

**LOUTH
LOCAL
AUTHORITIES
ANNUAL
REPORT**



2010



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MISSION STATEMENT

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

Joint address by the County Manager and the Cathaoirligh/Mayor

We are pleased to present, on behalf of Louth Local Authorities, the Annual Report for 2010.

The continued economic downturn prolongs the challenge on Elected Members and staff alike in maintaining a high quality service to our customers and clients. This report reflects these challenges and highlights the continued efforts being made to ensure core services are delivered in timely and appropriate fashion despite the continued reduction in resources.

The Local Authorities have as a core objective a philosophy to encourage and promote a climate that creates employment. This philosophy was, in 2010 progressed by way of the very active Economic Forum who produced two key actions plans for the county focusing on Foreign Direct Investment and Sustainable Energy. The rollout of such initiatives in the coming years will undoubtedly bring a realisation to the job creation objective.

Revised political structures supported by dynamic staffing structures which were embedded in 2010 have added greatly to maintaining service levels and improving efficiencies.

Day to day operational costs continued to be an area of focus in 2010 with significant efforts being undertaken to achieve efficiencies and savings in energy and fuel use.

Staffs across all authorities continue to work closely with the well established and more recently formed community and residential groups in an effort to continue to support their endeavours in improving the environment in which we live.

Community representatives working in partnership with the Elected Members and other statutory agencies on a number of forums including the County Development Board, The Strategic and Municipal Policy Committees, Joint Policing Committees, The Age Friendly Alliance and the Peace III Peace & Reconciliation Partnership as well as the Community and Voluntary Forum continue to focus on the economic, social and cultural aspects of life in our County and help develop County Louth as the foremost location to live, work, socialise and be educated in.

We in presenting the Annual report recognise the many challenges ahead and in doing so acknowledge the commitment and dedication of staff and members alike who in collaboration through the vital alliances with community and other agencies will continue to deliver effective leadership and an efficient and quality service to the people of County Louth.



Conn Murray
County Manager
Louth Local Authorities



Peter Savage
Cathaoirligh
Louth County Council



Conor Keelan
Chairman
Dundalk Town Council

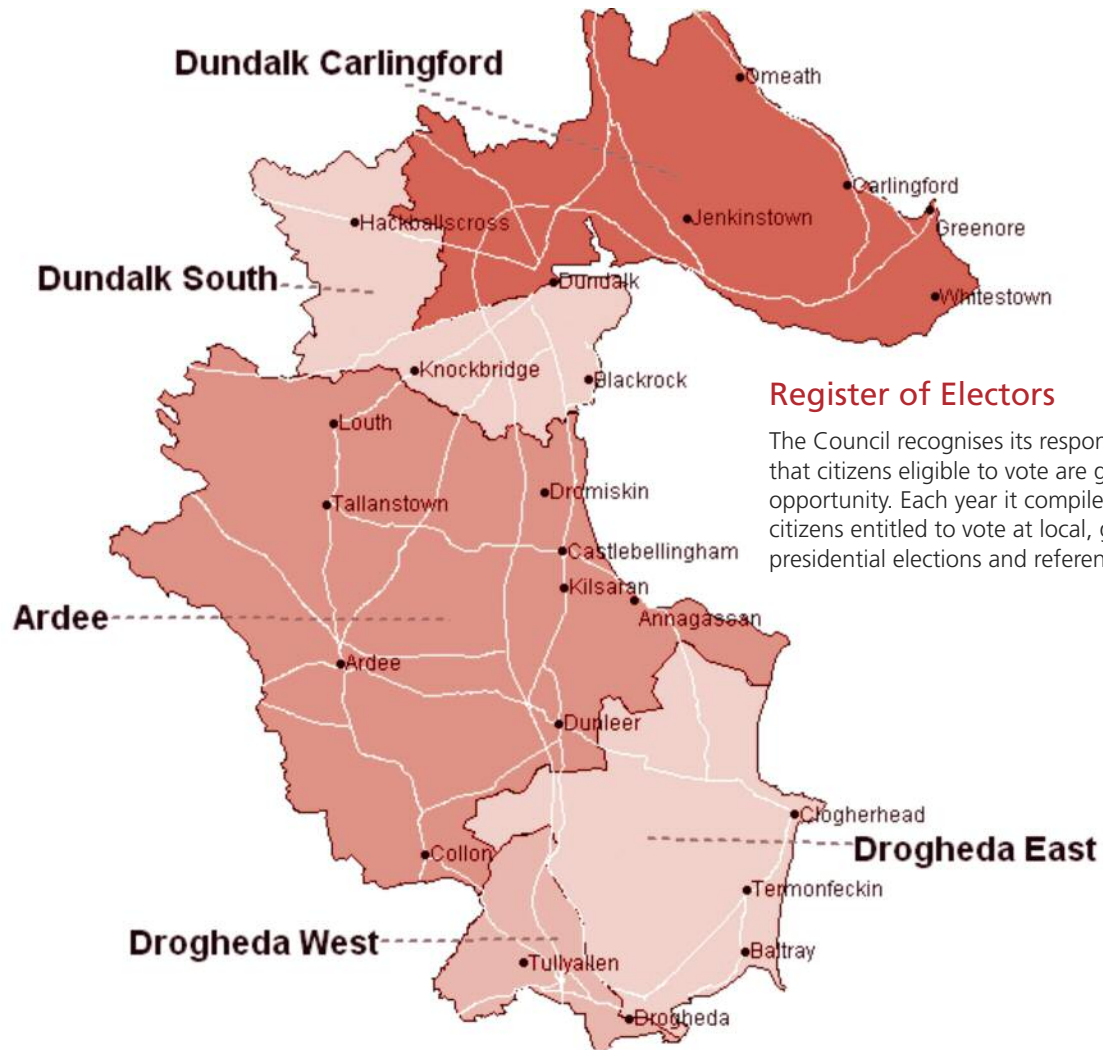


Paul Bell
Mayor
Drogheda Borough Council



Padraig McKenny
Chairman
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.

Area	No of People on Electoral Register
Ardee	17,683
Drogheda East	19,712
Drogheda West	13,305
Dundalk/Carlingford	18,708
Dundalk South	20,552

Louth County Council Members

Dundalk/Carlingford



Fine Gael
Terry Brennan



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
Jim D'Arcy



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

Louth County Council Members *cont.*

Drogheda East



Fianna Fáil
Tommy Byrne



Independent
Frank Godfrey



Sinn Féin
Imelda Munster



Labour
Gerald Nash



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

Dundalk Town Council Members



Non-Party
Martin Bellew



Fianna Fáil
Sean Bellew



Green Party
Marianne Butler



Fine Gael
Jim D'Arcy



Green Party
Olan Herr



Sinn Féin
Jennifer Green



Fianna Fáil
Conor Keelan



Sinn Féin
Kevin Meenan



Non-Party
Oliver Morgan



Fine Gael
Eamonn O'Boyle



Independent
Jim Ryan



Sinn Féin
Harry Todd

Dundalk Town Council Members

Drogheda Borough Council Members

Drogheda Borough Council Members



Labour
Paul Bell



Fine Gael
Kevin Callan



Sinn Féin
Matthew Coogan



Fine Gael
Richie Culhane



Fine Gael
Anthony Donohoe



Socialist Party
Frank Gallagher



Fianna Fáil
Frank Maher



Sinn Féin
Imelda Munster



Labour
Gerald Nash



Fine Gael
Michael O'Dowd



Non-Party
Ken O'Heiligh



Sinn Féin
Dom Wilton

Ardee Town Council Members

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
Pdraig McKenny



Fine Gael
Dolores Minogue



Non-Party
Jim Tenanty

Senior Staff of Louth Local Authorities

Louth County Council

County Manager	Conn Murray
Directors of Services	
Economic Development, Transportation and Future Planning.....	Michael Curran
Water, Environment and Emergency Services.....	Des Foley
Housing, Community Planning, Social Policy and Corporate Services.....	Joe McGuinness
County Development Board and Cross-Border Matters	Joan Martin
Libraries and Arts	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
Library.....	Amanda Branigan
Financial Accountant	Brian Lynch, Roisín McAuley
Administrative Officers	
Fire Services.....	David Jones
Transportation.....	Eugene McManus
Planning.....	Pauline Watters
Motor Taxation.....	Fiona Downes
Human Resources.....	Anne D. Callan
Finance.....	Pauline Goss
Sanitary Services	Brenda O'Brien
CDB Secretariat	Mary Deery, Ellen O'Hanlon
Housing.....	Therese McArdle
Economic Development and Future Planning.....	Michael McCabe
Library.....	Amanda Branigan
Senior Engineers	
Transportation.....	Gerry Kelly
Sanitary Services.....	Mark O'Callaghan
Environment.....	Raymond McKenna
Senior Executive Engineers	
Transportation.....	Frank Magee
Housing.....	Donal Clarke
Ardee Area.....	Paul Gallagher
North County Area.....	Padraig O'Hora
South County Area.....	Paddy Connolly
Sanitary Services	Keith Hanratty, Peadar McGuinness
Environment.....	Declan McMahon
Transportation.....	Vincent Toner
Senior Executive Planners.....	Marguerite Quinn, Terence Savage
County Arts Officer	Brian Harten
County Coroner	Ronan Maguire
County Veterinary Officer	Garret Shine
Chief Fire Officer	Eamon Woulfe
Senior Social Worker	Catherine Vaughan
Louth Sports Partnership Coordinator	Mary Browne
Age Friendly Officer	Catherine McGuigan
Chief Technician	Paddy Birch
Heritage Officer	Brendan McSherry

Senior Staff of Louth Local Authorities

Senior Staff of Louth Local Authorities continued

Senior Staff Officers

Corporate Services / FOI Officer.....	Mary Gormally
Tourism & Business Support.....	Nessa McCartan
Road Safety Officer.....	Angela Muckian
Planning.....	Mary Jennings
Water Services.....	Siobhan Rice, Sinead Lally
Economic Development and Future Planning.....	Sinead McVerry
Peace III Development Officer.....	Paddy Drumgoole
Major Emergency.....	Gregory Flanagan

Drogheda Borough Council

County Manager.....	Conn Murray
Director of Services.....	Joan Martin
Senior Executive Officer.....	Mary T. Daly
Administrative Officers.....	Jeanne Rushe, Brona O'Reilly, Marian Whearty
Senior Staff Officers.....	Christine Mullen, Alison Condra
Borough Engineer.....	Pat Finn
Senior Executive Engineers.....	Padraig Judge, Martina Sheeran
Senior Executive Planner.....	Emer O'Callaghan
Senior Assistant Chief Fire Officer.....	Joe Lumsden
Rapid Co-Ordinator.....	Valerie Atherton

Dundalk Town Council

County Manager.....	Conn Murray
Director of Services.....	Frank Pentony
Senior Executive Officer.....	Dave Storey
Administrative Officers.....	John Lawrence, Joan Smith
Senior Staff Officers.....	Anne McDonnell, Eileen McEnteggart, Veronica Traynor, Mary Cappelis
Town Engineer.....	Catherine Duff
Senior Executive Engineers.....	Peter McVeigh, Pat Stuart
Senior Executive Planner.....	Sinead Mullen
Assistant Chief Fire Officer.....	John Cummins
Rapid Co-Ordinator.....	Paula Gribben

Ardee Town Council

County Manager.....	Conn Murray
Town Clerk.....	Mairéad Duffy

Retirees from Louth Local Authorities in 2010

Director of Service.....	Eamonn Walsh
County Planner.....	Gerry Duffy
Senior Executive Officer Corporate.....	Patsy Fitzsimons

Corporate Affairs

Area Committees

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

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

Joint Policing Committee	Chairman
Drogheda	Cllr. Frank Maher
Ardee	Cllr. Pdraig McKenny
Dundalk	Cllr. Martin Bellew

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

Corporate Affairs

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 2010 and towards the end of the year established their meeting schedule on a monthly basis. One of the primary functions of the group is to review the agenda for the monthly council meeting. They also play a pivotal role in the formulation of the annual budget and the preparation of the Corporate Plan.

Council Meetings

Louth County Council holds a monthly meeting on the third Monday of each month together with a statutory **Budget meeting** and Annual Meeting and also special meetings from time to time as required to deal with issues such as review of the County development Plan. A total of 15 meetings were held during 2010.

The statutory Budget Meeting was held on 20th December 2010 at which the Council considered a gross revenue expenditure of €68,207,415 for 2011 and adopted an annual Rate on the valuation of €55.08 with an additional levy of €1.815 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 2010 in the context of the previous Corporate Plan so as to comply with the requirements of Section 134 (ii) of the Local Government Act 2001.

Civic Receptions

Awarding Authority	Date	Recipient	Achievement	Costs
Ardee T.C. & Louth County Council (Joint venture)	19/10/10	Ardee Educate Together School	Winners of the National Schools award nat. Tidy Towns Competition	€256.55
Louth County Council	20/10/10 <i>Rescheduled to 28/10/10</i>	Tallanstown Tidy Towns Committee	Winners of the National Tidy Towns Award	€587.27
Louth County Council	8/11/10	Kyle Norton	Tri-medal winner in Special Olympics	€184.56
Dundalk Town Council	12/01/10	Officers and Non-Commissioned Officer and Private Soldiers of Aiken Barracks	To honour the personnel from Aiken Barracks on the occasion of the deployment of the 102 Infantry Battalion to Chad	€194.09
Dundalk Town Council	21/3/10	Donncha Ó Dulaing	"Céad míle Fáilte" to Donncha O'Dulaing on his visit to Dundalk as part of the Flight of the Earls, 50th Anniversary Fundraising Journey on behalf of the Irish Wheelchair Association	€147.55
Dundalk Town Council	24/6/10	Special Olympics	Success in the recent National Finals in Limerick	€850
Dundalk Town Council	20/9/10	Down Team	Played in All Ireland Final	€52.00
Dundalk Town Council	18/11/10	Louth Team	Junior Louth Ladies Gaelic Football Team and Senior Louth Gaelic Football Team	€816.50
DBC				



Register of Electors

The final Register of Electors effective from the 15th February 2010 rose to 89,960 electors.

Edited Register of Electors

The final Edited Register of Electors effective from the 15th February 2009 contained 3,465 names.

Elections during 2010

None.

Higher Education Grants

The Higher Education Grants Scheme 2010 was adopted by Louth County Council at its meeting on the 21st June, 2010. During the course of 2010 a total of €4,804,859.81 was paid for Higher Education Grant applications.

**Number of Renewal Grants
Awarded in Academic Year 09/10** **409**

**Number of Grants for New Applications
Awarded in Academic Year 09/10** **339**

Irish Language Scheme

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

Commitments progressed in 2010 include twenty percent of the web site been available as Gaeilge together with a substantial number of application forms been made available in dual languages via our web site. The roll out of new corporate stationery with a greater emphasis and priority given to the Irish language was also achieved in 2010.

Correspondence by way of letter or email as Gaeilge is welcomed and a commitment to respond as Gaeilge in a timely manner has been achieved in such cases in 2010.

A report on the three year review of the scheme was submitted to an Commissionaire Teanga in 2010 and staff will be actively working with the inspector from the Commissionaire's office to ensure full compliance.

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.

S.T.E.M.

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

In 2010 Louth County Council retained its ISO14001. Under this ISO a number of projects were undertaken:

- Reduce pressure on raw materials across LCC. i.e. reduce paper consumed by 15% of the 2009 estimated baseline of 2m sheets of paper by the end of 2011.
- Reduce pressure on non-renewable natural resources. i.e. reduce the volume of heating oil by 10% of the 2009 baseline of 6379L by the end of 2011.
- Manage the usage of non-renewable natural resources.
- Reduce absolute carbon generated by County Hall.

Corporate Affairs

Overview Of Energy Usage In 2010

The majority of energy use by Louth Local Authorities (Louth County Council, Dundalk Town Council & Drogheda Borough Council) is in the form of electricity and road diesel. Energy use is actively managed by the activities of the energy team. Also Louth County Council has ISO 41001, and a yearly reduction of 3% of energy use is one of the prime objectives of this standard. The overall spend on energy across Louth Local Authorities (LLAs) in 2010 was €3,406,278, which was a substantial reduction on €3,994,201 spent in 2009, the savings reflecting the on-going efforts to become more energy efficient as well as tendering more aggressively on procuring energy.

Electricity

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

	Metered	Unmetered (i.e. Public Light)
LCC	124	502
DTC	37	301
DBC	21	324
	€1.4 million	€1.2

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

Also, since the tender process in 2010, 75% of the electricity supplied by Energia, including all the electricity used by the civic buildings, is certified as coming from a renewable source.

