Louth
A County of Opportunity
THE PLACE TO DO
BUSINESS, LIVE, WORK
AND PLAY

Louth County Development Board
Review and Strategy 2009 - 2012
LOUTH

THE PLACE TO DO BUSINESS,
LIVE, WORK AND PLAY
Louth County Development Board

Review of Strategies mid 2009 – 2012

FOREWORD

“Louth Working Together”, was launched in April 2002 and presented an integrated road map for the economic, social and cultural development of County Louth for the period 2002 to 2012. The strategy was reviewed in 2004 and a report on achievements in Social, Economic and Cultural development with an updated socio-economic profile of the County, was presented to the Board.

The Board has now completed a review of its strategy which takes account of a number of important national development strategies including the 2006 Census, Towards 2016, the OECD Report on the Irish Public Service, the Indecon Review of the CDBs and the recent downturn in the national and international economies.

The overall purposes of the review were as follows:

1. Identify a limited number (together with the nationally determined initiatives) of key priorities and actions on which the CDB will concentrate over the next three years. Particular reference to achieving the core CDB objective of improved co-ordination of local public service delivery will be a priority.
2. Identify key developments that have occurred at local, regional and national levels since the Strategies were revised in 2005/2006, and assess their implications.
3. Identify the most important achievements to date in terms of implementation of the existing Strategies and the work of the CDB in general, especially inter-agency co-operation and practical outcomes.
4. Examine the processes and mechanisms currently being used to implement and monitor the Strategies and the work of the Board, with a view to streamlining them and ensuring their effectiveness.
5. Recommend the necessary changes and adjustments to ensure that realistic and achievable priorities are identified for the period mid 2009 – 2012.

The County Development Board has delivered its Objectives in the last seven years through ten sub-groups, whose reports are appended to this review. Hindsight has shown us that the objectives and actions set out in the original strategy and the subsequent 2004 review were ambitious and quite challenging. The degree of success across the sub-groups is quite measurable, as each group has to overcome a myriad of challenges, both economically and from an organisational viewpoint. A new three pillar structure has been proposed and developed to help the County Development Board achieve its objectives, through the actions listed, in the period 2009 - 2012. Full details of the structure are set out in the document. Key to this revised structure is the original three core themes of Economic, Social and Cultural development with the needs of the citizen at the core. To progress these core themes three integrated fora have been established, whose members are drawn from service providers, organisations and sectoral interests. They have contributed
to the formulation of the revised strategy by way of identifying and prioritising objectives. These players will, through the County Development Board and its executive, monitor and advance the delivery of the actions as set out.

The three individual fora are intrinsically linked by way of cross-cutting objectives. The effective and practical achievement of the cross-cutting objectives will be determined by how well service delivery agencies embrace the priority of “Sharing Resources and integrated Service Delivery”.

The County Development Board has decided that Louth will be the place to do business, work, live and play. We will ensure this is achieved through restructuring the Economic, Social and Cultural Pillars, chaired by independent Chairpersons, who will report back to the County Development Board on a regular basis. An Economic Study has been completed by Indecon on behalf of the Board, which details actions on the way forward for the County and the region. We see Louth as the centre for renewable energy, which will be developed through the Low Carbon Initiative. The Board has also embraced the Age Friendly Initiative to provide a better quality of life for everyone. Core actions going forward are improving access to and quality of services for all our citizens and equal opportunity for all.

The challenges County Louth and its people will face in the years 2009 – 2012 are in some ways different from those envisaged when the County Development Board launched its original Strategy in 2002. The Board’s approach to having a dynamic strategy capable of adapting to the changing needs of a rapidly developing County, has served us all well. We are confident that this reviewed strategy will direct the work of all the agencies and organisations in a collaborative way and ensure the continued and improved development of the County on all fronts.

Cllr. Declan Breathnach
Cathaoirleach
Louth County Council and Chairman
County Development Board

Michael A. Curran
Chief Executive Officer
County Development Board,
Director of Services
Louth Local Authorities
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**Introduction**

**Background**
Louth County Development Board (CDB) was established in 2000 and brought together various strands involved in Local Government, local development, state agencies and the social partners including the community and voluntary forum. A ten year strategy was prepared by the Louth County Development Board in conjunction with the Community and Enterprise Office of Louth County Council. Within the strategy there were ten work programmes as follows:

1. Culture
2. Social Inclusion
3. Quality of Life
4. Childcare
5. Life Long Learning
6. Community & Voluntary Sector Development
7. Enterprise and Investment
8. Tourism – Louth Hospitality
9. Agriculture and Rural Development
10. Infrastructure and Planning

Each CDB has to undertake a review of its County/City Strategy focusing on a limited number of priorities to be carried over the period 2009-2012.

**Purpose of the Review:**

Each CDB has to:

- Undertake a review of its County/City Strategy over the period 2009-2012.
- Identify the most important achievements to date.
- Identify and take on board Key Developments at Local, Regional and National Level since 2005/2006.
- Identify a limited number of key priorities and actions
- Agree action plan, set achievable and realistic priorities and implement 2009-2012 strategy/action plan
- Implement individual actions and share resources in addressing development priorities
- Examine the processes and mechanisms currently being used to implement and monitor the strategies to streamline and ensure their effectiveness.
- Emphasise identifying ways to counteract a lack of progress in implementing the Strategy

**Policy Context**

**National**
- Toward 2016
- OECD Report on the Irish Public Service,
- Indecon Review on CDB’s

**Local**
- Louth County Development Plan
- Indecon
- ICLRD
- Volunteering Sub-Group
2.0 County Profile

Local Setting
Known as the 'Wee County', County Louth covers an area of only 821 square Kilometres. It lies on the east coast between the River Boyne and Carlingford Lough. The County borders Meath, Monaghan, Armagh and Down. Despite the small area, Louth is highly populated with Ireland’s two largest provincial towns – Dundalk and Drogheda – both located in the County.

Population
- The most recent census of population (2006) of County Louth is 111,267. This represents an increase of 9.3% since 2002 (101,821).
- The population of the county comprises 55,335 males and 55,932 females

Table 1: Population changes by Age Cohort in County Louth 2002 - 2006

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>2002</th>
<th>2006</th>
<th>% Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0-24</td>
<td>39,484</td>
<td>40,660</td>
<td>3.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25-44</td>
<td>30,892</td>
<td>35,570</td>
<td>15.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45-64</td>
<td>20,916</td>
<td>23,432</td>
<td>12.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65+</td>
<td>10,529</td>
<td>11,605</td>
<td>10.2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: CSO, 2006

- The percentage of older persons in the population as a whole in County Louth in 2006 was 10.4% (11,605 older persons aged 65+ in the county as a whole) as opposed to 10.1% regionally and 11.0% nationally.
- The County has a high percentage of people living in urban areas with the populations of Dundalk (29,037) and Drogheda (28,793), alone accounting for approx. 52% of the population of the County and with 64% of the total population living in urban areas.

Population of people by ethnic background:
Table 2: Persons usually resident in County Louth classified by Ethnic or Cultural Background

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>White Irish</th>
<th>Irish Traveller</th>
<th>Any other White background</th>
<th>African</th>
<th>Any other Black background</th>
<th>Chinese</th>
<th>Any other Asian background</th>
<th>Other including mixed background</th>
<th>Not Stated</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Males</td>
<td>48,828</td>
<td>193</td>
<td>2,859</td>
<td>1,095</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>189</td>
<td>334</td>
<td>533</td>
<td>958</td>
<td>55,049</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Females</td>
<td>49,836</td>
<td>226</td>
<td>2,349</td>
<td>1,230</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>170</td>
<td>370</td>
<td>459</td>
<td>900</td>
<td>55,610</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>98,664</td>
<td>419</td>
<td>5,208</td>
<td>2,325</td>
<td>130</td>
<td>359</td>
<td>704</td>
<td>992</td>
<td>1,858</td>
<td>110,659</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: CSO 2006
Unemployment

Live Register Statistics (CSO, Live Register Analysis January 2009)

In terms of the most recent Live Register Statistics (Department of Social & Family Affairs, March 2009), 15,061 persons were signing on the Live Register in Co. Louth. This is an increase of 6,901 persons representing an 84.6% increase. This is broken down to 68.3% male and 31.6% female with 14.2% of persons signing on under 25. The number of persons signing on the Live Register in Dundalk is (5,764) representing a 76.9% increase and in Drogheda the number of persons is (7,248) representing an increase of 85.7%. In Ardee, the number of persons on the Live Register is (2,049) representing an increase of 104.9%.

Table 3: Live Register Statistics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Males</th>
<th></th>
<th>Total</th>
<th></th>
<th>Females</th>
<th></th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mar 08</td>
<td>Feb 09</td>
<td>Mar 09</td>
<td>&gt; 25 yrs</td>
<td>≥25 yrs</td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>&gt;25 yrs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LOUTH</td>
<td>8,160</td>
<td>14,528</td>
<td>15,061</td>
<td>2,141</td>
<td>8,151</td>
<td>10,292</td>
<td>1,116</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ardee</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>1,984</td>
<td>2,049</td>
<td>289</td>
<td>1,160</td>
<td>1,449</td>
<td>144</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drogheda</td>
<td>3,902</td>
<td>6,975</td>
<td>7,248</td>
<td>943</td>
<td>3,948</td>
<td>4,891</td>
<td>504</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dundalk</td>
<td>3,258</td>
<td>5,569</td>
<td>5,764</td>
<td>909</td>
<td>3,043</td>
<td>3,952</td>
<td>468</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: CSO Live Register Analysis March 2009

NB: Please note that the Live Register is not designed to measure unemployment. It includes part-time workers (those who work up to three days a week), seasonal and casual workers entitled to Unemployment Assistance or Benefit. Persons on the Live Register are classified according to their local office of registration.

