



Comhairle Contae **Lú**
Louth County Council

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

**Dated 5th April 2024
5^ú Aibreán 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 – March 2024

A Chara,

I enclose the above report for your statutory consideration which will be placed on the April 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 March performance: -

- A significant amount of maintenance works is evidenced within the report that is being delivered across the road network and public realm. Unfortunately, this is tempered with the volume of work required to keep the same areas free of litter and dumping.
- Equally our new road sweepers are now actively operating across the county, which hopefully will maintain our public realm to an even higher standard.
- The Referendum seen a huge interest in the electoral register which necessitated staff being diverted to register duties for the period. This probably will continue until the end of May with the planned elections in June.
- The Drogheda Local Area Plan public consultation phase closed in March, and this attracted quite a lot of interest. A further public consultation has now also commenced regarding a variation to the Development Plan.

Finally, I want to commend our Ukraine Response and the recently established Integration Team who are doing great work dealing with the matters outlined in this Report.

Is mise le meas.



Joan Martin
Chief Executive

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

Contents / Clár Ábhar

<u>Support Services / Seirbhísí Tacaíochta</u>	4
Financial Reports / Tuairiscí Airgeadais	
Information & Communication Technology / Techneolaíocht Faisnéise agus Chumarsáide	
<u>Strategic Economic Development / Forbairt Eacnamaíoch Straitéiseach</u>	10
Economic Development / Forbairt Eacnamaíoch	
Local Enterprise Office / Oifig Fiontair Áitiúil	
European Relations / Caidreamh Eorpach	
Heritage/Oidhreacht	
Fire & Emergency Services / Seirbhísí Dóiteáin agus Éigeandála	
Civil Defence / Cosaint Shibhialta	
Planning / Pleanáil	
Development Management / Bainistíocht Forbartha	
Planning Enforcement / Forfheidhmiúcháin	
Forward Planning / Pleanáil Chun Cinn	
<u>Placemaking and Physical Development / Déanamh Áite agus Forbairt Fhisticíúil</u>	24
Roads & Local Services / Seirbhísí Bóithre agus Áitiúla	
Physical Development / Forbairt Fhisticíúil	
Place Making / Déanamh Áite	
<u>Organisational Development / Forbairt na hEagraíochta</u>	67
Corporate Services / Seirbhísí Corporáideacha	
Community Support & Sport / Tacaíocht Pobail agus Spórt	
Waste Management, Environment & Climate Action / Bainistíocht Dramháil, Gníomh Comhshaoil & Aeráide	
Veterinary Services / Seirbhísí Tréidliachta	
Human Resources / Acmhainní Duine	
<u>Social Development / Forbairt Shóisialta</u>	94
Housing / Tithíocht	
Cultural Services / Seirbhísí Cultúrtha	
Archives / An Chartlann	
Libraries / Leabharlanna	
Arts / Na hEalaíona	
Museum / An Iarsmalann	
<u>Ukraine Humanitarian Response / Freagairt Dhaonnúil Úcráin</u>	
Ukraine Humanitarian Response / Freagairt Dhaonnúil Úcráin	116

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 Stiúrtóireacht 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 / Stiúrtóir



Financial Report

Expenditure to 31st of March 2024 / Caiteachas go dtí 31ú Márta 2024

Section/Rannóg	Actual Expenditure to/Caiteachas Iarbhír go dtí 31/03/2024	Budget Expenditure/ Caiteachas Buiséadaithe 2024	% Spent to/ % Caite go 31/03/2024
Housing/Tithíocht	€10,555,160	€62,912,092	17%
Road Transportation & Safety/Iompar Bóthair agus Sábháilteacht	€5,050,287	€27,583,468	18%
Water Services/Seirbhísí Uisce	€1,615,078	€8,804,737	18%
Development Management/Bainistíocht Forbartha	€4,382,556	€27,259,532	16%
Environmental Services/Seirbhísí Timpeallachta	€4,485,991	€23,558,956	19%
Recreation and Amenity/Áineas agus Conláiste	€1,959,505	€11,234,063	17%
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare/Talmhaíocht, Oideachas, Sláinte agus Leas	€226,191	€1,491,272	15%
Miscellaneous/Ilgheáilteach	€1,750,614	€8,839,470	20%
	€30,025,382	€171,683,590	17%

Income to 31st of March 2024 / Ioncam go 31ú Márta 2024

Section/Rannóg	Actual Income to/Ioncam Iarbhír go dtí 31/03/24	Budget Income/Ioncam Buiséadaithe 2024	% Invoiced to/ % Sonraisc Curtha do dtí 31/03/24
Housing/Tithíocht	€9,061,396	€64,380,831	14%
Road Transportation & Safety/Iompar Bóthair agus Sábháilteacht	€629,749	€16,558,010	4%
Water Services/Seirbhísí Uisce	€1,009,448	€8,131,617	12%
Development Management/Bainistíocht Forbartha	€1,896,187	€17,277,072	11%
Environmental Services/Seirbhísí Timpeallachta	€360,987	€4,348,102	8%
Recreation and Amenity/Áineas agus Conláiste	€180,025	€1,683,163	11%
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare Talmhaíocht, Oideachas, Sláinte agus Leas	€107,680	€558,596	19%
Miscellaneous/Ilgheáilteach	€391,460	€11,372,937	3%
Rates/Rátaí	€34,679,011	€34,507,064	100%
General Purpose Grant (LPT)/Deontas Ilfheidhmeach	€1,894,366	€11,366,198	17%
Provision for Debit Balance/Soláthar faoi Iarmhéid Dochair	€0	€1,500,000	0%
	€50,210,309	€171,683,590	29%

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

Debtors as of 31st of March 2024/Féichiúnaithe mar atá 31ú Márta 2024

	Opening Balance /Iarmhéid Tosaigh	Invoices/ Sonraisc	Receipts/ Fáltais	Write Offs/ Díscríobhanna	Closing Balance/ Iarmhéid Deiridh
Government Debtors/Féichiúnaithe Rialtais	€28,733,539	€12,817,139	(€30,084,789)	(€0)	€11,465,889
Other Local Authorities/Uadaráis Áitiúla Eile	€93,780	€175,000	(€215,922)	(€8,220)	€44,638
Rates/Rataí	€5,352,580	€34,679,011	(€9,455,102)	(€601,873)	€29,974,616
Rents/Cíosanna	€2,913,161	€3,929,059	(€3,724,165)	(€0)	€3,118,055
Loans/Iasachtal	€297,248	€538,496	(€490,073)	(€0)	€345,671
Development Levies/Tobhaigh Forbartha	€10,756,762	€1,881,484	(€641,430)	(€0)	€11,996,816
Fire Charges/Táilí Seirbhíse Dóiteáin	€756,633	€149,803	(€114,696)	(€0)	€791,740
Miscellaneous/Ilghnéitheach	€2,345,328	€2,751,929	(€1,487,947)	(€18,271)	€3,591,039
Total Debtors / Féichiúnaithe Iomlána	€51,249,031	€56,921,921	(€46,357,582)	(€628,364)	€61,328,464

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

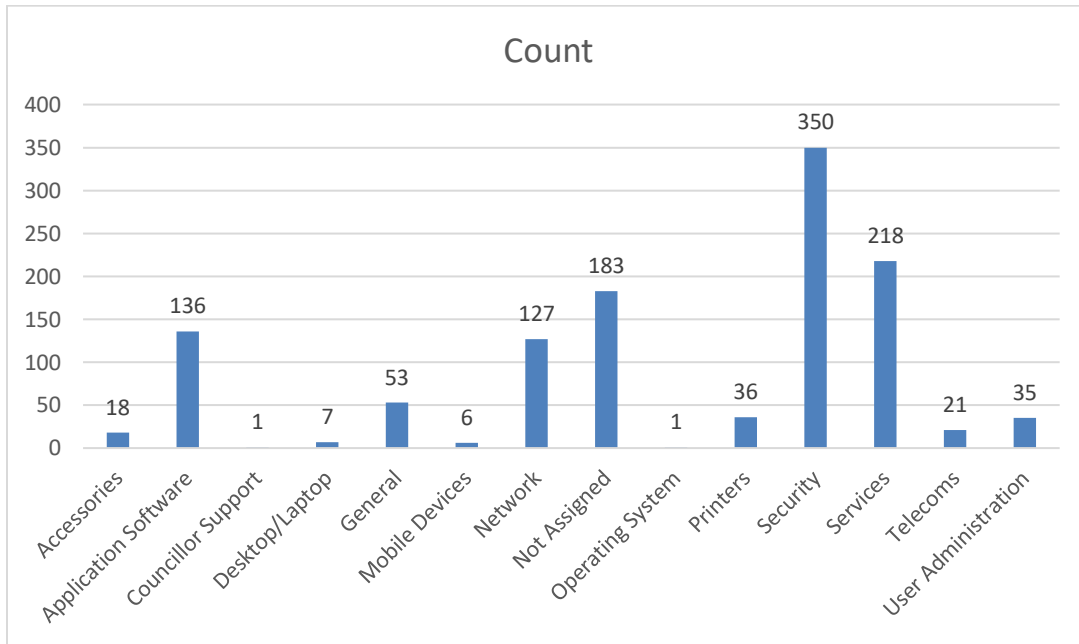
Annual Financial Statement

The 2023 Annual Financial Statement is now complete and on the agenda for the April Council meeting.

Information & Communication Technology

Helpdesk

Between 01/03/2024 and the 31/03/2024 there were 1192 support calls logged in the IT support system.



Security and Application Software followed by user administration were the highest category of support requests in March.

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 March 36% of inbound e-mails were identified as potentially harmful.



Inbound Emails

179,840



Blocked Sender

1,778



Blocked at gateway

22,950



Blocked by spam /virus

39,357



Blocked by content rules

656



Potentially harmful emails

36.01%

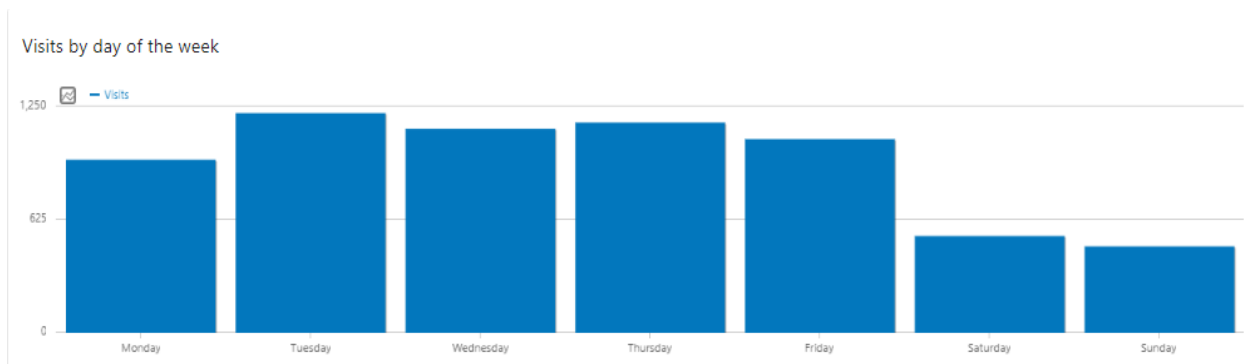
Louth County Council Website

There were 16,120 unique page views of www.louthcoco.ie in March.

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

Page URL	Pageviews
/en/	4,225
/en/louth_county_council/vacancies/	1,165
/en/services/planning/online-planning-and-maps/	896
/en/services/	663
/en/services/dog-pound/	687
/en/home/	580
/en/services/planning/	565
/en/services/housing/	435
/en/services/library/	470

The below chart indicates visits to www.louthcoco.ie by days of the week in March. The majority of visits are mid-week



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 5,414 views in March, an average of 180 views a day.

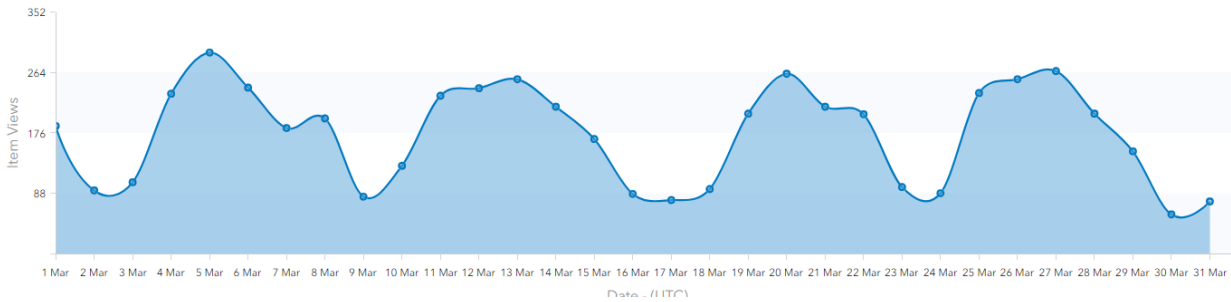
Item Views this Period

5,414

Avg Item Views Per Day

180.47

Usage Time Series



Strategic Economic Development Forbairt Eacnamaíoch Straitéiseach

This Directorate has three key areas of responsibility:

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

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

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

Tá trí eochairfhreagracht ag an Stiúrtóireacht seo:

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

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

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

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 20th March in Ardee Business Park. A presentation was given by Deirdre MacDermott, Vice Chair of Ardee Business Park in relation to the current status and their strategic plan for the future.

Economic Development & Enterprise Support Strategic Policy Committee (SPC)

A meeting of the Economic Development & Enterprise Support SPC took place online on Tuesday 26th March.

Age Friendly Business

On 1st March Drogheda Credit Union held an event to celebrate gaining their ‘Age Friendly Business’ Accreditation. Staff from Economic Development were in attendance to promote the upcoming Age Friendly Business accreditation training which is open to businesses in County Louth.



Noeleen Quigley and Susan Murphy, Louth Age Friendly Business

Tourism

sea louth

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

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 on 21st March 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.

The launch of the Annual Cross-Border Tourism Conference, hosted by Dundalk Chamber of Commerce, took place on 13th March. Louth County Council are a sponsor of the Conference taking place in the Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford on 17th April.



Kieran Swail, Southern Regional College, Dermot Redmond, Four Seasons Hotel Carlingford, Michael Gaynor, Dundalk Chamber of Commerce, David Kieran, Managing Director ZOMA and Sabhbh Ní Mhaolagáin, Louth Tourism Officer at launch of the Cross-Border Tourism Conference

St. Patrick’s Day 2024

Louth County Council provided financial support to Dundalk, Drogheda, and Ardee St. Patrick’s Day Parades.

A delegation from the Council travelled to New York to meet representatives from Tourism Ireland, the

IDA and Enterprise Ireland and took part in the New York St. Patrick's Day Parade. They also attended a series of events where County Louth was promoted.



Louth County Council Delegation meeting Tourism Ireland

Táin Trail

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

Destination Towns Capital Investment Programme

The Wayfinding totems, engraved paving stones and bronze stud inlays have now been installed across Drogheda. The Council are in discussions with Fáilte Ireland on a launch event which is expected to take place at a date to be agreed. This tourism investment displays historical information and maps of easily accessed locations within walking distance.

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)

The draft 5-year Boyne Valley Food Strategy has been circulated to stakeholders for feedback. The next step will be a meeting between Fáilte Ireland,

Louth County Council and Meath County Council to adopt same.

An online training workshop took place for food and drink businesses on Content Creation for Tiktok and Beyond.

Morgan's Fine Fish, Omeath have agreed to be a stamp collection point on the sea louth trail.

Several Drogheda eateries participated in the Spring Boyne Valley Bites initiative, serving a special dish made with local ingredients during the Drogheda Comedy Festival and St. Patrick's Festival weekends.

Updates to the 2024 Boyne Valley Flavours brochure are nearing completion. It will include a producer and foodservice member map and food experiences.

Boyne Valley Centre of Food Culture

- Application submitted to the Charities Regulator for the Centre of Food Culture.
- Development of website for the Centre is underway.
- Calendar of events is being prepared for events and workshops for the year.
- Participated in the 5-Year Food Strategy review on 11th March with the Boyne Valley Flavours Steering Committee and at the Boyne Valley Tourism presentation of the strategy on 15th March.
- Attended "Feeding Ourselves" conference covering topics on climate action and local food, co-ordinated by Cultivate, Talamh Beo and Sonairte in Cloughjordan, Tipperary on 22nd and 23rd March.

Drogheda Night Time Economy

Creative Ireland Funding

Due to the successful application for a Night Time Economy Adviser post in Drogheda, Cruinniú na nÓg has confirmed additional funding for youth initiatives in Louth County Council. This will be used

to fund projects in Dundalk and Drogheda, with the latter likely to be an evening music and craft event held over the summer. The project will be used to give young people the opportunity to express themselves, learn new skills and understand what young people want from live performance events in the longer term.

Drogheda Comedy Festival

The inaugural Drogheda Comedy Festival was successfully held from 8th – 10th March, with 26 acts and 12 shows spread across 9 venues. Consumer feedback thus far has been overwhelmingly positive with sales hitting 90% against original ticket targets and 6 of the shows selling out. Boyne Valley Flavours also worked with venues and restaurants to offer a unique local menu, as such The Night Time Economy Adviser Mark Davies is now working with venues and eateries across the town to understand the economic impact and work is underway across the partnership involved in developing the festival, to plan for next year and develop a long-term future for the event. In addition, a comedy workshop for young people, welcoming participants from all backgrounds, was held on 10th March. The 2025 festival has already been confirmed for the 7th of March next year, with new acts and a host of new content.



Drogheda Comedy Festival

Purple Flag Award

Trevor Connolly from the Love Drogheda BID and The Night Time Economy Adviser Mark Davies attended the Purple Flag awards in Nottingham on Thursday 21st March to receive the Purple Flag

accreditation for Drogheda. This is the second time Drogheda has been successful in receiving the coveted Purple Flag status and the town was praised for its strong partnership work, urban animation initiatives such as the Lú Festival of Light and unique offering of restaurants, venues, and pubs all within walking distance.

Like the Blue Flag award for beaches and Green Flag award for Parks, Purple Flag is a stamp of approval for Drogheda’s night time economy and will help celebrate and promote the special vibrant offering the town centre has for visitors and locals.



Purple Flag Award

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](http://LocalEnterpriseOffice-Louth).

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

‘Look for Local’ / ‘Shop Local’

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

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

Green for Business



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

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

During March six businesses were approved for Green for Business.

LEO Louth continues to welcome new applications.

Business Training



During March LEO held three training courses including Start Your Own Business, Social Media for Small Business and Tax & VAT for Small Business.

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

<https://www.localenterprise.ie/Louth/Training-Events/Online-Bookings/>.

Trading Online Voucher Scheme



LEO continues to offer the Trading Online Voucher Scheme to assist businesses get online or enhance their online presence, under which LEO can provide 50% support up to a maximum grant of €2,500. Trading Online training workshops to assist applicants apply continue to be delivered on a regional basis with Cavan and Monaghan LEOs. Four Trading Online Voucher applications were received in March.

Business Advice Clinics

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

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. Nineteen businesses were appointed Mentors, during the month of March.

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.

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.

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.

