



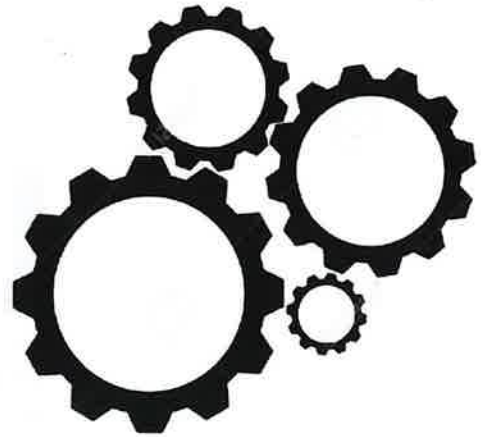
Coiste um Fhorbairt Pobail Áitiúil Lú
Louth Local Community Development
Committee

Annual Report 2025

**Mr. Kevin Meenan, Chairperson, Louth Local Community Development
Committee**

**Ms. Colette Moss, Chief Officer, Louth Local Community Development
Committee**

**LOUTH LCDC
2025
HIGHLIGHTS**



€881,369.68

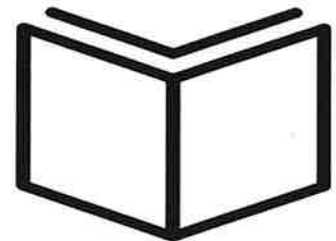
Awarded To 22 LEADER Projects



€227,247 Awarded
under the Local
Enhancement
Programme



8 Tenders Awarded
under the **PEACEPLUS**
Programme with a
Value of **€1,522,245**



1187 Individuals
Supported Through
Lifelong Learning



125 Community & Voluntary
Groups Received Grants
under the Local Enhancement
Programme



119 Community Groups
Received Development
Supports



Membership of the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) in 2025

Public Sector	
Louth County Council	Cllr. Shane McGuinness
Louth County Council	Cllr. Kevin Meenan
Louth County Council	Cllr. Ejiro O'Hare Stratton
Louth County Council	Cllr. Dolores Minogue
Louth County Council Official	David Conway
Louth County Council Official	Nikki Campbell replaced Niall Gallagher
Louth Meath ETB	Sadie Ward McDermott
DSP	Sharon Curran
HSE	Bridie Pepper
Private Sector	
Louth Leader Partnership	Ciarán Reid
Community & Voluntary Interests	Liam Reilly replaced Alison Quail, ratified by LCC June 2025
Community & Voluntary Interests	Jasmine Mathew
Louth Volunteer Centre	Kayleigh Mulligan
Social Inclusion	Bernardine Quinn
Social Inclusion	Carol Murphy
Environment	Eugene Conlon, ratified by LCC June 2025
Farming	Kevin Sweeney
Chamber of Commerce Dundalk	Pat McCormick
Chamber of Commerce Drogheda	Hubert Murphy

A Message from the Chairperson



Welcome to the 2025 Annual Report of the Louth Local Community Development Committee (LCDC).

The LCDC is required to prepare and submit a report to the Local Authority on its activities during the last year. The LCDC provides strategic leadership at a local level and is responsible for the planning and oversight of community funds for local development. The LCDC is also responsible for the delivery of the Local Economic Community Plan using a collaborative approach across the membership, ensuring it remains a strong and effective platform for local development and social inclusion.

I would like to thank all the LCDC members, both statutory and non-statutory, for their significant time commitment to attending the LCDC meetings and for the valuable role they play in progressing the social and economic development of our county.

As we move into year two, the key plans and strategies launched previously, continued to drive our commitment to local economic and community development. The Local Economic & Community Plan (2024–2029), the Local Development Strategy (2023–2027) and the PEACEPLUS Action Plan each played an ongoing role in supporting sustainable development, advancing inclusion and deepening partnerships across communities, businesses and government agencies.

Supporting and delivering funding programmes remains a core function of the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC), underpinning sustainable community development and social inclusion. Programmes such as SICAP 2024–2028, the LEADER 2023–2027 Programme and the Local Enhancement Programme continue to provide essential resources to strengthen local communities, businesses and social enterprises.

Promoting health and well-being in Louth remains a key responsibility of the LCDC. Louth LCDC continues to make progress through its fourth round of the Healthy Ireland initiative, with this phase placing particular focus on supporting Positive Mental Health and increasing Physical Activity among identified target groups.

