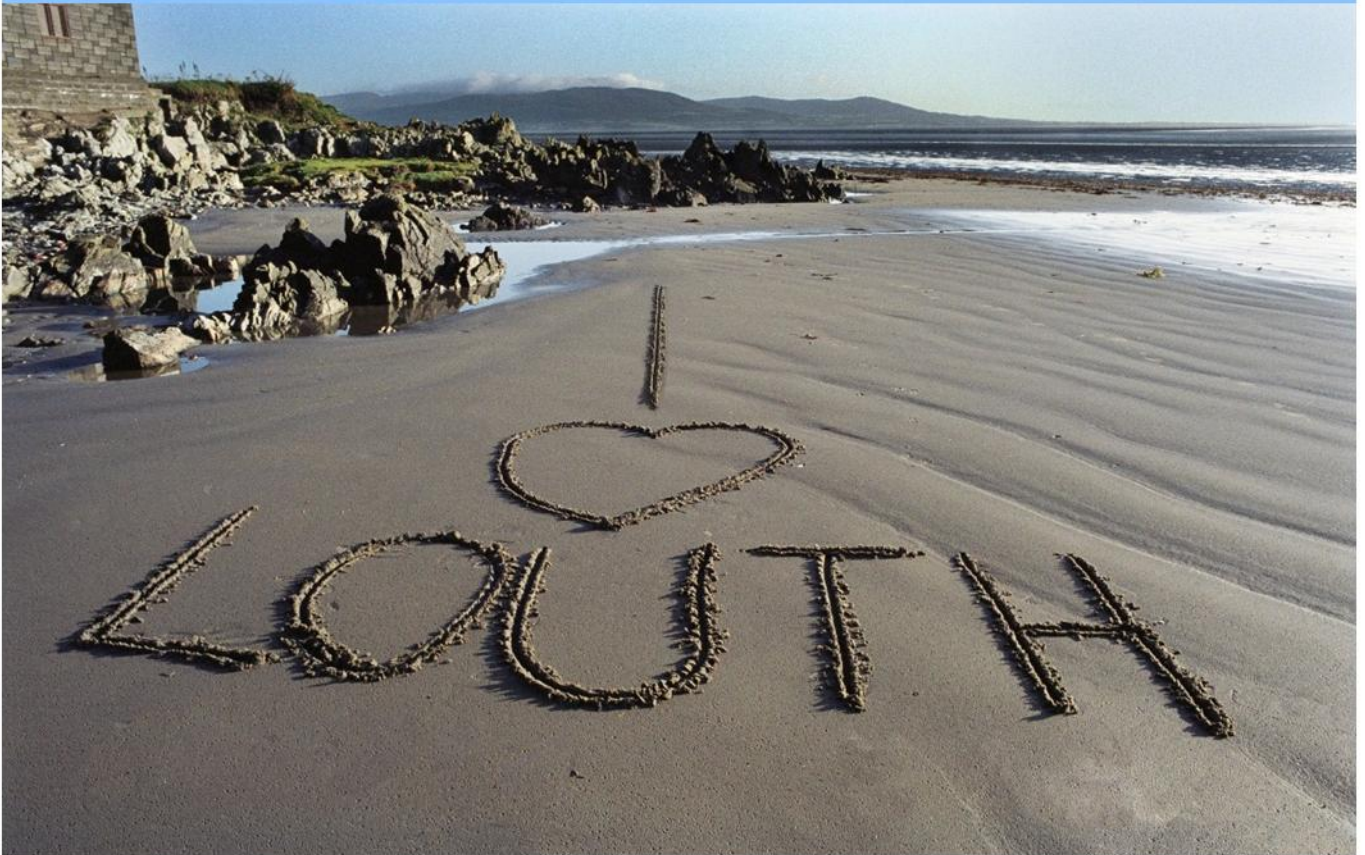




**Údaráis Áitiúla Lú**  
**Louth Local Authorities**



**Annual  
Report  
2011**



## *Annual Report 2011*

### CONTENTS

Joint Address by the County Manager and the Cathaoirligh/Mayor .....	2
Electoral Areas .....	3
Louth County Council Members 2011 .....	4
Dundalk Town Council Members .....	6
Drogheda Borough Council Members .....	7
Ardee Town Council Members .....	8
Senior Staff Louth Local Authorities .....	9
Corporate Affairs .....	10
Housing in Communities .....	18
Transportation & Marine .....	26
Water, Environment & Emergency Services .....	28
Economic Development .....	35
Regional Gateway .....	38
Arts, Culture & Leisure .....	41
Local Democracy .....	50
Tables & Appendices .....	52
- Key Performance Indicators .....	52
- Financial Figures .....	65
- Members Conferences Attendance Record .....	69
- Payments to Members for meetings, committees, Representational payments, etc. ....	73
- SPC/MPC Representation, etc. ....	74

#### *MISSION STATEMENT*

"To provide leadership and to deliver an efficient quality service  
to the people of Louth"



Land of Legends

*Joint address by the County Manager and the Cathaoirleach/Mayor.*



Conn Murray  
County Manager  
Louth Local Authorities



Oliver Tully  
Cathaoirleach  
Louth County Council



Marianne Butler  
Chairperson  
Dundalk Town Council

In presenting the 2011 Annual Report we are cognisant of the challenging economic downturn that prevails which prolongs and increases the challenge on Elected Members and Council Staff alike in maintaining and delivering a high quality service to the people of County Louth. The publication of our Annual Report is a milestone when we can reflect on the year past when, despite the challenges, we did as Local Authorities continue to provide an effective efficient and quality service to the communities which we serve.

The philosophy of the Local Authority to encourage and promote a climate that creates employment remains at the centre of our business delivery model and initiatives emanating from the Economic Forum and supported by the wider policies of Council are beginning to show results. With the continued support and hard work of all the stakeholders this can only hold well for the future of the County of Louth.

The Memorandum of Understanding with Newry and Mourne District Council continued to be embedded in our structures in 2011 with specific responsibility for the Memorandum and cross Border initiatives being facilitated in new structures at Senior Management Team level.

The now well forged Partnerships with Community Representatives and State agencies on the many statutory platforms including the County Development Board, Strategic Policy Committees and the Joint Policing Committees continue to pay dividend in working towards developing County Louth as an ever improving place to live and work in.

Our role as an age friendly County took on an International dimension in 2011 with many of the delegates attending the World Health Organisation conference in Dublin opting to visit the County to see the extent of our age friendly initiatives.

Many challenges lie before us as a County and a Nation. Our commitment to work together to create Louth as the premier location to live, work, socialise and be educated in will remain our central focus as we continue to develop the Economic, Social and Cultural aspects of life in County Louth.

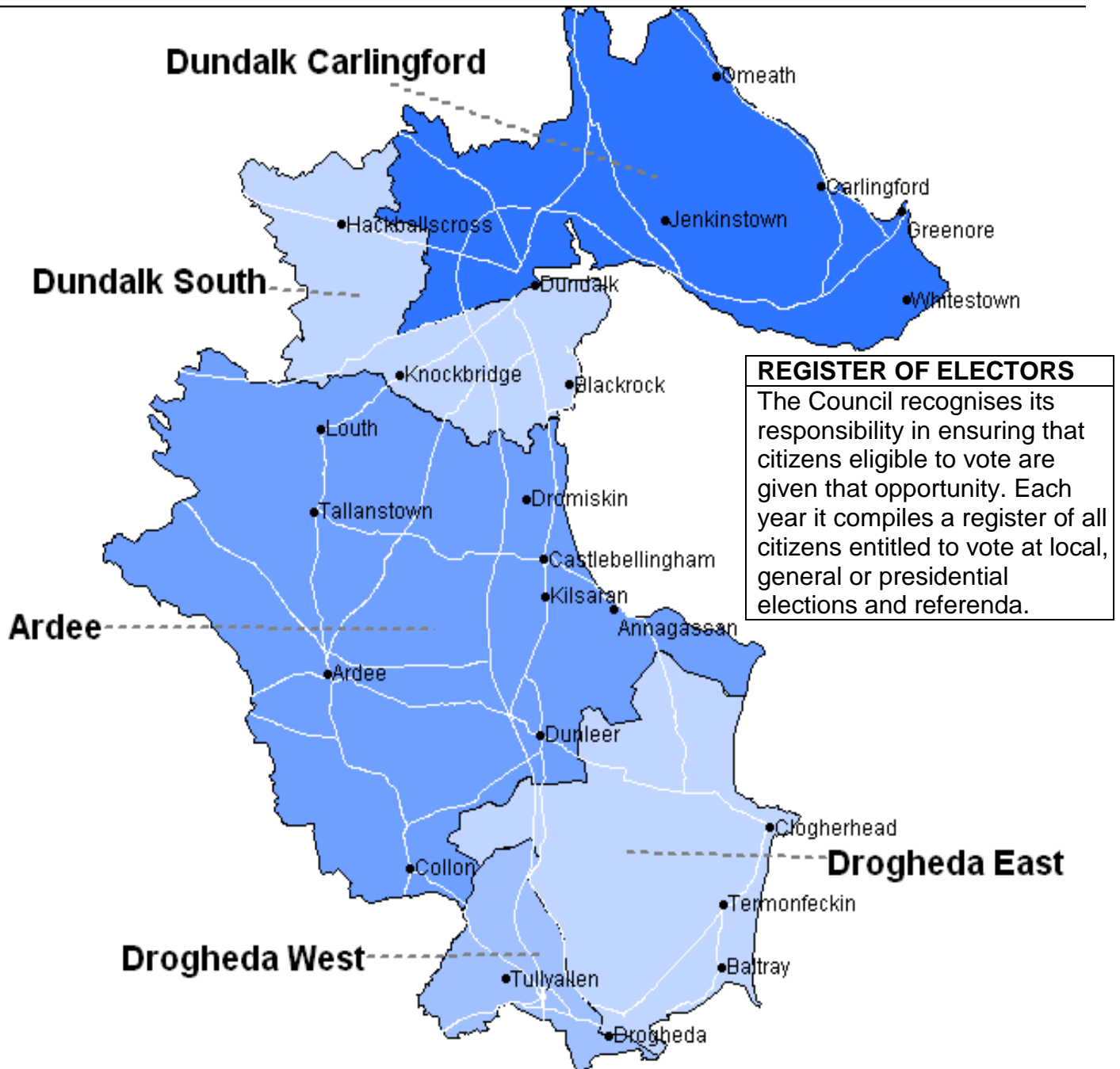


Kevin Callan  
Mayor  
Drogheda Borough Council



Michael Farrelly  
Chairman  
Ardee Town Council

Electoral Areas





Louth County Council Members

**DUNDALK / CARLINGFORD**

Fine Gael  
Martin Murnaghan



Sinn Féin  
Edel Corrigan



Sinn Féin  
Jim Loughran



Non-Party  
Jim Ryan



Fianna Fáil  
Peter Savage



*Councillor Martin Murnaghan was co-opted on to the Council in June 2011 following the election/appointment of Councillor Terry Brennan to The Seanad.*

**DUNDALK / SOUTH**

Non-Party  
Martin Bellew



Fianna Fáil  
Declan Breathnach



Fine Gael  
Linus English



Green Party  
Marianne Butler



Non-Party  
Alan Grehan



Sinn Féin  
Tomás Sharkey



*Councillor Linus English was co-opted on to the Council in June 2011 following the election/appointment of Councillor Jim D'Arcy to The Seanad.*

## **DROGHEDA WEST**

Labour  
Paul Bell



Fine Gael  
Anthony Donohoe



Fianna Fáil  
Frank Maher



Sinn Féin  
Paddy McQuillan



## **DROGHEDA EAST**

Fianna Fáil  
Tommy Byrne



Independent  
Frank Godfrey



Sinn Féin  
Imelda Munster



Labour  
Pio Smith



Fine Gael  
Michael O'Dowd



Fine Gael  
Oliver Tully



*Councillor Pio Smith was co-opted on to the Council in March 2011 following the election of Mr. Gerald Nash TD to the Dáil.*

## **ARDEE**

Fine Gael  
Jim Lennon



Fine Gael  
Colm Markey



Fine Gael  
Finnan McCoy



Sinn Féin  
Pearse McGeough



Fianna Fáil  
Liam Reilly



Dundalk Town Council Members

Non-Party  
Martin Bellew



Fianna Fáil  
Sean Bellew



Green Party  
Marianne Butler



Fine Gael  
Maria Doyle



Green Party  
Ollan Herr



Sinn Féin  
Jennifer Green



Fianna Fáil  
Conor Keelan



Sinn Féin  
Kevin Meenan



Non-Party  
Oliver Morgan



Fine Gael  
Eamonn O'Boyle



Independent  
Jim Ryan



Sinn Féin  
Harry Todd



*Councillor Maria Doyle was co-opted on to the Council in June 2011 following the election/appointment of Councillor Jim D'Arcy to The Seanad.*

Drogheda Borough Council Members

Labour  
Paul Bell



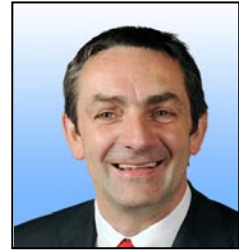
Fine Gael  
Kevin Callan



Sinn Féin  
Matthew Coogan



Fine Gael  
Richie Culhane



Fine Gael  
Anthony Donohoe



Socialist Party  
Frank Gallagher



Fianna Fáil  
Frank Maher



Sinn Féin  
Imelda Munster



Labour  
Linda Bell-Woods



Fine Gael  
Michael O'Dowd



Non-Party  
Ken O'Heiligh



Sinn Féin  
Dom Wilton



*Councillor Linda Bell Woods was co-opted on to the Council in April 2011 following the election of Councillor Gerald Nash to Dáil Éireann.*



Ardee Town Council Members

Non-Party  
Michael Farrelly



Labour  
Leonard Hatrick



Green Party  
Mary Kavanagh



Fianna Fáil  
Fintan Malone



Fine Gael  
Finnan McCoy



Sinn Féin  
Pearse McGeough



Fianna Fáil  
Padraig McKenny



Fine Gael  
Dolores Minogue



Non-Party  
Jim Tenanty



## Senior Staff of Louth Local Authorities

### **Louth County Council**

*County Manager:* Conn Murray

*Directors of Services:*

Economic Development: Michael Curran  
Housing, Social & Community Planning, Fire & Emergency Services : Joe McGuinness  
Transportation & South Louth Area: Joan Martin  
Environment, Water Services & North Louth Area: Frank Pentony  
Head of Finance: Bernadette Woods

*Head of IT:* Eugene Mulholland

*County Librarian:* Bernadette Fennell

*Senior Executive Officers:*

Human Resources: Colette Moss  
CDB Secretariat/Corporate Services: Paddy Donnelly  
Housing: Willie Walsh  
Environment: Mary Murtagh

*Financial Accountant:*

Brian Lynch, Roisin McAuley

*Administrative Officers:*

Fire Services: David Jones  
Transportation: Eugene McManus  
Planning: Pauline Watters  
Motortaxation: Mary Jennings  
Human Resources: Anne D. Callan, Kieran Lawless

Finance: Pauline Goss

Sanitary Services: Brenda O'Brien

CDB Secretariat: Mary Deery, Ellen O'Hanlon

Housing: Therese McArdle

Economic Development and Future Planning:

Michael McCabe

Snr.Executive Librarian: Amanda Branigan

*Senior Engineers:*

Transportation: Gerry Kelly  
Sanitary Services: Mark O'Callaghan  
Environment: Raymond McKenna

*Senior Executive Engineers:*

Transportation: Frank Magee  
Housing: Donal Clarke  
North County Area: Pdraig O'Hora  
South County Area: Paddy Connolly  
Sanitary Services: Keith Hanratty, Peadar McGuinness

Environment: Declan McMahon

Transportation: Vincent Toner

*Senior Executive Planners:*

Marguerite Quinn, Terence Savage,

*County Arts Officer:* Brian Harten

*County Archivist:* Lorraine McCann

*County Coroner:* Ronan Maguire

*County Veterinary Officer:* Garret Shine

*Chief Fire Officer:* Eamon Woulfe

*Senior Social Worker:* Catherine Vaughan

*Louth Sports Partnership Coordinator:* Mary Browne

*Age Friendly Officer:* Catherine McGuigan

*Chief Technician:* Paddy Birch

*Heritage Officer:* Brendan McSherry

*Senior Staff Officer:*

Corporate Services/FOI Officer: Mary Gormally  
Tourism & Business Support: Nessa McCartan  
Road Safety Officer: Angela Muckian  
Planning: Sinead Lally  
Water Services: Siobhan Rice,  
Econ.Dev./Fut.Planning: Sinead McVerry  
Peace III Dev.Officer: Paddy Drumgoole  
Major Emergency: Gregory Flanagan  
Executive Librarian: Sheila Tierney

---

### **Drogheda and District**

*Director of Services:* Joan Martin

*Senior Executive Officer:* Mary T. Daly

*Administrative Officers:*

Brona O'Reilly, Jeanne Rushe, Marian Whearty

*Senior Staff Officers:*

Christine Mullen, Alison Condra

*Borough Engineer:* Pat Finn

*Senior Executive Engineers:*

Padraig Judge, Martina Sheeran

*Senior Executive Planner:* Emer O'Callaghan

*Senior Assistant Chief Fire Officer:* Joe Lumsden

*Rapid Co-ordinator:* Valerie Artherton

---

### **Dundalk and District**

*Director of Services:* Frank Pentony

*Senior Executive Officer:* David Storey

*Administrative Officers:*

John Lawrence, Joan Smith

*Senior Staff Officers:*

Anne McDonnell, Eileen McEnteggart, Veronica Traynor, Mary Capplis

*Town Engineer:* Catherine Duff

*Senior Executive Engineers:*

Peter McVeigh, Pat Stuart

*Senior Executive Planner:* Sinead Mullen

*Assistant Chief Fire Officer:* John Cummins

*Rapid Co-ordinator:* Paula Gribben

---

### **Ardee and District**

*Director of Services:* Joe McGuinness

*Town Clerk:* Miriam Roe

*Senior Exec. Planner:* Marguerite Quinn

*A/Senior Exec. Engineer:* Sean O' Reilly

---

### **RETIREES from Louth Local Authorities in 2011**

Snr. Executive Engineer: Ardee Area: Paul Gallagher

*Director of Service:* Des Foley reassigned to Meath County Council

## Corporate Affairs

### MEETINGS OF THE COUNCIL - 2011

Monthly Meeting	11
Special Meeting	7
Annual Meeting	1
Budget Meeting	1
CPG (Corporate Policy Group)	11
SPC – Transportation & Cross Border Matters	4
SPC – Environmental Services	2
SPC – Economic Development & Future Planning	6
SPC – Housing Social & Community Planning	3
Area Committee Meeting – Dundalk	11
Area Committee Meeting – Ardee	11
Area Committee Meeting – Drogheda	11
JPC – Drogheda and South Louth	4
JPC – Dundalk and North Louth	4
JPC – Ardee and Mid Louth	4
JPC – Steering Group Committee	2
<b>Total No. of Meetings</b>	<b>93</b>

### Area Committees

3 area committees commensurate with the electorate area boundaries and these committees appointed chairmen for a one year period up to June 2011.

