Comhairle Contae **Lú**
Louth County Council

Chief Executive's Management Report

31st October 2018

Report to Members

Dated 7th November 2018

Finance Report to 31st October 2018

Expenditure to 31st October 2018

Section	ACTUAL EXPENDITURE TO 31/10/18	BUDGET EXPENDITURE 2018	% SPENT TO 31/10/18
Housing	**19,406,767**	23,072,404	84%
Road Transportation & Safety	**18,267,973**	19,613,150	93%
Water Services	**5,343,627**	7,034,240	76%
Development Management	**9,471,225**	16,197,124	58%
Environmental Services	**12,516,318**	15,700,738	80%
Recreation and Amenity	**6,483,457**	8,284,259	78%
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	**970,055**	1,384,695	70%
Miscellaneous	**7,058,845**	11,937,862	59%
	79,518,267	**103,224,472**	**77%**

Income to 31st October 2018

Section	ACTUAL INCOME TO 31/10/18	BUDGET INCOME 2018	% INVOICED TO 31/10/18
Housing	**16,233,906**	25,488,641	64%
Road Transportation & Safety	**7,108,985**	10,979,713	65%
Water Services	**4,539,675**	6,762,465	67%
Development Management	**4,452,067**	9,328,492	48%
Environmental Services	**1,314,968**	2,009,350	65%
Recreation and Amenity	**759,199**	847,827	90%
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	**321,356**	452,133	71%
Miscellaneous	**5,054,336**	5,573,406	91%
Rates	**31,893,808**	31,916,247	100%
General Purpose Grant (LGF)	**8,221,830**	9,866,198	83%
	79,900,130	**103,224,472**	**77%**

The above is the current position as at the 31st October 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 October 2018 are as follows:

DEBTORS AS AT 31st October 2018

	Opening Balance	Invoices	Receipts	Write Offs	Closing Balance
Government Debtors	**7,675,938**	41,856,207	(41,477,078)	0	**8,055,067**
Other Local Authorities	**63,193**	102,687	(94,924)	0	**70,956**
Rates	**12,504,700**	31,893,808	(26,373,317)	(2,828,832)	**15,196,359**
Rents	**5,089,880**	9,288,652	(10,309,428)	(121,104)	**3,948,000**
Loans	**362,039**	971,372	(994,054)	(8)	**339,349**
Development Levies	**12,123,334**	3,772,322	(2,156,367)	0	**13,739,289**
Fire Charges	**1,594,374**	316,652	(225,174)	(31,433)	**1,654,419**
Miscellaneous	**2,725,633**	6,101,448	(5,772,261)	(35,885)	**3,018,935**
TOTAL DEBTORS	**42,139,091**	**94,303,148**	**(87,402,603)**	**(3,017,262)**	**46,022,374**

Above is the debtor balances as at the 31st October 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

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.

Economic Development

Louth Economic Forum

At the last meeting of the Louth Economic Forum in Drogheda on 26th September, a presentation was given on the Dundalk-Drogheda Joint Marketing Initiative. The Forum gives its full support to this initiative, which is Louth's response to government policy – Project Ireland 2040. The aim of which is a single 'Louth centric' marketing product branded M1Corridor. The M1 Corridor 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

Work has begun on developing a Louth Seafood Trail. This will be the third Tourism publication in the suite of Louth tourism brochures which includes Visit Louth (general tourist attractions) and the recently published Explore Louth (Heritage Trail). It is hoped that the Seafood Trail will be ready to launch before the start of the tourist season and well in advance of Fleadh 2019.

Boyne Valley Food Network

The Boyne Valley Food Network is to host a producer showcase in the Monasterboice Inn on Tuesday, 13th November. This, the second year of the event, is an opportunity for restaurateurs, business owners, chefs, buyers and others in the food and drinks industry to discover the best in local food and drinks from Louth and Meath. Visitors will have the chance to discuss, see and sample the huge variety of food and drink that the Boyne Valley region offers. In addition to the many producers exhibiting, there will also be the chance to listen to guest speakers, Michelin star Chef Rob Krawczyk from The Chestnut Restaurant in Cork and Aidan O'Byrne, The Food Accountant.

Arts

Life Drawing and Portraits in Secondary School – This Arts initiative will run through the months of October and November, culminating with a portrait sitting with one of the Dundalk FC team players.

Creative Ireland Grant applications – Thirty two applications were received under this new initiative, with a total of €39,951 in grant funding awarded.

Youth Theatre Residential Weekend – CreateLouth, the Arts Service of Louth County Council, works closely throughout the year with the three youth theatres within the county, and young people from these youth theatres will gather in Newgrange Lodge, from Friday 2nd to Sunday 4th November, for this annual Residential Weekend. Organised and supported by Louth County Council, the weekend sees 36 young people from all over the county, and their Leaders, work with external facilitators in workshops designed to develop their theatre and drama skills. These skills are then brought back to each Youth Theatre for sharing with other members. Droichead Youth Theatre, Dundalk Youth Theatre, and M.A.D. Youth Theatre were all represented.

Proclamation Room – A ceremonial event to mark the official dedication of the Proclamation Room, in Dundalk Town Hall, will be held on Tuesday, 6th November. Previously known as the Council Chamber Meeting Room, the Proclamation Room is now so named as it houses a copy of the 1916

Proclamation, which was presented to Dundalk Urban District Council in 1959 by Dundalk and District Old IRA. In addition, a series of 1916-related artwork, curated by the Arts Service of Louth County Council to mark 1916 centenary celebrations in Louth, will hang in the room.

