



Comhairle Contae **Lú**
Louth County Council

**Tuairisc Bhainistíochta Mhíosúil an
Príomhfheidhmeannach maidir le feidhmeanna a
rinneadh le linn an mhí roimhe sin / Chief Executive's
Monthly Management Report in relation to functions
performed in the preceding month**

**Dátaithe 7^ú Feabhra 2025
Dated 7th February 2025**

Ullmhaithe faoi Alt 136 (2) den Acht Rialtais Áitiúil, 2001, agus Alt 51, an tAcht Rialtais Áitiúil (Athchóiriú), 2014 agus i gcomhlíonadh le Alt 138 den Acht Rialtais Áitiúil, 2001. /Prepared under Section 136 (2) of the Local Government Act, 2001, as inserted by Section 51 of the Local Government (Reform) Act, 2014 & in compliance with Section 138 of the Local Government Act,

Tuairisc Bhainistíochta Mhíosúil an Príomhfheidhmeannach – 31st January 2025
Chief Executive's Monthly Management Report – 31 Eanáir 2025

A Chara,

I enclose the above report for your statutory consideration which will be placed on the February Monthly Agenda of Louth County Council for your consideration. This report has also been prepared under Section 136 & 138 of the Local Government Act, 2001, advising you of the performance of executive functions in the last month and planned works.

I would like to take the opportunity to highlight in this January Report LCC's response to Storm Éowyn:

- Following the notification of the Red Status weather warning I convened the Local Coordination Group (attended by HSE & An Garda Síochána) as per our 'Major Emergency Plan', where we set one of the key objectives of 'no fatalities', recognising that in the previous Red Status storm 2 such fatalities occurred within the County. I am glad to report on this occasion that there were no fatalities, mainly due to the citizens of County Louth listening and adhering to the advice given.
- LCC Senior Team also attended the daily 'National Emergency Coordination Group', which is still meeting daily, at time of writing, and reporting in through the Local Government Management Agency.
- Having the new Communications Officer in situ at the time of the storm enabled the provision of daily messages and reports to the local media outlets and online social platforms. A full briefing was provided to the Councillors on the Monday after the storm, where suggestions were made for the enhancement of communications.
- In the immediate aftermath of Storm Éowyn, LCC Customer Service Desk handled **circa 234 calls** from the public regarding incidents of storm damage. A further **46 calls** were logged through our 'Out of Hours Service' over the subsequent weekend (25th-26th January). In total, our crews dealt with **circa 180 storm related incidents**, predominately fallen trees and general clean-up operations from storm debris.
- In addition to blockages on Local Roads, several National and Regional roads (N2, N53, N52, R173/R174) were closed for periods of time to allow ESB to carry out safety works and trees were subsequently removed by the Council.
- LCC also liaised with both ESB Networks and Uisce Éireann to see if, and where, LCC staff could assist and jointly concentrate efforts.
- All our public parks reopened to the public, with St Helena's Park (Dundalk) the last to be reopened yesterday (30th January) following extensive tree damage.
- LCC didn't establish 'Humanitarian Hubs' as the storm damage to Louth wasn't as extensive as other counties. However, we requested our leisure premises to make their facilities available, and we also published details of local clubs' offering assistance and access to their facilities.
- Louth Civil Defence has been assisting ESB Networks through the provision of a Drone Team, helping identify where network lines are down in Co. Cavan (under the direction of an ESB technician).
- Following request from ESB, a number chainsaw operatives from LCC crews were made available the weekend following the storm to the ESB in order to assist their operations.
- As with all major events there will be a 'de-brief' both internally and externally with State Agencies to determine what lessons can be learnt, with all observations welcome.

I would like to especially thank all the staff of LCC and external agencies for their support in working with LCC in getting most services back up and operational in the shortest period of time.

Is mise le meas.



David Conway
Chief Executive

Tuairisc Bhainistíochta Mhíosúil an Príomhfheidhmeannach – 31^ú Eanáir 2025
Chief Executive's Monthly Management Report – 31st January 2025

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Cintíonn an Stiúrthóireacht seo go bhfuil bainistíocht airgeadas an Chomhairle déanta ar bhealach éifeachtach agus tráthúil, comhlíontach leis an dlí ábhartha, agus go bhfuil luach ar airgead bainte as gach gníomhaíocht agus clár ag an gComhairle, thar ceann shaoránaigh Lú.

Ina chuid den freagrachtaí eile, **Technolaíocht Faisnéise agus Chumarsáide**

This Directorate ensures that the financial management of the Council is carried out in an efficient and timely manner, compliant with all relevant legislation, and that all of the activities and programmes of the Council represent good value for money for all the citizens of Louth.

Other responsibilities include, **Information & Communication Technology**

Bernie Woods
Stiúrthóir / Director



Tuairiscí Airgeadais / Financial Reports

Caiteachas go dtí 31 Eanáir 2025 / Expenditure to 31st of January 2025

Rannóg / Section	Actual Expenditure to 31/01/2025 / Caiteachas Iarbhír go dtí 31/01/2025	Caiteachas Buiséadaithe 2025 / Budget Expenditure 2025	% Caite go 31/01/2025 / % Spent to 31/01/2025
Tithíocht / Housing	€6,134,859	€73,683,142	8%
Iompar Bóthair agus Sábháilteacht / Road Transportation & Safety	€2,316,963	€28,591,697	8%
Seirbhísí Uisce / Water Services	€905,556	€7,538,273	12%
Bainistíocht Forbartha / Development Management	€1,760,763	€25,940,360	7%
Seirbhísí Timpeallachta / Environmental Services	€2,057,290	€24,948,899	8%
Áineas agus Conláiste / Recreation and Amenity	€809,634	€12,548,436	6%
Talmhaíocht, Oideachas, Sláinte agus Leas / Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	€89,056	€1,431,271	6%
Ilghnéitheach / Miscellaneous	€797,615	€9,312,306	9%
	€14,871,736	€183,994,384	8%

Ioncam go dtí 31 Eanáir 2025 / Income to 31st of January 2025

Rannóg / Section	Ioncam Iarbhír go dtí 31/01/2025 / Actual Income to 31/01/2025	Ioncam Buiséadaithe 2025 / Budget Income 2025	% Sonraisc Curtha do dtí 31/01/2025 / % Invoiced to 31/01/2025
Tithíocht / Housing	€2,513,475	€73,685,224	3%
Iompar Bóthair agus Sábháilteacht / Road Transportation & Safety	€153,300	€16,613,589	1%
Seirbhísí Uisce / Water Services	€580,437	€6,557,586	9%
Bainistíocht Forbartha / Development Management	€609,786	€15,522,127	4%
Seirbhísí Timpeallachta / Environmental Services	€338,752	€4,474,236	8%
Áineas agus Conláiste / Recreation and Amenity	€41,993	€1,947,561	2%
Talmhaíocht, Oideachas, Sláinte agus Leas / Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	€28,414	€469,209	6%
Ilghnéitheach / Miscellaneous	€10,375	€17,760,538	0%
Rátaí / Rates	€36,947,394	€35,598,115	104%
Deontas Ilfheidhmeach / General Purpose Grant (LPT)	€0	€11,366,198	0%
	€41,223,926	€183,994,383	22%

The above is the current position as of the 31st of January 2025. The allocation of the Central Management Charge is estimated in the above figures as the allocation is not completed till mid-month. The full rates demand for 2025 is included in the above figure.

Collection rates as of 31st of January 2025 are as follows:

Féichiúnaithe mar atá 31 Eanáir 2025 / Debtors to 31st of January 2025

	Iarmhéid Tosaigh / Opening Balance	Sonraisc / Invoices	Fáltais / Receipts	Díscríobhanna / Write Offs	Iarmhéid Deiridh / Closing Balance
Féichiúnaithe Rialtais / Government Debtors	€23,115,735	€4,932,163	(€2,504,097)	(€0)	€25,543,801
Uadaráis Áitiúla Eile / Other Local Authorities	€94,191	€100,892	(€73,703)	(€0)	€121,380
Rataí / Rates	€5,296,147	€36,947,394	(€502,300)	(€0)	€41,741,241
Cíosanna / Rent	€3,099,426	€1,651,681	(€1,319,876)	(€0)	€3,431,231
Iasachtal / Loans	€301,464	€0	(€188,925)	(€0)	€112,539
Tobhaigh Forbartha / Development Levies	€12,384,064	€161,668	(€985,976)	(€0)	€11,559,756
Táilí Seirbhíse Dóiteáin / Fire Charges	€894,136	€66,757	(€62,926)	(€8,619)	€889,348
Ilghnéitheach / Miscellaneous	€3,110,392	€1,447,794	(€728,401)	(€0)	€3,829,785
Féichiúnaithe Iomlána / Total Debtors	€48,295,555	€45,308,349	(€6,366,204)	(€8,619)	€87,229,081

Above are the debtor balances as of 31st of January 2025. 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.

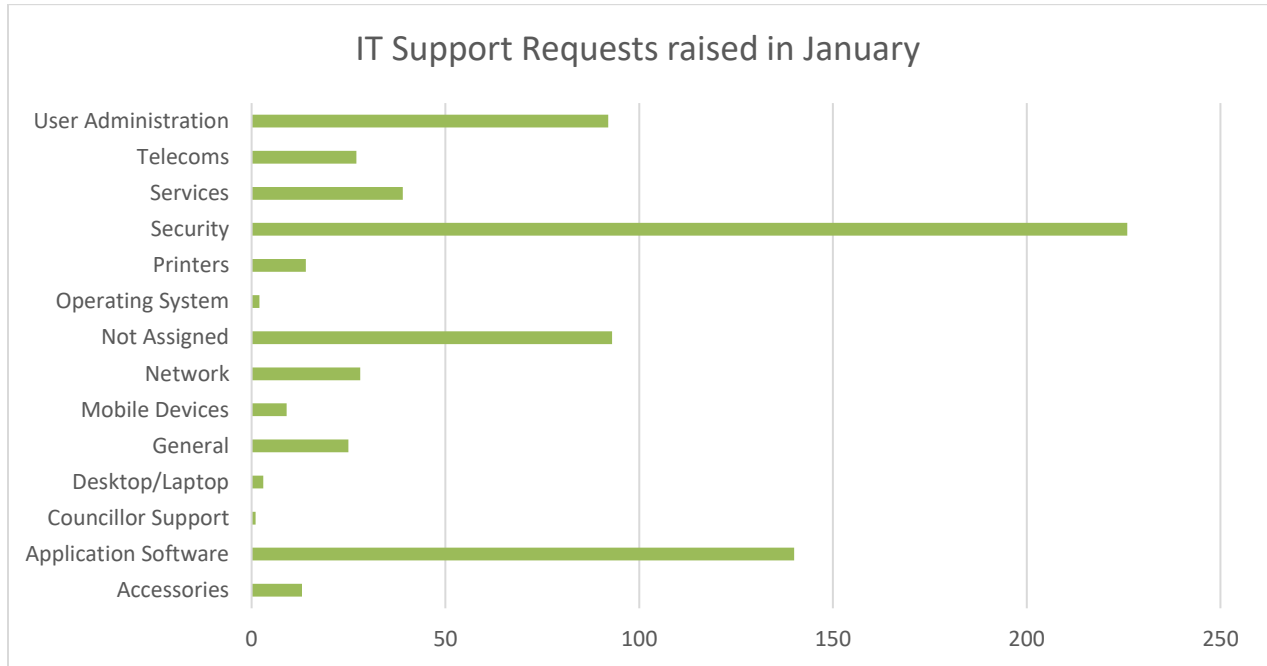
Annual Financial Statement

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

Technolaíocht Faisnéise agus Cumarsáide / Information & Communication Technology

Deasc Chabhrach / Helpdesk







Between 01/01/2025 and the 31/01/2025 there were 712 support calls logged in the IT support system. 84% of these calls have been completed.



Security and Application Software were the highest category of support requests in January.

Córas Idirscartha Ríomhphoist / E-Mail Filtering System

Louth County Council continues to be targeted with phishing, and spam e-mail. We utilise an e-mail filtering system to scan all e-mail being received into the organisation. From 01/01/2025 – 31/01/2025 31% of inbound e-mails were identified as potentially harmful.

 Inbound Emails 166,848	 Blocked Sender 521
 Blocked at gateway 15,202	 Blocked by spam /virus 35,287
 Blocked by content rules 273	 Potentially harmful emails 30.74%

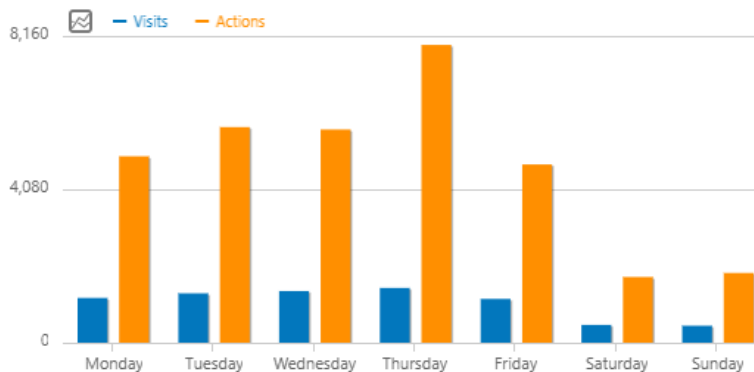
Suíomh Gréasáin Comhairle Chontae Lú / Louth County Council Website

There were 25,284 unique page views of www.louthcoco.ie between 1st and 31st January. The below table shows the pages which received the highest number of page views in January.

PAGE URL	PAGEVIEWS
en	25,284
services	14,963
/index	4,573
louth_county_council	2,395
publications	1,053
contact	747
home	851

The below chart shows that Thursday was the day of week that the highest number of Visits and Actions on the LCC website.

Visits by day of the week

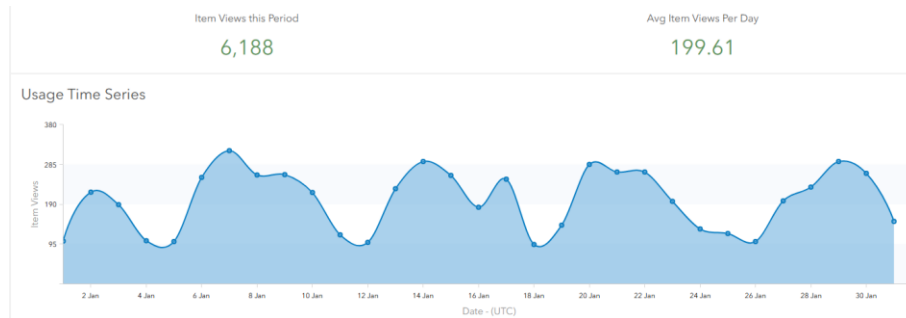


Fadhb Cuardaithe Gréasáin / Website Search Issue

The IT department continue to work on a resolution for the issue where invalid links are being listed when a search is undertaken on the LCC website. Several links have been repaired to date, but work is still ongoing to identify and fix all invalid links. We have commenced a review of our website with a view to a major upgrade of the site in 2025.

ArcGIS Online – Public Planning Register Map Viewer

LCC provide an online Planning Register Map Viewer which can be accessed from the Online Planning Application and Maps section user Services> Planning on the Louth County Council website. This application is updated regularly to include all planning applications. There were 6,188 views between 01/01/2025 and 31/01/2025, an average of 200 views a day.



ArcGIS Online – Saint Patick's Cemetery Dowdallshill Burial Register Database

LCC have published an online Story Map and Dashboard which allow the public to read about the history of the cemetery and search the burial records for Saint Patick's Cemetery Dowdallshill, Dundalk.

The application was launched on 05/12/2024. There have been 1,336 views of the burial register between 01/01/2025 and 31/01/2025. An average of 43 views per day.



The system can be accessed from [this link](#) or by scanning this QR code



Scan to open on your phone

Tá trí eochairfhreagracht ag an Stiúrtóireacht seo:

Forbairt Eacnamaíoch, an Oifig Fiontair Áitiúil san áireamh, agus obair le comhpháirtithe agus foinsí maoinithe lasmuigh den Stát

Seirbhísí Éigeandála – Seirbhís Dóiteáin, agus Cosaint Shibhialta, san áireamh, agus ag pleanáil agus ag cur i bhfeidhm straitéisí chun chabhrú le muintir Chontae Lú a bheith slán sábháilte

Is é Pleanáil an slí a eagraímid an timpeallacht thógtha i gContae Lú

This Directorate has three key areas of responsibility:

Economic Development, including the Local Enterprise Office, and work involving partners and funding outside the state.

Emergency Services – including the Fire Service, and Civil Defence, and the planning and implementation of strategies which help to keep our citizens safe.

Planning, the way in which we organise the built environment in our county.

**Thomas McEvoy
Stiúrtóir / Director of Service**



Forbairt Eacnamaíoch Straitéiseach / Strategic Economic Development

Climate Change Adaptation Strategy

Part of our assessment of projects currently includes their impact on the environment.

Two key supports for micro and small businesses in Louth to assist develop the green and sustainable agenda are the “Green for Micro” and the “Energy Efficiency Grant”. Further details at www.localenterprise.ie/green and www.localenterprise.ie/louth.

Forbairt Gheilleagrach / Economic Development

Louth Economic Forum

A meeting of the Louth Economic Forum took place on 22nd January 2025 in County Hall, Dundalk.

Economic Development & Enterprise Support Strategic Policy Committee (SPC)

A meeting of the Economic Development & Enterprise Support SPC took place in Fair Street, Drogheda on the 21st January 2025.

Economic input to Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) 2024 - 2029

The Louth LECP sets out the objectives and actions needed to promote and support the economic development and the local and community development of Louth, both by the Council directly and in partnership with other economic and community development stakeholders.

A monitoring group for the LECP is being established and will include the Chair and two members of the Economic Development & Enterprise Support SPC. The lead partners assigned to the actions in the LECP have been contacted to obtain their plan to complete their respective actions.

Age Friendly Business

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

Turasóireacht / Tourism

Festival Grants 2025

The Festival Grant Initiative 2025 and the Regional Festivals and Participative Events Programme 2025 closed for applications on 10th January. Eighty applications were received. These were assessed and sixty-five letters of offer issued on the 27th January to the successful applicants.

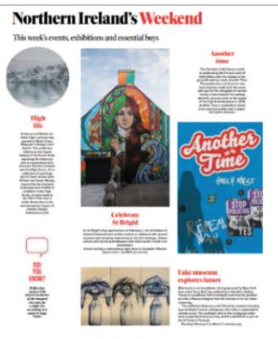
For information on all festivals and events happening across the county please visit: <https://www.visitlouth.ie/whats-on/>.

Visit Louth

Work is progressing on the new Visit Louth website. The new website will be a fresh design with an accessible and more user-friendly experience. The Visit Louth website aims to attract visitors with an engaging ‘What’s On’ section. The new website will be launched in early 2025. The new website will also make it easier to see our various brands, Drogheda.ie and sealouth.ie.

Work is progressing with a new Visit Louth logo with an initial meeting with the designers appointed. The new logo will be ready for launch alongside the new website in early 2025.

The Tourism team have been actively promoting the various events & festivals in the county. In January, we were featured in the RTÉ Guide, The Belfast Telegraph, and The Irish Times and were Discover Ireland’s number one destination to visit this St. Brigid’s Day.



Belfast Telegraph Article



RTÉ Guide Article

Press boxes were sent out to 20 media outlets and influencers to highlight the connection to St. Brigid and encourage visitors to visit County Louth throughout the year to discover and explore the birthplace of Brigid.

Holiday World Show

In January, Visit Louth and sea louth had a stand at the Holiday World Shows in Belfast and Dublin. Competitions were held at each show, and prizes were given from Ghan House, Carlingford, The Fairways Hotel, Dundalk, The Drogheda Comedy Festival, Dundalk Stadium, and Carlingford Adventure Centre. Based on the number of brochures handed out over the shows the team engaged with approx. 700 people.



Mary Carolan & Sabhbh Ní Mhaolagáin, Tourism Section, with Fiona Dooley of Ballymascanlon Hotel at the Dublin Holiday World Show

Táin Trail

Fáilte Ireland has engaged the Paul Hogarth Company to review the current Táin Trail route and to recommend opportunities to reimagine it into an internationally compelling experiential route that engages local communities and visitors. They are working with the local authorities in the Táin Trail region on same. A final draft copy of the report has been agreed and will be available in early 2025. Louth County Council will be the lead council partner on this project.

Reimagined Boyne Valley Drive

Fáilte Ireland has engaged the Paul Hogarth Company to review the current Boyne Valley Drive Cluster Orientation route and to provide recommendations on opportunities to reimagine it into an internationally compelling experiential route that engages local communities and visitors. They are working with the local authorities in the region on same. Work is progressing on various signage types and locations.

County Louth Tourism Strategy

Runda Hospitality and Tourism Solutions have been appointed to work on the Tourism Strategy and Action Plan 2025 – 2030. They are working with the Tourism Officer on the new Tourism Strategy for County Louth.

