

LOUTH COUNTY COUNCIL CHIEF EXECUTIVE REPORT



Dated: 6th March 2026



Comhairle Contae Lú
Louth County Council

Tuairisc Bhainistíochta Mhíosúil an Príomhfheidhmeannach – 28ú Feabhra 2026

Chief Executive's Monthly Management Report – 28th February 2026

A Chara,

I enclose the above report for your statutory consideration, this report has also been prepared under Section 136 & 138 of the Local Government Act, 2001. The attached report is the Chief Executive's Monthly Management Report for February 2026, detailing activities, updates, and progress across various departments of Louth County Council.

Below is a summary of key achievements and actions under various directorates from the Chief Executive Report for February 2026:

1. Finance and System Support

- Total expenditure to 27th February was €27,157,177 (13% of the annual budget).
- Total income was €52,320,260 (26% of the annual budget).
- Total debtor balance as of 27th February 2026, was €65,847,333, with government debtors accounting for €13,320,173.
- 696 IT support calls were logged, with 91.67% resolved. The email filtering system identified 14% of inbound emails as potentially harmful.
- Louth County Council website received 15,947 unique page views in February.

2. Economic Delivery

- Festival Grant Initiative allocated and letter of offer for €200,000 to support over 90 events and festivals.
- Development of Brigid's Way cross-county route and reimagined Boyne Valley Drive projects are underway.
- Collaboration with five county councils and Fáilte Ireland to develop the Táin Trail.
- Local Enterprise Week launched with workshops, training, and events to support businesses all well attended and received.
- Rates Waiver Scheme introduced to incentivize new businesses in vacant commercial premises.
- 23 business advice clinics and 4 training courses held in February.
- There were 53 planning applications received during the month of January which 49 were valid, in addition there were 25 responses received during the month to requests for further information and 23 Pre-Planning Requests received.
- In January 24 Planning Enforcement Complaints Investigated.
- Work continues with two workshop son the 2027 Pre-Draft County Development Plan.

3. Operations & Environment Delivery

- Storm Chandra occurred in February which involved a very successful response by the Operations team, responding with sandbags, water pumps, and drainage works across affected areas. Pothole repairs, street cleaning, and coastal protection works continue to be carried out post the storm as a priority.
- Extensive road and pothole repairs were completed in Dundalk, Drogheda, and Ardee.
- Waste enforcement investigated 14 complaints, issued 21 fixed penalty notices for littering, and conducted water and air pollution inspections.
- 51 applications were received under the Community Climate Action Programme, totalling €2,360,344.37. Funding applications were submitted for 7 biodiversity projects.
- To the end of 25th Feb, ERCC had processed 191 calls for Louth Fire, 18% on the same period last year (234 calls for service).
- There were 23 additional calls for Louth Fire in Co. Meath, 5% on the same period in 2025 (22 calls).

4. Corporate Services

- In February 2026 Customer Services dealt with 19,314 queries inclusive of 10,163 calls, 1,264 e-mails and 7,887 counter queries. 11,215 (58%) of queries received were dealt with at first point of contact.
- Age-Friendly Initiatives, Expansion of the Garden Care & Repair project to Dunleer and hosting of a Road & Community Safety Event in Drogheda.
- Public Participation Network (PPN), Secretariat meeting held to allocate funding and finalize training programs for 2026.
- Healthy Louth, Supported the launch of the Primary Health Care for Travellers Project.

- LEADER Project Funding, €35,632.51 approved for three projects under sustainable development and social inclusion themes.
- Amenity Grants Scheme, launched to support community enhancement projects, open until March 15, 2026.
- Local Sports Partnership have launched the 2026 Small Club Grant Fund.

5. Housing & Culture Delivery

- Housing Continued progress in addressing homelessness through emergency accommodation and Housing First tenancies.
- Significant strides in social and affordable housing delivery, with 565 units projected for completion in 2026.
- Effective management of rent arrears and increased rental income, €4,075,989 in rent arrears monitored, with 47 new payment plans initiated.
- Support for private property refurbishment and housing grants for elderly and disabled individuals.
- - 376 applications submitted for the Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant, with 273 approved.
 - 11 affordable housing units at Quarry Court, Ardee, are in the sale process.
- Cultural Services:
 - Public consultation for the Library Development Plan 2026–2030 received nearly 1,000 contributions.
 - Ireland Reads Day celebrated with countywide events to promote literacy and wellbeing.
 - Record applications received for Arts Grants and Public Art projects.
 - St. Brigid’s Day exhibition and workshops held at the Museum, showcasing traditional and modern interpretations of St. Brigid’s crosses.

6. Major Capital Projects & Infrastructure Delivery

- Urban and Rural Regeneration Projects:
 - Progress on St. Nicholas Quarter and Backlands Regeneration, Longwalk Urban Framework Plan, and Dunleer Energising the Community projects.
 - Funding approved for Town and Village Renewal Scheme projects, including Carlingford, Clogherhead, Collon, Haggardstown, and Omeath.
- Roads Projects:
 - Construction of Narrow Water Bridge continues.
 - Progress on N53 Hackballscross to Rassin, N52 Ardee Bypass, Boyne Enterprise Link Road, and Port Access Northern Cross Route.
- Flood Defence and Coastal Erosion Projects:
 - Interim measures approved for Carlingford and Greenore Flood Relief Project.
 - Public participation days planned for Dundalk and Blackrock Flood Relief Projects.
- Active Travel Projects: €4 million allocated for Active Travel and Safe Routes to Schools projects, with several projects in various phases of development.

I would like to express my sincere appreciation for the exceptional commitment, and professionalism demonstrated by the entire Louth County Council team, across all directorates

I encourage all members to read the full report, which reflects the breadth and impact of the remarkable work carried out across the organisation.

Regards



David Conway
Chief Executive
Louth County Council

Tuairisc Bhainistíochta Mhíosúil an Príomhfheidhmeannach –28ú Feabhra 2026
Chief Executive’s Monthly Management Report – 28th February 2026

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An Stúirthóireacht Airgeadais agus Tacaíochta Córais Finance and System Support Directorate

Tá an stiúirthóireacht seo freagrach as bainistíocht airgeadais na heagraíochta, lena n-áirítear cuntais iníoctha agus infhaighte, le rialú agus seachadadh gach córais dhigitigh TFC, lena n-áirítear seirbhísí teileachumarsáide, soláthar, iniúchadh & bainistíocht riosca agus sócmhainní.

This directorate is responsible for the financial management of the organisation, including accounts payable and receivable, with control and delivery of all ICT digital systems, including telecommunications services, procurement, audit & risk and asset management.

Bernadette Woods
Stiúrthóir / Director



Tuairiscí Airgeadais / Financial Reports**Caiteachas go dtí 27^ú Feabhra 2026 / Expenditure to 27th of February 2026**

Rannóg / Section	Actual Expenditure to 27/02/2026 / Caiteachas Iarbhír go dtí 27/02/2026	Caiteachas Buiséadaithe 2026 / Budget Expenditure 2026	% Caite go 27/02/2026 / % Spent to 27/02/2026
Tithíocht / Housing	€11,889,518	€91,043,877	13%
Iompar Bóthair agus Sábháilteacht / Road Transportation & Safety	€5,276,045	€29,724,225	18%
Seirbhísí Uisce / Water Services	€959,121	€6,253,179	15%
Bainistíocht Forbartha / Development Management	€2,681,988	€25,275,969	11%
Seirbhísí Timpeallachta / Environmental Services	€3,382,503	€26,717,755	13%
Áineas agus Conláiste / Recreation and Amenity	€1,404,990	€13,508,055	10%
Talmhaíocht, Oideachas, Sláinte agus Leas / Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	€133,454	€1,342,504	10%
Ilghnéitheach / Miscellaneous	€1,429,558	€9,786,701	15%
	€27,157,177	€203,652,265	13%

Ioncam go dtí 27^ú Feabhra 2026 / Income to 27th of February 2026

Rannóg / Section	Ioncam Iarbhír go dtí 27/02/2026 / Actual Income to 27/02/2026	Ioncam Buiséadaithe 2026 / Budget Income 2026	% Sonraisc Curtha do dtí 27/02/2026 / % Invoiced to 27/02/2026
Tithíocht / Housing	€10,343,846	€91,667,227	11%
Iompar Bóthair agus Sábháilteacht / Road Transportation & Safety	€499,994	€17,228,704	3%
Seirbhísí Uisce / Water Services	€335,720	€4,864,078	7%
Bainistíocht Forbartha / Development Management	€792,071	€13,604,272	6%
Seirbhísí Timpeallachta / Environmental Services	€370,760	€4,843,340	8%
Áineas agus Conláiste / Recreation and Amenity	€132,578	€1,971,310	7%
Talmhaíocht, Oideachas, Sláinte agus Leas / Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	€61,151	€474,809	13%
Ilghnéitheach / Miscellaneous	€106,825	€17,390,898	1%
Rátaí / Rates	€36,677,315	€39,640,432	100%
Deontas Ilfheidhmeach / General Purpose Grant (LPT)	€0	€11,966,198	0%
	€52,320,260	€203,652,265	26%

The above is the current position as of the 27th of February 2026. The allocation of the Central Management Charge is estimated in the above figures as the allocation is not completed till mid-month. The full rates demand for 2026 is included in the above figure.

Collection rates as of 27th of February 2026 are as follows:

Féichiúnaithe mar atá 27^ú Feabhra 2026 / Debtors as of 27th of February 2026

	Iarmhéid Tosaigh / Opening Balance	Sonraisc / Invoices	Fáltais / Receipts	Discríobhanna / Write Offs	Iarmhéid Deiridh / Closing Balance
Féichiúnaithe Rialtais / Government Debtors	€11,339,601	€23,859,768	(€21,879,196)	(€Nil)	€13,320,173
Uadaráis Áitiúla Eile / Other Local Authorities	€229,656	€597,950	(€582,738)	(€Nil)	€244,868
Rataí / Rates	€5,273,449	€39,577,315	(€9,798,186)	(€118,368)	€35,034,210
Cíosanna / Rent	€3,404,276	€3,114,964	(€2,804,090)	(€Nil)	€3,715,150
Iasachtal / Loans	€273,488	€188,642	(€422,577)	(€Nil)	€39,553
Tobhaigh Forbartha / Development Levies	€8,389,278	€1,453,975	(€160,634)	(€918,198)	€8,764,421
Táilí Seirbhíse Dóiteáin / Fire Charges	€944,363	€168,263	(€79,795)	(€Nil)	€1,032,831
Ilghnéitheach / Miscellaneous	€3,183,148	€1,597,715	(€1,084,736)	(€Nil)	€3,696,127
Féichiúnaithe Iomlána / Total Debtors	€33,037,259	€70,658,592	(€36,811,952)	(€1,036,566)	€65,847,333

Above are the debtor balances as of 27th of February 2026. The Miscellaneous debtor figure includes the Irish Water SLA recoupments, Corporate, Community & Enterprise, LEO, Planning, Enforcement, Environment, Sports, Arts, Roads, Library, Museum and Finance miscellaneous billings.

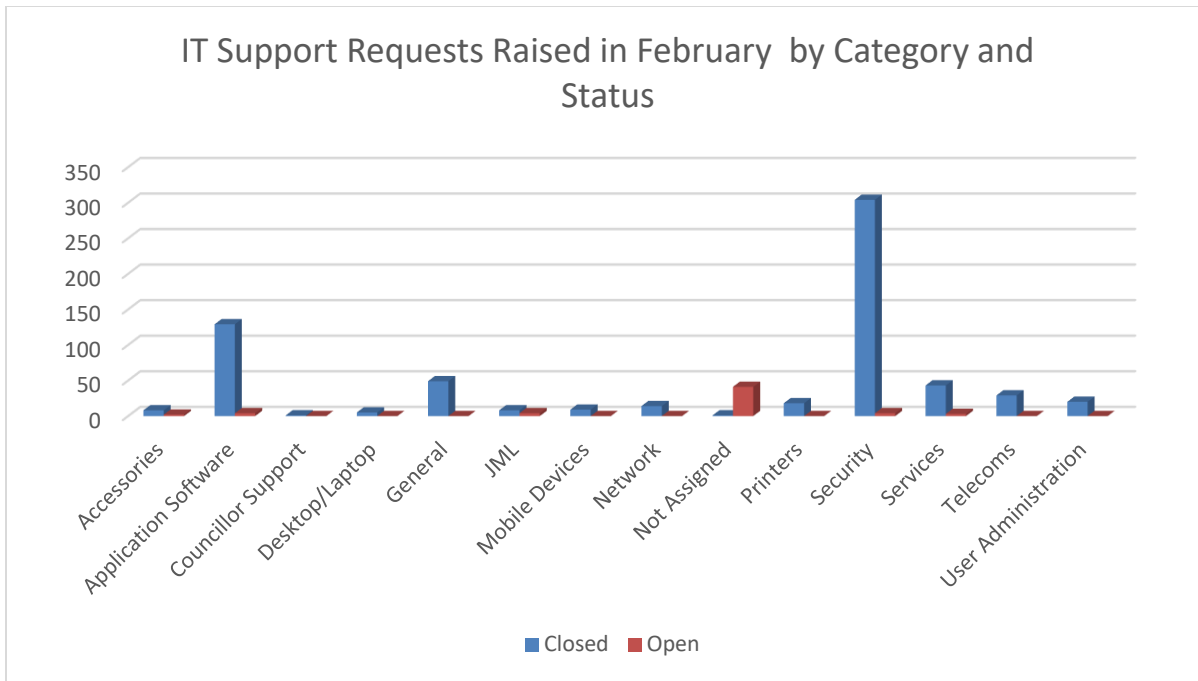
Work is continuing on the Annual Financial Statement and the above figures will change when yearend accruals and claims are posted. Once completed the Annual Financial Statement will be presented to Council.

Annual Financial Statement

Techneolaíocht Faisnéise agus Cumarsáide / Information & Communication Technology

Deasc Chabhrach / Helpdesk

Between 01/02//2026 and the 27/02/2026 there were 696 support calls logged in the IT support system. 91.67% of these calls have been completed.



Security and Application Software were the highest categories of support requests in February.

Córas Idirscartha Ríomhphoist / E-Mail Filtering System

Louth County Council continues to be targeted with phishing, and spam e-mail. We utilise an e-mail filtering system to scan all e-mail being received into the organisation. From 01/02/2026 – 27/02/2026 14% of inbound e-mails were identified as potentially harmful.

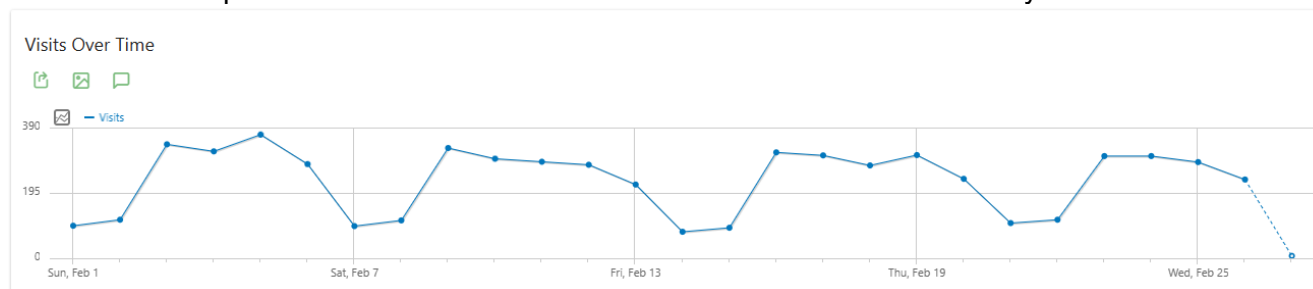
Inbound Email count	Emails Processed by Gateway	Emails Processed by Protect
371,698	155,475	216,223
Blocked Sender	Blocked at gateway	Total blocked by spam/virus
7,258	15,739	29,329
Blocked by content rules	Potentially harmful emails	Deleted by Protect
632	14.2%	17

Suíomh Gréasáin Comhairle Chontae Lú / Louth County Council Website

There were 15,947 unique page views of www.louthcoco.ie between 1st and 27th February 2026. The below table shows the pages which received the highest number of page views in this month. Online planning services, Services and Dog Pound received the highest number of page views in February.

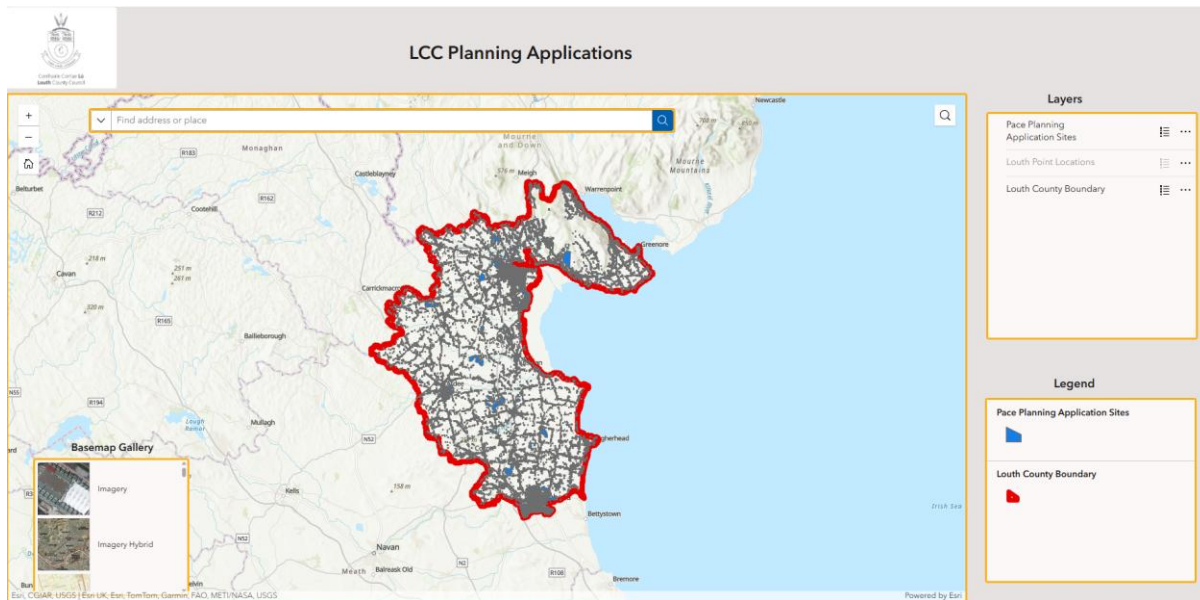
PAGE URL	PAGEVIEWS	UNIQUE PAGEVIEWS
/en/	4,325	21.7% 3,464
/en/services/planning/online-planning-and-maps/	852	4.2% 666
/en/home/	626	3.2% 506
/en/services/	611	2.9% 469
/en/services/planning/	594	2.8% 450
/en/services/dog-pound/	586	2.6% 411
/en/contact/louth-county-council/	318	1.8% 288
/en/services/library/	398	1.8% 287
/en/services/housing/	326	1.5% 246
/en/services/planning/online-planning-and-maps/e-planning.html	263	1.3% 210
/en/services/housing/affordable-purchase-scheme/	239	1.2% 185

The chart below presents the visitors over time to www.louthcoco.ie in February.