Local Enterprise Week 2024



A busy week was had in LEO Louth for Louth Enterprise Week which ran from Monday 4th March to Friday 8th March. An extensive schedule of events and workshops were held across the county culminating in the County Finals of the Louth Enterprise Awards which were held in the Monasterboice Inn on Friday 8th March.

Awards were presented in three categories, Donal Quinn of ENSO Initiatives secured the Best Start-up Award for his sustainability platform, Frank Clarke of Omuu received the Innovation Award for his eco-friendly dog good and David Kieran and his company Zoma, a marketing and technology firm won the Best Established Business and the overall Enterprise Award and will now go on to represent Louth at the National Awards in the Mansion House on 23rd May.



Cllr. Dolores Minogue, Pamela Kerr, LEO Louth, Cllr. Paula Buttery, Cathaoirleach and Cllr. Sean Kelly



Overall winners, Zoma who will go on to represent Louth at the National Awards in the Mansion House on 23rd May



Donal Quinn, ENSO Initiatives who won Best Start Up Company



Omuu, winner of Innovation Award, Zoma, winner of Established Business Award & Overall Winner Award and Enzo, winner of Start-up Business Award



Louth Enterprise Awards – Donegans, Monasterboice

LEO Louth held eight in person events, some in collaboration with our key stakeholders like Drogheda Chamber of Commerce, Network Louth and Dundalk Chamber of Commerce and Newry Chamber of Commerce with whom we delivered the Cross-Border Trade & Economic Conference which was attended by Minister Neale Richmond, Minister for Finance Conor Murphy and the American Ambassador to Ireland. The events were well attended and covered a diverse range of topics from idea generation, AI for small business, sustainability supports to Business Insurance updates.

On a regional level LEO Louth worked with our colleagues in Cavan and Meath to deliver online seminars on accessing finance and the role of digital technologies in business. There was great interaction with businesses across the county and this will hopefully encourage more people to access our supports and schemes.



Cross-Border Trade & Economic Conference, Carrickdale Hotel

European Relations



PEACEPLUS

The PEACE team continue to work with consultants, Blu Zebra, in finalising the proposed PEACEPLUS Action Plan for submission to Special European Union Programmes Body on the 28th March 2024. The PEACEPLUS Action Plan was noted by a meeting of the Council on 25th March 2024.

An online information meeting was held via Zoom on 26th March 2024. The meeting provided an update to participants from the consultation process, alongside interested parties / members of the public on the content of the final proposed PEACEPLUS 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

In March 2024 work continued encouraging community groups to apply to the Community Heritage funding stream of the Heritage Council. Nine letters of support were provided for applications.

The Council awaits the outcome of the five applications submitted by the Heritage Office to the Community Monuments Fund (CMF). Two of these were submitted on behalf of the private owners of Glaspistol and Castletown (Bellew's) towerhouses (the latter the site of the Louis Convent School in Dundalk). The Council applied to the CMF on its

own behalf for funding for carrying out repairs to the boundary wall around the mound at Millmount, to Cappocksgate in Ardee and for a survey of the surviving stretches of Drogheda's town defences. The Heritage Officer applied for Ministerial Consent for the proposed conservation works at Millmount.

An application to the Irish Walled Towns Network (IWTN) capital works fund for a detailed assessment of a long stretch of Drogheda's town wall was successful and was awarded funding of €30,000. The Carlingford Lough Heritage Trust also applied to this fund, for works on the Tholsel, which was awarded €65,000.

Applications were submitted to the Irish Walled Towns Network (IWTN) for funding for interpretation and events by Carlingford Lough Heritage Trust, by Louth County Council Tourism Office for upgrades to smart lighting at Millmount and Laurence's Gate and by the Séan Corcoran Series for events.

The Heritage Officer's application to the Heritage Council's Heritage Plan funding stream was also successful and was awarded funding of €37,500.

A Request for Quotations for specialists to advise us on getting Monasterboice onto the Tentative List for World Heritage was completed and assessed.

The Heritage and Biodiversity Officers attended training, organised by the Heritage Council, in the Boyne Valley, with a particular focus on the Brú na Bóinne World Heritage Property. The Heritage Officer attended a workshop aimed at building capacity in relation to World Heritage.

Fire & Emergency Services

Fire Service

The Recruitment Plan for new retained fire fighters continued in its implementation during March. Vacancies were publicised in the stations and in social media resulting in an increase in applications. Further fire fighter applications were received by the HR Section and station tests for these applicants took place on 19th March.

On 21st March, applicants for Acting Retained Sub Officer posts were interviewed. 8 successful applicants are doing the Module 1 Sub Officers

course starting in Dundalk on 8th April. Once this is completed, they can begin managing the crews and taking charge of incidents.

Training courses during March were as follows:

- Breathing Apparatus Refreshers
- Sub Officer attendance on a BA Instructor Course, Tullamore

Dundalk, Drogheda, and Ardee Fire Brigades took part in the St. Patrick's Day parades, with a large range of fire appliances. These included the vintage Merryweather appliance in Dundalk. The Drogheda Merryweather had an issue which prevented it taking part. This has been resolved for future events. Dundalk also provided a fire appliance for the Blackrock St. Patrick's Day Parade.

There has been a continuation in requests to the Fire Prevention Section during March by Government Departments to inspect properties for the accommodation of Ukrainian refugees and International Protection applicants. There was a meeting between the Fire Prevention Section and the owner in relation to a hotel proposed to be used to accommodate International Protection applicants.

The Council was contacted by the Office of Government Procurement on 26th March to commence the process of purchasing two new water tenders for Louth Fire Service. The cost of these vehicles is approximately €400,000 each, funded under the DHLGH Capital Programme.

Tender documents for a design team for an upgrade and extension to Dundalk Training Centre are being prepared by the Placemaking and Fire Safety Sections. Once complete, this tender process will commence.

The Land Registry map of the site for the new Dunleer fire station has been agreed between the Vendor and the Council. This purchase will be completed shortly and DHLGH approval will be sought to appoint a Contractor to construct the station.

Major Emergency Management

The review of major emergency rest centres in Louth is underway. The owners of the designated rest centres have been written to, to establish if their

buildings are available and suitable for use in major emergencies.

Civil Defence

Two members of Louth Civil Defence (James Neary & Michael Kenny) were presented with 60-year service medals by Tánaiste Mícheál Martin at a ceremony in Trinity College Dublin on 7th March.

Training during March was as follows:

- Weekly training, including first aid scenarios and preparation of equipment and vehicles for St. Patrick's Day
- Emergency Medical Technician upskilling
- First Aid Responder Training
- Emergency First Responder Training and Stage 1 exams

The following Duties were attended by volunteers during March:

- St. Patrick's Day Parade (14 volunteers), including medical cover
- Referendum count medical cover

Building Control

There has been Cabinet agreement to review the Building Control Act. There is currently a draft Bill in the Oireachtas. The purpose is to allow Commencement Notices to be submitted after construction has started, with the payment of an additional fee. There are also changes proposed to the procedure for Regularisation of Fire Safety Certificates.

The Building Control Section has continued to conduct on-site inspections across the county contributing to meeting the NOAC inspection requirements.

Planning

Development Management / Bainistíocht Forbartha

The Planning service indicators for the Council for the month of February 2024 are given below in tabular form. There were 66 planning applications received during the month of February of which 53 were valid. In addition, there were 25 responses received during the month to requests for further information and 28 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	5	14	55	2	76
(ii) No. of decisions determined which required further information / Líon na gcinntí inar iarradh breis eolais	4	4	18	2	28
(iii) Percentage of applications refused / Céatadán na n-iarratas a diúltaíodh	20.00% (1)	50.00% (7)	21.82% (12)	0.00% (0)	26.32% (20)
(iv) Number of appeals determined / Líon na n-achomharc a cinneadh	3	0	2	0	5
(v) Percentage of decisions overturned on appeal / Céatadán na gcinntí a cuireadh ar ceal ar achomharc	0.00% (0)	0.00% (0)	50.00% (1)	0.00% (0)	20.00% (1)

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

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

Description / Cur Síos	Enforcement in relation to unauthorised development / Forfheidhmiú maidir le forbairt nár údaraíodh		Enforcement in relation to unauthorised development / Forfheidhmiú maidir le forbairt nár údaraíodh	
	February 2024 / Feabhra 2024	Year to Date / Bliain go dtí seo	February 2023 / Feabhra 2023	Year to Date / Bliain go dtí seo
Number of Planning Enforcement Complaints Investigated / Líon na nGearán maidir le Forfheidhmiú Pleanála a Imscrúdaíodh	28	52	15	28
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	11	26	14	19
Number of Warning letters issued / Líon na Litreacha Rabhadh a eisíodh	24	40	13	30
Number of Enforcement Notices issued / Líon na bhFógraí Forfheidhmiúcháin a eisíodh	2	2	2	3
Number of cases referred for legal proceedings / Líon na cásanna a tarchuireadh le haghaidh imeachtaí dlí	1	1	4	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	
	March 2024 / Márta 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-imscrúdú 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

Planning Enforcement – Dangerous Structures / Forfheidmiú Pleanála – Déanmhais Chontúirteacha

The Planning Indicators listed below are in relation to Notices issued under the Local Government (Sanitary Services) Act, 1964 for the period October to January to March 2024.

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

Description / Cur Síos	Enforcement in relation to Dangerous Structures/ Forfheidmiú maidir le Déanmhais Contúirteacha	
	January – March 2024 Eanáir – Márta 2024	Year to Date / Bliain go dtí seo
Number of Dangerous Structures files opened / Líon na gcomhad Déanmhais Contúirteach a osclaíodh	15	15
Number of Section 3 (1)(a) Notices – Directing Owner to carry out work / Líon na bhFógraí Alt 3 (1)(a) – Ag Tabhairt ordú d’úinéir obair a dhéanamh	6	6
Number of Section 3 (2)(b) Notices – LCC carry out works / Líon na bhFógraí Alt 3 (2)(b) – Obair le déanamh ag CCL	0	0
Number of Section 2 Notices – Dangerous Place / Líon na bhFógraí Alt 2 – Áit Chontúirteach	0	0
Number of Dangerous Structures entered on the DS Register	6	6
Number of cases referred for legal proceedings / Líon na gcásanna a tarchuireadh le haghaidh imeachtaí dlí	1	1
Number of Prosecutions / Líon na n-ionchúiseamh	0	0
Number of Dangerous Structures Removed from the DS Register	1	1
Number of cases closed / Líon na gcásanna a dúnadh	3	3

Forward Planning

Proposed Variation No. 2 of the Louth County Development Plan 2021 - 2027 (as varied)

Pursuant to Section 13 of the Planning & Development Act 2000 (as amended) Louth County Council advertised a proposal to make a Variation (Variation No. 2) of the Louth County Development Plan 2021 - 2027 (as varied).

A copy of proposed Variation No. 2 of the Louth County Development Plan 2021 - 2027 (and associated SEA and AA Screening documents) will be available for inspection from Wednesday 27th March 2024 until 4pm on Friday 26th April 2024.

The reason for this proposed Variation is:

1. To update 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.

Full details of the proposed variation will be on public display and available to view at <https://consult.louthcoco.ie> from Wednesday 27th March 2024 until 4pm on Friday 26th April 2024, during which time submissions may be made. Hard copies of the documents will also be available at Customer Services desks in Council buildings and libraries.

Conservation Grant Schemes 2024

A total of 17 projects have received provisional grant funding under the Built Heritage Investment Scheme (BHIS) 2024, totaling €140,004.00, with a further 4 projects awarded provisional grant funding under the various streams of the Historic Structures Fund (HSF) totaling €235,000.00.

BHIS Ref. No.	Projects	Funding Allocated
BHIS24/LH01	St. Peter's Church, St. Peter's Close, Drogheda	€15,000
BHIS24/LH02	Church Street, Collon, Co. Louth	€12,000
BHIS24/LH03	Shanlis House, Ardee, Dundalk, Co. Louth	€10,000
BHIS24/LH04	57 Clanbrassil Street, Dundalk, Co. Louth	€11,000

BHIS Ref. No.	Projects	Funding Allocated
BHIS24/LH05	58 Clanbrassil Street, Dundalk, Co. Louth	€9,000
BHIS24/LH06	Brooklyn, Brook Street, Ardee Road, Dundalk	€5,764
BHIS24/LH07	9 St. Peter's Place, Drogheda, Co. Louth	€14,000
BHIS24/LH08	Jocelyn House, Jocelyn Street, Dundalk	€12,000
BHIS24/LH09	St. Joseph's Redemptorists, Dundalk	€9,050
BHIS24/LH10	Kildemock, Ardee, Co. Louth	€4,086
BHIS24/LH11	Dunnes Cross, Wyanstown, Drogheda	€4,750
BHIS24/LH12	Blackhall House, Termonfeckin	€10,000
BHIS24/LH13	Wyanstown House, Togher, Drogheda	€4,750
BHIS24/LH14	Townley Hall, Drogheda, Co. Louth	€5,000
BHIS24/LH15 (RFF)	Whitestown, Greenore (Thatching)	€7,000
BHIS24/LH16 (RFF)	Newrath, Castlebellingham (Thatching)	€3,504
BHIS24/LH17 (RFF)	Canonstown Thatch (Thatching)	€3,500

Historic Structures Fund 2024		Grant Awarded
Stream 1 - Vernacular	Edenaquin, Dundalk, Co. Louth	€10,000
Stream 1 - Public	Oriel Centre Dundalk Gaol, The Crescent Dundalk, Co. Louth	€25,000
Stream 1	The Widow's Houses, Castlebellingham, Co. Louth	€50,000
Stream 2	Derryhale Hotel (2 Year Project)	€75,000 (Year1) €75,000 (Year2)

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

All areas on the list are done once a week and if needed spot picked The strong winds blow a lot of debris from private sites onto road sides

Inner Relief Rd

Town Centre Containers

Ramparts

Bothar Na Feirme

Red Barns Rd

Point Rd

Barrack St

Old Coes Rd

Centenary Rd

Fairgreen Rd

Northgate St

Market St

The Square Shrub Borders

Ecco Rd

Castletown Rd

John St

Philip St

Riverside Crescent

The Laurels

Armagh Rd ,
 Mooreland /Lennon Melia Crescent
 Riverside Walk
 Racecourse Rd
 Dublin Rd
 Mourne View Walkway
 Ardee Rd
 Carrick Rd
 Under bridges at Fr Murray Pk
 Castleross hedgerow
 Ashling Pk Estate
 River Grids
 Bottle Banks AT Long Walk,
 Harp Car Park,
 Meadow Grove
 Gateway at Hoey's Lane cleared every day
 and area litter picked
 Cleanup household dumped rubbish at Fr
 Murray Pk /O' Hanlon Pk
 Removing rubbish from Bottle Banks daily
 and cleaning around them
 Grass Cutting in areas but due to so much
 rain this month of March many areas are too
 wet to cut
 Cooley isolated locations, including
 Templetown, Gyles Quay, Greenore. R132
 Carrickcarnan border.

Emptying of Public Bins / Folmhú Araidí Poiblí

Numbers and frequency / Líon agus minicíocht

Nightly By Contractor
200 Bins

	<p>Solar Bins emptied Bins were services by the supplier</p> <p>All Tubs checked for Rubbish</p> <p>Cleaned Flower Towers</p> <p>Cleaned borders around Town</p> <p>Trimmed areas at Jocyln Dr</p> <p>Illegal dumping is ongoing in areas</p> <p>Illegal Burning of rubbish at Muirhevnamor on the Park</p> <p>Bin maintenance carried out by outdoor staff. Carlingford, Omeath, Greenore, Templetown, Gyles Quay</p>
<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>St Helena's Rd</p> <p>Ardee Rd</p> <p>Carrick Rd</p> <p>Extra sweep in areas for St Patrick's Day Event</p>
<p>Emptying Dog Waste Receptacles / Folmhú Araidí Salachar Madra</p> <p>Most Dog Waste 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>As per bin maintenance in Cooley</p>

Ring Buoy Checking / Seiceál Baoithe Tarrhála	Number checked weekly / Líon Seiceáilte sa tseachtain Ring Buoys checked Weekly Report sent to Water Safety Officer for Dundalk Lifebuoy issues in a few areas this month, Areas included Ice House Hill, Navy Bank and The Old Newry Rd all Replaced and new ropes added
Checking of Playground and Gym Equipment / Seiceál Trealamh Áiteanna Sugartha agus Corpacmhainne	Number of sites checked daily / Suíomhanna Seiceáilte Laethúil Daily/Weekly Check lists carried out by Parks caretaker. Contractor in checking and replacing missing and damaged parts in Navvy Park and at Stephenstown Pond Litter Pick Parks Regular checks by Cooley area staff

Location / Suíomh	Notes / Nótaí
Road Repairs / Deisiú Bóithre	<p><u>Cooley</u> Isolated pot potholes, maintenance of roads that were damaged through recent storms, Deerpark L.P 30850. Annaverna L.T30906. Jenkinstown. L.T 30847.</p> <p><u>Dundalk</u> N/A</p>

<p>Drainage Remediation / Feabhasúchán Draenála</p>	<p><u>Cooley</u> Major works have been carried out at two locations, Upper Jenkinstown L.P 3084-44, Also Lugbriscan/Balleverty Riverstown L.S 70730. Mullatee R176</p> <p><u>Dundalk</u> N/A</p>	
<p>Fallen or Dangerous Trees / Crainn Leagtha nó Chontúirteacha</p>	<p>N/A</p>	
<p>Footpath Maintenance/ Cothabháil Cosán</p>	<p><u>Cooley</u> Cleaning of footpaths in Carlingford, Omeath Templetown carpark and Gyles Quay carpark</p> <p><u>Dundalk</u> N/A</p>	
<p>Traffic Light Repairs / Deisiú Soilse Tráchtá</p>	<p>On going repairs, bulb replacement at Vincent Avenue</p> <p>Traffic Accident at Inner Relief Rd-damaged light pole at Hotel Entrance</p> <p>Pedestrian lights repaired in Carlingford village</p>	
<p>Road Markings / Marcáil Bóithre</p>	<p><u>Cooley</u> N/A</p> <p><u>Dundalk</u> N/A</p>	
<p>Signage / Comharthaíocht</p>	<p><u>Cooley</u> N/A</p> <p><u>Dundalk</u> Replaced damaged Road Signs and speed limit signs</p> <p>Replaced numerous signage for faded ones in areas around town and at the quays</p>	
<p>Illegal Dumping / Dumpáil Neamhdhleathach</p>	<p><u>Cooley</u> N/A</p>	

	<p><u>Dundalk</u></p> <p>All the usual areas</p> <p>Dumping of Sofas and Mattresses in areas continues</p> <p>Entrance to Woodview Estate Black bags being dumped weekly.</p> <p>Mooreland Rd Fly Tipping</p> <p>Removed Sofa and fire remnants at Muirhevnamor Park again this Month of March</p> <p>Bags of litter picked up from all estates weekly</p> <p>Cleaning at Ecco Rd Bags removed</p>	
Graffiti Removal / Glanadh Graifítí	Cleaned graffiti at Chu Cuchulainn Play area by MVI contractor. Repeated vandalism at this location	

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

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 Tarrhála	Number checked weekly / Líon 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	<p>Tar patching on Rd178 Mansfieldtown – Babeswood and patching at Rathbrist Cottages Tallanstown, Rd149 Killany, Grange Rd, Louth Village and at Annagassan, LT-31041 Carrickedmond Kilcurry, LT-71081 Raskeagh Kilcurry, LS-7108 Marmions Cross Kilcurry, LS-7109 Scotch Green Kilcurry, R172 Blackrock, LS-7127 Kilkerry road Kilkerry, LP-3161 Marlbog road Haggardstown.</p> <p>N/A</p> <p>N/A</p>
Drainage Remediation / Feabhasúchán Draenála	<p>LS-7107 Falmore, LS-7127 Donaghmore Kilkerry, LS-7184 Dunmahon Haggardstown, LP-3167 Stephenstown pond.</p>
Fallen or Dangerous Trees / Crainn Leagtha nó Chontúirteacha	<p>Mills of Louth – Killany, Mills of Louth – Louth Village, Arthurstown, Tallanstown, Monvallet, Drummenagh and the removal of lesser debris from various roads</p>
Footpath Maintenance/ Cothabháil Cosán	<p>N/A</p>
Traffic Light Repairs / Deisiú Soilse Tráichta	<p>Xerox junction</p>
Road Markings / Marcáil Bóithre	<p>N/A</p> <p>N/A</p>

Signage / Comharthaíocht	Louth Village and in Annagassan	Cleansing/repair/replacement New signage
Illegal Dumping / Dumpáil Neamhdhleathach	LS-7096 Monascrebe Faughart, LS-7162 Clermount road, LS-7103 Carnmore Kilcurry Blackrock, Tallanstown	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		37 Daily
Dunleer town		20 Tuesday and Thursday
Collon		3 Tuesday and Thursday
Road Sweeping / Scuabadh Bóithre	Routes per week / Bealaí sa tseachtain	
		All routes in Ardee Town (5.2km per day)

Emptying Dog Waste Receptacles / Folmhú Araidí Salachar Madra	Number per week / Líon sa tseachtain
	N/A
Ring Buoy Checking / Seiceál Baoithe Tarrthála	Number checked weekly / Líon Seiceáilte sa tseachtain
	Ardee town River Dee Salterstown Port Beach
Checking of Playground and Gym Equipment / Seiceál Trealamh Áiteanna Sugartha agus Corpacmhainne	Number of sites checked daily / Suíomhanna Seiceáilte Laethúil
	Maintenance and cleaning of Fairgreen and Dunleer parks and playgrounds complete with daily checks of the playground, & exercise equipment at both locations.

