

Louth County Council

ANNUAL REPORT 2017



Comhairle Contae **Lú**
Louth County Council

Your Council for **Your** Community



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Introduction

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Elected Members

Foreword



Colm Markey
Cathaoirleach

It has been a tremendous honour to serve as Cathaoirleach of Louth County Council during 2017 and to have the opportunity to interact with so many individuals and groups that help to make County Louth such a vibrant place. The contribution made by our citizens, young and old, to the environment and sporting and cultural life of the County is something we can all be very proud of.

I am particularly proud of the work of the Local Community Development Committee in progressing the targets set out in the Local Economic and Community Plan 2016 to 2022. This ambitious plan aims to tackle disadvantage, support enterprise, employment and training, and to develop community infrastructure. It is already delivering through key initiatives and events. Highlights include the community youth hubs in Dundalk, Ardee and Drogheda, the Public Participation Network Community and Voluntary Awards Night, Pride of Place achievements and National Tidy Towns Awards and the Comhairle na nÓg Crossborder Brexit project.

I would like to thank my fellow councillors for their support throughout the year and their tireless work on behalf of the people of County Louth.

I would also like to thank the Chief Executive, Joan Martin, for her help and support throughout the year and all of the staff of Louth County Council for their continued hard work and dedication in the service of the people of Louth.

My time as Cathaoirleach has been an enlightening and enjoyable experience and I look forward to continuing to play my part in addressing the challenges facing the County in 2018.

Overview Chief Executive



Joan Martin
Chief Executive

Looking back over 2017, I am pleased with the progress made by Louth County Council in delivering high quality, citizen-focused, responsive and effective services for all people in our County.

It is testament to Louth's enterprise-friendly environment for businesses and wide talent pool that we have continued to attract foreign direct investment and to make economic progress this year. This has been reflected in the 118 new jobs created by the Local Enterprise Office (LEO).

We had close to 1,000 people attend business training programmes, seminars and networking events organised by LEO this year, with 261 individuals receiving one-to-one mentoring. In addition, some 1,160 students participated in the Schools Entrepreneurship programme from all 18 second level schools in Louth. I believe these initiatives are key to ensuring the sustained economic development and prosperity of the County.

In February, we launched the new Louth County Council website, www.louthcoco.ie, which offers a visually appealing and easy-to-use experience for users.

A packed programme of artistic events was delivered in 2017. Highlights included the award-winning Maritime Festival, Drogheda Arts Festival and the launch of the 'One Team, One

Dream', an exhibition celebrating the rich history of Dundalk Football Club, in the County Museum.

Drogheda being chosen to host Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann 2018 was a momentous occasion for us all. The bid was supported by Louth County Council over the past number of years. With up to 400,000 new people visiting the county during the Fleadh, it will be fantastic opportunity to showcase the beauty and vibrancy of the town and the region.

I was proud to oversee the introduction of Choice Based Letting (CBL) throughout the county this year. CBL has enhanced the experience of housing applicants and improved the speed of allocating homes. We allocated 18 properties during the year through CPOs. Louth County Council is continuing to make real progress on delivering our social housing targets through a range of initiatives demonstrated in this report.

Finally, I'd like to acknowledge and say thank you all Council staff for their hard work and dedication, and to extend my best wishes to everyone who retired in 2017. I would also like to thank the Cathaoirleach and the members for their continued support. I look forward to continuing to work with them to meet the needs of the citizens of County Louth.



2017
AT A
GLANCE



151 NEW HOMES
BROUGHT INTO USE



94% OF LOCAL SCHOOLS
INVOLVED IN
COMHAIRLE NA NÓG



118 NEW JOBS
SUPPORTED BY **LEO**



362 DIRECT
CUSTOMER QUERIES
HANDLED PER DAY



775 FIRE SERVICE
CALL OUTS



€565,000 PROVIDED FOR **ROAD**
SAFETY & UPGRADE WORKS



8,286 SOCIAL MEDIA
FOLLOWERS



367 DOGS **REHOMED**



€1.95M GRANT AID PROVIDED
TO ADAPT **HOMES** FOR DISABLED
ACCESS



OVER **250,000** LIBRARY **VISITS**



3 BLUE FLAG BEACHES



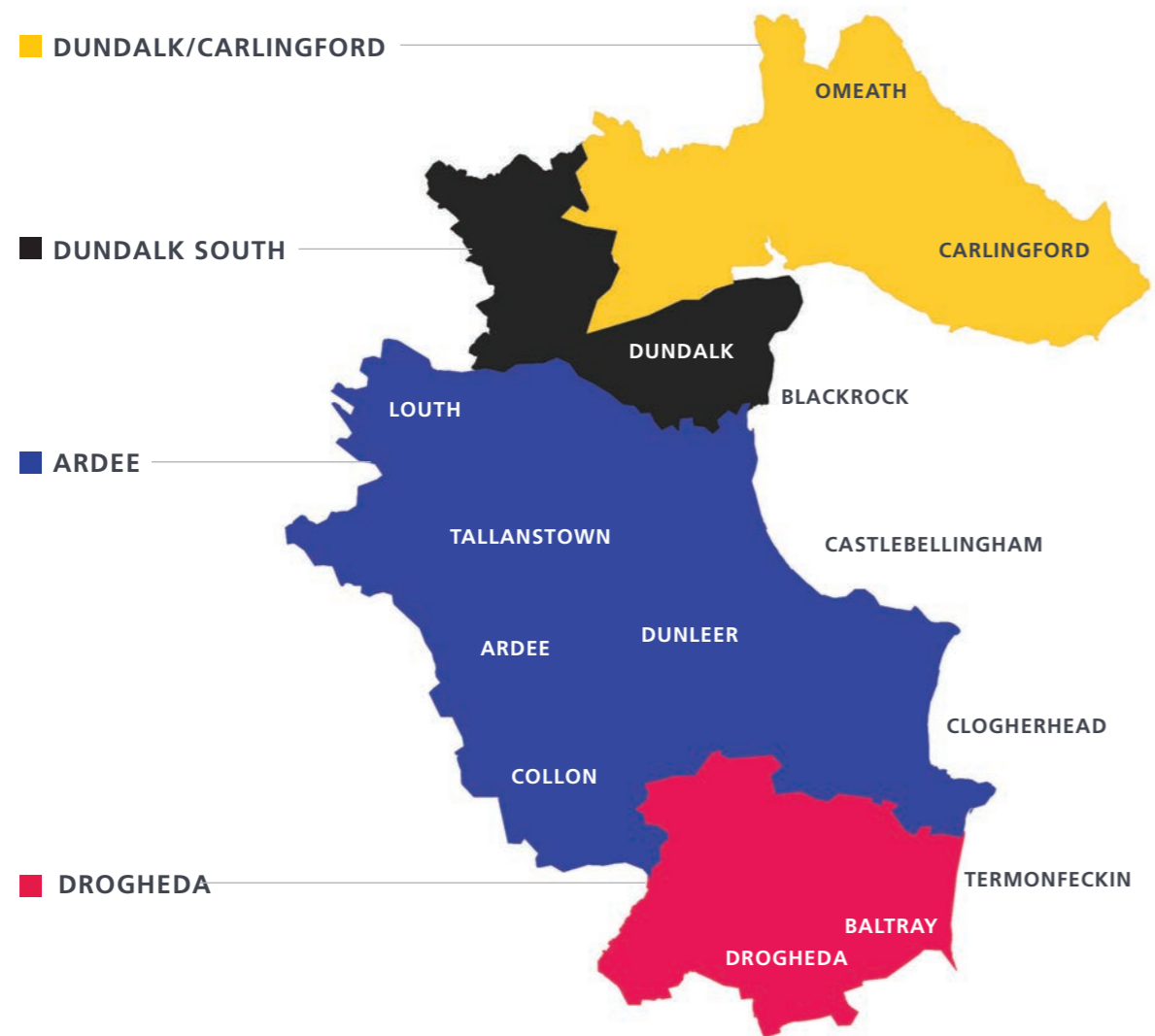
€2.5 MILLION SPENT ON
BETTER ENERGY COMMUNITY
PROJECTS



1.1 MILLION WEBSITE
PAGE **VIEWS**



998 PEOPLE ATTENDED **LEO**
LOUTH BUSINESS EVENTS



REGISTER OF ELECTORS

Each year Louth County Council compiles a register of citizens entitled to vote at local, general or presidential elections and referenda.

The Register of Electors, effective from 15 February 2017, showed a total voting population of 94,834 comprised as follows:

Presidential Electors	89,492
Dáil Electors	90,380
European Electors	91,230
Local Electors	94,834

LOUTHS 4 ELECTORAL AREAS

- Dundalk/Carlingford
- Dundalk South
- Ardee
- Drogheda

LOUTHS 3 MUNICIPAL DISTRICTS

- Municipal District of Dundalk
- Municipal District of Ardee
- Borough District of Drogheda

Elected Members: Comhairle Contae Lú / Louth County Council

Ardee Electoral Area (6 Members)



Cunningham, Tom
Sinn Féin
4 Oriel Cove, Clogherhead,
Drogheda, Co. Louth
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e: tom.cunningham@louthcoco.ie



Markey, Colm (*Cathaoirleach*)
Fine Gael
Corstown, Togher, Drogheda,
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Castlebellingham, Co Louth
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Minogue, Dolores
Fine Gael
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Co. Louth
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Reilly, Liam
Fianna Fáil
Miltowngrange, Dromiskin,
Dundalk, Co. Louth
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Teanty, Jim
Non Party
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Drogheda Electoral Area (10 Members)



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Fiance Fáil
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Sinn Féin
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Non Party
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Dundalk/Carlingford (6 Members)



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Fianna Fáil
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Fine Gael
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McGahon, John
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Savage, Peter
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Corporate Services

The Corporate Services Department at Louth County Council provides an **effective and efficient support service** to councillors and senior management, along with general services to members of the public. As well as monitoring and reviewing the Council's policies and procedures on an ongoing basis, it is also responsible for the administration of council meetings, the compilation of the Register of Electors, preparing the Council's annual report, property management, health & safety, and Freedom of Information.

Council Meetings 2017

A total of 13 meetings of Louth County Council were held in 2017 - a monthly meeting on the third Monday of each month, two budget meetings in November, and Annual Meeting in June.

Municipal District of Dundalk Chairperson - **Cathaoirleach - John McGahon**

Borough District of Drogheda Chairperson - **Mayor Pio Smith**

Municipal District of Ardee Chairperson - **Cathaoirleach Liam Reilly**

Meetings of Louth County Council 2017	
Monthly meetings	10
Annual meetings	1
Budget meetings	2
Corporate Policy Group (CPG)	11
Municipal District Meetings	
Borough District of Drogheda	13
Municipal District of Ardee	12
Municipal District of Dundalk	12
Strategic Policy Committees (SPCs)	
SPC - Housing, Community Planning & Emergency Services	5
SPC - Economic Development & Enterprise Support	4
SPC - Planning & Environment	4
SPC - Infrastructure, European & Cross Border Affairs	4
Joint Policing Committees/Local Policing Forum (LPP)	
LPP - Dundalk	3
LPP - Drogheda	3
LPP - Ardee	3



IN 2017 CUSTOMER SERVICES HAD **129,865 INTERACTIONS WITH CUSTOMERS - THIS INCLUDES EMAILS, CALLS AND PUBLIC COUNTER QUERIES**



CUSTOMER SERVICES DEALT WITH **44,514 CUSTOMERS** AT THE COUNTER, AN AVERAGE OF **3,710 PER MONTH** OR **178 PER DAY**

46,107 CALLS WERE ANSWERED BY CUSTOMER SERVICES - AN AVERAGE OF **184 CALLS PER DAY**



Energy Use & Promotion of Energy

In 2017 Louth County Council achieved a 34.6% reduction in energy use compared to its baseline (energy use in the period 2006 - 2008), according to the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI).

The Council is leading by example by improving its own energy infrastructure. The Council has changed the lights at Dundalk Town Hall to low energy (LED) lights. New solar photo voltaic (pv) panels were installed on the roof of County Hall.

The Council also held a number of energy awareness promotions during 2017, including a presentation to staff entitled 'Energy Conservation in the Home'. By reducing energy at home, it is hoped that staff will continue those practices at work.



Energy Management System

Louth County Council developed an Energy Management System (EnMS) in 2016, which continued in 2017 to more effectively track the Council's energy use.

	Fleet (L/100Km)	Public Lighting (watts/lamp)	Dundalk Town Hall (KWHrs/m2/yr)	County Hall (KWHrs/m2/yr)
Baseline (Dec 2016)	17.89	120.97	131	138
Dec 2017	17.71	119.04	127	136

The above table indicates that the energy use by the Council's significant energy users (Dundalk Town Hall, County Hall, Dundalk, Public Lighting and Fleet) in the 12 months up to December 2017 was less than the energy use for the same energy users for the twelve-month period ending December 2016.

Better Energy Communities

Louth County Council was successful in its application to the SEAI's Better Energy Communities Scheme in 2017 to upgrade more than 120 homes, public buildings, community buildings and commercial buildings across the county. The Council secured funding of €830,975 for these upgrades.

European & Cross Border

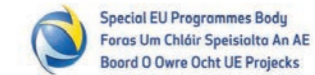
PEACE IV PROGRAMME

The PEACE IV Programme is a unique cross-border initiative, financed through the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) of the European Union and managed by the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB). It has been designed to support peace and reconciliation in Northern Ireland and the Border Region of Ireland.

Louth Peace IV Action Plan received an indicative allocation of 3.5 million in 2016. Of this €2.24 million was allocated in 2017.

Work progressed throughout the year on developing the relevant funded projects particularly in relation to cross community targets.

There was strong promotion of the Peace IV Programme within the community sector in Louth.



FUNDED PROJECTS:

1. ADAPTING AFTERMATH ARCHIVES
2. MUIRHEVNAMOR PEACE PROGRAMME
3. YOUTH ART PEACE BUILDING PROGRAMME
4. CIVIC LEADERSHIP PROJECT
5. ANTI-CLOCKWISE
6. MUIRHEVNAMOR CAPITAL PROJECT
7. DUNDALK WAR MEMORIAL
8. THE CROSSING FIELD, DROGHEDA
9. CREATIVE INTERVENTIONS
10. LEADING THE WAY
11. GOOD RELATIONS INITIATIVE
12. COMMUNITY CAPACITY BUILDING PROJECT
13. SMALL GRANTS PROGRAMME



Zero Energy Plus

The initiative will see three innovative and forward-thinking solutions tested, all with full relevance across the Northern Periphery and Arctic Programme (NPA) region and beyond.

