



Comhairle Contae **Lú**
Louth County Council

**Chief Executive's Monthly Management Report in
relation to functions performed in the preceding
month / Tuairisc Bhainistíochta Mhíosúil ag an
bPríomhfheidhmeannach maidir le feidhmeanna
déanta i rith an mhí seo caite**

**Dated 5th January 2024
5^ú Eanáir 2024**

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

Chief Executive's Monthly Management Report – December 2023

A Chara,

I enclose the above report for your statutory consideration which will be placed on the January Monthly Agenda of Louth County Council for your consideration. This report has also been prepared under Section 136 & 138 of the Local Government Act, 2001 regarding advising you of the performance of executive functions in the last month and also planned works.

I would like to take the opportunity to highlight several aspects of the December 2023 performance: -

- The Planning consent for the Westgate Vision has now been lodged with An Bord Pleanala.
- The public consultation phase of our Climate Action Plan closed in the week before Christmas, and I will now bring a report and recommendation to the February Meeting of Council.
- The completion of 205 Energy Retrofits to our housing stock, largely in the OPD stock.
- The progress made in delivering New Playgrounds in Collon & Termonfeckin which are long-standing projects.

One of the more pleasant duties is to attend the presentation of any Civic Awards and the Ardee Municipal District Awards were held just before Christmas and it is always heartening to see the delight of the recipients to these statutory awards.

Is mise le meas.



Joan Martin
Chief Executive

Chief Executive's Monthly Management Report – 31st December 2023
Tuairisc Bainistíochta ag an bPríomhfheidhmeannach – 31 Mí na Nollag 2023

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Support Services Seirbhís Tacaíochta

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

Other responsibilities include, Water Services and Information & Communication Technology

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

Ina chuid den freagrachtaí eile, Seirbhísí Uisce, agus Techneolaíocht Faisnéise agus Chumarsáide

Bernie Woods
Director / Stiúrthóir



Financial Report

Expenditure to 31st of December 2023 / Caiteachas go dtí 31st Mí na Nollag 2023

Section/Rannóg	Actual Expenditure to/Caiteachas larbhír go dtí 31/12/2023	Budget Expenditure/ Caiteachas Buiséadaithe 2023	% Spent to/ % Caite go 31/12/2023
Housing/Tithíocht	€51,779,131	€57,155,409	91%
Road Transportation & Safety/Iompar Bóthair agus Sábháilteacht	€25,834,372	€27,351,782	94%
Water Services/Seirbhísí Uisce	€7,334,563	€8,619,589	85%
Development Management/Bainistíocht Forbartha	€19,847,454	€23,666,110	84%
Environmental Services/Seirbhísí Timpeallachta	€19,344,993	€20,837,206	93%
Recreation and Amenity/Áineas agus Conláiste	€8,955,945	€10,361,634	86%
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare/Talmhaíocht, Oideachas, Sláinte agus Leas	€1,277,901	€1,468,858	87%
Miscellaneous/Ilghnéitheach	€12,645,146	€9,018,942	140%
	€147,019,505	€158,479,531	93%

Income to 31st of December 2023 / Ioncam go 31st Mí na Nollag 2023

Section/Rannóg	Actual Income to/Ioncam larbhír go dtí 31/12/23	Budget Income/Ioncam Buiséadaithe 2023	% Invoiced to/ % Sonraisc Curtha do dtí 31/12/23
Housing/Tithíocht	€53,112,846	€58,718,513	90%
Road Transportation & Safety/Iompar Bóthair agus Sábháilteacht	€13,654,704	€16,635,478	82%
Water Services/Seirbhísí Uisce	€6,794,124	€8,303,355	82%
Development Management/Bainistíocht Forbartha	€11,697,059	€14,403,330	81%
Environmental Services/Seirbhísí Timpeallachta	€2,429,062	€2,295,719	106%
Recreation and Amenity/Áineas agus Conláiste	€1,305,449	€1,208,037	108%
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare Talmhaíocht, Oideachas, Sláinte agus Leas	€469,322	€543,472	86%
Miscellaneous/Ilghnéitheach	€11,019,739	€11,296,768	98%
Rates/Rátaí	€34,331,121	€34,708,660	99%
General Purpose Grant (LPT)/Deontas Ilfheidhmeach	€9,866,199	€9,866,198	100%
Provision for Debit Balance/Soláthar faoi larmhéid Dochair	€0	€500,000	0%
	€144,679,625	€158,479,531	92%

The above is the current position as of the 31st of December 2023. The allocation of the Central Management Charge is estimated in the above figures as the allocation is not completed till mid-month. The full rates demand for 2023 is included in the above figure.

Collection rates as of 31st of December 2023 are as follows:

Debtors as of 31st of December 2023/Féichiúnaithe mar atá 31st Mí na Nollag 2023

	Opening Balance /Iarmhéid Tosaigh	Invoices/ Sonraisc	Receipts/ Fáltais	Write Offs/ Díscriobhanna	Closing Balance/ Iarmhéid Deiridh
Government Debtors/Féichiúnaithe Rialtais	€7,546,239	€151,123,759	(€131,173,872)	€50	€27,496,176
Other Authorities/Uadaráis Eile	€56,584	€1,197,653	(€1,151,165)	(€6,577)	€96,495
Rates/Rataí	€7,561,465	€34,331,121	(€32,849,930)	(€3,302,325)	€5,740,331
Rents/Cíosanna	€2,621,885	€14,969,126	(€14,342,499)	(€13,810)	€3,234,702
Loans/Iasachtal	€295,384	€2,041,648	(€2,035,579)	(€0)	€301,453
Development Levies/Tobhaigh Forbartha	€10,943,505	€9,952,540	(€5,826,985)	(€2,769,608)	€12,299,452
Fire Charges/Táilí Seirbhíse Dóiteáin	€717,575	€483,876	(€337,378)	(€47,355)	€816,718
Miscellaneous/Ilghnéitheach	€1,804,894	€12,423,114	(€11,538,979)	(€60,502)	€2,628,527
Total Debtors / Féichiúnaithe Iomlána	€31,547,531	€226,522,837	(€199,256,387)	(€6,200,127)	€52,613,854

Above are the debtor balances as of 31st of December 2023. 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.

As we were closed over the Christmas period the above accounts must be updated for funds received over this period.

Annual Financial Statement

Work has commenced on the Annual Financial Statement and the above figures will change when yearend accruals and claims are posted. Once completed the Annual Financial Statement will be presented to Council.

Water Services

Uisce Éireann

Elected members are reminded to contact Uisce Éireann directly on 0818 178 178 or email localrepsupport@water.ie to log a query or any issue with water supply or quality or wastewater issues. Customers should contact the Uisce Éireann customer care helpline, which is open 24/7, on 1800 278 278 or 1890 378 378 (For hearing impaired customers with minicom equipment) or via Twitter @IWCare or @IrishWater or go to www.water.ie.

Water Quality / Cáilíocht Uisce

Intensive monitoring of water supplies in the County is conducted continually by the EPA on behalf of Louth County Council.

Water Conservation / Caomhnú Uisce

Water conservation is ongoing throughout the County.

Climate Change Adaptation Strategy /An Straitéis um Oiriúnú don Athrú Aeráide

Water Services continue to engage with Uisce Éireann and LCC Environment Section on the Climate Change Adaptation Strategy.

Capital Programmes/Cláir Chaipitiúla

Uisce Éireann refers to the different phases of a capital project as Gates 1, 2, 3 or 4.

- Gate 1 - Concept Design
- Gate 2 - Detailed design, preparation of contract documents, planning approval and procurement
- Gate 3 - Construction stage
- Gate 4 - Snagging and project sign off.

Tallanstown Rationalisation / Cuíchóiriú Bhaile an Tallúnaigh

Detailed Design is being progressed by Ryan Hanley Consulting Engineers. The Council are liaising with Uisce Éireann and their consultants to progress the project. The project will include works at Mullacrew Reservoir with proposed new Pumping Stations at Allardstown and Bannon's Cross. Planning permissions have been granted for both Bannon's Cross PS and Allardstown PS.

The CPO for Allardstown PS is now on public display (available to view in Co. Hall) for 5-week period commencing 14th December 2023.

Omeath WWTW / Córas Cóireála Fuíolluisce Ó Méith

The Construction Phase at both the Pumping Station and Wastewater Treatment plant is currently progressing. The associated rising main is substantially complete. The Project is progressing and programmed for completion in Q1, 2024

Shared Waters Enhancement and Loughs Legacy (SWELL)

Phase 1 of SWELL Project is complete. Uisce Éireann are to consider further surface water separation.

Regional Sewer Network Rehabilitation / Athshlánú an Líonra Séaraigh Aitiúil

The 2023 programme is complete. 2024 programme expected to commence mid Jan 2024.

Dundalk Drainage Area Plan (DAP)/Plean Limistéar Draenála Dhún Dealgan

The Council continues to liaise with Uisce Éireann and their consultants on the Dundalk Drainage Area Plan (DAP). The Project Consultants are progressing the Hydraulic Model for the agglomeration.

Dundalk East Strategy - In advance of completion of Dundalk DAP/ Straitéis Dhún Dealgan Thoir

UÉ Consultants are progressing the design with Uisce Éireann, in consultation with Louth County Council. The project is currently in the Detailed Design stage.

Coe's Road Pumping Station / Staisiún Ceadalacháin Bhóthair Uí Chofaigh

Operational modifications to the Pumping Station were undertaken by EPS. Options for cleaning of existing large diameter sewer are being progressed within UÉ.

Dundalk LNRP / Clár um Atreisiúchan Líonra Áitiúil Dhún Dealgan

A Strategic Review is underway for Dundalk Wastewater Treatment Plant and Blackrock Wastewater Treatment Plant. Council staff are assisting Uisce Éireann with this assessment. The Local Network Reinforcement Project (LNRP) will progress following the completion of the Blackrock/Dundalk Strategic Drainage Study.

North Drogheda Wastewater Network Strategy/Straitéis Líonra Fuíolluisce Dhroichead Átha Thuaidh

Atkins Consulting Engineers are progressing the detailed design of the North Drogheda Strategic Wastewater Network. The planning and procurement process is being progressed, including extensive engagement with developers and landowners' representatives. The Planning Submission for the proposed Pumping Station is being progressed with procurement to follow.

Quay St. / St. Helena Rising Main, Dundalk/Príomhphíobán Aníos Shráid na Cé/Naomh Helena, Dún Dealgan

Construction works with permanent reinstatement complete.

Greenmount WTW Upgrade/Uasghrádú Ionad Cóireála Uisce Dhroim Chatha

Uisce Éireann are progressing the design of proposed Upgrade Works at Greenmount Water Treatment Works. The Council continues to engage with the design team on relevant data gathering and site visits. Veolia appointed contractor.

Drogheda WWTP/Córas Cóireála Fuíolluisce Dhroichead Átha

Uisce Éireann is continuing to carry out works at Drogheda Wastewater Treatment Plant and is committed to resolving any potential odour issues arising from the wastewater plant or the network. Uisce Éireann continues to work closely with EPS Ltd who operate the plant on behalf of Uisce Éireann. Works have been undertaken within the Wastewater Treatment Plant and at both the East Meath Pumping Station and the Bryanstown Pumping Station. The next phase of the Capital Programme involves works to the anaerobic digesters within the plant and works to manhole covers at various locations within the network.

Drogheda Drainage Area Plan (DAP)/Plean Limistéar Draenála Dhroichead Átha

Uisce Éireann have appointed consultants to undertake the Drogheda Drainage Area Plan (DAP). LCC staff are currently liaising with Uisce Éireann and the project consultants in various aspects of the project. The Catchment Planning Meeting and the Stage 1 Data Collection and Scoping Report were completed in Q1 2023. Design works are currently being progressed.

Cockle Hill PS Upgrade / Uasghrádú Stáisiún Ceadalacháin Chnoic na Ruachan

The Detailed Design Report and Workshop 4 were completed in January 2023. The project commenced on site in mid-April and works are progressing at present with completion expected Q1, 2024.

Greenhills Sewer Replacement Project/ Tionscadal an Áthsholáthair Séarachais na nGlaschnoc

Project complete.

South Drogheda Wastewater Network Upgrade/ Uasghrádú ar Líonra Fuíolluisce Dhroichead Átha Theas

The site investigation for the South Drogheda Wastewater Network has been completed and the draft design is progressing. Design Workshop 4 was completed on 7th March 2023 and the design team are continuing to liaise with LA staff.

Water Networks / Líonraí Uisce

Water Networks Programme/Ciár Líonraí Uisce

Rehabilitation Programme/Ciár Athshlánúcháin

Uisce Éireann undertook 1 rehabilitation works in December.

Lead replacement / Ionadú Luaidhe Back Yard Services / Seirbhísí Cúlchlóis

Uisce Éireann contractors undertook 2 find & fix (BYS) type repairs in December.

First Fix / Chéad Shocrú.

Uisce Éireann contractors undertook no first fix type repairs in December.

Pressure Management

Uisce Éireann contractors undertook installation of 1 PRV in December.

Water Scouring Programme 2022 / Clar Sciúrtha Uisce 2022

Louth County Council Crew undertook no uni-directional network flushing in December.

Network Maintenance / Cothabháil Líonra

25 essential water tasks were carried out in December.

Planning & Water Connections / Pleanáil agus Ceangail Uisce

The Networks Section processed 18 new connections, 16 Pre-Connection Enquiries and 17 Planning Applications in December.

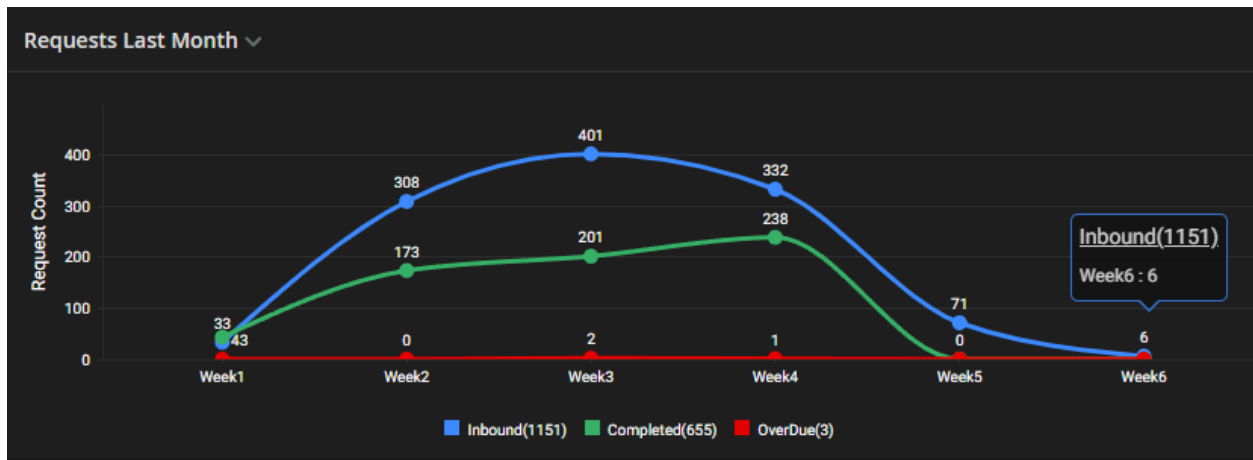
Service Maps / Léarscáileanna Seirbhíse

The Networks Section prepared 1 Service Map in December.

Information & Communication Technology

Helpdesk

Between 01/12/2023 and the 31/12/2023 there were 1151 support calls logged in the IT support system.



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

E-Mail Filtering System

Louth County Council continues to be targeted with phishing, and spam e-mail. We utilise an e-mail filtering system to scan all e-mail being received into the organisation. In December 38% of inbound e-mails were identified as potentially harmful.



Inbound Emails

151,424



Blocked Sender

1,841



Blocked at gateway

20,469



Blocked by spam /virus

34,176



Blocked by content rules

469



Potentially harmful emails

37.62%

Louth County Council Website

There were 14,204 unique page views of www.louthcoco.ie in December.

PAGE TITLE	PAGEVIEWS
Home - Louth County Council	3,008
Online Planning and Maps - Louth County Council	913
Dog Pound - Louth County Council	756
Vacancies - Louth County Council	594
Planning - Louth County Council	421
Library - Louth County Council	468

Online Planning and Maps and the Dog Pound Pages had the most visitors in December.

The majority of visitors accessed the website directly, search engines were the next most popular entry point, followed by from other websites and social networks.

Channel Types

CHANNEL TYPE	VISITS
Direct Entry	3,133
⊕ Search Engines	1,162
⊕ Websites	196
⊕ Social Networks	143

ArcGIS Online – Public Planning Register Map Viewer

LCC provide an online Planning Register Map Viewer which can be accessed from the Online Planning Application and Maps section user Services> Planning on the Louth County council website. This application is updated regularly to include all planning applications. There were 3686 views in December, an average of 123 views a day.



Strategic Economic Development Forbairt Eacnamaíoch Straitéiseach

This Directorate has three key areas of responsibility:

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

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

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

Tá trí eochairfhreagracht ag an Stiúrtóireacht seo:

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

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

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

**Eamon Woulfe
A/ Director of Service / Stiúrtóir**



Economic Development

Climate Change Adaptation Strategy

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

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

Economic input to Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP)

The Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) 2023 - 2029 process is ongoing. The draft Implementation Plan is currently being reviewed; online sessions were held with key stakeholders for their consideration on same. A further update on the draft plan will take place mid-January.

Tourism

Tourism Officer

Interviews were held in November, and it is expected that the Tourism Officer will be in place in early 2024.

sea louth

sea louth are engaging with Boyne Valley Flavours as part of their new 5 year ‘Strategy for Food in the Boyne Valley’ which is at consultation stage.

Brigid 1500: Louth Birthplace of Brigid

The program of events for the Brigid 1500: Louth Birthplace of Brigid was launched on 19th October. The program of events can be viewed on <https://www.visitlouth.ie/visitor-info/brigid1500.html>.

As part of the program the Economic Development office has launched the ‘Brigid 1500 Retail Window Decoration Scheme. Full details are available [here](#). The scheme is open until Friday 26th January and is to encourage commercial premises in County Louth to decorate their windows to join in the Brigid 1500 celebrations.

Assessment of the applications received under the ‘Brigid 1500 Arts and Creativity Community Grant Scheme’ took place in December. Applicants have been notified on the outcome of their application.

Please check [Brigid 1500](#) for updates on upcoming events.



St. Brigid's Cloak

Táin Trail

Fáilte Ireland has engaged the Paul Hogarth Company to review the current Táin Trail route and to provide recommendations on opportunities to reimagine it into an internationally compelling experiential route that engages local communities and visitors. They are working with the local authorities in the Táin Trail region on same.

Urban Animation - Lú Festival of Light, Drogheda

As part of the funding received from Fáilte Ireland for Urban Animation an installation was placed in the Drogheda Tourist Office (The Tholsel). This legacy installation will show highlights of the festival to date and is available to view during the Tourist Office opening hours.

Destination Towns Capital Investment Programme

The Wayfinding totems engraved paving stones and bronze stud inlays have now been installed across Drogheda. The Council are in discussions with Fáilte Ireland on a launch event for this tourism investment which displays historical information and maps of easily accessed locations within walking distance.

Shared Island Funding

Funding was received under the Shared Island Funding and a consultant was appointed to conduct a Feasibility Study to develop the greater Carlingford Lough region incorporating the Cooley Peninsula and Mourne / Gullion Area. The report is complete and was submitted to the Department of the Taoiseach.

National Night-Time Economy Taskforce

Drogheda's Night-Time Economy Adviser Mark Davies was recently invited to the state wide Night-Time Economy Taskforce on 13th December in Dublin. Co-ordinated by the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sports and Media, the Taskforce aims to foster vibrant and inclusive night-time economies in town and city centres still recovering from the impact of COVID-19 and the cost-of-living crises. This marked the first-time areas involved in the Night-Time Economy Adviser pilot, including Drogheda, had been invited to take part in discussions at the national level. Discussions on this occasion centred on evening and overnight transportation, upcoming changes to licensing laws and a state wide noise mitigation grant for late night venues. Going forward this platform will provide an excellent opportunity for the Night-Economy Advisers to regularly network with key stakeholders at a national level.

Boyne Valley Flavours

2023 Member update letter issued to all 53 current members and to the 44 prior members with a view to them rejoining.

The Boyne Valley Flavours AGM will take place on Tuesday 27th February at 7.00pm. Location to be confirmed and invitations will be issued this month. The bi-monthly steering committee meetings have been reinstated and the meeting dates have been issued to all members for 2024.

A Request for a Quote has been sent out for the Food Starter Programme which will take place in February. Boyne Valley Flavours will join with the Local Enterprise Offices in Meath, Cavan and Monaghan to reach as many new food businesses as possible. Closing date for submissions is 15th January.