Education

- There are 17 post primary schools in Louth catering for 10,267 students
  
  Source: Department of Education & Science, February 2008

- There are 77 primary schools in Louth:

Table 4:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Pupils in ordinary classes in Ordinary Schools</th>
<th>Pupils with special needs in Ordinary Schools</th>
<th>Pupils in Special Schools</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Louth</td>
<td>13,866</td>
<td>284</td>
<td>225</td>
<td>14,375</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


- There are 4,154 students attending third level education in Louth at Dundalk Institute of Technology. There are also 750 students attending Drogheda Institute of Further Education and 470 students attending Ó Fiach college further education courses which are post primary schools.
Information provided by Louth County Childcare Committee shows that there are a total of 134 registered childcare providers in County Louth.

**Housing Needs in Louth**

LCC received approx 110 applications for social housing over the last three months, which is a reflection of the current economic downturn.

In terms of affordable housing, LCC has had approx 20 new applications which are due in the main to increased promotion of the affordable scheme and specific housing developments. A more telling statistic is the difficulty in actually selling affordable housing over the last three months, despite increased advertising and PR, very few affordable applicants are actually purchasing houses and this is mainly due to the economic downturn.

**Travelling Community in Louth**

Travellers are an indigenous minority who, have been part of Irish society for centuries. Travellers’ long shared history, cultural values, language, customs and traditions make them a self-defined group, and one which is recognisable and distinct. Their culture and way of life, of which nomadism is an important factor, distinguishes them from the sedentary (settled) population.

Traveller nomadism, the importance of the extended family, the Traveller language and the organisation of the Traveller economy all provide visible or tangible markers of the distinct Traveller culture. The recognition of Traveller’s culture and identity has an importance for Travellers and their status in Irish Society. Cultural difference therefore is a key element to be taken on board in policy design and in procedures by which resources are made available. The important contribution of cultural diversity to the well-being of a society should also be acknowledged.

According to the annual count of Traveller Families, in September 2008, there were 386 Traveller Families in County Louth; this is an increase of 27 families since the 2007 count.

**Table 5: Number of Traveller Families in County Louth**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>No. of Traveller Families</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dundalk Town Council</td>
<td>290</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drogheda Borough Council</td>
<td>78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Louth County Council</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>386</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Source: Louth Local Authorities Traveller Count September 2008*

**People with a Disability**

- A person with a disability is: “A person who has a physical disability, sensorial impairment, learning difficulty or mental illness that, as a result, cannot function at what is considered normal level” *(Combat Poverty Agency)*.

- In April 2008 in terms of the number of persons with some sort of a disability in County Louth, there are a total of 7,849 persons in receipt of some form of disability payment from the Department of Social & Family Affairs. However, there are undoubtedly more persons in the county with some sort of a
disability, as the United Nations state that at any one time approximately 10% of any given population have a disability of some sort.

Table 6: No. of Persons on Particular Disability Benefits by Gender in County Louth

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gender</th>
<th>Invalidity pension</th>
<th>Illness Benefit</th>
<th>Disability Allowance</th>
<th>Blind person's pension</th>
<th>Disablement pension</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Males</td>
<td>1,039</td>
<td>1,037</td>
<td>1,389</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>397</td>
<td>3,888</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Females</td>
<td>1,037</td>
<td>1,877</td>
<td>926</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>99</td>
<td>3,961</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>2,076</td>
<td>2,914</td>
<td>2,315</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>496</td>
<td>7,849</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: DSFA, April 2008

Table 7: Percentage (%) Age Profile of People with a Disability in County Louth

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>% Persons with a Disability Aged 1-14</th>
<th>% Persons with a Disability Aged 15-24</th>
<th>% Persons with a Disability Aged 25-44</th>
<th>% Persons with a Disability Aged 45-64</th>
<th>Persons with a Disability Aged 65 +</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8.3%</td>
<td>7.1%</td>
<td>21.0%</td>
<td>30.5%</td>
<td>33.1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Gamma 2006

Areas of designated disadvantage

- There are several RAPID areas in County Louth – two in Dundalk (Cox’s Demesne & Muirhevnamor) and seven in Drogheda (Ballsgrove, Marian Park, St Finian’s Park, Rathmullen, Pearse Park, Yellowbatter, Moneymore). In addition the Cooley peninsula was designated a CLÁR area following the foot and mouth outbreak.
- Approx 9% of the population of Louth live in RAPID areas

Unique features of Louth – focus on strengths and opportunities

- The location of Louth means that a wide range of natural resources is available to those who live in the area – rivers, sea, Carlingford Lough (one of only two fjords in Ireland), lakes, mountains, areas of outstanding natural beauty etc.
- Opportunities provided through border location – access to natural resources (e.g. Mountain ranges including Mournes, Ring of Gullion; opportunities to access facilities, and opportunity for collaboration with organisations and financial resources on a cross-border basis
- Opportunity presented by the 2012 Olympics and the importance of this from a PR point of view.
- The attractiveness of Louth’s leisure services to the Northern Ireland clientele.
- Good range of sports, arts and community facilities, (232 centres, LLA audit 2009)
- In addition there are 108 organisations affiliated to the Louth Community and Voluntary Forum.
- Good Infrastructure – good public transport – easy access to ports and airport
- Physical size of County Louth – compact and easily negotiable with good communications. Ideally located mid-way on the Dublin-Belfast economic corridor
- Presence of a third level institution
- Widespread interest in sport, arts and heritage
- Demographic mix
  - Vibrant youthful population
  - Older experienced people available for support
  - High proportion of new communities

**Comparative Strengths and Development Opportunities for Louth**

“We believe that, collectively, the economic strengths enjoyed by Louth add up to a unique configuration of advantages which have significant marketing potential in terms of attracting businesses to locate in the county and of realising the significant tourism potential of the county, among other opportunities. Among the key comparative economic strengths is that Louth is viewed as strongly favourable among companies and businesses, which cite the county's location midway between Dublin and Belfast and the accessibility of road, rail, airports and seaports as particular advantages. Louth is also seen as an attractive location compared to other parts of the island of Ireland”.

*County Louth Economic Development Strategy – 2009-2015*

**Assessment of Issues and Challenges**

“While the comparative economic strengths of Louth are impressive and out-weigh the weaknesses, the assessment, as part of the formulation of this strategy, also noted the presence of specific issues and challenges. These include in particular the persistence of high and long-term unemployment, and resulting social and economic exclusion, in certain parts of the county and its main towns, in addition to vulnerabilities in relation to reliance on traditional sectors and activities, and the need to up-skill the population in certain areas. These issues must be addressed if the county is to fully realise its development potential”.

*County Louth Economic Development Strategy – 2009-2015*

However, the leakage of consumer trade to Northern Ireland due to VAT differentials and the currency exchange rate is a major problem.
Heritage Week 2008, Ardee Castle

Launch of the 2009 Junior Achievement Programme
3.0 New Structure

A review of the strategy was carried out in 2005 culminating in the production of an action plan 2006-2008 identifying relevant objectives and actions for that period. LCDB has carried out a review of the plan to date and are pleased to say that a significant number of actions have been delivered or mainstreamed into the operations of the respective strategic partners. As a result the structure of the CDB is being reviewed to meet the development needs of the CDB agenda going into the next three years. The new structure is as follows:

![Diagram showing Social, Citizen, Economic, and Cultural domains]

*Sustainable Energy Zone – HOLISTIC project meeting, Dundalk May 2008*
County Development Board Objectives

Cross Cutting Actions

Task Group
Actions with measurable outputs & outcomes

Task Group
Actions with measurable outputs & outcomes

Task Group
Actions with measurable outputs & outcomes

Task Group
Actions with measurable outputs & outcomes

Communications Plan
Web site / publications/ e-mail /events
3 Pillars of CDB

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Social Development</th>
<th>Economic Development</th>
<th>Culture Development</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Louth Social Forum</strong>(SIM)</td>
<td><strong>Louth Economic Forum</strong></td>
<td><strong>Louth Cultural Forum</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health /Family Support Services/Drugs Task Force/Persons with disabilities</td>
<td>Dundalk Economic Forum</td>
<td>Age Friendly County</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Traveller Inter-Agency</td>
<td>Drogheda Economic Forum</td>
<td>Children’s Services Committee(HSE)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RAPID (Dundalk/Drogheda) Integrated Services</td>
<td>Environment- Built, Water, Energy, Waste etc.</td>
<td>Tourism/Heritage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community &amp; Voluntary Forum</td>
<td>Job Creation/Enterprise</td>
<td>Sports and Recreation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education/Training Life Long Learning</td>
<td>Research &amp; Development</td>
<td>Arts and Music</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peace III</td>
<td>Transport and Marine</td>
<td>Louth Museum, Libraries &amp; Archives</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Homelessness</td>
<td>Rural Development</td>
<td>Rural Transport Initiative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anti Racism and Diversity</td>
<td>Tourism</td>
<td>Irish Language</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Policing Committees</td>
<td>Low Carbon Initiative</td>
<td>Parks and Tidy Towns</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Links to Age Friendly County Initiative*
4.0 Our Priorities 2009-2012

Cross Cutting Objectives

| Identity/ Branding/Marketing | Youth Development |
| Job Creation | Communication |
| Education & Training | Age Friendly County |
| Family Support Services | Sustainability |
| Sharing Resources and integrated service delivery |

Job creation/ retention & protection

Economic

1. To develop and sustain indigenous businesses and encourage foreign direct investment in Louth.
2. To nurture entrepreneurship and create a vibrant start-up sector that provides sustainable jobs.
3. Supporting the implementation of cross border collaborative frameworks.
4. Provide the highest quality infrastructure to meet existing and new industry needs.

