



Comhairle Contae **Lú**
Louth County Council

**Tuairisc Bhainistíochta Mhíosúil an
Príomhfheidhmeannach maidir le feidhmeanna a
rinneadh le linn an mhí roimhe sin / Chief Executive's
Monthly Management Report in relation to functions
performed in the preceding month**

**Dátaithe 5th Meán Fomhair 2024
Dated 5th September 2024**

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

Tuairisc Bhainistíochta Mhíosúil an Príomhfheidhmeannach – August 2024
Chief Executive's Monthly Management Report – Lúnasa 2024

A Chara,

I enclose the above report for your statutory consideration which will be placed on the September Monthly Agenda of Louth County Council for your consideration. This report has also been prepared under Section 136 & 138 of the Local Government Act, 2001, advising you of the performance of executive functions in the last month and planned works. I might point out, that in this report we also have increased the use of Gaeilge with more headings in Irish.

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

- Our Vacant Homes Officer is now operational and is reaching out to property owners.
- The completion of several significant capital projects including the Omeath Placemaking Schemes.
- Equally the commencement of the Bridge Street Public Realm project.

Finally, as this is my last statutory report to Council, I want again to wish all well and thank them for the co-operation over the years and again to remind ye of the value of this report, which provides huge insight into current activity.

Is mise le meas.



Joan Martin
Chief Executive

Tuairisc Bhainistíochta Mhíosúil an Príomhfheidhmeannach – 31st Lúnasa 2024
Chief Executive's Monthly Management Report – 31st August 2024

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Seirbhísí Tacaíochta Support Services

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

Ina chuid den freagrachtaí eile, Techneolaíocht Faisnéise agus Chumarsáide

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

Other responsibilities include, Information & Communication Technology

Bernie Woods
Stiúrthóir / Director



Tuairiscí Airgeadais / Financial Reports

Caiteachas go dtí 31^ú Lúnasa 2024 / Expenditure to 31st of August 2024

Rannóg / Section	Actual Expenditure to 31/08/2024 / Caiteachas Iarbhír go dtí 31/08/2024	Caiteachas Buiséadaithe 2024 / Budget Expenditure 2024	% Caite go 31/08/2024 / % Spent to 31/08/2024
Tithíocht / Housing	€38,995,038	€62,912,092	62%
Iompar Bóthair agus Sábháilteacht / Road Transportation & Safety	€13,929,842	€27,583,468	51%
Seirbhísí Uisce / Water Services	€4,592,407	€8,804,737	52%
Bainistíocht Forbartha / Development Management	€19,305,245	€27,259,532	71%
Seirbhísí Timpeallachta / Environmental Services	€13,650,207	€23,558,956	58%
Áineas agus Conláiste / Recreation and Amenity	€6,512,140	€11,234,063	58%
Talmhaíocht, Oideachas, Sláinte agus Leas / Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	€850,750	€1,491,272	57%
Ilghnéitheach / Miscellaneous	€4,979,619	€8,839,470	56%
	€102,815,248	€171,683,590	60%

Ioncam go 31^ú Lúnasa 2024 / Income to 31st of August 2024

Rannóg / Section	Ioncam Iarbhír go dtí 31/08/2024 / Actual Income to 31/08/2024	Ioncam Buiséadaithe 2024 / Budget Income	% Sonraisc Curtha do dtí 31/08/2024 / % Invoiced to 31/08/2024
Tithíocht / Housing	€31,466,623	€64,380,831	49%
Iompar Bóthair agus Sábháilteacht / Road Transportation & Safety	€5,455,109	€16,558,010	33%
Seirbhísí Uisce / Water Services	€3,606,003	€8,131,617	44%
Bainistíocht Forbartha / Development Management	€13,561,673	€17,277,072	78%
Seirbhísí Timpeallachta / Environmental Services	€1,680,399	€4,348,102	39%
Áineas agus Conláiste / Recreation and Amenity	€776,391	€1,683,163	46%
Talmhaíocht, Oideachas, Sláinte agus Leas / Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	€353,449	€558,596	63%
Ilghnéitheach / Miscellaneous	€5,101,120	€11,372,937	45%
Rátaí / Rates	€34,764,476	€34,507,064	101%
Deontas Ilfheidhmeach / General Purpose Grant (LPT)	€7,577,464	€11,366,198	67%
Soláthar faoi Iarmhéid Dochair / Provision for Debit Balance	€0	€1,500,000	0%
	€104,342,707	€171,683,590	61%

The above is the current position as of the 31st of August 2024. The allocation of the Central Management Charge is estimated in the above figures as the allocation is not completed till mid-month. The full rates demand for 2024 is included in the above figure.

Collection rates as of 31st of August 2024 are as follows:

Féichiúnaithe mar atá 31^ú Lúnasa 2024 / Debtors as of 31st of August 2024

	Iarmhéid Tosaigh / Opening Balance	Sonraisc / Invoices	Fáltais / Receipts	Díscríobhanna / Write Offs	Iarmhéid Deiridh / Closing Balance
Féichiúnaithe Rialtais / Government Debtors	€28,733,539	€106,276,129	(€96,491,469)	(€0)	€38,518,199
Uadaráis Áitiúla Eile / Other Local Authorities	€93,780	€1,026,030	(€707,522)	(€8,220)	€404,068
Rataí / Rates	€5,352,580	€34,764,476	(€26,627,492)	(€1,129,345)	€12,360,219
Cíosanna / Rents	€2,913,161	€10,717,161	(€10,580,800)	(€0)	€3,049,522
Iasachtal / Loans	€297,248	€1,445,819	(€1,439,744)	(€0)	€303,323
Tobhaigh Forbartha / Development Levies	€10,756,762	€13,085,850	(€5,135,424)	(€4,285,449)	€14,421,739
Táilí Seirbhíse Dóiteáin / Fire Charges	€756,633	€459,023	(€315,752)	(€13,296)	€886,608
Ilghnéitheach / Miscellaneous	€2,345,328	€8,619,787	(€8,017,260)	(€34,954)	€2,912,901
Féichiúnaithe Iomlána / Total Debtors	€51,249,031	€176,394,275	(€149,315,463)	(€5,471,264)	€72,856,579

Above are the debtor balances as of 31st of August 2024. The Miscellaneous debtor figure includes the Irish Water SLA recoupments, Corporate, Community & Enterprise, LEO, Planning, Enforcement, Environment, Sports, Vets, Arts, Roads, Library, Museum and Finance miscellaneous billings.

Budget 2025 - Local Property Tax (LPT) Public Consultation

The budget process for 2025 began with the advertising of the Local Property Tax Public Consultation in July. The deadline for submissions from the public was Friday 9th of August 2024.

The report will go to you, the members, at the September meeting where you can decide whether

to vary the basic rate of LPT by up to 15%. If the rate is varied upwards 100% of the additional income will be available for the authority's own use. Similarly, if the rate is varied downwards the loss of income will be reflected in reduced LPT funding to the authority.

For every 1% of variation implemented it will result in +/- €106,847 for the authority.

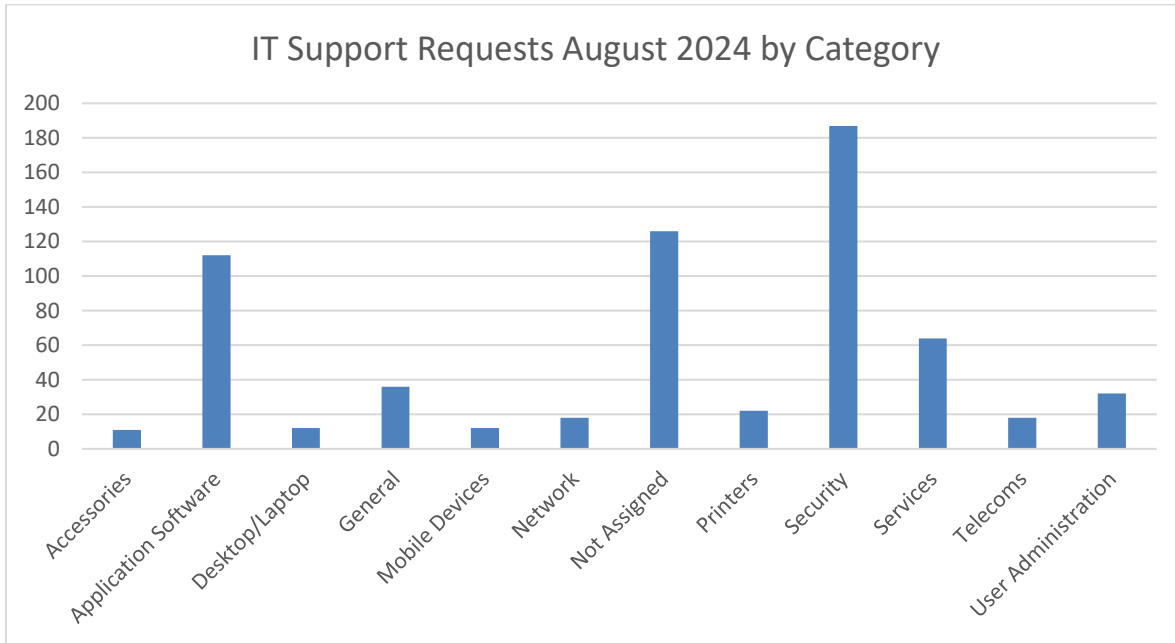
Budget Workshop

It was agreed at the July meeting that we would hold a budget workshop for the members in September. This meeting was on Tuesday 2nd of September.

Techneolaíocht Faisnéise agus Cumarsáide / Information & Communication Technology

Deasc Chabhrach / Helpdesk

Between 01/08/2024 and the 31/08/2024 there were 650 support calls logged in the IT support system.




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

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. In August 33% of inbound e-mails were identified as potentially harmful.


 **Inbound Emails**
172,887

 **Blocked Sender**
3,499

 **Blocked at gateway**
19,730

 **Blocked by spam /virus**
33,896

 **Blocked by content rules**
403

 **Potentially harmful emails**
33.28%

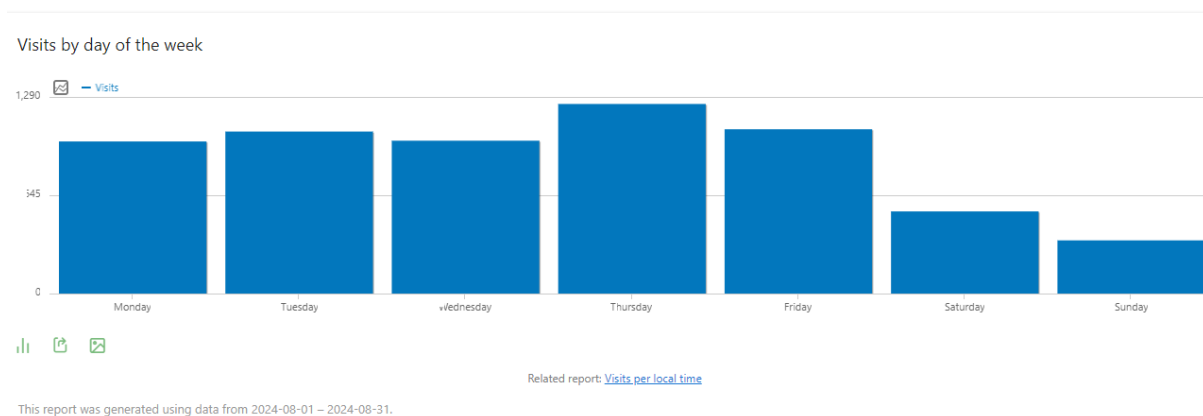
Suíomh Gréasáin Comhairle Chontae Lú / Louth County Council Website

There were 18,891 unique page views of www.louthcoco.ie in August.

The below table indicates the pages on the website with the highest number of Page Views in August.

Page URL	Pageviews
/en/	3,298
/en/louth_county_council/vacancies/	1,277
/en/services/planning/online-planning-and-maps/	891
/en/services/library/	667
/en/services/planning/	563
/en/services/	536
/en/services/dog-pound/	548
/en/home/	512
/en/louth_county_council/vacancies/ganger1.html	410

The Louth County Council received most visits on mid-weekdays during August, with Thursdays receiving the most visits.



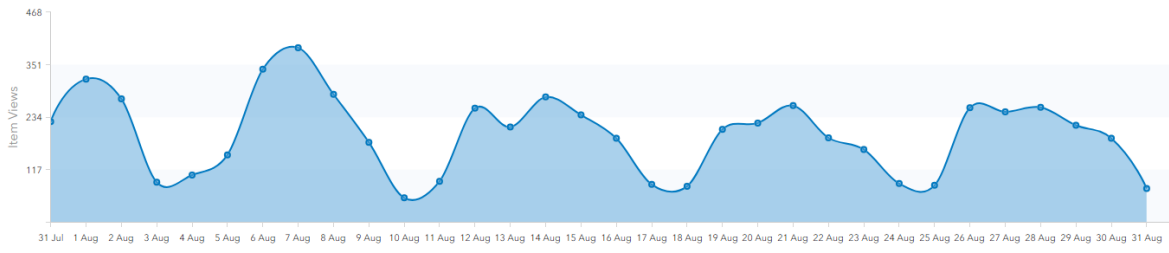
Fadhb Cuardaithe Gréasáin / Website Search Issue

The IT department continue to work on a resolution for the issue where invalid links are being listed when a search is undertaken on the LCC website. A number of links have been repaired to date, but work is still ongoing to identify and fix all invalid links.

ArcGis ar Líne – Amharcóir Pleanáil Phoiblí Léarscáil Cláir / Public Planning Register Map Viewer

LCC provide an online Planning Register Map Viewer which can be accessed from the Online Planning Application and Maps section user Services> Planning on the Louth County council website. This application is updated regularly to include all planning applications. There were 6,276 views in August, an average of 209 views a day

Usage Time Series



Forbairt Gheilleagrach Straitéiseach Strategic Economic Development

Tá trí eochairfhreagracht ag an Stiúrthóireacht seo:

Forbairt Eacnamaíoch, an Oifig Fiontair Áitiúil san áireamh, agus obair le comhpháirtithe agus foinsí maoinithe lasmuigh den Stát

Seirbhísí Éigeandála – Seirbhís Dóiteáin, agus Cosaint Shibhialta, san áireamh, agus ag pleanáil agus ag cur i bhfeidhm straitéisí chun chabhrú le muintir Chontae Lú a bheith slán sábháilte

Is é Pleanáil an slí a eagraímid an timpeallacht thógtha i gContae Lú

This Directorate has three key areas of responsibility:

Economic Development, including the Local Enterprise Office, and work involving partners and funding outside the state.

Emergency Services – including the Fire Service, and Civil Defence, and the planning and implementation of strategies which help to keep our citizens safe.

Planning, the way in which we organise the built environment in our county.

**Thomas McEvoy
Stiúrthóir / Director of Service**



Forbairt Gheilleagrach / Economic Development

Climate Change Adaptation Strategy

Part of our assessment of projects currently includes their impact on the environment.

Two key supports for micro and small businesses in Louth to assist them develop their green and sustainable agenda are the “Green for Micro” and the “Energy Efficiency Grant”. Further details at www.localenterprise.ie/green and www.localenterprise.ie/louth.

Drogheda Business Improvement District (BIDS) 2025 – 2029

Following a statutory period, a letter from the proponent, Drogheda BIDS Company (Love Drogheda), was received on 30th July 2024 confirming their wish to proceed with the proposed BID Scheme and requested the Council to proceed with the ratepayer plebiscite. The ballot papers were posted on 19th August and the count will take place in The Mill Enterprise Hub, Drogheda on Friday 20th September.



Cllr. Kevin Callan, Cathaoirleach witnessing the posting of the ballot papers by Returning Officer Colette Moss, Senior Executive Officer

Age Friendly Business

Following the Age Friendly Business workshops which took place in April, work is continuing to support the participating businesses towards gaining Age Friendly Business Accreditation. Three businesses have achieved their accreditation and will be awarded their certificates on 2nd September. Further workshops are planned for September.

Shopfront Improvement Grant Scheme 2024

The scheme opened to applications on Monday 15th April, the closing date for receipt of applications is Friday 27th September 2024. For full details of the scheme please visit: <https://www.louthcoco.ie/en/services/economic-development/business-incentive-schemes-retail-prospectus/>.

Turasóireacht / Tourism

Festival Grants

Twenty-four applications were received under the 2024 ‘Festival Grant Initiative’, twenty-three of which received offers of funding.

Ten applications were received under the 2024 Fáilte Ireland funded ‘Regional Festivals and Participative Events’ scheme, eight of which received offers of funding.

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

Visit Louth

As part of the ‘Reimagined Boyne Valley Destination’, Fáilte Ireland engaged a digital specialist to review the Council tourism websites in conjunction with the Tourism Section. This took place over an 18-month period. A meeting was held to review the findings and to discuss what options the future of digital platforms might hold for the destination. These will feed into the forthcoming Tourism Strategy being led by the Tourism Officer.

Filming for an all-Ireland TV series ‘Ireland from Above’ has commenced. The show will feature six counties in Ireland and Louth will have a full episode. The show will feature Louth’s history and scenery using drone footage and will be broadcast in the USA on PBS. It will be aired next Spring.

Tenders

The Council’s Tourism Strategy and Action Plan 2025 - 2030 was published on the eTenders portal. The tenders received are due to be assessed with a view to appointing a consultant to work with the Tourism Officer and key stakeholders in creating a vision for tourism in County Louth.

A Request for Quotes for a new Visit Louth and sea louth website, and for PR and Digital Marketing has been issued.

sea louth

A new memento, a sea louth beanie hat, is now available in all Tourist Offices in County Louth, when you present a completed sea louth passport. For details on how to complete your passport please visit: <https://www.sealouth.ie/how-it-works>.



sea louth Beanie Hat

Urban Animation – Lú Festival of Light

Plans are underway for the 2024 Lú Festival of Light which will take place from 25th October to 3rd November. See www.lufestivaloflight.com for more information.

The 'Lú Festival of Light Window Decoration Scheme' is open for applications and will close at 12 noon on Wednesday 23rd October 2024. For full details of the scheme please visit: <https://www.louthcoco.ie/en/services/economic-development/lu-festival-of-light-window-decoration-scheme/>.

Táin Trail

Fáilte Ireland has engaged the Paul Hogarth Company to review the current Táin Trail route and to provide recommendations on opportunities to reimagine it into an internationally compelling experiential route that engages local communities and visitors. They are collaborating with the Council's Tourism Section and the other local authorities along the Táin Trail route.

Reimagined Boyne Valley Drive

Fáilte Ireland has engaged the Paul Hogarth Company to review the current Boyne Valley Drive

Cluster Orientation route and to provide recommendations on opportunities to reimagine it into an internationally compelling experiential route that engages local communities and visitors. They are collaborating with the local authorities in the region on same.

Boyne Valley Flavours (BVF)

The Boyne Valley Flavours brand and website audit is underway and reaching the end of Phase One: Research and Audit. An initial report is expected mid-September with the audit due to conclude in October. This sits under the fourth pillar of our Action Plan - Awareness and Profile.

Boyne Valley Flavours are working through the Action Plan in the new Boyne Valley Food Development Strategy 2024 - 2028. Priority pillars for Boyne Valley Flavours in 2024 are 1: Growing the impact of the network, and 3: Sustainable Food Economy: Linking producers with food service to foster more sustainable local economies. Pillar 1: Development of a Member Services directory and Membership Benefits Programme are underway. Pillar 3: We continue to develop our Boyne Valley Bites workshops and trainings for local foodservice businesses.

The Centre of Food Culture, Boyne Valley

Following the trip to The University of Gastronomic Sciences, Pollenzo, Italy in May, a student from the university completed a very successful placement at Muchgrange Farm, Greenore, working with them on their gelato production and in developing new recipes.

Events

Following the success of the first 'Centre of Food Culture, Boyne Valley Farm Walks Series' at Killua Castle Farm on Saturday 20th July, the following events were held: 1. Celebrating National Heritage Week: Connecting with Martry Mill on Tuesday 20th August and 2. Agroforestry Farm Walk at Rock Farm Slane on Sunday 1st September.

Samhain Festival

Planning for Samhain Festival of Food and Culture, taking place from the 7th – 10th November is well underway. Sheridan's Irish Food Festival will join Samhain Festival on the 9th and 10th November.

Sheridan's Irish Food Festival has taken place at their Meath headquarters since 2010, and for the first time, will move to be part of Samhain Festival in Kells. Overtime, the Sheridan's Irish Food Festival has grown from a small gathering of their Irish suppliers to being one of the most celebrated food gatherings in Ireland showcasing Irish artisan food producers.

This year's Samhain Symposium event on Friday 8th November will act as the flagship event for The Centre of Food Culture at the festival. Ireland's food networks that represent artisan food producers in their respective counties/regions, will gather for the first time for an afternoon of collective learning, discussion, and connection.

Geilleagar Oíche Dhroichead Átha / Drogheda Night-Time Economy

Drogheda Lomography Night

On 16th August, Drogheda's Night-Time Economy Adviser participated in the Drogheda Lomography Night, organised by the Drogheda Photography Club. This event aimed to capture the vibrancy of the town using vintage cameras and analogue film, adhering to the unique Lomography style. Originating in the 1990s, the Lomography movement is known for its low-fi cameras, unpredictable results, and focus on capturing everyday moments' beauty. The photographs from this event are expected to be available for sharing in September with the club considering options for an upcoming exhibition.

Oifig Fiontair Áitiúil / Local Enterprise Office

LEO Business Supports

Updated information on the range of business supports available can be found at the following website: [Local Enterprise Office - Louth](http://LocalEnterpriseOffice-Louth). Businesses seeking support from LEO Louth should email: info@leo.louthcoco.ie or they can call to our office at Town Hall, Dundalk.

'Look for Local' / 'Shop Local'

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

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

Green for Business



The Green for Business programme is a free programme which aims to help businesses identify cost savings and improve their green credentials. This is achieved by looking at the business from an environmental perspective.

Projects vary from assessing energy, water and waste costs, guidance with environmental management system, to the greening of the product or business to adapt to the changing marketplace.

LEO Louth continues to welcome new applications

Business Training



During August, LEO held one Trading Online Voucher workshop.

All scheduled training courses are available to view and book online: <https://www.localenterprise.ie/Louth/Training-Events/Online-Bookings/>.

Trading Online Voucher Scheme



LEO continues to offer the Trading Online Voucher Scheme to assist businesses get online or enhance

their online presence, under which LEO can provide 50% support up to a maximum grant of €2,500.

Trading Online training workshops to assist applicants apply continue to be delivered on a regional basis with Cavan and Monaghan LEOs.

Three Trading Online Voucher applications have been received in August.

Business Advice Clinics

Thirty-six business advice appointments were provided by telephone and video conference to entrepreneurs throughout the county during August.

LEO Louth Mentor Programme



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

Twenty-one businesses were appointed Mentors during the month of August.

Microfinance Ireland (MFI) Business Loan



LEO Louth offers expert assistance to clients to assist in the completion of Microfinance Loan Applications, Business Plans and Cashflow Projections. LEO mentors are continuing to assist MFI applicants.