LEO Louth

LEO Business Supports

Updated information on the range of business supports available can be found at the following website: [Local Enterprise Office - Louth](#).

Businesses seeking support from LEO Louth should email: info@leo.louthcoco.ie or they can call to our office at Town Hall, Dundalk.

'Look for Local' / 'Shop Local'

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

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

Green for Micro



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

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

LEO Louth continues to welcome new applications.

LEO Louth Client Portfolio Review / Export Adviser Programme

Under this programme, LEO has procured three consultants who are engaging with our portfolio clients. The programme provides support to LEO portfolio clients to develop their export and growth potential, working with businesses to identify and

pursue export opportunities and to ensure maximum uptake of LEO support.

Business Training



During December, LEO held no training courses due to the proximity of Christmas and the busy trading period for business owners. In January, training will commence again with strong demand for Start Your Own Business courses.

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

Business Advice Clinics

Twenty business advice appointments were provided by telephone and video conference to entrepreneurs throughout the county during December.

Trading Online Voucher Scheme



LEO continues to offer the Trading Online Voucher Scheme to assist businesses get online or enhance their online presence, under which LEO can provide 50% support up to a maximum grant of €2,500.

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

Two Trading Online Voucher applications were approved in December.

LEO Louth Mentor Programme



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

Ten businesses were appointed Mentors during the month of December.

Microfinance Ireland (MFI) Business Loan



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

LEO mentors are continuing to assist MFI applicants.

LEAN for Micro Programme



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

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

programme has been reduced from €300 to €150 for businesses.

North East Regional Development Plan to 2024

The North East Regional Development Plan working groups that have been set up in respect of four of the five strategic objectives continue to work together.

Energy Efficiency Grant



The Energy Efficiency Grant supports the investment in technologies and equipment identified in a Green for Micro Report, Green Start Report or a SEAI Energy Audit with 50% of eligible costs up to a maximum grant of €5,000. The aim of the scheme is to reduce the impact of enterprises on the environment thereby increasing the agility and resilience of these businesses.

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

LEO Louth continues to welcome new applications.

Student Enterprise Programme



Delivery of the Student Enterprise Programme 2023 - 2024 has commenced with 17 second level schools in the county participating.

Drogheda Chamber Christmas Networking Lunch

Sarah Mallon and Peter McGrane represented LEO Louth at the Drogheda Chamber of Commerce Christmas networking lunch which was held in the D Hotel on 15th December.

European Relations



PEACEPLUS

Correspondence was received from the Special EU Programmes Body adding a new date for submission of PEACEPLUS Action Plans of 28th March, 2024. The date of the next PEACEPLUS Partnership meeting is yet to be finalised.

The PEACE team continue to work with our consultants, Blu Zebra, on developing concepts and feedback from public consultation and the co-design process for the PEACEPLUS Action Plan for submission.

Please keep an eye on our website, via <https://www.louthcoco.ie/en/services/economic-development/peaceplus/> and on <https://www.seupb.eu/PEACEPLUS>.

Contact peaceplus@louthcoco.ie for further information.

Heritage

The Louth Heritage Officer was delighted to meet Heritage Minister Malcolm Noonan T.D. at the Heritage and Biodiversity Officers' training in Kilkenny in December. The Minister was launching a new book about the local impact of heritage projects supported by the city and county heritage officers. The Louth chapter features various

excellent projects carried out by the local community in the Cooley Mountains.



Virginia Teehan, CE Heritage Council, Minister Malcolm Noonan T.D., Brendan McSherry, LCC Heritage Officer and Dr. Martina Moloney, Chairperson Heritage Council

Recoupment of all external funding for projects carried out during 2023 was completed in December. This included Local Biodiversity Action Plan funding for projects carried out to protect little terns at Baltray, erect nest boxes for swifts in Drogheda and for barn owls throughout the county and for new interpretation panels at Dromiskin.

Fire & Emergency Services

Fire Service

The Recruitment Plan for new retained fire fighters continued in its implementation during December. Vacancies were publicised in the stations and in social media resulting in an increase in applications.

On 4th December, the Fire Service and HR arranged station tests, numeracy and literacy tests and fire gear sizing for all applicants in Dundalk station.

Louth County Council held interviews for these applicants on 11th December and 10 were qualified to attend a Recruits course subject to medicals. A Recruits course for these personnel will be run in Dundalk Training Centre starting on 15th January. This will be followed by a Breathing Apparatus Wearers course in February.

There are further applications with the HR Section, and these will be processed in January.

During 2023 the Fire Service conducted rescues as follows:

- 48 extrications at road traffic accidents
- 6 water rescues
- 4 rescues from fires
- 15 other rescues

The Fire Service Training Programme continued with the following training delivered during December:

- Breathing Apparatus Refresher Courses
- Road Traffic Accident Refresher Courses
- Officer Development Day

The Vendor for the site for the new fire station in Dunleer forwarded contracts to the Council's solicitor and this purchase is nearing completion. The Council will then request approval from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage to proceed to the next stage which is the procurement of a building contractor for the new station.

The Fire Prevention Section has continued with its annual inspection plan and responds to requests for inspections from other Sections, including Ukrainian properties.

A Closure Notice was served on a premises in Dundalk and all improvement works must be completed prior to the next Court date in February.

Major Emergency Management

There was a regional Major Emergency exercise in City North Hotel, Co. Meath on 5th December. Staff from Louth County Council, Meath County Council, Cavan County Council and Monaghan County Council were in attendance along with HSE staff and AGS members. The 'incident' was a very severe road traffic accident in snowy conditions requiring a two-county response from Louth and Meath.

Louth County Council's Major Emergency Plan is currently being reviewed and updated to take account of personnel changes in the Council and other agencies.

Climate Adaptation Strategy

Dunleer Fire Station will include a range of features to limit carbon emissions. These are being discussed and options include a geothermal heat pump, photovoltaic panels and rainwater harvesting. Work on the Climate Action Plan is continuing, to include Fire Service and Building Control requirements.

Civil Defence

Louth Civil Defence, in conjunction with the National Ambulance Service (NAS), formed a Community First Response (CFR) group which responds to life threatening emergencies within County Louth.

The group comprises Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT's) who are all volunteers with Louth Civil Defence.

During December, 10 emergency call outs were responded to in the county.

The following training was provided during November:

- Emergency First Responder rollout to new recruits
- Cardiac First Responder rollout to new recruits
- Additional medical training for volunteers
- Rollout of new Communications training syllabus

During December medical cover was provided to the Cyclocross event in Jenkintown.

Building Control

In 2023 there were 152 Fire Safety Certificate applications, compared to 131 applications in 2022.

In 2023 there were 103 Disabled Access Certificate applications, compared to 107 in 2022.

Planning

Development Management / Bainistíocht Forbartha

The Planning service indicators for Louth County Council for the month of November 2023 are given below in tabular form. There were 86 planning applications received during the month of November of which 79 were valid. In addition, there were 26 responses received during the month to requests for further information and 36 Pre-Planning Requests received.

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

(A) Description / Cur Síos	(B) Housing Developments / Forbairtí Tithíochta	(C) Individual Houses / Tithe Aonair	(D) Other applications -not requiring EIA / Iarratais Eile – ní gá MTT	(E) Other applications-requiring EIA / Iarratais Eile - MTT de dhíth	(F) Total for all categories of development in County Area / Iomlán na bhforbairtí sa chontae
(i) Number of applications determined / Líon na n-iarratas a cinneadh	2	13	49	0	64
(ii) No. of decisions determined which required further information / Líon na gcinntí inar iarradh breis eolais	1	5	18	0	24
(iii) Percentage of applications refused / Céatadán na n-iarratas a diúltaíodh	0.00% (0)	53.85% (7)	10.20% (5)	0.00% (0)	18.75% (12)
(iv) Number of appeals determined / Líon na n-achomharc a cinneadh	1	2	4	0	7
(v) Percentage of decisions overturned on appeal / Céatadán na gcinntí a cuireadh ar ceal ar achomharc	0.00% (0)	0.00% (0)	25.00% (1)	0.00% (0)	14.29% (1)

Planning Enforcement – Unauthorised Development / Forfheidhmiú Pleanála – Forbairt nár Údaraíodh

The Planning indicators are given below in relation to Enforcement complaints regarding unauthorised developments received 1st – 30th November 2023.

Description / Cur Síos	Enforcement in relation to unauthorised development / Forfheidhmiú maidir le forbairt nár údaraíodh		Enforcement in relation to unauthorised development / Forfheidhmiú maidir le forbairt nár údaraíodh	
	November 2023 / Samhain 2023	Year to Date / Bliain go dtí seo	November 2022 / Samhain 2022	Year to Date / Bliain go dtí seo
Number of Planning Enforcement Complaints Investigated / Líon na nGearán maidir le Forfheidhmiú Pleanála a Imscrúdaíodh	20	267	20	244
Number of Planning Enforcement cases received which did not require follow up / Líon na gcásanna Fhorfheidhmithe Pleanála nuair nár ghá obair bhreise	0	0	0	0
Number of cases closed / resolved through negotiation / Líon na gcásanna dúnta / a réitíodh le hidirbheartaíocht	0	219	16	255
Number of Warning letters issued / Líon na Litreacha Rabhadh a eisíodh	20	212	12	203
Number of Enforcement Notices issued / Líon na bhFógraí Forfheidhmiúcháin a eisíodh	2	13	4	23
Number of cases referred for legal proceedings / Líon na cásanna a tarchuireadh le haghaidh imeachtaí dlí	0	9	0	5
Number of Injunctions / Líon na n-urghairí	0	0	0	0
Number of Prosecutions / Líon na n-ionchúiseamh	0	0	0	0

Planning Enforcement – Short Term Lettings Enforcement

The Planning indicators are given below in relation to Short Term Lettings Enforcement received during the month.

Description / Cur Síos	Enforcement in relation to Short Term Lettings	
	December 2023 / Nollaig 2023	Year to Date / Bliain go dtí seo
Number of Planning Enforcement Complaints Investigated / Líon na nGearán maidir le Forfheidmiú Pleanála a Imscrúdaíodh	0	6
Number of Planning Enforcement cases received which did not require follow up / Líon na gcásanna Fhorfheidhmithe Pleanála nuair nár ghá obair bhreise	0	0
Number of cases closed / resolved through negotiation / Líon na gcásanna dúnta / a réitíodh le hidirbheartaíocht	1	8
Number of cases currently under investigation / Líon na gcásanna atá á n-imscúdú faoi láthair	19	23
Number of Warning letters issued / Líon na Litreacha Rabhadh a eisíodh	0	1
Number of Enforcement Notices issued / Líon na bhFógraí Forfheidhmiúcháin a eisíodh	0	6
Number of cases referred for legal proceedings / Líon na cásanna a tarchuireadh le haghaidh imeachtaí dlí	0	0
Number of Injunctions / Líon na n-urghairí	0	0
Number of Prosecutions / Líon na n-ionchúiseamh	0	0

Planning Enforcement – Dangerous Structures / Forfheidhmiú Pleanála – Déanmhais Chontúirteacha

The Planning Indicators listed below are in relation to Notices issued under the Local Government (Sanitary Services) Act, 1964 for the period October to December 2023.

Tá na Táscairí Pleanála thíos liostaithe bainteach le Fógraí a eisíodh faoin Acht Rialtais Áitiúil (Seirbhísí Sláintíochta) 1964 sa tréimhse Deireadh Fómhair go Nollaig 2023.

Description / Cur Síos	Enforcement in relation to Dangerous Structures/ Forfheidhmiú maidir le Déanmhais Contúirteacha	
	October - December Deireadh Fómhair – Nollaig 2023	Year to Date / Bliain go dtí seo
Number of Dangerous Structures files opened / Líon na gcomhad Déanmhais Contúirteach a osclaíodh	15	43
Number of Section 3 (1)(a) Notices – Directing Owner to carry out work / Líon na bhFógraí Alt 3 (1)(a) – Ag Tabhairt ordú d’úinéir obair a dhéanamh	10	48
Number of Section 3 (2)(b) Notices – LCC carry out works / Líon na bhFógraí Alt 3 (2)(b) – Obair le déanamh ag CCL	0	0
Number of Section 2 Notices – Dangerous Place / Líon na bhFógraí Alt 2 – Áit Chontúirteach	0	1
Number of Dangerous Structures entered on the DS Register	6	31
Number of cases referred for legal proceedings / Líon na gcásanna a tarchuireadh le haghaidh imeachtaí dlí	0	3
Number of Prosecutions / Líon na n-ionchúiseamh	0	0
Number of Dangerous Structures Removed from the DS Register	4	10
Number of cases closed / Líon na gcásanna a dúnadh	4	16

Placemaking and Physical Development

Deanamh Áite agus Forbairt Fhisiciúil

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

- Roads and Local Services and Physical Development

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

- Seirbhísí Bóithre agus Áitiúla, agus Forbairt Fhisiciúil

David Jones
Director / Stiúrthóir



Roads and Local Services

Municipal District of Dundalk

Dundalk and Cooley Area

Litter Picking / Píocadh Bruscair all areas on the list are done once a week and if needed spot picked	Location and metres per month / Suíomh agus méadar sa mhí
Rock Rd	Cooley isolated locations including Templetown, Gyles Quay, Shilling Hill, Greenore Village
Bothar Na Feirme	
Red Barns Rd	
Point Rd	
Inner Relief Rd	
Old Coes Rd	
Centenary Rd	
Fairgreen Rd	
Northgate St	
Market St	
The Square Shrub Borders	
Barrack St	
Ecco Rd	
Castletown Rd	
John St	
Philip St	
Riverside Crescent	
Laurels	
Ramparts	
Armagh Rd	
Mooreland/Lennon Melia Crescent	

Riverside Walk

Racecourse Rd

Dublin Rd

Mourne View Walkway

Ardee Rd

Carrick Rd

Under bridges at Fr Murray Pk

Castleross hedgerow

Ashling Pk Estate

River Grids

Bottle Banks at Long Walk,

Harp Car Park,

Meadow Grove

Gateway at Hoey's Lane cleared every day and area litter picked.

Cleanup household dumped rubbish at Fr Murray Pk/O'Hanlon Pk

Emptying of Public Bins / Folmhú Araidí Poiblí

Nightly By Contractor – 200 Bins

Solar Bins emptied.

All Tubs checked for rubbish.

Cleaned Flower Towers

Cleaned borders around Dundalk.

Trimmed areas at Jocelyn Dr

Trimmed shrubs at Ramparts.

Town Centre bins cleaned before Christmas.

Illegal dumping has remained constant all year

Bins emptied in the Cooley area, Carlingford, Omeath, Greenore, Templetown and Gyles Quay by outdoor staff.

Road Sweeping / Scuabadh Bóithre

Routes per week / Bealaí sa tseachtain

Contract Sweeper as per contract nightly, daily,

<p>weekly and monthly</p> <p>All Areas cleared of leaves.</p> <p>Dublin Rd at Hospital pathway</p> <p>St Helenas Rd</p> <p>Ardee Rd</p> <p>Carrick Rd</p> <p>Footpaths</p>	<p>Sweeping along kerb line Bellurgan R173 straight, also R174 Ravensdale also kerb line.</p>
<p>Emptying Dog Waste Receptacles / Folmhú Araidí Salachar Madra</p> <p>By Contractor Nightly as part of the street bin collections</p>	<p>Number per week / Líon sa tseachtain</p> <p>200 Litter Bins throughout the town</p>
<p>Ring Buoy Checking / Seiceál Baoithe Tarrthála</p> <p>Ring Buoys checked Weekly Report sent to Water Safety Officer for Dundalk</p> <p>Rings and Ropes replaced in some areas for December.</p> <p>Carried out by Water Safety Officer in Cooley</p>	<p>Number checked weekly / Líon Seiceáilte sa tseachtain</p>
<p>Checking of Playground and Gym Equipment / Seiceál Trealamh Áiteanna Sugartha agus Corpacmhainne</p> <p>Daily/Weekly Check lists carried out by Parks caretaker.</p> <p>Repairs carried out to play surface</p> <p>Litter Pick Parks</p> <p>Car Parking area cleaned in Muirhevnamor.</p> <p>Dundalk Retained its Gold Medal in the Tidy Towns new lettering on the signs at each Boundary Rd</p> <p>Cooley area checked</p>	<p>Number of sites checked daily / Suíomhanna Seiceáilte Laethúil</p>

Location / Suíomh	Notes / Nótaí
Road Repairs / Deisiú Bóithre	<p><u>Cooley</u></p> <p>Isolated potholes maintenance ongoing, maintenance of roads that were damaged in the recent storms ongoing</p> <p><u>Dundalk</u></p> <p>Tar Patching using the Pro Works since mid-November, areas repaired Bay Estate and Ashbrook on going.</p> <p>Tar Patching Contractor at Dublin St at areas in front of Tesco.</p>
Drainage Remediation / Feabhasúchán Draenála	<p><u>Cooley</u></p> <p>Usual maintenance of culverts, gullies, manual cleaning or mechanical cleaning</p>
Fallen or Dangerous Trees / Crainn Leagtha nó Chontúirteacha	<p>In December tree removed from Seafield Lawns</p> <p>Grass cutting Biodiversity areas as weather permitted.</p>
Footpath Maintenance/ Cothabháil Cosán	<p><u>Cooley</u></p> <p>Cleaning of footpaths in Carlingford, Omeath, Greenore and Ravensdale.</p>
Traffic Light Repairs / Deisiú Soilse Tráichta	<p>On going repairs, bulb replacement Electrician called to Long Avenue due to sequencing of lights</p>
Road Markings / Marcáil Bóithre	<p><u>Cooley</u></p> <p>Cat eyes installed from Greenore to Carlingford junction heading from Carlingford R176</p>
Signage / Comharthaíocht	<p><u>Cooley</u></p> <p>Cooley advanced warning signs are to be replaced at road junctions.</p>

	<p><u>Dundalk</u> Replaced damaged Cycle Lane markers in Church St. Replaced numerous New Signage for faded in areas around town.</p>	
<p>Illegal Dumping / Dumpáil Neamhdhleathach</p>	<p>Dundalk all the usual areas Dumping of Sofas and Mattresses in areas continues on By Pass and Woodview again this month Ladywell areas cleaned, soil levelled and rubbish removed. Entrance to Woodview Estate black bags being dumped weekly. Mooreland Rd Fly Tipping Bags of litter picked up from all estates weekly.</p>	
<p>Graffiti Removal / Glanadh Graifítí</p>	<p>Cleaned Graffiti Bins in Park Graffiti cleaned from signs in Town Centre</p>	



Gully Cleaning in Dundalk

Blackrock, Faughart and North Mid-Louth Area

Litter Picking / Píocadh Bruscair	Location and metres per month / Suíomh agus méadar sa mhí n/a
Emptying of Public Bins / Folmhú Araidí Poiblí	Numbers and frequency / Líon agus minicíocht <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Blackrock – 6 days/week• Knockbridge – once a week• Dromiskin – once a week• Tallanstown & Louth Village – once a week
Road Sweeping / Scuabadh Bóithre	Routes per week / Bealaí sa tseachtain <p>Road sweeping was carried out on bicycle lanes from Xerox to the Fane Bridge R132 plus storm channels drainage on N53 Dundalk Castleblaney Road.</p> <p>Two new Multihog sweepers carried out work on LP-3167 Stephenstown Road Knockbridge, Knockbridge Village and LS-7100 White Mille Faughart.</p>
Emptying Dog Waste Receptacles / Folmhú Araidí Salachar Madra	Number per week / Líon sa tseachtain n/a

Ring Buoy Checking / Seiceál Baoithe Tarrthála

Number checked weekly / Líon Seiceáilte sa tseachtain

- Blackrock (7) checked weekly
- Annagassan (11) checked weekly

Checking of Playground and Gym Equipment / Seiceál Trealamh Áiteanna Sugartha agus Corpacmhainne

Number of sites checked daily / Suíomhanna Seiceáilte Laethúil



Multihog street sweeping in Knockbridge Village R171

Location / Suíomh	Notes / Nótaí
Road Repairs / Deisiú Bóithre	<p>Tar patching, pothole repair works carried out on road numbers:</p> <p>LS-7129 Donaghmore Kilkerry LS-7126 Cortial Road Kilkerry LP-3113 Roche Hackballscross LS-7107 Skyhill Hackballscross LP-3136 Newtown Knockbridge LS-5137 Little Ash Knockbridge LS-7114 Stumpa Hackballscross LP-3167 Stephenstown Road Knockbridge</p>
Drainage Remediation / Feabhasúchán Draenála	<p>Jetting out pipe lines and cleaning gullies works carried out at various locations including:</p> <p>R172 Blackrock Mariners Court Blackrock Fane View Blackrock Clermont Manor Blackrock R132 Dublin Road LS-7165 Haynestown LP-3167 Stephenstown Knockbridge R171 Knockbridge Village R178 Chanonrock LS-5137 Little Ash Knockbridge LT-71282 Philipstown Hackballscross LP-3097 Jonesborough Road LS-7096 Monascrebe Faughart LS-7000 White Milla Faughart</p>
Fallen or Dangerous Trees / Crainn Leagtha nó Chontúirteacha	<p>n/a</p>

Footpath Maintenance/ Cothabháil Cosán	n/a	
Traffic Light Repairs / Deisiú Soilse Tráichta	Xerox Junction	
Road Markings / Marcáil Bóithre	n/a	
Signage / Comharthaíocht	Cleansing/repair/replacement New signage installed	
Illegal Dumping / Dumpáil Neamhdhleathach	Lifted at various locations including LS-7103 Carn More Kilcurry, LS-7162 Clermont Road Haggardstown	
Graffiti Removal / Glanadh Graifítí	n/a	

Ardee Municipal District

South Louth Operations (Rural Area)

Litter Picking / Píocadh Bruscair	Location and metres per month / Suíomh agus méadar sa mhí All routes in Ardee Town (5.2km per day) Clogherhead Car Park daily cleanup around bins
Emptying of Public Bins / Folmhú Araidí Poiblí	Numbers and frequency / Líon agus minicíocht
Ardee	37 daily

Dunleer	20 Tuesday and Thursday
Collon	3 Tuesday and Thursday
Road Sweeping / Scuabadh Bóithre	Routes per week / Bealaí sa tseachtain
	All routes in Ardee Town (5.2km per day)
Emptying Dog Waste Receptacles / Folmhú Araidí Salachar Madra	Number per week / Líon sa tseachtain
	n/a
Ring Buoy Checking / Seiceál Baoithe Tarrthála	Number checked weekly / Líon Seiceáilte sa tseachtain
	Ardee Town River Dee
	Salterstown
	Port Beach
Checking of Playground and Gym Equipment / Seiceál Trealamh Áiteanna Sugartha agus Corpacmhainne	Number of sites checked daily / Suíomhanna Seiceáilte Laethúil
	Maintenance and cleaning of Fairgreen and Dunleer parks and playgrounds complete with daily checks of the playground, & exercise equipment at both locations.