Boyne Valley Flavours (BVF)

Recruitment has commenced for 'On the Menu: Supplying the Foodservice Market'. This training programme, administered by LEO Louth, will be open to food and non-alcoholic drinks producers from Louth and Meath. The course commences in March. This aligns with our strategy programme of work to increase the number of local food and drink ingredients on foodservice menus within the region. The registration link can be found [here](#). The course costs €50, with a special €20 rate for Boyne Valley Flavours members.

The regional final for the TY Young Cooks Competition took place on 23rd January in Lismullin Cookery School, Navan. The initiative was organised by The Centre of Food Culture, Boyne Valley and the Boyne Valley Food Business Development Officer was one of the judges.



Judging the TY Cookery Competition

Boyne Valley Flavours are in the process of creating a brief for a branding update which will be circulated for quotes in the next month.

The Centre of Food Culture, Boyne Valley

The Boyne Valley Transition Year Young Cooks Competition took place on Thursday 23rd December, co-ordinated by The Centre of Food Culture, Boyne Valley, where we had nine schools competing in teams of two. Each team had to prepare two dishes, with each dish highlighting a minimum of two local ingredients. Sacred Heart Drogheda won the Louth competition and will move forward to the National Final. The National Final will host teams from Louth, Meath, Cavan, Monaghan, Galway, and Tipperary.

The University of Gastronomic Science, Pollenzo confirmed that they will be visiting the Boyne Valley for a 7-day study trip from 10th – 16th March, co-ordinated by The Centre of Food Culture. The group of 14 will visit 15+ producers across the region, staying in Kells, Slane, Carlingford, and Drogheda throughout the visit.

Geilleagar Oíche Dhoichead Átha / Drogheda Night-Time Economy

Night-Time Culture Focus Group

Drogheda was well represented at the Art Council's Night-Time Culture Focus Group on Monday 27th January, with attendance from the Night-Time Economy Adviser for Drogheda and Droichead Arts Centre. The Arts Council, a key partner in the Government's Night-Time Economy Taskforce, funds Culture Night Late to enhance late-night cultural activity. The event, including Night-Time Economy Advisers, Arts Officers, and Arts Centre Managers, reviewed research on arts venues, assessed last year's Culture Night Late programme, and explored sustainable ways to connect artists with late-night venues.

Drogheda was recognised for its strong support of grassroots artists and community engagement, reinforcing its influence on the national stage. Upcoming funding announcements for Culture Night and Culture Night Late will offer further opportunities for local arts development.

Drogheda Comedy Festival Press Launch

Local partners were invited to attend the press launch for the second Drogheda Comedy Festival. Following the success of last year's inaugural event, organisers aim to expand the festival with more acts and shows, activating the town on 7th, 8th and 9th March. The press launch took place at The Marcy Hotel on 30th January and offered an opportunity to showcase the festival's growth and engage with key stakeholders.



Press Launch Invite

Drogheda Lightscene Partnership Group

On 16th January, a new Drogheda Lightscene partnership group was established as a joint initiative of the Night-Time Economy Adviser for Drogheda and the Drogheda Purple Flag group. The group aims to explore ways of enhancing the night-time environment with lit up landmarks and light-art installations. Other potential initiatives, such as light canopies and community-driven projects, were also discussed. The strategic group aims to bring together key partner organisations and Council teams to develop proposals and prepare for grant and funding opportunities. Representatives from Louth County Council, Love Drogheda, Droichead Arts Centre, and Drogheda Chamber of Commerce have committed to meeting regularly to review and align existing studies and audits.

Oifig Fiontair Áitiúil / Local Enterprise Office

LEO Business Supports

Updated information on the range of business supports available can be found at the following website: [Local Enterprise Office - Louth](#).

Businesses seeking support from LEO Louth should email: info@leo.louthcoco.ie or they can call to our office at Town Hall, Dundalk.

Business Advice Clinics

Fifty-six business advice appointments were provided by telephone and video conference to entrepreneurs throughout the county during January together with five Financial Business Advice Clinics.

Green for Business



The Green for Business programme is a free programme which aims to help businesses identify cost savings and improve their green credentials. This is achieved by looking at the business from an environmental perspective. Projects vary from assessing energy, water and waste costs, guidance with environmental management system, to the greening of the product or business to adapt to the changing marketplace.

LEO Louth continues to welcome new applications.

Business Training



The Schedule for training for 2025 is currently being updated and all scheduled training courses are available to view and book online: <https://www.localenterprise.ie/Louth/Training-Events/Online-Bookings/>.

Three training courses were held in January, Start Your Own Business, Focus on Craft and Book-keeping for Small Businesses.

Grow Digital Voucher

The Grow Digital Voucher is a valuable initiative that offers small and medium businesses with up to 50 employees financial support to integrate and embrace digital technology into their operations. This support aims to enhance business efficiency, competitiveness, and innovation through the adoption of digital solutions. A Digital for Business project report must be completed within the previous two years before applying for the voucher. Funding is provided as grant aid, covering 50% of eligible project costs with a minimum grant of €500 up to a maximum of €5,000 per application. This support allows businesses to invest in their digital transformation and support their continued growth.

LEO Louth Mentor Programme



Seventeen businesses were appointed Mentors during the month of January to provide practical and strategic one-to-one advice and guidance.

Microfinance Ireland (MFI) Business Loan



LEO Louth offers expert assistance to complete MFI Loan Applications, Business Plans and Cashflow Projections. MFI have now doubled its lending limit to €50,000. This measure is part of the government's recently announced package of measures to support small businesses.

LEAN for Business Programme



LEO Louth continues to offer the LEAN Programme to small businesses locally. The fee to participate in this programme has been reduced to €150 for businesses.

Digital For Business

Digital for Business provides support to obtain digital strategy, technical and / or advisory services for eligible businesses. Our expert digital consultants help the business to develop a unique digital strategy that transforms their businesses by identifying where they are on their digital business journey, developing a digital adaptation plan based on identified needs and assisting to implement a digital plan.

LEO Louth received three applications in January and continues to welcome new applications.

Energy Efficiency Grant



The Energy Efficiency Grant supports the investment in technologies and equipment identified in a Green for Business Report, Green Start Report or a SEAI Energy Audit. The grant has been increased to 75% of eligible costs up to a maximum grant of €10,000.

The aim of the scheme is to support enterprises implement sustainability projects which will reduce the business impact on the environment and should increase the agility and resilience of these businesses to operate in a sustainable manner.

For further information on this grant please visit: <https://www.localenterprise.ie/Louth/Financial-Supports/Energy%20Efficiency%20Grant/>.

LEO Louth continues to welcome new applications.

Argentine Embassy Visit to Louth – Wednesday 15th January

Argentine Ambassador, Her Excellency, Ana Laura Cachaza and Deputy Nicolás Vidal paid a visit to Dundalk on Wednesday, 15th January, underscoring the strong commitment to fostering international trade and collaboration. The delegation was met by the LEO Louth and Dundalk Chamber of Commerce. During their visit, the Ambassador and Deputy engaged with local businesses to explore opportunities for establishing and strengthening trade links between Argentina and the region.



Niall Gallagher, LEO Louth, Ambassador Ana Laura Cachaza and Paddy Malone, Dundalk Chamber

Showcase Ireland – RDS 18th - 22nd January

Showcase – Ireland's Creative Expo® is one of the country's largest international trade shows. The annual event is attended by thousands of buyers from across the world, including Ireland, the UK, USA, Mainland Europe, Asia and Africa generating millions of euros of sales orders during the show. Showcase is presented on behalf of Design & Crafts Council Ireland, with support from Enterprise Ireland in promoting the trade show internationally through their network of offices overseas, and the Local Enterprise Offices nationwide. More than 300 Irish brands are exhibited at the fair, including emerging Irish businesses supported by their Local Enterprise Offices. This year five Louth companies were featured in the Local Enterprise Showcase. Maureen Hoey from Mojo and Co., Lana of Lana Dullaghan Designs, Fiona Lynch from Almond Rose Designs, Emma Duffy from My Forever Tooth Fairy and Tracy from Tracy Fry Art.



Louth participants for Showcase Ireland with LEO Louth



Louth participants at Showcase Ireland

United Arab Emirates (UAE) Embassy Visit to Louth – Tuesday 28th January

The UAE Ambassador to Ireland, His Excellency, Mr. Mohamed Al Sahlawi, made an official visit to Dundalk on Tuesday, 28th January. He was welcomed by Cathaoirleach Cllr. Kevin Callan, the CE, officials and Dundalk Chamber. Local businesses had the opportunity to meet and discuss areas of mutual interest and strengthen trade and investment links.

Oidhreacht / Heritage

Funding Schemes

The Community Monuments Fund (CMF) opened in November 2024 and closed (to third party applicants) on 31st January 2025. These applications will now be assessed and, if supported, forwarded to the National Monuments Service, with a request for funding, by 14th February.

The Community Monuments Fund is 100% funded by central government and administered locally by the Heritage Office. Conservation works can be funded up to €100,000 (and up to €130,000 in exceptional circumstances), while there are other

funding streams for conservation studies (assessments and planning) and for the enhancement of access to and for interpretation of monuments.

The Heritage Officer liaised with previous years' CMF schemes recipients during January to support them in developing their applications for CMF 2025. The Council is also developing CMF applications in relation to properties for which it is responsible (Millmount, Magdalene Tower).

The Heritage Officer liaised with colleagues to develop an application to the Heritage Structures Fund for repairs to the windows of Carlingford Library.

Seirbhísí Dóiteáin agus Éigeandála / Fire & Emergency Services

Fire Service

The Fire Service went to tender on eTenders on 20th January for new battery-powered road rescue equipment for all Brigades in the county. This comprises a total of 53 items, including cutters, spreaders, combination units and rams and includes batteries, chargers and ancillary equipment. Once the tenders are received and assessed, these items will be purchased, with cost recoupment as part of the DHLGH Fire Service Capital Programme. This equipment will improve the efficiency of the fire service in response to road traffic accidents.

Further meetings with the Design Team for the upgrade of Dundalk Training Centre took place during January. There were also visits with the Design Team to Clonmel Training Centre and Tullamore Training Centre on 22nd January. The site has been surveyed, and the site investigation is underway. Once completed, a Stage 1 Report will be drawn up with contributions from all Design Team members and will be forwarded to the DHLGH. Once completed, this development will greatly increase the attractiveness of Dundalk as a Regional Training Centre and the demand for courses with income for the Council.

There was a meeting with Emergency One on 16th January to finalise the locker layout of the two new Class B Fire Tenders which are being built in Emergency One's facility in Scotland. The Scania

chassis have been delivered, and a further meeting will take place in a month's time.

Fire Service Training courses during January were as follows:

- The two-week Breathing Apparatus Wearers course in Dundalk Training Centre from 6th to 17th January, successfully completed by five recent Louth recruits.
- One week Compartment Fire Behaviour Training course for recent Louth recruits in Hacketstown, Co. Carlow, from 27th to 31st January.
- Full-time fire fighter attendance on Dublin Fire Brigade Recruits course.

The Recruitment Plan for newly retained fire fighters continued in its implementation during January. Preparations were made for further retained Fire Fighter interviews to take place during February. Preparations are also underway for Assistant Chief Fire Officer interviews and for full-time Station Officer and Sub Officer interviews.

There were further requests to the Fire Prevention Section during January to provide information on properties for the accommodation of International Protection applicants. Occasionally these have resulted in serious fire safety issues coming to light.

Major Emergency Management

National meetings with the National Co-Ordination Group took place from 6th to 10th January in relation to the Status Yellow cold weather alert. The effect in Louth was minimal.

In advance of the status red wind event (Storm Eowyn), the Council stood up its emergency structures. The inter-agency Local Co-Ordination Group (LCG) and the Crisis Management Team (CMT) met from 23rd through to the 26th January. This was the most severe storm since Storm Ophelia in 2017. The LCG, CMT and SWAT teams also attended daily national inter-agency briefings on the storm.

Retained crews were brought into the five fire stations in advance of the Status Red alert and left when it was safe to do so after the alert had expired.

Fulltime crews remained on duty in Dundalk and Drogheda stations until the Status Red alert was over.

The only notifications to stations from the East Region Control Centre during the storm were to potentially life-threatening incidents. There were no turnouts during the storm as none of the incidents were regarded as immediately life threatening.

The storm highlighted resilience issues in the fire service mobilisation system in Meath, Monaghan and Cavan, with no service in certain locations, but not in Louth. There is a national follow-up on this issue.

Climate Adaptation Strategy

Dunleer Fire Station and Dundalk Training Centre extension projects will include a range of features to limit carbon emissions. The Climate Action Plan includes Fire Service and Building Control requirements.

Building Control

The main workload of the Building Control Section is processing Disabled Access Certificate applications and Certificates of Compliance on Completion and the backlog of these resulting from the significant increase in applications during 2024.

This Section continues to follow up with Estate Agents requiring Building Energy Rating Certificates for properties for sale or rent.

Cosaint Shibhialta / Civil Defence

Civil Defence

Louth Civil Defence offered its support to ESB Networks following Storm Eowyn to assist identifying damage to power lines. The Civil Defence drone team has been deployed in the Mullagh, Kells and Moynalty areas.

Medical cover was provided at the following events during January:

- Cyclocross
- Annagassan 10k run

Pleanáil / Planning

Bainistíocht Forbartha / Development Management

The Planning service indicators for the Council for the month of December 2024 are given below in tabular form. There were 98 planning applications received during the month of December of which 74 were valid. In addition, there were 25 responses received during the month to requests for further information and 24 Pre-Planning Requests received.

The service indicator figures in relation to **planning decisions and decisions on appeals made** during the month, broken down by category, and with a total figure for all categories (Column F), are given below:

(A) Cur Síos / Description	(B) Forbairtí Tithíochta / Housing Developme nts	(C) Tithe Aonair / Individual Houses	(D) Iarratais Eile – ní gá MTT / Other application s-not requiring EIA	(E) Iarratais Eile - MTT de dhíth / Other applications - requiring EIA	(F) Iomlán na bhforbairtí sa chontae / Total for all categories of development in County Area
(i) Líon na n-iarratas a cinneadh / Number of applications determined	5	23	40	1	69
(ii) Líon na gcinntí inar iarradh breis eolais / No. of decisions determined which required further information	3	6	18	1	28
(iii) Céatadán na n-iarratas a diúltaíodh / Percentage of applications refused	40.00% (2)	47.83% (11)	7.50% (3)	0.00% (0)	23.19% (16)
(iv) Líon na n-achomharc a cinneadh / Number of appeals determined	2	2	2	0	6
(v) Céatadán na gcinntí a cuireadh ar ceal ar achomharc / Percentage of decisions overturned on appeal	0.00% (0)	0.00% (0)	0.00% (0)	0.00% (0)	0.00% (0)

Forfheidhmiú Pleanála – Forbairt Neamhúdaraithe / Planning Enforcement – Unauthorised Development

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

Cur Síos / Description	Forfheidhmiú maidir le forbairt nár údaraíodh / Enforcement in relation to unauthorised development		Forfheidhmiú maidir le forbairt nár údaraíodh / Enforcement in relation to unauthorised development	
	Nollaig 2024 / December 2024	Bliain go dtí seo / Year to Date	Nollaig 2023 / December 2023	Bliain go dtí seo / Year to Date
Líon na nGearán maidir le Forfheidhmiú Pleanála a Imscrúdaíodh / Number of Planning Enforcement Complaints Investigated	14	256	10	228
Líon na gcásanna Fhorfheidhmithe Pleanála nuair nár ghá obair bhreise / Number of Planning Enforcement cases received which did not require follow up	0	0	0	0
Líon na gcásanna dúnta / a réitíodh le hidirbheartaíocht / Number of cases closed / resolved through negotiation	16	237	5	108
Líon na Litreacha Rabhadh a eisíodh / Number of Warning letters issued	16	237	14	179
Líon na bhFógraí Forfheidhmiúcháin a eisíodh / Number of Enforcement Notices issued	1	16	0	11
Líon na cásanna a tarchuireadh le haghaidh imeachtaí dlí / Number of cases referred for legal proceedings	0	3	0	10
Líon na n-urghairí / Number of Injunctions	0	0	0	0
Líon na n-ionchúiseamh / Number of Prosecutions	0	0	0	0

Comhfhorbairt Áite agus Forbairt Fisiceach

Placemaking and Physical Development

Cuireann an Stiúthóireacht seo réimse seirbhísí ar fáil mar bhonn agus mar thaca ag an reachtáil éifeachtúil an saol eacnamaíochta agus sóisialta Chontae Lú, ag obair i dtreo comhlíonadh an dlí maidir leis an timpeallacht, agus chun páirceanna phoiblí glan agus sábháilte a chinntiú. Ina chuid den fhreagrachtaí tá:

- Seirbhísí Bóithre agus Áitiúla, agus Forbairt Fhisiúil

This Directorate provides a range of services which underpin the efficient and smooth running of the economic and social life of our county, working to ensure our environment adheres to legislative standards, and to provide clean and safe parks throughout Louth. Responsibilities include:

- Roads and Local Services and Physical Development

David Jones
Stiúrthóir / Director



Seirbhísí Bóithre agus Áitiúla / Roads and Local Services

Ceantar Bardasach Dhún Dealgan / Municipal District of Dundalk

Ceantar Dhún Dealgan agus Cuailgne / Dundalk and Cooley Area

Piocadh Bruscair / Litter Picking

Litter pick for these areas

Suíomh agus méadar sa mhí / Location and metres per month /

Cooley Area

Carlingford/Omeath/Gyles Quay
Templetown

Dundalk

Ramparts Road
Williamsons Place
Inner Relief Road to Racecourse Road
By-pass at St. Helena's /Quay Street/Point Road
Barrack Street
Fairgreen Road
Castletown Road
Coxs Demesne
Ashling Park Estate
John St /Patrick St /Philip St/York St
Castleross
Fatima
Mooreland Road
Newry Road River Walk
Old Newry Road
Armagh Road
Seatown Place
St. Brigid's Terrace
Castle Road
Fairgreen Road
Carroll Village
Long Walk
Mary Street South
Avenue Road
Tom Bellew Avenue
Dublin Road
Southern Link Road
Muirhevnamor Estate
Bay Estate
Carrick Road
Ardee Road
Bottle Banks at Long Walk
Diageo Car Park

Emergency works carried out after Storm Eowyn by Dundalk Operations and On-call team.

Photo: St. Helena's Park Dundalk.