LEAN for Business Programme



LEO Louth continues to offer the LEAN Programme to small businesses locally.

The programme helps businesses to identify issues and potential improvement areas and provides support to implement these as well as achieve savings and improvements in capability and capacity to deliver. The fee to participate in this programme has been reduced to €150 for businesses.

Digital Start

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

Energy Efficiency Grant



The Energy Efficiency Grant supports the investment in technologies and equipment identified in a Green for Business Report, Green Start Report or a SEAI Energy Audit. The grant has been increased to 75% of eligible costs up to a maximum grant of €10,000.

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

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

LEO Louth continues to welcome new applications.

North-East Regional Enterprise Programme

An appointment has been made to the vacant post of Regional Enterprise Programme Manager. Covering the counties of Cavan, Louth and Monaghan, the Regional Enterprise Programme Manager supports the Chairperson and Steering Committee in the co-ordination and delivery of the Regional Enterprise Plan and is the primary operational point of contact with the Department of Business, Enterprise, and Innovation. Gráinne Tuomey who recently held the role of Meeting Administrator has now been appointed to the role.

Caidreamh Eorpach / European Relations



Oidhreacht / Heritage

Heritage Week 2024

August saw Louth's largest ever Heritage Week, with more than 60 separate events taking place across the county, as well as dozens of open days, guided tours and exhibitions. Many thanks to all the volunteers who put so much effort into showcasing the heritage that matters to them, to the people of the county, our visitors and friends.

The success of Heritage Week 2024 may have been prompted by the fact that its national launch took place at Beaulieu House, Drogheda, County Louth. It should also be noted that many Heritage Week events were organised or supported by the Biodiversity Officer or by members of the Louth Urban Food Sanctuary (LUFS) team.

Walled Towns Day Events Funding

In addition to and related to Heritage Week, the Irish Walled Towns Network (the IWTN), a programme of the Heritage Council, has approved funding for public celebratory events, 'Walled Towns Festivals', to take place in early to mid-September, in both Carlingford and Drogheda.

The Drogheda Walled Town Collective will stage events forming part of the Seán Corcoran Series from Friday 6th to Sunday 8th September.

Carlingford Lough Heritage Trust will host their Carlingford Medieval Festival the following weekend, Friday 13th to Sunday 15th September.

IWTN Conservation Funding

The Irish Walled Towns Network also provides funding for conservation works. The Carlingford Lough Heritage Trust received a grant of €65,000 from this fund for works on the Tholsel. The Heritage Officer has provided the Trust with advice in relation to this project.

Regretfully, no responses were received to our request for tenders for the creation of a detailed conservation and interpretation plan for a long stretch of Drogheda's town wall at Featherbed Lane. This project had been offered funding of €30,000 by the Irish Walled Towns Network (IWTN) capital works fund. We will try advertising it again, with the aim of signing up a contractor well in advance of next year, though we will have to apply again for the funding and there is no guarantee that we will be successful again next year.

Community Monuments Fund (CMF) 2024

Preparations continued in relation to the Council's two successful applications to the CMF 2024. The Heritage Officer met the Conservation Architect and Contractor (stonemason) on site to discuss funded conservation works to the stump of Cappocksgate in

Ardee. It is planned to start these, relatively minor, works soon and to have them completed in October.

In relation to our other CMF 2024-funded project, disappointingly, no tender responses were received in relation to the proposed Drogheda town wall survey and assessment, which was advertised in July. It is intended to advertise this again soon (this autumn) in the hope of having a contractor in place in the Spring, should our proposed funding application to CMF 2025 be successful.

Community Monuments Fund (CMF) 2023

Works that had received grant aid from CMF 2023 were completed at Taaffe's castle, Carlingford and at Glaspistol towerhouse, near Clogherhead. A further extension for completion of these works, until the end of September 2024, was approved by the Department. Conservation works on these monuments are by no means fully complete and we will be applying for additional funding in 2025 and, quite possibly, in subsequent years. The CMF can only support two third party projects per county per year.

Guidance for property owners on dealing with invasive plant species on buildings

The Heritage Officer finalised an information leaflet for owners of properties affected by invasive plant species, for example Buddleja davidii (Butterfly bush) growing on buildings and old walls in Drogheda (in particular). This will be proactively circulated to property owners etc

Seirbhísí Dóiteáin agus Éigeandála / Fire & Emergency Services

Fire Service

Three tenders were received for the supply of Fire PPE to Louth Fire Service over a 4-year period and a tender assessment was completed. The Council notified the successful tenderer and the two unsuccessful tenderers. A contract is being finalised with the successful tenderer for the supply of 130 sets of Fire PPE in 2024.

A Design Team for the extension and upgrade of Dundalk Training Centre will shortly be appointed. Detailed design proposals will be drawn up for the Part 8 Planning process.

Following the commitment of Capital funding to Louth County Council Fire Service by the Department of Housing Local Government and Heritage, the following purchases are being made:

- Two new Peugeot large vans have been ordered. They will be fitted with crew cabs for the transport of up to six fire service members. These vehicles will operate on HVO fuel.
- Tenders are being sought on eTenders for the purchase of twenty-three new cutters, spreaders, rams and combi tools for use at road traffic collisions and other incidents.

These new vehicles and equipment will greatly enhance the response by Crews to emergency incidents in the county.

The Recruitment Plan for additional retained fire fighters continued in its implementation during July. Five new recruits completed station tests and literacy tests on 25th June and qualified at interview on 9th July and are booked in for the next available three-week Recruit's course. Two other new recruits from Ardee and Dundalk completed a two-week Breathing Apparatus Wearers course in Sligo Training Centre from 12th to 23rd August.

Fire Service Training courses in August were as follows:

- Pump Operations Course for retained personnel
- Emergency First Responder Refreshers
- Patient Handling

There has been a continuation in requests to the Fire Prevention Section during August to inspect properties for the accommodation of International Protection applicants.

The large increase in fire safety certificate applications and commencement notices received during 2024 (compared to 2023) is continuing.

Major Emergency Management

Louth County Council continued to chair regional Major Emergency Management Steering and Working Group meetings during August. Following the update of the Major Emergency Plan, the appendices of the Plan are now being updated. This includes emergency rest centres for the county.

This is being done on a regional basis. The updated Major Emergency Plan was issued to relevant staff members in the Council. Preparations are underway for a Seveso exercise for the Flogas site in Drogheda on 12th September.

Climate Adaptation Strategy

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

Building Control

The Building Control Officer continued with the inspection programme and the processing of Disabled Access Certificate applications.

Cosaint Shibhialta / Civil Defence

Drone Pilot Training was arranged for volunteers during August. The Civil Defence Officer also plans to purchase a new drone for Louth.

Duties

Medical cover was provided at the following events during August:

- All Ireland Poc Fada, Ravensdale
- Multi-cultural soccer tournament in Oriel Park
- There were ten callouts by Civil Defence volunteers in August under the Cardiac First Responder Scheme.

Pleanáil / Planning

Bainistíocht Forbartha / Development Management

The Planning service indicators for the Council for the month of July 2024 are given below in tabular form. There were 98 planning applications received during the month of July of which 77 were valid. In addition, there were 27 responses received during the month to requests for further information and 37 Pre-Planning Requests received.

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

(A) Cur Síos / Description	(B) Forbairtí Tithíochta / Housing Developmen ts	(C) Tithe Aonair / Individual Houses	(D) Iarratais Eile – ní gá MTT / Other applications -not requiring EIA	(E) Iarratais Eile - MTT de dhíth / Other applications- requiring EIA	(F) Iomlán na bhforbairtí sa chontae / Total for all categories of development in County Area
(i) Líon na n-iarratas a cinneadh / Number of applications determined	6	13	38	0	57
(ii) Líon na gcinntí inar iarradh breis eolais / No. of decisions determined which required further information	5	7	15	0	27
(iii) Céatadán na n-iarratas a diúltaíodh / Percentage of applications refused	16.67% (1)	30.77% (4)	23.68% (9)	0.00% (0)	24.56% (14)
(iv) Líon na n-achomharc a cinneadh / Number of appeals determined	2	0	1	0	3
(v) Céatadán na gcinntí a cuireadh ar ceal ar achomharc / Percentage of decisions overturned on appeal	50.00% (1)	0.00% (0)	0.00% (0)	0.00% (0)	33.33% (1)

Forfheidhmiú Pleanála – Forbairt Neamhúdaraithe / Planning Enforcement – Unauthorised Development

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

Cur Síos / Description	Forfheidhmiú maidir le forbairt nár údaraíodh / Enforcement in relation to unauthorised development		Forfheidhmiú maidir le forbairt nár údaraíodh / Enforcement in relation to unauthorised development	
	Iúil 2024 / July 2024	Bliain go dtí seo / Year to Date	Iúil 2023 / July 2023	Bliain go dtí seo / Year to Date
Líon na nGearán maidir le Forfheidhmiú Pleanála a Imscrúdaíodh / Number of Planning Enforcement Complaints Investigated	20	157	21	126
Líon na gcásanna Fhorfheidhmithe Pleanála nuair nár ghá obair bhreise / Number of Planning Enforcement cases received which did not require follow up	0	0	0	0
Líon na gcásanna dúnta / a réitíodh le hidirbheartaíocht / Number of cases closed / resolved through negotiation	19	151	4	55
Líon na Litreacha Rabhadh a eisíodh / Number of Warning letters issued	20	151	10	89
Líon na bhFógraí Forfheidhmiúcháin a eisíodh / Number of Enforcement Notices issued	2	9	1	5
Líon na cásanna a tarchuireadh le haghaidh imeachtaí dlí / Number of cases referred for legal proceedings	0	3	0	5
Líon na n-urghairí / Number of Injunctions	0	0	0	0
Líon na n-ionchúiseamh / Number of Prosecutions	0	0	0	0

Pleanáil Chun Cinn / Forward Planning

Built Heritage Investment Scheme (BHIS) 2025

The Minister of State for Heritage and Electoral Reform at the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, announced (26th July 2024) the Built Heritage Investment Scheme for 2025. Important changes to the BHIS have been introduced this year to allow for additional time to complete works and higher maximum grants, as follows:

- Grants of up to €50,000 are now available to cover the cost of maintaining and conserving Ireland's architectural heritage, a significant increase on the previous maximum award of €15,000.
- Up to 80% of the project's total cost may be applied for (previously 50%) e.g., an applicant in receipt of the full €50,000 would need to provide a minimum of €10,000 of their own funding.

- The timeframe of the scheme is changing with applications open from now until Friday 27th September (previously November).
- Successful projects will be announced in early January (previously March), giving owners and craftspeople additional time to schedule and complete their projects during 2025.

Grant applications are now being accepted.

Full details of the above scheme, along with relevant Guidance Documents and Application Form, are available to view / download at <https://www.louthcoco.ie/en/services/planning/conservation/> or are available on request.

The closing date for receipt of completed applications is 4.00pm on Friday 27th September 2024. Applications for the Historic Structures Fund (HSF) will open towards the end of 2024. For queries please email: conservation@louthcoco.ie or Phone: 042 9392932.

Comhfhorbairt Áite agus Forbairt Fisiceach

Placemaking and Physical Development

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

- Seirbhísí Bóithre agus Áitiúla, agus Forbairt Fhisiúil

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

- Roads and Local Services and Physical Development

David Jones
Stiúrthóir / Director



Seirbhísí Bóithre agus Áitiúla / Roads and Local Services

Ceantar Bardasach Dhún Dealgan / Municipal District of Dundalk

Ceantar Dhún Dealgan agus Cuailgne / Dundalk and Cooley Area

Piocadh Bruscair / Litter Picking	Suíomh agus méadar sa mhí / Location and metres per month /
Carlingford, Omeath, Gyles Quay	
Templetown	
Dublin Road	
Town Centre Containers emptied ready for replanting	
Market Street	
Demense	
Pearse Park	
Ramparts	
Bothar Na Feirme	
Red Barns Road	
Point Road	
Barrack Street	
Inner Relief Road	
Castletown Road	
Old Coes Road	
Centenary Road	
Fairgreen Road	
Northgate Street	
Ecco Road	
John Street	
Philip Street	
Riverside Crescent	
Riverside Walk	
Laurels	
Armagh Road	

Mooreland/Lennonmelia Crescent
 Riverside Walk
 Racecourse Road
 Mourne View Walkway
 Ardee Road
 Carrick Road
 Under the bridges at Fr. Murray Park
 Ashling Park Estate
 River Grids checked weekly and any debris lifted
 Bottle Banks at Long Walk and Harp Car Park
 Meadow Grove
 Strimming around verges and walls
 Strimming along the By-Pass
 Gateway at Hoey's Lane cleared every day and area litter picked
 Rubbish removed daily from the Bottle Banks
 Grass Cutting in progress
 Removing suckers from Trees
 Lifting dumped rubbish from Ashling Park – sofas and general household rubbish
 All tubs checked for rubbish
 Cleaned borders around Town
 Hanging baskets and planters watered regularly
 Illegal dumping is ongoing at Williamsons Place
 Weeds sprayed in areas around Town
 Weed scrubber used to remove dying and dead weeds along the footpaths

Folmhú Araidí Poiblí / Emptying of Public Bins	Líon agus minicíocht / Numbers and frequency
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Emptying of bins in Carlingford, Omeath, Greenore,
 Templetown Car Park, Gyles Quay area. Extra bin collection over the Summer months due to end in September

Nightly by contractor in Dundalk – 200 bins

Scuabadh Bóithre / Road Sweeping	Bealaí gach tseachtain / Routes per week Sweeping of roads for surface dressing Sweeping of R173, Bellurgan Straight, Lordship Village Dundalk –daily, nightly, weekly and monthly as per contract
Folmhú Araidí Salachar Madra / Emptying Dog Waste Receptacles As per bin management in Cooley and Dundalk	Líon gach tseachtain / Number per week
Seiceál Baoithe Tarrthála / Ring Buoy Checking By the Water Safety Officer in Cooley Ring buoys checked and weekly report sent to the Water Safety Officer Lifebuoy issues this month where at Ice House Hill, since replaced and new ropes added	Líon Seiceáilte gach tseachtain / Number checked weekly 27 checked weekly
Seiceál Trealamh Áiteanna Sugарtha agus Corpacmhainne / Checking of Playground and Gym Equipment Lordship, Cooley, Carlingford, Omeath Checked weekly in Dundalk by the Parks caretaker Litter pick in Parks	Suíomhanna Seiceáilte Laethúil / Number of sites checked daily

Suíomh / Location		Nótaí / Notes
Deisiú Bóithre / Road Repairs	<u>Cooley</u> Ongoing patching of local roads, also isolated pothole within the area at the R173 Bush Preparation of flood damaged roads, remedial works, patching, drainage, ongoing works by contractor of roads that were damaged by recent floods in late 2023 Ongoing hedge cutting on regional roads, site lines, local roads junctions leading up to schools	

	<p><u>Dundalk</u></p> <p>Pot hole repairs carried in different estates around Town</p>	
<p>Feabhasúchán Draenála / Drainage Remediation</p>	<p><u>Cooley</u></p> <p>Drainage at Annaverna, Upper Jenkinstown, Ballymakellett Ravensdale, Ballagoley Benagh, New Line L-305230 Omeath</p> <p><u>Dundalk</u></p> <p>None at this time</p>	
<p>Crainn Leagtha nó Chontúirteacha / Fallen or Dangerous Trees</p>	<p>None at this time</p>	
<p>Cothabháil Cosán / Footpath Maintenance</p>	<p>None at this time</p>	
<p>Deisiú Soilse Tráichta / Traffic Light Repairs</p>	<p>Ongoing repairs and bulb replacement at various lights around Dundalk</p>	
<p>Marcáil Bóithre / Road Markings</p>	<p><u>Cooley</u></p> <p>Refreshed road markings on R173, Riverstown, Omeath village at the school</p> <p><u>Dundalk</u></p> <p>Markings being refreshed in Dundalk</p>	
<p>Comharthaíocht/ Signage</p>	<p><u>Cooley</u></p> <p>Ongoing maintenance of advance warning signs at all junctions</p> <p><u>Dundalk</u></p> <p>Adjusted signs repositioned Erected 'No Entry' signs Replaced directional bollards at island junctions New 'Stop' signs in areas</p>	

<p>Dumpáil Neamhdhleathach / Illegal Dumping</p>	<p><u>Dundalk</u></p> <p>Dumping continues especially in Ashling Park and along the By-Pass.</p> <p>Entrance to Woodview Estate, black bags being dumped weekly</p> <p>Bags of litter picked up from all the estates weekly</p>	
<p>Glanadh Graifítí / Graffiti Removal</p>	<p>Cleaned graffiti at Chu Cuchulainn,</p>	



The Cooley Bull being restored to the M1 By-Pass

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

<p>Piocadh Bruscair / Litter Picking</p>	<p>Suíomh agus méadar sa mhí / Location and metres per month</p> <p>N/A</p>
<p>Folmhú Araidí Poiblí / Emptying of Public Bins</p>	<p>Líon agus minicíocht / Numbers and frequency</p> <p>Blackrock – 6 days a week</p> <p>Knockbridge – once a week</p> <p>Dromiskin – once a week</p> <p>Tallanstown & Louth Village – once a week</p>
<p>Scuabadh Bóithre / Road Sweeping</p>	<p>Bealaí gach seachtain / Routes per week</p> <p>N/A</p>
<p>Folmhú Araidí Salachar Madra / Emptying Dog Waste Receptacles</p>	<p>Líon gach seachtain / Number per week</p> <p>As per bin schedule</p>
<p>Seiceál Baoithe Tarrthála / Ring Buoy Checking</p>	<p>Líon Seiceáilte gach seachtain / Number checked weekly</p> <p>Blackrock – checked weekly</p> <p>Annagassan – checked weekly</p>

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

Killanny, Louth Village, Castlebellingham –
checked weekly

Blackrock – checked weekly

Suíomh / Location		Nótaí / Notes
Deisiú Bóithre / Road Repairs		Road repairs and patching & cleaning up Tree pruning/vegetation maintenance/verge trimming Resurfacing/overlay works (by contract)
Feabhasúchán Draenála / Drainage Remediation		Drainage maintenance – cleansing and gully cleaning, opening outlets & storm drains, preparation for surface dressing
Crainn Leagtha nó Chontúirteacha / Fallen or Dangerous Trees		Clearing fallen trees & debris
Cothabháil Cosán / Footpath Maintenance		Footpath renewal scheme underway
Deisiú Soilse Tráchtá / Traffic Light Repairs		N/A
Marcáil Bóithre / Road Markings		Renewal of junction markings Renewal of existing and provision of additional road markings
Comharthaíocht / Signage		Cleansing/repair/replacement/new signage

Dumpáil Neamhdhleathach / Illegal Dumping		Collection of dumped waste for disposal Collection and disposal of waste after community clean up
Glanadh Graifítí / Graffiti Removal		n/a

Ceantar Bardasach Bhaile Átha Fhirdhia / Ardee Municipal District

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

Piocadh Bruscair / Litter Picking	Suíomh agus méadar sa mhí / Location and metres per month
All bins in Ardee daily Clogherhead car park daily clean up around bins	
Folmhú Araidí Poiblí / Emptying of Public Bins	Líon agus minicíocht / Numbers and frequency
Ardee Town	37 Daily
Dunleer Town	20 Tuesday and Thursday
Collon	3 Tuesday and Thursday
Port Oriel Pier	7 Daily
Clogherhead Beach	8 Daily
Port Beach	6 Daily
Termonfeckin	6 Daily
Baltray	3 Daily
Seapoint Carpark	3 Daily
Erecting of bin at Riverside Walk	
Erecting of bin at Link Road	
Scuabadh Bóithre / Road Sweeping	Bealaí gach seachtain / Routes per week
All routes in Ardee Town (5.2km per day)	

Folmhú Araidí Salachar Madra / Emptying Dog Waste Receptacles	Líon gach seachtain / Number per week
As per bin cleaning schedule	
Seiceál Baoithe Tarrhála / Ring Buoy Checking	Líon Seiceáilte gach seachtain / Number checked weekly
Ardee Town – River Dee	
Salterstown	
Port Beach	
Seiceál Trealamh Áiteanna Sugartha agus Corpacmhainne / Checking of Playground and Gym Equipment	Suíomhanna Seiceáilte Laethúil / Number of sites checked daily
Maintenance and cleaning of Fairgreen and Dunleer parks and playgrounds complete with daily checks of the playground and exercise equipment at both locations	

Suíomh / Location		Nótaí / Notes
Deisiú Bóithre / Road Repairs	L-6276-0 Baggotstown R-170-152 Carrickbaggot to Walshtown L-6292-0 Tinure Cross L-2299-17 Newtown Monasterboice L-6327-0 Beaulieu L-6286-0 & L-6286-23 Monasterboice to Harestown R166 Drogheda to Termonfeckin L-2255 Hoathstown L-2254 Dromin – Rathescar L-5266 Mountainstown Road R132 North of Dunleer R132 South of Dunleer	Surface Dressing works Drogheda Rural Area Kilsaran as part of the 2024 Road Works Programme
Feabhasúchán Draenála / Drainage Remediation	L-2255 Hoathstown L-2254 Dromin – Rathescar L-5266 Mountainstown Road	
Crainn Leagtha nó Chontúirteacha / Fallen or Dangerous Trees		

Cothabháil Cosán / Footpath Maintenance		
Deisiú Soilse Tráichta / Traffic Light Repairs		
Marcáil Bóithre / Road Markings		
Comharthaíocht / Signage	Maintaining Surface Dressing signage on the following roads: L-6276-0 Baggotstown R-170-152 Carrickbaggot to Walshtown L-6292-O Tinure L-2299-17 Newtown Monasterboice L-6327-0 Beaulieu L-6286-0 Monasterboice to Harestown R166 Drogheda to Termonfeckin	
Dumpáil Neamhdhleathach / Illegal Dumping		
Glanadh Graifítí / Graffiti Removal		





Ceanntar Buirge Dhroichead Átha / Borough District of Drogheda

Ceanntar Baile Dhroichead Átha / Drogheda Town Area

Piocadh Bruscair / Litter Picking

Suíomh agus méadar gach mí / Location and metres per month

Steps and lane ways weekly

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 every Saturday evening

Drogheda Rural Bring Banks are cleared daily during working week

Folmhú Araidí Poiblí / Emptying of Public Bins

Líon agus minicíocht / Numbers and frequency

Drogheda Town Centre – circa 60 litterbins emptied daily every morning

234 litter bins (including 10 Solar Bins) are emptied weekly around the town

Dominic's Park and Mell River Walk emptied daily

	<p>South Louth Drogheda Municipal District rural area's litter bins are emptied twice a week or daily when needed, especially at the beaches – at least 40 bins per day</p> <p>Approach roads in Drogheda town emptied twice a week</p> <p>Power washing of pavements and street furniture in West Street on-going</p>
<p>Scuabadh Bóithre / Road Sweeping</p>	<p>Bealaí gach seachtain / Routes per week</p> <p>Town centre daily, approach roads fortnightly</p> <p>Public Housing Estates – swept every two months</p> <p>Private Housing Estates – swept every three months, when resources allow</p> <p>Hotspots cleaned weekly on Monday after the weekend, decided daily by Supervisor after checking around the Drogheda Urban area</p> <p>Villages are swept once per month – i.e. Termonfeckin, Baltray, Sandpit, Monasterboice, Tullyallen and Tinure</p> <p>Drogheda town Boyne river walkways are swept three times a week – Monday, Wednesday and Friday</p> <p>Road sweepers are used in the town centre and approach roads with particular attention to Collon Road, Ramparks, Termonfeckin Road, Windmill Road and Crosslanes</p> <p>Weed Control on-going by Parks & Roads Sections at North Strand, Ballsgrove, Park View, Palace Street & Church Street</p> <p>Up-grade for gravel footpath at Old Abbey Lane</p>
<p>FolmhúAraidí Salachar Madra / Emptying Dog Waste Receptacles</p>	<p>Líon gach seachtain / Number per week</p> <p>About 35 emptied once a week, washed and disinfected</p>

Seiceál Baoithe Tarrhála / Ring Buoy Checking	Líon Seiceáilte gach seachtain / Number checked weekly 89 ring buoys checked each week Town area (Thursday) 9 ring buoys checked each week at Rosehall (Friday)
Seiceál Trealamh Áiteanna Sugartha agus Corpacmhainne / Checking of Playground and Gym Equipment	Suíomhanna Seiceáilte Laethúil / Number of sites checked daily Between 4 and 5 daily (4 playgrounds in Drogheda town, skate park, adult exercise equipment, 3 playgrounds in Drogheda Rural area) cleaned and disinfected.