The solutions are:

- Technical guide and manual to support achievement of the requirements of the EPB Directive.
- Technical manual and support toolbox to allow end users devise and implement solutions that go beyond existing requirements and save up to 50% on building energy consumption.
- A decision support tool, designed for the region that allows evidence-based decisions for buildings using a total lifetime analysis using economic, environmental and societal factors with a ratings and standard system.

Carlingford Lough Greenway

Construction work commenced in 2017 on the Omeath to Newry stretch of the Carlingford Lough Greenway. The new cross-border greenway from Carlingford to Newry is due to open in 2020.

The €3.46 million EU funded project is led by Louth County Council, working in collaboration with Newry, Mourne and Down District Council and East Border Region Ltd. The new stretch will build on the already popular Carlingford Marina to Omeath Greenway. Funding for the project is provided by the European Union's INTERREG VA Programme, managed by the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB).

The Carlingford Lough Greenway project aims to 'convert' cross-border car commuters to cycle or walk to work or education on a more regular basis.



Veterinary Services



DOG
CONTROL
AT A
GLANCE

THE POUND TOOK IN **406** DOGS WITH
91% OF THOSE **REHOMED**

5,430 DOG LICENCES WERE ISSUED
WITH **22%** OF THOSE APPLIED FOR &
PROCESSED **ONLINE**

DOG CONTROL WAS
MAINTAINED AT A HIGH
LEVEL WITH **323 FIXED**
PENALTIES ISSUED

HORSE CONTROL

A TOTAL OF **38 HORSES** WERE TAKEN
INTO THE POUND IN **2017**,

while this is a slight increase from 2016, but the
overall trend is still a downwards one from the
peak in 2013 when 145 horses entered
the pound.



3

Housing & Fire Services

Louth County Council's Housing Department works to help the people of Louth to access **comfortable, safe and affordable housing**, while recognising the diverse accommodation needs of the people. This can involve providing accommodation through a variety of schemes, or assisting in the adaptation of existing accommodation through grants schemes. The Council deals with issues of anti-social behaviour, maintenance and maintaining the rent accounts for its 4,000 tenants. The Council's Fire & Rescue Services not only provides emergency services but engages with the community to actively promote fire prevention.

Housing

Louth County Council managed a total social housing stock of 4,020 in 2017, in addition to 1,019 homes with approved housing bodies. Rental income was €11.5million. Four warnings were issued for non-payment of rent and there was one repossession for this reason in 2017. Housing Assistance Payment (HAP) was provided for 1,969 tenancies. At the end of the year, the number of applicants on the housing list stood at 2,343.

NEW HOMES

Some 151 new homes were brought into use by Louth County Council in 2017. This involved the refurbishment of three derelict houses, the purchase of 39 homes, the leasing of 99 homes and bringing 10 abandoned houses back into use.

Three derelict houses at Bothar Brugha, Drogheda were brought back into use in 2017 with the assistance of funding from the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government's *Rebuilding Ireland* Action Plan. Numbers 55-57 Bothar Brugha, which were built in the 1950s, had been boarded up since 1983, after structural issues were discovered. Contractor Bayview Contracts began work on site in March 2017, demolishing the old buildings and replacing them with three new two-bedroom houses. The new builds are A-Rated energy homes and include features such as underfloor heating. The contractor handed over the completed houses in December 2017.



Bothar Brugha Before



Bothar Brugha After

PARTNERSHIP WITH APPROVED HOUSING BODIES TO DELIVER SOCIAL HOUSING

Louth County Council is working with a number of approved housing bodies to provide homes for more than 300 families on the social housing waiting list. Four new housing schemes were commenced in 2017. These comprise Mount Hamilton, Dundalk; Liscorrie, Drogheda; Scarlett Street, Drogheda, and Castleguard, Ardee. Mount Hamilton is a development of 140 houses, 43 of which are for social housing with Clúid Housing Association. Liscorrie is a development of 117 houses, 41 of which will be allocated as social housing with Túath Housing Association. North & East Housing Association is constructing 15 new homes on the Fire Station and car park site at Scarlett Street, Drogheda. In Ardee, Tuath Housing Association is providing 102 homes in Castleguard.

SUPPORTING RESIDENTS OF LOUTH WITH DISABILITY

Louth County Council assisted Council tenants, housing applicants and private householders with a disability to access suitable housing. Accommodation was provided for 55 transfer and housing applicants with a disability. Adaptations to 53 Council houses were carried out to render the homes more suitable for the accommodation of a person with a disability. In addition, Louth County Council managed the provision of Housing Assistance Grants for the elderly and persons with a disability. Some €1.95m in grants was allocated, comprising 102 Housing Adaptation grants, 81 Housing Aid for Older People grants, and 26 Mobility Aid grants. Adaptations included extensions for ground floor bedroom / shower room, bathrooms, provision of stair lifts, access ramps and railings.



HOUSING
AT A
GLANCE



4,020 SOCIAL HOUSING STOCK



€11.5M RENTAL INCOME



26 TRAVELLER FAMILIES
ACCOMMODATED



2,343 ON HOUSING LIST



315 TENANCY INSPECTIONS



151 NEW HOMES
BROUGHT INTO USE



€1.95M GRANT AID PROVIDED
TO ADAPT HOMES FOR DISABLED
ACCESS



229 HOMES ALLOCATED



123 ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR
INCIDENTS INVESTIGATED



238 FIRST INSPECTIONS OF PRIVATE
RENTED ACCOMMODATION



5,978 MAINTENANCE REQUESTS

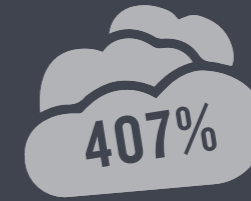
Fire Services

2017 proved to be a busy year for Louth Fire Brigades, which attended a total of 1,257 incidents in Louth and Meath in - an increase of 28 per cent on the previous year. This resulted from a large number of gorse and rubbish fires in the second quarter of the year.

The fire brigade took possession of six second-hand low mileage appliances in 2017 - five water tenders and one emergency tender. Funding for these was provided by the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government and the purchase will ensure high quality frontline and spare fire appliances for Louth Fire Service.

Following the Grenfell Tower fire in London, Louth Fire Prevention Section surveyed all tall buildings in the county to ensure there were no cladding fire safety issues. It also assessed properties of two storeys or more in which Council tenants are accommodated.

There was an increase in the number of Fire Safety Certificate and Disabled Access Certificate applications, which indicate a significant increase in building activity in Louth during 2017.



INCREASE IN GORSE FIRES



**BIN / SKIP
FIRES THE MOST
COMMON INCIDENTS**



**6 FIRE APPLIANCES
PURCHASED**

**1,257
INCIDENTS**



**149 FIRE SAFETY
CERTIFICATE
APPLICATIONS**



**96 DISABLED
ACCESS CERTIFICATE
APPLICATIONS**



**DUNDALK
TRAINING
CENTRE UPGRADE
COMPLETE**

4

Communities

Louth County Council's **Local Community Development Committee** (LCDC) works to promote economic development, cooperation, integration and support among Louth communities. Louth LCDC provides the oversight and governance to community development in County Louth.

MEMBERSHIP OF THE LOCAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE (LCDC) IN 2017

Public Sector	
Louth County Council	Cllr Colm Mackey - Completed his as Chairperson at meeting in Sept 2017
Louth County Council	Cllr Dolores Minogue
Louth County Council	Cllr Pearse McGeough
Louth County Council	Cllr Liam Reilly - Elected as a new Chairperson in Sept 2017
Louth County Council Official	Joan Martin
Louth County Council Official	Thomas McEvoy
Louth Meath ETB	Sadie Ward McDermott
DSP	Anne Keeley
HSE	Fiona Murphy - replaced by Anette McDonnell ratified by LCC July 2017

Private Sector	
Local Development Company	Ciaran Reid
Community & Voluntary Interests	Larry Magnier
Community & Voluntary Interests	Eva Beirne - replaced by Joanne Finnegan ratified by LCC July 2017
Social Inclusion	Kevin Moran
Social Inclusion	Geordie Mc Ateer
Environment	Breffni Martin
Farming	Breda Tuite - replaced by Matthew McGreehan ratified by LCC September 2017
Chamber of Commerce Dundalk	Michael Gaynor
Chamber of Commerce Drogheda	Breannán Casey
ICTU - replaced by Louth Volunteer Centre	Frank O'Brien - replaced by Gráinne Berrill ratified by LCC July 2017

LECP

Louth Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) prepared a six-year local economic and community plan (LECP) in 2016 with actions to tackle poverty and disadvantage; support enterprise, employment and training; develop community infrastructure, and promote economic development. The delivery of actions throughout 2017 has been assisted by various initiatives and events including:

- **FACILITATING THE COMMUNITY YOUTH HUBS IN DUNDALK, ARDEE AND DROGHEDA**
- **THE PPN COMMUNITY AND VOLUNTARY AWARDS NIGHT**
- **CONTINUED COMMUNICATION TO COMMUNITY GROUPS THROUGH THE FRIDAY COMMUNIQUÉ**
- **LEADER AND SICAP PROGRAMMES**
- **COMMUNITY FACILITIES SCHEME AND RECAST (RAPID)**

The oversight of the community elements of the LECP is a statutory role for the LCDC. During 2017 the Advisory Steering Group carried out a review of the progress on the implementation of the Economic and Community elements of the LECP. All Community lead agencies were contacted to provide an update on their actions. The full LECP Progress Report was presented to Louth County Council.

SICAP

2017 was the final year of delivery of the current SICAP Programme 2015 - 2017. The 2017 SICAP Annual Plan set 11 challenging actions across the three key goals of improving community engagement, education and unemployment - in disadvantaged areas. The LCDC established a sub- group to oversee implementation of the SICAP programme and report to the LCDC on the effectiveness of interventions.

Notable achievements during 2017 included:

- Kickstart Programme
- disAbility Louth
- Strengthening Families Programme
- Caring for the Elderly
- Third Level Access Support

The sub-group reported favourably to the LCDC on the implementation of the Plan for 2017 with targets exceeded. Louth LCDC has appointed Louth Leader Partnership as the new programme implementer for SICAP 2018 - 2022.

LEADER

LEADER LOCAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY AND SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENT

Louth LCDC also operates as the Local Action Group (LAG). In 2016, it submitted a Local Development Strategy for funding (circa €6.1 million) under the LEADER elements of Ireland's Rural Development Programme 2014-2020. The strategy has been engineered to identify the best approach for delivering actions that focus on addressing poverty and social exclusion, particularly given the significant economic and social changes that have taken place within the last decade.

Louth County Council is the lead financial partner to the LAG and Louth Leader Partnership will deliver the majority of project and animation-related actions associated with the implementation of the strategy.

The LAG has overseen approval for projects to the value of €220,775.09 under the LEADER programme during 2017. Over 150 expressions of interest were received with 19 contracts issued by the end of the year.

LOUTH PUBLIC PARTICIPATION NETWORK

Louth Public Participation Network is the main link through which Louth County Council connects with environmental, social inclusion, community/voluntary organisations. At year end 2017, 261 groups were registered with Louth PPN.

The PPN undertook the following developments in 2017:

- Capacity building of community groups.
- The PPN communication booklet was produced in 2017.
- The second Louth PPN Community & Voluntary Awards was held in Bellingham Castle in September 2017.
- First Responder/First Aid training was organised in secondary schools for over 400 TY and 5th Year students.

Sports Unit

The Sports Unit developed and managed several programmes during the year as follows:

DUNDALK SPORTS CENTRE

- Redeveloped Dundalk Sports Centre opened in January 2017.
- Dundalk Sports Centre was awarded a Cara National Inclusion Award for its *Inclusibility Camps* summer camp programme.

SPORTS DEVELOPMENT

Louth County Council secured €92,500 through the Sport Capital Programme towards the development of a municipal athletics facility in Dundalk.

LOCAL SPORTS PARTNERSHIP

- The Louth Local Sports Partnership rolled out programmes during 2017 for National Bike Week, National Recreational Week, National Play Day, Active School Week, European Week of Sport, Fit 4 All Week and others.
- The Transition Year Triathlon took place in May 2017 at St. Mary's Drumcar. Over 130 students from seven schools participated.
- 15 sports clubs throughout the county received support through the (LLSP) Small Club Grant Scheme.
- Three 'Sports Leadership' programmes were run during 2017 with 60 TY students trained as assistant leaders.
- 255 people were trained in child safe-guarding at 22 courses across the county.
- The LLSP Sports Inclusion Disability Programme rolled out 17 initiatives in 2017 providing opportunities for children and adults with physical and learning disabilities to participate in a wide range of sports and activities.
- LLSP received funding through dormant accounts to establish a Sport & Physical Activity Hub in Muirhevnamor Dundalk.
- Strategic Plan for Louth Local Sports Partnership for 2018 - 2022 developed and published.



Community Support 2017

NATIONAL TIDY TOWNS

Louth has an excellent record of achieving success and recognition at the National Tidy Towns competition. In 2017, all Louth entrants increased their marks from the previous year. Gold Medals were awarded to Blackrock, Drogheda, Dundalk and Tallanstown. Ardee was awarded a Silver Medal and Knockbridge received a Bronze Medal. There were also a number of special category award winners with Stabannon winning the 'Gum Litter Taskforce Award' and Dunleer receiving the 'Tree Project Award'. Carlingford won the 'Waste Prevention Award', while Blackrock were runners up in the 'Sustainable Development Award'.

LOUTH LOOKING GOOD AWARDS

The Louth Looking Good Awards took place on Thursday 9th November 2017. Blackrock Tidy Towns were named the overall winners, with Tallanstown and Dromiskin coming second and third respectively. The award for the 'Most Improved Town' went to Ardee, with the 'Special Adjudicators Prize' awarded to Dunleer. Clos na Manach estate in Carlingford won 'Best Overall Housing Estate' in Louth.