Developing equality of opportunity & access for all.

Social

1. Improve access to education and training which enhances long term employment prospects.
2. Facilitate Community engagement through active and responsible citizenship.
3. Promote the benefits of living in a secure, safe, and healthy environment

Build on the Louth identity, foster pride and cultural awareness

Culture- Quality of Life

1. Provide cultural opportunities and choice for people of all ages, abilities and cultures.
3. Foster pride of place through Tidy Towns network, Irish Language, multi-cultural Diversity and Indigenous cultural centres.
5.0 Core Principles

The following core values of Louth County Development Board are fundamental to the planning and delivery of all our services.

- Sustainable Living
- Quality of Life & Healthy Living
- Working together smarter
- Partnership
- Information & Networking
- Poverty Reduction
- Support RAPID, CLÁR Programmes
- Creativity, Innovation & Entrepreneurship
- Employment Creation & Protection
- Cultural Identity
- Cultural Diversity
- Pride
- Age Friendly supporting young and old
- Enhancement of the Environment/Biodiversity
- Training
- Continuing Education
- Equality
- Volunteerism
- Valuing the innovation within the CDB to establish models of best practice transferable to other CDBs
- Inclusiveness
### Economic Forum Action Plan

**Theme:** Job creation / retention and protection of existing jobs/Exploit unique competitive advantage of Louth

**Objective:**
To develop and sustain indigenous businesses, and encourage foreign direct investment in Louth.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Develop a county wide Marketing and branding initiative.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Promote indigenous and international marketing initiatives to highlight strengths of Louth including access to high quality infrastructure and communication networks.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Undertake mapping exercise that identifies development sites, enterprise facilities, business/innovation/Enterprise Centres</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Develop a pro-business approach by LA’s, state agencies, development agencies and the</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Output/Outcome</th>
<th>Champion &amp; Key Players</th>
<th>Timeframe</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Louth the place to do business/work, live and play Complete branding and market the target audience Interest from foreign direct investors. Leading to Job Creation</td>
<td>Louth Economic Forum</td>
<td>Short, medium &amp; long term</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Complete audit and mapping exercise</td>
<td>IDA, Louth Local Authority</td>
<td>Long term</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Complete audit and mapping exercise</td>
<td>L.E.F.</td>
<td>Short term</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Short term</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
5. **business community to have a competitive advantage**

6. **Identify key job creation opportunities and the sectors we need to target**

7. **Develop and update a database on the skills profile of the people working in and commuting from Louth and its main towns.**

8. **To develop & sustain a quality tourism product to attract national & overseas visitors**

9. **Implement the business objectives of the Age Friendly Strategy**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>5. business community to have a competitive advantage</th>
<th>Opportunities and targets identified</th>
<th>L.E.F.</th>
<th>Short term</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6. Identify key job creation opportunities and the sectors we need to target</td>
<td>Database established Redeployment and reinvestment into the County in terms of the commuter population</td>
<td>L.E.F.</td>
<td>Medium term</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Develop and update a database on the skills profile of the people working in and commuting from Louth and its main towns.</td>
<td>Maintain Visitor numbers to County Louth</td>
<td>Louth Hospitality Fáilte Ireland</td>
<td>Long term</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. To develop &amp; sustain a quality tourism product to attract national &amp; overseas visitors</td>
<td>Increase in business services and products for older people and engaging older people</td>
<td>Older People’s Business sub-group of the Economic Forum</td>
<td>Long term</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. Implement the business objectives of the Age Friendly Strategy</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
**Objective:**

To nurture entrepreneurship and create a vibrant Start-up sector that provides sustainable jobs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Output/Outcome</th>
<th>Champion &amp; Key Players</th>
<th>Timeframe</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. DkIT to establish a campus in Drogheda.</td>
<td>Joint initiative with DIFE</td>
<td>DkIT, DBC, DIFE</td>
<td>Medium term</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Develop a “Work in Louth” initiative.</td>
<td>Targeted business people from database returning to Louth</td>
<td>LEF</td>
<td>Medium term</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Promote and support existing value added local products and support new start ups in food and business sector</td>
<td>Local job creation and innovation</td>
<td>EI, CEB, Teagasc, DkIT, LLP</td>
<td>Medium term</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Promote alternative sustainable land use.</td>
<td>Development of allotments &amp; alternative energy crops</td>
<td>Teagasc, SEI, DkIT</td>
<td>Medium term</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Maximise the involvement of local companies in initiatives to improve productivity, innovation and new market entry</td>
<td>Improved productivity &amp; reduced energy costs. Targeted new markets. Transferable models of best practice. Research and development and recreation</td>
<td>EI, CEB, CoC, DkIT, IDA, SEI</td>
<td>Long term</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Joint initiatives to provide training and mentoring</td>
<td>Business training model from start up to next level</td>
<td>EI, CEB, CoC, DkIT, FAS, VEC</td>
<td>Medium term</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
services and supports to aspiring entrepreneurs and start-up businesses.

7. Work to align the education and training base in Louth to meet the requirement of inward and domestic investment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Output/Outcome</th>
<th>Champion &amp; Key Players</th>
<th>Timeframe</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. To establish and develop Louth as a centre of excellence for sustainable energy through the Low Carbon Initiative</td>
<td>Cluster of innovative energy technologies &amp; services. Examine the possibility of an energy facility and Centre of Competence</td>
<td>LLA, CoC, SEI, N&amp;M, DkIT, IDA, EI, CEB</td>
<td>Medium/Long term</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Optimise use of energy efficiency methods and production of sustainable and renewable energy</td>
<td>Complete Holistic project in SEZ and develop the Low Carbon Initiative</td>
<td>DkIT, LLA, SEI, CoC, EI, IDA, CEB</td>
<td>Medium/long term</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Establish a cross – border international services zone</td>
<td>Promotion of twin cities region as an international services zone</td>
<td>LLA, CoC, IDA, EI, N&amp;M</td>
<td>Long term</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Objective:**

Supporting the implementation of national and cross border collaborative frameworks

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Timeframe</th>
<th>Short—medium—long term</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
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<td>2.</td>
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<td>3.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
4. **Target funding to develop a cross border Geo-Tourism product**

**Funding secured, product developed**

**Short/medium term**

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**Objective:**

Provide the highest quality infrastructure to meet existing and new enterprise needs.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Output/Outcome</th>
<th>Champion &amp; Key Players</th>
<th>Timeframe</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>To ensure business and communities have access to modern telecommunication and information systems.</td>
<td>Rural areas targeted with wireless broadband facilities &amp; maximise use of MANS in urban areas</td>
<td>LLA’s, CoC’s, IDA, LCEB, ETLA, Telecom/Broadband providers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>To ensure high quality power supply to meet current and future demands.</td>
<td>Completion of new power station. Establishment of heat &amp; power plant &amp; wind generated energy.</td>
<td>LLA’s, CoC’s, Electrical power providers, ESB, Quinn Group, Bord Gáis.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Achieve maximum benefit from the availability of natural gas supply in Louth</td>
<td>Cleaner energy</td>
<td>LLA’s, CoC’s, Bord Gáis, Air Grid</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Continue to identify new sustainable water sources to meet future demands and improve water conservation.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Develop and market marine tourism product</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Complete audit and mapping exercise of existing transport system and investigate sustainable transport system</td>
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<td></td>
<td>To assist the developments at Greenore Port</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Works completed at Stameen. Improvement in water conservation</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Increased tourism</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Audit complete, mapping in place.</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>LLA’s, Industry</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Increased tourism</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Louth Hospitality</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>New port facilities developed</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>L.E.F.</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>LLA, CDB</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>MLLA’s, Industry</td>
<td>Medium to long term</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>MLLA, CDB</td>
<td>Medium/Long term</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>MLLA, CDB</td>
<td>Short/medium/long term</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>MLLA, L.Hospitality</td>
<td>Long term</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
7.0 **Social Forum Action Plan**