Location / Suíomh	Notes / Nótaí	
Road Repairs / Deisiú Bóithre	n/a	
Drainage Remediation / Feabhasúchán Draenála	n/a	
Fallen or Dangerous Trees / Crainn Leagtha nó Chontúirteacha	n/a	
Footpath Maintenance/ Cothabháil Cosán	John Street Ardee	
Traffic Light Repairs / Deisiú Soilse Tráichta	n/a	
Road Markings / Marcáil Bóithre	n/a	
Signage / Comharthaíocht	Maintenance on signage on regional roads in Ardee Rural	
Illegal Dumping / Dumpáil Neamhdhleathach	n/a	

Graffiti Removal / Glanadh Graifítí	n/a	
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Borough District of Drogheda

Drogheda Town Area

Litter Picking / Píocadh Bruscair	<p>Location and metres per month / Suíomh agus méadar sa mhí</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Steps and lane ways weekly. • Hotspots on Monday – decided by Supervisor following inspection. • Bring Banks in Drogheda urban are checked and cleared Daily during working week. Also, all Bring Banks in Drogheda urban are checked and cleared Saturday p.m. • Drogheda Rural Bring banks are cleared daily during the working week. • Preparation Christmas Light Switch on – clean route and pedestrian barriers. • Particular attention to litter picking at St Dominic’s Pk and Mell Riverwalk.
Emptying of Public Bins / Folmhú Araidí Poiblí	<p>Numbers and frequency / Líon agus minicíocht</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drogheda Town Centre Litterbins emptied daily circa 60 early mornings. • 234 litter bin (including 10 no. Solar bins) are emptied weekly in town. • Dominic’s Park & Mell River walk emptied daily. • South Louth Drogheda Municipal district rural area’s public Litter Bins are emptied twice a week or daily when needed

	<p>especially at beaches/Port Oriel/Seapoint/Termonfeckin/Baltray – at least 40 bins per day.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approach roads in Drogheda town emptied twice a week. • Bin upgrade and maintenance ongoing + street furniture.
<p>Road Sweeping / Scuabadh Bóithre</p>	<p>Routes per week / Bealaí sa tseachtain</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Town Centre daily. Approach roads fortnightly. • Public Housing Estates swept every 2 months. Private Housing estates swept every 3 months. When resources allow. • Hotspots weekly on Monday after weekend – decided daily by supervisor after checking Drogheda urban area. • Villages are swept once per month – i.e., Termonfeckin, Baltray, Sandpit, Monasterboice, Tullyallen & Tenure. • Drogheda town Boyne River walkways are swept 3 times per week (Monday, Wednesday & Friday). • Particular attention to road sweeping to Town Centre and approach roads. • Graffiti removal from at Meat Market Lane - Town Centre.
<p>Emptying Dog Waste Receptacles / FolmhúAraidí Salachar Madra</p>	<p>Number per week / Líon sa tseachtain</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Empty about 35 No. once a week, washed and disinfected.

Ring Buoy Checking / Seiceál Baoithe Tarrhála	Number checked weekly / Líon Seiceáilte sa tseachtain <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 89 ring buoys checked each week Town area (Thursday) • 9 ring buoys checked each week at Rosehall (Friday)
Checking of Playground and Gym Equipment / Seiceál Trealamh Áiteanna Sugartha agus Corpacmhainne	Number of sites checked daily / Suíomhanna Seiceáilte Laethúil <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Between 4 & 5 daily (4 playgrounds in Drogheda town, skate park, adult exercise equipment). 3 Playgrounds in Drogheda rural area) + disinfected.

Location / Suíomh		Notes / Nótaí
Road Repairs / Deisiú Bóithre	Drainage Works Upgrade of new road gullies and reinstatement of existing gullies at Crosslanes, survey to be completed of water outlets at Drogheda United LCC Works 1. Footpath repairs at Westgate and Martello Village. 2. Pothole repairs at Baltray Road, Congress Avenue, Town Centre, Bredin Street, Donore Road and Marley's Street. 3. Placing of pedestrian carrier at Martello Village – monitor road surface cracking after recent storms. 4. Flooding signage for recent storms. 5. Prepare stocks of sandbags and salt in event of weather conditions.	

	<p>Road Works Programme</p> <p>All roads on RWP 2023 list are now complete.</p> <p>CIS Lanes</p> <p>Stumpa and Burren 100% complete.</p> <p>Drogheda Improvement Accessibility Scheme 2023</p> <p>Ongoing, dropped kerbs and tactile paving installed at:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Cement Road 2. Dublin Road at Bryanstown Village, Barlogue and Longwood 3. Priests Lane 4. Marian Park 5. North Strand 6. Rathmullen Park 7. North Road at Oaklawns 8. Priest Lane at Sarah Gibney's Lane 9. Haymarket/R132/Donore Road 10. South Quay 	
<p>Drainage Remediation / Feabhasúchán Draenála</p>	<p>The annual Drogheda Gully cleaning programme is ongoing.</p> <p>Gully cleaning contractor appointed for Drogheda Town and all due to be completed by February 2024.</p>	
<p>Fallen or Dangerous Trees / Crainn Leagtha nó Chontúirteacha</p>		
<p>Footpath Maintenance/ Cothabháil Cosán</p>	<p>Footpath repairs ay Martello Village, Westgate.</p>	

Traffic Light Repairs / Deisiú Soilse Tráichta	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DR02 – R132 @ Railway Station Junction (vehicle green lamp out) • DR10 – R132 @ Dual Carriageway (lights out) •DR08, Donore Rd - Marleys Lane (R132 I), Ireland – Lights out •DR04, R132 @ Bull Ring/North Quay/South Quay Junction(R132D) – • R132 D Failing to schedule event • DR28 R132/Patrick’s St. – Red Man Lamp Out • DR29 Platin Rd/Beamore Rd Drogheda, Ireland • R108M – Vehicle presence fail, detector and pedestrian phase lamp fail, phase E, amber 	
Road Markings / Marcáil Bóithre	<p>Survey of existing roads for upgrading in 2024</p>	
Signage / Comharthaíocht	<p>Bachelors Lane, IDA Road, St. Laurence Street, Platin Road, William Street, Moran’s Terrace, Longwood Estate, Pearse Park, Elmwood, Bollards North Road and Trinity Street.</p>	
Illegal Dumping / Dumpáil Neamhdhleathach		
Graffiti Removal / Glanadh Graifítí		



New road studs at Monasterboice



Low-Cost Safety Works at Priest Lane, Drogheda

Physical Development

Roads Projects

Narrow Water Bridge

Tender Documents have been received from 2 number tenderers. These tenders will be assessed from compliance and quality submissions.

A North South Ministerial Infrastructure Sub Group meeting was held on the 19th Sept.

Engagement with DFI Infrastructure, Loughs Agency, NPW, etc. is ongoing to discharge the Conditions of Planning. Land Valuation Services has been procured and they are liaising with the agents of landowners. A Consultant has been appointed for mussel fishermen valuation service.

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

An Bord Pleanála has made a confirmation order on the 1st August, 2023 confirming with minor modifications the above-named compulsory purchase order as respects the land described in the Schedules thereto. The said order, as so confirmed, authorises Louth County Council to acquire the said land compulsorily and temporarily. The CPO became operative on the 20th of Sept. TII has approved the gateway to issue 'Notice to Treat'. The notices were issued in the week ending 15th December.

The design team continues to engage with the landowners, their agents, and other stakeholders. Technical acceptance report has received its initial approval for structures. Tenders have been assessed by an archaeologist for carrying out test trenching and other services required. A tender assessment report is being finalised and a letter of intent will be issued shortly. A consultant has been appointed for geotechnical advice for some soft soils areas

and options are currently being developed for these areas. Tenders have been received for hedge removal and temporary fencing and a tender assessment report is being completed for the appointment of a contractor. Letter of intent will issue shortly. It is envisaged following a 'notice to enter' these works will commence early in the new year. Tenders have been received for valuers and a claims adviser/peer review and both will be appointed shortly. It is anticipated that hedge removal will be completed prior to the 1st March 2024

N2 Ardee to Castleblayney Road Scheme

Work on progressing the Phase 3 design of the scheme has stopped, as the €600,000 allocation received for 2023 was to meet current project commitments and was not sufficient to allow the design process to continue. There has been no response to a Monaghan County Council request for an additional €600,000 to complete the Phase 3 design work, which was submitted to TII on the 8th March 2023. The Chief Executive of Monaghan County Council wrote to TII again in June 2023 requesting the re-instatement of funding to continue the design process – no response has been received.

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

N52 Ardee Bypass

A local environmental group were granted leave in the High Court for a Judicial Review against An Bord Pleanála (ABP) and the Boards directions to Louth County Council concerning the preparations of an EIAR and NIS.

The Applicant has confirmed it is not filing any further papers by way of response to the Bord or the State Respondents; this means that the pleadings are "closed" & case is ready for a hearing.

A hearing is set for Tuesday 9th April 2024 and it is scheduled to take 3 days so will continue on Wednesday 10th April and Thursday 11th April. The Scheme is currently at a standstill until the resolutions to these proceedings are overcome.

Port Access Northern Cross Route Phase1.

Clonmel Enterprises, employed by HISCO, are working on the section of road from the R132 to Ballymakenny Road including upgrades to the Ballymakenny Rd and Twenties Lane. Entry to the remaining lands has been secured and outstanding works are currently being completed. Kerbing, cycle path and footpath work are substantially complete on the mainline. Surface, binder, and base layers have been laid on the new route between Twenties Lane and North Road R132.

The realignment of the Twenties Lane is well advanced in partnership with CFS Homes, and tie-in is being created by Clonmel Enterprises. The first phase of realignment is open to traffic. The remainder of the road is being realigned by Clonmel Enterprises. It is envisaged that the road will be handed over to the Council in Q1 2024.



Road Marking Works in Progress at bus bays and cycle tracks



Public lighting and planting in progress looking west

Boyne Enterprise Link Road

The contractor commenced work on the LCC owned lands section on 24th April 2023 with a proposed programme of 16 No. weeks to complete. Road formation completed, drainage and services completed. ESB have now completed diversion works so Contractor is to return to site to finish phase 1 in early Jan 2024. Ongoing consultations are taking place with stakeholders / landowners, a valuation process has started. Other mechanisms on acquiring the lands have also been explored.



Junction

R178 Cavan to Dundalk Strategic Route Improvement Scheme

The Strategic Assessment Report (SAR) for DoT to progress two of the schemes, namely

D7 & D6 towards feasibility stage has been completed and the final Report has been submitted to the Council forwarded to the Dept. of Transport for approval.

Tender documentation to engage a consultant to carry out a constraints study, feasibility study and options reports will be released to the market in early 2024.

Greenways

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

Section 1 - Carlingford to Carlingford Marina

Site clearance, drainage and footpath construction are completed from King Johns Castle to Marina entrance. Marina entrance and crossing to Back Lane will be complete in Jan 24.



Works in Section 1 Carlingford

Section 2 - Omeath to the Border

Works are progressing well with the site clearance complete; subbase placement and mainline drainage in Section 2.

Final surfacing and fencing complete from Border to Lower shore road culvert.



Greenway along Carlingford lough at Cornamucklagh



Greenway along Carlingford lough at Ferry Wood

Construction on the remaining sections of the Greenway aim to be completed in January 2024. Landowner engagement ongoing on the acquisition of the CPO land parcels. The Council has appointed a land valuer for the land acquisition in Section 2.

Section 3 – Northern Ireland

A revised major planning application was submitted in Feb 2023 and granted in March. The minor planning application for the route change was submitted in April 2023 and received its planning on the 26th of Oct. 23. Works have commenced Nov. 2023 in NI to facilitate, and the cross-border element has been installed as far as the start of the proposed boardwalk.



Works in Victoria Lock in NI

The project partners are continuing to meet monthly to review and assess the various aspects of the project.

TII Funded Greenways:

Dundalk Bay to Carlingford Greenway

Draft Strategic Assessment Report (SAR) has been approved by TII. Mapping, flooding information and other relevant databases have been shared with the appointed consultant to enable the constraints to be recorded.

Phase 1 public consultation took place on Thursday the 7th December at Carlingford Heritage Centre. The aim of this public consultation was to receive feedback on the Project Study Area, the constraints identified and any other features/opportunities within the study area that the Project Team should consider. The feedback and submissions received through this public consultation will be considered by the Project Team and will help to inform the development of the project.



Public Consultation 1 in Heritage Centre, Carlingford

The delivery of this scheme going forward will be under the TII Project Management Guidelines.

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

ORIS Scheme

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

The Preliminary designs are now complete and issued to the Members for information purposes. Applications under the ORIS Fund are being made for Port (Lurganboy) and Templetown.

Access Road at Newtown, Drogheda

Following discussion with the developer and the Department of Housing this scheme is now being progressed by the developer, assisted by offset of development levies under agreement with the Council. Main carriageway works are nearing completion. Works are ongoing on the Marsh Road.



Overall layout of the Road, image from of Google Maps.

LIHAF Project

LIHAF Mount Avenue Improvement

Works are continuing the scheme, earthworks are ongoing, and service diversions and new service installation taking place. Roadwork is complete on the Castletown Road and a new pedestrian crossing has been commissioned. A substantial upgrade of IW watermains is currently taking place.

A road closure is in place from Monday the 17th April 2023. Changes to traffic management have taken place from the 27th of November with access to more houses to the south via a newly realigned section of road with cycle lanes and footpaths. ESB high voltage ducting, drainage and other services are taking place north of the new roundabout. This plan will be in place until February when road works will continue further north. Facilities are in place for access to all properties and housing development schemes. Kerbing, drainage, ducting, public lighting, and footpath works are also progressing on the off-line section north of Lis na Dara.



Footpath, public lighting, services and drainage south of Headford entrance.



Roundabout entrance at council housing entrance



New pedestrian crossing At N53/Mt Avenue/ Mill Road

Specific Bridge Improvement Grants

Obelisk Bridge

Power washing and Shot blasting of Steel Members ongoing. Bitumen removal within “troughs” running along bridge commenced. Horizontal Steel Bands (5 rows) removed along full length of bridge for replacement due to poor condition.

Main Steel Members flogging completed. Survey of stonework completed on South side of bridge walls carried out by Conservation Architect and Structural Engineers. Specialist Contractors onsite continuing large root removal from bridge abutments. Road Closure with traffic diversions has been implemented and is being maintained daily.



Obelisk Bridge inside view of encapsulation works



Obelisk Bridge encapsulation



Mist rising from power washing of steel prior to shotblasting inside encapsulation.

Corporate Projects

Redevelopment Fair Street Offices, Drogheda Block B: Former Borough Chamber Building

Plywood T&G flooring sheeting installed. Walls and Ceiling lining completed. Cupola external cladding and louvre installation by Specialist Contractors ongoing. Bay Window lead roof installed. Gutters installed West side of Roof. Ventilation Roof outlets and Automatic Opening Vents installed and roofers closing out unfinished slating. Pointing remedial works ongoing. Stairwell internal plastering commenced. Currently awaiting delivery of coping stone for insertion on parapet eaves.



Block B Bay Windows installation



Block N Floor build up radon with insulation over.



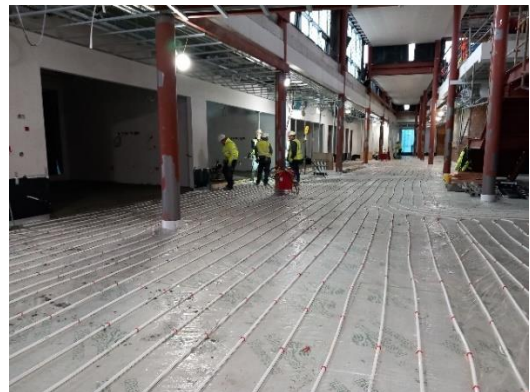
Block B Wall lining frame support system install



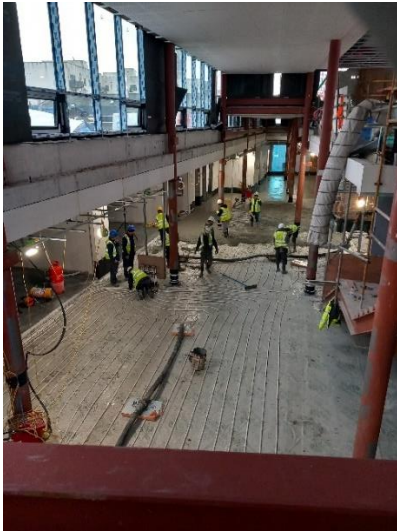
Block N: Hot Water Plant Room installation works

Block N: New Link Building

Wiring to Control Panel ongoing. Mechanical fit out continuing in plant rooms and plant courtyard area. Mains Water supply turned on to Plant room for testing requirements. All plasterboard installation completed. Roof builds up above Mezzanine completed. Seals and flashing to Windows installed.



Block N New Link Building : Floor build up - insulation, under floor heating pipework and polished concrete floor installation works in reception area



Block N New Link Building : Polished concrete installation works around main entrance Customer Services Area

Block C: Community Services Building

Internal Fit out continuing. Painting of trusses is ongoing. Ridge and slating continuing. Brick dismantling East Elevation for reuse on West Elevation completed. South Area Planters excavation works are ongoing but slowed up due to disclosure of “Old Town Wall” and Well with monitoring of works by ACSU Archaeologists. Internal brickwork to North elevation commenced and West Elevation conservation brickwork completed. Internal Ventilation ductwork was completed. Additional structural crack stitching installed to spine wall at stairwell area. Further Windows installed to all elevations.



Block C Central Room scratch coat plaster coat application

Block E: Annex Building

Parapet conservation works completed. Steel Stair Fire Escape installed by crane. Roof construction commenced.



Block E Annex Building : Roof construction



Block C (South Side) -Archaeological Dig -Old Town Wall unearthed, surveyed, protected and backfilled to allow progression of RC planter Walls

Dunleer Fire Station

Consultants appointed, designer currently working on preliminary proposals and options on site layouts continue. Site surveys

completed. The final purchase of the lands process is on-going.

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

Louth Flood Defence and Coastal Erosion Projects

Dundalk and Ardee Flood Relief Projects

Consultant Engineers Binnies/ Nicholas O'Dwyer JV continues to work on stage 1 of the project. The draft Hydraulic report has been reviewed by the OPW / LCC, the JV are currently completing the wave overtopping assessment with the final report due in the New Year. Preliminary options assessment for an extensive range of possible Flood Relief Measures continues to be developed and assessed. There is a Formal Emerging Options Workshop scheduled for early January 2024. The proposed locations for ground investigation works have been finalised along with accompanying environmental and archaeological assessments. Tendering will be carried out in the New Year. Additional seasonal environmental surveys, e.g. wintering bird's surveys are being carried out.

