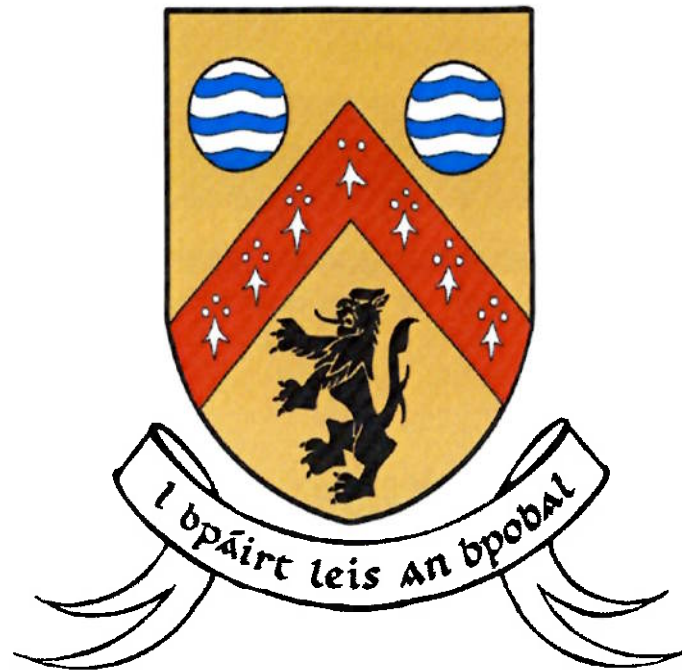


**LAOIS COUNTY COUNCIL
COMHAIRLE CHONTAE LAOISE**



**MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT
OCTOBER 2024
TUARASCÁIL BHAINISTÍOCHTA
DEIREADH FÓMHAIR 2024**

To: Each Member of Laois County Council
 Do: Gach Ball Comhairle Chontae Laoise

Section 136(2) of the Local Government Act, 2011, as inserted by Section 51 of the Local Government Reform Act, 2014, requires the Chief Executive to prepare a Monthly Management report. The Report for October 2024 is as follows:

HOUSING AND REGENERATION

SOCIAL HOUSING DELIVERY

Annual Social Housing Delivery Targets under Housing for All

Year	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	Total
Units	200	79	80	87	88	534

	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	Total
Social Housing completions to date	229	286	62	-	-	577

Social Housing Schemes completed in 2024

Location	Total no. of Houses	House Types	Constructed by	Comment
Clonroosk Abbey, Portlaoise	18	18 no. 3-bed 2-storey	Cluid Housing	18 units delivered. Tenanted in June 2024.
Oakvale Meadows, Stradbally (Phase 2 & 3)	11	4 no. 4-bed 2-storey 2 no. 2-bed 1-storey 5 no. 4-bed 2-storey	LCC (Turnkey)	Phase 2 & 3 completed.
Sruth na Gleanna, Killeslin	1	1 no. 3-bed house	LA Part V	Delivery Q2 2024
Rockview, Portlaoise	24	10 no. 3-bed houses 2 no. 4-bed houses	Oaklee Housing	Phase 1 of 3 delivered Q2 2024 - 12 Homes
Deanswood, Townparks, Rathdowney Rd, Borris-in-Ossory	8	4 no. 3-bed 2-storey 4 no. 1-bed 2-storey	LCC Turnkey	Phase 1 - 8 units completed.
TOTAL	62			

