

# Louth County Council



# Annual Report 2015



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## FOREWORD FROM AN CATHAOIRLEACH



Peter Savage  
Cathaoirleach

The Annual Report gives us the opportunity to reflect on the activities and achievements of Louth County Council during the year 2015. I have been honoured to hold the office of Cathaoirleach, and to represent Louth as its first citizen.

During my term as Cathaoirleach as we embedded the provisions of the Local Government Reform Act, 2014 in the Council to ensure that the citizens of the County would experience real change and have an improved and more efficient Council.

As Cathaoirleach I was proud to continue to support the efforts of Comhairle Na nÓg and facilitate their address to Council during 2015. It is through our continued work and promotion of the importance of local democracy with our youth that we can ensure that the Council chamber continues to be a vibrant institution.

I would like to thank my fellow Councillors in Louth County Council for their invaluable support during my term as Cathaoirleach of Louth. I wish to thank the Chief Executive, Joan Martin for her valuable guidance and support.

Finally to all our Council staff both indoor and outdoor I would like to thank you for all their hard work in supporting the people of Louth and delivering a wide range of services. Finally to all the people who contribute to the economic, social and cultural life of our County, helping to build stronger communities and ensure that Louth is a great place to live and work in, I acknowledge your efforts and look forward to working with you all in the future.

Cllr. Peter Savage  
Cathaoirleach  
Comhairle Contae Lú



## OVERVIEW FROM CHIEF EXECUTIVE



Ms. Joan Martin,  
Chief Executive

It has been an extremely busy and productive year for Louth County Council. 2015 was a year of consolidation, planning, promotion and implementation. The agenda of reforms set out in the Local Government Act 2014, provided Louth County Council with both challenges and opportunities.

Recruitment commenced again following the moratorium and key positions were filled in the organisation. We also saw a number of staff leave the organisation through retirement and we thank them for their service and wish them well in their retirement.

One key area of change was the enhancement of the role of the local community in development of our Local Economic and Community Plan. In Louth we have embraced this opportunity. Working with the elected members and other key stakeholders we have put in place a vibrant and extensive engagement process to support economic growth and community development in the County. The working structures and procedures, established to ensure that an enlarged group of elected members work effectively, bedded-in during 2015.

Louth continues to strive to be a leading authority in driving innovative approaches to accommodation provision and we will continue to work with all stakeholders to ensure that we continue to embrace new and diverse ways of addressing the needs of our citizens.

This annual report points to our key achievements in 2015 and it is with pleasure that I am commending this report to the Members.

I wish to thank the Cathaoirleach and the Members for their support in 2015 and we will continue to provide leadership and deliver high quality, citizen focused, responsive and effective services.

Joan Martin  
Chief Executive



## Offices of Louth County Council

County Hall, Millennium Centre, ▼  
Dundalk, County Louth.



Mid Louth Civic Services Centre,  
Fairgreen, Ardee, County Louth. ▼

◀ Town Hall, Crowe Street,  
Dundalk, County Louth.



▲ Civic Centre,  
Fair Street,  
Drogheda,  
County Louth.

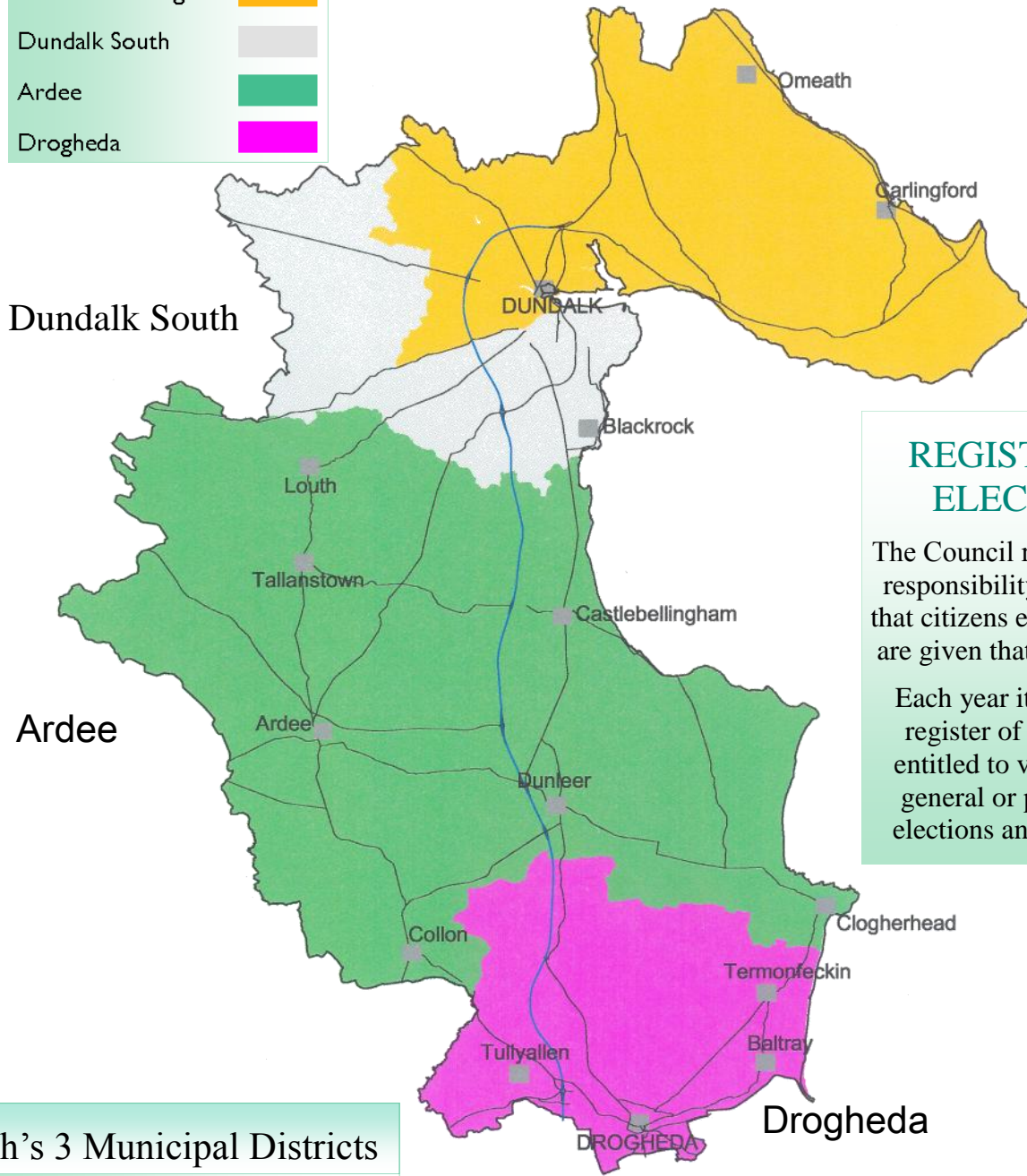




# Louth's 4 Local Electoral Areas

- Dundalk Carlingford
- Dundalk South
- Ardee
- Drogheda

## Dundalk - Carlingford



**REGISTER OF ELECTORS**

The Council recognises it's responsibility in ensuring that citizens eligible to vote are given that opportunity.

Each year it compiles a register of all citizens entitled to vote at local, general or presidential elections and referenda.

- ### Louth's 3 Municipal Districts
- Municipal District of Dundalk
  - Municipal District of Ardee
  - Borough District of Drogheda



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

### Ardee Electoral Area ( 6 members )



**CUNNINGHAM, Tom (Sinn Féin)**

4 Oriel Cove, Clogherhead, Drogheda, Co. Louth.

**Mob:** 087-3717884

**Email:** tom.cunningham@louthcoco.ie



**MARKEY, Colm (Fine Gael)**

Corstown, Togher, Drogheda, Co. Louth.

**Mob:** 087-8317500

**Email:** colm.markey@louthcoco.ie



**McGEOUGH, Pearse (Sinn Féin)**

8, St. Mary's Villas, Kilsaran, Castlebellingham, Co. Louth

**Mob:** 086-8135447

**Email:** Pearse.McGeough@louthcoco.ie



**MINOGUE, Dolores (Fine Gael) - *Leas Cathaoirleach***

Whitefield, Jervis Street, Ardee, Co. Louth

**Mob:** 087-1880166

**Email:** dolores.minogue@louthcoco.ie



**REILLY, Liam (Fianna Fáil)**

Milltowngrange, Dromiskin, Dundalk, Co. Louth

**Mob:**

**Email:** info@liamreilly.ie



**TENANTY, Jim (Non Party)**

Riverbank, Jervis Street, Ardee, Co. Louth

**Mob:** 087-3717883

**Email:** jim.tenanty@louthcoco.ie



## Drogheda Electoral Area ( 10 members )



**BELL, Paul (Labour)**

109 Ballsgrove, Drogheda, Co. Louth.

**Mob:** 087-1206736

**Email:** paulbell1@eircom.net



**BYRNE, Tommy (Fianna Fáil)**

10 Harvest Way, Wheaton Hall, Drogheda, Co. Louth.

**Mob:** 086-8201439

**Email:** info@thomasbyrne.ie / tommy.byrne@louthcoco.ie



**CALLAN BL, Kevin (Non Party)**

20 Fair Street, Drogheda, Co. Louth.

**Mob:** 087-7776648

**Email:** kevin.callan@louthcoco.ie



**CASSIDY, Alan (Sinn Féin)**

Hill of Rath, Tullyallen, Drogheda, Co. Louth .

**Mob:** 085-7396995

**Email:** alan.cassidy@louthcoco.ie



**CULHANE, Richie (Fine Gael)**

34 Melrose Avenue, Stameen, Drogheda, Co. Louth.

**Mob:** 087-6469495

**Email:** richie.culhane@louthcoco.ie



**FLOOD, Kenneth (Sinn Féin)**

30 Dunlin Street, Aston Village, Drogheda, Co. Louth.

**Mob:** 085-2133606

**Email:** kenneth.flood@louthcoco.ie



**GODFREY, Frank (Non Party)**

Boyne Valley Cottage, Donore Road, Drogheda, Co. Louth.

**Mob:** 086-6060261

**Email:** frank.godfrey@louthcoco.ie



**MUNSTER, Imelda (Sinn Féin)**

252 Mellifont Park, Drogheda, Co. Louth.

**Mob:** 087-7586320

**Email:** imelda.munster@louthcoco.ie



**SMITH, Pio (Labour)**

37 Forest Green, Ballymakenny Road, Drogheda, Co. Louth.

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**TULLY, Oliver (Fine Gael)**

Baltray, Drogheda, Co. Louth.

**Mob:** 086-8245715

**Email:** tullyoliver@yahoo.co.uk

**Dundalk/Carlingford Electoral Area - 6 Members**



**CORRIGAN, Edel (Sinn Féin)**

Aghaboys, Mountpleasant, Dundalk, Co. Louth.

**Mob:** 085-8476660

**Email:** edel.corrigan@louthcoco.ie



**DEAREY, Mark (Green Party)**

Corrakit, Omeath, Dundalk, Co. Louth.

**Mob:** 087-2358197

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**KEELAN, Conor (Fianna Fáil)**

Oak Lodge, Newery Road, Dundalk, Co. Louth.

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**LOUGHRAN, Jim (Sinn Féin)**

Blackgate, Ravensdale, Dundalk, Co. Louth.

**Mob:** 087-7475069

**Email:** jim.loughran@louthcoco.ie



**McGAHON, John (Fine Gael)**

Faughart Gardens, St Patrick's Terrace, Dundalk, Co. Louth.

**Mob:** 085-1720143

**Email:** john.mcgahton@louthcoco.ie



**SAVAGE, Peter (Fianna Fáil) - Cathaoirleach**

Carn na N-Aol, Millgrange, Greenore, Co. Louth.

**Mob:** 087-1364378

**Email:** peter.savage@louthcoco.ie



## Dundalk South Electoral Area - 7 Members



**BREATHNACH, Declan (Fianna Fáil)**

Knockbridge, Dundalk, Co. Louth.

**Mob:** 087-2697638

**Email:** declan.breathnach@louthcoco.ie / declan.breathnach@gmail.com



**BUTLER, Marianne (Green Party)**

Cophorn, Lower Avenue Road, Dundalk, Co. Louth.

**Mob:** 086-8677672

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**DOYLE, Maria (Fine Gael)**

6 Bóthar na Dara, Lis na Dara, Carrick Road, Dundalk, Co. Louth.

**Mob:** 086-8770894

**Email:** maria.doyle@louthcoco.ie



**GREEN, Jennifer (Sinn Féin)**

Mulholland Avenue, Dundalk, Co. Louth.

**Mob:** 087-1446518

**Email:** jennifer.green@louthcoco.ie



**MEENAN, Kevin (Sinn Féin)**

5 Cottage View, Farm Road, Annagassan, Dunleer, Co. Louth.

**Mob:** 085-8589241

**Email:** meenan.kev@gmail.com



**SHARKEY, Tomás (Sinn Féin)**

Allardstown, Knockbridge, Dundalk, Co. Louth.

