

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

# **Annual Report 2012**



## *Annual Report 2012*

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#### *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.*



Joan Martin  
County Manager  
Louth Local Authorities



Finnan McCoy  
Cathaoirleach  
Louth County Council



Jennifer Green  
Chairperson  
Dundalk Town Council

The achievements and accomplishments recorded in the 2012 Annual Report exemplifies the “can do” attribute that contributes to ensuring the continued delivery of quality services to the Communities of County Louth in these challenging economic times. We have in 2012 been unrelenting in pursuing new ideas, policies, strategies and solutions in order to ensure improved efficiencies and cost savings are achieved. Collaboration with Community Groups, a myriad of statutory agencies and NGO's together with improved engagement with our neighbouring authorities remains key and facilitates our achieving results beyond what we could achieve working alone.

The focus of job creation remains at the centre of our philosophy and this goal supported by the policies and practices of Council has borne fruit in delivering quality employment opportunities across the County in 2012. The work of the County Development Board through its sub committees in particular the Economic Forum continues to raise the profile of County Louth as a preferred location to do business.

The County's designation as an Age Friendly County, now well established on National and International platforms continues to contribute significantly in identifying Louth as a premier location to live in.

Changes in the managing of the Tourism and Recreation portfolios has allowed us bring added value to the Louth Tourism product and see the county develop as a significant destination for the national and international visitor alike.

The advancement of key initiatives such as Narrow Water Bridge and the Geo Tourism projects were milestone achievements in 2012 and ones which it is hoped to bring to fruition in 2013. The ongoing engagement with Colleagues in Newry and Mourne District Council under the terms of the Memorandum of Understanding also progressed at pace in 2012.

Challenging restructuring in staffing and work practices delivered in 2012 would not have been possible without the engagement and significant contribution of staff in all the local authorities in the County. It is imperative that we recognise the valued contribution that the loyal and adaptive staff make in ensuring Louth Local Authorities continue to be effective and responsive in the delivery of critical services which ensure Louth remains the preferred county to live, work, educate and socialise in.

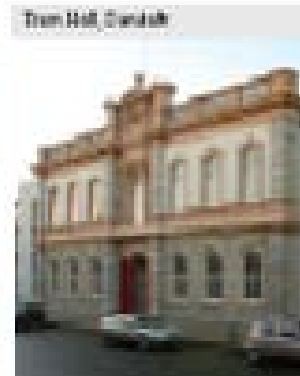
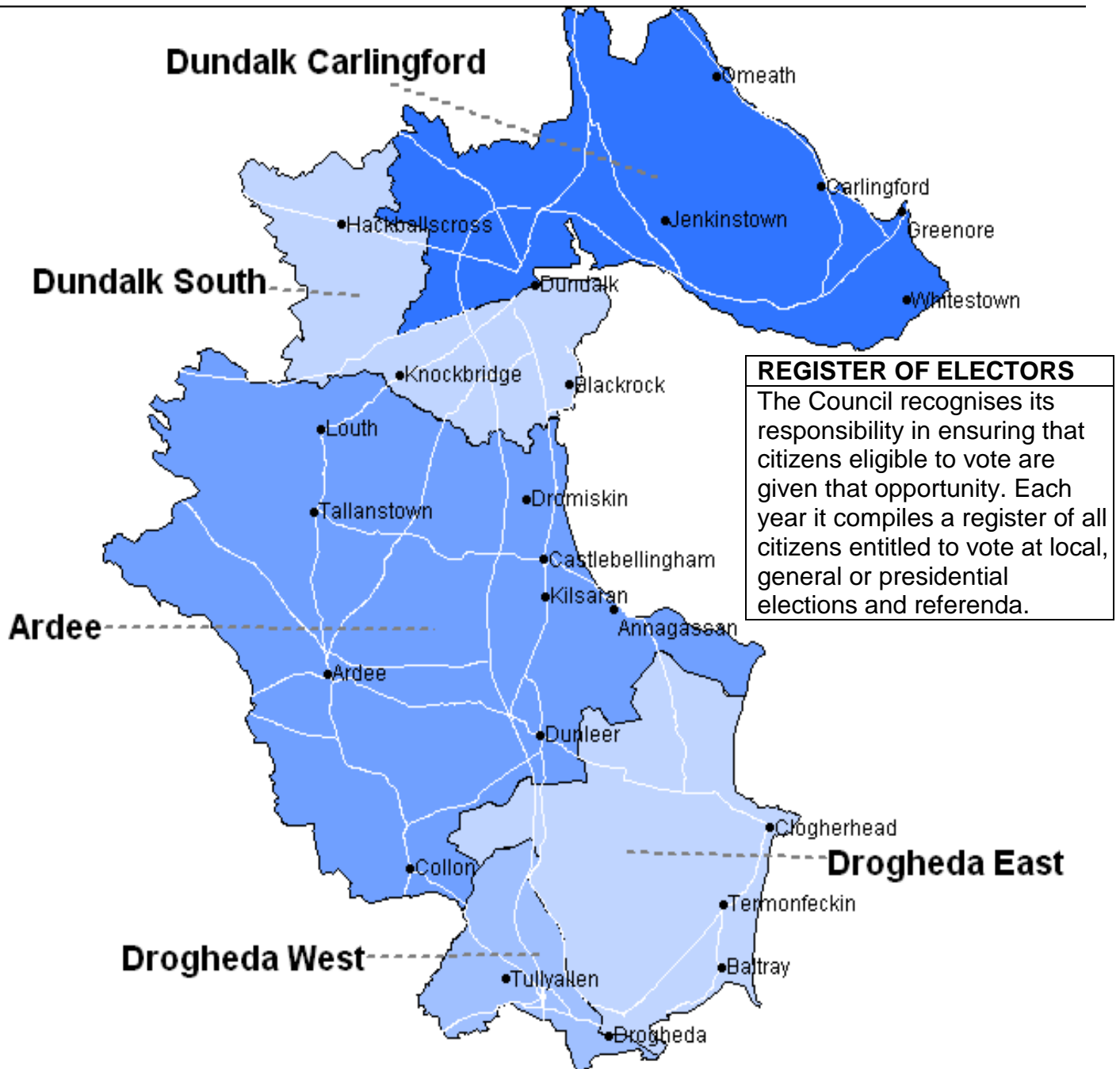


Paul Bell  
Mayor  
Drogheda Borough Council



Mary Kavanagh  
Chairperson  
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



**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



## **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



## **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  
Mark Deary



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 Mark Deary was co-opted on to the Council in February 2012*

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





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 *Plus All 2012 Retirees*

### **Louth County Council**

*County Manager:* Joan Martin

*Directors of Services:*

Economic Development: Michael Curran

Housing, Social & Community Planning, Fire &

Emergency Services & Ardee & District Area : 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: Anne D Callan

Human Resources: Kieran Lawless

Finance: Pauline Goss

Sanitary Services: Brenda O'Brien

CDB Secretariat: Mary Deery, Paula Gribben

Housing: Therese McArdle

Economic Development and Future Planning: Michael McCabe

Snr.Executive Librarian: Amanda Branigan

Rapid Co-ordinator: Valerie Artherton

*Senior Engineers:*

Transportation: Gerry Kelly

Sanitary Services: Mark O'Callaghan

Environment: Raymond McKenna

*Senior Executive Engineers:*

Transportation: Frank Magee, Paddy Connolly

Housing: Donal Clarke

Sanitary Services: Keith Hanratty, Peadar McGuinness

Environment: Declan McMahon

*Senior Executive Planners:*

Marguerite Quinn, Terence Savage,

*Senior Assistant Chief Fire Officer:* Joe Lumsden, Sheila Broderick

*Assistant Chief Fire Officer:* John Cummins, Philip O'Brien

*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

*Chief Technician:* Paddy Birch

*Heritage Officer:* Brendan McSherry

*Senior Staff Officer:*

Human Resources: Mary Gormally

Corporate Services: Nessa McCartan

Road Safety Officer: Angela Muckian

Motor Tax: Sinead Lally

Water Services: Siobhan Rice

Econ.Dev./Fut.Planning: Sinead McVerry

Programme Manager Peace III: Paddy Drumgoole

Housing: Kathleen Birch

Major Emergency: Gregory Flanagan

Executive Librarian: Sheila Tierney, Peter Murphy, Anne Keaveney

Finance: Anne McDonnell

### **Drogheda and District**

*Director of Services:* Joan Martin

*Senior Executive Officer:* Mary T. Daly

*Administrative Officers:*

Brona O'Reilly, Jeanne Rushe

*Senior Staff Officers:*

Christine Mullen, Alison Condra

*Senior Engineer:* Pat Finn

*Senior Executive Engineers:* Martina Sheeran,

Vincent Toner

*Senior Executive Planner:* Emer O'Callaghan

### **Dundalk and District**

*Director of Services:* Frank Pentony

*Senior Executive Officer:* David Storey

*Administrative Officers:*

John Lawrence, Joan Smith

*Senior Staff Officers:*

Eileen McEnteggart, Veronica Traynor,

Mary Capplis

*Senior Engineer:* Catherine Duff

*Senior Executive Engineers:*

Peter McVeigh, Padraig O'Hora

*Senior Executive Planner:* Sinead Mullen

### **Ardee and District**

*Director of Services:* Joe McGuinness

*Town Clerk:* Miriam Roe

*Senior Exec. Planner:* Marguerite Quinn

*Senior Exec. Engineer:* Padraig Judge

### **ALL RETIREES 2012 :**

Michael Murtagh: *Craft Foreman*

James Sweeney: *GSS*

Jim Nugent: *Library Asst*

Liam McKey: *WaterWorks Caretaker*

Kathleen Muckian: *Staff Officer*

Ivor Powell: *Exec. Technician*

Marguerite Laverty: *Clerical Officer*

Pauline Watters: *Administrative Officer*

Bernard Keogan: *Staff Officer*

Catherine McDonnell: *Clerical Officer*

Ellen O'Hanlon: *Administrative Officer*

Brian McKeever: *Driver*

John Gallagher: *Traffic Warden*

Yvonne Clarke: *Museum Cashier*

Raymond Mcevoy: *Craft Worker*

Elizabeth Matthews: *Cleaner*

Marian Whearty: *Administrative Officer*

Seamus Durnin: *Staff Officer*

Breda Reilly: *Clerical Officer*

## Corporate Affairs

### MEETINGS OF LOUTH COUNTY COUNCIL - 2012

Monthly Meeting	11
Special Meeting	6
Annual Meeting	1
Budget Meeting	1
CPG (Corporate Policy Group)	11
SPC – Transportation & Cross Border Matters	3
SPC – Environmental Services	3
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	3
<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 2012.

<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. Pdraig 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 Siochána 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 2012 and their meeting schedule was 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 19 meetings were held during 2012.

The statutory **Budget Meeting** was held on 17<sup>th</sup> December 2012 at which the Council considered a gross revenue expenditure of €66,240,240 for 2013 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 2012 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	-	-	-	0
Dundalk Town Council	17/01/2012	De La Salle Brothers	<i>Civic Reception</i> Ending 112 years contribution to Dundalk	€409.49
Dundalk Town Council	03/10/12	Eilish Byrne	<i>Civic Reception</i> Won bronze Medal in 2012 Paralympic games	€444.50
Dundalk Town Council	23/04/12	Ronnie Whelan	<i>Civic Welcome</i> Walking from Belfast to Dublin in aid of Myasthenia Gravis Association	€150.00
Ardee Town Council	24/10/2012	Ardee Tidy Towns	<i>Civic Reception</i> Bronze Medal Winners (a first for Ardee)	€970.00
Drogheda Borough Council	26/04/12	<b>Civic Awards</b> Sr Agnes Byrne Karen Devine Edward Kennedy	For achievements in the Community	€788.19

		<p>Colin Maher  <i>Friends of St Marys Hospital</i>                  Colin O'Donoghue                  Richard Moore                  Senator Feargal Quinn                  Supt Gerry Smith</p>		
Drogheda Borough Council	22/11/12	<p><b><u>Civic Reception for Irish Paralympian Team</u></b>                  Mr Jimmy Gradwell –  <i>President of Paralympics Ireland</i>                  Mr Liam Harbison –  <i>Chief Executive –                  Chef de Mission</i>                  Ms Nancy Chillingworth –  <i>Performance Director</i>                  Ms Anne Ebbs –  <i>Founder of Paralympics</i>                  Mr Ronan Rooney –  <i>Paralympian Athlete</i></p>	In recognition of their achievements in the London 2012 Paralympic Games	€606.75

## 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, 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. The STEM Project has been running since 2004 and has helped Louth County Council achieve accreditation to the internationally recognised ISO 14001 Environmental Management System.

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 2012 Louth County Council retained its ISO14001 accreditation. Under this ISO the objectives and targets were reviewed for 2012 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.

A number of these objectives, complemented by additional initiatives have seen an improvement in the Building Energy Rating Certificate for County Hall. Each year a Building Energy Rating Certificate is acquired for County Hall. This certificate is similar to the energy label for a household electrical appliance. The label has a scale of A-G. A-rated are the most energy efficient and G the least efficient. County Hall started at a D1 rating in 2009 and the certificate received for 2012 has improved to a C2 rating.

### Display Energy Certificate

BER for the building detailed below is:

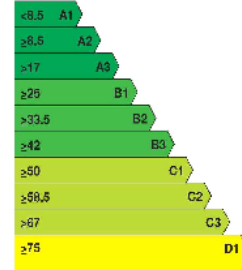
**C2**

The BER is based on real building. The BER and G1 value of primary energy is repeated, performance is as the building, outside

Louth County Council Offices  
St. Alphonsus Road  
Dundalk  
County Louth

Building Type: General office  
Useful Floor Area (m<sup>2</sup>): 5035  
Main Heating Fuel: Mains Gas  
Building Environment: Heating and Mechanical

Building Energy Rating (Indicator)  
LOW ENERGY USE



**C2**  
242 kWh/m<sup>2</sup>/yr  
61



### OVERVIEW OF ENERGY USAGE IN 2012

The majority of energy use by Louth Local Authorities 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 2012 was €4,673,000.

#### 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)
LCC	124	502
DTC	37	301
DBC	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 2012, with Energia and Airtricity being the successful providers.

#### 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 2012 the diesel use was 253,648 2011 which is a significant 3.4% reduction on the 2010 figure of 262,362 litres.

