

Comhairle Contae **Lú**  
**Louth** County Council

ANNUAL REPORT **2018**

**Your** Council for **Your** Community



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Comhairle Contae Lú  
Louth County Council

# 1

**Introduction**

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## Foreword



**Liam Reilly**  
Cathaoirleach

It has been a tremendous honour to serve as Cathaoirleach of Louth County Council during 2018. During my time, I have had the opportunity to interact with so many individuals and communities who help to make County Louth such a vibrant place to live, work and visit.

The contribution made by our citizens, young and old, to the environment, community, sporting and cultural life of the County is something for which we can all be very proud. I am particularly proud of the work of the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) in progressing the targets set out in the Local Economic and Community Plan 2016 to 2022.

This ambitious plan aims to tackle disadvantage, support enterprise, employment and training, and to develop community infrastructure.

There are so many highlights in the past year, including awards received by the Council, community groups and individuals, such as the IPB LAMA Council and Community Awards, Public Participation Network Community and Voluntary Awards Night, Pride of Place achievements and five medals in the National Tidy Towns Awards.

It would be remiss of me not to acknowledge the many challenges ahead, particularly the uncertainty around Brexit. Our Comhairle na nÓg members have been so active on this and I wish them continued success as the next generation of active citizens.

I would like to thank my fellow councillors for their support throughout the year and their tireless work on behalf of the people of our county. I would also like to thank our Chief Executive, Joan Martin and the Executive for their commitment, help and support throughout the year. I would also like to thank the staff of Louth County Council for their continued dedication for the people of Louth.

My time as Cathaoirleach has been an enlightening, enjoyable and a rewarding experience. I look forward to continuing to play my part in addressing the challenges facing the County in 2019 and beyond - it has truly been a great honour to serve the citizens of Louth.

## Overview



**Joan Martin**  
Chief Executive

While 2018 proved to be a challenging one for Louth, particularly the uncertainty around Brexit, it was not without its highlights. I am proud of the proactive approach taken by the Council in relation to both the challenges and the opportunities the year presented.

The Council's Local Enterprise Office (LEO) continued to provide vital support to small businesses in the county, mentoring 41 businesses in relation to the potential impacts of Brexit and organising and supporting a number of Brexit seminars. LEO also approved technical grant assistance to 10 businesses to develop new export markets. Almost 1,500 people attended business training and networking events organised by LEO with 98 additional jobs created. The Council also continued to work closely with Enterprise Ireland and the IDA to encourage inward investment into the county.

The council worked very closely with the Fleadh Executive Committee to make Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann 2018 the most successful in the history of the event, with more than half a million people attending the festival in the historic town of Drogheda. Other highlights of the year included the Freedom of Drogheda being granted to Seamus Mallon, the first Deputy First Minister of Northern Ireland. The welcome home ceremony for Dundalk FC in Market Square was a night that will live long in the memories of the 4,000 supporters who came

along. The Sinking of the SS Dundalk exhibition in the County Museum was a powerful reminder of the horrors of war and how one incident can resonate for generations.

The enhancement of our towns remains a priority for the Council and the launch of the Westgate vision for Drogheda, along with securing funding for the redevelopment of Clanbrassil Street in Dundalk, was a source of pride to all of the staff involved.

While many are still struggling to find suitable accommodation, the Council's housing staff have shown great energy and dedication, resulting in the Council exceeding our HAP and leasing targets for 2018. In partnership with approved housing bodies, 211 new homes were delivered through construction and acquisitions.

I want to thank the staff for their hard work and to wish all staff who retired in 2018 a very happy and healthy retirement.

Finally, I would like to thank the Cathaoirleach and the members for their support for the many positive initiatives and projects delivered for the people of Louth in 2018.



90% OF DOGS RE-HOMED



40,000KM OF ROADS GRITTED



ANNUAL BUDGET OF €100 MILLION OR €783 PER CITIZEN



90% OF SCHOOLS IN Comhairle na nÓg

362,916 LIBRARY ITEMS ISSUED



€1.4M SPENT ON IMPROVING SOCIAL HOMES FOR DISABLED ACCESS



€9,000,000 SPENT ON ROAD IMPROVEMENTS & REPAIRS



7,600 TONNES OF WASTE RECYCLED



39,000,000 LITRES OF WATER DISTRIBUTED DAILY



500,000+ VISITORS TO LOUTH FOR Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann



2,644 HAP TENANCIES

1,271 FIRE & EMERGENCY SERVICE INCIDENTS



71% OF FIRE & EMERGENCY INCIDENTS ATTENDED TO IN UNDER 10 MINUTES



€18,256 SAVED IN ENERGY CONSERVATION MEASURES

156,499 CUSTOMER SERVICE QUERIES RECEIVED

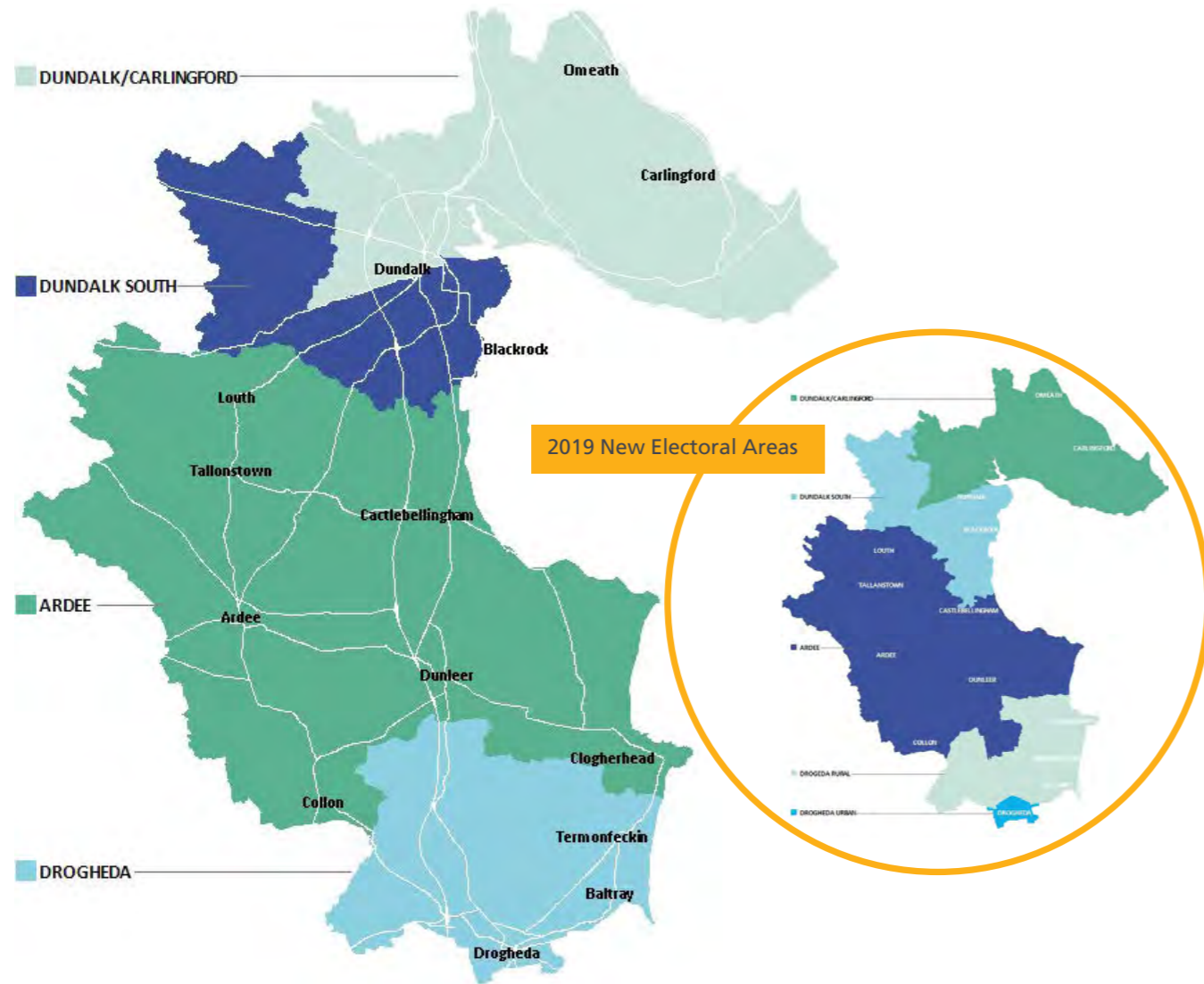


€536,620 IN LEO FUNDING GRANTS



BREXIT TRAINING FOR 41 LOCAL BUSINESSES

## Electoral Areas of County Louth



County Louth is divided into the three municipal districts of Drogheda, Ardee and Dundalk. For electoral purposes the county is made up of four electoral areas; Drogheda, Ardee, Dundalk-Carlingford and Dundalk South. In December 2018, the two electoral areas of Drogheda Rural and Drogheda South came into being following a Ministerial Order.

### REGISTER OF ELECTORS

Louth County Council is responsible for compiling an annual register of citizens entitled to vote. In 2018 two referenda and a Presidential election were held. The Register of Electors, effective from 15th February 2017, showed a total voting population of 95,376 for Co Louth.

Presidential Electors	89,948
Dáil Electors	90,861
European Electors	91,660
Local Electors	95,376

## ELECTED MEMBERS: COMHAIRLE CONTAE LÚ / LOUTH COUNTY COUNCIL

### Ardee Electoral Area - 6 Members



**TOM CUNNINGHAM**  
**Sinn Féin**

4 Oriel Cove, Clogherhead  
Drogheda, Co. Louth  
m: 087 3717884  
e: tom.cunningham@louthcoco.ie



**COLM MARKEY**  
**Fine Gael**

Corstown, Togher  
Drogheda, Co. Louth  
m: 087 8317500  
e: colm.markey@louthcoco.ie



**PEARSE MCGEOUGH**  
**Sinn Féin**

8, St. Mary's Villas, Kilsaran  
Castlebellingham, Co. Louth  
m: 086 8135447  
e: pearse.mcgeough@louthcoco.ie



**DOLORES MINOGUE**  
**Fine Gael**

Whitefield, Jervis Street  
Ardee, Co. Louth  
m: 087 9512788  
e: minoguedolores@gmail.com



**LIAM REILLY (CATHAORLEACH)**  
**Fianna Fáil**

Milltown Grange, Dromiskin  
Dundalk, Co. Louth  
m: 086 1000881  
e: info@liamreilly.ie



**JIM TENANTY**  
**Non Party**

Riverbank, Jervis Street  
Ardee, Co. Louth  
m: 087 3717883  
e: jim.tenanty@louthcoco.ie

## Drogheda Electoral Area - 10 Members



**PAUL BELL**  
**Labour**

109 Ballsgrove  
Drogheda, Co. Louth  
m: 087 1206736  
e: paulbell1@eircom.net



**TOMMY BYRNE**  
**Fianna Fáil**

10 Harvest Way, Wheaton Hall  
Drogheda, Co. Louth  
m: 086 8201439  
e: info@thomasbyrne.ie  
tommy.byrne@louthcoco.ie



**JOANNA BYRNE**  
**Sinn Féin**

79 Avenue 1 Yellowbatter  
Drogheda Co. Louth  
m: 087 1146522  
e: joanna.byrne@louthcoco.ie



**DAVID SAURIN**  
**Sinn Féin**

Rivendell, Sheepgrange, Tullyallen  
Drogheda, Co. Louth  
m: 087 1128613  
e: david.saurin@louthcoco.ie



**KENNETH FLOOD**  
**Sinn Féin**

30 Dunlin Street, Aston Village  
Drogheda, Co. Louth  
m: 085 2133606  
e: kenneth.flood@louthcoco.ie



**FRANK GODFREY**  
**Non Party**

Boyne Valley Cottage, Donore Road  
Drogheda, Co. Louth  
m: 086 6060261  
e: frank.godfrey@louthcoco.ie



**KEVIN CALLAN**  
**Non Party**

Ballywater Farm, Ballymakenny  
Road, Drogheda, Co. Louth  
m: 087 7776648  
e: kevin.callan@louthcoco.ie



**RICHIE CULHANE**  
**Fine Gael**

34 Melrose Avenue, Stameen  
Drogheda, Co. Louth  
m: 087 6469495  
e: richie.culhane@louthcoco.ie



**PIO SMITH**  
**Labour**

37 Forest Grange  
Ballymakenny Road  
Drogheda, Co. Louth  
m: 087 9460673  
e: pio.smith@hotmail.com



**OLIVER TULLY**  
**Fine Gael**

Baltray, Drogheda  
Co. Louth  
m: 086 8245715  
e: tullyoliver@yahoo.co.uk

## Dundalk/Carlingford Electoral Area - 6 Members



**EDEL CORRIGAN**  
Sinn Féin

Aghaboys, Mountpleasant  
Dundalk, Co. Louth  
m: 085 8476660  
e: edel.corrigan@louthcoco.ie



**MARK DEAREY**  
Green Party

Corrakit, Omeath  
Dundalk, Co. Louth  
m: 087 2358197  
e: mark.dearey@louthcoco.ie



**CONOR KEELAN**  
Fianna Fáil

Oak Lodge, Newry Road  
Dundalk, Co. Louth  
m: 087 7773200 / 042 9336727  
e: conor.keelan@louthcoco.ie



**JOHN MCGAHON**  
Fine Gael

Faughart Gardens  
St Patrick's Terrace  
Dundalk, Co. Louth  
m: 085 1720143  
e: john.mcgahon@louthcoco.ie



**ANTÓIN WATERS**  
Sinn Féin

Lugbriscan, Riverstown  
Dundalk, Co. Louth  
m: 087 4165157  
e: antoin.watters@louthcoco.ie



**PETER SAVAGE**  
Fianna Fáil

Carn na n-Aol, Millgrange  
Greenore, Co. Louth  
m: 087 1364378  
e: petersav@eircom.net



**MARIANNE BUTLER**  
Green Party

Cophorn, Lower Avenue Road  
Dundalk, Co. Louth  
m: 086 8677672  
e: marianne.butler@louthcoco.ie



**EMMA COFFEY**  
Fianna Fáil

154 Riverside Drive, Red Barns Road  
Dundalk, Co. Louth  
m: 087 1940837  
e: emma.coffey@louthcoco.ie



**MARIA DOYLE (LEAS CATHAOIRLEACH)**  
Fine Gael

6 Bóthar na Dara, Lis Na Dara  
Carrick Road, Dundalk, Co. Louth  
m: 086 8770894  
e: maria.doyle@louthcoco.ie



**ANNE CAMPBELL**  
Sinn Féin

Springmount House, Dublin Road  
Dundalk, Co. Louth  
m: 087 9473009  
e: anne.campbell@louthcoco.ie



**MAEVE YORE**  
Non Party

2 Blakely Close, Avenue Road  
Dundalk, Co. Louth  
m: 087 6172127  
e: maeve.yore@louthcoco.ie



**RUAIRI Ó MURCHU**  
Sinn Féin

30 Cherryvale, Bay Estate  
Dundalk, Co. Louth  
m: 087 7978018  
e: ruairi.omurchu@sinnfein.ie



**TOMÁS SHARKEY**  
Sinn Féin

Allardstown, Knockbridge  
Dundalk, Co. Louth  
m: 087 9090629  
e: tomassharkeylouth@gmail.com



# 2

## CORPORATE & EMERGENCY SERVICES

The Corporate Services Department of Louth County Council provides an effective and efficient support service to councillors and senior management, along with general services to members of the public. As well as monitoring and reviewing the Council's policies and procedures on an ongoing basis, it is also responsible for the administration of council meetings, the compilation of the Register of Electors, preparing the Council's annual report, property management, health and safety, and handling Freedom of Information requests.



## Council Meetings 2018

A total of 13 meetings of Louth County Council were held in 2018 - a monthly meeting on the third Monday of each month and the annual meeting in June. Three budget meetings were held in 2018.

Louth County Council Chairperson/Cathaoirleach - **Liam Reilly**

Municipal District of Dundalk Chairperson/Cathaoirleach - **Conor Keelan**

Mayor of Drogheda and Borough District of Drogheda Chairperson/Cathaoirleach - **Frank Godfrey**

Municipal District of Ardee Chairperson/Cathaoirleach - **Pearse McGeough**

Meetings of Louth County Council 2018	
Monthly meetings	13
Annual meetings	1
Budget meetings	3
Corporate Policy Group (CPG)	11
Municipal District Meetings	
Borough District of Drogheda	13
Municipal District of Ardee	13
Municipal District of Dundalk	13
Strategic Policy Committees (SPCs)	
SPC - Housing, Community Planning & Emergency Services	4
SPC - Economic Development & Enterprise Support	4
SPC - Planning & Environment	4
SPC - Infrastructure, European & Cross Border Affairs	4
Joint Policing Committees/Local Policing Forum (LPF)	
JPC Steering Group	3
LPF - Dundalk	4
LPF - Drogheda	4
LPF - Ardee	4



**CUSTOMER  
SERVICES  
AT A GLANCE**



**IN 2018, CUSTOMER SERVICES HAD 156,499 INTERACTIONS WITH CUSTOMERS INCLUDING EMAILS, CALLS AND PUBLIC COUNTER QUERIES**



**12,844 E-MAILS WERE RESPONDED TO, AN AVERAGE OF 53 PER DAY**

**CUSTOMER SERVICES ASSISTED 65,042 CUSTOMERS AT THE COUNTER. AN AVERAGE OF 5,420 PER MONTH OR 266 PER DAY**

**78,613 CALLS WERE ANSWERED BY CUSTOMER SERVICES - AN AVERAGE OF 322 CALLS PER DAY**



**HOUSING ACCOUNTED FOR 43% OF CASES HANDLED BY CUSTOMER SERVICES**

### Civic Awards and Events

#### DUNDALK CIVIC AWARDS, ARDEE CIVIC AWARDS AND DROGHEDA MAYORAL AWARDS

The Dundalk Civic Awards, Ardee Civic Awards and Drogheda Mayoral Awards recognise the distinct contribution of individuals and organisations in County Louth to their community. The 2018 winners were each nominated by a local representative from Dundalk Municipal District committee, Ardee Municipal District committee or Drogheda Municipal District committee in recognition of their achievements and contributions to community and

sporting life at local, national and international levels. They were presented with special certificates acknowledging their outstanding achievements and for representing their local community areas.

#### MALAWI FUNDRAISING APPEAL

The Councillors and staff of Louth County Council continued their support for health projects and the education of girls in Malawi. Money was raised through events and deductions from staff and councillors. As the charity is run voluntarily, all of the money raised was directed to projects in Malawi.

#### DUNDALK



#### ARDEE



#### DROGHEDA



## 2018 Highlights



### **FREEDOM OF DROGHEDA - SEAMUS MALLON**

In June 2018, the Borough District of Drogheda presented former Deputy First Minister of Northern Ireland, Seamus Mallon with the Freedom of Drogheda in recognition of a life devoted to public service, human dignity, and advocacy.

