



CHIEF EXECUTIVE REPORT

October 2025



Comhairle Contae Lú
Louth County Council

Louth County Council - Chief Executive Report - October 2025

Tuairisc Bhainistíochta Mhíosúil an Príomhfheidhmeannach – 31ú Deireadh Fomhair 2025

Chief Executive's Monthly Management Report – 31st October 2025

A Chara,

I enclose the above report for your statutory consideration, this report has also been prepared under Section 136 & 138 of the Local Government Act, 2001. The attached report is the Chief Executive's Monthly Management Report for October 2025, detailing activities, updates, and progress across various departments of Louth County Council.

Key achievements and actions under various directorates from the Chief Executive Report for October 2025:

1. Finance and System Support Directorate

- Expenditure to date: €140.88M (77% of budget spent).
- Income to date: €134.40M (73% invoiced).
- Debtors closing balance: €55.70M.
- Prepare 2025 - Budget 2026 meeting scheduled for 17th November 2025.
- We continue to target phishing, and spam e-mail, in October 13.81% of inbound e-mails were identified as potentially harmful.
- 15,800 web pages where unique views in October.

2. Economic Delivery Directorate

- Lú Festival of Light attracted 30,000 visitors to Drogheda. As part of the Festival, the formerly vacant Dominican Church was transformed and hosted the Cottage Market Traders,
- Boyne Valley Flavours launched a new website and hosted workshops.
- Purple Flag assessment visit showcased Drogheda's night-time economy.
- National Women's Enterprise Day celebrated with 60 female entrepreneurs.
- Louth Business Awards recognized SafeShel as Best New Start-Up.
- For September, 92 planning applications received, 77 valid, 40 FOI queries issued and 21 Pre-Planning requests.

3. Operations & Environment Delivery Directorate

- Extensive road repairs, drainage remediation, and illegal dumping cleanups across municipal districts.
- Waste enforcement: 170 water warning issues issued, 27 complaints investigated, 14 fixed payment notices issued.
- Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day successfully hosted.
- CCTV cameras operational at 5 sites, deterring illegal dumping, with multiagency checkpoints.
- Climate Action Week events included beach cleanups and awareness campaigns.
- 24 Dogs went through the dog pound and 454 dog licences sold.
- The Fire service successfully achieved the NSAI ISO 45001 Health and Safety surveillance audit.
- Call Out of the fire service – 137 incidents in October, 14 of these on the evening of 31st October.

4. HR, Corporate & Community Delivery Directorate

- During the month of October 2025 Customer Services dealt with 16,839 queries inclusive of 8,492 calls, 1,177 e-mails and 7170 counter queries. 9928 (59%) of queries received were dealt with at first point of contact.
- The Presidential Election took place on Friday the 24th October 2025. A large amount of work was completed within the Franchise Section in the weeks running up to the election, with a consistently high rate of applications being received via www.checktheregister.ie. The total electorate for Presidential Election was 92,923.

Louth County Council - Chief Executive Report - October 2025

- Age Friendly Louth participated in National Sports Taster Day and hosted the Exploring Ageism drama project.
- Louth Comhairle na nÓg consulted young people on play and recreation needs.
- Louth In Bloom Awards celebrated community achievements in enhancing local beauty.

5. Housing & Culture Delivery Directorate

- 569 housing units projected for completion in 2025, exceeding targets.
- 66 vacant properties under relet/void management.
- €14.26M rental income received in 2025 (7.5% increase from 2024).
- Affordable housing applications open for Quarry Court, Ardee.
- Cultural services hosted events like Lit Lú literary festival, Memory Cafés, and Climate Action Week activities.

6. Major Capital Projects & Infrastructure Delivery Directorate

- Narrow Water Bridge construction progressing with fabrication in Belgium.
- Dundalk Flood Relief Project and Drogheda/Baltray Flood Relief Project in Stage 1.
- Active Travel projects advancing, including Dundalk Inner Relief Road and Rathmullan Road.
- Urban regeneration projects like St. Nicholas Quarter and Longwalk Urban Framework Plan ongoing.
- Ardee Educate Together National School construction nearing completion.

This report highlights some of the Louth County Council's progress across the various directorates in October 2025

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the executive and staff of LCC for their hard work and commitment, which is outlined in more detail in this report.

Is mise le meas.



David Conway
Chief Executive

Louth County Council - Chief Executive Report - October 2025

Tuairisc Bhainistíochta Mhíosúil an Príomhfheidhmeannach –31ú Deireadh Fomhair 2025 Chief Executive's Monthly Management Report – 31st October 2025

| Clár an Ábhair / Contents | |
|---|----|
| <u>Airgeadais agus Tacaíochta Córais / Finance and System Support</u> | 5 |
| Tuairiscí Airgeadais / Financial Reports | |
| Teicneolaíocht Faisnéise agus Chumarsáide / Information & Communication Technology | |
| <u>Sheachadadh Eacnamaíoch / Economic Delivery</u> | 11 |
| Forbairt Gheilleagrach / Economic Development | |
| Turasóireacht / Tourism | |
| Geilleagar Oíche Dhroichead Átha / Drogheda Night-Time Economy | |
| Oifig Fiontair Áitiúil / Local Enterprise Office | |
| Pleanáil / Planning | |
| Bainistíocht Forbartha / Development Management | |
| Forfheidhmiú Pleanáil / Planning Enforcement | |
| <u>nOibríochtaí & Seachadadh Comhshaoil / Operations & Environment Delivery</u> | 19 |
| Seirbhísí Bóithre agus Áitiúla / Roads & Local Services | |
| Bainistíocht Dramháil, Gníomh Comhshaoil & Aeráide / Waste Management, Environment & Climate Action | |
| Inbhuanaitheacht / Sustainability | |
| <u>Forbairt na hEagraíochta / HR, Corporate & Community Delivery</u> | 54 |
| Seirbhísí Corporáideacha / Corporate Services | |
| Tacaíocht Pobail agus Spórt / Community Support & Sport | |
| Rialú Madraí / Control of Dogs | |
| Acmhainní Duine / Human Resources | |
| <u>Forbairt Shóisialta / Housing & Culture Delivery</u> | 69 |
| Tithíocht / Housing | |
| Seirbhísí Cultúrtha / Cultural Services | |
| An Chartlann / Archives | |
| Leabharlanna / Libraries | |
| Na hEalaíona / Arts | |
| An Iarsmalann / Museum | |
| <u>Mórhionscadal Caipítíl & Seachadadh Bonneagair / Major Capital Projects & Infrastructure Delivery</u> | 96 |
| Comhforbairt Áite / Placemaking | |
| Forbairt Fhisiciúil / Physical Development | |
| Tionscadail Tasitil Gníomhaigh / Active Travel Projects | |

An Stúirthóireacht Airgeadais agus Tacaíochta Córais
Finance and System Support Directorate

Tá an stiúirthóireacht seo freagrach as bainistíocht airgeadais na heagraíochta, lena n-áirítear cuntais iníoctha agus infhaighte, le rialú agus seachadadh gach córais dhigitigh TFC, lena n-áirítear seirbhísí teileachumarsáide, soláthar, iniúchadh & bainistíocht riosca agus sócmhainní.

This directorate is responsible for the financial management of the organisation, including accounts payable and receivable, with control and delivery of all ICT digital systems, including telecommunications services, procurement, audit & risk and asset management.

Bernadette Woods
Stiúrthóir / Director



Louth County Council - Chief Executive Report - October 2025

Tuairiscí Airgeadais / Financial Reports

Caiteachas go dtí 31^ú Deireadh Fomhair 2025 / Expenditure to 31st of October 2025

| Rannóg / Section | Actual Expenditure to 31/10/2025 / Caiteachas Iarbhír go dtí 31/10/2025 | Caiteachas Buiséadaithe 2025 / Budget Expenditure 2025 | % Caite go 31/10/2025 / % Spent to 31/10/2025 |
|--|---|--|---|
| Tithíocht / Housing | €60,639,963 | €73,683,142 | 82% |
| Iompar Bóthair agus Sábháilteacht / Road Transportation & Safety | €20,860,677 | €28,591,697 | 73% |
| Seirbhísí Uisce / Water Services | €5,120,971 | €7,538,273 | 68% |
| Bainistíocht Forbartha / Development Management | €17,608,561 | €25,940,360 | 68% |
| Seirbhísí Timpeallachta / Environmental Services | €18,787,415 | €24,948,899 | 75% |
| Áineas agus Conláiste / Recreation and Amenity | €9,078,592 | €12,548,436 | 72% |
| Talmhaíocht, Oideachas, Sláinte agus Leas / Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare | €838,783 | €1,431,271 | 59% |
| Ilghnéitheach / Miscellaneous | €7,948,263 | €9,312,306 | 85% |
| | €140,883,225 | €183,994,384 | 77% |

Ioncam go 31^ú Deireadh Fomhair 2025 / Income to 31st of October 2025

| Rannóg / Section | Ioncam Iarbhír go dtí 31/10/2025 / Actual Income to 31/10/2025 | Ioncam Buiséadaithe 2025 / Budget Income 2025 | % Sonraisc Curtha do dtí 31/10/2025 / % Invoiced to 31/10/2025 |
|--|--|---|--|
| Tithíocht / Housing | €53,924,820 | €73,685,224 | 73% |
| Iompar Bóthair agus Sábháilteacht / Road Transportation & Safety | €6,371,860 | €16,613,589 | 38% |
| Seirbhísí Uisce / Water Services | €4,354,408 | €6,557,586 | 66% |
| Bainistíocht Forbartha / Development Management | €9,546,275 | €15,522,127 | 62% |
| Seirbhísí Timpeallachta / Environmental Services | €2,052,482 | €4,474,236 | 46% |
| Áineas agus Conláiste / Recreation and Amenity | €1,140,762 | €1,947,561 | 59% |
| Talmhaíocht, Oideachas, Sláinte agus Leas / Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare | €255,529 | €469,209 | 54% |
| Ilghnéitheach / Miscellaneous | €7,739,368 | €17,760,538 | 44% |
| Rátaí / Rates | €37,655,131 | €35,598,115 | 106% |
| Deontas Ilfheidhmeach / General Purpose Grant (LPT) | €11,366,198 | €11,366,198 | 100% |
| | €134,406,833 | €183,994,383 | 73% |

Louth County Council - Chief Executive Report - October 2025

The above is the current position as of the 31st of October 2025. The allocation of the Central Management Charge is estimated in the above figures as the allocation is not completed till mid-month. The full rates demand for 2025 is included in the above figure.

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

Féichiúnaithe mar atá 31^ú Deireadh Fomhair 2025 / Debtors as of 31st of October 2025

| | Iarmhéid Tosaigh / Opening Balance | Sonraisc / Invoices | Fáltais / Receipts | Díscríobhanna / Write Offs | Iarmhéid Deiridh / Closing Balance |
|---|------------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Féichiúnaithe Rialtais / Government Debtors | €26,232,975 | €231,748,350 | (€228,736,076) | (€104,907) | €29,140,342 |
| Uadaráis Áitiúla Eile / Other Local Authorities | €106,006 | €1,239,789 | (€1,239,442) | (€Nil) | €106,353 |
| Rataí / Rates | €5,466,111 | €37,655,131 | (€32,725,669) | (€1,542,864) | €8,852,709 |
| Cíosanna / Rent | €3,098,524 | €15,222,690 | (€14,474,123) | (€56,182) | €3,790,909 |
| Iasachtal / Loans | €300,764 | €1,869,410 | (€1,881,609) | (€Nil) | €288,565 |
| Tobhaigh Forbartha / Development Levies | €10,912,245 | €5,934,815 | (€8,069,954) | (€651,129) | €8,125,977 |
| Táilí Seirbhíse Dóiteáin / Fire Charges | €851,125 | €663,379 | (€541,746) | (€46,080) | €926,678 |
| Ilghnéitheach / Miscellaneous | €2,746,807 | €8,262,795 | (€6,514,411) | (€23,170) | €4,472,021 |
| Féichiúnaithe Iomlána / Total Debtors | €49,714,557 | €302,596,359 | (€294,183,031) | (€2,424,332) | €55,703,554 |

Above are the debtor balances as of 31st of October 2025. The Miscellaneous debtor figure includes the Irish Water SLA recoupments, Corporate, Community & Enterprise, LEO, Planning, Enforcement, Environment, Sports, Arts, Roads, Library, Museum and Finance miscellaneous billings.

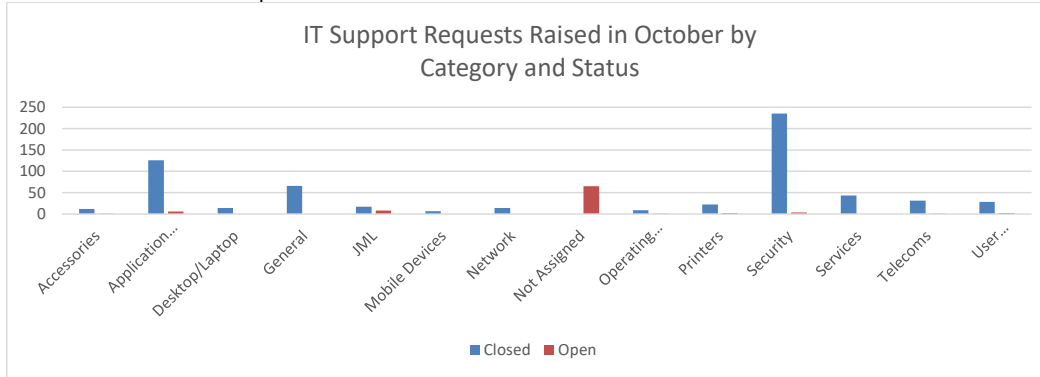
Budget 2026 Meeting

The date for the 2026 Draft Budget Meeting has been agreed for Monday the 17th of November 2025 directly following the normal monthly council meeting. We are in the final stages of preparing the Draft Budget for 2026 and are still waiting for confirmation from Central Government on some of our key funding. The Draft Budget will be up on Decision Time and hard copies will be delivered to Councillors on Monday the 10th of November 2025.

Techneolaíocht Faisnéise agus Cumarsáide / Information & Communication Technology

Deasc Chabhrach / Helpdesk

Between 01/10/2025 and the 31/10/2025 there were 714 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 October.

Córas Idirscartha Ríomhphoist / E-Mail Filtering System

Louth County Council continues to be targeted with phishing, and spam e-mail. We utilise an e-mail filtering system to scan all e-mail being received into the organisation. From 01/10/2025 – 31/10/2025 13.81% of inbound e-mails were identified as potentially harmful.

- | | |
|--|---|
| Inbound Emails 484,742 | Blocked Sender 875 |
| Processed on Gateway 195,704 | Processed on Protect 289,038 |
| Blocked at gateway 21,533 | Blocked by spam /virus 43,536 |
| Blocked by content rules 977 | Potentially harmful emails 13.81% |

Louth County Council - Chief Executive Report - October 2025

Suíomh Gréasáin Comhairle Chontae Lú / Louth County Council Website

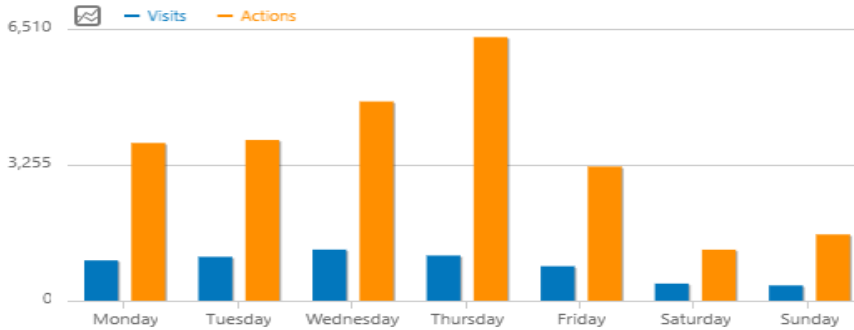
There were 15,810 unique page views of www.louthcoco.ie between 1st and 31st October 2025. The below table shows the pages which received the highest number of page views in this month. Online planning services, Library and Dog Pounds received the highest number of page view in October.

| PAGE URL | PAGEVIEWS | UNIQUE PAGEVIEWS |
|--|-----------|------------------|
| /en/ | 3,992 | 20.7% 3,276 |
| /en/services/planning/online-planni... | 983 | 5.3% 838 |
| /en/services/planning/ | 664 | 3.2% 513 |
| /en/home/ | 593 | 2.9% 463 |
| /en/services/ | 588 | 2.8% 436 |
| /en/services/library/ | 552 | 2.2% 355 |
| /en/services/dog-pound/ | 412 | 1.9% 308 |
| /en/contact/louth-county-council/ | 316 | 1.8% 283 |
| /en/services/planning/online-planni... | 306 | 1.6% 256 |
| /en/publications/development-plans/ | 413 | 1.6% 247 |
| /en/services/housing/ | 286 | 1.5% 233 |
| /en/services/housing/affordable-pu... | 288 | 1.3% 211 |
| /en/louth_county_council/ | 231 | 1.1% 174 |
| /en/search/?cx=0102600210374950... | 239 | 1% 160 |
| /en/publications/ | 130 | 0.7% 112 |
| /en/louth_county_council/interview-... | 125 | 0.6% 102 |
| /en/services/library/eservices/ | 118 | 0.6% 96 |
| /en/services/housing/social-housing/ | 113 | 0.5% 80 |

Louth County Council - Chief Executive Report - October 2025

The chart below presents the visits and actions on www.louthcoco.ie in October by day of the Week. Wednesday was the busiest day for visits and Thursday was the busiest day for actions.

Visits by day of the week



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 7,053 views between 01/10/2025 and 31/10/2025, an average of 228 views a day in October.



Cyber Security

The ICT Department delivers regular cybersecurity training to all staff across the organisation. The October training focused on Cyber Security Month and featured a message from the Louth County Council Chief Executive, emphasising the importance of promptly reporting any suspected cybersecurity incidents. The session also addressed social engineering tactics commonly used by cybercriminals. Staff were reminded to pause and think before responding to emails or text messages that create a sense of urgency, and to always verify the legitimacy of such messages with the IT Team before taking any action.

**An Stiúrthóireacht um Sheachadadh Eacnamaíoch
Economic Delivery Directorate**

Tá an stiúrthóireacht seo freagrach as clár oibre eacnamaíoch na heagraíochta a sheachadadh, lena n-áirítear turasóireacht, Fiontair Áitiúla agus Pleanáil, lena n-áirítear oidhreacht thógtha.

This directorate is responsible for the delivery of the organisation's economic agenda, including Tourism, Local Enterprise and Planning, including Built Heritage.

Thomas McEvoy
Stiúrthóir / Director



An Stiúirthóireacht um Sheachadadh Eacnamaíoch / Directorate of Economic Delivery

Climate Change Adaptation Strategy

Details at www.localenterprise.ie/green and www.localenterprise.ie/louth.

Forbairt Gheilleagrach / Economic Development

Louth Economic Forum

The next meeting of the Louth Economic Forum will take place on Wednesday, 19th November.

Economic Development & Enterprise Support Strategic Policy Committee (SPC)

The next meeting of the Economic Development & Enterprise Support SPC will take place on Thursday, 6th November.

Lighting up Drogheda together: Business Networking Event

Staff from the Economic Development office attended the inaugural 'Lighting up Drogheda' networking event and gave an overview of the opportunities available including: Age Friendly Business Accreditation, Shopfront Improvement Grant Scheme and Festival Grants.

Funding Support for Conferences

The Economic Development office provided financial assistance for the inaugural All Island Childhood Cancer Conference which took place in the Ballymascanlon Hotel on Thursday, 16th and Friday, 17th October, and for the PRISM Immersive Technology Summit at Dundalk Institute of Technology (DkIT) on Wednesday, 29th October.

Turasóireacht / Tourism

Visit Louth



If anyone wishes to submit an event or attraction to be listed on the Visit Louth website, they can do so via this [link](#). In particular, the [what's on](#) section aims to inform and attract tourists to the county.

Festivals Supported 2025

All information on festivals and events happening across the county are available at: <https://www.visitlouth.ie/whats-on/>.

Lú Festival of Light – A Resounding Success

The Lú Festival of Light, delivered by Love Drogheda BIDS, welcomed over 30,000 visitors to Drogheda over the October bank holiday weekend. Throughout the festival, Drogheda was transformed into a spectacular world of myth, magic, and wonder, where heroic tales and ancient legends illuminated the town's historic streets and landmarks.



Lú Festival of Light

As part of the Festival, the formerly vacant Dominican Church was transformed and hosted the Cottage Market Traders, bringing a vibrant mix of local crafts, produce, and community spirit to this historic venue.



Cottage Market Traders

Barra Best, BBC TV presenter and documentary maker attended the Lú Festival, as part of our efforts to promote Visit Louth. Barra captured the magic of the festival through his Instagram Stories - from the

Boyne Valley Bites

The first workshop in the Boyne Valley Bites autumn campaign took place in Lismullin Cookery School on Tuesday, 30th September and saw participants from ten businesses take part in a cookery demo with Chefs Tara Walker and Conor Halpenny showcasing local ingredients in the recipes. The next workshop is scheduled to take place in DkIT on Wednesday, 19th November.

New Boyne Valley Flavours Website

Boyne Valley Flavours went live with a new website created by Zoma. The website is a huge improvement on the previous site and showcases the many producers, food businesses and food experiences in Louth and Meath. Please check it out at: <https://boynevalleyflavours.ie/>.

The Centre of Food Culture, Boyne Valley

The Centre of Food Culture launched Ireland's first island-wide online directory for artisan and farm house food producers, growers, craft brewers, cider makers, and distillers. The directory can be accessed [here](#).

Planning is underway for the Centre of Food Culture's annual flagship festival, Samhain Festival of Food and Culture. The programme can be accessed [here](#).

Geilleagar Oíche Dhroichead Átha / Drogheda Night-Time Economy

Night Curation Scheme — Over the Top Wrestling at The Barbican

Local event organiser Keith Dunne (wrestling stage name *Calum Black*) became the latest participant in the Night Curation Scheme, which supports via funding, mentoring, and data sharing. Working with *Over the Top Wrestling* (OTT), Keith brought a high-quality family event to The Barbican and town centre on Saturday, 11th October (7–9.30pm), following an earlier trial at a local GAA club. The show sold 400+ tickets, with 22% of sales outside Louth, showing strong regional draw and potential to grow into a recurring feature. The production included professional lighting, sound, and merchandise, transforming the Barbican into a purpose-built arena for one night. OTT included contenders from Ireland, the US, France, Italy and Spain, raising

Drogheda's profile on the independent wrestling circuit.

Plans are now in place for a return in early 2026, supported through the Night-Time Economy Adviser to develop a regular series of town-centre events.

Safe Gigs Ireland Consultation

The Drogheda Purple Flag Working Group has partnered with Safe Gigs Ireland to provide tailored safeguarding consultations for local night operators under the Purple Flag Charter. The first consultation sessions took place on Tuesday, 21st October, engaging three pubs, one restaurant, and a grassroots music venue. Each participant receives individual guidance to develop or enhance a written safeguarding protocol and staff training plan suited to their venue's scale and activity. The approach builds a proactive safety culture, focusing on prevention, awareness, and staff confidence rather than reactive measures. While primarily aimed at venues and event organisers, future sessions will extend to retail, transport and other late operators, ensuring Drogheda's night-time sector moves forward together under a shared standard of care.

Lú Festival of Lights — Expanded Programme and Associated Events

This year's Lú Festival of Lights broadened its programme to encourage dwell time and attract later visitors after the main light shows — continuing Drogheda's move toward a broader, more connected night-time experience. A series of ticketed evening events were trialled alongside the free outdoor illuminations, helping to build a more sustainable festival model.

