TO EACH MEMBER OF LOUTH COUNTY COUNCIL

Monthly Management Report – 31st August 2018

Dear Councillor

I attach the Management Report up to 31st August 2018

Yours faithfully

Frank Pentony
Deputy Chief Executive
7 September 2018

Finance Report to 31st August 2018

Expenditure to 31st August 2018

Section	ACTUAL EXPENDITURE TO 31/08/18	BUDGET EXPENDITURE 2018	% SPENT TO 31/08/18
Housing	**15,875,217**	23,072,404	69%
Road Transportation & Safety	**14,266,900**	19,613,150	73%
Water Services	**4,553,873**	7,034,240	65%
Development Management	**7,279,672**	16,197,124	45%
Environmental Services	**10,221,516**	15,700,738	65%
Recreation and Amenity	**5,317,531**	8,284,259	64%
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	**786,039**	1,384,695	57%
Miscellaneous	**5,932,505**	11,937,862	50%
	64,233,253	**103,224,472**	**62%**

Income to 31st August 2018

Section	ACTUAL INCOME TO 31/08/18	BUDGET INCOME 2018	% INVOICED TO 31/08/18
Housing	**13,454,979**	25,488,641	53%
Road Transportation & Safety	**4,791,901**	10,979,713	44%
Water Services	**3,981,384**	6,762,465	59%
Development Management	**3,348,149**	9,328,492	36%
Environmental Services	**1,153,327**	2,009,350	57%
Recreation and Amenity	**654,196**	847,827	77%
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	**281,234**	452,133	62%
Miscellaneous	**4,450,238**	5,573,406	80%
Rates	**31,894,312**	31,916,247	100%
General Purpose Grant (LGF)	**6,577,464**	9,866,198	67%
	70,587,184	**103,224,472**	**68%**

The above is the current position as at the 31st August 2018. The full rates demand figure is included in the above. The allocation of the Central Management Charge is estimated in the above figures as the allocation is not completed till mid-month.

Collection rates as at 31st August 2018 are as follows:

DEBTORS AS AT 31st AUGUST 2018

	Opening Balance	Invoices	Receipts	Write Offs	Closing Balance
Government Debtors	**7,675,938**	31,998,818	(30,826,762)	0	**8,847,994**
Other Local Authorities	**63,193**	85,811	(72,572)	0	**76,432**
Rates	**12,504,700**	31,894,087	(21,238,856)	(2,487,011)	**20,672,920**
Rents	**5,089,880**	7,593,970	(8,347,870)	(115,193)	**4,220,787**
Loans	**362,039**	665,247	(788,828)	(8)	**238,450**
Development Levies	**12,123,334**	1,947,676	(1,536,062)	0	**12,534,949**
Fire Charges	**1,594,374**	278,075	(169,784)	(31,433)	**1,671,232**
Miscellaneous	**2,725,633**	4,599,194	(4,738,038)	(35,119)	**2,551,670**
TOTAL DEBTORS	**42,139,091**	**79,062,878**	**(67,718,772)**	**(2,668,764)**	**50,814,434**

Above is the debtor balances as at the 31st August 2018. The Miscellaneous debtor figure includes the Irish Water SLA recoupments, Corporate, Community & Enterprise, LEO, Planning, Enforcement, Environment, Sports, Vets, Arts, Roads, Library, Museum and Finance miscellaneous billings.

Budget 2019 - Local Property Tax Public Consultation

The budget process for 2019 began with the advertising of the Public Consultation on the Local Property Tax on Tuesday 10th August 2018. The deadline for submissions was Friday 24th of August and no submissions were received. The LPT report will be on the council agenda for this month's council meeting when the members will decide on the effective rate for 2019. The Revenue Commissioners must be informed of the council's decision regarding the LPT rate for 2019 by the 30th of September 2018.

A budget workshop for the members was held on Wednesday the 5th of September.

The Department of Housing Planning and Local Government Circular, Fin 05/2018, sets out the **Prescribed Periods for the 2019 Budget** which are as follows:-

All Local Authorities 1st November 2018 to 30th November 2018

And it also sets out the **Prescribed Periods for the Municipal/Borough Districts to consider the Draft Budgetary Plan** are as follows:-

15th October 2018 to 16th November 2018

As set out in the Local Government (Financial and Audit Procedures) (Amendment) Regulations 2015 the meeting with a Municipal/Borough district must conclude no later than 10 days prior to the local authority budget meeting.

Economic Development

Louth Economic Forum

The next meeting of the Louth Economic Forum will take place in The Mill in Drogheda on the 26th September 2018.

Tourism and Heritage Plan

The newly designed 'Explore Louth, Heritage Trail' was distributed to Tourist Offices and outlets in early August. Copies of the Trail were also available at the Scoil Éigse venue during the week of the Fleadh and the uptake of these together with our 'Visit Louth' leaflets and other tourist leaflets was very encouraging.

Boyne Valley Food Network

Ms. Gráinne McKeown, the new Food Development Officer for the Boyne Valley which covers Counties Louth and Meath took up position on Monday 27th August.

Boyne Valley were announced as runner up in the Foodie Destination Awards for 2018.

Arts

Culture Night is taking place on the 21st September all over the country. Louth County Council has events planned in four locations at present.

An Tain Arts Centre has seven different events taking place over course of the night ranging from family hangouts, action drawing, backstage tours, facilitated writing group with local writer, crafting, open studio and reception with Artist in residence Sean McGuill.

Creative Spark Print Studio will be running a 'Drop In and Print' event in association with the Art as Exchange group using paper-cut screen-printing techniques.

Dundalk Library is having Tall Tales and Musical Stories from the Irish countryside. This performance will include Irish songs in English and Irish on many subjects and stories from the Irish Countryside mingled with some poems.

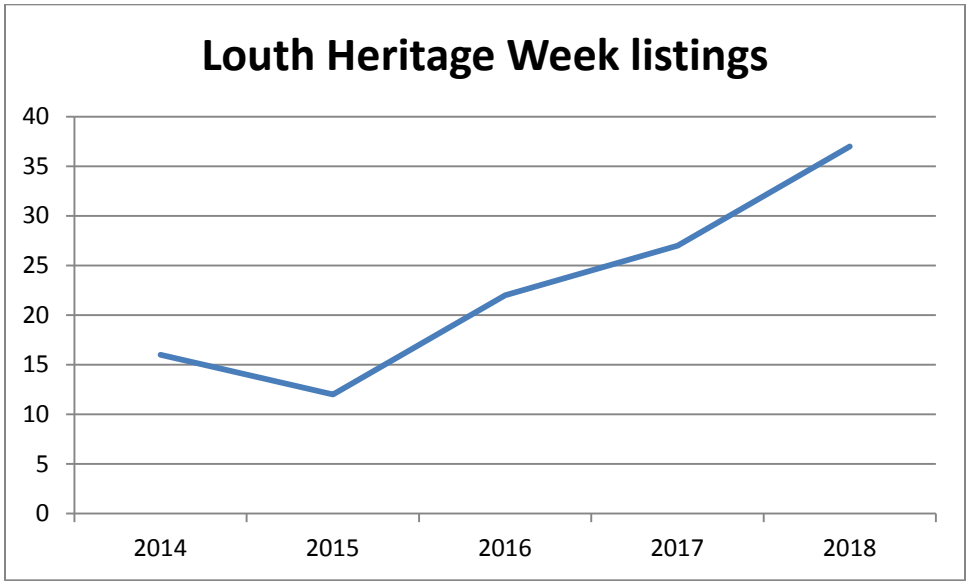
Droichead Arts Centre celebrates Culture Night with three unique artists. Sculptor Nuala Early will bring you on a tour of her first exhibition in the gallery, Labour of Love, and will talk about the work, her practice and her influences. Gráinne Rafferty and Laoisa Sexton, playwrights/actors, will read from some of their work.

