TO EACH MEMBER OF LOUTH COUNTY COUNCIL

Monthly Management Report – 30th September 2018

Dear Councillor

I attach the management report up to 30th September 2018

Yours faithfully

Joan Martin
Chief Executive
5 October 2018

Finance Report to 30th September 2018

Expenditure to 30th September 2018

Section	ACTUAL EXPENDITURE TO 30/09/18	BUDGET EXPENDITURE 2018	% SPENT TO 30/09/18
Housing	**17,421,835**	23,072,404	76%
Road Transportation & Safety	**15,099,701**	19,613,150	77%
Water Services	**4,737,143**	7,034,240	67%
Development Management	**8,583,046**	16,197,124	53%
Environmental Services	**11,287,022**	15,700,738	72%
Recreation and Amenity	**5,783,307**	8,284,259	70%
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	**879,765**	1,384,695	64%
Miscellaneous	**6,351,817**	11,937,862	53%
	70,143,636	**103,224,472**	**68%**

Income to 30th September 2018

Section	ACTUAL INCOME TO 30/09/18	BUDGET INCOME 2018	% INVOICED TO 30/09/18
Housing	**14,745,928**	25,488,641	58%
Road Transportation & Safety	**5,288,102**	10,979,713	48%
Water Services	**4,033,644**	6,762,465	60%
Development Management	**4,115,293**	9,328,492	44%
Environmental Services	**1,198,853**	2,009,350	60%
Recreation and Amenity	**735,429**	847,827	87%
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	**293,667**	452,133	65%
Miscellaneous	**4,739,405**	5,573,406	85%
Rates	**31,893,808**	31,916,247	100%
General Purpose Grant (LGF)	**8,221,830**	9,866,198	83%
	75,265,959	**103,224,472**	**73%**

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

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

DEBTORS AS AT 30th SEPTEMBER 2018

	Opening Balance	Invoices	Receipts	Write Offs	Closing Balance
Government Debtors	**7,675,938**	34,672,070	(38,057,998)	0	**4,290,010**
Other Local Authorities	**63,193**	98,687	(80,005)	0	**81,875**
Rates	**12,504,700**	31,893,808	(24,197,725)	(2,512,288)	**17,688,495**
Rents	**5,089,880**	8,435,354	(9,287,104)	(111,600)	**4,126,530**
Loans	**362,039**	867,682	(892,028)	(8)	**337,685**
Development Levies	**12,123,334**	3,312,934	(1,835,863)	0	**13,600,405**
Fire Charges	**1,594,374**	323,709	(195,776)	(31,433)	**1,690,874**
Miscellaneous	**2,725,633**	5,315,522	(5,265,602)	(35,664)	**2,739,889**
TOTAL DEBTORS	**42,139,091**	**84,919,766**	**(79,812,101)**	**(2,690,993)**	**44,555,763**

Above is the debtor balances as at the 30th September 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 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.
The members agreed at the September council meeting that the draft budget meeting will be held on Monday the 19th of November directly following the normal monthly council meeting.
The dates and times for the Municipal/Borough Districts draft budgetary plan meetings will be agreed with the members at their October meetings.

Economic Development

Louth Economic Forum

The Louth Economic Forum held a meeting on 26th September, in The Mill Enterprise Centre, Drogheda. As part of the meeting, a comprehensive presentation was given on the Dundalk-Drogheda Joint Marketing Initiative. This initiative was Louth's response to government policy – Project Ireland 2040. The aim of which is a single 'Louth centric' marketing product branded M1Corridor. This concept is to develop persuasive marking collateral, highlighting employer/employee benefits of locating in Louth and to develop a linear city concept for the M1 region, complementing the activities of the M1 Payments Corridor.

Tourism

A meeting of the Tourism & Heritage Implementation Group was held on 18th September. A number of items were discussed, including possible amendments for the next edition of the Explore Louth (Heritage Trail) map. It was agreed that Gráinne McKeown, Boyne Valley Food Development Officer, would review what offerings are currently available in restaurants in Louth. This would help determine what establishments should be included in the Seafood Trail. Also discussed was how to capitalise on the legacy of Fleadh 2018 going forward with regard to the various tourism offerings, County wide.

Arts

Culture Night took place on Friday 21st September, 2018. There were 10 different venues open across Louth, hosting 27 free events with a total of 1045 people attending. The venues were Dundalk Library, An Táin, Creative Spark, Droichead Arts Centre in Barlow House and Stockwell Street, The Oriel Centre, Drogheda Museum, Hill of Faughart, Highlanes and The Living Room in Sarsfields.

CreateLouth Arts Funding – The deadline for receipt of applications for both the Tyrone Guthrie Centre Regional Bursary and Grants under the Arts Act was Thursday 27th September. Three applications were received for The Tyrone Guthrie Centre Regional Bursary and thirty four applications were received under the Arts Act Grants Scheme.

Creative Ireland Grant applications – The closing date for receipt of applications is Friday 12th October. There are two types of grant assistance available**,** one of up to €500 for projects in development for 2019 and a second of €3000 - €5000 for projects that can be completed and delivered by 31st December 2018.

Heritage

Louth's ranking in terms of the number of wildlife species recorded has improved from 27th in 2017 to 7th in 2018 (and we won the New Year Recording Challenge).

The Draft Louth Heritage Plan 2018 - 2023 will be submitted to the Economic Development & Enterprise Support Strategic Policy Committee for approval in October and then proceed to public display.

LEO Louth

Business Training

An extensive business training programme for Autumn/Winter 2018, with 22 workshops scheduled including 3 Start Your Own Business Programmes, commenced in September and will be delivered throughout the County up to December.

In September, the following business workshops were delivered to c.100 participants:

- Creating an online business
- Filing your income tax return
- Maximising tradeshows
- Accessing finance for your business
- Start you own business programmes in Ardee, Drogheda and Dundalk.