DROGHEDA LOOKING GOOD AWARDS

The Drogheda Looking Good Awards were held on Thursday 12th October in the 'D Hotel' Drogheda. The Awards are an annual celebration of dedication and community spirit among residents' groups, volunteers and the business community in Drogheda. Two special awards were given this year, the first being for 'Outstanding Contribution to Drogheda's Heritage' which was given to the Old Abbey in recognition of its transformation. A 'Special Award for Exceptional Community Involvement' went to Moneymore for their outstanding entry in the All Ireland 'Pride of Place' competition.

DUNDALK LOOKING GOOD AWARDS

The Dundalk Looking Good Awards took place on Thursday, 19th October in the Táin Theatre, Dundalk. The Awards are one of the highlights of the Council's calendar in Dundalk and are a fitting event to reward all those who work tirelessly to make Dundalk look its best. A number of awards were given out to representatives of local estates including Carroll Mead, Oldbridge and Ath Leathan. The 'Most Improved Estate' category went to Mullaharlin Park while Quinn's Funeral Home was named 'Best Business Premises'.

GREEN SCHOOLS PROGRAMME

Fifteen schools in Louth were awarded green flags in 2017 for activities focused on themes including biodiversity, travel, energy and water.

'GROW' ENVIRONMENTAL AWARDS FOR PRIMARY SCHOOLS

These awards are an acronym for 'Green', 'Renewable', 'Organic' and 'Waste Minimisation' and aim to reward local schools for their great efforts to make their environment cleaner, greener and more sustainable. The awards were held on 15th June in the Crowne Plaza Hotel. Recipients included St. Finian's N.S. in Dillonstown who won the prestigious 'School of the Year' award while the award for the 'Best Special Project' went to Monastery N.S. in Ardee for their topical electrical waste.

TRASHION FASHION

Over 180 students across Louth took part in the fifth annual Trashion Fashion Awards in January 2017, with 55 designs on display. Run in conjunction with Louth Tidy Towns Together, the awards provide a platform for second level students to showcase their sustainable fashion creations.

GREENER CHRISTMAS POETRY COMPETITION

The Greener Christmas Poetry Competition is local primary schools' competition that not only creates awareness of unnecessary waste over the holiday season, but also records the children's winning entries as waste prevention advertisements over the Christmas season. Scoil Mhuire na Trócaire were the overall winners of the 2017 competition.

CLÁR

The Clár programme supports interventions that make the school/community facility environs healthier and safer for the children attending the schools, and for children and adults using the community facilities. Seven Schools were approved funding of €205,175 in 2017. The programme also provides support for the enhancement of existing and/or the development of new School/Community Play areas. Funding of €40,694 was approved for three projects in 2017.

BLUE FLAG

Louth retained three Blue Flags in 2017 for the beaches at Clogherhead, Port and Templetown. The Blue Flag is one of the world's most recognised eco-labels. The award is presented to beaches and marinas which have excellent water quality and which achieve high standards across a wide range of other criteria including environmental education, management of the environment, water quality and safety.

PRIDE OF PLACE

The Pride of Place All-Island Awards acknowledge the achievements and invaluable work undertaken by volunteers and those involved in local community development.

Louth has a strong record in the competition. At the 2017 Awards, the Maria Goretti Foundation, based in Dundalk, was named the national winner in the 'Community Reaching Out' category.

TOWN & VILLAGE RENEWAL SCHEME

Eight community projects were successfully completed at locations throughout Louth in 2017 with funding received under the Town & Village Renewal Scheme. The scheme was set up to revitalise towns and villages in order to improve the living and working environment of their communities. A total of €380,000 was received in funding under the scheme.

LOUTH AGE FRIENDLY

Louth's Age Friendly County Alliance spearheaded a number of important initiatives in the county throughout 2017 with all agencies working together to promote and maintain the best possible health and well-being of older people, and to make the County itself a great place to grow old in. Highlights from the year included:

- The signing of an MOU between DkIT and their partners in age-friendly community services (Louth County Council and the HSE), with ALONE, the national organisation working to help older people live longer at home. Under the MoU, the operation of several volunteer-based services developed by DkIT was taken on by ALONE in a transfer of undertakings. Under this new arrangement, these services will continue to develop and expand, enhancing their sustainability and further growth locally, regionally and nationally.
- Dunleer Community Development Board's Energy Ambassadors Programme. It is aimed at training people to be more energy efficient allowing people to address fuel poverty and remain safe and secure in their own homes.

COMHAIRLE NA NÓG

Louth Comhairle na nÓg worked on a mental health awareness project in 2017 that led to the production of booklet entitled "Breathe" which contains information on young people's mental health and what to do if you notice a problem with your mental health. The Comhairle also produced a report looking at the impacts of Brexit on young people in the border region which they presented to MEPs in Brussels in October 2017. The report contains a series of recommendations on education, transport, young people's rights and employment.

**HEALTHY IRELAND FUND**

Louth Local Community Development Committee made a funding proposal to the Department of Health in 2017 under the Healthy Ireland Fund Programme. The following are the partners in the proposal:

Project	Project Lead	Allocation
Healthy Louth	LCC for LCDC	€20,000
Towards a Healthy Louth Monitoring System	DkIT, Netwell CASALA for LCDC	€20,000
Youth Health Project	Dundalk Youth Centre for LCDC	€25,000
Pilates for Older People	Connect Family Resource Centre for LCDC	€10,600
Membership of Healthy Cities & Countys Network Ireland	LLP for LCDC	€2,500
Kick Start Fitness & Wellbeing course	LLP for LCDC	€15,000
Healthy Lifestyle Classes	ALONE for LCDC	€5,000



250,409 VISITS TO LIBRARY
BRANCHES 5% INCREASE ON 2016



414,836 ITEMS ISSUES
13% INCREASE ON 2016

229 EVENTS HELD ACROSS 5 BRANCHES

12,372 LIBRARY MEMBERS, 18% INCREASE ON 2016

805 COMMUNITY VISITS BY MOBILE LIBRARY SERVICE



134 SCHOOL LIBRARY VISITS

Libraries, Archives & Museum Services

RIGHT TO READ LITERACY PROGRAMME

The Right to Read Literacy Programme is a national framework of support for literacy work in each local authority. Highlights of Louth's programme included:

'Spring into Storytime'

More than 185 children and 89 adults participated in nine story-time sessions held in Louth Libraries as part of this national story-time initiative to celebrate the importance of families reading together and sharing stories.

Summer Stars Reading Programme

1,120 children registered and took part in 18 events aimed at encouraging children to continue reading over the summer.

Library Deis Schools Literacy & Numeracy Camps

Dundalk and Drogheda libraries delivered a range of fun activities for children participating in Deis Schools Literacy & Numeracy Summer Camps.

Children's Book Festival

Louth Libraries hosted a number of collaborative events to promote reader development and literacy during the Children's Book Festival in October 2017 with a programme of author visits, storytelling and arts workshops. A highlight was Drogheda Library's collaboration with Droichead Arts Centre to deliver children's events including storytelling sessions and puppet shows each Saturday during October 2017.

Adult Literacy Initiatives

Dundalk Library hosted 'English Language for Employment and Self Employment' for non-English speakers where participants focused on compiling CVs, filling in job applications, interview skills and mock interviews. An 'English for Speakers of Other Languages' (ESOL) course in association with LMETB was held in Drogheda Library.



WORK MATTERS

The 'Work Matters at the library' initiative supports business, enterprise and employment in the local community, by supporting individuals to gain employment, change career or start improve their own business. The initiative's resources include dedicated work spaces in three libraries, free WiFi, Laptop / PC use, a variety of related books and information, a jobs board and a Work Matters Programme of events, talks and workshops. During 2017 the initiative was as rolled out from its initial location in Dundalk to both Ardee and Drogheda libraries underpinned by capital grant aid. As part of this initiative, each Work Matters unit provides business and employment related information supports and resources, events and services, free WiFi, a designated workstation with computer, printing and photocopying services.

EUROPE DIRECT INFORMATION CENTRE AT DUNDALK LIBRARY

Highlights of Europe Direct Information Centre (EDIC) Programme 2017 included:

- Social media training to boost business for local traders in Dundalk & Drogheda.
- Agrikids workshops for children on the importance of farm safety and issues around biodiversity.
- EDIC Participation in large-scale events such as the Business Expo in Marshes Shopping Centre, and the County Louth Agricultural Show.
- The Annual Soapbox Competition on the theme of 'Brexit: Ireland's Opportunity' was held in Dundalk Library. The winner, Leah O'Shaughnessy (unde18s) from St. Vincent's Secondary School, went on to win the National Soapbox final in the Royal Hospital Kilmainham in November 2017.

HEALTHY IRELAND AT YOUR LIBRARY

The 'Healthy Ireland at Your Library' Department of Health initiative was rolled out in Louth Libraries during Q3 2017 to provide a range of resources, services and supports to users and communities aimed at promoting the local library as one of the 'go to' centres around health and wellbeing. Each library in Louth offers access to an improved core collection of health and wellbeing books, e-resources and a programme of health-related events supporting six key health related areas: healthy childhood, Healthy Eating and Active Living (HEAL), wellbeing and mental health, positive ageing, alcohol and tobacco. Library staff received additional training to ensure the public receive relevant health and wellbeing information on request in any of Louth's five libraries.



LIFELONG LEARNING

Pathways, Communities Accessing Local Education, delivered a 14-week programme in Dundalk and Drogheda Libraries in conjunction with Dundalk Institute of Technology (DkIT) and Louth Leader Partnership during the year. The programme aimed to take the fear out of entering into third level education and gave participants an insight into education opportunities.

OÍCHE CHULTÚIR / CULTURE NIGHT

Dundalk Library hosted renowned storyteller Jack Lynch who engaged a large audience in Ireland's rich oral tradition that combined folkloric elements with ancient Irish myths. Following on the audience participated in a traditional Irish music and dance session. The event funded by Oireachtas na Gaeilge.

LOUTH COUNTY ARCHIVES SERVICE

The mission statement of Louth County Archives reads "the identification, preservation and availability of the valuable public and private archives of County Louth." To date the Service has substantial holdings in the region of 260,000 individual items. These were gratefully enhanced in 2017 with the accessions of a group of family papers, a local Óglaigh na hÉireann permit to travel item, two 1916-2016 commemorative relatives' medals and the working papers of the Louth Field Names Project.

Some of the collections catalogued in 2017 included papers of several County Louth priests from the early 20th century; Saorstát na hÉireann documents and 'Dundalk: A Military History' research material.

COUNTY MUSEUM, DUNDALK

'One Team, One Dream' an exhibition celebrating the achievements and, indeed, resilience of one of Ireland's most successful soccer clubs - Dundalk FC opened in September 2017 at County Museum, Dundalk, it will run until June 2018. The exhibition featured a wealth of artefacts highlighting not only the history of the club, but also the changing nature of the game in Ireland. Highlights included:

- The goalkeeping jersey worn by Charlie Tizard for the League of Ireland XI in a game against the Irish League in 1939.
- A set of medals won by Jimmy McArdle including a winning minor All-Ireland medal with Louth from 1936 and an FAI Cup medal with Dundalk from 1941/2.
- Tommy McConville's Irish jersey.
- A wall of fame featuring the club's greatest players.

The theme of identity and place was a recurring feature of the Museum year with the launch of a joint project with the Dundalk Tidy Town's Committee. Entitled 'Forgotten Heroes', this outdoor banner exhibition featured photographs of 12 Dundalk citizens who achieved global renown in pursuits as varied as writing, sport, exploration and engineering and yet have been largely omitted from the pages of history.

The Museum continued to host a varied calendar of cultural events including lectures; art exhibitions; walking tours of Dundalk; schools' programme including guided tours of the Museum, classes on how to maintain your collection and more.



5

Operations, Local Services & Water Services

Louth County Council Operations and Local Service Section manages many of **the most visible services** provided by the Council, including road maintenance and improvements, maintenance of our award winning public parks and playgrounds, harbours and piers and the upkeep of a number of cemeteries across the county. Other services delivered by the section are the litter warden service, bottle bank and recycling services, traffic management, pay parking services, casual trading in the county, street sweeping and public litter bin services.



ROAD SAFETY PLAN **2017-2020** LAUNCHED

145K PROVIDED FOR
**COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT
SCHEMES** FOR MAINTENANCE
WORKS **ON LOCAL
TERTIARY ROADS**



**28 SCHOOL
CROSSINGS** MANNED BY
SCHOOL TRAFFIC WARDENS



170K PROVIDED FOR
SAFETY IMPROVEMENT WORKS ON ROADS
AND JUNCTIONS ACROSS THE COUNTRY



50 RESTORATION
IMPROVEMENT SCHEMES
AND **MAINTENANCE
PROGRAMMES** COVERING
MORE THAN **70KM**



2,633 TONNES OF **SALT**
USED TO **GRIT ROADS**

250K PROVIDED FOR
LOCAL INVOLVEMENT SCHEMES
FOR MAINTENANCE WORKS **ON
PRIVATE RURAL ROADS**



Water Services

Louth County Council manages water supply to 48,600 homes and businesses across the county on behalf of Irish Water.

As part of Louth County Council's agreement with Irish Water, the Council is also responsible for waste water treatment. Significant capital investment was made into the county's water infrastructure in 2017. This included the replacement of watermains in Dundalk and Drogheda, the upgrade of Cavan Hill and Staleen Water Treatment Plants, the upgrade of Ardee Wastewater Treatment Plant and the construction of Omeath Wastewater Treatment Plant.

WATER SERVICES AT A GLANCE



AVERAGE 39 MILLION LITRES OF WATER DISTRIBUTED DAILY



1,444 CUSTOMER QUERIES/ COMPLAINTS DEALT WITH ANNUALLY

APPROXIMATELY 700 MAINS REPAIRS COMPLETED PER ANNUM



134 CONNECTION APPLICATIONS IN 2017



3,892 INVESTIGATIVE OR REPAIR WORK REQUESTS COMPLETED BY WATER SERVICES CREWS

Recycling & Litter Management

Louth County Council is responsible for waste management in the county and provides recycling bin collections to 80 per cent of households in Louth. It is also responsible for two Civic Amenity Centres, in Dundalk and Drogheda, as well as bottle banks throughout the county.