<b>Area Committee</b>	<b>Chairman</b>	<b>Meetings Held</b>
Dundalk Carlingford/ Dundalk South	Cllr. Jim Loughran	2 <sup>nd</sup> Monday of each month
Ardee	Cllr. Pearse McGeough	4 <sup>th</sup> Thursday of each month
Drogheda East/ Drogheda West	Cllr. Tommy Byrne	1 <sup>st</sup> Monday of each month

### Joint Policing Committees

The Garda Síochána Act 2005 requires local authorities, in co-operation with the An Garda Síochána to set up joint policing committees in their areas. These committees serve as a forum for consultations, discussions and recommendations affecting the policing of local areas and can review levels of and patterns of crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour and make recommendation to the local authorities and An Garda Síochána as to how these issues might best be dealt with. The fora will comprise members and officers of the local authorities, representatives of the Garda Síochána, community representatives and members of the Oireachtas.

Louth County Council approved the establishment of 3 Joint Policy Committees based around the towns of Dundalk, Drogheda and Ardee and coinciding with the area committee structure and the Garda Síochána policing districts. It was also decided to establish a Joint Policing Committee Steering Group comprising the Chairman of Louth County Council, the Chairs of the joint policing committees, the County Manager and the Garda Chief Superintendent whose function is to guide and monitor the operation of the 3 committees.

<b>Joint Policing Committee</b>	<b>Chairman</b>
Drogheda	Cllr. Frank Maher
Ardee	Cllr. Padraig McKenny
Dundalk	Cllr. Martin Bellew

The activities of the Counties Joint Policing Committees is covered in a report prepared in accordance with Section 36950 of the Garda Síochána Act. 2005.

### Corporate Policy Group

The Local Government Act 2001, requires each County Council to establish Committee known as the Corporate Policy Group (C.P.G.) which consists of the Chairman of the County Council and the chairs of the S.P.C.s The function of the group is to advise and assist the elected council in the formulation, development, monitoring and review of policy. The C.P.G sat on 11 occasions during 2011 and towards the end of the year established their meeting schedule on a monthly basis. One of the primary functions of the group is to review the agenda for the monthly council meeting. They also play a pivotal role in the formulation of the annual budget and the preparation of the Corporate Plan.

### Council Meetings

Louth County Council holds a monthly meeting on the third Monday of each month together with a statutory Budget meeting and Annual Meeting and also special meetings from time to time as required to deal with issues such as review of the County development Plan. A total of 20 meetings were held during 2011.

The statutory **Budget Meeting** was held on 19<sup>th</sup> December 2011 at which the Council considered a gross revenue expenditure of €66,450,530 for 2012 and adopted an annual Rate on the valuation of €55.08 with an additional levy of €1.77 for the area of Ardee Town Council. The report presented to the Council with the draft budget incorporated reports from each directorate on progress achieved throughout 2011 in the context of the previous Corporate Plan so as to comply with the requirements of Section 134 (ii) of the Local Government Act 2001.

### CIVIC RECEPTIONS / AWARDS / etc.

<b>Award Authority</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Recipient</b>	<b>Achievement</b>	<b>Costs</b>
Louth County Council	09/02/2011	Paddy Keenan	on his nomination as the First County Louth GAA All Star and on his selection as a member of the Irish Compromise Rules Team 2010	Food & Drinks €328.00
Dundalk Town Council	10/03/2011	Mary McAleese visits Great Northern Haven.		€2,073.10
Dundalk Town Council	06/04/2011	Dundalk Photographic Society		€886.00
Dundalk Town Council	14/06/2011	Dundalk Rugby Club		€657.25
Dundalk Town Council	24/06/2011	Official Opening – All Weather Pitch Muirhevnamor		€1,161.98
Ardee Town Council	16/03/2011	Mayor of Nettuno	The Twinning of Ardee Town, Ireland and Nettuno, Italy.	€519



Drogheda Borough Council	22/03/2011	Boyne Rugby Club	Winners of Division 1A League	€475.3
Drogheda Borough Council	14/04/2011	James Gradwell, Megan Campbell, Jacko Smith, Karen Smyth, Frank Thornton, Eugene McKenna, Olive McDonnell	For achievements in the community	€563.02
Drogheda Borough Council	08/12/2011	Launch of Ted Greene's Book	"Drogheda - Its place in Ireland's History"	€699.39

### Irish Language Scheme

Meeting the commitments and undertakings of the Louth Local Authorities Irish Language Scheme continues to be a key objective and we are determined to meet their statutory obligations as set out in the scheme.

While recognising that the implementation of the scheme in full is a challenge in a time of diminishing resources Louth Local Authorities are committed to ensuring resources are identified in order to make certain it complies with its legal obligations under the Official Languages Act.

### STEM and Energy Monitoring & Reporting

Louth County Council have demonstrated strong civic leadership through the delivery of the STEM project and the initiatives taken to reduce their impact on the environment. By taking action to protect the environment and minimise the use of resources, the council is helping its long term sustainability. Objectives and targets set in the council are wide ranging in terms of the nature of improvements sought. Most of the objectives focused on preventing pollution and minimising the use of resources such as energy and materials.

In 2011 Louth County Council retained its ISO14001 accreditation. Under this ISO the objectives and targets were reviewed for 2011 and some new projects were also initiated. Not all targets were achieved, but the value of monitoring and reviewing is clearly demonstrated and, by accurately tracking usage patterns, highlights areas that require further improvement. Also the very accurate monitoring, that is still bedding down, may indicate that targets missed may have been a result of previous estimates on usage being slightly inaccurate. For instance paper use was recorded at 2.6 million sheets in 2011, and whilst still off the target of 2 million sheets, this is now a very precise indicator and one that can be tracked accurately in the coming years.

In general monitoring has been a major task in 2011, with systems being fine tuned to monitor and record energy use, providing very accurate baselines to benchmark future performance. This is being driven by a new initiative, run by SEAI and Department of Energy, under the legislation of S.I. 542 of 2009, whereby all public sector organisations will report their overall annual energy consumption, which will include all network and non-network energy. This will require very accurate monitoring of all energy use across Louth Local Authorities.

Renewables still feature high on the programme and in 2011 this was highlighted by various projects such as the Landfill Gas at White River to be harnessed to produce electricity and the use and monitoring of micro-generation at the Animal Compound in Whiterath.

## OVERVIEW OF ENERGY USAGE IN 2011

The majority of energy use by Louth Local Authorities (Louth County Council, Dundalk Town Council & Drogheda Borough Council) is in the form of electricity, road diesel, mains gas and kerosene heating oil, in that order. Energy use is actively managed by the activities of the energy team. Also Louth County Council has ISO 41001, and a yearly reduction of 3% of energy use is one of the prime objectives of this standard. The overall spend on energy across Louth Local Authorities (LLAs) in 2011 was €3,627,902 and, whilst this is a slight increase on 2010 (€3,406,278), it is still substantially below the average of €4 million/year that pertained during the years 2006-2009. This is achieved by good monitoring of use, continuing to maintain efficiencies and keen tendering of supply.

### Electricity:

There are 1,309 electricity accounts across LAA, the majority being unmetered accounts as outlined by the table below.

	Metered	Unmetered (i.e. Public Light)
<b>LCC</b>	124	502
<b>DTC</b>	37	301
<b>DBC</b>	21	324

Of the metered accounts, water and waste water treatment works account for over 80% of the expenditure, and the main civic buildings accounting for approximately 14%.

Tendering of supply continued to be a feature in 2011, with Energia being the successful provider.

### Road Diesel:

The tendering for supply was reviewed and a new contract was awarded to Topaz to supply all the vehicles across Louth Local Authorities. Coupled with the use of a fuel card system, this has facilitated very accurate monitoring and recording of use. In 2011 the diesel use was 251,186 litres, a very significant 4.2% reduction on the 2010 figure of 262,362 litres.

### Actions Planned for 2012

- The role of the electric car will be explored, with test drives of suitable vehicles and the installation of electric charge points at strategic locations.
- The landfill will continue to progress the on-site generation of electricity as an alternative to flaring of landfill gas, and an ESB grid connect is to be established by mid-2012. Also the landfill will continue to reduce the acceptance of high levels of Biodegradable Municipal Waste, and will be significant below the maximum allowed target of 47%.
- East Border Region Project begun in 2011 whereby a public building in LLA, intended to be the library and museum complex as they share a common site, will be audited, fitted out with energy efficient improvements and the results displayed to the general public from the public foyers of these buildings. These buildings were fully audited and they have been successful in the application, so in 2012 works will begin to enhance the efficiencies and add new micro-generation to these two public buildings

- Partnership between LLA and SEAI signed late in 2010 is on-going, with LLA committed to energy reductions.
- ISO 14001 to be maintained within the sections of Louth County Council and, with the new re-structuring of Louth Local Authorities, will also be rolled out to the new areas coming into this new structure, in effect spreading the ISO 14001 to certain areas of Dundalk Town Council and Drogheda Borough Council

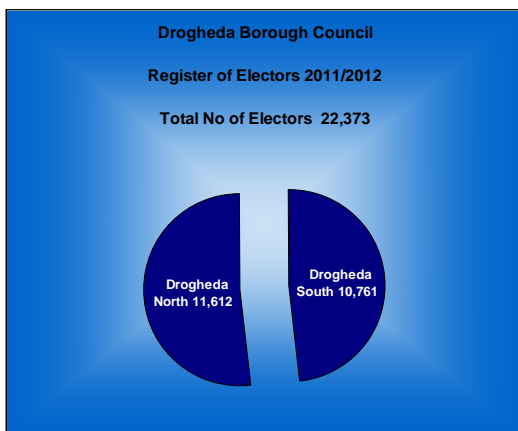
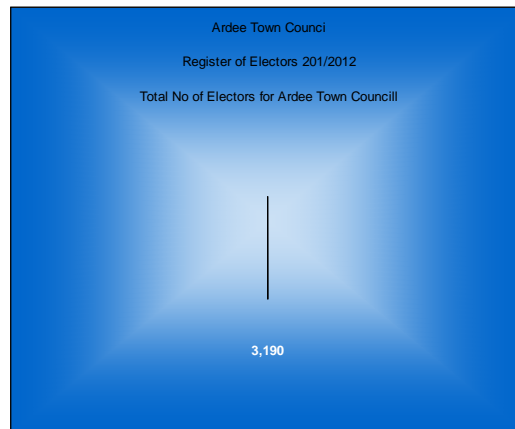
## REGISTER OF ELECTORS

The Register of Electors effective from February 15, 2011 showed a total voting population of 90,111 comprised as follows:

### Breakdown by Type of Elector

Dáil Electors	85,819
Presidential Electors	85,126
European Electors	86,913
Local Electors	90,111

### Breakdown by Local Electoral Areas



### Edited Register of Electors

The edited Register of Electors effective from February 15, 2011 contained 3,378 names.

### Elections during 2011

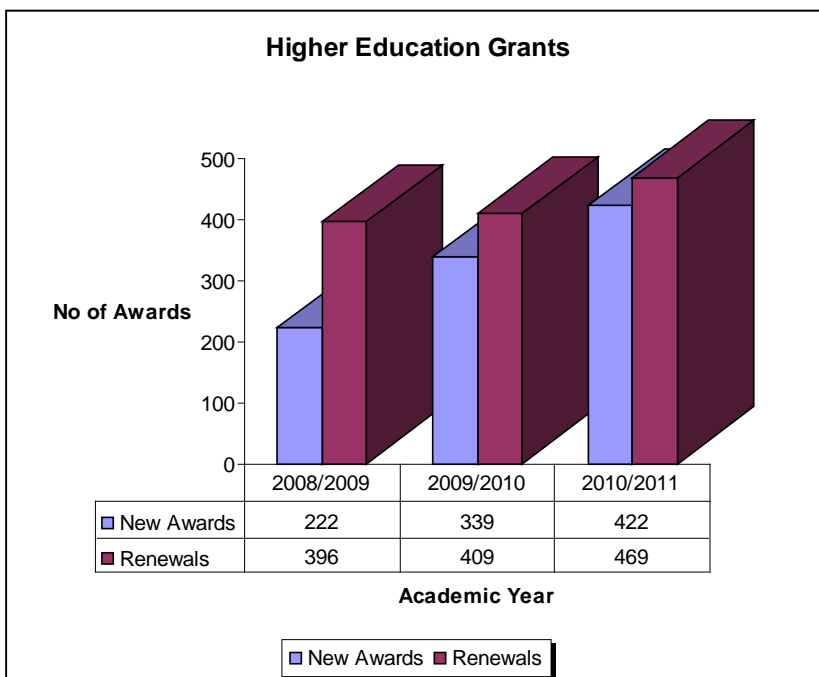
A General Election was held on Friday, February 25, 2011.

The Presidential Election and Referendums on the Twenty-Ninth Amendment of the Constitution (Judges' Remuneration) Bill 2011 and the Thirtieth Amendment of the Constitution (Houses of the Oireachtas Inquiries) Bill 2011 were held on October 27, 2011.

### HIGHER EDUCATION GRANTS

The Higher Education Grants Scheme 2011 was adopted by Louth County Council at its meeting on July 18, 2011. A total of €4,605,738.68 was paid out for Higher Education Grants during the 2010/2011 Academic Year. All grants/fees paid to students, are recoupable from the Department of Education & Skills with the exception of a fixed contribution of €6,279.11. The Council administration costs are not recoupable.

Statistics on applications awarded for the last 3 Academic Years are as follows:





## CITIZEN SERVICES

### Freedom of Information

During 2011 60 applications were made under the Freedom of Information Act 1997/2003 to Louth Local Authorities. In Louth County Council there was an increase of 58% on 2010 figures, in Drogheda Borough an increase of 116% on 2010 figures and in Dundalk Town Council there was an increase of 89% on 2010 figures.

	Louth County Council 2010	Drogheda Borough Council 2010	Dundalk Town Council 2010	Louth County Council 2011	Drogheda Borough Council 2011	Dundalk Town Council 2011
<b>Total Number of Requests</b>	23	6	9	30	13	17
-Personal	4	2	2	9	8	6
-Non-Personal	11	4	7	17	5	10
-Mixed	8	nil	nil	4	Nil	1
Requests Granted	8	2	5	6	6	13
Requests Part Granted	9	Nil	3	13	2	Nil
Requests Refused	6	4	nil	7	5	4
Requests Transferred	Nil	Nil	Nil	3	Nil	1
Requests withdrawn	nil	nil	nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Requests withdrawn and handled outside of FOI	nil	nil	nil	1	Nil	Nil
Requests for Internal Review	1	nil	nil	2	4	Nil
Appeals to the Information Commissioner	1	Nil	nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
<b>Source of Requests</b>						
Journalists	5	Nil	Nil	2	Nil	Nil
Business	2	1	1	6	6	Nil
Oireachtas	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Others/General Public	16	5	7	20	7	17
Staff	Nil	Nil	1	2	Nil	Nil

	<b>Louth County Council</b>	<b>Drogheda Borough Council</b>	<b>Dundalk Town Council</b>
<b>Ombudsman Complaints</b>			
Complaints received during the year	5	3	2
<b>Subject of Complaints</b>			
Community, Recreation & Amenities			1
Corporate Affairs			
Environment/Enforcement/Vets	2	1	
Finance	1		
Future Planning & Economic Development			
Housing	1	2	
Planning			
Transportation	1		1
Motortax			
Water Services			
<b>Citizen Charter Complaints</b>			
Complaints received during 2010	3		4

## Drogheda Borough Council

### **Council Meetings**

Drogheda Borough Council holds a monthly meeting on the first Monday of the month together with a statutory Budget Meeting and Annual Meeting and also special meetings from time to time. There are no meetings held in August. A total of 16 meetings were held in 2011.

### **CORPORATE ESTATE**

#### 1. Lourdes Stadium.

Following a procurement competition advertised in the Official Journal of the European Union, Drogheda Borough Council, appointed sport specialist contractor CRL. Construction works commenced in August 2011 and are due to conclude in early May 2012.

The existing Lourdes Stadium was constructed in the 1960's and had acted as a dual athletic and soccer venue. It was home to Drogheda United between 1962 and 1976 and had an effective capacity of approximately 4000 people. The site had fallen into disrepair and was generally in very poor condition, with the soccer pitch and running track overgrown.

However with funding forthcoming from the Department of the Environment Heritage and Local Government in the sum of €300,000 and a further €150,000 from the Department of Arts Sport and Tourism and a donation of €290,000 from Atlantic Industries (Drogheda based Coca Cola) it was possible to commence construction works.

The Stadium was designed and will be constructed in accordance with the “IAAF Track and Field Facilities Manual”. The Lourdes Stadium will be developed to "Construction Category V for Competition Category 11 and will have the following infrastructure provided.

- 400m Standard Track with 8 oval and 8 straight lanes.
- Facility for Long and Triple Jump with landing area at both ends.
- Facility for High Jump
- Facility for Pole Vault with landing area at both ends
- Facility for Javelin Throw
- Facility for Shot Put

## 2. Drogheda Leisure Centre

Drogheda Borough Council was successful in securing funding of €307,000 from the Department of Tourism, Culture and Sport, in order to upgrade energy requirements and disability access. Drogheda Borough Council used this funding for

- Installation of Combined Heat and Power Unit to reduce electric consumption.
- Installing variable speed drives on Pool Pumps
- Upgrade Building Management System
- Water Conservation Devices in wash hand basins and showers.
- Water Recovery system in pool dosing
- Automatic entrance doors to assist disable members of the public.

## 3. The Tholsel, West Street – Disabled Access Ramp

In early 2011 Drogheda Borough Council installed a new disabled ramp to The Tholsel in order to provide disabled access to the new tourist office.

The council adopted a style which was in keeping with the historic fabric of the building and chose a Kilkenny Limestone façade along with a black handrail designed by artist Ronan Halpin from Achill Island. This design was recognized when The Tholsel come top in the Public building category for County Louth awarded by access Louth, which is organised by the Louth Community and Voluntary Forum in association with various disability groups in the county.

## Housing and Communities:

‘Facilitate sustainable communities through the provision of accommodation that responds to the needs of all through a process of community planning.’

### **HOUSING NEEDS ASSESSMENT**

At the end of 2011, there were 1,088 applicants on the housing list for Louth County Council, 2,153 applicants on the housing list for Drogheda Borough Council and 2,159 applicants on the housing list for Dundalk Town Council.

### **HOUSING PROVISION**

Housing provision is managed through the Action Plan for Social and Affordable Housing as agreed with the Department of the Environment, Community & Local Government. In the case of

Louth County Council during 2011, a housing development at Seafield Road, Blackrock, was commenced, while works were ongoing on a development at Mell, Drogheda.

The onset of the economic recession in 2008 has resulted in changes to housing policy at a national level. There is now less emphasis on direct provision of social housing through the funding of new construction.

Government policy is focused on providing social housing through lease arrangements with existing property owners and developers carrying unsold housing stock.

## **SOCIAL HOUSING**

At the end of 2011, Louth County Council had 946 social housing units in stock, Drogheda Borough Council had 1,304 social housing units and Dundalk Town Council had 1,450 social housing units.

In accordance with the requirements of the Housing Act 2009, Louth County Council adopted a new Scheme of Allocations at its meeting on May 16, 2011, replacing the previous scheme which was adapted by the Council in 2005. Drogheda Borough Council adopted the new scheme on June 13, 2011, and Dundalk Town Council adopted it on May 24, 2011.

## **AFFORDABLE HOUSING**

The demand for affordable housing has receded significantly in the last number of years with only six such houses sold in 2011, one in Ardee at McCreanors Terrace; three at Brickfield Gardens, Dundalk and two at Lis na Dara, Dundalk.

Twenty six affordable units were directly converted to social units towards the end of 2009 and a further 4 such conversions were made in Dundalk in 2011. In addition, 24 unsold affordable units in the County area and 12 such units in Dundalk have been leased to the voluntary housing sector for a period of up to five years for letting to tenants from the housing authority waiting lists.