In October, the following business workshops will be held:

- Food starter programme
- Introduction to VAT for small business
- Creating content for effective communications
- How to sell successfully to new markets
- Finance and book-keeping for small business

Further details are available at *https://www.localenterprise.ie/Louth/Training-Events/Online-Bookings/*

Trading Online Vouchers

LEO Louth has approved 34 vouchers to local small businesses this year, up to end September, with a value of c.€72,000. 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 hosted a joint Breakfast event on Thursday 6th September in the Ballymascanlon House Hotel, Dundalk. This event was well attended with over 150 attendees. A range of supports available to businesses to help them prepare for Brexit were presented alongside a keynote speech from Dr. Vincent Power from A&L Goodbody.

Regional Enterprise Development Fund

LEO Louth assisted 4 Louth applications under this national competitive fund and helped prepare presentations to the Enterprise Ireland assessment panel for the three projects that qualified under Stream 1 and 2 of the programme, including The North East Creative Industries Programme, The FabLab proposal at Creative Spark, and the M1 Payment Corridor application based at The Mill, Drogheda.

Business Advice Clinics

LEO Louth has scheduled to run up to 10 business advice clinics in Dundalk (Town Hall) and Drogheda (at The Mill Enterprise Hub) during October.

National Ploughing Championship

LEO Louth, as part of the National LEO Network, had a client stand, Farm Tours Ireland in the Local Enterprise Village at the National Ploughing Championship in September and also featured on RTE's Nationwide programme.

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. Four craft butchers from Louth are completing the LEO LEAN for Micro programme. Businesses with an interest in improving competitiveness should contact LEO Louth to discuss how both the LEAN programme and the LEAN Network can be of assistance.

LEO/BordBIA Food Starter Programme

LEO Louth and LEO Meath are delivering 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.

Student Enterprise Programme

LEO Louth's Student Enterprise Programme (2018 - 2019) commenced in 18 second-level schools in the County in September 2018.

National Women's Enterprise Day – 18th October

LEO Louth will run a joint event with LEO 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, Drogheda and Dr Colette Henry, DkIT.

Co-Innovate Programme

This Innovation focused Interreg funded programme targeted at border county companies is progressing. A workshop was 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 are due to meet in October to finalise 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 August 2018 are given below in tabular form.

There were 87 planning applications received during the month of August of which **74** were valid. In addition there were 37 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**	**5**	**64**	**0**	**70**
(ii) No. of decisions determined which required further information	**1**	**5**	**29**	**0**	**35**
(iii) Percentage of applications refused	**0% (0)**	**0% (0)**	**6.25% (4)**	**0% (0)**	**5.71% (4)**
(iv) Number of appeals determined	**0**	**1**	**0**	**0**	**1**
(v) Percentage of decisions overturned on appeal	**0%**	**0%**	**0%**	**0%**	**0%**

Planning Enforcement

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

Description	Enforcement in relation to unauthorised development		Enforcement in relation to unauthorised development	
	August 2018	Year to Date	August 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	20	180	13	137
Number of Planning Enforcement cases received which didn't require follow up	0	0	0	10
Number of cases closed/resolved through negotiation.	14	180	8	114
Number of Warning letters issued.	17	115	21	111
Number of Enforcement Notices issued.	6	18	5	24
Number of cases referred for legal proceedings	3	7	2	7
Number of cases struck out where issues resolved and costs paid.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Number of Injunctions	0	0	1	1
Number of Prosecutions	0	3	0	2

Planning Enforcement – Dangerous Buildings

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

Description	Enforcement in relation to Dangerous Structures	
	July-Sept 2018	Year to Date
Number of Section 3(1)(a) Notices – Directing Owner to carry out work	6	15
Number of Section 3(2)(b) Notices – LCC carry out works	0	1
Number of Section 2 Notices – Dangerous Place	0	0
Number of cases closed	2	14
Number of cases referred for legal proceedings	1	1
Number of Prosecutions	0	0

Forward Planning

Westgate Vision			
1	September 2018	Data collection and bid preparation Rural Regeneration & Development Fund	Ongoing
2	September 2018	Data collection and bid preparation Urban Regeneration & Development Fund	Ongoing
3	September 2018	Westgate Phase 2 Implementation	Ongoing

ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE REPORT

GENERAL

There were 7 waste complaints in September 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.

Case referred under the Water Services (Amendment) Act 2012 has been dealt with by the court and all outstanding non-compliances have been actioned. Two cases under the Air Pollution Act have been referred for legal action, Case one has been heard. The case is being appealed and is due for hearing in December. Case two is scheduled for hearing during October 2018

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. The Environmental Performance for Louth County Council has been designated by the EPA for 2017 as being above target.

DIESEL LAUNDERING WASTE

There was 6 IBC's of Diesel Sludge recovered during September. The approximate cost of clean-up and disposal of the material is €7,492.50. The 6 IBC's were found at Captains road (3) and Carrickarnon (3).

NOISE ACTION PLAN

The Noise Action Plan for 2018 -2023 has been approved by the EPA and is currently on display on the Louth County Councils website:
https://www.louthcoco.ie/en/Services/Environment/Noise-Action-Plan/ .

RIVER BASIN MANAGEMENT

The Programme of Measures are about to commence on the Castletown River as part of the River Basin Management Plan. These measures will be conducted by the Local Authority Waters Programme Office (LAWPRO).

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. A presentation on the draft wording of the Bye-Law was given at the September meeting of the Planning & Environment SPC and is out on public consultation from 1st of October till the 9th of November with further submission by the 19th of November and is available at https://www.louthcoco.ie/en/Louth_County_Council/Latest-News/County-of-Louth-Presentation-and-Collection-of-Household-Wasteand-Commercial-Waste-Bye-Laws-2008.html . 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

INTERREG VA

Carlingford Lough Greenway

New counters have been installed at a number of locations on the route and the numbers have been very encouraging and the feedback is excellent.