Louth Culture Creativity Strategy

The Louth Culture Creativity Strategy together with other county strategies will be launched by the Taoiseach and Ministers on the 12th September.

Heritage

A record number of events were held in Louth during Heritage Week 2018.



Exhibitions and talks were held in all the libraries and in the County Archives. Mellifont Abbey staged a series of events on both weekends of Heritage Week, the first one of which coincided with the end of Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann. Music events took place in the Carlingford Heritage Centre, while the Vikings, who named Carlingford, were the subject of a talk in Annagassan. One of the most unusual and popular events was a "look at Louth" (in old photos) dating back to 1896. There were walking and bus tours of Dundalk's heritage, as well as a whiskey-themed tour of Drogheda. Droichead Arts Centre restaged its popular locally-set play, the Star of Chester's Lane. Local history talks took place in Carlingford, Blackrock, Drogheda and Cill Mhuire, the last sponsored by LAWCO, while Greenore had a 'Victorian experience' event.

LEO Louth

Business Training

An extensive business training schedule for Autumn/Winter 2018, including 3 Start Your Own Business Programmes, begins in September and will be delivered throughout the county over the following four months to December. Further details are available at *https://www.localenterprise.ie/Louth/Training-Events/Online-Bookings/*

Trading Online Vouchers

LEO Louth has approved 31 vouchers to local small businesses this year, up to end August, with a value of €65,000. This grant scheme offers financial assistance up to €2,500 alongside training and advice to help businesses trade online.

Brexit

LEO Louth and the Strategic Banking Corporation of Ireland will host a joint Breakfast event at 7.30am on Thursday 6th September in the Ballymascanlon House Hotel, Dundalk. This event will outline the range of supports available to businesses to help them prepare for Brexit and will include a keynote speech from Dr. Vincent Power from A&L Goodbody. All businesses in the county have been encouraged to attend and further details and booking are available at *https://www.localenterprise.ie/Louth/Training-Events/Online-Bookings/*

Mentoring Clinics

LEO Louth has scheduled to run 8 mentoring clinics in Dundalk (Town Hall) and Drogheda (The Mill Enterprise Hub) during September.

Bank of Ireland Enterprise Town Awards 2018

Bank of Ireland is sponsoring an initiative to find Ireland's most enterprising towns. The competition aims to assist in the promotion of enterprise across the country by bringing business and community groups together to showcase to a panel of judges, the spirit of enterprise in their local area. Three towns in Louth were shortlisted, Dundalk, Dunleer and Blackrock, and judging took place on the 29th and 30th August. The judges were Jack Keyes, former C.E., Cavan County Council, Katrina Murphy, former Head of Finance, Leitrim County Council and Orla Jones, Associate Director Corporate Banking, Bank of Ireland.

The judging criteria included: the extent and range of business activity/business groups, local enterprise initiatives, events and promotions, innovation and social enterprises. The attractiveness of each town, partnership and working with local authority/agencies, joint initiatives between businesses through chamber of commerce, local business group and community, active involvement in public participation processes, town leadership and overall community support in each town. The winning locations will be announced at an awards ceremony in November.

National Ploughing Championship

LEO Louth, as part of the National LEO Network, will have a client stand, Farm Tours Ireland, in the Local Enterprise Village at the National Ploughing Championship in September.

LEAN for Micro Programme

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

Department of Employment Affairs – Information and Recruitment Event

LEO Louth, as part of a multi-agency group working with the Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection, participated at an information and recruitment event in the Ballymascanlon Hotel, Dundalk on Thursday 16th August 2018 from 10am - 1pm, for approximately 125 people who have recently been made redundant from Open Hydro, Kingspan and Anord. Approximately 10 local employers currently recruiting were also in attendance.

LEO/BordBIA/Supervalu Food Academy

LEO Louth had three food producers participating on the Bord Bia, SuperValu and Local Enterprise Offices Regional Food Academy Start Programme which commenced in May 2018. The programme was delivered over a four month duration and included a combination of group workshops and one-to-one mentoring. At the final workshop on 23rd August, participants presented their products to a panel for SuperValu and three were selected, including one from Louth (Great Northern Larder), to participate in a trial based in local shops, which in the right circumstances, could progress over time to a national listing with SuperValu. This is a regional initiative run by LEO Louth with the LEOs from Monaghan, Cavan and Meath.

LEO/Bord BIA Food Starter Programme

LEO Louth and LEO Meath will deliver a joint LEO/Bord Bia Food Starter Programme on the 2nd and 9th October. 'Food Starter' is a short two-day programme designed to help those with a food idea, or those at an early stage of starting up a food business. The objective of the two days is to provide the participants with a base knowledge of what is involved in setting up a food or drink manufacturing business. The content is designed to provide participants with information which will allow them to avoid the pitfalls normally associated with this journey. Potential participants should contact LEO Louth to register their interest.

Student Enterprise Programme

LEO Louth's Student Enterprise Programme (2018 - 2019) will commence in all second-level schools in the county in September 2018.

National Women's Enterprise Day – 18th October

LEO Louth will run a joint event with Meath in the CityNorth Hotel on the 18th October for National Women's Enterprise Day with leading female entrepreneur guest speakers, including Anne Reilly of Paycheck Plus.

Co-Innovate Programme

This Innovation focused Interreg funded programme targeted at border county companies is progressing. A workshop will be held in Louth on Friday 7th September for newly recruited companies. To date 37 Louth companies have engaged with the programme.

Innovate Accelerate

A new innovation and export programme for LEO clients who cannot progress through 'Co-Innovate' but which plan to innovate and increase their capacity to export is now available to client businesses. The aim is to support up to 7 businesses each year to participate on the programme and help address Brexit concerns and will include tailored intensive mentoring.

