

Comhairle Contae **Lú**
Louth County Council

ANNUAL REPORT **2020**

Your Council for **Your** Community



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Comhairle Contae Lú
Louth County Council

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Introduction

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Foreword



Dolores Minogue
Cathaoirleach

It has been my privilege to serve as Cathaoirleach of Louth County Council during 2020. I took over the role of Cathaoirleach in June 2020 from Councillor Liam Reilly during a very strange time in the history of Louth and indeed the world. I would like to thank Cllr. Reilly and all my colleagues for their assistance over the past year, to pay tributes to colleagues who have left and to welcome new colleagues who joined during the year.

It cannot be denied that 2020 was a challenging year for all, and Louth suffered great losses as a result of Covid-19. We will always remember and mourn loved ones and valued members of the community that we have lost. The community spirit and sense of kindness and empathy shown by the people of Louth to their friends and family in times of sadness was evident. Although we could not mourn in the traditional way, there was no doubt that we stood together in our loss. Whether this was expressed directly by phone, over social media or simply by the efforts put in by people to stick to the rules to prevent the spread of Covid-19, the people of Louth stood together to support each other.

I would particularly like to commend the staff of Louth County Council who continued to work throughout the pandemic, many of them on the front line. Our staff ensured that essential services were provided on an ongoing and regular basis despite the obvious

obstacles, helping the most vulnerable, organising and manning the Community Call line and sometimes just being a listening ear for those who needed it.

It would also be remiss of me not to mention the particular challenges Covid-19 brought to the role of the Elected Members of Louth County Council. Changing location to St. Gerard's Hall to enable social distancing in meetings and the onset of hybrid meetings at end of year with some councillors remote meant that I as Cathaoirleach, and the other councillors, suddenly got very technical very quickly. I would like to thank my fellow councillors for all their assistance over my term as Cathaoirleach and for their ongoing dedication to the people of Louth.

I welcome this Annual Report, which will clearly highlight the vast work that has been carried out by Louth County Council during 2020. I would like to thank our Chief Executive Joan Martin, the executive team, and all of the staff of Louth County Council for their work and commitment to the people of Louth.

My time as Cathaoirleach has been challenging but rewarding and I look forward to continuing to play my part in working for the county into the future. It has been an honour to serve the citizens of Louth as Cathaoirleach of Louth County Council.

D. Minogue

Overview



Joan Martin
Chief Executive

The year 2020 proved to be an extraordinary one for Louth County Council. The period was full of challenges, not least of which was maintaining services during a pandemic. I am immensely proud of how the staff of Louth County Council met each challenge thrown at them, setting aside their personal familial concerns to tackle their roles with professionalism, vigour, and innovation – often putting forward novel solutions to the challenges we faced.

Louth County Council's mission statement is "to provide leadership and deliver high-quality citizen-focused, responsive and effective services". I would certainly like to think that we delivered on this challenge during 2020. The imperative of continuing to provide our services during the pandemic, however, meant introducing wholesale changes in how we worked.

From a basic safety point, significant efforts were expended during 2020 to keep our staff and customers safe. Equipment we had never imagined using was utilised on a regular basis; for example, fogging machines became a familiar sight, as they are used to clean public areas. The caretakers were seen carrying guns for the first time, albeit spray guns! Thrice-daily disinfection of all touch spots throughout buildings was instructed. With social distancing

measures for customers and staff, and liberal use of sanitiser, we were able to stay open until instructed to close.

When open, our Customer Services team assisted 39,648 visitors. Even when our buildings were closed to the public for a period, service provision continued. Customer Services responded to 69,256 phone calls and 22,460 emails during 2020. Extra helplines were set up for housing applicants, a Community Call helpline was established and manned, and staff worked both on the front line and in the background to ensure continuity of essential services at all times. Extra resources were deployed to Housing to ensure all homeless persons were housed, with 253 individuals using the homeless service during 2020.

I was delighted to see the completion of Clanbrassil Street and Saint Nicholas' Quarter Rejuvenation Scheme in Dundalk, which hopefully will become a stimulus for other developments. I was also extremely pleased to appoint consultants for our major Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management (CFRAM) schemes for Dundalk and Drogheda, which will provide vital protection for the two towns in years to come.

As a public service body, it was vital that Louth County Council maintained essential service provision

during the onset of Covid-19. While some services were eventually put on hold, other areas of activity increased, such as the IT Department, which suddenly had to commence a roll-out of remote working. The Council was tasked with and gladly assisted the HSE and Public Health to get the Covid-19 safety message out to the community, a staff member was deployed to assist the HSE in the Covid-19 centre, and others were on a list to be called as required.

The Community Call helpline was initially manned by staff from all sections before fully being manned by Customer Services. Staff through the organisation were deployed between sections as needs required and proved willing to assist other sections on request. It should not be forgotten that Louth County Council employees were also affected by Covid-19, some losing loved ones, others worried about bringing Covid-19 home to their families and quite a few contracting Covid-19 in 2020.

As a border county, one of our main concerns when coming into 2020 was the impact of Brexit on local business and how the Council's Local Enterprise Office (LEO) could help drive businesses to economic success. Brexit was somewhat overshadowed by Covid-19 but the efforts expended by the LEO staff to help businesses get Brexit-ready continued. The full impact of Covid-19 on local businesses remains to be

seen and unfortunately some may not survive. Louth County Council's LEO provided Covid-19 Business Training to 1,269 business participants in 2020 and will continue to provide guidance and assistance to local businesses in the years ahead.

I would like to thank all the staff of Louth County Council for their hard work during 2020, a period of great uncertainty and stress. I would also like to thank the residents of Louth for their forbearance and understanding when not all services could be delivered.

Finally, I thank all of the Councillors who saw great upheaval in 2020, not only from Covid-19 but also with the departure of four Elected Members during the year. I warmly welcome our new members who commenced.

I now invite you to read our Annual Report 2020, which sets out the tremendous work done by Louth County Council staff in 2020 and our plans for the future.



131,364 INTERACTIONS
WITH CUSTOMERS



COVID-19
BUSINESS TRAINING
PROVIDED TO
1,269
BUSINESS PARTICIPANTS

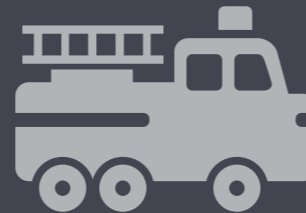


1,175 PLANNING
APPLICATIONS **RECEIVED**



ENERGY
EFFICIENCY
IMPROVED BY
47.36%

1,291 FIRE &
EMERGENCY SERVICES
INCIDENTS



1,088,786 KW
OF ELECTRICITY
GENERATED FROM
LANDFILL GAS



97,487
REGISTERED
ELECTORS IN
LOUTH



20 DANGEROUS
STRUCTURE
NOTICES ISSUED



3,281
HAP
TENANCIES



39 MILLION
LITRES OF WATER
DISTRIBUTED
DAILY



165 WARNING
LETTERS ISSUED
ON UNAUTHORISED
PROPERTY
DEVELOPMENT

€25 MILLION
SPENT ON ROADS



91% OF STRAY DOGS
RECLAIMED OR
RE-HOMED



3,983
COUNCIL-OWNED SOCIAL
HOUSING STOCK

221,881 LIBRARY
ITEMS ISSUED



52 ARTS
GRANTS
ISSUED



73 BUSINESS
TRAINING AND
DEVELOPMENT
PROGRAMMES WITH
1,690
PARTICIPANTS



4,200
BUSINESSES
SUPPLIED WITH WATER



98 RIVER WATER
QUALITY SAMPLES
TAKEN

Electoral Areas of County Louth

County Louth is divided into the three municipal districts of Drogheda, Ardee and Dundalk. For electoral purposes, Louth is made up of five electoral areas: Ardee, Drogheda Rural, Drogheda Urban, Dundalk-Carlingford and Dundalk South.

REGISTER OF ELECTORS

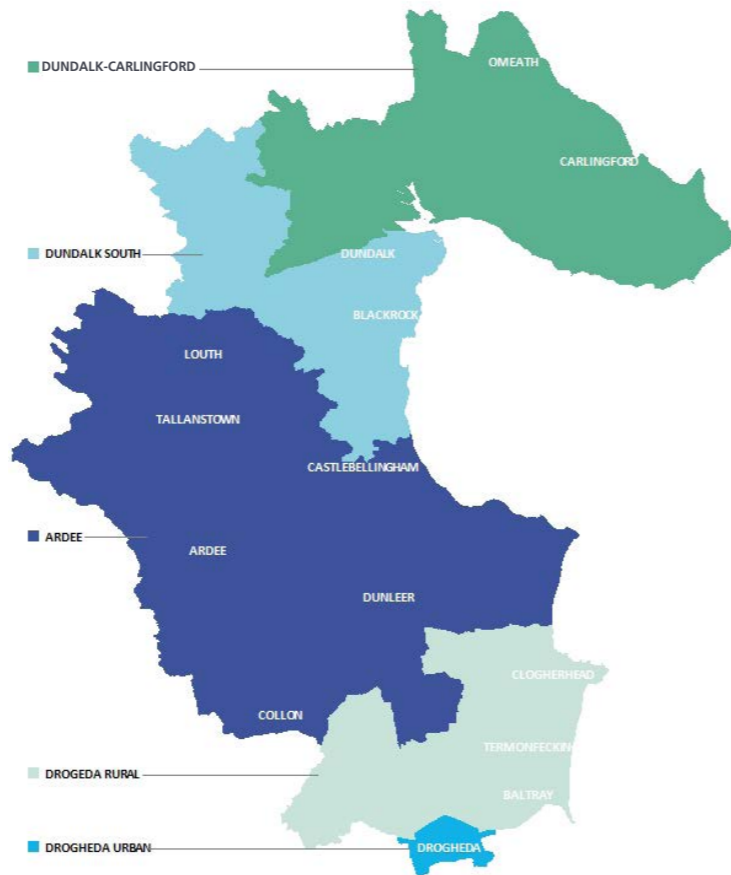
Louth County Council is responsible for compiling an annual register of citizens who are entitled to vote. The Register of Electors, effective from 15th of February 2020, showed a total voting population of 97,487 for County Louth.

Presidential Electors	91,747
Dáil Electors	92,697
European Electors	93,462
Potential European Electors	2,100
Local Electors	97,487

In preparation for the **Modernisation of the Electoral Register**, which is a national project, Louth County Council began a 'data cleanse' of the Register of Electors in 2020. This focused primarily on the collation and verification of an Eircode against a dwelling. A number of duplicate and 'gone away' electors were also deleted as part of the tidy up. A total of 14,416 letters were issued to electors as part of the process; 12,959 letters were issued to electors in relation to their Eircode and 1,457 letters issued to electors to assist the Council in validating addresses.

The availability of Eircodes provides a great opportunity to validate that households are assigned to the appropriate Polling District and place.

Voters are urged to check the Register of Electors at www.checktheregister.ie to ensure they are registered and their details are correct.



Percentage of Electors, in Eircode recorded addresses	85%
Percentage of Electors, with a date of birth	96%

ELECTED MEMBERS: COMHAIRLE CONTAE LÚ / LOUTH COUNTY COUNCIL

Ardee Electoral Area - 6 Members



JOHN SHERIDAN
Fianna Fáil

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Co. Louth
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COLM MARKEY
Fine Gael

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Drogheda, Co. Louth
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PEARSE MCGEOUGH
Sinn Féin

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Castlebellingham, Co. Louth
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DOLORES MINOGUE
Fine Gael

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HUGH CONLON
Non Party

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Dunleer, Co. Louth
m: 086 1437078
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JIM TENANTY
Non Party

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

Drogheda Rural Electoral Area - 4 Members



EILEEN TULLY
Fine Gael

Baltray, Drogheda
Co. Louth

m: 086 8122511
e: eileen.tully@louthcoco.ie



MICHELLE HALL
Labour

7 The Paddocks, Duffs Farm
Termonfeckin, Co. Louth

m: 086 1437079
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TOM CUNNINGHAM
Sinn Féin

4 Oriel Cove, Clogherhead
Drogheda, Co. Louth

m: 087 3717884
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JOANNA BYRNE
Sinn Féin

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PIO SMITH
The Labour Party

Waterunder
Drogheda, Co. Louth

m: 087 9460673
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FIACHRA MAC RAGHNAILL
The Labour Party

10 Oulsters Lane
Drogheda, Co. Louth

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DECLAN POWER
Non Party

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Co. Louth

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KEVIN CALLAN
Non Party

Ard na Greine, Lawlesstown,
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JAMES BYRNE
Fianna Fáil

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PADDY McQUILLAN
Non Party

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Drogheda Urban Electoral Area - 6 Members



PAUL BELL
The Labour Party
Ceased to be a Member in 2020

Dundalk-Carlingford Electoral Area - 6 Members



EDEL CORRIGAN
Sinn Féin

Aghaboys, Mountpleasant
Dundalk, Co. Louth
m: 085 8476660
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SEAN KELLY
Fianna Fáil

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CONOR KEELAN
Fianna Fáil

Oak Lodge, Newry Road
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JOHN REILLY
Fine Gael

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ANDREA McKEVITT
Fianna Fáil

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ANTÓIN WATTERS
Sinn Féin

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JOHN McGAHON
Fine Gael

Ceased to be a Member in 2020



ERIN MCGREEHAN
Fianna Fáil

Ceased to be a Member in 2020



MARIANNE BUTLER
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EMMA COFFEY
Fianna Fáil

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MARIA DOYLE
Fine Gael

6 Bóthar na Dara, Lis Na Dara
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KEVIN MEENAN
Sinn Féin

5 Cottage View, Farm Road
Annagassan,
Dunleer, Co. Louth
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LIAM REILLY
Fianna Fáil

Milltown, Grange, Dromiskin
Dundalk, Co. Louth
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TOMÁS SHARKEY
Sinn Féin

Allardstown, Knockbridge
Dundalk, Co. Louth
m: 087 9090629
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MAEVE YORE
Non Party

2 Blakely Close, Avenue Road
Dundalk, Co. Louth
m: 087 6172127
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RUAIRI Ó MURCHU
Sinn Féin

Ceased to be a Member in 2020



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CORPORATE & EMERGENCY SERVICES

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



Council Meetings 2020

A total of 14 meetings of Louth County Council were held in 2020, a scheduled monthly meeting on the third Monday of each month, a special meeting in February, an annual meeting in June and two statutory Budget meetings. There is no meeting held in August. Covid-19 saw the normal cycle of meetings being disrupted with the April meeting having to be cancelled. There was no meeting held in August, there were three County Development Plan meetings.

Louth County Council Chairperson/Cathaoirleach – Cllr. Dolores Minogue
Municipal District of Dundalk Chairperson/Cathaoirleach – Cllr. Emma Coffey
Mayor of Drogheda and Borough District of Drogheda – Cllr. Kevin Callan
Municipal District of Ardee Chairperson/Cathaoirleach – Cllr. John Sheridan

Meetings of Louth County Council in 2020

Monthly Meetings	10
Special Meetings	4 (Including 3 Planning Meetings)
Annual Meetings	1
Budget Meetings	2
Corporate Policy Group (CPG)	11

Municipal District Meetings

Borough District of Drogheda	12
Municipal District of Ardee	11
Municipal District of Dundalk	12

Strategic Policy Committees (SPCs)

SPC – Housing	4
SPC - Economic Development & Enterprise	4
SPC - Planning & Support Infrastructure	4
SPC - Climate Action & Energy	4
SPC - Community, Quality of Life, & Creativity	4

Joint Policing Committees/Local Policing Forum (LPP)

JPC Steering Group	3
LPP – Dundalk	4
LPP – Drogheda	4
LPP – Ardee	4
Audit Committee	5



LOUTH COUNTY COUNCIL PUBLIC COUNTERS WERE CLOSED FOR **TWO MONTHS** DUE TO COVID-19, WHICH LED TO A SIGNIFICANT INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF **EMAIL QUERIES**



CUSTOMER SERVICES ANSWERED **22,460 EMAILS**, AN AVERAGE OF **91 PER WORKING DAY**



69,256 PHONE CALLS WERE ANSWERED BY CUSTOMER SERVICES – AN AVERAGE OF **279 CALLS** PER WORKING DAY



IN 2020, LOUTH COUNTY COUNCIL CUSTOMER SERVICES HAD **131,364 INTERACTIONS** WITH CUSTOMERS INCLUDING **EMAILS, CALLS AND PUBLIC COUNTER QUERIES**

CUSTOMER SERVICES ASSISTED **39,648 CUSTOMERS** AT THE PUBLIC COUNTER

Civic Awards and Events

In January 2020, the Freedom of the Borough District of Drogheda was awarded to the Irish diplomat, Ambassador Geraldine Byrne Nason, a Drogheda native and the country's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, in recognition of her dedicated service to public life.

The Ardee Civic awards, Dundalk Civic Awards and Drogheda Mayoral awards are awarded annually in recognition of the contributions of individuals and organisations to the community in County Louth. The Covid-19 pandemic led to the postponement of the 2020 Ardee and Dundalk awards, with only

the Drogheda Mayoral awards event taking place in early March. Each award recipient was nominated by a local representative of Drogheda Municipal district for their dedication, achievements and contributions to community and sporting life at local, national and international levels.



Mayor Paul Bell presenting Ambassador Geraldine Byrne Nason with the Honorary Freedom of Drogheda.



Ambassador Geraldine Byrne Nason signing the Freedom of Drogheda Book.



Freedom of the Borough District of Drogheda Ceremony, 2020, Our Lady's College, Drogheda.



Jim Gorman, Holy Family Boxing Club with Mayor Paul Bell.



Geraldine Doggett with Mayor Paul Bell.



Mattie Rice, on behalf of his Dad, Patrick Rice, with Mayor Paul Bell.



Sharon Gaynor, Drogheda Boys Choir, with Mayor Paul Bell.



Rachel Eagleton with Mayor Paul Bell.



Hubert Murphy and his family.

Civic Awards and Events



Liam Reay with Mayor Paul Bell.



Maria Van Strein Murphy with Mayor Paul Bell.



Fr. David Bradley with Mayor Paul Bell.



Dessie McDonnell, St. Nicholas GFC, and Mayor Paul Bell.



Attendees at the Mayoral Awards, The Highlanes, Drogheda, 2020.



Eileen Keogh, Seamus Domegan, Mayor Paul Bell and Stephen Cooney.



John H. Kierans and family.

Sustainable Energy

ENERGY AT A GLANCE

Louth County Council has significantly reduced its energy usage by over 47% since 2009, according to preliminary results for energy use by the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI).

In 2020, Louth County Council partnered with Dunleer Sustainable Energy Community to develop and implement a more co-ordinated approach to the promotion and participation in SEAI's Community Energy Grant Programme. While this was completely disrupted by the arrival of the Covid-19 pandemic, this partnership will be further developed as restrictions are eased into 2021 and beyond.

The Council, through its Climate Change and Energy Strategic Policy committee, has agreed to develop a policy to support Sustainable Energy Committees. It is estimated that this will be completed in 2021.

LOUTH COUNTY COUNCIL'S ENERGY USE AND PROMOTION OF ENERGY

Louth County Council has exceeded the requirement for public bodies to improve their energy efficiency by 33% by 2020, as set out in the National Energy Efficiency Action Plan. In 2009, Ireland set a national target to improve its energy efficiency by 20% for 2020. To emphasise its leadership and exemplary role, the Irish government set an ambitious energy efficiency target of 33% for the public sector. By the end of 2018, Louth County Council had achieved a 41% reduction in energy use compared to its baseline (energy use in the period 2006 – 2008) as reported by the SEAI. Preliminary results for 2020 indicate that the rate of improvement in the council's energy efficiency has improved even further to 47.36% at the end of 2020.

PROMOTING ENERGY AWARENESS

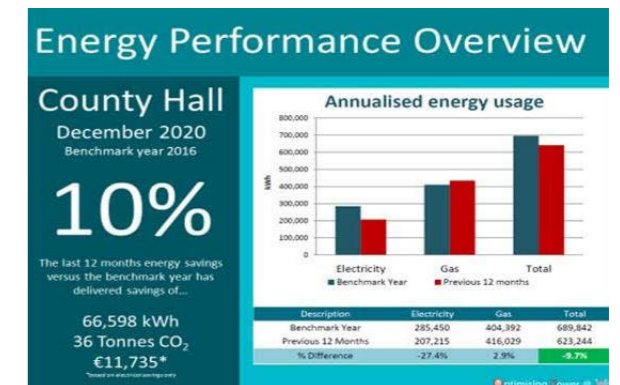
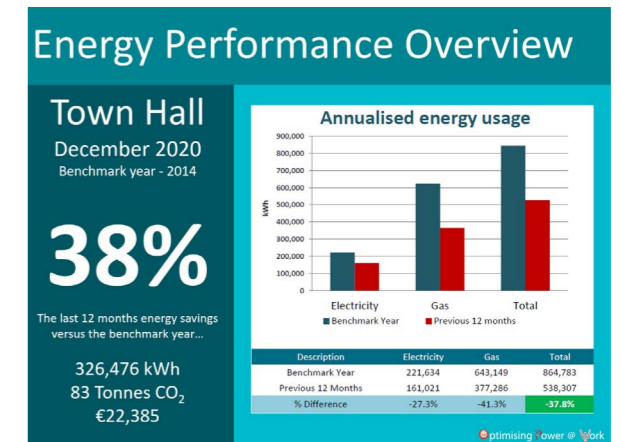
2020 was a difficult and challenging year for the Energy Team in Louth County Council. Staff typically involved in managing and promoting energy efficiency were necessarily re-assigned to the implementation and promotion of measures to limit the risk of Covid-19. Louth County Council offices extended their back office opening times from 8am to 8pm, Monday to Saturday to allow staff to work their normal weekly hours over an extended period to assist with social distancing measures for staff, which increased the period required to heat and light offices. This did not deter the Energy Team from promoting energy awareness and issuing reminder emails to staff with tips and hints on how to conserve energy.

OPTIMISING POWER AT WORK – SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENT

The Office of Public Works (OPW) has devised and implemented a successful energy conservation campaign, Optimising Power @ Work, in its own portfolio of large buildings. Louth County Council has signed a 'service level agreement' with the OPW to extend that campaign to two of its public buildings, Dundalk Town Hall and County Hall. The agreement involves OPW assistance to the council to manage and improve energy in the properties. The energy conservation campaign is predominately a behavioural change programme.

Dundalk Town Hall joined the OPW Optimising Power @ Work campaign in 2014. At the end of 2020, significant energy savings have been achieved through continual energy improvement works and behavioural staff changes. Since that time, Dundalk Town Hall has exceeded its 33% energy use reduction target as a result of the combined efforts of the council and advice from OPW. The challenge now is to ensure that this reduction in energy use is sustained and, where possible, that further energy savings are achieved. The 2020 figures show that sustained staff behavioural efforts, coupled with continual energy improvement works have resulted in overall 38% energy savings, reductions of 326,476 kWh (versus 2014), 83 tonnes of CO2 and cost savings of €22,385.

Dundalk County Hall joined the programme in 2016, following on from Dundalk Town Hall's success in the OPW programme. It was also identified within the Council's Energy Management System as a significant energy user.. At the end of 2020, a total of 10% energy savings has been achieved (versus 2016), with a reduction of 66,598 kWh, 36 tonnes of CO2 and savings of €11,735 (*based on electrical savings only).



Energy Efficiency Week, October

ENERGY EFFICIENCY WEEK SEES A 12% DROP IN ENERGY USAGE IN COUNTY HALL

As 2020 progressed and Louth County Council adapted and embraced 'Living with Covid', the council's Energy Team refocused on energy efficiency promotion. It re-commenced in the third-quarter of the year with an energy efficiency campaign aimed at reducing electrical energy use at County Hall. That initiative resulted in significant savings of electricity by Louth County Council during the month of October.

Energy Efficiency Week 2020 took place from the 5th to 12th of October 2020. To mark the week, Louth County Council's Energy Section teamed up with the OPW's Optimising Power @ Work programme and hosted a number of virtual energy awareness seminars and events for staff. Energy Efficiency Week activities included:

- **Tea Time Talks:** As part of the Optimising Power @ Work campaign, 10-minute 'Tea Time Talks' were shared, each focusing on a different energy saving theme. The Tea Time Talks were prerecorded so that staff could engage at their convenience and were accompanied by short quizzes on each theme.
- **Energy clinics:** Energy clinics were held, where staff could book a 15-minute online consultation with an energy advisor to get one-to-one advice on saving energy.
- **Poster competition:** Children related to staff members were invited to enter a poster competition. The theme was a Halloween-style poster that inspired clever climate actions, such as saving energy.

Target Energy Saving

How are we doing at saving energy?

Energy Efficiency week is an opportunity to reflect on what's working and what's not working - and set a new course for where you really want to be.

Our target for the end of 2020 is a 33% reduction in energy use. Every Clever Climate Action you take gets us closer to that goal.

Energy Efficiency Week 2020
5th-9th October

OPW Optimising Power @ Work

To focus efforts, an electric energy saving target of 5% was set for October 2020, in comparison to the same month in 2019. Throughout the week, staff were encouraged to switch off non-essential equipment.

As a result of the changes made during Energy Efficiency Week 2020, a total of 2,678kWh of electricity was saved by Louth County Council during the month of October. This represents a 12% saving in electrical energy in County Hall compared with October 2019.

2,678kWh is a significant energy saving and equates to the power used to: produce and print 116,493 sheets of A4 size; to charge 241,020 smart phones; or to power 233 average Irish homes for a day.

To monitor the impact of measures taken during the initiative during October, a Bubble display (pictured) was set up to show the energy savings being made in County Hall. Using the data from the energy usage monitor, the Energy Team filled the display with water to indicate the level of savings achieved. The Bubble display allowed staff to visualise and track the energy



LCC Caretaker David Donnery with 'Bubble' energy saving display.

being saved and acted as a reminder of the collective target.

Commenting on the results, Chief Executive of Louth County Council, Joan Martin said: "While the ongoing Covid-19 restrictions have resulted in reduced footfall at County Hall this October, compared to the previous year, the council continues to deliver its services. Ongoing activities mean that high energy appliances, such as IT servers, air conditioning and ventilation systems are still in use. Therefore, the energy reduction made as a result of staff working from home - and measured by the energy monitoring system - is relatively low, despite the reduction in use of PCs and monitors. As such, Energy Efficiency Week remains an important initiative. I would like to thank our staff for their efforts during Energy Week. Louth County Council will continue to engage staff through the Optimising Power @ Work campaign to cement lasting cultural change around energy consumption."

ENERGY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

ISO 50001 is an international standard that enables organisations to establish the systems and processes necessary to improve energy performance, including energy efficiency, energy use and consumption. The implementation of this standard is intended to lead to reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, energy cost, and other related environmental impacts, through systematic management of energy.

Louth County Council successfully maintained its Energy Management System (EnMS) in 2020. Louth County Council was previously certified under I.S. EN ISO 50001:2011 and in December completed a two-day audit to recertify and transition to ISO 50001:2018. Feedback was positive and Louth County Council expects to receive certification under ISO 50001:2018 early in 2021.

As of the end of 2020, six 'Significant Energy Users' (SEUs) are responsible for some 70% of the Council's

energy use. The SEUs are Public Lights, County Hall, Dundalk Town Hall, Council Transport Fleet, Dundalk Fire Station, and Drogheda Fire Station. Previously, four SEUs were responsible for 70% of the Council's energy use so the figures indicate that energy use by the SEUs is reducing.

COUNCIL FACILITIES

As the year developed, the Council adapted and embraced 'Living with Covid'. New measures initially introduced in our buildings to limit the risks to staff and visitors were incorporated into day-to-day business.

Boxes of sanitiser product, new sanitising equipment and development of new processes to sanitise the council's buildings and open spaces were all introduced in 2020 to limit the risk of Covid-19 and to minimise the impact on council services.

Measuring CO2 as a measure of the effectiveness of ventilation was introduced for the first time.

In addition to the implementation of new sanitising processes (fogging) in County Hall, 2020 also saw the introduction of new charging units for electric vehicles for staff at County Hall and Dundalk Town Hall.



EV Charging Point for staff.



LCC Caretaker David Donnelly with fogging machine.



Co2 monitor.

VARCITIES

VARCITIES - VISIONARY NATURE BASED SOLUTION FOR HEALTH, WELL BEING & RESILIENCE IN CITIES

VARCITIES is project funded by the European Union Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation programme, focused on the future of cities. It involves a consortium of 25 partners (largely from academia) throughout Europe and nine locations, including Dundalk. The project is centred on Urban Regeneration; Impacts on Quality of Life; and Health and Well Being. Funding has been approved for €10 million, with €422,500 allocated to Louth County Council. The project officially commenced on 1st of September 2020. The project duration is 54 months from that starting date.

Dundalk Library / Museum Quarter has been chosen as one of nine pilot sites across Europe for the project. The project proposal is the "Creation of an Outdoor Learning Hub" within the courtyard area of County Library / Museum Quarter. Both structures are identified as Protected Structures which have a rating of 'regional importance'. The aim of the regeneration of this area is to assist in the creation of a diverse, accessible, safe, inclusive and high-quality green area that will increase well-being and health, and deliver a fair and equitable distribution of the associated benefits. The design proposes a continuation of the public realm and rationalisation of all crossings and junctions in favour of the pedestrian, in line with the urban regeneration scheme of Market Square, Clanbrassil Street and Church Street. One of the biggest changes in this area will be the removal of the car parking spaces, increasing the resulting open public spaces and the benefits deriving from reduced climate risk exposure, noise and air pollution, and environmental stress.

The objectives of VARCITIES are to implement integrated nature-based solutions, co-created with local stakeholders, and develop new key performance indicators (KPIs) for health and well-being. The interventions financed by VARCITIES are:

- Creation of Outdoor Learning Pod between Dundalk Library and Museum Quarter to showcase the newest technologies and host shared functions
- Outdoor Urban Green Learning and Sensory Garden for health and well-being
- Sensors on bikes and bike stations.

The key objectives for Louth County Council within VARCITIES are:

- To form a new identity for the County Library/ Museum
- To create a quality public space for all members of the community, including visitors and tourists
- To improve the connectivity and legibility of the streets to the surrounding context
- To re-balance the priority between vehicles and pedestrians within the courtyard area
- To enhance the heritage assets of Dundalk
- To operate, employ and promote sustainable development principles through minimising energy consumption and maximising the use of renewable energy technology.