**Theme:**
Developing equality of opportunity and access for all

**Objective:**
Improve access to education and training which enhances long term employment prospects

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Output/Outcome</th>
<th>Champion &amp; Key Players</th>
<th>Timeframe</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Sustain existing community based employment initiatives.</td>
<td>Initiatives sustained with increased participation.</td>
<td>FAS, VEC, HSE, DkIT, DFSA</td>
<td>Short term</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Delivery on the LLA Disability Implementation Plan</td>
<td>Progress on action plan achieved</td>
<td>LLA/Age Friendly Alliance, HSE</td>
<td>Long term</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Support and sustain Early School Leavers Initiative</td>
<td>Initiative maintained</td>
<td>VEC/FAS/RAPID, DES, LLP, DkIT</td>
<td>Short term</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Support and engage with School Completion and mentoring programmes with a view to sustainability</td>
<td>Expand existing programmes e.g. Junior Council</td>
<td>VEC/DES/RAPID, LLP, DkIT</td>
<td>Medium term</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Develop joint initiatives to accelerate access to participation in third level</td>
<td>Expand access programmes and PLC advancement to 3rd level</td>
<td>FÁS, DkIT, VEC, DES, LLP, DFSA, Resource Centres, Trade Unions</td>
<td>Long term</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Give priority to supporting</td>
<td>Placements achieved,</td>
<td>FÁS, DkIT, VEC, LLP,</td>
<td>Long term</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Targeted active labour market programmes.</td>
<td>Identify the educational and employment needs specific to vulnerable groups and develop tailored responses to address these needs.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supporting lifelong learning programme providers to develop and offer responsive, accredited educational and training programmes aimed at increased participation and upskilling at all stages of personal and career development.</td>
<td>Prepare guidelines for application by relevant agencies in relation to social inclusion funding programmes to facilitate joined up service delivery.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Local companies targeted. | Public information sessions held. Information made available. | Seminars / focus groups organized to discuss educational and employment needs of vulnerable groups, publish findings and draft proposals in response to needs identified. | Guideline / protocols prepared and implemented. |

| Resource, Trade Unions | DkIT/DFSA/VEC/DES/RAPID, LLP | Social Inclusion Forum Members | Resource, Trade Unions |

| Medium to long term | Medium to long term | Long Term |
**Objective:**
Facilitate Community engagement through Active and responsible Citizenship

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Output/Outcome</th>
<th>Champion &amp; Key Players</th>
<th>Timeframe</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Implementation of the ARD plan objectives.</td>
<td>Progress on Ard Plan achieved</td>
<td>ARD</td>
<td>Medium to long term</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Enhance the membership and role of the Community &amp; Voluntary Forum</td>
<td>Membership of community &amp; voluntary section expanded with improved engagement with policy makers through information sessions</td>
<td>LLA/LLP</td>
<td>Short term</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Development of Community Safety Issues through the AIT model.</td>
<td>Delivery on RAPID thematic objectives</td>
<td>AIT</td>
<td>Medium/Long term</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Deliver on Peace and Reconciliation Programme</td>
<td>Peace &amp; Reconciliation phase 1 delivered</td>
<td>Louth Peace Partnership</td>
<td>Long term</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Review and Implement Traveller interagency strategy</td>
<td>Review completed</td>
<td>Traveller Interagency Committee</td>
<td>Medium term</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Objective:

To promote the benefits of healthy living.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Output/Outcome</th>
<th>Champion &amp; Key Players</th>
<th>Timeframe</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Promote community awareness drugs initiatives</td>
<td>Drugs initiatives maintained</td>
<td>DTF, HSE, RAPID, LLP, R.D.T.F., Homeless Agencies, Youth Sector, Schools LCC/LSP</td>
<td>Long term</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Progress the objectives of the Sports &amp; Recreation Strategy</td>
<td>Progress on plan</td>
<td>Social Inclusion Forum</td>
<td>Long term</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Promote healthy living across all ages.</td>
<td>Increased longevity</td>
<td>Social Inclusion Forum</td>
<td>Long Term</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Implement the social objectives of the Age Friendly Strategy</td>
<td>Audit of older people’s social services complete. Recommendations identified. Improved cohesion in the delivery of social services to older people</td>
<td>Older People’s sub-group of the Social Pillar</td>
<td>Long term</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### 8.0 Culture Forum Action Plan

**Theme:**
Build on the Louth identity, fostering pride and cultural awareness.

**Objective:**
Provide cultural opportunities and choice for people of all ages, abilities and culture.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Output/Outcome</th>
<th>Champion &amp; Key Players</th>
<th>Timeframe</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Develop &amp; implement a Louth Age Friendly Strategy.</td>
<td>Structures in place. Strategy in place. Short term goals achieved. Replica Model in place for other counties to utilise.</td>
<td>Louth Age Friendly Alliance</td>
<td>Short Term</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Develop a Children’s Strategy.</td>
<td>Structures in place, strategy in place, short term goals achieved. Increase in Sport and Physical Activities.</td>
<td>HSE leading up Children’s Services Committee, which includes LCC, VEC, Gardaí, C&amp;V, DkIT, Youth Services, RAPID</td>
<td>Long Term</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Implementation of LSP Strategy</td>
<td>CDB website redesigned to reflect new structure with links to all participating partners and groups delivering culture activities</td>
<td>Louth Sports Partnership</td>
<td>Long Term</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Develop a Communications Strategy to promote Culture</td>
<td></td>
<td>Louth Culture Forum, VEC</td>
<td>Short Term</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Activities through a wide variety of communication methods.

5. Facilitate Volunteering.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Output/Outcome</th>
<th>Champion &amp; Key Players</th>
<th>Timeframe</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Identification, development and promotion of walking routes &amp; walking festivals.</td>
<td>Cooley Walking Forum established&lt;br&gt;Sí na Sláinte routes across the county&lt;br&gt;Rural walking routes identified/developed including where possible access to wildlife &amp; natural green spaces&lt;br&gt;Annual walking week established.</td>
<td>LCC, LSP &amp; Community and Voluntary, Heritage Forum, NPWS, LH, LLP, Fáilte Ireland</td>
<td>Short—medium—long term</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Develop a Centre of Excellence for all ages in</td>
<td>Wellness trail Clubhouse complete</td>
<td>GAA, Age Friendly Alliance, LCC, LSP, RTI, DkIT</td>
<td>Long term</td>
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<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Support Arts Festivals through a more cohesive approach.</td>
<td>Outdoor gym, exercise trail and sensory gardens complete</td>
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<td>Shared administration, marketing and sales services</td>
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<td>School which puts music at the heart of personal and community development</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>LCC, DBC, DTC, ATC Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann,</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>LCC, DBC, DTC, Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann, VEC, DkIT</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Establish a School of Music to cater for all ages and all music genres accessible to all.</td>
<td>Heritage access plan</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>DTC, Heritage Forum, LCC, VEC, Comhairle na nÓg, Older People’s Forum, Louth RTI</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Develop programmes to access different heritage sites e.g. students visiting Museums, Older People’s group etc</td>
<td>Green spaces and wildlife areas identified</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Heritage Forum, Community &amp; Voluntary Forum</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>Maximise access to green spaces &amp; wildlife.</td>
<td>Study complete</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>LCC libraries, Community &amp; Voluntary</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>Explore the possibility of a Literary Festival.</td>
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<td>Medium term</td>
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<td>Long term</td>
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<td>Medium term</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Short-medium term</td>
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<td>Long term</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
**Objective:**
Foster pride of place through Tidy Towns Network, Irish language, multicultural diversity and indigenous cultural centres.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action</th>
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<th>Champion &amp; Key Players</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. <strong>Drop in Cultural Centre.</strong> Extend the hand of friendship from existing groups/centres.</td>
<td>Access to existing facilities achieved</td>
<td>LCC, LLP</td>
<td>Short term</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Explore the possibility of the Darver facility as part of the roll out of the Integration &amp; Inclusion strategy in the GAA Strategic Vision &amp; Action Plan 2009-15</td>
<td>GAA, Heritage Forum, LCC Libraries</td>
<td>Medium Term</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. <strong>Set up a programme for students to create a sense of pride of local area.</strong></td>
<td>Locally focussed educational resources e.g. geography &amp; history</td>
<td>Conradh na Gaeilge, Culture Forum</td>
<td>Medium Term</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. <strong>Promote and provide for the use of the Irish language in daily life</strong></td>
<td>Greater use of the Irish language through newsletters &amp; website</td>
<td>Connaught Arts Officer</td>
<td>Medium Term</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. <strong>Build on Louth’s cultural identity in our villages and towns through the provision of local features depicting the Louth Heritage &amp; Culture</strong></td>
<td>Use of percent for art features. Localised features enhancing the Tidy Towns results</td>
<td>LCC, Louth Tidy Towns Network, Community &amp; Voluntary, Heritage Forum, LCC Arts Officer</td>
<td>Short, medium &amp; long term</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Louth County Development Board Work Review
2006 - 2009

9.0 CULTURE

ARTS

The timescale for the first Arts Plan adopted by Louth Local Authorities came to an end in December 2008. During 2009, the Plan will be reviewed, and consultation will commence towards the development of a new strategy for the arts in Louth.

Throughout the lifetime of the Arts Plan, 2006 to 2008, there have been five main areas of work. These are listed below, with one significant achievement detailed beside each of them.

Arts Grants and Awards
The Arts Service has developed and expanded the range and number of funding opportunities available to individuals and community groups in the county. The current Create Louth funding pack invites applications under the following headings –

- Arts Act Grants
- Young Music Awards
- The McArdle Award
- The Daniel O'Connell & Son Music Bursary
- Schools Musical Instrument Purchase Scheme
- Tyrone Guthrie Centre Regional Bursary
- Drama League of Ireland Summer School Scholarships
- The Chairman /Mayor’s Award
- The 3-to-1 Award

Last year, Louth Local Authorities allocated over €94,000 to individuals and groups through the above funding schemes.