Legends in Clay proved a standout example of collaboration and crossover: *Night Curation Scheme* recipient *Gato Thor Ceramics* teamed up with *The Bare Food Café* (a *Night Moves* collaborator) to host two well attended clay and coffee workshops (6–8pm, Friday & Saturday). The organiser also benefited from mentoring provided by the Louth Local Enterprise Office. Strong participant feedback has already prompted plans for future sessions.

Earth Nightclub hosted a Lú-themed late-night event (from 11pm), trialing how to retain visitors later into the evening. The night featured LED street performers from the main festival and drew attention

Louth County Council - Chief Executive Report - October 2025

from the Home of Halloween organisers, with learnings to shape future festival-night extensions in 2026/27.

Comedy for Witches at *McHugh's* (7.30pm) offered a playful Halloween crossover, run by *Deadly Craic Comedy* — another *Night Curation Scheme* participant now establishing itself as a key part of Drogheda's growing event ecosystem.

Together, these additions showed how local talent, creative enterprise and the town's flagship festivals can reinforce each other — keeping Drogheda's night active, welcoming and worth the trip.

Purple Flag Assessment Visit

On Saturday, 25th October, Drogheda welcomed two Purple Flag assessors as part of its bid to retain Purple Flag status, recognising excellence in evening and night-time management. Twelve partner organisations — including An Garda Síochána, Safe Gigs Ireland, Louth County Council, Droichead Arts Centre, Love Drogheda BID, Drogheda & District Chamber, and local event organisers — presented updates on a year of collaboration and delivery.

The assessors then toured the town during the Lú Festival of Lights, seeing Drogheda at its best: opera performances, upgraded Garda CCTV, late-night cafés, new festival-linked events, Highlanes Gallery open late, and a thriving food and nightlife offer including D'Vine Bistro and Tapas. The tour continued until the early hours of the morning to observe the different phases of the night-time economy. The visit showcased strong local partnership, a visible culture of care, and the town's commitment to arts and creativity. Early feedback was positive, noting Drogheda's clear strategy, civic pride, and growing identity as Ireland's east coast alternative.



Purple Flag Assessment Visit

Oifig Fiontair Áitiúil / Local Enterprise Office

Supports Made Easy – Dundalk Library – Tuesday, 7th October

An information session was held in Dundalk Library on Tuesday, 7th October where Dundalk businesses and entrepreneurs were invited to attend to learn about all the supports available from the LEO Office.



Supports Made Easy information session

Junior Achievement Ireland (JAI) Recognition Event – Tuesday, 14th October

An information session was held in County Hall on Tuesday, 14th October, where last year's volunteers shared their inspiring experiences and were presented with certificates by the Chief Executive. The event was also a chance for other volunteers to join the programme with plenty of interest from staff.



Lisa McKittrick, JAI, Aoibheann McLernon, Brian Martin, CE David Conway, Leah Harrison & Enda Murphy at the JAI Recognition event

Louth County Council - Chief Executive Report - October 2025

National Women's Enterprise Day (NWED) – Thursday, 16th October – Monasterboice

LEO Louth and Meath held a joint event in the Monasterboice Inn on Thursday, 16th October to celebrate National Women's Enterprise Day. The event was attended by over 60 female entrepreneurs enjoying a networking opportunity and listening to keynote speakers on the day including, Katriona O'Sullivan, Ali Molloy and Kate Scott. The event was opened by Cathaoirleach Councillor Seán Kelly.



National Women's Enterprise Day event

Louth Business Awards – Saturday, 18th October

The Louth Business Awards organised by Dundalk Chamber of Commerce and supported by Dundalk Chamber Skillnet were held on Saturday, 18th October in the Carrickdale Hotel where our client SafeShel won the Best New Start-Up Award. LEO Louth also sponsored the New Business of the Year category.



Best New Start-up Award Winner - SafeShel

LEO Business Training

- **Business Advice Clinics** – 36 business advice clinic appointments were carried out in October alongside 1 financial business advice clinic.
- **LEO Mentoring** - Mentors were appointed to 24 businesses in October to provide practical and strategic one-to-one advice and guidance.
- **LEO Training** – 6 training courses were held in October: Start Your Own business, VAT & Taxation, Adapting Your business to Climate Change, Cyber Security, Leveraging Chat GPT and Smarter Business with AI.

Louth County Council - Chief Executive Report - October 2025

Pleanáil / Planning

Bainistíocht Forbartha / Development Management

The Planning service indicators for the Council for the month of September 2025 are given below in tabular form. There were 92 planning applications received during the month of September of which 77 were valid. In addition, there were 40 responses received during the month to requests for further information and 21 Pre-Planning Requests received.

The service indicator figures in relation to **planning decisions and decisions on appeals made** during the month, broken down by category, and with a total figure for all categories (Column F), are given below:

| (A) Cur Síos / Description | (B) Forbairtí Tithíochta / Housing Developm ents | (C) Títhe Aonair / Individual Houses | (D) Iarratais Eile – ní gá MTT / Other application s-not requiring EIA | (E) Iarratais Eile - MTT de dhíth / Other applications - requiring EIA | (F) Iomlán na bhforbairtí sa chontae / Total for all categories of development in County Area |
|---|---|--|---|--|---|
| (i) Líon na n-iarratas a cinneadh / Number of applications determined | 2 | 9 | 53 | 0 | 64 |
| (ii) Líon na gcinntí inarradh breis eolais / No. of decisions determined which required further information | 0 | 5 | 19 | 0 | 24 |
| (iii) Céatadán na n-iarratas a diúltaíodh / Percentage of applications refused | 0% (0) | 33.33% (3) | 5.66% (3) | 0% (0) | 9.38% (6) |
| (iv) Líon na n-achomharc a cinneadh / Number of appeals determined | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 2 |
| (v) Céatadán na gcinntí a cuireadh ar ceal ar achomharc / Percentage of decisions overturned on appeal | 0% (0) | 0% (0) | 0% (0) | 0% (0) | 0% (0) |

Louth County Council - Chief Executive Report - October 2025

Forfheidhmíú 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 | Forfheidhmíú maidir le forbairt nár údaraiodh / Enforcement in relation to unauthorised development | | Forfheidhmíú maidir le forbairt nár údaraiodh / Enforcement in relation to unauthorised development | |
|---|---|----------------------------------|---|----------------------------------|
| | Meán Fómhair 2025 / September 2025 | Bliain go dtí seo / Year to Date | Meán Fómhair 2024 / September 2024 | Bliain go dtí seo / Year to Date |
| Líon na nGearán maidir le Forfheidhmíú Pleanála a Imscrúdaíodh / Number of Planning Enforcement Complaints Investigated | 29 | 212 | 18 | 196 |
| Líon na gcásanna Fhorfheidhmíthe 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 | 18 | 197 | 12 | 182 |
| Líon na Litreacha Rabhadh a eisíodh / Number of Warning letters issued | 18 | 196 | 9 | 180 |
| Líon na bhFógraí Forfheidhmíúcháin a eisíodh / Number of Enforcement Notices issued | 0 | 6 | 2 | 13 |
| Líon na cásanna a tarchuireadh le haghaidh imeachtaí dlí / Number of cases referred for legal proceedings | 1 | 7 | 0 | 3 |
| Líon na n-urghairí / Number of Injunctions | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Líon na n-ionchúiseamh / Number of Prosecutions | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 |

Louth County Development Plan 2021 - 2027 Variation No. 3

Variation No. 3 to the Louth County Development Plan 2021 – 2027 (as varied) was adopted by the members at the monthly Council Meeting on 20th October.

The consolidated Louth County Development Plan is available on our website at: <https://www.louthcoco.ie/en/publications/development-plans/>.

Stiúrthóireacht na nOibríochtaí & Seachadadh Comhshaoil

Operations & Environmental Delivery Directorate

Tá an stiúrthóireacht seo freagrach as gníomhaíocht oibríochtúil, lena n-áirítear cothabháil na heagraíochta ar gach maoin chorparáideach, bóithre, spásanna poiblí, soilsiú poiblí agus cur chun feidhme ár bplean gníomhaíochta ar son na haeráide, bainistiú flíteanna, bainistiú dramhaíola agus seirbhísí dóiteáin, lena n-áirítear rialú foirgneamh.

This Directorate is responsible for operational activity, including the organisation's maintenance of all corporate property, roads, public spaces, public lighting and implementation of our climate action plan, fleet management, waste management and fire services, including building control.

David Hanratty

Stiúrthóir gníomhach / Acting Director



Operations & Environment Delivery

Monthly Report for October 2025 - Oibríochtaí / Operations

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 /

River Walk to Tain Bridge
 Inner Relief Rd to Racecourse Rd
 Old Newry Rd, Lennonmelia, Riverside Crescent,
 Fairgreen Rd
 By Pass at St helenas, Quay St, Point Rd,
 Old Coes Rd.
 Barrack St.
 Centenery Rd
 Ramparts
 York St.
 Patrick St.
 John St.
 Phillip St.
 Castletown Rd
 Castleross
 Seatown Place
 St. Brigids Terrace
 Castle Rd
 Fairgreen Rd
 Avenue Rd
 Tom Bellew Avenue
 Mary St. South
 Williamsons Place
 Mooreland

Folmhú Araidí Poiblí / Emptying of Public Bins Líon agus minicíocht / Numbers and frequency

Carried out by contractor Declan McArdle

Scuabadh Bóithre / Road Sweeping Bealaí gach tseachtain / Routes per week

All Locations on Declan McArdles Route

Weedkiller application – Mary St North,
 St. Marys rd, St. Marys Court and Footpaths at
 St.Patricks Cemetery

Clean up after farmers drawing muck onto Armagh
 Rd in two different locations

Sweeping carried out on Newry Rd and St.
 Patricks Cemetery.

All locations Tar Patched – Loose chippings swept
 by Multihog.

Louth County Council - Chief Executive Report - October 2025

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

Locations: Toberona x 4

Maxwells Row x 2

Newry Rd Bridge x 2

Fairgreen Row x 1

St. Helenas Park x 4

Tain Bridge x 2

Navy Bank x 5

Riverside Walk x 2

Ice House Hill x 3

Ramparts River/Road x 2

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

| | Suíomh / Location | Nótaí / Notes |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Deisiú Bóithre / Road Repairs | Castle Park | Potholes repaired. |
| | Mount Avenue | Potholes repaired. |
| | Hill St./Dublin rd | Potholes repaired. |
| | Lis Na Dara | Potholes repaired. |
| | Mount Avenue | Potholes repaired. |
| | Barton Park | Potholes repaired. |
| | Inner relief rd | Potholes repaired. |
| | Lennonmelia | Potholes repaired. |
| | Coes rd East/West | Potholes repaired. |
| | Point rd | Potholes repaired. |
| | The Marshes | Potholes repaired. |
| | Bellewsbridge | Potholes repaired. |
| | R178 | Potholes repaired. |
| St. Alphonsus rd | Potholes repaired. | |

Louth County Council - Chief Executive Report - October 2025

| | | |
|---|--|---|
| | Mulliharlin rd | Potholes repaired. |
| | Suil Na Mara | Potholes repaired. |
| | St. Brigids NS, Ard Easmuinn | Potholes repaired. |
| | Shore rd | Potholes repaired. |
| | Lennonmelia | Potholes repaired. |
| | R172 | Potholes repaired. |
| | The Laurels | Potholes repaired. |
| | Mahoneys / Navy Bank | Potholes dug out and repaired. |
| | Hoeyes Lane | Potholes repaired. |
| Feabhasúchán Draenála / Drainage Remediation | McArdles Brewery / Ardee rd | Back Drains Flaied and Dredged. |
| | Blackwater at Av. Rd / Dublin rd | Back Drain Flaied and Dredged. |
| | Soldiers Point | Non return Valves – area flailed and cleaned up. |
| | Market Square | Drainage slits cleared. |
| | Roden Place | Gullys cleaned. |
| | Hoeyes Lane | Gullys cleaned. |
| | Park St. | Gullys cleaned. |
| | Manor Hamilton / Paddy Clarkes Garage. | Flooding investigated. |
| | Park Av. | Gully cleaned. |
| | 23 Cres. 1, M/Mor | Gullys cleaned. |
| | Culhane St. | Gullys cleaned. |
| | Mill st. | Gullys cleaned. |
| | Doolargy Av. | Gullys cleaned. |
| | Culhane st. | Gullys cleaned. |
| | Fr. Murray Park. | Gullys cleaned. |
| | Doolargy Av. | Gullys cleaned. |
| | Mary st North Toberona Bridge | Gully repaired. Blocked eye of Bridge Cleared. |

Louth County Council - Chief Executive Report - October 2025

| | | | |
|---|--|---|--------------------------|
| Crainn Leagtha nó Chontúirteacha / Fallen or Dangerous Trees | Clean up after Storm Amy. Mount Avenue | Flailing branches and Bushes growing over Carriageway and Footpath. | |
| | Avenue rd / Dublin rd Walkway | Flailed and Drainage system cleaned. | |
| | Navy Bank Walkway | Holes repaired. | |
| Cothabháil Cosán / Footpath Maintenance | Point rd / New beginnings Creche | Kerbs repaired | |
| | Lisdoon / Armagh Rd | Bulbs installed. | |
| | Avenue rd / McCreeshs shop | On going issues investigated. | |
| Deisiú Soilse Tráchtá / Traffic Light Repairs | Tom Bellew Avenue / St. Josephs NS | Pedestrian Crossing button repaired. | |
| | Lisdoon junction | Pedestrian crossing light repaired. | |
| | Gateway Hotel / Xerox Crossroads | Issues being investigated. | |
| | St.Helenas Cross | Issues investigated. | |
| | Castletown rd / Ecco rd | Lights repaired. | |
| | Comharthaíocht Signage & Bollards | Cypress Gardens / Bay Estate | Installed New Stop sign |
| | | Clonygora / Hoeyes Lane | Re – Installed Stop sign |
| Union st. | | Installed Pay Parking sign | |
| Dumpáil Neamhdhleathach / Illegal Dumping | Dundalk Library | Bags collected. | |
| | Hillview | Rubbish lifted. | |
| | Saltown | Rubbish lifted. | |
| | Hoeys Lane | Rubbish lifted. | |
| | Muirhevnamore | Rubbish lifted. | |
| | Tom Bellew Av. | Rubbish lifted. | |
| | Coxs Demense | Rubbish lifted. | |
| | Hillview | Rubbish lifted. | |
| | Daily Clean up around all Bottle Banks | | |
| | Marshes Car Park, Tesco Car Park and Quay St. | Used needles lifted. | |

Louth County Council - Chief Executive Report - October 2025

| Cooley Area | |
|---|---|
| Litter Picking / Píocadh Bruscair | Location and metres per month / Suíomh agus méadar sa mhí LITTER PICK, CARLINGFORD VILLAGE, OMEATH VILLAGE, GREENORE, TEMPLETOWN CARPARK, GYLES QUAY CARPARK. |
| Emptying of Public Bins / Folmhú Araidí Poiblí | Numbers and frequency / Líon agus minicíocht AS PER WEEKLY MAINTENANCE OF EMPTYING OF BINS, CARLINGFORD, OMEATH, GRFEENORE, TEMPLETOWN BEACH, GYLES QUAY CARPARK, LORDSHIP PLAYGROUND, FAUGHHART GRAVEYARD. |
| Emptying Dog Waste Receptacles / Folmhú Araidí Salachar Madra | Number per week / Líon sa tseachtain AS PER EMPTYING OF BINS MANAGEMENT |
| Ring Buoy Checking / Seiceál Baoithe Tarrthála WATER SAFERY OFFICER | Number checked weekly / Líon Seiceáilte sa tseachtain |
| Checking of Playground and Gym Equipment / Seiceál Trealamh Áiteanna Sugartha agus Corpacmhainne OUTDOOR STAFF. | Number of sites checked daily / Suíomhanna Seiceáilte Laethúil |

| | Location / Suíomh |
|---|--|
| Road Repairs / Deisiú Bóithre | ONGOING MAINTENANCE ON LOCAL ROADS, REGIONAL ROAD, PATCHING PREPERATION FOR WINTER MONTHS. |
| Drainage Remediation / Feabhasúchán Draenála | CLEANING OF CULVERTS, SIDE CUTTINGS ON LOCAL ROADS, E.G CASTLETOWNCOOLEY, JET-VAC LORRY CARLINGFORD, OMEATH VILLAGE, WHITESTOWN, BAVELLERTY RATCHOR, GUILLIES LINES CLEANED, BULLURGAN STRAIGHT. |
| Fallen or Dangerous Trees / | FALLEN BRANCH ON R173 CLEARED |

Louth County Council - Chief Executive Report - October 2025

| | |
|--|--|
| Crainn Leagtha nó Chontúirteacha | |
| Traffic Light Repairs / Deisiú Soilse Tráchtá | PEDESTRIAN LIGHTS IN CARLINGFORD VILLAGE |
| Road Markings / Marcáil Bóithre | GLENMORE STOP LINES ROAD MARKING REFRESHED, |
| Illegal Dumping / Dumpáil Neamhdhleathach | MAST ROAD, ROCKMARSHALL BESIDE FITZPATRICK RESTAURANT. |

Blackrock-Faughart & North Mid-Louth Areas October 2025

| Location / Suíomh | Notes / Nótaí |
|---|--|
| Road Repairs / Deisiú Bóithre | <p>Tar patching on</p> <p>Martins Cross to HBX L3167 Faughart L3097, Deerpark L7128, Drumbilla L3113 Maghereagh L3125 Aghnaskeagh Faughart. Old Castleblayney Road. Shortstone West L3113, Rathory Rd199, Mills of Louth Rd 175, Knockabbey Castle Rd197, Bollies Rd 189</p> <p>N/A</p> <p>N/A</p> |
| Drainage Remediation / Feabhasúchán Draenála | <p>Tallanstown to Ardee, Dundalk to Carrickmacross Rd, Carrickanenna, Green Road Louth Village</p> |
| Fallen or Dangerous Trees / Crainn Leagtha nó Chontúirteacha | <p>Tree pruning/vegetation maintenance/verge trimming</p> <p>Resurfacing/overlay works (by contract)</p> |
| Footpath Maintenance / Cothabháil Cosán | <p>Drainage maintenance – cleansing and gully cleaning, opening outlets & storm drains, preparation for surface dressing.</p> <p>Clearing fallen trees & debris.</p> <p>Footpath renewal</p> |
| Traffic Light Repairs / Deisiú Soilse Tráchtá | <p>Xerox junction, Heynestown, Kilkcurry, Faughart</p> <p>Major repair works completed</p> |
| Road Markings / Marcáil Bóithre | <p>N/A</p> <p>Renewal of junction markings</p> |

Louth County Council - Chief Executive Report - October 2025

| | | |
|--|---|--|
| | | Renewal of existing and provision of additional road markings |
| Signage / Comharthaíocht | | Cleansing/repair/replacement New signage |
| Illegal Dumping / Dumpáil Neamhdhleathach | N53, Dundalk Castleblayney Road, Rices bridge R178, LS-7103 Carnmor Kilcurry. | Collection of dumped waste for disposal. Collection & disposal after community clean up |

Blackrock-Faughart & North Mid-Louth Areas October 2025

| | |
|---|--|
| Emptying of Public Bins / Folmhú Araidí Poiblí | Numbers and frequency / Líon agus minicíocht |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blackrock – 6 days/week • Knockbridge – once a week • Dromiskin – once a week • Tallanstown & Louth Village – once a week |
| Ring Buoy Checking / Seiceál Baoithe Tarrthála | Number checked weekly / Líon Seiceáilte sa tseachtain |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blackrock (7No.) checked weekly • Annagassan (11No.) checked weekly |
| Checking of Playground and Gym Equipment / Seiceál Trealamh Áiteanna Sagartha agus Corpacmhainne | Number of sites checked daily / Suíomhanna Seiceáilte Laethúil |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Killanny, Louth Village, Castlebellingham – checked weekly • Blackrock – checked weekly |

Louth County Council - Chief Executive Report - October 2025

Ardee Municipal District South Louth Operations (Rural Area)

| | |
|---|---|
| Litter Picking / Píocadh Bruscair | |
| All routes in Ardee Town (5.2km per day) | Location and metres per month / Suíomh agus méadar sa mhí |
| Emptying of Public Bins / Folmhú Araidí Poiblí | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ardee Town Dunleer town Collon Riverside Walk Link Road | Numbers and frequency / Líon agus minicíocht <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 37 Daily 20 Tuesday and Thursday 3 Tuesday and Thursday |
| Road Sweeping / Scuabadh Bóithre | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All routes in Ardee Town (5.2km per day) | Routes per week / Bealaí sa tseachtain |
| Ring Buoy Checking / Seiceál Baoithe Tarrthála | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ardee Town - River Dee Salterstown Port Beach | Number checked weekly / Líon Seiceáilte sa tseachtain |
| Checking of Playground and Gym Equipment / Seiceál Trealamh Áiteanna Sugartha agus Corpacmhainne | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintenance and cleaning of park and playground complete with daily checks of the playground, & exercise equipment at the Fairgreen, Ardee (Pest Control also implemented) Maintenance and cleaning of park and playground complete with daily checks of the playground, & exercise equipment at Dunleer | Number of sites checked daily / Suíomhanna Seiceáilte Laethúil |
| Location / Suíomh | |
| Road Repairs / Deisiú Bóithre | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> L-22627 Drumcar L-5210, Mountrush L-1233 Mullenstown Road, Ardee L-52660, Mount Oriel L-22329 Analoug Preparation to Beach Facilities and Road Network for Annagassan Viking 10K |

Louth County Council - Chief Executive Report - October 2025

| | |
|---|---|
| Drainage Remediation / Feabhasúchán Draenála | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • L-22329, Finvoy • N2 Road Clearance and Drainage Openings • L-12101 Gunnerstown, Dunleer • L-6224 Annagassan |
| Fallen or Dangerous Trees / Crainn Leagtha nó Chontúirteacha | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Storm Amy Aftermath – Trees down on; N2 Ardee, N2 Hunterstown, L1209 Cookstown and L2254 Rathescar |
| Footpath Maintenance/ Cothabháil Cosán | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ardee Town - Footpath Repairs in Ardee and Dunleer (Hale Street, Castle Street (cobble repairs), N33 Roundabout and at Dunleer NS) |
| Signage / Comharthaíocht | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Signage Upgraded to all Parking Plates in Ardee Town • R132 New Signage installed and Trees cut at Dunleer • Signage Repairs in and approaching Stabannan • Repair Signage at Tullydonnell |
| Illegal Dumping / Dumpáil Neamhdhleathach | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incidents in Ardee |
| Additional Notes | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gully Cleaning and Extensive Jetting on Irish Street, Castle Street, N2, N33 • Repairing Barriers at Bank Of Ireland, Ardee after RTA |