**Mob:** 087-9090629

**Email:** tomassharkeylouth@gmail.com



**YORE, Maeve (Non Party)**

2 Blakely Close, Avenue Road, Dundalk, Co. Louth.

**Mob:** 087-6172127

**Email:** maeve.yore@louthcoco.ie



## CORPORATE SERVICES

### MEETINGS OF LOUTH COUNTY COUNCIL – 2015

Monthly Meeting	11
Special Meeting	2
Annual Meeting	1
Budget Meeting	1
CPG (Corporate Policy Group)	10
<b>Municipal District Meetings</b>	
Borough District of Drogheda	12
Municipal District of Ardee	12
Municipal District of Dundalk	13
<b>Strategic Policy Committees (SPCs)</b>	
SPC – Housing, Community Planning & Emergency Services	5
SPC – Economic Development & Enterprise Support	4
SPC – Planning & Environment	4
SPC – Infrastructure, European & Cross Border Affairs	5
<b>Joint Policing Committees (LPFs)</b>	
LPF – Dundalk	2
LPF – Drogheda	1
LPF – Ardee	1
JPC – Steering Group Committee	3
<b>Total No. of Meetings held in 2015</b>	<b>87</b>



## COUNCIL MEETINGS

Louth County Council holds a monthly meeting on the third Monday of each month together with a statutory Budget meeting and Annual Meeting and also special meetings from time to time as required to deal with issues such as review of the County development Plan. A total of 15 meetings were held during 2015.

The statutory **Budget Meeting** was held on 16th of November 2015 at which the Council considered a gross revenue expenditure of €95,708,990 for 2016 and in line with the new legislation introduced in 2014, adopted a Base Rate of €60 to be achieved within 9 years. As per the legislation the rates for 2015 remain unchanged from 2014 (an annual Rate on the valuation of €60). The report presented to the Council with the draft budget incorporated reports from each directorate on progress achieved throughout 2015 in the context of the previous Corporate Plan.

## MUNICIPAL DISTRICT COMMITTEES

There are 3 Municipal District committees ensuing to the 4 Local Electoral Division Areas as follows:

<i>Municipal District</i>	<i>Local Electoral Area</i>	<i>Chairman</i>	<i>Meetings Held</i>
Municipal District of DUNDALK	Dundalk/Carlingford	Cathaoirleach Maria Doyle	1st Tuesday of each month.
	Dundalk South		
Borough District of DROGHEDA	Drogheda	Mayor Paul Bell	1st Monday of each month.
Municipal District of ARDEE	Ardee	Cathaoirleach Colm Markey	1st Thursday of each month.

## CUSTOMER SERVICE

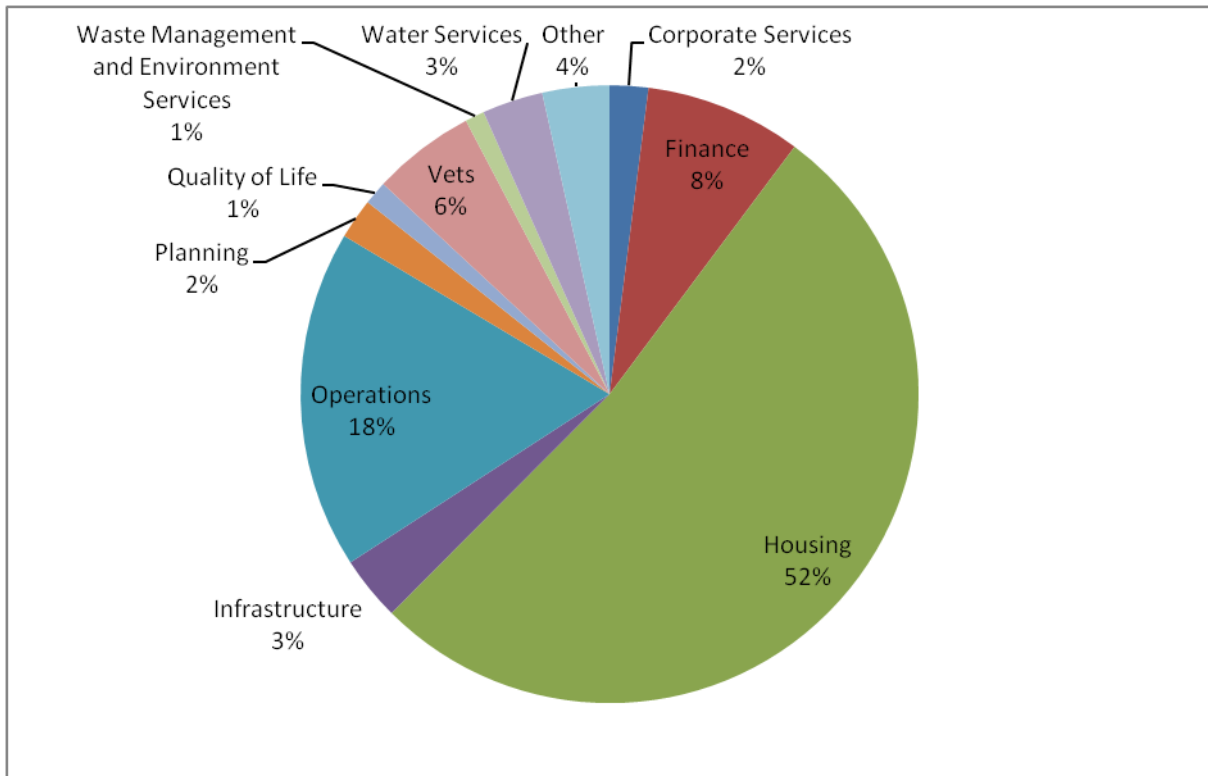
In line with the principles under “Putting People First”, Louth County Council is committed to optimum delivery of a wide range of essential services to the public and to applying the highest standards in all interactions with our customers.

Significant improvements in Customer Services have been achieved and we have focused in particular in delivering services at the closest point to the customer. The CRM System, SugarCRM, is now operational in all departments. This system helps us to understand our customers’ needs and to monitor efficiencies in delivering essential services. Our highly trained and efficient staff



in each of our Civic Offices in Dundalk, Drogheda and Ardee have recorded 28,619 cases on SugarCRM during 2015, of which 94% have been resolved.

*No. of cases recorded on SugarCRM broken down by high demand areas.*



### REGISTER OF ELECTORS

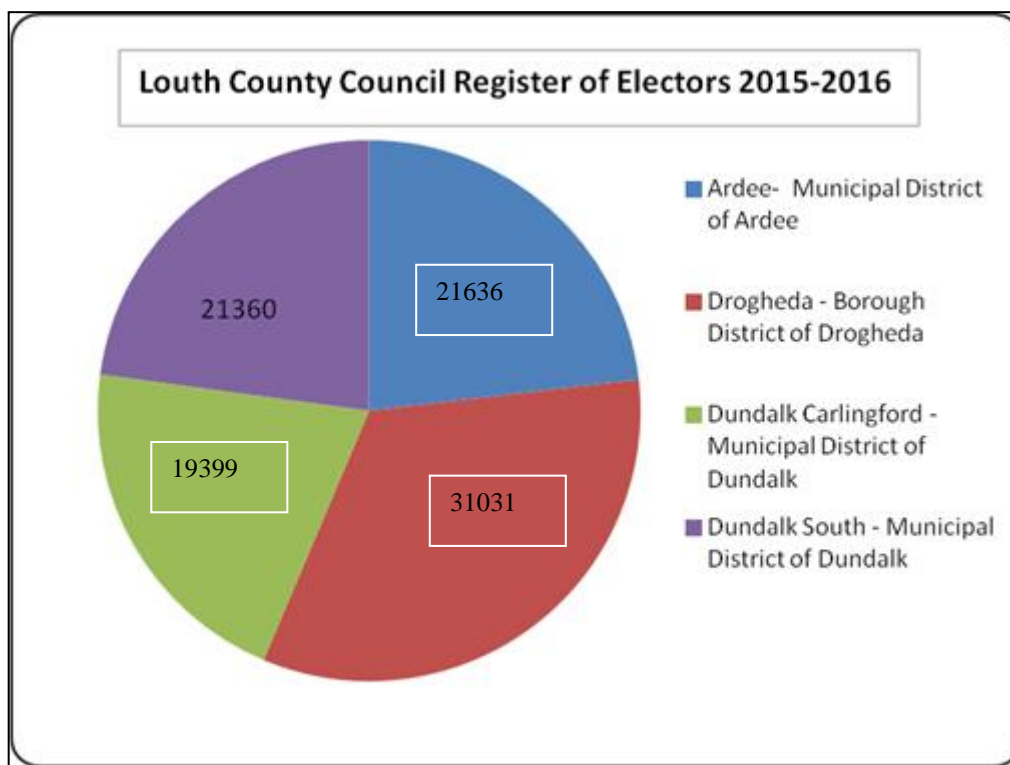
The Register of Electors effective from February 15, 2015 showed a total voting population of 93,426, comprised as follows:

#### Breakdown by Type of Elector

Presidential Electors	88,237
Dail Electors	89,034
European Electors	89,983
Local Electors	93,426



## Breakdown by Local Electoral Areas



As a result of the Local Government Reform Act 2014 the 3 town councils were dissolved resulting in the formation of the Municipal Districts of Ardee and Dundalk and the Borough District of Drogheda. The Municipal District of Dundalk consists of the two Local Electoral Areas of Dundalk Carlingford and Dundalk South.

### Edited Register of Electors

The edited Register of Electors effective from February 15, 2014 contained 3,072 names.

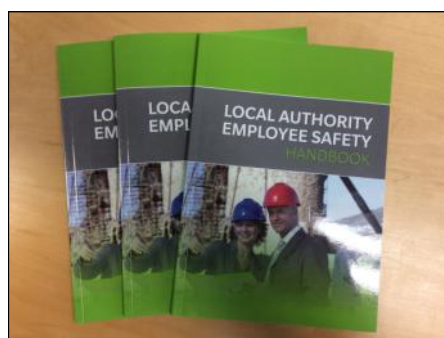
### Elections during 2014

On Friday 23rd May, the 2014 Local Elections were held, on the same day the European Parliament Elections were also held.

## HEALTH and SAFETY

The focus of the health and safety section this year was to standardise H&S systems and processes post unification. Target performance levels for H&S inspections were introduced to drive and consolidate improvements in safety standards across the organization. The Local Authority also participated in Workers Memorial Day and highlighted workplace safety issues through social media.

*Employee Safety Handbook \_H&S section* ►





## EUROPEAN & ENERGY OFFICE

### EU Funding

The Directorate has led out on identifying funding opportunities for Louth County Council from EU funding programmes including INTERREG VA and Peace 1V.

All proposals have included liaison with other Directorates on suitable projects ensuring collective use of best practice and improved standardisation of applications for such funding.

### INDICATE Project

The INDICATE project funded through the 7<sup>th</sup> Framework Programme, progressed significantly during 2015. It is a thirty six month project which is an international collaboration between stakeholders in Ireland, Switzerland and Italy. The aim of the project is to develop a soft ware package designed to assist Planner, Architects and those working within the energy conservation sector to master plan at both the micro and macro scale level.



### National Energy Efficiency Action Plan (NEEAP)

Government has set a target of **33%** energy efficiency improvement to be achieved by all public bodies by 2020, Louth County Council, along with all public bodies, must report their energy usage on an annual basis. Provisional figures for 2015 for LCC show energy savings of 33.8% from base period.

There are numerous factors which influence LCC energy profile/consumption. While we may have achieved the NEEAP target 5 years ahead of schedule, if we go well beyond the target, all the better for both the organisation and the planet.




### Better Energy Community Project 2015


The Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland through the Better Energy Community Funding Programme awarded the Louth Community Energy Projects €850k in financial support for energy efficiency projects throughout County Louth in 2015.

Louth County Council European and Energy Office led the scheme, and projects that received financial support included; the retrofitting of 220 local authority houses, energy improvements in a

### BEC Project 2015 'Louth Smart Energy'

Total Project Investment	€1.9 m
Total Grant	€850,000
Annual Savings	<div style="text-align: center;"> <p>31%</p> <p>3.3 million kWh/yr      €250,000/year</p> </div>
Project completed in 4 months on time and on budget	





number of OPW and HSE buildings, energy improvements in schools, community organisations and sports facilities. The energy improvements resulted in a total project investment of €1.9m, of which €850k was grant aided which engendered energy savings of 31%.

Louth County Council has received national recognition for the scheme, as the scheme has resulted in significant energy savings for a broad range of participants and community organisations. Energy retrofitting projects are important for the county in reducing the use of fossil fuels and providing much needed local employment.

## VETERINARY SERVICES

### Dog Control

he pound took in 554 dogs in 2015, which was an increase of 56 over the previous year. Of that total 205 were reclaimed by owners or re-homed directly from the pound, with a further 290 dogs re-homed via local charities, the majority through Dundalk Dogs. These figures mean that 92% of dogs going through the pound found a home, and increase from 88% the previous year. The numbers reclaimed directly by owners saw the biggest increase, from 19% to 22%, maybe indicting the greater penetration of micro-chipping, as new Regulations introduced in 2015 pave the way for this to become a mandatory requirement.

The dog license numbers for the county in 2015 was 5,627, slightly down on 2014, however the issue of lifetime licenses grew, from zero issued in 2014 to 14 issued in 2015. The number of licenses issued online remains at 1,000, accounting for 18% of sales, which is a significant portion. Dog control was maintained at a high level with 273 Fixed Penalties issued, and the number of penalties paid was the highest in the country.

There were two additional Dog Breeding Establishments inspected and registered during the year, bringing the total registered in Louth to 6.