Dundalk Library.



The Courtyard, Dundalk County Museum.

Fire & Emergency Services

Louth County Council Fire Service activities were curtailed during 2020 due to the impact of Covid-19 and pandemic-related restrictions. The operational fire fighting service continued as normal but training, drills and other station routines were scaled back. Strict Covid-19 measures were imposed to keep crews separate and to minimise contact with third parties.

Dundalk Regional Training Centre was closed for most of 2020 and this has resulted in a backlog of training and refresher courses.

In 2020, there was a 13% increase in emergency incidents attended by the Fire Service in Louth in 2020 compared to 2019.

- There was a large increase in wild land fires. The number of gorse fires increased from 11 in 2019 compared to 77 in 2020; forest fires were up from 3 in 2019, to 10 in 2020; and grass fires up from 33 in 2019 to 57 in 2020. This was evident from the large number of fires in the Cooley peninsula in April, May and June 2020.
- There was also a large increase in small skip and bin fires from 221 in 2019 to 313 in 2020. The likely reason was the long dry spell in April, May and June.
- The number of incidents in Dundalk Fire Station's area increased by 30% to 496, making it the busiest station area. The main reason was the large increase in calls in the Cooley peninsula.
- The number of calls in Drogheda Fire Station's area was practically unchanged at 443, with attendance at 131 calls in County Meath.

- There was a reduction in road traffic accidents (RTAs) to 137 in 2020 from 167 in 2019 due to lower traffic volumes as a result of Covid-19.

Department of Housing Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH) funding was granted and received for four new replacement jeeps and two low-mileage second-hand fire appliances from Leicestershire Fire Service.

The Fire Prevention Section continued its enforcement activity in relation to high-risk residential buildings, although this was scaled back due to Covid-19.

The number of Fire Safety Certificate applications received by the Fire and Building Control Section increased from 119 in 2019 to 124 in 2020. The number of Disabled Access Certificate applications decreased from 86 in 2019 to 75 in 2020.

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, there were more regular meetings of the regional major emergency steering group and working groups.

Additional preparations were made including an inter-agency Covid-19 Mortality Plan, which included extra mortuary capacity and procedures. Louth Fire Service updated its Mass Fatality Plan and a Covid-19 guidance document was also distributed to all funeral directors in the county and surrounding region.

There were a number of severe weather events where the Louth Severe Weather Assessment Team was convened.

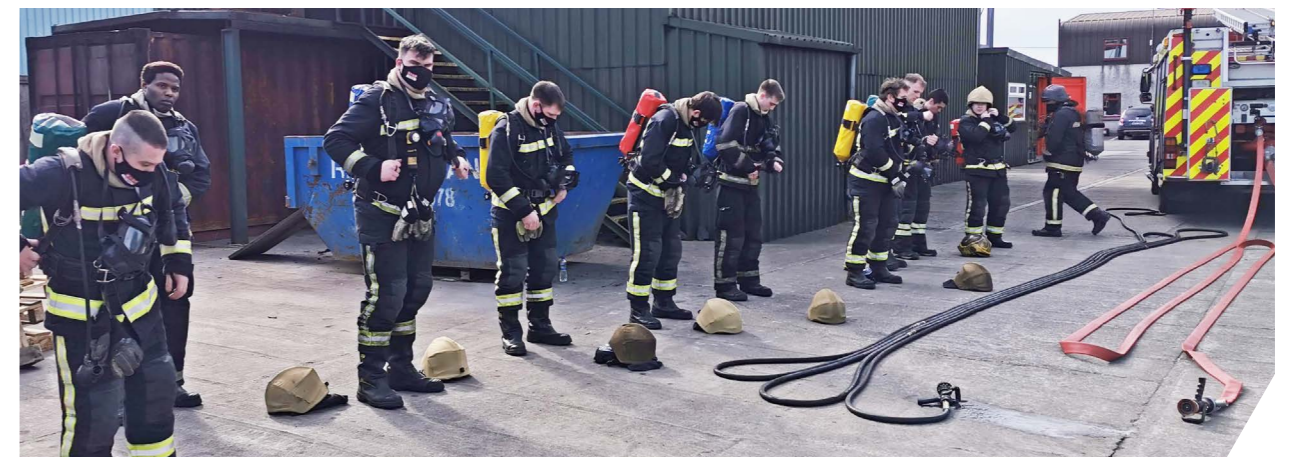
Year	No of Incidents	% Difference +/-
2016	977	
2017	1,257	+28.66%
2018	1,271	+1.11%
2019	1,141	-10.23%
2020	1,291	+13.15%



Wildland fire in Flagstaff attended in April 2020.



Course Director, instructors and students on recent Fire Behaviour course.



Louth Students don BA sets for Fire Behaviour exercise.



**FIRE &
EMERGENCY
SERVICES
AT A GLANCE**

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



**1,291
FIRE RESPONSES**



**DUNDALK
WAS THE BUSIEST STATION,
CALL-OUTS BEFORE UP 30%
FROM 2019
(DROGHEDA WAS BUSIEST IN 2019.)**



**75 DISABLED
ACCESS
CERTIFICATE
ISSUED**



**77 GORSE FIRE
INCIDENTS,
AN INCREASE OF 600%**

**131 INCIDENTS
ATTENDED IN COUNTY
MEATH**



**124 FIRE SAFETY
CERTIFICATE
APPLICATIONS
RECEIVED**

Information Technology

The IT Department continued to support all IT systems that facilitate business processes during 2020 and facilitated numerous upgrades of existing applications including to iPlan, iHouse and iReg. IT staff worked quickly to enable remote working for Council staff during Covid-19 restrictions. This included the rollout of laptops and the implementation of systems to facilitate secure remote access for staff. IT Helpdesk dealt with an above average number of support requests due to the rollout of new technologies to support remote working. A number of systems were rapidly developed during 2020 in response to Covid-19 including the Community Call CRM system and the Restart Grant System. The council's server and network infrastructure was managed, and upgraded where necessary, to ensure reliability. Significant progress was also made with the Domain Migration Project.

The Domain Migration Project is a requirement for Louth County Council to move its Windows Management (Active Directory) from the national structure (A/D forest) which is hosted by the LGMA to a new standalone structure.

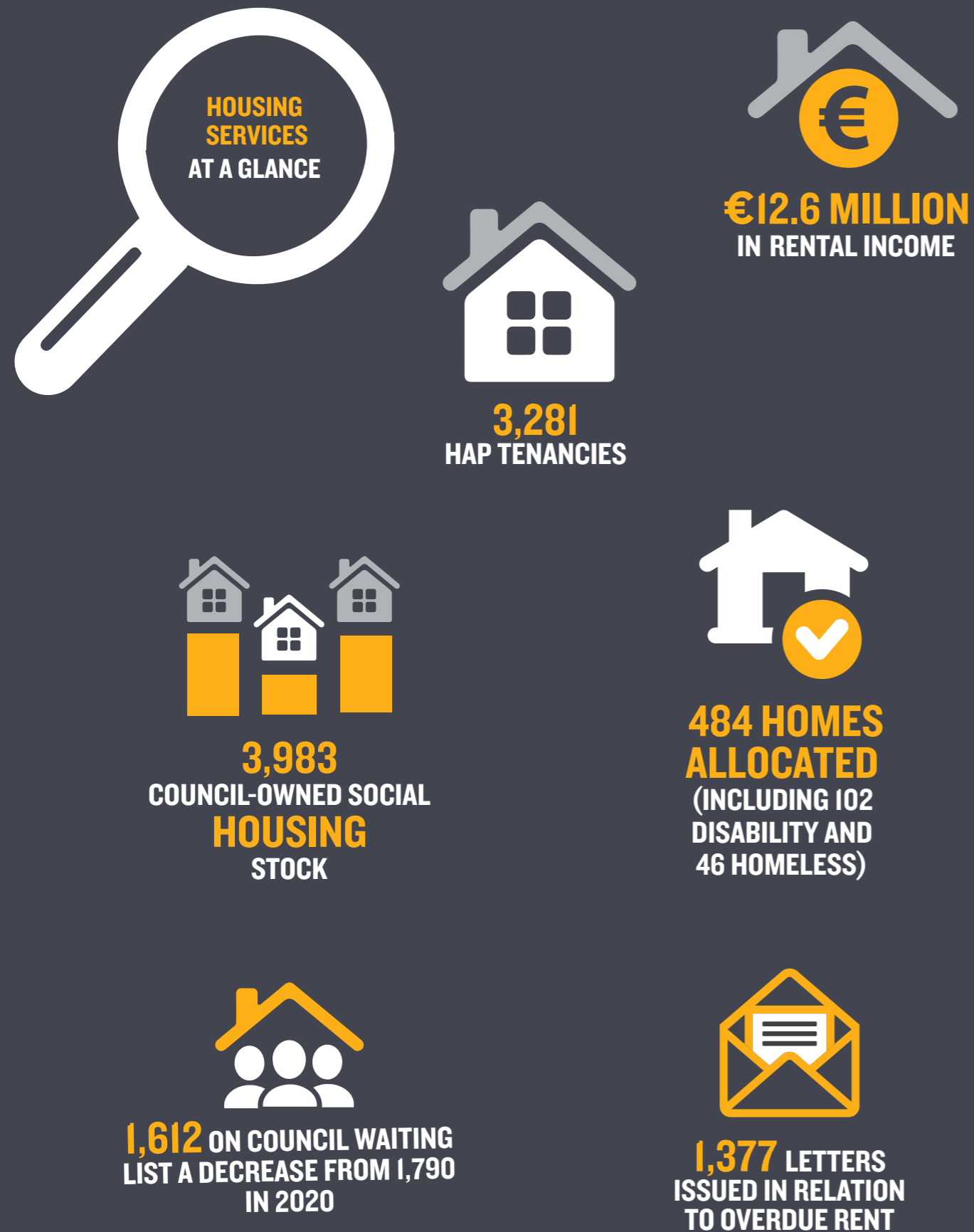


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HOUSING AND QUALITY OF LIFE

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





Housing

HOMELESS SERVICES 2020

The Louth County Council Homeless Service provides assistance to individuals and families who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless in County Louth. In 2020, 253 individuals and families were assisted by Homeless Services. Some 46 clients in the county were allocated a social/voluntary tenancy and 194 availed of assistance from Homeless Services in accessing private rented accommodation under the Housing Assistance Payment (HAP) scheme.

The total number of adults in emergency accommodation in December 2020 stood at 77, considerably down from a figure of 123 in December 2019.

HOUSING FIRST

Louth County Council continues to lead the implementation of the Housing First model in the North East Region (Louth, Monaghan & Cavan) as part of the National Implementation Plan. Peter McVerry Trust is contracted to provide the service and in 2020, 21 individuals were successfully placed in supported tenancies under this model -15 in Louth, four in Cavan and two in Monaghan.

HOUSING ACCOMMODATION AND COVID-19

With the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic in March 2020, the Council was asked to prepare 28 isolation units for potential Covid-19 positive case clients then residing in homeless shelters. The purpose was to move Covid-positive individuals into isolation units to prevent the spread of Covid-19 to other individuals in these homeless shelters. Each of the houses would be fully furnished and supplied with white goods and furniture to allow Covid-positive individuals to be self-sufficient for the mandatory isolating period.

HOUSING ALLOCATIONS

A total of 484 allocations were made in 2020, of which 190 were local authority units and 294 units were provided by Approved Housing Bodies. In total, 148 homes were allocated to those with a priority need (102 disability and 46 homeless).



26 Culhane Street, Dundalk, acquired by Compulsory Purchase Order.

PRIVATE RENTAL INSPECTION (PRI) SUMMARY

The Private Rental Inspection team continued its work inspecting privately-rented properties and enforcing Housing (Standards for Rented Houses) Regulations 2019 across County Louth. Although the Covid-19 restrictions resulted in a number of prolonged periods where inspections were suspended, this time was utilised in following up and escalating enforcements. In total, 518 dwellings were inspected. A total of 430 Advisory Notices, 186 Improvement Notices and 20 Prohibition Notices were issued in 2020.

AWARD WINNING ARCHITECT DESIGN

Louth County Council works closely with a number of Approved Housing Bodies (AHB) in delivering quality housing. In early 2020, the Council and North and East AHB launched a new development at Tooting Meadows Scarlet Street in Drogheda, which was previously the location of the fire station. The development comprised of one, two, three and four-bed properties that were all tenanted in February 2020.



Tooting Meadow, Scarlet Street, Drogheda.



Tooting Meadow, Scarlet Street, Drogheda.

JULY STIMULUS FUNDING 2020

In August 2020, the Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government Mr. Darragh O'Brien, TD, approved funding of €40 million under the July Stimulus Programme to local authorities for the refurbishment of vacant units within the local authority housing stock.

Louth County Council received funding support for 62 units at a total value of €747,850. These units were completed by December 2020 and allocated to 62 new tenants.

All 62 houses were long-term vacant properties, requiring extensive refurbishments with works ranging from clearances, kitchen refits, rewires, boiler upgrades, plumbing upgrades, bathroom refurbishment, painting, new fireplaces and replacement windows and doors. Most of the properties refurbished had been idle for over a year so it was very rewarding to see them provided to new tenants. Two of the units refurbished were for homeless tenants.

HOUSING CAPITAL

In 2020, under the Rebuilding Ireland Action Plan, the Housing Section of Louth County Council delivered **285 new housing units** throughout the county. These new housing units were delivered through a range of measures including direct Local Authority construction, turnkeys, acquisitions, long term leasing, Compulsory Purchase Orders (CPOs), Part V's and partnerships with AHBs.

Louth County Council welcomed the completion of a number of major schemes in 2020 such as Green Gates Manor (44 units) and Wadman Park (62 units) in Dundalk; Ravel Grange in Dunleer (80 units); and Gort Bui in Drogheda (22 units). The Housing Section also commenced construction works on the Local Authority schemes at Fr. Finn Park, Louth Village (17 units) and Cox's Demesne Phase 2B, Dundalk (22 units).

The Housing Section, in conjunction with its appointed architect design teams, continues to progress the designs of new residential schemes such as Mount Avenue, Dundalk and Boice Court, Drogheda.

ESTATE MANAGEMENT

Tenancy training: 238 training sessions facilitated for new tenants
Tenancy inspections: 193 inspections carried out

Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)

135 cases of ASB investigated
 25 verbal warnings issued
 4 written warnings issued

Grants to adapt private houses

HOP Housing Aid Older People: 131 grants completed
 HAG Housing Aid Grant: 60 grants completed
 MAG Mobility Aid Grant: 36 grants completed
€1,836,998.14 spent

Disability Adaptation Works carried out in 2020 to Council properties: 38 adaptations completed.

Membership of the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) in 2020

LOCAL, ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY PLAN (LECP)

Public Sector	
Louth County Council	Cllr. Liam Reilly
Louth County Council	Cllr. Ruairi O' Murchú replaced by Cllr. Kevin Meenan ratified by Louth County Council in March 2020
Louth County Council	Cllr. Eileen Tully
Louth County Council	Cllr. Dolores Minogue
Louth County Council Official	Joan Martin
Louth County Council Official	Thomas Mc Evoy
Louth Meath ETB	Sadie Ward McDermott
Department of Social Protection	Anne Keeley
HSE	Annette McDonnell replaced by Martina Ralph ratified by Louth County Council in March 2020

Private Sector	
Louth Leader Partnership	Ciaran Reid
Community & Voluntary Interests	Alison Quail
Community & Voluntary Interests	Joanne Finnegan
Social Inclusion	Kevin Moran
Social Inclusion	Geordie McAteer
Environment	Elizabeth O' Reilly
Farming	Matthew McGreehan replaced by John Carroll ratified by Louth County Council in May 2020
Chamber of Commerce Dundalk	Pat Mc Cormick replaced by Sean Farrell ratified by Louth County Council in September 2020
Chamber of Commerce Drogheda	Breandán Casey
Louth Volunteer Centre	Gráinne Berrill

LOCAL, ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY PLAN (LECP)

LOCAL, ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY PLAN (LECP)

Louth Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) prepared a six-year Local, Economic and Community Plan (LECP) in 2016, which includes actions to tackle poverty and disadvantage; support enterprise, employment and training; develop community infrastructure; and promote economic development.

Louth LCDC held its monthly meetings throughout 2020, with the election of Joan Martin, Chief Executive of Louth County Council, as the new LCDC Chair in September. Louth LCDC work is administrated and facilitated through the Social and Community Office, Louth County Council.

Highlights from 2020 include:

- Launch of a joint Louth-Meath New Migrant Integration Strategy
- LCDC meetings moved to virtual platform held via teleconferencing, ensuring business continuity
- Approved funding towards the purchase of two community buses
- €2.04 million in LEADER funding approved for economic, social and rural projects
- Public Participation Network (PPN) membership rose by 25% to 401 registered groups
- Continued communication to community groups through the Friday Communiqué
- Members approved the progress report on 183 actions supporting community goals contained in the LECP
- Sustainable, Inclusive & Empowered Communities: A five year strategy to support the community & voluntary sector in Ireland 2019-24 was approved.
- LEADER launched the County Louth Social Enterprise Strategy 2019-2022.

Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP)

The Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP) 2018-2022 is operated by Louth LEADER Partnership Company. In 2020, SICAP supported 74 community groups and registered 1,086 individuals. Other notable achievements during 2020 included:

- 18 local community groups received small grants
- 1,086 individuals engaged in lifelong-learning labour market supports
- 11 individuals were supported into employment

- 48 individuals referred by the Department of Social Protection were supported to establish their own businesses through the Back to Work Enterprise Allowance
- 80 individuals received education grants
- 23 individuals received enterprise grants
- 3 social enterprises received a social enterprise grant.

LEADER Programme 2014-2020

Louth County Council is the lead financial partner for the LEADER Programme in County Louth. The LEADER Programme is concerned with three measures: Economic and Enterprise Development and Job Creation; Social Inclusion; and Rural Environment.

In 2020, 141 expressions of interest for funding were received by the implementing partner, Louth Leader Partnership.

Throughout 2020, which was the final year in the current LEADER Programme, work continued to deliver support for rural development projects, initiated at a local level, in order to revitalise rural areas and create jobs. Items worth noting include:

- The Local Action Group (LAG) approved funding of €2.04 million to projects across all three LEADER measures. Grant aid awarded ranged in size from €1,254.61 to €199,701.70.
- 68 contracts were issued to project promoters throughout the county.
- Introduction to Composting and Introduction to Energy Training took place at the start of 2020. The programmes were rolled out across the county with over 60 participants taking part.
- Monasterboice Tourism and Tidy Towns were awarded grant aid of €7,484 towards the costs of carrying out work on a wetland, woodland and nature walk in their area.
- Funding of €10,323 was granted to Dinosca Limited, a company based in Ardee, towards the cost of specialised equipment to assist their business expansion plans.
- Under the Activity/Adventure Tourism measure, the LAG awarded a grant of €76,125.00 to Carlingford Adventure Centre which will enable it to roll out the expansion of its tourism adventure and activity offering for families and groups.
- Grant aid was awarded to a number of wide-ranging community projects including the upgrading of community centre facilities.

- The Red Door Project in Drogheda received grant aid of €138,520 to enable essential upgrade work at its premises on the Dublin Road in Drogheda.
- Under the Social Inclusion measure, Dunleer Community Development Board was awarded grant aid of €7,290 to launch the 'Dunleer Young People 5 Year Plan'.

Louth Public Participation Network (PPN) in 2020:

- Increased PPN membership from 341 in 2019 to 401 members in 2020
- Secretariat meetings changed from bi-monthly to monthly
- Five online Training and Capacity Building courses delivered to members including Graphic Design Skills, PPN Representatives training, GDPR, New options for Funding and Charities Governance Code
- Collaboration with Development Perspectives on an online workshop 'County Louth and the Sustainable Development Goals'
- Collaboration with Louth Leader Partnership on Social Inclusion week in September, highlighting the benefits of being a PPN Member
- Provision of assistance to Dundalk Outcomers on their LGBTQ+ strategy
- Delivery of First Aid training to Transition Year/5th Year students in Louth under the PPN First Aid Programme
- The PPN Environmental Pillar designed their own logo and prepared an information booklet to inform the public on what they do. This is available on our website
- Louth PPN produced a promotional video highlighting the diversity and wide range of vital services provided by our members across the county. This can be viewed on our PPN YouTube Channel: <https://youtu.be/Gme5yWPvLkg>.



Chairman of Drogheda Alzheimers Society accepts LEADER Grant of €199,701 towards construction of its new Day Care Centre. Paddy Donnelly, Director of Service, Louth County Council, Mary O'Neill, RDP Programme Manager Louth LEADER Partnership, Ciaran Reid, CEO, Louth LEADER Partnership, Noel Heeney, Chairman of Drogheda Alzheimers Society.

Louth PPN and the Community Call Forum:

Louth PPN played a key role in Covid-19 communications with members of the public:

- Provision of ongoing Covid-19 updates and important information from key stakeholders on health, funding, training, webinars, supports, advice and much more through our weekly newsletter the Friday Communiqué and our social media platforms
- Covid-19 specific webpage on our PPN website
- Design and delivery of a local Covid-19 information leaflet to over 5,000 elderly and vulnerable residents in Louth
- Purchase of a licensed PPN Zoom account for PPN members in order to keep them connected
- Preparation and delivery of 65 'PPN Covid Support Packs' containing vital items including facemasks, gloves, hand sanitiser, disinfectant and information posters to PPN members to assist them in re-opening their services after lock-down
- Louth PPN played a key role in the delivery of the Super Connectors inter-generational programme, which involves encouraging older



The young teaching the old new tricks as generations connect. Beth Carragher DeeHub, Damien McKenna DeeHub, Lorna Costello Outcomers.



The Community Call provided Genesis activity packs to vulnerable young people during Covid-19 lockdowns. Packs included arts and crafts materials, skipping ropes, Frisbees, stickers and more.

people to embrace and learn digital technology with younger people committing to teach them. As part of this programme, the PPN ran a Super Connectors competition inviting members of the public to submit photos of them connecting with a loved one using Facetime, Skype, Zoom or other digital means. All the entries were included in a draw to win a 'shop local' voucher.

For further information on Louth PPN please go to our website www.louthppn.ie or to sign up for the weekly newsletter the Friday Communiqué, email ppn@louthcoco.ie.

COVID-19 COMMUNITY CALL FORUM

The Louth Community Call Forum (LCCF), a cross sectoral group, was established in March 2020 to respond to the Covid-19 pandemic. The LCCF set up a call centre helpline to provide practical supports to people cocooning/shielding. A working group was established to manage the day-to-day joint agency and community response to the helpline. The working group managed supports required by various community organisations - allowing them to continue services either on site or remotely - and a communications plan utilised local and social media.

COVID-19 EMERGENCY FUND

Louth County Council distributed the Covid-19 Emergency Fund 2020 of €75,713 over four phases to 74 groups.

HEALTHY IRELAND FUND 2019-2020

The primary aim of the Healthy Ireland Fund is to support innovative, cross-sectoral, evidence-based projects and initiatives that support the implementation of key national policies in areas such as obesity, smoking, alcohol, physical activity and sexual health. Funding granted in 2019 was on phased allocation basis to the end of 2021, and payments continued in 2020 to Louth projects allocated funds as listed below:

Healthy Ireland initiatives in 2020 include:

- Appointment by Louth County Council and Meath County Council of a joint Healthy Ireland Coordinator.
- Erection of no smoking/no vaping signs in all playgrounds in Co Louth.
- Louth County Council signed a contract to develop a Continued Professional Development manual on Universal Design Principles in design of public realm projects for technical staff in Louth County Council and community stakeholders in the development of the public realm.
- Louth County Council made an application to the Community Resilience Fund and received €67,220 to promote and deliver and Keep Well Programme for Louth.

Project Title	Project Lead	Allocation
Healthy Louth Coordinator	LCC for LCDC	€75,000
Merchandising and web page development	LCC for LCDC	€5,000
Develop guidelines CPD manual	LCC for LCDC	€20,000
Mental Health Week in association with CIS	LCC	€5,000
Tobacco Free Playgrounds	LCC	€7,500
Young People's Peer Training Programme	NERDTF	€15,000
Sexual Health Programme	Dundalk Youth Services	€15,000
Independent Living and Care for Older People in their own homes	ALONE	€28,000
Social Farming	Social Farming Ireland and LLP	€12,000



Louth Co Co Playground no smoking/vaping signs.



€2.04 MILLION IN LEADER FUNDING APPROVED



PPN MEMBERSHIP ROSE BY 25% TO 401 REGISTERED GROUPS



ADDICTION REHABILITATION SUPPORTED



3 BLUE FLAG BEACHES AND ONE GREEN COAST AWARD BEACH



BIODIVERSITY PROJECTS SUPPORTED

60 PARTICIPANTS IN ENERGY TRAINING



22 SCHOOLS AWARDED A GREEN FLAG



1,086 INDIVIDUALS ENGAGED IN LIFELONG LEARNING LABOUR MARKET SUPPORTS

Community Support

NATIONAL TIDY TOWNS

The National Tidy Towns competition did not proceed during 2020 due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Louth has a long record of participation and achievement in the competition and it is hoped that will continue during the 2021 competition, which will proceed under a revised format.

TIDY TOWNS PROJECT SCHEME 2020

The scheme, announced in January 2020, is designed to allow groups to carry out small scale capital improvement works in the towns and villages in Louth. Louth County Council provided funding of €20,959.25 in 2020 to nine Tidy Towns groups for projects that were focused on improving the marks awarded in both the National Tidy Towns and local competitions. Projects completed in 2020 included provision of name signs at Annagassan, part-funding of sculptures at Monasterboice and notice boards at Termonfeckin.



Sculptures at Monasterboice.

LOUTH IN BLOOM 2020

In the difficult year of 2020, more people sought refuge in their gardens and Louth looked like it was blooming. It was decided that a new all-county virtual environmental competition would replace the traditional Dundalk and Drogheda Looking Good Awards. Louth In Bloom 2020 sought to acknowledge, celebrate and reward the dedication and community



Brendan Matthews being presented with award by Cathaoirleach of Louth County Council, Cllr. Dolores Minogue.

spirit that is consistently demonstrated by individuals, residents' associations, volunteers and the business community in Louth.

The 2020 awards ceremony was a virtual ceremony held in October. The winners were announced online by the Cathaoirleach of each Municipal District area, with the overall county winners announced by the Cathaoirleach of Louth County Council. The awards were then presented by the Cathaoirleach of each Municipal District, to the winners in each of the categories, as their selfless contributions make a significant difference to how attractive our county looks. A special Lifetime Achievement Award was presented to Brendan Matthews, Ardee Municipal District.

GREEN SCHOOLS PROGRAMME

Green Schools is Ireland's leading environmental management and education programme for schools. Covid-19 interrupted the usual plans for our involvement with schools during 2020; however, online content and resources to use at home were developed by Green Schools to overcome the obstacles presented by school closures. A total of 22 schools in Louth were awarded Green Flags in 2020. New online resources for Local Authorities to carry out inspections during 2021 are being developed.

GREENER CHRISTMAS POETRY COMPETITION

The Greener Christmas Poetry Competition for primary schools aims to create awareness of waste prevention over the festive season and attracts entries from primary schools throughout the county. In collaboration with local radio station LMFM, the winning poems were aired over the Christmas period as part of Louth County Council's "Waste Reduction Go Green Christmas Campaign". It is aimed to promote a "Green" festive season where we try and reduce waste and recycle more.

The competition format had to be revised due to the Covid-19 Level 5 restrictions and visits to schools to present prizes and record winning poems could not take place. However, prizes were distributed and the winning poems were broadcast, tweeted and are available to listen to and view on Louth County Council's website.

The 2020 winners were:

Ardee Municipal District area -
Monastery National School

Borough District of Drogheda area -
St Paul's National School

Dundalk Municipal District area -
Redeemer Girls National School

PRIDE OF PLACE

Omeath was nominated to represent County Louth at the Co-Operation Ireland Pride of Place Awards ceremony, which was streamed live online in November and hosted by RTE's Marty Morrissey. This All-Ireland competition acknowledges the invaluable work undertaken by local communities to create civic pride in their area. It focuses on people within the community coming together to shape, improve and enjoy all that is good about their area.

The format of the competition changed this year due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The Omeath community submitted a video presentation of their coastal community, showcasing all it has to offer and the positive contribution made by all groups and volunteers in the area.

The Omeath community was honoured at the virtual Awards Ceremony and was runner-up in the Island and Coastal communities' category.



Cllr. Dolores Minogue, Cathaoirleach, Clare O'Hagan LCC, Helen Thompson, Omeath District Development Committee, Joan Martin, CE Louth County Council.

AMENITY GRANT SCHEME 2020

Louth County Council's annual Amenity Grant Scheme recognises the level of voluntary works being carried out by residents/community/environmental associations/groups on an annual basis to better their environment.

These activities mean that Louth continues to be a better place in which to live, work and visit. It also ensures that Louth continues to feature prominently in various national competitions. In 2020, 221 applications were received from groups throughout the county who aim to undertake small scale amenity projects in their areas.



Harmony Heights, Drogheda.

BLUE FLAG AND GREEN COAST AWARDS

Louth retained the Blue Flag status in 2020 for its beaches at Clogherhead, Port and Templetown. The Blue Flag is one of the world's most recognised eco-labels. The beaches complied with a specific set of criteria relating to water quality, information provision, environmental education, safety and beach management. Local community groups continue to assist by undertaking regular litter picks, which ensure that the beaches are attractive places to visit over the summer months. The beaches remained opened and the lifeguards continued to patrol the Blue Flag beaches during the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020.

The Green Coast Award recognises beaches of high environmental quality. Seapoint Beach was the recipient of the Green Coast Award for only the second time in 2020. The award recognises beaches

Details of the four projects:

Village	Details	Funding
Dromiskin	Development of looped footpath in the village	€100,000
Blackrock	Further provision of footpaths at the Rock Road	€100,000
Carlingford	Repair to boundary wall at Heritage Centre and upgrade of public toilets	€100,000
Stabannon	Provision of footpaths in the village centre	€ 76,050

that have excellent water quality but which are also prized for their natural unspoilt environment. The award encourages community involvement and has led to a number of groups in the Termonfeckin area contributing to the management of the beach. The facilities at the beach car park at Seapoint were greatly enhanced during 2020 using funds from the Town and Village Renewal Scheme.