ArcGIS Online – Public Planning Register Map Viewer

The LCC GIS Team recently updated the online Planning Register Map Viewers. These can be accessed from the Online Planning Application and Maps section user Services> Planning on the Louth County Council website.



The data in the application is updated regularly to include all planning applications. There were 4,874 views of the application between 01/02/2026 and 27/02/2026, an average of 187 views a day in February.



Cyber Security Training

February’s cyber security training emphasised the importance of protecting organisational data when working remotely by minimising stored data, avoiding public Wi-Fi, staying aware of surroundings, and promptly reporting any suspected incidents to prevent breaches. It also highlighted how attackers increasingly exploit unsecured or spoofed Wi-Fi networks including sophisticated drone-based hotspots reinforcing the need for staff to treat all networks with caution and connect only through trusted, verified sources.

An Stiúarthóireacht um Sheachadadh Eacnamaíoch Economic Delivery Directorate

Tá an stiúarthóireacht seo freagrach as clár oibre eacnamaíoch na heagraíochta a sheachadadh, lena n-áirítear turasóireacht, Fiontair Áitiúla agus Pleanáil, lena n-áirítear oidhreacht thógtha.

This directorate is responsible for the delivery of the organisation's economic agenda, including Tourism, Local Enterprise and Planning, including Built Heritage.

Thomas McEvoy
Stiúirthóir / Director



An Stiúrthóireacht um Sheachadadh Eacnamaíoch / Directorate of Economic Delivery

Climate Change Adaptation Strategy

Details at www.localenterprise.ie/green and www.localenterprise.ie/louth.

Forbairt Gheilleagrach / Economic Development

Age Friendly Business

An Age Friendly Business workshop took place in the Town Hall, Dundalk, on Wednesday 4th February.

An open call is in place for businesses who wish to take part in the Age Friendly Business Program workshops. To take part, and for further information please email econdev@louthcoco.ie.

Turasóireacht / Tourism

Festival Grants 2026

The Festival Grant Initiative and the Regional Festivals and Participative Events Programme 2026 closed to applications on Wednesday 21st January. Over 90 applications were received and assessed, with an increase of almost 15% on last year's applications. Letters of offer have been issued with a commitment of €200,000 made in support of events and festivals in the County.

Visit Louth

Information on upcoming events are available on: <https://www.visitlouth.ie/whats-on/>. Submissions for events or attractions can be made via this [link](#).

Brigid's Way

A collaboration is in place with Meath and Kildare County Councils, Fáilte Ireland and stakeholders, led by Louth County Council to examine options for the development of a Brigid's Way cross-county route. Consultants Outscape Trading Ltd. have been appointed to deliver an options paper on the pilgrimage route.

Reimagined Boyne Valley Drive

A Part VIII is currently being prepared by Consultants Paul Hogarth company for the installation of a range of tourism signage including

road side signage to demarcate tourism clusters, arrival information, wayfinding and interpretation signage to guide visitors at arrival points and visitor experiences along the Boyne Valley Drive. Works will include upgrade and improvements to a series of walks at a number of locations including upgraded surfaces, parking areas, seating, and minor structures to enhance visitor experience. The project is guided by a steering committee of Louth County Council, Meath County Council, Office of Public Works, National Parks & Wildlife Services, Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage, and Fáilte Ireland.

Táin Trail

The Táin Trail retraces the journey taken by Queen Medb (Maeve) of Connacht and her armies during the Irish epic legend of Táin Bó Cuailgne. It travels from Queen Medb's palace in Rathcroghan, County Roscommon, across to the Cooley Peninsula in County Louth crossing through Counties Longford, Westmeath and Meath. The five respective County Councils, with Fáilte Ireland, are collaborating to develop a project to sign post the route for local communities and tourists.



Táin Trail

Boyne Valley Flavours (BVF)

As part of Local Enterprise Week, an event aimed at new and early-stage food businesses is scheduled for Wednesday 4th March in Ardee Food Hub. The session will focus on practical guidance, available supports and routes to market, positioning Boyne Valley Flavours as a key support network for producers at the beginning of their journey.

A Regional Producer Showcase is scheduled to take place on Thursday 30th April in Emerald Park. The event is supported by the Mid-East Regional Enterprise Plan and will feature producers from Louth, Meath, Kildare, Wicklow, Cavan and Monaghan. The showcase is designed to connect

commercially ready producers with retail buyers, food service operators and distributors, while strengthening regional collaboration across the wider Mid-East and border counties.

Work is continuing on Boyne Valley Bites, the initiative designed to strengthen links between local producers and the hospitality sector. The programme takes a practical, relationship-led approach to addressing barriers such as distribution, pricing, consistency and communication. Through structured engagement, business support and coordinated marketing activity, Boyne Valley Bites aims to increase the visibility and commercial uptake of local produce on local menus.

The Centre of Food Culture, Boyne Valley

The Centre of Food Culture Ireland is currently engaging with CHL & Associates on the development of a five-year strategy for Samhain Festival of Food and Culture. The objective of this strategy is to pave a clear roadmap for the festival over the next five years, following its notable growth over the past few years

The Centre of Food Culture is currently working on the launch of its 2026 educational events programme consisting of farm walks and meet the maker events across the country from March – September 2026.

Geilleagar Oíche Dhroichead Átha / Drogheda Night-Time Economy

All That Glitters – 14th February

Now cementing itself as Leinster’s finest cabaret, the successful Drogheda’s *All That Glitters* returned with a sell-out Valentine’s night show and once again strong number of visitors from Dublin and across Ireland. In 2025, 75% of attendees travelled from Dublin to visit the town and this trend continued into 2026 with this exciting alternative event.

Chess Knights Out – 15th February

Gen Z players packed *McHughs* for a Chess Knights Out tournament, challenging the stereotype of chess as quiet and traditional. The night built a new social community around focus, wellbeing and fun — with many taking part who’d never touched a chessboard before. A great example of how Drogheda’s alternative spaces spark unexpected culture. For more visit: www.instagram.com/chessknightsout



Chess Knights Out Tournament

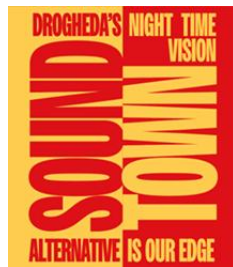
The Zing Thing! at Sunday Street – 17th February and 3rd March

Two new “food & wine synergy” workshops at Sunday Street’s Warehouse space are lighting up Drogheda’s growing food scene. With sessions tailored for both industry and the public, they’re showcasing local passion for flavour, craft and community — adding fresh momentum to the town’s emerging culinary culture. For more visit: www.instagram.com/the.zing.thing



Sound Town Nights Trial – 27th February

Ahead of the Sound Town Vision launch later this year, the first Sound Town Nights trial on 27th February will test a monthly burst of evening activity — reconnecting people with their town, drawing in new communities and boosting dwell time. Working with standout local promoters — from Droichead Arts Centre’s late-night experimentation and MayneStage’s world-class trad to Deadly Craic Comedy’s grassroots energy — this pilot will help shape a new monthly rhythm for Drogheda from March onward. Follow: www.instagram.com/soundtowndrogheda. Promoters and venues interested in getting involved can email: nighttimeeconomy@louthcoco.ie.



will take place on Wednesday 15th April in the Four Seasons Hotel in Carlingford from 08.30am - 2.30pm. The theme for this year's conference is "Growing your Visitors – Learning from the best". For more information and to book your place please visit: <https://www.dundalk.ie/event/cross-border-tourism-conference-2026/>.

Oifig Fiontair Áitiúil / Local Enterprise Office

Network Louth Event – 12th February

LEO Louth attended the Network Louth event on the 12th February in the Monasterboice Inn. The event focused on practical Lean & Six Sigma tips for businesses and attendees were informed about the Lean for Business support available to businesses through the LEO.



Network Louth Event

Mix & Mingle Event – 12th February

LEO Louth was delighted to partner with Drogheda Chamber to host a Mix & Mingle event in Marcy Hotel Drogheda on Thursday 12th February. The Senior Enterprise Development Officer from LEO Louth spoke at the event promoting Local Enterprise Week and general LEO supports.



Mix & Mingle Event

Dundalk Chamber Cross Border Tourism Conference

LEO Louth supported the launch of the Dundalk Chamber Cross Border Tourism Conference which



Dundalk Chamber Cross Border Tourism Conference Launch

Estonian Embassy Visit to Louth – 18th February

On Wednesday 18th February, Estonian Ambassador Kairi Kunka visited the Town Hall to meet members of Dundalk Chamber of Commerce together with Chief Executive David Conway, the Director of Economic Delivery and the Business Advisor from the LEO team to discuss opportunities for Louth based businesses to make links and trade into the Estonian market.



Estonian Ambassador Kairi Kunka with the Council delegates

Local Enterprise Week Launch

Local Enterprise Week returns to Louth from Monday 2nd March to Friday 6th March, with a dynamic programme designed to support entrepreneurs, start-ups, and established businesses across County Louth.

Delivered by the LEO Office, in partnership with leading local and national business organisations, Local Enterprise Week is an annual celebration of enterprise, innovation, and ambition. The 2026 programme offers practical supports, expert insights, and valuable networking opportunities for

businesses at every stage of development. The Business Advisor from LEO Louth appeared on LMFM Late Lunch on Thursday 19th February to promote the week.



LMFM Late Lunch

Local Enterprise Awards



Applications have now closed for the Local Enterprise Awards Louth 2026 taking place as the closing event of Local Enterprise Week on 6th March and finalists are currently being shortlisted. The Awards recognise achievement across six categories: Start-Up, Established Business, Innovation, Green/Sustainability, Digitalisation, and Export. The overall winner will go on to represent Louth at the National Enterprise Awards in Dublin.

Rates Waiver Scheme

The Council has introduced a Rates Waiver Scheme for 2026 with the aim to assist and provide incentives for new businesses to locate in vacant commercial premises in the town centres to encourage diversity of retail opportunities. LEO Louth is promoting and supporting this scheme, which has been designed to reduce the financial pressure on new businesses setting up in premises that have been vacant for more than 12 months. Eligible applicants can benefit from a phased waiver on commercial rates over a three-year period, offering significant savings during the critical early years of trading. Businesses

approved under the scheme will receive a full rates waiver in year one, followed by a 50 per cent reduction in year two and a 25 per cent reduction in year three.

Supports Approved:

- 1 Lean for Business Approved
- 2 Digital for Business Approved
- 1 Green for Business Approved

LEO Workshops and Training Held:

- **Business Advice Clinics** - 23 business advice clinic appointments were carried out in February together with 1 Financial business advice clinic
- **LEO Mentoring** - 17 Mentors were appointed to businesses in February to provide practical and strategic one-to-one advice and guidance.
- **LEO Training** - 4 training courses were held in February (1) Start Your Own Business (2) E-Tenders and Tendering (3) Leveraging Chat GPT and (4) AI for Social Media.

Oidhreacht / Heritage

The **Community Monuments Fund**, administered locally by the Heritage Office, received five private applications before the deadline of 30th January. These applications were assessed and approved by senior management for forwarding to the National Monuments Service, with a request for funding, by 13th February.

The five Third Party applications received were in relation to:

Stream 1 (for continuing monument conservation works):

- Bellew's Castle, Castletown, Dundalk
- Glaspistol towerhouse, Clogherhead
- Hatch's Castle, Ardee (subject of a Conservation study in 2025)
- Taaffe's Castle, Carlingford
- A Medieval house wall, Carlingford (*didn't qualify for submission to CMF*)

The Heritage Office also applied for funding for urgently required conservation works on the ruined church at 'The Mullagh' in Clogherhead. Applications were submitted for funding to carry out conservation studies at Council-owned sites under Stream 2 of the Community Monuments Fund.

Stream 2 (for research and planning future works):

- The Magdalene Tower, Drogheda
- The Old Abbey, Drogheda

Discussions were held with Third Parties regarding their proposals to apply to the Heritage Council’s “Community Heritage Grant Scheme”, which closes in March.

Stream 3 (for improving access to monuments and for their interpretation)

- No applications in 2026.

Irish Walled Towns Network

This national grouping of walled and formerly walled towns held its AGM in the Council offices in Fair Street, Drogheda on 26th February.

The Heritage Office submitted an application to the Irish Walled Towns Network for funding to review and refresh the existing Conservation Plan for the town walls of Drogheda. Louth County Council is responsible, either as owner or guardian for the town walls.

Work continued on a project in Featherbed Lane in Drogheda funded by the Irish Walled Towns Network in 2025.

The Heritage Council’s County Heritage Plan Funding Scheme

A funding application was submitted to the Heritage Council’s Heritage Plan funding scheme.

Pleanáil / Planning

Bainistíocht Forbartha / Development Management

The Planning service indicators for the Council for the month of January 2026 are given below in tabular form. There were 53 planning applications received during the month of January of which 49 were valid. In addition, there were 25 responses received during the month to requests for further information and 23 Pre-Planning Requests received.

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) Cur Síos / Description	(B) Forbairtí Tithíochta / Housing Developme nts	(C) Tithe Aonair / Individual Houses	(D) Iarratais Eile – ní gá MTT / Other application s-not requiring EIA	(E) Iarratais Eile - MTT de dhíth / Other applications - requiring EIA	(F) Iomlán na bhforbairtí sa chontae / Total for all categories of development in County Area
(i) Líon na n-iarratas a cinneadh / Number of applications determined	4	21	39	2	66
(ii) Líon na gcinntí inar iarradh breis eolais / No. of decisions determined which required further information	4	8	12	2	26
(iii) Céatadán na n-iarratas a diúltaíodh / Percentage of applications refused	0% (0)	33.33% (7)	12.82% (5)	0% (0)	18.18% (12)
(iv) Líon na n-achomharc a cinneadh / Number of appeals determined	1	1	2	0	4
(v) Céatadán na gcinntí a cuireadh ar ceal ar achomharc / Percentage of decisions overturned on appeal	100% (1)	100% (1)	0% (0)	0% (0)	50% (2)

Forfheidhmiú Pleanála – Forbairt Neamhúdaraithe / Planning Enforcement – Unauthorised Development

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

Cur Síos / Description	Forfheidhmiú maidir le forbairt nár údaraíodh / Enforcement in relation to unauthorised development		Forfheidhmiú maidir le forbairt nár údaraíodh / Enforcement in relation to unauthorised development	
	Eanáir 2026 / January 2026	Bliain go dtí seo / Year to Date	Eanáir 2025 / January 2025	Bliain go dtí seo / Year to Date
Líon na nGearán maidir le Forfheidhmiú Pleanála a Imscrúdaíodh / Number of Planning Enforcement Complaints Investigated	24	24	17	17
Líon na gcásanna Fhorfheidhmithe Pleanála nuair nár ghá obair bhreise / Number of Planning Enforcement cases received which did not require follow up	0	0	0	0
Líon na gcásanna dúnta / a réitíodh le hidirbheartaíocht / Number of cases closed / resolved through negotiation	10	10	20	20
Líon na Litreacha Rabhadh a eisíodh / Number of Warning letters issued	16	16	15	15
Líon na bhFógraí Forfheidhmiúcháin a eisíodh / Number of Enforcement Notices issued	0	0	0	0
Líon na cásanna a tarchuireadh le haghaidh imeachtaí dlí / Number of cases referred for legal proceedings	0	0	0	0
Líon na n-urghairí / Number of Injunctions	0	0	0	0
Líon na n-ionchúiseamh / Number of Prosecutions	0	0	0	0

Stiúrthóireacht na nOibríochtaí & Seachadadh Comhshaoil

Operations & Environmental Delivery Directorate

Tá an stiúrthóireacht seo freagrach as gníomhaíocht oibríochtúil, lena n-áirítear cothabháil na heagraíochta ar gach maoin chorparáideach, bóithre, spásanna poiblí, soilsiú poiblí agus cur chun feidhme ár bplean gníomhaíochta ar son na haeráide, bainistiú flíteanna, bainistiú dramhaíola agus seirbhísí dóiteáin, lena n-áirítear rialú foirgneamh.

This Directorate is responsible for operational activity, including the organisation's maintenance of all corporate property, roads, public spaces, public lighting and implementation of our climate action plan, fleet management, waste management and fire services, including building control.

David Hanratty

Stiúrthóir gníomhach / Acting Director



Operations & Environment Delivery Monthly Report for February 2026 Oibríochtaí / Operations



During Storm Chandra sandbags were delivered to

- Bay Estate,
- Cluan Enda,
- Ardee Road
- Blackwater Court,
- Greenwood Drive and
- Dundalk Fire Station

plus many more affected areas.

Road closure set up on Main Street Blackrock week commencing 2/2/2026

Water Pump set up on the Blackwater in Waterview, Point rd. w/c 2/2/2026

Hiring in JC Drains Tankers to draw away water – Greenwood, Ardee Road, Blackwater Court, Bay Estate and R172

Cleaning of gullies in all affected areas.
Cleaning of open drains

- Coes Road East,
- Quay Street
- Grills on Mill Road and Bellew bridge Road

Road and Pothole Repairs Dundalk

- Ladywell Square
- Tom Bellew Avenue
- Thomas St / Dublin St
- Long Avenue (Avenue Road)
- Dunmore
- Meadow Grove
- Bollards repaired at Earl street

Street Cleaning Dundalk

- Bay Estate
- Mill Road
- Cluan Enda
- St. Alphonsus Road
- Meadow Grove
- Red Barns Road (after flooding)
- Market Square and surrounding area

Road Works Blackrock/Dundalk Area

- **Main Street** Road resurfacing and line marking renewal
- **Birches Lane** resurfacing additional pedestrian crossing and road marking renewal
- **Sandy Lane** Drainage works road resurfacing and pedestrian crossing and line marking. Associate footpath repairs
- **Sandymount Road** Resurfacing Line marking renewal
- **Armagh Road** contractor patch repairs



The Omeath – Carlingford Greenway reopened on the 19th of February.