Location / Suíomh		Notes / Nótaí
Road Repairs / Deisiú Bóithre	LP2223-0 Johnstown LS 6223-0 Corstown LS 6237-0 Cappoge John street Ardee LP 2253-31 Philipstown LS 5257-0 Roestown N52 at roundabout R132 whiteriver Dunleer N52 pothole at Callans Sean o Carroll street pothole LP 2226-0 Dillionstown road LP 2214-0 Poll Brock Stabannon LP 1260-0 Shanlis to ardee town LS 5256-0 Jumping church. Eir cover at Sean o Carroll street,	

Drainage Remediation / Feabhasúchán Draenála	LS 6237-0 back drains and outlets Cappoge LP 1233-7 Glack cross LP 1297-0 Leeby cross LP 2223-29 Finvoy back drains and outlets LP 1233-7 Glack cross perforated cover and pipe work LP 1210-0 Gudderstown outlets LP 2296-0 Boyd's bridge Gullies and outlets LP 1297-0 Collon Kells road Blocked drainage system LP 1209-0 verges at Cookstown LP 2295-0 Blackhill collon broken culvert LS-6329 at Dillons town verges for surface dressing	
Fallen or Dangerous Trees / Crainn Leagtha nó Chontúirteacha	N/A	
Footpath Maintenance/ Cothabháil Cosán	N/A	
Traffic Light Repairs / Deisiú Soilse Tráchtá	N/A	
Road Markings / Marcáil Bóithre	N/A	
Signage / Comharthaíocht	R132 at Cappoge R132 2 junction signs LP 1212-36 Stabannon junction sign N2 Drogheda road replacing bollards N2 bollard at junction with Kells road	

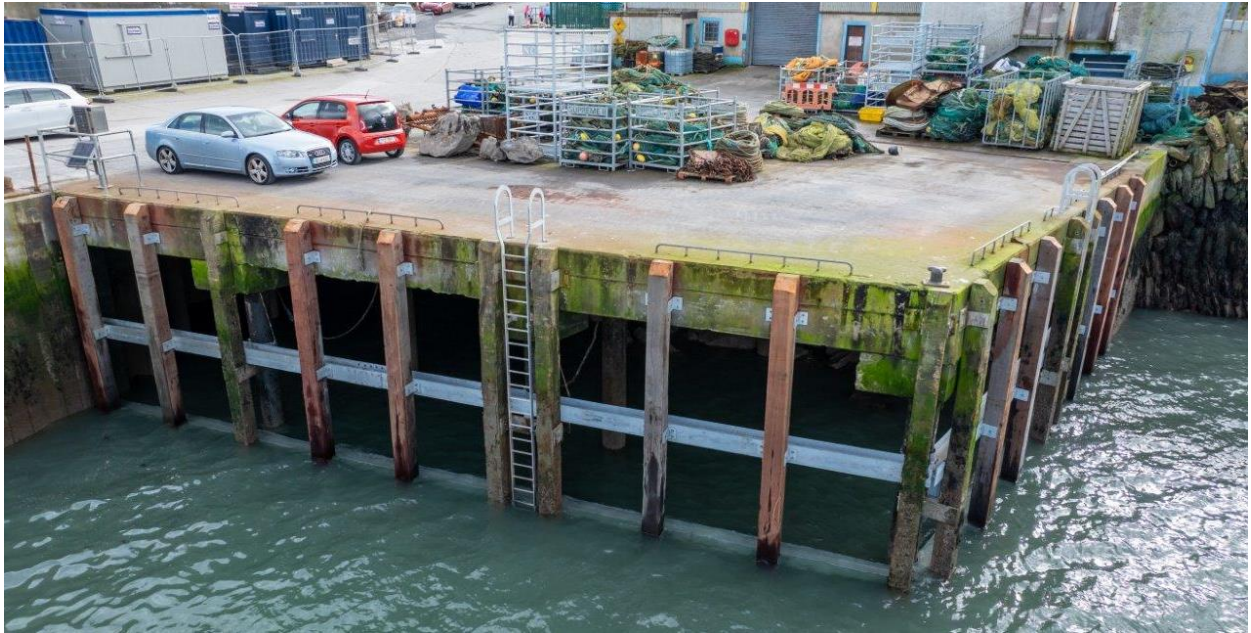
Illegal Dumping / Dumpáil Neamhdhleathach	N/A	
Graffiti Removal / Glanadh Graifítí	N/A	



Drainage Remediation- R166



Fallen tree cleared- Brownstown, Monasterboice



New timber buffers have been installed in Port Oriel. The addition of these timber buffers and ladders to the harbour platform area serves to enhance the mooring capacity within the designated area. These strategic installations not only facilitate the safe and efficient docking of vessels but also act as barriers preventing boats from slipping beneath the platform during stormy weather.

Borough District of Drogheda

Drogheda Town Area

Litter Picking / Píocadh Bruscair

Location and metres per month / Suíomh agus méadar sa mhí

- Steps and lane ways weekly. 22 steps when resources are allowed 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.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Road sweeper machine delivered to our depot in Greenlanes, we now have two road sweepers in operation in Drogheda. • TUS and LCC complete clean ups at public green spaces at Moneymore and St Laurence Pk, prior to first grass cut. • TUS and LCC complete clean up on walkway from Clintons Lane to the Dale. • Daily up-keep of St Dominick's Pk including bin maintenance and graffiti removal.
<p>Emptying of Public Bins / Folmhú Araidí Poiblí</p>	<p>Numbers and frequency / Líon agus minicíocht</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drogheda town centre Litterbins emptied daily circa 60 early mornings. • 234 litter bins (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 and maintenance ongoing at various location. • Power washing of pavements on West St in preparation of St Patricks Parade.
<p>Road Sweeping / Scuabadh Bóithre</p>	<p>Routes per week / Bealaí sa tseachtain</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Town centre daily. Approach roads fortnightly. • Public Housing Estates swept every 2 months. Private Housing estates swept every 3 months, when resources allow.

	<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., Teromenfeekin, 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 to town centre and housing estates – such as Donore Rd, Dublin Rd, Ballymackenna Rd and Marsh Rd. Erection of flooding signs erected on ramparts at St Dominic's Pk. Glen stream at yellowbatter – LCC removed debris. Road sweeping on Marsh Rd prior to Easter parades.
Emptying Dog Waste Receptacles / FolmhúAraidí Salachar Madra	Number per week / Líon sa tseachtain <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Empty about 35 No. once a week, washed and disinfected.
Ring Buoy Checking / Seiceál Baoithe Tarrthála	Number checked weekly / Líon Seiceáilte sa tseachtain <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 89 ring buoys checked each week Town area (Thursday) 9 ring buoys checked each week at Rosehall (Friday)

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

- Number of sites checked daily / Suíomhanna Seiceáilte Laethúil**
- Between 4 and 5 daily (4 playgrounds in Drogheda town, Skate park, adult exercise equipment). 3 Playgrounds in Drogheda rural area) + disinfected.

Location / Suíomh		Notes / Nótaí
Road Repairs / Deisiú Bóithre	<p>Drainage Works</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gully frame and cover repair at Bredin St. <p>LCC's crew</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Prepare stocks of sand bags and signage in event of weather conditions. 2. Pot hole repairs at Barrack Hill, Dummies Lane, Platin Rd, Greenhills, Old Hill, Dublin Rd, Marsh Rd, Barrack Lane, R166 Termonfeckin Rd, Shop St, North Quay, Millmount, Mount St Oliver, Oaklawns, Bolton St and Sunny side villas. 3. Sluice gate at Flaxmill Lane, wall and gate repairs. <p>Road Works Program – Resurfacing works 2024</p> <p>Survey of roads completed, Council intend to issue to tender mid-April</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Newfoundwell 2. Cord Rd 3. Platin Rd 4. Dual Carriageway 5. College Rise 	

	<p>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> <p>CIS Lanes.</p> <p>1. Working on final account for 2023 @ Stumpa and The Burren. 2. Survey of 2024 CIS lanes to commence mid-April.</p> <p>Drogheda Improvement Accessibility Scheme 2024</p> <p>1. List of sites been surveyed by IWA for 2024 – LCC intend to issue to tender 2nd quarter 2024.</p>	
Drainage Remediation / Feabhasúchán Draenála	<p>Annual Drogheda Gully cleaning program ongoing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gully frame and cover repair at Bredin St. 	
Fallen or Dangerous Trees / Crainn Leagtha nó Chontúirteacha	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fallen Tree at entrance to Meadowview housing estate removed by LCC. 	
Footpath Maintenance/ Cothabháil Cosán	<p>Currently preparing a list of locations for footpath repairs, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bolton Sq Bothar Brugha Marian Pk William St 	

	<p>March footpath repairs at North Rd bedside Circle K station and outside Gary Kelly Centre.</p>	
<p>Traffic Light Repairs / Deisiú Soilse Tráchtá</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DR03 R132 James St - Scotch Hall Jct (R132C) Phase lamp fail phase A green - check timings on lights is all in working order • DR06 R132 at Westgate - Fair St Jct – Knockdown • DR03 R132 James St - Scotch Hall Jct (R132C) Phase lamp fail phase A green - check timings on lights is all in working order • DR08, Donore Rd - Marleys Lane Lights out • DR01 R132 at Bryanstown Jct (R132A) –could you please check if PBU are working and pedestrian crossing times are giving sufficient time to cross • DR13 Donore Rd - Bottle Lane Jct –Lamp Phase E Green Fail • DR25, Trinity St (Lwr Mell) Ped –Pedestrian Phase B Lamp fail • DR50 Barn Road Dunleer Pedestrian Crossing 	

	(outside secondary school) – Twisted traffic light head.	
Road Markings / Marcáil Bóithre	N/A	
Signage / Comharthaíocht	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Up-grade pole & stop sign at Hillview. • New bollard arrow keep left at bridge of peace. • Up-grade pole & stop sign at Riverview Mell. • Pole & stop sign at Simcox Lane. • Speed sign at Trinity St. • Pay parking pole & sign at St Laurence St. • Up-grade poles & signs at Sundays gate. • New Shervon sign at Beamore Bridge. • Up-grade poles and signs at Church St. • Sign two way up graded at Magdalene St. 	
Weed killing / Marú fiailí	N/A	
Litterbin cleaning disinfecting / Díghalrú glantacháin boscaí bruscair	Dog Bin disinfecting complete on approach roads.	

Illegal Dumping / Dumpáil Neamhdhleathach	N/A	
Graffiti Removal / Glanadh Graifítí	N/A	



New road sweeper commenced working in Drogheda Urban



Freshly painted disabled bays in Drogheda

Physical Development

Roads Projects

Narrow Water Bridge

Tender Documents have been received from 2 number tenderers. These tenders have been assessed and Letters to both the Unsuccessful and Successful Tenderers have been issued.

A welcome announcement under the Shared Island Fund stated that the Government “will also invest in the Narrow Water Bridge to link the Mourne Mountains in Co. Down with the Cooley Peninsula in Co. Louth”

A Marine Construction Licence was advertised in the Mourne Observer and Down Recorder as part of our application for consent to Marine and Fisheries Division DAERA, the closing date was the 27th of March, LCC will respond where required to DEARA on submissions made.

Site hedge clearance in Warrenpoint took place in Feb 2024.

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

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

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.

Tenders have been assessed for an archaeologist for carrying out test trenching

and other services required TII approval to award the archaeological contract has been approved. Letters of regret and intent to award have now been issued and test trenching licence is being sought. Tenders have been received for valuers and a claims adviser/peer review and both are now being appointed following TII approval. An order is being 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 for the major project, and the project continues to be suspended.

Note - An allocation of €100,000 was provided to Monaghan County Council for a HD15 / HD17 Minor Works scheme called ‘Ardee to Castleblaney Safety Improvements’. This funding is separate to the N2 Ardee to Castleblayney Road Scheme. Monaghan County Council will liaise with TII over the coming weeks to determine the expected nature and scope of this project.

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

N52 Ardee Bypass

A local environmental group were granted leave in the High Court for a Judicial Review against An Bord Pleanála (ABP) and the Boards directions to Louth County Council concerning the preparations of an EIAR and NIS. The Applicant has confirmed it is not filing any further papers by way of response to the Bord or the State Respondents; this means that the pleadings are “closed” & case is ready for a hearing. A hearing is set for Tuesday 9th next and it is scheduled to take 3 days so will continue on Wednesday 10th April and Thursday 11th April. The Scheme is currently

at a standstill until the resolutions to these proceedings are overcome.

Port Access Northern Cross Route Phase1.

Clonmel Enterprises, employed by HISCO, have completed the section of road from the R132 to Ballymakenny Road including upgrades to the Ballymakenny Rd and Twenties Lane. This section of road was opened to traffic 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.

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 have also been 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 to be issued to the DoT in March and we await their approval to issue them to the Market.

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.



Greenway crossing R173 Section 1 Carlingford

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. Substantial completion due in April 2024



Accommodation Works Precast Wall



Greenway view from Rail overbridge

Landowner engagement ongoing on the acquisition of the CPO land parcels. The Council has appointed a land valuer for the land acquisition in Section 2 and negotiations are ongoing.

Section 3 – Northern Ireland

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



Works Complete in Victoria Lock in NI

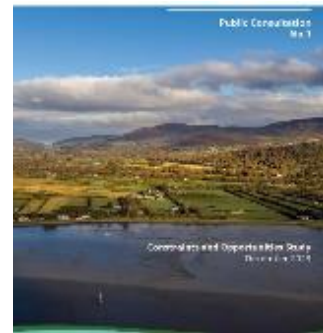
Tenders was received in March for the design and the construction of a greenway at Carlingford Lough connecting Victoria Lock with NI/ROI Border. The proposed Greenway will consist of a 4m wide piled timber deck boardwalk (1025m in length) with associated works to tie into the levels of the adjacent unbound greenway sections. Tenders are currently being assessed.

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

TII Funded Greenways:

Dundalk Bay to Carlingford Greenway

Route corridor options are now being developed and assessed for their feasibility and commentary from submission made a Public Consultation No. 1. This long list of options will then be narrowed down to several options and an options report will be produced ahead of the Public Consultation No 2 which will be held in Q2 2024. Environmental assessments are ongoing including meetings with project ecologist.



Public Consultation 1 in Heritage Centre, Carlingford



Study Area

The delivery of this scheme going forward will be under the TII Project Management Guidelines. The 2024 Grant Allocations to Local Authorities for National Roads, Active Travel and Greenways have allocated €850,000 for this scheme this year.

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.

A further information request from ORIS for Templetown was received at the end of February and a response is being prepared.

Access Road at Newtown, Drogheda

Delivery of this scheme is privately led, assisted by offset of development levies under agreement with the Council. Main carriageway works are nearing completion. Works are ongoing on the Marsh Road.



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

LIHAF Project:

LIHAF Mount Avenue Improvement

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

Changes to traffic management have taken place from the 19th February with access to more houses to the south via a newly realigned section of road with cycle lanes and footpaths.

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



Works in the vicinity of Headford

Specific Bridge Improvement Grants

Obelisk Bridge

Steel members remedial works complete Northside. Painting nearing completion Northside of bridge, and primer and undercoat completed with finishing coat application commenced Southside. South side of bridge approach walls all rebuilt where damaged and all repointed.

The Bridge Abutments Southwest side have been dismantled down to subsidence level, all labelled for reinstallation over the coming days. A Beam Gantry Support System installed with replacement Main Beam install commenced.



Dismantled abutment Stone (labelled for reinstallation), also rebuilt stone walls from Southside of River Boyne



Beam replacement gantry support assembly



Steel splice Repairs

Corporate Projects

Redevelopment Fair Street Offices, Drogheda

Block B: Former Borough Chamber Building

Plastering completed. Painting and fitout continuing. Final 2nd and 3rd fix Elec/Mech ongoing along with Finished Joinery. Cupola Works continuing. Lead Roof to Bay Window installation completed. RC Planter walls to southside of Block B completed. The stairs sanded for painting works commencing once scaffolding in stairwell dismantled. Pull test on Corbels undertaken.



Lead Roof installation Bay Window Block B



Block B Corbel Pull Test to 2.5 Tonnes

Block N: New Link Building

2nd & 3rd Fix Mech Elec ongoing. Finished Joinery fitout commenced with window surrounds completed. ESB onsite cable testing and wiring inside Sub-station. Remaining wall and ceiling lining installation continuing. Acoustic Panelling commenced over Customer Services/Motor Tax Area. Finer details of Feature Copper Façade being installed. Breakout between New Link Building and Francis Johnson Staff entrance undertaken.



Window sealing sample Block B Council Chamber



Acoustic Panels White Oak installation (Polished concrete floor with protective covering)



Block N White Oak Window surrounds



Comms cabling Block n

Block C: Community Services Building

Eastern Wall brickwork completed. Plastering all completed. Window Boards installed. Lift Hoisting mechanism installed. Painting ongoing. Trunking for Services and cables all installed. Remaining Windows installed in Eastern first floor rebuilt brick wall. Mechanical and Electrical 2nd and 3rd fix ongoing.