Some 1,830 litter management investigations were launched in 2017, an increase of 8.5 per cent on the previous year. These resulted in 450 fines being issued, with 53% of fines being paid. There was a decrease of 6% in the number of appeals lodged, while referrals for legal proceedings were up by 17%.

WASTE MANAGEMENT AT A GLANCE



5,800 TONNES OF WASTE RECYCLED



37 BOTTLE BANKS ACROSS THE COUNTY



450 LITTER MANAGEMENT FINES ISSUED

1,8370 LITTER MANAGEMENT INVESTIGATIONS

126 ABANDONED CAR COMPLAINTS

111 EVENT APPLICATIONS



925 ROAD OPENING LICENSE APPLICATIONS



131 PUBLIC LIABILITY CLAIMS



Parks & Open Spaces

Louth County Council's Parks and Open Spaces team had a very busy year. The team continued with its intensive maintenance programme in respect of grass cutting, tree maintenance, and other landscaping related work. It planted a total of 500 trees in locations throughout the county. Meanwhile, a programme for the treatment and control of Japanese knot weed saw a total of 2,500m² treated across Louth. The team assisted with the planning and development of the Princess Grace Rose Garden in Drogheda.



Louth County Council was also awarded with four Green Flag accolades for parks in the county in 2017. This prestigious award is a benchmark for excellence in park management and is based on international best practice. The Green Flag parks are Blackrock Park, Blackrock; St Helena Park, Dundalk; St Dominic's Park, Drogheda, and Ice House Hill Park, Dundalk. This is the highest number of green flags awarded to one county outside of Dublin.



6

Economic Development, Planning & Infrastructure

Louth Economic Development Unit supports the co-ordinated economic development of the county by planning for, initiating and managing projects that contribute positively to its ongoing economic development. The unit encompasses the LEO, tourist service, arts service (CreateLouth), heritage, planning and conservation works. It is involved in the marketing and promotion of the Council as a business-friendly location and engages in strategic economic planning which informs Louth County Council's policy decisions.

Local Enterprise Office (LEO)

LEO Louth's role is to drive the development of local enterprise, putting local micro and small business at the heart of job creation. It supports business start-ups and works to increase the job potential of new and existing micro and small businesses with information, advice, training, mentoring, seminars and selective financial support. The LEO delivers a service level agreement to Enterprise Ireland.

LEO Louth's activities are segmented into **four pillars:**

1. Business Information & Advisory Services, including the provision of a First Stop Shop for all SMEs to access State supports.
2. Enterprise Support Services, in order to maximise business potential and to collaborate more closely with Enterprise Ireland.
3. Entrepreneurship Support Services, by promoting a best practice enterprise culture.
4. Local Economic Development Services, leveraging the range of local authority services and supports to business and enhancing the economic environment to facilitate ease of doing business in County Louth.

Part of LEO Louth's vision is to act as the catalyst and advocate for the establishment of a best practice enterprise culture among start-ups, micro and small businesses while also promoting enterprise and self-employment as a viable career option among the wider population. In 2017 this objective was implemented through a wide range of programmes, supports and activities, including, for example Start Your Own Business training, mentoring supports and assistance to Enterprise Centres.

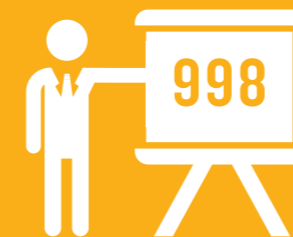
A sample of LEO Louth initiatives in 2017:

- The continued development of the Louth/Meath Food Strategy.
- The roll-out of the LEAN for Microprogramme.
- Progressing a new management development programme for early stage companies to accelerate sales in newmarkets.
- Project managing two EU Erasmus funded programmes, SHIP - the Innovation Alliance and REAL, the Employment Alliance, aimed at promoting linkages between 3rd level institutes and business, and commencing a third EU funded programme, aimed at preparing SMEs at the Ageing market opportunity.



261 INDIVIDUALS RECEIVED ONE-TO-ONE MENTORING

118 NEW JOBS CREATED



998 PEOPLE ATTENDED BUSINESS TRAINING PROGRAMMES, SEMINARS & NETWORKING EVENTS

1,160 STUDENTS PARTICIPATED IN THE SCHOOLS ENTREPRENEURSHIP PROGRAMME



LEO Louth administers the Trading Online Vouchers Programme on behalf of the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment to support businesses to engage in e-commerce sales. A total of 55 applications were approved in 2016.

LEO Louth also works in partnership with Microfinance Ireland (MFI) to deliver the Government's Microenterprise Loan Fund. Nine Microfinance Ireland applications were submitted to LEO Louth in 2017.

Louth County Council, through the LEO, provides the secretariat for the Regional Action Plan for Jobs, North East/North West, 2015-2017-the outputs of which will be reported in 2018.



BOYNE VALLEY FOOD STRATEGY

As part of the development of a wider local economic plan, Louth County Council, working in partnership with Meath County Council, identified the need for a Food Strategy for the region. The joint vision for the Strategy is for the Boyne Valley region to be recognised as a leading national food and craft drinks destination, and to be the stand out food region within Ireland's Ancient East. A Food Development Officer was appointed in 2017 whose role is drive the implementation of the Strategy and act as a conduit for action, support activity in the food sector in both counties.

LOUTH ECONOMIC FORUM

The Louth Economic Forum launched its Tourism & Heritage Action Plan in March 2017. The plan aims to position Louth as a leading sustainable tourism destination by harnessing the potential offered by its unique location within Ireland's Ancient East, as the hub for the Boyne Valley and the Cooley, Mourne and Gullion Regions.

Louth Economic Forum undertook a review of its Education and Training Action Plan in 2017. Amendments were made and approved by the Economic Development & Enterprise Support Strategic Policy Committee in December. Its implementation group aims to ensure that the education and training sector addresses the changing needs of business and enterprise within the county in an informed, coordinated and responsive manner.



Tourism

LOUTH DIASPORA STRATEGY

In April 2017 Louth County Council produced the Louth Diaspora Strategy which aims to contribute to the Government's strategy and policy set out in *Global Irish - Ireland's Diaspora Policy* (2015). As well as contributing to this national initiative, the Louth Diaspora Strategy will help to develop the opportunities for job creation, investment, and cultural and social development that have been identified by the Council in various strategies and plans for the county.

RETAIL INCENTIVES

In 2016 Louth County Council launched the 'Shop Front Improvement Grant Scheme', as part of their suite of Business Incentives. Due to the popularity of these grants the local authority decided to extend the initiative throughout 2017. A total of 13 Shop front Improvement Grants were paid out in 2017.

Tourism plays a key role in contributing to Louth's economic development. Louth County Council continued its work with Fáilte Ireland throughout 2017 on Ireland's Ancient East branding. Signage was installed on national and regional roads traversing the County boundary.

A major re-design and upgrade of both the Drogheda.ie and VisitLouth.ie websites were undertaken during the year, to incorporate the new IAE branding. A new VisitLouth brochure was also designed and launched in 2017.

FESTIVALS

The extremely popular Irish Maritime Festival, delivered in partnership with Drogheda Port, took place again in 2017 on Drogheda Port. Now an established festival in the national events calendar, it drew huge numbers of visitors into the region.

The Dundalk "Frostival" Festival, and St. Patrick's Day Festivals at Dundalk, Drogheda and Ardee continue to be supported and funded by Louth County Council. In 2017 Louth County Council launched its Festival and Events grant scheme. The key objective of the scheme is to provide support to local and community event organisers that will benefit local economy and community tourism. A total of 23 applicants were successful in securing funding under the 2017 call.

Planning

PLANNING
AT A
GLANCE



970 PLANNING
APPLICATIONS RECEIVED

70 NEW BUILDINGS
INSPECTED



213 ENFORCEMENT CASES
RESOLVED/CLOSED



Conservation

Louth County Council's Conservation Service provides continuing input into the protection of County Louth's Architectural Heritage, in accordance with the Development Plan. The Council provides advice and guidance to the public and groups on the legislative requirements in relation to protected structures, architectural conservation areas and monuments.

STRUCTURES AT RISK FUND 2017

Under the Structures at Risk Scheme 2017, funding of €59,000 was secured for two conservation projects at Whitemills, Stabannon, Ardee, Co Louth and at Rathescarr House Dunleer, Co Louth respectively.



BUILT HERITAGE INVESTMENT SCHEME 2017

Nine projects successfully applied for and received funding for conservation grants under the Built Heritage Investment Scheme 2017. The projects were part funded by the Built Heritage Investment Scheme 2017 in association with the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, and administered by Louth County Council.

The projects ranged from restoration and reinforcement of a Georgian staircase in a privately-owned residence, to the restoration of a garden pavilion at Beaulieu House, a grand house and demesne of national importance.

Projects	Funding Allocated
14-15 Francis Street, Dundalk, Co. Louth	€10,000.00
St. Nicholas Church, Church Street, Dundalk	€10,000.00
Beaulieu House, Drogheda, Co. Louth	€10,000.00
3 St Peter's, The Alleys, Drogheda, Co Louth	€10,000.00
4 St Peter's, The Alleys, Drogheda, Co Louth	€10,000.00
No. 3 St Mary's Road, Dundalk, Co Louth	€2,000.00
Whitemills, Stabannon, Ardee, Co Louth	€6,600.00
Carstown House, Carstown, Termonfeckin, Co Louth	€8,573.50
Old Coach Road, Dunleer. Co Louth	€5,904.00
	€73,077.50

Arts

CreateLouth, the Arts Service of Louth County Council, delivered a range of actions in 2017, all aligned to the Service's five major work areas - Developmental and Community Arts, Grants and Awards, Information and Advice, Artistic Programming, and Representation and Planning. Examples of work in these areas include the following:

DEVELOPMENT & COMMUNITY

Medical Notes: this innovative Arts-in-Health project saw specifically trained community musicians perform for patients in Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital, Drogheda. Kids Classics is Ireland's premier Music and Health organisation, and in a unique collaboration with the management and medical staff of the hospital, commissioned by CreateLouth, patients in a range of wards and settings enjoyed performances which enhanced wellbeing and calmness.

INFORMATION & ADVICE

www.createlouth.ie: This website is the hub for events, opportunities, projects and resources for the arts in Louth. Updated daily, createlouth.ie also houses all information on Taisce Lú, the art collection of Louth County Council, through an interactive database.

GRANTS & AWARDS

Drama League of Ireland Summer School Award: CreateLouth makes available a range of bursaries and awards to individuals and organisations throughout the county each year. One of these is the DLI Summer School Award, which sees recipients attend a week-long course at the University of Limerick. The course subjects include stage lighting, directing, sound production and script-writing, and the Award provides an opportunity for citizens to up-skill

personally, as well as bringing their learning back to the drama group or musical society for the benefit of others.

ARTISTIC PROGRAMMING

Oriel and the Western Isles: When Louth-based musicians Zoe Conway and John McIntyre performed at the National Concert Hall in September 2017, with Scottish duo Julie Fowles and Eamonn Doorley, it was the culmination of a two-year long collaboration in song-writing and composition. The project looked at the shared links between Oriel and the Western Isles of Scotland, and set poetry from the two areas to new music written specially for the composition. The collaboration had its first outing on the stage of the NCH. It was supported by CreateLouth.

REPRESENTATION & PLANNING

Creative Ireland: The County Arts Officer was appointed Creative Ireland Co-ordinator for Louth in January 2017, and immediately set about organising a range of activities in line with the national programme of Creative Ireland. A County Culture Team was put together, and an inaugural Culture and Creativity Plan was launched. This saw support made available to projects throughout the county, in areas such as architectural conservation, community participation, drama, visual arts, and Cruinniú na Cásca, a free day of culture, food, craft and heritage at Mellifont Abbey.



7

Appendices

Financial Statements

Performance Indicators

Conference Attendance Record

Payments to Members for Meetings,
Committees & Representation

Corporate Plan 2014 - 2019
(Progress Report)

Appendices

Statement of comprehensive income (income & expenditure account statement) for year ending 31st December 2017

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 16 allocates transfers by service division in the same format as Table A of the adopted Local Authority budget.

EXPENDITURE BY DIVISION

	Gross Expenditure 2017 €	Income 2017 €	Net Expenditure 2017 €	Net Expenditure 2017 €
Housing & Building	25,085,828	23,980,548	1,105,280	1,551,553
Roads Transportation & Safety	19,378,282	10,556,269	8,822,013	8,406,224
Water Services	6,330,430	6,434,815	(104,384)	(457,861)
Development Management	10,765,150	5,643,619	5,121,531	5,024,784
Environmental Services	14,994,125	1,826,228	13,167,897	11,746,420
Recreation & Amenity	7,640,304	880,677	6,759,627	6,667,846
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	1,000,952	455,103	545,849	618,642
Miscellaneous Services	11,380,398	5,445,873	5,934,526	8,329,321
Total Expenditure/Income -15	96,575,469	55,223,132		
Net cost of Divisions to be funded from Rates & Local Property Tax			41,352,337	41,886,930
Rates			31,806,290	32,111,075
Local Property Tax			9,866,198	8,106,153
Pension Related Deduction			-	1,131,640
Surplus/(Deficit) for Year before			320,151	(538,062)
Transfers from (to) Reserve -14			75,443	3,048,949
Overall Surplus/(Deficit) for Year			395,594	2,510,887
General Reserve at 1st January 2017			0	(2,510,887)
General Reserve at 31st December 2017			395,594	0

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
 (BALANCE SHEET) AT 31ST DECEMBER 2017

	Notes	2017 €	2016 €
Fixed Assets	1		
Operational		687,286,565	681,562,713
Infrastructural		1,355,364,519	1,355,364,519
Community		4,351,176	4,409,170
Non-Operational		50,035,497	50,035,497
		2,097,037,757	2,091,371,900
Work in Progress and Preliminary Expenses	2	18,040,677	17,585,658
Long Term Debtors	3	80,890,123	78,489,958
Current Assets			
Stocks	4	-	-
Trade Debtors & Prepayments	5	28,993,209	25,896,405
Bank Investments		29,425,054	32,378,740
Cash at Bank		5,034,666	2,137,888
Cash in Transit		321,870	405,306
		63,774,798	60,818,339
Current Liabilities (Amounts falling due within one year)			
Bank Overdraft		-	-
Creditors & Accruals	6	25,052,365	24,244,632
Finance Leases		-	-
		25,052,365	24,244,632
Net Current Assets / (Liabilities)		38,722,433	36,573,707
Creditors (Amounts falling due after more than one year)			
Loans Payable	7	147,826,980	151,892,259
Finance Leases		-	-
Refundable deposits	8	13,505,951	13,232,337
Other		14,352,456	10,424,527
		175,685,388	175,549,123
Net Assets / (Liabilities)		2,059,005,604	2,048,472,101
Represented by			
Capitalisation Account	9	2,097,037,757	2,091,371,900
Income WIP	2	16,556,763	16,596,757
Specific Revenue Reserve		469,071	469,071
General Revenue Reserve		395,594	0
Other Balances	10	(55,453,582)	(59,965,627)
Total Reserves		2,059,005,604	2,048,472,101

