

**TO EACH MEMBER OF LOUTH COUNTY COUNCIL**

**Monthly Management Report – 31<sup>st</sup> May 2018**

Dear Councillor

I attach the Management Report up to 31<sup>st</sup> May 2018

Yours faithfully

**Joan Martin  
Chief Executive  
7 June 2018**

## Finance Report to 31st May 2018

### Expenditure to 31st May 2018

<b>Section</b>	<b>ACTUAL EXPENDITURE TO 31/05/18</b>	<b>BUDGET EXPENDITURE 2018</b>	<b>% SPENT TO 31/05/18</b>
Housing	9,689,451	23,072,404	42%
Road Transportation & Safety	10,784,617	19,613,150	55%
Water Services	3,428,141	7,034,240	49%
Development Management	4,520,779	16,197,124	28%
Environmental Services	6,240,474	15,700,738	40%
Recreation and Amenity	3,253,855	8,284,259	39%
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	541,146	1,384,695	39%
Miscellaneous	2,765,409	11,937,862	23%
	<b>41,223,872</b>	<b>103,224,472</b>	<b>40%</b>

### Income to 31st May 2018

<b>Section</b>	<b>ACTUAL INCOME TO 31/05/18</b>	<b>BUDGET INCOME 2018</b>	<b>% INVOICED TO 31/05/18</b>
Housing	8,248,816	25,488,641	32%
Road Transportation & Safety	3,677,964	10,979,713	33%
Water Services	2,883,220	6,762,465	43%
Development Management	2,015,561	9,328,492	22%
Environmental Services	700,226	2,009,350	35%
Recreation and Amenity	400,922	847,827	47%
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	167,367	452,133	37%
Miscellaneous	1,969,099	5,573,406	35%
Rates	31,898,523	31,916,247	100%
General Purpose Grant (LGF)	3,288,732	9,866,198	33%
	<b>55,250,430</b>	<b>103,224,472</b>	<b>54%</b>

The above is the current position as at the 31st May 2018. The full rates demand figure is included in the above. The allocation of the Central Management Charge is estimated in the above figures as the allocation is not completed till mid-month.

Collection rates as at 31st May 2018 are as follows:

**DEBTORS AS AT 31st MAY 2018**

	Opening Balance	Invoices	Receipts	Write Offs	Closing Balance
<b>Government Debtors</b>	<b>7,675,938</b>	19,671,126	(17,189,463)	0	<b>10,157,601</b>
<b>Other Local Authorities</b>	<b>63,193</b>	62,250	(56,091)	0	<b>69,352</b>
<b>Rates</b>	<b>12,504,700</b>	31,898,523	(12,614,787)	(490,613)	<b>31,297,823</b>
<b>Rents</b>	<b>5,089,880</b>	4,879,438	(5,119,887)	(6,710)	<b>4,842,721</b>
<b>Loans</b>	<b>362,039</b>	380,689	(501,820)	0	<b>240,908</b>
<b>Development Levies</b>	<b>12,123,334</b>	711,444	(761,076)	0	<b>12,073,703</b>
<b>Fire Charges</b>	<b>1,594,374</b>	128,233	(101,350)	0	<b>1,621,257</b>
<b>Miscellaneous</b>	<b>2,725,633</b>	2,338,947	(2,823,166)	(16,447)	<b>2,224,967</b>
<b>TOTAL DEBTORS</b>	<b>42,139,091</b>	<b>60,072,568</b>	<b>(39,167,640)</b>	<b>(513,770)</b>	<b>62,530,250</b>

Above is the debtor balances as at the 31st May 2018. The Miscellaneous debtor figure includes the Irish Water SLA recoupments, Corporate, Community & Enterprise, LEO, Planning, Enforcement, Environment, Sports, Vets, Arts, Roads, Library, Museum and Finance miscellaneous billings.

## **Economic Development**

### **Louth Economic Forum**

The last meeting of the Louth Economic Forum was held on the 30<sup>th</sup> May 2018. A presentation on Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann Drogheda 2018 was given by Mr. Paddy Donnelly, Director of Services. Updates on each of the Action Plans, the Regional Action Plan for Jobs and the Regional Enterprise Development Fund were also delivered at the meeting.

### **Tourism and Heritage Plan**

One of the main projects being developed this year is a Heritage Trail for County Louth. The heritage trail has been drafted in conjunction with the Heritage Officer and it is intended to be available in advance of the Fleadh in August.

### **The Irish Maritime Festival 2018**

The 2018 Irish Maritime Festival will take place over the weekend of the 16<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> June at Drogheda Port. A number of impressive ships have been secured for the festival and this year we welcome the French Navy to Drogheda with visitors to the Festival being given the opportunity to climb aboard these vessels to explore them. Also this year the Water Wags – Ireland’s smallest sailing vessels will sail from Drogheda to Oldbridge. The line-up for the Stowaway Sessions was unveiled on the 14<sup>th</sup> May and features “Declan O’Rourke” and “The Lost Brothers”.

The Plan for the management of the Festival was approved at the Borough District of Drogheda meeting on the 14<sup>th</sup> May.

### **Business Improvement District Scheme**

Following a period on public display the details of the proposal to extend the Business Improvement District for Dundalk for a further 5 years was noted by the Council at the May monthly meeting. Following a further statutory period where notice is received from the BIDS Company after the 27<sup>th</sup> June Louth County Council shall hold a plebiscite of the Ratepayers of Dundalk on the proposal.

## **Arts**

### Drogheda Arts Festival 2018

The Arts Festival took place from the 1<sup>st</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> May and provided stimulation, enjoyment and food for thought for thousands of Louth people and tourists alike. As well as Droichead Arts Centre and Highlanes Gallery, venues for performances included St. Peter's Church of Ireland, Drumshallon Forge, Beaulieu House, St. Dominic's Park, The Chocolate Factory, St Laurence's Gate, Gerrard's Church, Millmount, Oldbridge and the streets, bars and clubs of Drogheda. Louth County Council is a core funder of this, the largest arts festival between Dublin and Belfast.

### Bealtaine in Louth 2018

Bealtaine is the national festival celebrating creativity in older people. In Louth, the Arts Service organised a series of six concerts in six different hospitals, residential centres and day-care centres throughout the county. The music was performed by trained music-in-healthcare musicians, and in parallel with the concerts, the Arts Service is facilitating a training module for Louth musicians in the skills needed to work in health-care settings. This will lead to enhanced employment opportunities for professional musicians.

### Music Generation Louth

Pick Up and Play is Music Generation Louth's programme for aspiring young rock and pop musicians, and they held their showcase concert in An Táin Arts Centre in Dundalk on the 23<sup>rd</sup> May. Bands from Music Generation Louth's Ardee, Drogheda and Dundalk hubs came together to perform songs and covers they have learnt over a ten-week programme aimed at young people who want to learn guitar, keyboard and drums. Music Generation Louth's Summer School is now open for booking and is aimed at young musicians from 8 to 18, and will take place at DkIT in July. Louth County Council is a co-founder and core funder of Music Generation Louth.

## **Heritage**

Louth County Council has been awarded funding by the Heritage Council for two projects to be carried out in 2018. These are: 1) a 'Historic Landscape Study of the Louth/Armagh cross-border region' and 2) a survey of plaques and memorials across County Louth.

Louth County Council's application to the Irish Walled Towns Network for funding to conserve the Drogheda town wall at Featherbed Lane was successful and was awarded €25,000.

## LEO Louth

### Business Training

During May the following business training workshops took place throughout the county with a combined total of 121 participants.

- GDPR for Start Up Businesses - 53 participants
- Financial Forecasting & Cashflow Projections - 15 participants
- Email Marketing using Mailchimp - 16 participants
- Costing & Pricing - 12 participants
- Data Protection New Legislation for Business - 25 participants

Planned business workshops in June include:

- 7th June: Small Business Finance & Book-keeping
- 12<sup>th</sup>/13<sup>th</sup> June: Social Media for Small Business (3 locations: Ardee, Drogheda & Dundalk)
- 13<sup>th</sup> June: Fundamentals of LEAN/ LEAN workshop
- 14th June: Creating an Online Business
- 19th June: Branding for Your Business

### Trading Online Vouchers:

LEO Louth has approved 18 Trading Online Vouchers to local small businesses this year, up to May 2018, with a value of c. €39,500. This grant scheme offers financial assistance up to €2,500 alongside training and advice to help businesses trade online.

