



Comhairle Contae **Lú**
Louth County Council

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

**Dated 6th June 2024
6^ú Meitheamh 2024**

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

Chief Executive's Monthly Management Report – May 2024

A Chara,

I enclose the above report for your statutory consideration which will be placed on the July 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.

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

- The Narrow Water Bridge project finally on site with mobilisation works commenced this month. This project has been in our plans for several decades.
- The launch of our Local Economic Community Plan which sits under our Corporate Plan and represents our economic and community goals for the County of Louth.
- The re-opening of our Obelisk Bridge after significant remedial works.
- The signing of our contract on the construction of 3D housing units as a pilot project.
- The securing for another year our blue flag beach accreditation and
- The Opening of the refurbishment of Dundalk Swimming Pool Changing Village

Finally, as this will be last Chief Executive's Report for some members, I want to wish them well in their endeavours and equally wish all election candidates well in this week's Local Elections.

Is mise le meas.



Joan Martin
Chief Executive

Chief Executive's Monthly Management Report – 31st May 2024
Tuairisc Bainistíochta ag an bPríomhfheidhmeannach – 31ú Bealtaine 2024

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Support Services Seirbhís Tacaíochta

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

Other responsibilities include, Information & Communication Technology

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

Ina chuid den freagrachtaí eile, Techneolaíocht Faisnéise agus Chumarsáide

Bernie Woods
Director / Stiúrthóir



Financial Report

Expenditure to 31st of May 2024 / Caiteachas go dtí 31^ú Bealtaine 2024

Section/Rannóg	Actual Expenditure to/Caiteachas Iarbhír go dtí 31/05/2024	Budget Expenditure/ Caiteachas Buiséadaithe 2024	% Spent to/ % Caite go 31/05/2024
Housing/Tithíocht	€20,235,658	€62,912,092	32%
Road Transportation & Safety/Iompar Bóthair agus Sábháilteacht	€9,495,010	€27,583,468	34%
Water Services/Seirbhísí Uisce	€2,694,231	€8,804,737	31%
Development Management/Bainistíocht Forbartha	€8,425,895	€27,259,532	31%
Environmental Services/Seirbhísí Timpeallachta	€7,972,894	€23,558,956	34%
Recreation and Amenity/Áineas agus Conláiste	€3,778,862	€11,234,063	34%
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare/Talmhaíocht, Oideachas, Sláinte agus Leas	€387,065	€1,491,272	26%
Miscellaneous/Ilghnéitheach	€3,053,830	€8,839,470	35%
	€56,043,445	€171,683,590	33%

Income to 31st of May 2024 / Ioncam go 31^ú Bealtaine 2024

Section/Rannóg	Actual Income to/Ioncam Iarbhír go dtí 31/05/24	Budget Income/Ioncam Buiséadaithe 2024	% Invoiced to/ % Sonraisc Curtha do dtí 31/05/24
Housing/Tithíocht	€18,332,086	€64,380,831	28%
Road Transportation & Safety/Iompar Bóthair agus Sábháilteacht	€2,596,474	€16,558,010	16%
Water Services/Seirbhísí Uisce	€1,819,229	€8,131,617	22%
Development Management/Bainistíocht Forbartha	€3,536,190	€17,277,072	20%
Environmental Services/Seirbhísí Timpeallachta	€819,631	€4,348,102	19%
Recreation and Amenity/Áineas agus Conláiste	€368,078	€1,683,163	22%
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare Talmhaíocht, Oideachas, Sláinte agus Leas	€190,762	€558,596	34%
Miscellaneous/Ilghnéitheach	€1,141,302	€11,372,937	10%
Rates/Rátaí	€34,658,357	€34,507,064	100%
General Purpose Grant (LPT)/Deontas Ilfheidhmeach	€5,683,099	€11,366,198	50%
Provision for Debit Balance/Soláthar faoi Iarmhéid Dochair	€0	€1,500,000	0%
	€69,145,208	€171,683,590	40%

The above is the current position as of the 31st of May 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 31st of May 2024 are as follows:

Debtors as of 31st of May 2024/Féichiúnaithe mar atá 31^ú Bealtaine 2024

	Opening Balance /Iarmhéid Tosaigh	Invoices/ Sonraisc	Receipts/ Fáltais	Write Offs/ Díscríobhanna	Closing Balance/ Iarmhéid Deiridh
Government Debtors/Féichiúnaithe Rialtais	€28,733,539	€63,284,506	(€57,210,114)	(€0)	€34,807,931
Other Authorities/Uadaráis Eile Local Áitiúla	€93,780	€360,418	(€314,837)	(€8,220)	€131,141
Rates/Rataí	€5,352,580	€34,658,357	(€19,755,213)	(€879,403)	€19,376,321
Rents/Cíosanna	€2,913,161	€6,386,078	(€6,391,038)	(€0)	€2,908,201
Loans/Iasachtal	€297,248	€899,279	(€861,811)	(€0)	€334,716
Development Levies/Tobhaigh Forbartha	€10,756,762	€8,813,758	(€3,751,379)	(€3,210,924)	€12,608,217
Fire Charges/Táilí Seirbhíse Dóiteáin	€756,633	€242,319	(€176,874)	(€13,296)	€808,782
Miscellaneous/Ighnéitheach	€2,345,328	€4,961,727	(€3,569,174)	(€455)	€3,737,426
Total Debtors / Féichiúnaithe Iomlána	€51,249,031	€119,606,442	(€92,030,440)	(€4,112,298)	€74,712,735

Above are the debtor balances as of 31st of May 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.

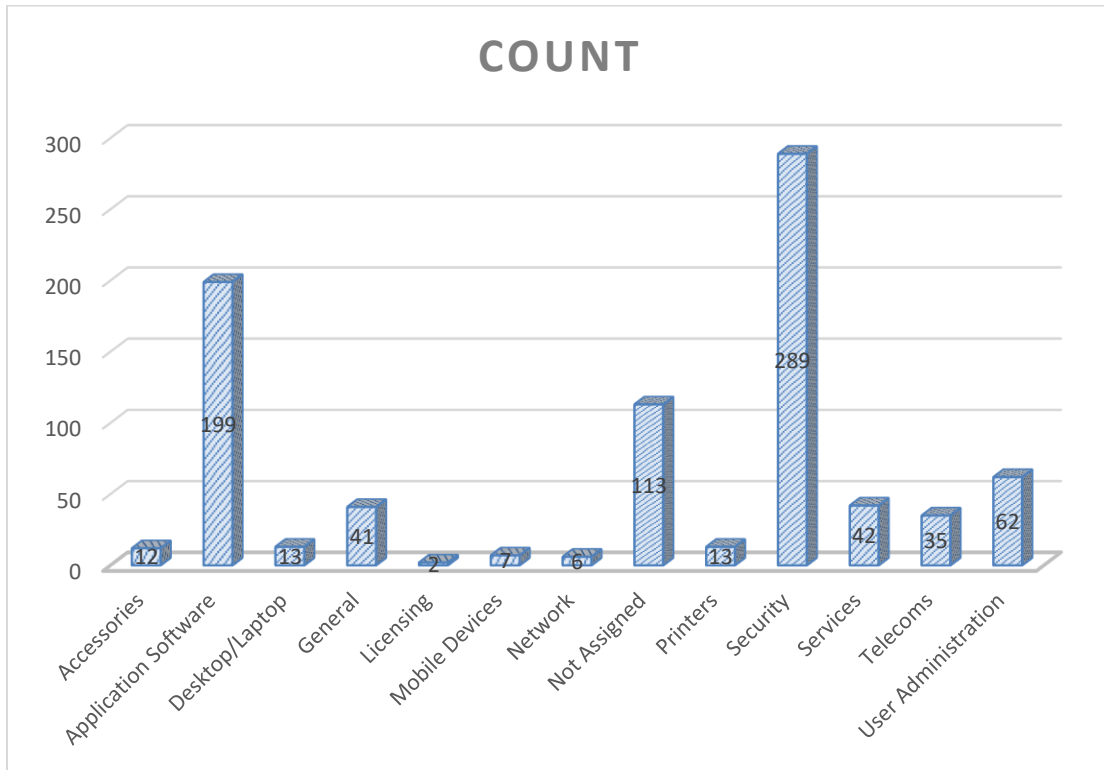
Annual Financial Statement Audit

The Audit of the 2023 Annual Financial Statement commenced on the 15th of May 2024.

Information & Communication Technology

Helpdesk







Between 01/05/2024 and the 30/05/2024 there were 834 support calls logged in the IT support system.



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

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 May 33% of inbound e-mails were identified as potentially harmful.

Inbound Email count  171,719	Blocked Sender  7,302	Blocked at gateway  16,911
Total blocked by spam/virus  31,292	Blocked by content rules  459	Potentially harmful emails  32.6%

Louth County Council Website

There were 18,526 unique page views of www.louthcoco.ie in May.

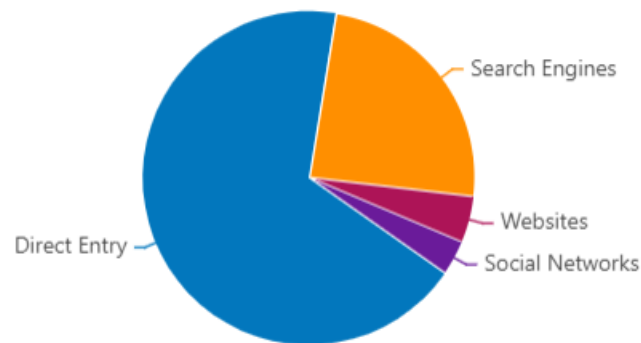
The below table indicates the pages on the website with the highest number of Page Views in May.

PAGE URL	PAGEVIEWS
en	22,740
services	11,697
planning	2,932
dog-pound	1,757
housing	1,010
communities	863
library	850

The below chart indicates the channels people use to access www.louthcoco.ie in May. The majority of visits, 68%, are via direct access to the website. The next highest is via Search Engines 24%, then Websites 5% and Social Media 3%

Channel Types

— Visits



Website Search Issue

The IT department are working on a resolution to an issue whereby invalid links are being listed when a search is undertaken on the LCC website.

ArcGIS Online – Public Planning Register Map Viewer

LCC provide an online Planning Register Map Viewer which can be accessed from the Online Planning Application and Maps section user Services> Planning on the Louth County council website. This application is updated regularly to include all planning applications. There were 5,557 views in May, an average of 185 views a day.



This Directorate has three key areas of responsibility:

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

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

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

Tá trí eochairfhreagracht ag an Stiúrtóireacht seo:

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

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

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

**Thomas McEvoy
Director of Service / Stiúrtóir**



Economic Development

Climate Change Adaptation Strategy

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

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

Louth Economic Forum

A meeting of the Louth Economic Forum took place on Wednesday 22nd May 2024. A presentation on the skills research project being conducted on the Dublin Belfast Economic Corridor was provided by Dr. Eoin Magennis, Principal Economist with the University of Ulster’s Economic Policy Centre. This was followed by a discussion and question and answer session.



Skills Research Project
Presentation to Louth Economic Forum, 22 May 2024
Dr Eoin Magennis, Principal Economist, UUEPC

Economic Development & Enterprise Support Strategic Policy Committee (SPC)

A meeting of the Economic Development & Enterprise Support SPC took place on 21st May with a presentation from the Programme Manager of the Drogheda Digital Innovation Hub on their work to date and future plans.

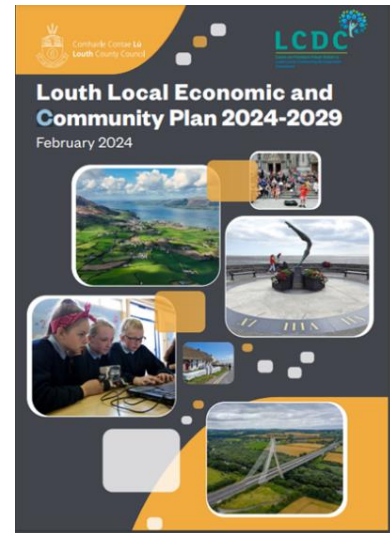
Drogheda Business Improvement District (BIDS) Drogheda 2025 - 2029

A proposal was received by Louth County Council from Drogheda BIDS Company (Love Drogheda) to extend the term of the Business Improvement District Scheme for a further period of five years from January 2025. The proposal was on public display in County Hall, Dundalk and in the Civic Offices, Drogheda from the 1st May to 30th May. A

submissions report has been prepared and will be furnished to all members of the Council. <https://www.louthcoco.ie/en/services/economic-development/drogheda-bid-proposal-2025-2029/drogheda-bid-proposal/>.

Local Economic & Community Plan (LECP)

The Economic Development and Enterprise Support SPC together with the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) are responsible for oversight of the implementation of the Louth LECP 2024 - 2029 which they jointly launched on the 20th May.



Age Friendly Business

Following the Age Friendly Business workshops which took place in April, work is continuing to support the participating businesses towards gaining Age Friendly Business Accreditation.

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 festival and events happening across the county please visit: [What's On | Visit Louth](#).

Drogheda Cluster

The Drogheda Tourism Cluster is a group comprising representatives from Fáilte Ireland, the Hospitality sector, Drogheda Chamber, Drogheda BIDs, Droichead Arts together with Louth County Council's Tourism Officer and Night-time Economy Advisor. The cluster is dedicated to sharing information about the experiences on offer and upcoming events with one another, cross promoting each other's offerings and adding to the tourist experience by making Drogheda a top-class tourism destination.

The Tourism Cluster is working with the Drogheda Festival Committee to deliver the Boyne Mid-Summer Festival and to ensure full wraparound events including music, riverside market, fairground rides and much more.

Louth County Council is providing financial assistance to the Boyne Mid-Summer festival which takes place in Drogheda from the 21st to 23rd June.

sea louth

Two sea louth workshops were held on 8th May in the Glyde Inn, Annagassan. The first workshop was for restaurateurs and producers, the second was for front of house staff. The workshops were facilitated by Julie O'Brien from Runda Tourism & Hospitality Solutions. There were over thirty participants in attendance.

As a result of the workshop, two new restaurants have signed up on the scenic seafood trail: Coast & Co. in Greenore and Nelly's in Drogheda.



Participants at the sea louth workshops

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. A meeting was held to review the findings and to discuss what options the future of digital platforms might hold for the destination. These will feed 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 County 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 in Spring 2025.

Dublin Belfast Economic Corridor (DBEC) Tourism Group

The first in-person meeting of the DBEC Tourism Group was held on 13th May in Town Hall, Dundalk. There were representatives from both North and South in attendance. The meeting included discussions on the proposition of tourism and creating a collective and collaborative approach to increasing dwell time of the visitor along the route.

Táin Trail

Fáilte Ireland has engaged the Paul Hogarth Company to review the current Táin Trail route and to provide recommendations on opportunities to reimagine it into an internationally compelling experiential route that engages local communities and visitors. They are working with the 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 work with the Boyne Valley Drive Cluster Orientation infrastructure steering group which comprises representatives from the two local authorities and relevant state bodies in the region. The focus is on the delivery of infrastructure design at the clusters identified in the reimagined Boyne Valley Drive and enable signage and orientation to the cluster arrival points.

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.

Boyne Valley Flavours (BVF)

A meeting was held with Louth County Council and Meath County Council on the 16th May where it was agreed that a nominee from both councils will join the board of Discover Boyne Valley Flavours with quarterly board meetings to be held.

The new Boyne Valley 5-Year Food Strategy will be launched at the upcoming summer event in Slane Castle on Tuesday 18th June. The event will consist of the strategy launch and a panel discussion on the food network chaired by Gerry Kelly of LMFM, followed by a networking lunch and a producer showcase.

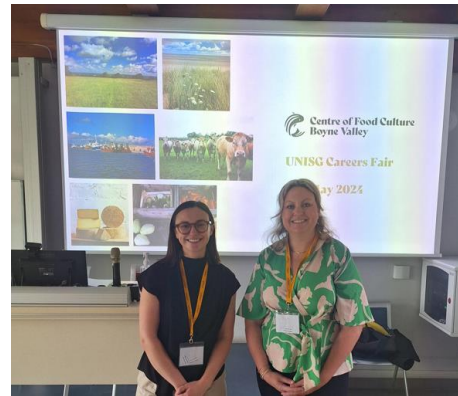
Boyne Valley Flavours participated in the sea louth workshops in Annagassan on 8th May and will follow up with distributing marketing materials to the two new restaurants that signed up on the day.

There will be a further Boyne Valley Bites workshop in Drogheda on 11th June to encourage businesses to list a local dish on their menu to coincide with the Midsummer Festival in Drogheda on 21st June. The workshop is open to businesses from Counties Louth and Meath and invites have been circulated widely. If there are further expressions of interest additional workshops in other locations in the region will be held.

Boyne Valley Centre of Food Culture

Social media channels for The Centre of Food Culture were launched on 22nd May on LinkedIn, Facebook, Instagram, and X. A new website is also live at www.foodcultureireland.ie.

The Development Manager of the Centre of Food Culture attended a Careers Fair at the University of Gastronomic Sciences in Italy on 23rd and 24th May to interview students for potential internships in the Boyne Valley. They presented four placement opportunities: two at the Centre of Food Culture and two with businesses in the network.



Ella Ryan, Development Manager, Centre of Food Culture and Chef Tara Walker at UNISG Careers Fair in Italy

Planning is underway for the Boyne Valley Food Strategy launch on 18th June, The Centre of Food Culture is one of the three pillars in the strategy and the action plan for The Centre of Food Culture will be included in the strategy launch.

Drogheda Night-Time Economy

Drogheda Cruinniú na nÓg

The Night-time Economy Adviser for Drogheda, Boomerang Youth Café, and Droichead Arts Centre have collaborated to produce the Abbey Microfest for Cruinniú na nÓg on 15th June. With additional funding targeting the early phase of the Drogheda Night-time Economy and focusing on the teenage demographic, this open event will be held at Drogheda's iconic Old Abbey. The festival will feature bands, busking, art and craft stalls, and a variety of activities, offering a vibrant and engaging experience for all attendees. See [The Abbey Microfest | Cruinniú na nÓg 2024 | Droichead Arts Centre | Drogheda, Co. Louth.](#)



Culture Night Late

The Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sports, and Media has announced funding for an additional Culture Night Late programme in Drogheda, scheduled for 20th September. The Night-time Economy Adviser for Drogheda and the Droichead Arts Centre will curate a variety of late-night activities, trails, and experiences, including late-night cafés and innovative pop-up exhibitions. This initiative builds on the success of the Late-Night Moves programme earlier this year, aiming to offer unique and engaging cultural experiences for the community whilst encouraging participation in Drogheda's night-time economy.

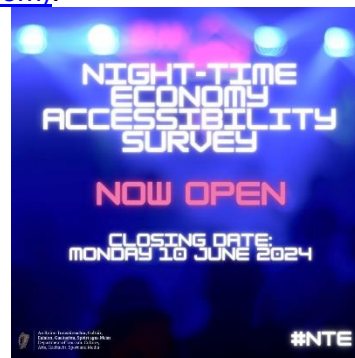
Busk at Dusk

The Night-time Economy Adviser for Drogheda, in partnership with Maynestage Events, is excited to announce a "Busk at Dusk" pilot, launching in conjunction with the new Drogheda Midsummer Festival. On the evening of 21st June, various locations across the town will host buskers from diverse music genres, performing for the public. This inaugural event aims to create a vibrant atmosphere, boost footfall, and promote sustainable street performance, while also identifying any barriers to busking that can be looked at in the future. Audience members and performers will be invited to provide feedback through simple surveys. If successful, additional events will be planned throughout the pilot period of the Night-time Economy Adviser role.

Accessibility Consultation

The Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sports, and Media, in collaboration with Ireland Thinks and the Night-time Economy Adviser for Drogheda, has launched a nationwide consultation to improve accessibility in the evening and night-time economy. This new survey aims to gather insights from individuals with disabilities, artists with disabilities working in the night-time sector, and organisations supporting people with disabilities. The goal is to identify challenges and develop practical solutions to ensure a truly inclusive and diverse night-time economy. We encourage all relevant stakeholders to participate in this important research to help create a more accessible nightlife for everyone. Survey Link:

[Night Time Economy - Main Survey \(typeform.com\).](https://www.night-time-economy-main-survey.typeform.com)



LEO Louth

LEO Business Supports

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

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. This is achieved by looking at the business from an environmental perspective.

Projects vary from assessing energy, water and waste costs, guidance with environmental management system, to the greening of the

product or business to adapt to the changing marketplace.

During May two businesses were approved for Green for Business. LEO Louth continues to welcome new applications.

Business Training



During May, LEO held five training courses including Start Your Own Business, Google AdWords, Trading Online Voucher Workshop, Planning for Small Business and Social Media for Small Business.

All scheduled training courses are available to view and book online:

[https://www.localenterprise.ie/Louth/Training-Events/Online-Bookings/.](https://www.localenterprise.ie/Louth/Training-Events/Online-Bookings/)

Business Advice Clinics

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

Trading Online Voucher Scheme



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

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

Five Trading Online Voucher applications were received in May

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.

Twelve businesses were appointed Mentors during the month of May.

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

LEO mentors are continuing to assist MFI applicants.

One MFI application was received in May.

LEAN for Business Programme



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

The programme helps businesses to identify issues and potential improvement areas and provides

support to implement these as well as achieve savings and improvements in capability and capacity to deliver. The fee to participate in this programme has been reduced to €150 for businesses.

Three LEAN for Business applications were received in May.

Digital Start

Digital for Business provides support to obtain digital strategy, technical and / or advisory services for eligible businesses. Our expert digital consultants help the business to develop a unique digital strategy that transforms their businesses by identifying where they are on their digital business journey, developing a digital adaptation plan based on identified needs and assisting to implement a digital plan.

Energy Efficiency Grant



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

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

LEO Louth continues to welcome new applications.