Doran Consultants have been appointed for the next phase of the project and have commenced work. It is anticipated that the planning process will commence in NMDDC soon.

In conjunction with SEUPB, the steering committee have started to examine the projects Sustainable Transport Baseline Data and Performance Measurements.

The Project Steering Committee continues to hold monthly meetings.

Peace 1V Programme

The procurement process for the first five Peace 1V Projects is completed and approved by LCDC. Contracts are being finalised with the successful project promoters.

Notification has been received from SEUPB that a rebid amount of €881,612.00 for seven additional projects has been allocated; the remaining €377,435 will be allocated in due course.

This is a very positive step in the programme and tender documents are now being prepared for the projects approved by SEUPB.

SUSTAINABLE ENERGY AND PROPERTY

Public Sector Energy Efficiency Performance

The Council has submitted its updated energy information for 2017 to SEAI in accordance with the Council's obligations under the Public Sector Monitoring and Reporting (M&R) System.

SEAI has confirmed that it has changed the reporting format for 2017. Henceforth energy use by public sector bodies will include provision for generated energy. That has particular implications for Louth County Council - the Council generates energy at Whiteriver Landfill Site in the landfill gas-to-electricity project. Since the Whiteriver Project exports electricity from a reducing resource, energy savings reported for Louth are somewhat high and it is probable that figure will reduce in subsequent years.

We do not yet have the official score card result of energy use for 2017 from SEAI. However the present indication is that SEAI will report that the Council's energy use is 56.73% of it's baseline energy (ie that the Council has reduced it's energy consumption by 43.27% compared to the baseline).

That is 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. We are confident that the Council's energy use by 2020 will comply with the 33% savings (ie 33% less than the baseline energy) required.

Better Energies Communities Energy Funding 2018

This programme is coming to an operational end for 2018 will all works having to be fully completed and paid-for and all grant claims submitted to SEAI no later than 12 October 2018.

We anticipate a similar fund being proposed by SEAI for 2019 and we will work again with local communities and businesses to apply for funding.

ISO 50001

Council has received notice of an audit of it's 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.

Property

The Council intends to undertake refurbishment works of the Office located at Fair Street Drogheda. In order to make provision for that, the Council is progressing with the provision of temporary accommodation for staff in Drogheda. It is expected that the part VIII for the temporary accommodation will be brought to the November meeting of Drogheda Borough District.

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 Progress Report
17. Libraries Progress Report
18. Fire & Emergency Services Report

1. HOUSING DEMAND AT 31ST AUGUST 2018

Housing List (excluding HAP Transfers)

Month	Ardee MD	Dundalk MD	Drogheda MD	Total
July 18	375	531	806	1712
August 18	375	530	854	1759
difference	0	-1	48	47

Transfer List from HAP

Month	Ardee MD	Dundalk MD	Drogheda MD	Total	
July 18	245	1247	908	2400	
August 18	248	1289	925	2462	
difference	3	42	17	62	

There are a total of **181** 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 AUGUST 2018					
Numbers Allocated	**Allocations- Social**	**Allocations - Voluntary**	**Total Allocations**	**Refusals – Social**	**Refusals – Voluntary**
Ardee MD	4	37	41	0	0
Dundalk MD	34	24	58	3	2
Drogheda MD	17	34	51	3	2

Transfers Approved within Social Housing at 31st AUGUST 2018

Year		Ardee	Dundalk	Drogheda
2018		6	8	3

3. HOUSING STOCK AS 31ST AUGUST 2018

Housing Stock Managed by the Council	Dundalk	Drogheda	Ardee	Total
Council owned	1772	1448	598	3818
Community Houses	4	4	0	8
Long Term Leased	185	28	23	236
Totals	**1961**	**1480**	**621**	**4062**
Approved Housing Bodies Stock (CLSS & CAS)	-	-	-	769
Council stock managed by Approved Housing Bodies	86	7	20	113
Payment & Availability Agreements with AHB's	115	93	47	255
Mortgage to Rent with AHB's	12	12	4	28

4.PRIVATE RENTED ACTIVITY AS AT 31ST AUGUST 2018

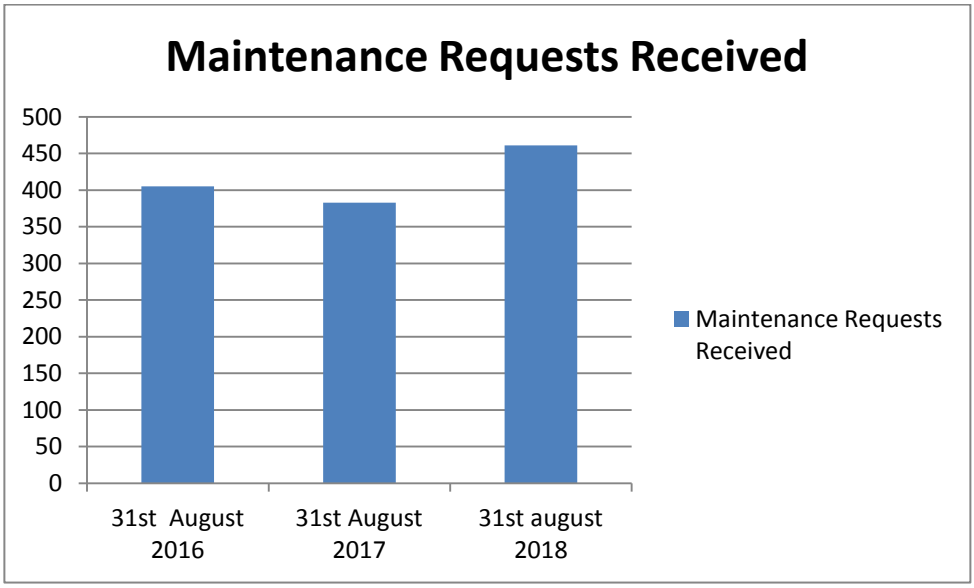
No. of properties inspected to date	**588**
No. of advisory notes issued to landlord	**398**
No. of improvement notices issued	**27**
No. of prohibition notices issued	**22**
No. of Rent Book Notices issued	**0**
Inspections (HAP)	**446**
Improvement Notices (HAP)	**28**

CURRENT PROHIBITIONS NOTICES ARE ALSO LISTED ON THE WEBSITE.