## 2018 Highlights



### **HONOURING DUNDALK FOOTBALL CLUB**

In November 2018, the Municipal District of Dundalk hosted a homecoming for Dundalk Football Club to honour their sporting achievements, which included winning the FAI Cup and Premier Division title - the team's fourth league title in five years.

## Sustainable Energy

### ENERGY USE AND PROMOTION OF ENERGY

By the end of 2018, Louth County Council had achieved a 43% reduction in energy use compared to its baseline (energy use in the period 2006-2008), according to the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI). It is one of four local authorities to have already achieved the 33% improvement in energy efficiency savings by 2020, as set out in the National Energy Efficiency Action Plan.

The Council held a number of energy awareness promotions during 2018, both for its staff and the wider community. This included a colouring competition for children of staff members, and the Council's Energy Section and Library Section partnered to deliver energy awareness talks as part of Science Week 2018. Staff also promoted the Council's Energy Management Plan at two events hosted by Dundalk Chamber of Commerce, highlighting the opportunities for business to improve energy efficiency.

The Council also led by example by improving its own energy infrastructure. In 2018, it changed lights at County Hall and Dundalk Fire Station to low energy LEDs. It also replaced inefficient energy users at Drogheda Leisure Centre with better equipment to reduce operating costs there. The Council's Animal Pound increased its renewable energy generators in 2018: Solar PV panels and the wind turbine (pictured) are generating electricity and now operate a new heat conversion system, which provides underfloor heating in the kennels.



### ENERGY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

Louth County Council maintained its Energy Management System (EnMS) with several team meetings of significant energy users in 2018. The Council's significant energy users comprised Dundalk Town Hall; County Hall, Dundalk; and public lighting and fleet, which combined were responsible for some 75% of the Council's energy use in the year.

The system was audited by the National Standards Authority of Ireland (NSAI) and the Irish National Accreditation Board (INAB) during the year and the Council retained its registration for compliance with I.S. EN ISO 50001:2011.

### BETTER ENERGY COMMUNITIES 2018

Some €1.17million was spent on Better Energy Community Projects in 2018, funded in part through €368,000 in community energy efficiency grants from the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI). The project included upgrades to five dwellings; a church; a credit union office; three community centres; a

hotel; a football club; local authority buildings, and three hospitals. The scheme operated by providing a grant to each beneficiary of a maximum permitted percentage proportionate to their eligible costs. Louth County Council, with its partner Kingspan Ltd, was presented with a Special Recognition Award for Innovation in Social Housing and Community at the LAMA (Local Authority Members Association) Awards, arising from this work. The Council was also recognised for its commitment to energy-saving projects with a nomination for the SEAI Sustainable Energy Awards, in the 'community' category.

### SEAI SUSTAINABLE ENERGY COMMUNITY

At the end of 2018, Louth County Council agreed to mentor Blackrock Tidy Towns as a Sustainable Energy Community member. This agreement follows its successful mentorship of Castleblayney SEC, and the Council plans to develop this model with other tidy towns groups in County Louth.



## Fire & Emergency Services

Louth Fire Brigades attended a total of 1,271 incidents in 2018, a marginal increase on the previous year (1,257). This is mainly due to a large increase in ambulance assist calls in 2018, which continues the upward trend from 2016. There was also a large increase in mobilisations to Meath in 2018.

Louth Fire Service improved its fleet during 2018, with a new Scania fire tender and five pre-owned Scania water tenders being added to the run.

Capital funding was sought for the final upgrade of Dundalk Training Centre, which hosted a range of courses during 2018 for Louth and other fire services. This included the first firefighting skills course to be overseen and accredited by the Local Authority Fire Services National Training Group (LASNTG). Successful candidates received a Level 6 award under the National Framework of Qualifications.

Louth Fire Prevention Section was responsible for ensuring that Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann, held in Drogheda, was a safe event. It also ensured that all building fire safety issues identified in a Council survey undertaken following the Grenfell Tower fire in London were addressed.

One hundred Fire Safety Certificate applications were received by the Fire and Building Control Section in 2018, down 49 on the previous year. The number of Disabled Access Certificate applications received also declined, from 96 in 2017 to 80 in 2018.



**1,271 INCIDENTS**



**BIN / SKIP FIRES THE MOST COMMON INCIDENT**



**73% INCREASE IN AMBULANCE ASSIST INCIDENTS**



**100 FIRE SAFETY CERTIFICATE APPLICATIONS RECEIVED**

**NEW FIRE TENDER PURCHASED**



**DROGHEDA BUSIEST STATION AREA**



**80 DISABLED ACCESS CERTIFICATE APPLICATIONS RECEIVED**

**14% INCREASE IN INCIDENTS ATTENDED IN MEATH**



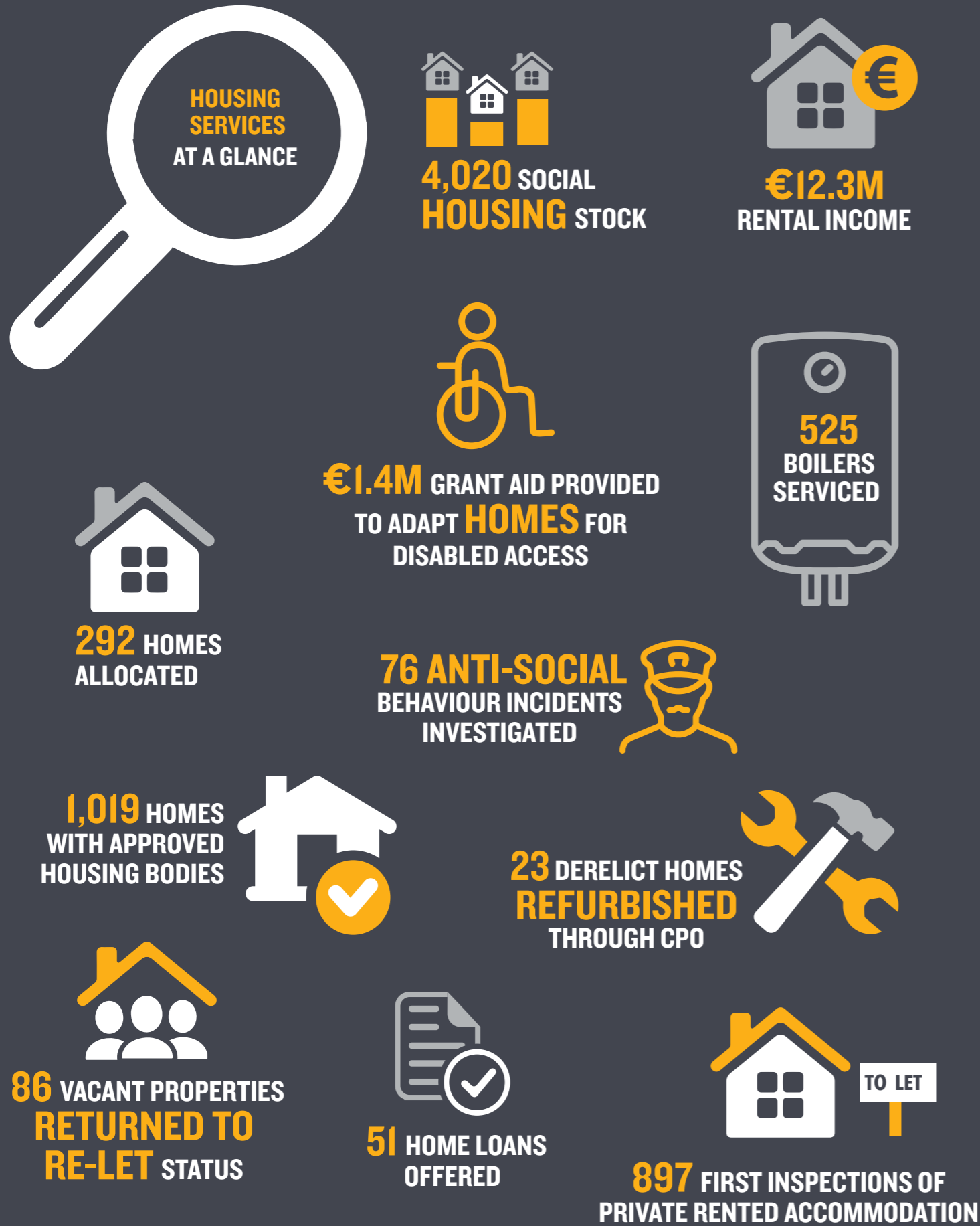


# 3

## HOUSING AND QUALITY OF LIFE

Louth County Council Housing and Quality of Life Department facilitates sustainable communities through the provision of accommodation and supports that respond to the needs of all. The Local Community Development Committee's economic and community plan assists the development of safe communities through support for community networks, projects and initiatives and the provision of services covering sport and recreation amenities, libraries and support for the arts.





### Housing and Quality of Life

Louth County Council managed a total social housing stock of 4,020 in 2018, in addition to 1,019 homes with approved housing bodies. Rental income was €12.3 million. A total of 208 homes were allocated through the Choice Based Letting system in 2018, with 54 homes given to those with a priority need (34 disability; 20 homeless).

a magnet for anti-social behaviour and a cause of concern for the communities affected, while negatively affecting the urban environment around them. Louth County Council acquired these properties through the compulsory purchase order procedure, repaired and refurbished them, and returned them to use as social housing.

A total of 21 warnings were issued for non-payment of rent and there was one repossession for this reason during the year. Housing Assistance Payment (HAP) was provided for 2,644 tenancies. At the end of the year, the number of applicants on the housing list stood at 1,746, falling from 2,343 in 2017.

**FAMILY HOMELESS HUB IN DROGHEDA**  
Louth County Council expanded the services offered to families who are homeless in the Drogheda area by the opening of a family hub, allowing families to stay for a short period of time while looking for private rented accommodation and arranging for Housing Assistance Payment. Louth County Council tendered for support services for the hub and this was won by Peter McVerry Trust.

**RETURNING VACANT HOMES TO USE**  
Louth County Council, through the Rebuilding Ireland plan, strives to ensure that all families in the county have a home suited to their needs at a rent or repayment that they can afford. Louth County Council has been at the forefront of turning derelict houses into homes for families by using the compulsory purchase order procedure. During 2018, the Council identified 23 homes that had been vacant for long periods. These unoccupied residences were often



## Membership of the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) in 2018

Public Sector	
Louth County Council	Cllr Colm Markey
Louth County Council	Cllr Dolores Minogue
Louth County Council	Cllr Pearse McGeough
Louth County Council	Cllr Liam Reilly
Louth County Council Official	Joan Martin
Louth County Council Official	Thomas Mc Evoy
Louth Meath ETB	Sadie Ward McDermott
DSP	Anne Keeley
HSE	Annette McDonnell
Private Sector	
Louth Leader Partnership	Ciaran Reid
Community & Voluntary Interests	Larry Magnier
Community & Voluntary Interests	Joanne Finnegan
Social Inclusion	Kevin Moran
Social Inclusion	Geordie McAteer
Environment	Breffni Martin
Farming	Matthew McGreehan
Chamber of Commerce Dundalk	Michael Gaynor - replaced by Pat McCormick ratified by LCC June 2018
Chamber of Commerce Drogheda	Breannán Casey
Louth Volunteer Centre	Grainne Berrill

## LECP

Louth Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) prepared a six-year local, economic and community plan (LECP) in 2016 which includes actions to tackle poverty and disadvantage, support enterprise, employment and training, develop community infrastructure and the promotion of economic development.

The delivery of actions has been assisted by various initiatives and events throughout the year including the development and adoption of the following plans:

- Healthy Ireland for Louth
- Louth Age Friendly Strategy
- Louth Disability Inclusion Plan
- Louth Reducing Harm Supporting Recovery Plan
- Louth Realising our Rural Potential



## SICAP

Following a public tendering process for the delivery of the Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme 2018-2022 in late 2017, Louth LCDC awarded the contract to Louth LEADER Partnership Company.

In 2018, SICAP supported 66 community groups and registered 1,475 individuals. Other notable achievements during 2018 included:

- 1,025 individuals engaged in lifelong learning labour market supports.
- 146 individuals referred by the Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection were supported to establish their own businesses through the Back to Work Enterprise Allowance.
- 110 individuals were supported into employment.
- 37 individuals received education grants.
- 39 individuals received enterprise grants.
- 11 groups received small grants.



## LEADER

LEADER is a community-led approach to local development and is funded through Ireland's Rural Development Programme 2014-2020. It supports locally identified initiatives that seek to address locally identified needs and challenges. It is delivered by a network of Local Action Groups (LAGs), which have been selected to implement a Local Development Strategy for their respective area. Louth LCDC also operates as the LAG for Co Louth.

Funding of €1.7million was approved by the LAG in 2018 for projects focused on economic and enterprise development and job creation; social inclusion and rural environment. Louth County Council is the lead financial partner for the LEADER Programme in the county.

### HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE LEADER PROGRAMME IN 2018 INCLUDED:

- Women's Aid Dundalk received funding to deliver a training programme, 'Parenting Through Trauma-Domestic Violence'.
- Comhaltas Ceoltoiri na hEireann was awarded a grant towards the infrastructural costs of the Fleadh.

- Funding was granted to Louth Tidy Towns Together to deliver development plans for a number of towns and villages in the county.
- The LAG also awarded grant aid to a number of community projects, including the provision of a community walking track and upgrading of community centres.
- 34 contracts were issued to project promoters across the county.

### HEALTHY IRELAND FUND 2018

Healthy Ireland is the national framework for action to improve the health and wellbeing of Ireland. In 2016, the Government approved the creation of a Healthy Ireland Fund to support the implementation of Healthy Ireland programmes and projects in a variety of settings. The primary aim of the fund is to support innovative, cross-sectoral, evidence-based projects and initiatives that support the implementation of key national policies in areas such as obesity, smoking, alcohol, physical activity and sexual health. Details of Louth projects that received funding through the Healthy Ireland Fund in 2018 are included below.

Project Lead	Project Title	Allocation
Louth Age Friendly Alliance	Cycling without age	€8,587.50
LSP	Playground Marking Project	€10,432.50
Dundalk Youth Centre	Youth Health Project	€9,000
Youth Work Ireland	Traveller Women's Health Programme	€9,000
TURAS	Promoting Health & Wellbeing in Sobriety	€8,170
Scouting Ireland	Healthy food for camp life	€10,000
O'Hanlon Park Boxing Club	Outdoor Obstacle and Associated Works	€10,810
Louth LEADER Partnership	Social Farming Health and Wellbeing	€9,000
	<b>Total</b>	<b>€75,000</b>

## Community Support 2018

### NATIONAL TIDY TOWNS

The National Tidy Towns 2018 competition saw great success for Louth. The county has a strong record of achievement and recognition in the competition. A total of 23 towns and villages in Louth entered in 2018, with Blackrock, Drogheda and Dundalk retaining their Gold Medals. Ardee secured a Gold Medal for the first time, while Knockbridge retained their Bronze Medal. Kilcurry received the 'Endeavour Award' for displaying a substantial improvement in marks. Grange Tidy Towns were awarded runners up in the 'Waters and Community' category.

### TIDY TOWNS PROJECT SCHEME 2018

Louth County Council introduced a new funding scheme for Tidy Towns groups in 2018 for groups to carry out small scale capital-type improvement works in their town or village.

Funding of €75,998.06 was provided to 12 groups for projects focused on improving marks awarded in both the national Tidy Towns and local competitions. All 12 projects were completed in 2018.

### LOUTH LOOKING GOOD AWARDS

The Louth Looking Good Awards took place in the Crowne Plaza Hotel in November 2018. Blackrock Tidy Towns was the overall winner on the night, with Dromiskin and Ardee coming second and third respectively. The award for the 'Most Improved Town' in the competition went to Monasterboice, with the 'Special Adjudicators Prize' being presented to Carlingford. Dunleer was recognised with the 'Chairman's Award', while St Oliver's Park in Carlingford was named winner of the 'Best Overall Housing Estate' in Louth.

### DROGHEDA LOOKING GOOD AWARDS

The Drogheda Looking Good Awards are an annual celebration of the dedication and community spirit among residents' groups, community volunteers and the business community in Drogheda. The 2018 Awards event was held in September in The D Hotel, with categories recognising housing estates, best garden, hospitality and business premises. Two special awards recognising 'Exceptional Community Involvement' were awarded at the event. The Red Door Project was recognised for its rejuvenation of the Dale, which has made it a more pleasant place for the local residents and visitors. Pitcher Hill Community Garden was recognised for the work local residents in this urban residential area put into developing the garden into a neighbourhood amenity.

### DUNDALK LOOKING GOOD AWARDS

The Dundalk Looking Good Awards took place in October in the Táin Theatre, Dundalk. The annual event rewards all those who work tirelessly to make Dundalk look its best, and it is a highlight in the Council's calendar. A number of awards were given out to representatives of local estates, including Carroll Mead, Cooley Park and Ard Easmuinn. The 'Adjudicators Award' went to Mullaharlin Park, while Quinn's Funeral Home won 'Best Business Premises'. The 'Best Presented Hospitality Award' went to the Rosemount Guest House, which is located on the Dublin Road.

### GREEN SCHOOLS PROGRAMMES

A total of 31 schools were awarded greens flags in 2018 for activities/themes that include biodiversity, travel, energy and water. A new theme introduced in 2018 - 'Global Citizenship - Marine Environment' - saw St Peter's National School, Dromiskin and Scoil Mhuire na Trócaire in Ardee receive awards.

### 'GROW' ENVIRONMENTAL AWARDS FOR PRIMARY SCHOOLS

These awards are an acronym for 'Green', 'Renewable', 'Organic' and 'Waste Minimisation' and aim to reward local schools for their efforts to make their environment cleaner, greener and more sustainable. The 2018 awards were held in June in the Crowne Plaza Hotel and saw schools across the county recognised and celebrated for their good work. St Peter's National School in Dromiskin, Presentation Primary School in Drogheda and St Brigid's School, Dundalk won the prestigious 'School of the Year' awards.

Participants in the Eco Tribes 2018 competition also received awards for their work on community gardens, which they created in partnership with their local Tidy Towns groups. St Peter's National School in Dromiskin was named as the overall winner of Eco Tribes 2018.



### TRASHION FASHION

Trashion Fashion, run in conjunction with Louth Tidy Towns Together, provides a platform for second level students to showcase creations made from 100% recycled material. More than 200 students took part in the seventh annual Trashion Fashion Awards in January at the Carrickdale Hotel, with 60 designs on display.

### GREENER CHRISTMAS POETRY COMPETITION

The Greener Christmas Poetry Competition for primary schools aims to create awareness of unnecessary waste over the holiday season. The winning entries are recorded and aired on LMFM as waste prevention advertisements over the Christmas season. The 2018 winners were:

- Realt na Mara National School, Dundalk (Dundalk Municipal Area prize);
- St Oliver's Primary School, Drogheda (Drogheda Municipal Area Prize);
- Collon National School and Scoil Mhuire na Trócaire (joint winners in the Ardee Municipal Area).



