

Louth County Council

Minutes of Social Development Strategic Policy Committee meeting held on Tuesday, 16th of September 2025 in the Magdalene Tower room, Civic Buildings, Fair Street Drogheda at 3pm.

- Present:** Cllr. Kevin Meenan (Chairperson)
Cllr. Anne-Marie Ford
Cllr. Eric Donovan
Cllr. Maeve Yore
Amina Ndoye
Grainne Murphy
- In Attendance:** Elizabeth Peña, Principal Officer, Cuan
- Officials:** Ger Murphy, Director of Services
Declan Grimes, Senior Engineer
Moya Hodgers, Arts Officer
Christine Mullen, Administrative Officer
Paula Keenan, Administrative Officer
Michelle Murray, Senior Staff Officer
Linda McHugh, Senior Staff Officer
Catherine Treanor, Assistant Staff Officer
- Apologies:** Cllr. Jim Tenanty
Barbara Rajska
Colm O'Hanrahan
Damien Mc Kenna
Monica Murphy
Amanda Branigan
John Lawrence

Welcome & Introduction

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. All in attendance introduced themselves and the Chair provided an overview of the agenda.

Confirmation of Minutes of SPC Meeting held on 25th March 2025

A hard copy of the minutes of the previous meeting was circulated and were proposed by the Chair and seconded by Cllr. Yore.

Presentation from Cuan Agency (Department of Justice)

Elizabeth Peña, Principal Officer for Service Delivery and Development from Cuan (Department of Justice) provided an overview of the development of the agency and delivery of services in the prevention of domestic, sexual and gender-based violence and the protection of all victims and survivors. It was highlighted that 1,600 adults are supported by

the DV services in Co. Louth. Ms. Pena provided an overview of the aims and objectives of the agency over the lifetime of its current strategy.

Ms. Pena provided a short brief on the Women's Aid Dundalk project which is currently at Stage 3 application stage and will deliver 12 safe house units in 2025/2026 at a cost of €6.7 million. The project is being led by Women's Aid Dundalk with the support of Cuan, and with assistance of Louth County Council.

Following the presentation there was discussion in relation to the main items raised including the Women's Aid Dundalk project.

Draft Public Art Policy 2025 – 2030

Moya Hodgers, Arts Officer provided an overview of the Draft LCC Public Art Policy 2025 – 2030 including the following: (a) framework for the management and development of Public Art in Louth, (b) formalising systems & structures for the Percent for Art funding, and (c) the commissioning of artwork, purchasing, residency programmes & participative programming.

Moya confirmed the formation of an advisory group which will provide support and feedback to the Arts Office who will co-ordinate the public art process. It was noted that although there have been many Percent for Art funding projects in the county there is limited expertise in the area and so it has been decided to engage the services of Vincent O'Shea as public art facilitator, to advise on projects thus allowing the best use of funding.

Following the presentation the committee members raised a number of queries which were responded to by the officials following which the committee members endorsed the policy document. While the document is not a reserved function of the members it was noted that it would be brought to the next meeting of the Council for noting.

Draft Revised Allocation Scheme

Ger Murphy, Director of Services, provided an overview of the draft revised Allocation Scheme.

The document has been prepared in accordance with section 22 of the Housing Miscellaneous Provision Act 2009 – Allocation Regulations and has been revised and updated in order to reflect changes in legislation, technical amendments, the facility for 'rightsizing', and in order to emphasis the proportionality as to how units would be allocated including transfers.(if so far as feasible).

Following the provision of an overview of the revised document, which has not been revised since 2017, the Director of Services and the officials responded to a number of queries from the committee members. The Director of Services provided detail on the breakdown of the allocation of units e.g. 60% for general needs, 10% for disability, 10% for elderly, 10% for transfer and 10% for homelessness. He advised that in terms of general needs, CBL would be utilized in so far as practical. It was noted by the Director of Services that while it is understood that a national rightsizing scheme may be under development nationally, it is important that the is provision of same outlined in the revised scheme as there may be

opportunities to implement both public and private rightsizing in the short-medium term. An overview of rightsizing for local authority tenants and private homeowners was then outlined.

The officials responded to queries in relation to successions to tenancies and permission to reside as well as transfers – particularly in relation to two reasonable offers of a transfer to applicants and implications for applicants should both offers be declined.

On a side note, it was outlined that the Estate Management team will shortly commence work on reviewing the tenancy handbook and anti-social behaviour strategy. It is intended to bring draft versions of same to the SPC in the first half of 2026.

The document was proposed by Cllr. Yore and seconded by Chair Cllr. Meenan. It was agreed that it would be brought forward to the next full Council meeting for consideration and adoption.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Minutes confirmed on:

Date: 16-12-25

Cllr. Kevin Meenan (Chairperson)

Signed: 