#### Also during 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 in 2012. There is now a fully operational two car charging point in the public car park at County Hall.
- The landfill has progressed the on-site generation of electricity as an alternative to flaring of landfill gas, and the installation of the gas engines is underway. The grid connection is

expected to be completed by mid 2013. Also the landfill continues to reduce the acceptance of high levels of Biodegradable Municipal Waste, and is 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, have been audited, and will be fitted out during 2013 with energy efficient improvements and the results will be displayed to the general public from the public foyers of these 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

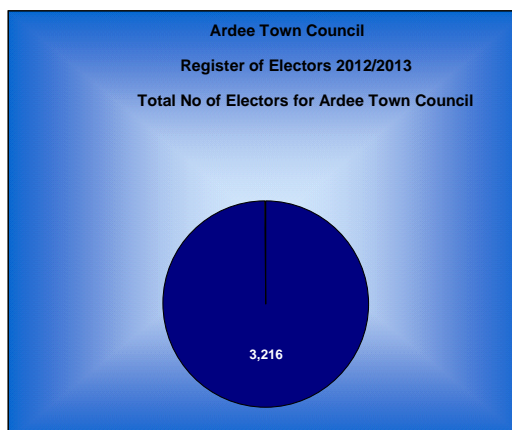
## REGISTER OF ELECTORS

The Register of Electors effective from February 15, 2012 showed a total voting population of 91,140 comprised as follows:

### Breakdown by Type of Elector

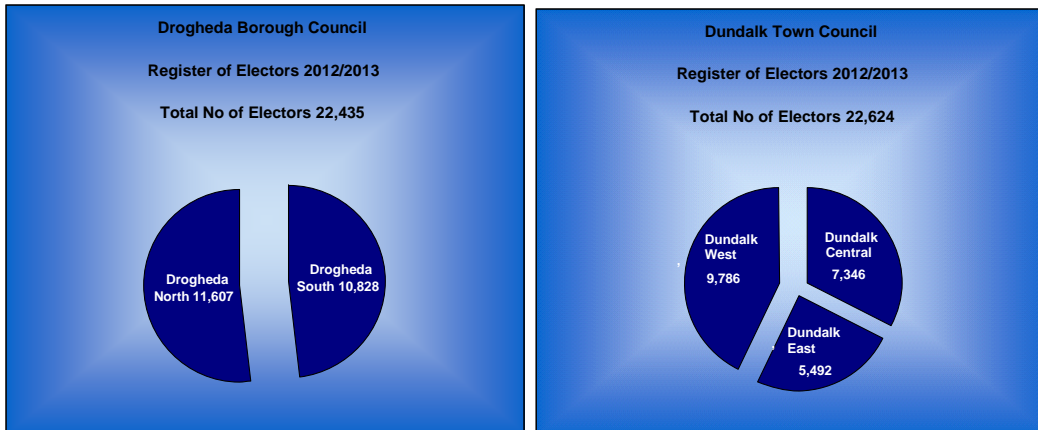
Dáil Electors	86,696
Presidential Electors	85,967
European Electors	87,645
Local Electors	90,015

### Breakdown by Local Electoral Areas



(continued overleaf)

(continued from overleaf)



**Edited Register of Electors**

The edited Register of Electors effective from February 15, 2012 contained 3,216 names.

**Elections during 2012**

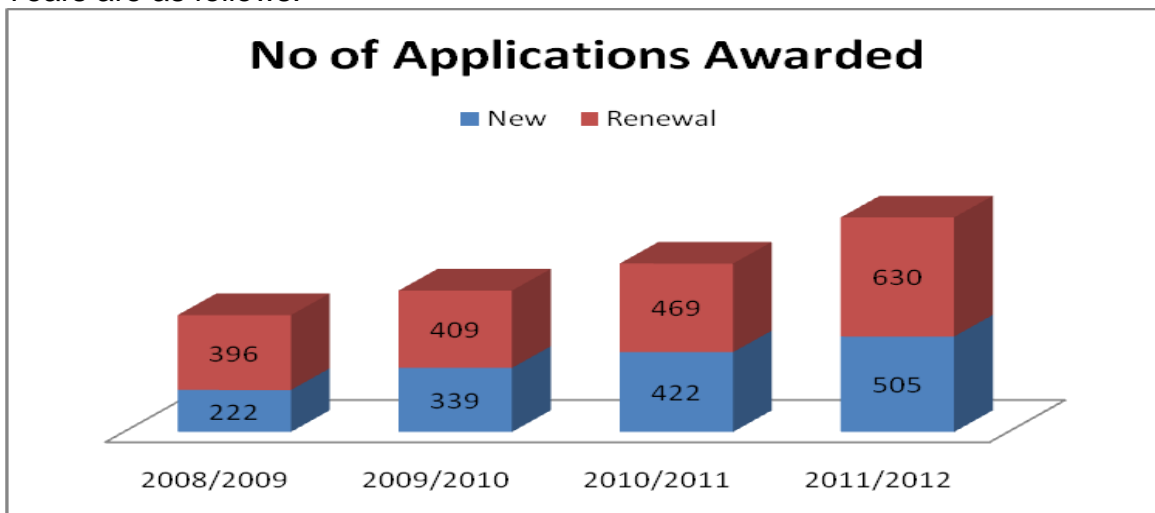
A Referendum on the Fiscal Stability Treaty 2012 Thirtieth Amendment of the Constitution (Treaty on Stability, Coordination and Governance in the Economic and Monetary Union) Bill 2012 was held on Thursday, 31<sup>st</sup> May 2013.

A Referendum on the Fiscal Stability Treaty 2012 Thirtieth Amendment of the Constitution (Treaty on Stability, Coordination and Governance in the Economic and Monetary Union) Bill 2012 was held on Saturday, 10<sup>th</sup> November 2013.

**HIGHER EDUCATION GRANTS**

A total of €5,566,874.86 was paid out for Higher Education Grants during the 2011/2012 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 the number of Higher Education Grant applications awarded for the last 4 Academic Years are as follows:





## CITIZEN SERVICES

### Freedom of Information

During 2012 39 applications were made under the Freedom of Information Act 1997/2003 to Louth Local Authorities. In Louth County Council there was a decrease of 17% on 2011 figures, in Drogheda Borough a decrease of 46% on 2011 figures and in Dundalk Town Council there was a decrease of 59% on 2011 figures.

	Louth County Council 2011	Drogheda Borough Council 2011	Dundalk Town Council 2011	Louth County Council 2012	Drogheda Borough Council 2012	Dundalk Town Council 2012
<b>Total Number of Requests</b>	30	13	17	25	7	7
-Personal	9	8	6	13	4	4
-Non-Personal	17	5	10	11	3	3
-Mixed	4	Nil	1	1	Nil	Nil
Requests Granted	6	6	13	8	5	5
Requests Part Granted	13	2	Nil	10	Nil	Nil
Requests Refused	7	5	4	4	2	2
Requests Transferred	3	Nil	1	1	Nil	Nil
Requests withdrawn	Nil	Nil	Nil	1	Nil	Nil
Requests withdrawn and handled outside of FOI	1	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Requests for Internal Review	2	4	Nil	2	1	1
Appeals to the Information Commissioner	Nil	Nil	Nil	1	Nil	Nil
<b>Source of Requests</b>						
Journalists	2	Nil	Nil	1	Nil	Nil
Business	6	6	Nil	3	1	1
Oireachtas	Nil	Nil	Nil	0	Nil	
Others/General Public	20	7	17	15	6	6
Staff	2	Nil	Nil	6	Nil	Nil

	Louth County Council	Drogheda Borough Council	Dundalk Town Council
<b>Ombudsman Complaints</b>			
Complaints received during the year	6	3	0
<b>Subject of Complaints</b>			
Community, Recreation & Amenities			
Corporate Affairs			0
Environment/Enforcement/Vets			0
Finance	2		0
Future Planning & Economic Development			0
Housing	3	2	0
Planning			0
Transportation	1		0
Motortax			N/A
Water Services		1	0
<b>Citizen Charter Complaints</b>			
Complaints received during 2012	9	Nil	Nil

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## 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 the month of August. A total of 15 meetings were held in 2012

## 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 2012, there were 1,096 applicants on the housing list for Louth County Council, 2,144 applicants on the housing list for Drogheda Borough Council and 2,382 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 2012, the construction of a housing development at Seafield Road, Blackrock, continued, while works were completed 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 2012, Louth County Council had 948 social housing units in stock, Drogheda Borough Council had 1,313 social housing units and Dundalk Town Council had 1,427 social housing units.

### **AFFORDABLE HOUSING**

The demand for affordable housing has receded completely in the last number of years with no affordable houses being sold in 2012.

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, 30 unsold affordable units in the County area and 24 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 746 voluntary housing units in the County, of which 360 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 1,491 were in receipt of it for over 18 months at the end of 2012.

At the end of 2012, there were 199 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**

2012 saw 736 requests for maintenance to existing social housing stock in the Louth County Council area, all but 7 of which were resolved before year-end.

39 houses in the county area were refurbished during 2012 following the departure of the tenants.

Drogheda Borough Council had 2,130 requests for maintenance to their existing social housing stock, of which 361 remained unresolved at the end of the year. 62 houses in the Drogheda area were refurbished during 2012 following the departure of the tenants.

Dundalk Town Council had 1,993 requests for maintenance to their existing social housing stock, of which 48 remained unresolved at the end of the year. 49 houses in the Dundalk area were refurbished during 2012 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.

### ESTATE MANAGEMENT

On 16<sup>th</sup> July 2012 the Council adopted a new Estate Management Policy to address Estate and Tenancy matters. This replaced the previous policy which was adopted in 1992.

The table below illustrates activity with regard to general estate management during 2012.

	LCC	DTC	DBC	TOTAL
Pre Tenancy Training	40	145	58	<b>243</b>
Tenancy(House) Inspections	156	189	269	<b>614</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>196</b>	<b>334</b>	<b>327</b>	<b>857</b>

Likewise the table below illustrates activity for the same period in relation to complaints received on Anti Social Behaviour in our social stock.

	LCC	DTC	DBC	Total
No. of complaints received	80	78	124	<b>282</b>
No. of complaints dismissed	1	0	2	<b>3</b>
No. of these complaints still under investigation at end of October 2012	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
No. of investigations resulting in no further action	38	46	33	<b>117</b>
No. of verbal warnings issued	13	17	36	<b>66</b>
No. of written warnings issued	8	6	26	<b>40</b>
No. of final written warnings issued	1	2	3	<b>6</b>
No. of exclusion orders sought/ obtained	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
No. of eviction/voluntary surrenders	0	4	3	<b>7</b>

### HOUSING SUPPORT SERVICES

#### SPECIAL NEEDS HOUSING

In 2012, Louth Local Authorities concluded work on 7 houses to facilitate adaption to existing stock where the needs of tenants had to be addressed.

These included works at Ferdia Park Ardee; Clooneevan, Blackrock; St Olivers Park, Carlingford; The Paddocks & Rathview, Termonfeckin; Fr. Finn Park, Louth Village; & Moorehall Rise, Ardee

## 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.

The Plan continues to be implemented and 2012 saw the first undertaking of a Rough Sleeper's Count on the night of November 20<sup>th</sup>. This initial count saw a total of 3 persons be identified as rough sleeping on the night in question.

As of December 31, 2012, there were 30 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.

<u>Social Housing</u>	<u>Target</u>	<u>Outcome by end of 2012</u>
2009-2013	66	49 (74% of programme target) of which 17 provided in 2012
<u>Group Housing</u>	<u>Target</u>	<u>Outcome</u>
2009-2011	6	2 (33% of total)

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

## COMMUNITY PLANNING

During 2012 Louth County Council completed 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. Under the same model, Louth County Council is currently project managing, on an agency basis for the Department of Education, the design and construction of a 1000 pupil post primary school on the site adjacent to the completed primary school at Ballymakenny road. This post primary school is to meet projected demand commencing in September 2014

In the same period, new playgrounds were opened or constructed at Dunleer, Tullyallen and Castlebellingham, while a Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) was completed within Blackrock Park.

## HOUSING GRANTS

Louth County Council offered grants under the DOEHLG Scheme of Grants which ran for a number of months in 2012. These are listed below.

	<b>No.</b>	<b>TOTAL VALUE</b>
<b>HAGs</b> Housing Adaptation Grants (paid and finally approved)	80	€1,218,744
<b>HOPs</b> Housing Aids for Older Persons paid	7	€28,798
<b>MAGs</b> Mobility Aids Grants (paid and finally approved)	5	€12,220
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>212</b>	<b>€1,259,762</b>

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## **DUNDALK TOWN COUNCIL- HOUSING**

Housing Section. – Statistics for year end 31<sup>st</sup> December 2012

- At year end December 2012 there were 2,382 on the housing list of Dundalk Town Council.
- The housing stock at year end December 2012 was 1427.
- Housing Stock Maintenance requests for the year were 1993.

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.
- Have no PRTB registration fees

## Leasing figures at the end of December 2012

Area	Applications received (units)	No. Ongoing	Not approved/cancelled	No. Leased
Dundalk Town Council	285	52	125	108
Louth County Council	106	59	21	26
Drogheda Borough Council	72	22	13	37
Total	463	133	159	171

## Rapid Programme - DUNDALK

The Dundalk RAPID Programme has been a hive of activity over the past year, with 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 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 2012 include:

- The new **Community CCTV system** roll out which will act as a deterrent to the occurrence of anti social behaviour and low level crime commenced in 2012. It will 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 necessary infrastructural works were carried out during 2012 resulting in the installation of fixed cameras at seven locations in the RAPID areas.
- **Sports capital funding was secured for the installation of older people's gym equipment** within the district parks in RAPID areas, and for the refurbishment of Multi Use Games Area in Cox's Demesne due to fire damage. This work was completed and the gym equipment was formally launched by the Cathaoirleach Councillor Marianne Butler in March under the auspices of 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.
- A **new Local Training Initiative in Cox's Demesne** was given the green light by FAS to roll out during 2012. A steering group made up of statutory/community groups met 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 approved this initiative as a Pilot project and it commenced during the year.
- The **Muirhevnamor 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 sixth 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 **FAI Soccer Sister RAPID Easter camp** was held in Oriel Park over the Easter Holidays and was attended by 30 girls between ages of 7-11yrs. The Redeemer Recourse Centre hosted the annual FAI summer camp with approximately 60 children taking part.
- The **RAPID estate Management committees** met quarterly during 2012 in accordance with the Louth Local Authorities Tenant Participation Policy with the aim of promoting positive relationships between local authorities and the RAPID Communities that they serve. The Bulky Waste initiative was rolled out once again and proved to be a huge success.

## **The Dundalk Development group for the Young Peoples Facilities and Services Fund**

### **The Young Peoples Facilities and Services fund**

The Dundalk Development group comprises of the Co-ordinator of the NERDTF who is the chairperson, together with The Dundalk RAPID co-ordinator and the Youth Development officer with the VEC. Dundalk was one of the named New Towns; Funding of €8,000 was secured through the OFMCYA via the FAI for a sporting programme of events during 2012, which involved Easter, Summer and an Intercultural camp, with Futsal evening tournaments held in partnership with the An Garda Síochána.



*The RAPID/YPFSF Intercultural Camp held in Oriel Park*

### **The Dundalk Drug Action Group**

The Dundalk Drug Action Group is an interagency group that was established by Dundalk Town Councillors in 2007, it is the local authority's response to the Issue of drugs that are infiltrating our communities. It commissioned a Report on Drugs misuse & Drug Service provision in Dundalk to look at "Improving the Community's Response, by Queen's University, in Belfast. **Dundalk Drugs Action Group** reviewed the 15 recommendations of the Queens Report and is currently perusing **six priority actions** in 2010-2013; this work plan includes the need for harm reduction measures, for greater family support, for gender specific support groups and for community and residential detoxification/treatment facilities in Dundalk. Some of these actions have been realised and the group continue to meet bi monthly to keep t Drugs on the agenda of all the statutory & community & voluntary agencies involved.