### BLUE FLAGS

Louth retained three Blue Flags in 2018 for the beaches at Clogherhead, Port and Templetown. The Blue Flag is one of the world's most recognised eco-labels. The award is presented to beaches and marinas that have excellent water quality and that achieve high standards across a wide range of criteria, including environmental education, management of the environment, water quality and safety. Local community groups assist by undertaking regular litter picks, which ensures that their beaches are attractive to visitors over the summer season.



### PRIDE OF PLACE

The IPB Pride of Place Awards, in association with Co-operation Ireland, acknowledge the achievements and invaluable work undertaken by volunteers and those involved in local community development throughout the island of Ireland. Louth continues to achieve great success at the Awards each year. In 2018, the Gary Kelly Cancer Support Centre in Drogheda was announced as overall national winner in the 'Community Reaching Out' category. Collon represented Louth in the '300-1,000 population' category.

### TOWN & VILLAGE RENEWAL SCHEME

Eleven community projects were successfully completed at locations throughout Louth in 2018, with funding received under the Town & Village Renewal Scheme. The scheme was set up to revitalise towns and villages to improve the living and working environment of their communities. A total of €775,726.16 was received in funding under the scheme.

### CLÁR

The Clár programme supports interventions that make the school/community environs healthier and safer for children attending schools, and for children and adults using community facilities. Five schools in Louth were approved funding of €134,637.50 in 2018. The programme also provides support for the enhancement of existing and/or the development of new school/community play areas. Funding of €131,569.11 was approved for six projects in the county under this category.

### AGE FRIENDLY

Highlights from Age Friendly Louth events and initiatives in 2018 include:

- Louth Citizen's Information Services developed two booklets to assist older people - one on Internet Safety Tips and one on Applying for the Nursing Homes Support Scheme (Fair Deal).
- Workshops with Louth IFA.
- Progress on Louth Age Friendly Acorn Project.
- Conferences to discuss integrated care pathways for older people.
- The hosting of a delegation from Hong Kong in July, which included a demonstration of technology programmes aimed at improving quality of life while ageing.
- The Joint Committee on Housing Planning and Local Government launched its "Report on Housing Options for Older People" in the Great Northern Haven, Dundalk in July.

### COMHAIRLE NA NÓG

In 2018, Louth Comhairle undertook a review of its structure and activities. On foot of this review it was decided to pilot the establishment of Municipal Comhairle groups. This saw the establishment of Comhairle groups in Dundalk, Mid Louth and Drogheda. Each group recruited and trained a group of young people that met weekly to discuss local issues and work on local projects. Once a month all



three groups come together to look at county-wide issues. Louth is the first Comhairle an nÓg to operate this structure.

In Mid Louth the young people developed a Rural Transport project. They identified the lack of transport as a huge barrier to young people taking part in social and leisure activities. With the assistance of Rural Link, they organised a series of events to the cinema, swimming and shopping to give young people something to do in the summer months.

Members of the Comhairle attended the All-Island Civic Dialogue event on Brexit in DkIT in May. Having produced a paper on young people's issues on Brexit, the group met national and European decision-makers to highlight the potential impact on young people's lives.



## Sports

### SPORTS UNIT

The Louth Local Sports Partnership Strategic Plan 2018-22 was launched in 2018 with the mission to grow participation in sport and physical activity through:

- Effective structures.
- A network of organisations.
- A broad range of programmes throughout the county.
- Empowerment of communities.

During the year, Louth County Council, through Louth Local Sports Partnership, delivered:

- 44 projects and initiatives.
- Two small club grants to support clubs and volunteer development.
- 39 participation programmes.
- 52 training courses to upskill volunteers and coaches.
- Promotion of 50+ local events.

In November 2018, the Council's Sports Inclusion Disability Programme (SIDP) won a CARA national inclusion award.



**LIBRARY SERVICES AT A GLANCE**



**362,916**  
LIBRARY ITEMS ISSUED

**259,058 VISITS**  
TO LIBRARY BRANCHES  
**3% INCREASE** ON 2017



**15,378**  
MEMBERS  
**24% INCREASE**  
ON 2017



**179**  
SCHOOLS  
LIBRARY VISITS



**430 EVENTS**  
HELD ACROSS  
**5 BRANCHES**



**1,128**  
COMMUNITY  
VISITS



**208 NURSING HOME VISITS**



**52**  
CRÈCHE  
VISITS

## Libraries, Archives, Museum, Arts and Heritage

### LOUTH LIBRARY SERVICE

During 2018, Louth Library Service delivered on the strategic objectives set out in *Our Public Libraries 2022*, aimed at firmly establishing the library as the trusted go-to place in the community for guidance and support for areas such as reading and literacy, lifelong learning, business and employment, healthy living and wellbeing.

### THE RIGHT TO READ PROGRAMME

Louth Library Service expanded the Louth Right to Read Network to include the Genesis programme, Children and Young People's Services Committees (CYPSC), Louth County Childcare Committee and DkIT in 2018. Highlights of the programme were:

- **Spring into Storytime**  
More than 300 participants enjoyed family reading and the sharing of stories during ten story-time sessions across all branches during April.
- **Summer Stars Reading Programme**  
1,092 children registered and continued to enjoy reading over the summer holidays.
- **Library DEIS Schools Literacy & Numeracy Camps**  
Dundalk Library hosted camps for three local schools.
- **Children's Book Festival 2018**  
Louth Libraries hosted 19 collaborative events to promote reader development and literacy during the Children's Book Festival in October 2018. Highlights included events with Droichead Arts Centre as part of their Leanbh Children's Festival. Louth Library Service also collaborated with Meath County Council to bring children's author Tom Palmer to library events staged in Droichead Arts Centre and Mosney Reception and Integration Centre.

### HEALTHY IRELAND AT YOUR LIBRARY

Healthy Ireland at Your Library is a Government-led and funded initiative to establish libraries as a valuable source within the community for health information. In 2018, there was a focus on health-related events for adults and children. The programme included talks on dyspraxia, dyslexia, mindfulness, breastfeeding support, arthritis, ADHD and rehabilitation for stroke victims. A new core collection of health-related books and electronic resources were added to each of Louth's five branches.

### WORK MATTERS

The 'Work Matters at The Library' initiative supports business, enterprise and employment in the local community by supporting individuals to gain employment, change career or improve their own business. The initiative's resources include dedicated work spaces in the three full-time libraries, free WiFi, laptop / PC use, a variety of related books and information, a jobs' board and a Work Matters Programme of events, talks and workshops. During 2018, collaborative opportunities progressed with agencies including SOLAS, INTREO, LEO, Louth Citizens Information Services, Louth Volunteer Centre and LMETB. Work Matters-related events included workshops and talks on all aspects of employment, CV preparation and interview skills.

### DIGITAL LEARNING SPACES IN PUBLIC LIBRARY

In September, Minister for Rural and Community Development, Michael Ring TD approved funding of €274,991 for Louth libraries, out of a national fund of €8m. With this funding, Louth Library Service procured educational software, hardware and furniture to deliver digital learning spaces across the county's five libraries. This included new PCs, laptops, meeting room equipment, podcasting equipment, gaming consoles, high specification computers to support gaming and Virtual Reality technology. Louth

Library Service contracted a part-time STEAM based learning facilitator in Q4 of 2018, funded by Creative Ireland, to design a STEAM programme for children, young adults and the general public across Louth Library Service's three full-time branches in Dundalk, Ardee and Drogheda.

### LOUTH SCIENCE FESTIVAL

Louth Library Service launched the inaugural Louth Science Festival in Dundalk Library in October. Funded by Science Foundation Ireland, more than 50 events for primary and secondary schools and the general public ran in all branches in November. The programme included events on coding; the science of the HPV virus; 3D printing; nanotechnology and robotics.

### FESTIVAL OF HISTORY

As Part of the Decade of Centenaries, Louth Library Service held a Festival of History funded by the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht. The seminar series saw renowned Irish academics engage audiences in an exploration and commemoration of the events of 1918.

### OÍCHE CHULTÚIR/CULTURE NIGHT

Dundalk Library hosted award-winning traditional Irish singer and song collector, Len Graham for a bilingual Culture Night event that included performances of songs, stories and poems. The event was funded by Oireachtas na Gaeilge.

### WEE COUNTY BIG BOOK CLUB

A collaborative initiative between Louth Library Service, Creative Spark, and An Táin Arts Centre, Wee County Big Book Club, saw book clubs throughout Louth invited to read *On Tuesdays I'm a Buddhist* by Michael Harding and engage in a programme of creative writing workshops and author readings in the county. The programme concluded with a theatre performance by Michael Harding in An Táin Arts Centre in September.

### LIBRARY APP

A new Library App was delivered in 2018 to enhance access to library services. The app brings users directly to the suite of library e-services, including the new Press Reader service. Users can read and download any number of the 3,547 newspapers or choose from 3,773 magazines to any device from across the globe free of charge. Usage of e-resources increased by 26% in 2018.





**LOUTH LIBRARIES A PLACE OF SANCTUARY**

Louth Library Service is a member of the newly established DkIT 'WELCOME' College of Sanctuary group. This initiative sees asylum seekers and DkIT/Louth Library Service work together in a spirit of mutual learning. The objective of the initiative is to promote integration, inclusion and welfare of refugees, asylum seekers and vulnerable migrants, through a practical commitment to becoming places of welcome and safety.



**COUNTY MUSEUM DUNDALK**

The adage 'what happened then matters now' was a theme evident throughout a number of exhibitions and initiatives at County Museum Dundalk in 2018. One of the highlights was the *One team, One Dream exhibition* on Dundalk football club which ran from September 2017-September 2018 and featured on an episode of RTÉ's 'Creedon's Road Less Travelled' programme, broadcast during summer 2018 as part of a segment on one of the League of Ireland's greatest heroes, striker Jimmy Hasty.



An exhibition exploring the economic, emotional and communal effects of the sinking of the SS Dundalk 100 years ago opened in the Museum in October 2018. The 235-foot-long merchant ship was on her return trip from Liverpool's Collinwood Dock to Dundalk Harbour on 14th October 1918 when she was torpedoed by a German submarine. The attack and subsequent sinking of the ship claimed 20 lives - 19 crew and one passenger, most of whom were local to Dundalk and surrounding areas. Featuring recent video footage of the vessel on the sea floor, the vessel's compass, and other multi-media elements, the exhibition delves into topics such as Louth's booming port trade in the early 1900s, German WWI strategies, life in Dundalk during the war, and the effect of the loss of life on the victims' families and friends.



To mark the European Year of Cultural Heritage 2018, the Museum hosted a conference in October titled 'Do Borders Matter? The Role of Museums and Heritage in Crossing the Line'. The conference examined the manner and nature of borders in both an Irish and international context and featured a variety of political, cultural and artistic commentators.



The Museum continued to host a varied calendar of cultural events during the year, including lectures; art exhibitions; walking tours of Dundalk; guided tours of the Museum and workshops for local schools; Christmas activities and more.



## Archives

Louth County Archives strives to identify, preserve and make available the significant collection of public and private archives of the county and to raise awareness of their value to society. The County Archives also provides records management services to Louth County Council, including advice to staff on the retention and management of records.

Alongside records management survey work and the management of transfers of non-current records to storage and record retrievals and returns, the County Archives arranged for the conservation of a group of early 20th century Council minute books. It also assisted with the St Patrick's Cemetery Project, a joint project with DkIT and the Old Dundalk Society to develop a grave locator app and website for the cemetery.

Louth County Archives has substantial holdings, in the region of 260,000 individual items. These were gratefully enhanced in 2018 with the accessions of a mid-18th century agent-cum-merchant's account book relating to sales and expenses of several prominent Louth families; letters and documents of the Kirwan and Byrne families; the Hughes - McArdle collection; Brendan Hall archive collection; late 19th century Ardee electoral lists and dog licence holders list; and a funeral book of Dolan's, Ardee.



Highlights from Louth County Archives' programme of exhibitions and events in 2018 included:

- **Joseph Dolan - A Distinguished Ardonian** exhibition (opened in 2017 as part of Louth's 1916 Centenary Programme, funded by Ireland 2016).
- **Jacob's Biscuit Factory & Dublin: An Assorted History** travelling exhibition (on loan from Dublin City Archives from August-September 2018).
- Hosting Dundalk Railway Heritage Society's photographic exhibition on the Great Northern Railway (Ireland) to commemorate the 60th anniversary of its closure.
- A 1918 centenary exhibition entitled *It is resolved that...* was developed by the County Archives in 2018 with funding from the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, Creative Ireland and Louth County Council.



## Arts

CreateLouth, the Arts Service for County Louth, delivered a range of actions in 2018, all aligned to the Service's five major work areas - Developmental & Community Arts; Grants & Awards; Information & Advice; Artistic Programming; and Representation & Planning.

### DEVELOPMENT & COMMUNITY

- **Trad @ Heart**, a week-long programme of 13 different performances and small recital events, was held in seven hospital and health-care locations for citizens unable to attend the Fleadh Cheoil na nÉireann in Drogheda due to illness.
- **Ceol sa Bhaile**, in conjunction with LMFM, saw four radio programmes broadcast daily on LMFM during the week of the Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann, which focused on Louth musicians.
- **Culture Night 2018** was celebrated in Louth with events in An Táin Arts Centre, Creative Spark and Droichead Arts Centre.
- In Autumn 2018, a programme of **life drawing and portraits** in secondary schools was delivered and the **Youth Theatre Residential Weekend** provided drama and movement workshops for 36 youth participants of three youth theatres in Louth.
- **Bealtaine 2018** programmed six performances in care-home settings throughout the county for both residents and day visitors.

### GRANTS & AWARDS

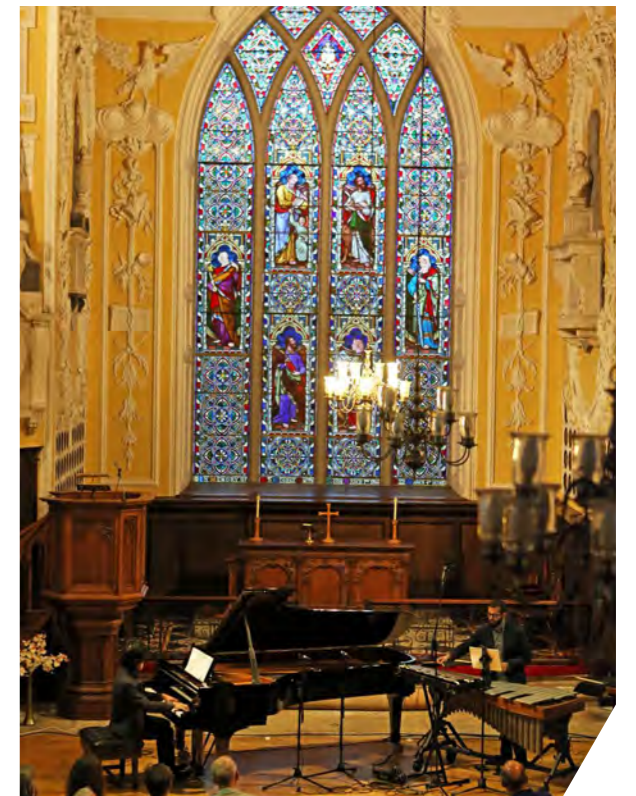
In 2018 CreateLouth made available a range of bursaries and awards to individuals and organisations in Louth, including: CreateLouth grants under the Arts Act; School Musical Instrument Purchase Scheme; Tyrone Guthrie Centre Award; Drama League of Ireland Award. In addition, the 2018 Creative Ireland Community Grant Fund assisted community projects in Louth in the creative arts genre.

### INFORMATION & ADVICE

The [www.createlouth.ie](http://www.createlouth.ie) website is the hub for events, opportunities, projects and resources for the arts in Louth. Updated daily, createlouth.ie also houses all information on Taisce Lú, the art collection of Louth County Council, through an interactive database. Use of #loutharts on Louth County Council Twitter page adds another mechanism for promoting arts activities in Louth.

### ARTISTIC PROGRAMMING

In 2018, a ceremonial event was held to mark the official dedication of the Proclamation Room in Town Hall, Dundalk. This room houses a copy of the 1916 Proclamation, which was presented in 1959 to Dundalk Urban District Council. A series of 1916 related artwork hangs in the room, which was curated by the Arts Service of Louth County Council to mark the 1916 centenary celebrations in Louth.



## Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann 2018

County Louth played host to Ireland's largest traditional music festival, Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann, in 2018, drawing more than half a million people to the county from 12th to 21st August. The festival exceeded all expectations.

The success of the Fleadh in Drogheda was rooted in a combination of hard work and cooperation involving Louth County Council, the Fleadh Executive Committee and the people of Drogheda, including many community and voluntary groups. Outside of their regulatory duties in supporting the Fleadh, Louth County Council staff contributed in excess of 1,200 volunteer hours supporting competitions, concerts and other related events. The Fleadh was underpinned by Louth's long-established and extensive arts, heritage and cultural programme and dedicated Creative Ireland programme.

The cross-directorate approach, coordinated through the Fleadh Secretariat, in managing everything from statutory event licenses, street traders, traffic management, accommodation requests and tourist information together with street cleaning and the maintenance of key services such as fire and emergency services was key to ensuring a safe and enjoyable event for all concerned.



### REPRESENTATION & PLANNING

The Arts Service of County Louth and strategic partners continue to support those who create art to ensure the quality of life and the richness of culture in Louth will continue to be enhanced. This is done through commissioning new artwork across a range of media to reflect Louth's communities' heritage, supporting artist-in-residence schemes and supporting the Creative Ireland Louth 2017 - 2022 collaborative programme.

The Creative Ireland Louth 2017 - 2022 collaborative programme is designed to promote individual and community wellbeing in Louth. Achievements from the 2018 programme include:

- Louth Culture Team delivered 11 collaborative projects spanning the fields of STEAM; history, visual arts, drama, literature, film, music, crafts, built heritage and the environment.
- A Creative Ireland Cultural Communities Fund supported 14 groups in researching, planning and delivering projects.
- Criunniú na nÓg 2018 incorporated eight events for young people across Louth, including youth theatre, teenage comedy, Graffiti, Hip Hop, Drama and STEAM workshops.





# 4

## PLANNING, INFRASTRUCTURE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & EUROPEAN AFFAIRS

Louth Economic Development Unit supports the coordinated economic development of the county by planning for, initiating and managing projects that contribute positively to its ongoing economic development. The unit encompasses the LEO, tourist service, arts service, heritage, planning and conservation works and European Affairs. It is involved in the marketing and promotion of the Council as a business-friendly location and engages in strategic economic planning, which informs Louth County Council's policy decisions.





**PLANNING SERVICES AT A GLANCE**



**1,082 PLANNING APPLICATIONS RECEIVED**

**385 PRE-PLANNING APPLICATIONS RECEIVED**



**5 STRATEGIC HOUSING DEVELOPMENT PRE-APPLICATION CONSULTATIONS**



**2 LOUTH TOWNS, DROGHEDA AND DUNDALK, DESIGNATED REGIONAL DRIVERS IN THE NATIONAL PLANNING FRAMEWORK**



**FUNDING SECURED FOR DUNDALK LONG WALK AND DROGHEDA WESTGATE VISION UNDER PROJECT IRELAND 2040**



**5 FUNDING SUBMISSIONS MADE UNDER THE RURAL REGENERATION AND DEVELOPMENT FUND**



**228 UNAUTHORISED DEVELOPMENT COMPLAINTS RECEIVED**



**45 DANGEROUS STRUCTURES COMPLAINTS RECEIVED**



**8 SITES RECORDED ON DERELICT SITES REGISTER**

## Westgate Vision

In June 2018, Louth County Council announced details of its urban design vision for the regeneration of the Westgate area of Drogheda, focusing on Narrow West Street and its environs. Westgate Vision is a targeted planning response aimed at channeling investment into this core area, as an alternative to building on green field sites at the edge of the town.