The Draft Options Report has been delivered for Ardee and is being finalised and reviewed by LCC and OPW.

Monthly project briefing notes are being issued to the current relevant stakeholders. The Project website being hosted by OPW can be reached at: www.floodinfo.ie/frs/en/dundalk/home

Drogheda and Baltray Flood Relief Project

The Consultant Engineers RPS are continuing to work on Stage 1 of the Project. Hydraulic analysis continues with the Core design runs, sensitivity and blockage assessment run now

complete and being assessed. RPS have completed the draft hydraulics report and LCC and OPW are currently reviewing, and queries are being resolved. Additional topographical surveying has been carried out and the hydraulic model updated accordingly. Options assessment has begun and will continue over the next few months.

The preliminary Ground Investigation report is due in the coming weeks, which will help inform us about the options development phase of the project.

The Project website being hosted by OPW is now complete and can be reached at: www.droghedabaltrayfrs.ie

Carlingford and Greenore Flood Relief Project

OPW and LCC have commenced information gathering including ICWWS, latest LiDAR, River survey, Topo (including thresholds), CCTV, Beach profiles, Bathymetry, etc. Procurement of CCTV and Topo Contractors to complete the information required to begin in the first quarter 2024. A data collection exercise has been carried out to collate data from the recent flood event. This data will be used to inform the project and calibrate hydraulic modelling.

Marine Projects

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

The appointed ecologist continues to prepare the Appropriate Assessment and Natura Impact Statements required for planning permission under Section 177AE of the Planning and Development Act. The ecological work has been completed with queries being resolved by ecologist.

The Council are in the process of preparing the draft Section 177AE Applications (NIS) for each of the three locations, with the aim of

submitting the applications to An Bord Pleanála in early Jan.

Following on from the NIS submission the Council have a meeting in January with the Marine Area Regulatory Authority (MARA) to discuss the application for the foreshore permission for proposed coastal protection works.

Thereafter, and subject to Section 177AE consent and foreshore consent, it is anticipated to procure a civil engineering contractor in Q1 2024, with construction works anticipated to commence in Q2 2024.

Schools Programme Projects

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

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

Ardee E.T.N.S.

A contractor has been appointed and works commenced on the 10th July with mobilisation and site clearance. Drainage, foundations, and ground works are ongoing. Pathway around west side of building filled.

- Foundations dug & trench filled – 90%
- Main concrete strip- 90%
- Site sign on site.
- Holding down bolts on site.
- Silo commissioned.

Proposed Works Forecast next month.

- Complete Foundations.
- Blockwork commencing on Monday.
- Shutter columns.
- Trees along the road will be removed by Donnelly Tree Services.
- Drainage pop ups.



Column Steel reinforcement from foundations



Foundations being prepared.

Coláiste Chú Chlainn and Park at Marshes Lower, Dundalk

As constructed drawings of the completed emergency lighting has been issued by the PSDP. The contractor is due to resolve a roof leak issue.

Faster Project

Electrical Vehicles Charging Points



Louth County Council have appointed Weev to install and operate 25 rapid electric vehicle chargers at locations across the border region in the Republic of Ireland.

SITE BUILD STATUS	
Site 13	TOBERCURRY; All works complete, awaiting ESB connection
Site 14	NAVAN; All works complete, awaiting ESB connection
Site 7	VIRGINIA; All works complete, awaiting ESB connection
Site 4	CARRICKMACROSS; All works complete, awaiting ESB connection
Site 9	BUNCRANA; All works complete, awaiting ESB connection
Site 8	BALLYBOFEY; All works complete, awaiting ESB connection
Site 3	DUNDALK; All works complete, awaiting ESB connection
Site 1	ARDEE; All works complete, awaiting ESB connection
Site 2	DROGHEDA All works complete, awaiting ESB connection

The full list and maps across all regions can be view on the project website by clicking on the below link:

<https://www.fasterevcharge.com/provisional-locations-for-faster-project-charging-stations-revealed/> .

Information is available at the following outlets:

Channel	URL
Facebook	https://www.facebook.com/FasterEVCharge
Twitter	https://twitter.com/FasterEVCharge
Instagram	https://www.instagram.com/fasterevcharge/
Linkedin	https://www.linkedin.com/company/faster-project
TikTok	https://www.tiktok.com/@fasterevcharge
YouTube	https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC0FqxddlpA7WXJr9ShzUaxQ



Works completed Ardee Car-park .



Works completed Dundalk (Tennis Club)

Civil works are all complete and chargers installed, awaiting connecting for all sites by the ESB.

Active Travel Investment Program

2023 Budget Allocation

On the 1st February 2023 The National Transport Authority (NTA) awarded Louth County Council a budget allocation of €5.3 million. This budget is to proceed with the design, planning and detailed design of twenty-four (24) number Active Travel Projects.

The Active Travel Projects funded are for promoting Walking and Cycling Infrastructure and development of transport studies for Drogheda and Dundalk.

The current status of the ongoing Active Travel projects is as outlined in the table below. For ease of referencing, the National Transport Authority (NTA) allocate projects into particular Cost Bands depending on the total estimated project cost including, fees, land acquisitions and constructions as follows;

Band 1	€0 - €0.5M;
Band 2	€0.5 - €10M;
Band 3	> €10M;

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


The seven different phases are as outlined below...

- PHASE 1: Scope and Purpose
- PHASE 2: Concept Development and Option Selection
- PHASE 3: Preliminary Design
- PHASE 4: Statutory Processes
- PHASE 5: Detailed Design and Procurement
- PHASE 6: Construction and Implementation
- PHASE 7: Close-out and Review


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


During the months of October and November 2023, the Active Travel Team undertook engagement with several key stakeholders and resident groups i.e. Non-statutory Public Consultation and received very positive feedback on our proposals. These discussions were very beneficial, and all comments will be used to inform the preliminary and preparation of Part 8 documents.


Active Travel Projects



Project Name	Allocation 2023	Project Band	Current Phase	November 2023- Project update	Anticipated Part 8 Completions, subject to NTA approval of Gateways
Drogheda: R132, Bridge of Peace to Train Station (incorporating Marsh Road)	€415,000	Band 2 <10mil	Phase 3 – Preliminary Design	<p>Gateway 2 Report approved by the NTA on 27th Sept 2023. The Active Travel Team and Design Consultants, quickly moved into Phase 3 Preliminary Design.</p> <p>A Non-statutory Public Consultation process on the Emerging Preferred Options were held on the below dates...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 12th September 2023 – Online Briefing given to Drogheda MD Councilors 27th September 2023 – Design Team met with a number of key stakeholders in person. 11th October 2023 – Public Consultation Day held in Drogheda Library 9th Oct to 20th October 2023 – Online Portal open for public submissions. <p>The Design Team have now considered all submissions received as part of the Non-statutory Public Consultation process above and have incorporated some observations into the Preliminary Design i.e. Phase 3 Gateway 3 Report. A Gateway 3 Report was completed in December 2023. Our Design Team are currently developing and analysing Traffic Modelling at all major junctions along the route.</p> 	Proposed Part 8 display end of Q1 2024
Drogheda: R166 Termonfeckin Rd, design.	€100,000	Band 2 <10mil	Phase 2 - Concept and Options	<p>Consultants RPS Group has commenced design and are currently developing options.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. GPS surveys have all been completed. 2. Traffic surveys, junction modelling & Archaeologist assessment have all been completed. 	Proposed Part 8 display Q3 2024

Project Name	Allocation 2023	Project Band	Current Phase	November 2023- Project update	Anticipated Part 8 Completions, subject to NTA approval of Gateways
				It is anticipated to have an on-line briefing on the proposed scheme to Drogheda Municipal District Councillors in early 2024 in advance of public consultations. Date of on-line Briefing to be confirmed.	
Drogheda: R168 Collon Rd, Hill of Rath RAB and Rosehall RAB.	€100,000	Band 2 <10mil	Phase 2 - Concept and Options	<p>Gateway 2 Report completed in November 2023 and submitted to the NTA for approval.</p> <p>The Active Travel Team and consultants RPS Group hosted an on-line briefing to Drogheda Municipal District Councillors on the 19th June 2023 to outline the proposals for the scheme. Meetings were held with key stakeholders on Thursday 31st August 2023 and a Public Consultation Day was held in Drogheda Library on Thursday 14th September 2023. The consultation period expired on Friday 22nd September 2023 and the Design Team are currently reviewing all submissions.</p> <div data-bbox="940 716 1398 1008" data-label="Image"> </div> <p data-bbox="850 1011 1493 1036"><u>View of Collon Rd looking South East from Mell Roundabout</u></p> <div data-bbox="940 1045 1398 1334" data-label="Image"> </div>	Proposed Part 8 display Q3 2024

Project Name	Allocation 2023	Project Band	Current Phase	November 2023- Project update	Anticipated Part 8 Completions, subject to NTA approval of Gateways
				<u>View of R166 looking East from Hill of Rath Roundabout</u>	
Drogheda: Rathmullan Road including Marley's (Pathfinder Project)	€400,000	Band 2 <10mil	Phase 3 – Preliminary Design	<p>LCC received Gateway 2 Report from Design Consultants at start of October and report was submitted to the NTA on 27th October 2023.</p> <p>The Active Travel Team and Design Consultants, have commenced to assess some elements in Phase 3 Preliminary Design.</p> <p>A Non-statutory Public Consultation process on the Emerging Preferred Options were held on the below dates...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 19th June 2023 – Online Briefing given to Drogheda MD Councillors • 31st August 2023 – Design Team met with a number of key stakeholders in person. • 14th September 2023 – Public Consultation Day held in Drogheda Library • 11th Sept to 22nd September 2023 – Online Portal open for public submissions <p>The Design Team are now considering all submissions received as part of the Non-statutory Public Consultation process in order to inform the Preliminary Design i.e. Phase 3 Gateway 3 Report.</p>  <p><u>View of Marley's Lane looking South from Aura Leisure</u></p>	Proposed Part 8 display Q2 2024
Drogheda Dublin and North roads, design.	€200,000	Band 2 <10mil	Phase 2 - Concept and Options	<p>For the North Road, Drogheda, a Non-statutory Public Consultation process on the Emerging Preferred Options were held on the below dates...</p>	North Rd, Drogheda - Proposed Part 8 display Q2 2024 Dublin Rd, Drogheda - Proposed Part 8 display Q2 2024

Project Name	Allocation 2023	Project Band	Current Phase	November 2023- Project update	Anticipated Part 8 Completions, subject to NTA approval of Gateways
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 19th June 2023 – Online Briefing given to Drogheda MD Councillors 31st August 2023 – Design Team met with several key stakeholders in person. 14th September 2023 – Public Consultation Day held in Drogheda Library 11th Sept to 22nd September 2023 – Online Portal open for public submissions. <p>The Design Team are now considering all submissions received as part of the Non-statutory Public Consultation process in order to inform the Preliminary Design i.e. Phase 3 Gateway 3 Report.</p> <p>It proposed to have a joint briefing with Drogheda MD members and Bettystown Laytown MD members on the 16 January 2024 to give members an update on options from MacBride Train Station to Southgate Roundabout in County Meath.</p>  <p>View of Dublin Rd, Drogheda Rd looking South</p>	
Drogheda: Boyne Bus. Park Link Road.	€250,000	Band 2 <10mil	Phase 6 - Construction	Please refer to relevant update in this report.	Part 8 Completed
Dundalk: R132 Inner Relief Rd. (Pathfinder Project)	€550,000	Band 2 <10mil	Phase 3 Preliminary Design	<p>Gateway 2 Report was approved by the NTA in May 2023. Junction traffic modelling completed in July 2023.</p> <p>Gateway 3 Report (Preliminary Design Report) was submitted to the NTA in early August 2023 and we are currently awaiting approval from the NTA.</p> <p>A Non-statutory Public Consultation process on the Emerging Preferred Options were held on the below dates...</p>	Proposed Part 8 display Q1 2024

Project Name	Allocation 2023	Project Band	Current Phase	November 2023- Project update	Anticipated Part 8 Completions, subject to NTA approval of Gateways
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 26th July 2023 – Online Briefing given to Dundalk MD Councillors 3rd August 2023 – Design Team met with a number of key stakeholders in person. 21st September 2023 – Public Consultation Day held in Dundalk Library 19th Sept to 29th September 2023 – Online Portal open for public submissions <p>The Design Team are now considering all submissions received as part of the Non-statutory Public Consultation process in order to inform the next phase i.e. Phase 4 Statutory Process.</p>  <p><u>View of Inner Relief Rd, Dundalk looking north from Hoeys Lane Roundabout</u></p>	
Dundalk: Dublin Rd Xerox Junction to Ladywell Bridge	€464,000	Band 2 <10mil	Phase 3 Preliminary Design	<p>LCC received Gateway 2 approval from the NTA on Monday 19th June 2023. Gateway 3 Report submitted to the NTA on the 4th October 2023.</p> <p>A Non-statutory Public Consultation process on the Emerging Preferred Options were held on the below dates...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 26th October 2023 – Public Consultation Day to be held in Dundalk Town Hall 23rd October to 3rd November 2023 – Online Portal open for public submissions 	Proposed Part 8 display end Q1 2024

Project Name	Allocation 2023	Project Band	Current Phase	November 2023- Project update	Anticipated Part 8 Completions, subject to NTA approval of Gateways
				 <p data-bbox="856 565 1482 589">View of Dublin Rd, Dundalk looking north at DKIT Entrance</p>	
Dundalk: Ard Easmuinn Rd to Train Station / Friary School & Dundalk Bus Station to Rail Station.	€400,000	Band 3 >10mil	Phase 3 /4 Preliminary Design / Statutory Process	<p data-bbox="793 594 1547 646">Received Phase 3 Gateway approval from the NTA on the 29th June 2023.</p> <p data-bbox="793 678 1547 784">Permission given to proceed to Gateway 4 “Statutory Process”. DT preparing Part 8 Planning Package. In October 2023 we held several meetings with resident groups (x8) along the route.</p> <p data-bbox="793 789 1547 867">The Design Team are now considering all submissions received as part of the Non-statutory Public Consultation process in order to inform the next phase i.e. Phase 4 Statutory Process.</p> <p data-bbox="793 872 1547 950">The Active Travel Team met five key residents’ groups on the 4th & 5th Oct 2023, to discuss key areas of contention i.e. parking etc, in order to amend some proposals in advance of Part 8 publication.</p>  <p data-bbox="873 1248 1467 1274">View of Ard Easmuinn Looking North from China Bridge</p>	Proposed Part 8 Q2 2024

Project Name	Allocation 2023	Project Band	Current Phase	November 2023- Project update	Anticipated Part 8 Completions, subject to NTA approval of Gateways
Transport / Mobility Plans: Including Dundalk, Drogheda, Ardee, Clogherhead, Dunleer, Termonfeckin & Castlebellingham	€250,000	Band 1 < 0.5mil	Phase 2 - Concept and Options	<p>Drogheda Area Based Transport Assessment (ABTA) Drogheda Online survey completed and synthesised. ATOS completed and GIS specialist has prepared new drawing and superimposed "Proposed Active Travel Links" as a layer to each of the ATOS Results maps.</p> <p>Dundalk Area Based Transport Assessment (ABTA) After a procurement competition, consultants WS Atkins were appointed on the 27th July 2023. The ABTA process has commenced with the consultants gathering baseline information. Baseline Report completed and we are now assessing Forecast Transport Demand. This ABTA will form part of the Dundalk LAP.</p>	N/A
Hoey's Lane, Dundalk	€150,000	Band 2 <10mil	Phase 1 - Scope and Purpose	<p>Design Consultants (WSP Group) appointed in Mid July 2023 and have commenced Phase 2 and are reviewing Active Travel Options for scheme.</p> <p>LCC Active Travel Team received Gateway 2 Reports (Options Development) from our consultants on the 16th Oct 2023 and are currently reviewing the options. Gateway 2 Reports submitted to NTA at end of November 2023.</p>	2024
Mill Street, Dundalk	€250,000	Band 2 <10mil	Phase 1 - Scope and Purpose	<p>Design Consultants (WSP Group) appointed in Mid July 2023 and have commenced Phase 2 and are reviewing Active Travel Options for scheme.</p> <p>LCC Active Travel Team received Gateway 2 Reports (Options Development) from our consultants on the 16th Oct 2023 and are currently reviewing the options. Gateway 2 Reports submitted to NTA at end of November 2023.</p>	2024
Hill Street Bridge to Train Station, Dundalk	€150,000	Band 2 <10mil	Phase 1 - Scope and Purpose	<p>Design Consultants (WSP Group) appointed in Mid July 2023 and have commenced Phase 2 and are reviewing Active Travel Options for scheme.</p> <p>LCC Active Travel Team received Gateway 2 Reports (Options Development) from our consultants on the 16th Oct 2023 and are currently reviewing the options. The Active Travel are engaging with Irish Rail / CIE with regards to possible route selections.</p>	2024

Project Name	Allocation 2023	Project Band	Current Phase	November 2023- Project update	Anticipated Part 8 Completions, subject to NTA approval of Gateways
R132 Dublin Road, (Rank Xerox Junction to Greengates)	€100,000	Band 2 <10mil	Phase 1 - Scope and Purpose	Design Consultants (WSP Group) appointed in Mid July 2023 and have commenced Phase 2 and are reviewing Active Travel Options for scheme. LCC Active Travel Team have received Gateway 2 Reports (Options Development) from our consultants on the 16 th Oct 2023 and are currently reviewing the options.	2024
Moneymore, Active Travel elements	€200,000	Band 1 < 0.5mil	Phase 2 - Concept Proposals	Design Consultants (WSP Group) appointed in Mid July 2023 and have commenced Phase 2 and are reviewing Active Travel Options for scheme. LCC Active Travel Team have received Gateway 2 Reports (Options Development) from our consultants on the 16 th Oct 2023 and are currently reviewing the options.	N/A
Drogheda improvement of accessibility	€60,000	Band 1 < 0.5mil	Phase 3 - Preliminary Design	Various locations in the town of Drogheda	N/A
Dundalk improvement of accessibility	€60,000	Band 1 < 0.5mil	Phase 3 - Preliminary Design	Various locations in the town of Dundalk	N/A
Ardee improvement of accessibility	€40,000	Band 1 < 0.5mil	Phase 3 - Preliminary Design	Various locations in the town of Ardee	N/A
Termonfeckin Active Travel elements	€165,000	Band 1 < 0.5mil	Phase 5 - Detailed Design and Procurement	Project was issued to tender in March 2023. Tenders returned and successful contractor appointed.	N/A
Safe Routes to Schools 1. St Louis Secondary School Dundalk 2. Rehab Care Mill Street Dundalk 3. Saint Brigid's and Saint Patrick's School, Drogheda	€600,000	Band 1 < 0.5mil	Phase 3 - Preliminary Design	All four projects reviewed. St Louis, Dundalk - Meeting held with An Taisce and Principal. Action plan now agreed and signed off. Rehab, Mill Rd, Dundalk to be incorporated into Mill Street scheme above. Drogheda x 2 - Preliminary Design / Concepts developed. Following a procurement competition, Barry Transportation were appointed Design Consultants on 3 rd April 2023. Preliminary design commenced.	No part 8's but possible Section 38's

Project Name	Allocation 2023	Project Band	Current Phase	November 2023- Project update	Anticipated Part 8 Completions, subject to NTA approval of Gateways
4. Scoil Aonghusa, Drogheda				Traffic, Drone & Topographical Surveys to be completed Nov 2023. Joint Gateway 2 & 3 Reports submitted to the NTA at the end of Nov 2023.	

Place Making

Urban Regeneration and Development Fund Projects (URDF)

West Gate Vision (Drogheda)

Louth County Council has made the planning submission to An Bord Pleanala for the Westgate project. This application proposes significant regeneration of the Westgate area of Drogheda.

The Westgate planning preparation stage has been financially supported by the Urban Regeneration Development Fund (URDF) as part of Project Ireland 2040 and match funded by Louth County Council.