Block C Comms fit out



Block C Internal Fit out

Block E: Annex Building

Plastering completed. North Elevation Windows installed. Lead flashing to Parapet Roof installation completed. Scaffolding to West and Southern Elevations taken down with external plastering completed



Block C (Brick) and East Front Elevation Block E (Plastered) with both new and refurbished windows. Parapet Lead to Roof Block E.

Dunleer Fire Station

Final purchase of the lands process is ongoing. Stage 1 Report consisting of Project Inception and Preliminary Investigation was submitted in December 2023. Approval to proceed to stage 2 will now be sought from the funding body when the site is fully acquired.

Louth Flood Defence and Coastal Erosion Projects

Dundalk & Ardee Flood Relief Projects

Consultant Engineers Binnies/ Nicholas O'Dwyer JV continues to work on stage 1 of the project. The final Hydraulic report is to be delivered for review by the OPW / LCC. The JV are working on finalisation of the Wave overtopping assessment. 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. Tendering will be carried out in the coming months. Additional Topographic Surveys are being arranged for preliminary developing option areas. Preparations for an Emerging Options Workshop for Dundalk and Blackrock are to start in the coming months

Additional seasonal environmental surveys, e.g. wintering bird surveys are being carried out.

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

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

Drogheda and Baltray Flood Relief Project

The Consultant Engineers RPS are continuing to work on Stage 1 of the Project. RPS issued the updated version of the Drogheda and Baltray FRS Hydraulics Report and LCC / OPW are currently reviewing.

Options assessment has begun and will continue over the next few months.

The specification for an underwater archaeology survey is being developed prior to procurement of a specialist contractor. The overwintering bird survey has now been completed with reporting to follow in April.

The Otter survey has been completed until options have been identified, when the survey will recommence and focus on the areas where the scheme is likely to be constructed. 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 Topographical surveys has been completed with the successful contractor to be appointed in the coming weeks. A data collection exercise has been completed to collate data from the recent flood event. This information will be used to inform the project and calibrate hydraulic model.

Marine Projects

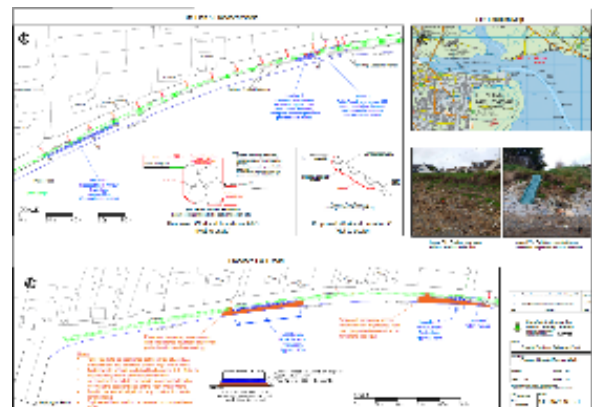
Coastal Protection Works – Drummullagh (Omeath), Bellurgan and Ballynamoney/Ballagan.

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

- Drummullagh, Omeath, (temporarily on hold, until Maritime Area Consent (MAC) 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) in order to obtain MAC (Marine Area Consent) for the proposed works at Drummullagh, Omeath.



Typical works proposal Bellurgan site.

Schools Programme Projects

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

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

Ardee E.T.N.S.

A contractor has been appointed and works commenced on the 10th July last with mobilisation and site clearance. Drainage, foundations, and ground works are ongoing. Pathway around west side of building filled. Dead building, steel framework, floor slabs and rising blockwork ongoing. Tree removal for N52 access is now complete.

Progress to date:

- Blockwork to substructure level 100% complete.
- Final phase of slabs currently being put in place – to be completed 8/3
- Columns poured to beam level – 100%
- Trees to the front of the site have been removed.
- Rising blockwork ongoing
- Ancon windposts to SNU area in place

Proposed Works Forecast:

- Continue with rising blockwork
- Drainage



Blockwork and Columns commencement



Steel Portal Frame to General Purpose Hall

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.

SITE BUILD STATUS	
Site 14	NAVAN; Site Live
Site 7	VIRGINIA; Additional ESB requirements now complete. WEEV to Commission
Site 4	CARRICKMACROSS; Site Live
Site 8	BALLYBOFEY; All works complete, awaiting ESB connection
Site 3	DUNDALK; Site Live
Site 1	ARDEE; All works complete, awaiting ESB connection
Site 2	DROGHEDA ESB connection works complete. WEEV now commissioning unit.
Site 12	SLIGO Site Live
Site 11	MANORHAMILTON ESB connection works complete. WEEV now commissioning unit.
Site 6	CAVAN ESB connection works complete. WEEV now commissioning unit.
Site 10	Carrick-on-Shannon Site Live

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

Civil works are all complete and chargers installed.

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



On the 22nd February 2024, the Active Travel Team and their Design Consultants held a Public Consultation Day in Drogheda Library to allow key stakeholders and members of the public to meet and discuss proposals for Active Travel Infrastructure along the Collon Rd, North Cross Route Rd & Dublin Rd to Southgate in Drogheda.


Active Travel Projects

Project Name	Allocation 2024	Project Band (updated March 2024)	Current Phase	March 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 was completed in December 2023. 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 Q3 2024
Drogheda: R166 Termonfeckin Rd, design.	€100,000	Band 2 €5 - €20M	Phase 2 - Concept and Options	<p>Consultants RPS Group has commenced design and are currently developing options.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. GPS surveys have all been completed. 2. Traffic surveys, junction modelling & Archaeologist assessment have all been completed. <p>It is anticipated to have an on-line briefing on the proposed scheme to Drogheda Municipal District Councillors in April 2024 in advance of public consultations.</p>	Proposed Part 8 display 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 in November 2023 and submitted to the NTA for approval.</p> <p>The Active Travel Team and consultants RPS Group hosted an on-line briefing to Drogheda Municipal District Councillors on the 19th June 2023 to outline the proposals for the scheme. A further update was given to Drogheda and Bettystown / Laytown Municipal Districts on Tuesday 16th January 2024.</p>	Proposed Part 8 display Q3 2024

Project Name	Allocation 2024	Project Band (updated March 2024)	Current Phase	March 2024- Project update	Anticipated Part 8 Completions, subject to NTA approval of Gateways
				<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.</p>  <p><u>View of Collon Rd looking South East from Mell Roundabout</u></p>  <p><u>View of R166 looking East from Hill of Rath Roundabout</u></p>	
Drogheda: Rathmullan Road including Marley's (Pathfinder Project)	€150,000	Band 2 €5 - €20M	Phase 3 – Preliminary Design	<p>LCC received Gateway 2 Report from Design Consultants at start of October and report was submitted to the NTA on 27th October 2023.</p> <p>The Active Travel Team and Design Consultants have commenced to assess some elements in Phase 3 Preliminary Design.</p> <p>The Design Team are now considering all submissions received as part of the Non-statutory Public Consultation process to inform the Preliminary Design i.e. Phase 3 Gateway 3 Report.</p>	Proposed Part 8 display Q2 2024

Project Name	Allocation 2024	Project Band (updated March 2024)	Current Phase	March 2024- Project update	Anticipated Part 8 Completions, subject to NTA approval of Gateways
				 <p data-bbox="877 610 1461 634">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="800 643 1541 691">An update on the scheme was given to Drogheda and Bettystown / Laytown Municipal Districts on Tuesday 16th January 2024.</p> <p data-bbox="800 724 1541 805">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="800 837 1541 935">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="919 1237 1419 1261">View of Dublin Rd, Drogheda Rd looking South</p>	North Rd, Drogheda - Proposed Part 8 display Q2 2024 Dublin Rd, Drogheda - Proposed Part 8 display Q2 2024

Project Name	Allocation 2024	Project Band (updated March 2024)	Current Phase	March 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 3 Preliminary Design	<p>Gateway 2 Report was approved by the NTA in May 2023. Junction traffic modelling completed in July 2023. Gateway 3 Report (Preliminary Design Report) was submitted to the NTA on the 19th March 2024 and we are currently awaiting approval from the NTA to move into Phase 4 – Part 8 process.</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><u>View of Inner Relief Rd, Dundalk looking north from Hoey's Lane Roundabout</u></p>	Proposed Part 8 display early Q2 2024
Dundalk: Dublin Rd Xerox Junction to Ladywell Bridge	€150,000	Band 2 €5 - €20M	Phase 3 Preliminary Design	<p>LCC received Gateway 2 approval from the NTA on Monday 19th June 2023. Gateway 3 Report submitted to the NTA on the 14th March 2024.</p>  <p><u>View of Dublin Rd, Dundalk looking north at DKIT Entrance</u></p>	Proposed Part 8 display early Q2 2024

Project Name	Allocation 2024	Project Band (updated March 2024)	Current Phase	March 2024- Project update	Anticipated Part 8 Completions, subject to NTA approval of Gateways
Dundalk: Ard Easmuinn Rd to Train Station / Friary School Dundalk & Dundalk Bus Station to Rail Station.	€150,000		Phase 3 /4 Preliminary Design / Statutory Process	<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. Towards the end of 2023 we held a number of meetings with resident groups (x8) along the route. 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. 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><u>View of Ard Easmuinn Looking North from China Bridge</u></p>	Proposed Part 8 Q2 2024
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 synthesised. ATOS completed and GIS specialist has prepared new drawing and superimposed "Proposed Active Travel Links" as a layer to each of the ATOS Results maps.</p> <p>Dundalk Area Based Transport Assessment (ABTA) Consultants WS Atkins were appointed on the 27th July 2023. The ABTA process has commenced with Part 1 and Part 2 completed, i.e. baseline information & estimated Forecast Transport Demand.</p>	N/A

Project Name	Allocation 2024	Project Band (updated March 2024)	Current Phase	March 2024- Project update	Anticipated Part 8 Completions, subject to NTA approval of Gateways
				Option development is underway, and we are now assessing these options against the Transport Appraisal Framework This ABTA will form part of the Dundalk LAP.	
Hoey's Lane, Dundalk	€165,000	Band 1 €0 - €5M	Phase 1 - Scope and Purpose	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 1 - Scope and Purpose	Design Consultants (WSP Group) appointed in Mid July 2023 and have commenced Phase 2 and are reviewing Active Travel Options for scheme. LCC Active Travel Team have received draft Gateway 2 Reports (Options Development) from our consultants, and we are currently reviewing the options.	2024
Hill Street Bridge to Train Station, Dundalk	€235,000	Band 1 €0 - €5M	Phase 1 - Scope and Purpose	Design Consultants (WSP Group) appointed in Mid July 2023 and have commenced Phase 2 and are reviewing Active Travel Options for scheme. LCC Active Travel Team received Gateway 2 Reports (Options Development) from our consultants on the 16 th Oct 2023 and are currently reviewing the options. The Active Travel Team are engaging with Irish Rail / CIE with regards to possible route selections.	2024
R132 Dublin Road, (Rank Xerox Junction to Greengates)	€160,000	Band 1 €0 - €5M	Phase 1 - Scope and Purpose	Design Consultants (WSP Group) appointed in Mid July 2023 and have commenced Phase 2 and are reviewing Active Travel Options for scheme. LCC Active Travel Team have received Gateway 2 Reports (Options Development) from our consultants on the 25 th March 2024 and are currently reviewing the options.	2024
Moneymore, Active Travel elements	€100,000	Band 1 €0 - €5M	Phase 2 – Concept Proposals	Design Consultants (WSP Group) appointed in Mid July 2023 and have commenced Phase 2 and are reviewing Active Travel Options for scheme. LCC Active Travel Team received Gateway 2 Reports (Options Development) from our consultants on the 16 th Oct 2023 and are currently reviewing the options. LCC are liaising with relevant landowners on a preferred route.	N/A
Drogheda improvement of accessibility	€50,000	Band 1 €0 - €5M	Phase 3 – Preliminary Design	Various locations in the town of Drogheda- All works completed and we are anticipating a similar allocation in 2024.	N/A

Project Name	Allocation 2024	Project Band (updated March 2024)	Current Phase	March 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	Active Travel have conducted a Procurement Competition for a Design Consultant in Q4 2023, with a Letter of Intent issued to the preferred Design Team in Dec 2023. The Design Team were appointed in March 2024 and will be commencing Option Develop and Preliminary Design in the coming months. 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 Pleanala. LCC is preparing the requested response to submissions prior to receiving the planning report or any request for further information from An Bord Pleanala.

The planning application to An Bord Pleanala 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 Pleanala.

Full details of the proposed works are available here:

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



Artist impressions of Westgate project

St. Nicholas Quarter and Backlands Regeneration (Dundalk)

Phase 1

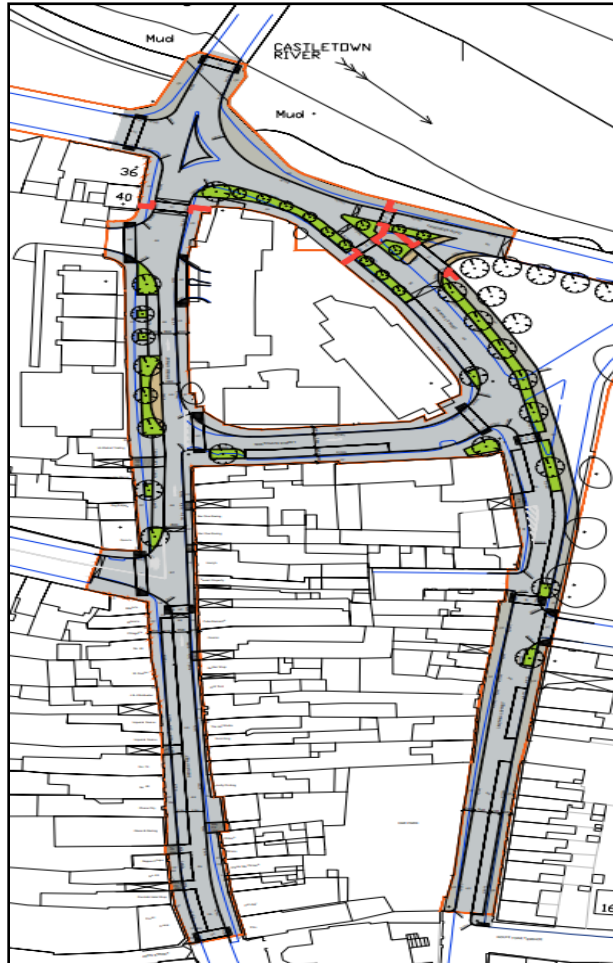
BDP Ltd are the Urban Design Team for Phase 1 of the St. Nicholas Quarter project. This project involves the enhancement of the public realm along Bridge Street, Linenhall Street and Peace Park. Part 8 approval of the project was received in April 2018.

Following Decision Gate 2 for funding approval by the URDF, as per the Public Spending Code, the tender for construction has now been advertised.

The tender process for St Nicholas Quarter Phase 1 has commenced. Phase 1 works have been published on etenders with the

return date of March 27th, 2024, for completed tenders.

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 is on public display in both the Mid Louth Civic Services Centre, Ardee and Ardee Library. It is also available to view on the Council's online Consultation Portal and the National Part 8 Portal. Submissions or observations can be made in writing or via the online National Portal before 5pm on Thursday 4th April 2024.

Living in Carlingford Visiting Carlingford



This project has successfully achieved planning permission through the Part 8 process at the July 2023 Dundalk Municipal District meeting. The Council have met with the RRDF section in the Department and discussed the next steps for the project. An application for category 1 funding for the project was submitted to the RRDF section in February 2024.

Omeath Placemaking Scheme

Glas Civil Engineering is continuing site and progressing the Omeath Placemaking project. Most of the utility work has been completed. Kerbing and pavement preparation has commenced and is progressing. Glas Civil Engineering will work through the works on an agreed phased basis. There is ongoing public engagement with local stakeholders to ensure any disruption is kept to a minimum. The proposed works are anticipated to be completed in Q2 2024. This scheme will enhance pedestrian accessibility and safety through the village with the creation of new crossing points, footpaths and widening of existing footpaths.



Concrete exposed aggregate footpath Installation

Ardee 2040

Turley Planning is in the process of completing the final design Audits, reports, and planning documents for Ardee 2040. 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 are required and have been commissioned for the Part 8 process for St Laurence's Gate Plaza.



Cross Departmental Projects

Play Spaces

The proposed play space in Termonfeckin has successfully achieved planning permission through the Part 8 process at the December Drogheda Municipal District meeting.

The water tower at Termonfeckin has been demolished above ground. Site clearance has continued, and the water tower foundations and associated pipework will be removed in the coming weeks with site clearance.

Site analysis in Termonfeckin is underway examining services and existing infrastructure. Assessment of the design and build tender for a playground contractor has been completed and appointment is being undertaken.

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.

Following this a launch event to promote the TCF Plan will be held in the Market House Dunleer.

Town Centre First Plan – Clogherhead

Clogherhead was officially announced as County Louth's 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.

The appointed urban design consultants who will help prepare the new Plan held their first meeting with members of the town team and are continuing work on the desk-based data gathering element of the project.