### Student Enterprise Programme

Over 20,000 second-level students nationally participated in the Student Enterprise Programme 2017-2018. Three business projects, from Sacred Heart Secondary School Drogheda (Junior & Intermediate) and Ardee Community School (Senior), represented Louth at the national finals on the 2<sup>nd</sup> May.

Congratulations to Sacred Heart Secondary School, Drogheda, who won the national *Best Commercial Potential Award* in the Intermediate Section, for their project '*Makes Cents*'. Louth has consistently won national awards in recent years, which builds on the county's reputation for enterprise.

## North East LEAN Network

LEO Louth is a member of both the North East Lean Network and its Steering Group. A workshop on the fundamentals of LEAN is planned to be held in DKIT on the 13th June. Businesses with an interest in improving competitiveness should contact LEO Louth to discuss how the LEAN Programme and the LEAN Network can be of assistance.

## LEO/Bord BIA/Supervalu Food Academy

Louth has four food producers participating on the LEO/Bord Bia/SuperValu Regional Food Academy Start Programme which commenced on the 8<sup>th</sup> May 2018. The programme is being delivered over a four month duration and will include a combination of group workshops and one-to-one mentoring. At the final workshop, participants will get the opportunity to present their product to a panel for SuperValu and, if successful, can participate in a trial based in local shops, which in the right circumstances, could progress over time to a national listing with SuperValu. This is a regional initiative run by LEO Louth with the LEOs from Monaghan, Cavan and Meath.

## DEASP/Eures Cross Border Partnership Dundalk Jobs Fair

LEO Louth exhibited in the Enterprise Section at the Dundalk Jobs Fair organised by DEASP & Eures Cross Border Partnership on the 15<sup>th</sup> May 2018 in the Crowne Plaza. LEO Staff were available throughout the event to advise attendees wishing to start or grow their own business and had a steady stream of visitors to their stand throughout the event.

## National Enterprise Awards

The National Enterprise Awards were held in the Mansion House, Dublin on the 24<sup>th</sup> May 2018, and celebrated 20 years of awards. Louth was represented on the night by Celtic Testing which is based in the Regional Development Centre, Dundalk. Unfortunately the company did not win any awards on the night but has benefitted from a significant print and social media PR campaign around the event.

## Mentoring Clinics

LEO Louth ran a series of 3 mentoring clinics in Dundalk (Town Hall) and Drogheda (at The Mill Enterprise Hub) during May. In addition, 8 mentoring assignments issued to client businesses during the month.

## Co-Innovate Programme

Recruitment continues for this Innovation focused Interreg funded programme with companies progressing through the process to complete Business Status Reviews and Innovation Audits. A workshop will be held in Louth on the 6<sup>th</sup> June for the new companies recruited in the past month. To date 29 Louth companies have engaged with the programme.

## Innovate Accelerate

A new innovation and export programme for LEO clients who cannot progress through 'Co-Innovate' but which plan to innovate and increase their capacity to export is now available to client businesses. The aim is to support up to 7 businesses each year to participate on the programme and help address Brexit concerns, and will include tailored intensive mentoring.

## Showcase

Three local craft businesses were selected to exhibit in the Enterprise Zone at Showcase in January 2019. Showcase is the leading craft and gift trade fair for domestic and international buyers. LEO Louth will take the following businesses to the event.

- Emma's Soy Candles, Ardee
- Sea Remedies, Carlingford
- Celtic Valley Ceramics, Ardee

## Business to Consumer Expo

LEO Louth participated in the Dundalk Chamber/Bank of Ireland Business to Consumer Expo held at the Marshes Shopping Centre on the 18<sup>th</sup> May. The event was opened by Frank Ryan, Chairman of IDA Ireland and involved over 70 county businesses exhibiting.

## Age Friendly Economy (EU Project)

Research continues on the EU Project of which Louth County Council is a partner working towards helping businesses in County Louth innovate with new products or services for the older community.

## Regional Action Plan for Jobs

LEO/Louth County Council provides the Secretariat to the NE/NW Regional Action Plan for Jobs. The North East Implementation Committee of the Regional Action Plan for Jobs met with Minister for Business, Enterprise & Innovation on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> June in Monaghan. The most recent progress report for the NE/NW Region is available to view at: <http://www.regionalapj.ie/Regions/North-East-North-West/North-East-North-West.html>. The final progress report to end 2017 is currently being compiled.

## Other Business Support Initiatives

In addition to its client engagement, business advisory and funding roles, LEO Louth continues to be involved in a number of other ongoing business support initiatives, including, the recently launched call of the Regional Enterprise Development Fund and assisting a number of Louth applicants under this Fund, MicroFinance Ireland's loan scheme which is processed in Co. Louth by the LEO, Dundalk BIDs Company, the Evaluation Committee of the LEADER Programme and contributing to the New Frontiers Entrepreneur Programme.

## Planning

### Development Management

The Planning service indicators for Louth County Council for the month of April 2018 are given below in tabular form.

There were 88 planning applications received during the month of April of which **78** were valid. In addition there were 17 responses received during the month to requests for further information. The service indicator figures in relation to **planning decisions and decisions on appeals made** during the month, broken down by category, and with a total figure for all categories (Column F), are given below:

(A) Description	(B) Housing Developments	(C) Individual Houses	(D) Other applications -not requiring EIA	(E) Other applications - requiring EIA	(F) Total for all categories of development in County Area
(i) Number of applications determined	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>62</b>
(ii) No. of decisions determined which required further information	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>24</b>
(iii) Percentage of applications refused	<b>0% (0)</b>	<b>0% (0)</b>	<b>3.51% (2)</b>	<b>0% (0)</b>	<b>3.23%(2)</b>
(iv) Number of appeals determined	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>
(v) Percentage of decisions overturned on appeal	<b>0%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>0%</b>

## Planning Enforcement

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

Description	Enforcement in relation to unauthorised development		Enforcement in relation to unauthorised development	
	April 2018	Year to Date	April 2017	Year to Date
Number of 1 <sup>st</sup> Reminders (from Commencement Notices)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Number of Other Reminders	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Number of 14 day letters	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Number of Planning Enforcement Complaints Investigated	22	71	15	57
Number of Planning Enforcement cases received which didn't require follow up	0	0	0	10
Number of cases closed/resolved through negotiation	23	70	11	53
Number of Warning letters issued	9	39	6	32
Number of Enforcement Notices issued	2	4	3	13
Number of cases referred for legal proceedings	0	0	2	4
Number of cases struck out where issues resolved and costs paid	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Number of Injunctions	0	0	0	0
Number of Prosecutions	1	3	1	1

## Forward Planning

<b>Draft Westgate Vision</b>			
1	January 2018 - May 2018	Preparation of draft Westgate Vision.	Background research and preparation of draft Westgate Vision.  Launched in Drogheda 6 <sup>th</sup> June 2018

## **ENVIRONMENT**

**GENERAL**– There were 0 waste complaints in May 2018. There are a number of Waste Management Act related cases going through the District and Circuit Courts at present.

Two cases have been referred for legal action, one under the Local Government (Water Pollution) Act 1977 as amended and the other under the Water Services (Amendment) Act 2012. Two cases under the Air Pollution Act have been referred for legal action; one case has been recently heard but is now under appeal and the other has been adjourned until the next court hearing. The RMCEI plan for 2018 for Louth County Council and annual statistics for 2017 in relation to environmental inspections and enforcement have been submitted to the EPA.

### **DIESEL LAUNDERING WASTE**

There were 8 IBC's of Diesel Sludge recovered during May 2018. The approximate cost of clean-up and disposal of the material is €9,990. 2 IBC's was found at Carrickarnon which was followed by 2 IBC's at Captains Road, 3 at Balregan and 1 at Faughart, (8 in total for May 2018)

### **DRAFT NOISE ACTION PLAN**

The Draft Noise Action Plan which is currently on Public display until the 9<sup>th</sup> July 2018 has been prepared in accordance with the Noise regulations 2006 the Environmental Noise Directive (END). The END requires member States to produce strategic noise maps for the main sources of environmental noise i.e. major roads, major railways, airports etc.