## Heritage

Louth County Council received 37 applications under the Built Heritage Investment Scheme in 2018. Funding of €50,000 was shared between five applicants. This comprised Donore Road Thatch in Drogheda (thatch, roof repairs, mud walls public house); Highlanes Gallery, Drogheda (window repairs); Tully Thatch, Corcreaghy (window repairs); dwelling on Kelso Terrace, Dundalk (chimney repairs), and The Alleys, St Peter's, Drogheda (roof repairs). Funding of €50,000 was also secured under the Structures at Risk Scheme 2018 for projects including the partial thatching of Whiterath Cottage, Dromiskin, and for roof repairs to the rear slope of Rathescar House, one of the Louth's historic 18th Century country houses.

- Highlanes Gallery Windows.
- Whiterath Thatch Above / Rathescar House Roof Repair.



## Greenway

Work progressed on the €3.46 million EU-funded Carlingford Lough Greenway project, which is led by Louth County Council, working in collaboration with Newry, Mourne and Down District Council and East Border Region Ltd. The first section of Greenway, from Albert Basin to Victoria Lock, opened to the public in May 2018. The full greenway, stretching from Carlingford to Newry, is expected to open in early 2021. The project partners are continuing to work together, in conjunction with Doran's Consultants, to prepare the relevant planning submissions in both jurisdictions. Funding for the project is provided by the European Union's INTERREG VA Programme, managed by the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB).



## Creative Ireland

The Conservation Office collaborated with Creative Spark Print Studio to design and print a range of contemporary souvenirs highlighting the architectural landmarks of County Louth. 'Love Louth's Landmarks' was funded by Creative Ireland.



## Tourism

### EXPLORE LOUTH HERITAGE TRAIL

A new 'Explore Louth' heritage trail map was designed and published in 2018 to complement the VisitLouth.ie and Drogheda.ie websites and add to Louth's suite of tourism offerings. The maps encourage visitors to explore Drogheda & Louth's Coastal Villages, Dundalk & the Cooley Peninsula, and Mid-Louth & the Boyne Valley. The maps were distributed to tourist offices and tourism outlets, county-wide, ahead of Fleadh Cheoil na nÉireann, which was held in Drogheda in August.



### FESTIVALS

The award-winning Irish Maritime Festival, delivered in partnership with Drogheda Port, took place again in June 2018. It saw a return of the 'Stowaway Sessions' and a visit by the French Navy.



The Dundalk "Frostival" Festival and St Patrick's Day Festivals at Dundalk, Drogheda and Ardee continued to be supported and co-funded by Louth County Council.



As part of its support for local event organisers, Louth County Council continued the Festival & Events grant scheme in 2018. A total of 15 applicants were successful in securing funding.

## European Affairs

Since its establishment in 2014, the European Office has developed a high level of expertise and knowledge in EU funding.

Many EU funding streams have continued to be promoted in 2018, including:

**INTERREG VA** - Carlingford Lough Greenway. The development of 10km of new cross-border Greenway from Omeath in Co. Louth to Newry in Co. Down.

**Northern Periphery & Arctic Programme** - Nearly Zero Energy Project. The development of a cross border energy conservation and sustainability project.

**INTERREG Sustainable Transport** - Electric Vehicles Project. The development and expansion of the cross-border electric vehicle public charging network.



### PEACE IV PROGRAMME - LOUTH ACTION PLAN

The PEACE IV Programme is a unique cross-border initiative, financed through the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) of the European Union and managed by the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB). It has been designed to support peace and reconciliation in Northern Ireland and the Border Region of Ireland.

In 2018, Louth received a further allocation of €881,612.00 through the REBID process, bringing Louth's total allocation to date to €3.1 million.

Work progressed throughout the year on developing the relevant funded projects. The Louth Peace IV team collaborated extensively with other local authorities in Northern Ireland to develop cross-border initiatives. Promotion of the Peace IV Programme within the community sector in Louth was increased. Sixteen projects in total were funded.

Three projects - the Youth Arts Peace Building Programme; Civic Leadership & Peace Building Project, and Anti-Clockwise - were officially launched in December 2018. The objective of the projects is to make a real and lasting difference to young people's lives in Co Louth.



## Economic Development

### RETAIL INCENTIVES

Louth County Council provided 17 Shop Front Improvement Grants in 2018, which assisted businesses in town centre locations to upgrade their premises, leading to an improved town centre experience for customers and visitors alike.

### LOUTH ECONOMIC FORUM

The Louth Economic Forum published its Education & Training Action Plan in March 2018. The plan recognises that education has an important role to play in developing sustainable, balanced communities and enabling people to participate in social, civic and working life. Louth has a number of key resources in terms of skills development and knowledge transfer. Building on the strengths of the education and training sector in Louth, this Action Plan aims to enhance the county's competitiveness nationally and internationally in terms of the range of education and training provision, the resources and supports that are in place, the levels of participation, the coordination of progression through the education system and the outcomes achieved.



### BOYNE VALLEY FOOD STRATEGY

The implementation of the Boyne Valley Food Strategy had another strong year with the region continuing to be recognised as one of Ireland's leading food tourism destinations; coming runner-up for the second year in a row in the 2018 Foodie Destinations, after winning the overall award in 2016. A rebrand of Boyne Valley Food, as "Discover Boyne Valley Flavours", was launched in April. A website was also developed to promote members and Boyne Valley Food Series events. Fifty-one such events were run throughout the year, as well as five food network events.

The Boyne Valley Flavours voucher was launched in November 2018.

### DUNDALK BIDS

Following a ratepayer plebiscite, a five-year extension to the Dundalk Business Improvement District Scheme was passed by the Council in September 2018. The key objective of this BID Scheme is to further develop and implement a series of initiatives designed to enhance the cultural identity of the town, boost its international profile, and promote and improve the trading environment for the area.

## Local Enterprise Office (LEO)

LEO Louth's role is to drive the development of local enterprise, putting local micro and small business at the heart of job creation. It supports business start-ups and existing micro and small businesses with information, advice, training, mentoring, seminars and selective financial support. The LEO delivers a service level agreement to Enterprise Ireland.

LEO Louth's activities cover **four key pillars**:

- 1. Business Information & Advisory Services**, including the provision of a First Stop Shop for all SMEs to access State supports.
- 2. Enterprise Support Services**, in order to maximise business potential and to collaborate more closely with Enterprise Ireland.
- 3. Entrepreneurship Support Services**, by promoting a best practice enterprise culture.
- 4. Local Economic Development Services**, leveraging the range of local authority services and supports to business and enhancing the economic environment to facilitate ease of doing business in County Louth.

Key priorities for LEO Louth are to continue to help local enterprises prepare for the potential impact of Brexit and to develop an excellent first stop shop for businesses.

Part of LEO Louth's vision is to act as the catalyst and advocate for the establishment of a best practice enterprise culture among start-ups, micro and small businesses; also promoting enterprise and self-employment as a viable career option among the wider population. In 2018, this objective was implemented through a wide range of programmes, supports and activities, including:

- Local Enterprise Week in March 2018.
- Delivering nine Start Your Own Business training programmes to more than 150 participants.
- Mentoring supports to 292 participants and assistance to Enterprise Centres.
- Providing Brexit mentoring to 41 businesses, organising and supporting a number of high profile Brexit seminars in the county, promoting the use of the 'Brexit Scorecard' and approving technical grant assistance to ten businesses.
- Approving €536,620 to 26 businesses in Co. Louth.
- 42 businesses in Louth availed of a Trading Online Voucher.



**MORE THAN 600 PROJECT ENQUIRIES HANDLED**

**98 ADDITIONAL JOBS CREATED**



**4 CLIENTS TRANSFERRED INTO ENTERPRISE IRELAND'S PORTFOLIO**



**1,500 PARTICIPANTS ATTENDED 62 BUSINESS TRAINING, SEMINARS AND MANAGEMENT DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES**

**€536,620 IN FUNDING GRANTS APPROVED**



**17 SCHOOLS PARTICIPATING IN SCHOOLS' ENTREPRENEURSHIP PROGRAMME**



**41 BUSINESSES RECEIVED BREXIT-RELATED MENTORING**



**10 MICROENTERPRISE LOAN APPLICATIONS SUBMITTED**

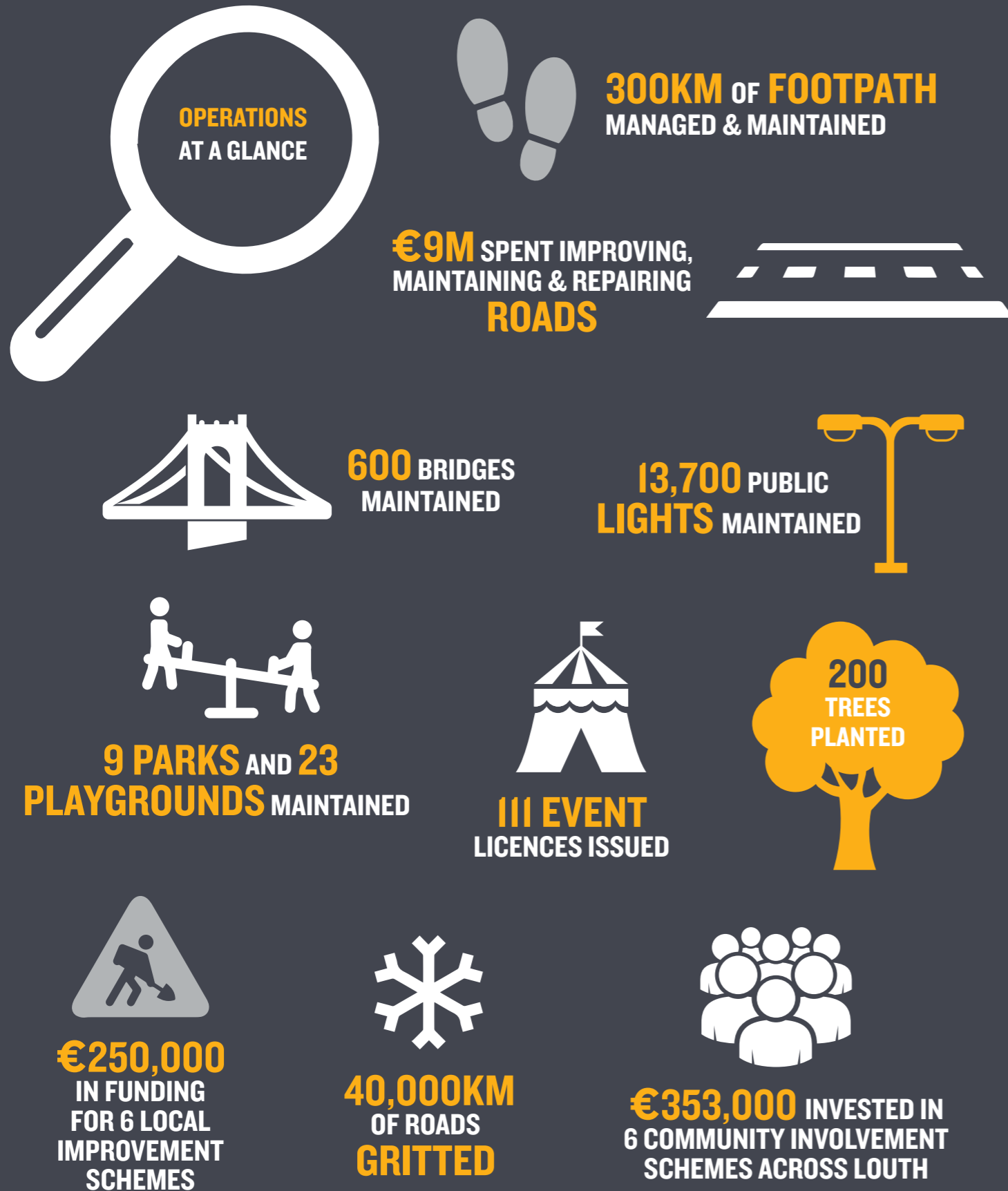


# 5

## OPERATIONS AND WASTE MANAGEMENT / ENVIRONMENT

Louth County Council Operations and Waste Management / Environment section manages many of the most visible services provided by the Council, including road maintenance and improvements, maintenance of our award-winning public parks and playgrounds, harbours and piers and the upkeep of a number of cemeteries across the county. Other services delivered by the section are the veterinary services, litter warden service, bottle bank and recycling services, traffic management, pay parking services, casual trading in the county, street sweeping and public litter bin services.





### Road Maintenance and Improvement

Louth County Council Operations Department is responsible for planned maintenance, reactive maintenance and inspections of work on 1,614 km of public roads and streets throughout the county, together with the associated footways, bridges and other structures. This includes footway reconstruction and resurfacing; entrance dishing; carriageway repairs and reinstatement; providing and maintaining street nameplates; the management and licensing of street furniture; responding to requests from the emergency services and responding to notified hazards. This maintenance work is carried out by direct labour units operating from two areas (North Louth & South Louth) and also by private contractors.

In 2018, a total investment programme of €8m (including €1.75m from the revenue budget) was rolled out, focusing on the reconstruction of footways and carriageway resurfacing. Additionally, €0.5m was made available to carry out repairs to the road network caused by Storm Emma.



## Traffic Management & Road Safety

Louth County Council Operations Department also manages traffic and road safety in the county.

### Activities in 2018 included:

- Continued development of cycleways and facilities for the mobility impaired/disabled.
- Provision of cycling training to ensure safe use of the cycle network.
- The repair and maintenance of 79 traffic lights.
- Continued enforcement of parking regulations.
- The support of schools to deliver effective Road Safety Education & Training Programmes.
- Provision of a School Warden Service to schools throughout Louth.
- Ongoing road marking replenishing programme.
- Ongoing Fibre Optic roll-out through utility companies.



## Waste Management & Environment

Responsibilities of Louth County Council's Waste Management & Environment section include street cleaning; graffiti and chewing gum removal, litter warden service; waste regulation; landfill aftercare and climate change action co-ordination.

Louth's waste management strategy is based on prevention/minimisation of waste; encouragement and support for re-use of waste materials; recovery of waste for recycling; the safe disposal of residual waste and continuous implementation of the 'polluter pays' principle.

### Key developments/actions in 2018:

- Noise Action Plan 2018-2023 commenced.
- The second Cycle River Basin Management Plan (RBMP) commenced.
- Sampling and reporting of water quality at four designated bathing waters areas - all bathing waters in Louth obtained Excellent Quality for 2018 Annual Water Quality ratings.
- Climate Change Adaptation Strategy commenced.



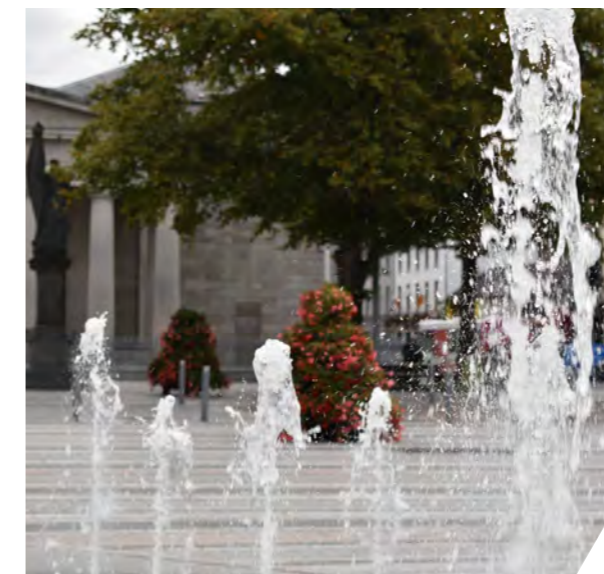


## Parks and Open Spaces

Louth County Council's Parks and Open Spaces team continued its intensive maintenance programme in respect of grass cutting, tree maintenance (pruning and felling) and other landscaping related work in 2018.

### Key developments/actions in 2018:

- Securing four green flags: for Blackrock Park, St Helena Park, St Dominic's Park and Icehouse Hill Park. This is the highest number of green flags awarded to a single county outside of Dublin.
- 200 trees planted and flowers and hanging baskets displayed in different locations around the county.
- The implementation of a programme for the treatment and control of Japanese knot weed - a total of c. 2000m<sup>2</sup> was treated in various areas around the county.
- Assistance with the planning and preparation work for Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann, with St Dominic's Park being used as one of the main Fleadh venues.
- Ongoing provision of advice, support and on the ground assistance to Tidy Towns and schools' groups.
- Ongoing inspections, improvement works and maintenance of playgrounds.





VETERINARY SERVICES AT A GLANCE



379 DOGS TAKEN IN BY THE POUND IN 2018 A 7% DECREASE ON 2017

LOUTH COUNTY COUNCIL PARTNERED WITH AN POST TO ROLL OUT NATIONAL DOG LICENCE DATABASE



90% OF DOGS REHOMED



33% OF DOGS RECLAIMED BY OWNER

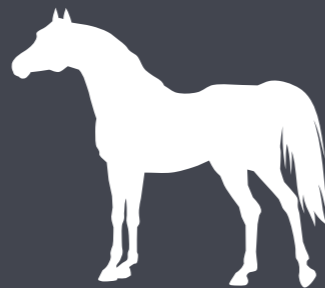


4,932 DOG LICENCES ISSUED

10% INCREASE IN ONLINE SALE OF DOG LICENCES



232 DOG CONTROL-RELATED FIXED PENALTIES ISSUED



37 HORSES TAKEN TO ANIMAL POUND



### Food Safety

The number of meat processing plants under the inspectorate of the veterinary section of Louth County Council increased from 13 to 16 in 2018. This comprised one abattoir, 12 approved meat cutting/cooking plants, and three registered meat plants. The county provides meat inspection and food safety duties under a service contract with the Food safety Authority of Ireland.



16 MEAT PROCESSING PLANTS INSPECTED UP FROM 13

## Water Services

Louth County Council manages water supply to 48,600 homes and businesses across the county on behalf of Irish Water. As part of Louth County Council's agreement with Irish Water, the Council is also responsible for waste water treatment. Significant capital investment was made into the county's water infrastructure in 2018. This included the replacement of water mains in Dundalk and Drogheda, the upgrade of Cavan Hill and Staleen Water Treatment Plants, the upgrade of Ardee Wastewater Treatment Plant and the planned construction of Omeath Wastewater Treatment Plant.



