



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, 9<sup>th</sup> July 2025 at 9:00am

### **In attendance:**

**Cathaoirleach, Cllr:** Seán Kelly

**Members, Cllrs:** James Byrne (online), Kevin Meenan (online), Robert Nash (online), Pío Smith

**Officials:** David Conway, Chief Executive  
Thomas McEvoy, Deputy Chief Executive & Director of Services  
David Jones, Director of Services  
Declan Grimes, Acting Director of Services  
Joanna Kelly, Acting Director of Services  
David Hanratty, Acting Director of Services  
Bernie Woods, Director of Finance  
Mark Johnston, Senior Engineer  
Susan Deery, Deputy Meetings Administrator

### **Apologies:**

**Members, Cllrs:** Rachel Kerley

**Officials:**

### **1. Minutes of Meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> June 2025**

The minutes of the Corporate Policy Group meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> June were not adopted due to non-attendance of members who were present at the meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> June. Their adoption has been deferred to the September CPG meeting.

### **2. Matters arising**

None

### **3. Council Meeting Agenda**

Chief Executive, David Conway presented the July Council Meeting Agenda to the Members and highlighted specific matters, including:

- Requirement for outstanding SPC Reports to be presented. It was noted the Planning and

Community & Placemaking SPC's met recently. The Climate Action SPC will meet in late July which will result in their Work Programme being presented at the September meeting.

- Local Property Tax re-evaluation resulting in an increase of €600,000 additional income to be received from the Department, however, there is a requirement for the local authority to notify the Revenue Commissioners of the council decision to increase/decrease the baseline by end of August. Therefore, a decision will be required at the July council meeting. It was agreed that the Director of Finance would prepare a presentation for the July Council Meeting.
- It was agreed that, as there may be a requirement for a Special Local Property Tax meeting in August, provisions would be made to accommodate same, should it be required.
- Meetings Administrator to prepare a list of outstanding Section 141 Reports for CPG members.
- Discussion on the Proposed Disposal of Fee Simple Interest in property at Duleek Street, Drogheda was discussed.
- It was agreed that a presentation would be prepared for members around the Community Safety Partnership legislation. It was noted that Guidelines are yet to be published.
- It was requested that the Executive advise the members of the sections under each Directorate in a bid to ensure issues are raised at the appropriate time under discussion on the Chief Executive Report.
- Notices of Motions were discussed with the Chief Executive advising Members of the risk of litigation arising from the wording of Cllr Fiona Mhic Conchoille's Motion. This was noted by members.

#### **4. To consider and recommend conferences and events**

Members were advised that a Placemaking Conference was taking place in Italy from 23<sup>rd</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> September, however, before final approval the Conference budget for the member should be examined to ascertain sufficient funds available.

#### **5. To Note Members Allocations**

Members noted the allocations which were then proposed by Councillor Pio Smith and seconded by Councillor Robert Nash.

#### **6. Members Communication Plan**

The Chief Executive, David Conway advised Members of the introduction of a new Customer Relation Management (CRM) System which will be introduced by 1<sup>st</sup> October 2025.

Members were advised that there were 37 outstanding reps.

#### **7. Consideration of Amended Motion from Council Meeting of 16<sup>th</sup> June**

Joanna Kelly, Acting Director of Services proposed to members that a document would be prepared on this matter and brought back to CPG for discussion. This was agreed by the members.

#### **8. Reminder on Presentation to full Council on 21<sup>st</sup> July 2025 – Mary McDermott, Safe Ireland**

Members were reminded of the presentation by Safe Ireland scheduled to take place before the July Council meeting on the morning of 21<sup>st</sup> July and requested that a reminder be sent to all

Members in advance of the meeting.

## 9. Community Safety Partnership

This item was dealt with under "Council Meeting Agenda".

## 10. SPC Work Programmes

Deputy Chief Executive, Thomas McEvoy advised that the Planning and Support Infrastructure SPC are currently preparing a Rates Waiver Scheme Incentive which will be presented to Members at the budget meeting.

## 11. Any other Business

- A discussion took place on the scheduling of future CPG Meetings. A formal agreement was not reached.
- A discussion was held regarding an executive proposal to assign a Councillor the responsibility of overseeing Twinning throughout their term, with the aim of fostering and maintaining consistent relationships.
- A request for a copy of the Failte Ireland report was received with confirmation from Deputy Chief Executive, Thomas McEvoy that the report had been received by the Local Authority, however, no permission was granted to share the report. The Chief Executive suggested that the report is examined to establish if anything could be reflected in the Tourism Strategy.
- It was indicated that the Budget Workshop would be held on the first week in September with a date to be confirmed.
- Members were advised of invitations for two foreign events:
  - Saint Mandé Twinning (Drogheda)
  - Invitation to Cathaoirleach and Municipal District of Dundalk Cathaoirleach to the EU Funded Sister & Partners Cities Conference in Hungary on 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> September 2025Attendance at both events were:

**Approved by:** Cllr Pio Smith

**Seconded by:** Cllr Robbie Nash.

**And Agreed**

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

Date: 4<sup>th</sup> Sept '25

Cathaoirleach: 

Meetings Administrator: 