



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, 7th May 2025 at 9:00am

In attendance:

Cathaoirleach, Cllr: Kevin Callan

Members, Cllrs: Rachel Kerley (Online)
Kevin Meenan (Online)
Robert Nash

Apologies: Cllr James Byrne, Cllr Pio Smith

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

1. Minutes of Meeting held on 16th April 2025

The minutes of the Corporate Policy Group meeting held on 16th April were confirmed on the:-

Proposal of: Cllr. Robert Nash
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 May Council Meeting Agenda to the Members and highlighted specific matters, including:

- Strategic Policy Committee Chairpersons Reports – it was noted that a report will be forthcoming from Cllr Robert Nash on Placemaking & Physical Development.
- Draft Annual Report 2024 for consideration in accordance with Section 221 of the Local Government Act 2001.
- Chief Executive Report - which has been reviewed in an effort to shorten the length of the report and ensure focus is maintained on activities and achievements of the preceding month.

6. Executive Team Update

Chief Executive, David Conway, provided a brief presentation on proposed new Directorate Structures and advised Members that Director of Services, Thomas McEvoy has been appointed as Deputy Chief Executive following a call for expressions of interest in the position.

7. Presidential Nomination Process

Director of Services, Joe McGuinness, provided an outline of for the implications for Louth County Council in the Presidential nomination process. Namely that:

- The overall process is governed by the Presidential Elections, Act 1993.
- A nomination may be made if four valid nomination papers are submitted to the Presidential Returning Officer, each nominating the same person to be a candidate, in pursuance of a resolution passed by four individual County Councils.
- The decision of an individual Council of a county may be to resolve by resolution to nominate one named person to be a candidate at a presidential election. In undertaking that process the members must get 3 days' notice of that intention to consider that resolution.
- In the past Louth County Council invited prospective candidates who made application to the Council for nomination, to a Meeting of Council. Each was allowed address Council before the members made a decision on whether to nominate a single candidate or not nominate anybody.
- The decision to support a nomination would be governed by Louth County Council Standing Orders (No.46) and therefore could be by voice where the decision is unanimous, show of hands or roll call vote, with simple majority applying.

8. To Agree Dates for Annual Meeting of Council and Municipal Districts

Annual meetings for Council and Municipal/Borough Districts to take place in June, dates to be agreed at Council and Municipal/Borough Districts accordingly.

9. Members Communication Service

Members were advised that there are 39 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.

10. SPC Work Programmes

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

11. Any other Business

- It was noted that Judicial Review Proceedings had commenced in respect of the Dundalk Local Area Plan.
- Cllr Callan requested that the Chains of Office be reinstated to the Chairs of Ardee and Dundalk Municipal Districts.
- Head of Finance, Bernie Woods advised that the recently published Heads of the Finance (Local Property Tax) (Amendment) Bill 2025 provide for the widening of valuation bands. No formal regulations have been made and the current legislation remains unchanged. Ms. Woods will keep Members updated on the progress of the Heads of Bill through the Houses of the Oireachtas.

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

Date:

4th June '25

Cathaoirleach:

Heidi Callan

Meetings Administrator:

Sinead Doolley