TOWN AND VILLAGE RENEWAL SCHEME

The Town and Village Renewal Scheme was set up to provide funding to rejuvenate towns and villages throughout Ireland and to improve the living and working environment of rural communities. Four projects in Louth were approved under the 2020 scheme and funding of €376,050 was provided by the Department of Rural & Community Development to Louth County Council. Details of the four projects are below.

Three rounds of funding were also made available under the Accelerated Measure in Response to Covid-19 Town and Village Renewal Scheme 2020. A total of €369,440 was received across the available three measures for projects in Louth. This funding has supported interventions that have responded to the new challenges associated with Covid-19 and have supported the economic and social recovery of the towns and villages throughout the county.

CLÁR

The Clár programme supports initiatives that make the school/community environs healthier and safer for children attending schools, and for children and adults using community facilities. It is delivered by local authorities in conjunction with community groups in the local area. There were some changes in 2020 to the measures to support rural communities, with a particular emphasis on responding to the challenges posed by Covid-19.

Two projects received funding totaling €63,500 in 2020, which was provided by the Department of Rural and Community Development. The following projects were funded in 2020:

- Bush Post Primary School – speed safety signs and road markings (€13,500)
- Gyles Quay Community Group – addition of bins, benches and landscaping and upgrade of public toilets at the beach car park (€50,000).

AGE FRIENDLY COUNTY PROGRAMME

The Age Friendly County Programme worked with older people's groups and state agencies to reach out to older people in Louth to assist building resilience and self-reliance during Covid-19. Projects include:

- Targeted and timely communications on the Community Call Helpline and public health advice via mail drops.
- Production of a newsletter capturing the spirit of the volunteering effort and the older people's stories.
- Production of an advisory safety brochure for grandparents and grandchildren in September on the re-opening of schools approved by the HSE. The distribution went out through 74 primary and 16 post primary schools in Louth.

- Commenced the Super Connectors promotion campaign addressing the digital divide across the generations. The promotion was featured on RTE News.
- Funded and organised the distribution of 850 Christmas bags to the most vulnerable older people identified by 17 community groups and An Garda Síochána.
- Provided 20 computer tablets, covers and speakers to seven nursing homes and religious nursing homes in Louth to address isolation of older people from family and loved ones.
- Worked with Meals on Wheels in Drogheda to provide a cooker and transport to allow continuity of service and to meet increased demand in the area.
- Provided support to a nursing home which had a Covid-19 outbreak over Christmas 2020, facilitating the community to support with outside Christmas decorations, purchase of presents and the arrival of Santa via a fire engine.



Cllr. Dolores Minogue, Cathaoirleach and Chief Executive Joan Martin.



Minister for Justice and Equality, Helen McEntee pictured with, L-R, Cllr. David Gilroy Cathaoirleach of Meath County Council, John Higgins (Former) Chair of LCDC, Joan Martin, Chief Executive Louth County Council and Chair of the Louth LCDC, and Cllr. Dolores Minogue, Cathaoirleach of Louth County Council at the recent launch of the new Joint Louth-Meath Migrant Integration Strategy.

EU_SHAFE – ANNUAL REPORT

Louth County Council, in conjunction with Technological University Dublin, is an Irish partner in the Interreg EU_SHAFE project. The project is a 10 partner consortium from across seven European countries and its aim is to align and influence policy at European, national and local levels to reflect Smart Healthy Age Friendly Environments (SHAFE) principles. The project will run from August 2019 to January 2023. To date EU_SHAFE in Louth has made submissions to the National Consultation of the future priorities of ERDF/ESF funding in Ireland, and the Louth County Draft Development Plan along with a Pre-Budget 2021 Submission. https://www.louthcoco.ie/en/services/communities/louth-age-friendly/eu_shafe-interreg-europe-news/.

Community Enhancement Programme and COVID-19 Grants

Community Enhancement Programme 2020 - Community Centres and Community Buildings							
Area	No. of applications received	Funding requested approx.	Not considering	No. of apps under €1,000	No. of apps over €1,000	No. of apps recommended for funding	Total funding recommended
Dundalk	12	€187,695.33	1	1	11	11	€76,128.00
Drogheda	16	€375,121.00	5	0	16	11	€58,560.00
Mid-Louth	8	€193,172.00	1	1	7	7	€35,135.00
TOTALS	36	€755,988.33	7	2	34	29	€169,823.00

Community Enhancement Programme 2020							
Area	No. of apps received	Funding requested approx.	Not considering	No. of apps under €1,000	No. of apps over €1,000	No. of apps recommended for funding	Total funding recommended
Dundalk	28	€142,587.62	13	6	22	15	€29,044.00
Drogheda	12	€49,467.68	3	2	10	9	€22,341.00
Mid-Louth	4	€37,405.00	0	0	4	4	€13,405.00
TOTALS	44	€229,460.30	16	8	36	28	€64,790.00

Louth County Council distributed a grant aimed at delivering the national LGBTI+ plan through the Department of Rural and Community Development and the Dormant Accounts Fund. The grant was valued at €15,000, with €5,000 going to Outcomers Drogheda and €10,000 to Outcomers Dundalk.

COMHAIRLE NA nÓG

Louth Comhairle na nÓg took on some ambitious projects in 2020.

The overall theme was Climate Change and the young people developed a number of climate initiatives:

- Raised awareness of single use plastics in schools all over the county.
- Developed 'Bug Hotels' in youth and community centres.
- Conducted workshops on carbon footprint.
- The group also met with the Green Party minister Malcolm Noonan, Minister of State at the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, and raised their issues directly with him at the Annual General Meeting
- In addition to this, Mid-Louth Comhairle completed a project to raise awareness of underage drinking and conducted an awareness session in schools.

JOINT MIGRANT INTEGRATION STRATEGY, LOUTH AND MEATH

On the 5th of October 2020, the Louth-Meath Joint Migrant Forum launched the Joint Migrant Integration Strategy for Louth and Meath. The forum met in November and agreed a Joint Chair arrangement between Louth and Meath with Paddy Donnelly, Director of Services at Louth County Council, and Barry Lynch, Director of Services at Meath County Council, rotating chairs on an alternate meeting basis.

Sports Unit Operated Sports Facilities (Dundalk Sports Centre & Lourdes Stadium)

SPORTS FACILITIES ATTENDANCE FIGURES 2020

Dundalk Sports Centre	
Children participated in Soccer activities (visits)	>8,000 visits
Adults participated in Soccer activities (visits)	>3,000 visits
Children participated in Athletics sessions (October-December)	>750 visits
Children participated in Multi-Sports activities (Indoors: January-March)	>2,750 visits
Individuals with a disability participated in Multi-Sports activities (Indoors: January- March)	>1,200 visits
Participants in Fitness classes (Indoors: January-March)	>600 visits
Adults participated in Multi-Sports (Indoor: January-March)	>400 visits
Outdoor activity classes	> 500 visits
Lourdes Stadium	
Casual users (individuals)	>1,700 visits
Bowling green users (individuals)	>800 visits
Clubs and groups facilitated	>500 hours



Dundalk Sports Centre as featured on RTE's Operation Transformation.



Lourdes Stadium and Bowling Green, Drogheda.

DUNDALK SPORTS CENTRE RECEIVES IRELAND ACTIVE NATIONAL QUALITY STANDARD (NQS)

Dundalk Sports Centre has achieved the 'Outstanding Award' standard in the Ireland Active National Quality Standards (NQS) awards for the third year running. This award is considered the industry standard for sports facilities and is awarded to facilities that meet the operational standards for leisure and fitness facilities across 250 quality-based criteria. The standard is designed to encourage continuous improvement within the sector and recognises facilities for their remarkable standards in the areas of safety, hygiene, customer service and human resources. The NQS awards are the only industry specific awards for the leisure, health and fitness sector in Ireland.

OPERATING WITH COVID-19

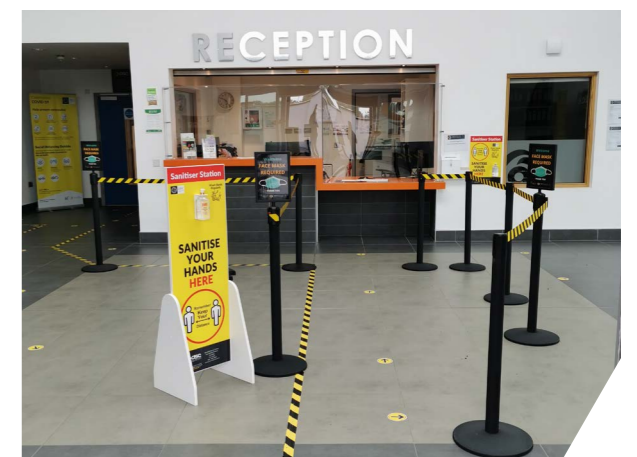
Covid-19 specific measures were put in place to facilitate the reopening of the sports facilities, ensuring we could operate in line with government guidance and restrictions. This ensured the public could still partake in exercise.



Walkway from clubhouse to the track in the Lourdes Stadium, Drogheda.



Booklet produced by Louth Local Sports Partnership during Covid-19 to encourage older adults to stay active in the home.



Reception at Sports Centre, Dundalk.

LOCAL AUTHORITIES MEMBERS ASSOCIATION (LAMA) AWARD

Louth Sports Unit received an award for second place in 'Best Disability Access and Inclusion Initiative' category of the Local Authorities Members Association awards on the 15th of February, 2020, at an event in Croke Park, Dublin.

ONLINE ACTIVITIES

The Council's Sports Unit staff created over 100 free online videos throughout 2020 as part of the councils 'Wellbeing during Covid-19'.

This included:

- Family fun activities
- Mindful movement activities
- Beginners Pilates classes
- Pilates classes
- Beginners fitness classes
- Inclusive fitness classes
- Older adults balance class
- Older adults exercise classes
- Chairobics classes.

All are available free of charge across our websites, Twitter, Facebook and Instagram pages.



Inclusive Martial Arts class, January 2020. Louth LSP ran free inclusive classes online during Covid-19.

OUTDOOR BOOTCAMP

Dundalk Sports Centre hosted an exercise Bootcamp, which was attended by 40 men and women. It took place every Monday and Wednesday evening on the tennis courts at Dundalk Sports Centre, in line with government guidance and restrictions.

BOWLING GREEN LOURDES STADIUM

Cross-county bowling returned in 2020 using the outdoor facilities at the Lourdes Stadium as all indoor facilities remained closed. Over 800 individual bowling sessions took place.

OLDER ADULTS EXERCISE BOOKLET

Louth Sports Unit, in collaboration with the HSE Physiotherapy Unit, Community Gardaí (Drogheda Unit), Meals on Wheels (Dundalk) and An Post delivered a Falls Advice and Balance Exercises booklet to 200 older adults in their homes.

SPORTS UNIT STAFF EXTERNAL ASSISTANCE DURING COVID-19

The Sports Unit staff also assisted the HSE and Louth County Council's Community Section with Community Call and HSE Live call centres during Covid-19.

WHAT TO DO IF YOU FALL

Tips:

- Stay still, slow your breathing before trying to get up.
- Check for any injuries.
- If you don't get up the first time, rest and try again.
- If you can't get up, call for help and keep warm by moving as much as possible and using nearby blankets, cushions or towels.

Back knee strengthening

- Strap the weight to your ankle
- Stand up tall facing the bench with both hands on the bench
- Bend the knee bringing your foot towards your bottom
- Return to the starting position
- Repeat this exercise _____ times with each leg

Weight (lbs)	Reps	Date

Calf raises

- Stand up tall facing the bench
- Hold on and look ahead
- The feet are shoulder width apart
- Come up onto your toes
- Lower the heels to the ground
- Repeat this exercise 20 times

Level	Reps	Date
A.		
B.		
C. Hold Support	10 x2	
D. No Support	10 x2	

Pages from the Older Adults Exercise booklet.

LOUTH LOCAL SPORTS PARTNERSHIP (LLSP)

2020 was a challenging year for Louth Local Sports Partnership (LLSP). We delivered a total of 472 programmes and training courses with 7,737 participants taking part.

These are broken down into three main categories:

- Participation**
 During 2020, the LLSP delivered 399 events and projects targeted towards increasing participation in clubs and organisations at local level. These events and projects involved 6,532 people.
- Sustainable Infrastructure**
 The LLSP delivered 37 programmes with 342 people participating. Grants totaling over €120,000 were issued to over 120 clubs to assist them to increase membership within their club.
- Education & Training**
 We provided 28 training programmes/courses in Louth with 383 participants, with the aim of upskilling and improving governance for clubs throughout County Louth. A further eight other miscellaneous courses were held with 480 participants.



Physical Activity Packs that were issued to six nursing homes in Louth and 72 care houses across the county for vulnerable adults of all abilities.

COVID-19

Covid-19 had a major impact on how we delivered programmes so we had to adapt quickly. We moved our fitness activities online and created physical activity packs to be issued to nursing homes, care home and St John of God houses in the county.

PARK BENCH EXERCISES

Park Bench exercise posters have been installed in 14 parks across County Louth to help increase physical activity among local residents in the areas.




Park Exercises




<p>SIT TO STAND</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This is easy. If you only have time for one exercise do this one! From a sitting position stand up as tall as you can. Sit back down and repeat. This is great to keep our hips stay in good working order! 	<p>ARM RAISE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stand tall and raise both arms until they are level with shoulders then return to side. When this feels easy start carrying bottles of water in each hand. Great for helping us do everyday tasks like picking things up. 	<p>BENCH PRESS UP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lean against the railing with straight arms. Allow your arms to bend and let your chin get closer to the railing. Push back to straight back position. Great for helping our arms stay strong.
<p>BICEP CURLS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sit comfortably on the bench. Lift each arm in turn until fist touches shoulder. If this is too easy, carry a bottle of water. Great for helping us lift everyday things like shopping or suitcases. 	<p>CALF RAISE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use the railing for balance. Lift your weight from both feet onto your toes and control the return to solid ground. Great for helping our balance. 	<p>FRONT KNEE EXTENSION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sit comfortable on the bench. Lift one leg until leg is horizontal with ground. Repeat with other leg.
<p>HEEL TO TOE WALK</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stand at back of bench. Hold on for balance. Walk heel to toe with each step. If too easy do this without holding on for balance. Great for helping our balance. 	<p>LEG FLEXION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use the railing for balance. Bend at the knee and bring your heel towards your bottom. Repeat with other leg. Great for helping our legs stay strong. 	<p>ONE LEG STAND</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use the railing for balance. Lift one heel up behind you and try to balance for a count of 10. If that is easy try to balance without holding on. Repeat with the other leg. Great for helping balance.

For more exercises visit https://www.louthcoco.ie/en/services/sports_recreation/




LIBRARY SERVICES AT A GLANCE


221,881
ITEMS ISSUED




1,030
MOBILE LIBRARY VISITS




OVERALL, USAGE OF ONLINE RESOURCES INCREASED BY 76% IN LOUTH LIBRARIES COMPARED TO 2019




92,077 VISITS TO LIBRARY BRANCHES




127,548
INDIVIDUALS ATTENDED OR PARTICIPATED IN ONLINE EVENTS



UP TO 940% INCREASE IN SOCIAL MEDIA ENGAGEMENT



520 DELIVERIES MADE BY THE HOUSEBOUND SERVICE



Quality of Life

LOUTH LIBRARY SERVICE

The Covid-19 pandemic severely disrupted the delivery of library services throughout 2020. Despite this, the Library Service continued to deliver on the strategic objectives set out in Our Public Libraries 2022 and the newly adopted Louth Library Service Development Programme 2020 – 2025. Both documents are aimed at firmly establishing the library as the trusted go-to place in the community for guidance and support in areas including reading and literacy, lifelong learning, business and employment, healthy living and wellbeing.

During 2020, a responsive operational plan ensured the needs of the community were met as staff developed, promoted and facilitated virtual and, where permissible, physical use of library services. Consequently, the value of the Library Service evident prior to the pandemic was re-emphasised throughout 2020.

As a cornerstone of the community, Louth Library Service has a responsibility to support people in navigating through the challenges presented by the pandemic. While technology, technological skill and the ability to engage and learn have come to the fore, the pandemic has strongly emphasised the digital divide and digital poverty within our community. Louth Library Service has continued to support literacy development collaboratively for all cohorts and worked to ensure our programming is accessible to all everyone via targeted programmes. The Library Service reinforced the use of innovative technologies to support community wellbeing during this time, while exploiting all opportunities available to mitigate against the disruption of the pandemic.

In line with the Government Roadmap for Reopening Society and Business, health and safety directives were enforced at all stages during the planning and delivery of incrementally enhanced services.

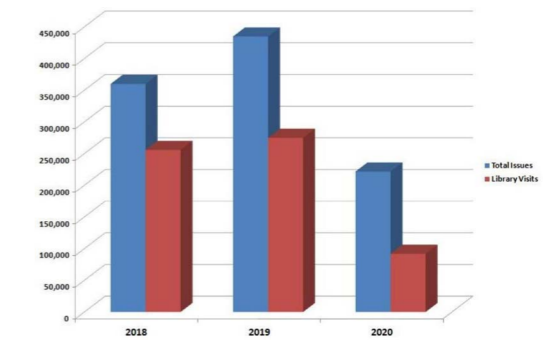
The Library Service response to Covid-19 included

- The operation of the Louth Community Call Helpline until June 2020.
- The establishment and delivery of a housebound service for cocooners and vulnerable people.
- The creation of new online content to support the wellbeing of the community during Covid-19.
- The development of new and existing relationships with strategic partners to deliver targeted responses to meet community needs.
- The planning and delivering of a new Contact & Collect service and a Browse by Appointment service, which included limited PC use and study spaces when and where possible.

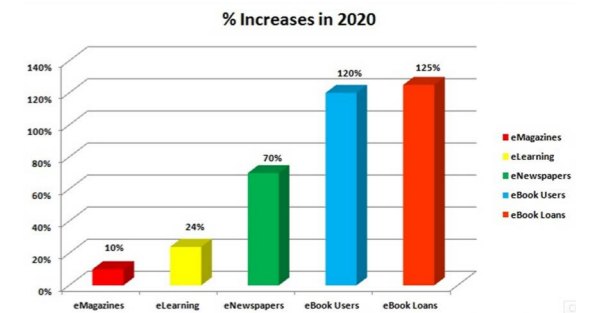
STATISTICS 2020

KPI's

- 92,077 visits to library branches.
- 221,881 items issued.



eResource Use

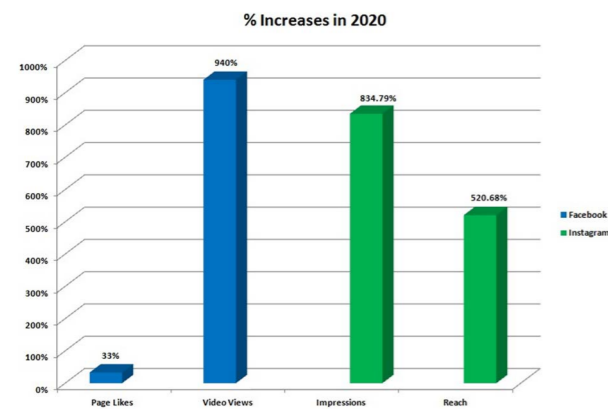
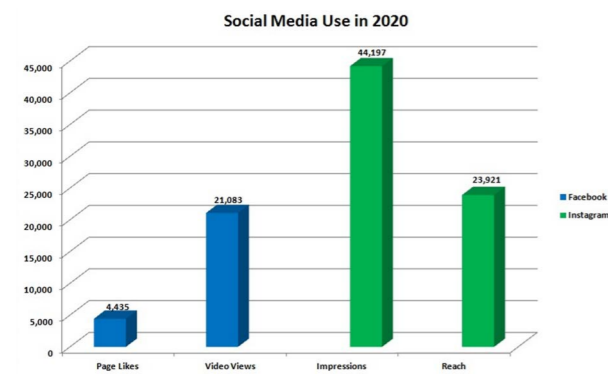


Overall, usage of online resources increased by 76% in Louth County Council libraries compared to 2019.

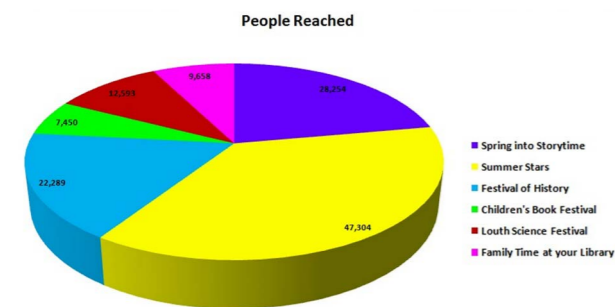
Housebound Service

- 520 deliveries.

Social media engagement



Events and activities online



eSERVICES

The importance and value of our eServices came to the fore from March 2020 when libraries closed under government restrictions due to the pandemic. Library staff engaged with the community through a social media marketing campaign that encouraged non library members to register online for library membership and avail of an enhanced suite of eServices, including eBooks, audio Books, eNewspapers, eMagazines, eComics, language and online courses.

The online library service proved pivotal in providing entertainment and educational resources to adults and children. An additional €761,188 worth of digital resources were procured nationally to meet the demand for library services since the Covid-19 crisis began, on top of the original €550,000 spend on e-resources nationally.

#TOGETHER #KEEPWELL

During 2020, Louth Library Service continued to support the national wellbeing initiative #Together and, in the latter part of the year, #KeepWell by producing a wide range of online resources aimed at helping communities with their personal, physical and mental wellbeing. As well as Facebook, Twitter and Instagram, this content is also available through the council website at <https://www.louthcoco.ie/en/wellbeing-during-covid-19/>.

KEEP WELL COMMUNITY RESILIENCE FUND

Under the Community Resilience Fund, the Quality of Life team feed into the campaign theme *Switching Off* and *Being Creative*. Louth Library Service has received funding to run creative writing mentoring workshops, Manga comic workshops for teenagers and walk-through recordings capturing the essence of our cultural buildings including libraries, museum and archives.

THE LIBRARY BLOG SHELF LIFE

The library blog (<https://shelflifethelouthlibraryserviceblog.wordpress.com/>) features #KeepWell related content, interviews and information for all ages relating to all aspects of health and well-being, literacy, local history, book recommendations and much more.

ONLINE BOOK CLUB

Louth Library Service in collaboration with Roe River Books, Dundalk and An Tain Arts Centre launched an online book club at the beginning of the first lockdown in March 2020. The group hosts monthly meetings via Zoom.

BOOK DONATIONS TO CARE SETTINGS

Louth Library Service, keenly aware that not everyone is online, has partnered with HSE Primary Care Services to donate quality book stock to various care services across the county during the Covid-19 lockdown. The positive benefits of books and reading to our mental health and well-being are well-known, the Library Service was keen to support the community this way. We also liaised with nursing homes to establish the need and feasibility of supplying books, with the Defence Forces and Customs Services supporting the distribution.

HOUSEBOUND SERVICE

A book lending service for those housebound or cocooning began in June 2020. It proved to be a great success and will continue as required. A Facebook advertising campaign for the housebound service reached over 21,000 people and garnered positive feedback. The Library Service made 520 deliveries to members and non-members who contacted the council via the Community Call helpline or directly through the libraries to end of December 2020.



Housebound staff, Rosemarie Lynch & Marcella Reynolds.

LOUTH LIBRARY SERVICE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME 2020-2025

The Library Service Development Programme was adopted by the Council on 16th of November 2020, as required by the Local Government Act 2001. Louth Library Service Development Programme 2020-2025 sets out the vision, mission, values, principles, strategic objectives and priorities of the Libraries Section over the next five years.

The Louth Library Service Development Programme 2020-2025 is the result of extensive consultation with our stakeholders including users and non-users of our services, elected representatives, local groups and organisations, and our staff.

The next five years will involve significant investment in Louth Library Service ICT infrastructure, resulting in enhanced digital services, a digital and STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Maths) schedule of events and classes, and a modern, innovative information technology environment. The challenges of serving the needs of a diverse, young population present us with unlimited opportunities to respond with a range of cultural and educational, fit-for-purpose spaces and relevant print and digital collections.

NATIONAL PR & MARKETING CAMPAIGN

A national and local libraries marketing and promotion campaign in the first quarter of 2020 resulted in a 90% increase in traffic to the Libraries Ireland website. The campaign was funded by the Department of Rural and Community Development and coordinated by the libraries development team at the Local Government Management Agency (LGMA).

Using the tagline **'#TakeaCloserLook'** it urged the public to explore the surprising range of services offered by libraries. Stage 1 of the campaign started on 20th of January 2020 with national radio, cinema, digital and social media advertising inviting the public to **'#TakeaCloserLook'** at their library.

Stage 2, **#LeapintoLibraries** on a national **'Open Day'** on 29th of February saw Louth Library Service run 14 well-attended events. Approximately 1,600 people visited Dundalk and Drogheda libraries on the open day and, overall, the campaign led to a surge in new library membership across the country.

Funding Opportunities

DEPARTMENT OF RURAL AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FUNDING

- **Funding for library supports for marginalised, socially excluded & disadvantaged communities**

Round 1

This funding supported Louth Library Service to initiate an **Early Years Literacy Project** in collaboration with the Genesis programme in the fourth quarter of 2019. In the first quarter of 2020, a further 440 children in early years services in disadvantaged areas of County Louth were invited to their local library for facilitated story circle workshops. Parents and early years staff accompanied the children and transport was provided to and from the service. The importance of reading to children as a way of promoting literacy and good reader development from the earliest age was reinforced. Parents also had an opportunity to find out what the library had to offer in an informal setting.

Round 2

In response to Covid-19 restrictions, funding in the fourth quarter of 2020 was tailored to focus on online programming, small group engagement and the provision of online literacy and digital skills licences. A total of 400 TTRS (Touch, Type, Read, Spell) licences were made available to lend to DEIS schools, adults learners, non-English speakers and other marginalised groups. Some 90% of the licenses were taken up by primary and secondary schools across the county.

The **'Pass Literacy On'** project began online in November in collaboration with Louth LEADER Partnership. This unique programme teaches the brain effective skills to overcome the symptoms of learning difficulties. It is a different approach to improving spelling and reading and dramatically reduces the challenges caused by learning difficulties. Louth Library Service is working in conjunction with Louth LEADER Partnership's Senior Education and Youth

Development Officer, under the Social Inclusion & Community Activation Programme, to sustain the delivery of this initiative into the future.

- **Sensory Funding**

This funding initiative supports the provision of sensory facilities and equipment, and underpins Louth Library Service's commitment to create an environment of inclusion, integration and community consultation. The equipment will help people with sensory impairments and special educational needs and those on the autism spectrum.

Purchases included a selection of sensory books for children on the autism spectrum. Equipment was purchased in consultation with Autism Support Louth through ABACUS School and Life Skills Project Drogheda. This included sensory walls and Tovertafel or Magic Tables. Research has shown that use of the Tovertafel can result in an increase in social interaction and physical activity in people with intellectual disabilities, people suffering from dementia and those on the autism spectrum.

A six-bay Hublet unit was also purchased for use by both children and adults in Drogheda Library. Relevant apps and programmes suitable for those on the autism spectrum or with learning difficulties will be downloaded onto the Hublets.

In parallel, a planned but delayed sensory-related programme will see Ardee Library work with teenagers from the ASD unit and mainstream students in Ardee Community School as soon as restrictions allow. Drogheda Library programmed events for the Abacus school, while Dundalk developed a programme to work with local group Inspire Autism.

Additionally, Louth Library Service is working with AslAm, the autism advocacy group, to conduct an environmental assessment of Dundalk, Drogheda and Ardee Libraries and to advise on other supports needed to improve the library experience for people with sensory needs.

- **Public Libraries Small Scale Capital Works Programme**

This project transformed previously unused space to the rear of Dundalk Library into an attractive, comfortable and welcoming library garden that will be usable in most weather. This library garden will provide safe, external seating areas for activities, meetings and project work, as well as reading and contemplation. It will mitigate against the risk now posed in any type of group work due to Covid-19. This is extremely important as it allows us to build on previous funded investment and the work done to support marginalised, socially excluded and disadvantaged communities and will ensure all investment is maximised.

STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

Right to Read

Right to Read supports literacy development for families, individuals and children as part of a locally coordinated, sustainable and standardised approach across County Louth. In response to the pandemic, our Right to Read programme swiftly moved online. The data shows we have been able to continue offering these crucial literacy supports.

These programmes include:

- **Spring into Storytime:** 24 family storytime online sessions were held, resulting in 9,200 Facebook views during April.
- **Summer Stars Reading Programme:** this programme, designed to help children maintain their literacy levels during school holidays, experienced a much quieter year than normal due to Covid-19 restrictions. However, a very successful online programme in County Louth, which included storytimes, quizzes, scavenger hunts, colouring and crafts, and an online bookclub allowed children to remain engaged with the programme and maintain their link with their local library and our many services. In total 47 different videos were posted online with an online

engagement of 10,706 children and a reach of over 42,000.

- **Children's Book Festival:** the festival in October involved 21 events, comprising seven for invited schools and 14 storytime sessions for the public.
- **Family Time at Your Library:** this initiative in December programmed 22 events with 5,096 online engagement views.
- **The Schools Library Service** had 56 school visits between January and March 2020.
- Two **DEIS Schools Literacy & Numeracy Summer Camps** were held for local schools in Dundalk and Drogheda libraries during the summer months.
- Ardee Library hosted a series of **English language classes** offered by Louth Meath Educational Training Board (LMETB) for recently-arrived Syrian refugees during autumn 2020.

Louth Libraries in collaboration with the **Genesis Programme** offered literacy support in the form of a care pack to over 130 families.



Eabha Burns Christmas visit.

WORK MATTERS

The Work Matters service, which supports job seekers and budding entrepreneurs, continued to provide dedicated Work Matters hotdesk spaces and resources in Dundalk, Drogheda and Ardee libraries.

