

TO EACH MEMBER OF LOUTH COUNTY COUNCIL

Monthly Management Report – 30th June 2018

Dear Councillor

I attach the Management Report up to 30th June 2018

Yours faithfully

**Joan Martin
Chief Executive
6 July 2018**

Finance Report to 30th June 2018

Expenditure to 30th June 2018

Section	ACTUAL EXPENDITURE TO 30/06/18	BUDGET EXPENDITURE 2018	% SPENT TO 30/06/18
Housing	10,914,483	23,072,404	47%
Road Transportation & Safety	11,613,176	19,613,150	59%
Water Services	3,949,924	7,034,240	56%
Development Management	5,477,224	16,197,124	34%
Environmental Services	7,238,084	15,700,738	46%
Recreation and Amenity	3,862,164	8,284,259	47%
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	592,212	1,384,695	43%
Miscellaneous	3,669,775	11,937,862	31%
	47,317,042	103,224,472	46%

Income to 30th June 2018

Section	ACTUAL INCOME TO 30/06/18	BUDGET INCOME 2018	% INVOICED TO 30/06/18
Housing	9,641,893	25,488,641	38%
Road Transportation & Safety	4,557,539	10,979,713	42%
Water Services	3,711,553	6,762,465	55%
Development Management	2,731,125	9,328,492	29%
Environmental Services	848,999	2,009,350	42%
Recreation and Amenity	438,570	847,827	52%
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	176,661	452,133	39%
Miscellaneous	3,233,833	5,573,406	58%
Rates	31,898,523	31,916,247	100%
General Purpose Grant (LGF)	4,933,098	9,866,198	50%
	62,171,794	103,224,472	60%

The above is the current position as at the 30th June 2018. The full rates demand figure is included in the above. The allocation of the Central Management Charge is estimated in the above figures as the allocation is not completed till mid-month.

Collection rates as at 30th June 2018 are as follows:

DEBTORS AS AT 30TH JUNE 2018

	Opening Balance	Invoices	Receipts	Write Offs	Closing Balance
Government Debtors	7,675,938	23,177,656	(26,206,293)	0	4,647,301
Other Local Authorities	63,193	63,232	(63,006)	0	63,419
Rates	12,504,700	31,898,523	(15,683,466)	(1,417,597)	27,302,160
Rents	5,089,880	5,732,228	(6,200,986)	(85,611)	4,535,511
Loans	362,039	475,401	(604,095)	0	233,345
Development Levies	12,123,334	1,425,934	(935,619)	0	12,613,650
Fire Charges	1,594,374	161,658	(112,959)	(450)	1,642,623
Miscellaneous	2,725,633	3,017,678	(3,576,512)	(30,786)	2,136,013
TOTAL DEBTORS	42,139,091	65,952,310	(53,382,936)	(1,534,444)	53,174,022

Above is the debtor balances as at the 30th June 2018. The Miscellaneous debtor figure includes the Irish Water SLA recoupments, Corporate, Community & Enterprise, LEO, Planning, Enforcement, Environment, Sports, Vets, Arts, Roads, Library, Museum and Finance miscellaneous billings.

Budget 2019 - Local Property Tax Public Consultation

The budget process for 2019 is beginning with the advertising of the Public Consultation on the Local Property Tax on Tuesday 10th July 2018. The deadline for submissions is Friday 24th of August and all submissions will be included in the report to Council in September when the members will decide on the effective rate for 2019.

Economic Development

Louth Economic Forum

The last meeting of the Louth Economic Forum was held on the 30th May 2018. As part of the FDI update the forum were advised that Spatial Insight Solutions (SIS) has been engaged to develop detailed Socio-Economic Profile data for the combined catchments of Dundalk and Drogheda. Developed using key socio-economic indicators from both the Central Statistics Office (RoI) and the Northern Ireland Research and Statistics Agency (NI), the profile data will provide a detailed overview of the critical mass (population, labour force, education profile, etc) associated with the combined urban centres. The profile will be supported by informative graphics, detailed study area map and an accompanying database containing all indicators. Importantly, the profile and database will also provide comparative details on the relative performance of the combined catchment with other key cities in Ireland; Dublin, Cork, Limerick, Galway, Waterford and State figures.

Tourism Action Plan

The Restaurants Association of Ireland have launched “Foodie Destination 2018” and applications have been invited for same with the closing date being the 12th July. The Boyne Valley which incorporates the counties Louth and Meath were overall winners in 2016 and runner-up in 2017.

The Irish Maritime Festival

Another very successful Maritime festival was held in Drogheda on the 16th and 17th June. The weekend started with a Parade of Sail on Friday afternoon of over 30 different vessels. From 3 French Minesweepers to 4 Tall Ships, from Tug Boats to Water Wags and yachts to Lifeboats, the river was a blaze of colour and activity all weekend. The arrival of the French Navy ships to Drogheda for the first time proved to be a particular attraction. Another first was the sailing of the Water Wags up to Oldbridge House where a presentation was made to them by the Mayor Frank Godfrey.

Approximately 250 brave swimmers participated in the 2018 Boyne Swim on Saturday. They were followed down the river by the elegant little Water Wags. The yachts raced into the Port later on, completing the final leg of Howth-Drogheda Yacht challenge.

On land guests enjoyed A Taste of Ireland's Ancient East. Artisan food producers from across the region provided tastings of their wares. Bands from across the country performed live on the Ballast Quay Stage while the Fleadh stage was hopping with traditional music.

The Festival in Drogheda will live on after this weekend. RTE's John Creedon visited to film for his new show "*The Road Less Travelled*". Singer song writer Declan O'Rourke performed on the deck of the Phoenix for Fleadh TV. Both shows are due to air in August.

Business Improvement District Scheme

Louth County Council has commenced the process of a plebiscite of the Ratepayers of Dundalk on the proposal to extend the Business Improvement District for Dundalk for a further 5 years with the issue of the postal votes to all the Ratepayers on Tuesday 3rd July. The closing date for receipt of the ballot papers is 12 noon on the 31st July 2018.

Arts

Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann – Trad @ Heart

People in hospitals and other health care facilities are often not able to enjoy the music at Fleadhanna, due to their incapacity and immobility. A programme of concerts has been organised by CreateLouth, the Arts Service of Louth Country Council, which will see musicians travelling to nursing homes, day care settings and hospitals to perform for the service users and patients in these facilities all over Louth.

The musicians will include Dunleer piper, Brendan McCreanor, Cooley-based duo extraordinaire, Zoe Conway and John McIntyre, cellist Gráinne Hope, guitarist Liam Merriman and banjo player Eoin Ó Meachair, as well as some special surprise guests. The health care settings these musicians will be visiting include Sunhill Nursing Home, Termonfeckin, Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital, The Cottage Hospital, and St Mary's Hospital, all in Drogheda and Louth County Hospital, St. Oliver Plunkett Hospital and The Birches, all in Dundalk. They will be joined by Music Generation Louth's Young Traditional Ensemble for some of the visits. Trad @ Heart is a partnership with Kids Classics, supported by the Arts Council, and is part of the programme of events organised by CreateLouth to support and complement the official Fleadh programme.

Heritage

Louth County Council has been awarded funding by the Heritage Council for two projects to be carried out in 2018. These are: 1) a 'Historic Landscape Study of the Louth/Armagh cross-border region' and 2) a survey of plaques and memorials across County Louth.

Louth County Council's application to the Irish Walled Towns Network for funding to conserve the Drogheda town wall at Featherbed Lane was successful and was awarded €25,000.

LEO Louth

Business Training

During June the following business training workshops took place throughout the county with a combined total of 82 participants.

Small Business Finance	-	17 participants
Social Media for Small Business	-	28 participants
Creating an Online Business	-	21 participants
Branding for Your Business	-	16 participants

Trading Online Vouchers

LEO Louth has approved 23 vouchers to local small businesses this year, up to June 2018, with a value of c. € 51,458. This grant scheme offers financial assistance up to €2,500 alongside training and advice to help businesses trade online.