5. STOCK MAINTENANCE ACTIVITY AS AT 31ST AUGUST 2018

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

	Total
No. of Maintenance Requests Received -August 18	461
No. of Requests Outstanding- August 18	409
Vacant Properties (un-tenanted & un-occupied) - Requiring Major Refurbishing	53
Vacant Properties (un-tenanted & un-occupied) – Requiring Minor Works	32
Vacant Properties (un-tenanted & un-occupied) – Awaiting Allocation	9
Total Vacant Properties (excluding Un-tenanted Properties)	94
Un-tenanted properties (un-tenanted BUT occupied)- properties not vacant	3
% Stock Vacant(Total Vacancies/Total Stock)	2.51 %
Number of Applications approved for Disability Adaption Works 2018 *Subject to confirmation of funding from Dept	Subject to onfirmation of funding from Dept
Number of Units with Disability Adaption Works 2018 - completed (carry over from 2017).	10



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	Preferred Tender notified. Contract to be signed by 28th Sept.
Castleguard, Ardee	Tuath	0	0	0	102	102	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
The Avenue, Tierney Street, Ardee	Praxis Care	0	0	4	0	4	Aug 18	Oct 18	CAS Approved Acquisition
36 Strand Hill, Clogherhead	SJOG	1	0	1	0	1	Sept 18	Dec 18	CAS Approved Acquisition
Total	-	**97**	**0**	**13**	**102**	**212**	-	-	

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 granted
Saltown	North & East	0	0	7	0	7	Q1 2019	Q3/4 2019	Stage 3 Approved
Barrack Street	SIMON	0	0	27	0	27	Q2 2019	Q2 2020	Stage 2 Approved
5 Slieveroe Crescent Dundalk	Cluid	0	0	1	0	1	Q2 2019	Q4 2019	PP received. Stage 2 Approved
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	Q1 2019	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	Q2 2018	Q2 2020	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
Ath Leathan	Oaklee	0	0	0	14	14	Not known	Not Known	Department CALF Approved Acquisition
Cuchulainn Heights	Tuath	0	0	0	10	10	Not known	Not Known	Department CALF Approved Acquisition

Dublin Rd. Dundalk	Respond	0	0	0	31	31	Not known	Not Known	Department CALF Approved Acquisition
2 Ashall, The Loakers, Blackrock	Clanmil	0	0	1	0	0	Aug 18	Oct 18	CAS Approved Acquisition
The Loakers Blackrock	Cluid	0	0	0	16	16			
Total		**97**	**0**	**43**	**327**	**467**			

Municipal District Drogheda

		Social	I.P.S	CAS	CALF	Total	Start Date	Schedule Completion	Current Position
Boice Court, Mell, 2nd Phase	LCC	64	5	0	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
St John's Home, Peters Hill, Drogheda	NEHA	0	0	4	0	4	Q4 2019	Q2 2020	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
238 St Finian's Park Drogheda	Drogheda Women's Refuge	0	0	1	0	1	Aug 18	Sept 18	CAS Approved Acquision - Finalised
1,2,3 Marsh Road, Drogheda	Drogheda Homeless Aid	0	0	3	0	3	Sept 18	Oct 18	CAS Approved Acquisition

Avourwen Meadows	Oaklee	0	0	0	50	0	Not known	Not Known	Department CALF Approved Acquisition
Bellingham Green	Foscadh	0	0	0	6	0	Not known	Not Known	Department CALF Approved Acquisition
Blackwater Villas	Tuath	0	0	0	4	0	Not known	Not Known	Department CALF Approved Acquisition
Mill Wharf	Respond	0	0	0	25	0	Not known	Not Known	Department CALF Approved Acquisition
Rivercourt Rathmullen	Foscadh	0	0	0	1	0	Not known	Not Known	Department CALF Approved Acquisition
Shop Street Drogheda	Peter McVerry Trust	0	0	0	11	0	Not known	Not Known	Department CALF Approved Lease
St Finian's Park	Oaklee	0	0	0	1	0	Not known	Not Known	Department CALF Approved Acquisition
Total	**-**	**64**	**5**	**9**	**232**	**310**	**-**	**-**	**-**
Delivery Plan for County 2018 -2021		**258**	**5**	**65**	**645**	**973**			

Vacant Home Initiatives

Scheme	Ardee MD	Dundalk MD	Drogheda MD	Total
Repair & Lease	6	7	9	22
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	13
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 continue to maintain land banks in the following locations, which can be developed if an appropriate project and funding is forthcoming.