- Drogheda Library staff gave a presentation on Work Matters to clients of Intreo during **Local Enterprise Week** in early March, followed by a tour of the library.
- Stephanie Bourke, of LMETB, hosted monthly information stands in the library branches on return-to-work queries from the public.
- **Louth Volunteer Centre** visited library branches fortnightly to chat to people about the many volunteering options available and benefits to their work experience.
- Work Matters resources featured regularly in online promotion of **eResources** and Borrowbox titles.
- **Age Action and Digitise the Nation** ran free computer classes in the libraries during the first quarter of 2020.

HEALTHY IRELAND AT YOUR LIBRARY

Phase 3 of this initiative, from July 2019 to June 2021, involves events across all branch libraries and provides free access to reliable and authoritative health information under the theme 'Eat Well, Think Well, Be Well'. Our book collections and eResources were further supplemented with up-to-date health-related content. Event highlights included talks by the Dyspraxia Association of Ireland; physiotherapists from the Primary Care Centres across County Louth; Alzheimer's Society of Ireland; and free heart health checks with the Irish Heart Foundation's Mobile Health Unit.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

As part of the library marketing plan, library staff facilitated promotion stands at the Louth Child and Family Support Network Event in the Westcourt Hotel, Drogheda; Mosney Reception and Integration Centre and various other fairs and venues in the first quarter of 2020.

Library Events Programme

Pre-pandemic, successful live events were held across the library branches to celebrate occasions including Engineers Week, Seachtain na Gaeilge, International Women's Day and World Book Day. Once lockdown began, all events moved online with high engagement figures.

Highlights included:

Heritage Week, 15th – 23rd of August: 'History Brought to Life' by Miriam Fox, an Exhibition, in Dundalk and Ardee Libraries. This exhibition showcased a collection of 40 prints from Miriam's original ink pen drawings based on archived photographs of historical buildings in across county Louth. Each print was accompanied by a brief history of the building.

Louth County Council Festival of History supported by the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media under the Decade of Centenaries 2012-2023 initiative. The 2020 online festival featured three live Zoom talks and 13 pre-recorded talks made available via YouTube on the library page on louthcoco.ie. <https://www.louthcoco.ie/en/services/library/2020-louth-county-council-decade-of-centenaries-programme/>.

Bringing together historians from across the country, the talks went beyond the traditional political and military histories of the Irish revolution and brought to life the personal lived histories of the period. Topics include the Aftermath of the Great War; Anglo-American Perspectives on Irish Nationalism; Partition, the Border and Armagh; Cumann na mBan and

the Treaty; and the RIC in Louth. The topics chosen were extremely current, representing the forefront of modern thinking on the period and cementing the Louth history festival's position as one of the most important popular drivers of historical debate in Ireland. The high level of engagement with the online festival offset pandemic conditions. In the first two weeks, the videos were watched 1,063 times or 82 people on average per video and there was strong positive feedback from viewers on the videos on YouTube.

Louth Science Festival (LSF) 2020 ran from the 9th to 21st of November. Part-funded by Science Foundation Ireland, the 2020 virtual programme was aimed at all ages and continued to make science, technology, engineering and maths education accessible and fun. The Louth Science Festival is targeted towards primary and secondary schools and the general public.

LSF 2020 offered creative, innovative and inspiring events for primary schools, secondary schools and the general public via Zoom and online workshops. All primary schools in Louth were invited to take part with each school able to participate in an online event. The Library Service posted over 17 different videos to social media, over 200 people attended the 'live' events and we had 5,719 views of our postings.



LSF - Library Lab Rats, Amy Branigan, LCC.

Highlights of this year's festival included workshops with:

- Sleep expert Lucy Woulfe
- Online Safety and Digital Wellbeing with CyberSafeIreland
- Mysterious Microbes with Scientific Sue
- My Place in Space with Dr. Niamh Shaw
- Videos posted by Professor Luke O'Neill, Dr. Sam McConkey and meteorologists Joanna Donnelly, Harm Luijkx and Gerry Murphy.

My Open Library, Drogheda

Work began in late 2020 to develop an additional **My Open Library** service in the county. The My Open Library initiative aims to allow public access to libraries on a self-service basis 365 days a year. The Department of Rural and Community Development funded up to 75% of the total eligible costs to purchase the equipment and make the necessary modifications to Drogheda Library. *'My Open Library'* Drogheda is fitting for one of the largest towns in Ireland and will provide enhanced access to study space, space for meetings and general use at times to suit the public. Research has shown that My Open Library users return to the library with their families during standard staffed hours when they discover the range and quality of services the library offers. As such, it is expected that membership and use of the library will increase. In particular the recent increase in usage by young adult students in Drogheda will be further enhanced with *My Open Library* Drogheda as it has in Ardee, by entrusting enhanced study spaces to students for study beyond standard hours.



Virtual Storytelling- staff member Eilish Boyd.

County Museum, Dundalk

PRE-PANDEMIC EVENTS

The County Museum in Dundalk hosted two successful events:

- The FAI's travelling *National Football Exhibition* to coincide with the planned Euro 2020 competition
- *Sidelines, Tramlines and Hemlines* – a one-day conference examining the history of women's sport in Ireland.

During 2020, the County Museum documented the impact of the pandemic through a collection of artefacts (brochures, posters, photographs, etc) to inform future generations of what we as a community have experienced.

The museum alternated between closed and restricted access to its exhibitions. Keen to see and experience the impact the 'new normal' had on the visitor experience, a representative from the magazine *History Ireland* visited and subsequently remarked in the November/December edition that the *"restrictions imposed made for a different experience but not enough to make it seem weird or frustrating"*.

The museum moved online and items from the collection were highlighted through the composition of video style featurettes; for Culture Night the museum broadcast five 'Horrible Histories' style songs examining aspects of our history and archaeology. An Advent-style countdown calendar was devised showcasing Christmas-themed items from the collection, with each item featuring on that day's 11am -1pm show on LMFM radio station.



A popular artefact in Dundalk County Museum, the Heinkel motor car.

Louth Heritage

PROMOTING OUR HERITAGE

The Heritage Office has, for many years, been supporting community efforts to open Carlingford castle (King John's) to the public. These efforts finally came to fruition in 2020 when the OPW finished the works needed to allow the volunteers and staff of the Carlingford Lough Heritage Trust to guide visitors safely around the castle. There was profound disappointment when that access was cancelled due to Covid-19 lockdown. The castle is a great resource for the tourism industry of Carlingford and County Louth as a whole and we look forward to a time when restrictions allow visitors into the castle.

Public events such as Heritage Week, Biodiversity Week and Drogheda Arts Festival which usually involves opening Laurence's Gate - were cancelled or curtailed due to the pandemic. Access to our heritage continued via the Louth County Council website and through social media where possible. One example is a Creative Ireland video of Oriel's heritage created by the Oriel Traditional Orchestra.

The former Dundalk, Newry and Greenore Railway line featured in an Irish language TV series about Ireland's abandoned railways, to air on RTÉ early in 2021. The Heritage Officer was interviewed about the history of Greenore railway village by former Taoiseach Enda Kenny for this programme.

The Royal Irish Academy published a pocket map of historic Drogheda, part-funded by Louth County Council. and based on Ned McHugh's fine historic towns atlas.

A report on promoting Castletown motte and the Hill of Faughart to tourists was completed and work begun on its implementation.

Biodiversity

BIODIVERSITY

The Louth County Council Biodiversity Action Plan 2021-2026 was drafted in 2020 to be brought for approval by the Council in January 2021.

Efforts to conserve and restore our biodiversity require underpinning data on what wildlife we have, where it is to be found and what we have lost. The Heritage Office made great efforts to record biodiversity in Louth during 2020 and was recognised by the National Biodiversity Data Centre with an 'Outstanding Achievement' award. The Heritage Officer also co-ordinated the CoastWatch survey in County Louth, including surveying 13 coastal stretches of 500 metres each.

The 2019 Louth Nature Trust's Project to protect the breeding colony of little terns that nest each year on Baltray strand was funded from the National Biodiversity Action Plan fund and Louth County Council.

The Heritage Office participated in two INTERREG projects aiming to draw up management plans for Carlingford Lough (among other sites) and supported an application to the Community Peatlands Fund by the Friends of Ardee Bog.

As part of the #Keepwell campaign, copies of a new book 'Gardening for Biodiversity' were purchased and distributed by the Heritage Office. This was partly funded by the National Biodiversity Action Plan fund.

Planning for a better future

THE HERITAGE PLAN PROCESS

The Heritage Plan began in 2020 with online consultation and the first draft of the new plan being completed. The process will be completed in 2021.

MONUMENT CONSERVATION WORKS

Funded by the Community Monuments Fund, vegetation was removed from Drogheda's town wall at Featherbed Lane and the wall was examined in detail, to inform works to be undertaken in 2021.

ADVICE AND GUIDANCE TO COLLEAGUES AND THE PUBLIC

Louth County Council's Heritage Office provided an expert advisory service on heritage-related matters to a wide range of internal and external partners in 2020. These include the council's planning, infrastructure and operations units and external bodies, such as Tidy Towns groups.

Louth County Archives Service

Louth County Archives continued to identify, preserve and make available the valuable collection of public and private archives of the county. The County Archives Service also provides records management services to Louth County Council, via the revision of the National Retention Policy for local authority records.

GENERAL ELECTION 2020

During 2020, Louth County Archives appealed to General Election candidates and members of the public to contribute General Election 2020 leaflets or flyers relating to County Louth, to add to its elections archive collection. The collection spans the 19th -21st centuries and material is always welcome.

WELLBEING DURING COVID-19 INITIATIVES

Louth County Archives invited the people of Louth to keep a daily diary of their experiences during the Covid-19 pandemic in a project called 'Our Louth Diary Project'. Alternatively, people could take a photograph or record a short sound recording of their local area. The service was delighted with the diaries and photographs that were received. These diaries and photographs will be held permanently in the County Archives for future generations to understand what life was like during this unprecedented period. Archives record the memories and stories of communities throughout history and Louth County Archives aims to preserve these stories and make them available for research.

Links to activities and videos including a virtual Storybox on the theme of 'The Big House in County Louth', was placed on the Wellbeing During Covid-19 webpage.



Cruinniú na nÓg 2020 - Archives into Art - participant with artwork.

CRUINNIÚ NA nÓG 2020

Louth County Archives took part in Cruinniú na nÓg on the 13th of June, Ireland's national day of free creativity for children and young people, with a project called 'Archives into Art'. Young artists were invited to explore archival pieces with artist Miriam Fox before choosing one archival document to use for their creative inspiration. Archival documents included an 1890 plan of Dundalk Post Office; a photograph of a tricycle race in Crowe Street, Dundalk in 1957; a 1918 prison autograph book; and the 1677 Richardson survey of Ardee.

HERITAGE WEEK 2020

Louth County Archives submitted projects on the theme of 'Heritage and Education: Learning from our Heritage' for people to view on the Heritage Week 2020 website. They included the Louth School Archive Collections, the Great Northern Railway online exhibition and the Big House in County Louth Storybox.

1920 LOCAL ELECTIONS COMMEMORATIVE BOOKLET

To mark the centenary of the local elections of 1920, which were pivotal in the history of local government in Ireland, the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government commissioned a booklet from the Local Government Archivists and Records Managers. The publication contains images of material held in Louth County Archives. Each of Louth's elected members received a copy.

LOUTH 1920 ONLINE ARCHIVES EXHIBITION

With the assistance of funding from the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media, Louth County Archives Service digitised a selection of archives to commemorate the 1920 period and made them available through an online archives exhibition. The exhibition highlights themes surrounding the War of Independence; the 1920 local elections; the impact of the events of the period in the lead-up to the partition of Ireland; and social and cultural activities.

Among the material included in the exhibition are the extant minute books of the local authorities at the time; music and theatre programmes; letters from national figures; election and political documents; and pages from a 1920 auction catalogue of Ravensdale House which was one of the first big houses to be burned in the Troubles in 1921. The purpose of developing this digital content is to support local research and scholarship by providing free online access to local archival sources.

DONATED ARCHIVES

The County Archivist made an appeal to the public for donations of archives and records that relate to all aspects of the development of County Louth. In response, the Archivist received national school roll-books and registers and material relating to the Great Northern Railway (Ireland), which added to the collection. These collections make available unique and valuable research sources for the study of Louth's heritage.

Louth Arts Service

CreateLouth, the Arts Service for County Louth, delivered a wide range of actions in 2020. These were all aligned to the service's five major work areas - Developmental & Community Arts; Grants & Awards; Information & Advice; Artistic Programming; Representation & Planning.

DEVELOPMENTAL & COMMUNITY ARTS

The Arts Service continues to support a wide range of programmes and residencies in Creative Spark, An Táin Arts Centre and Droichead Arts Centre. In addition, direct programming by the Arts Service, liaising with strategic partners, culminated in activities including the following:

Music in Schools: Celebrate Pipes - International Uilleann Piping Day 2020 took place on the 7th of November. As part of the Arts Service schools programme, musicians' visits were due to take place to promote the instrument and also to recognise the inclusion of Uilleann Piping in the UNESCO list of Intangible Cultural Heritage. However in place of live visits, a series of four informative videos, titled 'Celebrate Pipes', were produced and circulated to secondary school music students to enhance the study of traditional arts on the music curriculum.



Celebrate Pipes Recording. Photo Credit: Michele Haechler.

Music in Healthcare Settings - Postponed from the Bealtaine programme in May, visits to seven healthcare settings around the county took place in August. A combination of both indoor and outdoor performances in various settings brought uplifting live music and song to nursing home staff and residents.

GRANTS & AWARDS

In 2020, CreateLouth continued to make available a range of bursaries and awards to individuals and organisations in Louth, including: grants under the Arts Act, School Musical Instrument Purchase Scheme and the Tyrone Guthrie Centre Award. A total of 52 grants were awarded during 2020. Festivals that were supported and delivered in 2020 include Cairde na Cruite, Féile na Tána, Ardee Baroque, Drogheda Traditional Music Weekend, Carlingford Summer Music Series, Drogheda International Classical Music Series.

INFORMATION & ADVICE

The www.createlouth.ie website is the hub for funding, events, opportunities, projects and resources for the arts in Louth. Signposting to financial, information and wellbeing supports was part of the work programme in 2020 in addressing the impact that the Covid-19 pandemic had on the arts sector in Ireland.



Exhibition: This Time, These Days by Leanne Mullen.
Photo: John Mc Donald.

ARTISTIC PROGRAMMING

Taisce Lú, A Curator's Choice - An art publication, exhibition and workshop programme for schools featuring the art collection of Louth County Council took place from November 2019 to February 2020 in An Táin Arts Centre, Dundalk. In 2020, an online version of the accompanying exhibition catalogue publication was produced and also school and community visits to the exhibition were facilitated.

Culture Night 2020 - Culture Night took place on the 18th of September 2020 and was a hybrid mix of live socially-distanced and online events in seven venues throughout the county. Some 250 people attended the live events, and almost 12,000 viewed the online Culture Night events.

Wellbeing During Covid-19 - With support from the Community Resilience Fund 2020, a 45-minute Christmas online concert was produced and circulated to nursing homes across Louth in December. Arts activities to promote engagement and wellbeing were promoted via the Louth County Council website and Twitter platforms during the year including concerts, exhibitions, and live theatre as well as fun activities to do online, such as art, jigsaws, puzzles and memory games.

Herstory 2020 - In 2020, the Arts Service, An Táin Arts Centre and The Brigid of Faughart Festival came together in collaboration. Students in North Louth primary schools were asked to interpret, through art, a modern-day Brigid and what she would now represent today. The chosen winning images formed the basis of a gathering during The Brigid of Faughart Festival 2020 in An Táin Arts Centre, and also were exhibited in the County Library in Dundalk.

Creative Ireland - Creative Ireland is a five-year national collaborative programme connecting people, creativity and well-being. In Louth in 2020, the Creative Ireland culture team managed four funding streams spanning the fields of history and heritage; visual arts, crafts and drama; literature and music; and the environment.

The Creative Ireland community grant fund supported 13 groups in researching, planning and delivering projects. The excellence grant programme funded five projects in collaboration with strategic partners. Through the new Creative and Cultural Jobs Stimulus Measure Fund 2020, developed in response to the Covid-19 pandemic, nine projects were supported. The creativity in older age programme, designed to counteract the social side effects of the pandemic, funded the production of a short documentary film.

Cruinniú na nÓg, the national day of youthful creativity in June, took place online. In Louth, a broadcast TV style programme was developed, which streamed craft workshops, art tutorials and drama performances to an online audience of over 600 young people.



4

PLANNING, INFRASTRUCTURE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & EUROPEAN AFFAIRS

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





OPENED 268 FILES ON UNAUTHORISED DEVELOPMENT

165 WARNING LETTERS ISSUED



1,175 PLANNING APPLICATIONS RECEIVED



34 DANGEROUS STRUCTURES REGISTERED



294 PRE-PLANNING APPLICATIONS RECEIVED



13 ENFORCEMENT NOTICES ISSUED

Clanbrassil Street and Saint Nicholas' Quarter Rejuvenation Scheme

The official opening of the Clanbrassil Street and Saint Nicholas' Quarter Rejuvenation Scheme in Dundalk took place on the 15th of September 2020. The much-anticipated rejuvenation works in the centre of town were opened by Cathaoirleach of Louth County Council, Councillor Dolores Minogue, with Cathaoirleach of Dundalk Municipal District, Emma Coffey in attendance.



Back Row – Left to Right: Victor Smyth, John Cradock Ltd, Cllr. Emma Coffey, Breda Marron, Artist "HeartSpace", Cllr. Dolores Minogue, Cathaoirleach, Louth County Council, Kevin Mc Gann, B.D.P., Front Row – Left to Right: Martin Mc Elligott, Dundalk BIDS, Joan Martin, Chief Executive, Louth County Council, Cllr. David Maxwell, Cathaoirleach, Northern & Western Regional Assembly, Frank Pentony, Louth County Council, Denis Kelly, Northern & Western Regional Assembly John Cradock.

The works have transformed the historic centre of Dundalk, covering Clanbrassil Street, Church Street and part of Bridge Street, up to St Nicholas' Church. A new bronze sculpture 'Heart Space', by Drogheda-based artist Breda Marron, was installed at the new plaza on Church Street and complements the rejuvenation project. The completed scheme has transformed the main spine of the town, making it more appealing to visitors and more attractive for investment. The scheme has been a catalyst for the redevelopment of existing buildings along the street, and the recent painting of shop fronts has complimented the rejuvenation scheme.



Church Street following the works on the Clanbrassil Street and St Nicholas' Quarter Rejuvenation Scheme.

Catchment and Flood Risk Management (CFRAM) Dundalk, Blackrock South and Ardee Flood Relief Schemes

Contract signing for the appointment of a consultant for the design of the Dundalk, Blackrock South and Ardee Flood Relief Scheme took place on the 30th of July with Mr. Patrick O' Donovan TD, Minister of State with responsibility for Office of Public Works, and representatives from the OPW in attendance. The proposed flood relief scheme will consist of the construction of a series of hard defences, including flood embankments and walls, rock armour coastal protection, demountable barriers, road raising, a sluice gate and tanking of two properties. It is in the first tranche of projects to be progressed by Louth County Council in conjunction with the OPW within the ten-year timeframe for the programme of investment.

Louth County Council also intends to capitalise on the potential flood defences from Blackrock to Bellurgan as a potential corridor for a section of the Great Eastern Greenway from Belfast to Dublin. The scheme is in its preliminary stages of data gathering and hydraulically, hydrological and coastal modelling. This phase of the project is expected to take approximately 18 months before moving towards the planning consent stages. There will be extensive stakeholder engagement and public consultation throughout the project. For the remaining tranches of flood defence projects, it is envisaged that the appointment of a consultant for the Drogheda Baltray Scheme will be completed in the second quarter of 2021 and, following on from that, Carlingford / Greenore Flood Defence Projects in the third quarter of 2021.

Built Heritage Investment Scheme and Historic Structures Fund 2020

Louth County Council received 18 applications under the Built Heritage Investment Scheme, with a further seven application under the Historic Structures Fund in 2020. Funding of €78,456.25 was shared between seven applicants. This comprised of Bellews Castle (essential repairs); Mooremount Thatch (consolidation of mud walls and repairs to external joinery); former RCCG dwelling, Palace St, Drogheda (repairs to roof lead valley and replacement of rainwater goods); Belview Thatch (rethatching of ridge and repairs to chimney apron and gullies); dwelling at Irish Street, Ardee (replacement of casement windows and guttering repairs), dwelling at St Mary's Road, Drogheda (refurbishment works to windows and doors), dwelling at St Laurence's Street, Drogheda (cornice repairs, capping and lime render works). Funding of €15,000 was secured under the Historic Structures Fund 2020, with a further €30,000 awarded under the July Jobs Stimulus Package for essential repairs at 15 Palace Street, Drogheda.



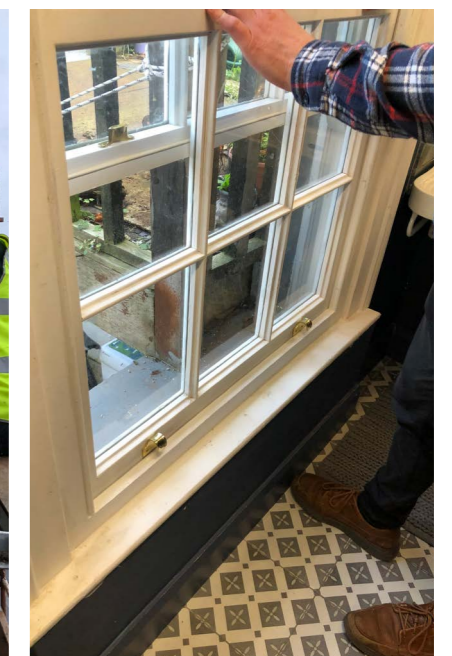
Bellews Castle.



Belview Thatch.



Laurence Street.



St. Mary's Road.

PEACE IV PROGRAMME

PEACE IV PROGRAMME

A total of €3,057,273 was allocated to Louth County Council in 2017 to deliver its Peace IV Local Authority Action Plan. The plan contained 17 projects under the themes of Children and Young People; Building Positive Relations; and Shared Spaces and Services. The Peace IV programme in Louth targets those groups particularly impacted by the legacy of the Troubles and conflict. These include young and older persons, women, the faith community, victims and survivors, those suffering from physical or mental disability arising from the legacy of violence, political ex-prisoners and displaced persons.

The Covid-19 pandemic created massive challenges for the delivery of those projects, however, and most Peace IV projects in Louth quickly moved to online delivery to continue their implementation. We were delighted that so many projects adapted to new ways of working so that meaningful and safe contact could occur for participants, thereby ensuring the continuation of their projects.

SMALL GRANTS PROGRAMME

In July 2020, the launch of the Louth Meath Education and Training Board (LMETB) Small Grants Programme took place. This provided an opportunity for groups and organisations in Louth to seek funding to further the goals of peace and reconciliation. Funded through the Peace IV programme, it is managed by the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB) and Louth County Council. This funding allows LMETB to continue to work with specific target groups such as children and young people, new communities, minority faith groups such as the Muslim Community and Church of Ireland, ex-political prisoners and disadvantaged young people across Louth.



L-R Vivienne Branigan, LMETB, Kelvin Harvey, LMETB, Aiden O'Boyle, LMETB, Cllr. Nick Killian, Meath County Council, Aisling Sheridan, LMETB, Sadie Ward-McDermott, LMETB, Cllr. Dolores Minogue, Cathaoirleach, Louth County Council, Martin O'Brien, LMETB, Eamonn Quinn, LMETB, Therese McArdle, Louth County Council.

ANTI CLOCKWISE PROJECT

The Anti Clockwise project, a cross-community project involving young people in Louth and south Armagh, was selected to be showcased in Spring 2020 edition 'Your EU – A magazine on the EU Interreg and Peace Programmes'. The article featured the celebration event held by the Anti Clockwise project at An Táin Arts Centre in February 2020 in which ten acts took to the main stage to show the results of the time spent working with professional artists. The exhibitions included a short video montage of the young people's work including visual arts, theatre performances and live music. There was a full house at An Táin Arts Centre Dundalk for this event as Dundalk Youth Centre hosted its celebration of work created. A total of 180 young people from across Louth worked with a group of artists over a number of months to explore peace, conflict and resolution through the various art forms.

CREATIVE INTERVENTIONS

Louth's Creative Interventions Harp After-School Programme featured on TG4 in January 2020. This Peace IV funded Project was run in partnership with Music Generation Louth in Gaelscoil Dhún Dealgan. In addition to the involvement in the project, the chance to perform on a national stage was a fantastic opportunity for the young musicians, many of them learning an instrument for the first time. It also promoted an awareness of the achievements of the EU funded programmes in Louth, as this element was part of a wider project which also delivered a creative course, mural painting and a positive thinking course. The aim of this project was to develop more than skills, as it challenges young people's thinking by creative output.

Engagement & Signposting Project

This project provided a mobile, specialist outreach service to groups of young people (16-24 year-olds) at risk on weekend nights, engage with them around their risk behaviours and signpost supports and opportunities that are available to them. The project hosted three online cross-community days in 2020, where the young people met with a Nationalist, a Loyalist and a former British army soldier. The young people heard why they got involved, their thoughts on how things are now, and their thoughts about the other communities within Northern Ireland. The young people participating got to ask questions from each speaker. This was a cross-community initiative with participation from young people from different religious backgrounds living in the same geographical community.



Cross-community event from the Engagement & Signposting Project.

From Oriel to Brexit

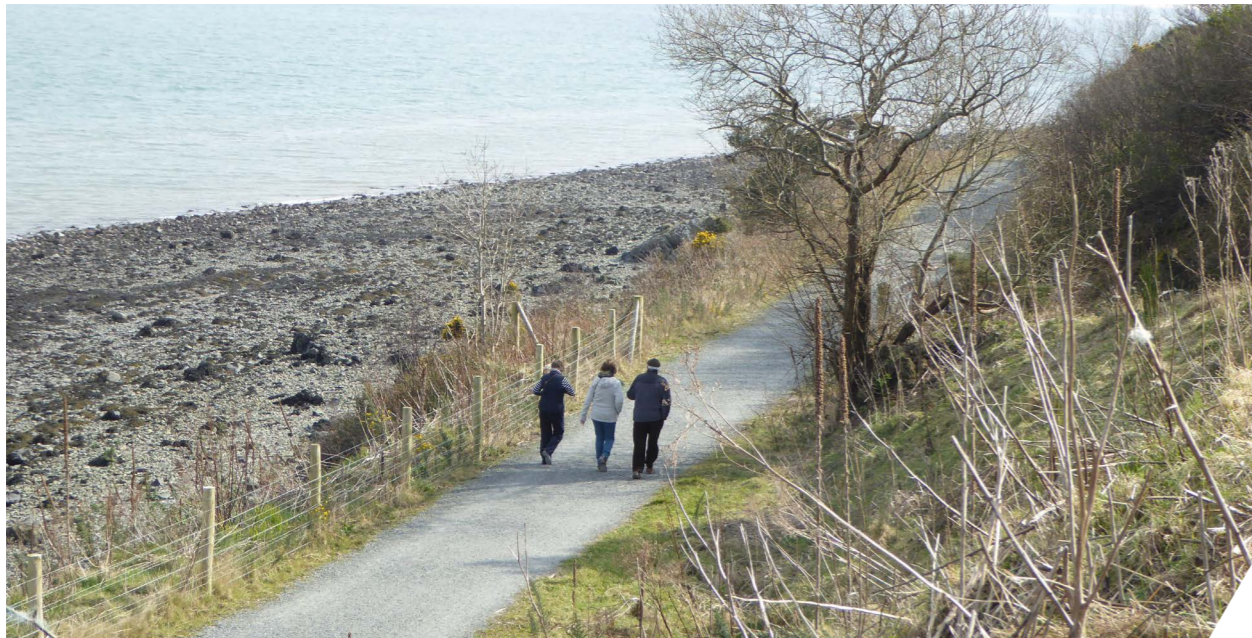
This cross-border project uses the arts (music, poetry/prose and theatre) to engage with the legacy of the past. In 2020, the output from the creative writing and photography element of the project resulted in the publication of 'In My Own Write', a book of poetry/prose and photographs arising out of workshops held. Several of the participants in the workshops also recorded readings from a selection of their works on film. During 2020, filming took place at the Ulster Screen Academy, Ulster University, Belfast.

Greenway

In the latest phase of development of the Louth Greenway, Section 9 planning, Part 8 planning applications (relating to strategic developments) for Section 1, Carlingford Marina to Carlingford, and for Section 2, Omeath Pier to the Border, were both approved in 2020. A major planning application was submitted for Section 3, the Border to Victoria Lock, in Northern Ireland. Work has commenced on the main construction contract documents with site investigation and clearance works programmed for early 2021.



Enjoying the Greenway.



Walking on the Greenway.

Economic Development

LOUTH ECONOMIC FORUM

In 2020, the award-winning Louth Economic Forum (LEF), chaired by Martin Cronin, continued to build partnerships and foster a culture of joined-up thinking to proactively facilitate further economic development and job creation in Louth. The forum focuses on key areas including tourism and heritage, foreign direct investment, indigenous industry and education and training.

A number of key plans and topics were discussed at LEF meetings in 2020, including the Border Economic Stimulus Fund; Drogheda/Dundalk/Newry Economic Corridor (M1) Working Group; Covid-19 grants, incentives & supports; fintech corridor; advanced manufacturing training centre of excellence; Louth County Council Development Plan; Brexit; the July Jobs Stimulus package; Stay Local/Shop Local Campaign; and review of the LEF action plans.

Jason McGee was appointed Chair of the Tourism & Heritage Group.

AGE-FRIENDLY BUSINESS INITIATIVE PILOT SCHEME – CLANBRASSIL STREET, DUNDALK, CO. LOUTH

Eight businesses on Clanbrassil Street, Dundalk have now achieved Age-Friendly Business status – each of the businesses have completed Age-Friendly training, have appointed an Age-Friendly Champion, and have implemented three simple changes in their stores to make the environment and the customer experience more appropriate for older customers.

The businesses received their Age-Friendly Charters at an award ceremony held on the 16th of December 2020 and the Age-Friendly charters will now be on display in their premises. The businesses will also be listed on the Age-Friendly Business directory at www.agefriendlyireland.ie.



Age Friendly Charters Award Ceremony – L-R: Rodd Bond, Netwell Centre, Martin McElligott, Dundalk Town Centre Commercial Manager, Cllr. Emma Coffey, Colette Moss and Mary Deery, Louth County Council.