North East LEAN Network

One of LEO Louth's business support priorities in 2018 is a focus on LEAN and improving competitiveness in local businesses. LEO Louth is a member of both the recently launched North East Lean Network and the Steering Group for same. A workshop on the fundamentals of LEAN was held in DKIT on the 13th June with 12 participants.

LEAN for Micro Programme

LEO Louth is also participating in a pilot programme with the Craft Butchers Association of Ireland encouraging craft butchers to implement LEAN in their business. Three craft butchers from Louth will commence the LEO LEAN for Micro programme in July. Businesses with an interest in improving competitiveness should contact LEO Louth to discuss how both the LEAN programme and the LEAN Network can be of assistance.

LEO/BordBIA/Supervalu Food Academy

LEO Louth has four food producers participating on the Bord Bia, SuperValu and Local Enterprise Offices Regional Food Academy Start Programme which commenced on the 8th May 2018. The programme will be delivered over a four month duration and will include a combination of group workshops and one-to-one mentoring. At the final workshop, participants will get the opportunity to present their product to a panel for SuperValu and, if successful, can participate in a trial based in local shops, which in the right circumstances, could progress over time to a national listing with SuperValu. This is a regional initiative run by LEO Louth with the LEOs from Monaghan, Cavan and Meath.

LEO/BordBIA Food Starter Programme

LEO Louth and LEO Meath will be launching a joint LEO/Bord Bia Food Starter Programme in September/October. The Food Starter programme is a short two-day programme designed to help those with a food idea, or those at an early stage of starting up a food business. The objective of the two days is to provide the participants with a base knowledge of what is involved in setting up a food or drink manufacturing business. The content is designed to provide participants with information which will allow them to avoid the pitfalls normally associated with this journey. Potential participants should contact LEO Louth to register their interest.

Mentoring Clinics

LEO Louth ran a series of 2 mentoring clinics in Dundalk (Town Hall) and Drogheda (The Mill Enterprise Hub) during June. In addition, 6 mentoring assignments issued to client businesses during the month.

Co-Innovate Programme

Recruitment continues for this Innovation focused Interreg funded programme with companies progressing through the process to complete Business Status Reviews and Innovation Audits. A workshop was held in Louth on the 6th June for the new companies recruited in the past month. To date 36 Louth companies have engaged with the programme.

Age Friendly Economy (EU project)

Research continues on the EU project of which Louth County Council is a partner working towards helping businesses in County Louth innovate with new products or services for the older community.

Regional Action Plan for Jobs

LEO/Louth County Council provides the Secretariat to the NE/NW Regional Action Plan for Jobs. The North East Implementation Committee of the Regional Action Plan for Jobs met with Minister for Business, Enterprise & Innovation on Friday 1st June in Monaghan. The most recent progress report for the NE/NW region is available to view at: <http://www.regionalapj.ie/Regions/North-East-North-West/North-East-North-West.html>. The final progress report to end 2017 is currently being compiled.

Other Business Support initiatives

In addition to its client engagement, business advisory and funding roles, LEO Louth continues to be involved in a number of other ongoing business support initiatives, including, the recently launched call of the Regional Enterprise Development Fund and assisting a number of Louth applicants under this Fund, MicroFinance Ireland's loan scheme which is processed in Co. Louth by the LEO, Dundalk BIDS Company, the Evaluation Committee of the LEADER Programme and contributing to the New Frontiers Entrepreneur Programme.

Planning

Development Management

The Planning service indicators for Louth County Council for the month of May 2018 are given below in tabular form.

There were 99 planning applications received during the month of May of which **87** were valid. In addition there were 34 responses received during the month to requests for further information. The service indicator figures in relation to **planning decisions and decisions on appeals made** during the month, broken down by category, and with a total figure for all categories (Column F), are given below:

(A) Description	(B) Housing Developments	(C) Individual Houses	(D) Other applications- not requiring EIA	(E) Other applications- requiring EIA	(F) Total for all categories of development in County Area
(i) Number of applications determined	1	6	52	0	59
(ii) No. of decisions determined which required further information	1	6	19	0	26
(iii) Percentage of applications refused	0% (0)	0% (0)	5.77% (3)	0% (0)	5.08% (3)
(iv) Number of appeals determined	0	0	1	0	1
(v) Percentage of decisions overturned on appeal	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%

Planning Enforcement

The Planning indicators are given below in relation to Enforcement complaints regarding unauthorised developments received during the month.

Description	Enforcement in relation to unauthorised development		Enforcement in relation to unauthorised development	
	May 2018	Year to Date	May 2017	Year to Date
Number of 1 st Reminders (from Commencement Notices)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Number of Other Reminders	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Number of 14 day letters	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Number of Planning Enforcement Complaints Investigated	26	97	27	84
Number of Planning Enforcement cases received which didn't require follow up	0	0	0	10
Number of cases closed/resolved through negotiation.	31	101	13	65
Number of Warning letters issued.	19	58	21	53
Number of Enforcement Notices issued.	4	8	1	14
Number of cases referred for legal proceedings	2	4	1	5
Number of cases struck out where issues resolved and costs paid.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Number of Injunctions	0	0	0	0
Number of Prosecutions	0	3	1	2

Forward Planning

Westgate Vision			
1	June 2018	Launch of Westgate Vision – A Townscape Recovery Guide (for Property Owners, Investors & Developers).	Launch of the Guide and accompanying Brochure in Barlow House, Drogheda.

Planning Enforcement – Dangerous Structures

The Planning indicators listed below are in relation to Notices Issued under the Local Government (Sanitary Services) Act, 1964 for the period April – June 2018.

Description	Enforcement in relation to Dangerous Structures	
	Apr - Jun 2018	Year to Date
Number of Section 3 (1)(a) Notices – Directing Owner to carry out work	1	9
Number of Section 3(2)(b) Notices – LCC carry out works	0	1
Number of Section 2 Notices – Dangerous Place	0	0
Number of cases closed	3	12
Number of cases referred for legal proceedings	0	0
Number of Prosecutions	0	0

ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE REPORT

GENERAL– There were 5 waste complaints in June 2018. There are a number of Waste Management Act related cases going through the District and Circuit Courts (appeals and DPP cases) at present. There was one DPP case completed under the Waste Management Act 1996 as amended in Dundalk Circuit court. The case lasted for 4 days in the Circuit court and a conviction was secured for breach of Section 32 of the Waste Management Act 1996 as amended.

Two cases have been referred for legal action, one under the Local Government (Water Pollution) Act 1977 as amended and the other under the Water Services (Amendment) Act 2012. Two cases under the Air Pollution Act have been referred for legal action; one case has been recently heard but is now under appeal and the other has been adjourned until the next court hearing.

The RMCEI plan for 2018 for Louth County Council and annual statistics for 2017 in relation to environmental inspections and enforcement have been submitted to the EPA.

DIESEL LAUNDERING WASTE – There was 3 IBC's of Diesel Sludge recovered during 20th June 2018. The approximate cost of clean-up and disposal of the material is €3,746.25. The 3 IBC's were found at the Cabbage Fields, Balregan, Kilcurry, Dundalk.

Bathing Waters - The bathing waters sampling regime for 2018 is currently underway at the four designated beaches Clogherhead, Templetown, Port (currently three blue flag beaches) and Seapoint. The bathing water season is from 1st June to 15th of Sept with the pre-season sampling beginning on the 22nd May 2018, the four beaches are sampled weekly. The beaches all comply with the Bathing Water Regulations 2008 from last year. All four beaches in Louth are at excellent status; however, the status of these beaches can change due to poor weather conditions.

Clogherhead has been included in the SWIM project and INTERREG VA project looking at water quality prediction modelling and new technology to inform beach users of the water status. This project is led by UCD.

EUROPEAN RELATIONS

Memorandum of Understanding

The Committee met on the 20th of June in Newry. A presentation was given on Cross Border Emergency Planning, outlining the working relationship between the two jurisdictions and how we respond to emergencies in both areas. Progress on the Action Plan of the committee was discussed and Members were advised of the official opening of the Victoria Lock section of the Greenway.