Road Diesel

The fleet of 110 vehicles consumes approximately 400,000 litres of diesel annually.

In 2010, LLA consumed *17,654 MWh of energy, consisting of:

- 13,414 MWh of metered electricity
- 4,240 MWh of fossil fuels

Actions Undertaken in 2010

In 2010 LLA undertook a range of initiatives to improve our energy performance, including:

- Fitting a passive ventilation system in County Hall, coupled with a new BMS and low energy lighting, which resulted in **94 MWh** of annual savings.
- IT initiatives, including increasing the air con setting & re-insulation the Comms Room, replacing all CRT with TFT screens and rolling out the auto-shut down PC programme, which powers down all PC's left on after work, saving **121 MWh**.
- Altering the night cleaners protocol, whereby all building lights turned off after work and only a room at a time is lit up for cleaning, **20MWh**.
- The Animal Compound has a 2.5kv Wind Turbine and also 2.5 kv of PV Panels generating average of 15% of the building use, **2.8 MWh**.

Altogether, these and other energy saving measures are saving Louth County Council **238 MWh** annually.

Corporate Affairs

Actions Planned for 2011

In 2011 LLA intends to further improve our energy performance by undertaking the following initiatives:

- Monitoring fleet consumption of diesel which will save 400 MWh annually. A new tender for the provision of diesel to all the vehicles in LLA's fleet is being rolled out in August, and as well as lowering the cost of fuel it will also give much better monitoring of the usage with a view to identifying savings.
- Implement pilot sub-metering project on Treatment plant to optimise process and efficiency in treatment.
- Energy team will train up key personnel to monitor the main civic buildings via Energia's online cost and consumption reports. The general trends of use will be identified and any unusual patterns will be investigated and acted upon.
- Partnership between LLA and SEAI signed late in 2010 is on-going, with LLA committed to energy reductions.
- Install improved BMS in Town Hall Dundalk which will save 100 MWh annually.
- Intern programme under FAS/SEAI has seen two interns being hosted by LLA for a 6 month period, during which time they organized the reporting of energy use and identified possible projects for energy savings.
- East Border Region Project starting in 2011 whereby a public building in LLA, intended to be the library and museum complex as they share a common site, will be audited, fitted out with energy efficient improvements and the results displayed to the general public from the public foyers of these buildings.
- ISO 14001 to be maintained within the sections of Louth County Council, and in the process maintaining and verifying the EMP of 3% reduction in energy.



Housing in Communities

Louth Local Authorities Housing Services



Housing Needs Assessment

At the end of 2010, there were 896 applicants on the housing list for Louth County Council, 2041 applicants on the housing list for Drogheda Borough Council and 1972 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, Heritage and Local Government. In the case of Louth County Council during 2010, housing developments at Cappocksgate, Ardee, and Gort na Glaise, Blackrock, were concluded.

The onset of the economic recession in 2008 has resulted in changes to housing policy at a national level. There has been a de-emphasising of the direct provision of social housing through the funding of new construction. Government policy is now developing in the direction of providing social housing through lease arrangements with existing property owners and developers carrying unsold housing stock.

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

- 1st February 2009 of the Housing (Standards for Rented Houses) Regulations 2008, and
- 1st December 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 6 to 8 will initially apply only to new tenancies and will only come into operation for existing tenancies from 1st February 2013.

Housing in Communities

Social Housing

At the end of 2010 Louth County Council had 938 social housing units in stock.

During the course of 2008, the Minister for the Environment approved the Scheme for the Allocation of Social Housing adopted by the Council in 2005. Local Authorities were required under the Housing Act 2009 to adopt a new Scheme of Allocations by 13th June, 2011.

Affordable Housing

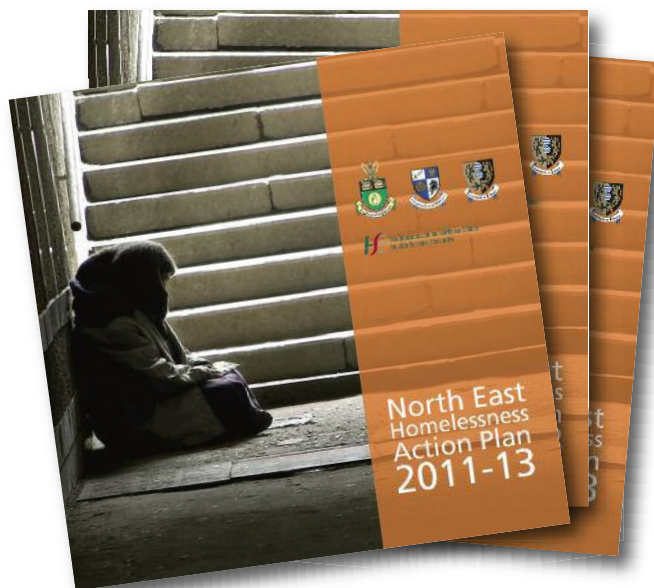
The demand for affordable housing has receded significantly in the last number of years with only one such house, at Clos na Manach, Carlingford sold in the last 2010. Twenty six affordable units were directly converted to social units towards the end of 2009, while a further 24 unsold affordable units have since been leased to the voluntary housing sector for a period of up to 5 years for letting to tenants from the Council waiting list.

Voluntary Housing

Louth Local Authorities have a distinguished record in working with voluntary bodies for the provision of voluntary housing units. This continued in 2010 and, in the case of Louth County Council, saw work completed at No 8 Rockfield, Ardee under the Capital Assistance Scheme.

Special Needs Housing

In 2010, Louth County Council concluded a number of projects to facilitate adaption to existing stock where the needs of Tenants had to be addressed. This included works at 73 Gort na Glaise, Blackrock, Cottage at Annaverna, 5 St. Mary's Court, Louth Village, 8 St Olivers Park, Kilsaran, 36 Elm Park, Blackrock, 6 Fr. Finn Park, Louth Village, 93 John Kirk Park, Clogherhead



Homelessness

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

Organisations providing homelessness services in the County, whose activities are co-ordinated by Louth County Council, include:

- Louth County Council,
- Dundalk Town Council,
- Drogheda Borough Council.
- Drogheda Women's and Children's Refuge Centre Ltd.,
- Drogheda Homeless Aid Association,
- Dundalk Simon Community,
- Women's Aid Dundalk,
- St. Vincent De Paul,
- The HSE Community Welfare Service,
- The HSE Homeless Service,
- The Probation and Welfare Service,
- The County Louth VEC Adult Education Office,
- The North Eastern Regional Drugs Task Force.

As of December 31st 2010, there were 65 persons considered homeless, and in emergency accommodation in the County.

Housing in Communities

Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS)

The Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS) is an initiative administered by Local Authorities in support of their social housing programmes whereby good quality privately owned accommodation is 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). The local authority enters a contract with the landlord for a specific period at an agreed rent.

- The landlord must be tax compliant in order to join the scheme. A tax clearance certificate must be provided in every case.
- The property must be of a good standard as determined by the local authority.
- The landlord must register the tenancy with the PRTB.
- Vacant accommodation must have a BER certificate.
- The local authority nominates the tenants
- The contract is a tripartite contract signed by the Local Authority, the landlord and the tenant. The predominant relationship remains that between the landlord and the tenant, and is governed by the Residential Tenancies Act 2004.
- The local authority pays the full rent each month on behalf of the tenant. The tenant pays a contribution each week towards the rent to the local authority. The rent is calculated by using the Louth Local Authorities Differential Rent Scheme.

In the order of 2,653 people in Louth receive rent supplement at present. Of these some 1,279 have received it for over 18 months.

At the end of 2010 there were 199 properties in RAS in Louth.

Other Leasing Initiatives

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 5 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 to 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 Stock Maintenance and Improvement

2010 saw 1,006 requests for maintenance to existing social housing stock in the Louth County Council area, three quarters of which were resolved before year end. 32 houses in the County area were refurbished during 2010 following the departure of the tenants.

Housing Rents

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

Housing Grants

Louth County Council offered grants under the DOEHLG Scheme of Grants which ran for a number of months in 2010. These are listed below.

	No.	Total Value
HAGs		
Housing Adaptation Grants	135	€1,905,828
HOPs		
Housing Aids for Older Persons	76	€409,669
MAGs		
Mobility Aids Grants	1	€2,750
Total	212	€2,318,247

Housing in Communities

Dundalk

Summary of Estate Management Annual Report 2010

Tenancy Training

In 2010 a total of 122 new tenants received 'in-depth' pre-tenancy training. In addition to new tenants receiving this training, the Tenant Liaison Officer (TLO for future reference in this report) introduced tenancy training for established tenants who had not previously received tenancy training and for other tenants who were deemed to be in need of receiving a 'refresher training' course. This included tenants from Woodview Park estate and tenants from a section of Mullaharlin Park where there were some problems occurring. Both sessions were all well received and it is intended to continue with this training for tenants from other estates throughout 2011.

New Developments

In April 2010, Dundalk's newest estate 'Bothar na Feirme' opened. It is a very well designed estate in terms of layout and property design. There is a good mix of tenants including tenants of different ethnicity who have established a very good community.

A 'Residents Association' was set up in July and is thriving. An 'Environment Sub-Group' was also established and the members are continually improving the physical and environmental appearance of the estate and they have been provided with tools including a lawnmower and strimmer by the TLO. An 'Anti-Litter Crew' was also set up involving the children in the estate who regularly do litter picks throughout the estate and t-shirts with an anti-litter logo have been provided by the TLO to the group and are worn by the members during the clean ups/litter picking sessions.

Estate Management: Physical & Environmental Improvements and Community Development Projects

In terms of continued physical, environmental improvements and community projects, extensive work was carried out some examples of which included the following:

- **Barton Park**
The newly elected residents association decided on a work plan for the estate and identified which areas needed primary attention. The front area of the estate blossomed so much so that based on the improvements made in this section it won the 'Adjudicator's Award' in the 2010 'Improve Our Town Competition'.
- **Clan Chullainn Park**
The Tenant Liaison Officer supplied unwanted cast iron tree protectors to the residents association who willingly received them and erected them around the trees in the central green area to prevent them being damaged by the kids playing football on the green.
- **Cooley Park**
The 'Anti-Litter Crew' which involves children from the estate was awarded with the 'Litter Awareness Award' for being an 'inspiration and example for other communities' in the 2010 'Improve Our Town Competition'.
- **Lennon Melia Court**
The tenants have also become 'caretaker' of the playground within the estate and are responsible for the opening/closing of it.
- **Lios Dubh**
A youth club was set up and a grant of €1,000 was sourced through 'Young People's Facilities and Services Fund' towards equipment. The Tenant Liaison Officer has also applied for further funding and has secured funding for a set of goal posts at €2,500.

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- **Mullaharlin Park**

The Tenant Liaison Officer was contacted by the Arts Department who in turn were contacted by a film crew who were filming and producing a documentary about Public Art in Ireland, commissioned by RTE. The documentary hosted by Joe Duffy who met with members of the community for their opinions on the 'Sofa' which is the art piece in Mullaharlin Park. The documentary will be screened in spring 2011 as part the Arts Lives strand on RTE One.

- **Oldbridge**

Ongoing consultations are continuing in relation to proposals for allotments to be put in behind the football pitch and the TLO has met with a staff member of DKIT who is involved in allotments and hopefully this project, if on a smaller scale initially, will proceed in 2011, pending sufficient funding and local interest.

- **Woodview Park**

The estate won 2nd prize in the 'Improve Our Town Competition 2010' in the 'Best Street' category. This was the 2nd year in a row that the estate has won a prize in the competition which is great recognition for both the residents and the council who worked together in partnership to regenerate a once neglected estate. Throughout the summer the estate blossomed with the lovely hanging baskets that hung from the lamp posts and from resident's houses.

House and Garden Inspections

House and garden inspections have been ongoing throughout 2010. The purpose of a house inspection is to ascertain if the properties are being maintained to an acceptable standard and that no unauthorised alterations have been carried out to the properties.

Residents Associations

In 2010 two new residents associations were set up in Lennon Melia Court and Bothar na Feirme estates. At present both groups are still in operation and going strong with good tenant participation and improved physical appearance in both estates because of this.

There are now resident associations/community groups in operation in the majority of estates and regular contact between these groups and the Tenant Liaison Officer (TLO) take place. Through working in partnership both the groups and the TLO have identified issues within estates and solutions have been found in making the estates better and nicer places to live and in some areas there have been 'mini' regeneration projects.

In addition to this, networking, links and relationships have also been forged with other agencies and in particular with the Gardai. The Community Garda Division has attended several meetings with different residents associations. There has been a very positive reaction from communities to building a relationship with the Gardai especially in relation to Anti-Social Behaviour. Garda presence is now evident throughout estates with individual members of the Gardai having been assigned to individual estates whilst they are out on either foot patrol or in a squad car visiting estates during their work shift.

A quarterly meeting is also held at the Garda Station with the Superintendent and Community Garda present where representatives from local residents associations also attend to discuss any issues they may have in the area.

Environmental Initiatives

Throughout the past year the Tenant Liaison Officer (TLO) has been working within estates on several environment initiatives with both involvement from Council staff and more importantly people from the communities.

These projects have included getting estates ready for partaking in:

- The Annual National Spring Clean Up
- Regular estate clean ups by the residents & anti-litter crews
- Improve Our Town Competition

Housing in Communities

Anti-Litter Crews

Over the past year the Tenant Liaison Officer (TLO) has help set up 'Anti-Litter Crews' in Bothar na Feirme and Mullaharlin Park, this is in addition to 'Anti-Litter Crews' being in operation on several estates. 'Anti-Litter Crews' involves children joining the anti-litter crew for their area and the TLO provides them with a 'green' t-shirt with the logo on the front saying 'don't be a litterbug' on the front and with 'Anti-Litter Crew' on the reverse.

The children carry out regular litter picks/clean ups under adult supervision and are rewarded throughout the year by both the residents association and the TLO in recognition of their hard work and commitment.

Community Wheelie Bins and Gardening Equipment/Tools

The Tenant Liaison Officer (TLO) has provided a 'community wheelie bin' in the majority of the estates. This is to encourage the tenants to collect the litter from their streets in an effort to keep their estate clean. This system works quite well and is also used by the anti-litter crews. The bins are for community use only and no individual is allowed to avail of it for any reason.

The TLO has also provided equipment such as push mowers, strimmers, wheelbarrows, spades, brushes etc to the resident committees to help with maintaining their estates.

Two estates, Clan Chullainn Park and Oldbridge have their own 'ride on' mowers and members of their environment sub-groups cut all of the green spaces in their respective estates.

Community Initiatives

Community Newsletters are well received within the estates. The Tenant Liaison Officer (TLO) tries to encourage each of the resident associations to publish and distribute a community newsletter on a quarterly basis. The newsletters usually contain community information, keeping the residents abreast of forthcoming projects and events within their area.

Some of the residents associations are able to produce their newsletter without any help from the TLO however others require help to type the newsletter on their behalf once they have compiled the information. Before any group distribute their newsletter the TLO checks the content before distribution to ensure no confidential or inappropriate information appears in the newsletter.

Sports Initiatives: Kick Start Soccer Coaching Programme

The Tenant Liaison Officer (TLO) has arranged for several residents from various estates to participate in the 'Kick Start Programme' which is coordinated by Mick Neville from the FAI. The 'Kick Start 1 Course' is the initial course and followed up by the 'Kick Start 2 Course' and finishing with the 'Youth Coach' accreditation.

The 'Kick Start Programme' is designed to assist both parents and youth leaders to introduce children from 6-9 yrs (Kick Start 1) and 9-12 yrs (Kick Start 2) to fun soccer games and FUNdamental movement skills in a well structured, stimulating and safe environment. The aim of funding this training is that the individuals participating can then help coach the youngsters in their community with the skills they have acquired.

Dundalk 'Futsal Street League Tournament'

The Dundalk 'FUTSAL Street League Tournament' commenced on 14th April 2010 and ran for 6 weeks until 19th May. It was not a competitive tournament and there were no prizes for the best teams. All of those who participated in the tournament participated in the final held in Oriel Park 26th May.

Funding from this event was sourced from the 'Office of the Minister for Children' and was coordinated by FAI, Dundalk FC, Louth VEC's Youth Worker, Dundalk's Community Garda Division, Dundalk Town Council's Tenant Liaison Officer and Dundalk's RAPID Coordinator.