Heritage

Creative Ireland funding was used to pay for 10 half-day school visits in Louth through the Heritage in Schools Scheme.

The Louth Heritage Officer is the regional co-ordinator for the CoastWatch coastal waste and wildlife survey. Louth has the seventh highest number of species recorded at Biodiversity Ireland this year, up from 27th last year.

Do Borders Matter Conference was held in the County Muesum, on 25th October.
Part of the European Year of Cultural Heritage 2018 and supported by the Heritage Council and the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, this day of ideas and discussions looked at the potential of shared history and heritage to act as a catalyst for positive social change, community development and peace-building.

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 October, the following business workshops were delivered to c.50 participants:

- 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

In November, the following business workshops will be held:

- Creating an Online Business
- GDPR and Your Business
- Social Media x 3 in Dundalk, Drogheda and Ardee
- Finance and book-keeping for small business

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

Brexit
Enterprise Ireland held a Brexit Advisory Clinic on Monday 22nd October in the Crowne Plaza, Dundalk. Economist Jonathan Healy provided the welcome address with a range of topics from financial and currency management, market development and customs insights of trading with a third country presented to over 140 attendees. The event included an SME panel discussion providing insights into the market tactics and lessons learnt as these SME's look to future proof their business. The event afforded attendees an opportunity to have one to one meetings with independent experts

in such areas as financial and currency management, strategic sourcing, customs, transport and logistics, people and health and safety.

An overview of LEO supports available to assist business through Brexit was presented by Thomas McEvoy, including an outline of the Brexit Ready Voucher. Emphasis was put on the need for SME's to assess the impact of Brexit on their business and SME's were encouraged to log onto the LEO Louth website and complete the Brexit Scorecard.

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. Decisions are expected to be announced in November.

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.

Business Advice Clinics
LEO Louth has scheduled to run 8 business advice clinics in Dundalk (Town Hall) and Drogheda (at The Mill Enterprise Hub) during November.

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 have now completed the LEO LEAN for Micro programme with saving in excess of €175k identified in total across the four businesses.
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 delivered a joint LEO/Bord Bia Food Starter Programme on October 2nd and 9th. '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 was to provide the participants with a base knowledge of what is involved in setting up a food or drink manufacturing business.

Boyne Valley Local producer Showcase
The Boyne Valley Food Network Producer Showcase takes place on Tuesday 13th November, in the Monasterboice Inn, Co. Louth from 10am to 1pm. Building on the success of 2017 this showcase will again provide all within the food industry an opportunity to sample the very best in local food and drinks in the region. Guest speakers will include Chef Rob Krawczyk, The Chestnut Restaurant, Cork and Aidan O'Byrne, The Food Accountant. Attendance at the event is free. Any producers interested in taking a stand at the event should contact grainne@boynevalleyflavours.ie.

Student Enterprise Programme
LEO Louth's Student Enterprise Programme (2018-2019) continued to run in October in 18 second-level schools in the county.

National Women's Enterprise Day – 18th October
LEO Louth hosted a joint event with LEO Meath in the CityNorth Hotel on October 18th for National Women's Enterprise Day with leading female entrepreneur guest speakers, including Anne Reilly of Paycheck Plus, Drogheda and Dr Colette Henry, DkIT. There were a total of 76 attendees.

Co-Innovate Programme
This Innovation focused Interreg funded programme targeted at border county companies is progressing. To date 47 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 LCC 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 CoCo provides the Secretariat to the NE/NW Regional Action Plan for Jobs. The North East implementation committee met in Monaghan on 18th 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

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

Planning

Development Management

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

There were 89 planning applications received during the month of September of which **81** were valid. In addition there were 24 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	**0**	**7**	**61**	**2**	**70**
(ii) No. of decisions determined which required further information	**0**	**5**	**23**	**1**	**29**
(iii) Percentage of applications refused	**0% (0)**	**0% (0)**	**6.56% (4)**	**0% (0)**	**5.71% (4)**
(iv) Number of appeals determined	**0**	**1**	**1**	**0**	**2**
(v) Percentage of decisions overturned on appeal	**0%**	**100%(1)**	**0%**	**0%**	**50%**

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	
	Sept. 2018	Year to Date	Sept. 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	13	193	17	154
Number of Planning Enforcement cases received which didn't require follow up	0	0	0	10
Number of cases closed/resolved through negotiation.	11	191	26	140
Number of Warning letters issued.	7	122	12	123
Number of Enforcement Notices issued.	2	20	1	25
Number of cases referred for legal proceedings	1	8	0	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	0	1
Number of Prosecutions	0	3	0	2

Forward Planning

Westgate Vision			
1	October 2018	Residential Land Survey Drogheda	Ongoing
2	October 2018	Westgate Phase 2 Implementation	Ongoing

ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE REPORT – October 2018

GENERAL– There were 7 waste complaints in October 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.

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 November 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 3 IBC's of Diesel Sludge recovered on the 18th October 2018. The approximate cost of clean-up and disposal of the material is €3,746.25. The 3 IBC's were found at the Captains Road, Kilcurry.

