



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

# Annual Report 2013

## ***Annual Report 2013***

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#### *MISSION STATEMENT*

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



**Land of Legends**



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



*Philomena Poole*  
Philomena Poole  
County Manager  
Louth Local Authorities



*Declan Breathnach*  
Declan Breathnach  
Cathaoirleach  
Louth County Council



*Eamonn P. O'Boyle*  
Eamonn O'Boyle  
Chairperson  
Dundalk Town Council

All involved in local government will be well aware of the rapidly changing environment we find ourselves operating in, and this was more evident in 2013 as we prepared for the major changes that will take place in 2014 in the local government sector. Despite preparing for the changes, we continued in 2013 to roll out and deliver on the myriad of services to our communities. It is with pleasure that we as Cathaoirleach/Mayor and County Manager present this Annual Report reflecting on how we have delivered on many and varied services aimed at improving County Louth as a great place to live, work and visit.

Proactive initiatives, together with reactive responses required as a result of environmental and weather challenges, together with the ongoing challenge of illegal activity including unauthorised dumping and the continuing problem of toxic sludge from diesel laundering, were the focus of the dedicated staff's service in Louth Local Authorities.

As a Council, our focus has remained on creating an environment that is conducive towards job creation. This remains at the centre of our philosophy and this goal is supported by the policies and practices of Council, particularly in the Economic Development aspects of our work, through the County Development Board and the work of the Louth Economic Forum.

Challenges remain in delivering on some key initiatives such as the Narrow Water Bridge project. We will continue to keep such key projects in focus and explore every opportunity in order to deliver a positive outcome in the long term.

The partnership with our community groups continued in 2013 to be an important aspect of improving the environments we live in and share. The strength of our Tidy Towns Together Network and its many constituent parts continue to impact positively in every corner of County Louth. The ongoing development of the County as the Age Friendly County continued apace in 2013 thanks to the work of the Older People's Forum and the Age Friendly Alliance.

We look forward to the future with confidence, with an awareness of the opportunities that the new environment will bring to the County. As Cathaoirleach/Mayor and County Manager, we acknowledge and pay tribute to all who have contributed to developing our County and who continue to make it a preferred place to live, work and visit.

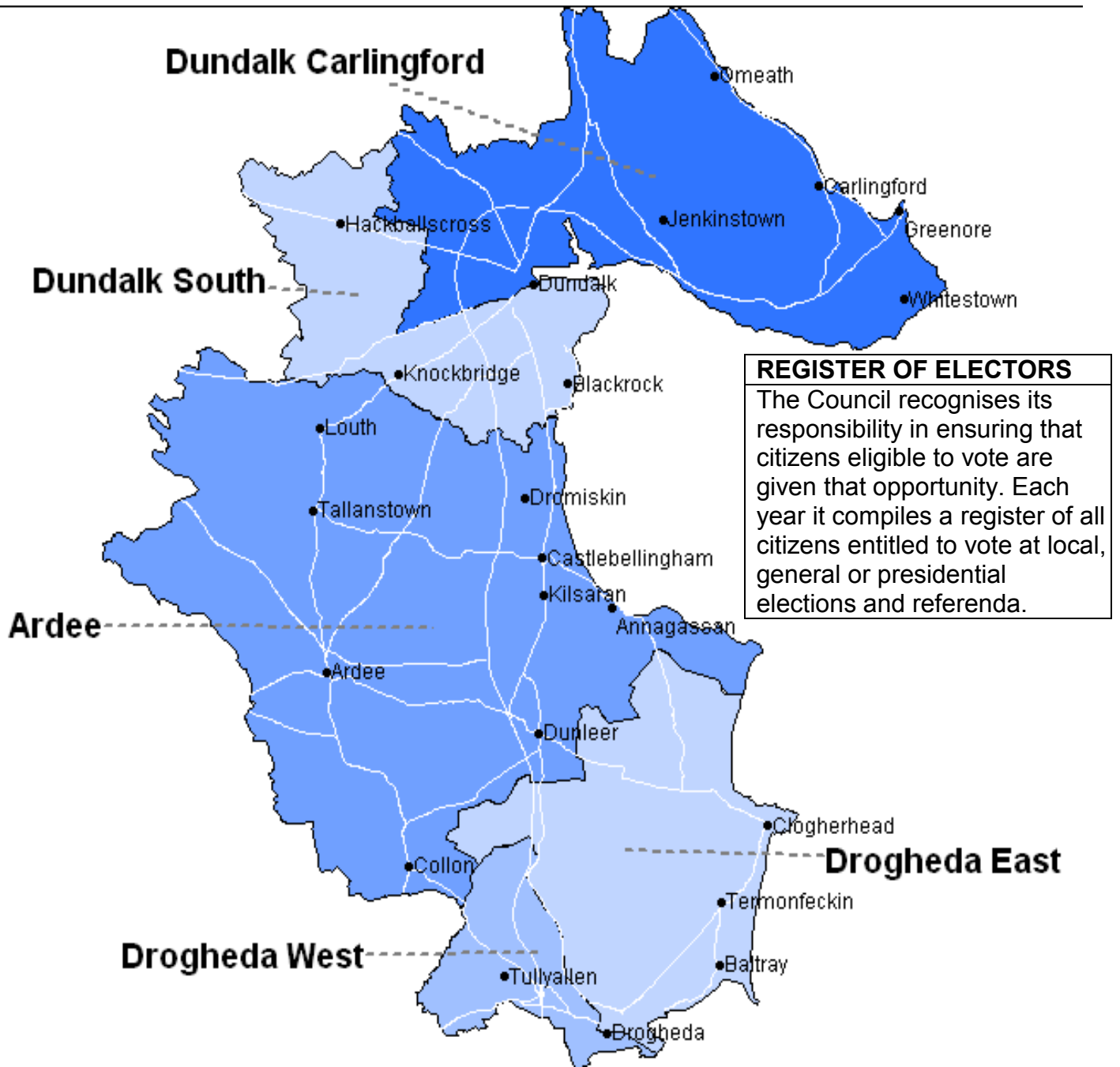


*Richie Culhane*  
Richie Culhane  
Mayor  
Drogheda Borough Council



*Fintan Malone*  
Fintan Malone  
Chairperson  
Ardee Town Council

## Electoral Areas



### REGISTER OF ELECTORS

The Council recognises its responsibility in ensuring that citizens eligible to vote are given that opportunity. Each year it compiles a register of all citizens entitled to vote at local, general or presidential elections and referenda.

*Drogheda Borough Council,  
Fair St., Drogheda.*

*County Hall,  
Millennium Centre, Dundalk.*

*Town Hall,  
Dundalk.*



**Louth County Council Members**

**DUNDALK / CARLINGFORD**

Fine Gael  
Martin Murnaghan



Sinn Féin  
Edel Corrigan



Sinn Féin  
Jim Loughran



Non-Party  
Jim Ryan



Fianna Fáil  
Peter Savage



**DUNDALK / SOUTH**

Non-Party  
Martin Bellew



Fianna Fáil  
Declan Breathnach



Fine Gael  
Linus English



Green Party  
Marianne Butler



Non-Party  
Alan Grehan



Sinn Féin  
Tomás Sharkey

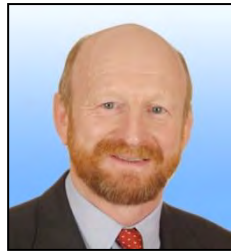


**DROGHEDA WEST**

Labour  
Paul Bell



Fine Gael  
Anthony Donohoe



Fianna Fáil  
Frank Maher



Sinn Féin  
Paddy McQuillan



**DROGHEDA EAST**

Fianna Fáil  
Tommy Byrne



Independent  
Frank Godfrey



Sinn Féin  
Imelda Munster



Labour  
Pio Smith



Fine Gael  
Michael O'Dowd



Fine Gael  
Oliver Tully



**ARDEE**

Fine Gael  
Jim Lennon



Fine Gael  
Colm Markey



Fine Gael  
Finnan McCoy



Sinn Féin  
Pearse McGeough



Fianna Fáil  
Liam Reilly



## Dundalk Town Council Members

Non-Party  
Martin Bellew



Fianna Fáil  
Sean Bellew



Green Party  
Marianne Butler



Fine Gael  
Maria Doyle



Green Party  
Mark Deary



Sinn Féin  
Jennifer Green



Fianna Fáil  
Conor Keelan



Sinn Féin  
Kevin Meenan



Non-Party  
Oliver Morgan



Fine Gael  
Eamonn O'Boyle



Independent  
Jim Ryan



Sinn Féin  
Harry Todd



## **Drogheda Borough Council Members**

Labour  
Paul Bell



Fine Gael  
Kevin Callan



Sinn Féin  
Matthew Coogan



Fine Gael  
Richie Culhane



Fine Gael  
Anthony Donohoe



Socialist Party  
Ciarán McKenna



Fianna Fáil  
Frank Maher



Sinn Féin  
Imelda Munster



Labour  
Linda Bell-Woods



Fine Gael  
Michael O'Dowd



Non-Party  
Ken O'Heiligh



Sinn Féin  
Dom Wilton



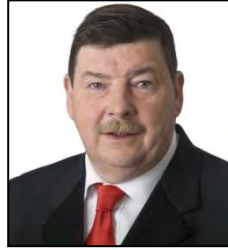
*Councillor Ciarán McKenna, Socialist Party, was co-opted on to the Council in September 2013 following the resignation of Councillor Frank Gallagher, Socialist Party.*

**Ardee Town Council Members**

Non-Party  
Michael Farrelly



Labour  
Leonard Hatrick



Green Party  
Mary Kavanagh



Fianna Fáil  
Fintan Malone



Fine Gael  
Finnan McCoy



Sinn Féin  
Pearse McGeough



Fianna Fáil  
Padraig McKenny



Fine Gael  
Dolores Minogue



Non-Party  
Jim Tenanty



## **Senior Staff of Louth Local Authorities Plus All 2013 Retirees**

### **Louth County Council**

*County Manager:* Philomena Poole

*Directors of Services:*

Economic Development: Michael Curran

Housing, Social & Community Planning, Fire &

Emergency Services & Ardee & District Area :  
Joe McGuinness

Transportation, Planning & South Louth Area :  
Joan Martin

Environment, Water Services, Planning & North  
Louth Area: Frank Pentony

Head of Finance: Bernadette Woods

*Head of IT:* Eugene Mulholland

*County Librarian:* Bernadette Fennell

*Senior Executive Officers:*

Human Resources: Colette Moss

CDB Secretariat/Corporate Services: Paddy  
Donnelly

Housing: Willie Walsh

Environment: Mary Murtagh

*Financial Accountant:*

Brian Lynch, Roisín McAuley

*Administrative Officers:*

Fire Services: David Jones

Transportation: Eugene McManus

Planning: Anne D Callan

Human Resources: Kieran Lawless

Finance: Pauline Goss

Sanitary Services: Brenda O'Brien

CDB Secretariat: Mary Deery, Paula Gribben

Housing: Therese McArdle

Economic Development and Future Planning:  
Michael McCabe

Snr. Executive Librarian: Amanda Branigan

Peace III Programme Manager/Community:  
Valerie Artherton

Networking for Peace Officer: Grainne Cumiskey

*Senior Engineers:*

Transportation: Gerry Kelly

Sanitary Services: Catherine Duff

Environment: Raymond McKenna

*Senior Executive Engineers:*

Transportation: Frank Magee, Paddy Connolly

Housing: Donal Clarke

Sanitary Services: Keith Hanratty, Peadar  
McGuinness

Environment: Declan McMahon

*Senior Executive Planners:*

Marguerite Quinn, Terence Savage, Emer  
O'Callaghan, Sinead Mullen

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

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

*County Arts Officer:* Brian Harten

*County Archivist:* Lorraine McCann

*County Coroner:* Ronan Maguire

*County Veterinary Officer:* Garret Shine

*Chief Fire Officer:* Eamon Woulfe

*Senior Social Worker:* Catherine Vaughan

*Louth Sports Partnership Coordinator:*

Mary Browne

*Chief Technician:* Paddy Birch

*Heritage Officer:* Brendan McSherry

*Senior Staff Officer:*

Human Resources: Mary Gormally

Corporate Services: Nessa McCartan

Road Safety Officer: Angela Muckian

Motor Tax & Major Emergency: Greg  
Flanagan

Water Services: Siobhan Rice

Forward Planning: Sinead McVerry

Housing: Kathleen Birch, Paddy Drumgoole

Executive Librarian: Sheila Tierney, Peter  
Murphy, Anne Keaveney

Finance: Anne McDonnell

### **Drogheda and District**

*Director of Services:* Joan Martin

*Senior Executive Officer:* Mary T. Daly

*Administrative Officers:*

Brona O'Reilly, Jeanne Rushe

*Senior Staff Officers:*

Christine Mullen, Alison Condra

*Senior Engineer:* Pat Finn

*Senior Executive Engineers:* Martina Sheeran,  
Vincent Toner

### **Dundalk and District**

*Director of Services:* Frank Pentony

*Senior Executive Officer:* David Storey

*Administrative Officers:*

John Lawrence, Joan Smith

*Senior Staff Officers:*

Eileen McEnteggart, Veronica Traynor, Mary Capplis

*Senior Engineer:* Catherine Duff

*Senior Executive Engineers:*

Peter McVeigh, Pdraig O'Hora

*Museum Curator:* Brian Walsh

### **Ardee and District**

*Director of Services:* Joe McGuinness

*Town Clerk:* Miriam Roe

*Senior Exec. Engineer:* Pdraig Judge

### **All Retirees 2013:**

Richard Corrigan - Foreman

Philp Bradley - Craftworker

Ignatius Traynor - GO

Christopher O'Connor – Waterworks Caretaker Grade 3

Philip McAuley - Mobile Library Driver/Assistant

Patricia Hanlon - Senior Library Assistant

Damien McConnon - Assistant Store Keeper

Gerard McCormack - GO

Michael Campbell – Lorry Driver/Machinery Op B

Michael Smith - Caretaker Halting Sites

## Corporate Affairs

### MEETINGS OF LOUTH COUNTY COUNCIL – 2013

Monthly Meeting	11
Special Meeting	0
Annual Meeting	1
Budget Meeting	1
CPG (Corporate Policy Group)	12
SPC – Transportation & Cross Border Matters	4
SPC – Environmental Services	3
SPC – Economic Development & Future Planning	6
SPC – Housing Social & Community Planning	3
Area Committee Meeting – Dundalk	11
Area Committee Meeting – Ardee	11
Area Committee Meeting – Drogheda	11
JPC – Drogheda and South Louth	4
JPC – Dundalk and North Louth	4
JPC – Ardee and Mid Louth	4
JPC – Steering Group Committee	3
JPC – Public Meetings	1
<b>Total No. of Meetings</b>	<b>90</b>

### Council Meetings

Louth County Council holds a monthly meeting on the third Monday of each month together with a statutory Budget meeting and Annual Meeting and also special meetings from time to time as required to deal with issues such as review of the County development Plan. A total of 13 meetings were held during 2013.

The statutory **Budget Meeting** was held on 16<sup>th</sup> December 2013 at which the Council considered a gross revenue expenditure of €68,594,840 for 2014 and adopted an annual Rate on the valuation of €55.36 with an additional levy of €1.77 for the area of Ardee Town Council. The report presented to the Council with the draft budget incorporated reports from each directorate on progress achieved throughout 2013 in the context of the previous Corporate Plan so as to comply with the requirements of Section 134 (ii) of the Local Government Act 2001.

*Louth County Council held its April 2013 Monthly Meeting in Ardee Castle – (April 15<sup>th</sup>) ▷*



### Area Committees

There are 3 area committees commensurate with the electorate area boundaries and these committees appointed chairmen for a one year period up to June 2013.

<i>Area Committee</i>	<i>Chairman</i>	<i>Meetings Held</i>
Dundalk Carlingford/ Dundalk South	Cllr. Martin Murnaghan	2 <sup>nd</sup> Monday of each month
Ardee	Cllr. Colm Markey	4 <sup>th</sup> Thursday of each month
Drogheda East/ Drogheda West	Cllr. Frank Godfrey	1 <sup>st</sup> Monday of each month

### Joint Policing Committees

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

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

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

The activities of the Counties Joint Policing Committees is covered in a report prepared in accordance with Section 36(5) of the Garda Síochána Act. 2005.

### Corporate Policy Group

The Local Government Act 2001, requires each County Council to establish Committee known as the Corporate Policy Group (C.P.G.) which consists of the Chairman of the County Council and the chairs of the S.P.C.s The function of the group is to advise and assist the elected council in the formulation, development, monitoring and review of policy. The C.P.G sat on 11 occasions during 2013 and their meeting schedule was on a monthly basis. One of the primary functions of the group is to review the agenda for the monthly council meeting. They also play a pivotal role in the formulation of the annual budget and the preparation of the Corporate Plan.

