



Comhairle Contae **Lú**
Louth County Council

**Tuairisc Bhainistíochta Mhíosúil an
Príomhfheidhmeannach maidir le feidhmeanna a
rinneadh le linn an mhí roimhe sin / Chief Executive's
Monthly Management Report in relation to functions
performed in the preceding month**

**Dátaithe 7th Deireadh Fomhair 2024
Dated 7th October 2024**

Ullmhaithe faoi Alt 136 (2) den Acht Rialtais Áitiúil, 2001, agus Alt 51, an tAcht Rialtais Áitiúil (Athchóiriú), 2014 agus i gcomhlíonadh le Alt 138 den Acht Rialtais Áitiúil, 2001. /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,

Tuairisc Bhainistíochta Mhíosúil an Príomhfheidhmeannach – September 2024
Chief Executive's Monthly Management Report – Meán Fomhair 2024

A Chara,

I enclose the above report for your statutory consideration which will be placed on the October 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, advising you of the performance of executive functions in the last month and planned works.

This month NOAC published their annual report on the service indicators which are collated by each Local Authority. The key points of this Sectoral Report are worth noting: -

- The overall vacancy percentage of directly provided local authority stock is now at **2.81%** down from **3.03%** in 2022.
- **Average Re-letting Time** in 2023 was **33.72 weeks**, an improvement on 35.22 weeks in 2022.
- The number of **rented dwellings inspected** was **50,436**, a rise from 40,282 in 2022.
- **70,584** pollution complaints were made to local authorities in 2023.
- The total number of **library visits** in 2023 was **13,879,927**, with **16,219,445 items issued** to library members.
- **299,333.79** days were lost to certified sick leave by the local authority sector in 2023.
- **1,278** separate **websites** are being operated by the 31 local authorities.
- **Six** local authorities showed a **deficit on the Revenue Account** at the end of 2023.

Is mise le meas.



Joe McGuinness
Temporary Chief Executive

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Seirbhísí Tacaíochta Support Services

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, Techneolaíocht Faisnéise agus Chumarsáide

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, Information & Communication Technology

Bernie Woods
Stiúrthóir / Director



Tuairiscí Airgeadais / Financial Reports

Caiteachas go dtí 30^ú Meán Fomhair 2024 / Expenditure to 30th of September 2024

Rannóg / Section	Actual Expenditure to 30/09/2024 / Caiteachas Iarbhír go dtí 30/09/2024	Caiteachas Buiséadaithe 2024 / Budget Expenditure 2024	% Caite go 30/09/2024 / % Spent to 30/09/2024
Tithíocht / Housing	€43,866,235	€62,912,092	70%
Iompar Bóthair agus Sábháilteacht / Road Transportation & Safety	€16,956,044	€27,583,468	61%
Seirbhísí Uisce / Water Services	€5,075,786	€8,804,737	58%
Bainistíocht Forbartha / Development Management	€21,926,061	€27,259,532	80%
Seirbhísí Timpeallachta / Environmental Services	€15,273,387	€23,558,956	65%
Áineas agus Conláiste / Recreation and Amenity	€7,250,375	€11,234,063	65%
Talmhaíocht, Oideachas, Sláinte agus Leas / Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	€945,940	€1,491,272	63%
Ilghnéitheach / Miscellaneous	€5,657,967	€8,839,470	64%
	€116,951,795	€171,683,590	68%

Ioncam go dtí 30^ú Meán Fomhair 2024 / Income to 30th of September 2024

Rannóg / Section	Ioncam Iarbhír go dtí 30/09/2024 / Actual Income to 30/09/2024	Ioncam Buiséadaithe 2024 / Budget Income	% Sonraisc Curtha do dtí 30/09/2024 / % Invoiced to 30/09/2024
Tithíocht / Housing	€36,914,078	€64,380,831	57%
Iompar Bóthair agus Sábháilteacht / Road Transportation & Safety	€6,023,760	€16,558,010	36%
Seirbhísí Uisce / Water Services	€4,349,407	€8,131,617	53%
Bainistíocht Forbartha / Development Management	€14,995,187	€17,277,072	87%
Seirbhísí Timpeallachta / Environmental Services	€1,988,108	€4,348,102	46%
Áineas agus Conláiste / Recreation and Amenity	€888,893	€1,683,163	53%
Talmhaíocht, Oideachas, Sláinte agus Leas / Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	€404,102	€558,596	72%
Ilghnéitheach / Miscellaneous	€5,314,833	€11,372,937	47%
Rátaí / Rates	€34,696,490	€34,507,064	101%
Deontas Ilfheidhmeach / General Purpose Grant (LPT)	€9,471,831	€11,366,198	83%
Soláthar faoi Iarmhéid Dochair / Provision for Debit Balance	€0	€1,500,000	0%
	€115,046,690	€171,683,590	61%

The above is the current position as of the 30th of September 2024. 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 2024 is included in the above figure.

Collection rates as of 30th of September 2024 are as follows:

Féichiúnaithe mar atá 30^ú Meán Fomhair 2024 / Debtors as of 30th of September 2024

	Iarmhéid Tosaigh / Opening Balance	Sonraisc / Invoices	Fáltais / Receipts	Díscríobhanna / Write Offs	Iarmhéid Deiridh / Closing Balance
Féichiúnaithe Rialtais / Government Debtors	€28,733,539	€128,978,303	(€129,080,860)	(€0)	€28,630,982
Uadaráis Áitiúla Eile / Other Local Authorities	€93,780	€1,097,564	(€1,094,778)	(€8,220)	€88,346
Rataí / Rates	€5,352,580	€34,696,490	(€28,270,828)	(€1,365,035)	€10,413,207
Cíosanna / Rent	€2,913,161	€11,978,597	(€11,949,327)	€4,662	€2,947,093
Iasachtal / Loans	€297,248	€1,445,819	(€1,439,744)	(€0)	€303,323
Tobhaigh Forbartha / Development Levies	€10,756,762	€13,851,610	(€5,308,314)	(€5,556,622)	€13,743,436
Táilí Seirbhíse Dóiteáin / Fire Charges	€756,633	€475,409	(€363,605)	(€13,296)	€855,141
Ilghnéitheach / Miscellaneous	€2,345,328	€9,383,244	(€8,390,156)	(€40,466)	€3,297,950
Féichiúnaithe Iomlána / Total Debtors	€51,249,031	€201,907,036	(€185,897,612)	(€6,978,977)	€60,279,478

Above are the debtor balances as of 30th of September 2024. 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.

Budget 2025 Meeting

The date for the 2025 Draft Budget Meeting has been agreed for Monday the 18th of November 2024 directly following the normal monthly council meeting. The dates for the Municipal/Borough District meetings to consider the Draft Budgetary Plan have been agreed for Monday the 14th of October 2024 to be held before the normal monthly council meeting.

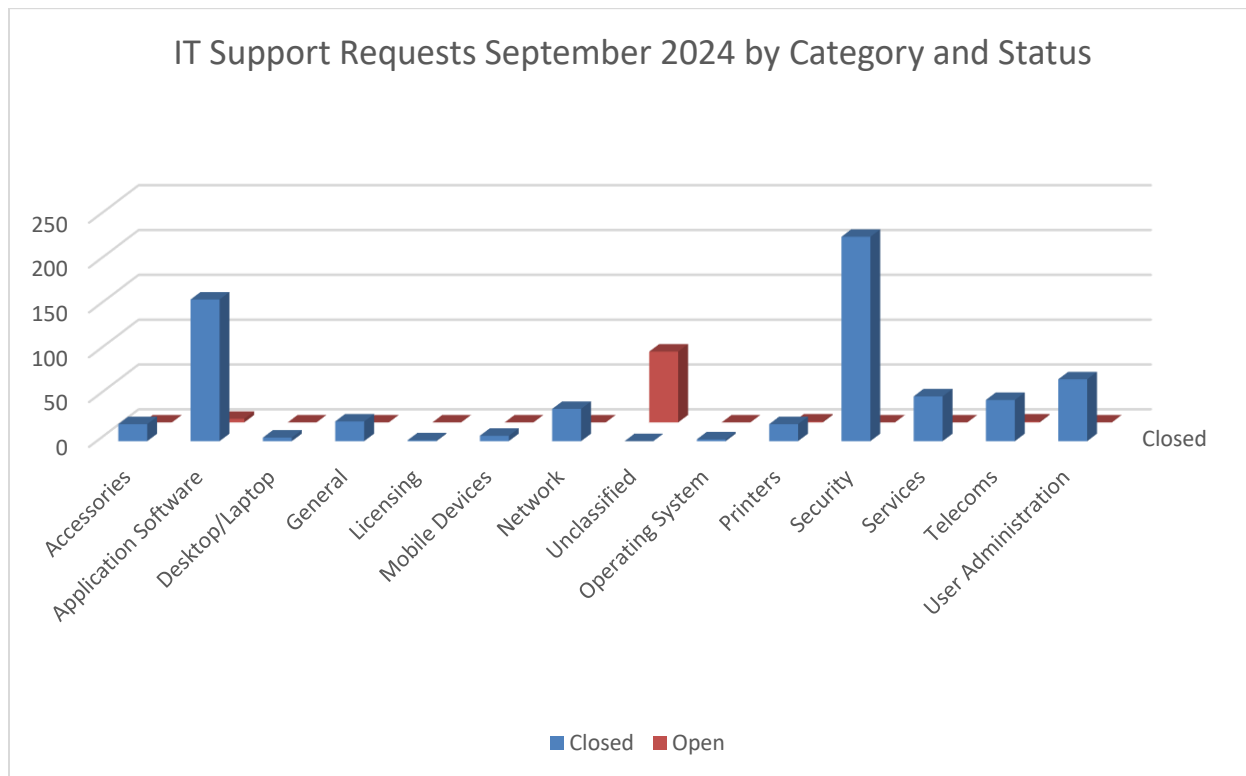
Local Property Tax 2025

A special meeting of the council will be held on Tuesday the 8th of October 2024 at 7.15pm to agree on whether to adjust the Local Property Tax rates for 2025

Technolaíocht Faisnéise agus Cumarsáide / Information & Communication Technology

Deasc Chabhrach / Helpdesk

Between 01/09/2024 and the 30/09/2024 there were 745 support calls logged in the IT support system. 89% of these calls have been completed.



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

Córas Idirscartha Ríomhphoist / 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 September 33% of inbound e-mails were identified as potentially harmful.



Inbound Emails

185,329



Blocked Sender

990



Blocked at gateway

20,214



Blocked by spam /virus

40,327



Blocked by content rules

475



Potentially harmful emails

33.46%

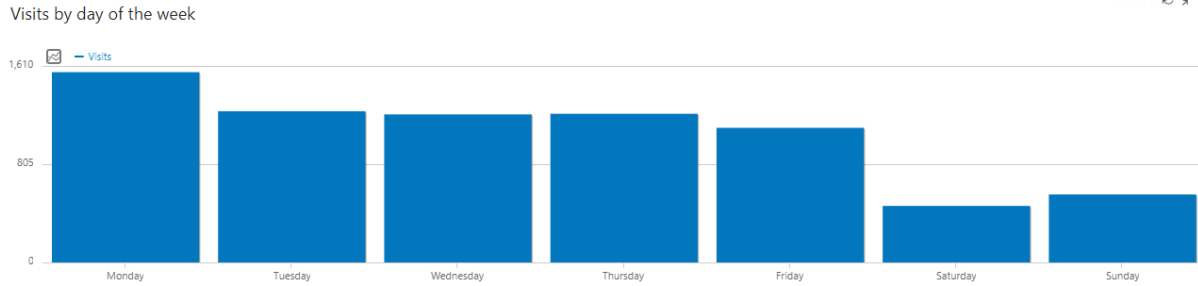
Suíomh Gréasáin Comhairle Chontae Lú / Louth County Council Website

There were 18,287 unique page views of www.louthcoco.ie in September.

The below table indicates the pages on the website with the highest number of Page Views in September.

Page URL	Pageviews
/en/	4,013
/en/louth_county_council/vacancies/	1,940
/en/services/planning/online-planning-and-maps/	819
/en/services/dog-pound/	1,014
/en/services/	656
/en/services/planning/	655
/en/services/library/	656
/en/home/	590
/en/louth_county_council/vacancies/expression-of-intere	593
/en/contact/louth-county-council/	433
/en/publications/development-plans/	358
/en/services/housina/	354

The Louth County Council received most visits on mid-weekdays during September. In August most visits to the LCC websites occurred on Thursdays. In September Mondays were the most popular.

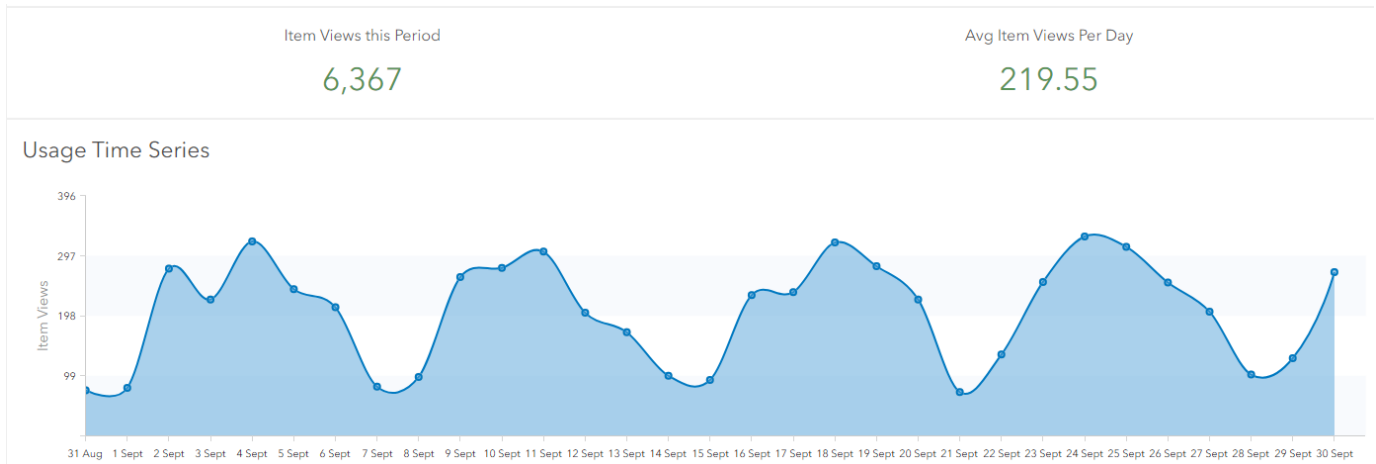


Fadhb Cuardaithe Gréasáin / Website Search Issue

The IT department continue to work on a resolution for the issue where invalid links are being listed when a search is undertaken on the LCC website. A number of links have been repaired to date, but work is still ongoing to identify and fix all invalid links.

ArcGis ar Líne – Amharcóir Pleanáil Phoiblí Léarscáil Cláir / Public Planning Register Map Viewer

The Council 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 6,367 views in September, an average of 220 views a day, up from 209 in August.



Forbairt Gheilleagrach Straitéiseach Strategic Economic Development

Tá trí eochairfhreagracht ag an Stiúrthóireacht 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

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.

**Thomas McEvoy
Stiúrthóir / Director of Service**



Forbairt Gheilleagrach / 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 develop the 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.

Louth Economic Forum

The Louth Economic Forum met on Wednesday 18th September 2024. A presentation was given by Fionnuala Rogers, Drogheda Digital Innovation Manager in relation to the continued progress on the Drogheda Digital Innovation Hub (DDIH).

Drogheda Business Improvement District (BIDS) 2025 – 2029

A plebiscite of the ratepayers was held to determine the level of support among ratepayers of rateable property within the proposed BID area for the proposal (received from the Drogheda Business Improvement District CLG) to extend the Business Improvement District (BID) Scheme, for a period of five years to 31st December 2029. The result of the said plebiscite is as follows:

Number of votes in favour of the proposal for a continuation of the Drogheda BID Scheme	425
Number of votes against the proposal for a continuation of the Drogheda BID Scheme	38

The proposed Business Improvement District Scheme will be considered by the members of the Council at the October Council meeting. If the scheme is approved by the members of the Council,

the extension of the Scheme will come into force on 1st January 2025.

Age Friendly Business

Following the Age Friendly Business workshops which took place in April, a number of businesses received their accreditation on the 2nd of September.



Holland & Barrett Dundalk receiving their Age Friendly Business Charter



Home Instead receiving their Age Friendly Business Charter

A further workshop took place on the 4th September. If any business is interested in availing of a future workshop, they can email econdev@louthcoco.ie.

Turasóireacht / Tourism

Festival Grants

Twenty-four applications were received under the 2024 'Festival Grant Initiative', twenty-three of which received offers of funding.

Ten applications were received under the 2024 Fáilte Ireland funded 'Regional Festivals and Participative Events' scheme, eight of which received offers of funding.

For information on all festivals and events happening across the county please visit: <https://www.visitlouth.ie/whats-on/>.

Visit Louth

As part of the 'Reimagined Boyne Valley Destination', Fáilte Ireland engaged a digital specialist to review the Council tourism websites in conjunction with the Tourism Section. This took place over an 18-month period. This is feeding into the forthcoming Tourism Strategy being led by the Tourism Officer.

Filming for an all-Ireland TV series 'Ireland from Above' has commenced. The show will feature six counties in Ireland and Louth will have a full episode. The show will feature Louth's history and scenery using drone footage and will be broadcast in the USA on PBS. It will be aired next Spring.

Tenders

The Council's Tourism Strategy and Action Plan 2025 - 2030 was published on the eTenders portal. The tenders received have been assessed and the Council is in the process of appointing a consultant to create a vision and strategy for tourism in County Louth.

Requests for Quotes for a new Visit Louth and sea louth website, and for PR and Digital Marketing were issued and the awardees have been notified and engagement meetings have commenced.

sea louth

A new memento, a sea louth beanie hat, is now available in all Tourist Offices in County Louth, when you present a completed sea louth passport. For

details on how to complete your passport please visit: <https://www.sealouth.ie/how-it-works>.

Urban Animation – Lú Festival of Light

Plans are underway for the 2024 Lú Festival of Light which will take place from 25th October to 3rd November. See www.lufestivaloflight.com for more information.

The 'Lú Festival of Light Window Decoration Scheme' is open for applications and will close at 12 noon on Wednesday 23rd October 2024. For full details of the scheme please visit: <https://www.louthcoco.ie/en/services/economic-development/lu-festival-of-light-window-decoration-scheme/>.

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 collaborating with the Council's Tourism Section and the other local authorities along the Táin Trail route.

Reimagined Boyne Valley Drive

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

Boyne Valley Flavours (BVF)

Boyne Valley Flavours are working through the Action Plan in the new Boyne Valley Food Development Strategy 2024 - 2028.

An independent review of the Discover Boyne Valley Flavours brand to ensure the brand and brand messaging is effective in how they engage with consumers, stakeholders and members of the network commenced in July, with the report due in October.

As part of the commitment to continue the delivery of an annual local food masterclass workshop for chefs across the Boyne Valley focused on available local produce, two workshops took place in September 2024, one online and one in Lismullin Cookery School, Navan.



Participants at Lismullin Cookery School event

The Centre of Food Culture, Boyne Valley

A proposed study trip proposal for the University of Gastronomic Sciences, Pollenzo, Italy to visit the Boyne Valley region has been developed.

- **Events**

The Centre of Food Culture, Boyne Valley held an Agroforestry Farm Walk at Rock Farm Slane on Sunday 1st September.

- **Samhain Festival**

Planning for Samhain Festival of Food and Culture (7th – 10th November) is well underway and the launch event took place in Kells on Wednesday 25th September.

- **Transition Year Young Cooks Competition**

Planning has commenced for the Transition Year Young Cooks Competition - The Centre of Food Culture is co-ordinating the expansion of this competition. Schools in the Boyne Valley have been contacted for expressions of interest.

Geilleagar Oíche Dhroichead Átha / Drogheda Night-Time Economy

Night Moves - Culture Night Late (20th September)

The Night-Time Economy Adviser for Drogheda partnered with Droichead Arts Centre to deliver an innovative programme aimed at attracting new audiences to Drogheda in the later hours (10.00pm - 12.30am). The event featured world-class opera and poetry in local cafés and restaurants, a pop-up art exhibition, late-night traditional music sessions, and a celebration of unused spaces. Early data indicates a 28% increase in footfall across the Night-Time Economy compared to the previous week, with activity spreading more evenly across different areas of the town.

Business Engagement for Lú Festival of Lights

Business engagement has begun for the Lú Festival of Lights, encouraging local businesses to stay open late, decorate their shopfronts, create special offerings, and express interest in market and vending opportunities. Businesses are also being asked to collaborate with the Council in promoting aligned events. In both 2022 and 2023, over 70,000 people visited Drogheda's Night-Time Economy during the festival, and the business community is encouraged to take full advantage and warmly welcome festival visitors. Engagement is being driven through face-to-face visits, social media, and newsprint promotions.

Busking Workshop – 8th September

In partnership with Maynestage Events and experienced busker Saibh Skelly, a Busking Workshop was held at the Marcy Hotel on 8th September. The workshop aimed to encourage organic busking and street performance, contributing to Drogheda's vibrancy while showcasing grassroots talent. Participants learned performance and crowd control techniques and had their first live outdoor performance. This initiative is part of ongoing efforts to energise the town and benefit residents, visitors, businesses, and emerging performers.

Support for Trad Music Festivals – September

The Night-Time Economy Adviser worked directly with two trad music festivals in September to bring

more evening and night-time activities to their programmes. The Seán Corcoran Series (6th – 8th September) this year broadened its programme to include more artistic / alternative experiences, while the Boyne TradFest (20th – 22nd September) leaned towards traditional sessions and building a local audience. Boyne TradFest was nicely aligned with the Culture Night Late programme, complementing the wide range of events that weekend and contributing to a vibrant Night-Time Economy across Drogheda.

Oifig Fiontair Áitiúil / Local Enterprise Office

LEO Business Supports

Updated information on the range of business supports available can be found at the following website: [Local Enterprise Office - Louth](https://www.localenterprise.ie/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 Business



The Green for Business programme is a free programme which aims to help businesses identify cost savings and improve their green credentials.

LEO Louth continues to welcome new applications

Business Training



During September, LEO held six training courses, two Start Your Own Business courses, Book-keeping for Startup and Small Business, eTenders and Tendering, Costing and Pricing fundamentals for small production businesses and Leveraging Chat GPT for business.

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

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.

Seven Trading Online Voucher applications have been received in September.

Business Advice Clinics

Forty-one business advice appointments were provided by telephone and video conference to entrepreneurs throughout the county during September.

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.

Twenty-six businesses were appointed Mentors during the month of September.

Microfinance Ireland (MFI) Business Loan



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

LEAN for Business Programme



LEO Louth continues to offer the LEAN Programme to small businesses locally. The fee to participate in this programme has been reduced to €150 for businesses.

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.

Digital Start

Digital for Business provides support to obtain digital strategy, technical and / or advisory services for eligible businesses. Entrepreneurs are assisted to develop a digital strategy that transforms their business and to implement a digital plan.