The tournament a great success and overall there was a total of over 1,300 attendees over the 7 weeks of the tournament including a large number of children from different ethnic groups. Most of the participants were from Dundalk's social housing estates however there were children from local youth clubs also attending.

Weeks 5 and 6 of the tournament also saw participation from U/12 and U/16 teams from 'Moneymore' which is a RAPID estate in Drogheda as there was no 'Futsal League' in Drogheda.

Parents were well represented at the tournament which was very positive and in general the children were well behaved and thoroughly enjoyed themselves. Team members from Dundalk FC also attended for one of the sessions to meet the kids. The FAI also filmed a promotional DVD based on the large numbers of children from ethnic backgrounds from Dundalk

Housing in Communities

participating in the tournament and will use this throughout the country as part of their 'Intercultural Football Programme' as a positive message on racial integration in sport to other communities.

On the final night at Oriel Park all of those participating received a free UMBRO backpack and in some cases full football kits.

FAI Summer Camp 2010

Funding was sourced to enable children from Dundalk to participate in the 'FAI Summer Soccer School Camp'. There were two camps, one which was held in Oriel Park from 5th-12th July and the second camp which was held at JJB Soccer Dome from 19th-23rd July.

In total sixty places were awarded and were divided out to 30 children from the RAPID areas and the remaining 30 to children from Dundalk Town Council's local authority non-RAPID estates.

The TLO and the RAPID Coordinator selected those attending, having chosen children who had recently participated in the 'Futsal Street League'. All of the children received a full UMBRO FAI kit, UMBRO football and UMBRO backpack, all kits being unique to the 'An Phost FAI Summer Soccer Schools'.

Environmental Initiatives

Each of the residents associations applied for the Amenity Grant in 2010 and all received funding. This funding was put into the improvement of each estate and there was great competition leading up to the 'Improve Our Town Competition'.

Barton Park won the 'Adjudicator's Award' for 'Most Improved Estate'. Woodview Park finished in 2nd place in 'Best Street' category and 'Cooley Park's Anti-Litter Crew' won the 'Litter Awareness Award' which was a fantastic achievement by all.

Whilst the other estates didn't win an award as competition was very stiff it was felt their hard work must be recognised. All of the estates looked fantastic especially during the summer period leading up to the competition.

In recognition of this hard work by people in the local community the TLO wanted to dedicate an award to individuals for the environmental works they carry out regularly on their respective estates.

This category was introduced into the competition for the first time by the TLO in 2010 and residents from Barton Park, Clan Chullainn Park, Cooley Park, Lios Dubh, Oldbridge and Woodview Park were all nominated.

The work these individuals carry out is so important and without them volunteering their time and efforts the work would not get done. Each individual was presented with a plaque in recognition of this.

Housing in Communities

Dundalk RAPID Programme

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

Key actions Achieved during 2010 include:

The Dundalk Incredible Years Project- A steering group has been working on this initiative since the Educational Disadvantage Seminar in December 2008 in DkIT. Eight schools in total have signed up to avail of this project; all 4 schools within RAPID areas are actively involved.

The RAPID Summer Camp and Easter Camps in partnership with FAI were successful; The FAI Soccer Sister RAPID Easter camp was held in JJB over the Easter Holidays was attended by 30 girls between ages of 7-11yrs.

- **The FAI Futsal street leagues initiative funded under the YPFSS commenced in April and ran over 6 weeks;** this involved both RAPID areas and other DTC and private estates, in Dundalk. There were 35 teams in total with over 166 children registered who attended the event. The FAI videoed the Dundalk Street league so they can show it nationally, to promote Futsal and street leagues.
- **SIX RAPID Thematic Sub groups established in 2008/09, they continue to meet over 2010,** each group is chaired by the lead agency of that particular theme and the membership is made up of Community & Agency representatives, the action plans from each thematic subgroup, will form the work plan of the RAPID programme over the next few years.

- **Local Training Initiatives targeting young unemployed people** currently operating in Muirhevnamor. This Multi agency initiative involving FAS, VEC, LES, Louth Leader Partnership, Dundalk Town Council, local CDP's, and local community.
- **RAPID Estate Management Committee**
An estate Management committee established in partnership with Senior Officials in DTC, Community Development projects & community representatives in RAPID areas. This group continue to meet to implement the Louth Local Authorities tenant Participation policy and to promote positive relationships between local authorities and Communities.

A new Bulky Waste Initiative was rolled out under the Bonfire aversion fund during 2010 in both Rapid areas, this was a great success and it has been decided to roll out quarterly.

Housing in Communities

Drogheda RAPID Programme 2010

Key objective for Drogheda RAPID programme in 2010 was to sustain and maintain improvements achieved over the past number of years by using the interagency structure of the Area Implementation Team to ensure that services in RAPID areas continue to deliver the best possible outcomes for residents and tenants.

Key themes and associated activities

Community Safety & ASB /Physical Environment

- The limited resources available were applied to projects aimed at reducing anti-social behaviour. The CABLE Garda Project House at 158 Moneymore was remodelled using RAPID funding(€16,800) . Also a range of projects were supported including a Peer Drugs Education programme, two Drugs Education Awareness Programmes, anti-graffiti programme ,health an fitness initiatives and a Sustainable Energy Citizenship initiative which led to the publication of tips to families on how to save the environment and save money by reducing energy costs. The youths involved were actively engaged in improving their estates and won national recognition for their work.
- Participants in the services of the newly formed Louth Community Drugs and Alcohol Team based in Drogheda were supported to successfully complete a photography workshop and exhibition of their work in 2010.
- 144 young people took part in Drogheda Street League football tournament as part of the strategy to reduce ASB over the Halloween period. Participants came from RAPID estates using the network of existing youth organisations, community houses and residents groups. (RAPID Com Support Budget/DBC)
- Drogheda's Halloween strategy to 'Skip It! Don't Burn It!' was well supported by young people and residents in RAPID areas. It received a commendation at the National Local Government Excellence awards in 2010. V&W recycling funded skips for flammable waste and the process of delivery and collection of waste was ably assisted by the RAPID Community Environmental Initiative, Drogheda Borough Council (coordination) and, residents. RAPID networks delivered several hundred flyers. In 2010 the Council ended the practice of a bonfire at Patrick Street which meant that several older residents could enjoy the season without fear of intimidation or fire risks.
- The Boyne Garda Project completed their organic gardening Training and instated a garden and boundary fencing at back of 280 St.Finian's Park, the Project house.
- Bollards were installed at Moneymore to reduce joy-riding.(Environmental Enhancement Scheme)
- The residents at Moneymore despite the ongoing vandalism at the playground area have continued to be proactive in cleaning the area. The use of official ASB complaints forms has increased.
- To counteract excessive littering at the back lane to Rathmullen from Marley's Lane community clubs working with AURA and the Leisure Park are doing clean ups and reporting issues to the Council. This community support was backed up by action to reduce the use of the pedestrian lane by cars and bikes. Bollards were installed, broken fences were repaired and there has been ongoing cleanups supported by the Environment Section. A fence was installed to separate the municipal green space from private space thus ensuring the spread of responsibility for keeping green space litter free.
- Drogheda RAPID Programme coordinated the delivery of national Bike Week projects including Bike Health Checks, Schools Art Competition, and two bike tours around the estates. Over 500 children took part in the events. All of the events were supported by youth groups and An Garda Siochana with technical support from DBC.

Housing in Communities

Community Safety & ASB /Physical Environment (cont.)

- Gaelic 4Girls was introduced to Drogheda schools to counteract the fact that there was only one team for girls in Drogheda. This was achieved through the Sports Partnership, RAPID and St. Nicholas's GAA. (Funded RAPID/DBC) .Drogheda was complimented for the significant number of foreign nationals who have taken up the national sport.
- Drogheda Drugs Addiction Network was officially endorsed by the Council in June 2010. A directory of supports for families and persons experiencing the effects of addiction has been completed and a strategy agreed. The focus is on family support although efforts are ongoing to place the responsibility for delivery of high end supports such as detox facilities and aftercare with the statutory agency with responsibility for this work namely the HSE.
- The Big Hog recycling system used to recycle food waste into compost is continuing to work well in St.Paul's NS with the waste being used in the schools gardens and areas of the estates.

Family Support/health

- Grove Early Years Education centre funded by RAPID, DEH& LG, DJELR and with technical support from DBC was short listed for an international award which was subsequently won by a project in Thailand. The world rating of the Centre is a testament to the child-centered approach to design and delivery of the superb building in Ballsgrove.
- Preparation for the roll out of the Strengthening Families Programme began in 2010 Louth Leader Partnership and RAPID funded a Strengthening families programme for Drogheda which will be rolled out in 2011. This is a skills based programme for parents and young people working together to improve behaviour and communication within and outside the family. Families are referred by the HSE, Probation, DBC and An Garda Síochána.

- The Health Promotions Unit has continued to deliver key supports to RAPID areas through the delivery of programmes from our community houses. Smoking cessation, fire and road safety initiatives, healthy heart programmes and pre planning for national cervical screening programme to be launched in 2011.
- The Incredible Years Project first piloted in Drogheda in 2007 remains central to the early intervention approach to address aspects of childhood behaviour and to support schools and parents .Schools located in RAPID areas are the primary target although not all children hail from RAPID estates.
- Moneymore Childcare Centre and Grove Early Years Centre took advantage of the ECCE early childhood pre-school initiative in 2010. This scheme is proving very effective because it smooths the transition from home to school for young children The capacity in both facilities continues to expand although the effects of unemployment and the competition for education and training places are having a negative impact on the demand for childcare.
- Lifestart a project supported by the HSE and which had its funding increased in 2005 as part of a HSE contribution to RAPID is working with 80 families across Drogheda.
- Premises refurbished in Mayoralty Street through the HSE RAPID leverage Fund are currently being used to deliver the YAP programme which targets the most at risk youths and provides them with one to one mentoring support as well as opening doors into other critical services.
- CONNECT FRC continues to provide support to communities in Moneymore and surrounding areas. In 2010 DBC refurbished 171 Moneymore and transformed it from a residential property to a community facility . This was the scene of a tragic fire in 2009 and it was regarded by the Council as the most appropriate use for this house.

Housing in Communities

- A Community Survey was conducted by CONNECT FRC in the Moneymore townland area in 2010 to provide baseline data for future planning of services in the area.(RAPID Com Support Budget)
- Family Counselling Services in Rathmullen continue to provide a service to the area with funding from the Family Support agency. CONNECT FRC received funding for a counselling service for the Moneymore area.

Training & Employment Service Providers Forum

- This was initiated by RAPID Drogheda in 2010 and provides an opportunity for all agencies and community & voluntary sector organisations managing education and training schemes targeting youths to come together twice a year to exchange information and review approaches to the delivery of their services. Reports are available by request. DBC is a key agency in the delivery of the Drogheda Training Initiative and works in cooperation with Drogheda Resource Centre.

Education

- A library facility for St.Paul's National School was completed in 2010. Equipment for St.Oliver's CC canteen was also purchased and installed. St.Oliver's CC has neither a library nor a comprehensive canteen facility.
- Louth VEC continues to provide family literacy programmes in RAPID schools and the After School Club operating under the auspices of DYD at Moneymore continues to thrive.

Youth

- Work continued throughout 2010 on the development of the Drogheda Young Persons network.
- Funding was received from the OMC and YA and the IFI for the proposed Drogheda Youth Café. Concept drawings were developed further for planning permission and following a period of negotiation with the HSE Corporate Section full planning permission was finally granted by DBC.

Community Development

Moneymore Estate Management Group

- Moneymore Estate Mgt. Group continued to meet through out 2010. The members had to address many challenges not least the ongoing vandalism at the Playground. Drogheda Borough Council has remained patient thanks to the ongoing support of those residents who do take pride in the area and who do their best to keep the environment clean and safe for their children.
- Drogheda Amateur Boxing Club continues to play an important role in the Community.

Estate Mgt Group St.Finian's Park

- Following a request to the RAPID Coordinator in June a new estate management group was set up in St.Finian's Park. Progress in 2010 was steady and meetings were well attended. It seems that some parts of the estate are more inclined to become involved than others but this will be worked on in 2011. Two Saturday morning litter hours were supported by a small group of residents.

Southside CDP Wind Down

- Southside CDP was finally wound down in November 2010. The House Company has been re registered as The Community House Network Company Ltd. and a new Board was formally instated in January 2011. There is great enthusiasm among Board members about the future development of the house at 229 Rathmullen. Drogheda Borough Council and RAPID is providing every support possible to the new Board. The house had a complete facelift and very comprehensive list of activities were agreed for 2011.

Transportation & Marine

Dundalk-Carrickmacross-Cavan

Route: - Links to Gateway

The Dundalk to Cavan Route Selection has been confirmed as going via Carrickmacross. Work is ongoing on the preliminary design for the route, in conjunction with Monaghan and Cavan County Councils.

Narrow Water Bridge

The proposed cable stay bridge at Narrow Water has progressed to the planning phase, and Departmental approval is awaited to allow the planning process on both sides of the border to commence.

Speed Limit Bye-Laws

New Speed Limit Bye-Laws for the County were introduced on the 15th April 2010.

Termonfeckin Footbridge

A new pedestrian footbridge and traffic lights were provided at the junction of the R166 and R167 in Termonfeckin.

Baltray Sea Defences

The existing sea wall in Baltray has been raised in order to reduce the risk of flooding due to storm surges.

N53 Dundalk to Castleblayney Road – Barronstown to Newtownbalregan Section

An oral hearing into the compulsory purchase of lands required for the construction of this scheme was held in September 2010. The decision of An Bord Pleanála is awaited.

Winter Maintenance

2010 was characterised by extreme weather events in January and December, with record breaking temperatures. 123 gritting runs were completed by Louth Local Authorities, covering 426km per run.

In addition, the Transportation Section

- carried out improvement works on 42km of roads
- surface dressed 40km of roads
- completed 2 Local Improvement Schemes
- completed 10 Local Contribution Schemes
- carried out 10 Safety Improvement Schemes on national and local roads
- took in charge 6 Housing Estates: Glenwood Abbey, Tenure; Wallace's Cove, Blackrock; Carraig Ard, Blackrock; St. Ronan's Villas, Dromiskin; Ard na Mara, Blackrock; Cnoc na Greinne, Tullyallen.
- continued the road safety programme through the Louth Collision Prevention Programme (CPP), the Seat Belt Sheriff, and co-operation with the Road Safety Authority events
- maintained its accreditation under ISO 14001 Environmental management System

Dundalk Traffic Section

In order to promote shopping in Dundalk, Dundalk Town Council introduced a reduction in Pay Parking for the Christmas period 8th December to 31st December 2010 from €1.30 to 70cents per hour.

V.A.T. came into force on all off street car parks from the 1st July, 2010. The Council did not increase the cost of parking for the 2010 period. It was agreed at the Budget Meeting 2010 to increase the parking charge for the all day car parks from €2.00 per day to €3.00 per day commencing 1st Jan 2011.

A tendering process took place in 2010 for a replacement programme of existing pay-parking machines over a 2/3 year period, which is due to commence in 2011.

Transportation & Marine

Drogheda Roads Section

Activities 2010

- Road and footpath maintenance throughout the Borough.
- Implementation of new one-way traffic management system at Chord Road.
- Implementation of Parking Control (Pay Parking) Bye-Laws 2003, as amended 2009.
- Upgrading of Fairgreen between R132 (Georges Street) to Trinity Street.
- Upgrading of Barrack Hill, Dominic Street, Newtown Road, Poorhouse Lane, Greenhills, Dublin Road, Bredin Street, St. Mary's Bridge, Cement Road, IDA Road, Greenlanes, Bolton Street, Trinity Street, Hardmans Gardens, Beechgrove.
- Low cost safety improvement scheme completed at R132/Patrick Street Junction including the introduction of a traffic signalised junction
- Disabled bay road markings at various locations.
- Upgrading of road markings and signs at various locations.
- Housing estate enhancement scheme including road reconstruction and resurfacing of roads at Rathmullen, Moneymore, Laurence's Park, Newfield and Meadowview.
- Provision of additional parking at various locations.
- Survey of public lighting assets within Borough. Maintenance and upgrading of public lighting infrastructure in the Borough.
- Disability works including provision of disabled access on footpaths at various locations.
- Daily traffic management, monitoring and maintenance of traffic signals including traffic and speed counts at various locations.
- Assessment of planning applications and road reports.
- Routine road and footpath maintenance.
- Road gully monitoring and maintenance.
- Road markings and signage renewed and / or provided at various locations.
- Maintenance and enforcement of Pay Parking.
- Winter maintenance – removal of snow and gritting of roads and footpaths along gritting routes.



