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## ADDRESS

As Chairperson of the Steering Committee of Louth Joint Policing Committee I present the Joint Policing Committees Annual Report for 2016. I am pleased in presenting the Annual Report to outline the work and considerations of the Counties three Committees during 2016. The growing engagement from the membership with the concept of the Policing Committees as reported in 2015 continued in 2016. The now well embedded structures afford us the opportunity as elected members and community representatives, to engage with the practitioners and strategists in the Local Authority and the Garda Síochána in highlighting issues of policing and public safety that are a challenge in our local communities.

A key contributor to the continued development of the Joint Policing Committee Structures is the spirit of partnership fostered among the committee members. Individual and collective contributions to initiatives promoted by the various committees is tangible evidence of how collaboration between service delivery agencies, the elected members and the Community and Voluntary sector adds value to the service provided to those we serve.

I recognise the difficulty that I as Chairmen and members of the Committees face in engaging the wider community in the work of the Joint Policing Committees. We will continue to host annual public meetings to afford the wider community access to the members of the Joint Policing Committees. It would be remiss not to recognise the key role that officials from An Garda Síochána the Local Authority play in making our communities safer environments for us all to live in. In particular we pay tribute to the Chief Executive and her team and the Chief Superintendent and his team of Superintendents and staff who daily through the community policing programmes and community engagement initiatives are proactive in policing and developing the community capacity. We look forward through our role on the Joint Policing Committees in continuing to support the Garda and Local Authority Officials in their individual and combined roles.

In conclusion, I wish also to pay tribute to Cllr. Jim Loughran, Chairperson of Dundalk Local Policing Forum who retired in late 2016 and to thank him for his contribution to this process over the last number of years.

**Cllr. Paul Bell**  
**Chairman of Louth County Council**



## **BACKGROUND AND LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK**

The Garda Síochána Act 2005 makes provision for the establishment of Joint Policing Committees. The Guidelines issued subsequent to the Act set out to establish the committees based on the experience gained in the pilot areas and on lessons learned from an extensive consultation process commenced in 2007.

The functions of the Joint Policing Committee's are set out in Section 36 (2) of the Garda Síochána Act, which states:

***“The joint policing committee’s function is to serve as a forum for consultations, Discussions and recommendations on matters affecting the policing of the local authority’s administrative area”***

- (a) keep under review—
  - (i) the levels and patterns of crime, disorder and antisocial behaviour in that area (including the patterns and levels of misuse of alcohol and drugs), and
  - (ii) the factors underlying and contributing to the levels of crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour in the area,
- (b) advise the local authority concerned and the Garda Síochána on how they might best perform their functions having regard to the need to do everything feasible to improve the safety and quality of life and to prevent crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour within the area,
- (c) arrange and host public meetings concerning matters affecting the policing of the local authority’s administrative area,
- (d) establish, in consultation with the local Garda Superintendent, as the committee considers necessary within specific neighbourhoods of the area, local policing fora to discuss and make recommendations to the committee concerning matters that it is to keep under review under paragraph (a) or on which it is to advise under paragraph (b), in so far as those matters affect their neighbourhoods, and
- (e) Co-ordinate the activities of local policing fora established under paragraph (d) or otherwise.

## **1. STRATEGIC PLAN, COMMUNITY SAFETY STRATEGY**

### **Theme 1: Building safer communities**

**Goal:** Citizens in County Louth will live safely and peacefully in an inclusive environment and benefit from reduced levels of crime, intimidation, or anti-social behaviour.

#### **The role of the Joint Policing Committee (JPC): What it can do Strategic Priorities**

1. Ensure that adequate structures, appropriate representation and sufficient resources are in place to implement a county-wide community safety strategy
2. Work collaboratively to reduce serious crime and its impact across the county.
3. Reduce the risk of anti-social behaviour in our neighbourhoods, rural communities and town centres, and particularly in PEACE III target areas and other areas of social disadvantage and deprivation.
4. Encourage a sense of community capital, ownership and civic participation in communities across the county with an emphasis on PEACE III target groups, non-Irish nationals and other ethnic minorities.

### **Theme 2: Tackling alcohol and substance misuse**

**Goal:** We will work with existing agencies and their partners to reduce the impact of alcohol, substance misuse and drug-related crime on communities in Co Louth

#### **Strategic Priorities**

- 1 Consideration should be given in a revised JPC structure to reflect representation of the NERDATF, members of the Louth Drugs & Alcohol Forum and statutory and community and voluntary sector partners in County Louth
- 2 Develop a county-wide substance misuse and detoxification strategies in collaboration with other statutory organisations.