ANTI DUMPING INITIATIVE 2018 – Works on the Department for Communications, Climate Action and Environment (DCCAE) Anti-Dumping initiative 2018 have now been completed with final reporting underway to facilitate grant drawdown through the Department. The Six projects submitted under the Anti Dumping Initiative 2018 completed are:

1) Clean up, removal of vegetation and container at The Ramparts, Dundalk;
2) Clean up and removal of vegetation at Moneymore, St. Laurence's Drive and Skellys Lane;
3) Litter pick along 3km of the N33 at Jct 14 on the M1;
4) Clean up and removal of vegetation at Waterunder roundabout, Drogheda;
5) Clean up, removal of vegetation, placement of boulders and work on the ravine at Rathmullen, Drogheda. Awareness campaign at Rathmullen Drogheda and Doolargy, Dundalk;
6) Clean up and barriers at Carrickcarnon Laneway, Carrickcarnon.

Old Customs Site Carrickcarnon - After discussion between LCC Operations and the OPW, the OPW have installed earth bunds to the lay-by area in a bid to curtail dumping and anti-social behaviour in the area. These works where completed in October and this solution will be monitored for its effectiveness going forward.

SEGREGATION, STORAGE AND PRESENTATION OF HOUSEHOLD AND COMMERCIAL WASTE BYE-LAWS 2018 – Draft wording of the Bye-Law is currently 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-2018.html .

CORPORATE & EMERGENCY SERVICES

The Corporate Directorate includes the central services required to maintain and administer this Local Authority and includes Corporate, Human Resources and Information Communication Technology. Emergency Services includes all elements of the Fire Service including Major Emergency Management and the provision of Civil Defence Services.

Corporate Services

At the instigation of Dundalk Municipal District, Louth County Council hosted, arranged and managed the formal homecoming event for Dundalk FC to mark the conclusion of their recent double winning season. The Cathaoirleach of the District, Cllr Keelan made a presentation to the Club Chief Executive Officer and Team Manager, Stephen Kenny.

Preparations continue for the Fair Street re-development with the Part 8 now complete for the interim arrangements at the O Reillys Yard.

Energy Section

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.

Emergency Services

The Local Authority Performance Indicator Report for 2017 showed that approximately 75% of fires in Louth had a Fire Brigade attendance within 10 minutes. This was the third highest in the country. East Region Control Centre (ERCC) data show that the mobilization times in Dundalk and Drogheda Brigades have each reduced to approximately 1.5 minutes during 2018 and this is welcomed.

Emergency incidents attended during October included a public house fire in Grange where the Fire Service managed to prevent fire spread into the main public area. Overall numbers of incidents are still slightly down on the corresponding period in 2017.

A funding submission has been made to the Department of Housing Planning and Local Government for a further upgrade of Dundalk Regional Training Centre. This upgrade would replace temporary buildings with permanent buildings and would include a Breathing Apparatus building extension and new BA briefing room and canteen and complete yard resurfacing. If approved this should ensure a much greater demand from other counties for the use of the Training Centre.

Emergency First Responder refresher courses were recently run in Dundalk Training Centre. Emergency Services Driving courses took place in Dundalk and Drogheda stations during September and hydraulic platform refresher courses are planned. Preparations are underway for a Breathing Apparatus Wearers (BA) course, which will now take place in Dundalk Training Centre during January 2019. This will be the first BA Wearers course in the Irish Fire Service to be overseen and accredited by the Local Authority Fire Services National Training Group (LASNTG).

Louth Rostered Senior Officers attended an 'Effective Decision Making for Fire Officers' course in the Hydra Training Suite, Clonmel. Station Officers and Sub Officers will also be attending this course.

Following Fire Safety Week from 1st to 7th October, Louth Fire Service has continued to make fire safety information available to the public and has commenced the Primary Schools Programme.

The Fire Prevention Section has continued its focus on residential developments, both private and public, including liaison with the Housing Section. The Fire Prevention Section is continuing with inspections of properties used for the emergency accommodation of homeless persons.

The increased focus by the Fire Prevention Section on collecting outstanding fire bill debts has resulted in the payment of some of these debts. The Section is now preparing for legal action to obtain court judgments in some cases where bills are not paid.

Major Emergency Management

The Annual Winter Ready Initiative was launched this week by the Department of Housing and provides advice to households and the community in general. The Council annually takes the opportunity to brief all stakeholders on our processes to ensure that for any weather event that all are aware of the business continuity priorities. www.winterready.ie is a useful website resource in this regard.

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

1. HOUSING DEMAND AT 31ST OCTOBER 2018

Housing List (excluding HAP Transfers)

Month	Ardee MD	Dundalk MD	Drogheda MD	Total
August 18	375	530	854	1759
Sept. 18	377	540	826	1743
difference	2	10	-28	-16

Transfer List from HAP

Month	Ardee MD	Dundalk MD	Drogheda MD	Total	
August 18	248	1289	925	2462	
Sept.18	258	1323	935	2516	
difference	10	34	10	54	

There are a total of **188** applicants on the list for transfer (**Non-HAP)** within Social Housing including **13** 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 OCTOBER 2018

Numbers Allocated	Allocations- Social	Allocations - Voluntary	Total Allocations	Refusals – Social	Refusals – Voluntary
Ardee MD	5	51	56	1	1
Dundalk MD	37	27	64	4	3
Drogheda MD	18	47	65	5	2
	60	**125**	**185**	**10**	**6**

Transfers Approved within Social Housing at 31st October 2018

Year		Ardee	Dundalk	Drogheda
2018		6	12	3

HOUSING STOCK AS AT 31ST OCTOBER 2018

Housing Stock Managed by the Council	Dundalk	Drogheda	Ardee	Total
Council owned	1772	1450	598	3820
Community Houses	4	4	0	8
Long Term Leased	185	28	23	236
Totals	**1961**	**1482**	**621**	**4064**
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	118	70	303
Mortgage to Rent with AHB's	13	15	4	32