The next meeting is due to take place on Wednesday the 19th of September in Louth County Council's offices.

INTERREG VA

Carlingford Lough Greenway

Work has been completed on the section of the Carlingford Lough Greenway from Dublin Road Bridge in Newry through the Albert Basin site and along Middlebank as far as Victoria Lock - a distance of 5.7 kilometres approx. This section opened for use by the public from 4th May 2018.

The official opening of the section is expected to take place on 27th July 2018.

Peace 1V Programme

The Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB) has initially approved projects with a combined value of €2.2m

A total of 13 projects have been funded as follows:

Children & Young People – 5 projects

Shared Spaces & Services – 3 projects

Building Positive Relations – 5 projects

The procurement process for the Peace 1V Programme is ongoing and a number of projects are expected to start soon.

Louth Peace IV Partnership and LCDC have approved a plan to rebid for the remaining €1.3 million ring fenced for Louth. Clarifications sought by SEUPB on some aspects of the Rebid proposal have been answered in detail and a final decision on funding is due at the end of July.

SUSTAINABLE ENERGY AND PROPERTY

Public Sector Energy Efficiency Performance

The Council has submitted its updated energy information for 2017 to SEAI in accordance with the Council's obligations under the Public Sector Monitoring and Reporting (M&R) System. SEAI has advised that this year, it will be undertaking data verification assessments (DVAs) of a significant proportion of the reports received. Louth County Council's submission has been selected for DVA. We are currently liaising with SEAI in relation to our data verification assessment.

We do not yet have the official score card result of energy use for 2017 from SEAI but the early indications are that the Council's energy use has reduced to 62.55% of its baseline energy use (i.e. that the Council has reduced its energy consumption by 37.45%). That would be ahead of the government target for public sector organisations for 2020.

We are continuing to monitor the Council's energy consumption with particular focus on our significant energy users and seeking to identify further opportunities for improved energy efficiency.

Better Energies Communities Energy Funding 2018

The beneficiaries have all accepted the grant offer made and the Council, as grantee, has returned the acceptance letter. Beneficiaries are now progressing the works to enable claim from the grant offer. The works must be fully completed and paid-for and all grant claims submitted to SEAI no later than 12 October 2018.

Zero Energy Plus Project

EU Directive 2010/31/EU (EPBD2) requires that new buildings occupied and owned by public authorities erected after 2018, and all other new buildings erected after 2020, must be “nearly zero energy” (nze).

Louth County Council actively engaged with other Northern European Partners to develop and submitted an application for funding under the Northern Periphery Arctic Programme. The project partners recognise that the absence of specific targets for NZE mean that member states can adopt different practices.

Unfortunately, the project proposal “Zero Energy Plus” was not approved by the NPA 2014-2020 Monitoring Committee (MC), at its meeting on 12th June 2018 in Kirkenes, Norway. The full assessment report is due to be issued shortly.

Housing Services Progress Report

I attach details of the Housing Progress report across the following specific areas. This report addresses the following areas.

1. Housing Demand
2. Social Housing Supports
3. Housing Stock
4. Private Rented Activity
5. Stock Maintenance
6. Capital Investment Programme
7. Other Future Developments
8. Housing Assistance Payments (HAP)
9. Approved Housing Bodies
10. Tenancy Management
11. Rent Management
12. Homelessness
13. Anti Social Behaviour
14. Abandoned Properties
15. Grant Assistance
16. Communities
17. Library Services
18. Fire & Emergency Service

1. HOUSING DEMAND AT 31ST MAY 2018

Housing List (excluding HAP Transfers)

Month	Ardee MD	Dundalk MD	Drogheda MD	Total
April 18	474	856	988	2318
May 18	380	540	811	1731
<i>difference</i>	--94	-316	-177	-587

Transfer List from HAP

Month	Ardee MD	Dundalk MD	Drogheda MD	Total	
April 18	219	1153	816	2188	
May 18	224	1193	847	2264	
<i>difference</i>	5	40	31	76	

There are a total of **181** applicants on the list for transfer (**Non-HAP**) within Social Housing including **15** applications from the Approved Housing Bodies.

2 HOUSING ALLOCATIONS AS AT 31ST MAY 2018

Numbers Allocated	Allocations- Social	Allocations - Voluntary	Total Allocations	Refusals – Social	Refusals – Voluntary
Ardee MD	3	29	32	0	0
Dundalk MD	19	12	31	1	2
Drogheda MD	12	28	40	2	2
			103		

Transfers Approved within Social Housing at 31st May 2018

Year	Ardee MD	Dundalk MD	Drogheda MD	Total
2018	5	7	2	14

3 HOUSING STOCK AS AT 31ST MAY 2018

Housing Stock Managed by the Council	Dundalk	Drogheda	Ardee	Total
Council owned	1766	1451	599	3816
Community Houses	4	4	0	8
Long Term Leased	185	28	23	236
Totals	1955	1483	622	4060
Approved Housing Bodies Stock (CLSS & CAS)	-	-	-	769
Council stock managed by Approved Housing Bodies	85	6	20	111
Payment & Availability Agreements with AHB's	115	89	18	222
Mortgage to Rent with AHB's	12	12	4	28

PRIVATE RENTED ACTIVITY AS AT 31ST MAY 2018

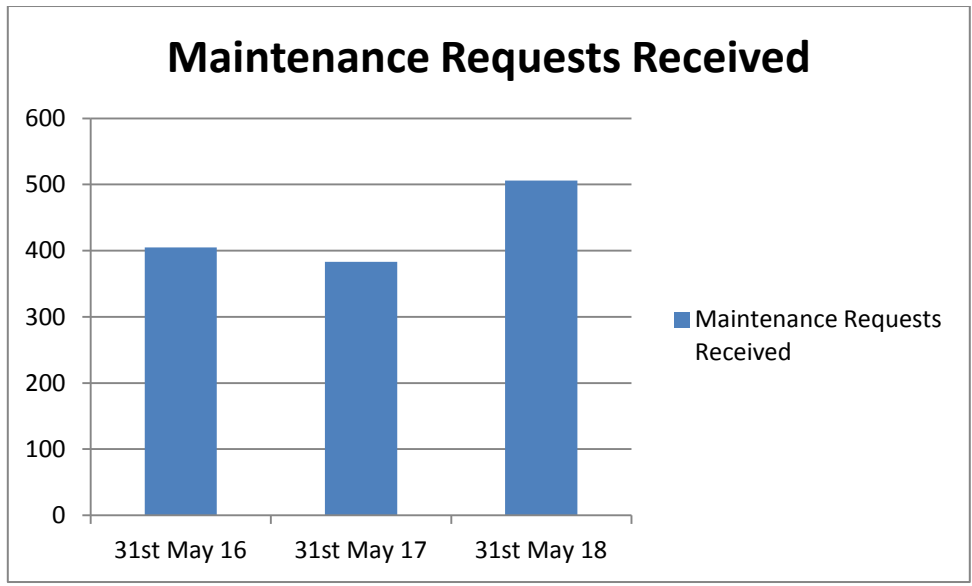
No. of properties inspected to date	99
No. of advisory notes issued to landlord	57
No. of improvement notices issued	5
No. of prohibition notices issued	4
No. of Rent Book Notices issued	0
Inspections (HAP)	96
Improvement Notices (HAP)	5

CURRENT PROHIBITIONS NOTICES ARE ALSO LISTED ON THE WEBSITE.

5. STOCK MAINTENANCE ACTIVITY AS AT 31ST MAY 2018

The below table summarises the level of maintenance and works activity to existing stock.