SUMMARY OF MAJOR REVENUE
COLLECTIONS FOR 2017 (€)

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K
Debtor Type	Incoming Arrears at 01/01/17	Accrued-Current year debit (Gross)	Vacant Property Adjustments	Write-Offs	Waivers	Total for collection (B+C-D-E-F)	Amount Collected	Closing arrears at 31/12/2017 (G-H)	Specific Doubtful arrears*	% Collected =(H)/(G-J)
Rates	14,748,867	31,809,951	3,936,050	1,434,329	-	41,188,439	28,683,739	12,504,700	2,995,501	75%
Rates & Annuities	4,379,780	12,260,123	-	30,180	-	16,609,723	11,519,843	5,089,880		69%
Housing Loans	352,009	1,090,665	-	(10)	-	1,442,685	1,080,646	362,039		75%

*Specific doubtful arrears = (i) Vacancy applications pending/criteria not met & (ii) Accounts in examinership/receivership/liquidation and no communication regarding likely outcome

Performance Indicators

TOPIC	INDICATOR	VALUE
Housing: H1: Social Housing Stock	A. No. of dwellings in the ownership of the LA at 1/1/2017	3,745
	B. No. of dwellings added to the LA owned stock during 2017 (whether constructed or acquired)	41
	C. No. of LA owned dwellings sold in 2017	5
	D. No. of LA owned dwellings demolished in 2017	0
	E. No. of dwellings in the ownership of the LA at 31/12/2017	3,781
	F. No. of LA owned dwellings planned for demolition under a DHPLG approved scheme	0
Housing: H2: Housing Vacancies	A. The percentage of the total number of LA owned dwellings that were vacant on 31/12/2017	1.53 %
	The number of dwellings within their overall stock that were not tenanted on 31/12/2017	58
Housing: H4: Housing Maintenance Cost	A. Expenditure during 2017 on the repair and maintenance of housing bought or built by the LA compiled on a continuous basis from 1 January 2017 to 31 December 2017, divided by the no. of directly provided dwellings in the LA stock at 31/12/2017, i.e. the H1E less H1F indicator figure	€1,632.82
	Expenditure on repair and maintenance of LA stock compiled on a continuous basis from 1 January 2017 to 31 December 2017, including planned maintenance expenditure but excluding expenditure under approved major refurbishment schemes	€6,173,684.00

TOPIC	INDICATOR	VALUE
Housing: H3: Average Re-letting Time and Cost	A. The time taken from the date of vacation of a dwelling to the date in 2017 when a new tenancy had commenced in the dwelling, averaged across all dwellings re-let during 2017:	17.12 wk
	B. The cost expended on getting the dwellings re-tenanted in 2017 ready for re-letting, averaged across all dwellings re-let in 2017:	€15,072.84
	The number of dwellings that were re-tenanted on any date in 2017 (but excluding all those that had been vacant due to an estate-wide refurbishment scheme):	90.00
	The number of weeks from when the previous tenant vacated the dwelling (i.e. the earliest of any vacation date notified to the authority, the date the keys were returned by the previous tenant or the last date covered by a rent payment) up to the date of the new tenant's first rent debit, with any partial week decimalised to two decimal places, totalled for all dwellings included above:	1,540.43 wk
	Total expenditure on repairs necessary to enable re-letting of the dwellings included above:	€1,356,556.00
	Housing: H5: Private Rented Sector Inspections	A. Total number of registered tenancies in the LA area at end June 2017:
	B. Number of rented dwellings inspected in 2017:	223
	C. Percentage of inspected dwellings in 2017 that were found not to be compliant with the Standards Regulations:	93.27 %
	D. Number of non-compliant dwellings that became compliant during 2017:	15
	The number of dwellings inspected in 2017 that were found not to be compliant with the Housing (Standards for Rented Houses) Regulations:	208

TOPIC	INDICATOR	VALUE
Housing: H6: Long-Term Homeless Adults	A. Number of adult individuals in emergency accommodation that are long-term homeless as a % of the total number of homeless adult individuals in emergency accommodation at the end of 2017:	40.79 %
	The number of adult individuals classified as homeless and in emergency accommodation on the night of 31 December 2017 as recorded on the PASS system:	152
	The number out of those individuals who, on 31/12/2017, had been in emergency accommodation for 6 months continuously, or for 6 months cumulatively within the previous 12 months:	62

TOPIC	INDICATOR	VALUE
Corporate: C1: Total Number of WTEs	A. The wholetime equivalent staffing number as at 31 December 2017:	631.85
Corporate: C2: Working Days lost to Sickness	A. Percentage of paid working days lost to sickness absence through medically certified leave in 2017:	4.04 %
	B. Percentage of paid working days lost to sickness absence through self-certified leave in 2017:	0.48 %
	Refer to the Organisational Lost Time Rate Methodology in the LGMSB Attendance Management guideline document:	LGMSB Attendance Management Guideline
	Total Number of working days lost to sickness absence through medically certified leave in 2017:	6,208.00 day
	Total Number of working days lost to sickness absence through self-certified leave in 2017:	715.00 day
	Number of unpaid working days lost to sickness absence included within the total of medically certified sick leave days in 2017:	417.00 day
	Number of unpaid working days lost to sickness absence included within the total of self-certified sick leave days in 2017:	20.00 day
If any staff are on long-term sick leave (i.e. a continuous period of more than 4 weeks), include a text note of the number of staff on long-term sick leave:	63	
Corporate: C4: Overall cost of ICT provision per WTE	A. All ICT expenditure in the period from 1/1/2017 to 31/12/2017,	€2,962.45
	A. All ICT expenditure in the period from 1/1/2017 to 31/12/2017, divided by the WTE no.:	€2,962.45
	Total revenue expenditure on Account Elements:	€1,871,826.00

TOPIC	INDICATOR	VALUE
Corporate: C1: LA website and social media usage	A. Total page views of the local authority's websites in 2017:	1,120,291
	B. Total number of followers at end 2017 of the LA's social media accounts:	8,286
	The number of social media accounts operated by the local authority:	18

TOPIC	INDICATOR	VALUE
Environment: E1: Households with access to a 3 bin service	A. The number of households, based on the 2016 Census, who are situated in an area covered by a licensed operator providing a 3 bin service at 31/12/2017:	16,553
	B. The % of households within the local authority (also as per the 2016 Census) that the number at A represents:	36.49 %
Environmental Pollution: E2: % of environmental pollution complaints closed	A1. Total number of pollution cases in respect of which a complaint was made during 2017:	2,078
	A2. Number of pollution cases closed from 1/1/2017 to 31/12/2017:	2,090
	A3. Total number of cases on hands at 31/12/2017:	38 operations

TOPIC	INDICATOR	VALUE
LITTER: E3: % of LA area within the 5 levels of litter pollution	A1. The % of the area within the LA that when surveyed in 2017 was unpolluted or litter free:	1 %
	A2. The % of the area within the LA that when surveyed in 2017 was slightly polluted:	1 %
	A3. The % of the area within the LA that when surveyed in 2017 was moderately polluted:	1 %
	A4. The % of the area within the LA that when surveyed in 2017 was significantly polluted:	1 %
	A5. The % of the area within the LA that when surveyed in 2017 was grossly polluted:	1 %

TOPIC	INDICATOR	VALUE
Economic Development: J1: No of jobs created	A. The no. of jobs created with assistance from the Local Enterprise Office during the period 1/1/2017 to 31/12/2017:	96.50
Economic Development: J2: Trading Online Vouchers	A. The no. of trading online voucher applications approved by the Local Enterprise Office in 2017:	55
	B. The no. of those trading online vouchers that were drawn down in 2017:	33
Economic Development: J3: No of mentoring recipients	A. The no. of participants who received mentoring during the period 1/1/2017 to 31/12/2017:	261
Economic Development: J4: Tourism	A. Does the local authority have a current tourism strategy?:	Yes
	B. Does the local authority have a designated Tourism Officer?:	Yes Tourism Officer shared with Meath County Council

TOPIC	INDICATOR	VALUE
Finance: M1: 5 Year summary of Revenue Account Balance	A. Cumulative balance at 31/12/2013 in the Revenue Account from the Income & Expenditure of the AFS:	€1,442,529
	B. Cumulative balance at 31/12/2014 in the Revenue Account from the Income & Expenditure of the AFS:	€-2,607,460
	C. Cumulative balance at 31/12/2015 in the Revenue Account from the Income & Expenditure of the AFS:	€-2,510,886
	D. Cumulative balance at 31/12/2016 in the Revenue Account from the Income & Expenditure of the AFS:	0
	E. Cumulative balance at 31/12/2017 in the Revenue Account from the Income & Expenditure of the AFS:	€395,594
	F. Cumulative surplus or deficit at 31/12/2017 as a percentage of Total Income from the AFS statement:	0.41 %
	G. Revenue Expenditure per capita in 2017:	€749.32
	The 2017 Total Income figure from the Income and Expenditure Account Statement of the AFS:	€96,895,620.00
	The 2017 Total Expenditure figure from the Income and Expenditure Account Statement of the AFS:	€96,575,469.00
	Finance: M2: 5 Year summary of % Collection Levels for Major Revenue Sources	Collection level of Rates from the Annual Financial Statement for 2013
Collection level of Rates from the Annual Financial Statement for 2014		56.00 %
Collection level of Rates from the Annual Financial Statement for 2015		60.00 %
Collection level of Rates from the Annual Financial Statement for 2016		68.60 %
Collection level of Rates from the Annual Financial Statement for 2017		75.00 %

TOPIC	INDICATOR	VALUE
Finance: M2: 5 Year summary of % Collection Levels for Major Revenue Sources (continued)	Collection level of Rent & Annuities from the Annual Financial Statement for 2013	83.00 %
	Collection level of Rent & Annuities from the Annual Financial Statement for 2014	82.00 %
	Collection level of Rent & Annuities from the Annual Financial Statement for 2015	73.00 %
	Collection level of Rent & Annuities from the Annual Financial Statement for 2016	71.00 %
	Collection level of Rent & Annuities from the Annual Financial Statement for 2017	69.00 %
	Collection level of Housing Loans from the Annual Financial Statement for 2013	60.00 %
	Collection level of Housing Loans from the Annual Financial Statement for 2014	66.00 %
	Collection level of Housing Loans from the Annual Financial Statement for 2015	69.00 %
	Collection level of Housing Loans from the Annual Financial Statement for 2016	72.90 %
	Collection level of Housing Loans from the Annual Financial Statement for 2017	75.00 %

TOPIC	INDICATOR	VALUE
Fire Service: F1: Cost per Capita of the Fire Service	A. The Annual Financial Statement (AFS) Programme E expenditure data for 2017 divided by the population of the LA area per the 2016 Census figures for the population served by the fire authority as per the Risk Based Approach Phase One reports:	55.05
	AFS Programme E expenditure data consisting of E11 - Operation of Fire Service and E12 - Fire Prevention (inclusive of the relevant Programme E proportion of the central management charge) for 2017:	€8,303,852.00
Fire Service: F2: Service Mobilisation	A. Average time taken, in minutes, to mobilise fire brigades in Full- Time Stations in respect of fire:	1.41 min
	B. Average time taken, in minutes, to mobilise fire brigades in Part- Time Stations (retained fire service) in respect of fire:	4.09 min
	C. Average time taken, in minutes, to mobilise fire brigades in Full- Time Stations in respect of all other (non-fire) emergency incidents:	2.10 min
	D. Average time taken, in minutes, to mobilise fire brigades in Part-Time Stations (retained fire service) in respect of all other (non-fire) emergency incidents:	2.43 min
Fire Service: F3: % Attendance Times at Scenes	A. % of cases in respect of fire in which first attendance at the scene is within 10 minutes:	73.55 %
	B. % of cases in respect of fire in which first attendance at the scene is after 10 minutes but within 20 minutes:	23.35 %
	C. % of cases in respect of fire in which first attendance at the scene is after 20 minutes:	3.10 %
	D. % of cases in respect of all other emergency incidents in which first attendance at the scene is within 10 minutes:	57.08 %

TOPIC	INDICATOR	VALUE
Fire Service: F3: % Attendance Times at Scenes (continued)	E. % of cases in respect of all other emergency incidents in which first attendance at the scene is after 10 minutes but within 20 minutes:	35.19 %
	F.% of cases in respect of all other emergency incidents in which first attendance at the scene is after 20 minutes:	7.73 %
	Total number of call-outs in respect of fires from 1/1/2017 to 31/12/2017:	775
	Number of these fire cases where first fire tender attendance at the scene is within 10 minutes:	570
	Number of these fire cases where first fire tender attendance at the scene is after 10 minutes and within 20 minutes:	181
	Number of these fire cases where first fire tender attendance at the scene is after 20 minutes:	24
	Total number of call-outs in respect of all other emergency incidents (i.e. not including fire) from 1/1/2017 to 31/12/2017:	233
	Number of these non-fire cases where first fire tender attendance at the scene is within 10 minutes:	133
	Number of these non-fire cases where first fire tender attendance at the scene is after 10 minutes and within 20 minutes:	82
Number of these non-fire cases where first fire tender attendance at the scene is after 20 minutes:	18	

TOPIC	INDICATOR	VALUE
Library: L1: Library Visits and Issues	A. Number of visits to libraries per head of population for the LA area per the 2016 Census:	1.94
	B. Number of items issued to borrowers in the year:	243,060
	Number of visits to its libraries from 1/1/2017 to 31/12/2017:	250,409
Library: L2: Cost of operating a Library Service	A. The Annual Financial Statement (AFS) Programme F data for 2017 divided by the population of the LA area per the 2016 Census:	21.55
	AFS Programme F data consisting of F02- Operation of Library and Archival Service (inclusive of the relevant proportion of the central management charge for Programme F) for 2017:	€2,776,897.00