SHOPFRONT IMPROVEMENT GRANT SCHEME

In 2016, Louth County Council launched the 'Shopfront Improvement Grant Scheme' as part of its suite of business incentives. Due to the popularity of these grants, the scheme was again made available in 2020. There was a great interest in the scheme, with 73 applications received.

Tourism

'SEA LOUTH' - SCENIC SEAFOOD TRAIL

Due to Covid-19, the launch of 'sea louth', a scenic seafood trail, was postponed until 2021 but some recording of the virtual launch of the initiative was undertaken in September 2020.

'sea louth' has been awarded €30,000 in Phase 2 funding from Bord Iascaigh Mhara under the Fisheries Local Action Group (FLAG) for the North East Region Development Scheme to further develop and promote this initiative.

The initiative has also been awarded €40,000 under the Town & Village Renewal Scheme 2020 / Accelerated Measures Fund for the installation of interpretive panels at 14 scenic viewpoint locations. In 2020, work commenced on the design and development of a website and the design and installation of the interpretive panels.

BOYNE VALLEY FOOD STRATEGY

The Boyne Valley Food Network really showed its importance to local food and drinks producers and the hospitality sector in 2020. On the announcement of the first lockdown in March 2020, many of the members turned to the Food Network for support

and to collaborate and help each other through the difficult times.

The team set up the Boyne Valley Food Boxes, which were delivered weekly from March until the end of May with a sales total of €37,600 for the local economy. Following the success of the Food Boxes, it was decided to run limited edition seasonal boxes in October and December, which generated another €18,000 for local businesses. In 2020, supporting local was of vital importance and a huge increase was seen in people supporting local food and drinks businesses either through online sales, local shops and farmers markets. The Trading Online Voucher scheme run by the Local Enterprise Office (LEO) allowed many members of the Food Network to setup online in 2020.

Acknowledging that the hospitality sector was severely impacted by Covid-19, regular networking events were held to inform the sector on training and guidelines for reopening, as well as setting up take-away options. A joint eight-week promotional campaign with Boyne Valley Tourism was undertaken during the summer in 2020 to promote the region as a staycation destination. A new brochure with information about local food producers, foodie

experiences, restaurants/café's who support local producers and accommodation providers was created to help visitors to plan their gastronomic adventure in the Boyne Valley.

The team also worked very closely with LEO to provide training and business opportunities to local food businesses in 2020, including the Food Starter, Food Academy and Innovate Accelerate programmes. In addition, local producers were given support in the Blás na hÉireann Awards.

BOYNE VALLEY TOURISM

The final year of the five-year Boyne Valley Tourism Strategy 2016-2020 was marked by the Covid-19 pandemic and its impact on the tourism industry. Due to this, an interim marketing plan was devised - through the mentoring process with Fáilte Ireland and the Boyne Valley Tourism Taskforce - to focus on short-term measures to support the tourism industry through marketing activity, while adhering to the latest government advice in relation to restrictions.

During the summer, **'The Escape to the Boyne Valley'** campaign involved a collaborative campaign with Boyne Valley Flavours with a three week campaign that focused directly on Drogheda, the Louth coast and beaches.

Boyne Valley Tourism invited digital travel journalist and social media influencer **Janet Newenham**, the so-called 'Journalist on the Run', who has 100,000 social media followers, to visit and produce a video and blog articles on the Boyne Valley. She visited Drogheda, Annagassan and the beaches with an overnight stay at Scholars Hotel. She posted images on Instagram and Facebook in addition to a vlog video.

Boyne Valley Tourism was active on social media during the pandemic and posted daily on the Boyne Valley social media accounts. A new PDF itinerary with

fresh design was also created for the tourism industry to add to their websites.

Boyne Valley Tourism worked closely with Fáilte Ireland, Louth County Council and Meath County Council on the Púca Festival whereby Fáilte Ireland and Tourism Ireland targeted media in 13 international markets with Boyne Valley Flavours produce.

VISIT LOUTH BROCHURE

A revised edition of the "Visit Louth" brochure was developed and distributed in 2020.



Place on a Plate Presentation, Bronagh Conlon, Listoke Distillery & Gin School & Chairperson of Boyne Valley Flavours, Russell & Patrick GastroGays, Boyne Valley Flavours Ambassadors & Conor O'Neill Manager of the Glyde Inn, Annagassan.



Conor Halpenny of The Square Restaurant, Dundalk.

FESTIVAL GRANTS

Applications for funding were sought by Louth County Council under two headings, the Louth County Council Festival Grant Initiative 2020 and the Louth County Council Large Festival/Participative Event Programme 2020.

A total of ten applications were received for the Festival Grant Initiative 2020 and three for the Large Festival/Participative Event Programme 2020.

IRELAND'S ANCIENT EAST - COMMUNITY TOURISM DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE

In 2020, work began with Fáilte Ireland to assist with the preparation of an integrated approach to the future development of the community tourism sector. This will involve the creation of a community tourism toolkit, which is intended to provide guidance and support to new or developing community tourism projects.

PROMOTING LOUTH AS PART OF FÁILTE IRELAND'S #MAKEABREAKFORIT CAMPAIGN

Louth County Council has liaised with Fáilte Ireland to promote Louth as part of its #makeabreakforit campaign.

With a view to maximising exposure in this campaign, Louth Tourism Businesses were contacted and asked to update / register their business listings on the Discover Ireland website, to sign up to the Fáilte Ireland Safety Charter at www.failteireland.ie and to join the social campaign online using the #makeabreakforit tag when sharing their posts, events and offers.

PROMOTIONAL VIDEO FOR LOUTH #WHEREFAMILIESRECONNECT

Dundalk Chamber of Commerce, in association with Drogheda Chamber of Commerce, Louth Tourism Networking Committee and Louth County Council has commissioned a new video to promote Louth. The aim of the video is to showcase things to see and do in Louth, activities, historical sites and fun for all the family. The video was shared across various social media platforms.



Launch of Promotional Video for Louth "wherefamiliesconnect"
L-R: Mario McBlain, Chairperson Louth Tourism Networking Committee, Irene McKeown, Manager Drogheda Chamber, Sean Farrell, President Dundalk Chamber, Robert Murray, President Drogheda Chamber, Michael Gaynor, Dundalk Chamber and Colette Moss, Louth County Council.

TOURISM MASTERPLAN FOR CARLINGFORD

In conjunction with Fáilte Ireland, work on the development of a tourism masterplan for Carlingford commenced in 2020.

BOYNE VALLEY DRIVE

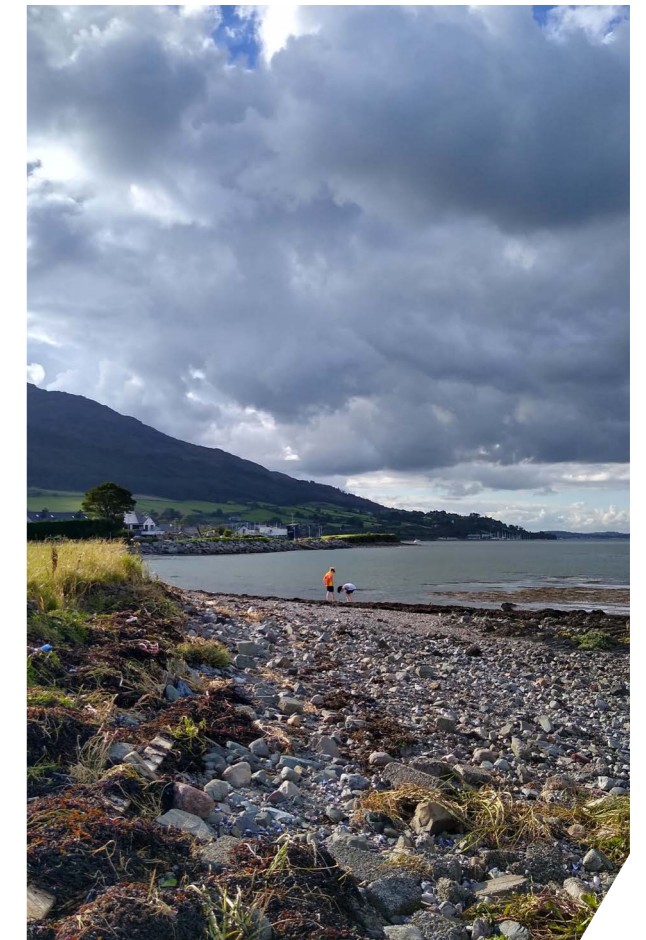
A review and reimagining of the Boyne Valley Drive commenced with public consultation boards being circulated to the trade and public by Fáilte Ireland.

BOYNE VALLEY RECOVERY TASKFORCE

A taskforce between Fáilte Ireland, Louth County Council, Meath County Council and a number of stakeholders was set up in 2020 on the tourism recovery programme, with a number of initiatives being progressed.

DESTINATION TOWNS CAPITAL INVESTMENT PROGRAMME

An application submitted to Fáilte Ireland under the Destinations Towns Capital Investment Programme was successful and a letter of offer of capital funding received.



Carlingford.

Planning

VARIATION TO CURRENT LOUTH COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2015-2021

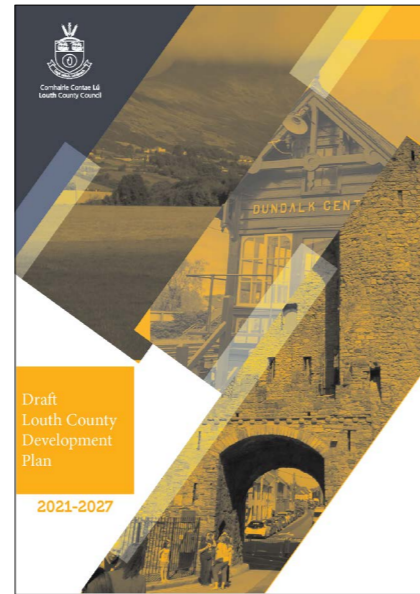
Variation No.2 of the Louth County Development Plan was adopted on the 20th of July 2020. This variation included additional policy support for the N2 upgrade road scheme between Ardee and Castleblaney.

COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN REVIEW

The County Development Plan review continued in 2020. The Draft Louth County Development Plan 2021-2027 was agreed by the Elected Members on the 1st of October 2020 and was placed on public display for ten weeks from the 14th of October to the 23rd of December. In total, 833 submissions were received during the public consultation period, two of which were subsequently withdrawn. The preparation of the Chief Executive's report on submissions received to the Draft County Development Plan commenced and will be completed and submitted to the Elected Members in the first quarter of 2021.

SHORT TERM LETS (STLS)

The Short Term Lets (STLs) compliance team was setup in March 2020 to enforce the planning legislative reforms contained in the Residential Tenancies (Amendment) Act 2019, which relate to the short-term letting of residential properties in rent pressure zones. Short-term letting is defined as the letting of a house or apartment, or part of a house or apartment, for any period not exceeding 14 days in which the owner receives a payment or payments. The legislative reform is part of the measures being taken to help address pressures in the private accommodation rental market particularly in the Greater Dublin Area, Galway, Limerick and Cork where rents prices are highest and rising, and where households have the greatest difficulty finding affordable accommodation.



County Development Plan Review.

The statistics for County Louth indicate that there is a concentration of properties available for short-term letting in Carlingford. On the 18th of December 2020, there were a total of 61 properties available for short-term letting in Carlingford. This has declined from the 85 that were participating in short-term letting in September 2020. However, September is part of the peak summer season and at that time the country had emerged from Covid-19 restrictions. There was a large reduction in the amount of complaints from the public in relation to short-term letting in the final quarter of 2020.

During 2020, 96 notification letters have been proactively issued informing property owners of their legislative responsibilities. A total of 18 form 15s (annual notification) were received and three planning applications were lodged. Nine cases have had warning letters issued, of which seven cases have been closed, one case has applied for planning permission and one case is still under investigation.

Local Enterprise Office (LEO) 2020

The Local Enterprise Office acts as a 'first-stop shop' for anyone seeking information and support on starting or growing a business in county Louth. Its role is to promote entrepreneurship and support business start-ups and existing micro and small businesses with information, advice, training, mentoring and selective financial supports.

The LEO delivers Louth County Council's service level agreement to Enterprise Ireland.

2020 was an unprecedented year in terms of the provision of business supports. Key priorities for LEO Louth included helping local businesses react to the economic challenges of the Covid-19 pandemic, preparing for the impact of Brexit, and promoting the range of services and supports available to assist businesses.

Covid supports included:

- **Covid-19 Business Continuity Vouchers:** LEO Louth approved **456** Business continuity vouchers, helping small business owners receive professional advice to develop short- and long-term strategies to respond to the challenges of Covid-19.
- **Trading Online Voucher Scheme:** **446** microenterprises in Louth applied for a Trading Online voucher to help develop their ecommerce capability under an enhanced 'Covid-19' scheme providing 90% grant aid. This was equal to 10 times the volume of applications in 2019. An additional **11** businesses applied pre-Covid, in total **457**.
- **Covid-19 Mentoring** was provided to **680** businesses from March to December.
- Covid-19 Business Training was provided to 1,269 business participants from March to December to assist their response to Covid-19.
- **Micro-Enterprise Assistance Fund:** **15** businesses were approved grant aid under this fund, which provides a contribution towards the cost of re-opening or keeping a business operational and reconnecting with employees

and customers. The scheme was open to those not eligible for the Covid-19 Restart / Restart Plus Grants.

- **Covid-19 Microfinance Ireland (MFI) Business Loan:** Under this government-backed scheme, unsecured loan finance was provided through LEO Louth. Local business owners were provided with expert assistance to complete their application, business plan and cashflow projections. In 2020, **33** loan applications were received, with 15 approved, four under consideration at year end, three declined, two returned to clients, and nine being reworked with LEO mentors with a view to refining their application. In addition, LEO assisted with a pipeline of 46 active loan enquiries at year end.

Brexit supports:

Although Covid-19 supports were to the fore during the year, it was vital that Brexit and its impact on business was highlighted. Assistance was provided to help businesses prepare, including:

- **Brexit seminars/webinars:** During 2020, LEO hosted a series of eight seminars/webinars in conjunction with Dundalk and Drogheda Chambers of Commerce, InterTrade Ireland and Enterprise Ireland which attracted over 650 businesses online.
- **Brexit Conference – The Future of Border Businesses:** With InterTrade Ireland and the Chambers of Commerce in Dundalk and Newry, LEO organised a cross-border conference on Brexit in March, with over 250 in attendance.
- **Brexit Advisory Clinics:** **23** businesses availed of one-to-one support from a Brexit expert through the Brexit Advisory Clinics. The clinics helped diagnose the impact of Brexit on local businesses and provided a pathway to mitigate impact and access additional supports.
- **Brexit Consultancy:** **61** businesses (37 from the LEO portfolio and 24 other businesses) availed of specialist one-to-one Brexit consultancy provided by LEO Louth.

- **Brexit – Prepare Your Business for Customs Training:** LEO Louth delivered eight free-to-attend Customs workshops to 146 registered businesses, helping businesses prepare for new Customs documentation requirements post-Brexit.
- Promotion of Enterprise Ireland's Customs employment grant.



The audience attending the Brexit Seminar organised by Louth County Council LEO and Newry, Mourne & Down Council, with InterTrade Ireland and the Chambers of Commerce in Dundalk and Newry at the Carrickdale Hotel, March 2020.

BORDER STIMULUS PROGRAMMES TO MEET BREXIT AND COVID-19 CHALLENGES

During 2020, a suite of five management development programmes to support local businesses in managing the challenges of Brexit and Covid-19 were designed and procured.

Two of these commenced in the fourth quarter of 2020, with over 45 Louth businesses participating:

- **Superior Retailing** Programme
- **Export Development** Programme.

The remaining three programmes will launch in the first quarter of 2021:

- **Financial Management** Programme for owner managers
- **Green** for Microenterprise
- **Innovation** Programme for small businesses.

FINANCIAL SUPPORTS

Financial supports were provided to businesses included Trading Online vouchers, Microfinance Ireland's loan products, and mainstream grant aid to manufacturing and traded service businesses with potential to trade internationally.

In addition, LEO signposted small businesses to other financial supports including Innovation Vouchers, InterTrade Ireland's Brexit Vouchers, Elevate and Acumen trade development grant supports, Revenue's EWSS and the ReStart Grant scheme managed by Louth County Councils Finance team.

- **24** loan applications were advanced to Microfinance Ireland
- **338** Trading Online vouchers were approved with a total value of circa €800,000
- **28** Feasibility Study, Priming, Business Expansion and Technical Assistance Export Grants were approved with a total value of €595,185. The 15 Priming and Business Expansion grants approved have a job potential of 50 roles.

BUSINESS TRAINING

Although paused briefly when Covid-19 restrictions were first introduced in March, the business training schedule for the year continued with many programmes held virtually.

- LEO hosted a total of **73** business training and development programmes with 1,690 participants.
- Given the focus on supporting businesses to continue to trade while meeting Covid-19 restrictions, **18** trading online workshops were delivered to over 500 participants.
- Despite the lockdown, demand to start a small business continued. LEO hosted nine Start Your Own Business programmes which were delivered to **137** people.

BUSINESS MENTORING

In total, **832** mentor assignments were completed during the year, whereby small business owners were matched with a business expert on a one-to-one basis. This was against an annual target of 300. Most of this increase in expected volume was a result of businesses seeking specialist advice to help them respond to the challenges of Covid-19.

This was made up of:

- 680 Covid-19 mentoring;
- 129 pre-Covid mentoring;
- 23 Brexit Advisory Clinics.

SUPPORTS FOR RETAIL

• Shop Local / Shop Louth Campaign

As part of a larger Shop Local campaign which included print, radio, online and billboard advertising and editorial, LEO launched a Louth online shopping directory with **228** local businesses and their ecommerce websites listed. This continues to be available at www.louthcoco.ie/ShopLouth.

• Retail Business Development Programme

A specialist management development programme designed specifically for retail businesses was launched during 2020. **Over 30** Louth retailers are participating on this programme which was funded under the government's Border Stimulus Fund at no cost to retailers.

• Retail Powerhouse Forum

LEO Louth supported **12** local retailers on the Retail Powerhouse forum, a commercial retail forum that focuses on building trade with expert tips specifically for retailers.



Shop Local, Cllr. Dolores Minogue, Cathaoirleach, Thomas McEvoy, Louth County Council



Poster Louth County Council's promotional campaign for shopping local.

SUPPORTING FOOD BUSINESSES

LEO continued to support food businesses under the joint Louth-Meath Food Strategy through its work with the **Boyne Valley Flavours** initiative.

A number of **Food Starter** (for start-up and early stage food businesses) and LEO-Bord Bia **Food Academy** programmes were delivered to Louth businesses in the food industry with the aim of securing supermarket sales.

LEO also supported Blas na hÉireann to ensure Louth participation at the Irish Food Awards.

OTHER MANAGEMENT DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES

- **eCommerce Cluster** with **nine** Louth companies being provided with enhanced digital consultancy support to help build their online businesses and sales.
- **LEAN for Micro** programme with **nine** LEO-approved projects and additional support provided through the NE LEAN Network.
- **PLATO** Management Development programme continued with 11 local businesses participating.
- **Innovate Accelerate Europe:** LEO Louth partnered with LEO Meath and Newry Mourne Down District Council in an online International Trade Readiness Programme focused on supporting small food and drink Businesses, with **seven** businesses from Louth.
- **Client Portfolio Review and Consultancy:** The programme was open to all 240 LEO portfolio clients and **159** engaged. The aim was to help them develop their growth potential in the market, working with businesses most at risk from the economic impacts of Covid-19 and Brexit and to ensure maximum uptake of LEO Covid-19 supports.

ENTERPRISE SUPPORT NETWORKS

LEO provided assistance and funding towards a number of local enterprise networks during the year, including:

- **Female entrepreneurship:** LEO sponsored Network Louth, the county's women in business network. LEO also actively promoted the ACORN and Illuminate female entrepreneurship development programmes in the county.
- **Craft sector:** Delivery of Design and Crafts Council (DCCI) business programmes to local craftmakers and support towards Louth Craftmark, the craftmakers network.

- North East Business Academy – a best practice network.
- Programme funding and support to the Louth Meath Food Strategy through the Boyne Valley Flavours network.
- Engineering sector – funding and programme support to the North East Focused Engineering Cluster, bringing together over 200 engineering businesses in the region.

NATIONAL ENTERPRISE PROGRAMMES

LEO delivered a range of National Enterprise Programmes at local level, including:

- **Showcase 2020: In January,** LEO took three county Louth creative businesses to Ireland's premier craft and gift trade fair, Showcase Ireland in the RDS Dublin. Emma's So Natural in Ardee, Sea Remedies in Carlingford and Aroma Buff in Drogheda had the opportunity to showcase their work to over 5,000 potential buyers from Ireland and the global stage. All companies received orders including overseas sales.

LEO Louth took three creative businesses to Ireland's premier craft and gift trade fair, Showcase Ireland, which ran from the 19th to the 22nd of January 2020 in the RDS, Dublin.

- **Student Enterprise Programme:** Over 1,500 students from 18 secondary schools in the county took part in the Student Enterprise Programme. Bush Post Primary, Drogheda Grammar and Dundalk Grammar schools represented Louth in the virtual national finals which were held in May.
- **Local Enterprise Week 2020** took place from the 2nd to the 6th of March with 14 events held throughout the county. Over 250 businesses participated in the week's events.



Local Enterprise Week 2020 was held March 2nd – 6th with 14 events held throughout the county with over 250 businesses participating in the week's events.



Students of Drogheda Grammar School, Grace O'Kane and Alex Hayes winner of the intermediate category of the Student Enterprise Programme receiving their award from Leas Cathaoirleach Cllr. Eileen Tully with their Teacher and Thomas McEvoy, Head of Enterprise, Louth County Council.



Students of Bush Post Primary School, Peter Hanlon, Nathan Mills, Cathal Malone, Lorcan Rice, winners of the senior category of the Student Enterprise Programme receiving their award from Leas Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Eileen Tully. Also in photograph are teacher, Laura Campbell and Thomas McEvoy, Head of Enterprise, Louth County Council.



National Enterprise Awards presentation (back left to right) Tom Grills, Grills Spirits Ltd.; Rory Clarke, Dureka Dental Ltd.; Thomas McEvoy, Head of Enterprise, Louth Co.Co.; former Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Liam Reilly; Joan Martin, Chief Executive, Louth Co.Co.. (front left to right) Geraldine Clarke, Dureka Dental Ltd.; Evelyn Garland, Simply Fit Foods Ltd., and Nicola Grills, Grills Spirits Ltd.

• National Enterprise Awards

Local Enterprise Week culminated in the countyfinal of the National Enterprise Awards in the Monasterboice Inn, Drogheda. Three companies were awarded county prizes, including Sixling Gin for Best Start-Up, Dureka Dental for Most Innovative Business and Simply Fit Foods for Best Established Business. Simply Fit Foods also won the overall award and will represent Louth at the National Enterprise Awards Final in 2020.

The awards were presented by former Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Liam Reilly. The audience then heard from keynote speaker and overall 2019 National Enterprise Award winner, Sonia Deasy of Pestle and Mortar, about how she grew her international business.

- **National Women's Enterprise Day (#NWED):** The LEO Network hosted National Women's Enterprise Day on the 14th of October, with over 2,700 businesses participating online.

EXTERNALLY-FUNDED ENTERPRISE PROGRAMMES

- **Co-Innovate Programme** neared its conclusion in 2020 with a total of 63 Louth participants seeking to embed innovation in their business.
- **Regional Enterprise Development Fund (REDF)** LEO assisted two projects in County Louth secure REDF grant approval (January 2020):
 - o A Connected Health and Wellbeing Innovation & Learning Hub for Business, to be located at the Regional Development Centre, DkIT was approved €3,774,337
 - o A FabLab at Creative Spark was approved for €500,000 funding.
- **Border Enterprise Development Fund (BEDF)** Of the 11 approved projects in the six border counties, four were in Co Louth, including;
 - o Louth County Council's Drogheda Digital Innovation Hub which was approved circa €600,000 in grant support. The project is designed to encourage high-potential future oriented tech projects seeking to start and grow, to locate in the greater Drogheda area. The project will provide affordable co-working space in Drogheda town centre complemented with management and mentoring support to facilitate the businesses' growth and export potential.
 - o ATHENA – a female STEM Entrepreneurship Programme with LEO and DkIT.
 - o Creative Spark's Dundalk town centre co-working proposal was approved for €270,000 in funding. This will allow for remote working and help position Dundalk as a regional growth centre to develop cross-border linkages and provide an attractive urban location from which to drive enterprise.

OTHER ENTERPRISE SUPPORT INITIATIVES

LEO contributed and supported the following enterprise initiatives during 2020:

- Regional Enterprise Plan (North East) and its steering committee.
- Louth Economic Forum, Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) and Local Action Group (LAG), Regional Skills Forum, BIDs companies in Dundalk and Drogheda, North East LEAN Network, Evaluation Committee of the LEADER programme, Enterprise Europe Network (EEN), InterTrade Ireland's Acumen Committee, the New Frontiers Entrepreneur Programme and both M1/ Drogheda and Dundalk Chamber Skillnet groups.
- In addition, LEO inputted at board level to Microfinance Ireland, The Mill, Drogheda, Ardee Business Park, Oriel Hub, Creative Spark and Louth County Enterprise Fund.



Cross Border Event held in March, Journalist and Host Mark Simpson.



Pictured at Employment Incentives for Business Owners are Joe Lavery, EURES Cross Border Co-Ordinator, Anne Keeley, Area Manager, DEASP, Pat McCormick, Chairperson of Dundalk Chamber of Commerce and Thomas McEvoy, Head of Enterprise, Louth County Council.



Being presented their trophy by Leas-Cathaoirleach Cllr. Eileen Tully are Junior category winners Super Sewers, from Dundalk Grammar School, Sasha Lenox-Conyngnam, Shayla-Ann Hollywood, Hazel Martin, with teacher E. McCabe and Thomas McEvoy, Louth County Council.



Pictured at Employment Incentives for Business Owners are Cllr. Marianne Butler Cllr. Michelle Hall and former Cathaoirleach of Louth County Council, Cllr. Liam Reilly.



LEO ASSISTED WITH A PIPELINE OF **46** ACTIVE **LOAN ENQUIRIES**

LEO LOUTH APPROVED **456** BUSINESS CONTINUITY VOUCHERS



BUSINESS TRAINING WAS PROVIDED TO **1,690** BUSINESS PARTICIPANTS



446 MICROENTERPRISES IN LOUTH APPLIED FOR A TRADING ONLINE VOUCHER

LEO HOSTED A SERIES OF EIGHT **SEMINARS/WEBINARS**



MENTORING WAS PROVIDED TO **832** BUSINESSES



5

OPERATIONS AND WASTE MANAGEMENT / ENVIRONMENT

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





LOUTH COUNTY COUNCIL MAINTAINS
1,565 KM
OF PUBLIC ROADS



€25 MILLION
SPENT ON ROAD
UPKEEP IN 2020



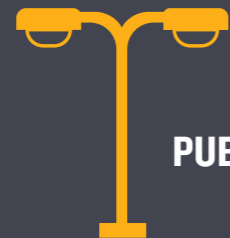
**6,620 CUSTOMER
QUERIES** FOR THE
SECTION IN 2020



FOUR EVENTS
HELD IN 2020



€300,000
SPENT ON
WINTER GRITTING



15,166
PUBLIC LIGHTS



31 BRING BANK
CENTRES

23 HOARDING
LICENCES GRANTED



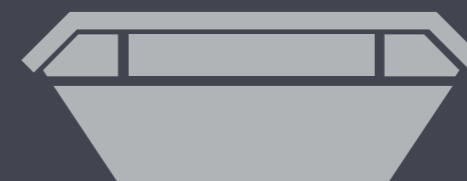
29 SECTION 254
LICENCES GRANTED
THROUGHOUT THE COUNTY

150
TREES PLANTED



9 PARKS AND 30
PLAYGROUNDS MAINTAINED

**201 ABNORMAL
LOAD** PERMITS



90 SKIP LICENCES
GRANTED IN 2020



102 SETS OF
TRAFFIC LIGHTS
WERE MAINTAINED



9 PARKLETS
ALLOCATED



12 X 5-HOUR FOOT PATROLS BY THE
LITTER WARDENS
6 X 5-HOUR FOOT PATROLS BY THE
DOG AND LITTER WARDENS

Roads

ROAD MAINTENANCE AND IMPROVEMENT

Louth County Council Operations Department is responsible for the operation, maintenance, and repair of 1,565km of public roads and streets throughout the county, together with the associated public realm, footways, bridges and other structures. The network excludes the M1 Motorway network, which is maintained directly by our partners, Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII), under a Motorway Maintenance and Renewals Contract.

Operations undertake:

1. Road upkeep, including routine and winter maintenance, surface dressing and public lighting;
2. Road improvements, which includes discretionary improvement, restoration improvement, specific improvement schemes, bridge works, footpath improvements and other improvement schemes;
3. Road traffic, which includes traffic management and safety;
4. Active travel transport initiatives.



Ardee River Walk.

A formal registration and inspection regime for all road opening licences (ROL) is also in place with our partners in the Road Management Office (RMO) and all utilities companies must obtain a ROL.

The Operations Department is also responsible for footway reconstruction and resurfacing; dropped kerbing with levelling of pathways; carriageway repairs and reinstatement; abnormal loads, providing and maintaining street skip-licences; the management and licensing of street furniture (Section 254 of Planning Act); responding to requests from the emergency services and responding to notified hazards; and maintaining over 10km of Greenways in the county.

This maintenance work is carried out by direct labour units operating from two areas, North Louth and South Louth and also by private contractors. In 2020, total expenditure on roads was €25 million, with grant funding received from Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport (DTT&S), TII, National Transport Authority (NTA) and Louth County Council own resources, focusing on the road carriageway resurfacing and footpaths.

In addition to road and verge maintenance on national roads, in 2020 the Council completed a pavement improvement scheme at the N2 between Collon and Ardee. The purpose of this was to repair and renew several hundred metres of existing road pavement with an overlay - along with associated remedial works - so as to prolong the life of the pavement by another 20 years. Operations also received a new element of funding from the DTT&S - a grant was allocated to the Council for 2020 for the amount of €500,000 for works on former national roads and over 1km of resurfacing has been completed in 2020 under this heading. This too gives another 20 years of service. The National Road schemes have resulted in improved skid resistance, rideability and drainage along these sections of the National Road network.