Student Enterprise Awards – National Final – 9th May 2024 – Mullingar Park

The National Final of the Student Enterprise Awards were held in Mullingar with schools from across the country competing. Louth was represented by the County Final winners, MK Keyrings, Colour Mo Cheantair and Lego Warriors.



MK Keyrings, Dunleer Community School



Colour Mo Cheantair, St Mary's College, Dundalk



Lego Warriors, Dundalk Grammar School

Boyne Innovate Programme

The Boyne Innovate Programme kicked off on Tuesday, 14th May at The Mill in Drogheda. Eight participants commenced and will meet two evenings a week until Tuesday, 25th June when they will present their pitches to a panel of experts. This pre-start-up training and support programme is

designed to give future entrepreneurs the skills, knowledge, and support they need to turn their ideas into successful businesses. Using internationally proven innovation methods, the programme is led by certified development coaches from the Regional Development Centre at DkIT. Participants will benefit from a comprehensive curriculum, mentorship, and access to industry experts, helping them navigate starting and growing a business with confidence.

National Enterprise Awards – Mansion House – Wednesday 23rd May 2024

On 23rd May, the Local Enterprise Offices held their award ceremony in the Mansion House Dublin. Zoma were representing Louth and they won the Regional Award covering counties Louth, Meath, Cavan, and Monaghan.



National Enterprise Awards

European Relations



PEACEPLUS
Northern Ireland - Ireland
Co-funded by the
European Union | UK Government

PEACEPLUS

The PEACEPLUS Action Plan was submitted for approval to the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB), on 28th March 2024. It is expected that a decision should be made by 26th August 2024.

Works continue in preparation for projects proposed under the Action Plan.

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

Contact peaceplus@louthcoco.ie for further information.

Heritage

Grant supported projects

The Heritage Council released the results of applications to its Community Heritage Grant scheme. Three Louth projects were supported (see below).



Community Heritage Grant Scheme 2024

Location	Ref Number	Organisation	Title of Project	Offer Amt. €
Louth	CH2079	Highlanes Gallery	Collection Management System	€8,239
Louth	CH2153	Drogheda Tidy Towns	Refurbish of 24 historic wards in Drogheda and related street signage	€6,092
Louth	CH2245	Friends of Ardee Bog	Ecological Assessment at Ardee Bog. Equipment for monitoring and data recording.	€4,608

The Irish Walled Towns Network, a programme of the Heritage Council, also approved funding for public celebratory events, Walled Towns Festivals, in both Carlingford and Drogheda, to take place in early to mid-September. The Heritage Officer attended a meeting in Carlingford to develop plans for that event. More information will be provided closer to the time of the events.

Preparations continue for conservation works at Bellew’s castle towerhouse in Castletown, near Dundalk (on the site of the Saint Louis Convent School in Dundalk). These works will be supported by the Community Monuments Fund (CMF) 2024. An event will be held here during Heritage Week.

Elsewhere, works continue with grant aid from Community Monuments Fund 2023 at Taaffe’s castle, Carlingford and at Glaspistol towerhouse, near Clogherhead. A further extension for completion of these works, until the end of September, was negotiated with the Department by the Heritage Officer.

Discussions continued with the Department regarding the Council’s two successful applications to the CMF 2024. These are for conservation works to Cappocksgate in Ardee and for a complete, new survey of the surviving stretches of Drogheda’s town defences. Tenders and other administrative requirements for these works are being prepared. The Department has agreed the extension of the Ministerial Consent granted last year for the works at Cappocksgate.

Arrangements have been made to meet specialist staff from the Department at Millmount in early June, so that Council staff can clarify our plans for works on the site and hear back from the Department on its detailed requirements.

An application to the Irish Walled Towns Network capital works fund for a detailed assessment of a long stretch of Drogheda's town wall was successful and awarded €30,000. It is anticipated to go to tender in June. The Carlingford Lough Heritage Trust also applied to this fund, for works on the Tholsel in Carlingford, which was awarded €65,000. The Heritage Officer met members of the Trust and their conservation architect on site in May.

Liaison and advisory work

The Highlanes Gallery facilitated the launch of the Drogheda Walled Town Collective on 10th May.

The Heritage Officer met the new Heritage Officer in Newry, Mourne and Down District Council to discuss ideas about promoting the two Council area's castles to tourists. Discussions also covered possible shared events for Heritage Week (17th to 25th August) and European Heritage Open Days (14th and 15th September), including opening the castles in Carlingford and Greencastle and providing a free minibus shuttle between Carlingford and Greenore.

Advice was given to planning colleagues on the inclusion of heritage aspects in the draft Dundalk Local Area Plan and on proposals for the treatment of Japanese knotweed on an infected site.

Advice was given to road engineering colleagues regarding their proposals for necessary repairs to bridges, considering the possible impacts of conservation legislation on these plans.

The Heritage Officer participated in meetings of the Louth Urban Food Sanctuary, a Shared Island funded project and attended the launch of another Shared Island project, 'Social Gardening' organised by Cooley Connect Well and its partners in counties Armagh and Down.

Discussions were held with Coillte concerning getting information on the new Feede Loop walking route listed on their website.

Work began investigating the possibility of a seminar on Norman Ireland, to be held in October, to commemorate the Battle of Faughart.

Fire & Emergency Services

Fire Service

Louth County Council Fire Service continued to implement the necessary health and safety procedures required under ISO 45001 accreditation received from the National Standards Authority of Ireland for its Health and Safety Management System.

The Fire Service has continued to make changes to reduce any health risks that may present to officers and fire fighters during emergency incidents.

Cab filtration systems were installed in two fire tenders and more installations are planned in the coming months.

Two specialist decontamination washing machines have been purchased at a cost of approximately €80,000 and have been installed in Dundalk and Drogheda fire stations and were commissioned on 28th May. Items which become contaminated at emergency incidents, and which are not sent to the HunterCARE laundry are decontaminated in these specialist washing machines. Six short training courses on the use of the decontamination machines were arranged for fulltime and retained officers in Dundalk and Drogheda stations on 29th and 30th May.

Further contamination reduction measures are planned to commence in June.

The Recruitment Plan for new retained fire fighters continued in its implementation during May.

Six Louth Fire Fighters successfully completed a Module 1 Sub Officer's course and are being appointed as Acting Sub Officers by the HR Section.

The Human Resources Section ran further fire fighter interviews on 21st May and three new recruits will be attending a three-week Recruits course. Two of the recruits are from Drogheda and one is from Ardee. Further applications have been

received by the Council and further interviews are being arranged.

Fire Service Training courses during May were as follows:

- Breathing Apparatus Refreshers
- Manual and Person Handling
- Hydraulic Platform training

There has been a continuation in requests to the Fire Prevention Section during May by Government Departments to inspect properties for the accommodation of Ukrainian refugees and International Protection applicants.

A fire safety certificate was granted in respect of a hotel proposed to be used to accommodate International Protection applicants.

Three Fire Safety Notices were withdrawn during May after the owners of these premises completed the required works.

The number of fire safety certificate applications and the number of commencement notices received have both increased in 2024, compared to the same period in 2023.

The Chief Fire Officer forwarded signed contracts to the Vendor (Emergency One in Scotland) for the purchase of two new water tenders for Louth County Council Fire Service. The cost of these vehicles is approximately €400,000 each, funded under the DHLGH Capital Programme. The two chassis have been ordered by Emergency One and the build of these appliances will commence in a few months.

A Tender request went up on eTenders for the purchase of 325 sets of fire gear for Louth Fire Service personnel, under a four-year framework. This also includes a Care and Maintenance system for the fire gear. These tenders will be assessed in June after the closing date.

Major Emergency Management

Louth County Council continued to chair regional Major Emergency Management Steering and Working Group meetings during May.

Following the update of the Major Emergency Plan, the appendices of the Plan are now being updated.

This includes emergency rest centres for the county. This is being done on a regional basis.

Climate Adaptation Strategy

Dunleer Fire Station will include a range of features to limit carbon emissions. These are being discussed and options include a geothermal heat pump, photovoltaic panels and rainwater harvesting. The Climate Action Plan has been finalised and includes Fire Service and Building Control requirements.

Civil Defence

Training during May was as follows:

- Weekly Training
- Search Exercise in Navan
- Manual Handling Instructor Training (2 volunteers)

Duties

The following Duties were attended by volunteers during May:

- Legends of Louth
- Cross Cooley Challenge
- Europa League Final
- CFR Scheme (with the Ambulance Service). Three call outs.

Building Control

The Building Control Officer attended a CPD event on the 16th May - Keeping Building Fabric Moisture, Radon & Contaminant Free - Part C - Site Preparation and Resistance to Moisture.

The Minister of State, Alan Dillon TD, Minister of State at the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, with responsibility for Local Government and Planning launched the website Market surveillance for Construction Products on 16th May.

Planning

Development Management / Bainistíocht Forbartha

The Planning service indicators for the Council for the month of April 2024 are given below in tabular form. There were 94 planning applications received during the month of April of which 79 were valid. In addition, there were 28 responses received during the month to requests for further information and 30 Pre-Planning Requests received.

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

(A) Description / Cur Síos	(B) Housing Developments / Forbairtí Tithíochta	(C) Individual Houses / Tithe Aonair	(D) Other applications -not requiring EIA / Iarratais Eile – ní gá MTT	(E) Other applications-requiring EIA / Iarratais Eile - MTT de dhíth	(F) Total for all categories of development in County Area / Iomlán na bhforbairtí sa chontae
(i) Number of applications determined / Líon na n-iarratas a cinneadh	14	9	33	0	56
(ii) No. of decisions determined which required further information / Líon na gcinntí inar iarradh breis eolais	9	3	7	0	19
(iii) Percentage of applications refused / Céatadán na n-iarratas a diúltaíodh	14.29% (2)	66.67% (6)	21.21% (7)	0.00% (0)	26.79% (15)
(iv) Number of appeals determined / Líon na n-achomharc a cinneadh	3	1	4	0	8
(v) Percentage of decisions overturned on appeal / Céatadán na gcinntí a cuireadh	0.00% (0)	100% (1)	50.00% (2)	0.00% (0)	37.50% (3)

ar ceal ar achomharc					
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Planning Enforcement – Unauthorised Development / Forfheidhmíú Pleanála – Forbairt nár Údaraíodh

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

Description / Cur Síos	Enforcement in relation to unauthorised development / Forfheidhmíú maidir le forbairt nár údaraíodh		Enforcement in relation to unauthorised development / Forfheidhmíú maidir le forbairt nár údaraíodh	
	April 2024 / Aibreán 2024	Year to Date / Bliain go dtí seo	April 2023 / Aibreán 2023	Year to Date / Bliain go dtí seo
Number of Planning Enforcement Complaints Investigated / Líon na nGearán maidir le Forfheidhmíú Pleanála a Imscrúdaíodh	28	99	15	61
Number of Planning Enforcement cases received which did not require follow up / Líon na gcásanna Fhorfheidhmithe Pleanála nuair nár ghá obair bhreise	0	0	0	0
Number of cases closed / resolved through negotiation / Líon na gcásanna dúnta / a réitíodh le hidirbheartaíocht	34	81	15	42
Number of Warning letters issued / Líon na Litreacha Rabhadh a eisíodh	29	87	16	62
Number of Enforcement Notices issued / Líon na bhFógraí Forfheidhmíúcháin a eisíodh	2	4	0	3
Number of cases referred for legal proceedings / Líon na cásanna a tarchuireadh le haghaidh imeachtaí dlí	0	1	0	4
Number of Injunctions / Líon na n-urghairí	0	0	0	0
Number of Prosecutions / Líon na n-ionchúiseamh	0	0	0	0

Planning Enforcement – Short Term Lettings Enforcement

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

Description / Cur Síos	Enforcement in relation to Short Term Lettings	
	May 2024 / Bealtaine 2024	Year to Date / Bliain go dtí seo
Number of Planning Enforcement Complaints Investigated / Líon na nGearán maidir le Forfheidmiú Pleanála a Imscrúdaíodh	0	0
Number of Planning Enforcement cases received which did not require follow up / Líon na gcásanna Fhorfheidhmithe Pleanála nuair nár ghá obair bhreise	0	0
Number of cases closed / resolved through negotiation / Líon na gcásanna dúnta / a réitíodh le hidirbheartaíocht	0	0
Number of cases currently under investigation / Líon na gcásanna atá á n-imscúdu faoi láthair	19	19
Number of Warning letters issued / Líon na Litreacha Rabhadh a eisíodh	0	0
Number of Enforcement Notices issued / Líon na bhFógraí Forfheidhmiúcháin a eisíodh	0	0
Number of cases referred for legal proceedings / Líon na cásanna a tarchuireadh le haghaidh imeachtaí dlí	0	0
Number of Injunctions / Líon na n-urghairí	0	0
Number of Prosecutions / Líon na n-ionchúiseamh	0	0

Forward Planning

Variation No. 2 of the Louth County Development Plan 2021 - 2027

At a meeting on Monday 20th May 2024 the elected members agreed to make Variation No.2 to the Louth County Development Plan 2021 - 2027.

This Variation updated the County Development Plan to take account of the Guidelines 'Sustainable Residential Development and Compact Settlements Guidelines for Planning Authorities' published by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage in January 2024 and issued under Section 28 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended). Section 28 provides that planning authorities shall have regard to Ministerial Guidelines and shall apply any specific planning policy requirements (SPPRs) of the Guidelines, within the meaning of Section 28 (1C) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), in the performance of their functions.

This Variation came into effect on Monday 20th May 2024.

Full details of the Variation and a Consolidated version of the Louth County Development Plan 2021-2027, incorporating the amendments agreed in the Variation, are available on the Council's website at :
<https://www.louthcoco.ie/en/publications/development-plans/>.

Placemaking and Physical Development

Deanamh Áite agus Forbairt Fhisiciúil

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

- Roads and Local Services and Physical Development

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

- Seirbhísí Bóithre agus Áitiúla, agus Forbairt Fhisiciúil

David Jones
Director / Stiúrthóir



Roads and Local Services

Municipal District of Dundalk

Dundalk and Cooley Area

Litter Picking / Píocadh Bruscair	Location and metres per month / Suíomh agus méadar sa mhí
Carlingford/Omeath, Gyles Quay, Templetown	Litter pick for these areas
Dublin Rd	
Town Centre Containers emptied ready for replanting	
Market St	
Demense	
Pearse Pk	
Ramparts	
Bothar Na Feirme	
Red Barns Rd	
Point Rd	
Barrack St	
Inner Relief Rd	
Old Coes Rd	
Centenery Rd	
Fairgreen Rd	
Northgate St	
Ecco Rd	
Castletown Rd	
John St	
Philip St	
Riverside Crescent	
Riverside Walk	

Laurels
 Armagh Rd
 Moorland /Lennonmelia Crescent
 Riverside Walk
 Racecourse Rd
 Mourne View Walkway
 Ardee Rd
 Carrick Rd
 Under bridges at Fr Murray Pk
 Ashling Pk Estate
 River Grids checked weekly and any debris lifted
 Bottle Banks at Long Walk
 Harp Car Park
 Meadow Grove
 Gateway at Hoeys Lane cleared every day and area litter picked
 Trimming around Verges and walls
 Removing rubbish from Bottle Banks on a daily basis and cleaning around them
 Grass Cutting in progress
 Planted Shrubs at the Square

Emptying of Public Bins / Folmhú Araidí Poiblí	Numbers and frequency / Líon agus minicíocht		
Emptying of bins in Carlingford, Omeath, Greenore, Templetown car park, Gyles Quay area, special bin collection over summer months to end in September			
All Tubs checked for rubbish			
Cleaned Flower Towers ready for replanting	Nightly 200 Bins	By	Contractor
Cleaned borders around Town			
Illegal dumping is ongoing at Williamsons Place			
Weeds sprayed in areas around town			

<p>Road Sweeping / Scuabadh Bóithre</p>	<p>Routes per week / Bealaí sa tseachtain</p> <p>Contract Sweeper as per contract- Nightly, daily, weekly and monthly as per contract</p>
<p>Emptying Dog Waste Receptacles / Folmhú Araidí Salachar Madra</p> <p>As per bin management in Cooley</p> <p>Bins are removed as dog waste is now deposited in general bins</p> <p>By Contractor Nightly as part of the street bin collections</p>	<p>Number per week / Líon sa tseachtain</p> <p>200 Litter Bins throughout the town</p>
<p>Ring Buoy Checking / Seiceál Baoithe Tarrhála</p> <p>Ring Buoys checked Weekly Report sent to Water Safety Officer for Dundalk</p> <p>Lifebuoy issues this month of May- Areas included Toberona, Navvy Bank and The Ice House Hill all replaced and new ropes added</p>	<p>Number checked weekly / Líon Seiceáilte sa tseachtain</p> <p>By water safety officer in Cooley</p> <p>27 Checked Weekly</p>
<p>Checking of Playground and Gym Equipment / Seiceál Trealamh Áiteanna Sugartha agus Corpacmhainne</p> <p>Daily/Weekly Check lists carried out by Parks caretaker</p> <p>Litter pick carried out in the parks</p>	<p>Number of sites checked daily / Suíomhanna Seiceáilte Laethúil</p> <p>Checks done in Carlingford, Lordship, Cooley & Omeath</p>

Location / Suíomh	Notes / Nótaí
Road Repairs / Deisiú Bóithre	<p><u>Cooley</u></p> <p>Ongoing patching of local roads also isolated pot hole within the area R173 Bush.</p> <p>Preparation of roads for surface dressing, as per Roads Works Programme 2024</p> <p><u>Dundalk</u></p> <p>Pot hole repaired in estates</p>
Drainage Remediation / Feabhasúchán Draenála	<p><u>Cooley</u></p> <p>Mast road, flagstaff – jet vac lorry cleaning drain lines flagstaff plus isolated jetting within the Cooley area</p> <p><u>Dundalk</u></p> <p>None at this time</p>
Fallen or Dangerous Trees / Crainn Leagtha nó Chontúirteacha	<p>None at this time</p>
Footpath Maintenance/ Cothabháil Cosán	<p><u>Cooley</u></p> <p>None at this time</p> <p><u>Dundalk</u></p> <p>None at this time</p>
Traffic Light Repairs / Deisiú Soilse Tráchtá	<p>On going repairs bulb replacement at various light around the town</p>
Road Markings / Marcáil Bóithre	<p><u>Cooley</u></p> <p>None at this time</p> <p><u>Dundalk</u></p> <p>N/A</p>
Signage / Comharthaíocht	<p><u>Cooley</u></p> <p>N/A</p> <p><u>Dundalk</u></p> <p>Adjusted signs that were twisted</p>

	<p>Erected No Entry signs</p> <p>New poles erected at Ard Easmuinn and Avenue Rd</p>	
<p>Illegal Dumping / Dumpáil Neamhdhleathach</p>	<p><u>Cooley</u> Isolated dumping cleared at Mast Road, Cooley</p> <p><u>Dundalk</u> Dumping of Sofas and Mattresses in areas continues especially at Hoeys Lane and end of Williamsons Place and along Shuck at By Pass</p> <p>Entrance to Woodview Estate Black bags being dumped weekly</p> <p>Mooreland Rd Fly Tipping- Bags of litter picked up from all estates weekly</p>	
<p>Graffiti Removal / Glanadh Graifítí</p>	<p>Cleaned Graffiti at Chu Cuchulainn This area is prone to increasing vandalism.</p> <p>Organising removal of graffiti at Ashling Park and at the Skate park</p>	



Works taking place at Connolly bridge, North Louth

Blackrock, Faughart and North Mid-Louth Area

Litter Picking / Píocadh Bruscair	Location and metres per month / Suíomh agus méadar sa mhí N/A
Emptying of Public Bins / Folmhú Araidí Poiblí	Numbers and frequency / Líon agus minicíocht <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Blackrock – 6 days/week• Knockbridge – once a week• Dromiskin – once a week• Tallanstown & Louth Village – once a week
Road Sweeping / Scuabadh Bóithre	Routes per week / Bealaí sa tseachtain N/A
Emptying Dog Waste Receptacles / Folmhú Araidí Salachar Madra	Number per week / Líon sa tseachtain N/A

Ring Buoy Checking / Seiceál Baoithe Tarrthála	Number checked weekly / Lón Seiceáilte sa tseachtain
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blackrock (7No.) checked weekly • Annagassan (11No.) checked weekly
Checking of Playground and Gym Equipment / Seiceál Trealamh Áiteanna Sugartha agus Corpacmhainne	Number of sites checked daily / Suíomhanna Seiceáilte Laethúil
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Killanny, Louth Village, Castlebellingham – checked weekly • Blackrock – checked weekly

Location / Suíomh		Notes / Nótaí
Road Repairs / Deisiú Bóithre	Tar patching on R151 Drumard R183 Babeswood R196 Mills of Louth R174 N2 R154 Tully R175 Bannons Cross R166 Duffys Cross LS-7118 Rassan LT-3091 Faughart Lower LP-3167 Stephenstown LP-1140 Channonrock LT-3112 Carricklust N/A N/A	Road repairs and patching & cleaning up Tree pruning/vegetation maintenance/verge trimming Resurfacing/overlay works (by contract)
Drainage Remediation / Feabhasúchán Draenála	Tallanstown, Rd166 Mansfield	Drainage maintenance – cleansing and gully cleaning, opening outlets & storm drains, preparation for surface dressing.
Fallen or Dangerous Trees / Crainn Leagtha nó Chontúirteacha		Clearing fallen trees & debris.