Folmhú Araidí Poiblí / Emptying of Public Bins

Líon agus minicíocht / Numbers and frequency

Emptying of bins in Carlingford, Omeath, Greenore, Templetown Car Park, Gyles Quay Area

Dundalk – nightly by contractor

200 Bins

Scuabadh Bóithre / Road Sweeping

Bealaí gach tseachtain / Routes per week

Contract sweeper as per contract nightly, daily, weekly and monthly as per contract

Folmhú Araidí Salachar Madra / Emptying Dog Waste Receptacles

Líon gach tseachtain / Number per week

As per bin management

Seiceál Baoithe Tarrthála / Ring Buoy Checking

Líon Seiceáilte gach tseachtain / Number checked weekly

Ring Buoys checked weekly report sent to Water Safety Officer for Dundalk

By the Water Safety Officer

**Seiceál Trealamh Áiteanna Sugartha agus Suíomhanna Seiceáilte Laethúil /
Corpacmhainne / Checking of Playground and Number of sites checked daily
Gym Equipment**

Daily/Weekly check lists carried out by Parks
Caretaker

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Suíomh / Location		Nótaí / Notes
Deisiú Bóithre / Road Repairs	<p><u>Cooley</u></p> <p>*Bush</p> <p>Bellurgan Straight Lordship Village Bush Riverstown R176 Greenore Junction</p> <p>*Carlingford</p> <p><u>Dundalk</u></p> <p>Oaklawns Rockmount Gardens Medebawn St. Nicholas Avenue Beechmount Drive Ramparts Drive Riverlane Garybawn Ashbrook Avondale Seafield Lawns Toberona Forkhill Road Mill Road</p>	<p>Ongoing patching of local roads.</p> <p>*Isolated pothole within the area R173 at Bush.</p> <p>Contractor patched areas of the R173 as set out.</p> <p>*Carlingford Village consists of digging out patches and replacing with hot tar.</p>
Feabhasúchán Draenála / Drainage Remediation	<p><u>Cooley</u></p> <p>Jet -Vac lorry at R176 at Mullatee, at L.S7076 at Rathcor, also Deerpark, Ravensdale</p> <p>Drainage works at Rathcor.</p> <p><u>Dundalk</u></p> <p>Ardee Road</p>	<p>All approach roads.</p>

	Carrick Road Mount Hamilton Estate Armagh Road Doylesfort Road Old Newry Road Racecourse Road Inner Relief Road Ecco Road Lennon Melia Estate.	Works carried out by Contractor
Crainn Leagtha nó Chontúirteacha / Fallen or Dangerous Trees	<u>Cooley</u> Major clean up on Cooley Peninsula. <u>Dundalk</u> 1 on Dublin Road 2 on Ardee Road 2 on Ecco Road 3 on Castletown Road 1 at Toberona 1 at Doylesfort Road 4 at Brook Street 1 at Mounthamilton 1 at Muirhevnamor 1 at Lower Point Road 1 at Ashling Park 1 at Longwalk 1 at The Laurels 1 at Finnabair Crescent 1 at Crabtree Road /L3168	
Cothabháil Cosán / Footpath Maintenance	<u>Cooley</u> None currently. <u>Dundalk</u> The Ramparts & River Lane	Works carried out by Contractor
Deisiú Soilse Tráchtá / Traffic Light Repairs	<u>Cooley</u> Pedestrian lights at Carlingford <u>Dundalk</u> Inner Relief Road/Long Avenue Castletown Road/Ecco Road Castletown Rd/Bellewsbridge Rd Park Street/Demesne (at Oscars) Hill Street Bridge Quay Street Clanbrassil Street.	
Marcáil Bóithre / Road Markings	None at this time	
Comharthaíocht / Signage	<u>Cooley</u> Ongoing maintenance of advance warning signs at all junctions,	

	including replacing linears at junction. <u>Dundalk</u> Ramparts Road Yorke Street Coes Road Williamsons Place Centenary Road Francis Street Jocelyn Street Carrick Road Inner Relief Road	
Dumpáil Neamhdhleathach / Illegal Dumping	<u>Dundalk</u> Williamson's Place Hoey's Lane Castletown Road/Woodview Salstown/Fatima	
Glanadh Graifítí / Graffiti Removal	None at this time	

Na Creagacha Dubha, Fochaird , agus Ceantar Tuaiscirt Lár-Lú / Blackrock, Faughart and North Mid-Louth Area

Piocadh Bruscair / Litter Picking	Suíomh agus méadar sa mhí / Location and metres per month
Folmhú Araidí Poiblí / Emptying of Public Bins	Líon agus minicíocht / Numbers and frequency Blackrock – 6 days a week Knockbridge – once a week Dromiskin – once a week Tallanstown & Louth Village – once a week
Scuabadh Bóithre / Road Sweeping	Bealaí gach seachtain / Routes per week

Folmhú Araidí Salachar Madra / Emptying Dog Waste Receptacles	Líon gach seachtain / Number per week	
Seiceál Baoithe Tarrhála / Ring Buoy Checking	Líon Seiceáilte gach seachtain / Number checked weekly Blackrock – 7 checked weekly Annagassan – 11 checked weekly	
Seiceál Trealamh Áiteanna Sugartha agus Corpacmhainne / Checking of Playground and Gym Equipment	Suíomhanna Seiceáilte Laethúil / Number of sites checked daily Killanny, Louth Village, Castlebellingham – checked weekly Blackrock – checked weekly	
Suíomh / Location		Nótaí / Notes
Deisiú Bóithre / Road Repairs	Tar patching on Rathory and Rosybrook, Rd199 Arthurstown, Springhill Road and Duffys Cross, Rd151 at Rocktate, LS-7184 Dunmahon Haggardstown, LT-71282, Rathmore kilkerley, LT-31252 Clonalenagh Hackballscross, Lennon Melia Terrace, Shore Road, Demesne Dundalk, LT-51372 Ballinloughan, Ls-5137 Little Ash Knockbridge	Road repairs and patching and cleaning up Tree pruning/vegetation maintenance/verge trimming Resurfacing/overlay works (by contract)
Feabhasúchán Draenála / Drainage Remediation	R171 Ardee – Tallanstown, N52 from Duffy's Cross – Fane Bridge and on Rd166 Castlebellingham – Annagassan, LS-7108 Balregan Kilcurry, LS-7126 Cortial Road Kilkerley.	Drainage maintenance – cleansing and gully cleaning, opening outlets and storm drains, preparation for surface dressing.

Crainn Leagtha nó Chontúirteacha / Fallen or Dangerous Trees	Blackrock, N2, Castlebellingham, Castleblaney Rd, Dromiskin, LS-7107 Ballinful, LS-7103 Carnmore Kilcurry, LP-3097 Faughart Lower, Rd 174 N2 – Mills of Louth, Killany – Mills of Louth Rd173, Louth Village – Channonrock, Mullacrew – Glyde Farm junction Rd175	Cleaning fallen trees and debris
Cothabháil Cosán / Footpath Maintenance	Castlebellingham & Dromiskin	Footpath renewal
Deisiú Soilse Tráichta / Traffic Light Repairs	Xerox Junction, Haynestown, Kilcurry, Faughart.	Major repair work completed.
Marcáil Bóithre / Road Markings	Blackrock	Renewal of junction markings Renewal of existing and provision of additional road markings
Comharthaíocht / Signage	R132 near Mullins Cross	Cleansing/repair/replacement/new signage
Dumpáil Neamhdhleathach / Illegal Dumping	L-7100 Whitemill Faughart, LS-7103 Carn More Kilcurry, LS-7162 Clermont Road Haggardstown, Seabank	Collection of dumped waste for disposal Collection and disposal after community clean up
Glanadh Graifítí / Graffiti Removal		

Ceantar Bardasach Bhaile Átha Firdhia / Ardee Municipal District

Gnó Deiscirt Chontae Lú (Ceantar Tuaithe) / South Louth Operations (Rural Area)

Piocadh Bruscair / Litter Picking	Suíomh agus méadar sa mhí / Location and metres per month
All routes in Ardee Town (5.2km per day) Clogherhead Car Park daily cleanup around bins	

Folmhú Araidí Poiblí / Emptying of Public Bins	Líon agus minicíocht / Numbers and frequency
Ardee Town Dunleer town Collon Erecting of bin at Riverside Walk Erecting of bin at Link Road	37 Daily 20 Tuesday and Thursday 3 Tuesday and Thursday
Scuabadh Bóithre / Road Sweeping	Bealaí gach seachtain / Routes per week
All routes in Ardee Town (5.2km per day)	
Folmhú Araidí Salachar Madra / Emptying Dog Waste Receptacles	Líon gach seachtain / Number per week
Seiceál Baoithe Tarrthála / Ring Buoy Checking	Líon Seiceáilte gach seachtain / Number checked weekly
Ardee - River Dee Salterstown Port Beach	
Seiceál Trealamh Áiteanna Sugartha agus Corpacmhainne / Checking of Playground and Gym Equipment	Suíomhanna Seiceáilte Laethúil / Number of sites checked daily
Maintenance and cleaning of Fairgreen and Dunleer parks and playgrounds complete with daily checks of the playground, & exercise equipment at both locations.	

Suíomh / Location		Nótaí / Notes
Deisiú Bóithre / Road Repairs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • L-2254-2 Dromin • L-5266-39 Oriel Road Collon • L-52591-0 Sliabh Breagh • L-5256-0 Jumping Church Ardee • Salting footpaths in Ardee, Dunleer and Collon • Attending fallen trees on multiple roads after storm Eowyn • Preparing and cleanup works for Storm Eowyn 	

Feabhasúchán Draenála / Drainage Remediation		
Crainn Leagtha nó Chontúirteacha / Fallen or Dangerous Trees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • R170 Dromin • R165 Shanlis Cross • L-1260 Blackstick Ardee • L-2254-21 Mosstown • L-5259-0 Stoney Lane • L-5267-0 Funshog • R168 Nursery Cross • L-1233-7 Townspark Ardee • R132 North of Castlebellingham • L-1170-22 Corderry • R170 Harristown • N52 Kells Rd Ardee • N52 Duffys cross 	
Cothabháil Cosán / Footpath Maintenance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bike racks Ardee Library • Riverbank Ardee 	
Deisiú Soilse Tráichta / Traffic Light Repairs		
Marcáil Bóithre / Road Markings		
Comharthaíocht / Signage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • L-62721-0 Lismanus Bollards • New signage at Playground Ardee 	
Dumpáil Neamhdhleathach / Illegal Dumping		
Glanadh Graifítí / Graffiti Removal		

Ceanntar Buirge Dhroichead Átha / Borough District of Drogheda
Ceanntar Baile Dhroichead Átha / Drogheda Town Area

Piocadh Bruscair / Litter Picking	Suíomh agus méadar gach mí / Location and metres per month
Port Oriel Pier, Clogherhead Clogherhead Beach Port Beach Termonfeckin Baltray Seapoint Carpark	<p>7 Daily 8 Daily 6 Daily 6 Daily 3 Daily 3 Daily</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Steps and lane ways weekly - 22 steps when resources allow and green areas. • Hotspots on Monday – decided by Supervisor following inspection. • Bring Banks in Drogheda urban are checked and cleared Daily during working week. Also, all Bring Banks in Drogheda urban are checked and cleared Saturday p.m. • Drogheda Rural Bring banks are cleared daily during working week. • Particular attention to Town Centre and Council car parks. • Remove dumping at Murdock’s carpark, Rathmullen Pk, Ballsgrove & St Finian’s Pk. • Remove dumping at Port Beach, ESB substation Drybridge, Hill of Rath & Chapel Lane.
Folmhú Araidí Poiblí / Emptying of Public Bins	Líon agus minicíocht / Numbers and frequency
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drogheda town centre Litterbins emptied daily circa 60 early mornings. • 234 litter bin (including 10 no. Solar bins) are emptied weekly in town.

- Dominic's Park & Mell River walk emptied daily.
- South Louth Drogheda Municipal district rural area's public Litter Bins are emptied twice a week or daily when needed especially at beaches/Port Oriel/Seapoint/Termonfeckin/Baltray – at least 40 bins per day.
- Approach roads in Drogheda town emptied twice a week.

Scuabadh Bóithre / Road Sweeping

Routes per week / Bealaí sa tseachtain

- Town centre daily. Approach roads fortnightly.
- Public Housing Estates, swept every 2 months. Private Housing estates swept every 3 months. When resources allow.
- Hotspots weekly on Monday after weekend – decided daily by supervisor after checking Drogheda urban area.
- Villages are swept once per month – i.e., Termonfeckin, Baltray, Sandpit, Monasterboice, Tullyallen & Tenure.
- Drogheda town Boyne River walkways are swept 3 times per week (Monday, Wednesday & Friday).
- Particular attention to road sweeping at approach roads, North & South, Bridge od Peace including Islands, Link Rd from Rosehall Roundabout to Hill of Rath roundabout, Rosemary Lane & Bessexwell Lane.
- R132 North Rd – cleaning of Bollards and kerb line on hard shoulder.
- Road sweeping of St Dominic's Bridge & slip ways.
- Cleaning & emptying of gullies on all approach roads to town centre.
- Clean up and removal of trees after Storm Eowyn at Dublin Rd (R132) at Circle K, North Rd (R132), Stameen,

Marys St, Matthews Lane, Poorhouse Lane, Cement Rd, Sunnyside, Marleys Lane, Donore Rd, Rathmullen Rd, Asdale Wheaton Hall, Marsh Rd, Kings St Carpark, Poorhouse Lane, Marys St, Marleys Lane, Bothar Brugha, Matson Lodge and The Glen.

- Make Safe hoarding damaged by Storm Eowyn at Crushrod Ave / Flaxmill Lane
- Preparation of sandbags, Signage & monitoring of high tide levels in preparation of Storm Eowyn at Wellington Quay, North Quay, Queenborough & Ushers Corner.
- Cleaning of gullies at hot spots in Town Centre and approach roads in preparation of Storm Eowyn.
- Gritting of footpaths to town centre, bridges, outside bus station, train station and Hospital during low temperature warnings.
- Removal of Graffiti at Meat Market Lane.

FolmhúAraidí Salachar Madra / Emptying Dog Waste Receptacles

Líon gach seachtain / Number per week

Empty about 35 once a week, washed and disinfected.

Seiceál Baoithe Tarrhála / Ring Buoy Checking

Líon Seiceáilte gach seachtain / Number checked weekly

89 ring buoys checked each week Town area (Thursday)

9 ring buoys checked each week at Rosehall (Friday)

**Seiceál Trealamh Áiteanna Sugartha agus Suíomhanna Seiceáilte Laethúil /
Corpacmhainne / Checking of Playground and Number of sites checked daily
Gym Equipment**

Between 4 & 5 daily (4 playgrounds in Drogheda town, Skate park, adult exercise equipment). 3 Playgrounds in Drogheda rural area) + disinfected.

Suíomh / Location	Nótaí / Notes
Deisiú Bóithre / Road Repairs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • L-2278-32 Blackhall to Sandpit • R-166 Clogherhead to Termonfeckin • R168 Begrath • Lea Cottages Clogherhead • Salting footpaths at Schools in in Termonfeckin, Dunleer and Collon • Preparing and cleanup works for Storm Eowyn
Feabhasúchán Draenála / Drainage Remediation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • L-2307 Newtownstalaban • L-6293 Timullen opening outlets • L-2310 Ballymakenny opening outlets
Crainn Leagtha nó Chontúirteacha / Fallen or Dangerous Trees	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Murrays Cross R166 Tree Fell x1 on Power lines (Made Safe) 2. Listoke Trees down x3 (Done by Ams Road closed until work carried out) 3. N52 Drogheda to Slane Road Trees x3 Removed. 4. Ballymakenny Rd Trees x2 (Made safe) 5. Gaulstown Rd Tree down x1 (Made safe) 6. Piperstown Trees removed x2 from the Road and made safe. 7. Newline Rd Trees x3 on the road Two removed one was on powerlines Reported to Utility companies and made safe. 8. Collon Rd R168 Trees by 3 Removed. 9. Seapoint Rd Trees down x2 Removed.

10. Clogherhead to Termonfeckin Rd R166 Trees x2 Removed.

11. Hill of Rath Trees removed from the road x2 Made safe.

12. Mourne View Coolfore Monasterboice Tree x1 Removed from road made safe.

13. Rosehall roundabout R132 Tree x1 Removed from the Road.

14. Baltray Tree x1 Removed from the Road.

15. Togher Rd To Martinstown Cross R168 Trees removed from the road x3.

16. Hamlinstown Rd Trees down x2 made safe.

17. Tullybrook Old Slane Rd Tree x1 down made safe.

18. Kilineer road R132 Trees removed x2 from the road made safe.

19. Dysart Tree x1 made safe.

20. Piperstown Tree removed that was made safe yesterday x1.

21. Murrays Cross R166 Utility company has made safe Tree Removed x1.

22. Dysart Tree x1 removed that was made safe yesterday.

23. Clonmore Debie removed.

24. Gallstown Rd Junction Tree Removed x1 that was made safe yesterday.

25. Kilineer Rd R132 Trees x2 removed that were made safe yesterday.

26. Tullybrook AMS

27. Forest Park Trees X1 in Garden fell from Council owned Field (AMS)

28. Listoke (AMS)

29. The Gallagher Trees x3 Removed and cleaned up.

30. Ballymakenny Rd Trees x3 removed that were made safe yesterday.

31. New line Rd utility company made safe, and trees removed x2.

32. Mourne View Coolfore x2 Trees removed that were made safe yesterday.

33. Repondstown Tree Removed x1.

34. Lurganboy Tree removed x1.

35. Maine R166 Clogherhead Big Bush Removed from the Road.

	<p>36. Hill of Rath Tree removed x2 that was made safe.</p> <p>37. Black Hall Trees x2 Removed.</p>	
Cothabháil Cosán / Footpath Maintenance	We are in the process of complying with a list of footpaths for re-instatement	
Deisiú Soilse Tráchtá / Traffic Light Repairs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ardee Main St at Credit Union, Ireland –Lamp fault • DR07, M1 Link - Cement - Cross Lanes (R132H) vehicle phase lamp Phase H Red • DR10, R132 @ Dual Carrigeway Ped Lights out • DR04, R132 @ Bull Ring/North Quay/South Quay Jct (R132D) Vehicle phase lamp fail Phase A Red • DR28 R132/Patricks St., Ireland –Lights out • Beaulieu Village R166 The red PED traffic light at Beaulieu Village , Drogheda is loose from its mount • DR03 James St Scotch Hall Jct) can the ped lights at Scotch hall carpark please be checked for timings <p>M1 Link - Cement - Cross Lanes (R132H) Pedestrian lamp fail phase L red, and Pedestrian Lamp fail DR36 Termonfeckin Bridge T-Junction, Ireland –Lights out.</p>	
Marcáil Bóithre / Road Markings	Survey of existing road markings with intention to renew sites in order of priority	

Comharthaíocht / Signage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cord Rd directional bollards reinstated. • Francis St / Scarlet St signed replaced after RTA. • Cleaning of directional signal and cycle lane bollards on North Rd – R132. • New Chevrons Signs at IDA / Beamore Junction 	
Marú fiailí / Weed killing		
Díghalrú glantacháin boscaí bruscair / Litterbin cleaning disinfecting	On-going on weekly basis.	
Dumpáil Neamhdhleathach / Illegal Dumping		
Glanadh Graifítí / Graffiti Removal	Removal of graffiti at Meatmarket Lane, West St.	

Comhfhorbairt Áite / Placemaking

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

West Gate Vision (Drogheda)

The Westgate planning application, lodged in December 2023, is currently with An Bord Pleanála for determination.

The Westgate planning documents, including the suite of drawings, the EIAR and the AA Stage 2 reports, represent a large volume of material and full details of the proposed works are available here

:<https://consult.louthcoco.ie/en/consultation/westgate-2040>





Artist impressions of Westgate project

Pedestrian access will always be maintained and deliveries to and from all businesses will be accommodated to minimise the impact as much as possible.

Glas have appointed a dedicated Liaison Officer for any queries, John Caffrey jcaffrey@glascel.ie

Phase 2 – Backlands Area of St Nicholas Quarter

BDP Ltd are the appointed consultant design team for Phase 2 of the St. Nicholas Quarter project and are working with the Council and stakeholders on feasibility, analysis and a design concept for the re-development of the Backlands area. The accepted concept will be developed to Part 8 planning with full public consultation. A briefing for Councillors took place in January.



Artist impressions of St. Nicholas Quarter Phase 2

St. Nicholas Quarter and Backlands Regeneration (Dundalk)

Phase 1

Glas Civil Engineering Ltd. are currently on site, works are being completed on a phased basis to minimise impact on residents and businesses. Phase A has been largely completed, Phase B is ongoing on the Left-Hand Side and works are ongoing on the subsequent Phases. The associated road closure scheduled from mid-November is due to finish in February. Diversion routes are in place via Castletown Road and St. Nicholas Avenue.



Works ongoing to Bridge St. (Phase B LHS)



Works ongoing (Phases C, F and E)

The contractor has, in agreement with the Council, the consultant design team, and relevant stakeholders, commenced work on Phases C, F and E.

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

On-site inspections and negotiations with property owners are ongoing regarding buildings in Dundalk and Drogheda. Following engagement, several properties have entered the planning process, been put up for sale and started works.

Investigations are ongoing regarding possible purchase of properties and their eventual end use.

Athghiniúint Tuaithe agus Ciste Forbartha / Rural Regeneration and Development Fund (RRDF)

Ardee Castle

The tender process for a main contractor has closed. The tender assessment process is ongoing with a contractor due to be appointed in Q1 2025.

The project is part funded under the Rural Regeneration Development Fund and the council.

Living in Carlingford Visiting Carlingford



Artist impressions of Carlingford

The tender for the procurement of consultants for heritage led detailed design has been published. Tenders will close at the end of January 2025.

Omeath Placemaking Scheme

The Placemaking project at Omeath is now completed on site with making good of defects and snagging ongoing by the main contractor, GLAS Civil Engineering.



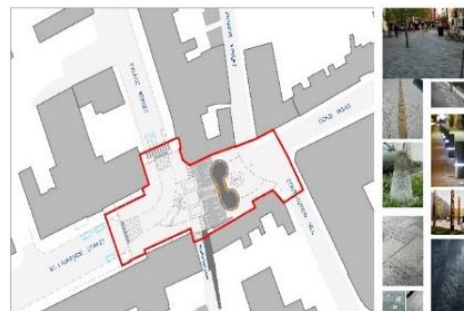
Ardee 2040

The Council are currently engaged with TII in relation to pre-planning approval for the main street. Once approval from TII is issued, the planning submission will be lodged with An Bord Pleanála.

Tionscadail Breise / Additional Projects

St Laurence's Gate Plaza, Drogheda

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



Play Spaces

St Dominic's Park & The Glen

AA Screening Stage 1 report has been completed for the Glen and Part 8 documents are being prepared for Q1 2025

AA Screening Stage 1 report for proposed works in St. Dominic's Park playground is currently being prepared in addition to Part 8 documents for Q1 2025

Capital Delivery Team

Community Recognition Fund 2024

The third call for expressions of interest in the Community Recognition Fund (CRF) 2024 was advertised in November 2024 on the Council's website and consultation portal.

Funded by the Department of Rural & Community Development (DRCD), the CRF recognises the huge efforts made by local communities in welcoming and supporting new arrivals from Ukraine and other countries.

In this call, Louth County Council sought expressions of interest for projects from communities with the highest level of new arrivals. In Louth, these areas are Drogheda, Dundalk, Ardee, Termonfeckin, Clogherhead, Collon and Drumcar.

The application window for Call 3 is now closed and expressions of interest are currently being appraised. DRCD has advised that successful applications under the previous window (Call 2) will be announced in the coming weeks.

Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS) 2024/25

The 2024/25 Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS) provides funding for the development of new and existing outdoor recreational infrastructure in rural areas.

ORIS is available to assist with the development of our natural amenities such as our mountains, lakes, rivers, beaches, blue-ways, bogs, forest walks and upland areas.

Up to 90% of the total project cost is available to successful projects. The remaining 10% match funding must be contributed by the successful applicant.

Expressions of interest under Measure 1 and Project Development Measure closed in January 2025. However, the window for expressions of interest for projects under Measures 2 and 3 of the schemes is currently open. A brief overview of each measure, deadline dates, expression of interest forms and links to the scheme outline can be found on:

<https://www.louthcoco.ie/en/services/placemaking-physical-development/funding/outdoor-recreation-infrastructure-scheme-oris/>

Tionscadail Tosaíochta do Lár an Bhaile / Town Centre First Projects

Town Centre First Plan - Dunleer



The Council are preparing tender documents for the appointment of an architectural consultant to prepare a design for a public space adjacent to Dunleer Library.

The tender will allow progression of the proposed scheme to Part 8 stage. The proposed scheme will be designed in partnership with the Council and Town Team and will provide a transformative space for residents and visitors alike.

Town Centre First Plan – Clogherhead

Engagement with local stakeholders, the Town Team and the appointed design team is ongoing in relation to the preparation of a Town Centre First Plan for Clogherhead. A further public consultation event and survey will take place prior to the publication of the final plan.

THRIVE – Town Centre First Heritage Revival Scheme



The application process for Strand 2 THRIVE funding was formally opened on the 16th January last with a closing date of 15 April next.

THRIVE aims to restore vacant or derelict heritage buildings in public ownership; revitalising urban centres, bringing valued heritage buildings back into use as community assets and delivering on New European Bauhaus and Town Centre First policies.

Following a well-attended public engagement event on the 28th November, the Council have been engaging with individual stakeholders and working with Shaffrey Architects in preparing design options centred on the West Street area of Drogheda.

The team is progressing towards the submission of a Part 8 Planning application in the first quarter of 2025.

Drogheda Digital Innovation Hub

The tender for the appointment of a contractor for works to part of the former O'Reilly building on Narrow West Street has closed and returns are being assessed with appointment of a contractor due to take place in Q1 2025.

Town Team Support Fund

LCC have been engaging with Craftstudio Architects in the preparation of Town Centre Health Checks for Castlebellingham and Collon. The Health Checks involve extensive survey work and identification of Strengths, Challenges, Opportunities and Threats. It is intended that work will be finalised by Q3 of 2025.

Forbairt Fhisiciúil / Physical Development

Tionscadail Bóithre / Roads Projects

Narrow Water Bridge

Wearing course has been completed on the R173 and roundabout and Temporary Traffic Management has been amended.

Control building construction ongoing, Roof has been installed, windows and doors to commence in Feb.

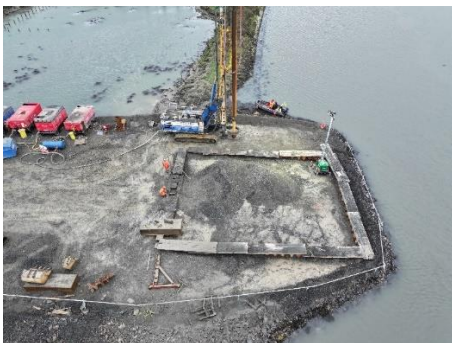
Southern abutment – most of the structural walls have been poured. The front inclined wall is due to be poured in early Feb. Holding down bolts for the bridge structure are being installed.

Northern Works: Proposed surface water diversion works has commenced in the North. The 92 piles for the northern abutment are now complete and works on infilling these with concrete and will commence in Feb.

Marine Piling – Commenced on 8th January, with approx. 16 of the 22 temporary support piles being installed. Works on the permanent piles in the channel will commence in February.



Southern Abutment ongoing R.C. works



Piling Platform Northern Embankment



Marine Piling Works

Engagement with DFI Infrastructure, Loughs Agency, NPW, etc. will be ongoing throughout the contract. Land Valuation Services are ongoing, and they are liaising with the agents of landowners.

A Consultant has been appointed for mussel fishermen valuation service and has commenced meeting fishers affected by the scheme.

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

The design team, valuers, LCC and WMNRO continue to engage with the landowners, their agents, and other stakeholders on accommodation works, access and compensation.

Stage (i) Archaeology Testing is complete, and the Archaeologist is presently working on finalising the Stage (i) report for submission.

Following this and on receipt of licences Stage (ii) Archaeology will be undertaken at 10 No. sites identified during phase (i).



High Voltage ESB Network Diversion

A Target Cost 2 budget submission for the entire project has been submitted to the TII in October 2024 for their review and approval and to allow the scheme to progress to tender.

ESB have commenced works on the relocation of the 38kv overhead network, however these works will be delayed due to reallocation of ESB personnel for the clean up after Storm Éowyn.

N52 Ardee Bypass

The applicant lodged a Supreme Court Application for Leave to Appeal the High Court Decision on the 20th of December. In mid-January An Bord Pleanála lodged their notices seeking an Order affirming the decision of the High Court and dismissing the appeal. The scheme remains at a standstill until the legal matter are resolved.

Boyne Enterprise Link Road

Ongoing consultations including a valuation process has taken place with stakeholders / landowners to acquire adjoining roadway resulting with an offer being submitted by LCC.

The CPO process will also continue in conjunction with the valuation process. The CPO has been advertised and submissions to An Bord Pleanála close on the 11th of January. These submissions are to be reviewed.

R178 Cavan to Dundalk Strategic Route Improvement Scheme

Department of Transport have approved the Council to appoint the Consultant through to optioneering phase of the project, with a view that subject to funding approvals further phases will follow on through to planning consent stage.

Pre-start meeting with appointed Consultant, RPS Group, took place on the 23rd of January, with phase 1 to commence in Feb.

Glasbhealaí / Greenways

Carlingford Lough Greenway - Omeath to Newry (Joint project with Newry, Mourne and Down District Council and East Border Region)

Section 1, & Section 2 complete from Carlingford to the border at Cornamucklagh.

Road Safety Audits 3 & 4 were carried out on 20th Jan 2025.

Landowner engagement ongoing on the acquisition of the CPO land parcels. The Councils valuer for the land acquisition continues to negotiate with Landowners agents.

Section 3 – NI

Works continue to progress on the construction of the boardwalk.



Substructures complete between border and Rough Island



Substructure substantially complete between Rough Island and Victoria Lock

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

Dundalk Bay to Carlingford Greenway

As part of the Public Consultation Day 2 the total number of submissions received as part of the Route Corridor Options consultation stage was 1,657.

These submissions are being reviewed by the project consultants and will inform the process in determining an emerged preferred route corridor, which will be subject to the next public consultation phase. Further details on the project can be found on the dedicated website www.dundalkcarlingfordgreenway.ie, including contact details for the Project Liaison Officer and the independent appointed agronomist.

TII approval has been received to move the project into options phase.

As part of the development of route corridor options for the project, the Consultants (RODA) will be carrying out several ecological walkover surveys within the identified study area from public roads and public lands, to undertake wintering bird surveys.

An Independent Agronomist has been engaged by

the Council during the route corridor option selection stage to assist landowners through the project considering any relevant agronomy issues. Declan Phelan – Philip Farrelly & Co. is the agronomist.

The Independent Agronomist will be made available to landowners to fully and fairly assess the impact of the proposed Greenway on their property types. The Independent Agronomist / Property Advisor will assist in identifying a route which minimises the impact of the scheme on affected properties. The Project Agronomist / Property Advisor will also assist in agreeing upon appropriate accommodation works and access arrangements in consultation with the farmer / landowner.

An initial meeting with IFA and project team in relation to the project took place on Tuesday 19th November.

Topographic Surveys of the study area are underway. This survey is being undertaken by Murphy Geospatial on behalf of Louth County Council to determine ground levels throughout the study area.

The surveys are being undertaken by drone which is a standard form of aerial topographic survey. The surveyors and their equipment are licensed to undertake these surveys by the Irish Aviation Authority, and the data obtained will be processed in compliance with GDPR requirements regarding anonymisation of data.

The surveyors have been working from west to east from Dundalk through to Carlingford, however, they may be required to undertake surveys out of sequence at other locations for survey control. The drones used will generally be flying at a high level although will briefly be at lower levels when taking off and landing.

Programme of survey areas are listed on www.dundalkcarlingfordgreenway.com

Scéim Bonneagair Áineasa Aeraíochta / Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme, beach accessibility.

Applications under the ORIS Fund Measure 2 have been successful for Port (Lurganboy) and Templetown beaches.

Tender Documents for construction of both Templetown and Port were issued to a market of 81 suppliers, however only one tender was

received with a value which exceeded the funding from ORIS. The Council is to cover the shortfall in funding for the two projects to proceed. Letter of Intent will be issued to the preferred Bidder.

Tionscadail Corparáideach / Corporate Projects

Dunleer Fire Station

Final purchase of the lands process is nearing completion with documents with the solicitors on-going.

Stage 1 Report consisting of Project Inception and Preliminary Investigation was submitted in Dec 23. Approval to proceed to stage 2 will now be sought from the funding body when site fully acquired.

Dundalk Fire Station Training Centre

Stage 1 Report consisting of Project Inception and Preliminary Investigation has commenced. Design Team co-ordination meetings are on-going. Site surveys (Topographical and GPR) have been completed to aid final design. Site Investigation surveys began in Jan 2025 and are near completion. Submission of Stage 1 Report will shortly be finalised.

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

Dundalk & Ardee Flood Relief Projects

The Consultant Engineers continue to work on Stage 1 of the Dundalk Flood Relief Project.

Shortlisting potential fluvial and coastal flood relief options is underway, with modelling of proposed measures and combinations integrated into a streamlined process. Preliminary measures are being reviewed with the Client and Steering Group to refine the shortlisted options further. The next steps include incorporating these options into the development report and preparing for a Public Participation Day early to mid-2025.

Site Investigation works are due to commence on site in Feb. 2025.

The Archaeological Impact Assessment (AIA) has been prepared to identify any potential impacts of the Site Investigation works on local archaeology and built heritage. This will be discussed with National Monuments Service (NMS) for

preparation of licensing for the monitoring of works by a licensed archaeologist.

Other surveys such as environmental and archaeology are in progress which will also inform the project development.

The Draft Ardee Options Report has been received and reviewed by the Steering Group.

Monthly project briefing notes are being issued to the current relevant stakeholders. The Project website being hosted by OPW can be reached at: www.floodinfo.ie/frs/en/dundalk/home

Drogheda and Baltray Flood Relief Project

The Consultant Engineers continue to work on Stage 1 of the Dundalk Flood Relief Project.

RPS are continuing to undertake hydraulic model simulations to ensure that the proposed scheme provides the required standard of protection to properties. RPS are also continuing to develop the Scheme Analysis and Development report

A pre-commencement meeting has been held with the underwater archaeology and geophysical survey contractor. This survey will provide data to inform the Scheme Analysis and Development phase of the project and is scheduled to commence in February 2025.

RPS are also liaising with other environmental specialists regarding updating the baseline data. An aquatic ecology survey and other walkover surveys will commence over the coming weeks. An additional overwintering bird survey commenced in September and will continue until March 2025.

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

Carlingford and Greenore Flood Relief Project

CCTV and Topographical survey data is being quality assessed for use in building the hydraulic model, including on site validation checks.

The Local Authority and OPW are continuing to develop a brief tailored to the study area and recent flood event mechanisms to issue it to the market for appointment of a project consultant engineer.

The Council are continuing to compile a list of constraints & opportunities to potential options for incorporation into proposed brief. The SGM are currently carrying out a Risk Assessment exercise to fine tune the consultants brief and procurement route.

In the interim the Local Authority are compiling a list of minor works which could improve the conveyance characteristics of Carlingford drainage system.

Tionscadail Muirí / Marine Projects

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

- Drummullagh, Omeath: Section 177 AE has been approved by the Board and construction tender documents are being drafted
- Bellurgan Point: Section 177 AE has been approved by the Board and construction tender documents are being drafted.
- Ballynamoney/Ballagan, Greenore: Section 177 AE has been approved by the Board and construction tender documents are being drafted.

It's anticipated to procure a civil engineering contractor in Q1/2 2025, with subsequent construction works programmed in accordance with the individual site's ecological constraints.

Tionscadail Cláir Scoileanna / Schools Programme Projects

Ardee E.T.N.S.

Works on site continue to progress, Progress update since previous monthly report:

- Rising blockwork 100%
- Attenuation trench 95%
- Joisting to flat roofs 95% complete
- Foundation for wall @ entrance 80% complete
- Wastewater tank – installed
- Window installation 40%
- Joisting to flat roofs 100% complete
- Decking to roof 90% complete
- Kalzip roof – southwest wing 90%, west wing 98%
- Sub frames to SNU 60% complete
- M&E pipework and boxes to SNU – ongoing
- Battens and membranes for cladding – 70% complete

- Damp course at eaves 80% complete, area at GP hall to complete
- Watermain installation 60% complete
- EIR ducts installation 85% complete
- Installation of gullies 60% complete

The current status of the ongoing Active Travel projects are as outlined in the table below.

Proposed Works Forecast

- Ongoing roof installation
- Complete flat roofs
- Complete foundation to wall @ road
- Installation of EIR duct at Road
- Complete attenuation trench
- Ongoing installation of M&E containment
- Installation of floor screeds
- Fit insulation and slabs to underside of trusses
- Completion of window installation

Active Travel Investment Program

2025 Budget Allocation

On the 13th January, 2025 The National Transport Authority (NTA) awarded Louth County Council a budget allocation of €6,300,000 million to advance twenty eight (28) Nr Active Travel Projects.

The Active Travel Projects funded are for promoting Walking and Cycling Infrastructure and development of transport studies for Drogheda and Dundalk.

The current status of the ongoing Active Travel projects are as outlined in the table below. For ease of referencing, the National Transport Authority (NTA) allocate projects into particular Cost Bands depending on the total estimated project cost including, fees, land acquisitions and constructions as follows;


- Band 1 €0 - €5M;
- Band 2 €5 - €20M;
- Band 3 > €20M;




They also divide the evolvment of a Capital Investment project into a seven-phase process, i.e. (Phase 1 to Phase 7 inclusive) with seven Gateways Reports i.e. hold points, where local authorities are to prepare and submit Gateway Reports for sign-off before obtaining approval to advance to the next phase.



The seven different phases are as outlined below...



- PHASE 1: Scope and Purpose
- PHASE 2: Concept Development and Option Selection
- PHASE 3: Preliminary Design
- PHASE 4: Statutory Processes
- PHASE 5: Detailed Design and Procurement
- PHASE 6: Construction and Implementation
- PHASE 7: Close-out and Review

Tionscadail Tasitil Gníomhaigh / Active Travel Projects


Project Name	Allocation 2025	Project Band	Current Phase	February 2025- Project update	Anticipated Part 8 Completions, subject to NTA approval of Gateways
Drogheda: R132, Bridge of Peace to Train Station (incorporating Marsh Road)	€270,000	Band 2 €5 - €20M	Phase 3 – Preliminary Design	<p>The recent Gateway (GW) 3 Report and preliminary design drawings were amended to reflect the New Cycle Design Manual.</p> <p>The Active Travel Team held a second Non-Statutory Public Consultation event in Drogheda Library on Tuesday 5th November 2024, which was very well attended, with a prior briefing to Drogheda MD members online on 14th October 2024.</p> <p>All observations, comments and feedback obtained during the 2nd Non-Statutory Public Consultation event have been reviewed by the Design Team and are now incorporated into amended design drawings. With the new information our designers envisage that this project will be brought forward for Part 8 public display in early 2025.</p> 	Proposed Part 8 display early Q1 2025
Drogheda: R166 Termonfeckin Rd, design.	€50,000	Band 2 €5 - €20M	Phase 3 – Preliminary Design	Consultants RPS Group have completed draft Gateway 3 Report. It is anticipated to have an on-line briefing on the proposed scheme to Drogheda Municipal District Councillors in February 2025 in advance of non-statutory public consultations.	Proposed Part 8 display late Q1 2025
Drogheda: R168 Collon Rd, Hill of Rath Roundabout (RAB) and Rosehall RAB.	€100,000	Band 2 €5 - €20M	Phase 3 – Preliminary Design	The final Gateway 3 Report was submitted to the NTA in Dec. 2024, to allow the Active Travel Team to proceed to Part 8 public Consultation in early 2025.	Proposed Part 8 display Q1 2025


Project Name	Allocation 2025	Project Band	Current Phase	February 2025- Project update	Anticipated Part 8 Completions, subject to NTA approval of Gateways
				 <p data-bbox="850 586 1493 610">View of Collon Rd looking South East from Mell Roundabout</p>  <p data-bbox="871 915 1472 940">View of R166 looking East from Hill of Rath Roundabout</p>	
Drogheda: Rathmullan Road including Marley's (Pathfinder Project)	€120,000	Band 2 €5 - €20M	Phase 3 – Preliminary Design	<p data-bbox="800 943 1535 1073">Part 8 Public Display commenced on 22nd October 2024 with all submissions by the closing date of the 3rd of Dec. 2024. Documents were available on the National Portal https://planning.localgov.ie/en/part-8/application/bacd54f4-8bc0-11ef-a181-005056880cd6</p>  <p data-bbox="877 1313 1463 1338">View of Marley's Lane looking South from Aura Leisure</p>	Proposed Part 8 CE Report to be brought to Drogheda MD on the 10th Feb 2025.

Project Name	Allocation 2025	Project Band	Current Phase	February 2025- Project update	Anticipated Part 8 Completions, subject to NTA approval of Gateways
Drogheda Dublin and North roads, design.	€400,000	Band 2 €5 - €20M	Phase 2 - Concept and Options	<p>The Active Travel Team are having on-going discussions with Irish Rail regarding Dublin Road Bridge and interaction with the Dart North Coastal Project. A inter agency meeting was held to examine proposals on Active Travel measures under the Dublin Rd, railway bridge. Further meetings are planned.</p> <p>Gateway 3 (Preliminary Design Report) was completed in Dec 2024.</p>  <p>View of Dublin Rd, Drogheda Rd looking South</p>	<p>North Rd, Drogheda - Proposed Part 8 display Q1 2025</p> <p>Dublin Rd, Drogheda - Proposed Part 8 display depending on dialogue with NTA / Irish Rail.</p>
Dundalk: R132 Inner Relief Rd. (Pathfinder Project)	€2,625,000	Band 2 €5 - €20M	Phase 5 Detailed Design	<p>Tender Document to establish a restricted panel of competent contractors was advertised on etenders and Official Journal of the European Union (OJEU). Closing date for submission was 17th December 2024. It is anticipated that a panel of contractors will be formed and detailed tender documents will be issued to this panel in Q1 2025.</p> 	<p>Completed – Part 8 Approval on the 10th September 2024</p> <p>Construction Tender Procurement Stage May 2025</p>

Project Name	Allocation 2025	Project Band	Current Phase	February 2025- Project update	Anticipated Part 8 Completions, subject to NTA approval of Gateways
				<u>View of Inner Relief Rd, Dundalk looking north from Hoeys Lane Roundabout extract from Fly Through</u>	
Dundalk: Dublin Rd Xerox Junction to Ladywell Bridge	€25,000	Band 2 €5 - €20M	Phase 4 Statutory Process	<p>Part 8 proposals were brought to Dundalk MD Meeting on the 10th December 2024.</p>  <p><u>View of Dublin Rd, Dundalk looking north at DKIT Entrance</u></p>	Part 8 Approved in December 2024.
Dundalk: Ard Easmuinn Rd to Train Station / Friary School Dundalk & Dundalk Bus Station to Rail Station.	€100,000		Phase 3 /4 Preliminary Design / Statutory Process	<p>Workshop held with the NTA in October and we intend to accelerate parts of the scheme, namely, McEntee Avenue, Mulholland Avenue & Pearse Parks to deliver key elements associated with pedestrian provision and Safe Routes to School infrastructure.</p>  <p><u>View of Ard Easmuinn Looking North from China Bridge</u></p>	Proposed Part 8 Q1 2025