Water, Environment & Emergency Services

Water Services

Water Conservation

Water Conservation program is continuing and our success to date in leakage reduction was a major factor in minimising loss of supplies to customers over the Christmas period. We have completed assessments necessary to progress our first major mains rehabilitation project in Drogheda and Dundalk in 2011-2012. Savings arising from deferral of Capital investment have arisen from work undertaken to date whilst operational costs are also being reduced due to demand reduction.

Water Charging

Responsibility for the billing of non-domestic customers on countywide basis has been transferred to Louth County Council. Current focus is on synchronising data transferred from the other authorities and correcting any discrepancies found. Survey work is being undertaken to ensure universality of metering and this will be followed up by installation and upgrading works as required.

Wastewater

A Wastewater Treatment Plant Licence has issued from EPA for Dundalk WWTP requiring enhanced treatment to reduce levels of both Phosphates and Nitrates in discharges. Similar requirements will arise at other locations to ensure compliance with Surface Water Regulations 2009 and other legislation which will impose significant Capital and Operational costs on the Council.

The existing wastewater treatment facilities at Dromiskin were upgraded and the Council are piloting a new control technology aimed at enhancing operational efficiency at these works. The four new plants at Louth Village, Tallanstown, Collon and Knockbridge have been commissioned and are fully operational. A number of sewage pump stations have been upgraded to incorporate alarms systems, optimise energy usage and incorporate blockage prevention technologies.

Progress has also been made in regards advancing major sewerage schemes in Ardee and Omeath whilst a detailed survey to assess condition of Ardee, Blackrock and Drogheda Collection networks has been completed.

Water

Investment continued in monitoring and alarm systems and other measures to comply with EPA requirements. A PH regulation system was installed at Ardee WTP to enhance treatment quality whilst further progress was made on removal of lead service connections in Dundalk.

Significant progress has also been made in progressing Omeath Water Supply to appointment of Consultants and completion of design works for Staleen and Cavanhill Upgrades. Upgrade works at Rosehall have been completed which has enhanced resilience of supply to Drogheda.

Energy Management

A number of initiatives are ongoing to ensure that optimal energy efficiency is achieved in the provision of water services. These include process optimisation, pump performance studies and upgrades where warranted.

Asset Management

We have commenced the roll out of a major asset management project. Initial focus will be on development of structured maintenance programs to prolong life of assets and program will also incorporate performance monitoring, energy efficiency, financial planning and Health and Safety aspects.

Water, Environment & Emergency Services

Environment

Waste Management

Louth County Council continued to work with the other constituent local authorities in the region to achieve the targets set out in the North East Waste Management Plan. The pilot brown bin service in Dundalk, Ardee and Blackrock diverted considerable volumes of organic waste from landfill and plans were progressed during the year to expand this service to all centres in the county with a population in excess of 1500 people. A number of promotions were undertaken to create awareness about the proper use of the brown bin including supermarket events and home recycling surveys.

Recycling

2010 continued to see excellent results in terms of recycling in Louth with all previous records broken in terms of tonnages recycled at the network of Bring Banks throughout the county. Waste minimisation and recycling initiatives were undertaken with community groups and schools including a major household battery recycling awareness campaign and recycling fashion show in Blackrock. The first Community Composting Scheme in the county was provided in Tallanstown. Our strong recycling performance combined with effective enforcement of the packaging regulations resulted in Louth County Council being once again short listed for the Repak Local Authority of the Year.

Whiteriver Landfill

The landfill facility operated within the conditions set out in the EPA licence during 2010. Council officials and local residents met regularly to ensure best practice in management of the site. The economic downturn has resulted in a significant decrease in waste input volumes to the landfill site. This coupled with a reduction in waste gate fee charges resulting from competitive pressures in the waste industry continues to present significant challenges to the Council in operating the landfill in terms of revenue.

Waste Enforcement

Louth County Council continued to actively enforce the provisions of all environmental legislation as required by statute.

Enforcement included inspections to determine compliance with Producer Responsibility legislation, including the Plastic Bag Levy, Farm Plastics Levy, End of Life Vehicles, WEEE, Packaging, Batteries and Tyres Regulations.

Audits of waste permitted facilities, waste collection permit holders and effluent discharge licences are also completed, as well as road checkpoints in conjunction with An Garda Síochána. Complaints continued to be received and were investigated with legal proceedings initiated where appropriate.

Once again a considerable sum was spent in 2010 on work associated with the handling and disposal of the by-products of illegal diesel laundering activities in the border area.

Litter Management

The three litter authorities in the county continued to enforce the provision of the Litter Pollution Act during the year with the county, as a whole, once again recording one of the highest number of litter fines issued with 732 fines issued during the year. This stick approach was supplemented by a carrot approach, through a series of litter awareness initiative events, school visits and support for National Spring Clean which saw over 4,000 volunteers in Louth take to the streets to clean up the county.

School Environmental Programme

At year end the county proudly flew **59 Green Flags** which demonstrated excellent litter and waste management programmes throughout the county. Many of the schools, as part of the process, also now have Energy Management and Water Conservation Plans with a few of the earlier participants having advanced to Sustainable Travel Action Plans. The local Primary School Awards Scheme enjoyed another successful year with a new sponsor, Energia, coming on board to co-finance the campaign.

Water, Environment & Emergency Services



National Tidy Towns Competition

There was great jubilation across the county but particularly in the Mid Louth Village of Tallanstown when it was announced the Overall Winner of the National Tidy Towns Competition 2010 at the prestigious Awards Ceremony in the Helix Theatre in Dublin. The county scooped another national award when Ardee Educate Together School won the national title in the School Category of the competition. Civic Receptions were held to honour both National Award winners. Tallanstown, Dundalk and Drogheda were awarded Gold Medals in the Competition, Knockbridge won a Silver Medal and each of the 24 entrants increased its marks on the previous year with each centre scoring in excess of 200 marks.

Louth also gained national recognition for hosting the very successful National Tidy Towns Conference which was attended by delegates from throughout the country.

Water Quality

The EU Water Framework Directive 2000/60/EC is being implemented by means of River Basin Management Plans in the Neagh Bann and Eastern River Basin Districts of the county. The first cycle of measures to achieve water improvement quality targets commenced in 2010 and will conclude in 2015.

Bathing Water quality continued to be monitored during the year and met the required standard. Louth retained the prestigious Blue Flag for its beaches at Templetown, Port and Clogherhead in 2010.

Energy Management

In 2010 the council went out to tender for both electricity and road diesel. This has produced significant savings and has facilitated improved monitoring of usage. Also following the tender the new provider is supplying green electricity to the majority of the accounts. To cap a very successful year in energy management a project involving County Hall won the National SEAI Energy Efficiency Award in 2010.

Food Safety

The service contract work for the FSAI continued on schedule for 2009, with over 250 inspections and 16 full audits conducted during the course of the year.

Animal Compound

The pound continued to produce very strong re-homing figures, with 90% of the 700 dogs coming into the pound during 2009 either being reclaimed or finding new homes. Licensing numbers have been holding up well, with over 6,400 licenses in 2010. Horse welfare continued to be an issue in 2010, partly driven by the economic downturn, and 16 horses were taken into the pound, some in poor condition.

The ISO14001 environmental standard was also retained for the Pound in 2010 following an inspection by the independent accreditation body.



Water, Environment & Emergency Services

Drogheda Environment

In 2010 the environment section continued with Street-cleaning, weed control, grass and hedge cutting, gas Monitoring at the Old Landfill Site on the Collon Road, completion of surveys for the National Litter Pollution Monitoring System (Litter GIS), administration of the Derelict Sites Act, 1990, graffiti removal and rolled out its annual litter prevention campaign for second level schools, annual Halloween Bonfire initiative to reduce the amount of domestic waste on bonfires and clean up costs, National Spring Clean, national Recycling Week and the annual Beauty on Boyne Awards.

For the third year in a row, Drogheda was awarded a Gold Medal in the Tidy Towns Competition and in 2010 was ranked as Ireland's fifth cleanest town in the Irish Businesses against Litter League.

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

Report On Louth Fire and Building Control Services Activities During 2010

There Were 624 Emergency Callouts By Dundalk Fire Service And 752 Callouts By Drogheda Fire Service During 2010, Slightly Less Than 2009. There Was An Increase In Grass And Gorse Fires And A Reduction In Car Fires. Ardee, Carlingford And Dunleer Fire Services Attended Approximately 300 Incidents During 2010.

During 2010, the design team for the extension to Dundalk Regional Fire Service Training Centre was selected and have commenced the design process.

A wide range of fire service training was provided during 2010, including the commencement of training on the new Fire Service Standard Operational Guidelines.

A new fire tender was delivered to Dundalk Fire Service during December 2010.

A combined appliance (fire tender and hydraulic platform) was put into service in Drogheda Fire Service during 2010.

Discussions on the implementation of the Strategic Review of Louth Fire Services took place during 2010.

The Fire Prevention Section continued its programme of targeting apartment buildings and nursing homes for fire safety inspections during 2009. A number of closure notices and fire safety notices were served in respect of apartment buildings.

The Fire Prevention Section processed 112 fire safety certificate applications during 2010, up from 96 applications in 2009.

The Primary Schools Fire Safety Programme was delivered by personnel from Dundalk, Drogheda and Co. Louth Fire Services to all schools in Louth during 2010.

The Building Control section carried out a large number of inspections of houses and other buildings and a number of prosecutions are ongoing for non compliance with the Building Regulations. To ensure compliance with Building Energy Rating (BER) certification legislation, BER certificates have been sought in respect of all developments.

Civil Defence

During 2010 Civil Defence volunteers continued their specialised training and involvement in supporting the Emergency services as required and providing community support. The assistance of Civil Defence volunteers during the severe weather of the 'big freeze' was hugely beneficial to the citizens of County Louth.

Major Emergency Plan

A Major Emergency Exercise, was held in County Hall on 4th November 2010. This exercise was a table top exercise and had inter agency co-operation with members of An Garda Síochána and the Health Service Executive. A train crash scenario involving a chemical leak was used to activate Louth's Major Emergency Plan (MEP). The main aim of the Exercise was to familiarise named personnel in the MEP with their roles and responsibilities. A further aim was to test the SMS Call-Out System, the Information Management System, Communications / Information Flows and to simulate Media Liaison. The exercise was very beneficial to all involved and highlighted areas for improvement in 2011.

Development Management

Access to Planning Staff and Documents

Maximum availability of planning staff to deal with general counter based planning queries continued to successfully operate during 2010, inclusive of all telephone planning queries. Availability for appointments based pre planning clinics were held promptly by the relevant planners. For north and mid Louth, such planning clinics were held on Wednesdays, whilst south Louth clinics were held on Thursdays. All planning applications for 2010 have been scanned and are available on our website in the promotion and enhancement of customer care.

During the course of the 2010, the Development Management section of Louth County Council was reconfigured in order to reflect the Local Authority electoral areas as follows:

- Dundalk Carlingford & Dundalk South
- Mid Louth
- Drogheda East & West

During 2010, planning staff attended the area meetings to deal with any planning issues/matters arising.

Quality Mark Certification

Having first achieved Quality Mark accreditation in 2007, following an independent audit of our policies, processes and procedures, Louth County Council Planning Section continued to maintain and improve Q Mark standards throughout 2010 as verified by the annual external audit which took place in December 2010.

Enforcement

Towards the end of 2009, planning enforcement was incorporated under the umbrella of Development Management. This proved to be a successful alliance during 2010. The amalgamation of the two sections has resulted in the streamlining and rapid resolution of cases and facilitated increased enforcement activity in the county.

Development Contribution Scheme

A Development Contribution Scheme under the provisions of Section 48 of the Planning & Development Act 2000 to 2007 was adopted by the Council on 15th March 2010 and will be in operation until 2014. The scheme applies to the administrative area of Louth

County Council (with the exception of North Drogheda covered by a separate Section 48 Scheme for that area). The Scheme clearly sets out for developers the level of contribution required for each type of development, as well as the basis for levying the contribution.

Additionally, it also provides for a reduction in contributions relating to certain categories development ranging from a reduction of 25% to 75%. It is also worthy of mention that a 10% reduction will also be applied to development contributions for residential development where (i) the development contributions have been paid in full prior to any works commencing on the development in question or any associated development on the same site **and** (ii) payment is made within twelve months of the grant of permission.

Contributions from the scheme will fund the provision of the necessary infrastructure to sustain future development and growth in the County.

A special contribution may also be levied in respect of a particular development where specific exceptional costs not covered by the general scheme pertain in respect of public infrastructure and facilities which benefit the proposed development.

Receipts from the contributions scheme amounted to €1,512,801.96 during 2010.

Supplementary Development Contribution Scheme – Dundalk Western Transportation Infrastructure

In accordance with Section 49 of the Planning and Development Act 2000, a Supplementary Development Contribution Scheme was adopted by the members of Louth County Council and Dundalk Town Council in October 2008 to facilitate the provision of the Dundalk Western Transportation Infrastructure. The scheme will apply to development located within the area of the scheme which directly benefits from the project.

Development Management

Drogheda Planning & Development

In 2010, the planning section continued to be responsible for the consideration of applications for planning permission, the control of ongoing development, the enforcement of planning legislation, and providing advice on planning related matters together with enforcement of the Building Control legislation. In 2010 100 planning applications were processed by Drogheda Borough Council.

The assessment of planning applications for the development in that area covered by the Master Plan for the Northern Environs of Drogheda was ongoing during 2010.

The Drogheda Economic Forum established in 2009, continued to bring together key stakeholders to implement the integrated Economic Development Strategy and to secure the economic development of the greater Drogheda area over the period 2009-2015 and beyond and to realize the overall vision for Drogheda of a flourishing urban centre with vibrant communities either side of the River Boyne.

The Review of the Drogheda Borough Council Development Plan continued.

Under Section 48 of the Planning & Development Acts 2000 -2010, a new Draft Development Contribution Scheme for the period 2010-2014 was introduced on 1 March 2010. The New Scheme provides for reductions in contributions relating to certain categories of development.

Economic Development

The Louth Economic Forum under the stewardship of Padraic White continued to operate successfully in 2010 with the publication of the first 3 Action Plans from the series of 10 which include; Foreign Direct Investment, Sustainable Energy, Indigenous Industry, Tourism and Heritage, Education and Training, Age Friendly Business, Agriculture and Fisheries, Making Louth the Best County to Do Business, Broadband and Drogheda Dundalk Newry Economic Corridor

The Louth Economic Forum was established in 2009 under the auspices of the County Development Board and is chaired by Padraic White, former Managing Director of the Industrial Development Authority (IDA Ireland). The Forum brings together 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.

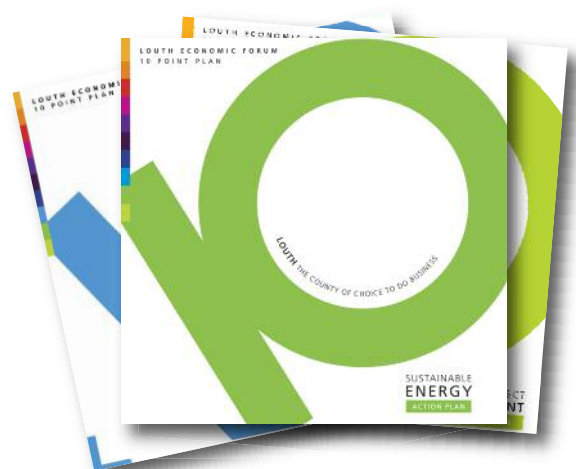
The main objective of the Economic Forum which is coordinated through the Economic Development and Future Planning Unit in Louth County Council is to; promote Louth nationally and internationally as the best county in Ireland to do business, liaise and work with new and existing business intending to set up in the county and ensure that all local authority issues affecting new business are dealt with in a coherent and timely manner, work with other agencies and assist them deliver on their remit for the county, promote and market Louth as a Tourism, Cultural and Heritage destination of choice, create the environment and conditions within which economic development and job creation can happen and, build on the strengths of Louth as a centre of excellence for Sustainable Energy and seek to exploit the report of the high level group on the Green Economy for the benefit of the county.



The **Foreign Direct Investment Action Plan** as published has set out an agreed set of actions for future Foreign Direct Investment in County Louth and these actions are consistent with the approach of IDA Ireland which will enhance the prospect for success.