Energy Efficiency Grant



The Energy Efficiency Grant supports investment in technologies and equipment identified in a Green for Business Report, Green Start Report or a SEAI Energy Audit. The grant has been increased to 75% of eligible costs up to a maximum grant of €10,000.

Further information on this grant can be found here: <https://www.localenterprise.ie/Louth/Financial-Supports/Energy%20Efficiency%20Grant/>.

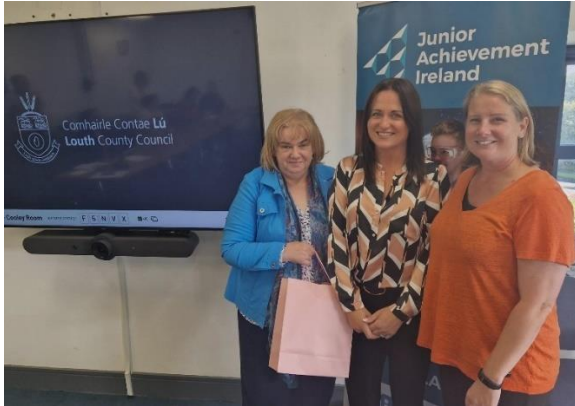
LEO Louth continues to welcome new applications.

Junior Achievement

Junior Achievement Ireland visited the Council offices on Thursday 5th September to host an information session on their work but also to recognise the invaluable contribution of the Council staff over the last year. The Council has been an advocate of the programme for over 20 years with staff going out to both primary and secondary schools in the county delivering different programmes on a wide range of topics to help inspire and motivate young people to realise their potential and to help support their education.



Staff receiving Certificates in recognition of their participation in the Junior Achievement Programme



Joan Martin, CE with Lisa McKittrick & Elaine O'Brien Lynch, Junior Achievement Ireland

Drogheda Digital Hub Launches Second Boyne Innovate Programme

The Drogheda Digital Hub has launched a second (2nd) Boyne Innovate Programme, a free pre-startup training initiative designed to empower aspiring digital entrepreneurs. Building on the momentum of the pilot programme, which concluded with a pitch event in June, the new programme kicks off on 1st October at The Mill Enterprise Centre in Drogheda.

Participants in the Boyne Innovate Programme will receive comprehensive training in areas such as strategic planning, financial management, marketing, and more. They will also have access to mentorship opportunities, industry experts, and networking events. The programme is designed to equip participants with the skills and knowledge needed to successfully launch and grow their digital ventures.

To learn more and register for the Boyne Innovate programme, please visit www.droghedadigitalhub.ie.

Visit to Dundalk By Estonian Ambassador Kair Kunka

On Thursday 19th September, Dundalk Chamber and LEO Louth hosted the Estonian Ambassador Kairi Kunka in the Town Hall. The visit was an opportunity to discuss trade links. These visits have been a huge success in helping local companies to create links with foreign companies.



Niamh Dennehy, LEO Louth, Estonian Ambassador Kairi Kunka and Hannah McDonnell, Marketing

Visit to Dundalk by Brazilian Counsellor to the Brazilian Embassy, George de Oliveira Marques

On Tuesday 17th September, the Counsellor to the Brazilian Embassy, George de Oliveira Marques, visited LEO Louth, marking an opportunity to strengthen ties between Brazil and local businesses in County Louth. The visit focused on exploring potential trade partnerships, investment opportunities, and collaborative initiatives that could benefit both Brazilian and Irish enterprises.



Hannah McDonnell, Marketing, George Marques, Counsellor of Brazil Embassy and Niall Gallagher, LEO Louth

Oidhreacht / Heritage

Walled Towns Day events funding

Following on from Louth's biggest ever celebration of Heritage Week, public celebratory events were held in September, in both Carlingford and Drogheda, with funding support from the Council's Heritage Office and from the Irish Walled Towns Network (IWTN), a programme of the Heritage Council. Walled Towns Day events, such as these, are held outside Heritage Week in order to avoid competing for the limited pool of performers and service providers.

The 'Drogheda Walled Town Collective' staged an 'Arts and Heritage Day' with events forming part of the 'Seán Corcoran Series' festival from Friday 6th to Sunday 8th September. This project also received funding from the Council's Heritage, Arts and Night-Time Economy Sections.



Arts & Heritage Day event, Drogheda

Carlingford Lough Heritage Trust held its Carlingford Medieval Festival the following weekend, Friday 13th to Sunday 15th September. Viking enthusiasts from Ardglass in County Down and from Fingal in County Dublin filled the green with their encampment and a replica Viking ship. The two Viking tribes mixed well with the local community and visitors, to whom they demonstrated traditional Viking crafts and sold jewelry.



Carlingford Medieval Festival

IWTN Conservation Funding

The Irish Walled Towns Network also provides funding for conservation works. The Carlingford Lough Heritage Trust received a grant of €65,000 from this fund for works on the Tholsel. The Heritage Officer has provided the Trust with advice in relation to this project.

Regretfully, no responses were received to our request for tenders for the creation of a detailed conservation and interpretation plan for a long stretch of Drogheda's town wall at Featherbed Lane. This project had been offered funding of €30,000 by the Irish Walled Towns Network (IWTN) capital works fund. We aim to advertise this again this autumn, with the objective of signing up a contractor in advance of next year, though we will have to apply for 2025 funding anew and there is no guarantee that we will be successful again.

Community Monuments Fund (CMF) 2024

Preparations continued in relation to the Council's own two successful applications to the CMF 2024. The Heritage Officer had met the (appointed) Conservation Architect and (proposed) contractor on site in late August to discuss funded conservation works to the sole remaining upstanding (above-ground) remains of Ardee's town defences at Cappocksgate in Ardee. It is hoped to start these works soon and to have them completed in October.

In relation to the other CMF24-funded project, disappointingly, no tender responses were received in relation to the proposed Drogheda town wall survey and assessment, which was advertised in July. It is intended to advertise this again soon (this autumn) in the hope of having a contractor in place in the Spring, should our proposed funding application to CMF25 be successful.

Conservation works, funded by CMF24, began on Bellew's Castle, within the grounds of the St. Louis

Convent School at Castletown, Dundalk, this month. The Heritage Officer secured additional funding for this project due to previously unforeseen regulatory requirements.

Community Monuments Fund (CMF) 2023

Planned works that had received grant aid from CMF 2023 were completed at Taaffe's Castle, Carlingford and at Glaspistol towerhouse, near Clogherhead. Many thanks to the Department (DHLGH) for allowing these works to continue into 2024. A further extension for completion of these works, until the end of September 2024, was agreed with the Department by the Heritage Officer. Additional funding was secured from the Department to deal with unplanned complications, i.e. the exposed vault of the castle is in poor condition and should not be left exposed over the winter.

Conservation works on these monuments, and the others mentioned above, are by no means fully complete and we will be applying for additional funding in 2025 and, quite possibly, in subsequent years. The CMF can only support two third party projects per county per year, while we have supported conservation works on three towerhouses over the last two years and these will all be seeking continuing grant assistance in future.

Seirbhísí Dóiteáin agus Éigeandála / Fire & Emergency Services

Fire Service

Three tenders were received for the supply of protective fire gear to Louth Fire Service over a 4-year period and a tender assessment was completed. The Council finalised the contract with the successful tenderer for the supply of 130 sets of fire gear in 2024. All fire service members are currently being sized for their fire gear.

The Design Team was appointed for the extension and upgrade of Dundalk Training Centre. The initial design meeting took place on 25th September with Vincent Hannon Associates, the Design Team lead. Detailed design proposals will be drawn up for the Part 8 Planning process.

Following the commitment of Capital funding to Louth Fire Service by the Department of Housing

Local Government and Heritage, the following purchases are being made:

- Two new Peugeot large vans, which will operate on HVO fuel, have been ordered. They will be fitted with crew cabs for the transport of up to 6 fire service members. It is expected they will be operational in November 2024.
- A tender request has gone up on eTenders for the purchase of 21 new battery powered cutters, spreaders, rams and combi tools for use at road traffic accidents and other incidents. This includes batteries and chargers.

The Recruitment Plan for new retained fire fighters continued in its implementation during September. Four new recruits who qualified at interview will be doing their three-week Recruits course in November. Nine recent recruits completed a Compartment Fire Behaviour Training course in Hackettstown, Co. Carlow, from 9th to 13th September. This course was run by Louth County Council Fire Service.

Fire Service Training courses in September were as follows:

- Defibrillator training
- Emergency First Responder Refreshers

There has been a continuation in requests to the Fire Prevention Section during September to inspect properties for the accommodation of International Protection applicants.

The large increase in fire safety certificate applications and commencement notices received during 2024 (compared to 2023) is continuing with the number of fire safety certificate applications received to date in 2024 exceeding the total for 2023.

Major Emergency Management

The chairing of the regional Major Emergency Management Steering and Working Group meetings by Louth County Council ended in September. The chairs of both committees were thanked by the membership for their work. An Garda Síochána has taken over the chairing of these committees.

The Council's Crisis Management Team members attended a one-day Severe Weather Decision Making Course in the Hydra Training Centre in Clonmel on 9th September.

The three-yearly exercise to test the External Plan for Flogas took place in the City North Hotel on 11th September. This was a well-attended exercise with inter-agency participation from Flogas site management, the Council Crisis Management Team and An Garda Síochána and HSE representatives.

Climate Adaptation Strategy

Dunleer Fire Station and Dundalk Training Centre extension will include a range of features to limit carbon emissions. The Climate Action Plan includes Fire Service and Building Control requirements.

Building Control

The Building Control Officer continued with the inspection programme and the processing of Disabled Access Certificate applications. Building Control staff attended a National Building Control Office CPD Event 'The Introduction to new TGD B 2024 - Fire Safety – Volume 1 Building Other than Dwelling Houses' on the 25th September 2024.

Cosaint Shibhialta / Civil Defence

Weekly Civil Defence training re-commenced in September. This included the recertification of 8 medical instructors and Dementia Training.

Civil Defence provided medical cover at the following events:

- National Emergency Services Day Parade, Drogheda
- Pulse Triathlon, Port Beach

Pleanáil / Planning

Bainistíocht Forbartha / Development Management

The Planning service indicators for the Council for the month of August 2024 are given below in tabular form. There were 81 planning applications received during the month of August of which 60 were valid. In addition, there were 26 responses received during the month to requests for further information and 41 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) Cur Síos / Description	(B) Forbairtí Tithíochta / Housing Developmen ts	(C) Tithe Aonair / Individual Houses	(D) Iarratais Eile – ní gá MTT / Other applications -not requiring EIA	(E) Iarratais Eile - MTT de dhíth / Other applications- requiring EIA	(F) Iomlán na bhforbairtí sa chontae / Total for all categories of development in County Area
(i) Líon na n-iarratas a cinneadh / Number of applications determined	2	9	62	0	73
(ii) Líon na gcinntí inar iarradh breis eolais / No. of decisions determined which required further information	1	5	20	0	26
(iii) Céatadán na n-iarratas a diúltaíodh / Percentage of applications refused	0.00% (0)	22.22% (2)	11.29% (7)	0.00% (0)	12.33% (9)
(iv) Líon na n-achomharc a cinneadh / Number of appeals determined	2	0	3	0	5
(v) Céatadán na gcinntí a cuireadh ar ceal ar achomharc / Percentage of decisions overturned on appeal	0.00% (0)	0.00% (0)	0.00% (0)	0.00% (0)	0.00% (0)

Forfheidhmiú Pleanála – Forbairt Neamhúdaraithe / Planning Enforcement – Unauthorised Development

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

Cur Síos / Description	Forfheidhmiú maidir le forbairt nár údaraíodh / Enforcement in relation to unauthorised development		Forfheidhmiú maidir le forbairt nár údaraíodh / Enforcement in relation to unauthorised development	
	Lúnasa 2024 / August 2024	Bliain go dtí seo / Year to Date	Lúnasa 2023 / August 2023	Bliain go dtí seo / Year to Date
Líon na nGearán maidir le Forfheidhmiú Pleanála a Imscrúdaíodh / Number of Planning Enforcement Complaints Investigated	21	193	23	149
Líon na gcásanna Fhorfheidhmithe Pleanála nuair nár ghá obair bhreise / Number of Planning Enforcement cases received which did not require follow up	0	0	0	0
Líon na gcásanna dúnta / a réitíodh le hidirbheartaíocht / Number of cases closed / resolved through negotiation	18	170	13	68
Líon na Litreacha Rabhadh a eisíodh / Number of Warning letters issued	20	180	15	114
Líon na bhFógraí Forfheidhmiúcháin a eisíodh / Number of Enforcement Notices issued	2	12	0	6
Líon na cásanna a tarchuireadh le haghaidh imeachtaí dlí / Number of cases referred for legal proceedings	0	3	0	4
Líon na n-urghairí / Number of Injunctions	0	0	0	0
Líon na n-ionchúiseamh / Number of Prosecutions	0	0	0	0

Planning Enforcement – Dangerous Structures / Forfheidmiú 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 July to September 2024.

Tá na Táscairí Pleanála thíos liostaithe bainteach le Fógraí a eisíodh faoin Acht Rialtais Áitiúil (Seirbhísí Sláintíochta) 1964 sa tréimhse Iúil go Meán Fómhair 2024.

Description / Cur Síos	Enforcement in relation to Dangerous Structures/ Forfheidmiú maidir le Déanmhais Contúirteacha	
	July to September 2024 Iúil go Meán Fómhair 2024	Year to Date / Bliain go dtí seo
Number of Dangerous Structures files opened / Líon na gcomhad Déanmhas Contúirteach a osclaíodh	12	38
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	12	42
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	0
Number of Dangerous Structures entered on the DS Register	12	38
Number of cases referred for legal proceedings / Líon na gcásanna a tarchuireadh le haghaidh imeachtaí dlí	0	0
Number of Prosecutions / Líon na n-ionchúiseamh	2	2
Number of Dangerous Structures Removed from the DS Register	5	20
Number of cases closed / Líon na gcásanna a dúnadh	5	29

Pleanáil Chun Cinn / Forward Planning

Draft Dundalk Local Area Plan 2024 – 2030

- 154 Submissions made to the draft Plan being summarized.
- CE Report on submissions being prepared.
- Submissions available to view at <https://consult.louthcoco.ie/en/node/379/submissions>.

Built Heritage Investment Scheme (BHIS) 2025

- Applications currently being assessed for submission to the Department by 6th December 2024.

Changes to the BHIS for 2025

- Grants of up to €50,000 available, to cover the cost of maintaining and conserving Ireland's architectural heritage, a significant increase on the previous maximum award of €15,000.
- Up to 80% of the project's total cost may be applied for (previously 50%).
- The timeframe of the scheme is changing with applications open in September (previously November).
- Successful projects will be announced in early January (previously March), giving owners and craftspeople additional time to schedule and complete their projects during 2025.

Full details available to view/download at <https://www.louthcoco.ie/en/services/planning/conservation/new-built-heritage-investment-scheme-2025.html>.

Comhfhorbairt Áite agus Forbairt Fisiceach

Placemaking 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 fhreagrachtaí tá:

- Seirbhísí Bóithre agus Áitiúla, agus Forbairt Fhisiúil

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

David Jones
Stiúrthóir / Director



Seirbhísí Bóithre agus Áitiúla / Roads and Local Services

Ceantar Bardasach Dhún Dealgan / Municipal District of Dundalk

Ceantar Dhún Dealgan agus Cuailgne / Dundalk and Cooley Area

Piocadh Bruscair / Litter Picking	Suíomh agus méadar sa mhí / Location and metres per month /
Carlingford, Omeath, Gyles Quay	
Templetown	
Dublin Road	
Market Street	
Demense	
Pearse Park	
Ramparts	
Bothar Na Feirme	
Red Barns Road	
Point Road	
Barrack Street	
Inner Relief Road	
Old Coes Road	
Centenary Road	
Fairgreen Road	
Northgate Street	
Ecco Road	
Castletown Road	
John Street	
Philip Street	
Riverside Crescent	
Riverside Walk	
Laurels	
Armagh Road	
Mooreland/Lennon Melia Crescent	
Racecourse Road	

<p>Mourne View Walkway</p> <p>Ardee Road</p> <p>Carrick Road</p> <p>Under the Bridges at Fr. Murray Park</p> <p>Ashling Park Estate</p> <p>River Grids checked weekly</p> <p>Harp Car Park</p> <p>Meadow Grove</p> <p>Gateway at Hoey's Lane</p> <p>Strimming around Verges and Walls</p> <p>Grass cutting in progress</p> <p>Removing rubbish from Bottle Banks daily and cleaning around them</p> <p>Removing suckers from Trees</p>	
<p>Folmhú Araidí Poiblí / Emptying of Public Bins</p> <p>Emptying of bins in Carlingford, Omeath, Greenore</p> <p>Templetown Car Park, Gyles Quay Area</p>	<p>Líon agus minicíocht / Numbers and frequency</p> <p>Nightly by contractor in Dundalk – 200 Bins</p>
<p>Scuabadh Bóithre / Road Sweeping</p>	<p>Bealaí gach tseachtain / Routes per week</p> <p>Sweeping of roads for surface dressing</p> <p>Dundalk – daily, nightly, weekly and monthly as per contract</p>
<p>Folmhú Araidí Salachar Madra / Emptying Dog Waste Receptacles</p> <p>As per bin management in Cooley and Dundalk</p>	<p>Líon gach tseachtain / Number per week</p>
<p>Seiceál Baoithe Tarrhála / Ring Buoy Checking</p> <p>By the Water Safety Officer in Cooley</p> <p>Ring buoys checked and weekly report sent to the Water Safety Officer in Dundalk</p> <p>Lifebuoy issues this month at the Newry Road Bridge, Navy Bank, all replaced and new ropes added</p>	<p>Líon Seiceáilte gach tseachtain / Number checked weekly</p> <p>27 checked weekly</p>

Seiceál Trealamh Áiteanna Sugartha agus Suíomhanna Seiceáilte Laethúil / Number of sites checked daily
Corpachmhainne / Checking of Playground and Gym Equipment

Lordship, Cooley, Carlingford, Omeath

Checked weekly in Dundalk by the Parks Caretaker

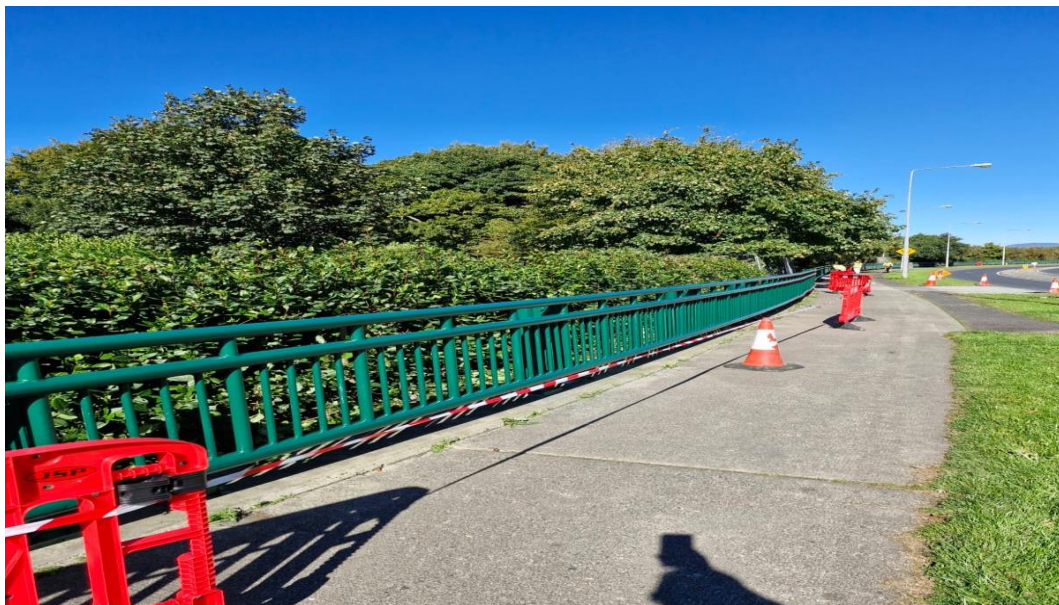
Litter pick in Parks

New signage erected

Upgrade works have begun at St. Helena's Park

Suíomh / Location		Nótaí / Notes
Deisiú Bóithre / Road Repairs	<p><u>Cooley</u></p> <p>Ongoing patching of local roads</p> <p>Preparation of flood damaged roads for remedial works</p> <p><u>Dundalk</u></p> <p>Gully cleaning in areas Replace bollards Erected new signage poles River grills checked</p>	
Feabhasúchán Draenála / Drainage Remediation	<p><u>Cooley</u></p> <p>None at this time</p> <p><u>Dundalk</u></p> <p>None at this time</p>	
Crainn Leagtha nó Chontúirteacha / Fallen or Dangerous Trees	<p>None at this time</p>	
Cothabháil Cosán / Footpath Maintenance	<p>None at this time</p>	
Deisiú Soilse Tráchtá / Traffic Light Repairs	<p>Ongoing repairs and bulb replacements at various lights around the town.</p> <p>Repairs have started at the junction at Demense</p> <p>The traffic lights at Castletown Road and St. Vincent Avenue need repairing</p>	

Marcáil Bóithre / Road Markings	<p><u>Cooley</u></p> <p>None at this time</p> <p><u>Dundalk</u></p> <p>Markings being refreshed in Dundalk</p>	
Comharthaíocht Signage /	<p><u>Cooley</u></p> <p>None at this time</p> <p><u>Dundalk</u></p> <p>Adjusted signs twisted at Town Centre</p> <p>Graffiti cleaned from signage</p>	
Dumpáil Neamhdhleathach / Illegal Dumping	<p>Dundalk all the usual areas</p> <p>Dumping continues at Ashling Park and along the By-Pass</p> <p>Bags being dumped weekly at the entrance to Woodview Estate</p> <p>Bags of litter picked up from all estates weekly</p> <p>Dumping continues at Williamsons Place and Francis Street</p>	
Glanadh Graifítí / Graffiti Removal	<p>Graffiti cleaned off signage in Dundalk</p>	



Painting of Railings at the Tain Bridge

Na Creagacha Dubha, Fochaird , agus Ceantar Tuaiscirt Lár-Lú / Blackrock, Faughart and North Mid-Louth Area

Piocadh Bruscair / Litter Picking	Suíomh agus méadar sa mhí / Location and metres per month n/a
Folmhú Araidí Poiblí / Emptying of Public Bins	Líon agus minicíocht / Numbers and frequency Blackrock – 6 days a week Knockbridge – once a week Dromiskin – once a week Tallanstown & Louth Village – once a week
Scuabadh Bóithre / Road Sweeping	Bealaí gach seachtain / Routes per week n/a
Folmhú Araidí Salachar Madra / Emptying Dog Waste Receptacles	Líon gach seachtain / Number per week n/a
Seiceál Baoithe Tarrhála / Ring Buoy Checking	Líon Seiceáilte gach seachtain / Number checked weekly Blackrock – 7 checked weekly Annagassan – 11 checked weekly
Seiceál Trealamh Áiteanna Sugartha agus Corpacmhainne / Checking of Playground and Gym Equipment	Suíomhanna Seiceáilte Laethúil / Number of sites checked daily Killanny, Louth Village, Castlebellingham – checked weekly Blackrock – checked weekly