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

8 Housing Assistance Payment (HAP) as at 31st AUGUST 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 **2462**. 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
248	1289	925	2462

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

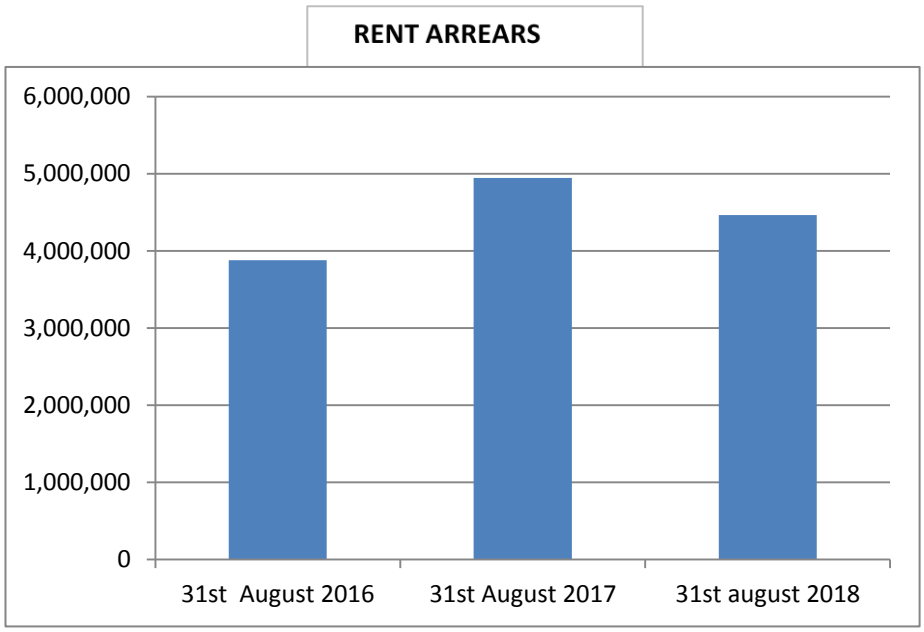
The table below illustrates activity with regard to general estate management for the month of June 2018 last

Tenancy Activity	TOTAL
Pre Tenancy Training	10
Tenancy (House) Inspections	31

11 Rent Management

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

Current Rents Arrears as at 31st August 2018	Number of Account	Value
Rents between 4-6 weeks old	155	€49,559
Rents between 7-12 weeks old	174	€99,946
Rents greater than 12 weeks old	1231	€4,315,146
TOTAL	**1560**	**€4,464,651**


RENT ARREARS
6,000,000
5,000,000
4,000,000
3,000,000
2,000,000
1,000,000
0
31st August 2016
31st August 2017
31st august 2018

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 August 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, 20th August to 26th August 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	79
Female	53
Total	**132**

Table 2: Age Groups

Age Group	Total
18-24	13
25-44	77
45-64	34
65+	8
Total	**132**

Table 3: Accommodation Type

Accommodation Type	Total
Private Emergency Accommodation (PEA)	71
Supported Temporary Accommodation (STA)	60
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	**132**

Table 4: County

County	Total
County Louth	125
County Monaghan	2
County Cavan	5
Total	**132**

Table 5 - Families with dependent children breakdown

	No. of families with dependent children	No. of Individual Adults	No. of Dependents
Individuals with dependent children	22	22	48
Couples with dependent children	6	6 couples (12 Adults)	14
Total	**28**	**34**	**62**

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 individual lease arrangements for 165 Private Rented properties in County Louth. This is a prevention mechanism that the Homeless Office initiated. These houses were needed for homeless families who presented homeless due to having received Notice to Quits from, landlords due to 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. This is funded through the Homeless Section 10 budget.

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 31st August 2018

ASB INVESTIGATION CASES	DBD	AMD	DMD	TOTAL
ASB investigations ongoing	4	4	2	10
ASB investigations completed	22	8	31	61
Total ASB investigation cases	26	12	33	71

ACTION TAKEN	DBD	AMD	DMD	TOTAL
No further action required, no ASB found (unfounded/malicious)	9	3	15	10
No further action – Advice given	0	0	0	0
Verbal Warning issued	9	4	11	11
Tenancy Notification	3	1	4	2
Tenancy Warning	1	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	**22**	**8**	**31**	**61**

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

14 Abandoned Properties to 31st AUGUST 2018

Possible Abandoned properties to 31st August 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 approved 2018	Estimated Value of Grants on hand 2018	Annual Allocation 2018	Total applications on Hand rolling into 2018
HOPS	8	109	€62,764.00	74	€861,418.35	€515,220.83	117
HAGS	78	106	€1,269,102.00	56	€1,948,737.25	€817,163.76	184
MAGS	9	36	€52,500.00	26	€224,181.00	€120,682.47	45
OT COSTS					€17,590.00 spent so far on OT DPG costs	€45,000	
TOTAL	95	251	€1,384,366.00	156	€3,051,926.60	€1,498,067.06	346

16. Communities Progress Report

Communities

Healthy Ireland for Louth Plan

The Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) at its meeting on 17th September approved the Healthy Ireland for Louth Plan 2018-2022. The Plan is designed to reflect various national and local strategies/plans including the Local Economic and Community Plan and will report on performance under the three themes of Shared Space, Shared Knowledge and Shared Wellbeing. The Plan sets out a series of actions that will increase the proportion of people who are healthy at all stages of life, reduce health inequalities and create an environment where everyone can play their part in achieving a healthy county Louth.

LEADER

The LCDC at its meeting in September approved funding support in the amount of €33,614 for two LEADER projects. The projects approved for support are located in both Drogheda and Dundalk.

Community Enhancement Programme

A preliminary budget of €145,542 was awarded to County Louth under 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.

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.

There were 65 no. of applications to be considered for funding by the LCDC and at its meeting on 17th September the LCDC approved the awarding of grants to the 65 successful groups. In addition the LCDC approved the award of grants totaling €10,000 to 6 no. *Men's Sheds* Groups in County Louth.

In late September the LCDC was notified of an additional allocation bringing the total available fund in Co. Louth to circa €408,000. Staffs in the Community Section are revisiting both the successful proposals and the initially denied proposals with a view to both increasing the amount of grant aid awarded to successful applicants and making a first allocation to unsuccessful applicants. The groups are required to spend the grant on capital items and must claim all expenditure before end of November 2018.