Project Name	Allocation 2025	Project Band	Current Phase	February 2025- Project update	Anticipated Part 8 Completions, subject to NTA approval of Gateways
R132 Inner Relief Road Tain Bridge	€50,000	Band 1 €0 - €5M	Phase 3 - Concept and Options	Phase 2 approved by the NTA in December 2024. Phase 3 commenced with a proposed non-statutory consultation in March 2025.	No part 8's but possible Section 38
Hoey's Lane, Dundalk	€60,000	Band 1 €0 - €5M	Phase 3 – Preliminary Design	GW3 Reports approved by the NTA in Dec 2024. Public consultation proposed for Q1 2025.	Proposed Part 8 late Q1 2025
Mill Street, Dundalk	€75,000	Band 1 €0 - €5M	Phase 2 - Concept and Options	GW3 comments received from NTA and a workshop held with NTA, LCC and consultants on 20 th November 2024. Resulting from this workshop the drawings will be updated and a non-statutory public consultation will be held in Q1 2025.	2025
Hill Street Bridge to Train Station, Dundalk	€50,000	Band 1 €0 - €5M	Phase 2 - Concept and Options	GW3 comments received from NTA and a workshop held with NTA, LCC and consultants on 20 th November 2024. Resulting from this workshop the drawings will be updated and a non-statutory public consultation will be held in Q1 2025.	2025
College Heights to Tom Bellew Avenue, Dundalk	€150,000	Band 2 €5 - €20M	Phase 2 - Concept Development & Option Selection	GW2 report approved by the NTA in Dec 2024.	2025
R132 Dublin Road, (Rank Xerox Junction to Greengates)	€135,000	Band 1 €0 - €5M	Phase 3 – Preliminary Design	Second public consultation day along with stakeholder engagement meeting held on the 28 th November 2024. Louth Consult portal for submissions closed on 12 th December 2024. Design Team will be reviewing comments in order to update Preliminary Design Drawings.	Proposed Part 8 Q1 2025

Project Name	Allocation 2025	Project Band	Current Phase	February 2025- Project update	Anticipated Part 8 Completions, subject to NTA approval of Gateways
				 <p data-bbox="842 639 1495 662"><u>View of entrance to Xerox Campus Looking to Xerox Junction</u></p>	
Moneymore, Active Travel elements	€200,000	Band 1 €0 - €5M	Phase 4 – Statutory Processes	Design Consultants (RPS Group) appointed and have design completed for the proposals. CPO notice placed on display and on site, with proposal on display from 17 th December 2024 to 11 th February 2025.	N/A
Safe Routes to Schools (Round 1) 1. St Louis Secondary School Dundalk 2. Rehab Care Mill Street Dundalk 3. Saint Brigid's and Saint Patrick's School, Drogheda 4. Scoil Aonghusa, Drogheda	€40,000	Band 1 €0 - €5M	Phase 6 – Construction	Works completed at Schools 1,3 & 4 in Dundalk & Drogheda with minor snags to be completed in Jan 2025. Works relating to Rehab Care on Mill Street, will be incorporated as part of Mill Street, Active Travel Project.	N/A

Project Name	Allocation 2025	Project Band	Current Phase	February 2025- Project update	Anticipated Part 8 Completions, subject to NTA approval of Gateways
				 <p>Images : Scoil Aonghusa, Drogheda</p>	
<p>Safe Routes to Schools (Round 2)</p> <p>1. Bellurgan National School 2. Callystown National School 3. St Mary's NS, Knockbridge 4. St. Malachy's GNS, Dundalk</p>	€950,000	Band 1 €0 - €5M	Phase 2 / 3 - Concept and Options & Preliminary Design	<p>The Design Team were appointed in March 2024 and have commenced Option Development and Preliminary Design. Section 38 to be displayed late Q1 2025</p> <p>Workshop held with the NTA in December 2024 on preliminary Design Drawings and approved in principle. It is anticipated that all design and public liaison will be completed in Q1 2025 for Round 2 schools and all infrastructure delivered in 2025</p>	No part 8's but possible Section 38's
<p>Safe Routes to Schools (Round 3)</p> <p>1. SN Chaoimhin Naofa, Philipstown, Dunleer</p>	€50,000	Band 1 €0 - €5M	Phase 2 - Concept and Options	<p>Louth County Council were informed in Q4 2024 of three new schools to be included as part of Safe Routes to School Round 3. Funding was received 13th Jan 2025.</p> <p>Tender Documents to be prepared seeking Design Consultants for the Design of Proposed works.</p>	No part 8's but possible Section 38's

Project Name	Allocation 2025	Project Band	Current Phase	February 2025- Project update	Anticipated Part 8 Completions, subject to NTA approval of Gateways
2. Scoil Phadraig Naofa , Kilcurry 3.Mullaghboy NS.					
Bus Enhancement Programme	€500,000			Funding to allow for the upgrade of bus stops in various locations across the county including the installation of bus poles and hardstanding areas plus bus shelters in agreed locations.	N/A
Mobility Hubs	N/A	N/A	N/A	<p>The Government Climate Action Plan (CAP 23/24) has identified shared mobility as a key mechanism for reducing car dependency and car ownership. Dundalk Town has been identified as a potential location for the delivery of a pilot project to test the effectiveness of mobility hubs. The hubs would provide short-term access to a variety of modes of travel including ebikes, scooters and Electric Vehicles (EVs).</p> <p>The pilot project is being led by the National Transport Authority in conjunction with the Department of Transport with funding being provided by the Climate Action Fund.</p> <p>The DoT has submitted a Preliminary Business Case to the Department of Environment Climate and Communication who manage the Climate Action Fund and approval in principle to progress the pilot has been received.</p> <p>AECOM Consultants have been appointed to further develop a detailed business case. Representatives from both the DOT and AECOM have met with Louth County Council and work is now ongoing regarding the identification of potential location sites and the planning implications surrounding the delivery of the hubs.</p>	N/A

Forbairt Na hEagraíochta Organisational Development

Áiríonn an Stiúrthóireacht um Fhorbairt na hEagraíochta na seirbhísí lárnacha a theastaíonn chun an tÚdarás Áitiúil seo a chothabháil agus a riaradh. Áirítear leis seo Acmhainní Corparáideacha agus Daonna. Áiríonn sé freisin na feidhmeanna Pobail agus Aeráide agus gach gné de Sheirbhísí Bainistíochta Dramhaíola agus Sheirbhísí Tréidliachta.

Tá cúig eochairfhreagrachta ag an Stiúrthóireacht seo:

- Seirbhísí Corparáideacha
- Tacaíocht Pobail agus Spóirt
- Inbhuanaitheacht
- Seirbhísí Tréidliachta
- Acmhainní Duine

The Organisational Development Directorate includes the central services required to maintain and administer this Local Authority. This includes Corporate and Human Resources. It also includes the Community and Climate functions and all aspects of Waste Management Services and Veterinary Services.

This Directorate has five key areas of responsibility.

- Corporate Services
- Community Support & Sports
- Sustainability
- Veterinary Services
- Human Resources

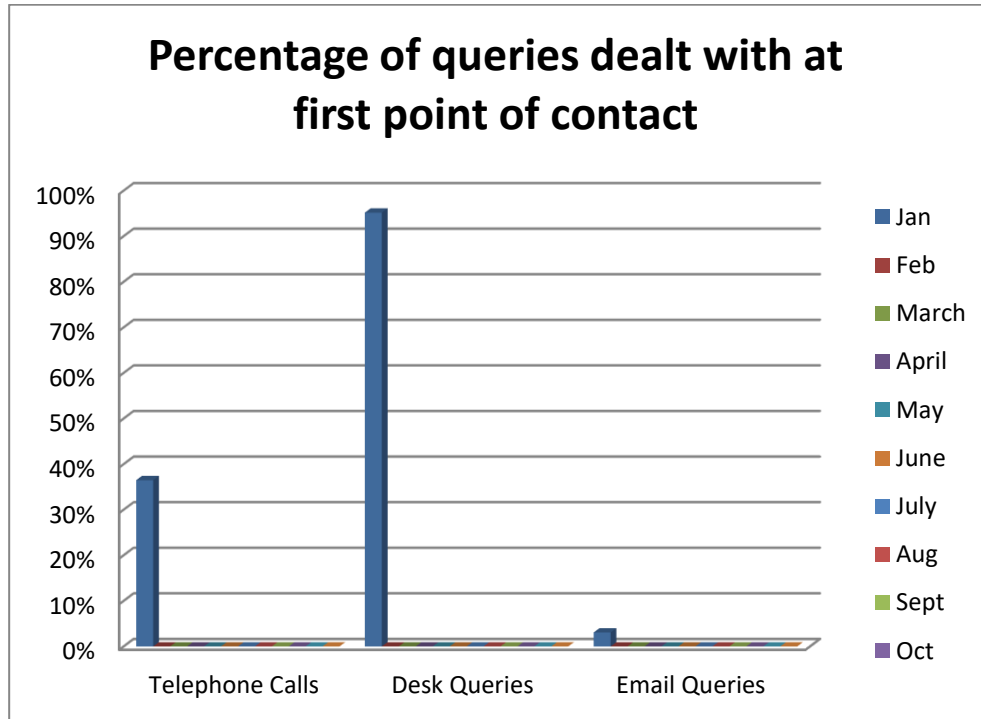


Joe McGuinness
Stiúrthóir /Director of Service

Seirbhísí Corporáideacha / Corporate Services

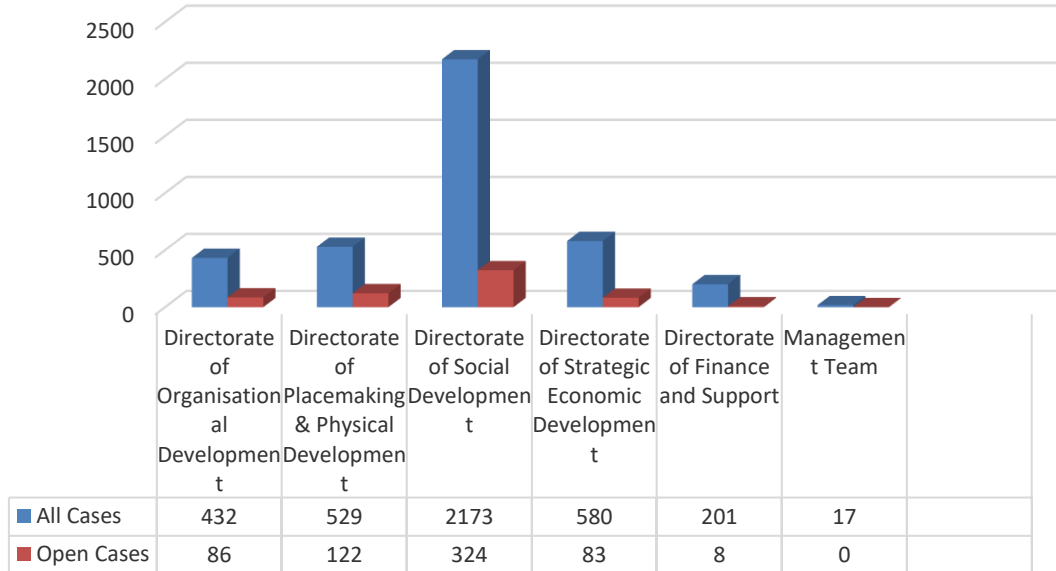
Tuairisc ar Sheirbhísí Custaiméirí / Customer Services Report

During the month of Jan 2025 Customer Services dealt with queries 7,153 calls, 1,298 e-mails and 6,885 counter queries.



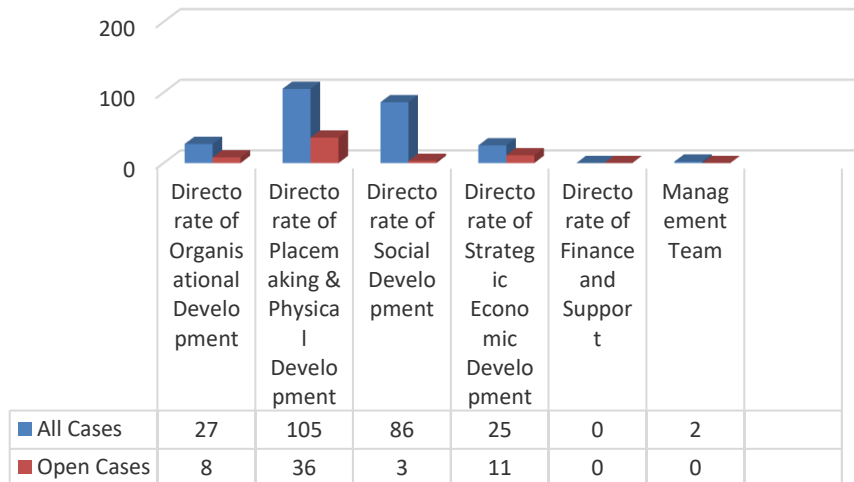
There were 3,932 valid Sugar CRM cases recorded during January 2025 of which 623 (15.8%) remain unresolved, broken down by directorate as follows:

No. of Cases Created in January and still open at 27th of January 2025



During January, 245 elected reps. cases were recorded on Sugar of which 58 (24 %) remain unresolved broken down by Directorate as follows:

Elected Rep Cases Created in January and still open at 27th Jan 2025



The table below illustrates activity in the redress area.

Request Received	2024 Total Jan- Jan	2025 Total Jan - Jan	2025 Jan only
FOI REQUEST	14	12	12
DSAR	0	2	2
DATA PROTECTION REQUEST	4	10	10
(AIE) INFORMATION	1	0	0
OMBUDSMAN REQUEST	1	0	0
COMPLAINTS	4	2	2

Clár Toghthóirí / Electoral Register

The Franchise Section have reported to the Electoral Commission on statistics relating to the Electoral Register during 2024. The following is a synopsis of the statistics which were submitted, as end of December 2024:

Total Electorate	101,861	
Total Electorate with DOB	101,112	98.28%
Total Electorate with Eircode	100,487	98.65%
Total Electorate with email address	20,085	19.72%
Total Electorate with contact number	17,138	16.82%
Total Electorate with DOB & Eircode	98,883	97.08%
Total electorate with PPSN	20,863	20.48%

Total No. of Presidential Electors	93,712
Total No. of Dáil Electors	94,874
Total No. of Local Electors	101,777
Total No. of European Electors	94,482
Total No. of Potential European Electors	2,911
Total No. of Electors with NFA	6
Total No. of Pending Electors (16/17 yr olds)	84

Postal Votes	
Gardaí	2
Defence Forces	409
Diplomats	18
Illness/Disability	56
Occupation/Students	0
Prisoners	12
Anonymous	3
Special Voters	422

Deletions from Register in 2024	5,985
Modifications on Register in 2024	7,765
Additions to Register in 2024	12,238

Ardee Municipal District Awards

The 2025 Ardee Municipal District Civic Awards took place on Wednesday 29th January in the foyer of Ardee Court House.

Following a nomination and consideration process by six elected members of Ardee Municipal District, 11 awards were granted to inspirational persons or groups, or those who achieve outstanding goals, demonstrate unwavering service to the community, and/or represent the community nationally or internationally.



Pictured are the eleven awardees alongside the Cathaoirleach of Ardee Municipal District Councillor John Sheridan, Chief Executive David Conway and Elected Members of Ardee Municipal District.

Tacaíocht Pobail / Community Support

Contae Lú atá Báúil le hAois / Age Friendly Louth



AI Age Friendly Workshop

Age Friendly Louth were delighted to hold their first Age Friendly event of 2025.

The event took place in the Gallery Meeting Room, Louth County Council Civic Offices, Fair Street, Drogheda on 22nd January. The event was an opportunity for older people in the area to have a gentle introduction to the topic of AI (Artificial Intelligence).

The introduction to AI for beginners included what AI is and outlined how we are already interfacing with AI in our everyday lives, through our smartphones and through social media. The introduction also outlined some of the benefits associated with AI and discussed some of the challenges around AI.

There then followed a presentation by Ms. Paula Kelly from TU Dublin School of Electrical and Electronic Engineering. Paula was accompanied by some of her fellow researchers who gave an overview and introduction to their research projects in AI and showcased some of their current projects.

Ms. Sinead McVerry, Age Friendly Programme Manager stated that “The Co Louth Older People’s Council (OPC) have identified the area of AI as one that older people would like more information on. This event on the 22nd was a gentle introduction to the topic of AI and was also a chance to discuss current AI projects with researchers from TU Dublin. It was also an opportunity for people, should they wish, to be part of current and future AI projects with the researchers from Technological University Dublin.

Joe Grogan Chairperson of Louth Older People’s Council (OPC) noted that “We are hearing about AI

constantly on the news and in the media. It is important that as older people we keep up to date with new technological developments, particularly AI, and see how AI affects and benefits older people in Co. Louth.”

The event on 22nd January was the first in what is hoped will be a suite of AI workshops/training provided to older people across Co Louth.



AI Presentation in Drogheda Civic Offices



Art or AI

Local Enhancement Programme 2025



On 7th November 2024 the Department of Rural and Community Development’s **Local Enhancement Programme 2025 (LEP)** was launched by Minister for Rural and Community Development, Heather Humphreys TD, and Minister of State with responsibility for Community Development and Charities, Joe O’Brien TD. The LEP in Louth will be

administered by Louth County Council's Local Community Development Committee (LCDC).

Under the LEP 2025 there will be capital funding available to support community and voluntary groups, particularly in disadvantaged areas, with minor capital works and improvements to their facilities, and the purchase of equipment for community use.

There is also current funding available to aid with running costs such as utility bills and insurance costs.

The Department of Rural and Community Development has allocated **€205,035** capital funding and **€34,172** current funding to Louth LCDC. Groups applying under the current fund are not precluded from applying for the capital funding and vice versa.

The fund opened on 13th January 2025 and closing date for applications is 4pm on 23rd February 2025.

The LCDC want to encourage new and existing community groups to apply for Local Enhancement Funding in 2025. Information sessions are taking place in libraries across Co. Louth to provide the public and community groups with information about the Local Enhancement Programme 2025 funding scheme, help with filling in the application form and assistance with uploading the form onto the Consult Louth portal.

Sessions took place in Dunleer and Ardee Libraries on 21st and 23rd January and those who attended found them very interesting and informative.



Local Enhancement Programme 2025 Information Sessions at Dunleer & Ardee Libraries

Public Participation Network (PPN)

Secretariat Meeting held in County Hall, Dundalk – 8th January 2025

Training / capacity building for the months ahead has been agreed as follows: Public Speaking (February 10th), Crisis Communications (March 25th & September 23rd), AI Apps & Software (April 8th). Further training will be discussed and agreed at future meetings.

Dates for upcoming MD and Plenary meetings were agreed as follows: Dundalk MD (March 6th), Drogheda MD (March 12th), Ardee MD (March 12th), Plenary (Ardee) (April 7th).

Meeting of the Secretariat and Louth PPN Community Representatives – 13th January 2025

This meeting was held in the Outcomers premises in Dundalk and brought all of Louth PPN's community representatives together to discuss collective issues of concern to Louth's community and how these issues may be brought to the decision and policy-making structures within the County.

Tidy Town Project Scheme 2025

As a demonstration of Louth County Council's dedication to strengthening participation in community-led development, the Tidy Towns Project Scheme 2025 is geared towards enhancing the marks given to Tidy Town groups participating in both the National Tidy Towns Competition and local competitions.

The scheme, introduced on 2nd January 2025, will close on 31st January. Tidy Towns groups are encouraged to utilise the online application forms for their submissions.

PEACEPLUS



Special EU Programmes Body
Comhlacht na gClár Speisialta AE
Special EU Skemes Boadie



PEACEPLUS
Northern Ireland - Ireland
Co-funded by the
European Union | UK Government

Tender Submission Training was held for interested stakeholders on 15th January.

The PEACEPLUS Launch Event date has been set for 10th April, to be held in the Muirhevnamór Community Centre. Save the Date invitations are currently being circulated.

Ukraine Humanitarian Response

Offer A Home Programme Property Figures as at 27/01/2025

Properties offered in January	0
Families moved into properties in January	2
Expressions of interest in being accommodated received from families in January	9
Property offers recorded to date	80
Owners successfully contacted to date	79
Properties currently occupied	39
Beneficiaries currently assigned	132
Assessments carried out to date	59
Assessments currently underway	0
Properties assessed as suitable to date	40
Properties with minor works required	0
Properties withdrawn to date	19
Properties not viable to date	21

Emergency Refurbishment Ukraine Programme (ERUP) to date

Cumulative Offers of properties to ERUP	38
Unsuitable / withdrawn	30
DCEDIY Letters of Intent Issued to date	11
DCEDIY Letters of Intent Withdrawn	3
No. of beds combined for delivery	635
DCEDIY contracts issued to date	6
No of beds delivered*	377 incl LCC refurbis

*224 beds delivered by LCC pre ERUP

Local Authority Integration Team

The team continued their training programme with a course provided by the LGMA covering Advanced Communications hosted over three sessions in January.

DKIT hosted their second conference in conjunction with the RiVeR project. The RiVeR Project is responding to the impacts of domestic, sexual and gender-based violence through research, education and training. The conference main topic this year was coercive control and its impacts. The LAIT attended the conference, networking with stakeholders and gaining valuable knowledge around DV&GBSV.



DKIT River Project Conference

Akiwda launched a report discussing the topic of Migrant Women's experiences in Ireland's Emergency Accommodation which was attended by the Louth LAIT. The event was chaired by CEO of Akiwda, Dr. Salome Mbugua. The report highlighted the negative experiences migrant women suffer in the emergency accommodation system in Ireland. The report made seven key recommendations to improve the living conditions.



Dr. Salome Mbugua speaking at the Launch of Report on Migrant Women's Experiences in Ireland's Emergency Accommodation

The LAIT team visited the Community Café in Creative Spark. The café is being leased by Louth Local Development Company and will be used as a hub by their New Communities team. Training and other events will take place to support the cohort the LAIT team work with.