Social Housing Schemes Under Construction in 2024

Location	Total no.	House Types	Constructed by	Comment
Moore St, Rathdowney	6	6 no. 2-bed 2-storey	LCC (Construction)	On site – expected delivery Q4 2024
Mooreville, Rathdowney	7	4 no. 3-bed 2-storey 4 no. apartments (2 no. 2-bed and 2 no. 1-bed)	LCC (Construction)	On site – expected delivery Q4 2024
Wallis Street, Mountrath	11	9 no. 2-bed bungalows 2 no. 2-bed apts.	Co-Operative Housing	Currently on Site – Expected phased delivery Q3/Q4 2024 and Q1 2025 (4 units)
Deanswood, Townparks, Rathdowney Rd, Borris-in-Ossory	18	8 no. 2-bed 2-storey 10 no. 2-bed 1-storey	LCC Turnkey	Phase 2 - 18 units - Q4 2024
Shannon Street, Mountrath	20	13 no. 3-bed 2-storey 7 no. 2-bed 2-storey	LCC Turnkey	On site – expected delivery Q4 2024
Rockview, Portlaoise	23	21 no. 3-bed houses 2 no. 4-bed houses	Oaklee Housing	Currently on site – P3 23 Homes EDD Q4 2024
Ashewood Walk, Summerhill, Portlaoise	3	3 no. 3 bed houses	LCC Part V	On site – expected delivery Q4 2024
Ard Branagh, Portlaoise	6	6 no. 3-bed houses	LA Part V	Currently on site – expected delivery in Q4 2024
Derrymore Gardens, Rushall, Mountrath	3	3 no. 3 bed houses	LCC Part V	On site – expected delivery Q4 2024
Ballymorris Green, Portarlington (Ph 2)	12	12 no. 3-bed houses	Cluid Housing	Currently on site – Last phase of scheme – advised that these units will be delivered Q4 2024.
An Lochán, Summerhill, Portlaoise	20	8 no. 1-bed maisonettes	Respond	Currently on site. Phase 1

		8 no 3-bed duplexes. 4 no 2-3-bed apts.		(12 units) delayed to Q1 2025. Remainder by mid-2025.
The Orchard, Ballylynan (Phase 3)	1	1 no. 3-bed 2-storey	LCC (Turnkey)	On Site – Phase 3 (1 unit) delivery Q2 2025
Carraig Glas, Stradbally	26	15 no. 2-bed houses 9 no. 3-bed houses 2 no 4-bed houses	LCC (Construction)	On site – expected delivery Q2 2025
Convent Lands, Portlaoise (CAS)	52	33 no 2-bed apts. 15 no 1-bed apts. 4 no. 2-bed houses.	Sophia Housing	On site – expected delivery Q4 2025
Oak Park Halting Site, Portlaoise	4	4 day units and associated works	LCC (Construction)	On site – expected delivery Q1 2025
Bruach Na hAbhainn, Killeen	1	1 no. 3-bed 2-storey	LCC (Turnkey)	On Site – Phase 1 (1 unit) delivery Q3 2025
1 New Road, Portlaoise	1	1 no. 4-bed 1-storey	LCC (Renewal)	On site – expected delivery Q1 2025
6 Emmett Terrace, Mountmellick	1	1 no. 4-bed 1-storey	LCC (Renewal)	On site – expected delivery Q1 2025
Oldcourt, Ballylinan	1	1 no. 4-bed 1-storey	LCC (Renewal)	Design team and contractor to be appointed – expected delivery Q4 2025
Townspark, Mountmellick	49	28 no. 3-bed 2-storey 11 no. 2-bed 2-storey 8 no. 1-bed 2-storey 2 no. 2-bed 1-storey	LCC Turnkey	On site – expected delivery Q4 2025
Foxburrow, Portlaoise	15	1 and 2-bed apts	Part V - Cluid Housing	On site – Part V agreement to be finalised Expected delivery 2025
Oakvale Way, Stradbally	19	13 no. 1-bed bungalows 6 no. 2-bed bungalows	North and East Housing Association	On site. Delivery Q4 2025

Ballyadams	1	1 no. 6-bed bungalow	LCC (Construction)	On site – expected delivery Q4 2025
“Radharc Darach”, Hepburn Court, Portlaoise	54	8 no. 2-bed bungalows 12 no. 2-bed 2-storey 34 no. 2-bed 2-storey	Cluid Housing	Contractor on site. Expected delivery 2026. Residents advised via letter drop.
TOTAL	354			