Information and Advice
The website for the Arts Service in Louth is www.createlouth.ie. This site has been developed to provide information on arts events taking place in Louth, as well as details on workshops and classes, a database on artists and venues, and information on funding opportunities.

Arts programming
Louth is now home to a wide range of arts festivals the length and breadth of the county. The arts festivals below are either initiated, managed or supported by Louth Local Authorities –

- Drogheda Arts Festival
- Ardee Baroque
- Drogheda Samba Festival
- Ceol Chairlinn
- Sámradh
- Drogheda Traditional Music Weekend
- Leanbh
- An Chúirt Chrúitireachta
- Táin Rhythm & Roots
- Louth County Fleadh

In addition, other festivals which are not arts-centred, such as Féile Uí Mhéith and Brat Bhride, receive support for those aspects of their programme which have an arts element.

**Developmental and Community Arts**
The Residency Programme has allowed schools, community groups, and clubs and arts organisations to work in partnership with an artist across a range of disciplines. The Residency lasts for an agreed period of time, and offers an opportunity for greater understanding of both the role of an artist and the challenges facing the host group. Louth Local Authorities’ Artist in Residence Scheme has been supported by the Arts Council during the lifetime of the Arts Plan.

The Residencies completed include –

- Ceramicist Maura Smyth in two primary schools in Dundalk
- Film-maker Dara McCluskey in second-level schools in Dundalk
- Visual Artist Darragh O’Neill in Drogheda
- Writer Siofra O’Donovan in Mattock Rangers GAA Club, Collon
- Visual Artist Angela Ginn in St. Oliver’s School, Carlingford
- Traditional Musician Sean Corcoran in Drogheda
- Street Theatre and Spectacle artist Jan Diederen in Dundalk

**Planning**
The main vehicle for the development and implementation of arts policy will remain the Arts Plan, as adopted by Louth Local Authorities. In addition, the Arts Service also contributes to Area Development Plans within the county. Current planning initiatives commissioned by the Arts Service include a report into the future development of Youth Theatre to ensure access throughout the county, irrespective of socio-economic conditions of participants.

**THE LOUTH, NEWRY & Mourne Film Commission**
The Louth, Newry and Mourne Film Commission was established in March 2005 with the agenda of making the locations and amenities within County Louth and Newry and Mourne as attractive as possible to film and television productions. The project received funding of €332,713 under the Interreg IIIA Programme.

**The main objectives of this project were as follows**

- Attracting film makers to the area
- Creating a supportive and welcoming environment for the audio-visual production industry
- Facilitating the engagement between local SMEs and film producers
- Encouraging future tourism to the region through film and television recognition and tie-ins
- Encouraging visiting film producers to use local hospitality providers – hotels, restaurants etc
- Initiating a niche film festival
- Providing training and activities for young people
• Establishing the Screen Ambassador Scheme throughout the region
• Promoting awareness of the benefits of film and television production for the community
• Capitalising on the publicity generated by the production of film and television projects in the region by working with regional tourism marketing bodies
• Raising the general public’s awareness of the area
• Instilling a stronger sense of pride in the area
• Developing a more positive image of the community on both sides of the border

All of the above objectives were achieved and the following is a small selection of the results.

**Increase film production locally**
• 3 weeks of shooting in Louth for RTÉ comedy drama series, “Trouble in Paradise”
• How About You Feature Film
• Warriors 6 part TV series
• Paisean Faisean x 3 TV ENT
• How Long Will you Live x 2 TV ENT
• Off the Rails TV ENT
• Britain’s Favourite View TV ENT
• Tourism Piece for Cadiz (Spanish) TV
• Tourism Piece for BBC - Around Ireland in 40 days TV ENT
• Borderlines TV ENT
• Frank and Walters Music Video
• The Coronas Music Video
• The Flaws Music Video
• Tart (short film)
• Euthanasium (short film)
• Home (short film)
• Frankie (Short Film and best short film at Berlin in Dundalk and Drogheda)
• So you Thought you knew Cuchulainn TV ENT
• BBC Dispatches TV ENT
• In Like Flynn Feature
• Asda Commercial
• Fiddlers Walk Feature
• ZDF - tourism - Germany TV ENT
• Week long photographic exhibition and documentary screening of “14 days in Great Britain” in Newry
• Organisation of three day Cinergy Film Festival
• Organisation of Cinergy Film Club
• Fáilte Towers RTE Programme in Castlebellingham

In addition it should be noted that the Commission received 295 enquiries from production companies in Ireland and worldwide over the span of the project.

**Economic benefits**
The Commission maintained a register of economic impacts covering the following areas with estimated costs against each. A total of €720,336 was generated from 21 projects.
LOUTH HERITAGE

The heritage office views Louth’s heritage not simply as a restraint on the county’s development but also as a valuable resource for us to use to drive that development. This is reflected in the strategic, planned approach taken to heritage protection and promotion, working especially closely with the Tourism Officer.

Following the appointment of a heritage officer in July 2005, a heritage forum was set up, bringing together stakeholders from a wide range of organisations with an interest in heritage. The heritage forum developed the heritage plan for Louth (2007-2011). The forum members select the projects to be included in each year’s implementation programme for the heritage plan. In all of this the Heritage Council has been a strong supporter and generous funder. Major thrusts of the heritage office’s work from 2005 to 2009, many of them involving other council staff, have been:

Promoting Drogheda as a major mediaeval city and the ‘Capital of the Boyne’
- Setting up a Drogheda Town Walls Steering Group
- Adoption of a conservation and management plan for the town walls
- Visit of the Irish Walled Towns’ Network to Drogheda
- Holding of a major archaeological conference in November 2008
- Practical conservation works on the town walls
- Opening of Laurence’s Gate on holiday weekends
- Commissioning and staging a play set in Drogheda in the 1640s
- Feasibility Study on possible economic uses of the Tholsel
- Began restoration of the Ramparts walkway (completed by the Tourism Officer)
- Cooperative working with Meath County Council and Fáilte Ireland on the Boyne

Promoting Carlingford as a heritage town in a superb natural setting
- Adoption of a conservation and management plan for the town walls
- Promoting conservation and restoration of same
- Surveying and mapping of several of the town’s monuments, including the development of a draft Public Realm Plan
- Staging a major heritage festival for Walled Towns Day 2008
- Developing proposals to promote its geological heritage, including guided walks and the production of a field-guide
- Carlingford was Ireland’s EDEN heritage tourism destination for 2008

Protecting, promoting and enhancing Louth’s biodiversity
- Adoption of a draft biodiversity action plan for Louth
- Erecting information panels about wildlife on our Blue Flag Beaches
- Writing of biodiversity enhancement plans for certain Council-owned land
- Writing of biodiversity enhancement plans for land managed by Tidy Towns groups
- Louth groups have won the first two Tidy Towns regional biodiversity awards

Protecting, promoting and enhancing Louth’s archaeological monuments
- Engagement of a Field Monuments Advisor in 2006, 2007 and 2008, who ran a major outreach programme to farmers, schools and community groups
- Geophysical and conservation studies of Monasterboice
- Monasterboice being considered for addition to Ireland’s WHS tentative list
- The ‘Borderlands’ book and internet heritage tourism project

Research to inform planning
- Integrated Coastal Zone Management strategy study for Carlingford Lough
- Survey of all abandoned railway infrastructure in Louth and Monaghan
Village Design Statement for Knockbridge (led by planning)
Walled town plans
Facilitating local voluntary effort
Supported the setting up of a local branch of Bird Watch Ireland
Supported the setting up of the Louth Nature Trust
Supporting the LNT’s little team warden project at Baltray
Providing small contributions to the costs of community projects
Major increase in Heritage Council grants awarded to Louth projects

In addition to the above the heritage officer deals with enquiries from the public, council staff and elected members and is happy to provide a heritage input into any aspect of the council’s work, which helps avoid conflict with heritage legislation.

**LOUTH COUNTY SPORTS AND RECREATION STRATEGY (2006 – 2012)**

The production of a County Louth Sports and Recreation Strategy was deemed essential to chart the ways forward in delivering on sports/recreation actions in line with the aims/targets outlined in the Louth CDB’s 10 year Development Strategy (2002-2012). Holohan Leisure Services Ltd, Ranelagh Road, Dublin was engaged by Louth County Council in 2005 to assist in the development of the strategy under the auspices of the Corporate Services SPC. Holohan’s research and report on the status of Sports and Recreation in Louth was used by Council staff to draft a strategy which was guided by the SPC through the Louth Local Authorities to final adoption in 2006. This document, covering the 2006-2012 period was produced in bi-lingual hard copy and CD Rom versions and also uploaded to the LLA website. Copies were circulated to the local media and all the clubs /organisations involved during the research /consultation process. Implementation of the strategy has been ongoing during 2006 and 2007; actions include

- Partnership Developments (with DkIT, H.S.E., Newry & Mourne District Council, N.G.B Sports Development Officers and sports clubs organisations).
- Co-funding of GAA and Soccer Development Officers.
- Financial Assistance (Coach training Grant Scheme, Playground markings grant scheme.
- Establishment of Sports, Recreation and Play page on LLA website and dissemination of information on related subjects.
- Walking development (Táin Walking Festival, Looped Walks, and Slí Na Sláinte).
- Formal establishment of Louth LSP (late 2007).