### **Key Achievements**

- As a result of the Social regeneration taking place under the DTC Urban Vision regeneration programme and RAPID programmes, a part-time drugs outreach worker post has been funded for the Cox's Demesne RAPID area. This **Worker's role is to offer direct support in the home and on the street to the service user and their families experiencing drug addictions.**

- A newly established **Community alcohol detoxification facility**- The Dundalk Drugs Action Group has lent its support to the work of TURAS Counselling Services and the Dundalk Simon Community in establishing this facility.

*Some members of the Dundalk Drugs Action group*



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## **DROGHEDA BOROUGH COUNCIL - HOUSING**

The Housing Department is responsible for the provision of housing for persons in need of accommodation and who are unable to provide that accommodation from their own resources. Drogheda Borough Council's has 1,313 units in its housing stock which it maintains and deals with estate management, collection of rents and loan repayments, sale of houses under the Tenant Purchase and Incremental Purchase Scheme, provision of housing loans, housing adaptation grants and accommodation for travelling people.

### **Housing applicants**

The number on the housing list at the end of 2012 is 2144.

### **Housing Strategy:**

A total of **83** units were acquired by Drogheda Borough Council through the Council's Housing Programme for Social, Voluntary, Leasing, and a number of properties were sold under the Incremental Purchase scheme.

**83** units as follows:

31 social units at Boice Court, Mell

19 Incremental Purchase units at Boice Court, Mell

12 Long Term Leasing units at Riverside Court, John Street – Tuath Housing

15 voluntary units at Scotch Hall, Drogheda – Tuath

6 Long Term Leasing units, acquired from private home owners.

### **Housing Stock Maintenance and Improvement:**

Maintenance and repair of our rented stock (1,313 dwellings) was completed throughout the year. In 2012, 2,029 maintenance calls were reported and subsequent repair works carried out. Remedial works were carried out and 62 No. vacant houses were re-let. Central Heating was installed in 20 No. dwellings and new windows and doors were installed in 37 No. dwellings.

### **Newly built homes – Social and Incremental Purchase units**



50 new homes were completed by contractors for DBC at Boice Court, Mell in 2012. 31 of these units, including 15 apartments and 3 special needs bungalows, were allocated to eligible persons on the Council's housing list. 108 applicants applied to purchase a house under the Incremental Purchase Scheme and after assessment, 19 houses were sold to eligible and qualified persons under this scheme.

All 31 social units were allocated in 2012 and most of the tenants moved in by Christmas 2012. 9 Incremental Purchase sales closed in 2012.

### **Housing Acquisition:**

No units were acquired by DBC in 2012.

### **Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS) / Long Term Leasing**

Negotiations took place during 2012 with landlords and Louth Local Authorities, with a view to moving suitable properties from RAS leases to Long Term Leasing Contracts. 8 properties were taken out of RAS in 2012, with 6 new Long Term Leasing contracts established. There are now 64 private units under the RAS scheme and 36 voluntary, in Drogheda.

### **Voluntary Housing / Long-Term Leasing**

The Council works with Voluntary Housing Associations on an ongoing basis to provide housing accommodation through the leasing programme and for the management of leased units of accommodation on behalf of the Council. In 2012, DBC leased 12 apartments at John Street, and a further 15 apartments were acquired by Tuath at Scotch Hall, Drogheda. All units are being managed by Tuath Housing Association. These apartments were allocated to qualified persons on DBC's housing list. DBC is currently negotiating to secure 4 more apartments in Scotch Hall, Drogheda, for the housing of homeless persons. Plans are in place to build 20 houses at Moneymore Green, which will be managed by North and East Housing.

6 units were acquired from private home owners in 2012. These units are under a 20 year lease and eligible applicants for DBC's housing list were allocated these units in 2012.

### **Planned homes**

Drogheda Borough Council and North and East Housing Association have begun the process of appointing contractors for the Build to Lease of 25 homes at Moneymore Green. 5 of these units will be special needs homes. Dundalk Town Council is continuing to acquire units under the Long Term Leasing scheme through negotiation with private home owners in Drogheda. These

units will be allocated by DBC to eligible applicants on the housing list. DBC is also negotiation to secure 4 apartments at Scotch Hall, Drogheda, for accommodating homeless persons.

**Adaption Works to existing stock**



In 2012, approx €68,770 was received from DECLG to spend on DPG works, the total spent on DPGs in 2012 was €91,593. This covered 11 No. different types of works. These works comprised of 2 No. Extensions, bathroom adaptations, ramps, rails, stairlifts etc.

*Extension and adaption works at Marian Park*

**Travellers**

During 2012, 3 families were housed under the Traveller Accommodation Programme 2009 – 2013. Currently, there are 80 Traveller families living in the administrative area of Drogheda.



*St Anthony's Park, Cement Road, Drogheda – Group Housing Scheme*

## **Tenant Purchase Schemes**

**2011 Fixed Term Tenant Purchase Scheme** – Applications under this scheme had to be received by DBC on December 2012. All closing dates for completion of these sales was extended in November 2012 to June 2013. The Scheme was for long-standing tenants and was open to eligible tenants who had held a tenancy for 10 years or more with DBC. The discount available was 3% for every year of tenancy held, up to a maximum of 45%. A total of **73** applications were received and **19** sales were finalised in 2012. A further **5** are to be processed in 2013.

### **1995 Tenant Purchase Scheme**

This scheme was available for those tenants who did not qualify for the Fixed Term Scheme. The discount available was 3% for every year of tenancy, up to a maximum of 30%. A further discount of €3,809 is also granted. In 2012, **30** applications were received under this scheme, and **3** sales were finalised. 29 are to be processed in 2013.

*The Tenant Purchase Schemes both expire in 2013*

## **Anti-Social Behaviour**

In 2012, 132 complaints regarding anti-social behaviour were investigated. 37 verbal warnings were issued and 27 written warnings were issued. Zero people who were due to be allocated a property were refused because of ASB. 3 properties were returned to the Council during the year, after ASB action took place.

## **Estate Management**

In 2012, DBC has worked with residents' groups in a variety of contents to help keep their estates in good condition. This is done through engagement with both the RAPID Co-ordinator and Tenant Liaison Officer. Works carried out in 2012 include the facilitation and support of estate cleanups, carrying out landscaping works, closure of alleyways where necessary and support of community based activities such as family fun days. Housing staff are also engaged on an ongoing process of house inspections to ensure that Council properties are being maintained to an appropriate standard and support tenants where improvements are necessary. 2012 has seen the introduction of post tenancy inspections whereby every new Council property is inspected within 12 months of allocation.

## **Finance**

Drogheda Borough Council's Financial Figures (Unaudited)

Total Revenue Expenditure 2012 €4,648,308

Total Capital Expenditure 2012 €3,200,000

## **Rapid Programme - DROGHEDA**

### **Community Infrastructure**

- **BOOMERANG: One Stop Youth Service:** 2001/2012 has been a landmark year for the development of the BOMMERANG Youth Service project. Drogheda Borough Council has signed over the leasehold of the Old Carnegie Library to Drogheda Youth Development.

Once again Drogheda Borough Council has shown its commitment to the development of community based services in Drogheda. . The facility is due to open in May 2013

In an ongoing effort to make community houses viable for use as centres for services in 2012 two refurbishments took place at the Boyne Garda House and Moneymore Community House which was redesigned to allow for the expansion of the award winning Afterschool Club. The latter refurbishment was funded by the National Children's Investment Fund

This year saw the completion of the Fr. Kevin Connolly Lourdes Stadium one of the earlier projects to benefit from RAPID leverage funding and applications endorsed by the RAPID Area Implementation Team. A Management Consortium is now in place to manage the Drogheda Community centre (Coca Cola Building)

➤ **Sports Capital Grants:** In 2012 of the ten Clubs and organisations seeking assistance in relation to the most recent round of Sports Capital grants five were successful: the Bowling Green to be located at the Fr. Kevin Connolly Lourdes Stadium, refurbishment at Drogheda a Community centre, Drogheda Amateur Boxing Club and St.Paul's Table Tennis Club

➤ **Youth:**

Bike Week 2012 went well with 8 schools taking part. The focus was on Bike Safety and there is evidence that Parents and children are responding to the need to keep bikes in good repair.

CABLE launched its Peer Education Booklet in July entitled Peer Education "Make the Right Choice". This is a continuation of their ongoing programme of education around substance misuse. CABLE was also selected by the Department of Justice for a site review in 2012.

The National Association of Youth Drama have completed their six months training programme. This was one of four national pilot programmes involving training of youth workers to deliver drama programmes directly to young people. 14 youth leaders were trained from DYD, CABLE, BOYNE and Southside Youth. This initiative is funded nationally by the DEC&LG and with a small allocation from the RAPID programme budget.

➤ **Physical Environment:**

In an ongoing programme of regenerating derelict space to counter anti—social behaviour and to restore pride of place in Rathmullen and Moneymore a project called SLAP (Space left Over after Planning) moved forward one more step in 2012 and two significant pieces of work were undertaken in Moneymore and Rathmullen.

RAPID In Bloom a new initiative of the Rathmullen Community House will compliment the regeneration of the Ravine. Residents travelled to see Galway Community gardens. These projects are managed exclusively by volunteers and the intention is apply this learning to developing a garden space in Rathmullen in 2013. thus sustaining the work in Rathmullen.

- **RAPID Training & Education Working Group:** At the Open Day held on 17 May 25 organisations had stands at Scotch Hall. ( LES, Social Protection, O’Fiaich College, DIFE, DKIT, Drogheda Credit Union, MABS, SOSAD, ESLO, Drogheda Training Initiative, Focus Your Future, Drogheda Resource Centre, Jobs Clubs, ,Community Training Workshop, YAP, County Louth VEC, Louth Leader Partnership, Louth County Enterprise Board, Lifestyle Development Group,Youthreach and C&A Coaching, Employability Services, Order of Malta services, Louth Community Drugs and Alcohol Team. Feed back has been very positive
- **Health:** In 2012 ‘Waist management ‘ programme promoting healthy eating , Safe talk Training an introduction to suicide prevention and smoking cessation programmes along with a host of other health and nutrition activities were undertaken in 2012 by the HPU in cooperation with the Community Houses and RAPID during 2012.
- **Family Support:** In 2012 a second Strengthening families programme was completed and Stepping Stones to Big School was launched in Dundalk. (Funding: Social protection and Louth County Council) This programme is targeted at infants attending crèches in the RAPID areas. It aims to support children and parents as their children transfer from playgroup to big school. The lead agency in this was Louth County Childcare Committee. An audit of services for children was completed in 2012 thus complimenting the work of the Family Support Sub-Group of the Children’s Services Committee. Incredible years first piloted in the County by Drogheda still continue to flourish with some non-designated schools taking it on board.
- **EDUCATION**

This project Drogheda Counts was a great success. This was designed to encourage young people and their families to engage with maths. It was linked into the Drogheda Leader newspaper where most of the answers to the maths questions contained in a publication circulated to over 5.000 children. Apart from funding the Council, Louth VEC and the library service working with maths teachers played a key role in developing the publication and its content. Louth leader Partnership also provided funding. It was a clear illustration of how interagency collaboration can work.

100 Schools participated in providing contents for a Time Capsule to celebrate Drogheda 600 and a further three generations of twelve families engaged with the Drogheda Far side initiative to symbolise the social connectivity between the two sides of the Town through generations of marriage across the Boyne River. Drogheda 600 was the year that the town was united politically.

## 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

- The Area structure was revised to combine the functions of Dundalk Urban and Drogheda Borough Councils and Louth County Councils, and the Roads Support Unit was set up to service the new Area structure and manage the road design function for Louth Local Authorities.
- Winter maintenance - we dealt with severe weather conditions in the early parts of the year and kept all the major routes open. Great credit is due to the area and outdoor staff for their dedication in most difficult circumstances.
- N53 – Works were completed on a three kilometres section from Newtownbalregan to Barronstown.
- Planning permission was obtained for Narrow Water Bridge along with approval of funding from the Special European Union Programmes Body. Final approval of funding is still awaited.
- Purchase of lands for the Ardee By-Pass continued.
- Cavan/Dundalk R178 – Draft Preliminary Design has been developed.
- N51 Littlegrange, The realignment of a 1km section of the N51 was completed in April.
- N52 – Ardee Bypass, archaeology, topographical and site investigation contracts completed.



- R166-Newtownstalaban junction realignment
- R169- Newline Cross realignment
- N33- Stabannon junction road widening and right turn lanes
- Beaulieu Cross low cost safety
- Boyne Valley R123 junction was signalised
- Traffic calming schemes were implemented in a number of residential estates and at Sunday’s Gate, Drogheda.



- A new footpath and other safety measures were implemented in collaboration with Drogheda Borough Council and Meath County Council on the Platin Road to improve accessibility for pedestrians from the Avourwen housing estate.



- Cockle Road – Embankment reinforcement and resurfacing works
- Resurfacing works on the National Primary route N2 between Aclint and Rathory.

*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 2 Local Contribution Schemes;*
- *Carried out 5 Safety Improvement Schemes on National Roads and 4 on Regional Roads;*
- *Took in charge 1 housing estate.*
- *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**

- Annagassan harbour scour pipes cleaned
- Bellurgan Embankment Study completed.

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## **Drogheda Borough Council**

### **Transportation and Marine**

The reorganisation of the Louth Local Authorities continued with the amalgamation of the South Louth rural area with Drogheda Borough Council to give a new operational district. In addition to the winter maintenance programme the new district delivered the annual road works programme. Road refurbishment works included a surface dressing programme in the rural area, resurfacing of residential estates together with extensive footpath repairs and reconstruction in the town. Under the Low Cost Safety Measures programme the Boyne Valley R123 junction was signalised and Beaulieu Cross and Newtown Cross junctions were upgraded. Traffic calming schemes were

implemented in a number of residential estates and at Sunday's Gate. A new footpath and other safety measures were implemented in collaboration with Meath County Council on the Platin Road to improve accessibility for pedestrians from the Avourwen housing estate.

## 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.’*

### **WATER SERVICES**

#### ***Water Conservation***

The Water Conservation project has progressed to stage 3 comprising mains rehabilitation in Dundalk and Drogheda. The project is now at site investigation stage and is programmed to move to construction in mid 2013. The total budget for the scheme is €7.49m and it is estimated that rehabilitation works will be completed on approximately 26km of mains.

This project is funded by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and the Water Services Investment Programme 2010-2012 (WSIP).

As part of the ongoing operational leak detection programme, a significant reduction in losses has been achieved from focused leak detection in various priority areas throughout the county.