Age Friendly Economy (EU Project)

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

Regional Action Plan for Jobs

LEO/Louth County Council provides the Secretariat to the NE/NW Regional Action Plan for Jobs. The North East and North West working groups met separately during August to help develop the refreshed Action Plan 2018 - 2020. The most recent progress report for the NE/NW region is available to view at: *http://www.regionalapj.ie/Regions/North-East-North-West/North-East-North-West.html*

Planning

Development Management

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

There were 105 planning applications received during the month of July of which **86** were valid. In addition there were 31 responses received during the month to requests for further information. The service indicator figures in relation to **planning decisions and decisions on appeals made** during the month, broken down by category, and with a total figure for all categories (Column F), are given below:

(A) Description	(B) Housing Developments	(C) Individual Houses	(D) Other applications-not requiring EIA	(E) Other applications-requiring EIA	(F) Total for all categories of development in County Area
(i) Number of applications determined	**1**	**6**	**63**	**0**	**70**
(ii) No. of decisions determined which required further information	**1**	**5**	**15**	**0**	**21**
(iii) Percentage of applications refused	**0% (0)**	**0% (0)**	**3.17% (2)**	**0% (0)**	**2.86% (2)**
(iv) Number of appeals determined	**1**	**1**	**1**	**0**	**3**
(v) Percentage of decisions overturned on appeal	**0% (0)**	**100% (1)**	**100% (1)**	**0% (0)**	**66.6% (2)**

Planning Enforcement

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

Description	Enforcement in relation to unauthorised development		Enforcement in relation to unauthorised development	
	July 2018	Year to Date	July 2017	Year to Date
Number of 1st Reminders (from Commencement Notices)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Number of Other Reminders	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Number of 14 day letters	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Number of Planning Enforcement Complaints Investigated	32	160	16	124
Number of Planning Enforcement cases received which didn't require follow up	0	0	0	10
Number of cases closed/resolved through negotiation.	34	166	23	106
Number of Warning letters issued.	34	98	14	90
Number of Enforcement Notices issued.	2	12	2	19
Number of cases referred for legal proceedings	0	4	0	5
Number of cases struck out where issues resolved and costs paid.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Number of Injunctions	0	0	0	0
Number of Prosecutions	0	3	0	2

Forward Planning

Westgate Vision			
1	August 2018	Data Collection Regional Spatial & Economic Strategy (RSES)	Ongoing
2	August 2018	Data collection and bid preparation Rural Regeneration & Development Fund	Ongoing
3	August 2018	Data collection and bid preparation Urban Regeneration & Development Fund	Ongoing
4	August 2018	Westgate Phase 2 Implementation	Ongoing

ENVIRONMENT

GENERAL– There were 18 waste complaints in August 2018. There are a number of Waste Management Act related cases going through the District Circuit (appeals and DPP case) and the High Court at present.

One case referred under the Water Services (Amendment) Act 2012 is still in the court system and adjourned until September 2018. Two cases under the Air Pollution Act have been referred for legal action; one case has been recently heard but is now under appeal for hearing in September and the other has been adjourned until the next court hearing in September.

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

DIESEL LAUNDERING WASTE – There was 6 IBC's of Diesel Sludge recovered at the Old Customs Post, Carrickarnon, during August 2018. The approximate cost of clean-up and disposal of the material is €7,000.

SEGREGATION, STORAGE AND PRESENTATION OF HOUSEHOLD AND COMMERCIAL WASTE BYE-LAWS 2018 – To achieve a level of consistency across the Local Authorities in the East Midland Waste Region, it is proposed to introduce new Bye-Laws on the Presentation of Waste. Therefore a presentation on the draft wording of the Bye-Law will be given at the September meeting of the Planning & Environment SPC and thereafter a presentation to the Elected Members and Public Consultation Phase. The proposed Bye-Law will repeal the existing Presentation and Collection of Household Waste and Commercial Waste Bye-Laws, 2008 dated 17th of December 2008. The object of the bye-law is to gain a greater participation in waste collection services, either through the use of authorised collectors or deliver directly to an authorised site e.g. civic amenity site.

EUROPEAN RELATIONS

Memorandum of Understanding

The next meeting of the MOU committee will take place in November in Newry, Mourne and Down Council Offices in Newry, where the Peace Programme for both areas will be presented.

INTERREG VA

Carlingford Lough Greenway

The numbers using the Greenway have been very encouraging and the feedback is excellent. The consultants for the next phase of the project have been appointed and have commenced work.

In conjunction with SEUPB, the steering committee have started to examine the projects Sustainable Transport Baseline Data and Performance Measurements. Detailed progress reports and financial claims continue to be submitted to the SEUPB.

The Project Steering Committee continues to hold monthly meetings.

Peace 1V Programme

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

The procurement process for five Peace 1V Projects is nearing completion and a number of contracts are expected to commence soon.

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

SUSTAINABLE ENERGY AND PROPERTY

Public Sector Energy Efficiency Performance

The Council has submitted its updated energy information for 2017 to SEAI in accordance with the Council's obligations under the Public Sector Monitoring and Reporting (M&R) System. Louth County Council's submission has been selected for Data Verification Assessment and we are currently

liaising with SEAI in relation to that. SEAI has confirmed that it has somewhat changed the reporting format and that has particular implications for Louth County Council as it relates to a change to the way energy generated is reported.

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

However, when energy generated is included in the Councils' energy use, the reduction in the Council's energy consumption for Louth County Council is significantly better, some 67% compared to the baseline. That would be well ahead of the government target for public sector organisations for 2020.

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

Zero Energy Plus Project

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

Although the project proposal "Zero Energy Plus" was not approved by the NPA 2014-2020 Monitoring Committee (MC), the exact reasons were made known recently. Arising from that, an opportunity to revisit that with a new application has presented and the Council is considering that at present.

ISO 50001

Council has now received notice of an audit of its Energy Management System, in October 2018.

The Energy Management System certification ISO 50001 is the vehicle for sustaining our energy efficiency. We are continuing to monitor the Council's energy consumption with particular focus on our Significant Energy Users and maintaining our energy management system documentation, as part of the requirements for the Energy Management System Certification.

Routinely therefore, we are complying with the requirements of the Energy Management System to ensure energy efficiency is becoming part of the culture of the organisation.

Housing Services Progress Report

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

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

1. HOUSING DEMAND AT 31ST JULY 2018

Housing List (excluding HAP Transfers)

Month	Ardee MD	Dundalk MD	Drogheda MD	Total
June 18	370	526	785	1681
July 18	375	531	806	1712
difference	5	6	21	31

Transfer List from HAP

Month	Ardee MD	Dundalk MD	Drogheda MD	Total	
June 18	236	1213	880	2329	
July 18	245	1247	908	2400	
difference	9	34	28	71	

There are a total of **182** applicants on the list for transfer (**Non-HAP)** within Social Housing including **12** applications from the Approved Housing Bodies.