▲ ( left to right ):- Padraig McKeown – Dog Warden, LCC, Ann Monahan – Dundalk Dog Rescue, Anne Moore – Dundalk Dog Rescue, Karen Kelly – Veterinary Services, LCC, Tommy Conway – Dog Warden, LCC, Gerry McDonald – Dog Warden, LCC, Garrett Shine, County Veterinary Officer, LCC

- **Re:- Open Day at the Dog Pound**

To mark the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Animal Compound at Dromiskin, 2 Open Days were held in October. The public was invited to attend and avail of a tour of the facility and meet staff of the Veterinary Services Section and Dundalk Dog Rescue.

Free Micro chipping of dogs was offered with 190 dogs chipped over the two days. The Open Days were a huge success and increased awareness in the county of dog welfare and legal obligations on dog owners.



### Horse Control

Whilst there was still significant activity as regards horse control in 2015, the overall trend continues to be downward, with 145 in 2013 and 93 in 2014, and now 43 horses in 2015. The majority of horses encountered at the pound were neither licensed nor micro-chipped and as such ownership is difficult to determine.

### Food Safety

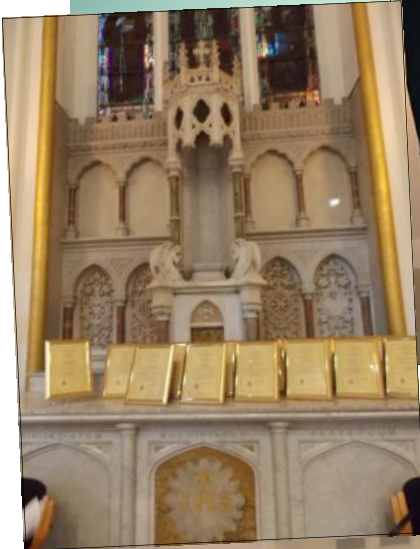
The number of establishments under the inspectorate of Louth County by the veterinary section is 13, and comprises of 1 abattoir, 10 approved meat cutting/cooking plants and 2 registered meat plants. The county provides the meat inspection and food safety duties under a service contract with the Food safety Authority of Ireland.

### Mayoral District of Drogheda Images 2015



President Michael D. Higgins is bestowed with Freedom of the Borough District of Drogheda on 22nd of May 2015 pictured here with the then Mayor Kevin Callan & Corporate Services Staff. ▲

Mayoral Awards held 13th May 2015 – Photos below ▼ and see over ►





**MISSION STATEMENT**

“To provide leadership and to deliver an efficient quality service to the people of Louth”



## HOUSING AND COMMUNITIES

### **HOUSING NEEDS ASSESSMENT - 2015**

At the end of 2015 there were 4861 applicants on the housing list for Louth County Council, 627 applicants for the Ardee Municipal District, 1966 in the Drogheda Municipal District and 2268 in the Dundalk Municipal District.

### **Housing Allocations**

A total of 149 social housing allocations were made and 55 allocations were made through the Voluntary Housing Associations. The Pilot Choice Based Letting Scheme continued to be used and at the end of December 2015 a total of 19 allocations were made. The Scheme operates on the basis where a vacant house is advertised on the Council's website and the press inviting applicants to express an interest in a particular house. Following the closing date the applicants are assessed and the allocation is made.

### **Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS)**

The Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS) is an initiative administered by Local Authorities in support of their social housing programme. It involves privately owned accommodation being leased on behalf of eligible tenants and at the end of 2015 there were 165 properties in the RAS Scheme.

### **Long Term Leasing**

The Council continued to lease properties under the long term leasing scheme for periods up to 20 years duration from the private sector. These properties are used to accommodate applicants from the housing list. At the end of 2015 there was 235 properties in Long Term Leasing.

### **Private Rented Stock**

At the end of 2014 a total 991 inspections were carried out on private rented stock in accordance with Regulations of Standards for Rented Housing.

### **Housing Provision**

The Housing Capital Dept continued to build on its acquisition programme from 2014 by purchasing 43 houses during 2015 for the provision of social housing within the county. The total cost of the acquisitions was €5.5 million. The Council has ambitious targets to meet under the Social Housing Programme and is continuing to seek 2, 3 and 4 bed units in all areas of the county. The Capital Assistance Scheme and Part V of the Planning regulations have also contributed to the Councils overall target of the provision of 778 units via construction and acquisition.

### **Social Housing**

At the end of 2015 Louth County Council had the following housing units:



Stock – December 2015	Total
Social Housing Stock	3677
Unsold Affordable in Voluntary Social Leasing Tenancies	54
Social Leasing Units ( <b>incl Mortgage to Rent</b> )	352
Council owned dwellings managed by Voluntary Housing Associations	41
Voluntary Units	768
Properties in Rental Accommodation Scheme	165

### Rents & Maintenance Section

The Rents Section is responsible for the calculation and collection of rents for the following tenants:-

- Council tenants residing in Council owned dwellings: 3,677
- Tenants residing in Long-Term Leased properties: 235
- Tenants residing in units under the Rental Accommodation Scheme: 67
- A number of Tenant Purchase accounts are also managed.

### Rent Assessments

Housing rents are assessed on a differential rents basis, in accordance with Louth County Council's Rents Scheme:

- If your income is low, your rent payment will reflect this and will be low.
- If your income increases, so will your rent payment
- The income of all household members is considered and rent calculations are adjusted accordingly.
- Tenants must inform the Council immediately of any changes to their circumstances. This includes changes to incomes, people moving in and out, change in employment status etc.
- A rent form must be completed, each time that there is a change in circumstances.

In August 2015, the Council completed a review of its rent accounts and all tenants received a letter informing them of their revised rents. 247 tenant's rent accounts were charged a penalty rent, for non-submission of their rent form and income details.

<b>Rental Income for 2015 was:</b>	<b>€9,512,987</b>
------------------------------------	-------------------

### Rent Collection:

The Council has a proactive approach to rent collection and arrears and all new tenants who signed a Tenancy Agreement after June 2014, must pay their rent by direct



deduction from their social welfare payment (Household Budget) or by bank. On 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2015, there were **989** tenants paying by Household Budget and **938** paying by standing order. Tenants can also pay their rent with a rent card in the post office and Postpoint outlets or in the Council's Cash offices in Drogheda, County Hall and Crowe Street Dundalk, and Ardee. Payments are also accepted over the phone or by monthly direct debit.

### **Rent Arrears**

Rent arrears on 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2015 were €3,499,526. This increase in arrears is partly due to the Rent Review, 2015 when some tenants saw their rents increase due to updating information being provided to the Council.

When tenants have arrears the Council intervenes as early as possible by issuing reminder letters. Tenants are encouraged to either clear their arrears in full, or set up a payment plan. Payment Plan documentation is available at public counters and on the Council's website at [www.louthcoco.ie/l-want-to-pay/Housing Rents and Arrears](http://www.louthcoco.ie/l-want-to-pay/Housing-Rents-and-Arrears). If tenants wish to discuss their arrears in person, meetings are available to all tenants in Council Offices in County Hall, Dundalk, and Drogheda. Rent statements are issued every 6 months.

The Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 2014, introduced new measures to deal with tenants who do not clear their arrears. The Council plans to issue a number of Tenancy Warnings in 2016, in line with the new legislation.

### **Housing Maintenance**

On 31<sup>st</sup> December 2015, **5,408** repair requests were received by the Housing Maintenance Section and logged onto the Council's Ihouse system. **4,796** repairs were closed in 2015. **182** tenants were refused repairs due to rent arrears and no payment plan being in place. The Rents Section works in co-operation with the Housing Maintenance section in the agreement and arrangement of payment plans with tenants who are refused repairs due to arrears.

### **Estate Management**

Louth County Council's Estate Management Policy aims to promote and facilitate tenant involvement in the management of local authority estates. Support is provided to residents' groups through various grant schemes and estate initiatives. The Council's Tenant Liaison Officers work in estates to establish and liaise with community/environment groups to carry out community based projects and to address any estate issues which arise throughout the year.

This may necessitate projects such as:

- Erecting no ball playing signs
- Initiatives to 'design out' anti social behaviour in estates.
- Grants for the provision of environmental equipment to help residents maintain and develop open spaces in their estates



- The TLO Being a sponsor and overseeing the management of Job Initiative Workers in some estates who help with the grass cutting and litter picking

In addition to this in 2015, financial and logistical support from Louth County Council facilitated several resident led landscaping projects and the purchase of grass cutting and gardening equipment to aid estate maintenance. Other initiatives such as the provision of community wheelie bins and litter picking equipment continue to be successful in helping encouraging resident involvement and improving estate appearance.

The Tenant Liaison Officers also carry out house inspections to ensure individual properties are being maintained to an appropriate standard and support is provided to tenants where improvements are necessary. Every new tenant appointed to a Council tenancy receives pre-tenancy training to provide them with relevant information and advise them of their responsibilities as tenants. All new council allocations are inspected six months after allocation to ensure good standards are being maintained and to identify any issues at an early stage.

Estates also participated in “National Spring Clean Week” and many local authority estates were very successful in picking up awards in the annual environmental awards.

Two community facilities in estates in Dundalk, namely Lios Dubh and Mullaharlin Park had new tenants who not-for profit services to the community.

There was no significant change in complaints received in 2015 in relation to anti-social behaviour and details of the complaints received, investigated and action taken can be seen in the table below:

	Drogheda	Dundalk	Louth
Complaints Received in 2015	84	77	38
No Further Action Taken	36	30	16
Verbal Warnings Issued	19	20	12
First Written Warnings Issued	28	26	11
Second Written Warnings Issued	2	0	1
Final Written Warnings Issued	1	1	0
Excluding Orders Applied for	0	0	0
Evictions Carried Out	0	0	0

\*\*\* Totals don't add up as some outcomes were carried from cases which commenced in 2014 and carried over into 2015.

New estate management and anti-social behaviour procedures were introduced in order to gain accreditation for QMark (Quality Management Systems) which is a business excellence framework that reviews all aspects of an organisation on an annual basis.

### Homelessness

As the Responsible Housing Authority for the North East Region, Louth County Council continues to manage this area and achieve the goals set out in the North East Homelessness Action Plan, 2012-17,



The Minister for Environment has asked housing authorities to ensure that the target allocation of units for those who are homeless be achieved in all cases. The Annual Rough Sleeper Count was undertaken on November 30<sup>th</sup> 2015 and on the night in question, no persons was discovered Rough Sleeping. It should be noted that the definition utilised follows the national model and does not include squatting or “couch surfing”.

The figures for 2015 indicate that 578 people presented to Louth County Council as homeless with advice given to 379. 118 were placed in emergency accommodation. 55 were not eligible and 24 were refused.

### **Cox’s Demesne Regeneration Scheme**

After the successful completion of Phase 1 of the Cox’s Demesne Regeneration Scheme, which saw €3million being spent on energy efficiency improvement works to 650 houses, LCC proceeded with the design of Phase 2A works, which will result in the construction of 14 new housing units which are being built to a high level of energy efficiency and assist in the provision of housing stock that will allow lifelong living. Approval was granted by Department of the Environment, Community & Local Government and Phase 2 A works & associated environmental works began on site in early Jan 2015. The works are planned to be completed in mid-2016. It is expected that Phase 2B / 2C / 2D works will commence straight away after the completion of Phase 2A.





## LOUTH LOCAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Local Community Development Committees (LCDC's) were established under section 36 of the Local Government Reform Act 2014.

Louth County Council members formally adopted by resolution the membership of the Louth LCDC at their meeting 21<sup>st</sup> July 2014.

### Role of the Louth LCDC

The role of the LCDC is to develop, coordinate and implement a coherent and integrated approach to local community development. In short the LCDC will carry out the following functions as provided for in the Act:

- The LCDC will plan and oversee local and community development funding both spent by Louth County Council or, by local development bodies on behalf of the state.
- Bring a joined up approach to local and community development through an integrated approach to local community based services.
- Drive and support meaningful citizen and community engagement in community planning processes.
- Enhance the links between service delivery and policy development through action learning and feedback.
- Pursue a more cost effective administration to local and community development programmes and delivery structures with better value for money.
- Pursue opportunities for additional funding

The principle function of the Louth LCDC is to prepare, implement and monitor the community elements of the Louth Economic and Community Plan 2015-2020. The Louth LCDC will coordinate, manage and oversee the implementation of local and community development programmes. In its oversight role the Louth LCDC will improve and coordinate public funded programmes to avoid duplication and ensure SMART (Specific, Measureable, Achievable, Relevant and Time-bound) delivery of actions in Co Louth.

The Louth LCDC will also consider the draft economic actions of the Louth LECP.

### Guiding Principles of Louth LCDC

Louth LCDC provides the oversight and governance to community development in County Louth. They will do this through a participative "bottom-up" approach identifying priorities through meaningful community engagement. Louth LCDC will maintain a clear focus on including marginalised communities, working with different abilities and experiences in partnership to obtain the best use of local resources in planning and policy development. There will be a very strong emphasis on providing a community environment where enterprise and job creation will be a high priority.



## Membership

Louth LCDC has a membership of 19 and its membership was elected or nominated through the various pillars.