#### ***Water Charging***

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

#### ***Wastewater***

A Wastewater Treatment Plant Certificate 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 WWTP. A Preliminary Report for Omeath Sewerage Scheme has been finalised whilst final submissions for Ardee Sewerage have been submitted to 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 Wastewater Works whilst upgrading works were carried out at Tullyallen and Blackrock. Further works to Annagassan, Baltray, Termonfeckin and Clogherhead pumping stations will be carried out later in 2013.

#### ***Water***

Major upgrade works were carried out on filtration system at Ardee and Greenmount Water Treatment Plants whilst Consultants were appointed to carry out details design for Cooley RWS - Omeath Water Supply with construction works programmed to commence in the latter half of 2013. Planning is progressing on Staleen Stage 2 works which is programmed to proceed to construction in early 2013.

The second stage of the provision of the Cavan Hill-Tallanstown link is to proceed in 2013 which will replace the Tallanstown Treatment Plant by serving the supply area from Cavan Hill WTW.

### ***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 WWTP

### ***Asset Management***

The Invista Asset Management programme is now in operation for a number of wastewater plants and roll out to additional plants will be completed in 2013. 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**

### **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. Louth County Council participated with other counties in the North East Region in preparing an Evaluation Report of the North East Waste Management Plan. This report was submitted to the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government in December 2012. The Evaluation Report concluded that a Replacement Waste Management Plan is required. It is envisaged that work on the replacement Waste Management Plan will commence in 2013.

### **Recycling**

2012 continued to see excellent results in terms of recycling in Louth. Waste minimisation and recycling initiatives were undertaken with community groups and schools, the most high profile of which was a Green Home Green Fair in Blackrock in December. A major new Trashion Fashion recycling programme for secondary schools was launched during National Recycling Week as was a Can It sculpture competition also aimed at secondary schools. The very successful Battery Recycling scheme was implemented in all primary schools in the county with a major Christmas event and waste electrical fashion show held in Dromiskin School to highlight effective reuse and recycling.

### **Whiteriver Landfill**

The landfill facility operated within the conditions set out in the EPA licence during 2012. Council officials and local residents met regularly to ensure best practice in management of the site.

The economic downturn and availability of alternative competitively priced waste disposal outlets has resulted in a reduction waste quantities being delivered to the landfill site. Income from waste disposal has consequently reduced. It has been decided to cease landfilling at Whiteriver once Phase Five cells of the landfill have been filled. The Council expects this to occur in mid to late 2013.

The Council has finalised plans for a waste to energy facility at the Whiteriver Landfill site. Power will be generated from landfill gas and exported to the national electricity grid. The project is scheduled to commence in January 2013 with completion due in June 2013.

## **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 Transfrontier 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 2012 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.

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**

The three litter authorities in the county continued to enforce the provisions of the Litter Pollution Act during the year with a total of 401 fines issued. This stick approach was supplemented by a carrot approach, through a series of litter awareness initiative events, 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. Another very successful Spring Clean of 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. A massive Dog Fouling awareness initiative was undertaken to highlight the health implications as well as the litter element of dog fouling which unfortunately continues to be a widespread problem throughout the country.

## **School Environmental Programme**

At year end the county proudly flew **72 Green Flags** which demonstrated excellent litter and waste management programmes throughout the county. Many of the schools, as part of the process, also now have Energy Management, Water Conservation, and Sustainable Travel Action Plans with a number of the more experienced schools moving on to work on the theme of Biodiversity. One key success during 2012 was the Green Campus Award to DkIT, making it only the fourth third level institute in the country to achieve a Green Flag. The local Primary School Awards Scheme enjoyed another successful year with Energia maintaining its sponsorship to co-finance the campaign.

### **National Tidy Towns Competition**

2012 was another exceptionally successful year for Tidy Towns in the county with an unprecedented six medals achieved in the National Tidy Towns competition. Tallanstown, Dundalk and Drogheda all retained Gold Medals, Knockbridge retained its Silver Medal and Ardee and Blackrock entered the winners arena when they became first time Bronze Medal recipients. Dundalk was one of ten centres nationally shortlisted for the newly introduced Tourism Town Awards and showcased the town extremely well during the assessment and awards process.

As a result of Ardee's winning of the National Tree Award in 2011, the town played host to a visit from President Michel D. Higgins to launch National Tree Week 2012. A day filled with tree and biodiversity related activity saw the town receive national prominence once again.

Louth Tidy Towns Together continued to operate very successfully and for the first time assumed responsibility for the co-ordination of the Louth Looking Good Awards with financial support from the Rural Development Programme operated by Louth Leader Partnership. This campaign honoured Tidy Towns groups and 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 2012 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 2012.

### **Food Safety**

The service contract work for the FSAI continued on schedule for 2012, and to improve the service, and in particular any holiday or emergency cover, a section 85 agreement was signed with Monaghan County Council, so that either council can help out with doing inspections in the neighbouring county if the need arises. There are currently 11 meat plants and one abattoir approved and regularly inspected by the Council.

### **Animal Compound**

The pound had a busy year in 2012, with 606 dogs, 39 horses and 3 goats taken in during the year.

The dog numbers were slightly down on the previous year's total of 700, but still over 89% were re-homed or reclaimed. The numbers reclaimed by their owner was the highest figure to date at 22%, which may be a reflection on the excellent services at the Pound, including the online facility to view any dog at the pound at any time on the council's website. Of the dogs re-homed, a quarter of this is achieved directly through the Pound with the rest coming through the services of registered animal charities such as Dundalk Dogs.

Dog licensing numbers dropped slightly in 2012, with a total of 5,300 for the country. The licence fee increased significantly in 2012, from €12.70 to €20, but this was the first increase in over 10 years.

The Pound was busier than ever with large animals and a total of 39 horses and 3 goats were taken in by the pound in 2012, as opposed to 11 horses and 1 goat in 2011. Recent trends indicate that the numbers of horses being seized is continuing to increase year on year.

## **FIRE SERVICE**

In the Emergency Service, the completion of the implementation of the Fire Service Review was a major task in 2012, resulting in the introduction of a revised duty system into Drogheda and Dundalk Fire Stations, within the Louth County Council Fire and Rescue Service. Key benefits of the new system include a 24 hour wholtime responsive service in Dundalk and Drogheda and a new focused programme on Community Fire Safety.



***1<sup>st</sup> Duty Crew September 3<sup>rd</sup> – Drogheda  
with Mayor Paul Bell and officials.***



***1<sup>st</sup> Duty Crew September 3<sup>rd</sup> Dundalk  
with Caoithearlach Cllr Jennifer***

The downward trend in emergency callouts continued in 2012.

**Incident Types (Entire County): 2012**

Type	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Total	Average Monthly
Fire/Alarm Activation	26	19	24	17	86	7.2
Fire/Bus/Coach	0	0	2	0	2	0.2
Fire/Car	29	28	32	26	115	9.6
Fire/Caravan	0	2	2	1	5	0.4
Fire/Chimney	29	13	11	25	78	6.5
Fire/Domestic	42	37	31	35	145	12.1
Fire/Domestic Persons Reported	3	6	3	4	16	1.3
Fire/Fire (General)	11	19	11	7	48	4.0
Fire/Hay/Barn	0	0	4	3	7	0.6
Fire/Industrial	4	3	2	5	14	1.2
Fire/Institutional	4	3	2	0	9	0.8
Fire/Oil/Petrol	1	0	0	0	1	0.1
Fire/Small/Bin/Skip	76	70	72	66	284	23.7
Fire/Smoke Issuing	1	2	2	2	7	0.6
Fire/Truck	2	0	8	2	12	1.0
Fire/Vegetation	30	33	8	3	74	6.2
SS/Ambulance Assist	8	1	8	7	24	2.0
SS/Animal Rescue	1	0	0	0	1	0.1
SS/Electrical	0	0	1	1	2	0.2
SS/Flooding	1	2	1	2	6	0.5
SS/Explosion	0	1	0	0	1	0.1
SS/Garda Assist	3	1	3	1	8	0.7
SS/Gas Leak	1	1	1	1	4	0.3
SS/Hazardous Material	0	0	0	3	3	1.0
SS/Lift Persons Trapped	2	0	2	1	5	0.4
SS/Lockout	2	1	2	1	6	0.5
SS/Make Scene Safe	4	1	3	1	9	0.8
SS/Oil Spillage	0	0	1	1	2	0.2
SS/Other	5	3	2	1	11	0.9
SS/River Rescue	1	2	0	1	4	0.3
SS/RTA	17	22	29	33	101	8.4
SS/Trees Down	0	0	1	0	1	0.1

Total Incidents (2012):

1091

The breakdown of attendances by station is tabulated below.

**Mobilisations (Class B & ET Appliances): Jan - Dec 2012**

	Ardee	Carlingford	Dunleer	Drogheda			Dundalk			Total
	LH11A1	LH12A1	LH13A1	LH14A1	LH14A2	LH14B1	LH15A1	LH15A2	LH15B1	
No. Mobilisations (1st Turnout Area)	84	62	65	410	46	30	395	70	33	<b>1195</b>
No. Mobilisations (Other Turnout Areas)	78	9	61	62	4	24	30	7	12	<b>287</b>
<b>Total Mobilisations</b>	<b>162</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>126</b>	<b>472</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>425</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>1437</b>

<b>Meath Mobilisations</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>78</b>
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The schools home fi

re safety programme was delivered to primary schools in Louth during the year.

During 2012, 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.



A statement of policy on domestic fire detection and alarms systems (smoke, heat, carbon monoxide) was adopted by Louth County Council in 2012.

Louth Local Authorities were involved in a number of 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**

Louth Civil Defence attended 48 community duties during 2012, mainly in Louth, but they also attended the Tall Ships event in Waterford. Civil Defence also took part in a number of searches for missing persons in Louth during 2012.

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## **Drogheda Borough Council**

### **Environment & Water**

The Environment section in Drogheda Borough Council continued to promote environmental awareness throughout the community with various environmental programs such as the amenity grants programme, the annual Beauty on the Boyne competition, recycling initiatives etc. Drogheda continued to perform well in national competitions, retaining a gold medal in the National Tidy Towns Competition and maintaining Clean to European Norms standard in the IBAL League. The natural environment of the Borough was further enhanced with upgrading of planting, tree maintenance works, weed control, grass and hedge cutting and the continued implementation of the litter control programme.

Drogheda Borough Council continued to maintain the water and drainage network within the Borough area and carried out an extensive programme of water leakage monitoring and repair. A series of flooding hotspots have been identified which are monitored to minimise the flooding impact.



## 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 Padraic White, former CEO of IDA 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 Louth Economic Forum has published six of the ten 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, Age-Friendly Business and Education and Training.

An external review of the Louth Economic Forum was completed by PMCA, Economic Consultant, with a positive outcome on how is it working and will be used as a model for other Local Authorities.

Work is continuing on action plans for Agriculture, Food & Fisheries; Broadband; Making Louth the Best County to do Business, and Drogheda, Dundalk, Newry Economic Corridor. These remaining action plans will be published in 2013.

### **Update on the Implementation of Action Plans in 2012**

The Louth Economic Forum has made a major contribution to job creation in County Louth in 2012.

Foreign Direct Investment - 1500 jobs created with companies such as PayPal, Prometric, Diaceutics, Radio Systems PetSafe, Yapstone.

Indigenous Industry – The opening of Creative Spark Enterprise Centre in July 2012, and Enterprise Ireland initiatives for Entrepreneurs, the Age Friendly Business Trade Fair, and the Discovery Zone programme in the Regional Development Centre.

Sustainable Energy – The launch of the Smart Eco Hub funded by INTERREG. Building on energy efficiency projects. Pilot Energy Management Internship programme where 12 interns provided energy management support to 45 Companies resulting in real energy and cost savings of €1m.

Tourism & Heritage - Appointment of a dedicated Tourism Officer for the Boyne Valley, a Tourism Officer to the Town Centre Management office in Dundalk, Interreg funding of €17.4m received for Narrow Water Bridge and the development of the Greenway from Carlingford to Omeath plus funding of £1.4m received to develop Geo Tourism.

Age-Friendly Business – Men in Sheds launched in Drogheda, Dundalk and the Cooley Peninsula. Age-Friendly Business toolkit pilot in Ardee and the establishment of Irelands first ever Age-Friendly Business Consumer Fair.

**Education and Training** - Establishment of an Education, Training and Business task group to strengthen links between industries and DkIT.



***Education and Training Action Plan Launch – July 2012***

**EU Concerto/Holistic – Sustainable Energy Zone**

The Sustainable Energy Zone is a 4km zone located on the south side of Dundalk. Holistic is a collaborative approach to encourage public and private partners to be innovative in their approach to integrating sustainable energy practices and technologies.

Projects – planning permission for a 500Kw wind turbine on the IDA Mullagharlin Business Park, a Bio gas plant at Whiteriver, a low carbon energy building (Creative Spark) has opened, and we have installed smart meters in 200 homes in the zone.

**Peace III**



***COUNTY LOUTH PEACE 3 PARTNERSHIP MEMBERS***

Louth County Council was awarded €2.3 m by SEUPB to run peace building projects in County Louth until Dec 2013.

Rollout of Phase 2 of the PEACE III Programme commenced in 2012 and 16 major projects received funding for strategic peace building interventions.

Examples of the groups and areas targeted by the programme include; youth, minority ethnic & religion groups, victims & survivors and displaced persons.

In addition a significant number of smaller resource allocations averaging €6k were awarded to sub project groups participating in the larger activities allowing them to develop their own specific peace project.

The establishment of a network for peace was seen as a priority to allow the various participants collaborate and share the learning gained. This programme also allows for providing support and building the capacity to these organisations.

An online website [www.networkforpeace.org](http://www.networkforpeace.org) has been developed to allow both public & participants access information on the programme.

Cross border & regional working is a feature of Phase 2 with synergies being identified and collaboration continuing.

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

## **SPC Work Plan 2012**

The SPC agreed a work plan for 2012 and had an input into the following:-

- The Louth Economic Forum Education & Training Action Plan, participated in the review of the LEF, an overview of the Gathering 2013, The Boyne Valley driving route and the launch of the Tourism Brand.
- The Review of the County Housing Strategy, the Blackrock/Haggardstown Framework Plan, Omeath Village design statement, Cooley Greenway and Drogheda Heritage Quarter Urban Design Framework.
- Review of the Heritage Plan 2012-2016.
- The development of the Business Plans for the Low Carbon Business Network (now known as Smart Eco Hub), the Geo-Tourism projects, the Bio-Diversity project and Narrow Water Bridge.
- Presentation's on the ISLES Feasibility study and it's main findings along with the report (by Pat McArdle) on the Cross Border Development Zone was given by the Director.

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## **Drogheda Borough Council - Economic Development**

In 2012 Drogheda Borough Council continued to provide a customer orientated planning service for the public, through the consolidation of resources and the standardisation of procedures. Efficiencies were improved and consistent and professional advice on infrastructural issues pertaining to pre planning matters was given.

Drogheda Borough Council progressed a leisure craft pontoon project with the SEUPB in order to tap into potential tourism on the Boyne.