The input provided from the Public Participation Network (PPN), through its five representatives on the LCDC and the connection they maintain with the wider PPN, is invaluable. This link is essential to ensuring the LCDC remains relevant to our communities and supports the valuable and positive contribution they make to civic life in County Louth.

The success and effectiveness of the LCDC is heavily dependent on the commitment and expertise of the Community Section staff. I would like to extend my appreciation to the outgoing Chief Officer, Mr. Finbar Gethins and the current Chief Officer, Ms. Colette Moss, and all the staff for their work in developing and enhancing structures in the LCDC and partnerships with communities, government agencies, the business community and stakeholder groups.

I look forward to continuing my work with the LCDC members and staff and I am delighted to be involved in the support it gives to community in Louth and to be part of the positive impacts the above programmes will have in our County over the coming year.

Kevin Meenan, Chairperson Louth LCDC

Introduction

Local Community Development Committees (LCDC's) are required, under the provisions of Section 128B of the Local Government Act 2001, to prepare, adopt and submit an annual report to the local authority, no later than the 31st March each year, in respect of the performance of its functions in the previous calendar year. The annual report should be coordinated with the preparation of the local authority's annual report and include an outline of Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) activities in the relevant period. At a minimum the report should cover each of the LCDC functions, as outlined in the Act, but also other areas of activity such as development, review or implementation of community elements of the plan and contributing to the economic objectives of the Plan, both in its development and implementation.

Meetings Held in 2025

Louth LCDC meetings were held on the following dates during 2025:

- 20 January 2025
- 17 February 2025
- 24 March 2025
- 28 April 2025
- 19 May 2025
- 16 June 2025
- 21 July 2025
- 15 September 2025
- 20 October 2025
- 18 November 2025
- 15 December 2025

The LCDC continued with a hybrid model for their monthly meetings in 2025, with members attending in person and via Teams.

Louth Local Economic & Community Plan (LECP) 2024-2029

The Louth Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) 2024-2029 was officially launched by members of Louth LCDC and members of the Economic SPC on 20th May 2024.

The LECP comprises of two distinct elements which are:

- The LECP Framework covering the 2024-2029 period which consists of the high-level goals, the objectives, actions and the outcomes.

- The Implementation Plan which is for an initial 2 years and includes prioritised actions and KPIs that will help to achieve the goals, objectives and outcomes for Louth.

The LECP Steering Committee carried out a review of the Two-Year Implementation Plan in Q4 of 2025. The review was carried out in the form of a survey.

The review highlighted several key outcomes including notable success stories and the positive impact on local communities. The review also identified the current status of the actions/KPIs with the majority having a status of “Ongoing without a completion date”.

Members also addressed the barriers currently affecting implementation and outlined the next steps and priorities for the continued delivery of the LECP which will include the preparation of a second Two Year Implementation Plan.

Local Enhancement Programme 2025

Under the Local Enhancement Programme (LEP) 2025, there was capital funding available to support community and voluntary groups, particularly in disadvantaged areas, with minor capital works and improvements to their facilities, and the purchase of equipment for community use.

There was also current funding available to provide assistance with running costs such as utility bills and insurance costs.

The Department of Rural and Community Development allocated **€193,075** capital funding and **€34,172** current funding to Louth LCDC which amounted to a total of **€227,247**. The maximum application amount was €5,000 and a total of 125 projects were approved.

At their March 2025 meeting, the Louth Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) approved the allocation of Local Enhancement Programme funding to the groups proposed, to the amount of €227,247.00.

Funding was allocated across each Municipal District Area.

The table below sets out a summary of how the total LEP fund of €227,247 was allocated throughout the county:

Area	Number of Successful Applications	Allocation
Dundalk	60	€101,870
Drogheda	38	€78,361
Ardee	27	€47,016
Total	125	€227,247



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

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

- In 2025 SICAP supported 100 local community groups and registered 1187 individuals.
- 100 community groups received developmental, technical and capacity building supports.
- 19 Local Community Groups received grants including 2 Social Enterprises. In total 21 Grants were administered.
- 1187 individuals engaged in lifelong learning and labour market supports.
- 58 individuals were supported into employment.
- 93 individuals referred by the Department of Social Protection, were supported to establish their own business through the Back to Work Enterprise Allowance Scheme.
- 119 individuals received education/training grants.
- 10 individuals received enterprise grants.