The plan sets out 3 specific sectors to be targeted going forward; Pharmaceuticals, Clean Technology (as part of the wider Green Economy) and Internationally Traded Services to include Financial Services.

The **Sustainable Energy Action Plan** has identified 3 key opportunities for County Louth which are; to build on the Sustainable Energy best practices developed from Dundalk 2020 and the Holistic Project and to assist in the transfer of these to other urban areas in the county, assist local businesses to become more competitive through the provision of energy efficient training and supports and also to allow green businesses use County Louth as a living laboratory to trial, test and develop products and services. It has also been agreed to replicate the Dundalk 2020 approach in Drogheda and Ardee, implement a special energy saving initiative for 60 Louth companies, develop leadership and competency in Smart Technologies, propose Dundalk Science and Technology Park as an IDA Flagship Green Business Park, propose Drogheda as a hub for a Green International Services corridor to include Dublin Airport, East Point and the existing International Financial Services Centre (IFSC) and to propose Dundalk as the prime candidate for the Governments selection of a "Smart Town".



Economic Development

The aim of the **Indigenous Industry Action Plan** as published is to create an environment within the county which fosters existing business and grows new enterprises within the county. Critical linkages need to be made by the indigenous sector to foreign investment through purchases of Irish services and materials indirectly generating extra jobs and income for the county and its hinterland.

It will support and encourage Innovation in Domestic Markets by pioneering a range of support services for domestic market enterprises which normally are outside the remit of State Development Agencies. The Indigenous Industry Action Plan is heavily focused on facilitating entrepreneurship and the enterprise environment in local and rural communities and will encourage and drive innovation based start ups in the county.

A critical aspect of the Plan is the establishment by Louth Local Authorities of a **"Business Support Unit"** to interface with and facilitate both new and existing businesses operating in the county. These businesses are at the heart of private enterprise in the economy, have the majority of jobs and have great resources of business experience and know how. The Business Support Unit will be a first reference point (One Stop Shop) for all business queries. It will act as a conduit and an enabler to get help and supports in all areas from the existing bodies and institutions located in the county and further afield, and will make Louth a "Business Friendly" county for all industries. The unit will pioneer a range of support services for domestic market enterprises which are normally outside the remit of existing State Development Agencies and will make Louth a "Business Friendly County" for all industries.



Regional Gateway

Forward Planning

The dedicated Future Planning Unit provides a county wide Development Planning Service to Louth Local Authorities. The various Development Plans being produced by the unit are fully reflective of the transformations currently underway in the national planning system. These changes include new approaches to environmental issues, transport, urban design, energy and flooding amongst others. The need to include national and regional guidance on these and other issues into development plans has introduced new elements into the future planning process thus making the production of development plans more complex and complicated.

In 2010 work continued on the Drogheda Borough Council Development Plan 2005-2011. Detailed work commenced on the preparation of the Ardee and Dunleer Local Area Plans including the staging of a number of public consultation events and the facilitation of active engagement by interested parties into the content of the Plans. Work also commenced on the preparation of further local area plans covering the North of the County and in this context initial public consultation exercises were carried out in Omeath, Carlingford and Knockbridge.

In accordance with the stipulations of the Planning and Development (Amendment) Act 2010 and in order to achieve the policy objectives detailed surveys and analysis was carried out in the Dundalk and Environs Plan area throughout 2010 with the aim of producing the county's first "Core Strategy". This work is currently ongoing. Also in 2010 the review of the Regional Planning Guidelines for the Border Region was completed successfully.

During the course of 2010 the Economic Development and Future Planning Strategic Policy Committee were briefed on:

- Role out and delivery of the Local Area Plans
- Regional Planning Guidelines
- The Oriel Windfarm Project
- The Foreign Direct Investment Action Plan
- The Sustainable Energy Action Plan
- The Indigenous Industry Action Plan
- Rural Housing Policy in County Louth County Council
- The Planning System and Flood Risk
- Louth and Meath Tourism Development Study
- The Tourism & Heritage Action Plan

Conservation

The Conservation Grant Scheme in Co Louth continued to successfully aide certain protected structures in essential conservation work such as roof and thatch repairs, cast iron gutter and window repair amongst others during 2010. The total grant fund allocated for 2010 was €103,783

Other Conservation activities during 2010 included:

- The Conservation Policy of the Drogheda Development Plan 2005-2011 was reviewed to enhance the protection of the Architectural Heritage of Drogheda and the Built Heritage was reviewed to see if all policies were still valid and up to date and in accordance with National Guidelines
- Conservation inputs into the joint Louth County Council/Meath County Council Boyne Valley Framework Plan; a framework plan for the protection of Bru na Boinne World Heritage Site
- Continuing input into the protection of County Louth's Architectural Heritage through Development Management and Enforcement processes in accordance with Development Plan Policy & Government Guidelines
- Continuing work on the Record of Protected Structures

Heritage Service

The overall aim for heritage in the county is to co ordinate the conservation, management and sympathetic development of the county's heritage and to encourage sympathetic community pride in it and, the responsibility for it. In order to secure the conservation and management of the county's heritage we must make people aware, proud and supportive of it and use our heritage as a basis for developing a thriving tourism industry and this could be a very effective way of ensuring its overall conservation.

Heritage Activities in 2010 included;

- Promote Drogheda's historic, medieval and Georgian heritage to position and promote the town as an important attraction within the wider Boyne Valley Destination, potentially as an international significant tourism destination to include the Boyne Valley, Battle of the Boyne Site and Brú na Boinne.

Regional Gateway

- Restoration / display in the Highlanes Gallery of the ceremonial mace presented to Drogheda by William of Orange
- Support of Walled Towns day event at Millmount, Drogheda
- Conservation of the 1697 charter of William 111 and the 1657 map by Ravell
- Completion, adoption and public display of the Monasterboice Conservation Study
- Involvement in the nomination of Monasterboice to Ireland's tentative list of proposed World Heritage Sites as part of the early Christian Monasteries serial site
- Managing the adoption of a first Conservation and Management Plan for the Walled Town of Ardee
- Launch of the "Field Guide to the Geology of Cooley, Gullion, Mourne and Slieve Croob"
- Promote Dundalk Bay as the most important wintering site for water-birds in the Republic of Ireland
- Support the ongoing Little Tern project at Baltray

Tourism

During 2010, development of the walking infrastructure in the County advanced at pace with the following additional National Looped Walking routes being established in the Cooley Peninsula; Commons, Slieve Foy and Barnavave.

The Cooley Peninsula now offers walkers of all proficiencies the opportunity to enjoy the spectacular surroundings and natural beauty of Carlingford Lough. The routes are designed to suit all levels of fitness and are well serviced and also cater for the occasional and leisure walker. A total of 10 scenic, signposted and mapped walks are now available in the area.

Collaboration between Louth County Council, Failte Ireland, Meath County Council and the Tourism Trade has led to the development of the Boyne Valley Destination Programme and Boyne Valley brand, an initiative designed to fully optimise the area's tourism potential and to develop the whole of the Boyne Valley in Louth and Meath as a tourism destination. Many significant developments are underway to promote the area to include the Boyne Valley Drive which will link the major towns and the cultural attractions of the area. A new Tourism Information Office was officially opened in Drogheda in 2010 and is now located in the recently restored and historic Tholsel building located in the centre of the town, at the junction of West St. and Shop St.



In 2010 a new initiative was introduced to support and encourage the hosting of festivals throughout the county in the form of the Louth County Council Festival and Grants Scheme. €20,000 was provided to fund these events and some of the festivals supported in 2010 included; Drogheda Food Festival, Carlingford Heritage 800, Carlingford Oyster Festival, Drogheda Samba Carnival, and the Dundalk Show.

In 2010 Dundalk also hosted the prestigious European Seniors Badminton Championships in Oriel Park in Dundalk from the 27th of September to the 2nd of October 2010.

Tourism and Heritage are seen as key drivers of potential economic growth in Louth in the future and the ex CEO of the K Club, Ray Carroll has taken on the role as chair of the Tourism and Heritage Forum. One of the key actions of the group is the production of a Tourism and Heritage Action Plan as agreed by the Louth Economic Forum and in preparing this, a total of 7 thematic areas have been identified; Activities & Leisure, Festivals & Food, Heritage & Culture, Innovation, Packaging & Clustering, Marketing / PR and Communications and Funding, to drive Louth's Tourism growth in the coming years. The group has also developed a new brand for the county and it is hoped to use this new brand "Louth Land of Legends, and Full of Life" to successfully and positively sell the county as the destination of choice to rival the best.

Arts, Culture & Leisure

Arts Service 2010 - highlights

The Arts Service of Louth Local Authorities initiated and supported a wide range of arts events, festivals and projects during the year, as well as supplying funding to local arts activities through the opportunities available under the CreateLouth banner.



Festivals

Drogheda Arts Festival and Ardee Baroque are initiatives of the Arts Service, and both festivals developed and carried out varied and innovative programmes in 2010. The Arts Service also funded a number of other arts festivals throughout the county, such as the Drogheda Samba Festival, the Táin Festival, Ceol Chairlinn, Drogheda Traditional Music Weekend, An Chúirt Chruitireachta, Louth County Fleadh, Leanbh, and the Termonfechin Set Dancing Weekend. The Arts Service also organised a special concert in the Town Hall, Cavan, entitled "Louth and Proud" as part of the Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann, which featured some of Louth's finest traditional musicians.

Visual Arts

The Basement Gallery in the Town Hall, Dundalk is programmed and managed by the Arts Service, and in 2010 hosted four large-scale solo exhibitions. The artists involved were Frances Lambe, John O'Connor, Ken Finnegan, and Jim Collins. Using the Per Cent for Art Scheme, the Arts Service commissioned sculptor John O'Connor to create a piece of public art for Bóthar na Feirme, Dundalk.

Participatory Arts

Working in partnership with the National Concert Hall, Dublin, and the Netwell Centre, Dundalk Institute of Technology, the Arts Service organised a series of concerts for older people in a variety of settings, including hotels, day-care centres, residential homes and hospitals. With programmes specifically tailored for older audiences, musicians who regularly perform at the NCH brought music and song to hundreds of people throughout the county.

As part of Bealtaine – the festival celebrating older people's creativity, the Arts Service, in partnership with Meath County Council, toured "Fruitcake", a new play by Alice Barry to a number of venues throughout the county. Featuring actress Mary McEvoy, the play explored issues around family and memories.



Arts, Culture & Leisure

Partners

The Arts Service works with a wide range of partners in fulfilling its remit to increase access to the arts in Louth. Through formal relationships, such as Board membership, or through more informal links, the Arts Service values all its partners, some of which are listed here – Barbican Centre, Louth VEC, Fáilte Ireland, Droichead Arts Centre, County Museum, Dundalk TCCM, Louth Contemporary Music Society, Millennium Arts Centre, Portadown, the TL, Louth Craftmark, Stephenstown Pond, the Arts Council, Highlanes Gallery, LMFM, Nexus Arts, Anaverna House, Dundalk fm, Holy Trinity Centre, Irish Baroque Orchestra – thank you all.



Donation of the Emerson Papers
 Jayne Hutchinson, *Archives Assistant*,
 Audrey Emerson, John Emerson, *Donor of the Emerson Papers*, Patrick Lynch, *Collon*, and Lorraine McCann, *County Archivist*

Louth County Library Service

Louth County Library Service is operated through five branch libraries at Dundalk, Drogheda, Ardee, Carlingford and Dunleer. A Mobile Library service is also operated and currently visits 53 locations throughout the County, including day care centres and crèches. The mobile service continues to call at 2 stops in Laytown, County Meath on an agency basis. The Louth Schools Library Service continues to serve and support 75 primary schools within the County.

Usage of Louth County Libraries	2010	2009	2008
Items borrowed	432,558	336,757	
298,841			
Visits to full-time libraries	216,846	219,531	
200,350			
Registered members	12,176	11,965	10,627
Internet sessions provided	21,818	19,317	14,936

Library Stock

The Library stock collection includes books, music CDs, language resource packs, informational videos and DVDs which are available for loan to borrowers. During 2010 additional self therapy books and CDs were purchased, along with an expansion in language learning materials covering 45 different languages.

Local Studies/Archives

In conjunction with the Archives Service, Louth County Libraries continues to acquire relevant materials relating to the history and cultural heritage of the County. Close links are maintained with local historical societies and groups to promote and preserve the rich heritage of Louth. The online genealogy service provides information and assistance to people tracing their family tree, and it generates an additional income stream for the library service.

Newspaper Collections

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

Arts, Culture & Leisure

Branch Development

Under the planning and development regulations 2001 (Part 8) as amended, notice was given by Louth County Council of proposed works to Carlingford Library (former Courthouse). This development when it is completed will ensure a greatly enhanced service to the local community.

Computerisation

The provision of Public Internet access in all branch libraries continued in 2010 with 21,818 bookings recorded this year. The Library catalogue, available on the Internet, continues to be updated.

Louth County Libraries are involved in two separate initiatives with Age Action Ireland and an eLearning project with FÁS, to encourage people to learn new computer skills and mobile phone training in their local library. Dundalk Library also hosted the 'Log on & Learn' initiative run by the Nestling Centre, DkIT, where secondary school students encouraged "older students" to set up email accounts and surf the Internet.

Europe Direct Project

Dundalk Library continues to provide an information service for citizens and businesses on EU matters and activities. The service offers a dedicated PC access to European information in twenty languages; reports and pamphlets; books for adults and children; a free phone service to the Europe Direct centre in Brussels and ongoing events and activities with a European theme.

One of the Europe Direct initiative's in Ardee Library was to raise awareness and provide information workshops on the Environment and Social Exclusion. This co-operative project between the library, local schools and the Gardaí highlighted the issues of public awareness and social responsibility in the local community. The project covered four topics:

- CSI Europe Direct at the Library
- Road safety & responsibility of EU citizens
- Public awareness & care of the environment
- Social exclusion & cultural awareness

Outreach Activities

A full and varied programme of events and activities took place in Louth County Libraries in 2010. 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.

Reading Events

Some highlights of 2010 included collaboration with the Bord Gáis Energy Readiscover Library week, with renowned author and sports personality Brent Pope giving some illustrative workshops and readings. Another was a collaboration with Disney to present "Disney Princess and the Frog" workshops for young children. Renowned Irish authors Dermot Bolger and Deirdre Purcell enthralled their audiences with snippets of their life and work.



Brent Pope with pupils from Scoil Mhuire na nGael partaking in "Readiscover Your Library Week" at Dundalk Library

Arts, Culture & Leisure

Louth County Archives Service

The Archives Service collects and makes available the archives of local government in County Louth. It also collects and makes available private archives that document the history and development of the county, such as those archives of landed estates, individuals, committees, clubs, schools, churches and businesses.

Acquisitions

The Archives Service was delighted to acquire a number of important archive collections during the year, many of which were deposited by the County Louth Archaeological and Historical Society. Notable among these collections were the papers of Joseph Dolan of Ardee, who was one of the founding members of the Society. Dolan ran a large grocery and hardware business in Ardee and was a respected scholar, writer, and historian with a strong interest in the Gaelic League. This collection will merge with a collection of Dolan's material which was previously deposited in the Archives Service. The Society also deposited a collection of leases, mainly dating to the early 19th century, concerning properties and land rented from the Dundalk estate of the earl of Roden, as well as leases and indentures relating to various townlands in county Louth; photographs and business cards; invitations to civic and church events; and the accounts of Dundalk Corporation in the 1750s.

Other collections donated during the year included material relating to local athletics clubs in Dundalk and the local athlete Peter McArdle, and records and photographs from the Dundalk-based electrics company ECCO (formerly known as the General Electric Company and as Little Fuse Ltd). The company, which made microchips and electrical components, was a significant employer in the Dundalk area from the 1960s until the early 2000's. These collections will be processed during 2011 and made available on our online catalogue. Any of our catalogued collections can be viewed in our Research Room by making an appointment (Tel: 042 9339387).

The Archive Catalogue

Standardisation of the archive catalogue is an on-going process, as the collections already contained in the catalogue are checked individually and brought into line with the International Archival Standard ISAD (G). Collections acquired during the previous year, such as the Tillage maps and registers deposited by the Department of Agriculture in 2009, have been processed in accordance with this Standard and are available the online archive catalogue, accessed through www.louthcoco.ie.