AVERAGE **39 MILLION LITRES** OF WATER DISTRIBUTED **DAILY** VIA 1,185KM OF PUBLIC WATERMAIN



**220** CONNECTION APPLICATIONS



**2,390** CUSTOMER QUERIES, COMPLAINTS AND REPAIRS DEALT WITH



APPROXIMATELY **183** MAINS AND CONNECTION REPAIRS CARRIED OUT



APPROXIMATELY **45,525 HOMES** AND **4,200 BUSINESSES** SUPPLIED WITH WATER



# 6

## **APPENDICES**

**Financial Statements**

**Performance Indicators**

**Conference Attendance Record**

**Payment to members for Meetings,  
Committees and Representation**

**Corporate Plan**



## Statement of Comprehensive Income

### STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME (INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT STATEMENT) FOR YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER 2018

The Income and Expenditure Account Statement brings together all the revenue related income and expenditure.

It shows the surplus/deficit for the year. Transfers to/from reserves are shown separately and not allocated by service division.

## Expenditure by Division

Expenditure by Division For Year Ending 31st December 2018	Gross Expenditure 2018	Income 2018	Net Expenditure 2018	Net Expenditure 2017
	€	€	€	€
Housing & Building	24,837,954	24,932,192	(94,238)	1,105,280
Roads Transportation & Safety	23,925,079	12,512,744	11,412,335	8,822,013
Water Services	5,570,877	5,015,463	555,415	(104,384)
Development Management	11,834,242	6,546,470	5,287,771	5,121,531
Environmental Services	15,008,931	1,950,566	13,058,366	13,167,897
Recreation & Amenity	7,623,254	986,150	6,637,104	6,759,627
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	947,735	435,013	512,722	545,849
Miscellaneous Services	11,260,774	6,417,438	4,843,336	5,934,526
	<b>101,008,846</b>	<b>58,796,035</b>		
<b>Net cost of Divisions to be funded from Rates &amp; Local Property Tax</b>			<b>42,212,811</b>	41,352,337
Rates			31,894,008	31,806,290
Local Property Tax			9,866,198	9,866,198
<b>Surplus/(Deficit) for Year before Transfers</b>			<b>(452,605)</b>	320,151
<b>Transfers from/(to) Reserves</b>			602,530	75,443
<b>Overall Surplus/(Deficit) for Year</b>			<b>149,926</b>	395,594
<b>General Reserve @ 1st January 2018</b>			395,594	-
General Reserve @ 31st December 2018			<b>545,520</b>	395,594

## Statement of Financial Position

Statement Of Financial Position (Balance Sheet) AT 31st DECEMBER 2018	2018	2017
	€	€
<b>Fixed Assets</b>		
Operational	690,513,431	687,286,565
Infrastructural	1,355,364,519	1,355,364,519
Community	4,293,182	4,351,176
Non-Operational	50,035,497	50,035,497
	<b>2,100,206,629</b>	<b>2,097,037,757</b>
<b>Work in Progress and Preliminary Expenses</b>	20,036,453	18,040,677
<b>Long Term Debtors</b>	90,452,617	80,890,123
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Stocks	-	-
Trade Debtors & Prepayments	25,450,211	28,993,209
Bank Investments	42,525,469	29,425,054
Cash at Bank	3,585,945	5,034,666
Cash in Transit	317,092	321,870
	<b>71,878,717</b>	<b>63,774,798</b>
<b>Current Liabilities</b> (Amounts falling due within one year)		
Bank Overdraft	-	-
Creditors & Accruals	27,282,154	25,052,365
Finance Leases	-	-
	<b>27,282,154</b>	<b>25,052,365</b>
<b>Net Current Assets / (Liabilities)</b>	<b>44,596,563</b>	<b>38,722,433</b>
<b>Creditors</b> (Amounts falling due after more than one year)		
Loans Payable	147,837,154	147,826,980
Finance Leases	-	-
Refundable deposits	14,506,606	13,505,951
Other	24,205,505	14,352,456
	<b>186,549,265</b>	<b>175,685,388</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>	<b>2,068,742,998</b>	<b>2,059,005,604</b>
<b>Represented by</b>		
Capitalisation Account	2,100,206,629	2,097,037,757
Income WIP	18,951,290	16,556,763
Specific Revenue Reserve	469,071	469,071
General Revenue Reserve	545,520	395,594
Other Balances	(51,429,513)	(55,453,583)
<b>Total Reserves</b>	<b>2,068,742,998</b>	<b>2,059,005,604</b>

## Summary of Major Revenue Collections for 2018

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K
Debtor type	Incoming arrears @ 1/1/2018	Accrued - current year debit (Gross)	Vacant property adjustments	Write offs	Waivers	Total for collection = (B+C-D-E-F)	Amount collected	Closing arrears @ 31/12/2018 = (G-H)	Specific doubtful arrears	% Collected = (H)/(G-J)
	€	€	€	€	€	€	€	€	€	€
Rates	12,504,700	31,894,008	3,711,268	780,888	-	39,906,551	30,367,831	9,538,720	1,913,929	80%
Rents & Annuities	5,089,880	11,183,990	-	135,077	-	16,138,793	12,332,703	3,806,090	-	76%
Housing Loans	362,039	1,176,205	-	8	-	1,538,235	1,176,402	361,833	-	76%

## Performance Indicators

Topic		Indicator	Value
<b>Housing: H1, H2 &amp; H4</b>	H1	A. No. of dwellings in the ownership of the LA at 1/1/2018	3,783
		B. No. of dwellings added to the LA owned stock during 2018 (whether constructed or acquired)	45
		C. No. of LA owned dwellings sold in 2018	16
		D. No. of LA owned dwellings demolished in 2018	-
		E. No. of dwellings in the ownership of the LA at 31/12/2018	3,812
		F. No. of LA owned dwellings planned for demolition under a DHPLG approved scheme	3
	H2	A. The percentage of the total number of LA owned dwellings that were vacant on 31/12/2018	2.70 %
		The number of dwellings within their overall stock that were not tenanted on 31/12/2018	103
	H4	A. Expenditure during 2018 on the maintenance of LA housing compiled from 1 January 2018 to 31 December 2018, divided by the no. of dwellings in the LA stock at 31/12/2018, i.e. the H1E less H1F indicator figure	€655.93
		Expenditure on maintenance of LA stock compiled from 1 January 2018 to 31 December 2018, including planned maintenance and expenditure that qualified for grants, such as SEAI grants for energy efficient retro-fitting works or the Fabric Upgrade Programme but excluding expenditure on vacant properties and expenditure under approved major refurbishment schemes (i.e. approved Regeneration or under the Remedial Works Schemes).	€2,498,443
		Expenditure on maintenance of LA stock compiled from 1 January 2017 to 31 December 2017, including planned maintenance and expenditure that qualified for grants, such as SEAI grants for energy efficient retro-fitting works or the Fabric Upgrade Programme but excluding expenditure on vacant properties and expenditure under approved major refurbishment schemes (i.e. approved Regeneration or under the Remedial Works Schemes).	€6,173,684

Topic		Indicator	Value
<b>Housing: H3 &amp; H5</b>	H3	A. The time taken from the date of vacation of a dwelling to the date in 2018 when the dwelling is re-tenanted, averaged across all dwellings re-let during 2018	16.42 wk
		B. The cost expended on getting the dwellings re-tenanted in 2018, averaged across all dwellings re-let in 2018	€17,875
		The number of dwellings that were re-tenanted on any date in 2018 (but excluding all those that had been vacant due to an estate-wide refurbishment scheme)	47
		The number of weeks from the date of vacation to the date the dwelling is re-tenanted	771.86 wk
		Total expenditure on works necessary to enable re-letting of the dwellings	€840,136
			H5
B. Number of rented dwellings inspected in 2018	983		
C. Percentage of inspected dwellings in 2018 that were found not to be compliant with the Standards Regulations	100%		
D. Number of non-compliant dwellings that became compliant during 2018	98		
The number of dwellings inspected in 2018 that were found not to be compliant with the Housing (Standards for Rented Houses) Regulations	983		

## Performance Indicators

Topic		Indicator	Value
<b>Housing: H6</b>	H6	A. Number of adult individuals in emergency accommodation that are long-term homeless as a % of the total number of homeless adult individuals in emergency accommodation at the end of 2018	33.33 %
		The number of adult individuals classified as homeless and in emergency accommodation on the night of 31 December 2018 as recorded on the PASS system	144
		The number out of those individuals who, on 31/12/2018, had been in emergency accommodation for 6 months continuously, or for 6 months cumulatively within the previous 12 months	48
<b>Roads: R1 &amp; R2</b>	R1	The % of Regional road kilometres that received a PSCI rating in the 24 month period prior to 31/12/2018	98%
		The % of Local Primary road kilometres that received a PSCI rating in the 24 month period prior to 31/12/2018	96%
		The % of Local Secondary road kilometres that received a PSCI rating in the 24 month period prior to 31/12/2018	97%
		The % of Local Tertiary road kilometres that received a PSCI rating in the 60 month period prior to 31/12/2018	87%
		The % of total Regional road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 1-4 at 31/12/2018	6%
		The % of total Regional road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 5-6 at 31/12/2018	22%
		The % of total Regional road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 7-8 at 31/12/2018	25%
		The % of total Regional road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 9-10 at 31/12/2018	46%
		The % of total Local Primary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 1-4 at 31/12/2018	14%
		The % of total Local Primary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 5-6 at 31/12/2018	29%

Topic		Indicator	Value
		The % of total Local Primary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 7-8 at 31/12/2018	45%
		The % of total Local Primary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 9-10 at 31/12/2018	12%
		The % of total Local Secondary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 1-4 at 31/12/2018	22%
		The % of total Local Secondary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 5-6 at 31/12/2018	31%
		The % of total Local Secondary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 7-8 at 31/12/2018	39%
		The % of total Local Secondary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 9-10 at 31/12/2018	6%
		The % of total Local Tertiary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 1-4 at 31/12/2018	26%
		The % of total Local Tertiary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 5-6 at 31/12/2018	28%
		The % of total Local Tertiary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 7-8 at 31/12/2018	23%
		The % of total Local Tertiary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 9-10 at 31/12/2018	13%
	R2	A1. Kilometres of regional road strengthened during 2018	9.4 km
		A2. The amount expended on regional roads strengthening work during 2018	€1,783,657.00
		B1. Kilometres of regional road resealed during 2018	6.3 km
		B2. The amount expended on regional road resealing work during 2018	€406,665.00
		C1. Kilometres of local road strengthened during 2018	18.9 km
		C2. The amount expended on local road strengthening work during 2018	€1,371,936.00
		D1. Kilometres of local road resealed during 2018	47.2 km
		D2. The amount expended on local road resealing work during 2018	€1,577,859.00

## Performance Indicators

Topic		Indicator	Value
<b>Motor Tax: R3</b>	R3	A. The percentage of motor tax transactions which were dealt with online (i.e. transaction is processed and the tax disc is issued) in 2018	67.84 %
<b>Water: W1</b>	W1	% of Private Drinking Water Schemes in compliance with statutory requirements in respect of the monitoring of the quality of private drinking water supplies during 2018	100%
<b>Waste: E1</b>	E1	A. The number of households, based on the 2016 Census, who are situated in an area covered by a licensed operator providing a 3 bin service at 31/12/2018	20,141
		B. The % of households within the local authority (also as per the 2016 Census) that the number at A represents	44.40 %
<b>Environmental Pollution: E2</b>	E2	A1. Total number of pollution cases in respect of which a complaint was made during 2018	3,265
		A2. Number of pollution cases closed from 1/1/2017 to 31/12/2018	3,409
		A3. Total number of cases on hands at 31/12/2018	255
		The opening number of cases carried forward from the year end 2017	399
<b>Litter Pollution: E3</b>	E3	A1. The % of the area within the LA that when surveyed in 2018 was unpolluted or litter free	2%
		A2. The % of the area within the LA that when surveyed in 2018 was slightly polluted	64%
		A3. The % of the area within the LA that when surveyed in 2018 was moderately polluted	24%
		A4. The % of the area within the LA that when surveyed in 2018 was significantly polluted	6%
		A5. The % of the area within the LA that when surveyed in 2018 was grossly polluted	4%

Topic		Indicator	Value
<b>Green Flag Status: E4</b>	E4	A. The % of schools that have been awarded green flag status	52.17 %
<b>Planning: P1</b>	P1	A. Buildings inspected as a percentage of new buildings notified to the local authority	8.38 %
		Total number of new buildings notified to the local authority i.e. buildings where a valid Commencement Notice was served in the period 1/1/2018 to 31/12/2018 by a builder or developer on the local authority	955
		Number of new buildings notified to the local authority in 2018 that were the subject of at least one on-site inspection during 2018 undertaken by the local authority	80
<b>Planning: P2 &amp; P3</b>	P2	A. Number of LA planning decisions which were the subject of an appeal to An Bord Pleanála that were determined by the Board on any date in 2018	51
		B. % of the determinations at A which confirmed (either with or without variation) the decision made by the LA	68.63 %
		Number of determinations confirming the LA's decision (either with or without variation)	35
	P3	A. Total number of planning cases referred to or initiated by the local authority in the period 1/1/2018 to 31/12/2018 that were investigated	228
		B. Total number of investigated cases that were closed during 2018	246
		C. % of the cases at B that were dismissed as trivial, minor or without foundation or were closed because statute barred or an exempted development	38.21 %
		D. % of cases at B that were resolved to the LA's satisfaction through negotiations	8.13 %

## Performance Indicators

Topic		Indicator	Value
		E. % Cases at B that were closed due to enforcement proceedings	53.66 %
		F. Total number of planning cases being investigated as at 31/12/2018	187
		Number of cases at 'B' that were dismissed under section 152(2), Planning and Development Act 2000	94
		Number of cases at 'B' that were resolved to the LA's satisfaction through negotiations	20
		Number of cases at 'B' that were closed due to enforcement proceedings	132
<b>Planning: P4 &amp; P5</b>	P4	A. The 2018 Annual Financial Statement (AFS) Programme D data divided by the population of the LA area per the 2016 Census	€25.81
		AFS Programme D data consisting of D01 - Forward Planning, D02 - Development Management, D03 - Enforcement (inclusive of the relevant Programme D proportion of the central management charge) for 2018	€3,325,905
	P5	A. The percentage of applications for fire safety certificates received in 2018 that were decided (granted or refused) within two months of their receipt	27.84 %
		B. The percentage of applications for fire safety certificates received in 2018 that were decided (granted or refused) within an extended period agreed with the applicant	72.16 %
		The total number of applications for fire safety certificates received in 2018 that were not withdrawn by the applicant	97
		The number of applications for fire safety certificates received in 2018 that were decided (granted or refused) within two months of the date of receipt of the application	27

Topic		Indicator	Value
		The number of applications for fire safety certificates received in 2018 that were decided (granted or refused) within an agreed extended time period	70
<b>Fire Service: F1</b>	F1	A. The Annual Financial Statement (AFS) Programme E expenditure data for 2018 divided by the population of the LA area per the 2016 Census figures for the population served by the fire authority as per the Risk Based Approach Phase One reports	€56.20
		AFS Programme E expenditure data consisting of E11 - Operation of Fire Service and E12 - Fire Prevention for 2018	€8,477,404
<b>Fire Service: F2 &amp; F3</b>	F2	A. Average time taken, in minutes, to mobilise fire brigades in Full-Time Stations in respect of fire	1.31 min
		B. Average time taken, in minutes, to mobilise fire brigades in Part-Time Stations (retained fire service) in respect of fire	4.4 min
		C. Average time taken, in minutes, to mobilise fire brigades in Full-Time Stations in respect of all other (non-fire) emergency incidents	1.51 min
		D. Average time taken, in minutes, to mobilise fire brigades in Part-Time Stations (retained fire service) in respect of all other (non-fire) emergency incidents	2.4 min
	F3	A. % of cases in respect of fire in which first attendance at scene is within 10 minutes	71.38 %
		B. % of cases in respect of fire in which first attendance at the scene is after 10 minutes but within 20 minutes	25.36 %
		C. % of cases in respect of fire in which first attendance at the scene is after 20 minutes	3.26 %
		D. % of cases in respect of all other emergency incidents in which first attendance at the scene is within 10 minutes	60.85 %

## Performance Indicators

Topic	Indicator	Value
	E. % of cases in respect of all other emergency incidents in which first attendance at the scene is after 10 minutes but within 20 minutes	35.94 %
	F. % of cases in respect of all other emergency incidents in which first attendance at the scene is after 20 minutes	3.20 %
	Total number of call-outs in respect of fires from 1/1/2018 to 31/12/2018	828
	Number of these fire cases where first fire tender attendance at the scene is within 10 minutes	591
	Number of these fire cases in which first fire tender attendance at the scene is after 10 minutes but within 20 minutes	210
	Number of these fire cases in which first fire tender attendance at the scene is after 20 minutes	27
	Total number of call-outs in respect of all other emergency incidents (i.e. not including fire) from 1/1/2018 to 31/12/2018	281
	Number of these non-fire cases in which first fire tender attendance at the scene is within 10 minutes	171
	Number of these non-fire cases in which first fire tender attendance at the scene is after 10 minutes but within 20 minutes	101
	Number of these non-fire cases in which first fire tender attendance at the scene is after 20 minutes	9

Topic	Indicator	Value
<b>Library Service: L1</b>	L1 A. Number of visits to libraries per head of population for the LA area per the 2016 Census	2.01
	B. Number of items issued to borrowers in the year	362,916
	Number of visits to its libraries from 1/1/2018 to 31/12/2018	259,058
<b>Library Service: L2</b>	L2 A. The Annual Financial Statement (AFS) Programme F data for 2018 divided by the population of the LA area per the 2016 Census	€23.31
	AFS Programme F data consisting of F02 - Operation of Library and Archival Service (inclusive of the relevant proportion of the central management charge for Programme F) for 2018	€3,004,137
<b>Youth and Community: Y1 &amp; Y2</b>	Y1 A. Percentage of local schools involved in the local Youth Council/Comhairle na nÓg scheme	89%
	Total number of second level schools in the LA area at 31/12/2018	19
	Number of second level schools in the LA area from which representatives attended the local Comhairle na nÓg AGM held in 2018	17
	Y2 A. Number of organisations included in the County Register and the proportion who opted to be part of the Social Inclusion College within the PPN	33.33
	Total number of organisations included in the County Register for the local authority area as at 31/12/2018	303
	Total number of those organisations that registered for the first time in 2018	33
	Number of organisations that opted to join the Social Inclusion Electoral College on whatever date they registered for the PPN	101

## Performance Indicators

Topic		Indicator	Value
<b>Corporate: C1, C2, C4 &amp; C5</b>	C1	A. The wholtime equivalent staffing number as at 31 December 2018	625.15
	C2	A. Percentage of paid working days lost to sickness absence through medically certified leave in 2018	4.35 %
		B. Percentage of paid working days lost to sickness absence through self-certified leave in 2018	0.55 %
		Total Number of working days lost to sickness absence through medically certified leave in 2018	7,545 days
		Total Number of working days lost to sickness absence through self-certified leave in 2018	804 days
		Number of unpaid working days lost to sickness absence included within the total of self-certified sick leave days in 2018	30 days
		Number of unpaid working days lost to sickness absence included within the total of medically certified sick leave days in 2018	1,377 days
		If any staff are on long-term sick leave (i.e. a continuous period of more than 4 weeks), include a text note of the number of staff on long-term sick leave	74 staff on long term sick leave
	C4	A. All ICT expenditure in the period from 1/1/2018 to 31/12/2018, divided by the WTE no.	€3,340.96
		Total ICT expenditure in 2018	€2,088,599
	C5	A. All ICT expenditure calculated in C4 as a proportion of Revenue expenditure	2.07
		Total Revenue expenditure from 1/1/2018 to 31/12/2018 before transfers to or from reserves	€101,008,846