Borough District of Drogheda

Drogheda Town Area

| October 2025 | Location / Suíomh |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| Road Repairs / Deisiú Bóithre | <p>Drainage Works</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Gully Cleaning Contract 2025, due to commence early November, on all approach roads to Drogheda. 2. Storm manhole reinstatement after heavy rainfall at Patrickswell Lane Steps, Poorhouse Lane and Donore Rd. 3. Repairs to Gullies at Tobberboice Lane, Scarlet Crescent, Ship St, Moneymore and Stameen. 4. Placing of new footpath bollards at junction of West St and Shop St. 5. Repairs to overhead barriers at Kings St, Trinity St and Abbeys carparks. <p>LCC's crew</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6. Pothole repairs at Poorhouse Lane, The Twenties, Sandyford Tce, Pitcher Hill Steps, Bullys Acre, College Rise, Black Bush Ave, St Marys Carpark, Old Hill and St Laurence St. |

| | |
|--|---|
| | <p>7. Monitoring of Traffic / Pedestrian management at dangerous structures at Bolton St, William St, under Bridge of Peace & Cord Rd.</p> <p>8. Preparation for Drogheda Lu Festival, road sweeping, pot holes, power washing & Graffiti.</p> <p>9. Stock of sandbags in the event of current storms and monitoring of high tides on Wellington Quay & North Quay.</p> <p>10. Clean up oil spill at West St</p> <p>Road Works Program – Resurfacing works 2025</p> <p>Works are now completed at the following roads</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Bothar Brugha 2. Crosslanes 3. R132 / Crosslanes / Cement Rd. 4. Cord Rd 5. Rathmullen Pk 6. College Rise. 7. Broadmeadows 8. Westgate junction. 9. Shop St 10. Collon Rd. <p>IDA Road Resurfacing planned for 1st Week in December.</p> <p>CIS Lanes 2025</p> <p>Letter of agreement has now been issued to contractor for</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Greenmount – to commence week 27/10/25 2. Mount Rath – to commence week 3/11/25. |
| <p>Drainage Remediation / Feabhasúchán Draenála</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gully Cleaning Contract 2025, due to commence early November, on all approach roads to Drogheda. |
| <p>Fallen or Dangerous Trees / Crainn Leagtha nó Chontúirteacha</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plan to remove vegetation / overgrowth at Ship St Embankment. |
| <p>Footpath Maintenance / Cothabháil Cosán</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dropped kerbs & tactile installation at 20 locations throughout town, agreed with IWA – contractor shall now be appointed and works to commence week 3/11/2025. • Internal Crew LCC – College Rise, Wheaton Hall, Scarlet Crescent and Riverview. |
| <p>Road Markings / Marcáil Bóithre</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reinstate road marking after road surfacing at Collon Rd. |
| <p>Signage / Comharthaíocht</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Install new ramp approach signs on Collon Rd. |

Louth County Council - Chief Executive Report - October 2025

| | |
|---|---|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Repairs to carpark barriers at Kings St and Old Abbey Carparks. No through signs reinstated at Cord Rd. Repairs to Flexi-bollards on North Rd. Entrance Concealed sign installed on Fr Connolly Way, in advance of Garda Station. Bull Ring, No Right Turn Sign. Cord Rd Bollards. North Road flexi bollards. Yellow batter, Child at Play and STOP Sign. Re align signage at Sundays Gate. |
| Litterbin cleaning disinfecting | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> On-going on weekly basis. |
| Graffiti Removal / Glanadh Graffiti | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Graffiti removed at Dominics Pk, Town centre and Mell River Walk. |
| Illegal Dumping / Environmental issues / Dumpáil / Neamhdhleathach | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Baltray Twenties Lane Ballymackenna Rd Townrath Sandpit Clogherhead |

October 2025

| Litter Picking / Piocadh Bruscair | Location and metres per month / Suíomh agus méadar sa mhi |
|--|---|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Steps and lane ways weekly 22 steps when recourses 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 on Saturday p.m. Drogheda Rural Bring banks are cleared daily during working week. Removal of tyres and pallets at various approach roads (Donore Rd) and Housing Estates (Rathmullan Pk / St Finian's Pk / Ballsgrove) prior to Halloween. |

- Preparation for Drogheda Lu Festival of Light, additional cleansing rosters for bank holiday weekend.
- Clean up of Bessexwell Lane and Bachelors Lane on a daily basis.
- Cleaning of Bottle banks & Park Bins on a daily basis.
- Collecting of bags of litter at Baltray, Termonfeckin, Slane Rd, Togher, Newfoundwell Rd, Aston Village, Dale, 101 Steps, Forest Grange, Glenmore Drive, Yellowbatter, Maple Drive, Greenhills, Oulsterlane, Cord Rd, Termonfeckin Td, Ballymackenna Rd, Dublin Rd, St Finian's Pk, Flaxmill Lane, Rathmullen Pk, Hillview, Riverbank, Ashfield, Mellifont Pk, Cement Rd, Trinity Gardens, Marian Pk and Sandyford Tce.
- Litter Picking at St Dominics Pk, St Dominics Bridge, Lourdes Sq, Market Sq, Fr Connolly Way, Patrickwell Lane, Kings St, Mell, Francis St, Millmount, Mount St Oliver, Old Hill, Fair green, Dublin Rd and Marsh Rd.

**Emptying of Public Bins /
Folmhú Araidí Poibli**

Numbers and frequency / Líon agus miniciocht

- Drogheda town centre Litterbins emptied daily circa 60 early mornings.
- 234 litter bin (including 10 no. Solar bins) are emptied weekly in town.
- Dominic's Park & Mell River Walk emptied daily.
- South Louth Drogheda Municipal district rural area's public Litter Bins are emptied twice a week or daily when needed especially at beaches/Port Oriel /Seapoint/Termonfeckin/Baltray – at least 40 bins per day.
- Approach roads in Drogheda town emptied twice a week.

**Road Sweeping / Scuabadh
Bóithre**

Routes per week / Bealaí sa tseachtain

- Town Centre daily. Approach roads fortnightly.
- Public Housing Estates, swept every 2 months. Private Housing estates swept every 3 months. When resources allow.

- Hotspots weekly on Monday after weekend – decided daily by supervisor after checking Drogheda urban area.
- Villages are swept once per month – i.e., Teromonfeckin, Baltray, Sandpit, Monasterboice, Tullyallen & Tenure.
- Drogheda town Boyne River walkways are swept 3 times per week (Monday, Wednesday & Friday).
- Road sweeping approach roads North & South of Drogheda on alternative days.
- Cleaning of Bring banks daily.
- Road sweeping town centre on daily basis.
- Multi-Hog 1 – Town centre and the following areas – St Dominics Pk / Ramparts, Mell carpark, Donore Rd, Kings St, Bolton Sq, Meatmarket Lane, Bachelors Lane, Mayoralty St, Ballsgrove Hill, Windmill Rd, Boyle O Reilly, Newtown Cemetery, Fair Green, O Reillys Carpark, Abbey Carpark and North Rd.
- Multi-Hog 2 – Out skirts of Town and following areas – Forest Pk, Newfield, Ballypark, Forest Grange, Moneymore, St Laurence’s Pk, Ashfield, Mellifont Pk, Riverview, Boice Court, Hardman Gardens, Yellowbatter, St Peters Place, Paradise Place, Pearse Pk, Shrewsbury Manor, Westcourt and Harmony Heights.
- Multi-hog – Scubber – Narrow West St, outside Abbey Shopping Centre, St Laurence Gate, Old Abbey Lane and Abbey Carpark.
- Pedestrian Green machine on town centre streets each day.
- Power washing and Disinfectant of Pedestrian Pavements on West St, Old Abbey Lane and Narrow West St.
- Power washing of pavements at Highlane steps, Rosemary Lane & Meatmarket Lane.
- Painting of pedestrian bollards on Narrow West St.
- Graffiti removed at Dominics Pk, Town centre and Mell River Walk.

| Emptying Receptacles / Salachar Madra | Dog Folmhú | Waste Araidí | Number per week / Líon sa tseachtain |
|---------------------------------------|------------|--------------|--------------------------------------|
|---------------------------------------|------------|--------------|--------------------------------------|

Louth County Council - Chief Executive Report - October 2025

| | |
|---|--|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Empty about 35 No. once a week, washed and disinfected. |
| Ring Buoy Checking / Seiceál Baoithe Tarrthála | Number checked weekly / Líon Seiceáilte sa tseachtain |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 89 ring buoys checked each week town area (Thursday) • 9 ring buoys checked each week at Rosehall (Friday) |
| Checking of Playground and Gym Equipment / Seiceál Trealamh Áiteanna Sugartha agus Corpacmhainne | Number of sites checked daily / Suíomhanna Seiceáilte Laethúil |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Between 4 & 5 daily (4 playgrounds in Drogheda town, Skate Park, adult exercise equipment). 3 Playgrounds in Drogheda rural area) + disinfected. |

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

Environment Delivery

Waste Enforcement. Summary of Complaints

A total of 27 complaints were received and investigated by the Waste Enforcement team in October 2025, some of which remain open pending further investigations.

| Complaint Type | Received in Sept 2025 | Total Received in 2025 |
|----------------|-----------------------|------------------------|
| Waste/ C&D | 27 | 241 |

Diesel Laundering Waste

There were five 25 litre drums removed by the Council to date in September 2025. The total cost for clean-up, removal and disposal of diesel laundering waste to date in 2025 is approximately €55,000.

Waste Enforcement

Waste Enforcement Officers continue to carry out their enforcement role under a myriad of waste legislation. Below is a list of some of the inspections completed to the end of October 2025 and the enforcement actions taken.

| Inspection Type | No. |
|---|-----|
| Non-Construction & Demolition Waste Complaints Investigated | 170 |
| Number of above relating to Household Waste/ waste presentation inspections | 109 |
| Construction and Demolition Waste Complaints Investigated | 47 |
| Inspections of Waste Permitted Facilities | 15 |
| Inspections of Authorised Treatment Facilities | 5 |
| Multi-agency inspections | 5 |
| Hazardous waste sectoral inspections | 2 |
| Inspections in relation to Construction & Demolition waste at construction/ development sites | 19 |
| Inspections of sites under commercial waste segregation | 6 |
| Inspections of sites notified under Article 27 | 22 |
| Inspections under the Packaging Regulations – Suspected Major Producers | 10 |
| Inspections under the Plastic Bag Levy | 1 |
| Inspections under ELVs Regulations | 1 |
| Desktop Annual Return Validations Completed | 68 |
| Inspection of Planning Permissions | 49 |

Louth County Council - Chief Executive Report - October 2025

| Enforcement Action | |
|--|-----|
| Waste Warning Letters | 170 |
| Section 55 Notice under Waste Management Act | 2 |
| Section 14 Directions under the Waste Management Act | 4 |
| Fixed Payment notice under the Waste Collection Permit Regulations | 8 |

Anti-dumping Initiative

All projects have been completed successfully for ADI 2025. Claims were submitted to the Department on the 10th of October 2025 totalling €99,030.89.

CCTV

CCTV cameras are now operational at 5 sites in Co. Louth with an aim to deter people from committing waste and litter offences. There are multiple cameras in some locations. The locations of the cameras are:

- Racecourse Road, Dundalk,
- Williamsons Place, Dundalk,
- King Street Carpark Bring Bank, Drogheda,
- Bolton Street Carpark Bring Bank, Drogheda and
- Trinity Street Carpark Bring Bank, Drogheda.

There have been 32 detections to date and valuable intelligence gathered in relation to illegal dumping sites.

There have been no complaints received about illegal dumping at the junction of Williamsons Place and Rampart Lane since the CCTV cameras were installed. The presence of the CCTV is acting as a deterrent to illegal dumping.

14 Fixed Payment Notice of €150 have been issued to date based on evidence obtained from the CCTV footage.



Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day – 4th October

The Waste Enforcement team facilitated a Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day run by the Regional Waste Management Planning Office on 4th October. Despite the poor weather conditions and yellow weather warning the event was very successful. Approximately 350 vehicles attended the event and significant quantities of paint and waste oils were removed.





Multiagency Checkpoint

The Waste Enforcement team carried out vehicle checkpoints in various locations around county Louth facilitated by An Garda Síochána. A significant level of non-compliance with the Waste collection Permits was observed and 3 Fixed Penalty Notices for €500 each will be issued.



Litter Enforcement & Investigations

Litter wardens continue to deal with all litter matters within the county daily responding to complaints from members of the public, councillors and engaging with tidy towns groups and communities.

In October, Litter Wardens completed 378 investigations in response to dumping reported by members of the public. 17 Fixed Penalty Notices were issued in October where evidence was found under the Litter Pollution Act 1997.

Litter Enforcement had 2 successful prosecutions from unpaid Fixed Penalty Notices, both fined €1,000 and €450 expenses each.

Litter Enforcement also removed reported abandoned vehicles from various areas within the county.

Dog Fouling Awareness

5-hour foot patrols were undertaken by the Litter Wardens on 15th of October. The areas covered were Dundalk Town and suburbs. The main emphasis was on awareness of dog fouling and clean-up after your dog.



Environmental Regulation

Water Quality and Complaints

11 water pollution complaints were received in October 2025. Investigations and site visits were carried out in all cases. All complaints are either resolved or in progress.



Oil discharge to waters



Sewage overflow from pumping station

Air & Noise Pollution Complaints

8 air pollution complaints were received this month. Complaints were investigated and are either closed or in progress. Complaints related to suspected backyard burning, odour from agricultural spreading and odour from wastewater treatment plants. 10 noise pollution cases received. All complaints are either resolved or still under investigation.

Farm Survey Inspections

During the month of October, Louth County Council carried out 7 planned farm survey inspections and 3 re-inspections under the Good Agricultural Practice Regulations 2022 (GAP). Two non-compliance letters were issued.

River Water Sampling and Water Framework Directive

Routine surveillance and operational monitoring of all the catchments in Louth for the water framework directive is in progress and on schedule. The next date for sampling of WFD rivers in Louth is in December 2025.

Discharge Licences

Assessment inspections were carried out on 17 monitoring results received by Louth County Council in October for Section 4 Discharge Licences. Follow-up corrective actions are required at some of the sites and are being monitored by the Council.

Decorative Paint Regulations and Petroleum Vapour Regulations

One premise in the county was issued with a renewal certificate for the Petroleum Vapour Regulations in October.

Licensed landfills

Monthly monitoring of groundwater, surface water and leachate was carried out in October at Dundalk landfill.

Monthly monitoring of perimeter gas monitoring points was completed at Dundalk, Drogheda and Whiteriver landfills.

Monthly gas balancing was carried out at Whiteriver landfill. Two incidents opened at Whiteriver landfill site during October. One incident related to a maintenance issue with a compressor at the flare compound and the other related to leachate submersible pump.

Both incidents have since been rectified and closed off.

Septic Tanks

3 queries received from members of the public regarding eligibility for grants in October.

2 septic tank advisory notices remain open. The Council will continue to engage with all homeowners who have received advisory notices if an effort to close them out in a timely manner.

Bathing Water Regulations

Sampling of bathing waters finished up on the 15th of September with the final sampling date on the 8th of September. This is in accordance with the Bathing Water Quality Regulations 2008 and sampling calendar submitted to the EPA.

Submissions are now being compiled and assessed from the public on new proposed bathing waters.

Rural Water Programme Individual Domestic Water Supplies Grant

A total of €17,214.28 in grants was paid in October 2025 (as of 21st October 2025) for Individual Domestic Water Supplies (more commonly called private wells).

Domestic Lead Remediation Grant Scheme

One payment in the amount of €4,266.12 was paid in October (as of 22nd October 2025) for Lead Replacement.

Animal Control and Welfare

There were fifty-eight valid Sugar CRM cases assigned to Animal Control and Welfare during October 2025, with two still in progress.

Control of Dogs

Control of Dogs Act 1986

**Dogs through the pound
September 2025**

| | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------|
| Total dogs through the pound | 24 |
|-------------------------------------|-----------|

Louth County Council - Chief Executive Report - October 2025

| | |
|---|----|
| Seized under Section 16 | 0 |
| Strays | 18 |
| Surrendered by owners | 5 |
| No dogs reclaimed by owners | 8 |
| No of dogs rehomed direct | 5 |
| No of dogs rehomed to welfare groups | 12 |
| No of dogs on hand in Pound at 31/08/2025 | 3 |

| Dog Licences September 2025 | |
|---|-----|
| No of Licences sold | 454 |
| Licence Checks: | |
| House calls | 449 |
| Section 16 Notices issued (request to produce licence within 10 days) | 113 |
| Fixed Penalty Notices | 19 |

Control of Horses

Control of Horses Act 1996

Control of Horses Bye-Laws 2003

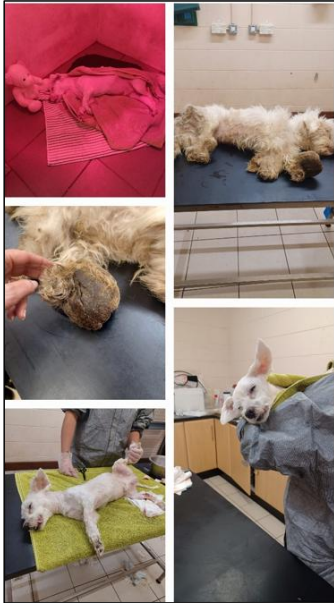
| Horses through the pound September 2025 | |
|--|---|
| Horses seized, and reason for seizure: | 0 |
| Horses reclaimed by owner | 0 |

| | |
|--|---|
| Horses rehomed | 0 |
| Horses disposed of | 0 |
| No. of horses on hand in Pound on 31/08/2025 | 0 |

Dog Breeding Establishments

Dog Breeding Establishments Act 2010

| Dog Breeding Establishments September 2025 | |
|---|---|
| Total no of registered DBEs in Louth (as at 30/09/2025) | 6 |
| Hunt | 1 |
| Boarding Kennels | 2 |
| Training Kennels | 1 |
| Welfare | 2 |



A small underweight dog suffering from severe neglect arrived as a stray. The team at the Pound treated him for severe matting under sedation over the course of two days. A deep, infected wound was discovered underneath the faeces and matting on one of his legs, which exposed his Achilles tendon. He was later transferred to Dundalk Dog Rescue for ongoing care and eventual rehoming.

Climate Action

EU Mission, Adaptation to Climate Change

Members of the Climate Action Team closed out the support provided under the Mip4Adapt aspect of the EU Mission. This involved the review of adaptation options for Louth. This programme of technical assistance commenced in 2024 with LCC drawing down significant support from the EU Mission.

The CLIMAAX project successfully passed the review process for the first deliverable submitted. This deliverable significantly exceeded the funder's requirements. LCC

will now receive the first payments from this EU Horizon fund.

The Climate Team in LCC help a specific workshop for all local authority staff across Ireland. This was to showcase the potential of local climate risk assessments for local authorities.

Phase two of this project will see a number of public data collection workshops run across the county and will use local-level data to develop Louth-specific mapping of risk. These workshops are planned for early November and will be open to the public.



Community Climate Action Fund

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.

Louth County Council - Chief Executive Report - October 2025

The second round of the Community Climate Action Fund opened on the 28th of October and will remain open until the 23rd of December at 5pm. The Community Climate Action Officer hosted a number of drop-in clinics to discuss the upcoming Community Climate Action Fund and answer queries.

Further information can be found here <https://www.louthcoco.ie/en/services/environment/climate-action/community-climate-action-funding-strand/>

The Eastern and Midlands EM CARO Region Community Climate Action Officers have recorded a webinar on the application process and gave an overview of the Community Climate Action Fund.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SUJWbxBn5HE>



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

Climate Action Week

Climate Action Week took place from the 13th-19th October with a range of event happening across the County.



List of events which took place as part of Climate Action Week 2025.

As part of Louth County Council's Climate Action Week, local explorer and scientist Dr. Niamh Shaw invited primary and secondary classes to join her on a virtual adventure to the Arctic and Antarctic! Niamh recently stood on the frozen seas of the Arctic Circle and visited Antarctica, and she shared stories, photos, and questions about these icy places with the pupils. Niamh also talked about a real Irish hero from Dundalk, Captain Leopold McClintock, who explored the same places more than 100 years ago.



Rathmullan Litter Pick

Louth County Council - Chief Executive Report - October 2025



Elected members & LCC staff visit to St Vincents Secondary school to showcase sustainable urban drainage project on the school grounds.



Dunleer energy team climate awareness roadshow at Market house Dunleer with LCC EV



Elected members & LCC staff visit to Dromiskin dog pound including sustainability/energy efficiency.



Workshop at Muirhevnamor Community Gardens



CODEMA awareness event in Ardee Library demonstrating home energy kits and providing advice on energy saving in the home.



Staff swap shop at County Hall for Louth County council staff



*Circular Economy Workshop at Dundalk Library
Hamid Mokhtari, DKIT, delivered a workshop to
members of the public on circular economy,
followed by a short interactive workshop.*



*Presenting the first-place prize in the Junior
Category in St. Malachy's Infant's School.*



Sustainable Development Goals Artwork Competition

The Climate Action Team, Louth Libraries and Community Section recently ran the annual Sustainable Development Goals Artwork Competition for primary school children in Louth. There was a high volume of entries received from both the junior and senior categories. The prizes for the winning students were distributed during Climate Action Week, and the artwork was displayed at Dundalk Library.



*Presenting the third-place prize in the Senior
Category in St. Malachy's Girls School.*

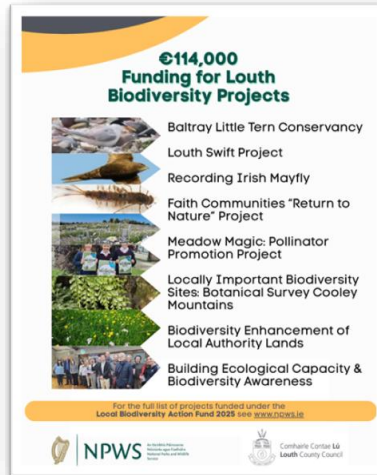


Presenting the third-place prize in the Junior Category in Realt Na Mara.

Biodiversity Action

Local Biodiversity Action Fund (LBAF) Project Updates 2025

Funding for local authority biodiversity projects is provided through the Local Authority Biodiversity Action Fund (LBAF) with 85% of funding provided by the National Parks and Wildlife Service and the remaining 15% provided by Louth County Council. Projects are applied for and managed by Helen Hanratty, Louth County Council Biodiversity Officer, and proceed within a narrow delivery window with funding for successful projects announced in May 2025 and final project reports being submitted in early November. Eight projects were awarded LBAF funding in 2025.



Baltray Little Tern Conservancy

The Baltray Little Tern Conservation Project, managed by Louth Nature Trust, celebrated its most successful season to date in 2025, with a record-breaking 247 fledglings produced, the highest since the project began in 2007. The project aims to protect the vulnerable ground-nesting Little Terns (*Sternula albifrons*) at Baltray Beach, on the mouth of the Boyne Estuary. Conservation efforts included extensive fencing, predator management, public awareness campaigns, and 24/7 monitoring by dedicated wardens and volunteers.



Little Tern chick and eggs in nest, Baltray Reserve

Key findings from the season revealed 158 nesting attempts by an estimated 143 breeding pairs, with 308 eggs laid and an average clutch size of 1.9 eggs. Despite challenges such as corvid predation and tidal egg loss, the colony achieved an 80.2% hatching success rate, with no observed chick predation. Favourable weather conditions, abundant food supply, and minimal disturbance contributed to the colony's success. The project also conducted a comprehensive bird-ringing program, marking 37 adult terns and 114 chicks, which will provide valuable data for future conservation efforts. Public engagement was a key focus, with outreach events and signage raising awareness about the importance of protecting these rare birds.

Baltray continues to play a vital role in Ireland's biodiversity conservation. Further work is anticipated at the Reserve in 2026 with partnerships and new actions being planned with funding provision and support through the EU CMAP Project.

Louth Swift Project

The Louth Swift Project 2025, a collaboration between the Louth Swift Group, BirdWatch Ireland, and Louth County Council, aims to conserve Swifts in Co. Louth by installing nesting boxes and engaging local communities. This initiative builds on the 2022 Louth Swift Survey, which identified 124 Swift nests across eight towns and villages. By 2025, 201 nesting cavities, including 24 triple cavity nest boxes, were installed in key locations as a result of the project. Many of these were installed by a single individual Gerard Murray from the Louth Swift Group who worked with Tidy Towns Groups, schools, businesses and churches to agree locations and instal the boxes.