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## **BUSINESS SUPPORT UNIT**

The Business Support Unit now established as a “One Stop Shop” for all business queries and approaches that are made in County Louth.

The Unit specifically targets the 80% of indigenous businesses in the county that do not interact with existing state support agencies.

In 2012 there were 48 business queries recorded by the Unit. These included dealing with commercial planning queries, advice on business start up ideas, access to funding queries, referrals to other agencies offering supports and general business advice and information.

The unit supported a Jobs and Advice Fair and Enterprise week in conjunction with the County Enterprise Board and Dundalk Chamber of Commerce / Eures.

The Louth Age-Friendly Business Forum continued to meet during 2012, producing an Age-Friendly Business Action Plan and continued rolling out of an Age-Friendly pilot study with the business community in Ardee, Ireland’s first Age-Friendly Town. Other initiatives included the delivery of Ireland’s first Age-Friendly Business Consumer Expo in Darver Castle.

The Business Support Unit continued to market the county in conjunction with Fáilte Ireland and Tourism Ireland as a Tourism and Heritage destination.

Collaboration between Louth County Council, Fáilte Ireland, Meath County Council and the Tourism Trade has led to the development of the Boyne Valley Destination Programme; an initiative designed to fully optimise the area’s Tourism potential and to develop the whole of the Boyne Valley in Louth and Meath as a Tourism Destination, one of 10 in Ireland.

A Tourist Officer was appointed for the Boyne Valley to include Drogheda and the south Louth which will promote and market the Boyne Valley in Louth/ Meath on a shared services basis. The Boyne Valley Tourism Plan 2012-2014 was produced in conjunction with Louth and Meath Local Authorities outlining a series of actions for the Tourism Marketing of the region.

A similar agreement for a cross border Tourism Officer is underway with Newry & Mourne Council. This role will focus on the Cooley, Mourne and Gullion / Carlingford Lough Region.

Louth Local Authorities Festival and Events Assistance Scheme was introduced in 2010 to support and encourage the hosting of festivals and events throughout the county and 28 events received support under this initiative in 2012.

The development and promotion of Louth as a walking destination continued in 2012 in conjunction with the Tourism Trade, with the annual Táin and Boyne Valley Walking Festivals.

Louth Tourism & Heritage Forum projects 2012:

The second annual Táin March (Táin Bo Cuailgne), took place in June 2012, when an army of mounted and foot soldiers followed in the footsteps of Queen Maeve’s army. The march commenced in Ardee and passed through Tallanstown, Louth Village, Knockbridge, and Dundalk before finishing in Carlingford on the Cooley Peninsula.

The inaugural Thomas D’Arcy McGee Summer School took place in Carlingford in August 2012 and was officially opened by His Excellency Loyola Hearn Canadian Ambassador to Ireland.

In partnership with the Tourism Trade in the county, Louth was promoted at the Holiday World Shows in both Dublin and Belfast in January 2012. The county was also represented at the National Ploughing Championships in September 2012 in New Ross, Co Wexford.

Over 240 delegates attended the inaugural Louth Local Authorities / Business Support Unit Tourism Conference which was held in conjunction with Dundalk Chamber of Commerce / Eures in the Ballymascanlon House Hotel, Dundalk in April 2012

Louth was also represented at Méitheal which is Ireland’s largest tourism Trade Fair in the RDS in Dublin organised by Fáilte Ireland.

Tourism and Heritage activity continued throughout the year and included County Branding and Website Development. The LouthHolidays.com website was officially launched in January 2012 by Michael Ring TD, Minister of State for Tourism and Sport. The Louth Holidays website and Facebook page are the main portal used by visitors to County Louth and contain details of what to do, where to stay, and details of the History, the Legends and Heritage of County Louth.

## 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.



***MOU Joint Committee***

#### **Progress in 2012 under the four themes:-**

- ***Renewable Energy and Green Technology***

##### **Newry Low Carbon City**

This project is modelled on Dundalk Holistic project and it seeks to demonstrate how a community can move to a more sustainable pattern of energy supply and use. Electrical vehicle charging posts have been placed throughout the city and an Energy Officer has been appointed.

##### **Low Carbon Business Network – now known as the Smart Eco Hub**

The Smart Eco Hub (LCBN) received €986,000 from Interreg IVA and is a cluster of renewable/sustainable energy and clean technology companies which will work together to drive innovation and increase productivity, competitiveness, new business development, growth and job creation and at the same time address energy security and sustainability.



***Launch of the Smart Eco Hub – October 2012***

### **The ISLES Project**

A feasibility study funded by Interreg has been completed and its shows there are no technological barriers to the establishment of an off shore integrated grid from renewable energy sources such as wind, wave and tidal. First Flight Wind and Oriel Wind Farm are in the process of establishing a wind farm off Dundalk Bay and the south Down coast.

### **STEM Project**

This project has received funding of €1.36m from Interreg and covers the 10 Local Authorities and will help 30 local businesses in each local authority area.

### **Energy Management and Micro Generation**

The project has received Interreg funding of €1.071m with 8 buildings selected as exemplar buildings which include Louth County Museum and Library in Dundalk.

- ***Tourism and Recreation***

### **Geo-Tourism**

This project received funding of €1.65 million from Interreg and the Project Team has been appointed.

### **Narrow Water Bridge**

The Northern Ireland Planning Service and An Bord Pleanala, on the 12th and 15th October respectively, have granted permission to build Narrow Water Bridge. A detailed business plan was submitted to SEUPB on the 12th of July 2012 with KPMG doing an Economic Appraisal. Interreg has agreed funding of €17.369m for the bridge.



***Pictured at Louth County Hall in Dundalk for a briefing on the Narrow Water Bridge are (from left) Mrs Patricia Rooney; Cllr Oliver Tully, Chairman, Louth County Council and Mr Dan Rooney, US Ambassador to Ireland.***



- **Sustainable Economic Growth and Job Creation**

### **East Border Region Projects**

The following projects that have been funded by the Interreg programme through the East Border Region and which we played a major role:-

- The **PLATO** programme, which has received €664,000 is a mentoring programme.
- The **Life Sciences** programme received €508k. This is a cluster/network of companies in the pharmaceutical and life sciences sector.
- The **ASPIRE** Programme received €1.749m and is a business improvement programme for graduates.
- The **Innovation** Programme received €850k and will assist people who have a new product/business idea.

- **Emergency Planning**

A major cross border exercise took place in April 2012 and on the 20th November 2012 which involved all organisations and agencies North and South. A “stress test” of all the organisations involved and a sharing of experience took place.

### **Other Projects**

The following are other cross border projects we are working on:-

- **The Challenge for Change, Age-Friendly Strategy** and the **Bio-diversity Project**.
- The **Peoples Panel** was launched on 31st October 2012 and the **Olympic Torch** crossed the border early on the morning of 6th June as it travelled to Dublin.
- We have been involved with the EBR and Comet Executive on a committee of CEO’s, County Managers and Directors of cross border Local Authorities in making a submission to the SEUPB and government departments on a new structure to manage Interreg V and Peace IV European Territorial Co-Op Programme 2014-2020.



**Olympic Torch crossing the Border on 6<sup>th</sup> June 2012**

## Arts, Culture & Leisure:

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

### **ARTS SERVICE 2012**

The Arts Service completed a packed year in 2012, and some of the highlights are detailed below.

A major exhibition of new work by sculptor John Behan was launched in the Basement Gallery, which tied in with the completion of the redevelopment of the Market Square in Dundalk. John Behan is one of Ireland’s foremost sculptors, and his sculptural work on the Square is of national importance.

Two public art commissions were completed in 2012. Jackie Nickerson’s artwork and accompanying book were launched at the Great Northern Haven in Dundalk, and Brian Irvine’s composition “Merge” was premiered at St Peter’s Church in Drogheda, with a memorable performance by the RTÉ National Symphony Orchestra, two brass bands and a massed community choir. “Merge” was commissioned through utilising the Per Cent for Art Scheme for Boice Court housing.

Drogheda Arts Festival cemented its fast-growing reputation as one of the most innovative arts festivals in the country with a diverse and engaging programme over the May Bank Holiday Weekend. One of the highlights was “Ship Street Revisited”, a site-specific theatre performance based on reminiscences and stories associated with one of Drogheda’s most iconic streets. Devised by Upstate Theatre Project, “Ship Street Revisited” was commissioned by Drogheda Arts Festival.

Ardee hosted the Irish Baroque Orchestra for the week in the run-up to Ardee Baroque. Now in its ninth year, the festival offered concerts, recitals, and lectures in the beautiful castles and churches of mid-Louth, and is now firmly established as a weekend of great music in an informal and welcoming atmosphere.

The Arts Service, as well as programming and managing festivals, also supports and works closely with a range of festivals throughout the county, such as the Drogheda Samba Festival. One of the other highlights of the year was Louth Contemporary Music Society’s celebration of the work of American composer John Zorn, with a series of concerts and other events in Dundalk, and the first ever visit to Ireland by the composer himself.

The Arts Service works closely with other cultural providers in the county, and represents Louth Local Authorities at Board level with Music Generation Louth, Dundalk Institute of Technology, and Louth Craftmark. Louth Craftmark completed, in 2012, the development of the Creative Spark, a workspace and training building in Dundalk, supporting the creative enterprise sector throughout the county.

The Arts Service also serves on the Board of the National Association for Youth Drama, which supports youth theatres in Ireland. Louth’s own youth theatres, one in Drogheda and two in Dundalk, are also supported by the Arts Service.

Other work included the administration of two rounds of CreateLouth funding , the maintenance of [www.createlouth.ie](http://www.createlouth.ie), participation in the organisation of the National Famine Commemoration in Drogheda, the drafting of a submission to the Oireachtas Joint Committee on Environment, Transport, Culture and the Gaeltacht, contributing to the Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann for Drogheda application, the operation of the public Arts Information point in Dundalk, hosting book launches, supporting the establishment of a Writer in Residence in Dundalk, initiating various arts projects aimed at Older People, marking National Poetry Day with a radio programme and Love Live Music day with concerts, and continuing the development of Louth Local Authorities’ Visual Art Collection.

## **Drogheda Borough Council’s – Significant Events**

- On 13<sup>th</sup> May Drogheda hosted the National Famine Commemoration for 2012. An Taoiseach, Mr. Edna Kenny attended the official ceremony. In the week prior to the 13<sup>th</sup> a number of community events were held including a Famine Exhibition, Recreation of a Soup Kitchen, and a number of Seminars on the Famine.
- In June the Mayor, Councillor Kevin Callan officially opened the Drogheda Community Centre. This building was given to Drogheda Borough Council by Coca Cola International for the community of Drogheda.
- In November the 600<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the unification of Drogheda was celebrated commencing with an exhibition in The Tholsel which ran for the months of November and December. The Mayor of Saint Mandé, which is twinned with Drogheda, visited Drogheda for the celebrations.
- In December the Mayor Councillor Paul Bell officially opened the Fr. Kevin Connolly Lourdes Stadium. Funding for this facility was provided by the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government, Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport, Coca Cola International and Drogheda Borough Council. This facility caters for athletics for Drogheda and its hinterland.

## **LOUTH COUNTY LIBRARIES and ARCHIVE SERVICES**

Louth County Libraries and Archive Services continued to underpin the quality of life for individuals and communities within the county.

In 2012 our mobile library service increased its stops to 56 locations throughout the County, including day care centres and crèches, while the schools library service increased its stops to 77 schools in the County, with the opening of 2 new schools in the Drogheda area.

<b>Usage of Louth County Libraries</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2011</b>
• Items borrowed	537,666	462,056
• Visits to full-time libraries	239,200	251,300
• Registered members	17,347	12,192
• Internet sessions provided	21,991	17,912

### **Library Membership**

Louth County Libraries introduced reciprocal borrowing and access to the resources of the library to students and staff of Dundalk Institute of Technology. This service has resulted in an increase in membership to 17,347, a 42% increase on the 2011 figure of 12,192.

## **COUNTY WIDE LIBRARY INITIATIVES**

### **eAudio Downloads are now available from Louth County Libraries**

A new service of **eAudio Download items** was introduced in October 2012. Library members can set up an OneClickdigital account through the library page of <http://www.louthcoco.ie> and start downloading books from the comfort of their home. Books can be downloaded to your computer, iPhone, iPod, iPad or other tablet device. There are hundreds of books to choose from, all of them complete and unabridged and more titles are being added monthly.

### **Wi-Fi up and running on Mobile and Schools Vans**

As part of Louth County Libraries' commitment to updating library services, Wi-Fi access was introduced on the Mobile Library and Schools Van. Customers now have access to the live catalogue of library items and can be kept up-to-date on new purchase requests, their library loans and other Council services.

Since the launch in March 2012 of free Wi-Fi access in Dundalk, Drogheda and Ardee libraries, there has been 3,323 sessions recorded, with the average session lasting 90 minutes.

### **Louth Field Names Project**

The Louth Field Names Project is a collaboration between County Louth Archaeological and Historical Society, Louth Irish Farmers Association, Louth Local Authorities and Louth County Libraries. The Project is supported by Louth Leader and FBD trust and was established to record and publish the field names of County Louth along with their features, history, name origin and folklore.

### **Outreach Activities**

A full and varied programme of events and activities took place in Louth County Libraries in 2012. 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 2012 included the **Drogheda Reads Roddy Doyle**, a major reading initiative in co-operation with the Louth Leader partnership, local schools and community groups. The author visited the library in January 2012, read from his books and answered questions from both young and old.

**The Going for Gold – Childrens' Summer Reading Challenge** saw 742 children participating in the project with many new members joining the library service.

### **Writer in Residence**

Louth County Libraries worked in partnership with Louth Local Authorities Arts Office and DkIT library to facilitate workshops for budding and established creative writers in Dundalk. Ferdia Mac Anna was appointed as Writer in Residence at DkIT library, and as part of our ongoing

collaboration with the college he ran a screenwriting workshop in Dundalk Library. Poet and science fiction author John W. Sexton facilitated a writers' workshop for adults, which was well attended.

### **Archives Service**

During 2012 the Archive Service acquired a number of important acquisitions including copies of the Grand Jury Assizes Books for 1810-1813. The service holds original Query Book of Assizes for 1815, and 1823-1899, and it has commenced a digitisation project of the collection.