The objective of action plans is the prevention and reduction of environmental noise.

As there are no airports or railways above the respective threshold the Noise Action Plan in Co Louth refers to **Road Traffic** noise from National and Regional Roads within the county only.

The Draft Action Plan along with the strategic noise maps will be on public display for until the 9<sup>th</sup> July 2018 with a further two weeks for the receipt of written submissions until the 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2018. A notice was placed in the local papers in advance advising the public of the locations where and when the

plan was on display. A copy of the Draft Action Plan has been displayed on the [www.louthcoco.ie](http://www.louthcoco.ie) and in the following public buildings:

- Louth County Council, Millennium Centre, St Alphonsus Rd, Dundalk,
- Civic Offices Drogheda, Fair Street Drogheda,
- Town Hall Dundalk, Crowe Street, Dundalk,
- County Library, Jocelyn Street Dundalk,
- Library Stockwell Street, Drogheda,
- Library, Main Street Ardee.

## **CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION STRATEGY**

In January 2018 the DCCAE announced that there will be 4 Regional Climate Change offices and regions based on climate risk. Louth County Council will fall into Eastern & Midlands Region (see map below), of which Kildare County Council will be the Regional Climate Change Office.

These regional teams will add to competency and preparedness of the sector; however, will not relieve Local Authorities of Climate Change obligations. The regional office held its first introductory meeting with the Eastern & Midlands LAs on the 30th of May.

Louth Co. Council has convened a core adaptation team, made up from a wide cross-section of the Directorates, who will draft the Councils Climate Change Adaptation Strategy. This Strategy is due to be completed by September 2019 deadline.

## **EUROPEAN RELATIONS**

### **Memorandum of Understanding**

The next meeting of the MOU committee will take place in Newry on the 20<sup>th</sup> of June. Work is ongoing between the two Councils to progress the workplan of the committee and explore other opportunities to work together.

## **INTERREG VA**

### **Carlingford Lough Greenway**

Work has been completed on the section of the Carlingford Lough Greenway from Dublin Road Bridge in Newry through the Albert Basin site and along Middlebank as far as Victoria Lock - a distance of 5.7 kilometres approx. This section opened for use by the public on the 4<sup>th</sup> May 2018.

The official opening of the section is expected to take place in June 2018.

Detailed progress reports and financial claims have been submitted to the SEUPB.

### **Peace 1V Programme**

The Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB) has initially approved projects with a combined value of €2.2m

A total of 13 projects have been funded as follows:

The procurement process for the Peace 1V Programme has commenced and a number projects are expected to start soon.

Louth Peace IV Partnership and LCDC have approved a plan to rebid for the remaining €1.3 million ring fenced for Louth. Clarifications sought by SEUPB on some aspects of the Rebid proposal have been answered in detail and a final decision on funding is pending.

The official launch of the Louth Peace IV Action Plan took place on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2018 and was well attended by Members of the Partnership and LCDC.

## **SUSTAINABLE ENERGY**

### **Public Sector Energy Efficiency Performance**

The Council has submitted its updated energy information for 2017 to SEAI in accordance with the Council's obligations under the Public Sector Monitoring and Reporting (M&R) System.

We do not yet have the score card result of energy use for 2017 from SEAI but the early indications are that the Council's energy use has reduced to 62.55% of its baseline energy use (ie that the Council has reduced its energy consumption by 37.45%). That would be ahead of the government target for public sector organisations for 2020.

We are continuing to monitor the Council's energy consumption with particular focus on our significant energy users and seeking to identify further opportunities for improved energy efficiency.

### **Better Energies Communities Energy Funding 2018**

As in previous years the Council has partnered with Dundalk Institute of Technology to complete and manage the application for the various beneficiaries.

The beneficiaries have all accepted the grant offer made and the Council, as grantee, has returned the acceptance letter. Beneficiaries have commenced the works to enable claim from the grant offer. The works must be fully completed and paid-for and all grant claims submitted to SEAI no later than 12 October 2018.

### **ISO 50001**

The Energy Management System certification ISO 50001 is the vehicle for sustaining our energy efficiency. We are continuing to monitor the Council's energy consumption with particular focus on our Significant Energy Users and developing and maintaining our energy management system documentation, as part of the requirements for the Energy Management System Certification.

*Housing, Communities, Library, Fire & Emergency Services Progress Report*

*Housing Services Progress Report*

I attach details of the Housing Progress report across the following specific areas. This report addresses the following areas.

1. Housing Demand
2. Social Housing Supports
3. Housing Stock
4. Private Rented Activity
5. Stock Maintenance
6. Capital Investment Programme
7. Other Future Developments
8. Housing Assistance Payments (HAP)
9. Approved Housing Bodies
10. Tenancy Management
11. Rent Management
12. Homelessness
13. Anti Social Behaviour
14. Abandoned Properties
15. Grant Assistance
16. **Communities**
17. **Libraries**
18. **Fire & Emergency Services**

## 1. HOUSING DEMAND AT 30TH APRIL 2018

### Housing List (excluding HAP Transfers)

Month	Ardee MD	Dundalk MD	Drogheda MD	Total
March18	486	890	1014	2390
April 18	474	856	988	2318
<i>difference</i>	--12	-34	-26	-72

### Transfer List from HAP

Month	Ardee MD	Dundalk MD	Drogheda MD	Total
March 18	215	1125	798	2138
April 18	219	1153	816	2188
<i>difference</i>	+4	+28	+18	+50

There are a total of **181** applicants on the list for transfer (**Non-HAP**) within Social Housing including **15** applications from the Approved Housing Bodies.

Numbers Allocated	Allocations- Social	Allocations - Voluntary	Total Allocations	Refusals – Social	Refusals – Voluntary
Ardee MD	3	20	23	0	0
Dundalk MD	16	11	27	1	2
Drogheda MD	12	27	39	2	2
			89		

**Transfers Approved within Social Housing at 30th April 2018**

Year	Ardee MD	Dundalk MD	Drogheda MD	Total
2018	5	6	2	13

Choice Based Letting went live in Louth County Council on May 16th 2017. This is the method of choice for allocating general housing going forward.

### 3 HOUSING STOCK AS AT 30TH APRIL 2018

Housing Stock Managed by the Council	Dundalk	Drogheda	Ardee	Total
Council owned	1765	1453	599	3817
Community Houses	4	4	0	8
Long Term Leased	186	28	23	237
<b>Totals</b>	<b>1955</b>	<b>1485</b>	<b>622</b>	<b>4062</b>
Approved Housing Bodies Stock (CLSS & CAS)	-	-	-	769
Council stock managed by Approved Housing Bodies	76	0	20	96
Payment & Availability Agreements with AHB's	115	89	18	222
Mortgage to Rent with AHB's	12	12	4	28

### 4. PRIVATE RENTED ACTIVITY AS AT 30TH APRIL 2018

No. of properties inspected to date	77
No. of advisory notes issued to landlord	90
No. of improvement notices issued	1
No. of prohibition notices issued	10
No. of Rent Book Notices issued	0
Inspections ( HAP )	42
Improvement Notices ( HAP )	1

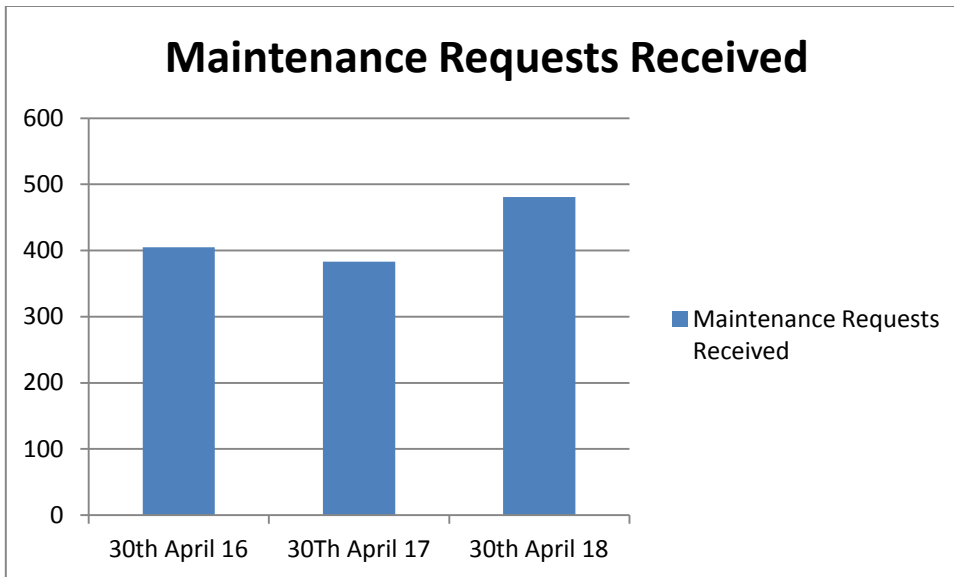
CURRENT PROHIBITIONS NOTICES ARE ALSO LISTED ON THE WEBSITE.

