



Comhairle Contae Lú
Louth County Council

LOUTH COUNTY COUNCIL - CORPORATE POLICY GROUP

Minutes of the Corporate Policy Group Meeting held in the Setanta Meeting Room, County Hall, on Wednesday, 16th April 2025 at 9:00am

In attendance:

Cathaoirleach, Cllr: Kevin Callan

Members, Cllrs: James Byrne
Rachel Kerley
Kevin Meenan
Robert Nash
James Byrne
Pio Smith

Apologies:

Officials: David Conway, Chief Executive
Joe McGuinness, Director of Services
David Jones, Director of Services
Thomas McEvoy, Director of Services
Ger Murphy, Director of Services
Bernie Woods, Director of Finance
Sinéad Dooley, Meetings Administrator

1. Minutes of Meeting held on 11th March 2025

The minutes of the Corporate Policy Group meeting held on 11th March were confirmed on the:-

Proposal of: Cllr. Kevin Meenan
Seconded by: Cllr. Rachel Kerley
And approved

2. Matters arising

None

3. Members Allocations

Noted

4. To consider and recommend conferences and events

The list of conferences and events was noted.

5. Council Meeting Agenda

Director of Services, Joe McGuinness presented the April Council Meeting Agenda to the Members and highlighted specific matters, including:

- Strategic Policy Committee Chairpersons Reports – it was noted that reports will be forthcoming from Cllr Kevin Meenan on Social Development and Cllr James Byrne on Climate Change & Sustainability respectively.
- Nomination required to fill vacancy arising on the Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee.
- The 2024 Annual Financial Statement which sets out transfers to and from capital will be before Members for approval.
- Amenity Grants 2025 will be before Members for approval.
- Louth Local Community Development Committee Annual Report 2024 for noting.

6. Circular LG 07/2025 Elected Members Training

The importance of *Circular LG 07/2025 Elected Members Training*, which requires each local authority to adopt a Training and Development Programme for Elected Members, was highlighted. Members were invited to share any feedback they may have on the contents of the Circular in advance of next month's CPG meeting, at which it will be discussed further.

7. Protocol for dealing with complaints against made against Elected Members

Members were advised of the significance of the recently updated *Protocol for Dealing with Complaints Made Against Elected Members of Louth County Council*. The protocol is intended to deal with complaints of contravention of the Code of Conduct of Councillors and Members were requested to share the protocol with their Party Members.

8. Hybrid Meeting – Infrastructure Supports for Local Authorities

On foot of communications from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage inviting applications for funding for the installation of IT infrastructure to facilitate hybrid meetings from main Council Chambers, Members' views were sought in respect of 'Live Broadcast' of Council meetings. It was considered that as there has been no 'on mass' public attendance at meetings and that the public has always been comfortably facilitated in the Public Gallery that there is no current requirement to commence live broadcasting of Council meetings. It was, nevertheless, agreed to review the matter on an ongoing basis.

9. Road Safety Working Together Group

In line with Action 94 of the *Government Road Safety Strategy for 2021-2030* Louth County Council established a *Road Safety Working Together Group* to co-ordinate a multi-agency road safety policy and its implementation at a local level. The Group, which last met before the 2024 Local Government Elections, included three Elected Members, one from each of the Municipal/Borough Districts. There is now a requirement to seek representatives from the new Council, one from each of the Municipal/Borough Districts, and it was agreed that approval/confirmation of nominees would be included on respective May meeting agendas.

10. Request to Present to full Council – Safe Ireland Mary McDermott

Members considered a request received from the Chief Executive of Safe Ireland, Mary McDermott, to present to full Council on '*Building a County-Based response to Domestic Violence*'. It was agreed that, subject to her availability, Ms McDermott be invited to present in advance of the next Council meeting scheduled to take place 28th April.

11. Mayoral Awards

The intention to present Mayoral Awards on 12th May was noted. A collated list of nominated awardees is to be circulated to CPG Members via email for consideration.

12. Nomination Request for the Presidential Election

On foot of receiving a nomination request for the forthcoming Presidential Election it was determined that the process to be applied in considering Nomination Requests needed to be established and agreed. A proposal document, taking account of previous processes applied and processes applied by other Local Authorities, will be compiled for consideration at the next CPG meeting.

13. Members Communication Plan

Members were advised that there are 32 outstanding reps. Members were invited to provide feedback and all advised that they currently had no issues to highlight and complimented the improved response time to queries.

14. Strategic Policy Committees - Work Programmes

Members were reminded to ensure that SPC Work Programmes were brought to the CPG for approval.

15. Any Other Business

Letter to Revenue Commissioners

- Cllr Callan raised communication received from Cllr Reilly requesting that the Council write to the Revenue Commissioners inviting them to attend a Council meeting to discuss (i) the

lack of in-person facilities for elderly/disabled people and (ii) the dumping of diesel sludge. As it was considered that the scope of Cllr Reilly's request had changed from a previous agreed action it was not considered appropriate to write to the Revenue Commissioners until the matter was discussed further with Cllr Reilly.

Civic Reception

- The recent County Council Civic Reception for Kate O'Connor and Eve McCrystal was commended and noted as having been positively received.

Retirement of Director of Services, Joe McGuinness

- The forthcoming retirement of Director of Services, Joe McGuinness was noted and Members acknowledged his achievements throughout his tenure with Louth County Council and expressed their appreciation for all his guidance and assistance over the years.

The Minutes were confirmed at a meeting of the Corporate Policy Group held on:

Date:

7th ~~Apr~~ MAY '25

Cathaoirleach:

W. Callan

Meetings Administrator:

Sinead Dwyer