Footpath Maintenance / Cothabháil Cosán		Footpath renewal
Traffic Light Repairs / Deisiú Soilse Tráichta	Xerox junction Haynestown	Major repair works completed
Road Markings / Marcáil Bóithre	Sextons, Blackrock N/A	Renewal of junction markings Renewal of existing and provision of additional road markings
Signage / Comharthaíocht	Louth Village and in Dromskin	Cleansing/repair/replacement New signage
Illegal Dumping / Dumpáil Neamhdhleathach	LS-7103 Carn More Kilcurr LS-7163 Chapel road Haggardstown N52 Gibstown	Collection of dumped waste for disposal. Collection & disposal after community clean up
Graffiti Removal / Glanadh Graifítí	N/A	

Ardee Municipal District

South Louth Operations (Rural Area)

Litter Picking / Píocadh Bruscair	Location and metres per month / Suíomh agus méadar sa mhí
All routes in Ardee Town (5.2km per day) Clogherhead Car Park daily cleanup around bins	

Emptying of Public Bins / Folmhú Araidí Poiblí	Numbers and frequency / Líon agus minicíocht
Ardee Town Dunleer town Collon Erecting of bin at Riverside walk Erecting of bin at Link Road	37 Daily 20 Tuesday and Thursday 3 Tuesday and Thursday
Road Sweeping / Scuabadh Bóithre	Routes per week / Bealaí sa tseachtain
All routes in Ardee Town (5.2km per day)	
Emptying Dog Waste Receptacles / Folmhú Araidí Salachar Madra	Number per week / Líon sa tseachtain N/A
Ring Buoy Checking / Seiceál Baoithe Tarrthála	Number checked weekly / Líon Seiceáilte sa tseachtain
Ardee town River Dee Salterstown Port Beach	
Checking of Playground and Gym Equipment / Seiceál Trealamh Áiteanna Sugartha agus Corpacmhainne	Number of sites checked daily / Suíomhanna Seiceáilte Laethúil
Maintenance and cleaning of Fairgreen and Dunleer parks and playgrounds complete with daily checks of the playground, & exercise equipment at both locations.	

Location / Suíomh	Notes / Nótaí
Road Repairs / Deisiú Bóithre	LP 1212-0 Stabannon Road R215 Ardee to Dundalk Road LP 1233-0 Hilly Road Ardee LP 1260-0 Johns Street Ardee N52 Kells Road Ardee LS 6269-0 Knockaleva R170 at Dunleer R132 at White River R170 at Ravel LT-22538-0 Beechwood Drive Dunleer. LS 5265 White Mountain Ardee town patching LS 5265-0 Smarmore LS 5232-0 Townspark Ardee. L-1260-0 John Street Ardee LS-5268-0 Mullaghash
Drainage Remediation / Feabhasúchán Draenála	LP 2239-0 Mountainstown Road LS-6329 Castle Lane Annagassan R170 at Toberdoney LP 1212 Stabannon road LS 5265 White mountain R132 Mullary Embankment complete (refer to photograph)
Fallen or Dangerous Trees / Crainn Leagtha nó Chontúirteacha	R169 Whiteriver 22/05/2024 blocking road
Footpath Maintenance/ Cothabháil Cosán	None at this time
Traffic Light Repairs / Deisiú Soilse Tráchtá	None at this time
Road Markings / Marcáil Bóithre	None at this time
Signage / Comharthaíocht	None at this time

Illegal Dumping / Dumpáil Neamhdhleathach	None at this time	
Graffiti Removal / Glanadh Graifítí	None at this time	



R132 Mullary Embankment Works Complete

Borough District of Drogheda

Drogheda Town Area

Litter Picking / Píocadh Bruscair	<p>Location and metres per month / Suíomh agus méadar sa mhí</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Steps and lane ways weekly plus 22 steps when resources allow and green areas. • Hotspots on Monday – decided by Supervisor following inspection. • Bring Banks in Drogheda urban are checked and cleared Daily during working week. Also, all Bring Banks in Drogheda urban are checked and cleared Saturday p.m. • Drogheda Rural Bring banks are cleared daily during working week. • Preparation for Drogheda Rás Tailteann 26th May, pothole repairs, street cleaning

(including islands) and Ironworks repairs.

Emptying of Public Bins / Folmhú Araidí Poiblí

Numbers and frequency / Líon agus minicíocht

- Drogheda town centre Litterbins emptied daily circa 60 early mornings.
- 234 litter bin (including 10 no. Solar bins) are emptied weekly in town.
- Dominic's Park & Mell river walk emptied daily.
- South Louth Drogheda Municipal district rural area's public Litter Bins are emptied twice a week or daily when needed especially at beaches - Portoriel/Seapoint/Termonfeckin/Baltray – at least 40 bins per day.
- Approach roads in Drogheda town emptied twice a week.
- Bin upgrade & maintenance on-going throughout town.
- Replacement of bins at Crosslanes, Ballymackenna Rd & St Dominick's Pk (place order for additional 6 street bins)
- Power washing of pavements & Street furniture at West St on-going.
- Power washing of steps at Dublin Rd, Marsh Rd, St Laurence St & Chord Rd.

Port Oriel Pier
Clogherhead
Clogherhead Beach
Port Beach
Termonfeckin
Baltray
Seapoint Carpark

7 Daily
8 Daily
6 Daily
6 Daily
3 Daily
3 Daily

Road Sweeping / Scuabadh Bóithre

Routes per week / Bealaí sa tseachtain

- Town centre daily. Approach roads fortnightly.
- Public Housing Estates, swept every 2 months. Private Housing estates swept

	<p>every 3 months. When resources allow.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hotspots weekly on Monday after weekend – decided daily by supervisor after checking Drogheda urban area. • Villages are swept once per month – i.e., Teromenfeckin, Baltray, Sandpit, Monasterboice, Tullyallen & Tenure. • Drogheda town Boyne river walkways are swept 3 times per week (Monday, Wednesday & Friday). • Road sweepers on all main approach roads, town centre with particular attentions to islands on Dublin Rd & Donore Rd for RAS Tailteann. • Graffiti removal at Community House at Rathmullan Pk. • Road sweeping carpark at Calvary Cemetery. • Cleaning of Public Toilets at Newtown Termonfeckin Graveyard.
<p>Emptying Dog Waste Receptacles / FolmhúAraidí Salachar Madra</p>	<p>Number per week / Líon sa tseachtain</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Empty about 35 No. once a week, washed and disinfected.
<p>Ring Buoy Checking / Seiceál Baoithe Tarrthála</p>	<p>Number checked weekly / Líon Seiceáilte sa tseachtain</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 89 ring buoys checked each week Town area (Thursday) • 9 ring buoys checked each week at Rosehall (Friday)
<p>Checking of Playground and Gym Equipment / Seiceál Trealamh Áiteanna Sugartha agus Corpacmhainne</p>	<p>Number of sites checked daily / Suíomhanna Seiceáilte Laethúil</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Between 4 & 5 daily (4 playgrounds in Drogheda town, Skate park, adult exercise equipment). 3 Playgrounds in Drogheda rural area) + disinfected.

Location / Suíomh	Notes / Nótaí
<p>Road Repairs / Deisiú Bóithre</p>	<p>Drainage Works:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gully frame and cover repair at Donore Rd / Haymarket / R132 junction. • Storm water manhole repairs at Newfoundwell Road. <p>LCC's crew</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Pot hole repairs at Newfounwell Rd, Rope Walk, Yellowbatter, Pearse Pk, Donore Rd, Rathmullen Rd, Yellowbatter, Mell Carpark & Dublin Rd. 2. Sluice gate at Flaxmill Lane, wall & gate repairs – tender preparation. 3. Preparation for Drogheda RAS Tailteann 26th May, pothole repairs, street cleaning (including islands) and Ironworks repairs. 4. Clean up after flash floods at Wattery Hill Steps and Donore Rd / R132 junction. 5. Public Lights at Haymarket Bridge, 3 no. lights vandalised, operations replaced with bollards, await Infrastructure to reinstate lights. 6. Tourist Sign at Dyer St vandalised, operations replaced glass covering. 7. Bus Shelter vandalised on Marleys Lane, operations made safe and NTA to carry out permanent reinstatement. <p>Road Works Program – Resurfacing works 2024</p> <p>Tenders were due week 20th May</p>

	<p>2024</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Newfoundwell 2. Cord Rd 3. Platin Rd 4. Dual Carriageway 5. College Rise 6. Rathmullen 7. Bredin St 8. Boyne Rd 9. Westgate 10. Crosslanes 11. Bull Ring 12. Duleek St 13. Broadmeadows 14. Trinity Gardens 15. Patricks St / Bolton St 16. Martello Village <p><u>CIS Lanes.</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Survey of 2024 CIS lanes now complete. 2. Preparation of tender documents commenced. <p>Drogheda Improvement Accessibility Scheme 2024 - Now at tender stage, tenders due 6th June.</p> <p>LS-6286 Harestown Road R166 Termonfeckin Road LS-6322-1 Tullyallen LS-6270-17 Castlelumley LP-2304-0 Sheetland road LS-6293-0 Timullen LP-2308 Carstown LP-2308 Cockle Road LP-2275 Carrickbaggot LS-6292-0 Tinure JCB Pro repair (refer to photograph)</p>	
<p>Drainage Remediation / Feabhasúchán Draenála</p>	<p>Annual Drogheda Gully cleaning program ongoing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gully frame and cover repair at Donore Rd / Haymarket / R132 junction. • Storm water manhole repairs at Newfoundwell Road. • Gully maintenance, pipe jetting 	

	<p>& cleaning at various location through town.</p> <p>LS-6286 Harestown Road R166 Termonfeckin Road LS-6322-1 Tullyallen LS-6270-17 Castlelumley LS-6293-0 Timullen LP-2275 Carrickbaggot LS-6303-0 Milltown</p>	
<p>Fallen or Dangerous Trees / Crainn Leagtha nó Chontúirteacha</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fallen Trees at entrance to Rosevale housing estate, removed by operations, LCC. • Pruning of hedges at Kieran's Corner / Newfoundwell Rd, to improve sightlines at Traffic Light junction. • Fallen Trees at Ramparts walk removed by operations, LCC. 	
<p>Footpath Maintenance/ Cothabháil Cosán</p>	<p>Currently preparing a list of locations for footpath repairs for commencing in May depending on weather conditions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bothar Brugha. • Bolton Sq. • Marian Pk. • William St. • Sandford Terrace. 	
<p>Traffic Light Repairs / Deisiú Soilse Tráchtá</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DR08 – Donore Rd at Marley's Lane (lights out) • DR29 – Platin Rd / Beymore Rd (vehicle phase lamp phase A Red fail) • DR21 – Hardman Gardens ped(lights out) • DR04 – R132 at Bull Ring (lights out) • DR03 – R132 James St / Scotch Hall jct (vehicle phase lamp A red) • DR 51 - Ballymackenny Rd Ped New School (red man lamp fail) • DR10 – R132 @ Dual Carriageway ped (lights Out) 	
<p>Road Markings / Marcáil Bóithre</p>	<p>Up-grade road markings at</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Shewsbury Manor 	

Signage / Comharthaíocht	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cement Rd / Collon Rd – Stop sign / pole up-graded. • Windmill Rd / Bothar Brugha – 3.5 t sign / pole up-graded. • Maintenance of parking signs at hardman gardens. • Collon approach Rd to Drogheda – New Welcome Sign erected. • Termonfeckin Rd to Drogheda – New Welcome Sign erected. • Damaged flexi-bollards replaced on R132 , north Rd. • New bollards replaced on Rope Walk. • R132 , North Rd to Drogheda – New Welcome Sign erected. • Reinstated flexi-bollards at ramp locations on Marsh Rd. • Reinstated flexi-bollards at Wellington Quay. 	
Weed killing / Marú fialí	<p>On-going by parks section.</p>	
Litterbin cleaning disinfecting / Díghalrú glantacháin boscaí bruscair	<p>Dog Bin disinfecting complete on approach roads</p>	
Illegal Dumping / Dumpáil Neamhdhleathach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marleys Lane – Lane way from Marleys Lane to Rathmullen – clean up by St Nicholas GFC – LCC assist with removal of debris. • Monitoring dumping areas at Old Hill, IDA Rd, Green between Moneymore & St Laurence Pk, Bring Banks & Bessexwell Lane. • Removal of illegal skip at Yellowbatter. • Removal of trollies from River Boyne – Boyne Fishermans / LCC. 	
Graffiti Removal / Glanadh Graifítí	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Removal of Graffiti at Rathmullen Community House & Ballsgrove Gate. 	



New Welcome signs installed as you enter Drogheda from Collon & Termonfeckin



Figure 1LS-6292-0 Tinure JCB PRO repair

Physical Development

Roads Projects

Narrow Water Bridge

BAM Civil Ltd have now been awarded as the main contractor for the Project, with a contract value of €102,962,053 (excluding VAT). The project is being funded under the Shared Island Initiative.

Mobilisation works have commenced on site with topsoil stripping, and earthworks taking place. Works are expected to take 36 months.



Mobilisation Works



Earthworks Cut commencing.

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.

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

The hedge removal and fencing contract is now complete. The design team continues to engage with the landowners, their agents, and other stakeholders.

Technical acceptance report has received its initial approval for structures. Archaeological test trenching and other services are due to commence shortly after the test trenching licence from the Dept. was received.

Land valuer's services has commenced and will be engaging with landowners against on receipt of approval of budget from TII. The initial peer review of draft main works construction tender documents has commenced. A works order has been made to ESB for relocation of 38kv overhead network.

N2 Ardee to Castleblayney Road Scheme

2024 allocations were notified to Louth and Monaghan County Council on Friday, 23rd February 2024. No allocation was provided to Monaghan to progress the major project, and the design work continues to be suspended.

The N2 Project Team can be contacted by landowners and members of the public via the N2 Project Phoneline 087 340 3786, or email:

ArdeeCastleblayney@N2MonaghanLouth.ie

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:

[pdf \(courts.ie\)](https://pdf.courts.ie)

A meeting with TII on progressing the project will take place in June.

Port Access Northern Cross Route Phase1.

Clonmel Enterprises, employed by HISCO, completed the section of road in early March. Snagging works are ongoing along all sections of the road.

Similarly, realignment of the Twenties Lane is complete in partnership with CFS Homes, which is now open to traffic.

Louth County Council await completion of snagging list and receipt of a safety file before taking the scheme over.

Boyne Enterprise Link Road

LCC Section of road is now complete. Snagging ongoing. Ongoing consultations are taking place with stakeholders / landowners, a valuation process has started. Other mechanisms on acquiring the lands are also being explored.



New carriageway with footpaths

R178 Cavan to Dundalk Strategic Route Improvement Scheme

The Department of Transport allocated monies in 2024 towards progressing feasibility and options design. Tenders for consultants were issued to the DoT in late March and received approval to proceed to tender at the end of May. Document will be uploaded to e-tenders early June.

Greenways

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

Section 1 - Carlingford to Carlingford Marina

Main civil works in Carlingford complete. Outstanding works to trailhead remaining along with streetlighting connection, (ESB depended).



Rock Armor Repair

Section 2 - Omeath to the Border

Mainline route of greenway now complete. Works remaining include snagging and installation of directional signage and way-marker posts. Rock armor protection being installed. Substantial completion due in June 2024



Section of completed footway at Carlingford Marina.

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.

Additional funding from Dept of Transport capital grant will be made available to Louth County Council for an amount up to €2,961,413, this grant will be available to claim in the period ending 31st December 2024 for expenditure to complete the project.

Section 3 – Northern Ireland

Works have commenced Nov. 2023 in Northern Ireland to facilitate, and the cross-border element has been installed as far as the start of the proposed boardwalk.



Works Complete in Victoria Lock in NI

Design works for the design and build element of the boardwalk are ongoing and the contractors is seeking approval for the Construction Environmental Management Plan.

The project partners are continuing to meet monthly to review and assess the various aspects of the project. Shared Island funding of €1.5m has been made available to the NI section to complete works in 2024.

TII Funded Greenways:

Dundalk Bay to Carlingford Greenway

Route corridor options have now been developed and assessed for their feasibility and commentary from submission made a Public Consultation No. 1. The long list of options has now been narrowed down to several options and an options report is being finalised for the Public Consultation No 2 which will be held in Mid-June 2024 (subject to TII approval). Environmental assessments are ongoing including meetings with project ecologist.

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

Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme

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

The Preliminary designs are now complete and issued to the Members for information purposes.

Applications under the ORIS Fund Measure 2 have been made for Port (Lurganboy) and Templetown. Funding for ORIS Measure 2 projects are yet to announced.

Access Road at Newtown, Drogheda

This scheme is being progressed by the developer, assisted by offset of development levies under agreement with the Council. Main carriageway works are completed. Safety files are being prepared and snagging ongoing in order for the completed project to be handed over to the Council.



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

LIHAF Project:

Works are ongoing on the scheme, earthworks are ongoing, and service diversions and new service installation taking place.

Kerbing, drainage, ducting, public lighting, footpath works and road surfacing are also progressing on the off-line section north of Lis na Dara, and from the Castletown Rd junction.

Road Surfacing ongoing in section from Lis-Na-Dara to Headford. Works in relation to the new signalised junction on the Carrickmacross Rd are ongoing.

Works in relation to Uisce Éireann infrastructure at the Castleblaney Road Junctions are being programmed, this will require a temporary traffic management on the Castleblaney Rd.



Aerial Photo of the full extent of the scheme.



Works north of Lis na Dara

Specific Bridge Improvement Grants

Obelisk Bridge

Works on the Obelisk Bridge was substantially completed on the 20th of May and opened to traffic thereafter. Minor snagging works are now planned to be carried out.

Louth Co. Council would like to thank the public for their patience and understanding during the refurbishment of this bridge and to remind the public that the existing 5 Tonne wight limit still applies to this historic bridge.



South Side Road Marking prior to opening



Completed Bridge Deck



Final Works North Side of the Bridge

Services and concrete sub-base for paving ongoing.



Council Chamber fixed furniture installation



Block B and N (Main entrance) and ongoing external works

Corporate Projects

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

Hardwood flooring completed. Breakout Area Screen installed, and glazing completed, Municipal district meeting room table installed. Snagging ongoing.

Existing ornate Stairs currently undergoing final varnishing. Granite Paving commenced and cladding to ramp now completed. Site

Block N: New Link Building

Mechanical and Electrical Testing and Commissioning to ongoing throughout site. Customer Services Finished Joinery fitout ongoing along with feature stairs and mezzanine Area leading to Council Chamber.

Finer details of Feature Copper Façade ongoing.



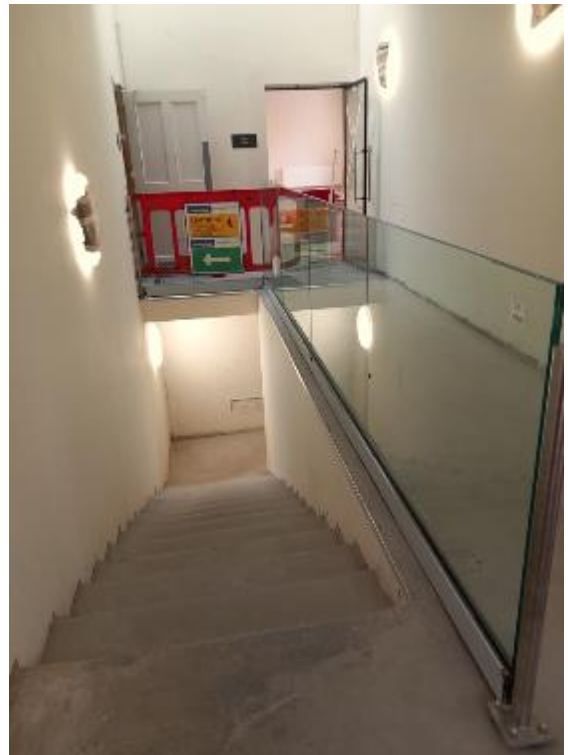
Main Stair Case Final Lacquering



Fixed Seating at Mezzanine Floor commenced.

Block C: Community Services Building

Permanent Plywood flooring nearing completion. Mechanical and Electrical Testing and commissioning ongoing. Southern Planter Area Paving and services continuing. Eastern Wall to adjoining Apartments completed.



Block C Glass Balustrade in place, old stone stairs awaiting final finish



Block C open plan ground floor room.

Block E: Annex Building

Roof access ladder now complete. Final Painting and Snagging ongoing.



Block E, fire escape stairs.



Roof Access Ladder.

Dunleer Fire Station

The purchase of the land is on-going but in latter stages of purchase process.

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.

Dundalk Fire Station Training Centre

Tender documents for the appointment of a design team to be tendered in early June, with a return date in July.

Louth Flood Defence and Coastal Erosion Projects

Dundalk & Ardee Flood Relief Projects

Consultant Engineers Binnies/ Nicholas O'Dwyer JV (Joint Venture) continues to work on stage 1 of the project. The final Hydraulic report has been delivered for review by the OPW / LCC. The JV have submitted the Wave overtopping assessment, which is now currently being assessed. Preliminary Flood Relief options identification & hydraulic modelling continues to be developed and assessed.

The proposed locations for accompanying ground investigation works have been confirmed along with associated environmental and archaeological assessments and due to be advertised in June. Additional Topographic Surveys are underway for preliminary developing option areas.

Additional seasonal environmental surveying, e.g. wintering bird surveys are complete with the report being finalised.

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

Monthly project briefing notes are being issued to the current relevant stakeholders. The Project website being hosted by OPW can be reached at:

www.floodinfo.ie/frs/en/dundalk/home

Drogheda and Baltray Flood Relief Project

The Consultant Engineers RPS are continuing to work on Stage 1 of the Project.

A drone survey, capturing both photogrammetry and detailed topographical information of the various structures along the banks of the River Boyne, was undertaken at the end of February 2024. This data has been used to create a photorealistic digital inspection model of the structures; example extracts from the model shown below:



Output from Photogrammetry

Following a review of the draft final Hydraulic Analysis report by Louth County Council and the OPW, RPS are reviewing the comments received and are developing the final report. RPS will also review the final flood extent maps to identify the flooding mechanisms within Drogheda and Baltray. This is required to support the identification of potential flood relief measures that could be constructed as part of the scheme.

