



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 Thursday, 8th January 2026 at 9:30am

In attendance:

Cathaoirleach, Cllr: Seán Kelly

Members, Cllrs: Rachel Kerley, Kevin Meenan, Robert Nash, Pío Smith

Officials: Thomas McEvoy, Deputy Chief Executive
Joanna Kelly, Acting Director of Services
Bernadette Woods, Director of Services
David Hanratty, Acting Director of Services
Ger Murphy, Director of Services
Bryan Coughlan, Senior Executive Officers
Sinéad Dooley, Meetings Administrator

Apologies: Cllr Byrne
David Conway, Chief Executive Officer
David Jones, Director of Services

1. Minutes of Meeting held on 4th December 2025

The minutes of the Corporate Policy Group meeting held on 4th December 2025 were confirmed as

Proposed by: Cllr. Robert Nash
Seconded by Cllr. Rachel Kerley
And approved

2. Matters Arising

Cllr Kelly requested an update on the draft Meeting Room Policy and on the provision of private meeting spaces at the Civic Offices, Fair Street, Drogheda. He further asked that the matter be scheduled for further discussion and consideration at next month's CPG meeting.

3. SPC Work Programme – Update from each SPC Chair

- **Social Development**– Members were advised that the 2026 Work Programme for the Social Development SPC was considered at the meeting held on 16th December. It was proposed that the SPC would focus on the following priority areas: (1) Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy, (2) Library Service Development Plan, (3) Progress on Housing Delivery, (4) Progress on Rent Management, (5) Regional Homelessness Action Plan, and (6) Arts Plan. It was noted that item (1) constitutes the principal work priority for 2026, with items (3) and (4) high on the agenda, and

items (2), (5) and (6) mandatory work items.

- Community and Placemaking – Cllr. Nash advised that the Community and Placemaking SPC met on 11th December to agree its Work Programme for 2026. Priority items will include (1) Road Safety Action Plan, (2) Urban Speed Limit Review, (3) Memorial Policy, (4) Cemetery Byelaws, (5) Active Louth Play Policy, (6) Management of Construction Works in Public Realm – Review of existing policy, (7) Review of Street Performers Byelaws.

4. Council Meeting Agenda

Acting Director of Services, Joanna Kelly, presented the December Council Meeting Agenda to the Members and highlighted specific matters arising, including:

- S183 – Proposed Disposal of Fee Simple interest in a property at Fair Street, Drogheda,
- Notice of Motions and Questions as submitted

Ms Kelly also advised of the intention to include an agenda item seeking a nomination for the position of Chairperson of the Strategic Policy Committee for Climate Change and Sustainability.

5. Members Allocations

None for noting.

6. Attendance at Conferences and Events

Members noted the schedule of Conferences and Events as presented. Clarification was provided regarding the naming of the Irish Mayors' Conference, as raised at the December meeting of the full Council. It was further noted that, in accordance with Sections 142 and 143 of the Local Government Act 2001, authorisation for attendance at conferences is a reserved function of the Council and requires formal approval, having regard to the likely benefits, the interests of the local community, and the total cost involved.

7. Civic Protocols

A draft Civic Protocols Handbook was circulated in advance of the meeting. Cllr Kelly indicated that there were a number of wording amendments he wished to propose and requested that Members be afforded additional time to consider the draft document prior to its approval. It was clarified that the document was not for formal ratification by Members, but rather constituted an Executive procedural document intended to provide clarity on certain functions.

8. Update on Planning Matters

Deputy Chief Executive, Mr Thomas McEvoy, advised that the Chief Executive's Report on the 463 submissions received on the County Development Plan would be completed by 22 January and issued to Members. It was noted that Members will have a period of ten weeks to consider the report.

He further advised of a Cabinet decision to approve a transitional legislative amendment to allow local authorities to continue or commence County Development Plans under the existing Planning and Development Act 2000 until the new Planning and Development Act 2024 has commenced. This decision was taken as several local authorities were legally required to begin new development plans in 2025–2026, but the new Act—intended to overhaul the plan-making system—is not yet in force.

9. Any other business

- Cllr Kelly advised that he had received written correspondence from the President of the Association of Irish Local Government (AILG) requesting an opportunity for the AILG to present to the members of Louth County Council at the Plenary Council Meeting scheduled for Monday the 16th of February 2026. It is understood that the AILG is meeting directly with elected members in every local authority as part of a nationwide Communication and Engagement Roadshow.

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

Date:

5th FEB '26

Cathaoirleach:

[Signature]

Meetings Administrator:

Sinead Dooley