A temporary walkway has been constructed close to the Carlingford Marina which bypasses the section of coastline that was damaged by storm Chandra. Design works will commence shortly on the Section of Coastline which has eroded.

Cooley Drainage Repairs

- **Annaverna** - blocked culvert replaced and lines jetted
- **Whitestown and Balagan** - culverts unblocked following tidal damage
- **Upper Jenkinstown Hill** - culverts unblocked and lines jetted
- **R173 Drummullagh** - culverts unblocked and jetted
- **Piedmount** - culvert unblocked and jetted
- **Ballinmara** - soak pit installed to eradicate ponding issue

- **St Micheal’s Terrace, Carlingford**
Weir and Grills cleaned out and all debris removed after storm
- **Ballymakellet** - gullies unblocked and lines jetted
- Undermined scouring of road in **Deer Park** (along river Flurry) made safe temporarily – works to be assessed
- **Fairy Hill Road, Omeath** - blocked and damaged culverts repaired
- **North Commons** - drainage works on to alleviate ponding.
- **Drumnasillagh** - flooding issue next the waterworks – drainage works
- **Lislea Cross** - blocked culvert
- **Carrickcarnon** - jetted lines
- Jetting and cleaning gullies in isolated areas throughout **Cooley**

Potholes repairs

- (Riverstown R173,
- Jenkinstown Cross
- Aghameen
- Greenore
- Carlingford

Line marking

- Omeath R173,
- Rockmarshel R174
- Greenore R175

Coastal protection

- Large quantities of debris removed from coastal roads post storm Chandra and subsequent high tide events (Ballagan/Whitestown/Ghan Road/Carlingford Greenway/Bellurgan Point)
- Temporary repairs to undermined sections of road Balagan and Whitestown

Street Cleaning Cooley

- Omeath R173 and village centre
- R174 Rockmarshall Jenkinstown cross
- Ghan Road, Carlingford.
- Greenore R175
- Balagan Coastal Road
- Carlingford Greenway - snags and repairs to fencing signs and surface following storm damage
- **Sandbags** delivered to Carlingford/Omeath/Bellurgan point prior to high tide warnings
- **Fallen trees** removed after storm

DROGHEDA & SOUTH LOUTH



Wellington Quay Flooding which required sandbags and signage

Pothole Repairs were carried out at:

- Donore Road
- Marleys Lane
- Ushers Corner
- Dublin Road R132
- Magdalene Street
- West Court
- Marsh Road @Chamber
- Manhole @ Dominics chip shop
- Windmill Road
- Stock well Street
- John Street
- Laurence Street
- Platin Place
- Morans Terrace
- Yellow Batter
- Scarlet Street
- Scotch Hall
- Green Hills
- Marian Park

Drainage works were progressed at:

- Rathmullen Road
- 126 Meadowview
- Yellow Batter
- 39 Elmwood
- Francis Street
- Mayfield
- Shop Street

Boyne Waste Cleaned the following locations after tidal flooding during Storm Chandra:

- Marsh Road
- Platin Road

The Urban Operations team carried out Drainage works at the following locations:

- JJS shop - disabled Bay flooded
- Marley’s Court - footpath flooded
- Marley’s Lane - gully lid fixed
- Saint Mary’s Villas - gully cleaning

Sandbag stocks and distribution and Flood signage @ town locations

- Wellington Quay
- Marsh Road
- Platin Road
- North Quay
- Greenhill's
- Boyne Road

Signage/Bollards/Maintenance

- Bollard replaced at Dublin Road
- Ramp sign installed at Collon Road
- Inspect and realign at town area.
- Cleaning on approach roads

Oil Spills were cleaned at:

- Donore Road.
- Dublin Road
- Boyne /Timber Bollard repairs

The Operations Environment Team carried out clean-ups at the following locations:

- **Deep clean** of West St and Narrow West St

Dumping removed at

- Newtownstaban
 - Ballsgrove
 - Slane Road
 - Alleyways at St. Finian's Park
 - Alleyways at Rathmullen
 - The Ravine Rathmullen
 - Boice Court.
 - Port Beach
 - St Laurance's Park
 - St Laurance Drive
 - Moneymore/Skelly's Lane
 - Newtownstaban
 - Townley Hall Carpark
 - Collon Rd
 - Dummy's Lane
 - Port Beach
 - Reeyondstown
 - Hamlinstown Rd
 - Brownstown
 - Monasterboice
- Removal of illegally dumped Bags of Waste**
- Baltray
 - Termonfeckin
 - Slane Road
 - Togher
 - Newfoundwell Road
 - Aston Village
 - Dale

- Forest Grange
- Glenmore Drive
- Yellowbatter
- Maple Drive
- Greenhills
- Oulsterlane
- Chord Road
- Termonfeckin Road
- Ballymakenny Road
- Dublin R Road
- St. Finian's Park
- Priory Lodge Termonfeckin
- Flaxmill Lane
- Rathmullen Park
- Hillview.
- Riverbank
- Ashfield
- Mellifont Park
- Cement Road
- Brickfield/Trinity Gardens
- Blackbush
- Sandyford Terrace
- Bullys Acre

- **Collection of Bags Daily** from Tus workers Drogheda Outskirts

- **Collections of Bags Weekly** from Tus Workers Drogheda Rural

- Tidy Towns/Estates Litter picking Bags.

Multihog Continued to clean Town Centre at locations including:

- Dominick Pk/Ramparts
- Mell Carpark
- Donore Road
- King Street
- Bolton Square
- Meatmarket Lane
- Bachelors Lane
- Mayoralty Street
- Ballsgrove Hill
- Windmill Road
- Boyle O Reilly
- Newtown Cemetery
- Fair Green
- Reilly's Carpark
- Abbey Carpark
- North Rd (In between the Bollards)
- Bryanstown Cross Route.

Big Sweeper 2

- Scarlet Crescent
- Brookville
- Forest Hill
- Yellowbatter
- Glenview
- Pancar
- Link Road to Rosehall
- Liscorie
- Westcourt
- Beulieu View
- Mount Sandford
- Meadowview
- North Rd
- Moneymore

ARDEE & MID LOUTH

Road Repairs were carried out at:

- Tullycahan Road
- Green Road
- L-3167
- L-7135
- Christianstown LS5177-0

Drainage works completed at:

- Dromin L2254
- Charleville L2226
- Mosstown L6272
- Louth Village L-1170-0
- Ballyregan
- Killanny
- L-1143

Playground repairs for:

- Fairgreen Ardee Repairs
- Dunleer Playground Repairs

Pothole repairs Ardee area

- Paughanstown L2255
- Woods Lane L5257
- Baltrasna / Millockstown L5256
- North of Dunleer R132
- Shanlis / Curraghbeg Ardee L1260
- Dysart L2250
- Drogheda Rd Collon R168
- Removal of rubbish from community groups following storm
- Road sweeper deployed in Ardee town following storm
- Bin replaced in Dunleer

Oak gully cleaning

- Ardee town
- Kells Road
- Paughanstown
- Dunleer
- Removal of rubbish from community groups following storm



L6218 Storm damage in Salterstown made safe.

Operations Countywide

- Received TII 2026 Grant Allocations for National Roads totalling **€11,570,442**, and Department of Transport Regional & Local Road Allocations for 2026 amounting to **€10,810,650**.
- Submitted application to the Department of Housing for **€144,018** to recoup costs associated with immediate flood response activities following Storm Chandra.
- Completed the Post-Works Survey for roads included in the 2025 Road Works Programme.
- Presented the Draft Road Works Programme 2026 at Municipal District meetings, where it was approved by councillors.
- Issued public notices via local newspapers, the online portal, and social media regarding the making of a Road Works Speed Limit Order for the N2 Ardee to Cookstown route, in effect from **09 March 2026 to 19 June 2026**.

Parks

- 1000 herbaceous plants planted in St. Leonard's Gardens
- 105 trees pruned countywide in our parks, including Blackrock, St. Helena's,

- Icehouse Hill and St. Dominic’s Park in Drogheda.

Repair of swings in Dunleer

450 sq. m of soft pour safety surfacing laid in Dunleer playground during February.

Community Involvement Scheme 2026

The Dept. of Transport has advised the allocation of funding for the Community Involvement Scheme (CIS) 2026 is €286,550. This funding is allocated towards the restoration of public local roads.

Local Improvement Scheme 2026

The Dept. of Rural & Community Development has advised funding of €372,890 for 2026. We have an active waiting list for the LIS scheme of 16 eligible roads. Under the current allocation we expect to complete 5 roads in 2026.

Events

The following events were licenced to take place in February.



- Dreadnots 5K
- Annaloughan 10K Loop
- Dundalk Half Marathon
- Aura Leisure – promotion at Market Sq. Dundalk
- POW Dundalk Scratch night – Community event outside St. Nicholas Church of Ireland
- Boyne South 5K

Louth Ports & Harbours



The Operations Department is continuing to work with local fishermen in Port Oriel,

Clogherhead regarding the ongoing unauthorised moorings with legal proceedings underway.

Casual Trading – Louth



A review of the Casual Trading waiting list was carried out in Summer 2025. 10 bays are currently vacant and will be offered to those on the waiting list. There are currently 29 applicants on the waiting list.

Environment

Waste Enforcement Summary of Complaints

A total of 14 complaints were received and investigated by the Waste Enforcement team so far in February 2026, some of which remain open pending further investigations.

Complaint Type	Received in Jan 2026	Total Received in 2026
Waste/ C&D	14	39

Diesel Laundering Waste

There was no diesel laundering waste removed by the Council to date in February 2026.

Unauthorised disposal of soil and stone

Waste Enforcement Officers carried out investigations into an unauthorised soil and stone infilling site in February.

Trial pits were carried out to assess the extent of the dumping and to determine the type of waste.



An enforcement notice has been issued instructing all waste to be removed from the site.

In the first instance planning permission /exemption would be required for an infilling site and either waste authorisation or a By-product notification to the Environmental Protection Agency.

Litter Enforcement & Investigations

Litter wardens continue to deal with all litter matters within the county daily responding to complaints from members of the public, councillors and engaging with tidy towns groups and communities.

In February, Litter Wardens completed 156 investigations in response to dumping reported by members of the public. 21 Fixed Penalty Notices were issued in February where evidence was found under the Litter Pollution Act 1997.

A 2-hour foot patrol was carried out with particular attention to dog fouling in the Dromiskin area. More patrols will be carried out over the coming weeks.



Environmental Regulation

Water Quality and Complaints

6 water pollution complaints were received in February 2026. Investigations and site visits were carried out in all cases. All complaints are either resolved or in progress.

Air & Noise Pollution Complaints

No air pollution complaints were received this month. 4 noise pollution cases received. All complaints are either resolved or still under investigation. 5 solid fuel inspections were carried out.

Farm survey Inspections

During the month of February 2026 four farm inspection were carried out.

River Water Sampling and Water Framework Directive

Routine surveillance monitoring of river catchments in Louth continues to be carried out in February 2026 with 4 sites sampled.

Discharge Licences

Assessment inspections were carried out on 12 monitoring results received by Louth County Council in February 2026 for Section 4 Discharge Licences. Follow-up corrective actions are required at some of the sites and are being monitored by the Council.

Decorative Paint Regulations and Petroleum Vapor Regulations

5 inspections were made of petroleum vapour sites.

Licensed landfills

Quarterly monitoring of groundwater, surface water and leachate was carried out in February at Dundalk, Drogheda and Whiteriver landfills. Monthly monitoring of perimeter gas monitoring points was completed at Dundalk, Drogheda and Whiteriver landfills. Monthly gas balancing carried out at Whiteriver landfill. Routine flare emission survey and Volatile Organic Carbon survey carried out at Drogheda landfill

Septic Tanks

2 queries received from members of the public regarding eligibility for grants in February. Three septic tank advisory notices remain open.

Planning

22 planning reports completed for February 2026. These reports related to agricultural, commercial and one-off dwelling planning permissions.

Bathing Water Regulations.

Sampling dates for bathing water season May-September 2026 were drawn up this month. Updated profiles and bathing water plan to be submitted to the EPA for 2026 programme.

Rural Water Programme

Individual Domestic Water Supplies Grant

There have been 5 payments made in the sum of €16,644.00 (as of 24th February 2026) for Individual Domestic Water Supplies (more commonly called private wells).

Domestic Lead Remediation Grant Scheme

There have been two new applications made (as of 24th February 2026) for Lead Replacement.

Climate Action

EU Mission, Adaptation to Climate Change

The CLIMAX project is continuing to develop a more detailed phase two risk assessment for the county. Payment of the first drawdown from the funders was received.



Coastal Monitoring and
Adaptation Planning

CMAP PeacePlus project

The advertisement for the project officer went live during this period.

The Ramparts River design drawings were received.

Sustainable Energy Communities

LCC has progressed the procurement for a contractor to deliver an energy master plan for the Dromiskin SEC. The preparation for Blackrock's application is underway with the aim for them to be the next community to commence the process.

Community Climate Action Fund

There is almost daily contact between LCC and DCEE to clarify questions about this fund. This is to provide the best service to the community groups to ensure that they can complete their projects in the easiest and most successful manner.

Louth County Council has received 51 applications under the second phase of the Community Climate Action Programme totalling €2,360,344.37.

Biodiversity Action

The Biodiversity Officer has applied for funding to deliver the 2026 biodiversity work programme:

Funding applications have been submitted for the delivery of 7 biodiversity projects

under the NPWS 2026 Local Biodiversity Action Fund.

A funding application has been submitted for support to develop and deliver a **Local Biodiversity Action Plan** under the 2026 Heritage Council Scheme.

The Hare's Corner Initiative

More than **170 applications** were received from individuals, schools, community groups and farmers from Louth to the Hare's Corner project for support to enhance biodiversity on their land. Funding was sought for support to deliver more than **370 separate biodiversity actions** including planting heritage orchards, wildlife hedgerows and mini woodlands. Successful applicants will also get support to create wildlife ponds and "Plans for Nature." This initiative will see nearly **5,000 woodland, hedging and heritage apple trees** planted in Louth in 2026 through this Council supported initiative.

All-Ireland Pollinator Plan - February

Plan for pollinators - Make a plan for pollinators on land you own or manage.

Map existing habitats and make a plan to protect them. Take the right actions. Use our resources to find what you need.

SUSTAINABLE ENERGY

2026 Irish Green Awards – Louth County Council is Twice

Louth County Council has been nominated for 2 awards at the Irish Green Awards 2026: Public Sector of the Year 2026, and for VARCITIES Project, in the category Green Digital Transformation.

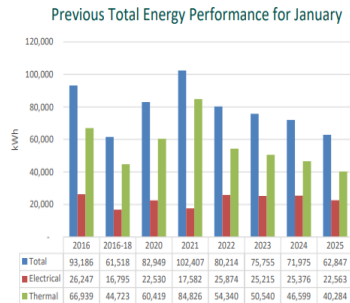
Energy Monitoring & Reporting

Stage 1 submission of Louth County Council's energy data for 2025 to SEAI is complete. Work is now in progress for the next stages of data submission.

Optimising Power @ Work Programme

County Hall recorded its lowest January energy use in almost a decade. Total consumption shows a **33% reduction compared to 2016 base year.**

Dundalk Town Hall exhibits Best January Energy Savings in over a Decade.



Graphs showing reducing Energy Use at County Hall & Dundalk Town Hall

Energy promotion in February’s “Reduce Your Use” theme focused on Transport and Mobility — a major user of Ireland’s energy.

Solar PV Update

Solar PV at Dundalk Library and Dundalk Museum have now been completed. Solar PV is in progress at the Council’s Civil Defence building in Dundalk and at the Animal Pound in Dromiskin. The current total additional generating capacity from this project is now 250KWp.

FACILITIES

The plans for the improvement to the Bush Depot were on public display and comments and submissions were invited from the public.

Roof repair works have commenced at the theatre at Dundalk Town Hall for An Táin Theatre.



Photos: Roof vents under construction at Dundalk Town Hall

Emergency roof repair works have been undertaken at St Magdalens Dominican Church Roof, Drogheda.

EMERGENCY SERVICES AND BUILDING CONTROL



Fire Service

4 Louth firefighters commenced their Fulltime Recruits course in a collaboration with Cork City. 3 core modules will have been completed by the end of Feb – Basic Skills (2 weeks in Cork), Breathing Apparatus Wearer (2 weeks in Dundalk) and Transportation Incidents (1 week in Dundalk).

The following training was also successfully completed

- 8 new firefighters into the retained service completed their 3-week QQI Recruits course and 1 day Recruit Induction course held in Dundalk
- 3 firefighters completed their 2 weeks QQI Breathing Apparatus Wearer, held in Dundalk
- 2 Senior Officers completed their 1-week NDFEM Fire Service Trainer (Delivery) course in Tullamore
- 10 firefighters successful completed their 1-week QQI Compartment Fire Behaviour course in Hackettstown

An annual review of the Fire Service Safety Management system was undertaken by the Fire Service Safety Monitoring Committee. This is an important component of Clause 9 of ISO45001, Evaluating Performance and LCCFRS continuing to maintain its ISO45001 accreditation.

To the end of 25th Feb, ERCC had processed 191 calls for Louth Fire. This represents a drop of 18% on the same period last year (234 calls for service).

There were 23 additional calls for Louth Fire in Co. Meath. This is an increase of 5% on the same period in 2025 (22 calls).

Fire Prevention

During the reporting period, eight Fire Safety Certificate applications were received and

are now being processed. Two Annual Dance Licence applications were also submitted, with inspections and reporting progressing to support licensing decisions. Operational crews completed four During Performance Inspections to ensure compliance and identify any emerging risks.

One Closure Notice was issued under the Fire Services Act during the month. Community engagement activities continued, including a presentation delivered to Age Friendly Ireland, along with ongoing delivery of the Primary School Programme across local schools. Inspections under the Fire Services Act also continued across relevant premises to strengthen compliance and enforcement.