### **Theme 3: Nurturing children and young people**

**Goal:** Children and young people will lead fulfilled lives in safe, peaceful and confident communities.

### **Strategic Priorities**

- 1 Work in partnership to ensure that young people engage positively with the justice system.
- 2 Support the provision of safe, friendly, alcohol and drug-free recreational spaces with adequate facilities and appropriate opening times, where children and young people can gather in an inclusive, safe and positive way.

### **Theme 4: Supporting older and vulnerable people**

**Goal:** Older and vulnerable people will feel respected and safe within their communities and enabled to access necessary services.

#### **Strategic Priorities**

- 1 Support the implementation of the Louth Age Friendly strategy.
- 2 Continue to implement An Garda Síochána's Older People's safety strategy in collaboration with the relevant partners.

### **Theme 5: Encouraging integrated communities**

**Goal:** We will foster and support peaceful and safe community co-existence, where new and existing residents adapt to one another and to their local areas, within a shared set of values and purpose.

#### **Strategic Priorities**

- 1 Work in partnership in a systemic way to build a peaceful, safe, inclusive and cohesive society that is tolerant and respectful of diversity.
- 2 Ensure that there is adequate representation of ethnic minority groupings and other PEACE III target groups within the JPC structure.
- 3 Continue to build cultural and attitudinal change through working with the relevant agencies to sustain the PEACE III initiatives and programmes where appropriate.

## 2. ADVICE / RECOMMENDATIONS PROVIDED BY THE JPC TO THE LOCAL AUTHORITY AND GARDAÍ

During the course of 2016, the format of the Garda & Local Authority reports to the committee meetings have been changed to reflect the aims and goals of the respective Policing Plans and Community Safety Strategy. This format provides a statistical basis to any developing trends.

In many instances there has followed debate and discussion on matters that are raised by the members or prompted by the presentations made. The table below illustrates these issues.

Issue	Local Policing Forum
Aggressive Begging	Dundalk

The raising of such issues has allowed for a whole response to the issue to be formed by either the Garda or Local Authority Officer dealing with the specific issue.

Senior Gardaí and Local Authority officials have been proactive in ensuring that staff dealing with specific issues, are available to the JPC members. The attendance of such members has had a positive impact on the engagement with the committees, resulting in more wholesome and informed debate.

Recommendation from the committee in respect of distractive type events at Halloween and Bonfire Night have proven effective in reducing the number of anti social behaviour incidents.

Arising from the public meetings a number of initiatives were actioned by An Garda Síochána to deal with specific issues.

### 3. JOINT POLICING COMMITTEE PUBLIC MEETINGS

Each of the Area Joint Policing Committees hosted a public meeting at which local communities were invited to attend and learn of the work of the Policing Committees and have an opportunity to engage with the members of the committee and highlight directly with senior members of the Garda Síochána and the Local Authority. Committees face a challenge in regard to attendance at Public Meetings. Respective committees are to review Public Meeting format with a view to encouraging greater attendance. Overlaps with Community Alert Groups have impacted on attendances at Public Meetings.

<b>Public Meeting Schedule 2016</b>	
Drogheda and South Louth JPC	21 <sup>st</sup> March, 2016 26 <sup>th</sup> July, 2016 22 <sup>nd</sup> November, 2016
Dundalk and North Louth JPC	5 <sup>th</sup> April , 2016 27 <sup>th</sup> July, 2016 23 <sup>rd</sup> November, 2016
Ardee and Mid Louth JPC	7 <sup>th</sup> April, 2016 28 <sup>th</sup> July, 2016 21 <sup>st</sup> November, 2016



#### 4. MEETING SCHEDULE AND COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Steering Group	27 Feb		
Drogheda & South Louth JPC	24 Apr	10 Jul	9 Oct
Dundalk & North Louth JPC	25 Apr	11 Jul	10 Oct
Ardee & Mid Louth JPC	27 Apr	13 Jul	12 Oct

#### Steering Group Joint Policing Committee

<i>Member</i>	<i>Organisation</i>	<i>Title</i>
Cllr. P. Bell (Chairman)	LCC	Cathaoirleach LCC
Cllr. Kenneth Flood	Drogheda	Drogheda Local Policing Forum
Cllr. John McGahon	Dundalk	Dundalk Local Policing Forum
Cllr. Pearse McGeough	Ardee	Ardee Local Policing Forum
Sean Ward	An Garda Síochána	Chief Superintendent
Gerard Curley	An Garda Síochána	Superintendent
Fergus Treanor	An Garda Síochána	Superintendent
Andrew Watters	An Garda Síochána	Superintendent
Joan Martin	LCC	County Manager
Joe McGuinness	LCC	Director of Services
Paddy Donnelly	LCC	Director of Services
Frank Pentony	LCC	Director of Services
Mary G Reilly	LCC	Administrative Officer