PRIVATE RENTED ACTIVITY AS AT 31ST OCTOBER 2018

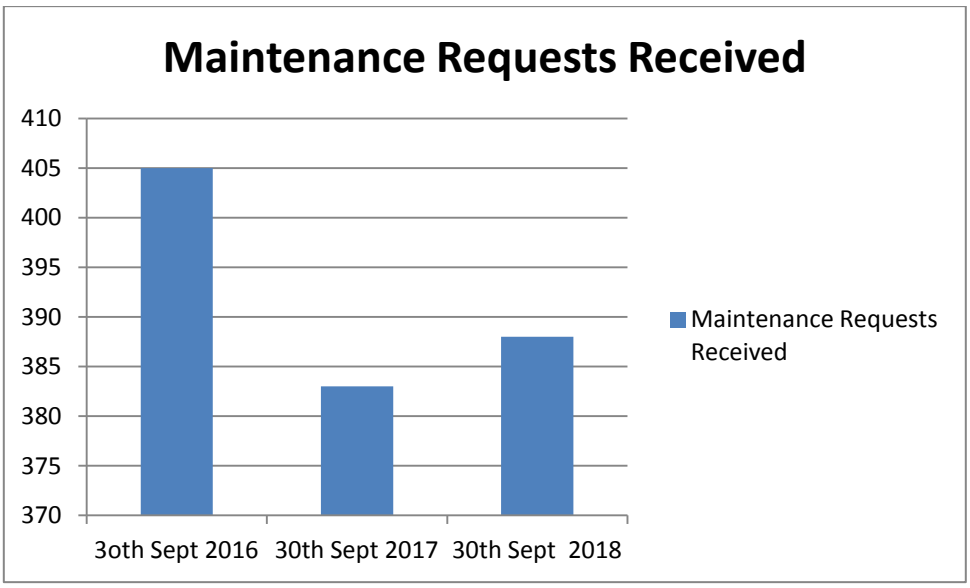
No. of properties inspected to date	**679**
No. of advisory notes issued to landlord	**488**
No. of improvement notices issued	**37**
No. of prohibition notices issued	**24**
No. of Rent Book Notices issued	**0**
Inspections (HAP)	**518**
Improvement Notices (HAP)	**38**

CURRENT PROHIBITIONS NOTICES ARE ALSO LISTED ON THE WEBSITE.

5. STOCK MAINTENANCE ACTIVITY AS AT 31ST OCTOBER 2018

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

	Total
No. of Maintenance Requests Received -Sept 18	440
No. of Requests Outstanding- Sept 18	382
Vacant Properties (un-tenanted & un-occupied) - Requiring Major Refurbishing	56
Vacant Properties (un-tenanted & un-occupied) – Requiring Minor Works	35
Vacant Properties (un-tenanted & un-occupied) – Awaiting Allocation	6
Total Vacant Properties (excluding Un-tenanted Properties)	97
Un-tenanted properties (un-tenanted BUT occupied)- properties not vacant	1
% Stock Vacant(Total Vacancies/Total Stock)	2.57%
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 confirmation of funding from Dept 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 withdrawn)

Municipal District Ardee

Location	Auth	Social	I.P.S.	CAS	Calf	Total	Start Date	Scheduled Completion	Current Position
Tierney Street, Ardee	Oaklee	0	0	7	0	7	Q4 2018	Q3 2019	Stage 3 Approved by Department of Housing
Dunleer	National Development Financial Agency	80	0	0	0	80	Q1 2019	Q2 2020	Contractor Appointed
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	Q2 2019	Q3 2020	Stage 2 Approved & 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	Stage 2 Approved & Part 8 received.
Saltown	North & East	0	0	7	0	7	Q1 2019	Q4 2019	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	Q4 2018	Q2 2019	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	Q4 2018	Q2 2019	CALF Approved Contractor to commence on site
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	Q2 2018	Q4 2019	On site
Halliday's Mill Quay Street	Tuath	0	0	0	68	68	Q2 2018	Q3 2019	On site
Church Street, Dundalk	Tuath	0	0	0	3	3	Q3 2018	Q4 2018	Acquisition
Cois Cuan, Upper Point Road	Tuath	0	0	0	28	28	Q1 2018	Q2 2019	On site
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
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	Complete
Grove Court, Hardmans Gardens, Drogheda	Foscadh	0	0	0	4	4	Not Known	Not Known	Acquisition
17 Chestnut Grove, Termonabbey, Drogheda	Foscadh	0	0	0	1	1			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	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	11	61	15	83
Tenanted and Complete	**3**	**35**	**5**	**43**

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

Local Authority Construction	0
AHB CAS	12
AHB CALF	90
Part V	2
Local Authority Acquisition	6
Long Term Leases	2
AHB Mortgage to Rent	7
CPO/Buy & Renew	17
Repair & Lease	0
Voids	13
AHB Acquisition	2
Total	**151**

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

Voids = new addition to the report requested by Department of Housing, Planning & Local Government.

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 30TH SEPTEMBER 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 **2516**. 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
258	1323	935	2516

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.