CLAR Funding 2018

Six additional CLAR Applications, totalling €111,569.11, were approved and included in a Letter of Offer issued from the Department of Rural & Community Development on 6th September 2018.

Details of additional CLAR funding for 2018:

School name	Amount
Monksland	€30,000.00
Scoil Naomh Brid, Ardaghy	€19,214.41
Rampark National School	€7650.00
Dulargy National School	€16,020.00
Scoil Naomh Mhuire, Muchgrange	€20,684.70
St Olivers National School, Carlingford	€18,000.00

Drogheda - Looking Good 2018

Drogheda Looking Good is organised by Louth County Council and sponsored by the D Hotel and Glassco Recycling. The event took place this year in the d Hotel on Thursday 20th September with the winners under the various categorises set out in the table below:

Name of Award	First place	Second place	Third place
Best Estate less than 50 units	Harmony Heights	Castlewood	Ballypark
Best Estate 51-125 units	Forest Grange	Five Oaks Village & The View	Boyne Hall
Best Estate over 125 units	Five Oaks	Stameen	Ashfield
Best Front garden	40 Forest Grange	14 Five Oaks	32 Georgian Close
Business premises	Esquires Coffee Shop		
Hospitality premises	Scholars Hotel		
Exceptional community Award	The Dale Red Door Project	The Pitcher Steps Community Garden	

Dundalk Looking Good 2018

The Dundalk Looking Good Awards Ceremony will take place in An Táin Theatre in Dundalk on Thursday 18th October at 7pm.

Louth Looking Good 2018

The Louth Looking Good Awards Ceremony will take place in the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Dundalk on Thursday 8th November at 8pm.

National Tidy Towns Competition 2018

The 2018 SuperValu Tidy Towns Competition results were announced at The Helix in DCU on Monday 24th September. Louth once again featured highly among the prize recipients.

Following on from their success in 2017 Blackrock, Dundalk and Drogheda secured a prestigious Gold Medal. Ardee were delighted to secure their first Gold Medal which brought the total in Louth this year to four. Knockbridge also secured a Bronze Medal.
The Endeavour Award went to Kilcurry for displaying a substantial performance improvement this year, while Grange Tidy Towns were awarded runners-up in the Waters and Community Award.

The top performers in the county in terms of marks were Blackrock, Knockbridge and Ardee. A total number of twenty three entrant towns and villages in Louth took part in the 2018 competition, once again showing a very high level of participation for the county. All groups in the county achieved an increase in marks.

Public Participation Network (PPN)

Louth PPN Awards took place in Bellingham Castle on 26th September with 15 groups shortlisted for prizes this year including; Fleadh Cheoil Volunteers; Family Addiction Support Network Facilitators; Cuchulainn Celtic Strings; M.A.D. Youth Theatre (2 awards); Holly's Horse Haven; Drogheda Animal Rescue; Lolo Robinson, Drogheda Comhaltas; David Walsh, Louth Volunteer Centre; Craobh Rua Youth Project; Lucht Siúil Óga; Padraig Mc Cullough, Tredagh Boxing Academy; Jess Myles, Keeping Girls in Sport; Alone (Louth); Paulette McArdle, Befriending Drogheda.

Louth and Meath PPN Resource Workers, along with some Secretariat Members, met to discuss possible joint initiatives that would target resident groups in South Louth and East Meath areas.

Louth PPN promoted PPN membership benefits and examples of best practise to the public at the National Ploughing Championships in Tullamore on 18th September.
Louth PPN Representatives sitting on SPC's and LCDC met with Dr Mark Cullinane, UCC, who is carrying out research into the role of community representatives on Council committees.

Louth PPN Secretariat held their bi-monthly meeting in September and other involvements that the Louth PPN Resource Worker engaged in included the promotion of Make Way Day in Louth, CYPSE Strategy, Social Enterprise Strategy engagement, and preparations for Mental Health Week in October.

Comhairle na nÓg

Louth Comhairle na nOg are currently preparing for the Launch of their Mental Health Booklet. This will be held on the week of the 22nd of October.

The young people held a county wide Advisory meeting on the 24th September and representatives from all three municipal youth councils were in attendance. The young people made presentations to staff from LMETB, CYPSY, LCC and DCYA.

Comhairle na nOg members will help to facilitate the upcoming consultation event for young people in Dunleer on the 16th October. The event will be held in the Grove Hotel and will use various methodologies to link the youth voice from Mid Louth to decision makers.

The Louth Comhairle na nOg AGM will be held on the 25th October in the TLT in Drogheda. This year's theme is "Raising Awareness of Mental Health". At the event the young people will take part in workshops, networking activities and fun events to help set the agenda for Comhairle na nOg in 2019.

19 young people have been selected from Louth to represent the county in the upcoming Dail na nOg Showcase event in Croke Park on the 22nd November 2018. At this event the delegates will join 450 other young people in showcasing the work of Comahirlí around the country.

Louth Comhairle na nOg will partner with Dundalk Youth Centre in the delivery of a Peace 4 project on Civic Leadership and Peace Building over a two year period beginning in November 2018.

Sports Unit & Louth Sports Partnership (LSP) Update

National Standards Award **–** Dundalk Sports Centre was audited by the National Quality Standard Auditor on Friday 14th September. The National Quality Standard (previously known as the White Flag Award) is a Leisure Centre & Hotel Leisure award encompassing Safety, Hygiene, and Customer Engagement & Human Resources. Dundalk Sports Centre has achieved the standard required and was awarded the Quality Standard.

Outreach Basketball Programme – 6 Week basketball programme at Kilkerley National School with 5th & 6th class students to prepare them for the Primary School Basketball League commenced in September.