TOPIC	INDICATOR	VALUE
Motortax: R3: % of motor tax transactions conducted online	A. The percentage of motor tax transactions which were dealt with online (i.e. transaction is processed and the tax disc is issued) in 2017:	64.10 %

TOPIC	INDICATOR	VALUE
Planning: P1: New Buildings Inspected	A. Buildings inspected as a percentage of new buildings notified to the local authority:	10.64 %
	Total number of new buildings notified to the local authority i.e. buildings where a valid Commencement Notice was served in the period 1/1/2017 to 31/12/2017 by a builder or developer on the local authority, in accordance with section 6(2)(k) of the Building Control Act 1990 and Part II of the Building Control Regulations 1997 (S.I. No. 496 of 1997) as amended by the Building Control (Amendment) Regulations 2004 (S.I. No. 85 of 2004) and the Building Control (Amendment) Regulations 2009 (S.I. No. 351 of 2009):	658
	Number of new buildings notified to the local authority in 2017 that were the subject of at least one on-site inspection during 2017 undertaken by the local authority under section 11 of the Building Control Act 1990:	70
Planning: P2: No. & % of Planning decisions confirmed by An Bord Pleanála	A. Number of LA planning decisions which were the subject of an appeal to An Bord Pleanála that were determined by the Board on any date in 2017:	28
	B. % of the determinations at A which confirmed (either with or without variation) the decision made by the LA:	60.71 %
	Number of determinations confirming the LA's decision (either with or without variation):	17
Planning: P3: % of Planning Enforcement cases closed as resolved	A. Total number of planning cases referred to or initiated by the local authority in the period 1/1/2017 to 31/12/2017 that were investigated:	215
	B. Total number of investigated cases that were closed during 2017:	213
	C. % of the cases at B that were dismissed as trivial, minor or without foundation or were closed because statute barred or an exempted development:	50.23 %

TOPIC	INDICATOR	VALUE
Planning: P3: % of Planning Enforcement cases closed as resolved (continued)	D. % of the cases at B that were resolved to the LA's satisfaction through negotiations:	3.29 %
	E. % of the cases at B that were closed due to enforcement proceedings (i.e. remedied in response to a warning letter issued under section 152 of the Act or to an enforcement notice issued under section 154 of the Act or where a prosecution was brought under section 157 or an injunction was sought under section 160 of the Act):	46.48 %
	F. Total number of planning cases being investigated as at 31/12/2017:	202
	Number of cases at 'B' above that were dismissed under section	107
	Number of cases at 'B' above that were dismissed under section 152(2), Planning and Development Act 2000:	107
	Number of cases at 'B' above that were resolved to the LA's satisfaction through negotiations:	7
	Number of cases at 'B' above that were closed due to enforcement proceedings:	99
Planning: P4: Cost per Capita of the Planning Service	A. The Annual Financial Statement (AFS) Programme D data divided by the population of the LA area per the 2016 Census:	25.12
	AFS Programme D data consisting of D01- Forward Planning, D02 - Development Management, D03 - Enforcement (inclusive of the relevant Programme D proportion of the central management charge) for 2017:	€3,237,919.00
Planning: P5: Applications for Fire Safety Certificates	A. The percentage of applications for fire safety certificates received in 2017 that were decided (granted or refused) within two months of their receipt:	36.05 %
	B. The percentage of applications for fire safety certificates received in 2017 that were decided (granted or refused) within an extended period agreed with the applicant:	50.34 %

TOPIC	INDICATOR	VALUE
Planning: P5: Applications for Fire Safety Certificates (continued)	The total number of applications for fire safety certificates received in 2017 that were not withdrawn by the applicant:	147
	The number of applications for fire safety certificates received in 2017 that were decided (granted or refused) within two months of the date of receipt of the application:	53
	The number of applications for fire safety certificates received in 2017 that were decided (granted or refused) within an agreed extended time period:	74

TOPIC	INDICATOR	VALUE
Roads: R1: Pavment Surface Condition Index (PSCI) Ratings	a) The % of Regional road kilometres that received a PSCI rating in the 24 month period prior to 31/12/2017:	27 %
	b) The % Local Primary road kilometres that received a PSCI rating in the 24 month period prior to 31/12/2017:	25 %
	c) The % Local Secondary road kilometres that received a PSCI rating in the 24 month period prior to 31/12/2017:	20 %
	d) The % of Local Tertiary road kilometres that received a PSCI condition rating in the 60 month period to 31/12/2017:	24 %
	% Total Regional road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 1-4	3%
	% Total Regional road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 5-6	10%
	% Total Regional road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 7-8	38%
	% Total Regional road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 9-10	42%
	% Total Primary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 1-4	4 %
	% Total Primary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 5-6	24 %
	% Total Primary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 7-8	35 %
	% Total Primary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 9-10	20 %
	% Total Local Secondary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 1-4	7 %
	% Total Local Secondary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 5-6	42 %
	% Total Local Secondary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 7-8	23 %

TOPIC	INDICATOR	VALUE
Roads: R1: Pavment Surface Condition Index (PSCI) Ratings (continued)	% Total Local Secondary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 9-10	16 %
	% Total Tertiary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 1-4	9 %
	% Total Tertiary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 5-6	12 %
	% Total Tertiary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 7-8	3 %
	% Total Tertiary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 9-10	3 %
Roads: R2: Road Works	A1: Kilometres of regional road strengthened during 2017:	3.90 km
	A2: The amount expended on regional road strengthening work during 2017:	€778,306.00
	B1: Kilometres of regional road resealed during 2017:	5.70 km
	B2: The amount expended on regional road resealing work during 2017:	€166,366.00
	C1: Kilometres of local road (i.e. total of primary, secondary and tertiary) strengthened during 2017:	37.40 km
	C2: The amount expended on local road strengthening work during 2017:	€2,174,044.00
	D1: Kilometres of local road resealed during 2017:	19.40 km
	D2: Amount expended on local road resealing work during 2017:	€449,817.00

TOPIC	INDICATOR	VALUE
Water: W1: % Drinking water in private schemes in compliance	% of Private Drinking Water Schemes in compliance with statutory requirements in respect of the monitoring of the quality of private drinking water supplies during 2017:	1 %

TOPIC	INDICATOR	VALUE
Youth and Community: Y1: Participation in Comhairle na nÓg scheme	A. Percentage of local schools involved in the local Youth Council//Comhairle na nÓg scheme:	94.74 %
	Total number of second schools in the LA area at 31/12/2017:	19
	Number of second level schools in the LA area from which representatives attended the local Comhairle na nÓg AGM held in 2017:	18
Youth and Community: Y2: Groups associated with the Public Participation Network (PPN)	A. The number of organisations included in the County Register at 31/12/2017 and the proportion of those organisations that opted to be part of the Social Inclusion College within the PPN:	34.48
	Total number of organisations included in the County Register for the local authority area as at 31/12/2017:	261
	Total number of those organisations that registered for the first time in 2017:	50
	Number of organisations that opted to join the Social Inclusion Electoral College on whatever date they registered for the PPN:	90



Conference Attendance Record 2017

CONFERENCE	LOCATION	COUNCILLOR NAME(S)	NO OF CLLRS
January 2017			
February 2017			
17/02- Celtic Conferences - Taxation	Clonakilty	Cllrs. Culhane/Smith	2
17/02 - AILG Training	Athlone	Cllr. Tenanty	1
17/02 - AILG Training	Cavan	Cllr. Callan/Tully	2
March 2017			
April 2017			
17/04 - AILG Training Conference	Ennis	Cllrs. Culhane/Keelan/McGahon/ Smith/Tenanty/Tully	6
17/04 - LAMA Spring Seminar	Sligo	Cllrs. Doyle/Tenanty/Tully	3
May 2017			
17/05 - Brexit Seminar	Enniskillen	Cllrs. McGeough/Tenanty/Tully	3
17/05 - AILG Training	Arklow	Cllr. Tenanty	1
June 2017			
July 2017			
August 2017			
September 2017			
28-30/09 LAMA Autumn Seminar	Clonmel	Cllrs. McGahon/Smith/Tenanty/Tully	4
14/09 AILG Training	Gormanstown	Cllr. Tully	1
23/09 AILG Training	Cork	Cllr. Tenanty	1
13/09 Town & Co-op Training	Kilkenny	Cllr. Tenanty	1
October 2017			
29/09-01/10 LAMA Autumn Seminar	Bantry	Cllrs. Callan/Culhane/Smith/Tenanty	4
12/10-13/10 AILG Training Seminar	Sligo	Cllrs. McGahon/Tenanty/Tully	3
21/10 AILG Training	Carrick-on-Shannon	Cllr. Tully	1
November 2017			
18/11 AILG Training - Fire & Emergency	Dunboyne	Cllrs. Tenanty/Tully	2
December 2017			
7/12-16/12 Ace Training - Powerpoint	Clonakilty	Cllr. Tully	1
		TOTAL	36

Payments to Members for Meetings, Committees & Representation

PAYMENTS TO MEMBERS OF LOUTH LOCAL AUTHORITIES	LOUTH COUNTY COUNCIL
Number of Council and Committee Meetings	97
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	€106,907.32
Representational Payment	€476,980.40
Chairpersons Allowance	€18,329.32
Vice Chairpersons Allowance	€3,666.66
Chairpersons of SPCs/MPCs	€22,000.00
Chairperson of Municipal Districts	€27,500.00
Mobile/Blackberry Phones	€11,335.92
Expenses on Conferences & Training etc attended	
(a) Home	€12,010.87
(b) Abroad	€4,162.21

Breakdown of Representation

In relation to the SPC's, etc. SPC (Strategic Policy Committees) Committee Members 2014 - 2019

Housing, Community, Emergency Services SPC

Cllr. Joanna Byrne, Chairperson
 Cllr. Jim Tenanty
 Cllr. Maeve Yore
 Cllr. Ruairí Ó Murchú
 Cllr. Pearse McGeough
 Cllr. Paul Bell
 Cllr. Liam Reilly
 Cllr. Tommy Byrne
 Mr. Pat McCormick Development/Construction
 Mr. Colm O'Hanrahan, Trade Union
 Mr. Aubrey Halley, Community/Voluntary Rep, PPN
 Mr. Garrett Weldon, Social Inclusion Rep, PPN

Economic Development and Enterprise Support SPC

Cllr. Mark Dearey, Chairperson
 Cllr. David Saurin
 Cllr. Tomás Sharkey
 Cllr. Kevin Callan
 Cllr. Marianne Butler
 Cllr. Conor Keelan
 Cllr. Pio Smith
 Mr. Ciaran McDonnell, Agriculture/Farming
 Mr. Eddie Phelan, Development/Construction
 Mr. Simon McCormack, Business/Commercial
 Mr. Pat Mulligan, Community/Voluntary
 Ms. Karen Devine, Environmental/Conservation

Planning and Environment SPC

Cllr. Maria Doyle, Chairperson
 Cllr. Richie Culhane
 Cllr. Peter Savage
 Cllr. Antóin Watters
 Cllr. Anne Campbell
 Cllr. John McGahon
 Mr. Michael Smyth, Agriculture/Farming
 Mr. Eddie Phelan, Business/Commercial
 Mr. Richie Barry, Community/Voluntary
 Mr. Breffni Martin, Environment/Conservation

Infrastructure European and Cross Border Affairs & Sustainable Energy SPC

Cllr. Emma Coffey, Chairperson
 Cllr. Oliver Tullyw
 Cllr. Edel Corrigan
 Cllr. Kenneth Flood
 Cllr. Colm Markey
 Cllr. Frank Godfrey
 Cllr. Dolores Minogue
 Mr. Matthew McGreehan, Agriculture/Farming
 Mr. Paddy Malone, Business/Commercial
 Mr. Martin Fealy, Community/Voluntary

Breakdown of Representation

In relation to the Municipal Districts Committee Members 2014 - 2019

Municipal District of Dundalk

Cllr. John McGahon, Chairperson
 Cllr. Mark Dearey
 Cllr. Maria Doyle
 Cllr. Marianne Butler
 Cllr. Emma Coffey
 Cllr. Edel Corrigan
 Cllr. Anne Campbell
 Cllr. Conor Keelan
 Cllr. Ruairí Ó Murchú
 Cllr. Peter Savage
 Cllr. Tomás Sharkey
 Cllr. Maeve Yore
 Cllr. Antóin Watters

No. of meetings 2017 - 12

Municipal District of Ardee

Cllr. Liam Reilly, Chairperson
 Cllr. Dolores Minogue
 Cllr. Tom Cunningham
 Cllr. Colm Markey
 Cllr. Pearse McGeough
 Cllr. Jim Tenanty

No. of meetings 2017 - 12

Borough District of Drogheda

Cllr. Pio Smith, Mayor
 Cllr. Oliver Tully
 Cllr. Paul Bell
 Cllr. Tommy Byrne
 Cllr. David Saurin
 Cllr. Richie Culhane
 Cllr. Kenneth Flood
 Cllr. Frank Godfrey
 Cllr. Joanna Byrne
 Cllr. Oliver Tully

No. of meetings 2017 - 13

Audit Committee

Dr. Philip Byrne
 Mr. Richard Bowden, Bowden Walsh & Co.
 Mr. Billy Doyle, CEO, Dundalk Credit Union
 Cllr. Kevin Callan
 Cllr. Conor Keelan

Joint Policing Committee Structure

Dundalk Local Policing Forum

Cllr. John McGahon (Chair)
 Cllr. Emma Coffey
 Cllr. Marianne Butler
 Cllr. Edel Corrigan
 Cllr. Mark Dearey
 Cllr. Maria Doyle
 Cllr. Anne Campbell
 Cllr. Conor Keelan
 Cllr. Ruairí Ó Murchú
 Cllr. Peter Savage
 Cllr. Tomás Sharkey
 Cllr. Maeve Yore
 Cllr. Antoin Watters
 Imelda Munster, TD
 Gerry Adams, TD
 Peter Fitzpatrick, TD
 Declan Breathnach, TD
 Fergus O'Dowd, TD
 Senator Gerald Nash
 Chief Superintendent Christy Mangan
 Superintendent Gerard Curley
 Frank Watters (Business Pillar)
 Matthew McGreehan (Farming Pillar)
 John Temple
 Pat Mc Veigh
 Joe McGuinness, Director of Services
 Frank Pentony, Director of Services