**Play Policy**

The Corporate Services SPC was also involved in the development of the County Play Policy adopted in 2006. This policy, produced in line with both the CDB’s Development Strategy and following on the publication of the National Play Policy (“Ready, Steady, Play”) acknowledges the importance and value of Play. One of the main activities undertaken under the Policy is the provision of further Play facilities and opportunities; To date further playgrounds have been provided at Omeath, Clogherhead, Tinure, Drogheda, and Dundalk (2). Additional inclusive equipment was provided in Ardee Playground and inspection/maintenance training has been provided for relevant staff across all LLAs. Sites are being secured for new playgrounds in Kilcurry, Kilterley and Blackrock, whilst sites have yet to be identified / secured in other villages in the County.
LOUTH LOCAL SPORTS PARTNERSHIP

Louth Local Sports Partnership is part of a national network of Local Sports Partnerships, which is an initiative of the Irish Sports Council, with the aim of increasing participation in sport and physical activity.

The LLSP is now fully operational with three staff employed – a Co-ordinator, Administrator and Sports Inclusion Disabilities Officer. A range of programmes are already underway including:

- Awareness campaign in partner organisations
- Buntús programme for primary schools – training for teachers, equipment and resource cards
- Girls in Action – participation programme for teenage girls in secondary schools
- Workshops for sports clubs including – Code of Ethics, Funding and Disability Awareness Training
- Work is underway on a four year strategy for LLSP that will be launched in 2009
- Programme of disability sports events including – come and try taster days, multi sport club for children with disabilities, adapted aerobics classes and a swim helpers course for those working with people with disabilities

Challenges that face the LLSP include:

- The match funding requirement on programmes and activities from 2009 as recommended in the Fitzpatrick review of Local Sports Partnerships 2006
- Building the partnership – working with partner organisations on joint projects
- Increasing awareness and buy in from sports clubs and physical activity organisations in Louth
- Schools programmes may be effected by the reduction in teacher numbers and extra curricular activities
- Encouraging volunteerism in sport and physical activity
SOCIAL INCLUSION MEASURES GROUP

The aim of this group is to ensure a co-ordinated and integrated approach to tackling social exclusion in Louth. The themes that are relevant to this working group are Travellers, Disability, Lone Parents and the National Anti Poverty Strategy. Active Citizenship is an additional theme for 2009 – 2012.

Actions Achieved January 2006 to December 2008

- Travellers’ Sub-group formed through the SIM Committee for Travellers. Toybox Project established in November 2007 (two staff employed) and completed in 2008. It was managed very successfully by Louth County Childcare Committee.

- Volunteering - Volunteering Committee formed to make recommendations (Research Study on Volunteering formulated) and booklet produced with eight recommendations.

- Anti-Racism and Diversity - Anti-Racism and Diversity Committee formed (Challenge of Change Project undertaken and completed). A book was published jointly with Newry and Mourne District Council.

- Lone Parents - Research Commenced.

- Training Initiative - Special Training Initiative set up (now in third year) (disadvantaged young people from RAPID areas, with no history of taking part in education, work placement, training etc);

- SIM adopted Disability as a theme in 2008.

THE CHALLENGE OF CHANGE PROJECT

This is a cross-border initiative between Louth County Council and Newry and Mourne District Council.

The aim of the project was to improve service delivery to the ethnic minorities living on both sides of the border.

Some of the key outputs of the project include:

- A telephone interpreting service for council staff to help assist members of the public with limited English.
- A needs assessment for the ethnic community which highlights some of the key issues in accessing services.
- A comprehensive report on the economic impact of migrant workers.
- Voter awareness training sessions.
- Anti-racism advertising campaigns targeted to schools and sports clubs.
- And a cross border conference examining the issues involved in living in a multicultural society.

This project is the winner of the Northern Ireland Local Government Awards for the best joint initiative between Councils 2009.
Challenge of Change Cross Border Conference, September 2008

Northern Ireland Excellence in Local Government Awards, February 2009
RAPID

The aim of this project is to work with residents in a number of local authority housing estates in Drogheda and Dundalk with the objective to build communities characterised by equal access to opportunities, a high quality of life, pride of place and a safe healthy environment.

The following is a list of outcomes achieved for both Dundalk and Drogheda

Dundalk

- Completion of 2007/2008 RAPID Leverage Schemes (Estate Enhancement) and works in RAPID areas and successful draw down of funding
- Completion and installation of Playground Facility in Muirhevnamor and successful draw down of funds, Playgrounds 06/07
- Completion of the 06/07 Traffic Calming Leverage scheme and successful draw down of funding
- Successful roll out of the Community Graffiti Scheme in RAPID areas- €30,000 secured under this initiative
- Developed and implementing a local RAPID Community Participation Strategy in conjunction with the RAPID communities
- Ensured efficient drawdown of funding from Dormant Accounts which is additional under the RAPID Programme
- Implementation of the RAPID Strategic Theme – ‘Health’ through the establishment of a thematic sub group, development of strategy & action plan and submission to the National Monitoring Committee
- Implementation of the RAPID Strategic Theme – ‘Community Safety’ through the establishment of a thematic sub group, development of strategy & action plan and submission to the National Monitoring Committee
- Implementation of the RAPID Strategic Theme – ‘Family Support’ through the establishment of a thematic sub group, development of strategy & action plan and submission to the National Monitoring Committee

Drogheda

- Two purpose built childcare facilities
- One purpose built community centre
- Refurbishment of a community facility
- Implementation of St. Finian’s Park Remedial Scheme
- Refurbishment of an estate house for community use
- Provision of two Multi User games areas and playground
- Two All-weather pitches
- Alley gating project
- Three open space regeneration projects
- Creation of a community garden from a derelict site
- Established a second Garda Diversion project
- Established a Family Resource Centre
- RAPID Community Environmental Initiative operating in seven estates
- Implementation of three years of Traffic Calming Initiatives – ramps, road signs etc
- Implementation of three years of Housing Estate Enhancement Scheme
- Installation of six Community Based CCTVs and a further six in the pipeline
- Employment of an Advocate for Older Persons
- Provision of home and/or personal security systems for 55 persons >65 yrs
- Championed the issue of community safety and older persons
- Completed four Youth Training Employment Initiatives
- Won National Chamber of Commerce Award and two commendations
- Undertook research – Social and Recreational Needs of Older people
- Accessed funding for a Project Manager for Drogheda Breakfast Club
- Accessed funding for several programmes via DAF (Dormant Accounts Fund)
- Established a Traveller Primary care Unit
- Refurbished premises for Irish Wheelchair Association Disability Interest Group
- Programme funding for a range of groups operating in RAPID area
- Endorsed and received capital funding for five Sports groups
- Resourced funding to set up a Bowling Club for Older Persons
- Established Older Persons Interagency Network and organised five Community Safety/Health seminars
- Provided technical support and endorsed applications for two school libraries and interactive white board technology
- Initiated Drogheda Young person's Network
- Set up Drogheda RAPID Forum-Phase 1
- Established Louth first Estate Management Team
- Initiated two Estate Leadership Training programmes
- Progressing development of an Integrated Youth Service with a Youth Café.
- Developing environmental initiatives

11.0 QUALITY OF LIFE

The strategic aim is to create an environment that allows the community of Louth to actively participate in their communities and promote civic pride. A number of projects took place.

SUICIDE PREVENTION

- Development of a local strategy on suicide prevention
- Suicide Prevention Strategy Development Seminars held in Drogheda and Dundalk and across the North East Region
- Alliance for Action on Suicide Prevention held first meeting in December 2006, working groups formed, meetings held regularly (based on National Suicide Prevention Strategy)
- Suicide awareness campaign on a national basis through television, radio and general media to highlight the fact that seeking help is strengthened. (Through National Office for Suicide Prevention (NOSP))
- Approached schools offering training for teachers around suicide awareness (only one school came on board). School team in HSE are offering training through Social Personal and Health Education (SPHE) programme
- Exchange of all relevant information from all service providers
- Development of training programme for GP’s in relation to suicide prevention
- Aim to develop strategy based on local needs and circumstances
- Action Plan formulated
- Training on Suicide Intervention (ASSIST) continuing
- An electronic directory of support services in Louth developed (similar to Meath Model)
SUPPORT THE REDUCTION IN LEVELS OF SUBSTANCE MISUSE

- RAPID and HSE organised two “Community Addiction Studies Courses” (FETEC accredited), initially in Dundalk now rolled out county-wide
- Target audience – for people living or working in the community to become more effective in tackling drug/alcohol addiction issues (20 sessions – 3 hrs per week)
- Gardaí in Dundalk and Drogheda have set up a specialised drugs unit.
- Research commissioned by the Dundalk Drugs Advisory Group through Social Policy Unit, Queens University. From this research 14 recommendations were made and the Louth Action Plan has been distilled out of this and we are currently rolling out the actions. Some of the key recommendations were:
  - Shortening waiting list for methadone through engagement with G.P. and Pharmacies in Dundalk.
  - Secured funding for family support structures.
  - Gap Analysis Seminar held in December 2007 by Dundalk Drugs Advisory Group
  - Appropriate actions under the four pillars of the National Drugs Strategy identified (Treatment/Education and Prevention/Family Support/Research) for focus
  - Action undertaken by An Garda Síochána re: awareness raising among second year students in secondary schools in Dundalk.