## **Louth Local Sports Partnership 2012 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: 30 pre-school services took up the programme in 2012 which brings the overall total of pre-school services involved in the programme to 93 with 717 staff trained who work with 3,862 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 66 with 856 teachers trained through the programme in Louth working with over 13,000 children.
- Additional programmes run for primary schools included Buntús Soccer, Little Athletics teacher training. Sports Hall athletics project, Play Rugby coaching programme, Be Active after schools activity Programme, and Cross county primary schools event
- Girls in Action programme for inactive teenage girls - now rolling out in 8 secondary schools in the county.
- TY Triathlon secondary school event: 2012, was the first year of this event 200m indoor swim (8/10 lengths of pool) 10k Cycle with a 3k Run, 12 schools got involved with 218 overall participating.
- Disability awareness training – 19 courses were organised over 2012 with 450 participants trained from Transition Year groups, sports clubs and third level.
- A range of activities was organised for older adults, including 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 2012 and Positive Aging Week events organised by Louth Local Sports Partnership included: 'come and try' session, start up of a new weekly older adult's activity session in Dundalk and Drogheda.
- National Bike Week events organised in June 2012 included family fun days; mystery bike tours in RAPID areas; school-based bike health checks and cycle safety training. Approximately 2,600 people took part in Bike Week 2012 in the county;

- Walking events and programmes included an Operation Transformation walk in January 2012 the route was in Ardee along the Slí the Slainte route. With 260 people turning out on the day, Workplace walking activity programme was organised for the staff members of Louth Local Authorities. To follow on the programme

### **Club and Volunteer Development**

- Training provided for clubs and volunteers on Code of Ethics (12 courses held in 2012 with 180 participants),
- Club Children’s Officer Training (this course was held in Louth for the first time in 2011, 3 course were held in 2012 with 45 participants)
- Inclusive Games Training
- 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.

### **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 2011/12 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;
- 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 Organisation Global Age Friendly Cities Network. Louth has led the way for 9 other counties in the Republic to launch the initiative and Newry and Mourne and Belfast in Northern Ireland.

### ***Taoiseach's Public Service Excellence Awards 2012***



***Cllr Finan McCoy  
Cathaoirleach, Louth County  
Council received one of twenty  
Public Service Excellence  
Awards 2012 from Mr Enda  
Kenny, T.D., Taoiseach in St  
Patrick's Hall, Dublin Castle on  
Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> June. The reward  
was for Sharing the Journey, the  
Louth Age Friendly County  
Initiative.***

County Louth was the only successful recipient local authority outside the Dublin area. The Age Friendly Programme was congratulated for putting the

older person at the centre of the decision making process on service delivery across multiple agencies and the community and voluntary sector around ageing.

The provision of programmes such as the Men's Sheds, Failte Isteach, Senior help Line, Friendly Call Service, Good Morning Drogheda, Care and Repair and the drop in centres called the "Parlour" in the Age Friendly Initiative were programmes that impressed the judging panel. These programmes are delivered by volunteers at the front line in response to the need of older people and at last received the recognition for their great work under the Age Friendly brand.

For more information please contact Mary Deery at [mary.deery@louthcoco.ie](mailto:mary.deery@louthcoco.ie) or 086 8032686 or check into [www.louthagefriendlycounty.ie](http://www.louthagefriendlycounty.ie)

### ***Louth Older People's Forum***

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, the Age Friendly Business Forum and has represented Louth as ambassadors at the Age Friendly launches in Monaghan, Meath, Kilkenny, Fingal and South Dublin. Members of the LOPF have made presentations to various conferences communicating back to the older people in Louth the success and challenges of age friendliness.

### ***Carroll Mead***

During 2012 the LOPF worked with the Louth Trades Network on refurbishing Carroll Meade Housing. The Louth Trades Network offered their work pro-bono to assist older people age in place. The work took place during Bealtaine week in May 2012.

The Louth Trades Network ( [www.louthtradesnetwork.com](http://www.louthtradesnetwork.com) ) is a group of 22 tradesmen and service providers based in the Louth region.

Each member of the group gave 2 full days work to the project (some doing even more) on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> & Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> of May. The list of jobs completed is as follows:

- Laying new Footpath
- Supply and fit built in storage units.
- Paint communal hall (internal)
- Paint 4 houses (external)
- Power wash all communal areas (road, driveway, footpaths etc)
- Clean all windows, gutters etc.
- Cut communal green areas.
- Build an outside storage shed, for ride on lawn mower.

### **Linking up with Scottish Older People’s Forum**

Older people’s groups from around Louth took part in a unique live video link-up with their counterparts in Scotland and Australia at the Netwell Centre in DkIT on Friday November 2 2012. The live link-up saw members of the Louth Older People’s Forum addressing the Scottish Older People’s Assembly at Parliament Buildings in Edinburgh. They were also linked into the Older People’s Forum in Victoria, Australia, and various Scottish groups in Aberdeen, Inverness and Dalbeattie.

The focus of the presentation was based on the role of the Cúltaca in the Dundalk community. The Cúltaca role is to provide a befriending, listening and advocacy service that ensures that the needs and wants of the older people take priority when dealing with statutory and non-statutory services.

### ***Think Ahead***

County Louth was identified as the site for an important pilot project for the “Think Ahead” initiative. **“Think Ahead” is a public awareness initiative to guide people in discussing and recording their care preferences in the event of emergency, serious illness or death when they cannot speak for themselves.**

The Think Ahead initiative was launched by An Taoiseach Enda Kenny at the Forum on End of Life in Ireland on 12 October 2011 at the Croke Park Conference Centre in Dublin. The Forum was attended by over 350 people and the Taoiseach declared his full support.

**Think Ahead** is the ‘flagship project’ of the [Forum on End of Life in Ireland](#) (an initiative of the Irish Hospice Foundation) chaired by Mrs. Justice Catherine McGuinness and launched in March 2009 by President McAleese.

**The pilot was launched in the Highlanes Gallery in Drogheda on Monday September 10<sup>th</sup> at 10:30.am.** Senator Feargal Quinn and Justice Catherine McGuinness were spokespeople at the launch.

### ***Positive Aging Week***

Positive Ageing Week Dundalk was officially launched at Market Square by Senator Mary Moran on Monday evening 1st October. Louth County Manager Ms Joan Martin praised the work of all involved in organising the weeks’ activities and appealed to older people to “enjoy what is essentially our golden years”. Senator Moran praised the intergenerational events in the EU Year of Solidarity between the Generations.

Computer classes organised by Age Action in DkIT over the last year had introduced many older people to the internet and computer usage and was instrumental in making DKIT the first Age Friendly campus in the country.



The Positive Ageing Week Drogheda committee held numerous events to mark PAW including a mystery tour, Mass, a “Stitch-n-Bitch” session, Boccia, Water Aerobics, Line Dancing, a Pampering Day and a session on gardening tips. The events were complimented by events in the Highlanes Gallery and Drogheda Library.

### ***Friendly Call Service***

Good Morning Louth and Good Morning Drogheda are a free Telephone service for people over 65 years of age and are ideally suited to people who are living alone. Good Morning Louth operates Monday to Friday (9.30 to 1pm), with pre-arranged calls made to service users to check on their well-being.

Good Morning Louth and Good Morning Drogheda were launched in 2012. The main aim of Good Morning Louth and Good Morning Drogheda is to ensure you are safe and well in your home. In addition, it will provide opportunities for users to share worries or concerns, and it will raise awareness of other potentially useful local services, thus connecting people to their local community.

Good Morning Louth is staffed by local volunteers, many of whom are retired and like the idea of giving something back to their community. All volunteers are fully trained to offer a professional and confidential service, supported by the latest computer technology.

### ***Intergenerational***

#### **St Vincent’s Young Scientist of the Year Winners**

Ciara Rafferty and Emily O’Reilly, both second year students in St Vincent’s Secondary school in Dundalk, took third prize nationally in the Social and Behavioural Sciences section of the BT Young Scientist of the Year Competition. Their project “What is the value of Dundalk’s Age-Friendly community initiatives?” involved four months of study, surveying and visiting many of the area’s unique Age Friendly cornerstones. These include the Great Northern Haven (assisted living), The Nestling Project (social inclusion), Cuidigh Linn (support for older people), Cooley Active Retirement Group and the art project at St Oliver Plunkett Nursing Home Dundalk. The result of the study was that through the observations, questionnaires, interviews and analysis these initiatives have a real and lasting value for older people, and also volunteers and school pupils. The girls were invited by County Manager Conn Murray to present their project to the Louth Older People’s Forum.

Both Emily and Ciara were involved with the intergenerational programme between St Oliver’s Nursing Home and Scoil Mhuire na nGael, Bay Estate founded in the school by principal Martina Rafferty six years ago.

#### **Intergeneration Volunteer Project**

The 1<sup>st</sup> of October of each year is the International Day of Older People. In 2012 the 1<sup>st</sup> of October was also a United Nations Day and the European Commission asked Member States to mark the day. In addition 2012 was the European Year for Active Ageing and Solidarity Between the Generations.

Louth Volunteer Centre looked at getting as many older volunteer(s) involved in a one day recognition volunteering project during the first week of October as part of the European Year of Active Ageing and Solidarity between Generations 2012.

The project involved transition year students shadowing the older volunteer(s) during the first week of October and the students compiled a case study of the experience. From the experience

the Louth Volunteer Centre produced a toolkit on how to run an intergenerational volunteer project.

### **Growing Through the Ages**

Gardens are meeting places for collaboration, places where growers of different ages can work to further environmental aesthetics. In this project, the Fourth Class students from Scoil Mhuire na Trocaire were inspired by imaginative ways of gardening.

Ardee Tidy Towns and Moorehall Healthcare and Scoil Mhuire na Trocaire, Blackrock Secret Garden and St Peter's National School collaborated to develop vegetable, herb and flower gardens. The aesthetics of the garden studios stimulate conversations between older people and students. Sharing stories of childhood and history are two topics of conversation that carried on besides the planting of vegetables, herbs and flowers.

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

The Louth Age Friendly Safety and Security Group chaired by Chief Superintendent Pat McGee is currently implementing An Garda Síochana Louth Division Older People Strategy Implementation Plan which was adopted from the National Strategy for Older People launched in Oct 2010.

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

The Louth Garda Division has a webpage on the Age Friendly website which is updated regularly with security and crime prevention advice for the older person, as well as contact details for every Garda station in Co. Louth and the names and contact details of Community Gardaí across the county.

For information on the document please click onto [www.louthagefriendlycounty.ie](http://www.louthagefriendlycounty.ie)

### ***Louth Age Friendly Business Forum***

#### **Consumer Fair Darver 7<sup>th</sup> Oct 2012**

Ireland's first ever Age-Friendly Business Consumer Fair was held at Darver Castle on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> October and thousands descended on the Louth venue to take part in talks, view the many trade stands and enjoy the entertainment – all focussed on Ireland's growing older population. The event, the brainchild of the Louth Older People's Forum and the Louth Economic Forum's Age Friendly Business Forum led by Gavin Duffy, saw over 60 trade exhibitors taking part along with numerous talks on health, wellbeing and financial and legal matters and entertainment from Paddy Cole and Comhaltas Ceoltoiri Eireann. The event was free of charge and there were a number of prizes up for grabs.

Bringing together business and the client was the next natural step in our work on the Age Friendly Business Forum. The feedback was tremendous with trade stands looking to sign up for 2013.

### **Men's Sheds**

The Men's Shed initiative was launched by Micheal O'Muircheartaigh in Dundalk on 15<sup>th</sup> Sept 2011. The programme includes a shed in Drogheda and a third in Cooley launched during 2012. 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 personal or otherwise 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.

### **Louth Comhairle na nOg Tackling Issues for young people.**

Louth Comhairle na nOg is the recognized voice of young people in Louth. Set up under the Youth Work Act in every county Comhairle na nOg strives to connect the issues and policy interests of young people with decision makers and local representatives at every level.

Louth Comhairle na nOg has 36 active members representing schools, youth organisations and special interest groups for young people. The Comhairle meets monthly and undertakes an array of projects to meet the issues facing young people. These issues are discussed and agreed at the Louth Comhairle na nOg AGM held every October which hosts over one hundred young people each year.

2012 was a landmark year for Louth Comhairle na nOg. The main issue agreed at the AGM was “Young Peoples Mental Health”. This complex issue was broken into two parts; an awareness campaign of positive ways young people can mind their mental health and the development of a mobile phone app for protecting your mental health.

Both parts of the project were very successful with the Phone APP gaining national media attention in the run up to the leaving certificate results. The APP also featured in both the Irish Times and on RTE news. The App provides key information on how to mind your mental health and provides a step-by-step guide on how to help someone at risk of taking their own life.

Louth Comhairle na nOg were also selected as one of three Comhairle na nOg to feature at the Dail na nOg National Showcase Event in Croke Park in November 2012.

## 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 2012. It held elections to fill 12 vacancies across the 7 of the Thematic Pillars; the new members received induction training and joined the newly established working groups. In June, the forum hosted a conference for the Community & Voluntary sector; this successful event informed the Workplan of the Community & Voluntary forum for 2012-2013 and will now become an annual event on the C&V forum’s calendar. Work continues on the action plan and in promoting the work of the Louth forum, through projects and the annual Access Awards competition. Elections to the Louth Leader Partnership also took place this year with two C&V representative’s taken up their places on the Youth and Intercultural themes. The Community & Voluntary sector through the forum members are also represented on the following structures, 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 and Louth Leader Partnership. The Number of groups registered with the Community and Voluntary forum in 2012 currently stands at 180.



*The launch of the C&V Access Awards 2012*

### **Traveller Interagency Group**

This interagency group was re-established in April/May 2010 and meet regularly. A review of the Traveller Interagency Action Plan for 2010 -2013 is ongoing with many successes to date.

### **Community Smoke Alarm Scheme**

A number of smoke alarms, carbon monoxide alarms and sensory alarms for deaf/hard of hearing were allocated under this scheme with the assistance of the RAPID Co-ordinators, Community and Voluntary groups including Deaf Hear 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 six educational bursaries annually to those who would otherwise be unable to attend third level education. The Six bursaries were awarded in 2012 to students who fitted the criteria set down by the Louth local authorities. This bursary may need to be reviewed during 2013 as it doesn't appear to be compatible with the new SUSI central system.

### **Peoples Panel**

Louth County Council in partnership with Newry & Mourne District Council and the PEACE III Southern Partnership's Future Foundations priority have established a peoples panel who meet with senior management of both Councils on a range of topics of interest. This Peoples' panel was launched in 2012 and will hold its first meeting in January 2013. It is supported by the European Union's European Regional Development Fund through the EU Programme for Peace and Reconciliation (PEACE III) managed by the Special EU Programmes Body

The Membership has been drawn from both jurisdictions and Induction and training with panel members completed in December 2012. A series of meeting will be held during 2013.



