Door Minipillar that will be installed in 6no. locations for new festive lighting connections for Drogheda Town

Drogheda Fair Street Francis Johnson Building Planned Upgrades 2025

Planning for Upgrade Works for the Council's Francis Johnson Building at Fair Street Drogheda is at an advanced stage and the works are expected to be offered for tender in March 2025.

Dundalk Fire Station Energy Upgrades

Further energy improvements at Dundalk Fire Station are now well underway which include fabric upgrade, new space heating, domestic hot water and drying room facility upgrades that all form part of the 2024 Energy Project Charters.

Air Source Heat Pump

- 3no. new 300litre hot water cylinders are now operational at the station for the increased hot water demands during the busy training period.
- While the new electrical immersion heaters will eventually be charged by the heat pump, they now have 6kW heating coils per cylinder, offering shortest possible re-heat time.
- The station was peaking at 60no. x hot water showers per training day in January and so were glad of this.

Photos: The 3 no. x new 300ltr DHW cylinders, the fused spur isolation points and cabling containment and new pumpset now operational within Dundalk Fire Station plantroom.

Rooflights
There have been 23no. new, A+ Energy-Rated rooflights installed in the station, replacing the old, draughty, dull plastic type that were in place for over 25+ years. The station officers have already commented that the station is unrecognisable with the retained heat because of this new addition.

Photo: A View from the training tower showing 19 of 23 (total) new A+ Energy-Rated Rooflights at Dundalk Fire Station.

12 no. x PPE Suit, and 20 no. x Boot/Glove new Drying Stations have been installed within the existing containerised facility at Dundalk Fire Station. These drying stations are utilising the 'Top-Trock' Technology, whereby electrical fan blow heaters, are connected to rust-free, stainless-steel tubular drying hangers, that dry the PPE from inside-out, rather than outside-in.

The 3 no. new blow heaters, are consuming much less electricity than the old combination of:

1) 6kW Blow Heater
2) 0.5kW Industrial Dehumidifier and
3) 2no. x 2kW electrical panel heaters

This is a total consumption of 10.5kW per hour of operation.

Top-Trock, negates the need for these, and is only consuming 2.7kW total per hour, a **75% energy reduction on this item alone**.

Photos showing Installation of the New PPE Drying System at Dundalk Fire Station

SUSTAINABLE ENERGY
SEAI Monitoring & Reporting 2030

Louth County Council has completed the first stage of SEAI's Monitoring and Reporting System for 2024, which involved inputting / validating gas and electric meter data before 31st January 2025.

The final deadline is on the 16th May 2025, and the data which is required to be submitted is as follows:

- Energy Usage (Diesel, Petrol, Kerosene)
- Energy Generation (Wind & Solar PV)
- Energy Projects
- Organisation's Buildings
- Vehicle Fleet
- Business Travel

Louth County Council will strive to continue leading by exemplar and will work on gathering all the above

information to comply with SEAI's final deadline's date.

Reduce Your Use Campaign - Staff Energy Awareness Programme

Louth County Council remains actively involved in the **Reduce Your Use** winter campaign, which runs from October 2024 to March 2025. This initiative, led jointly by SEAI and the Office of Public Works, assists public bodies in promoting winter energy awareness among staff while sustaining or enhancing the savings achieved in the past two campaigns.

This month, our focus was on heating. Posters were shared with staff via email and displayed on the staff notice board.

As part of **Cardigan Culture**, we encouraged staff to dress appropriately for the weather and keep an extra layer at work to stay comfortable during colder moments.

We emphasised the importance of keeping radiators free from obstructions to ensure proper airflow and efficient heating.

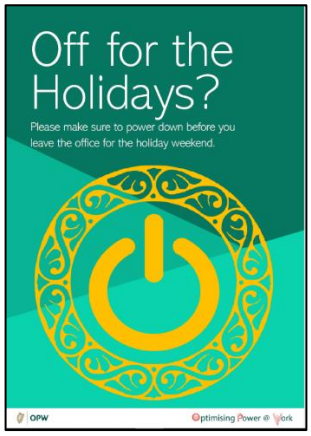
Graphics from Reduce your Use promotion energy saving

A detailed and informative SEAI video on **heat pumps** for domestic use was shared with staff, providing valuable insights into their benefits, functionality, and efficiency. The video aimed to address common questions while also highlighting the various grants currently available to support those considering an upgrade to energy-efficient heating solutions.

Promotion showing the benefits of Heat Pumps

St Brigid's Bank Holiday Weekend

Before the February Bank Holiday weekend, the Energy Office encouraged staff to **Power Down** before leaving, reinforcing the importance of switching off unused equipment to prevent unnecessary energy consumption. This small yet meaningful action not only reduces power waste but also promotes a lasting behavioural change toward energy-conscious habits in the workplace.