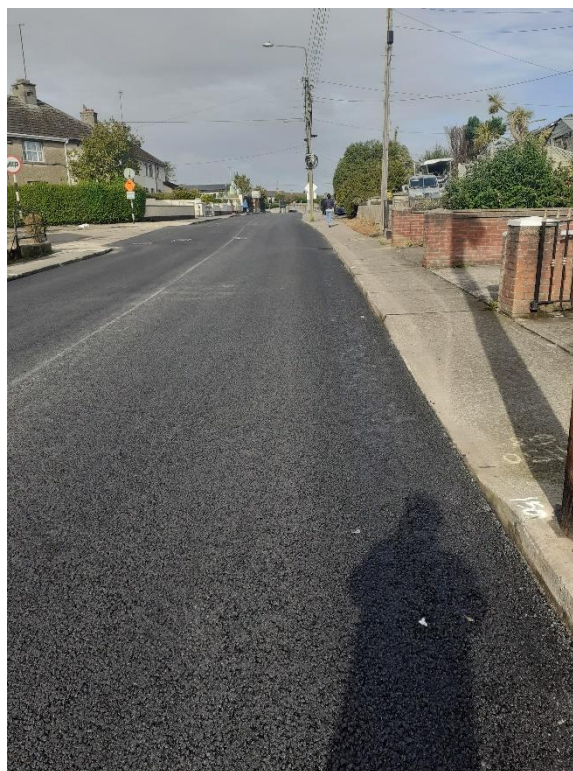
Suíomh / Location		Nótaí / Notes
Deisiú Bóithre / Road Repairs	<p>Pot hole repairs at Patrick's Street, Ballymakenny Road, Baltray Road & Marian Park</p> <p>Sluice gate at Flaxmill Lane, wall and gate repairs – structural engineer appointed for design and project supervisor design process – await quotation from contractor prior to proceed with works</p> <p>Reinstatement of gravel footpath at Old Abbey Lane</p> <p>Footpath closure at Shop Street and pedestrian diversion due to emergency works at Mr. I Phone Shop – scaffold due to be removed in next two weeks</p> <p>Martello Villages – erection of pedestrian barriers – footpath & road subsidence – arrange for survey of underground services – survey now complete & road repair works to commence in September</p> <p>Reinstatement of vehicle barriers at Bolton Street Carpark</p>	

	<p>Road Works Programme – Resurfacing Works 2024</p> <p>Contractor has commenced resurfacing 20/08/2024</p> <p>To date the following roads have been completed:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Bredin Street 2. Patricks Street 3. Bolton Street <p><u>CIS Lanes:</u></p> <p>Tenders received and shall be reviewed with intention for works to commence in September</p> <p>Drogheda Improvement Accessibility Scheme 2024</p> <p>Consultant has now been appointed, tender documents due to be complete at the end of August with intention then to go to tender</p>	
<p>Feabhasúchán Draenála / Drainage Remediation</p>	<p>Annual Drogheda Gully cleaning programme ongoing</p> <p>Road gully cleaning at Thomas Street, Pearse Park, Castlewood & Newfoundwell Road</p>	
<p>Crainn Leagtha nó Chontúirteacha / Fallen or Dangerous Trees</p>	<p>Duleek Street – Green space outside Millmount Tower – inspection with view to carrying out pruning works</p>	
<p>Cothabháil Cosán / Footpath Maintenance</p>	<p>Commenced planned footpath repairs at:</p> <p>Marian Park Clintons Lane Dual Carriageway outside bus station James Street Old Abbey Lane Hillbrook Drive</p>	
<p>Deisiú Soilse Tráichta / Traffic Light Repairs</p>	<p>General maintenance/replacement for lamps</p>	

	Up grade of traffic light loops at Termonfeckin Bridge – to commence September	
Marcáil Bóithre / Road Markings	Plan to mark pedestrian crossing at Trinity Street with junction of the Fair Green	
Comharthaíocht / Signage	New signage for St. Catherine of Siena Monastery New bollards outside chemist at Ballsgrove New road signage at dual carriageway/Rathmullen junction after RTA	
Marú fiailí / Weed killing	Weed control on going by parks and roads sections at North Strand, Ballsgrove Park View, Palace Street and Church Street	
Díghalrú glantacháin boscaí bruscair / Litterbin cleaning disinfecting	On going on weekly basis	
Dumpáil Neamhdhleathach / Illegal Dumping		
Glanadh Graifítí / Graffiti Removal		



Marian Park Footpath Reinstatement



Bredin Street Resurfacing

Comhfhorbairt Áite / Placemaking

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

West Gate Vision (Drogheda)

The Westgate planning application is currently with An Bord Pleanála for determination. LCC has responded, as requested, to submissions made to ABP and are awaiting further information and/or planning report to be issued.

The planning application to An Bord Pleanála seeks approval for significant regeneration of the Westgate area of Drogheda. Preparation of the Westgate planning stage has been financially supported by the Urban Regeneration Development Fund (URDF) as part of Project Ireland 2040 and match funded by Louth County Council.

The proposed improvements to the public realm in Westgate will encompass several streets including Georges Street to Dominick Street and from Fair Street to Father Connolly Way. Included among the proposed works are:

- A new gateway plaza at George's Square
- Flexible community and cultural space

- Public art installation marking the location of the medieval West Gate
- Revitalising the river front
- Repair and restoration of the Old Abbey and the Medieval Wall

Louth County Council's Place Making Team has been supported by lead planning and communications consultant, Turley. The planning application has been shaped by the feedback from the local community.

The Westgate planning documents, including the suite of drawings, the EIAR and the AA Stage 2 reports, represent a large volume of material and statutory planning information presented to An Bord Pleanála.

Full details of the proposed works are available here:

<https://consult.louthcoco.ie/en/consultation/westgate-2040>



Artist impressions of Westgate project

St. Nicholas Quarter and Backlands Regeneration (Dundalk)

Phase 1

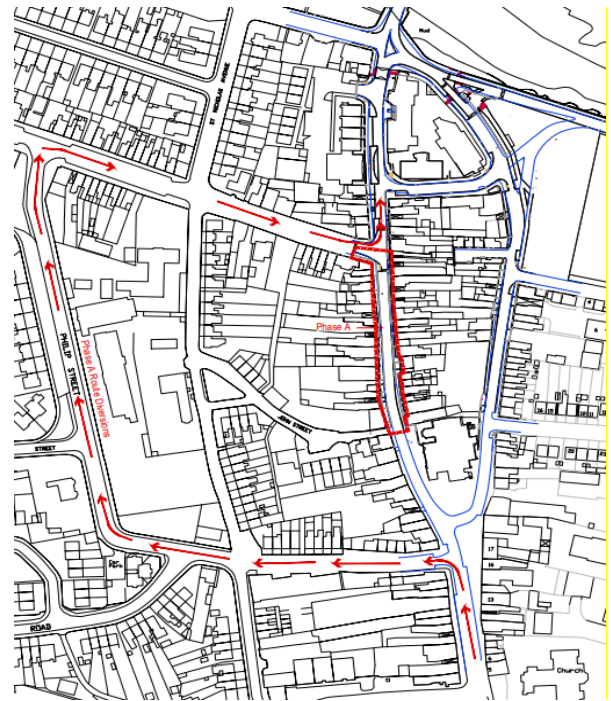
BDP Ltd are the appointed Urban Design Team for Phase 1 of the St. Nicholas Quarter project. This project involves the enhancement of the public realm along Bridge Street, Linenhall Street and Peace Park. Part 8 approval of the project was received in April 2018.

Following Decision Gate 2 for funding approval by the URDF, as per the Public Spending Code, the tender for construction phase was advertised, and closed in Q1 2024.

Louth County Council have signed contracts with Glas Civil Engineering Ltd. for the delivery of the St. Nicholas Quarter Regeneration Scheme. To minimise the impact on residents and businesses the works will be completed on a phase-by phase basis. Phase A has commenced on lower Bridge Street, from St. Nicholas Church to the Castletown Road.

To complete these works, this section of Bridge Street has been closed to traffic since mid-August for approximately four months. Diversion routes are in place via Patrick Street, Philip Street, and the Castletown Road. Pedestrian access will always be maintained and deliveries to and from all businesses will be accommodated to minimise the impact as much as possible. Glas have appointed a dedicated Liaison Officer for any queries, John Caffrey jcaffrey@glascel.ie

Phase A Closure and diversions



Phase 2

Phase 2 of the St. Nicholas Quarter project involves initial feasibility, analysis and preparation of a design concept for the re-development of the Backlands area of the St. Nicholas Quarter. The accepted concept will then be developed to Part 8 planning with full public consultation. BDP Ltd are the appointed consultant team, following the tender process for design stage.

A town health check has been completed on the area and initial summary report completed by the design team. BDP delivered a public engagement afternoon on Wednesday 21st February in County Hall, Dundalk. The event was well-attended with positive feedback received on the project and local insights provided on the St Nicholas Quarter area.

BDP are currently engaged with LCC in the initial feasibility and analysis stages in preparation of a design concept for St Nicholas Quarter – Phase II. Engagement with project stakeholders is ongoing. Presentation to LCC Senior Management is planned imminently.

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

Continuous on-site inspections and negotiations with property owners are ongoing regarding buildings in Dundalk and Drogheda. The process of acquiring the initial tranche of properties selected to be compulsorily acquired has commenced. Several properties have been

identified as appropriate and valuations have been acquired on an initial group of properties. Discussion will now commence regarding the next steps for these properties.

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

Ardee Castle

Tender documentation for the procurement of a contractor is complete.

A decision gate 2 application has been made to the sponsoring agency the Department of Rural and Community Development seeking approval to go to tender. Once this is approved the tender documents will be uploaded to etenders.

Living in Carlingford Visiting Carlingford



This project has planning permission in place since July 2023. An application for Category 1 funding for the project was submitted to the RRDF Call 5 in February 2024 and unfortunately was not successful. Louth County Council is now looking at other possible funding streams for this important project and hope to Tender for the detailed design in Q3/Q4 2024.

Omeath Placemaking Scheme

The Placemaking project at Omeath is now completed on site, with making good of defects ongoing by the main contractor, GLAS Civil Engineering.

The Omeath Placemaking scheme has enhanced pedestrian accessibility and safety through the village with the creation of new crossing points, footpaths and widening of existing footpaths. The project has also enhanced linkages to the Omeath Greenway.



Main Street View



New Seating and planting Main Street

Ardee 2040

Turley Planning are in the process of completing the final design Audits, reports and planning documents for Ardee 2040. Louth County Council are currently engaged with TII in relation to pre-planning approval for the main street. The planning submission will then be lodged with An Bord Pleanála.

The project will enhance the streetscape and amenity areas in Ardee with a focus on the key areas of the Main Street, the Old Railway Lands and the new amenity lands to the east of the town centre.

The objective of Ardee 2040 is to develop projects that support regeneration, compact growth and sustainable development. The key themes are: creating quality gateways; public spaces; recreational areas; sporting areas and public realm in Ardee, improving connectivity and legibility for all members of the community and for visitors/tourists to the town.

The project aims to capitalise and respect the rich heritage of the town centre location by providing new and better-quality streets and associated services, junction upgrades, cycleways, walkways and sports recreational areas.

Tionscadail Breise / Additional Projects

St Laurence's Gate Plaza, Drogheda

Further environmental reports that are required for the Part 8 planning process are in progress and are being prepared for St Laurence's Gate Plaza.



Funding of €50,000 has been awarded to Dunleer under the Town and Village, Project Development Measure funding stream. The funding will allow for the appointment of a design team to complete the initial design stages for the Library Square project. The Library Square project is one of the main initiatives that has arisen through the Dunleer Town Centre First plan and proved very popular at public consultation events and online surveys.

Tionscadail Tras-Rannóg / Cross Departmental Projects

Play Spaces

The Part 8 planning process for the new play space at Termonfeckin was approved at the December meeting of Drogheda Municipal District. Work on the project is progressing. Kompan Ireland Ltd were appointed for the contract to Design & Build the new play space. The playground has been completed and is currently being snagged. Works to provide a footpath and parking space will commence in September.

Reports for St. Dominic's Park playground refurbishment and The Glen are being undertaken including AA Screening Stage 1 report.

Tionscadail Tosaíochta do Lár an Bhaile / Town Centre First Projects

Town Centre First Plan - Dunleer

The Town Centre First Plan for Dunleer was launched in conjunction with the Dunleer Town Team in the new Centre for Excellence at the Market House in May.

The funding allows for a consultant team to complete the initial design stages including successful planning permission. The project will create a new public space adjacent the soon to be completed Library building (former Bank of Ireland) on the main street. The existing unused public toilets will make way to create much needed public pedestrian space in the heart of the town. The project will include new hard surfacing, kerbing, street furniture, feature lighting, planting, cycle parking and associated signage.

Town Centre First Plan – Clogherhead

A public consultation event was held on 8th May in the Clogherhead Community Centre, the event drew substantial local interest with over 120 attendees including predominantly local residents.



In parallel to this a Consultation Questionnaire was made available both in person and online for a 2 week period to gain a comprehensive

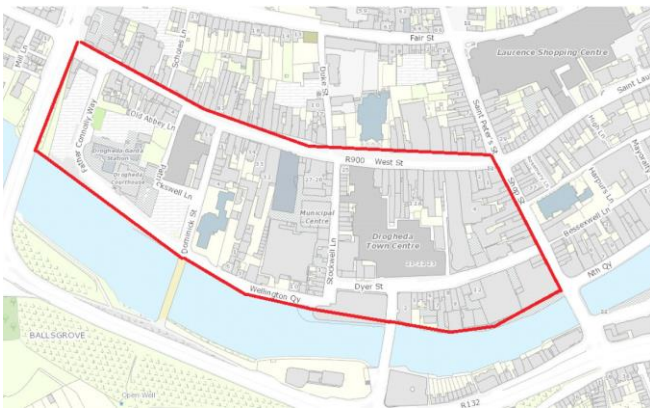
understanding of the village's needs and demands through engagement with the local community.

A parking survey was carried out in August to assess the parking dynamic during the summer period. Other surveys and investigation work are ongoing.



THRIVE – Town Centre First Heritage Revival Scheme

Louth County Council were successful in receiving the maximum amount of €200k under Strand 1 THRIVE funding stream for Drogheda.



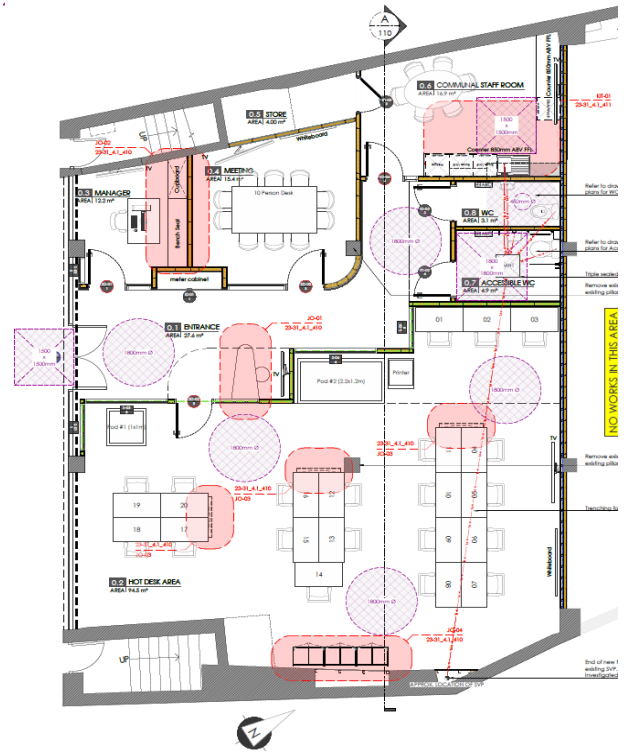
The funding will go towards the appointment of an Integrated Design Team that will lead on the creation of an Integrated Urban Strategy for the centre of Drogheda. The consultant team will also complete a design and Part 8 planning procedure for a Heritage building in the area.

Following completion of the planning procedure funding for the construction works will be sought under Strand 2 of the Thrive funding scheme.

The tender for appointment of the design team has been issued on etenders and will close in August.

Drogheda Digital Innovation Hub

The tender for the appointment of a contractor for works to part of the former O'Reilly building on Narrow West Street went live on etenders in August.



Town Team Support Fund

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

€10k was awarded to both Castlebellingham and Collon. The funding will go towards appointing a consultant to carry out a Town Centre Health Check for each town.

Vacant Homes Officer

A dedicated Vacant Homes Officer is now in place, and they have been engaging with the owners of vacant homes regarding their properties and the supports available to return them to use. Vacant Home notices have been affixed to several properties in the county where there is no easily identifiable owner in order to drive engagement. A small pilot has returned an over 75% response rate on these notices so far, leading on to engagement with these owners.

Suspected or known Vacant Homes can be referred to the Vacant Homes Officer via vacanthomes.ie by members of the public. Properties previously logged on the site have been inspected & engagement with a small number remaining that will be inspected in the coming weeks.

Forbairt Fhísiciúil / Physical Development

Tionscadail Bóithre / Roads Projects

Narrow Water Bridge

BAM Civil Ltd have now been awarded as the main contractor for the Project. Works are expected to take 36 - 42 months.

Southern Works: Construction of the formation level of the main carriageway and roundabout are ongoing, temporary traffic diversion for the R173 and the greenway are in place. Piling for the abutment is substantially complete. ESB low voltage diversion completed. Design for 38kv ongoing.

Northern Works: Proposed surface water diversion works has commenced in the North. Programme of works for Archaeology monitoring submitted and awaiting approval.



Culvert Works Northern Approach.

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

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

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

The design team continues to engage with the landowners, their agents, and other stakeholders.

Archaeological Phase 1 test trenching commenced on site. Works experienced delays due to some landowners not allowing access to lands for reasons varying from having planted crops on lands to compensation agreements. Approval has been given by TII to Land Valuers services to proceed to make offers on all the cases on the Scheme. Land Valuers are now engaging with Landowner/Agents.



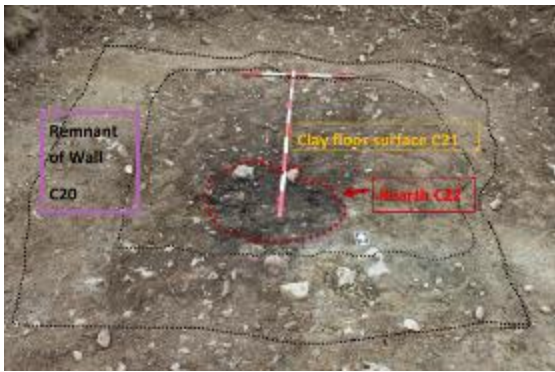
Roadworks Southern Approach.



Piling Works Southern Abutment



Archaeology Trenching Monitoring



Remnants of wall and hearth found during Archaeology trenching

The initial peer review of draft main works construction tender documents is completed and has been reviewed by the Claims Advisors, Chandler KBC. A T2 budget submission for the entire project has been submitted to the TII for their review and approval.

A works order has been made to ESB for relocation of 38kv overhead network and form NW1 for low voltage line has been submitted to ESB. We await a date from ESB on when these works will progress. Tender layout for the watermain diversion has been agreed with Uisce Eireann. Payment of invoice has been made. The Design Team have received a design from Eir Utilities for new and relocated services, these have now been incorporated into tender documentation.

Results from advanced sampling and testing of private wells along the N53 at Hackballscross have been received, The results of the sampling have been issued to the relevant landowners and the Councils Rural Water section.

N2 Ardee to Castleblayney Road Scheme

Currently no allocation of funding from TII was provided to Monaghan Co. Council to progress the major project, and the design work continues to be suspended.

The N2 Project Team can be contacted by landowners and members of the public via the N2 Project Phonenumber 087 340 3786, or email: ArdeeCastleblayney@N2MonaghanLouth.ie

N52 Ardee Bypass

In relation to the High Court Case held on April, a judgement was made on the 14th of May, see below link to the Courts conclusion:

www.courts.ie/acc/alfresco/85270a60-0d3a-4187-b1cb-72bfe0e1eb9e/2024_IEHC_292.pdf/pdf#view=fitH

Within the Judgment the Judge directed that the Applicant should prepare its application for leave to appeal to the Court of Appeal and the ABP response to same. The hearing in respect of the grant of leave to appeal has now been given a date of the 15th of Oct. 2024.

Boyne Enterprise Link Road

Louth County Council Section of the road is now complete. Final account has been agreed.

Ongoing consultations including a valuation process are taking place with stakeholders / landowners to acquire adjoining roadway. The CPO process has also commenced in conjunction with the valuation process.



Section of New Road

R178 Cavan to Dundalk Strategic Route Improvement Scheme

Department of Transport allocated monies in 2024 towards progressing feasibility and options design. Tenders for consultants were issued to the DoT in late March and received approval to proceed to tender at the end of May. Tender Documents are currently out to the Market with a return date of early Sept.

Glasbhealaí / Greenways

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

Section 1 – Carlingford Tourist Office to Carlingford Marina

Main civil works in Carlingford complete. Trailhead complete in Carlingford.



Trailhead bicycle stands installed Carlingford



Trailhead sign installed in Carlingford

Section 2 - Omeath to the Border

Mainline route of greenway now complete. Substantial completion achieved.



Section of Greenway through NWB site.

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

Additional funding from Dept of Transport capital grant will be made available to Louth County Council for an amount up to €2,961,413, this grant will be available to claim in the period ending 31st December 2024 for expenditure to complete the project.

Section 3 – Northern Ireland

Works have commenced Nov. 2023 in NI to facilitate, and the cross-border element has been installed as far as the start of the proposed boardwalk.