## **VOLUNTARY HOUSING**

Louth Local Authorities have a distinguished record in working with voluntary bodies for the provision of voluntary housing units. There are 717 voluntary housing units in the County, of which 331 are within the Dundalk Town Council area; 283 are within the Drogheda Borough Council area and 103 are within the County Council area.

## **SOURCING OF SOCIAL UNITS**

### **Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS)**

The Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS) is an initiative administered by local authorities in support of their social housing programmes.

It involves good quality privately owned accommodation being leased on behalf of eligible tenants (people with permanent residency rights in the State who have a long-term housing need and are in receipt of Rent Supplement for more than 18 months).



In the order of 2,800 people in Louth receive rent supplement at present. Of these, some 1,339 have received it for over 18 months.

At the end of 2011, there were 229 properties in the RAS in Louth.

### **Social Leasing Schemes**

The Rental Accommodation Scheme is now supplemented by -

- A government leasing scheme for unsold affordable houses (such houses are leased to voluntary housing associations for periods of up to five years, and offered for rent to households from the local authority waiting list on the same rental basis as local authority houses) and;
- A long-term leasing initiative (of 10-20 year lease duration) whereby properties will be leased from the private sector (with rents guaranteed for the whole lease period, but subject to review depending on market conditions) and used to accommodate households from local authority waiting lists. Properties will be allocated in accordance with the local authority allocations schemes, and will be managed, insured and maintained by the local authority.

### **HOUSING RENTS**

The Housing Rents Scheme provides for income-related rents and is reviewed annually. Differential rents are now set at a minimum of €25 per week.

### **HOUSING STOCK MAINTENANCE AND IMPROVEMENT**

2011 saw 958 requests for maintenance to existing social housing stock in the Louth County Council area, all but 10 of which were resolved before year-end.

44 houses in the county area were refurbished during 2011 following the departure of the tenants.

Drogheda Borough Council had 2,166 requests for maintenance to their existing social housing stock, of which 215 remained unresolved at the end of the year. 58 houses in the Drogheda area were refurbished during 2011 following the departure of the tenants.

Dundalk Town Council had 1,852 requests for maintenance to their existing social housing stock, of which 148 remained unresolved at the end of the year.

42 houses in the Dundalk area were refurbished during 2011 following the departure of the tenants.

### **REGULATION OF STANDARDS FOR RENTED HOUSING**

In parallel with this policy development, increased regulation of standards for rented properties came into operation during 2009 with the commencement on

- February 1, 2009 of the Housing (Standards for Rented Houses) Regulations 2008, and
- December 1, 2009 of the Housing (Standards for Rented Houses) (Amendment) Regulations 2009.

The regulations set minimum required standards for, *inter alia*, the Structural Condition of a property (Article 5 of the regulations); Sanitary Facilities (Article 6); Heating Facilities (Article 7);

Food Preparation & Storage and Laundry (Article 8) and Ventilation (Article 9). Articles six to eight will initially apply only to new tenancies and will come into operation for existing tenancies from February 1, 2013. Over 500 inspections were made in this area in 2011.

## **HOUSING SUPPORT SERVICES**

### **SPECIAL NEEDS HOUSING**

In 2010, Louth Local Authorities concluded a number of projects to facilitate adaption to existing stock where the needs of tenants had to be addressed.

These included works at Ferdia Park and De La Salle Crescent, Ardee, and St Ronan's Villas, Dromiskin in the County Council area with a further three projects in Drogheda and one in Dundalk.

### **HOMELESSNESS**

In December 2009, the Minister for the Environment indicated that Louth County Council would become a Responsible Housing Authority for the implementation of a Regional Homelessness Action Plan. This Plan was prepared on the basis of an independent review of homelessness services in the County, which was carried out during the early part of 2010, and took account of Government policy for homeless services to be coordinated on a regional basis. The Regional Homelessness Action Plan was adopted by the County Council at its meeting of May 17, 2010.

As of December 31, 2011, there were 26 persons considered homeless in emergency accommodation in the County, and 179 tenancies were being sustained.

### **TRAVELLER MATTERS**

Louth County Council has adopted a Traveller Accommodation Programme, 2009-2013. This sets out a number of targets in relation to social housing and Traveller specific housing to meet the needs of Travellers living in the county. A Traveller Consultative Committee was established to monitor the progress of this programme. It consists of representatives from the Local Authorities, Council officials, Travellers and Traveller representatives. Louth Local Authorities are committed to achieving the goals set out in this programme.

<b><u>Social Housing</u></b>	<b><u>Target</u></b>	<b><u>Outcome</u></b>
2009-2011	38	31 (Including RAS and Special Purchase Houses)

<b><u>Group Housing</u></b>	<b><u>Target</u></b>	<b><u>Outcome</u></b>
2009-2011	4	2

- Dromin, Dunleer – two units due to commence construction May 2012.

### **COMMUNITY PLANNING**

During 2011 Louth County Council commenced the construction of a 16-classroom Primary School on the Ballymakenny Road, Drogheda in a pilot project with the Department of Education & Science. Both the design and construction was procured by this authority. It is envisaged that a number of other projects may be progressed under this model.

In the same period, new playgrounds were opened or constructed at Lordship and Kilanny, while a Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) was commenced within Blackrock Park.

### HOUSING GRANTS

Louth County Council offered grants under the DOEHLG Scheme of Grants which ran for a number of months in 2011. These are listed below.

	<b>No.</b>	<b>TOTAL VALUE</b>
<b>HAGs</b> Housing Adaptation Grants (paid and finally approved)	67	€715,143
<b>HOPs</b> Housing Aids for Older Persons paid	5	€16,196
<b>MAGs</b> Mobility Aids Grants (paid and finally approved)	79	€381,601
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>212</b>	<b>€1,112,940</b>

### Dundalk Town Council

Housing Section. – Statistics for year end 31<sup>st</sup> December 2011

- At year end December 2011 there were 2159 on the housing list of Dundalk Town Council.
- The housing stock at year end December 2011 was 1420.
- Housing Stock Maintenance requests for the year were 1851.
- In relation to RAS properties in the Dundalk Area there were

62	Private RAS
13	Voluntary
10	Local Authority Owned
85	RAS Dundalk

Dundalk Town Council is now responsible for the sourcing of Long Term Leasing units for the whole County of Louth.

Long term leasing is a government initiative aimed at providing long term security of tenure for persons who are financially unable to provide same from their own resources. Properties are leased from the private sector for a period of up to 20 years.

Rents are guaranteed for the whole lease period but are subject to review depending on the market conditions. These houses are then used to accommodate people from the local authority housing waiting lists.

The benefits to the owner of residential property who would be interested in leasing it for 10 years or more are

- Assurance of guaranteed monthly rent paid in advance

- Avoid losing rent during vacant periods
- Have no worries about managing or maintaining the property
- Escape the hassle of dealing with tenant issues
- Avoid advertising costs.
- Be exempt from the second home tax (NPPR)
- Have no PRTB registration fees

Leasing figures at the end of December 2011

Area	Applications received (units)	No. Ongoing	Not approved/cancelled	No. Leased
N. Louth	178	100	37	41
M. Louth	14	13	0	1
S. Louth	8	7	1	0
Total	200	120	38	42

## Rapid Programme - DUNDALK

The Dundalk RAPID Programme has been a hive of activity over the past year, its focus being on service integration, leadership and new investment. Through the work of the Dundalk RAPID Area Implementation Team, a number of actions have been progressed & achieved in the two RAPID areas in Dundalk, Cox's Demesne and Muirhevnamor. The other forums, that are actively pursuing social inclusion measures in the RAPID areas, is the Dundalk Drugs Action Group and the Development Group for the Young People's Facilities and Services fund, both groups facilitated by the RAPID Co-ordinator.

Key actions Achieved during 2011 include:

- **CCTV now in DUNDALK RAPID areas**  
The new CCTV system, will act as a deterrent to the occurrence of anti social behaviour and low level crime. It will also provide evidence which will assist the local authorities/Garda in the prosecution of offenders. The CCTV project is a partnership approach with local RAPID community's resident groups and Dundalk Town Council, the aim in installing CCTV is to create a safer environment for the residents of Cox's Demesne and Muirhevnamor to live in and in turn protect their physical environment in terms of open spaces, amenity areas and their homes.
- **Sports capital funding** for Local authorities 2011 was secured for the installation of older people's gym equipment within the district parks in RAPID areas, and for the refurbishment of MUGA in Cox's Demesne due to fire damage. This work is now completed and the gym equipment was formally launched by the Cathaoirleach Marianne Butler in March 2012, under the European Year for Solidarity between the Generations. Older peoples group's (Young At Heart) and children from the area demonstrated the equipment at the launch.
- **The Dundalk Incredible Years Project-** A steering group has been working on this initiative since December 2008. Eight schools in total have signed up to avail of this project; all 4 primary schools within RAPID areas are actively involved. To date the 8 schools participating have had their teachers and other school personnel trained (200+) as



part of the programme. **Parenting groups** have been rolled out annually in the participating schools with over 120 parents involved to date, cumulating in a parent's graduation ceremony held in June in the Town hall where the Minister of Children and Youth Affairs, Frances Fitzgerald presented certificates to the graduating parents

- **A new Local Training Initiative -Cox's Demesne and DKIT Pilot project-** A new Local Training Initiative in Cox's Demesne has been given the green light by FAS to roll out during 2012. Since sept 2011, the steering group made up of statutory/community groups have been meeting with DKIT's creative media section, to devise a training programme that will tap into the potential of the creative media sector for young people living within the RAPID area. FAS have approved this initiative as a Pilot project which is due to commence in May 2012. **The Muirhevnemor Local Training initiative** continues to roll out targeting young people aged 16-25yrs, who wish to avail of accredited training within their own locality. This is the fifth year of the programme that aims to take young people off the dole or recruit those who have left school early and empower them with practical training, personal and academic skills.
- **The RAPID Summer Camp/Easter Camps and Futsal League** The FAI Soccer Sister RAPID Easter camp was held in Oriel Park over the Easter Holidays was attended by 30 girls between ages of 7-11yrs.
- **RAPID Estate Management Committee** this estate Management committee continue to meet to implement the Louth Local Authorities Tenant Participation Policy and to promote positive relationships between local authorities and Communities. The Bulky Waste initiative and Intoxicating Liquor signage was erected with RAPID estates and Fine Books given to Garda in order to combat ASB

## **Rapid Programme - DROGHEDA**

Drogheda RAPID programme in 2011 continued to provide coordination and administrative backup for the work of the RAPID thematic sub-groups. These sub-groups are made up of service providers and they provide the framework considered necessary to ensure that services are targeted into those areas where they are most needed. The areas in Drogheda include the seven RAPID estates. Where there is overlap, the neighbouring social housing estates developed since 2001 are included.

### ***Examples of what was achieved in 2011 in the context of the strategic themes:***

**Community safety/anti-social behaviour:** Drogheda RAPID/Drogheda Borough Council hosted an interagency seminar and open day on professional and community responses to families and young people experiencing the impacts of substance misuse with Des Corrigan, NCAD; Dr Bobby Smith, Consultant Child & Adolescent Psychiatrist; Fiona Carolan, family therapist and adult guidance counsellor at the Dublin Drug Treatment Centre. The seminar was accredited by the Irish Council of General Practitioners.

An audit of local supports around substance misuse was also completed. The piloted harm reduction/needle exchange programme in Drogheda was very successful and was subsequently rolled out to Dundalk and the rest of the region.

60 young people took part in Street league football and a further 15 youths attended art classes for six weeks during the Halloween period. 60 youths took part in the Easter soccer league in Drogheda which was held in cooperation with Louth County Council. Once again, there was significant community cooperation with the Halloween 'Don't Burn It! Skip It!' strategy.

**Training & Employment:** A pilot training and employment open day was held and because of its success will be expanded in 2012 with the support of Drogheda's Local Heroes office. Funding was secured from the Dept of Social Protection for a Lifeskills project which was rolled out in CONNECT family resource centre while a further 48 young people accessed the Drogheda Training Initiative. RAPID has been actively supporting the roll out of the TUS scheme with over 30 people now being placed in community projects.

**Family Support:** The Strengthening Families Programme (SFP), a 14-week skills training programme, was rolled out to nine families including their teenage siblings. The referrals came from five agencies and attendance was 100%. The impact of the SFP has been significant. The steering committee for the programme in Drogheda is chaired by the RAPID Coordinator.

A positive parenting initiative was supported in the Rathmullen Community House for eight families as a follow up to the SFP.

The Incredible Years project in operation since 2007 expanded. The project now focuses on five DEIS-designated schools in Drogheda and - along with the Rainbows project – operates through the Local Area Education Committee targeting schools serving children in RAPID areas. Planning went ahead in 2011 to develop the 'Little Steps to Big School' transition project which focuses on crèches located in RAPID areas and junior schools.

The Drogheda Older Citizens Network was reinstated by request from the community and voluntary groups engaged with older people. An audit of services highlighted the significant amount of work put in by volunteers in Drogheda.

**Environment:** RAPID co-ordinated the roll out of the Sustainable Community Initiative in Drogheda in three locations at Rathmullen Pk and Lawrence's Drive. There was excellent cooperation from residents of both areas and the core work done will continue to grow and flourish. Also in 2011, two RAPID environmental projects featured in the Entente Florale event in July. The RAPID Community Environmental Initiative worked well with the Drogheda Borough Council environment staff to ensure near perfection at the two sites located in the Meadow Garden in Marian Park and the Glen in Yellowbatter

**Community Activity:** 1,112 people responded to the Lifestyle/RAPID Community Survey covering Ballsgrove, Rathmullen, St Finian's Pk, Tredagh View and Rowan Heights. This survey will serve as a guide to future activity in the area. The survey also involved the Community House and the Health Promotion Unit and has yielded some valuable information.

In 2011, a Steering Committee was formed to plan for the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Yellowbatter Estate. Events ran over a weekend in July and were attended by several thousand people. The estate opened in 1951 and given that 99% of the original occupants were employed with regular wages, the conditions they had to endure prior to their move to Yellowbatter are indicative of the severity of the housing crisis at the time.

Significant work went into developing supports at 229 Rathmullen - now known as the Community House. The family counselling service was boosted following advertising and new projects like Grow Your Own; Driving Theory Test training; one-to-one literacy and computer training were some of the new initiatives hosted by the voluntary board.

## Transportation & Marine:

*'To maintain a high quality road network that supports and facilitates a modern transportation system that is accessible, safe, smart and integrated and which responds to the needs of the people of the county.'*

### TRANSPORTATION

- Winter maintenance - we dealt with severe weather conditions in the early parts of the year and kept all the major routes open despite the most severe weather conditions in the last 20 years. Great credit is due to the area and outdoor staff for their dedication in most difficult circumstances.
- N53 – contractor appointed and construction works commenced on a three kilometres section from Newtownbalregan to Barronstown.
- Continued progress on the Statutory Procedures for Narrow Water Bridge and lodged the CPO and EIS with An Bord Pleanála.
- Purchase of lands for the Ardee By-Pass continued.
- Cavan/Dundalk R178 – Draft Preliminary Design has been prepared.
- N51 Littlegrange, Drogheda to Navan route - land acquisition completed and contractor appointed.
- Part 8 approved for Mapastown Bridge.
- N52 realignment, Gibstown to Stephenstown - ground investigation and archaeological investigation contracts have been undertaken, along with preliminary design.
- Works commenced on the Old Golf Links Road junction with the R132.
- New Footpaths were provided at various locations including in Ardee and Louth Village.
- Three new pedestrian crossings were provided in Ardee under the Smarter Travel programme.
- Castlebellingham – Station Road junction improvement completed.

*In addition, the Transportation Section*

- *Surface dressed and/or strengthened 122km of Local Roads and 25km of Regional Roads;*
- *Completed 2 Local Improvement Schemes;*
- *Completed two Local Contribution Schemes;*
- *Carried out five Safety Improvement Schemes on National Roads and 10 on Regional Roads;*
- *Took in charge six housing estates.*

- *Continued the road safety programme through the Louth Collision Prevention Programme (CPP), the Seat Belt Sheriff, and co-operation with the Road Safety Authority events.*
- *Maintained its accreditation under ISO 14001 environmental management system.*

## **MARINE**

Completed Baltray Coastal Protection Works.

Consultants appointed for Bellurgan Embankment Study.

Photo x 1 : Pedestrian Crossing N2 .jpg

---

Drogheda Borough Council

### **ROADS SECTION**

#### ***Photo***

Road Construction – Palace Street to Francis Street Link Road

#### **Activities 2011**

- Road and footpath maintenance throughout the Borough.
- Implementation of Drogheda Appointed Stands (Street Service Vehicles) Bye-Laws 2008, as amended 2011.
- Road reconstruction and resurfacing at Dominic's St; Roache's Lane; Simcock's Lane; Cromwell's Lane; Bredin Street; Dublin Road; Cement Rd; IDA Road; Marsh Road; Rathmullen Road and Ascal a Tri, Yellowbatter.
- Footpath reconstruction at Church St; Palace St; Patrick St; Pearse Pk; Rathmullen Pk and Brookville Pk.
- Construction of new Palace Street to Francis Street link road.
- Construction of new pedestrian pelican crossings at Newfoundwell Road and Rathmullen Road.
- Low cost safety improvement scheme at R150 Marsh Road.
- Smarter Travel: Ballymakenny Road, Ballymakenny National School - 1.35km cycle lane, footpath alterations, controlled pedestrian crossing and signs; Newfoundwell Road, St. Joseph's Secondary School – 0.15km cycle track to link existing and provision of cycle storage facilities.
- Bike to Work was held on September 22, 2011 as part of the European Mobility Week 'Bike to Work Day' initiative and the first ever 10km public cycle in Drogheda was organised from St Dominic's Pk.
- Disabled bay road markings at various locations.
- Upgrading of road markings and signs at various locations.
- Housing estate enhancement scheme including road reconstruction and resurfacing at Rathmullen Park and Moneymore.
- Provision of additional parking at various locations.

- Survey of public lighting assets within the Borough. Maintenance and upgrading of public lighting infrastructure in the Borough.
- Disability works including provision of disabled access on footpaths at various locations.
- Daily traffic management, monitoring and maintenance of traffic signals including traffic and speed counts at various locations
- Assessment of planning applications and road reports.
- Routine road and footpath maintenance.
- Road gully monitoring and maintenance.
- Road markings and signage renewed and/or provided at various locations.
- Maintenance and enforcement of Pay Parking.
- Winter maintenance – removal of snow and gritting of roads and footpaths along gritting routes.

## Water, Environment & Emergency Services:

*‘To provide for timely high quality water and waste services to cater for the development needs of the county while protecting and enhancing the environment.’*

### **Waste Management**

Louth County Council continued to work with the other local authorities in the region to achieve the North East Waste Management Plan targets.

The pilot brown bin service in Dundalk, Ardee and Blackrock diverted considerable volumes of organic waste from landfill. A review of the Plan was initiated during the year.

A number of promotions were undertaken to create awareness about the proper use of the green and brown bins including supermarket events and home recycling surveys.

### **Recycling**

2011 continued to see excellent results in terms of recycling in Louth with all previous records broken in terms of volumes recycled at the network of Bring Banks throughout the county.

Waste minimisation and recycling initiatives were undertaken with community groups and schools, including a major household battery recycling awareness campaign and recycling fashion show in Ardee.

Our strong recycling performance combined with effective enforcement of the packaging regulations resulted in Louth County Council being named Repak Local Authority of the Year for its recycling programme and the Dundalk Recycling Centre winning the Recycling Centre of the Year.