Topic		Indicator	Value
<b>Corporate: C3</b>	C3	A. Total page views of the local authority's websites in 2018	1,239,736
		B. Total number of followers at end 2018 of the LA's social media accounts	38,664
		The number of social media accounts operated by the local authority	18
<b>Finance: M1 &amp; M2</b>	M1	A. Cumulative surplus/deficit balance at 31/12/2014 in the Revenue Account from the Income & Expenditure Account Statement of the AFS	-€2,607,461
		B. Cumulative surplus/deficit balance at 31/12/2015 in the Revenue Account from the Income & Expenditure Account Statement of the AFS	-€2,510,887
		C. Cumulative surplus/deficit balance at 31/12/2016 in the Revenue Account from the Income & Expenditure Account Statement of the AFS	€0
		D. Cumulative surplus/deficit balance at 31/12/2017 in the Revenue Account from the Income & Expenditure Account Statement of the AFS	€395,594
		E. Cumulative surplus/deficit balance at 31/12/2018 in the Revenue Account from the Income & Expenditure Account Statement of the AFS	-€545,520
		F. Cumulative surplus or deficit at 31/12/2018 as a percentage of Total Income in 2018 from the Income and Expenditure Account Statement of the AFS	-0.06 %
		G. Revenue expenditure per capita in 2018	€783.72
		The 2018 Total Income figure from the Income and Expenditure Account Statement of the AFS	€100,556,241
		The 2018 Total Expenditure figure from the Income and Expenditure Account Statement of the AFS	€101,008,846

## Performance Indicators

Topic	Indicator	Value
M2	Collection level of Rates from the Annual Financial Statement for 2014	56%
	Collection level of Rates from the Annual Financial Statement for 2015	60%
	Collection level of Rates from the Annual Financial Statement for 2016	69%
	Collection level of Rates from the Annual Financial Statement for 2017	75%
	Collection level of Rates from the Annual Financial Statement for 2018	80%
	Collection level of Rent & Annuities from the Annual Financial Statement for 2014	82%
	Collection level of Rent & Annuities from the Annual Financial Statement for 2015	73%
	Collection level of Rent & Annuities from the Annual Financial Statement for 2016	71%
	Collection level of Rent & Annuities from the Annual Financial Statement for 2017	69%
	Collection level of Rent & Annuities from the Annual Financial Statement for 2018	76%
	Collection level of Housing Loans from the Annual Financial Statement for 2014	66%
	Collection level of Housing Loans from the Annual Financial Statement for 2015	69%
	Collection level of Housing Loans from the Annual Financial Statement for 2016	73%
	Collection level of Housing Loans from the Annual Financial Statement for 2017	75%
Collection level of Housing Loans from the Annual Financial Statement for 2018	76%	

Topic	Indicator	Value	
<b>Economic Development: J1 to J4</b>	J1	A. The no. of jobs created with assistance from the Local Enterprise Office during the period 1/1/2018 to 31/12/2018	98.0
	J2	A. The no. of trading online voucher applications approved by the Local Enterprise Office in 2018 <b>Comment: 21 Drawn Down</b> B. The no. of those trading online vouchers that were drawn down in 2018	42 21
	J3	A. The no. of participants who received mentoring during the period 1/1/2018 to 31/12/2018	292
	J4	A. Does the local authority have a current tourism strategy? B. Does the local authority have a designated Tourism Officer? <b>Comment: Tourism Officer Shared with Meath County</b>	Yes Yes

## Councillor Attendance Record 2018

Title	Dates	Members Cost	Travel Cost	Conference Cost	Total
<b>Conferences at Home</b>					
Celtic Conferences The Eight Amendment	23rd -25th March 2018	Cllr Richie Culhane Cllr Pio Smith	€600.00	€100.00 €100.00	€100.00 €700.00
McGill Summer School Glenties, Co. Donegal	25th-27th July 2018	Cllr John McGahon	€585.41	paid by Cllr	€585.41
<b>Training</b>					
AILG National Planning Framework	Feb 2017	Cllr Kevin Callan	€203.73	paid 2017	€203.73
AILG module 1, Councillors & Journalists Mullingar Park Hotel	22nd Feb 2018	Cllr Colm Markey Cllr Pio Smith Cllr Jim Tenanty	€89.47 €83.20	€55.00 €55.00 €55.00	€55.00 €144.47 €138.20
LAMA Spring Training Seminar 2018 The Central Hotel, Donegal Town	5th & 6th April 2018	Cllr Kevin Callan Cllr Richie Culhane Cllr Conor Keelan Cllr Pio Smith Cllr Jim Tenanty Cllr Oliver Tully	€312.89 €424.87 €398.00 €395.31 €295.87	€160.00 €160.00 €160.00 €160.00 €160.00	€472.89 €584.87 €160.00 €558.00 €555.31 €455.87
AILG Spring Training Conference 2018 The Park Hotel, Dungarvan	12th-13th April 2018	Cllr Kevin Callan Cllr Emma Coffey Cllr Frank Godfrey Cllr Conor Keelan Cllr John McGahon Cllr Pio Smith Cllr Jim Tenanty Cllr Oliver Tully	€356.21 €367.74 €499.22 €602.80 €489.37 €472.35	€135.00 €135.00 €135.00 €135.00 €135.00 €135.00	€491.21 €135.00 €502.74 €135.00 €634.22 €737.80 €624.37 €607.35
AILG Training Module 2, Cllrs & Community Safety Lucan Spa Hotel	15th May 2018	Cllr Oliver Tully	€95.42	€55.00	€150.42
AILG module 3, Irish Water Crowne Plaza Dundalk	23rd June 2018	Cllr Conor Keelan Cllr Jim Tenanty	€0.00 €0.00	€55.00 €55.00	€55.00 €55.00
AILG module 4, E-planning & National Building Mgt Project County Arms, Birr	21st Sept 18	Cllr Pio Smith Cllr Jim Tenanty	€271.86 €153.97	€55.00 €55.00	€326.86 €208.97
Carrick-on Shannon	11th Sept 18	Cllr Oliver Tully	€119.45	€55.00	€174.45
LAMA Autumn Training Seminar 2018 River Hotel, Castleisland, Co. Kerry	28th-29th Sept 2018	Cllr Richie Culhane Cllr Pio Smith Cllr Jim Tenanty Cllr Oliver Tully	€527.88 €792.41 €785.92 €453.31	€180.00 €180.00 €180.00 €180.00	€707.88 €972.41 €965.92 €633.31
AILG module 5, Local Authority Finance & Budgeting Sligo	13th Oct 2018	Cllr Richie Culhane Cllr Pio Smith Cllr Oliver Tully	€201.44 €322.43 €263.11	€55.00 €55.00 €55.00	€256.44 €377.43 €318.11
Longford Arms Hoteel	11th Oct 18	Cllr Jim Tenanty	€132.78	€55.00	€187.78
AILG Autumn Training Conference 2018 Hillgrove Hotel, Monaghan	25th & 26th Oct 2018	Cllr Emma Coffey Cllr Maria Doyle Cllr Conor Keelan Cllr Jim Tenanty Cllr Oliver Tully	€247.81 €208.63	€135.00 €135.00 €135.00 €135.00 €135.00	€135.00 €135.00 €135.00 €382.81 €343.63
AILG Module 6, GDPR Leixlip	17th Nov 2018	Cllr John McGahon Cllr Oliver Tully	€119.61 €78.70	€55.00 €55.00	€55.00 €133.70
Kilmore Hotel, Cavan	22nd Nov2018	Cllr Kevin Callan Cllr Jim Tenanty	€123.17	€55.00 €55.00	€55.00 €178.17

## Payments to Members for Meetings, Committees & Representation 2018

	Payments to Members of Louth Local Authorities	Louth County Council
1	Number of Council and Committee Meetings	104
2	Annual Expenses Allowance (travel, subsistence & misc exps eg postage, including vouched exps). Total of expenses paid to members in respect of attendance of meetings of the Council and its committees	€138,741.14
3	Representational Payment	€489,152.86
4	Chairpersons Allowance	€19,997.36
5	Vice Chairpersons Allowance	€4,000.00
6	Chairpersons of SPCs/MPCs	€24,000.00
7	Chairperson of Municipal Districts	€30,000.00
8	Member of Municipal District Allowance	€43,498.84
9	Mobile/Blackberry Phones & Broadband	€11,466.67
10	Expenses on Conferences & Training etc attended (a) Home (b) Abroad	€15,699.37 €2,754.78

## Breakdown of Representation

### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & ENTERPRISE SUPPORT

Membership of the Committee is as follows:-

Cllr. Mark Dearey	Chairperson
Cllr. David Saurin	Louth County Council
Cllr. Tomás Sharkey	Louth County Council
Cllr. Kevin Callan	Louth County Council
Cllr. Marianne Butler	Louth County Council
Cllr. Conor Keelan	Louth County Council
Cllr. Pio Smith	Louth County Council
Mr. Ciaran McDonnell	Agriculture/Farming
Mr. Eddie Phelan	Development/Construction
Mr. Simon McCormack	Business/Commercial
Mr. Pat Mulligan	Community/Voluntary
Ms. Karen Devine	Environment/Conservation
Ms. Colette Moss	Louth County Council

### PLANNING & ENVIRONMENT

Membership of the Committee is as follows:-

Cllr. Maria Doyle	Chairperson
Cllr. Peter Savage	Louth County Council
Cllr. Tom Cunningham	Louth County Council
Cllr. Antóin Watters	Louth County Council
Cllr. Anne Campbell	Louth County Council
Cllr. John McGahon	Louth County Council
Mr. Michael Smyth	Agriculture/Farming
Mr. Eddie Phelan	Business/Commercial
Ms. Richie Barry	Community/Voluntary
Ms. Breffni Martin	Environment/Conservation

### HOUSING, COMMUNITY PLANNING AND EMERGENCY SERVICES

Membership of the Committee is as follows:-

Cllr. Joanna Byrne	Chairperson
Cllr. Jim Tenanty	Louth County Council
Cllr. Maeve Yore	Louth County Council
Cllr. Ruairi O Murchu	Louth County Council
Cllr. Pearse McGeough	Louth County Council
Cllr. Paul Bell	Louth County Council
Cllr. Liam Reilly	Louth County Council
Cllr. Tommy Byrne	Louth County Council
Mr. Bill Baldwin	Development/Construction
Mr. Colm O'Hanrahan	Trade Union
Mr. Aubrey Halley	Community/Voluntary
Mr. Garrett Weldon	Social Inclusion

### INFRASTRUCTURE, EUROPEAN AND CROSS BORDER AFFAIRS

Membership of the Committee is as follows:-

Cllr. Emma Coffey	Chairperson
Cllr. Oliver Tully	Louth County Council
Cllr. Edel Corrigan	Louth County Council
Cllr. Kenneth Flood	Louth County Council
Cllr. Colm Markey	Louth County Council
Cllr. Frank Godfrey	Louth County Council
Cllr. Dolores Minogue	Louth County Council
Mr. Matthew McGreehan	Agriculture/Farming
Mr. Paddy Malone	Business/Commercial
Vacant	Community/Voluntary
Mr Sean Connolly	Environment/Conservation

## Municipal Districts Committee Members 2018

### MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF DUNDALK

Cllr. John McGahon, Chairperson  
 Cllr. Mark Dearey  
 Cllr. Maria Doyle  
 Cllr. Marianne Butler  
 Cllr. Emma Coffey  
 Cllr. Edel Corrigan  
 Cllr. Anne Campbell  
 Cllr. Conor Keelan  
 Cllr. Ruairí Ó Murchú  
 Cllr. Peter Savage  
 Cllr. Tomás Sharkey  
 Cllr. Maeve Yore  
 Cllr. Antóin Watters  
 No. of meetings 2018 - 13

### MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF ARDEE

Cllr. Liam Reilly, Chairperson  
 Cllr. Dolores Minogue  
 Cllr. Tom Cunningham  
 Cllr. Colm Markey  
 Cllr. Pearse McGeough  
 Cllr. Jim Tenanty  
 No. of meetings 2018 - 13

### BOROUGH DISTRICT OF DROGHEDA

Cllr. Pio Smith, Mayor  
 Cllr. Oliver Tully  
 Cllr. Paul Bell  
 Cllr. Tommy Byrne  
 Cllr. David Saurin  
 Cllr. Richie Culhane  
 Cllr. Kenneth Flood  
 Cllr. Frank Godfrey  
 Cllr. Joanna Byrne  
 Cllr. Oliver Tully  
 No. of meetings 2018 - 13

### AUDIT COMMITTEE

Dr. Philip Byrne  
 Mr. Richard Bowden, Bowden Walsh & Co.  
 Mr. Billy Doyle, CEO, Dundalk Credit Union  
 Cllr. Kevin Callan  
 Cllr. Conor Keelan

## Local Policing Forum 2018

### DUNDALK LOCAL POLICING FORUM

The Dundalk Local Policing Forum represents the Dundalk Municipal District and the Dundalk Garda District. Its membership is as follows:-

Cllr. Conor Keelan      Chairperson  
 Cllr. Marianne Butler  
 Cllr. Maeve Yore  
 Cllr. John McGahon  
 Cllr. Mark Dearey  
 Cllr. Emma Coffey  
 Cllr. Maria Doyle  
 Cllr. Edel Corrigan  
 Cllr. Peter Savage  
 Cllr. Tomas Sharkey  
 Super. Gerard Curley Dundalk Garda District  
 Frank Pentony Director of Services

**Members of Oireachtas** Gerry Adams TD  
 Declan Breathnach TD  
 Fergus O'Dowd TD  
 Peter Fitzpatrick TD  
 Imelda Munster TD  
 Senator Gerald Nash  
 Senator Jim D'Arcy  
 Senator Mary Moran

Pat McVeigh      Community & Voluntary Rep  
 John Temple      Community & Voluntary Rep  
 Vacant              Community & Voluntary Rep  
 Matthew McGreehan      IFA Rep  
 Frank Watters      Business Rep

### DROGHEDA LOCAL POLICING FORUM

The Drogheda Local Policing Forum represents both the interests of the Borough District of Drogheda and the Drogheda Garda District. Its membership is as follows:-

Cllr. Kenneth Flood      Chairperson  
 Cllr. Kevin Callan  
 Cllr. Richard Culhane  
 Cllr. Tommy Byrne  
 Cllr. Paul Bell  
 Cllr. Joanna Byrne  
 Cllr. Pio Smith  
 Cllr. Frank Godfrey  
 Cllr. Oliver Tully  
 Super. Andrew Watters Drogheda Garda District  
 Paddy Donnelly Director of Services

**Members of Oireachtas** Gerry Adams TD  
 Declan Breathnach TD  
 Fergus O'Dowd TD  
 Peter Fitzpatrick TD  
 Imelda Munster TD  
 Senator Gerald Nash

Tony Mullins      Community & Voluntary Rep  
 Flora Okobi      Community & Voluntary Rep  
 David McCloskey      Business Rep  
 Nicholas Sullivan      IFA Rep

### ARDEE LOCAL POLICING FORUM

The Ardee Local Policing Forum represents both the interests of the Ardee Municipal District and the Ardee Garda District. It should be noted that while the Garda Station of Dunleer is located in the Ardee local authority municipal district, it is served by the Drogheda Garda District. Its membership is as follows:-

Cllr. Pearse McGeough      Chairperson  
 Cllr. Jim Tenanty  
 Cllr. Dolores Minogue  
 Cllr. Tom Cunningham  
 Cllr. Liam Reilly  
 Cllr. Colm Markey  
 Super. Andrew Watters Ardee Garda District  
 Insp. Brendan Cadden Drogheda Garda District  
 Joe Mc Guinness Director of Service

**Members of Oireachtas** Gerry Adams TD  
 Declan Breathnach TD  
 Fergus O'Dowd TD  
 Peter Fitzpatrick TD  
 Imelda Munster TD  
 Senator Gerald Nash

Hugh Conlon      Community & Voluntary Rep  
 Vacant              Community & Voluntary Rep  
 David Ring      Business Rep  
 Denis Brennan      IFA Rep

## LOUTH COUNTY COUNCIL

### CORPORATE PLAN 2014-2019 PROGRESS REPORT

#### MISSION STATEMENT

“To provide leadership and deliver high quality, citizen focused, responsive and effective services”.



Comhairle Contae **Lú**  
**Louth** County Council

## Goal 1 - Customer Care

**That the people of Louth have access to a responsive public service, that demonstrates empathy through caring and listening and is delivered in a professional cost effective manner.**

Objective	Progress
Our service to be inclusive and demonstrate respect for all.	Staff are regularly trained in order to ensure that the goals of the customer charter are achieved.
To develop the Service and Local Indicators are relevant to the customer.	The Council is interacting with other local authorities in relation to developing customer service indicators.
Develop, promote and support a culture of Customer Service excellence.	Procedures and performance are reviewed on an ongoing basis to improve the service to the public and elected representatives.
Make our organisation more accessible through the use of technology. Embrace the social media opportunities to enhance this.	The number of twitter follower continues to grow and the Council continues to use this forum to give relevant up to date information to the public.
Ongoing development of Customer Service interfaces in person and virtually.	Continuous assessment of the service ensures it is updated and improved on an ongoing basis.

## Goal 2 - Housing & Community Development

To facilitate sustainable communities through the provision of accommodation and supports that respond to the needs of all. Similarly develop a safe community, while at the same time ensuring that there is a robust and available emergency service.

### HOUSING

Objective	Progress
Provide the full range of all social housing supports.	Target of delivery of 308 new social homes in 2018 was achieved and 1147 between 2018-2021 is on target.
Assist the marginalised through the delivery of the Traveller Accommodation Programme 2014-18, North East Homeless Action Plan 2014-17, and develop a Strategy for Housing Persons with a Disability.	<p><b>Traveller Accommodation Programme 2014-2018</b> Targets set in Louth TAP 2014 - 2018 have been exceeded. Process to develop new Louth TAP has commenced.</p> <p><b>North East Homeless Action Plan 2014-2017</b> 402 homeless presentations between Jan and June 2018 as well as 79 individuals and 12 families supported through Tenancy Sustainment.</p> <p><b>Strategy for Housing Persons with a Disability</b> This was completed in 2016.</p>
Develop a new Anti Social Behaviour Strategy.	The Anti-Social behaviour Strategy was developed and implemented in 2016.
Maintain our stock in a planned and systematic manner.	The move from reactive maintenance to planned maintenance has commenced but significant further work is required in this area.
Assist the developing needs of all citizens by means of the various grant schemes.	39 grants with a cost of €1,498,067 have been approved for 2018.