Design works for the foundation design and manufacturing, off-site, for the boardwalk has commenced.

AG Wilson have set up site compound in Victoria Lock and have commenced site clearance work in advance of piling.



Site clearance for piling

The project partners are continuing to meet monthly to review and assess the various aspects of the project. Shared Island funding of €1.5m has been made available to the NI section to complete works in 2024.

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

Dundalk Bay to Carlingford Greenway

TII approval received to move the project into options phase.

Public Consultation No 2 was held on Wed 19th June 2024 in Ballymascanlon Hotel. Advertised in local papers, radio and online. 200 people signed the attendance sheet with many more in attendance. An interactive map of the route corridors options is available at <https://www.dundalkcarlingfordgreenway.ie/interactive-map>



Route Corridor Options



Public Consultation No. 2

Dundalk MD elected representatives' workshop was held to provide further information.

Public feedback will be used to assist the team in determining the preferred route corridor which will be presented at PC3. The date for making submissions in relation to Public Consultation No.2 has been **extended to 6th September 2024**.

Environmental assessments are ongoing including meetings with the project ecologist.

The Total Performance Period for the Contract is 40 months (Phase 1 – 6mths, Phase 2 – 8mths, Phase 3 – 20mths, Phase 4 – 6 mths).

Scéim Bonneagair Áineasa Aeraíochta / Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme

The Beach Accessibility Project relates to better accessibility to the beach areas at Templetown, Clogherhead and Port beaches.

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

Tender Documents for construction are now currently with our procurement team to be issued to the market.

Access Road at Newtown, Drogheda

Main carriageway works are completion. Safety file is being prepared and snagging ongoing for the completed project to be handed over to the Council.

Tionscadail LIHAF / LIHAF Project:

Mount Avenue Road Upgrade

The scheme is now nearing completion. Works in relation to Uisce Éireann infrastructure at the Castleblaney Road/Mill Rd Junction are complete.

Works in relation to the new signalised junction on the Carrickmacross Rd are ongoing along with new line marking.

Traffic has been diverted from the Rise/Paddocks though Lis Na Dara from 1st July 2024 to enable the Contractor to complete the cul-de-sac works of Mount Avenue. Public lighting and landscaping works are on-going at the cul-de-sac area of Mount Ave. Temporary traffic calming measures will be in place in Lis na Dara for the duration of these works.

Final surface course and road lining for the project road are complete and it is expected to achieve substantial completion stage in the next few weeks.



Surface course and ramps at The Rise/Paddocks.



Section of carriageway nearing completion. Works south of Castletown Cross

Tionscadail Corparáideach / Corporate Projects

Redevelopment Fair Street Offices, Drogheda

Project Practical completion will be awarded on Monday September 2nd, coinciding with official opening and relocation of staff from Motor Tax and Customer Services to “new build”. Minor snagging is continuing and will continue by Main Contractor throughout development. IT Staff are fitting out for Staff requirements. AV equipment installation is being carried out in Council Chamber. Arts and Archives have installed a Items for display in exhibition space.



Panoramic View from Fair Street



Block B Exhibition Space



Feature Stairs and fixed furniture



New Foyer and Customer Service Counter

Dunleer Fire Station

Final purchase of the lands process is on-going but in latter stages of purchase process being completed.

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

Dundalk Fire Station Training Centre

Tender documents for the appointment of a design team have been tendered in early June, with a return date in mid-July. However, no tenders were received. A negotiated tender process to procure a consultant has been successfully completed and Stage 1 Report consisting of Project Inception and Preliminary Investigation has commenced.

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

Dundalk & Ardee Flood Relief Projects

Consultant Engineers Binnies/ Nicholas O'Dwyer JV continue to work on Stage 1 of the project. The hydraulic analysis and modelling of the various flooding mechanisms has been finalised. Flood risk mapping for the fluvial, coastal and the wave overtopping mechanisms have also been produced for the specified return periods. This mapping forms the basis for the assessment of potential measures which will alleviate the flood risk in Dundalk and Blackrock.

The long lists for the fluvial and coastal measures have been compiled, analysed and discussed with the Council and OPW and representatives from the Steering Group. The next step is to combine the

shortlisted measures into potential flood relief options for integration in the options development report.

The initial assessment of the extent and severity of damages caused by flood events in Dundalk and Blackrock has been initiated. These calculated damages (i.e. before any flood relief measures are implemented) will be a reference point to measure the effectiveness of the potential flood relief options.

The tender process for the Site Investigation (SI) works is out to the market on extenders, with a closing date of the 11th of September. The Appropriate Assessment Screening report for the proposed Site Investigation (SI) works is being finalised and will be submitted to Louth Co. Council for a determination.

The Archaeological Impact Assessment (AIA) is ongoing, focusing on potential impacts from the SI works on archaeology and built heritage and will be prepared in line with consultations with the National Monument Service.

The detailed topographic surveys for Dundalk and Blackrock have been completed on site and the surveyors are processing the collected data.

The Draft Options Report has been delivered for Ardee and is being finalised and reviewed by Louth County Council and OPW. Monthly project briefing notes are being issued to the current relevant stakeholders. The Project website being hosted by OPW can be reached at:

www.floodinfo.ie/frs/en/dundalk/home

Drogheda and Baltray Flood Relief Project

The Consultant Engineers RPS are continuing to work on Stage 1 of the Project.

The Steering Group are continuing to collect data to ensure the most accurate and up to date information is used to inform the technical analyses being undertaken to meet the project objectives. Following a site visit in June 2024 (Figure 1), RPS have identified the requirement for additional topographical survey information along the banks of the Boyne and geotechnical information adjacent to existing walls. This information is required to facilitate assessing the potential of existing walls to be developed as part of the scheme. RPS are preparing survey specifications prior to procuring and managing Contractors to gather this data. The Council are

progressing the procurement of the underwater archaeology surveys.



Figures 1 & 2 showing photographs taken during the June 2024 site visit

RPS have undertaken a review of the modelled flood extents and identified where flood defences will be required along the River Boyne and its tributaries. The defence locations have been defined on maps showing their extents and average height for both a present-day scenario and climate change scenario. These preliminary proposals are being discussed with the Steering Group as part of the process to identify a preferred option.

Next step includes an assessment of potential flood relief scheme options (including using the hydraulic model to simulate the impact an option would have to the flooding mechanisms) will continue in advance of identifying a preferred option. This assessment will include consultation with stakeholders to identify and discuss any issues, constraints and opportunities that could inform the development of the Scheme.

RPS will prepare an application for a Maritime Area Consent (MAC) from the Maritime Area Regulatory Authority (MARA). This is required as there will be works undertaken beneath the high-water mark on the River Boyne.

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 appointed CCTV and Topo survey Contractors are on site gathering the information needed to inform the prospective Hydraulic model.

The OPW are continuing to develop a brief for consultants to carry out the scheme.

The Local Authority are in the process of appointing engineering staff member to progress the project.

Tionscadail Muirí / Marine Projects

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

The Council submitted 3 No. Section 177AE Planning Applications to An Bord Pleanála on January 18th for proposed coastal protection works at the following locations:

- Drummullagh, Omeath, consultations with the Marine Area Regulatory Authority have been finalised. Subsequently an amended Section 177 AE has been submitted to An Bord Pleanála.
- Bellurgan Point (Section 177 AE ongoing),
- Ballynamoney/Ballagan, Greenore (Section 177 AE ongoing).

The submitted plans and particulars are available to view on:

<https://consult.louthcoco.ie/en/browse>

Thereafter, and subject to Section 177AE approval, tender documentation is to be prepared, and it is now anticipated to procure a civil engineering contractor in Q1/2 2025, with subsequent construction works programmed in accordance with the individual sites ecological constraints.

Tionscadail Cláir Scoileanna / Schools Programme Projects

Replacement School for St. Ita's and St. Mary's

Site acquired. Department of Education have submitted a planning application. Further information is due to be submitted by the applicant.

Ardee Education Together N.S.

Works on site continue to progress, Progress to date since previous monthly reporting:

- Blockwork Wall ongoing
- Roof Trusses to corridor sections 80% complete
- Reinforced concrete beams are now in place
- Masonry support to Special Needs Unit area 80% complete.
- RC beam to south wing now complete.

Monthly Forecast Works

- Continue with Rising Blockwork
- Finish Trusses to corridor section
- Measure of windows to SNU Area.



Roof Trusses installation



Overall site Progress

Ríomhchlár Infheistithe Tasaitil Gníomhaigh / Active Travel Investment Program

2024 Budget Allocation

On the 7th February 2024, The National Transport Authority (NTA) awarded Louth County Council a budget allocation of €4.5 million to advance thirty-two (32) 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 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 Cost Bands depending on the total estimated project cost including, fees, land acquisitions and constructions as follows.

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

They also divide the involvement of a Capital Investment project into a seven-phase process, i.e. (Phase 1 to Phase 7 inclusive) with seven Gateways Reports i.e. hold points, where local authorities are to prepare and submit Gateway Reports for sign-off before obtaining approval to advance to the next phase.

The seven different phases are as outlined below...

PHASE 1: Scope and Purpose

PHASE 2: Concept Development and Option Selection

PHASE 3: Preliminary Design

PHASE 4: Statutory Processes


PHASE 5: Detailed Design and Procurement



PHASE 6: Construction and Implementation


PHASE 7: Close-out and Review



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



Tionscadail Tasitil Gníomhaigh / Active Travel Projects

Project Name	Allocation 2024	Project Band (updated March 2024)	Current Phase	September 2024- Project update	Anticipated Part 8 Completions, subject to NTA approval of Gateways
Drogheda: R132, Bridge of Peace to Train Station (incorporating Marsh Road)	€200,000	Band 2 €5 - €20M	Phase 3 – Preliminary Design	<p>Gateway 2 Report approved by the NTA on 27th Sept 2023.</p> <p>The Design Team have now considered all submissions received as part of the Non-statutory Public Consultation process held in Sept / Oct 2023 and have incorporated some observations into the Preliminary Design i.e. Phase 3 Gateway 3 Report.</p> <p>A Gateway 3 Report and preliminary design Drawings amended to reflect the New Cycle Design Manual. Our Design Team are currently developing and analysing Traffic Modelling at all major junctions along the route and completing a Road Safety Audit. A workshop between LCC & NTA held on the 7th June 2024. All scheme layouts approved and the Design Team are to look at new junction layouts for Rathmullan Rd / Bridge of Peace and John Street Junctions.</p> <p>The Active Travel Team envisage to hold a second Non-Statutory Public Consultation event early October 2024. New junction layouts design under design for John Street and Rathmullan Road. Workshop to be held with NTA September 2024.</p> 	Proposed Part 8 display late Q4 2024
Drogheda: R166 Termonfeckin Rd, design.	€100,000	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 September 2024 in advance of public consultations. RPS to produce package which needs to be approved by NTA prior to going to Part 8. Workshop to be held with NTA Part 8 envisaged late Q4 2024</p>	Proposed Part 8 display late Q4 2024

Project Name	Allocation 2024	Project Band (updated March 2024)	Current Phase	September 2024- Project update	Anticipated Part 8 Completions, subject to NTA approval of Gateways
Drogheda: R168 Collon Rd, Hill of Rath RAB and Rosehall RAB.	€100,000	Band 2 €5 - €20M	Phase 2 - Concept and Options	<p>Gateway 2 Report completed and submitted to the NTA for approval. The Active Travel Team held a non-statutory consultation day in Drogheda Library on Thursday 22nd Feb 2024 between 3pm – 7pm. Councillors and Elected Official were invited to attend a closed session between 2pm – 3pm prior to opening to the public. All relevant observations / comments are now incorporated into the preliminary design.</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 Q4 2024
Drogheda: Rathmullan Road including Marley's (Pathfinder Project)	€150,000	Band 2 €5 - €20M	Phase 3 – Preliminary Design	A non-statutory consultation was held late 2023 and the Design Team have now considered all submissions received as part of the Non-statutory Public Consultation process in order to inform the Preliminary Design i.e. Phase 3 Gateway 3 Report.	Proposed Part 8 display Q3 2024

Project Name	Allocation 2024	Project Band (updated March 2024)	Current Phase	September 2024- Project update	Anticipated Part 8 Completions, subject to NTA approval of Gateways
				<p>GW 3 report (drawings, costing, Road Safety Audit) was completed in July 2024, with a likely proposed Part 8 display in October 2024. On-line briefing to be given to Drogheda MD in advance of Part 8 public display</p>  <p><u>View of Marley's Lane looking South from Aura Leisure</u></p>	
Drogheda Dublin and North roads, design.	€100,000	Band 2 €5 - €20M	Phase 2 - Concept and Options	<p>An update on the scheme was given to Drogheda and Bettystown / Laytown Municipal Districts on Tuesday 16th January 2024.</p> <p>The Active Travel Team are having on-going discussions with Irish Rail regarding Dublin Road Bridge and interaction with the Dart North Coastal Project.</p> <p>The Active Travel Team held a non-statutory consultation day in Drogheda Library on Thursday 22nd Feb 2024 between 3pm – 7pm. Councillors and Elected Official were invited to attend a closed session between 2pm – 3pm prior to opening to the public.</p> <p>Meeting with NTA , LCC and Irish Rail to held in middle of September. Projects are working away in background.</p>	North Rd, Drogheda - Proposed Part 8 display Q3 2024 Dublin Rd, Drogheda - Proposed Part 8 display depending on dialogue with NTA / Irish Rail.

Project Name	Allocation 2024	Project Band (updated March 2024)	Current Phase	September 2024- Project update	Anticipated Part 8 Completions, subject to NTA approval of Gateways
				 <p data-bbox="919 570 1419 592">View of Dublin Rd, Drogheda Rd looking South</p>	
Dundalk: R132 Inner Relief Rd. (Pathfinder Project)	€250,000	Band 2 €5 - €20M	Phase 4 Statutory Process	<p data-bbox="793 597 1547 651">IRR Part 8 CE Report was presented to Dundalk MD meeting 10th September 2024.</p>  <p data-bbox="827 1045 1514 1092">View of Inner Relief Rd, Dundalk looking north from Hoey's Lane Roundabout extract from Fly Through</p>	GW4 to NTA Q4 2024
Dundalk: Dublin Rd Xerox Junction to Ladywell Bridge	€150,000	Band 2 €5 - €20M	Phase 4 Statutory Process	Project went on public display 03/09/2024 as part of the Part 8 Planning process. Project available to view on the National Planning Portal.	Closing date for submissions 15 th October 2024 at 5:00pm

Project Name	Allocation 2024	Project Band (updated March 2024)	Current Phase	September 2024- Project update	Anticipated Part 8 Completions, subject to NTA approval of Gateways
				 <p><u>View of Dublin Rd, Dundalk looking north at DKIT Entrance</u></p>	
Dundalk: Ard Easmuinn Rd to Train Station / Friary School & Dundalk Bus Station to Rail Station.	€150,000		Phase 3 /4 Preliminary Design / Statutory Process	<p>LCC collaborating with Irish Rail to agree entrance to the north of the station car park. Layout drawing has been developed by Consultant</p>  <p><u>View of Ard Easmuinn Looking North from China Bridge</u></p>	Proposed Part 8 Q4 2024
Transport / Mobility Plans: Including Dundalk, Drogheda, Ardee, Clogherhead, Dunleer, Termonfeckin & Castlebellingham	€450,000	Band 1 €0 - €5M	Phase 2 - Concept and Options	<p>Drogheda Area Based Transport Assessment (ABTA) Drogheda Online survey completed and synopsised. ATOS completed and GIS specialist has prepared new drawing and superimposed "Proposed Active Travel Links" as a layer to each of the ATOS Results maps. The NTA directly are going to task one of their Framework Consultants to develop the next steps of the ABTA.</p> <p>Dundalk Area Based Transport Assessment (ABTA) The Local Transport Plan (LTP) is currently on public display alongside the Draft Dundalk Local Area Plan. Both documents will be on public</p>	N/A

Project Name	Allocation 2024	Project Band (updated March 2024)	Current Phase	September 2024- Project update	Anticipated Completions, subject to NTA approval of Gateways	Part 8
				display from Wednesday 17th July 2024 until 4.30pm on Tuesday 10th September 2024 (inclusive).		
Hoey's Lane, Dundalk	€165,000	Band 1 €0 - €5M	Phase 3 – Preliminary Design	Preliminary drawings with NTA for review ahead of submitting full GW3 Report	2024	
Mill Street, Dundalk	€145,000	Band 1 €0 - €5M	Phase 2 - Concept and Options	LCC Active Travel Team have submitted Gateway 2 Reports (Options Development) to the NTA on 28 th March 2024 and we are currently awaiting approval.	2024	
Hill Street Bridge to Train Station, Dundalk	€235,000	Band 1 €0 - €5M	Phase 2 - Concept and Options	LCC Active Travel Team have submitted Gateway 2 Reports (Options Development) to the NTA on 22 nd May 2024 and we are currently awaiting approval. The Active Travel Team are engaging with Irish Rail / CIE with regards to possible route selections.	2024	
R132 Dublin Road, (Rank Xerox Junction to Greengates)	€160,000	Band 1 €0 - €5M	Phase 3 – Preliminary Design	Preliminary drawings with NTA for review ahead of submitting full GW3 Report	2024	
Moneymore, Active Travel elements	€100,000	Band 1 €0 - €5M	Phase 5 – Concept Proposals	Design Consultants (RPS Group) appointed in Mid July 2023 and have design completed for the proposals. We are liaising with relevant landowners on a preferred route.	N/A	
Drogheda improvement of accessibility	€50,000	Band 1 €0 - €5M	Phase 3 – Preliminary Design	Various locations in the town of Drogheda- All works completed and we are anticipating a similar allocation in 2024.	N/A	
Dundalk improvement of accessibility	€50,000	Band 1 €0 - €5M	Phase 3 – Preliminary Design	Various locations in the town of Dundalk All works completed and we are anticipating a similar allocation in 2024.	N/A	
Ardee improvement of accessibility	€40,000	Band 1 €0 - €5M	Phase 3 – Preliminary Design	Various locations in the town of Ardee All works completed and we are anticipating a similar allocation in 2024.	N/A	

Project Name	Allocation 2024	Project Band (updated March 2024)	Current Phase	September 2024- Project update	Anticipated Part 8 Completions, subject to NTA approval of Gateways
Safe Routes to Schools (Round 1) 1. St Louis Secondary School Dundalk 2. Rehab Care Mill Street Dundalk 3. Saint Brigid's and Saint Patrick's School, Drogheda 4. Scoil Aonghusa, Drogheda	€930,000	Band 1 €0 - €5M	Phase 3 – Preliminary Design	<p>In accordance with the provisions of Section 38 of the Road Traffic Act, 1994 as amended, proposed works at schools 1, 3 & 4 were advertised in the local press and Consult Louth for a period of two weeks from Tuesday 9th July, 2024 to Tuesday 23rd July, 2024 inclusive.</p> <p>Contractor & Project Supervisor Design Stage selected from winning Tender. Contractor to be appointed upon insurance and tax clearance by LCC. Envisage works to start in late September 2024 and to be completed by end of November 2024</p> <p>Works relating to Rehab Care on Mill Street, will be incorporated as part of Mill Street, Active Travel Project.</p>	N/A
Safe Routes to Schools (Round 2) 1. Bellurgan National School 2. Callystown National School 3. St Mary's NS, Knockbridge 4. St. Malachy's GNS, Dundalk	€125,000	Band 1 €0 - €5M	Phase 2 - Concept and Options	<p>The Design Team were appointed in March 2024 and have commenced Option Development and Preliminary Design. It is anticipated that all design and public liaison will be completed in 2024 for Round 2 schools and all infrastructure delivered in 2025.</p>	No part 8's but possible Section 38's

Forbairt Na hEagraíochta Organisational Development

Áiríonn an Stiúrthóireacht um Fhorbairt na hEagraíochta na seirbhísí lárnacha a theastaíonn chun an tÚdarás Áitiúil seo a chothabháil agus a riaradh. Áirítear leis seo Acmhainní Corparáideacha agus Daonna. Áiríonn sé freisin na feidhmeanna Pobail agus Aeráide agus gach gné de Sheirbhísí Bainistíochta Dramháiola agus Sheirbhísí Tréidliachta.

Tá cúig eochairfhreagrachta ag an Stiúrthóireacht seo:

- Seirbhísí Corparáideacha
- Tacaíocht Pobail agus Spóirt
- Bainistíocht Dramháil, Gníomh Comhshaoil, Uisce Tuaithe & Gníomhú ar son na hAeráide
- Seirbhísí Tréidliachta
- Acmhainní Duine

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

This Directorate has five key areas of responsibility.

- Corporate Services
- Community Support & Sports
- Waste Management, Environment Rural Water & Climate Action
- Veterinary Services
- Human Resources

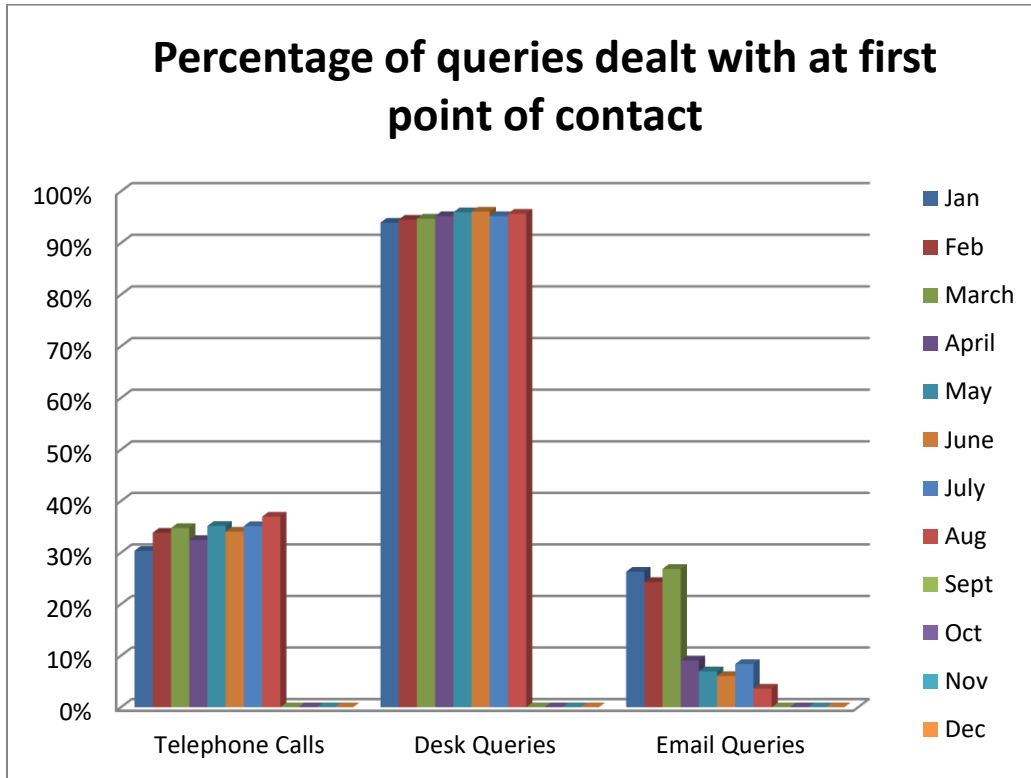


Joe McGuinness
Stiúrthóir / Director of Service

Seirbhísí Corparáideacha / Corporate Services

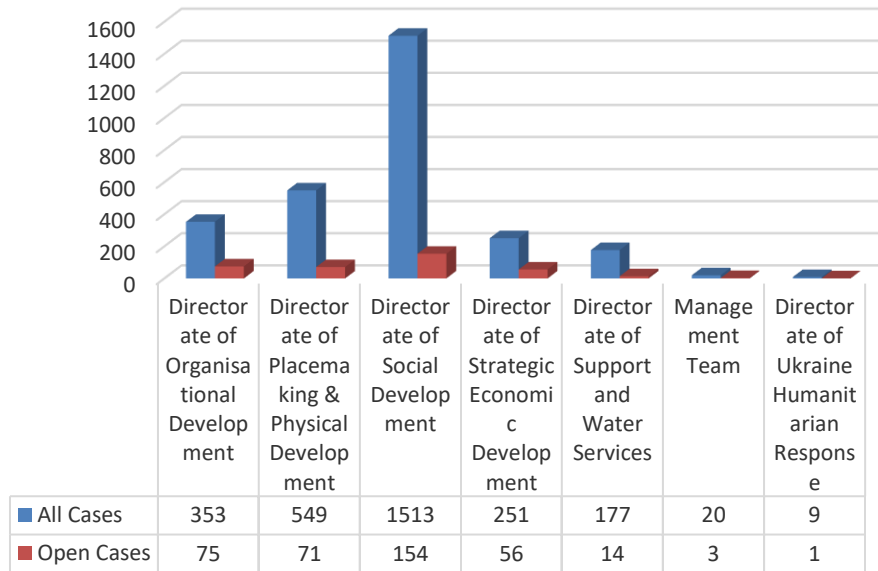
Tuairisc ar Sheirbhísí Custaiméirí / Customer Services Report

During the month of **August** Customer Services dealt with queries 6701 calls, 1,076 e-mails and 5,497 counter queries.