	Total
No. of Maintenance Requests Received - May 18	506
No. of Requests Outstanding- May 18	41
Vacant Properties (un-tenanted & un-occupied) - Requiring Major Refurbishing	53
Vacant Properties (un-tenanted & un-occupied) – Requiring Minor Works	23
Vacant Properties (un-tenanted & un-occupied) – Awaiting Allocation	7
Total Vacant Properties (excluding Un-tenanted Properties)	83
Un-tenanted properties (un-tenanted BUT occupied)- properties not vacant	10
% Stock Vacant(Total Vacancies/Total Stock)	2.44%
Number of Applications approved for Disability Adaption Works 2018 *Subject to confirmation of funding from Dept	0
Number of Units with Disability Adaption Works 2018 - completed (carry over from 2017).	9



6 Capital Investment Programme

Over the period 2018 to 2021, a target has been set for the provision of **1074 units of which 306** are to be delivered in 2018. These targets will also include matters such as Part V provision, Acquisitions, Mortgage to Rents, Long Term Leases, Repair and Lease and Buy & Renew Acquisitions. The 2018 delivery pipeline progress is detailed at the end of this Section.

Schemes currently in approval process or under construction for the above period 2018 – 2021
(This list is indicative and can change as matters are being approved or schemes withdrawn)



Municipal District Ardee

Location	Auth	Social	I.P.S.	CAS	Calf	Total	Start Date	Scheduled Completion	Current Position
Tierney Street, Ardee	Oaklee	0	0	7	0	7	Q4 2018	Q3 2019	Stage 3 Approved by Department of Housing
Dunleer	National Development Financial Agency	80	0	0	0	80	Q4 2018	Q4 2020	Tender process in progress.
Castleguard, Ardee	Tuath	0	0	0	106	106	April 2017	Q4 2018	Remaining phases on site.
Fr Finn Park Phase 2, Louth Village	LCC	17	0	0	0	17	Q1 2019	Q1 2020	Part 8 in progress
Four Winds, Mullacapple, Collon,	SJOG			1		1			Stage 1 Approved Acquisition
Total	-	97	0	8	106	211	-	-	

Municipal District Dundalk

Location	Auth	Social	I.P.S	CAS	CALF	Total	Start Date	Scheduled Completion	Current Position
Cox's Demesne Phase 2B	LCC	22	0	0	0	22	Q2 2019	Q3 2020	Part 8 in progress
Clos Na Manach	Tuath	0	0	0	10	10	Q1 2017	Q1 2018	Allocated
Saltown	North & East	0	0	7	0	7	Q1 2018	Q3/4 2018	PP granted.
Barrack Street	SIMON	0	0	10	0	10	Q1 2018	Q1 2019	Awaiting Stage 1 Approval from Dept.
Clontygora Phase 2 Muirhevnamor	Cluid	0	0	11	30	41	Unknown	Unknown	Full project review
5 Slieveroe Crescent Dundalk	Cluid	0	0	1	0	1	Q2 2018	Q4 2018	PP received awaiting Commencement
Castletowncooley, Riverstown, Dundalk	Tuath	0	0	1	0	1	Unknown	Unknown	Detailed design in progress
Bishops Court Dundalk	Tuath	0	0	0	2	2	Q2 2018	Q4 2018	At tender stage
Mounthamilton, Dundalk	Cluid	0	0	0	43	43	Ongoing	Q3 2018	On site
Coulter Park, Armagh Road, Dundalk	Tuath	0	0	7	0	7	Unknown	Unknown	Stage 1 Approved
Mount Avenue, Dundalk	LCC	75	0	0	0	75	Unknown	Unknown	Stage 1 Approved
Dundoogan, Haggardstown, Dundalk	Tuath	0	0	0	112	112	Unknown	Unknown	Part V Compliance & Dept CALF Approved
Halliday's Mill	Tuath	0	0	0	64	64	Q2 2018	Q2 2019	Construction Tender Preparation
Total		97	0	37	261	395			

Municipal District Drogheda

		Social	I.P.S	CAS	CALF	Total	Start Date	Schedule Completion	Current Position
Boice Court, Mell, 2 nd Phase	LCC	49	5	15	0	69	Q3 2018	Q4 2019	Stage 2 Approved
Scarlett Street	NEHA	0	0	0	15	15	Q1 2018	Q2 2019	On site
Rathmullan Road	NEHA & Tuath	0	0	0	105	105	Q3 2017	Q2 2020	On site
1 Unit at McArdle Green Moneymore, Drogheda	NEHA	0	0	1	0	1	Q1 2018	Q4 2018	On site
Liscorrie, Bog Road, Drogheda,	Tuath	0	0	0	41	41	Q3 2016	Q1 2018	Complete
Aston Village, Drogheda	Respond	0	0	0	8	8	Q2 2018	Q2 2019	Department CALF Approved.
Grove Court, Hardmans Gardens, Drogheda	Foscadh	0	0	0	4	4	Not Known	Not Known	Department CALF Approved Acquisition
17 Chestnut Grove, Termonabbey, Drogheda	Foscadh	0	0	0	1	1			Department CALF Approved Acquisition
Total	-	49	5	16	174	244	-	-	-
Delivery Plan for County 2018 -2021		243	5	61	541	850			

Vacant Home Initiatives

Scheme	Ardee MD	Dundalk MD	Drogheda MD	Total
Repair & Lease	0	8	4	12
Tenanted and Complete	0	0	0	0
Buy & Renew (Original CPO Pilot) Acquired	6	56	15	79
Tenanted and Complete	0	26	4	30

2018 Delivery Target of 306 Units Complete (New & Additional at 31st May 2018)

Local Authority Construction	0
AHB CAS	0
AHB CALF	42
Part V	0
Local Authority Acquisition	0
Long Term Leases	1
AHB Mortgage to Rent	3
Buy & Renew	5
Repair & Lease	0
Total	51

Definitions

AHB = Approved Housing Body

CAS = Capital Assistance Scheme which provides 100% funding to AHBs to build or acquire units for disabled or homeless applicants with a non- repayment mortgage in favour of the Housing Authority to ensure that the Housing Authority has both nomination rights and security over the asset created by public funds.

CALF = Capital Advance Loan Fund which provides Department funding for up to 30% funding to AHBs to provide units for general use on the basis that they enter into a Payment and Availability agreement with the Housing Authority who will provide all the tenant nominations.

CPO = Compulsory Purchase Scheme allows the local authority to land or property without the consent of the owner by means of a compulsory purchase order (CPO). This is being used to acquire vacant or derelict houses which are being returned to use as social housing units.

IPS = Incremental Purchase Scheme

7 OTHER FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS

The council continue to maintain land banks in the following locations, which can be developed if an appropriate project and funding is forthcoming.

Location	Average
Mullavalley, Louth Village	8.82
Kilkerley	11.59
Ballymakenny	16.53
Mount Avenue	7.64
Point Road	5.2
Various Individual Sites	0

8 Housing Assistance Payment (HAP) as at 31st May 2018

Work continues on promoting the Housing Assistance Payment model of Social Housing Support. Louth County Council is one of the Phase One Implementation sites and data on this support is now reported in monthly municipal district housing reports.

The total number of applications in HAP is 2188. Once an applicant's housing needs have been met under HAP they are no longer included be on the local authority's [housing waiting list](#). However, if an applicant wishes to have access to other social housing supports, such as local authority housing or housing provided by a [housing association](#), they can apply to the local authority for a transfer. If an applicant applies for a transfer **within 2 weeks of getting the letter confirming their HAP payment**, any time that they spent on the housing list can be taken into account when Louth County Council considers their application. If they apply for a transfer at a later date, the time that was previously spent on the housing waiting list won't count.