**5. STOCK MAINTENANCE ACTIVITY AS AT 30TH APRIL 2018**

The below table summarises the level of maintenance and works activity to existing stock.

	<b>Total</b>
<b>No. of Maintenance Requests Received - April 18</b>	<b>481</b>
<b>No. of Requests Outstanding- April 18</b>	<b>205</b>
<b>Vacant Properties (un-tenanted &amp; un-occupied) - Requiring Major Refurbishing</b>	<b>49</b>
<b>Vacant Properties (un-tenanted &amp; un-occupied) – Requiring Minor Works</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>Vacant Properties (un-tenanted &amp; un-occupied) – Awaiting Allocation</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Total Vacant Properties (excluding Un-tenanted Properties)</b>	<b>55</b>
<b>Un-tenanted properties (un-tenanted BUT occupied)- properties not vacant</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>% Stock Vacant(Total Vacancies/Total Stock)</b>	<b>2.17%</b>
<b>Number of Applications approved for Disability Adaption Works 2018</b> <b>*Subject to confirmation of funding from Dept</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Number of Units with Disability Adaption Works 2018 - completed (carry over from 2017).</b>	<b>9</b>

## Maintenance Requests Received



## 6 Capital Investment Programme

Over the period 2018 to 2021, a target has been set for the provision of **1074 units of which 306** are to be delivered

in 2018. These targets will also include matters such as Part V provision, Acquisitions, Mortgage to Rents, Long Term Leases, Repair and Lease and Buy & Renew Acquisitions. The 2018 delivery pipeline progress is detailed at the end of this Section.

**Schemes currently in approval process or under construction for the above period 2018 – 2021**

**(This list is indicative and can change as matters are being approved or schemes withdrawn)**



### Municipal District Ardee

Location	Auth	Social	I.P.S.	CAS	Calf	Total	Start Date	Scheduled Completion	Current Position
Tierney Street, Ardee	Oaklee	0	0	7	0	7	Q4 2018	Q3 2019	Stage 3 Approved by Department of Housing
Dunleer	National Development Financial Agency	80	0	0	0	80	Q4 2018	Q4 2020	Tender process in progress.
Castleguard, Ardee	Tuath	0	0	0	106	106	April 2017	Q4 2018	Remaining phases on site.
Fr Finn Park Phase 2, Louth Village	LCC	17	0	0	0	17	Q1 2019	Q1 2020	Stage 2 Approved. Part 8 in process
Four Winds, Mullacapple, Collon,	SJOG			1		1			Stage 1 Approved Acquisition
<b>Total</b>	-	<b>97</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>211</b>	-	-	

## Municipal District Dundalk

Location	Auth	Social	I.P.S	CAS	CALF	Total	Start Date	Scheduled Completion	Current Position
Cox's Demesne Phase 2B	LCC	22	0	0	0	22	Q2 2019	Q3 2020	Stage 2 Approved by Dept of Housing. Part 8 to commence
Clos Na Manach	Tuath	0	0	0	10	10	Q1 2017	Q1 2018	On site
Saltown	North & East	0	0	7	0	7	Q1 2018	Q3/4 2018	Stage 2 Approved. PP granted.
Barrack Street	SIMON	0	0	10	0	10	Q1 2018	Q1 2019	Awaiting Stage 1 Approval from Dept.
Clontygora Phase 2 Muirhevnamor	Cluid	0	0	11	30	41	Unknown	Unknown	Full project review
5 Slieveroe Crescent Dundalk	Cluid	0	0	1	0	1	Q2 2018	Q4 2018	PP received awaiting Commencement
Castletowncooley, Riverstown, Dundalk	Tuath	0	0	1	0	1	Unknown	Unknown	Detailed design in progress
Bishops Court Dundalk	Tuath	0	0	0	2	2	Q2 2018	Q4 2018	At tender stage
Mounthamilton, Dundalk	Cluid	0	0	0	43	43	Ongoing	Q3 2018	On site
Coulter Park, Armagh Road, Dundalk	Tuath	0	0	7	0	7	Unknown	Unknown	Stage 1 Approved
Mount Avenue, Dundalk	LCC	75	0	0	0	75	Unknown	Unknown	Stage 1 Approved
Dundoogan, Haggardstown,	Tuath	0	0	0	112	112	Unknown	Unknown	Part V Compliance & Dept

Dundalk									CALF Approved
Halliday's Mill	Tuath	0	0	0	64	64	Q2 2018	Q2 2019	Construction Tender Preparation
<b>Total</b>		<b>97</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>261</b>	<b>395</b>			



### Municipal District Drogheda

		Social	I.P.S	CAS	CALF	Total	Start Date	Schedule Completion	Current Position
Boice Court, Mell, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Phase	LCC	49	5	15	0	69	Q3 2018	Q4 2019	Stage 2 Approved
Scarlett Street	NEHA	0	0	0	15	15	Q1 2018	Q2 2019	On site
Rathmullan Road	NEHA & Tuath	0	0	0	105	105	Q3 2017	Q2 2020	On site
1 Unit at McArdle Green Moneymore, Drogheda	NEHA	0	0	1	0	1	Q1 2018	Q4 2018	On site
Liscorrie, Bog Road, Drogheda,	Tuath	0	0	0	41	41	Q3 2016	Q1 2018	Complete
Aston Village, Drogheda	Respond	0	0	0	8	8	Q2 2018	Q2 2019	Department CALF Approved.
Grove Court, Hardmans Gardens, Drogheda	Foscadh	0	0	0	4	4	Not Known	Not Known	Department CALF Approved Acquisition
17 Chestnut Grove, Termonabbey, Drogheda	Foscadh	0	0	0	1	1			Department CALF Approved Acquisition

<b>Total</b>	-	<b>49</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>174</b>	<b>244</b>	-	-	-
<b>Delivery Plan for County 2018 - 2021</b>		<b>243</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>541</b>	<b>850</b>			

## Vacant Home Initiatives

Scheme	Ardee MD	Dundalk MD	Drogheda MD	Total
Repair & Lease	0	8	4	12
Tenanted and Complete	0	0	0	0
Buy & Renew (Original CPO Pilot) Acquired	6	56	15	79
<b>Tenanted and Complete</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>30</b>

## 2018 Delivery Target of 306 Units Complete (New & Additional at 30th April 2018)

Local Authority Construction	0
AHB CAS	0
AHB CALF	42
Part V	0
Local Authority Acquisition	0
Long Term Leases	1
AHB Mortgage to Rent	3
Buy & Renew	5
Repair & Lease	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>51</b>

## Definitions

**AHB** = Approved Housing Body

**CAS** = Capital Assistance Scheme which provides 100% funding to AHBs to build or acquire units for disabled or homeless applicants with a non- repayment mortgage in favour of the Housing Authority to ensure that the Housing Authority has both nomination rights and security over the asset created by public funds.