A direction has now been issued by the Department of Housing with regards the commencement of the preparation Fifth Traveller Accommodation Programme. Although our Review of Fourth Programme is only recently complete, we will now commence a full assessment of Traveller Accommodation Needs in the County.

2 HOUSING ALLOCATIONS AS AT 31ST JULY 2018

Numbers Allocated	Allocations- Social	Allocations - Voluntary	Total Allocations	Refusals – Social	Refusals – Voluntary
Ardee MD	3	29	32	0	0
Dundalk MD	32	23	55	2	2
Drogheda MD	14	34	48	3	2
	49	86	135	5	4

Housing Stock Managed by the Council	Dundalk	Drogheda	Ardee	Total
Council owned	1764	1452	599	3815
Community Houses	4	4	0	8
Long Term Leased	185	27	23	235
Totals	**1953**	**1483**	**622**	**4058**
Approved Housing Bodies Stock (CLSS & CAS)	-	-	-	769
Council stock managed by Approved Housing Bodies	85	6	20	111
Payment & Availability Agreements with AHB's	115	93	47	255
Mortgage to Rent with AHB's	12	12	4	28

TRANSFERS APPROVED WITHIN SOCIAL HOUSING AT 31ST JULY 2018

Year		Ardee	Dundalk	Drogheda
2018	14	5	7	2

PRIVATE RENTED ACTIVITY AS AT 31ST JULY 2018

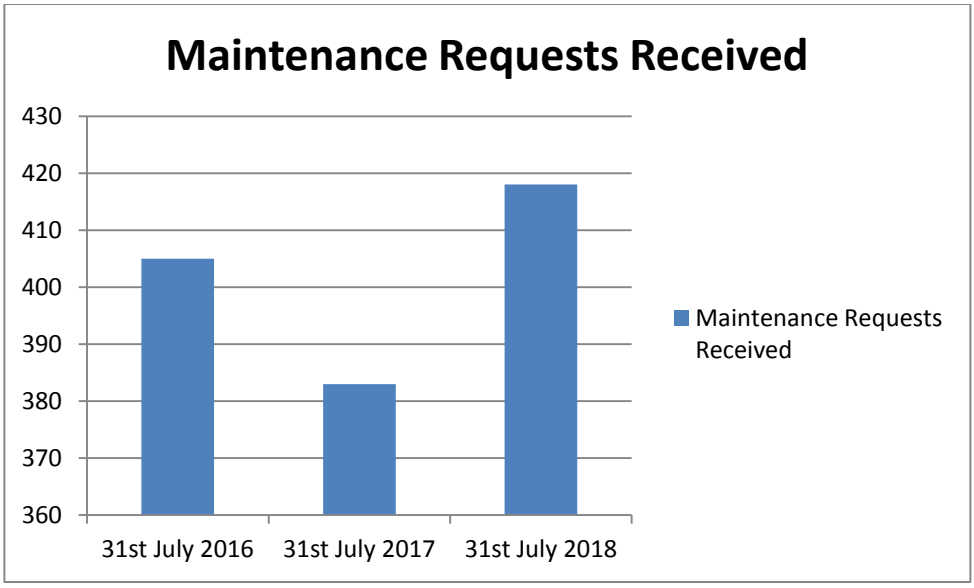
No. of properties inspected to date	**484**
No. of advisory notes issued to landlord	**329**
No. of improvement notices issued	**26**
No. of prohibition notices issued	**17**
No. of Rent Book Notices issued	**0**
Inspections (HAP)	**363**
Improvement Notices (HAP)	**26**

CURRENT PROHIBITIONS NOTICES ARE ALSO LISTED ON THE WEBSITE.

5. STOCK MAINTENANCE ACTIVITY AS AT 31ST JULY 2018

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

	Total
No. of Maintenance Requests Received -July 18	418
No. of Requests Outstanding- July 18	142
Vacant Properties (un-tenanted & un-occupied) - Requiring Major Refurbishing	51
Vacant Properties (un-tenanted & un-occupied) – Requiring Minor Works	26
Vacant Properties (un-tenanted & un-occupied) – Awaiting Allocation	9
Total Vacant Properties (excluding Un-tenanted Properties)	86
Un-tenanted properties (un-tenanted BUT occupied)- properties not vacant	3
% Stock Vacant(Total Vacancies/Total Stock)	2.33%
Number of Applications approved for Disability Adaption Works 2018 *Subject to confirmation of funding from Dept Number of Units with Disability Adaption Works 2018 - completed (carry over from 2017).	Subject to onfirmation of funding from Dept 10


Maintenance Requests Received
430
420
410
400
390
380
370
360
31st July 2016
31st July 2017
31st July 2018
Maintenance Requests Received

6 Capital Investment Programme

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

Schemes currently in approval process or under construction for the above period 2018 – 2021
(This list is indicative and includes only approved projects and can change as matters are further approved or schemes withdraw

Municipal District Ardee

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

Municipal District Dundalk

Location	Auth	Social	I.P.S	CAS	CALF	Total	Start Date	Scheduled Completion	Current Position
Cox's Demesne Phase 2B	LCC	22	0	0	0	22	Q2 2019	Q4 2020	Part 8 in progress
Saltown	North & East	0	0	7	0	7	Q1 2018	Q3/4 2018	Stage 3 Approved
Barrack Street	SIMON	0	0	21	0	21	Q2 2019	Q2 2020	Stage 2 Approved
5 Slieveroe Crescent Dundalk	Cluid	0	0	1	0	1	Q2 2018	Q4 2018	PP received awaiting Commencement
Castletowncooley, Riverstown, Dundalk	Tuath	0	0	1	0	1	Unknown	Unknown	Detailed design in progress
Bishops Court Dundalk	Tuath	0	0	0	2	2	Q3 2018	Q2 2019	Contractor to be Appointed
Mounthamilton, Dundalk	Cluid	0	0	0	43	43	Ongoing	Q3 2018	On site
Coulter Park, Armagh Road,	Tuath	0	0	6	0	6	Unknown	Unknown	Stage 2 Approved
Mount Avenue, Dundalk	LCC	75	0	0	0	75	Q3 2019	Q3 2021	Stage 1 Approved
Dundoogan, Haggardstown,	Tuath	0	0	0	112	112	Unknown	Unknown	Part V Compliance & Dept CALF Approved
Halliday's Mill	Tuath	0	0	0	68	68	Q2 2018	Q2 2019	Dept CALF Approved
Church Street, Dundalk	Tuath	0	0	0	3	3	Q3 2018	Q3 2018	Dept CALF Approved
Cois Cuan, Upper Point Road	Tuath	0	0	0	28	28	Q1 2018	Q2 2019	Dept CALF Approved
Total		**97**	**0**	**36**	**256**	**389**			