### COMMUNITY

Objective	Progress
Support the LCDC structure and deliver the LECP Plan.	The LCDC continues to oversee all community funding in County Louth and monitors progress twice yearly on implementation of the community actions within the LECP.
Support the Public Participation Network.	PPN membership in County Louth continues to increase with over 300 groups now registered.
Develop a Community Safety Strategy.	The delivery of the County Community Safety Strategy continued to be overseen by both the LCDC and local Joint Policing Committees.
Support the Tidy Towns Network in developing their communities.	In 2018 Louth County Council introduced a Tidy Towns Capital Grant Scheme to target an increase in marks awarded in the national Tidy Towns competition. Every entrant from County Louth increased their overall marks in 2018.
Support communities and estates in their development needs.	The Councils Amenity Grant Scheme awarded funding support to a record number of communities/estates in 2018. Muirhevnamor Community Sports Hub delivered numerous programmes.
Develop updated Sports and Recreation Strategy to reflect current needs and develop Community Sports Activities.	The Louth Local Sports Partnership published its Strategic Plan in early 2018 with its core mission to grow participation in sport and physical activity.
Continue the development and implementation of the Age Friendly County Strategy.	Louth is seen as the lead player in Age Friendly matters and implementation of the county strategy is monitored by the LCDC.
Facilitate the Comhairle na nÓg programme.	Comhairle na nÓg focussed their efforts on the development of positive mental health and wellbeing initiatives for young people in 2018.
Provide a modern responsive library service that meets the community's needs and delivers on 'Opportunities for All' Strategy.	Louth libraries are central community, civic and cultural spaces offering Free membership to a Local service with National reach through our national distribution system.
	<p><b>3 Strategic programmes</b></p> <p><b>1. Reading and Literacy:</b> As part of Louth Right to Read initiative the Library service set up the <b>Louth Right to Read Network</b> to connect local agencies to collectively identify areas of need for reader and literacy development in the</p>

## Goal 2 - Housing & Community Development

### COMMUNITY continued

Objective	Progress
	<p>community and to inform the programme of reader and literacy events and the target audiences.</p> <p><b>2. Learning and Information:</b> Hundreds of events and learning sessions are programmed in collaboration with local and national experts to underpin the three strategic aims such as the inaugural Louth Science Festival, funded by Science Foundation Ireland. Book and online resources across the service are constantly being developed to underpin learning and information.</p> <p><b>Work Matters Service</b> continues to support job seekers and business with enhanced book/online collections and now Dedicated hot desks in Dundalk, Drogheda and Ardee libraries. Partnerships with LEO, INTREO, and LMETB are actively working to cross promote the service and to deliver talks and information sessions to users.</p> <p>Through the government led and funded <b>Healthy Ireland at Your Library initiative</b> anyone can access for Free reliable and authoritative health information in all library branches through enhanced core health book collections and a programme of events and trained library staff.</p> <p><b>3. Community and Culture</b> The Department of Community and Rural Development investment awarded in Q.3 2018 is facilitating a transformation in how Library users experience the service, such as through the delivery of Digital learning spaces self service enhancements and a 21st C library ICT environment.</p> <p><b>Louth's Cultural</b> memory bank is protected and made accessible by the ongoing work in the local Studies, Archives and Museum and through the Decade of the Centenary Commemorations events.</p> <p><b>Improved opening hours</b> will be provided via My Open library in Ardee with enhanced access to the spaces and resources through automation from between 8am - 10pm, 365 days per year by end 2018.</p>

### EMERGENCY SERVICES

Objective	Progress
Maintain a resilient and well trained Fire Service.	Louth Fire Service personnel undertake training and refresher courses in compliance with national training requirements. Fulltime personnel have a comprehensive drill programme under the 5GDS system and retained personnel satisfy national drill requirements. All first turnout crews are maintained available at all times.
Deliver a comprehensive Community Fire Safety Strategy.	Louth Fire Service has expanded its community fire safety programme in accordance with this strategy. This includes a programme of activities for carbon monoxide week, a second schools programme for younger children and additional talks and shopping centre displays.
Deliver the national 'Keeping Communities Safe' Fire Strategy.	Louth Fire Service completed the area risk categorisation and the National Directorate advised that the fire service in Louth satisfied the requirements. The first turnout crewing levels satisfy KCS requirements. Louth attends incidents types, both fire and non-fire, in accordance with KCS. The 5GDS system which operates in Louth was recommended by KCS for other fulltime brigades.
Ensure an adequate Major Emergency Management Structure is maintained in place.	The MEM Officer has taken part in the regional working group and assisted with its exercises, programmes and provided appraisals. A major emergency exercise was run for Flogas, Drogheda, on 24th May 2018. Major Emergency structures were used by Louth County Council for severe weather events. The MEM Officer is currently updating the Major Emergency Plan and the Severe Weather Plan.
Develop Civil Defence Service to its full potential.	The recommendations of the Civil Defence Review are continuing to be implemented in Louth. This includes new members and a new structure. Louth Civil Defence, with the assistance of adjoining Civil Defence units, provided medical cover for the full duration of Fleadh Cheoil 2018.

## Goal 3 - Infrastructure

To maintain a high quality transportation network that is accessible, safe smart and integrated and continue to deliver modern and sophisticated infrastructure providing ease of access for all the citizens of the County

### TRANSPORTATION

Objective	Progress
Maintain and improve the road network throughout the County.	<p><b>NATIONAL ROAD IMPROVEMENTS</b></p> <p><b>N52 Ardee Bypass</b> Tender Documents completed and currently being reviewed. It is planned to commence works on site 2019. Tenders have been invited for an advance works fencing contract.</p> <p><b>Phase 4. HBX to Rassin</b> Public Consultation on constraints study area held on the 26th September 2017. Landowners have been contacted regarding additional topographical surveying. Estimated time scale for preferred route section Q1 2019 N53, Rassin and Carrickastuck, Pavement Renewal Contractor on site to be completed 2018.</p> <p><b>N2 Upgrade North of Ardee</b> Collaborating with Monaghan County Council (as Lead Authority) in progressing Scheme. Consultants being appointed by Monaghan County Council for Environmental Studies and route options. Consultants engaged on identifying possible interim measures in County Louth.</p> <p><b>Ardee Town Pavement Renewal (North)</b> Site Investigation now complete. Pavement Assessment Report ongoing. To be progressed in 2019.</p> <p><b>N33, Pavement Renewal</b> Completed.</p> <p><b>N2 Collon, Pavement Renewal</b> Works completed.</p> <p><b>REGIONAL AND LOCAL ROAD IMPROVEMENTS</b></p> <p><b>Newtown Access, Drogheda</b> LIHAF application was successful. Engaging with Department and Developer. Consultant progressing the design and preparing contract documents. Site investigation completed. LIHAF Officer appointed. Program to deliver project being developed with housing.</p>

### TRANSPORTATION continued

Objective	Progress
Progress the delivery of key projects including; Narrow Water Bridge, Ardee Bypass, Drogheda Port Access Route.	<p><b>Mount Avenue Improvement</b> LIHAF application was successful. Land take map now finalised. Engaging with Department, Developer and landowners. CPO mapping being completed. Landowner engagement is ongoing. LIHAF Officer preparing tender documents for consultant appointment. Program to deliver project being developed with housing.</p> <p><b>National Public Lighting retrofit Program</b> Louth County Council has agreed to participate in the National Public Lighting retrofit Program which would replace all the fittings with LED's. As part of the funding required to support this initiative it has just been announced that the RMO have been successful in securing €17.5 million nationally in support from the Climate Action Fund for the LA Public Lighting Energy Efficiency Project. The contribution to Louth is €676,794 approximately. It is anticipated that this will be tendered in 2019 and rollout commences in 2020.</p> <p><b>Narrow Water Bridge CPO</b> Submissions accepted by Dept of Infrastructure, Planning NI for pre-commencement compliance. Culvert works carried out adjacent to A2 Roundabout, Warrenpoint.</p> <p><b>Port Access Northern Cross Route</b> Land Acquisition ongoing. Fencing completed at R132. Appeal will be lodged against decision not to fund the project under the Urban Regeneration and Development Fund. Fill material being stockpiled. ESB to commence line diversion shortly.</p>
Design, maintain and improve footpaths, parking, open spaces and other facilities to ensure that they are responsive to the needs of citizens through the county.	<p><b>Ardee Castle</b> Consultant procurement process completed in 2018. Letter of Acceptance issued to successful Consultant. Design and tender documents to be commenced and completed 2019.</p> <p><b>South Louth Depot</b> Scoping works commenced to identify and inform Brief to be issued for procurement of Consultants. Further works required to establish site suitability. Amendment of EPA Landfill licence will be required if depot to be located on the site. Environment are preparing an amendment application including this part of the site. Alternative brown field site on Donore road to be visited to confirm suitability.</p>

## Goal 3 - Infrastructure

### TRANSPORTATION continued

Objective	Progress
To implement a Road Safety Programme appropriate to changing needs.	<p><b>Refurbishment of the Tholsel (Phase 2)</b> Application which was submitted to Failte Ireland was approved to proceed to Stage I Development (€40,000). Development stage costs estimated at €80,000.</p> <p><b>Greenway - Omeath to Newry. Joint project with Newry, Mourne and Down District Council and East Border Region.</b> This next phase of the Greenway will link Carlingford to Newry and is an EU Interreg project. Construction work is completed from Newry to Victoria Lock along the 'middle bank' next to the Newry River. Consultant has been appointed. Design and planning to be progressed in 2019.</p> <p><b>Ash Walk Link</b> An Rural Regeneration Funding Application category 2 was submitted in September 2018 for the development of the Ash Link walk.</p> <p><b>Rock road improvements footpaths - to be progressed 2019.</b></p> <p><b>ROAD SAFETY SCHEMES</b> <b>Safety Improvement Works</b> Sacred Heart School, Drogheda - Works completed.</p> <p>Sundays Gate, Drogheda. Blackrock, Faughart, Grangebellew, Hoathstown, Termonfeckin - Contractor appointed, works ongoing.</p> <p>Funding application submitted for 2019 Works.</p> <p><b>Tullyallen junction at King Williams Glen</b> Lands acquired for staggered junction at King Williams Glen. Brief with consultant for pricing.</p> <p><b>Park and Share/ Park and Ride Pilot Scheme</b> Feasibility Report with TII. Support from NTA sought for the park and ride facility. Engagement with Landowner agreed in principle. Brief with consultants for pricing.</p>

### TRANSPORTATION continued

Objective	Progress
Work in partnership with the Department of Education to develop and deliver the school building programme.	<p><b>SCHOOLS PROGRAMME PROJECTS</b> <b>Replacement School for St Itas and St Marys</b> Site assessment Report finalised. Site identified and negotiations commenced.</p> <p><b>Ardee E.T.N.S.</b> Land Acquisition from HSE is progressing. Preliminary Design completed. Stage 2B Design ongoing. Part 8 approved on the 5th April. Design Team preparing contract documents.</p> <p><b>Colaiste Chu Chulainn &amp; Park at Marshes Lower, Dundalk</b> Final handover took place on the 21st December 2018. Public park to be completed in Q1 2019.</p> <p><b>Drogheda Civic Offices, Fair St Offices</b> Design team appointed and detailed design work has commenced. Specialist surveys being carried out. Total cost estimate €12m. Revised Part 8 approved by the elected members in November 2018. Design and tender stage will be progressed in 2019 Consultant preparing program.</p>
Deliver a Public Sector Campus at Fair Street offices in Drogheda.	<p><b>PUBLIC REALM</b> <b>Clanbrassil Street / St Nicholas Quarter</b> Urban Design Team Appointed on 28th July 2017. Part 8 approved at the Dundalk Municipal District meeting held on the 3rd April 2018. Detailed Design continuing. Tenders for the appointment of the works contractor issued on the 20th September with a return date of 30th October. Tender award was completed in December 2018 and contract is planned to commence on site January 2019.</p> <p>An appeal against the decision not to fund the project under the Urban Regeneration Funding Application will be submitted in January 2019.</p> <p><b>Dunleer Town Center Regeneration</b> A Rural Regeneration Funding Application was also submitted in September 2018 for Public Realm Works.</p> <p><b>Drogheda Westgate</b> An Urban Regeneration Funding Application category B was also submitted in September 2018 for the development of the design and planning of Public Realm Works and was successful.</p>
Seek to promote and progress town/village regeneration.	

## Goal 3 - Infrastructure

### TRANSPORTATION continued

Objective	Progress
	<p><b>Long Walk Dundalk</b> An Urban Regeneration Funding Application category B was also submitted in September 2018 for the development of the design and planning of Public Realm Works and was successful.</p> <p><b>Town and Village Renewal Schemes</b> <b>Dromiskin Footpaths</b> Works completed. Funding received for Phase 2 Works to be carried out in 2019.</p> <p><b>King William's Glen Footpath, Tullyallen</b> Works completed.</p> <p><b>Kilcurry Footpaths</b> Funding received for footpath Works to be carried out in 2019.</p> <p><b>Blackrock Footpaths</b> Funding received for footpath Works to be carried out in 2019.</p>

### MARINE

Objective	Progress
To fully use our ports to increase the contribution of the port sector to the local economy.	A Louth County Council Harbour Master supervises activities and mooring capacity usage at Port Oriel, Clogherhead and at Annagassan.
To recognise our ports as centres of great historical, cultural, social and recreational importance.	As part of the National Planning Framework 2040 and the importance of the Marine, Louth County Council will develop the recognition of our ports as centres of great historical, cultural, social and recreational importance.
To work in partnership with our ports to ensure interaction between the ports sector and the planning and development systems to ensure continued and sustainable development of the ports sector.	Louth County Council is working with Drogheda Port to develop a Masterplan for the period 2020 - 2050. The issues paper was published in 2018. Now that this stage of the process has been completed, Drogheda port company will revert to an intensive internal planning phase and intend to publish the draft Master Plan early in 2019 with the final Master Plan being completed by mid-year.
Support and implement the National Ports Policy.	Louth County Council applied for funding under the Urban Regeneration fund for phase 1 of PANCR.
Continue to work with the OPW to deal with the threat from coastal erosion and rising tidal levels.	As part of the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies, Louth County Council is ensuring the strategic development of ports of regional significance and smaller harbours in Louth are addressed as part of county development plan, to ensure the effective growth and sustainable development of the city regions and regional and rural areas under the National planning Framework 2040.
	<p><b>Flooding General - Catchment based Flood Risk Assessment &amp; Management Study (CFRAM)</b> On completion of a national screening exercise in 2011, the OPW identified 300 areas of potential significant flood risk, referred to as Areas for Further Assessment, or AFAs, which are the focus of the CFRAM Programme.</p> <p>There are 8 AFAs, within County Louth as listed below, 6 in the Neagh Bann CFRAM Study Area and 2 in the Eastern CFRAM Study Area. <u>Neagh Bann CFRAM</u> - Annagassan, Ardee, Carlingford Dundalk &amp; Blackrock South, Greenore &amp; Termonfeckin. <u>Eastern CFRAM</u> - Baltray &amp; Drogheda.</p>

## Goal 3 - Infrastructure

### TRANSPORTATION continued

Objective	Progress
	<p>CFRAM Flood Risk Management Plans were Launched by the Minister on the 3rd May 2018 and were adopted by LCC in July. Funding has been approved for 5 Schemes in Co Louth;</p> <p>Dundalk, Drogheda, Carlingford/Greenore, Ardee, Baltray.</p> <p>The procedure to procure consultants has commenced with the OPW. Business case submitted to OPW. SLA to be agreed with OPW.</p> <p><b>Dunleer Flood Risk Management Plans</b> is now substantially complete.</p> <p><b>Townparks Flood Alleviation Scheme</b> - Application for funding with OPW.</p>

## Goal 4 - Operations, Marine and Water

**To maintain a high quality transportation network that is accessible safe smart and integrated and which responds to the needs of the people of the County Louth; In conjunction with Irish Water to provide for timely high quality water and waste water services to cater for the development needs of County Louth.**

### TRANSPORTATION

Objective	Progress
Maintain and improve the transportation network throughout the County.	As part of the Annual Roadworks Programme, Louth County Council manages the maintenance and improvement of the County's roads, cycleways and footpaths. Louth County Council co-operates with the TII and the DTTaS in the planning and implementation of numerous transportation network improvements across the county.
Implement the recommendations of the County Transport Audit through an integrated public sector response.	The rural transport service is provided by Flexibus Local Link for Louth Meath and Fingal.  A new service between Reaghstown and Ardee was established. All services in Louth were retendered seeking all responses to ensure accessibility is provided by all. Timetables have now been issued with both start and return times available. A hospital bus was purchased under the Dormant Accounts Fund and is operating throughout all of the county with TUS and volunteer drivers as drivers.  Louth was successful in acquiring funding for the evening pilot service but unfortunately there were no responses to the tender call. Louth made an application for retention of the funding and is awaiting a response.
Seek to deliver the key objectives of the National Smarter Travel Policy.	Louth County Council provides a leadership role in energy efficient transport and Smarter Travel.  This has been done by developing and maintaining an Energy Management System which is registered and complies with ISO 50001 - which provides for: regular transport specific energy audits, eco driver training and life span analysis for new vehicles. In addition, a number of vehicles are fitted with telematics.  Louth County Council also propose to develop a Workplace Travel Plan in 2019 to further promote smarter travel by our staff in the course of their work. as per Action 8 of the National Smarter Travel Policy (NSTP).

## Goal 4 - Operations, Marine and Water

### TRANSPORTATION continued

Objective	Progress
Design, maintain and improve Cycle ways, Footpaths, Parking, Parks, Playgrounds, Roads and other facilities meeting the needs of the people of Louth.	LCC also have a footpath repair and renewal programme to promote a culture of walking in Ireland as per Action 16 of the NSTP.  Louth County Council, in its 3 year programme, makes provision for improvements to its network of playgrounds, parks and public conveniences throughout the county and for the upgrade of its pay-parking meters in Drogheda and Dundalk. The Local Authority also continues to facilitate and support local community groups in the provision of local facilities such as playgrounds and other projects. As previously referred to, the LA, as part of its annual roadworks programme, continues to manage the maintenance and improvement requirements of its network of roads, cycleways and footpaths.
Implement a Road Safety Programme appropriate to changing needs.	In line with Government 's Road Safety Strategy, an action plan for County Louth has been prepared to cover the period 2017 - 2020, with a focus on reducing the number of road collisions through the four E's of Road Safety namely Education, Engineering, Enforcement and Evaluation. A 'Road Safety Working Together Group' has been established to provide a multiagency approach to implementing the action plan for County Louth.  The Collision Prevention Programme is a partnership that brings together An Garda Síochána and Louth County Council Engineers in an effort to identify collision prone locations and taking preventive remedial action to make the roads safer by reducing the number of deaths and serious personal injuries. The CPP committee for Co Louth meets quarterly.  The Road Safety Officer manages the School Crossing Warden and Junior School Warden programmes and conducts awareness raising programmes in schools. The hashtag #LouthRoadSafety is used to draw attention to various road safety issues via social media as well as sharing advice from the Road Safety Authority.