**CIVIC RECEPTIONS / AWARDS / etc.**

<b>Award Authority</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Recipient</b>	<b>Achievement</b>	<b>Costs</b>
Louth County Council	-	-	-	0
Dundalk Town Council	07/03/2013	Amy Broadhurst	Ireland's newest European Junior Featherweight Boxing Champion	€450.49
Dundalk Town Council	10/05/2013	Newry & Mourne Mayors Ball	Representing DTC	€297.58
Dundalk Town Council	21 <sup>st</sup> to 26 <sup>th</sup> July 2013	Canada, USA, South Africa, Spain, France, Czech Republic, Poland, Scotland and Ireland	12 <sup>th</sup> World Youth Fly Fishing Championship – hosted by Trout Anglers Federation of Ireland	€239.97
Dundalk Town Council	21/11/13	Argentine Ambassador Ms Silvia Meregá	Visiting Dundalk	€150.00
Ardee Town Council	02/10/2013	Pupils of Ardee Monastery National School	Their success as Aviva Health FAI all Ireland 5 a side Soccer champions 2013	€264.26
Drogheda Borough Council	21/03/2013	*Various Civic Awards - <b>Note Below mentioned:</b> ▽		€860.75
Drogheda Borough Council	09/05/2013	Members of Drogheda Borough Council bestowed the <b>Freedom of the Borough (Posthumous)</b> to <i>Garda Sergeant Patrick Morrissey</i> , who gave his life in the service of his country on 27 <sup>th</sup> June, 1985.		€432
Drogheda Borough Council	24/10/2013	Members of Drogheda Borough Council bestowed the <b>Freedom of the Borough</b> on <i>Father Ignatius O'Donovan - Augustinian Prior Drogheda – 1993-1997 and 2007-2013</i> in recognition of the years of dedicated service by Fr O'Donovan to the People of Drogheda through his many kind and charitable works and in his service to education and the young people of Drogheda.		€1,415

▽

**\* Drogheda Borough Council – Various Civic Awards.**

On 21<sup>st</sup> March, 2013, The Mayor awarded Civic Awards to the following:

- *Clare Leonard – Louth Meath Branch – Down Syndrome Ireland* in recognition of her lifelong dedication to the advancement of the rights of citizens with Down Syndrome facing the challenges of a modern society, were the right to equity and equality must constantly be advocated and strenuously fought for on a daily basis.
- *Michael & Margaret Toner* in recognition and appreciation of their commitment to charitable and voluntary organisations in Drogheda and District over many years, also in recognition of their generosity of spirit and kindness to all voluntary groups at Christmas time, with their annual Christmas project which involves a huge voluntary commitment to raise funds for community organisations all of which bring great social benefit to all our citizens
- *Michael Matthews* – Oliver Plunketts GFC in recognition and appreciation of his 69 years of service and dedication to Oliver Plunketts GAA Club and the GAA nationally, also in recognition of his commitment to his local community through his work with the GAA, as a way of giving young people all that a voluntary organisation can offer through the values of camaraderie, team spirit, discipline and most importantly a sense of identity.

- *Dave Turner – Drogheda & District Support 4 Older People* in recognition and appreciation of his dedication and unselfish commitment in the support of and advocacy of the rights of Senior Citizens in Drogheda and District. Also in recognition of his leadership qualities and vision in leading the way to the development of services for Senior Citizens and giving a voice to all challenges faced by Senior Citizens.
- *Hannah Donnelly* in recognition and appreciation of her commitment to children and young people forced through illness to spend Christmas time in Our Lady Lourdes Hospital, supporting them through her annual toy collection and distribution project, and in recognition of her ongoing commitment to children in Hospital despite her own health challenges, which she, with the help of her family and friends continues to fight on a daily basis.
- *Flora Okobi* in recognition and appreciation of her work in promoting and developing a platform to enhance and embrace the cultural diversity which exists in Drogheda and District, also in recognition of her proactive and relentless determination to develop relations between all nationalities, traditions and cultures all of which are now part of our community, through the organisation of educational programmes and events which celebrate the value of diversity.
- *St Itas Special School* –in recognition to the Board of management, Staff, Parents and Children who have made it possible for this very special Community School to dedicate to the educational needs and social development of our most special citizens over the past 50 years. Also in recognition of the continued work and commitment of this school, valued by all citizens, serving as a beacon of hope for all children who strive and rightly demand to reach their full potential and ambitions, thereby allowing them to achieve equity and equality in their community.
- *Drogheda Hospice Homecare* – in recognition and acknowledgement of the voluntary services made available by this organisation to those citizens suffering from cancer and their families through the voluntary provision of transport services for Hospital appointments and to those citizens in need of home care assistance. Also in recognition of the unselfish dedication and commitment of all the organisation's members and volunteers who provide their services free of charge and are solely reliant on the goodwill and generosity of the citizens of Drogheda to support their mission.

## **IRISH LANGUAGE SCHEME**

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

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

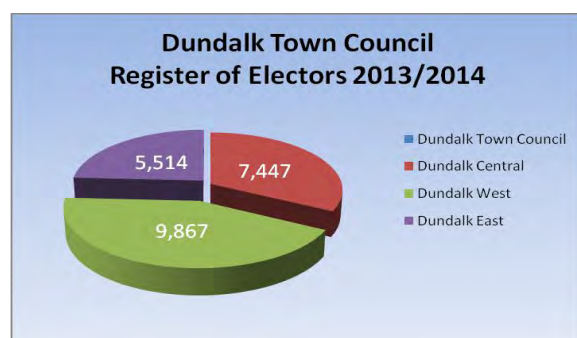
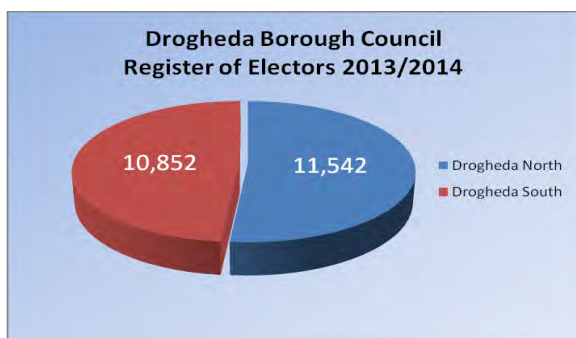
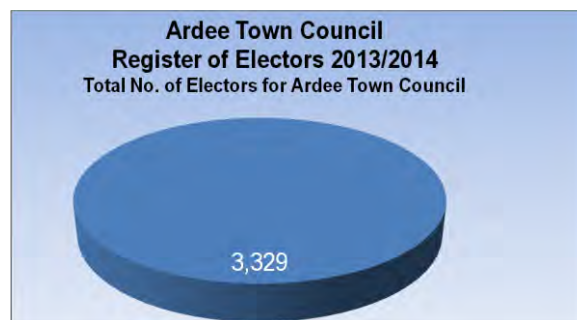
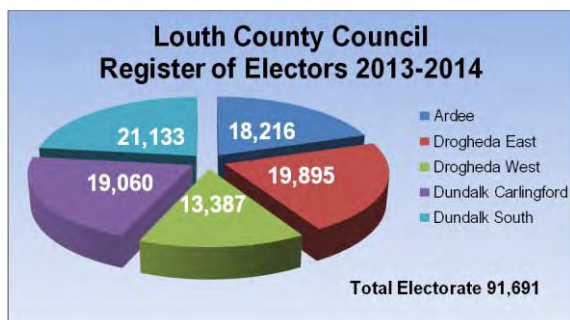
## **REGISTER OF ELECTORS**

The Register of Electors effective from February 15, 2013 showed a total voting population of 91,691 comprised as follows:

### Breakdown by Type of Elector

Dáil Electors	87,220
Presidential Electors	86,488
European Electors	88,287
Local Electors	91,691

### Breakdown by Local Electoral Areas



### Edited Register of Electors

The edited Register of Electors effective from February 15, 2012 contained 3,135 names.

### Elections during 2013

A Referendum on the Thirty-second Amendment of the Constitution (Abolition of Seanad Éireann) Bill 2013 and Thirty-third Amendment of the Constitution (Court of Appeal) Bill 2013 and was held on Friday, 4th October 2013.

During November 2013 a number of Electoral Information Sessions were held in various locations around the County to give an overview of the Electoral Register process and voting. Drop in Sessions were also held to allow citizens to check their details on the electoral register, which complemented the online checking facility at [www.checktheregister.ie](http://www.checktheregister.ie).

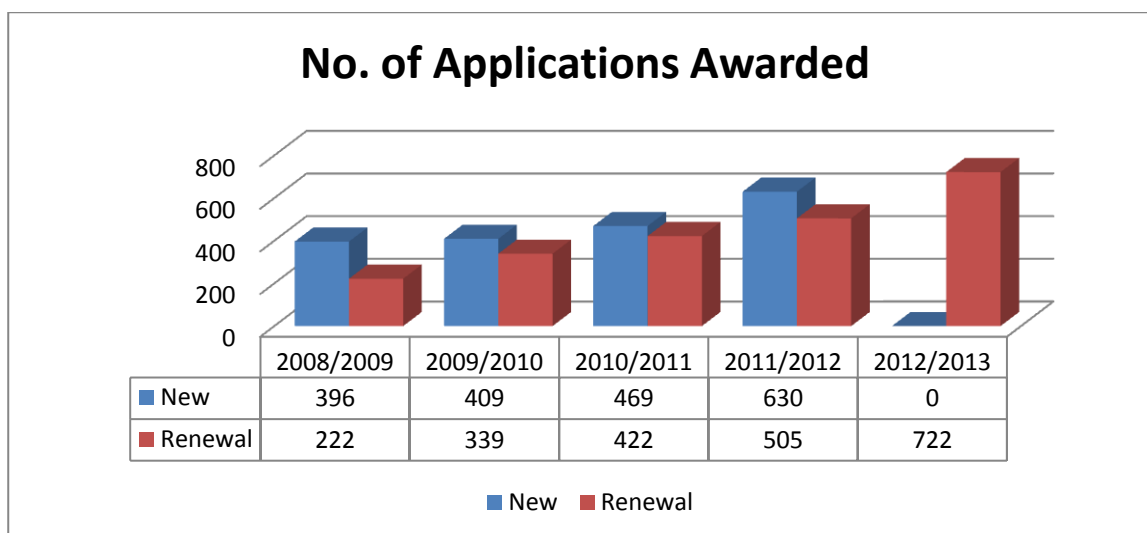


## HIGHER EDUCATION GRANTS

A total of €3,497,757.37 was paid out for Higher Education Grants during the 2012/2013 Academic Year. All grants/fees paid to students, are recoupable from the Department of Education & Skills with the exception of a fixed contribution of €6,279.11. The Council administration costs are not recoupable.

From the 2012/2013 academic year Louth County Council are now only dealing with renewals of Grants which had previously been awarded by the authority due to the introduction of ‘*Student Universal Support Ireland*’ - SUSI the single Awarding Authority for all *new* student grant applications. The online application system provides a quick, user friendly way to apply for Higher Education grants.

Statistics on the number of Higher Education Grant applications awarded for the last 5 Academic Years are as follows:



## STEM, Energy Monitoring & Reporting

### STEM - ISO14001

Louth County Council demonstrates strong civic leadership through the delivery of the STEM Project. The STEM project has been running since 2004 and has helped Louth County Council achieve accreditation to the internationally recognised ISO14001 Environmental Management System (EMS) in County Hall, Roads & Water Services. This is a system that asks us to look at our activities, products and services and ask:

- “How do the things we do impact on the environment?”
- “What pieces of legislation should we be falling in line with and are we?”
- “What can we do to reduce our most damaging impacts on the environment first?”
- “How can we do that?” & “How do we monitor & measure our success?”

An external 5 day surveillance audit took place at the end of April 2013 and included site inspections at County Hall, Carlingford Fire Station, Woodlands Depot, Ardee Yard, the Animal Compound, Whiteriver landfill and a sampling of waste water and sewage treatment plants, and the continued registration to ISO14001 was recommended.

Among the areas covered and visited during the Audit were:

- Use of Survey Monkey for awareness raising and monitoring with staff
- Developments in energy efficiency and use of renewables
- Waste management
- Visual communications

By taking action to protect the environment and minimise the use of resources, the council is helping its long term sustainability. Objectives and targets set in the council are wide ranging and most of the objectives focused on preventing pollution and minimising the use of resources such as energy and materials.

### **Overview of Energy Usage in 2013**

The majority of energy use by Louth Local Authorities is in the form of electricity, road diesel, mains gas and kerosene heating oil, in that order. Energy use is actively managed by the activities of the energy team.

### **Diesel usage for the fleet of Louth Local Authorities**

	<b>Use in Litres</b>	<b>Cost (ex-VAT)</b>
<b>2012</b>	253,649	€314,037
<b>2013</b>	266,068	€318,537

## CITIZEN SERVICES

### Freedom of Information

During 2013 41 applications were made under the Freedom of Information Act 1997/2003 to Louth Local Authorities. In Louth County Council there was an increase of 25% on 2012 figures, in Drogheda Borough Council and in Dundalk Town Council there was a decrease of 43% on 2012 figures.

	Louth County Council 2012	Drogheda Borough Council 2012	Dundalk Town Council 2012	Louth County Council 2013	Drogheda Borough Council 2013	Dundalk Town Council 2013
<b>Total Number of Requests</b>	25	7	7	33	4	4
- Personal	13	4	4	9	3	Nil
- Non-Personal	11	3	3	21	1	4
- Mixed	1	Nil	Nil	3	Nil	Nil
<b>Requests Granted</b>	8	5	5	10	2	3
<b>Requests Part Granted</b>	10	Nil	Nil	16	Nil	NIL
<b>Requests Refused</b>	4	2	2	7	2	Nil
<b>Requests Transferred</b>	1	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
<b>Requests withdrawn</b>	1	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
<b>Requests withdrawn and handled outside of FOI</b>	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	1
<b>Requests for Internal Review</b>	2	1	1	1	1	Nil
<b>Appeals to the Information Commissioner</b>	1	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
<b>Source of Requests</b>						
Journalists	1	Nil	Nil	3	Nil	Nil
Business	3	1	1	9	1	Nil
Oireachtas	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Others/General Public	15	6	6	16	3	4
Staff	6	Nil	Nil	5	Nil	Nil

	Louth County Council	Drogheda Borough Council	Dundalk Town Council
<b>Ombudsman Complaints</b>			
Complaints received during the year	2 <i>(one of which was subsequently transferred to DBC)</i>	1	2
<b>Subject of Complaints</b>			
Community, Recreation & Amenities			
Corporate Affairs			
Environment/Enforcement/Vets	1		
Finance			
Future Planning & Economic Development			
Housing	1 <i>(transferred)</i>	1	1
Planning			1
Transportation			
Motortax			
Water Services			
<b>Citizen Charter Complaints</b>			
Complaints received during 2013	10	0	0

## Drogheda Borough Council

### Council Meetings

Drogheda Borough Council holds a monthly meeting on the first Monday of the Month together with a statutory Budget Meeting and Annual Meeting and also special meetings from time to time. There are no meetings held in the month of August. A total of 14 meetings were held in 2013

### CORPORATE ESTATE

#### The Tholsel

During 2014 the Council will continue to source funding to carry out renovation works to the first floor as a public exhibition area which will include repairs to the clock tower, roof and first floor ceilings.



### **Council Offices, Fair Street**

In March 2013 Drogheda Borough Council awarded the design contract for the Redevelopment and Refurbishment of Drogheda Borough Council Offices to Michael Collins Associates Architects (MCA). Preliminary design is currently being prepared for the Council.



## **HOUSING & COMMUNITIES**

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

### **Housing Needs Assessment**

At the end of 2013, there were 940 applicants on the housing list for Louth County Council, 1580 applicants on the housing list for Drogheda Borough Council and 1656 applicants on the housing list for Dundalk Town Council.

### **Housing Provision**

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

- In the case of Louth County Council during 2013, the construction of a housing development at Seafield Road, Blackrock, continued, while works were completed on a development at Mell, Drogheda.
- The onset of the economic recession in 2008 has resulted in changes to housing policy at a national level. There is now less emphasis on direct provision of social housing through the funding of new construction.
- Government policy is focused on providing social housing through lease arrangements with existing property owners and developers carrying unsold housing stock.

### **Social Housing**

At the end of 2013,

- Louth County Council had 958 social housing units in stock,
- Drogheda Borough Council had 1,320 social housing units and
- Dundalk Town Council had 1,416 social housing units.

### **Affordable Housing**

The demand for affordable housing has receded completely in the last number of years with no affordable houses being sold in 2013.

Twenty six affordable units were directly converted to social units towards the end of 2009 and a further 4 such conversions were made in Dundalk in 2011. In addition, 30 unsold affordable units in the County area and 24 such units in Dundalk have been leased to the voluntary housing sector for a period of up to five years for letting to tenants from the housing authority waiting lists.

### **Voluntary Housing**

Louth Local Authorities have a distinguished record in working with voluntary bodies for the provision of voluntary housing units. There are 765 voluntary housing units in the County, of which 362 are within the Dundalk Town Council area; 283 are within the Drogheda Borough Council area and 120 are within the County Council area.

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

The Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS) is an initiative administered by local authorities in support of their social housing programmes. It involves good quality privately owned accommodation being leased on behalf of eligible tenants (people with permanent residency rights in the State who have a long-term housing need and are in receipt of Rent

Supplement for more than 18 months). In the order of 2,800 people in Louth receive rent supplement at present. Of these, some 1,401 were in receipt of it for over 18 months at the end of 2013.

At the end of 2013, there were 196 properties in the RAS in Louth.

### **Social Leasing Schemes**

The Rental Accommodation Scheme is now supplemented by -

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

### **Housing Rents**

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

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

- 2013 saw 646 requests for maintenance to existing social housing stock in the Louth County Council area, all but 10 of which were resolved before year-end.
- 53 houses in the county area were refurbished during 2013 following the departure of the tenants.
- Drogheda Borough Council had 2,558 requests for maintenance to their existing social housing stock, of which 255 remained unresolved at the end of the year. 68 houses in the Drogheda area were refurbished during 2013 following the departure of the tenants.
- Dundalk Town Council had 2,051 requests for maintenance to their existing social housing stock, of which 64 remained unresolved at the end of the year. 59 houses in the Dundalk area were refurbished during 2012 following the departure of the tenants.

### **Regulation of Standards for Rented Housing**

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

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

The regulations set minimum required standards for, *inter alia*, the Structural Condition of a property (Article 5 of the regulations); Sanitary Facilities (Article 6); Heating Facilities (Article 7); Food Preparation & Storage and Laundry (Article 8) and Ventilation (Article 9). Articles six to eight will initially apply only to new tenancies and will come into operation for existing tenancies from February 1, 2013. Over 500 inspections were made in this area in 2011.