A public consultation event will be held in the coming weeks 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 & Climate Action
- Veterinary Services
- Human Resources

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

Tá cuig eochairfhreagrachta ag an Stiúrthóireacht seo:

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

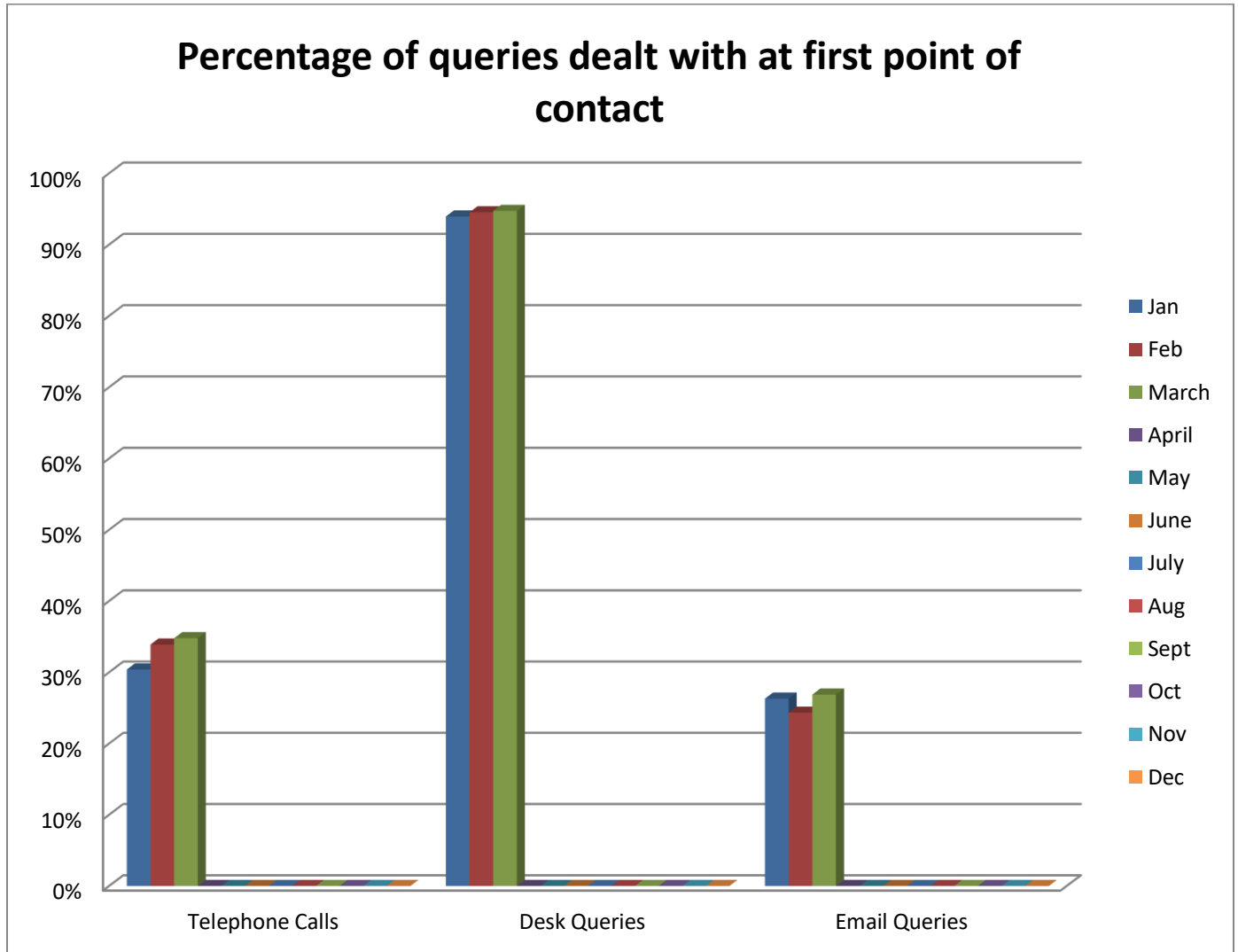


Joe McGuinness
Director of Service / Stiúrthóir

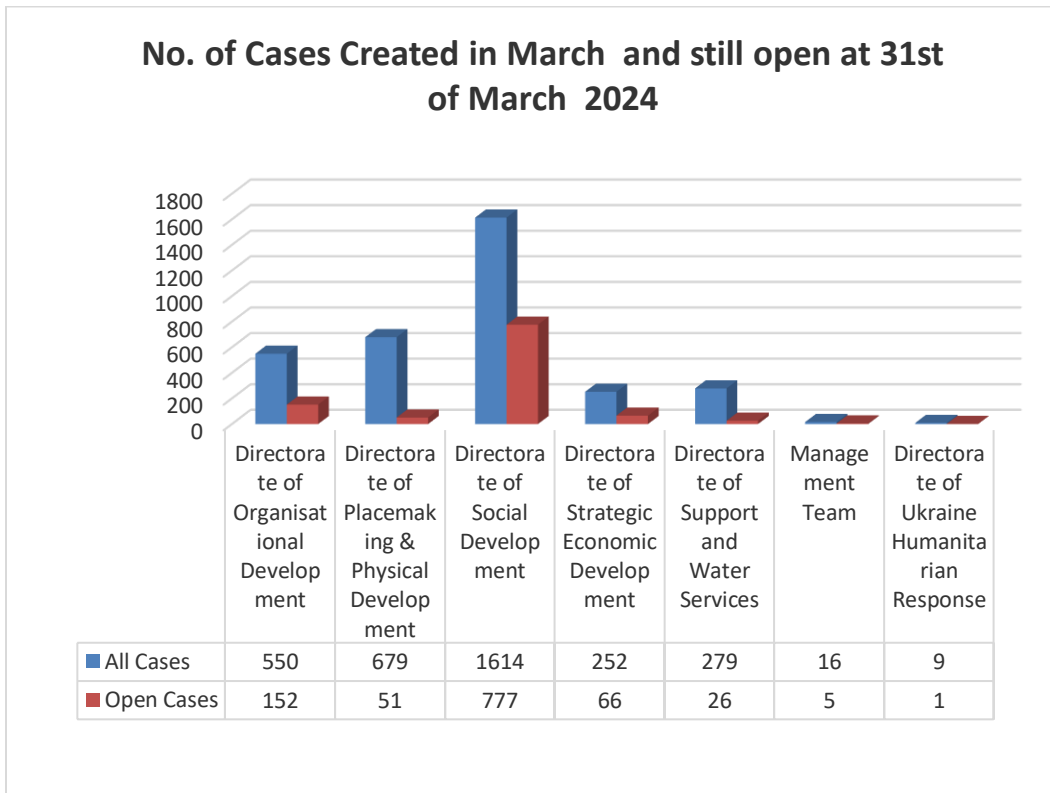
Corporate Services

Customer Services Report

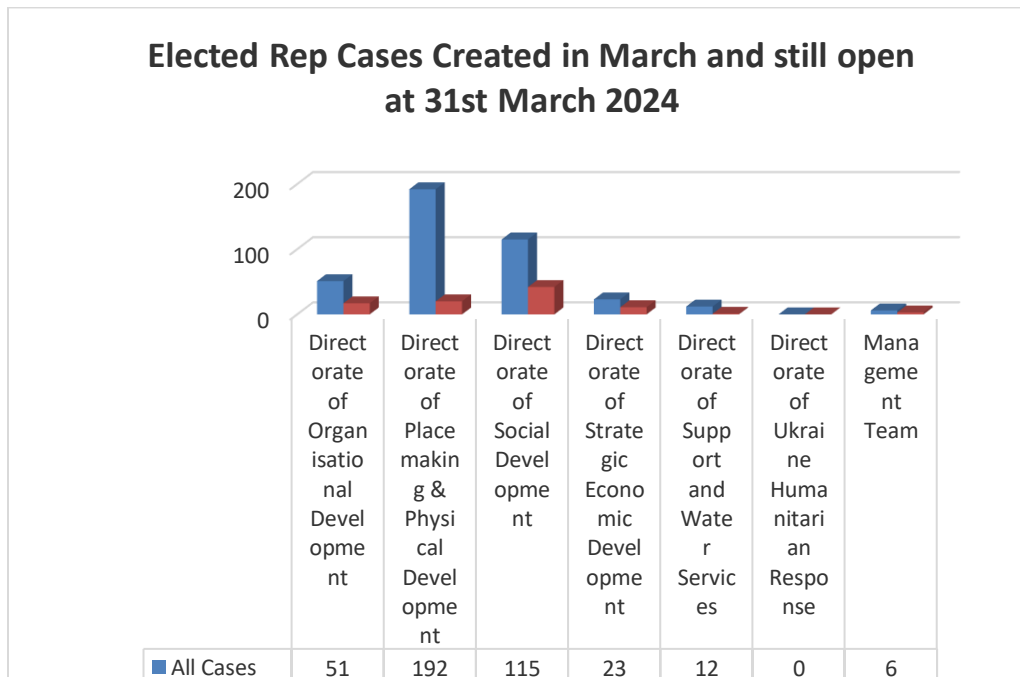
During the month of March 2024 Customer Services dealt with queries – 7564 calls, 1345 e-mails and 4701 counter queries.



There were 3,399 valid Sugar CRM cases recorded during March of which 1078 (31%) remain unresolved, broken down by directorate as follows:



During March 2024, 399 elected reps. cases were recorded on Sugar of which 94 (23.5%) remain unresolved broken down by Directorate as follows:



The table below illustrates activity in the redress area.

Request Received	2023 Total Jan-Mar	2024 Total Jan – Mar	2024 Mar ONLY
FOI	32	37	10
DSAR	1	3	2
Data Protection Request	0	7	2
AIE Requests	5	3	2
Ombudsman	5	5	0
Complaints	8	17	6

Electoral Register

A huge amount of work was done within the Franchise Section due to the Referenda which took place on the 8th March.

On the weeks leading up to the Referenda there were up to 600 applications being received daily, all of which had to be manually input by Corporate Services staff. There has been a consistently high rate of applications being received via www.checktheregister.ie throughout March. Hard copy applications are also being received which are being inputted daily on the Register in advance of the upcoming Local Elections, European Elections and Referendum due to take place in June.

A mailout was sent to over 2,500 Potential European electors where they must indicate to the Registration Authority if they wish to vote in the European Elections in Ireland or in their Member State Country. The closing date for receipt of completed applications is the 10th of April. Those persons who do not indicate their preference on or before this date will not be eligible to vote in the European Elections in Ireland.

Returned Polling Cards are also in the process of being recorded with a view to commence the deletion process in early April.

The Franchise Section is urging everyone to log onto www.checktheregister.ie to ensure their details are correct and to take note of their polling station.



Community Support

Local Enhancement Programme (LEP) 2024

At their March meeting the Louth Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) approved €184,641 of funding to 89 Local Community & Voluntary Groups in Louth through the Local Enhancement Programme 2024 (LEP).

The LEP is funded by the Department of Rural and Community Development and administered by the Local Community Development Committees (LCDCs) in each Local Authority area. The Programme supports groups, particularly in disadvantaged areas to carry out necessary repairs and improvements to their facilities, and/or to purchase equipment, such as tables and chairs, tools and signage, laptops and printers, lawnmowers, canopies and training equipment supporting them to continue to provide valuable services to the people in their area, and in the process strengthen the bonds that tie communities together.

The groups receiving funding will be announced by the Minister for Community and Rural Development in the coming weeks.

Africa Day 2024

Louth County Council accepted Expressions of Interest from migrant led community groups who were interested in hosting an event to celebrate Africa Day 2024. Expressions of Interest opened on 5th March 2024 and the closing date for submission of Expression of Interest Forms was 26th March 2024.

The applications submitted will be assessed and pending the allocation of funding from the Department of Foreign Affairs funding will be allocated to successful applicants.

Relove Fashion Competition

The Relove Fashion Competition is a platform aimed at fostering sustainable practices in the fashion industry, specifically targeting secondary students across 11 Local Authority Areas in the Eastern,

Midlands, and Dublin regions. Developed as a response to the environmental and social impacts associated with traditional fashion production, the competition urges participants to explore the manufacturing processes of their clothing and to explore innovative approaches to reuse, such as upcycling, repairs, alterations, and mending. The final of the Relove Fashion Competition was held at the Ballymun Rediscovery Centre on Thursday, March 21st and hosted by RTE's Lorraine Keane. Among the finalists were two entries from Louth, both representing the Bush Secondary School. The finalists from Bush Secondary School—Shannon Higgins, Ruby Higgins, Mia Ashby, Niamh Loughran, and Eva Mc Grane—were praised for their creative outfits, earning them a well-deserved spot in the final round of the competition. Congratulations.



Finalists from Bush Secondary school at The Relove competition.

Green School Assessments

The Community Support Team has successfully conducted green school assessments across primary and secondary schools in the county. As a result, sixteen schools have been recommended for receiving their green flag this year, indicating their commitment to environmental sustainability. An award ceremony has been organised for May 22nd at the Fairways Hotel in Dundalk to honour these schools. To ensure maximum attendance, it is planned to provide buses from Drogheda, Ardee, and Dundalk North.

Swap Shops for Tidy Towns groups

The community Support team in collaboration with Circular Fashion Ireland have developed a swap shop package for Tidy Town groups to encourage the reuse of clothing via sustainable action of swapping your clothes. It is envisaged that this may assist Tidy Towns groups gain additional marks under the category Sustainability– doing more with less’ and may also be relevant to the EPA Circular Economy special award, in the national Tidy Town Competition.

So far two Tidy Town groups have held their Swap shops with great success with more planned over the coming weeks.



Monasterboice Tidy Towns Swap Shop

Amenity Grants Scheme 2024

The Amenity Grant Scheme for 2024 has now closed (15th March), a significant number of applicants applied this year. Currently, the applications are being processed. The next step involves submitting these applications for approval by elected members at the Louth County Council May meeting.

Supplies to Primary Schools

A survey conducted among primary schools in Louth, with 19 schools responding, revealed various needs for supplies. Among the findings, 14 schools were provided with a tonne of topsoil, suggesting a demand for gardening and landscaping materials. Additionally, nine schools received recycling bins, reflecting an emphasis on sustainability and waste management. Seven schools were supplied with 600-liter water butts, indicating a focus on water conservation and gardening activities. Moreover, ten schools received compost bins, highlighting a commitment to environmental sustainability and organic waste management. Lastly, two schools received gardening tools, indicating a specific interest or need for equipment to support outdoor learning and gardening initiatives. These results underscore the diverse range of needs and interests among primary schools in Louth, with a significant emphasis on environmental sustainability and outdoor education initiatives.



Omeath Tidy Town Swap Shop



Rathcor National school receiving gardening tools from the community support team

Environment

It was agreed to build on the success of last year's environmental project at Rathscar Lake for 2024, with a particular emphasis on biodiversity.

disABILITY Louth

Further details to follow



Age Friendly Business Programme

Members of Louth Older People's Council ((OPC) and Age Friendly Louth Ambassador Gavin Duffy attended an age friendly morning at Drogheda Credit Union on 1st March 2024.

The event was to recognise Drogheda Credit Union as the latest business in Co Louth to attend the Age Friendly Business training programme and get Age Friendly accreditation.

Members of the public were invited to spin and win prizes, vouchers and goodie bags.



Gavin Duffy Louth Age Friendly Ambassador at Drogheda Credit Union

The aim of the event was also to raise awareness around the Age Friendly Business Programme and

PPN

Thematic Projects

Community Peer-to-Peer Mentoring

This project is an extension of 2023's mentoring project, aiming to share the vast wealth of knowledge and experience which currently exists across the community and voluntary sector of County Louth with other community groups within Louth PPN's membership.

Intercultural Sports

It was agreed to complete this project in 2024 with a sporting event in Drogheda

Youth

It was agreed at our February Secretariat Meeting that the Youth Thematic Project in 2024 will be to develop an information service for Youth members across the County. This information service will be accessed online and contain information on resources and events available for youths to access, such as sports, music, arts, etc alongside information videos and forms.

to encourage other businesses in Co Louth to sign up to the Age Friendly Business Training Programme taking place on 24th April in Drogheda and Dundalk.

If you would like to take part in the training or if you have any queries, please contact Susan at econdev@louthcoco.ie



Gavin Duffy & Orlaith Carmody with staff from Economic Development LCC & Age Friendly Team LCC



Spinning the Wheel



Gavin Duffy & Stella Connors

Assisted Decision Making Presentation

Age Friendly Louth hosted an Age Friendly Event in Drogheda on 6th March 2024.

Aine Flynn, Director of the Decision Support Service gave the attendees a presentation on Assisted Decision Making.

Aine outlined the rights and interests of people who may need support with decision making. She also outlined the role of the Decision Support Service which includes a registrar of decision support arrangements and supervision of decision supporters.

The presentation was followed by a Q&A session where attendees raised a number of queries and questions which Aine duly answered.



Aine Flynn, Decision Support Service

interested in attending please contact agefriendly@louthcoco.ie or phone 042 9324389



Age Friendly Program Manager Sinead McVerry & Aine Flynn Decision Support Service



Enjoying the presentation on Assisted Decision Making

Ageism Awareness Workshop

The presentation was followed by an ageism awareness workshop hosted by Geraldine Johnson from Boyne Communications.

Participants discussed their experiences of ageism, this included their experiences in daily life where they felt they were judged or discriminated against because of their age. Attendees shared their experiences in shops, online or with the system in general.

Participants were also asked to suggest a name for an ageism awareness campaign and each table came up with a different suggestion.

Finally the participants were asked to come up with several project ideas to challenge ageism and ideas such as intergenerational activities, linking older people with TY students, training and awareness raising events were discussed as a means of bringing all ages together.

Age Friendly Louth will be hosting a workshop on ageism in Dundalk/North Louth shortly, if you have ideas around combatting ageism please come along and share your thoughts and ideas. If you are



Discussing ageism and how to challenge it in Co Louth

Disability Awareness Information Event

Members of the Louth Age Friendly Team attended the Disability Louth Awareness Information event in Ardee Parish Centre on Thursday 21st March 2024.

The event included a selection of services and supports for people living with disabilities in Co Louth.

Louth Age Friendly Programme Manager Sinead McVerry gave a presentation on the recent accessibility audit the Louth Age Friendly Programme facilitated in Drogheda.

The accessibility audit had 18 participants with a range of ages and abilities who travelled along a section of the R132.

The entire route was just under 1km and participants looked at the built environment including footpaths, roadways, lighting, signage and environmental factors.

The comments, observations and recommendations from the participants have been collated into a report and will be presented as a submission to the Joint Drogheda Local Area Plan which is on public display at present.

Other speakers at the Disability Awareness event included Maeve Montgomery, Louth Dementia Advisor and Julie Duffy Sports Inclusion Disability Officer with Louth County Council.

Sports

Sports Facilities

Dundalk Sports Centre

Strength & Balance Talk: On Wednesday the 27th of March the Sports Centre held a nutrition talk for the older adults group. Bruna Pucci, the Director of Nutrition & Health Studies in Dundalk Institute of Technology came down and delivered a nutrition talk. Bruna covered topics such as the food pyramid, how to eat for a healthy brain, heart and bones, as well as some general lifestyle advice for healthy ageing. It was a welcome break from all the exercise and a fantastic opportunity for the group to hear from an expert like Bruna. A talk was held at both 10:30am and 11:30am and Bruna even stayed after for a Q&A with everyone. Thank you to Bruna and everyone who attended.



Strength & Balance Talk for Older Adults

Zumba

Zumba has been going from strength to Strength lately. It has seen many new members trying the class for the first time recently. It is a fantastic class for getting active and improving your cardiovascular fitness whilst simply having fun and a laugh. Feedback is that the instructor 'Iryna' creates a very fun and enjoyable atmosphere every class. The classes are held every Tuesday and Thursday from 6-7pm, costing €5 pay as you go! For more information, please contact reception on (042-9392987).



Pilates

Pilates started the year off with a new class schedule. The 8:15pm class was a 6 week trial. However, due to its success it has been extended for another 6 weeks. Classes cost €5 pay as you go, and they have been a massive success! It is a credit to the fantastic Instructor Maeve for the major success in the new year.

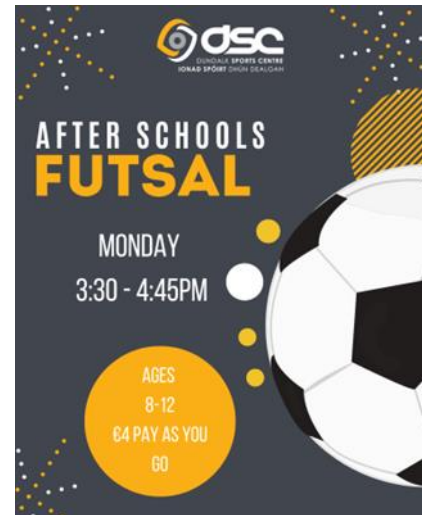


After Schools Activities

Monday to Wednesday the Sports Centre offers after school activities from 3:30pm to 4:45pm. Futsal is on Mondays with the sessions including a fun warm-up, followed by fundamental skill development such as passing, dribbling and shooting. Sessions will also include attacking/defending drills and 5v5 matches. Futsal is fantastic for children who want to try a new sport or for those who want to work on their football skills.