Swifts are on the red list of birds of conservation concern in Ireland, due to huge population declines of nearly 70% in the last 25 years

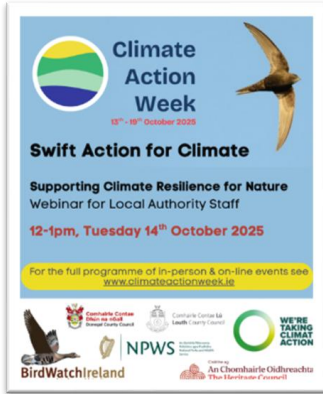
Public engagement was a key focus in 2025.

Biodiversity Officer, Helen Hanratty and Tara Adcock from BirdWatch Ireland organised two Swift Walks in Dundalk and Drogheda, to raise awareness. A school visit to Scoil Bhríde in Dunleer highlighted conservation efforts, as Swifts were seen prospecting the nest boxes that had been installed there. Additionally, Helen and Tara hosted a national online presentation during Climate Action Week providing Local Authority staff across the country with advice on integrating Swift-friendly measures into building developments.

The project also launched the Swift Business Champion Initiative to encourage local businesses to preserve existing Swift nesting sites. This approach aims to foster community goodwill and advocacy for Swift conservation.

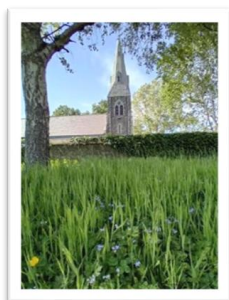
The project underscores the importance of retaining Swift nesting sites, as the species is highly site-faithful. By combining public outreach and collaboration with council staff, the initiative seeks to ensure the long-term survival of Swifts in Co. Louth.

Louth County Council - Chief Executive Report - October 2025



The Dunleer Parish Faith Communities Return to Nature Project Team

Louth Faith Communities Return to Nature Project



In January 2025 Bishop Michael Router of the Archdiocese of Armagh approached the Louth County Council Biodiversity Officer, Helen Hanratty seeking support to roll-out a biodiversity enhancement of church grounds project: the Irish Bishops Conference response to the Pope's Laudato Sí "Our Common Home" letter. Presentations and information sessions were held by the Helen to encourage Parishes to join the initiative, with the resulting "Louth Faith Communities Return to Nature Project" working to help to start to realise the Catholic Bishops of Ireland aim for 30% of Church grounds to be returned to nature by 2030. Churches in the Parishes of Dunleer, Togher, Monasterboice and Dromiskin are now involved in the project along with St. Brigid's Shrine in Faughart. This month churches will be holding community planting sessions to plant more than 20,000 snowdrop and crocus bulbs being planted in parish grounds across the county. Spring bulbs like snowdrops and crocus are particularly important in the early spring providing a rich nectar and pollen source for queen-bees at a time when there is often little other food available. The project is supported by Tidy Towns groups, Community Employment Scheme staff and school groups and will see reduced mowing in some parishes with tree-planting and bird and bat nest box installation happening in most participating church grounds.

Louth County Council - Chief Executive Report - October 2025



The Return to Nature Project at St. Brigid's Shrine, Faughart

Meadow Magic: Pollinator Promotion Project

The "Meadow Magic: Pollinator Promotion Project," aims to raise awareness about the importance of reduced mowing and the management of meadows and semi-natural grasslands to support native pollinators. The project has produced a 3-minute educational video, scripted and directed by local writer and eco-activist Aoibhéann McCann and screenwriter Paddy Courtney, with

biodiversity input from Helen Hanratty, the Louth Biodiversity Officer and Úna Fitzpatrick and Kate Chandler from the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan. The video, which will be launched nationally in 2026, features students from Mullaghbuoy National School who helped develop the script to ensure accessibility for diverse audiences.



Scenes from the Meadow Magic: Pollinator Promotion Video which will launch in 2026

The project has included biodiversity training, rehearsals, video production and editing, skills. Dundalk Institute of Technology has provided studio space, equipment, and media students to support

Louth County Council - Chief Executive Report - October 2025

production. The video will be distributed nationally through various networks, including the Local Authority Biodiversity Officer Network, the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan, and DKIT's communication platforms. The project aims to educate communities on practical actions for pollinator conservation, meadow management, and biodiversity restoration. It also seeks to empower young participants and their families to promote biodiversity awareness.

Louth Bat Group

The newly formed Louth Bat Group held their first public bat walk on 2 October in St. Helena's Park. Despite torrential rain 14 people turned out to see and hear the fantastic bat life the park has to offer.



The Louth Bat Group hosted a training session for bat groups across the country in Dundalk, learning and sharing skills for bat rehabilitation and surveys.

Climate Action Week – Biodiversity Events

The Climate Action Team led on developing the programme for Climate Action Week. The Biodiversity Officer hosted two local authority staff sessions during the week. Staff planted snowdrops and crocus bulbs which will help to provide an early source of nectar and pollen for bees in County Hall grounds early next spring.



All-Ireland Pollinator Plan



Plant food for next year's pollinators, collect and sow tree seeds.

It's time to plant pollinator-friendly bulbs and native trees. Sustainably collect and sow local, native tree seeds.

Where do pollinators go in winter?

Many bumblebees will be going into hibernation now. Learn about what happens to pollinators in the winter, check your bee box to see if it's occupied. Celebrate late-flowering sources of food like Ivy.

**Sustainability
ENERGY**

H2020 VARCITIES Project

Louth County Council's Varcities Project at the County Library and Museum was the Winner of the **2025 Green Digital Transformation Award** at the Green Transformation Awards Event held recently in Dublin. The project was also nominated for an award in two other categories - the Green Transformation Public Sector Organisation of the Year and Green Transformation Collaboration Award.

The Green Transformation Awards recognise outstanding achievements in sustainability and environmental innovation in Ireland. They celebrate Irish businesses and public sector organisations that are embedding environmental innovation and sustainability at the core of their operations—transforming industries, reshaping supply chains, and pioneering long-term solutions for a net-zero emissions future.



Photo: Louth County Council staff at the Green Transformation Awards Event

Optimising Power @ Work Programme





We are pleased to confirm that the application for the Drogheda Fair Street offices to join the Optimising Power @ Work programme has been successful.

This behavioural change initiative is designed to promote smarter energy use and eliminate waste in our everyday practices.

The Energy Team is working closely with the Office of Public Works (OPW) to prepare for the building's integration into the programme, which is scheduled to commence in early 2026.

Cutting Carbon at County Hall!

Since joining the Optimising Power @ Work campaign in 2016:

-  **Energy use is down 34%**
-  **Electricity cut by 25%**
-  **Gas slashed by 40%**
-  **Annual consumption dropped from 695,894 kWh to 461,505 kWh**

Smart habits, big results.

Louth County Council - Chief Executive Report - October 2025

Dundalk Town Hall Solar PV Generation

- ⚡ **September 2025:**
- PV generated: **662 kWh**
 - Total building use: **11,048 kWh**
 - Solar contribution: **5.99%**

- 📅 **Year to Date:**
- PV generated: **7,943 kWh**
 - Solar contribution: **7.23%**

Clean energy making a steady impact!

Climate Action Week 2025 – Staff Awareness Day 🍷 ⚡

To mark the occasion, staff took part in an interactive energy awareness event focused on practical climate action at home and in the workplace.

Highlights included:

- 🛒 Hands-on demos with the LCC Home Energy Kit – now available in all Louth Local Authority libraries
- 💡 Live appliance testing – compare running costs and kWh across everyday devices
- 🗨️ One-to-one energy advice clinics – personalised tips to cut energy use and save money

A great day of learning, action, and empowerment!



Photo: Energy Display at the Staff Awareness Day at County Hall in October



Graphic: Power use at the Bookstore at the County Library – 6.53KW is being used in total, of which 6.4KW is being generated from the new SPV and 0.13KW is being imported from the national grid – demonstrating reduced demand from the national grid.

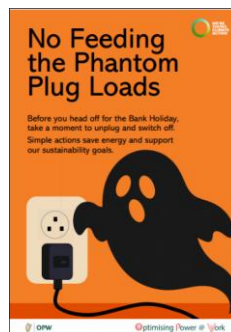
Energy Awareness Communications Highlights ⚡ 🧐

This October, the Energy Team's focus for energy saving was a month-long campaign of energy-saving tips—shared through eye-catching posters, all-staff emails, video tutorials, and the staff app.

This month's Halloween message brought a spooky surprise:

“The scariest thing in the office isn't a ghost or goblin — it's the phantom plug load!”

Unplug, power down, and don't let energy waste haunt your workspace!



Energy Graphic: Reminder to unplug devices when not in use

FACILITIES

Improvements at Council Machinery Yards

Electric Vehicle Charging

Supporting newly provided electric vehicles, new Electric Vehicle **Charging points** have been installed at four Council Machinery Yards/depots. 10 No. new electric vehicle charge points and associated marked spaces have been provided at the Council's Machinery Yard at Fair Street, Drogheda.

Cornmarket Building, Fair Street, Drogheda Refurbishment Works

Building Works to renovate and improve the Council's existing Cornmarket Building at Fair Street Drogheda are in progress and the works are expected to be completed before end 2025. The works are being undertaken by Precise Contracts Ltd. of Derryleckagh Road, Newry, Northern Ireland.

The availability of car park spaces for public use at Bolton St Car Park, Drogheda remains limited for the duration of the works which are planned to be completed in December.

Construction works are now progressing well. The transfer of Council staff back into that building will be arranged for December.



Photos: Work in Progress at the Cornmarket Building at Fair Street, Drogheda

Millmount Wall Repair

McGuigan Builders of Clontibret, Co. Monaghan are undertaking repair works to walls at Millmount.

Works commenced on 1 September and thus far, includes removal of the existing railings and large coping stones to the walkway walls. In addition, the works involves treatments and removal of existing growth in the walls. The works are expected to be completed by end November. Access to the tower for visitors at Millmount during that time is not permitted.





Photos: Repair Works to Walls at Millmount

Countywide Solar PV Project Underway – Leading the Way to Decarbonisation!

Construction has now commenced for the Council's Countywide Solar PV Project.

The Council's contractor, OHK Energy, has begun the installation of solar photovoltaic (PV) systems at 21 public buildings across the county.

Dundalk County Archives building, the Bookstore at Dundalk Library, Carlingford Library and Courthouse and the library at Ardee have now all had new solar PV installed thus far.



Photo: Installing Solar PV at Dundalk Library Bookstore

The work at Ardee Library involved the provision 44no. x 455Watt Panels Commissioned delivering 20.7kWp of renewable electricity to be self-consumed on site and in readiness for offsetting eventual air source heat pump consumption.





New solar PV at Ardee Library and Carlingford Library and Courthouse

Tholsel Drogheda Roof Works – Lead Award



The contractor for the restoration of the roof and in particular the leadwork on Louth County Council's historic Tholsel building in Drogheda in 2024 has just won the prestigious 2025 Murdoch Award from the Lead Contractors Association (LCA) in the UK.

M&I Lead Contractors Ltd, based in Balbriggan, Co Dublin, received the award for their exceptional craftsmanship in leadwork, as part of the restoration of the Tholsel's iconic clock tower.

Louth County Council had engaged James Oliver Hearty & Sons Ltd of Co Armagh to carry out the roof restoration, with M&I Lead Contractors Ltd appointed as a domestic subcontractor for the leadwork.

Conservation architect Liam Mulligan, who is based in Kells, and structural engineer Thomas McGuinness, from Dundalk Civil and Structural Engineering Ltd, provided consultancy services to the council for the Tholsel Project.

The Murdoch Award is regarded as the highest accolade in the field of leadwork, recognising excellence in design and installation among specialist members of the LCA. The Tholsel project was one of only three shortlisted entries from across Ireland and the UK.

EMERGENCY SERVICES AND BUILDING CONTROL



Fire Service

The retained recruitment process continued with 8 students successfully completing the recent course in Dundalk Fire Station. An additional recruit course is planned for Jan 2026 with another 7 new recruits on this course. Upon successful completion of this course the retained crews will be at near full complement. Louth FRS have also agreed to run a joint Full time FF course with Cork City Fire Brigade starting in Jan 2026. This course will cover the 4 Louth personnel that require a full-time course and will include 5 Cork City recruits. The course will be run jointly in Cork and Dundalk Fire Station utilising instructors from both services.

Call Outs

137 Incidents were attended by the Fire Service in Louth from 1st October to 31st October 2025. 14 of these incidents were between 5pm and 12am on 31st October alone. An additional 21 incidents were attended in Meath by the Louth crews.

Compartment Fire Behaviour refreshers also took place in Hackettstown, Co Carlow this month with 13 FF being refreshed in these skills. The DHLGH approved increased funding of €6 million for the new Dundalk Training centre. This will allow the changed design for an independent building to continue and the commitment of the NDFEM & DHLGH to upgrade Dundalk training facilities.



New Louth Recruits

The NSAI ISO 45001 Health and Safety surveillance audit also took place on the 2nd October with the independent NSAI auditors. This was based in Drogheda Fire Station and auditors also visited Carlingford Fire Station as the second station. The audit was successful passed which reinforces Louth Fire Service safety management system as being robust and fit for purpose.

Fire Prevention

National Fire Safety week was launched this month between the 13th – 17th October. This was an all-island initiative between the NDFEM and Northern Ireland Fire & Rescue Service. The aim this year is to raise awareness of fire safety, with a particular focus on safety in the home. This year, the Fire Service actively engaged in the programme by focusing on Community Fire Safety, emphasising the importance of looking out for one another and supporting the more vulnerable members of our community. Crews visited the libraries, schools, and shopping centres across to county to share simple and practical fire safety advice with neighbours, friends, and family. We encouraged everyone to play a role in helping keep our communities safe from fire.



Louth County Council - Chief Executive Report - October 2025



To date 113 Fire Safety Certificates have been received in 2025 with 10 applications received in October. Operational crews continue to carry out During Performance Inspections (DPIs) as part of their commitment to maintaining fire safety standards. This month, two inspections were completed to ensure ongoing compliance with fire safety regulations and to proactively identify any potential risks or deficiencies in premises across the county.

Emergency Management

The annual Emergency Management Conference, took place at the Knightsbrook Hotel, Trim, County Meath. The conference provided an excellent opportunity for those working in, Emergency Management, to network and learn from fellow practitioners.

This year's theme was "The next crisis will not be caused; it will be triggered" and looked at the impact of systemic emergencies, where multiple, interconnected crisis converge and amplify each other, creating situations that are difficult to manage and resolve

The updated MEM plan was presented to the management team this month for approval. The revised plan included updated Directorates and personnel changes that have occurred over the last 12 months. The Severe Weather plan and revised appendices; (C) Key roles, (E) Co Ordination Centres, (H) Seveso and (M) mobilising were also updated for approval by management team.

Two information nights have been organised for the regional VES. The Louth/Meath event is pencilled in for the 17th December 2025 in Navan and will give the VES an opportunity to understand the MEM framework and networking opportunities.

Building Control

Nothing of note this month.

| | |
|--|-----|
| Disability Access Certificates (to date 2025) | 94 |
| Total number of valid Commencement Notices submitted for 2025 | 286 |
| Total Number of valid Commencement Notices for October submitted | 21 |

Civil Defence

Training

Weekly training continues each Thursday evening. Emergency Technician Training (EMT). 3 volunteers commenced their training this month. They attended 1 day in Roscrea and 8 evenings in Dundalk.

First Aid Responder Instructor (FARI) training attended by 1 volunteer.

Water Awareness training completed by 12 volunteers Swiftwater First Responder training completed by 6 volunteers.

Duties - Medical and rescue cover provided for the official opening of the Foyle's Way Walk by 8 volunteers.

Other Events

Transport assistance to Dublin Fire Brigade for the funeral of F/F David Stafford by 1 volunteer using the Civil Defence minibus.

Recruit induction evening held in Civil Defence HQ 6 volunteers assisted with the clearing out of old equipment from the Civil Defence stores.

An Stiúrthóireacht um Acmhainní Daonna, Soláthar Corparáideach & Pobail
Human Resources, Corporate & Community Delivery Directorate

Tá an stiúrthóireacht seo freagrach as príomhréimsí eagrúcháin AD i measc gníomhaíochtaí A&S, Seirbhísí Corparáideacha, Cumarsáide agus Pobail.

This directorate is responsible for the organisational core areas of HR including Health & Safety, Corporate Services, Communication and Community Activities.

Joanna Kelly
Stiúrthóir gníomhach / Acting Director



Seirbhísí Corparáideacha / Corporate Services

Tuairisc ar Sheirbhísí Custaiméirí / Customer Services Report

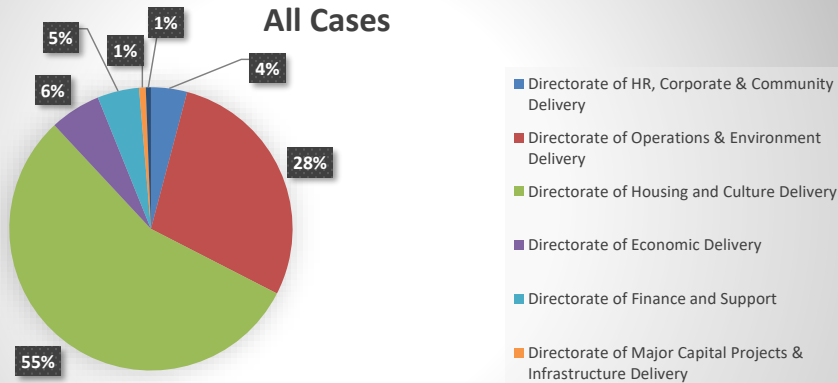
During the month of October 2025 Customer Services dealt with 16,839 queries inclusive of 8,492 calls, 1,177 e-mails and 7170 counter queries. 9928 (59%) of queries received were dealt with at first point of contact broken down as follows:

% queries dealt with at first point of contact

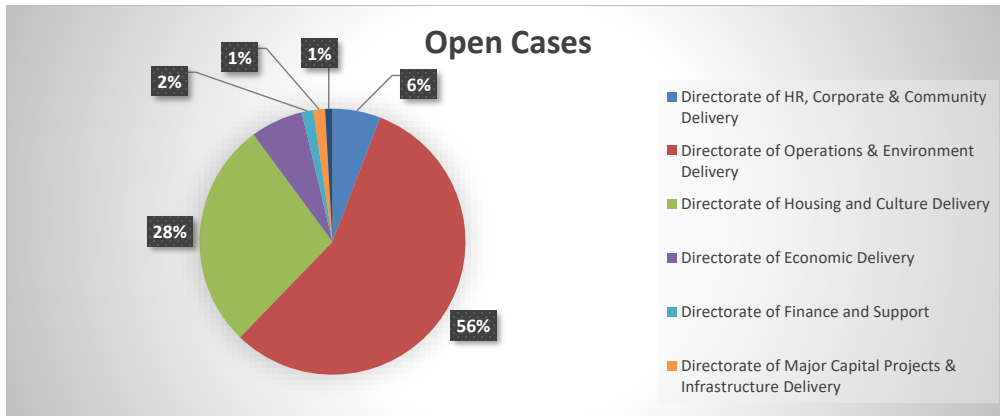


There were 3420 valid Sugar CRM cases recorded during Oct 2025 of which 290 were received from elected members. A total of 564 (16%) remain unresolved by end of October, broken down by directorate as follows:

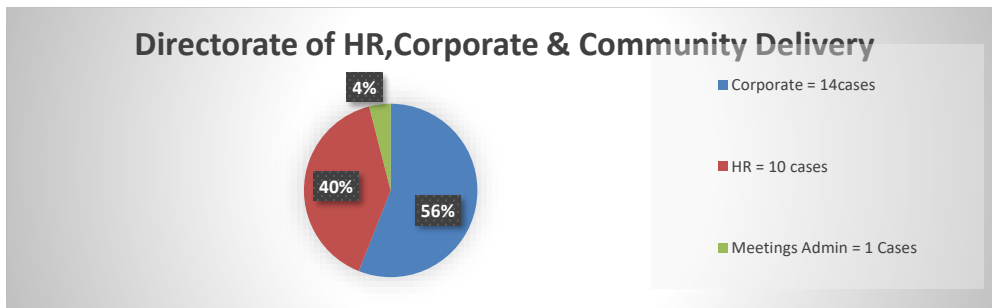
All Cases



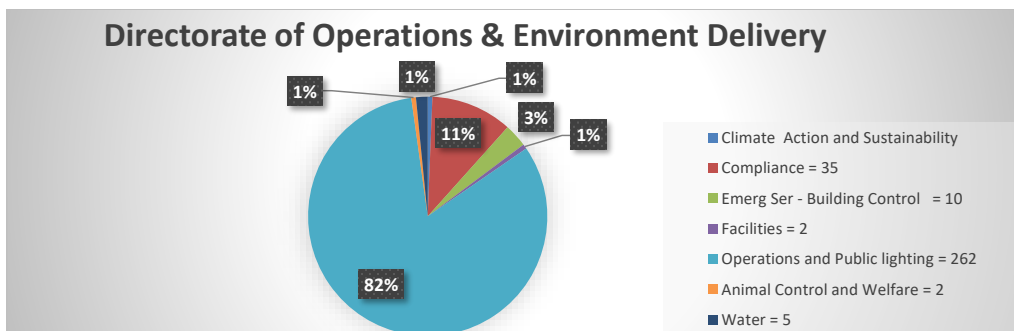
Louth County Council - Chief Executive Report - October 2025



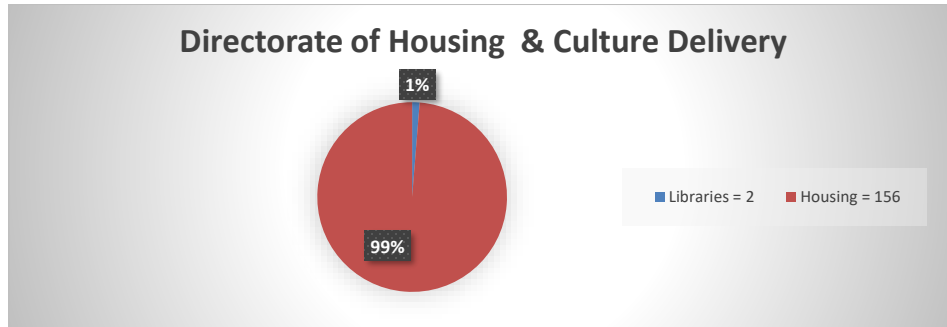
Directorate of HR, Corporate & Community Delivery



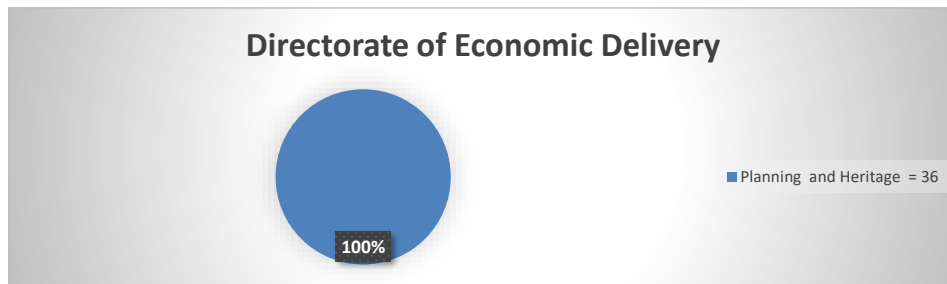
Directorate of Operations & Environmental Delivery