Dumpáil Neamhdhleathach / Illegal Dumping	L-7100 Whitemill Faughart LS-7103 Carn More Kilcurry LS-7162 Clermont Road Haggardstown Seabank	Collection of dumped waste for disposal Collection and disposal after community clean up
Glanadh Graifítí / Graffiti Removal	n/a	

Ceantar Bardasach Bhaile Átha Fhirdhia / Ardee Municipal District

Gnó Deiscirt Chontae Lú (Ceantar Tuaithe) / South Louth Operations (Rural Area)

		Suíomh agus méadar sa mhí / Location and metres per month
Piocadh Bruscair / Litter Picking		
All routes in Ardee Town (5.2km per day) Clogherhead Car Park daily cleanup around bins		
Folmhú Araidí Poiblí / Emptying of Public Bins		Líon agus minicíocht / Numbers and frequency
Ardee Town		37 Daily
Dunleer Town		20 Tuesday and Thursday
Collon		3 Tuesday and Thursday
Erecting of bin at Riverside Walk Erecting of bin at Link Road		
Scuabadh Bóithre / Road Sweeping		Bealaí gach seachtain / Routes per week
All routes in Ardee Town (5.2km per day)		
Folmhú Araidí Salachar Madra / Emptying Dog Waste Receptacles		Líon gach seachtain / Number per week
As per waste management plan		

<p>Seiceál Baoithe Tarrthála / Ring Buoy Checking</p> <p>Líon Seiceáilte gach seachtain / Number checked weekly</p> <p>Ardee Town River Dee</p> <p>Salterstown</p> <p>Port Beach</p>
<p>Seiceál Trealamh Áiteanna Sugartha agus Suíomhanna Seiceáilte Laethúil / Corpacmhainne / Checking of Playground and Number of sites checked daily Gym Equipment</p> <p>Maintenance and cleaning of Fairgreen and Dunleer Parks and playgrounds complete with daily checks of the playground and exercise equipment at both locations.</p>

Suíomh / Location		Nótaí / Notes
Deisiú Bóithre / Road Repairs	L-5268-0 Mullaghash L-6269-0 Knockaleva L-2239-20 Tullydonnell L-22543-0 Knockdinnin L-22903-0 School Lane Collon L-5267-0 Funshog L-2254 Dromin – Rathescar L-5266 Mountainstown Road R168-80 Collon	RAP Pilot Project
Feabhasúchán Draenála / Drainage Remediation	L-6269-0 Knockaleva L-2239-20 Tullydonnell L-5267-0 Funshog	
Crainn Leagtha nó Chontúirteacha / Fallen or Dangerous Trees	n/a	
Cothabháil Cosán / Footpath Maintenance	n/a	

Deisiú Soilse Tráichta / Traffic Light Repairs	n/a	
Marcáil Bóithre / Road Markings	n/a	
Comharthaíocht / Signage	n/a	
Dumpáil Neamhdhleathach / Illegal Dumping	n/a	
Glanadh Graifítí / Graffiti Removal	n/a	

Ceanntar Buirge Dhroichead Átha / Borough District of Drogheda

Ceantar Baile Dhroichead Átha / Drogheda Town Area

Piocadh Bruscair / Litter Picking	Suíomh agus méadar gach mí / Location and metres per month
	<p>Steps and lane ways weekly 22 steps when recourses allow and green areas</p> <p>Hotspots on Monday – decided by Supervisor following inspection</p> <p>Bring Banks in Drogheda urban are checked and cleared Daily during working week</p> <p>Also all Bring Banks in Drogheda urban are checked and cleared Saturday p.m.</p> <p>Drogheda Rural Bring banks are cleared daily during working week.</p>
Folmhú Araidí Poiblí / Emptying of Public Bins	Líon agus minicíocht / Numbers and frequency
Port Oriel Pier, Clogherhead	7 Daily
Clogherhead Beach	8 Daily
Port Beach	

<p>Termonfeckin</p> <p>Baltray</p> <p>Seapoint Carpark</p>	<p>6 Daily</p> <p>6 Daily</p> <p>3 Daily</p> <p>3 Daily</p> <p>Drogheda town centre Litterbins emptied daily circa 60 early mornings</p> <p>234 litter bin (including 10 no. Solar bins) are emptied weekly in town</p> <p>Dominic's Park & Mell River walk emptied daily</p> <p>South Louth Drogheda Municipal district rural area's public Litter Bins are emptied twice a week or daily</p> <p>Approach roads in Drogheda town emptied twice a week.</p> <p>Refurbishment of 6 bins on West Street</p>
<p>Scuabadh Bóithre / Road Sweeping</p>	<p>Bealaí gach seachtain / Routes per week</p> <p>Town centre daily, approach roads fortnightly</p> <p>Public Housing Estates, swept every 2 months. Private Housing estates swept every 3 months. When resources allow</p> <p>Hotspots weekly on Monday after weekend – decided daily by supervisor after checking Drogheda urban area</p> <p>Villages are swept once per month – i.e., Termonfeckin, Baltray, Sandpit, Monasterboice, Tullyallen & Tinure</p> <p>Drogheda town Boyne river walkways are swept 3 times per week (Monday, Wednesday & Friday)</p> <p>Road sweepers town centre / approach roads with particular attention to Collon Rd & Dublin Rd</p> <p>Gravel footpath at Old Abbey Lane, investigations to establish the if a hard surface can be constructed</p>

FoimhúAraidí Salachar Madra / Emptying Dog Waste Receptacles	Líon gach seachtain / Number per week
As per bin management plan	
Seiceál Baoithe Tarrthála / Ring Buoy Checking	Líon Seiceáilte gach seachtain / Number checked weekly
	89 ring buoys checked each week Town area (Thursday)
	9 ring buoys checked each week at Rosehall (Friday)
Seiceál Trealamh Áiteanna Sugartha agus Corpacmhainne / Checking of Playground and Gym Equipment	Suíomhanna Seiceáilte Laethúil / Number of sites checked daily
	Between 4 & 5 daily (4 playgrounds in Drogheda town, Skate Park, adult exercise equipment)
	3 Playgrounds in Drogheda Rural

Suíomh / Location		Nótaí / Notes
Deisiú Bóithre / Road Repairs	L-6243-0 Lurganboy L-2240-0 Port Clogherhead L-6317 Sheepgrange L-6279-0 The Dales L-2310-0 Ballymakenny L-6285-0 Galroostown R-167-62 Baltray R166 Clogherhead L-2290-42 Tinure L-2240-26 Togher Drainage Works Road Gully Cleaning at various estates & R132 including Bridge of Peace Tender for road gully contractor will be advertised end of September Pot hole repairs at St Marys Bridge, Duleek St, Yellowbatter, Dyer St, Ballymakenny Rd, The Dales, Townrath, North Quay	JCB Pro JCB Pro JCB Pro RAP Pilot Project

	<p>Sluice gate at Flaxmill Lane, wall & gate repairs – contractor appointed and material ordered</p> <p>Reinstatement of gravel footpath at Old Abbey Lane – investigation to establish ground make up and ministerial consent</p> <p>Martello Villages – erection of pedestrian barriers – footpath & road subsidence – repair works to commence in September</p> <p>Road Works Program – Resurfacing works 2024</p> <p>Contractor has commenced resurfacing 20/08/2024. To date the following roads complete:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Bredin St 2. Patricks St / Bolton St 3. Dual Carriageway 4. Platin Rd 5. Bull Ring 6. Duleek St 7. Newtownwell Rd 8. Boyne Rd <p>CIS Lanes:</p> <p>Report & recommendation issued – In process of appointing contractor.</p> <p>Drogheda Improvement Accessibility Scheme 2024 :</p> <p>Tenders requested from five contractors – tenders due 6th October</p>	
<p>Feabhasúchán Draenála / Drainage Remediation</p>	<p>Cleaning of gullies carried out at a number of Drogheda Rural Housing Estates</p> <p>Road Gully Cleaning at various estates & R132 including Bridge of Peace</p> <p>Tender for road gully contractor will be advertised end of September</p>	<p>581 cleaned in total</p>

Crainn Leagtha nó Chontúirteacha / Fallen or Dangerous Trees	n/a	
Cothabháil Cosán / Footpath Maintenance	Commenced planned footpath repairs at <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sandyford Terrace • Greenlanes • Moneymore 	
Deisiú Soilse Tráchtá / Traffic Light Repairs	General maintenance / replacement for lamps. DR45 Termonfeckin Road outside CBS Ped –Lights out DR07 – R132 @ Cement Rd / Crosslane(Pedestrian) Green fault DR52 Pedestrian Crossing Ardee @ Castle(lights out) R132D - Vehicle Phase Lamp Fail, Phase M, RED – Old N1 at the Bull Ring Junction – DRGPD09 – Vehicle phase lamp fail, Phase A, Amber – Ardee Main St @ Castle – DR52 – DR 45 - CBS LemorsTermonfeckin Rd (Lamps out I phoned this fault in this morning) DR07 – R132 @ Cement Rd / Crosslane(Pedestrian phase lamp phase L Red fail) DR02 – R132 @ Railway Station (R132B) (vehicle phase lamp phase B amber fail)	
Marcáil Bóithre / Road Markings	R-170-152 Carrickbaggot to Walshtown R166 Drogheda to Termonfeckin Trinity St – Pedestrian crossing off Fair Green. Simcox Lane Crosslanes Greenhills	
Comharthaíocht / Signage	Signage removed from surface dressing from the following roads: L-6276-0 Baggotstown R-170-152 Carrickbaggot to Walshtown L-6292-0 Tinure L-2299-17 Newtown Monasterboice L-6327-0 Beaulieu	

	<p>L-6286-0 Monasterboice to Harestown R166 Drogheda to Termonfeckin New Flexi-bollards at Mell Primary School, North Strand, St Laurence St, Platin Rd Replace damaged bollards on R132 Pay & display signage at Bolton St</p>	
Marú fiailí / Weed killing	n/a	
Díghalrú glantacháin boscaí bruscair / Litterbin cleaning disinfecting	On-going on weekly basis	
Dumpáil Neamhdhleathach / Illegal Dumping	n/a	
Glanadh Graifítí / Graffiti Removal	n/a	



Road works programme in Drogheda

Comhfhorbairt Áite / Placemaking

Athghiniúint Uirbeach agus Forbairt Tionscadail Cistí / Urban Regeneration and Development Fund Projects (URDF)

West Gate Vision (Drogheda)

The Westgate planning application is currently with An Bord Pleanála for determination. The Council has responded, as requested, to submissions made to the Bord and are awaiting further information and/or planning report to be issued.

The Westgate planning documents, including the suite of drawings, the EIAR and the AA Stage 2 reports, represent a large volume of material and full details of the proposed works are available here:

<https://consult.louthcoco.ie/en/consultation/westgate-2040>



Artist impressions of Westgate project

St. Nicholas Quarter and Backlands Regeneration (Dundalk)

Phase 1

Glas Civil Engineering Ltd. are currently on site, to minimise the impact on residents and businesses the works will be completed on a phase-by phase basis. Phase A has commenced on Lower Bridge

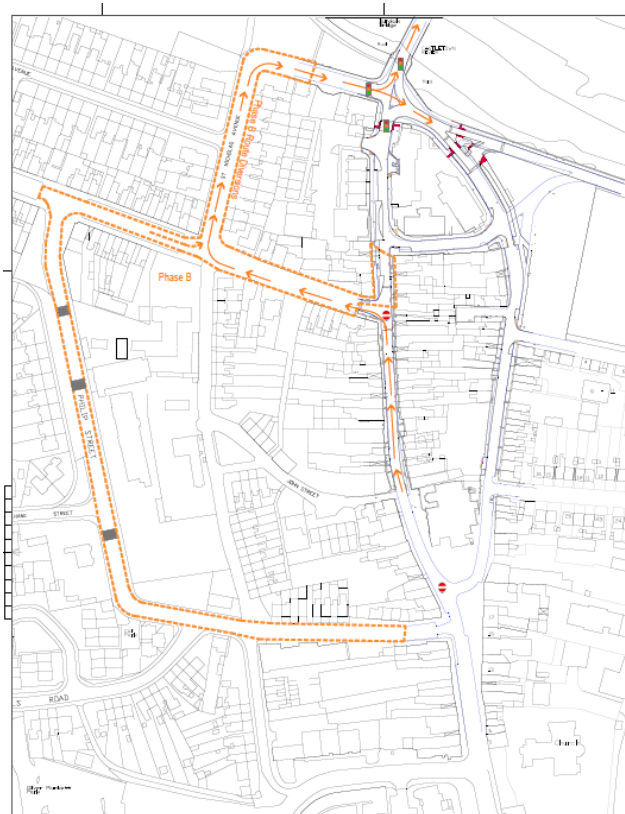
Street, from St. Nicholas Church to the Castletown Road. To complete these works, this section of Bridge Street has been closed to traffic since mid-August. Diversion routes are in place via Patrick Street, Philip Street, and the Castletown Road.

The contractor is commencing works on Phase B with the associated road closure scheduled from mid-November for approximately 3 months. Diversion routes are in place via Castletown Road and St. Nicholas Avenue.

Pedestrian access will always be maintained and deliveries to and from all businesses will be accommodated to minimise the impact as much as possible.

Glas have appointed a dedicated Liaison Officer for any queries, John Caffrey jcaffrey@glascel.ie

Phase B Closure and Diversions

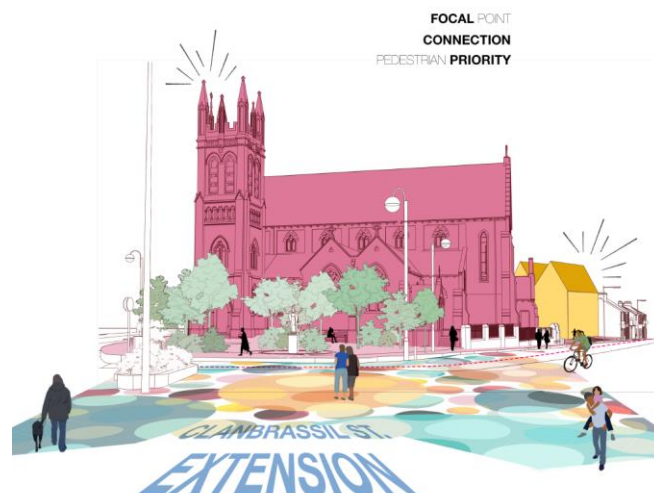


Phase 2 – Backlands Area of St Nicholas Quarter

Phase 2 of the St. Nicholas Quarter project involves initial feasibility, analysis and preparation of a design concept for the re-development of the Backlands area of the St. Nicholas Quarter. The accepted concept will then be developed to Part 8 Planning with full public consultation. BDP Ltd are the appointed consultant team, following the tender process for design stage.

BDP are currently engaged with the Council in the initial feasibility and analysis stages in preparation of a design concept for St Nicholas Quarter – Phase II. Engagement with project stakeholders was completed in August.

BDP have made initial presentations on the project. A follow on summary report and programme for the project is currently being completed.



Artist impressions of St. Nicholas Quarter Phase 2

AUCF Éileamh a Trí, Leithdháileadh Maoinithe / URDF Call Three Funding Allocation.

Continuous on-site inspections and negotiations with property owners are ongoing regarding buildings in Dundalk and Drogheda. The process of acquiring the initial tranche of properties selected to be compulsorily acquired has commenced. Several properties have been identified as appropriate and valuations have been acquired on an initial group of properties. Discussion will now commence regarding the next steps for these properties.

Athghiniúint Tuaithe agus Ciste Forbartha / Rural Regeneration and Development Fund (RRDF)

Ardee Castle

Tender documentation for the procurement of a contractor is complete.

Ardee Castle has received approval from the Department of Rural and Community Development (DRCD) to go to tender for the refurbishment of Ardee Castle. The project is part funded under the Rural Regeneration Development Fund and is intended to go live on tenders on week beginning 23 September.

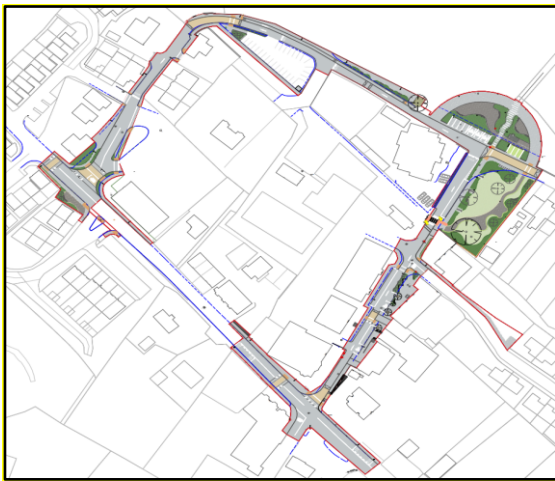
Living in Carlingford Visiting Carlingford



The Council are currently preparing a brief for detailed design which is programmed for Q4 2024.

Omeath Placemaking Scheme

The Placemaking project at Omeath is now completed on site with making good of defects and snagging ongoing by the main contractor, GLAS Civil Engineering.



Ardee 2040

The Council are currently engaged with TII in relation to pre-planning approval for the main street. Turley Planning are in the process of completing the final design Audits, reports and planning documents for Ardee 2040. Once approval from TII is issued, the planning submission will then be lodged with An Bord Pleanála.

Tionscadail Breise / Additional Projects

St Laurence's Gate Plaza, Drogheda

Further environmental reports that are required for the Part 8 planning process are in progress and are being prepared for St Laurence's Gate Plaza.



Tionscadail Tras-Rannóg / Cross Departmental Projects

Play Spaces

Termonfeckin

The playground, designed and built by Kompan, has been completed and is currently being snagged. Works to provide a footpath and disabled parking space will commence in early October and is expected to be completed within 4 weeks.





St Dominic's Park & The Glen

AA Screening Stage 1 report has been completed for the Glen and Part 8 documents are being prepared for Q4 2024

AA Screening Stage 1 report for proposed works in St. Dominic's Park playground is currently being prepared in addition to Part 8 documents for Q4 2024.

Tionscadail Tosaíochta do Lár an Bhaile / Town Centre First Projects

Town Centre First Plan - Dunleer

The Town Centre First Plan for Dunleer was launched in conjunction with the Dunleer Town Team in the new Centre for Excellence at the Market House in May.



Funding of €50,000 has been awarded to Dunleer under the Town and Village, Project Development Measure funding stream. The funding will allow for the appointment of a design team to complete the initial design stages for the Library Square project. The Library Square project is one of the main initiatives that has arisen through the Dunleer Town Centre First plan and proved very popular at public consultation events and online surveys.

The funding allows for a consultant team to complete the initial design stages including successful planning permission. The project will create a new public space adjacent the soon to be completed Library building (former Bank of Ireland) on the main street. The existing unused public toilets will make way to create much needed public pedestrian space in the heart of the town. The project will include new hard surfacing, kerbing, street furniture, feature lighting, planting, cycle parking and associated signage.

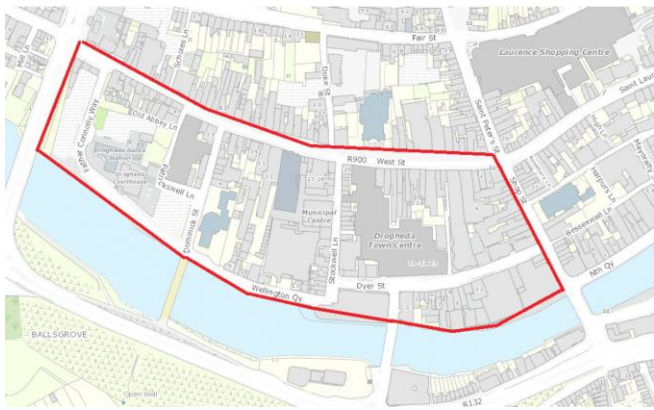
Town Centre First Plan – Clogherhead

The appointed design team BDP are currently assessing the information gathered from public consultation and data analysis.

A parking survey was carried out in August to assess the parking dynamic during the summer period. Other surveys and investigation work are ongoing.

THRIVE – Town Centre First Heritage Revival Scheme

Louth County Council was successful in receiving the maximum amount of €200k under Strand 1 THRIVE funding stream for Drogheda.

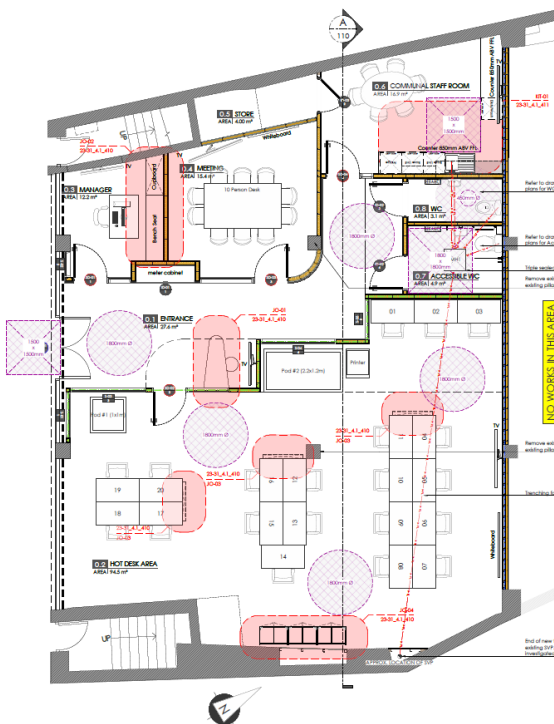


The funding will go towards the appointment of an Integrated Design Team that will lead on the creation of an Integrated Urban Strategy for the centre of Drogheda. The consultant team will also complete a design and Part 8 planning procedure for a Heritage building in the area.

The tender for appointment of the design team has closed and returns are being assessed.

Drogheda Digital Innovation Hub

The tender for the appointment of a contractor for works to part of the former O'Reilly building on Narrow West Street has closed and returns are being assessed.



Town Team Support Fund

Louth County Council were successful in receiving funding under the Town Centre First Suite of Supports 2024 - Measure 1 Town Team Support Fund.

€10k was awarded to both Castlebellingham and Collon. The funding will go towards appointing a consultant to carry out a Town Centre Health Check for each town.

A request for quotations from suitable consultants has been issued and returns are currently being assessed.

Vacant Homes Officer

A dedicated Vacant Homes Officer is now in place, and they have been engaging with the owners of Vacant Homes regarding their properties and the supports available to return them to use. Vacant Homes notices have been affixed to several properties in the county where there is no easily identifiable owner in order to drive engagement.

Suspected or known Vacant Homes can be referred to the Vacant Homes Officer via vacanthomes.ie by members of the public. Properties previously logged on the site have been inspected & engagement with a small number remaining that will be inspected in the coming weeks.

Forbairt Fhisiciúil / Physical Development

Tionscadail Bóithre / Roads Projects

Narrow Water Bridge

BAM Civil Ltd have now been awarded as the main contractor for the Project. Works are expected to take 36 - 42 months.