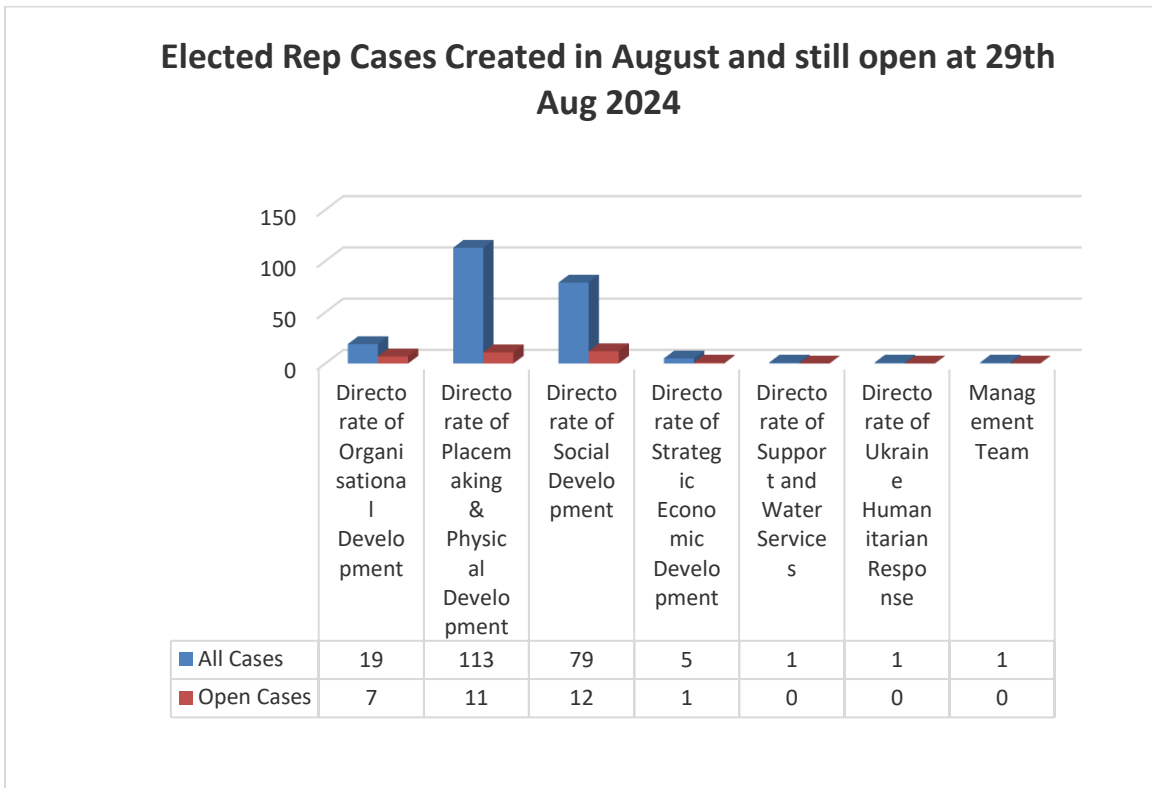


There were 2872 valid Sugar CRM cases recorded during August of which 374 (13%) remain unresolved, broken down by directorate as follows:

No. of Cases Created in Aug and still open at 29th of Aug 2024



During August 2024, 219 elected reps. cases were recorded on Sugar of which 31 (14. %) remain unresolved broken down by Directorate as follows:



The table below illustrates activity in the redress area.

Request Received	2023 Total Jan-Aug	2024 Total Jan - Aug	Aug only 2024
FOI	90	102	18
DSAR	10	11	1
Data Protection Request	8	12	2
AIE Requests	13	10	3
Ombudsman	12	12	2
Complaints	24	33	2

Clár Togthóirí / Electoral Register

Amendments and additions continue to be received via www.checktheregister.ie. Using this site, is the most efficient and effective way of ensuring details are accurate and up to date on the Electoral Register.

Recently, Louth were asked to submit Electoral stats to the Local Government Electoral Registration System Project – the figures submitted on 15th August were as follows:

Electors on Register	99962	
Total Electorate with DOB populated	98126	98.16%
Total Electorate with Eircode populated	97816	98.85%
Total Electorate with Email Address populated	15347	15.35%
Total Electorate with Contact Number populated	13168	13.17%
Total Electorate with DOB & Eircode populated	96206	96.24%
Total Electorate with PPSN populated	16078	16.08%

Total Number of Presidential Electors	91942
Total Number of Dail Electors	99897
Total Number of European Electors	92724
Total Number of Potential European Electors	2825
Total Number of Pending Electors	65

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

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

[checktheregister.ie](https://www.checktheregister.ie)

Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland

Tacaíocht Pobail / Community Support

Contae Lú atá Báúil le hAois / Age Friendly Louth

An Tain Arts Centre hosted a screening of two short films on Thursday 15th August 2024. The films were the result of a collaboration between An Táin Arts Centre, Age Friendly Louth & Creative Ireland to challenge ageism and promote positive ageing in Co Louth.

The project provided a safe space for participants to explore the subject of ageing and ageism. It also provided an opportunity for participants to get to know one another, to build up trust and friendships and to share stories and life experiences. A wide variety of adults from lots of different backgrounds, with a range of ages and abilities, took part in the project. Through the workshop, participants helped to reframe the conversation around growing old in Co Louth.

The result entitled Ordinary People is a powerful and moving tribute to the personal stories behind each person involved in the project. The second shorter film shot in dramatic black and white showed each of the project participants introducing themselves and making a comment about ageing or ageism as they have experienced it to date. This shorter film will be launched at the Louth Age Friendly Expo on 2nd October 2024 during Positive Ageing Week and will be a great way to celebrate positive ageing in Co Louth.



Participants in the Ageism Project



Participants in the Ageism Project

Ardee Garden Care & Repair Project – Short Listed for Age Friendly Ireland Award



Ardee Tidy Towns, supported by Dee Hub, An Garda Síochána and Age Friendly Louth, continue to roll out this innovative pilot project.

The aim of the project is to provide free gardening services to older and vulnerable people in Ardee Town. This community-driven initiative aims to assist those in need by offering essential garden care at no cost.

The initiative has been supported by the Ardee Municipal District Elected Members as part of their Discretionary Budget 2024.

The project has now been shortlisted for an Age Friendly Ireland award under the Environment theme. The built environment has a unique impact on the lives of all older people. This category recognises projects that bring about change in the built physical environment with older people in mind. Judging will take place in September 2024 and the

results will be announced at the Age Friendly Awards ceremony in November 2024.

Financial Literacy for Older people

Chairperson of Louth OPC Joe Grogan, Age Friendly Programme Manager Sinead McVerry and Erik Sopon from ALONE who also sits on the Louth Age Friendly Alliance, took part in a focus group on Financial Literacy for Older people on 30 July 2024. The focus group was organized by DKIT students as part of a postgraduate research project to find out the financial literacy requirements needed for financial wellbeing into older age in Ireland.



Local Enhancement Programme 2024 Update

Successful applicants are continuing to submit requested documentation. The closing date for receipt of this information is 30th August 2024.

A number of groups have completed their works or purchased equipment, and payments have been made to these groups.

Louth Comhairle na nÓg

Louth Comhairle na nÓg partnered up with Healthy Louth to complete a Pre-Instructors course for Outdoor Education. This was a weeklong programme and took place in Rostrevor, Co Down.

The twelve young people were recruited from all over the county, and we had representatives from Drogheda, Dundalk, Ardee and Dunleer. Over the 5 days the young people learned about Health and Safety, Team Building, Programme Design, First Aid Basics, Personal Development, Kayaking, Bouldering, Climbing, Hiking and Pier Jumping.

This programme was designed in cooperation with young people and was a progression route for young

people to get an understanding of the Sports Leisure industry which is growing at a huge rate post Covid.

The young people will take part in a follow up Cross Border Residential in early September to recap their learning and practice their skills



Participants at the Pre-Instructors Course for Outdoor Education

Public Participation Network (PPN)

Intercultural Sports Project

On Monday 5th August, Louth PPN in collaboration with the Drogheda Filipino-Irish Community Group and Culture Connect, held a Community Sports day in St Oliver's Community College in Drogheda. There were over 130 attendees from multiple cultural backgrounds who took part in many of the activities on offer including basketball, soccer, cricket, badminton, family games and more. A great day was had by all.



Participants at the Community Sports Day, St. Oliver's Community College, Drogheda

2025-2027 Strategic Work Plan

Across the month of August, Louth PPN has been collating information from its member groups through a series of focus groups and via an online survey. All members were invited to have their say on how Louth PPN may further support community groups through the provision of training and other resources for the next 3 years. The survey closed on Friday 16th August. A draft copy of Louth PPN's 3-year Strategic Work Plan will be presented to PPN members at the upcoming MD meetings, taking place in September.

Annual Report 2023

Louth PPN is currently completing the 2023 Annual Report which is due to be issued to the DRCD in September.

Upcoming Public Meetings

Louth PPN have announced details of their upcoming Municipal District and Plenary Meetings as follows:

- Dundalk MD Meeting - Wednesday 25th September at 10am in Creative Spark, Dundalk
- Ardee MD Meeting - Wednesday 25th September at 2pm in The DeeHub, Ardee
- Drogheda MD Meeting - Thursday 26th September at 6pm in The Barbican, Drogheda
- Plenary Meeting - Thursday 17th October at 6pm in The Barbican, Drogheda

All PPN members are welcome to attend.

Healthy Louth

"We're Breastfeeding Friendly Louth"

Campaign Update

In August 2024, Healthy Louth made significant strides in advancing the "We're Breastfeeding Friendly Louth" campaign, which is aimed at fostering supportive and welcoming environments for breastfeeding families across the region.

Activities

1. Outreach to Community Groups

Healthy Louth via the Louth PPN invited community groups across Louth to join the campaign. This email highlighted the benefits of participating, such as enhancing community reputation, increasing engagement, and gaining positive publicity through campaign promotions.

Community Groups were provided with information on how to sign up and how to avail of the free resources.

2. Engagement with Local Businesses

Healthy Louth extended its outreach to local businesses, inviting them to become part of the "We're Breastfeeding Friendly Louth" network. This initiative was presented as an opportunity for businesses to demonstrate their commitment to inclusivity and attract more foot traffic.

Businesses were informed about the participation process, including how to receive resources and feature in upcoming promotional materials and the GIS map.

Next Steps

Healthy Louth will continue to monitor and support the registration process for both community groups and businesses.

Community Recognition Fund 2024 Call 2

A total fund of **€1.3 million** has been made available for the CRF 2024, to support medium to large-scale projects for not-for-profit community or voluntary groups in County Louth. This new round of funding will develop projects that will deliver long term benefits to those living in areas identified as having significant levels of new arrivals and where there is a clear need for investment identified. The focus of the 2024 scheme is on projects of greater scale and impact.

Louth County Council are seeking projects that will be beneficial to the broadest possible population in

an area. The proposal must demonstrate that the funding is targeted at, and specifically invested in, those communities, villages and towns where the highest level of new arrivals are located and where there is a clear need for investment identified. In Louth, the areas with the highest number of new arrivals from Ukraine and other countries are Drogheda, Dundalk, Ardee, Termonfeckin, Clogherhead, Collon & Drumcar.

The minimum grant aid per individual project is €50,000, with a maximum potential grant of €500,000 applying. Match funding is not required. Projects to be funded will be capital in nature.

Expressions of interest need to be emailed to community@louthcoco.ie in WORD format and should be received no later than 4.00 p.m. on Wednesday 11th September 2024.

Explore your shore

We had an exciting walk and talk along the shores of Port beach, where we explored the debris and shells, seaweed and living creatures that washed upon the shore. The talk was led by Dave Wall from the National Biodiversity Data Centre, who explained and built our knowledge on the marine species that washed up on our shore.



Explore Your Shore at Port Beach



Wild Child Day 2024

To celebrate Wild Child Day this year, the Community Support Team planned a Seashore Scavenger Hunt and a #2MinuteBeachClean, led by biodiversity officer Helen Hanratty as part of Heritage Week. Wild Child Day aims to inspire children to explore, understand, and protect our natural heritage. It encourages children to see the world around them with fresh eyes, discovering the diverse beauty of their local landscapes and exploring new places.

Helen guided our participants through interactive activities and an educational session in Clogherhead Beach and Templetown Beach.



Wild Child Day at Clogherhead Beach



Wild Child Day at Templetown Beach

Anti-Litter Cigarette Butt Awareness Campaign

The "Vote with your Butt" campaign, as part of a broader Anti-Cigarette Litter initiative was launched this year and features Ballot Bins in Dundalk and Drogheda.

The Ballot Bins present smokers with 'either/or' questions, allowing them to vote by responsibly disposing of cigarette butts. In August, the yellow cigarette disposal boxes were cleaned in Dundalk and stickers removed and new voting questions were added.

This campaign is in line with Louth County Council's commitment to fostering environmental awareness and instilling community responsibility. The campaign aims to significantly decrease cigarette litter, contributing to the development of cleaner and healthier public spaces.



"Vote with your Butt" Ballot Bin in Dundalk

PEACEPLUS

The PEACEPLUS Action Plan was submitted for approval to the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB), on 28th March 2024. A decision has not yet been made.

Clarifications relating to the proposed Action Plan have been received from SEUPB and the PEACE office has responded promptly to all.

Works continue in preparation for projects proposed under the Action Plan, including procurement planning and preparations for the Capital Projects.

A PEACEPLUS Partnership meeting will be held in September to update members on progress to date.

Updates will be made available, via <https://www.louthcoco.ie/en/services/economic-development/peaceplus/> and on <https://www.seupb.eu/PEACEPLUS>.

Contact peaceplus@louthcoco.ie for further information.



Peace IV Programme

Information on all PEACE IV projects undertaken has been added to [our website](#).

SEUPB continue to audit the PEACE IV programme for claims submitted, as per Programme rules.

Spórt / Sport

Ionad Spóirt Dhún Dealgan / Dundalk Sports Centre

Older Adults Classes

Older adult classes' participation remained at high numbers throughout the summer months and all classes return to normal in the first week in September. All classes are different in their own ways. The Age-Well class on a Thursday evening is the most advanced class in the Centre for older adults. The class includes floor-based exercises and work using barbells. The number of participants is limited which allows room for 1-1 attention. This class is 45 minutes 4:30-5:15pm Thursdays. Classes take place Monday to Thursday, Active Dance Monday 10:30am, Active Aging Tuesday 10:30am, Strength & Balance Wednesday (Beginner) 10:30am, (Advanced) 11:30am, Chair Yoga Thursday 10:30am and Age-Well 4:30pm. All morning classes are an hour long with tea and coffee provided afterwards.



Older Adults Classes in Dundalk Sports Centre

Older Adults Summer Trip

The second year of our Older Adult outing took place on the 31st of July in Carlingford. The trip included a scenic walk, tea and scones and travel from Dundalk Sports Centre to Carlingford and back for just €5. The day was enjoyed by all involved with over 60 older adults attending. The day began at 10am and ended at 3pm, bringing together all the different groups of adults who attend the classes in the Centre.

Summer Camps

Basketball and multi-sport summer camps were popular over the summer months with 30 + kids in each camp. The camps included a variety of games and different activities suitable for all children. The games are non-sport specific making them accessible for all skill levels. The final senior basketball camp was a serious but fun camp for all involved. The camp aims to improve skill and fitness in preparation for the basketball season. The children had fitness classes twice throughout the week targeting muscles needed for the fast-paced sport.



Children taking part in Summer Camps in Dundalk Sports Centre

Staid Lúthchleasach Lourdes / Lourdes Athletic Stadium

Bowls Event

This month has been a busy month for our Bowling Green with visitors all the way from Vancouver and Scotland.

Our Last Bowls event for 2024 will commence on the 28th of August. Afterwards our bowlers will avail of some refreshments and a catch up.

Our next Bowls event won't be until the summer of 2025, however, individuals are more than welcome to play on our Bowling Green at a cost of €4 euro with all equipment provided by us.



Boyne AC Sports Day

Boyne AC held their annual Sports Day on Saturday the 10th of August. With clubs from all over the county attending to compete for their club, disciplines ranged from sprints, long distance, Javelin, Shot put and Long Jump. There was a great turnout by all the Louth clubs with Dundalk St Gerards taking home the Pat Walker memorial Shield and the Killian Ekhaton Cup for the club with the best performance on the day.



Boyne AC Sports Day

Capital Works Progression

Finishing touches are in order as this month the stadium received a fresh coat of paint. Up next is new flooring in our reception area with the addition of a new check in desk.

Once finishing touches have been completed, we hope to get our room ready to go for future classes and activities.



Capital Works Progression

Comhpháirtíocht Áitiúil Spóirt Chontae Lú / Louth Local Sports Partnership

Coach & Volunteer Education Programmes 2024

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

Safeguarding

Activity	Date	Venue
Safeguarding Level 1	8 th August 2024	Online
Safeguarding Level 1	21 st August 2024	Online
Safeguarding Level 3	29 th August 2024	Online

Level 1 Award in Sports Leadership

Activity	Date	Venue
Level 1 Sports Leadership	6 th – 9 th August 2024	DSC Dundalk
Level 1 Sports Leadership	19 th – 22 nd August 2024	Lann Leire Dunleer

For further information on volunteer and coach education workshops, please email louthlsp@louthcoco.ie or telephone Louth Local Sports Partnership 042-9324318.

Her Outdoors 2024 – A huge success

Louth Local Partnership was delighted to deliver a hugely successful programme of events to celebrate HER Outdoors 2024. A total of 579 females participated in 33 events across the week in Louth, using outdoor spaces in the county on both the land and water.

The activities during the week included Kayaking, Swimming, Hiking, Paddle Boarding, Orienteering, Yoga, Pilates, Nordic Walking, Rowing and Cycling.

HER Outdoors week aims to celebrate and encourage more females to get out and enjoy the benefits of being in the outdoors while bringing visibility to the opportunities for females to get involved in outdoor physical activity.

This week is all about providing more opportunities for all females to escape to the outdoors and try something new. For such a tiny island, there are so many incredible outdoor activities on offer, and this should be celebrated to the fullest.



Her Outdoors 2024 Activities

Louth GAA Inclusive Cul Camp

Louth LSP and Louth GAA were delighted to deliver an Inclusive Cúl Camp to those children that may not be able to take part in the mainstream Cúl Camp Programme over the summer. The Camp was a joint venture between Louth Local Sports Partnership and Louth GAA in partnership with the GAA All Stars Clubs in the county.

The Camp ran from August 19th to 23rd in Louth GAA Training Centre, Darver with 20 children with additional needs from 5 to 12 years of age attending.



Children attending the Louth GAA Inclusive Cul Camp in Darver

Summit Sisters in the Cooleys

Louth Local Sports Partnership worked in collaboration with Mountaineering Ireland to deliver a HER Moves Summit Sisters programme for teenage girls to explore the Cooley mountains.

Summit Sisters is an immersive programme which involves bringing teenage girls' individuality and creativity to the hills. For this programme, the girls hiked through the beautiful Cooley mountains and developed creative art pieces using the scenery and materials found on the hills.

The girls displayed their artwork on the final day of the programme and shared the learning and experiences they had taken from the programme.



Summit Sisters in the Cooleys

Inclusive Summer Camp in Lourdes Stadium

Congratulations to all the participants who enjoyed a wonderful two days of activity during the Inclusive Summer Camp which took place recently in Lourdes Stadium Drogheda.

The camp was developed for adults with additional needs from the Drogheda area. The participants enjoyed two days of multi-sport and athletics activities supported by camp tutors and staff from Lourdes Stadium.

Well done to all involved, roll-on next summer!



Participants at the Inclusive Summer Camp in Lourdes Stadium

Level 1 Sport Leader Awards in Dundalk & Dunleer

Louth Local Sports Partnership was delighted to deliver two hugely successful Level 1 Sports Leader Awards to 51 young people in August in Dundalk and Dunleer.

The programme is designed to develop the leadership skills and confidence of teenagers aged 13-17 years within communities in Louth who will be future leaders and coaches within their sports clubs and groups within the county. The teenagers, upon completion of the programme, will receive a Sport Ireland recognised Level 1 Qualification in Sports Leadership.



Sports Leader Programme

Community Bike Rides on Tour

Louth Local Sports Partnership was delighted to work with Cycling Ireland to host a Community Bike Ride in Louth. The group took part in a social cycle

from Dundalk to Blackrock and returned to Dundalk. Community Bike Rides are a Cycling Ireland initiative which are led by trained and vetted volunteer leaders. These are social rides, so people have an opportunity to connect with those in their community.



Community Bike Ride from Dundalk to Blackrock

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

Summary of Complaints

A total of 39 complaints were received and investigated by the Environmental Compliance team in August 2024, some of which remain open pending further investigations.

Complaint Type	Received in August 2024	Total Received in 2024
Air & Noise	12	84
Farm	8	32
Waste/C&D	16	166
Water Quality	3	38

Article 27 By-Products

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

The Council Waste Enforcement Section carry out site inspections at site of origin and/or site of destination to check material meets criteria.

The Council were notified of 25 A27 notifications in 2024 so far.