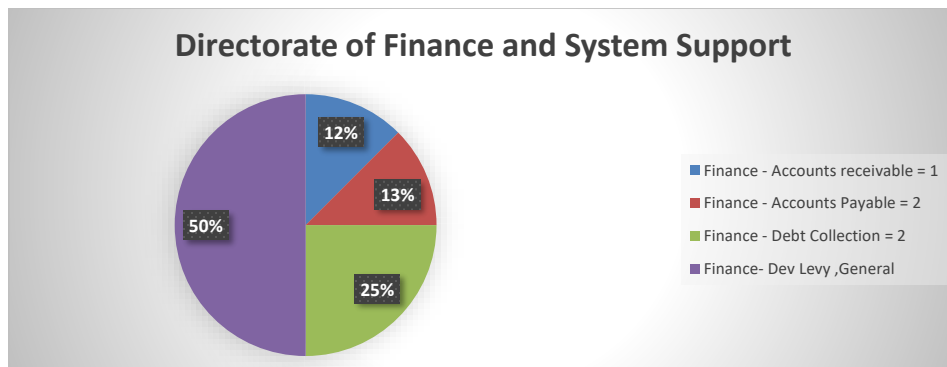
Directorate of Housing & Culture Delivery



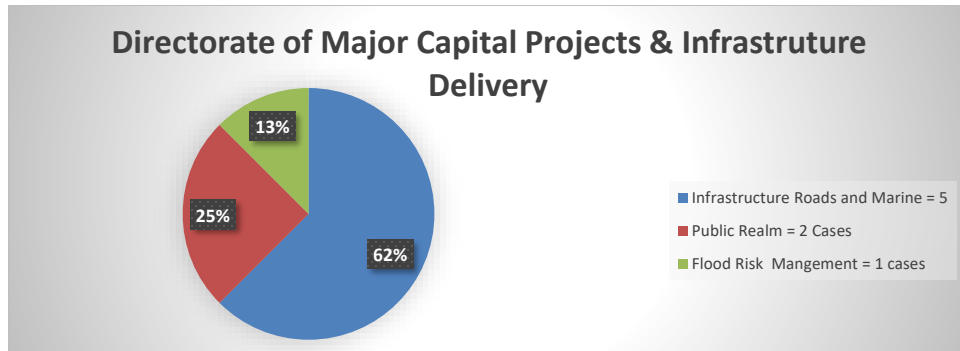
Directorate of Economic Delivery



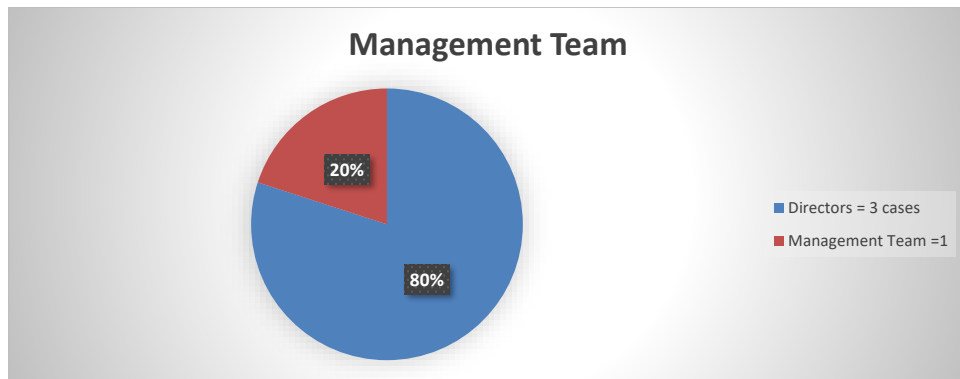
Directorate of Finance and System Support



Directorate of Major Capital Projects & Infrastructure Delivery



Management Team



The table below illustrates activity in the Information Compliance area.

| | 2024 Total Jan – Oct | 2025 Total Jan – Oct | 2025 Total Oct only |
|--|-------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|
| FOI REQUEST | 130 | 133 | 13 |
| DSAR | 12 | 22 | 1 |
| DATA PROTECTION REQUEST (AIE) INFORMATION | 15 | 14 | 2 |
| OMBUDSMAN CASE | 14 | 11 | 2 |
| COMPLAINTS | 19 | 24 | 1 |
| | 35 | 24 | 0 |

Louth County Council - Chief Executive Report - October 2025

Clár Toghthóirí / Electoral Register

The Presidential Election took place on Friday the 24th October 2025.

A large amount of work was completed within the Franchise Section in the weeks running up to the election, with a consistently high rate of applications being received via www.checktheregister.ie. The total electorate for Presidential Election was 92,923.

Totals below for the Local Electoral Areas

| | |
|-------------------------|---------------|
| Ardee | 19,108 |
| Drogheda Rural | 13,403 |
| Drogheda Urban | 17,787 |
| Dundalk Carlingford | 18,561 |
| Dundalk South | 24,064 |
| Total Electorate | 92,923 |

The Franchise Section, in collaboration with the Electoral Commissioner, will continue to actively promote www.checktheregister.ie and highlight the critical importance of maintaining accurate and up-to-date electoral information. It is clear from the calls received on polling day that a significant number of electors had not verified their details in advance, resulting in avoidable confusion. This underscores the urgent need for increased public awareness and engagement with the register.



**YOUR VOICE MATTERS AND
YOUR VOTE IS IMPORTANT**

Check that your details on the
Electoral Register are current and correct

checktheregister.ie

Riádas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland

Tacaíocht Pobail / Community Support

Age Friendly Louth



Age Friendly Louth at National Sports Taster Day

Age Friendly Louth proudly joined over 100 older adults from across Ireland at the Sport Ireland Campus for the second annual Age Friendly Sports Taster Day, held during European Week of Sport.

The event was a vibrant celebration of active ageing, with participants enjoying a wide range of inclusive activities such as adapted céilí dancing, Fitsticks walking, trishaw and folding bike rides, walking football, Cricket4All and a relaxing Tai Chi session to close the day. The Sports Day offered a welcoming environment for older people to explore new ways to stay active, supported by physios and fitness experts and surrounded by peer encouragement.

The Louth delegation was delighted to take part, with many leaving the campus smiling and inspired to bring these activities back to their local communities.



National Sports Taster Day at Sport Ireland Campus

Exploring Ageism Project

Through the Exploring Ageism drama project, participants delved into the transformative power of creative theatre as a tool to challenge and dismantle ageist stereotypes. Creative theatre has acted as an innovative mechanism to explore experiences, gain insights and foster intergenerational understanding and empathy. Art can be a profound catalyst for social change, encouraging us to see ageing not as a burden, but as a bounty – as a stage of life filled with possibility, potential and contribution.

An Táin Director, Paul Hayes, led a series of workshops with a group of people who had varying levels of experience with drama. Output from the

project included two short films. The first, 'Touchstones' introduces the project participants and serves as a publicly accessible output from the project. The second film, 'Hidden Treasures' is the larger creative output from the project and presents personal reflections from the creative ageing drama project. A screening took place in the Droichead Arts Centre on Thursday 23rd October.

National Age Friendly Recognition & Achievement Awards 2025

Age Friendly Louth was proud to attend the prestigious National Age Friendly Recognition & Achievement Awards held at The Galmont Hotel in Galway on October 23rd. The evening celebrated outstanding initiatives from across Ireland that promote inclusion, wellbeing and dignity for older people. Among the nominees was the Ardee Garden Care & Repair Project, shortlisted in the Age Friendly Environment category. Although not overall winners, the project was awarded a certificate of achievement by Age Friendly for its positive impact on older people in the local community.

This inspiring initiative, launched in 2024, provides free gardening services to older and vulnerable residents in Ardee, helping to maintain safe and welcoming outdoor spaces. The project reflects true community spirit, with support from Louth County Council, Ardee Tidy Towns, An Garda Síochána, Dee Hub and Age Friendly Louth. The awards night was a joyful occasion, recognising the dedication of volunteers and local leaders who are making a real difference in the lives of older people across the county and beyond.



Council staff and project participants

Louth Comhairle na nÓg



Young people from Comhairle na nÓg took part in a special consultation event held in the Market house in Dunleer. Twenty six young people participated in the consultation and represented all three Municipal Districts in Louth.

The format of the consultation was to use non formal education methods to create an environment for the young people to share their ideas on the play and recreation needs for their communities as part of the Council's consultation process for the development of Play Recreation and Sports Strategies. This included warm up games, clarifications on the meaning of play, recreation and an overview of the consultation process.

The young people then got to address the key questions and give feedback and discussion on their responses. This was completed in an open World Café style and used a placemat and Post Its to gather responses.

The event was facilitated by the Youth Work teams of Dundalk Youth Centre, Boomerang Young Peoples Centre and Mid Louth Youth Service. The feedback was then compiled and the young people decided on the recommendations to be included in this report.

Recommendations

The importance of Play Recreation and Sport

1. Increase Opportunities for Social Interaction

Since many responses mention making friends, meeting new people and building confidence, programmes should prioritise group-based recreational activities that encourage teamwork, communication and friendship-building.

2. Focus on Wellbeing and Stress Relief

Young people repeatedly highlighted stress reduction, relaxation and improving mental health. This shows a need for spaces and activities that promote calmness and emotional wellbeing.

3. Support Skill-Building and Personal Growth

Feedback such as learning new skills, building self-confidence and developing personal interests in recreational activities that build life and social skills.

Barriers to getting involved in Play Recreation and Sport

1. Social and Emotional Barriers

Young people identified several social barriers to participation in play and recreation, including experiences of bullying, judgment, fear of making mistakes, peer pressure, embarrassment, negative public perceptions and popular stereotypes that portray teenagers as disinterested or unmotivated.

2. Mental Health, Wellbeing, Time, and Pressure

Young people highlighted personal barriers such as anxiety, mental health challenges, negative home environments and low confidence or fear of participation. It was noted that school-related stress and time pressures, along with extracurricular activities becoming overly serious or competitive, can limit their participation in play and recreation.

3. Practical and Structural Barriers

Young people reported structural barriers, including a lack of services and suitable facilities, limited access to plays or theatre, rural isolation, lack of transport and financial constraints affecting affordability.

In addition, there are a lot of facilities that could be put to better use for young people's recreation.

New Play Recreation and Sports Ideas

1. Create More Outdoor Social and Sport Spaces

There was repeated reference to parks, skate parks, football pitches, beach seats and all-season recreational sports and another Aura.

2. Develop Multi-Purpose Youth and Recreation Centres

There is a strong desire for youth-specific spaces like youth centres, gym/sports centres, study spaces and affordable gyms for teenagers.

3. Organise Regular Community Events and Entertainment

Young people are asking for more live music venues, small concerts, group/social recreation, and places to hang out. 24 hour toilet facilities and better lighting in public spaces were also mentioned.

Louth County Council - Chief Executive Report - October 2025



Consultation Event, Market House, Dunleer

Public Participation Network (PPN)

LMFM Radio Interview

On Thursday 2nd October Louth PPN was interviewed on LMFM discussing the importance of community and volunteering, highlighting the open nominations for Louth PPN's 2025 Community & Voluntary Awards. <https://www.lmfm.ie/on-air/11-1/>

Louth PPN Awards

The closing date for nominations for Louth PPN's 2025 Community & Voluntary Awards was Friday 10th October. All nominations have now been assessed and shortlisted ahead of the awards event on November 19th.

Social Media Training

The final session of our Social Media training course took place online on the evening of Tuesday, 14th October at 7pm.

Secretariat Meeting

Louth PPN's Secretariat met on Wednesday 15th October in The Mill Enterprise Centre, Drogheda at 10.30am.

Plenary Meeting

Louth PPN's second Plenary meeting of 2025 took place at 4.30pm on Wednesday 15th October in Creative Spark, Dundalk and was well attended.

PPN National Conference

Louth PPN attended the PPN National Conference which was held in Trim, County Meath on Thursday 16th and Friday 17th October.

Training Courses

On Tuesday 21st October Louth PPN opened registration for the following training courses due to take place before the end of 2025:

- How to Write Effective Funding Applications Training (Wednesday 12th November online at 7pm)
- Community Mentoring Training (Monday 24th November in-person from 9.30am – 3.30pm)
- Community Funding Training (Wednesday 26th November online at 7pm)
- Crisis Communications Training (Date and time to be confirmed)

Healthy Louth

ASK Programme (Access Shared Knowledge)

Healthy Louth, in conjunction with Louth Local Development and Louth Library Service, recently hosted inspiring ASK.ie Project sessions in Ardee and Dunleer, welcoming a vibrant group of Ukrainian women.

Participants also learned how to access the Healthy Louth newsletter and navigate the Council website to discover a wide range of community resources. This initiative, proudly led by SICAP, highlights the power of collaboration in promoting inclusive wellbeing and access to shared knowledge across our communities.



Participants at the ASK.ie Project Session in Ardee

Breastfeeding Friendly Week 1st - 7th October

Healthy Louth had the pleasure of joining the **Blackrock and Dunleer Breastfeeding Support Groups** to mark **National Breastfeeding Week** in a warm and welcoming celebration of community, support and family wellbeing.

We also launched the new **We're Breastfeeding Friendly Louth** video, which shows the many welcoming places across County Louth that support breastfeeding families. The initiative continues to grow, and we encourage more local businesses to join in creating family-friendly spaces.

Special thanks to **Helena from LMFM**, who spoke with mums about their experiences in finding safe

Louth County Council - Chief Executive Report - October 2025

comfortable and welcoming places to spend with their families.

Link to the video is

<https://youtu.be/Rncyxrlb5q?si=95AKVe0zw6oo1m3n>



Celebrating Breastfeeding Friendly Week in Blackrock

World Mental Health Day – Traveller Mental Health Day at The Lisdoon

On October 10th, Healthy Louth participated in a deeply moving and impactful Traveller Mental Health Day held at The Lisdoon. The event featured powerful talks from Mags Casey, Ellen McDonagh and John Connors, who courageously shared their personal journeys and insights into mental health within the Traveller community. Their voices brought awareness, empathy and strength to all in attendance.

The day wrapped up with a lively raffle and uplifting music performed by The Barry Family, leaving everyone with a sense of connection and hope.

Nourish to Flourish at DKIT

Healthy Louth were invited to a Nutritional & Wellbeing Workshop on 21st October hosted by the DKIT Events, Hospitality & Culinary Arts Department, in collaboration with Healthy Louth. The event was a resounding success, showcasing the creativity, professionalism and dedication of the Year 2 BA Culinary Arts students, who worked closely with their lecturers to deliver an engaging and insightful experience.



Nourish to Flourish Event in DKIT

Homeless Street Leagues

Participants from **Drogheda Homeless Street Leagues** and **The Red Door Project** joined forces for an inspiring talk led by Mr. Rory O'Connor from **Rory's Stories**, opening vital conversations around **addiction and mental health**. The talk was followed by lunch which added a sense of comfort and care to the day.

This event was proudly supported by **Healthy Louth** and the **Irish Homeless Street Leagues & The Red Door Project**.



Homeless Street Leagues Host Talk by Mr. Rory O'Connor

Louth In Bloom Awards Ceremony 2025

The Community Support Section of the Council was delighted to host the sixth Louth In Bloom awards ceremony at the stunning Bellingham Castle on the evening of Wednesday, 15th October 2025. The event celebrated the incredible commitment, creativity and pride our communities bring to enhancing the beauty of County Louth.

The ceremony highlighted outstanding achievements across eight diverse categories, including housing estates, private rural and urban gardens, hospitality and business premises, biodiversity and the Best Tidy Town Sustainable Innovative Project. Winners were announced by the Cathaoirleach of Louth County Council, alongside the Cathaoirleach from each Municipal and Borough District.

A special highlight of the evening was our guest speaker, renowned author, environmentalist and proud Louth native, Ms. Éanna Ní Lamhna, who presented the awards with warmth and enthusiasm.

Also announced during the ceremony were the Slí Ghlas an Lú Awards, a new competition aimed specifically at Tidy Towns groups to celebrate local climate action and sustainability projects. These awards highlight the innovative work being carried out

Louth County Council - Chief Executive Report - October 2025

by Tidy Towns groups across Louth in support of environmental resilience.

The night concluded with the Chief Executive extending heartfelt congratulations to all winners and announcing the recipient of the Outstanding Contribution Award, Ms. Eileen Carter of Blackrock Tidy Towns.

For further information click [Louth in Bloom 2025 Awards Ceremony - Louth County Council](#)



Guest Speaker Ms. Éanna Ní Lamhna captivating a full house at Bellingham Castle during the Louth in Bloom Awards Ceremony 2025



Cathaoirleach with Guest Speaker Ms. Éanna Ní Lamhna



Ms. Eileen Carter recipient of Outstanding Contribution Award

PEACEPLUS



PEACEPLUS

Tenders were received for the PEACEPLUS Multicultural/Intercultural Project which closed on the 6th of October and for the PEACEPLUS Collaborative Arts Project which closed on the 16th October 2025.

Tender assessment panel meetings were held for the PEACEPLUS Animating Shared Spaces Louth Stories Through Art Project on 7th October and for the PEACEPLUS Digital Arts Project on 23rd October.

Contracts are currently being drawn up and we are awaiting contract documents from contractors for the following projects:

- Shared Narratives
- Sports Engagement Programme
- Outdoor Pursuits Sports Leadership Programme
- Youth Leadership and Mentoring
- Youth, Community Safety, Engagement, Wellbeing and Signposting Project

PEACEPLUS staff made a presentation on upcoming PEACEPLUS projects at the Public Participation Network plenary meeting in Creative Spark on 15th October and also attended the quarterly PEACEPLUS Programme Managers Network meeting in Co. Tyrone on 8th October.

Ukraine Humanitarian Response

Offer A Home Programme

Property Figures as at 31/10/2025

| | |
|--|-----|
| Properties offered in October | 0 |
| Families moved into properties in October | 0 |
| Expressions of interest in being accommodated received from families | 27 |
| Property offers recorded to date | 86 |
| Owners successfully contacted to date | 84 |
| Properties currently occupied | 38 |
| Beneficiaries currently assigned | 128 |
| Assessments carried out to date | 60 |
| Assessments currently underway | 0 |
| Properties assessed as suitable to date | 45 |

Louth County Council - Chief Executive Report - October 2025

| | |
|--------------------------------------|----|
| Properties with minor works required | 0 |
| Properties withdrawn to date | 17 |
| Properties not viable to date | 21 |

based in Drogheda and an adult group based in Dundalk. Here is sample of the work carried out so far.



Local Authority Integration Team

Community Information Fair

On Tuesday September 30th, a Community Information Fair was held in the Imperial Hotel in Dundalk. The event was attended by residents living in accommodation centres in the town and surrounding areas. More than 15 Service providers had stands on the day including Intreo, Louth Local Development Company and LMETB amongst others.



Community Information Fair in the Imperial Hotel, Dundalk

Road Safety Awareness

We held two information sessions in the libraries in Drogheda and Dundalk with the sessions focussing on Road Safety. Attendees were given a presentation by An Garda Síochána and The Road Safety Authority around taking care on the roads over winter. They were also given access to a driver simulator which simulates driving conditions on Irish roads.



Road Safety Awareness Sessions

WIN InSpO Women's Health Summit

The LAIT team attended the WIN Women's Health Summit held in the Still building in Dundalk Library on October 1st. The summit focused on women's health & wellbeing, immunisation awareness and services available to women in the town of Dundalk. Guest speakers on the day included Women's Aid Dundalk, An Garda Síochána and Louth County Council.



Participants at the WIN InSpO Women's Health Summit

Louth Volunteer Centre

The LAIT was invited to the Louth Volunteer Centre celebration of promoting integration through volunteering at the Imperial Hotel on October 9th. The event gave an insight into the different projects that LVC have held over the last 12 months including the Community Befriending Programme, Blankets of Care and the Welcome Café, with the LAIT sending referrals to these programmes.

Creative Ireland Arts Project

Le Chéile – Creating Connection Through Seanfhocail art project started this month and is in full swing. There are two groups involved in the project; one youth group

Louth County Council - Chief Executive Report - October 2025



Louth Volunteer Centre Integration Event in the Imperial Hotel, Dundalk

Climate Action Week Beach Clean

As part of Climate Action Week, the Council LAIT, in collaboration with An Taisce and residents from IPAS and BOTP centres across County Louth, organised a beach clean at Port Beach. This initiative highlights the importance of local environmental stewardship and collective action in addressing climate change. The event brought together diverse groups to protect our coastal environment, foster community spirit and promote sustainability through hands-on engagement.



Climate Action Week Beach Clean

Community Safety

The nomination process for membership of the Louth Community Safety Partnership has been completed, and it is proposed that the thirty members will be configured as follows:

Local Authority Members – 7

Statutory Bodies – 5

Nominating Bodies – 11

Open Call (Expression of Interest) members - 7

The nominated members will give the broadest representation across sectoral interests, demographic and community interests in County Louth, to achieve the best community safety outcomes.

The nominations have been submitted to the National Office for Community Safety for appointment by the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration.

It is expected that the first full meeting of the Louth Community Safety Partnership will take place in Q4 2025.

Sport

Dundalk Sports Centre

Tennis and Pickleball Courts

Our Tennis Courts opened to the public this month. There are two courts for pickleball and two courts for Tennis.



New Tennis & Pickleball Courts at Dundalk Sports Centre

Active Aging Programme

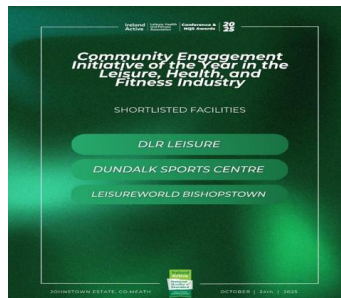
We made amendments to our Active Aging Schedule this month. Due to increasing numbers in the classes and a range of abilities, we added beginner classes on a Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday for all our programmes.

| ACTIVE AGEING SCHEDULE | |
|------------------------|--|
| DUNDALK SPORTS CENTRE | |
| Mon | 10:30 - 11:30am STROLL PATROL - FREE WALKING GROUP 10:30 - 11:30am ACTIVE DANCE €3 |
| Tue | 10:15 - 11:00am SOCIAL MOVERS €3 (BYRDND) 10:15 - 11:00am ACTIVE AGEING €3 (BALL) |
| Wed | 10 - 10:45am STRENGTH & BALANCE - ADVANCED 11 - 11:45am STRENGTH & BALANCE - INTERMEDIATE 12 - 12:45pm STRENGTH & BALANCE - BEGINNER |
| Thur | 9:45 - 10:30am CHAIR YOGA - BEGINNER €3 10:45 - 11:30am CHAIR YOGA - INTERMEDIATE €3 4 - 4:45pm AGE WELL €3 |
| FRI | 11 - 11:55am ACTIVE AGEING PICKLEBALL €3 |
| SAT | 11 - 11:45am WEEKEND WALK-UP €5 (BYRDND) |

Award Nomination

As part of the Ireland Active National Quality Standard Awards 2025, Dundalk Sports Centre are proud to announce that we have been shortlisted in the "Community Engagement Initiative of the Year" Award.

Louth County Council - Chief Executive Report - October 2025



| | | |
|----------------------|--------------------------|--------|
| Safeguarding Level 1 | October 23 rd | Online |
| Safeguarding Level 1 | October 30 th | Online |

Sport Leader

| Activity | Date | Venue |
|----------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|
| Sport Leader Level 1 | October 28 th | Drogheda – In Person |

Men on the Move Programme

Louth LSP's 8-week Men on the Move in conjunction with HSE at Dundalk Sports Centre in Dundalk and Lourdes Stadium, Drogheda commenced in October with 30 men aged 35+ participating.

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

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

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



Men on the Move Programme Participants

Lourdes Stadium

Launch of SportUile

Thursday the 16th of October marked the launch of SportUile which is a new cross-county initiative aimed at harnessing the power of sport to strengthen communities. The event also marked the opening of the SportUile modular office at the Lourdes Stadium, Drogheda. Minister for Sport and Postal Policy Charlie McConalogue TD was in attendance to open the building. Head of Meath LSP Ms. Mary Murphy and head of Louth LSP Mr. Graham Russell were in attendance with staff members of both organisations.