Social Housing Schemes at Planning, Design or Tender Stage – LCC & AHB

Location/Scheme	No of units	House Types	To be constructed by	Comment
13 and 14 Lakeglen, Portlaoise	2	1 no. 3-bed 2-storey 1 no. 4-bed 2-storey	LCC (Renewal)	Tenders advertised in October.
French Church St., Portarlinton	2	2 no. 2-bed apts.	LCC (Renewal)	Stage 2 to be submitted in Q4 2024.
Curragh na Mona, Abbeyleix Rd, Portlaoise	39	5 x 2-bed fully accessible apts 12 x 2-bed bungalows 6 x 3-bed houses with downstairs bedroom 2 x 4-bed house with downstairs bedroom 2 x 2-bed apts – accessible (ground floor) apts 2 x 1-bed 1 st floor apts 4 x 3-bed 2-storey. 6 x 2-bed 1 st floor apts	Respond Housing	Letter of Intent issued to contractor, awaiting return of documentation. Construction to commence Q4 2024.
Clonroosk (Knockmay), Portlaoise	12	8 no. 2-bed 2-storey 3 no. 3-bed 2-storey 1 no. 3-bed 1-storey	LCC (Construction)	Tender advertised in Q3 2024.
Doonane	12	12 no. 3-bed 2-storey	LCC (Construction)	Tenders returned in October and evaluation on-going.

"Iona", 4, 5, & 6 Abbeyleix Road, Portlaoise	7	2 no. 3-bed 2- storey 1 no. 2-bed 2- storey 4 no. 1-bed apt	LCC (Construction)	Stage 3 approved and tender to be advertised in Q4 2024.
Derry Road, Durrow	24	9 no. 1-bed 1- storey 4 no.1-bed apts. 1 no. 2-bed 1- storey 7 no. 2-bed 2- storey 3 no. 3-bed 2- storey	LCC (Construction)	Tender advertised in Q3 2024.
Moanbaun, Mountrath	17	6 no. 3-bed 2- storey 7 no. 2-bed 2- storey 4 no. 2-bed 1- storey	LCC (Construction)	Stage 2 approved. S179A completed and Stage 3 to be submitted in Q4 2024.
County Hotel, Portlaoise (CALF)	10	8 no. 1-bed apts. 2 no. 2-bed apts.	Cluid Housing	Stage 1 approved. S179A completed and tender to be advertised in Q4 2024.
Tyrrell's Lands, Stradbally Road, Portlaoise	21	Tenure mix - numbers and house types - to be confirmed in detailed design	LCC Social and Affordable	Preliminary Market Consultation complete and development strategy for the delivery of the mixed tenure scheme agreed. Stage 3 to be submitted in Q4 2024.
Bracklone St, Portarlington	11	11 no. 2-bed houses	LCC (Construction)	Stage 2 to be submitted in Q4 2024.
Rushall, Mountrath	3	3 no. 3-bed 2- storey	LCC (Construction)	Stage 2 submitted in Q3 2024
Maryborough School, Stradbally Road, Portlaoise	11	2 no. 2-bed 1- storey 7 no. 2-bed 1- storey 2 no. 1-bed 1- storey	LCC (Construction)	Stage 1 approved. Stage 2 to be progressed in Q4 2024
Main St, Ballinakill	3	2 no. 2-bed 2- storey 1 no. 1-bed apt	LCC (Construction)	Stage 1 approved. Stage 2 to be progressed in Q4 2024
Beladd, Portlaoise	5	1 no. 3-bed 2- storey	LCC (Construction)	Stage 1 approved.

		3 no. 3-bed 2-storey 1 no. 4-bed 2-storey		Stage 2 to be progressed in Q4 2024
Maltings Site, Mountmellick	40	TBC	LCC (Construction)	Stage 1 approved. Stage 2 to be progressed in Q4 2024
TOTAL	219			

SERVICED SITES FOR SELF BUILDERS

Laois County Council is advancing the development of **serviced sites** at a number of locations in the County. Eligibility is determined by reference to criteria set out in the **Croí Conaithe (Township) Fund – Ready to Build Scheme (Serviced Sites for New Homes)**. The following locations are currently complete, in progress or under consideration, all located on lands long-term owned by Laois County Council. Sites to be a minimum of 0.25 acres.