Building Control

The Building Control Team carried out a joint inspection on sites in Gort Mell and Ravel Dunleer, accompanied by the National Building Control Office

Disability Access Certificates Feb	7
Total number of valid Commencement Notices submitted for 2026	17
Total Number of valid Commencement Notices for February submitted	22

Civil Defence

Training

Weekly training each Thursday
 Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) continues weekly.
 1 volunteer completed a Swiftwater Instructor recertification class in Wicklow
 1 volunteer completed a Cycle Instructor class over 4 days in Dublin

5 volunteers attended an EMT workshop in Roscrea
 3 volunteers attended a trauma training class in Kildare
 2 volunteers attended a Food Safety & You instructor recertification class in Roscrea
 7 volunteers completed a manual handling operator course
 5 volunteers completed a Cardiac First Responder course
 2 volunteers attended a manual handling instructor course over 5 days.

Duties

Rás na hÉireann cross country races attended by 10 volunteers
 Age Friendly Louth Roadshow attended by 6 volunteers

Emergency Activations

Drone assistance provided to the Fire Service for flood monitoring – 2 volunteers
 Welfare check provided for elderly resident cut off by flooding – 2 volunteers
 HSE carer transported through flooding on 2 occasions – 1 volunteer
 Sandbags provided to local resident for flooding – 2 volunteers
 Community first responders were activated 7 times by NAS. 14 volunteers responded treating 6 patients.

Other

A local ceremony was held to commemorate the 75th anniversary of Civil Defence. Medals were presented to volunteers by CE David Conway. Also present were DOS David Hanratty, CFO Robert Page and Ciaran Bayley from the Department of Defence.



An Stiúrthóireacht um Acmhainní Daonna, Soláthar Corparáideach & Pobail
Human Resources, Corporate & Community Delivery Directorate

Tá an stiúrthóireacht seo freagrach as príomhréimsí eagrúcháin AD i measc gníomhaíochtaí A&S, Seirbhísí Corparáideacha, Cumarsáide agus Pobail.

This directorate is responsible for the organisational core areas of HR including Health & Safety, Corporate Services, Communication and Community Activities.

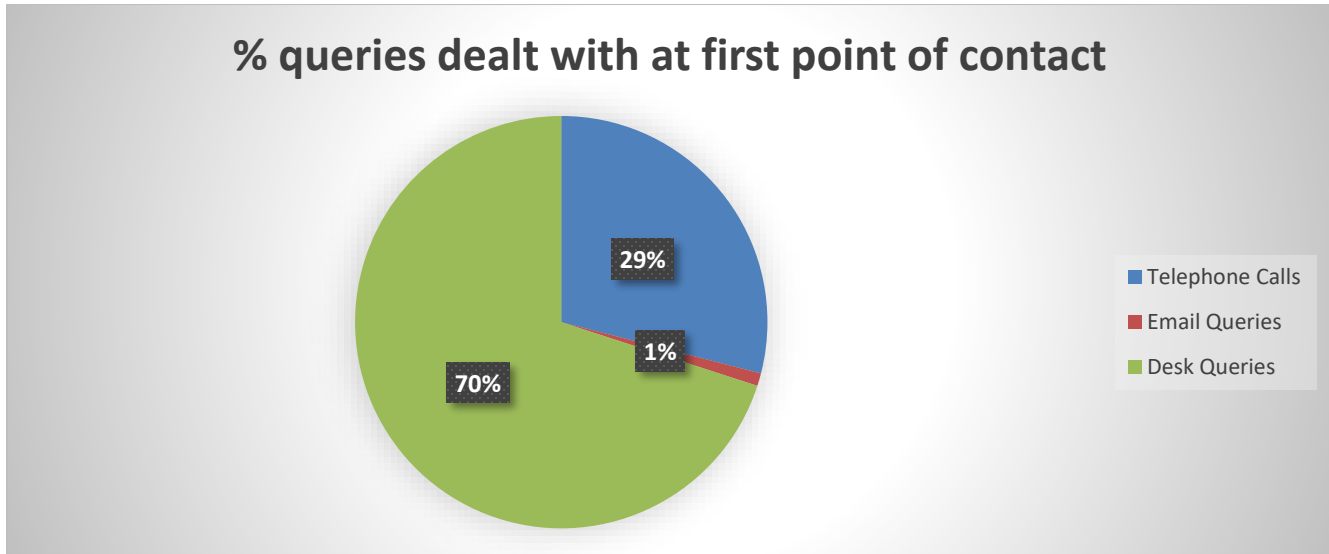
Joanna Kelly
Stiúrthóir gníomhach / Acting Director



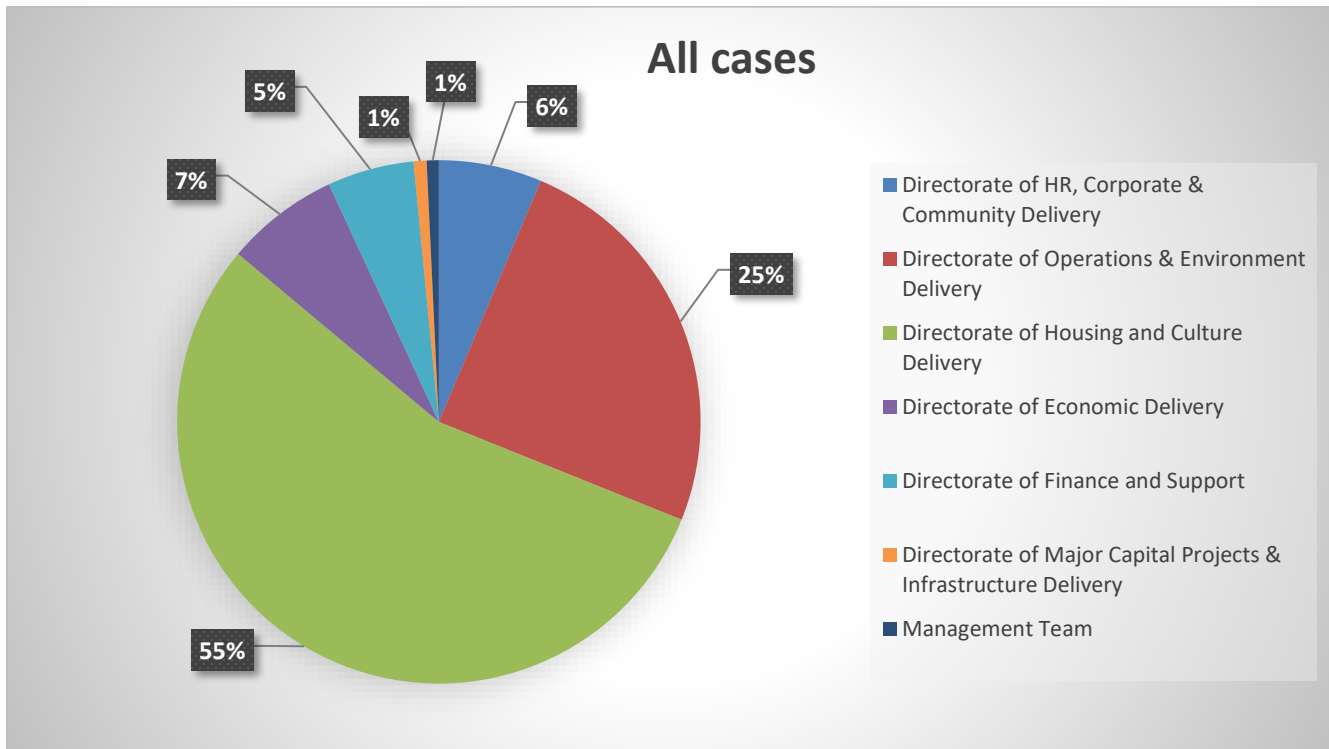
Seirbhísí Corparáideacha / Corporate Services

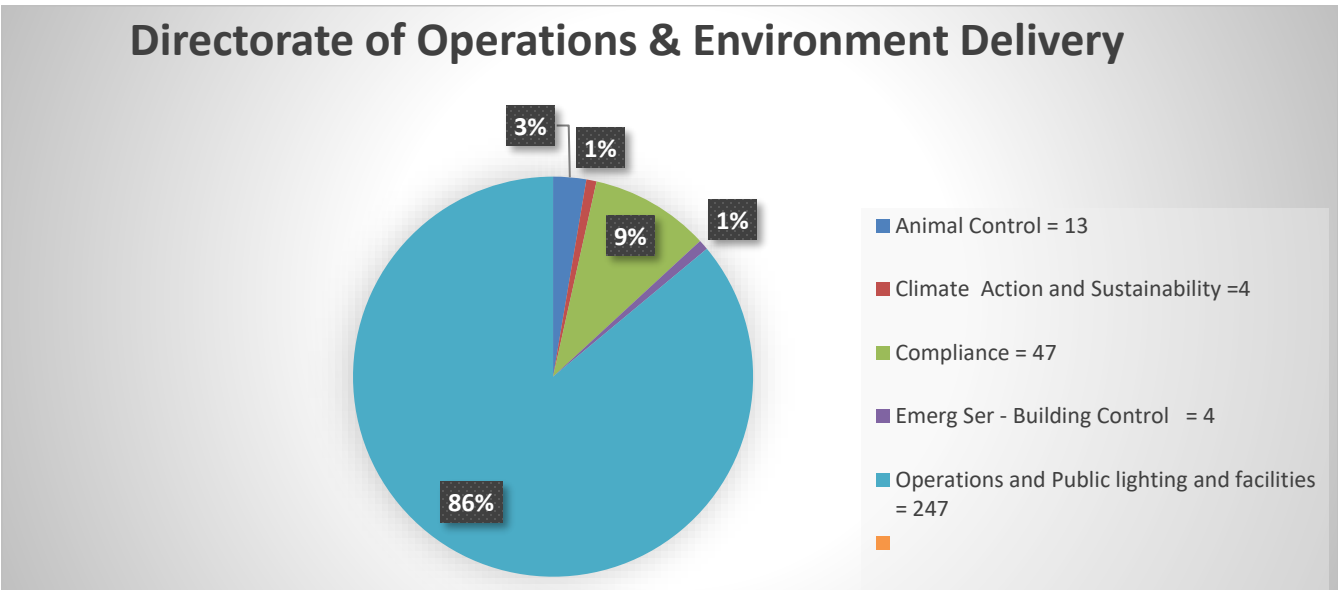
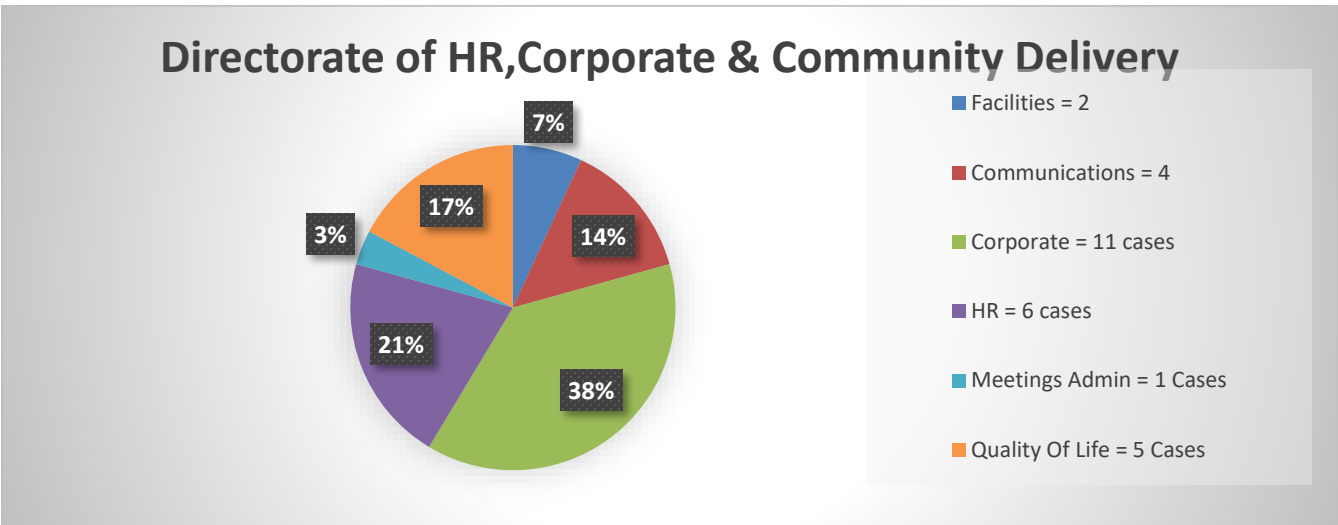
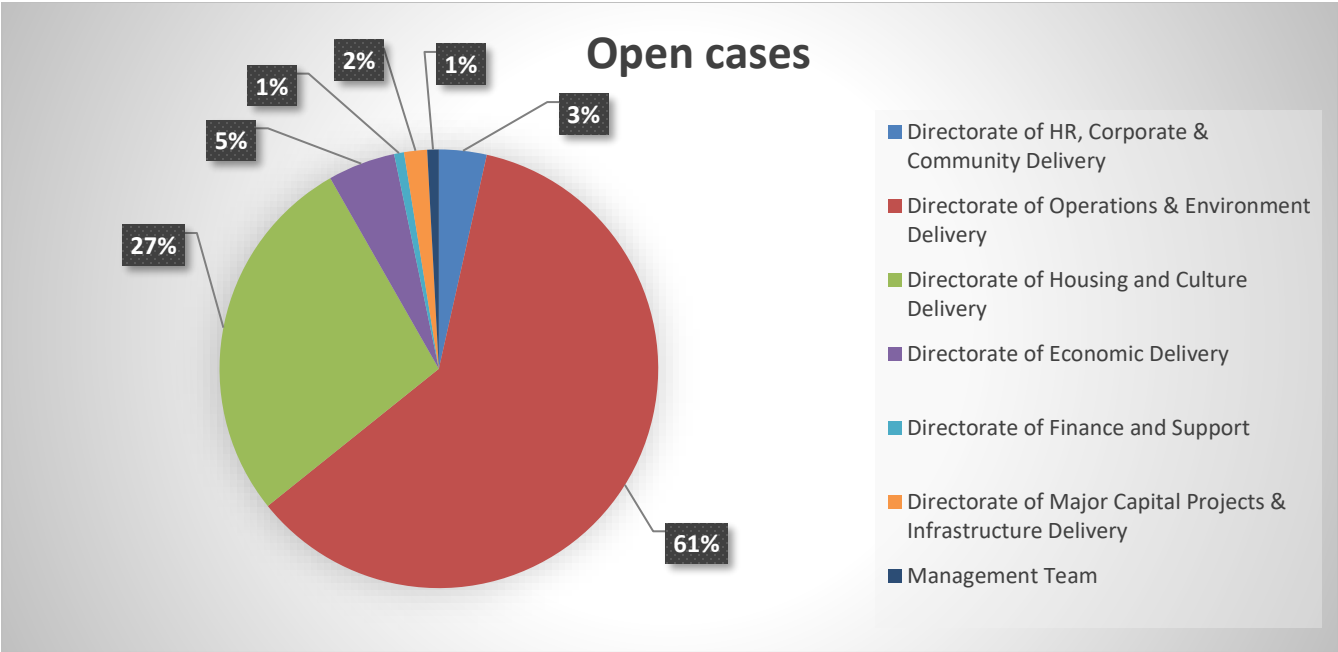
Tuairisc ar Sheirbhísí Custaiméirí / Customer Services Report

During the month of February 2026 Customer Services dealt with 19,314 queries inclusive of 10,163 calls, 1,264 e-mails and 7,887 counter queries. 11,215 (58%) of queries received were dealt with at first point of contact broken down as follows:

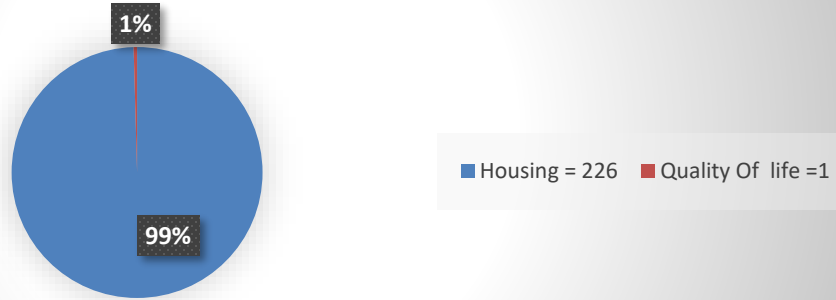


There were 3,464 valid Sugar CRM cases recorded during February 2026 of which 254 were received from elected members. A total of 825 (24%) remain unresolved by end of February, broken down by directorate as follows:





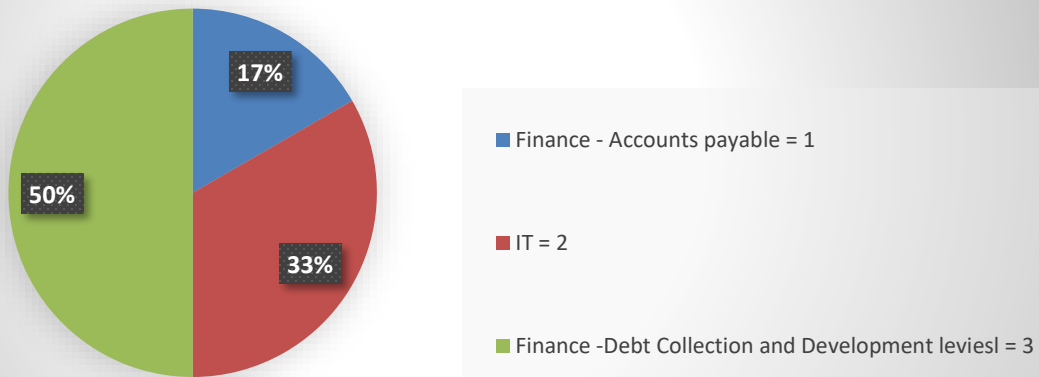
Directorate of Housing & Culture Delivery