Ardee Municipal District	Dundalk Municipal District	Drogheda Municipal District	Total
224	1193	847	2264

9 Approved Housing Bodies

- The members should note that there is progress being made nationally in developing a regulatory framework for the Voluntary Sector which will see an increased role from this sector. The Department have now also confirmed when considering proposals from this sector, priority shall be given to Approved Housing Bodies (AHBs) that have signed up to the Voluntary Regulation Code – “Building for the Future”.
- Louth County Council continues to meet all AHBs operating in the county on a periodic basis. The next meeting is scheduled for early this month.
- A new Call for Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS) Projects has been issued nationally, Louth County Council will tailor that call for our specific needs

10 Tenancy Management

The table below illustrates activity with regard to general estate management for the month of May 2018 last

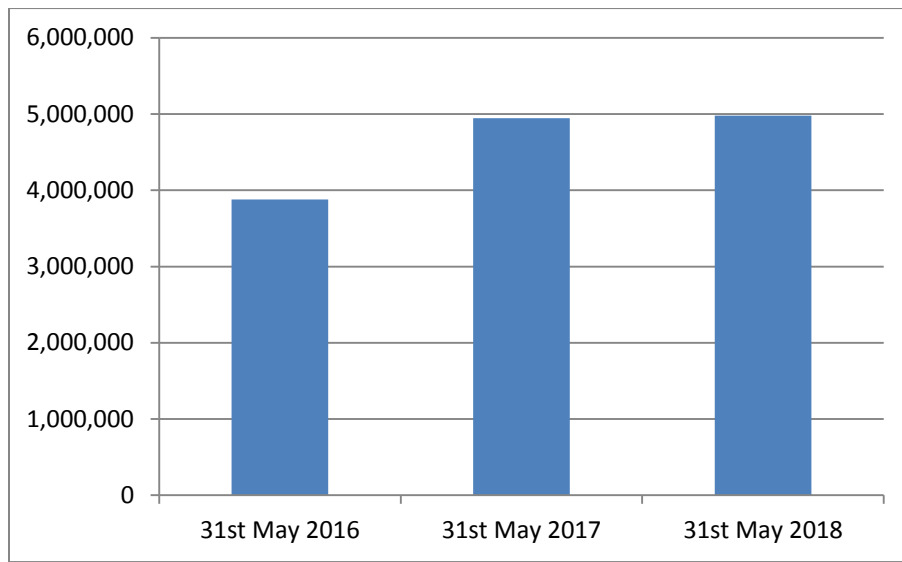
Tenancy Activity	TOTAL
Pre Tenancy Training	10
Tenancy (House) Inspections	36

11 Rent Management

The number of tenants who paid rent by Household Budget in May 2018 was **1117**

Current Rents Arrears as at 31st May 2018	Number of Account	Value
Rents between 4-6 weeks old	198	€60,436
Rents between 7-12 weeks old	192	€115,180
Rents greater than 12 weeks old	1401	€4,801,757
TOTAL	1791	€4,977,373

RENT ARREARS



12 Homelessness

As the Responsible Housing Authority for the North East Region, Louth County Council continues to manage this area and achieve the goals set out in the North East Homelessness Action Plan, 2013-17.

Presentations of May 2018	Ardee MD	Dundalk MD	Drogheda MD	Total
Number of Person who presented as Homeless to the Housing Authority	0	22	25	47
Offered advice, support (including fast tracking H.A. for Rent Supplement eligibility)	0	10	15	25
Placed in Temporary Emergency Accommodation	0	10	7	17
Refused Offer of Temporary Emergency Accommodation	0	1	0	1
Not eligible from outside county or non HRC	0	1	3	4
Number of Tenancies being supported : Sustainment Packages funded by the Housing Authority in order to prevent Homelessness	0	9	5	14

The Department of Housing continue to request a report based on a specific, week in time, to be submitted based on the number of people placed in emergency accommodation by Louth, Cavan and Monaghan County Councils. To see the published report lease go to:

<http://www.housing.gov.ie/housing/homelessness/other/homelessness-data>

The tables below reflect monthly returns submitted to the Department with regard to Homeless Numbers. In the NORTH EAST REGION

This anonymised and aggregated return of all individuals accessing emergency accommodation is returned to the Department of Housing on a monthly basis. The following information has been returned relating to the timeframe, 21st May 2018 to 27th May 2018 last, across the following headings

- 1.) Gender;
- 2.) Age group (as per CSO);
- 3.) Accommodation type;
- 4.) County.
- 5.) Breakdown of families with dependent children

Table 1: Gender

Gender	Total
Male	68
Female	48
Total	116

Table 2: Age Groups

Age Group	Total
18-24	13
25-44	65
45-64	31
65+	7
Total	116

Table 3: Accommodation Type

Accommodation Type	Total
Private Emergency Accommodation (PEA)	61
Supported Temporary Accommodation (STA)	54
Temporary Emergency Accommodation (low support)(TEA)	1
Unique Total (note, clients may have accessed multiple accommodation types during the week)	0
Minus people accessing multiple accommodation types during the week	0
Total unique individuals	116

Table 4: County

County	Total
County Louth	124
County Monaghan	0
County Cavan	4
Total	128

Table 5 - Families with dependent children breakdown

	No. of families with dependent children	No. of Individual Adults	No. of Dependents
Individuals with dependent children	21	21	47
Couples with dependent children	4	4 couples (8 adults)	8
Total	25	29	55

Work is continuing on the development of a new Regional Homeless Action Plan and this was discussed at the most recent meeting of the North East Regional Forum meeting on May 29th last.

Inspections of Private Emergency Accommodation

Since December 2017 the Homeless Office have carried out random and unannounced inspections on all B&Bs, Hotels and Hostels providing Private Emergency Accommodation on behalf of Louth County Council. This will continue on a monthly basis

4 premises in Dundalk, 8 premises in Drogheda and 2 premises in rural Drogheda area were inspected in April 18 and all were found to be of an acceptable standard. The majority of Homeless clients were present on inspection. These inspections will be augmented by visits by our Fire Officers to carry out Fire Safety inspections.

13. Anti Social Behaviour to 31 MAY 2018

ASB INVESTIGATION CASES	DBD	AMD	DMD	TOTAL
ASB investigations ongoing	5	2	7	14
ASB investigations completed	12	4	15	31
Total ASB investigation cases	17	6	22	45

ACTION TAKEN	DBD	AMD	DMD	TOTAL
No further action required, no ASB found (unfounded/malicious)	5	1	6	12
No further action – Advice given	0	0	0	0
Verbal Warning issued	6	2	4	12
Tenancy Notification	1	1	2	4
Tenancy Warning	0	0	1	1
Notice To Quit Served – Application for possession requested	0	0	0	0
Exclusion Orders sought	0	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0	0
Total Action Taken	12	4	13	29

TENANCY OUTCOMES	DBD	AMD	DMD	TOTAL
Eviction following Notice To Quit/ Tenancy Warning	0	0	0	0
Exclusion Orders in place	3	2	1	6

14 Abandoned Properties to 31st May 2018

Possible Abandoned properties to 31st May 2018	7
Properties returned after investigations/serving of notices	3
Tenants investigated returned to their properties. Potential breach of tenancy	1
Tenants contesting residency after Section 15(1) served	0

15 Grant Assistance to the Elderly and Disabled

Please note that the Housing Grants Scheme is now open for consideration of applications. The grant scheme will remain open and grants awarded will be based on the normal priority basis

- Housing Adaption Grants - Priority 1, which will assist those who need wholetime care in the home
- Housing for Older People – Priority 1 to works that will preserve the integrity of the dwelling
- Mobility Aids Grants - Priority 1, which will assist those who need wholetime, care in the home.

Please Note

- Any persons who made application in 2017, who were awarded Priority 1 are not required to make a further application.
- Any person who was deemed Priority 2 or 3 in 2017 will need to reapply if they feel their circumstances need to be reassessed.

The Staff will be able to advise applicants from 2017 which category they were in. Details of grants applications received for 2018 (Table 1)

Table 1
Allocation of Grants 2018

We have been notified by the Dept that our annual allocation for Disabled Persons Grants for 2018 is € 1,498,067, of which €299,613 is to be provided from Louth County Councils own revenue resources.