The specification for an underwater archaeology survey is being finalised prior to procurement of a specialist contractor. The Project website being hosted by OPW is now complete and can be reached at: www.droghedabaltrayfrs.ie

Carlingford and Greenore Flood Relief Project

Tendering of the CCTV and Topo surveys has been completed with the successful contractor being appointed, works are due to start in June (weather depended). The OPW

are continuing to develop a brief for consultants to design the scheme.

Marine Projects

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

Louth County Council submitted Three Section 177AE Planning Applications to An Bord Pleanála on January 18th for proposed coastal protection works at the following locations:

- Drummullagh, Omeath, (temporarily on hold, until Maritime Area Consent is granted circa May'24, the Section 177AE, will be immediately resumed post MAC. Construction start date for Drummullagh is dependent on MAC and Section 177AE approval dates
- 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>

Louth County Council is currently engaging with MARA (Maritime Area Regulatory Authority) to obtain MAC (Marine Area Consent) for the proposed works at Drummullagh, Omeath.

Thereafter, and subject to Section 177AE consent and foreshore consent, tender documentation is being prepared and it is anticipated to procure a civil engineering contractor in Q2 2024, with construction works anticipated to commence in Q2/Q3 2024.

Schools Programme Projects

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

Site acquired. Department of Education have submitted a planning application. Further

information is due to be submitted by the applicant.

Ardee E.T.N.S.

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

- Blockwork Wall ongoing
- External Brickwork Plinth to SNU continuing.



External Brickwork



External Brickwork

Coláiste Chú Chulainn and Park at Marshes Lower, Dundalk

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

Faster Project

Electrical Vehicles Charging Points



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

All sites are now live apart from the below.

SITE BUILD STATUS

Site 1	ARDEE; Awaiting ESB.
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The full list and maps across all regions can be view on the project website by clicking on the below link:

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

Information is available at the following outlets:

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

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) Nr 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 is as outlined in the table below. For ease of referencing, the National Transport Authority (NTA) allocates projects into particular 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 current status of the ongoing Active Travel projects are as outlined in the table below.



Active Travel Projects

Project Name	Allocation 2024	Project Band (updated March 2024)	Current Phase	June 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>Gateway 2 Report approved by the NTA on 27th Sept 2023.</p> <p>The Design Team have now considered all submissions received as part of the 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>A Gateway 3 Report and preliminary design Drawings amended to reflect the New Cycle Design Manual. Our Design Team are currently developing and analysing Traffic Modelling at all major junctions along the route and completing a Road Safety Audit.</p> 	Proposed Part 8 display late Q3 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 June 2024 in advance of public consultations.</p>	Proposed Part 8 display late Q3 2024
Drogheda: R168 Collon Rd, Hill of Rath RAB and Rosehall RAB.	€100,000	Band 2 €5 - €20M	Phase 2 - Concept and Options	<p>Gateway 2 Report completed and submitted to the NTA for approval.</p> <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 observations / comments are now incorporated into the preliminary design.</p>	Proposed Part 8 display Q3 2024


Project Name	Allocation 2024	Project Band (updated March 2024)	Current Phase	June 2024- Project update	Anticipated Part 8 Completions, subject to NTA approval of Gateways
				 <p data-bbox="835 630 1472 657"><u>View of Collon Rd looking South East from Mell Roundabout</u></p>  <p data-bbox="856 971 1451 998"><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 data-bbox="781 987 1528 1096">A non-statutory consultation was held late 2023 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 data-bbox="781 1123 1528 1177">GW 3 report due to be completed at the end of May 2024, with a likely proposed Part 8 display late June 2024.</p>	Proposed Part 8 display Q2 2024

Project Name	Allocation 2024	Project Band (updated March 2024)	Current Phase	June 2024- Project update	Anticipated Part 8 Completions, subject to NTA approval of Gateways
				 <p data-bbox="863 581 1446 605">View of Marley's Lane looking South from Aura Leisure</p>	
Drogheda Dublin and North roads, design.	€100,000	Band 2 €5 - €20M	Phase 2 - Concept and Options	<p data-bbox="783 605 1524 667">An update on the scheme was given to Drogheda and Bettystown / Laytown Municipal Districts on Tuesday 16th January 2024.</p> <p data-bbox="783 691 1524 776">The Active Travel Team are having on-going discussions with Irish Rail regarding Dublin Road Bridge and interaction with the Dart North Coastal Project.</p> <p data-bbox="783 800 1524 911">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.</p>  <p data-bbox="905 1208 1402 1235">View of Dublin Rd, Drogheda Rd looking South</p>	North Rd, Drogheda - Proposed Part 8 display late Q2 2024 Dublin Rd, Drogheda - Proposed Part 8 display depending on dialogue with NTA / Irish Rail.

Project Name	Allocation 2024	Project Band (updated March 2024)	Current Phase	June 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 4 Preliminary Design	<p>The proposals for the project were placed on Part 8 Public Display on Wednesday, 15th May 2024 and will remain on display until Wednesday, 12th June 2024 (inclusive). Submissions relating to the proposals are invited up to the deadline of 3rd July 2024.</p> <p>See link to Part 8 Portal Inner Relief Road Active Travel Scheme Planning (localgov.ie)</p>  <p>View of Inner Relief Rd, Dundalk looking north from Hoeys Lane Roundabout extract from Fly Through</p>	Proposed Part 8 display 15 th May 2024.
Dundalk: Dublin Rd Xerox Junction to Ladywell Bridge	€150,000	Band 2 €5 - €20M	Phase 3 Preliminary Design	<p>Gateway (GW) 3 Report submitted to the NTA on the 14th March 2024. The NTA have given approval in principle to the GW 3 Report and the Design Team are commencing to prepare Part 8 documents.</p>	Proposed Part 8 display Q2 2024

Project Name	Allocation 2024	Project Band (updated March 2024)	Current Phase	June 2024- Project update	Anticipated Part 8 Completions, subject to NTA approval of Gateways
				 <p data-bbox="842 626 1467 651">View of Dublin Rd, Dundalk looking north at DKIT Entrance</p>	
<p>Dundalk: Ard Easmuinn Rd to Train Station / Friary School & Dundalk Bus Station to Rail Station.</p>	<p>€150,000</p>		<p>Phase 3 /4 Preliminary Design / Statutory Process</p>	<p>Received Phase 3 Gateway approval from the NTA on the 29th June 2023.</p> <p>Permission given to proceed to Gateway 4 “Statutory Process”. DT preparing Part 8 Planning Package.</p> <p>Towards the end of 2023 we held a number of meetings with resident groups (x8) along the route.</p> <p>The Design Team are now considering all submissions received as part of the Non-statutory Public Consultation process in order to inform the next phase i.e. Phase 4 Statutory Process.</p> <p>The Active Travel Team met five key residents’ groups, to discuss key areas of contention i.e. parking etc, in order to amend some proposals in advance of Part 8 publication.</p>  <p data-bbox="858 1320 1451 1344">View of Ard Easmuinn Looking North from China Bridge</p>	<p>Proposed Part 8 Q3 2024</p>

Project Name	Allocation 2024	Project Band (updated March 2024)	Current Phase	June 2024- Project update	Anticipated Part 8 Completions, subject to NTA approval of Gateways
Transport / Mobility Plans: Including Dundalk, Drogheda, Ardee, Clogherhead, Dunleer, Termonfeckin & Castlebellingham	€450,000	Band 1 €0 - €5M	Phase 2 - Concept and Options	<p>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 Phases of the ABTA.</p> <p>Dundalk Area Based Transport Assessment (ABTA) Consultants WS Atkins were appointed on the 27th July 2023. The ABTA process has commenced with Parts 1 and Part 2 completed, i.e. baseline information & estimated Forecast Transport Demand. Part 3 Option development and assessment substantially completed at the end of May 2024. Thereafter the consultant will be competing the final stages i.e. Part 4 & 5 for draft review by the Executive. The ABTA will form part of the Dundalk LAP.</p>	N/A
Hoey's Lane, Dundalk	€165,000	Band 1 €0 - €5M	Phase 3 – Preliminary Design	Gateway 2 approval received from the NTA on 13 th March 2024. The Design Team have commenced Phase 3 – Preliminary Design.	2024
Mill Street, Dundalk	€145,000	Band 1 €0 - €5M	Phase 2 - Concept and Options	LCC Active Travel Team submitted Gateway 2 Reports (Options Development) to the NTA on 28 th March 2024 and we are currently awaiting approval.	2024
Hill Street Bridge to Train Station, Dundalk	€235,000	Band 1 €0 - €5M	Phase 2 - Concept and Options	LCC Active Travel Team submitted Gateway 2 Reports (Options Development) to the NTA on 22 nd May 2024 and we are currently awaiting approval.	2024

Project Name	Allocation 2024	Project Band (updated March 2024)	Current Phase	June 2024- Project update	Anticipated Part 8 Completions, subject to NTA approval of Gateways
				The Active Travel Team are engaging with Irish Rail / CIE with regards to possible route selections.	
R132 Dublin Road, (Rank Xerox Junction to Greengates)	€160,000	Band 1 €0 - €5M	Phase 3 – Preliminary Design	<p>Gateway 2 approval received from the NTA on 29th April 2024. The Design Team have commenced Phase 3 – Preliminary Design.</p> <p>An on-line briefing given to Dundalk MD Councillors on 28th May 2024 with a non-statutory public consultation day to be held at the Geraldines GFC Club House, Marlbog Road, Haggardstown on Thursday 30th May from 3.30pm to 8.30pm.</p>  <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Photomontage of Preferred Option</u></p>	2024
Money more, 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	<p>Various locations in the town of Drogheda-</p> <p>All works completed and we are anticipating a similar allocation in 2024.</p>	N/A

Project Name	Allocation 2024	Project Band (updated March 2024)	Current Phase	June 2024- Project update	Anticipated Part 8 Completions, subject to NTA approval of Gateways
Dundalk improvement of accessibility	€50,000	Band 1 €0 - €5M	Phase 3 – Preliminary Design	Various locations in the town of Dundalk All works completed and we are anticipating a similar allocation in 2024.	N/A
Ardee improvement of accessibility	€40,000	Band 1 €0 - €5M	Phase 3 – Preliminary Design	Various locations in the town of Ardee All works completed and we are anticipating a similar allocation in 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 School, Drogheda 4. Scoil Aonghusa, Drogheda	€930,000	Band 1 €0 - €5M	Phase 3 – Preliminary Design	All four projects reviewed. St Louis, Dundalk - Meeting held with An Taisce and Principal. Action plan now agreed and signed off. Rehab, Mill Rd, Dundalk to be incorporated into Mill Street scheme above. Drogheda x 2 - Preliminary Design / Concepts developed. Following a procurement competition, Barry Transportation were appointed Design Consultants on 3 rd April 2023. Preliminary design commenced. Traffic, Drone & Topographical Surveys to be completed Nov 2023.	No part 8's but possible Section 38's
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. 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

Place Making

Urban Regeneration and Development Fund Projects (URDF)

West Gate Vision (Drogheda)

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

The planning application to An Bord Pleanála seeks approval for significant regeneration of the Westgate area of Drogheda. Preparation of the Westgate planning stage has been financially supported by the Urban Regeneration Development Fund (URDF) as part of Project Ireland 2040 and match funded by Louth County Council.

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

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

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

The Westgate planning documents, including the suite of drawings, the EIAR and the AA Stage 2 reports, represent a large volume of

material and statutory planning information presented to An Bord Pleanála.

Full details of the proposed works are available here:

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



Artist impressions of Westgate project

St. Nicholas Quarter and Backlands Regeneration (Dundalk)

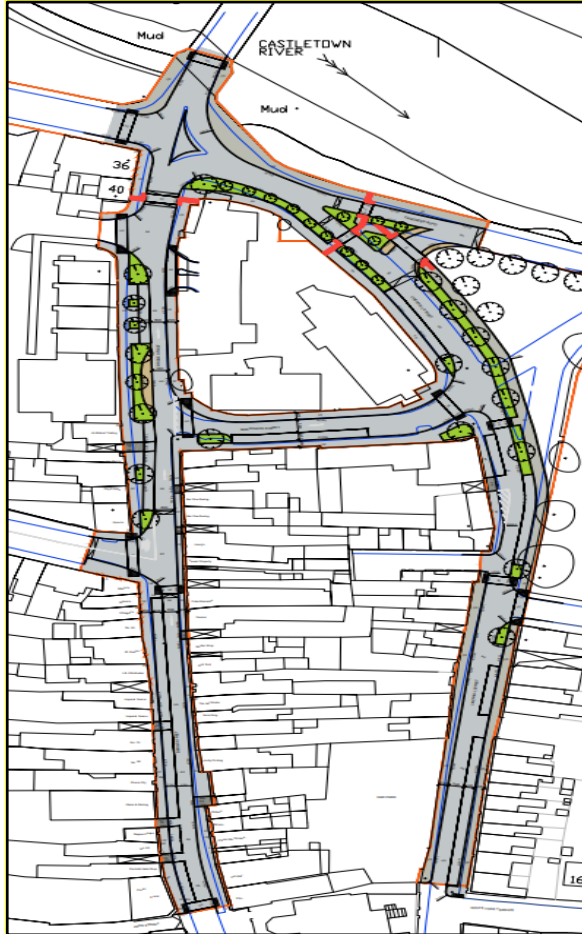
Phase 1

BDP Ltd are the Urban Design Team for Phase 1 of the St. Nicholas Quarter project. This project involves the enhancement of the public realm along Bridge Street, Linenhall Street and Peace Park. Part 8 approval of the project was received in April 2018.

Following Decision Gate 2 for funding approval by the URDF, as per the Public Spending Code, the tender for construction was advertised, closing on the 27th of March. The tender assessment has been completed and the process of appointment commenced.

It is anticipated that works will commence on-site in Q2 2024. A public engagement day

was held on Wednesday 29th November in Dundalk Town Hall where residents and stakeholders had a chance to review drawings and information on the delivery of this project. It was a well-attended event with positive feedback received on the project.



Phase 2

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.

A town health check has been completed on the area and initial summary report completed

by the design team. BDP delivered a public engagement afternoon on Wednesday 21st February in County Hall, Dundalk. The event was well-attended with positive feedback received on the project and local insights provided on the St Nicholas Quarter area.

BDP are currently engaged with LCC in the initial feasibility and analysis stages in preparation of a design concept for St Nicholas Quarter – Phase II.

URDF Call Three Funding Allocation.

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.

Rural Regeneration and Development Fund (RRDF)

Ardee Castle

The new Part 8 application for the Ardee Castle Refurbishment works was on the Agenda at the May Ardee MD meeting. In tandem the tender documentation to appoint a contractor is being finalised.

Living in Carlingford Visiting Carlingford



This project has planning permission in place since July 2023. An application for category 1 funding for the project was submitted to the RRDF Call 5 in February 2024 and unfortunately was not successful. Louth

County Council are now looking at other possible funding streams for this important project.

Omeath Placemaking Scheme

The Placemaking project at Omeath is progressing on site with the main contractor, GLAS Civil Engineering installing kerbs, paving and green spaces. Most of the utility work has been completed. Areas for soft landscape and planting are being prepared with topsoil. The works are continuing on an agreed phased basis. Ongoing public engagement continues with local stakeholders to ensure any disruption is kept to a minimum.

The proposed work programme is expected to be completed in Q2 2024. The Omeath Placemaking scheme will enhance pedestrian accessibility and safety through the village with the creation of new crossing points, footpaths and widening of existing footpaths. The project will also enhance linkages to the Omeath Greenway.



New Road Surfacing Shore Rd.



New "Grasscrete" sets being laid in pier area.

Ardee 2040

Turley Planning are in the process of completing the final design Audits, reports

and planning documents for Ardee 2040. Louth County Council are currently engaged with TII in relation to pre-planning approval for the main street. The planning submission will then be lodged with An Bord Pleanala.

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

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

Additional Projects

St Laurence's Gate Plaza, Drogheda

Further environmental reports that are required for the Part 8 planning process have been commissioned. These will be prepared for the planning consent process for St Laurence's Gate Plaza.



Cross Departmental Projects

Play Spaces

The Part 8 planning process for the new play space at Termonfeckin was approved at the December meeting of Drogheda Municipal District. Work on the project is progressing.

The site of the play space is being prepared and the former water tower and associated pipework has been removed.

Kompan Ireland Ltd has been appointed for the contract to Design & Build the new play space, and a programme of works has been received with works due to commence at the end of June.

Reports for St. Dominic's Park playground refurbishment are being undertaken including AA Screening Stage 1 report.

Town Centre First Projects

Town Centre First Plan - Dunleer

Environmental reports carried out on the competed plan are in the process of being added to the Town Centre First document.

A launch event to promote the TCF Plan was held in the Market House Dunleer on 28th May.

Town Centre First Plan – Clogherhead

Clogherhead was officially announced as County Louths second town/village to receive Town Centre First funding by Ministers Humphreys and O'Donnell on 29 February as part of a national launch day.

A public consultation event was held on 8th May to obtain the views of the local community and key stakeholders.

Organisational Development

Forbairt Na hEagraíochta

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

This Directorate has five key areas of responsibility.

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

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

Tá cuig eochairfhreagrachta ag an Stiúrthóireacht seo:

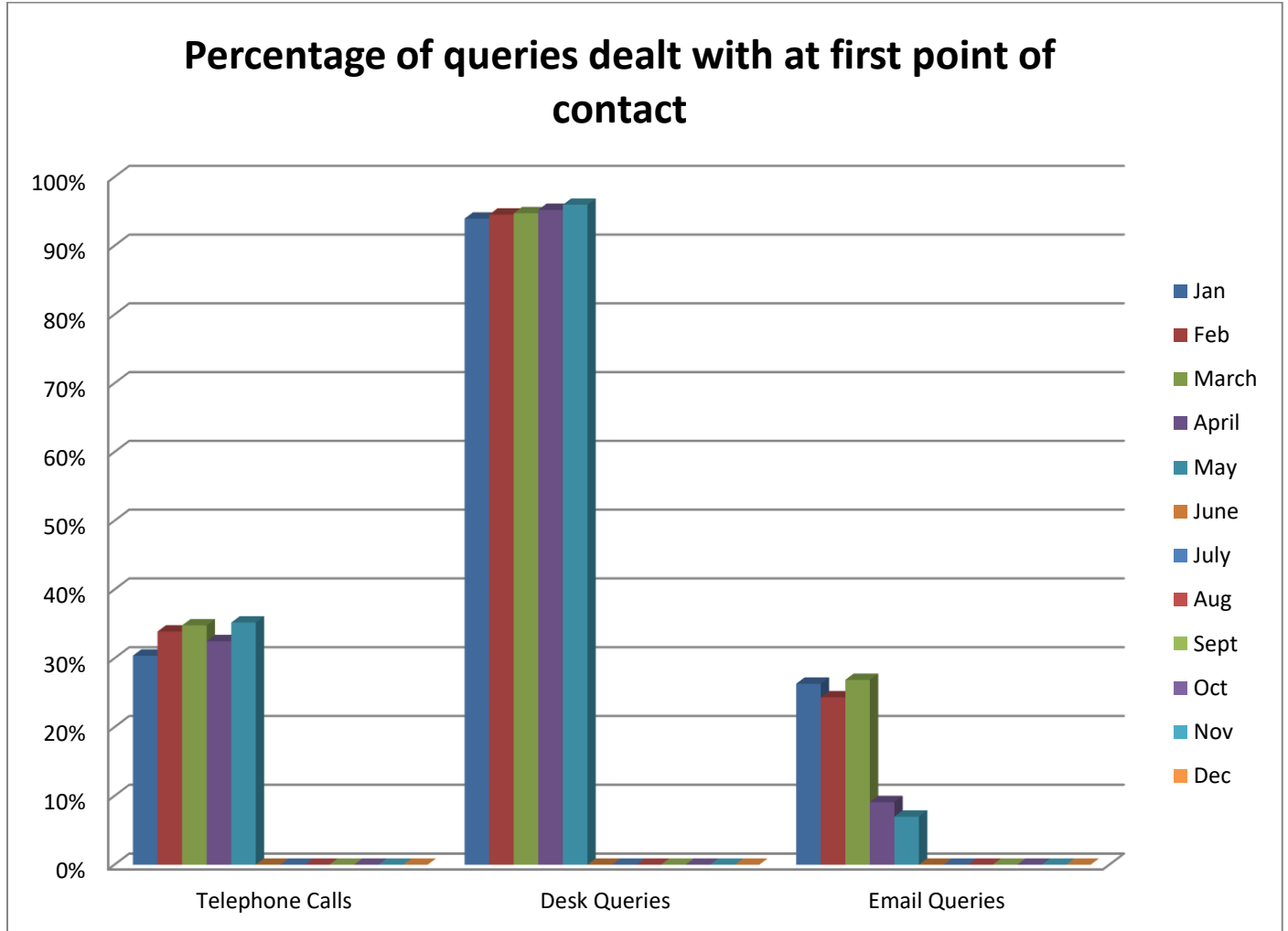
- Seirbhísí Corparáideacha
- Tacaíocht Pobail agus Spóirt
- Bainistíocht Dramháil, Gníomh Comhshaoil, Uisce Tuaithe & Gníomhú ar son na hAeráide
- Seirbhísí Tréidliachta
- Acmhainní Duine



Corporate Services

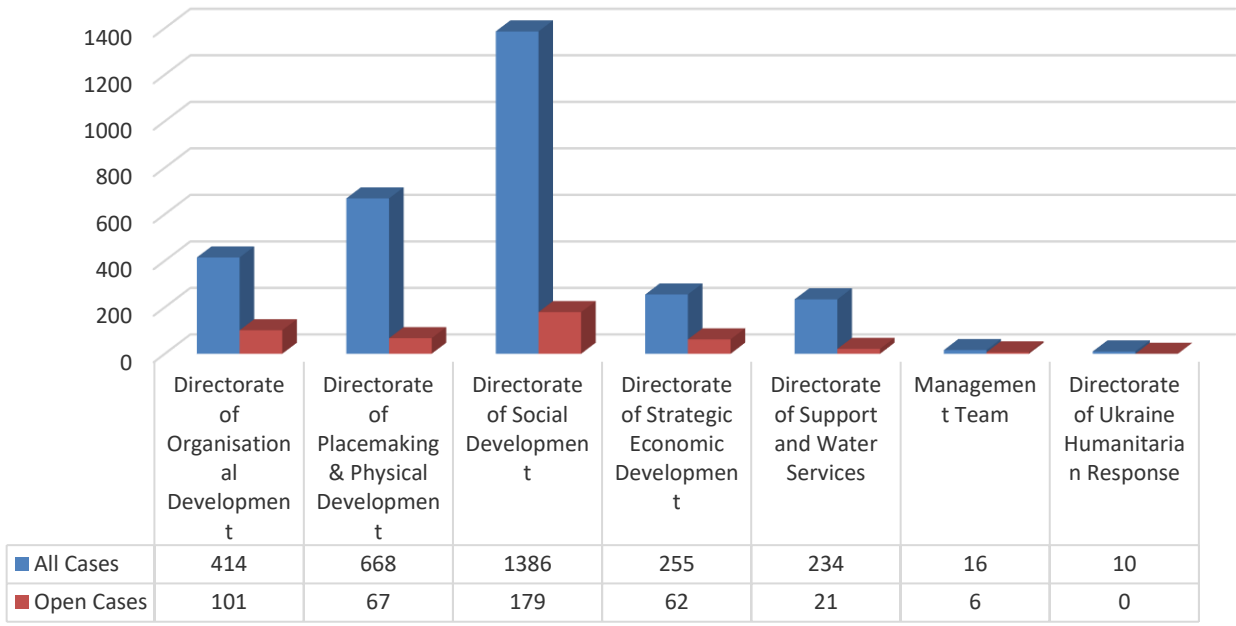
Customer Services Report

During the month of May 2024 Customer Services dealt with queries 7,123 calls, 1,203 e-mails and 5,417 counter queries.