N2 Collon road works 1.



N2 Collon road works 2.

COMMUNITY/LOCAL INVOLVEMENT SCHEMES (CIS/LIS)

The Operations Department completed seven Community Involvement Schemes (CIS) with majority of funding from DTT&S and six Local Improvement Schemes (LIS), with grant funding from the Department of Rural and Community Development. These schemes showcase how partnership between the Council and communities can deliver meaningful improvements on roads, which otherwise would not receive maintenance or improvement funding. A list of potential schemes for participation in the CIS 2021/22 and the LIS was submitted to the government departments for further funding under these initiatives.

NON NATIONAL ROADS

The following lengths of the non-national road network were maintained in 2020:

Road Restoration (Overlays)

- 7.7km of regional roads and 4.7km of local roads (plus 4kms for CIS)
- 3 kms of roads were completed under the Local Improvement Scheme.

Surface Dressing (resealing)

- Regional: 30.3km, including road restoration lengths
- Local: 30.2km, including road restoration lengths and CIS schemes.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

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

Activities in 2020 included:

- The repair and maintenance of 102 sets of traffic lights;
- Continued enforcement of parking regulations;
- Operating 52 off-street car parks across the county;
- The support of schools to deliver effective Road Safety Education and Training Programmes;
- Provision of a School Warden Service to schools throughout Louth;
- Continued development of Greenways and cycleways and facilities for the mobility impaired/disabled;
- Ongoing road marking replenishing programme
- Three new PELICAN crossings created in Dundalk and Drogheda;
- New digital driver-feedback signs were erected at 30 sites across the county with periodic signs at schools planned in the first quarter of 2021.

Work continued on the delivery of other services:

- Ordinary maintenance, winter maintenance service and maintenance of plant and machinery;
- Capital programme of footpath improvement works;

- Public lighting services, capital programme of public lighting with LED energy efficiency lighting in Drogheda;
- Provision of transport planning advice;
- Road safety improvement schemes, promotion and education;
- Road opening licences, abnormal load applications, roads and services in charge queries;
- Review of bus licences and bus stop locations;
- Provision of 2020 Covid-19 measures to town centres, for example signage, outdoor dining, parklets, planters, parasols, temporary pedestrianisations, pop-up cycleways.



Bridge Damaged Togher Road.

DRAINAGE WORKS

Additional funding of €320,000 was provided by DTTAS for drainage schemes throughout the county. This was split across the two MDs to tackle drainage issues. This facilitated the completion of drainage works which includes culvert replacement and extension, installation of French drains and annual road gullies cleaning programme.

LOW-COST SAFETY MEASURES

The provision of €300,000 by the DTTaS enabled the Council to undertake targeted road safety engineering measures at 12 locations within the county in 2020. The engineering measures included pedestrian crossings, junction re-alignments, improved advanced warning signs and road marking schemes and sightline improvements.

BRIDGES

During 2020, DTTaS funding of €294,000 enabled the survey, assessment, de-vegetation and completion of rehabilitation works on local road bridges at several locations across the county.

WINTER MAINTENANCE

The Council's Winter Service Plan, which is published on the Louth County Council website, includes a schedule of priority routes that are treated with salt each time it is deemed necessary to do so. The Winter Maintenance period lasts from mid-October to the end of April each year. The aim is to keep priority routes safe and as free as possible from wintry hazards. The TII manages the national procurement of road salt for national and non-national roads and also maintains a national reserve of salt for distribution to local authorities in the event of a forecast of a severe weather event, i.e. a prolonged cold snap or blizzard conditions.

The County has a roster of three duty engineers, six supervisors, sixteen drivers and six loaders, who are responsible for making the decision as to whether to salt priority routes within the county or not. Data received from Met Éireann and roadside weather stations, two new stations have been added on the N53 and N2, assist the duty engineer in the decision-making process. In respect of the 2019/20 season, the winter gritting crews completed over 50 nights as part of the Winter Maintenance Service which was managed and operated by the council's machinery yard. The service cost over €300,000 to provide in 2020.

Climate Action, Waste Management & Environment

The responsibilities of Louth County Council's Waste Management and Environment section include waste regulation; landfill aftercare; litter enforcement; air, noise and water regulation and climate change action co-ordination.

Climate Action, Waste and Environment activities undertaken by Louth County Council are carried out in co-ordination with national and regional organisations including: WERLA, WMPR, NWCP, CARO & LAWPRO to ensure regional consistency in the implementation of national priorities.

Key developments in 2020

- Purchase of four electric vehicles
- New lo-cal flare installed in Drogheda landfill
- Replacement of 30 obsolete home boilers with high-efficiency models enabled by in-house Climate Action Fund
- Louth County Council has taken on the role of lead partner for Republic of Ireland for INTERREG V FASTER project, to deliver 25 fast electric vehicle chargers across the border region.



Remnants of illegal bonfire on Clogherhead Beach.



New low-cal gas flare installed at Drogheda Landfill.



1,812 LITTER INVESTIGATIONS



14 SUPERVISED PERCOLATION TESTS CARRIED OUT



13 ROADSIDE WASTE ACTIVITY CHECKPOINTS



1,088,786 KW ELECTRICITY GENERATED FROM LANDFILL GAS



€39,387.20 IN LITTER FINES RECEIVED



559 PLANNING REPORTS COMPLETED



98 RIVER QUALITY SAMPLES TAKEN

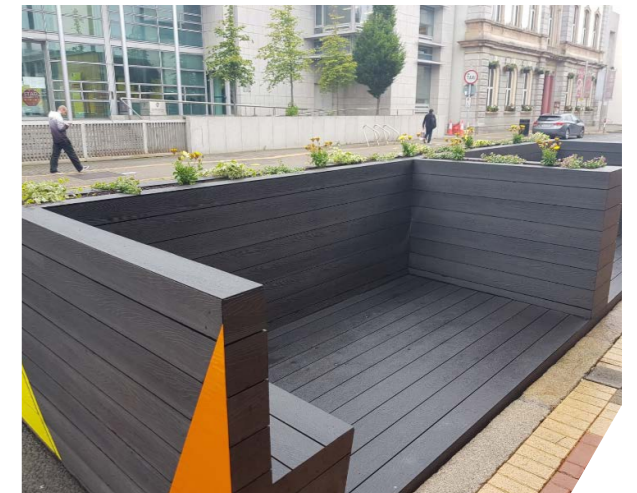
Parks & Public Spaces

PARKS & PUBLIC SPACES

There are approximately 115 hectares of public open spaces County Louth. Last year, Louth County Council planted over 35,000 wild flower bulbs including Daffodils, Tulips, Snowdrops and Narcissi. These were planted on the roundabouts and on a section of the inner relief road in Dundalk. Beehives were also installed in St. Helena's Park in Dundalk where there are now over 30,000 bees – almost one for every wild flower planted! While the Covid-19 pandemic affected the planting season, there were still over 150 trees planted by the Council in 2020.

STREET FURNITURE

To help businesses recover from the effects of the pandemic, the Council purchased street furniture in association with BIDS Dundalk and Love Drogheda. In total, 9 parklet 'mini-parks' were purchased and allocated to businesses throughout the county.. Parasols were purchased along with planters to enable premises to be ready for outdoor dining. The Council has also purchased two Wi-Fi enabled smart benches, which will become focal points in Dundalk and Drogheda when installed.



Parklet located outside 23 Seats, Crowe Street, Dundalk.



Parklet located outside XXI Ice, Clanbrassil Street, Dundalk.

VETERINARY SERVICES AT A GLANCE

6 HORSES TAKEN TO ANIMAL POUND, DOWN FROM 11 IN 2019

1 SUCCESSFUL PROSECUTION PROSECUTION OF AN ILLEGAL SLAUGHTERHOUSE AND ILLEGAL MEAT PROCESSING PLANT

39% OF DOGS RECLAIMED BY OWNER

ONE NEW ABATTOIR RECEIVED APPROVAL BRINGING THE TOTAL ABATTOIRS IN THE COUNTY TO TWO

231 FIXED PENALTIES ISSUED IN RELATION TO **DOG CONTROL**

6,288 DOG LICENCES ISSUED, 40% PURCHASED ONLINE

164 DOGS TAKEN IN BY THE POUND IN 2020 (LARGE REDUCTION ON 2019 (DUE TO LOCKDOWN))

ONE ORDER OF DESTRUCTION OF DANGEROUS DOG UPHELD IN CIRCUIT COURT

91% OF DOGS RECLAIMED OR **REHOMED**

Veterinary Services

FOOD SAFETY

Louth County Council provides meat inspection and food safety duties under a service contract with the Food Safety Authority of Ireland.

There were 16 meat processing plants under the inspectorate of the veterinary section of Louth County Council in 2020, an increase from 15 in 2019. These comprised two abattoirs (one becoming operational in December 2020), 11 approved meat cutting/ cooking plants, and three registered meat plants.

In November 2020, Louth County Council successfully prosecuted a person for operating an illegal slaughterhouse and illegal meat processing plant, which was discovered following a search on his premises in April 2018. The offences related to a number of regulations including SI 432/2009 European Communities (Food and Feed Hygiene) Regulations 2009.

ANIMAL CONTROL AND WELFARE

The overall number of dogs entering the pound in 2020 was 164, which continues a downward trend, indicating an overall reduction in the stray dog population and more responsible dog ownership. The closure of the pound facility due to Covid-19 restrictions was a large factor in the reduced numbers.

Another trend in recent years is the number of dogs surrendered to the pound by owners for various reasons, currently accounting for 34% of the dog intake.

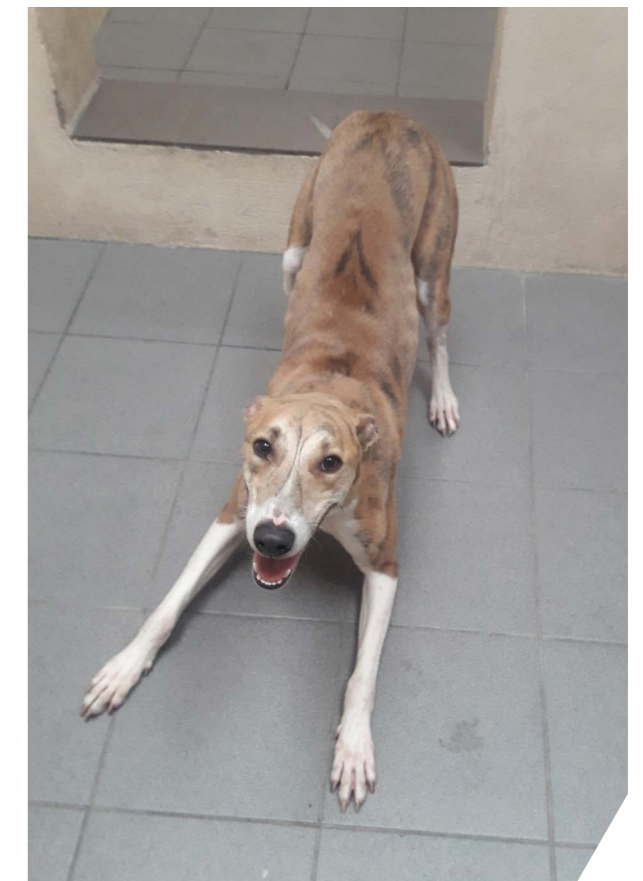
Also encouraging is the reclaim and re-home rate of 91%, with 60% of these dogs being reclaimed by their owners.

In 2020, horse numbers continued to decrease, with only six horses seized compared to 11 in 2019.

In November 2020, Louth County Council was granted a destruction order in the Circuit Court for a dangerous dog, which was upheld on appeal.

BIODIVERSITY AT THE POUND

In 2020, the veterinary services began work on a new biodiversity project at the animal pound in Dromiskin, in association with Dromiskin Tidy Towns. Work is not yet complete but will be a great asset to the biodiversity of the local area.



Playful lurcher in the kennels at the Animal Compound in 2020.

Water Services

Louth County Council manages water supply to 49,725 homes and businesses across the county on behalf of Irish Water. As part of Louth County Council's agreement with Irish Water, the Council is also responsible for waste water treatment. Significant capital investment was made into the county's water and wastewater infrastructure in 2020. This included:

- Completion of upgrade works at two wastewater treatment plants at Ardee and Tinure
- Upgrade works at two water treatment plants at Cavan Hill and Staleen Water significantly progressed
- Completion of Carlingford and Blackrock wastewater treatment plant FBDA system (fine bubble diffused air)
- Reservoir cleaning programme progressing
- Water conservation works ongoing throughout the county
- Design works progressed under the early contractor investment programme for Omeath Wastewater Treatment Plant
- Ongoing works on schemes/projects under the multi-annual Rural Water Programme 2019-2021.



Staleen Water Treatment Plant.



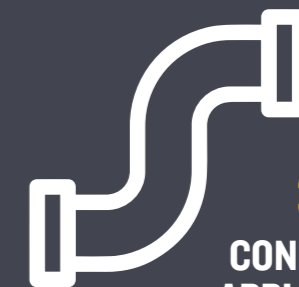
Staleen Water Treatment Plant.



2,969 CUSTOMER QUERIES



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



312 CONNECTION APPLICATIONS



APPROXIMATELY **601** MAINS AND CONNECTION REPAIRS



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



6

APPENDICES

Conference attendance

Record payment to Members for meetings

Committees and Representation

Local Elections, Candidates Expenditure & Donations

Corporate Plan

Financial Statements

Performance Indicators

Councillor Attendance Record

Title	Dates	Members Attended	Travel & Subs Cost	Conference Cost	Total Cost
Conferences at Home					
Celtic Conferences Health & Safety in the Workplace Clonakilty, Co Cork	21st- 23rd February 2020	Cllr. Michelle Hall Cllr. Pio Smith	not claimed €600.00	€100.00 €100.00	€100.00 €700.00
Training					
Athlone AILG November 2019. LAMA Clare Oct 2019		Cllr. Jim Tenanty Cllr. Jim Tenanty	€257.00 €529.41	incl 2019 incl 2019	€257.00 €529.41
AILG Module 2 Cavan	13th February 2020	Cllr. Marianne Butler Cllr. Hugh Conlon	€82.94 €86.95	€55.00 €55.00	€137.94 €141.95
AILG Module 2 Dooleys Hotel Waterford	15th February 2020 (Saturday)	Cllr. Emma Coffey Cllr. Colm Markey Cllr. John McGahon Cllr. Liam Reilly Cllr. Pio Smith Cllr. Jim Tenanty	not claimed not claimed €360.91 €347.47 €343.18 €344.77	€55.00 €55.00 €55.00 €55.00 €55.00 €55.00	€55.00 €55.00 €415.91 €402.47 €398.18 €399.77
AILG spring conference Longford	4th & 5th March 2020	Cllr. James Byrne Cllr. John McGahon Cllr. Erin McGreehan Cllr. Pio Smith Cllr. Jim Tenanty	not claimed not claimed not claimed €257.06 €242.73	€140.00 €140.00 €140.00 €140.00 €140.00	€140.00 €140.00 €140.00 €397.06 €382.73
AILG Module 3 Wexford	25th July 2020	Cllr. Jim Tenanty	€321.79	€55.00	€376.79
AILG Module 3 Carrickarnon, Dundalk	30th July 2020	Cllr. Liam Reilly Cllr. John Sheridan	nil nil	€55.00 €55.00	€55.00 €55.00
AILG Module 3 Horse & Jockey, Tipperary	6th August 2020	Cllr. Conor Keelan	not claimed	€55.00	€55.00

Title	Dates	Members Attended	Travel & Subs Cost	Conference Cost	Total Cost
Attendance Other Meetings					
Local Gov Climate & Bio-diversity Action Workshop Dublin	4th December 2019	Cllr. M Butler	€17.00	nil	€17.00
East Border Region Mtg December 2019 Newry	6th December 2019	Cllr. Erin McGreehan	€27.76	nil	€27.76
East Border Region Mtg Craigavon	31st January 2020	Cllr. Erin McGreehan	€62.70	nil	€62.70
MOU mtg Newry	19th February 2020	Cllr. Erin McGreehan	€27.76	nil	€27.76
East Border Region Mtg13 February 20 Armagh	13th February 2020	Cllr. Erin McGreehan Cllr. Michelle Hall	€54.19 nil	nil	€54.19
East Border Region Mtg December 2019 Warrenpoint	21st February 2020	Cllr. Erin McGreehan	€52.13	nil	€52.13
Foreign Travel					
Nil					

Payments to Members for Meetings, Committees & Representation 2020

	Payments to Members of Louth Local Authorities	Louth County Council
1	Number of Council and Committee Meetings	105
2	Annual expenses allowance (travel, subsistence and miscellaneous exps, postage, including vouched expenses). Total of expenses paid to members in respect of attendance of meetings of the Council and its committees	€130,894.95
3	Representational payment	€510,962.28
4	Chairpersons allowance	€20,000.00
5	Vice Chairpersons allowance	€4,000.00
6	Chairpersons of SPCs/MPCs	€300,000.00
7	Chairperson of Municipal Districts	€28,000.00
8	Member of Municipal District allowance	€28,281.51
9	Mobile/Blackberry phones & broadband	€8,817.10
10	Expenses on conferences & training etc attended (a) Home (b) Abroad	€5,334.21 € -

Municipal Districts Committee Members 2020

BOROUGH DISTRICT OF DROGHEDA

Cllr. Kevin Callan Mayor
Cllr. James Byrne
Cllr. Joanna Byrne
Cllr. Tom Cunningham
Cllr. Michelle Hall
Cllr. Paddy McQuillan
Cllr. Declan Power
Cllr. Eileen Tully
Cllr. Pio Smith

No. of meetings 2020 - 12

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF ARDEE

Cllr. John Sheridan, Cathaoirleach
Cllr. Dolores Minogue
Cllr. Hugh Conlon
Cllr. Colm Markey
Cllr. Pearse McGeough
Cllr. Jim Tenanty

No. of meetings 2020 - 11

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF DUNDALK

Cllr. Emma Coffey, Cathaoirleach
Cllr. Marianne Butler
Cllr. Edel Corrigan
Cllr. Maria Doyle
Cllr. Conor Keelan
Cllr. Andrea McKeivitt
Cllr. Sean Kelly
Cllr. Kevin Meenan
Cllr. John Reilly
Cllr. Liam Reilly
Cllr. Tomás Sharkey
Cllr. Antóin Watters
Cllr. Maeve Yore

No. of meetings 2020 - 12

AUDIT COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP 2019 - 2024

Richard Bowden
Bowden Walsh & Co Accountants

Irene McCausland
Dundalk Institute of Technology

Cllr. Conor Keelan

Cllr. Colm Markey

Billy Doyle
Dundalk Credit Union

No. of meetings 2020 - 4

Strategic Policy Committees

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND ENTERPRISE SUPPORT

Chairperson: Cllr. Pio Smith
Members: Cllr. Dolores Minogue
 Cllr. Andrea McKevitt
 Cllr. Tomás Sharkey
 Cllr. Declan Power
 Cllr. Seán Kelly

External Sectoral Representatives:

Paddy Malone, Dundalk Chamber - Business/Commercial Pillar
 Sarah Daly, Creative Spark - PPN Social Inclusion Pillar
 Alan Mc Ardle, Faughart Community Alert - PPN Community Pillar
 Gerard Melia IFA - PPN Agriculture/Farming Pillar
 Lorcan Cooke CIF - PPN Development/Construction Pillar

PLANNING AND SUPPORT INFRASTRUCTURE

Chairperson: Cllr. Maria Doyle
Members: Cllr. Antoin Watters
 Cllr. Hugh Conlon
 Cllr. Eileen Tully
 Cllr. Edel Corrigan

External Sectoral Representatives:

John Morgan - Social Inclusion
 Richard Barry - Community/Voluntary
 Eoin Daly - Environmental/Conservation
 Gerard Melia, IFA - Agriculture/Farming
 Eddie Phelan, Drogheda Chamber - Business/Commercial

COMMUNITY, QUALITY OF LIFE AND CREATIVITY

Chairperson: Cllr. Emma Coffey
Members: Cllr. Maeve Yore
 Cllr. Michelle Hall
 Cllr. Paddy McQuillan
 Cllr. Pearse McGeough
 Cllr. John Sheridan

External Sectoral Representatives:

Fiona Crawley - Environment
 Colin Roche - Social Inclusion
 Susan Farrelly - Arts
 Gráinne Berrill - Sports
 Stacey McVeigh - Youth

CLIMATE ACTION AND ENERGY

Chairperson: Cllr. Liam Reilly
Members: Cllr. Kevin Callan
 Cllr. James Byrne
 Cllr. Tom Cunningham
 Cllr. Marianne Butler
 Cllr. Colm Markey

External Sectoral Representatives:

Pat Mulligan, Dromiskin Tidy Towns - Community PPN College
 Liam Woods, Louth Environmental Network - Environmental PPN College
 Eugene Conlon, Dunleer Sustainable Energy - Environmental PPN College
 Miriam Simon, Drogheda Chamber - Business Pillar
 Gerard Melia, IFA - Farming Pillar

HOUSING

Chairperson: Cllr. Joanna Byrne
Members: Cllr. Jim Tenanty
 Cllr. John Reilly
 Cllr. Fiachra Mac Raghnaill
 Cllr. Kevin Meenan
 Cllr. Conor Keelan

External Sectoral Representatives:

Andrew Califf, Dundalk Simon Community - Social Inclusion PPN College
 Elizabeth O'Reilly, Louth Environmental Network - Environmental PPN College
 Pat McCormick- Development/Construction Business Pillar
 Niamh Roche - Environmental/ Conservation National Environmental Pillar
 Colm O'Hanrahan - Trade Unions Trade Union Pillar

Local Policing Forum

DROGHEDA LOCAL POLICING FORUM

The Drogheda Local Policing Forum represents both the interests of the Borough District of Drogheda and the Drogheda Garda District. Due to changes in the local electoral area boundaries Drogheda North, Drogheda South, Clogherhead, Termonfeckin & Tullyallen are now included as part of the Drogheda / South Louth LPF.

Membership is as follows:-

Member	Organisation	Title
Cllr. James Byrne	Louth County Council	Councillor & Chairperson
Cllr. Fiachra Mac Raghnaill	Louth County Council	Councillor
Cllr. Michelle Hall	Louth County Council	Councillor
Cllr. Joanna Byrne	Louth County Council	Councillor
Cllr. Kevin Callan	Louth County Council	Councillor
Cllr. Paddy McQuillan	Louth County Council	Councillor
Cllr. Tom Cunningham	Louth County Council	Councillor
Cllr. Pio Smith	Louth County Council	Councillor
Cllr. Eileen Tully	Louth County Council	Councillor
Cllr. Declan Power	Louth County Council	Councillor
Imelda Munster	Oireachtas	T.D.
Peter Fitzpatrick	Oireachtas	T.D.
Ged Nash	Oireachtas	T.D.
Ruairí Ó Murchú	Oireachtas	T.D.
Fergus O' Dowd	Oireachtas	T.D.
Tony Mullins	Comm. & Voluntary	PPN
Flora Okobi	Comm. & Voluntary	PPN
Shona McManus	Business Pillar	PPN
Gerard Melia	Farming Pillar	PPN
Christopher Mangan	An Garda Síochána	Chief Superintendent
Andrew Watters	An Garda Síochána	Superintendent
Mark McNulty	An Garda Síochána	Sergeant
Paddy Donnelly	Louth County Council	Director of Services

DUNDALK LOCAL POLICING FORUM

The Dundalk Local Policing Forum represents the Dundalk Municipal District and the Dundalk Garda District. Due to changes in the local electoral area boundaries Dundalk, Blackrock, Haggardstown, Dromiskin Carlingford, Greenore, Omeath and Knockbridge are now included as part of Dundalk/ North Louth LPF.

Membership is as follows:-

Member	Organisation	Title
Cllr. Sean Kelly	Louth County Council	Councillor & Chairperson
Cllr. Marianne Butler	Louth County Council	Councillor
Cllr. John Reilly	Louth County Council	Councillor
Cllr. Emma Coffey	Louth County Council	Councillor
Cllr. Edel Corrigan	Louth County Council	Councillor
Cllr. Liam Reilly	Louth County Council	Councillor
Cllr. Maria Doyle	Louth County Council	Councillor
Cllr. Conor Keelan	Louth County Council	Councillor
Cllr. Kevin Meenan	Louth County Council	Councillor
Cllr. Tomás Sharkey	Louth County Council	Councillor
Cllr. Andrea McKeivitt	Louth County Council	Councillor
Cllr. Maeve Yore	Louth County Council	Councillor
Cllr. Antóin Watters	Louth County Council	Councillor
Ruairí Ó Murchú	Oireachtas	T.D.
Ged Nash	Oireachtas	T.D.
Peter Fitzpatrick	Oireachtas	T.D.
Imelda Munster	Oireachtas	T.D.
Fergus O'Dowd	Oireachtas	T.D.
Gerard Melia	Farming Pillar	PPN
Sean Farrell	Business Pillar	PPN
John Temple	Comm. & Voluntary	PPN
Pat McVeigh	Social Inclusion	PPN
Christopher Mangan	An Garda Síochána	Chief Superintendent
James G. Curley	An Garda Síochána	Superintendent
Mark McNulty	An Garda Síochána	Sergeant
Frank Pentony	Louth County Council	Director of Services
Paddy Donnelly	Louth County Council	Director of Services

ARDEE LOCAL POLICING FORUM

The Ardee Local Policing Forum represents both the interests of the Ardee Municipal District and the Ardee Garda District. Due to changes in the local electoral area boundaries Ardee, Castlebellingham, Kilsaran, Collon, Dunleer. Tinure, Louth Village and Tallanstown are now included as part of Ardee Mid Louth LPF.