Conservation

The Emerson Papers which cover the period 1825 – 1925, were donated by John Emerson in 2009. The collection consists of 25 volumes of rentals, journals, and a timber book, all of which relate to landed estates centred on Collon in county Louth, but also extending to townlands in County Meath. One of the notable estates included is that of the Foster/Massereene family, whose tenants adopted the Plan of Campaign (1886 – 1891) and demanded that their landlord reduced their rents. The volumes were received in poor condition; the binding boards and spines were damaged and the contents had been exposed to insect damage, water, and mould growth. All 25 volumes were sent for specialist conservation treatment, funded by the Heritage Council, which involved disinfecting the bindings and text blocks, eradicating the insects, de-acidification, performing structural repairs, and replacing the existing bindings. Following this treatment, the volumes are available for consultation by the public in our Research Room.

Outreach Activities

To mark Heritage Week in August and Archives Awareness Month in September, Louth County Archives Service held an exhibition of archive materials related to the Dundalk estate of the Earls of Roden. The archives on display included leases, maps, photographs, and the Roden estate auction book. The items displayed were chiefly from the Roden collection which is held in the Archives Service, with additional items loaned by other institutions.

To raise public awareness of the work of the Archives Service and to give a flavour of the types of archives we hold, two new archival standard display cases were purchased, with funding from the Heritage Council, to display items from the Archives Service in the foyers of Louth County Council and Dundalk Town Hall.



Evan Quigley from Scoil Phádraig Naofa, Kilcurry, was the lucky winner of a nationwide competition to a private screening of "Toy Story 2" in Dundalk's IMC Cinema. The competition was run by Louth County Library Service in conjunction with Disney Pictures and The Library Council

County Development Board Secretariat



Louth Age Friendly County

This is the first Annual Report of the Louth Age Friendly County Alliance on the Louth Age Friendly County Initiative. The Initiative was launched in Dundalk in November 2008, by Dermot Ahern, Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform. Before this, Dundalk and its Institute of Technology led the way as the Irish participants in an international project on Age Friendly Cities sponsored by the World Health Organisation (WHO) in 2007.

The Louth Age Friendly County Strategy document was launched by Ms Aine Brady, TD, Minister for Older People in November 2009 in Drogheda. The strategy is aligned to the WHO 8 point framework arising out of the international study project on 33 cities in 2007.

In 2009 an emphasis was placed on putting the corner stones in place to anchor the initiative in a solid setting. The Louth Age Friendly County Strategy was developed and went through an extensive public consultation process culminating in its launch in November 2009. Branding for the initiative was agreed and a website domain was developed www.louthagefriendlycounty.ie

Louth Age Friendly Alliance

The Louth Age Friendly Alliance (AFA) is a high level strategic group made up of officials from the Local Authority, the HSE, Ageing Well Network, SEI, the LOPF, Irish Council of Social Housing, the IFA, DkIT and the Netwell Centre and An Garda Síochána. The AFA is tasked with the overall implementation of the Louth Age Friendly County Strategy and forming strategic alliances to ensure its implementation.

Louth Older People's Forum (LOPF)

The Louth Older People's Forum was established during 2009. The structure of the forum was agreed by Older People during 4 workshops held in Drogheda and Dundalk and comprises of Older People's Groups, Advocacy Groups, Nursing Homes, Day Care Centres and individuals. There are 66 people registered with the Forum to date. An executive working group of 12 people has been elected and has formally met on a monthly basis since its inception.

As part of the Terms of Reference of the LOPF it was agreed that the Forum would formulate an action plan on a yearly basis. The policy day held in the Westcourt Hotel identified actions around 6 priority area:

- Safety and Security
- Housing Adaptations
- Home Supports
- Transport
- Volunteering
- Sports

Research

Baseline Data Research

Over 1200 older people throughout the county have been identified and contacted through a randomised process to participate in the baseline study. The survey format has been carefully designed to focus on providing a qualitative and quantitative benchmark for future service design and delivery, that maps into both the World Health Organisation global age-friendly cities framework as well as the national TILDA study managed by TCD. To-date 1000 respondents have been completed.

For further information on the full annual report please go to www.louthagefriendlycounty.ie (downloads)



County Development Board Secretariat

Disability Implementation Team

2010 saw the further roll-out of Disability Strategy Funding. Capital works were undertaken to assist persons with a disability access the local authority services.

ARD Team (Anti Racism and Disability)

The Ard Plan was reviewed in relation to Louth Local Authorities' actions in the first quarter of 2010.

The Living in Louth Guide was launched in thirteen languages in October 2010.

Community and Voluntary Forum

The County Community and Voluntary Forum met on a regular basis in 2010 and continued to promote the work of the forum and attract new members.

Volunteering Showcasing Days

Two Showcasing days were held in May 2010 to highlight the role of the voluntary groups County Louth and to encourage people who want to become a volunteer, to meet the groups. The groups covered a wide range of interests.

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

- Louth County Development Board
- Regional Drugs Task Force
- Joint Policing Committees
- Louth County Council SPC's
- Dundalk Town Council MPC's
- Louth County Childcare Committee
- National Community Forum
- Regional Community Forum
- Louth Leader Partnership

Social Inclusion

Access Louth Awards

In October 2010, as part of the European Year for combating poverty and social exclusion, the Social Inclusion unit in conjunction with the Community & Voluntary Forum held "Access Louth" awards in the Crowne Plaza Hotel, Dundalk. Under the initiative, members of the Disability and Older Peoples Forum nominated those businesses/premises they found most accessible in seventeen different categories.

Awareness Raising

A very successful campaign took place in October 2010 to raise the profile of socially excluded groups within the county.

National Accessibility Week

As part of National Accessibility Week the Social Inclusion Unit promoted a "Park Right Initiative" to coincide with the International Day of Disability with a particular focus on illegal and inconsiderate parking.

Social Inclusion Measures Team

The team met six times during 2010. Research was carried out by two sub-groups set up under the Social Inclusions Measures team into the following:-

- Support and Sustain Early Leaver Initiative
- Support Existing Community Based Employment Initiatives

Traveller Interagency Group

Was re-established in April/May 2010. A review of the Traveller Interagency Action Plan for 2010 -2013 commenced in May 2010.

Community Smoke Alarm Scheme

450 smoke alarms were allocated smoke alarms under this scheme with the assistance of the RAPID Co-Ordinators, Community Groups, Dundalk Fire Service, St Vincent De Paul and Councillors throughout the County.

Educational Bursaries

Louth County Council, with the assistance of Drogheda Borough Council and Dundalk Town Council operates educational bursaries annually, to assist those who may not be in a financial position to attend third level studies otherwise. In 2010 six bursaries were allocated.

Local Democracy

Citizen Services

Freedom of Information

During 2010 a number of applications were made under the Freedom of Information Act 1997/2003. In Louth County Council there was an increase of 1.05% on 2009 figures. In Drogheda Borough Council the number of requests received as compared to 2009 fell by 67% and in Dundalk Town Council the number of requests received as compared to 2009 figures increased 125%

	Louth County Council 2009	Drogheda Borough Council 2009	Dundalk Town Council 2009	Louth County Council 2010	Drogheda Borough Council 2010	Dundalk Town Council 2010
Total Number of Requests	22	9	4	23	6	9
Personal	3	5	0	4	2	2
Non-Personal	14	4	3	11	4	7
Mixed	5	Nil	1	8	Nil	Nil
Requests Granted	8	7	2	8	2	5
Requests Part Granted	4	Nil	2	9	Nil	3
Requests Refused	7	2	1	6	4	Nil
Requests withdrawn	1	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Requests withdrawn and handled outside of FOI	1	Nil	2	Nil	Nil	Nil
Requests for Internal Review	1	Nil	Nil	1	Nil	Nil
Appeals to the Information Commissioner	1	Nil	Nil	1	Nil	Nil
Source of Requests						
Journalists	3	1	Nil	5	Nil	Nil
Business	3	Nil	Nil	2	1	1
Oireachtas	0	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Others/General Public	13	8	4	16	5	7
Staff	3	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	1

Local Democracy

	Louth County Council	Drogheda Borough Council	Dundalk Town Council
Ombudsman Complaints			
Complaints received during the year	7	5	2
Subject of Complaints			
Community, Recreation & Amenities			
Corporate Affairs			
Environment/Enforcement/Vets	1	1	
Finance	2	1	
Future Planning & Economic Development			
Housing	2		
Planning			
Transportation	2		2
Motortax			
Water Services		3	
Citizen Charter Complaints			
Complaints received during 2010	7	7	4

Tables and Appendices

Key Performance Indicators

FIRE SERVICE	2008	2009	2010
F1 Fire Service Mobilisation			
A Average time taken, in minutes, to mobilise fire brigades in Full-Time Stations in respect of fire	2.17	2.06	2.13
B Average time taken, in minutes, to mobilise fire brigades in Part-Time Stations (retained fire service) in respect of fire	3.57	3.97	3.85
C Average time taken, in minutes, to mobilise fire brigades in Full-Time Stations in respect of all other emergency incidents	1.82	1.6	2.12
D Average time taken, in minutes, to mobilise fire brigades in Part-Time Stations (retained fire service) in respect of all other emergency incidents	3.64	3.84	4.12
F2 Percentage of attendances at scenes			
A Percentage of cases in respect of fire in which first attendance is at the scene within 10 minutes	60.93	71.85	65.95
B Percentage of cases in respect of fire in which first attendance is at the scene after 10 minutes but within 20 minutes	34.94	30.57	29.36
C Percentage of cases in respect of fire in which first attendance is at the scene after 20 minutes	4.13	3.26	4.69
D Percentage of cases in respect of all other emergency incidents in which first attendance is at the scene within 10 minutes	53.41	54.36	49.84
E Percentage of cases in respect of all other emergency incidents in which first attendance is at the scene after 10 minutes but within 20 minutes	40.91	40.27	40.63
F Percentage of cases in respect of all other emergency incidents in which first attendance is at the scene after 20 minutes	5.68	5.37	9.52
F3 Fire Prevention			
A Total number of fire safety certificate applications received	180	96	117
B Total number of fire safety certificate applications processed (including cases deemed invalid)	170	96	111
C Total number of applications deemed invalid	6	7	4

Tables and Appendices

Key Performance Indicators

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION	2008	2009	2010	
CP1 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	65.52	65.52	95.45	There is a significant increase in CNN KPI's due to a grant we received from OMCYA which allowed us to tender for a development officer who worked with schools and seldom heard groups to allow them to take part in CNN.
CP2 Groups registered with the Community and Voluntary Forum				
Number of groups registered with the Community and Voluntary Forum		108	165	
CORPORATE ISSUES	2008	2009	2010	
C1 Working Days lost to Sickness				
A Percentage of working days lost to sickness absence through certified leave	4.41	4.27	3.93	
B Percentage of working days lost to sickness absence through uncertified leave	0.97	0.79	0.63	
C2 Staff Training and Development				
Expenditure on Training and Development as a percentage of total payroll costs	5.23	3.75	3.12	
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES	2008	2009	2010	
Water				
E1 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	44.19	47.14	42.89	
E2 Drinking Water Analysis				
A Percentage of drinking water analysis results in compliance with statutory requirements with regard to public schemes	97.47	Fig to come from EPA	98.97	
B Percentage of drinking water analysis results in compliance with statutory requirements with regard to private schemes (where appropriate)	94.99	Fig to come from EPA	96.60	

Tables and Appendices

Key Performance Indicators

WASTE MANAGEMENT	2008	2009	2010
E3 Waste Segregation * PRIVATISED. L.C.C.			
A Percentage of households who receive a waste collection service and are provided with segregated waste collection for dry recyclables	- *	92.72	91.20
B Percentage of households who receive a waste collection service and are provided with segregated waste collection for organics	- *	27.79	27.83
E4 Housing Waste Sent for Recycling			
A Percentage of household waste collected from kerbside, which is sent for recycling	27.59	47.10	20.51
B Tonnage of household waste collected from kerbside, which is sent for recycling	10637	8968	6029.00
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)	5590	15724	16268.00
			<i>All data was not supplied for last years calculation.</i>
E5 Household Waste Sent for Landfill			
A The percentage of household waste collected which is sent to landfill	72.41	60.19	51.49
B The tonnage of household waste collected which is sent to landfill	27911	19735	15134.00
E6 Recycling Facilities			
The total number of Bring Sites in the local authority area	37	42	42
The total number of Civic Amenity Centres in the local authority area	2	2	2
Glass			
A The number of Bring Sites for recycling	38	37	37
B The number of Civic Amenity Centres for recycling	2	2	2
C The total number of facilities for recycling	40	39	39
D The number of locations for recycling per 5,000 of population	1.8	1.75	1.75
Cans			
E The number of Bring Sites for recycling	37	42	42
F The number of Civic Amenity Centres for recycling	2	2	2
G The total number of facilities for recycling	39	44	44
H The number of locations for recycling per 5,000 of population	1.75	1.98	1.98
Textiles			
I The number of Bring Sites for recycling	0	0	0
J The number of Civic Amenity Centres for recycling	2	2	2
K The total number of facilities for recycling	2	2	2
L The number of locations for recycling per 5,000 of population	0.09	0.09	0.09

Tables and Appendices

Key Performance Indicators

WASTE MANAGEMENT	2008	2009	2010
E6 Recycling Facilities			
<i>Batteries</i>			
M The number of Bring Sites for recycling	0	0	0
N The number of Civic Amenity Centres for recycling	2	2	2
O The total number of facilities for recycling	2	2	2
P The number of locations for recycling per 5,000 of population	0.09	0.09	0.09
<i>Oils</i>			
Q The number of Bring Sites for recycling	0	0	0
R The number of Civic Amenity Centres for recycling	2	2	2
S The total number of facilities for recycling	2	2	2
T The number of locations for recycling per 5,000 of population	0.09	0.09	0.09
<i>Other materials</i>			
U The number of Bring Sites for recycling	43	43	42
V The number of Civic Amenity Centres for recycling	2	2	2
W The total number of facilities for recycling	39	39	44
X The number of locations for recycling per 5,000 of population	2	1.75	1.98
LITTER			
E7 Litter Prevention and Enforcement			
A Number of full-time litter wardens	7	7	5
B Number of part-time litter wardens	0	0	2
C Number of litter wardens (both full- and part-time) per 5,000 population	0.31	0.31	0.31
D Number of on-the-spot fines issued	1055	933	732
E Number of on-the-spot fines paid	910	442	614
F Number of prosecution cases taken because of non-payment of on-the-spot fines	145	32	35
G Number of prosecutions secured in cases taken because of non-payment of on-the-spot fines	44	27	36
H Number of notices issued (under sections 9, 15, 16, 17 and 20 of the Litter Pollution Act 1997)	23	47	21
I Total number of prosecutions taken (all prosecutions under the Litter Acts 1997 to 2003)	157	33	118
J Total number of prosecutions secured (all prosecutions under the Litter Acts 1997 to 2003)	44	27	36
K Percentage of areas in the local authority that are unpolluted (i.e. litter-free)	10.00	7.74	16
L Percentage of areas in the local authority that are slightly polluted with litter	77.50	83.87	76
M Percentage of areas in the local authority that are moderately polluted with litter	11.88	8.39	8
N Percentage of areas in the local authority that are significantly polluted with litter	0.63	0.00	0
O Percentage of areas in the local authority that are grossly polluted with litter	0.00	0.00	0

Tables and Appendices

Key Performance Indicators

LITTER	2008	2009	2010
E8 Environmental Complaints and Enforcement			
A Total number of cases subject to complaints concerning environmental pollution (relating to waste, litter, water pollution, noise pollution, air pollution)	2342	65	2158
B Number of complaints investigated	2294	65	2153
C Number of complaints resolved where no further action was necessary	2155	52	1049
			<i>Litter is included in this figure – doesn't appear to have been included in the 2009 figures</i>
D Number of enforcement procedures taken	139	13	146
			<i>Inclusive of warning letters issued</i>
E9 Percentage of schools participating in environmental campaigns			
A Percentage of primary schools participating in environmental campaigns	64.38	73.97	86.49
B Percentage of secondary schools participating in environmental campaigns	50.0	87.50	100
HOUSING	2008	2009	2010
H1 Housing Vacancies			
A The total number of dwellings in local authority stock	3344	3484	3613
B The total number of dwellings, excluding those subject to major refurbishment projects	3320	3481	3613
C The overall percentage of dwellings that are empty (excluding those subject to major refurbishment projects)	1.17	1.75	2.21
D The percentage of empty dwellings unavailable for letting	56.41	62.30	67.50
E The percentage of empty dwellings available for letting	43.59	37.70	32.50
H2 Average Time Taken to Re-let Available dwellings			
The average time taken (in weeks) from the date of vacation of dwelling to the date when all necessary repairs are carried out which are deemed necessary to re-let the dwelling	8	8	8
The average time taken (in weeks) from the works (above) being completed to the date of the first rent debit	3	3	3.25
H3 Housing Repairs			
Number of repairs completed as a percentage of the number of valid repair requests received	3	3	3.25
H4 Traveller Accommodation			
Total number of traveller families accommodated as a percentage of the targets set in the local traveller accommodation programme	3	3	3.25