Launch of SportUile & Opening of New Office at Lourdes Stadium, Drogheda

Louth Local Sports Partnership

Coach & Volunteer Education Programmes 2025

Louth Local Sports Partnership facilitated the following coach & volunteer education programmes in October 2025.

Safeguarding

| Activity | Date | Venue |
|----------------------|-------------------------|--------|
| Safeguarding Level 1 | October 9 th | Online |

Couch to 5K Programme

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

local Parkrun events and other recreational running activities.

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



Couch to 5K Training at Dundalk Sports Centre

New Playground Stencils at Ardee Monastery Primary School

We are excited to share that Ardee Monastery Primary School has just completed the installation of vibrant Playground Stencils to help children

- Increase daily movement
- Improve physical literacy
- Enjoy active and fun break times

These stencils are a fantastic way to promote physical activity in a playful and inclusive way.



New Playground Stencils at Ardee Monastery Primary School

An Stiúrthóireacht um Thithíocht agus Seachadadh Cultúir
Housing & Culture Delivery Directorate

Tá an stiúrthóireacht seo freagrach as eagrú agus seachadadh Cóiíochta & Soláthair Tithíochta mar aon leis an gné chultúrtha de Sheirbhísí Leabharlanna, Ealaíon, Músaem agus Cartlainne.

This directorate is responsible for the organisational and delivery of Housing Accommodation & Supply along with the cultural aspect of Libraries, Arts, Museum and Archive Services.

Ger Murphy
Stiúrthóir / Director



Louth County Council - Chief Executive Report - October 2025

Títíocht / 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 September 18 – October 17, 2025, can be summarised as follows:

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

| September 18 to October 17, 2025 | Ardee MD | Dundalk MD | Drogheda MD | Total |
|--|----------|------------|-------------|-------|
| Offered advice, support (including fast tracking H.A. for Rent Supplement eligibility) | 7 | 136 | 71 | 214 |
| Placed in Temporary Emergency Accommodation | 0 | 25 | 16 | 41 |
| Refused Offer of Temporary Emergency Accommodation | 0 | 5 | 1 | 6 |
| Not eligible from outside county or non HRC | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total number of Person who presented as Homeless | 7 | 166 | 88 | 261 |

Tables 2 - 4 below reflect details of the adults who were in emergency accommodation in County Louth on October 17, 2025. Also included at

Table 5 is the breakdown of families in emergency accommodation at that date.

Tábla 2: Inscne / Table 2: Gender

| Gender | Total |
|--------------|------------|
| Male | 97 |
| Female | 54 |
| Total | 151 |

Tábla 3: Aoisghrúpaí / Table 3: Age Groups

| Age Group | Total |
|--------------|------------|
| 18-24 | 29 |
| 25-44 | 78 |
| 45-64 | 37 |
| 65+ | 7 |
| Total | 151 |

Tábla 4: Saghas Loistín / Table 4: Accommodation Type

| Accommodation Type | Total |
|---|------------|
| Private Emergency Accommodation (PEA) | 63 |
| Supported Temporary Accommodation (STA) | 88 |
| Total unique individuals | 151 |

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 | 13 | 16 | 26 |
| Couples with dependent children | 6 | 16 | 23 |
| Total | 19 | 32 | 49 |

Louth County Council - Chief Executive Report - October 2025

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

| | |
|--|----|
| Number of tenancies established | 54 |
| Number of individuals currently in tenancy | 37 |

Leithdháileadh Tithíochta o' 20 Meán Fómhair go dtí 19 Deireadh Fómhair, 2025
Housing Allocations from September 20 to October 19, 2025

| District | LA | LA Refusal | AHB | AHB Refusal |
|--------------|-----------|------------|-----------|-------------|
| Ardee | 5 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Drogheda | 5 | 6 | 14 | 3 |
| Dundalk | 6 | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| Total | 16 | 8 | 16 | 3 |

Aistrithe / Transfers

| September 20 – October 19, 2025 | Transfers |
|---------------------------------|-----------|
| Ardee | 0 |
| Drogheda | 4 |
| Dundalk | 2 |
| Total | 6 |

Liosta Tithe / Housing List

| October 19, 2025 | Ardee | Drogheda | Dundalk | Total |
|---------------------------|------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Housing List | 355 | 695 | 1152 | 2202 |
| HAP Transfer List | 293 | 870 | 1579 | 2742 |
| Total Housing List | 648 | 1565 | 2731 | 4944 |

There are **333** applications on the transfer list (Non HAP) within Social Housing including **63** applications from the Approved Housing Bodies.

Bainisteoireacht Chíos / Rent Management

| Current Rents Arrears at October 22, 2025 | No of Accounts | Value |
|---|----------------|-------------------|
| Rents between 4-6 weeks old | 225 | €100,346 |
| Rents between 7-12 weeks old | 190 | €156,498 |
| Rents greater than 12 weeks old | 1034 | €3,809,545 |
| TOTAL | 1449 | €4,066,389 |

Rent arrears are monitored on an ongoing basis and letters are issued to customers within two weeks of their falling into arrears. Failure to address these arrears will result in a second letter being issued and if necessary, a third and final reminder. Failure to respond at that point will result in an escalation to tenancy warning. The following correspondence was issued in October 2025.

| Letter Type | Month/Year | Number Issued |
|--------------------------|--------------|---------------|
| 1 st Reminder | October 2025 | 64 |
| 2 nd Reminder | October 2025 | 23 |
| Final Reminder | October 2025 | 19 |
| Total issued | | 106 |

The total rental income received in 2025, to date, is **€14,264,231**. This is a 7.5% increase when compared to the equivalent period in 2024 (€13,281,013) and a 16% increase on 2023 (€12,086,592).

The total number of rents currently paying by Household Budget is **956**.

Customers that fall into arrears may enter into a payment plan for full repayment over an agreed period of time. **69** new payment plans commenced in October 2025 (up to and including October 23, 2025).

Louth County Council - Chief Executive Report - October 2025

Airíonna Athlígéan & Neamhní / Relet and Void Properties

Updated 23/10/2025

| Relet / Void Properties on October 23, 2025 | Total |
|--|-----------|
| Ardee Municipal District | 5 |
| Dundalk Municipal District | 16 |
| Drogheda Municipal Borough District | 43 |
| Subtotal (re-lets) Vacant Properties | 64 |
| CPO units not yet ready for occupation (All County) | 2 |
| Total Number of Properties (Relets & CPO) | 66 |

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 | September 20 – October 22 | Total (YTD) |
|---|---------------------------|-------------|
| No. of Maintenance Requests Received | 1319 | 9907 |
| No. of Maintenance Requests Completed | 1177 | 8162 |
| No. of Maintenance Requests in Progress | 68 | 1213 |
| No. of Maintenance Requests Refused | 74 | 532 |

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

The 2025 EERP allocation for Louth, has been confirmed by the DHLGH as 140. Two units

submitted over our allocation in 2024 will be taken out of this total. Two Units in Hillview are accounted for under the 2024 figures so the total for 2025 shall be shown as 138. There are currently a small number of additional units commenced that if additional funding is available these will be recouped otherwise they will carry into 2026.

| Municipal District | Number of Commenced/ Completed Units |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| Ardee MD: | 38 |
| St Olivers Park Kilsaran Feran Drive, Louth Village Chestnut Grove, Tallanstown Beechwood Drive St Marys Court | |
| Dundalk MD: | 58 |
| Ladywell Dundalk Aisling Park Dundalk Doolargy Ave, Dundalk Barton Park, Dundalk Woodview Park Jocelyn Court St Olivers Park Carlingford Hillview Lois Dubh Hyde Park Clooneevan Mayfield Drive | |
| Drogheda BD: | 47 |
| St Finians Marian Park Boyle O'Reilly Terrace Ascal a Haon Grove Road Rathmullan Park Regent Place | |

Louth County Council - Chief Executive Report - October 2025

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

PRI Stats 2025

| For September 20 to October 22, 2025 | October | YTD |
|--------------------------------------|---------|-------|
| Properties inspected monthly | 240 | 1,874 |
| Advisory letters issued | 137 | 1,892 |
| Improvement notices issued | 2 | 44 |
| Prohibition notices issued | 0 | 1 |
| Private Inspections | 0 | 1 |
| HAP First Inspections | 36 | 601 |
| RAS First Inspections | 0 | 2 |
| AHB First Inspections | 139 | 786 |
| Student Specific Accommodation (SSA) | 2 | 36 |
| Private Re-inspections | 0 | 3 |
| HAP Re-inspections | 45 | 300 |
| RAS Re-inspections | 0 | 1 |
| AHB Re-inspections | 1 | 116 |
| SSA Re-inspections | 17 | 19 |
| Inspections from Complaints | 0 | 9 |
| Properties Made Compliant | 9 | 193 |

Páirtíocht Tionóntachta /Tenancy Engagement

| September 20 to October 23, 2025 | Drogheda | Ardee | Dundalk | Monthly Total | Yearly Total |
|---|----------|-------|---------|---------------|--------------|
| No. Tenants who attended Pre-tenancy training | 7 | 4 | 12 | 23 | 203 |
| Post-tenancy inspections | 3 | 3 | 7 | 13 | 127 |
| Tenancy Investigation Visits | 16 | 22 | 1 | 39 | 364 |

Haggardstown Interagency Group - Plant and Grow event

Following on from the success of the summer fun day planting event held on July 14, 2025, the Haggardstown Interagency Group comprising of members of the Estate Management Team LCC, Tuath Housing and Louth Local Development continued with the planting 'grow and learn' project which encourages families to grow their own vegetables and live a more sustainable lifestyle.

Residents in Wadman Park, Greengate's and Dundoogan were invited to take part in the project which involves participants setting up plant boxes in their gardens and planting seasonal vegetables, onions and garlic.

Two Sessions took place on October 11 and 18, 2025. Lots of helpful hints and tips and great conversations all about living more sustainably with the participants looking forward to seeing how their gardens grow!

Louth County Council - Chief Executive Report - October 2025



Member of the Haggarstown Interagency Group along with Louth Growers Collective and participants in the 'Grow and Learn' project demonstration which took place on 18th October 2025.

All-Ireland Tenant Engagement Conference 2025

Tenancy Liaison Officers attended the All-Ireland Tenant Engagement Conference on the 6th & 7th of October in Belfast, hosted by Supporting Communities. The two-day event brought together housing professionals, tenant advocates, and community leaders from across Ireland. Key sessions included:

- Amplifying ethnic minority voices in tenant engagement (Kai Jackson, TPAS England)
- Introduction of the Tenant Participation Accreditation framework (Joanne Wilson & Dolores Grady)
- Promoting youth involvement in housing (Marty Kelly & Shannon Gordon, NI Youth Forum)

Áine and John return with valuable insights, strengthened networks, and renewed momentum to enhance tenant engagement locally



Tenancy Liaison Officers



Iompraíocht Fhrithshóisialta / Anti-Social Behaviour

| September 20 to October 23, 2025 | Drogheda | Ardee | Dundalk | Monthly | Yearly |
|----------------------------------|----------|-------|---------|---------|--------|
| ASB Cases* Received | 9 | 3 | 8 | 20 | 218 |
| ASB cases Ongoing | 10 | 4 | 8 | 22 | - |
| ASB cases complete | 8 | 0 | 8 | 16 | 167 |

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

| September 20 to October 23, 2025 | Drogheda | Ardee | Dundalk | Monthly | Yearly |
|------------------------------------|----------|-------|---------|---------|--------|
| Verbal Warnings | 2 | 0 | 2 | 4 | 47 |
| Written Tenancy Notifications | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 16 |
| Tenancy Warnings Housing Act, 2014 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 |

Louth County Council - Chief Executive Report - October 2025

Tithíocht Inacmhainne/ Affordable Housing

The Application portal for our Affordable Purchase Scheme at Quarry Court, Ardee opened for submissions on Monday October 13, 2025, and will remain open until Monday November 3, 2025. Assessments of applications have commenced with offers being issued to successful applicants in the coming weeks.



Affordable houses at Quarry Court, Ardee, Co. Louth

Gnóthaithe/ Acquisitions

Louth County Council are acquiring homes under the 2nd hand acquisition scheme which will be allocated as appropriate to Tenant In Situ, persons with disabilities, and homeless. In October, the Council purchased 4 properties.

Morgáiste go Cíos (MGC)/Mortgage to Rent (MTR) October 2025

| | |
|------------------------------------|----|
| Active MTR Applications Total | 30 |
| AHB MTR Applications Active | 9 |
| AHB MTR completed 2025 | 10 |
| Private MTR Applications Active | 19 |
| Private MTR completed 2025 | 7 |
| MTR Application Awaiting Purchaser | 2 |

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

Deontas Athchóirithe D'áras Folamh / Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant

| | |
|---|-----|
| Applications Submitted: | 344 |
| Approved: | 249 |
| Rejected: | 29 |
| Withdrawn | 42 |
| Other (FI Requests, First Site Inspections) | 24 |
| Funding Issued to Applicant | 107 |
| Principal Private Residence | 253 |
| Rental Applications | 91 |
| Vacant Grant Applications | 167 |
| Derelict top-up Applications | 177 |

Déisiú agus Léas/ Repair and Lease

| Units | Address | Beds | Notes |
|-------|---------|------|------------------------|
| 1 | Dundalk | 3 | Complete and allocated |

Iasacht Tí Údaráis Áitiúil / Local Authority Home Loans

| | |
|---|-------------------|
| 2025 Budget Allocation | €6,610,000 |
| LAHL Approvals at 23/10/2025 | €2,721,817 |
| Breakdown of LAHL applications processed at the October 23, 2025 | |
| Total Number of Applications at 22/09/2025 | 39 |

Louth County Council - Chief Executive Report - October 2025

| | |
|--|----|
| LAHL carried over from 2024 | 9 |
| Invalid/Returned | 18 |
| Approved | 18 |
| Declined | 4 |
| For Review | 0 |
| Outstanding – waiting on further information | 8 |

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

The Council was notified in May of the 2025 Allocation of €3,174,338 including a contribution of €476,151 by the Council. Since this time the council has been informed that we have been awarded an additional €176,470, giving a revised combined allocation of **€3,345,808**.

The acceptance of grant applications is currently paused while the Grants Section continues to prioritise existing applications received. Currently, the only new applications that can be considered are where a 'priority 1' medical need exists.

Applicants who have received grant approval are reminded of the importance of completing works within the specified timeframe. Timely submission of completion certificates to the Housing Grants Section is essential to ensure compliance with grant conditions and to facilitate prompt processing.

The scheme will reopen for new applications on Monday, 3rd November.



Bathroom Adaptation completed in Drogheda, with funding provided with a HAG

| Status | HAG | MAG | HOP | Month | YTD |
|---|-----|-----|-----|-------|-----|
| Applications on Hand 23/10/2025 | 62 | 3 | 163 | | 228 |
| Grants Approved 21/09/2025 – 23/10/2025 | 12 | 3 | 31 | 46 | 306 |

Adaptations to Council Housing for Persons with a Disability

The Council carries out adaptations to Council properties to make them more suitable for tenants with a disability. The 2025 budget allocation has now been confirmed, totalling €789,908. This includes €710,917 (90%) in funding from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage and €78,991 (10%) Louth County Council Contribution.

| Application Status | Monthly | YTD |
|--|---------|-----|
| Applications received 20/09/2025 – 22/10/2025 | 6 | 59 |

Louth County Council - Chief Executive Report - October 2025

| | | |
|---------------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Works Appointed | 31 minor adaptations | 2 extension 2 modular extensions |
| Of these Works onsite/completed | 29 minor adaptations | 2 extension: |

Seachadadh Nua Tóg / New Build Delivery

| Current Approved Social Housing Delivery Units | |
|--|-----|
| SHIP | 814 |
| CALF | 454 |

| | |
|--------------|--------------|
| CAS | 33 |
| TOTAL | 1,301 |

| 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 | 295 | 274 | 569 |
| 2026 | 175 | 0 | 531 | 531 |
| Total | 1,323 | 1,325 | 805 | 2,130 |

Louth County Council - Chief Executive Report - October 2025

Capital Housing Delivery

Louth County Council is pleased to announce that it has reached the DHLGH 'Housing for All' (HFA) target for the period 2022 – 2026 of 1,323 Social Housing Units, fourteen months ahead of schedule. In 2025, it is anticipated that 565 no. units will be substantially complete which will exceed the (HFA) target of 172 units by 393 units. It is projected that a total of 2,130 units will be delivered by Louth County Council Direct Build Projects, Part V and Turnkey Agreements with Private Developers, and in collaboration with Approved Housing Bodies (AHBs) thereby exceeding the Programme by 807 units.



An Mullach, Louth Village – LCC Direct Build 58 Units



Greenhills Grange, Drogheda – LCC Direct Build 46 Units



Bakery View, Drogheda – LCC Direct Build 97 Units



Ravel Drive, Dunleer – LCC Direct Build 70 Units



Louth County Council - Chief Executive Report - October 2025

Fulacht Fia – LCC Direct Build 93 Units

Boice Court, Drogheda – LCC Direct Build 72 Units



Ferrard Park, Drogheda - Part V and Turnkey Social 28 Unit



Quarry Court, Ardee - Part V and Turnkey Social 9 Social Units and 11 Affordable Houses



Grange Close, Dundalk – 3D Concrete Printed Houses – LCC Direct Build



Muirhevnamore Infill, Dundalk – LCC Direct Build 11 Units

Housing delivery at 'Clontygora', Dundalk, Co. Louth

Louth County Council recently completed the construction of 2 new high quality housing units at 'Clontygora', Dundalk, Co. Louth. The housing units comprise 1 three-bed and 1 four-bed detached bungalows. The 2 A-Rated energy efficient homes were delivered by Louth County Councils Housing Section under the Traveller Accommodation Programme (TAP) which is funded by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.



Louth County Council - Chief Executive Report - October 2025

Housing units at 'Clontygorra', Dundalk, Co. Louth

Turnkey Social Housing at Gort Mell, Drogheda

Louth County Council has recently purchased 18 new A-rated duplex apartments at Gort Mell, Drogheda consisting of 9 no. one bedroom ground floor apartments and 9 no. two bed two storey apartments over. The apartments were constructed by Lagan Homes Tullyallen Ltd and purchased by Louth County Councils Housing Section under the Social Housing Turnkey Scheme which is funded by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.



Seachadadh SHIP / SHIP Delivery

| Project Name | Project Phase | Total Number of Social Units Expected | Project Status | Projected Substantial Completion Date | Unit Type |
|--|---------------|---------------------------------------|------------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| Boice Court, Mell, Drogheda (Phase 2) | 2/2 | 59 | On Site | 31/12/2025 | 21 * 3 bed, 2 * 4 bed, 8 * 1 bed Apt, 20 * 2 bed Apt & 8 * 3 bed Apt |
| Mount Avenue, Dundalk | 1/2 | 47 | On Site | 16/02/2026 | 16 * 2 bed, 16 * 3 bed, 3 * 4 bed, 2 * 1 bed Apt, 4 * 2 bed Apt, 6 * 3 bed Apt |
| Mount Avenue, Dundalk | 2/2 | 46 | On Site | 17/11/2026 | 7 * 2 bed, 13 * 3 bed, 6 * 4 bed, 10 * 1 bed Apt, 10 * 3 bed Apt |
| Rathmullen Park, Drogheda Infill | 1/1 | 4 | Stage 3 Approved | 30/06/2027 | 2 * 2 bed, 1 * 3 bed, 1 * 4 bed |
| Blackwater Meadow, Point Road, Dundalk | 1/1 | 44 | Stage 2 Approved | 30/06/2028 - TBC | 31 * 2 bed, 10 * 3 bed, 3 * 4 bed |
| Ravel Drive, Ravel, Dunleer | 1/1 | 70 | On-Site | 31/12/2026 | 45 * 2 bed, 20 * 3 bed, 5 * 4 bed |
| Bakery View, Ballymakenny Road, Drogheda | 1/1 | 97 | On-Site | 31/03/2027 | 52 * 2 bed, 32 * 3 bed, 13 * 4 bed |

Louth County Council - Chief Executive Report - October 2025

| | | | | | |
|--|-----|-----|-------------------------------|------------|--|
| 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 | 30/06/2026 | 42 * 2 bed, 3 * 3 bed, 1 * 5 bed |
| Anne St. Dundalk | 1/1 | 16 | Stage 1 Approved | 31/08/2028 | 8 * 2 bed Apt, 8 * 3 bed Apt. |
| Ballymakenny Road - East Site, Drogheda | 1/1 | 130 | PPP Bundle 5 Funding Approved | 30/06/2028 | 52 * 2 bed, 47 * 3 bed, 4 * 4 bed, 1 * 5 bed, 26 * 1 bed Apt |
| Mullagh Close, Clogherhead | 3/3 | 4 | On-site | 31/03/2026 | 4 * 3 bed |
| Knockshee, Old Golf Links Road, Blackrock, Dundalk | 1/1 | 12 | On-site | 30/11/2025 | 12 * 2 bed Apt. |
| Derryveigh House, Hoey's Lane, Dundalk | 1/1 | 2 | Completed | 15/08/2025 | 1 * 3 bed, 1 * 4 bed |
| Clontygora, Dundalk | 1/1 | 2 | Completed | 30/10/2025 | 2 * 4 bed |
| Norhalton, Raynoldstown Village, Dundalk | 1/1 | 2 | Completed | 05/09/2025 | 2 * 4 bed |
| Gort Mell, Slane Road, Drogheda, Co. Louth | 1/2 | 18 | Completed | 21/10/2025 | 9 * 1 bed Apt, 9 * 2 bed Duplex |
| Gort Mell, Slane Road, Drogheda, Co. Louth | 2/2 | 3 | On-site | 31/03/2026 | 3 * 3 bed House |
| Potters Field, Cappocks Green, Ardee, Co. Louth | 2/3 | 1 | On-site | 31/03/2026 | 1 * 2 bed |
| Potters Field, Cappocks Green, Ardee, Co. Louth | 2/3 | 5 | On-site | 31/03/2026 | 5 * 3 bed |
| Seven Winds, North Road, Drogheda | 1/5 | 4 | Completed | 30/09/2025 | 4 * 1 bed Apt |
| Seven Winds, North Road, Drogheda | 2/5 | 4 | Completed | 30/09/2025 | 4 * 1 bed Apt |

Louth County Council - Chief Executive Report - October 2025

| | | | | | |
|---|-----|----|---------------------|------------|--|
| Seven Winds, North Road, Drogheda | 3/5 | 4 | On-site | 31/03/2026 | 4 * 1 bed Apt |
| Seven Winds, North Road, Drogheda | 4/5 | 12 | On-site | 31/03/2026 | 6 * 2 bed Apt, 6 * 3 bed Duplex |
| Seven Winds, North Road, Drogheda | 5/5 | 12 | On-site | 30/06/2026 | 6 * 2 bed Apt, 6 * 3 bed Duplex |
| Ballymakenny Park, Drogheda Phase 2 | 2/2 | 6 | On-site | 30/09/2025 | 4 * 1 bed Apt, 2 * 2 bed Apt |
| Ballymakenny Park, Drogheda Phase 3 | 2/2 | 2 | On-site | 30/09/2025 | 2 * 2 bed Apt |
| Ballymakenny Park, Drogheda Phase 3 | 1/1 | 3 | Completed | 25/07/2025 | 3 * 3 bed |
| Listoke Pines, Ballymakenny, Drogheda | 2/3 | 3 | Completed | 01/07/2025 | 2 * 3 bed, 1 * 4 bed |
| Listoke Pines, Ballymakenny, Drogheda | 3/3 | 4 | Funding Approved | 31/03/2027 | 2 * 2 bed Apt, 2 * 3 bed Duplex |
| Gort Mell, Slane Road, Drogheda, Co. Louth | 1/3 | 3 | On-site | 31/12/2025 | 3 * 3 bed |
| Gort Mell, Slane Road, Drogheda, Co. Louth | 2/3 | 19 | On-site | 31/03/2026 | 6 * 2 bed, 5 * 3 bed, 4 * 1 bed Apt, 4 * 2 bed Duplex |
| Gort Mell, Slane Road, Drogheda, Co. Louth | 3/3 | 2 | On-site | 30/06/2026 | 2 * 3 bed |
| Beaulieu Village, Drogheda, Co. Louth | 1/2 | 11 | On-site | 31/12/2025 | 4 * 2 bed, 7 * 3 bed |
| Beaulieu Village, Drogheda, Co. Louth | 2/2 | 14 | On-site | 31/03/2026 | 2 * 2 bed, 8 * 3 bed, 4 * 4 bed |
| Beaulieu Banks Ph 1, Termonfeckin Road, Drogheda, Co. Louth | 1/2 | 2 | On-site | 31/03/2026 | 2 * 3 bed |
| Beaulieu Banks Ph 1, Termonfeckin Road, Drogheda, Co. Louth | 2/2 | 17 | On-site | 31/12/2026 | 8 * 1 bed Apt, 4 * 2 bed Apt, 5 * 3 bed |
| Dowdalls Court, Newry Road, Dundalk, Co. Louth | 1/1 | 7 | On-site | 31/12/2025 | 5 * 2 bed, 2 * 3 bed |