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

- A new gateway plaza at George's Square
- Flexible community and cultural space
- Public art installation marking the location of the medieval West Gate
- Revitalising the river front
- Repair and restoration of the Old Abbey and the Medieval Wall

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

The Westgate planning documents, including the suite of drawings, the EIAR and the AA Stage 2 reports, represent a large volume of material and statutory planning information presented to An Bord Pleanala. Full details of the proposed works are available here: <https://consult.louthcoco.ie/en/consultation/westgate-2040>



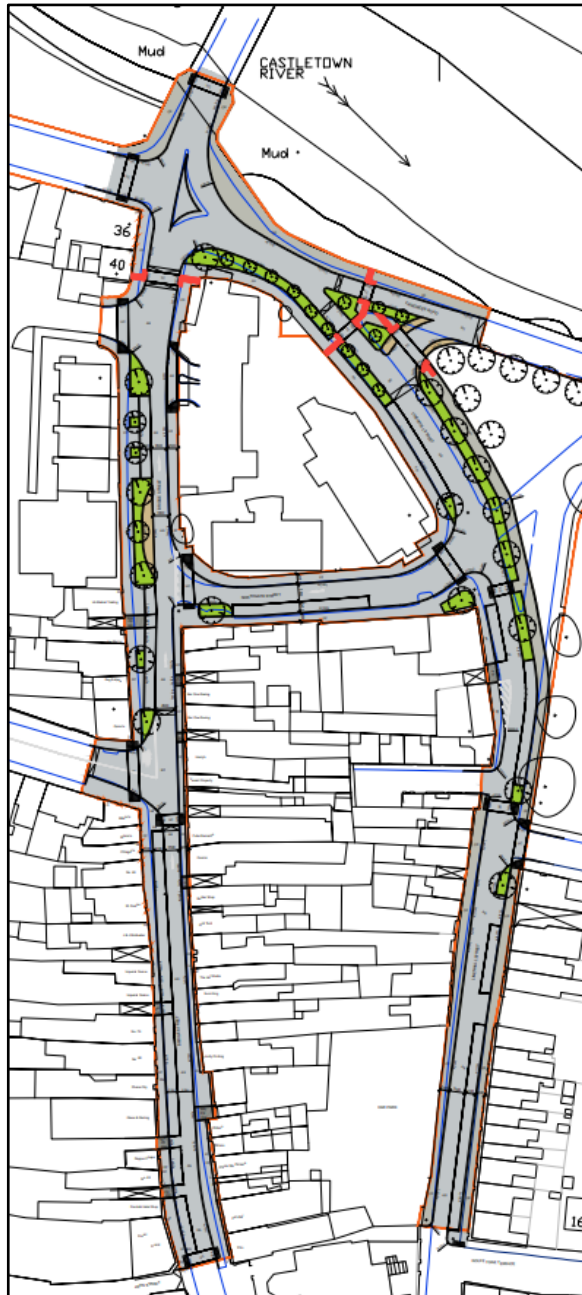
Submissions on the planning application are to be submitted directly, in writing, to An Bord Pleanala up until February 9th 2024.

St. Nicholas Quarter and Backlands Regeneration (Dundalk)

Phase 1

BDP Ltd are the Urban Design Team for the first phase of the St. Nicholas Quarter project. Phase 1 of the project, which received Part 8 approval in April 2018, involves the enhancement of the public realm along Bridge Street, Linenhall Street and Peace Park. The detailed design stage has been completed and the documents for the tender for a contractor are now finalised. Decision Gate 2 submission has been made to the URDF as per the Public Spending Code requirements, and the tender will be advertised in January 2024 following successful approval of the Decision Gate 2 submission. Upon completion of the tender process, it is anticipated that the works will commence on-site in Q2 2024. A public engagement day was held on Wednesday 29th November in Dundalk Town Hall where local residents and stakeholders had a chance to

review drawings and information on the delivery of this project. It was a well-attended event with great feedback received on the day.



Phase 2

Phase 2 of the St. Nicholas Quarter project is the design of an acceptable concept for the re-development of the Backlands area of the St. Nicholas Quarter. This concept will then be

progressed for Part 8 planning with full public consultation. The consultancy services tender has now been finalised and BDP have been appointed as the successful tenderer. A kick-off meeting has been held and stage I of the project has commenced with initial site surveys to be completed to allow the design to progress.

URDF Call Three Funding Allocation.

On-site inspections and discussions with property owners have been taking place. The assessment of selected properties under the Derelict Sites Act is ongoing. The formal process of acquiring the initial properties under compulsory acquisition will commence in Q4 2024.

Rural Regeneration and Development Fund (RRDF)

Ardee Castle

Ministerial Consent was received from the National Monuments Service on 19th December 2023 in respect to several outstanding items, which now allows the project to proceed to the next stage.

Tender documentation for the appointment of a works contractor will now be amended to reflect this final Ministerial Consent with a view to publishing a request for tenders in Q1 2024.

Living in Carlingford Visiting Carlingford

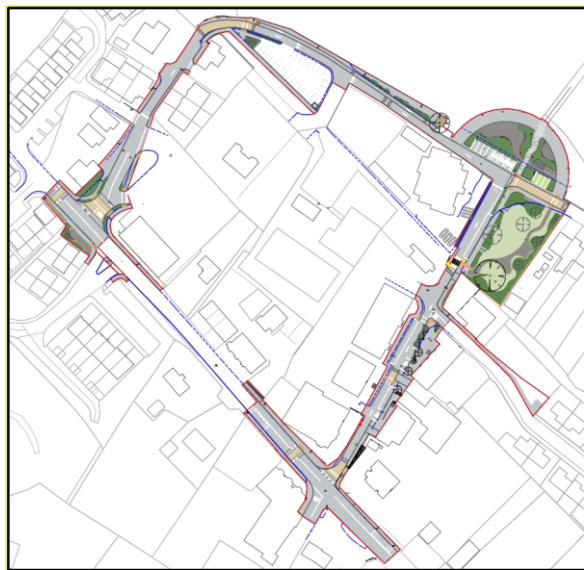


This project has successfully achieved planning permission through the Part 8

process at the July Dundalk Municipal District meeting. The Council have met with the RRDF section in the Department and discussed the next steps for the project. An application for category 1 funding for the project from the RRDF is being prepared for submission in February 2024.

Omeath Placemaking Scheme

Glas Civil Engineering is continuing with the initial phase of the project, with 80% of the utility work now complete on site. The next phase of the project involves undergrounding of the ESB overhead networks and commencement of the final pavement construction. There is ongoing public engagement with local stakeholders to ensure any disruption is kept to a minimum. The proposed works are anticipated to be completed in Q2 2024. This scheme will enhance pedestrian accessibility and safety through the village with the creation of new crossing points, footpaths and widening of existing footpaths.



Ardee 2040

Ardee 2040 design Audits, reports and planning documents are almost concluded by Turley Planning, the lead project design

consultants, for planning submission to An Bord Pleanala.

The Ardee 2040 project will enhance the streetscape and amenity areas in Ardee with a focus on the key areas of Main Street, the Old Railway Lands and new amenity lands to the east of the town centre.

The objective of Ardee 2040 is to develop projects that support regeneration, compact growth, and sustainable development. The key themes are, creating quality gateways, public spaces, recreational areas, sporting areas and public realm in Ardee, improving connectivity and legibility for all members of the community and for visitors/tourists to the town. The project aims to capitalise and respect the rich heritage of the town centre location by providing new and better quality streets and associated services, junction upgrades, cycleways, walkways and sports recreational areas.

Additional Projects

St Laurence's Gate Plaza, Drogheda

Further environmental reports are necessary and are in progress, to be included in the Part 8 process for St Laurence's Gate Plaza.



Cross Departmental Projects

Play Spaces

The proposed Play space in Termonfeckin has successfully achieved planning permission

through the Part 8 process at the December Drogheda Municipal District meeting.

The water tower at Termonfeckin has been demolished above ground. The water tower foundations and associated pipework will be removed in the coming weeks.

Site analysis in Termonfeckin is underway examining services and existing infrastructure. The design and build for the playground have been re-tendered with a closing date of 17th January 2024.

The Part 8 report for Collon Playground is being completed and will be presented to the members at an upcoming Ardee Municipal meeting. Further to the tender assessment process, the finalising of the appointment of contractors is ongoing.

Part 8 planning is being prepared for St. Dominic's Park playground refurbishment, including AA Screening Stage 1 report.

Town Centre First Projects

Town Centre First Plan - Dunleer

The public consultation period on the draft Town Centre First Plan has now been completed. The submissions received have been reviewed and where appropriate have been incorporated into the Plan. A productive meeting with the local traders was held to provide clarity in relation to some elements of the plan. The Plan was formally adopted by members of the Town Team on the 23rd November thus completing the Plan

development process. The Plan will officially be launched in January.



Town Centre First Plan – Clogherhead

Building Design Partnership (BDP) have been appointed as the urban design consultants for the Town Centre First Plan for Clogherhead.

Discussions have taken place with local representatives and work is ongoing in relation to the formation of the town team.

An initial site visit has been carried out in Clogherhead with the design team and council officials.

Organisational Development

Forbairt Na hEagraíochta

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

This Directorate has five key areas of responsibility.

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

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

Tá cuig eochairfhreagrachta ag an Stiúrthóireacht seo:

- Seirbhísí Corparáideacha
- Tacaíocht Pobail agus Spóirt
- Bainistíocht Dramháil, Gníomh Comhshaoil & Aeráide
- Seirbhísí Tréidliachta
- Acmhainní Duine

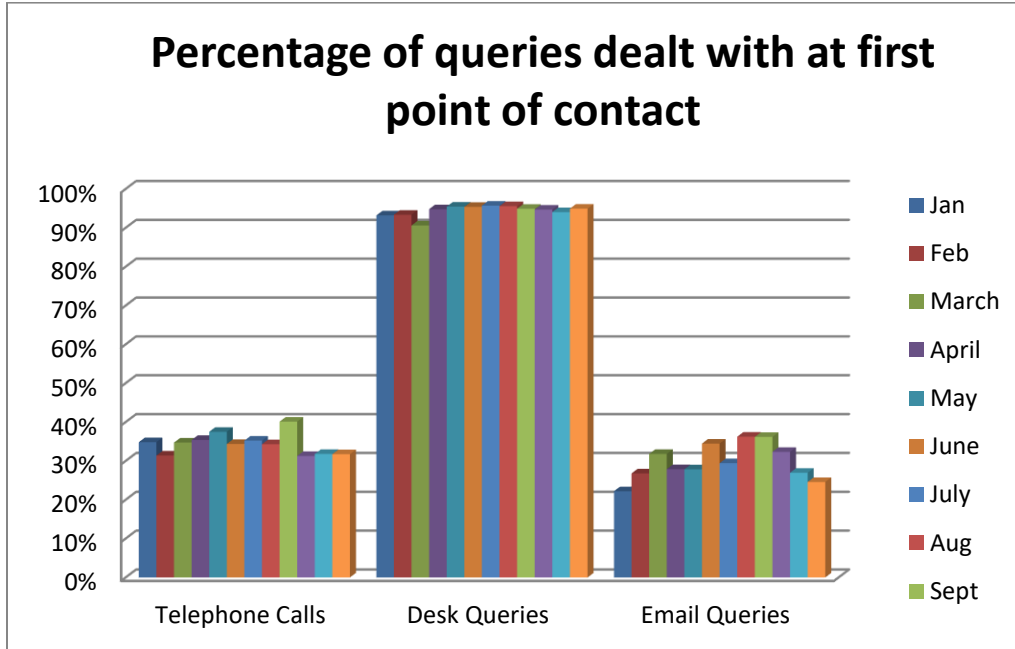


Joe McGuinness
Director of Service / Stiúrthóir

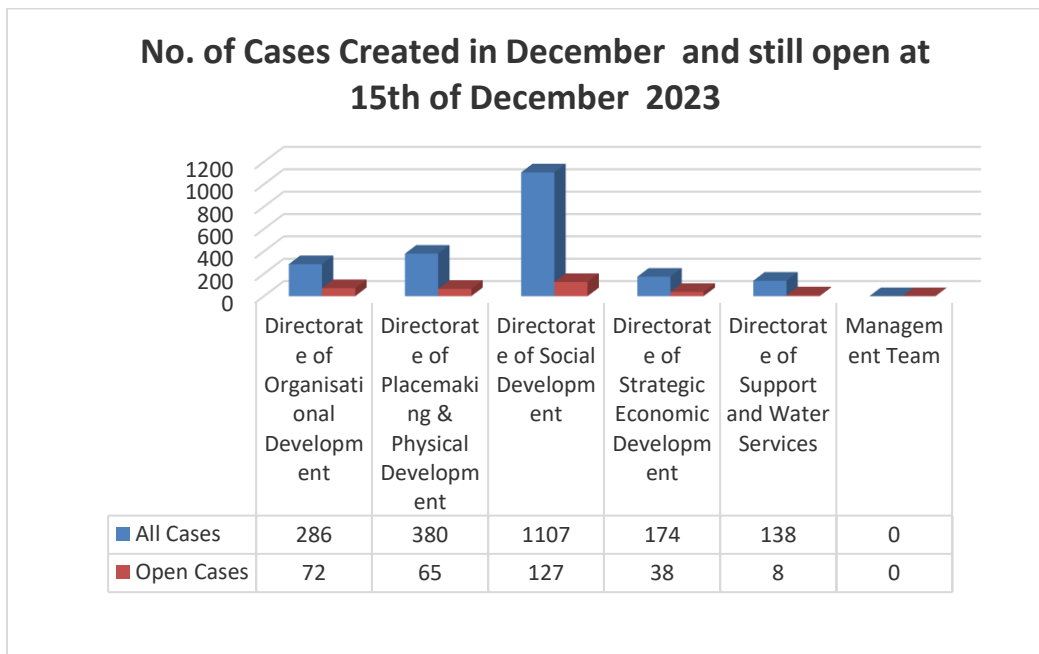
Corporate Services

Customer Services Report

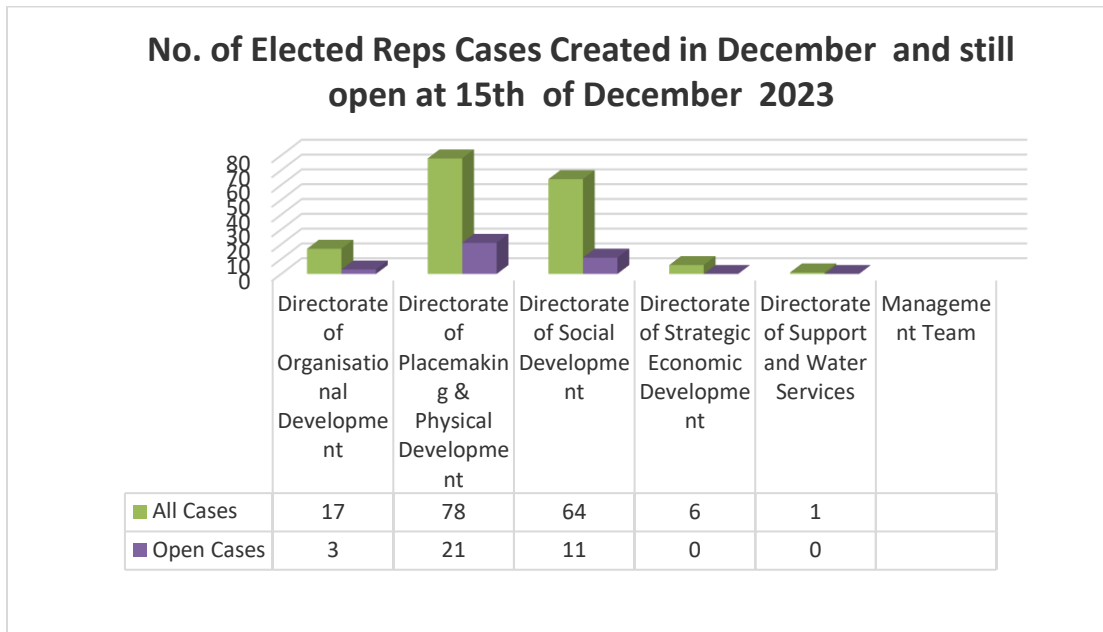
During the month of Dec 2023 Customer Services dealt with 8120 queries, 4150 calls, 904 e-mails and 2911 counter queries.



There were 2085 valid Sugar CRM cases recorded during December 2023 of which 310 (14.8%) remain unresolved, broken down by directorate as follows:



During December 2023, 166 elected reps. cases were recorded on Sugar of which 35 (21%) remain unresolved broken down by Directorate as follows:



The table below illustrates activity in the redress area.

Request Received	2022 Total Jan-Dec	2023 Total Jan – Dec	2023 Dec ONLY
FOI	111	121	5
DSAR	11	12	1
Data Protection Request	3	8	1
(AIE)	12	19	0
Ombudsman	12	22	3
Complaints	28	40	4

Electoral Register

Many applications continue to come through checktheregister.ie, application forms are also sent in for the Franchise Team to process. There was a notable spike in online applications after the announcement of a Referendum which is provisionally scheduled to take place on 8th March 2024.

Franchise Teams from all over the Country met with the Department for training and to discuss procedures for the up-and-coming Referendum and Local Elections in 2024. The Franchise Team are currently processing all Postal Votes for the County.

Louth has now 96% of households with a valid Eircode, this is a fantastic achievement and one of the highest in the Country.

Community Support



Age Friendly Louth

Members of Louth's Older People's Council (OPC) held their final meeting of 2023 in the Ardee Civic Offices on 6th December 2023. OPC members met with local Community Garda Austin Kelly who gave them an overview of community policing in Ardee & Mid Louth and explained the new Garda structures in Co Louth.

Ger Walsh & Aine McNamee from the HSE gave the members a presentation on the Living Well Programme, and advised this is a peer-to-peer support training programme for those living with long-term health conditions. Several Living Well programmes will be rolled out across Co Louth in 2024.

Finally, the members met with Adrienne McCann who is the New Healthy Homes Co Ordinator for Co Louth. Adrienne outlined her new role as part of the Age Friendly Programme. The programme is a collaboration between the Dept of Health & the Dept of Local Government. It aims to enable older people to continue living in their homes or in a home more suited to their needs, live with a sense of independence & autonomy, be and feel part of their communities & support the avoidance of early or premature admission to long term residential care.

The OPC as part of the Age Friendly Programme supported the preparation of 300 Christmas Bags for distribution to older and vulnerable people across Co Louth along with our community partners.



Paulette, Joe & Harry from Louth OPC with Adrienne McCann, Healthy Homes Co Coordinator for Co Louth



Jane & Jacqui from Louth OPC, Ger & Aine HSE and Garda Austin Kelly An Garda Síochána



Louise from Louth Age Friendly Team LCC giving Christmas Bags to Librarian Yvonne Duggan for distribution to users of the Louth Libraries Housebound Service.

Louth Meath Joint Migrant Integration Forum

The Louth Meath Joint Migrant Integration Forum held their final meeting on 7th December 2023. Members met in person in Navan, Co Meath to review the work of the Forum to date including the project to encourage members of new communities to register to vote and to review the Migrant Information Event which took place in November 2023.

Forum members were advised that new Integration Units were being established in all local authorities across the country. Members of the newly established Louth Integration Unit were present and introduced to the Forum members and it is anticipated the Meath Integration Unit will be established shortly.

It was noted that the Integration Unit in each local authority will be responsible for any future Migrant Integration Strategy and subsequent implementation.

Local Economic & Community Plan (LECP)

On 8th December the draft LECP framework was presented to the Eastern Midland Regional Authority (EMRA), the Regional Authority issued a Statement of Consistency for the Louth LECP as required under Section 44 of the Local Government Reform Act (as amended) subject to several minor amendments.

Once the minor amendments are implemented the LECP will be presented to the Economic SPC & LCDC to approve the final draft of the plan prior to it being presented at full council in Q1 of 2024.

Driving Equality for Women in Co Louth (2023)

Louth County Council welcomed the launch of a new report Driving Equality for Women in Co Louth (2023) at an event in Monasterboice recently.

The report is the result of collaborative engagement between Louth County Council, Louth Public Participation Network and Louth Local Development with over 200 women across the county and

captures the themes, objectives, outcomes and outputs of the participative process.

The engagements, interactions, learnings and collective female voice in County Louth have been captured and outlined in the report.

It is hoped that the report will help promote a strong community voice amongst women across Louth to help build partnerships moving forward and to advocate for lasting change.

This includes providing women with the information to raise issues with election candidates when they call to their door next year as part of the local election campaign. It also includes encouraging women to register to vote and to exercise the right to vote in local and national elections. It also encourages women to stand as candidates in local and national elections to ensure their voice is heard. In addition, women were informed of the ways in which they can influence the decisions and policies being made at a local level by engaging by getting involved in local decision-making structures such as the PPN, SPC's, JPC's etc.



From left to right: Dara McGabhann LLD, Sinead McVerry LCC, Cllr Maeve Yore, Cllr Bernie Conlon, Senator Erin McGeehan, Cllr Paula Butterly (Cathaoirleach,) Orla O'Connor, NWC, Joan Martin LCC, Cllr Marianne Bulter & Anna Ryan PPN

Louth Comhairle na nÓg Update

On Saturday 9th December 34 young people from both sides of the border took part an event discussing Drugs and Alcohol in our communities.

Prof. Philip James from Trinity College Dublin facilitated the discussion and explored alternative models of tackling Drug and Alcohol use. The event was very thought provoking for the young people as they started to think differently about a problem that is rapidly becoming normalised.