Ardee Local Policing Forum

Cllr. Pearse McGeough (Chair)
 Cllr. Tom Cunningham
 Cllr. Colm Markey
 Cllr. Dolores Minogue
 Cllr. Liam Reilly
 Cllr. Jim Tenanty
 Imelda Munster, TD
 Gerry Adams, TD
 Peter Fitzpatrick, TD
 Fergus O'Dowd, TD
 Deputy Declan Breathnach
 Senator Gerald Nash
 Chief Superintendent Christy Mangan
 Superintendent Fergus Treanor
 David Ring (Business Pillar)
 Denis Brennan (Farming Pillar)
 Hugh Conlon, Voluntary Rep
 Joe McGuinness, Director of Services
 Mary G Reilly, Administrative Officer

Drogheda Local Policing Forum

Cllr. Kenneth Flood (Chair)
 Cllr. Paul Bell
 Cllr. Tommy Byrne
 Cllr. Kevin Callan
 Cllr. David Saurin
 Cllr. Richie Culhane
 Cllr. Frank Godfrey
 Cllr. Joanna Byrne
 Cllr. Pío Smith
 Cllr. Oliver Tully
 Imelda Munster, T.D.
 Declan Breathnach, TD
 Fergus O'Dowd, TD
 Peter Fitzpatrick, TD
 Gerry Adams, TD
 Senator Gerald Nash
 Chief Superintendent Christy Mangan
 Superintendent Andrew Watters
 David McCloskey (Business Pillar)
 Nicholas Sullivan (Farming Pillar)
 (Residents Groups)
 Flora Okobi
 Tony Mullins
 Paddy Donnelly, DOS
 Joe McGuinness, DOS

Louth County Council Corporate Plan 2014 - 2019 Progress Report

MISSION STATEMENT:

*“To provide
 leadership and
 deliver high
 quality, citizen
 focused,
 responsive
 and effective
 services”*

GOAL 1 Customer Care

‘That the people of Louth have access to a responsive public service, that demonstrates empathy through caring and listening and is delivered in a professional cost effective manner’

OBJECTIVE	PROGRESS
Our service to be inclusive and demonstrate respect for all.	New and existing staff are trained regularly to provide a service that adheres to the values of the Customer Charter.
To develop the Service and Local Indicators are relevant to the customer.	Through it interaction with other local authorities Louth County Council is working to develop set of service indicators for customers services.
Develop, promote and support a culture of Customer Service excellence.	Louth County Council continues to review it's procedures and performance to improve customers experience.
Make our organisation more accessible through the use of technology. Embrace the social media opportunities to enhance this.	Through it's use of twitter the Council is reaching more people every year and ensuring the public are given accurate up to date information on all aspects of the services we provide.
Ongoing development of Customer Service interfaces in person and virtually.	The Council continues to assess how it provides it's services with a few to updating and improving on an ongoing basis.

GOAL 2 Housing & Community Development

‘To facilitate sustainable communities through the provision of accommodation and supports that respond to the needs of all. Similarly develop a safe community, while at the same time ensuring that there is a robust and available emergency service’

OBJECTIVE	PROGRESS
Support the LCDC structure and deliver the LECP Plan.	The LCDC has now embedded itself and is delivering a credibly monitoring role for the Community Plan and as the Local Action Group (LAG) for the Rural Development Programme.
Support the Public Participation Network.	The PPN continues to develop.
Develop a Community Safety Strategy.	The full suite of actions of the Community Safety Strategy were absorbed into the LECP and are subject to the same implementation and monitoring arrangements as above.
Support the Tidy Towns Network in developing their communities.	The Council have continued to support the Tidy Towns Network in achieving their goals. This was significantly assisted in 2017 by the Town and Village Scheme.
Support communities and estates in their development needs.	The Council's Amenity Grants Scheme continued to support all communities and estates.
Develop updated Sports and Recreation Strategy to reflect current needs and develop Community Sports Activities.	Whilst the existing Sports and Recreation Strategy has not been reviewed, there has been significant assistance provided to ensure best access to Sports activities in particular through the programmes of the Louth Sports Partnership.
Continue the development and implementation of the Age Friendly County Strategy.	Louth continues to be seen as a lead in the area of age friendly and all policies reflect this goal.
Facilitate the Comhairle na nÓg programme.	Comhairle na nÓg continues to provide the voice of the youth in the county and presents annually to full Council to illustrate their achievements.
Provide a modern responsive library service that meets the community's needs and delivers on 'Opportunities for All' Strategy.	The library service continues to deliver a quality service and in particular has led in 2017 in the roll out of many national imitative, such as Work Matters and Healthy Ireland.

COMMUNITY

HOUSING

OBJECTIVE

Provide the full range of all social housing supports.

Assist the marginalised through the delivery of the Traveller Accommodation Programme 2014-18, North East Homeless Action Plan 2014-17, and develop a Strategy for Housing Persons with a Disability.

Develop a new Anti Social Behaviour Strategy.

Maintain our stock in a planned and systematic manner.

Assist the developing needs of all citizens by means of the various grant schemes.

PROGRESS

The full range of Housing Service continues to be available to all eligible applicants.

A Housing Strategy for Persons with a Disability has been adopted and a Mid Term review of the Traveller Accommodation Programme is currently with the Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee. A new Regional Homeless Action Plan is also currently under development with the North East Regional Homeless Forum.

This Strategy was adopted and during 2017 the first order for re-possession was secured by the local authority for supply of drugs from on of our dwellings.

This was a new sanction developed in this Strategy. Work has continued in the completion of our Stock Condition Survey.

The Council continued to provide significant grant assistance to applicants during 2017.

EMERGENCY SERVICES

OBJECTIVE

Maintain a resilient and well trained Fire Service.

Deliver a comprehensive Community Fire Safety Strategy.

Deliver the national 'Keeping Communities Safe' Fire Strategy.

Ensure an adequate Major Emergency Management Structure is maintained in place.

Develop Civil Defence Service to its full potential.

PROGRESS

This is being done by the management of the five-group duty system, compliance with national training requirements and the upgrade of the fire service fleet and equipment.

The delivery of programmes identified in the Strategy was expanded in 2017 and further programmes are planned for 2018.

The delivery of this strategy is being managed by the National Directorate and the Fire Service National Oversight and Implementation Group.

Major Emergency Management objectives were delivered via local exercises and regional co-ordination. Major Emergency procedures were put into practice during Storm Ophelia.

Civil Defence Strategic Plan being delivered and the organisation is being reformed.

GOAL 3 Infrastructure

'To maintain a high quality transportation network that is accessible, safe smart and integrated and continue to deliver modern and sophisticated infrastructure providing ease of access for all the citizens of the County'

TRANSPORT

OBJECTIVE

Maintain and improve the road network throughout the County.

Progress the delivery of key projects including; Narrow Water Bridge, Ardee Bypass, Drogheda Port Access Route.

Design, maintain and improve footpaths, parking, open spaces and other facilities to ensure that they are responsive to the needs of citizens through the county.

To implement a Road Safety Programme appropriate to changing needs.

PROGRESS

In its annual road works programme, Louth County Council manages on an ongoing basis the maintenance and improvement requirements for its network of Roads, Cycleways and Footpaths. Louth County Council cooperates with the TII and the DTTaS in the planning and implementation of transportation network improvement projects in the county.

All three projects are priorities for the Council and funding sources are constantly being pursued.

Louth County Council has made provision in its 3 year capital programme for upgrades to its network of pay-parking meters in Dundalk and Drogheda, and to its network of playgrounds, parks and public toilets throughout the county. The Council also continues to support and facilitate local community groups in meeting demand for local facilities such as playgrounds etc. As stated above, the Council in its annual road works programme manages on an ongoing basis the maintenance and improvement requirements for its network of Roads, Cycleways and Footpaths.

Louth County Council has successfully secured support for schools/community safety measures under the Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs Clár funding mechanism (for small infrastructural projects in rural areas that experience disadvantage). Louth County Council in cooperation with Monaghan County Council, jointly appointed a dedicated Road Safety Officer in 2016, who:
-has prepared a Road Safety Action Plan for the County to cover the period 2017 – 2020

TRANSPORT

OBJECTIVE	PROGRESS
<p>Work in partnership with the Department of Education to develop and deliver the school building programme.</p> <p>Deliver a Public Sector Campus at Fair Street offices in Drogheda.</p> <p>Seek to promote and progress town/village regeneration.</p>	<p>-liaises with An Garda Siochana as part of the Collision Prevention Programme to identify collision prone locations and take preventive remedial action where necessary</p> <p>-Manages the school warden programme</p> <p>Locally conducts awareness raising programmes in schools and on social media in cooperation with the Road Safety Authority.</p> <p>The Colaiste Chu Chulainn project is under construction and the design for Ardee Educate Together school was developed.</p> <p>Work progressed on this project with planning permission secured and a start date of quarter 1, 2018 set.</p>

MARINE

OBJECTIVE	PROGRESS
<p>To fully use our ports to increase the contribution of the port sector to the local economy.</p> <p>To recognise our ports as centres of great historical, cultural, social and recreational importance.</p> <p>To work in partnership with our ports to ensure interaction between the ports sector and the planning and development systems to ensure continued and sustainable development of the ports sector.</p> <p>Support and implement the National Ports Policy.</p> <p>Continue to work with the OPW to deal with the threat from coastal erosion and rising tidal levels.</p>	<p>Planning permission granted for an extension of Greenore Port in 2017</p> <p>Drogheda Maritime Festival staged successfully in June 2017. Construction of Fiddle Case Pier completed with Drogheda Port Company</p> <p>Regular meeting continue with Greenore and Drogheda Port on planning and related matters</p> <p>The transfer of the shareholding to Louth County Council was completed in October 2017</p> <p>The OPW is the lead agency for flood risk management in Ireland and are carrying out a Flood Study called the Catchment-based Flood Risk Assessment and Management Study, (CFRAM) with LCC participating as Progress Group Members. CFRAM which commenced in 2011, and includes three main stages, Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment; Flood Risk and Hazard Mapping; and Flood Risk Management Planning. All three stages are now complete and form the Draft Flood Management Plans which are programmed for completion later in 2017. Implementation and review will roll out from 2017 onwards and it is at this stage that detailed design, procurement etc will commence with provision of identified flood defences expected to commence as soon as possible thereafter.</p>

GOAL 4 Operations, Marine & Water

‘To maintain a high quality transportation network that is accessible safe smart and integrated and which responds to the needs of the people of the County Louth; In conjunction with Irish Water to provide for timely high quality water and waste water services to cater for the development needs of County Louth’

MARINE

OBJECTIVE

Support and maintain developed ports and harbours and in particular those in the ownership of the Council.

Support the recommendations arising from the Greater Dundalk Area Flood Study and any other studies undertaken during the life of this plan.

PROGRESS

A Louth County Council Harbour Master supervises activities and mooring capacity usage at Port Oriel, Clogherhead and at Annagassan.

The Council will cooperate and assist the OPW in implementing the National Flood Management Plan.

TRANSPORT

OBJECTIVE

Maintain and improve the transportation network throughout the County.

Implement the recommendations of the County Transport Audit through an integrated public sector response.

Seek to deliver the key objectives of the National Smarter Travel Policy.

Design, maintain and improve Cycle ways, Footpaths, Parking, Parks, Playgrounds, Roads and other facilities meeting the needs of the people of Louth.

PROGRESS

In its annual road works programme, Louth County Council manages on an ongoing basis the maintenance and improvement requirements for its network of Roads, Cycleways and Footpaths. Louth County Council cooperates with the TII and the DTTaS in the planning and implementation of transportation network improvement projects in the county.

Under the restructuring of the Rural Transport Programme Louth, Meath and Fingal is now joined for the purposes of the development and delivery of the RTP through Flexibus Local Link located in Navan. Louth has 2 representatives on the board of Flexibus. Flexibus has increased service delivery in Louth, introduced a community car scheme and acquired a “hospital house” to transport older people and people with disabilities to hospital. Currently, Flexibus is developing a new strategy 2018-2021

European and Energy Section assists Transportation to deliver key objectives of Smarter Travel by seeking and managing funding for sustainable transport.

Louth County Council has made provision in its 3 year capital programme for upgrades to its network of pay-parking meters in Dundalk and Drogheda, and to its network of playgrounds, parks and public toilets throughout the county. The Council also continues to support and facilitate local community groups in meeting demand for local facilities such as playgrounds etc. As stated above, the Council in its annual road works programme manages on an ongoing basis the maintenance and improvement requirements for its network of Roads, Cycleways and Footpaths.

TRANSPORT

OBJECTIVE

Implement a Road Safety Programme appropriate to changing needs.

PROGRESS

Louth County Council has successfully secured support for schools/community safety measures under the Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs Clár funding mechanism (for small infrastructural projects in rural areas that experience disadvantage). Louth County Council in cooperation with Monaghan County Council, jointly appointed a dedicated Road Safety Officer in 2016, who

- Has prepared a Road Safety Action Plan for the County to cover the period 2017 - 2020
- Liaises with An Garda Síochána as part of the Collision Prevention Programme to identify collision prone locations and take preventive remedial action where necessary
- Manages the school warden programme

Locally conducts awareness raising programmes in schools and on social media in cooperation with the Road Safety Authority

WATER

OBJECTIVE

Work with Irish Water to ensure the continued supply of safe and secure drinking water in adequate quantities to provide for the development needs of County Louth.

PROGRESS

Louth County Council work with Irish Water under a Service Level Agreement to ensure safe and secure drinking water in County Louth and with IW Connections and Developer Services team and Asset Strategy team to address the development needs of County Louth.

Implement a water conservation programme to minimise water losses from the distribution network in collaboration with Irish Water.

Louth County Council work with Irish Water to roll out an active leak detection and repair programme across the county to reduce unaccounted for water and to minimise losses across the network.

Provide for adequate waste water treatment and collection systems, in collaboration with Irish Water, to comply with the requirements of the River Basin Management Plans.