Public Sector Members	Private Sector Members
Cllr. Colm Markey	Mr. Michael Gaynor, Chamber
Cllr. Dolores Minogue	Mr. John Cotterell, Chamber
Cllr. Pearse McGeough	Mr. Eddie Phelan, PPN Voluntary
Cllr. Liam Reilly	Ms Marian Sloan, PPN Social Inclusion
Mr. Tommy McEvoy, LEO, LCC	Mr. Anthony McArdle, PPN Voluntary
Ms Anne Keeley, Social Protection	Mr. Kevin Moran, PPN Social Inclusion
Ms Fiona Murphy, HSE	Mr. Breffni Martin, PPN Environmental
Mr. Joe McGuinness, LCC	Mr. Frank O'Brien, ICTU
Mr. Peter Kierans, LMETB	Ms Breedda Tuite, Farming
	Ms Mary Ann McGlynn, Louth Leader Partnership

The legislation requires that the LCDC publish an annual report of its activities in the previous year. In future years this annual report will form part of the Local Authority Annual Report. The report should provide an outline of activities for the reporting period. This first report, endorsed by the LCDC should be brought to the elected Council before the 31 March 2015 or immediately following the next meeting of the LCDC, which is scheduled for April 13<sup>th</sup> next.

## Outline of Activities

Record of LCDC meetings held during 2015:-

- 9<sup>th</sup> February 2015
- 13<sup>th</sup> April 2015
- 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2015
- 14<sup>th</sup> September 2015
- 12<sup>th</sup> October 2015
- 14<sup>th</sup> December 2015

The activities covered by the LCDC during 2015 are listed as follows:-

- Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP)

Throughout 2015 the LCDC continued their deliberations on the development of the high level goals for the community element of the LECP. Presentations were made by



various stakeholders on issues concerning Rural Development Programme, County Development Plan, PPN and workshops were organised with other relevant groups. There were also a number of one-to-one focused consultations held.

- Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme – SICAP

At its meeting in February 2015 the SICAP Programme Implementer Tender was awarded by the LCDC to the Louth Leader Partnership. The programme set two challenging targets. At each subsequent LCDC meeting during 2015, progress was reported by a sub-group of the LCDC on delivery of the SICAP Programme. At the December meeting, the LCDC was advised by the sub-group that the 2015 SICAP Programme was successfully delivered throughout the year.

- Local Development Strategy (LDS)

In April 2015, a successful Public Private Partnership was agreed between the council, financial manager and programme implementer, to develop the Leader programme. A final draft of the Strategy was presented to the LCDC/LAG in late December 2015 with adoption of the strategy by the LCDC/LAG in January 2016.

## SICAP

The Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP) aims to reduce poverty and promote social inclusion and equality through local, regional and national engagement and collaboration. The programme, which commenced on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2015 and will run until December 2017, is a programme funded and overseen by the Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government and had an overall budget of €26.8m for 2015. Co-funding is provided by the European Social Fund (ESF). SICAP was led in County Louth by the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) and delivered by Louth Leader Partnership Programme implementers. SICAP's vision is to improve life chances and opportunities of those who are marginalised in society, living in poverty or in unemployment through community development approaches and targeted supports.

The goals of SICAP are:-

- Goal 1** – Strengthening local communities
- Goal 2** – Promoting life-long learning
- Goal 3** – Helping people become more job ready

The programme in achieving the goals of the 2015 SICAP Annual Plan for Louth was very good with the Programme Implementer meeting the majority of headline indicators and exceeding the figures in many cases for 2015.

There was a high level of collaborative working cross agencies including the success of the ENGAGE Project and base line research into the extent of engagement with and monitoring of the PPN in Louth.



## SPORTS UNIT

The Sports Unit developed and managed a number of programmes during the year as follows:-

### **Dundalk Sports Centre**

- Consultation continued during 2015 with contractual difficulties experienced. Re-opening delayed as a consequence.
- Outreach Programme – 230 primary school children received coaching through our Basketball Outreach Programme.
- 40 secondary school children received coaching through the same programme delivered over a 12 week period.

### **Sports Development**

- In October, €100,000 was received through the Sports Capital Programme towards the development of playing pitches in Drogheda.
- In November, the bowling green in the Lourdes Stadium was opened.
- 19 sports clubs throughout the county received support through the Louth County Council Sports Club Grant.

### **Local Sports Partnership**

- November 2015 saw the commencement of sports initiative/dormant accounts funded “Sports Leadership Programme”. 20 transition year students from 4 secondary schools became Community Sports Leaders.
- Zumba and Chaerobics classes for adults with disabilities were run through the Darro Centre, Drogheda and Rehab Care, Dundalk.
- Primary schools cross country events run simultaneously in both Drogheda and Dundalk with 1,014 children participating.
- Muirhevnamor District Park, chosen as the start point for the RTE Operation Transformation Programme.
- A Ride Leader Course in cycling was carried out in November 2015 with members of Ardee and Cuchulainn Cycling Clubs.
- Bike week took place from 13<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> June. 213 students from 13 schools and one disability group were trained in safe cycle techniques.
- Eight safe-guarding 1 courses held with over 100 people trained.
- National Recreation Week took place from 28<sup>th</sup> June to 4<sup>th</sup> July. 48 young people from “The House” in Coxes Demesne, Dundalk and Ardee School Completion Project completed an outdoor adventure activity day with Carlingford Adventure Centre.

▼ Primary schools cross country 2015 Drogheda



▼ Sportshall athletic 2015



▲ Bike Week 2015

▲ Transition year triathlon (winning team) 2015



▲ Transition year triathlon (winner) 2015



▲ Sports Leaders participants December 2015 Drogheda course

**MISSION STATEMENT**

“To provide leadership and to deliver an efficient quality service to the people of Louth”



▼ Triathlon 2015



▲ Bike week cycle safety training



▲ Operation Transformation 2015- Lourdes Stadium Drogheda (warm-up)



▲ Park Run Dundalk



▲ Operation Transformation 2015- Lourdes Stadium Drogheda ▶





# COMMUNITY SUPPORT 2015

## National Tidy Towns

Towns and villages in Louth continued to do very well in the National Tidy Towns competition in 2015. Drogheda and Dundalk retained their gold medals while Tallanstown and Blackrock were again awarded silver medals. Ardee joined Knockbridge in winning bronze. Grange won the Endeavour Award for the county. There was further good news for the county as Dromiskin won the Youth Award for the Midlands and East Region, and Blackrock won the Climate Change Award.



▲ Oldbridge estate in Dundalk as the winner of Best Local Authority Estate in Dundalk in 2015\_Estate Management

## Louth Looking Good Awards 2015

The Louth Looking Good Awards were held on 17<sup>th</sup> September 2015 to reward all the Tidy Towns Groups, residents associations, community groups, businesses and volunteers who consistently work hard to improve the county.

Blackrock Tidy Towns were the big winners on the night as they won the coveted Overall Award as well as the Waste Minimisation Award, Litter League and Best Presented Cemetery. Tallanstown were worthy runners up and also won a number of prizes in the Housing Estate categories. Dromiskin won third place while Knockbridge, Dunleer and Omeath were among the main prizewinners. Clos na Manach in Carlingford was awarded Best Overall Housing Estate in County Louth.



▲ Beauty on the Boyne 2015 - Scholars Hotel- Winner of Best Commercial Premises-Shopping Area

## Beauty on the Boyne Awards 2015

These awards were held on 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2015 in the d Hotel to recognise and acknowledge all the residents associations, community groups and businesses who are working hard to improve the quality of life in the town of Drogheda.

## Dundalk Improve Our Town 2015

These awards took place on 4<sup>th</sup> November 2015 in the Táin Theatre and are also a recognition of all that is done by the residents, community groups, volunteers and businesses in the town of Dundalk.

► Improve our Town- Best Front Garden - 1st Prize- 306 Greenacres





## Green Schools Programme

The Green Schools programme continues to grow in Louth with schools throughout the county registering for this national environmental programme. Flags were awarded at a ceremony on 21<sup>st</sup> May 2015 at the Helix Theatre in DCU and representatives from twenty four schools from Louth attended.

## GROW AWARDS

Then newly introduced Green Renewable Organic and Waste minimisation Awards ceremony was held on 11<sup>th</sup> June 2015 in the Crowne Plaza Hotel. Guest speakers in attendance were Dr. Pamela Whitaker from Groundswell and Andrew Fleming of Owls.ie. School of the Year went to Scoil Mhuire na Trócaire from Ardee.



There was also recognition of the tremendous support received from the teachers locally and awards were given to Edel Lennon of Collon National School and John Farrell of Monksland National School. Winners of the Tree Tribe Challenge were Ms. Larney's 3<sup>rd</sup> class from Dromiskin National School with their "Irish Hedge" entry.

◀ Eco Tribes 2015.

## Trashion Fashion



▲ Winners from Trashion Fashion 2015.

The third annual "Trashion Fashion" awards ceremony took place on the 27<sup>th</sup> January 2015 in the Carrickdale Hotel. Louth County Council and Louth Tidy Towns together are extremely proud to promote this programme. It is a platform which encourages young designers to use junk materials to create striking couture designs and impressive works of art. Fifty one students showcased their amazing designs, all made from recycled materials. The event has become one of the highlights of the Secondary Schools' calendar in the county.

A total of six entrants were selected to proceed to the grand final of Junk Kouture which took place in the 3 Arena, with four creations representing St. Vincent's Secondary School and students from Bush Post Primary School showcasing two outfits in the final.

## Greener Christmas Radio Campaign

The second year of this joint initiative was undertaken in conjunction with local primary schools and LFM to encourage waste prevention over the holiday season. For 2015 the focus was on the theme of a 'Greener Christmas'.

The aim of the competition is to promote a festive season where we try to reduce waste and increase the level of recycling of items such as cards, cardboard, packaging, cans



and bottles. Local schoolchildren produced poems to encourage waste prevention, all of which were displayed on the [www.louthcoco.ie](http://www.louthcoco.ie) website over the holiday period. The winning entry came from Scoil Mhuire na Trócaire in Ardee while second and third entries came from classes in Dromiskin National School.

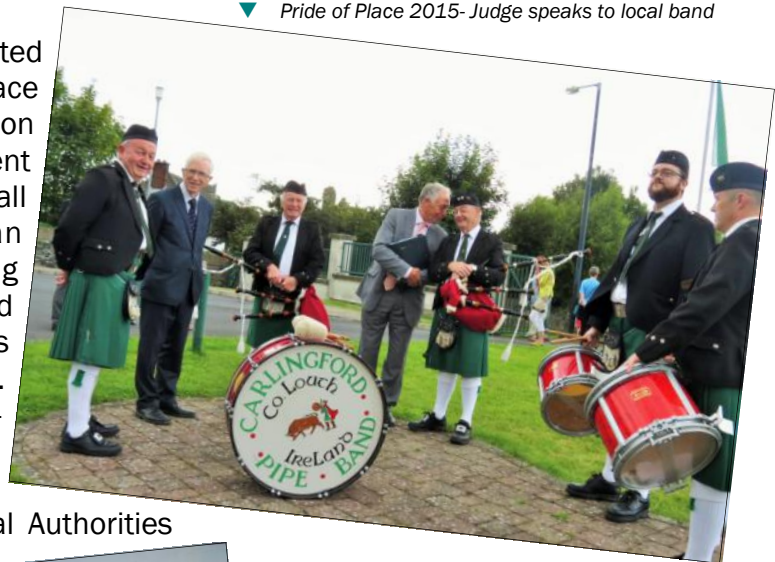
**Blue Flag**

Louth retained three Blue Flags for the beaches at Clogherhead, Port and Templetown. The Blue Flag is an international award for beach excellence, which is operated in Ireland by An Taisce. The award is presented to beaches and marinas which have excellent water quality and which achieve high standards across a wide range of other criteria including environmental education, management of the environment, water quality and safety. Tourism is extremely important to Louth and our Blue Flag beaches provide a safe environment for both families and visitors to enjoy a great day out.

**Pride of Place**

Carlingford and Dundalk represented County Louth in the Pride of Place 2015 competition. The competition aims to recognise the involvement of the local community in all aspects of rural and urban regeneration, including promoting social cohesion, heritage and environmental awareness across the thirty two counties of Ireland. The competition is run by Co-Operation Ireland and a Pride of Place steering committee and nominations come from the Local Authorities throughout Ireland.

▼ Pride of Place 2015- Judge speaks to local band



Carlingford was among the prize winners at the awards ceremony in Ennis, Co. Clare, which was attended by over 800 people. The village was runner up in the population category 1,000- 2,000.

◀ Pride of Place 2015-Carlingford Co Louth

**MISSION STATEMENT**

“To provide leadership and to deliver an efficient quality service to the people of Louth”



## LOUTH COUNTY LIBRARIES, ARCHIVES AND MUSEUM SERVICES

Louth County Libraries, Archives and Museum Services continued to underpin the quality of life for individuals and communities within the county.

Usage of Louth County Libraries	2015	2014
• Items borrowed	359,121	400,117
• Visits to full-time libraries	241,974	275,300
• Registered members	14,792	15,588
• Internet sessions provided	19,600	21,543

### Library Services

Registered library members in Louth for 2015 reduced to 14,792 with 241,974 visits, 19,600 Internet sessions provided and 359,121 items borrowed during the year.

### Branch Development

Louth County Council in accordance with the relevant Acts served notice of the compulsory acquisition of land at Carlingford Library.

## COUNTY WIDE LIBRARY INITIATIVES

### • eBooks and eAudio Service

Louth County Libraries continued to develop and expand its collection of eBooks and eAudio downloads. This service allows library members to browse the collection from home and download items to their computer, iPhone, iPad or other tablet device. A national tender for online resources was published in late 2015.

### • Parent and Toddler Groups

Parent and Toddler Groups are now run in three fulltime branch libraries in Dundalk, Drogheda and Ardee Libraries. Louth County Libraries secured funding through the Louth Childcare Committee in 2015 to expand the groups.