A Taste of All Nations, March 2025



Pathways Graduation, June 2025



Community House Rathmullen, September 2025



Media Literacy Ireland Awards, October 2025



Safe Pass Course, September 2025



Christmas Around the World, December 2025

2025 SICAP Case Study: Smart Cafés – Smarter Living for Older People

This case study, SMART Cafés digital literacy project for older people, received national recognition, including a ‘Highly Commended’ award from Media Literacy Ireland in October 2025. A link to the case study can be found below:

<https://youtu.be/JZeZhDWo3mE?si=t1LRhXI7II9-U55Q>



LEADER

Development led by local communities

The 2023-2027 LEADER Programme commenced in 2024. A project budget of €3.67m was allocated to projects and this funding must be committed to projects before 31st December 2027.

Notable Achievements in 2025 included:

- A service level agreement between the LCDC, Louth County Council and Louth Local Development was signed in May 2024 to deliver the LEADER programme in County Louth.
- 28 projects have received funding since the programme commenced totalling **€1,201,645.50**
- Projects across all three themes have received funding; Economic Development and Job Creation (6), Rural Infrastructure and Social Inclusion (14) and the Sustainable Development of the Rural Environment & Climate Change Mitigation and Adaption (8)
- 72 Expressions of Interest for Funding were received in 2025 by the implementing partner, Louth Local Development.
- 30.55% of Expressions of Interest submitted were successful in securing grant aid in 2025.
- Louth County Council, as the lead financial partner for the LEADER Programme in Co. Louth, continues to conduct all required administrative checks on projects and claims.

LEADER Programme 2023-2027

	2024	2025	Programme Totals to end 2025
Expressions of Interest (EOI) Received	62	72	134
EOI Eligible for Funding	59	69	128
Ineligible for Funding	3	3	6
Contracts Issued	6	22	28
Food Contracts Issued	0	0	0
Claims Processed	0	18	18
Funding Allocated	€320,275.82	€881,369.68	€1,201,645.50
Claims Paid	€0	€605,596.67	€605,596.67

Theme 1: Economic Development and Job Creation



Glamping Lodges at Cornamucklagh Omeath, due to open in Spring 2026

Funding in the amount of €197,460.00 was awarded to John & Marian King for their project '**Glamping at Cornamucklagh**'. The project will offer a unique glamping experience with 14 bespoke pods, situated at Cornamucklagh House. The site is ideally positioned adjacent to the Carlingford Lough Greenway and Narrow Water Bridge.

Theme 2: Rural Infrastructure and Social Inclusion



Tullyallen Men's Shed Newly Constructed Games Room

Tullyallen Men's Shed received LEADER funding in the amount of €32,926.50 for their project '**Mens Shed Games Room**'. Established in 2016 and now home to roughly 30 active members, the group will benefit greatly from this investment. The new games room will enhance the range of activities available, attract new participants and further strengthen social connection within the community. The project will help reduce isolation, support positive mental health and ensure the continued delivery of this valuable, life-enhancing service to an even wider group of men.

Theme 3: Sustainable Development of the Rural Environment and Climate Change Mitigation and Adaption



LEADER Programme funded Electric Tricycles to Blackrock Tidy Towns

LEADER funding of €15,949.00 was approved for the Blackrock Tidy Towns project '**Electric Tricycles**'. This forward-thinking initiative enables the group to transition from a diesel van to environmentally friendly electric tricycles, reducing emissions and strengthening their commitment to sustainability. The new tricycles will also enhance the team's ability to reach areas that were previously difficult to access using traditional transport.

The European & Cross Border Office

PEACEPLUS Programme 2021 – 2027



PEACEPLUS Launch Event

A successful launch event was held on 10th April 2025 in the Muirhevnamor Community Centre, Dundalk for the County Louth PEACEPLUS Action Plan.

The meeting was addressed by the CEO of the Special European Union Programmes Body, Ms. Gina McIntyre together with the Cathaoirleach of Louth County Council, Cllr. Kevin Callan, and Louth County Council Director of Service, Mr. Thomas McEvoy. The launch also included video messages from the Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht, Dara Calleary TD, as well as the First Minister of the Northern Ireland Executive, Michelle O' Neill and the Deputy First Minister Emma Little-Pengelly.

The launch included a presentation by Mr. Finbar Gethins on the 15 projects included in the €4,679,354 Programme which will engage with 4,679 participants over the next four years. All these projects are designed to support peace and prosperity across Northern Ireland and the border counties of Ireland, building upon the work of the previous PEACE and INTERREG Programmes.



Ms. Claire Johnston of the NI Executive Office, Ms. Gina McIntyre, SEUPB CEO, Cllr. Kevin Callan, Cathaoirleach of Louth County Council and Ms. Gobhnait Swift, Department of Rural and Community Development.