Member of Louth Comhairle na nOg at Drugs & Alcohol Education event

These events will continue in 2024.

CLÁR 2023 Funding Scheme

The Community Support Team in Louth County Council is delighted to announce that four projects have recently been approved by the Department of Rural and Community Development for funding under the CLÁR 2023 Scheme.

Cooley Kickhams GFC were approved funding of €50,000 for the installation of a tarmacadam surface on the existing car park which will enhance the experience for visitors to the playground and walking track. Cooley Kickhams GFC were also approved funding of €14,378 for improvement works and an extension to the existing walking track which will transform it into a more inclusive facility, suitable for people of all abilities.

Cúchulainn Gaels GFC were successful in securing funding of €44,910 towards the construction of accessible changing rooms to include toilets and shower facilities. Again, this will improve accessibility and the inclusivity of this facility.

Finally, Glenmore Athletics Club secured funding of €50,000 for the upgrade of the existing 6 lane synthetic track to include resurfacing and relining. The track is heavily used by both the young and young at heart and, as a result, these upgrades and repairs are required so the facility can keep serving the community.

Greener Christmas Poetry Competition 2023

The Community Support team proudly announces the successful conclusion of the 'Greener Christmas Poetry Competition 2023' as part of its Seasonal Christmas Waste Management campaign. The awards presentation ceremony, held on Tuesday, December 12th, at the Town Hall in Dundalk, recognised the efforts of primary schools across the county in promoting responsible waste management during the festive season. The theme this year centered around "Food waste".

This year we awarded prizes to schools from the Municipal Districts of Ardee and Dundalk and the Borough District of Drogheda, with the winning school from each of the three areas receiving a prize of €200. There were individual pupil awards for 1st, 2nd and 3rd prize-winners and an overall county winner. The winning poems will be broadcast on LMFM over the Christmas & New Year period as part of Louth County Council Seasonal Christmas Waste Management Campaign.

For further information on the event and to listen to or read the winning poems click on the following link <https://www.louthcoco.ie/en/services/communities/competitions/greener-christmas-poetry-competition/2023-greener-christmas-poetry-competition/>



Cathaoirleach Cllr Paula Butterly, Finbar Gethins SEO, Helena Mullins LMFM and all the winners of the 2023 Greener Christmas Poetry Competition, along with our Doggy Mascot.



Louth PPN Community Tree Planting Project

PPN

Thematic Projects

Community Peer-to-Peer Mentoring

Louth PPN mentors met on Dec 4th and agreed to continue this service into 2024. An awareness campaign is due to be launched in the New Year to highlight the availability of this service to PPN members.

Youth

The training course concluded on Saturday 16th December in Dundalk Youth Centre. Louth PPN's Youth Project involved the training up of young people to confidently and comfortably sit on various boards and committees.

Environment

The community tree planting took place on Saturday 2nd December with a strong presence from all sectors of the local community.

Training

Louth PPN offered the following training sessions to its members in December:

- Dec 4th – Reduce Your Food Waste
- Dec 14th – Sustainable Living / Circular Economy for All

LEADER

Recently, Louth County Council paid out funding to beneficiaries under the LEADER Programme 2014-2020 and LEADER Transitional Programme 2021-2023:

PROMOTER NAME	AMOUNT €
Louth Local Development CLG Protection of Natural Habitats Training	€8,519.51
TOTAL	€8,519.51

LEADER Programme 2023-2027

The Louth Local Development Strategy (LDS) 2023 – 2027, was approved by the LCDC at a special meeting on 10th July. An independent panel assessed the Strategy on behalf of the Department of Rural & Community Development and Louth received confirmation on 28th November, that the LDS was approved. This correspondence also

confirmed that Louth LCDC, with its Implementing Partner Louth Local Development CLG and Lead Financial Partner Louth County Council, is approved as the Local Action Group to deliver the 2023-2027 LEADER Programme for Co Louth. An agreement was signed between all parties on 18th December to deliver the new Programme worth €4.9m

Social Integration and Community Activation Programme 2024-2028 (SICAP)

The contract for the delivery of the SICAP Programme 2024 – 2028 has been awarded to Louth Local Development CLG and was signed at the December meeting of the LCDC. The new SICAP Programme has a budget allocation of €1,651,231 plus an additional €230,987 for 2024.



Joe McGuinness, Director of Services, LCC, Alison Quail, Chairperson, Louth LCDC and Ciaran Reid, CEO Louth Local Development signing the contract for the delivery of the SICAP Programme 2024 – 2028 and the LEADER 2023-2027 Programme.

Healthy Louth Positive Mental Health Campaign

In December youth services in Louth came together to develop a unique project to promote youth activity and to raise awareness of positive mental health. Funded by Healthy Louth, the young people were asked to create their own Positive Mental Health campaign. Healthy Louth now have the great pleasure of showcasing what the young people produced.

[Healthy Louth](#) attended the “Support Our Youth In A Time Of Change” with Dr. Colman Noctor. Organised by Louth Local Development and held at the Barbican Centre, Drogheda.

Healthy Ireland Saturday Football Blitz

In December Healthy Ireland Saturday Football Blitz in Dundalk Sports Centre was held.

The initiative was implemented by Louth Local Development SICAP programme and funded by Louth County Council under their Healthy Louth fund.



Healthy Ireland Saturday Football Blitz



Dundoogan Healthy Bodies, Healthy Minds initiative

Well done to the residents of Dundoogan who completed the Healthy Bodies, Healthy Minds initiative, the programme was led by Túath Housing Association and incorporated the importance of both physical health and mental health in improving overall wellbeing. A massive thank you to Roisin Manley, Housing Services Coordinator, Tuath Housing, for all her hard work delivering the programme. The programme ended with a celebratory event to reward the participants for all their hard work. This project was bought to you by the Healthy Ireland Fund supported by the Department of Health



Some Participants in the Dundoogan Healthy Bodies, Healthy Minds initiative



Santa arrives at the Mindful Movement Classes in Dundalk Sports Centre

Sports

LCC Sports Facilities

Older Adult Classes

There has been continued success in all our older adult programmes recently. It has been fantastic to hear the positive feedback from many of the regular participants. The consensus seems to be that participant's find the classes challenging but fun, varied and very sociable.

Santa's Arrival

Older Adult Classes in Dundalk Sports Centre

On Tuesday the 12th of December Santa surprised all the 'Mindful Movement' group with a visit during their session. The participants were very excited to queue up and meet Santa and even get a small gift to bring home. Mindful Movement classes are held every Tuesday morning for adults with intellectual disabilities. The class is designed so adults with intellectual disabilities can be active in a fun, safe and sociable environment.



Christmas at the Dundalk Sports Centre

Competitions Events

Dundalk Sports Centre hosted the Billy Coffey National Cup Basketball quarter finals for their home team RAVENS. The home team came home with the victory and will be heading to the Semi-finals. The Centre had over 100 people cheering on both teams from the main hall and the gallery.



Billy Coffey National Cup Basketball quarter finals

wide range of accessible sport and physical activity opportunities for persons with a disability in Louth. The event provided attendees with an opportunity to experience a range of activities provided by local clubs such as GAA, Football, Boccia, Dance, Yoga, Wheelchair Basketball and many more.

Information stands were also part of the event with organisations such as IWA Sport, Active Disability Ireland, Vision Sport Ireland, and Special Olympics Ireland in attendance to provide information on their activities.

Thank you to you the staff in Dundalk Sports Centre for their support in hosting this event.

Lourdes Athletic Stadium

Nordic Walking

The Boyne Nordic walkers continued in December every Tuesday morning with two different groups, including the arthritis group. Nordic walking is a great form of exercise which allows exercise with less strain than normal walking.



The Boyne Nordic Walkers in Lourdes Stadium

Louth Local Sports Partnership

Louth LSP Sportability Day a huge success in Dundalk Sports Centre

Louth Local Sports Partnership was delighted to celebrate International Day of Disabled Persons by hosting a Sportability event on Sunday December 3rd, 2023, in Dundalk Sports Centre to showcase the



Louth LSP hosted a Sportability event on 3rd December 2023, in Dundalk Sports Centre

Waste Management, Environment & Climate Action

Summary of Complaints

A total of 7 complaints were received and investigated by the Environmental Compliance team in December 2023, some of which remain open pending further investigations.

A total number of 350 complaints have been received in 2023 to date and these are further detailed as follows:

Complaint Type	Received in December 2023	Total Received in 2023
Air & Noise	3	98
Farm	2	17
Waste/C&D	1	174
Water Quality	1	61

Segregation, Storage and Presentation of Household and Commercial Waste Byelaws 2019

Waste Byelaws (Segregation, Storage and Presentation of Household and Commercial Waste) were introduced in 2019. The key objectives of the Waste Byelaws are:

- To encourage households and businesses to manage their waste in an environmentally responsible manner.
- To promote better segregation of household and commercial waste.
- To ensure only authorised waste collectors are used to dispose of waste.
- To reduce illegal dumping and backyard burning of waste.

Letters are continuing to be issued to householders and businesses in areas where bin presentation is a prevailing issue including Chapel Street and Jocelyn Street, Dundalk, Co. Louth. Louth County Council have received re-occurring complaints regarding bin placement on these streets which are obstructing pedestrians and cyclists.

Louth County Council’s Waste Enforcement Officers and Litters Wardens are in the process of obtaining householders details which may result in Fixed Payment Notices of €75 being issued by Louth County Council to the householders where breaches of the Waste Presentation Byelaws are identified.

Brown Bin Collection Service

All householders in Ireland will be entitled to a brown bin recycling collection service from their waste collector from January 2024 as new EU legislation comes into force.

The legislation is set to benefit those in more remote areas, where brown bin services have not been available compared to urban areas.

Currently, around 69% of Irish households can avail of a food waste collection service from their waste service collector, with many of those without a brown bin in rural parts of the country.

However, from January 2024 the new Regulations will mean waste collectors will be required to offer a brown bin collection for all customers.

All types of food and organic waste are accepted in brown bins including raw and cooked meat and fish, plate scrapings, along with fruit and vegetable peelings, food-soiled paper napkins, paper towels, pizza boxes as well as grass clippings and light garden waste.



Article 27 By-Products

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

By-product notifications are made to the EPA through an online portal. Louth County Council Waste Enforcement Section have a role to carry out site inspections at site of origin and/or site of

destination to check material meets criteria of notification.

A total of 24 notifications have been received to date in 2023 by Louth County Council Waste Enforcement Section for investigation.

Solid Fuel Regulation

New Regulations regarding Solid Fuels came into force on the 31st October 2022. These new regulations affect householders, retailers and those involved in producing or importing solid fuels.

The Solid Fuel Regulations 2022 introduced a national ban on the sale and distribution of 'unapproved' solid fuels.

Approved solid fuels must be labelled with the words "Contents comply with the Air Pollution Act Regulations" and packaging must also include the EPA producer registration number. This is to give the retailer and the householder confidence that the product is an approved fuel.

Retailers and merchants will not be permitted to sell unapproved fuels.

Louth County Council are currently undergoing Solid Fuels inspections in Co. Louth which involves a formal inspection of all retailers selling or distributing solid fuels i.e. Service Stations, Coal Yards, Food outlets etc. Overall, good compliance with the Solid Fuel Regulations has been noted during inspections. However, in rural areas, there was evidence of unapproved solid fuels been sold such as turf, wood, slack and lignite briquettes products.



Litter Enforcement & Investigations

All litter wardens continue to engage with members of the public daily on litter matters in the county.

In 2023 to date, 1200 investigations have been completed by our litter team. In December our wardens completed 68 investigations. Where evidence was found fixed penalty notices were issued accordingly under the Litter Pollution Act 1997.

One of our litter wardens had a successful prosecution in relation to illegal dumping under section 3(1) of the Litter Pollution Act 1997 this month. The dumping occurred at Legion Avenue Dundalk. Upon non-payment of the associated fixed penalty the case was heard in Dundalk Court this month. The defendant was fined €300 and ordered to pay the council's clean-up costs of approximately €550.

Another of our county litter wardens also had a successful conviction for dumping which occurred in the Omeath area. This was also under Section 3(1) of the Litter Pollution Act 1997. Due to non-payment of the associated fixed penalty, the case was heard in Dundalk Court this month. In this case the defendant was also fined €300 and ordered to pay the council's clean-up costs of approximately €550.

Litter Wardens also continue to engage with businesses advising on litter mitigation measures and actively patrolling litter hot spots. Illegal signage is also removed and fixed penalty notices issued accordingly.

Below are some images of illegal dumping/littering cases which have been investigated in December. All waste has been examined for evidence and fixed penalty notices have been issued where evidence has been found and the waste subsequently removed.



Dundalk was targeted this month by our town wardens to increase awareness about dog fouling with free dog bag holders handed out and stencils refreshed on the public pavement. This is to remind the public it is an offence not to clean up after their dog. Areas targeted include St Helena's Park, Riverside walk, Navy Bank, Red Barns Rd etc.





Prohibition of Waste Disposal by Burning

The Waste Management Act (Prohibition of Waste Disposal by Burning) Regulations 2009 allowed farmers as a last resort, to dispose of green waste by burning i.e. untreated/uncontaminated wood, trees, tree trimmings, leaves and brush or other similar waste generated by agricultural practices.

The exemption was reopened for a final three-month period on 1st September 2023 to 30th November 2023. During this period we received 78 applications.

Climate Action

The Climate Action Team recently hosted a number of public consultation workshops in Dundalk, Drogheda, Ardee, Carlingford and Louth. The Draft Climate Action Plan is available to view and make submissions until Wednesday 20th December at 5pm.



Diesel Laundering Waste

There were 3 Integrated Bulk Container's (IBCs) dumped in December at a cost of €3,744.30 approx. So far in 2023 there have been 111 IBC's dumped within Co. Louth with an associated removal cost of approximately €138,539.10.

Climate Action Plan Process 2024 – 2029

Public consultation for the Draft Louth Climate Action Plan 2024-2029 was opened on the 22nd of November and ran until the 20th of December. Submissions could be made by post, email or through the Louth County Council Consult platform.

A series of public information nights were held in libraries across the county.



Under the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021 all Local Authorities are required to produce a Climate Action plan to cover a five-year period.

On the 24th of February, the Minister for Environment, Climate and Communications, Eamon Ryan called for all Local Authorities to commence drafting a climate action plan for their area. Each Local Authority will have 12 months to deliver on this requirement.



Louth County Council's Draft Climate Action Plan is currently available to view online through the following link <https://consult.louthcoco.ie/en/consultation/draft-climate-action-plan>



Louth County Council have signed up as signatories to the EU Mission on Adaptation, this was announced on the 29th September at the R&I Research Days online webinar.



Climate Adapt 2022

Community Climate Action

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

The Community Climate Action Fund (Strand 1) has launched and is available for community groups in Louth. The Shared Island Strand (Strand 1a) of this funding stream has also launched and is open for applications until the 6th of March.



Framework for the Community Climate Action Programme

Strand 1: Action: Building Low Carbon Communities

Strand 1a: Shared Island Community Climate Action

November 2022



The Community Climate Action Officer also hosted a week-long series of online webinars for community members in Louth. Each workshop focused on a theme within the Community Climate Action Fund.

The Community Climate Action Officer has visited a number of community groups in Louth to speak about the upcoming fund and discuss any queries they may have in relation to the Community Climate Action Fund.

Biodiversity Action

County Down Rural Community Network and the Irish Men’s Shed Association hosted a Men’s Shed event on 6 December in the Carrickdale Hotel as part of their Shared Island Project. Joint

presentations by the Biodiversity Officer and Community Climate Action Officer were delivered to more than 150 “Men’s Shedders” from across counties Down, Leitrim, Donegal and Louth. Presentations highlighted opportunities for Men’s Sheds to support and engage in biodiversity and climate action in their counties. Opportunities for partnership building across and within counties was highlighted with examples of projects undertaken being shared including nest box building, planting for pollinators, invasive species “bashes” and citizen science projects. Opportunities for funding were promoted.



Education and Awareness Initiatives

V & W continue with onsite School visits, linking in with their green school projects. They explain the process involved in Recycling and what becomes of the different materials. Each group is presented with a Certificate of Attendance.

V & W have expanded their ‘Biodiversity Area’ at Drogheda Recycling Centre. They incorporate this area into their education programme for all students attending their on-site school tours.



V & W's Education Officers continue to work with Tidy Towns groups and Community groups promoting both Recycling Centres and the benefits of recycling.

Sustainable Energy

Varcities H2020 Funded Project Update – Construction Works

Construction work commenced on implementation of the projects 3 Visionary Solutions at the Library and Museums Courtyard in November. However, work is also being progressed off-site to cause minimum disruption to visitors and staff at the Co. Library and Co. Museum.



Construction works On the Learning Pod for the Varcities Project at the Open Space at the County Library

Sensors have been installed across the pilot site in Dundalk to enable monitoring of changes at the site as the Visionary Solutions are implemented. These include:

- LoraWan Gateway for the communication protocol and system architecture (for the network and communication with the Health & Well-Being Platform also being provided by another partner as part of the project).
- 3 People counters, and several bike counters strategically placed at the site to capture numbers using the actual pilot site area.
- Air Quality Monitor measuring temperature, relative humidity, VOCs, Barometric pressure, CO2, Oxygen, Particulate matter, PM1, 2.5, 4, 10 and 1 Rain water monitor.
- Noise monitor for noise in the area.



Rainwater gauge, to measure rainwater at the site for use with the proposed rainwater harvesting system.

Follow the Projects Progress and Like and Share and help us raise Public Awareness

- <https://www.facebook.com/VARCITIES>
- <https://twitter.com/VARCITIES1>
- <https://www.instagram.com/eu.varcities/>
- https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCi2ogZP3ne_Tbl_xwf1-5jQ/videos?view=0
- <https://www.linkedin.com/company/varcities-green-cities-are-healthier-cities/>

Energy Efficiency Performance

Louth County Council Energy Management System Audit Certification Success

Louth County Council's Energy Management System was audited on the 23rd and 24th November 2023 for compliance with ISO 50001. The lead auditor for NSAI, indicated satisfaction with the system and that he intends to recommend certification for another 3 year term.

Louth County Council was one of the early County Council's to achieve ISO50001 certification for an Energy Management System (EnMS). We have consistently maintained this status over the required 3 year cycle since first obtaining accreditation in February 2018. This will be the third such 3-Year Cycle for such registration.



Previous Certificate Certifying Louth County Council's EnMS

In addition to undertaking energy improvement works, the Council undertakes energy initiatives to improve its energy efficiency and reduce its carbon emissions.

Display Energy Certificates

Public Bodies in Ireland are obligated under the European Union (Energy Performance of Buildings) Regulations 2012 (S.I. 243 of 2012) to Display Energy Certificates in large public buildings.

The Council has renewed Display Energy Certificates for 11 public buildings and new certificates have been put up in the foyer of each building.

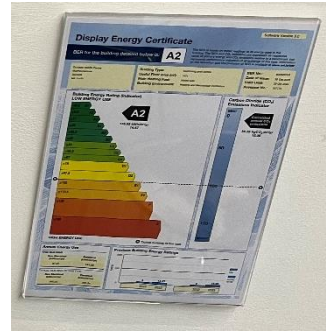


Photo shows the Display Energy Certificate in place at Muirhevnamor Sports centre

Energy Awareness Morning

The Council's Energy Office with OPW's consultant held an energy Awareness morning for staff at County Hall on December 4th. This informed staff how to get the most efficient use from our home and work heating controls.



Poster circulated to all staff

Government of Ireland's Reduce Your Use Campaign

Reduce your Use is a joint initiative of SEAI and the Office of Public Works which supports public bodies to run a winter energy awareness campaign for staff and to undertake recommended actions on heating, lighting, operating hours and audits/O&M checks.

The Public Sector has been challenged to take a leading role in reducing our nation's energy demand, and it is expected that this campaign can deliver 5-10% energy savings overall across the sector, and up to 15% in buildings.

During the term of the current campaign in Winter 2023 – Spring 2024, Louth County Council’s Energy Team will promote regular energy saving actions for all council employees to take at work.



Initiatives over the last few months have included: Halloween shutdown, ‘Energy Vampires’ and awareness around clocks changing. In addition, the ‘Energy Exercise of the week’ themes featured were: ‘Find the Sweet Spot’ – the heat setting that works for you; ‘Cardigan Culture’, exploring the benefits of adding layers to keep warm and ‘Heating System Health Checks – keeping your boiler and radiator system in good working order’, with a link to a blog post highlighting ‘ten things you should never do with your electric heater,’ and a boiler pressure guide and video on how to bleed radiators

Optimising Power@ Work Campaign

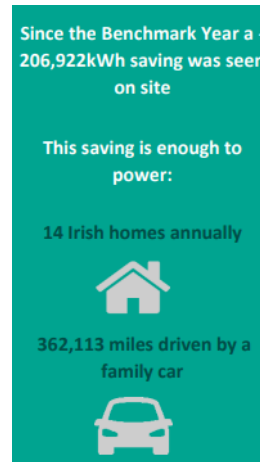
Significant Energy Savings continue to be made in Council buildings. The two largest energy user buildings County Hall and Dundalk Town Hall participate in the Office of Public Work’s (OPW’s) Optimising Power @Work Programme. Council staff meet monthly with OPW’s consultants Aramark to review energy reports for both buildings and discuss potential new energy saving measures, and plan and develop staff energy awareness days.