10 Tenancy Management

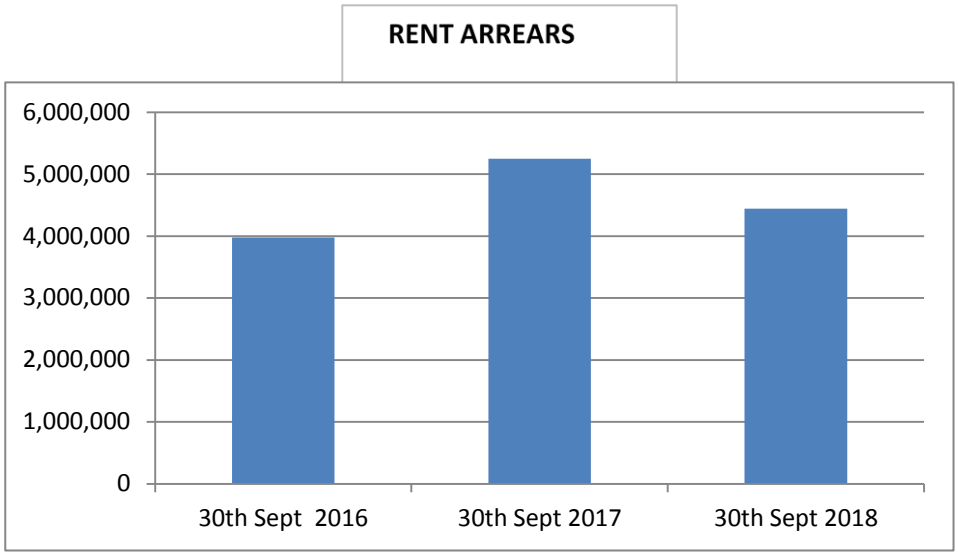
The table below illustrates activity with regard to general estate management for the month of Sept. 2018 last

Tenancy Activity	TOTAL
Pre Tenancy Training	8
Tenancy (House) Inspections	40

11 Rent Management

The number of tenants who pay rent by Household Budget is now **1136**

Current Rents Arrears as at 30th Sept. 2018	Number of Account	Value
Rents between 4-6 weeks old	160	€49,098
Rents between 7-12 weeks old	170	€98,299
Rents greater than 12 weeks old	1211	€4,232,476
TOTAL	**1541**	**€4,379,873**



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 Sept. 2018	Ardee MD	Dundalk MD	Drogheda MD	Total
Number of Person who presented as Homeless	2	69	49	**120**
Offered advice, support (including fast tracking H.A. for Rent Supplement eligibility)	1	35	27	**63**
Placed in Temporary Emergency Accommodation	1	30	20	**51**
Refused Offer of Temporary Emergency Accommodation	0	1	1	**2**
Not eligible from outside county or non HRC	0	3	1	**4**
Number of Tenancies being supported : Sustainment Packages funded by the Housing Authority in order to prevent Homelessness	0	13	18	**31**

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, 24Th Sept. 2018 to 30Th Sept. 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	80
Female	52
Total	**132**

Table 2: Age Groups

Age Group	Total
18-24	14
25-44	82
45-64	29
65+	7
Total	**132**

Table 3: Accommodation Type

Accommodation Type	Total
Private Emergency Accommodation (PEA)	66
Supported Temporary Accommodation (STA)	65
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	111
County Monaghan	3
County Cavan	18
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	23	23	52
Couples with dependent children	6	6 couples (12 adults)	11
Total	**29**	**35**	**63**

Work is continuing on the development of a new Regional Homeless Action Plan and this will be further discussed at the next meeting of the North East Regional Forum meeting on Nov 5th next.

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 October 2018

ASB INVESTIGATION CASES	DBD	AMD	DMD	TOTAL
ASB investigations ongoing	4	4	3	11
ASB investigations completed	24	9	32	65
Total ASB investigation cases	28	13	35	76

ACTION TAKEN	DBD	AMD	DMD	TOTAL
No further action required, no ASB found (unfounded/malicious)	11	4	16	31
No further action – Advice given	0	0	0	0
Verbal Warning issued	9	4	11	24
Tenancy Notification	3	1	4	8
Tenancy Warning	1	0	1	2
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	**24**	**9**	**32**	**65**

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 October. 2018

Possible Abandoned properties to 30th Sept 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 Progress Report

LEADER

The LCDC/LAG at its meeting in October approved funding support for ten LEADER projects in the amount of €268,246. Locations of the projects approved for support include Dundalk, Blackrock, Carlingford, Monasterboice, Sandpit, Castlebellingham/ Kilsaran, Omeath and Louth Village.

Community Enhancement Programme

In late September the LCDC was notified of an additional allocation bringing the total available fund under this programme in Co. Louth to circa €408,000.
In addition the LCDC approved the award of grants totaling €10,145 to 6 no. *Men's Sheds* Groups in County Louth.
The groups are required to spend the grant on capital items and must claim all expenditure before end of December 2018.
The tables below set out details of the organisations/groups, purpose and amount of grant aid awarded.