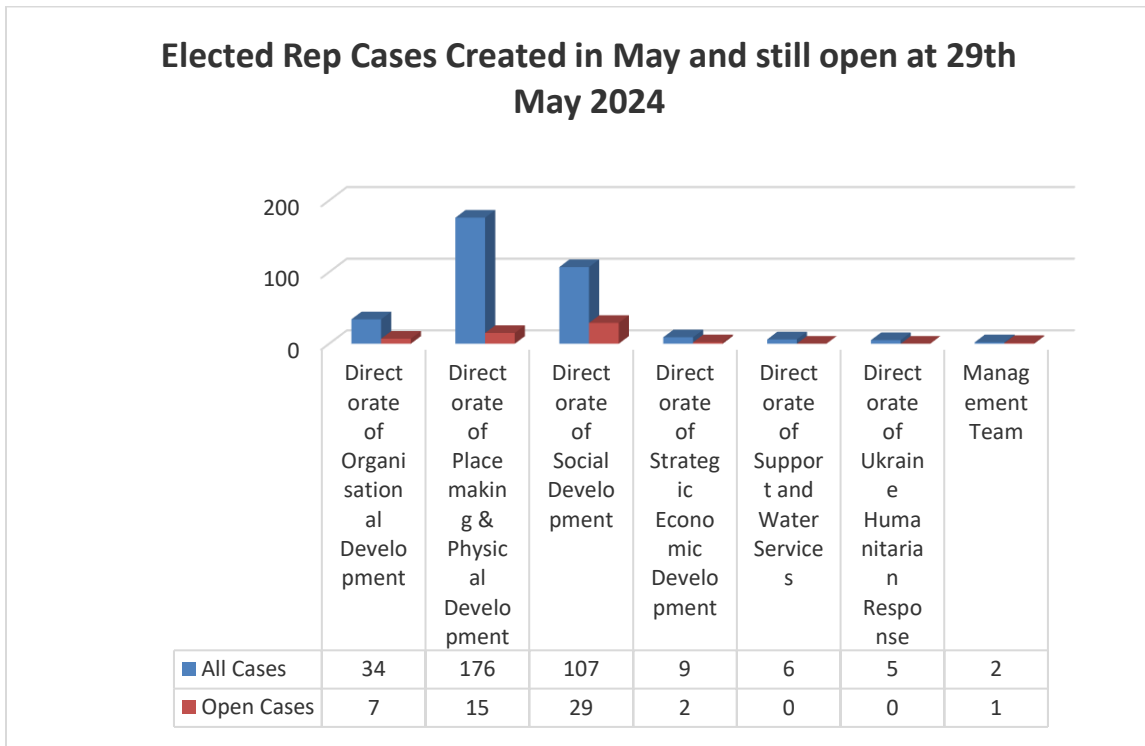


There were 2,983 valid Sugar CRM cases recorded during May of which 436 (14%) remain unresolved, broken down by directorate as follows:

No. of Cases Created in May and still open at 29th of May 2024



During May 2024, 339 elected reps. cases were recorded on Sugar of which 54 (16.%) remain unresolved broken down by Directorate as follows:



The table below illustrates activity in the redress area.

Request Received	2023 Total Jan-May	2024 Total Jan – May	2024 May ONLY
FOI	50	66	10
DSAR	1	8	0
Data Protection Request	5	8	1
AIE Requests	8	6	2
Ombudsman	7	7	1
Complaints	17	26	5

Electoral Register

A significant amount of background work has been done in preparation for both the Local & European Elections which will take place on Friday 7th June 2024.

Please refer to the Local Elections 2024 page on the website for further information which will be updated regularly: <https://www.louthcoco.ie/en/services/local-elections-2024/>

Electors have been notified via public awareness campaigns to ensure they are on the Register of Electors. Please note, the Franchise Section cannot assist constituents on polling day should their details not be on the register nor accurate.

The Franchise Section are delighted to report that 97% of properties are now recorded with a valid Eircode, which again strengthens the accuracy of the register, however, constituents are encouraged to check their polling station prior to polling day. This information will be reflected on the polling cards and can be viewed via www.checktheregister.ie

Finally, elector control totals for each area currently stand at:

Ardee	19,928
Drogheda Rural	14,133
Drogheda Urban	19,729
Dundalk Carlingford	20,039
Dundalk South	25,691
Total Electorate	99,520



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

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

checktheregister.ie

Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland

Community Support

Africa Day 2024

Africa Day 2024 was celebrated across the entire weekend in Co Louth from Friday 22nd May to Sunday 24th May. This year migrant led community groups ran events in all 3 Municipal Districts.

It was the first year that an event was held in the Ardee Municipal District, and it proved a great success with many attending the event on Friday 22nd May at the Ardee Parish Centre to celebrate African music, dance, crafts and cuisine.

Events were also held in Dundalk and Drogheda over the weekend with a mixture of entertainment and attractions to celebrate Ireland's growing links with the continent of Africa.

Funding towards events was provided by Department of Foreign Affairs in conjunction with Irish Aid and administered by Louth County Council Community Office.



A selection of the many beautiful African fabrics and fashions on display at Africa Day Celebrations across Co Louth in 2024

Louth Local Economic & Community Plan (LECP) 2024-2029

The Louth LECP was officially launched by members of Louth LCDC and members of the Economic SPC on Monday 20th May 2024.

The launch of the six-year plan aims to guide economic and community development in the county.

The LECP shapes the development of Louth over the next number of years with the aim of making Louth a vibrant, sustainable, progressive, and climate-resilient county underpinned by inclusive, healthy, empowered communities and a dynamic economy.

The Louth LECP sets out the objectives and actions needed to promote and support the economic development and the local and community development of Louth, both by Louth County Council directly and in partnership with other economic and community development stakeholders.



Members of Louth LCDC and the Economic SPC at the launch of the Louth Local Economic & Community Plan 2024-2029



Let's Talk Climate Action Workshop & Site Visit

Age Friendly Louth were delighted to host Gavin Harte from the Climate Action Regional Office (CARO) in Co Louth on Tuesday 30th April. Gavin hosted an interesting and engaging workshop with

older people from across Co Louth on the topic of climate action and climate change in The Fairways Hotel, Dundalk.

There were representative's from tidy towns, residents associations, Louth Older People's Council (OPC) and individuals with an interest in the area of climate change. Participants were keen to explore how they as individuals and as groups could affect climate action and climate change individually and collectively.



Attending the Let's Talk Climate Action Workshop organised by Age Friendly Louth and Age Friendly Ireland



Guided tour of Blackrock Park, Co Louth as part of the Let's Talk Climate Action Workshop

Age Friendly Conference Kilkenny City

Members of Louth OPC and the Age Friendly Louth Team attended the Age Friendly Conference in Kilkenny City on 9th & 10th May 2024

The theme of the Conference was Ageing with Independence and Louth OPC members agreed a number of key priorities for the OPC's to deliver in 2024.

These include challenges around a cashless society and lack of access to toilet facilities in public places and on public transport.

The members will inform their local OPC of these priorities for 2024 and will work towards addressing these issues with the Louth Older People's Council (OPC), local Alliance and Age Friendly Programme Manager.



Joe Grogan, Chairperson Louth OPC, Louise Larkin Louth Age Friendly Team & Venora O'Brien Louth OPC at Age Friendly Ireland Conference in Kilkenny

Creative Ireland – Drama Workshops Challenging Ageism in Co Louth

Age Friendly Louth have been successful in securing €11,000 funding from Creative Ireland to explore the topic of ageism in Co Louth through the medium of creative arts.

Age Friendly Louth has partnered with An Táin Arts Centre to deliver this project, which will promote positive ageing and reframe the conversation around ageism.

A number of taster drama workshops were rolled out across Drogheda, Ardee & Dundalk during May, inviting adults and especially older adults to take part in initial workshops.

A wide variety of people from lots of different backgrounds across Co Louth and with a wide range of ages and abilities attended the drama taster workshops.

Those attending the taster workshops were subsequently invited to attend a suite of follow up workshops which will be held in An Táin Arts Centre every Monday during May, June & July to collaborate further on this project.



Participants at the Drama Workshop in Dundalk, exploring ageism in Co Louth

Louth Age Friendly Alliance

The Louth Age Friendly Alliance held a meeting on 13th May 2024, members agreed to review the current Age Friendly Strategy and prepare a new Age Friendly Strategy for Co Louth.

Age Friendly Healthy Homes

Age Friendly Louth were delighted to invite Adrienne McCann the new Age Friendly Healthy Homes Co Ordinator for Co Louth to give an overview on her role within the county.

Older people from across Co Louth were invited to attend the presentation and Adrienne explained the many ways in which the Age Friendly Healthy Home programme can help and assist older people

to age independently at home and how people can refer into the programme.



Attendees at the Age Friendly Healthy Homes Presentation

At the same event, over 75 older people and representatives of organisations supporting older people took part in an engaging workshop and discussed ideas and initiatives' on how to reframe the conversation around ageing in Co Louth. The Louth Older Peoples Council (OPC) and Age Friendly Alliance will work together with the Age Friendly Programme Manager to deliver on the ideas and initiatives over the next number of years.



Participants at the Workshop in Challenging Ageism in Co Louth

PPN Active Citizenship Workshops

Louth PPN hosted 2 Active Citizenship Workshops in collaboration with DALC on Wednesday 1st and Wednesday 8th May in Drogheda and Dundalk respectively. These workshops covered topics such as voting rights, local government functions and active community participation (including through the PPN) amongst others.

Louth Youth Network Presentation

Louth PPN presented to the Louth Youth Network on Tuesday 7th May in Drogheda regarding the opportunities available to have the youth voice heard within the policy and decision-making structures of the local authority.

National PPN Workers' Meeting

Louth PPN attended and co-hosted the National PPN Workers' Meeting which took place in Dublin on Wednesday 15th May.



PPN Team Anna Ryan and Shane Gorman attended the National PPN Workers' Meeting

Inter-Agency Migrant Workshop

Louth PPN attended and participated in Louth's Inter-Agency Migrant Workshop. The purpose of this workshop was to discuss the issues affecting new communities and to develop a Map of Opportunities for migrant integration, thus creating

a strategy for service providers and community organisations.



Attendees at the Inter-Agency Migrant Workshop

Updates on Thematic Projects 2024 Youth

The Youth Thematic Project in 2024 will be to develop an online information service designed and written by young people, for young people. The name of the e-magazine will be "ILLUminate" with a launch date due to happen towards the end of the Summer.

Environment

It was agreed to build on the success of last year's environmental project at Rathescar Lake for 2024, with a particular emphasis on biodiversity. The local community intend to collaborate with Louth County Council's Bio-Diversity Officer to ensure best practices are adopted throughout the project. A site visit is due to take place in the coming weeks.

Accessible Art

Two of our member groups, Art As Exchange and Dundalk Arches Club, have collaborated on delivering a 10 week course in art using different mediums to members of Dundalk Arches Club. This Project was completed the last week of May.

Training

Louth PPN offered the following training in the month of May:

- Social Media – the final 2 sessions took place online on Monday 13th & 27th May.

Healthy Louth

Healthy Louth Receives €15,000 Funding from Creative Ireland to Empower Homeless Voices Through Art

Louth County Council is thrilled to announce that Healthy Louth has secured €15,000 in funding from the Creative Ireland programme to launch an innovative initiative titled “Step into my World”. This project was compiled and will be delivered by Louth Local Development Company’s SICAP team facilitating a dynamic collaboration with Healthy Louth and Louth County Council Homeless Section. The project aims to amplify the voices and experiences of vulnerable individuals who have experienced homelessness, life challenges and misplacement. Using a multi-agency approach and combining expertise and resources, all partners are committed to making a positive impact on the lives of those affected by homelessness in Louth.

The “Step into my World” project will seek to provide a platform for marginalised voices by engaging individuals living in Direct Provision, women’s refuge centers, homeless shelters and addiction recovery services. Under the guidance of the SICAP team, a series of individual and group sessions will be facilitated by Art Therapists and Growth Mindset Therapists, participants will explore their realities, challenges, and the stigma associated with their situations. The project will culminate in the creation of individual recorded narratives and a collaborative art piece that will be publicly displayed.



Healthy Louth has received 15,000 Funding from Creative Ireland to Empower Homeless Voices Through Art

Healthy Louth ‘CommUnity Connects’ Public Consultation

The recent Healthy Louth ‘CommUnity Connects’ public consultation event held on Wednesday, 8th May 2024, at the Dundalk Sports Centre in Muirhevnamore was a resounding success. The event, dedicated to promoting positive mental health and wellbeing, attracted a remarkable turnout, with community members, stakeholders, and mental health advocates coming together to share their insights and collaborate on this vital initiative.

The event kicked off with a light brunch, providing attendees an opportunity to network and settle in. The interactive workshop that followed was the highlight of the day. Participants engaged in dynamic discussions and collaborative brainstorming sessions, contributing valuable ideas and feedback to shape the future of the “CommUnity Connects” initiative.

One of the standout aspects of the event was the diversity of perspectives shared. Community members brought forward their unique experiences and suggestions, highlighting the collective commitment to fostering a supportive and resilient community. The interactive nature of the workshop allowed everyone to voice their opinions and work together on potential solutions and strategies for

enhancing mental health and wellbeing in our community.



Attendees at Healthy Louth 'CommUnity Connects' Public Consultation

Healthy Ireland Fund 2024

Healthy Louth is delighted to announce our continued partnership with community stakeholders to deliver the second year of the Healthy Ireland Fund 2023-2025 Local Strategy for Louth. Building on the remarkable success of the first year, we are committed to advancing our vision of a Healthy Louth, that being a county 'where everyone can enjoy physical and mental health and wellbeing to their full potential, where wellbeing is valued and supported at every level of society and is everyone's responsibility'.

The Healthy Ireland Fund aims to support innovative local projects designed to improve the overall health and wellbeing of the community. With a strong emphasis on promoting positive mental health and increasing levels of physical activity, our initiatives are carefully designed to address the unique needs of Louth's residents. Healthy Louth recently signed SLAs with the following groups:

- Louth ABC Programme
- Tuath Housing
- Louth Local Development Company
- Boomerang Café
- The Red Door Project



Catrina Culligan, Co-ordinator, Michelle Ewetade, Lead Youth Worker Healthy Louth's Paula Keenan with Boomerang Cafés

LEADER Programmes:



Recently, Louth County Council paid out funding to beneficiaries under the LEADER Programme 2014-2020 and LEADER Transitional Programme 2021-2022:

PROMOTER NAME	AMOUNT €
Carlingford Community Development CLG Foy Youth Cafe	€3,596.18
Louth Local Development CLG Online Presence Skills Development Training Programme	€18,597.60
Louth Local Development CLG Appreciation of the Estuaries & Sea Shore Training Programme	€19,980.00

Irish Sustainable Communities Together Resources for Climate Change Centre of Excellence	€8,450.97
Andrew Workman Dunany Organic Flour	€57,274.18
Wakely Engineering Ltd Bespoke CNC Profile Cutting Equipment	€36,915.00
Louth LCDC Interpretation Signage Element of Heritage Tourism Cluster Co-operation Project	€20,101.12
Jeremy & Alona Humeau t/a Merci Beacoup New Refrigeration Equipment	€8,568.75
Louth Local Development CLG Introduction to Rainwater Harvesting	€15,000.00
Irish Sustainable Communities Together Resources for Climate Change Centre of Excellence	€8,649.52
TOTAL	€197,133.32

Both LEADER Programmes will draw to a close and see the last claims submitted to the DRCD by 28th June, 2024. A total of approximately €6.2m in funding will have been awarded to successful projects in Co Louth over the duration of these two Programmes.

LEADER Programme 2023-2027

As the above LEADER Programmes conclude, we are delighted to announce that the County Louth Local Development Strategy (LDS) 2023 – 2027, was officially launched on Tuesday 28th May, 2024. This heralds the beginning of the new programme which has a budget of approx. €4.9million.



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

SICAP provides funding to tackle poverty and social exclusion through local engagement and partnership between disadvantaged individuals, community organisations and public sector agencies. SICAP addresses high and persistent levels of deprivation through targeted and innovative, locally-led approaches. It supports disadvantaged communities and individuals including unemployed people, people living in deprived areas, people with disabilities, single parent families, people on a low income, members of the Traveller and Roma community and other disadvantaged groups.

Louth was awarded €1,651,231.00 for the delivery of the SICAP Programme for 2024 with an extra €230,987.00 allocated for or New Communities. An application was made which secured an additional funding amount of €115,943.50 for New Community programmes. This brings the total awarded by the Dept. of Rural and Community Development to €1,998,161.50.

Green Schools flag awards ceremony 2023-2024

Along with schools from Meath, Monaghan and Fingal, sixteen schools from across the county of Louth that are involved in the Green schools programme received their flag from An Taisce at a ceremony held on the 22nd May in the Fairways Hotel. This year marks the 26th anniversary of the Green Schools programme. Green Schools, known internationally as Eco Schools, is Ireland's leading environmental management and education programme for schools, operated and coordinated by the Environmental Education Unit of An Taisce. Congratulations to all the schools and their Green Schools Committees for their hard work.



Green Schools flag awards ceremony 2023-2024

International Blue Flag Awards and National Green Coast Awards 2024

An Taisce recently announced the recipients of the International Blue Flag and the National Green Coast Awards for 2024. Louth has received four awards for the 2024 season – Blue Flag Awards for the beaches of Clogherhead, Port and Templetown and a Green Coast Award for Seapoint. These awards were presented by the Hildegard Naughton TD - Government Chief Whip and Minister of State at the Department of Education at a ceremony held in the Galway Bay Hotel overlooking Salthill Blue Flag beach last month. Well done to all involved in helping us to achieve these awards.

CLAR 2024: Measure 1: Developing Community Facilities & Amenities

CLÁR (Ceantair Laga Árd-Riachtanais) is a targeted investment programme for rural areas that aims to provide funding for small infrastructural projects in rural areas that have experienced significant levels of de-population. The programme is open to schools, community and voluntary groups and local development companies in the CLÁR area of Co Louth (which is essentially the area comprising the Cooley Peninsula).

The 2024 Measure 1 programme opened for Expressions of Interest submissions mid April. A total of 8 valid Expressions of Interest were received (1 was invalid as the groups are located outside of the CLÁR region in the county). The valid Expressions of Interest are currently being shortlisted by the Senior Management Team in

Louth County Council for onward submission to the Department of Rural and Community Development before 19th June 2024. The Department will then consider the applications and it is expected that decisions will be made with regard to funding in September.

Street Feast 2024

“Street Feast“ was held on the 25th & 26th May 2024, serving as a national day dedicated to street parties and community celebrations. In Louth, this summer, it offered an opportunity for neighbours to come together, share food, engage in conversations, and foster a sense of camaraderie. This year, the community support team supported and promoted "Street Feast" across the county. In collaboration with the Neighbourhood Network, an Irish non-profit organisation committed to fostering social inclusion, combating loneliness, and establishing supportive and resilient communities through street events. The community support team is worked hand in hand and as a result, over 40 groups having registered to host a street feast event across all the Municipal Districts in Louth.

Belfry Gardens, Dundalk, finished their annual clean up with a street feast event. Members of Dundalk Fire Service turned up with a fire engine which proved a huge hit with the children who were delighted to try out the fire hose on such a beautiful warm day.