Energy Team Monthly Meeting with staff from OPW

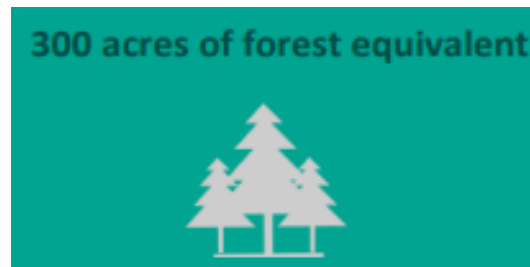
County Hall Energy Savings

Energy consumption in this building has reduced by 30% since joining the Optimising Power @ Work campaign in 2016, whilst CO2 Emissions are 26% lower (i.e. saving of 3 tonnes of CO2).



Town Hall Savings

Energy consumption in this building has reduced by 40% since joining the Optimising Power @ Work campaign in 2014, whilst CO2 Emissions are 34% lower (05 Tonnes).



Graphic shows forest equivalent of energy saving at Dundalk Town Hall.

Louth County Council Office at Fair Street Drogheda – Renovation of the ‘Cuploa’

Work to restore the ‘cupola’ at the roof of the Council’s office at Fair Street Drogheda is at an advanced stage. The work is expected to be completed in January 2024.



Progress to renovate the cupola at the Council Office, Fair Street, Drogheda.

The Fair Street building was designed and built as a corn exchange (as was Dundalk Town Hall). The weathervane incorporates various shapes reflecting this original function. At the top of the weathervane is the star and crescent - Crest of Drogheda, on top of a wheat sheaf, which stands on a plough. To one side of the wheat sheaf are, from the top, a sickle (for harvesting corn), a shovel, a spade, a hay fork and what is probably a corn flail.

The National Inventory of Architectural Heritage rates the building as being of national significance and describes it as a 'Detached multiple-bay single- and two-story stone former market, dated 1796, court house addition c. 1850, now in use as offices.... The corn market served as the town's market place and was later altered by the insertion of the courthouse in the mid-nineteenth century. The Corporation moved to the corn market in 1899'.

Veterinary Services

Food Safety Authority of Ireland (FSAI)

As of the 31st December 2023, Louth County Council Veterinary Section, under a Service Level Agreement with the FSAI, enforces food safety standards on one abattoir and fourteen meat processing plants under its supervision in the County, including one new food business near Ardee. Louth County Council has carried out ninety-nine inspections in the year to date.

An unapproved meat processing business was operating from a premises in Blackrock, Co Louth, and was ordered to close with immediate effect by an authorised officer of Louth County Council under the FSAI Act, 1998.

Control of Dogs

Control of Dogs Act 1986

Dogs impounded December 2023

Total dogs through the pound	29
Seized under Section 16	0
Strays	14
Surrendered by owners	15
No dogs reclaimed by owners	4
No of dogs rehomed direct	4
No of dogs rehomed to welfare groups	11
No of dogs on hand in Pound at 31/12/2023	7

Dog Licences December 2023

No of Licences sold	317
Licence Checks:	
House calls	159
Section 16 Notices issued (request to produce licence within 10 days)	40
Fixed Penalty Notices	11

Control of Horses

Control of Horses Act 1996
Control of Horses Bye-Laws 2003

Horses impounded December 2023	
Horses seized, and reason for seizure:	0
Horses reclaimed by owner	0
Horses rehomed	1
Horses disposed of	1
No of horses on hand in Pound on 31/12/2023	0

Dog Breeding Establishments (DBEs)

Dog Breeding Establishments Act 2010

Dog Breeding Establishments December 2023	
Total no of registered DBE's in Louth (as at 31/12/2023)	6
Hunt	1
Boarding Kennels	2
Training Kennels	1
Welfare	2

There were 967 Sugar CRM cases assigned to Veterinary Services during December 2023.



6 eight-week-old Pitbull x Saint Bernard puppies were surrendered to the Pound as an "Ooops!" Litter. The puppies were vaccinated, microchipped, and wormed before being transferred into the care of a Louth based animal charity. The owner of the mother dog was given a Dog's Trust neutering voucher to prevent any future unplanned pregnancies.

Social Development Forbairt Shóisialta

This Directorate has two key responsibilities:

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

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

Tá dhá eochairfhreagracht ag an Stiúrthóireacht seo:

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

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

**Ger Murphy
Director of Service / Stiúrthóir**



Housing

Addressing Homelessness

As the Responsible Housing Authority for the North East Region, Louth County Council continues to manage this area and achieve the goals set out in the North East Homelessness Strategy 2021-2024. The following work done within County Louth in the period 20th November – 19th December 2023 can be summarised as follows:

Table 1: Actions by Homeless Services

20 th November – 19 December 2023	Ardee MD	Dundalk MD	Drogheda MD	Total
Offered advice, support (including fast tracking H.A. for Rent Supplement eligibility)	9	142	59	210
Placed in Temporary Emergency Accommodation	0	28	13	41
Refused Offer of Temporary Emergency Accommodation	0	1	0	1
Not eligible from outside county or non HRC	0	1	0	1
Total number of Person who presented as Homeless	9	172	72	253

Tables 2 - 4 below reflect details of the adults who were in emergency accommodation in County Louth on 19th December 2023. Also included at Table 5 is the breakdown of families in emergency accommodation at that date.

Table 2: Gender

Gender	Total
Male	92
Female	88
Total	180

Table 3: Age Groups

Age Group	Total
18-24	34
25-44	90
45-64	47
65+	9
Total	180

Table 4: Accommodation Type

Accommodation Type	Total
Private Emergency Accommodation (PEA)	96
Supported Temporary Accommodation (STA)	84
Total unique individuals	180

Table 5 - Families with dependent children

	No. of families with dependent children	No. of Individual Adults	No. of Dependents
Individuals with dependent children	28	38	36
Total	28	38	36
Couples with dependent children	16	37	49
Total	16	37	49

Table 6 - Housing First

Number of tenancies established.	42
Number of individuals currently in tenancy	34

Housing Allocations to 19th December 2023

District	LA	LA Refusal	AHB	AHB Refusal
Ardee	49	7	13	3
Drogheda	90	18	52	23
Dundalk	123	13	75	13
Total	262	38	140	39

Transfers

District	Number
Ardee	7
Dundalk	12
Drogheda	6
Total	25

Housing List

December 2023	Ardee	Drogheda	Dundalk	Total
Housing List	395	634	1024	2053
HAP Transfer List	303	1140	1640	3083
Total Housing List	698	1774	2664	5136

There are 290 applications on the transfer list (Non-HAP) within Social Housing including 49 applications from the Approved Housing Bodies.

Housing Assistance Payment

The total number of applications in HAP is **3,083**

Ardee Municipal District	Drogheda Borough District	Dundalk Municipal District	Total
303	1140	1640	3083

Rent Management

The total number currently paying rent by Household Budget is **922**.

Current Rents Arrears as at 19 th December 2023	No of Accounts	Value
Rents between 4-6 weeks old	201	€77,701
Rents between 7-12 weeks old	145	€109,312
Rents greater than 12 weeks old	903	€3,018,206
TOTAL	1249	€3,205,219

Rent arrears are monitored on an ongoing basis and letters are issued to customers within two weeks of their falling into arrears. Failure to address these arrears will result in a second letter being issued and if necessary, a third and final reminder. Failure to respond at that point will result in the escalation to a Tenancy Warning under the Housing Act, 2014. The

following correspondence issued in December 2023:

Letter Type	Month/Year	Number Issued
1st Reminder	December 2023	51
2 nd Reminder	December 2023	15
Final Reminder	December 2023	4
Total issued		70

Customers that fall into arrears may enter a payment plan for full repayment over an agreed period. **42** new payment plans commenced in December 2023 (up to and including 19th December).

Vacant Properties

Vacant Properties on 18 th December 2023	Total
Ardee Municipal District	5
Dundalk Municipal District	10
Drogheda Municipal Borough District	11
Subtotal (re-lets) Vacant Properties	26
CPO units not yet ready for occupation (All County)	3
Total Number of Properties (Relets & CPO)	29

Note: Currently 12 social units being used as temporary accommodation for homeless or emergency, and are not included in the above figures.

Maintenance Calls

Maintenance	29 th November – 18 th December 2023	Total (YTD)
No. of Maintenance Requests Received	485	6,888
No. of Maintenance Requests Completed	420	5,408
No. of Maintenance Requests in Progress	26	N/A
No. of Maintenance Requests Refused	39	384

Energy Efficiency Retrofit Programme

The 2023 Energy Efficiency Retrofitting programme has completed upgrades and improvements to 205 Council Houses across the county. The project has improved the fabric of the houses, provided upgraded heating systems, and provided the tenants with an increased level of comfort. All properties achieved a minimum of a B2 Energy rating, and the project has a combined post works energy saving of 44,850kWh/m²/yr and carbon savings equivalent of 10,332 KgCO₂/m²/yr. In accordance with the conditions of the funding, a blend of houses was selected, which means a balance between properties that need a full scope of work and others that require a shallower retrofit. The scope of works included a combination of installation of heat pumps, composite doors, triple glazing, attic insulation top-ups, and cavity wall insulation or external wall insulation. The program has been generally positively received by the tenants. In summary, the breakdown of units completed is as follows:

Municipal District	Number of Completed Units
Ardee MD Castlevew, Tallanstown St Marys, Kilsaran St Kevins, Philipstown Gort Nua, Castlebellingham Ferdia Park, Ardee	59
Dundalk MD Shamrock Grove, Dunleer Dublin Road, Dundalk	73

Clooneevan Cloch Mor & Gentili, Omeath Meadow Grove, Dundalk Muirhevnamor, Dundalk	
Drogheda BD Scarlet Crescent St Laurence's Park & Drive Hawthorn Close Trinity Street Rathmullan, Moneymore Ascal Brugha Tredagh View	73



Energy Retrofit Program, Muirhevnamór – pre-works



Energy Retrofit Program, Muirhevnamór – post-works

Private Rental Inspections

	29 th November – 18 th December	Year to Date
Properties inspected monthly	60	567
Advisory Letters issued	45	307
Improvement Notices issued	0	47
Private Inspections	0	7
HAP Inspections	47	394
RAS Inspections	0	0
AHB Inspections	0	25
Private Re-Inspections	0	0
HAP Re-Inspections	10	97
RAS Re-Inspections	0	8
AHB Re-Inspections	1	21
Inspections from Complaints	2	16
Virtual Re-Inspections	0	0
Properties made Compliant	0	93

Tenancy Engagement

1 st December to 20 th December	Drogheda	Ardee	Dundalk	Monthly Total	Yearly Total
No. Tenants who attended Pre-tenancy training	10	0	9	19	262
Post-tenancy inspections	3	3	13	19	258
Tenancy Investigation Visits	14	2	22	38	444

Tenancy Investigations Remote	0	1	3	4	80
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Anti-Social Behaviour

1 st December 2023 to 20 th December, 2023	Drogheda	Ardee	Dundalk	Monthly	Yearly
ASB Cases* Received	3	0	1	4	196
ASB cases Ongoing	3	0	3	6	-
ASB cases complete	5	5	8	18	193

Case = a unique incident of anti-social behavior, not the number of complaint forms received

Notifications Issued for Tenancy Breaches

1 st December to 20 th December	Drogheda	Ardee	Dundalk	Monthly	Yearly
Verbal Warnings	0	2	1	3	69
Written Warnings	0	0	0	0	19
Tenancy Notifications	0	0	0	0	10
Tenancy Warnings Housing Act, 2014	0	0	0	0	5

Repair and Lease

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

Units	Address	Beds	Notes
1	Dundalk	2	Finished & inspected
1	Dundalk	2	Finished & inspected
1	Dundalk	2	Under negotiation for works
6	Castlebellingham	2	Pre planning

Affordable Housing

The Council received approval from the Department of Housing for an Affordable Housing Scheme in Blackrock. The 10 properties will be ready in late January 2024. The details will be advertised in the next few weeks on local radio, social media and print media. Other discussions are ongoing with other developers for Affordable units in Dundalk and Drogheda.

Mortgage to Rent December Report

Active MTR Applications Total	31
AHB MTR Applications Active	14
AHB MTR completed 2023	01
Private MTR Applications Active	14
Private MTR completed 2023	18
MTR Application Awaiting Purchaser	03

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

Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant

Applications Submitted:	123
Approved:	49
Rejected:	6
Withdrawn	8
Funding Issued to Applicant	1

Rental Applications	31
Principal Private Residence	92

The Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant, funded by the Croí Cónaithe (Towns) Fund was launched on 14 July 2022. To increase the number of vacant and derelict properties being brought back into use, the Grant is being further expanded from 1 May 2023.

When the Grant was launched it was made available to eligible vacant properties in towns and villages. Following a review, a decision has been made to expand availability of the Grant nationwide to eligible vacant properties in cities, towns, villages and rural parts of the country. The Grant has been expanded from 1st May 2023 to include:

1. The inclusion of one property which will be made available for rent, by the owner, in addition to one grant for a property which will be the principal private residence of the owner i.e. a maximum of two grants will be available to an individual, with only one grant available for a property to be rented;
2. Changing the property eligibility date, which is currently pre-1993 for the build date, to include vacant and derelict properties built up to and including 2007; and
3. Increasing the current maximum grant rates from €30,000 to €50,000 for vacant properties and from €50,000 to €70,000 for derelict properties.

Acquisitions

The Council is actively working with tenants and landlords in relation to the tenant in situ scheme where tenants have been given a notice to quit, some of whom may be in receipt of HAP. The Council is purchasing properties for applicants who are homeless and or have a disability. In December, The Council purchased 12 properties.



Recently acquired properties in Drogheda and Dundalk.

Local Authority Home Loans

2023 Budget Allocation	€8,030,000
LAHL Approvals at 19/12/2023	€5,545,456
Breakdown of LAHL applications processed at the 19th December, 2023	
Total Number of Applications at 19/12/2023	74
LAHL carried over from 2022	5
Invalid/Returned	12
Approved	32
Declined	29
For Review	0
Outstanding – waiting on further information	6

Grant Assistance to the Elderly and Disabled

The Grants scheme re-opened for acceptance of grant applications in October 2023. The new application process enables a speedier examination of applications and subject to funding, an earlier offer of a grant.



Bathroom Adaptation completed in December in Ardee, Part-funded with a Housing Grant for Disabled Persons



Bathroom Adaptation completed in Dundalk/Carlingford, part-funded with a Housing Grant for Disabled Persons

Status	HAG	MAG	HOP	Month	YTD
Total Grants Approved 2023	159	27	117	-	303
Applications C/F from 2023	157	20	296	-	473
Grants Approved 01/12/2023 to 20/12/2023	4	1	16	21	303

Capital Housing Delivery

SHIP Delivery

Project Name	Project Phase	Total Number of Social Units Expected	Project Status	Projected Substantial Completion Date	Unit Type
Muirhevnámór, Dundalk Phase 1	1/1	11	On Site	31/10/2024	3 * 2 bed & 8 * 3 bed
Boice Court (Phase 2)	1/1	72	On Site	19/02/2025	27 * 3 bed, 4 * 4 bed, 8 * 1 bed Apt, 25 * 2 bed Apt & 8 * 3 bed Apt
Mount Avenue, Dundalk	1/1	93	On Site	31/05/2025	29 * 2 bed, 23 * 3 bed, 9 * 4 bed, 10 * 1 bed Apt, 6 * 2 bed Apt, 16 * 3 bed Apt
Rathmullen Park, Drogheda Infill	1/1	6	Stage 2 Approved	30/01/2026	2 * 2 bed Apt, 2 * 2 bed, 2 * 3 bed
Point Road, Dundalk	1/1	49	SHIP Accl Delivery, MMC – Stage 1 Approved	31/12/2026	To be confirmed
Dunleer (Ravel Grange)	1/1	72	SHIP Accl Delivery, MMC – Stage 1 Approved	31/12/2026	To be confirmed
Ballymakenny Road, Drogheda - West	1/1	105	SHIP Accl Delivery, MMC – Stage 1 Approved	31/12/2026	To be confirmed
Mullavalley, Louth Village	1/1	43	SHIP Accl Delivery, MMC – Stage 1 Approved	31/12/2026	To be confirmed
Greenhills, Drogheda	1/1	20	SHIP Accl Delivery, MMC – Stage 1 Approved	31/12/2026	To be confirmed

Ellwood Ballymakenny Road, Drogheda	2/6	10	Completed	31/12/2023	10 * 2 bed
Ellwood Ballymakenny Road, Drogheda	3/6	6	Completed	31/12/2023	3 * 2 bed Apt, 3 * 3 bed Apt.
Ellwood Ballymakenny Road, Drogheda	4/6	6	Completed	31/12/2023	3 * 2 bed Apt, 3 * 3 bed Apt.
Ellwood Ballymakenny Road, Drogheda	5/6	6	Completed	31/12/2023	3 * 2 bed Apt, 3 * 3 bed Apt.
Ellwood Ballymakenny Road, Drogheda	6/6	7	Completed	31/12/2023	3 * 2 bed Apt, 3 * 3 bed Apt, 1 * 2 bed
Gort Uaine, Clogherhead - Infill	1/1	1	On-site	31/03/2024	1 * 4 bed
School Lane, Dunleer - Infill	1/1	1	On-site	31/03/2024	1 * 3 bed
Moneymore, Drogheda - Infill	1/1	1	Funding Approved Single Stage	31/12/2024	1 * 3 bed
Doire Beag, Collon, Co. Louth - Infill	1/1	6	Completed	01/08/2023	6 * 3 bed
Ballymakenny Road - East Site, Drogheda	1/1	100	PPP Bundle 5 Funding Approved	30/06/2026	To be confirmed
San Giovanni, Clogherhead	1/1	12	Funding Approved	31/12/2024	12 * 3 bed
Clos Emer, Saltown, Dundalk	1/1	8	On-site	31/12/2023	16 * 2 bed
Medebawn Close, Avenue Road, Dundalk	1/1	4	On-site	31/12/2023	2 * 2 bed Apt, 2 * 1 bed Apt.
Knockshee, Old Golf Links Road, Blackrock, Dundalk	1/1	12	On-site	31/03/2024	12 * 2 bed Apt.

Newtown Wood, Drogheda	2/5	1	Completed	31/03/2023	1 * 2 bed
Newtown Wood, Drogheda	3/5	1	Completed	30/09/2023	1 * 3 bed
Newtown Wood, Drogheda	4/5	8	Completed	31/12/2023	3 * 3 bed, 5 * 2 bed
Newtown Wood, Drogheda	5/5	5	On-site	31/03/2024	1 * 3 bed, 4 * 2 bed
Cardee, Dublin Road, Dundalk	1/1	1	Completed	23/05/2023	1 * 4 bed
Ferrard Park, The Twenties, Drogheda	1/4	7	On-site	31/03/2024	2 * 3 bed, 5 * 2 bed
Ferrard Park, The Twenties, Drogheda	2/4	7	On-site	30/06/2024	2 * 3 bed, 5 * 2 bed
Ferrard Park, The Twenties, Drogheda	3/4	7	On-site	30/09/2024	2 * 3 bed, 5 * 2 bed
Ferrard Park, The Twenties, Drogheda	4/4	7	On-site	31/12/2024	2 * 3 bed, 5 * 2 bed
Quarry Court, John St. / Stoneylane, Ardee	1/1	20	On-site	31/12/2024	11 * 3 bed, 3 * 3 bed Apt, 6 * 2 bed Apt.