**CALF** = Capital Advance Loan Fund which provides Department funding for up to 30% funding to AHBs to provide units for general use on the basis that they enter into a Payment and Availability agreement with the Housing Authority who will provide all the tenant nominations.

**CPO** = Compulsory Purchase Scheme allows the local authority to land or property without the consent of the owner by means of a compulsory purchase order (CPO). This is being used to acquire vacant or derelict houses which are being returned to use as social housing units.

**IPS** = Incremental Purchase Scheme

## 7 OTHER FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS

The council continue to maintain land banks in the following locations, which can be developed if an appropriate project and funding is forthcoming.

Location	Average
Mullavalley, Louth Village	8.82
Kilkerley	11.59
Ballymakenny	16.53
Mount Avenue	7.64
Point Road	5.2
Various Individual Sites	0

## 8 Housing Assistance Payment (HAP) as at 30th April 2018

Work continues on promoting the Housing Assistance Payment model of Social Housing Support. Louth County Council is one of the Phase One Implementation sites and data on this support is now reported in monthly municipal district housing reports.

The total number of applications in HAP is 2188. Once an applicant's housing needs have been met under HAP they are no longer included be on the local authority's [housing waiting list](#). However, if an applicant wishes to have access to other social housing supports, such as local authority housing or housing provided by a [housing association](#), they can apply to the local authority for a transfer. If an applicant applies for a transfer **within 2 weeks of getting the letter confirming their HAP payment**, any time that they spent on the housing list can be taken into account when Louth County Council considers their application. If they apply for a transfer at a later date, the time that was previously spent on the housing waiting list won't count.

Ardee Municipal District	Dundalk Municipal District	Drogheda Municipal District	Total
219	1153	816	2188

## 9 Approved Housing Bodies

- The members should note that there is progress being made nationally in developing a regulatory framework for the Voluntary Sector which will see an increased role from this sector. The Department have now also confirmed when considering proposals from this sector, priority shall be given to Approved Housing Bodies (AHBs) that have signed up to the Voluntary Regulation Code – “Building for the Future”.
- Louth County Council continues to meet all AHBs operating in the county on a periodic basis. The next meeting is scheduled for early this month.
- A new Call for Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS) Projects has been issued nationally, Louth County Council will tailor that call for our specific needs

## 10 Tenancy Management

The table below illustrates activity with regard to general estate management for the month of April 2018 last

Tenancy Activity	TOTAL
Pre Tenancy Training	11
Tenancy (House) Inspections	13

## 11 Rent Management

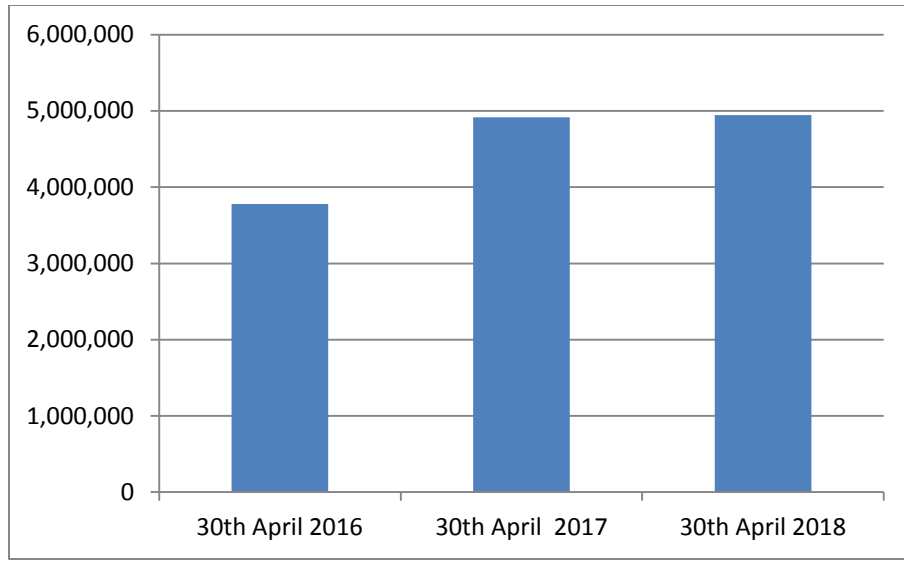
A new rents scheme came into effect on 2<sup>nd</sup> February and is available on our website. Under the standard tenancy agreement, tenants are obliged to notify us of any occupancy change and/or change in financial circumstances. The council will continue to encourage tenants to comply with this requirement.

At the start of February 2017, all differential rent tenants were issued with letters informing them of their rent for 2017. A small number of remaining Long Term Leased and RAS accounts are currently being assessed.

The table over refers to the number of rents and annuities accounts that are in arrears and highlights the liability owed to Council and the workload involved in managing this area. The number of tenants who paid rent by Household Budget in March 2018 was **1117**

<b>Current Rents Arrears as at 30th April 2018</b>	<b>Number of Account</b>	<b>Value</b>
Rents between 4-6 weeks old	184	€55,068
Rents between 7-12 weeks old	193	€115,363
Rents greater than 12 weeks old	1381	€4,773,841
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1758</b>	<b>€4,944,272</b>

## **RENT ARREARS**



**Housing Support Services**

**12 Homelessness**

As the Responsible Housing Authority for the North East Region, Louth County Council continues to manage this area and achieve the goals set out in the North East Homelessness Action Plan, 2013-17.

<b>Presentations of April 2018</b>	<b>Ardee MD</b>	<b>Dundalk MD</b>	<b>Drogheda MD</b>	<b>Total</b>
Number of Person who presented as Homeless to the Housing Authority	2	33	30	65
Offered advice, support (including fast tracking H.A. for Rent Supplement eligibility)	1	20	20	41
Placed in Temporary Emergency Accommodation	1	11	8	20
Refused Offer of Temporary Emergency Accommodation	0	2	2	4
Not eligible from outside county or non HRC	0	1	3	4
Number of Tenancies being supported : Sustainment Packages funded by the Housing Authority in order to prevent Homelessness	0	6	5	11

Our Rough Sleeper count took place unannounced on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> November 2017 at 2.30am in Dundalk and Drogheda. No persons were found to be sleeping rough.

The Department of Housing continue to request a report based on a specific, week in time, to be submitted based on the number of people placed in emergency accommodation by Louth, Cavan and Monaghan County Councils. To see the published report please go to:

<http://www.housing.gov.ie/housing/homelessness/other/homelessness-data>

**The tables below reflect monthly returns submitted to the Department with regard to Homeless Numbers. In the NORTH EAST REGION**

This anonymised and aggregated return of all individuals accessing emergency accommodation is returned to the Department of Housing on a monthly basis. The following information has been returned relating to the timeframe, 23<sup>rd</sup> April – 29<sup>th</sup> April 2018 last, across the following headings

- 1.) Gender;
- 2.) Age group (as per CSO);
- 3.) Accommodation type;
- 4.) County.
- 5.) Breakdown of families with dependent children

**Table 1: Gender**

Gender	Total
Male	68
Female	60
<b>Total</b>	<b>128</b>

**Table 2: Age Groups**

Age Group	Total
18-24	15
25-44	75
45-64	33
65+	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>128</b>

**Table 3: Accommodation Type**

Accommodation Type	Total
Private Emergency Accommodation (PEA)	73
Supported Temporary Accommodation (STA)	54
Temporary Emergency Accommodation (low support)(TEA)	1
Unique Total (note, clients may have accessed	0

multiple accommodation types during the week)	
Minus people accessing multiple accommodation types during the week	0
<b>Total unique individuals</b>	<b>128</b>

**Table 4: County**

County	Total
County Louth	124
County Monaghan	0
County Cavan	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>128</b>

**Table 5 - Families with dependent children breakdown**

	No. of families with dependent children	No. of Individual Adults	No. of Dependents
Individuals with dependent children	12	12	30
Couples with dependent children	7	7 couples (14 adults)	15
<b>Total</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>44</b>

Work is continuing on the development of a new Regional Homeless Action Plan and this was discussed at the most recent meeting of the North East Regional Forum meeting on May 29<sup>th</sup> last.