	Applications Received 2017 rolled over to 2018	Applications Recd 2018	Value of grants rolled over 2017	Applications Received 2017/2018 approved	Estimated Value of Grants on hand 2018	Annual Allocation 2018	Total applications on Hand rolling into 2018
HOPS	8	109	€62,764.00	14	€861,418.35	€298,276.51	117
HAGS	78	106	€1,269,102.00	18	€1,948,737.25	€1,075,839.00	184
MAGS	9	36	€52,500.00	7	€224,181.00	€92,832.47	45
OT COSTS					€17,590.00 spent so far on OT DPG costs	€31,119.02	
TOTAL	95	251	€1,384,366.00	39	€3,051,926.60	€1,498,067.00	346

SICAP

The SICAP Sub Group had a meeting on the 26th June 2018 whereat a review of the progress on the programme delivery and the expenditure up to the end of May 2018 was carried out. Pobal are currently undertaking a high-level review of the financial and monitoring information and will provide feedback to the LCDC by the 4th July. The SICAP Sub Group will present their recommendations to the LCDC at the next scheduled to be held on Monday 16th July 2018.

LEADER

The LCDC/LAG at its meeting in June approved funding support for three projects in the amount of €30,542.44. The projects approved for support are located in Dundalk and Drogheda with one project being delivered countywide.

CLÁR 2018

Measure 1 Safety Grant Awards

Group	Project	Grant approved
Bush Post Primary School	Construction of footpaths, provision of bus shelter, speed safety signs, road markings, public lighting & speeds ramps	€50,000
Cooley Community Enterprises Ltd	Upgrading of pathway/footpath and retaining wall at Rathcor Shore	€7,088
Jeninstown Project Committee	Construction of access footpaths to link local amenities	€30,000
Mullaghbuoy National School	Construction of footpath & railings	€17,550

Town & Village Renewal Scheme 2018

The table below sets out the proposals submitted by Louth County Council for funding support in the amounts specified, under the Town & Village Renewal Scheme 2018.

Group	Project	Amount Requested
Annagassan – Togher Annagassan Dev Co (TADCO)	Welcome signage and traffic calming measures, upgrade of promenade/footpath and upgrade of street lighting.	€100,000
Baltray – Baltray Residents Association	The provision of a viewing platform, outdoor Exercise equipment & upgrade of lighting at the promenade.	€42,400
Blackrock – Blackrock Tidy Towns	The provision of footpaths & public lighting along the Rock Road and at both ends of Old Golf Links Road.	€100,000
Collon – Friends of Collon Church	The repair of roof of Collon Church of Ireland.	€80,000
Dromiskin – Dromiskin Tidy Towns	Provision of extension of footpaths to add to works carried out under the T&V 2017 Scheme	€72,000
Grangebellew– Drumshallon Forge Heritage Centre	To resurface car park & construction of hard surface path around the old cottage.	€95,000
Greenore - Greenore Tidy Towns & Residents Association	To repair cast iron railings & hedgerow between Anglesey Terrace and the Golf Club. The addition of 3 new cast bronze plaques. Planting of new trees along Greenore Promenade.	€75,809.08
Kilcurry – Kilcurry Tidy Towns	Provision of new footpaths in Kilcurry.	€100,000
Kilkerley – Community Development Group	Resurface of existing car park at Kilkerley Community Centre.	€28,000
Louth Village – Louth Village Community Development Group	Provision of Heritage Signage. Installation of Wi-Fi Hotspots. Improvement works to Community centre, including disability access and improvements to lighting and the alarm, plus resurface of car	€57,948

	park. Installation of play equipment in playground. Addition of signal lighting to pedestrian crossing from playground to Eddie Murphy's shop.	
Fieldstown/Brownstown/ Monasterboice – Monasterboice Tourism & Tidy Towns	The design, build and erection of 2 stainless steel/stone sculptures on R132 approach road into village.	€60,000
Termonfeckin & Seapoint – Termonfeckin Community Group	The upgrade of the beach car park and an enhanced entrance at Seapoint beach. The upgrade of public lighting to assist an application for Green Coast Flag for Seapoint beach.	€100,000
Total		€911,157.08

Healthy Ireland for Louth Plan

Healthy Ireland for Louth was approved by the LCDC at their meeting of the 18th June. The plan will be implemented through three pillars Shared Space, Shared Knowledge and Shared Wellbeing. There are 6 objectives and 105 actions delivering on the 3 priority areas. Louth LCDC has aligned the Healthy Ireland actions to the Louth LECP and a suite of national plans such as National physical Activity Plan, Healthy Weight for Ireland, National Positive Ageing Plan, Tobacco Free Ireland, National Sexual Health Plan, Reducing Harm Supporting Recovery, and Connecting for Life. This will allow Louth County Council on behalf of Louth LCDC to report to the Dept of Health on the delivery of the national Healthy Ireland strategy and a multiplicity of national plans delivering on health and wellbeing.

The Healthy Ireland for Louth Plan is expected to act as the framework for the future Healthy Ireland Fund which Louth received a grant award of €100K in 2017 and €75K in 2018.

Public Participation Network (PPN)

Louth PPN launched the 2018 PPN Community & Voluntary Awards on 22nd June and the nomination process is now open. The closing date for receipt of the nominations by PPN registered groups is 15th August, with the award ceremony taking place on 26th September.

Louth PPN launched a new Personal safety training programme targeted at youths aged 12-17. The course will be run in July in Dundalk, Drogheda and Ardee and covers the

areas of consent; boundaries; attitude and behaviour; how to avoid confrontation; tips on how to handle confrontation if unavoidable; how to challenge inappropriate behaviour; how to avoid becoming a victim; easy to learn self-defence moves.

Two new community reps were nominated to be a member of Louth Leader Partnership Board (Caroline Flanagan, Youth Work Ireland) and LCC Infrastructure/EU/Cross Border Affairs & Sustainable Energy SPC (Sean Connolly, Louth Environmental Network). These positions will be ratified at the next PPN County Plenary meeting in October.

Louth PPN held its Secretariat meeting, PPN Projects sub-group meeting, and the Louth PPN Resource Worker attended the PPN National Resource Workers meeting, CYPSE Strategy Meeting and Louth Volunteer Centre AGM.

Comhairle na nÓg

On the 12th June Members of Louth Comhairle na nOg attended the Advisory Meeting for the MOU Committee between Louth County Council and Newry Mourne and Down District Councils. The young people gave an update on their recent cross border project and outlined plans for future work in 2018 and 2019..

On Monday the 18th June members made a presentation to Louth Local Community Development Committee. They outlined the structure of Comhairle na nOg in Louth, highlighted current projects on mental health and outlined their plans for the rest of the year.

The Annual Comhairle Conference has been provisionally set for the 25th October 2018.

Community Enhancement Programme (CEP) 2018

County Louth has been allocated funding of €145,542 for this programme in 2018. The aim of the programme is to provide funding to communities in County Louth to enhance and improve facilities in *disadvantage areas* as identified in the Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP). The scheme was advertised in all local newspapers as well as through the Friday Communiqué and PPN network. To date uptake for the scheme have been quite low but a weekly promotional bulletin will continue to issue through the Friday Communiqué until the closing date of 30th July 2018 has passed.

GROW Awards

The Primary School Environmental GROW AWARDS took place on 21st June 2018 in the Crowne Plaza Hotel. 31 No. Schools took part in this year's competition. Cllr Liam Reilly, Cathaoirleach of Louth County Council presented the "School of the Year" awarded to St Peter's National School in Dromiskin, Presentation Primary School in

Drogheda & St Brigids School in Dundalk. Winners of the “Teacher of the Year” awards went to Ms Sheila Mc Keown from Monastery N.S, Ardee, Ms Naomi Reid from Aston Village ETNS, Drogheda and Ms Edel Ni Ghealbain from Gaelscoil Dhun Dealgan. 14 students from across the county were recognised for their contribution and were awarded “highly commended” medals in the Junior Environmentalist of the Year competition and 3 received Junior Environmentalist of the Year 2018 Awards, Isabelle Floyd, Presentation Primary School, Drogheda, Elisabeth Gillen from Monksland NS and Aoife Costello from Dromiskin NS. The GROW awards are an acknowledgement of the terrific environmental work taking place in the schools throughout the county.