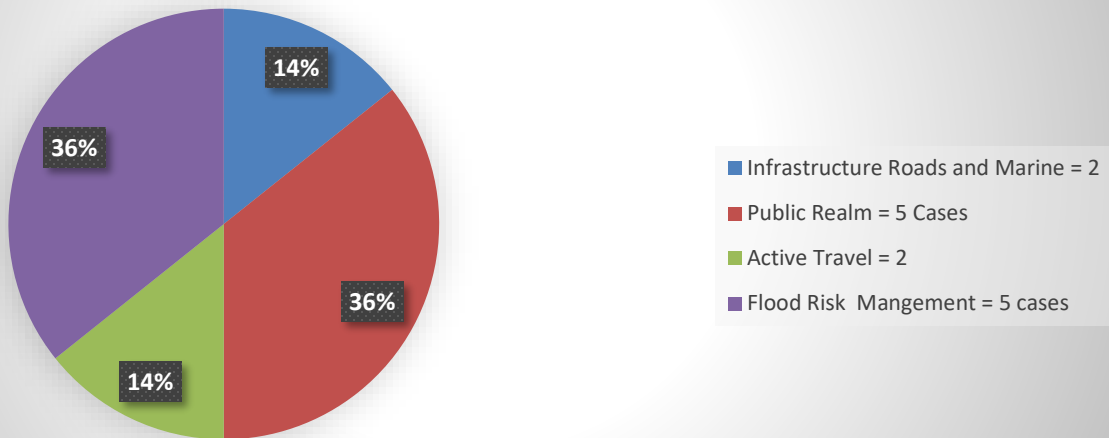
Directorate of Economic Delivery



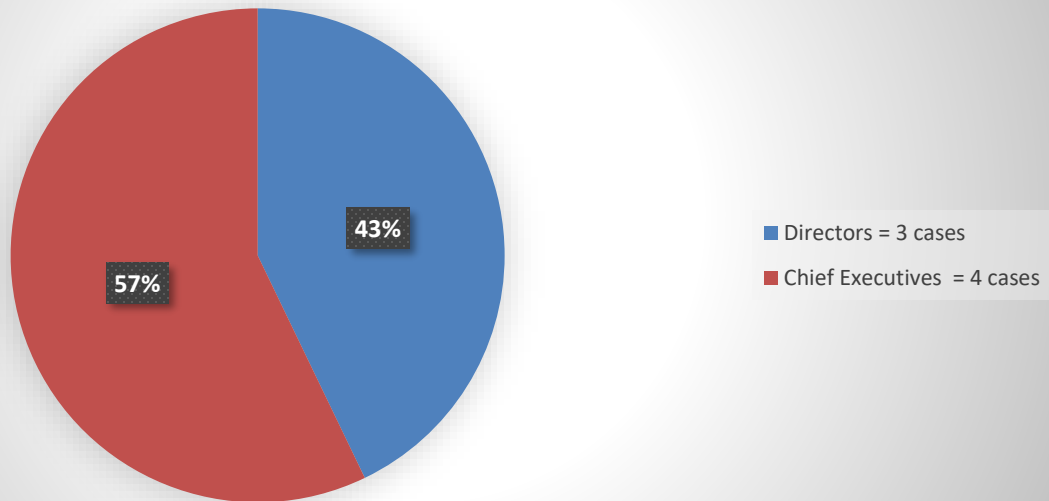
Directorate of Finance and System Support



Directorate of Major Capital Projects & Infrastructure Delivery



Management Team



The table below illustrates activity in the Information Compliance area.

	2025 Total January – February	2026 Total January- February	2026 Total February Only
FOI REQUEST - RECORDS	2	0	0
DSAR	15	7	5
DATA PROTECTION REQUEST	29	33	17
AIE - INFORMATION	1	2	1
OMBUDSMAN CASE	4	15	7
COMPLAINTS	4	0	0

Community Support

Age Friendly Louth



Garden Care & Repair scaled up and expanded into Dunleer, Co Louth

Great news for older and vulnerable people in Dunleer Co Louth. The award-winning Garden Care & Repair project which started off in Ardee in 2024, is being expanded in 2026 to include Dunleer. Dunleer Tidy Towns will be partnering with Age Friendly Louth & An Garda Síochána to deliver free gardening services to older people in Dunleer. The Dunleer Care & Repair project will commence in Spring 2026.

Ardee Tidy Towns and Dee Hub who administer and deliver the project in Ardee, kindly hosted all groups for an information sharing event on 19th February to provide advice and guidance to Dunleer Tidy Towns and help them get started on the project.

Ardee Garden Care & Repair is going from strength to strength in Ardee as it enters into its 3rd year. This project is part funded by the Ardee /Mid Louth Elected Members.



Garden Care & Repair Information Sharing Event in Dee Hub, Ardee

Road & Community Safety Event in Drogheda, Co. Louth

Age Friendly Louth hosted its first Age Friendly event of 2026 on 25 February at The Marcy Hotel, Drogheda. The event was organised in direct response to concerns raised at the Older People’s Council (OPC) meeting in 2025 regarding road safety, following a series of fatal road incidents in County Louth.

The event brought together key agencies involved in promoting and supporting road safety. Representatives from the Road Safety Authority (RSA), An Garda Síochána Roads Policing Unit, and the Council’s Road Safety Office attended to offer information, guidance and to engage in discussions on improving road safety for older people. In addition to the core road safety agencies, several community groups and organisations that provide supports and services to older people participated in the event. These included Louth Fire & Rescue Service, Occupational Therapist from the HSE, the National Ambulance Service, DDS4OP and Drogheda Community Services Centre.

The event served as an important platform for raising awareness, sharing practical safety advice, and reinforcing collaborative efforts to enhance safety and wellbeing for older people in County Louth.



Age Friendly Road & Community Safety Event

Comhairle na nÓg

Louth Comhairle na nÓg held a consultation on the future of Louth’s library service, where Council staff gathered young people’s views on how they use libraries, what could improve, and their hopes for the future. Participants highlighted libraries as safe spaces for meeting and studying, and suggested extending opening hours, increasing technology use, and offering more events for older teens. A report will be submitted to Louth Library Service. Comhairle has also begun its PEACEPLUS Youth Leadership Programme with Newry Mourne and Down Youth Council, involving training, study trips, cross-border residential, and community events over the next two years.



Comhairle na Óg Library Consultation

within their communities, to improve traveller health and wellbeing.



Launch of Primary Health Care for Travellers Project

Public Participation Network (PPN)

Louth PPN held a Secretariat meeting in The Mill, Drogheda on 25th February, where the annual 2026 allocation of funding and resources was agreed, thematic projects were approved, and Q1–Q2 training programmes were finalised to support member capacity building. During February, Louth PPN attended several events, including the launch of the Primary Healthcare for Travellers Project, the Mid-Louth Community Information Meeting in Dunleer, the National PPN Workers online meeting, and the Age Friendly Louth Road Safety and Community Safety Event. Registration also opened for two upcoming training courses: Governance Health Check, aimed at helping groups identify governance gaps, and Annual Report Writing, focusing on producing effective reports that demonstrate an organisation’s impact.

Healthy Louth

The new Healthy Louth County Co-ordinator has now been appointed and is based in the Community Section of County Hall, Dundalk.

Launch of Primary Health Care for Traveller’s Project

Healthy Louth were delighted to support Louth Local Development on Wednesday 18th February in the Marcy Hotel Drogheda, for the official launch of the Primary Health Care for Traveller’s Project. Alongside Age Friendly Louth and Louth County Council PPN, we collaborated to showcase our supports and meet with the relevant stakeholders and attendees at this event, which was very well attended.

Focus areas included heart health, mental health, diabetes and nutrition – while also discussing common challenges and solutions for working towards change



LEADER Project Funding Approved

The LAG, at its February meeting, approved funding support, in the amount of **€35,632.51** for 3 LEADER projects. The projects supported are under the themes of:

- Sustainable Development of the Rural Environment and Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation
- Rural Infrastructure & Social Inclusion

To date, total funding allocated to LEADER projects in Louth—including the most recent approvals—amounts to **€1,237,278.01**.



Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme 2024-2028 (SICAP)

The LCDC, at their February meeting, approved **the SICAP 2025 End of Year Review**. As part of this review, Louth Local Development submitted a video case study titled "The Smart Cafés Smarter Living for Older People. Focus: Older People (aged 65+ Years) in Isolation". This case study details the work of the SMART Cafes project that was established to prevent older persons from being at a disadvantage by familiarizing them with the use of modern digital technology, both to enhance their technology skills in a digital age and to combat social isolation to enhance wellbeing.

This initiative was shortlisted by Media Literacy Ireland and won a Highly Commended National Award in the category of Best Media Literacy Initiative for Older

People. Pobal commended the video as an excellent example of SICAP’s core work.

<https://youtu.be/JZeZhDWo3mE>



Smart Cafes in Ardee and Drogheda

SICAP 2026 Annual Plan

The LCDC also approved the 2026 SICAP Annual Plan, which is a comprehensive, needs-led programme that effectively addresses complex social, educational, health and employment challenges across County Louth. The SICAP annual planning process is now complete.

Green School Assessments

The Community Support Team is conducting Green Schools assessments across Louth, meeting students and teachers to review progress on environmental themes. Over 40 schools were invited to participate. These visits promote sustainable practices, and schools demonstrating strong progress will be awarded a Green Flag at a ceremony later this year.



Community Support Team with Green School Committee members from Scoil Mhuire na Trocaire, Ardee at a recent visit

Amenity Grants Scheme 2026

The 2026 Amenity Grant Scheme was launched on 2nd February and remains open until 15th March. The scheme supports voluntary community groups across Louth, delivering community enhancement projects such as grass cutting, planting, litter control and general local improvement work.

By recognising the efforts of Resident Associations, community organisations, Tidy Towns groups and environmental volunteers, the Council aims to strengthen the projects that keep Louth vibrant, welcoming and well-maintained.

This year applications can be obtained through Louth County Council’s Consult portal at <https://consult.louthcoco.ie/en/applications>.



LCC staff with members of Dundalk Tidy Towns and the Council’s Community Support Team.

Entente Florale Europe Competition 2026

Mentors Christy Boylan, Bernadette Solon and Bill Kearney visited Blackrock on 4th February to support preparations for this year’s Entente Florale Europe competition. They met with Council staff and the Blackrock Tidy Towns Coordinating Committee and visited key locations along the judging route, including Hamilton Marsh and St Francis National School, offering practical advice ahead of July’s judging day. Now in its 51st year, the competition promotes greener, more sustainable communities across Europe.



Visit to Hamilton Marsh in Blackrock.



PEACEPLUS

Procurement

Contracts for Louth’s PEACEPLUS Sports Engagement Programme were signed on the 11th February. This project will engage in Peace building sports projects for 700 young people across County Louth.



Members of Third Sector Connect and the Council signing Contracts for the PEACEPLUS Sports Engagement Project

The following projects have been advertised on eTenders

1. ‘Multicultural/Intercultural Programme’, closing date 20/03/2026.
2. ‘Introduction to Community Restorative Justice, closing date 16/03/2026.
3. ‘LGBTQAI+ Capacity Building Programme’ closing date 12/03/2026.
4. ‘Entrepreneurship/Ethnic entrepreneurship for the traveller community and ethnic minority communities project’, closing date 12/03/2026.

The launch event for the PEACEPLUS Animating Shared Spaces Programme took place on 23rd February at Stephenstown Pond, Knockbridge. The project is to be delivered by Dundalk Youth Centre. Speakers at the launch included Kwasioy Boyce from M.A.D Youth Theatre and Rachael Winters from Dundalk Youth Centre.



Launch of the PEACEPLUS Animating Shared Spaces Project at Stephenstown Pond, Knockbridge

Ukraine Humanitarian Response

Offer A Home Programme

Property Figures as at 28/02/2026

Properties offered in February	0
Families moved into properties in February	0

Expressions of interest in being accommodated received from families in February	5
Property offers recorded to date	86
Owners successfully contacted to date	84
Properties currently occupied	36
Beneficiaries currently assigned	117
Assessments carried out to date	60
Assessments currently underway	0
Properties assessed as suitable to date	45
Properties with minor works required	0
Properties withdrawn to date	18
Properties not viable to date	21

Local Authority Integration Team

Drogheda United SES Launch

The LAIT team were invited to the Drogheda United Social and Environmental Sustainability launch in United Park on February 12th. The launch outlined the clubs plan for the next four years in supporting the local community in driving their environmental and sustainability goals. The LAIT team work closely with Aoife Burns, SES Officer with Drogheda United on a number of integration events supporting IPAS & BOTP residents living in Drogheda.



Drogheda United Social and Environmental Sustainability Launch in United Park

Men’s Health Project

The LAIT team, in partnership with Cultúr Migrants Centre, have started a Men’s Health Project with residents living in the Carnbeg centre in Dundalk. The aim of the project is to raise awareness among the men living in the Carnbeg centre about health issues affecting men. The project will be participant led and will run until the Summer. 43 men signed up to participate in the project and will meet once a month to discuss different topics.

Community Safety

Mr. Nasir Yasin, Chair of the Louth CSP, attended a national event hosted by Deputy Jim O’Callaghan, Minister for Justice, Home Affairs & Migration held on 5th February 2026. During the event, information on the community safety policy context, the community safety

infrastructure and supports available were presented. It also proved to be a very valuable networking opportunity for the new elected Chairs.

Sport

Louth Local Sports Partnership

Louth LSP Small Club Grant

Louth Local Sports Partnership is pleased to announce that the 2026 Small Club Grant Fund is now open. With over 120 applications in 2025 we are expecting even more applicants this year. Closing date for receipt of applications is Friday 27th February.

The Small Club Grant Scheme supports sports clubs and community groups across County Louth in developing sustainable opportunities for participation. The scheme places a strong emphasis on increasing participation levels, as well as promoting inclusion and accessibility within clubs and communities through various programmes and initiatives. It also aims to strengthen club governance and support overall club development by providing ongoing training and education opportunities for volunteers and coaches.

Louth LSP Core Funding

In 2026, Louth Local Sports Partnership will receive €319,080 in core funding, helping us continue our work with people and communities across Louth who face the greatest barriers to taking part in sport and physical activity. This funding supports the everyday work happening locally — creating safe, welcoming spaces to be active, building confidence and helping people feel connected through sport & physical activity. It forms part of a wider €12.66 million investment in Local Sports Partnerships nationwide, within a record €33.36 million core funding package for Irish sport.

We are very grateful to the Department of Culture, Communications and Sport, Sport Ireland, Minister Patrick O'Donovan and Minister Charlie McConalogue for their continued support and for backing the role of Local Sports Partnerships in strengthening communities through sport and physical activity.

Volunteer Sport Award

The Federation of Irish Sport has announced that Andrew Gallagher has been selected as Louth's outstanding volunteer for 2025, recognising his incredible commitment to developing girls' football in our county.

Andrew co-founded Castletown Belles FC in 2016 and has grown the club from a single ladies' team into Louth's only all-girls soccer club. As Chairperson, Head Coach, PRO and youth coach, his dedication has transformed participation opportunities for girls in Castletown and beyond.

From securing funding and improving facilities at The Bainseach, to coaching in the Louth Schoolgirls League Academy, Andrew's impact is felt across the entire community. His leadership in launching the 30/30 Project in 2024 — combining soccer and GAA for girls at U10 & U12 — is another example of his passion for creating positive, inclusive sporting experiences.

Andrew's personal journey is equally inspiring, having proudly represented Ireland at the Transplant Football World Cup in 2024.

He was honoured at a national ceremony on Thursday, 26 February 2026, alongside volunteers from across Ireland. A well-deserved recognition for a remarkable volunteer.



LSP in Numbers

LATEST PARTICIPATION FIGURES (2025)



€319,080
2026 Core Funding
for Louth Local Sports Partnership



An Stiúrthóireacht um Thithíocht agus Seachadadh Cultúir Housing & Culture Delivery Directorate

Tá an stiúrthóireacht seo freagrach as eagrú agus seachadadh Cóiríochta & Soláthair Tithíochta mar aon leis an ngné chultúrtha de Sheirbhísí Leabharlanna, Ealaíon, Músaem agus Cartlainne.

This directorate is responsible for the organisational and delivery of Housing Accommodation & Supply along with the cultural aspect of Libraries, Arts, Museum and Archive Services.

Ger Murphy
Stiúrthóir / Director



Titíocht / Housing

Ag Déileáil le hEaspa Dídine / Addressing Homelessness

As the Responsible Housing Authority for the Northeast Region, Louth County Council continues to manage this area and achieve the goals set out in the Northeast Homelessness Strategy 2024-2026. The following work done within County Louth in the period 13th January 2025 – 12th February 2026 can be summarised as follows:

Tábla 1: Gníomhartha atá déanta ag Seirbhísí do Dhaoine gan Dídean / Table 1: Actions by Homeless Services

13 th January 26 to 12 th February 26	Ardee MD	Dundalk MD	Drogheda MD	Total
Offered advice, support (including fast tracking H.A. for Rent Supplement eligibility)	2	175	85	262
Placed in Temporary Emergency Accommodation	0	20	17	37
Refused Offer of Temporary Emergency Accommodation	0	3	3	6
Not eligible from outside county or non HRC	0	0	0	0
Total number of Person who presented as Homeless	2	198	105	305

Tábla 2: Iarratais Íocaíocht Cúnaimh Tithíochta do Dhaoine Gan Dídean Próiseáilte / Table 2 Homeless HAP Applications Processed

January 2026	7
Total for 2026	7

Tábla 3: Tithíocht ar dtús / Table 3 - Housing First

Number of tenancies established	56
Number of individuals currently in tenancy	39

Tables 4 - 7 below reflect details of the adults who were in emergency accommodation in County Louth on 12th February 2026. Also included at Table 5 is the breakdown of families in emergency accommodation at that date.