Community Café in Creative Spark

Sport

Dundalk Sports Centre New Programmes Announced

Several new classes and programmes were announced this month. Futsal was a very successful after-school programme for boys and girls aged 8-12. It will now be returning on Tuesday afternoons from 4 to 5, costing only €4 pay as you go.

Due to continued success and demand, a Friday morning Pilates class was introduced. The class is held every Friday morning from 9:30am to 10:15am, costing €5 pay as you go. New members are always welcome. Due to popularity, Pilates is on a first come first served basis with a max capacity of 20 participants.

Dundalk Sports Centre also launched a new Friday morning pickleball programme for over 50's. Last year the sport of Pickleball continued to grow incredibly quickly thanks to the local club. Moreover, we have seen a huge increase in the number of customers enquiring about ways they can play so a walk in Pickleball slot for adults over 50 has commenced.

Lourdes Stadium

The Lourdes Stadium welcomed all their bowlers, casual users and all local athletics clubs back on the 2nd of January to what will be an exciting year ahead. The number of casual users at the stadium is constantly increasing, with more and more individuals choosing athletics as their form of physical activity.

Lourdes Stadium Strength and Balance class has become quite popular, with the class almost reaching full capacity.



Facilities at Lourdes Stadium

The New Year introduced two new classes - Lunch Time HIIT and Pilates - which are receiving great interest. Pilates takes place every Wednesday from 7-8pm in the New Studio Room, while Lunch Time HIIT takes place at 1.15pm in the MUGA on Tuesdays. Lunch Time HIIT is a great way to stay active during your working day.



Louth Local Sports Partnership

Coach & Volunteer Education Programmes 2025

Louth Local Sports Partnership facilitated the following coach and volunteer education programmes in January 2025.

Safeguarding

Activity	Date	Venue
Safeguarding Level 1	30 th January 2025	Online

Activator Walking Training

Activity	Date	Venue
Activator Walk Leader Training	22 nd January 2025	Lourdes Stadium Drogheda

Ireland Lights up Co. Louth

The ever-popular 'Ireland Lights Up' initiative returned to GAA clubs in January 2025, in collaboration with Get Ireland Walking, Local Sports Partnerships, and Irish Life. As part of the programme, participating clubs are hosting community walks over a six-week period throughout January and February. In Louth, thirteen GAA clubs have joined the initiative, with over 250 people taking part weekly, fostering health, well-being, and community engagement across the county.



Men on the Move Programme

The Men on the Move programme made its much-anticipated return in January 2025, providing a valuable opportunity for men in Louth to focus on their health and fitness. Taking place across four key locations - Cooley, Tallanstown, Termonfeckin, and Ardee - this 8-week initiative is specifically designed to encourage men aged 35 and older to engage in regular physical activity within their local communities. By offering a welcoming and supportive environment, the programme aims to enhance participants' overall health, fitness levels, and sense of well-being.

Delivered by experienced tutors from Louth Local Sports Partnership (LSP) and supported by the HSE, the programme has proven to be highly effective in motivating participants to adopt more active lifestyles. Over 100 men are currently involved, with many stepping into consistent physical activity routines for the first time or returning after a long hiatus. The programme not only promotes physical health but also fosters camaraderie and community spirit, making it a

cornerstone initiative for improving men's health in the region.



Men on the Move Participants

Louth LSP support Louth Disability Cycling Club with Accessible Bikes

Louth Local Sports Partnership was delighted to provide funding to Louth Disability Cycling Club to support the purchase of a new accessible trike. This valuable addition enhances the club's fleet of accessible bikes, enabling individuals with disabilities to participate in cycling activities and experience the joy and freedom of cycling.

Louth Disability Cycling Club was established in early 2024 with support from Louth LSP and has quickly become a vital resource for the community. The club's mission is to create opportunities for people with disabilities to engage in regular physical activity, promoting health, well-being, and social interaction through cycling. By offering accessible bikes and hosting inclusive events, the club has made a significant impact on the lives of its participants.

The club organises regular participation events at various scenic and welcoming locations, including St. Helena's Park in Dundalk, Carlingford Greenway, and St. Dominic's Park in Drogheda. These events not only provide an opportunity for people with disabilities to stay active but also foster a sense of community and connection among participants, families, and volunteers.



Louth Disability Cycling Club in St. Helena's Park, Dundalk

Couch to 5k Underway in Dundalk & Drogheda

Louth Local Sports Partnership successfully launched its 2025 Couch to 5k programmes in Dundalk and Drogheda, offering a fantastic opportunity for individuals to begin their fitness journey. This structured 8-week programme is designed to guide participants in gradually building their fitness and confidence, with the goal of running or walking 5km by the programme's conclusion.

The initiative has proved to be hugely successful, with over 60 participants attending across both locations. The supportive and encouraging environment ensures that individuals of all fitness levels could progress at their own pace while enjoying the camaraderie of others on the same journey.

The programme culminates in a special celebration event, where participants proudly showcase their achievements by taking part in their local parkrun in Dundalk or Drogheda. This event not only marks the successful completion of the programme but also reinforces the importance of community involvement and continued participation in physical activity.



Participants at Couch to 5K Training in Dundalk Sports Centre

Activator Pole Walk Leaders Training in Drogheda

Louth LSP was delighted to deliver Activator Pole Leader Training to 12 community leaders in the Moneymore area of Drogheda. The training, held at Lourdes Stadium and facilitated by Frank Grealley of Get Ireland Walking, provided participants with the skills and confidence to develop and lead a local walking group.

Activator poles are designed to improve posture, balance, and mobility, making walking more accessible to people of all ages and abilities. This initiative aims to promote health and well-being while encouraging social connection and physical activity within the community.

Bainistíocht Dramháil, Gníomh Comhshaoil & Aeráide / Waste Management, Environment & Climate Action

Sustainability

Waste Enforcement Summary of Complaints

A total of 18 complaints were received and investigated by the Waste Enforcement team in January 2025, some of which remain open pending further investigations.

Waste Facility Permits/Certificates of registration

One Waste Facility Permit application has been received in January 2025.

Segregation, Storage and Presentation of Household and Commercial Waste Byelaws 2019

Fixed Payment Notices (FPNs) continue to be issued under the byelaws for failing to remove bins from a public place. In Jan 2025, two FPNs have been issued under the byelaws. FPN payments which have not been received within the 21 days are being referred for legal action.

Bin presentation surveys are being carried in areas where bin presentation and storage of bin receptacles is an issue. FPNs are being issued accordingly.

Article 27 By-Products

By-product notifications/registrations are made to the EPA through an online portal. The Councils Waste Enforcement Section have a role to carry out site inspections at sites of origin and/or sites of destination to check material complies with the by-product criteria.

Producer Responsibility Initiatives

Producer Responsibility Initiatives have been introduced based on the producer pays principle. Under these initiatives producers are given significant responsibilities.

Approved bodies have been set up to assist producers with compliance:





Louth County Council conduct PRI and levy compliance inspections with the following:

- Packaging Producers
- Tyres
- Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE)
- Batteries
- End of Life Vehicles (ELVs)
- Food Waste
- Plastic Bay Levy
- Farm Plastic Levy
- Deposit Return Scheme

The Council's waste enforcement officers are currently undertaking inspections to ensure compliance with the Regulations.

Diesel Laundering Waste

There were six IBCs dumped so far in January 2025. The total cost for clean-up of diesel laundering waste so far in 2025 is approximately €7,500.

Waste Enforcement

Waste Enforcement Officers received a complaint regarding loads of waste leaving a construction site and being transported to an unauthorised waste facility in Northern Ireland. Waste Enforcement Officers carried out surveillance and a vehicle checkpoint. Offences were noted under Section 34 of the Waste Management Act 1996 as amended and as a result fines amounting to €2,000 were issued. This issue was notified to the Northern Ireland Environment Agency due to the cross-border activity.

Litter Enforcement & Investigations

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

In January, Litter Wardens completed 124 investigations in response to dumping reported by members of the public. 29 Fixed Penalty Notices were issued in January where evidence was found under the Litter Pollution Act 1997.

Below are some photos of waste and clean ups carried out by the Council's Litter Wardens throughout the county:

- Williamsons Place, Dundalk
- Ballsgrove, Drogheda
- Racecourse Road, Dundalk



Williamsons Place before clean up



Williamsons Place after clean up



revisits under the Good Agricultural Practice Regulations. Annual returns for agricultural inspections are in the process of being drafted and will be submitted to the EPA.

No complaints were received in January regarding slurry spreading during the closed period. Following inspection and reporting a file is being prepared for legal action under the European Communities (Good Agricultural Practice for Protection of Waters) Regulations 2022 and the Local Government (water Pollution) Act 1977 as amended.



Environmental Regulation

Water Quality and Complaints

There were 9 Water pollution complaints received in January, 6 of which related to general water pollution and 3 related to agriculture complaints. Investigations and site visits were carried out in all cases and all complaints were investigated with two complaints remaining open.

Air & Noise Pollution Complaints

There were 15 Air Pollution complaints received in January. 6 out of these 15 related to the same area and location. All complaints were investigated.

3 noise pollution complaints were received, 2 of which have been closed out and 1 is in progress.

Farm survey Inspections

During the month of January, the Council carried out 3 planned farm survey inspections and 2 farm



River Water sampling and Water framework directive

Routine surveillance and operational monitoring of rivers for the water framework directive programme and EPA schedule has been completed for January 2025.

Discharge Licences

Assessment inspections were carried out on 10 monitoring results received by the Council in January for Section 4 Discharge Licences.

Licensed landfills

Monthly monitoring of groundwater, surface water and leachate was carried out in January at Dundalk landfill. Monthly monitoring of perimeter gas monitoring points was completed at Dundalk, Drogheda and Whiteriver as required by EPA licences for the sites. Two incidents were uploaded onto the EPA EDEN website in January. They related to a level sensor issue at one of the side slope risers at Whiteriver and the perimeter gas monitoring points at Whiteriver landfill. One incident at Whiteriver has now been closed off.

Corrective action has been taken at the other incident. Monitoring returns and laboratory results for the three sites have been prepared as summary documents. These are due to be submitted before the deadline of 31st January 2025. Annual environmental reports, landfill gas surveys and pollution inventory reports are in preparation. These are due for submission in March 2025 for each site.

Septic Tanks

All advisory notices in relation to septic tank inspections conducted in 2024 have now been closed off.

Planning

26 planning reports were completed for January 2025. These reports related to agricultural and once off dwelling planning permissions.

Rural Water Programme

Capital Funding for Group Schemes

The Council in consultation with the Group Water Schemes applied to the Department for Housing, Local Government and Heritage under its call for bids from Local Authorities for funding under a planned three-year Multi Annual Rural Water Programme 2024 – 2026. The expert panel are

continuing with their evaluation of applications under the remaining measures A4, A5 & A9 and notification of any successful application will follow in due course.

The overall purpose of the MARWP and other grants is to provide the necessary funding to improve the quality, quantity and reliability of the water services relied upon by rural dwellers, where no public water services are available.

Individual Domestic Water Supplies Grant

A total of €8,040.00 in grants was paid in January 2025 for Individual Domestic Water Supplies (more commonly called private wells).

Domestic Wastewater Treatment Systems Grant

There were no Domestic Wastewater Treatment Systems (more commonly called septic tanks) grants issued in January.

Domestic Lead Remediation Grant Scheme

There were no applications received in January for Lead Replacement.

Climate Action

Louth County Council Climate Action Plan 2024 – 2029

The Climate Action Team continue to implement the Councils Climate Action Plan, 2024 – 2029.

Climate action topics are being prepared to help inform the drafting of the new Sustainability SPC work program.

The Climate Action Team recently attended several in person and online webinars on the DZ Zone which were run by CARO, focusing on building environment opportunities, community activation and natural environment opportunities.

The Climate Action Team recently attended a conference at the Department of Environment, Climate and Communications in Dublin on 'Collaborating for Climate Action'. They also

attended a workshop in Portlaoise on the Local Authority Climate Forum - Agents for Change Conference.

EU Mission, Adaptation to Climate Change

Members of the Climate Action Team are taking part in a series of training organised by the EU Climate Adaptation Mission. This is designed to build capacity for stakeholder engagement specifically around climate adaptation.

The Council has applied for funding from the EU government's CLIMAAX project, to carry out an enhanced climate risk assessment for County Louth.



Climate Adaptation Climate Training

The climate action co-ordinator and the climate action officer attended the climate engagement and communications workshop in the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications office. This workshop covered topics identified by stakeholders during an extensive consultation and learning gap analysis.

The climate action team are currently collating data to report on KPI's to track, measure and report on progress in delivering effective climate action at both local authority and sectoral levels.

The data relates to ten KPI's across various themes:

Local Government CA KPI Theme	Climate Action Theme	Data supplied by
1. Climate Action Staff	Mainstreaming	Local Authorities
2. Climate Action Teams	Mainstreaming	Local Authorities
3. Active Travel Projects	Mitigation	NTA
4. Social Housing Retrofit	Mitigation	LGMA (HDCO)
5. Greenhouse Gas Reduction	Mitigation	SEAI
6. Climate Action Plans	Adaptation / Mitigation	Local Authorities
7. Severe Weather Responses	Adaptation	Local Authorities
8. Community Climate Action Programme	Internal Behavioural Change and Capacity Building	DECC
9. Councillor & Staff Training	Internal Behavioural Change and Capacity Building	LASNTG
10. Green for Micro	Internal Behavioural Change and Capacity Building	Enterprise Ireland

The Climate Action Team recently attended an online training workshop which looked at 'Empowering Irish LA's in effectively communicating climate action' with Tipperary Energy Agency. This was a two part workshop ran across two mornings.

Community Climate Action

The Community Climate Action fund was launched by Minister Ryan. Training around state aid and administering this fund was attended by the Climate Action Coordinator and Community Climate Action Officer.

The Community Climate Action Officer has contacted 22 successful groups who have been approved for funding under the Community Climate Action Fund to discuss their projects.

The 22 successful groups continue to work with the Community Climate Action Officer as they enter the delivery phase of their projects.

As this funding stream was over double subscribed in Louth, with such a large interest from a number of community groups across Louth, there is a reserve list in place of projects for consideration, if any projects do not proceed or complete delivery. If any extra funding becomes available throughout this programme community groups will be notified of this in advance.

To date, three projects have completed in full under the Community Climate Action Programme. Drogheda Town F.C recieved grant funding to upgrade their playing pitches from halide floodlighting to LED floodlighting. They have upgraded 22 lighting heads in total. This project has largely decreased the clubs carbon footprint.



New LED lighting at Drogheda Town F.C

Dundalk Schoolboys League have also completed their project under the Community Climate Action Fund. The club have upgraded their halide lighting on their training pitch to LED lighting to increase energy efficiency. The project consisted of upgrading 6 lighting poles.



New LED lighting at Dundalk Schoolboys League training pitch

The Dundalk Outcomers branch has become the third project to complete under the Community Climate Action Programme. They have received grant funding to install solar panels on their building, this will increase energy efficiency within their building.



The new solar PV installation at Dundalk Outcomers

All projects have shown to deliver direct carbon savings while also empowering low carbon communities, meeting the objectives of the Community Climate Action Fund.

The Community Climate Action Officer would like to acknowledge the work of all community groups who are currently working on projects as part of the Community Climate Action Fund. A full list of all approved projects can be found on Louth County Council's website at <https://www.louthcoco.ie/en/services/environment/climate-action/community-climate-action-funding-strand/>

If you would like any further information on the Community Climate Action Fund please email climateaction@louthcoco.ie

Biodiversity Action

The Biodiversity Officer is currently in the process of applying for funding to deliver the biodiversity work programme for 2025.



Under the Heritage Council administered **Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP) Scheme 2025** Local Authority Biodiversity Officers can apply for

funding to either undertake the development of a Local Biodiversity Action Plan or to implement key actions of the plan if already completed. Match funding of 25% monetary contribution is required from each Local Authority. Decisions on the success of applications and the availability of funding in expected in March.



Similarly the delivery of priority biodiversity action in local authorities is delivered through the National Parks and Wildlife Service administered **Local Biodiversity Action Fund (LBAF) Scheme 2025**. Local Authorities alone are eligible to apply to this fund. LBAF provides funding for local authorities to carry out projects that target the objectives of Ireland's 4th National Biodiversity Action Plan (NBAP) 2023-2030. The focus for 2025 is on strengthening the evidence base for biodiversity, supporting practical conservation and restoration projects, enhancing ecological capacity through knowledge transfer and training and to engage communities in education and awareness activities. The Biodiversity Officer is preparing a number of applications, which align with the NPWS national priorities, under this fund. Match funding of 15% monetary contribution is required from each Local Authority. Decisions on the success of applications and the availability of funding in expected in March.



The Biodiversity Officer has been working with Bat Conservation Ireland to set up a new **Louth Bat Group**. The first meeting of the group was due to be held on Saturday 25th January in Dundalk Library but has unfortunately had to be postponed due to the impacts of Storm Éowyn. A new date will be advertised as soon as possible.



To celebrate **World Wetlands Day**, a guided birdwatching walk will take place along the banks of the lower reaches of Castletown Estuary, Dundalk at 1.30pm on Sunday 2nd February.

Waterbirds are an important indicator of the health of our wetlands. Participants can join Derek Watters from the BirdWatch Louth Branch to find out more about the wealth of birdlife the feed and breed in Dundalk Bay. Attendees should meet at the at the carpark at George's Quay, Dundalk Port at 1.30pm on Sunday 2nd February 2025. Google Maps: <https://maps.app.goo.gl/Bz47W748cnqbTLXo6>

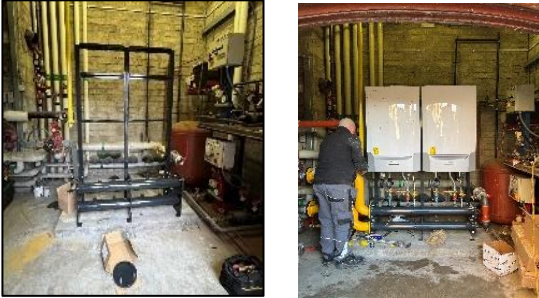
The loop walk along the lower reaches of the Castletown Estuary is approximately 2.5km long. Please dress appropriately for the winter weather conditions, with suitable footwear and warm protective clothing. There will be a small number of binoculars available on the day but please bring your own binoculars or telescopes if you have your own. This is a family event suitable for adults and children aged 7+. Children must be accompanied and supervised by an adult at all times. Please note this event is weather dependent and may have to be rescheduled if it is very cold, wet or windy.

Booking is not required but please contact Biodiversity@LouthCoCo.ie if you require more information

Council Facilities

Dundalk Museum – Boiler Replacement & New Heat Pump

Work to restore heating at Dundalk Museum was completed in December by installing a temporary gas boiler. Procurement works are now being progressed for a new Heat Pump and more sustainable heating system for the County Museum.



Replacing the gas boiler at Dundalk Museum with a temporary gas boiler system

Lighting Upgrades

Work is completed for LED Lighting upgrades at the following Louth County Council Buildings:

- Dundalk Library & Bookstore
- Ardee Civic Office
- Millmount Museum



Lighting Upgrades at Ardee Civic Centre & at Dundalk Bookstore

Carlingford Fire Station Improvements

The Council's Energy & Facilities Teams are undertaking extensive energy upgrade works at Carlingford Fire Station, including:

- Weather sealing of existing window frames

- Kerosene disconnected
- Installation of Heat Pump
- New fascia's, soffit boards, guttering, downpipes and internal units for the heat pump
- Installation of solar pv and two 5 kWh batteries and solar inverter
- New radiators

These works are expected to be completed by Mid-February.



Photos showing new Fascia and Soffits at Carlingford Fire Station



Photos showing windows Improvements, New Solar PV Inverter, New Heat Pump, New Radiators at Carlingford Fire Station

Drogheda Fair Street Francis Johnson Building Planned Upgrades 2025

Planning for Upgrade Works for the Council's Francis Johnson Building at Fair Street Drogheda is

almost complete, and the works are expected to be offered for tender shortly.

Drogheda Leisure Centre

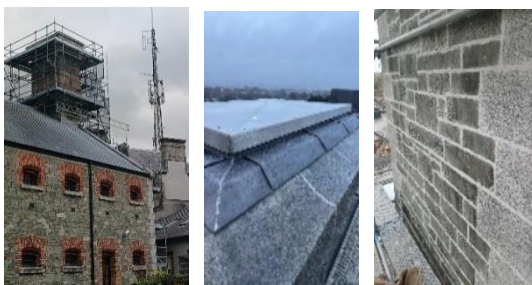
Logic Security Ltd. has now commenced works to improve the Fire Alarm at the Leisure Centre. The works have commenced and are expected to be completed early in 2025.



The old & new Fire Alarm Panels at Drogheda Leisure Centre

Oriel Centre, Dundalk - South Gable

New works to improve weather resistance of the Oriel Centre, Carrickmacross Road, Dundalk are complete. The works involved the replacement of lead around the roof of the south gable wall and chimney, removal of moss and overgrowth and restoration of lime-mortar pointing to the full wall. The works were undertaken for the Council by McGuigan Builders of Co. Monaghan and inspected by Liam Mulligan, Conservation Architect.