Louth County Council - Chief Executive Report - October 2025

| | | | | | |
|---|-----|----|---------|------------|---------------------|
| Dowdalls Court, Newry Road, Dundalk, Co. Louth | 1/2 | 12 | On-site | 31/09/2026 | 5 * 2 bed, 7* 3 bed |
| Bruach NcAbhann, Castletown Road, Dundalk | 1/1 | 7 | On-site | 31/12/2025 | 4 * 2 bed, 3* 3 bed |

Seachadadh CAS/CAS Delivery

| Project Name | AHB | Total Number of Social Units Expected | Project Status | Projected Substantial Completion Date | Unit Type |
|---|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------------------|---|
| Tierney Street Ardee Co Louth | St John of Gods | 7 | Proposal | 31/03/2027 | One*3 Bed house One*4 Bed house |
| Barrack Street, Dundalk, Co Louth | Dublin Simon | 21 | Stage 2 Approved | 15/03/2027 | Twenty-one * 1 Bed apartments |
| Highfield, Newry Road, Dundalk, Co Louth | Women's Aid Dundalk | 12 | Stage 2 approved | 20/03/2027 | Five * 1 bed apartments Seven * 2 bed apartments |

Seachadadh CALF/ CALF Delivery

| | | | | | | |
|---|-----|----|-------|---------|------------|--|
| Connolly's Field Dundalk Fold Housing | 1/1 | 70 | 59/11 | On Site | 30/11/2025 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 51 One bed apt • 19 Two bed apt |
| Racecourse Meadows with Circle | 1/3 | 18 | | On Site | 30/11/2025 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 18 Three bed Houses |
| Racecourse Meadows with Circle | 2/3 | 8 | | On Site | 30/11/2025 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8 Three Bed Houses |

Louth County Council - Chief Executive Report - October 2025

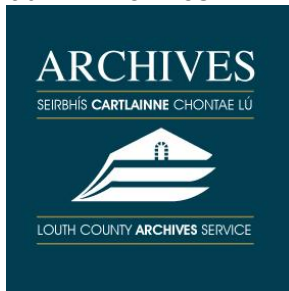
| | | | | | | |
|--|-----|----|-------|----------|------------|---|
| Crushrod Avenue Drogheda Co. Louth Cluid | 2/2 | 33 | | Complete | 30/11/2025 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8 One Bed Apt • 16 Two Bed Apt • 2 Two Bed House • 7 Three Bed House |
| Bayview Gardens, Drogheda, Co Louth | 1/1 | 58 | 52/6 | Complete | 03/10/2025 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 23 One Bed Apt/Duplex • 32 Two Bed Apt/Duplex • 3 Three Bed Apt/Duplex |
| Racecourse Meadows with Circle | 3/3 | 19 | | On Site | 31/03/2026 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 Three Bed Houses • 9 Two Bed Apartments |
| Gullion Park Finnabair Dundalk Co- Operative Housing | 1/2 | 48 | 34/14 | On site | 31/12/2025 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 48 One bed Apt |
| Gullion Park Finnabair Dundalk Co- Operative Housing | 2/2 | 94 | | On Site | 31/12/2025 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 70 Two bed Apt • 24 Three Bed Apt |
| Avourwen Meadows, Drogheda, Co. Louth Oaklee | 1/1 | 50 | 45/5 | On Site | 30/06/2026 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 18 One Bed Apt • 32 Two Bed Apt |
| Clos Emer, Castletown Dundalk HAIL | 1/1 | 4 | | On Site | 31/12/2025 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 Two Bed House • 2 Two Bed Apt • 2 Three Bed Apt |
| Hearthfield, Mount Avenue Dundalk Tuath | 1/1 | 42 | | On site | 31/10/2026 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 18 One Bed Apt • 12 Two Bed Apt |

Louth County Council - Chief Executive Report - October 2025

| | | | | | | |
|---|-----|----|-----|--------|------------|--|
| | | | | | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6 Two Bed House • 6 Three Bed House |
| Gernon Place, Castlebellingham Co. Louth | 2/2 | 10 | 9/1 | Onsite | 30/06/2026 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 Three bed Houses • 4 Two Bed Apts • 4 Three Bed Duplex |

Seirbhísí Cultúrtha / Cultural Services

An Chartlann / Archives



Archives Entrance Gate Sign

'Intervals of Peace' Exhibition

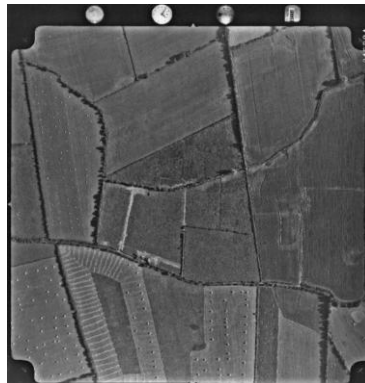
Louth County Archives is delighted to host an exhibition entitled 'Intervals of Peace: the Civil War drawings of Alfred McGloughlin' from November 12, 2025 – February 26, 2026. Alfred was an active supporter of the IRA during the War of Independence, and he supported the anti-Treaty position in 1922. He was imprisoned in October 1922 and while imprisoned kept up his artistic endeavours by drawing fellow prisoners. The exhibition will be launched on November 11 by Chief Executive, David Conway.

Research Enquiries

The preservation of archives is a vital need for our society, protecting rights and entitlements and

providing information on past events. The service receives enquiries on archives via email and telephone. Research enquiries can 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.

Examples of some recent enquiries include aerial photos to assist with an archaeological impact assessment, building plans and construction drawings for various sites, mother and baby home enquiry, coroners records, and historical planning files.



Example of an aerial image (1966) from Dundalk Urban District Council recently used for research

Louth County Council - Chief Executive Report - October 2025

Catalogue Upgrade

Testing of the final migration has now been completed and work on the upgrade of the online catalogue has recently commenced. It is hoped that this part will be completed very soon.

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. Work is progressing on the revision of Fire & Emergency Services.

The County Archivist continues to assist 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. Recent work has involved records from the Fire and Building Control section and Planning Enforcement.

Outreach Work

The *Local Archives* series in the forthcoming November/December issue of the *History Ireland* magazine will feature an article on the archives of the Dundalk Joint Burial Board.

Donating Archives

The Service welcomes donations of archives and records from the public that relate to all aspects of the development of County Louth. To enrich our current holdings, the Service particularly welcomes collections of primary school records, photographs, old maps of Co Louth, estate papers, records of organisations, local businesses, clubs and societies.

If you have a collection that you would be willing to donate, or know of someone who would, please contact the County Archivist by email at archive@louthcoco.ie or by telephone at 042-9324358.



Archive donation: Notice of a rental for sale on the estate of Richard Levinge, 1824

Leabharlanna / Libraries

Parent and Toddler groups in Louth Library Service



There have been **3,415** attendances at the **weekly** Parent and Toddler groups held in the **3** branch libraries of Ardee, Drogheda and Dundalk from January to date this year.

Our regular toddler mornings provide the perfect way for little ones to connect with other children their age, and introduce them to books, toys, and early learning. It also allows parents, childminders and caregivers an opportunity to connect with each other. No booking is required and all children must be supervised by an adult for the duration of the morning. Suitable for children **under 4**.

Space Week

Dundalk Library hosted a Family Day of Space in collaboration with Town Scientist Niamh Shaw on Saturday October 11 to mark Space Week.



Town Scientist Niamh Shaw spoke on "Living in the Arctic... Thinking About Space"

Louth County Council - Chief Executive Report - October 2025

'Living in Space' was the week's theme and the day featured live talks from David Bushman, former NASA Engineer, Sky Watching with Seanie Morris, Exploring the Red Planet with Brendan Owens and Living in the Arctic & Thinking About Space with Niamh Shaw. The inspiring space themed talks appealed to all audiences, young and old and encouraged all to see science through a different lens.



Engineering for a life in Space with David Bushman



Exploring the Red Planet with Brendan Owens



Seanie Morris hosted 'Sky Watching with Seanie'

Bioeconomy Week

Library staff accompanied facilitator Virginia Polonia Povedano from Vekamar to Bush Post Primary to present at a Bioeconomy Week event to Agricultural Science transition year students. The subject was 'Fish for the Future: Blue Ideas to Shape Tomorrow'

and the session introduced the idea of the Blue Bioeconomy in Ireland – showing how fish communities can be part of climate solutions and local opportunities.

Commented [AB1]: Was this in Dundalk Library?

Right to Read



Children's Book Festival

Louth Library Service celebrated the annual Children's Book Festival throughout the month of October which encouraged children to enjoy the experience of reading while supporting literacy development with:

Halloween themed storytimes, arts and crafts and school visits took place.

Rhyme and Sign storytime sessions delivered by Clever Little Handies introduced families to baby sign in a fun and interactive way.

Little Sunflower workshops with Sarah Gilbert where Milo Mouse learned to understand anxiety, Lucas Lion dealt with big fears and Tobey Tortoises discovered it's ok to worry sometimes.

Artist John Carpenter facilitated a manga art workshop for pupils from Dún Dealgan National School in Dundalk Library.

Pupils from Castletown Girls National School also took part in a Halloween themed art and craft activity to celebrate Children's Book Festival in Dundalk Library.



Louth County Council - Chief Executive Report - October 2025

Castletown Girls NS with their art- and craft- work



Rhyme and Sign with Claire Glynn



Celebrating Climate Action Week with a climate themed storytime with Ciara



Celebrating Baby 'Booook' Club in Drogheda Library



Halloween costume swap in Dundalk Library

ASK Project

The Louth Local Development and SICAP ASK (Access Shared Knowledge) women's programme took place in Ardee and Dunleer Libraries throughout October. Executive Librarian Leona Burgess provided a presentation on the wide range of free resources available in your local library. Guest speaker Elaine Keogh, freelance journalist delivered an informative presentation on identifying misinformation. Gerry McCaughey from the Irish National Organisation for the Unemployed (INOU) shared information on social welfare supports and Annemarie Watters from LCC Community Section delivered a presentation on Healthy Louth.



ASK programme participants in Dunleer Library

Climate Action Week

Dundalk Library held a Halloween costume swap in on Friday October 17, which offered a sustainable way to donate and source a Halloween costume. A climate themed storytime session took place in Dundalk Library on Saturday October 18 and children were given a climate action activity pack to pledge how to help look after the environment. A circular workshop took place in Dundalk library focusing on sustainability and in Ardee the Codema home energy saving kit was demonstrated with advice on saving energy in the home.

Louth County Council - Chief Executive Report - October 2025

Library outreach

Louth Library Service provided an information stand at the services information fair, hosted by Louth County Council Local Authority Integration Team.



Executive Librarians Yvonne Duggan and Leona Burgess at the LAIT services information fair

Dunleer Library

Dunleer Men's Shed Ukulele Group hit all the right notes in Dunleer Library and serenaded borrowers with some fantastic tunes on Tuesday October 7.



Dunleer Men's Shed Ukulele Group

Healthy Ireland At Your Library

Dundalk Library hosted a Hormones and Harmony workshop to celebrate World Menopause Day. Facilitator Anne Orr provided an in-depth, interactive, and empowering session on recognising symptoms and managing your menopause, developed in partnership with a qualified GP.

Participants were given an opportunity to complete a symptom checker and discuss symptoms in a safe non-judgemental supportive environment.



Speaker Anne Orr with some attendees at the workshop

Memory Cafés

Dundalk and Drogheda held their monthly Memory Cafés on October 14. The cafés provide a welcoming space for people living with dementia and all are welcome to attend.

Dundalk Library welcomed Martin Quigley for an informative talk on personal alarms. Martin explained how they work, their benefits, different types and how to access them. Drogheda's Alzheimer's Memory Café's guest speaker was Danielle Timmons, Dementia Advisor for Meath. Danielle spoke about brain health and dementia.



Martin Quigley who spoke at Dundalk's Memory Café

The next meeting of the cafés takes place on Tuesday November 11, in Drogheda Library at 11am and in Dundalk Library at 2:30pm.

Lord of the Rings Quiz, for adults

Drogheda library launched a quest for six teams attempting to become lord of the quiz in Lord of the Rings Quiz for adult participants on October 23. The event proved a big success, and a lot of fun was had by all. 'The Minds of Moria' were the winning fellowship team, bound to rule them all.

Louth County Council - Chief Executive Report - October 2025



Librarian Dónal O'Driscoll acted as quiz master wizard

The Junior Infants children in Gaelscoil Dhún Dealgan were delighted to receive their free My Little Library Bag in Irish. There were storytime sessions and school van visits with Little Oaks Early Years Ltd in Haggardstown, Dunleer Montessori Tír na nÓg and Footprints Preschool in Blackrock as part of the Children's Book Festival to highlight the importance of reading to children from an early age.

St. Mary's Diocesan School, a secondary school in Drogheda, was also visited to register their first-year students and talk to them about the library service, in particular the BorrowBox App, as many more young people are using online resources for their reading enjoyment and information seeking.

World Harp Day / Lá na Cruite

To mark World Harp Day Dundalk Library hosted a pop-up performance by local harpists.



Harpists in Dundalk Library on World Harp Day



Children from Little Oaks Early Years Ltd, Haggardstown on the Schools Library Van

Louth Primary Schools Service

The Schools Library Service had a busy month this October visiting schools and ELCs across County Louth, encouraging children of all ages to engage with their library by promoting the variety of inclusive, dynamic and the wide range of services offered.



Gaelscoil Dhún Dealgan Junior Infants Teachers with a "My Little Library Bag"



Skills for Life - Age Friendly AI Event

Dundalk Library hosted an interactive workshop, "Technology & Growing Older: Let's Talk About Artificial Intelligence". There was great interest in the event, which provided a welcoming space to share opinions and viewpoints on AI. Attendees were able to explore the different ways AI can impact our everyday life with discussions on concerns and queries about the rapidly developing technology.

The workshop was facilitated by the ADAPT Age-Friendly AI Programme who strive to make AI accessible and relevant to older adults. It is an initiative funded by the Research Ireland Discover Programme and led by TU Dublin and the Research Ireland ADAPT Centre, DCU.

Louth County Council - Chief Executive Report - October 2025



Speakers and facilitators at the AI workshop



Participants at the AI workshop in Dundalk Library



Lit Lú

Louth Library Service launched its inaugural literary festival, Lit Lú, at the end of September.

The festival was devised to showcase the wide-ranging literary landscape of Louth and to reflect the diverse tastes of the thriving reading culture supported by Louth Library Service. To support and celebrate our local writers the events featured a mix of local authors and authors from further afield.

Funded and supported by Creative Ireland through Louth County Council's Arts Office, the festival brought a vibrant programme of literary discussions, panels, and conversations to all five library branches across the county from Thursday-Saturday, September 25-27.

The opening night event at Dundalk Library featured Róisín O'Donnell, author of the Sunday Times bestseller *Nesting*, in conversation with Belinda McKeon, acclaimed author of *Solace* and *Tender*.



Róisín O'Donnell and Belinda McKeon in conversation at Dundalk Library

Ardee Library hosted a Memoir Writing panel with Mary Rose Callaghan, Phyl Herbert, and Liz McManus, whose combined experience spans fiction, theatre, politics, and biography.



Memoir Writing panel at Ardee Library

Drogheda Library presented a Screenwriting panel with Nicola Cassidy, Barry McEvoy and Phil Harrison, offering insights into storytelling for stage and screen.



Screenwriting panel at Drogheda Library

The thrilling fiction conversation between Claire Coughlan and Florence Gillan in Carlingford Library was followed by a Food Writing panel at Dunleer Library featuring Kristin Jensen, Blanca Valencia, and Tara Walker.

Louth County Council - Chief Executive Report - October 2025



Florence Gillan and Claire Coughlan in Carlingford Library



Food writing panel in Dunleer

Na hEalaíona / Arts

Public Art Programme

The new Public Art Policy for Louth was noted at the recent meeting of the council on Monday October 20. This policy will provide a framework for the streamlining of all Percent for Art income which the council are availing of due to an increase in capital projects. This will result in a range of new art commissions over the next couple of years. A Public Art Facilitator has been contracted to assist the arts office in overseeing this programme until the end of 2027. The new policy will see the establishment of an internal working group to identify opportunities in the future for availing of Percent for Art funding. A steering committee will also be established to assist with and feed into the commissioning process.

Drogheda Classical Music Series

Drogheda Classical Music Series continued its 25/26 programme with an exciting performance on Friday October 17. Making his highly anticipated début at DCMS, cellist Gabriel Francis-Dehqani was accompanied by pianist par excellence William Harmer in a tantalising programme including Sibelius, Liszt and Britten!

The next event in the calendar is on Friday November 14 with world renowned pianist Rowel Friers. Rowel has taken the world by storm performing to acclaim at Carnegie Hall in New York and taking the Audience Prize at the 2023 Madrid International Piano Competition. For details on this and all other events for DCMS 2025/2026 please see <https://droghedaclassicalmusic.com/concerts/>

Highlanes Gallery

6-week lecture series: 'The Painters Journey towards Modernism & Beyond'.

This lecture series saw artist Raphael Hynes provide weekly sessions in the gallery focusing on the artists' journey into Modernism. The fascinating series was a steal at just €6 per lesson or €25 for the 6 weeks!

Exhibition – The incredible Maud Cotter exhibition, **Maelstrom**, came to an end at the end of October following a successful 3-month installation. Next up will be artist Alice Rekab with her Clann Míothlántach/Mythlantics exhibition which will open on November 15. Alice is an Irish Sierra Leonean artist based in Dublin, who uses their identity as a starting point to examine the intersection of personal and shared historical and cultural narratives.



Alice Rekab, Scene/Seen III (Through the Window), (detail)

For more details on this exhibition and any other events at Highlanes Gallery please see <https://highlanes.ie/>

Droichead Arts Centre

Exhibition – 'Hometown' by Jason McCarthy. Photographer Jason McCarthy has delivered a personal ode to his hometown of Drogheda in this impressive exhibition which ran throughout October in the gallery space. McCarthy's striking images capture the essence of the town, from urban spaces to forgotten corners, dereliction and the edge lands

Louth County Council - Chief Executive Report - October 2025

where the urban gives way to the rural ebb and flow of the Boyne river.

Leanbh Festival – the annual children’s festival was back with a bang with a range of events from performances with Circus 250 to productions including ‘The Lonesome Boatman’ and ‘The Adventures of Shay Mouse’. The primary school residency programme also took place with circus 250, an outreach programme across primary schools in the Drogheda and east Meath areas.

For details on these and all other events including the film and book clubs please see <https://www.droichead.com/>

An Táin Arts Centre

Exhibition – Glór is the annual exhibition of work from the Creative Spark Artist in Residence programme. Opening on October 3 the exhibition featured a huge range of work from artists including Claire McAteer, Aoife Cawley, Eimear Murphy and Aine Dunne.

Nosferatu – Galician ensemble Caspervek, one of Europe’s leading voices in silent film concerts, presented Nosferatu, the iconic 1922 German expressionist masterpiece by F.W Murnau on October 25. The perfect event to get everyone in the spooky season mood! In the chilling adaptation of Dracula, Count Orlek brought shadow and terror onto the screen and Caspervek brought it to life with a bold, cinematic soundscape performance.

For information on these and all other events please see <https://www.antain.ie/whats-on/>

Creative Ireland

The annual Spooks Parade kicked off the Lú Festival of Light in Drogheda on Friday October 24. Once again the ghouls took over the streets of Drogheda with their ‘EveryBODY need SomeBODY’ themed parade! Headless skeletons, and bodyless skulls roamed the streets. The project encompasses a range of professional artists working with local schools to create the street spectacle from making the costumes to creating the music. As always, it was a great way to launch the Lú Festival of Light which opened just after the parade.



Age Friendly project – tackling ageism and the attitudes that surround getting older. This inspiring project started in 2024 with a group in Dundalk and was so successful that it was extended to participants in Drogheda in 2025 with workshops taking place in Barlow House. The project saw drama facilitators working with participants and creating a short film documentary about what it feels to be a certain age, how your perspective on life changes and how ageism can be simply a mindset that we all need to overcome. The project culminated in a screening of the short documentary in Droichead Arts Centre on Thursday October 23.

For more information on our creative Ireland programme email creativeireland@louthcoco.ie or check out the list of projects on the Louth page of the national Creative Ireland website <https://www.creativeireland.gov.ie/en/louth/> .

An Iarsmalann / Museum

Museum news



Hallowe'en season in the Museum

Louth County Council - Chief Executive Report - October 2025

The Museum is currently organising activities for both Hallowe'en as well as Christmas. In addition, it continues to organise and host lectures for the public as well as welcoming visiting groups of all ages.

Col. Dr. Gareth Prendergast gave a fascinating lecture at the Museum on the subject of his new book **'Clear – Hold – Build: How the Free State won the Civil War'**. A serving colonel in the Irish Defence Forces with over 30 years' service, he explained not only the nature of the tactics used by the Free State Army but also how they overcame many of the challenges that they encountered along the way.



Col. Dr. Gareth Prendergast at his Clear-Hold-Build lecture



Getting the Light lecture with Tony Rice and Michael Gaynor

The Museum also hosted the Old Dundalk Society's lecture **'Getting the Light'**. Presented by Tony Rice the lecture traced the journey from the early days of electric power in the 1870s to the introduction of a national electricity system under the ESB (Electricity Supply Board).



The Dún Croí Carers' Committee

The Museum also hosted the inaugural rehearsal of the Dún Croí Carer's Choir.

Forthcoming events

The Museum will be hosting a series of spooky films for families over the course of mid-term break. Commencing each day at 2.15 p.m. the event is free but prior booking is essential. A variety of Hallowe'en videos will be showcased including:

- Darby O'Gill and the Little People (Tuesday October 28)
- Maleficent (Wednesday, October 29)
- Goosebumps (Thursday, October 30)
- Hocus Pocus (Friday, October 31)
- Nanny McPhee (Saturday, November 1).



Hallowe'en Events

In addition to the Hallowe'en events the Museum has organised a lecture by Prof. Eoin O'Malley entitled **'Charles versus Garret – the rivalry that shaped modern Ireland'**. The talk will take place at 7 p.m. on Monday November 10. Prior booking is essential. Later that week the Museum will host a lecture with filmmaker and historian Marcus Howard entitled **'The**

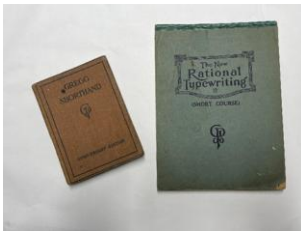
Louth County Council - Chief Executive Report - October 2025

Greatest Prison Escape in Irish History – The Catalpa Rescue,” the lecture will take place on Wednesday, November 12 at 8:00 pm sharp in the Louth County Museum, Dundalk

A radio documentary entitled **Dundalk's Radio and Television People** developed by Dundalk FM with the assistance of the Museum will be broadcast from Saturday November 1, at 9.00 a.m. The series consists of 15 episodes.