### Estate Management

Louth Local Authorities (Louth County Council, Dundalk Town Council, and Drogheda Borough Council) Estate Management Policy aims to promote and facilitate tenant involvement in the management of local authority estates. To encourage continued tenant involvement, support is provided through various grant schemes and initiatives and through ongoing contact with the Tenant Liaison Officers. In 2013, this support included the provision of equipment for grass cutting and gardening to enable residents continue maintaining and improving their estate. Anti-dumping initiatives, such as provision of community wheelie bins and litter picking equipment, estate clean ups, and landscaping, have been introduced to enhance the appearance of estates. Tenant Liaison Officers also carry out house inspections to ensure individual properties are being maintained to an appropriate standard and support is provided to tenants where improvements are necessary. Every new tenant appointed to a Council tenancy receives pre-tenancy training to provide them with relevant information and advise them of their responsibilities as tenants. All new council allocations are inspected six months after allocation to ensure good standards are being maintained and to identify any issues at an early stage.



Oldbridge Planting △



◁ Cleanup Group

The table below illustrates activity with regard to general estate management in County Louth in 2013

	LCC	DTC	DBC	TOTAL
Pre Tenancy Training	84	106	73	263
Tenancy(House) Inspections	215	328	356	899
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>299</b>	<b>434</b>	<b>429</b>	<b>1162</b>

Louth Local Authorities work with established residents groups on an ongoing basis and actively seek to establish residents groups in areas where none exist, particularly in new housing estates.

In 2013, an updated edition of the Tenants handbook was produced. The handbook is a very useful reference tool for tenants and a copy is provided to every new tenant at the commencement of their tenancy

### Anti-Social Behaviour

Louth Local Authorities address anti-social behaviour in its housing estates, dwellings and sites through implementation of its Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy. Louth Local Authorities investigate all valid complaints of anti-social behaviour and can issue various degrees of warning letters, serve Notice to Quit or apply for Excluding Order for engagement in anti-social behaviour. In 2013 Louth Local Authorities carried out 249 investigations in relation to anti-social behaviour as shown in the below table;

<b>No.</b>	<b>Drogheda Borough Council</b>	<b>Dundalk Town Council</b>	<b>Louth County Council</b>	<b>Total</b>
Complaints investigated	106	67	76	249
No action required	51	41	36	128
Verbal warnings	24	10	22	56
Written Warnings	31	16	18	65
Application for Excluding Order	1	0	0	1

Housing Authority may refuse to allocate or defer the allocation of a dwelling to a person where the authority considers that the person is or has been engaged in anti-social behaviour or that an allocation to that person would not be in the interest of good estate management. Louth Local Authorities carry out Garda clearance for all housing applicants prior to allocation of social housing. In 2013 Louth Local Authorities deferred allocation of housing to 9 housing applicants due to engagement in anti-social behaviour as shown in the below table;

<b>No.</b>	<b>Drogheda Borough Council</b>	<b>Dundalk Town Council</b>	<b>Louth County Council</b>	<b>Total</b>
Allocation of housing deferred	7	1	1	9

(Revitalising Areas by Planning, Investment and Development)

### RAPID Programme - DUNDALK

The Dundalk RAPID Programme has been a hive of activity over 2013, its focus being on service integration, leadership and new investment. Through the work of the Dundalk RAPID Area Implementation Team, a number of actions have been progressed & achieved in the two RAPID areas in Dundalk, Cox's Demesne and Muirhevnamor. The other forums, that are actively pursuing social inclusion measures in the RAPID areas, is the Dundalk Drugs Action Group and the Development Group for the Young People's Facilities and Services fund, both groups facilitated by the RAPID Co-ordinator.

### Key achievements in 2013

- The Dundalk Incredible Years Project and its consortium of new groups continue to grow from strength to strength and secured €1.54 million to extend the programme to pre-schools within Louth, under Genesis, which is an area based childhood initiative.

- Local Training Initiatives continue in Muirhevnamór-Environmental project & Cox's Demesne/DKIT project- "CREATE" a Creative Media project.
- The RAPID Summer Camp/Easter Camps and Futsal Leagues, Drop in evening leagues.
- Work continues with residents under the social regeneration programme, under a range of projects.
- Engagement under estate management with residents groups from RAPID areas and senior DTC staff continues.

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

The Dundalk Development group comprises of the Co-ordinator of the North East Regional Drugs Task Force (NERDTF) who is the chairperson, together with The Dundalk RAPID co-ordinator and the Youth Development officer with the Louth Meath Educational Training Board (LMETB). Dundalk was one of the named new towns, this initiative targets young people between the ages of 10-21yrs, throughout the whole town of Dundalk. During 2013 Funding was secured through the Office of the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs (OFMCYA) through the FAI for a sporting programme of events, which involved Easter and Summer camps, with Futsal evening tournaments held in partnership with the An Garda Síochána. The Key project of the Dundalk Development group is the development of the Dundalk Youth Centre, which houses Dundalk's only Youth Cafe. There are a number of creative arts, music and Youth/drug awareness programmes delivered alongside counselling interventions, links have been developed with HSE Addiction counselling service and the North East Regional Drugs Task Force (NERDTF) projects.



▷  
**RAPID  
Summer Camp  
Participants**

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

The Dundalk Drug Action Group is an interagency group that was established by Dundalk Town Councillors in 2007, it is the local authority's response to the issue of drugs that are infiltrating our communities. The group commissioned a Report on Drugs misuse & Drug Service provision in Dundalk to look at "Improving the Community's Response, by Queen's University, in Belfast. **Dundalk Drugs Action Group** reviewed the 15 recommendations of the Queens Report and is currently perusing **six priority actions** during 2010-2014; this work plan includes the need for harm reduction measures, for greater family support, for gender specific support groups and for community and residential detoxification/treatment facilities in Dundalk. Some of these actions have been realised and the group continue to

meet bi monthly to keep Drugs on the agenda of all the statutory & community & voluntary agencies involved.

### Key Achievements

- As a result of the Social regeneration taking place under the DTC Urban Vision regeneration programme and RAPID programmes, a part-time drugs outreach worker post has been funded for the Cox's Demesne RAPID area. This Worker's role is to offer direct support in the home and on the street to the service user and their families experiencing drug addictions.
- The extension of Community Alcohol Detoxification Facility to benzodiazepine - reflects how drugs have increased without our communities. The Dundalk Drugs Action Group has supported the work of TURAS Counselling Services and the Dundalk Simon Community in establishing this facility.
- Community Addiction Studies Course rolled out during 2013 with great success, this course is for people living or working in local communities who wish to be more effective when dealing with drug and alcohol issues.



▷  
*Participants of the Community  
Addiction Studies Course  
Receiving their Certificates*

### Traveller Interagency Group

This interagency group was re-established in April/May 2010 and have met regularly, to action their work plan which was reviewed during 2012. However, only one meeting took place during 2013.

### Educational Bursaries

Louth County Council, together with the Department of Education & Skills reviewed the Educational Bursary Scheme during 2013. Unfortunately, the scheme was terminated going forward as it was not compatible with the SUSI central applications system.

(Revitalising Areas by Planning, Investment and Development)

### **RAPID Programme - DROGHEDA**

### **Louth peace and Reconciliation Programme**

### **Community Based CCTV**

All sites for Community Based CCTV have been upgraded.

### **BOMMERANG: One Stop Youth Service**

Mayor Richie Culhane officially opened the BOMMERANG Youth Service in June 2013

Following the successful Sports Capital Grant Application the Drogheda Community centre is now wheelchair accessible. Also additional equipment was purchased for the facility. The core users of the facility are:

- Drogheda & District AC
- Boyne AC
- Drogheda Karate Club
- IWA Kids Club
- Drogheda and District Children's League
- Drogheda Handball

Currently TUS workers are responsible for the daily caretaking of the premises.

### **Physical Environment**

The RAPOID Community Environment Initiative continues to operate effectively across the 7 RAPID estates and continues to be resourced via the Jobs Initiative Scheme for the workers, Drogheda Borough Council Amenity Grants and Moneymore Community House.

With the end of the Community Development Programme in Rathmullen residents primarily from Ballsgrove, Rathmullen and Tredagh View have been working together to develop the Community House Network . They have been doing this with the support of Drogheda Borough Council/RAPID, Opal, County Louth VEC (now LMETB), the Family Support Agency and Louth Leader Partnership. The House hosts a family support counselling service and IT training although it is the Grow Your own initiative that has provided the inspiration for their latest garden project.

What began with training and experimentation with growing vegetables has now expanded to include a garden project. Members of the House in a trip sponsored jointly by DBC and Louth Leader Partnership travelled to Galway to see the work there and what can be done when people work together. This along with ongoing training delivered voluntarily continues to encourage the Community House Network to make the most of their surroundings and the open space on their door step.

### **RAPID Training & Education Working Group**

The Training, Education and Employment working Group continue to meet on a regular basis. Its member ship included:-

- Louth Leader Partnership
- WALK
- Louth Employability
- TUS
- Social Protection
- Drogheda Institute of Further Education
- Order of Malta Services
- Lifestyle Development
- Drogheda Resource centre
- Local Employment Services
- Louth Meath Education and Training Board
- Louth Volunteer Centre

## Health

The HSE Health promotions Unit continues to deliver excellent work in the RAPID Estates. 202 families in the Moneymore/ Rathmullan signed up to participate in the 2013 Smoke free Homes Competition.

The Competition commenced on the 3rd June and ran over a four week period. The dangers of second-hand smoke and the health benefits of quitting smoking were highlighted.

15 people participated in the six week Healthy lifestyle course in the Community House Network Rathmullan, topics covered were the benefits of physical activity, healthy eating, bone health, food labeling and stress management.

Over 300 families participated in Community wide fire drill in Rathmullan and Moneymore October 2013. Families signed up to check their smoke alarms are working and how to escape in the event of a fire.

In September the Irish Heart Foundation's Heart Month campaign **The Facts of Life** focused on fat and cholesterol, free information booklets were distributed to 250 homes and were also available from the Community House Network Rathmullan.

## Family Support

**CONNECT FRC** continues to provide a focal point for all in the Moneymore estate, Laurence's Park and Drive, Hawthorn Terrace and Close and Lia Breaga. Apart from their wide-ranging summer programme a new course was introduced thank to the Louth Peace and Reconciliation EU funded Small Grants programme. CAP- Community, Conflict and peace building training is being hosted by Connect and has been running for the past number of weeks. It focuses on dealing with conflict and learning ways to make positive changes in the world around us. Services at the 171 Moneymore also include parenting programmes. Counselling support and access to a drop in facility where help is given with a range of issues by the expert staff. There is also access to office and computer resources including computer/internet, telephone, photocopying, letter writing, filling in forms, job search, CV's and Job applications.

2013 saw the completion of a third **Strengthening Families Programme** in 2013. This programme continues to support parents and their young people through exposure to a skills based parent support programme which engages with both the parents and the young people.

The funding was provided as a result of a consortium approach with providers of the programme in Dundalk. The challenge will be to find funds for 2014.

The Incredible Years Programme was rolled out in 8 Drogheda Schools and it continues to benefit schools the community, children and families. It received an extra boost in 2013 with significant funding to allow for it to extend into other targeted areas in the County outside Drogheda and Dundalk thanks to a Consortium bid involving schools, Childcare providers Louth County Childcare Committee and Louth Leader Partnership to the Department of Health and Children and Atlantic Philanthropies.

The Drogheda Life start service works from the Lifestyle Centre and any families who wish to avail of the service should ring the Centre to arrange an appointment. The Teen Parent Support and Focus Your Future a Lifestyle training programme for early school leavers who wish to gain vocational certification.

## **EDUCATION**

Following the success of Drogheda Counts the Local Area Schools Committee have chosen to focus on mental health and creating awareness among community , families and children around mental health supports. This will take the form of a series of talks and an Art Competition involving Designated DEIS schools. The second phase of the project will run into 2015 and involves the collection of best practice programmes /methods to address mental health issues in the community and in school.

### **Peer Education and Drugs Prevention**

This work was supported by Drogheda Borough Council. Peer Education is designed to enable young people to learn about self-esteem, peer pressure, smoking, alcohol and other drugs and their effects.

The cascade learning style equips the Peer Educators with the methods and skills to deliver this information back to their 1st year peers.

In 2013 Drogheda we trained 26 students from St Olivers, St Josephs, Greenhill's and Drogheda Grammar who then went on to teach 630 first years and then went onto teach approx. 140 primary students from St Pauls, Marymount, St John's and CBS primary.

## TRANSPORTATION & MARINE

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

### TRANSPORTATION

#### Winter Maintenance

We experienced a late spring in 2013 which resulted in almost 70 callouts in the early part of the year with a total of approximately 90 callouts to year end. Great credit is due to the area and outdoor staff for their dedication and effort.

#### N53 Dundalk Castleblayney Road

Phase I and II of this major improvement scheme were completed. Preparatory works are ongoing on contracts to carry out ground investigation and archaeological excavation on Phase III from Philipstown to Hackballscross with the Part 8 planning process for this phase underway.

#### Carlingford Coastal Footpath

The construction of a 300m length of new footpath, improving the horizontal alignment of the road at a dangerous bend was completed with the inclusion of eleven new street lights at Ghan Road, Carlingford. This project was 100% funded through lead partners East Border Region by the European Union through INTERREG IVA funding stream.

#### N52 Ardee Bypass

Archaeological and Site Investigations progressed during the year. Preliminary design works are ongoing and contract documentation is being prepared for a Design Build (DB) contract. This project will be ready to go immediately to tender should funding become available.

#### Carlingford to Omeath Greenway

The Carlingford to Omeath Greenway consists of 2 Phases: Phase 1A is a 3.6km stretch of Greenway consisting of pedestrian and cycle trail between Carlingford Marina and Greer’s Quay. A contractor has been appointed in conjunction with a Water Services Scheme. Phase 1B is 2km from Greer’s Quay to Omeath, works are underway and are expected to be completed in 2014.



*Carlingford to Omeath  
Greenway ▷*

*Carlingford to Omeath Greenway* ▾



**Narrow Water Bridge**

During the course of the year, the project achieved many important milestones, including:  
Grant of Letter of Offer under INTERREG Programme formaire €17.4million  
Receipt of 4 valid Tenders for the project  
Award of minor contracts by Louth County Council, including Site Investigation and Archaeology.

However, due to the preferred bidder's tender price being considerably higher than the original estimate, we were unable to bridge the gap of more than €14million.

**Port Access Northern Cross Route (Drogheda)**

While no construction funding is available at the present time, land acquisition on the mainline continued during 2013. Again, this project will be able to go to tender at short notice should funding become available.

**Cavan Dundalk Route**

Works are ongoing on preliminary design of the route for which Cavan is the lead partner. An archaeology desktop study is ongoing. With the Red Bog Section in Louth already completed, further works will only be undertaken in sections as funding becomes available.

**Station Road R166**

This road, which links the M1 Motorway to the R132 at Castlebellingham, is in need of upgrading to remove a number of bad bends. Works commenced in 2013 on realignment of bends at Drumleck.

### **N1 North of Dundalk**

Maintenance of the N1 from Ballymac to the Border was transferred in mid-2013 to a private contractor, GSJ, who were appointed by the NRA following a tender process.

### **Community Involvement Schemes**

The Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport provided funding of €393,320 for a new community involvement scheme to carry out maintenance works on local tertiary roads. The Area Engineers worked with the local groups to progress the schemes.

### **South Louth District**

The amalgamated South Louth & Drogheda Borough Council area delivered the winter maintenance programme and the annual road works programme. Road refurbishment works included a surface dressing programme in the rural area, resurfacing of residential estates together with extensive road and footpath repairs and reconstruction in the town. Under the Low Cost Safety Measures programme road widening and improvements were made at Mary Street and road safety measures were introduced at R132, Mullary. A new roundabout was constructed at Beechgrove junction in Drogheda. Replacement of safety barriers and provision of new road markings was carried out on approaches to bend at southside of Bridge of Peace. A new accessible bus stop was constructed at George's Street.

The Council carried out road and footpath maintenance works throughout the Borough, in addition to ongoing traffic management and parking provision.

## **MARINE**

### **Bellurgan Embankment**

Louth County Council appointed a consultant for the provision of engineering and environmental services in relation to the survey and assessment of the Bellurgan Embankment as a flood defence and the development of a strategy for the management of flood risk in the area presently protected by the embankment. The report of the consultant has been received. A scheme has been brought to Part 8 for approval. No funding is available at this time for construction.

### **Annagassan Harbour**

We are currently awaiting a decision on a 10 year foreshore licence application has been made to the Department of Agriculture Food and Marine in order to remove silt which has built up in the harbour area which limits the berthing capacity at the pier.

### **Clogherhead Harbour**

During 2013, repair works to the Harbour wall were completed. Replacement pre-pay power supply kiosks and cabinets on the pier were also provided. Lighting on the inner harbour has been replaced with energy efficient lighting and meets the required lighting standards.

## **Water, Environment & Emergency Services:**

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

### **ENVIRONMENT**

#### **Dog Control**

The pound took in 556 dogs in 2013, of which 149 were reclaimed by owners or re-homed directly from the pound, with a further 340 dogs re-homed via local charities, the majority through Dundalk Dogs. These figures mean that less 88% of dogs going through the pound found a home.

The dog license numbers for the county in 2013 was 5,525 which was an increase of over 300 licenses from the previous year. Included in these figures are 7 General Dog Licenses and one lifetime licence. Dog control was maintained at a high level with 520 Fixed Penalties issued, and the number of penalties paid was the highest in the country.

There were three Dog Breeding Establishments inspected and registered during the year.

#### **Horse Control**

The year was another extremely active year in horse control, with 145 horses going through the pound. The majority of horses encountered at the pound were neither licensed nor micro-chipped and as such ownership was never determined. FPN stats, etc form annual COH return. There were new mandatory requirements for horses being reclaimed from the Pound with owners having to produce valid horse passports and also evidence of their Equine Premises Registration Number.



#### **Food Safety**

The number of establishments under the inspectorate of Louth County Council increased by one as a new meat cutting plant was established, bring the number of premises inspected by the veterinary section of Louth to 13, comprising of 1 abattoir, 12 approved meat cutting/cooking plants and 2 registered meat plants. The county provides the meat inspection and food safety duties under a service contract with the Food safety Authority of Ireland.