Members of the Louth PEACEPLUS Partnership Committee with Ms. Gina McIntyre, SEUPB CEO

Capital Projects

There are two capital projects underway as part of PEACEPLUS; one at St. Nicholas' Church in Dundalk and another at the Battle of the Boyne site in Drogheda. An Appropriate Assessment screening for the proposed works at the Battle of the Boyne concluded that the project would not adversely affect the environmental integrity of the River Boyne area. Planning permission has also been granted for the proposed capital works at St. Nicholas' Church of Ireland, Dundalk.

Procurement

Nine Requests for Tender (RFT) from the County Louth PEACEPLUS Action Plan have been advertised on eTenders, to date. Contracts for the Youth Leadership and Mentoring Programme and the Young People's Outdoor Pursuits Sports Leadership Programme were signed in November 2025 with Dundalk Youth Centre.

Seven other tenders have been assessed by tender assessment boards, approved by the PEACEPLUS Partnership board and ratified by the LCDC.



Signing the Youth Leadership and Mentoring Programme contract with Dundalk Youth Centre

Programme Launch

In December 2025 the launch of the 'Youth Leadership and Mentoring Programme' and the 'Young Peoples Outdoor Pursuits and Sports Leadership Programme' was held in Dundalk Youth Centre. These programmes will engage 300 and 80 young people respectively.



Launch of the Dundalk Youth Centre PEACEPLUS Youth and Sport Leadership Projects



Louth County Council / Newry Mourne and Down Strategic Alliance

A workshop was held in the Ballymascanlon Hotel, Co. Louth on the 22nd May 2025 to formulate a revised Action Plan for the Louth County Council / Newry Mourne and Down District Council Strategic Alliance.

The new Action Plan was approved at a meeting held on the 9th December 2025 in County Hall, Dundalk.



December 2025 Meeting of the Louth County Council / Newry Mourne and Down Strategic Alliance

Healthy Louth

Introduction

The Louth Local Community Development Committee oversees the Healthy Louth programme, ensuring local health and wellbeing actions align with national policy. Healthy Louth delivers the Healthy Ireland Fund 2023–2026, supporting projects that promote physical and mental health, social inclusion and community participation. The LCDC Health & Wellbeing Sub-committee drives this work by reviewing progress, fostering collaboration and supporting funding, ensuring initiatives meet the needs of all residents, especially priority and vulnerable groups.

Healthy Ireland Fund 2023-2026

Healthy Ireland is a government initiative aimed at improving the nation’s health and wellbeing. In 2025, the Healthy Ireland Fund (HIF) Round 4 was extended to December 2026 and uses a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach to advance four goals: increasing healthy life stages, reducing health inequalities, protecting the public from health threats and creating conditions where all sectors can support a healthier Ireland.

In Louth, funding supports improved mental health, increased physical activity among adults and children and targeted health promotion campaigns. These initiatives addressed both the general population and priority groups, including adolescents, disadvantaged families, people at risk of homelessness and those with mental health needs.

Healthy Ireland Fund – Key Developments in 2025

WHO Healthy Cities Annual Business Meeting – Bursa, Türkiye, 17–19 June 2025

Our Healthy Ireland Coordinator attended the WHO European Healthy Cities Annual Business Meeting in Bursa, Türkiye, representing the Midlands and Eastern Region. The event marked the close of Phase VII of the WHO Healthy Cities Programme and outlined priorities for Phase VIII beginning in 2026. Sessions focused on resilience, equity, sustainability and place-based planning, with workshops, site visits and shared international best practice. Waterford, Limerick and Galway were accredited as WHO Healthy Cities, and the National Healthy Ireland Cities and Counties Network of Ireland also received WHO accreditation. Insights gained will strengthen future health and wellbeing work in Louth.



Deputy Jennifer Murnane O'Connor, Minister of State at the Department of Health with special responsibility for Public Health, Wellbeing and the National Drugs Strategy and Ms. Kira Fortune, WHO, Regional Advisor Healthy Cities with other members of the Healthy Ireland Cities & Counties Network of Ireland.

Irish Homeless Street League Programme

The Irish Homeless Street League Programme promotes social inclusion and wellbeing through community-driven weekly football sessions, supporting people experiencing homelessness by building confidence, teamwork and connection through sport.

With €20,000 from the Collaboration and Innovation Fund and distributed through Adult Literacy for Life (ALL), the programme ran for 32 weeks in Dundalk and 10 in Drogheda, promoting physical activity and delivering a 6-week Healthy Food Made Easy course.