Tables and Appendices

Key Performance Indicators

HOUSING	2008	2009	2010
H5 Enforcement of standards in the private rented sector			
A Total number of registered tenancies	4595	4104	4146
B Number of dwelling units inspected	122	172	388
C Number of inspections carried out	122	194	507
D Number of dwellings inspected as percentage of registered tenancies (i.e. B as percentage of A)	2.66	4.19	9.36
H6 Grants to adapt housing for the needs of people with a disability			
A Average time taken (in weeks) to process applications under the Mobility Aids Grant Scheme, including any necessary inspection(s), from the date of receipt of a valid application to the date of decision on the application	8	8	8
B Average time taken (in weeks) to process applications under Housing Adaptation Grant for People with a Disability, including any necessary inspection(s), from the date of receipt, to the date of decision on the application	8	8	8
H7 Pre-Tenancy Familiarisation Courses			
A Total number of new local authority tenants	406	198	258
B Percentage of new local authority tenants who have been offered Pre-Tenancy Familiarisation courses	100	100	100
LIBRARY SERVICES	2008	2009	2010
L1 Library Public Opening Hours			
A Average number of opening hours per week for full-time libraries	34.5	36.8	38
B Average number of opening hours per week for part-time libraries (where applicable)	19.4	19.3	19.3
C Percentage of full time libraries that have lunchtime openings	66.66	66.66	66.66
D Percentage of full time libraries that have evening openings	100	100	100
E Percentage of full time libraries that have Saturday openings	100	100	100
L2 Library Visits			
Number of visits to full time libraries per 1,000 population	1800.62	1973.01	2295.83
L3 Library Stock			
A Annual expenditure on stock per head of population (county/city wide)	2.65	1.75	1.29
B Number of items issued per head of population (county/city wide) for books	2.41	2.73	3.53
C Number of items issued per head of population (county/city wide) for other items	0.28	0.31	0.35
L4 Internet Access through Libraries			
Number of Internet sessions provided per 1,000 population	134.24	173.61	196.09

Tables and Appendices

Key Performance Indicators

MOTOR TAXATION	2008	2009	2010
M1 Number of Motor Tax Transactions			
A Number of motor tax transactions which are dealt with over the counter	88680	88244	85571
B Number of motor tax transactions which are dealt with by post	4040	3861	2911
C Number of motor tax transactions which are dealt with in other ways (e.g. online, by telephone)	29339	33765	36192
D Percentage of motor tax transactions which are dealt with over the counter	72.65	70.11	68.64
E Percentage of motor tax transactions which are dealt with by post	3.31	3.07	2.33
F Percentage of motor tax transactions which are dealt with in other ways (e.g. online, by telephone)	24.04	26.83	29.03
M2 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	1885	2454	2228
B Number of postal applications which are dealt with (i.e. disc issued) on the second or third day from receipt of the application	1863	1253	529
C Number of postal applications which are dealt with (i.e. disc issued) on the fourth or fifth day from receipt of the application	168	75	97
D Number of postal applications which are dealt with (i.e. disc issued) in over five days from receipt of the application	124	79	57
E Percentage of overall postal applications which are dealt with (i.e. disc issued) on the same day as receipt of the application	46.66	63.56	76.54
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	46.11	32.45	18.17
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	4.16	1.94	3.33
H Percentage of overall postal applications which are dealt with (i.e. disc issued) in over five days from receipt of the application	3.07	2.05	1.96

Tables and Appendices

Key Performance Indicators

MOTOR TAXATION	2008	2009	2010
M3 Time Taken to Process Driving Licence Applications			
A Number of Driving Licence applications which are dealt with on the same day as receipt of the application	9222	5560	6344
B Number of Driving Licence applications which are dealt with on the second or third day from receipt of the application	2812	4703	3653
C Number of Driving Licence applications which are dealt with on the Fourth or fifth day from receipt of the application	1599	1110	2144
D Number of Driving Licence applications which are dealt with in over five days from receipt of the application	3606	783	2669
E Percentage of overall driving Licence applications which are dealt with on the same day as receipt of the application	53.49	45.74	42.84
F Percentage of overall driving Licence applications which are dealt with on the second or third day from receipt of the application	16.31	38.69	24.67
G Percentage of overall driving Licence applications which are dealt with on the fourth or fifth day from receipt of the application	9.28	9.13	14.48
H Percentage of overall driving Licence applications which are dealt with in over five days from receipt of the application	20.92	6.44	18.02
M4 Public opening hours			
Average number of opening hours per week	32.5	32.5	32.5
PLANNING	2008	2009	2010
P1 Planning Applications - Decision Making			
<i>Individual Houses</i>			
A Number of applications decided	555	342	199
B Number of decisions in Column A which were decided within 8 weeks	202	135	68
C Number of decisions in Column A which required the submission of further information	344	205	127
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	9	2	8
E Average length of time taken (in days) to decide an application where further information was sought	76.05	66.86	68.34
F Percentage of applications granted	86.13	90.35	87.94
G Percentage of applications refused	13.87	9.65	12.06
H Percentage of cases where the decision was confirmed, with or without variations, by An Bord Pleanala	39.13	61.54	45.45
I Percentage of cases where the decision was reversed by An Bord Pleanala	60.87	38.46	54.55

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Key Performance Indicators

PLANNING	2008	2009	2010
P1 Planning Applications - Decision Making			
<i>New Housing Development</i>			
A Number of applications decided	95	48	30
B Number of decisions in Column A which were decided within 8 weeks	32	10	7
C Number of decisions in Column A which required the submission of further information	62	38	21
D Number of decisions in Column A where an extension of time was agreed to by the applicant, under section 34(9) of the Planning and development Act 2000	1	1	6
E Average length of time taken (in days) to decide an application where further information was sought	77	79.76	73.91
F Percentage of applications granted	74.74	77.08	86.67
G Percentage of applications refused	25.26	22.92	13.33
H Percentage of cases where the decision was confirmed, with or without variations, by An Bord Pleanala	61.29	70.0	40
I Percentage of cases where the decision was reversed by An Bord Pleanala	38.71	30.0	60
<i>Other: not requiring Environment Impact Assessment</i>			
A Number of applications decided	1000	634	508
B Number of decisions in Column A which were decided within 8 weeks	658	418	313
C Number of decisions in Column A which required the submission of further information	335	210	189
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	7	6	12
E Average length of time taken (in days) to decide an application where further information was sought	74.04	69.60	70.08
F Percentage of applications granted	91.30	92.27	88.98
G Percentage of applications refused	8.70	7.73	11.02
H Percentage of cases where the decision was confirmed, with or without variations, by An Bord Pleanala	72.22	79.37	60.0
I Percentage of cases where the decision was reversed by An Bord Pleanala	27.78	20.63	40.0

Tables and Appendices

Key Performance Indicators

PLANNING	2008	2009	2010
P1 Planning Applications - Decision Making			
<i>Other: requiring Environment Impact Assessment</i>			
A Number of applications decided	16	6	8
B Number of decisions in Column A which were decided within 8 weeks	4	2	3
C Number of decisions in Column A which required the submission of further information	11	4	5
D Number of decisions in Column A where an extension of time was agreed to by the applicant, under section 34(9) of the Planning and development Act 2000	1	0	0
E Average length of time taken (in days) to decide an application where further information was sought	97.55	107.50	94.01
F Percentage of applications granted	100	83.33	87.50
G Percentage of applications refused	0	16.67	12.50
H Percentage of cases where the decision was confirmed, with or without variations, by An Bord Pleanala	100	100	50
I Percentage of cases where the decision was reversed by An Bord Pleanala	0	0	50
P2 Planning Enforcement			
A Total number of cases subject to complaints that were investigated <i>All of Enforcement answers include development</i>	646	527	257
B Total number of cases subject to complaints that were dismissed	123	53	28
C Total number of cases subject to complaints that were resolved through negotiations	156	223	151
D Number of enforcement procedures taken through warning letters	412	293	141
E Number of enforcement procedures taken through enforcement notices	168	107	49
F Number of prosecutions	24	29	2
P3 Planning Public opening hours			
Average number of opening hours per week	37.3333	38.126	38.13
P4 Pre-Planning Consultation			
A Number of pre-planning consultation meetings held	698	566	553
B Average length of time (in days) from request for consultation with local authority to actual formal meeting for pre-planning consultation	8.0387	6.3993	3.3
P5 New Buildings inspected			
Buildings inspected as a percentage of new buildings notified to the local authority	20.97	16.10	14.12

Tables and Appendices

Key Performance Indicators

PLANNING	2008	2009	2010
P6 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 on hands at the beginning of the year	64	62	51
B Number of estates that were taken in charge in the year in question	8	16	13
C Number of dwellings in respect of column B	309	904	959
D Percentage of estates in column A not completed to satisfaction of the planning authority in line with the planning permission	10.94	6.45	1.96
E Number of estates in column D in respect of which enforcement action was taken in the year in question and/or the bond was called in	1	1	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	2	1	1
RECREATIONAL SERVICES	2008	2009	2010
Rec1 Children's Playgrounds			
A Number of children's playgrounds per 1,000 population directly provided by the local authority	0.09	0.10	0.11
B Number of children's playgrounds per 1,000 population facilitated by the local authority	0.01	0.01	0.01
Rec2 Local Authority-Facilitated Leisure Facilities			
Number of visitors to local authority-facilitated leisure facilities per 1,000 population	3236.69	2966.96	2990.94
REVENUE COLLECTION	2008	2009	2010
Rev2 House Rent			
A Amount collected at year end as a percentage of amount due from House Rent	89.55	87.27	87.16
B Percentage of arrears on House Rent that are up to 4 weeks old	-	-	5.72
C Percentage of arrears on House Rent that are 4-6 weeks old	8.78	7.54	6.98
D Percentage of arrears on House Rent that are 6-12 weeks old	14.00	12.25	10.65
E Percentage of arrears on House Rent that are more than 12 weeks old	86.49	72.82	76.65

Tables and Appendices

Key Performance Indicators

REVENUE COLLECTION	2008	2009	2010
Rev2 Housing Loans			
A Amount collected at year end as a percentage of amount due from Housing Loans	90.42	82.75	66.93
			<i>There has been a reduction in Louth County Council's collection rate in respect of Housing Loans as a result of the economic downturn. However the Council is agreeing payment plans with customers and are vigorously following up the arrears</i>
B Percentage of arrears on Housing Loans that are up to 1 month old	10.69	1.79	1.07
C Percentage of arrears on Housing Loans that are 1-2 months old	-	-	1.18
D Percentage of arrears on Housing Loans that are 2-3 months old	14.95	2.62	1.97
E Percentage of arrears on Housing Loans that are more than 3 months old	179.30	93.97	95.96
Rev3 Commercial Rates			
Amount collected at year-end as a percentage of amount due from Commercial rates	84.28	70.89	65.4
			<i>There has been a reduction in Louth County Council's collection rate in respect of Commercial Rates as a result of the economic downturn. However the Council is agreeing payment plans with customers and are vigorously following up the arrears.</i>
Rev4 Refuse Charges			
Percentage of households paying refuse charges (including waivers) at year end	0	0	<i>This service has been privatised in Co. Louth</i>
Rev5 Non-Domestic Water Charges			
Amount collected at year end as a percentage of amount due for Non-Domestic Water Charges	59.71	44.09	34.36
ROADS	2008	2009	2010
R1 Road Restoration Programme			
Number of kilometers of local and regional roads improved and maintained under the Restoration Programme per annum	95.90	122.784	115.215
Number of kilometers of local and regional roads constructed under the specific improvement grants scheme per annum	0.00	0	0

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Financial Figures

Unaudited Income and Expenditure Account Statement For Year Ended 31st December 2010

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

	Gross Expenditure 2010	Income 2010	Net Expenditure 2010	Net Expenditure 2009
Expenditure by Division	€	€	€	€
Housing and building	7,203,940	6,768,540	435,400	868,098
Road transport & safety	13,987,362	7,026,861	6,960,501	4,921,318
Water services	15,648,302	11,572,615	4,075,687	4,811,955
Development management	6,391,407	2,914,957	3,476,450	3,981,099
Environmental services	8,414,648	6,029,227	2,385,422	1,273,470
Recreation and amenity	3,617,131	429,262	3,187,869	3,510,137
Agriculture, education, health & welfare	11,916,784	11,262,198	654,586	555,685
Miscellaneous services	4,719,451	2,230,704	2,488,747	2,902,355
Central management charges	-	-	-	-
Total Expenditure/Income	71,899,025	48,234,363		
Net Cost of Divisions to be funded from Rates and Local Government Fund			23,664,661	22,824,118
Rates			7,772,866	7,879,049
Local government fund / General Purpose Grant			10,926,993	11,925,998
Pension related deduction			937,633	799,378
County charge			3,433,750	3,452,450
Surplus / (Deficit) for Year before Transfers			(593,419)	1,232,757
Transfers from / (to) Reserves			628,374	(1,283,047)
Overall Surplus / (Deficit) for Year			34,955	(50,290)
General Reserve at 1 st January 2010			1,670,221	1,720,511
General Reserve at 31 st December 2010			1,705,176	1,670,221

Tables and Appendices

Financial Figures

Louth County Council

Unaudited Balance Sheet for year ended 31st December 2010

	Notes	2010 €	2009 €
Fixed	1		
Operational		199,454,802	187,995,188
Infrastructural		1,183,521,315	1,186,194,649
Community		493,550	493,550
Non-Operational		7,743,057	7,743,057
		1,391,212,724	1,382,426,444
Work-in-Progress and Preliminary Expenses	2	140,782,568	161,589,578
Long Term Debtors	3	19,937,503	20,393,825
Current Assets			
Stocks	4	-	-
Trade Debtors and Prepayments	5	31,142,565	28,132,483
Bank Investments		20,844,308	28,756,963
Cash at Bank		1,124,997	-
Cash in Transit		75,820	66,735
Urban Account	7	346,036	1,237,394
		53,533,726	58,193,574
Current Liabilities (Amounts falling due within one year)			
Bank Overdraft		-	1,045,475
Creditors & Accruals	6	22,681,151	19,296,153
Urban Account	7	-	-
Finance Leases		-	-
		22,681,574	20,341,628
Net Current Assets / (Liabilities)		30,852,574	37,851,947
Creditors (Amounts falling due after more than one year)			
Loans Payable	8	31,438,555	35,584,343
Finance Leases		-	-
Refundable Deposits	9	12,977,036	13,000,583
Other		-	-
		44,415,590	48,584,927
Net Assets		1,538,369,780	1,553,676,868
Represented by			
Capitalisation Account	10	1,391,212,724	1,382,426,444
Income WIP	2	140,093,412	160,007,114
Specific Revenue Reserve		389,995	389,995
General Revenue Reserve		1,705,176	1,670,221
Other Balances	11	4,968,473	9,183,094
Total Reserves		1,538,369,780	1,553,676,868

Tables and Appendices

Financial Figures

Capital Account

Expenditure	€21,899,805
Income	€18,989,402

Louth Summary Of Major Revenue Collections For 2010

	Arrears at 01/01/2010 €	Accrued €	Write Off €	Waivers Off €	Total for Collection €	Collected €	Arrears at 31/12/2010 €	% Collected
Rates	1,797,286	7,772,866	946,116		8,624,036	5,746,530	2,877,506	67%
Rents & Annuities	295,738	2,662,985	4,375		2,954,349	2,536,986	417,363	86%
Commercial Water	1,229,063	6,784,349	239,913		7,774,499	2,671,399	5,103,100	34%
Housing Loans	96,026	343,154	(7)		439,187	256,997	182,190	59%

Dundalk Town Council's Financial Figures (Unaudited)

Total Revenue Expenditure 2010 was €28,585,418
Total Capital Expenditure 2010 was €7,101,543