### TRANSPORTATION continued

Objective	Progress
	Louth County Council has successfully secured support for schools/community safety measures under the Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs Clár funding mechanism (for small infrastructural projects in rural areas that experience disadvantage).

### MARINE

Objective	Progress
Support and maintain developed ports and harbours and in particular those in the ownership of the Council.	Louth County Council's Harbour Master supervises the harbours at Port Oriel, Clogherhead and at Annagassan and manages the mooring capacity and other port activities.
Support the recommendations arising from the Greater Dundalk Area Flood Study and any other studies undertaken during the life of this plan.	Louth County Council continues to co-operate with and assist the OPW in implementing the National Flood Management Plan.

### WATER

Objective	Progress
Work with Irish Water to ensure the continued supply of safe and secure drinking water in adequate quantities to provide for the development needs of County Louth.	Louth County Council work with Irish Water under a Service Level Agreement to ensure safe and secure drinking water in County Louth and with IW Connections and Developer Services team and Asset Strategy team to address the development needs of County Louth.
Implement a water conservation programme to minimise water losses from the distribution network in collaboration with Irish Water.	Louth County Council work with Irish Water to roll out an active leak detection and repair programme across the county to reduce unaccounted for water and to minimise losses across the network.
Provide for adequate waste water treatment and collection systems, in collaboration with Irish Water, to comply with the requirements of the River Basin Management Plans.	Louth County Council work with Irish Water to ensure compliance with relevant legislation and Outfall Discharge licences.

## Goal 5 - Environment & Sustainable Energy

**To provide for a timely high quality water and waste water service to cater for the development needs of the County while protecting and enhancing the environment.**

### ENVIRONMENT

Objective	Progress
In association with Irish Water, ensure the continued supply of safe and secure drinking water adequate quantities to provide for the development needs of the County.	Louth County Council work with Irish Water under a Service Level Agreement to ensure safe and secure drinking water in County Louth and with IW Connections and Developer Services team and Asset Strategy team to address the development needs of County Louth.
Continue to resource a water conservation programme in order to minimise water losses from the distribution system.	Louth County Council work with Irish Water to roll out an active leak detection and repair programme across the county to reduce unaccounted for water and to minimise losses across the network.
Provide for adequate waste water treatment and collection systems to comply with the requirements of river basin management plans made under the Water Framework Directive.	Louth County Council work with Irish Water to ensure compliance with relevant legislation and Outfall Discharge licences.
Continue to implement national water pricing policy.	Louth County Council are no longer involved in the water pricing policy. This is managed solely by IW in agreement with the CRU.
Maintain the effective enforcement of Environmental legislation.	Inspections were carried out in the water, waste, air and noise areas. These inspections were carried out as per the RMCEI (Recommended Criteria for Environmental Inspections) plan submitted to the Environmental Protection Agency on an annual basis. Where appropriate, inspections were followed up with enforcement actions. LCC continues to actively engage with the Regional Waste Enforcement Network (WERLA) to implement national priorities. LCC also participate in the Local Authorities Water Catchments Office (LAWCO) at management and operational levels for activities under the water framework directive and the implementation of recommended areas of action under the River Basin Management Plan 2018-2021.

### ENVIRONMENT continued

Objective	Progress
	<p>Introduction of new Waste Enforcement Bye-Laws; To achieve a level of consistency across the Local Authorities in the East Midland Waste Region and to gain a greater participation in waste collection services, either through the use of authorised collectors or deliver directly to an authorised site, it is proposed to introduce new Bye-Laws on the Presentation of Waste, cited as the. Segregation, Storage and Presentation of Household and Commercial Waste Bye-Laws. If adopted by the members of the Council will augment the existing enforcement powers of Authorised Persons in combating illegal dumping.</p> <p>The Council employs litter wardens in Dundalk, Drogheda and the County area to enforce the Litter Pollution Act 1997 and the Dog Litter and Dog Control Bye-Laws 2015.</p> <p>The Council completed anti-dumping initiatives in 2018 from funding received from the Department of the Environment (Via WERLA), which included Cleanups of dumping black spots and erection of barriers, gate, and awareness campaigns. The Council will continue to seek further funding for anti-dumping initiatives from the Department.</p> <p>The County has an active environmental compliance section which enforces the Waste Management Acts 1996 as amended, Air Pollution and Water Pollution Acts. In addition monitoring activities are carried out in relation to the licence requirements for three closed landfills.</p>
Climate Change Adaptation Strategy (new).	Ireland's first statutory National Adaptation Framework (NAF) was published in January 2018. The NAF sets out the national strategy to reduce the vulnerability of the country to the negative effects of climate change and to avail of positive impacts. It sets out the sectors for which adaptation plans under the NAF are to be prepared, along with proposals for local authority or regional level adaptation strategies. Therefore in order to comply with the requirements of the Framework for the Local Authority to produce a Climate Adaptation Strategy a working group has been set up within the organisation whose role will be to develop the adaptation and mitigation plan by September 2019 for the organisation. This plan when completed will be complemented by the Midlands Regional plan, which is the being co-ordinated by Kildare County Council.

## Goal 5 - Environment & Sustainable Energy

### SUSTAINABLE ENERGY

Objective	Progress
Promote Environmental Awareness and support the objectives of the Waste Management Plan.	LCC continues to actively engage with the Regional Waste Enforcement Network (WERLA) to implement national priorities and the objectives of the East Midland Waste management Plan.
Promote the use of sustainable energy sources and systems.	The Council has developed an Energy Management System accredited to ISO 50001. It has used that to promote energy efficiency with Council staff. In addition, the Council has acted as grantee for a grant application to SEAI for energy works for beneficiaries. That has also enabled promotion of sustainable energy sources and systems. In addition, The Council provided energy information events to school children through Science Week at the Libraries. The Council has also agreed to mentor on a pilot basis a Tidy Towns Group in the county to maximise the benefits of membership of SEAI's Sustainable Energy Communities.
Improve the energy use and efficiency Council building and facilities.	The Council has developed an Energy Management System accredited to ISO 50001. It has used that to promote energy efficiency with Council staff.
Support and promote new energy savings initiatives in the business sector.	The Council has attended events by Dundalk Chamber of Commerce and promoted its Energy Management System as an example of a tool for business to maximise energy efficiency and minimise energy costs.
Develop an expertise in sustainable energy management as a resource for Council and other sectors.	The Council has developed an Energy Management System accredited to ISO 50001 and promoted its Energy Management System as an example for others.
Develop Louth County Council as an exemplar in energy efficiency.	The Council has developed an Energy Management System accredited to ISO 50001, one of only a few Local Authorities to have done so. In addition, the Council acts as grantee for a grant application to SEAI for energy works for beneficiaries to assist and make easier funding of energy improvement works. The Council is also well advanced towards achieving the 2020 energy efficiency target for public sector organisations.

### SUSTAINABLE ENERGY continued

Objective	Progress
Action energy saving initiatives within the organisation and the wider community.	The Council acts as grantee for a grant application to SEAI for energy works for beneficiaries to assist and make easier funding of energy improvement works. The Council has also agreed to mentor on a pilot basis a Tidy Towns Group in the county to maximise the benefits of membership of SEAI's Sustainable Energy Communities - it is hoped that will develop energy saving initiatives in the wider community.



## Goal 6 - Economic Development

**That County Louth is the location of choice for economic development, cultural and educational opportunity supported by modern and sophisticated infrastructure that takes account of the economic needs of current and future generations.**

Objective	Progress
Provide leadership and support to deliver the actions of the Louth Economic Forum.	Bi-monthly meetings of the Louth Economic Forum were held in 2018 with secretariat support being provided by the Economic Development Section of Louth County Council. Working Groups have been set up to implement the Action Plans which have been devised and updated by the Forum and these are managed by Louth County Council.
Deliver easily accessible, high quality business advice that attracts inward investment, supports and encourages new start ups leading to growth of small and medium enterprises (SME's).	Economic Development, LEO Louth, Planning and Sustainable Energy work together to offer high quality business advice and support to small and medium enterprises (SME's). This includes updated information on office availability and the continual support given to The Mill. The Council have also held regular meetings with the IDA and EI in working towards the attraction of inward investment of FDI's into the County.
Develop the role of the Local Enterprise Office (LEO) to support SME's	LEO Louth is well established within the Economic Directorate with an Action Plan aimed at supporting SME's and start-ups prepared on an annual basis.
Maximise our tourism opportunities, encouraging investment in arts and cultural heritage.	The Tourism and Heritage strategy group brings together the key players in the Tourism industry to progress the Tourism and Heritage Plan which was launched in 2017. The Economic Development office regularly post tourism related events on social media and twitter and are continually updating the visitlouth.ie and visitdrogheda.ie websites. Louth County Council have a strong relationship with Fáilte Ireland through their Regional Development Officer. FAM Trips with key journalists from the UK and the Netherlands, and reps from tour operators and DMC's working on international markets, were organised in 2018 in conjunction with Boyne Valley Tourism.

Objective	Progress
Continue to develop tourism destinations in Boyne Valley & Cooley/ Mourne/ Gullion.	Tourism and Heritage Action Plan in place to promote tourism, arts, culture and heritage by capitalising on Co. Louth's unique location within Ireland's Ancient East, as the hub for the Boyne Valley and The Cooley, Mourne and Gullion Region.
Work in partnership with local educational institutions to support entrepreneurship and business start-ups.	DKIT and LMETB are key members of the Louth Economic Forum and the Education & Training Group tasked with the implementation of the Education & Training Plan.
Explore the opportunities that The Tain concept offers.	Funding given to the Táin March committee to develop the Táin March which starts in Roscommon and stops at a number of points in Co. Louth before reaching it's destination in Omeath, Co. Louth.
Maximise the newly integrated Local Enterprise Office (LEO).	LEO Louth is well established within the Economic Directorate. LEO Louth Action Plan 2018 completed.
Develop Town Centre Revitalisation Strategy for Dundalk, Drogheda and Ardee.	Retail Investment Propectus's in place for Drogheda and Dundalk. Retail Supports - Business Support Grants and Shopfront Grants in place. Shopfront Guidelines in place.
	The Westgate Vision (WGV) for the physical, economic and social regeneration of part of the historic town centre of Drogheda was launched in June 2018. Significant stage one funding through successful bids in 2018 to the 'Urban Regeneration and Development Fund (URDF)' is secured for the regeneration of the Westgate Area of Drogheda and the Long Walk area of Dundalk.
Provide a consistent and professional approach in terms of Future Planning and pre-planning services for the public.	The Planning Team continues to discharge its customer focused service in forward planning and development management prioritising and resourcing pre-planning guidance for development proposals. However it is noted due to the volume of enquiry that waiting times for pre-planning guidance have lengthened through 2018.

## Goal 6 - Economic Development

Objective	Progress
Work to deliver a County Development Plan that promotes sustainable economic development and employment growth.	The Louth County Development Plan 2015-2021 shall be rendered consistent with the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES), either through (a) a variation of the Development Plan or (b) if considered more appropriate, a full review, to commence within a maximum period of 6 months after the making of the relevant RSES (where due to be reviewed more than 6 months after the RSES is made).
Develop Town Action Plans for Drogheda, Dundalk and Ardee.	Project Ireland 2040 - (National Planning Framework Implementation Road Map (July 2018) - requires the preparation of strategic plans that respond to the lead role of the five identified national regional centres, including both Drogheda and Dundalk within the Dublin-Belfast corridor, subsequent to the adoption of the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES) for the Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly (EMRA). The Draft RSES requirement is to prepare strategic plans, to be known as 'urban plans', for both Drogheda and Dundalk in order to provide for a co-ordinated vision for their sustainable development to a target population of 50,000 to 2031.
Continue to encourage the development of Rural Enterprise as a means of supporting and sustaining rural communities.	The Local Development Strategy is a community-led rural development plan, developed and driven by the Louth Local Community Development Committee (Louth LCDC) to deliver the LEADER programme. It provides rural communities, across County Louth, with the resources to enable local development of their area. Louth County Council, through its Economic and Community sections helps deliver the objectives of the Local Development Strategy and the LEADER programme in County Louth.
Ensure environmental policies are integrated into all strategic and operational.	Environmental policies fed into Senior Management Team meetings and onwards to relevant strategic and operational plans.
Promote and encourage the prevention, reuse and recycling of waste in line with EU and National Policy.	Fully participating members of Eastern and Midlands Regional waste groups at strategic and operating level. National policies rolled out locally.

## Goal 7 - Regional Cross Border & European Union

### Place Dundalk and Drogheda at the heart of the Regional Gateway of the Eastern Corridor.

Objective	Progress
To pursue the concept of Dundalk / Newry / Drogheda as the North East Gateway.	The identification in 'Project Ireland 2040' (National Planning Framework) of Drogheda and Dundalk, within the designation of the Drogheda-Dundalk-Newry Cross Border Network, as two of the five national regional growth centres. The identification in the National Planning Framework (NPF) of the Dublin-Belfast Economic Corridor, as the principal economic agglomeration on the island of Ireland. The NPF seeks to promote the growth of the Corridor including the effective growth and development of the large towns along the Corridor in particular Drogheda and Dundalk.
Promote the role of Dundalk and Drogheda as key locations for the development of the county.	The identification of Drogheda and Dundalk as regional divers in the National Planning Framework and as 'key regional growth enablers with Athlone' in the Draft Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy for the Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly (EMRA). The Identification of the Dublin-Belfast Economic Corridor as a 'key regional growth enabler' encompassing the development of both Drogheda and Dundalk to achieve city scale. The requirement to prepare strategic plans, to be known as 'urban plans', for both Drogheda and Dundalk in order to provide for a co-ordinated vision for their sustainable development to a target population of 50,000 to 2031.
Develop a centre of excellence and best practice in regards to European funding opportunities as a resource to all directorates.	The Directorate continues to lead out on identifying funding opportunities for Louth County Council from many EU Transnational Cooperation funding streams, including Interreg VA & Peace IV.
	With the uncertainty of the implications of BREXIT we are also examining other funds that have a broader focus than the island of Ireland, such as the North West Atlantic Programme and Urban Innovative Actions Programme.

## Goal 7 - Regional Cross Border & European Union

Objective	Progress
Support the development and renewal of the Memorandum of Understanding in conjunction with our cross border partners.	Work is ongoing with the Forum of the MoU. Joint management team meetings are held on a bi-monthly basis to improve engagement.
Support the sustainable development of facilities of regional scale in the respective towns.	The Council continues to provide support to suitable projects.

## Goal 8 - Arts, Culture & Leisure

**Arts, Culture & Leisure will underpin the quality of life for individuals and communities within the county.**

Objective	Progress
The Council will give demonstrative expression to Arts, Culture and Leisure in county life through exercising its leadership role supporting all interests within the county.	Throughout 2018 the Arts office, along with its strategic partners, supported creativity in Louth by: Delivering programmes and outreach activities; - Assisting artists through funding opportunities/grant schemes; - Increasing professional capacity by means of information provision and advice; - Collaborating to deliver a Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann 2018 Programme, in particular to those who could not attend and experience the Fleadh in Drogheda. - Commencing programming planning for 2019.
Develop a cohesive Arts and Libraries Plan.	Arts and Libraries are collaborating across the Council via the Creative Ireland Louth Team to deliver on the Creative Ireland Strategy.
Develop and co-ordinate a Programme of Events and Activities that optimises our Theatres, Galleries, Libraries, Museums and Archives Facilities.	Creative Ireland Louth is the platform through which a coordinated Programme of Events and Activities is delivered to and with Louth communities from Theatres, Galleries, Libraries, Museums and Archives Facilities across the county.
Implement the Louth Sports Partnership Strategy.	The Sports Unit incorporating the Louth LSP is in the processing of implementing the Louth Local Sports Partnership strategy. The strategy is a 5 year strategy running from 2018-22. This is an ongoing process and is overseen by the Louth LSP Committee & Sport Ireland.
Progress phase 2&3 of the Tholsel Building Development.	Preparatory work on the tender for the Interpretive Design and the Part 8 process for construction work took place in 2018.

## Goal 9 - Local Democracy

**Support, promote and enhance the democratic, civic and leadership role of Louth County Council.**

Objective	Progress
To resource the ongoing work and development of the democratic role of council and their committees. Foster a culture of corporate identity both internally and externally.	The Council produces the annual register of electors and facilitates all Council meetings. Councillors are supported in every way possible in their role as local representatives.
Support and embed the two tier local government structure county wide.	The Council continues to use its corporate branding in all published material and continues to promote the Council's corporate identity.
To improve the efficient operation of Council, its committees and links with other bodies.	All statutory meetings are facilitated including Oireachtas members information meetings.
To embed the role of the Audit Committee with best practice principles of good governance.	The monthly management report provides the members with a comprehensive overview of all Council activities, which is supplemented with a weekly members update.
Develop participatory democracy by improving the use of Peoples Participation Network (PPN).	The Corporate services team provide administrative support to the audit committee and ensures all relevant staff attend the minimum of 4 meetings per annum. The PPN continues to support representation on a variety of participatory mechanisms and ensures best practice is adhered to.
Our service to be inclusive and demonstrate respect for all.	Procedures are in place to ensure FoI and customer complaints are dealt with efficiently.

## Goal 10 - Resource Management

**Provide integrated value for money public services through innovative and adaptive approaches to local governance.**

Objective	Progress
The organisation will strive to position itself to respond to the changing needs of the public and the environment that prevails.	Workforce Plan has been adapted to capture new working areas and will continue to be reviewed as part of the People Strategy and pending Corporate Plan review process.
Strive to review on a continual basis the delivery of all services with a view to maximising efficiencies and deliver value for money.	The management team review the delivery of services on an ongoing basis while the Council's internal auditors and audit committee monitor key service delivery areas.
Use performance management tools to deliver high quality outcomes.	PMDS processes are in place. Competency training continued to be rolled out to all staff.
Identify the key competencies for posts, upskill where necessary and apply in the workplace to respond to the needs of the public.	Competency training is ongoing. Competency based interviews are in place. Ongoing training provision in upskilling.
Foster a Health & Safety awareness culture to reduce the number of accidents in the workplace and public areas.	Health & Safety are continually creating new policies and procedures for the organization and trying to instill a culture of health and safety throughout the organization. 9 policies have been updated in 2019.
Continue to operate through the ethos of Workplace Partnership.	Regular meetings with all Unions.



Comhairle Contae **Lú**  
**Louth** County Council

**County Hall**

Millennium Centre, St Alphonsus Rd,  
Marshes Lower, Dundalk, Co. Louth  
A91 KFW6

**Town Hall**

Crowe Street, Dundalk, Co. Louth  
A91 W20C

**Civic Centre**

Fair Street, Dogheda, Co. Louth  
A92 P440

**Mid-Louth Civic Service Centre**

Fair Green, Ardee, Co. Louth  
A92 RYT2

1890 202 303  
e: [info@louthcoco.ie](mailto:info@louthcoco.ie)

[www.louthcoco.ie](http://www.louthcoco.ie)

follow us  @louthcoco