Membership is as follows:-

Member	Organisation	Title
Cllr. Jim Tenanty	Ardee Local Policing Forum	Councillor & Chairperson
Cllr. John Sheridan	Ardee Local Policing Forum	Councillor
Cllr. Colm Markey	Ardee Local Policing Forum	Councillor
Cllr. Dolores Minogue	Ardee Local Policing Forum	Councillor
Cllr. Hugh Conlon	Ardee Local Policing Forum	Councillor
Cllr. Pearse McGeough	Ardee Local Policing Forum	Councillor
Ruairí Ó Murchú	Oireachtas	T.D.
Peter Fitzpatrick	Oireachtas	T.D.
Ged Nash	Oireachtas	T.D.
Imelda Munster	Oireachtas	T.D.
Fergus O'Dowd	Oireachtas	T.D.
Damien McKenna	Comm. & Voluntary	PPN
Gerard Melia	Farming Pillar	PPN
Christopher Mangan	An Garda Síochána	Chief Superintendent
James O'Leary	An Garda Síochána	Superintendent
Mark McNulty	An Garda Síochána	Sergeant
Joe McGuinness	Louth County Council	Director of Services
Paddy Donnelly	Louth County Council	Director of Services

LOUTH COUNTY COUNCIL

CORPORATE PLAN 2019 - 2024 PROGRESS REPORT

MISSION STATEMENT

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



Comhairle Contae **Lú**
Louth County Council

HOUSING

Title	Update
Delivering the Rebuilding Ireland Strategy targets for County Louth	<p>During 2020, Louth County Council Housing Department hugely overdelivered on its Rebuilding Ireland target with 300 new units added, by way of new-build and acquisition.</p> <p>Discussions with relevant parties to secure leasing targets under a new Enhanced Leasing Model were intensified during 2020 for delivery in 2021.</p>
Delivering the Homeless Action Plan	<p>Reduced the number of families in homeless accommodation through preventative measures such as TSS services and Homeless HAP placements. At the end of 2020, there were four families in emergency accommodation in the North East region, the lowest figure for any region in the country.</p> <p>There were no recorded rough sleepers in the North East region on the last day of December 2020.</p> <p>Implemented a fit-for-purpose data capture system through the ongoing roll-out of the PASS 2 system.</p> <p>Met the long-term housing needs of homeless persons through a number of initiatives. This included the implementation of Housing First in the region, in conjunction with Peter McVerry Trust, which provided permanent homes for 15 long-term homeless individuals in County Louth. The adoption of the homeless place finder model resulted in 194 placements in private rented accommodation in 2020, up from 69 the previous year. A further 59 permanent tenancies for homeless clients were established through social housing (29) and AHBs (30) in 2020.</p>
Implementing the Traveller Accommodation Programme	<p>Targets for the TAP in 2020 were exceeded with 16 allocations (target: 12) of standard social housing.</p> <p>Two Group Housing scheme projects were advanced with delivery expected within the timeframe of the programme.</p> <p>Demand for Group Housing is on course to be met during the lifetime of the programme with additional sites selected.</p>

HOUSING continued

Title	Update
Working with key stakeholders to achieve a mix of housing options	<p>Continued progress was made on delivery of a mix of housing options through close collaborations with AHB's, statutory agencies, landlords and private developers.</p> <p>Housing Options now include Standard Social Housing, HAP, Mortgage to Rent, Long Term Leases, Transitional Houses and Housing First and AHB.</p>
Delivering compact growth in Dundalk & Drogheda, including town centre and multi-storey living	<p>There have been numerous permitted developments of varying scales and including multi-storey development, which demonstrate the commitment to achieving compact growth. In addition, a number of planning applications are currently within the planning system and awaiting a decision. Permitted developments on key strategic sites include Urban Life, Fane Enterprises, EJ & PJ Doherty, BWH Developments, Boyle Sports.</p> <p>At both a national and regional level, the National Planning Framework (NPF) and the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES) prioritise the importance of compact growth and consolidating and strengthening the existing built-up areas, which is evident in narrative and associated National Strategic Outcomes, National Policy Objectives and Regional Policy Objectives.</p> <p>In alignment with national and regional policy documents, a key priority of the draft Louth County Development Plan (LCDP) - in both Strategic Objective and Policy Objectives - for the two Regional Growth Centres of Drogheda and Dundalk, is the promotion of the continued sustainable and compact growth of the towns as regional drivers of city scale, with a population each of 50,000 by 2031. This will include the delivery of a minimum of 30% compact growth in the built-up footprints of Drogheda and Dundalk, through regeneration and redevelopment of vacant, infill and brownfield sites and in conjunction with improved accessibility, sustainable mobility and requisite infrastructure. To this end, an analysis of such lands with potential capacity to deliver new homes was completed for Dundalk and Drogheda.</p> <p>As part of the compact growth strategy, the draft LCDP actively promotes and supports proposals to develop buildings of increased height on suitably located and configured sites, which are normally centrally located in towns. With regard to residential development, the draft plan recognises that to achieve compact growth, higher density developments will be required particularly on centrally</p>

HOUSING continued

Title	Update
	<p>located lands or lands well connected to the town centres.</p> <p>The guiding principle of Chapter 3 of the draft plan, 'Housing', acknowledges the importance of compact growth and recognises that apartment developments and higher density development will play a significant role in securing such compact growth in accordance with national guidance.</p> <p>The appointment of consultants, with Urban Regeneration Development Fund and Council match funding, to develop a plan for the delivery of the Westgate Vision launched by Louth County Council in 2018 will facilitate and plan for the rejuvenation of this key part of Drogheda. The funding secured for the development of a masterplan in relation to the Longwalk area of Dundalk and the approval of funding for the redevelopment of the St. Nicholas Quarter are essential to promoting compact growth and occupation of derelict premises in the town.</p>
Prioritising the role of housing in placemaking	<p>At both a national and regional level both the NPF and the RSES prioritise the role of housing in placemaking.</p> <p>The NPF, which is a high-level strategic plan for shaping the future growth of the country, recognises that housing is the foundation from which communities and their quality of lives are created. To this end, one of the Core National Principles guiding the delivery of future housing is a high standard quality of life alongside environmentally and socially sustainable housing and placemaking, for future residents.</p> <p>The importance of placemaking is acknowledged in the RSES of the Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly wherein Healthy Placemaking is identified as one of the key cross-cutting principles of the strategy. It seeks <i>inter alia</i> to protect and enhance the unique identity and character of places and facilitate improvements to human wellbeing and the quality of life that comes from the interaction of people and their environment. Placemaking is underpinned by good urban design, seeking to create vibrant public spaces that are safe, distinctive, accessible and which promote and facilitate social interaction.</p>

HOUSING continued

Title	Update
	<p>In line with the aforementioned national and regional policy, the draft Louth County Development Plan fully recognises the importance of placemaking in Strategic Objective SO 9 wherein it seeks to:</p> <p><i>‘Protect and enhance the unique character and identity of Louth’s towns and villages and improve quality of life and well-being through the application of healthy Placemaking, underpinned by good urban design with the creation of attractive public spaces that are vibrant, distinctive, safe and accessible and which promote and facilitate positive social interaction’.</i></p> <p>Table 1.1 of the draft plan clearly illustrates those chapters of the draft plan which align with the Regional Strategic Outcomes of the key principle of Healthy Placemaking.</p> <p>The guiding principle of the Chapter 3, ‘Housing’, of the Draft Plan is</p> <p><i>‘To facilitate the provision of a high quality, suitable mix of adaptable, lifetime housing that meets the needs of all residents in the County; based on the principles of place making, compact growth, and healthy, sustainable communities where housing is close to services and where sustainable modes of transport can be facilitated.’</i></p> <p>The draft plan in Section 3.13 supports the principles for Quality Design and Layout in residential developments and neighbourhoods in line with national policy and guidance (which is further developed in Chapter 13 – Development Management Guidelines). Specifically Section 3.13.1 and 3.14 in both its narrative and policy objective recognises placemaking as a design approach that can add value to a housing development, bringing together a range of interrelated disciplines. The draft plan recognises that a key principle of placemaking includes the creation of neighbourhoods where people can fulfill their daily needs ,and feel safe and the most successful of these neighbourhoods are well connected, multi-functional and with a wide range of services available. They have attractive streets and spaces that are safe and secure and easy to navigate. This collectively assists in creating a sense of community and identity and make the places more attract live to live.</p>

HOUSING continued

Title	Update
	<p>Chapter 13 of the draft plan outlines guidance documents which are to be consulted when designing residential developments and in particular requires that in a multi-unit residential development (in excess of 10 units) that a Design Statement is required including; design principles and concept; how the development accords with the 12 criteria set out in the Urban Design Manual and compliance with the policy objectives and standards of the Development Plan.</p>

DROGHEDA & DUNDALK

Title	Update
Delivering new local area plans (LAP) for Drogheda and Dundalk	<p>These plans will commence following the adoption of the County Development Plan (CDP) in final quarter of 2021.</p> <p>The policy objectives for both of these LAPs will be informed by the strategic objectives in the new CDP.</p>
Delivering the key objectives for Louth in Ireland 2040 and the Regional Spatial & Economic Strategy	The new CDP will provide a local policy context and give full effect to the key objectives in the NPF and the RSES. Planning assessments and planning recommendations have regard to all current national and regional policy frameworks.
Delivering strong population growth with compact multi-storey development within town footprints	A key tenet of the draft CDP is the promotion of compact growth within the existing built-up areas of our towns and villages. There is a key objective of providing 30% of all new homes in existing footprints of towns. Development applications for increased heights are assessed against a clear national planning framework for promoting increased heights.
Progressing urban regeneration projects, such as Westgate Vision, Drogheda; Long Walk, Dundalk	<p>The tender process to appoint a design team for both projects has been completed and the preferred bidders identified. We are in the process of finalising this appointment.</p> <p>A memorandum of understanding has been drafted and agreed with the third party stakeholder.</p> <p>An application under the URDF in relation to the regeneration of Bridge Street and Backlands was developed and submitted for consideration.</p> <p>Ardee Castle and the digital hub project in Drogheda are also being progressed.</p>
Enhancing Recreation, Cultural and Sports Facilities	<p>The Council continues to ensure adequate lands are zoned within the CDP and that there is a strong policy framework for the provision of recreation, cultural and sports facilities. The LAP process will also provide an opportunity to further enhance policy provision at a more local context if so required.</p> <p>Covid-19 specific measures were put in place to facilitate the reopening of the sports facilities during easing of restrictions, ensuring operation of our facilities in line with government guidance and restrictions.</p>

DROGHEDA & DUNDALK continued

Title	Update
	<p>Hundreds of hours of free content was uploaded by the Louth Sports Unit during 2020 to assist people to remain active during Covid-19 restriction periods.</p> <p>The Operations department has invested in our 25 playgrounds by adding new equipment and received grants of 20,000 every year. We have commenced the Part 8 Planning process to invest 250,000 in St Dominic's park and playgrounds in Drogheda over the next 12 months.</p> <p>We have completed 2.3km of Greenway in Drogheda (south bank Boyne) and Dundalk river walk to provide enhanced walking and cycling facilities.</p>
Maintaining strong levels of job growth in Drogheda & Dundalk	The current and draft CDP seek to provide optimal opportunities for new and existing industries to locate or grow within the County through strong policy provision for supporting jobs growth and setting up new business and ensuring there are sufficient quantum of lands in the appropriate locations to promote better land use and transportation integration. This objective is also balanced against the need to ensure there is new housing available in order to promote and sustain job growth in the county.
Developing our towns as great places to live, work and play	<p>The CDP promotes multi-functional places where people have ease of access to work, live and play. This is demonstrated in the recent and on-going improvements in our towns and villages, in particular Clanbrassil St. and Bridge Street in Dundalk, upcoming projects such as the Westgate Vision and the development of a digital hub in Drogheda, Ardee Castle, and securing of recent funding for public realm works in Omeath.</p> <p>The Council continues to enforce the Parking Bye-Laws regulating on-street parking in Dundalk and Drogheda along with parking in car-parks in the County which have been updated since 2018 and which include provision for changes such as charging points for EVs.. The regulation of parking in our main towns ensures the free flow of traffic and is designed to facilitate maximum footfall in our main commercial centres.</p> <p>The council continues to support our urban areas with strong litter enforcement. During 2020, despite the early impact of Covid-related restrictions, 521 fines were issued for littering offences in the county. During this period, both Dundalk and Drogheda improved their</p>

DROGHEDA & DUNDALK continued

Title	Update
	<p data-bbox="575 449 1279 548">national standing in the Irish Business Against Litter (IBAL) rankings, with Drogheda ranked number 21 nationally and Dundalk number 28.</p> <p data-bbox="575 583 1279 747">The Council continues to support energy projects by communities in the county as a means to reduce carbon emissions and minimise energy expenditure on maintenance of those facilities. That enables more local resources to be targeted towards the other aspects of those facilities.</p>



CLIMATE ACTION

Title	Update
Delivering Louth's Climate Action Strategy	Louth County Council has advanced major climate adaption projects in areas such as flood relief and electrification of the Council transport fleet. Funding has been received for improvement of our electric car charging network.
Working to deliver Ireland's Climate Action Strategy	<p>Louth County Council continues to work towards delivery of the Climate Action Plan 2019 and new targets which are to be set down in Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Bill 2021.</p> <p>The decarbonisation target of 51% reduction by the end of 2030 will drive activity in this area.</p>
Continuing to develop as exemplars for energy efficiency and awareness	<p>Operations have continued to educate drivers under the Eco-drive scheme and have seen fuel usage assuage. The Council is in the process of procuring zero-emission electric vehicles over the next two quarters. The grant and funding process for EV charging points has begun with at least two funding bodies.</p> <p>The winter gritting programme has continued to become more efficient as new state-of-the-art software gives accurate weather predictions that are highly reliable. Two new weather stations were added to the Louth roads network, which also aided the above and helped reduce the number of winter maintenance vehicle call-outs over the course of the season from over 100 to 60 call-outs.</p> <p>The mains-powered parking meters have all been replaced with solar-powered units with 100% power saving and reduction in maintenance, cabling and electric metering costs.</p> <p>The Operations department has installed five solar bins which have up to eight times the capacity for litter, which reduces vehicle visits and emptying by 90%.</p> <p>The Council underwent a two day audit in December 2020 to complete the transition of its Energy Management System (EnMS) to ISO 50,0001 :2018 and vie for recertification for a further three year period 2021 – 2024. Early indication is that we were successful. Louth is one of a small number of Local Authorities to have an EnMS to that high standard and that is an exemplar for other energy users in the county to follow.</p>

CLIMATE ACTION continued

Title	Update
	<p>The Council also participates in an annual funding application to Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland to seek funding for energy projects and encourages other energy users in the county to do similar.</p> <p>The Council's Energy Team participates in annual festivals in the county's libraries (for example, Science Week and Engineers Week) to promote the importance of Climate Change and measures to mitigate climate change by reducing energy emissions.</p> <p>The Council's Energy Team hosts energy events for staff each year to encourage mitigation of climate change by reducing energy emissions.</p>
Combat the flood threat in Drogheda & Dundalk and other areas, in partnership with the Office of Public Works	<p>Louth County Council continues to work in conjunction with the OPW with regard to the flood relief projects in Dundalk, Drogheda, Baltray, Carlingford, Greenore and Ardee. For ease of administration, the Dundalk and Ardee were grouped together and similarly Drogheda and Baltray.</p> <p>The appointment of consultants for the Dundalk and Ardee Flood Relief Project took place on the 30th of July 2020. The consultants began the work of data collection, ecological surveys and hydrological modeling. These works will continue throughout 2021 in order to develop preliminary options for the scheme.</p> <p>Tender documentation for the appointment of a consultant for the Drogheda Baltray Scheme was issued in the final quarter of 2020 with a return date of March 2021. It is anticipated that a consultant will be appointed in June 2021. It is envisaged that the consultants for the Carlingford /Greenore Project will be appointed in the final quarter of 2020.</p> <p>Operations applied and received department funding for Climate Action funding. Some €250,000 was granted to repair undermined regional roads and a further €500,000 promised for national roads next year where subsidence has occurred. Roads levels were also raised under this department funding and a new storm water pumping station was designed and delivered in Ship Street, Drogheda, to alleviate regular tidal and alluvial flooding. A further €500,000 in funding has been sought for the next 12 months under the same measures.</p>

CLIMATE ACTION continued

Title	Update
Being part of the Local Authority Public Lighting Energy Efficiency Project	<p>Meetings continued through 2020 with the Road Management Office in data gathering for contract documentation. A Section 85 agreement was signed between Louth County Council and Kilkenny County Council for the administration of the contract for Region 2. A consultant was appointed for Region 2 in the final quarter of 2020, to develop tender documentation for the project. It is envisaged that Region 2 will go to tender in the second quarter of 2021. This is subject to ratification by the Elected Members of Louth County Council seeking a loan from the Housing Finance Agency and sanctioning of same from the Department of Housing.</p> <p>Operations have installed over 50 new LED lighting heads using a fraction of the sodium equivalent bulbs.</p>
Developing and pursuing strong policies on biodiversity	<p>A draft Local Biodiversity Action Plan for the county is being prepared to be brought before council for adoption in January 2021.</p> <p>Although curtailed this year, Louth County Council actively promotes Biodiversity Week each year.</p> <p>During 2020, despite the impact of the Covid-19 related restrictions, 150 trees were planted throughout the county. In keeping with the Council's policy in promoting biodiversity and pollination, 35,000 wild flowers were planted and beehives containing 30,000 bees installed at St. Helena's Park, Dundalk. More bee colonies are planned for 2021, as is extension of the 're-wilding' of non-mow areas.</p> <p>A biodiversity programme is being developed at the Dog Pound.</p>
Working with key stakeholders throughout County Louth to improve sustainable transport options	<p>The Park and Share pilot project in conjunction with the Transport Infrastructure Ireland is progressing. Planning permission for the scheme was received and the detailed design stage of the project commenced. Its envisaged it will go to construction in the first quarter of 2021.</p> <p>Grant funding was received in late 2020 under the government's Carbon Tax 2020 measures for the design of a section of Greenway from Carlingford to Templetown via Greenore. It is envisaged that consultants will be appointed in the first quarter of 2021</p> <p>Louth County Council continues to work in conjunction with the National Transport Authority in the provision of bus shelters. We</p>

CLIMATE ACTION continued

Title	Update
	<p>continue to engage with the NTA and a list of potential bus shelters has been prepared and submitted to the NTA for review. If funding is approved, construction may commence in 2021.</p> <p>Carlingford Lough Greenway; Omeath to Victoria Lough cross-border scheme continues to progress in conjunction with our partners Newry Mourne and Down District Council and SEUPB. Planning permission for the scheme was received in September 2020, detailed design and the preparation of the compulsory purchase order documentation will continue into 2021. It is envisaged that planning consents within Northern Ireland will be completed by the end of the second quarter of 2021 and COP/CPO will be issued regarding the lands in Co. Louth will go on display in the second quarter of 2021.</p> <p>During 2020, Louth County Council Operations department has been granted NTA funding for active travel measures and has drawn up plans for dual fully-segregated cycle ways on Dublin Road, Dundalk, to commence construction in 2021. Funding has been obtained for the use of hard shoulder for cycleways or 'greyways' on the old N1, as well as funds for footpaths and cycling facilities in Drogheda. New enhanced pedestrian crossings installed were at multiple locations in Drogheda. Dropped kerbs are planned for 2021 at over 30 locations in Drogheda and new footpaths planned and funded for next year in Greenore, Termonfeckin and Drogheda.</p>
Reducing the carbon emissions by improving it's energy efficiency	<p>The Council's energy team manages energy usage to ensure that the Council continues to exceed the national energy emissions reduction targets for public sector organisations. By the end of 2020, the Council's energy use had reduced by 47% compared to a baseline of energy use in the period 2006 – 2008. That was ahead of the 33% target.</p>

KEY INFRASTRUCTURAL PROJECTS

Title	Update
Drogheda Civic Centre	Design Works continue on Phase 1 of the Drogheda Civic Office. Tender documentation for the creation of a main contractor panel was advertised on the Official Journal of the European Union OJEU in September 2020 and it anticipated that the final panel will be created in early 2021. It is envisaged that construction and refurbishment of the Community Services Offices, Fire Damaged Building and construction of the new Link building will commence in the third quarter of 2021.
Ardee Castle Upgrade	The preliminary design has been completed and it is progressing to planning consent and detailed design.
Port Access Road	Funding for this scheme has been applied for a number of times under all available funding schemes but has yet to be successful. Work is continuing on the ground.
Ardee Bypass	Louth County Council appointed a new consultant in January 2020 to carry out this technical review of the junctions and the scheme following a request from TII. The consultant commenced a review of the scheme, in particular the junction arrangements. Two non-statutory public consultations took place in March 2020 and October 2021. The consultants commenced the assessment of the submissions received during the consultation process and commenced further studies in order to progress the planning consent process. These works will continue into 2021 and it is envisaged that a planning consent process will commence in the second and third quarters of 2021.
Sporting and Leisure Facilities	<p>During 2020, Louth County Council Sports Unit worked closely with officials from the Department of Transport, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media to convert the provisional funding offer to full offer of support for Dundalk Leisure Centre improvements.</p> <p>Funding to the tune of €90,000 was received from the Sport Capital Grant to develop a grass athletics track in Dundalk. Design works were completed and an advanced site clearance contract commenced in February 2020. A contractor for the main works was appointed in the final quarter of 2020 and works are expected to be completed in 2021.</p>

KEY INFRASTRUCTURAL PROJECTS continued

Title	Update
Clanbrassil Street and St Nicholas Quarter	<p>Construction works were completed in May 2020. An official opening of the Clanbrassil Street and Saint Nicholas' Quarter Rejuvenation Scheme in Dundalk took place on the 15th of September 2020. The much-anticipated rejuvenation works in the centre of town were opened by Cathaoirleach of Louth County Council, Councillor Dolores Minogue, with Cathaoirleach of Dundalk Municipal District, Emma Coffey in attendance.</p> <p>A new bronze sculpture 'Heart Space' complements the rejuvenation project and was installed at the new plaza on Church Street. The completed scheme has transformed the main spine of the town, as well as making it more attractive for visitors and investment in the town. The scheme has been a catalyst for the redevelopment of existing buildings along the street, and the recent painting of shop fronts has complemented the rejuvenation scheme.</p> <p>An application to URDF [meaning?] for St. Nicholas Quarter, Bridge Street and Backlands Regeneration was made in May 2020. It is envisaged that the Department of Housing, Planning & Local Government will decide on this in early 2021.</p>
Long Walk	A memorandum of understanding has been drafted and agreed with the third party stakeholder.
Westgate Vision	The tender process to appoint a design team has been completed and the preferred bidder identified. We are in the process of finalising this appointment.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND JOB CREATION

Title	Update
Delivering quality job opportunities in Louth for the people of the county	<p>Louth County Council's Local Enterprise Office (LEO) continues to deliver Louth County Council's Service Level Agreement to Enterprise Ireland.</p> <p>2020 was an unprecedented year in terms of the provision of supports to businesses in County Louth. Key priorities for Louth County Council and its LEO included helping local businesses react to the economic challenges of the Covid-19 pandemic, preparing for the impact of Brexit, and promoting the range of services and supports available to assist businesses.</p> <p>Economic Development and LEO Louth delivered a wide suite of enterprise supports to start-up and existing businesses in the county with the aim of sustaining, growing and improving the performance of a large range of businesses. Complemented with a series of economic development initiatives, the Council acts as a catalyst to help deliver quality job opportunities for the people of Louth.</p>
Working with stakeholders to attract investment	<p>LEO works with various stakeholders including:</p> <p>Chambers of Commerce in Dundalk and Drogheda, Skillnet groups in Drogheda and Dundalk, Steering Committees of the North East Regional Skills Forum and the NE Regional Enterprise Plan, the Evaluation Committee of the LEADER Programme.</p> <p>LEO participates on the boards of seven Community Enterprise Companies: Dundalk BIDS Company, Louth County Enterprise Fund, Ardee Community Development Co., Creative Spark, Dundalk Enterprise Development Co., Drogheda Enterprise Centre Co., and MicroFinance Ireland.</p> <p>In addition, LEO Louth is party to nine Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) with national protocol partners; ETBI (Education and Training Boards Ireland), DEASP (Dept. of Employment Affairs & Social Protection), Microfinance Ireland (MFI), the National Association of Community Enterprise Centres (NACEC), Revenue, Skillnet, Fáilte Ireland, Credit Review Office and LEADER.</p> <p>Economic Development, LEO Louth and the Council Planning division work together to offer high quality business advice and support to small and medium enterprises (SME's). This includes updated information on commercial property/office availability</p>

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND JOB CREATION continued

Title	Update
	<p>and the continual support given to Community Enterprise Centres including The Mill, Ardee Business Park and Creative Spark. The Council is collaborating with neighbouring local authorities on the promotion of the Dublin-Belfast Economic Corridor, and with local economic stakeholders on the promotion of County Louth as an investment location with the M1 Corridor marketing initiative. The Council has also met frequently with IDA and Enterprise Ireland in working towards the attraction of inward investment to the county.</p>
Working with stakeholders to mitigate the impact of Brexit	<p>Brexit and its impact on business was highlighted. Assistance was provided to help businesses prepare, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brexit Seminars/Webinars: LEO hosted a series of eight seminars and webinars during the year, in conjunction with Dundalk and Drogheda Chambers of Commerce, InterTrade Ireland and Enterprise Ireland which attracted over 650 businesses online. • Brexit Conference – The Future of Border Businesses: with InterTrade Ireland and the Chambers of Commerce in Dundalk and Newry, LEO organised a cross-border conference on Brexit in March with over 250 in attendance. • Brexit Advisory Clinics: 23 businesses availed of one-to-one support from a Brexit expert through the Brexit Advisory Clinic. The clinics helped diagnose the impact of Brexit on local businesses and provided a pathway to mitigate impact and access additional supports. • Brexit Consultancy: 61 businesses (37 from the LEO portfolio and 24 other businesses) availed of specialist one-to-one Brexit consultancy provided by LEO Louth • Brexit – Prepare Your Business for Customs Training: LEO Louth delivered eight, free-to-attend customs workshops to 146 registered businesses, helping businesses prepare for new customs documentation requirements post-Brexit. • Promotion of Enterprise Ireland's Customs employment grant. <p>Border Stimulus Programmes - to meet Brexit challenges.</p> <p>A suite of five management development programmes to support local businesses manage the challenges of Brexit were designed and procured during 2020.</p>

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND JOB CREATION *continued*

Title	Update
	<p>Two of these commenced in the final quarter of 2020, with over 45 Louth businesses participating:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Superior Retailing Programme; • Export Development Programme. <p>The remaining three programmes will launch in the first quarter of 2021:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Financial Management Programme for owner managers • Green for microenterprise • Innovation Programme for small businesses
Continuing to work with Louth Economic Forum as the key collaborative driver of economic development in County Louth	<p>Bi-monthly meetings of the Louth Economic Forum were held in 2020 with secretariat support being provided by the Economic Development Section of Louth County Council. Working Groups have been set up to implement the action plans which have been devised and updated by the Forum and these are managed by Louth County Council.</p> <p>LEO Louth as a member of the Louth Economic Forum continues to support and provide input into economic development strategies for County Louth.</p>
Continuing to increase the impact of LEO on small businesses	<p>LEO Louth is well established within the Economic Directorate and delivers Louth County Council's service level agreement to Enterprise Ireland under an enterprise-focused action plan aimed at supporting entrepreneurship, start-ups and established small businesses. This is reviewed on an annual basis and includes a series of targeted business metrics to be delivered each year.</p> <p>LEO Louth continues to increase its impact on small business by supporting the development of a range of indigenous clusters in engineering, craft, technology, food and fintech through initiatives such as the PLATO Network, Focused Engineering Network, Louth Craftmark, Network Louth, Creative Spark, Boyne Valley Flavours and the Fintech Corridor. These clusters facilitate best practice and information exchange amongst the small business community.</p>

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND JOB CREATION *continued*

Title	Update
	<p>In 2020, LEO delivered a series of Covid-19 specific supports which included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Covid-19 Business Continuity Vouchers: LEO approved 456 vouchers • Trading Online Voucher Scheme: 457 microenterprises applied for support • Covid Mentoring was provided to 680 businesses from March to December • Covid-19 Business Training was provided to 1,269 business participants • Micro-Enterprise Assistance Fund: 15 businesses approved under this fund. • Covid-19 Microfinance Ireland (MFI) Business Loan: In 2020, 33 loan applications were received.
Engaging with all cross-border platforms to drive the economic development of the Border Region and the Dublin-Belfast Economic Corridor	<p>Louth County Council collaborated with the other seven local authorities located from Dublin city to Belfast city, to promote and highlight the benefits of the Dublin-Belfast Economic Corridor.</p> <p>The Council also continued its cross-border work through East Border Region, the local authority led cross border network.</p> <p>LEO Louth delivered four cross-border business programmes, namely Co-Innovate, PLATO, Age Friendly Economy and Innovate Accelerate, involving InterTrade Ireland and other local authorities across the border.</p>
Making Louth a great place to Live, Work and Play	<p>In 2020, promotional videos were commissioned with the aim of highlighting what Louth has to offer in respect of outdoor activities including walking trails, forest parks, golf courses, playgrounds. These were released through the 'Visit Louth' website and promoted through Facebook, YouTube, Twitter, etc.</p>

KEY PLANS & STRATEGY

Title	Update
Louth Economic Community Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In the first quarter of 2020, members of the LCDC were updated on delivery of actions contained within the six-year plan. Updates were also provided on delivery of the five community sub-plans, incorporating Healthy Ireland for Louth, Realising our Rural Potential, Disability Inclusion plan, Reducing Harm-Supporting Recovery and Age Friendly. 74 community groups received development support during the year Over 1000 individuals were supported through lifelong learning €235,000 awarded under Community Enhancement. <p>€2.04 million awarded by the LCDC to LEADER projects in the year.</p>
County Development Plan	<p>Under Section 11(5)(c) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), the members agreed the amendments of the pre-draft Louth County Development Plan 2021-2027 and unanimously agreed it to be the Draft Louth County Development Plan 2021-2027, on the 1st of October 2020.</p> <p>The draft Plan then went back on display for public consultation with a closing date of the 23rd of December 2020.</p> <p>The Chief Executive must then prepare a report for Councillors and make observations and recommendations on all submissions by 24th March of 2021. Elected Members will then have 12 weeks to consider this report.</p>
Local Area Plans <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dundalk Drogheda Ardee 	<p>The joint LAP for Drogheda will commence following the forecasted adoption of the CDP in the final quarter of 2021. The preparatory work for the Dundalk LAP will commence in the first quarter of 2022. The preparatory work for the Ardee LAP will commence once the LAPS for the Regional Planning Guidelines have advanced.</p>
Rebuilding Ireland	As reported earlier.
Westgate Vision	A number of measures have been progressed including the procurement of a design team for the public realm works and the acquisition of St. Dominic's Church, Westgate B&B and the Drogheda Youth Development Building.
Louth Climate Adaption Strategy	Work continues on delivery of Louth's Climate Adaptation Strategy. The signing of the Climate Action Charter has enhanced the process of mainstream climate action policy as an integral consideration in the development of plans and objectives across the organisation,

KEY PLANS & STRATEGY continued

Title	Update
	<p>particularly the recent County Development Plan and Biodiversity Plan.</p> <p>Progress is being made on improving the climate resilience of Council building stock, including housing.</p>
Major Emergency Management	<p>The Operations department continued winter maintenance of Louth's road network to remove ice and snow from road and pavement surfaces, as well as deal with storm surges and wind fall trees on public roads/paths.</p> <p>Louth County Council continued to monitor all severe weather events and mobilise the Severe Weather Assessment Team when required.</p> <p>Louth County Council is the lead agency for the triennial exercise of the Flogas Terminal in Drogheda, an upper tier Seveso site. This is scheduled for September 2021. (A Seveso site is one which has an activity linked to handling, manufacturing, using or storing dangerous substances, i.e. refineries, petrochemical sites, oil depots or explosives depots).</p> <p>A test of the Major Emergency Local Co-Ordination Centre is scheduled for 2021.</p>
Louth Economic Forum Action Plans	<p>Work has continued on the actions within the Economic Forum Action Plans, with eight businesses on Clanbrassil Street, Dundalk, achieving Age-Friendly Business status under the Age-Friendly Business Initiative Pilot Scheme; and also Phase 2 funding being secured for the 'sea louth' Scenic Seafood Trail from Bord Iscaigh Mhara under the Fisheries Local Action Group (FLAG) for the North East Region Development Scheme to further develop and promote this initiative.</p> <p>The initiative has also been awarded €40,000 under the Town & Village Renewal Scheme 2020/Accelerated Measures Fund for the installation of interpretive panels at the 14 scenic viewpoint locations.</p> <p>Work commenced in 2020 on the design and development of a website and the design and installation of interpretive panels.</p> <p>The initiative will be launched in 2021.</p>

QUALITY OF LIFE

Title	Update
Making our communities great places to live and volunteer – where everyone takes pride in their local area	<p>Louth in Bloom 2020 competition was held in a Covid-19 compliant manner with many honoured for their environmental work.</p> <p>Omeath was honoured in the annual Pride of Place All Island competition in November 2020.</p> <p>Louth Community Response became operational in March 2020 and assisted over 1,000 people throughout the year.</p> <p>Focussed consultations with groups and organisations were carried out in preparation for the launch of the Louth LCDC Volunteer Framework.</p> <p>Volunteer response to Covid-19 Community Call was exceptional with no request for aid unattended.</p> <p>During 2020, litter enforcement remained a priority, along with support for recycling. 29 bring banks throughout the county had their frequency of collection increased by up to 50% to address the increased demand experienced during the Covid-19 restrictions. A Litter Awareness Programme was held, targeting both areas of high concern and high footfall, wherein 18 litter warden patrols were deployed both to talk to residents and to be visibly present to raise awareness of the litter problem. Continuing support was given to community groups in their clean-up efforts with the Council liaising with them to collect their clean up bags. A number of press releases and statements were made in response to littering incidents advising of zero tolerance of littering.</p>
That all of our citizens avail of and enjoy our Arts, Culture & Library Services	<p>During 2020, a responsive operational plan ensured the needs of the community were met as staff developed, promoted and facilitated virtual and, where permissible, physical use of library services. Consequently, the value of the Library Service evident prior to the pandemic was re-emphasised throughout 2020.</p> <p>The Library Service response to disruption caused by the pandemic included</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The operation of the Louth Community Call Helpline until June 2020 • The establishment and delivery of a housebound service for cocooners and vulnerable people • The creation of new online content to support the wellbeing of the community during Covid-19, #KeepWell

QUALITY OF LIFE continued

Title	Update
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The development of new and existing relationships with strategic partners to deliver targeted responses to meet community needs. • The planning and delivering of a new Contact and Collect service and a Browse by Appointment service, which included limited PC use and study spaces when and where possible. • Funding streams were utilised to create online programming for socially and marginalised communities; the provision of digital skills licences, TTRS (Touch, Type, Read Spell) as well as initiatives to support the provision of sensory facilities and equipment underpinning Louth Library Service's commitment to create an environment of inclusion, integration and community consultation. • The Public Libraries Small Scale Capital Works Programme provide funding towards the upgrade of previously unused space to the rear of Dundalk Library into an attractive, comfortable and welcoming library garden that will be usable in most weather. This library garden will provide safe, external seating areas for activities, meetings and project work, as well as reading and contemplation. It will mitigate against the risk now posed in any type of group work due to Covid-19 pandemic. • Work began in late 2020 to develop an additional My Open Library service in the county. The Department of Rural and Community Development funded up to 75% of the total eligible costs to purchase the equipment and make the necessary modifications to Drogheda branch. 'My Open Library' Drogheda is fitting for one of the largest towns in Ireland and will provide enhanced access to study space, space for meetings and general use at times to suit the public. • The Quality of Life team delivered a range of 'Wellbeing During Covid-19' initiatives that were uploaded onto www.louthcoco.ie to support mental health and wellbeing. The activities spanned the Library, Arts, Heritage, Museum and Archive services. One example is the <i>Our Louth Diary Project</i> which aims to capture and archive the experiences of the Pandemic in Louth. • Creative Ireland, Louth Culture Team managed four funding streams spanning the fields of history and heritage; visual arts, crafts and drama; literature and music; and the environment. The team grant-funded 13 groups in researching, planning and delivering projects and funded five projects in collaboration with strategic partners.