.

Fitness Classes – Pilates continues every Monday & Wednesday morning at 9:30am and Tuesday & Thursday evening at 7:10pm, new members always welcome. In addition the centre hosts a new Barbells class with Chris Dillon on Mondays and Wednesdays from 7-8pm

After School Activities Programme – Every Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday 3:30pm – 4:45pm for all primary school children 6-12years. Monday and Tuesdays is Multi Sports ASA with a variety of fun games and activities in line with our popular summer camp activities. Wednesdays is the Junior Basketball ASA and this is a fun program fully focused on basketball and introducing kids to the game and rules in a fun way appropriate to their age and with the option of progression into the local Basketball Club Dundalk Ravens or a local basketball club in their area.

Buggy Buddies is an ongoing success in the Lourdes Stadium with mothers and their babies coming every Wednesday morning for group exercise at 10am. Its 45-60 minutes of exercise on the track including walking, jogging, bodyweight and balance exercises. Afterwards parents stay for tea, coffee and a chat. It's a great initiative for mothers who can find it hard to get back into exercise after having a baby. It also creates a great support system for mothers and play dates for the babies.

Bowls Competition in the Lourdes Stadium **-** Wednesday September 5th saw the first ever lawn bowls competition held in the Lourdes Stadium on the outdoor bowling green. It was a mixed open event with 42 competitors on the day. The players came from all over the county with Collon, Dundalk and Drogheda clubs represented in the competition. Louth Sports Unit hopes the competition will springboard more interest in lawn bowls.

Boyne AC Fun Run – 5KM & 3KM fun run in memory of Harry Mallon & Willie Connor took place on 16th September finishing at Drogheda Community Centre. 500 people participated in the event.

PALS Workshop – Our Physical Activity Leader training returned in September with a series of workshops for members of active retirement groups or volunteers working with older adults who can lead members of their own groups in short exercise routines, simple dances and fun games.

Go For Life Games – A National physical activity programme for older people which has grown to become one of the biggest social sports events for older people in Ireland. Weekly sessions recommenced at Dundalk Sports Centre from 25th September at 7pm. New members welcome.

Mindful Movement – is a weekly activity programme for adults with an Intellectual disability. A variety of games and activities adapted to suit the needs of each of the members. The activities are followed by refreshments. It is on every Tuesday at Dundalk Sports Centre from 11am-12:30pm. New members always welcome.

Love2Dance Girls Fitness **-** A Women in Sport programme, a fun filled dance class for 10 – 14 year old girls, it is fitness through dance. For those that love to dance this class will give young girls the opportunity to get fit without pressure of competition. This class is purely for fun and fitness. It is on every Tuesday at Dundalk Sports Centre from 6-7pm. New members always welcome.

Sports Inclusion Monday Club – The club for children with a disability and their siblings offers a variety of games and activities all adapted to meet the individual needs of its members. The main aim is to have fun. This club was set up in association with the IWA and is on every Monday at Dundalk Sports Centre from 7-8pm.

Child Safeguarding Training – September – December courses continue for level 1, 2 & 3. Full details are available on the www.louthlsp.ie for upcoming dates and venues.

Outdoor Bootcamp - In line with European week of sport & national fitness day the Muirhevnamor community sport hub will be launching its autumn boot camp on the 1st October, it will run for 10 weeks with 2 classes per week for €40.00. To coincide with this there is a free taster class for the public on national fitness day with pilates from 6-7pm and the boot camp class from 7-8pm.

National Fitness Day - As part of national fitness day the Hub has contacted both primary schools in the community to encourage them to take part in the teacher versus pupil challenge where they could be in with a chance of winning €150 worth of sports equipment for their school.

Blazing Saddles – is a Cycling initiative aimed at students who have a poor attendance and punctuality at school who will receive a bike, helmet and padlock once 6 weeks of coaching is completed. 5 secondary schools in Louth completed this training with the final school commencing training in September 2018.

ICT Funding

The Minister for Rural and Community Development, Michael Ring TD, on September 14th, approved a major investment package for digital services and facilities in public libraries. The almost €8 million investment comprises of approximately €6 million from Minister Ring's Department and a further €2 million contribution from Local Authorities. Louth Libraries have been awarded a total of €274,991, of which LCC will match funding of 25%, €68,747.

The funding award underpins the roll out of measures set out in *Our Public Libraries 2022*, which include a programme of ICT upgrades and developments to ensure each library authority has the capacity to provide a service that is not only in line with user requirements, but also can deliver new and innovative services. The funding is targeted at developing digital learning centres and innovation centres in suitable libraries. Overall it is aimed at providing users with access to the latest technologies and supporting users who are not confident with technology.

Louth County Libraries is procuring a whole host of educational software and a range of technical hardware for branches in the county. This includes new PCs, Imacs, laptops, meeting room equipment, podcasting equipment gaming consoles, high specification computers to support gaming including learning by Virtual Reality devices. New meeting space digital supports, Coding, graphic design, and 3D printing will be part of the new offering. iPads and tablets will be available for users and for staff to assist the public more efficiently. A range of library furniture will also be purchased for new digital learning spaces.

The following programmes are currently in place.

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.

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

The following locations specific events are scheduled

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 will take place in 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
- Halloween Arts & Crafts for children aged 6 -10 years, Saturday October 13th at 2.30 p.m.

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

Louth Science Festival

Louth Libraries will launch our inaugural Louth Science Festival in Dundalk Library on October 24th. A full programme of events will run in all branches from November 6-17th. Funding from Science Foundation Ireland has allowed us programme creative, innovative facilitators along with events facilitated by science research centres including the Crann Institute, iCrag and Adapt Centre in Dublin. Events include workshops on coding; the science of gin; the science of the HPV virus; 3D printing; nanotechnology and robotics.
The purpose of a Science Week programme is to encourage people of all ages and from all walks of life to be informed, inspired and involved in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Maths).