ECO Tribes

Louth County Council recommended funding of this project under the Environmental Partnership Fund. The ECO Tribe theme this year was “Pollinator Friendly planting”. This is a competition run with schools in conjunction with their Tidy Town groups to create a garden that would attract bees in their communities. The school/groups involved were: St Francis NS, Blackrock and Blackrock TT, St Marys, Knockbridge & Knockbridge TT, Monksland NS & Grange TT, St Mochta’s & Louth Village TT, Scoil Naomh Buite Tenure & Monasterboice TT and the winners St Peters NS & Dromiskin TT. The ceremony took place during the GROW awards on 21st June at Crowne Plaza.

Gum Litter Campaign 2018

Cllr Liam Reilly, Cathaoirleach of Louth County Council launched the 2018 Gum litter campaign on 22/6/18. This is the fourth year of this campaign, which is a joint initiative between the Dept of Communications, Climate Action & the Environment and Food Drink Ireland (FDI) representing the gum industry, to fund a national gum litter awareness programme.

Tidy Towns Project Scheme 2018

Louth County Council has introduced a new funding scheme for Tidy Towns groups to carry out small scale capital projects in their towns and villages. Closing date for receipt of applications is 15th July 2018. Applications must be submitted to the Community Office in County Hall.

Louth Sports Partnership

Dundalk Sports Centre Summer Camp Programme has been launched which includes the award winning Inclusibility Camps over July & August.

The National Recreation Week (2nd July – 9th July) has events planned with young people taking place throughout the county.

A Go for Life Games event took place in June with the Louth Sports Partnership team competing against 23 other teams from around the country.

The Sports Hub is running a 6 week Outdoor Boot camp for beginners during July & August with admission to the programme at a very reasonable cost of € 20.00.

Louth County Libraries

Launch of Our Public Libraries 2022

Mr. Michael Ring TD, Minister for Rural and Community Development officially launched the new five year strategy for public libraries in the Lexicon Library, Dun Laoghaire on June 14th. *Our Public Libraries 2022 – Inspiring, Connecting and Empowering Communities* is a progressive strategy aiming to improve access, use and visibility of the library as a community hub, and develop the library as a focal point for the community and cultural development.

The overall aim is to increase active library membership from 16% of the population to 30% by end-2022. It will focus on removing barriers to access by eliminating fines and other charges, and challenging the belief that the library is only for certain sectors of society. The strategy will enhance digital and technology capacity across the library service. The aim is to develop digital learning centres in all suitable libraries and extend the My Open Library Service to up to 100 libraries by 2022. The strategy is available at <https://www.louthcoco.ie/en/Services/Library/Our-Public-Libraries-2022/>

Science Week 2018

Science Foundation Ireland has awarded Louth County Library service €8000 for its Science Week Programme scheduled for November 6-17th 2018. The purpose of a Science Week programme is to encourage people of all ages and from all walks of life to be informed, inspired and involved in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Maths).

This funding stream will allow us the opportunity to promote literacy and numeracy skills, both digital and scientific to those most in need. We anticipate that many of those attending events will be audiences not normally engaged with STEM activities.

Extended Mobile Library Service

Louth Mobile library service timetable and routes have been reviewed, extended and revised to improve access to the library service for those who find it difficult to visit a branch library. The new timetable took effect at the end of May. Usage of the service will be monitored and the timetable will be further reviewed and changed where appropriate to ensure best reach. The new timetable was advertised in each local community and is available online at

https://www.louthcoco.ie/en/Services/Library/Where-Are-We-Mobile_Library/

Louth Libraries 'What's On' Brochure

A new brochure promoting all aspects of the libraries services including events for rest of year is now available in all branches and online. Copies have also been distributed to various agencies around the county to encourage more people to join the library and avail of all the various services on offer for free.

Right to Read Initiative: a national initiative to support and enhance literacy work in local authorities.

2018 Summer Stars Reading Programme was launched at events for invited classes in Dundalk and Drogheda Libraries on June 15th and in Ardee library on June 14th.

All children are invited to register and enjoy reading and attending events throughout the summer months. There will be rewards and incentives along the way and a certificate presentation event at the end for all participants.

Award ceremonies will be held in Dundalk and Drogheda library on September 15th

Summer Events for children

Summer Storytelling

Dundalk Library Wednesday July 11th and August 22nd at 11.30am.

Drogheda Library Friday July 6th, 13th, August 10th and Thursday 23rd at 11.30am

Vroom-Town Storytelling with author Emer Conlon

Dundalk Library Wednesday July 25th at 11.00am

Drogheda Library **Thursday July 26th at 11.30am**

Ardee Library: Thursday July 6th, 11.30 a.m.

Agri Kids Workshop: Farm safety workshop with Agri Kids and author Alma Jordan.

Dundalk Library Friday July 13th 11.00am.

Drogheda Library Tuesday July 10th 11.30 a.m.

Dog's Trust workshops

Ardee Library Tuesday, July 24th, 3pm

Dundalk Library Thursday July 26th 3.00pm

Drogheda Library Wednesday, July 25th, 3pm.

Carlingford Library Tuesday, August 14th, 3pm

Dunleer Library Wednesday, July 18th, 11am

Baby Book Club

Explore the benefits of reading to your baby from an early age
Dundalk Library, second Friday of every month at 11am

Drogheda Library, fourth Wednesday of every month at 10.30am

Ardee Library, first Friday of every month at 10.30am

Parent & Toddler groups meet weekly and new members are always welcome:

Dundalk Library, Thursdays at 10am.

Drogheda Library, Wednesdays at 10.30am.

Ardee Library, Fridays at 10.30am.

Dundalk Library

Sew Crafty: A sewing workshop for 7-12 years. Thursday July 19th at 3.00pm.

Fabric Printing: Customise a t-shirt workshop for 7-12 years. Wednesday August 8th at 2:30pm

Discover Your Library Workshop: Library workshop for children aged 8 – 12, which aims to encourage children to utilise the broad range of services available in their library through fun activities. Wednesday August 15th at 11:30am

Ardee Library

Family Fun Fridays (for summer months) every Friday, 10.30am-12.30pm.

School Book Clubs

This is a new initiative where Drogheda Library linked with a local school (St. Joseph's primary) to set up two separate school bookclubs meeting in the library. The first club met on 30 May & another on 7 June. Books were ordered in and supplied to the classes. (3rd class.) These sessions have been a great success with excellent participation from children & teachers and very positive feedback. The initiative will resume in early October.

Work Matters

The Work Matters service aims to support job seekers and budding entrepreneurs. A dedicated Work Matters hot desk space is available in Dundalk, Drogheda and Ardee Libraries.

Resources include a dedicated seating and table area, Free WiFi, a designated PC or Laptop, printing and photocopying, books, newspapers, information, and a jobs board. Users can also avail of a suite of free digital resources including, online courses, eBooks, Ezines, eNewspapers and online language learning. <https://www.louthcoco.ie/en/Services/Library/Online-Services/>

Collaboration is continuing with outside agencies including LMETB, Intreo, Louth Volunteer Centre, LEO and the Mill Enterprise Hub in Drogheda.

Work Matters Events

Dundalk Library

Work Matters Information Session and demo of online services

Thursday July 12th, 10.00am

Wednesday August 15th at 10.00am

Drogheda Library

LMETB Adult Education Guidance Service Information Morning:

Find out about Education, Training & Upskilling opportunities; if you are seeking work or thinking of a career change

Thursday July 12th 10 am -12 noon

Computer Classes

All classes are FREE, open to everyone, and demand is extremely high.

Digital Skills for Citizens: Computer classes for adults in association with the Department of Communications, Climatic Action and environment and funded by EU, Ardee library Every Tuesday at 10am

Getting Started, Age Action Computer classes for older people:

Drogheda Library: every Friday 10.30am -12.30pm for 5 weeks starting on August 31st

'Wee County Big Book Club' a collaborative initiative Louth County Libraries, Creative Spark, An Táin Arts Centre and Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital Drogheda.