Southern Works: Construction of the formation level of the main carriageway and roundabout are ongoing, surfacing of the main carriageway and roundabout has commenced, temporary traffic diversion for the R173 and the greenway are in place. Piling for the abutment is complete and formation for substructure completed.

Northern Works: Proposed surface water diversion works has commenced in the North. Programme of works for Archaeology monitoring submitted approval has been received.

Construction of the embankment has commenced. Works on diverting the existing final effluent pipe has commenced.



Roadworks Southern Approach.

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

The design team and appointed land valuers continues to engage with the landowners, their agents, and other stakeholders.

The remaining section of Archaeological Phase 1 test trenching is to be complete in Oct. subject to access approval by a minority of landowners.

A workshop on the submitted T2 budget for the entire project was held with TII in mid Sept. and the design team await for TII review and approval to proceed to tender.

N52 Ardee Bypass

In relation to the High Court Case held on April, a judgement was made on the 14th of May, see below link to the Courts conclusion:

www.courts.ie/acc/alfresco/85270a60-0d3a-4187-b1cb-72bfe0e1eb9e/2024_IEHC_292.pdf/pdf#view=fitH

Within the Judgment the Judge directed that the Applicant should prepare its application for leave to appeal to the Court of Appeal and the ABP response to same. The hearing in respect of the grant of leave to appeal has now been given a date of the 15th of Oct. 2024.

Boyne Enterprise Link Road

Louth County Council's section of the road is now complete. Final account has been agreed. Last remaining snags are being completed.

Ongoing consultations including a valuation process are taking place with stakeholders / landowners to acquire adjoining roadway. The CPO process has also commenced in conjunction with the valuation process.

R178 Cavan to Dundalk Strategic Route Improvement Scheme

Tender Documents have been returned and Quality Assessment has been undertaken with expected appointment of Consultants with Letter of Intent to successful Tenderer to go out over coming weeks upon approval from Department of Transport.



Piling Works Southern Abutment



Culvert Works Northern Approach.

Engagement with DFI Infrastructure, Loughs Agency, NPW, etc. will be ongoing throughout the contract. Land Valuation Services are ongoing, and they are liaising with the agents of landowners.

A Consultant has been appointed for mussel fishermen valuation service and has commenced meeting fishers affected by the scheme.

Glasbhealaí / Greenways

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

Section 1 & 2:

The Council's section of greenway complete bar minor snagging.

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 and negotiations are ongoing.

Section 3 – Northern Ireland

Works have commenced in NI to facilitate, and the cross-border element has been installed as far as the start of the proposed boardwalk. AG Wilson have set up site compound in Victoria Lock and have commenced site clearance and piling works.



First Section of Boardwalk substructure

Glasbhealaí Cistithe ag B.I.E / TII Funded Greenways:

Dundalk Bay to Carlingford Greenway

As part of Public Consultation Phase no. 2, the total number of submissions received as part of the Route Corridor Options consultation stage was 1,657.

These submissions will now be reviewed by the project consultants and will inform the process in determining an emerged preferred route corridor, which will be subject to the next public consultation phase.

Further details on the project can be found on the dedicated website www.dundalkcarlingfordgreenway.ie, including contact details for the Project Liaison Officer.

TII approval received to move the project into options phase.

An Independent Agronomist has been engaged by the Council during the route corridor option selection stage to assist landowners through the project considering any relevant agronomy issues. The Independent Agronomist will be made available to landowners to fully and fairly assess the impact of the proposed Greenway on their property types. The Independent Agronomist / Property Advisor will assist in identifying a route which minimises the impact of the scheme on affected properties. The Project Agronomist / Property Advisor will also assist in agreeing upon appropriate accommodation works and access arrangements in consultation with the farmer / landowner.

Scéim Bonneagair Áineasa Aeraíochta / Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme

Applications under the ORIS Fund Measure 2 have been successful for Port (Lurganboy) and Templetown.

Tender Documents for construction have been issued to the market and are due for return in early Oct.

Tionscadail LIHAF / LIHAF Project:

Mount Avenue Road Upgrade

The scheme is now substantially complete, the Safety file is being prepared with snagging works to be carried out in the next few weeks. Stage 3 Roads Safety Audit to be carried out on 2nd October.

Works in relation to Uisce Éireann infrastructure at the Castleblaney Road/Mill Rd Junction are complete.

Works in relation to the new signalised junction on the Carrickmacross Rd are complete. Works are also now complete at the Mount Avenue cul-de-sac and the road is fully open from the Castletown Road through Lis Na Dara to the Carrickmacross Road.

Temporary traffic calming measures in Lis na Dara are due to be removed on Monday 30th September.



Finished works south of Castletown Cross



New Controlled Crossing in Lis Na Dara



Official opening plaque

Dunleer Fire Station

Final purchase of the lands process is on-going but in latter stages of purchase process being completed.

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

Tionscadail Corparáideach / Corporate Projects

Redevelopment Fair Street Offices, Drogheda

The redeveloped Fair Street Offices were officially opened by An Cathaoirleach Kevin Callan, Cllr Paddy McQuillan Mayor of Drogheda and Chief Executive Joan Martin on Monday 2nd September.

Local representatives from Drogheda, Dundalk and Ardee were also in attendance, along with BDP Architects, Townlink Main Contractors and Drogheda Council Staff.

Tionscadail Cosaint ar Thulite Chontae Lú agus Creimeadh Cósta / Louth Flood Defence and Coastal Erosion Projects

Dundalk & Ardee Flood Relief Projects

Consultant Engineers Binnies/ Nicholas O'Dwyer JV continue to work on Stage 1 of the project.

The tenders for the Site Investigation (SI) have been received and are currently being assessed.

The Draft Options Report has been delivered for Ardee and is being finalised and reviewed by Louth County Council 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. The Council are

progressing the procurement of the underwater archaeology surveys.

A collaborative workshop was held on the 12th of Sept. with several statutory stakeholders to discuss to identify and discuss any issues, constraints and opportunities that could inform the development of the Scheme.

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

Carlingford and Greenore Flood Relief Project

The appointed CCTV and Topo survey Contractors are on site gathering the information needed to inform the prospective Hydraulic model.

The OPW are continuing to develop a brief for consultants to carry out the scheme.

The Local Authority is in the process of appointing engineering staff member to progress the project.

Tionscadail Muirí / Marine Projects

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

Louth County Council submitted 3 No. Section 177AE Planning Applications to An Bord Pleanála on January 18th for proposed coastal protection works at the following locations:

- Drummullagh, Omeath, consultations with the Marine Area Regulatory Authority have been finalised. Subsequently an amended Section 177 AE has been submitted to An Bord Pleanála.
- Bellurgan Point (Section 177 AE ongoing),
- Ballynamoney/Ballagan, Greenore (Section 177 AE ongoing).

The submitted plans and particulars are available to view on:

<https://consult.louthcoco.ie/en/browse>

Thereafter, and subject to Section 177AE approval, tender documentation is to be prepared and it is now anticipated to procure a civil engineering contractor in Q1/2 2025, with subsequent construction works programmed in accordance with the individual sites ecological constraints.

Tionscadail Cláir Scoileanna / Schools Programme Project.

Ardee E.T.N.S.

Works on site continue to progress. Progress to date since previous monthly reporting:

- Rising blockwork 90%
- Roof Trusses - 90% complete
- Ring beams – 90% complete
- Masonry support– 90% complete
- Chasing for SNU has been completed
- Attenuation trench – 60%
- Joisting to flat roofs – 100% complete – corrected to 80%
- Cavity closers to windows – 50%
- First delivery of roofing materials on site for SNU – rest of materials due, w/c 23/09/24



Overall site Progress



Roof Trusses installation

Ríomhchlár Infheistithe Tasitil Gníomhaigh / Active Travel Investment Program

2024 Budget Allocation

On the 7th February 2024, The National Transport Authority (NTA) awarded Louth County Council a budget allocation of €4.5 million to advance thirty-two (32) 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 status of the ongoing Active Travel projects are as outlined in the table below. For ease of referencing, the National Transport Authority (NTA) allocate projects into Cost Bands depending on the total estimated project cost including, fees, land acquisitions and constructions as follows.

Band 1	€0 - €5M;
Band 2	€5 - €20M;
Band 3	> €20M;


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 status of the ongoing Active Travel projects is as outlined in the table below.


Tionscadail Tasitil Gníomhaigh / Active Travel Projects

Project Name	Allocation 2024	Project Band (updated March 2024)	Current Phase	October 2024- Project update	Anticipated Part 8 Completions, subject to NTA approval of Gateways
Drogheda: R132, Bridge of Peace to Train Station (incorporating Marsh Road)	€200,000	Band 2 €5 - €20M	Phase 3 – Preliminary Design	<p>The Active Travel Team have received Gateway 3 approval from the NTA in September 2024.</p> <p>The Design Team have now considered all submissions received as part of the first Non-statutory Public Consultation process held in Sept / Oct 2023 and have incorporated some observations into the Preliminary Design i.e. Phase 3 Gateway 3 Report.</p> <p>The recent Gateway 3 Report and preliminary design Drawings were amended to reflect the New Cycle Design Manual. A workshop between LCC & NTA was held in June 2024. All scheme layouts now approved by the NTA including amended junction layouts for Rathmullan Rd / Bridge of Peace and John Street Junctions from the initial consultation drawings.</p> <p>The Active Travel Team envisage to hold a second Non-Statutory Public Consultation event in October 2024.</p> 	Proposed Part 8 display late Q4 2024
Drogheda: R166 Termonfeckin Rd, design.	€100,000	Band 2 €5 - €20M	Phase 3 – Preliminary Design	<p>Consultants RPS Group have completed draft Gateway 3 Report. It is anticipated to have an on-line briefing on the proposed scheme to Drogheda Municipal District Councillors in early Nov 2024 in advance of non-statutory public consultations.</p>	Proposed Part 8 display early Q1 2025
Drogheda: R168 Collon Rd, Hill of Rath RAB and Rosehall RAB.	€100,000	Band 2 €5 - €20M	Phase 3 – Preliminary Design	<p>The Active Travel Team held a non-statutory consultation day in Drogheda Library on Thursday 22nd Feb 2024 between 3pm – 7pm. Councillors and Elected Official were invited to attend a closed session between 2pm – 3pm prior to opening to the public. All relevant</p>	Proposed Part 8 display Q1 2025

Project Name	Allocation 2024	Project Band (updated March 2024)	Current Phase	October 2024- Project update	Anticipated Part 8 Completions, subject to NTA approval of Gateways
				<p>observations / comments are now incorporated into the preliminary design. The final Gateway 3 Report is due to be submitted to the NTA by the end of Nov 2024, to allow the Active Travel Team to proceed to Part 8 public Consultation in early 2025</p>  <p><u>View of Collon Rd looking South East from Mell Roundabout</u></p>  <p><u>View of R166 looking East from Hill of Rath Roundabout</u></p>	
Drogheda: Rathmullan Road including Marley's (Pathfinder Project)	€150,000	Band 2 €5 - €20M	Phase 3 – Preliminary Design	<p>A non-statutory consultation day was held and the Design Team have now considered 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>The Active Travel Team received GW 3 report (drawings, costing, Road Safety Audit) approval from the NTA on the 16th September 2024. An On-line briefing on Part 8 drawings to be given to Drogheda MD</p>	Proposed Part 8 display Q4 2024

Project Name	Allocation 2024	Project Band (updated March 2024)	Current Phase	October 2024- Project update	Anticipated Part 8 Completions, subject to NTA approval of Gateways
				<p>members in Mid-October (TBC) with a likely proposed Part 8 display late October 2024.</p>  <p><u>View of Marley's Lane looking South from Aura Leisure</u></p>	
Drogheda Dublin and North roads, design.	€100,000	Band 2 - €5 - €20M	Phase 2 - Concept and Options	<p>An update on the scheme was given to Drogheda and Bettystown / Laytown Municipal Districts on Tuesday 16th January 2024.</p> <p>The Active Travel Team are having on-going discussions with Irish Rail regarding Dublin Road Bridge and interaction with the Dart North Coastal Project. A inter agency meeting was held on Friday 20th September to examine proposals on Active Travel measures under the Dublin Rd, railway bridge.</p> <p>Gateway 3 (Preliminary Design Report) due to be completed by the end of Nov.</p>  <p><u>View of Dublin Rd, Drogheda Rd looking South</u></p>	<p>North Rd, Drogheda - Proposed Part 8 display Q4 2024</p> <p>Dublin Rd, Drogheda - Proposed Part 8 display depending on dialogue with NTA / Irish Rail.</p>

Project Name	Allocation 2024	Project Band (updated March 2024)	Current Phase	October 2024- Project update	Anticipated Part 8 Completions, subject to NTA approval of Gateways
Dundalk: R132 Inner Relief Rd. (Pathfinder Project)	€250,000	Band 2 €5 - €20M	Phase 5 Detailed Design	<p>The Part 8 Chief Executives Report was presented to Dundalk MD meeting 10th September 2024. Part 8 recommendation received from Dundalk MD members.</p> <p>The Active Travel Team are now preparing tender documents for the procurement of a contractor.</p>  <p><u>View of Inner Relief Rd, Dundalk looking north from Hoeys Lane Roundabout extract from Fly Through</u></p>	Completed
Dundalk: Dublin Rd Xerox Junction to Ladywell Bridge	€150,000	Band 2 €5 - €20M	Phase 4 Statutory Process	<p>Project went on Part 8 Public Display on the 3rd September 2024. Closing date for submissions is 15th October 2024 at 5:00pm Proposals for the project are available to view on the National Planning Portal.</p>  <p><u>View of Dublin Rd, Dundalk looking north at DKIT Entrance</u></p>	

Project Name	Allocation 2024	Project Band (updated March 2024)	Current Phase	October 2024- Project update	Anticipated Part 8 Completions, subject to NTA approval of Gateways
Dundalk: Ard Easmuinn Rd to Train Station / Friary School Dundalk & Dundalk Bus Station to Rail Station.	€150,000		Phase 3 /4 Preliminary Design / Statutory Process	LCC looking at an alternative entrance to the train station with third parties.  <u>View of Ard Easmuinn Looking North from China Bridge</u>	Proposed Part 8 2025
Transport / Mobility Plans: Including Dundalk, Drogheda, Ardee, Clogherhead, Dunleer, Termonfeckin & Castlebellingham	€450,000	Band 1 €0 - €5M	Phase 2 - Concept and Options	Drogheda Area Based Transport Assessment (ABTA) Drogheda Online survey completed and synopsised. 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. The NTA directly are going to task one of their Framework Consultants to develop the next steps of the ABTA. Dundalk Area Based Transport Assessment (ABTA) The Local Transport Plan (LTP) was placed on public display alongside the Draft Dundalk Local Area Plan from Wednesday 17th July 2024 until 4.30pm on Tuesday 10th September 2024 (inclusive). The closing date for submissions has now expired and the Active Travel Team are now reviewing all transport related observations / commentary.	N/A
Hoey's Lane, Dundalk	€165,000	Band 1 €0 - €5M	Phase 3 - Preliminary Design	GW3 Report being reviewed prior to submitting to NTA in October 2025	2025
Mill Street, Dundalk	€145,000	Band 1 €0 - €5M	Phase 2 - Concept and Options	LCC Active Travel Team have submitted Gateway 2 Reports (Options Development) to the NTA on 28 th March 2024 and we are currently awaiting approval.	2025

Project Name	Allocation 2024	Project Band (updated March 2024)	Current Phase	October 2024- Project update	Anticipated Part 8 Completions, subject to NTA approval of Gateways
Hill Street Bridge to Train Station, Dundalk	€235,000	Band 1 €0 - €5M	Phase 2 - Concept and Options	LCC Active Travel Team have submitted Gateway 2 Reports (Options Development) to the NTA on 22 nd May 2024 and we are currently awaiting approval. The Active Travel Team are engaging with Irish Rail / CIE with regards to possible route selections.	2025
R132 Dublin Road, (Rank Xerox Junction to Greengates)	€160,000	Band 1 €0 - €5M	Phase 3 - Preliminary Design	GW3 Report being reviewed prior to submitting to NTA in October 2024	2025
Moneymore, Active Travel elements	€100,000	Band 1 €0 - €5M	Phase 5 - Concept Proposals	Design Consultants (RPS Group) appointed in Mid July 2023 and have design completed for the proposals. We are liaising with relevant landowners on a preferred route.	N/A
Drogheda improvement of accessibility	€50,000	Band 1 €0 - €5M	Phase 3 - Preliminary Design	Various locations in the town of Drogheda Works to be completed in Q4 2024	N/A
Dundalk improvement of accessibility	€60,000	Band 1 €0 - €5M	Phase 3 - Preliminary Design	Various locations in the town of Dundalk Works to be completed in Q4 2024	N/A
Ardee improvement of accessibility	€40,000	Band 1 €0 - €5M	Phase 3 - Preliminary Design	Various locations in the town of Ardee Works to be completed in Q4 2024	N/A
Safe Routes to Schools (Round 1) 1. St Louis Secondary School Dundalk 2. Rehab Care Mill Street Dundalk 3. Saint Brigid's and Saint Patrick's	€930,000	Band 1 €0 - €5M	Phase 3 - Preliminary Design	In accordance with the provisions of Section 38 of the Road Traffic Act, 1994 as amended, proposed works at schools 1, 3 & 4 were advertised in the local press and Consult Louth for a period of two weeks from Tuesday 9th July, 2024 to Tuesday 23rd July, 2024 inclusive. Contractor & Project Supervisor Design Stage selected from winning Tender. Contractor now appointed and programme of works agreed with all school principals and are expected to commence early October 2024.	N/A

Project Name	Allocation 2024	Project Band (updated March 2024)	Current Phase	October 2024- Project update	Anticipated Part 8 Completions, subject to NTA approval of Gateways
4. School, Drogheda Scoil Aonghusa, Drogheda				Works relating to Rehab Care on Mill Street, will be incorporated as part of Mill Street, Active Travel Project.	
Safe Routes to Schools (Round 2) 1. Bellurgan National School 2. Callystown National School 3. St Mary's NS, Knockbridge 4. St. Malachy's GNS, Dundalk	€125,000	Band 1 €0 - €5M	Phase 2 - Concept and Options	The Design Team were appointed in March 2024 and have commenced Option Development and Preliminary Design. Section 38 to be displayed by Q4 2024 It is anticipated that all design and public liaison will be completed in 2024 for Round 2 schools and all infrastructure delivered in 2025.	No part 8's but possible Section 38's

Forbairt Na hEagraíochta Organisational Development

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 cúig eochairfhreagrachta ag an Stiúrthóireacht seo:

- Seirbhísí Corparáideacha
- Tacaíocht Pobail agus Spóirt
- Bainistíocht Dramháil, Gníomh Comhshaoil, Uisce Tuaithe & Gníomhú ar son na hAeráide
- Seirbhísí Tréidliachta
- Acmhainní Duine

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 Rural Water & Climate Action
- Veterinary Services
- Human Resources

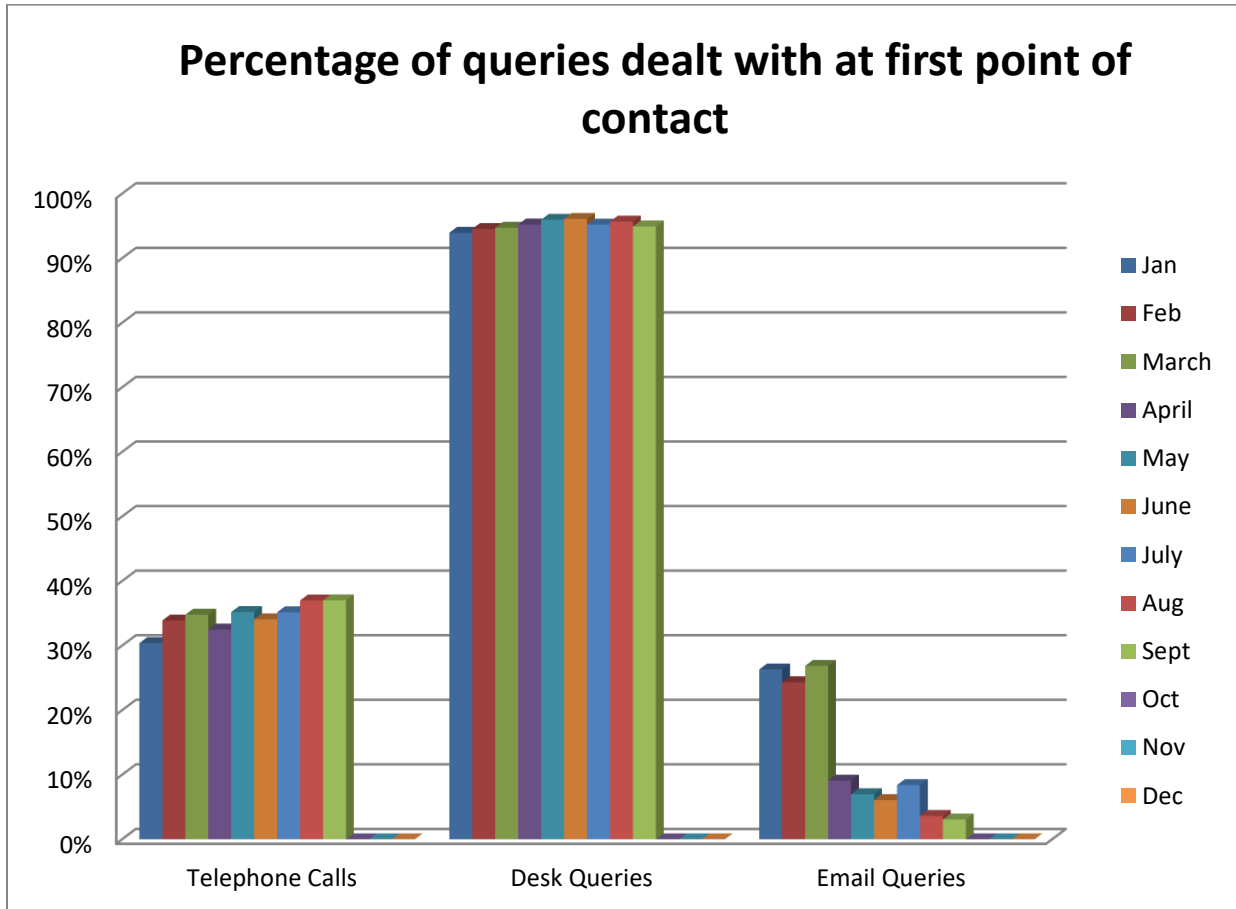


David Hanratty
A/Stiúrthóir / A/Director of Service

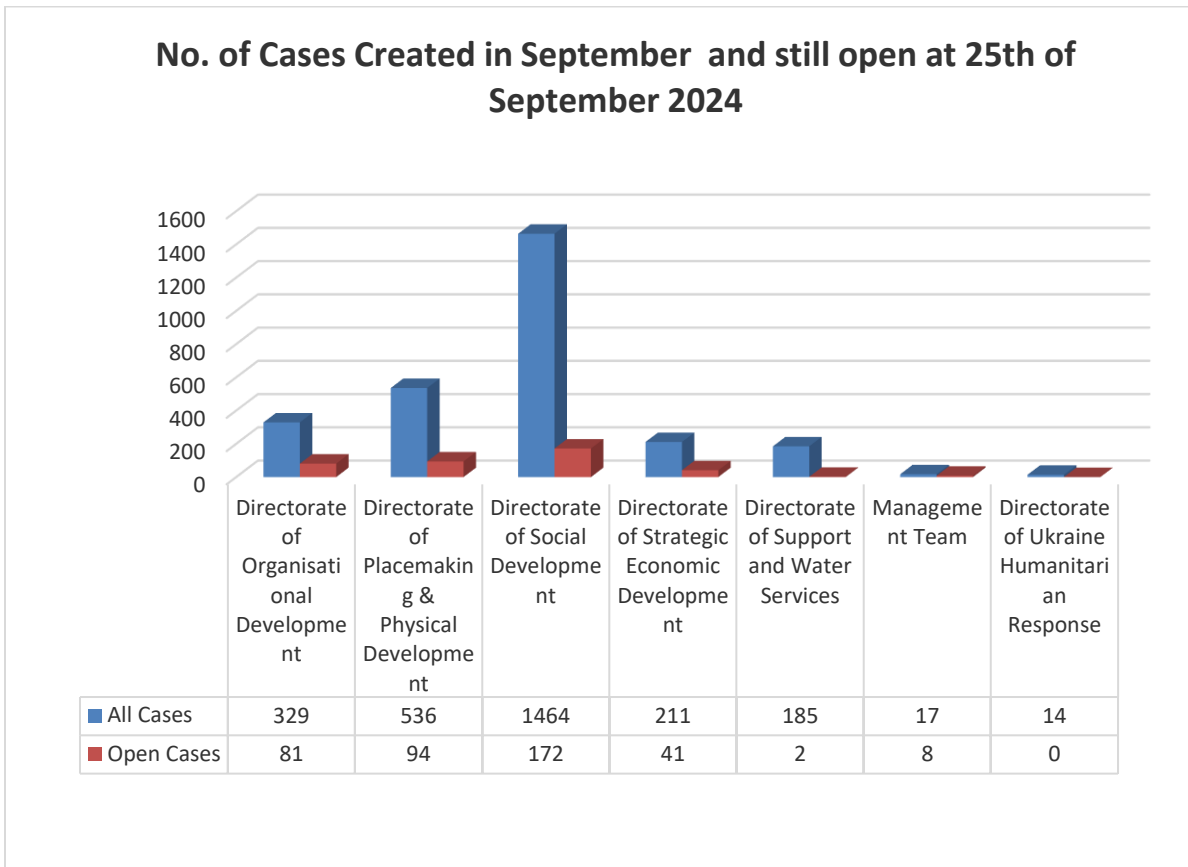
Seirbhísí Corparáideacha / Corporate Services