*The launch of the People's Panel in 2012*

## Tables and Appendices

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### Key Performance Indicators

<b>FIRE SERVICE</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</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	2.13	2.94	2.20
B. Average time taken, in minutes, to mobilise fire brigades in Part-Time Stations (retained fire service) in respect of fire	3.85	3.81	4.46
C. Average time taken, in minutes, to mobilise fire brigades in Full-Time Stations in respect of all other emergency incidents	2.12	3.1	2.30
D. Average time taken, in minutes, to mobilise fire brigades in Part-Time Stations (retained fire service) in respect of all other emergency incidents	4.12	5.43	4.70
<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	65.95	63.68	61.90
B. Percentage of cases in respect of fire in which first attendance is at the scene after 10 minutes but within 20 minutes	29.36	28.03	33.55
C. Percentage of cases in respect of fire in which first attendance is at the scene after 20 minutes	4.69	8.29	4.54
D. Percentage of cases in respect of all other emergency incidents in which first attendance is at the scene within 10 minutes	49.84	41.00	50.53
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	40.63	41.42	43.09
F. Percentage of cases in respect of all other emergency incidents in which first attendance is at the scene after 20 minutes	9.52	17.57	6.38
<b>F.3 Fire Prevention</b>			
A. Total number of fire safety certificate applications received	117	111	105
B. Total number of fire safety certificate applications processed (including cases deemed invalid)	111	99	96
C. Total number of applications deemed invalid	4	12	7

<b>COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>
<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	95.45	95.45	95.45
	<i>There is a significant increase in CNN KPI's due to a grant we received from OMCYA which allowed us to tender for a development officer who worked with schools and seldom hear groups to allow them to take part in CNN</i>		
<b>CP.2 Groups registered with the Community and Voluntary Forum</b>			
Number of groups registered with the Community and Voluntary Forum	165	169	182
<b>CORPORATE ISSUES</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>
<b>C.1 Working Days lost to Sickness</b>			
A. Percentage of working days lost to sickness absence through certified leave	3.93	4.81	4.80
B. Percentage of working days lost to sickness absence through uncertified leave	0.63	0.80	0.68
<b>C.2 Staff Training and Development</b>			
Expenditure on Training and Development as a percentage of total payroll costs:	3.12	2.80	2.85
<b>ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>
<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	42.89	41.39	40.96
<b>E.2 Drinking Water Analysis</b>			
A. Percentage of drinking water analysis results in compliance with statutory requirements with regard to public schemes	98.97	99.10	?
B. Percentage of drinking water analysis results in compliance	96.60	99.40	?

with statutory requirements with regard to private schemes (where appropriate)

**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	91.20	91.57	90.45
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B. Percentage of households who receive a waste collection service and are provided with segregated waste collection for organics	27.83	26.74	25.33
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**E4: Housing Waste Sent for Recycling**

A. Percentage of household waste collected from kerbside, which is sent for recycling	20.51	19.43	21.31
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B. Tonnage of household waste collected from kerbside, which is sent for recycling	6029.00	5649.61	6584
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*All data was not supplied for last years calculation.*

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)	16268.00	14663.68	13326
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**E5: Household Waste Sent for Landfill**

A. The percentage of household waste collected which is sent to landfill	51.49	67.23	49.90
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B. The tonnage of household waste collected which is sent to landfill	15134.00	19545.57	15417
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**E6: Recycling Facilities**

The total number of Bring Sites in the local authority area	42	42	39
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The total number of Civic Amenity Centres in the local authority area	2	2	3
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**Glass**

A. The number of Bring Sites for recycling	37	37	39
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B. The number of Civic Amenity Centres for recycling	2	2	3
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C. The total number of facilities for recycling	39	39	42
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D. The number of locations for recycling per 5,000 of population	1.75	1.59	1.71
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**Cans**

E. The number of Bring Sites for recycling	42	42	39
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F. The number of Civic Amenity Centres for recycling	2	2	3
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G. The total number of facilities for recycling	44	44	42
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H. The number of locations for	1.98	1.79	1.71
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recycling per 5,000 of population

**Textiles**

I. The number of Bring Sites for recycling	0	0	0
J. The number of Civic Amenity Centres for recycling	2	2	3
K. The total number of facilities for recycling	2	2	3
L. The number of locations for recycling per 5,000 of population	0.09	0.08	0.12

**Batteries**

M. The number of Bring Sites for recycling	0	0	0
N. The number of Civic Amenity Centres for recycling	2	2	3
O. The total number of facilities for recycling	2	2	3
P. The number of locations for recycling per 5,000 of population	0.09	0.08	0.12

**Oils**

Q. The number of Bring Sites for recycling	0	0	0
R. The number of Civic Amenity Centres for recycling	2	2	3
S. The total number of facilities for recycling	2	2	3
T. The number of locations for recycling per 5,000 of population	0.09	0.08	0.12

**Other materials**

U. The number of Bring Sites for recycling	42	42	0
V. The number of Civic Amenity Centres for recycling	2	2	3
W. The total number of facilities for recycling	44	44	3
X. The number of locations for recycling per 5,000 of population	1.98	1.79	0.12

**LITTER**

**E7: Litter Prevention and Enforcement**

A. Number of full-time litter wardens	5	5	5
B. Number of part-time litter wardens	2	2	2
C. Number of litter wardens (both full- and part-time) per 5,000 population	0.31	0.28	0.28
D. Number of on-the-spot fines issued	732	511	401
E. Number of on-the-spot fines paid	614	278	205
F. Number of prosecution cases taken because of non-payment of on-the-spot fines	35	47	21
G. Number of prosecutions secured in cases taken because of non-payment of on-the-spot fines	36	47	21
H. Number of notices issued (under sections 9, 15, 16, 17 and 20 of the Litter Pollution Act 1997)	21	24	14
I. Total number of prosecutions taken (all prosecutions under the Litter	118	62	21

Acts 1997 to 2003)			
J. Total number of prosecutions secured (all prosecutions under the Litter Acts 1997 to 2003)	36		21
K. Percentage of areas in the local authority that are unpolluted (i.e. litter-free)	16		
L. Percentage of areas in the local authority that are slightly polluted with litter	76		
M. Percentage of areas in the local authority that are moderately polluted with litter	8		
N. Percentage of areas in the local authority that are significantly polluted with litter	0		
O. Percentage of areas in the local authority that are grossly polluted with litter	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)	2158	1826	1460
B. Number of complaints investigated	2153	1810	1460
C. Number of complaints resolved where no further action was necessary	1049	1686	1312
	<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	146	96	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	86.49	93.24	93.24
B. Percentage of secondary schools participating in environmental campaigns	100	100	100

<b>HOUSING</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>
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<b>H1: Housing Vacancies</b>			
A. The total number of dwellings in local authority stock	3613	3664	3673
B. The total number of dwellings, excluding those subject to major refurbishment projects	3613	3664	3667
C. The overall percentage of dwellings that are empty (excluding those subject to major refurbishment projects)	2.21	1.77	1.69
D. The percentage of empty dwellings unavailable for letting	67.50	49.23	53.23

E. The percentage of empty dwellings available for letting 32.50 50.77 56.45

**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 11 12

The average time taken (in weeks) from the works (above) being completed to the date of the first rent debit 3.25 5 4

**H3: Housing Repairs**

Number of repairs completed as a percentage of the number of valid repair requests received 90.34 91.70 94.97

**H4: Traveller Accommodation**

Total number of traveller families accommodated as a percentage of the targets set in the local traveller accommodation programme 57.89 75.00 106.25

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

A. Total number of registered tenancies 4146 4538 1705

B. Number of dwelling units inspected 388 330 61

C. Number of inspections carried out 507 392 122

D. Number of dwellings inspected as percentage of registered tenancies (i.e. B as percentage of A) 9.36 7.27 3.58

**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 258 160 253

B. Percentage of new local authority tenants who have been offered Pre-Tenancy Familiarisation courses 100 100 100

**LIBRARY SERVICES** 2010 2011 2012

**L.1 Library Public Opening Hours**

A. Average number of opening hours per week for full-time libraries 38 37.4 37.6





which were decided within 8 weeks			
C. Number of decisions in Column A which required the submission of further information	127	113	103
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	8	1	1
E. Average length of time taken (in days) to decide an application where further information was sought	68.34	70.12	69.63
F. Percentage of applications granted	87.94	93.04	90.62
G. Percentage of applications refused	12.06	6.96	9.38
H. Percentage of cases where the decision was confirmed, with or without variations, by An Bord Pleanala	45.45	60.0	25.00
I. Percentage of cases where the decision was reversed by An Bord Pleanala	54.55	40.0	75.00

**New Housing Development**

A. Number of applications decided	30	29	10
B. Number of decisions in Column A which were decided within 8 weeks	7	13	2
C. Number of decisions in Column A which required the submission of further information	21	16	8
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	0	0
E. Average length of time taken (in days) to decide an application where further information was sought	73.91	68.11	80.25
F. Percentage of applications granted	86.67	82.76	70.0
G. Percentage of applications refused	13.33	17.24	30.0
H. Percentage of cases where the decision was confirmed, with or without variations, by An Bord Pleanala	40		50.0
I. Percentage of cases where the decision was reversed by An Bord Pleanala	60		50.0

**Other: not requiring Environment Impact Assessment**

A. Number of applications decided	508	475	438
B. Number of decisions in Column A which were decided within 8 weeks	313	281	280
C. Number of decisions in Column A which required the submission of	189	185	156

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	12	8	1
E. Average length of time taken (in days) to decide an application where further information was sought	70.08	69.11	68.08
F. Percentage of applications granted	88.98	92.84	94.06
G. Percentage of applications refused	11.02	7.16	5.94
H. Percentage of cases where the decision was confirmed, with or without variations, by An Bord Pleanala	60.0	95.83	95.83
I. Percentage of cases where the decision was reversed by An Bord Pleanala	40.0	4.17	4.17
<b>Other: requiring Environment Impact Assessment</b>			
A. Number of applications decided	8	5	3
B. Number of decisions in Column A which were decided within 8 weeks	3	1	1
C. Number of decisions in Column A which required the submission of further information	5	4	1
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	1
E. Average length of time taken (in days) to decide an application where further information was sought	94.01	87.75	109
F. Percentage of applications granted	87.50	100	66.67
G. Percentage of applications refused	12.50	0	33.33
H. Percentage of cases where the decision was confirmed, with or without variations, by An Bord Pleanala	50	66.67	0
I. Percentage of cases where the decision was reversed by An Bord Pleanala	50	33.33	100
<b>P.2 Planning Enforcement</b>			
A. Total number of cases subject to complaints that were investigated	257	183	170
<i>All of Enforcement answers include development</i>			
B. Total number of cases subject to complaints that were dismissed	28	44	50
C. Total number of cases subject to complaints that were resolved	151	84	34

through negotiations			
D. Number of enforcement procedures taken through warning letters	141	119	89
E. Number of enforcement procedures taken through enforcement notices	49	45	27
F. Number of prosecutions	2	3	5
<b>P.3 Planning Public opening hours</b>			
Average number of opening hours per week	38.13	40	40
<b>P.4 Pre-Planning Consultation</b>			
A. Number of pre-planning consultation meetings held	553	465	241
B. Average length of time (in days) from request for consultation with local authority to actual formal meeting for pre-planning consultation	3.3	4.72	2.8
<b>P.5 New Buildings inspected</b>			
Buildings inspected as a percentage of new buildings notified to the local authority	14.12	16.57	15.49
<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	51	51	68
B- Number of estates that were taken in charge in the year in question	13	8	3
C- Number of dwellings in respect of column B	959	525	116
D- Percentage of estates in column A not completed to satisfaction of the planning authority in line with the planning permission	1.96	0	29.41
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	0	1
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	0	1

<b>RECREATIONAL SERVICES</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>
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<b>Rec.1 Children's Playgrounds</b>			
A. Number of children's playgrounds per 1,000 population directly provided by the local authority	0.11	0.10	0.10
B. Number of children's playgrounds per 1,000 population facilitated by	0.01	0.03	0.08



the local authority

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

Number of visitors to local authority-facilitated leisure facilities per 1,000 population      2990.94    2390.61    2697.36

<b>REVENUE COLLECTION</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>
<b>Rev.2 House Rent</b>			
A. Amount collected at year end as a percentage of amount due from House Rent	87.16	85.94	84.18
B. Percentage of arrears on House Rent that are <b>up to 4 weeks</b> old	5.72	5.12	3.85
C. Percentage of arrears on House Rent that are 4-6 weeks old	6.98	5.45	4.52
D. Percentage of arrears on House Rent that are 6-12 weeks old	10.65	9.43	7.71
E. Percentage of arrears on House Rent that are more than 12 weeks old	76.65	80	83.92
<b>Rev.2 Housing Loans</b>			
A. Amount collected at year end as a percentage of amount due from Housing Loans	66.93	63.73	60.11
	<i>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.</i>		
B. Percentage of arrears on Housing Loans that are up to 1 month old	1.07	-2.55	0.57
C. Percentage of arrears on Housing Loans that are 1-2 months old	1.18	1.54	1.58
D. Percentage of arrears on Housing Loans that are 2-3 months old	1.97	2.34	1.61
E. Percentage of arrears on Housing Loans that are more than 3 months old	95.96	98.63	96.24
<b>Rev.3 Commercial Rates</b>			
Amount collected at year-end as a percentage of amount due from Commercial rates	65.4	59.84	50.42
	<i>There has been a reduction in Louth County Council's collection rate in respect of</i>		

	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.			
<b>Rev.4 Refuse Charges</b>				
Percentage of households paying refuse charges (including waivers) at year end	This service has been privatised in Co. Louth	0.00		0
<b>Rev. 5 Non-Domestic Water Charges</b>				
Amount collected at year end as a percentage of amount due for Non-Domestic Water Charges		34.36	40.84	53.88

<b>ROADS</b>	<i>2010</i>	<i>2011</i>	<i>2012</i>
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<b>R1: Road Restoration Programme</b>			
Number of kilometers of local and regional roads improved and maintained under the Restoration Programme per annum	115.215	126.8	38.6
Number of kilometers of local and regional roads constructed under the specific improvement grants scheme per annum	0	2.2	49.3

## Financial Figures

### (UNAUDITED) INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT STATEMENT FOR YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2012

The Income and Expenditure Account Statement brings together all the revenue related income and expenditure. It shows the surplus/(deficit) for the year. Transfers to/from reserves are shown separately and not allocated by service division. Note 17 allocates transfers by service division in the same format as Table A of the adopted Local Authority budget.