Talks delivered by Oisín McConville, Rory's Stories and Joanne O'Dwyer provided participants with honest insights into their personal experiences of addiction and

mental health, highlighting that addiction can affect anyone at any stage. Numeracy and literacy books helped participants build skills and confidence in learning.

Through the community engagement of Drogheda United FC, the programme received a nomination for an AONTAS award. To finish off the programme, Louth played Coolmine Street Leagues in a friendly match in Dublin.



Visits from Rory's Stories and Oisín McConville



Louth and Coolmine Community Street Leagues

Expansion of the 'We're Breastfeeding Friendly Louth' Campaign

The *We're Breastfeeding Friendly Louth* campaign made strong progress in 2025, highlighted by the launch of a new video showcasing breastfeeding-friendly locations and local businesses in Louth. The video features HSE nurses and Dunleer mothers reflecting on the county's supportive environment. It was shared at the Blackrock and Dunleer support groups, encouraging more businesses to join the initiative. Developed with Healthy Ireland Fund support, it was central to National Breastfeeding Week celebrations. Thanks to Helena from LMFM who spoke with mothers about their experiences in finding comfortable and safe places to spend time with their families. These efforts continue to strengthen a welcoming, community-wide culture of breastfeeding across Louth.



We're Breastfeeding Friendly Support Groups in Dunleer and Blackrock

CommUnity Connect Louth & Meath

The CommUnity Connect resource, launched at the 2024 Health & Wellbeing Event, continued to expand in 2025. A short survey helped reconnect with champions, capture progress and set priorities for 2026. Two energetic training days were held in May - Day 1 in St. Kevin's Community Centre, Philipstown, and Day 2 in Deerpark Community Hub, Carlanstown. Champions took part in yoga, mindfulness and practical wellbeing activities, and heard from partners including the HSE, Mental Health Ireland, libraries and the PPN. They also explored the 5 Ways to Wellbeing and signed a Memorandum of Understanding. With 16 champions now involved, feedback remains very positive and further collaboration is planned for 2026.



CommUnity Connect Louth & Meath Champions with members of the Project Steering Group

Not Around Us Campaign

The Not Around Us campaign - delivered in partnership with Healthy Louth and Louth County Council - is championed by young supporters who want match nights to be smoke- and vape-free. The initiative encourages fans to avoid smoking in areas where children gather, helping to protect young people from second-hand smoke, reduce the normalisation of smoking and minimise environmental harm from cigarette waste.

As part of the campaign, Healthy Louth hosted a lively morning at Oriel Park for participants who were later joined by Dundalk FC players, fresh from a win the previous night. In Drogheda, the campaign launch featured a colourful banner created by children from Just Kids Creche and Montessori, and halftime teams will now wear Not Around Us bibs to reinforce the message.

The campaign also featured an U10 non-competitive blitz at Sullivan & Lambe Park, supported by Fitz Scientific and Rossin Rovers, bringing together 90 young players from five clubs. Healthy Louth delivered an engaging talk, helping children become enthusiastic campaign champions. Drogheda United also introduced the *Claret & Blue – Learning Together* booklet for primary schools, developed with support from the Not Around Us campaign and community partners.



Not Around Us Campaign in Drogheda and Dundalk

DKIT Healthy Campus

Healthy Louth took part in a breadmaking workshop that blended creativity, wellbeing and community spirit. Following a “make one, donate one” theme, participants learned professional techniques from DKIT Campus chefs, enjoying the therapeutic nature of baking and the joy of giving back.

Healthy Louth also attended a Nutritional & Wellbeing Workshop hosted by the DKIT Events, Hospitality & Culinary Arts Department. The event was a great success, showcasing the skill and commitment of Year 2 BA Culinary Arts students who helped deliver an engaging, insightful experience.



Make One Donate One Breadmaking Workshop



Nourish to Flourish

ASK Programme (Access Shared Knowledge)

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

Participants learned how to access the Healthy Louth newsletter and navigate the Louth County 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.



ASK Programme Participants with Ms. Annmarie Watters, Healthy Louth Co-ordinator

Communications and Awareness in 2025 - Healthy Louth Newsletter

This bi-monthly newsletter continued to keep communities and stakeholders informed about programmes, events and resources aligned with Healthy Ireland themes, including mental health, nutrition, physical activity, sexual health, tobacco and alcohol awareness, workplace wellbeing, older people’s health and healthy spaces. It is widely circulated among community groups and stakeholders and is available online.

Signed: Lolette Moss
Chief Officer

Date: 23.3.26