Tuairisc ar Sheirbhísí Custaiméirí / Customer Services Report

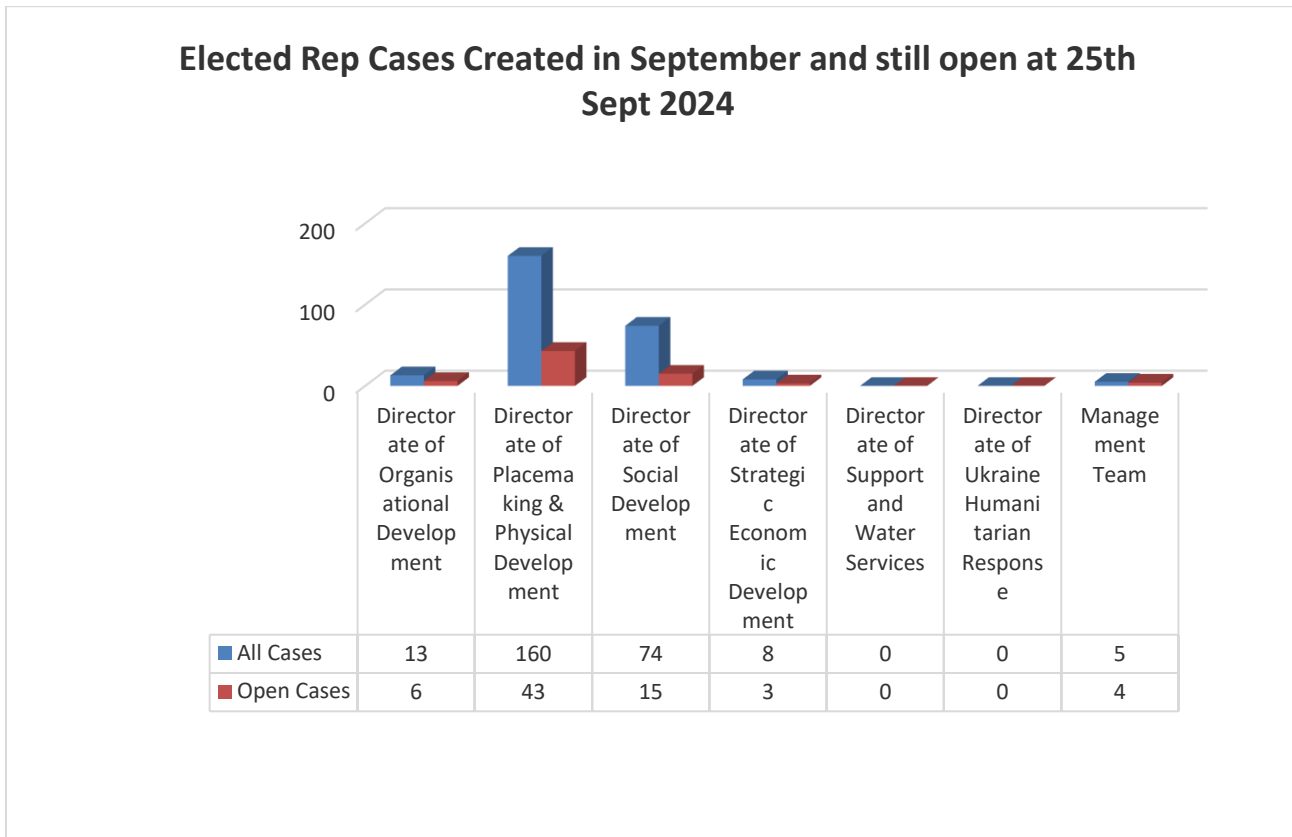
During the month of September 2024 Customer Services dealt with queries 6,304 calls, 979 e-mails and 5,496 counter queries.



There were 2756 valid Sugar CRM cases recorded during September of which 398 (14.4%) remain unresolved, broken down by directorate as follows:



During September 2024, 260 elected reps. cases were recorded on Sugar of which 71 (27. %) remain unresolved broken down by Directorate as follows:



The table below illustrates activity in the redress area.

Request Received	2023 Total Jan-Sept	2024 Total Jan - Sept	Sept only 2024
FOI	94	112	9
DSAR	10	11	1
Data Protection Request	8	13	2
AIE Requests	15	11	1
Ombudsman	14	16	3
Complaints	26	35	2

Clár Toghthóirí / Electoral Register

Field Officers continue to carry out very important work throughout the county collating up to date data such as Eircodes. They are advising constituents to ensure their details are up to date and accurate on the Electoral Register and the most efficient way of updating their details is via www.checktheregister.ie.

Following the Local Elections, we received more than 500 returned Polling Cards marked as “not known” or “gone away”. In accordance with the Electoral Act 2022 a further two attempts were made to contact these constituents, and we can now confirm that in the past fortnight a total of 502 records on the register have been deleted.

Work has also commenced on the deletion process on a further 1069 records which have been identified as no longer living at the address.

It is very important that constituents respond to our correspondence and also check their status on www.checktheregister.ie regularly.



**YOUR VOICE MATTERS AND
YOUR VOTE IS IMPORTANT**

Check that your details on the
Electoral Register are current and correct

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

 **Rialtas na hÉireann**
Government of Ireland

Tacaíocht Pobail / Community Support

Contae Lú atá Báúil le hAois / Age Friendly Louth



Age Friendly Louth Promoting Social Inclusion Week 2024

Age Friendly Louth were delighted to support the Redeemer Ladies Group by providing a sustainable art workshop to celebrate Social Inclusion Week 2024. The Wizard of Creation (Artist) specialises in upcycling and reusing everyday household objects. The ladies reused old teacups bought in a secondhand shop and used them as a base for a floral display. All flowers, herbs and cuttings were from the artist's own garden.



Sustainable Art Workshop attended by Redeemer Ladies Group to celebrate Social Inclusion Week 2024

Age Friendly Sports Taster Day

To celebrate European Week of Sport, Age Friendly Ireland organised an Age Friendly Sports Taster Day at the Sport Ireland Campus (Abbottstown). Older people across Ireland were invited to attend and Age Friendly Louth provided free transport to and from the event on 26th September. Attendees from Co Louth tried out a number of sports tailored specially for older people including Zuma, Walking Football, Seated Volleyball and Fitstiks.



Age Friendly Chair Volleyball



Age Friendly Yoga Session

Ardee Garden Care & Repair Project – Short Listed for Age Friendly Ireland Award



Ardee Tidy Towns supported by Dee Hub, An Garda Síochána and Age Friendly Louth continue to roll out this innovative pilot project. The aim of the project is to provide free gardening services to older and vulnerable people in Ardee Town.

The initiative has been supported by the Ardee Municipal District Elected Members as part of their Discretionary Budget 2024. The project has now been shortlisted for An Age Friendly Ireland award under the Environment theme.

Judging took place on 24th September 2024 and the results will be announced at the Age Friendly Awards ceremony in November 2024.

Local Enhancement Programme 2024 Update

There were 88 successful groups with a total budget of €185,641.85.

To date a total of 49 groups have received payment in the amount of €92,346.07. 9 of these are ringfenced groups who have received a total of €14,849.91 so far.

Healthy Louth



Healthy Louth Newsletter Sept/Oct 2024

Healthy Louth have designed a bi-monthly newsletter. Please find the link to the 11th edition below:

[Healthy Louth Newsletter Sept/Oct 2024](#)

The Healthy Louth Newsletter will signpost to various health and wellbeing information / programmes and events happening across Louth each month. The content of the newsletter incorporates Healthy Ireland themes including:

- Mental Health
- Nutrition
- Physical Activity
- Sexual Health
- Spaces & Places for Health and Wellbeing
- Tobacco & Alcohol
- Older People
- Workplace Wellbeing

The Healthy Louth newsletter will be sent out via the Friday communiqué. In order to extend the reach, the Healthy Louth Coordinator will also utilise the council's social media platforms including @HealthyLouth & @louthcoco twitter, Healthy Louth, Louth PPN and Louth Local Sports

Partnership (LLSP) Facebook pages and @healthylouthcoco on Instagram. In addition, the Healthy Louth Newsletter will also be sent out bi-monthly via a direct e-mail to all staff for both personal use and where relevant within the remit of their role to signpost customers.

If you have anything you would like included in the next edition of the Healthy Louth newsletter, please send it on to the Healthy Ireland Coordinator for Louth; Paula Keenan at healthylouth@louthcoco.ie I hope you find this resource useful.

Developing Healthy Communities – Reimagining Systems: mobilising the creative arts for healthier lives Event, 4th September, Guild Hall, Derry.

The event, organised by Healthy Cities, Derry & Strabane, was attended by representatives from Healthy Louth, Healthy Sligo, Healthy Donegal, and Healthy Cork. It focused on the role of the creative arts in enhancing health and well-being. Key themes included integrating arts into health systems, with examples of successful interventions shared. The event provided valuable insights into the potential for collaboration across regions to support healthier communities through creative approaches.



Speakers at the Developing Healthy Communities Event in the Guild Hall, Derry

Healthy Ireland Local Government Team Planning Event – September 10th & 11th 2024, Limerick

The Healthy Louth Coordinator attended this two-day event, which began with addresses from the Mayor of Limerick, John Moran, Minister Colm Burke T.D. (Minister for Public Health, Wellbeing, and the National Drugs Strategy), and Kira Fortune (WHO European Healthy Cities Network). Key themes included migrant health, food security, and presentations from the WHO and University of Limerick on participatory health research with refugees and migrants.

The second day featured workshops on the Healthy Ireland Data Hub, feedback on wellbeing indicators from RCSI, and planning for the 2024-2025 Community Wellbeing Framework. These sessions will guide the implementation of the Wellbeing Framework in Louth, with a focus on collaboration with PPNs, Municipal Districts, and the LECP.



Healthy Ireland Local Government Team Planning Event in Limerick

National Healthy Cities & Counties of Ireland Network Meeting - 10th September 2024, Limerick Strand Hotel

In September 2024, Paula Keenan, the Healthy County Coordinator for Louth, was appointed as the

Eastern & Midlands Regional Assembly representative on the National Healthy Cities and Counties of Ireland Network. This appointment is poised to enhance the impact of Healthy Louth by fostering stronger partnerships with key stakeholders at both regional and national levels.

Following this appointment, Paula attended the Annual Members Meeting of the National Healthy Cities and Counties of Ireland Network. The meeting featured key inputs from Minister Colm Burke, T.D., Minister of State for Public Health, Wellbeing, and the National Drugs Strategy, as well as Kira Fortune, Regional Advisor for Healthy Cities at the World Health Organization (WHO) Regional Office for Europe.



Minister Colm Burke TD at the Annual Members Meeting of the National Healthy Cities & Counties of Ireland Network

We're Breastfeeding Friendly Louth Events 17&18th September

In September, Healthy Louth successfully hosted two events in Drogheda and Dundalk as part of the expansion of the "We're Breastfeeding Friendly Louth" campaign. These gatherings provided an opportunity for breastfeeding families to share their experiences and feedback on local support services. Attendees participated in an interactive workshop led by Lactation Consultant Catherine McGowan, discussing their breastfeeding journeys and suggesting improvements for community support.

Additionally, a sustainable fashion workshop with The Wizard of Creation inspired participants to upcycle old clothing, promoting creativity and

sustainability. The events fostered valuable discussions on enhancing breastfeeding support across various community spaces, ensuring that Louth continues to build a breastfeeding-friendly environment for all families. These initiatives reflect our commitment to improving services for breastfeeding mothers and their families in County Louth.



Participants at the We're Breastfeeding Friendly Louth Event

Trauma in the Community – National Conference

In September, the Healthy County Coordinator attended the "Trauma in the Community" national conference on the 19th at the Carrickdale Hotel in Dundalk. Organised by the Family Addiction Network and the National Family Support Steering Group, the event focused on the impacts of substance misuse and drug-related intimidation on families and communities. The conference aimed to give a voice to those affected and collaboratively explore effective solutions to these pressing issues.



Christopher Mangan, Former Chief Superintendent, speaking at the Trauma in the Community National Conference in the Carrickdale Hotel

'Dear Future Me' – Picnic in the Park, Saint Helena's Park, Dundalk, September 21st

'Dear Future Me - Picnic in the Park' event was organised by Dundalk Youth Centre in collaboration with Healthy Louth. This cross-border initiative, part of the "Dear Future Me" programme aimed at promoting positive mental health among youth, attracted a diverse crowd, fostering a strong sense of community.

Attendees enjoyed a range of activities, including light movement and laughing yoga, a drumming workshop, and arts and crafts. The event celebrated the 5 Ways to Wellbeing: Connect, Be Active, Take Notice, Keep Learning, and Give, creating an engaging and uplifting atmosphere.

Feedback from participants was overwhelmingly positive, with many expressing appreciation for the opportunity to connect with others and engage in creative activities.

The 'Dear Future Me' project is funded by Creative Ireland, Creative Health & Wellbeing in the Community, Shared Island Initiative, underscoring the collaborative effort to enhance mental health and wellbeing.

'Baby & Me' Café – Redeemer Resource Centre

On September 26th, the Healthy Ireland Coordinator visited the Baby & Me café at the Redeemer Family Resource Centre to launch a five-week programme. This marks the third such café funded by Healthy Louth this year, with the Louth ABC Programme serving as the lead implementing partner. The café offers a welcoming environment for parents to connect, share experiences, and engage in discussions on relevant topics each week.



Baby & Me Café in the Redeemer Resource Centre



Cooley Kickhams GFC Carpark before upgrade

Community Recognition Fund Call 2

Call 2 of the Community Recognition Fund closed on the 11th of September 2024. The Community Recognition Fund is financed by the Department of Rural and Community Development to acknowledge the significant efforts made by local communities in welcoming and supporting new arrivals. A total fund of €1.3 million has been allocated for the CRF 2024 to support medium to large-scale projects for not-for-profit community or voluntary groups in County Louth. A total of 25 Expressions of Interest were received for consideration, with the deadline for submitting valid applications to the Department of Rural and Community Development set for the 30th of September 2024.



Cooley Kickhams GFC Carpark completed upgrade

CLÁR 2023

The CLÁR programme (Ceantair Laga Árd-Riachtanais) funds small-scale infrastructural projects in rural areas. It aims to support sustainable development in designated areas by attracting people to live and work there. Under the 2023 CLÁR scheme, Cooley Kickhams GFC has recently completed an upgrade to their car park and is currently working on improving their walking track.

Louth In Bloom 2024 competition

Plans are underway for Louth County Council's annual environmental competition, "Louth in Bloom 2024." Winners will be announced at an awards ceremony on October 30th, which will take place at Bellingham Castle.

We are excited to welcome back Éanna Ní Lamhna as the guest speaker for this year's event. Éanna holds science degrees from UCD, and her thesis on the ecology of sand dunes and salt marshes was published in the Journal of Life Sciences. She is a judge of environmental initiatives undertaken by local groups on a county level, such as Pride of Place. Additionally, she is a highly respected radio and television broadcaster on environmental issues, was included in Ireland's "Influential Hundred" list in

2012, and is a sought-after speaker and lecturer. Éanna is also a fluent Irish speaker.

Invitations have been sent out and RSVPs are to be confirmed by Wednesday, 16th of October. Transport is being organized to and from the event. This awards ceremony is a fantastic opportunity to recognize and celebrate the hard work and dedication of volunteers who help make Louth shine. We hope to ensure the event is a memorable and festive occasion for all attendees.

PEACEPLUS



Special EU Programmes Body
Comhlacht na gClár Speisialta AE
Special EU Skemes Boadie



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Northern Ireland - Ireland
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Works are ongoing at St Nicolas Church of Ireland, Dundalk in preparation for application for planning permission. Cathal Crimmins Architect, Blackrock, Dublin has been hired to provide Grade I Architect Services to assist in bringing the project to Stage 2A (Planning).

Spóirt / Sport

Ionad Spóirt Dhún Dealgan / Dundalk Sports Centre

Afterschool Activities

Afterschool activities are back with the school year. Our afterschool activities target 6–10-year-olds and take place Wednesdays and Thursdays. Wednesday is for 9–10-year-olds and the Thursdays class is for 6–8-year-olds. Both days are basketball related, which teaches the children the basic rules and fundamental movements needed for basketball.

The classes are 1 hour and 15 minutes long from 3:30-4:45pm, including fun warm up games, passing and shooting drills and basketball matches. The children can then use the skills learned to advance to their local basketball club.



Basketball Class as part of Afterschool Activities

Inclusive Classes

Our inclusive classes for adults with intellectual disabilities started back on the 2nd of September. Classes run Monday, Tuesday and Thursday including Zumba, chair exercises, games and chair yoga. Each class is different in its own way using different methods to get active. All classes are followed by tea and biscuits.



Participants at Inclusive Class

Swimming Pool Stairs

New accessible stairs were fitted this month in Aura Swimming pool, funded by this Council. They are a great and welcome addition to the pool.



New stairs at Aura Swimming Pool

Staid Lúthchleasach Lourdes / Lourdes Athletic Stadium

Bowls Event

Our last bowls event of the year was hosted on the 28th of August with over twenty bowlers in attendance. The bowlers enjoyed over four hours of play in teams of four, followed by some refreshments and a catch up.



Last Bowls Event of 2024

Comhpháirtíocht Áitiúil Spóirt Chontae Lú / Louth Local Sports Partnership

Coach & Volunteer Education Programmes 2024

Louth Local Sports Partnership facilitated the following coach education programmes during September 2024.

Safeguarding

Activity	Date	Venue
Safeguarding Level 1	5 th September 2024	Online
Safeguarding Level 1	12 th September 2024	Online
Safeguarding Level 2	19 th September 2024	Online
Safeguarding Level 3	26 th September 2024	Online

Walk Leaders Award

Activity	Date	Venue
Walk Leaders Award	4 th September 2024	Knockbridge

European Week of Sport

The 2024 European Week of Sport, an EU initiative to raise awareness about the benefits of staying active, took place from 23rd to 30th September. The European Commission invited citizens of all ages and backgrounds to participate in events and activities that celebrate an active lifestyle.

The initiative was first launched in 2015 to address the declining levels of physical activity across Europe. It encourages everyone to participate in sport and physical activity by highlighting the benefits of both for our physical and mental health.

As the Olympic and Paralympic Games took place in Europe this summer, the focus this year was on common EU and Olympic values. These are:

- **Inclusion** – Sport is for everybody, not just athletes
- **Well-being** – Sport boosts self-esteem and promotes better health
- **Belonging** – Sport offers opportunities to meet others and brings generations together

Across Louth, a variety of events took place to ensure that there was something for everyone, regardless of fitness levels or background.



Louth Sports Club Volunteer of the Year Awards launched

In September, Louth Local Sports Partnership was delighted to launch the 2nd Annual ‘Sports Club’ Volunteer of Year Awards for 2024, to recognise and support the huge community of volunteers across Co. Louth who give their time to provide sport and physical activity opportunities across the county.

More than 450,000 people across Ireland volunteer in sports clubs and physical activity groups on a weekly basis thus ensuring opportunities to participate in sport and physical activity are provided to every community in the country. Without them there would be no teams coached, no pitches lined, no matches played, or races run. They are there to support sporting clubs and communities from early morning to late at night without any expectation of recognition or reward.

Louth Local Sports Partnership is hosting this Awards ceremony to recognise and honour these people. The awards ceremony will take place on Monday November 11th in the Carrickdale Hotel. Each sports club in Louth is eligible to nominate their volunteer of the year from their club who they feel should be recognised and celebrated for their contribution to providing sporting opportunities within their local community. The inaugural awards in 2023 recognised volunteers from 103 clubs across Louth.

North-East Sport Inclusion Day

Louth Local Sports Partnership had the pleasure of hosting the third of a series of four North East Local Sports Partnership Inclusive Sports Days in September.

Held at Dundalk Sports Centre, over 70 participants representing Cavan, Monaghan, Meath and Louth had the opportunity to play badminton, try their hand at orienteering, enjoy a game of Boccia hosted by Boccia Ireland, participate in a relaxing yoga session facilitated by Joy Yoga and experience the thrill of traveling on a variety of bikes kindly facilitated by Louth Disability Cycling Club.

Well done to all the participants who enjoyed the activities on the day and thank you to Dundalk Sports Centre for hosting the event.





**Louth Local Sports Partnership
‘Sports Club’ Volunteer of the Year
Awards 2024**

Applications now open for all sports clubs in Co. Louth to nominate your Volunteer of the Year Award.