Dundalk Summary Of Major Revenue Collections For 2010

	Arrears at 01/01/2010 €	Accrued €	Write Off €	Waivers Off €	Total for Collection €	Collected €	Arrears at 31/12/2010 €	% Collected
Rates	6,638,122	14,066,929	1,831,808		18,873,243	11,490,630	7,382,613	61%
Rents & Annuities	381,706	3,062,034	38,153		3,405,587	2,975,568	430,019	87%
Commercial Water	2,007,718		110,586		1,897,132	809,097	1,088,035	43%
Housing Loans	10,938	143,839	(3)		154,780	125,490	29,290	81%

Drogheda Borough Council's Financial Figures (Unaudited)

Total Revenue Expenditure 2010 was € 26,510,949
Total Capital Expenditure 2010 was €10,828,881

Tables and Appendices

Financial Figures

Drogheda Summary Of Major Revenue Collections For 2010

	Arrears at 01/01/2010 €	Accrued €	Write Off €	Waivers Off €	Total for Collection €	Collected €	Arrears at 31/12/2010 €	% Collected
Rates	2,485,827	12,264,642	2,517,366		12,233,103	8,748,669	3,484,434	72%
Rents & Annuities	545,520	3,199,271	2,903		3,741,888	3,309,955	431,933	88%
Commercial Water	2,225,129	203,935			2,429,064	526,658	1,902,406	22%
Housing Loans	66,512	398,108	244		464,376	326,031	138,345	70%

Tables and Appendices

Members Conferences & Seminars 2010

Louth County Council Councillor Conference Attendance Record 2010

(info extracted from Conference Exps Sheets processed as at 31.12.10)

Conference	Location	Date	Month	No. of Councillors
Jan-10				
An Adult Guide to the Child Protection Guidelines	Letterkenny, Co Donegal	15 th -17 th	Jan	2
TJK Conference -Planning Seminar for Cllrs.	Limerick	29 th - 31 st	Jan	5
Antrim Touring Conference	Dunadry, Co Antrim	29 th - 31 st	Jan	1
Feb-10				
Media 2010 Training & Communications for Councillors	Clonea, Dungarvan, Co Waterford	5 th -7 th	Feb	6
AMAI Spring Seminar	Sligo	12 th - 13 th	Feb	3
Managing Stress and Promoting Positive Mental Health	Galway	16 th - 18 th	Feb	1
Change Management in Local Government	Westport, Co Mayo	19 th - 21 st	Feb	2
21 st Colmcille Winter School 2010	Letterkenny, Co Donegal	26 th - 28 th	Feb	1
Mar-10				
ACCC Annual Conference - Rebuilding confidence in urban & rural communities	Ballykisteen, Co Tipperary	4 th - 5 th	March	3
Clonakilty Tourism Conference	Rosscarbery, Co Cork	12 th - 14 th	March	4
Louth Tidy Towns Together - National Tidy Towns Conference 2010	Dundalk, Co Louth	26 th - 27 th	March	4
Climate Change, Impacts and Strategies; going forward	Letterkenny, Co Donegal	26 th - 28 th	March	1
Apr-10				
LAMA Annual Conference 2010	Sligo	8 th -10 th	April	4
Banking, Insurance and NAMA - The effect on Local Government	Tralee, Co Kerry	16 th - 18 th	April	5
EPA Guideline for Single Houses	Bushypark, Co Galway	23 rd - 25 th	April	6
BMW Regional Assembly - Impact of EU Environmental Policy in Ireland	Ballaghaderreen, Co Roscommon	27 th	April	
May-10				
Training Seminar in Business Investments	Naas, Co Kildare	14 th - 16 th	May	2
The cost of Insurance and Claims to your Local Authority	Galway	21 st - 23 rd	May	4
BIDS Conference	Ballymascanlon, Dundalk	11 th	May	4

Tables and Appendices

Members Conferences & Seminars 2010

Conference	Location	Date	Month	No. of Councillors
Jun-10				
Elected Members Training Seminar	Carlton Hotel, Tralee, Co. Kerry	4 th - 6 th	June	1
Byrne Perry Summer School	Gorey, Co Wexford	25 th - 27 th	June	3
Jul-10				
McGill Summer School	Glenties, Donegal	19 th -23 rd	July	1
The need for Urgent Local Authority and Health Service Reform	Oranmore, Galway	30 th - 1 st	July/Aug	2
Aug-10				
William Carleton Summer School	Clogher, Co Tyrone	2 nd - 5 th	Aug	1
Economic, Social & Cultural Rights in PA	Bushypark, Co Galway	13 th - 15 th	Aug	1
Parnell Summer School 2010	Rathdrum, Co Wicklow	8 th - 13 th	Aug	1
Esperanza Training	Merlin Park, Galway	20 th - 21 st	Aug	3
Water Conservation, The Impact of the New EPA Guidelines on Planning Apps	The Quay, Westport, Co Mayo	27 th - 29 th	Aug	4
Sep-10				
Planning Applications, Professional Indemnity, Guide for Public Reps.	Bushypark, Co Galway	24 th - 26 th	Sept	1
Oct-10				
Local Democracy in Changing Times - La Touche Legacy committee	Greystones, Co Wicklow	1 st - 3 rd	Oct	1
Training Seminar - Report of the Local Government Efficiency Review Group	Wexford	1 st - 3 rd	Oct	2
LAMA Conference	Listowel, Co Kerry	7 th - 9 th	Oct	3
Douglas Hyde Conference	Ballaghadeereen, Co Roscommon	15 th - 16 th	Oct	1
Criminal Law Bill 2010, Enforcement of Social Standards in LA Housing	Maldron Hotel, Galway	29 th - 31 st	Oct	2
Community Alert, 25th Anniversary	Tipperary Town, Tipperary	30 th	Oct	1
Nov-10				
Smart Marketing Training Seminar	Letterkenny, Co Donegal	5 th - 7 th	Nov	2
Councils Budgets 2011 Conference	Letterkenny, Co Donegal	19 th - 21 th	Nov	1
National Tourism Conference	Ennistymon, Co Clare	26 th - 27 th	Nov	2
Dec-10				
Building Regulations, Renewable Energy Requirement, Home Insurance	Tralee, Co Kerry	17 th - 19 th	Dec	1

Tables and Appendices

Members Conferences & Seminars 2010

Dundalk Town Council Councillor Conference/Seminars Attendance Record 2010

(info extracted from Conference Exps Sheets processed as at 31.12.10)

Conference	Location	Date	Month	No. of Councillors
Jan-10				
A Guide to Child Protection	Hotel Letterkenny	15 th - 17 th	January	1
Waste Management and the Law	Kingsvalley Hotel, Galway	22 nd - 24 th	January	2
The Role of An Bord Pleanala	Limerick	29 th - 30 th	January	1
Feb-10				
Flood Management and Local Government	Ennistymon	5 th - 6 th	February	1
AMAI Spring Conference	Sligo	12 th - 13 th	February	2
Managing Stress and Promoting Positive Mental Health	Galway	16 th - 18 th	February	1
Change Management in Local Government	Westport	19 th - 21 st	February	1
March-10				
Clonakilty Tourism Conference	Roscarbery	12 th - 14 th	March	1
National Tidy Towns Conference	Fairways, Dundalk	26 th - 27 th	March	2
April-10				
Banking Insurance and NAMA	Tralee	16 th - 18 th	April	2
New EPA Guidelines for Singles Houses	Bushypark, Galway	23 rd - 25 th	April	1
May-10				
Local Government and the Environment	Ennistymon	30 th April - 2 nd May	April-May	3
BIDS Conference	Ballymascanlon Hotel	11 th	May	3
The Cost of Insurance and Claims to your LA	Galway	21 st - 23 rd	May	1
IPB AGM	Dublin	26 th - 27 th	May	1
July-10				
Local Government Roads and Transport Services	Skibereen	9 th - 11 th	July	1
August-10				
Humbert Summer School	Castlebar, Co Mayo	19 th - 22 nd	Aug	1
September-10				
AMAI Annual Conference	Buncrana, Co Donegal	9 th - 11 th	Sept	2

Tables and Appendices

Members Conferences & Seminars 2010

Drogheda Borough Council Councillor Conference/Seminars Attendance Record 2010

(info extracted from Conference Exps Sheets processed as at 31.12.10)

Conference	Location	Date	Month	No. of Councillors
Feb-10				
AMAI Spring Seminar	Sligo	12 th - 13 th	Feb	1
21 st Colmcille Winter School	Colmcille Heritage Centre, Donegal	26 th - 28 th	Feb	1
March-10				
ACCC	Limerick Junction, Co. Tipperary	4 th & 5 th	March	1
May-10				
Bids Conference	Dundalk, Co. Louth	11 th	May	1
Professional development for Councillors	Westport, Co. Mayo	21 st & 23 rd	May	1
Defamation Seminar	Patrick Punch Hotel, Limerick	28 th & 29 th	May	1
June-10				
Transformation of the Public Service	Carlton Hotel, Tralee	4 th - 6 th	June	1
Sept-10				
AMAI Conference	Buncrana, Co. Donegal	9 th - 11 th	Sept	1
Oct-10				
LAMA Winter Conference	Listowel Arms	8 th & 9 th	Oct	2
Esperanza	Glenroyal Hotel, Maynooth	22 nd - 24 th	Oct	1
Nov-10				
Kadenza Council Budgets 2011	Silver Tassie, Letterkenny	21 st -23 rd	Nov	1

Ardee Town Council Councillor Conference/Seminars Attendance Record 2010

(info extracted from Conference Exps Sheets processed as at 31.12.10)

Conference	Location	Date	Month	No. of Councillors
Feb-10				
AMAI Spring Seminar	Sligo, Co. Sligo	12 th - 13 th	Feb	1
AMAI Annual Conference	Buncrana, Co. Donegal	9 th - 11 th	Sept	2

Tables and Appendices

Payments to Members for Meetings etc.

Payment to Members of Louth Local Authorities for Meetings, Committees, Representational Payments etc. 2010

Payments to Members of Louth Local Authorities	Louth County Council	Dundalk Town Council	Drogheda Borough Council	Ardee Town Council
1 Number of Council and Committee Meetings	98	32	20	16
2 Annual Expenses Allowance (travel, subsistence & misc. exps e.g. postage) Total of expenses paid to members in respect of attendance of meetings of the Council and its committees	€121,452.60	€36,393.50	€36,204.00	€9,162.00
3 Representational Payments	€433,945.62	€69,665.53	€52,204.06	€15,966.72
4 Chairpersons / Mayor Allowance	€17,578.71	€13,746.76	€18,787.82	€550.00
5 Vice Chairperson / Deputy Mayor Allowance	€10,372.86	€3,701.70	Nil	Nil
6 Chairpersons of SPC's / MPC's	€24,000.00	€2,500.00	Nil	Nil
7 Chairperson of CDB	€6,000.00	Nil	Nil	Nil
8 Mobile / Blackberry Phones	€7,751.74	€2,997.88	€2,274.26	Nil
9 Expenses on Conferences etc. attended: a) Home b) Abroad	€40,250.07 €490.64	€14,397.33 €8,973.80	€4,491.01 Nil	€1,371.33 Nil

Tables and Appendices

SPC/MPC Representation etc.

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. Kevin Callan,
10. Niall Mulligan,
11. Benedicta Attoh,
12. Seamus Briscoe,
13. Bill Baldwin,
14. Joe McGuinness, Director of Services, LCC
15. Willie Walsh, Senior Executive Officer, LCC
16. Catherine Vaughan, Senior Social Worker, LCC
17. David Storey, Senior Executive Officer, DTC
18. Mary T. Daly, Senior Executive Officer, DBC

No. of Meetings 2010 - 5

Transportation, Cross Border Matters and Marine SPC

1. Cllr Frank Maher, Chairperson
2. Cllr Jim D'Arcy,
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. Ollan Herr,
10. Mr. Declan Murphy,

No. of Meetings 2010 - 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. Mr. Richie Culhane,
8. Ms Breffni Martin,
9. Mr. John Roche,
10. Ms Patricia Rooney,

No. of Meetings 2010 - 3

Economic Development & Future Planning SPC

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

No. of Meetings 2010 - 6

Tables and Appendices

SPC/MPC Representation etc.

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 Jim D'Arcy
Cllr Terry Brennan

Dundalk Joint Burial Board:

Cllr Peter Savage
Cllr Jim D'Arcy
Cllr Liam Reilly

Association of County and City Councils:

Cllr Tommy Byrne
Cllr Jim D'Arcy
Cllr Finnan McCoy

East Border Region Forum:

Cllr Paul Bell
Cllr Pearse McGeough
Cllr Peter Savage
Cllr Declan Breathnach
Cllr Terry Brennan
Cllr Finnan McCoy

East Border Region Board:

Cllr Peter Savage

Drogheda Port Company:

Cllr Anthony Donohoe

Dundalk Port Company:

Cllr Jim Lennon

Local Authority Members Association:

Cllr Oliver Tully

Irish Public Bodies Mutual Insurances Ltd:

Cllr Colm Markey

Rural Water Programme – Local County Monitoring Committee:

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

Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee:

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

Louth County Enterprise Board:

Cllr Terry Brennan
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 Terry Brennan
Cllr Jim Loughran
Cllr Marianne Butler

The EU Operational Committee:

Cllr Finnan McCoy

BMW Region Assembly:

Cllr Peter Savage
Cllr Terry Brennan

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 Terry Brennan

County Development Board:

Cllr Anthony Donohoe
Cllr Frank Maher
Cllr Jim Ryan
Cllr Terry Brennan
Cllr Kevin Callan
Cllr Pdraig McKenny
Cllr Jim D'Arcy

Tables and Appendices

SPC/MPC Representation etc.

Drogheda Borough Council Committees

AMAI: Cllrs Paul Bell and Kevin Callan

LAMA: Cllr. A. Donohoe

IPBM: Cllr R. Culhane

Border Regional Authority EU Operational Committee: Cllr K. Callan

Drogheda Community Services Centre

Cllr. Frank Maher

County Louth VEC Cllrs A. Donohoe and Ged Nash

Droichead Arts Centre Board Cllr G. Nash

Louth Hospitality Ltd Cllr K. O’Heiligh

Traveller Consultative Committee Cllr F. Gallagher

County Development Board Cllr Kevin Callan

Housing, Community, Planning and Social Policy

SPC Cllr K. Callan

Water Environment and Emergency Services SPC

Cllr R. Culhane

Protocol Committee Cllrs K. O’Heiligh, F. Gallagher, K.

Callan, F. Maher, D. Wilton, G. Nash (Mayor is Ex Officio)

Place Name Committee Cllr G. Nash

Breakdown of Representation in Relation to the MPC’s

Dundalk Town Council

Environment MPC *Elected Members*

Cllr Eamonn O’Boyle

Cllr Jim Ryan

Cllr Jim D’Arcy

Cllr Martin Bellew

Cllr Oliver Morgan

Cllr Harry Todd

Number of meetings 2010 - 2

Planning MPC *Elected Members*

Cllr Martin Bellew

Cllr Marianne Butler

Cllr Ollan Herr

Cllr Kevin Meenan

Cllr Sean Bellew

Cllr C Keelan

Number of Meetings 2010 - 2

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 2010 - 1

Infrastructure MPC *Elected Members*

Cllr Sean Bellew

Cllr C Keelan

Cllr O Morgan

Cllr Ollan Herr

Cllr Jim D’Arcy

Cllr Jennifer Green

Number of meetings 2010 - 0

Tables and Appendices

SPC/MPC Representation etc.

Other Meetings

Dundalk Town Council

Dundalk Joint Burial Board

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

Midland East Regional Tourism Organisation

Cllr Marianne Butler

Association of Municipal Authorities of Ireland

Cllr Jim Ryan
Cllr Eamonn O'Boyle

Regional Authorities Operational Committee

Cllr Martin Bellew
Cllr Conor Keelan

Dundalk Port Company

Cllr Jim D'Arcy
Cllr Kevin Meenan

Louth Leader Partnership

Cllr Conor Keelan

Newry & Mourne District Council / Dundalk Town Council

Joint Committee
All 12 members

Vote and Attend IPB AGM

Cllr Martin Bellew

Local Accommodation Consultative Committee (Traveller Accommodation)

Cllr Marianne Butler

Louth VEC

Cllr Sean Bellew
Cllr Marianne Butler

Neagh Bann River Basin District Advisory Group

Cllr Eamonn O'Boyle

Dundalk Drugs Advisory Group

Cllr Harry Todd
Cllr Jim Ryan
Cllr Ollan Herr

Place Name Committee

Cllr Oliver Morgan