Expenditure by Division	Gross Expenditure 2012 €	Income 2012 €	Net Expenditure 2012 €	Net Expenditure 2011 €
Housing & Building	7,180,027	6,625,243	554,785	701,232
Road Transportation & Safety	12,679,898	6,980,526	5,699,371	8,667,591
Water Services	14,518,306	10,419,885	4,098,420	3,836,361
Development Management	5,536,505	1,675,356	3,861,149	3,615,030
Environmental Services	11,786,104	9,195,997	2,590,107	1,707,134
Recreation & Amenity	3,409,476	396,347	3,013,129	3,050,353
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	5,200,766	4,359,508	841,258	799,609
Miscellaneous Services	4,771,282	2,506,415	2,264,867	2,367,418
	-	-	-	-
<b>Total Expenditure/Income</b>	<b><u>65,082,364</u></b>	<b><u>42,159,277</u></b>		
<b>Net Cost of Divisions to be funded from Rates and Local Government Fund</b>			<b>22,923,087</b>	<b>24,744,727</b>
Rates			8,110,545	8,003,770
Local Government Fund / General Purpose Grant			8,809,684	9,976,131
Pension Related Deduction			992,752	935,297
County Charge			<u>3,433,751</u>	<u>3,433,752</u>
<b>Surplus / (Deficit) for Year Before Transfers</b>			<b><u>(1,576,356)</u></b>	<b><u>(2,395,777)</u></b>
Transfers from / (to) Reserves			<u>851,767</u>	<u>2,152,542</u>
<b>Overall Surplus / (Deficit) for Year</b>			<b><u>(724,589)</u></b>	<b><u>(243,235)</u></b>
General Reserve at 1st January 2012			<u>1,442,128</u>	<u>1,685,363</u>
General Reserve at 31st December 2012			<b><u>717,539</u></b>	<b><u>1,442,128</u></b>

**Louth County Council**  
**(Unaudited) Balance Sheet for year ended 31st December 2012**

	2012 €	2011 €
<b>Fixed Assets</b>		
Operational	291,927,190	198,338,964
Infrastructural	1,297,526,420	1,300,179,703
Community	493,550	493,550
Non-Operational	7,743,057	7,743,057
	<u>1,597,690,217</u>	<u>1,506,755,274</u>
<b>Work-in-Progress and Preliminary Expenses</b>	20,117,296	13,356,832
<b>Long Term Debtors</b>	16,536,536	17,035,330
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Stocks	-	-
Trade Debtors & Prepayments	24,449,019	24,380,647
Bank Investments	7,214,681	14,461,531
Cash at Bank	587,848	-
Cash in Transit	108,252	88,948
Urban Account	-	417,688
	<u>32,359,801</u>	<u>39,348,814</u>
<b>Current Liabilities (Amounts falling due within one year)</b>		
Bank Overdraft	-	1,780,594
Creditors & Accruals	13,022,127	13,955,161
Urban Account	1	-
Finance Leases	-	-
	<u>13,022,128</u>	<u>15,735,755</u>
<b>Net Current Assets / (Liabilities)</b>	<u>19,337,673</u>	<u>23,613,059</u>
<b>Creditors (Amounts falling due after more than one year)</b>		
Loans Payable	30,404,236	30,966,209
Finance Leases	-	-
Refundable Deposits	12,353,507	12,466,900
Other	2,322,353	2,743,566
	<u>45,080,096</u>	<u>46,156,675</u>
<b>Net Assets</b>	<u>1,608,601,627</u>	<u>1,514,603,820</u>
<b>Represented By</b>		
Capitalisation Account	1,597,690,214	1,506,755,274
Income WIP	18,588,135	11,772,289
Specific Revenue Reserve	389,995	389,995
General Revenue Reserve	717,539	1,442,128
Other Balances	(8,784,257)	(5,755,867)
<b>Total Reserves</b>	<u>1,608,601,627</u>	<u>1,514,603,819</u>

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

**Capital Account**

Expenditure €25,090,379

Income €22,463,240

**LOUTH SUMMARY OF MAJOR REVENUE COLLECTIONS FOR 2012**

	Arrears at	Accrued	Write Off	Waivers	Total for	Collected	Arrears at	%
	01/01/2012			Off	Collection		31/12/2012	Collected
	€	€	€	€	€	€	€	
Rates	4,024,409	8,130,503	972,640	0	11,182,272	6,140,069	5,042,202	55%
Rents & Annuities	547,641	2,752,530	8,096	0	3,292,075	2,652,630	639,445	81%
Commercial Water	6,958,471	5,206,234	369,620	0	11,795,085	6,354,892	5,440,193	54%
Housing Loans	183,328	237,739	5	0	421,062	226,930	194,132	54%

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

Total Revenue Expenditure 2012 was € 25,270,951

Total Capital Expenditure 2012 was €5,953,065

**DROGHEDA SUMMARY OF MAJOR REVENUE COLLECTIONS FOR 2012**

	Arrears at	Accrued	Write Off	Waivers	Total for	Collected	Arrears at	%
	01/01/2012			Off	Collection		31/12/2012	Collected
	€	€	€	€	€	€	€	
Rates	4,956,487	11,839,983	2,381,315	-	14,415,155	8,630,541	5,784,614	60%
Rents & Annuities	437,529	3,379,968	-	-	3,817,496	3,346,815	470,681	88%
Housing Loans	192,923	376,500	-	-	569,423	356,252	213,171	63%

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

Total Revenue Expenditure 2012 was €29,099,440

Total Capital Expenditure 2012 was €8,857,354

**DUNDALK SUMMARY OF MAJOR REVENUE COLLECTIONS FOR 2012**

	Arrears at	Accrued	Write Off	Waivers	Total for	Collected	Arrears at	%
	01/01/2012			Off	Collection		31/12/2012	Collected
	€	€	€	€	€	€	€	
Rates	8,312,842	13,861,563	3,954,748	-	18,219,657	10,191,041	8,028,616	56%
Rents & Annuities	455,376	3,158,883	2,285	-	3,611,974	3,043,880	568,094	84%
Housing Loans	40,574	108,692	-	-	149,266	102,020	47,246	68%

## Reports received for: MEMBERS CONFERENCES & SEMINARS 2012

### Councillor Conference Attendance Record 2012

(info extracted from Conference Exps Sheets processed as at 10/01/2013)

#### Louth County Council

<i>Conference</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Month</i>	<i>No. of Cllrs</i>
<b>Jan-12</b>				
Restorative Justice for Ireland	Killarney Rd, Tralee	20th-22nd	January	3
Understanding EU Funding	Rosscarbery, Co Cork	27th-29th	January	1
Local Government Seminar	Limerick	27th-29th	January	1
John Boyle O'Reilly Symposium	Westcourt Hotel, Drogheda	28th	January	1
<b>Feb-12</b>				
AMAI Spring Seminar	Cavan	10th-11th	February	3
Mental Health & Suicide Awareness Conference	Dungarvan, Co Waterford	24th-26th	February	3
23rd Colmcille Winter School	Letterkenny, Donegal	24th-26th	February	3
2012 Budget Review	Rosscarbery, Co Cork	24th - 26th	February	1
<b>Mar-12</b>				
Amalgamation & Reform in Local Government	Letterkenny, Donegal	23rd- 25th	March	2
<b>Apr-12</b>				
Disability Access Certificate	Galway City	6th - 7th	April	2
LAMA Spring Conference	Waterford City	12th - 14th	April	3
Finance Bill 2012 Seminar	Tralee, Co Kerry	20th - 21st	April	3
The Economic Potential of Arts & Cultural Tourism	Listowel, Co Kerry	26th - 27th	April	1
<b>May-12</b>				
ACCC Annual Conference 2012	Kilkenny	10th - 12th	May	2
Southern & Eastern Region Assemble Annual Conference	Kilkenny	23rd - 24th	May	4
<b>Jun-12</b>				
TJK Conference, Planning Seminar	Limerick	8th- 10th	June	4
Draft performance standards for domestic Water Treatment Systems	Westport, Mayo	1st - 2nd	June	1
Byrne Perry Summer School	Gorey, Wexford	22nd - 24th	June	1
Advanceing Technology in Majority World Education	Rosscarbery, Cork	22nd - 24th	June	1

<b>Jul-12</b>				
Magill Summer School	Glenties, Donegal	22nd - 28th	July	5
<b>Aug-12</b>				
Local Government Auditing Conference	Galway City	3rd - 4th	August	1
Personal Insolvency Bill Conference	Tralee, Co Kerry	10th - 11th	August	2
Freedom of Information	Galway City	17th - 18th	August	1
Training Seminar - Education Bill 2012	Westport, Co Mayo	24th - 25th	August	3
<b>Sep-12</b>				
AMAI Conference	Ballinasloe, Co Galway	13th - 15th	September	2
LAMA Seminar	Letterkenny	27th - 29th	September	2
<b>Oct-12</b>				
Constitutional & Political Reform & the Councillor	Bunclody, Wexford	5th - 6th	October	1
Septic Tank Case Studies	Westport, Co Mayo	19th - 21st	October	1
PSAI Political Studies Association of Ireland	Derry	19th - 21st	October	1
Amendments to Social Welfare Act	Merlin Park, Galway	26th - 27th	October	5
<b>Nov-12</b>				
Justice through Local Government	Tralee, Co Kerry	30th - 1st	Nov/Dec	2
Environmental Implications of harvesting Wind Energy	Westport, Co Mayo	23rd - 24th	November	2
<b>Dec-12</b>				
Right of way law for Local Government	Merlin Park, Galway	7th - 8th	December	1
<b>Total</b>				<b>69</b>



**Dundalk Town Council**

**Councillor Conference/Seminars Attendance Record 2012**

(info extracted from Conference Exps Sheets processed as at 10/01/2013)

<b>Conference</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Month</b>	<b>No. of Cllrs</b>
<b>Jan-12</b>				
TJK Conference _Local Government Seminar for Councillors	Patrick Punches Hotel, Limerick	27th-29th	January	2
<b>Feb-12</b>				
AMAI Spring Seminar	Cavan	10th-11th	February	2
<b>Mar-12</b>				
Esperanza Enterprises – Dealing with personal Insolvency	Westport Plaza Hotel, Westport, Co Mayo	2nd- 4th	March	1
<b>Apr-12</b>				
LAMA Spring Seminar	Waterford City	13th - 14th	April	1
<b>May-12</b>				
ACCC – Association of County & City Councils	Kilkenny	10th - 11th	May	1
John Boyle O'Reilly Seminar	The Westcourt Hotel, Drogheda, Co Louth	12th	May	1
<b>Jun-12</b>				
TJK Conference, Planning Seminar for Councillors	Limerick	7th- 9th	June	1
<b>Jul-12</b>				
Esperanza Enterprises – Bullying and Stress in the Work Place	Manor West Hotel, Killarney Road, Kerry	20th – 21st	July	1
Patrick MacGill Summer School	Glenties, Donegal	22nd - 28th	July	1
Esperanza Enterprises – Improving the Social Housing Stock	Westport Plaza Hotel, Castlebar Street, Westport, Co Mayo	27th - 28th	July	1
<b>Aug-12</b>				
Esperanza Enterprises – Local Government Auditing Conference	Galway City	3rd - 4th	August	1
<b>Sep-12</b>				
AMAI Centenary Annual Conference	Ballinasloe, Co Galway	13th - 15th	Sept.	2
Greystones Town Council – 24 <sup>th</sup> Annual la Touche Legacy Seminar	Charlesland Golf & Country Club Hotel, Greystones, Co Wicklow	28th - 30th	Sept.	1
<b>Nov-12</b>				
Esperanza Enterprises - Legal Services Regulation Bill 2011	The Kingsvalley Hotel, Merlin Park, Galway City	16th - 17th	Nov/Dec	2
Esperanza Enterprises - Environmental Implications of harvesting Wind Energy	Westport, Co Mayo	23rd - 24th	November	1
<b>Total</b>				<b>19</b>

**Drogheda Borough Council**

**Councillor Conference/Seminars Attendance Record 2012**

*(info extracted from Conference Exps Sheets processed as at 10/01/2013)*

<i>Conference</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Month</i>	<i>No. of Councillors</i>
<b>January-12</b>				
John Boyle O'Reilly Symposium	Westcourt Hotel, Drogheda, Co. Louth	28th	January	3
<b>February-12</b>				
Mid West Regional Authority 17th Annual Conference	Falls Hotel, Ennistymon, Co. Clare	16th	February	1
<b>March-12</b>				
Media 2012 Training & Communications for Councillors	Ennis Business College, Ennis, Co. Clare	2nd and 3rd	March	1
<b>April-12</b>				
LAMA Spring Seminar 2012	The Tower Hotel, Waterford	13th and 14th	April	1
<b>September-12</b>				
Esperanza Enterprises Elected Members Training Seminar	Westport Plaza Hotel, Westport, Co. Mayo	7th	Sept.	1
LAMA Autumn Seminar	Mount Errigal Hotel, Co. Donegal	28th and 29th	Sept.	2
<b>Total</b>				<b>9</b>

**Ardee Town Council**

**Councillor Conference/Seminars Attendance Record 2012**

*(info extracted from Conference Exps Sheets processed as at ---)*

*Note: In 2012 no cllr claimed expenses for the conferences they attended.*

<i>Conference</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Month</i>	<i>No. of Councillors</i>
<b>Feb-12</b>				
AMAI Spring Conference	Kilmore Hotel, Cavan	10-11	Feb	1
AMAI Autumn Conference	Carlton Shearwater, Ballinasloe, Co Galway	13-15	Sept	2
<b>Total</b>				<b>3</b>

**Payment to Members of Louth Local Authorities for Meetings, Committees, Representational Payments etc. 2012**

	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	93	15	33	13
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	€121,430.51	36,473.00	34,624.97	€9,162.00
3.	Representational Payments	€433,336.28	58,332.82	74,093.91	€15,966.72
4.	Chairpersons / Mayor Allowance	€23,157.50	17,756.50	16,851.98	€550.00
5.	Vice Chairperson / Deputy Mayor Allowance	€8,372.50	Nil	1,800.00	Nil
6.	Chairpersons of SPC's / MPC's	€24,000 .00	Nil	4,000.00	Nil
7.	Chairperson of CDB	€6,000 .00	Nil	Nil	Nil
8.	Mobile / Blackberry Phones	€4,907.32	2,745.87	2,639.27	Nil
9.	Expenses on Conferences etc. attended:				0
	(a) Home	€27,377.54	2,048.86	7,508.47	
	(b) Abroad	0	Nil	Nil	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. Hazel McGeough, Community Sector
11. Seamus Briscoe, ICTU
12. Bill Baldwin, Chambers Ireland

No. of Meetings 2012 – 3

##### 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. Matthew McGreehan
10. Mr. Declan Murphy,
11. Mr. Liam Kieran

No. of Meetings 2012 – 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. Cllr Richie Culhane,
8. Mr. Olan Herr,
9. Mr. John Roche,
10. Ms Patricia Rooney,

No. of Meetings 2012 – 3

##### 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 2012 – 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 Maher  
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

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**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).

## 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 Maria Doyle  
Cllr Martin Bellew  
Cllr Oliver Morgan  
Cllr Harry Todd

Number of meetings 2012 - 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 2012 - 4

#### Infrastructure MPC – ELECTED MEMBERS

Cllr Sean Bellew  
Cllr C Keelan  
Cllr O Morgan  
Cllr Mark Dearey  
Cllr Maria Doyle  
Cllr Jennifer Green

Number of meetings 2012 - 8

#### Planning MPC – ELECTED MEMBERS

Cllr Martin Bellew  
Cllr Marianne Butler  
Cllr Mark Dearey  
Cllr Kevin Meenan  
Cllr Sean Bellew  
Cllr C Keelan

Number of Meetings 2012 - 4

#### OTHER MEETINGS – Dundalk Town Council

##### Dundalk Joint Burial Board

Cllr Martin Bellew  
Cllr Conor Keelan  
Cllr Harry Todd  
Cllr Mark Dearey  
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

##### 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 Mark Dearey

##### Place Name Committee

Cllr Oliver Morgan

##### Louth Craftmark Ltd

Cllr J Green

##### Louth County Development Board

Cllr Marianne Butler

##### Memorandum of Understanding between Newry and Mourne District Council and Louth County Council Joint Committee

Cllr Sean Bellew