Further success was achieved when the county won the European Recycling Award for the most Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) and waste battery returns in 2011.

### **Whiteriver Landfill**

The landfill facility operated within the conditions set out in the EPA licence during 2011. Council officials and local residents met regularly to ensure best practice in management of the site.

Acceptance of non-hazardous incinerator bottom ash from the Indaver incinerator at Duleek commenced in November 2011. The economic downturn has resulted in a reduction in income from the landfill site. It has been decided to cease landfilling at Whiteriver once Phase Five of the landfill has been filled.

It is projected this will be reached in 2013. Investigations into the utilisation of the landfill gas to generate electricity have commenced with a view to exporting electricity to the national grid.

## **Environmental Enforcement**

Louth County Council continued to actively enforce environmental legislation. Appropriate authorisations under the environmental legislation continue to be issued by the environment section.

The enforcement of environmental legislation covers five key areas - waste, litter, water, air and noise.

Waste enforcement included inspections and audits of waste permitted facilities, certificate of registration and waste collection permit holders.

Multi-agency operations also continue as appropriate. Road checkpoints are carried out in conjunction with An Garda Síochána and the National Trans-frontier Shipment Office. Complaints continued to be received and were investigated with legal proceedings initiated where appropriate. Successful prosecutions have been obtained under the Waste Management Act 1996 as amended.

Waste enforcement included inspections to determine compliance with producer responsibility legislation which includes the Plastic Bag Levy; Farm Plastics Levy; End of Life Vehicles; WEEE; Packaging; Batteries and Tyres Regulations.

Once again, a considerable sum was spent in 2011 on the handling and disposal of the by-products of illegal diesel laundering activities in the border area. The number of clean-ups required in Louth from this activity has risen significantly since 2010.

A contractor was appointed following competitive tendering for the upgrade of the waste facility at the machinery yard to provide a sealed reinforced concrete slab surface throughout with a new drainage system draining to an oil interceptor. A new loading ramp, emergency shower and new security fencing are also included. As a result, the diesel sludge will be stored and re-packed in a safe manner.

Other environmental complaints received such as noise, water and air pollution were investigated with legal proceedings initiated where appropriate. Inspections and audits of effluent discharge licences are completed in accordance with a plan submitted to the EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) on an annual basis.

## **Litter Management**



Drogheda Borough Council; Dundalk Town Council and Louth County Council continue to enforce the Litter Pollution Act with the county once again recording one of the highest levels of litter fines issued with 511 fines during 2011.

The ‘stick’ of fines was backed up by a ‘carrot’ approach through a series of litter awareness initiatives, school visits and support for National Spring Clean which saw over 4,000 volunteers in Louth take to the streets to clean up the county. One very successful addition to this campaign was the Spring Clean at Exit 14 off the M1 by members of Louth Tidy Towns Together who travelled from throughout the county to undertake this very successful joint initiative.

### **Schools Programme**

By the end of 2011, 63 Green Flags flew over Louth which demonstrates the excellent litter and waste management programmes throughout the county.

Many schools, as part of the process, also now have energy management, water conservation and sustainable travel action plans with a number moving on to the theme of biodiversity.

The local Primary School Awards Scheme enjoyed another successful year with Energia maintaining its sponsorship to co-finance the campaign.

### **National Tidy Towns**

2011 was another very successful year for Tidy Towns in the county. Tallanstown, Dundalk and Drogheda all received Gold Medals while Knockbridge received a Silver Medal. Knockbridge also won the Regional Award for the ‘Notice Nature’ biodiversity initiative while Ardee scooped the National Tree Award.

As a result of this ongoing success, Louth - once again - played host to the Regional Awards in Tallanstown and the village also welcomed President Mary McAleese in May to officially unveil the National Tidy Towns Winner Plaque.

The environment section successfully partnered with the housing section in organising the Louth Looking Good Awards 2011 which honoured residents associations throughout the county for their voluntary commitment to improving the environmental presentation and quality of life of their communities.

### **Water Quality**

The EU Water Framework Directive is being implemented by means of River Basin Management Plans in the Neagh Bann and Eastern River Basin Districts of the county. The first measures to achieve water improvement quality targets commenced in 2010, continued in 2011 and will conclude in 2015.

Bathing water quality continued to be monitored during the year and met the required standard. Louth retained the prestigious Blue Flag for its beaches at Templetown, Port and Clogherhead in 2011.

### **Energy Management**

In 2011 the Council went out to tender for both electricity and road diesel. This has produced significant savings and has facilitated improved monitoring of usage.

Louth County Council is also one of the pilot public bodies taking part in the monitoring and reporting of total energy use, a tool that will be used to assess compliance with the 33% reduction target on energy use by 2020. For this purpose, the reduction by 2020 will be assessed against a baseline of the average annual consumption in 2006-2008. Each year towards 2020 a scorecard will be produced indicating progress towards this target.

### **Food Safety**

The service contract work for the FSAI continued on schedule for 2011 with over 250 inspections and 16 full audits conducted during the course of the year.

### **Animal Compound**

The pound continued to produce very strong re-housing figures, with 90% of the 700 dogs coming into the pound during 2011 either being reclaimed or finding new homes. Licensing numbers have been holding up well, with over 6,000 licenses in 2011.

Horse welfare continued to be an issue in 2011, partly driven by the economic downturn, and seven horses were taken into the pound, some in poor condition.

The ISO14001 environmental standard was also retained for the Pound in 2011 following an inspection by the independent accreditation body.

### **Fire Service**

Restructuring of the county's Fire and Rescue Service began during 2011 on foot of proposals aimed at achieving a full-time fire service in Louth were put forward by fire service management.

The downward trend in emergency callouts continued. Dundalk Fire and Rescue Service responded to 564 calls; Drogheda to 699 calls and there were 271 calls from the rest of Co Louth.

A new Emergency Tender was delivered in Drogheda and this responds to road traffic accidents in Louth and East Meath.

The schools home fire safety programme was delivered to primary schools in Louth during 2011.

The design for an extended and upgraded Fire Service Training Centre in Dundalk was finalised and subject to the Part 8 planning process. It is planned to procure a contractor to build this extension during 2012, subject to Government approval.

During 2011, the Fire Prevention Section inspected all large places of public assembly, e.g. nightclubs and bars, which were subject to annual licence renewals and objected to these renewals until adequate fire safety improvements were achieved.

The severe weather of January 2011 resulted in the activation of the Local Co-ordination Centre in County Hall, Dundalk to deal with the emergency situation.

This strategic group met on a daily basis to deal with the weather emergency. Louth Local Authorities took the lead regionally by organising a daily teleconference amongst the regional principal response agencies. This assisted co-ordination and co-operation in the region across the agencies involved.

Louth Local Authorities were involved in six inter-agency exercises and workshops during the year to test plans and procedures. All major emergency plans were updated and reviewed following de-briefs of these events.

Louth Local Authority personnel completed regional major emergency courses on Information Management and On-Site Co-ordination during the year. Personnel also played an active part at Regional Working Group and Steering Group level during the year.

### **Civil Defence**

In January 2011, the new Louth Civil Defence Officer, James McConnell, was appointed and guided Louth Civil Defence through a very active year.

Louth Civil Defence attended 48 community duties during 2011, mainly in Louth, but they also attended the Tall Ships event in Waterford. Civil Defence acquired two new vehicles during 2011, a Land Rover 4WD ambulance and a Ford Transit welfare catering vehicle.

Civil Defence also took part in five searches for missing persons in Louth during 2011.

---

## **Drogheda Borough Council**

### *Water conservation*

A water conservation programme is continuing. Consultants are being procured to progress mains rehabilitation project in Drogheda and Dundalk in 2012-2013. A number of pressure reducing valves were installed in Dundalk. Significant reduction in losses was achieved from focused leak detection programmes in the Cooley area and Drogheda, while ongoing works have led to input reductions on a number of schemes. The Networking Information Management & Security (NIMS) computer package which manages data is now fully operational.

### *Water charging*

All operations associated with billing of non-domestic customers on a countywide basis are now fully managed by Louth County Council. Significant progress has been made in reducing customer leakage and wastage while previously unrecorded connections continue to be found.

### *Waste water*

A Wastewater Treatment Plant Certificate was received for Tinure, Omeath, Greenore and Annagassan Schemes Licence. Limited progress has been made on enhanced treatment to reduce levels of both phosphates and nitrates in discharges in Dundalk waste water treatment plant.

A preliminary Report for Omeath sewerage scheme has been finalised while final submissions for Ardee Sewerage have been submitted to the Department.

A very comprehensive network study has been completed in Drogheda which has highlighted a large number of issues to be addressed.

Significant asset refurbishment works were carried out in Dromiskin, Tinure, Clogherhead and Carlingford works while pump stations were upgraded at Tullyallen and Blackrock.

#### *Water*

Major upgrade works were carried out on the filtration system at Ardee water treatment plant while consultants were appointed to carry out detailed design for Cooley RWS- Omeath Water Supply with construction works programmed to commence in the latter half of 2012.

Planning is progressing on Staleen Stage 2 works which will hopefully proceed to construction by the end of 2012.

Upgrades of disinfection monitoring equipment were installed in a number of areas. A lead replacement programme continued in Dundalk. Upgrade Works have begun on the trident filter in the Greenmount water treatment plant serving the Castelebellingham/Dunleer area and is due to be finished in early 2012. A link main between Cavanhill and Tallanstown Scheme was also commenced with Stage One due for completion in early 2012.

Significant work was undertaken in the early part of the year to repair damage caused by the prolonged cold spell at the end of 2010.

Upgrade works including treatment and network upgrades have been carried out on six group water schemes - Mountain Park, Drybridge Waterunder, Ballymakenny, Tullyallen, Grangebellew and Sheepgrange schemes.

#### *Energy management*

Further progress has been made on energy management with installation of management systems in a number of pump stations to increase overall efficiency. The Council are also involved with a number of private sector firms in developing a novel control system to optimise energy usage and plant capacity with trials ongoing at Dromiskin waste water treatment plant.

#### *Asset Management*

The Invista asset management programme is now in operation for a number of wastewater plants and roll out will be completed in 2012. This web based solution was developed as part of a cross border initiative involving a local company and provides management support to ensure effective maintenance programmes are in place and to prioritise repair work and asset replacement. The programme which was initially trialled in Louth and Limerick is now being marketed successfully in southern Africa and the United States.

### **ENVIRONMENT** ***Photo***

*Millmount, Drogheda*

Environmental protection and pollution control measures carried out over the year included street-cleaning, weed control, grass and hedge cutting programmes. In addition, flower beds throughout the town were upgraded and a tree maintenance programme for the Borough commenced.

Gas monitoring continued at the former landfill site on the Collon Road and surveys were completed for the National Litter Pollution Monitoring System (Litter GIS). The Council was also involved in administration of the Derelict Sites Act, 1990 and graffiti removal.

Drogheda was awarded a Silver Medal in the European Entente Florale 2011 and retained its Gold Medal in the Tidy Towns competition for the fourth year in a row. Drogheda continued to be ranked as Clean to European Norms in the Irish Businesses against Litter League 2011.

Amenity grants totalling €27,000 were awarded to 50 Residents Associations and Community Groups for projects to improve estate management and their environs.

***Photo***

***Rowan Heights - Winner in Beauty on the Boyne 2011***

**DROGHEDA ENVIRONMENTAL CAMPAIGNS**

*Photo*  
*Drogheda Allotments*

Drogheda environmental campaigns which ran over the course of 2011 included:

Beauty on the Boyne Awards sponsored by Drogheda Borough Council, Coca Cola, V&W Recycling, Scotch Hall, Scholars Townhouse and the d Hotel;

Drogheda activity for National Spring Clean;

Drogheda Allotments group continue to develop the allotment site;

Rollout of Halloween Bonfire Initiative to reduce quantities of waste being burned and the cost of clean-up and;

Litter Prevention Campaign continued with the cooperation and participation of the five second level schools in the town.

**Water Services**

The water services section of Drogheda Borough Council covers both the public water supply and the public sewerage service and is responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of both the water distribution and drainage networks within Drogheda.

**Public Water Supply**

Louth County Council provides the public water supply to the town of Drogheda, parts of South Louth and East Meath. The main source of water for Drogheda town is the River Boyne.

Water is abstracted from the river Boyne at Roughgrange (Donore) and pumped to the Staleen Water Treatment Plant. The water is treated at Staleen before it enters the water distribution network that serves Drogheda and surrounding areas. The Rosehall water treatment plant,

located on the north side of the town, is a supplementary source of water for Drogheda. This supply consists of catchment storage at the Barnattin and Killineer reservoirs and treatment at Rosehall.

Drogheda Borough Council is responsible for the maintenance of the water mains distribution network.

### **Public Sewerage Service**

The Drogheda Waste Water Treatment Plant (WWTP) has a capacity of 101,000pe (population equivalent). A 20-year contract for the Operation & Maintenance of the WWTP is in operation since January 2004.

Drogheda Borough Council is responsible for the maintenance of the public sewer network.

### **Activities 2011**

- Continuation of the Water Conservation Project in Drogheda in conjunction with Louth County Council. The work consisted of active leakage detection and repair of leaks throughout the network.
- Attended to leak repairs throughout the distribution network as a result of the severe cold weather experienced in early 2011.
- Continuation of the installation of water meter boundary boxes/water meters for non-domestic customers.
- Commenced a phased programme of stopcock lowering throughout the network to avoid freezing during cold weather.
- Continuous maintenance and operation of the existing water distribution network within the Borough.
- Commenced a phased programme of sewer network cleaning within the Borough as identified under the Drogheda Sewerage Network Improvement Assessment Scheme.
- Commenced a phased programme of manhole cover repair and replacement within the Borough as identified under the Drogheda Sewerage Network Improvement Assessment Scheme.
- Continuous maintenance and operation of the existing sewer drainage network within the Borough.

## **Economic Development:**

*‘That Louth is acknowledged as a location of choice for economic development, cultural and educational opportunity supported by modern and sophisticated infrastructure providing ease of access for all.’*

### **The Louth Economic Forum**

The Louth Economic Forum was established in Louth Local Authorities in 2009 under the chairmanship of Pádraic White, former CEO of IDA Ireland, the State agency charged with attracting foreign direct investment (FDI) to Ireland.

The Forum brings together all of the State agencies that interact with those generating economic activity in the county, and is a one-stop-shop for potential investors.

### **The main aims of the Louth Economic Forum are to -**

- Promote Louth as the county of choice in Ireland, to do business in;
- Work with new businesses intending to establish in the county and ensure that all local authority issues affecting new business are dealt with in a coherent and timely manner;
- Liaise with and work with existing indigenous business in the county and assist them with any local authority related issues;
- Promote and market the county of Louth as a tourism and heritage destination of choice;
- Create the environment and the conditions within which economic development and job creation can happen and;
- Assist in the creation of an operating environment which is based on flexibility, speed, agility, capability and expertise.

The Louth Economic Forum has, in 2011, reached the halfway mark with the publication of five of the 10 action plans it is committed to delivering.

To date, the following action plans have been published and are currently being implemented - Foreign Direct Investment, Indigenous Industry, Sustainable Energy, Tourism and Heritage and Age-Friendly Business.

In addition, action plans due to be published in 2012 include Education & Training; Agriculture, Food & Fisheries; Broadband; Making Louth the Best County to do Business In and Drogheda, Dundalk, Newry Economic Corridor.

### **Update on Action Plans in 2011**

FDI projects announced in 2011 include Satir, a 45-job project for Dundalk with expansion planned; Warner Chilcott, a 200-job project for Dundalk; Coca-Cola, a 100-job project for Drogheda and Prometric, a 100-job project for Dundalk.

Indigenous industry supports include the Business Support Unit in Louth County Council for the 80% of firms who are not clients of Enterprise Ireland or a County Enterprise Board; enterprise initiatives for entrepreneurs and the commencement of work on Dundalk Enterprise Centre as well as supporting Probiotec with their 40-job project for Dundalk.

Sustainable energy including Drogheda and Ardee accepting the challenge of introducing sustainable energy saving zones. 45 companies have already benefited from an energy saving initiative with actual savings of €250k in 2011 and a further €750k potential savings identified for these businesses – helping to reduce business costs, protect employment and benefit the environment.

The Louth Economic Forum earned a national award for economic efficiency, which was presented to Louth Local Authorities at the 2011 Chambers Ireland Excellence in Local Government Awards, held in association with the Department of Environment, Community & Local Government in November.



## **Business Support Unit**

A dedicated web site has been created that allows the public interface with the Business Support Unit, helping to promote the 'One-Stop-Shop' concept within the county. The Unit acts as a liaison/contact for business to access the range of state agencies offering business supports, assists in keeping companies fully informed about available sources of finance for both starting and maintaining a business and seeks to encourage - in conjunction with Teagasc - the development of rural enterprise as a means of supporting and sustaining rural communities.

Age-Friendly business - action plan launched September 5, 2011, Men's Sheds launched in Dundalk in the same month and Age-Friendly Business toolkit being piloted in Ardee.

Louth Local Authorities festival and events assistance scheme was introduced to support and encourage the hosting of festivals and events throughout the county and provided support in 2011 to the tune of €20,000. Events supported included Drogheda Beat on the Boyne Festival; Carlingford Oyster Festival; Drogheda Samba Carnival; A Taste of Carlingford; Louth County Agricultural Show and Blackrock Raft Race.

In partnership with the tourism trade, the development and promotion of Louth as a walking destination continued in 2011 with the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Táin Walking Festival and the Boyne Valley Walking Festival 2011.

One of the signature projects of the Tourism & Heritage Forum is the Táin March (Táin Bo Cuailgne) and in June 2011 an army of mounted and foot soldiers followed in the footsteps of Queen Maeve's army and after an enactment of the hand-to-hand combat between Cuchulainn and the mighty Ferdia at the river Dee marched from Ardee through Tallanstown, Louth Village, Knockbridge, and Dundalk to finish in Carlingford in the Cooley Peninsula.

Also in 2011, in partnership with the tourism trade in the county, Louth was promoted at the Holiday World Shows in both Dublin and Belfast and at the National Ploughing Championships in Athy. A Louth Expo took place during the Louth County Agricultural Show at Dundalk Stadium with this promoting pride in, and increased awareness of, Louth's wonderful tourism offering.

## **Tourism**

Tourism and heritage activity including county branding and website development. Agreement has been reached for promotion and marketing of the Boyne Valley with County Meath on a shared services basis and a similar agreement is underway with Newry & Mourne on Cooley, Mourne and Gullion.

## **PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT IN DROGHEDA**

In 2011, the planning section continued to be responsible for consideration of applications for planning permission, the control of ongoing development, the enforcement of planning legislation, the provision of advice on planning related matters and enforcement of the Building Control legislation.

The Drogheda Economic Forum continued to bring together key stakeholders to implement the integrated economic development strategy and to secure the economic development of the

greater Drogheda area to 2015 and beyond and to realise the overall vision of Drogheda as a flourishing urban centre with vibrant communities on either side of the River Boyne.

The Drogheda Borough Council Development Plan, 2011 - 2017 was adopted.

In 2011, 59 planning applications were processed by Drogheda Borough Council, which represents a marked decrease on the 2010 figure in line with the wider contraction in economic and – especially – construction activity.

Out of four Drogheda decisions issued by An Bord Pleanála in 2011 in relation to appeals, three upheld the decision of the planning authority while one modified the decision of the planning authority.