Municipal District Drogheda

		Social	I.P.S	CAS	CALF	Total	Start Date	Schedule Completion	Current Position
Boice Court, Mell, 2nd Phase	LCC	49	5	15	0	69	Q2 2019	Q2 2021	Stage 2 Approved
Scarlett Street	NEHA	0	0	0	15	15	Q1 2018	Q2 2019	On Site - To be Completed June 19
Rathmullan Road	NEHA & Tuath	0	0	0	105	105	Q3 2017	Q2 2020	On site
1 Unit at McArdle Green Moneymore, Drogheda	NEHA	0	0	1	0	1	Q1 2018	Q4 2018	On site
Curlew Green, Aston Village, Drogheda	Respond	0	0	0	8	8	Q2 2018	Q2 2019	Department CALF Approved.
Grove Court, Hardmans Gardens, Drogheda	Foscadh	0	0	0	4	4	Not Known	Not Known	Department CALF Approved Acquisition
17 Chestnut Grove, Termonabbey, Drogheda	Foscadh	0	0	0	1	1			Department CALF Approved Acquisition
Peters Hill, Drogheda	NEHA	0	0	4	0	4	Not Known	Not Known	Stage 1 Approved
10 Termonview, Baltray Road, Termonfeckin, Drogheda	NEHA	0	0	0	1	1	Not Known	Not Known	Department CALF Approved for Part V Compliance
Total	**-**	**49**	**5**	**20**	**134**	**208**	**-**	**-**	**-**
Delivery Plan for County 2018 -2021		**243**	**5**	**64**	**486**	**798**			

Vacant Home Initiatives

Scheme	Ardee MD	Dundalk MD	Drogheda MD	Total
Repair & Lease	0	8	4	12
Tenanted and Complete	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**
Buy & Renew (incl Original CPO Pilot) Acquired	10	61	12	83
Tenanted and Complete	**1**	**30**	**4**	**35**

2018 Delivery Target of 306 Units Complete (New & Additional at 30th June 2018)

Local Authority Construction	0
AHB CAS	0
AHB CALF	51
Part V	2
Local Authority Acquisition	4
Long Term Leases	1
AHB Mortgage to Rent	3
Buy & Renew	10
Repair & Lease	0
Total	**71**

Definitions

AHB = Approved Housing Body

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

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

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

IPS = Incremental Purchase Scheme

7 OTHER FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS

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

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

8 Housing Assistance Payment (HAP) as at 30th June 2018

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

The total number of applications in HAP is **2329**. Once an applicant's housing needs have been met under HAP they are no longer included be on the local authority's housing waiting list. However, if an applicant wishes to have access to other social housing supports, such as local authority housing or housing provided by a housing association, they can apply to the local authority for a transfer. If an applicant applies for a transfer **within 2 weeks of getting the letter confirming their HAP payment**, any time that they spent on the housing list can be taken into account when Louth County Council considers their application. If they apply for a transfer at a later date, the time that was previously spent on the housing waiting list won't count.

Ardee Municipal District	Dundalk Municipal District	Drogheda Municipal District	Total
236	1213	880	2329

9 Approved Housing Bodies

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

10 Tenancy Management

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

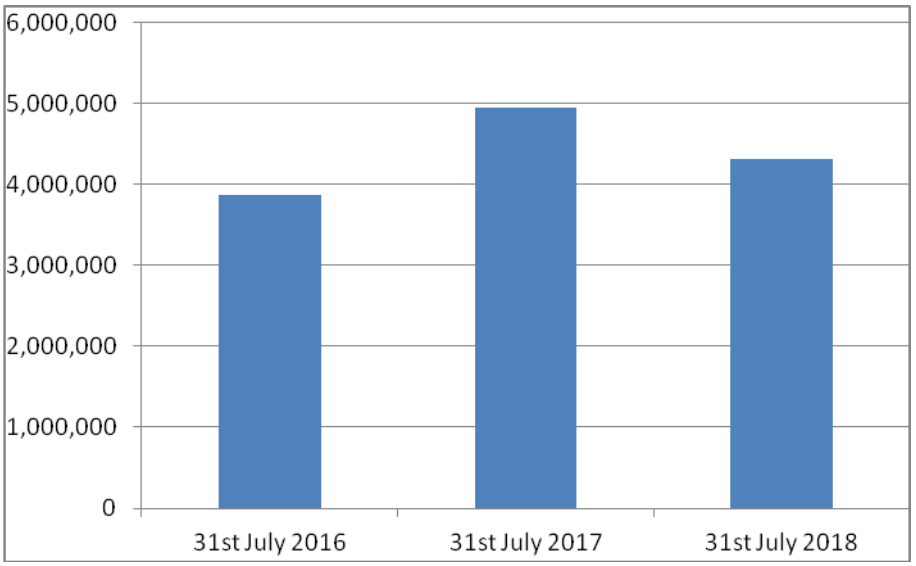
Tenancy Activity	TOTAL
Pre Tenancy Training	27
Tenancy (House) Inspections	17

11 Rent Management

The number of tenants who pay rent by Household Budget is now **1137**

Current Rents Arrears as at 30th June 2018	Number of Account	Value
Rents between 4-6 weeks old	165	€53,048
Rents between 7-12 weeks old	186	€110,695
Rents greater than 12 weeks old	1324	€4,580,117
TOTAL	**1675**	**€4,743,860**

RENT ARREARS



12 Homelessness

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

Presentations of July 2018	Ardee MD	Dundalk MD	Drogheda MD	Total
Number of Person who presented as Homeless	0	23	43	66
Offered advice, support (including fast tracking H.A. for Rent Supplement eligibility)	0	10	30	40
Placed in Temporary Emergency Accommodation	0	11	11	22
Refused Offer of Temporary Emergency Accommodation	0	2	1	3
Not eligible from outside county or non HRC	0	0	1	1
Number of Tenancies being supported : Sustainment Packages funded by the Housing Authority in order to prevent Homelessness	0	6	5	11

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

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

The tables below reflect monthly returns submitted to the Department with regard to Homeless numbers in the NORTH EAST REGION

This annonyamised and aggregated return of all individuals accessing emergency accommodation is returned to the Department of Housing on a monthly basis. The following information has been returned relating to the timeframe, 23rd July to
29th July 2018 last, across the following headings

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

Table 1: Gender

Gender	Total
Male	71
Female	56
Total	**127**

Table 2: Age Groups

Age Group	Total
18-24	10
25-44	75
45-64	33
65+	9
Total	**127**

Table 3: Accommodation Type

Accommodation Type	Total
Private Emergency Accommodation (PEA)	76
Supported Temporary Accommodation (STA)	50
Temporary Emergency Accommodation (low support)(TEA)	1
Unique Total (note, clients may have accessed multiple accommodation types during the week)	0
Minus people accessing multiple accommodation types during the week	0
Total unique individuals	**127**

Table 4: County

County	Total
County Louth	118
County Monaghan	2
County Cavan	7
Total	**127**

Table 5 - Families with dependent children breakdown

	No. of families with dependent children	No. of Individual Adults	No. of Dependents
Individuals with dependent children	16	16	36
Couples with dependent children	5	5 couples (10 adults)	7
Total	**21**	**26**	**43**

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

Private Rented Houses

Since September 2017 to date, the Homeless Office has entered into a lease for 165 Private Rented properties in County Louth. This is a prevention mechanism that the Homeless Office initiated. These houses were needed for families who have received Notice to Quit, landlords selling houses and also landlord raising rents that families cannot afford. Out of these 165 houses 86 houses to date have been transferred to HAP. The Homeless Office is currently working on transferring the remaining 78 properties to the HAP.