The Louth Science Festival programme is targeted to primary schools, secondary schools and the general public. See www.louthcoco.ie/libraries for the full programme.

Decade of Centenaries seminar programme

Louth Libraries will deliver a 'Decade of Centenaries' seminar programme based around the 4 commemorative themes. The programme is funded by the Decade of Centenaries/Commemorations Unit in the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht. All are welcome to attend what promises to be a lively discussion forum.

Drogheda Library, Tuesday, October 30th, 6pm

- **'Military Radicalism and Female participation in IRA intelligence, 1912-1922'** with Gerri O'Neill (DCU)
- **'Women's Lives in 1918: Margaret Farrell, Georgina Frost and the 1919 Sex Disqualification (Removal) Act'**, with Antonia Hart (TCD)

Dunleer Library, Tuesday, October 30th, 6pm

- **'1918 and the Crisis of Unionism',** with Daniel Purcell (TCD)

Dundalk Library, Thursday, November 1st, 6pm

- **'The Irish Medical Profession and the First World War'** with Dr. David Durnin (UCD)
- **'Ireland and the First World War'**, Dr. Donal Hall.

Carlingford Library, Friday, November 2nd, 6pm

- **'Examining Women's Enfranchisement from 1918 to the Free State'**, with Dr. Alexander Tierney (TCD)

Ardee Library, Saturday, November 3rd, 2.30pm

- **'Irish Provincial Newspapers and the Changes in Nationalist Public Opinion, 1916-1918'** with Dermot Meleady
- **'1918, the Fall of the Irish Parliamentary Party?'** with Dr. Martin O'Donoghue.

Work Matters

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

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

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

Work Matters Events

Dundalk Library, Thursday, October 4th, 10am

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

Drogheda Library, Tuesday, November 20th, 10.30am

- **College Awareness Week**, LMETB Laegis Information Session

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. New course beginning mid-November.

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. This phase of 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. An updated booklist is available on the library webpage and books are on order. A national radio PR campaign is due to begin in the coming weeks.

Events include:

Ardee Library, Friday October 5th, 11am

- **Lactation Consultant & Midwife** Brenda Pieper Callan will hold an information session for breastfeeding mothers

Ardee Library, each Wednesday from 10-11am, beginning October 17th.

- **PHN led Breastfeeding Support Group**

Ardee Library, Thursday, November 22nd, 10am

- **Breastfeeding information session** with local PHN

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

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

Dundalk Library, Saturday, October 20th, 2:30pm
Drogheda Library, Tuesday, November 27th, 9.30am (invited class)

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

Dundalk Library, Tuesday, October 23rd, 2:30pm

- **Talk on Arthritis –** Advice on the symptoms and managing the condition with Arthritis Ireland.

- **World Harp Day**

Dundalk Library will host a performance by pupils from Music Generation. Saturday October 4th, 11:00am.

- **Conversational German Group**

Improve your conversational German in a friendly group environment.
Dundalk Library, commencing Friday, October 19th, 4pm. Weekly thereafter.

Exhibitions

Dundalk Library, Tuesday November 20th – Saturday December 1st

- **Local Artist James Muckian** will exhibit a selection of his works.

- **Drogheda Photo Club Exhibition**

Drogheda Library, Thursday, November 22nd, Launch. (Time to be confirmed) . Exhibition running until early January 2019
For updates see www.louthcoco.ie/en/Services/Library/
Follow #LouthLibraries on Twitter and LouthCountyLibraries on Facebook

County Archives

National Retention Policy Records Management Working Group (County Archivist a member): the draft retention schedules for the functional area of Housing and of Finance and Procurement are going through the validation process with subject matter experts, and then the final draft will be sent to local authorities for comment. The Working Group have commenced on Library Services, while the second Working Group are working on Human Resources.

Born Digital Records – Save the Date: Members of the LGARM are arranging a free seminar in the Digital Repository of Ireland on the 12th October coming. The event will focus on born digital records in local authorities and what should be done with them. It is aimed at senior LA staff such as Heads of IT, Directors or SEO's, as well as archivists/records managers. For further information, see https://www.eventbrite.com/e/a-future-for-digital-records-in-local-authority-services-tickets-49886306285.

Access Policy for Local Authority Archive Services: Members of the Local Government Archivists and Records Managers (LGARM) are currently drafting a new standard access policy in light of the recent changes in Data Protection with the introduction of the GDPR and the Data Protection Act 2018. The policy will address 'closed archives'.

Great Northern Railway (Ireland) Exhibition: A photographic exhibition commemorating the 60th anniversary of the closure of the GNR(I) in 1958 produced by the Dundalk Railway Heritage Society will be on display in Louth County Archives Service in October during office hours.

Conservation: Treatment on a small group of items, mainly early 20th century Council minute books has recently been completed and items will be returned to Louth County Archives very shortly.

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

Current Exhibitions

The Museum is 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 a number of artifacts. 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. An opening date in early November is being planned.

Work is also continuing on an exhibition marking the centenary of the sinking of the SS Dundalk. The exhibition is scheduled to open on October 12th by the Deputy British ambassador.

Forthcoming Conference

As has previously been reported 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 organizations such as museums.

Mental Health Week

An Art Exhibition to mark above will be facilitated from Oct 8th to 13th next

Maintaining the Service

In addition to the above the Museum continues to accept, record, catalogue items donated by the public.

Ongoing projects

The Museum is working on a poster project displaying some of Dundalk FC's playing strips over the last century. It is hoped that we will be able to launch this at some point in October with proceeds going to charity. This is being done in conjunction with the club.

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.

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.