Serviced Sites Completed:

Location	No. of Sites	Comment
Ballacolla Road, Durrow	4	Sites fully serviced.
Gleann na Glaise, Ballyroan	4	Sites fully serviced.
SITES COMPLETED	8	

Serviced Sites In Progress:

Location	No. of Sites	Comment
Doonane	2	Tenders returned in October 24 and evaluation currently on-going. Site boundary fencing to be installed on site in Q4 2024.
Derry Road Durrow	4	Tender currently advertised with return date in Q4 2024 and evaluation to commence in Q4 2024. Site boundaries to installed on site in Q4 2024.
SITES IN PROGRESS	6	

Serviced Sites Under Consideration

Location	No. of Sites	Comment
Castletown	9	Proposal. Detailed design currently on-going.
Clonaslee	2	Proposal.
SITES UNDER CONSIDERATION	11	

Housing Department are actively reviewing possible other sites for consideration to be included in this scheme. Queries regarding serviced sites should be emailed to servicedsites@laoiscoco.ie

HOUSING NEED

Homeless Presentations

Time Periods	Homeless Presentations Households	Breakdown of Household
1 st September 2024 - 30 th September 2024	29	16 Singles & 13 Families

Homeless Accommodation

	Emergency Accommodation Households booked at 30 th September 2024	Social Housing allocated from homelessness in September 2024
Families	1	0
Single Persons	5	0
Total	6	0

Homeless related queries should be emailed to homeless@laoiscoco.ie or housinglcc@laoiscoco.ie

Social Housing List at 11th October, 2024

TOTAL No of Social Housing Applicants on waiting list	1,617
Proportion of SH applicants availing of HAP supports	(660) = 41.9%

Tenancies Created during the period 1st January 2024 – 30th September 2024

Method of Delivery	no. housed
First allocation of New Build/Acquired unit	41
Relet / Refurbished Stock Allocation	55
Housed via leasing	1
AHB Tenancies created (via new build and relet)	107
TOTAL	204

Queries regarding Housing Allocations should be emailed to housingallocations@laoiscoco.ie

LOANS AND GRANTS

Local Authority Home Loan (LAHL)

No of new Loan Applications received since 1 st January 2024	41
No of 'Live' Applications approved at 30 th September 2024	17
No of Applications refused since 1 st January 2024	10

PRIVATE GRANTS

Housing Adaptation Grants at 30th September 2024

Allocation €1,711,089 (€1,368,871 Exchequer + €342,218 LA Own Funds)

	no. of applications received	no. of applications paid	Value of applications paid	no. of applications currently at work stage	Value of applications currently at work stage
HOP	232	132	€622,744.00	96	€497,999.00
MAG	12	5	€17,720.00	2	€5,600.00
HGD	134	76	€599,055.00	72	€522,917.00
TOTAL	378	213	€1,239,519.00	170	€1,026,516.00

Disabled Persons Grant for Social Housing

DPG works at 30th September 2024

Allocation 2024 (including LA funded portion €58,133)	€581,329
No of applications included on 2024 funding submission to Dept of Housing on 29 th Feb 2024	30
Value of the above proposal	€776,135*
Invoices paid to date – 8 invoices	€114,904.01

Purchase orders have been raised to the value of €493,846.21 for 30 properties, this includes the 8 paid to date. Queries in relation to Housing Grants should be emailed to housinggrants@laoiscoco.ie

PLANNING, DEVELOPMENT, ARTS & HERITAGE

PLANNING

Development Management Report

E-Planning Project	81% of the applications received for the period from the 1/1/2024 to the 10/10/2024 have been made online – 603 applications out of a total of 741 applications received during this period		
Planning Applications	Year	Valid applications from 01/01/2024 – 10/10/2024	Valid applications from 01/01/2023– 11/09/2023
		458	419
Total Number of valid applications received:	458		
Number of decisions made	387		
Invalid applications returned to applicant	283		
Number of applications granted:	371 (Decisions to Grant)		

Number of applications refused:	16 (Decisions to Refuse) 4% refusal rate
Files scanned up to	Up to date
Referrals to Area Offices (working days):	within 14 days achieved
No of appeals to ABP	16
PRE PLANNING	
No of requests to date	285
No of meetings held to date	262
Wait time	1 - 2 Weeks

Planning Enforcement

Current year Service Review	2024		2023	
	Sept	Jan - Sept	Sept	Jan - Sept
Total number of new cases subject to complaints that were investigated	13	105	11	123
Number of Warning Letters served	35	296	22	326
Number of Enforcement Notices served	14	101	7	87
No Of cases referred for legal proceedings	2	3	0	11
Number of cases in Court(incl adjournments)	2	42	5	48
Number of cases Resolved in Court	0	10	2	11
Number of Files Closed	10	77	12	89
Number of cases on system	170	170	175	175
Enforcement Costs recouped	€ 600.00	€ 4,596.24	€ 2,300.21	€7,719.97
Number of Valid Retention Applications Received relating to Enforcement Action	1	18	4	28
Fees received through Valid Retention Applications Received relating to Enforcement Action	€302.50	€9,147.26	€6,060.50	€40,685.51
Legal fees paid	€0.00	€4,153.48	€1,436.56	€15,608.48