### **Photo**

*New Flower Bed at the Buttergate*

## Regional Gateway:

*‘Place Dundalk and Drogheda at the heart of the Regional Gateway of the Eastern Corridor.’*

### **Memorandum of Understanding between Louth Local Authorities and Newry & Mourne District Council**

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) sets out the detailed workings of the Strategic Alliance between Newry & Mourne District Council and the Louth Local Authorities which will seek to support and promote the economic development and competitiveness of the region.

#### **The key objectives of the Strategic Alliance are:**

- To promote, strengthen and stimulate the social, cultural and economic links within and between the peoples of the region;
- To provide an enabling framework to promote the region more effectively for inward investment and open up further opportunities for the sharing of services and coordinated management of key resources;
- To consolidate the long-established working relationships between the authorities, positioning them on a strategic long-term footing, and with an outward looking focus;
- To coordinate core functions of the authorities in selected areas of co-operation;
- To enhance the leadership position of the authorities within the cross-border region and bolster their influencing and coordinating role for the benefit of the entire community;
- To develop links with other local authorities and regional stakeholders.

#### **Co-operation Themes**

- Emergency

- Renewable energy and green technology
- Tourism and recreation
- Sustainable economic growth and job creation

## **Progress in 2011**

The signing of the MOU - the first of its kind in Europe given the cross-border dimension - took place in Brussels in February. In April, at a function in Dundalk attended by Pat Cox, former President of the European Parliament, the wider stakeholder community - including representatives of the North-South Ministerial Council; Intertrade Ireland; Special EU Programmes Body; East Border Region; local Chambers of Commerce; service providers and the community and voluntary sector - signed up to a Charter of Commitment.

A European and Economic Office has been established under the directorship of Michael Curran, Director of Services - Economic & Cross Border Development, Louth Local Authorities. The function of this Office is to work with Newry & Mourne on the effective rollout of the Memorandum of Understanding.

The inaugural meeting of the Louth/Newry & Mourne Joint Council Committee took place in Newry in July and this session agreed the operational structure and standing orders.

Since then, the Joint Council Committee, jointly chaired by Cllr Declan Breathnach and Cllr Jimmy McCreesh has met on a regular basis and had meetings with Minister for Transport, Leo Varadkar TD; Minister for State for Small Business; John Perry TD and Minister for Regional Development, Danny Kennedy MLA in regard to funding Narrow Water Bridge, Warrenpoint Marina and job creation.

The initial areas for attention have been expanded and now include inward investment; indigenous growth; tourism and recreation; agriculture; low carbon business network; emergency planning and age-friendly.

We are working with East Border Region to roll out projects in the tourism, energy and environment sectors. Newry Low Carbon City has been established and an action plan developed based on the EU Holistic Project in Louth. We are also involved in the Challenge of Change; People Panel; Tellus Project and the Isles Project.

Much work has been carried out in relation to the Low Carbon Business Network, a Letter of Offer has now been issued with €860,000 secured in Interreg funding and we are in the process of recruiting a Network Manager, Technical Manager and Marketing Executive.

### **Photos x 6 :**

- [The "Cast" .jpg](#)
- [Bellurgan United F.C. Football Project .jpg](#)
- [Award 16 .jpg](#)
- [DSC\\_1665 .jpg](#)
- [DSC\\_6033 .jpg](#)
- [Pat 02 .jpg](#)

## Peace III

Phase I activity of the PEACE III Programme drew to a conclusion during the course of 2011. Over the lifetime of the programme, projects were awarded €2.5m for a range of peace initiatives.

Some of the key achievements of Phase I included:

- Development of over 40 projects over a range of delivery mechanisms with 28 small grants; nine tenders and five partnership delivery proposals awarded.
- The high level of cross border partnerships developed through the programme with approximately 18 out of 25 projects having a cross border element to their projects.
- A major cross border conference entitled “Building a Shared Future: the economic, social and cultural challenges” held in October 2010 in Highlanes Gallery, Drogheda.

Three of the projects delivered under Phase I were nominated for Media and Multicultural Awards with Louth County Enterprise Board’s project on “Institutional Sectarianism and Racism” and Co-exist’s “Peace and Democracy” youth project both successful.

Louth has been allocated a fund of €2m under **Phase II** (until Dec 2013) of the PEACE III programme. This phase got underway in late 2011 with Information Sessions being held at Stephenstown Pond for all interested parties in advance of tendering out of the activities within Phase II.

This Phase of the programme includes actions involving “Persons Displaced by Conflict”, “Victims and Survivors” and “Youth”.

The **PEACE III** Programme is part funded by the European Union Structural Funds.

## Arts, Culture & Leisure:

*'Arts, Culture & Leisure will underpin the quality of life for individuals and communities within the county.'*

### **Arts Service 2011**

The Arts Service of Louth Local Authorities initiated and supported a wide range of events, festivals and projects during the year and, through its CreateLouth funding opportunities, assisted many local arts activities in the county.

In dealing with reduced resources, both in terms of staff and finances, service has worked closely with a variety of partners on arts development. Some of these partnerships are briefly detailed below:

**Music Generation Louth** – Louth was one of only three counties which secured funding to establish a Music Generation initiative. This will facilitate high-quality, affordable music instrument tuition for young people at four locations in Louth. The Arts Service worked in partnership with Louth VEC and other stakeholders in making the application, and the programme of classes, and other music education activities, will be rolled out in 2012.

**Pipeworks** – Every three years, a ten-day festival entitled Pipeworks take place. Centred on the Dublin International Organ Competition which attracts young virtuosi from every corner of the world and which has secured Ireland a respected position in the international organ-playing scene festival, 2011 saw Pipeworks come to Dundalk. In partnership with the Arts Service, a packed programme of workshops, performances, and competitions took place, with one of Dundalk's most important cultural resources, the Father Willis organ at St. Patrick's, to the fore.

**Dundalk Photographic Society** – Louth has a strong amateur photography tradition, and the ultimate accolade came to Dundalk Photographic Society in December 2010, when it was announced that the club had been crowned the 2010/2011 FIAP Club World Cup Champions. To mark this historic achievement, a formal Civic Reception was organised in the Club's honour. The Arts Service has supported the DPS over many years, and wishes continued success to this most innovative and talented group of photographers.

**Culture Night** – The night of September 23 allowed Drogheda to showcase the wealth of creativity, both in its buildings and through its vibrant arts community. Culture Night saw exhibitions, walking tours, and performances at Highlanes Gallery; Barlow House; the Battle of the Boyne Centre; Droichead Arts Centre and Drogheda Museum at Millmount.

Workshops and performances by Calipo Theatre and Picture Company; Our Lady's College, Greenhills; Nexus Arts and Upstate Theatre Company, as well as many other local musicians, craftspeople and artists confirmed Drogheda's established reputation as a town which values the arts and creativity. Culture Night in Drogheda was supported by the Arts Service of Louth Local Authorities.

**Song of Amergin** – 2011 was National Year of Craft, and saw the Highlanes Gallery host an exhibition of work by local craftspeople and designers. This open submission exhibition was inspired by the eponymous mythological figure and organised by the Louth Craftmark Designers'

Network, with support from the Arts Service. Song of Amergin demonstrated again the breadth and high level of achievement in the craft sector in the county.

Photos x 4:

- Michael O'Neill – Young Harper .jpg
- Pipeworks Workshop – '11 .jpg
- Reception Dundalk Photo Soc – '11 .jpg
- St. Patrick's Dundalk .jpg

### **Louth County Library Service**

Louth County Library Service is operated through five branch libraries at Dundalk, Drogheda, Ardee, Carlingford and Dunleer. In 2011, the Mobile Library Service increased its locations to 55 stops in the county including day care centres and crèches. The Louth Schools Library Service continues to serve and support 75 primary schools within the county.

<b><i>Usage of Louth County Libraries</i></b>	<b><i>2011</i></b>	<b><i>2010</i></b>	<b><i>2009</i></b>
• Items borrowed	462,056	432,558	336,757
• Visits to full-time libraries	251,300	216,846	219,531
• Registered members	12,192	12,176	11,965
• Internet sessions provided	17,912	21,818	19,317

### **Library Stock**

The Library stock collection includes books, music CDs, language resource packs and DVDs which are available for loan to borrowers. During 2011, additional 'Quick Reads' books were purchased to promote reading and develop adult literacy.

### **Local Studies/Archives**

During 2011, the Archives Service acquired a number of important collections. One notable collection received were the papers of Joseph Dolan of Ardee, who was one of the founding members of the Louth Archaeological and Historical Society.

A full range of activities, open days and exhibitions were carried out in 2011. Close links were maintained with local historical societies and groups to promote and preserve the rich heritage of Louth. The online genealogy service provides information and services to people tracing their family tree, and it generates an additional income stream for the Library Service.

### **Newspaper Collections**

Bound copies of the *Dundalk Democrat*, *The Argus* and *Drogheda Independent* are available for consultation in Dundalk and Drogheda Libraries. *Dundalk Democrat* is available on microfilm from 1849–2009 and *The Argus* from 1986–1999 in the reference section of Dundalk Library. Microfilm copies of *The Drogheda Independent* from 1884–1949 and from 1986–2004 and *The Argus* on microfilm from 1838–1896 are available in Drogheda Library. Historical journals and other material relating to the towns are also available for reference.

### **Branch Development**

Under the planning and development regulations 2001 (Part 8) as amended, notice was given by Louth County Council of proposed works to Carlingford Library (former courthouse). When completed, this development will ensure a greatly enhanced service to the local community. In 2012, it is proposed to invite tenders for this project.

### **Computerisation**

The provision of public internet access in all branch libraries continued in 2011 with 17,912 bookings recorded this year. During 2011, Wi-Fi access was introduced in Dundalk, Drogheda and Ardee Libraries with 537 logins recorded.

It is hoped to extend this service in 2012 and collaborate with DkIT to offer dual membership and free Wi-Fi access to students of the college in branch libraries.

The public can renew their library items online with a current membership card and pin number, available from branch libraries.

The Learning Centre continues its work with community groups such as the Deaf Hear Association, The National Learning Network and an eLearning project with FÁS, to encourage people to learn new computer skills and mobile phone training in their local library.

### **Europe Direct**

One of the highlights for the Europe Direct Centre for 2011 was a very successful ‘Volunteering Fair Day’ held in Dundalk library. Local businesses and community groups outlined their work and recruited volunteers to enhance their businesses and services.

### **Outreach Activities**

A full and varied programme of events and activities took place in Louth County Libraries in 2011. These events included exhibitions, lectures, storytelling, local history, genealogy workshops and art events and craft sessions. The libraries involvement in national events such as Adult Literacy Week, Children’s Book Festival, Seachtain na Gaeilge, Bealtaine and Science Week continued during the year.

In conjunction with the Arts Office, a successful series of music workshops were held in Ardee Library as part of the Ardee Baroque Festival.

### **Reading Events**

Some highlights of 2011 included collaboration with the Bord Gáis Energy Rediscover Library Week, with renowned author Sinead Moriarty reading from her books and giving some useful tips to aspiring writers.

A ‘Writers-in-Libraries Scheme’ sponsored by Poetry Ireland and Louth County Libraries was offered to teenagers. Budding young writers joined author Sandy Sneddon and used the framework of the social media site Facebook, as a tool for creativity in this 10-week writing course.

In collaboration with local students, parents, teachers and other service providers, Louth County Libraries embarked on a reading initiative called ‘Drogheda Reads Roddy Doyle’ starting in



December 2011 and running into 2012. The town of Drogheda read at least one book by Roddy Doyle and the library played its part in encouraging children, teenagers and adults to participate in the project.

Re Photos: x 3:

**Photographs from County Library:**

Caption for No 7. jpg : Sinead Moriarty with Dundalk Library Staff at a reading to celebrate Bord Gáis Energy Rediscover Library Week

Caption for FairytaleStorytelling 015.jpg: Snow White AKA Rosemary Lynch (staff member) reading to an entranced audience in Dundalk Library.

Caption for Roddy Doyle photo: 'Drogheda Reads Roddy Doyle' event in Drogheda Library.

*Received 04/04/2012*

**Louth County Archives Service**

**Outreach**

To mark Heritage Week and Archive Awareness Month, Louth County Archives Service held an exhibition entitled 'Archival Treasures of County Louth'.

The archives in the exhibition were taken from a variety of archive collections held by the Service and related to the political, social and cultural history of Co Louth.

Attendees were fascinated to view some of the oldest and most rarely displayed items from our collections including the original Garstin map of Dundalk, dated 1655; the Corporation Book of the town of Carlingford which commenced in 1694; and a selection of original royal charters, the earliest being the charter granted by William III to the town of Drogheda dating from 1697.

**Conservation**

The County Archives gratefully received a kind donation from the Old Dundalk Society for conservation treatment on archives of Dundalk interest.

These archives included two minute books of Dundalk Municipal Corporation and Dundalk Town Commissioners, dating from 1832-54. The County Archives also arranged for conservation treatment on three 19<sup>th</sup> Century minute books of the Dundalk Board of Guardians, a Dundalk Gas Company minute book, and a map of Togher and the estate of Lord Stanley dating to 1777. Louth has a rich archival history and it is important that we ensure it survives for future generations. To enable us to achieve this, we must protect those vulnerable archives by arranging for professional conservation treatment as far as available resources allow.

**Acquisitions**

The Archives Service was delighted to acquire a number of significant archive collections during the year

The Service is grateful to those who have deposited or donated collections as they will assist future users in their research. Newly acquired collections will be catalogued in due course.

## Archive Catalogue

The online catalogue was updated early in the year with several amendments and an updated list of available collections on the homepage. Standardisation work on sections of the archive catalogue is ongoing as collections are reviewed and catalogued to the international standard. A number of collections were added to the Irish Archives Resource portal, available at [www.iar.ie](http://www.iar.ie).

## Records Management

The County Archive provides a records management service to Louth Local Authorities and several new transfers of records from various departments were received and sorted in the Records Centre during 2011. Archives staff also commenced a review of files in the County Secretary's section to assist with future appraisal processes.

Photos x 2:

### Photographs from County Archives:

Caption 1 for 'AC.LEG.6-AnneCharter.jpg': Detail of the Royal Charter granted by Queen Anne to the Corporation of Ardee, 1712

Caption 2 for 'DkIT Theatre Coll-01Mar2011(1).jpg': Handover of the DKIT Local Theatre Archive Collection, March 2011. L-R: Pat McKenna, Jayne Hutchinson (Louth Co Archives), Concepta Woods (DKIT Library), and Mark Fearon.

## Louth Local Sports Partnership 2011 Report

### Louth Local Sports Partnership Strategic Goal 1: Increasing Participation for All



An Irish Sports Council Initiative

### Participation projects for target groups:

- Buntús Start for Pre-Schools: 19 pre-school services took up the programme in 2011 which brings the overall total of pre-school services involved in the programme to 82 with 598 staff trained who work with 3,187 children.
- Buntús for Primary Schools: 11 schools received training for all teachers and Special Needs Assistants, two kit bags of equipment and linked resource cards in 2011 which brings the overall total number of schools to 59 with 768 teachers trained through the programme in Louth working with over 12,000 children.
- Additional programmes run for primary schools included Buntús Soccer, Little Athletics teacher training, a Sports Hall athletics pilot project, Play Rugby coaching programme and Be Active after schools activity Programme.
- Girls in Action programme for inactive teenage girls - now rolling out in 11 secondary schools in the county.
- National Recreation Week events were organised for youth clubs and groups in November 2011 and 50 young people came along to try cricket, golf and wheelchair basketball.
- Disability awareness training – 20 courses were organised over 2011 with 500 participants trained from Transition Year groups, sports clubs and third level.

- A range of activities was organised for older adults, including the FitLine phone support service for older adults who wish to become more physically active and an information and advice workshop to support groups making 'Go for Life' funding applications. In addition, two Older Adults Activity Festivals were organised in Dundalk and Drogheda in November 2011 and Positive Aging Week events organised by Louth Local Sports Partnership included: the launch of older adults outdoor exercise equipment in Drogheda with a 'come and try' session, start up of a new weekly older adults activity session in Dundalk and walks on the Slí na Slainte routes in Blackrock, Darver and Drogheda in association with World Heart Day.
- National Bike Week events organised in June 2011 included family fun days; mystery bike tours in RAPID areas; school-based bike health checks and cycle safety training. Approximately 2,200 people took part in Bike Week 2011 in the county;
- Walking events and programmes included an Operation Transformation walk in January 2011 on the Blackrock Slí na Slainte route and a workplace walking activity programme was organised for the 125 staff members of Louth Local Authorities.

### **Club and Volunteer Development**

- Training provided for clubs and volunteers on Code of Ethics (20 courses held with 314 participants), Club Children's Officer Training (this course was held in Louth for the first time in 2011) and Inclusive Games Training and;
- Training and advice provided on funding and local club promotion.

### **Access to Facilities**

- Louth Local Sports Partnership has maintained a directory of County Sports Facilities and also organised for AURA Dundalk to be part of the national inclusive leisure centre initiative in December 2011.

### **Louth Local Sports Partnership Strategic Goal 2: Building Sustainable Partnerships**

- The Louth LSP Peace III project "Building Positive Relations at Local Level through Sport" concluded successfully in May 2011 with the organisation of two open information sharing events. 10 cross-border sports club partnerships were established which created partnerships between sports clubs on a cross border basis, provided training to sports club volunteers on racism and sectarianism, grants to the sports club partnerships to implement training through events and programmes and the opportunity to learn from the project through two 'Challenging Attitudes through Sport' open information sharing events. Overall, over 670 participants took part in the project.
- There are currently two active Louth LSP networks – the Louth PE Teachers Network and the Louth Sports Development Officers Network.

### **Louth Local Sports Partnership Strategic Goal 3: Developing and Improving Communications**

- Regular updates are provided to clubs and press releases distributed to local media;
- New newsletter format issued three times in 2011 and e-mailing list formed for more regular communication;
- Louth/Meath Sports Monitor local report commissioned from national data to inform the work of the LSP at local level;

### **Age Friendly County**

County Louth is the first Age Friendly County in Ireland and the first county registered with the World Health Organization Global Age Friendly Cities Network. Louth has led the way for nine other counties in the Republic to launch the initiative to be followed by Newry & Mourne and Belfast.

### **World Health Organization Conference, Dublin & Dundalk 2011**

The conference brought together a broad range of senior managers from municipal authorities across the world, including those not yet involved with the WHO Global Network of Age-friendly Cities.

It showcased three major Age Friendly City Projects – two from north America and the Louth Age Friendly County initiative. County Manager, Conn Murray, gave a presentation to over 400 delegates including representatives from the US, China, Mexico, Africa and Europe before hosting a group of 50 delegates in Louth. The combination of the work of the Netwell Centre, DkIT and the partnership approach of the Age Friendly Alliance and the Louth Older People's Forum was seen at first hand.

#### ***'The Journey'***

In advance of the visit from the WHO delegates, the Louth Age Friendly Alliance and the Louth Older People's Forum produced a DVD called "The Journey" which captures the essence of the work carried out in the Age Friendly County Initiative.

The DVD can be viewed at [www.louthagefriendlycounty.ie](http://www.louthagefriendlycounty.ie) . The DVD has been requested to be used by the EU Commission on EU Year on Active Ageing and Solidarity between the Generations.

### **Dublin Declaration**

The Dublin Declaration was signed by 46 signatories including Cavan, Clare, Dublin City, Fingal, Galway, Kildare, Kilkenny City, Kilkenny County, Louth, Meath, Monaghan, South Dublin, South Tipperary and Westmeath and acknowledged by 60 million people globally. The declaration is a commitment to improve the quality of life of older citizens and help them to continue to be active members of society as they grow older.