Tuesdays is basketball for ages 8 to 10 and Wednesdays is basketball for ages 6 to 8.

All the after-school activities cost €4 pay as you go!



Lourdes Athletic Stadium

Upgrade works at Lourdes Athletic Stadium

Phase one of the upgraded works at The Lourdes Stadium have made great progress with the new trackside storage room near completion and the initial stages of the new multi-use area having been started. The multi-use area will allow us to offer a wider variety of activities and facilities to our users.



Club Users

Lourdes Stadium is used weekly by the local clubs to facilitate their various age groups. A total of 8 clubs are currently using the facility, numerous using the track multiple times a week. Ranging from children all the way up to competitive athletes, the clubs bring a wide range of users to the facility.



Lourdes Athletic Stadium Bootcamp

March seen the commencement of the second LAS bootcamp of 2024 which began on the 12th of March. With participants beginning the six-week programme which includes a mixture of strength and cardio sessions.

Louth Local Sports Partnership

Coach & Volunteer Education Programmes 2024

Louth Local Sports Partnership facilitated the following coach education programmes during February and March 2024,

Safeguarding

Activity	Date	Venue
Safeguarding Level 1	February 1 st 2024	Online
Safeguarding Level 1	February 15 th 2024	Online
Safeguarding Level 1	February 29 th 2024	Online
Safeguarding Level 1	March 21 st 2024	Online

Autism in Sport

Activity	Date	Venue
Autism in Sport	February 21 st 2024	Online

For further information on volunteer and coach education workshops please email louthlsp@louthcoco.ie or telephone Louth Local Sports Partnership 042-9324318.

Louth LSP Sports Club & Community Group Physical Activity Participation Grant 2024 – Now Open

Louth Local Sports Partnership are pleased to announce a Sports Club & Community Group Physical Activity Participation Grant Scheme (€1,500 maximum per club/group) for New & Current local sports clubs and groups in Louth to increase and support participation in sporting activities in County Louth.

Louth Local Sports Partnership supports volunteers and communities to develop opportunities for people to participate in organised sport and physical activity. This small-scale grant aims to support initiatives to increase participation levels in Sport & Physical Activity. Proposed initiatives should attract new members or enhance ongoing participation. This grant also supports the set-up of new clubs & groups and assists existing clubs & groups with initiatives to increase participation. Maximum Grant Awarded – €1,500.

Closing Date Wednesday 10th April 2024 at 4pm

For further information on this funding opportunity please email louthlsp@louthcoco.ie or telephone Louth Local Sports Partnership 042-9324318.

Federation of Irish Sport Volunteers in Sport Awards

The Federation of Irish Sport recently announced the county recipients of the 2023 Volunteers in Sport Awards proudly supported by the National Network of 29 Local Sports Partnerships.

The County Louth award for 2023 has been awarded to Fintan Cooper of Glen Magic Football Club in Drogheda, a club that is focused on girls' football and open to all. The club was founded in 2014 and will celebrate its ten-year anniversary very soon.

Before Glen Magic Soccer, opportunities for girls to play football in the region did not exist. In 2017, Fintan helped to establish the Louth School Girls League, which launched in 2019 and immediately brought 300 girls into the sport.

By the end of 2023, participation rates for Girls Soccer in Louth were exponential, and Glen Magic is a key part of that success with over 100 girls & ladies actively involved in the club. Fintan continues to volunteer, to make sure participation and enjoyment in the sport continue to rise.

Louth Local Sports Partnership would like to extend our congratulations to Fintan and Glen Magic Soccer Club.



Odhran Doherty, Louth LSP & Fintan Cooper at The Federation of Irish Sport recently announced the county recipients of the 2023 Volunteers in Sport Awards

National Spring Clean 2024

Calling all local sports clubs and groups!

Get ready to roll up your sleeves because registrations have opened for the 25th edition of the #NationalSpringClean campaign!

Louth Local Sports Partnership is encouraging local sports clubs and groups to join #SpringClean24 to make a positive impact in your local area.

Register your club now for a FREE clean-up kit at www.nationalspringclean.org



Louth Local Sports Partnership is encouraging local sports clubs and groups to sign up and participate in this years National Spring Clean during the month of April.



Registration now open!



www.nationalspringclean.org

New Community Walking Group in Tullyallen

Louth Local Sports Partnership was delighted to support the Men's Shed group in Tullyallen to establish their weekly community walking programme in February. The men will now use the walking track in Glen Emmets GAA Club on a weekly basis to conduct their walks.

For further information on this programme please email louthlsp@louthcoco.ie or telephone Louth Local Sports Partnership 042-9324318.



Tullyallen Mens Shed Walking Group

Online Sports First Aid Course

Louth Local Sports Partnership will be hosting an online Sports First Aid course on Tuesday May 21st. The course covers the following areas:

Cardiac Emergencies Cardiac Arrest & Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (C.P.R), Automated External Defibrillator (A.E.D)

Respiratory Emergencies Asthma - Winding-Choking

Neurological Emergencies Concussion - Compression - Seizures – Unconsciousness

Musculoskeletal Emergencies - Fractures - Sprains - Strains - Spinal Injury

For further information on this course please email louthlsp@louthcoco.ie or telephone Louth Local Sports Partnership 042-9324318.



Louth Local Sports Partnership staff attend Sport Ireland Development Officer Network Meeting.

In March, Sport Inclusion Disability Officer, Julie Duffy, and Community Sports Development Officer Barry Casey joined their colleagues in other Local Sports Partnerships at a Development Officer Network meeting in the Curragh racecourse, Co. Kildare.

The meeting was an opportunity to network with other staff from the Local Sports Partnership network and to hear updates from Sport Ireland on the on-going development and expansion of the LSPs.



Sport Inclusion Disability Officer, Julie Duffy, and Community Sports Development Officer Barry Casey LSP Officer Network meeting in the Curragh racecourse, Co. Kildare.

Physical Activity Leaders Training in Drogheda

Louth Local Sports Partnership's Physical Activity Leaders training for activity leaders finished in March in Drogheda. The leaders attended nine workshops (five hours each) and engaged in both practical and theory work to ensure they receive all the knowledge and skills to lead their local group in physical activity.

The training was delivered by tutors from Age & Opportunity.

For further information on this programme please email louthlsp@louthcoco.ie or telephone Louth Local Sports Partnership 042-9324318.



Physical Activity Leaders Training in Drogheda

Huge numbers of men participating in Men on the Move

Our 12-week Men on the Move programmes in conjunction with Cooley Kickhams GAA and St Feichins GAA finished in March with huge numbers participating.

The Men on the Move Programme encourages men to get more active, have fun and improve their

fitness levels through twice weekly activity sessions. The programme offers men the chance to learn and take part in safe, effective exercises tailored to suit their needs.

Participants experience both physical and psychological benefits such as improved mood, increased energy, weight loss/control and improved mobility and greater functional fitness.

The twice weekly one-hour physical activity sessions focus on aerobic exercises for forty minutes and work on core strength and flexibility for twenty minutes.

For further information on programmes for men aged 35 and older please email louthlsp@louthcoco.ie or telephone Louth Local Sports Partnership 042-9324318.



Participants at the Men on the Move Programme

Try Sports Leadership Programme

Congratulations to the TY students from Scoil Ui Mhuiri Dunleer who completed our Try Sports Leadership programme in March.

The students explored topics such as leadership skills & behaviours, communication skills, developing a sports session, and inclusion. The students also delivered an activity session to their peer group.

For further information on the Try Sports Leadership programme please email louthlsp@louthcoco.ie or telephone Louth Local Sports Partnership 042-9324318.



Try Sports Leadership Programme

North East Disability Inclusion Sports Day

Louth Local Sports Partnership in conjunction with Monaghan Sports Partnership, Cavan Sports Partnership and Meath Local Sports Partnership were delighted to be part of our first North East collaboration multi sports day for the day services in each county.

There will be four events throughout the year, one taking place in each county. This first event took place in Meath at Claremont Stadium providing different sporting and physical activity opportunities for all the participants.

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



North East Disability Inclusion Sports Day

Louth LSP attend disABILITY Louth Disability Awareness morning in Ardee.

Louth Local Sports Partnership was delighted to attend and speak at the recent Disability Awareness event in Ardee hosted by disABILITY Louth. The event was an opportunity for people with disabilities to learn about local opportunities and services in Louth.

Our Sport Inclusion Disability Officer, Julie Duffy spoke about local opportunities in sport and physical activity while our placement student Sam Adebiji, hosted an information stand.



Louth LSP placement student Sam Adebiji at the disABILITY Louth Disability Awareness morning

Waste Management, Environment & Climate Action

Waste Enforcement

Summary of Complaints

A total of 24 complaints were received and investigated by the Environmental Compliance team in March 2024, some of which remain open pending further investigations.

Complaint Type	Received in March 2024	Total Received in 2024
Air & Noise	7	21
Farm	2	6
Waste/C&D	14	53
Water Quality	1	9

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, are currently working on 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 carries out site inspections at site of origin and/or site of destination to check material meets criteria.

Louth County Council have been notified of six 6 A27 notifications in 2024 so far.

Extended Producer Responsibility Initiatives

Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) schemes have been developed for several waste streams, based on the 'producer pays principle', whereby producers of specific products have responsibility to finance the collection and environmentally sound waste management of their products at the end of life.

In Ireland, EPR schemes are in place for the following waste streams:

- Packaging
- WEEE
- Batteries
- End-of-life vehicles (ELVs)
- Farm plastics and
- Tyres.

Louth County Council waste enforcement officers are currently undertaking inspections for 2024 to ensure compliance with the Regulations.



Annual Return Validations

All Waste Facility Permit (WFP) and Certificate of Registration (CoR) holders are required to submit their Annual Returns (AR) to the National Waste Collection Permit Office (NWCPO) via the online Eden Portal before the **28th February 2024**. The AR provides details on all waste collected / processed in the year 2023.

Litter Enforcement & Investigations

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

In March our wardens completed 95 investigations to date. Where evidence was found fixed penalty notices were issued accordingly under the Litter Pollution Act 1997. 22 fixed penalty notices have been issued this month.

Five-hour foot patrols recommenced this month with the first patrol scheduled for Drogheda. All Areas of the urban area were patrolled, notably the litter 'Hot Spots' such as Bessexwell Lane, Moneymore/St. Laurence's Park, Rathmullan Park/Ballsgrove and Marley's Lane. Some items of scattered waste and some bags of waste were removed from these locations. No evidence was found.

There was an emphasis on Dog Fouling especially in the St. Dominic's Park and Boyne Ramparts Walk area, 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 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 March and from the five-hour foot patrol in conducted in Drogheda. 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 4 Integrated Bulk Container’s (IBCs) dumped in March 2024 at a cost of €4,992.40 approx. The approximate total cost for this in 2024 so far is €14,978.20.

Environmental Regulation Bathing Water

In accordance with the Bathing Water regulations 2008 the Local authorities must report all identified bathing waters and bathing water monitoring calendars to the EPA before the 24th March annually. No new beaches in Louth were identified following the public participation held last year. The current designated beaches in Louth namely Templetown, Port, Clogherhead and Seapoint will be monitored in accordance with the bathing water regulations for the bathing season in 2024.

All information on beaches and water quality can be found on the EPA hosted website – www.beaches.ie



Climate Action

Louth County Council Climate Action Plan 2024 – 2029

The Climate Action Team have begun implementation of 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. An implementation plan is being drafted to provide a roadmap for this process. Meetings with each section within LCC will be held to identify ways to deliver each action and to work through any potential roadblocks.

The inaugural meeting of Louth County Council cross departmental climate action group - ‘The Green Team’ took place on 13th March. This team will begin the process of implementing the actions within the Climate Action Plan.

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 Training Programme 2024

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 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.

The Climate Action Team recently attended the Seed Day event as part of the Louth Urban Food Sanctuary at Creative Spark Dundalk. Climate Action Coordinator Rory Sheehan delivered a talk on climate action.

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.

At present, applications are being prepared and reviewed ahead of evaluation, which is expected to take place in April, prior to eligible applications being sent to the Department of Environment, Climate and Communications for final approval.

The Community Climate Action Officer also recently attended the PPN Plenary meeting which was held in Creative Spark Dundalk and delivered a presentation on the Community Climate Action Fund.

Biodiversity Action

The Biodiversity Officer has successfully secured €20,000 funding from the Heritage Council to support the review, consultation, and publication of an updated Local Biodiversity Action Plan for County Louth.



Funding has also been secured through the National Parks and Wildlife Service Local Biodiversity Action Fund for a 2-year project to repeat the 2014 County Louth Hedgerow Survey and promote the value of planting and maintaining hedgerows for biodiversity and raising awareness of the benefits of the traditional practice of hedge-laying.



Funding has been acquired to contribute to the delivery of a 2-year project to carry out an all-Ireland a survey of Irish Mayfly to better understand their conservation status and raise awareness of this important water quality indicator species.

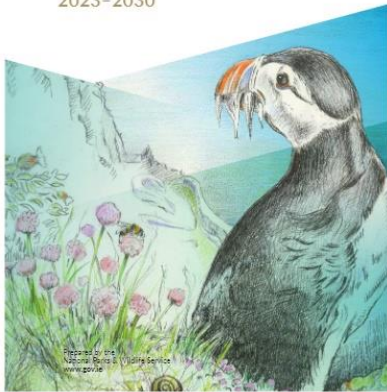
Funding has been secured for the continuation of Louth Nature Trust's Little Tern Conservancy Project at Baltray.



Baltray Beach



**Ireland's 4th National
Biodiversity Action Plan
2023-2030**



**ENERGY TEAM
SUSTAINABLE ENERGY**

Varcities H2020 Funded Project Update

Project partners met in Novo Mesto, Slovenia on Thursday 7th and Friday 8th of March for VARCITIES' 7th progress meeting. Representatives from the seven 'pilot' cities and 17 organisations that compose VARCITIES' consortium met physically to review the progress in the project over the past six months and discuss the implementation of the different Visionary Solutions developed in VARCITIES' seven Pilots.



The Varcities Project Partners at the Progress Meeting at Novo Mesto in March.

The first day focused on the co-implementation of the Visionary Solutions. Each Pilot city presented their progress to implement the solutions proposed. The project at Dundalk (Ireland), is expected to complete construction in the coming months. We are aiming to have most if not all our Visionary Solutions operational in the next six months.



Louth County Council's Ursula Conlon presenting progress for the Dundalk Pilot to Project Partners at the Progress Meeting at Novo Mesto in March.

To promote the knowledge exchange between VARCITIES' partners, project partner E2ARC (who coordinates the implementation of VARCITIES' Visionary Solutions across 7 Pilot sites) facilitated a **Workshop on the Lessons Learned from the Implementation Process**. Each Pilot team was invited to reflect on what worked best, what external factors impacted the process, what expertise was required, which internal processes they had to follow, etc. This self-reflection exercise will also inform the upcoming replication activities of VARCITIES.

The 8th Progress Meeting for project partners will involve a physical meeting over 2 days in September 2024 in Dundalk, Ireland.

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

<https://www.facebook.com/VARCITIES>

<https://twitter.com/VARCITIES1>

<https://www.instagram.com/eu.varcities/>

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCi2ogZP3ne_Tbl_xwf1-5jQ/videos?view=0

<https://www.linkedin.com/company/varcities-green-cities-are-healthier-cities/>

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

Louth County Council continues to participate in the Reduce your Use Campaign which is a joint initiative of SEAI and the Office of Public Works that supports public bodies to run a winter energy awareness campaign.

Saving energy can be as simple as switching off a light. Yet, it is something that maybe doesn't happen quite as often as it could at work or even at home. When a high number of small actions are combined they equate to a significant saving.



Labelling Light Switches promotes energy saving by reminding to shut-off.

World Water Day – 22nd March

World Water Day on the 22nd of March is an annual United Nations Observance that celebrates water and raises awareness of the 2 billion people currently living without access to safe water.

Even though water doesn't usually appear in short supply in Ireland, we have not been immune from water shortages and hosepipe bans in recent years.

Using less water also means you are saving energy and reducing carbon emissions.

Staff were given 'Water Wise Tips' to use less water.



Reminder that every drop of water matters for energy use.

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

Significant Energy Savings continue to be made in Council buildings. The Council's two largest energy user buildings (where the Council has control of the energy use) are County Hall and Dundalk Town Hall. They both participate in the Office of Public Work's Optimising Power @Work Programme (OP@W).

County Hall has achieved significant savings since joining the OP@W programme in 2016 with 26% energy savings made. Achievements are primarily due to staff behavioural change through regular energy awareness days, the roll-out of regular

individual Energy Advice clinics, Weekly Energy messages, newsletters and podcasts. We congratulate all Council staff for 'taking these messages on board' and participating in a proactive way to reduce the Council's energy emissions.

Physical improvement works such as the installation of a heat pump in County Hall, along with staff training in the Building Management System (BMSs) have also been a major contributor to closing the 2030 Gap to Target on the road towards achieving our 50% savings.

Progress towards 2030 target

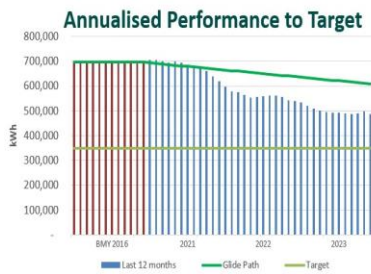
The 2030 target for energy savings is 50%, in line with the national strategy

Compared to the same period last year, energy savings have increased significantly

26% in Dec 2023
vs 20% in Dec 2022

This is due to the active role of the Energy Team in effectively managing staff engagement, the Building Management System (BMS) and heat pumps.

Gap to target: 24%



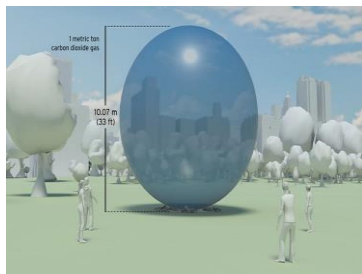
OPW Optimising Power @ York

Above shows Co. Halls progress towards 2030 Target

Dundalk Town Hall - Energy consumption at Dundalk Town Hall (compared to the Benchmark year 2014) has reduced by 40%, which equates to saving 77 tonnes of CO₂ emissions. Monetary savings have amounted to €24,388 compared to the benchmark year.

Combined CO₂ savings 2023

117 tonnes



OPW Optimising Power @ York

Graphic shows Combined Carbon Savings (ie for Co. Hall and Dundalk Town Hall) for 2023

Energy Efficiency Reporting & Performance SEAI Reporting Obligations

New M&R-2030

Louth County Council has reported its meter data in accordance with SEAI'S deadline of 22nd March 2024. This involved validating all Council Electricity Meter Point and Gas Point Reference Numbers (MPRNs and GPRNs) and remedying any errors which may occur during the meter download process to energy suppliers.

The next key deadline is 28th June 2024, "Final Deadline – Energy & Activity". This includes analysing the following two topics;

- **Energy Use:** The work will involve uploading energy types used and generates by the Council, and data to support that.
- **Activity Metric Values:** Reporting Louth County Councils activity metrics such as Population served, FTE Employees and Total useful floor area.