WASTE MANAGEMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION & RURAL WATER MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT – MAY & JUNE 2024

From October 1st, 2024, the **Control of Dogs (XL Bully) Regulations 2024** prohibit the importing, breeding, selling, and re-homing of XL Bully type dogs. From February 1st, 2025, it will be illegal to own an XL Bully type dog without a Certificate of Exemption.

Applying for a Certificate of Exemption

An Application Form can be obtained from the Environment Section Laois County Council or online at www.laoiscoco.ie

The completed form should be sent by post or email to

Email: environmentadmin@laoiscoco.ie

Postal: Aras an Chontae, James Fintan Lalor Avenue, Portlaoise, Co. Laois

Documentation required for a Certificate of Exemption application:

The following documentation should be included with the application.

- Copy of valid dog licence.
- Copy of microchipping certificate for the dog.
- Veterinary Confirmation of Neutering Status Form.
- Photographic proof of identity (copy of passport, drivers' licence, public services card etc.); and
- Proof of Address (copy of utility bill or bank statement within previous 3 months etc.).

Emergency Planning and Fire Services

In 2024, to date, (15th October) Laois County Fire & Rescue Service attended 596 emergency incidents, consisting of 153 fires, 317 special service incidents and 126 false alarms.

Turnout by Station*:

Portlaoise -269	Portarlinton - 104	Stradbally - 108	Mountmellick - 87
Abbeyleix - 61	Mountrath - 78	Durrow - 65	Rathdowney - 53

Retained Fire Services in Ireland – A Review of Recruitment and Retention and the Future Sustainability of Service Delivery

The WRC Agreement, signed in September 2023, provides for 100 retained Fire Fighters in County Laois. Since the WRC Agreement was signed (Sept 2023), 20 retained fire fighters have been recruited/appointed to Fire and Emergency Services in County Laois. This increases the existing compliment of retained fire fighters to 85. Rostered operations are now in place in all Fire Stations

As of 16th October 2024, there are 15 permanent vacancies in the Laois retained fire service. Open recruitment is ongoing to recruit more fire-fighters and 6 applicants are awaiting places on recruit courses.(Portlaoise, Rathdowney, Abbeyleix, Stradbally). There are a further 8 applications currently on file.

Civil Defence

Volunteers

Civil Defence continues to provide ongoing training and upskilling for volunteers. As of 15th October 2024, the unit has 54 active volunteers who all meet the Minimum Training Standards of the Department of Defence. Recruitment of new volunteers is underway with an induction course planned for November. This recruitment process will aim to increase volunteer numbers to 60 by the end of Q4 2024. Grant aid has been secured from the Department of Defence for the purchase of new water rescue PPE for several volunteers. This grant has upgraded PPE which has reached End of Life.

Activity Report January 1st – 15th October 2024

- 117 Deployments & Events
- 92 Training Events

These included 17 missing person operations, 3 supports to the Ukrainian response, 97 community events.

Winter Training Programme

The units' winter weekly training programme has started with several courses ongoing at present such as First Aid Response, People Handling, Lifejacket Competence and training of additional instructors in Search Management and Missing Person Search Response. The unit's new headquarters has allowed for the expansion of weekly training sessions with a number of different disciplines running back to back each week.

Fleet

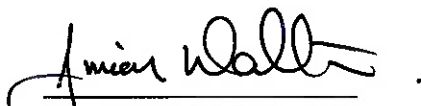
The trail use of Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil as a fuel source for our vehicles has been going well. Currently there are 4 Civil Defence vehicles using this fuel with no performance issues to date.

Finance

The 2024 grant payment has been received from the Department of Defence. The grant allocation for 2024 is €115,000 less deductions of €3,547.24 for Insurance. The total payment received was €111,452.76.

Chief Executive's Orders

- A schedule of Chief Executive Orders signed during the month of October will be circulated.


Simon Walton
Interim Chief Executive

16th October 2024