Ireland and Louth led the way in this initiative. The declaration aims to promote - among the general public - awareness of older people, their rights, needs and potentials, and highlight the positive social, economic and cultural contribution they make.

### **Louth Older People's Forum (LOPF)**

The LOPF continues to represent the voice of older people in the Louth Age Friendly Initiative. The Forum is represented on the Age Friendly Alliance; the Age Friendly Transport Group; the Communications Group and the Age Friendly Business Forum and has represented Louth as ambassadors at the Age Friendly launches in Monaghan, Meath, Kilkenny, Fingal and South Dublin.

### **Generations**

The LOPF and Louth Comhairle na nÓg produced a DVD called “Generations”. The DVD captures the opinions of both young people and older people in relation to politics, health, education, role models and...tea!

### **The Louth Age Friendly Website [www.louthagefriendlycounty.ie](http://www.louthagefriendlycounty.ie)**

The Louth Age Friendly County website was launched on March 12, 2011 by Dr Maureen Gaffney, Chair of the Louth Age Friendly Alliance. The site is a response to the voice of older people who expressed a wish to have up-to-date information on services particularly for older people on the one site.

Older people and their families are now able to access information on supports while living at home or in residential care; other supports; home improvement grants; transport and mobility; community support services; safety and protection and positive ageing.

The intention is to have a ‘No Wrong Door’ service where older people, their families and support groups both voluntary and public sector will be able to deliver information on all services and social events at the frontline.

### **An Garda Síochána Louth Division Older People Strategy Implementation Plan**

The Louth Age Friendly Safety and Security Group chaired by Chief Supt Pat McGee developed An Garda Síochána Louth Division Older People Strategy Implementation Plan which was adopted from the National Strategy for Older People launched in October 2010.

The Louth Garda Division is dedicated to implementing the strategy throughout Louth and, in the past year, has taken many steps towards achieving this goal.

The Garda plan sets out the way in which the Louth Division will continue to build on recent achievements and will ensure the highest level of service is provided to older members of the community. For information on the document please click onto [www.louthagefriendlycounty.ie](http://www.louthagefriendlycounty.ie)

### **Review seminar - July 2011**

The Louth Age Friendly County initiative held its first bi-annual review on July 19, 2011. The conference also featured the first bi-annual general meeting of the Louth Older People's Forum. The conference was chaired by Conn Murray, County Manager, and Gavin Duffy, Chair, the Age Friendly Business Forum.

The guest speaker for the morning was Mr Fergus O'Dowd TD, the Minister of State with responsibility for the NewEra Project.

Also addressing those gathered was Louth County Council Chairman, Cllr Oliver Tully; Mayor of Drogheda, Cllr Kevin Callan and Chairperson of Dundalk Town Council, Cllr Marianne Butler.

### **Ardee - Age Friendly Town**

The LOPF has an action to “Make Ardee an Age Friendly Town”. This priority is also reflected in the Louth Age Friendly County strategy.

A toolkit was developed to capture the process used in identifying the issues of older people and stakeholders in the public consultation process with the objective of making Ardee the first Age Friendly Town in Ireland. The toolkit can be accessed on [www.louthagefriendlycounty.ie](http://www.louthagefriendlycounty.ie)

### **Planning for Ageing Conference - June 2011**

County Manager, Conn Murray, gave a presentation to the Planning for Ageing conference held on June 22, 2011. The presentation outlined the experience of Louth as Ireland's first age-friendly county and the benefits from multi-agency planning through a formalised Alliance involving senior managers from the Local Authority, HSE, Gardaí, business community, research and development and the newly created Older People's Forum.

A key element of the conference was the opportunity given to participants to address the challenges experienced on a multi agency stakeholder basis. The Ageing Well Network hosted the conference.

### **Men's Sheds**

The Men's Shed initiative was launched by Micheal O'Muircheartaigh in Dundalk on September 15, 2011. The programme will include a shed in Drogheda and a third in rural Louth.

The Men's Shed initiative is an Australian concept and aims to provide a safe friendly inclusive environment where men are able to gather together and work on projects in their own time and in the company of other men.

Men can talk about issues and feel safe. The shed can provide an escape as well as a sense of purpose. Activities in the shed include: photography, computer training, woodwork, art and recreation.

### **Launch of Louth Age Friendly Business Forum**

The Age-Friendly Business Forum was established by the Louth Economic Forum. It is chaired by Gavin Duffy, Louth-based entrepreneur and media coach. The Forum has 10 members, drawn from Louth's Chambers of Commerce; Rotary; Netwell and CASALA Centres; Louth Older People's Forum and Local Authority management.

### **Louth Comhairle na nÓg**

Comhairle na nÓg are local youth councils, which give children and young people the opportunity to be involved in the development of local services and policies. There is a Comhairle na nÓg in every city and county.

Comhairle na nÓg were set up under the National Children's Strategy (2000) in the 34 City and County Development Boards around the country. The work of Comhairle na nÓg is the responsibility of the local authority in each city and county.

Louth Comhairle na nÓg is the county wide representation body for young people. The Comhairle na nÓg is made up of representatives from each of the schools and from youth

organisations in the county. This group of 35 young people meet monthly to discuss issues for young people and to engage in projects that address these issues.

Each year, delegates attend Dáil na nÓg, the annual national parliament for young people aged between 12-18 years. Five delegates are elected to Dáil na nÓg from Louth Comhairle na nÓg.

A big part of the work of Comhairle na nÓg is the development of projects that impact the lives of young people.

In the last number of years, Louth Comhairle na nÓg has completed successful projects such as:

#### **Louth Student Discount Card**

This involved the research, design and implementation of a student discount and ID card for young people all over Louth.

#### **Generations DVD**

An intergenerational project including the production of a film to highlight the attitudes of young and older people to life and society.

#### **Young Peoples Money Matters**

A practical resource for young people to help manage their money at a time when funds are scarce and to help them plan for concerts, going to college and bigger events in their lives.

#### **Peer Education Bullying Programme**

In 2011, Louth Comhairle na nÓg completed an extensive peer education project which trained 42 peer educators to deliver anti-bullying programmes in schools and youth centres.

Louth Comhairle na nÓg also worked on the issue of Young People's Mental Health. The young people focus on positive mental health and try to highlight the ways young people can mind their mental health. A series of events and initiatives will take place in 2012.

Louth Comhairle na nÓg is supported by the Louth Comhairle na nÓg Advisory Group which is made up of Louth County Council, Louth VEC and Louth Children's Services Committee. The work of the Comhairle na nÓg is supported by the Department of Children & Youth Affairs. Coexist Ltd provided developmental, training and project management support to Louth Comhairle na nÓg on behalf of the local authority.

## Local Democracy

*“Support, promote and enhance the democratic, civic and leadership role of Louth Local Authorities.”*

#### **Community and Voluntary Forum**

The Louth County Community and Voluntary Forum continued to meet on a regular basis throughout 2011. Work continued to promote the work of the forum and attract new members. Elections were held where members of the network were elected to the Board of Louth Leader Partnership.



The forum/network members represent the community and voluntary sector on:

- Louth CDB
- Regional Drugs Task Force
- Joint Policing Committees
- Louth County Council SPCs
- Dundalk Town Council MPCs
- Louth County Childcare Committee
- National Community Forum
- Regional Community Forum
- Louth Leader Partnership

### **Traveller Interagency Group**

The group was re-established in April/May 2010. A review of the Traveller Interagency Action Plan for 2010 -2013 is ongoing with many successes to date including the completion of the Pobal-funded Louth Traveller Interagency Project. A Traveller representative from the group was nominated to the Louth Peace & Reconciliation Partnership.

### **Community Smoke Alarm Scheme**

Over 400 smoke alarms and alarms for deaf/hard of hearing were allocated under this scheme with the assistance of the RAPID Co-ordinators, Community and Voluntary groups and Louth Local Authorities Fire Service.

### **Educational Bursaries**

Louth County Council, with the assistance of Drogheda Borough Council and Dundalk Town Council, continues to allocate educational bursaries annually to those who would otherwise be unable to attend third level education. Six additional bursaries were awarded in 2011.

## Tables and Appendices

### Key Performance Indicators

<b>FIRE SERVICE</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>
<b>F1: Fire Service Mobilisation</b>			
A. Average time taken, in minutes, to mobilise fire brigades in Full-Time Stations in respect of fire	2.06	2.13	2.94
B. Average time taken, in minutes, to mobilise fire brigades in Part-Time Stations (retained fire service) in respect of fire	3.97	3.85	3.81
C. Average time taken, in minutes, to mobilise fire brigades in Full-Time Stations in respect of all other emergency incidents	1.6	2.12	3.1
D. Average time taken, in minutes, to mobilise fire brigades in Part-Time Stations (retained fire service) in respect of all other emergency incidents	3.84	4.12	5.43
<b>F.2 Percentage of attendances at scenes</b>			
A. Percentage of cases in respect of fire in which first attendance is at the scene within 10 minutes	71.85	65.95	63.68
B. Percentage of cases in respect of fire in which first attendance is at the scene after 10 minutes but within 20 minutes	30.57	29.36	28.03
C. Percentage of cases in respect of fire in which first attendance is at the scene after 20 minutes	3.26	4.69	8.29
D. Percentage of cases in respect of all other emergency incidents in which first attendance is at the scene within 10 minutes	54.36	49.84	41.00
E. Percentage of cases in respect of all other emergency incidents in which first attendance is at the scene after 10 minutes but within 20 minutes	40.27	40.63	41.42
F. Percentage of cases in respect of all other emergency incidents in which first attendance is at the scene after 20 minutes	5.37	9.52	17.57
<b>F.3 Fire Prevention</b>			
A. Total number of fire safety certificate applications received	96	117	111
B. Total number of fire safety certificate applications processed (including cases deemed invalid)	96	111	99
C. Total number of applications deemed invalid	7	4	12

<b>COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION</b>	2009	2010	2011
<b>CP.1 Participation in local Youth Council/Comhairle na n-Og scheme</b>			
Percentage of local schools and youth groups involved in the local Youth Council/ Comhairle na n-Og scheme	65.52	95.45	95.45
		<i>There is a significant increase in CNI KPI's due to a grant we received from OMCYA which allowed us to tender for a developer, officer who worked with schools and seldom hear groups to allow them to take part in CNI</i>	
<b>CP.2 Groups registered with the Community and Voluntary Forum</b>			
Number of groups registered with the Community and Voluntary Forum	108	165	169
<b>CORPORATE ISSUES</b>			
	2009	2010	2011
<b>C.1 Working Days lost to Sickness</b>			
A. Percentage of working days lost to sickness absence through certified leave	4.27	3.93	4.81
B. Percentage of working days lost to sickness absence through uncertified leave	0.79	0.63	0.80
<b>C.2 Staff Training and Development</b>			
Expenditure on Training and Development as a percentage of total payroll costs:	3.75	3.12	2.80
<b>ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES</b>			
	2009	2010	2011
<b>WATER</b>			
<b>E.1 Unaccounted For Water</b>			
Unaccounted for water (UFW) as a percentage of total volume of water supplied under the water supply schemes that the local authority is responsible for	47.14	42.89	41.39
<b>E.2 Drinking Water Analysis</b>			
A. Percentage of drinking water analysis results in compliance with statutory requirements with regard to public schemes	Fig to come from EPA	98.97	99.10
B. Percentage of drinking water	Fig to	96.60	99.40

analysis results in compliance with statutory requirements with regard to private schemes (where appropriate) **come from EPA**

**WASTE MANAGEMENT**

**E.3 Waste Segregation \***

**PRIVATISED. L.C.C.**

A. Percentage of households who receive a waste collection service and are provided with segregated waste collection for dry recyclables	92.72	91.20	91.57
B. Percentage of households who receive a waste collection service and are provided with segregated waste collection for organics	27.79	27.83	26.74

**E4: Housing Waste Sent for Recycling**

A. Percentage of household waste collected from kerbside, which is sent for recycling	47.10	20.51	19.43
B. Tonnage of household waste collected from kerbside, which is sent for recycling	8968	6029.00	5649.61
C. Tonnage of household waste recycled, which arises from waste collected from recycling facilities (i.e. bring banks, civic amenity centres, transfer stations and other recycling facilities)	15724	16268.00	14663.68

*All data was not supplied for last years calculation.*

**E5: Household Waste Sent for Landfill**

A. The percentage of household waste collected which is sent to landfill	60.19	51.49	67.23
B. The tonnage of household waste collected which is sent to landfill	19735	15134.00	19545.57

**E6: Recycling Facilities**

The total number of Bring Sites in the local authority area	42	42	42
The total number of Civic Amenity Centres in the local authority area	2	2	2

**Glass**

A. The number of Bring Sites for recycling	37	37	37
B. The number of Civic Amenity Centres for recycling	2	2	2
C. The total number of facilities for recycling	39	39	39
D. The number of locations for recycling per 5,000 of population	1.75	1.75	1.59

**Cans**

E. The number of Bring Sites for recycling	42	42	42
F. The number of Civic Amenity Centres for recycling	2	2	2
G. The total number of facilities for recycling	44	44	44
H. The number of locations for recycling per 5,000 of population	1.98	1.98	1.79

<b>Textiles</b>			
I. The number of Bring Sites for recycling	0	0	0
J. The number of Civic Amenity Centres for recycling	2	2	2
K. The total number of facilities for recycling	2	2	2
L. The number of locations for recycling per 5,000 of population	0.09	0.09	0.08
<b>Batteries</b>			
M. The number of Bring Sites for recycling	0	0	0
N. The number of Civic Amenity Centres for recycling	2	2	2
O. The total number of facilities for recycling	2	2	2
P. The number of locations for recycling per 5,000 of population	0.09	0.09	0.08
<b>Oils</b>			
Q. The number of Bring Sites for recycling	0	0	0
R. The number of Civic Amenity Centres for recycling	2	2	2
S. The total number of facilities for recycling	2	2	2
T. The number of locations for recycling per 5,000 of population	0.09	0.09	0.08
<b>Other materials</b>			
U. The number of Bring Sites for recycling	43	42	42
V. The number of Civic Amenity Centres for recycling	2	2	2
W. The total number of facilities for recycling	39	44	44
X. The number of locations for recycling per 5,000 of population	1.75	1.98	1.79
<b>LITTER</b>			
<b>E7: Litter Prevention and Enforcement</b>			
A. Number of full-time litter wardens	7	5	5
B. Number of part-time litter wardens	0	2	2
C. Number of litter wardens (both full- and part-time) per 5,000 population	0.31	0.31	0.28
D. Number of on-the-spot fines issued	933	732	511
E. Number of on-the-spot fines paid	442	614	278
F. Number of prosecution cases taken because of non-payment of on-the-spot fines	32	35	47
G. Number of prosecutions secured in cases taken because of non-payment of on-the-spot fines	27	36	47
H. Number of notices issued (under sections 9, 15, 16, 17 and 20 of the Litter Pollution Act 1997)	47	21	24
I. Total number of prosecutions taken (all prosecutions under the Litter Acts 1997 to 2003)	33	118	62

J. Total number of prosecutions secured (all prosecutions under the Litter Acts 1997 to 2003)	27	36	24
K. Percentage of areas in the local authority that are unpolluted (i.e. litter-free)	7.74	16	
L. Percentage of areas in the local authority that are slightly polluted with litter	83.87	76	
M. Percentage of areas in the local authority that are moderately polluted with litter	8.39	8	
N. Percentage of areas in the local authority that are significantly polluted with litter	0.00	0	
O. Percentage of areas in the local authority that are grossly polluted with litter	0.00	0	
<b>E8: Environmental Complaints and Enforcement</b>			
A. Total number of cases subject to complaints concerning environmental pollution (relating to waste, litter, water pollution, noise pollution, air pollution)	65	2158	1826
B. Number of complaints investigated	65	2153	1810
C. Number of complaints resolved where no further action was necessary	52	1049	1686
		<i>Litter is included in this figure – doesn't appear to have been included in the 2009 figures</i>	
D. Number of enforcement procedures taken	13	146	96
		<i>Inclusive of warning letters issued</i>	
<b>E9: Percentage of schools participating in environmental campaigns</b>			
A. Percentage of primary schools participating in environmental campaigns	73.97	86.49	93.24
B. Percentage of secondary schools participating in environmental campaigns	87.50	100	100

<b>HOUSING</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>
----------------	-------------	-------------	-------------

<b>H1: Housing Vacancies</b>			
A. The total number of dwellings in local authority stock	3484	3613	3664
B. The total number of dwellings, excluding those subject to major refurbishment projects	3481	3613	3664
C. The overall percentage of dwellings that are empty (excluding those subject to major refurbishment projects)	1.75	2.21	1.77
D. The percentage of empty dwellings unavailable for letting	62.30	67.50	49.23
E. The percentage of empty dwellings available for letting	37.70	32.50	50.77

**H2: Average Time Taken to Re-let**

**Available dwellings**

The average time taken (in weeks) from the date of vacation of dwelling to the date when all necessary repairs are carried out which are deemed necessary to re-let the dwelling	8	8	11
The average time taken (in weeks) from the works (above) being completed to the date of the first rent debit	3	3.25	5

**H3: Housing Repairs**

Number of repairs completed as a percentage of the number of valid repair requests received	93.90	90.34	91.70
---	-------	-------	-------

**H4: Traveller Accommodation**

Total number of traveller families accommodated as a percentage of the targets set in the local traveller accommodation programme	81.25	57.89	75.00
---	-------	-------	-------

**H5: Enforcement of standards in the private rented sector**

A. Total number of registered tenancies	4104	4146	4538
B. Number of dwelling units inspected	172	388	330
C. Number of inspections carried out	194	507	392
D. Number of dwellings inspected as percentage of registered tenancies (i.e. B as percentage of A)	4.19	9.36	7.27

**H6: Grants to adapt housing for the needs of people with a disability**

A. Average time taken (in weeks) to process applications under the Mobility Aids Grant Scheme, including any necessary inspection(s), from the date of receipt of a valid application to the date of decision on the application	8	8	8
B. Average time taken (in weeks) to process applications under Housing Adaptation Grant for People with a Disability, including any necessary inspection(s), from the date of receipt, to the date of decision on the application	8	8	8

**H7: Pre-Tenancy Familiarisation Courses**

A. Total number of new local authority tenants	198	258	160
B. Percentage of new local authority tenants who have been offered Pre-Tenancy Familiarisation courses	100	100	100

**LIBRARY SERVICES**

	2009	2010	2011
<b>L.1 Library Public Opening Hours</b>			
A. Average number of opening hours per week for full-time libraries	36.8	38	37.4

B. Average number of opening hours per week for part-time libraries (where applicable)	19.3	19.3	19.7
C. Percentage of full time libraries that have lunchtime openings	66.66	66.66	66.6
D. Percentage of full time libraries that have evening openings	100	100	100
E. Percentage of full time libraries that have Saturday openings	100	100	100

**L.2 Library Visits**

Number of visits to full time libraries per 1,000 population	1973.01	2295.83	2046.28
--	---------	---------	---------

**L.3 Library Stock**

A. Annual expenditure on stock per head of population (county/city wide)	1.75	1.29	1.14
B. Number of items issued per head of population (county/city wide) for books	2.73	3.53	3.41
C. Number of items issued per head of population (county/city wide) for other items	0.31	0.35	0.35

**L.4 Internet Access through Libraries**

Number of Internet sessions provided per 1,000 population	173.61	196.09	145.85
---	--------	--------	--------