### **Drogheda Borough Council**

#### **Environment & Water**

The Environment section in Drogheda Borough Council continued to promote environmental awareness throughout the community through its environmental programs

such as the Amenity grants, the annual Beauty on the Boyne competition, recycling initiatives etc. Drogheda continued to perform well in national competitions, retaining a gold medal in the National Tidy Towns Competition. Tree maintenance, weed control, grass and hedge cutting programmes were carried out to maintain the natural environment and litter control programme was also implemented.

Drogheda Borough Council continued to maintain the water and drainage network within the Borough area and carried out an extensive programme of water leakage monitoring and repair.

## **FIRE SERVICE**

2013 was the first full year of implementation of the new fulltime fire services in Dundalk and Drogheda. These new structures were monitored and reviewed during 2013.

The downward trend in emergency callouts attended by Louth County Council Fire and Rescue continued during 2013 with Dundalk responding to 474 calls, Drogheda responding to 501 calls and Ardee, Carlingford and Dunleer responding to 194 calls. See details of calls the table below.

The large decrease in rural callouts is as a result of a large decline in gorse fires.

The schools home fire safety programme was delivered to primary schools in Louth during 2013.

The DECLG funding which was committed to the extension and the upgrade of the Dundalk Regional Fire Service Training Centre has not yet been received, due to cutbacks in the Fire Service Capital Programme. Interim funding for smaller scale improvements was received and these were completed in December 2013.

During 2013, the Fire Prevention Section inspected a range of high-risk apartment buildings, nursing homes and public assembly buildings and took enforcement proceedings as necessary.

All Fire Safety Certificate applications which were received were processed by the Fire Prevention Section, with a marginal increase in the numbers of these from 2012. Similarly all Disabled Access Certificate applications were processed by the Building Control Officer.

An upgrade of the muster bay in Dundalk fire station and other improvements to the building structure and services took place in 2013.

The Emergency Planning Officer organised a Major Emergency coastal environmental exercise during 2013.

The new Civil Defence Officer, Christopher Connolly, was appointed and has commenced implementing a new training programme.

Incident Types within Station Areas: 2013

2012

Type	Ardee	Carlingford	Dunleer	Drogheda	Dundalk		Total	Total
Fire/Alarm Activation	3	3	8	47	25		86	86
Fire/Bus/Coach	0	0	0	0	1		1	2
Fire/Car	9	9	7	50	60		135	115
Fire/Caravan	0	1	0	7	3		11	5
Fire/Chimney	8	2	2	24	17		53	78
Fire/Domestic	9	6	11	40	55		121	145
Fire/Domestic Persons Reported	0	0	0	11	14		25	16
Fire/Fire (General)	3	1	5	23	24		56	48
Fire/Hay/Barn	3	1	1	3	2		10	7
Fire/Industrial	2	1	3	15	7		28	14
Fire/Institutional	1	0	0	1	3		5	9
Fire/Oil/Petrol	0	0	0	0	0		0	1
Fire/Small/Bin/Skip	6	5	5	136	119		271	284
Fire/Smoke Issuing	1	0	0	2	4		7	7
Fire/Truck	1	1	4	1	7		14	12
Fire/Vegetation	5	18	6	54	45		128	74
SS/Ambulance Assist	1	5	1	20	9		36	24
SS/Animal Rescue	0	0	0	0	4		4	1
SS/Electrical	0	0	1	1	1		3	2
SS/Explosion	0	0	0	0	0		0	6
SS/Flooding/ Water Leak	0	1	1	5	3		10	1
SS/Garda Assist	0	3	0	1	4		8	8
SS/Gas Leak	0	3	0	3	7		13	4
SS/Hazardous Material	0	0	0	1	0		1	3
SS/Lift Persons Trapped	0	0	0	3	0		3	5
SS/Lockout	1	0	0	3	2		6	6
SS/Make Scene Safe	1	0	0	1	5		7	9
SS/Oil Spillage	1	0	0	2	1		4	2
SS/Other	0	0	0	4	6		10	11
SS/River Rescue	0	0	0	4	3		7	4
SS/RTA	13	4	6	34	37		94	101
SS/Smell of Gas	0	0	0	1	2		3	0
SS/Trees Down	1	0	0	4	4		9	1
<b>Total no. of Incidents:</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>501</b>	<b>474</b>		<b>1169</b>	<b>1091</b>

Average no. of Incidents per Month (2012): 90.9  
 Average no. of Incidents per Month (2013): 97.4

Notes:

1. No of Mobilisations: No of times each vehicle was mobilised by Eastern Regional Control Centre (ERCC) to an incident
2. Turnout Area: Area of Co Louth or Co Meath to which fire appliances from each of Louth's five fire stations are the first responding vehicle
3. Time to Mobilisation: Time taken between Time of Alert and Time Mobile
4. Response Time: Time taken from Time Mobile to Time In Attendance
5. RTC: Road Traffic Collision
6. RTA: Road Traffic Accident (same as RTC)
7. SS: Special Service

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

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

### LOUTH ECONOMIC FORUM

The Louth Economic Forum chaired by Padraic White, comprises of the business sector of County Louth, the local authority management and all of the state agencies that interact with those generating economic activity in the county and is a one stop shop for potential investors. The purpose of the Forum is to accelerate economic growth and job creation in the County.



△ *Launch of the Louth Economic Forum  
Agriculture Food & Fisheries Action Plan*

The Forum has 10 Action Areas which are:

Foreign Direct Investment; Sustainable Energy; Indigenous Industry; Tourism & Heritage; Education & Training; Age Friendly Business; Agriculture, Food and Fisheries; Making Louth the Best County to do Business; Broadband; Drogheda, Dundalk, Newry Economic Corridor.

A Task Group is established for each of the Action Plans with a Chairperson and members with relevant expertise and interest.

To date the following achievements have been made under each of the action plans:

#### **Foreign Direct Investment**

Louth County Council has worked with the IDA to attract the following FDI companies to locate in Louth:

- PayPal / EBay (1000 Jobs) Dundalk
- Coca Cola (100 Jobs) Drogheda
- Yapstone (120 Jobs) Drogheda

#### **Sustainable Energy**

- Replication of the Dundalk 2020 Holistic project is underway in Drogheda, Ardee and Newry.
- Facilitation of the development and promotion of Dundalk as a SMART Town is underway.

### **Indigenous Industry**

- Establishment of Louth Local Authorities Business Support Unit & one stop shop website for doing business; identification of alternate sources of funding for SME companies; promotion of EI Innovation Vouchers, Start Your Own Business programmes, Enterprise Development Programmes, Discovery Zone Innovation programme.

### **Tourism & Heritage**

- Continue to working jointly with Meath County Council to promote and Market the Boyne Valley as one of Ireland's top destinations.
- Development and promotion of a number of key signature projects e.g. Cooley Mourne Gullion, Destination working and sharing of resources with Newry & Mourne District Council
- Access of funding for various projects from Fáilte Ireland, the Heritage Council, INTERREG and Louth Leader partnership

### **Agriculture Food & Fisheries**

- Publication & Launch of the Agriculture Food & Fisheries Action Plan
- 

### **Education & Training**

- Establishment of an Education, Training & Business Task Group with the aim of working with industry and ensure graduates meet the criteria required and produce industry ready graduates.

### **Age-Friendly Business**

- Annual Age-friendly Consumer Trade Fair.
- Age-Friendly Business Chambers Awards in place.
- Implementation of a pilot Age-friendly Toolkit for Business in Ardee with the objective of making Ardee the first Age-friendly Town in Ireland.

### **Broadband**

- The Broadband Action Plan is now at final draft stage and will be published and launched in the first quarter of 2014.

## **Drogheda Borough Council**

### **Economic Development**

In 2013 Drogheda Borough Council continued to provide a customer orientated planning service for the public, through the consolidation of resources, the standardisation of procedures, achievement of efficiencies and the provision of professional advice on infrastructural issues pertaining to pre planning matters.

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

## **BUSINESS SUPPORT UNIT**

*“The Business Support Unit of Louth Local Authorities will assist economic development by providing a quality service and encouraging and supporting both new and existing business”*

Arising from Louth Economic Forum’s Indigenous Industry Action Plan, under the objective “Supporting Innovation in Domestic Market Enterprises” the Business Support Unit was established to interface with and facilitate both new and existing businesses operating in the county.

In 2013 there were in excess of 60 recorded business query meetings attended by a member of the Business Support Unit. These included dealing with commercial planning queries, advice on business start up ideas, access to funding queries, referrals to other agencies offering supports and general business advice and information.

### **Age-Friendly Business Forum**

Louth’s Age-Friendly Business Action Plan is a set of initiatives, promoted by the Louth Economic Forum, to position Louth as a leader in age-friendly business development, sustaining, supporting and creating jobs and new models of flexible value creating enterprise.

The Louth Age-Friendly Business Forum is chaired by Gavin Duffy; Louth based entrepreneur, media coach and RTE ‘Dragons Den’ presenter. The forum continued to meet during 2013, producing an Age-Friendly Business Action Plan and continued the roll out of the Age-Friendly Business pilot study with the business community in Ardee, Ireland’s first Age-Friendly Business Town.

- A total of 38 Ardee companies registered for the Louth Age-Friendly Business Pilot scheme. The data collected was analysed by the Netwell Centre / CASALA based in Dundalk Institute of Technology.
- In 2013 for the first time, both the Dundalk and Drogheda Chamber Business Awards contained an ‘Age-Friendly Business’ category. The respective winners were Good Morning Louth and Myhomecare.ie
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### **Tourism**

The Louth Tourism & Heritage Forum, chaired by Ray Carroll, former CEO of The Kildare Hotel, Spa and Country Club continued to meet during 2013.

### **Update on 2013 actions**

- The Louth ‘Festival and Events Financial Assistance Scheme’ is designed to support and encourage the hosting of festivals and events throughout County Louth. In 2013 funding was allocated in the form of small grants to 40 events to assist them with marketing and promotion.
- The Business Support Unit delivered ‘The Gathering 2013’ in County Louth on behalf of Fáilte Ireland. In excess of 110 events were registered in County Louth,

with €55,000 allocated to various events through the Local Community and IPB Insurance Funds.



△ *County Louth Gathering Steering Group Members*

- Several major festivals took place in 2012 which received financial assistance, including the National Leprechaun Hunt, Drogheda Samba Festival, Land of Legends Nautical Event, Táin March, Drogheda Fringe / Maritime Festival, Thomas D'Arcy McGee Summer School, & Drogheda Arts Festival.
- The development and promotion of Louth as a walking destination continued in 2013. The 'Annaloughan Loop' was added to the National Trails Office approved looped walks in County Louth.
- In partnership with the County Louth tourism trade, 'Louth, land of legends' was promoted at the Holiday World Shows in Dublin and Belfast in January 2013 and also at Méitheal, Ireland's largest tourism trade fair.



△ *Michael Ring TD visits Louth Stand, Holiday World – January 2013*

- A major Cross Border Tourism Conference in association with EURES, which focused on sustainable tourism, was held in Dundalk in April 2013. Over 230 delegates attended the event.

- The 'Carlingford Coastal Path' in the medieval village was completed as one of the projects funded by the East Border Region Tourism Development Plan project, funded by INTERREG IV A and managed by SEUPB.



△ *Coastal Footpath, Ghan Road, Carlingford.*

## **Regional Gateway:**

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

### **MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN LOUTH LOCAL AUTHORITIES & NEWRY AND MOURNE DISTRICT COUNCIL**

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

The co-operation themes are: Emergency Planning, Renewable Energy and Green Technology, Tourism and Recreation and Sustainable Economic Growth and Job Creation.

The achievements to date are:

#### **RENEWABLE ENERGY & GREEN TECHNOLOGY**

##### **CONCERTO/HOLISTIC - €10.5m - Completed**

A shared vision between the communities of Dundalk, Modling and Neuchatel plus the observer communities of Newry, Achan and the Italian Ministry of Environment and Protection of Land and Sea, to encourage public and private partners to be innovative in their approach to integrating sustainable energy practices and technologies.

Expertise and knowledge from the project will be shared with other communities to allow for replication and assist in reaching it's sustainable energy targets.

##### **Smart Eco Hub - €986k**

A network/cluster of renewable/sustainable energy and clean technology companies which will work together to drive innovation and increase productivity, competitiveness, new business development, growth and job creation and at the same time address energy security and sustainability.

##### **INDICATE - €2.9m**

An FP7 project in partnership with IES and to develop a decision making integrated smart urban planning tool which will include architectural master planning, detailed energy optimisation and environmental analysis.

##### **Isles Project**

The ISLES (Irish–Scottish Links on Energy Study) is a project to facilitate the development of offshore renewable energy sources, such as wind, wave and tidal energy, and renewable energy trade between Scotland, Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland.  
Potential Projects: Oriel Wind Farm & First Flight Wind

#### **TOURISM & RECREATION**

##### **Geo-Tourism - €1.65m**

A unique geology destination of the Cooley Mountains, the Ring of Gullion across Carlingford Louth and into the Kingdom of Mourne.



◁  
*Geo-Tourism Project  
Launch - Castlewellan  
(June 2013)*

### **Greenore to Greencastle Car Ferry**

Carlingford Ferries have made a planning application to the Northern Ireland Planning Service and Louth County Council.

### **Narrow Water Bridge**

Funding secured from the EU Interreg programme through SEUPB of €17.4m and full planning permission received in Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland.

### **Tourism Management - €3.3m**

Tourism and recreation projects aim to capitalise on the unique location of the region and enhance capacity to attract increased investment and visitors by developing the tourism product and sharing resources. Projects supported in Louth are a walkway in Carlingford and a pontoon in Drogheda. **(€600k LCC)**

## **SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC GROWTH & JOB CREATION**

### **Plato Programme - €664k**

A mentoring programme where Senior managers in large multi-nationals organisations work with SME's to assist them in developing their business through increased productivity, marketing and exporting.

### **Life Science Programme - €508k**

This is a cluster/network of companies in the pharmaceutical and life sciences sector supply chain, which encourages collaboration and joint working agreements between the respective companies.

### **Aspire Programme - €1.75m**

This is a business improvement programme for graduates who are placed in some 60 companies in specific areas of need for that company such as marketing, production or R&D/Innovation of new products. The graduates will receive £17,500 stg. p.a.

### **The IOTA Programme - €850k**

The IOTA Programme provides a cross border programme of innovation support to potential/existing SME's.

## SMART ECO HUB



◁  
*Smart ECO Hub Annual Networking event – Carrickdale Hotel 4<sup>th</sup> December 2013. L-R David McDonnell Smart ECO Hub Manager, Gary McDonald, Business Editor Irish News, Pat Gilroy CEO Dalkia UK & Ireland, Michael Curran Director Louth Local Authorities, Cllr Declan Breathnach Chair of Louth County Council*

The Smart Eco Hub is a cross border cluster organisation for the sustainable energy sector. This includes activities related to the generation, storage and transmission of energy and associated Cleantech technologies such as Smart grids, energy efficient controls, materials and processes. The mission of the cluster is to drive economic growth and job creation through collaboration and innovation in the sustainable energy sector to develop and exploit new technologies for local and international markets. Through their collaborative network of small and large enterprises, academic research organisations and local government agencies they provide a unique hub environment for identifying synergies, creating business opportunities, establishing living labs and stimulating innovation. Currently the project has recruited 80+ companies (Micro enterprises – Multi-nationals) across the 15 council areas and has organised various events across the region encouraging companies to network together and collaborate on joint business ideas.

The Smart Eco Hub is EU INTERREG IVA funded and managed under the auspices of the 15 local authorities of the East Border and COMET regions in association with regional academic partners Belfast Metropolitan College, Dundalk Institute of Technology, Southern Regional College, South Eastern Regional College, University of Ulster and also the Centre for Competitiveness.

▷  
*Smart ECO Hub Exhibiting at Energy Show RDS Dublin 2013*

*L-R: Pat Rabbitte TD Minister for Communications, Energy & Natural Resources, Derek Roddy CEO Climote, Clive Gilmore and Dennis Nordon Co-Founders Hanley Energy*



### PEACE III

The preparatory work and subsequent implementation of the PEACE III Phase II Louth Peace and Reconciliation Plan began in the autumn of 2011. The aims and objectives of the plan for County Louth were designed to reflect the peace building needs of County Louth as articulated through the consultation process. It was at this stage also that the aims and objectives were identified with 4 strategic priorities forming the core of the action plan:

1. Consolidation of Peace Building among our Young People.
2. Building the Capacity of PEACE III Target Groups
3. Celebrating the Diverse Community in Louth
4. Facilitating Community dialogue and relationship building

Tenders and Partner Delivery Proposals were awarded in early 2012 with a completion date of 31 December 2013. Over the course of approximately 18 months a significant amount of work has been achieved and in many cases targets were exceeded.

#### ***Indian Cultural Event, Drogheda***

Young people were given a wide range of opportunities to reflect on the impact of conflict and the importance of dialogue, collaboration and respect for the views of others. The Aftermath Project has been widely acclaimed for its honest engagement with people directly affected by the Conflict in Northern Ireland and its inclusion of immigrant survivors of recent conflicts. The challenges faced by our vibrant population of Non-Irish nationals will have been made easier as a result of the work undertaken to address and negate any culture of racism and sectarianism. This work was further reinforced by the emphasis on nurturing the emergence of peace building leaders within the local community. The completion of Wellington Hall in 2013 will provide a focal point for maintaining good relations developed throughout this phase of PEACE III.



In 2013, 11 Small Grants received funding and despite a very tight timeframe all project activity was completed. Small Grants enable local groups to address issues of sectarianism and racism at local level and the projects delivered in 2013 spanned a wide range of activity which attracted huge interest across the County. For example, the Ann Frank and You Exhibition hosted by the County Library attracted 12,000 visitors and the Drogheda Civic Trust HORCID Project published a pioneering 'History of Religious and Cultural Integration in Drogheda'. Community based projects included the 'Traveller

Stories Through Craft' bringing together women from the Travelling Community to participate in courses that combined textiles and dress making with writing and storytelling. The CONNECT Family Resource Centre 'Moneymore Conflict and Peace Building Project' explored the concepts of conflict, identity, inequality, diversity and political activism. Young people throughout the County also benefited from the Small Grants Programme.