Graphic promoting energy saving from the Reduce your Use Campaign

Photo: Louth County Council's Dundalk Library was lit up by Improved External Lighting (provided as part of the Varcities Visionary Solution 2) on the evening of 4th of February 2025, to mark World Cancer Day #Varcities

Seirbhísí Tréidliachta / Veterinary Services

Smacht ar Mhadraí / Control of Dogs

Control of Dogs Act 1986

Dogs through the pound February 2025	
Total dogs through the pound	**19**
Seized under Section 16	**1**
Strays	**7**
Surrendered by owners	**9**
No dogs reclaimed by owners	**5**
No of dogs rehomed direct	**2**
No of dogs rehomed to welfare groups	**14**
No of dogs on hand in Pound at 28/02/2025	**5**

Dog Licences February 2025	
No of Licences sold	**541**
Licence Checks:	
House calls	**422**
Section 16 Notices issued (request to produce licence within 10 days)	**105**
Fixed Penalty Notices	**14**

Control of Horses

Control of Horses Act 1996
Control of Horses Bye-Laws 2003

Horses through the pound February 2025	
Horses seized, and reason for seizure:	**0**
Horses reclaimed by owner	**0**
Horses rehomed	**0**
Horses disposed of	**0**
No of horses on hand in Pound on 28/02/2025	**0**

Dog Breeding Establishments

Dog Breeding Establishments Act 2010

Dog Breeding Establishments February 2025	
Total no of registered DBE's in Louth (as at **28/02/2025**)	**6**
Hunt	**1**
Boarding Kennels	**2**
Training Kennels	**1**
Welfare	**2**

Emaciated, neglected and covered in wounds, this young French Bulldog received veterinary care at the Pound before being transferred to a local rescue organisation for continued treatment and subsequent rehoming.

XL Bully Regs

A total of 94 exemption certificate applications were made to the Council and these are currently being processed.

Forbairt Shóisialta
Social Development

Tá dhá eochairfhreagracht ag an Stiúrthóireacht seo:

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

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

This Directorate has two key responsibilities:

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

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

Ger Murphy
Stiúrthóir / Director of Service

Titíocht / Housing

Ag Déileáil le hEaspa Dídine / Addressing Homelessness

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

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

January 18 to February 17, 2025	Ardee MD	Dundalk MD	Drogheda MD	Total
Offered advice, support (including fast tracking H.A. for Rent Supplement eligibility)	5	153	77	**235**
Placed in Temporary Emergency Accommodation	0	28	10	**38**
Refused Offer of Temporary Emergency Accommodation	0	5	0	**5**
Not eligible from outside county or non HRC	0	0	0	**0**
Total number of Person who presented as Homeless	**5**	**186**	**87**	**278**

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

Tábla 2: Inscne / Table 2: Gender

Gender	Total
Male	109
Female	104
Total	**213**

Tábla 3: Aoisghrúpaí / Table 3: Age Groups

Age Group	Total
18-24	37
25-44	108
45-64	61
65+	7
Total	**213**

Tábla 4: Saghas Loistín / Table 4: Accommodation Type

Accommodation Type	Total
Private Emergency Accommodation (PEA)	109
Supported Temporary Accommodation (STA)	104
Total unique individuals	**213**

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

	No. of families with dependent children	No. of Individual Adults	No. of Dependents
Individuals with dependent children	46	60	70
Couples with dependent children	12	25	33
Total	**58**	**85**	**103**

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

Number of tenancies established	49
Number of individuals currently in tenancy	35

Leithdháileadh Tithíochta suas go dtí Feabhra 18 / Housing Allocations up to February 18, 2025

District	LA	LA Refusal	AHB	AHB Refusal
Ardee	4	1	1	0
Drogheda	22	1	59	7
Dundalk	16	2	34	2
Total	42	4	94	9

Aistrithe / Transfers

District	Number
Ardee	0
Dundalk	0
Drogheda	16
Total	16

Liosta Tithe / Housing List

February 18, 2025	Ardee	Drogheda	Dundalk	Total
Housing List	359	641	1111	2111
HAP Transfer List	302	955	1618	2875
Total Housing List	661	1596	2729	4986

There are **322** applications on the transfer list (Non HAP) within Social Housing including 71 applications from the Approved Housing Bodies.

Íocaíocht Cúnaimh Tithíochta / Housing Assistance Payment

The total number of applications in HAP is **2875**

Ardee Municipal District	Drogheda Borough District	Dundalk Municipal District	Total
302	955	1618	2875

Bainisteoireacht Chíosa / Rent Management The total number currently paying rent by Household Budget is **954**

Current Rents Arrears at February 22 last	No of Accounts	Value
Rents between 4-6 weeks old	160	€62,802
Rents between 7-12 weeks old	179	€126,698
Rents greater than 12 weeks old	984	€3,502,782
TOTAL	**1323**	**€3,692,282**

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 to that point will result in the escalation to tenancy warning. The following correspondence was issued in February 2025.

Letter Type	Month/Year	Number Issued
1st Reminder	February 2025	34
2nd Reminder	February 2025	35
Final Reminder	February 2025	1
Total issued		**70**

Customers that fall into arrears may enter into a payment plan for full repayment over an agreed period of time. 20 new payment plans commenced in February 2025 (up to and including February 19, 2025).