#### Inspections of Private Emergency Accommodation

Since December 2017 the Homeless Office have carried out random and unannounced inspections on all B&Bs, Hotels and Hostels providing Private Emergency Accommodation on behalf of Louth County Council. This will continue on a monthly basis

4 premises in Dundalk, 8 premises in Drogheda and 2 premises in rural Drogheda area were inspected in April 18 and all were found to be of an acceptable standard. The majority of Homeless clients were present on inspection. These inspections will be augmented by visits by our Fire Officers to carry out Fire Safety inspections.

### 13. Anti Social Behaviour to 30<sup>th</sup> April 2018

ASB INVESTIGATION CASES	DBD	AMD	DMD	TOTAL
ASB investigations ongoing	5	2	6	12
ASB investigations completed	4	2	8	14
Total ASB investigation cases	9	4	14	27

ACTION TAKEN	DBD	AMD	DMD	TOTAL
No further action required, no ASB found (unfounded/malicious)	1	1	3	5
No further action – Advice given	0	0	0	0
Verbal Warning issued	3	1	3	7
Tenancy Notification	0	0	2	2
Tenancy Warning	0	0	0	0
Notice To Quit Served – Application for possession requested	0	0	0	0
Exclusion Orders sought	0	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0	0
<b>Total Action Taken</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>14</b>

TENANCY OUTCOMES	DBD	AMD	DMD	TOTAL
Eviction following Notice To Quit/ Tenancy Warning	0	0	0	0
Exclusion Orders in place	3	2	1	6

### 14 Abandoned Properties to 30th April 2018

Possible Abandoned properties to 30th April 2018	<b>4</b>
Properties returned after investigations/serving of notices	<b>1</b>
Tenants investigated returned to their properties. Potential breach of tenancy	<b>1</b>
Tenants contesting residency after Section 15(1) served	<b>0</b>

## 15 Grant Assistance to the Elderly and Disabled

Please note that the Housing Grants Scheme is now open for consideration of applications. The grant scheme will remain open and grants awarded will be based on the normal priority basis

- Housing Adaption Grants - Priority 1, which will assist those who need wholetime care in the home
- Housing for Older People – Priority 1to works that will preserve the integrity of the dwelling
- Mobility Aids Grants - Priority 1, which will assist those who need wholetime, care in the home.

### **Please Note**

- Any persons who made application in 2017, who were awarded Priority 1 are not required to make a further application.
- Any person who was deemed Priority 2 or 3 in 2017 will need to reapply if they feel their circumstances need to be reassessed.

The Staff will be able to advise applicants from 2017 which category they were in. Details of grants applications received for 2018 (Table 1)

### **Table 1**

#### **Allocation of Grants 2018**

We have been notified by the Dept that our annual allocation for Disabled Persons Grants for 2018 is€ **1,498,067**, of which **€299,613** is to be provided from Louth County Councils own revenue resources.

	Applications Received 2017 rolled over to 2018	Applications Recd 2018	Value of grants rolled over 2017	Applications Received 2017/2018 approved	Estimated Value of Grants on hand 2018	Annual Allocation 2018	Total applications on Hand rolling into 2018
HOPS	8	109	€62,764.00	14	€861,418.35	€298,276.51	117
HAGS	78	106	€1,269,102.00	18	€1,948,737.25	€1,075,839.00	184
MAGS	9	36	€52,500.00	7	€224,181.00	€92,832.47	45
OT COSTS					€17,590.00 spent so far on OT DPG costs	€31,119.02	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>251</b>	<b>€1,384,366.00</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>€3,051,926.60</b>	<b>€1,498,067.00</b>	<b>346</b>

## ***Communities Services Progress Report***

### **16. Communities Services**

#### **SICAP**

The SICAP 2018 Mid Year review will begin in June. The LCDC SICAP Sub- Group's task will include reviewing the performance of the Programme Implementer in delivering SICAP in accordance with the approved Annual Plan, Programme Requirements, and Funding Agreement. The review will allow the Sub Group to assess the performance to date against the KPI's and targets set as well as carrying out financial oversight at the mid-year point and will provide an indication of the expected achievements by end of year.

#### **LEADER**

The LCDC/LAG at its meeting in May approved funding support in the amount of €205,000 for four LEADER projects. The projects approved for support are located in Drogheda, Dundalk, Blackrock and Louth.

#### **Community Enhancement Programme (CEP) 2018**

The Department of Rural and Community Development launched a new capital grant programme at the end of May. The programme builds on and replaces the Communities Facilities Scheme and the recast RAPID programme, which launched in 2017. The CEP is funded by the Department and administered by the Local Community Development Committee. The programme which has a budget of € 145,542 for County Louth will provide funding to communities across the county to enhance facilities in *disadvantaged* areas. The programme can fund or partially fund large scale capital projects to address disadvantage. Funding will be ring-fenced to provide small capital grants of € 1000.00 or less. Information regarding the programme will be widely disseminated through the Council' Community section networks including the PPN.

The closing date for receipt of applications is 5 pm on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> July 2018.

## **Town & Village Renewal Scheme 2018**

Community section staff met with representatives of various groups and 28 Expressions of Interest have been submitted by the closing date. The scheme stipulates that only one proposal per location can be submitted and Council staff will return EOI's where multiple proposals have been submitted and seek an agreed proposal for the location. The Council can submit up to twelve applications to the Department by the 30<sup>th</sup> June deadline

## **CLÁR 2018**

Louth County Council has submitted 15 proposals for funding support across the two measures introduced this year which are

- Measure 1- Support for schools/community safety measures and
- Measure 2- Support for play areas (including MUGA's).

The Department of Rural and Community Development will advise on the level of funding awarded in due course.

## **Healthy Ireland Fund Round 1 Strand 2**

*Healthy Ireland, A Framework for Improved Health and Wellbeing 2013-2025* is the national framework for action to improve the health and wellbeing of Ireland over the coming generation. 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.

The Department of Health provided a new opportunity for Local Community Development Committees (LCDCs) to apply to Pobal for funding to a maximum of €75,000 limited to 8 actions which will improve health and well-being, in line with the Healthy Ireland, A Framework for Improved Health and Wellbeing 2013-2025.

The following proposals are groups interested in partnering with the LCDC and were approved for inclusion in the funding application. The funding proposal was submitted to Pobal on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> May, it is expected that Pobal will issue funding letters to successful LCDCs by August. The closing date for delivery of all actions is 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019.

## Healthy Ireland Fund Round 1 Stand 2

	Name of Applicant	Proposals	Funding required
1	Louth Age Friendly Alliance	Proposal to purchase 1 x 3 wheeled cargo bikes	<b>€8,587.50</b>
2	Louth Sports Partnership	Proposal for a school playground programme, stencils for playground marking and game packs.	<b>€10,432.50</b>
3	Dundalk Youth Centre	Proposal to create a programme for young people who are at risk and in foster care providing awareness of healthy living, improve activity routines and healthy eating programme.	<b>€9,000</b>
4	Youth Work Ireland	Proposal for 12 young women to participate in the TWHP programme, including educational and recreational activities.	<b>€9,000</b>
5	TURAS	Proposal to support men, women and young people who are in recovery to live a more active and socially connected life. This would include facilitators, materials, venue hire, motivational speakers and grant schemes.	<b>€12,000</b>
6	Scouting Ireland	Proposal to develop a healthy menu, instructions and training for scouts from the age of 6-25years. Teaching young people the skills of cooking their own meals in a healthy way.	<b>€10,000</b>
7	Cox's Demesne (Boxing Club)	Proposal to tarmac the side of the building and set up an outdoor obstacle course, helping to promote exercise and a healthy approach to life.	<b>€6,980</b>
8	Louth Leader Partnership	Proposal to extend the Social Farming Modal into County Louth, working with 3 Farmers in County Louth. This proposal will include placement days, publicity /marketing and co-ordination costs.	<b>€9,000</b>
<b>Total</b>			<b>€75,000</b>

## **Public Participation Network**

Louth PPN attended a specific GDPR training in Athlone for PPN's to ensure compliance with new requirements. The Department of Community and Rural Development have requested all PPN Community groups to re-register with Louth PPN, to include opt-in for contact via email, phone and in writing. This is currently in process.