Tábla 4: Inscne / Table 4: Gender

Gender	Total
Male	94
Female	51
Total	145

Tábla 5: Aoisghrúpaí / Table 5: Age Groups

Age Group	Total
18-24	30
25-44	75
45-64	35
65+	5
Total	145

Tábla 6: Saghas Loistín / Table 6: Accommodation Type

Accommodation Type	Total
Private Emergency Accommodation (PEA)	49
Supported Temporary Accommodation (STA)	96
Total unique individuals	145

Tábla 7: Teaghlaigh le paistí cleithiúnaí / Table 7 - Families with dependent children

	No. of families with dependent children	No. of Individual Adults	No. of Dependents
Individuals with dependent children	13	16	29
Couples with dependent children	3	6	5
Total	16	22	34

Leithdháileadh Tithíochta, Feabhra 2026 / Housing Allocations, February 2026

District	LA	LA Refusals	AHB	AHB Refusals	Allocation YTD
Ardee	2	2	0	0	5
Drogheda	6	7	21	3	28
Dundalk	11	0	28	9	44
Total	19	9	49	12	77

Aistrithe / Transfers

20 th January, 2026 – 19 th February, 2026	Transfers
Ardee	1
Drogheda	3
Dundalk	3
Total	7

Liosta Tithe / Housing List

As at 19 th February, 2026	Ardee	Drogheda	Dundalk	Total
Housing List	353	669	1096	2118
HAP Transfer List	285	827	1560	2672
Total Housing List	638	1496	2656	4790

There are **327** applications on the transfer list (Non HAP) within Social Housing including **61** applications from the Approved Housing Bodies.

Bainisteoireacht Chíos / Rent Management

Current Rents Arrears on 24 th February 2026	No of Accounts	Value
Rents between 4-6 weeks old	232	101,497
Rents between 7-12 weeks old	198	158,511
Rents greater than 12 weeks old	1015	3,697,126
TOTAL	1445	3,957,134

Rent arrears are monitored on an ongoing basis and letters are issued to customers within two weeks of their falling into arrears. Failure to address these arrears will result in a second letter being issued and if necessary, a third and final reminder. Failure to respond at that point will result in an escalation to tenancy warning. The following correspondence was issued in February 2026.

Letter Type	Month/Year	Number Issued
1 st Reminder	February 2026	60
2 nd Reminder	February 2026	49
Final Reminder	February 2026	7
Total issued		116

The total rental income received in 2026, to date, is **€2,715,816**. This is a 10% increase when compared to the equivalent period in 2025 (€2,465,378) and an 18% increase on 2024 (€2,310,697).

The total number of rents currently paid by Household Budget is **939**.

Customers that fall into arrears may enter into a payment plan for full repayment over an agreed period of time. **42** new payment plans commenced in February 2026 (up to and including 24th February 2026).

Airionna Athligean & Neamhní / Relet and Void Properties

Updated 19/02/2026

Relet / Void Properties on 19 th February 2026	Total
Ardee Municipal District	9
Dundalk Municipal District	26
Drogheda Municipal Borough District	38
Subtotal (re-lets) Vacant Properties	73
CPO units not yet ready for occupation (All County)	2
Total Number of Properties (Relets & CPO)	75

Note: Social units being used as short-term accommodation for homeless or emergency are not included in the above figures.

Cuairteanna Chothabhála / Maintenance Calls

Maintenance	22 nd January 2026 – 19 th February 2026	Total (YTD)
No. of Maintenance Requests Received	1,381	2,495
No. of Maintenance Requests Completed	1,166	2,144
No. of Maintenance Requests in Progress	112	N/A
No. of Maintenance Requests Refused	103	159

Ríomhchlár Aisfheistithe Éifeachtúlachta Fuinnimh / Energy Efficiency Retrofit Program (EERP)

The Council are awaiting official confirmation from the DHLGH of our finalised EERP allocation & funding for 2026. In the interim, some tenders have been prepared and are at varying stages of the tendering process. Estates/streets where houses are expected to be included in this year's EERP are listed below. Inclusion on a finalised program will be contingent on DHLGH allocation & funding.

Municipal District
<p><u>Ardee MD:</u></p> <p>Churchview, Dromiskin Seaview, Annagassan De La Salle Terrace, Ardee Chestnut Grove, Tallanstown St. Mary's Court, Louth Village</p>
<p><u>Dundalk MD:</u></p> <p>Aghameen Park Doolargy Avenue Castlehill, Carlingford (OPDs) Dundalk St, Carlingford (OPDs) Mayfield, Haggardstown (OPDs) Clooneevan, Haggardstown (OPDs) St. Fursey's Terrace Blackrock (OPDs)</p>
<p><u>Drogheda BD:</u></p> <p>Moneymore Rathmullan Park Marian Park Scarlet Crescent Acorn Way Fr. O'Donnell Park</p>

Cigireachtaí ar Tithe Príobháideacha atá ar fáil ar cíós / Private Rental Inspections

PRI Stats 2026

For 22 nd January 2026 – 19 th February 2026	February	YTD	
Properties inspected monthly	146	326	
Advisory letters issued	86	164	
Improvement notices issued	3	5	
Prohibition notices issued	1	1	
Private Inspections	0	1	
HAP First Inspections	40	75	
RAS First Inspections	0	1	
AHB First Inspections	26	110	
Student Specific Accommodation (SSA)	22	22	
Private Re-inspections	1	1	
HAP Re-inspections	48	103	
RAS Re-inspections	2	2	
AHB Re-inspections	2	5	
SSA Re-inspections	4	4	
Inspections from Complaints	1	2	
Properties Made Compliant	14	31	

Páirtíocht Tionóntachta / Tenancy Engagement

23 rd Jan 2026 - 20 th Feb 2026	Drogheda	Ardee	Dundalk	Monthly Total	Yearly Total
No. Tenants who attended Pre-tenancy training	13	2	7	22	51
Post-tenancy inspections	12	3	23	38	45
Tenancy Investigation Visits	6	9	2	17	33

Anti-Social Behaviour

23 rd Jan 2026 - 20 th Feb 2026	Drogheda	Ardee	Dundalk	Monthly	Yearly
ASB Cases* Received	8	5	3	16	31
ASB cases Ongoing	4	3	7	14	-
ASB cases complete	12	3	5	20	31

Case = a unique incident of anti-social behaviour, not the number of complaint forms received

Fógraí a D'eisigh le haghaidh Sáru Tionóntachta / Notifications Issued for Tenancy Breaches

23 rd Jan 2026 - 20 th Feb 2026	Drogheda	Ardee	Dundalk	Monthly	Yearly
Verbal Warnings	0	0	2	2	4
Written Tenancy Notifications	1	0	0	1	1

Tenancy Warnings Housing Act, 2014	1	0	0	1	2
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2nd hand acquisition scheme which will be allocated as appropriate to Tenant In Situ, persons with disabilities, and homeless.

Abandonment Notifications & Illegal Occupiers

Category	Brief Description	February
Section 15(1) Notifications Issued	Initial notice – tenant has 4 weeks to make contact and confirm occupancy.	1
Section 15(2) Notifications Issued	Final notice – property reverts to Council possession	2
Properties Surrendered Following Tenancy Compliance Engagement	Voluntary surrender after compliance discussions.	0
Illegal Occupants	Instances where properties were found to be occupied without lawful tenancy and action was taken in line with legislation.	0

In February, the Council purchased three properties.



Recently acquired properties in Blackrock and Dundalk

Tithíocht Inacmhainne/ Affordable Housing

The application portal for the latest Affordable Purchase Scheme of 10 units at Ushers Mill Drogheda opened for applications on 9th February at 10.00am. We are currently in the process of assessing applications. The application portal will remain open until 2nd March.

We are currently preparing applications for funding to the DHLGH for a further 3 Affordable Schemes in Blackrock & Dundalk.

Gnóthaithee/ Acquisitions

Louth County Council are acquiring homes under the

Morgáiste go Cíos (MGC)/Mortgage to Rent (MTR)

Mortgage to Rent February 2026 Report

Active MTR Applications Total	33
AHB MTR Applications Active	8
AHB MTR completed 2026	1
Private MTR Applications Active	23
Private MTR completed 2026	0
MTR Application Awaiting Purchaser	2

Under MTR, a borrower gets to stay in their home and agrees to give ownership of the home to the MTR provider. This means the borrower becomes a social housing tenant of their local authority or Approved Housing Body (AHB). This arrangement is entered into voluntarily and agreed between the borrower, their lender and the MTR provider. After five years have passed, the borrower might be given the option to buy the home back if they are in a position to do so.

Déisiú agus Léas/ Repair and Lease

There are no applications for the Repair and Lease scheme in February.

Iasacht Tí Údaráis Áitiúil / Local Authority Home Loans

2026 Budget Allocation (20% of 2025 allocation until 2026 approval is received from the Department)	€1,322,000
LAHL Approvals at 20/02/2026	€206,000
Breakdown of LAHL applications processed at the 20th February, 2026	
Total Number of Applications 20/02/2026	11
LAHL carried over from 2025	4
Invalid/Returned	0
Approved	2
Declined	0
For Review	5
Outstanding – waiting on further information	8

Deontas Athchóirithe D'áras Folamh / Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant

Applications Submitted:	387
Approved:	288
Rejected:	29
Withdrawn	52
Other (FI Requests, First Site Inspections)	18
Funding Issued to Applicant	138
Principal Private Residence	285

Rental Applications	102
Vacant Grant Applications	198
Derelict top-up Applications	189

Cúnamh Deontais do Sheandaoine agus do Dhaoine faoi Mhíchumas / Grant Assistance to the Elderly and Disabled

Louth County Council continues to accept new applications under the Housing Grants Scheme. These grants are available for owner-occupied homes and private rented properties (with landlord permission).

Applications are currently being accepted for the following:

- **Housing Adaptation Grant** – for works to make a home suitable for a person with a disability, including internal layout changes and accessibility improvements.
- **Mobility Aids Grant** – for minor works such as grab-rails, ramps, and stair lifts.
- **Housing Aid for Older People** – for essential repairs and improvements for those aged 66 and over.

These grants aim to help older people and individuals with disabilities or mobility issues make their homes safer, more comfortable, and accessible. Applications are assessed based on eligibility, available funding, and applicant needs.

Applicants who have already received grant approval are reminded of the importance of completing works within the specified timeframe and submitting completion certificates promptly to ensure compliance and facilitate processing.

For full details and application forms, visit <https://www.louthcoco.ie/en/services/housing/housing-grants/private-housing-grants-disability-housing-grants-for-older-people/>

Recent Private Housing Grant Works Completed



Bathroom Adaptation completed in Dundalk with funding provided with a HAG



New Windows and Door completed in Dundalk, with funding provided with a HOP

Grants Approved 12/01/2026 – 20/02/2026	6	0	10	16	32
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Adaptations to Council Housing for Persons with a Disability

The Disabled Persons Adaptation (DPA) Grant funding submission for 2026 has been submitted to the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, and the Council will outline the adaptations programme for the year once the funding allocation is confirmed.

Seachadadh Nua Tóg / New Build Delivery

Current Approved Social Housing Delivery Units	
SHIP	861
CALF	388
CAS	49
TOTAL	1,298

Housing for All Social Housing Build Delivery				
Year	Target	Actual	Projected	Total
2022	660	227	-	227
2023	156	365	-	365
2024	160	438	-	438
2025	172	562	-	562
2026	175	0	565	565
Total	1,323	1,592	565	2,157

Status	HAG	MAG	HOP	Month	YTD
Applications on Hand 20/02/2026	119	2	207		328

SHIP Delivery

Project Name	Project Phase	Total Number of Social Units Expected	Project Status	Projected Substantial Completion Date	Unit Type
Boice Court, Mell, Drogheda (Phase 2)	2/3	32	Complete	31/12/2025	17 * 3 bed, 15 * 2 bed Apt
Boice Court, Mell, Drogheda (Phase 2)	3/3	27	On Site	30/04/2026	4 * 3 bed, 2 * 4 bed, 8 * 1 bed Apt, 5 * 2 bed Apt & 8 * 3 bed Apt
Mount Avenue, Dundalk	1/2	52	On Site	30/04/2026	20 * 2 bed, 17 * 3 bed, 3 * 4 bed, 2 * 1 bed Apt, 4 * 2 bed Apt, 6 * 3 bed Apt
Mount Avenue, Dundalk	2/2	41	On Site	17/11/2026	3 * 2 bed, 12 * 3 bed, 6 * 4 bed, 10 * 1 bed Apt, 10 * 3 bed Apt
Rathmullen Park, Drogheda Infill	1/1	4	Stage 3 Approved	30/06/2027	2 * 2 bed, 1 * 3 bed, 1 * 4 bed
Blackwater Meadow, Point Road, Dundalk	1/1	44	Stage 2 Approved	30/06/2028 - TBC	31 * 2 bed, 10 * 3 bed, 3 * 4 bed
Ravel Drive, Ravel, Dunleer	1/1	70	On-Site	31/12/2026	45 * 2 bed, 20 * 3 bed, 5 * 4 bed
Bakery View, Ballymakenny Road, Drogheda	1/1	97	On-Site	31/03/2027	52 * 2 bed, 32 * 3 bed, 13 * 4 bed
An Mullach, Mullavalley, Louth Village	1/1	58	On-Site	31/12/2026	28 * 2 bed, 24 * 3 bed, 5 * 4 bed, 1 * 5 bed
Greenhills Grange, Newtown Link Road, Drogheda	1/1	46	On-Site	30/06/2026	42 * 2 bed, 3 * 3 bed, 1 * 5 bed
Anne St. Dundalk	1/1	16	Stage 1 Approved	31/03/2028	8 * 2 bed Apt, 8 * 3 bed Apt.
Ballymakenny Road - East Site, Drogheda	1/1	130	PPP Bundle 5 Funding Approved On-hold	31/12/2029	52 * 2 bed, 47 * 3 bed, 4 * 4 bed, 1 * 5 bed, 26 * 1 bed Apt
Mullagh Close, Clogherhead	3/3	4	On-site	31/03/2026	4 * 3 bed
Knockshee, Old Golf Links Road, Blackrock, Dundalk	1/1	12	Completed	01/12/2025	12 * 2 bed Apt.

Gort Mell, Slane Road, Drogheda, Co. Louth	1/2	19	Completed	01/12/2025	9 * 1 bed Apt, 9 * 2 bed Duplex, 1 * 3 bed
Gort Mell, Slane Road, Drogheda, Co. Louth	2/2	2	Completed	01/12/2025	2 * 3 bed
Dowdalls Court, Newry Road, Dundalk, Co. Louth	1/2	8	Completed	17/12/2025	5 * 2 bed, 3 * 3 bed
Dowdalls Court, Newry Road, Dundalk, Co. Louth	2/2	7	On-site	30/06/2026	2 * 2 bed, 5 * 3 bed
Bruach na hAbhann, Castletown Road, Dundalk, Co. Louth	1/1	27	Proposal / On-site	30/06/2026	2 * 3 bed, 13 * 4 bed, 6 * 1 bed Apt, 6 * 3 bed duplex
Potters Field, Cappocks Green, Ardee, Co. Louth	2/3	1	On-site	31/03/2026	1 * 2 bed
Potters Field, Cappocks Green, Ardee, Co. Louth	2/3	5	On-site	31/03/2026	5 * 3 bed
Seven Winds, North Road, Drogheda	1/5	4	Completed	29/10/2025	4 * 1 bed Apt
Seven Winds, North Road, Drogheda	2/5	4	Completed	07/11/2025	4 * 1 bed Apt
Seven Winds, North Road, Drogheda	3/5	4	Completed	02/12/2025	4 * 1 bed Apt
Seven Winds, North Road, Drogheda	4/5	12	On-site	31/03/2026	6 * 2 bed Apt, 6 * 3 bed Duplex
Seven Winds, North Road, Drogheda	5/5	12	On-site	30/06/2026	6 * 2 bed Apt, 6 * 3 bed Duplex
Ballymakenny Park, Drogheda Phase 2	2/2	6	Completed	13/10/2025	4 * 1 bed Apt, 2 * 2 bed Apt
Ballymakenny Park, Drogheda Phase 3	2/2	2	Completed	31/10/2025	2 * 2 bed Apt
Gort Mell, Slane Road, Drogheda, Co. Louth	1/3	3	Completed	01/12/2025	3 * 3 bed
Gort Mell, Slane Road, Drogheda, Co. Louth	2/3	17	Completed	01/12/2025	6 * 2 bed, 3 * 3 bed, 4 * 1 bed Apt, 4 * 2 bed Duplex

Gort Mell, Slane Road, Drogheda, Co. Louth	3/3	4	On-site	31/03/2026	4 * 3 bed
Beaulieu Village, Drogheda, Co. Louth	1/2	8	On-site (Sub. Complete)	31/12/2025	2 * 2 bed, 6 * 3 bed
Beaulieu Village, Drogheda, Co. Louth	2/2	17	On-site	31/05/2026	4 * 2 bed, 9 * 3 bed, 4 * 4 bed
Beaulieu Banks Ph 1, Termonfeckin Road, Drogheda, Co. Louth	1/2	2	On-site	31/03/2026	2 * 3 bed
Beaulieu Banks Ph 1, Termonfeckin Road, Drogheda, Co. Louth	2/2	17	On-site	31/12/2027	8 * 1 bed Apt, 4 * 2 bed Apt, 5 * 3 bed
Dowdalls Court, Newry Road, Dundalk, Co. Louth	1/1	4	Completed	17/12/2025	3 * 2 bed, 1 * 3 bed
Bruach na hAbhann, Castletown Road, Dundalk, Co. Louth	1/1	7	On-site	30/06/2026	3 * 3 bed, 4 * 4 bed
Ferrard Park Phase 2, Twenties, Drogheda, Co. Louth	1/1	16	On-site	31/03/2026	16 * 4 bed
Ushers Mill (Ph 4 & 6A), Twenties, Drogheda Co. Louth	1/3	4	Completed	31/10/2025	4 * 1 bed Apt
Ushers Mill (Ph 4 & 6A), Twenties, Drogheda Co. Louth	2/3	2	Completed	30/11/2025	2 * 3 bed
Ushers Mill (Ph 4 & 6A), Twenties, Drogheda Co. Louth	3/3	14	On-site	30/04/2026	4 * 2 bed, 8 * 3 bed, 2 * 4 bed

Seachadadh CAS/CAS Delivery

Project Name	AHB	Total Number of Social Units Expected	Project Status	Projected Substantial Completion Date	Unit Type
Newtown Woods, Termonfeckin Road Road, Drogheda, Co Louth	Foscadh Housing Association	9	Approved	31/03/2026	Eight *1 Bed House One*2 Bed House
Tierney Street, Ardee, Co Louth	St John of Gods	7	Stage 3 Approved	31/06/2027	One*3 Bed house One*4 Bed house
Barrack Street, Dundalk, Co Louth	Dublin Simon	21	Stage 2 Approved	15/06/2027	Twenty one * 1 Bed apartments
Highfield, Newry Road, Dundalk, Co Louth	Women's Aid Dundalk	12	On-site	31/05/2027	Five * 1 bed apartments Seven * 2 bed apartments

Seachadadh CALF/ CALF Delivery

Project Name		Total Number of Social Units Expected	Non-Part V/ Part V	Project Status	Projected Substantial Completion Date	Unit Type
Connolly's Field Dundalk Fold Housing	1/1	70	59/11	Complete	05/12/2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 51 One bed apt • 19 Two bed apt

Racecourse Meadows with Circle	1/3	18	0	Complete	05/12/2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 18 Three bed Houses
Racecourse Meadows with Circle	2/3	8	0	Complete	05/12/2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8 Three Bed Houses
Racecourse Meadows with Circle	3/3	19	0	On Site	31/03/2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 Three Bed Houses • 9 Two Bed Apts
Gullion Park Finnabair Dundalk Co- Operative Housing Ireland	1/2	48	34/14	Complete	30/12/2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 12 One Bed Apt • 18 Two Bed Apt • 18 x Three Bed Apt
Gullion Park Finnabair Dundalk Co- Operative Housing Ireland	2/2	94	0	Complete	31/12/2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 36 x 1 Bed Apt • 52 x Two Bed Apt • 6 x Three Bed Apt
Avourwen Meadows, Drogheda, Co. Louth Oaklee	1/1	50	45/5	On Site	30/06/2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 18 One Bed Apt • 32 Two Bed Apt
Clos Emer, Castletown Dundalk HAIL	1/1	3	0	Withdrawn	31/03/2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 Two Bed Apt • 1 Three Bed Apt
Hearthfield, Mount Avenue Dundalk Tuath	1/1	42	0	On site	31/10/2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 18 One Bed Apt • 12 Two Bed Apt • 6 Two Bed House • 6 Three Bed House
Gernon Place, Castlebellingham Co. Louth	2/2	10	9/1	Onsite	30/06/2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 Three bed Houses • 4 Two Bed Apts • 4 Three Bed Duplex
EdenHill Mews, Blackrock, Co Louth	1/1	29	26/3	Proposal	30/05/2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6 Three Bed Apt • 18 Two Bed Apt • 5 Three Bed Houses

Seirbhísí Cultúrtha / Cultural Services

An Chartlann / Archives

The work of the County Archives this month reflects a clear strategic commitment to safeguarding the Council's documentary heritage, strengthening organisational compliance, and enhancing public access to historical records. Through active collections management, ongoing records governance, responsive research support, and the cultivation of donations, the service continues to preserve key institutional memory while enabling wider community engagement with Louth's rich archival resources.