One volunteer from EVERY club in Louth will be honoured at the awards ceremony to be held on Monday 11th November 2024 at 6:30pm.

Closing Date - Wednesday 9th October at 5pm

For more information please email louthlsp@louthcoco.ie
Or contact 042-9324318

QR code to application or on our website: www.louthlsp.com




Daily Mile Lú

Louth Local Sports Partnership was delighted to relaunch our Daily Mile Lú resource for the new academic year to support children in primary school in Louth to be physically active for fifteen minutes during the school day alongside their classmates.

Daily Mile Lú is a social physical activity, with children running, jogging, skipping, or simply just moving at their own pace in the fresh air with their classmates.

The Sports Partnership wants every primary school pupil in Louth to have the opportunity to participate in the Daily Mile Lú in their school and we have provided every classroom in every primary school in Louth with Daily Mile Lú resources to support the children and teachers to participate.

Benefits of the Daily Mile Lú Programme

- There is no set up, tidy up or equipment required.
- No staff training is needed and there is no additional workload for teachers.
- Children can participate in their uniforms so no PE kit or changing time is needed.
- It is a social, non-competitive and fun activity which allows the children to track their own individual progress.
- It encourages the children to be aware of their health and the benefits of physical activity
- It is a fully inclusive activity; every child, whatever their age or ability can participate fully in the Daily Mile Lú
- Finally, and most importantly the children return to class re-energised and ready to learn!

Please see the link below for two Daily Mile Lú promotional videos; one in English and one as Gaeilge which capture the programme vision and impact.

English version: https://youtu.be/e7D_0NCAgr8

Irish Version: <https://youtu.be/LNoRs166pXI>



Get Ireland Walking - National Walking Day

National Walking Day took place on Sunday 29th of September as part of European Week of Sport from 23rd to 30th of September, organised by Get Ireland Walking and supported by Louth Local Sports Partnership.

National Walking Day aims to celebrate the efforts of community walking volunteers and to promote the activity of walking at a local level in communities across Ireland.

Walking is a hugely accessible activity and has many benefits for both the body and the mind. Several of the 14 Community Walking Groups in Louth celebrated National Walking Day by participating in a variety of walks within their local communities.



Sport & Physical Activity projects in Louth

€154,600 in Dormant Accounts Funding has been awarded to Louth Local Sports Partnership in 2024, as announced on September 9th by the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media, Catherine Martin, and the Minister of State for Sport, Physical Education and the Gaeltacht, Thomas Byrne.

The Dormant Accounts Funding allows unclaimed funds from accounts in credit institutions in Ireland to be utilised for projects focused on overcoming the barriers and challenges to participation in sport for those who are economically or educationally disadvantaged, or those affected by a disability.

The areas of focus include community sports and physical activity hubs, education and training hubs with volunteer supports as a priority and sports measures for disadvantaged communities to support the National Sports Policy and National Physical Activity Plan.

Recognising the invaluable contributions of volunteers in Irish sport, funding is allocated to provide volunteer supports aligned with the key actions of the Volunteering in Sport Policy.

Funding will be allocated to projects that empower volunteers, including youth leadership training, coaching and development programmes and targeted training for volunteers who are from or who work in disadvantaged areas and/or with people with disabilities.

Bainistíocht Dramháil, Gníomh Comhshaoil Aeráide / Waste Management, Environment & Climate Action

Summary of Complaints

A total of 40 complaints were received and investigated by the Environmental Compliance team in September 2024, some of which remain open pending further investigations. There was one prosecution in September 2024 where the defendant entered a plea under Section 32, 39 and 55 of the Waste Management Act 1996 as amended.

6 of the complaints received related to kerbside presentation of household and commercial waste. 4 complaints related to bin collection times and the remaining 10 complaints received in September related to waste/C&D complaint reports.

A total number of 375 complaints have been received in 2024 to date and these are further detailed as follows:

Complaint Type	Received in Sept 2024	Total Received in 2024
Air & Noise	10	94
Waste/C&D	22	203
Farm	6	38
Water Quality	2	40

Waste Facility Permits/Certificates of registration

One new waste facility permit was granted in September. There is also an additional Waste Facility Permit application under Class 5 for the backfilling of soil and stone which is currently being assessed.

Anti-Dumping Initiative

The Councils Environment Section completed three successful mattress and sofa amnesty events on the 11th and 12th September 2024 as part of the 2024 Anti-Dumping Initiative.

A Mattress and Sofa Amnesty Event was held at Dundalk and Drogheda V&W Civic Amenity Centres and Kieran & McGee Ardee Livestock Sales yard, Ardee which resulted in a total of 2,144 Mattresses and 2,087 Couches collected over the two days.



V&W Civic Amenity Centre, Dundalk



V&W Civic Amenity Centre, Dundalk



V&W Civic Amenity Centre, Drogheda



Kieran & McGee Ardee Livestock Sales, Ardee

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

The Councils Environment Section have started the process of issuing Fixed Payment Notices (FPNs) under the above byelaws. In September 2024, a total of 13 FPN's have been issued to account holders of household and commercial bins. All FPN's issued related to the presentation and storage of bins.

Payment of €75 under the byelaws is to be paid to the Council within 21 days.

FPN's will continue to be issued to Householders and Commercial premises who persistently fail to comply with the byelaws.

Diesel Laundering Waste

There were no Integrated Bulk Containers (IBCs) dumped in September 2024. The total cost for clean-up of diesel laundering waste so far in 2024 is approximately €39,939.20.

Litter Enforcement & Investigations

Litter wardens continue to deal with all litter matters within the county daily responding to complaints from members of the public, councillors and engaging with tidy towns groups and communities.

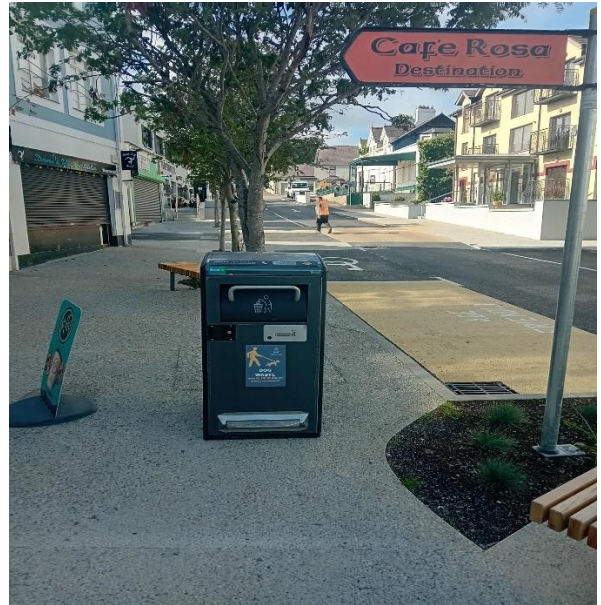
In September, Litter Wardens completed 86 investigations in response to dumping reported by members of the public. 21 Fixed Penalty Notices were issued in September where evidence was found under the Litter Pollution Act 1997.

A successful prosecution resulted from an investigation of dumped waste at Williamson's Place in Dundalk in September. Upon non-payment of the fixed penalty notice, legal proceedings were issued and in Dundalk District Court on the 10th September, the Judge fined the defendant the sum of €500 together with the councils' expenses in the sum of €610, to be paid within 4 months.

Litter wardens also secured 4 successful court convictions in Drogheda District Court for waste dumped in the town and surrounding area and non-payment of the associated fixed penalty notices. Upon hearing the evidence, the Judge convicted and fined the defendants the sum of €200.00 each and ordered that these fines were to be paid within 3 months.

A 5-hour foot patrol was carried out by all Litter Wardens at the beginning of September in North Louth in Carlingford, Omeath village and housing estates, the Greenway, and at Templetown beach. The main emphasis of this foot patrol was to raise awareness of cleaning-up after your dog. The wardens handed out free dog bags and attaching signs on the patrol vans to remind the public that it is an offence to not clean up after your dog. Members of the public were also reminded that dogs cannot be on the blue flag beaches during certain times of the day.

Pictured below are some images from the foot patrol and waste/litter cases that were investigated in September. All waste has been subsequently removed following investigations.



Rialachán Chomhshaoil / Environmental Regulation

Water Quality and complaints

8 Water pollution complaints were received in September, 2 of which related to general water pollution and 6 related to agriculture complaints. Investigations and site visits were carried out in all cases and all complaints were subsequently closed out.

Farm survey Inspections

During the month of September, the Council carried out:

- 15 planned farm survey inspections
- 4 follow-up inspections

River Water sampling and Water framework directive

Routine surveillance and operational monitoring of rivers for the water framework directive programme has been completed for September 2024. Local catchment assessments have been completed by LAWPRO in the Castletown Catchment with several referrals made to the Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA) and Agriculture Sustainability, Support and Advisory programme (ASSAP) for further investigation. Initial fieldwork has commenced in the Glyde Catchment upstream in adjoining counties. Sampling for the Glyde in Louth due to commence in Winter 2024.

Discharge Licences

Assessment inspections were carried out on 17 monitoring results received by the Council in August for Section 4 Discharge Licences. On-site inspections of two licensed sites were also carried out in September 2024.

Licensed landfills

Monthly monitoring of groundwater, surface water and leachate was carried out in September at Dundalk landfill and monthly monitoring of perimeter gas monitoring points was completed at Dundalk, Drogheda and Whiteriver as required by EPA



licences for the site. Monthly gas balancing was carried out at Whiteriver landfill in September. Electrical testing of RCBO's was conducted at the sites in September 2024. Two incidents were uploaded onto the EPA EDEN website in September which related to the downtime of the flare at both Whiteriver and Drogheda landfills. Following investigation and repair, both flares were operational again and the associated incidents were closed out. As requested by the EPA, an investigation of the gas pipe, well and manifold network is being carried out at Dundalk landfill. In addition, a review of the Hydrogeological risk assessment of the site is also being carried out which involves and will involve manually checking leachate levels, pump and recovery rates, automatic data logging for a period of three months, review of monitoring data and development of a revised conceptual site model of the site.

Bathing Water

The bathing water season ended on the 15th September 2024. There was a temporary prohibition notice placed at Clogherhead beach following an elevated result from a sample taken on the 2nd of September 2024. Samples taken on the 4th and 9th September were found to be excellent. The elevated readings may have been linked to an operational issue at the nearby Wastewater Treatment Plant. Following investigations and resampling, the notice was removed on the 13th September. The results from all bathing water sampling are available at the following website: www.beaches.ie.

Rural Water Programme

Capital Funding for Group Schemes

The Council in consultation with the Group Water Schemes applied to the Department for Housing, Local Government and Heritage under its call for bids from Local Authorities for funding under a planned three-year Multi Annual Rural Water Programme 2024 – 2026.

Group Water Scheme Subsidies

6 Group water schemes have been approved grants this year, approval letters were issued to each group.

For subsidy purposes, a group water scheme is defined as:

“A scheme providing a private supply of water to two or more houses by means of a common or shared source of supply and distribution system”.

A property supplied with water by a group water scheme is eligible to be included for subsidy purposes as a domestic connection only if it is used as a normal place of residence. For the purposes of the subsidy scheme normal place of residence:

- includes long-term rentals,
- does not include properties otherwise solely operated on a commercial basis (e.g. holiday homes, self-catering properties, caravan sites etc.),
- does not include domestic connections where the property is unoccupied on a long-term basis.

The overall purpose of the MARWP and other grants is to provide the necessary funding to improve the quality, quantity and reliability of the water services relied upon by rural dwellers, where no public water services are available.

Individual Domestic Water Supplies Grant

100 Grants were issued this year, in the sum of €230,565.37 in relation to Individual Domestic Water Supplies (more commonly called private wells).

Domestic Wastewater Treatment Systems Grant

There were no Domestic Wastewater Treatment Systems (more commonly called septic tanks) grants issued in the year to date.

Domestic Lead Remediation Grant Scheme

Two applications were received to date and payment will be issued in due course.

Climate Action

Louth County Council Climate Action Plan 2024 – 2029

The Climate Action Team continue to implement the LCC Climate Action Plan, 2024 – 2029. This ambitious five-year plan contains 95 climate actions, specific to County Louth. Over the next five years, the climate action team will be working with all sections within LCC to help implement these actions.

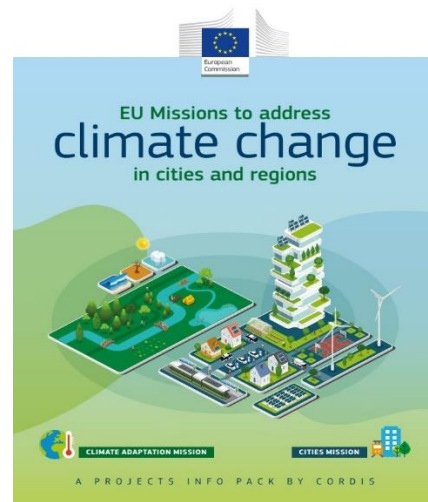
The Climate action team continued to deliver on several LCC decarbonisation topics, including carbon accounting for business travel, green procurement and the implementation of actions contained within the LCC CAP 2024-2029.

Climate action topics are being prepared to help inform the drafting of the new Sustainability SPC work program.

The Climate Action team in LCC continue to be the point of contact for the GAA Green Clubs program in County Louth.

EU Mission, Adaptation to Climate Change

Members of the LCC Climate Action Team are taking part in a series of training organised by the EU Climate Adaptation Mission. This is designed to build capacity for stakeholder engagement specifically around climate adaptation.



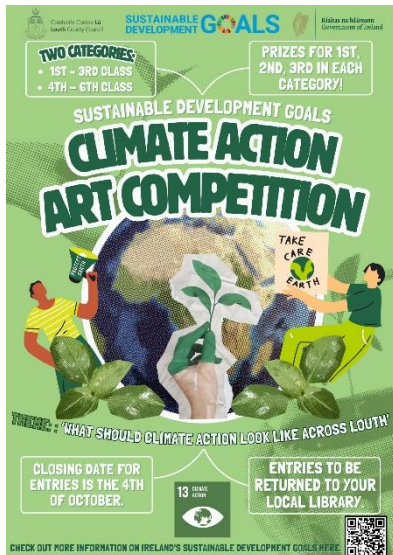
Climate outreach

The Climate Action Team at LCC have continued to support the Creative Ireland funded Louth Urban Food sanctuary project. A series of Climate Action workshops will be delivered to participating community gardens and allotments during the growing season.

There has been several events ran as part of heritage week in association with the LUFSS project. The Climate Action Team supported the Creative Ireland Team by attending and speaking at these events.

Members of the Climate Action Team have recently attended the Junior Achievement Ireland workshop in recognition for their efforts to participate in facilitating a sustainability workshop with a local school earlier this year.

Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) week runs from September 20th – 29th the Climate Action Team and Louth Libraries have organised a colouring competition for school children across Louth to participate in as part of SDG Week, the winners from each of the categories will be announced during Climate Action Week 2024.



Poster for SDG Week artwork competition.

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.

Twenty two community groups from across the county have been approved by the Department of Environment, Climate and Communications to carry out projects under the Community Climate Action Fund. Projects are now beginning to move into the delivery phase. Progress on projects will be reported over the next 18 months as projects complete.

A list of all approved projects can be found on Louth County Council's website [here](#).

Louth County Council have been allocated €604,000 under Strand 1 of the Community Climate Action Fund.

Louth have been over double subscribed with applications, notably energy was the most common theme among applicants, with 61% of applications containing energy as one or more of the themes within the application. Local Climate and Environmental Action was the second most popular theme among applications received, food and waste, shopping and recycling and travel were also popular in an themes among applications.

There has also been a number of projects that have been placed on a reserve list on possibility of funding becoming available at a later date. It is expected that a second round of funding under the Community Climate Action Fund will become available at a later date. The Community Climate Action Officer will contact all community groups in advance of this.

The Community Climate Action Officer has attended online training regarding the financial training associated with the delivery of the projects under the Community Climate Action Fund.

Biodiversity Action



Louth County Council Staff, National Heritage Week - Wild Child Beach Clean & Scavenger Hunt, Templetown

National Heritage Week 2024 ran from 17-25 August. National Heritage Week is the largest event of its kind in Ireland with more than 2,385 events being held across the country (a 25% increase on 2023). More than 56 events were held in Louth this year, more than twice the number of events held in 2023. Events were hosted by both community groups and Louth County Council staff from the Heritage Office, Biodiversity and Climate Team and Creative Louth. The programme included a wide range of events celebrating our cultural and natural heritage. This year's programme included events on biodiversity issues, Bog Appreciation Day, Explore Your Shore, A Turn for the Terns, Wild Child Day Beach Cleans and Scavenger Hunts with demand for places at the Bat Walk and Swift Talk being so high that they were fully booked well ahead of the events.



National Heritage Week - Turn of the Terns, Louth Nature Trust



National Heritage Week - Wild Child Beach Clean and Scavenger Hunt, Clogherhead

The Biodiversity Officer attended Heritage Council run training at the Marine Institute in Galway. The event included a visit to see the native oyster restoration project [Cuan Beo](#) in Galway Bay. Funding for a Louth based native oyster restoration project has been applied for under PeacePlus.



Native Oysters - Cuan Beo native oyster restoration project



Study Visit Cuan Beo native oyster restoration project

Energy

Varcities H2020 Funded Project Update

The Varcities Project is now in its final year. Representatives from the 7 cities and 17 organisations that compose VARCITIES' consortium met physically in Dundalk to review the progress over the past six months and discuss the implementation of the different Visionary Solutions developed in VARCITIES' seven Pilots.

Skelleftea (Sweden) and Novo Mesto (Slovenia) 'pilots' have been operational since the beginning of the year; Dundalk (Ireland), Leuven (Belgium) and Chania (Greece) 'pilots' have unveiled their solution in the past few months!

Summer 2024 was also rich with socio-cultural events at our pilot sites, with a total of more than 60 events organised, focusing on health and well-being for all!



Dundalk Pilot Site showing Biodiversity Garden, developed for the Project.

VARCITIES' partners had the opportunity to directly explore the Pilot site in Dundalk, known as The Still, located in the courtyard of Dundalk Library and Museum Quarter. Inaugurated in June 2024, the pilot site proposed a new regenerated area, with a learning pod (VS1), a sensory garden (VS2) and

bike-station (VS3), and is dotted with a number of sensors to monitor Health and Well-Being parameters.



Discover more about Varcities Progress Meeting 8 in Dundalk at : <https://varcities.eu/8th-progress-meeting-in-dundalk/>

Staff Energy Awareness Day together with the Optimising Power@ Work Campaign Energy

County Hall Building joined OPW’s Optimising Power @Work Programme in 2016. Since that time, we have achieved a 30% reduction in energy consumption in the building. This accomplishment highlights the Council’s commitment to environmental responsibility and also underscores the dedication of our staff in adopting more energy-efficient practices.

To celebrate this success, the OPW will visit County Hall to present staff with a certificate recognising this outstanding achievement and all staff efforts. Additionally, an Energy Adviser will be on hand to offer personalized, one-on-one guidance on energy-related topics, both for improving efficiency in the workplace and at home.

Dundalk Town Hall

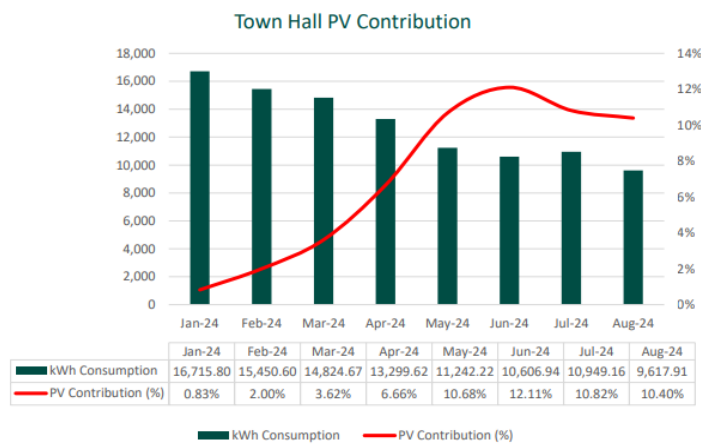
The Council are continuing to focus on Carbon savings. By 2030, every public sector organisation is required to achieve: 51% reduction in energy-related greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Compared to the base year of 2014 the carbon emissions over the last twelve months at Dundalk Town Hall have reduced by 38%. Monthly comparison data shows that the August 2024 CO2

Emissions are 52% lower (05 Tonnes) than August 2014.

PV Savings in Dundalk Town Hall Building

The roll out of renewable sources of energy in our buildings are playing a key part in our carbon savings. Total PV generation at Dundalk Town Hall building for August 2024 shows:

- Year To Date Solar PV generation: 6,538 kWh and;
- Year To Date Solar PV Contribution: 6.4%.



Graph: Solar PV Generation at Dundalk Town Hall 2024

OPW – County Hall Radiator Sweet Spot

The Council's Energy Team staff undertook an investigation at County Hall Dundalk in August 2024 to seek to maximise settings on radiator controls.

From the investigation, radiators were examined, and any issues were recorded in a table, marking location and what issue was associated with each one. This will be sent to the maintenance contractor for follow-up repairs. It is also planned to undertake a similar investigation (Radiator 'sweet' Spot optimum temperature setting check) at Dundalk Town Hall in October 2024.

OPW – Proposal to Seek Extension of OPW's Optimising Power @ Work Programme to Drogheda Fair Street

The Council are investigating if the Service Level Agreement with OPW for Optimising Power at Work can be extended to Drogheda Fair Street.

It is envisaged that the Fair Street Offices could benefit from significant energy savings, by extension of the Optimising Power @ Work Programme. It is planned to submit the application form to OPW by the end of September 2024.

Energy Efficiency Performance and Gap to Target

SEAI Annual Report 2023

The SEAI Annual Report 2023 on Public Sector Energy Performance is now available: [Public-Sector-Annual-Report-2023.pdf](#). Since the baseline year of 2006, the Council has achieved 46% improvement in energy efficiency.

Energy Management System ISO5001 and Deliverables 2024 Energy Action Plan 2024 Update

The Council is continuing to phase out use of all fossil fuelled space heating and hot water means at our staff-occupied and leased buildings. Works to implement the Council's Energy Action Plan for 2024 are in progress.

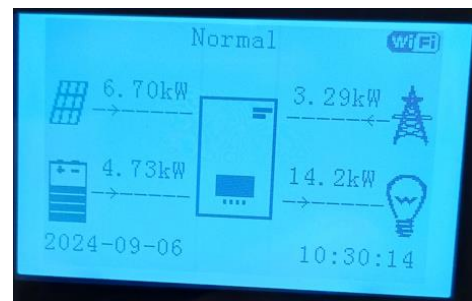
A contractor is shortly expected to be appointed for the Dundalk Fire Station Mechanical and Electrical Upgrade (for new Air Source Heat Pump and ESB Main and sub distribution board upgrades).

Lighting upgrades to low energy lighting are presently being evaluated for County Library and Bookstore, Ardee Civic Office and Millmount Museum. It is hoped that these would be complete by Q1 2025.