### • Europe Direct Information Centre, Dundalk

Louth County Libraries were awarded a second contract and associated funding from the European Commission to run a Europe Direct Information Centre in Dundalk Library from 2013-2017. The Centre focuses on the geographical region of Louth, Cavan and Monaghan and delivered in 2015 a varied programme of events which included the annual 'Europe Direct Soapbox' competition with the theme of 'Charity Begins at Home'.



- **Summer Reading Adventure**

The Summer Reading Adventure ran in all branch libraries throughout the summer with over 700 children taking part. The initiative provided the whole family an opportunity to explore the full range of events and services available from the library including: storytime sessions; book clubs; DVDs; CDs; eBooks; eAudio; Internet and free Wi-Fi access.

Feedback from the reading initiative was positive with many parents delighted with their children's increased confidence and reading ability following the initiative.



Snow White Storytime ▲

- **Childrens' Literacy Summer Camps**

In conjunction with tutors from local DEIS schools in County Louth, Dundalk and Drogheda Libraries provided literacy summer camps to 120 children. A project-based approach was used with an emphasis on fun learning activities to increase the children's interest and motivation in acquiring basic literacy and numeracy skills.



Summer Reading Launch 2015 ▲

- **Louth Field Names Project**

Following on from the successful book launch of 'The Field Names of County Louth' in November 2014, the Louth Fieldnames Database was launched in 2015. The project was formed under the auspices of the County Louth Archaeological and Historical Society, County Louth I.F.A. and Louth County Council's Library Service. Between autumn 2013 and spring 2014 a network of over 200 volunteers from across the county collected more than 10,000 field names and associated folklore for the project.

- **Library Management System**

During 2015 the library service engaged in a large project to migrate their existing Library Management System to a newly procured national system. The new library system will give access to the library collections, resources and digital content of all public libraries in one search. Louth County Council will introduce free library membership from January 2016 and will standardise charges for overdue items.

- **Foras na Gaeilge Funding**

Louth County Libraries secured funding from Foras na Gaeilge to hold literary events in Irish in Dundalk and Drogheda.



- **Oíche Chultúir/Culture Night**

Dundalk Library secured funding from Oireachtas na Gaeilge to run an Irish language event for Culture Night, September 18<sup>th</sup> 2015. The event featured an evening of music and song with some of the best local traditional Irish musicians in Co. Louth including renowned musician Pádraigín Ní Uallacháin and friends.



- **Louth Centenary Programme 1916/2016**

The Louth Centenary Programme Booklet for 2016 was launched in 2015. Louth County Council engaged with the local community and set up a consultative committee, made up of representatives from across all stakeholder sectors. A public notice inviting written submissions for consideration in the Programme was advertised. Thirty-two submissions were received. Three public consultation meetings were held with great interest and enthusiasm shown by those in attendance. People representing the towns and villages of County Louth will play a significant role in leading Louth in its commemorative celebrations.



Irish Design Launch 2015 ▲

- **Celebrate Your Local Design Hero with Irish Design 2015**

Minister for Business and Employment Ged Nash TD launched an exhibition at Dundalk Library on October 9<sup>th</sup> to mark the Celebrate Your Local Design Hero initiative at libraries across Ireland. The exhibition at Dundalk Library celebrated award winning fashion designer Niamh O'Neill from Dunleer, Co. Louth.

As part of Irish Design 2015 (ID2015), the yearlong government backed initiative promoting and celebrating Irish design in

Ireland and internationally, libraries across the country were invited to celebrate a local design hero through organising a community event or workshop.

Nicola Pierce ►

- **Communiversy Programme**

The library service in conjunction with Louth Leader Partnership and Maynooth University continued its weekly adult learning courses in both Dundalk and Drogheda during November 2015. The subjects on offer include Psychology; Local Studies; Community Development and Youth Work and it gave participants a chance to sample higher education discussions and debate in a familiar library setting.





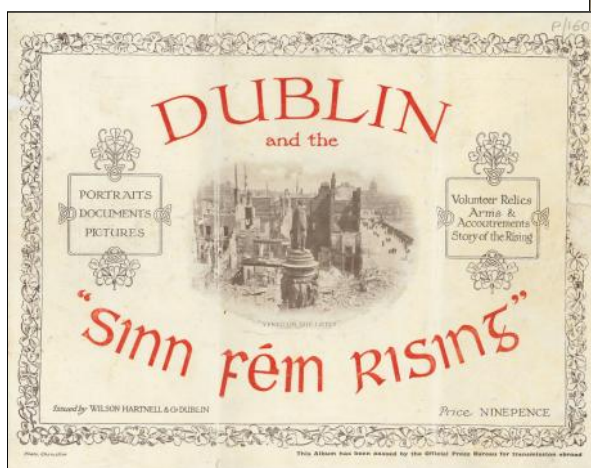
## Louth County Archives Service

The main aim of Louth County Archives Service is to identify, preserve and make available the public and private archives of County Louth for the benefit of knowledge and research. The Service maintains and updates a website and Facebook page that provides the public with an online archive catalogue and research guides.

### Highlights in 2015 included:

- Conservation treatment on the Joseph Dolan papers: funding awarded by the Heritage Council.
- Acquisitions: theatre related archival material; a survey of land in Ashville and the Kierans family of Ashville; files on Dolan and Murray's History of Ardee; photographs; An Tóstal programme and a record re: the parish of Tullyallen; archives re: the Farm Improvement Schemes 1960s-80s; McNeale and Moore legal documents; archives of the Inner Wheel Club (Ladies Branch of Drogheda Rotary Club); a small quantity of County Home records; and a plan of Dundalk Jail.
- Archival photographic display of the 'Great Northern Brewery' during Heritage Week.
- Explore Your Archive campaign, 14<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2015 which invited members of the public to donate items relating to the 1916-22 period for use in a 2016 exhibition on the Louth Volunteers that was developed by Louth County Archives Service.

*Dublin and the Sinn Féin Rising* ►



▲ Volunteer Patrick Donnelly

## Louth County Museum, Dundalk

Highlights in the museum in 2015 included the 'Birth of a Nation – the Evolution of Irish Nationhood 1641 – 1916' exhibition which was launched early in the year. Key artefacts included an original 1916 proclamation; handwritten documents by Patrick Pearse, WB Yeats and Roger Casement to name but a few. Included in the exhibition is

*Cllr. Peter Savage and Pearse O'Hanrahan launch the Museum's commemorative 1916 poster.* ►



### MISSION STATEMENT

"To provide leadership and to deliver an efficient quality service to the people of Louth"



weaponry used over the centuries as well as uniforms, medals and other memorabilia.

The exhibition was not, however, the sole highlight of the Museum's year, just a few short months later it hosted the Bridging Ages international conference with delegates from Africa, America and Europe. Over the course of the first week in June participants enjoyed papers on a diversity of subjects all examining the role and use of history in learning from the past and applying the lessons learnt. Over the course of the year the Museum continued to provide its day-to-day services: guided tours of the collection and the town, as well as its school activities at Christmas, ultimately though 2015 will be remembered for the Birth of a Nation exhibition.

Ultimately though 2015 will be remembered for the opening of the 1916 exhibition, its lasting impact perhaps best articulated by one "now I understand whereas before I just knew."

*The star of the show –  
an original copy of the Proclamation of Independence  
at the County Museum's Birth of a nation exhibition.*





## OPERATIONS & LOCAL SERVICES

### Infrastructure

**N53 Phase 3** – Preliminary works completed and Tender advertised with a closing date of the 13<sup>th</sup> May. Construction commenced on the 27<sup>th</sup> July which entailed a full road closure. Road reopened on the 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2015. Works involved.

- Vertical realignment of a 1.2km section at Barronstown to 100km/hr standard
- The provision of right turn lanes at Hackballscross
- Provision of storm water drainage and attenuation
- Excavation of 5,608m<sup>3</sup> of rock, 2,100m<sup>3</sup> of bog and 10,655m<sup>3</sup> of suitable material
- The provision of a cycle/walkway linking to the previously completed scheme in 2012
- Provision of 9,500m<sup>2</sup> of road pavement

**N2 Blakestown Cross** – Proposal to realign this junction. Site Investigation undertaken. Land acquisition commenced.

**Bridge Repairs** - undertaken at 9 locations.

- |                  |                  |              |
|------------------|------------------|--------------|
| • Blakestown     | • Duffys Cross   | • Sandpit    |
| • Pepperstown    | • Agaboys        | • Blackstaff |
| • Corbally Cross | • Cobblers Cross | • Lumpers    |

### Low Cost Safety Works undertaken at:

**Dromin** – This scheme involved the installation of new road signs and road markings in proximity to the National School and also the extension of the limit of the existing 50km/hr speed limit approaching Dromin Cross.

**Monasterboice** – Introduce a reduced speed limit and gateway treatment to area. Provision of new Variable messaging signs, additional footpath, traffic island, controlled pedestrian crossing and road markings.

**Dowdallshill** - Installation of new signalized pedestrian crossing, traffic calming, line marking and reduction of speed limits.

**Skateboard Park, Drogheda** - Part 8 approved and Tender advertised. Construction commenced on the 21<sup>st</sup> April. Opened to the public June 2015.

**Bowling Green, Lourdes Stadium, Drogheda** - The Bowling Green was completed in May 2015 at a cost of €110K, with funding of €65,000 from the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport.

**Great Eastern Greenway**- between Carlingford to Omeath, primarily on the route of a disused railway line, offers spectacular views from the edge of the majestic Carlingford Lough. There were 61,500 Greenway users in 2015 of which 25% were bikes. This is an



increase of 25% over 2014. We are actively exploring funding opportunities to extend the Greenway, to further develop this ever popular amenity.

**Redevelopment of the Fair Street Civic Offices** - Part 8 advertised and on display until the 4<sup>th</sup> November.

**Coastal Protection and Erosion Schemes undertaken at the following Locations:**

- Seabank, Castlebellingham
- Annagassan
- Bellurgan, Dundalk

**Dunleer Minor Flood Mitigation Works** – Funding received from the OPW to undertake a Flood Study of the Dunleer catchment Area. Tender Documents were prepared and advertised on the 25<sup>th</sup> November 2015.

**Catchment based Flood Risk Assessment & Management Study** – 8 Areas for Further Assessment were identified in County Louth and on the 20<sup>th</sup> November draft Flood Maps were published for public consultation.

**Bellurgan Embankment Access Road** - constructed and material stockpiled for raising the height of the embankment.

**Secondary School at Ballymakenny** - nearing completion at the end of 2015.

**Primary School at Ardee** – Design Team appointed and preliminary design prepared. Land acquisition from the HSE progressing.

**Louth Coastal Erosion Study** -

LCC received funding of €81,000 to undertake a coastal erosion study at Greenore, Templetown and Dillonstown.

## **Delivery of Water Services in Louth**

Water Services, both supply and waste water are managed by Louth County Council on the basis of a Service Level Agreement (SLA) with Irish Water. The SLA between Louth County Council and Irish Water has been in operation for 12 months

### **Customer Contact**

Louth County Council received 1362 customer queries from Irish Water for 2015. Irish Water will refer queries to Local Authorities for action and protocols have been developed in relation to same. The Call Centre facilitates the establishment of a tracked response system for all queries and complaints.

Part of the process developed with Irish Water includes an interface with Elected Representatives. Meetings were arranged during 2015 with local representatives and Irish Water.



### **Non-Domestic Water Billing**

The charges for water both commercial and domestic have been set by Commissioner for Energy Regulation and charging is effective since 1<sup>st</sup> October 2014, with the first domestic billing to commence in 2015. In the case of Non-Domestic Customers, the Local Authority will continue to read the meters and process the information this will be transferred to Irish water. Non domestic bills have issued from the Local Authority on behalf of Irish Water from Jan 2015.

### **Unaccounted for water and Leaks repaired**

During 2015 the number of leaks repaired was 785. The unaccounted for water measure was reduced from the 2014 baseline level of 40.3% to 37.8%. This equates to a reduction of 948 cubic meters per day.

### **Group Water Schemes (GWS)**

Louth County Council is responsible for Group Water Schemes. All GWS in Louth are private supplies and the main source is bore holes. They are not connected to public mains. Funding of €175,000 was received for GWS in 2015.

### **Water Services Investment Plan 2014 – 2016**

The value of Irish Water expenditure is estimated at €20m for County Louth. It is anticipated that the WSIP will focus on Stage improvements, Licence requirements.

### **Capital Investment Program for Louth**

- Ardee Sewerage Scheme Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade - Design stage
- Drogheda Water Supply Scheme Staleen Water Treatment Plant Emergency Works
- Dundalk & Drogheda Wastewater Treatment Plants Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrades Nutrient Removal – Process driven & Charge orders with contractor for
- Dundalk Sewerage Scheme Study - Consultant to be appointed as part of regional
- Dundalk Water Supply Scheme Cavanhill Water Treatment Plant Upgrade -Planning
- Louth County - Water Conservation Stage 3 Advance Works .- Near completion
- Louth County - Water Conservation Stage 3 Works Dundalk Water Supply – Tendered
- Louth County - Water Conservation Stage 3 Works Drogheda Water Supply –
- Omeath Sewerage Scheme Omeath Sewerage Scheme – Design stage



## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, LEO, ARTS, HERITAGE, PLANNING, TOURISM, CONSERVATION.

The Economic Development Unit supports the co-ordinated economic development of County Louth by planning for, initiating and managing projects that contribute positively to the County's ongoing economic development. The unit 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 Councils policy decisions. This work is important to ensure that the maximum benefit is derived from economic and employment development decisions associated with major infrastructure.