**MOTOR TAXATION**

2009      2010      2011

**M.1 Number of Motor Tax Transactions**

A. Number of motor tax transactions which are dealt with over the counter	88244	85571	82259
B. Number of motor tax transactions which are dealt with by post	3861	2911	2275
C. Number of motor tax transactions which are dealt with in other ways (e.g. online, by telephone)	33765	36192	41274
D. Percentage of motor tax transactions which are dealt with over the counter	70.11	68.64	65.38
E. Percentage of motor tax transactions which are dealt with by post	3.07	2.33	1.80
F. Percentage of motor tax transactions which are dealt with in other ways (e.g. online, by telephone)	26.83	29.03	32.80

**M.2 Time Taken to Process Motor Tax Postal Applications**

A. Number of postal applications which are dealt with (i.e. disc issued) on the same day as receipt of the application	2454	2228	1540
B. Number of postal applications which are dealt with (i.e. disc issued) on the second or third day from receipt of the application	1253	529	636
C. Number of postal applications which are dealt with (i.e. disc issued) on the fourth or fifth day from receipt of the application	75	97	46
D. Number of postal applications which are dealt with (i.e. disc issued) in over five days from receipt of the application	79	57	53



E. Percentage of overall postal applications which are dealt with (i.e. disc issued) on the same day as receipt of the application	63.56	76.54	67.69
F. Percentage of overall postal applications which are dealt with (i.e. disc issued) on the second or third day from receipt of the application	32.45	18.17	27.96
G. Percentage of overall postal applications which are dealt with (i.e. disc issued) on the fourth or fifth day from receipt of the application	1.94	3.33	2.02
H. Percentage of overall postal applications which are dealt with (i.e. disc issued) in over five days from receipt of the application	2.05	1.96	2.33

**M.3 Time Taken to Process Driving Licence Applications**

A. Number of Driving Licence applications which are dealt with on the same day as receipt of the application	5560	6344	9641
B. Number of Driving Licence applications which are dealt with on the second or third day from receipt of the application	4703	3653	710
C. Number of Driving Licence applications which are dealt with on the Fourth or fifth day from receipt of the application	1110	2144	299
D. Number of Driving Licence applications which are dealt with in over five days from receipt of the application	783	2669	3548
E. Percentage of overall driving Licence applications which are dealt with on the same day as receipt of the application	45.74	42.84	67.90
F. Percentage of overall driving Licence applications which are dealt with on the second or third day from receipt of the application	38.69	24.67	5.00
G. Percentage of overall driving Licence applications which are dealt with on the fourth or fifth day from receipt of the application	9.13	14.48	2.11
H. Percentage of overall driving Licence applications which are dealt with in over five days from receipt of the application	6.44	18.02	24.99

**M.4 Public opening hours**

Average number of opening hours per week	32.5	32.5	30.4
--	------	------	------

**PLANNING** 2009      2010      2011

**P.1 Planning Applications - Decision Making**

**Individual Houses**

A. Number of applications decided	342	199	158
B. Number of decisions in Column A	135	68	43

which were decided within 8 weeks			
C. Number of decisions in Column A which required the submission of further information	205	127	113
D. Number of decisions in Column A where an extension of time was agreed to by the applicant, under section 34(9) of the Planning and development Act 2000	2	8	1
E. Average length of time taken (in days) to decide an application where further information was sought	66.86	68.34	70.12
F. Percentage of applications granted	90.35	87.94	93.04
G. Percentage of applications refused	9.65	12.06	6.96
H. Percentage of cases where the decision was confirmed, with or without variations, by An Bord Pleanala	61.54	45.45	60.0
I. Percentage of cases where the decision was reversed by An Bord Pleanala	38.46	54.55	40.0

**New Housing Development**

A. Number of applications decided	48	30	29
B. Number of decisions in Column A which were decided within 8 weeks	10	7	13
C. Number of decisions in Column A which required the submission of further information	38	21	16
D. Number of decisions in Column A where an extension of time was agreed to by the applicant, under section 34(9) of the Planning and development Act 2000	1	6	0
E. Average length of time taken (in days) to decide an application where further information was sought	79.76	73.91	68.11
F. Percentage of applications granted	77.08	86.67	82.76
G. Percentage of applications refused	22.92	13.33	17.24
H. Percentage of cases where the decision was confirmed, with or without variations, by An Bord Pleanala	70.0	40	
I. Percentage of cases where the decision was reversed by An Bord Pleanala	30.0	60	

**Other: not requiring Environment Impact Assessment**

A. Number of applications decided	634	508	475
B. Number of decisions in Column A which were decided within 8 weeks	418	313	281
C. Number of decisions in Column A which required the submission of	210	189	185

further information			
D. Number of decisions in Column A where an extension of time was agreed to by the applicant, under section 34(9) of the Planning and development Act 2000	6	12	8
E. Average length of time taken (in days) to decide an application where further information was sought	69.60	70.08	69.11
F. Percentage of applications granted	92.27	88.98	92.84
G. Percentage of applications refused	7.73	11.02	7.16
H. Percentage of cases where the decision was confirmed, with or without variations, by An Bord Pleanala	79.37	60.0	95.83
I. Percentage of cases where the decision was reversed by An Bord Pleanala	20.63	40.0	4.17
<b>Other: requiring Environment Impact Assessment</b>			
A. Number of applications decided	6	8	5
B. Number of decisions in Column A which were decided within 8 weeks	2	3	1
C. Number of decisions in Column A which required the submission of further information	4	5	4
D. Number of decisions in Column A where an extension of time was agreed to by the applicant, under section 34(9) of the Planning and development Act 2000	0	0	0
E. Average length of time taken (in days) to decide an application where further information was sought	107.50	94.01	87.75
F. Percentage of applications granted	83.33	87.50	100
G. Percentage of applications refused	16.67	12.50	0
H. Percentage of cases where the decision was confirmed, with or without variations, by An Bord Pleanala	100	50	66.67
I. Percentage of cases where the decision was reversed by An Bord Pleanala	0	50	33.33
<b>P.2 Planning Enforcement</b>			
A. Total number of cases subject to complaints that were investigated	527	257	183
<i>All of Enforcement answers include development</i>			
B. Total number of cases subject to complaints that were dismissed	53	28	44
C. Total number of cases subject to complaints that were resolved	223	151	84

through negotiations			
D. Number of enforcement procedures taken through warning letters	293	141	119
E. Number of enforcement procedures taken through enforcement notices	107	49	45
F. Number of prosecutions	29	2	3
<b>P.3 Planning Public opening hours</b>			
Average number of opening hours per week	38.126	38.13	40
<b>P.4 Pre-Planning Consultation</b>			
A. Number of pre-planning consultation meetings held	566	553	465
B. Average length of time (in days) from request for consultation with local authority to actual formal meeting for pre-planning consultation	6.3993	3.3	4.72
<b>P.5 New Buildings inspected</b>			
Buildings inspected as a percentage of new buildings notified to the local authority	16.10	14.12	16.57
<b>P.6 Taking Estates in Charge</b>			
A- The number of residential estates for which the planning permission has expired, in respect of which formal written requests for taking in charge (from residents or developers), were on hands at the beginning of the year	62	51	51
B- Number of estates that were taken in charge in the year in question	16	13	8
C- Number of dwellings in respect of column B	904	959	525
D- Percentage of estates in column A not completed to satisfaction of the planning authority in line with the planning permission	6.45	1.96	0
E- Number of estates in column D in respect of which enforcement action was taken in the year in question and/or the bond was called in	1	1	0
F- Number of estates in column D in respect of which works were undertaken by the authority to bring the estate to taking in charge standard	1	1	0

<b>RECREATIONAL SERVICES</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>
------------------------------	-------------	-------------	-------------

<b>Rec.1 Children's Playgrounds</b>			
A. Number of children's playgrounds per 1,000 population directly provided by the local authority	0.10	0.11	0.10
B. Number of children's playgrounds	0.01	0.01	0.03

per 1,000 population facilitated by the local authority

**Rec.2 Local Authority-Facilitated Leisure Facilities**

Number of visitors to local authority-facilitated leisure facilities per 1,000 population      2966.96    2990.94    2390.61

**REVENUE COLLECTION**      2009      2010      2011

**Rev.2 House Rent**

A. Amount collected at year end as a percentage of amount due from House Rent      87.27      87.16      85.94

B. Percentage of arrears on House Rent that are **up to 4 weeks** old      -      5.72      5.12

C. Percentage of arrears on House Rent that are 4-6 weeks old      7.54      6.98      5.45

D. Percentage of arrears on House Rent that are 6-12 weeks old      12.25      10.65      9.43

E. Percentage of arrears on House Rent that are more than 12 weeks old      72.82      76.65      80

**Rev.2 Housing Loans**

A. Amount collected at year end as a percentage of amount due from Housing Loans      82.75      66.93      63.73

*There has been a reduction in Louth County Council's collection rate in respect of Housing Loans as a result of the economic downturn. However the Council is agreeing payment plans with customers and are vigorously following up the arrears.*

B. Percentage of arrears on Housing Loans that are up to 1 month old      1.79      1.07      -2.55

C. Percentage of arrears on Housing Loans that are 1-2 months old      -      1.18      1.54

D. Percentage of arrears on Housing Loans that are 2-3 months old      2.62      1.97      2.34

E. Percentage of arrears on Housing Loans that are more than 3 months old      93.97      95.96      98.63

**Rev.3 Commercial Rates**

Amount collected at year-end as a percentage of amount due from Commercial rates      70.89      65.4      59.84

*There has been a reduction in Louth County Council's collection rate in respect of Commercial Rates as a*

result of the economic downturn. However the Council is agreeing payment plans with customers and are vigorously following up the arrears.

**Rev.4 Refuse Charges**

Percentage of households paying refuse charges (including waivers) at year end	0	This service has been privatised in Co. Louth	0.00
--	---	---	------

**Rev. 5 Non-Domestic Water Charges**

Amount collected at year end as a percentage of amount due for Non-Domestic Water Charges	44.09	34.36	40.84
---	-------	-------	-------

**ROADS**

	<i>2009</i>	<i>2010</i>	<i>2011</i>
--	-------------	-------------	-------------

**R1: Road Restoration Programme**

Number of kilometers of local and regional roads improved and maintained under the Restoration Programme per annum	122.784	115.215	126.8
--	---------	---------	-------

Number of kilometers of local and regional roads constructed under the specific improvement grants scheme per annum	0	0	2.2
---	---	---	-----

## Financial Figures

### UNAUDITED INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT STATEMENT FOR YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2011

The Income and Expenditure Account Statement brings together all the revenue related income and expenditure. It shows the surplus/(deficit) for the year.

Expenditure by Division	Gross Expenditure 2011 €	Income 2011 €	Net Expenditure 2011 €	Net Expenditure 2010 €
Housing and building	8,570,023	7,868,791	701,232	435,400
Road transport & safety	15,805,757	7,138,166	8,667,591	6,960,501
Water services	14,849,437	11,013,076	3,836,361	4,075,687
Development management	5,873,675	2,258,645	3,615,030	3,476,450
Environmental services	10,222,829	8,515,695	1,707,134	2,385,422
Recreation and amenity	3,553,262	502,909	3,050,353	3,187,869
Agriculture, education, health & welfare	9,644,074	8,844,465	799,609	654,586
Miscellaneous services	4,911,084	2,719,354	2,191,730	2,432,187
Central management charges	-	-	-	-
<b>Total Expenditure/Income</b>	<b>73,430,139</b>	<b>48,861,100</b>		
<b>Net Cost of Divisions to be funded from Rates and Local Government Fund</b>			<b>24,569,039</b>	23,608,101
Rates			8,003,770	7,772,866
Local government fund / General Purpose Grant			9,976,131	10,850,620
Pension related deduction			935,297	937,633
County charge			3,433,752	3,433,750
<b>Surplus / (Deficit) for Year before Transfers</b>			<b>(2,220,089)</b>	<b>(613,232)</b>
Transfers from / (to) Reserves			2,152,542	628,374
<b>Overall Surplus / (Deficit) for Year</b>			<b>(67,547)</b>	<b>15,142</b>
General Reserve at 1st January 2011			1,685,363	1,670,221
General Reserve at 31st December 2011			<b>1,617,816</b>	<b>1,685,363</b>

**Louth County Council**  
**UnAudited Balance Sheet for year ended 31st December 2011**

	<i>Notes</i>	<b>2011</b> €	<b>2010</b> €
<b>Fixed Assets</b>	<b>1</b>		
Operational		198,338,964	199,454,802
Infrastructural		1,300,179,703	1,183,521,315
Community		493,550	493,550
Non-Operational		<u>7,743,057</u>	<u>7,743,057</u>
		<u><b>1,506,755,274</b></u>	<u><b>1,391,212,724</b></u>
<b>Work-in-Progress and Preliminary Expenses</b>	<b>2</b>	13,356,832	140,782,568
<b>Long Term Debtors</b>	<b>3</b>	17,035,330	19,937,503
<b>Current Assets</b>			
Stocks	<b>4</b>	-	-
Trade Debtors and Prepayments	<b>5</b>	24,556,335	31,122,751
Bank Investments		14,461,531	20,844,308
Cash at Bank		-	1,124,997
Cash in Transit		88,948	75,820
Urban Account	<b>7</b>	<u>417,688</u>	<u>346,036</u>
		<u><b>39,524,502</b></u>	<u><b>53,513,912</b></u>
<b>Current Liabilities (Amounts falling due within one year)</b>			
Bank Overdraft		1,780,594	-
Creditors & Accruals	<b>6</b>	13,955,161	17,237,736
Urban Account	<b>7</b>	-	-
Finance Leases		-	-
		<u><b>15,735,755</b></u>	<u><b>17,237,736</b></u>
<b>Net Current Assets / (Liabilities)</b>		<u><b>23,788,747</b></u>	<u><b>36,276,176</b></u>
<b>Creditors (Amounts falling due after more than one year)</b>			
Loans Payable	<b>8</b>	30,966,209	31,438,555
Finance Leases		-	-
Refundable Deposits	<b>9</b>	12,446,900	12,977,036
Other		<u>2,743,566</u>	<u>5,443,415</u>
		<u><b>46,156,675</b></u>	<u><b>49,859,005</b></u>
<b>Net Assets</b>		<u><b>1,514,779,508</b></u>	<u><b>1,538,349,967</b></u>
<b>Represented By</b>			
Capitalisation Account	<b>10</b>	1,506,755,274	1,391,212,724
Income WIP	<b>2</b>	11,772,289	140,093,412
Specific Revenue Reserve		389,995	389,995
General Revenue Reserve		1,617,816	1,685,363
Other Balances	<b>11</b>	<u>(5,755,866)</u>	<u>4,968,473</u>
<b>Total Reserves</b>		<u><b>1,514,779,508</b></u>	<u><b>1,538,349,967</b></u>



**LOUTH COUNTY COUNCIL'S  
FINANCIAL FIGURES  
(UNAUDITED)**

**Capital Account**

Expenditure €15,506,874

Income €16,312,121

**LOUTH SUMMARY OF MAJOR REVENUE COLLECTIONS FOR 2011**

	Arrears at	Accrued	Write Off	Waivers	Total for	Collected	Arrears at	%
	01/01/2011			Off	Collection		31/12/2011	Collected
	€	€	€	€	€	€	€	
Rates	2,877,506	8,003,832	966,060	0	9,915,278	5,890,869	4,024,409	59%
Rents & Annuities	417,363	2,758,030	5,942	0	3,169,451	2,621,809	547,641	83%
Commercial Water	5,103,100	6,842,399	365,648	0	11,579,851	4,621,381	6,958,471	40%
Housing Loans	182,190	271,030	970	0	452,250	268,922	183,328	59%

**DROGHEDA BOROUGH COUNCIL'S  
FINANCIAL FIGURES  
(UNAUDITED)**

Total Revenue Expenditure 2011 was € 26,636,263

Total Capital Expenditure 2011 was €14,146,111

**DROGHEDA SUMMARY OF MAJOR REVENUE COLLECTIONS FOR 2011**

	Arrears at	Accrued	Write Off	Waivers	Total for	Collected	Arrears at	%
	01/01/2011			Off	Collection		31/12/2011	Collected
	€	€	€	€	€	€	€	
Rates	3,484,434	11,929,724	2,328,721		13,085,438	8,129,044	4,956,394	62%
Rents & Annuities	431,933	3,320,085	217		3,751,800	3,314,272	437,529	88%
Housing Loans	138,127	406,978	-		545,105	352,182	192,923	65%

**DUNDALK TOWN COUNCIL'S  
FINANCIAL FIGURES  
(UNAUDITED)**

Total Revenue Expenditure 2011 was €26,404,961

Total Capital Expenditure 2011 was €6,498,934

**DUNDALK SUMMARY OF MAJOR REVENUE COLLECTIONS FOR 2011**

	Arrears at 01/01/2011	Accrued	Write Off	Waivers Off	Total for Collection	Collected	Arrears at 31/12/2011	% Collected
	€	€	€	€	€	€	€	
Rates	7,382,613	13,857,338	651,354		20,588,597	12,275,752	8,312,845	60%
Rents & Annuities	430,018	3,059,033	11,354		3,477,697	3,022,320	455,377	87%
Housing Loans	29,290	122,627	71		151,846	111,272	40,574	73%

## MEMBERS CONFERENCES & SEMINARS 2011

### Louth County Council

#### Councillor Conference Attendance Record 2011

(info extracted from Conference Exps Sheets processed as at 31.12.11)

<i>Conference</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Month</i>	<i>No. of Councillors</i>
<b>Jan-11</b>				
<i>Volcanic Ash, Major Flooding, Crises Impacts on Ireland</i>	<i>Letterkenny, Co Donegal</i>	<i>21st - 23rd</i>	<i>January</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>TJK Conference - The Role of State Institutions and Law Reform</i>	<i>Limerick</i>	<i>28th - 29th</i>	<i>January</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>Compliance with Planning Permission Enforcement of Conditions etc.</i>	<i>Galway, Galway</i>	<i>21st - 23rd</i>	<i>January</i>	<i>1</i>
<b>Feb-11</b>				
<i>AMAI Spring Seminar 2011</i>	<i>Bantry, Cork</i>	<i>11th - 12th</i>	<i>February</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>Signing of MOU between Newry and Mourne and LCC</i>	<i>Brussels, Belgium</i>	<i>28th - 1st</i>	<i>February</i>	<i>1</i>
<b>Mar-11</b>				
<i>Local Government Planning Seminar</i>	<i>Letterkenny</i>	<i>11th - 13th</i>	<i>March</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>Employment Law and Insurance Issues conference</i>	<i>Galway</i>	<i>4th - 6th</i>	<i>March</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee</i>		<i>23rd</i>	<i>March</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>Changing Trends in Drug and Alcohol Abuse</i>	<i>Letterkenny</i>	<i>25th - 27th</i>	<i>March</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>ACCC Spring Conference</i>	<i>Tullamore</i>	<i>24th - 25th</i>	<i>March</i>	<i>2</i>
<b>Apr-11</b>				
<i>LAMA Conference</i>	<i>Dundalk</i>	<i>29th - 30th</i>	<i>April</i>	<i>2</i>
<b>May-11</b>				
<i>Exploring Local Government Reform</i>	<i>Galway</i>	<i>27th - 29th</i>	<i>May</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>National Public Policy Making and the Councillor</i>	<i>Bunclody, Co Wexford</i>	<i>20th - 21st</i>	<i>May</i>	<i>1</i>
<b>Jun-11</b>				
<i>Renewable Energy &amp; Local Government Conference</i>	<i>Donegal Town, Donegal</i>	<i>3th - 6th</i>	<i>June</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>Green Growth Conference</i>	<i>Crown Plaza, Dundalk</i>	<i>9th</i>	<i>June</i>	<i>8</i>
<i>Sport in Irish History &amp; Society (Byrne Perry Summer School)</i>	<i>Gorey, Co Wexford</i>	<i>24th - 26th</i>	<i>June</i>	<i>3</i>
<b>Jul-11</b>				
<i>The Councillor and the Local Government Env. Service</i>	<i>Ballyvaughan, Co Clare</i>	<i>22nd - 23rd</i>	<i>July</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>Briefing for LA members, current issues in education</i>	<i>Oughterard, Co Galway</i>	<i>25th - 27th</i>	<i>July</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>Patrick MacGill Summer School and Arts Week</i>	<i>Glenties, Co Donegal</i>	<i>24th - 29th</i>	<i>July</i>	<i>2</i>
<b>Sep-11</b>				
<i>AMAI Annual Conference</i>	<i>Trim, Co Meath</i>	<i>8th - 9th</i>	<i>September</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>LAMA Autumn Seminar</i>	<i>Dungarvan, Co Waterford</i>	<i>23rd - 24th</i>	<i>September</i>	<i>4</i>