Drogheda AURA Leisure Centre boiler upgrades have been operational since the start of July. It is hoped data trending from that site can begin in late 2024 to act as a flagship for nationwide AURA's ASHP implementation. Currently the Council is working with Aura to explore best options for implementation of the Council's first reportable heat energy meter at the Drogheda Leisure Centre site, with a view to having reportable data by end of 2024.

Council staff are piloting a new energy meter and data logging concept at two of the SEU buildings in Dundalk Museum and Dundalk Fire Station. They are collecting and trending the 1) PV Generation 2) electricity consumption and 3) gas consumption. Data dashboards are now being reviewed before rolling this out at all the Council's Significant Energy User buildings. It is hoped that this would enable a significant saving in annual monitoring costs of energy consumption.

A new hybrid Solar PV system with a 10kWh battery pack was recently commissioned at the Council's Animal Compound in Whiterath.



The above photo shows the display screen at the Council's Animal Pound Dromiskin - the 14.2kW electrical load at the site provided entirely from sustainable energy – solar PV, battery back-up and wind generator.

SLA with the Mid East Energy Unit

The Council are attending monthly meetings with the Mid East Energy Unit (MEEU) to further support the Council's journey towards the public sector obligations of 51% reduction in Green-House Gas (GHG) emissions and a 50% improvement in Energy Efficiency by 2030.

SEAI Monitoring & Reporting 2030

Stage 1 of the SEAI Monitoring and Reporting (M&R) for Public Bodies, the next focus for the Council will be on stage 2, which opened for reporting on 26th August 2024. Stage 2 consists of reporting data the following:

1. Energy Projects
2. Buildings
3. Vehicles
4. Business Travel

The final deadline date to complete the gathering and input of the data for stage 2 is on 15th November 2024.

Energy Audits

The Council are at the final stage of procuring Energy Audits for a variety of Council owned buildings, which are as following:

- Millmount
 - Martello Tower
 - Museum
 - Governor's House
- Dundalk Town Hall
- Dundalk Sports Centre
- Ardee Civic Office
- Ardee Library
- Drogheda Library
- Carlingford Library
- Carlingford Fire Station

Energy Audits are an essential milestone for developing Energy Upgrade projects for Council owned buildings, and a fundamental requirement by SEAI for energy-related funding. Energy Audits are extremely beneficial as they provide comprehensive information in regard to potential improvements,

Thermal/ Electrical/ Carbon/ Cost Savings, Simple Payback (years), etc.

Completion of the Energy Audits is expected by end of October.

Display Energy Certificates

The Council are also procuring Display Energy Certificates (DECs), with requests for quotations going out on 23/09/24, for 11 No. Council.

Display Energy Certificates (DECs) are required for public display in buildings which are 250m² and frequently used by the public (S.I. 243 of 2012). These regulations implement the requirements of the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (Directive 2010/31/EC) of the European parliament and of the Council of Ireland.

Completion of the Display Energy certificates is to be expected by the end of November 2024.

Drogheda Fair Street Machinery Yard Security Update

The Council is planning upgrading works to improve access control for the Machinery Yard at Drogheda Fair Street.



Machinery Yard Entrance to the Council's Drogheda Office

Periodic 5 Year Testing for Council Buildings

Staff at the Council's Facilities Team are also planning Periodic 5 Year Testing for a number of Council buildings. This certifies that Council buildings Safe Electric Compliant, in accordance with IS 10101.

Dunleer Library

Construction works to convert the former Bank of Ireland to Dunleer Library at Main Street Dunleer are substantially complete. The formal opening ceremony was held on 11th September. The works are now in the contract maintenance period and it is expected that all outstanding construction will be completed there by end October.



The New Dunleer Library

Dundalk Leisure Centre

Works are in progress to improve the exterior of Dundalk Leisure Centre.



Painting Improvements at Dundalk Leisure Centre

The works involve shot blasting and painting at the Leisure Centre to improve the appearance and durability of the structure.

In addition, the front entrance is being improved to improve comfort inside at the front lobby.



Improvements at the front entrance at Dundalk Leisure Centre

Seirbhísí Tréidliachta / Veterinary Services

Food Safety Authority of Ireland (FSAI)

As of the 30th September 2024, the Council's 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. Two new food businesses were registered and approved in the past month.

The Council has carried out one hundred inspections in the year to date, including ante-mortem and post-mortem inspections in the abattoir.

There were sixty-two valid Sugar CRM cases assigned to Veterinary Services during September 2024, with six still in progress.

Smacht ar Mhadraí / Control of Dogs

Control of Dogs Act 1986

Dogs through the pound September 2024	
Total dogs through the pound	20
Seized under Section 16	0
Strays	11
Surrendered by owners	9
No dogs reclaimed by owners	3
No of dogs rehomed direct	8
No of dogs rehomed to welfare groups	5
No of dogs on hand in Pound at 30/09/2024	6

Dog Licences September 2024	
No of Licences sold	538
Licence Checks:	
House calls	338
Section 16 Notices issued (request to produce licence within 10 days)	176
Fixed Penalty Notices	7

Control of Horses

Control of Horses Act 1996

Control of Horses Bye-Laws 2003

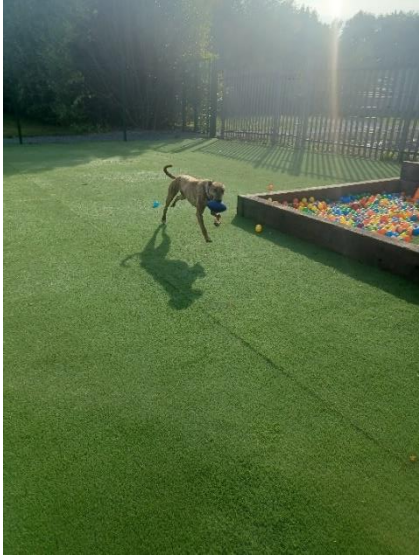
Horses through the pound September 2024	
Horses seized, and reason for seizure:	0
Horses reclaimed by owner	0
Horses rehomed	0
Horses disposed of	0
No of horses on hand in Pound on 30/09/2024	0

Dog Breeding Establishments

Dog Breeding Establishments Act 2010

Dog Breeding Establishments September 2024	
Total no of registered DBE's in Louth (as at 30/09/2024)	6
Hunt	1
Boarding Kennels	2
Training Kennels	1
Welfare	2

This month saw the completion of the Council's new outdoor dog enrichment area at the Animal Pound in Dromiskin, which is a fully enclosed, all-weather space that allows the dogs to regularly exercise and relax while they are at the pound. This was jointly funded by the Council and the Department of Rural and Community Development. The official launch of this space will take place later this year.



A deceased dolphin was recovered from Blackrock beach by tractor, with the assistance of the area office GSS, and was taken to the Pound for a post-mortem examination by the CVO. The National Parks and Wildlife Service also took DNA samples for the Irish Whale and Dolphin Sanctuary.

Forbairt Shóisialta Social Development

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

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.

**Ger Murphy
Stiúrthóir / Director of Service**



Titíocht / Housing

Ag Déileáil le hEaspa Dídine / 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 August – 19th September 2024 can be summarised as follows:

Tábla 1: Gníomhartha atá déanta ag Seirbhísí do Dhaoine gan Dídean / Table 1: Actions by Homeless Services

20th August to 19th September 2024	Ardee MD	Dundalk MD	Drogheda MD	Total
Offered advice, support (including fast tracking H.A. for Rent Supplement eligibility)	3	116	91	210
Placed in Temporary Emergency Accommodation	0	28	18	46
Refused Offer of Temporary Emergency Accommodation	0	8	2	10
Not eligible from outside county or non HRC	0	0	0	0
Total number of Person who presented as Homeless	3	152	111	266

Tables 2 - 4 below reflect details of the adults who were in emergency accommodation in County Louth on 19th September 2024. Also included at Table 5 is

the breakdown of families in emergency accommodation at that date.

Tábla 2: Inscne / Table 2: Gender

Gender	Total
Male	100
Female	114
Total	214

Tábla 3: Aoisghrúpaí / Table 3: Age Groups

Age Group	Total
18-24	27
25-44	123
45-64	58
65+	6
Total	214

Tábla 4: Saghas Loistín / Table 4: Accommodation Type

Accommodation Type	Total
Private Emergency Accommodation (PEA)	129
Supported Temporary Accommodation (STA)	85
Total unique individuals	214

Tábla 5: Teaghlaigh le paistí cleithiúnaí / Table 5 - Families with dependent children

	No. of families with dependent children	No. of Individual Adults	No. of Dependents
Individuals with dependent children	45	48	79
Couples with dependent children	20	40	56
Total	65	88	135

Tábla 6: Tithíocht ar dtús / Table 6 - Housing First

Number of tenancies established	46
Number of individuals currently in tenancy	34

Leithdháileadh Tithíochta suas go dtí 19 Meán Fomhair 2024 / Housing Allocations up to 19th September 2024

District	LA	LA Refusal	AHB	AHB Refusal
Ardee	31	5	3	1
Drogheda	109	20	181	14
Dundalk	89	7	87	6
Total	229	32	271	21

Aistrithe / Transfers

District	Number
Ardee	3
Dundalk	9
Drogheda	17
Total	29

Liosta Tithe / Housing List

19 th Sept 2024	Ardee	Drogheda	Dundalk	Total
Housing List	396	718	1161	2275
HAP Transfer List	296	989	1630	2915
Total Housing List	692	1707	2791	5190

There are **325** applications on the transfer list (Non HAP) within Social Housing including 67 applications from the Approved Housing Bodies.

Íocaíocht Cúnaimh Tithíochta / Housing Assistance Payment

The total number of applications in HAP is **2,915**

Ardee Municipal District	Drogheda Borough District	Dundalk Municipal District	Total
296	989	1,630	2,915

Bainisteoireacht Chíosa / Rent Management

The total number currently paying rent by Household Budget is **914**.

Current Rents Arrears at 19 th September 2024	No of Accounts	Value
Rents between 4-6 weeks old	200	€73,684
Rents between 7-12 weeks old	182	€133,467
Rents greater than 12 weeks old	912	€3,168,606
TOTAL	1,294	€3,375,757

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 tenancy warning. The following correspondence was issued in July 2024:

Letter Type	Month/Year	Number Issued
1 st Reminder	September 2024	86
2 nd Reminder	September 2024	33
Final Reminder	September 2024	34
Total issued		153

Customers that fall into arrears may enter into a payment plan for full repayment over an agreed period of time. 56 new payment plans commenced in September 2024 (up to and including 20th September).

Maoin Folmhach / Vacant Properties

Vacant Properties on 20 th September 2024	Total
Ardee Municipal District	6
Dundalk Municipal District	21
Drogheda Municipal Borough District	26
Subtotal (re-lets) Vacant Properties	53
CPO units not yet ready for occupation (All County)	2
Total Number of Properties (Relets & CPO)	55

Note: Social units being used as short-term accommodation for homeless or emergency are not included in the above figures.

Cuairteanna Chothabhála / Maintenance Calls

Maintenance	22 nd August to 20 th September 2024	Total (YTD)
No. of Maintenance Requests Received	970	5,310
No. of Maintenance Requests Completed	888	4,352
No. of Maintenance Requests in Progress	31	N/A
No. of Maintenance Requests Refused	51	239

Ríomhchlár Aisfheistithe Éifeachtúlachta Fuinnimh / Energy Efficiency Retrofit Program (EERP)

The 2024 EERP allocation for Louth, as confirmed by the DHLGH, is 140 units. The number of commenced or completed units is as follows

Municipal District	Number of Commenced/ Completed Units
Ardee MD: Cherrywood Park, Tallanstown Smarmore, Ardee Ferdia Park, Ardee	48
Dundalk MD: Hillview Dundalk, Barton Park, Dundalk Market Street, Dundalk Defenders Row, Dundalk	31
Drogheda BD: Ascal a Haon/ Do/ Tri, Drogheda Sunnyside Cottages, Drogheda Rathmullan Park, Drogheda Bredin Street, Drogheda John Kirk Park, Clogherhead	61

Cigireachtaí ar Tithe Príobháideacha atá ar fáil ar cíós / Private Rental Inspections

	September 2024	Total (YTD)
Properties inspected monthly	173	1,346
Advisory Letters issued	47	915
Improvement Notices issued	3	15
Private Inspections	0	3
Prohibition notices issued	0	2
HAP Inspections	142	742
RAS Inspections	0	0
AHB Inspections	0	442
Private Re-Inspections	0	3
HAP Re-Inspections	30	137
RAS Re-Inspections	0	0
AHB Re-Inspections	0	1
Inspections from Complaints	1	19
Properties made Compliant	8	62

Páirtíocht Tionóntachta / Tenancy Engagement

22 nd August to 19 th September 2024	Drogheda	Ardee	Dundalk	Monthly Total	Yearly Total
No. Tenants who attended Pre-tenancy training	6	2	17	25	237
Post-tenancy inspections	2	0	10	12	141
Tenancy Investigation Visits	16	4	21	41	300

Iompraíocht Fhrithshóisialta / Anti-Social Behaviour

22 nd August to 19 th September 2024	Drogheda	Ardee	Dundalk	Monthly	Yearly
ASB Cases* Received	8	1	7	16	146
ASB cases Ongoing	9	1	9	19	-
ASB cases complete	4	0	5	9	124

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

Fógraí a D'eisigh le haghaidh Sáru Tionóntachta / Notifications Issued for Tenancy Breaches

22 nd August to 19 th September 2024	Drogheda	Ardee	Dundalk	Monthly	Yearly

Verbal Warnings	1	0	1	2	32
Written Warnings	0	0	0	0	2
Tenancy Notifications	0	0	0	0	8
Tenancy Warnings Housing Act, 2014	0	0	1	1	5

Déisiú agus Léas / 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	Complete. Ready to Allocate.
1	Dundalk	2	Complete. Ready to Allocate.

Tithíocht Inacmhainne / Affordable Housing

Funding approval has been sought from the DHLGH for an affordable housing scheme in Drogheda due for completion in Quarter 2 of 2025. Discussions are ongoing with developers regarding further schemes in Drogheda and Dundalk area which are expected to come on stream in 2025 & 2026.

Morgáiste go Cíos (MGC) / Mortgage to Rent (MTR)

Active MTR Applications Total	32
AHB MTR Applications Active	18
AHB MTR completed 2024	0
Private MTR Applications Active	12
Private MTR completed 2024	4
MTR Application Awaiting Purchaser	2

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 has passed, the borrower may be given the option to buy the home back if they are in a position to do so.

Deontas Athchóirithe D'áras Folamh / Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant

Applications Submitted:	212
Approved:	141
Rejected:	14
Withdrawn	18
Other (FI Requests, First Site Inspections)	39
Legal Stages before Funding issued	15
Funding Issued to Applicant	15
Principal Private Residence	157
Rental Applications	55

lasacht Tí Údaráis Áitiúil / Local Authority Home Loans

2024 Budget Allocation	€7,230,000
LAHL Approvals at 20/09/2024	€2,586,610
Breakdown of LAHL applications processed at 20th September, 2024	
Total Number of Applications at 20/09/2024	36
LAHL carried over from 2023	6
Invalid/Returned	8
Approved	16
Declined	10
For Review	3
Outstanding – waiting on further information	5

Gnóthaithee/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 September, the Council purchased 6 properties.

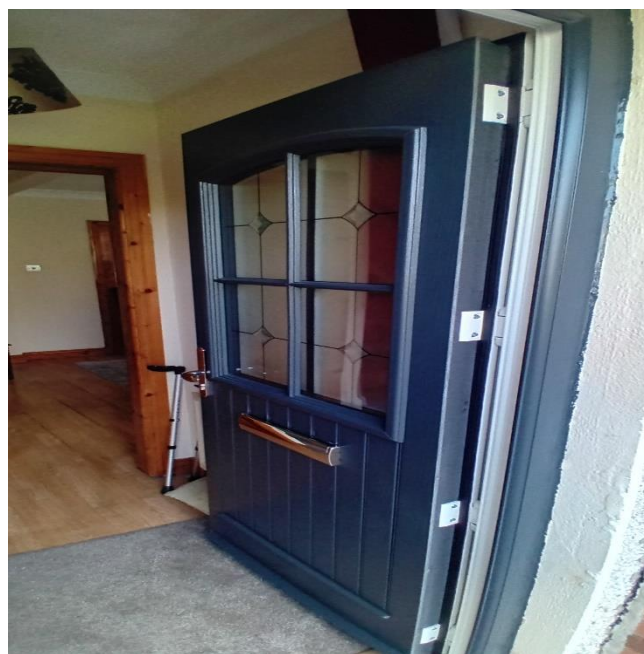


Recently acquired properties in Dundalk and Drogheda

Cúnamh Deontais do Sheandaoine agus do Dhaoine faoi Mhíchumas / Grant Assistance to the Elderly and Disabled

Grants are available to households where adaptations are required to render a house more suitable for the accommodation of a person with a disability. Persons aged 66 and above who are living in poor housing conditions can also apply for a grant towards necessary repairs or improvements, household income and limits apply. Priority is given where adaptations are needed to help the person leave hospital/residential care. Applicants over the age of 65 requiring help with their application forms can contact the Louth Health Age Friendly Homes Co-ordinator, Adrienne McCann at amccann@meathcoco.ie or go to the website at <http://agefriendlyhomes.ie/topics/social-health-care/healthy-homes/>.

Status	HAG	MAG	HOP	Month	YTD
Grants Approved 2023	159	27	117	-	303
Applications on Hand 19/09/2024	140	15	355	-	510
Grants Approved 22/08/2024 to 19/09/2024	21	4	8	33	206



New door fitted in Drogheda in September, funded by a HOPS



Bathroom adaptation in Dunleer completed in, part-funded by a HAG



New Windows fitted in Drogheda in September, funded by a HOPS



Access ramp in Dunleer completed in September, part-funded by a HAG

Seachadadh Caipitil Tithíochta / Capital Housing Delivery

Muirhevnamor Infill, Dundalk

The contractor, C J Callan Construction Ltd., is progressing on site with the construction of these 11 residential units. The 11 units comprise a mix of 2 & 3 bed houses. All units will be A-Rated energy efficient dwellings. The development is programmed to be substantially complete by end of Q1 2025 - see Photographs of current status of site development.



Muirhevnamor Infill Project, Dundalk – under construction



Muirhevnamor Infill Project, Dundalk – under construction



Muirhevnamor Infill Project, Dundalk – under construction

Seachadadh Caipitil Tithíochta / Capital Housing Delivery

Seachadadh SHIP / SHIP Delivery

Project Name	Project Phase	Total Number of Social Units Expected	Project Status	Projected Substantial Completion Date	Unit Type
Muirhevnamore, (Infill) Dundalk	1/1	11	On Site	31/03/2025	3 * 2 bed & 8 * 3 bed
Boice Court, Mell, Drogheda (Phase 2)	1/1	72	On Site	06/06/2025	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	27/05/2026	2 * 2 bed, 2 * 3 bed, 2 * 2 bed Apt
Point Road, Dundalk	1/1	44	SHIP Accelerated Delivery, Stage 2 Approved	31/12/2026	31 * 2 bed, 10 * 3 bed, 3 * 4 bed
Dunleer (Ravel Grange)	1/1	70	SHIP Accelerated Delivery, Stage 2 Approved	31/12/2026	45 * 2 bed, 20 * 3 bed, 5 * 4 bed
Ballymakenny Road, Drogheda - West	1/1	97	SHIP Accelerated Delivery, Stage 2 Approved	31/12/2026	52 * 2 bed, 32 * 3 bed, 13 * 4 bed
Mullavalley, Louth Village	1/1	58	SHIP Accelerated Delivery, Stage 2 Approved	31/12/2026	28 * 2 bed, 24 * 3 bed, 5 * 4 bed, 1 * 5 bed
Greenhills, Drogheda	1/1	46	SHIP Accelerated Delivery, Stage 2 Approved	31/12/2026	42 * 2 bed, 3 * 3 bed, 1 * 5 bed

Anne St. Dundalk	1/1	16	Stage 1 Approved	31/12/2026	8 * 2 bed Apt, 8 * 3 bed Apt.
Ballymakenny Road - East Site, Drogheda	1/1	130	PPP Bundle 5 Funding Approved	31/10/2028	52 * 2 bed, 47 * 3 bed, 4 * 4 bed, 1 * 5 bed, 26 * 1 bed Apt
Mullagh Close, Clogherhead	1/3	4	On-site	30/09/2024	4 * 3 bed
Mullagh Close, Clogherhead	2/3	4	On-site	31/12/2025	4 * 3 bed
Mullagh Close, Clogherhead	3/3	4	On-site	31/03/2025	4 * 3 bed
Knockshee, Old Golf Links Road, Blackrock, Dundalk	1/1	12	On-site	31/12/2025	12 * 2 bed Apt.
Ferrard Park, The Twenties, Drogheda	1/4	7	Completed	22/08/2024	2 * 3 bed, 5 * 2 bed
Ferrard Park, The Twenties, Drogheda	2/4	7	Completed	13/09/2024	2 * 3 bed, 5 * 2 bed
Ferrard Park, The Twenties, Drogheda	3/4	7	On-site	31/10/2024	2 * 3 bed, 5 * 2 bed
Ferrard Park, The Twenties, Drogheda	4/4	7	On-site	31/10/2024	2 * 3 bed, 5 * 2 bed
Quarry Court, John St. / Stoneylane, Ardee, Co. Louth	1/1	20	On-site	28/02/2025	11 * 3 bed, 3 * 3 bed Apt, 6 * 2 bed Apt.
Derryveigh House, Hoeys Lane, Dundalk	1/1	2	Funding Approved	30/09/2025	1 * 3 bed, 1 * 4 bed
Clontygora, Dundalk	1/1	2	Funding Approved	31/12/2025	2 * 4 bed

Potters Field, Cappocks Green, Ardee, Co. Louth	2/3	8	On-site	30/06/2025	7 * 3 bed, 1 * 2 bed
Potters Field, Cappocks Green, Ardee, Co. Louth	3/3	1	Funding Approved	30/06/2025	1 * 2 bed
Listoke Elms & Listoke Willows	1/3	3	Completed	02/07/2024	3 * 2 bed
Listoke Elms & Listoke Willows	2/3	12	On-site	30/10/2024	6 * 2 bed Apt, 6 * 3 bed Duplex
Listoke Elms & Listoke Willows	3/3	2	Funding Approved	31/03/2025	1 * 2 bed Apt, 1 * 3 bed Duplex
Bothar Glas / Ard Patrick, Green Road, Louth Village	1/1	5	Completed	02/09/2024	5 * 3 bed
Medebawn Court, Dundalk	1/1	2	Completed	04/09/2024	1 * 2 bed Apt, 1 * 3 bed Duplex
Seabrook, Commons Road, Dromiskin	1/1	2	On-site	31/10/2024	2 * 3 bed

Seachadadh CAS / CAS Delivery

Project Name	AHB	Total Number of Social Units Expected	Project Status	Projected Substantial Completion Date	Unit Type
Coulter Park, Dundalk, Co Louth	Tuath	10	On Site	30/10/2024	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	15/06/2026	Nineteen * 1 Bed apartments Three * accessible units Eight * Studio apartments
Highfield, Newry Road, Dundalk, Co Louth	Women's Aid Dundalk	12	Stage 2 approved	02/06/2026	Five * 1 bed apartments Seven * 2 bed apartments

Seachadadh CALF / CALF Delivery

Project Name		Total Number of Social Units Expected	Non-Part V / Part V	Project Status	Projected Substantial Completion Date	Unit Type
Newtown View, Marsh Road, Drogheda Respond Housing	2/3	37	33/4	On site	01/10/2024	* 26 Three Bed Houses * 11 Two Bed Houses
Newtown View, Marsh Road, Drogheda Respond Housing	3/3	56	51/6	On Site	01/10/2024	* 16 Two Bed Houses * 40 Three Bed Houses
Dublin Road, Dundalk Respond	3/3	40	36/4	On Site	30/10/2024	* 19 One Bed Apts * 12 Two Bed Apts * 9 Three Bed Apts
An Caislean, Flaxmill Lane, Yellowbatter Drogheda North & East	1/1	17	14/3	On site	30/09/2024	* 7 One Bed Apts * 7 Two Bed Apts * 3 Three Bed Apts
Friary Place, Mill Lane Drogheda Tuath	1/1	49	44/5	On-Site	30/10/2024	* 27 One Bed Apts * 22 Two Bed Apts
Racecourse Meadows with Circle	1/3	18		On Site	30/11/2024	* 18 three Bed Houses
Racecourse Meadows with Circle	2/3	8		On Site	30/03/2025	* 8 Three Bed Houses
Racecourse Meadows with Circle	3/3	19	12/7	On Site	30/06/2025	* 10 Three Bed Houses * 9 Two Bed Houses
Connollys Field, Dundalk Fold Housing	1/2	30	19/11	On- Site	01/04/2025	* 20 One Bed Apts * 10 Two Bed Apts

Connollys Field, Dundalk Fold Housing	2/2	40		On- Site	01/04/2025	* 31 One Bed Apts * 9 Two Bed Apts
Harbour View, Coulter Place, Dundalk Cluid	1/1	18		On-Site	14/03/2025	* 12 One Bed Apts * 6 Two Bed Apts
Gullion Park, Finnabair, Dundalk Co-Operative	1/1	142	128/14	Funding Approved	05/11/2025	* 48 One Bed Apts * 70 Two Bed Apts * 24 Three Bed Apts
Avourwen Meadows, Drogheda, Co. Louth Oaklee	1/1	50	45/5	Funding Approved	10/11/2025	* 18 One Bed Apts * 32 Two Bed Apts

Seirbhísí Cultúrtha / Cultural Services

An Chartlann / Archives



Archives Entrance Gate Sign

National Retention Policy Records Management Working Group

The Co Archivist is assisting with the draft records retention schedule revisions of Fire Services, Community, and Legal Services. To date, revised records retention schedules for fifteen sections have been completed, approved and issued to local authorities.