### **The Local Enterprise Office (LEO Louth)**

As part of the Government's Reform Programme, Louth County Enterprise Board was dissolved and the newly formed Local Enterprise Office (LEO) Louth was incorporated into the Council structure in April 2014. LEO Louth is the "First Stop Shop" for anyone seeking information and support on starting or growing a business in Ireland. The role of LEO Louth 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 works to increase the job potential of new and existing micro and small businesses with information, advice, training, mentoring, seminars, selective financial support, and access to and guidance on relevant council initiatives and services.

2015 was a very productive year for LEO Louth. 73 jobs were created as a direct result of grants approved and increases in existing businesses employing additional staff in County Louth (45 full time and 28 part time). Over 500 enquiries were dealt with, and 2015 saw an increase in participants in training courses and management development programmes. 31 training programmes were held with 642 participants, including the delivery of a procurement and eTenders workshop to assist business people tendering for larger contracts. LEO Louth liaises directly with other relevant Council departments regarding points of contact and additional expertise that can be provided directly to businesses regarding procurement. All of these supports were promoted to, and tailored specifically towards the needs of small, micro and start-up businesses in Louth. Dedicated programmes were designed and run to support target groups such as the food and craft sector, retail and women in business.

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 2015 this objective was implemented through a wide range of programmes, supports and activities, including, for example Start Your Own Business training, mentoring supports and assistance to Enterprise Centres.

Youth involvement is directly facilitated by LEO Louth through the Student Enterprise Awards and the Primary (schools) Enterprise Challenge programmes.



- 15 schools, including over 750 students, participated in the Student Enterprise Awards Programme.
- Primary Challenge, 25 primary level schools involving 800 pupils engaged in enterprise challenge in 2015.

During the year, LEO Louth took part in, and supported, businesses to attend, a wide range of new programmes and events, including, for example; **Blás na hÉireann Irish Food Awards** - A number of SME food companies from the county took part, and between them won five national awards, two gold and three bronze awards. **IBYE** - 60 young entrepreneurs from Louth participated in the IBYE (Ireland's Best Young Entrepreneur) competition. This resulted in three young entrepreneurs representing Louth at the Regional Final with two representing the North East in the Best New Idea and Best Start-up categories in the national final in Dublin.

LEO Louth administers the Trading Online Vouchers Programme on behalf of the Department of Communications, Energy & Natural Resources (DCENR) to support



2015 Student Enterprise Award Winner ▲



2015-11 IBYE Regional Winners LCC Chairman ▲

LEO Louth IBYE 2015 ▼





business to engage in e-Commerce sales. 42 applications were approved in 2015 for Trading Online Vouchers by LEO Louth.

*LEO Louth also works in partnership with Microfinance Ireland (MFI) to deliver the Government's Microenterprise Loan Fund. 5 Microfinance Ireland applications were submitted to LEO Louth in 2015, with 3 approved.*

The Action Plan for Jobs, North East/North West Region, 2015-2017, launched in November 2015, includes the following actions, in which LEO Louth is required to play a key role:

- Increase the number of entrepreneurs and start ups in the area through initiatives such as: Enterprise Start workshops;
- Involvement with Enterprise Ireland's New Frontiers Entrepreneurial Development Programme through Dundalk Institute of Technology;
- Start your own Business Programmes; and
- Enterprise related training.

This forms part of LEO Louth's activities for 2016. The Local Enterprise Development Plan for 2016 provides a detailed framework for building upon the successes to date and ensuring that enterprises and entrepreneurs continue to receive efficient and quality supports from LEO Louth to sustain and develop their business and new markets.

#### **Rural Economic Development Zone (REDZ) Pilot Initiative - Ardee.**

In 2015, Louth County Council successfully secured €50,000 grant funding under the REDZ Pilot Initiative for **Ardee**. The funding was secured from the Rural Development Section of the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government. LEO Louth managed the delivery of this initiative in collaboration with relevant stakeholders.

#### **Rural Economic Development Zone (REDZ) Pilot Initiative - Drogheda.**

Louth County Council successfully secured €250,000 grant funding under the REDZ Pilot Initiative for Phase II of the Mill Enterprise Centre, **Drogheda**. The funding was secured from the Rural Development Section of the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government.

#### **Local Economic and Community Plan**

Under the Local Government Reform Act 2014 the Council is obliged to develop a Local Economic Plan (LECP) consisting of an integrated economic plan and a community plan. The LECP is a joint venture between Louth County Council's Economic and Enterprise Strategic Policy Committee and the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC). It contains high level goals and objectives for the county, which when adopted, will have a six year lifespan and will guide policy until 2021.

In August 2015 the Council commenced a process of public consultation on the preparation of the plan. Following approval by the Economic and Enterprise SPC and the LCDC the Socio- Economic statement and consultation document which has



informed the LECP preparation process went on public display with the deadline for submission extended to 26<sup>th</sup> September, 2015. Cross sections of Louth Community and Enterprise stakeholders were invited to participate in 'Partnership in Progress' workshop on 14<sup>th</sup> October 2015. The objective of the workshop was to:-

- Share the draft Community and Economic Goals developed with stakeholders and identify how relevant they are for their organisation
- Identify what actions need to be taken to help organisations work better together in order to achieve the LECP themes of :
  1. Employment and Economic Activity
  2. Education, Skills and Training
  3. Poverty and Social Exclusion

The Economic Elements of the LECP will promote economic development within the functional area of the Council. Preparation of the plan is currently underway and it is anticipated that the consultation and approval process via the Economic and Enterprise SPC, LCDC, Municipal Districts and Plenary Council will be completed in March 2016.

### **Louth Economic Forum**

The forum, established in 2009, comprises the business sector of County Louth, Local Authority Management and all of the State Agencies that interact with those generating economic activity in the county and is a one stop shop for potential investors. The new Foreign Direct Investment Action Plan 2015 – 2020 was launched on 14<sup>th</sup> September 2015. The award winning LEF continues to build partnerships and fosters a culture of joined-up thinking to proactively facilitate further economic development and job creation in Louth.

### **Tourism**

Tourism in Louth drives local economic development and supports local services. The new destination Irelands Ancient East was launched by Failte Ireland in April 2015. The Council continues to work with Failte Ireland to capitalise on the Fáilte Ireland's Ancient East Strategy. Work is ongoing to put the county of Louth in the fore with the continued support and promotion of Irelands Ancient East,



Maritime Festival 2015 ▲



Boyne Valley and Newry Mourne Gullion as destination attractions. The Irish Maritime Festival 2015, delivered in partnership with Drogheda Port, was a huge success and attracted in excess of 42,000 people to the Drogheda quays. Christmas festivals - Drogheda Bonanza Festival and the new



▲ Some photos of the Maritime Festival 2015

Dundalk FROSTIVAL festival - continue to be supported and funded by Louth County Council.





## Arts

The Arts Service delivered a range of actions in 2015, all aligned to the Service's five major work areas – Developmental and Community Arts, Grants and Awards, Information and Advice, Artistic Programming, and Representation and Planning.

Louth County Council has been developing its collection of artworks which have been purchased over the past twenty years. Taisce Lú is the name of the collection, and many of the paintings, prints and sculptures are on display in Council buildings in Dundalk and Drogheda, as well as in Droichead Arts Centre. To make the collection more relevant and accessible, the Arts Service initiated “Irish, Alive, and Mostly Female”, a visual arts-in-education project which saw three schools in Louth select artworks from the on-line database of Taisce Lú. Once selected, the artworks were brought to each school by a facilitator. The students then studied the works with their teacher and the facilitator, gaining insights into contemporary visual arts practice, which is of benefit in terms of the second-level curriculum and in terms of wider arts education.

“Irish, Alive and Mostly Female” is a reference to the composition of the artists represented in Taisce Lú, which is in contrast to that of artists in most other state collections.



▲ *Irish Alive and Mostly Female, Pupils from St Mary's College, Dundalk, viewing Eidetic Amalgam iv by Claire Halpin.*

## Heritage

Louth has a very rich heritage, built, cultural, intangible and natural. Our heritage can make a substantial contribution to our quality of life. Increasing awareness of heritage helps build local, community pride and can inspire economic development. Louth County Council's heritage office works to protect Louth's heritage, through raising awareness of and respect for it and thereby to 'gain the heritage dividend' for Louth.

The following Heritage Projects were completed or progressed in 2015:

- Conservation and repair works to Drogheda's Old Abbey Lane.
- Preparation of conservation plan for the old graveyard and the ruined church on top of the Hill of Faughart.
- Commissioning 'Archaeology Ireland' to publish two 'Heritage Guides' on aspects of Louth's heritage (the route of 'the Táin' and Monasterboice).
- Hedgerow and bat survey training.
- Liaising with farming, nature conservation and amenity interests in relation to public access and environmental management in the Cooley mountains (and at Clogherhead).
- The Council facilitated several conservation volunteering working days on Coillte's



Ravensdale forest recreation area (and others), through the Geotourism INTERREG project.

- Developed further use of social media (LouthHeritage).

## **PLANNING**

### **Development Control**

The number of planning applications submitted between 1 January and 31<sup>st</sup> December 2015 was **865**. This was an increase of approx 19.3% on 2014. It is anticipated that there will be a further increase in applications in 2016.

### **RIAI Colloquium “The Future of Drogheda”**

The RIAI Urban Design Committee supported by Louth County Council held their Colloquium in Drogheda on the 18<sup>th</sup> September, 2015. The central objective of the colloquia was to bring together all the stakeholders from relevant government departments, local authorities, professional organizations, practitioners and local communities to strengthen an awareness of social and economic benefits of urban design and the need for a “joined-up” approach to the regeneration and development the town of Drogheda. 140 delegates attended the Colloquium.

### **Forward Planning**

The Louth County Development Plan 2015 – 2021 was approved by the members on the 28<sup>th</sup> September, 2015 and came into effect on 26<sup>th</sup> October, 2015. The plan will have significant implications for a wide variety of aspects of life within the county.

### **Planning Compliance**

The Council continues to actively enforce the provisions of Part VIII of the Planning & Development Act 2000 (as amended) in relation to the investigation of complaints received regarding potential unauthorised development. Legal proceedings were initiated as appropriate. The number of complaints received between 1<sup>st</sup> January and 31<sup>st</sup> December 2015 were 184.

Louth County Council continues to investigate complaints received regarding Dangerous Structures pursuant to the Local Government Sanitary Services Act 1964. The total number of complaints received between 1<sup>st</sup> January and 31<sup>st</sup> December 2015 were 36. The Derelict Sites Register is maintained pursuant to Section 8 of the Derelict Sites Act, 1990. The number of sites on the register at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2015 is 55.

### **Conservation**

Conservation provides continuing input into the protection of County Louth’s Architectural Heritage in accordance with the Development Plan along with providing information and advice to Protected Structures owners on appropriate maintenance and repair work. The Council provides advice and guidance to voluntary groups on the legislative requirements in relation to Protected Structures, Architectural Conservation Areas and Monuments.



**(UNAUDITED) STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME  
(INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT STATEMENT)  
FOR YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER 2015**

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.

Note 16 allocates transfers by service division in the same format as Table A of the adopted Local Authority budget.

**Expenditure by Division**

	Gross Expenditure	Income	Net Expenditure	Net Expenditure
	2015	2015	2015	2014
Notes	€	€	€	€
Housing & Building	19,691,444	20,775,821	(1,084,376)	525,567
Roads Transportation & Safety	17,192,675	8,583,204	8,609,471	9,094,391
Water Services	6,641,079	6,687,644	(46,565)	(77,604)
Development Management	10,056,385	4,273,757	5,782,628	5,560,787
Environmental Services	14,470,452	3,270,695	11,199,756	12,618,433
Recreation & Amenity	6,659,658	609,587	6,050,071	6,465,015
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	2,286,512	1,052,867	1,233,645	1,007,203
Miscellaneous Services	13,142,035	3,805,033	9,337,002	11,820,983
<b>Total Expenditure/Income</b>	<b>90,140,240</b>	<b>49,058,608</b>		
			<b>41,081,633</b>	47,014,775
<b>Net cost of Divisions to be funded from Rates &amp; Local Property Tax</b>				
Rates			33,081,203	33,286,637
Local Property Tax			8,098,323	8,243,835
Pension Related Deduction			1,561,064	1,622,363
<b>Surplus/(Deficit) for Year before Transfers</b>			<b>1,658,958</b>	(3,861,940)
<b>Transfers from/(to) Reserves</b>			(1,562,384)	(188,050)
<b>Overall Surplus/(Deficit) for Year</b>			<b>96,574</b>	(4,049,990)
<b>General Reserve @ 1st January 2015</b>			(2,607,460)	1,442,530
<b>General Reserve @ 31st December 2015</b>			<b>(2,510,886)</b>	(2,607,460)