In August 2024, one notification was received relating to Soil and Stone material. So far, all notifications inspected by the Council Waste Enforcement Section met the requirements of the notifications and are pending a decision by the EPA.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) have published 'Draft National By-Product Criteria' (BP-N002/2024) for greenfield soil and stone from undeveloped land destined for use at another development with granted planning permission or exemption, as an alternative more efficient system to the single case notification system. By product status can be automatically obtained through demonstrating compliance with these National By-Product Criteria without waiting on a by-product determination from the Agency.

In addition to this, new Regulations specific to By-Products will be developed later.

The EPA held an online webinar on the 26th August 2024 for all local authority staff outlining the final criteria for greenfield soil and stone.



Anti-dumping Initiative

The Council Environment Section have been approved funding of €76,800.00 from the

Department for the completion of three Anti-Dumping Initiative (ADI) Projects in 2024.

The Mattress and Sofa Amnesty Event is scheduled to take place on the following dates:

- **Wednesday 11th Sept 2024** at 9:30am-5:30pm at Dundalk & Drogheda V&W Civic Amenity Centres
- **Thursday 12th Sept 2024** at 9:30am – 3:30pm at Kieran & McGee Ardee Livestock Sales Yard in Ardee, Co. Louth.



Segregation, Storage and Presentation of Household and Commercial Waste Bye-Laws 2019

The Waste Enforcement Section are continuing to send letters to householders and businesses in areas where bin presentation is a prevailing issue including the areas of Mary Street North, Williamsons Place, Chapel Street, Market Street and Broughton Street.

The Council's Waste Enforcement Officers and Litters Wardens are in the process of obtaining householders details which may result in Fixed Payment Notices of €75 being issued by the Council to the householders where breaches of the Waste Presentation Bye-laws persist.

Brown Bin Kerbside Collection

All kerbside waste collectors are obligated to provide all their customers with a food waste collection service. In 2024, all kerbside waste collection permit

holders are required to have a roll out plan for the provision of a brown bin service with the aim of achieving this service in all areas of Co. Louth. The Waste Enforcement Regional Local Authorities (WERLA) are monitoring progress with these plans.

Annual Return Validations

All Waste Facility Permit (WFP) and Certificate of Registration (CoR) holders were required to submit their Annual Returns (AR) to the National Waste Collection Permit Office (NWCPO) via the online Eden Portal which opened to all Local Authorities for Annual Return Validation from the 1st April 2024. Validation is ongoing by Waste Enforcement Officers with validations to be completed by the deadline of the 30th of September 2024.

In August 2024, a total of 4 annual returns were validated for Waste Facility Permit (WFP) sites.

The Council is required to complete validations on 63 Waste Collection Permit Holders and 30 Waste Facility Permit Holders.

Litter Enforcement & Investigations

The team of litter wardens continue to engage with members of the public, tidy towns groups and councillors on litter matters within the county.

In August, the wardens completed 58 investigations in response to dumping reported by members of the public. Fixed Penalty Notices were issued accordingly where evidence was found under the Litter Pollution Act 1997. 19 fixed penalty notices have been issued in August 2024 and several litter cases are going through the courts this month.

A 5-hour foot patrol was carried out at the beginning of August by all Litter Wardens in the coastal area of Port, Clogherhead and Termonfeckin. The main areas focused on during this foot patrol were blue flag beaches and raising awareness on the issue of dog fouling. The patrol vans were also parked in conspicuous positions with attached 'Anti Dog Fouling' signs on full view for public attention. Fixed penalty notices have been issued for dog fouling this month at some of our blue flag beaches where some dog owners have failed to clean up after their dog.

Below are some images of illegal dumping/littering cases which have been investigated in August by Litter Wardens following complaints from the public. All waste has been examined for evidence and fixed penalty notices have been issued where evidence has been found. All the waste has been subsequently removed.





Diesel Laundering Waste

There were 3 Integrated Bulk Containers (IBCs) dumped in August 2024 with an associated clean-up cost of €3,744.30.60. The total cost for clean-up of diesel laundering waste so far in 2024 is €39,939.20.

Rialachán Chomhshaoil / Environmental Regulation

Water Quality and Complaints

In August 2024.

- 2 queries received regarding septic tank grant systems which were dealt with and closed off. All inspections have now been completed as required by the EPA National Inspection plan on wastewater treatment systems for 2024.
- 3 Water quality complaints received in August – 1 of the complaints related to general water pollution and 2 related to agriculture. 2 complaints have been closed out and one complaint is still under investigation. One of the Agriculture complaints related to storage of poultry manure at a field entrance and the other complaint related to stockpiling of poultry manure at a farm. The general water pollution case related to discolouration of a local river.
- The Council carried out five farm survey inspections during August.



Storage of poultry manure at field entrance

River Water sampling and Water framework directive

Routine surveillance and operational monitoring of rivers for the water framework directive has been completed for August 2024. Local catchment assessments (LCA) have been completed by LAWPRO in the Big River catchment.

Discharge Licences

Assessment inspections were carried out on 16 monitoring results received by the Council in August for Section 4 Discharge Licences. An on-site inspection of one premises was also carried out in August 2024.

Licensed landfills

Quarterly monitoring of groundwater, surface water and leachate was carried out in July at Dundalk landfill, as required by EPA licence. Quarterly monitoring of groundwaters, surface waters, leachate and discharge to sewer was carried out at Whiteriver and Drogheda landfills in August as required by the EPA licences. Monthly monitoring of perimeter gas monitoring points was completed at all three sites. Quarterly gas balancing was carried out at the three sites in August. Dust monitoring was also completed at Whiteriver during August.

Bathing Water

The bathing water season commenced on the 1st of June 2024 and will run until the 15th September 2024. There was a temporary prohibition notice placed at Seapoint beach following an elevated result from a sample taken on the 20th of August 2024. A sample taken the following day on the 21st August 2024 showed excellent results. The investigation determined that the high readings which resulted in the bathing restriction was as a result of heavy rainfall, poor weather conditions and surface water runoff. The temporary prohibition notice was subsequently removed from the beach on the 24th August 2024. The results from all bathing water sampling are available at the following website: www.beaches.ie.

Currently submissions are invited from the public for the identification of new bathing water sites in County Louth. Further details are available at the following link:
https://www.louthcoco.ie/en/services/environment/environment/water/bathing_waters/.

Closing date for submissions to Louth County Council is 26/9/2024.

Draft Noise Action Plan 2024-2028 Public Consultation

The Public Consultation for the Draft Noise Action Plan and the associated SEA and AA Screening concluded on the 22nd July and one submission was received from Transport Infrastructure Ireland. The Plan is currently being finalised and the following is the proposed programme of works for the lifetime of the Noise Action Plan 2024- 2028:

Year 1

- Carry out site visits and visual assessments of the Priority Important Areas
- Identify budget for external noise consultants.
- Complete consultants brief
- Procure consultants
- Conduct noise monitoring

Year 2

- Conduct assessment of potential noise mitigation measures for each Priority Important Area
- Identify areas for noise mitigation
- Agree works package with relevant Road Authorities, including timetable for implementation and evaluation. Allow time in programme for obtaining planning permission if required. Consult with relevant road authorities in respect of identifying mitigation measures and their delivery
- Identify budget.
- Consult with the EPA on process for delimiting Quiet Areas

Year 3

- Review progress of Action Plan.

Year 4

- Identify Quiet Areas for delimiting and submit proposal to EPA and Minister
- Review progress of works package
- End of programme review.

Clár Uisce Tuaithe / Rural Water Programme

Capital Funding for Group Schemes

The Council in consultation with the Group Water Schemes applied to the Department for Housing, Local Government and Heritage under its call for bids from Local Authorities for funding under a planned three-year Multi Annual Rural Water Programme (MARWP) 2024 – 2026.

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

Individual Domestic Water Supplies Grant

12 grants were issued in relation to Individual Domestic Water Supplies (more commonly called private wells) in the total amount of €30,473.58.

Domestic Wastewater Treatment Systems Grant

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

Domestic Lead Remediation Grant Scheme

There were no Domestic Lead Remediation grants issued.

Climate Action

Louth County Council Climate Action Plan 2024 – 2029

The Climate Action Team continue to implement the LCC Climate Action Plan, 2024 – 2029. This ambitious five-year plan contains 95 climate actions, specific to County Louth. Over the next five years, the climate action team will be working with all

sections within LCC to help implement these actions.

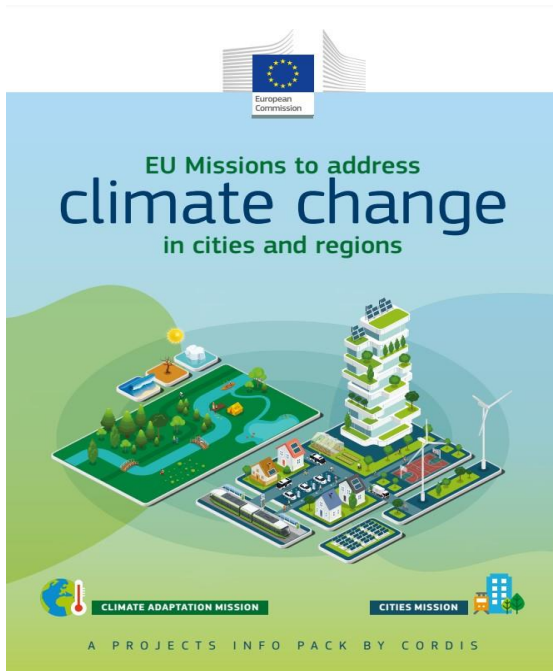
The Climate action team continued to deliver on several LCC decarbonisation topics, including carbon accounting for business travel, green procurement and the implementation of actions contained within the LCC CAP 2024-2029.

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

The Climate Action team in LCC continue to be the point of contact for the GAA Green Clubs program in County Louth.

EU Mission, Adaptation to Climate Change

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



Climate adaptation

Climate outreach

The Climate Action Team at LCC have continued to support the Creative Ireland funded Louth Urban Food sanctuary project. A series of Climate Action workshops will be delivered to participating community gardens and allotments during the growing season.

There has been several events ran as part of heritage week in association with the LUFS project. The Climate Action Team supported the Creative Ireland Team by attending and speaking at these events.



Heritage week



Ardee Library during Heritage Week

The events were well attended and people who attended these events also had the opportunity to participate in an online survey to provide feedback on the events.

Community Climate Action

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

The Community Climate Action Fund (Strand 1) and Shared Island Fund (Strand 1a) have now closed as of 5pm on the 6th of March 2024. In total Louth received 48 applications under the Community Climate Action Fund, which totalled €1,596,625.

The Council have been allocated €604,000 under Strand 1 of the Community Climate Action Fund with an additional 3 million euro available nationwide under the Shared Island Fund.

Louth have been over double subscribed with applications, notably energy was the most common theme among applicants, with 61% of applications containing energy as one or more of the themes within the application. Local Climate and Environmental Action was the second most popular theme among applications received, food and waste, shopping and recycling and travel were also popular in an themes among applications.

Twenty two community groups have been successful in receiving funding under the Community Climate Action Fund in Louth, a full list of all approved projects are available to view on the Council's website [here](#).

There has also been a number of projects that have been placed on a reserve list on possibility of funding becoming available at a later date. It is expected that a second round of funding under the Community Climate Action Fund will become available at a later date. The Community Climate Action Officer will contact all community groups in advance of this.

The Community Climate Action Officer has contacted all successful groups who has received funding under the Community Climate Action Fund to discuss their projects. It is expected that projects will begin delivery in Autumn 2024.

The Community Climate Action Officer has attended online training regarding the financial training associated with the delivery of the projects under the Community Climate Action Fund.

The Community Climate Action Officer delivered a talk on climate action within the county of Louth at the HSE Sustainability Day in Ardee at St. Bridgid's Campus.



HSE Climate Action Awareness Day.

Biodiversity Action

National Heritage Week 2024 ran from 17-25 August. The programme included a wide range of events celebrating our cultural and natural heritage. This year's programme included events on biodiversity issues, Bog Appreciation Day, Explore Your Shore, A Turn for the Terns, Wild Child Day Beach Clean's and Scavenger Hunts with demand for places at the Bat Walk and Swift Talk being so high that they were fully booked well ahead of the events.

ENERGY

Louth County Council's Energy Emissions and Gap to Target 2030 Optimising Power@ Work Campaign Energy Awareness Day

Significant Energy Savings continue to be made in Council buildings. The Council's two largest energy user buildings (County Hall and Dundalk Town Hall)

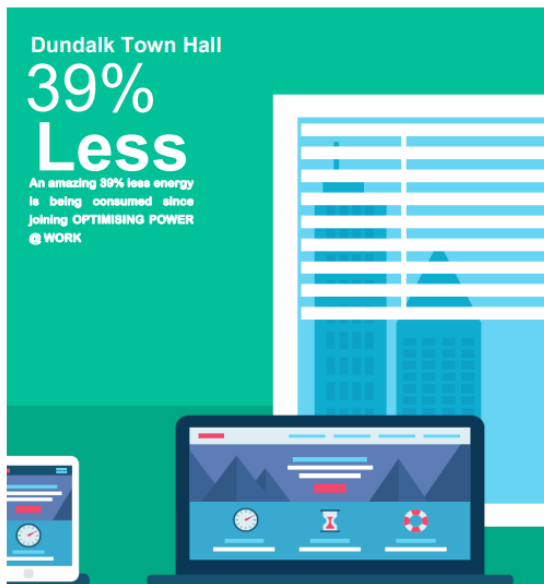
participate in the Office of Public Work's (OPW's) Optimising Power @Work Programme.

County Hall

Since joining the Optimising Power @ Work campaign in 2016, this building has reduced its energy consumption by 29%, cutting annual usage from 695,894 kWh to 493,945 kWh. Of particular significance, carbon emissions over the past twelve months have decreased by 27% compared to 2016, highlighting carbon savings achieved.

Dundalk Town Hall

Compared to the base year of 2014, carbon dioxide emissions at Dundalk Town Hall have decreased by 38% over the past twelve months. Monthly comparison data shows that July 2024 CO2 emissions are 54% lower (5 tonnes) than those in July 2014. Additionally, energy savings have resulted in 39% reduction in energy consumption. This significant decrease highlights the successful implementation of energy-efficient measures and practices within the building, enhancing both sustainability and cost-effectiveness.



The achievements in energy reduction can largely be attributed to significant changes in staff behaviour, driven by a strong emphasis on energy awareness in the workplace. Additionally, the regular dissemination of energy information through

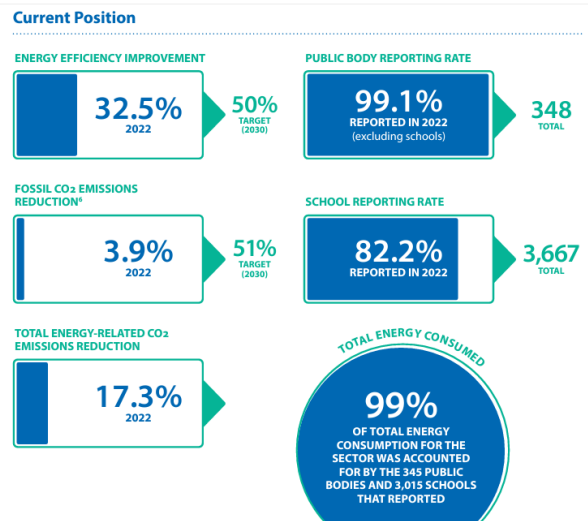
weekly messages, newsletters, and podcasts has played a pivotal role in maintaining high levels of engagement and awareness.

Energy Efficiency Performance and Gap to Target SEAI Annual Report 2023

The SEAI Annual Report 2023 on Public Sector Energy Performance is now available:

Public-Sector-Annual-Report-2023.pdf

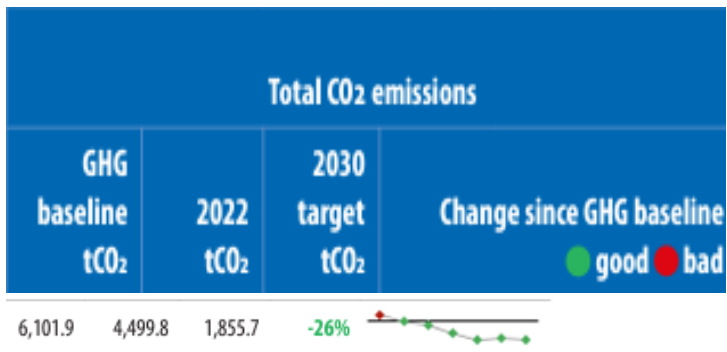
This report highlights the progress and achievements in energy efficiency across the public sector. Since the baseline year of 2006, Louth County Council has achieved 46% improvement in energy efficiency, underscoring its commitment to sustainable practices and energy conservation.



Extract from SEAI's Public Sector Annual Report 2023 – It shows the current position of all Public Bodies in Ireland.

The Council's position relating to Energy efficiency and carbon emissions as reported by SEAI up to end 2022 is as follows:

Energy efficiency is shown as good at 46% reduction.
Fossil CO₂ emissions is shown as good at 11% reduction.
Total CO₂ emissions is shown as good at 26% reduction.



Extract from SEAI’s Public Sector Annual Report 2023 – It shows Louth County Council’s position for Total Emissions.

**Energy Management System ISO5001 and Deliverables 2024
SEAI Monitoring & Reporting 2030**

The Council reported its energy use data for Stage 1 of the new SEAI Monitoring and Reporting (M&R) Digital Portal for Public Bodies.

Submission of data to the portal for stage 2, commences on 26th August 2024. Stage 2 data includes energy data for buildings, projects, vehicles and travel.

Energy Action Plan 2024 Update

The Council is continuing to phase out use of all fossil fuelled space heating and hot water means at all Council-owned and leased sites.

Louth County Council’s Energy Action Plan for 2024 was increased to include retrofit projects at Ardee and Carlingford Fire Stations. These projects are being progressed at present.

Drogheda AURA Leisure Centre was recently upgraded with the replacement of 20-year-old gas fired inefficient boilers with much higher efficiency new A + Rated condensing gas boilers along with new ancillary plant and BMS System upgrades.

The Council has also taken this opportunity to include as part of the works, a ‘bulk heat meter’ which is a new obligation by SEAI, to report the heat energy used in significant energy user premises throughout the year.

Council staff are also working to achieve net-zero electricity imports at the Council’s Whiterath Animal Compound. This will be achieved by integration of modular battery storage and hybrid inverter system to supplement the existing solar Photo Voltaic (PV) Array at the site. The Solar PV array generated a total of 2,162kWh in June this year, enough to cater for 95% of the electricity demand at site.

SLA with the Mid East Energy Unit

The Council staff continue to work closely with Mid East Energy Unit (MEEU) on a regional basis to progress energy projects to achieve public sector targets of 51% reduction in Green-House Gas (GHG) emissions and a 50% improvement in Energy Efficiency by 2030.

Dunleer Sustainable Energy Community

Council Staff also continue to liaise regularly with the Sustainable Energy Community/Energy Team based at Market House in Dunleer. This collaboration is important to share information, and it enables the Council to participate in the Dunleer Energy Team’s Community Energy Grant Application to SEAI. Partnership and Collaboration are very important supports for Louth County Council on the energy journey towards the 2030 national energy targets.



Council Staff with Dunleer Energy Team at a meeting at the Market House in Dunleer recently

Council Facilities

Tholsel Drogheda

Works to repair the lead in the roof of the clock tower at Tholsel in Drogheda are now complete. The process for removal of scaffolding is expected to be completed at the end of August. The condition of the existing lead was such that it required complete replacement of the lead on that roof. The scope of works was extended to maximise use of the scaffolding required to access the tower. The works included:

- Replacement of lead to the entire tower roof;
- Repointing of dilapidated stone joints and wall copings.
- Repair and refurbishment of the clocks, clock surrounds and associated louvres;
- Cleaning-down of the external wall at the Tower;
- Provision of a new lightening conductor for the building;
- Provision of bird control measures to limit the risk of damage to the roof by birds;
- Repair of water ingress;
- Cleaning of all roof drainage including removal of bird waste.

The Works at Tholsel Tower Included Restoration of the Fillial and Weather Vane, new louvres and bird protection measures and Wall Joint Restoration and Wall Cleaning.

Dunleer Library

Construction works to convert the former Bank of Ireland to Dunleer Library at Main Street Dunleer will be largely complete by the end of August. Plans are in place for the Library staff to commence the occupation of the building as soon as possible thereafter.

That is expected to commence in September.



Photos show the improvements in progress to the front of the building and the repaired external wall at the rear.

Dundalk Fire Station

Tenders have been invited for a new Air Sourced Heat Pump for Dundalk Fire Station on the Supplygov Portal. That competition has a closing date of 30 August. It is intended that the new heat pump at the Fire Station would replace the existing gas boiler there and further improve the move away from fossil fuels towards more sustainable energy.



Dundalk Fire Station and Workshop – Procurement of a new Air Sourced Heat Pump is in Progress

Seirbhísí Tréidliachta / Veterinary Services

Food Safety Authority of Ireland (FSAI)

As of the 31st August 2024, the Council Veterinary Section, under a Service Level Agreement with the FSAI, enforces food safety standards on one abattoir and twelve meat processing plants under its supervision in the County.

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

There were fifty-four valid Sugar CRM cases assigned to Veterinary Services during August 2024, with seven still in progress.

Smacht ar Mhadraí / Control of Dogs

Control of Dogs Act 1986

Dogs through the pound August 2024	
Total dogs through the pound	14
Seized under Section 16	0
Strays	9
Surrendered by owners	5
No dogs reclaimed by owners	2
No of dogs rehomed direct	6
No of dogs rehomed to welfare groups	12
No of dogs on hand in Pound at 31/08/2024	1

Dog Licences August 2024	
No of Licences sold	483
Licence Checks:	
House calls	199
Section 16 Notices issued (request to produce licence within 10 days)	50
Fixed Penalty Notices	16

Smacht ar Chapail / Control of Horses Control of Horses Act 1996 Control of Horses Bye-Laws 2003

Horses through the pound August 2024	
Horses seized, and reason for seizure:	0
Horses reclaimed by owner	0
Horses rehomed	2
Horses disposed of	0
No of horses on hand in Pound on 31/08/2024	0

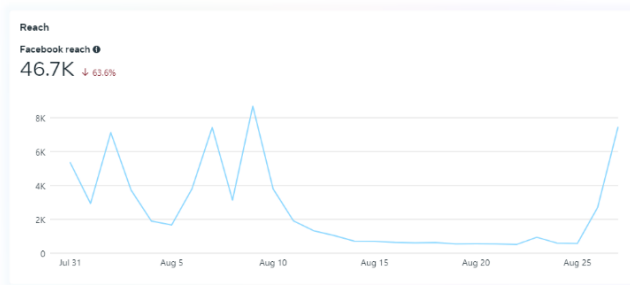
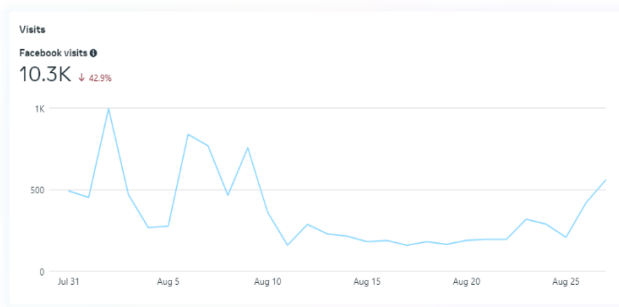
Eagraíochtaí Phórúcháin Madraí (EPM) / Dog Breeding Establishments (DBEs)

Dog Breeding Establishments Act 2010

Dog Breeding Establishments August 2024	
Total no of registered DBE's in Louth (as at 31/08/2024)	6
Hunt	1
Boarding Kennels	2
Training Kennels	1
Welfare	2

Dog Pound Facebook

The **Louth County Council Dog Pound** page on Facebook is regularly updated with information about dogs coming through the pound; these are figures showing the reach and visits to the page during August 2024.