***Ethnic Entrepreneurs***

In 2013, the Networking for Peace Project proved to be a valuable organ of the Louth PEACE III programme bringing together the Project Delivery Agents and individuals interested in peace building in Louth and across the Border. A number of Show Case Events, an Integration Seminar and the 'Getting To Know Your Institutions' course and the various networking sessions held throughout 2012/2013 contributed greatly to understanding of the impact of conflict.



## **Forward Planning, Conservation & Heritage Unit.**

The Forward Planning Heritage & Conservation Unit provides a county wide service to promote and support land use within the county. The unit is responsible for the drafting of land use policy and frameworks as required under the Planning and Development Acts 2000-2010(as amended). The unit also prepares a range of non statutory plans and has involvement in other council projects. During 2013 the unit's work included the following;

- Louth Green Infrastructure Strategy
- Louth Renewable Energy Strategy
- Louth Housing Strategy
- Louth Retail Strategy
- Dundalk West Urban Vision (Ashling Park) Variation No 3 of Dundalk & Environs Development Plan 2009-2015 Adopted
- Blackrock and Heynestown Framework Plan
- Drogheda and Ardee Walking and Cycling Strategies
- Drogheda Urban Design Framework Plan
- Review of Louth County Development Plan 2009-2015 and commencing preparation of the new Louth County Development Plan 2015-2021
- Omeath Village Design Statement
- Framework Plans for Drogheda Character Areas
- Discussions with Newry and Mourne District Council regarding the feasibility of a cross border, 'Great Eastern Greenway'
- Preparation of funding applications for Cooley Greenway Extensions

### **Conservation**

The Conservation Officer provides professional advice to the Council and the public on built heritage matters and reports on planning applications where these impact on architectural heritage. Key projects in 2013 have included managing the Structures at Risk funding stream which provided funding to St Ronan's Church of Ireland Dromiskin and Rathescar House, Dunleer.

### **Heritage**

The Heritage Officer manages and promotes local heritage and assists with the development of Heritage as a resource for the county and its people. Achievements in 2013 have included the erection of a birdhide and information panels at Lurgangreen, commencement of new Louth Heritage Plan, work on biodiversity enhancement plans and the Geological Survey of Louth, Cavan & Monaghan

## Arts, Culture & Leisure:

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



### **CreateLouth, the Arts Service of Louth Local Authorities, in 2013**

The Arts Service delivered a range of actions in 2013, all aligned to the five major work areas – Developmental and Community Arts, Grants and Awards, Information and Advice, Artistic Programming, and Representation and Planning. Examples of these actions are provided below -

#### **Developmental and Community Arts**

Louth is served by three youth theatres, the members of whom meet weekly to workshop, learn, and devise theatre of many different styles. The Arts Service, as well as supporting the individual youth theatres, organised a one-day seminar for youth theatre members and leaders throughout the county, in Drogheda, which proved valuable and enjoyable for all the participants. As part of the over-arching aim to develop and strengthen the youth theatre movement, the County Arts Officer serves on the Board of the National Association for Youth Drama.



***Participants at Louth Youth Theatre Day 2013*** △

#### **Grants and Awards**

Funding opportunities for both professional and non-professional artists and arts organisations are made available over two deadlines each calendar year. Applications for funding have increased significantly over the past five years, at a time when available resources have contracted.

One of the priorities for the Arts Service, and therefore reflected in the distribution of funding is to increase accessibility to musical instrument tuition, both in formal and informal education settings. To that end, the Schools Musical Instrument Purchase Scheme ensures that three schools within County Louth will receive a financial support to purchase instruments for the use of their pupils. In 2013, one of the successful applicants was Colaiste Rís, Dundalk, who used the funding to purchase a bank of instruments which can be used by students in the school, both for in-school activities and for individual practice.

### Information and Advice

The Arts Service website, [www.createlouth.ie](http://www.createlouth.ie), underwent a comprehensive review and rebuild in 2013 resulting in a brighter and more easily-read site, with an integration of the Taisce Lú site, which details the artworks held in the Art Collection of Louth Local Authorities. The website is, on average, updated twice each day, and carries details of forthcoming arts events, as well as job opportunities, funding deadlines, and other information.

### Artistic Programming

Ardee Baroque celebrated ten years of music, workshops, lectures and classes, with a specially-expanded programme in November. One of the highlights was an exhibition of photography by the Mid-Louth Camera Club which focussed on the Irish Baroque Orchestra's rehearsals and performances during the Orchestra's Residence in Ardee during the previous year.



*Michael O'Neill and Conal Duffy performers at Ardee Baroque 2013.*

The Arts Service continues to utilise the Per Cent for Art Scheme, and commissioned and installed a new piece of sculpture on the promenade in Blackrock. Entitled Bradáin, the piece is carved by artist Richard Perry from a single piece of Kilkenny Blue Limestone, and has proved very popular with residents and visitors alike.



◁ *Bradáin by Richard Perry, Blackrock.*

## Representation and Planning

The Arts Service works strategically with a number of organisations, both local and national in scope, that share the broad aims set out in the Arts Plan. The County Arts Officer serves on the Board of Music Generation Louth, Louth Craftmark, Dundalk Institute of Technology, An Táin Arts Centre, Ardee Baroque, Highlanes Gallery, and the National Association for Youth Drama.

## Drogheda Borough Council’s – Significant Events

The Drogheda Fringe and Maritime Festival 2013 on the May Bank Holiday saw Five Tall ships made their way in full sail up along the Boyne into Drogheda Port. Spectators gathered not only along the Port but also at vantage points along the river from Baltray to Mornington. Thousands of spectators viewed and visited the Tall Ships as well as enjoying a weekend of maritime-themed fun. It not only attracted local people but created a major tourism boost in Drogheda, highlighting the town’s maritime culture and tradition.

## LOUTH COUNTY LIBRARIES and ARCHIVE SERVICES

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

Usage of Louth County Libraries	*2013	2012
Items borrowed	*449,743	537,666
Visits to full-time libraries	*263,400	239,200
Registered members	*15,560	17,347
Internet sessions provided	*21,563	21,991

*\*Drogheda Library was closed for refurbishment during November/December 2013.*

### Library Services

Registered library members in Louth decreased by 10.5% to 15,560 partly due to the closure of Drogheda Library for refurbishment works in November/December 2013. Visits to three fulltime branch libraries increased to 263,400 and around 450,000 items were borrowed during the year.

During 2013 the County Louth Mobile Library Service revised its timetable to include further housing estates in Drogheda and Ardee, along with providing a stop every Friday afternoon in the Abbey Centre Carpark Drogheda, during refurbishment works to Drogheda Library. The County Louth Schools Library Service increased its support to 79 primary schools in the County, as well as calling to local crèches.

### Branch Development

Louth County Council was successful in receiving a grant-aid of €250,000 for the refurbishment and upgrade of Drogheda Library from the Department’s Capital Funding Programme for Public Libraries. The upgraded library will reopen in 2014 with enhanced services to the public which includes RFID self-issue service points/kiosks; additional computer points and WIFI access; a new multi functional seminar/ICT room and enhanced junior and teenage sections of the library.

## County Wide Library Initiatives

### eBooks and eAudio Service

A new service of eBooks was launched during the summer of 2013 from Overdrive, a US based provider of eBooks. This service along with the eAudio downloads service allows library members to browse the collection from home and download items to their computer, iPhone, iPad or other tablet device.

### Parent and Toddler Groups

Louth County Libraries secured funding through the Louth Childcare Committee to run a series of health information talks to parents, as part of the development of the Parent and Toddler Groups in both Dundalk and Ardee libraries.

### National Heritage Week

To celebrate Heritage Week from 17<sup>th</sup>- 25<sup>th</sup> August, **Dunleer Library** hosted a photographic exhibition entitled '**Dunleer through the Ages**' organised in conjunction with Dunleer and District Historical Society. The varied display of old restored photos depicted many changes that have taken place in Dunleer over the last century. Two photographs of particular interest which were taken from the Church spire in 1932 show the work of the Mills, and another captures the Steam Train passing through Dunleer.

### Dundalk Europe Direct Information Centre

Louth County Libraries were awarded a second contract and associated funding from the European Commission to run a Europe Direct Information Centre in Dundalk Library from 2013-2017. The Centre focuses on the geographical region of Louth, Cavan and Monaghan and delivered in 2013 a varied programme of events which included the annual 'Europe Direct Soapbox' competition with the regional heats taking place in Dundalk Library. Meabh Sloan from St. Vincent's Secondary School in Dundalk went on to win the overall national final in Dublin Castle in November 2013 *Maeve Sloan with Minister Fergus O'Dowd after she won the overall Europe Direct Soapbox final in Dublin Castle* ▷



### Drogheda Counts Project

Drogheda Library was involved in a numeracy literacy initiative in January/February 2013. The Library in co-operation with the Louth Leader Partnership, Home School Community Liaison, the VEC, RAPID and the Drogheda Leader produced a booklet called 'Drogheda Counts' with numeral and mathematical puzzles, which was distributed locally. The real success of the project was that around 1,250 students attended talks in the library over a four week period, with many students joining the library for the first time.

### Anne Frank + You Exhibition

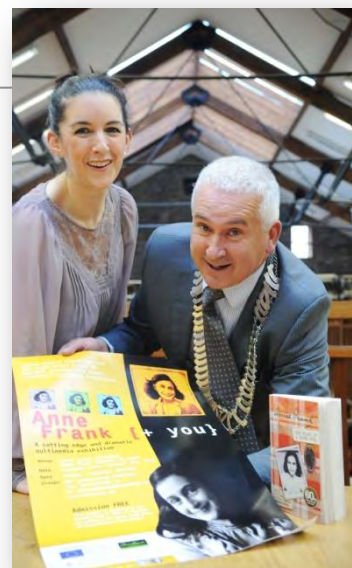
Louth County Libraries secured funding from the small grants programme of the County Louth Peace 111 partnership, to bring the highly acclaimed Anne Frank + You Exhibition to Dundalk Library in September 2013.



*Anne Frank + You launch  
Amanda Ononaku*



The exhibition was open for five weeks and Louth County Libraries engaged volunteer Tour Guides to conduct tours of the exhibition and explain the background to Anne Frank's life in captivity. Over 12,000 people viewed the exhibition and feedback received was very positive. A series of workshops and creative writing classes were held in conjunction with the exhibition. These events offered an opportunity to engage with local communities, to explore the legacy and memories of conflict through documentation, storytelling and the written word of Anne Frank.



▶  
*Amanda Brannigan & Declan Breathnach at launch*

### **Local Studies: Genealogy Seminar**

As part of the Gathering Ireland 2013 initiative, Dundalk Library held a Genealogy Seminar in the Reference Library. The seminar was well received with over ninety attendees from various counties in Ireland, along with visitors from Australia, New Zealand, Canada and America. Those attending commented on the high calibre of speakers and the wealth of facilities and services available in Louth County Libraries in terms of genealogical research.

### **Louth Field Names Project**

Dr. Eve Campbell was appointed as Co-coordinator of the Louth Field Names Project during 2013. The project is a collaboration between Louth County Libraries, County Louth Archaeological and Historical Society, Louth Irish Farmers Association and Louth County Council. Work is underway to upload the field names of county Louth to the database and to produce a booklet of the results. Recording the field names of county Louth will ensure that valuable local information is preserved for future generations.

### **Outreach Activities**

A full and varied programme of events and activities took place in Louth County Libraries in 2013. These events included exhibitions, lectures, storytelling, local history, genealogy workshops, and art events and craft sessions. The libraries involvement in national events such as Adult Literacy Week, Children's Book Festival, Seachtain na Gaeilge, Bealtaine and Science Week continued during the year. In conjunction with the Arts Office a successful series of music workshops were held in Ardee Library as part of the Ardee Baroque Festival.

### **Reading Events**

Some highlights of 2013 included the '**Summer Reading Buzz**' which took place in all branch libraries throughout July and August. The aim of this reading challenge was to encourage children to continue reading throughout the summer months. Children who read four or more books were entered into a prize draw for mini e-readers, and all participants received a certificate at the closing ceremonies in branch libraries.

A total number of 471 children participated in this year's reading challenge.

### **Literacy Summer Camps**

Louth County Libraries in conjunction with the Navan Regional Education Centre and the Department of Education and Skills organised three literacy summer camps during July and August in Dundalk and Drogheda libraries. A total of 116 children attended the camps,

and for some it was their first time in a library. The children were encouraged to participate in a 'Library Treasure Hunt', giving them the chance to explore the library, find out where to find books, and engage with library staff members.

### **Libraries Help My Kid Learn**

Libraries 'Help My Kid Learn' Day was held on June 11<sup>th</sup> 2013. Tours and storytime sessions were held in Dundalk and Drogheda branch libraries for children and parents. This campaign, led by the National Adult Literacy Agency (NALA), was run in conjunction with a TV series on RTE, to help improve literacy and numeracy among children and families. The website [www.helpmykidlearn.ie](http://www.helpmykidlearn.ie) has fun suggestions to help build literacy and numeracy skills, including communication skills.

### **Numeracy Project**

A Maths Week Numeracy Project in conjunction with the Louth/Meath ETB was held in Ardee Library in September. Informal maths sessions were held in the library after school, aimed at Junior and Senior level students and their parents. There was a short demonstration about numeracy sacks, followed by a maths trail quiz around the library, using many of the titles available to borrow. Parents were surprised by the wide range of 'easy reads' available to encourage both numeracy and literacy, some of the books beautifully illustrated.

### **Cross Border Book Clubs**

It was a meeting of like minds, in Dundalk and Ardee libraries, at the inaugural meeting of the Cross Border Book Clubs initiative. Two groups of avid readers from Newry and Warrenpoint have been twinned with bookclubs from Dundalk and Ardee libraries for this project. The groups enjoyed lively discussions on various books throughout the year alternating visits between Dundalk/Ardee and Newry/Warrenpoint libraries.

## **Louth County Archives Service**

Our unique archives contain a wealth of information about Louth's institutions, places, people, and events that is not found elsewhere and is an important heritage asset contributing to heritage and genealogy tourism. There are approximately 260,000 individual items in our collection including both public and private collections. The County Archives is located in a magnificent mid-19<sup>th</sup> century gaol building situated on the Ardee Road, Dundalk.



### **Acquisitions**

Archive collections deposited in 2013 included papers of Collon Church of Ireland parish; documents relating to Lord Bellew of Barmeath including a copy charter of Dunleer (1678) establishing Dunleer as a municipal corporation; a rent book of Major Brush for the Brohatna estate in Co Louth dating to approximately 1875-1918 with a quantity of letters enclosed; research papers regarding the O'Byrne alias Byrne family of Allardstown, County Louth who were an Irish Gentry family landed with mercantile interests in Dundalk,

Drogheda, Dublin, London and Paris. They held several lands in the Counties of Louth, Monaghan and Tipperary – but sold off their County Louth lands just before the commencement of the Great War of 1914-1918. Other material deposited included ledgers of Rice's Pub, Clanbrassil Street, Dundalk; Fortescue of Stephenstown papers, 1806-1918 (legal documents, rentals); theses on County Louth subjects; a digital copy of the Registry of Baptisms, Marriages and Burials (CoI) for the parish of Collon, Mosstown and Dromin; papers of James Flynn & Charles Flynn, painters and decorators; 19<sup>th</sup> century election material; and archives of Harp Brewery Dundalk dating to the 1960s – 2000s, consisting of a large quantity of photographs. The County Archives is grateful to all those who have donated archive collections and who have ensured that important collections will be preserved for future generations to access and enjoy.

### **Archive Catalogue**

Standardization work on the archive catalogue is ongoing as collections are reviewed and catalogued to the international standard ISAD(G)

### **Digitisation**

In 2012 – 2013, Louth County Archives carried out a digitisation project on the Grand Jury Query Books collection (1786-1813, 1815-1816, and 1823-1899). The Query Books are one of the principal records of the county administration prior to 1898. They are a valuable resource because they illustrate the beginning of the county infrastructure as it exists today with references to many of the roads, bridges and piers still in use. They also contain many local names and residences and are a useful research resource for genealogists. The books are of interest to those researching the economic and social history of the county as they cover the bulk of the nineteenth century and detail work carried out under the famine relief schemes.

### **Website**

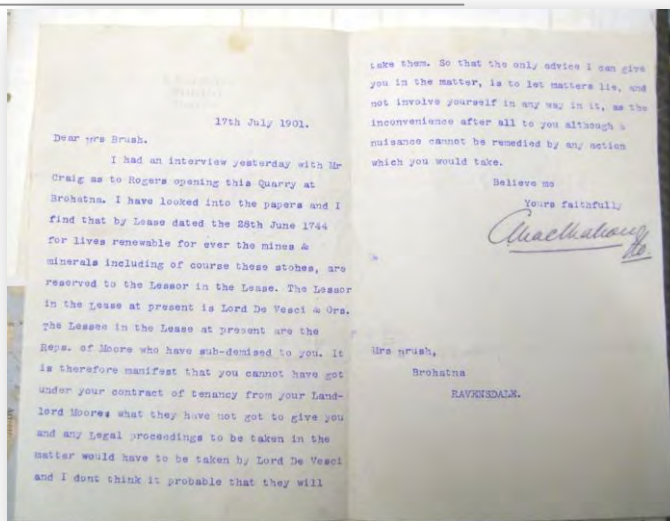
In the age of digital technology our website is an important access point providing information on our work and on the archives. The average number of visits to our web-pages increased steadily from 50 visits per day in the first seven months of the year to 123 visits per day for December. This increase is probably due to additional collection catalogues being added in pdf and the new online digital archive. Overall, we received approximately 25,000 visits to our website in 2013 with approximately 14,000 downloads. Visitors stayed an average of between 7 and 8 minutes.

### **Outreach**

The County Archivist gave talks to the following on the work of the County Archives and its collections: group from Louth VEC adult education in June; the Flood family reunion group as part of the Gathering Festival in July; Louth Co Libraries Genealogy Seminar in September; and participants on the Local History Certificate course (NUI Maynooth certified) in the Co Museum in November. Two indexing events were held in August for Heritage Week where participants indexed one and a third minute books of the Dundalk and Drogheda rural district councils which were later placed online as a means of opening up online access to this collection.