**(UNAUDITED) STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION (BALANCE SHEET) AT 31st DECEMBER 2015**

	Notes	2,015 €	2,014 €
<b>Fixed Assets</b>	1		
Operational		670,031,710	659,393,297
Infrastructural		1,355,405,395	1,355,446,271
Community		4,583,316	4,557,113
Non-Operational		50,035,497	50,035,497
		<b>2,080,055,918</b>	<b>2,069,432,177</b>
<b>Work in Progress and Preliminary Expenses</b>	2	18,114,847	22,128,557
<b>Long Term Debtors</b>	3	78,646,818	84,296,963
<b>Current Assets</b>			
Stocks	4	0	0
Trade Debtors & Prepayments	5	28,284,404	34,977,539
Bank Investments		27,619,016	29,850,998
Cash at Bank		2,528,543	2,833,482
Cash in Transit		297,935	231,974
		<b>58,729,898</b>	<b>67,893,994</b>
<b>Current Liabilities (Amounts falling due within one year)</b>			
Bank Overdraft		0	0
Creditors & Accruals	6	32,890,209	36,507,175
Finance Leases		0	0
		<b>32,890,209</b>	<b>36,507,175</b>
<b>Net Current Assets (Liabilities)</b>		<b>25,839,689</b>	<b>31,386,819</b>
<b>Creditors (Amounts falling due after more than one year)</b>			
Loans Payable	7	151,259,289	157,187,491
Finance Leases		0	0
Refundable deposits	8	10,963,664	10,945,738
Other		2,716,121	7,815,019
		<b>164,939,073</b>	<b>175,948,249</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>		<b>2,037,718,198</b>	<b>2,031,296,267</b>
<b>Represented by</b>			
Capitalisation Account	9	2,080,055,915	2,069,432,174
Income WIP	2	17,196,002	21,471,134
Specific Revenue Reserve		5,533,315	5,533,315
General Revenue Reserve		(2,510,886)	(2,607,460)
Other Balances	10	(62,556,147)	(62,532,894)
<b>Total Reserves</b>		<b>2,037,718,198</b>	<b>2,031,296,267</b>



## APPENDIX 7

## Summary of Major Revenue Collections for 2015

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K
Debtor type	Incoming arrears @ 1/1/2015	Accrued - current year debit (Gross)	Vacant property adjustments	Write offs	Waivers	Total for collection = (B+C-D-E-F)	Amount collected	Closing arrears @ 31/12/2015 = (G-H)	Specific doubtful arrears *	% Collected = (H)/(G-J)
	€	€	€	€	€	€	€	€	€	
<b>Rates</b>	18,376,977	33,072,049	7,291,367	930,413	-	43,227,247	25,578,002	17,649,245	836,264	60%
<b>Rents &amp; Annuities</b>	2,083,007	11,139,716	-	17,284	-	13,205,439	9,653,149	3,552,290	-	73%
<b>Housing Loans</b>	442,579	961,950	-	(1,586)	-	1,406,115	969,561	436,554	-	69%
<b>Domestic Refuse</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0%
<b>Commercial Refuse</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0%
* Specific doubtful arrears = (i) Vacancy applications pending/criteria not met & (ii) Accounts in examinership/receivership/liquidation and no communication regarding likely outcome										

The (unaudited) capital figures are:

**Expenditure** €20,866,834

**Income** €19,590,743



## Performance Indicators

01/01/2015 - 31/12/2015

Topic	Indicator	Value	Comment
<b>Housing: H1, H2 &amp; H4</b>			
<b>Approved</b>			
A.	Overall total number of dwellings provided by the LA in the period 1/1/2015 to 31/12/2015.....	<b>653</b>	
B.	Number of dwellings directly provided.....	<b>41</b>	
B1.	Number of dwellings constructed.....	0	
B2.	Number of dwellings purchased.....	41	
C.	Number of units provided under RAS.....	0	
D.	Number of units provided under the HAP Scheme.....	598	
E.	Number of units provided under the SHLI.....	14	
F.	The overall total number of social housing dwellings in the LA at 31/12/2015.....	<b>4706</b>	
G.	The total number of dwellings directly provided (constructed or purchased) by the LA ...	3667	
H.	Total number of units provided under the RAS.....	67	
I.	Total number of units provided under the HAP if operated.....	639	
J.	Total number of units provided under the SHLI.....	333	
A.	Percentage of the number of dwellings at H1G that were vacant on 31/12/2015.....	<b>1.34 %</b>	
	The number of dwelling units within their overall stock that were not tenanted on 31/12/2015.....	49	
A.	Expenditure in 2015 on repair & maintenance of housing bought or built by the LA divided by H1G	<b>€1175.83</b>	
	Expenditure on repair and maintenance of LA stock compiled on a continuous based during 2015.....	€4311771	
<b>Housing: H3 &amp; H5</b>			
<b>Approved</b>			
A.	Average time taken from date of vacation of dwelling to date when a new tenancy had commenced.....	<b>22.56 wk</b>	
B.	Average cost expended on getting the units re-tenanted ready for re-letting	<b>€6513.28</b>	
	No. of units that were re-tenanted on any date in 2015 (excl. those vacant for estate refurbishment).....	149	
	No. of weeks from when previous tenant vacated dwelling up to date new tenant's first rent debit.....	3362 wk	
	Total expenditure on repairs necessary to enable re-letting of the units included above.....	€970479	
A.	Total number of registered tenancies in the LA area.....	<b>6166</b>	
B.	Number of inspections carried out.....	219	
<b>Housing: H6</b>			
<b>Approved</b>			
A.	No. of adults in emergency accom. long-term as a % of the total number of homeless adults.....	<b>17.95 %</b>	
	No. of adults classified as homeless and in emergency accommodation on night of the 31/12/2015.....	39	



Topic	Indicator	Value	Comment
	No. of adults on that date who had been in emergency accommodation for 6 months continuously .....	7	
<b>Roads: R1 &amp; R2</b>			
<b>Approved</b>			
	% Regional road kilometres with a PSCI rating .....	9.00 %	
	% Local Primary road kilometres with a PSCI rating .....	83.00 %	
	% Local Secondary road kilometres with a PSCI rating .....	88.00 %	
	% Local Tertiary road kilometres with a PSCI rating .....	20.00 %	
	% Regional roads that received a PSCI rating during 2015 .....	1.00 %	
	% Total Regional road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 1-4.....	0.00 %	
	% Total Regional road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 5-6.....	4.00 %	
	% Total Regional road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 7-8.....	4.00 %	
	% Total Regional road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 9-10.....	1.00 %	
	% Total Primary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 1-4.....	4.00 %	
	% Total Primary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 5-6.....	33.00 %	
	% Total Primary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 7-8.....	42.00 %	
	% Total Primary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 9-10.....	4.00 %	
	% Total Secondary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 1-4.....	6.00 %	
	% Total Secondary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 5-6.....	52.00 %	
	% Total Secondary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 7-8.....	27.00 %	
	% Total Secondary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 9-10.....	3.00 %	
	% Total Tertiary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 1-4.....	6.00 %	
	% Total Tertiary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 5-6.....	12.00 %	
	% Total Tertiary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 7-8.....	2.00 %	
	% Total Tertiary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 9-10.....	0.00 %	
A1.	Kilometres of regional roads strengthened using Road Improvement grants.....	5.6 km	
A2.	Regional road Improvement Grant amount .....	€2415576.00	
B1.	Number of kilometres of regional roads resealed using Road Maintenance grants.....	16.3 km	<i>Comment</i>
			<i>Data from roads office indicated that 16724 meters were resealed using Rd Mtc Grants, i.e. 16.7 kms not 16.3kms as indicated.</i>
B2.	Regional road Maintenance Grant amount.....	€745402.00	
<b>Motor Tax: R3</b>			
<b>Approved</b>			
	% of motor tax transactions online .....	52.59 %	
<b>Water: W1</b>			
<b>Approved</b>			
	% of Private Drinking Water Schemes in compliance.....	99.90 %	
<b>Waste: E1</b>			
<b>Approved</b>			
	No. households in an area covered by a licensed operator providing a 3 bin service at 31/12/2015.....	13137	
	% households within the LA that the number A represents.....	29.93 %	



Topic	Indicator	Value	Comment
<b>Environmental Pollution: E2</b>			
<b>Approved</b>			
	Total number of pollution complaint cases .....	1918	
	Number of pollution cases not investigated or finalised.....	1966	
	Number of pollution cases not finalised .....	55	
	Number of pollution cases in respect of complaint during 2015 .....	<b>1918</b>	
	Number of pollution cases closed during 2015.....	<b>1966</b>	
	Total number of cases at hand at 31/12/2015 .....	<b>55</b>	
<b>Litter Pollution: E3</b>			
<b>Approved</b>			
	Percentage of area unpolluted by litter .....	<b>0 %</b>	
	Percentage of area slightly polluted by litter .....	<b>68 %</b>	
	Percentage of area moderately polluted by litter .....	<b>15 %</b>	
	Percentage of area significantly polluted by litter .....	<b>8 %</b>	
	Percentage of area grossly polluted by litter.....	<b>8 %</b>	
<b>Planning: P1</b>			
<b>Approved</b>			
	Buildings inspected as a percentage of new buildings notified to the local authority .....	<b>27.47 %</b>	
	Total no. of new buildings notified to the local authority .....	273	
	No. of new buildings notified to the local authority in 2015 subject of at least one inspection.....	75	
<b>Planning: P2 &amp; P3</b>			
<b>Approved</b>			
A.	Number of planning decisions subject of appeal to An Bord Pleanála determined by board in 2015.....	28	
B.	% of the determinations which confirmed (with or without variations) the decision made by the LA.....	<b>53.57 %</b>	
	Number of determinations confirming the LA's decision with or without variation .....	15	
A.	Number of planning cases referred to or initiated by the LA during 2015 that were investigated.....	186	
B.	Number of cases that were closed during 2015 .....	255	
C.	% cases at B dismissed re Section 15(2) or closed because statute barred or exempted development .....	<b>6.67 %</b>	
D.	% of cases at B that were resolved to the LA's satisfaction through negotiations .....	<b>35.69 %</b>	
E.	% Cases at B that were closed due to enforcement proceedings .....	<b>57.65 %</b>	
F.	Total number of planning cases being investigated as at 31/12/2015.....	219	
	Number of cases at 'B' that were dismissed under section 15(2), Planning and Development Act 2000.....	17	
	Number of cases at 'B' that were resolved to the LA's satisfaction through negotiations.....	91	
	Number of cases at 'B' that were closed due to enforcement proceedings.....	147	



<i>Topic</i>	<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Value</i>	<i>Comment</i>
<b>Planning: P4</b>			
<b>Approved</b>			
	AFS Programme D data divided by the population of the LA area.....	€28.05	
	AFS Programme D consisting of D01, D02, D03 (inclusive of the central management charge).....	€3447726	
<b>Fire Service: F1</b>			
<b>Approved</b>			
	AFS Programme E expenditure divided by the census 2011 population served by the Fire Service.....	€53.96	
	AFS Programme E expenditure data consisting of E11 - Operation of Fire Service & E12 Fire Prevention.....	€7689320	
<b>Fire Service: F2 &amp; F3</b>			
<b>Approved</b>			
A.	Average time (mins) to mobilise fire brigades in Full-Time Stations in respect of Fire.....	2.1 min	
B.	Average time (mins) to mobilise fire brigades in Part-Time Stations in respect of Fire..	4.57 min	
C.	Average time (mins) to mobilise fire brigades in Full-Time Stations in respect of other accidents .....	2.77 min	
D.	Average time (mins) to mobilise fire brigades in Part-Time Stations in respect of other accidents .....	3.77 min	
A.	% of cases in respect of fire in which first attendance at scene is within 10 mins.....	71.92 %	
B.	% of cases in respect of fire in which first attendance at scene is after 10 mins & within 20 mins .....	25.07 %	
C.	% of cases in respect of fire in which first attendance at scene is after 20 mins.....	3.02 %	
D.	% of non-fire cases in which first attendance at scene is within 10 mins .....	62.89 %	
E.	% of non-fire cases in which first attendance at scene is after 10 mins & within 20 mins .....	34.02 %	
F.	% of non-fire cases in which first attendance at scene is after 20 mins .....	3.09 %	
	Total no. of call-outs in respect of fires from 01/01/2015 - 31/12/2015.....	762	
	No. of fire cases where first fire tender attendance at the scene is within 10 minutes .....	548	
	No. of fire cases where first fire tender attendance at the scene is after 10 mins & within 20 mins.....	191	
	No. of fire cases where first fire tender attendance at the scene is after 20 mins .....	23	
	Total number of call-outs in respect of all other emergency incidents from 01/01/2015 - 31/12/2015 .....	194	
	No. of non-fire cases where first fire tender attendance at the scene is within 10 mins .....	122	
	No. of non-fire cases where first fire tender attendance at the scene is after 10 mins & within 20 mins.....	66	
	No. of non-fire cases where first fire tender attendance at the scene is after 20 mins .....	6	
<b>Library Service: L1</b>			
<b>Approved</b>			
	Number of library visits during the year .....	241974	
	Number of items borrowed during the year .....	359121	
A.	Number of library visits per head of population .....	1.97	
B.	Number of items issued to borrowers during the year.....	359121	