MENTAL/EMOTIONAL HEALTH

- An alliance of service providers emanating from the statutory, voluntary and community sectors to develop training packages in the area of emotional health was set up.
- The package is multi-disciplinary and delivered to teachers through the HSE schools team.
- Training programme has been developed in relation to Mental Health Promotion
- RAPID programmes in Dundalk and Drogheda have introduced a strategic theme covering a wide range of health activities.

CRIME REDUCTION AND CIVIC RESPONSIBILITY

- Pilot Joint Policing Committee for Drogheda established, inaugural meeting held on 23rd October, 2006. To be set up in Dundalk and County Louth in 2009.
- Four meetings per year
- Action plan developed
- Schemes put in place on:
  - Community Safety Guide
  - Community Alert Schemes put in place
  - Security Support for Older People
  - Home Security and Older Persons Project progressed (objective of the Joint Policing Committee)
  - Second Garda Diversionary Project for Drogheda set up 2008
- Under auspices of Drogheda RAPID:
  - New Family Support Unit for Drogheda set up in 2008
Under Auspice of Drogheda RAPID
- Crime prevention and security initiatives for vulnerable target groups examined.
- Community Safety sessions organised by Drogheda JPC and RAPID
- Dundalk and Drogheda RAPID Programmes have devised community safety strategies

GREEN SCHOOLS CAMPAIGN
- Forty seven Green Flags were achieved in forty two Primary Schools and five Green Flags were achieved in Secondary Schools throughout County Louth.
- A Green Schools Recycling Initiative is in place in Drogheda (Big Hog - RAPID)

TIDY TOWNS
- Thirteen Village Plans produced/under implementation
- Five Year Tidy Town Strategic Action Plan for Dundalk agreed/being implemented
- Five Year Tidy Town Strategic Action Plan for Drogheda at consultation stage
- Louth Tidy Towns Together success as co-ordinating network
- Participation in National Tidy Towns Competition increased from thirteen to twenty two centres
- Biodiversity plans developed for many

12.0 CHILDCARE

LOUTH COUNTY CHILDCARE COMMITTEE
The programme has the responsible for supporting the implementation of the National Childcare Investment Programme. The outcomes achieved to date are as follows:

- Implementation of the National Childcare Investment Programme on behalf of the Office of the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs with 104 Capital grant applicants supported, processed and forwarded to Pobal and OMCYA. A total of €9.6 million funding was received in the county by Childcare Groups. This resulted in an increase of full day care places from 1005 to 1531 and part time places from 1834 to 2235.

- Development of our strategic plan 2007 to 2010 and successful implementation of LCCC Action plans 2006, 2007 & 2008. The development of our Strategic Mapping Templates which identify service provision by Electoral Division and is cross referenced with CSO Childcare data which identifies gaps in provision.
• Promotion of a quality agenda by promoting the Síolta National Quality Framework and supporting seven services engaged in the BCCN Quality Awareness Programme

• Working towards NCIP targets by providing access to affordable accredited training with 40 Completing FETAC 5 full awards, 5 completing FETAC 7 full award and 9 Completing (IHA) High scope curriculum award.

• Collaborative work with Louth Local Authorities with support in relation to planning applications for Childcare Facilities, the HSE preschool Inspection team in supporting providers with compliance with preschool regulations, FÁS and the VEC in the provision of Training and research funding.

13.0 LIFE LONG LEARNING

There are three strategic objectives to be addressed;
• Co-ordination and Cohesion
• Equality of opportunity
• Learning Region

CO-ORDINATION AND COHESION

• The Adult Education Committee has been established.
• Adult Literacy Programme is progressing in Dundalk and Drogheda with Co. Louth VEC directing it.
• A training needs survey has been carried out by FÁS.

EQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITY

• The e-Inclusion project for Olders Persons in Yellowbatter and Pearse Park was held in the Lourdes Recreation Centre Drogheda and continued for eight weeks.
• Co. Louth VEC provided support to non-nationals through Language to Literacy programmes.
• In addition Dundalk Employment Partnership conducts training with non-national residents.

LEARNING REGION

• Establishment of access initiatives to higher education (at DkIT)
• Establishment of scholarship programmes
• Establishment of North East Further and Higher Education Alliance
• Growth in numbers of international students
• Promotion of transfer options from FE to HE
• Development of online learning materials
COMMUNITY AND VOLUNTARY GROUP SURVEY

The aim of this project was to carry out a pilot survey to assist with the formation of a mailing list of all community and voluntary groups in the Dundalk Urban and Cooley Peninsula area. A survey was posted out to 375 groups. The purpose of the survey was to garner information from the groups in relation to experiences gained from managing volunteers. From 375 mail shots, 264 of the groups were from Dundalk Urban and Cooley Peninsula area.

Following on from this, four volunteer focus groups were arranged with the aim of informally discussing the experiences of the volunteers and exchanging methods of practice.

As a result the project identified strengths and weaknesses within the volunteering sector in Louth and the following recommendations were made:

- Louth SIM Group should consider in collaboration with Drogheda Volunteer Centre, the organisation of a volunteer awareness week.
- Louth SIM Group should publicise the huge voluntary contribution made by volunteers in the County and highlight the costs to the state if this support was not forthcoming.
- Louth SIM Group, in collaboration with Enterprise Ireland, should explain the potential for employee volunteering and the opportunities of using employers as channels of connection to potential volunteers.
- Louth SIM Group should consider expanding the Drogheda Volunteer Centre to cover the entire County. This could be achieved through Louth County Council and Louth Leader Partnership ring-fencing funding to establish an outreach centre possibly in Dundalk which would be managed by Drogheda Volunteer centre.
- Louth SIM Group in collaboration with the two Partnerships and Louth Leader should explore methods to encourage community and voluntary groups on topics such as recruiting and inducting volunteers, managing and motivating volunteers.
- Louth SIM Group, in collaboration with the Louth Leader Partnership should consider the provision of support to groups to enable them to examine governance issues generally but in particular the introduction of policies such as Volunteering, Health and Safety, Equal Opportunities etc.
- Louth SIM Group, in collaboration with the Louth Leader Partnership should consider the provision of support to enable them to offer additional training to their volunteers.
- Louth SIM Group should explore the potential for funding to enable groups to reimburse volunteers with some basic expenses. This should ideally be delivered through Drogheda Volunteer Centre as is the case in Northern Ireland.
DEDG is a public private partnership working together with the overall objective to promote Dundalk as a prime place to live, visit and invest.

The project began in March 2006 following an Indecon Report of Economic and Social Development in Dundalk. It has been in operation for three years and has successfully achieved all the outcomes listed above. The success can be attributed to the public private partnership approach with people from all sectors working together and sharing information for the good of Dundalk.

- Multi Agencies / Sectors working in Partnership sharing information.
- Development of a ‘brand’ for Dundalk with creation of an official Dundalk logo.
- Promotional DVD of Dundalk as a place to invest together with a Dundalk – ‘Open for Business’ publication. These were created to target business to invest in Dundalk.
- Ambassador programme was launched to encourage local people to promote their town in a positive way.
- Promotional DVD to encourage tourism in Dundalk.
- www.dundalk.ie was revamped as a one stop shop website.
- An up-to-date database of available land bank, office and incubation space useful for investors and business.
- Setting up of the (BIDS) Business Improvement District Scheme.
- Creation of the Green Technology Fund aimed at supporting and encouraging sustainable energy projects in the Dundalk area.
- Establishment of the Dundalk Tidy Towns Committee leading to an Irish Business Against Litter (IBAL) award.
- Targeted training programmes for long term unemployed residents in areas including hospitality, human resources, I.T. and Health and Safety, as well as redeployment courses on job retention, basic numeric and literacy skills and retail sales implemented.
- Promotion of the Schools Completion Programme and the DkIT Access Programme to address early school leavers.

Dundalk ~ Feel the Energy Promotional, July 2008
The overall objective of the Project is to promote the use of renewable sustainable energy within local communities. It is a pilot project which demonstrates these technologies to the wider community and indeed the country as a whole.

A number of Action Groups have been set up to advance the different elements of the project. These are: the Energy Services Company Action Group, the Built Environment Action Group, the Socio Economic Action Group, the Industry Action Group, the Demand Side Management Action Group and the Communications Action Group.

**Examples of Projects in progress are as follows:**
- Biomass District Heating System
- A second Wind Turbine on the Xerox site
- Retrofit of existing buildings (residential and non residential)
- Smart metering
- Energy Bureau
- Renewable Street Lighting (wind and solar)
- Socio-economic surveys

**The main project targets to be achieved by 2010 are:**
- 20% of electricity used within the community to be generated from renewable energy sources
- 40% improvement in the energy performance of selected buildings
- 20% increase in the amount of heat generated from renewable sources in housing and community sectors
INCUBATOR FACILITIES AT MILLMOUNT CENTRE, DROGHEDA

Millmount Development Centre located in Drogheda, is a small pilot incubator established through partnership and managed by the Regional Development Centre, of DkIT. (RDC)

The RDC provides 200 m² incubator office space owned by Drogheda Borough Council set up in Millmount Centre. There are eight Units in place, with access for tenant companies to meeting rooms and IT facilities.

The creation of a cluster of new high technology companies and R&D activities in that area directly addresses economic priorities which are implicit within the Regional Development Plans of Enterprise Ireland, IDA Ireland, and the County Enterprise Board.