The 'Document of the Month' web-page was updated on a monthly basis with items such as an ink drawing of Greenore railway station; an aerial photograph of Dundalk from 1966; and particulars of the sale of Killineer House, Drogheda in 1918. In September, Louth County Archives established a Facebook page which is updated on a regular basis. As part of the archive awareness campaign of the ARA (Archives and Records Association –

UK & IRL), Louth County Archives hosted a successful digital advent calendar using archival documents on its Facebook page.



Example\_Document of the Month ▷

### Researchers

A highlight of the County Archives work is assisting a large variety of researchers: academic, professionals, community groups and local historians. Examples of some research enquiries received in 2013 include history of a beehive cottage in mid-Louth; PJ Carrolls; Louth Militia; boarded out children; public housing in Drogheda in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century; Louth Hall records; Cumann na mBan members; tracing land ownership in Dundalk; Louth village burial records; poets in Omeath in 1700s; Castleguard Textile Factory; photographs of North Louth; children in the workhouse; and various family history enquiries.

### Records Management

The County Archives provides records management services to Louth Local Authorities including the operation of a Records Centre.

### Age Friendly County

County Louth continues to lead the way in the national Age Friendly County roll out. During 2013 the Louth Age Friendly Programme became an award winning partner in the European Innovation Partnership on Active and Healthy Ageing, (EIP) hosted visitors from Europe, and all over the island of Ireland. The Ardee Age Friendly Town programme informed 16 other Age Friendly Town programmes all over Ireland.

The **European Innovation Partnership on Active & Healthy Ageing** has as its objectives to:

- Enable EU citizens to lead healthy, active and independent lives while ageing;
- Improve the sustainability and efficiency of social and health care systems;
- Boost and improve the competitiveness of the markets for innovative products and services.

Louth Age Friendly drew up an EIP partner proposal as the lead partner for the north east area which was overall accepted by the EU Commission. On foot of that Louth Age Friendly partnered with University College Cork to make an application to become a

Reference Site and won a 3 star award which puts the programme in the top 11 models of best practice in Europe.



Under the EIP Louth is taking the lead on facilitating a Regional Age Friendly Alliance, a Regional Older People's Forum and a Regional Transport Group. To date significant strides have been achieved on delivering bus routes to all acute hospitals in the North East. Several models of best practice have been identified including the Household model of care in Long Term Care settings and the Age Friendly Town model.

### **Bosch Europe**

As a member of the EIP Louth has forged links with key European leaders in active and healthy ageing. Bosch Europe visited Louth in July 2013. Twenty seven researchers on all aspects of ageing across the globe funded by Bosch Europe visited Louth over a 2 day period and learned how the Great Northern Haven technologies and the Cultaca contribute to ageing in place. They visited Moorehall Lodge, the household model of care in Long Term Care, they walked Ardee the first Age Friendly Town in Ireland and learned about how to roll out an Age Friendly County. The feedback from the visit was excellent. The Louth Age Friendly programme is now featured on <http://www.bosch-stiftung.de/content/language1/html/48805.asp>

Louth also hosted the Strategic Health Improvement Partnership, (SHIP) Northern Ireland and in particular Eddie Rooney, Chief Executive, Public Health Agency. This link was forged through Louth's representation on the Newry & Mourne Age Friendly Alliance under the Louth/Newry & Mourne MOU. SHIP is now an active committed partner in the N&M strategic plan.



### **EU Summit on Active and Healthy Ageing**

The ***EU Summit on Active and Healthy Ageing*** was held in association with the EU Presidency, jointly organised by the Ageing Well Network and the Global Coalition on Aging. It was held in collaboration with the European Innovation Partnership. As a strategy to drive economic and social development across the EU, the summit assembled an elite group of EU and global leaders to set priorities and strengthen commitments to advancing age-friendly practices with a special focus on cities and communities. Louth Age Friendly showcased models of best practice including: the Parlours, the Great Northern Haven,

Branding Age Friendly, Men’s Sheds, Ardee Age Friendly Town, Ageing in Place and Age Friendly Business.

### **Caring & Sharing Conference Nov 2013**

The Duleek Women’s Group received funding from Indaver for a community conference. They decided to target older people and invited the Louth Age Friendly and Meath Age Friendly Counties to partner them in the delivery of the conference. Both Louth and Meath welcomed the opportunity to deliver a conference on a joint basis which also helped deliver on the actions of the EIP. The lessons learned from this action were that age friendly actions cut across county boundaries.



### **All Ireland Gerontological Nurses Association (AIGNA)**

AIGNA held their annual conference in Dundalk in May 2013. AIGNA choose Louth as their destination due to its Age Friendly profile. The theme of the conference was “*Helping Older People to Flourish in Different Care Settings*”. Mary Deery, Louth Age Friendly Programme manager, opened the conference detailing the Louth Age Friendly County programme.

### **Ardee Age Friendly Town**

During the public consultation process of the Ardee Area Development Plan the Louth Older People’s Forum was asked to make a submission to Louth County Council. As a result the submission was developed into an action plan to make Ardee the first Age Friendly Town in Ireland. An Age Friendly Town steering group was set up which included, Ardee Town Clerk, Ardee Town Engineer, Ardee Active Retirement Group, Tidy Towns, HSE, An Garda Siochana, IWA, and schools. The group provided insight to the challenges experienced by all generations and the engineer explained the constraints he had to work within a given space while providing safe access to pedestrians and vehicular users alike. The results and learning were captured in a review of the process and helped in the roll out of 16 other towns across Ireland. The Ardee documents can be viewed on [http://agefriendly.ie/louthagefriendly/?page\\_id=1549](http://agefriendly.ie/louthagefriendly/?page_id=1549)

### **National Age Friendly County Website**

In line with the commitments under the EIP Louth led the way in developing the national Age Friendly County website. Louth designed the original website after a detailed consultation and a testing period on 70 older people. As other counties launched the Age Friendly County programme they were pleased to adopt the Louth design. Following on from the Louth experience of 3 years an updated design was agreed by a national communications group led by Louth and an updated version was developed. The website will go live in early 2014.

### Age Friendly Transport

The Louth Age Friendly County Transport group conducted a personalised transport needs analysis in the Clogherhead area. As a result of the process it was highlighted that Bus Eireann buses servicing the Clogherhead area did not go near Our Lady of Lourdes hospital. Following detailed conversations with Bus Eireann a review of bus routes was carried out and changes in the North East area have now resulted in all bus routes linking up to reach acute hospitals. Bus Eireann launched the new bus routes in November 2013.



### Age Friendly Health

The Louth Age Friendly Health group was successful in a GENIO grant application. The application centres around Dementia Age Friendly Communities. The project is funded for a 2 year period and it is hoped to commence in early 2014.

### Age Friendly Business



Another very successful Age Friendly Consumer Fair was held at Darver Castle in Oct. Over 50 stands were exhibited on the day with a footfall of approx 2,000 people. Stands included a range of services across the home care products, technologies, leisure activities, food and clothing. The day was enjoyed by all with live music and presentations in the Parlour. The Chair of the Age Friendly Business Forum, Gavin Duffy was present on the day and

Cathaoirleach, Louth County Council, Declan Breathnach opened the fair in the presence of Minister Fergus O'Dowd.

## Louth Comhairle na nOg

Louth Comhairle is the recognised voice for young people in the county. Drawn from every area of the county, youth representatives meet monthly to discuss issues for young people and to deliver projects to address these issues. The Louth Comhairle na nOg is supported by the office of County Development Board.

In 2013 the Louth Comhairle na nOg selected Inclusion as the focus of their work in direct response to the feedback from the Annual General Meeting at which over 100 young people attended. To address the issue of Inclusion the youth councillors designed a project to make schools and youth organisations a more inclusive place for young people who



are LGBT, young people who have disabilities and young people who are from ethnic minorities. The project involved each school and youth organisation signing up to a charter and committing to becoming an inclusive service for young people. In 2013 eighteen schools and youth organisations signed up and received an Inclusion Flag from Louth Comhairle and will run over 50 initiatives to promote inclusion.

The Louth Comhairle na nOg continued to lead on its Cross Border Youth Networking Project. This is a Louth Peace 3 funded project that builds young people's peace building skills and cooperation activities and includes youth representatives from youth councils in Louth, Cavan, Monaghan, Armagh and Newry & Mourne.



## LOUTH LOCAL SPORTS PARTNERSHIP

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



An Irish Sports Council Initiative

#### Participation projects for target groups:

- **Buntús Start for Pre-Schools:** Buntús Start is a physical activity programme for children aged 2 to 5 years. The pre-school teachers receive 6 hours training to deliver the programme and a large bag of equipment and resource cards. The overall total of pre-school services involved in the programme is 91 with 611 staff trained who work with 3718 children.
- **Buntús Generic for Primary Schools:** Buntús Generic – This programme is designed to compliment the games strand of the P.E. curriculum. The teachers receive 4 hours of training, resource cards and two large bags of equipment. The overall total number of schools trained in the programme is 65 with 829 teachers trained working with over 12,000 children.
- **Sportshall Athletics for primary schools** was expanded from 2 schools to 8 schools. Sportshall Athletics is indoor athletics for children. It is an enjoyable method of developing fundamental sports skills and fitness during cold winter months and an age appropriate pathway into mainstream participation. The programme is a Louth Sports Partnership initiative which has been organised by Dundalk Sports Centre in conjunction with DKIT. A Louth finals day was held with 5 schools participating and from this 3 schools went on to compete in the National Finals in Athlone.



△ *Sportshall Athletics in Dundalk Sports Centre*

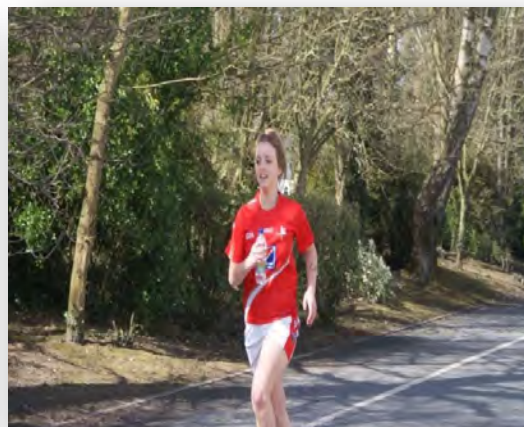
- **Be Active After Schools Activity Programme** – 16 schools involved in the programme – with 96 parent volunteers and 48 teachers trained. The initiative was borne out of a perceived need to broaden the physical activity experiences of school-aged children and to involve parents in such experiences. The teachers and parent volunteers are trained and the school receives a folder with resource cards. These are divided into 5 categories: games, gym, dance, outdoor and adventure and athletics.

#### *Primary Schools Cross Country* ▷

- **Primary Schools Cross Country** was organised with pupils from 3rd to 6th class given the chance to participate. 741 pupils from 24 schools across the County participated.



- Girls in Action programme for inactive teenage girls was rolled out in 8 secondary schools in the County. The girls get to participate in activities that they choose themselves. 99 girls participated in the start of year activity day where the girls got to try out activities such as Tai Chi, Kickboxing, Fencing, Dance and Aerobics.
- The Transition Year Triathlon was held for the second year running. 189 students representing 13 schools participated in the event. Students were required to swim 200m indoor swim, cycle 10K and run 10K. Students could participate either individually or as a part of a team.



△ *Transition Year Triathlon 2013* △

- Disability Awareness Training – 15 courses were organised in 2013 with 450 participants trained from transition year groups, sports clubs and third level.
- Disability Zumba dance classes were provided in Drogheda for 28 participants.
- A wheelchair basketball exhibition game was held in the square in Dundalk. The project was organised to showcase wheelchair basketball to all the public. It showed the challenges faced by the athletes who play. There was a chance for the public to get into the chairs and try out the sport for themselves. It also showcased the integration of the sport and the fact that able bodied people participate on the team.



△ *Wheelchair Basketball Exhibition Game in The Square, Dundalk* △

- Louth LSP ran Grant schemes targeting increasing participation by people with a disability and a Sports Club grant scheme to support clubs and groups in maintaining and increasing participation. 18 clubs received €9000.

- Older Adults dance classes were organised in Drogheda and Dundalk with 50 participants. The FitLine phone support service for older adults who wish to become more physically active was being used by 20 older adults in 2013.

#### *Older Adults Dance Class* ▷

- National Bike Week events organised in June 2013 included family fun days, mystery bike tours in RAPID areas, school based bike health checks and cycle safety training. Approx. 2,400 people took part in Bike Week in the County



#### *Bike Week – Mell National School* ▷

- The Operation Transformation Walk was held in Drogheda in January 2013 and 102 people participated. A workplace walking/jogging group was also set up.



#### *O.T. Walk in Drogheda* ▷



### **Club and Volunteer Development**

- Training provided for clubs and volunteers on Code of Ethics (9 courses held with 136 participants) and Club Childrens Officer Training
- Training and advice provided on funding and local club promotion

### **Access to Facilities**

- Louth LSP has maintained a directory of County Sports Facilities.

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

- There is currently one active Louth LSP network – the Louth PE Teachers Network.

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

- Regular updates on events and information is provided to clubs through our e-mail contacts and press releases to local media.
- The website is regularly updated and e-mail contact list is also updated with new club contacts.

## Drogheda Borough Council



### Lourdes Stadium

The Lourdes Stadium was successfully operated and maintained by Drogheda Borough Council during 2013. The track is fully booked for the evening opening times during the week with 7 different clubs using the facility. Times have been allocated to pay as you go casual users, both at lunchtime and early evening. There have been approximately 15,000 users of the Stadium in the year since it opened in November 2012. The income from clubs and casual users of the facility will amount to approximately €23,500 to the end of 2013.

Tenders have now been sought for an All Weather Bowling Green to be constructed on a portion of the site next to St. Peters Cemetery. The cost estimate for this project is €130,000. In 2013 a grant of €65,000 was provisionally allocated to this project by the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport. During 2014 Drogheda Borough Council will continue to source funding to carry out this project.

## **Drogheda Leisure Centre**

Drogheda Leisure Centre continues to be a popular asset to the citizens of Drogheda and surrounding area with over 203,000 visitors per annum. Since its opening in 2006 significant improvements in energy conservation has evolved in response to the new building regulations. The council will continue to avail of any sports capital grant monies to continue to make additional improvements to the centre.



## **Drogheda Community Centre**

In June 2013 Drogheda Borough Council received a grant of €14,000 from the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport for the conversion of a sauna into a disabled persons bathroom and for the procurement of sports equipment to be used in the facility. Tenders were sought and job completed in 2013.



## Local Democracy:

*‘Support, promote and enhance the democratic, civic and leadership role of Louth Local Authorities’*

### Louth Community and Voluntary Forum

The Louth County Community and Voluntary Forum and its Working groups continued to meet on a monthly basis throughout 2013. It held elections to fill a number of vacancies across the seven Thematic Pillars; All new members received induction training and have joined the newly established working groups. In May, the forum hosted its second conference for the Community & Voluntary sector within Louth, Mr. Gavin Duffy launched the forum’s new website [www.louthcommunityforum.ie](http://www.louthcommunityforum.ie) - this successful event informed the Work plan of the Community & Voluntary forum for 2013-2014 and will now become an annual event on the C&V forum’s calendar. The Annual Conference report is available on [www.louthcommunityforum.ie](http://www.louthcommunityforum.ie) -

Work continues on actioning the plan and in promoting the work of the Louth forum, through a variety of projects, training events and its annual county wide Access Awards competition.

The Community & Voluntary sector through the forum members are also represented on the following structures, Louth CDB, Regional Drugs Task Force, Louth Leader Partnership, Joint Policing Committees, Louth County Council SPCs, Dundalk Town Council MPCs, Louth County Childcare Committee, and on the Border area Community Forum. The Number of groups registered with the Community and Voluntary forum during 2013 has increased significantly.

*Winners of the LC&VF Access Awards 2013* ▽



### Community Smoke Alarm Scheme

A number of smoke alarms and sensory alarms for deaf/hard of hearing people were allocated under this scheme with the assistance of the Community and Voluntary groups around Louth including Deaf Hear, the Care and Repair teams in both Drogheda &

Dundalk and Louth County Council Fire service. This scheme continues to be popular within Louth and will be rolled out in partnership with the new Community Fire Safety Strategy during 2014.

*Community Smoke Alarm Launch* ▾



**Peoples Panel**

Louth County Council in partnership with Newry & Mourne District Council and the PEACE III Southern Partnership's Future Foundations Priority, have established a cross border People's Panel of Citizens to engage effectively on services, facilities, policies and to develop new techniques to evaluate the impact of community participation. In this unique Partnership approach, both councils for the first time have joined up to look at developing innovative community engagement models.