Airíonna Re Lig & Neamhní / Relet and Void Properties

Relet / Void Properties on February 19, 2025	Total
Ardee Municipal District	4
Dundalk Municipal District	10
Drogheda Municipal Borough District	34
Subtotal (re-lets) Vacant Properties	**48**
CPO units not yet ready for occupation (All County)	2
Total Number of Properties (Relets & CPO)	**50**

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

Cuairteanna Chothabhála / Maintenance Calls

Maintenance	January 22 - February 19, 2025	Total (YTD)
No. of Maintenance Requests Received	1335	2410
No. of Maintenance Requests Completed	955	1798
No. of Maintenance Requests in Progress	310	475
No. of Maintenance Requests Refused	70	137

Stoirm Éowyn Damáiste agus Deisigh / Storm Éowyn Damage and Repairs

Storm Éowyn Damage

Storm Éowyn Damage

Storm Éowyn Repairs

Storm Éowyn Repairs

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

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

Municipal District	Number of Commenced/ Completed Units
Ardee MD:	-
Dundalk MD: Hillview Dundalk, Ladywell Terrace Dundalk	16
Drogheda BD:	-

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

	January 23 to February 18, 2025	Total (YTD)
Properties inspected monthly	187	263
Advisory letters issued	89	283
Improvement notices issued	4	5
Prohibition notices issued	0	1
Private Inspections	0	0
HAP First Inspections	84	133
RAS First Inspections	0	0
AHB First Inspections	74	74
Private Re-inspections	1	1
HAP Re-inspections	28	54
RAS Re-inspections	0	0
AHB Re-inspections	0	0
Inspections from Complaints	0	1
Properties Made Compliant	7	19

Páirtíocht Tionóntachta / Tenancy Engagement

January 22 to February 19, 2025	Drogheda	Ardee	Dundalk	Monthly Total	Yearly Total
No. Tenants who attended Pre-tenancy training	4	4	7	15	38
Post-tenancy inspections	0	1	12	13	14
Tenancy Investigation Visits	6	4	20	30	61

Iompraíocht Fhrithshóisialta / Anti-Social Behaviour

January 22, to February 19, 2025	Drogheda	Ardee	Dundalk	Monthly	Yearly
ASB Cases* Received	8	2	5	15	30
ASB cases Ongoing	6	2	10	18	-
ASB cases complete	3	0	5	8	11

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

January 22 to February 19, 2025	Drogheda	Ardee	Dundalk	Monthly	Yearly
Verbal Notification Letters	1	0	2	3	3
Written Notification Letters	0	0	1	1	1
Tenancy Warnings Housing Act, 2014	0	0	0	0	0

Déisiú agus Léas / Repair and Lease

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

Tithíocht Inacmhainne / Affordable Housing

The affordable housing scheme at Ballymakenny Park, Drogheda opened for applications on Monday February 10, 2025. The portal is currently live and will be open for submissions until Monday March 3, 2025. Assessment of applications is underway with offers expected to be issued to successful applicants after the closing date of March 3, 2025.

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

Active MTR Applications Total	29
AHB MTR Applications Active	16
AHB MTR completed 2025	0
Private MTR Applications Active	12
Private MTR completed 2025	0
MTR Application Awaiting Purchaser	1

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

Deontas Athchóirithe D'áras Folamh / Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant

Applications Submitted:	254
Approved:	182
Rejected:	16
Withdrawn	31
Other (FI Requests, First Site Inspections)	25
Legal Stages before Funding issued	19
Funding Issued to Applicant	44
Principal Private Residence	191
Rental Applications	63

Iasacht Tí Údaráis Áitiúil / Local Authority Home Loans

2025 Budget Allocation (20% of 2024 allocation until 2025 approval is received from the Department)	**€1,446,000**
LAHL Approvals at 19/02/2025	€755,252
Breakdown of LAHL applications processed at the 19th February, 2025	
Total Number of Applications at 19/02/2025	3
LAHL carried over from 2024	9
Invalid/Returned	1
Approved	5
Declined	0
For Review	0
Outstanding – waiting on further information	6

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 or have a disability.

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

Recently purchased house in mid Louth

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

Grants are available to households where adaptations are required to render a house more suitable for the accommodation of a person with a disability or where a person is aged 66 and above and living in poor housing conditions. From December 1, 2024, the maximum Housing Adaption Grant for Disabled People is €40,000 (an increase of €10,000) and the maximum level of the Housing Aid for Older People Grant is €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 https://www.louthcoco.ie/en/services/housing/housing-grants/

Access Ramp completed in February 2025 in Drogheda, part-funded with a HAG

Stair rail completed in February in Dunleer, part-funded with a HAG

Status	HAG	MAG	HOP	Month	YTD
Grants Approved 2024	116	26	185	-	327
Applications on Hand 19/02/2025	50	9	231	-	290
Grants Approved 22/01/2025 – 19/02/2025	5	2	8	15	69

Seachadadh Caipitil Tithíochta / Capital Housing Delivery

Accelerated Delivery Social Housing Projects

In February the Council announced the contract signing for the construction of four new social housing schemes. The proposed developments at Ballymakenny Road, Drogheda; Newtown Link Road, Drogheda; Ravel, Dunleer, and Mullavally, Louth Village will deliver high quality homes and sustainable communities, while utilising accelerated delivery routes and technologies under the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage accelerated delivery programme.