Recipients of Louth County Council's Friday Communiqué weekly email bulletin were also required to sign up to continue receiving the updates after 25<sup>th</sup> May, following the changes in Data Protection legislation.

The nomination process commenced to seek PPN Representatives to sit on

- a) Louth Leader Partnership Board
- b) LCC Infrastructure/EU/Cross Border Affairs & Sustainable Energy SPC.

Louth PPN met with the new Louth Leader Partnership Development Officer based in Drogheda, to increase community engagement in south Louth.

Louth PPN assisted Louth Flexibus by devising a travel survey to gather community information to assist future planning of routes in Louth.

## **Comhairle na nÓg**

During May each of the three Comhairle groups met with local Councillors from their Municipal District. These meetings were very informative for the young people as they now have a greater understanding of the role of a Councillor.

Members of the Louth Comhairle and Newry and Mourne Youth Council attended the North South Civic Dialogue Event on Brexit and Young People held in DKIT. This event gave an update on the current status of Brexit and was attended by Senior Government Ministers. It was a great opportunity for the young people to articulate their concerns about Brexit specifically on Transport, Education, Peace Building and the Border.

The Annual Networking Day for Coordinators was held in Dublin on the 29<sup>th</sup> May. At this event special mention was made of key projects being undertaken by a number of Comhairlí. Louth Comhairle na nÓg was complimented on the work undertaken by the young people in relation to Brexit and in particular the traction the report is generating with decision makers.

## **GROW Awards**

The annual Green Renewable Organic and Waste minimisation GROW primary school awards ceremony will be held on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> June in the Crowne Plaza hotel with proceedings commencing at 11 AM. Approximately 30 schools will be attending with awards for a number of categories to be presented including the prestigious Junior Environmentalist Award.

## **Local Agenda 21- Environmental Partnership Fund 2018**

Applications are being sought by Louth County Council from interested parties for funding under the above measure. The closing date for receipt of applications is 20<sup>th</sup> June 2018. The scheme has been advertised nationally by the Department and locally by the Council.

## **Pride of Place 2018**

It has been confirmed that judging for the 2018 Pride of Place competition will take place on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> August 2018 with Collon being judged in the morning and the Gary Kelly Centre in the afternoon.

## **Tidy Towns Project Scheme 2018**

Louth County Council has introduced a new funding scheme for Tidy Towns groups to carry out small scale capital projects in their towns and villages. Closing date for receipt of applications is 15<sup>th</sup> July 2018. Applications must be submitted to the Community Office in County Hall.

## **Louth Sports Partnership**

Sport Ireland carried out a performance review of Louth Sports Partnership on 23<sup>rd</sup> May with staff, several committee members and development officers interviewed. The findings of the review will be presented to the partnership in due course.

Dundalk Sports Centre Summer Camp Programme 2018 has been launched with a return of the award winning Inclusibility Camps. The Muirhevnamor Sports & Physical Activity Hub made a presentation on 30<sup>th</sup> May 2018 to Sport Ireland on progress achieved to date.

## **Blue Flag Beaches**

The 2018 Blue Flag season commenced on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> June. Lifeguards will be in attendance at our three Blue Flag beaches at Clogherhead, Port and Templetown during weekends only in June and September and daily during July and August. The season finishes on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> September.

## 17. Library Services

### Louth County Libraries

#### Places of Sanctuary

Louth Libraries representative attended a **Places of Sanctuary** planning meeting in DKIT to explore ways in which services in the community can support the integration of new comers and extend a welcome. The objective of the initiative is to promote integration, inclusion and welfare of refugees, asylum seekers and vulnerable migrants, through a practical commitment to becoming places of welcome and safety. Louth libraries are traditionally places of sanctuary, a space where integration happens underpinned by our equitable ethos and free membership.

#### **Right to Read Initiative: a national initiative to support and enhance literacy work in local authorities.**

Dundalk Library staff provided outreach information sessions promoting all aspects of library services to asylum seekers living in the reception centre at Carroll Village Dundalk, as well as those attending English classes at the Fáilte Isteach initiative in Magnet training centre, Dundalk.

#### **Upcoming Right to Read initiatives include:**

**Summer Stars Reading Challenge:** This year's challenge will be officially launched at events for invited classes in Dundalk, Ardee and Drogheda Libraries on June 15<sup>th</sup>. Letters highlighting the programme are being sent to all primary schools in the county encouraging teachers to promote the initiative to their pupils.

All children are invited to register for the adventure and enjoy reading and attending events throughout the summer months. There will be rewards and incentives along the way and a certificate presentation event at the end for all participants.

#### **Summer Events for children:**

##### **Dundalk Library:**

**Rhythm Rhymers:** Pre-Instrumental Music Workshop, Saturday June 23<sup>rd</sup>, 11am. Suitable for children aged 3-5.

**Summer Storytelling:** Saturday, June 30<sup>th</sup>, 11.30am & Wednesday July 11<sup>th</sup>, 11.30am. Suitable for children aged 3-7.

**Agri Kids:** Farm Safety Workshop, Friday, July 13<sup>th</sup>, 11am

**Sew Crafty:** Sewing Workshop 3pm, Thursday July 19<sup>th</sup>, 3pm. Suitable for children aged 7 – 12.

### **Ardee Library:**

**Storytime with Emer Conlon**, Vroom Town, Thursday July 5<sup>th</sup>, 11am

**Dogs Trust visit**, Tuesday, July 24<sup>th</sup>, 3pm

### **Drogheda Library**

**Cruinniú na nÓg**, Storytelling workshops in association with Droichead Arts Centre. June 23<sup>rd</sup> 11am., 12 noon & 1pm. Storyteller Grainne Rafferty brings children on a journey of wonder and magic, of mystery and mayhem, with characters little and large, weird and wonderful. For children age 4+.

**Summer Storytime** for young children 3-6 years. July 6<sup>th</sup> & July 13<sup>th</sup>, 11.30am

**Agrikids Farm Safety Talk** with author Alma Jordan, July 10<sup>th</sup>, 11.30am

### **Baby Book Club**

- Explore the benefits of reading to your baby from an early age
- Dundalk Library, second Friday of every month at 11am
- Drogheda Library, fourth Wednesday of every month at 10.30am
- Ardee Library, first Friday of every month at 10.30am

**Parent & Toddler groups** meet weekly and new members are always welcome:

- Dundalk Library, every Thursday at 10am.
- Drogheda Library, every Wednesday at 10.30am.
- Ardee Library, every Friday at 10.30am.

### **School Book Clubs**

This is a new initiative where Drogheda Library is linking with a local school to set up two separate school bookclubs in the library once a month. The first club meets on May 30<sup>th</sup> & another on June 7<sup>th</sup>. Books have been supplied to the classes & the children are currently reading in preparation for the club. (3<sup>rd</sup> class.)

### **Louth Libraries 'What's On' Brochure**

A new brochure promoting all aspects of the libraries services including events for rest of year is now available in all branches and online. Copies have also been distributed to various agencies around the county to encourage more people to join the library and avail of all the various services on offer for free.

### **Work Matters**

The Work Matters service aims to support job seekers and budding entrepreneurs.

A dedicated Work Matters hot desk space is available in Dundalk, Drogheda and Ardee Libraries.

Resources include a dedicated seating and table area, Free WiFi, a designated PC or Laptop, printing and photocopying, books, newspapers, information, and a jobs board.

Users can also avail of a suite of free digital resources including, online courses, eBooks, Ezines, e-newspapers and online language learning.

<https://www.louthcoco.ie/en/Services/Library/Online-Services/>

Collaboration is continuing with outside agencies including LMETB, Intreo, Louth Volunteer Centre, LEO and the Mill Enterprise Hub in Drogheda

### **Work Matters Events**

Louth Libraries will have a stand promoting Work Matters and all library services at the Louth Agricultural Show in Bellurgan Park, Sunday June 10<sup>th</sup>.