The 'Wee Book' for 2018 is '*On Tuesdays I'm a Buddhist*' by Michael Harding, published by Hachette Ireland. Bookclubs throughout Louth will be invited to read the book '*On Tuesdays I'm a Buddhist*', to attend a programme of Creative Writing workshops and author readings throughout the county and finally a theatre performance in An Táin Arts Centre on 29th September with the author Michael Harding.

Healthy Ireland at Your Library

Following on from a very successful phase 1 of the *Healthy Ireland at Your Library* initiative, an application for phase 2 was submitted by the local Government Management Agency (LGMA) on behalf of the library sector nationally. The application was informed by rigorous evaluation of phase 1, which highlighted the need for free, reliable and trustworthy health information. The evaluation also highlighted how people value and trust their public library as a source and provider of this information.

Confirmation of continued funding for phase 2 will be announced in late summer. It is expected Phase 2 will run from September 2018 to end of March 2019.

Phase two Healthy Ireland at your library will focus on national and local partnerships, additional promotional tools and a national radio campaign, new health information resources and a programme of events in all 5 branches to run from September 2018-March 2019.

Maeve Montgomery Alzheimer's Society of Ireland Coping with dementia.

- Carlingford Library, Tuesday September 4th, 6pm
- Dundalk Library, Tuesday September 4th, 2pm
- Drogheda Library, Thursday, September 6th, 6pm
- Ardee Library, Tuesday September 11th, 2.30pm
- Dunleer Library, Tuesday September 11th, 6pm

Heritage Week, August 18th-26th, 2018

This year's theme is Sharing Stories. Events in Louth Libraries include:

Dundalk Library:

A History of County Louth Through Maps, August 18-25th. An exhibition/display of old maps of County Louth

Drogheda Library:

Story & Song: Fleadh Cheoil na hEireann Photo Exhibition. Local photographers celebrate with images of past Fleadhs, August 2nd- 31st.

True Stories from Our Past, Creative Writing Talk, August 24th, 11.30am. Local historical fiction author Nicola Cassidy takes a look at news stories from Drogheda & surrounds from early 19th century to modern day as inspiration for contemporary & historical fiction creative writing.

Ardee Library:

Exhibition on Stories of Days Gone By in Ardee, August 18th-25th. A display of old photographs of the town's landmarks from a bygone era.

Dunleer Library

Exhibition of Schools Folklore from the 1930s, August 18th-25th. View excerpts from the School Folklore Commission report on local schools in Dunleer & District and the Cooley Peninsula. A display of relevant books and photographs will also accompany the exhibition.

Carlingford Library:

Interpreting the Historic Landscape of Carlingford and Cooley with Carlingford Lough Heritage Trust, Thursday, August 23rd, 7.30pm

Exhibition of Schools Folklore from the 1930s, August 18th-25th. View excerpts from the School Folklore Commission report on local schools in Carlingford and the Cooley Peninsula. A display of relevant books and photographs will also accompany the exhibition.

Art Exhibitions

Dundalk Library:

Local Artist Sean Hamill will showcase his paintings which explore the benefits of art for mental health. Friday August 31st to Saturday September 8th

Ardee Library:

Reflexions; 3 Dimensional Paper Art Exhibition with visual artist Miriam Fitzgerald Juskova, July 13th-21st. Miriam specialises in paper art quilling.

For updates see www.louthcoco.ie/en/Services/Library/
Follow [#LouthLibraries on Twitter](#) and [LouthCountyLibraries](#) on Facebook

County Archives

Heritage Week A travelling exhibition from Dublin City Archives on ‘Jacobs Biscuit Factory’ will be displayed until mid-September.

Decade of Centenaries

Louth County Council Minute Books (1899 – 1931) will undergo conservation treatment in preparation for digitisation and being made available on louthcoco.ie for access by the general public.

County Museum, Dundalk

Upgrades

County Museum is upgrading and refreshing elements of the Museum’s permanent exhibition with a specific emphasis on the Ground Floor Gallery’s labelling system. Over the past number of months we have upgraded some elements of our lighting and audio-visual equipment.

Current Exhibition

The *One Team, One Dream* exhibition continues at the Museum. As has been mentioned previously it will run until the end of July. The exhibition will also feature heavily in a piece to be recorded by RTE’s John Creedon on Friday June 29th. This will be a profile of former Dundalk striker, Jimmy Hastie, and will include footage of his goal scoring exploits in a European Cup match in the 1960s. Featuring interviews with former players, family and fans the segment will be included in Creedon’s upcoming TV series as part of RTE’s autumn schedule.

Project with Dundalk FM

The Museum is presently developing a pilot programme with Dundalk FM featuring interviews with some of the town’s greatest sporting sons and daughters. The first person to be interviewed will be Des Casey who will be speaking about his career with the FAI and UEFA, and of course his involvement in appointing Jack Charlton as Manager to the national side. It is hoped that if this is successful other interviews will be planned and recorded.

Forthcoming exhibitions

Work continues on the forthcoming Peter Rice exhibition with two galleries set to house this major exhibition. The larger exhibition will reflect his work and inspirations; the second is a photographic exhibition of a selection of the projects he was involved in over his career.

Work is also continuing on an exhibition marking the centenary of the sinking of the SS Dundalk. A call-out for items and artifacts was recently circulated and a number of items have been offered to the Museum on a donation basis as a result. The exhibition is scheduled to open in October.

Forthcoming Conference

This year is *European Year of Cultural Heritage* and we have been asked by the Heritage Council to organize a border themed conference. *Do Borders Matter* will take place on Thursday October 25th here at the Museum and will feature a variety of speakers looking at the influence of the 'border' both here in Ireland and beyond. Amongst the topics to be examined will be the impact of a border culturally and socially both in general terms as well as organisations such museums.

There has been a large increase in the number of emergency incidents attended by Louth Fire Service during the recent and continuing hot spell. From 23rd June to 1st July, Dundalk Fire Brigade attended 45 callouts, mainly grass fires, gorse fires and rubbish fires.

Drogheda Fire Brigade was similarly busy, with a large fire on 1st July in the North Rd quarry and many other similar fires, including a fire in Bettystown on 25th June which was caused by a barbeque.

Carlingford Fire Brigade attended mainly small grass and rubbish fires, but no large gorse fires in the Cooley Mountains. There would be concern about this in the event of the current dry spell continuing. Most of these fires appear to be deliberate and would delay the fire service response to simultaneous life risk incidents, e.g. house fires.

Dunleer Fire Brigade assisted AGS with the recent search in Dunleer following a request for this.

BA training and BA refresher training courses are continuing in the recently refurbished Dundalk Training Centre.

Cavan Fire Service ran a BA Wearers course and Monaghan and Donegal ran BA Refreshers courses.

A Firefighting Skills course is being run in Dundalk Training Centre from 16th July to 3rd August 2018. This will be the first such course in the Irish Fire Service and will be the benchmark initial firefighter course to be completed by all new entrants into Fire Services from the second half of 2018. The course will be overseen by the Local Authority Fire Services National Training Group (LASNTG) and successful candidates will receive a Level 6 award under the National Framework of Qualifications.

The CFO will be making an application to the DPCLG for a further upgrade of the Training Centre, to improve the training accommodation to the required standard and replace temporary buildings.

Preparations for the Fleadh Cheoil 2018 emergency arrangements are ongoing with liaison between the CFO and Event Management Company in relation to the event licensing application. The next statutory inter-agency meeting in relation to the Fleadh Cheoil will be on 25th July 2018. All competition and concert venues have been inspected by the Fire Prevention Section. Additional licensing applications for public assembly use of other premises in Drogheda and also being checked by the Fire Prevention Section.

The Fire Prevention Section is continuing with inspections of properties used for the emergency accommodation of homeless persons.

The Fire Prevention Section has been following up on ongoing referrals from the Housing Section in relation to HAP properties and a number of Fire Safety Notices have been served.