Group Name	Items	Grant Award
Ferdia Park, Ardee Environmental Group	Water pump (cast iron) & 2 seater bench	€1,000.00
Irish Wheelchair Association	4 no. pieces of new accessible exercise equipment	€5,973.15
Holy Family Parish Community Creche	1 no. Defibrillator	€1,345.00
Drogheda Community Services Trust	2 no. Filing Cabinets (fire proof)	€4,797.00
Women's Aid Dundalk	IT Equipment - Additional items to include attic Insulation and refurbishment of Den for refugees	€6,500.00
Cara Cancer Support Centre	Kitchen appliances	€2,121.97
Tredagh Lodge Day Care Centre Alzheimer Society	1 no. Digital Chair Weighing Scales & Computer	€1,680.00
Epilepsy Ireland	Training course - 2 resource workers	€1,350.00
Gary Kelly Cancer Support Centre	1 no. Defibrillator & PHECC training course for 6 participants	€5,000.00

Group Name	Items	Grant Award
Drogheda Job Initiative CLG	1 no. Printer, installation and toners (2 sets)	€1,173.42
MS Ireland - Louth Branch	Yoga Exercise class equipment mats and bands. Purchase of 1 x iPad	€1,100.00
Castlebellingham / Kilsaran Env. Group & Tidy Towns	Signs	€800.00
St. Laurence's Gate Brownies Unit of the Irish Girl Guides	1 printer, 1 camera and 5 no. play/activity packs	€914.48
SOSAD Ireland	5 Computers	€3,000.00
Drogheda Resource Centre Ltd	1 Defibrillator	€1,345.00
disABILITY Louth	Hearing Loop & Samsung Galaxy Tablet	€3,000.00
Dundalk Youth Centre	Painting of exterior of building and provision of an IT suite	€18,363.00
Ionad nDaoine an tShlanaitheora Teoranta	Installation of fire safety doors	€11,365.20
The Louth Age Friendly County Initiative Ltd.	36 x Tablets	€9,987.60
Drogheda Schools Community Programme	110 Chairs	€2,750.00
NR Louth Alzheimer's Soc. of Ireland	IT equipment - Additional items to include Laptop (hi Spec) and Kitchen Equipment (white goods)	€4,682.00
Lifestyle Development Group CLG	New shed, New telephone system, artificial grass, 1 printer, office equipment.	€11,067.00
Dundalk Sheltered Housing	Fencing around sheltered housing	€8,342.55
Dundalk Red Cross	4 x defibrillators & First Aid Training Class. Additional items include CCTV	€3,500.00
Drogheda Homeless Aid	Upgrade flooring in common areas. Additional items include kitchen deep clean	€11,316.55
Failte Isteach - Dundalk (3rd Age)	1 x tablet	€1,005.00
Acquired Brain Injury Ireland	Boiler replacement	€4,426.00
Accord Drogheda	1 x CCTV camera for front door with monitor and installation	€584.53
Claddaghs Treasures Preschool	Upgrade of playground - 1 no. piece of equipment and 3 additional pieces i.e. swing & slide set	€4,035.00

Group Name	Items	Grant Award
Ardee Concert Band	Re-roofing of 6 flat roofs to include insulation, flashing, guttering and water proofing etc.	€15,000.00
Drogheda & District Support 4 Older People	Internal lobby area to exclude drafts, two wall mounted electric radiators and desk screen divider	€12,740.00
Moneymore Community House	Business size - 1 x tumble dryer, 1 x dishwasher, 1 x steam cleaner, 1 x vacuum cleaner, 1 x lawnmower and new soffits and fascias	€14,557.02
The Red Door Project	Alarm system &/or cctv system +4 participant laptops	€8,629.70
St. Oliver's Scouts	IT equip to include: & Sports Equipment - 1 crash mat, 1 x Goal	€1,000.00
Autism Support Louth & Meath	1 projector, 1 Go-Pro, 1 Go-Pro accessory kit, 1 Laptop, 1 iPad, 1 camera, crash mat, sports equipment (1 no. rebounder, 2 x goals)	€1,500.00
Lourdes Brass Band	Student Cornets, refurbishment of learning environment, music stands etc.	€4,030.00
Drogheda ABACAS	1 replacement door	€1,800.00
Oriel Traditional Orchestra	Music stands with lights, portable instruments i.e. Keyboards etc.	€5,508.00
Louth Village Community Centre Committee	1x Audio Visual Equipment System, 1x speaker system, replace chairs, tables & soft furnishings, Bouncy Castle/soft play equipment etc.	€24,215.61
Muirhevnamor Community Youth Project	Replacement of all floor coverings in after-school rooms and purchase of kitchen equipment i.e. Cooker, fridge, dryer etc.	€3,368.04
Muirhevnamor Football Club	Dugouts and Ball stops	€13,353.00
Hollys Horse Haven Charity	Pro Wood Lathe / Pottery Wheel and Craft Kiln, projector, cctv and signage	€4,058.54
The Ferrard Day Centre	16 chairs upholstered, 1 folding table & 1 storage unit	€4,221.36
Family Addiction Support Network	Launch event and printing of research project report	€5,000.00
Craobh Rua Community Youth Project	1 x Marquee, 1 x flooring for marquee, 6 x folding tables & 48 x chairs	€5,423.27
Dunleer Community Development Board	2 new printers	€1,000.00
Louth - Irish Water Safety	3 x Kayak / Surf Skis	€4,800.00