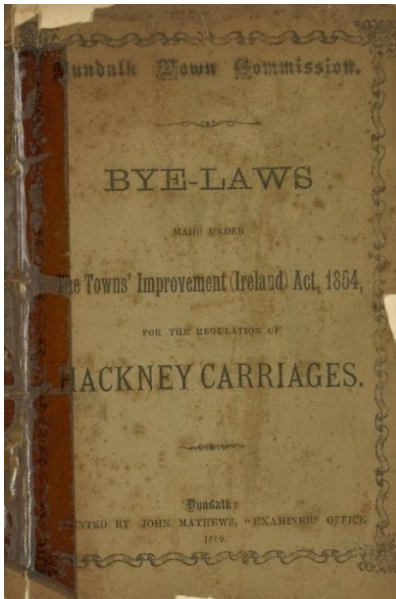
Louth County Archives assists staff on an ongoing basis with queries on the management of records

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 Finance and on Operations' records being carried out recently.

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: Dundalk Town Commissioners' by-laws for the regulation of hackney carriages, 1888

Research Enquiries

The preservation of archives is a vital need for our society and the service receives 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.

Leabharlanna / Libraries

National Public Libraries Day

Louth Library Service along with 300+ libraries across Ireland celebrated National Public Libraries Open Day on Saturday September 28th. This is an initiative to promote the role of public libraries in Irish

society, raise awareness of the range of services they provide and encourage people to become members. The Take a Closer Look campaign is encouraging people to look at the wide-ranging free services open to them through their local library.

Library membership is free with no fines or any barrier to access, with over 12 million items available to borrow.

Louth County Council Commemorative Programme 2024



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

Louth Library Service is holding their Autumn lecture series as part of the Louth County Council Commemorative Programme 2024 as supported by the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media. The talks focus on connecting and engaging adults in the local community to reflect on the early years of the state, whilst also looking back on events during the Decade of Centenaries.



Dr Myles Dungan in Dundalk Library

Dr. Myles Dungan held a talk in Dundalk Library on Thursday September 5th entitled "The Last Land War".



John Dorney in Drogheda Library

John Dorney held a talk in Drogheda Library on Wednesday September 11th entitled “The Big House and the Irish Civil War”.



De Valera and America by Dr David McCullagh

Dr. David McCullagh spoke about “Reaching for the stars” - de Valera and America” in Dundalk Library on Saturday, September 21st.

Local Studies

Louth Library Service recently purchased at auction part of the personal collection of Noel Ross, the noted Co. Louth historian.

Amongst the twenty-four lots acquired was his collection of over 2,300 postcards of views of the

county. These together with other book and manuscript items collected by him now received will make a valuable addition to the reference collection in Dundalk Library. Noel who died in 2021 was a knowledgeable source on Louth history for close to fifty years. He served as secretary of the County Louth Archaeological and Historical Society for thirty-four years and was editor on forty-five of its journals.



Rental Roll of the Brabazon Estate



Selection of postcards from the Noel Ross collection

Sustainable Development Goals week



Louth Library Service celebrated Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Week in September. The National Implementation Plan for the SDGs (2022-2024) acknowledges libraries as key stakeholders, recognizing their role as sustainable institutions helping to provide knowledge, understanding and resources to communities, through initiatives, facilitation and citizen involvement. Louth Library Service held a children's art competition in collaboration with Louth County Council Climate Action Team with the theme "What should climate action look like in County Louth?" which reflects goal 13, Climate Action.



Summer Stars art and craft hamper winner in Dundalk Library

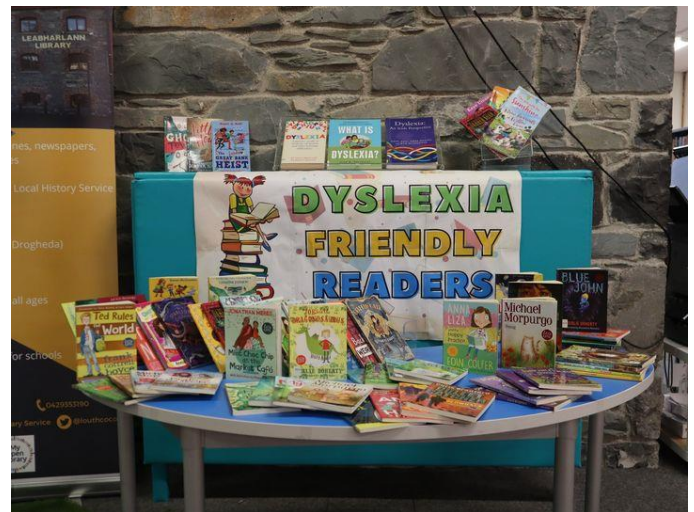
Right to Read



Celebration events were held to mark the end of the Summer Stars programme, and participants were invited to collect their Summer Stars certificate of achievement.



Summer Star participants collecting their award certificate in Dundalk Library



Dyslexia friendly readers display in Dundalk

World Literacy Day,

Sunday September 8th where libraries highlighted some of the literacy supports available including C-Pens. The C-Pen reader scans and then reads text aloud to assist with independent reading, understanding and learning and they are available to borrow in Dundalk, Drogheda and Ardee libraries.

Dundalk Library had a display of new dyslexia friendly readers which are available to borrow.

Libraries welcomed lots of new junior infants to collect their free Little Library Book Bag throughout September. The children can choose between an Irish title 'Beag Bideach' or an English title 'Chu's First Day at School'. Children were invited to sign up and begin their lifetime membership journey and received a special membership wallet to keep their library card.

Dundalk Library was delighted to welcome Niamh from Glór na nGael on Saturday September 7th for a morning of Irish stories and rhymes.



Niamh from Glór na nGael in Dundalk Library

Healthy Ireland at Your Library



A Dyspraxia Information Talk took place in Dundalk Library on September 18th. The talk by Dyspraxia/DCD Ireland provided information on the range of matters which impact people with Dyspraxia/DCD and their families. Attendees had the opportunity to ask questions and seek advice.



Dyspraxia information talk in Dundalk Library

Adult Events

Creative Ireland

Red Door Art Project

With support from Creative Ireland, Louth Library Service worked with artist Alison O'Grady on an installation for the adult library section in Drogheda library. Alison facilitated several workshops over the last few months in Drogheda library and in The Red Door where attendees created a colourful 3D wall art installation.

The Boyne & Beyond project began with a series of dynamic group discussions and brainstorming sessions, where the participants explored the significance of the River Boyne, both historically and personally.

As the project evolved, the group decided to create six thematic boards, each representing a different aspect of the Boyne's influence from its mythology and ancient history to its modern-day environment and social connections. It is planned to have a launch to celebrate the installation in Drogheda library very soon.



Artwork from *The Boyne & Beyond*



Attendees creating art in Drogheda Library

Drogheda Memory Café

Drogheda’s monthly Alzheimer’s Memory Café was held in Drogheda library on September 10th. The guest speaker was Maureen Finlay from Sage Advocacy. The next meeting will take place on Tuesday October 8th. The café provides a welcoming space for people living with dementia. All are welcome to attend.

Photography Course

Local photographer Paul Murray from the Drogheda Photographic Society facilitated a three-

week photography course in Drogheda library during September.



Photographer Paul Murray and Joan Kelly

Culture Night at the Library

Culture Night 2024 was celebrated at Ardee Library with music from Ardee Concert Band Intermezzo Ensemble, and local ukelele band *Uke n’ Rollers*. The afternoon was enjoyed by a large cross generational audience from the community and surrounds of Ardee town.



Ardee Library celebrations on Culture Night

Dundalk Library hosted an evening of Crafts and Ceoil, with Scoraíocht Lann Léire from Mid-Louth providing the traditional Irish music. A selection of art stations were located throughout the branch including a community collage, origami station, ogham designs in clay and the launch of the Climate Action art competition.



Scoraíocht Lann Léire musician



Craft station at Dundalk Library.

Suicide Prevention and Awareness month

In collaboration with Drogheda Implementation Board, Drogheda Library was delighted to welcome

Regional Mental Health Team Leader from Shine, Derek Pepper, on September 25th. Derek facilitated a 'Minding your Emotional Wellbeing' workshop. This workshop was part of a community awareness campaign which ran throughout September in Drogheda to coincide with Suicide Prevention and Awareness month.

Creative Writing

Whether you are a budding or experienced writer, Creative Writing groups are a great way to gain inspiration for and confidence in your work. Our Creative Writing groups meet at the following dates and times:

The Vere Foster Writers Group in Ardee Library meets every second Friday at 10:30am.

Just Write in Drogheda Library meets on the first and third Tuesday of every month from 2:30pm – 4pm.

Regular Events

Baby Book Club

- **Drogheda:** The first Tuesday of each month at 10:30am
- **Dundalk:** The first Wednesday of each month at 10:30am

Parent and Toddler Groups

Come join in the fun. All are welcome to attend. So just turn up on the day, no booking required.

- **Ardee Library:** Every Wednesday from 10:30am – 12:30pm
- **Drogheda Library:** Every Thursday from 10am – 12pm
- **Dundalk Library:** Every Thursday from 10am – 12pm

Library Groups

Various groups meet monthly including Irish Conversation exchange, Bookclub and Knitting and Crochet groups. Details available from participating libraries.

Film Screenings

Ardee Library's Film Screenings continue throughout the month of October, taking place every Tuesday at 2:15pm. Booking is not required, and all are welcome.

Louth Library Primary Schools Service

The Schools Service Library Van went back on the road for the 2024/2025 school year on September 5th to visit schools throughout County Louth.



Schools Service Library Van

Library staff are happy to help children and teachers stock up on classroom fiction and non-fiction. Wonderful titles will encourage all school aged children to keep up their reading over the Autumn months.

A refreshed list of Class Sets is available to all the primary schools in County Louth.



New Titles on display in the Schools Service Library Van

Na hEalaíona / Arts

Culture Night

This year's Culture Night took place on Friday September 20th. We had a huge range of fantastic events on offer in Louth to celebrate with all ages catered for. We had everything from interactive art workshops to live music, poetry and drama workshops. Composer Michael Holohan held a special live performance event with eight other musicians and poets in the Augustinian Church in Drogheda as part of the celebrations.



Michael Holohan at Culture Night event

EDI Artist Practice Bursary

Louth Arts Service has just announced a new EDI Artist Practice Bursary worth up to €5,000. The bursary is available to artists specifically from under represented backgrounds and communities and aligns with the Arts Council's Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Policy. For application forms and a copy of the guidelines see [here](#) . Closing date to apply is October 12th.

Louth International Film Festival

Took place from 27th – 29th September in An Táin Arts Centre. Presented by Louth Filmmakers Society in partnership with An Táin and DKIT the festival aims to support emerging filmmakers and showcase cinema from around the world.

The Drogheda Songwriting Festival

The inaugural festival, supported by the Arts Office Grant Scheme, was a one day event that included guests such as Brendan Murphy (The 4 of Us) and folk singer Emma Langford and was hosted by Eurovision winner Charlie McGettigan.

Other festivals that took place in September which were supported by the Arts Office were the Sean Corcoran Series and Boyne Tradfest.

Highlane's Gallery

Exhibition, Talks and Workshop

As part of the ongoing 'Embracing Vision: Celebrating 100 years of the Friends of the National Collection of Ireland exhibition', Highlane's Gallery held a special talk in the gallery with contemporary Artist Francis Matthews, Poet and Community activist Sarah Clancy and Art Historian Dr Yvonne Scott.

Highlane's also hosted artist Caoimhe O'Dwyer who held a special collage workshop for children with the themes around the exhibition. Using watercolour and collage they created their own artworks exploring flora and fauna.



Some young participants at the recent workshop in Highlanes as part of the Embracing Vision series.

For more details on the Embracing Vision exhibition which is taking place in the upper gallery see [here](#)

Droichead Arts Centre

Droichead Arts Centre teamed up with Louth County Council's NTE Advisor for a special series of late night events across Drogheda for Culture Night.

Culture Night Night Moves

Culture Night Night Moves was a dynamic programme of events including a Visual Arts Trail which ran from Barlow House across Narrow West St, the Abbey Shopping Centre and the old Choice Building, along with a new pop up gallery "The Kiosk" in Barlow House.



Culture Night at An Táin Arts Centre

Culture Night at An Táin Arts Centre was another showcase event with performances on the main stage from Orwells '84, Dundalk Youth Centre performers & Geansaí, along with children's drama workshops with Kelly Kierans and Screen printing demonstrations with Artist in Residence, Moya Gibney. Bó Studios also hosted an open evening and there were screenings of several films including the recent Ageism project film which was funded by Creative Ireland Louth.

Creative Ireland

Creative Climate

Louth Urban Food Sanctuary took part in the IMMA Earth Rising event in Dublin on Sunday 22nd September. Earth Rising is a dynamic 3-day festival dedicated to addressing the climate crisis through creativity, art and community.

LUFS also launched the latest video of farmer Tony McGuinness who has been trial growing produce such as Millet, Sunflower, heritage peas and corn. All our other videos from the project are [here](#)

Culture Night saw artist Una Curley begin our new LUFS Weave Project in her studio space in Bó Studios in Jocelyn Street. This interactive project allows members of the public to weave sections of a piece representing the Climate Stripes, a series of colours representing the changing temperature of the worlds climate over the past 100 years. The weave will continue to be made at other events in the coming weeks as part of the LUFS project.

For more details on the project and upcoming events please see the LUFS website <https://louthurbanfoodsantuary.com/> You can also email creativeireland@louthcoco.ie if you wish to find out more about the project.

The Night Moves Late Night Café featured opera, classical music and poetry being delivered across a number of cafés while the Trad Trail was a partnership with Boyne Tradfest and featured free traditional music across a number of bars and venues including The Punt, The Hole in the Wall, Clarkes Bar and The Mariner.

An Táin Arts Centre

10 Year Anniversary Gala

An Táin Arts Centre celebrated its 10th Anniversary in style with a Gala reception on Thursday 10th September. With performances from a range of groups and artists who have benefited from the arts centre space and programming over the past 10 years. The Head of Arts Centre's with the Arts Council, Michael Barker-Craven referencing the pride Dundalk should have in hosting one of the five leading arts centres in the country.



Arts Centre Director Paul Hayes with the current Board of Directors at the Gala 10 Year Anniversary Celebrations

An Iarsmalann / Museum

School Visits

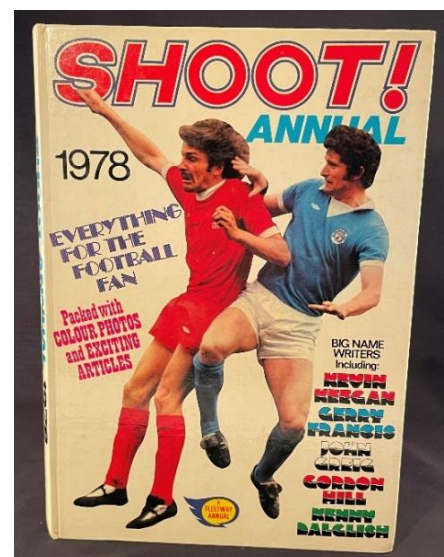
As the new school year commences the Museum has resumed hosting visiting schools for guided tours of the building and permanent exhibitions. Over the coming weeks the Museum will be in contact with schools throughout the county promoting the collection and the array of services of which schools (both Primary and Secondary) can access.

Recent acquisitions

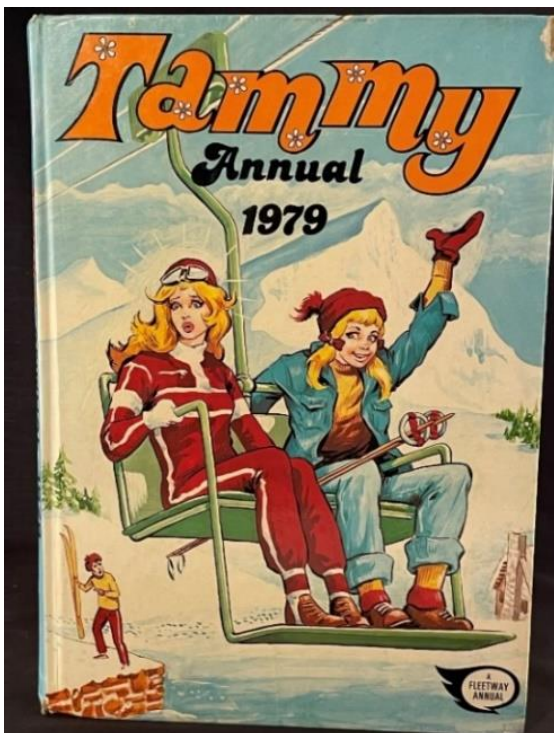
This September proved an exception to the usual trend around the start of the school year with an upswing in donations. A distinct pattern of new collections has been both boys' and girls' comics and annuals. In one case it was a collection covering some 15 years, indicating an enduring love and appreciation of the comic format which was subsequently taken into adulthood.



Warlord annuals from 1979 and 1982



The staple of many children's formative years - the Christmas annual



The 1979 Tammy annual for girls.

In addition to the children's items the Museum also received a collection of three badges from the turn of the 20th Century, two of which appear to be associated with Conradh na Gaeilge, whilst the third relates to the unveiling of the Parnell Monument in Dublin City Centre on October 1st, 1911.



Rosette and badges from the late 19th and early 20th centuries

Freagairt Dhaonnúil na hÚcráine Ukraine Humanitarian Response

Is cruthú sealadach í an Stiúrthóireacht seo chun ceannaireachta a thabhairt ar an bhfreagairt ar Fhreagra Dhaonnúil Úcráin agus tá sí faoi stiúir ag an té atá sínithe thíos.

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

Yvonne O'Brien
Stiúrthóir Gníomhach/ Acting Director



Freagairt Dhaonnúil Úcráin / Ukraine Humanitarian Response

Offer A Home (OAH) Programme

Property Figures as at 30/09/2024

Properties offered in September	2
Families moved into properties in September	1
Expressions of interest in being accommodated received from families in September	10
Property offers recorded to date	78
Owners successfully contacted to date	77
Properties currently occupied	39
Beneficiaries currently assigned	132
Assessments carried out to date	57
Assessments currently underway	0
Properties assessed as suitable to date	40
Properties with minor works required	0
Properties withdrawn to date	17
Properties not viable to date	21

Emergency Refurbishment Ukraine Programme (ERUP) to date

Cumulative Offers of properties to ERUP	38
Unsuitable / withdrawn	27
Under evaluation in July 2024	0
DCEDIY Letter of Intent issued	11
No. of beds combined for delivery	615
DCEDIY contracts issued	3
No of beds delivered	315 incl LCC refurbsh*

*224 beds delivered by LCC pre ERUP

Local Authority Integration Team

The team continue to hold clinics each week throughout the county. International Protection applicants are attending with different issues which are being handled by the Integration Support

Workers. There were ten clinics held in September with 73 residents assessed.

The LAIT team attended Intercultural Awareness training in Meath County Council's office on September 13th. The Immigrant Council of Ireland provided the training. The LAIT teams from Meath, Louth, Cavan, Monaghan and Westmeath were in attendance. The training was insightful and thought provoking.



We held our first information sessions in the libraries in Drogheda and Dundalk. The sessions were focused on employment rights for migrants. Both sessions were well attended and the feedback from the host was positive. We will continue to host sessions on different topics in the coming months.



Immigrant Council Ireland – National Migrant Integration Conference

The LAIT attended the National Integration Conference at the Gresham Hotel hosted by the

Immigrant Council of Ireland on September 25th. There was great recognition of the important role, and the benefit that local authority integration teams are already making. There was also insightful discourse highlighting best practice as well as barriers to migrant integration nationally and European wide. Acting Director Yvonne O'Brien represented both Louth County Council and the wider sector in a panel discussion "Migrant Integration in Ireland". Further topics presented on during the event included international perspectives on migrant integration, migrant access to education, building a response to hate and division and the challenging environment for international protection applicants.



SICAP week – Social farm

The LAIT were invited to a social farming recognition ceremony. Residents from our centres in Louth participated in a 10 week social farming programme which was funded by SICAP. All participants were presented with a certificate to acknowledge their completion of the programme. The programme created an opportunity for cultural exchange which was of great interest to both the farmer and the participants. It was very successful and a number of residents have already enrolled for the next programme.