In total these four projects will deliver 271 new social housing units. A breakdown of the schemes is provided in Table below:

Development	Location	No	Design Team lead	Design & Build Contractor
Bakery View	Ballymakenny Road, Drogheda	97	EML Architects	OHMG (Ireland) Ltd
Greenhill's Grange	Newtown Link Road, Drogheda	46	Van Dijk Architects	Cunningham Contracts IRE Ltd
Ravel Drive	Ravel, Dunleer	70	EML Architects	OHMG (Ireland) Ltd
An Mullach	Mullavalley, Louth Village	58	EML Architects	Cunningham Contracts IRE Ltd

Table: List of Accellerated Delivery Social Housing Projects

Contract signing for Ravel Drive housing development in Dunleer Front Row – David Conway, LCC Chief Executive, Kevin Callan, LCC Cathaoirleach, Seanie O'Hare, CEO OHMG (Ire) Ltd, Ger Murphy LCC Director of Service Social Development

Contract signing for An Mullach housing development in Louth Village, David Conway, LCC Chief Executive, Kevin Callan, LCC Cathaoirleach, Lisa Murtagh, COO Cunningham Contracts, Ger Murphy LCC Director of Service Social Development

Louth County Council's Public Private Partnership (PPP) Social Housing development, Ballymakenny Road, Drogheda

A Part 8 planning application for a new social housing residential development on Ballymakenny Road, Drogheda was brought before the Drogheda MD meeting on the February 10, 2025. The development, which includes 130 residential units (comprising of 26 one bed units; 54 two bed units; 45 three bed units; 4 four bed units; and 1 five bed community dwelling, all with renewable energy design measures), a crèche facility, and landscaping works including the provision of open space and kick about areas and a playground, was approved by the members.

CGI view of the PPP residential development at Ballymakenny, Drogheda

Louth County Council delivers Ireland's first 3D-printed houses New Part V Housing units

The Council received DHLGH Funding Approval for the acquisition of 26 Part V new residential units in the 'Ballymakenny Park' development in Drogheda. These will be A-Rated Energy Efficient units and will be delivered in Phases in 2025

The first residential housing development constructed using 3D Construction Technology has been completed by Louth County Council. This new development consists of three A2-rated, two-storey, three-bedroom terraced houses, each with a gross internal area of 110m². This innovative pilot project is the result of a collaboration between Louth County Council, Irish construction technology company HTL.tech, the Louth & Meath Education and Training Board (LMETB), Roadstone Ltd. and Harcourt Architects. The houses were built using market-leading COBOD 3D construction printing technology (3DCP), which automates the concrete laying process. This method offers significant advantages, including reduced construction time and costs, enhanced structural integrity and more efficient resource use. An official launch event took place at Grange Close on Thursday, February 6th, attended by Louth County Council Chief Executive, David Conway and An Cathaoirleach of Louth County Council, Cllr Kevin Callan. Three families from Louth County Council's housing list will move into these homes, marking a significant milestone as the first residents of 3D-printed homes in Ireland or the UK.

The 3DCP houses at Grange Close, Dundalk

Official launch of the 3DCP houses at Grange Close, Dundalk

New Part V Housing units

The Council received DHLGH Funding Approval for the acquisition of 26 Part V new residential units in the

'Ballymakenny Park' development in Drogheda. These will be A-Rated Energy Efficient units and will be delivered in Phases in 2025

Seachadadh Nua Tóg / New Build Delivery

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

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

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
Muirhevnamor, (Infill) Dundalk	1/2	6	On Site	31/03/2025	2 * 2 bed & 4 * 3 bed
Muirhevnamor, (Infill) Dundalk	2/2	5	On Site	30/04/2025	1 * 2 bed & 4 * 3 bed
Boice Court, Mell, Drogheda (Phase 2)	1/2	13	On Site	31/05/2025	6 * 3 bed, 2 * 4 bed & 5 * 2 bed Apt
Boice Court, Mell, Drogheda (Phase 2)	2/2	59	On Site	30/09/2025	21 * 3 bed, 2 * 4 bed, 8 * 1 bed Apt, 20 * 2 bed Apt & 8 * 3 bed Apt
Mount Avenue, Dundalk	1/1	93	On Site	31/12/2025	29 * 2 bed, 23 * 3 bed, 9 * 4 bed, 10 * 1 bed Apt, 6 * 2 bed Apt, 16 * 3 bed Apt
Rathmullan Park, Drogheda Infill	1/1	4	Stage 2 Approved	25/12/2026	2 * 2 bed, 1 * 3 bed, 1 * 4 bed
Blackwater Meadow, Point Road, Dundalk	1/1	44	Stage 2 Approved	31/08/2027	31 * 2 bed, 10 * 3 bed, 3 * 4 bed
Ravel Drive, Ravel, Dunleer	1/1	70	On-Site	31/12/2026	45 * 2 bed, 20 * 3 bed, 5 * 4 bed
Bakery View, Ballymakenny Road, Drogheda	1/1	97	On-Site	31/03/2027	52 * 2 bed, 32 * 3 bed, 13 * 4 bed
An Mullach, Mullavalley, Louth Village	1/1	58	On-Site	31/12/2026	28 * 2 bed, 24 * 3 bed, 5 * 4 bed, 1 * 5 bed
Greenhills Grange, Newtown Link Road, Drogheda	1/1	46	On-Site	31/12/2026	42 * 2 bed, 3 * 3 bed, 1 * 5 bed
Anne St. Dundalk	1/1	16	Stage 1 Approved	31/08/2027	8 * 2 bed Apt, 8 * 3 bed Apt.