Group Name	Items	Grant Award
Irish Wheelchair Association - Ardee	Bathroom upgrade & develop sensory garden	€21,573.28
Louth Volunteer Centre	1 x Projector screen, 1 x portable speakers with microphones, 1 x Bluetooth speakers- 2 no. encrypted laptops + phone system	€3,600.00
Spina Bifida Hydrocephalus Ireland	1 x iPad & keyboard	€524.84
Grove Rangers Boys & Girls Soccer Club	Upgrade of football pitch & container for changing rooms	€10,000.00
Drogheda Special Olympics Club	Refurbishment of main hall & purchase sports equipment - floor ball rink	€17,907.14
Cox's Demesne Youth & Community House)	Upgrade to facility (outside painting) and exercise equipment	€4,048.00
Dundalk Social Service Council	Packaging for meal distribution	€4,000.00
Muirhevnamor Community Council	Energy efficiency works	€20,000.00
Ardee & District Community Trust CLG	Ramps to building for disabled users and ancillary works, 10 x yoga mats, defibrillator, CCTV and blinds	€10,000.00
St. Patrick's Scout Group	1 x Exterior sign with signage lighting	€1,861.40
Beechwood Drive Residents Association	1 no. Karcher push sweeper	€558.60
Redeemer Celtic FC	Ride on lawnmower and installation costs for netting	€7,000.00
Connect Family Resource Centre	Financial package - training & laptop x 2. 1 x CCTV camera with monitor and installation	€4,284.00
Clann Naofa Boxing Academy	1 x Boxing Ring	€2,000.00
Castlebellingham - Dromiskin Cardiac First Responders	8 x Mannequins and accessories for CPR exercises and training	€4,280.40
MAD Youth Theatre	1 x camera and 1 x tripod for training in film/photography classes for youth workshops	€982.97
Creative Spark CLG	Defibrillator	€1,345.00
Dealgan Amateur Boxing Club	Rubber flooring and boxing sports equipment	€13,086.00
Development Perspectives	IT Equipment - 2 x Dell notebooks, 1 x projector, 1 x scanner - including set up and anti-virus	€1,918.73
Ait Na Ndaoine Teoranta Cuidigh Linn	Office equipment - 2 x office chairs, 2 x office desks and 2 x mobile desk drawer	€806.88
RehabCare Group	IT equipment, sporting equipment and defibrillator	€9,016.50
Turas Counselling	2 x laptops, 1 x Hoover, 1 x printer, 1 x tablet, 9 x office chairs and 4 x tables	€6,959.27
		€408,482.00

Men's Sheds Funding

Group Name	Grant Details	Final Grant Awarded
Dundalk Men's Shed	4 x Laptops	€1,690.83
Dunleer Men's Shed	Purchase of Laptop and Wood Working Machinery	€1,690.83
Tullyallen Men's Shed	Tools for the shed for training and laptop	€1,690.83
Drogheda Men's Shed	Upgrade of computer system	€1,690.83
Cooley Peninsula Men's Shed	Facilities Improvements	€1,690.83
Mid-Louth Men's Shed	Purchase Fitness Equipment	€1,690.85
		€10,145.00

PPN

Louth PPN organised two events in October for Mental Health Week 2018. Safetalk Suicide Alert training was delivered to community group members in Drogheda, and a 'Cooking for Positive Mental Health' demonstration was held in Dundalk.
Louth PPN assisted with the adjudication of Community & Voluntary Awards for Laois and Waterford PPN. Louth PPN also submitted nominations to the National Volunteer Ireland Awards, to give recognition to Louth individuals at national level.
Louth PPN Resource Worker attended Louth Comhairle na nÓg annual conference in Drogheda. In addition Louth PPN along with local youth stakeholders organised a youth issues consultation day for Mid-Louth which was held in Dunleer, with the purpose of identifying and addressing challenges being faced.
A nomination process took place via Louth PPN to fill an environmental representative seat on the Peace IV Partnership Committee, which resulted in Elizabeth O'Reilly securing the position.
Louth PPN Resource Worker along with 4 community representatives attended the National PPN Conference in Athlone, which included thematic workshops and field trips to local community development group initiatives in Westmeath and surrounding counties.
Louth PPN attended training on *Salesforce Comm-IT* system which will be the new IT communication tool for Louth PPN to engage with local community groups. The migration to this new system will be completed by year end.

Dundalk Looking Good 2018

The Dundalk Looking Good Awards Ceremony took place in the An Táin Theatre in Dundalk on Thursday 18th October. Awards were once again given to representatives of the many estates, gardens and business premises who make such a fantastic effort to improve the appearance of their local communities. The complete list of prize winners is as follows

	Best Estate – Category A
1st	Carroll Mead
2nd	Priorland Grove
Joint 3rd	Belfry Gardens
Joint 3rd	Siúl na Mara
	Best Estate - Category B
1st	Cooley Park
2nd	Kingswood
3rd	Willow Grove
	Best Estate - Category C
1st	Ard Easmuinn
2nd	Belfry Park
3rd	Manydown Close
	Best Local Authority Estate
1st	Cooley Park
2nd	Woodview
3rd	Oldbridge
	Best Garden
1st	Paddy Myers, 8 Castletown Cottages
2nd	Gerard McHugh, 'Drumcask' Priorland Road
3rd	Patricia & David Ryan, 149, Manydown Close
	Best Overall Garden
	John & Geraldine Conachy, 306 Greenacres
	Best Garden in Local Authority Estate
1st	Margaret & Darren Dowling, 98, Lios Dubh
2nd	Rose McGee, 175, Cedarwood Park
3rd	The Shields Family, 121, Oakland Park
	Best Business Premises
1st	Quinn's Funeral Parlour, Bridge Street
2nd	Mullen's Takeaway, Roden Place
	Best Hospitality Premises
1st	Rosemount Guest House, Dublin Road
2nd	Glen Gat Guest House, The Crescent
3rd	Peter Bennett's, Bridge St
	Adjudicator's Award
	'The Future is bright' **-** Mullaharlin Park

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. These awards are organised in conjunction with Louth Tidy Towns Together.

17. Libraries, Archives and Museum

Louth County Libraries

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.