Inspections of Private Emergency Accommodation

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

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

13. Anti Social Behaviour to 30th June 2018

ASB INVESTIGATION CASES	DBD	AMD	DMD	TOTAL
ASB investigations ongoing	9	3	11	23
ASB investigations completed	13	5	16	34
Total ASB investigation cases	22	8	27	57

ACTION TAKEN	DBD	AMD	DMD	TOTAL
No further action required, no ASB found (unfounded/malicious)	6	2	7	15
No further action – Advice given	0	0	0	0
Verbal Warning issued	6	2	6	14
Tenancy Notification	1	1	2	4
Tenancy Warning	0	0	1	1
Notice To Quit Served – Application for possession requested	0	0	0	0
Exclusion Orders sought	0	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0	0
Total Action Taken	**13**	**5**	**16**	**34**

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

14 Abandoned Properties to 30th June 2018

Possible Abandoned properties to 30th June 2018	**8**
Properties returned after investigations/serving of notices	**6**
Tenants investigated returned to their properties. Potential breach of tenancy	**1**
Tenants contesting residency after Section 15(1) served	**0**

15 Grant Assistance to the Elderly and Disabled

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

- Housing Adaption Grants - Priority 1, which will assist those who need wholetime care in the home

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

Please Note

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

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

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

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

16 Communities

SICAP 2018

The LCDC have submitted a drawdown to the Department for the Qtr 4 2018 SICAP funding in the amount of €328,400.16. The approval for payment of this funding will be considered by the LCDC at the next LCDC meeting in September. The SICAP Sub Group has been renamed the Social Inclusion Sub group and offers of membership have issued to three potential new members. It is envisaged that these new members will bring a thematic perspective particularly as the review of SICAP 2019 Annual Plan begins later in the year.

LEADER

There were no Independent Evaluation Committee (IEC) meetings held in August. Mr. Pat McCormick has resigned from the IEC to take up a position on the LCDC and progress is being made on replacing him on the Independent Evaluation Committee with invitations issuing to two potential new members.

Community Enhancement Programme

A budget of €145,542 was awarded to County Louth for this fund. The aim of the fund is to enhance facilities in disadvantaged areas, address disadvantage as identified in the LECP and add value to frontline schemes being provided. The closing date for the scheme was the 30th July 2018 and there were 112 applications received with project proposals seeking funding of circa €890,000 being requested.

Assessments were carried out during August and were based on proposals that were in keeping with the ethos of the scheme, shows complimentarily with the LECP, eligible for funding i.e. capital items only and located in areas of disadvantage or addressing issues of disadvantage.

In addition to assessing the eligibility under disadvantage the Council also considered opportunities for alternative funding sources for promoters. There are 65 no. of applications to be considered for funding by the LCDC, 20 no. applications are for funding proposals under €1,000 while 45 applications are recommended for funding over €1,000 with 13 applications of those for funding over €4,000.

Men's Sheds under the Community Enhancement Programme

On the 27th July the Minister announced additional Funding for Men's Sheds under the Community Enhancement Programme with €0.5m allocated nationally to the Community Enhancement Programme, this was ring-fenced for small capital grants for Men's Sheds. The funding allocation for Men's Sheds in Louth is €10,145. Only Men's Sheds that are affiliated to the Irish Men's Sheds Association can apply for funding, with 7 Men's shed in Louth affiliated. The proposals that can be considered are small scale capital projects. The closing date for these applications is the 31st August with the LCDC having responsibility for the allocation of funding.

PPN

The nomination process is now closed for the 2018 Louth PPN Community and Voluntary Awards with the award ceremony taking place on 26th September in Bellingham Castle.
Assistance was given by the PPN during July to community groups applying for Community Enhancement Programme Funding 2018.

Pride of Place 2018

'Louth and Proud' was the motto all the way when the 'Pride of Place' judges came to the county on Tuesday 28th August 2018. The competition, organised by Co-operation Ireland, and sponsored by IPB Insurance, serves to recognise and acknowledge exceptional community spirit around the island of Ireland.

Collon Village was the first stop of the day. The judges were greeted at the beautiful Church of Ireland by Leas Cathaoirleach Maria Doyle, Chairman of Ardee Municipal District Cllr Pearse McGeough, Cllr Colm Markey and Cllr Jim Tenanty, members of the Collon Tidy Towns and Council Officials. The judges were told of the history of the village and its hopes for the future. There was drone footage which gave the judges an overview of the village. Cllr Maria Doyle spoke about the Collon community spirit and the current fundraising to repair the roof of the church. The judges were guided around the historical village visiting Mellifont Abbey and ending at the impressive Mattock Rangers Club where they were greeted by the local choir. The clubhouse was filled with local Collon people showcasing their various community groups including, Active Retirement Group, Collon Tidy Towns, Collon Historical Society, Kids Kast, Athletic club and of course the Mattocks Rangers themselves. The Vintage Car Club was also on display.

The Gary Kelly Cancer Centre in Drogheda was the next stop on the tour, where the judges were greeted by Cathaoirleach of Louth County Council, Cllr. Liam Reilly, Niall Reynolds, Ann Tracey & Aileen Emery staff of The Gary Kelly Cancer Support Centre. The centre offers free practical, emotional and social support to people with cancer and their families. Help is offered to anyone with any type of cancer. Niall Reynolds, Chairman of the centre explained that the centre was bought by Gary Kelly (former Leeds footballer & Irish international footballer) from the proceeds of his Testimonial match. His generosity was matched by local Drogheda businesses by

donating time, material and labour to the project. Gary's mother Claire and his two sisters Jean and Marie were also present on the day. Ann Tracey, Director of Finance and Fundraising for the centre, explained that the running costs for the centre in 2017 were €350,000 with only €29,000 government funded, and the shortfall is met from fundraising. This alone shows the dedication and commitment from the volunteers in the centre along with the community who each year never fails to deliver. The judges received a tour of the facilities by Niall, Ann and Aileen and even got view of therapy sessions in action including Tai Chi and Qui Gong. The afternoon finished up with a reception in honour of the guests, where everyone intermingled and enjoyed the refreshments provided. The judges, Donal Connolly and William Beatty, thanked all involved and said that they were very impressed with all they had seen during the day.