QUALITY OF LIFE continued

Title	Update
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Arts Service continued to support a wide range of programmes and residencies in Creative Spark, An Táin Arts Centre and Droichead Arts Centre. Direct programming by the Arts Service, liaising with strategic partners culminated in activities including the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Music in Schools: Celebrate Pipes • Music in Healthcare Settings • Taisce Lú, A Curator's Choice • Culture Night 2020.
<p>Make Louth a great place to live for:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our older people • Our younger generation • Immigrants and all minority communities • And where those with disabilities can live ordinary lives in ordinary places 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The EU-SHAFE project in association with Louth Age Friendly made a submission to the Minister of Finance to increase funding for older people to assist with broadband connectivity costs • The Super Connectors programme was launched in late 2020 • Comhairle na nÓg members participated in the Reach Out Intergenerational Project. • Counties Louth and Meath published their Joint Migrant Integration Strategy • The Louth Older Peoples Forum developed a guide to assist grandparents to stay safe, connected, aware and happy during the pandemic. • Sports Unit staff continued engagement with relevant Department officials to secure funding for the creation of a Changing Places Facility in Dundalk Leisure Centre. • 92 housing and transfer applicants with a disability have been provided accommodation, which is equivalent to 118% of the annual target. • 36 adaptation projects for Council tenants were carried out in 2020.

WATER

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

Financial Statements

STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME (INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT STATEMENT) FOR YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER 2020

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

Expenditure by Division	Gross Expenditure 2020	Income 2020	Net Expenditure 2020	Net Expenditure 2019
	€	€	€	€
Housing & Building	33,475,911	34,121,128	(645,217)	(977,270)
Roads Transportation & Safety	25,539,180	13,879,261	11,659,919	10,396,917
Water Services	6,308,006	6,248,595	59,410	358,960
Development Management	32,092,908	26,688,099	5,404,809	5,511,709
Environmental Services	15,888,130	2,231,802	13,656,32	13,328,371
Recreation & Amenity	7,419,433	1,034,167	6,385,266	6,762,994
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	847,324	466,083	381,241	626,875
Miscellaneous Services	27,067,215	25,556,478	1,510,737	4,482,129
Total Expenditure/Income	148,638,106	110,225,613		
Net cost of Divisions to be funded from Rates & Local Property Tax			38,412,493	40,490,686
Rates			35,437,457	32,800,980
Local Property Tax			9,866,198	9,866,198
Surplus/(Deficit) for Year before Transfers			6,891,161	2,176,492
Transfers from/(to) Reserves			(6,834,099)	(1,771,661)
Overall Surplus/(Deficit) for Year			57,062	404,831
General Reserve @ 1st January 2020			950,351	545,520
General Reserve @ 31st December 2020			1,007,413	950,351

Statement of Financial Position

Statement Of Financial Position (BALANCE SHEET) AT 31st DECEMBER 2020	2020	2019
	€	€
Fixed Assets		
Operational	735,171,991	696,157,290
Infrastructural	1,355,364,519	1,355,364,519
Community	4,392,593	4,280,888
Non-Operational	50,035,497	50,035,497
	2,144,964,601	2,105,838,194
Work in Progress and Preliminary Expenses	23,077,193	20,036,453
Long Term Debtors	109,538,063	90,452,617
Current Assets		
Stocks	-	-
Trade Debtors & Prepayments	32,994,270	25,897,454
Bank Investments	44,573,632	35,785,498
Cash at Bank	8,205,870	4,409,693
Cash in Transit	211,416	235,091
	85,985,188	66,327,736
Current Liabilities (Amounts falling due within one year)		
Bank Overdraft	-	-
Creditors & Accruals	40,722,404	25,516,581
Finance Leases	-	-
	40,722,404	25,516,581
Net Current Assets / (Liabilities)	45,262,784	40,811,155
Creditors (Amounts falling due after more than one year)		
Loans Payable	136,579,875	138,538,287
Finance Leases	-	-
Refundable deposits	16,048,209	15,618,870
Other	58,462,792	39,946,432
	211,090,876	194,103,589
Net Assets	2,135,838,790	2,085,161,016
Represented by		
Capitalisation Account	2,144,964,601	2,105,838,194
Income WIP	27,016,050	22,456,279
General Revenue Reserve	1,007,413	950,351
Other Specific Reserves	469,071	469,071
Other Balances	(37,618,345)	(44,552,879)
Total Reserves	2,135,838,789	2,085,161,016

Summary of Major Revenue Collections for 2020

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K
Debtor type	Incoming arrears @ 1/1/2020	Accrued - current year debit (Gross)	Vacant property adjustments	Write offs	Waivers and Credits	Total for collection = (B+C-D-E-F)	Amount collected	Closing arrears @ 31/12/2020 = (G-H)	Specific doubtful arrears*	% Collected = (H)/(G-J) **
	€	€	€	€	€	€	€	€	€	€
Rates	8,931,758	35,437,457	5,827	-	19,361,099	25,002,289	13,971,997	11,030,292	2,664,610	63%
Rents & Annuities	3,120,601	12,475,404	-	15,138	-	15,580,868	12,612,304	2,968,564	-	81%
Housing Loans	329,693	1,516,183	-	0	-	1,845,876	1,562,516	283,360	-	85%

*Specific doubtful arrears = (i) Vacancy applications pending/criteria not met & (ii) Accounts in examinership/receivership/liquidation and no communication regarding likely outcome.

**To alleviate the impact of Covid-19 on eligible businesses during 2020 the Government announced a 9 month rates waiver scheme. The amounts waived are shown in the Waivers/Credits column in the table above and results in a corresponding reduction in the total for collection. This also has the effect of reducing the % collected in the final column. The Council received a grant equal to the amount waived and this is included in the grant income in Appendix 3. For prior year comparison purposes if the income was include in the amount collected column rather than the Waived/Credits column the % collected would have been 80%.

Performance Indicators

Topic	Indicator	Value
Housing: H1, H2 & H4 Approved	A. Number of dwellings in the ownership of the Local Authority (LA) at 1/1/2020	3,838
	B. Number of dwellings added to the LA-owned stock during 2020 (whether constructed or acquired)	156
	C. Number of LA-owned dwellings sold in 2020	11
	D. Number of LA-owned dwellings demolished in 2020	0
	E. Number of dwellings in the ownership of the LA at 31/12/2020	3983
	F. Number of LA-owned dwellings planned for demolition under a DHPLG approved scheme	2
	A. The percentage of the total number of LA owned dwellings that were vacant on 31/12/2020	1.73 %
	The number of dwellings within the overall stock that were not tenanted on 31/12/2020	69
	A. Expenditure during 2020 on the maintenance of LA housing compiled from 1st of January 2020 to 31st of December 2020, divided by the number of dwellings in the LA stock at 31/12/2020, i.e. the H1E less H1F indicator figure	€608.92
	Expenditure on maintenance of LA stock compiled from 1st of January 2020 to 31st of December 2020, including planned maintenance and expenditure that qualified for grants, such as SEAI grants for energy efficient retro-fitting works or the Fabric Upgrade Programme but excluding expenditure on vacant properties and expenditure under approved major refurbishment schemes (i.e. approved Regeneration or under the Remedial Works Schemes).	€2,424,107

Topic	Indicator	Value
Housing: H3 & H5 Approved	A. The time taken from the date of vacation of a dwelling to the date in 2020 when the dwelling is re-tenanted, averaged across all dwellings re-let during 2020	39 wk
	B. The cost expended on getting the dwellings re-tenanted in 2020, averaged across all dwellings re-let in 2020	€16,927.33
	The number of dwellings that were re-tenanted on any date in 2020 (but excluding all those that had been vacant due to an estate-wide refurbishment scheme)	75
	The number of weeks from the date of vacation to the date the dwelling is re-tenanted	2925 wk
	Total expenditure on works necessary to enable re-letting of the dwellings	€1,269,550
	A. Total number of registered tenancies in the LA area at end of June 2020	8227
	B. Number of rented dwellings inspected in 2020	541
	C. Percentage of inspected dwellings in 2020 that were found not to be compliant with the Standards Regulations	99.75 %
	D. Number of dwellings deemed compliant in 2020 (including those originally deemed non-compliant)	19

Performance Indicators

Topic	Indicator	Value
Housing: H6 Approved	A. Number of adult individuals in emergency accommodation that are long-term homeless as a % of the total number of homeless adult individuals in emergency accommodation at the end of 2020	61.04 %
	The number of adult individuals classified as homeless and in emergency accommodation on the night of 31st of December 2020 as recorded on the PASS system	77
	The number out of those individuals who, on 31st of December 2020, had been in emergency accommodation for 6 months continuously, or for 6 months cumulatively within the previous 12 months	47
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Roads: R1 & R2 Approved	A. (a) The % of Regional road kilometres that received a PSCI rating in the 24 month period prior to 31st of December 2020	90.20 %
	A. (b) The % of Local Primary road kilometres that received a PSCI rating in the 24 month period prior to 31st of December 2020	93.80 %
	A. (c) The % of Local Secondary road kilometres that received a PSCI rating in the 24 month period prior to 31st of December 2020	93.60 %
	A. (d) The % of Local Tertiary road kilometres that received a PSCI rating in the 60 month period prior to 31st of December 2020	86.90 %
	B. (a.1) The % of total Regional road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 1-4 at 31st of December 2020	0.60 %
	B. (a.2) The % of total Regional road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 5-6 at 31st of December 2020	4.60 %
	B. (a.3) The % of total Regional road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 7-8 at 31st of December 2020	62.60 %
	B. (a.4) The % of total Regional road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 9-10 at 31st of December 2020	30.60 %
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Topic	Indicator	Value
	B. (b.1) The % of total Local Primary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 1-4 at 31st of December 2020	12.20 %
	B. (b.2) The % of total Local Primary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 5-6 at 31st of December 2020	6.00 %
	B. (b.3) The % of total Local Primary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 7-8 at 31st of December 2020	70.50 %
	B. (b.4) The % of total Local Primary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 9-10 at 31st of December 2020	10.80 %
	B. (c.1) The % of total Local Secondary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 1-4 at 31st of December 2020	15.50 %
	B. (c.2) The % of total Local Secondary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 5-6 at 31st of December 2020	6.10 %
	B. (c.3) The % of total Local Secondary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 7-8 at 31st of December 2020	69.40 %
	B. (c.4) The % of total Local Secondary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 9-10 at 31st of December 2020	7.90 %
	B. (d.1) The % of total Local Tertiary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 1-4 at 31st of December 2020	23.30 %
	B. (d.2) The % of total Local Tertiary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 5-6 at 31st of December 2020	26.80 %
	B. (d.3) The % of total Local Tertiary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 7-8 at 31st of December 2020	22.50 %
	B. (d.4) The % of total Local Tertiary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 9-10 at 31st of December 2020	15.40 %
	A1. Kilometres of regional road strengthened during 2020	7.7 km
	A2. The amount expended on regional roads strengthening work during 2020	€1388521.00

Performance Indicators

Topic	Indicator	Value
	A3. The average unit cost of regional road strengthening works per square metre (€/m ²)	€25.11
	B1. Kilometres of regional road resealed during 2020	4.7 km
	B2. The amount expended on regional road resealing work during 2020	€294,373.00
	B3. The average unit cost of regional road resealing works per square metre (€/m ²)	€9.81
	C1. Kilometres of local road strengthened during 2020	30.3 km
	C2. The amount expended on local road strengthening work during 2020	€3,392,677.00
	C3. The average unit cost of local road strengthening works per square metre (€/m ²)	€16.38
	D1. Kilometres of local road resealed during 2020	30.2 km
	D2. The amount expended on local road resealing work during 2020	€814,627.00
	D3. The average unit cost of local road resealing works per square metre (€/m ²)	€4.85
Motor Tax: R3 Approved	A. The percentage of motor tax transactions which were dealt with online (i.e. transaction is processed and the tax disc is issued) in 2020	84.25 %

Topic	Indicator	Value
Water: W1 & W2 Approved	% of Private Drinking Water Schemes in compliance with statutory requirements in respect of the monitoring of the quality of private drinking water supplies during 2020	1.00%
	The number of registered schemes monitored by each local authority as a percentage of total schemes registered	0 %
	The number of registered schemes monitored in 2020	0
	Total number of registered schemes in 2020	7
Waste: E1 Approved	A. The number of households, based on the 2016 Census, who are situated in an area covered by a licensed operator providing a three-bin service at 31st of December 2020	22,884
	B. The % of households within the local authority that the number at A represents (based on agglomerations of more than 500)	76.39 %
Environmental Pollution: E2 Approved	A1. Total number of pollution cases in respect of which a complaint was made during 2020	1,993
	A2. Number of pollution cases closed from 1st of January 2020 to 31st of December 2020	2,077
	A3. Total number of cases on hands at 31st of December 2020	164
	The opening number of cases carried forward from the year end 2019	248

Performance Indicators

Topic	Indicator	Value
Litter Pollution: E3 Approved	A1. The % of the area within the LA that when surveyed in 2020 was unpolluted or litter free	8 %
	A2. The % of the area within the LA that when surveyed in 2020 was slightly polluted	64 %
	A3. The % of the area within the LA that when surveyed in 2020 was moderately polluted	29 %
	A4. The % of the area within the LA that when surveyed in 2020 was significantly polluted	0 %
	A5. The % of the area within the LA that when surveyed in 2020 was grossly polluted	0 %
Green Flag Status: E4 Approved	A. The % of schools that have been awarded/renewed Green Flag status in the two years to 31st of December 2020	51.09 %
	Schools which attained a Green Flag for the first time in 2020	0
	Schools which renewed their Green Flag in 2020	22
	Schools which held a Green Flag from 2019 and therefore do not require renewal until 2021	25
Energy Efficiency: E5 Approved	A. The cumulative % of energy savings achieved by 31st of December 2020 relative to baseline year (2009)	1.00%
Public Lighting: E6 Approved	A. Total billable wattage of the public lighting system	6809.09 MWh
	B. Average billable wattage of the public lighting system	113.28 W
	C. Percentage of the total system that LED lights represent	35.00 %
	Number of LED lights in the public lighting system	5,069
	Number of SOX-SON lights in the public lighting system	9,414

Topic	Indicator	Value
Planning: P1 Approved	A. Buildings inspected as a percentage of new buildings notified to the local authority	3.30 %
	Total number of new buildings notified to the local authority i.e. buildings where a valid Commencement Notice was served in the period 1st January 2020 to 31st of December 2020 by a builder or developer on the local authority	1182
	Number of new buildings notified to the local authority in 2020 that were the subject of at least one on-site inspection during 2020 undertaken by the local authority	39
Planning: P2 & P3 Approved	A. Number of LA planning decisions which were the subject of an appeal to An Bord Pleanála that were determined by the Board on any date in 2020	34
	B. % of the determinations at A which confirmed (either with or without variation) the decision made by the LA	73.53 %
	Number of determinations confirming the LA's decision (either with or without variation)	25
	A. Total number of planning cases referred to or initiated by the local authority in the period 1st January 2020 to 31st of December 2020 that were investigated	268
	B. Total number of investigated cases that were closed during 2020	235
	C. % of the cases at B that were dismissed as trivial, minor or without foundation or were closed because statute barred or an exempted development	57.02 %
	D. % of cases at B that were resolved to the LA's satisfaction through negotiations	2.98 %
E. % Cases at B that were closed due to enforcement proceedings	40.0 %	

Performance Indicators

Topic	Indicator	Value
	F. Total number of planning cases being investigated as at 31st December 2020.	251
	Number of cases at 'B' that were dismissed under section 152(2), Planning and Development Act 2000	134
	Number of cases at 'B' that were resolved to the LA's satisfaction through negotiations	7
	Number of cases at 'B' that were closed due to enforcement proceedings	94
Planning: P4 & P5 Approved	A. The 2020 Annual Financial Statement (AFS) Programme D data divided by the population of the LA area per the 2016 Census	€30.33
	AFS Programme D data consisting of D01 - Forward Planning, D02 - Development Management, D03 - Enforcement (inclusive of the relevant Programme D proportion of the central management charge) for 2020	€3,909,301
	A. The percentage of applications for Fire Safety Certificates received in 2020 that were decided (granted or refused) within two months of their receipt	57.32 %
	B. The percentage of applications for Fire Safety Certificates received in 2020 that were decided (granted or refused) within an extended period agreed with the applicant	31.71 %
	The total number of applications for Fire Safety Certificates received in 2020 that were not withdrawn by the applicant	82
	The number of applications for Fire Safety Certificates received in 2020 that were decided (granted or refused) within two months of the date of receipt of the application	47
	The number of applications for Fire Safety Certificates received in 2020 that were decided (granted or refused) within an agreed extended time period	26

Topic	Indicator	Value
Fire Service: F1 Approved	A. The Annual Financial Statement (AFS) Programme E expenditure data for 2020 divided by the population of the LA area per the 2016 Census figures for the population served by the fire authority as per the Risk Based Approach Phase One reports	€60.05
	AFS Programme E expenditure data consisting of E11 - Operation of Fire Service and E12 - Fire Prevention for 2020	€9,392,716.98
Fire Service: F2 & F3 Approved	A. Average time taken, in minutes, to mobilise fire brigades in full-time Stations in respect of fire	1.6 min
	B. Average time taken, in minutes, to mobilise fire brigades in part-time Stations (retained fire service) in respect of fire	4.82 min
	C. Average time taken, in minutes, to mobilise fire brigades in full-time Stations in respect of all other (non-fire) emergency incidents	1.72 min
	D. Average time taken, in minutes, to mobilise fire brigades in part-time Stations (retained fire service) in respect of all other (non-fire) emergency incidents	5 min
	A. % of cases in respect of fire in which first attendance at scene is within 10 minutes	71.11 %
	B. % of cases in respect of fire in which first attendance at the scene is after 10 minutes but within 20 minutes	25.93 %
	C. % of cases in respect of fire in which first attendance at the scene is after 20 minutes	2.96 %
	D. % of cases in respect of all other emergency incidents in which first attendance at the scene is within 10 minutes	58.14 %
	E. % of cases in respect of all other emergency incidents in which first attendance at the scene is after 10 minutes but within 20 minutes	38.14 %

Performance Indicators

Topic	Indicator	Value
	F. % of cases in respect of all other emergency incidents in which first attendance at the scene is after 20 minutes	3.72 %
	Total number of call-outs in respect of fires from 1st January 2020 to 31st December 2020	810
	Number of these fire cases where first fire tender attendance at the scene is within 10 minutes	576
	Number of these fire cases in which first fire tender attendance at the scene is after 10 minutes but within 20 minutes	210
	Number of these fire cases in which first fire tender attendance at the scene is after 20 minutes	24
	Total number of call-outs in respect of all other emergency incidents (i.e. not including fire) from 1st January 2020 to 31st December 2020	215
	Number of these non-fire cases in which first fire tender attendance at the scene is within 10 minutes	125
	Number of these non-fire cases in which first fire tender attendance at the scene is after 10 minutes but within 20 minutes	82
	Number of these non-fire cases in which first fire tender attendance at the scene is after 20 minutes	8

Topic	Indicator	Value
Library Service: L1 Approved	A. Number of visits to libraries per head of population for the LA area per the 2016 Census	0.71
	B. Number of items issued to library borrowers in the year	221,881
	C. Library active members per head of population	0.08
	D. Number of registered library members in the year	18,103
	Number of visits to its libraries from 1st January 2020 to 31st December 2020	92,077
Library Service: L2 Approved	A. The Annual Financial Statement (AFS) Programme F data for 2020 divided by the population of the LA area per the 2016 Census	€21.87
	B. The annual per capita expenditure on collections over the period 1st January 2020 to 31st December 2020	€0.99
	A. AFS Programme F data consisting of F02 - Operation of Library and Archival Service (inclusive of the relevant proportion of the central management charge for Programme F) for 2020	€2,819,085
	B. The annual expenditure on new stock acquired by the library in the year	€127,502

Performance Indicators

Topic	Indicator	Value
Youth and Community: Y1 & Y2 Approved	A. Percentage of local schools involved in the local Youth Council/Comhairle na nÓg scheme	89.47 %
	Total number of second level schools in the LA area at 31st December 2020	19
	Number of second level schools in the LA area from which representatives attended the local Comhairle na nÓg AGM held in 2020	17
	A. Number of organisations included in the County Register and the proportion who opted to be part of the Social Inclusion College within the PPN	29.68
	Total number of organisations included in the County Register for the local authority area as at 31st December 2020	401
	Total number of those organisations that registered for the first time in 2020	59
	Number of organisations that opted to join the Social Inclusion Electoral College on whatever date they registered for the PPN	119
	Corporate: C1, C2, C4 & C5 Approved	A. The wholetime equivalent staffing number as at 31st of December 2020
A. Percentage of paid working days lost to sickness absence through medically certified leave in 2020		3.58 %
B. Percentage of paid working days lost to sickness absence through self-certified leave in 2020		0.27 %
Total Number of working days lost to sickness absence through medically certified leave in 2020		5439.27 day
Total Number of working days lost to sickness absence through self-certified leave in 2020		532.5 day

Topic	Indicator	Value	
	Number of unpaid working days lost to sickness absence included within the total of self-certified sick leave days in 2020	163 day	
	Number of unpaid working days lost to sickness absence included within the total of medically certified sick leave days in 2020	538.77 day	
	If any staff are on long-term sick leave (i.e. a continuous period of more than 4 weeks), include a text note of the number of staff on long-term sick leave	54 staff on long term sick leave	
	A. All ICT expenditure in the period from 1st January 2020 to 31st December 2020, divided by the WTE number	€3,656.76	
	Total ICT expenditure in 2020	€2,203,930.82	
	A. All ICT expenditure calculated in C4 as a proportion of Revenue expenditure	1.48	
	Total Revenue expenditure from 1st January 2020 to 31st December 2020 before transfers to or from reserves	148638106	
	Corporate: C3 Approved	A. The per capita total page views of the local authority's websites in 2020	8.17
		B. The per capita total number of followers at end 2020 of the local authority's social media accounts (if any)	0.07
		The cumulative total page views of all websites operated by the local authority for the period from 1st January 2020 to 31st December 2020 obtained from a page tagging on-site web analytics service or equivalent	1,053,371
The total number of social media users who, at 31st December 2020, were following the local authority on any social media sites		9,198	

Leo Louth also has a twitter account with 3,245 followers.

Performance Indicators

Topic	Indicator	Value
	The number of social media accounts operated by the local authority	1
	Indicate if there was a change to the cookie policies on the local authority sites and the date this came into effect	We applied our website cookie management system on the 01/09/2020
Finance: M1 to M4 Approved	A. Cumulative surplus/deficit balance at 31st December 2016 in the Revenue Account from the Income & Expenditure Account Statement of the AFS	€0
	B. Cumulative surplus/deficit balance at 31st December 2017 in the Revenue Account from the Income & Expenditure Account Statement of the AFS	€395594
	C. Cumulative surplus/deficit balance at 31st December 2018 in the Revenue Account from the Income & Expenditure Account Statement of the AFS	€545520
	D. Cumulative surplus/deficit balance at 31st December 2019 in the Revenue Account from the Income & Expenditure Account Statement of the AFS	€950351
	E. Cumulative surplus/deficit balance at 31st December 2020 in the Revenue Account from the Income & Expenditure Account Statement of the AFS	€1007413
	F. Cumulative surplus or deficit at 31st December 2020 as a percentage of Total Income in 2020 from the Income and Expenditure Account Statement of the AFS	0.65 %
	G. Revenue expenditure per capita in 2020	€1153.27
	H. Revenue expenditure per capita in 2020 excluding significant out of county / shared service expenditure	€1153.27

Topic	Indicator	Value
	The 2020 Total Income figure from the Income and Expenditure Account Statement of the AFS	€155529268
	The 2020 total Expenditure figure from the Income and Expenditure Account Statement of the AFS	€148638106
	The 2020 Revenue expenditure excluding county / shared service expenditure for the service providers of HAP, MyPay, DRHE and Dublin Fire Services	€148638106
	A. (a) Collection level of Rates in Appendix 7 of the AFS for 2016	68.6 %
	A. (b) Collection level of Rent & Annuities in Appendix 7 of the AFS for 2016	71.0 %
	A. (c) Collection level of Housing Loans in Appendix 7 of the AFS for 2016	72.9 %
	B. (a) Collection level of Rates in Appendix 7 of the AFS for 2017	75.0 %
	B. (b) Collection level of Rent & Annuities in Appendix 7 of the AFS for 2017	69.0 %
	B. (c) Collection level of Housing Loans in Appendix 7 of the AFS for 2017	75.0 %
	C. (a) Collection level of Rates in Appendix 7 of the AFS for 2018	80.0 %
	C. (b) Collection level of Rent & Annuities in Appendix 7 of the AFS for 2018	76.0 %
	C. (c) Collection level of Housing Loans in Appendix 7 of the AFS for 2018	76.0 %
	D. (a) Collection level of Rates in Appendix 7 of the AFS for 2019	83.0 %

Performance Indicators

Topic	Indicator	Value
	D. b) Collection level of Rent & Annuities in Appendix 7 of the AFS for 2019	80.0 %
	D. (c) Collection level of Housing Loans in Appendix 7 of the AFS for 2019	82.0 %
	E. (a) Collection level of Rates in Appendix 7 of the AFS for 2020	63 %
	E. (b) Collection level of Rent & Annuities in Appendix 7 of the AFS for 2020	81 %
	E. (c) Collection level of Housing Loans in Appendix 7 of the AFS for 2020	85 %
	A.1 Per capita total cost of settled claims for 2018	€11.31
	A.2 Per capita total cost of settled claims for 2019	€18.20
	A.3 Per capita total cost of settled claims for 2020	€12.88
	IPB Insurance: Number of notified claims for 2018	152
	IPB Insurance: Number of notified claims for 2019	126
	IPB Insurance: Number of notified claims for 2020	103
	IPB Insurance: Number of settled claims for 2018	86
	IPB Insurance: Number of settled claims for 2019	126
	IPB Insurance: Number of settled claims for 2020	94
	IPB Insurance: Total cost of settled claims for 2018	€1,457,944.29
	IPB Insurance: Total cost of settled claims for 2019	€2,345,657.02
	IPB Insurance: Total cost of settled claims for 2020	€1,643,071.65
	Total cost of claims settled under excess for 2018	€0

Topic	Indicator	Value
	Total cost of claims settled under excess for 2019	€0
	Total Cost of claims settled under excess for 2020	€16,544
	Self-insured: Number of notified claims for 2018	0
	Self-insured: Number of notified claims for 2019	0
	Self-insured: Number of notified claims for 2020	0
	Self-insured: Number of settled claims for 2018	0
	Self-insured: Number of settled claims for 2019	0
	Self-insured: Number of settled claims for 2020	0
	Self-insured: Total cost of settled claims for 2018	€0
	Self-insured: Total cost of settled claims for 2019	€0
	Self-insured: Total cost of settled claims for 2020	€0
	A. Overall central management charge as a percentage (%) of total expenditure on revenue account	10.97 %
	B. Total payroll costs as a percentage (%) of revenue expenditure	29.25 %
	Overall central management charge from the Local Authority FMS and defined in the Annual Budget	€16309624
	Total payroll costs from Appendix 1 of the AFS for 2020 (including Salaries, Wages and Pensions)	€43480117

Performance Indicators

Topic	Indicator	Value
Economic Development: J1 to J4 Approved	A. The number of jobs created with assistance from the Local Enterprise Office during the period 1st January 2020 to 31st December 2020 per 100,000 population	-68.2785
	The no. of jobs created with assistance from the Local Enterprise Office during the period 1st January 2020 to 31st December 2020	-88.0
	A. The number of trading online voucher applications approved by the Local Enterprise Office in 2020 per 100,000 population	262.2513
	B. The no. of trading online vouchers that were drawn down in 2020 per 100,000 population	45.0017
	The no. of trading online voucher applications approved by the Local Enterprise Office in 2020	338
	The no. of those trading online vouchers that were drawn down in 2020	58
	A. The number of participants who received mentoring during the period 1st January 2020 to 31st December 2020 per 100,000 population	645.5417
	The no. of participants who received mentoring during the period 1st January 2020 to 31st December 2020	832
	A. Does the local authority have a current tourism strategy?	Yes
	B. Does the local authority have a designated Tourism Officer?	Yes
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> Shared with Meath County Council. </div>		





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