Ponies rehomed in August 2024



The Pound Keeper attended Donkey Welfare Training organised by The Donkey Sanctuary

Forbairt Shóisialta Social Development

Tá dhá eochairfhreagracht ag an Stiúrthóireacht seo:

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

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

This Directorate has two key responsibilities:

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

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

**Ger Murphy
Stiúrthóir / Director of Service**



Titíocht / Housing

Ag Déileáil le hEaspa Dídine / Addressing Homelessness

As the Responsible Housing Authority for the North East Region, Louth County Council continues to manage this area and achieve the goals set out in the North East Homelessness Strategy 2021-2024. The following work done within County Louth in the period 20th July – 19th August 2024 can be summarised as follows:

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

20th July – 19th August 2024	Ardee MD	Dundalk MD	Drogheda MD	Total
Offered advice, support (including fast tracking H.A. for Rent Supplement eligibility)	2	115	80	197
Placed in Temporary Emergency Accommodation	2	29	30	61
Refused Offer of Temporary Emergency Accommodation	1	6	0	7
Not eligible from outside county or non HRC	0	0	0	0
Total number of Person who presented as Homeless	5	150	110	265

Tables 2 - 4 below reflect details of the adults who were in emergency accommodation in County Louth on 19th August 2024. Also included at Table 5 is the

breakdown of families in emergency accommodation at that date.

Tábla 2: Inscne / Table 2: Gender

Gender	Total
Male	102
Female	112
Total	214

Tábla 3: Aoisghrúpaí / Table 3: Age Groups

Age Group	Total
18-24	30
25-44	115
45-64	63
65+	6
Total	214

Tábla 4: Saghas Loistín / Table 4: Accommodation Type

Accommodation Type	Total
Private Emergency Accommodation (PEA)	133
Supported Temporary Accommodation (STA)	81
Total unique individuals	214

Tábla 5: Teaghlach 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	49	57	81
Couples with dependent children	17	35	44
Total	66	92	125

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

Number of tenancies established	46
Number of individuals currently in tenancy	34

Opening of Homeless Families Serviced Accommodation

Louth County Council in partnership with a local Service Provider has opened a facility at Paradise Place in Drogheda to assist with the temporary housing of families presenting to the Council as Homeless. The facility will have 50 bed spaces with residents having access to communal facilities and will be managed on a 24 hour basis with key personnel in attendance at all times.

Leithdháileadh Tithíochta suas go dtí 23 Lúnasa 2024 / Housing Allocations up to 23rd August 2024

District	LA	LA Refusal	AHB	AHB Refusal
Ardee24-hour3	0			
Drogheda	104	18	180	14
Dundalk	74	7	81	3
Total	205	30	264	17

Aistrithe / Transfers

District	Number
Ardee	3
Dundalk	5
Drogheda	17
Total	25

Liosta Tithe / Housing List

August 2024	Ardee	Drogheda	Dundalk	Total
Housing List	394	721	1180	2295
HAP Transfer List	298	998	1630	2926

Total Housing List	692	1719	2810	5221
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There are **324** applications on the transfer list (Non HAP) within Social Housing including 65 applications from the Approved Housing Bodies.

Summary of Social Housing Assessments (SSHA) 2024

The summary of the Social Housing Assessments (SSHA) 2024 is progressing. The Council issued a total of 629 letters on 19th July 2024 with a deadline of 16th August 2024 for updated forms to be returned. On 22nd August, 2024 a total of 406 updated forms have been received. A total of 223 Reminder letters were issued on 23rd August 2024 with a deadline 6th September 2024, for receipt of completed updated forms.

Íocaíocht Cúnaimh Tithíochta / Housing Assistance Payment

The total number of applications in HAP is **2,799**

Ardee Municipal District	Drogheda Borough District	Dundalk Municipal District	Total
296	899	1604	2799

Bainisteoireacht Chíosa / Rent Management

The total number currently paying rent by Household Budget is **933**.

Current Rents Arrears at 26 th August 2024	No of Accounts	Value
Rents between 4-6 weeks old	239	€85,759
Rents between 7-12 weeks old	190	€141,994
Rents greater than 12 weeks old	945	€3,226,206
TOTAL	1374	€3,453,959

Rent arrears are monitored on an ongoing basis and letters are issued to customers within two weeks of

their falling into arrears. Failure to address these arrears will result in a second letter being issued and if necessary, a third and final reminder. Failure to respond at that point will result in the escalation to tenancy warning. The following correspondence was issued in July 2024:

Letter Type	Month/Year	Number Issued
1 st Reminder	August 2024	183
2 nd Reminder	August 2024	111
Final Reminder	August 2024	12
Total issued		306

Customers that fall into arrears may enter into a payment plan for full repayment over an agreed period of time. 59 new payment plans commenced in August 2024 (up to and including 26th August).

Maoin Folmhach / Vacant Properties

Vacant Properties on 22 nd August 2024	Total
Ardee Municipal District	11
Dundalk Municipal District	16
Drogheda Municipal Borough District	24
Subtotal (re-lets) Vacant Properties	51
CPO units not yet ready for occupation (All County)	2
Total Number of Properties (Relets & CPO)	53

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	22 nd July 2024 - 22 nd August 2024	Total (YTD)
No. of Maintenance Requests Received	643	4340
No. of Maintenance Requests Completed	550	3464
No. of Maintenance Requests in Progress	57	N/A
No. of Maintenance Requests Refused	36	188

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

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

Municipal District	Number of Commenced/ Completed Units
Ardee MD: Cherrywood Park, Tallanstown Smarmore, Ardee Ferdia Park, Ardee	48
Dundalk MD: Hillview Dundalk, Barton Park, Dundalk Market Street, Dundalk Defenders Row, Dundalk	30
Drogheda BD: Ascal a Haon/ Do/ Tri, Drogheda Sunnyside Cottages, Drogheda Rathmullan Park, Drogheda Bredin Street, Drogheda John Kirk Park, Clogherhead	61

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

	22 nd July 2024 – 22 nd August 2024	Total (YTD)
Properties inspected monthly	189	1173
Advisory Letters issued	179	868
Improvement Notices issued	3	12
Private Inspections	0	3
HAP Inspections	150	600
RAS Inspections	0	0
AHB Inspections	0	442
Private Re-Inspections	0	3
HAP Re-Inspections	37	107
RAS Re-Inspections	0	0
AHB Re-Inspections	0	1
Inspections from Complaints	2	18
Properties made Compliant	13	54

Páirtíocht Tionóntachta / Tenancy Engagement

24 th July 2024 to 21 st August 2024	Drogheda	Ardee	Dundalk	Monthly Total	Yearly Total
No. Tenants who attended Pre-tenancy training	15	4	18	37	212
Post-tenancy inspections	1	0	1	2	129
Tenancy Investigation Visits	16	0	4	20	259

Iompraíocht Fhrithshóisialta / Anti-Social Behaviour

24th July 2024 to 21st August 2024	Drogheda	Ardee	Dundalk	Monthly	Yearly
ASB Cases* Received	2	0	5	7	130
ASB cases Ongoing	5	1	7	13	-
ASB cases complete	0	0	9	9	115

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

24th July 2024 to 21st August 2024	Drogheda	Ardee	Dundalk	Monthly	Yearly
Verbal Warnings	0	0	2	2	30
Written Warnings	0	0	0	0	2
Tenancy Notifications	0	0	0	0	8
Tenancy Warnings Housing Act, 2014	0	0	0	0	4

Déisiú agus Léas / Repair and Lease

To reflect the national ambition for the repair and leasing scheme (RLS), as committed to in Housing for All, national delivery targets were set for RLS of 660 units for 2022 – 2026

Units	Address	Beds	Notes
1	Dundalk	2	Finished & inspected. Awaiting final sign-off.
1	Dundalk	2	Finished & inspected. Awaiting final sign-off.

Tithíocht Inacmhainne / Affordable Housing

Discussions are ongoing with developers regarding two schemes in Drogheda and a further two schemes in the Dundalk area which are expected to come on stream in Q4 2024 and Q1 & Q2 2025.

The online Affordable Housing survey closed on 12th August 2024 with a total of 166 submissions received.

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

Active MTR Applications Total	29
AHB MTR Applications Active	18
AHB MTR completed 2024	0
Private MTR Applications Active	11
Private MTR completed 2024	4
MTR Application Awaiting Purchaser	1

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

Deontas Athchóirithe D'áras Folamh / Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant

Applications Submitted:	206
Approved:	123
Rejected:	13
Withdrawn	9
Other (FI Requests, First Site Inspections)	83
Funding Issued to Applicant	11
Principal Private Residence	154
Rental Applications	52

Iasacht Tí Údaráis Áitiúil / Local Authority Home Loans

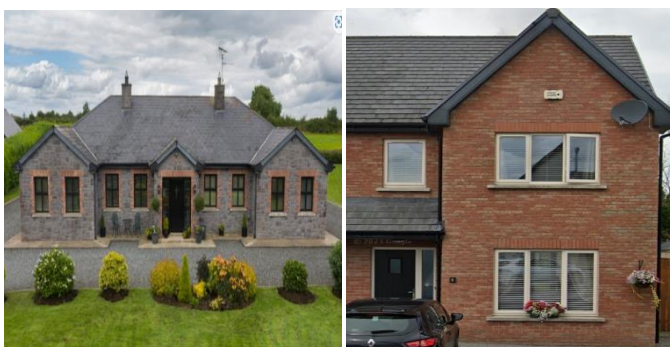
2024 Budget Allocation	€7,230,000
LAHL Approvals at 23/08/2024	€2,170,810
Breakdown of LAHL applications processed at 23rd August, 2024	
Total Number of Applications at 23/08/2024	30
LAHL carried over from 2023	6
Invalid/Returned	6
Approved	14
Declined	9
For Review	2
Outstanding – waiting on further information	5

Gnóthaithe/Acquisitions

The Council is actively working with tenants and landlords in relation to the tenant in situ scheme where tenants have been given a notice to quit, some of whom may be in receipt of HAP.

Tenant In Situ Status	2023	2024
Properties Acquired	47	42

The Council is purchasing properties for applicants who are homeless and or have a disability. In August, the Council purchased **7** properties.



Recently acquired properties in Dundalk

Seachadadh Caipitil Tithíochta / Capital Housing Delivery

Accelerated Delivery Projects

Louth County Council have sought tenders, using a regional Design and Build Framework, for contractors for four of their accelerated delivery social housing projects, comprising of 271 units. Tenders are due to close before end of September 2024.

Project Location	Approved Development Name	Total Number of Units
Ballmakenny Road, Drogheda	Bakery View , used in conjunction with it's Irish name Radharc an Bhácúis	42
Ravel, Dunleer	Ravel Drive , used in conjunction with it's Irish name Céide an Rábháil .	70
Mullavally, Louth Village	An Mullach	58
Newtown Link Road, Drogheda	Greenhill's Grange , used in conjunction with it's Irish name Gráinseach na Glaschnoic .	46

The projects were advertised in accordance with Section 179A of the planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) in April and May of this year and are intended to commence construction before the end of 2024.

Fulacht Fia, Mount Avenue, Dundalk

The contractor, OHMG (Ireland) Ltd., is progressing on site with the construction of these 93 residential units. The 93 units comprise a mix of 1, 2, 3 & 4 bed units through a combination of apartments, duplex

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

Grants are available to households where adaptations are required to render a house more suitable for the accommodation of a person with a disability. Persons aged 66 and above who are living in poor housing conditions can also apply for a grant towards necessary repairs or improvements, household income and limits apply. Priority is given where adaptations are needed to help the person leave hospital/residential care. Applicants over the age of 65 requiring help with their application forms can contact the Louth Health Age Friendly Homes Co-ordinator, Adrienne McCann at amccann@meathcoco.ie or go to the website at <http://agefriendlyhomes.ie/topics/social-health-care/healthy-homes/>.

Status	HAG	MAG	HOP	Month	YTD
Grants Approved 2023	159	27	117	-	303
Applications on Hand 20/08/2024	143	21	364	-	528
Grants Approved 21/07/2024 to 20/08/2024	11	4	22	37	173

units and houses. All units will be A-Rated energy efficient dwellings. The development is programmed to be substantially complete by end of Q2 2025 - see Photograph of current status of site development.

dwellings. The development is programmed to be substantially complete by end of Q2 2025 – see Photograph of current status of site development.



Fulacht Fia, Mount Avenue, Dundalk – 93 Residential Development under construction



Boice Court (Phase 2), Mell, Drogheda – 72 Residential Development under construction

Boice Court (Phase 2), Mell, Drogheda

The contractor, M L Quinn, is progressing on site with the construction of these 72 residential units. The 72 units comprise a mix of 1, 2, 3 & 4 bed units through a combination of apartments, duplex units and houses. All units will be A-Rated energy efficient

Seachadadh Caipitil Tithíochta / Capital Housing Delivery

Seachadadh SHIP / SHIP Delivery

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

			Stage 2 Approved		
Anne St. Dundalk	1/1	16	Stage 1 Approved	31/12/2026	8 * 2 bed Apt, 8 * 3 bed Apt.
Gort Uaine, Clogherhead - Infill	1/1	1	Completed	04/06/2024	1 * 4 bed
School Lane, Dunleer - Infill	1/1	1	Completed	04/06/2024	1 * 3 bed
Ballymakenny Road - East Site, Drogheda	1/1	130	PPP Bundle 5 Funding Approved	31/10/2027	52 * 2 bed, 47 * 3 bed, 4 * 4 bed, 1 * 5 bed, 26 * 1 bed Apt
Mullagh Close, Clogherhead	1/3	4	On-site	30/09/2024	4 * 3 bed
Mullagh Close, Clogherhead	2/3	4	On-site	31/12/2024	4 * 3 bed
Mullagh Close, Clogherhead	3/3	4	On-site	31/03/2025	4 * 3 bed
Knockshee, Old Golf Links Road, Blackrock, Dundalk	1/1	12	On-site	31/12/2024	12 * 2 bed Apt.
Ferrard Park, The Twenties, Drogheda	1/4	7	Completed	22/08/2024	2 * 3 bed, 5 * 2 bed
Ferrard Park, The Twenties, Drogheda	2/4	7	On-site	30/09/2024	2 * 3 bed, 5 * 2 bed
Ferrard Park, The Twenties, Drogheda	3/4	7	On-site	31/10/2024	2 * 3 bed, 5 * 2 bed
Ferrard Park, The Twenties, Drogheda	4/4	7	On-site	31/10/2024	2 * 3 bed, 5 * 2 bed

Quarry Court, John St. / Stoneylane, Ardee, Co. Louth	1/1	20	On-site	28/02/2025	11 * 3 bed, 3 * 3 bed Apt, 6 * 2 bed Apt.
Derryveigh House, Hoeyes Lane, Dundalk	1/1	2	Funding Approved	31/03/2025	1 * 3 bed, 1 * 4 bed
Clontygora, Dundalk	1/1	2	Funding Approved	01/03/2025	2 * 4 bed
Potters Field, Cappocks Green, Ardee, Co. Louth	2/3	8	On-site	30/06/2025	7 * 3 bed, 1 * 2 bed
Potters Field, Cappocks Green, Ardee, Co. Louth	3/3	1	Funding Approved	30/06/25	1 * 2 bed
Ballymakenny Park, (Phase 1) Drogheda, Co. Louth	1/1	10	Completed	31/05/24	2 * 4 bed, 8 * 3 bed
Listoke Elms & Listoke Willows	1/3	3	Completed	30/06/24	3 * 2 bed
Listoke Elms & Listoke Willows	2/3	12	On-site	30/09/24	6 * 2 bed Apt, 6 * 3 bed Duplex
Listoke Elms & Listoke Willows	3/3	2	Funding Approved	31/03/25	1 * 2 bed Apt, 1 * 3 bed Duplex
Bothar Glas / Ard Patrick, Green Road, Louth Village	1/1	5	On-site	30/09/24	5 * 3 bed
Medebawn Court, Dundalk	1/1	2	On-site	30/09/24	1 * 2 bed Apt, 1 * 3 bed Duplex
Seabrook, Commons Road, Dromiskin	1/1	2	On-site	03/10/24	2 * 3 bed

Seachadadh CAS / CAS Delivery

Project Name	AHB	Total Number of Social Units Expected	Project Status	<u>Projected</u> Substantial Completion Date	Unit Type
Coulter Park, Dundalk, Co Louth	Tuath	10	On Site	30/10/2024	Five * 2 Bed house, One * 2 Bed ambulant unit, One * 4 Bed Communal unit
Barrack Street, Dundalk, Co Louth	Dublin Simon	30	Stage 2 Approved	15/06/2026	Nineteen * 1 Bed apartments Three * accessible units Eight * Studio apartments
Highfield, Newry Road, Dundalk, Co Louth	Women's Aid Dundalk	12	Stage 2 approved	02/06/2026	Five * 1 bed apartments Seven * 2 bed apartments

Seachadadh CALF / CALF Delivery

Project Name		Total Number of Social Units Expected	Non-Part V / Part V	Project Status	Projected Substantial Completion Date	Unit Type
Newtown View, Marsh Road, Drogheda Respond Housing	2/3	37	33/4	On site	01/10/2024	* 26 Three Bed Houses * 11 Two Bed Houses
Newtown View, Marsh Road, Drogheda Respond Housing	3/3	56	51/6	On Site	01/10/2024	* 16 Two Bed Houses * 40 Three Bed Houses
Dublin Road, Dundalk Respond	3/3	40	36/4	On Site	30/09/2024	* 19 One Bed Apts * 12 Two Bed Apts * 9 Three Bed Apts
An Caislean, Flaxmill Lane, Yellowbatter Drogheda North & East	1/1	17	14/3	On site	30/09/2024	* 7 One Bed Apts * 7 Two Bed Apts * 3 Three Bed Apts
Friary Place, Mill Lane Drogheda Tuath	1/1	49	44/5	On-Site	30/09/2024	* 27 One Bed Apts * 22 Two Bed Apts
Racecourse Meadows with Circle	1/3	18		On Site	30/11/2024	* 18 three Bed Houses
Racecourse Meadows with Circle	2/3	8		On Site	30/03/2025	* 8 Three Bed Houses
Racecourse Meadows with Circle	3/3	19	12/7	On Site	30/06/2025	* 10 Three Bed Houses * 9 Two Bed Houses
Connollys Field, Dundalk Fold Housing	1/2	30	19/11	On- Site	01/04/2025	* 20 One Bed Apts * 10 Two Bed Apts

Connollys Field, Dundalk Fold Housing	2/2	40		On- Site	01/04/2025	* 31 One Bed Apts * 9 Two Bed Apts
Harbour View, Coulter Place, Dundalk Cluid	1/1	18		On-Site	14/03/2025	* 12 One Bed Apts * 6 Two Bed Apts
Gullion Park, Finnabair, Dundalk Co-Operative	1/1	142	128/14	Funding Approved	05/11/2025	* 48 One Bed Apts * 70 Two Bed Apts * 24 Three Bed Apts
Avourwen Meadows, Drogheda, Co. Louth Oaklee	1/1	50	45/5	Funding Approved	10/11/2025	* 18 One Bed Apts * 32 Two Bed Apts

Seirbhísí Cultúrtha / Cultural Services

An Chartlann / Archives



Archives Entrance Gate Sign

National Retention Policy Records Management Working Group

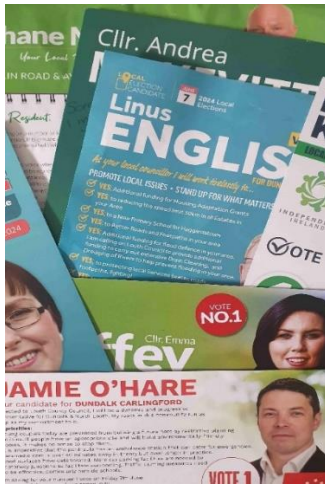
The Co Archivist is assisting with the draft records retention schedule revisions: Fire Services is at the early draft stage, while Community, and Legal Services are being finalised. To date, revised records retention schedules for Health & Safety, Planning & Development, Housing, Procurement, Finance, HR, Water, Transport and Infrastructure, Corporate, Environment, Enterprise & Economic Development, IT, and Libraries have been

completed, approved and issued out to local authorities.

The Co Archivist assists staff on an ongoing basis with queries on the management of records and advises on the preparation of records both for destruction and for transfer to the Records Centre and the Co Archives. Work is continuing to take place in reviewing and appraising records for retention as archives or for destruction with work on the Waste section's records being done recently.

Local Election Promotional Leaflets Wanted

The County Archives actively collects leaflets, flyers and posters of election candidates and their parties for its archive collection. Donations of this material is welcome from election candidates and members of the public. Three copies of leaflets are ideal if available. Leaflets can be placed in an envelope or bag and left into the County Archives at the Old Gaol, Ardee Road, Dundalk, A91PY17 during office hours or any Council office or library marked for the attention of the County Archives. This material contributes to a valuable research source. If you have any other archive 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.



Selection of election leaflets received to date

LCC Commemorative Programme 2024

As part of the Louth County Council Commemorative Programme 2024, a quantity of County Council archives that support the 1924 period have received conservation treatment with some currently being digitised. Once the work is completed, a public access copy to the volumes will be placed on the County Archives website. This will improve the democratisation of access to records through the provision of free online public access to original archival sources. The 2024 Commemorative Programme is funded by the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media.

Catalogue Upgrade

The service's cataloguing software is due to be upgraded as the current system is now end of life. It will be upgraded to a modern system with enhanced features and improved speed. It will be hosted on the Cloud. Testing work for the new upgrade has taken place.

Research Enquiries

The preservation of archives is a vital need for our society and the service receives a steady volume of enquiries on archives. Research enquiries include those from private individuals, academics (historians, archaeologists, social scientists, etc), professionals (solicitors, engineers, planning consultants, etc), family historians, students and state agencies. The Archivist also supports staff in various sections with many business-related enquiries.

Climate Action

The Co Archives supports corporate Climate Action Goals. Environmental conditions in the Co Archives building are being monitored and adjustments to the new BMS settings made by the Archivist with support from Facilities staff.