Ballymakenny Road - East Site, Drogheda	1/1	130	PPP Bundle 5 Funding Approved	15/12/2027	52 * 2 bed, 47 * 3 bed, 4 * 4 bed, 1 * 5 bed, 26 * 1 bed Apt
Mullagh Close, Clogherhead	2/3	4	On-site	30/06/2025	4 * 3 bed
Mullagh Close, Clogherhead	3/3	4	On-site	31/12/2025	4 * 3 bed
Knockshee, Old Golf Links Road, Blackrock, Dundalk	1/1	12	On-site	31/12/2025	12 * 2 bed Apt.
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	On-site	30/09/2025	1 * 3 bed, 1 * 4 bed
Clontygora, Dundalk	1/1	2	On-site	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	3/3	2	Funding Approved	31/03/2026	1 * 2 bed Apt, 1 * 3 bed Duplex
Seven Winds, North Road, Drogheda	1/2	12	On-site	30/06/2025	12 * 1 bed Apt
Seven Winds, North Road, Drogheda	2/2	24	On-site	31/12/2025	12 * 2 bed Apt, 12 * 3 bed Duplex
Ballymakenny Park, Drogheda Phase 2	1/2	12	On-site	30/06/2025	12 * 2 bed Apt
Ballymakenny Park, Drogheda Phase 2	2/2	6	On-site	30/06/2025	4 * 1 bed Apt, 2 * 2 bed Apt

Ballymakenny Park, Drogheda Phase 3	1/2	6	On-site	30/06/2025	4 * 3 bed, 2 * 4 bed
Ballymakenny Park, Drogheda Phase 3	2/2	2	On-site	30/06/2025	2 * 2 bed Apt

Seachadadh CAS / CAS Delivery

Project Name	AHB	Total Number of Social Units Expected	Project Status	Projected Substantial Completion Date	Unit Type
Barrack Street, Dundalk, Co Louth	Dublin Simon	30	Stage 2 Approved	15/09/2026	Nineteen * 1 Bed apartments Three * accessible units Eight * Studio apartments
Highfield, Newry Road, Dundalk, Co Louth	Women's Aid Dundalk	12	Stage 2 approved	02/09/2026	Five * 1 bed apartments Seven * 2 bed apartments

Seachadadh CALF / CALF Delivery

Project Name		Total Number of Social Units Expected	Non-Part V / Part V	Project Status	Projected Substantial Completion Date	Unit Type
Newtown View, Marsh Road, Drogheda Respond Housing	3/3	56	51/6	Complete	31/12/2024	* 16 Two Bed Houses * 40 Three Bed Houses
Dublin Road, Dundalk Respond Housing	3/3	40	36/4	Complete	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	Complete	17/12/2024	* 7 One Bed Apts * 7 Two Bed Apts * 3 Three Bed Apts
MacNeill View, Ecco Road, Dundalk Co. Louth	1/1	45	40/5	Complete	15/12/2024	* 5 One Bed Apt * 31 Two Bed Apts * 9 Three Bed Apts

Cluid Housing						
Racecourse Meadows with Circle	1/3	18		On Site	30/03/2025	* 18 Three Bed Houses
Racecourse Meadows with Circle	2/3	8		On Site	30/06/2025	* 8 Three Bed Houses
Racecourse Meadows with Circle	3/3	19	12/7	On Site	30/08/2025	* 10 Three Bed Houses * 9 Two Bed Houses
Connolly's Field, Dundalk Fold Housing	1/1	70	59/11	On- Site	01/06/2025	* 51 One Bed Apts * 19 Two Bed Apts
Gullion Park, Finnabair, Dundalk Co-Operative	1/1	142	128/14	On-Site	31/01/2026	* 48 One Bed Apts * 70 Two Bed Apts * 24 Three Bed Apts
Avourwen Meadows, Drogheda, Co. Louth Oaklee	1/1	50	45/5	On-Site	10/11/2025	* 18 One Bed Apts * 32 Two Bed Apts
Crushrod Avenue Drogheda Co. Louth Cluid Houisng	1/2	20	15/5	On-Site	30/03/2025	*20 Two Bed apt/ Duplex
Crushrod Avenue Drogheda Co. Louth Cluid Housing	2/2	33		On-Site	30/06/2025	*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