Comhairle na nÓg

The date for the Comhairle na nOg AGM and Conference has been set for Thursday 25th October 2018, venue to be confirmed.

Summer Sports Camps

The highly regarded summer sports camps at Dundalk Sports Centre finished on Friday 24/08/18.

16 Libraries & Museum

Louth County Libraries

Minister Ring announces major investment of €7.8 million in digital services and facilities in public libraries

The Minister for Rural and Community Development, Mr Michael Ring TD, announced a major investment package to local authorities to support digital capacity in public libraries and establish them as important enablers of digital services and facilitators of digital skills development. The €7.8 million investment comprises €5.2 million from Minister Ring's Department and a further €2.6 million contribution from Local Authorities.

Grant assistance will support measures set out under *Our Public Libraries 2022*, including - implementing a programme of ICT upgrades and developments to ensure infrastructure has the capacity to provide a service that is not only in line with user requirements, but also can deliver new and innovative services, and developing digital learning centres and innovation centres in suitable libraries, providing users with access to the latest technologies and supporting users who are not confident with technology. Louth County Libraries have applied for funding for a whole host of educational software and a range of technical hardware for branches in the county. This includes gaming consoles, high specification computers to support gaming including Virtual Reality gaming and graphic design, 3D printing facilities, laptops, interactive whiteboards, meeting room equipment, podcasting equipment and iPads/tablets/smart devices for users and for staff to assist the public more efficiently. Notification of the amount of funding sanctioned is expected in the coming weeks.

Wee County Big Book Club

Author Michael Harding visited the County Library, Dundalk on July 20th to launch a new collaborative initiative called Wee County Big Book Club Festival. Wee County Big Book Club is a collaborative initiative of Louth Library Service, Creative Spark, An Táin Arts Centre, Dundalk and Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital Drogheda. The 'wee book' chosen for 2018 is Michael Harding's *On Tuesdays I'm a Buddhist* published by Hachette Ireland. The Wee County Big Book Club initiative invites book club members and the general public to read and discuss *On Tuesdays I'm a Buddhist* published by Hachette Ireland.

A programme of creative writing events and author readings of various other titles will take place in the venues of the participating partners, including Creative Spark, An Táin Arts Centre Dundalk and all Louth Libraries. Library events include:

Dundalk Library:

- "I Found My Tribe" author and Ardee native Ruth Fitzmaurice, Reading and discussion. Thursday September 6th, 6:30pm
- Creative writing workshop with author Melatu Uche Okorie, Thursday, September 13th, 6.30pm.

Ardee Library:

- Creative writing workshops and readings with Brenda Piper Callan, Tuesday September 18th, 6pm.
- Patrice Reynolds, 'Through the Doors of Joy'. Patrice will discuss her photography and writing, Thursday, September 27th, 6pm.

Drogheda Library:

- Creative writing with Nicola Cassidy, Tuesday, September 25th, 11.30am

The initiative culminates in a live show with meet & greet with the author Michael Harding in An Táin Arts Centre on September 29th. To follow see # WeeCountyBigBookClub on social media.

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

2018 Summer Stars Reading Programme has been running in all branches throughout the summer months. Children were invited to register and enjoy reading and attending events throughout the summer months. Closing ceremonies are being held in library branches throughout September.

Baby Book Club
Explore the benefits of reading to your baby from an early age:
Dundalk Library, second Friday of every month at 11am
Drogheda Library, fourth Wednesday of every month at 10.30am
Ardee Library, first Friday of every month at 10.30am

Parent & Toddler groups meet weekly and new members are always welcome:
Dundalk Library, Thursdays at 10am.
Drogheda Library, Wednesdays at 10.30am.
Ardee Library, Fridays at 10.30am.

"I Am Baba" Theatre Event – Collaboration with the Genesis Programme for parents and babies, Thursday, September 20th. This theatre type event is a magical adventure of song, lights and textures for babies. Performances take place at 11am, 12 noon, 2:15pm & 3:15pm in Dundalk Library.

Children's Book Festival will run in all branches throughout the month of October. Events include

Dundalk Library:

- The Booster Theatre Company will perform “Old MacDonald”, Tuesday, October 9th, 11am (invited class).
- Writing workshop with author Gillian Perdue, Friday, October 12th, 9:30am. (Invited class)
- Discover Your Library Workshops running throughout October for invited classes
- Share a story – intergenerational storytelling celebrating the relationship between grandparent and grandchild. Saturday, October 13th, 11:30am & Friday October 26th, 11:30am
- Design a Halloween Mask and seasonal crafts, Tuesday October 30th, 3pm.
- Scary stories and spooky tales on Wednesday, October 31st, 11:30am. Children are invited to come in costume.1

Drogheda Library:

- Rugby & soccer children’s author Tom Palmer workshop, a joint venture with Meath County Libraries. Droichead Arts Centre, Wednesday, October 10th, 1pm (Invited classes)
- Author talk with Gillian Perdue. October 12th, 1pm (Invited class)
- Storytelling for Children, A Droichead Arts Centre Leanbh Festival/Children’s Book Festival collaborative venture, October 6th, 13th & 20th, 11am & 1 pm.
- Monster Doodle Fun with author Tatyana Feeney, Tuesday, October 9th, 12 noon

Ardee Library

- Monster Doodle Fun with author Tatyana Feeney, Tuesday October 9th,10am (invited class)
- Author talk with Gillian Perdue, Friday, October 12th, 11.15am (invited class)

Dunleer Library

- Children’s Storytime, Wednesday, October 10th,10.30am (invited class)
- Storytime for all the family, Saturday, October 20th, 10.30am

Carlingford Library

- Children’s Storytime, Wednesday, October 17th,10.30am (invited class)
- Storytime for all the family, Tuesday, October 30th, 10.30am

Work Matters

The Work Matters service aims to support job seekers and budding entrepreneurs. A dedicated Work Matters hot desk space is available in Dundalk, Drogheda and Ardee Libraries.Resources include a dedicated seating and table area, Free WiFi, a designated PC or Laptop, printing and photocopying, books, newspapers, information, and a jobs board. Users can also avail of a suite of free digital resources including, online courses, eBooks, Ezines, enewspapers and online language learning. https://www.louthcoco.ie/en/Services/Library/Online-Services/

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

Work Matters Events

CV & LinkedIn Preparation: Information session with Elaine Russell from *Women Returners*.

- Dundalk Library, Wednesday, September 12th at 11am
- Drogheda Library, Thursday, October 4th,11am
- Ardee Library, Thursday October 4th, 2.30pm

Stephanie Bourke, LMETB will discuss options for returning to education or trying to re-enter the workplace.