New Works to reduce Water Ingress at Oriel Centre Dundalk

ENERGY

SEAI Monitoring & Reporting 2030

SEAI opened their Monitoring and Reporting (M&R) System for energy data 2024 on the 16th December. The Council's energy performance will be assessed by SEAI. The results will be published in SEAI's Annual Report 2024 on Public Sector Energy Performance which is expected in Q1 2026. Public bodies have targets for +50% improvement in energy efficiency, and 51% reduction in fossil and total CO2 emissions by 2030.

The Council are committed to fulfilling their energy-related legal obligations and are leading by exemplar, according to the recent ISO 50001 energy audit by NSAI. The key dates for submission of energy data are as follows:

- **16th December 2024** = M&R 2030 System open for data entry
- **31st January 2025** = Meter data deadline
- **11th April 2025** = Provisional scorecard available
- **16th May 2025** = Final Deadline
- **6th June 2025** = Notification of Data Verification Assessments (DVA's)
- **29th August 2025** = Final Scorecard available
- **Q1 2026** = Annual Report 2024 on Public Sector Energy Efficiency Performance

The Council's Energy Team are currently working on the first key deadline of inputting / validating meter data and will have it completed before the deadline.

NSAI Surveillance Audit ISO 50001

The Council's Energy Management System was audited for compliance with ISO 50,001. That involved a Surveillance Audit which was undertaken on the 15th January 2025 by National Standards Authority of Ireland (NSAI).

NSAI assessed the conformity and effectiveness of the internal audit and management review process and the management system for its compliance to

relevant standards. The Lead Auditor recommended Louth County Council for continued registration, and noted some key strengths / improvements / changes, implemented over the previous year as follows:

- Evidence of continuous improvement across the energy management system
- Positive engagement of staff at all levels across the organisation
- Glidepath to 2030 planned and documented
- Joined Mid East Energy Unit in March 2024 for planning pathfinder projects
- 1 assistant energy engineer assigned to energy management monitoring
- New fleet management team incorporated
- Systematically upgrading SEU register as energy systems makes improvements bringing the focus to other buildings within the control of the authority

The Council strives to lead by exemplar, and the energy management system is effective because of support by staff across the organisation and from partnership and collaboration with external organisations.

Annual energy audits by a certified body are a requirement of ISO 50,001 certification. The next ISO 50001 Audit is currently being planned, with a provisional date of November 2025.

Reduce Your Use Campaign

The Council continues to participate in the Reduce Your Use winter campaign.

January's message to staff was focused on encouraging small and sustainable changes all year round to help reduce climate damaging emissions.

Everything we do counts...whether you Switch it off, Plug it out, Shut it down, Wrap it up, Slow it down, Defrost it, Fix it, Re-use it, Repurpose it, Reduce it, Recycle it, Remember it, Plant it, Layer it... there are so many ways to Reduce Your Use.



Reduce your Use

Varcities H2020 Funded Project Update

Event: Varcities SROI Workshop 1

On December 18, 2024, the Dundalk VARCITIES team at Louth County Council hosted the first Social Return on Investment (SROI) Workshop in County Louth.

Participants

The workshop was held at Learning Pod (now called 'The Still'), Visionary Solution (VS) #1. There were 26 participants consisting of community members in County Louth, who visited the pilot site for the first time.

Purpose

The SROI methodology, derived from Cost-Benefit Analysis (CBA), was introduced as a tool to evaluate VARCITIES interventions in Dundalk, specifically its three Visionary Solutions.

Focus

Unlike traditional assessments prioritizing economic metrics, SROI quantifies and prioritizes social, economic, and environmental impacts, offering a comprehensive evaluation framework.



Council staff talking with SROI event participants at the Varcities Project

Engagement and Objectives

Aligned with VARCITIES’ inclusivity goals, the event showcased the three Visionary Solutions implemented in the Library and Museum courtyard, fostering stakeholder engagement.

Activities and Feedback

A game developed by EURAC facilitated discussions on how the Visionary Solutions support social integration. Key feedback included:

- A wheelchair user praised the site's full accessibility.
- The sensory Cubbie was valued as a calming space for anxiety relief.
- The Learning Pod received widespread acclaim for its free Wi-Fi, open access, and versatility as a meeting space or quiet retreat.

Conclusion

The workshop highlighted the importance of inclusive design and engaging all voices to implement solutions that enhance community health and well-being in Dundalk and County Louth.

Visionary Solution 2



Illumination of the Co. Library for SROI Event

That evening, the County Library was also illuminated using the VS2 LED uplights, as the event coincided with the UN International Migrants Day. The coloured lights display recognised the contributions of migrants in our project and in Irish society and that complies with a key objective of the Varcities Project (creating a space for all citizens). The SROI event highlighted the positive impact migrants bring to Dundalk and the challenges they face.

Seirbhísí Tréidliachta / Veterinary Services

The Food Safety Contract formerly with the Food Safety Authority of Ireland is now fully transferred to the Department of Agriculture.

The amending Regulations in relation to controlling XL Bully Breeds had its final implementation on 31st January. A total of 84 applications for Exemption Certificates have been submitted.

Smacht ar Mhadraí / Control of Dogs

Control of Dogs Act 1986

<i>Dogs through the pound January 2025</i>	
Total dogs through the pound	30
Seized under Section 16	3
Strays	11
Surrendered by owners	16
No dogs reclaimed by owners	5
No of dogs rehomed direct	2
No of dogs rehomed to welfare groups	5
No of dogs on hand in Pound at 31/01/2025	15

Dog Licences January 2025

No of Licences sold	635
Licence Checks:	
House calls	124
Section 16 Notices issued (request to produce licence within 10 days)	31
Fixed Penalty Notices	10

Control of Horses

Control of Horses Act 1996

Control of Horses Bye-Laws 2003

Horses through the pound January 2025

Horses seized, and reason for seizure:	0
Horses reclaimed by owner	0
Horses rehomed	0
Horses disposed of	0
No of horses on hand in Pound on 31/01/2025	0

Dog Breeding Establishments

Dog Breeding Establishments Act 2010

Dog Breeding Establishments January 2025

Total no of registered DBE's in Louth (as at 31/01/2025)	6
Hunt	1
Boarding Kennels	2
Training Kennels	1
Welfare	2



Litter of 8 Collie X puppies surrendered to the Pound

Tá dhá eochairfhreagracht ag an Stiúrthóireacht seo:

Tithíocht, a chuimsíonn gach tionscnamh agus de chuspóir acu ná na riachtanais agus na haicmhainní ar fad atá ar fail a chur le chéile go hinbhuanaithe ar fud ár gContae

Seirbhísí Cultúrtha, réimse leathan tionscnaimh agus cláir atá deartha chun saol spreagúil, sásúil, sábháilte a chur ar fail i gContae Lú, na healaíona, agus ár leabharlanna san áireamh

This Directorate has two key responsibilities:

Housing, which encompasses all initiatives which aim to match need and available resources in a sustainable way throughout our county.

Cultural Services, a wide range of initiatives and programmes designed to make living in Louth a stimulating, safe and rewarding experience, including the arts, and our libraries.

**Ger Murphy
Stiúrthóir / Director of Service**



Titíocht / Housing

Ag Déileáil le hEaspa Dídine / Addressing Homelessness

As the Responsible Housing Authority for the Northeast Region, Louth County Council continues to manage this area and achieve the goals set out in the Northeast Homelessness Strategy 2024-2026. The following work done within County Louth in the period December 18, 2024 –January 17, can be summarised as follows:

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

18th December 24 to 17th January 25	Ardee MD	Dundalk MD	Drogheda MD	Total
Offered advice, support (including fast tracking H.A. for Rent Supplement eligibility)	3	123	61	187
Placed in Temporary Emergency Accommodation	0	27	20	47
Refused Offer of Temporary Emergency Accommodation	0	1	0	1
Not eligible from outside county or non HRC	0	0	0	0
Total number of Person who presented as Homeless	3	151	81	235

Tables 2 - 4 below reflect details of the adults who were in emergency accommodation in County Louth on January 17, 2025. Also included at Table 5 is the

breakdown of families in emergency accommodation at that date.

Tábla 2: Inscne / Table 2: Gender

Gender	Total
Male	120
Female	113
Total	233

Tábla 3: Aoisghrúpaí / Table 3: Age Groups

Age Group	Total
18-24	38
25-44	123
45-64	67
65+	5
Total	233

Tábla 4: Saghas Loistín / Table 4: Accommodation Type

Accommodation Type	Total
Private Emergency Accommodation (PEA)	123
Supported Temporary Accommodation (STA)	110
Total unique individuals	233

Tábla 5: Teaghlach le paistí cleithiúnaí / Table 5 - Families with dependent children

	No. of families with dependent children	No. of Individual Adults	No. of Dependents
Individuals with dependent children	42	47	77
Couples with dependent children	14	28	46
Total	56	75	123

Tábla 6: Tithíocht ar dtús / Table 6 - Housing First

Number of tenancies established	48
Number of individuals currently in tenancy	35

Leithdháileadh Tithíochta suas go dtí 23rd Eanáir / Housing Allocations up to 23rd January, 2025

District	LA	LA Refusal	AHB	AHB Refusal
Ardee	2	1	1	0
Drogheda	8	0	55	2
Dundalk	4	0	15	1
Total	14	1	71	3

Aistrithe / Transfers

District	Number
Ardee	0
Dundalk	0
Drogheda	13
Total	13

Liosta Tithe / Housing List

23 rd January, 2025	Ardee	Drogheda	Dundalk	Total
Housing List	367	628	1076	2071
HAP Transfer List	295	960	1625	2880
Total Housing List	662	1588	2701	4951

There are **325** applications on the transfer list (Non HAP) within Social Housing including 71 applications from the Approved Housing Bodies.

Íocaíocht Cúnaimh Tithíochta / Housing Assistance Payment

The total number of applications in HAP is **2880**

Ardee Municipal District	Drogheda Borough District	Dundalk Municipal District	Total
295	960	1625	2880

Bainisteoireacht Chíosa / Rent Management The total number currently paying rent by Household Budget is **954**

Current Rents Arrears at 22 nd January 2025	No of Accounts	Value
Rents between 4-6 weeks old	201	€78,450
Rents between 7-12 weeks old	170	€127,589
Rents greater than 12 weeks old	980	€3,427,877
TOTAL	1,351	€3,633,916

Rent arrears are monitored on an ongoing basis and letters are issued to customers within two weeks of their falling into arrears. Failure to address these arrears will result in a second letter being issued and if necessary, a third and final reminder. Failure to respond at that point will result in the escalation to tenancy warning. The following correspondence was issued in January 2025.

Letter Type	Month/Year	Number Issued
1 st Reminder	January 2025	81
2 nd Reminder	January 2025	0
Final Reminder	January 2025	1
Total issued		82

Customers that fall into arrears may enter into a payment plan for full repayment over an agreed period of time. 28 new payment plans commenced in January 2025 (up to and including January 22, 2025).

Airíonna Re Lig & Neamhní / Relet and Void Properties

Relet / Void Properties on 23 rd January 2025	Total
Ardee Municipal District	9
Dundalk Municipal District	6
Drogheda Municipal Borough District	29
Subtotal (re-lets) Vacant Properties	44
CPO units not yet ready for occupation (All County)	2
Total Number of Properties (Relets & CPO)	46

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

Cuairteanna Chothabhála / Maintenance Calls

Maintenance	23 rd December 2024- 22 nd January 2025	Total (YTD)
No. of Maintenance Requests Received	1075	1075
No. of Maintenance Requests Completed	843	843
No. of Maintenance Requests in Progress	165	165
No. of Maintenance Requests Refused	67	67

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

The 2025 EERP allocation for Louth has been confirmed by the DHLGH as 140 units which is the fourth highest allocation nationally after Dublin City, Cork County and Donegal. This departmental allocation reflects Louth's continued commitment to delivering on this scheme. Two units submitted over our allocation in 2024 will be taken out of this total. The final list of EERP units for 2025 will be complete when tenders are received from contractors. This is currently in progress.

Municipal District	Number of Commenced/ Completed Units
Ardee MD:	-
Dundalk MD: Hillview, Dundalk	2
Drogheda BD:	-

The Housing Section has commenced Energy Efficiency Retrofit works on 12 no houses at Ladywell Square, Dundalk as part of the 2025 programme. These units were tendered as part of the 2024 programme, but the works did not progress due to the DHLGH reduced allocation. The houses require a deep retrofit including new windows and doors, external wall insulation to the bungalows, a new heating system and works to the floors. There will be some disruption to tenants for a short period of time, but we will engage with them to ensure that this inconvenience is minimised.



Ladywell Square, Dundalk, 1st Properties to undergo Energy Efficiency works in 2025.

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

	18th December, 2024 to 22nd January 2025	Total (YTD)
Properties inspected monthly	76	76
Advisory letters issued	194	194
Improvement notices issued	1	1
Prohibition notices issued	1	1
Private Inspections	0	0
HAP First Inspections	49	49
RAS First Inspections	0	0
AHB First Inspections	0	0
Private Re-inspections	0	0
HAP Re-inspections	26	26
RAS Re-inspections	0	0
AHB Re-inspections	0	0
Inspections from Complaints	1	1
Properties Made Compliant	12	12

Páirtíocht Tionóntachta / Tenancy Engagement

17th Dec 2024 to 21st Jan 2025	Drogheda	Ardee	Dundalk	Monthly Total	Yearly Total
No. Tenants who attended Pre-tenancy training	9	4	10	23	23
Post-tenancy inspections	1	0	0	1	1
Tenancy Investigation Visits	16	4	11	31	31

Iompraíocht Fhrithshóisialta / Anti-Social Behaviour

17th Dec 2024 to 21st Jan 2025	Drogheda	Ardee	Dundalk	Monthly	Yearly
ASB Cases* Received	4	2	9	15	15
ASB cases Ongoing	7	2	10	19	-
ASB cases complete	2	0	1	3	3

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

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

17 th Dec 2024 to 21 st Jan 2025	Drogheda	Ardee	Dundalk	Monthly	Yearly
Verbal Warnings	0	0	0	0	0
Written Warnings	0	0	0	0	0
Tenancy Notifications	0	0	0	0	0
Tenancy Warnings Housing Act, 2014	0	0	0	0	0

Déisiú agus Léas / Repair and Lease

There have been no Repair and Lease Applications submitted for the month of January.

Tithíocht Inacmhainne / Affordable Housing

Following funding approval from the DHLGH, the affordable housing scheme at Ballymakenny Park, Drogheda will be open to applications on Monday February 10, with the advertising and media campaign well underway. There will be 10 units available for purchase in conjunction with Castlethorn Construction and Sherry Fitzgerald Auctioneers. It is expected the properties will be complete and ready for occupation by the end of March 2025. Assessment of applications submitted through the portal will commence from 10th February 2025 once the portal opens. The portal for applications will be open for a period of three weeks until Monday March 3, 2025.

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

Active MTR Applications Total	29
AHB MTR Applications Active	16
AHB MTR completed 2025	0
Private MTR Applications Active	12
Private MTR completed 2025	0
MTR Application Awaiting Purchaser	1

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

**Deontas Athchóirithe D'áras Folamh / Vacant
Property Refurbishment Grant**

Applications Submitted:	251
Approved:	172
Rejected:	16
Withdrawn	32
Other (FI Requests, First Site Inspections)	31
Legal Stages before Funding issued	17
Funding Issued to Applicant	41
Principal Private Residence	188
Rental Applications	63

Íasacht Tí Údaráis Áitiúil / Local Authority Home Loans

2025 Budget Allocation (20% of 2024 allocation until 2025 approval is received from the Department)	€1,446,000
LAHL Approvals at 23/01/2025	€360,152
Breakdown of LAHL applications processed at the 23rd January, 2025	
Total Number of Applications at 23/01/2025	1
LAHL carried over from 2024	9
Invalid/Returned	1
Approved	3
Declined	0
For Review	0
Outstanding – waiting on further information	6

Gnóthaithee/Acquisitions

The Council was actively working with tenants and landlords in relation to the tenant in situ scheme where tenants had been given a notice to quit, some of whom may be in receipt of HAP. The Council was purchasing properties for applicants who are homeless or have a disability.

In January, the Council purchased no property. DHLGH has not advised the Council yet what funding is available for acquisitions in 2025.

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

Grants are available to households where adaptations are required to render a house more suitable for the accommodation of a person with a disability or where a person is aged 66 and above and living in poor housing conditions. From December 1, 2024, the maximum Housing Adaption Grant for Disabled People is €40,000 (an increase of €10,000) and the maximum level of the Housing Aid for Older People Grant is €10,700 (an increase of €2,700). Grants are no longer permitted for new standalone fossil fuel boilers. Full details are available on the Council’s website at [Housing Grants - Louth County Council](#)



Works completed in December 2024, by an applicant who received a grant under the HAG scheme in Dundalk

Status	HAG	MAG	HOP	Month	YTD
Grants Approved 2024	116	26	185	-	327
Applications on Hand 21/01/2025	68	14	286	-	368
Grants Approved 17/12/2024 to 21/01/2025	20	1	33	54	54



A ramp that was completed in December 2024, by an applicant who received a grant under the MAG scheme in Drogheda.

Seachadadh Caipitil Tithíochta / Capital Housing Delivery

Accelerated Delivery Social Housing Projects

The Council is pleased to announce that works associated with the four accelerated delivery social housing projects commenced at Ballymakenny Road, Drogheda, Newtown Link Road, Drogheda, Ravel, Dunleer and Mullavally, Louth Village in December 2024. Stage 4 funding approvals from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH) have been secured, and preferred contractors for the Design and Build construction contracts have been identified and are progressing towards award.

The Point Road, Dundalk scheme received planning approval on December 18, 2024, from An Bord Pleanála. This scheme is now progressing to tender stage and a mini-competition for the works will issue on a Regional Framework for Design and Build Contractors in the coming months.

In total these five projects will deliver 315 new social housing units. A breakdown of the schemes is provided in Table below:

Development Name	Location	Number of units
Bakery View	Ballymakenny Road, Drogheda	97
Greenhill's Grange	Newtown Link Road, Drogheda	46
Ravel Drive	Ravel, Dunleer	70
An Mullach	Mullavally, Louth Village	58
Blackwater Meadow	Point Road, Dundalk	44

Table: List of Accelerated Delivery Social Housing Projects



CGI View of proposed development at Ravel Drive, Dunleer

New Part V Housing units

The Council received DHLGH Funding Approval for the acquisition of 36 Part V new residential units in the 'Seven Winds' development located off the R132 North Road in Drogheda. These will be A-Rated Energy Efficient units and will be delivered in Phases in 2025.

The Council have made a Capital funding submission to the DHLGH for the acquisition of 26 Part V new residential units in the 'Ballymakenny Park' development in Drogheda. These will be A-Rated Energy Efficient units and will be delivered in Phases in 2025.