Sports

Dundalk Sports Centre

Completed Refurbishment of Changing Village at Dundalk Leisure Centre

The official launch of state-of-the-art new facilities at Dundalk Leisure Centre took place on Tuesday 7th May 2024. The refurbishment works, which represented a €600,000 investment in upgrading facilities at the swimming pool and leisure complex, involved the installation of new disabled changing areas, lockers, family-friendly changing cubicles, non-slip safety tiles and group changing areas. All areas will be accessible with specifically designed lockers for wheelchair users, which was previously lacking in the facility. The works were made possible through funding from Large Scale Sports Infrastructure Fund under the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media, and investment by Louth County Council. It brings a host of enhancements designed to improve the overall experience of patrons. Dundalk Leisure Centre is operated and managed by Aura in partnership with Louth County Council. This refurbishment marks a significant milestone in the centre's commitment to ensuring accessibility, comfort and safety for all.



The opening of the refurbishment of changing village at Dundalk Leisure Centre

Age-Well Programme off to a Great Start

Dundalk Sports Centre's newest Programme 'Age-Well' is off to a fantastic start. A more advanced

class was requested by several members of our Strength & Balance programme. Two of our Sports Unit Operatives, Tiernan and Pairic, designed a new programme, meeting the needs of the Sports Centre Customers. The programme includes a mix of standing and floor-based exercises to target whole body strength and cardiovascular fitness. The class is getting around 12-15 committed participants and the feedback has been fantastic.



Strength & Balance

Strength and Balance had a busy month of May with community outreach, lots of new members and fitness testing for older adults. On Monday 13th May the two instructors went out to an Active Retirement group located in Carol Meade to give an overview of the Strength & Balance programme, the benefits of resistance training as we age and deliver a sample exercise class to the group. It was great to see some of the members come along to some of the various classes held in Dundalk Sports Centre as a result of the visit. It was a great month for new members to start, as on Wednesday 22nd May, we assessed the grip strength and agility of over 60 older adults. There is now great excitement amongst the participants to continue working hard in an effort to beat their personal scores when we re-test in a number of weeks' time.



Strength & Balance Classes at Dundalk Sports Centre

With a mix of Strength and cardio sessions, the bootcamp is suitable for all ages and abilities.

Community Games

On Tuesday the 14th May the Community Games held their qualifying event for the Louth Community Games. There was 30+ participants competing in various events such as 100m, 400m, long jump and many more. The Louth Community Games took place at the Stadium on Saturday 25th of May.



Community Games at Lourdes Stadium

Capital Works Progression

In May the next stage of works began at Lourdes Stadium. Work inside the building has commenced with a new window being fitted that overlooks the bowling green and a glass door that overlooks the track. This will be followed by further works to create a new inside room along with upgrades to the reception area and new bathrooms to follow.



Capital Works at Lourdes Stadium

Louth Local Sports Partnership

For further information on any LLSP programmes or events please email louthlsp@louthcoco.ie or telephone Louth Local Sports Partnership 042-9324318.

Coach & Volunteer Education Programmes 2024

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

Safeguarding

Activity	Date	Venue
Safeguarding Level 2	May 2 nd 2024	Online
Safeguarding Level 1	May 9 th 2024	Online
Safeguarding Level 1	May 23 rd 2024	Online

Lourdes Stadium Bootcamp

Our third bootcamp of 2024 got under way on the 7th of May with 15 participants taking part. Our participants included returning and new members.

Disability Inclusion Training

Activity	Date	Venue
Disability Inclusion Training	May 18 th 2024	Dromiskin

First Aid Training

Activity	Date	Venue
Online First Aid Training	May 21 st 2024	Online

Volunteer Support Workshops

Activity	Date	Venue
Volunteer support, supervision, and recognition	May 22 nd 2024	Online

Bike Week 2024

Louth Bike Week took place from the 11th – 19th May 2024 as part of National Bike Week, with cycling events all over Louth, organised by Louth LSP, community groups, schools and cycling groups.

Bike Week in Ireland is a celebration and promotion of the benefits of cycling. It takes place annually and encourages people to embrace cycling as a healthy and sustainable mode of transportation and physical activity.

In total 793 participants took part in 31 Bike Week events facilitated by Louth LSP during Bike Week, activities included Greenway Cycles, Learn to Cycle workshops, Bike Maintenance Workshops, Social Cycling, Family Cycles, Cycling to School and a Couch 2 50k finale.



Louth Bike Week took place from the 11th – 19 May 2024

Louth Disability Cycling Club supported to purchase a new Handcycle

Louth Local Sports Partnership was delighted to support Louth Disability Cycling Club in purchasing a new hand cycle for the club. This hand cycle will be a great asset to the clubs fleet of adapted bikes, breaking down barriers to cycling for people with a disability across Louth.



Louth Local Sports Partnership supported Louth Disability Cycling Club in purchasing a new hand cycle

New Community Activator Walking Programme with Dundalk Library

Louth Local Sports Partnership was delighted to partner with Dundalk Library to deliver a 6-week Activator pole walking programme to support people to be physically active. The programme was delivered by an experienced instructor who supported the group on a routed walk around St Helena’s Park in Dundalk.

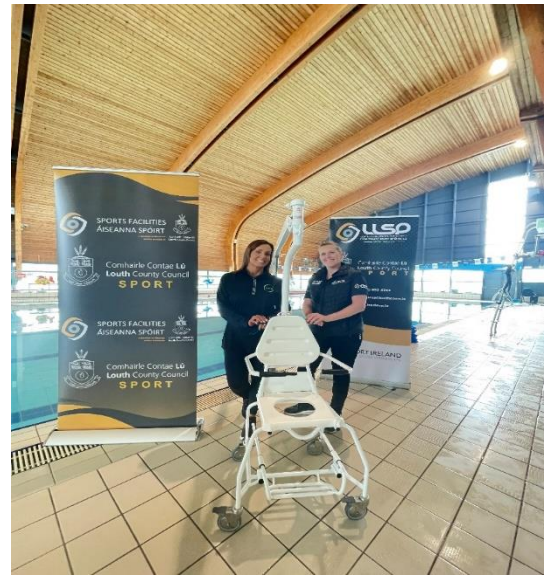
Following the programme the poles are available for the public to hire from the library using their library card.



New Community Activator Walking Programme with Dundalk Library

New hoist installed in Aura Leisure Centre Drogheda

Louth County Council Sports Facilities and Aura Leisure installed a new hoist at Drogheda Leisure Centre with funding secured by the Louth Local Sports Partnership. This will support people with disabilities and mobility restrictions to access the swimming pool in the Drogheda Leisure Centre safely. The hoist will ensure that water-based activities in the centre are accessible to all members of the community in the Drogheda area.



New hoist installed in Aura Leisure Centre Drogheda

Waste Management, Environment & Climate Action

Summary of Complaints

A total of 22 complaints were received and investigated by the Environmental Compliance team in May 2024, some of which remain open pending further investigations.

Complaint Type	Received in May 2024	Total Received in 2024
Air & Noise	3	33
Farm	3	19
Waste/C&D	14	86
Water Quality	2	16

Anti-dumping Initiative

The Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications announced that funding is available through the WERLA’s to support Local Authorities in 2024 Anti-Dumping Initiative (ADI).

The 2024 ADI aims to reduce incidents of illegal dumping by identifying and delivering projects aimed at tackling illegal dumping ‘black spots’ throughout the County and adhere to key measures

of prevention, abatement, education & awareness and enforcement.

The Department continues to strongly encourage innovative projects, which recognise waste as a resource that can be repurposed for use in a Circular Economy.

A total of 5 project applications were submitted for approval under the ADI 2024 totalling €104,077.00.

The Department approved funding of €76,800 for the completion of 3 projects including:

- Mattress and Sofa Amnesty Event – V&W Dundalk
- Mattress and Sofa Amnesty Event – V&W Drogheda
- Mattress and Soda Amnesty Collection Point – Ardee

Events are scheduled to take place in September 2024. Dates are yet to be agreed.



Circular Economy and Miscellaneous Provisions Act 2022

The Minister has signed commencement orders that came into effect on the 15th February 2024 to allow for the lawful use of CCTV in accordance with:

- The Codes of Practice;
- The Waste Management Act, 1996 as amended

- The Litter Pollution Act 1997 (Circular Economy and Miscellaneous Provisions Act 2022, Section 32 (irishstatutebook.ie); and;
- To allow for the lawful use of Mobile Recording Devices in accordance with the Waste Management Act, 1996. (Revised Acts (lawreform.ie).

The WERLAs, with the support of a National Working Group, have recently issued guidance to assist Local Authorities in the implementation of the Codes of Practice.

Article 27 By-Products

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

Louth County Council Waste Enforcement Section carry out site inspections at site of origin and/or site of destination to check material meets criteria.

Louth County Council were notified of 16 A27 notifications in 2024 so far.

In May, a total of 4 notifications were received by Louth County Council Waste Enforcement Section either a site of origin or a site of destination.





Farm Plastics

The IFFPG (Irish Farm Film Producers Group Ltd) is Ireland's only approved farm plastics recycling compliance scheme. IFFPG arrange the collection and recycling of farm plastics across the whole country and charge a fee for this service. A levy is charged on all farm plastics sold and this is used to assist in the recovery of the plastics. The enforcement of the Farm Plastics Regulation is the responsibility of the local authorities.

In May 2024, Louth County Council with the assistance of IFFPG carried out five inspections of farming contractors and suppliers of farm plastics. All inspections conducted were compliant with the Regulations.



Solid Fuel Regulations

Solid fuel inspections continue to be carried out in Co. Louth which involves a formal inspection of all retailers selling or distributing solid fuels i.e. Service Stations, Hardware Stores, Yards, Shops, etc. Overall good compliance with the Solid Fuel Regulations have been noted with only approved solid fuels being sold.



Waste Facility Permits & Certificate of Registration

Currently there are 25 Waste Facility Permits (1 new permit granted) and 2 Certificates of Registration (COR) in operation in Co. Louth. There are 2 Waste Facility Transfer applications being assessed, and one review waste facility application currently being assessed.

Annual Return Validations

All Waste Facility Permit (WFP) and Certificate of Registration (CoR) holders were required to submit their Annual Returns (AR) to the National Waste Collection Permit Office (NWCPO) via the online Eden Portal which opened to all Local Authorities for Annual Return Validation from the 1st April 2024. Validation is ongoing by Waste Enforcement Officers with validations to be completed by the deadline of the 30th of September 2024.

Louth County Council is required to complete validations on 63 Waste Collection Permit Holders and 30 Waste Facility Permit Holders.

Litter Enforcement & Investigations

All litter wardens continue to engage with members of the public, tidy towns groups and councillors daily on litter matters within the county.

In May our wardens completed 88 investigations to date. Where evidence was found fixed penalty notices were issued accordingly under the Litter Pollution Act 1997. 17 fixed penalty notices have been issued so far this month.

Two of our wardens successfully secured litter convictions in Dundalk Court on the 7th of May last under the Litter Pollution Act 1997.

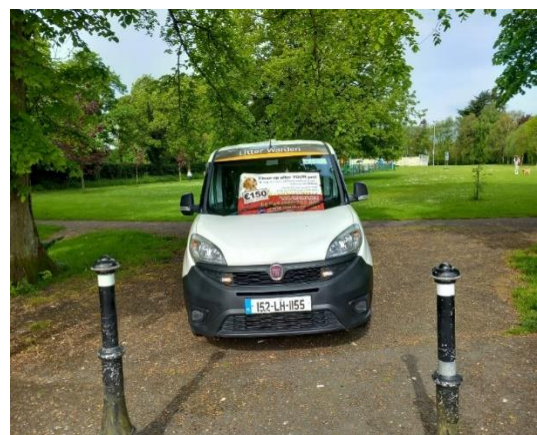
The first was for dumping which occurred on Patrick Street Dundalk. This was under section 3(1) of the Litter Pollution Act 1997. Upon non-payment of the associated fixed penalty, the case was heard in Dundalk Court, the defendant was fined €300.00, An Order was also made directing payment of Louth County Council expenses of €490 and legal costs of €500.00.

The second was for dumping which occurred on Chapel Street Dundalk. This was under section 3(1) of the Litter Pollution Act 1997. Upon non-payment of the associated fixed penalty, the case was heard in Dundalk Court, the defendant was fined €300.00, An Order was also made directing payment of Louth County Council expenses and legal costs.

A five-hour foot patrol was conducted in Ardee/Collon/Dunleer Mid Louth this month. All areas of the towns were patrolled, notably the litter 'Hot Spots' such as bring banks, main streets and recreational parks. Some items of scattered waste and some bags of waste were removed from these locations during the patrols. No evidence was found.

There was an emphasis on Dog Fouling especially in the park areas, where stickers were placed on public bins highlighting the need for members of the public, in control of dogs, to properly remove dog waste. Also, the Patrol Vans were located in conspicuous positions with attached 'Anti Dog Fouling' signs on full view for public attention.

Below are some images of illegal dumping/littering cases which have been investigated in May by Litter Wardens following complaints from the public and from the five-hour foot patrol in conducted in mid Louth. All waste has been examined for evidence and fixed penalty notices have been issued where evidence has been found. All the waste has been subsequently removed.





Diesel Laundering Waste

There were 3 Integrated Bulk Container's dumped in May 2024 with an associated clean-up cost of €3744.30. The total cost for clean-up of diesel laundering waste so far in 2024 is €23,714.90.

Environmental Regulation Water Quality and complaints

In May 2024

- 4 queries received in relation to wastewater treatment system remediation which were logged on the sugar system and closed out.
- 2 Water quality complaints - One complaint related to a blocked sewer and other related to a direct discharge to waters. One complaint is closed and the other in relation to a direct discharge to waters is currently being investigated.
- 3 complaints in relation to farms. At one site it was alleged slurry had been discharged to waters and other there was a confirmed discharge of dairy washings to waters. Both complaints are open and currently being investigated.
- One farmer investigated and inspected in April has been referred in May for cross compliance with the Department of Agriculture and if deemed to be at fault will be penalised a percentage of their single farm payment.



Farm Inspection



Farm Inspection

River Water sampling and Water framework directive

Routine surveillance and operational monitoring of rivers for the water framework directive has been completed for May 2024. Local catchment assessment (LCA) being carried out by Lawpro has been completed in the Big River catchment. For the Castletown River, Castletown _30 catchment has been completed and a small amount of work remains to be completed on the Castletown _10 and _020 catchments. The desktop study on the Glyde-Proules catchment has been completed with on-site work planned for summer 2024.

Discharge Licences

Assessment inspection carried out of 17 monitoring results received by Louth County Council in May.

Licensed landfills

Annual and quarterly monitoring of surface waters, groundwaters, leachates and sewer discharges carried out in May 2024 at Dundalk, Drogheda and Whiteriver landfills as required by EPA licences. Annual flare emission and surface volatile organic carbon emission monitoring has been completed at all sites. Annual noise survey completed at Dundalk landfill. EPA granted a request from the Council to discontinue noise monitoring at the other sites. Monthly monitoring of perimeter gas monitoring points completed at all three sites completed in May 2024. Quarterly gas balancing completed at Drogheda and Dundalk landfills in May. Monthly

gas balancing of Whiteriver completed in May. Quarterly laboratory monitoring of compost completed at Dundalk landfill.

The following 2023 reports required by the EPA have been completed and uploaded onto EDEN (Environmental data exchange network). They are

- Annual environmental report
- Landfill gas survey.
- PRTR (Pollution release and transfer register)
- Annual surface water returns.
- Annual landfill gas returns
- Annual leachate returns.
- Annual groundwater returns
- Annual discharge to sewer returns.

Bathing Water

The bathing water season is due to start on the 1st of June 2024 which will run until the 15th September 2024. The out of season sampling is due to be taken on the 22nd May 2024. Currently submissions are invited from the public for the identification of new bathing water sites. Please see details at:

https://www.louthcoco.ie/en/services/environment/environment/water/bathing_waters/

Closing date for submissions to Louth County Council is 26/9/2024.

Rural Water Programme

Capital Funding for Group Schemes

Louth County 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.

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

20 grants were issued in relation to Individual Domestic Water Supplies (more commonly called private wells) in the total amount of €72,032.94 for April & May 2024.

Domestic Wastewater Treatment Systems Grant

There were no Domestic Wastewater Treatment Systems (more commonly called septic tanks) grants issued in the 1st Quarter of 2024.

Domestic Lead Remediation Grant Scheme

There were no Domestic Lead Remediation grants issued in the 1st Quarter of 2024.

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 Heroes” carbon challenge ran in April and teams across Louth participated in the national competition.

Congratulations to the ‘A rated Cli-mates’ team from Drogheda who won the ‘Climate Heroes’ competition in the Louth County Council section. 34 people from the 7 Louth based teams logged almost 4,000 climate actions, saving more than 3 tonnes of CO2 emissions.

On average, each participant saved 136 kg of CO2e emissions - well over the average for all the competition participants (which was 97.5 kg per person). If people continue this commitment for the full year, it will result in a saving of 3,500 kg of CO2 emissions.

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 adaptation process, RAST tool.

The Climate Action Team have begun to draw down a set of technical assistance from the EU Mission. This was applied for in Q4 2023 and is now being delivered. Louth County Council are one of only 3 local authorities in Ireland to be awarded this assistance. It is aimed at building internal climate adaptation capacity.

The Climate Action Team has now completed a review of the LCC climate action plan drafting process with external consultants provided by the EU Mission.

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.

Community Climate Action

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

The Community Climate Action Fund (Strand 1) and Shared Island Fund (Strand 1a) have now closed as of 5pm on the 6th of March 2024. In total Louth received 48 applications under the Community Climate Action Fund, which totalled €1,596,625.

Louth County Council have been allocated €604,000 under Strand 1 of the Community Climate Action Fund with an additional 3 million euro available nationwide under the Shared Island 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 themes among applications.

Eligible projects have been reviewed by a multi-disciplinary team.

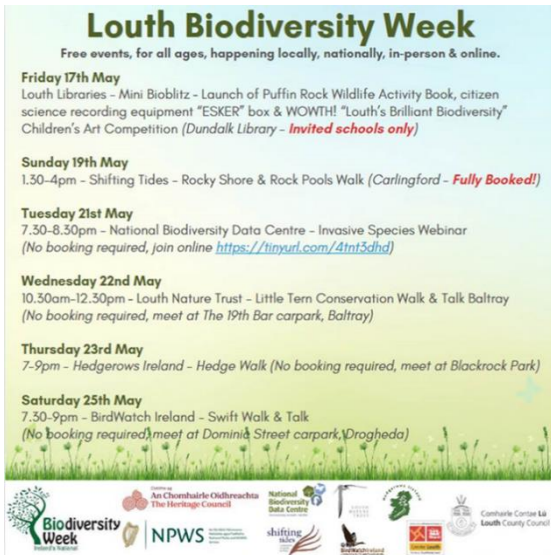
It is expected that all community groups will be informed of the outcome of their application by July 2024.

Biodiversity Action

National Biodiversity Week ran from Friday 17th May to Sunday 26th May.

The Biodiversity Officer was pleased to support the delivery of a programme of events happening across the county aimed at raising awareness of the importance of biodiversity to society, showcasing a wide range of biodiversity projects happening locally and highlighting actions that can be taken to help to enhance and protect wildlife in the county.

Events were promoted widely across social and print media.



The Heritage Council has partnered with Louth Libraries, helping community groups to get more involved in citizen science through their "ESKER" Environmental Science Kits for Ecological Recording equipment box loan scheme. You can find out more about the ESKER box scheme by contacting your local library or by clicking here: <https://www.heritagecouncil.ie/our-work-with-others/environmental-science-kits-for-ecological-recording-esker>

In addition to the programme of events, the Biodiversity Officer has worked with Louth Library Services to help to raise awareness of the importance of our biodiversity.



As part of the Biodiversity Week programme the children's Puffin Rock Wildlife Activity Book was launched by Louth Library Services. The public are invited to call in to their local library to pick up a free copy of the book or download it here: <https://www.heritagecouncil.ie/our-work-with-others/puffin-rock>

To find out how you can learn more about biodiversity in Louth, collect data and submit records, take action and raise awareness visit: <https://www.louthcoco.ie/en/services/environment/biodiversity/>

The Biodiversity Officer and Climate Action Officer attended a LAWpro Nature Based Solutions Conference held in DKIT, Dundalk. The conference highlighted several examples of habitat restoration projects which help to contribute to both biodiversity and climate resilience. Pupils from St. Vincent's Dundalk delivered an excellent presentation about the work they had carried out within their school grounds to investigate how their school grounds could be better adapted to improve impacts from climate and encourage greater biodiversity.

Application forms for the WOWTH! "Louth's Brilliant Biodiversity" Children's Art Competition are also available in Louth's libraries, or can be downloaded here: <https://createlouth.ie/cruinniu-art-competition/>



**ENERGY TEAM SUSTAINABLE ENERGY
Energy Efficiency Performance
Varcities H2020 Funded Project Update**

Construction work for the Dundalk Pilot for Varcities at the courtyard of Dundalk Museum and County Library is now almost complete. The visionary solutions are the outdoor learning pod, a new sensory garden and improved bike stations. They are in the final stages of the construction process at present.

An additional sensory component is being provided for the Varcities Pilot in Dundalk. It is called the 'Cubbie' and it is a sensory hub that will be installed inside the Co. Library. Anyone can use the 'cubbie'. It incorporates Sensory Integration Technology so it will particularly appeal to anyone with ASD, DCD, ADHD and Anxiety, so it will increase the inclusivity of the project. The installation of the 'Cubbie' will be completed shortly.

Plans are now being finalised for a formal launch of the Dundalk Pilot of the Varcities Project for the morning of the 24th June. It will be officially opened by the newly elected Cathaoirleach of Louth County Council. Senior management from the County Council and elected representatives will be in attendance. Members of the public will also be invited to attend.

Discover more: <https://varcities.eu/>

<https://www.facebook.com/share/kR8h9VSLeHJ247aT/?mibextid=WC7FNe>



The new Visionary Solutions at Dundalk are almost complete.