CAS DELIVERY

Project Name	AHB	Total Number of Social Units Expected	Project Status	Projected Substantial Completion Date	Unit Type
Coulter Park, Dundalk,	Tuath	10	Stage 3 Approved	03/09/2024	Five * 2 Bed house, One * 2 Bed ambulant unit, One * 4 Bed Communal unit
Barrack Street, Dundalk, Co Louth	Dublin Simon	30	Stage 2 Approved	15/01/2025	Nineteen * 1 Bed apartments Three * accessible units Eight * Studio apartments
St John's Home, Peters Street, Drogheda	North & East	4	Stage 3 Approved	30/03/2025	Four * 1 Bed units

Highfield, Newry Road, Dundalk, Co Louth	Women's Aid Dundalk	12	Stage 1 approved	02/03/2025	Five * 1 bed apartments Seven * 2 bed apartments
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CALF DELIVERY

Project Name	Project Phase	Total Number of Social Units Expected	Non Part V/ Part V	Project Status	Projected Substantial Completion Date	Unit Type
Tierney Street, Ardee Circle Housing	1/2	5		On site	30/11/2023 Delivered 13/12/2023	2 Two bed Bungalow, 1 Three bed Bungalow, 2 Three bed semi detached
Tierney Street, Ardee Circle Housing	2/2	6		On site	30/11/2023 Delivered 13/12/2023	2 Three bed Bungalow, 1 Three bed semi detached 3 Two bed terraced houses
Newfoundwell Road, Drogheda Cluid Housing	2/2	39		Delivered	30/06/2023 DELIVERED 15/06/2023	12 One bed apt, 27 Two bed apt
Newtown View, Marsh Road, Drogheda Respond Housing	1/3	40	36/4	On site	20/12/2023	1 Three bed detached, 10 Two bed terraced, 14 Three bed semi detached, 15 Three bed terraced
Newtown View, Marsh Road, Drogheda Respond Housing	2/3	46	43/3	On site	30/03/2024	13 Two bed terraced, 18 Three bed semi detached 15 Three bed terraced
Newtown View, Marsh Road, Drogheda Respond Housing	3/3	47	41/6	On site	30/03/2024	2 Four bed detached, 11 Two bed terraced,

						1 Three bed detached, 22 Three bed semi detached 11 Three bed terraced
Tullybrook, Drogheda Cluid Housing	1/1	85	69/16	On site	19/12/2023	8 Two bed apt 7 Two bed duplex, 24 Three bed duplex, 22 Three bed terraced, 22 Two bed terraced 2 Four bed terraced
Racecourse Meadows, Dundalk Tuath	4/4	12		On Site	01/03/2024	12 three bed houses
Dublin Road, Dundalk Respond Housing	1/2	49	43/6	On site	31/12/2023	18 One bed apt, 7 Three 3 bed duplex, 5 Three bed terraced, 5 Two bed apt 14 Two bed duplex
Duiche Roden, Dundalk Cluid Housing	2/6	14		Delivered	21/04/2023 DELIVERED 15/06/2023	6 One bed apt, 8 Two bed apt, 6 Two bed terraced 4 three bed terraced
Donore Road Drogheda Cluid Housing	1/1	66	59/7	On site	31/12/2023	4 One bed apt, 54 Two bed apt 8 Three bed apt
Duiche Roden, Dundalk Cluid Housing	3/6 4/6 5/6 6/6	8 10 42 12		Delivered Delivered On-site On-site	Delivered Delivered 20/12/2023 28/01/2024	30 one bed apt, 11 Two bed apt 18 Three bed duplex 6 Two bed terraced 4 Three bed terraced
Drybridge, Drogheda North & East Housing	1/1	16		On site	20/11/2023 Delivered 06/12/2023	2 Three bed apt, 10 Two bed apt 4 One bed apt

Dublin Road, Dundalk Respond Housing	2/2	16		On site	31/03/2024	9 One bed apt, 2 Three bed apt, 1 Two bed duplex 4 One bed semi detached
Connolly's Field Dundalk Fold Housing	1/2	30	19/11	On site	29/03/2025	20 One bed apt 10 Two bed apt
Connolly's Field Dundalk Fold Housing	2/2	40		On Site	17/05/2025	31 One bed apt 9 Two bed apt
An Caislean, Flaxmill Lane, Yellowbatter Drogheda North & East	1/1	17	14/3	On site	30/04/2024	7 One bed apt 7 Two bed apt 3 Three bed apt
Friary Place, Mill Lane Drogheda Tuath	1/1	49	44/5	On-Site	19/07/2024	27 One bed apts 22 Two bed apts

Cultural Services

Archives



Archives Entrance Gate Sign

National Retention Policy Records Management Working Group

The Co Archivist is assisting with the draft records retention schedule revisions for Community, Library, and Legal Services which are currently in progress and is working with staff in relation to same. The IT revised retention schedule was the last one to be approved and issued out. To date, revised records retention schedules for Health & Safety, Planning & Development, Housing, Procurement, Finance, HR, Water, Transport and Infrastructure, Corporate, Environment and Enterprise & Economic Development have been completed, approved and issued out to local authorities.

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

History Ireland

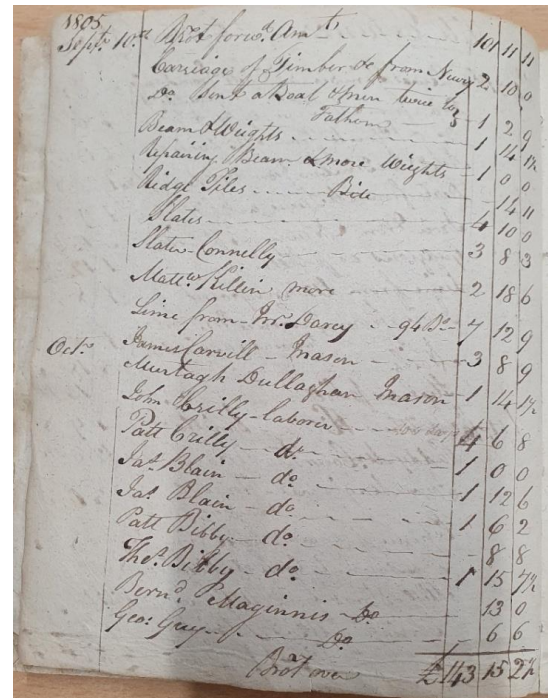
The Nov/Dec 2023 issue of the Local Archives series in the magazine History Ireland featured an article on cinema licence registers written by Archivist Lorraine McCann.

Catalogue Upgrade

The service's cataloguing software is due to be upgraded at the end of 2023 as the current system is now end of life. It will be upgraded to a modern system with enhanced features and improved speed. It will be hosted on the Cloud. Preparation work for the upgrade is ongoing.

Donating Archives

The Service welcomes donations of archives and records from the public that relate to all aspects of the development of County Louth including material from community groups, clubs and societies, national schools, individuals, local organizations and local businesses. These collections make available unique and valuable research sources for the study of Louth's heritage. If you have a collection that you would be willing to donate, or know of someone who would, please contact the County Archivist by email at archive@louthcoco.ie or by telephone at 042-9324358.



Recent Acquisition: page from Omeath Mill book detailing names of masons and labourers, 1805

Research Enquiries

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

Climate Action

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

Installation of a glazed partition in the lobby area of the building is currently taking place. This will assist in controlling environmental conditions and streamlining energy use in the building. They are receiving funding support from the SEAI scheme.

Libraries

eServices



The wide range of services include:

- Borrow Box for free eBooks & eAudiobooks, Press Reader offers for newspapers & Libby for magazines.

- Transparent Language Online with over 100 languages to choose from.
- Universal Class for various courses.

eServices information sessions are held every month in:

Dundalk library on the last Friday of every month from 11am - 12pm,

Drogheda Library on the last Thursday of every month from 2.30pm-3.30pm

Ardee Library on the last Friday of every month 10.30am-11.30am

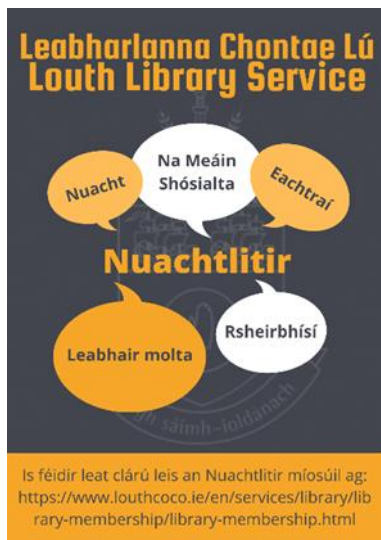
For more information on the above please email Libraryhelpdesk@louthcoco.ie or the library website <https://www.louthcoco.ie/en/services/library/online-services/>

Irish Newspaper Archives



Louth researchers can now access historical Irish newspapers from 1738 to the present day on public PCs in library branches through the Irish-based Irish Newspaper Archives gateway. The archives consist of over 6 million pages of newspaper content from titles across the island of Ireland including local papers such as The Dundalk Democrat, The Drogheda Independent as well as other national and provincial papers. Through the newspaper obituaries Irish genealogists can search, retrieve and view births, deaths and marriage records from 285 year's worth of Irish newspaper.

Library Newsletter



The Family Time at your Library events aim to support a family-focused approach to reading with children as part of the national Right to Read programme and to increase awareness of the benefits of reading and promote reading as a fun, recreational activity for children. Lots of events took place over the month of December including.....

Sign up here to receive our monthly newsletter:
<https://www.louthcoco.ie/en/services/library/library-membership/louth-library-newsletter-emailing-list-registration.html>

Click here to read the current newsletter:
<https://www.louthcoco.ie/en/services/library/blog-and-newsletter/>



Healthy Ireland
at your Library

Mindful Colouring Group for Adults

This colouring group continues every Wednesday at 3pm in Dundalk Library. Colouring is a simple activity that has a myriad of benefits – relaxation, clarity, focus etc. No booking required.



Participant enjoying Storytime with Ted

Room For All

Dundalk Library celebrated Family Time At Your Library with an immersive sensory Storytime for babies and pre-walkers and Storytime and crafts for all ages.



Baby Hannah Enjoying Sensory Storytime



Storytime in Dundalk Library

Christmas Mosney Visit

Library staff visited Mosney in December, to deliver a Christmas Storytime and craft to all the children and their families.



Craft making at Mosney



Storytime in Drogheda Library

Circus Workshops

The circus visited Dundalk and Drogheda Library. Broken Theatre put on a fabulous performance of spinning plates and circus tricks.



Circus at Dundalk Library

Christmas Storytime

Drogheda and Dundalk Library welcomed everyone for a Christmas Storytime.

Christmas School Visit

Realt na Mara N.S. Junior Infants visited Dundalk Library for a special Christmas visit.

They made a lovely Christmas craft and got to listen to "One Snowy Night" by Nick Butterworth.



Junior Infants in Dundalk Library

Little Library at Bedtime



Children aged 4 and under, along with their parents were invited during 'Family Time at Your Library' in

December to visit their local library branch to collect a free Bedtime Book. Children were invited during their visit to join their local library, ensuring a lifetime access to books. 'Uinseann Donn' or 'One Snowy Night' are the free Bedtime book titles and children received a wallet to store their new library membership card. Parents and guardians were provided with a Bedtime Reading Tips guide with advice on reading to their child at bedtime.

The first 5 Little Book at Bedtime initiative is supported by the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Department of Rural and Community Development.

Louth County Council Decade of Centenaries Programme 2023



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

Local Context and Connection: An Exhibition

Dundalk library hosted the opening of Local Context and Connection: An Exhibition on 6th December. As commemorations for the Decade of Centenaries draw to a close, Louth Library Service has taken the opportunity to reflect on this turbulent and transformative time in Ireland's history. Nine topics were chosen, seeking to provide a representative view of the entirety of Louth at that time. The exhibition presents information on the ambush at Rockmarshall, the Dundalk Jail Break, the Boyne Obelisk, the Great War, the bombardment of Millmount, Cumann na mBan: Ardee Battalion, Coastguards, Courthouses, and Railways.

The exhibition will remain in Dundalk library until Friday 2nd February and is available to view during library opening times. Booking is not required, and everyone is welcome. The exhibition will travel to all Louth Library Service branches in the coming months.



Director of Services Ger Murphy with local historians and library staff.



Wreaths made by Mary Bell of Forever Flowers

Children's Events

Parent & Toddler Mornings

- Every Thursday 10am-12pm in Dundalk and Drogheda Libraries
- Every Wednesday 10.30am-12.30pm in Ardee Library

Baby Book Club

Explore the benefits of reading to your baby from an early age during Baby Book Club,

- The first Wednesday of each month in Dundalk Library
- The first Tuesday of each month in Drogheda Library.

Adult Events

Mary Bell from Forever Flowers visited Dundalk, Drogheda and Ardee libraries, to showcase a Christmas wreath making workshop.



Participants at the wreath making workshop in Dundalk Library

Christmas Poetry Recital

Drogheda Creative Writers & Just Write Group collaborated on a Christmas poetry recital and sang lots of Christmas songs.



Drogheda Creative Writers and Just Write Group

Christmas Quiz

The annual Christmas Quiz took place in Dundalk Library with lots of festive fun. Congratulations to our first-place winners and our runners up and to all who participated.



Quiz participants at Dundalk Library

The Science of Batik



Participants at Dundalk Library

Photo shows attendees at the Science Of Batik Workshops held recently in Dundalk Library facilitated by Helen Mortimer from Pebble Lane Art Studio as part of Louth Science Festival and funded by Creative Ireland. The finished works will be displayed in January 2024 in Dundalk Library.

Alzheimer's Café Christmas Party

The Alzheimer's Café Christmas Party took place on Tuesday 19th of December in Dundalk Library. Attendees had a lovely morning of Christmas song, cheer and festive fun. The next Alzheimer's Café takes place on Tuesday 16th of January at 11am. All are welcome to attend.



Local Singers at the Alzheimer's Café Christmas Party

Creative Writing Group

Would you like to be part of a Creative Writing group? Come along to our Creative Writers Group to meet fellow writers on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of every month from 2.30pm-4pm in Drogheda Library. New members welcome.

Age Action Computer Classes

Computer classes will continue in Dundalk and Drogheda Library. The course offers free one-to-one tuition for people over the age of 55 who have little or no computer experience. This programme will run through mid December and new classes will start in January 2024. To book email gettingstarted@ageaction.ie

Ardee Library 041 6859023

Ardee Library Conversational Irish

Conversational Irish for Beginners is held every Thursday morning at 10.30am- 12.30pm. Suitable for those with a cúpla focal. All welcome, children must be accompanied by an adult. Peer led learning- all you need is a desire to speak as gaeilge!

Ardee Library Language Conversation Exchange

Every Tuesday evening, 6pm. Always wanted to learn a new language or practice what spoken languages you already know? Ardee Library Conversation Exchange is the perfect place to do this. Peer led language learning through conversation- all languages welcome!

Ardee Library Board Games Club

Fancy honing your Chess skills? Maybe Draughts is more your thing? Why not give Scrabble a go? Attend the Ardee Library Board Game Club every Saturday afternoon at 2.15pm. Bring a friend or meet new people for a chat while playing your favourite board game.

Film Screenings at Ardee Library

Ardee Library continues to screen films every Tuesday afternoon at 2.15pm.

The Vere Foster Writers Group

The Vere Foster Writers Group meets every second Friday. This is a group for adults to share their writings with others and build confidence in their writing. New members are very welcome!

Arts

The arts office recently ran 3 information sessions on Arts and Creative Ireland funding streams. The sessions were held in Dundalk, Ardee and Drogheda libraries and over 50 people attended across the 3 evenings.



A presentation was given by Arts Officer and Creative Ireland Co-Ordinator Moya Rodgers on the different grant streams available in 2024. All applications opened on 11th December after the information sessions finished. They will remain open until 7th February 2024 @ 4p.m. An online version of the presentation given at the sessions is also available with the application forms [here](#). Any queries on the 2024 Arts Office grants can be emailed to arts@louthcoco.ie

Brigid1500

Louth County Council continues their preparations for the forthcoming Brigid1500 festival which launches on 26th of January. December saw the close of the Brigid1500 Community Grant Scheme with award recipients being notified before Christmas. A school resource pack has also been announced with colouring templates, an art competition and a poetry/short story competition being announced.



One of the colouring templates available on the School Resource Pack. Designed by artist Viola Wang.

Details of all the Brigid events and plans can be found [here](#)

Creative Ireland

Creative Ireland heads into the second year of its new 5-year initiative. The open call for the community and excellence grants was announced in December alongside the Arts Office grants and applications are still open until 7th February 2024 @ 4.p.m. Application forms can be found [here](#) along with an online version of the presentation given on the grants. Any questions on the Creative Ireland funding streamed can be emailed to creativeireland@louthcoco.ie

Creative Climate – The new Creative Climate project, the Louth Urban Food Sanctuary, continues its preparations for 2024. Its new website is now [here](#). Trial produce selected for growth will include

Ginger, Bok Choi, Ugu, Heritage Peas and Sweet Potato. For details of all produce and how to get in touch to take part you can go to the website. It also contains some videos on our key project team and a tutorial on seed saving and planting garlic. You can also email creativeireland@louthcoco.ie if you wish to find out more about the project. Planting for the season will begin at the end February and early March and details of all community planting events and workshops will be posted on the website.

Drogheda Classical Music Series

DCMS finished off 2023 in St Peter's Church of Ireland, Drogheda, with John Finucane, Jessie Grimes and Finghin Collins. This was a debut performance at DCMS for both Jessie and John and was a great success.

The remaining series continues from Jan 19th and details of all remaining concerts can be found [here](#)

Other news

The Arts Council will once again have a huge range of funding opportunities throughout the year in 2024. All details can be found on the Arts Council funding page [here](#)

Museum

Currently



It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas - the PJ Carroll Crib.

As is traditional at Christmas, the Museum has put on display the PJ Carroll crib which used to be on view in the company's Church Street premises. It is on display at the entrance to the Museum's industrial floor exhibition.



Wearing the green jersey - From Small Acorns at the County Museum, Dundalk

Exhibition

The exhibition From Small Acorns – the story of Women's Football in Ireland continues the Museum's mezzanine floor. The exhibition marks the 50th anniversary of the Stade de Reims Women's

football club tour of Ireland. Over the course of a fortnight in August 1973, the French side played several women's invitational sides throughout Ireland, including Dublin, Waterford, Limerick and Oriel Park. This tour played a significant role in establishing the women's game in Ireland with a strong contribution from Louth at both a playing and administrative level. The exhibition will run to mid-January.

Most recently

Christmas at the Museum



Dreaming of a White Christmas - Celebrating Christmas at the Museum

Over the course of the month of December the Museum has, on a daily basis, held its annual Christmas activities for the county's National School children. Whilst engaging in the activities the schools have also entertained their peers and staff alike with impromptu renditions of seasonal songs.

Old Dundalk Society Lecture

Historian and independent documentary film maker, Marcus Howard, presented a lecture entitled Liam MacCarthy & Sam Maguire - The Forgotten Sons of Ireland at the Museum in early December. The paper highlighted the lives of arguably two of the most famous names in Irish culture but two men about whom so little is known.

Recent acquisitions

Over the last month the Museum has continued to add to the diversity of items to the collection. Recent examples include:



A selection of children's toys and board games from the 1970s and 1980s.



A piece of trench art, fashioned from a WWI artillery shell.



A cross fashioned from a handrail from the Eucharistic Congress in 1932



A set of lady's leather gloves complete with wooden presentation box

Ukrainian Humanitarian Response Freagairt Dhaonnúil na hÚcráine

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

Is cruthú sealadach í an Stiúrtóireacht seo chun ceannaireacht a thabhairt ar an bhfreagairt ar Fhreagra Dhaonnúil na hÚcráine agus tá sí faoi stiúir ag an té atá sínithe thíos.

Yvonne O'Brien
Acting Director / Stiúrtóir Gníomhach



Ukrainian Humanitarian Response

Offer A Home Programme

Property Figures as at 04/01/2024

Property offers recorded to date	53
Owners successfully contacted	53
Properties allocated to date	31
Beneficiaries assigned to date	97
Assessments	44
Assessments currently underway	0
Properties assessed as suitable	32
Properties with minor works required	3
Properties withdrawn	10
Properties not viable	8

The Ukraine Response team continued to engage with many beneficiaries of temporary protection (BOTPs) to support queries through Sugar CRM and directly around accommodation and reunification.

Refurbishment Programme

Louth County Council facilitates the delivery of temporary accommodation for beneficiaries of temporary protection under the (DHLGH) led Refurbishment Programme.

Following refurbishment, The Department of Children, (DCEDIY) entered a contract with the provider to manage and operate the facility.

This work culminated in DCEDIY issuing 7 Letters of Intent (subject to contract) for premises in Louth to be used as accommodation for BOTPs. 1 contract for accommodation for BOTPs was issued by DCEDIY at a premises at Brook St, Dundalk.

Local Authority Integration Team

The role of the team is to compliment mainstream services by linking in with and coordinating integration supports for 4 refugee cohorts:

- Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection (BOTPs)
- International Protection Applicants
- Programme Refugees, and

- Those with Refugee, Subsidiary Protection, or Permission to Remain status.

During December, the team were busy introducing themselves to accommodation centre managers and many of the inter- agency and NGO representatives who work with the four cohorts of refugees to gain an understanding of the integration support environment and the immediate challenges facing individuals and families living in Louth. The team has started work to create a 'Directory of Services / Coordination Model' of local services in the county.