## Drogheda Local Policing Committee

<i>Member</i>	<i>Organisation</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Attendance record</i>
Cllr. Kenneth Flood	Chairperson	Councillor	1
Cllr. Joanna Byrne	Drogheda Local Policy Forum	Councillor	2
Cllr. Richard Culhane	Drogheda Local Policy Forum	Councillor	2
Cllr. Frank Godfrey	Drogheda Local Policy Forum	Councillor	1
Cllr. Oliver Tully	Drogheda Local Policy Forum	Councillor	2
Cllr. Pio Smith	Drogheda Local Policy Forum	Councillor	2
Cllr. Kevin Callan	Drogheda Local Policy Forum	Councillor	0
Cllr. Alan Cassidy	Drogheda Local Policy Forum	Councillor	1
Cllr. Tommy Byrne	Drogheda Local Policy Forum	Councillor	1
Cllr. Paul Bell	Drogheda Local Policy Forum	Councillor	0
Imelda Munster	Oireachtas	T.D.	0
Peter Fitzpatrick	Oireachtas	T.D.	0
Declan Breathnach	Oireachtas	T.D.	0
Gerry Adams	Oireachtas	T.D.	0
Fergus O' Dowd	Oireachtas	T.D.	0
Andrew Watters	An Garda Síochána	Superintendent	1
Tony Mullins	Comm. & Voluntary		2
Flora Okobi	Comm. & Voluntary		2
David McCloskey	Comm. & Voluntary		1
Paddy Donnelly	LLA	Director of Services	2
Mary G Reilly	LLA	Administrative Officer	1

## Dundalk Local Policing Committee

<i>Member</i>	<i>Organisation</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Attendance record</i>
Cllr. John McGahon	Dundalk Local Policing Forum	Councillor	1
Cllr. Jim Loughran	Dundalk Local Policing Forum	Councillor	3
Cllr. Antóin Watters	Dundalk Local Policing Forum	Councillor	1
Cllr. Mark Dearey	Dundalk Local Policing Forum	Councillor	3
Cllr. Jennifer Green	Dundalk Local Policing Forum	Councillor	2
Cllr. Conor Keelan	Dundalk Local Policing Forum	Councillor	2
Cllr. Maeve Yore	Dundalk Local Policing Forum	Councillor	3
Cllr. Marianne Butler	Dundalk Local Policing Forum	Councillor	1
Cllr. Tomás Sharkey	Dundalk Local Policing Forum	Councillor	2
Cllr. Maria Doyle	Dundalk Local Policing Forum	Councillor	2
Cllr. Edel Corrigan	Dundalk Local Policing Forum	Councillor	2
Cllr. Kevin Meenan	Dundalk Local Policing Forum	Councillor	2
Cllr. Peter Savage	Dundalk Local Policing Forum	Councillor	2
Gerry Adams	Oireachtas	T.D.	
Peter Fitzpatrick	Oireachtas	T.D.	
Imelda Munster	Oireachtas	T.D.	
Declan Breathnach	Oireachtas	T.D.	
Fergus O'Dowd	Oireachtas	T.D.	
Gerard Curley	An Garda Síochána	Superintendent	
Brendan Keane	An Garda Síochána	Sergeant	
Matthew McGreehan	Comm. & Voluntary		
Frank Watters	Comm. & Voluntary		
John Temple	Comm. & Voluntary		
Pat McVeigh	Comm. & Voluntary		
Frank Pentony	LLA	Director of Services	
Mary G Reilly	LLA	Administrative Officer	

## Ardee Local Joint Policing Committee

Member	Organisation	Title	Attendance record
Cllr. Pearse McGeough	Ardee Local Policing Forum	Councillor	3/3
Cllr. Tom Cunningham	Ardee Local Policing Forum	Councillor	3/3
Cllr. Colm Markey	Ardee Local Policing Forum	Councillor	2/3
Cllr. Dolores Minogue	Ardee Local Policing Forum	Councillor	2/3
Cllr. Liam Reilly	Ardee Local Policing Forum	Councillor	2/3
Cllr. Jim Tenanty	Ardee Local Policing Forum	Councillor	3/3
Gerry Adams	Oireachtas	T.D.	
Peter Fitzpatrick	Oireachtas	T.D.	
Declan Breathnach	Oireachtas	T.D.	
Imelda Munster	Oireachtas	T.D.	
Fergus O'Dowd	Oireachtas	T.D.	
Fergus Treanor	An Garda Síochána	Superintendent	
Hugh Conlon	Comm. & Voluntary		
Denis Brennan	Comm. & Voluntary		
Joe McGuinness	LLA	Director of Services	
Mary G Reilly	LLA	Administrative Officer	