Energy Management System

On the 27th of March, Louth County Council will co-sign a Service Level Agreement with Wicklow County Council (the lead Council for the Mid East Energy Unit (MEEU)). Staff from Louth County Council, MEEU and the MEEU consultant, Codema recently met to discuss development of the service level agreement. That involves a regional approach to progressing the high number of energy improvement works required to comply with the 2030 efficiency and emissions targets. The SLA will enable Louth County Council to work with other Local Authorities in the region to maximise the efficiency of Council resources and to have access to 50% funding through the Pathfinder Programme by the Irish Government, administered by SEAI. An outcome of this discussion was that Local Authorities (LAs) in the MEEU partnership with ownership of Leisure Centres should take a proactive approach to implement carbon-reduction strategies and the partnership with SEAI would support that.

**Council Buildings Maintenance (Facilities)
Roof Repair Works – Tholsel, West Street,
Drogheda**

A new contractor, James Oliver Hearty and Sons of Co. Armagh has now commenced works to progress the repair and complete the works required. This engagement also enables the County Council to maximise the opportunity presented by the complex temporary works necessary. The extent of the works has therefore been widened to address other issues and improve maintenance of the building, insofar as reasonably possible within the confines of those present temporary works.

The widened extent of works primarily consist of the repair and remedial works to the lead cladding of the Dome Roof, including inspection of the structural support to the roof, repair of the Copper Ball, Weathervane & Clock faces. The external walls will also be re-pointed where access is available and cleaned. It is hoped to complete the works by the end of June to minimise the impact on the tourism season.



Photo shows lead work at the roof of Tholsel which will be replaced and the Copper Ball.



Photo shows the extensive temporary works necessary to access the roof at Tholsel



Photo shows one of several temporary works platforms necessary to access the roof at Tholsel



Photo shows an inscription at the roof of the Tholsel with dates of 1840 and 1877

Fair Street Civic Office - Weldons / former Motor Tax Office Refurbishment

Works have been completed in both Weldon's House and the former Motor Tax Office at the Civic Office, Fair St. Drogheda. This project established 24 new staff workstations within our existing Fair Street Offices. This capital investment by the Council facilitates the complete vacation of staff from the leased office space in the EIR Exchange Building at Patrick Street, Drogheda.



Veterinary Services

Food Safety Authority of Ireland (FSAI)

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

Louth County Council has carried out 27 inspections in the year to date, including ante-mortem and post-mortem inspections in the abattoir.

Control of Dogs

Control of Dogs Act 1986

Dogs through the pound March 2024

Total dogs through the pound	18
Seized under Section 16	0
Strays	9
Surrendered by owners	10
No dogs reclaimed by owners	8
No of dogs rehomed direct	6
No of dogs rehomed to welfare groups	7
No of dogs on hand in Pound at 31/03/2024	5

Dog Licences March 2024

No of Licences sold	413
Licence Checks:	
House calls	314
Section 16 Notices issued (request to produce licence within 10 days)	79
Fixed Penalty Notices	16

Control of Horses

Control of Horses Act 1996

Horses impounded. March 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 29/02/2024	0

Dog Breeding Establishments

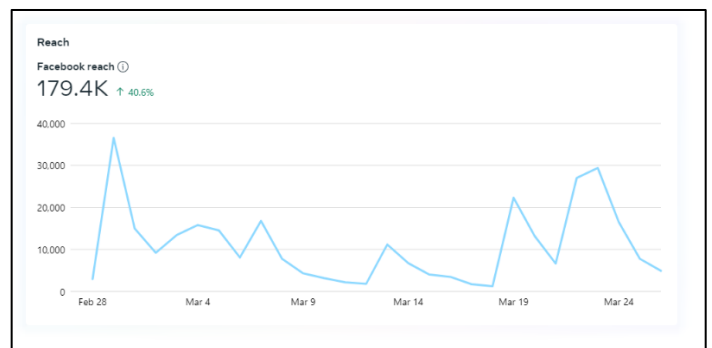
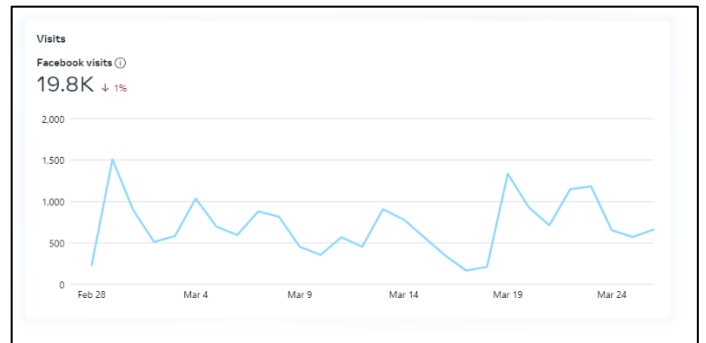
Dog Breeding Establishments Act 2010

Dog Breeding Establishments March 2024	
Total no of registered DBE's in Louth (as at 29/02/2024)	6
Hunt	1
Boarding Kennels	2
Training Kennels	1
Welfare	2



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

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 March 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 February – 19th March 2024 can be summarised as follows:

Table 1: Actions by Homeless Services

20 th February – 19 th March 2024	Ardee MD	Dundalk MD	Drogheda MD	Total
Offered advice, support (including fast tracking H.A. for Rent Supplement eligibility)	3	91	64	158
Placed in Temporary Emergency Accommodation	0	10	12	22
Refused Offer of Temporary Emergency Accommodation	0	1	3	4
Not eligible from outside county or non HRC	0	0	0	0
Total number of Person who presented as Homeless	3	102	79	184

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

Table 2: Gender

Gender	Total
Male	87
Female	95
Total	182

Table 3: Age Groups

Age Group	Total
18-24	37
25-44	92
45-64	50
65+	3
Total	182

Table 4: Accommodation Type

Accommodation Type	Total
Private Emergency Accommodation (PEA)	103
Supported Temporary Accommodation (STA)	79
Total unique individuals	182

Table 5 - Families with dependent children

	No. of families with dependent children	No. of Individual Adults	No. of Dependents
Individuals with dependent children	32	38	60
Couples with dependent children	13	29	41
Total	45	67	101

Table 6 - Housing First

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

Housing Allocations up to 22nd March 2024

District	LA	LA Refusal	AHB	AHB Refusal
Ardee	7	0	0	0
Drogheda	39	2	75	1
Dundalk	5	0	4	1
Total	51	2	79	2

Transfers

District	Number
Ardee	1
Dundalk	0
Drogheda	3
Total	4

Housing List

March 2024	Ardee	Drogheda	Dundalk	Total
Housing List	394	676	1072	2142
HAP Transfer List	292	1094	1647	3033
Total Housing List	686	1770	2719	5175

There are **293** applications on the transfer list (Non-HAP) within Social Housing including **49** applications from the Approved Housing Bodies.

Housing Assistance Payment

The total number of applications in HAP is **3,033**

Ardee Municipal District	Drogheda Borough District	Dundalk Municipal District	Total
292	1094	1647	3033

Rent Management

The total number currently paying rent by Household Budget is 932.

Current Rents Arrears at 26 th March 2024	No of Accounts	Value
Rents between 4-6 weeks old	218	€83,878
Rents between 7-12 weeks old	176	€126,573
Rents greater than 12 weeks old	913	€3,092,673
TOTAL	1307	€3,303,124

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 March 2024:

Letter Type	Month/Year	Number Issued
1st Reminder	March 2024	64
2 nd Reminder	March 2024	17
Final Reminder	March 2024	7
Total issued		88

Customers that fall into arrears may enter into a payment plan for full repayment over an agreed period of time. **24** new payment plans commenced in March 2024 (up to and including 26th March).

Vacant Properties

Vacant Properties on 21 st March 2024	Total
Ardee Municipal District	15
Dundalk Municipal District	15
Drogheda Municipal Borough District	31
Subtotal (re-lets) Vacant Properties	61
CPO units not yet ready for occupation (All County)	3
Total Number of Properties (Relets & CPO)	64

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

Maintenance Calls

Maintenance	20 th February – 21 st March 2024	Total (YTD)
No. of Maintenance Requests Received	417	1,456
No. of Maintenance Requests Completed	322	1,190
No. of Maintenance Requests in Progress	78	N/A
No. of Maintenance Requests Refused	17	57

Energy Efficiency Retrofit Program (EERP)

The 2024 EERP allocation for Louth, as confirmed by the DHLGH, is 140 units. We are currently finalising the details of our programme in line with the confirmed allocation and the programme criteria.

Private Rental Inspections

	20 th February – 21 st March 2024	Total (YTD)
Properties inspected monthly	140	355
Advisory Letters issued	83	195
Improvement Notices issued	3	5
Private Inspections	3	3
HAP Inspections	116	237
RAS Inspections	0	0
AHB Inspections	13	89
Private Re-Inspections	0	0
HAP Re-Inspections	6	18
RAS Re-Inspections	0	0
AHB Re-Inspections	0	0
Inspections from Complaints	2	9
Properties made Compliant	1	1

Tenancy Engagement

1 st March 2024 to 21 st March, 2024	Drogheda	Ardee	Dundalk	Monthly Total	Yearly Total
No. Tenants who attended Pre-tenancy training	33	5	8	46	98
Post-tenancy inspections	6	0	18	24	71
Tenancy Investigation Visits	13	1	18	32	90

Anti-Social Behaviour

1 st March 2024 to 21 st March, 2024	Drogheda	Ardee	Dundalk	Monthly	Yearly
ASB Cases* Received	10	4	13	27	57
ASB cases Ongoing	6	3	13	22	-
ASB cases complete	10	1	11	22	35

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

Notifications Issued for Tenancy Breaches

1 st March 2024 to 21 st March 2024	Drogheda	Ardee	Dundalk	Monthly	Yearly
Verbal Warnings	2	0	5	7	10
Written Warnings	1	0	0	1	1
Tenancy Notifications	0	0	1	1	4

Tenancy Warnings Housing Act, 2014	1	0	1	0	2
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Repair and Lease

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

Units	Address	Beds	Notes
1	Dundalk	2	Finished and inspected. Awaiting final documents to be submitted.
1	Dundalk	2	Finished and 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 ten properties at Cois Farraige, Blackrock. The closing date of the scheme was extended to the 7th March 2024. There are 26 fully submitted applications with eight deemed eligible to proceed to letter of offer stage. Other discussions are ongoing with other developers for Affordable units in Dundalk and Drogheda.

Mortgage to Rent (MTR) March 2024

Active MTR Applications Total	24
AHB MTR Applications Active	16
AHB MTR completed 2024	0
Private MTR Applications Active	6
Private MTR completed 2024	4
MTR Application Awaiting Purchaser	2

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

Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant March 2024

Applications Submitted:	153
Approved:	90
Rejected:	6
Withdrawn	8
Other (FI Requests, FirstSite Inspections)	49
Funding Issued to Applicant	4
Rental Applications	40
Principal Private Residence	113

Local Authority Home Loans

2024 Budget Allocation	€7,230,000
LAHL Approvals at 22/03/2024	€552,230
Breakdown of LAHL applications processed at the 22nd March, 2024	
Total Number of Applications at 22/03/2024	13
LAHL carried over from 2023	6
Invalid/Returned	2
Approved	5
Declined	5
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 to quit,

some of whom may be in receipt of HAP. The Council is purchasing properties for applicants who are homeless and/or have a disability. In March the Council purchased five properties.



Recently acquired properties in Ardee and Dundalk

Grant Assistance to the Elderly and Disabled

Grants are available for adaptations to a person's home. Qualifying works are those that are reasonably necessary for the purposes of rendering a house more suitable for the accommodation of a person with a disability who is a member of the household.

Grants are also available towards necessary repairs or improvements to the home for persons aged 66 and above, who are living in poor housing conditions.

All grants are assessed based on the household income and limits apply. Priority is given where adaptations are needed to help the person leave hospital/residential care.

Status	HAG	MAG	HOP	Month	YTD
Grants Approved 2023	159	27	117	-	303
Applications on Hand 21/03/2024	154	14	372	-	540
Grants Approved 01/03/2024 to 21/03/2024	7	2	7	16	35



New door and window installed in Louth Village in March, assisted with a HOPS grant



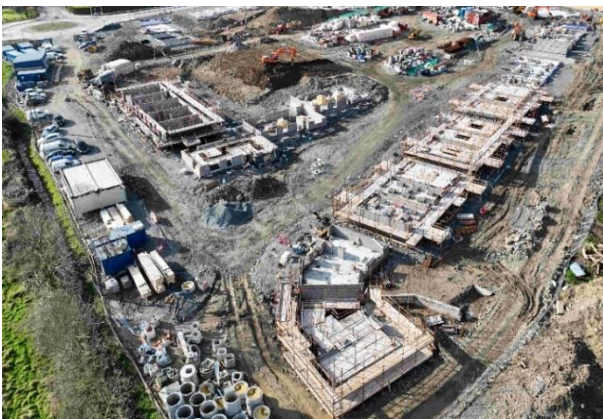
New Housing Scheme under construction at Boice Court, Drogheda.



Bathroom Adaptation completed in March in Ardee, assisted with a Housing Adaptation Grant

SHIP Delivery: Local Authority Build Sites

Construction works on the new Local Authority housing schemes at Mount Avenue, Dundalk (93 units) and Boice Court Mell, Drogheda (72 units) are progressing.



New Housing Scheme under construction at Mount Avenue, 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 Apt, 2 * 2 bed, 2 * 3 bed
Point Road, Dundalk	1/1	49	SHIP Accelerated Delivery, Stage 1 Approved	31/12/2026	To be confirmed
Dunleer (Ravel Grange)	1/1	70	SHIP Accelerated Delivery, Stage 2 Approved	31/12/2026	To be confirmed
Ballymakenny Road, Drogheda - West	1/1	97	SHIP Accelerated Delivery, Stage 2 Approved	31/12/2026	To be confirmed
Mullavalley, Louth Village	1/1	58	SHIP Accelerated Delivery, Stage 2 Approved	31/12/2026	To be confirmed

Greenhills, Drogheda	1/1	20	SHIP Accelerated Delivery, Stage 1 Approved	31/12/2026	To be confirmed
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	31/03/2024	1 * 4 bed
School Lane, Dunleer - Infill	1/1	1	On-site	31/03/2024	1 * 3 bed
Ballymakenny Road - East Site, Drogheda	1/1	100	PPP Bundle 5 Funding Approved	30/06/2026	To be confirmed
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. /	1/1	20	On-site	31/12/2024	11 * 3 bed, 3 * 3 bed Apt, 6 * 2 bed Apt.

Stoneylane, Ardee, Co. Louth					
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
Newtown Wood, Drogheda	5/5	5	On-site	31/03/2024	1 * 3 bed, 4 * 2 bed
Potters Field, Cappocks Green, Ardee, Co. Louth	2/3	8	On-site	30/09/24	7 * 3 bed, 1 * 2 bed
Potters 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	31/03/24	2 * 4 bed, 8 * 3 bed

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	03/09/2024	Five * 2 Bed house, One * 2 Bed ambulant unit, One * 4 Bed Communal unit
Barrack Street, Dundalk, Co Louth	Dublin Simon	30	Stage 2 Approved	15/03/2026	Nineteen * 1 Bed apartments Three * accessible units Eight * Studio apartments
St John's Home, Peters Street, Drogheda	North & East	4	Stage 3 Approved	30/03/2026	Four * 1 Bed units
Highfield, Newry Road, Dundalk, Co Louth	Women's Aid Dundalk	12	Stage 1 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	30/04/2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 26 Three Bed Houses • 11 2 bed Houses
Newtown View, Marsh Road, Drogheda Respond Housing	3/3	56	51/5	On site	31/05/2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 40 Three Bed Houses • 16 Two Bed Houses
Tullybrook, Drogheda Cluid Housing	3/3	39	23/16	On site	30/03/2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 15 Two Bed Apartments • 24 Three Bed Apartment

Tullybrook, Drogheda Cluid Housing	2/3	28		On site	Delivered	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 14 Two Bed House • 14 Three bed House
Racecourse Meadows, Dundalk Tuath	4/4	12		On Site	31/03/2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 12 Three Bed houses
Dublin Road Dundalk Respond	2/3	24	22/2	On site	31/05/2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 11 One Bed Apt • 11 Two Bed Apt • 2 Three Bed apt
Dublin Road Dundalk Respond	3/3	16	14/2	On Site	31/05/2024	<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 Apts
Friary Place, Mill Lane Drogheda Tuath	1/1	49	44/5	On-Site	19/07/2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 27 One Bed Apts • 22 Two Bed Apts
Connollys Field Dundalk Fold Housing	1/2	30	19/11	On- Site	29/09/2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 20 One Bed Apts • 10 Two Bed Apts
Connollys 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

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.

Archive Transfers

Several sizeable transfers of records that are now archival have been received in recent months. These include Drogheda engineering drawings, fire records and valuation archives. These archives require sorting, cataloguing and boxing before they can be made available for access.

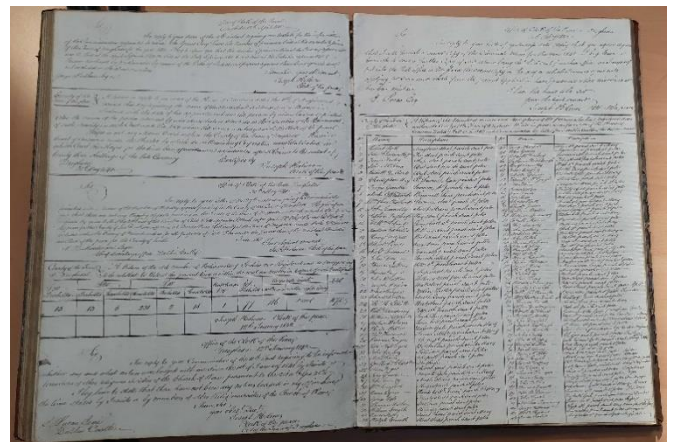
Catalogue Upgrade

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, cloud-based, system with enhanced features and improved speed. Preparation work for the upgrade is ongoing and a copy of the system has been sent to the software company to commence the upgrade process.

Donating Archives

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

Research Enquiries



Research Enquiries: Book of returns to parliament (1830-68) of Drogheda Corporation that was used recently. Page on right shows return of persons holding arms.

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

Right to Read



World Book Day

Louth Library Service celebrated World Book Day with a variety of events around the county. The Schools Van visited Philipstown Early Childcare for an exciting story-time, while Vanessa's Little Legends Early Learning Centre called in to Ardee Library.



Pupils from St Oliver Plunkett National School enjoying story-time for World Book Day in Dundalk Library.

Dundalk Library hosted a class from St Oliver Plunkett National School, Blackrock for storytelling and monster doodles before welcoming families for a public story-time that afternoon. Pupils from St Oliver's National School visited Drogheda Library for World Book Day stories.



World Book Day story-time with St Oliver's National School in Drogheda Library.

Executive Librarian Leona Burgess was invited to De La Salle College Dundalk, where 23 students from De La Salle College and St Louis Secondary School took part in a Dragon's Den Book Competition. The students were tasked with presenting a book to a panel of judges. All students received a certificate of participation for their work.