The Peoples Panel has operated as a pilot during 2013 and highlighted the potential to offer an effective mechanism for meaningful engagement /participation within the community planning context. This best practice model for sharing shows the potential of meaningful engagement and seamless service delivery which transcends the minimalist statutory consultation requirements of local authorities. As a tool its designs, delivers and nurtures citizens focused services building and nurturing relationships, creating mutual respect and value between Council and community. This is participative democracy in action. This panel is supported by the European Union's European Regional Development Fund through the EU Programme for Peace and Reconciliation (PEACE III) managed by the Special EU Programmes Body



*People's Panel members 2013* ▷



***Tables  
and  
Appendices***

## Key Performance Indicators

<b>FIRE SERVICE</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>
<b>F1: Fire Service Mobilisation</b>			
A. Average time taken, in minutes, to mobilise fire brigades in Full-Time Stations in respect of fire	2.94	2.20	1.85
B. Average time taken, in minutes, to mobilise fire brigades in Part-Time Stations (retained fire service) in respect of fire	3.81	4.46	5.45
C. Average time taken, in minutes, to mobilise fire brigades in Full-Time Stations in respect of all other emergency incidents	3.1	2.30	1.91
D. Average time taken, in minutes, to mobilise fire brigades in Part-Time Stations (retained fire service) in respect of all other emergency incidents	5.43	4.70	5.21
<b>F.2 Percentage of attendances at scenes</b>			
A. Percentage of cases in respect of fire in which first attendance is at the scene within 10 minutes	63.68	61.90	69.19
B. Percentage of cases in respect of fire in which first attendance is at the scene after 10 minutes but within 20 minutes	28.03	33.55	28.08
C. Percentage of cases in respect of fire in which first attendance is at the scene after 20 minutes	8.29	4.54	2.73
D. Percentage of cases in respect of all other emergency incidents in which first attendance is at the scene within 10 minutes	41.00	50.53	59.17
E. Percentage of cases in respect of all other emergency incidents in which first attendance is at the scene after 10 minutes but within 20 minutes	41.42	43.09	36.7
F. Percentage of cases in respect of all other emergency incidents in which first attendance is at the scene after 20 minutes	17.57	6.38	4.13
<b>F.3 Fire Prevention</b>			
A. Total number of fire safety certificate applications received	111	105	120
B. Total number of fire safety certificate applications processed (including cases deemed invalid)	99	96	103
C. Total number of applications deemed invalid	12	7	13

<b>COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>
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**CP.1 Participation in local Youth Council/Comhairle na n-Og scheme**

Percentage of local schools and youth groups involved in the local Youth Council/ Comhairle na n-Og scheme	95.45	95.45	95.65
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**CP.2 Groups registered with the Community and Voluntary Forum**

Number of groups registered with the Community and Voluntary Forum	169	182	2.40
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<b>CORPORATE ISSUES</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>
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**C.1 Working Days lost to Sickness**

A. Percentage of working days lost to sickness absence through certified leave	4.81	4.80	4.72
B. Percentage of working days lost to sickness absence through uncertified leave	0.80	0.68	0.49

**C.2 Staff Training and Development**

Expenditure on Training and Development as a percentage of total payroll costs:	2.80	2.85	2.42
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<b>ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>
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**WATER**

**E.1 Unaccounted For Water**

Unaccounted for water (UFW) as a percentage of total volume of water supplied under the water supply schemes that the local authority is responsible for	41.39	40.96	43.46
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**E.2 Drinking Water Analysis**

A. Percentage of drinking water analysis results in compliance with statutory requirements with regard to public schemes	99.10	?	?
B. Percentage of drinking water analysis results in compliance with statutory requirements with regard to private schemes (where appropriate)	99.40	?	?

**WASTE MANAGEMENT**

**E.3 Waste Segregation \* PRIVATISED. L.C.C.**

A. Percentage of households who receive a waste collection service and are provided with segregated waste collection for dry recyclables	91.57	90.45	?	Collected from NWCPO
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B. Percentage of households who receive a waste collection service and are provided with segregated waste collection for organics	26.74	25.33	?	Collected from NWCPO
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**E4: Housing Waste Sent for Recycling**

A. Percentage of household waste collected from kerbside, which is sent for recycling	19.43	21.31	?	Collected from NWCPO
B. Tonnage of household waste collected from kerbside, which is sent for recycling	5649.61	6584	?	Collected from NWCPO
C. Tonnage of household waste recycled, which arises from waste collected from recycling facilities (i.e. bring banks, civic amenity centres, transfer stations and other recycling facilities)	14663.68	13326	?	Collected from NWCPO

**E5: Household Waste Sent for Landfill**

A. The percentage of household waste collected which is sent to landfill	67.23	50.68	?	Collected from NWCPO
B. The tonnage of household waste collected which is sent to landfill	19545.57	15417	?	Collected from NWCPO

**E6: Recycling Facilities**

The total number of Bring Sites in the local authority area	42	39	33
The total number of Civic Amenity Centres in the local authority area	2	3	3

**Glass**

A. The number of Bring Sites for recycling	37	39	33
B. The number of Civic Amenity Centres for recycling	2	3	3
C. The total number of facilities for recycling	39	42	36
D. The number of locations for recycling per 5,000 of population	1.59	1.71	1.46

**Cans**

E. The number of Bring Sites for recycling	42	39	33
F. The number of Civic Amenity Centres for recycling	2	3	3
G. The total number of facilities for recycling	44	42	36
H. The number of locations for recycling per 5,000 of population	1.79	1.71	1.46

**Textiles**

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

**Batteries**

M. The number of Bring Sites for recycling	0	0	0
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N. The number of Civic Amenity Centres for recycling	2	3	3
O. The total number of facilities for recycling	2	3	3
P. The number of locations for recycling per 5,000 of population	0.08	0.12	0.12
<b>Oils</b>			
Q. The number of Bring Sites for recycling	0	0	0
R. The number of Civic Amenity Centres for recycling	2	3	3
S. The total number of facilities for recycling	2	3	3
T. The number of locations for recycling per 5,000 of population	0.08	0.12	0.12
<b>Other materials</b>			
U. The number of Bring Sites for recycling	42	38	0
V. The number of Civic Amenity Centres for recycling	2	3	3
W. The total number of facilities for recycling	44	38	3
X. The number of locations for recycling per 5,000 of population	1.79	1.54	0.12

**LITTER**

**E7: Litter Prevention and Enforcement**

A. Number of full-time litter wardens	5	5	4
B. Number of part-time litter wardens	2	2	1
C. Number of litter wardens (both full- and part-time) per 5,000 population	0.28	0.28	0.2
D. Number of on-the-spot fines issued	511	401	465
E. Number of on-the-spot fines paid	278	205	156
F. Number of prosecution cases taken because of non-payment of on-the-spot fines	47	21	15
G. Number of prosecutions secured in cases taken because of non-payment of on-the-spot fines	47	21	15
H. Number of notices issued (under sections 9, 15, 16, 17 and 20 of the Litter Pollution Act 1997)	24	14	2
I. Total number of prosecutions taken (all prosecutions under the Litter Acts 1997 to 2003)	62	21	15
J. Total number of prosecutions secured (all prosecutions under the Litter Acts 1997 to 2003)		21	15
K. Percentage of areas in the local authority that are unpolluted (i.e. litter-free)			
L. Percentage of areas in the local authority that are slightly polluted with litter			
M. Percentage of areas in the local authority that are moderately polluted with litter			
N. Percentage of areas in the local			

authority that are significantly polluted with litter			
O. Percentage of areas in the local authority that are grossly polluted with litter			
<b>E8: Environmental Complaints and Enforcement</b>			
A. Total number of cases subject to complaints concerning environmental pollution (relating to waste, litter, water pollution, noise pollution, air pollution)	1826	1460	1555
B. Number of complaints investigated	1810	1460	1555
C. Number of complaints resolved where no further action was necessary	1686	1312	1392
D. Number of enforcement procedures taken	96	96	115
<b>E9: Percentage of schools participating in environmental campaigns</b>			
A. Percentage of primary schools participating in environmental campaigns	93.24	93.24	93.24
B. Percentage of secondary schools participating in environmental campaigns	100	100	100

<b>HOUSING</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>
<b>H1: Housing Vacancies</b>			
A. The total number of dwellings in local authority stock	3664	3673	3694
B. The total number of dwellings, excluding those subject to major refurbishment projects	3664	3667	3694
C. The overall percentage of dwellings that are empty (excluding those subject to major refurbishment projects)	1.77	1.69	1.35
D. The percentage of empty dwellings unavailable for letting	49.23	53.23	48
E. The percentage of empty dwellings available for letting	50.77	56.45	52
<b>H2: Average Time Taken to Re-let Available dwellings</b>			
The average time taken (in weeks) from the date of vacation of dwelling to the date when all necessary repairs are carried out which are deemed necessary to re-let the dwelling	11	12	14
The average time taken (in weeks) from the works (above) being completed to the date of the first rent debit	5	4	4
<b>H3: Housing Repairs</b>			
Number of repairs completed as a percentage of the number of valid repair requests received	91.70	94.97	93.78
<b>H4: Traveller Accommodation</b>			
Total number of traveller families	75.00	106.25	130.77



C. Number of items issued per head of population (county/city wide) for other items	0.35	0.33	0.29	<i>Drogheda Library Closed Nov/Dec for refurbishment</i>
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**L.4 Internet Access through Libraries**

Number of Internet sessions provided per 1,000 population	145.85	179.07	175.46	<i>Drogheda Library Closed Nov/Dec for refurbishment</i>
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<b>MOTOR TAXATION</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>
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**M.1 Number of Motor Tax Transactions**

A. Number of motor tax transactions which are dealt with over the counter	82259	76149	75636
B. Number of motor tax transactions which are dealt with by post	2275	3097	2850
C. Number of motor tax transactions which are dealt with in other ways (e.g. online, by telephone)	41274	44732	50568
D. Percentage of motor tax transactions which are dealt with over the counter	65.38	61.42	58.61
E. Percentage of motor tax transactions which are dealt with by post	1.80	2.50	2.21
F. Percentage of motor tax transactions which are dealt with in other ways (e.g. online, by telephone)	32.80	36.08	39.18

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

A. Number of postal applications which are dealt with (i.e. disc issued) on the same day as receipt of the application	1540	2651	2038
B. Number of postal applications which are dealt with (i.e. disc issued) on the second or third day from receipt of the application	636	360	684
C. Number of postal applications which are dealt with (i.e. disc issued) on the fourth or fifth day from receipt of the application	46	50	40
D. Number of postal applications which are dealt with (i.e. disc issued) in over five days from receipt of the application	53	36	88
E. Percentage of overall postal applications which are dealt with (i.e. disc issued) on the same day as receipt of the application	67.69	85.60	71.51
F. Percentage of overall postal applications which are dealt with (i.e. disc issued) on the second or third day from receipt of the application	27.96	11.62	24
G. Percentage of overall postal applications which are dealt with (i.e. disc issued) on the fourth or fifth day from receipt of the application	2.02	1.61	1.4
H. Percentage of overall postal applications which are dealt with (i.e. disc issued) in over five days from receipt of the application	2.33	1.16	3.09

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

A. Number of Driving Licence	9641	4279	2147
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I. Percentage of cases where the decision was reversed by An Bord Pleanala	40.0	75.00	57.14
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**New Housing Development**

A. Number of applications decided	29	10	5
B. Number of decisions in Column A which were decided within 8 weeks	13	2	2
C. Number of decisions in Column A which required the submission of further information	16	8	2
D. Number of decisions in Column A where an extension of time was agreed to by the applicant, under section 34(9) of the Planning and development Act 2000	0	0	1
E. Average length of time taken (in days) to decide an application where further information was sought	68.11	80.25	70.5
F. Percentage of applications granted	82.76	70.0	100
G. Percentage of applications refused	17.24	30.0	0
H. Percentage of cases where the decision was confirmed, with or without variations, by An Bord Pleanala		50.0	50
I. Percentage of cases where the decision was reversed by An Bord Pleanala		50.0	50

**Other: not requiring Environment Impact Assessment**

A. Number of applications decided	475	438	384
B. Number of decisions in Column A which were decided within 8 weeks	281	280	233
C. Number of decisions in Column A which required the submission of further information	185	156	138
D. Number of decisions in Column 63.25A where an extension of time was agreed to by the applicant, under section 34(9) of the Planning and development Act 2000	8	1	12
E. Average length of time taken (in days) to decide an application where further information was sought	69.11	68.08	63.25
F. Percentage of applications granted	92.84	94.06	94.79
G. Percentage of applications refused	7.16	5.94	5.21
H. Percentage of cases where the decision was confirmed, with or without variations, by An Bord Pleanala	95.83	95.83	65.22
I. Percentage of cases where the decision was reversed by An Bord Pleanala	4.17	4.17	34.78

**Other: requiring Environment Impact Assessment**

A. Number of applications decided	5	3	1
B. Number of decisions in Column A which were decided within 8 weeks	1	1	0

C. Number of decisions in Column A which required the submission of further information	4	1	1
D. Number of decisions in Column A where an extension of time was agreed to by the applicant, under section 34(9) of the Planning and development Act 2000	0	1	0
E. Average length of time taken (in days) to decide an application where further information was sought	87.75	109	102
F. Percentage of applications granted	100	66.67	100
G. Percentage of applications refused	0	33.33	0
H. Percentage of cases where the decision was confirmed, with or without variations, by An Bord Pleanala	66.67	0	100
I. Percentage of cases where the decision was reversed by An Bord Pleanala	33.33	100	0

**P.2 Planning Enforcement**

A. Total number of cases subject to complaints that were investigated <i>All of Enforcement answers include development</i>	183	170	186
B. Total number of cases subject to complaints that were dismissed	44	50	44
C. Total number of cases subject to complaints that were resolved through negotiations	84	34	201
D. Number of enforcement procedures taken through warning letters	119	89	124
E. Number of enforcement procedures taken through enforcement notices	45	27	47
F. Number of prosecutions	3	5	3

**P.3 Planning Public opening hours**

Average number of opening hours per week	40	40	40
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**P.4 Pre-Planning Consultation**

A. Number of pre-planning consultation meetings held	465	241	213
B. Average length of time (in days) from request for consultation with local authority to actual formal meeting for pre-planning consultation	4.72	2.8	2.79

**P.5 New Buildings inspected**

Buildings inspected as a percentage of new buildings notified to the local authority	16.57	15.49	26.79
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**P.6 Taking Estates in Charge**

A- The number of residential estates for which the planning permission has expired, in respect of which formal written requests for taking in charge (from residents or developers), were	51	68	49
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on hands at the beginning of the year			
B- Number of estates that were taken in charge in the year in question	8	3	9
C- Number of dwellings in respect of column B	525	116	761
D- Percentage of estates in column A not completed to satisfaction of the planning authority in line with the planning permission	0	29.41	95.92
E- Number of estates in column D in respect of which enforcement action was taken in the year in question and/or the bond was called in	0	1	1
F- Number of estates in column D in respect of which works were undertaken by the authority to bring the estate to taking in charge standard	0	1	1

<b>RECREATIONAL SERVICES</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>
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<b>Rec.1 Children's Playgrounds</b>			
A. Number of children's playgrounds per 1,000 population directly provided by the local authority	0.1	0.1	0.1
B. Number of children's playgrounds per 1,000 population facilitated by the local authority	0.03	0.08	0.08
<b>Rec.2 Local Authority-Facilitated Leisure Facilities</b>			
Number of visitors to local authority-facilitated leisure facilities per 1,000 population	2390.61	2697.36	2695.4

<b>EVENUE COLLECTION</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>
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<b>Rev.2 House Rent</b>			
A. Amount collected at year end as a percentage of amount due from House Rent	85.94	84.18	83.35
B. Percentage of arrears on House Rent that are up to 4 weeks old	5.12	3.85	4.24
C. Percentage of arrears on House Rent that are 4-6 weeks old	5.45	4.52	3.69
D. Percentage of arrears on House Rent that are 6-12 weeks old	9.43	7.71	6.79
E. Percentage of arrears on House Rent that are more than 12 weeks old	80	83.92	85.28
<b>Rev.2 Housing Loans</b>			
A. Amount collected at year end as a percentage of amount due from Housing Loans	63.73	60.11	60.61
B. Percentage of arrears on Housing Loans that are up to 1 month old	-2.55	0.57	0.87
C. Percentage of arrears on Housing Loans that are 1-2 months old	1.54	1.58	0.73

D. Percentage of arrears on Housing Loans that are 2-3 months old	2.34	1.61	1.51
E. Percentage of arrears on Housing Loans that are more than 3 months old	98.63	96.24	96.89

**Rev.3 Commercial Rates**

Amount collected at year-end as a percentage of amount due from Commercial rates	59.84	50.42	51.19
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**Rev.4 Refuse Charges**

Percentage of households paying refuse charges (including waivers) at year end	0.00	0	0
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**Rev. 5 Non-Domestic Water Charges**

Amount collected at year end as a percentage of amount due for Non-Domestic Water Charges	40.84	53.88	46.15
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<b>ROADS</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>
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**R1: Road Restoration Programme**

Number of kilometers of local and regional roads improved and maintained under the Restoration Programme per annum	126.8	83.1	27.3
	2.2	1	0.55

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

## Financial Figures

### (AUDITED) INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT STATEMENT FOR YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2013

The Income and Expenditure Account Statement brings together all the revenue related income and expenditure. It shows the surplus/(deficit) for the year. Transfers to/from reserves are shown separately and not allocated by service division.