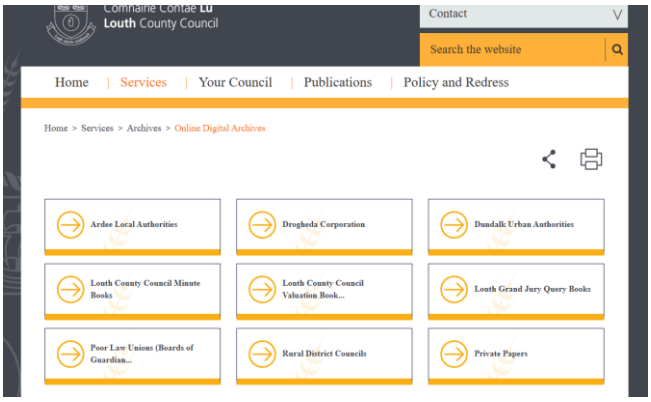
The County Archivist is assisting the LGMA-led working group on revising the record retention schedules of the National Retention Policy. Schedules for both Community and Legal Services have been approved and recently issued out.

The County Archivist regularly assists staff with queries on the management of records and advises on the preparation of records both for destruction and for transfer to the Records Centre and the County Archives. Work continues to take place in reviewing and appraising records for retention as archives or for destruction with work on Peace, Enforcement and on Planning records in progress.

Digitisation Project

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

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



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

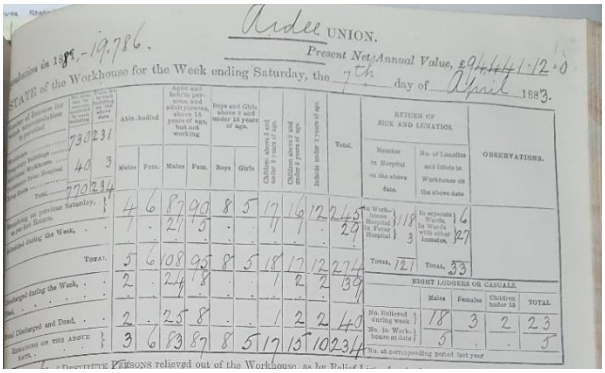
Recent Acquisitions

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.


Ardee UNION.

Present Net Annual Value, £

STATE of the Workhouse for the Week ending Saturday, the 7th day of April 1883.

Able-bodied Males	Able-bodied Fem.	Able and infirm persons and children above 15 years of age, but not working Males	Fem.	Boys	Girls	Children above 5 and under 15 years of age	Infants under 5 years of age	Total	Number in Hospital on the above date	No. of Lunatics and Idiots in Workhouse on the above date	OBSERVATIONS.
4	6	87	90	8	5	17	16	274			
1	.	27	15	.	.	.	.	27			
5	6	108	95	8	5	18	17	274			
2	.	24	8	.	.	1	2	39			
2	.	25	8	.	.	1	2	40			
3	6	83	87	8	5	17	15	1023			

RETURN OF SICK AND LUNATICS.

In Workhouse Hospital in Fever Hospital	118 / 3	In separate Wards / In Wards with other lunatics	6 / 27
Totals,	121	Totals,	33

SICK LODGERS OR CASUALS.

	Males	Females	Children under 15	TOTAL
No. Relieved during week	18	3	2	23
No. in Workhouse at date	5	.	.	5

Extract of page from a minute book of Ardee poor law union Board of Guardians, that was recently used for research

Young readers in Drogheda

Leabharlanna / Libraries

Ireland Reads

Throughout the month of February Louth Library Service celebrated Ireland Reads in the lead up to 'Ireland Reads Day' a National Day of Reading on Saturday February 22.

Ireland Reads is a Healthy Ireland government initiative encouraging all ages to pick up a book and experience the benefits that reading can bring. Studies have shown that reading can reduce stress by up to 68%, making it one of the best things you can do for your mental health.

Ireland Reads story time in Drogheda

Local Ireland Reads ambassadors included author Florence Gillian, musician David Keenan, Googlebox Ireland couple Sarah & David Reilly, author Emer Conlon, scientist Niamh Shaw, Gavin McGee Louth ABC, and author Clara Kumagi, winner of the 2024 KPMG Children's Book of the Year for *Catfish Rolling*. Also represented were teachers from local primary schools including Majella Harris from St. Brigid's School and Emma Jane Larkin from Réalt na Mara.

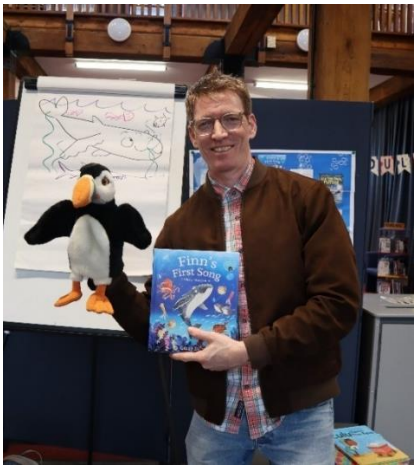
Ireland Reads local ambassador teacher Majella Harris reading to her class in St Brigid's School

Ambassadors also included Ruth O'Rourke HSE Librarian and Deirdre Bradley speech and language therapist in Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital with which Louth Library Service are working closely on the neonatal *Baby Talk* project in Drogheda.