Seachadadh Nua Tóg / New Build Delivery

Approved Social Housing Delivery Units	
SHIP	732
CALF	518
CAS	52
TOTAL	1302

Housing for All Social Housing Build Delivery		
Year	Target	Actual
2022	660	227
2023	156	365
2024	160	438
2025	172	482 (projected)
2026	175	507 (projected)
Total	1323	2019 (projected)

Seachadadh Caipitil Tithíochta / Capital Housing Delivery

Seachadadh SHIP / SHIP Delivery

Project Name	Project Phase	Total Number of Social Units Expected	Project Status	Projected Substantial Completion Date	Unit Type
Muirhevnamor, (Infill) Dundalk	1/1	11	On Site	31/03/2025	3 * 2 bed & 8 * 3 bed
Boice Court, Mell, Drogheda (Phase 2)	1/1	72	On Site	06/06/2025	27 * 3 bed, 4 * 4 bed, 8 * 1 bed Apt, 25 * 2 bed Apt & 8 * 3 bed Apt
Mount Avenue, Dundalk	1/1	93	On Site	30/09/2025	29 * 2 bed, 23 * 3 bed, 9 * 4 bed, 10 * 1 bed Apt, 6 * 2 bed Apt, 16 * 3 bed Apt
Rathmullen Park, Drogheda Infill	1/1	4	Stage 2 Approved	25/12/2026	2 * 2 bed, 1 * 3 bed, 1 * 4 bed
Blackwater Meadow, Point Road, Dundalk	1/1	44	Stage 2 Approved	31/12/2026	31 * 2 bed, 10 * 3 bed, 3 * 4 bed
Ravel Drive, Ravel, Dunleer	1/1	70	Stage 4 Approved On-Site	31/12/2026	45 * 2 bed, 20 * 3 bed, 5 * 4 bed
Bakery View, Ballymakenny Road, Drogheda	1/1	97	Stage 4 Approved On-Site	31/12/2026	52 * 2 bed, 32 * 3 bed, 13 * 4 bed
An Mullach, Mullavalley, Louth Village	1/1	58	Stage 4 Approved On-Site	31/12/2026	28 * 2 bed, 24 * 3 bed, 5 * 4 bed, 1 * 5 bed
Greenhills Grange, Newtown Link Road, Drogheda	1/1	46	Stage 4 Approved On-Site	31/12/2026	42 * 2 bed, 3 * 3 bed, 1 * 5 bed
Anne St. Dundalk	1/1	16	Stage 1 Approved	31/08/2027	8 * 2 bed Apt, 8 * 3 bed Apt.
Ballymakenny Road - East Site, Drogheda	1/1	130	PPP Bundle 5 Funding Approved	15/12/2027	52 * 2 bed, 47 * 3 bed, 4 * 4 bed, 1 * 5 bed, 26 * 1 bed Apt
Mullagh Close, Clogherhead	2/3	4	On-site	30/06/2025	4 * 3 bed

Mullagh Close, Clogherhead	3/3	4	On-site	31/12/2025	4 * 3 bed
Knockshee, Old Golf Links Road, Blackrock, Dundalk	1/1	12	On-site	31/12/2025	12 * 2 bed Apt.
Quarry Court, John St. / Stoneylane, Ardee, Co. Louth	1/1	20	On-site	28/02/2025	11 * 3 bed, 3 * 3 bed Apt, 6 * 2 bed Apt.
Derryveigh House, Hoeys Lane, Dundalk	1/1	2	On-site	30/09/2025	1 * 3 bed, 1 * 4 bed
Clontygora, Dundalk	1/1	2	Funding Approved	31/12/2025	2 * 4 bed
Potters Field, Cappocks Green, Ardee, Co. Louth	2/3	8	On-site	30/06/2025	7 * 3 bed, 1 * 2 bed
Potters Field, Cappocks Green, Ardee, Co. Louth	3/3	1	Funding Approved	30/06/2026	1 * 2 bed
Listoke Elms & Listoke Willows	3/3	2	Funding Approved	31/03/2026	1 * 2 bed Apt, 1 * 3 bed Duplex
Seven Winds, North Road, Drogheda	1/2	12	On-site	30/06/2025	12 * 1 bed Apt
Seven Winds, North Road, Drogheda	2/2	24	On-site	31/12/2025	12 * 2 bed Apt, 12 * 3 bed Duplex
Ballymakenny Park, Drogheda Phase 2	1/2	12	Proposal	30/06/2025	12 * 2 bed Apt
Ballymakenny Park, Drogheda Phase 2	2/2	6	Proposal	30/06/2025	4 * 1 bed Apt, 2 * 2 bed Apt
Ballymakenny Park, Drogheda Phase 3	1/2	6	Proposal	30/06/2025	4 * 3 bed, 2 * 4 bed
Ballymakenny Park, Drogheda Phase 3	2/2	2	Proposal	30/06/2025	2 * 2 bed Apt

Seachadadh CAS / CAS Delivery

Project Name	AHB	Total Number of Social Units Expected	Project Status	Projected Substantial Completion Date	Unit Type
Coulter Park, Dundalk, Co Louth	Tuath	10	Complete	15/12/2024	Five * 2 Bed house, One * 2 Bed ambulant unit, One * 4 Bed Communal unit
Barrack Street, Dundalk, Co Louth	Dublin Simon	30	Stage 2 Approved	15/09/2026	Nineteen * 1 Bed apartments Three * accessible units Eight * Studio apartments
Highfield, Newry Road, Dundalk, Co Louth	Women's Aid Dundalk	12	Stage 2 approved	02/09/2026	Five * 1 bed apartments Seven * 2 bed apartments

Seachadadh CALF / CALF Delivery

Project Name		Total Number of Social Units Expected	Non-Part V / Part V	Project Status	Projected Substantial Completion Date	Unit Type
Newtown View, Marsh Road, Drogheda Respond Housing	3/3	56	51/6	Complete	31/12/2024	* 16 Two Bed Houses * 40 Three Bed Houses
Dublin Road, Dundalk Respond Housing	3/3	40	36/4	Complete	31/12/2024	* 19 One Bed Apts * 12 Two Bed Apts * 9 Three Bed Apts
An Caislean, Flaxmill Lane, Yellowbatter Drogheda North & East	1/1	17	14/3	Complete	17/12/2024	* 7 One Bed Apts * 7 Two Bed Apts * 3 Three Bed Apts
Racecourse Meadows with Circle	1/3	18		On Site	30/01/2025	* 18 Three Bed Houses
Racecourse Meadows with Circle	2/3	8		On Site	30/03/2025	* 8 Three Bed Houses

Racecourse Meadows with Circle	3/3	19	12/7	On Site	30/06/2025	* 10 Three Bed Houses * 9 Two Bed Houses
Connolly's Field, Dundalk Fold Housing	1/2	30	19/11	On- Site	01/05/2025	* 20 One Bed Apts * 10 Two Bed Apts
Connolly's Field, Dundalk Fold Housing	2/2	40		On- Site	01/05/2025	* 31 One Bed Apts * 9 Two Bed Apts
Gullion Park, Finnabair, Dundalk Co-Operative	1/1	142	128/14	On-Site	31/01/2026	* 48 One Bed Apts * 70 Two Bed Apts * 24 Three Bed Apts
Avourwen Meadows, Drogheda, Co. Louth Oaklee	1/1	50	45/5	On-Site	10/11/2025	* 18 One Bed Apts * 32 Two Bed Apts
MacNeill View, Ecco Road, Dundalk Co. Louth Cluid Housing	1/1	45	40/5	Complete	15/12/2024	* 5 One Bed Apt * 31 Two Bed Apts * 9 Three Bed Apts
Crushrod Avenue Drogheda Co. Louth Cluid Housing	1/2	20	15/5	On-Site	30/01/2025	*20 Two Bed apt/ Duplex
Crushrod Avenue Drogheda Co. Louth Cluid Housing	2/2	33		On-Site	28/02/2025	*8 One Bed Apt *16 Two Bed Apt *2 Two Bed House *7 Three Bed House

Seirbhísí Cultúrtha / Cultural Services

An Chartlann / Archives



Archives Entrance Gate Sign

National Retention Policy Records Management Working Group

The Co Archivist is assisting with draft records retention schedule revisions and regularly assists staff with queries on the management of records and advises on the preparation of records both for destruction and for transfer to the Records Centre and the Co Archives. Similar work on Peace, Enforcement and on Planning records has also been carried out recently.

St Patrick's Cemetery Burial Register Database

A free, searchable database of burials for St Patrick's Cemetery, Dundalk was launched in December. The database contains a transcription of data from the burial records held in the County Archives. This was produced by local historian Jim Kerley of the Old Dundalk Society, with the help of volunteers while the Council's GIS Officer developed the searchable database application. The purpose of the database is to provide a valuable resource for those researching their family history or locating a grave while also assisting with local history research. The cemetery opened in 1895, and users can now search over 22,000 records contained in the burial registers. Users can search by surname, first name, year and grave number and view the grave location on an interactive map. The resource also features images from the Dundalk Joint Burial Board's Rules book and an original drawing of the cemetery, both produced in 1895 and held in the County Archives. In addition, the County Archives has made available the digitised first five volumes of the burial registers from 1895 – 1993. The burial

database and the digitised registers can be accessed at

<https://www.louthcoco.ie/en/services/archives/st-patrick-s-cemetery-database/>.



Screen-grab of the burial register database for St Patrick's Cemetery, Dundalk

Recent Acquisitions

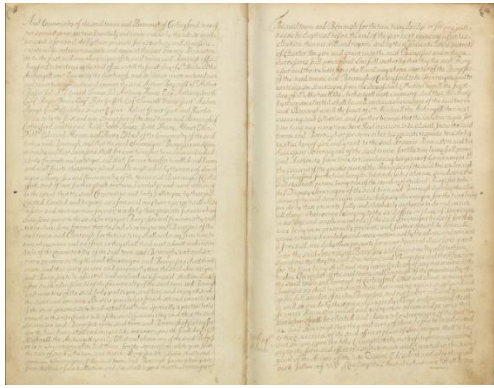
Minutes of meetings, programmes and choral work, music copies and recordings, were amongst the archive collection for the Setanta Choir, Dundalk that was donated recently. The collection will be catalogued before being made available for research.



Programmes of Setanta Choir, Dundalk

Research Enquiries

The preservation of archives is a vital need for our society and the service receives a steady volume of enquiries on archives. Research enquiries include those from private individuals, academics (historians, archaeologists, social scientists, etc), professionals (solicitors, engineers, planning consultants, etc), family historians, students and state agencies. The Archivist also supports staff in various sections with many business-related enquiries.



Pages from the minute book of Carlingford Corporation, 1694-1835, that was recently used for research



Valinora Troy, Author talk

Dunleer Library was delighted to welcome students from 5th class in Scoil Naomh Buithe in Tenure. Local author Valinora Troy provided a fascinating talk to students about her fantasy book series *The Lucky Diamond Trilogy*. Students and teachers got the opportunity to visit the recently refurbished premises, which offer enhanced opportunities for ongoing engagement with local schools and ELCs.

Leabharlanna / Libraries

Extended opening hours for Dunleer Library

The newly opened Dunleer Library will commence extended opening hours from February 4:

Tuesday: 10am -1pm, 2pm – 8pm
Wednesday-Saturday: 10am – 1pm, 2pm - 5pm

This marks an increase in opening hours from twenty-three to thirty-three hours per week. The refurbished building offers welcoming open plan spaces with an adult and children’s reading area, WIFI, PC access, and two flexible community rooms which offer opportunities for groups in the locality, schools, and Early Learning Centres (ELC) to visit.



Valinora Troy in Dunleer Library



Dunleer Library, Main St. Dunleer, A92 DRV0

Louth Library Primary Schools’ Service

The Schools’ Service library van resumed service on Wednesday January 15 for the new 2025 school term, aiming to visit schools throughout County Louth.



Louth Library Schools' Service library van

The van is stocked with wonderful new titles which will encourage all school-aged children to keep up their reading in the year ahead.



Louth Library Schools' Service library stock

Mosney Village

Library staff attended a Friends of Mosney meeting on January 14 where stakeholders met to discuss their role in supporting those marginalized groups living in Mosney Reception and Integration Centre. Louth Library Service will continue to collaborate with Meath Library Service in 2025 to support the community library in Mosney, promote the Right to Read programme and hold regular e-service workshops.

Louth Parent Hub

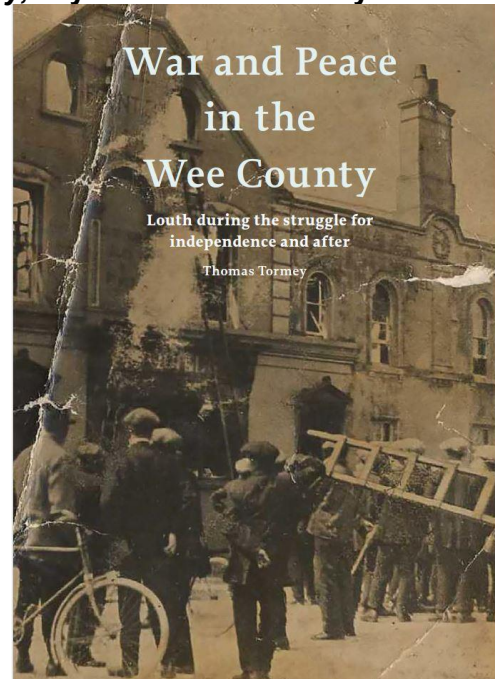
Louth Library Service attended a Louth Area Based Childhood (ABC) Programme event in The Gateway Hotel on January 28. Louth Services Support Steering Group brought network partners together to discuss the Louth Parent Hub website <https://www.louthparenthub.ie/>. Louth Parent Hub is an online and interactive information hub for families living in County Louth. It provides information on

services and programmes available in your local area.



Executive Librarian Leona Burgess & Louth ABC Programme Manager Gavin McGee

Book release, "War and Peace in the Wee County," by Dr. Thomas Tormey



Cover of "War and Peace in the Wee County. Louth during the struggle for independence and after" by Dr. Thomas Tormey

Louth Library Service is delighted to announce the publication of *“War and Peace in the Wee County. Louth during the struggle for independence and after”* by Dr. Thomas Tormey funded through the Louth County Council Decade of Centenaries Programme, supported by the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media.

Dr. Thomas Tormey took up his role as Historian-in-Residence with Louth Library Service in 2021. Part of his remit for the later stages of the Decade of Centenaries has been to weave the local story of Co Louth into the national story of the revolutionary period.

This book of essays covers events in County Louth during the revolutionary period and places particular importance on the escalation and de-escalation of political violence during the War of Independence and Civil War. A detailed analysis of specific local events provides an accessible account of how such national processes interacted in the particular local circumstances of County Louth. Among the topics covered are: The Conscription Crisis, The 1918 General Election and The Great War in County Louth.

The cover of the book shows a photograph of McGill’s Frontier Bar – burned by British forces in June 1921, courtesy of the Old Dundalk Society’s Photograph Collection, Louth County Archives Service. Copies of the book are available for loan in each branch in Louth Library Service.

Carlingford Storytime and Craft Workshop

A Spring themed morning for children aged four to eight was provided by library staff with storytime and a crafts event in Carlingford library on Saturday January 25.



Spring flower crafts session in Carlingford Library

Karl Henry talk, part of Louth Science Festival

Carried forward from last year’s Louth Science Festival, on January 23 a talk was given in Dundalk Library by Karl Henry, of RTÉ’s Operation Transformation, on the importance of health and fitness and kick-starting your health goals for 2025. This event was funded by the Creative Ireland Programme.

One of Ireland’s most recognised and leading personal trainers, a name synonymous with health and training in Ireland, Henry has written five books. Most recently his Health Living Handbook with Penguin Ireland was a national best-seller.



Karl Henry in Dundalk Library

Na hEalaíona / Arts

Droichead Arts Centre

The incredible **Absinth and Absence** exhibition from Jackie Hudson Lawlor concluded on January 25, 2025. It sought to visualise themes which we typically seek to hide from: the effects of trauma, the ignored pain of women, and the prejudice against ageing.



The Jackie Hudson Lawlor exhibition space in Droichead Arts Centre

The exhibition run culminated in a special evening to launch the catalogue with an 'In Conversation' event with the artist on Wednesday January 22. Facilitated by Dorothe Smith the evening was a wonderful opportunity to hear from the artist directly and mark the achievement of the exhibition with the launch of the beautiful catalogue.

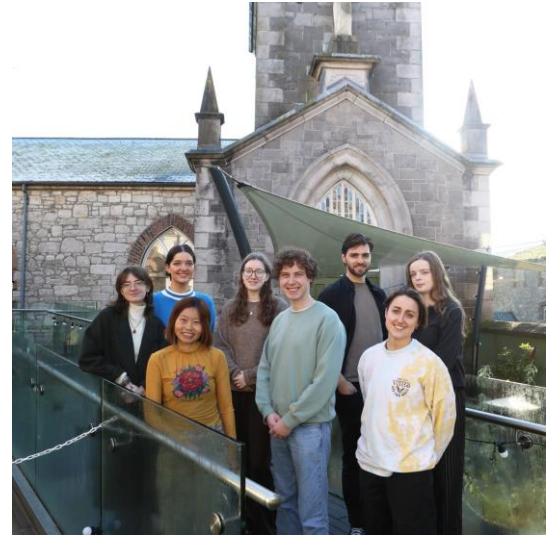
The **Droichead Youth Theatre Drama** classes resumed for their next term in January, along with the **Droichead Film Club** and **Droichead Book Club**. The Film Club kick started the year with the screening of the Turkish film 'Crossing,' while author Edel Coffey joined the Book Club online to discuss her novel 'In Her Place.' For more details on the drama workshops, film club or book club see <https://www.droichead.com/whats-on.html>

Highlane's Gallery

Exhibitions:

AMPLIFY – a special exhibition curated by young people closed on January 18, following a two-month run. Eight young people from Drogheda and across the Northeast took part in an iterative curatorial programme curated from Drogheda Municipal Art

Collection and with four contemporary artists in this thematic exhibit.



The eight young participants in the Young People Curate in Highlane's Gallery

The curatorial project they participate in includes visit to exhibitions in Highlane's and other museums and galleries across Ireland both in person and online. The young people collaborate with professional artists exploring contemporary curatorial practice, conceiving, and planning exhibitions, writing for publicity and many other factors in the associated public programme.

Diarmuid Woodcocks' exhibition '**Gone for a Gander**' opened in the side gallery on Saturday January 25 with an 'In Conversation' event with Diarmuid, facilitated by artist Laura Fitzgerald. The talk also included ISL (Irish Sign Language) interpretation. This is Diarmuid's first solo exhibition since graduating from the National College of Art and Design in 2023 and runs until February 15. Diarmuid is also a member of the gallery's Young Peoples Advisory Panel and co-curator of the recent AMPLIFY Young People Curate exhibition.

Anita Groener's' exhibition '**To the Edge of Your World**' opened in the Upper Gallery on January 25 with an 'In Conversation' event with Anita and artist John Graham. First shown in the Centre Culturel Irlandais, Paris, in 2023, she asks what it means to be human today. Ordinary materials such as twigs, twine and cardboard are transformed into

painstakingly delicate sculptural metaphors for the interconnectivity of individual experience and world events. The exhibition runs until March 15.

For details on all upcoming events at Highlanes please see <https://highlanes.ie/all-events/>
An Táin Arts Centre

Exhibition: The Peace Wall, by Bruno Patron launched on January 22 in the Basement Gallery in An Táin. Northern Ireland's Peace Wall, still in place today, bears the pen of thousands of messages from tourists and visitors. The wall, separating two communities, is emblazoned with stunning graffiti, exquisite murals, and amazing street art.



Part of The Peace Wall, by Bruno Patron

In this exhibition a thirty-foot painting depicting the artistic beauty and dramatic austerity of a construction embedded in Northern Ireland history will be on display along with a selection of paintings themed around the creation of the wall in 1969. The exhibition runs until February 15.

For all events and exhibitions in An Táin Arts Centre see <https://www.aintain.ie/whats-on/> for details.

Creative Spark

Creative Spark are back for 2025 with a range of training programmes to suit all ages. Their kids Creative Club restarted on January 21, their Ceramics classes for adults (morning and evening sessions) began on January 23 and their Tuesday morning painting classes with Susan Farrelly kicked off on the 21st and will run for ten weeks. For information on these and all other training courses

run by Creative Spark see <https://creativespark.ie/events>

Féile na Tána



Féile na Tána festival celebrating Irish traditional music, song and dance in Cooley

The annual Féile na Tána festival took place from January 26 to February 3. Now in its' eleventh year this festival celebrates the best of Irish traditional music, song, and dance. The festival takes place in Cooley in the heart of the Oriel land and always provides a huge mix of workshops, live performance, and song.

Featuring artists including Zoë Conway, John McIntyre, Éilís Lavelle, Donal Lunney, Cormac De Barra, Micheál / Maedara O'Raghallaigh and Donnacha Mac Aodha, this world-renowned festival shines a light on Irish music in the Northeast.

Drogheda Classical Music Series

DCMS continued its current programme with an outstanding concert on Friday January 24 featuring renowned Irish Soprano Celine Byrne in her series début with pianist David Munro and rising opera star and Drogheda native Seán Tester as guest tenor. The concert was an incredible evening, delighting the audience who thankfully were able to make it

despite the disruptions earlier in the day from Storm Eowyn!

Arts Council Funding

The Arts Council of Ireland have several funding streams opened now with many closing for applications in mid-February. For full details of all funding streams see <https://www.artscouncil.ie/available-funding/>

An Iarsmalann / Museum

Museum News - January 2025



Brídóg crafts

The Museum has organised several storytelling and craft workshops to mark and celebrate St. Brigid's Day. The workshops which are aimed at primary school children will comprise the creation of the Brídóg or Biddy dolls from rushes followed by a set of storytelling celebrating the Faughart saint.

Complementing this event will be a lecture entitled *The Archaeology and Artefacts associated with St Brigid of Faughart*. Presented by Dr. Alison Lennon the lecture will examine the archaeological monuments on Faughart Hill, including St Brigid's church, well, pillar and bed. She will also analyse the origins and legends relating to artefacts associated with St Brigid such as crosses, Brídeog dolls, Brat Bríde and bullaun stones.

Coverage in the Media



Heinkel Bubble Cars made in Dundalk

In the run-up to Christmas, RTE Radio's Liveline programme featured an item on the Heinkel motor car on December 17. Given the car's strong links to Dundalk, the Museum was fortunate to discuss with Joe Duffy the story behind the car manufacturer's time in Louth.

Recent acquisitions

The Museum has added a variety of fascinating items to its collection over the past number of weeks. These artefacts represent the breadth of the county's cultural, industrial and political past.

They include a signed double platinum disc presented to The Corrs by Warner Music Australia for sales of the album *Talk on Corners*.



The Corrs' Australian platinum disc

Also acquired was a collection of ephemera associated with the Great Northern Railway (GNR).



GNR railway signage



An example of nineteenth century carved bog oak