Louth County Council work with Irish Water to ensure compliance with relevant legislation and Outfall Discharge licences.

GOAL 5 Environment & Sustainable Energy

To provide for a timely high quality water and waste water service to cater for the development needs of the County while protecting and enhancing the environment.

SUSTAINABLE ENERGY

OBJECTIVE

Promote Environmental Awareness and support the objectives of the Waste Management Plan.

PROGRESS

Information disseminated in monthly report to Council including updates on new initiatives Enforcement ongoing where appropriate.

Promote the use of sustainable energy sources and systems.

Sustainable Energy section liaises with community groups and businesses to promote sustainable energy in the county.

Improve the energy use and efficiency Council building and facilities.

The Council has recently obtained ISO 50,001, an Energy Management System accreditation to use as the vehicle to manage and sustain its energy efficiency. The Council has also recently merged its sustainable Energy and Property Sections to further improve its energy efficiency.

Support and promote new energy savings initiatives in the business sector.

Sustainable Energy section liaises with businesses to promote sustainable energy in the county and to identify energy saving opportunities.

Develop an expertise in sustainable energy management as a resource for Council and other sectors.

The Council has established a dedicated sustainable energy team to lead energy funding opportunities and to promote energy saving. The Council has also obtained ISO ISO 50,001, an Energy Management System accreditation to use as the vehicle to manage and sustain its energy efficiency making it one of a small number of Local Authorities to have done so.

Develop Louth County Council as an exemplar in energy efficiency.

The Council has obtained ISO ISO 50,001, an Energy Management System accreditation to use as the vehicle to manage and sustain its energy efficiency making it an exemplar in energy efficiency.

Action energy saving initiatives within the organisation and the wider community.

The Council has led and encouraged participated in energy funding applications for the last number of years. It has also supported a training programme for energy auditing of SMEs. It has also signed up to an SLA with OPW to improve the energy efficiency of two of its key public buildings.

OBJECTIVE

In association with Irish Water, ensure the continued supply of safe and secure drinking water adequate quantities to provide for the development needs of the County.

Continue to resource a water conservation programme in order to minimise water losses from the distribution system.

Provide for adequate waste water treatment and collection systems to comply with the requirements of river basin management plans made under the Water Framework Directive.

Continue to implement national water pricing policy.

Maintain the effective enforcement of Environmental legislation.

PROGRESS

Louth County Council work with Irish Water under a Service Level Agreement to ensure safe and secure drinking water in County Louth and with IW Connections and Developer Services team and Asset Strategy team to address the development needs of County Louth.

Louth County Council work with Irish Water to roll out an active leak detection and repair programme across the county to reduce unaccounted for water and to minimise losses across the network.

Louth County Council work with Irish Water to ensure compliance with relevant legislation and Outfall Discharge licences.

Louth County Council are no longer involved in the water pricing policy. This is managed solely by IW in agreement with the CRU.

Inspections were carried out in the water, waste, air and noise areas. These inspections were carried out as per the RMCEI (Recommended Criteria for Environmental Inspections) plan submitted to the Environmental Protection Agency in 2017. Where appropriate, inspections were followed up with enforcement actions. LCC continues to actively engage with the Regional Waste Enforcement Network (WERLA) to implement national priorities.

The Council employs litter wardens in Dundalk, Drogheda and the County area to enforce the Litter Pollution Act 1997 and the Dog Litter and Dog Control Bye-Laws 2015.

The Council completed anti-dumping initiatives from funding received from the Department of the Environment, which included CCTV, Cleanups of dumping black spots and erection of barriers. The Council will continue to seek further funding for anti-dumping initiatives from the Department.

The County has an active environmental compliance section which enforces the Waste Management Acts 1996 as amended.

GOAL 6 Economic Development

‘That County Louth is the location of choice for economic development, cultural and educational opportunity supported by modern and sophisticated infrastructure that takes account of the economic needs of current and future generations’

OBJECTIVE

Provide leadership and support to deliver the actions of the Louth Economic Forum.

Deliver easily accessible, high quality business advice that attracts inward investment, supports and encourages new start ups leading to growth of small and medium enterprises (SME's).

Develop the role of the Local Enterprise Office (LEO) to support SME's.

Maximise our tourism opportunities, encouraging investment in arts and cultural heritage.

Continue to develop tourism destinations in Boyne Valley & Cooley/ Mournel/ Gullion.

PROGRESS

Regular meetings of the Forum held in 2017. European and Energy Section manage the implementation of actions in the Energy Action Plan of Louth Economic Forum. It supports Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland in its roles as the Chair of the Energy Task Group. The Broadband action plan is now supported by the appointment of a full-time Broadband officer in Louth County Council. The Boyne Valley Food strategy group was set up in 2017 and the work of the group delivers a number of actions of the forum in this area.

Being delivered by Economic Development and LEO Louth. Regular meetings held with IDA and EI and Council have delivered on Actions within FDI including updated information of office availability and Funding secured for the Mill Phase II.

LEO Louth well established within Economic Directorate. LEO Louth Action Plan 2017 completed.

The Tourism and Heritage strategy group brings together the key players in the Tourism industry to progress the Tourism and Heritage plan which was launched in 2017. The Economic Development office regularly post tourism related events on social media and twitter and are continually updating the visitlouth.ie and visitdrogheda.ie websites. Louth Co. Council have a strong relationship with Failte Ireland through their Regional Development Officer.

Tourism and Heritage Action Plan in place to promote tourism, arts, culture and heritage by capitalising on Co. Louth's unique location within Irelands Ancient East, as the hub for the Boyne Valley and The Cooley, Mournel and Gullion Region.

OBJECTIVE	PROGRESS
Work in partnership with local educational institutions to support.	DKIT and LMETB key members of the Louth Economic Forum.
Entrepreneurship and business start-ups.	European and Energy Section partnered with SEAI and LMETB to deliver training for 10 participants for energy audits of SMEs. The Council is also working with SEAI and LEO to develop a pilot voucher process for funding of energy audits to SMEs.
Explore the opportunities that The Táin concept offers.	Increased funding given to the Táin March committee to develop the Táin March which starts in Roscommon and stops at a number of points in Co. Louth before reaching it's destination in Omeath, Co. Louth.
Maximise the newly integrated Local Enterprise Office (LEO).	LEO Louth well established within Economic Directorate. LEO Louth Action Plan 2017 completed.
Develop Town Centre Revitalisation Strategy for Dundalk, Drogheda and Ardee.	Retail Investment Prospectus's in place for Drogheda and Dundalk. Retail Supports - Business Support Grants and Shopfront Grants in place. Shopfront Guidelines in place.
Provide a consistent and professional approach in terms of Future Planning and pre-planning services for the public.	Dunleer LAP 2017-2023 Adopted. Westgate Vision (WGV) an area-based targeted urban regeneration initiative for Drogheda progressed to draft stage.
Work to deliver a County Development Plan that promotes sustainable economic development and employment growth.	Louth County Development Plan 2015-2021 two year progress report commenced. The Council is promoting sustainable development by developing expertise on sustainable energy technologies and offering advice on same.
Develop Town Action Plans for Drogheda, Dundalk and Ardee.	The progress of town plans awaits the publication of the National Planning Framework (Launched February 2018) and the Eastern and Midlands Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy.
Continue to encourage the development of Rural Enterprise as a means of supporting and sustaining rural communities.	The Local Development Strategy has identified the support of indigenous small scale rural enterprise as a priority to stimulate and support enterprise at local and community level. Animation of the programme sob-theme is progressing with our partners.
Ensure environmental policies are integrated into all strategic and operational.	Environmental policies fed into Senior Management Team meetings and onwards to relevant strategic and operational plans.
Promote and encourage the prevention, reuse and recycling of waste in line with EU and National Policy.	Fully participating members of Eastern and Midlands Regional waste groups at strategic and operating level. National policies rolled out locally.

GOAL 7 Regional Cross Border & EU

'Place Dundalk and Drogheda at the heart of the Regional Gateway of the Eastern Corridor'

OBJECTIVE	PROGRESS
To pursue the concept of Dundalk / Newry / Drogheda as the North East Gateway.	The NPF recognises the Dublin-Belfast Economic Corridor of which Dundalk Newry and Drogheda are significant growth centres.
Promote the role of Dundalk and Drogheda as key locations for the development of the county.	Both towns have been identified as designated growth centres in the National Planning Framework.
Develop a centre of excellence and best practice in regards to European funding opportunities as a resource to all directorates.	The European Office has facilitated many EU funded projects across a number of directorates in 2017. A total of 13 projects have successfully received €2.2 million through the Peace IV Programme. The funding will be delivered across three themes: Children & Young People; Building Positive Relations; Shared Spaces & Services. LCC is the lead partner in the Carlingford Louth Greenway Project, a joint project with Newry, Mourne & Down District Council and East Border Region Ltd. This €3.46 million INTERREG funded project will complete a 10km extension of greenway into Newry City Centre. Many directorates within LCC actively engaged with other Northern European Partners to develop and submit an application for funding under the Northern Periphery Arctic Programme. In essence, the Near Zero Energy project will create and provide a platform for leadership in NZE by public bodies that could be taken up and used by the private sector for NZE new builds and NZE retro-fits.
Support the development and renewal of the Memorandum of Understanding in conjunction with our cross border partners.	Work is ongoing with the newly established Forum of the MoU. Joint management team meetings are held on a bi-monthly basis to improve engagement. A programme of press releases and events are in place for the 2018 programme of work.
Support the sustainable development of facilities of regional scale in the respective towns.	The Council will support any appropriate projects in both towns.

GOAL 8 Arts, Culture & Leisure

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

OBJECTIVE	PROGRESS
The Council will give demonstrative expression to Arts, Culture and Leisure in county life through exercising its leadership role supporting all interests within the county.	The Council, through its Arts Office, makes available a suite of funding opportunities which are tailored to the artistic needs of the county, with specific support for the development of amateur drama and musical societies, instruments for schools, opportunities for artists to work on specific work, and arts development in its widest sense throughout the county.
Develop a cohesive Arts and Libraries Plan.	The Council has led the development of the first Culture and Creativity Plan for Louth. This 5 Year Plan encompasses the work of the Arts Office, the Library Service, the County Archives, the Heritage Office, the Architectural Conservation Officer, Creative Spark, An Táin Arts Centre, Droichead Arts Centre, Highlanes Gallery, and the County Museum, Dundalk. Consultation for this Plan was carried out in the first quarter of 2018, and the Plan will be completed in May of 2018. This Plan will be implemented as part of the Creative Ireland Programme.
Develop and co-ordinate a Programme of Events and Activities that optimises our Theatres, Galleries, Libraries, Museums and Archives Facilities.	The Arts Office operates a programme of arts-in-education events, and contributes to the programming of the 13 arts-based festivals throughout the county. The co-ordination of these events and of the programmes of the cultural infrastructure within Louth, such as the Arts Centres, galleries and music schools is facilitated through www.createlouth.ie , which is the arts and culture portal for the county, and which is managed by the Arts Office.
Implement the Louth Sports Partnership Strategy.	The Louth Sports Partnership Strategic Plan 2018-2022 has been prepared and is scheduled to be adopted in January 2018.
Progress phase 2&3 of the Tholsel Building Development.	Consultant appointed to progress concept design.

GOAL 9 Local Democracy

‘Support, promote and enhance the democratic, civic and leadership role of Louth County Council’

OBJECTIVE	PROGRESS
To resource the ongoing work and development of the democratic role of council and their committees.	The register of electors is updated annually and all council meetings are conducted efficiently with decisions implemented as quickly as possible.
Foster a culture of corporate identity both internally and externally.	All external and internal reports utilise the Council's corporate branding.
Support and embed the two tier local government structure county wide.	Statutory Oireachtas members information meetings are held.
To improve the efficient operation of Council, its committees and links with other bodies.	Members are kept informed on these issues through the monthly report circulated to them from the Chief Executive.
To embed the role of the Audit Committee with best practice principles of good governance.	The Audit committee meets a minimum of 4 times per year and is supported by the Corporate services department.
Develop participatory democracy by improving the use of Peoples Participation Network (PPN).	The PPN continues to fulfil its developing role in supporting representation on various structures and championing best practice.
Our service to be inclusive and demonstrate respect for all.	The Council continues to adhere to the statutory timelines in relation to FoI requests and customer complaints.

GOAL 10 Resource Management

‘Provide integrated value for money public services through innovative and adaptive approaches to local governance’

OBJECTIVE

The organisation will strive to position itself to respond to the changing needs of the public and the environment that prevails.

Strive to review on a continual basis the delivery of all services with a view to maximising efficiencies and deliver value for money.

Use performance management tools to deliver high quality outcomes.

Identify the key competencies for posts, upskill where necessary and apply in the workplace to respond to the needs of the public.

Foster a Health & Safety awareness culture to reduce the number of accidents in the workplace and public areas.

Continue to operate through the ethos of Workplace Partnership.

PROGRESS

Workforce planning and knowledge management continue to be a key component of our work. Recruitment and training of staff as vacancies arise.

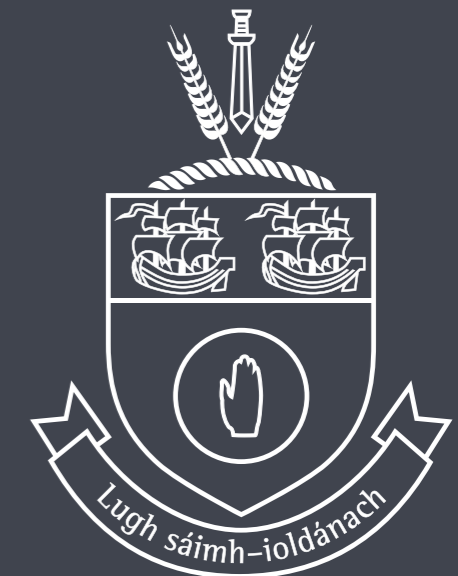
Management team continue to monitor and evaluate the delivery of services. The Audit Committee also review key areas of service delivery via Internal Audit.

Competency framework performance development tool being implemented for all staff.

Competency based interviewing in place and skills matching for posts where possible.

Health and Safety management committee continued to meet on a regular basis and regular tool box talks took place with staff.

Regular meetings between union officials and staff to progress issues.



Comhairle Contae **Lú**
Louth County Council

Notes