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

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.

Family Time at Your Library – encouraging families to visit and join the library together and encourage reading from the youngest age.

Dundalk Library:

Family Fun Day, Saturday, 1st of December

- Baby Book Club & Toddler Storytime at 11:30am
- Storytime 4 - 7 year olds at 12 noon
- Storytime 8 – 10 year olds at 12:30pm
- Arts & Crafts – Make your own bookmark
- Harry Potter, Minecraft, Fortnite & Dr Seuss quizzes & crosswords
- Displays of graded readers & reading tips and storytelling techniques for parents

Seasonal Storytelling, Saturday, 15th of December, 11:30am

Drogheda Library:

- **Christmas Art & Crafts** for children aged 6-10 years. November 24th, 10.am
- **Baby Book Club Christmas Special** – A special storytime for toddlers, their parents & grandparents, Wednesday, December 12th, 10.30am
- **Christmas Storytime** for children, parents & grandparents, Friday, December 14th, 3.30pm

Ardee Library:

- Family Fun Event Monster Doodle, Saturday, December 1st, 10.30am

Louth Science Festival

Louth Libraries launched the inaugural Louth Science Festival in Dundalk Library on October 24th. A full programme with over 50 events ran in all branches from November 6-17th. Funding from Science Foundation Ireland has allowed the library put together a really exciting event schedule with creative, innovative facilitators along with events facilitated by science research centre's including the Crann Institute, iCrag, and Adapt Centre in Dublin. Events included workshops on coding; the science of gin; the science of the HPV virus; 3D printing; nanotechnology and robotics.

Collaboration with local industries in this programme allows the opportunity to bring Science to life by showing how STEAM is used in every day scenarios and business.

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.

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:

- **Mature Student Application Workshop with LMETB,** Friday, November 23rd, 11am
- **LMETB will discuss options for returning to education or trying to re-enter the workplace,**Wednesday, November 28th, 10am

Drogheda Library:

- **College Awareness Week** - LMETB Information Session, Tuesday, November 20th, 10.30am -12.30pm
- **LMETB CAO Public Workshop**, Tuesday, November 27th, 11.30am -12.30pm
- **LMETB Information Session**, Thursday, December 13th, 10.30am -12.30pm

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, 10.30am -12.30pm. New course beginning mid-November.

General Events

Exhibitions

Dundalk Library:

- **Dundalk born Artist James Muckian** will exhibit a selection of his works from his latest collection “Astral Rain”, Tuesday November 20th – Saturday December 1st
- **Artisan’s Christmas Exhibition,** Tuesday December 4th – Saturday December 8th.

Drogheda Library:

- **Drogheda Photo Club Exhibition,** Thursday, November 22nd, Launch. Exhibition running until early January 2019

Ardee Library:

- **Jane Campbell Sculptural Ceramics**, December 4th-9th

Book Launch

Dundalk Library, Tuesday December 4th, 11am

- **Dundalk Men’s Sheds** will launch their booklet “Tall Tales, Short Stories, Prose and Cons”. The book is a combination of short stories and poetry from the men’s youth.

Children’s Events

‘Adventures Far and Wild’ a bilingual presentation with writer, broadcaster and mountaineer Dermot Somers (invited primary school classes). Funded by Foras na Gaeilge.

- Ardee Library, Tuesday , November 27th
- Drogheda Library, Thursday, November 29th
- Dundalk Library, Friday, November 30th

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 (Co 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 and have also commenced work on Environment concurrently, while the second Working Group are working on Human Resources.

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 now be on display in Louth County Archives Service in November during office hours.

St Patrick's Cemetery Project: This is a joint project with the Old Dundalk Society and DKIT's Department of Computing Science and Mathemathics to develop a grave locator app and website for the cemetery. Work has begun on the second phase of the project which involves the transcription of the burial records relating to the cemetery on to a searchable database by volunteers.

SS Dundalk Disaster Fund Committee Papers: The archival processing of the collection to ISAD(G) standard was completed before the centenary of the sinking of the ship which occurred near the end of World War I. The catalogue for the collection which consists of correspondence and financial material relating to the administration and management of the SS Dundalk Disaster Fund is now available to access online: https://www.louthcoco.ie/en/Services/Archives/Archive_Collections/.

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'.

Old Dundalk Society Lecture: The County Archivist will give a talk for the Old Dundalk Society on 21st November coming in the County Museum.

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

County Museum, Dundalk

Conference

The Conference 'Do Borders Matter?' was held at the County Museum, Dundalk on October 25th last. Organized with the Local Authority Museums' Network in conjunction with the Heritage Council the day examined a variety of ways in which the 'Border' concept has manifested itself in both in Ireland and abroad. The event featured speakers from a diversity of backgrounds including the museum sector (including the Director of the National Museum of Ireland and the Head of the Northern Ireland Museums' Council, the Arts, journalism, community relations and academia. The event was covered by TG4, the Irish Examiner, Irish Times as well as the local press.

Exhibition

'The Sinking of the SS Dundalk' was opened on October 12th last. The exhibition features items associated with the Dundalk & Newry Steam Packet Company, the ship itself as well as the fundraising efforts in the aftermath of the tragedy.

The Peter Rice exhibition, 'When an Engineer Imagines', is in its final stages of completion and will open between this month and next.

Other

The Museum will host a number of events in its AV Theatre including a number of drama evenings and a number of lectures organised with local groups.

The museum continues to collect items and artefacts from the public, as well as organizing guided tours of the collection.