Topic	Indicator	Value	Comment
<b>Library Service: L2</b>			
<b>Approved</b>			
	The Annual Financial Statement Programme F data / by the population of the LA area 2011 per census.....	€26.36	
	AFS Programme F02 Cost of Library Service.....	€3239682	
<b>Youth and Community: Y1 &amp; Y2</b>			
<b>Approved</b>			
	Percentage of local schools involved in the local Youth Council//Comhairle na nÓg scheme....	88.89 %	
	Total number of secondary schools in the LA area at 31/12/2015.....	18	
	No. second level schools in the LA area from which representatives attended the Comhairle na nÓg AGM.....	16	
	No. organisations in the County Register and proportion who opted in to the Social Inclusion College.....	35.65	
	No. organisations in the County Register for the local authority area.....	216	
	Total number of registered organisations that opted to join the Social Inclusion Electoral College	77	
<b>Corporate: C1 &amp; C2 &amp; C4</b>			
<b>Approved</b>			
	Wholetime equivalent staffing number as year end .....	594.28	
	Percentage of working days lost due to sickness absence through medically certified leave ...	4.74 %	
	Percentage of working days lost due to sickness absence through self- certified leave.....	0.62 %	
	Number of working days lost to sickness absence through medically certified leave .....	6389 day	
	Number of working days lost to sickness absence through self-certified leave .....	832 day	
	Number of unpaid working days lost to sickness absence through medically certified leave	1217 day	
	Number of unpaid working days lost to sickness absence through self-certified leave .....	15 day	
	All ICT Expenditure in the period 01/01/2015 to 31/12/2015 divided by the WTE no. ....	€2584.51	
	Total revenue expenditure on Account Elements .....	€1535925.55	
<b>Corporate: C3</b>			
<b>Approved</b>			
	Total page views of the LA website in 2015.....	411066	
	Total number of social media users at 31/12/2015 following the LA on social media sites .....	4574	
	The cumulative total page views of all websites operated by the LA during 2015.....	411066	
	Total no. of social media users who, at 31/12/2015, were following the LA on any social media sites.....	4574	
<b>Finance: M1 &amp; M2</b>			
<b>Approved</b>			
	Cumulative balance at 31/12/2011 in the Revenue Account from the Income & Expenditure of the AFS.....	€7228037	
	Cumulative balance at 31/12/2012 in the Revenue Account from the Income & Expenditure of the AFS.....	€4052228	
	Cumulative balance at 31/12/2013 in the Revenue Account from the Income & Expenditure of the AFS.....	€1442529	



<i>Topic</i>	<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Value</i>	<i>Comment</i>
	Cumulative balance at 31/12/2014 in the Revenue Account from the Income & Expenditure of the AFS.....	€-2607460	
	Cumulative balance at 31/12/2015 in the Revenue Account from the Income & Expenditure of the AFS.....	€-2510886	
	Cumulative surplus or deficit at 31/12/2015 as a percentage of Total Income from the AFS statement .....	-2.74 %	
	Collection level of Rates from the Annual Financial Statement for 2011 .....	60.0 %	
	Collection level of Rates from the Annual Financial Statement for 2012 .....	50.0 %	
	Collection level of Rates from the Annual Financial Statement for 2013 .....	49.0 %	
	Collection level of Rates from the Annual Financial Statement for 2014 .....	56.0 %	
	Collection level of Rates from the Annual Financial Statement for 2015 .....	60 %	
	Collection level of Rent & Annuities from the Annual Financial Statement for 2011.....	86.0 %	
	Collection level of Rent & Annuities from the Annual Financial Statement for 2012.....	84.0 %	
	Collection level of Rent & Annuities from the Annual Financial Statement for 2013.....	83.0 %	
	Collection level of Rent & Annuities from the Annual Financial Statement for 2014.....	82.0 %	
	Collection level of Rent & Annuities from the Annual Financial Statement for 2015.....	73 %	
	Collection level of Housing Loans from the Annual Financial Statement for 2011.....	64.0 %	
	Collection level of Housing Loans from the Annual Financial Statement for 2012.....	60.0 %	
	Collection level of Housing Loans from the Annual Financial Statement for 2013.....	60.0 %	
	Collection level of Housing Loans from the Annual Financial Statement for 2014.....	66.0 %	
	Collection level of Housing Loans from the Annual Financial Statement for 2015.....	69 %	
	The 2015 Total Income figure from the Income and Expenditure Account Statement of the AFS.....	€91799198	

### Economic Development: J1

#### Approved

Number of jobs created with assistance from the Local Enterprise Office during the year ..... 65.00



**COUNCILLOR CONFERENCE  
ATTENDANCE RECORD 2015  
(info extracted from Conference Exps & Training)**

Conference	Location	Date	Month	No. of Cllrs.
<b>Jan-15</b>				
<b>Feb-15</b>				
Boyne Valley Conference	City North Hotel	21st	February	2
AILG Training Module 1	Arklow Bay Hotel	21st	February	2
<b>Mar-15</b>				
AILG Annual Conference	Carrickmacross	12th & 13th	March	5
<b>Apr-15</b>				
AILG Module 2 Local Economic Development & Role of Local Authority	Celbridge	14th	April	4
<b>May-15</b>				
AILG Module 3 - Local Community Development & LCDCs	Portlaoise	21st	May	4
<b>Jun-15</b>				
AILG Module 4 - Local Authority Finance & Housing	Longford	13th	June	5
<b>Jul-15</b>				
<b>Aug-15</b>				
Planning & Development (No. 2) Bill 2014	Letterkenny	7th, 8th & 9th	August	1
<b>Sep-15</b>				
<b>Oct-15</b>				
LAMA Autumn Training Seminar	Kilkenny	9th & 10th	October	3
AILG Autumn Training Seminar	Inchydoney, Cork	1st & 2nd	October	4
AILG Module 5 - Roads, Transportation & Safety	Tullamore	6th	October	5
<b>Nov-15</b>				
AILG Training Module 6 - Ground Water etc	Red Cow Hotel	14th	November	5
<b>Dec-15</b>				
<b>Total</b>				<b>40</b>


**PAYMENTS TO MEMBERS FOR  
MEETINGS, COMMITTEES &  
REPRESENTATION**
**2015**

	Payments to Members of Louth Local Authorities	Louth County Council
1	Number of Council and Committee Meetings	106
2	Annual Expenses Allowance (travel, subsistence & misc exps, eg postage) Total of expenses paid to members in respect of attendance of meetings of the Council and its committees	€ 131,454.62
3	Representational Payment	€ 478,737.22
4	Chairpersons Allowance	€ 8,329.32
5	Vice Chairperson Allowance	€ 3,996.00
6	Chairpersons of SPCs/MPCs	€ 24,000.00
7	Chairperson of Municipal Districts	€ 30,000.00
8	Mobile/Blackberry Phones	€ 12,078.40
9	Expenses on Conferences etc attended	
	(a) Home	€ 9,767.85
	(b) Abroad	€ 4,111.42



## Breakdown of Representation in Relation to the SPCs, etc.

### LOUTH COUNTY COUNCIL

### SPC (Strategic Policy Committees) Committee Members 2014 - 2019

#### Housing, Community Planning & Emergency Services

Cllr. Imelda Munster	Chairperson
Cllr. Jim Tenanty	Louth County Council
Cllr. Maeve Yore	Louth County Council
Cllr. Kevin Meenan	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. Brian Doyle	Community/ Voluntary
Mr. Kevin Moran	Social Inclusion

*No. of Meetings 2015 - 6*

#### Planning & Environment

Cllr. Richie Culhane	Chairperson
Cllr. Peter Savage	Louth County Council
Cllr. Tom Cunningham	Louth County Council
Cllr. Jim Loughran	Louth County Council
Cllr. Jennifer Green	Louth County Council
Cllr. Maria Doyle	Louth County Council
Cllr. John McGahon	Louth County Council
Mr. Michael Smyth	Agriculture/Farming
Mr. Eddie Phelan	Business/ Commercial
Ms. Marian Sloan	Community/ Voluntary
Mr. Ollan Herr	Environment/ Conservation

*No. of Meetings 2015 - 4*

#### Economic Development & Enterprise Support

Cllr. Mark Dearey	Chairperson
Cllr. Alan Cassidy	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. Pío Smith	Louth County Council
Mr. Paddy Donnelly	Agriculture/Farming
Mr. Eddie Phelan	Development/ Construction
Mr. Simon McCormack	Business/Commercial
Mr. Anthony McArdle	Community/ Voluntary
Ms. Karen Devine	Environment/ Conservation

*No. of Meetings 2015 - 4*

#### Infrastructure, European & Cross Border Affairs

Cllr. Declan Breathnach	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
Ms. Flora Okobi	Community/ Voluntary
Mr. Paraic McKeivitt	Environment/ Conservation

*No. of Meetings 2015 - 5*



## Breakdown of Representation in Relation to the 3 MPCs

### LOUTH COUNTY COUNCIL

### MPC (Municipal Policy Committees) Committee Members 2014 - 2019

#### Municipal District of ARDEE

Cllr. Tom Cunningham	Chairperson
Cllr. Colm Markey	Louth County Council
Cllr. Pearse McGeough	Louth County Council
Cllr. Dolores Minogue	Louth County Council
Cllr. Liam Reilly	Louth County Council
Cllr. Jim Tenanty	Louth County Council

*No. of Meetings 2015 - 12*

#### Borough District of DROGHEDA

Cllr. Paul Bell	Chairperson (Mayor)
Cllr. Kevin Callan	Louth County Council
Cllr. Tommy Byrne	Louth County Council
Cllr. Alan Cassidy	Louth County Council
Cllr. Richie Culhane	Louth County Council
Cllr. Kenneth Flood	Louth County Council
Cllr. Frank Godfrey	Louth County Council
Cllr. Imelda Munster	Louth County Council
Cllr. Pio Smith	Louth County Council
Cllr. Oliver Tully	Louth County Council

*No. of Meetings 2015 - 13*

#### Municipal District of DUNDALK

Cllr. Maria Doyle	Chairperson
Cllr. Declan Breathnach	Louth County Council
Cllr. Marianne Butler	Louth County Council
Cllr. Edel Corrigan	Louth County Council
Cllr. Mark Dearey	Louth County Council
Cllr. Jennifer Green	Louth County Council
Cllr. Conor Keelan	Louth County Council
Cllr. Jim Loughran	Louth County Council
Cllr. John McGahon	Louth County Council
Cllr. Kevin Meenan	Louth County Council
Cllr. Peter Savage	Louth County Council
Cllr. Tomás Sharkey	Louth County Council
Cllr. Maeve Yore	Louth County Council

*No. of Meetings 2015 - 13*

### LOUTH COUNTY COUNCIL Audit Committee

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

*No. of Meetings 2015 - 4*

#### MISSION STATEMENT

“To provide leadership and to deliver an efficient quality service to the people of Louth”



## Joint Policing Committee Structure.

### Joint Policing Committee STEERING GROUP

A steering group made up of the Chief Executive, Chief Superintendent Louth Garda Division, Chairperson Louth County Council, Chairperson Drogheda Local Policing Forum, Chairperson Dundalk Local Policing Forum and Chairperson Ardee Local Policing Forum.

1. Cllr. Oliver Tully
2. Cllr. Jim Loughran
3. Cllr. Kenneth Flood
4. Cllr. Pearse McGeough
5. Chief Superintendent Pat McGee
6. Superintendent Gerry Curley
7. Superintendent Gerry Smith
8. Superintendent Andrew Watters
9. Inspector Paul Kiernan

*No. of Meetings 2015 - 3*

### DROGHEDA Local Policing Forum

1. Cllr. Kenneth Flood - Chairperson
2. Cllr. Paul Bell
3. Cllr. Tommy Byrne
4. Cllr. Kevin Callan
5. Cllr. Alan Cassidy
6. Cllr. Richie Culhane
7. Cllr. Frank Godfrey
8. Cllr. Imelda Munster
9. Cllr. Pio Smith
10. Cllr. Oliver Tully
11. Gerry Adms TD
12. Peter Fitzpatrick TD
13. Seamus Kirk TD
14. Fergus O'Dowd TD
15. Gerald Nash TD
16. Senator Terry Brennan
17. Senator Jim D'Arcy
18. Senator Mary Moran
19. Superintendent Gerard Smith
20. Inspector Brendan Caddan
21. Mr. David McCloskey
22. Mr. Nicholas Sullivan

*No. of Meetings 2015 - 2*

### Dundalk Local Policing Forum

1. Cllr. Jim Loughran - Chairperson
2. Cllr. Declan Breathnach
3. Cllr. Marianne Butler
4. Cllr. Edel Corrigan
5. Cllr. Mark Dearey
6. Cllr. Maria Doyle
7. Cllr. Jennifer Green
8. Cllr. Conor Keelan
9. Cllr. John McGahon
10. Cllr. Kevin Meenan
11. Cllr. Peter Savage
12. Cllr. Tomás Sharkey
13. Cllr. Maeve Yore
14. Gerry Adms TD
15. Peter Fitzpatrick TD
16. Seamus Kirk TD
17. Fergus O'Dowd TD
18. Gerald Nash TD
19. Senator Terry Brennan
20. Senator Jim D'Arcy
21. Senator Mary Moran
22. Superintendent Gerard Curley
23. Sergeant Brendan Keane
24. Inspector Martin Beggy
25. Mr. Frank Watters
26. Mr. Matthew McGreehan

*No. of Meetings 2015 - 2*

### ARDEE Local Policing Forum

1. Cllr. Pearse McGeough
2. Cllr. Tom Cunningham
3. Cllr. Colm Markey
4. Cllr. Dolores Minogue
5. Cllr. Liam Reilly
6. Cllr. Jim Tenanty
7. Gerry Adms TD
8. Peter Fitzpatrick TD
9. Seamus Kirk TD
10. Fergus O'Dowd TD
11. Gerald Nash TD
12. Senator Terry Brennan
13. Senator Jim D'Arcy
14. Senator Mary Moran
15. Superintendent Andrew Watters
16. Inspector Paul Kiernan
17. Superintendent Gerard Smith
18. Inspector Brendan Cadden

*No. of Meetings 2015 - 2*