Collections Management

A group of recently bound records, consisting of historical Managers' Orders for Planning & Development, have now been returned to the County Archives for permanent preservation and have been sorted and catalogued by archive staff. A review of personnel records has also been completed with indexes updated, and a large volume re-boxed.

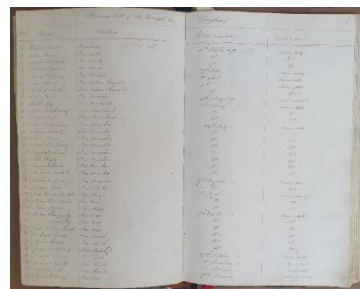
Records Management

In managing the identification and preservation of archives, staff in sections were assisted with the preparation of records for destruction and for transfer to the County Archives, including registers of electors and chief executive and directors' orders.

Research Enquiries

The County Archives strives to ensure the availability of collections by providing access to collections and assistance to users.

A small sample of recently received topics of research include the Taylor & Skinner map of County Louth; Dundalk resident, John Barton (1782-1874); Drogheda showbands; Omeath Gaeltacht; 1691-1841 minutes of Ardee Corporation; Drogheda Corporation minute book for 1953; family history research in Drogheda Corporation records, late 1600s - early 1700s; nineteenth century Dundalk street names to assist with family history; and historic county development plans.



**First folio in the Freeman's Roll of Drogheda Corporation,
1690 - 2020**

Donating Archives

The County Archives actively collects local records including photographs and maps that illustrate any aspect of the history and development of County Louth, its organisations, clubs or people. Such archives hold information that can be utilised for research and knowledge.

Anyone who has a collection to donate can contact the County Archivist by email at archive@louthcoco.ie or by telephone at 042-9324358.

Leabharlanna / Libraries

Public Consultation – Library Development Plan 2026-2030

Louth County Council Library Service is now over halfway through its public consultation process for the Development Programme 2026–2030. To date, almost 1,000 contributions have been received through surveys and focus groups. The scale and diversity of this feedback will directly inform the strategic priorities and service direction for the next five years.

Ireland Reads – February 28th

Ireland Reads research indicates a robust national reading culture, with 93% of nearly 2,000 surveyed adults reporting regular reading and 65% expressing a continued preference for print formats. These findings highlight the imperative for public libraries to maintain excellence in service delivery by sustaining high-quality physical collections while providing a balanced, multi-format offer that meets diverse community needs.

In alignment with the national policy objectives and the Healthy Ireland at Your Library framework, Louth County Council Library Service delivered a comprehensive programme of Ireland Reads activities on Saturday, February 28th, designed to increase reader engagement and support community wellbeing. The service supported the national theme, "Get Lost in a Good Book", through targeted local promotion and coordinated countywide activity

across all 5 branches designed to encourage participation across all age groups.

By leveraging the visibility of Ireland Reads Day, Louth County Council Library Service strengthened its position as a key provider of literacy, cultural enrichment, and wellbeing initiatives. This activity contributes directly to long-term objectives related to community development, accessibility, and the promotion of positive reading behaviours.

Ireland Reads Day provided a focal point for strategic delivery, with flagship author events featuring local Ireland Reads Ambassador, award winning author of Great Irish Wives, Nicola Pierce in Dundalk and Drogheda Libraries. These events highlighted the value of local literary talent, supported cultural development objectives, and showcased the role of libraries in promoting wellbeing through reading. Additional Ireland Reads Ambassador contributions from Valinora Troy, Florence Gillian, and Clara Kumagai across our service reinforced the campaign's message and strengthened community advocacy for reading and library use.

Right to Read Programming and Outreach

Throughout February, Louth County Council Library Service delivered a coordinated programme of Right to Read Programme Events and Outreach designed to advance key service objectives relating to literacy development, community wellbeing, cultural participation, and audience engagement. Activities were planned for all age groups, ensuring equitable access and supporting the strategic aim of fostering a countywide reading culture.



Pokémon themed event during the Right to Read Programme

A diverse programme of engagement—ranging from family-focused activities, such as the Pokémon card swap and craft session, and storytimes across branches, to adult-focused initiatives, including a Star Wars quiz and a Book Chat event—was developed to encourage participation across demographics and strengthen library visibility as an inclusive cultural hub.

Library staff advanced outreach objectives by promoting the Ireland Reads initiative and general services at the Youth Connect Fest in Drogheda and through information stands for council staff in Fair Street, County Hall, and The Town Hall. The Schools' Library Service further extended the campaign's reach by engaging with primary schools and early learning centres through targeted storytime sessions and outreach van visits throughout February. These activities contributed to strategic aims relating to early literacy development, strengthened partnerships with education providers, and reinforced the library's role in supporting reading for pleasure from an early age.

Na hEalaíona / Arts

This month's work demonstrates strong strategic delivery in supporting artists, strengthening cultural infrastructure, and expanding community participation.

Arts Grants

A record number of applications were received through our 2026 grant scheme call out, with fifty applications through the Arts Grant scheme, 34 under the artist bursary scheme, and 5 schools seeking support under the School Music Instrument Purchase Scheme. All applications are being assessed, and successful applicants will be notified at the end of March.

Public Art

The call out for the 6 sculpture commissions closed on February 5th. Following the selection panel meeting on February 16th, 18 artists have been shortlisted to progress to Stage 2. The Artist in Residence window for proposal submissions will close on March 5th.

The first meeting of the Public Art Advisory Group took place on Monday, February 23rd. Arts officer, Moya Rodgers, updated the group on the current Public Art Call outs and next steps in the programme. The group will meet again in June.

Highlanes Gallery

Exhibition – Penti Menti by Sarah Dwyer, opened on February 7th and runs until March 17th. The Cork native, who now resides in London, has received international acclaim for her work. This exhibition brings together drawings, paintings, and ceramic

sculptures, many created specifically for this exhibition and many the largest created by the artist to date.

Workshops took place in Highlanes Gallery – Drogheda's Municipal Art Gallery, throughout the month of February with a mixture of adult only and children focused themes. For more details on any of the exhibitions and events at Highlanes Gallery please see <https://highlanes.ie/>

Creative Ireland

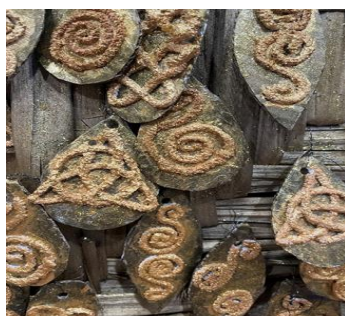
We received 27 applications to our Creative Ireland Community grant call. Assessments will be carried out in early March with successful applicants notified by the end of March.

An Iarsmalann / Museum

The Museum's core objective is to deepen public understanding and appreciation of the past across all age groups. Throughout February, this mission was advanced through the delivery of a range of programmes and events including a St. Brigid's exhibition, a series of cross-making workshops, and the continued expansion of the Museum's collections.

St Brigid's Day

The exhibition showcased a range of St. Brigid's crosses, demonstrating both traditional forms and contemporary interpretations. A key feature drawing considerable visitor interest has been the specially designed 2026 exhibition cross, decorated with ogham and Celtic motifs created by local National School children. As part of the Festival weekend, the Museum facilitated multiple cross-making sessions for the public and hosted a harpist performing traditional airs, contributing to a culturally rich and immersive visitor experience.



Made by schoolchildren - decorating the cross

The exhibition itself has generated a great deal of popular interest and featured in a live broadcast from

the Museum on LMFM as well as an item on the 6.1 news on RTÉ TV.

Recent acquisitions

The Museum continues to add and develop its collection with the acquisition of a number of donations. Among these items included a magnificent rocking horse from the early 20th Century.



One of the Museum's latest acquisitions - a rocking horse

Stiúrthóireacht na Mórthionscadal Caipitil agus Seachadadh Bonneagair Major Capital Projects & Infrastructure Delivery Directorate

Tá an stiúrthóireacht seo freagrach as mórthionscadail chaipitil lena n-áirítear foirgnimh nua comhairle, bóithre, réimse poiblí, glasbhealaí, Taisteal Gníomhach, scéimeanna cosanta tuilte agus idirchaidreamh a dhéanamh le soláthraithe fónais náisiúnta. A luaithe a bheidh mórthionscadal beagnach curtha i gcrích, glacfaidh an Stiúrthóireacht um Chothabháil Caipitil agus Seachadadh Comhshaoil freagracht as an tsócmhainn.

This directorate is responsible for major capital projects including new council buildings, roads, public realm, greenways, Active Travel, flood defence schemes and liaising with national utility providers. Once a major project has achieved practical completion, the Directorate of Operations & Environment Delivery will assume responsibility for the asset (except snagging & management defects liability period).

David Jones
Stiúrthóir / Director



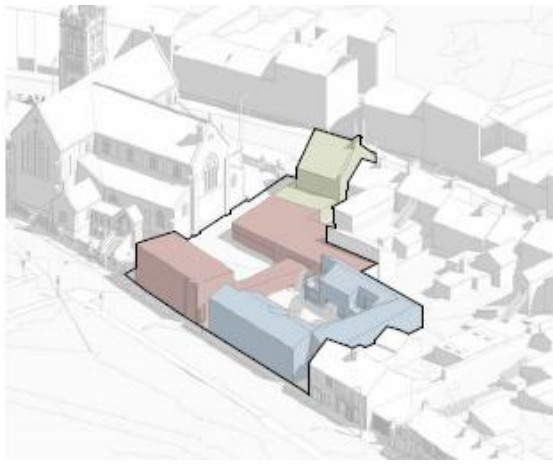
Comhforbairt Áite / Placemaking

Athghiniúint Uirbeach agus Forbairt Tionscadail Cistí / Urban Regeneration and Development Fund Projects (URDF)

St. Nicholas Quarter and Backlands Regeneration (Dundalk)

Following the completion of Phase 1, BDP Ltd are the appointed consultant design team for Phase 2 of the SNQ project and are working with the Council and stakeholders on feasibility, analysis and a design concept for the re-development of the Backlands area. The accepted concept will be developed to Part 8 planning with full public consultation.

Concept development is being finalised alongside OM Costings. Property owner and stakeholder engagement is continuing.



Further development of project concept design

The Longwalk Urban Framework Plan (Dundalk)

The Longwalk Urban Framework Plan is approaching completion. This will form a framework plan for regeneration of the Longwalk area, that supports town centre growth, and meets the needs of the town's residents, visitors and businesses.

LUC is the appointed Integrated Urban Design Team lead.

For project updates visit the Longwalk Urban regeneration Facebook page here

<https://www.facebook.com/people/The-Long-Walk-Urban-Regeneration-Project/61574154397623/>

Or email

longwalkregeneration@tbla.eu

Rural Regeneration and Development Fund Projects (RRDF)

Dunleer – Energising the Community

Preparatory work has been completed to commence the tender process to appoint an integrated design team to this project. Following the completion of its Town Centre First Plan, Dunleer was successful in attaining RRDF funding to support bringing elements of the Plan to Part 8 stage.

Living in Carlingford Visiting Carlingford

The heritage-led design consultants, Urban Agency, are currently refining the detailed design to incorporate feedback received at the stakeholder consultation and public information events held on 16th January. The overall project is on-track and a new RRDF call is awaited.

Ardee 2040

Turley Planning, the Design Team lead, has completed the planning pack and it was submitted to An Coimisiún Pleanála in mid-December 2025.

Tionscadail Breise / Additional Projects

St Laurence's Gate Plaza, Drogheda

Engagement with the National Monuments has commenced as part of the consultation for the Part 8 process.

Play Spaces

St Dominic's Park & The Glen

AA Screening Stage 1 report has been completed for the Glen and Part 8 documents are being prepared.

Part 8 proposals for St. Dominic's Park were presented to members of the Drogheda Borough District on 18th February. It will be going on public display on 10th March with a hope of receiving part 8 approval in early in Q3.

Capital Delivery Team

Funding Approvals

Louth was awarded €1.2 million in funding under the Town and Village Renewal Scheme 2025, which was announced on 22nd December 2025.

The following projects were approved:

- Carlingford – €126,180 for the regeneration of two laneways off Newry Street, including

resurfacing, drainage, lighting and streetscape enhancements with colourful façade painting.

- Clogherhead – €500,000 to develop a landscaped civic space with amphitheatre seating and an interpretive centre with a lookout across the bay.
- Collon – €300,000 for the construction of a new playground with accessible equipment, safety surfacing, car parking, lighting and landscaping.
- Haggardstown – €225,000 to modernise the community centre, including exterior works, accessibility upgrades, toilet improvements, storage, a community garden and a mural.
- Omeath - €50,000 to develop plans for playground regeneration, improvements to the Multi-Use Games Area, refurbishment of public toilets and enhanced links between the village, main street and the Omeath–Carlingford Greenway.

Boyne Greenway - North Bank

With the support of ORIS funding of €500,000, the Capital Delivery Team is finalizing plans for widening, resurfacing and relining of paths and installation of lighting along the North Bank of the Boyne Greenway in Drogheda. This will form Phase 1 of works in the area.

The enhancement and extension of the Boyne Greenway support land-based outdoor recreation activities including walking, leisure cycling and running, and will deliver on the objectives set out in the *Embracing Ireland’s Outdoors* strategy.



Muirhevnamor District Park Improvement

Improvement works at the old pitch and putt site in Muirhevnamor Park, Dundalk are ongoing. The works commenced on the 22nd of September. Funded by the Department of Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht (DRDCG) under the

Community Recognition Fund 2024, the improvement works are focused on integrating the unused green space into the existing community park. Works are substantially complete with landscaping and re-seeding works planned for spring 2026.



Clogherhead Cliff Walk

Following approval in August of Project Development Measure (PDM) funding under the Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS) for Clogherhead Cliff Walk, Louth County Council commenced surveys on this project in October. These surveys include a topographical survey and a Wintering Birds survey, which will be required for the proposed AA screening and design for the new trail. Mulroy Environmental has been appointed to take the project up to Part 8 approval.

Tionscadail Tosaíochta do Lár an Bhaile / Town Centre First Projects

Clogherhead

Public Engagement & Information Event

Help shape the future of Clogherhead, Louth County Council is developing a Town Centre First Plan for Clogherhead.

We invite you to our second drop-in event to:

- See how the draft Town Centre First Plan has developed through community and stakeholder engagement
- Engage with Council and design team representatives

Clogherhead Community Centre, A92 V96C
Tuesday 2nd December, 3-8 pm





Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland



Lár Bailte ar dTús
Town Centre First

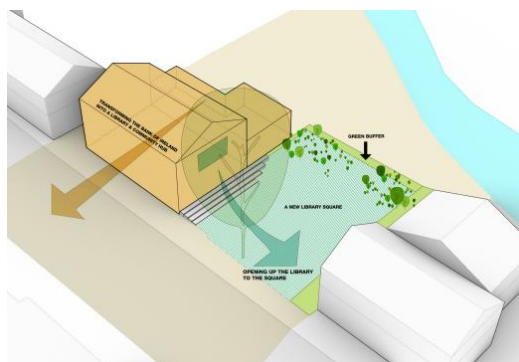


Comhairle Contae Lú
Louth County Council

Town Centre First Plan – Clogherhead

The draft plan has now been finalised following the incorporation of feedback received from the last public consultation conducted in December. The Town Team adopted the final plan in February and focus will now move to implementation in the short, medium to long term, supported by the Town Regeneration Officer

Town Centre First Plan – Dunleer



Representatives from Louth County Council recently attended a meeting of the Dunleer Town Team. The process is underway to appoint a consultant for the design for a public square adjacent to the library in Dunleer. This project aims to create an attractive public space and is one of several schemes identified in the Town Centre First Plan.

AUCF Éileamh a Trí, Leithdháileadh Maoinithe / URDF Call Three Funding Allocation.

Targeted engagement continues in Drogheda and Dundalk, with multiple properties sales, or early development stages as a result of engagement.