- Drogheda Library, Wednesday, September 5th, 10am
- Ardee Library**,** Tuesday, September 11th, 10.30am

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

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

Getting Started, Age Action Computer classes for older people:
Drogheda Library: 5 week course, Friday, September 28th to Friday, October 26th, 10.30am -12.30pm

Healthy Ireland at Your Library

Phase 2 of the *Healthy Ireland at Your Library* initiative will run from September 2018 to end of March 2019. Phase two Healthy Ireland at your library will focus on national and local partnerships, additional promotional tools and a national radio campaign, new health information resources and a programme of events in all 5 branches.Events include:

Coping with Dementia talks:

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

Heart and Bone Health – Talk with Nutritionist Anna Ryan.

- Ardee Library, Thursday September 27th at 11.00
- Dundalk Library, Thursday, September 27th, 2:30pm
- Drogheda Library, Thursday September 27 at 6 pm

Talk on Dyspraxia – A personal perspective and advice with Dyspraxia Society of Ireland

- Dundalk Library, Tuesday October 9th, 6:30pm
- Drogheda Library, Tuesday October 16th, 6pm
- Ardee Library, Tuesday October 23rd, 6.30pm

"Mindfully Me" – Louise Shanagher will explore mindfulness for children in a creative and fun way.

- Dundalk Library, Saturday October 20th, 2:30pm

Anniversary of the Sinking of the SS Dundalk
Dundalk Library will host a talk to commemorate this event on Thursday, September 20th, 6.30pm.

Oíche Chultúir/Culture Night
Dundalk Library hosts Len Graham to perform Tall Tales and Musical Stories from the Irish Tradition on Friday, September 21st at 6.30pm Len is the recipient of the TG4 Gradam Amhránaí traditional singer of the year 2002. His performance will include Irish songs in English and Irish on many subjects, stories from the Irish countryside mingled with some poems.

Fleadh Cheoil
A hugely successful programme of music events was held in Drogheda library as part of the Fleadh from Tuesday to Friday. The library proved to be a lovely venue and very popular with great attendance for each event. Entertainment was provided by a variety of traditional musicians and singers, local and international. Feedback from attendees was hugely positive; the library was praised as an excellent venue for these thoroughly enjoyable music sessions. For updates see www.louthcoco.ie/en/Services/Library/
Follow #LouthLibraries on Twitter and LouthCountyLibraries on Facebook

County Archives

Born Digital Records – Save the Date: Members of the LGARM are arranging a seminar in the Digital Repository of Ireland now on the 12th October coming (NB change of date). It will be aimed at senior LA staff such as Heads of IT or Directors, as well as archivists/records managers. It will focus on born digital records in local authorities and what should be done with them.

'Jacob's Biscuit Factory & Dublin: An Assorted History' Exhibition: This travelling exhibition, which was curated by Dublin City Library and Archive and funded by Dublin City Council Decade of Commemoration, is on display at Louth County Archives from 20th August – 7th September with the kind permission of Dublin City Library and Archive. Drawing on the vast 330 boxes of Jacob Biscuit Factory Archives held at Dublin City Library and Archive, and using beautifully illustrated

panels, oral histories and original artefacts, the exhibition tells both a chronological and thematic history of Jacob's Biscuit Factory. The events of 1913-1922 which impacted on Ireland nationally feature prominently. The exhibition also tells more broadly the impact of Jacob's on social, cultural and political life in Ireland throughout the twentieth century. It includes original artefacts such as a locked recipe book, an 'Irish Free State' Biscuit tin, a long service medal and watch, and a travelling salesman kit. Visitors will find out about the fascinating history of the Jacobs cream-cracker, who was the marketing genius to develop the concept of Jim Figgerty, and how did major national and international events from 1916 Rising to both World Wars impact the business, customers, and staff.

Heritage Week: In addition to the exhibition on 'Jacob's Biscuit Factory & Dublin: An Assorted History', a fascinating lunch-time talk took place on 24th August by exhibition curator, Wendy Williams. In the first decades of the 20th century biscuits made by workers in the Bishop Street factory of W & R Jacob & Co graced tables from Bombay to Buenos Aires. The talk looked at many aspects of Jacob's 160 year business legacy from the origins of the names of the biscuits to welfare provisions for the people who made them.

Conservation: Treatment on a small group of items, mainly early 20th century Council minute books will be completed at the end of August and items will be returned to Louth County Archives in early September.

Other activities included meeting with donors of archive collections, assisting researchers with research enquiries and assisting staff on record retention queries in addition to the ongoing work of accessioning, preserving and processing archive collections.

County Museum, Dundalk

RTE feature

A feature on former Dundalk FC striker, Jimmy Hasty was included in John Creedon's new programme, 'The Road Less Travelled', on August 5 last. The feature was recorded almost exclusively in the Museum in the surround of the One Team, One Dream exhibition and featured in the item.

Current Exhibitions

The One Team, One Dream exhibition will end its run at the Museum on September 8th.

The Museum is also hosting an indoor football league that was run off in Drogheda in the 1970s and which featured some teams from Dundalk. It consists of six panels and no artefacts. It's based on the work of Helen Byrne.

Forthcoming exhibitions

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

Work is also continuing on an exhibition marking the centenary of the sinking of the SS Dundalk. The exhibition is scheduled to open in October.

Forthcoming Conference

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

Maintaining the Service

In addition to the above the Museum continues to accept, record, catalogue items donated by the public as well as operating guided tours of the town (though this will end at the end of September).

18 Fire & Emergency Services

The number of emergency incidents has reduced with the ending of the dry spell. However, the overall number of incidents to date in 2018 is similar to 2017.

The average mobilization time in the fulltime brigades has reduced in the first six months of 2018 compared to the corresponding period in 2017.

A Firefighting Skills course was run in Dundalk Training Centre from 16th July to 3rd August 2018. It was the first such course in the Irish Fire Service to overseen and accredited by the Local Authority Fire Services National Training Group (LASNTG).
Final accreditation is taking place and successful candidates will receive a Level 6 award under the National Framework of Qualifications. The Emergency First Responder three year refresher courses are starting for Louth Fire Service personnel during September. Emergency Driving (ESDS) training courses are also planned for September.

The Fire Prevention Section carried out multiple inspections of Fleadh Cheoil competition venues and indoor and outdoor concert venues. Generally these venues were found to be well managed and there were very few problems. Drogheda Fire Brigade also carried out advance familiarisation visits and had a number of minor callouts, including calls to ensure the maintenance of water supplies.

Civil Defence maintained emergency medical cover for the full duration of the event.
The emergency services will be well prepared for next year's Fleadh which will hopefully be as successful as the 2018 Fleadh.

The Fire Prevention Section has continued its focus on residential developments, both private and public. Enforcement action has been taken in a number of cases, including HAP referrals. These inspections have included multi-storey Approved Housing Body apartment blocks, which have generally been to a reasonable standard.

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

A number of Public Assembly Licensing inspections have been carried out by the Fire Prevention Section. One objection has been lodged in respect of an annual publican's licence renewal for a premises in Carlingford.