**Louth County Council's Energy Emissions and Gap to Target 2030
Optimising Power@ Work Campaign**

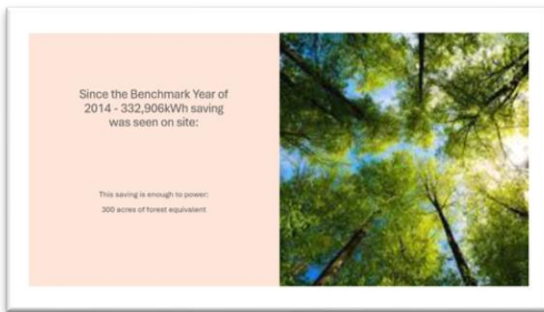
Significant Energy Savings continue to be made in Council buildings. The Council's two largest energy user buildings (County Hall and Dundalk Town Hall) participate in the Office of Public Work's (OPW's) Optimising Power @Work Programme.

County Hall has reduced its energy use by 28% since joining the OP@W programme in 2016. The completion of tangible initiatives, such as the installation of a heat pump and staff training in Building Management Systems (BMSs), has played a crucial role in bridging the gap to our 2030 target of 50% energy efficiency.



Comparison of the energy saving at County Hall

Dundalk Town Hall Combined energy savings at Dundalk Town Hall show a significant 39% reduction in energy consumption there. This substantial decrease underscores the successful implementation of energy-efficient measures and practices within the building, leading to enhanced sustainability and cost-effectiveness. The total annual consumption of energy there has decreased from 844,583 kWh to 511,677 kWh. Electricity consumption on site has reduced by 28%. The number of units of electricity has decreased from 221,634 kWh to 160,437 kWh. Gas consumption on site has reduced by 44%. The number of units of Gas has decreased from 622,949 kWh to 351,241 kWh.



Comparison of the energy saving at Dundalk Town Hall – equivalent to planting 300 acres of forest.

The achievements can be predominantly attributed to transformations in staff behaviour, fostered by a strong focus on energy awareness at work. Detailed and consistent organization of energy events have increased consciousness about energy consumption. Individual Energy Advice clinics has provided personalised guidance to staff members, further empowering them to make informed decisions regarding energy efficiency. Regular dissemination of energy-related

information through weekly messages, newsletters, and podcasts has also played a pivotal role.

Energy Awareness - Government of Ireland's Reduce Your Use Campaign

Staff awareness (of energy efficiency and the importance of carbon savings) is a fundamental component of the Council's energy focus and this is demonstrated in our commitment to the Government's 'Reduce Your Use' Campaign. Informative podcasts, weekly messages, and a tailored poster campaign, are consistently communicated to our staff in the preceding month as part of this initiative. These messages last month ranged from simple daily habits fostering energy efficiency to strategic initiatives and policies implemented by the Council to champion sustainability across our operations.

Among the messages sent to staff from the Energy Email Account in May include:
 May Bank Holiday Weekend – Shutdown Reminder



Reminder to Staff to Switch-off Appliances before leaving for the long weekend.

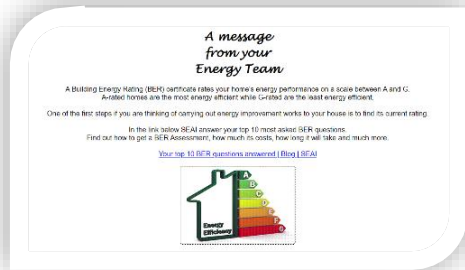
Home Energy Upgrade Loan Scheme

Staff were notified recently of the Government launch of a new low-interest loan scheme aimed at helping more households to improve their home's energy rating in order to lower energy bills and emissions.

An email was also sent to all staff explaining how to find out their own home's BER – one of the first

steps if people are thinking of carrying out energy improvement works.

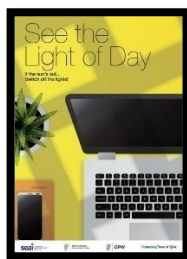
Do you know your home's BER?



Graphic: Encourages Staff to Find Out the Current BER of their Home.

Staff Notice Board – County Hall

Through our staff notice board in County Hall we reminded staff about making use of the brighter days and switching lights off if they were not needed and turning them off if leaving a room.



Posters reminding staff to shut-off lights.

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](#). This report highlights the progress and achievements in energy efficiency across the public sector. Since the baseline year of 2006, Louth County Council has achieved 46% improvement in energy efficiency, underscoring its commitment to sustainable practices and energy conservation.

Energy Management System ISO5001 and Deliverables 2024 SEAI Monitoring & Reporting 2030

The next key deadline in the reporting of energy use process is 28th June 2024. That is the “Final Deadline – Energy & Activity”. This includes reporting of the following two topics;

- **Energy Use:** This involves reporting what types of energy Louth County Council uses and generates, along with supporting data to verify that.
- **Activity Metric Values:** The reporting requirement includes activity metrics such as Population served, FTE Council employees and total useful floor area of Council buildings.

At present, Council staff are finalising the submissions to complete that including the following:

- **Energy Use:** Kerosene Usage
- **Energy Management:** Commentary on organisation energy management best practice and energy performance in 2023.

Once these have been completed, we will have completed stage 1

SLA with the Mid East Energy Unit

Council staff continue to liaise with the other 3 Local Authorities in the Mid East Energy Unit to progress new energy projects on the Council's Road to 2030.

Recently, Council staff visited Bray Fire Station to discuss and see energy improvements implemented at that Fire Station to improve the effectiveness of projects being planned in Co. Louth.

Energy Action Plan 2024

Louth County Council's Energy Action Plan for 2024 involves implementing new energy projects at Dundalk and Drogheda Fire Stations and Dundalk Library. In addition, plans are being progressed for energy improvements at the Council's Fair Street Office in Drogheda.

Veterinary Services

Food Safety Authority of Ireland (FSAI)

As of the 31st May 2024, Louth County Council Veterinary Section, under a Service Level Agreement with the FSAI, enforces food safety standards on one abattoir and twelve meat processing plants under its supervision in the County.

Louth County Council has carried out forty-five inspections in the year to date, including ante-mortem and post-mortem inspections in the abattoir.

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

Control of Dogs

Control of Dogs Act 1986

Dogs through the pound May 2024	
Total dogs through the pound	35
Seized under Section 16	0
Strays	10

Surrendered by owners	25
No dogs reclaimed by owners	6
No of dogs rehomed direct	11
No of dogs rehomed to welfare groups	8
No of dogs on hand in Pound at 30/04/2024	6

Dog Licences May 2024	
No of Licences sold	501
Licence Checks:	
House calls	308
Section 16 Notices issued (request to produce licence within 10 days)	77
Fixed Penalty Notices	21

Control of Horses

Control of Horses Act 1996
Control of Horses Byelaws 2003

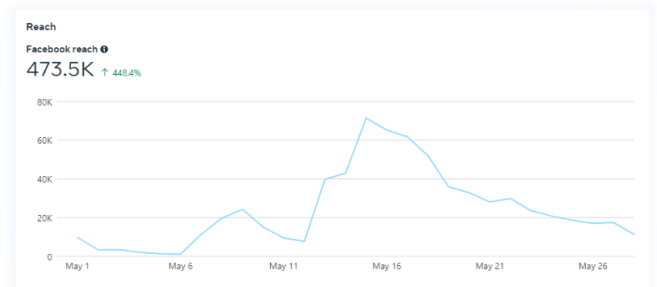
Horses through the pound May 2024	
Horses seized, and reason for seizure:	0
Horses reclaimed by owner	0
Horses rehomed	0
Horses disposed of	0
No of horses on hand in Pound on 30/04/2024	0

Dog Breeding Establishments

Dog Breeding Establishments Act 2010

Dog Breeding Establishments May 2024	
Total no of registered DBE's in Louth (as at 30/04/2024)	6
Hunt	1
Boarding Kennels	2
Training Kennels	1
Welfare	2

The Louth County Council Dog Pound page on Facebook is regularly updated with information about dogs coming through the pound; these are figures showing the reach and visits to the page during May 2024.



Some of the dogs who entered the Dog Pound during May 2024

Social Development Forbairt Shóisialta

This Directorate has two key responsibilities:

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

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

Tá dhá eochairfhreagracht ag an Stiúrthóireacht seo:

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

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

Ger Murphy
Director of Service / Stiúrthóir



Housing

Addressing Homelessness

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

Table 1: Actions by Homeless Services

20 th April – 19 th May 2024	Ardee MD	Dundalk MD	Drogheda MD	Total
Offered advice, support (including fast tracking H.A. for Rent Supplement eligibility)	5	97	96	198
Placed in Temporary Emergency Accommodation	2	24	20	46
Refused Offer of Temporary Emergency Accommodation	0	2	0	2
Not eligible from outside county or non HRC	0	0	2	2
Total number of Person who presented as Homeless	7	123	118	248

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

Table 2: Gender

Gender	Total
Male	97
Female	110
Total	207

Table 3: Age Groups

Age Group	Total
18-24	41
25-44	106
45-64	55
65+	5
Total	207

Table 4: Accommodation Type

Accommodation Type	Total
Private Emergency Accommodation (PEA)	130
Supported Temporary Accommodation (STA)	77
Total unique individuals	207

Table 5 - Families with dependent children

	No. of families with dependent children	No. of Individual Adults	No. of Dependents
Individuals with dependent children	37	43	67
Couples with dependent children	16	34	45
Total	53	77	112

Table 6 - Housing First

Number of tenancies established	43
Number of individuals currently in tenancy	32

Housing Allocations up to 24th May, 2024

District	LA	LA Refusal	AHB	AHB Refusal
Ardee	18	2	2	0
Drogheda	75	8	133	10
Dundalk	47	3	42	2
Total	140	13	177	12

Transfers

District	Number
Ardee	2
Dundalk	5
Drogheda	12
Total	19

Housing List

May 2024	Ardee	Drogheda	Dundalk	Total
Housing List	387	642	1112	2141
HAP Transfer List	298	1060	1661	3019
Total Housing List	685	1702	2773	5160

There are **305** applications on the transfer list (Non-HAP) within Social Housing including **54** applications from the Approved Housing Bodies.

Housing Assistance Payment

The total number of applications in HAP is **3,019**

Ardee Municipal District	Drogheda Borough District	Dundalk Municipal District	Total
298	1060	1661	3019

Rent Management

The total number currently paying rent by Household Budget is 935.

Current Rents Arrears at 27 th May 2024	No of Accounts	Value
Rents between 4-6 weeks old	242	€90,794
Rents between 7-12 weeks old	189	€133,903
Rents greater than 12 weeks old	933	€3,154,133
TOTAL	1364	€3,378,830

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 May 2024:

Letter Type	Number Issued
1st Reminder	95
2 nd Reminder	52
Final Reminder	45
Total issued	192

Customers that fall into arrears may enter a payment plan for full repayment over an agreed period of time. **57** new payment plans commenced in May 2024 (up to and including 27th May).

Vacant Properties

Vacant Properties on 23 rd May 2024	Total
Ardee Municipal District	12
Dundalk Municipal District	16
Drogheda Municipal Borough District	25
Subtotal (re-lets) Vacant Properties	53
CPO units not yet ready for occupation (All County)	3
Total Number of Properties (Relets & CPO)	56

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

Maintenance Calls

Maintenance	24 th April 2024 - 23 rd May	Total (YTD)
No. of Maintenance Requests Received	583	2,506
No. of Maintenance Requests Completed	422	1,968
No. of Maintenance Requests in Progress	123	N/A
No. of Maintenance Requests Refused	28	107

Energy Efficiency Retrofit Program (EERP)

The 2024 EERP allocation for Louth, as confirmed by the DHLGH, is 140 units. Energy Efficiency improvement works have commenced at the following locations:

Location	No. of Units
Defenders Row, Dundalk, Co Louth	2
Market Street, Dundalk, Co. Louth	6
Pearse Park, Dundalk	1
Ascal a Haon, Drogheda	13
Sunnyside Drogheda	1
Ferdia Park, Ardee	42
Cherrywood Park	2
John Kirk Park, Clogherhead	34
Bredin St, Drogheda	1
Rathmullan Park, Drogheda	11
Barton Park, Dundalk	1
Total	114

Private Rental Inspections

	25 th April – May 23 rd	Total (YTD)
Properties inspected monthly	88	607
Advisory Letters issued	153	458
Improvement Notices issued	0	5
Private Inspections	0	3
HAP Inspections	29	339
RAS Inspections	0	0
AHB Inspections	48	218
Private Re-Inspections	2	2
HAP Re-Inspections	9	35
RAS Re-Inspections	0	0
AHB Re-Inspections	0	0
Inspections from Complaints	0	11
Properties made Compliant	7	8

Tenancy Engagement

1 st May to 24 th May	Drogheda ^a	Ardee	Dundalk	Monthly Total	Yearly Total
No. Tenants who attended Pre-tenancy training	12	0	2	14	138
Post-tenancy inspections	2	0	3	5	88
Tenancy Investigation Visits	15	4	30	49	177

Anti-Social Behaviour

1 st May to 24 th May	Drogheda	Ardee	Dundalk	Monthly	Yearly
ASB Cases* Received	12	5	15	32	107
ASB cases Ongoing	10	5	14	29	-
ASB cases complete	8	0	10	18	72

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

Notifications Issued for Tenancy Breaches

1 st May to 24 th May	Drogheda	Ardee	Dundalk	Monthly	Yearly
Verbal Warnings	0	0	4	4	24
Written Warnings	0	0	0	0	2
Tenancy Notifications	0	0	2	2	6
Tenancy Warnings Housing Act, 2014	0	0	0	0	2

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	Status
1	Dundalk	2	Finished & inspected. Awaiting final documents to be submitted.
1	Dundalk	2	Finished & inspected. Awaiting final documents to be submitted.

Affordable Housing

Louth County Council, in partnership with Westdalk Group and the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, launched the Local Authority Affordable Purchase Scheme for 10 properties at Cois Ferraige, Blackrock. The closing date of the scheme was extended to the 7th March 2024. There were 26 fully submitted applications and 5 applicants have been offered a home with conveyancing ongoing. Discussions are ongoing with other developers for Affordable units in Dundalk and Drogheda.

Mortgage to Rent (MTR)

Active MTR Applications Total	25
AHB MTR Applications Active	18
AHB MTR completed 2024	0
Private MTR Applications Active	4
Private MTR completed 2024	4
MTR Application Awaiting Purchaser	3

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.

Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant

Applications Submitted:	170
Approved:	103
Rejected:	12
Withdrawn	9
Other (FI Requests, First Site Inspections)	46
Funding Issued to Applicant	7
Principal Private Residence	125
Rental Applications	45

Local Authority Home Loans

2024 Budget Allocation	€7,230,000
LAHL Approvals at 27/05/2024	€1,202,680
Breakdown of LAHL applications processed at the 27th May, 2024	
Total Number of Applications at 27/05/2024	20
LAHL carried over from 2023	6
Invalid/Returned	5
Approved	8
Declined	6
For Review	1
Outstanding – waiting on further information	6

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 of termination, 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 May, the Council purchased 12 properties.



Recently acquired properties in Dundalk and Dunleer

Grant Assistance to the Elderly and Disabled

Grants are available for homes 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 housing grant towards necessary repairs or improvements. All grant assessments include 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 who require 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 24/05/2024	172	24	368	-	564
Grants Approved 23/04/2024 to 24/05/2024	6	1	10	17	76



Ramp installed in May in Dundalk part-funded by a Housing Adaptation Grant.



Bathroom Adaptation completed in in May in Dundalk with the assistance of a Housing Adaptation Grant.

Capital Housing Delivery

3D Construction Printed (3DCP) Social Housing units at Grange Close, Muirhevnamore, Dundalk, Co. Louth

The Council signed contracts for a pioneering housing project in Dundalk, signalling the beginning of 3D Construction Printed (3DCP) social housing in Ireland. The Grange Close pilot project involves a unique collaboration between Louth County Council, Louth & Meath Education & Training Board (LMETB), Irish-owned company Harcourt Technologies Ltd. (HTL.tech), and Roadstone Ltd. using 3DCP technology with the aim of providing a pathway towards an increased output of more sustainable, affordable, and efficient housing. The project will utilise 3D construction printing technology to provide three three-bedroom terraced units that will each have a floor area of c.110 m² over two floors at Grange Close, Dundalk. The Contractor, B&C Building Contractors Ltd., commenced works on site in May 2024 and the project is due to be substantially complete in Q4 2024.



Contract signing for the 3DCP pilot project at Grange Close, Dundalk



Photomontage of the 3DCP pilot project at Grange Close, Dundalk

Capital Housing Delivery

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	19/02/2025	27 * 3 bed, 4 * 4 bed, 8 * 1 bed Apt, 25 * 2 bed Apt & 8 * 3 bed Apt
Mount Avenue, Dundalk	1/1	93	On Site	31/05/2025	29 * 2 bed, 23 * 3 bed, 9 * 4 bed, 10 * 1 bed Apt, 6 * 2 bed Apt, 16 * 3 bed Apt
Rathmullen Park, Drogheda Infill	1/1	6	Stage 2 Approved	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.
Gort Uaine, Clogherhead - Infill	1/1	1	On-site	31/05/2024	1 * 4 bed
School Lane, Dunleer - Infill	1/1	1	On-site	31/05/2024	1 * 3 bed
Ballymakenny Road - East Site, Drogheda	1/1	130	PPP Bundle 5 Funding Approved	30/06/2026	52 * 2 bed, 47 * 3 bed, 4 * 4 bed, 1 * 5 bed, 26 * 1 bed Apt
Mullagh Close, Clogherhead	1/1	12	On-site	31/12/2024	12 * 3 bed
Knockshee, Old Golf Links Road, Blackrock, Dundalk	1/1	12	On-site	30/06/2024	12 * 2 bed Apt.
Ferrard Park, The Twenties, Drogheda	1/4	7	On-site	30/06/2024	2 * 3 bed, 5 * 2 bed
Ferrard Park, The Twenties, Drogheda	2/4	7	On-site	30/06/2024	2 * 3 bed, 5 * 2 bed
Ferrard Park, The Twenties, Drogheda	3/4	7	On-site	30/09/2024	2 * 3 bed, 5 * 2 bed
Ferrard Park, The Twenties, Drogheda	4/4	7	On-site	30/09/2024	2 * 3 bed, 5 * 2 bed
Quarry Court, John St. / Stoneylane, Ardee, Co. Louth	1/1	20	On-site	31/12/2024	11 * 3 bed, 3 * 3 bed Apt, 6 * 2 bed Apt.
Derryveigh House, Hoeyes Lane, Dundalk	1/1	2	Funding Approved	31/03/2025	1 * 3 bed, 1 * 4 bed
Clontygora, Dundalk	1/1	2	Funding Approved	01/03/2025	2 * 4 bed

Potter's Field, Cappocks Green, Ardee, Co. Louth	2/3	8	On-site	30/09/24	7 * 3 bed, 1 * 2 bed
Potter's Field, Cappocks Green, Ardee, Co. Louth	3/3	1	Funding Approved	30/06/25	1 * 2 bed
Ballymakenny Park, (Phase 1) Drogheda, Co. Louth	1/1	10	On-site	31/05/24	2 * 4 bed, 8 * 3 bed
Listoke Elms & Listoke Willows	1/3	3	On-site	30/06/24	3 * 2 bed
Listoke Elms & Listoke Willows	2/3	12	On-site	30/09/24	6 * 2 bed Apt, 6 * 3 bed Duplex
Listoke Elms & Listoke Willows	3/3	2	Funding Approved	31/03/25	1 * 2 bed Apt, 1 * 3 bed Duplex

CAS Delivery

Project Name	AHB	Total Number of Social Units Expected	Project Status	Projected Substantial Completion Date	Unit Type
Coulter Park, Dundalk,	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	15/03/2026	Nineteen * 1 Bed apartments Three * accessible units Eight * Studio apartments
Highfield, Newry Road, Dundalk, Co Louth	Women's Aid Dundalk	12	Stage 2 approved	02/03/2026	Five * 1 bed apartments Seven * 2 bed apartments

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	35/2	On site	30/06/2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 26 Three Bed Houses • 11 Two bed Houses
Newtown View, Marsh Road, Drogheda Respond Housing	3/3	56	51/6	On Site	30/07/2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 16 Two Bed Houses • 40 Three Bed Houses
Tullybrook, Drogheda Cluid Housing	3/3	39	23/16	On site	30/06/2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 15 Two Bed Apartments • 24 Three bed Apartment
Racecourse Meadows, Dundalk Tuath	4/4	12		On Site	31/5/2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 12 three bed houses
Dublin Road Dundalk Respond	3/3	40	38/2	On Site	31/06/2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9 One bed Apt • 7 Two bed Apt
Duiche Roden, Dundalk Cluid Housing	6/6	36		On-site	31/06/2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 18 2 bed apt • 18 3 bed apt
An Caislean, Flaxmill Lane, Yellowbatter Drogheda North & East	1/1	17	14/3	On site	30/09/2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7 One bed apt • 7 Two bed apt • 3 Three bed apt
Friary Place, Mill Lane Drogheda Tuath	1/1	49	44/5	On-Site	30/09/2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 27 One bed Apts • 22 Two bed Apts

Connolly's Field Dundalk Fold Housing	1/2	30	19/11	On- Site	29/09/2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 20 One bed apt • 10 Two bed apt
Connolly's Field Dundalk Fold Housing	2/2	40		On- Site	29/03/2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 31 One bed apt • 9 Two bed apt
Harbour View, Coulter Place Dundalk Cluid	1/1	18		On-Site	14/03/2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 12 One Bed Apt • 6 Two Bed Apt
Gullion Park Finnabair Dundalk Co- Operative	1/1	142	128/14	Funding Approved	05/11/2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 48 One bed Apt • 70 Two bed Apt • 24 Three Bed Apt
Avourwen Meadows, Drogheda, Co. Louth Oaklee	1/1	50	45/5	Funding Approved	10/11/2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 18 One Bed Apt • 32 Two Bed Apt

Cultural Services

Archives



Archives Entrance Gate Sign

National Retention Policy Records Management Working Group

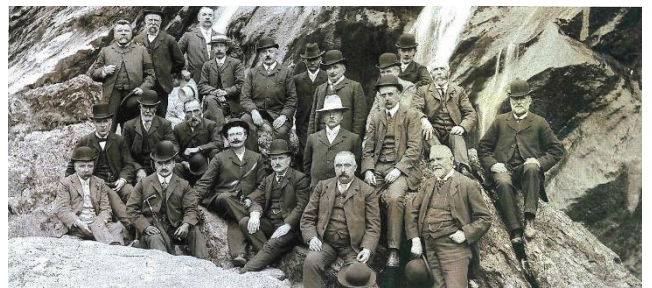
The County Archivist is assisting with the draft records retention schedule revisions. Fire Services is at the early draft stage, while Community and Legal Services are in the process of being finalised. To date, revised records retention schedules for Health and Safety, Planning and Development, Housing, Procurement, Finance, HR, Water, Transport and Infrastructure, Corporate, Environment, Enterprise and Economic Development and IT have been completed, approved and issued out to local authorities.