Mr Tormey, De La Salle College; Executive Librarian Leona Burgess; De La Salle's School Librarian Angela McGinn; and Ms Boylan, St Louis Secondary School.

Seachtain na Gaeilge

Chun Seachtain na Gaeilge a cheiliúradh, bhaineamar úsáid as ár gcuid Gaeilge le taispeántais agus eachtraí.

To celebrate Seachtain na Gaeilge, we used our Irish through displays and events. Dundalk, Drogheda and Ardee Libraries hosted interactive bilingual Irish Centenary History talks for schools with author Carmel Kelly. Later in March, students got the opportunity to enjoy a bilingual storytelling session with Roisin Murphy.



Author Carmel Kelly with the 5th and 6th Class pupils from Dún Dealgan NS.

Programmes and Initiatives

Activator Poles Walking Fitness Programme

Participants are all set for a new six-week Activator Pole Walking Workshop for older adults in Dundalk Library. Run in conjunction with Louth Local Sports Partnership, the group will meet with a trainer in Dundalk Library at the beginning of each session and then continue to St Helena's Park for a scheduled walk, followed by refreshments in the library. The trainer will show how to use the Activator Poles for different walking styles and exercises, as well as offering advice on how to improve fitness and balance. Once the six-week programme ends, the Activator Poles will be available to borrow from Dundalk Library.

Creative Ireland Family Art Workshop with Susan Farrelly

With support from Creative Ireland, Louth Library Service has been working with artist Susan Farrelly, Abbey Art Studios, on an installation for Drogheda Library. Susan facilitated two workshops in March, which saw local children creating a colourful piece of 3D wall art for the Children's Section in the library.



Some of the artwork was created by the children in Drogheda Library.

Adult Events

Irish Astronomy Week

Drogheda Library welcomed Seán Ó'Cearrúlláin from Boyne Valley Astronomical Society to give a talk on Astronomy as a Hobby. The talk was well attended and enjoyed by all.



Seán Ó'Cearrúlláin from Boyne Valley Astronomical Society.

Alzheimer's Cafés

The guest speaker for Drogheda's Alzheimer's Memory Café on March 12 was John Stillman from ALONE, who spoke about the services they provide, and took questions from attendees. The next meeting will take place in Drogheda Library on Tuesday, April 9.



Dementia Advisor Maeve Montgomery pictured with John Stillman from ALONE and Ann Shortt from Tredagh Lodge Drogheda Day Care Centre.

In Dundalk, the March meeting of the Alzheimer's Café saw local author Susan McGovern speak of her firsthand experience supporting family members with dementia, before reading a story from her book *"Thanks for the Memories"*.

Chris Stewart from Vision Ireland spoke about technology which is available for people with little or no vision, and Maeve Montgomery, Dementia Advisor, was on hand throughout the morning to offer expert advice. The next Dundalk Alzheimer's Café takes place on Tuesday, April 16 at 11am. All are welcome to attend.

International Women's Day Art Workshop

To mark International Women's Day, artist Susan Farrelly facilitated a mixed media art workshop for adults in Dundalk and Drogheda Libraries. Both events inspired some great artwork celebrating women.



Drawings celebrating International Women's Day.

Age Action Computer Classes

New computer classes have commenced in Drogheda Library. The course offers free one-to-one tuition for people over the age of 55 who have little or no computer experience. To enquire, please email gettingstarted@ageaction.ie

Creative Writing

If you are looking to take up a new skill in 2024 or want to become more confident in your writings, library Creative Writing groups are back in session.

Ardee Library: The Vere Foster Writers Group meets every second Friday.

Drogheda Library: Meeting on the first and third Tuesday of every month from 2.30pm-4pm.

Film Screenings at Ardee Library

Film screenings have continued throughout March in Ardee Library. Film fans are invited along every Tuesday at 2:15pm to watch that week's movie pick. All are welcome to attend, and no booking is required.

Beginners Conversational Irish

Ardee Library's Beginners Conversational Irish group continues to meet every Thursday morning from 10.30am. No booking is required. This peer-led learning group is suitable for those with a cúpla focal and a desire to speak as Gaeilge. All are welcome. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Children's and Family Events

St Patrick's Day Crafts

We found gold at the end of the rainbow with a wonderful St Patrick's Day craft session in Drogheda Library. Children created their very own leprechauns and pots of gold in this staff-led workshop.



St Patrick's Day crafting in Drogheda Library.

Ardee Library Board Game Club

The Board Game Club met throughout the month of March. Are you interested in honing your Chess skills? Maybe Scrabble is more your style? Join us to enjoy an unplugged afternoon of games every Saturday afternoon at 2:15pm.

Regular Events

Throughout March, we enjoyed our weekly Toddler Group meetings, our monthly Baby Book Clubs and some very special story-times for all ages! Our regular events will continue throughout 2024 at the following times:

Baby Book Club

Drogheda: The first Tuesday of each month at 10:30am

Dundalk: The first Wednesday of each month at 10:30am

Parent and Toddler Group

Ardee Library: Every Wednesday from 10:30am – 12:30pm

Drogheda Library: Every Thursday from 10am – 12pm

Dundalk Library: Every Thursday from 10am – 12pm

eServices – Press Reader



The Irish Independent, The Argus and The Drogheda Independent are now available to access for free on Press Reader with your library card!. To access Press Reader, visit <https://www.pressreader.com/catalog>, select 'sign in', select 'library or group' and then enter 'Louth' and your library card number and PIN. You can also download the Press Reader app on mobile and tablet devices.

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

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

Arts

Arts Grants

The annual Arts Grants closed for application in February and were assessed by an expert panel, including an independent person from outside of Louth who is experienced in the arts sector. The number of applications as always was extremely high, with the following applications made:

Arts Grants: 54 applications totaling €126,911.

Artist Bursaries: 34 applications for Emerging and Established Artist bursaries.

School Music Instrument Purchase Scheme: 5 applications.

DLI Summer School Residency: 3 applications.

Tyrone Guthrie Residency: 8 applications.

All applicants were notified of the outcome at the end of March. A list of all successful applicants will be listed on the Create Louth website: <https://createlouth.ie/funding/>

Highlanes Gallery

Yoga with Grá

Yoga with Grá, which began on March 5th, will run until April 9th. This series of relaxation and mindfulness sessions in the serene environment of the gallery has proved successful, encouraging strong mind/body connections among the participants.

Drogheda Male Voice Choir

The Drogheda Male Voice Choir held a wonderful afternoon of music in The Highlane's Gallery as part of the St Patrick's Day celebrations. There was a huge turnout for the choir as they filled the ambient setting of the gallery with their wonderful voices, enthraling all who came to hear them.



The Drogheda Male Voice Choir.

Empathy Lab exhibition

Colin Martin's Empathy Lab exhibition opened on March 2nd and will run until mid-April. The title comes from a dedicated area in Facebook's EU Headquarters in Dublin, where employees can express empathy to various causes using technology. The work explores the prosthetic relationship between humans and technology. For details see <https://highlanes.ie/exhibition/colin-martin-empathy-lab/?back=ago>

Oriel Centre

Frank and Walters

Oriel Centre opened its doors for the long-awaited return of Frank and Walters on Saturday, March 23rd. Originally finding fame in the 1990s indie scene, the band have recently found fame again thanks to the cult comedy show 'The Young Offenders'. As well as performing a fantastic acoustic set, they also shared some stories behind the songs and anecdotes from the crazy world of showbiz.

Droichead Arts Centre

Night Moves

Funded by the Night Time Economy fund, the Night Moves series continued in March with a sold out event featuring The Cacks with Jane Willow on March 22. Then on March 29th, electronic virtuoso Ogy Collins appeared in the round in the Droichead Gallery Space with two sessions – the first, a yoga

session with Elaine Tobin, and the second, an immersive deep listening experience.

Night Moves is an innovative and dynamic programme designed to provide new and engaging night time cultural experiences across Drogheda and East Meath.

An Táin Arts Centre

SHED

'SHED' by Bridge Street Studios closed on March 30th following a fantastic five-week run in the Basement Gallery. Hosting a series of successful Lunchtime Talks, the artists had a great turnout of viewers over the course of their exhibition. Bridge Street Studios have been a fixture of the Dundalk landscape for nearly 20 years and their exhibitions are always a delight for any art lover.

Port

'Port' is a new song cycle by contemporary Drogheda folk artist, SJ McArdle. The collection is full of timeless songs encapsulating love, work and story.



The Cover for SJ McArdle's album 'Port'.

Born out of year-long research and writing project around the history of Drogheda's ancient port, the album was part-funded by the Arts Office through their annual grant scheme. SJ was also supported during his tenure as Artist in Association with Droichead Arts Centre in 2019. The song cycle was well received and will continue to tour various venues, supported by the Art Council's touring fund.

Creative Ireland

Creative Climate

A Creative Climate project, the Louth Urban Food Sanctuary held its SEED Day on March 2nd, where the initial seeds were planted for some of the trial produce. Gathering at the DIG garden in Creative Spark, Roisin Cotter spoke about growing ginger, turmeric and heritage peas.



More than 60 people attended Seed Day on March 2nd at Creative Spark.

There were over 60 in attendance and each person received a seed pack to take home with them. The trial growers who are taking part in the project also received pots for taking samples of their soil for analysis before and after the project. For details of all produce grown and how to get in touch to take part, visit <https://louthurbanfoodsantuary.com/>, where you can also find videos on our key project team and a tutorial on seed saving and planting garlic. You can also email creativeireland@louthcoco.ie to find out more about the project.

Grants

The Creative Ireland Grants closed for application on February 7th, with assessments being carried out before the end of the month. Under Strand 1 funding we had 32 applications totaling €134,000, while Strand 2 saw 17 applications totaling €232,000. With a total grant fund available of approximately €100,000, the competition was difficult. Applicants

were notified of the outcome of their applications at the end of March.

Cruinniú na nÓg

Planning for this year's Cruinniú na nÓg, set to take place on Saturday, June 15th, is underway. Following recent 'Voice of the Child' consultation sessions which were held between December and February, a report was collated by Melissa Hayes, the Creative Community Engagement Officer. The feedback on these consultations will inform our programming and planning for this year and the events will be announced in early May on the Cruinniú website. Alongside our core funding of €30,000 for Cruinniú na nÓg, we have also been allocated an additional €8,000 for events in the county under the Night Time Economy Scheme. The events will target young adults between the ages of 14 and 18, and they will run from 4pm on Cruinniú day. The Creative Ireland team in Louth are working with the NTE advisor in Drogheda and local youth groups across the county on identifying a range of events that will be suitable under the guidelines provided by Creative Ireland.

Live Music in Residential Healthcare Settings

Louth has successfully supported Meath in an application for funding under the Live Music in Residential Healthcare Settings scheme. Partnering with Music and Health Ireland, a series of live music events will be provided in residential settings in both Meath and Louth over the coming months to improve health and wellbeing among residents and staff. Further details will be announced in the coming weeks when the settings and musicians are confirmed.

Creative Schools

The 2024-2025 Arts Council of Ireland Creative Schools fund is now open. Successful schools will be provided with a package of support that includes: working with a Creative Associate; training and networking to support the creation of a Creative School Plan; and seed funding to help them implement their plan. For full details on the scheme

and how schools can apply see <https://www.artscouncil.ie/creative-schools/>

Other Funding Opportunities

There are plenty of funding opportunities on offer from the Arts Council. Details can be found on their funding page: <https://www.artscouncil.ie/available-funding/>

Museum



St Brigid, a figure associated with creativity, dairying and beekeeping, looking resplendent in a floral dress of paper.

St Brigid – the Exhibition

Considering the interest and popularity of the St Brigid Festival we decided to continue the exhibition initially opened in February to run to Easter. This gave the opportunity for plenty more visitors to see and appreciate the exhibition. As has previously been acknowledged, the centrepiece of the display was a spectacular artistic creation comprising a dress made from paper flowers created by:

- Gaelscoil Dhún Dealgan
- Kilcurry NS
- Redeemer Girls' NS
- Faughart CNS
- Muchgrange NS
- Scoil Eoin Báiste.

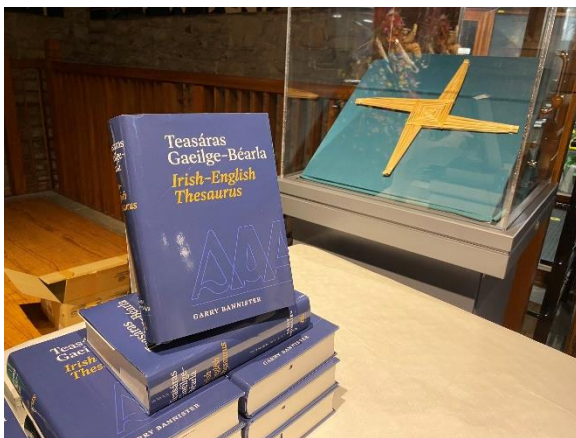
Seachtain na Gaeilge

To mark Seachtain na Gaeilge the Museum hosted the Armagh Rhymers' production of 'Fionn and Una', which showcased elements of Irish folklore and traditional music. As has always been the case, the workshops proved to be exceptionally popular with both participants and attending schools enjoying the festivities.



The story of Fionn and Una with the Armagh Rhymers.

30th Anniversary

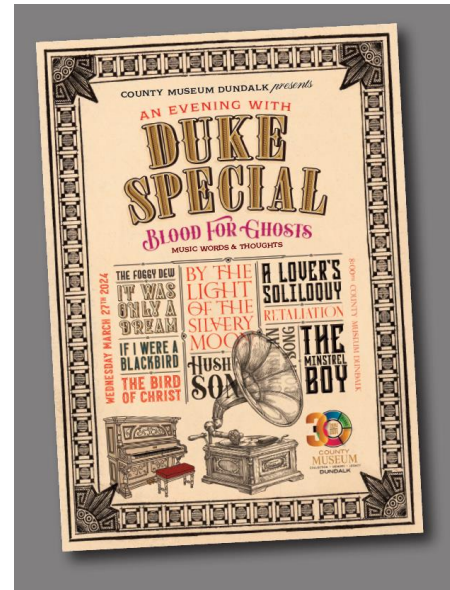


A rich legacy 40 years in the making: the Irish-English thesaurus.

As the Museum celebrates its 30th anniversary, it has identified three critical themes that it wishes to promote over the year – Collection, Memories and Legacy. In keeping with these themes, the Museum hosted a lecture to coincide with Seachtain na

Gaeilge. Entitled 'A Journey Through the Landscape of the Irish Language', the lecture was given by Dr Garry Bannister, who recently published an Irish-English thesaurus comprising some 700,000 entries.

Duke Special



A 'Special' night – Duke Special at County Museum.

Following the release of his new album 'Blood for Ghosts' (which was inspired by the discovery of a collection of song sheets at Monaco's Princess Grace Kelly Library), musician Duke Special visited County Museum on March 27th as part of the Museum's 30th anniversary celebrations. Duke described his creative process and played songs from the collection, as well as songs he has written in response to poetry, and visual art. Duke discussed these pieces, and spoke about how respectful or faithful a writer should be to the original source of inspiration, and the challenges that arise in such writing.

Local History Week



Tall Tales – the mythical history of Louth.

As part of efforts to establish a Local History week, the Museum hosted a series of storytelling workshops for Primary school children. Featuring the stories of Cú Chulainn and the Táin Bó Cuailgne, mixed with music from a diggeridoo, the sessions have proven to be a spectacular success.

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 Stiúrtóireacht 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 / Stiúrtóir Gníomhach



Ukraine Humanitarian Response

Property Figures as at 29/03/2024

Property offers recorded to date	63
Owners successfully contacted	63
Properties allocated to date	36
Beneficiaries assigned to date	118
Assessments	50
Assessments currently underway	0
Properties assessed as suitable	38
Properties with minor works required	0
Properties withdrawn	15
Properties not viable	10

Three families were housed in March under the "Offer a Home Programme". One family of four who were living in accommodation in Drogheda sharing one room for two years were housed in Drogheda town. A family of six who were living in Carlingford in a temporary accommodation centre were delighted to be offered a house nearby in Carlingford. The third family housed were a mother and daughter who were living in shared accommodation and moved to a house in Dundalk.

Refurbishment Programme

The Ukraine Response team are facilitating 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. The Ukraine response team will work with DCEDIY relocations team to minimize disruption to families / beneficiaries where possible.

Emergency Refurbishment Ukraine Programme ERUP to date

Cumulative Offers of properties to ERUP	37
Unsuitable / withdrawn	24
Under evaluation in Mar. 2024	3
DCEDIY Letter of Intent issued	10
No. of beds combined for delivery	683
DCEDIY contract issued	2
No of beds delivered	46

The Community Integration Forum

The first Community Integration forum meeting was held at the end of February where it was agreed to hold weekly sub-group meetings, the first of which was held on the 25th of March.

Local Authority Integration Team (LAIT)

During March, the LGMA held online training sessions for the LAIT. These included the Irish Refugee Protection Programme, SICAP, International Protection Support Service and the International Protection Accommodation Service.

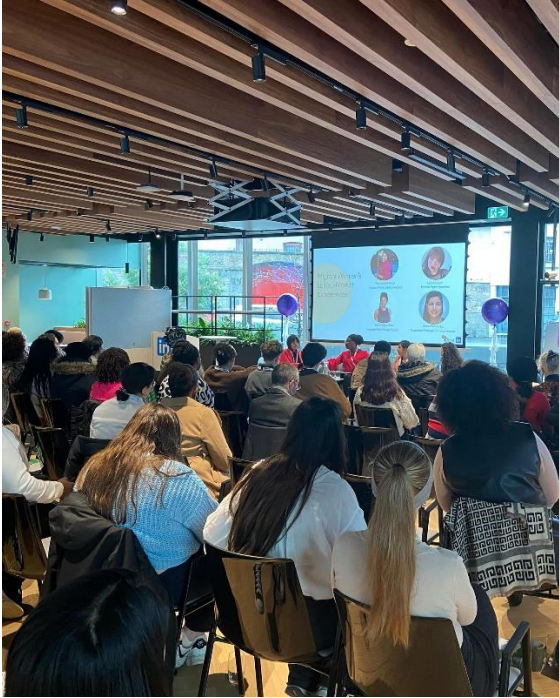
The team have met the new arrivals at the D Hotel. Residents are settling in, and the statutory agencies are attending the hotel each week to offer support to the residents.

The LAIT began holding clinics at the centres located throughout the county. The team will hold clinics each week offering support and advice to the residents in the centres.

On March 13th, the LAIT attended a conference hosted by Akidwa & LinkedIn in Dublin. Akidwa is a national network of migrant women living in Ireland. Over two decades, Akidwa has gained recognition as a leading NGO highlighting the issues faced by migrant women in Ireland.

The "Inclusion Without Borders" conference focused on Unlocking Potential: Advancing the Irish Economy through Migrant Women's Inclusion. The event saw the launch of AkiDWA's "Employment - Empowered" project, which aims to foster dialogue

about systemic, implicit, and explicit racism with stakeholders across various employment sectors.



On March 22nd, an event was held in The Gateway Hotel, Dundalk for all the International Protection residents. Karina Jelisejeva from the Migrant Advocacy Service gave a presentation on the IPO system in Ireland. The event was well attended by the residents and the feedback was positive.