There are seven companies accommodated and supported in the new developments, employing twenty six graduate and knowledge based employees.

All of the tenants are high growth export focussed & technology driven operating in the global marketplace.

Following the success of this project, a larger scale dedicated facility on a Drogheda Borough Council site with Enterprise Ireland, and private funding will start in 2009. This will provide the knowledge infrastructure necessary to support new value−added business development in the Drogheda region and act as a catalyst in attracting new knowledge based investment projects to the area.

16.0 TOURISM

LOUTH HOSPITALITY

Louth Hospitality’s core function is to develop and promote Louth as a successful tourism destination. The company aims to offer visitors to Louth the best possible levels of service, product and holiday experience.

Since its incorporation in 2004 Louth Hospitality’s marketing and development activities have been instrumental in the rise of the fortunes of the tourism trade in the county.

During this time the value of overseas tourism to the county has risen from €24 million in 2004 to €37 million in 2007.

Amongst the initiatives undertaken include:

- The development of the Táin Walking Festival, €400,000 Development of the Battle of the Boyne Ramparts walk, and completion of the Interreg East Border Tourism programme which delivered over €600,000 to aid tourism product development in many of Louth’s smaller towns and villages, channelling investment into festivals, visitor attractions and services.

- Marketing activities included: Production of Dundalk promotional DVD, production and distribution of “Louth – Land of Legends” County Guide, inception of the Louth Value Golf Pass and promotion of this in the UK, upgrade of www.louthholidays.com, attendance at national and overseas tradeshows, advertising in Fáilte Ireland publications and activity guides. Marketing activities
have been funded by the Louth County Council Peace II Task Force in addition to trade membership funds.

In 2009 Louth Hospitality created an Action Plan which aims to chart the route forward by maintaining and enhancing the quality of tourism products, managing the natural and built environment to maintain its attractiveness for the benefit of visitors and continually improving the skills of those who deliver the product.

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17.0 AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

COMPETITIVE SUSTAINABLE RURAL DEVELOPMENT

The strategic objective is to promote competitive and sustainable rural development that is environmentally friendly and socially inclusive.

Louth County Countryside Code Booklet

The Countryside Management Committee was established to promote good countryside management. It was made up of representatives from IFA, Anglers Association, Hill Walkers, Coillte, Louth County Council Sports and Recreation Section, Macra Na Feirme and Teagasc.

One of the successful projects was the Louth County Countryside Code Booklet. This publication is intended as an information booklet for all those who live in and visit rural areas of the county for recreational purposes. It was launched on the 10th of May 2007 by Eanna Ni Lamhna – TV and Radio Personality.
County Food Brand
The aim of the project is to promote and support existing value added food producers and support new start ups.

The County Food Brand was officially launched in August 2006 by Mairead McGuinness MEP. A total of 12 food producers in the county were involved with this project at the start. The brand became Louth Food Group. The project promotes food safety and quality through the provision of food safety and hygiene courses.

Outreach Socially Inclusive Training Opportunities
A wide range of courses was provided by Teagasc, FÁS, Leader and DkIT, with collaboration between the organisations where possible, to farmers and rural dwellers, owners, managers and employees in small and medium enterprises.

Courses held 2006 - 2008
- Use of computers (basic & advanced)
- Food Safety and Hygiene
- Farmers’ Options Programmes
- E-learning course in agriculture
- Inheritance and Succession Seminars
- Farm Safety Courses
- Louth Women’s Network attended National Conference in Succession & Inheritance
- Leader Rural Social Scheme
- FÁS one step up initiative and Competency Development Programme
- A range of courses to owners/managers/employees in small to medium enterprises
- DkIT Courses in Renewable energy

Promotion of Alternative Sustainable Land Use
One of the main aims was to promote the use of ‘Bio Energy’. An Energy Crops Conference was held in November 2006 at the Fairways Hotel where 110 interested parties attended. The key speakers on the day were local representatives of Sustainable Energy Ireland and the Dundalk 2020 / HOLISTIC Project.

As part of the Dundalk 2020 / HOLISTIC Project an Energy Services Company (ESCo) has been set up. The main aim of this company is to implement the district heating scheme within the zone. The group is encouraging the local farming community to work with them by exploring the opportunities for growers of energy crops to provide the bio-mass for the district heating systems. An information pack for interested farmers was developed. Dr. Paul McArtain was appointed project manager.

Agri – Tourism
Twelve participants took part in a course to promote Agri – Tourism in Louth held by Teagasc. This was followed up with four successful trips around Louth, Armagh and Down. Funding was provided by the Louth CDB.

The aims are to address the legacy of conflict and to take opportunities arising from peace.

In 2002 “under the original Peace II Programme 2002 – 2004” funding of €4,280,000 was awarded by Louth County Council led Peace II Task Force to a total of forty eight projects. In 2006 Louth Task Force successfully achieved the total drawn down of the €4,280,000 funding among the forty eight projects.

In 2006 Louth County Council led Peace II Task Force awarded a total of 25 projects funded under the Peace II Extension Programme 2005-2006. A total amount of €1,449,000 has been allocated to these projects by the programme in order to assist the promoters in the development of their projects.

The Peace II Programme 2000 – 2006 in Louth has resulted in a total of €5,729,000 being awarded to 73 different projects throughout Louth. This money has helped build sustainable communities and promote Peace in Louth.

The programme is now complete and was rolled out successfully. Louth County Council is currently rolling out the Peace III Programme.
### Abbreviations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A.B.C.</td>
<td>Ardee Business Community</td>
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<tr>
<td>A.R.D.</td>
<td>Anti Racism &amp; Diversity</td>
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<td>Arts</td>
<td>Arts</td>
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<td>B.I.D.</td>
<td>Business Improvement Districts</td>
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<tr>
<td>C &amp; V</td>
<td>Community &amp; Voluntary Forum Rep</td>
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<td>C.</td>
<td>Church</td>
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<tr>
<td>C.C.E.</td>
<td>Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann</td>
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<tr>
<td>C.E.B.</td>
<td>County Enterprise Board</td>
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<tr>
<td>C.o.C’S</td>
<td>Chambers of Commerce</td>
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<td>C.S.C.</td>
<td>Children Services Committee</td>
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<td>Comhairle</td>
<td>Comhairle</td>
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<tr>
<td>D.E.D.G.</td>
<td>Dundalk Economic Development Group</td>
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<tr>
<td>D.E.S.</td>
<td>Department of Education &amp; Science</td>
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<tr>
<td>D.F.I.</td>
<td>Disability Federation of Ireland</td>
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<tr>
<td>D.F.S.A.</td>
<td>Department of Social &amp; Family Affairs</td>
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<tr>
<td>D.I.F.E.</td>
<td>Drogheda Institute of Further Education</td>
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<tr>
<td>D.K.I.T.</td>
<td>Dundalk Institute of Technology</td>
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<tr>
<td>E.I.</td>
<td>Enterprise Ireland</td>
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<tr>
<td>E.S.P.C.</td>
<td>Environment Strategic Policy Committee</td>
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<tr>
<td>F.A.S.</td>
<td>Foras Áiseanna Saothair</td>
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<td>F.I.</td>
<td>Fáilte Ireland</td>
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<tr>
<td>G.A.A.D.</td>
<td>Gaelic Athletic Association Development</td>
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<td>G.S.</td>
<td>Garda Síochána</td>
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<td>H.A.</td>
<td>Homeless Agencies</td>
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<td>H.F.</td>
<td>Heritage Forum</td>
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<td>H.S.E.</td>
<td>Health Service Executive</td>
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<td>H.S.P.C.</td>
<td>Housing Strategic Policy Committee</td>
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<tr>
<td>I.B.A.L.</td>
<td>Irish Business Against Litter</td>
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<td>I.C.A.</td>
<td>Irish Countrywomen's Association</td>
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<td>I.D.A.</td>
<td>Industrial Development Authority</td>
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<td>I.G.</td>
<td>Intercultural Group</td>
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<td>L.H.</td>
<td>Louth Hospitality</td>
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<td>L.L.A.</td>
<td>Louth Local Authorities</td>
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<td>L.L.P.</td>
<td>Louth Leader Partnership</td>
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<td>L.S.</td>
<td>Library Service</td>
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<td>L.S.P.</td>
<td>Louth Sports Partnership</td>
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<td>L.T.T.N.</td>
<td>Louth Tidy Towns Network</td>
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<td>M.</td>
<td>Museum</td>
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<td>M.C.C.</td>
<td>Meath County Council</td>
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<td>O.P.F.</td>
<td>Older People's Forum</td>
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<td>R.C.</td>
<td>Resource Centres</td>
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<td>R.D.T.F.</td>
<td>Regional Drugs Task Force</td>
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<td>R.T.I.</td>
<td>Rural Transport Initiative</td>
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<td>RAPID Programmes</td>
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<td>R.D.C.</td>
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<td>S.E.I.</td>
<td>Sustainable Energy Ireland</td>
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<td>S.I.O.</td>
<td>Social Inclusion Officer</td>
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<td>T.E.</td>
<td>Teagasc</td>
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<td>T.I.</td>
<td>Traveller Interagency</td>
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<td>T.U.</td>
<td>Trade Union</td>
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<td>V.D.P.</td>
<td>Vincent de Paul</td>
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<tr>
<td>V.E.C.</td>
<td>Vocational Education Committee</td>
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