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

125th Anniversary of Irish Local Government

2024 is the 125th anniversary of Irish Local Government. The Local Government Act of 1898 abolished the Grand Jury system and established County Councils, Rural District Councils and Urban Councils and granted many Irish people the right to

vote for the first time. The first local elections were held in January 1899 for urban districts and in April 1899 for county areas. On April 22nd, 1899, many of the new Councils met for the first time, including Louth County Council. To mark the anniversary of Louth County Council, Louth County Archives have produced an online exhibition, which will be available on www.louthcoco.ie. Amongst other features, it includes the minutes of the first Louth County Council meeting. Additionally, a small publication to mark the anniversary is currently being produced by the Local Government Archivists and Records Managers in collaboration with the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

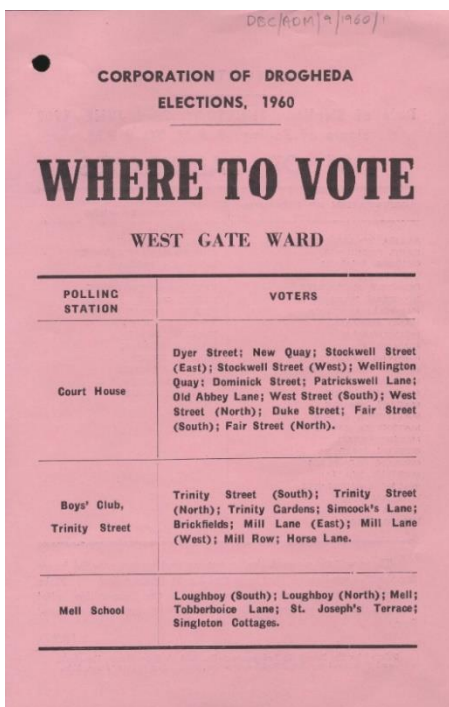


An early photograph of Louth County Council with guests at Powerscourt on July 17th, 1906

Local Election Promotional Leaflets Wanted

The County Archives actively collects leaflets, flyers and posters of election candidates and their parties for its archive collection. Donations of this material is welcomed from both election candidates and members of the public, and the County Archives are seeking three copies of each leaflet where possible. Leaflets can be placed in an envelope or bag and left into the County Archives at the Old Gaol, Ardee Road, Dundalk, A91PY17 during office hours or to any Council office or library marked for the attention of the County Archives. This material contributes to a valuable research source.

If you have any other archive 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.



'Where to Vote': A leaflet of Drogheda Corporation for Local Elections, 1960

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 County Archives supports corporate Climate Action Goals. Environmental conditions in the County Archives building are being monitored and adjustments to the new BMS settings made by the Archivist with support from Facilities staff. A glazed partition in the lobby area of the building was recently installed. Supported by the SEAI, this will assist in controlling environmental conditions and streamlining energy use in the building.

Libraries

Programmes and Initiatives

Library of Sanctuary



Veronica Crosbie Chair of Places of Sanctuary Ireland, Deirdre Broderick Executive Librarian Westmeath Library Service, Leona Burgess Executive Librarian Louth Library Service and Westmeath County Librarian Paula Leavy McCarthy

Louth Library Service were delighted to attend a celebration in Mullingar Library Service in May, where Westmeath Library Service were awarded

Decade of Centenaries

As part of the Louth County Council Decade of Centenaries Programme 2024, a quantity of County Council archives that support the 1924 period will receive conservation treatment before being digitised. Once the work is completed, a public access copy to the volumes will be placed on the County Archives website. This will improve the democratisation of access to records through the provision of free online public access to original archival sources. The Decade of Centenaries Programme is funded by the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media.

Catalogue Upgrade

The service's cataloguing software is due to be upgraded as the current system is now end of life. It will be upgraded to a modern system with enhanced features and improved speed. It will be hosted on the Cloud. Preparation work for the upgrade is ongoing and a copy of the system has been sent to the software company in order to commence the upgrade process.

Library of Sanctuary Status. Louth Library Service were the first entire library service in Ireland to receive this honour.

Interagency Meeting

Louth Library Service attended an interagency meeting hosted by Cultúr Migrants Centre in the Fairways Hotel, Dundalk on Monday, May 20th. This was a valuable opportunity to discuss the issues affecting our communities, and to meet with local migrant leaders and representatives.



Attendees at the Cultúr Interagency Meeting in Dundalk on May 20th



Louth Library Service Podcast: Let's Get Louth is back for 2024!

Join us to hear Louth County Council Wellbeing Officer, Aoibheann McLernon and her colleague, Grainne Fogarty, chat about the new LCC Staff Wellbeing Strategy.

LCC are the first local authority to launch a Well Being Strategy, which stemmed from the central government document, the National Framework for Healthy Workplaces, a priority identified in the Healthy Ireland Strategic Action Plan. This first episode will feature topics outlined in the Strategy; Aoibheann and Grainne's roles, and how staff can get involved in all aspects of wellbeing.

Included is how the library can help you find all the information you need regarding staff wellbeing and how reading is one of the core aspects promoted through Ireland Reads and Healthy Ireland At Your Library.

All episodes are available now, to access the podcast [click here:](https://open.spotify.com/show/7ztj4EOVoUCjWJfi4HxDck)
<https://open.spotify.com/show/7ztj4EOVoUCjWJfi4HxDck>

Right to Read



Dundalk and Drogheda Libraries held Baby Book Club events at the beginning of May. In Dundalk Library children travelled across Europe by land singing 'The Wheels on the Bus' with our 'That's not my Bus' book and by sea with Baby Shark and bubbles in celebration of the beginning of #EUDiversityMonth. Babies from The Incredible Years Programme visited Dundalk Library twice for a sensory storytime with the Magic Carpet.

There was a Moo Music Workshop in Drogheda Library on the 15th of May with a session for babies and a session for toddlers.

Biodiversity Week

Pupils from Dun Dealgan NS attended events in Dundalk Library to celebrate Biodiversity Week. Attendees took part in a workshop before visiting Ramparts River to identify flora and fauna. The class uploaded their findings to The National Biodiversity Centre database. All students received a copy of the Puffin Rock Wildlife Activity Book. Puffin Rock Activity Books were available in each library branch as supported by the Heritage Council and Cartoon Saloon to promote greater awareness and understanding of Ireland's nature and biodiversity.



Library ESKER Box (Environmental Science Kits for Ecological Recording) used by Dun Dealgan NS

De La Salle College Visit

First year students from De La Salle College visited Dundalk Library for a tour, information session and demonstration of the 3D Printer and Magic Table. The visit ended with a special book themed table quiz. Students and teachers had a great time and we look forward to seeing attendees in Dundalk Library again soon.



De La Salle College Visit to Dundalk Library

Healthy Ireland at Your Library



Physiotherapy Talk

Paul Bolger, Chartered Physiotherapist, recently held a workshop in Dundalk Library and spoke passionately about the value of exercise and movement. Attendees took part in a simple exercise routine and went away with practical advice and tips on how to become more active.



Exercise and Ageing with Paul Bolger

Tusla Fostering Information Session

Tusla held a fostering information session in Dundalk Library. Attendees had the opportunity to meet with members of a Fostering Team and listen to experienced carers talk about their fostering journey.



Sandra Minnock, Michaela Hughes and Orla Crilly from Louth Tusla Fostering

poetry and music concert organised by the Dundalk Library Poetry Group.

Drogheda Library enjoyed the Pencil Drawing workshop with Christine McCourt on May 31, and also hosted a workshop on 'Tracing Your Irish Family History'.

eServices

Newspaper and Magazines move to BorrowBox!



BorrowBox is free to access as a library member

If you are a fan of the online newspapers, ebooks and magazines available through your library, we have some great news – since May 1st, all are available on BorrowBox! The Libby and PressReader apps are no longer be available, but BorrowBox has you covered. If you're already a BorrowBox user, you'll see a new 'ePress' section in the app, which is where you can locate your favourite magazines and newspapers.

If you're not already using BorrowBox, don't worry! Simply download the app, and then use your library card and PIN to register, browse and read. To help you get set up, speak with a member of staff or visit our regular eService information sessions:

Ardee Library: The last Friday of the month from 10.30am-11.30am

Drogheda Library: The last Thursday of the month from 2:30pm – 3:30pm

Adult Events



Pigment and Ink Workshop

Bealtaine Festival Celebrating Creativity as we Age

Dundalk Library celebrated Bealtaine with a Drawing workshop with facilitator Christine McCourt and a Pigment and Ink Workshop with Artist Grainne Murphy, where participants created a sketchbook filled with colours from nature and landscape. Festival celebrations concluded with a

Dundalk Library: The last Friday of the month from 11am – 12pm

Drogheda Library Anniversary Celebrations



Drogheda Library

Drogheda Library celebrated 30 years at Stockwell Lane on May 17th with contributions from local authors, Nicola Pierce, Nicola Cassidy, members of the Drogheda Creative Writers group and staff, past and present. Ann Ward, former County Librarian, recalled the move from Fair Street in 1994. Acting County Librarian Amanda Branigan noted “the anniversary is an opportunity to celebrate all the changes the library has seen over these years and reflect on its’ treasured role in the community of Drogheda.”



New Artwork by artist Susan Farrelly in the Childrens' Library Drogheda

My Open Library, Ardee

Ardee My Open Library (MOL) service is now back in operation. This service allows access to library locations during out of hours – 8am to 10pm, 365 days of the year. Contact Ardee Library staff today for more information- (041) 685 9023.

This service requires attendance and completion of an in-person induction led by library staff.

Arts

Drogheda Arts Festival

The May bank holiday weekend kicked off in style with the opening of the 2024 Drogheda Arts Festival. The opening event saw the launch of the Gav Casey exhibition Sound! Code! Image in the Methodist Church on Laurence St. The multi-sensory exhibition was an audio-visual feast for all ages and the launch event saw local TD Ged Nash and Councillor Michelle Hall attending to hear festival programmer Brenda McComeskey and Arts Officer Moya Hodggers speak about the work and the festival.

On the Saturday there was lots of street entertainment, thanks to the partnership with LoveDrogheda Bids; Highlanes Gallery became a Parisian paradise thanks to the sounds of the Jazz group Far Flung Trio. Sonic Womb had the world premiere of 'Dereliction' in Droichead Arts Centre, and the day kicked off with Grainne Rafferty and her walking tours which proved so popular extra shows had to be put on for Sunday!

Sunday was a musical treat with renowned Irish singer Siómha performing in Gerards Church and then online sensation Garron Noone performed to a packed Sarsfields with his beautiful music and tall tales!

Creative Ireland

Cruinniú na nÓg

This year's Cruinniú na nÓg will take place on Saturday 15th June. Lots of workshops are being

planned across the county and there is plenty for everyone to enjoy! At the end of April, the Creative Ireland team announced a Louth Art Competition 'WOWTH!' for school children as part of our 2024 programme. Entries from children and young adults up to the age of 18 are sought and the closing date is on 5th June!

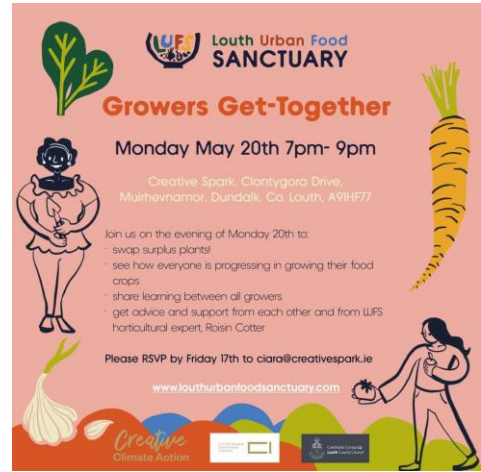
Rhyme Island also facilitated a full day workshop with the kids from the New Leaf programme in the Dee Hub in May where they kids learned all about how to create and make a rap song. The video of their finished product will be launched on our social media channels on the 15th of June!

For all events across the county on Cruinniú day be sure to check out the events on the Louth page on the national Cruinniú website [here](#)

Creative Climate

The Creative Climate project, the Louth Urban Food Sanctuary continued its work in May as the grower participants met to discuss their progress and receive some Sweet Potato slips to try out over the summer months. The project has been garnering great momentum with over 60 participants now, along with our key community garden growers. Local farmer Tony McGuinness was more than happy to see the sun return in recent weeks as it enabled him to get out in the field to plant more!

There will be more participation events occurring in June and again in August as part of Heritage Week. For details of all produce and how to get in touch or take part you can go to the website www.louthurbanfoodsantuary.com. It also contains some videos on our key project team and a tutorial on seed saving and planting Garlic. You can also email creativeireland@louthcoco.ie if you wish to find out more about the project.



Growers Get-Together took place on May 20th

Decade of Centenaries

Sorcha Queen of the Castle is a new children's book set around historical events that occurred nationally and locally in Louth between 1912 and 1919. Commissioned by the Arts Office with funding from the Decade of Centenaries programme in 2023 the book was written by local author Nicola Cassidy with illustrations by Sophie Coyle. Local Historian Dr Donal Hall worked with Nicola and Sophie on the project ensuring all events and details used were factually correct!

The book is aimed at senior cycle from ages 9-12 and upwards. 10 free copies will be given out to every primary school in the county along with a resource pamphlet for children to get illustrating their own characters or writing their own scenes.



Writer Nicola Cassidy signing copies of Sorcha Queen of the Castle for the 5th class students.

The book launched on Wednesday 22nd May in Dundalk Library where the 5th class girls from St

Malachys Girls School attended for a chat with the author and illustrator. Asking insightful questions the girls enjoyed the session and got to take away their own copy of the book, with Nicola and Sophie agreeing to sign their copies! For more details on the book see [here](#).

Highlanes's Gallery

Highlanes was a hive of activity throughout May. The Bank Holiday weekend saw Jazz trio Far Flung Trio bring a sense of the Parisian to the gallery space as Highlanes partnered with Drogheda Arts Festival. The following Friday the Walled Town Collective had their launch in the gallery outlining their plans and visions to engage artists, archaeologists, writers and historians with a series of projects to enhance community awareness and engagement with the natural and built heritage of Drogheda.

The resident exhibition, Ursula Burkes 'Siren' will close on 15th June. During the month of May there were a series of events to compliment the exhibition including a Parent and Toddler workshop with Caoimhe O'Dwyer and Jenny Slater, a talk with Art Historian Jean Ryan who explores the work of Ursula and her current exhibition and there was also an Art Masterclass with the artist herself!



Artist Ursula Burke putting the finishing touches to one of her pieces in the Highlanes Exhibition

Droichead Arts Centre

The inaugural Makers Making More Thinking Time Walk, took place on the beautiful Boyne Valley in May. This project invites artists and arts workers of all kinds to sit down and reflect, spend time with nature and enjoy a thoughtful exploration of their own practice. This initiative was developed by Singer Juliette Crosbie and arts centre director Collette Farrell and this walk was led by artist Lian Bell. The MMM initiative places an established artist at the core of producing events, workshops, Q & A sessions for the community from which they come.

DKIT

DKIT students held a showcase on Friday 17th May in Droichead. The talents of both students and lecturers in the School of Music were on show along with support from students of the Audio and Music Production programme.

An Táin Arts Centre

North Louth Artists held their 56th annual exhibition in the Basement Gallery, opening on 9th May and running until 8th June. North Louth Artists are an independent group of professional artists who every May present a cross section of new work.

Little Amal – Ag Teach le Chéile is the incredible journey of a giant puppet on a mission of hope and unity. Little Amal travelled to Dundalk on 22nd May on her way from Belfast to Dublin, an especially powerful and meaningful journey. Welcomed by Irish musicians Breifne Holohan and Roisin Ward Morrow along with the children of Faughart School, this was a magical evening in Market Square.



Little Amal on her journey throughout Europe

An Táin Arts Centres School of Music & Grow Music had their Spring Recital on 19th May to a packed audience. Other events in the theatre in May include world renowned pianist Young-Choon Park, and the inimitable Mikel Murfi with his next instalment 'I Hear you and Rejoice'

From a Forest to a Fiddle

This mesmerizing art film which recently screened at the National Concert Hall captures Jim McKillop as he breathes life into the wood, creating a fiddle in his workshop. Featuring a soundtrack of Zoe Conway's own self-penned score and a live performance by her and her husband John McIntyre, it was a thrilling piece for all to enjoy.

Museum

Currently

The Museum has commenced its summer schedule of activities for schools and the public which will including the resumption of walking tours of Dundalk for schools; bespoke tours of the Museum including a series of workshops explaining the work of the Museum to mark International Museum's Day. In addition to this the Museum organised a display of items associated with Liam Reilly both as a member of Bagatelle and as solo performer. The display coincided with the Legends of Louth festival earlier this month.



Liam Reilly's sisters Paula, Evelyn and Darina with Museum Curator Brian Walsh

Recent Talk

The Museum hosted the Old Dundalk Society lecture 'Dundalk Through Time' run in conjunction with students from Coláiste Cúchulainn. The event featured students highlighting the nature of life in the town during the 1960s with a special emphasis on 1964.

Recent acquisitions

Over the past month we have been fortunate to develop the collection with the addition of a variety of disparate and fascinating items. These include:



An 18th Century patch box



A beautiful piece of trench art



A toy phone dating from the 1950s



A pair of 19th Century lacemaking lamps

Ukraine Humanitarian Response Freagairt Dhaonnúil na hÚcráine

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

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

Yvonne O'Brien
Acting Director / Stiúirthóir Gníomhach



Ukraine Humanitarian Response

Property Figures as at 30/05/2024

Property offers recorded to date	71
Owners successfully contacted	69
Properties allocated to date	37
Beneficiaries assigned to date	119
Assessments	53
Assessments currently underway	0
Properties assessed as suitable	37
Properties with minor works required	2
Properties withdrawn	15
Properties not viable	17

Six properties were offered in May, one was unsuitable as it was a shared property, one owner was uncontactable, two were unsuitable because they had been recently rented and two were assessed and need minor works. 23 new expressions of interest in being accommodated under the Offer A Home programme were received from Ukrainian families.

Refurbishment Programme

The Ukraine Response team facilitate the delivery of accommodation under the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH) led Emergency Refurbishment Ukraine Programme ERUP, for beneficiaries of temporary protection. Following refurbishment, The Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth (DCEDIY) entered a contract with the provider to manage and operate the facility.

The strategy is to relocate beneficiaries from hotel, or other unsuitable accommodation to more long-term accommodation delivered through the ERUP initiative.

Emergency Refurbishment Ukraine Programme ERUP to date

Cumulative Offers of properties to ERUP	Unsuitable / withdrawn	Under evaluation in May 2024	DC EDI Y Letter of Intent issued	No. of beds combined for delivery	DCE DIY contracts issued	No of beds delivered
38	26	2	10	608	3	91

Ukrainian families are due to move into The Big Tree, Clogherhead in the first week of June. The executive engineer is busy overseeing the properties in the refurbishment programme which are in receipt of LOIs.

Louth County Council are refurbishing Building 3, St Mary's Drumcar. As the delivery date for the refurbishment of Building 3 approaches, the team are busy finalising the furniture fit-out of this accommodation. Good quality Second hand furniture has been sourced and recycled where possible.

The Council gave LGMA Ukraine Response Co-ordinators and ERUP project manager a tour of Louth properties in the refurbishment programme and are very impressed by the quality of forthcoming communal accommodation for beneficiaries of temporary protection.

Healthy Ireland funded Integration Support

The Ukraine Response team organised Zumba dance classes in Dundalk and Drogheda with funding awarded from Healthy Ireland for Ukrainian Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection Health and Wellbeing Support.



provides information on a number of topics including employment, health and child support.

The LAIT have started developing a programme with the Louth Local Development Company to support residents living in international protection centers while they are awaiting their work visa. The programme will prepare the residents before they enter the labour market with a focus on creating CV's, interview preparation and other skills.

LAIT Networking Event



The Community Integration Forum

The Community Integration forum meeting was held on the 21st of May. A discussion took place on how best to support migrants. Many of the stakeholders provided updates on their service and raised queries in relation to issues on the ground. The next CIF meeting is to be held on July 4th.

Local Authority Integration Team

The LAIT hosted a networking event on May 17th in the Dundalk Sports Centre. The event was attended by centre managers hosting refugees, statutory agencies and other stakeholders. The event gave everybody the opportunity to meet each other and share their experiences to date. Over 40 people attended on the day.

On May 23rd, Cultur hosted a Jobs & Education fair in the Imperial hotel specifically for migrants. There was a great turnout and the feedback from employers was positive. Over 250 people attended with 15 employers with vacancies were on offer on the day and many were taken up on the day. The LAIT were present to assist migrants with any queries.

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 seventeen clinics held in May with 90 residents assessed.

The council website has a specific Integration section which has received 28 unique hits in May. It



Cultúr Jobs & Education fair