Meetings have taken place with new owners of properties in Drogheda and Dundalk in recent weeks which have resulted in the preparation of full planning applications by owners with a view to returning properties to productive use.

The 2025 year end survey of properties on the URDF Call 3 list (129 properties) was conducted to update the number of properties returned to use and or vacant.

The high-level status is as follows:

- *Occupied 31*
- *Repair works ongoing 18*
- *Progressing* 42*

- *On-going engagement 11*
- *Awaiting engagement 7*
- *Possible direct intervention by LCC 19*
- *CPO Process 1*

**Progressing relates to properties where there is owner activity in terms of planning process/property for sale or lease/grant application*

Vacant Homes Officer

We would request those who have a vacant home to engage with the Vacant Homes Officer to discuss potential funding available to return to use and would also ask those who have noted a vacant home in their areas to log it on vacanthomes.ie for inspection and investigation.

Currently one CPO is progressing to vesting by the Council following publication of CPO last November. The CPO process is to commence on a further three properties shortly.

A new grant scheme is to be formally announced targeting vacant “above-the-shop” units in the new year.

Forbairt Fhisiciúil / Physical Development

Tionscadail Bóithre / Roads Projects

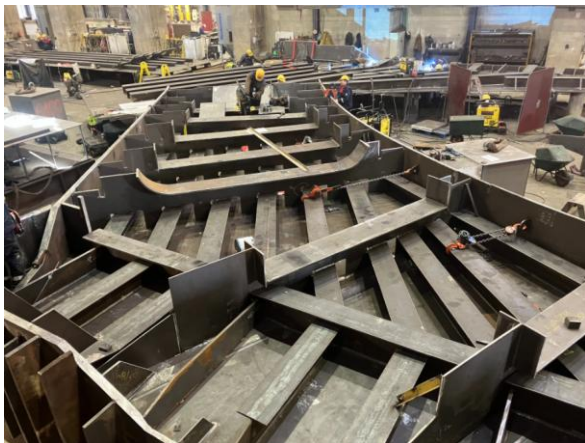
Narrow Water Bridge

Construction works on site and fabrication works in Belgium continue to be progressed.

Southern embankment: - excavation works for the temporary support platform and crane continue with steel bracing for temp skid beam system to commence in March.

Northern embankment: -
Bascule abutment wall lifts 3b have been completed. The base of the plantroom adjacent to the bascule chamber has been poured and the placing of reinforcement for the walls has commenced.

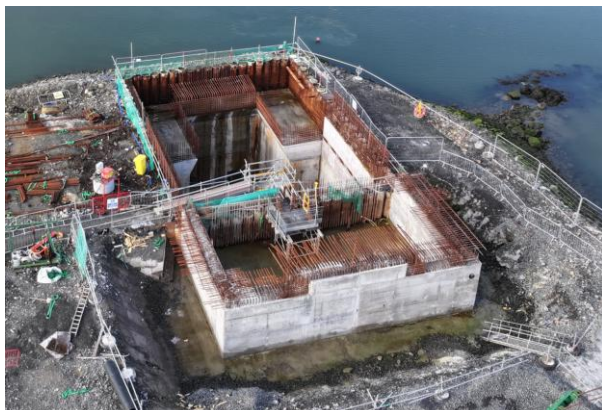
Bridge fabrication works: - Fabrication of the fixed span bridge continue in Ghent, Belgium and painting of completed sections of bridge has commenced. Cutting of steel plate on the bascule span has commenced. At this stage the majority of the project activities will be carried out in the fabrication yards.



Fabrication of boot section of pylon.



Cantilever footway / cycleway section painted and waiting to be incorporated into deck section one.



Aerial View of northern Bascule Chamber and the Plant Room.

N53 - Dundalk to Castleblayney Road Phase 4. Hackballscross to Rassan

The TII have allocated a grant allocation of €10m to the N53 Hackballscross to Rassan project for 2026.

Tender Assessment Report (TAR) is complete and updated final business case to be issue to TII for approval to proceed is nearing completion.

The Tender for Employers Representative and site supervisory team process is nearing completion, and a Tender Assessment Report (TAR) is being prepared for submission to TII for approval.

LCC, the design team (WMNRO) and valuers are continuing to engage with the landowners, their agents, Utilities and all stakeholders on accommodation works, access and compensation.

N52 Ardee Bypass

The scheme is currently in the Supreme Court with the Court adjourning the matter generally pending the outcome of the CJEU reference in Power v An Bord Pleanála once a judgment in Power is given, then this case will be re-entered before the Supreme Court.

Boyne Enterprise Link Road

A further meeting with the ESB on their timelines to deliver major capital power supply works (which interferes in both the new section of road and remaining road) is to be held early March. A letter of intent has been issued to the council's preferred contractor.

R178 Cavan to Dundalk Strategic Route Improvement Scheme

An allocation of c.€350k towards Phase 3 works has been given by the Department. The emerging preferred route option will go on non-statutory public consultation early April.

Subject to the emerging preferred route option submission, it is intended to commence Phase 3 (preliminary design and environmental evaluation) in May.

Port Access Northern Cross Route (PANCR) Phase 2.

Phase 2 of the PANCR is to be developer led. The developer completed site clearance works in February and their contractor has been appointed, with substantive works due to commence in March.

Notices to enter was issued to several landowners on the expected extent of the work, and the Council Team will be engaging with these affected landowners.

Port Access Northern Cross Route (PANCR) Phase 3 (rail line section).

The Department have allocated c.€350k toward commencing detailed design for Phase 3. The preparation of tender documentation for a competent designer has commenced.

Tionscadail Corparáideach / Corporate Projects

Dominican Church/Library

Design works are ongoing for the conversion of the Church to a library. The design team provided a concept design presentation with the Library and Infrastructure teams in early February and have committed to provide a Stage 1 Report with the preferred optioneering by the end of March 2026.



Dominican Church

Guano material was removed from the Bell Tower of the Church in February.



Guano Material on stairwell of Bell Tower

Ardee Castle

Main Contractor has been appointed. The Works on the ground will commence in March 2026. There will be an element of traffic management on the N2 resulting from works.



Ardee Castle Contract Signing

Dundalk Fire Station Training Centre

Stage 1 report is due to be completed at the end of March and thereafter to be submitted to the Department for approval.

THRIVE – Town Centre First Heritage Revival Scheme

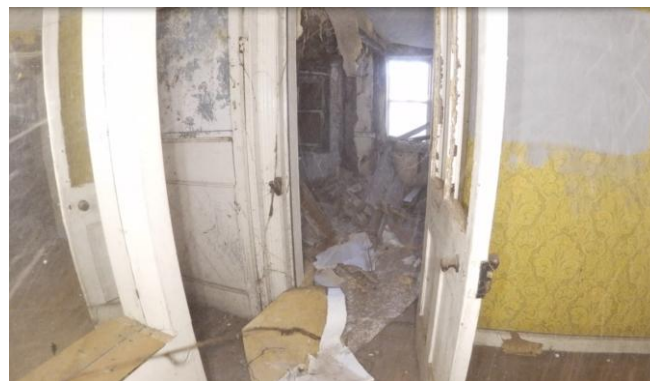
Louth County Council has been engaging with the Southern Regional Assembly with regards to the next phases of the project.

A tender has been awarded for archaeological investigations, surveys and structural safeguards and works are due to commence in March.

The Ministerial Consent was approved for these safeguarding works.

A consultant has been appointed to carry out the design and construction stage Employer Representative role.

THRIVE is co-funded by the Government of Ireland and the European Union through the ERDF Southern, Eastern and Midland Regional Programme 21-27. Further information is available on the www.southernassembly.ie



Interior images taken by Drone, due to unsafe nature of the building



Interior images taken by Drone, due to unsafe nature of the building

Drogheda and Baltray Flood Relief Project

The project remains in the initial stage of identifying and developing a preferred scheme. Hydraulic modelling and GIS updates is complete and will be published in due course.

Meetings with NPWS and National Momentets was held on optioneering for works along the highly sensitive area of the Boyne. Subject to a resolution on potential options it is intended to go out for non-statutory public consultation in Q2 2026.

The Project website being hosted by OPW is now complete and can be reached at: www.droghedabaltrayfrs.ie

Carlingford and Greenore Flood Relief Project

An interim measure c.800k for works on the culverts on some of the back lanes in Carlingford has been approved by the OPW in February. Detailed design works will now commence on these culverts. A further business case for works to the watercourse at the rear of the Four Season is currently being reviewed by the OPW.

Ardee Minor Works

Works to provide improved protection to properties located along existing watercourses on Stoney Lane, John Street and N2. Delivery of the works is planned to coincide with the Local Authority's annual road works programme in 2026.

Detailed design and landowner engagement are currently underway.

In parallel, the procurement process for an ecologist to undertake Appropriate Assessment screening is in progress to ensure compliance with environmental requirements.

Tionscadail Muirí / Marine Projects

Coastal Protection Works – Drummullagh (Omeath), Bellurgan and Ballynamoney / Ballagan.

The successful Contractor has been appointed for all three projects, with works to commence in April 2026. The Council is to seek additional monies from the OPW for Ballagan due to the increased length of the eroded area after recent storms.

Glasbhealaí Cistithe ag B.I.E / TII Funded Greenways:

Dundalk Bay to Carlingford Greenway

The emerging preferred route public consultation closed on the 27th of February. The design team are currently collating the submission to feed into the completion of the Options Selection Report.

Further details on the project can be found on the dedicated website:-

www.dundalkcarlingfordgreenway.ie including contact details for the Project Liaison Officer and the independent appointed agronomist.

Tionscadail Cosaint ar Thulite Chontae Lú agus Creimeadh Cósta / Louth Flood Defence and Coastal Erosion Projects

Dundalk Flood Relief Projects

The shortlist of options is being developed following technical workshops and environmental assessments.

Separate Public Participation Days (PPD) events for Blackrock and Dundalk are planned to ensure comprehensive community input.

Blackrock Public Participation Days is expected at the end of March and public notices regarding same will be issued in due course.

It is expected that Dundalk event will take place after Easter, again advanced notices to the public will be issued.

The Project website being hosted by OPW can be reached at:

www.floodinfo.ie/frs/en/dundalk/home.ie

Tionscadail Cláir Scoileanna / Schools Programme Projects

Ardee Educate Together National School.

Works on site continue to progress. Internal works are nearing completion and works on commissioning and testing of the HVAC systems and electrical systems have commenced.

External works are ongoing with groundworks for footpath and the main access road underway. Wet weather in January and February has delayed the laying of road base and other courses.

The department have given approval for an additional nine car-parking spaces to be incorporated into the project. The design team will undertake the design works such that they can be incorporated into the main contractor.

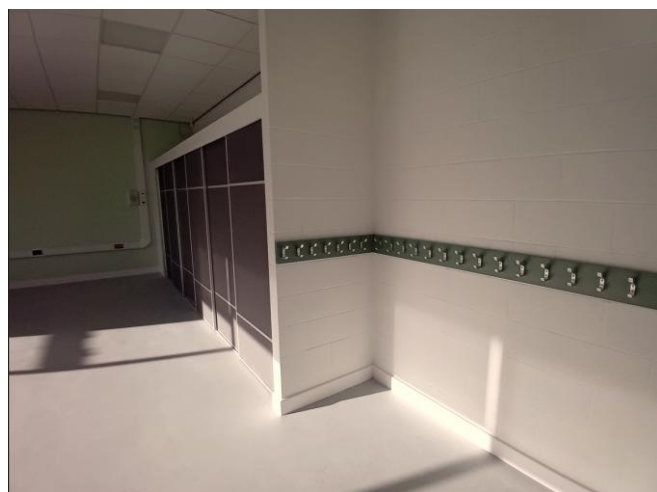


External footpath works under construction

Active Travel Investment Programme

2026 Indicative Budget Allocation

On the 19th January 2026, the Council received an allocation of €4m for Active Travel and Safe Routes to Schools projects and €0.5 million for the Bus Stop Enhancement Programme (carried out through Operations).



Internal works under construction



Internal corridor

Tionscadail Tasitil Gníomhaigh / Active Travel Projects

Due to recent announcement of the 2026 funding allocation, timelines and the extent of works are subject to change and will be updated on completion of ongoing review

Project Name	Allocation 2026	Project Band	Current Phase	March 2026 - Project update	Anticipated Part 8 Completions, subject to NTA approval of Gateways
Drogheda: R132, Bridge of Peace to Train Station (incorporating Marsh Road)	€30,000	Band 2 €5 - €20M	PHASE 4:	An On-line briefing of the Draft Part 8 proposals will be given to Drogheda MD elected members in March 2026, in advance of Part 8 public display.	Proposed Part 8 display in April 2026
Drogheda: R166 Termonfeckin Rd, design.	€37,500	Band 2 €5 - €20M	Phase 3 –	It is anticipated to have an on-line briefing on the proposed scheme to Drogheda Municipal District Councilors in April 2026.	Proposed Part 8 display Q2, 2026
Drogheda: R168 Collon Rd, Hill of Hill of Rath Roundabout (RAB) and Rosehall RAB.	€45,000	Band 2 €5 - €20M	Phase 3 –	The Design Team are currently progressing with preliminary design following non-statutory public consultation.	Proposed Part 8 display Q2, 2026
Drogheda: Rathmullan Road including Marley's (Pathfinder Project)	€550,000	Band 2 €5 - €20M	Phase 5 –	Detailed design has commenced and in parallel the tender documents for the selection of suitable contractors are being prepared, which are due to be received by end of March 2026.	Part 8 approved on 10 th February 2025.
Drogheda Dublin and North roads, design.	€10,000	Band 2 €5 - €20M	Phase 2 - Phase 4 –	On-going discussions with Irish Rail regarding Dublin Road Bridge and interaction with the Dart North Coastal Project. Consultants working for the NTA are currently developing options for the section relating to the under-bridge of the Navan Railway Line (MacBride Train Entrance to McGraths Lane). Draft Options Report was received in Dec 2025. The North Road. The design team are currently preparing pre-planning i.e. Part 8 documentation and discussing land requirements with 3 number landowners, plus some residents on the North Rd.	Dublin Rd, Drogheda - Proposed Part 8 display depending on dialogue with NTA / Irish Rail. North Rd, Drogheda - Proposed Part Q3 2026.
Dundalk: R132 Inner Relief Rd. (Pathfinder Project)	€800,000	Band 2 €5 - €20M	Phase 5 Detailed Design	An evaluation of what beneficial works can be carried out due to the limited active budget received. Gateway 5 Documents issued to the NTA for approval.	

Project Name	Allocation 2026	Project Band	Current Phase	March 2026 - Project update	Anticipated Part 8 Completions, subject to NTA approval of Gateways
Dundalk: Ard Easmuinn Rd to Train Station / Friary School Dundalk & Dundalk Bus Station to Rail Station.	€110,000	Band 2	Phase 3 /4	Due to limited budget a cut down of the scheme is required in order to progress the Safe Routes to School infrastructure.	Proposed Part 8 for SRTS Infrastructure Q2 2026.
R132 Inner Relief Road Tain Bridge	€25,000	Band 1 €0 - €5M	Phase 3 -	Phase 2 was approved by the NTA in December 2024. Phase 3 preliminary design has commenced.	No part 8 but possible Section 38 in Q1 of 2026, subject to NTA gateway approval.
Hoey's Lane, Dundalk	€20,000	Band 1 €0 - €5M	Phase 3 –	GW3 Reports approved by the NTA in Dec 2025. Gateway 4A received approval from the NTA to proceed to Part 8.	Proposed to commence Part 8 process and display March. 2026
Mill Street, Dundalk	€65,000	Band 1 €0 - €5M	Phase 2 -	Due to limited Budget it is proposed to design the Safe Routes to School element of this project	Proposed Part 8 for SRTS Infrastructure in 2026.
Hill Street Bridge to Train Station, Dundalk	€15,000	Band 1 €0 - €5M	Phase 2 -	Currently on Hold due to budget considerations.	TBC
R132 Dublin Road, (Rank Xerox Junction to Greengates)	€30,000	Band 1 €0 - €5M	Phase 4 –	It is anticipated that Part 8 CE Report will be brought to Dundalk MD Meeting on the 10 th March 2026.	Part 8 on Display 9 th Dec. 2025
Moneymore, Active Travel elements	€1,000	Band 1 €0 - €5M	Phase 4 –	An Coimisiún Pleanála approved the CPO Order at the end of Feb. The subsequent notices will be issued to the relevant parties. .	N/A
Safe Routes to Schools (Round 1) St. Louis secondary school Dundalk	€35,000	Band 1 €0 - €5M	Phase 6 – Constructi on	Remedial works to hedging and fencing adjacent to school are complete.	Section 38's completed

Project Name	Allocation 2026	Project Band	Current Phase	March 2026 - Project update	Anticipated Part 8 Completions, subject to NTA approval of Gateways
Safe Routes to Schools (Round 2) 1. Bellurgan National School 2. Callystown National School 3. St Mary's NS, Knockbridge 4. St. Malachy's GNS, Dundalk	€1,825,000	Band 1 €0 - €5M	Phase 6 – Construction	Construction works have commenced at Bellurgan National School & Callystown National School with works at St Mary's NS, Knockbridge to commence at the end of March 2026.	Section 38's completed
Safe Routes to Schools (Round 3) 1. SN Chaoimhin Naofa, Philipstown, Dunleer 2. Scoil Phadraig Naofa, Kilcurry 3. Mullaghboy NS.	€66,500	Band 1 €0 - €5M	Phase 2 - Concept and Options	Letter of Intent issued to preferred Design Consultant with Active Travel Section currently assessing Pre-Appointment Criteria.	No part 8's but possible Section 38's
Safe Routes to Schools (Round 4 1. Dromiskin Mixed School) 2. Marymount NS 3. Scoil Mhuire na nGael 4. Tallanstown NS	€10,000	Band 1 €0 - €5M	Phase 2 - Concept and Options	Active Travel Team will liaise with An Taisce who will undertake initial high level Outline Delivery Plans for each School.	No part 8's but possible Section 38's
Mobility Hubs	N/A	N/A	N/A	This pilot project is being led by the National Transport Authority in conjunction with the Department of Transport with funding being provided by the Climate Action Fund. Part 8 Documentation are on public display till the 3 rd of March.	Part 8 Planning Drawings and Reports are now on public display from 3 rd February to 3 rd March 2026.