Recent acquisitions

The Museum recently acquired a number of fascinating objects highlighting the working, commercial and social life of the county. Included amongst these items were:



Shorthand and typing manual

- A shorthand and typing manual
- A metal sign for the Backhouse's shop in Dundalk
- A 'live' album recorded in Mark's Bar.



Sign from Backhouse's



Fleadh Night album recorded at Mark's Bar

Louth County Council - Chief Executive Report - October 2025

Stiúrthóireacht na Mórthionscadal Caipitil agus Seachadadh Bonneagair Major Capital Projects & Infrastructure Delivery Directorate

Tá an stiúrthóireacht seo freagrach as mórthionscadail chaipitil lena n-áirítear foirgnimh nua comhairle, bóithre, réimse poiblí, glasbhealaí, Taisteal Gníomhach, scéimeanna cosanta tuilte agus idirchaidreamh a dhéanamh le soláthraithe fóntais náisiúnta. A luaithe a bheidh mórthionscadal beagnach curtha i gcrích, glacfaidh an Stiúrthóireacht um Choithabháil Caipitil agus Seachadadh Comhshaoil freagracht as an tsócmhainn.

This directorate is responsible for major capital projects including new council buildings, roads, public realm, greenways, Active Travel, flood defence schemes and liaising with national utility providers. Once a major project has achieved practical completion, the Directorate of Operations & Environment Delivery will assume responsibility for the asset (except snagging & management defects liability period).

David Jones
Stiúrthóir / Director



Comhforbairt Áite / Placemaking

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

St. Nicholas Quarter and Backlands Regeneration (Dundalk)

Phase 1

Glas Civil Engineering Ltd. have completed works on site and are currently the snagging phase.

Substantial Completion is Q4.



Project overview



New road surfacing and traffic lights at the Tain Apartments.



New road surfacing and traffic lights at the Peace Park.



New road surfacing on Linen Hall Street.

Glas have 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 Public Consultation Event was held in the Town Hall on the 31st of July. Property owner and stakeholder engagement is continuing.



Further development of project concept design.

The Longwalk Urban Framework Plan (Dundalk)

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

LUC is the appointed Integrated Urban Design Team lead. As part of the initial stages of the Urban Framework plan, a public consultation event took place at The Longwalk in April in addition to an online survey. A second public engagement event took place at The Longwalk on July 1st 2025. The in-

Louth County Council - Chief Executive Report - October 2025

person and online engagement has been positively supported by the community, and input arising from these engagements. The information is currently being collated for inclusion in the draft framework.

Discussions with key stakeholders and landowners in the Long Walk area is ongoing ahead of further public consultation on the draft framework plan.

For project updates visit the Longwalk Urban regeneration Facebook page here <https://www.facebook.com/people/The-Long-Walk-Urban-Regeneration-Project/61574154397623/>
Or email longwalkregeneration@tbla.eu

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

Targeted engagement continues in Drogheda and Dundalk, with multiple properties sales, or early development stages as a result of engagement.

Meetings have taken place with new owners of properties in Drogheda and Dundalk in recent weeks which have resulted in the preparation of full planning applications by owners with a view to returning properties to productive use.

It is intended that a survey of properties on the URDF Call 3 list (129 properties) will be conducted in the coming weeks to update the number of properties returned to use and or vacant. This will start with the Drogheda properties.

The current high-level status is as follows:

- Occupied 25
- Repair works ongoing 10
- Progressing* 29
- On-going engagement** 45
- Awaiting engagement 19
- CPO process 1

** 'Progressing' relates to properties where there is owner activity in terms of planning process/ property for sale or lease/grant application*

***Of the 43 properties subject to ongoing engagement, 15 properties are under active consideration for direct Council intervention through voluntary or CPO acquisition*

Living in Carlingford Visiting Carlingford



Historic photograph of Carlingford

The consultants, Urban Agency, have now been appointed for a heritage led detailed design. The consultants visited the site for a walkabout and met with local interest groups on the 28th July. Further engagement with stakeholders will take place over the coming months subsequent to the completion of three no. concept designs for the detailed design stage.

LCC have now commenced regular meetings with the design team to review the ongoing progress.

Ardee 2040

Louth County Council have concluded engagement with TII in relation to pre-planning approval for the main street in Ardee. Turley Planning, the Design Team lead, are in the process of completing the planning pack for submission to An Coimisiún Pleanála.

Tionscadail Breise / Additional Projects

St Laurence's Gate Plaza, Drogheda

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



Play Spaces

St Dominic's Park & The Glen

AA Screening Stage 1 report has been completed for the Glen and Part 8 documents are being prepared. A second community engagement and information gathering event took place on the 27th of August in the Glen Park. The event was well attended with good feedback on the proposed playground and its location within the park. The feedback is currently being assessed to inform the process and the path forward.

Part 8 documents for works in St. Dominic's Park are currently being prepared.

Capital Delivery Team

Rural Regeneration and Development Fund (RRDF)

Louth County Council has been successful in securing Category 2 RRDF funding from the Department of Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht (DRCDG) for a project *Dunleer – Energising the Community*. The project is drawn from Dunleer's Town Centre First Plan and the funding will enable the commencement of plans for a public realm scheme in the town centre and activation of the area at the old train station. The funding will cover project development and design to bring the project through the planning process.

Muirhevnamor District Park Improvement

Improvement works at the old pitch and putt site in Muirhevnamor Park, Dundalk are ongoing. The works commenced on the 22nd of September. Funded by the Department of Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht (DRDCG) under the Community Recognition Fund 2024, the improvement works are focused on integrating the unused green space into the existing community park. Works are projected to be completed by mid-November.

The Capital Delivery Team are awaiting outcomes on applications submitted under ORIS, Town & Village and CLÁR.

THRIVE – Town Centre First Heritage Revival Scheme



Following the awarding of €7 Million towards the restoration of Westgate House and the former DYD Building in Drogheda, Louth County Council has been engaging with the Southern Regional Assembly with regards to the next phase of the project. Preliminary works including archaeological investigations and structural safeguards will be necessary prior to the renovation and extension of the complex. Louth County Council has issued tenders for the detailed design and construction of the building.

THRIVE is co-funded by the Government of Ireland and the European Union through the ERDF Southern, Eastern and Midland Regional Programme 21-27. The scheme has been co-designed by the Regional Assemblies and the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage to address European, national and regional policy objectives. Further information is available on the www.southernassembly.ie

Tionscadail Tosaíochta do Lár an Bhaile / Town Centre First Projects

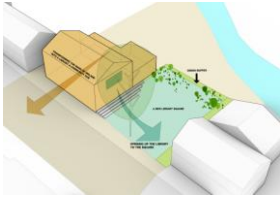


Louth County Council - Chief Executive Report - October 2025

Town Centre First Plan – Clogherhead

Louth County Council are engaging with the Clogherhead Town Team with regards to the Draft Town Centre First Plan for Clogherhead. A public consultation event will take place in the coming weeks, details of the event will be widely shared once a date is finalised. The plan will provide a pipeline of potential projects aimed at revitalising the Town centre and improve the Town for residents and visitors alike.

Town Centre First Plan – Dunleer



Representatives from Louth County Council recently attended a meeting of the Dunleer Town Team. The process is underway to appoint a consultant for the design for a public square at the library in Dunleer. This project aims to create an attractive public space and is one of several schemes identified in the Town Centre First Plan.

Vacant Homes Officer

We would request those who have a vacant home to engage with the Vacant Homes Officer to discuss potential funding available to return to use and would also ask those who have noted a vacant home in their areas to log it on vacanthomes.ie for inspection and investigation.

The Vacant Homes Officer has met recently with the Dunleer Town Team to discuss a Vacancy Walk of the area.

October 8th, 2025, was National Vacant Homes Day and the Council used social media to highlight support available including the new Repair & Lease expression of interest application, which is available from the Housing Agency - the Vacant Homes Officer can be contacted for more detail.

Since the social media post on National Vacant Homes Day we have seen a good response with the logging of 13 previously unknown Vacant Homes via vacanthomes.ie and an uptake in grant queries alongside the social media posts.

Forbairt Fhísiciúil / Physical Development

Tionscadail Bóithre / Roads Projects

Narrow Water Bridge

Construction works on site and fabrication works in Belgium continue to be progressed.

Control building: - internal finishings, mechanical and electrical works are all on going.

Southern embankment: - excavation works for the temporary support platform and crane have commenced.

Northern embankment: -
Bascule abutment wall lifts 1 and 2 have been completed. Works in relation to wall lift 3 has commenced.

Bridge fabrication works: - Fabrication of the fixed span bridge continue in Ghent, Belgium and painting of completed sections of bridge has commenced. At this stage the majority of the project activities will be carried out in the fabrication yards.



Aerial View of northern Bascule Chamber and commencement of the excavation for the Plant Room.



Placing of reinforcement for wall lift 3 northern Bascule Chamber

Louth County Council - Chief Executive Report - October 2025



Temporary works for Crawler Crane platform have commenced, southern embankment.

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

The project has now proceeded to Construction Tender. Date for receipt for tenders was 20th of Oct and are currently been accessed under suitability, quality and price.

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

N52 Ardee Bypass

The scheme is currently in the Supreme Court with the Court adjourning the matter generally pending the outcome of the CJEU reference in Power v An Bord Pleanála once a judgment in Power is given, then this case will be re-entered before the Supreme Court.

Boyne Enterprise Link Road

Preparation of tender documents for the completion of the works have been finalised and issued to the market.

R178 Cavan to Dundalk Strategic Route Improvement Scheme

The project has now progressed to Phase 2 (Options Selection) which involves the development of the route options followed by their assessment to identify the preferred route.

Non-Statutory Public Consultation Event 2 continue to run to the 31st October on the Consult Louth Portal. An in-person event was held on 15th Oct 2025 in Knockbridge GAA clubrooms.

Relevant stakeholders and elected members have been issued letters detailing the scheme. The appointed Public Liaison Officer has commenced contacting the relevant stakeholders. It is anticipated that the preferred route report will be completed by early December.

Port Access Northern Cross Route (PANCR) Phase 2.

Phase 2 of the PANCR is to be developer led. The developer is now in the process of tendering the construction contract. It is anticipated that this process will be completed by year end with the intention of works commencing in Q1 2026.

Notices to enter was issued to several landowners on the expected extent of the work, and the Council Team will be engaging with these affected landowners.

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

Dundalk Bay to Carlingford Greenway

The design team are now concentrating on determining an emerged preferred route corridor, which will be subject to the next public consultation phase.

Peer review period of the emerging preferred route corridor is ongoing. It is anticipated, subject to TII approvals that the emerging preferred route option will be released in November, details of which will be updated on the project website.

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.

Tionscadail Corparáideach / Corporate Projects

Dundalk Fire Station Training Centre

The National Fire Directorate in correspondence dated 6th Oct 2025 have approved costs to proceed with Stage 1 – 5 of the proposed works. This will require a revised Stage 1 report due to the requirement of a standalone building. Works on progressing this report have commenced.

Louth County Council - Chief Executive Report - October 2025

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

Dundalk Flood Relief Projects

The Consultant Engineers continue to work on Stage 1 of the Dundalk Flood Relief Project with a view to preparing for a Public Participation Day (PPD) on the emerging options.

Meetings were held with Uisce Éireann on implications of their future projects on the flood defence scheme.

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 with a view to preparing for a Public Participation Day (PPD) on the emerging options.

A terrestrial geophysical survey has been completed and overwintering bird surveys for the 25/26 period have commenced. RHAT (River Hydromorphology Assessment Technique) surveys (to inform water quality assessment) are scheduled to commence in the coming weeks. These surveys will provide data to inform the Scheme Analysis and Development phase of the project.

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

www.droghedabaltrayfrs.ie

Carlingford and Greenore Flood Relief Project

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

In the interim the Local Authority have compiled a final list of minor works which could improve the conveyance characteristics of Carlingford drainage system and have completed a funding business case.

Operations section are carrying out works on the existing networks to improve flows as identified by surveys carried out.

Emergency works on a collapsed culvert and poor rock revetment at the harbour area have progressed (working with a limited time period due to tidal times).

Ardee Minor Works

An application for funding of minor works has been approved by the OPW. These minor works will provide an element of protection for properties along existing water courses within the town and are proposed to be carried out along with the annual road works programme works in 2026.

Works on the detailed design and landowner engagement are ongoing.

Procurement of an Ecologist to carryout appropriate assessment screening is currently underway.

Procurement of an Ecologist to carryout appropriate assessment screening is currently underway.

Tionscadail Muiri / Marine Projects

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

The successful Contractor has been appointed for all three projects.

Physical Works will commence in March 2026 (please note Ecological Constraints prohibit works between September and March at these locations). However in the interim period the Contractor is to develop a site-specific Environmental Management Plan and procure and test materials to be utilised in the project.

Further appointments of an Ecological Clerk of Works, Archaeologist and Structural Engineer to report and monitor onsite works are underway.

Tionscadail Cláir Scoileanna / Schools Programme Projects

Ardee Educate Together National School.

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

Summary of progress below.

- Kerbing - 70%

Louth County Council - Chief Executive Report - October 2025

- Level up for tarmac – 65%
- 2nd fix plumbing - 90%
- Downpipes -95%
- Tiling -95%
- Painting ongoing
- Fall Arrest -95%
- Fitted Furniture – 90%
- Footpaths to road 100%.

Proposed Works Forecast

- Ground works to continue
- Continue painting
- Kerbing
- Street lighting
- Fitted Furniture
- Tiling
- Fencing
- Footpaths



Progress on Footpath and road works ongoing.



Internal dooring ongoing.

Active Travel Investment Program

2025 Budget Allocation

On the 13th January, 2025 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 are as outlined in the table below. For ease of referencing, the National Transport Authority (NTA) allocate projects into particular Cost Bands depending on the total estimated project cost including, fees, land acquisitions and constructions as follows;

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

They also divide the evolvement of a Capital Investment project into a seven-phase process, i.e. (Phase 1 to Phase 7 inclusive) with seven Gateways Reports i.e. hold points, 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 are as outlined in the table below.

Louth County Council - Chief Executive Report - October 2025


Tionscadail Tasitil Gníomhaigh / Active Travel Projects

| Project Name | Allocation 2025 | Project Band | Current Phase | November 2025 - Project update | Anticipated Part 8 Completions, subject to NTA approval of Gateways |
|---|-----------------|---------------------|------------------------------|--|---|
| Drogheda: R132, Bridge of Peace to Train Station (incorporating Marsh Road) | €270,000 | Band 2 €5 - €20M | PHASE 4: Statutory Processes | <p>The National Transport Authority have recently approved GW 3 Gateway Report and we envisage that this project will be brought forward for Part 8 public display in Quarter 4 2025.</p> <p>An On-line briefing of the Draft Part 8 proposals were given to Drogheda MD elected members on Tuesday 9th September 2025. The proposals were well received and we will advance to Part 8 Public Display.</p> | Proposed Part 8 display Quarter 4, 2025 |
| Drogheda: R166 Termonfeckin Rd, design. | €50,000 | Band 2 €5 - €20M | Phase 3 – Preliminary Design | <p>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 November 2025.</p> | Proposed Part 8 display Quarter 4, 2025 |
| Drogheda: R168 Collon Rd, Hill of Rath Roundabout (RAB) and Rosehall RAB. | €100,000 | Band 2 €5 - €20M | Phase 3 – Preliminary Design | <p>The Design Team are currently progressing with preliminary design following non-statutory public consultation. Thereafter, the Active Travel Team will proceed to Part 8 public display</p>  <p><u>View of Collon Rd looking South East from Mell Roundabout</u></p>  <p><u>View of R166 looking East from Hill of Rath Roundabout</u></p> | Proposed Part 8 display late Quarter 4, 2025 |


Louth County Council - Chief Executive Report - October 2025

| Project Name | Allocation 2025 | Project Band | Current Phase | November 2025 - Project update | Anticipated Part 8 Completions, subject to NTA approval of Gateways |
|--|-----------------|---------------------|----------------------------|---|---|
| Dundalk: R132 Inner Relief Rd. (Pathfinder Project) | €2,625,000 | Band 2 €5 - €20M | Phase 5 Detailed Design | <p>Tender Document to establish a restricted panel of competent contractors was advertised on etenders and Official Journal of the European Union (OJEU). A select panel of eight contractors was formed and detailed tender documents will be issued to this panel.</p> <p>Gateway 5 Documents issue to the NTA for approval.</p>  <p><u>View of Inner Relief Rd, Dundalk looking north from Hoey's Lane Roundabout extract from Fly Through</u></p> | <p>Completed – Part 8 Approval on the 10th September 2024</p> <p>Procurement of Contractors on-going</p> |
| Dundalk: Dublin Rd Xerox Junction to Ladywell Bridge | €25,000 | Band 2 €5 - €20M | Phase 5 Detailed Design | <p>Part 8 proposals were brought to Dundalk MD Meeting on the 10th December 2024.</p> <p>Awaiting NTA approval to proceed to detailed design.</p>  <p><u>View of Dublin Rd, Dundalk looking north at DKIT Entrance</u></p> | Part 8 Approved in December 2024. |

Louth County Council - Chief Executive Report - October 2025

| Project Name | Allocation 2025 | Project Band | Current Phase | November 2025 - Project update | Anticipated Part 8 Completions, subject to NTA approval of Gateways |
|--|-----------------|--------------------|---|--|---|
| Dundalk: Ard Easmuinn Rd to Train Station / Friary School Dundalk & Dundalk Bus Station to Rail Station. | €100,000 | Band 2 | Phase 3 /4 Preliminary Design / Statutory Process | <p>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.</p> <p>Gateway 3 (Preliminary Design Report) approval received from the NTA in June 2025. The Active Travel Team have met associated schools. It's planned to have a non-statutory consultation event in Nov. 2025.</p>  <p><u>View of Ard Easmuinn Looking North from China Bridge</u></p> | Proposed Part 8 Q4 2025 |
| R132 Inner Relief Road Tain Bridge | €50,000 | Band 1 €0 - €5M | Phase 3 - Preliminary Design | <p>Phase 2 is approved by the NTA in December 2024.</p> <p>Phase 3 preliminary design has commenced.</p> | No part 8's but possible Section 38 in Q1 of 2026, subject to NTA gateway approval. |
| Hoey's Lane, Dundalk | €60,000 | Band 1 €0 - €5M | Phase 3 – Preliminary Design | <p>GW3 Reports approved by the NTA in Dec 2024.</p> <p>Public consultation held on 20th March, 2025. Event was very well attended. Submissions from a number of groups / residents / business owners received and the Design Team are now amending the design to reflect these submissions.</p> | Proposed to commence Part 8 process and display Nov. 2025 |
| Mill Street, Dundalk | €75,000 | Band 1 €0 - €5M | Phase 2 - Preliminary Design | <p>GW3 comments received from NTA and a workshop held with NTA & LCC. Resulting from this workshop, the drawings will be updated The Active Travel Team have conducted meetings with key stakeholders such as schools and Bus Eireann.</p> <p>It is envisaged that a non-statutory public consultation will be held in Nov. 2025.</p> | Part 8 Q1 2026 |
| Hill Street Bridge to Train Station, Dundalk | €50,000 | Band 1 €0 - €5M | Phase 2 - Preliminary Design | <p>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 Nov. 2025.</p> | Part 8 Q1 2026 |

Louth County Council - Chief Executive Report - October 2025

| Project Name | Allocation 2025 | Project Band | Current Phase | November 2025 - Project update | Anticipated Part 8 Completions, subject to NTA approval of Gateways |
|--|-----------------|---------------------|-------------------------------|---|---|
| College Heights to Tom Bellew Avenue, Dundalk | €150,000 | Band 2 €5 - €20M | Phase 3 - Preliminary Design | GW2 report approved by the NTA in Dec 2024. | Part 8 Q1 2026 |
| R132 Dublin Road, (Rank Xerox Junction to Greengates) | €135,000 | Band 1 €0 - €5M | Phase 4 – Statutory Processes | <p>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.</p> <p>Design Team have reviewed all submissions and updated preliminary design drawings to reflect these submissions.</p> <p>An On-line briefing of the Draft Part 8 proposals was presented to Dundalk MD elected members on Monday 13th October, 2025. The proposals were well received and we will advance to Part 8 Public Display.</p> | Proposed Part 8 Q4 2025 |
| Money more, Active Travel elements | €200,000 | Band 1 €0 - €5M | Phase 4 – Statutory Processes | CPO public consultation ended 11 th February, 2025. 9 submissions received. Awaiting decision from An Coimisiún Pleanála. | N/A |
| Safe Routes to Schools (Round 1) 1. St Louis Secondary School Dundalk 2. Rehab Care Mill Street Dundalk 3. Saint Brigid's and Saint Patrick's School, Drogheda 4. Scoil Aonghusa, Drogheda | €40,000 | Band 1 €0 - €5M | Phase 6 – Construction | <p>Works completed at Schools 1 & 4 in Dundalk & Drogheda.</p> <p>Concrete surface replacement outside Saint Brigid's and Saint Patrick's School, Bothar Brugha Drogheda, commenced in April 2025 & finished in May 2025, with line marking applied in July. Bothar Brugha road was surfaced during the summer and line markings applied thereafter.</p> <p>Works relating to Rehab Care on Mill Street, will be incorporated as part of Mill Street, Active Travel Project.</p>  <p>Images : Scoil Aonghusa, Drogheda</p> | N/A |
| Safe Routes to Schools (Round 2) 1. Bellurgan National School | €950,000 | Band 1 €0 - €5M | Phase 4 – Statutory Processes | For schools 1 – 3, Section 38 Process of the Roads Act concluded. The proposals were advertised and placed on public display on 22nd April 2025 with a deadline for submissions of 6th May 2025. Construction will be undertaken during Q4 of 2025. | No part 8's but Section 38's |

Louth County Council - Chief Executive Report - October 2025

| Project Name | Allocation 2025 | Project Band | Current Phase | November 2025 - Project update | Anticipated Part 8 Completions, subject to NTA approval of Gateways |
|---|-----------------|--------------------|----------------------------------|--|---|
| 2. Callystown National School 3. St Mary's NS, Knockbridge 4. St. Malachy's GNS, Dundalk | | | | School 4 will be delivered via the Dundalk: Ard Easmuinn Rd to Train Station / Friary School Dundalk & Dundalk Bus Station to Rail Station project. | |
| Safe Routes to Schools (Round 3) 1. SN Chaoimhin Naofa, Philipstown, Dunleer 2. Scoil Phdraig Naofa , Kilcurry 3. Mullaghboy NS. | €50,000 | Band 1 €0 - €5M | Phase 2 - Concept and Options | Louth County Council were informed in Q4 2024 of three new schools to be included as part of Safe Routes to School Round 3. Funding was received on 13 th 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 hard standing 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 along with Cork City, Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown, Carlow Town, and Sligo Town has been selected as a location for the delivery of a pilot project to test the effectiveness of mobility hubs. The hubs will provide short-term access to a variety of modes of travel including e-bikes, e-scooters and Electric Vehicles (EVs). This 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. A Detailed Business Case is currently being prepared by the DOT and is due to be submitted to the Department of Environment Climate and Communications who manage the Climate Action Fund. It is anticipated that the tendering process will commence for this project later this year. | N/A |