125th Anniversary of Irish Local Government

2024 is the 125th anniversary of Irish Local Government. The Local Government Act of 1898 abolished the Grand Jury system and established County Councils, Rural District Councils and Urban Councils and granted many Irish people the right to vote for the first time. The first local elections were held in January 1899 for urban districts and in April 1899 for county areas. On April 22nd 1899 many of the new Councils met for the first time, including Louth County Council. An online exhibition to mark this anniversary of Louth County Council has been produced by Louth County Archives and is available on www.louthcoco.ie (on the moving notices on the [home-page](#)). It features copies of archives including the minutes of the first Louth County Council meeting. A publication to mark the anniversary is currently being produced by the Local Government Archivists and Records Managers in collaboration with the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.



Early photograph of Louth County Council: with guests at Powerscourt, 17 July 1906



The Chapel (retired printers) from the National Print Museum, Beggars Bush, Dublin on a visit to the Co Archives

The Big House and the Irish Civil War with John Dorney
 Drogheda Library, Wednesday 11th September at 6.30pm. Tel: 041-9876162

“Reaching for the stars” - de Valera and America with Dr. David McCullagh
 Dundalk Library, Saturday 21st September at 3pm. Tel: 042-9353190

The Irish Diaspora with Turtle Bunbury
 Ardee Library, Thursday, October 10th at 6:30pm. Tel: 041-6859023

Right to Read



Summer Stars, Réaltaí an tSamhraidh 2024

Summer Stars continued throughout August in all branches of Louth Library Service. One thousand children signed up to the programme and received a free Summer Stars Bag and activity pack. Louth Library Service also ran a competition in each library branch throughout August to win an Arts and Crafts hamper. Storytime and arts and crafts took place in branches throughout the month of August to celebrate Summer Stars.

Leabharlanna / Libraries

Louth County Council Commemorative Programme 2024



An Roinn Turasóireachta, Cultúir, Ealaíon, Gaeltachta, Spóirt agus Meán
 Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media

Louth Library Service are delighted to announce their Autumn lecture series as part of the Commemorative Programme 2024 as supported by the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media. The upcoming series of lectures is presented by leading authors, historians, and broadcasters and is aimed specifically at an adult audience. The talks will focus on connecting and engaging adults in the local community to reflect on the early years of the state, whilst also looking back on events during the Decade of Centenaries. All talks are free to attend with no booking required.

The Last Land War with Dr. Myles Dungan
 Dundalk Library, Thursday 5th September at 6:30pm. Tel: 042-9353190



Summer Stars Arts and Crafts in Drogheda Library



Library Assistant, Ciara Stewart at Summer Stars Storytime

The monthly Baby Book Clubs were held on August 6th in Drogheda Library and on August 7 in Dundalk Library.



Baby Book Club, Dundalk Library

Teddy Bear Picnic

All were welcome and sixty-one cuddly toys and teddies came with their friends for the teddy bears picnic. Library staff read “Chu’s first day at school”, “The Bear Behind”, and “Do Not Open This book!”, a popular favourite at the Dundalk Library event on August 23rd.



Chu’s First Day at School, one of the Teddy Bear Picnic reads, also part of the Little Library Book Bags initiative

Harry Potter Birthday

Dundalk Library held the annual Harry Potter themed quiz on August 2nd at 3pm. Congratulations to the quiz winners ‘The Wonderful Wizards’ who had some fierce competition with two tiebreaker rounds to determine the winners who received hardback Harry Potter diaries.


Harry Potter mania gripped Drogheda library too as young and old joined staff to celebrate Harry Potter’s birthday. The library staff facilitated a special Harry Potter storytime session followed by a Harry Potter quiz.



Harry Potter storytime in Dundalk Library



Winners of Harry Potter quiz, Dundalk





Tá mála 'Mo Leabharlann Bheag' ann do gach páiste atá chun tosú ar scoil i 2024!

Pioc suas Mála Leabhar 'Mo Leabharlann Bheag' **SAOR IN AISCE** dóibh sa leabharlann i do cheantar féin

There's a Little Library Bag for every child starting school in 2024!

Pick up their **FREE** Little Library Book Bag at your local library

Little Library Book Bag promotion

Little Library Book Bag Event

Louth Library Service was delighted to welcome local author Emer Conlon of the Vroom-Town books. Emer facilitated storytime sessions in Dundalk, Drogheda and Ardee libraries as part of the Little Library Book Bag initiative.



Drogheda library staff on Harry Potter Day

My Little Library Book Bag

“My Little Library Book Bag” is available free to collect in each branch of Louth Library Service for children due to make the transition from pre-school to primary school this year. There is a choice of an Irish title “Beag Bideach” or an English title “Chu’s First Day at School”. Children are welcome to visit their local library branch to pick up their free bag and library membership card wallet and so begin their lifetime library membership journey.



Emer Conlon in Drogheda Library

Niamh's Extreme Earth Mission #3: Antarctica, the Coldest Continent

Dr. Niamh Shaw returned to share her stories about her adventure of a lifetime in Antarctica on Saturday August 14th in Dundalk Library. From breathtaking glaciers to close encounters with penguins she shared all the highs, challenges, and unforgettable moments from her incredible journey to the bottom of the world.



Antarctica talk by Dr Niamh Shaw in Dundalk Library

Starting big school with Dr. Mary O’Kane

Dr. Mary O’Kane offered some practical advice for parents and guardians on the transition for children to junior infants in Ardee Library on Friday August 23rd. Library staff promoted the ‘My Little Library Book Bag’ initiative and the benefits of library membership for children as they begin primary school.

School Summer Camps

Louth Library Service had a number of visits from Summer Camps in July and August in Drogheda and Dundalk Library. Library staff facilitated library tours, storytime, art & craft activities, magic table and 3D printer demonstrations.

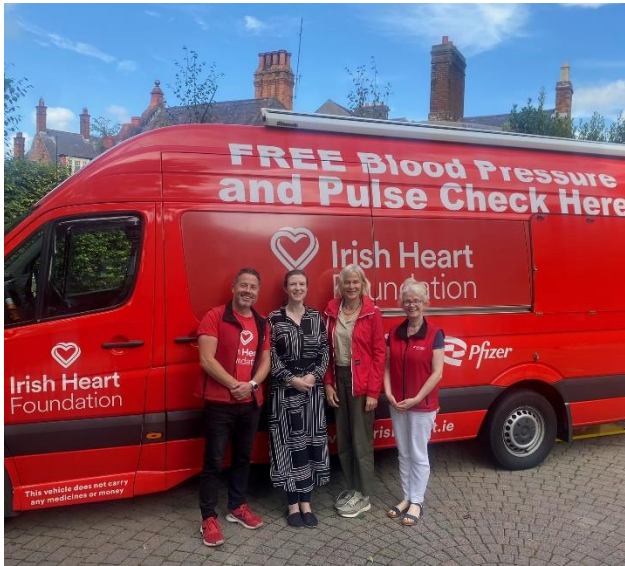


Storytime event in Drogheda Library

Healthy Ireland at Your Library



The Irish Heart Foundation Mobile Health Unit were outside Dundalk library on Thursday August 15th from 10am-3.15. During the heart health check, expert nurses checked attendees’ blood pressure and pulse and provided heart health information.



Senior Librarian Sarah McAllister with the Irish Heart Foundation expert team at Dundalk Library

The Health Service Executive (HSE) also hosted a follow up session on Discovering Diabetes on Wednesday August 21st in Dundalk library.

Heritage Week



Louth Library Service were back on the heritage trail to celebrate National Heritage Week 2024. This year staff from Drogheda library travelled to the monastic site at Monasterboice, one of Louth's finest heritage sites which attracts tourists from across the world to experience the Round Tower and High Cross.

A video recording was compiled and streamed on the library Facebook page during Heritage Week. The short video brought viewers on a historical journey exploring the heritage of Monasterboice. The videos compiled for Heritage Week 2021, 2022 and 2023 were also streamed on the library Facebook page.



Library Assistant Eilish Boyd at the round tower in Monasterboice

Art of Gardening for Climate Change

Dr. Pamela Whitaker showed attendees how to develop skills to create gardens that are productive and restorative, drawing inspiration from artists who garden. Eileen Carter from Blackrock Park Committee shared her experiences on how to cultivate food-friendly nature habitats.

The event was held in The Still, an outdoor learning pod, part of the Varcities pilot project, which collocates with the Outdoor Urban Green learning space and Sensory Garden for Health & Well-Being beside Dundalk Library.



Pamela Whitaker and Eileen Carter at the Art of Gardening for Climate Change in The Still, Dundalk

Seed saving workshop

Drogheda library was delighted to welcome organic gardener Roisín Cotter for a talk during Heritage Week. This informative session was hosted by Louth Urban Food Sanctuary's Team. Roisín spoke about the history of seed saving and its vital role in achieving seed security and sovereignty. Attendees learnt about the types of seeds that can be saved and the simple techniques to do so, ensuring the continuation of diverse and resilient plant varieties. The event was well attended and very much enjoyed by all.

Roisin Cotter talked about practical techniques for seed saving and attendees heard about organisations like the Irish Seed Savers who are dedicated to preserving heritage crop seeds.



Fiona Lennon, Roisín Cotter and Melissa Hayes in Drogheda library

Modern Potato Growing

Maria Flynn of Ballymakenny Farm delved into a fresh perspective on potato cultivation at Dundalk Library. She also talked about challenging conventional methods and providing new insights into the future of farming.

Swift Talk

Dundalk hosted an evening Biodiversity and Climate Action Team Birdwatch Ireland event on August 22nd. Speakers shared insights into the reasons behind the declining population of this endangered species.

Ways in which we can contribute to efforts to support these remarkable birds were shown. The Louth Swift Project is a collaboration between Birdwatch Ireland and Louth Nature Trust.



Birdwatch Ireland surveyor Peter Phillips speaking at Dundalk Library

Children's and Family Events

Ardee Library Knitting and Crochet Group

The Ardee Library Knitting and Crochet Group continued to meet every Thursday afternoon throughout the month. New members are always welcome to attend. Children are welcome but must be accompanied by an adult. No booking required. The group continue to work on baby hats for babies in the maternity ICU at Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital, Drogheda.



Ardee Library crocheted baby hats



African Arts Exhibition in Dundalk Library



Adebolu Amushan from the African Cultural Centre Ireland in Ardee Library



Collection of traditional African artefacts on display in Ardee Library

Adult Events

African Cultural Centre of Ireland

The African Arts Exhibition by the African Cultural Centre Ireland toured Dundalk, Drogheda and Ardee libraries in August. Visitors enjoyed a stunning display of traditional and contemporary art, celebrating the diversity, beauty and depth of African art up close.

Ardee Active Retirement Needle Work Group

launched their most recent work "Irish Street and Environs" tapestry on Wednesday August 21st at 3pm in Ardee Library.



Members of the Ardee Active Retirement Needle Work Group at the launch of their tapestry "Irish Street and Environs"

LMETB's Louth Education Guidance and Information Service in Ardee Library

Shan from LMETB's Louth Education Guidance and Information Service held an information morning on Tuesday August 13th in the library to offer advice and guidance on up-to-date education and training options and help with CVs.

Age Action Computer Classes

New computer classes have commenced in Drogheda Library. The course offers free one-to-one tuition for people over the age of 55 who have little or no computer experience. To book email gettingstarted@ageaction.ie

Creative Writing

Whether you're a budding or experienced writer, Creative Writing groups are a great way to gain inspiration for and confidence in your work. Our Creative Writing groups meet at the following dates and times:

The Vere Foster Writers Group in Ardee Library meets every second Friday at 10:30am.

Just Write in Drogheda Library meets on the first and third Tuesday of every month from 2:30pm – 4pm.

Regular Events

Throughout August, we enjoyed our weekly Toddler Group meetings, our monthly Baby Book Clubs and some very special story-times for all ages! Our regular events will continue throughout 2024 at the following times:

Baby Book Club

Drogheda: The first Tuesday of each month at 10:30am

Dundalk: The first Wednesday of each month at 10:30am

Parent and Toddler Groups

Come join in the fun. All are welcome to attend. So just turn up on the day, no booking required.

Ardee Library: Every Wednesday from 10:30am – 12:30pm

Drogheda Library: Every Thursday from 10am – 12pm

Dundalk Library: Every Thursday from 10am – 12pm

Library Groups

Various groups meet monthly including Irish Conversation exchange, Bookclub and Knitting and Crochet groups. Details available from participating libraries.

Film Screenings

Ardee Library's Film Screenings continue throughout the month of August, taking place every Tuesday at 2:15pm. Booking is not required, and all are welcome.

eServices,

e-Reading all in one place on BorrowBox!

As well as audiobooks and eBooks Borrowbox now offers access to online newspapers, ebooks and magazines in one handy app available through your library. The new 'ePress' section in the app is where you can locate your favourite magazines and newspapers.

If you're not already using BorrowBox, don't worry! Simply download the app, and then use your library card and PIN to register, browse and read. To help you get set up, speak with a member of staff or visit our regular eService information sessions:



BorrowBox is free to access as a library member

Ardee Library: The last Friday of the month from 10.30am-11.30am

Drogheda Library: The last Thursday of the month from 2:30pm – 3:30pm

Dundalk Library: The last Friday of the month from 11am – 12pm

Louth Library Primary Schools Service

The School Library Service is currently preparing for the 2024/2025 school term with new stock and an updated list of our class sets available for individual teachers to borrow.

During the past school year, September 2023 to May 2024, the school van visited schools on 79 days with some 92 individual school visits. It's been a very busy year with over 9,400 books loaned to Louth schools and 3,454 visitors to the van. There was

continued engagement with teachers and educators with 134 new library membership cards issued to those in County Louth.

The Schools mobile van will be back on the road in September for the new academic year with lots of wonderful new titles to encourage all the young children in the schools we visit to enjoy their reading. We will have scheduled visits to ELCs and crèches and our Housebound Service will continue.

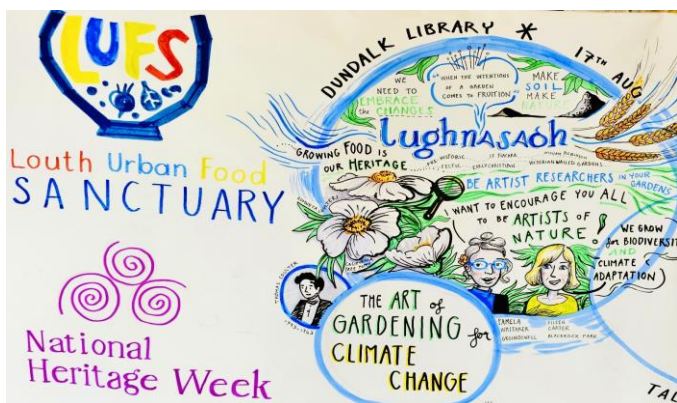
Na hEalaíona / Arts

Creative Ireland

Creative Climate

Louth Urban Food Sanctuary held a range of events to celebrate Heritage week. Focusing on our heritage crops and the changes in our food habits over the years, we had a diverse range of talks and workshops with everything from the Art of Gardening to Seed Saving. We had special guests including Maria Flynn from Ballymakenny Potato Farm talking about modern potato growing and the heritage of some of our newer breeds of potatoes. We also held a very special multicultural event in Tallanstown Community Garden and community centre. Members from several different cultures living in the area came together to celebrate the diverse food habits of their ancestors and exchanging recipes. We had representatives from the Indian, Moldovan, Afghan and African communities there exchanging recipes and ideas.

The Louth Urban Food Sanctuary is a research project that will continue until the end of Autumn. For more details on the project and upcoming events please see the LUFFS website: <https://louthurbanfoodsantuary.com/>



Art Facilitator Eimear McNally captured some great feedback and thoughts during our first event for Heritage Week, The Art of Gardening.

It also contains some videos on our key project team and a tutorial on seed saving and planting Garlic. You can also email creativeireland@louthcoco.ie if you wish to find out more about the project.

One of our inhouse projects from the Creative Ireland Culture Team this year was through our Age Friendly Officer Sinead McVerry and the Age Action team in Louth. Working with Paul Hayes from An Táin Arts Centre and a group of local amateur actors, the 3-month **Ageism project** resulted in 2 short films that captured the passion for life that you still have when you get older. 'Age is just a number, never stop living life'. The screening of the films took place in An Táin Arts Centre in what was a really emotional and inspiring evening.

Oriel Centre Summer Series

The annual Oriel Centre Summer Show Series 'Seisiún' finished on August 15th following a fantastic number of concerts. Each concert featured high quality traditional musicians, singers and dancers many of whom are All Ireland title holders in music, song and dance. Artists included Rachael Dooley, Fionnuala Donlon, Jack Ridley, Iarla McMahon, Bríd Dooley, Nora Malone and Pearse McMahon.

Carlingford Heritage Centre Summer Series

The Summer Series with Zoë Conway and John McIntyre took place in August on Sundays 11th, 18th and 25th. With performances from Bill Whelan, Michelle and Louise Mulcahy and Cathy Jordan the

concerts thrilled audiences alike in the magnificent surrounds of the Heritage Centre.

Culture Night

This year's Culture Night will take place on Friday September 20th. Following our call out we have a range of fantastic events on offer in Louth to celebrate with all ages catered for. Events will go live on the national Culture Night page. For more details see [here](#)

Highlanes Gallery

Summer Sunday Traditional Performances.

Highlanes welcomed the August Summer Sundays with performances in the atmospheric surroundings of the gallery. Drogheda Brass Band captivated the sounds of summer in the courtyard of the gallery on August 11th with the music billowing across Laurence St as the sun shone. On August 18th Dundalk Concertina player Sárán Mulligan and Wicklow fiddle and clarinet player Muirine Nic Roibín performed together in the beautiful lower gallery to a packed audience of adults and children alike.

Elsewhere in the gallery on August 20th as part of Heritage Week, artists Caoimhe O'Dwyer and Jenny Slater hosted a parent and toddler taster workshop where participants can experience the gallery exhibitions and themes through creative practice.

Exhibition – All at Once Collapsing Together –

A Caomhín Gaffney exhibition which opened in the lower gallery on August 24th. The exhibition explores the restorative power of nature alongside the irreconcilable reality of the climate crisis. The exhibition will be in place until November 2nd. For more details see [here](#)

Droichead Arts Centre



Boyne Valley Film Festival Co-Directors, Frank Kelly and Collette Farrell at the launch of this year's festival in Droichead Arts Centre

An Táin Arts Centre

Brigid & Cú – The League of Legends – An Táin Arts Centre were back with their annual outdoor performance at Annaverna house in Ravensdale. This year's tale followed two heroes, Brigid & Cú, as they embarked on a journey to unravel the disappearance of Mother Nature. Encountering various international figures they formed a league of legends, united in their quest to preserve the planet's precious natural treasures. As always this was great fun for the family, despite the odd shower!



The cast of Brigid & Cú during rehearsals.

Other News

Arts Council Funding

There are some funding streams opening in the coming weeks with the arts council including:

- Artist in the Community Scheme
- Arts and Disability Connect
- Writers in School Scheme
- Touring of Work Scheme
- Visual Artist Workspace Scheme.

For information on any of the above and other opportunities throughout the year, please go to the Arts Council Funding page [here](#)

An Iarsmalann / Museum

Museum news



Display of Louth GAA ephemera continuing at the Museum

Over August the Museum has been busy facilitating visits to the Museum itself and leading walking tours outdoors around the town. The Museum is also hosting a display of ephemera commemorating the strong tradition of Gaelic Football in the county best exemplified in the All-Ireland Champion's medal from 1912.

The Museum hosted a basketball coaching seminar "Developing a team and club culture" in the Museum Theatre with American Don Showalter who serves

as director of Coach Development of the USA Basketball Youth. This is one of seven coaching clinics he is presenting across the island of Ireland this August.



Basketball coach Don Showalter at the Museum in August

Recent acquisitions

Among the Museum's most recent acquisitions are some personal grooming items, a GNR retirement clock and an original street sign from Ardee. This sign commemorates Patrick Tierney killed in the War of Independence on November 30th, 1920. Tisdale street, where he was killed and his family lived, was officially renamed in his honour in 1951.



Ardee street sign for Patrick Tierney Street



Clock presented to its recipient on his retirement from the Great Northern Railway (GNR)



A gentleman's cutthroat razor



A shaving kit from the early 20th century

Freagairt Dhaonnúil na hÚcráine Ukraine Humanitarian Response

Is cruthú sealadach í an Stiúrthóireacht seo chun ceannaireachta a thabhairt ar an bhfreagairt ar Fhreagra Dhaonnúil Úcráin agus tá sí faoi stiúir ag an té atá sínithe thíos.

This Directorate is a temporary creation to lead on the response to the Ukraine Humanitarian Response and is led by the undersigned.

Yvonne O'Brien
Stiúrthóir Gníomhach/ Acting Director



Freagairt Dhaonnúil Úcráin / Ukraine Humanitarian Response

Offer A Home (OAH) Programme

Property Figures as at 30/08/2024

Property offers recorded to date	76
Owners successfully contacted	74
Properties allocated to date	39
Beneficiaries assigned to date	128
Assessments	55
Assessments currently underway	1
Properties assessed as suitable	39
Properties with minor works required	0
Properties withdrawn	16
Properties not viable	20

One property was offered in August and is awaiting assessment. A family of three moved into a OAH property in Clogherhead. Five enquiries were made about offering properties however they were deemed unsuitable as the properties were previously rented. 24 new expressions of interest in being accommodated under the Offer A Home programme were received from Ukrainian families and processed during August.

Refurbishment Programme

The Ukraine Response team facilitate the delivery of temporary accommodation for beneficiaries of temporary protection under the Emergency Refurbishment Ukraine Programme ERUP, for The Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth (DCEDIY). The team facilitate accommodation proposals to the point where DCEDIY issue a Letter of Intent (LOI) to the provider to enter a contract to manage and operate the facility.

The Department's objective is to relocate beneficiaries from hotel, or other unsuitable accommodation to more long-term accommodation delivered through the ERUP initiative.

Emergency Refurbishment Ukraine Programme ERUP to date

Cumulative Offers of properties to ERUP	38
Unsuitable / withdrawn	27
Under evaluation in July 2024	1
DCEDIY Letter of Intent issued	10
No. of beds combined for delivery	582
DCEDIY contracts issued	3
No of beds delivered	315 incl LCC refurb* refurbs*

*224 beds delivered by LCC pre ERUP

The executive engineer continues oversight of properties in the ERUP programme which are in receipt of LOIs.

Local Authority Integration Team

The team continue to hold clinics each week throughout the county. International Protection applicants are attending with different issues which are being handled by the Integration Support Workers. There were eight clinics held in August with 40 residents assessed.

The LAIT team in partnership with Dundalk FC organised a 4-week coaching session for International Protection applicants. Residents from the Carnbeg Hotel are attending the course. Liam Burns, First Team Coach with Dundalk FC is coaching the residents. The coaching course concluded with each participant receiving a certificate of completion, tickets to the next home game and food.



English Language Provision

A meeting was held with all stakeholders in the provision of English Language supports in Co. Louth. The purpose of the meeting was to develop a coordinated approach in supporting people who need access to English Language. It was agreed by all present to establish more volunteer based conversational classes throughout Louth to compliment the class based supports available with the LMETB. Discussions have begun with community groups with a view of starting conversational English classes in the coming weeks.