Local ambassadors shared the inspirational importance of reading and what the library has meant to them.

Musician and songwriter David Keenan said “The local library is a refuge, ideal for escapism and self-learning. Unlike school, I always went in of my own accord and discovered unfiltered voices in books that filled my imagination and inspired my musical adventures. Reading is a means of exploring new worlds within & without and the local library is a safe space and a free space to become immersed in your own creative mission.”

To celebrate Ireland Reads Day, an interactive workshop with Gerry Daly, illustrator and author of the *Puffling* picture book series was held in Dunleer and Dundalk Library.



Ireland Reads Day event with Gerry Daly

Executive Librarian Sarah McAllister was interviewed on the Town Talk show Dundalk FM with Marissa Lucchesi and Leona Burgess was on the 11-1 LMFM show with Cabrina Conaty to promote Ireland Reads.

Information Stands were held to promote Ireland Reads for council staff in Fair St offices, Dundalk Town Hall and County Hall. Photos were shared on the Louth County Council staff APP and library staff discussed the benefits of library membership and providing details of the popular staff book club.

Poetry Recital to celebrate St Brigid

Drogheda library welcomed members of Drogheda Creative Writers and Just Write Creative Writers in February for a poetry recital celebrating the life of St. Brigid of Faughart.

Members of Drogheda Creative Writers and Just Write Creative Writers

St. Brigid crafts in Dundalk Library

Second class from St. Malachy’s Girls N.S. joined in the activities with to help celebrate Feile Brigid in Dundalk library which held a cross-making workshop on February 7.

Library staff help out with rushes in the cross-making workshop in Dundalk

Memory Cafés in Dundalk and Drogheda

Maeve Montgomery, Louth Dementia Advisor facilitated meetings in Dundalk and Drogheda Libraries on February 11.

Dundalk Library was happy to welcome Michael Dowdall from the Old Dundalk Society as its guest

speaker at The Memory Café in Dundalk Library, for this month's meeting. He was able to chat about familiar shops, streets and memories of bygone days in Dundalk town. Staff member Micheál provided live music on guitar for the group.

Michael Dowall, Maeve Montgomery and Michéal at Dundalk Library

The guest speaker at Drogheda Library's Alzheimer's Memory Café was Nutritional Therapist Johanne O'Dowd. Johanne explained what foods the brain needs to function well and what foods to reduce or avoid and why. This was followed by a Q&A session.

The next meeting will take place on Tuesday March 11. The cafés provide a welcoming space for people living with dementia. All are welcome to attend.

Louth Dementia Advisor Maeve Montgomery and Nutritional Therapist Johanne O'Dowd

Photography Course

Local photographer Paul Murray from the Drogheda Photographic Society facilitated a three-week photography course in Drogheda library during the month of February.

Paul Murray and Joan Kelly from Drogheda Photographic Society

Louth Library Primary Schools' Service

The Schools Library Service has been busy promoting Ireland Reads with a visit to St. Brigid's Special School for a storytime session and to engage with one of our Ireland Reads Ambassadors.

We also made a special visit to 'Woddlers and Toddlers' creche in Omeath to treat the young children to a spectacular storytime, as we aim to spread the joy of reading to children from an early age as part of the Ireland Reads initiative.

Woddlers and Toddlers Creche, Omeath location for an Ireland Reads Storytime

Future visits to Early Learning Centres and creches are planned for the months ahead as well as engagement with St. Oliver's Community College, Drogheda, at the end of February to provide outreach, literacy support, promote the library services and encourage membership amongst young people.

Titles on Display in the Schools Library Service Van

Oneiric exhibition promotional image. The exhibition can be found in the Basement Gallery until March 29

Na hEalaíona / Arts

The 2025 **Arts Grants** were assessed at the end of February and applicants will be notified of the outcome of their application under the various strands towards the end of March when all paperwork is signed off.

An Táin Arts Centre

Exhibition: *Wired from the Heart* was the inspiring exhibition by the artist members of RehabCare. From February 19 – 22 the multidisciplinary exhibition offered a unique and enriching experience for both the artists and the audience using a variety of mediums including performance videos, poetry, and visual arts.

Exhibition: Oneiric by Bó Studios – Launching on February 27 and running until March 29, this exhibition by the members of Bó Studios delves into the space between dreams and reality. Each artist approaches the theme in their own medium, including ceramic, print, mixed media, textile, and fabrics. The exhibition consists of a mixture of own work and a communal piece.

Theatre: Fledermaus – The Irish National Opera returned for its annual visit to An Táin on February 20 with an impressive production of Fledermaus. Showcasing Irish talent, including sopranos Jade Pheonix and Sharon Carty, the production also featured American tenor Alex McKissick and baritone Ben McAteer. Conducted by Richard Perison and directed by Davey Kelleher the production delivered a very modern take on this classic. It was a sold-out success with the audience leaving in lively form following the uplifting production.