Note 17 allocates transfers by service division in the same format as Table A of the adopted Local Authority budget

<b>Expenditure by Division</b>	<b>Gross Expenditure 2013 €</b>	<b>Income 2013 €</b>	<b>Net Expenditure 2013 €</b>	<b>Net Expenditure 2012 €</b>
Housing & Building	7,388,199	6,473,670	914,529	554,785
Road Transportation & Safety	11,210,508	6,963,149	4,247,359	5,699,371
Water Services	13,838,832	9,570,407	4,268,425	4,098,420
Development Management	6,269,791	3,115,861	3,153,931	3,861,149
Environmental Services	12,194,630	8,884,761	3,309,869	2,590,107
Recreation & Amenity	3,202,182	371,258	2,830,924	3,013,129
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	4,525,238	3,895,926	629,312	841,258
Miscellaneous Services	5,304,948	2,470,336	2,834,612	2,264,867
	-	-	-	-
<b>Total Expenditure/Income</b>	<b><u>63,934,329</u></b>	<b><u>41,745,368</u></b>		
<b>Net Cost of Divisions to be funded from Rates and Local Government Fund</b>			<b>22,188,960</b>	22,923,087
Rates			8,090,263	8,110,545
Local Government Fund / General Purpose Grant			9,090,024	8,809,684
Pension Related Deduction			1,162,073	992,752
County Charge			<u>3,433,752</u>	<u>3,433,751</u>
<b>Surplus / (Deficit) for Year Before Transfers</b>			<b><u>(412,848)</u></b>	<b><u>(1,576,356)</u></b>
<b>Transfers from / (to) Reserves</b>			<u>(459,563)</u>	<u>851,767</u>
<b>Overall Surplus / (Deficit) for Year</b>			<b><u>(872,412)</u></b>	<b><u>(724,589)</u></b>
<b>General Reserve at 1st January 2013</b>			<u>717,539</u>	<u>1,442,128</u>
<b>General Reserve at 31st December 2013</b>			<b><u>(154,873)</u></b>	<b><u>717,539</u></b>

**Louth County Council**  
**(Audited) Balance Sheet for year ended 31st December 2013**

	<b>2013</b>	<b>2012</b>
	<b>€</b>	<b>€</b>
<b>Fixed Assets</b>		
Operational	301,236,037	291,927,190
Infrastructural	1,294,873,137	1,297,526,420
Community	521,550	493,550
Non-Operational	7,743,057	7,743,057
	<u><b>1,604,373,781</b></u>	<u><b>1,597,690,217</b></u>
<b>Work-in-Progress and Preliminary Expenses</b>	21,414,172	20,117,296
<b>Long Term Debtors</b>	16,278,676	16,536,536
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Stocks	-	-
Trade Debtors & Prepayments	22,604,261	24,449,019
Bank Investments	9,558,640	7,214,681
Cash at Bank	1,543,398	587,848
Cash in Transit	38,017	108,252
Urban Account	440,749	-
	<u><b>34,185,065</b></u>	<u><b>32,359,801</b></u>
<b>Current Liabilities (Amounts falling due within one year)</b>		
Bank Overdraft	-	-
Creditors & Accruals	14,910,698	13,022,127
Urban Account	-	1
Finance Leases	-	-
	<u><b>14,910,698</b></u>	<u><b>13,022,128</b></u>
<b>Net Current Assets / (Liabilities)</b>	<u><b>19,274,367</b></u>	<u><b>19,337,673</b></u>
<b>Creditors (Amounts falling due after more than one year)</b>		
Loans Payable	40,549,678	30,404,236
Finance Leases	-	-
Refundable Deposits	11,584,661	12,353,507
Other	2,313,966	2,322,353
	<u><b>54,448,395</b></u>	<u><b>45,080,096</b></u>
<b>Net Assets</b>	<u><u><b>1,606,892,601</b></u></u>	<u><u><b>1,608,601,627</b></u></u>
<b>Represented By</b>		
Capitalisation Account	1,604,373,778	1,597,690,214
Income WIP	19,221,657	18,588,135
Specific Revenue Reserve	389,995	389,995
General Revenue Reserve	(154,873)	717,539
Other Balances	(16,937,956)	(8,784,256)
		(1)
<b>Total Reserves</b>	<u><u><b>1,606,892,601</b></u></u>	<u><u><b>1,608,601,627</b></u></u>

**LOUTH COUNTY COUNCIL'S  
FINANCIAL FIGURES  
(AUDITED 2013)**

**Capital Account**

Expenditure €16,114,744

Income €18,232,353

**LOUTH SUMMARY OF MAJOR REVENUE COLLECTIONS FOR 2013**

	Arrears at	Accrued	Write Off	Waivers	Total for	Collected	Arrears at	%
	01/01/2013			Off	Collection		31/12/2013	Collected
	€	€	€	€	€	€	€	
Rates	5,042,202	8,036,634	1,384,017	0	11,694,819	6,589,934	5,104,884	56%
Rents & Annuities	639,445	2,790,536	28	0	3,429,952	2,612,523	817,430	76%
Commercial Water	5,440,193	4,642,949	12,002	0	10,071,139	4,647,826	5,423,313	46%
Housing Loans	194,132	232,490	(2)	0	426,623	205,157	221,466	48%

**DROGHEDA BOROUGH COUNCIL'S  
FINANCIAL FIGURES  
(AUDITED 2013)**

Total Revenue Expenditure 2013 was € 24,843,783

Total Capital Expenditure 2013 was €3,876,649

**DROGHEDA SUMMARY OF MAJOR REVENUE COLLECTIONS FOR 2013**

	Arrears at	Accrued	Write Off	Waivers	Total for	Collected	Arrears at	%
	01/01/2013			Off	Collection		31/12/2013	Collected
	€	€	€	€	€	€	€	
Rates	5,784,614	11,655,555	0	0	17,440,169	8,762,812	8,677,357	50%
Rents & Annuities	470,681	3,390,311	(2,303)	0	3,863,296	3,411,753	451,542	88%
Housing Loans	213,171	486,219	0	0	699,390	467,742	231,648	67%

**DUNDALK TOWN COUNCIL'S  
FINANCIAL FIGURES  
(UNAUDITED 2013)**

Total Revenue Expenditure 2013 was €26,927,901

Total Capital Expenditure 2013 was €2,605,528

**DUNDALK SUMMARY OF MAJOR REVENUE COLLECTIONS FOR 2013**

	Arrears at	Accrued	Write Off	Waivers	Total for	Collected	Arrears at	%
	01/01/2013			Off	Collection		31/12/2013	Collected
	€	€	€	€	€	€	€	
Rates	8,028,617	13,669,588	2,596,217	0	19,101,988	9,341,904	9,760,084	49%
Rents & Annuities	568,094	3,176,284	3,710	0	3,740,668	3,171,975	568,693	85%
Housing Loans	47,246	104,106	831	0	150,521	100,810	49,711	67%

**Reports received for: MEMBERS CONFERENCES & SEMINARS 2013****Councillor Conference Attendance Record 2013***(info extracted from Conference Exps Sheets processed as at 10/01/2014)***Louth County Council**

<b>Conference</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Month</b>	<b>No. of Cllrs</b>
<b>Jan-13</b>				
Disputes between Neighbours & the Law	Patrick Punch Hotel, Limerick	25-27	January	2
<b>Feb-13</b>				
AMAI Spring Seminar	Brandon House Hotel, New Ross, Wexford	15 <sup>th</sup> & 16 <sup>th</sup>	February	1
Public Health Seminar	Celtic Ross Hotel, West Cork	22-24	February	1
<b>Mar-13</b>				
ACCC Annual Conference	Tower Hotel, Waterford City	7 <sup>th</sup> & 8 <sup>th</sup>	March	5
Public Policy Making & the Councillor	Great Northern Hotel, Bundoran, Co. Donegal	8 <sup>th</sup> & 9 <sup>th</sup>	March	1
<b>Apr-13</b>				
LAMA Spring Seminar	Ashdown Park Hotel, Gorey, Wexford	5 <sup>th</sup> & 6 <sup>th</sup>	April	4
Local Government & Consumer Training Seminar	Hollyrood Hotel, Bundoran, Co. Donegal	19 <sup>th</sup> & 20 <sup>th</sup>	April	1
<b>May-13</b>				
Dealing with Unfinished Housing Estates	Manor West Hotel, Tralee, Co. Kerry	17 <sup>th</sup> & 18 <sup>th</sup>	May	4
LA Compliance with European Law & Directives	Clanree Hotel, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal	24-26	May	1
<b>Jun-13</b>				
Byrne Perry Summer School	Wexford Enterprise Centre, Wexford	28-30	June	1
<b>Jul-13</b>				
Climate Change Policy	Westport Plaza Hotel, Mayo	12 <sup>th</sup> & 13 <sup>th</sup>	July	1
Taxing Goods & Services	Manor West Hotel, Tralee, Co. Kerry	19 <sup>th</sup> & 20 <sup>th</sup>	July	1
Community Development, Arts & Sport	Quality Hotel, Killarney, Co. Kerry	26-28	July	1

<b>Aug-13</b>				
Building Safer Communities	Connacht Hotel, Galway	16 <sup>th</sup> & 17 <sup>th</sup>	August	1
<b>Sep-13</b>				
AMAI 101 Annual Conference	Inchydoney Lodge, Clonakilty, Cork	12-14	September	2
<b>Oct-13</b>				
LAMA Autumn Conference	Falls Hotel, Ennistymon, Co. Clare	11 <sup>th</sup> & 12 <sup>th</sup>	October	1
Design Guidelines for the Planning & Development of Rural Housing	Celtic Ross Hotel, Rosscarbery, West Cork	25-27	October	1
<b>Nov-13</b>				
AOIFE Annual Conference	Carlton Shearwater, Ballinasloe, Galway	7 <sup>th</sup> & 8 <sup>th</sup>	November	1
Community Based CCTV Scheme	Westport Plaza Hotel, Mayo	22 <sup>nd</sup> & 23 <sup>rd</sup>	November	3
Local Government Bill 2013	Millrace Hotel, Bunclody, Co. Wexford	29 <sup>th</sup> & 30 <sup>th</sup>	November	2
<b>Dec-13</b>				
Local Authority Employment Law, Practice & Procedure	Park Hotel, Clonmel, Co. Tipperary	6-8	December	1
<b>Total</b>				<b>33</b>

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**Dundalk Town Council**

**Councillor Conference/Seminars Attendance Record 2013**

(info extracted from Conference Exps Sheets processed as at 10/01/2014)

<b>Conference</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Month</b>	<b>No. of Cllrs</b>
<b>Feb-13</b>				
Esperanza Enterprises - The Finance (LPT) Bill 2012	Carlton Hotel, Galway	1st -2nd	February	2
AMAI Spring Seminar,	Brandon Hotel, New Ross, Co. Wexford	15th -16th	February	2
<b>Mar-13</b>				
Esperanza Enterprises - Action plan for Jobs	The Kingsvalley Hotel, Merlin Park, Galway	1st - 2nd	March	2
Esperanza Enterprises - Employment Initiatives and Supports for the Unemployed	The Kingsvalley Hotel, Merlin Park, Galway	22nd - 23rd	March	2
<b>Apr-13</b>				
LAMA Spring Seminar 2013	Ashdown Park Hotel, Gorey, Co. Wexford	5th - 6th	April	1
<b>May-13</b>				
IPB Annual Meeting	Spencer Dock, North Wall Quay, Dublin	16th - 17th	May	1
<b>Sept-13</b>				
AMAI Annual Conference	Inchdoney Lodge & Spa, Clonakilty, Co Cork	12 <sup>th</sup> - 14th	Sept	2
Greystones Town Council – La Touché	Greystones, Co Wicklow	27th - 29th	Sept	2
<b>Nov-13</b>				
Esperanza Enterprises - Fostering Stronger Communities	The Connacht Hotel, Dublin Road, Galway	15th -16th	Nov	1
Superior Training Services Ltd Local Government Bill 2013,	The Millrace Hotel, Bunclody, Co Wexford	29 <sup>th</sup> - 30th	Nov	1
<b>Dec-13</b>				
HP Ace Management Ltd - Local Authority Employment Law Practice & Procedure	The Park Hotel, Clonmel, Co. Tipperary	6th - 8th	Dec	1
Creating and Sustaining Employment at Local Community Level,	Talbot Hotel, Wexford	13th - 14th	Dec	2
<b>Total</b>				<b>19</b>

**Drogheda Borough Council**  
**Councillor Conference/Seminars Attendance Record 2013**

<b>Conference</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Month</b>	<b>No. of Councillors</b>
<b>February-13</b>				
Colmcille Winter School 'Will the Single European Currency survive'	Colmcille Heritage Centre, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal	22 <sup>nd</sup> – 24 <sup>th</sup>	February	1
<b>April-13</b>				
LAMA Spring Seminar 2013 Local Authorities in Ireland New Challenges	Ashdown Park Hotel, Gorey, Co. Wexford	5 <sup>th</sup> – 6 <sup>th</sup>	April	1
<b>June-13</b>				
Byrne Perry Summer School The Great Lockout of 1913	Gorey Library, Civic Square, Gorey Co. Wexford	28 <sup>th</sup> – 30 <sup>th</sup>	June	1
<b>September-12</b>				
ACE Training New Tendering Requirements for Local Authorities	Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford, Co Louth	4 <sup>th</sup> – 6 <sup>th</sup>	October	1
<b>Total</b>				<b>4</b>

**Ardee Town Council**  
**Councillor Conference/Seminars Attendance Record 2013**

(No Conference/Seminars attended in 2013 )

**Payment to Members of Louth Local Authorities for Meetings, Committees, Representational Payments etc. 2013**

	<b>Payments to Members of Louth Local Authorities</b>	<b>Louth County Council</b>	<b>Drogheda Borough Council</b>	<b>Dundalk Town Council</b>	<b>Ardee Town Council</b>
1.	Number of Council and Committee Meetings	90	14	28	14
2.	Annual Expenses Allowance (travel, subsistence & misc. exps e.g. postage) Total of expenses paid to members in respect of attendance of meetings of the Council and its committees	€120,757.23	€36,473.00	€36,457.13	8,999.12
3.	Representational Payments	€431,275.26	€56,207.00	€74,645.73	15,934.10
4.	Chairpersons / Mayor Allowance	€23,157.50	€36,473.00	€13,453.96	Nil
5.	Vice Chairperson / Deputy Mayor Allowance	€8,372.50	Nil	€5,400.00	Nil
6.	Chairpersons of SPC's / MPC's	€24,000.00	Nil	€3,500.00	Nil
7.	Chairperson of CDB	€6,000.00	Nil	N/A	Nil
8.	Mobile / Blackberry Phones	€3,922.42	€1,207.00	€2,353.23	Nil
9.	Expenses on Conferences etc. attended:				
	(a) Home	€17,025.94	€1,462.00	€6494.57	1,457.21
	(b) Abroad	€544.13	Nil	Nil	Nil

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

### LOUTH COUNTY COUNCIL

#### SPC COMMITTEE MEMBERS 2009 – 2014

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

###### SPC

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

No. of Meetings 2013 – 3

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

###### SPC

1. Cllr Frank Maher, Chairperson
2. Cllr Linus English
3. Cllr Edel Corrigan,
4. Cllr Frank Godfrey,
5. Cllr Liam Reilly,
6. Cllr Oliver Tully,
7. Cllr Conor Keelan,
8. Mr. Harry McCarthy,
9. Mr. Matthew McGreehan
10. Mr. Declan Murphy,
11. Mr. Liam Kieran

No. of Meetings 2013 – 4

##### Water, Environmental and Emergency Services

###### SPC

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

No. of Meetings 2013 – 3

##### Economic Development & Future Planning SPC

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

No. of Meetings 2013 – 6

#### OTHER MEETINGS – Louth County Council

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

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

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

Cllr Peter Savage  
Cllr Linus English  
Cllr Liam Reilly

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

Cllr Tommy Byrne  
Cllr Linus English  
Cllr Finnan McCoy

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

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

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

Cllr Peter Savage

##### **Drogheda Port Company:**

Cllr Anthony Donohoe

##### **Dundalk Port Company:**

Cllr Jim Lennon

##### **Local Authority Members Association:**

Cllr Oliver Tully

##### **Irish Public Bodies Mutual Insurances Ltd:**

Cllr Colm Markey

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

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

**Regional Homeless Forum:**

Cllr Paddy McQuillan

**Local Traveller  
Accommodation  
Consultative Committee:**

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

**Louth County Enterprise  
Board:**

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

**Louth Leader Partnership:**

Cllr Tommy Byrne  
Cllr Colm Markey  
Cllr Finnan McCoy

**The Border Regional Authority:**

Cllr Peter Savage  
Cllr Liam Reilly

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

**The EU Operational Committee:**

Cllr Finnan McCoy

**BMW Region Assembly:**

Cllr Peter Savage  
Cllr Martin Murnaghan

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

Cllr Frank Maher  
Cllr Oliver Tully

**Eastern River Bann District  
Advisory Council:**

Cllr Martin Bellew  
Cllr Declan Breathnach

**Audit Committee:**

Cllr Frank Maher  
Cllr Jim Lennon

**Regional Health Forum:**

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

**Louth Hospitality:**

Cllr Martin Murnaghan

**County Development Board:**

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

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

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

**DROGHEDA BOROUGH COUNCIL – COMMITTEES**

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

**LAMA** – Councillor A. Donohoe

**IPBM** – Councillor R. Culhane

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

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

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

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

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

**Traveller Consultative Committee** – Councillor F. Gallagher – following Councillor Gallagher's resignation  
Councillor C. McKenna – from 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2013.

**County Development Board** – Councillor K. Callan

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

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

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

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

### DUNDALK TOWN COUNCIL

#### Environment MPC – ELECTED MEMBERS

Cllr Eamonn O'Boyle  
Cllr Jim Ryan  
Cllr Maria Doyle  
Cllr Martin Bellew  
Cllr Oliver Morgan  
Cllr Harry Todd

Number of meetings 2013 - 1

#### Housing MPC – ELECTED MEMBERS

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

Number of meetings 2013 - 4

#### Infrastructure MPC – ELECTED MEMBERS

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

Number of meetings 2013 - 6

#### Planning MPC – ELECTED MEMBERS

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

Number of Meetings 2013 - 4

#### OTHER MEETINGS – Dundalk Town Council

#### Dundalk Joint Burial Board

Cllr Martin Bellew  
Cllr Conor Keelan  
Cllr Harry Todd  
Cllr Mark Dearey  
Cllr Eamonn O'Boyle  
Cllr Oliver Morgan  
Cllr Jennifer Green

#### Bids Company

Cllr Maria Doyle

#### Louth Heritage Forum

Cllr Mark Dearey

#### Midland East Regional Tourism Organisation

Cllr Marianne Butler

#### Association of Municipal Authorities of Ireland

Cllr Jim Ryan  
Cllr Eamonn O'Boyle

#### Regional Authorities Operational Committee

Cllr Martin Bellew  
Cllr Conor Keelan

#### Louth Leader Partnership

Cllr Conor Keelan

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

All 12 members

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

Cllr Martin Bellew

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

Cllr Marianne Butler

#### Louth Meath Education and Training Board (LMETB)

Cllr Sean Bellew  
Cllr Marianne Butler

#### Neagh Bann River Basin District Advisory Group

Cllr Eamonn O'Boyle

#### Dundalk Drugs Advisory Group

Cllr Harry Todd  
Cllr Jim Ryan  
Cllr Mark Dearey

#### Place Name Committee

Cllr Oliver Morgan

#### Louth Craftmark Ltd

Cllr J Green

#### Louth County Development Board

Cllr Marianne Butler

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

Cllr Sean Bellew

#### An Táin Arts Centre

Cllr J Green  
Cllr C Keelan