#### **Drogheda Library:**

**Talk on Volunteering-A Stepping Stone to Employment**, Thursday, June 21<sup>st</sup>, 12 noon.

**Louth Volunteers Fleadh Cheoil Recruitment Information Talk**, Tuesday, June 26<sup>th</sup>, 12.30pm -1.30pm

#### **Dundalk Library:**

**Work Matters Information Session and demo of online services**, Thursday July 12<sup>th</sup>, 11am

### **Computer Classes**

All classes are FREE, open to everyone, and demand is extremely high.

#### **Forthcoming computer classes include:**

**Digital Skills for Citizens:** Computer classes for adults in association with the Department of Communications, Climatic Action and environment and funded by EU, Classes run in Ardee, Every Tuesday at 10am

### **Healthy Ireland at Your Library**

Following on from a very successful phase 1 of the *Healthy Ireland at Your Library* initiative, an application for phase 2 was submitted by the local Government Management Agency (LGMA) on behalf of the library sector nationally. The application was informed by rigorous evaluation of phase 1, which highlighted the need for free, reliable and trustworthy health information. The evaluation also highlighted how people value and trust their public library as a source and provider of this information.

For example, during phase 1 (November to March), Louth Libraries delivered an additional 20 events from across all 5 branch libraries with 644 people attending to hear reputable speakers give health information and guidance in the health field. Partners included Louth Sports Partnership, the Local School network, Senior citizens groups, Local media, HSE, Local pharmacies and reputable local health experts.

A notably successful event was a talk on 'Anxiety and Panic' by renowned local GP and therapist, Dr Harry Barry when at least 150 people availed of his guidance and information on the topic in Drogheda Library. 205 queries specific to health were recorded in 1 week in Louth libraries, with 15 referrals from other organizations to the library and 14 from the library to other organizations during that week.

Yvonne O'Brien, Louth County Librarian and Chair of the National Healthy Ireland at Your Library working group, presented this successful initiative at two conferences - the Library Association of Ireland / Chartered Institute of Information Professionals (LAI/CILIP) conference in Newry in April, and for the Department of Health at the recent Healthy Ireland Network Event in Dublin Castle in May.

Confirmation of continued funding for phase 2 will be announced in late summer. It is expected Phase 2 will run from September 2018 to end of March 2019.

## **General Library Events**

### **Dundalk Library:**

**Artisan's Summer Art Exhibition** – launching on Tuesday June 12<sup>th</sup> - June 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**Ladywell Day Centre Art Exhibition** called "Celebration" showcasing a number of different art techniques including acrylic painting, lino printing and silk painting. Launching on Tuesday June 26<sup>th</sup> - June 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Fostering First Information Session:** Tuesday, June 26<sup>th</sup>, 5.30pm - 7.30pm.

### **Ardee Library:**

**Art exhibition** with visual artist Miriam Fitzgerald Juskova, July 13<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup>. Miriam specialises in paper art quilling.

### **Drogheda Library:**

**ProAct Information session**, Thursday June 8<sup>th</sup>, 11 am.

An information talk on DKIT's new Healthcare Initiative for over 65s. DKIT & Trinity College are researching how technology could help people living with multiple health conditions to better manage their health & wellbeing. If you are over 65 & have 2 or more of these conditions this talk could be beneficial:

- COPD or Chronic Bronchitis or Emphysema
- Congestive Heart Failure
- Heart Disease, Coronary Artery Disease or Cardiovascular Disease (High Blood Pressure, Atherosclerosis, Angina, Arrhythmia)
- Diabetes

For updates see [www.louthcoco.ie/en/Services/Library/](http://www.louthcoco.ie/en/Services/Library/)

Follow [#LouthLibraries](#) on Twitter and [LouthCountyLibraries](#) on Facebook

## Louth County Archives

**National Retention Policy Records Management Working Group** (Co Archivist a member): work on revising the retention schedule for the functional area of housing is nearing completion. Once completed, the final draft schedule will be sent to the housing sections for comment.

**Records Management:** Survey work and appraisal on groups of non-current records of Louth County Council is being carried out in preparation for drawing up disposal schedules as managing records forms part of the role of the Archivist. A considerable amount of work concentrating on Finance was continued with in May.

**St Patrick's Cemetery Project:** This is a joint project between Louth County Libraries and Archives Services, the DKIT's Department of Computing Science and Mathematics and the Old Dundalk Society to develop a grave locator app and website for the cemetery. The first phase of the project consists of students in DKIT building the app and website that utilise an interactive map of the graveyard using GPS technology and that connect to a database of information on the graves and burials in the graveyard. The second phase involves the transcription of the burial records relating to the cemetery on to a searchable database. The project partners aim to achieve a valuable outcome that will benefit society globally as well as locally through supporting business, tourism, heritage, genealogy and the learning experience of students. Once completed, researchers, historians and the general public will be able to trace deaths and burials or evaluate data.

**Conservation:** Preparation work for items intended to be conserved in 2018 was carried out. These include a number of Council minute books from the early 20<sup>th</sup> century and several other small bound volumes.

Other activities included participating in the drafting of the Creative Ireland Strategy 2018-2022, meeting with donors of archive collections, assisting researchers with research queries and assisting staff on record retention queries in addition to the ongoing work of accessioning, preserving and processing archive collections.

## County Museum, Dundalk

Staff are working on upgrading and refreshing elements of the Museum's permanent exhibition. In recent months lighting and audio-visual equipment has been upgraded. At the moment we are developing elements of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor gallery to accommodate new presentation devices for the Peter Rice exhibition.

The *One Team, One Dream* exhibition continues at the Museum. It will run until the end of July. The exhibition featured as a backdrop to the announcement the footballer, Michael Duffy, won the football writers' player of the month for April. Amongst those papers/outlets to carry photos of the presentation were the Irish Times (online); Herald; Irish Sun, Irish Star; thejournal.ie as well as sportsfile.ie .

Work continues on the forthcoming Peter Rice exhibition with two galleries set to house this major exhibition. The larger exhibition will reflect his work and inspirations; the second is a photographic exhibition of a selection of the projects he was involved in over his career. We hope to open the exhibition this summer.

Work is also continuing on an exhibition marking the centenary of the sinking of the SS Dundalk. A call-out for items and artifacts was recently circulated and a number of items have been offered to the Museum on a donation basis as a result. The exhibition is scheduled to open in October.

In addition to the above the Museum continues to accept, record, catalogue items donated by the public as well as operating guided tours of the galleries

The Museum also hosted an illustrated lecture by PhD Researcher Siobhan Osgood, on the Architecture of the GNR(I) with emphasis on Dundalk last Thursday (24th May) .

## *Fire & Emergency Services Progress Report*

### **18 Fire & Emergency Services**

After the increase in incidents attended in 2017, the number of emergency incidents has continued to decline in 2018. Due to the bad weather and the late season, the numbers of gorse and wildland fires are well down this year.

As previously reported Louth County Council received capital funding for its fleet from the DHPLG in 2017 and purchased a second hand emergency tender in the UK last year and has now taken delivery of the last of the five Scania appliances from Leicestershire Fire Brigade. Driver and crew familiarisation have been taking place and two of these appliances went on the run in Ardee and Drogheda Brigades. The third is assigned for driver training.

Work on the Dundalk Training Centre road traffic accident training ditch started in mid March and is now completed. This training ditch will allow serious road accidents to be better simulated on training courses and will increase business for Dundalk Training Centre. Breathing Apparatus training and refresher training courses are continuing in Dundalk Training Centre. The CFO will be making an application to the DPCLG for a further upgrade of the Training centre, to improve the training accommodation to the required standard and replace temporary buildings.

Preparations for the Fleadh Cheoil 2018 emergency arrangements are ongoing with liaison between the CFO and Event Management Company in relation to the event licensing application. A statutory inter-agency meeting in relation to the Fleadh Cheoil licensing application took place on 11<sup>th</sup> April 2018. Inspections of concert venues by the Fire Prevention Section are nearing completion. Existing large nightclubs and bars in Drogheda will also be inspected.

The Fire Prevention Section is continuing with inspections of properties used for the emergency accommodation of homeless persons.

The Fire Prevention Section has been following up on ongoing referrals from the Housing Section in relation to HAP properties and a number of Fire Safety Notices have been served.