<b>Oct-11</b>				
<i>Local Government &amp; Planning Seminar</i>	<i>Limerick</i>	<i>7th - 10th</i>	<i>October</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>The Role of Regional Authority in Policy making in LG</i>	<i>Galway</i>	<i>21st - 23rd</i>	<i>October</i>	<i>1</i>
<b>Nov-11</b>				
<i>Douglas Hyde Conference</i>	<i>Ballaghaderreen</i>	<i>4th</i>	<i>November</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>LG Powers to create/abolish rights of way</i>	<i>Galway</i>	<i>4th-6th</i>	<i>November</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>Local Authority's Role in preventing water pollution</i>	<i>Donegal Town, Donegal</i>	<i>18th - 20th</i>	<i>November</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>Transforming Ireland into highly energy efficient, low carbon economy</i>	<i>Lucan, Co Dublin</i>	<i>25th-26th</i>	<i>November</i>	<i>1</i>
<b>Dec-11</b>				
<i>Members Seminar Promoting Volunteerism</i>	<i>Westport, Co Mayo</i>	<i>2th - 4th</i>	<i>December</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>Local Government Charges Act 2009</i>	<i>Galway City</i>	<i>16th - 18th</i>	<i>December</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>Public Sector Expenditure - Where is Ireland spending above the odds</i>	<i>Galway City</i>	<i>6th - 8th</i>	<i>December</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>Common Agri Reform</i>	<i>Kerry</i>	<i>9th - 12th</i>	<i>December</i>	<i>1</i>
				<b>82</b>

**Dundalk Town Council**

**Councillor Conference/Seminars Attendance Record 2011**

(info extracted from Conference Exps Sheets processed as at 31.12.11)

<i>Conference</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Month</i>	<i>No. of Councillors</i>
<b>Jan-11</b>				
<i>NFLA Conference</i>	<i>Dundee</i>	<i>27th - 28th</i>	<i>January</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>Economic Seminar for Councillors</i>	<i>Thomond Park, Limerick</i>	<i>28th - 29th</i>	<i>January</i>	<i>1</i>
<b>February-11</b>				
<i>Renewable Heat Incentive</i>	<i>Maynooth, Co Kildare</i>	<i>4th - 6th</i>	<i>February</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>AMAI Spring Seminar</i>	<i>Bantry</i>	<i>11th - 12h</i>	<i>February</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>Charities Act 2009 Implications for Voluntary Sector</i>	<i>Manor West Hotel, Tralee</i>	<i>18th - 20th</i>	<i>February</i>	<i>3</i>
<b>March-11</b>				
<i>Equal Status Legislation and its effect on service provision in LA</i>	<i>Westport, Co Mayo</i>	<i>18th - 20th</i>	<i>March</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>Changing Trends in Drug and Alcohol Abuse</i>	<i>Letterkenny</i>	<i>25th - 27th</i>	<i>March</i>	<i>1</i>
<b>April-11</b>				
<i>20th Annual Kerry Environmental Conference</i>	<i>Tralee</i>	<i>7th - 10th</i>	<i>April</i>	<i>1</i>
<b>June-11</b>				
<i>Indemnity from Liability of Decisions of the Body Corporate</i>	<i>Galway</i>	<i>10th - 12h</i>	<i>June</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>East Coast Smart Green Growth Conference</i>	<i>Dundalk</i>	<i>9th</i>	<i>June</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>Sean MacDiarmade Summer School</i>	<i>Kiltyclogher, Co Leitrim</i>	<i>17th</i>	<i>June</i>	<i>2</i>
<b>July-11</b>				
<i>Patrick MacGill Summer School</i>	<i>Glenties, Co Donegal</i>	<i>24th - 29th</i>	<i>July</i>	<i>1</i>
<b>September-11</b>				
<i>AMAI 98th Annual Conference</i>	<i>Trim, Co Meath</i>	<i>8th - 10th</i>	<i>September</i>	<i>2</i>
<b>November-11</b>				
<i>Douglas Hyde Conference BMW Regional Assembly</i>	<i>Roscommon</i>	<i>4th</i>	<i>November</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>Drogheda Cross Border Focus</i>	<i>Westcourt Hotel, Drogheda</i>	<i>5th - 6th</i>	<i>November</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>Transforming Ireland into a highly energy-efficient, low carbon economy</i>	<i>Lucan, Co Dublin</i>	<i>25th - 26th</i>	<i>November</i>	<i>1</i>
<b>December-11</b>				
<i>Promoting Volunteerism</i>	<i>Westport, Co Mayo</i>	<i>2nd - 4th</i>	<i>December</i>	<i>1</i>

**Drogheda Borough Council**

**Councillor Conference/Seminars Attendance Record 2011**

(info extracted from Conference Exps Sheets processed as at 31.12.11)

<i>Conference</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Month</i>	<i>No. of Councillors</i>
<b>February-11</b>				
<i>Employment Law and Insurances Issues</i>	<i>Galway</i>	<i>4th</i>	<i>March</i>	<i>1</i>
<b>March-11</b>				
<i>The Good Friday Agreement Local Government North &amp; South</i>	<i>Galway</i>	<i>15th - 17th</i>	<i>April</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>Changing Trends in Drug &amp; Alcohol Abuse</i>	<i>Donegal</i>	<i>25th - 27th</i>	<i>March</i>	<i>1</i>
<b>April-11</b>				
<i>Mayday Conference</i>	<i>Gormanston Co. Meath</i>	<i>6th</i>	<i>May</i>	<i>1</i>
<b>May-11</b>				
<i>Professional Development for Cllrs</i>	<i>Limerick</i>	<i>20th - 22nd</i>	<i>May</i>	<i>1</i>
<b>June-11</b>				
<i>Effective representations through Radio, TV, Press, Facebook, Twitter</i>	<i>Donegal</i>	<i>8th</i>	<i>July</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>Byrne Perry Summer School - Sport in Irish History</i>	<i>Wexford</i>	<i>24th – 26th</i>	<i>June</i>	<i>1</i>
<b>July-11</b>				
<i>Benedict Kiely Literary Weekend</i>	<i>Omagh</i>	<i>8th</i>	<i>September</i>	<i>1</i>
<b>September-11</b>				
<i>Bianconi 225 Initiative</i>	<i>Tipperary</i>	<i>22nd - 25th</i>	<i>September</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>2011 La Touche Legacy Seminar</i>	<i>Wicklow</i>	<i>30th – 2nd</i>	<i>September /October</i>	<i>1</i>
<b>October-10</b>				
<i>Great War 1914 - 1918</i>	<i>Drogheda</i>	<i>5th</i>	<i>November</i>	<i>2</i>
<b>December-10</b>				
<i>Health &amp; Safety &amp; The Councillor</i>	<i>Tipperary</i>	<i>9th</i>	<i>December</i>	<i>1</i>

**Ardee Town Council**

**Councillor Conference/Seminars Attendance Record 2011**

(info extracted from Conference Exps Sheets processed as at 31.12.11)

<i>Conference</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Month</i>	<i>No. of Councillors</i>
<b>February-11</b>				
<i>AMAI Spring Seminar</i>	<i>Sligo, Co. Sligo</i>	<i>11<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup></i>	<i>February</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>AMAI Annual Conference</i>	<i>Trim, Co Meath</i>	<i>8<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup></i>	<i>September</i>	<i>3</i>

**Payment to Members of Louth Local Authorities for Meetings, Committees, Representational Payments etc. 2011**

	Payments to Members of Louth Local Authorities	Louth County Council	Drogheda Borough Council	Dundalk Town Council	Ardee Town Council
1.	Number of Council and Committee Meetings	98	16	37	15
2.	Annual Expenses Allowance (travel, subsistence & misc. exps e.g. postage) Total of expenses paid to members in respect of attendance of meetings of the Council and its committees	€121,243.64	€36,379.00	€36,393.50	€9,162.00
3.	Representational Payments	€429,896.53	€56,143.89	€ 70,307.99	€15,966.72
4.	Chairpersons / Mayor Allowance	€12,053.75	€18,821.89	€ 13,766.34	€550.00
5.	Vice Chairperson / Deputy Mayor Allowance	€8,372.50	Nil	€3,701.70	Nil
6.	<b>Chairpersons of SPC's / MPC's</b>	€24,000 .00	Nil	€ 2,750.00	Nil
7.	<b>Chairperson of CDB</b>	€6,000 .00	Nil	Nil	Nil
8.	Mobile / Blackberry Phones	€5,023.52	€1,418.33	€ 2,824.68	Nil
9.	Expenses on Conferences etc. attended:				
	(a) Home	€25,133.12	€2,178.63	€ 7,449.33	€1,914.71
	(b) Abroad	€399.51	Nil	€ 600.00	Nil

## Breakdown of Representation in Relation to the SPCs, etc.

### LOUTH COUNTY COUNCIL

#### SPC COMMITTEE MEMBERS 2009 – 2014

##### Housing, Community Planning and Social Policy

###### SPC

1. Cllr. Jim Ryan, Chairperson,
2. Cllr. Paul Bell,
3. Cllr. Paddy McQuillan,
4. Cllr. Alan Grehan,
5. Cllr. Pearse McGeough,
6. Cllr. Peter Savage,
7. Cllr. Kevin Meenan,
8. Cllr. Tommy Byrne,
9. Cllr. Kevin Callan,
10. Niall Mulligan, Simon Community
11. Hazel McGeough, Community Sector
12. Seamus Briscoe, ICTU
13. Bill Baldwin, Chambers Ireland

No. of Meetings 2011 – 3

##### Water, Environmental and Emergency Services

###### SPC

1. Cllr Anthony Donohoe, Chairperson
2. Cllr Finnan McCoy,
3. Cllr Martin Bellew,
4. Cllr Jim Lennon,
5. Cllr Michael O'Dowd,
6. Cllr Imelda Munster,
7. Mr. Richie Culhane,
8. Ms Breffni Martin,
9. Mr. John Roche,
10. Ms Patricia Rooney,

No. of Meetings 2011 – 2

##### Transportation, Cross Border Matters and Marine

###### SPC

1. Cllr Frank Maher, Chairperson
2. Cllr Linus English
3. Cllr Edel Corrigan,
4. Cllr Frank Godfrey,
5. Cllr Liam Reilly,
6. Cllr Oliver Tully,
7. Cllr Conor Keelan,
8. Mr. Harry McCarthy,
9. Mr. Denis Brennan
10. Mr. Declan Murphy,
11. Mr. Terry O'Brien

No. of Meetings 2011 – 4

##### Economic Development & Future Planning SPC

1. Cllr Colm Markey, Chairperson
2. Cllr Declan Breathnach,
3. Cllr Jim Loughran,
4. Cllr Marianne Butler,
5. Cllr Tomas Sharkey,
6. Cllr Pio Smith,
7. Cllr Martin Murnaghan,
8. Cllr Jim Tenanty,
9. Ms Mary Malone,
10. Mr. Martin McCaughey,
11. Mr. Paddy Malone,
12. Mr. Colin Marry,

No. of Meetings 2011 – 6

#### OTHER MEETINGS – Louth County Council

##### **County Louth Vocational Education Committee:**

Cllr Martin Bellew  
Cllr Jim Ryan  
Cllr Tomás Sharkey  
Cllr Imelda Munster  
Cllr Liam Reilly  
Cllr Tommy Byrne  
Cllr Oliver Tully  
Cllr Linus English  
Cllr Martin Murnaghan

##### **Dundalk Joint Burial Board:**

Cllr Peter Savage  
Cllr Linus English  
Cllr Liam Reilly

##### **Association of County and City Councils:**

Cllr Tommy Byrne  
Cllr Linus English  
Cllr Finnan McCoy

##### **East Border Region Forum:**

Cllr Paul Bell  
Cllr Pearse McGeough  
Cllr Peter Savage  
Cllr Declan Breathnach  
Cllr Martin Murnaghan  
Cllr Finnan McCoy

##### **East Border Region Board:**

Cllr Peter Savage

##### **Drogheda Port Company:** Cllr Anthony Donohoe

##### **Dundalk Port Company:** Cllr Jim Lennon

##### **Local Authority Members Association:** Cllr Oliver Tully

##### **Irish Public Bodies Mutual Insurances Ltd:** Cllr Colm Markey



**Rural Water Programme –  
Local County Monitoring  
Committee:**

Cllr Tommy Byrne  
Cllr Colm Markey  
Cllr Jim Loughran  
Cllr Oliver Tully

**Local Traveller  
Accommodation  
Consultative Committee:**

Cllr Paddy McQuillan  
Cllr Anthony Donohoe  
Cllr Liam Reilly (Chair)

**Louth County Enterprise  
Board:**

Cllr Martin Murnaghan  
Cllr Tommy Byrne  
Cllr Declan Breathnach  
Cllr Oliver Tully

**Louth Leader Partnership:**

Cllr Tommy Byrne  
Cllr Colm Markey  
Cllr Finnan McCoy

**The Border Regional Authority:**

Cllr Peter Savage  
Cllr Liam Reilly  
Cllr Jim Lennon

Cllr Finnan McCoy  
Cllr Martin Murnaghan  
Cllr Jim Loughran  
Cllr Marianne Butler

**The EU Operational Committee:**

Cllr Finnan McCoy

**BMW Region Assembly:**

Cllr Peter Savage  
Cllr Martin Murnaghan

**Neagh/Bann River Basin  
District Advisory Council:**

Cllr Frank Maher  
Cllr Oliver Tully

**Eastern River Bann District  
Advisory Council:**

Cllr Martin Bellew  
Cllr Declan Breathnach

**Audit Committee:**

Cllr Frank Maher  
Cllr Jim Lennon

**Regional Health Forum:**

Cllr Colm Markey  
Cllr Michael O'Dowd  
Cllr Tommy Byrne  
Cllr Anthony Donohoe

**Louth Hospitality:**

Cllr Martin Murnaghan

**County Development Board:**

Cllr Anthony Donohoe  
Cllr Frank Maher  
Cllr Jim Ryan  
Cllr Kevin Callan  
Cllr Pdraig McKenny

**Louth (LLA's) Newry and  
Mourne Joint Committee of  
Elected Members:**

Ardee TC Cllr Michael Farrelly  
Ardee TC Cllr Pdraig McKenny  
LCC Cllr Declan Breathnach (Chair)  
LCC Cllr Edel Corrigan  
DBC Cllr Frank Mahe  
DBC Cllr Matthew Coogan  
DTC Cllr Sean Bellew  
DTC Cllr Eamonn O'Boyle  
N&MDC Cllr A. Flynn  
N&MDC Cllr T. Hearty  
N&MDC Cllr P. J. McDonald  
N&MDC Cllr J. Feehan  
N&MDC Cllr S. Rogers  
N&MDC Cllr A. Moffett  
N&MDC Cllr J. Patterson

**DROGHEDA BOROUGH COUNCIL – COMITTEES**

**AMAI** – Councillors P. Bell and K. Callan.

**LAMA** – Councillor A. Donohoe

**IPBM** – Councillor R. Culhane

**Border Regional Authority EU Operational Committee** – Councillor K. Callan.

**Drogheda Community Services Centre** – Councillor F. Maher.

**County Louth VEC** – Councillor A. Donohoe, L. Bell Woods.

**Droichead Arts Centre** – Councillor K. Callan

**Louth Hospitality Ltd** – Councillor K. O'Heiligh.

**Traveller Consultative Committee** – Councillor F. Gallagher.

**County Development Board** – Councillor Kevin Callan

**Housing, Community, Planning and Social Policy SPC** – Councillor K. Callan.

**Water Environment and Emergency Services SPC** – Councillor R. Culhane.

**Protocol Committee:** Councillors K. O'Heiligh, F. Gallagher, K. Callan, F. Maher, D. Wilton, L. Bell Woods, (Mayor is Ex Officio).

**Place Name Committee** – Councillor L. Bell Woods.

## Breakdown of Representation in Relation to the MPC's, etc.

### DUNDALK TOWN COUNCIL

#### Environment MPC – ELECTED MEMBERS

Cllr Eamonn O'Boyle  
Cllr Jim Ryan  
Cllr Jim D'Arcy  
Cllr Martin Bellew  
Cllr Oliver Morgan  
Cllr Harry Todd

Number of meetings 2011 - 3

#### Housing MPC – ELECTED MEMBERS

Cllr Harry Todd  
Cllr Jennifer Green  
Cllr Kevin Meenan  
Cllr Eamonn O'Boyle  
Cllr Jim Ryan  
Cllr Marianne Butler

Number of meetings 2011 - 2

#### Infrastructure MPC – ELECTED MEMBERS

Cllr Sean Bellew  
Cllr C Keelan  
Cllr O Morgan  
Cllr Ollan Herr  
Cllr Jim D'Arcy  
Cllr Jennifer Green

Number of meetings 2011 - 3

#### Planning MPC – ELECTED MEMBERS

Cllr Martin Bellew  
Cllr Marianne Butler  
Cllr Ollan Herr  
Cllr Kevin Meenan  
Cllr Sean Bellew  
Cllr C Keelan

Number of Meetings 2011 - 3

#### OTHER MEETINGS – Dundalk Town Council

##### Dundalk Joint Burial Board

Cllr Martin Bellew  
Cllr Conor Keelan  
Cllr Harry Todd  
Cllr Ollan Herr  
Cllr Eamonn O'Boyle  
Cllr Oliver Morgan  
Cllr Jennifer Green

##### Midland East Regional Tourism Organisation

Cllr Marianne Butler

##### Association of Municipal Authorities of Ireland

Cllr Jim Ryan  
Cllr Eamonn O'Boyle

##### Regional Authorities Operational Committee

Cllr Martin Bellew  
Cllr Conor Keelan

##### DUNDALK PORT COMPANY

Cllr Jim D'Arcy  
Cllr Kevin Meenan

##### Louth Leader Partnership

Cllr. Conor Keelan

##### Newry & Mourne District Council / Dundalk Town Council Joint Committee

All 12 members

##### IPB (Irish Public Bodies Mutual Insurances Ltd)

Cllr Martin Bellew

##### Local Accommodation Consultative Committee (Traveller Accommodation)

Cllr Marianne Butler

##### Louth VEC

Cllr Sean Bellew  
Cllr Marianne Butler

##### Neagh Bann River Basin District Advisory Group

Cllr Eamonn O'Boyle

##### Dundalk Drugs Advisory Group

Cllr Harry Todd  
Cllr Jim Ryan  
Cllr Ollan Herr

##### Place Name Committee

Cllr Oliver Morgan