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

Creative Spark
Creative Spark have welcomed Nicola Moran as their first Artist in Residence for 2025. Nicola merges circus and sculpture, exploring movement, material, and space. A seasoned aerialist and fine artist she has performed globally and her work spans remote landscapes to urban spaces including an aerial piece off the GPO for Brigit Festival in 2024 in Dublin.

Aerial Artist and Sculptor Nicola Moran

During her residency Nicola will explore the tension, freedom and balance between aerial performances and sculpture.

Oriel Centre – played host in February to the inimitable voice of Brianna Corrigan. Belfast born Corrigan is best known for her work with The Beautiful South, delivering their most successful track 'A Little Time.' A songwriter in her own right, she has also released two critically acclaimed solo albums. Her concert in the Oriel Centre was a delightful mix of her own music and Beautiful South classics.

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

Highlane's Gallery

Exhibitions:
Gutter Habit – a two-person exhibition by Irish and UK painters Alexis Harding and Emma Roche connects around their material concerns and innovative practice where control and chance are central. The exhibition opened on February 8 with a special 'In Conversation' event facilitated by Gabrielle de la Puente.

Anita Groener's' exhibition **'To The Edge of Your World'** in the Upper Gallery continues until March 15.

Teenagers – Create and Connect initiative ran during the February midterm and saw the young members meet and work with artists exploring contemporary art and curating an exhibition. Part of the gallery's Curating and Making for Young People the 2-day session ran on February 19 and 20.

Teenager mentoring and curation event in Highlanes Gallery during mid-term

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

Droichead Arts Centre
Livin'Dred Theatre Company were back in Droichead Arts Centre on February 7 and 8 with an incredible production of J.M. Synge's 'Playboy of the Western World'. Director Aaron Monaghan and Éilish McLaughlin, who played Pegeen, could also be heard on RTE Arena on February 6 talking about the production and the tour.

Manish Pingle, the virtuoso mohan veena (Indian slide Guitar) player from Mumbai was in Droichead Arts Centre for an impressive performance on 20th February. Manish has performed in many prestigious music festivals in India, as well as showcasing his talent across Europe, Middle East and Southeast Asis, Australia and England.

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

Drogheda Classical Music Series
DCMS continued its current programme with an outstanding concert on Friday February 14 featuring The Fidelio Trio. The Valentine's Night special featured music from Beethoven, Schubert and Schonberg. For details on the final 2 events of the 24/25 series in March and April see https://droghedaclassicalmusic.com/

Arts Council Funding
The Arts Council of Ireland have opened a Culture Night Late Night funding stream for organisations looking to host large scale events on Culture Night 2025, on September 20. Also open for application is the Artist and Youth Work Residency Scheme and the Artist in the Community Scheme.

For details on these, and other funding streams, with the arts council please see https://www.artscouncil.ie/available-funding/

Creative Ireland
The Creative Ireland grants will be assessed by the panel in early March and all applicants will be notified of the outcome of the assessment by the end of March.

Estates of Mind – the Redeemer Resource Centre was a venue filled with memories and laughter on Thursday February 20 as the showcase for the Estates of Mind project was held.

Residents taking part in the making of the documentary

The documentary, funded through the Creative Ireland programme, celebrates the history of the estate and the contributions of locals to provide a safe and welcoming space for all. The piece featured a number of locals who were, and still are, key contributors to the ongoing efforts to making life better for their neighbours and children.

Alongside the documentary there was also the unveiling of three portraits by artist Cara Pilbeam. The portraits were of Kit Weldon, Sr Claire Ryan and Josie Bellew, who were intrinsic in the development of the community spirit of the estate over the years, providing support, friendship and leadership, but who never fully received proper recognition for their work. They have since passed away so it was a special touch to have portraits done of the ladies which are now on permanent display in the centre.

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

An Iarsmalann / Museum

Museum News - February 2025

An example of the Brídeóg doll made at the Museum workshops

Earlier this month the Museum organised a number of storytelling and craft workshops to mark and celebrate St. Brigid's Day. Aimed at Primary school children the workshops demonstrated to participants how to make their own Brídeóg dolls.

Complementing the Brídeóg workshops the Museum held a lecture highlighting some of the archaeological monuments associated with St. Brigid on Faughart Hill including St Brigid's church,

well, pillar and bed. Entitled *The Archaeology and Artefacts associated with St Brigid of Faughart.* the lecture by Dr. Alison Lennon highlighted the origins and legends regarding artefacts associated with her such as crosses, dolls, Brat Bríde and bullaun stones.

St. Brigid at the County Museum, Dundalk

An example of one of the rarer St. Brigid's Crosses

Newly on display

The Museum has added a significant addition to its permanent exhibition – a piece of prehistoric root which has been carbon dated to between 7390 and 7360 BC, making it approximately 9,400-years-old. The piece was found north of Dundalk in the mid-twentieth century.

A prehistoric tree root, our latest display item

Recent acquisitions

The Museum recently acquired this beautiful nineteenth century sundial. It bears the engraving *Amidst ye Flowers, I tell ye hours*

Nineteenth-century sundial, the Museum's latest acquisition