Louth County Council

Minutes of Social Development Strategic Policy Committee meeting held on Tuesday, 16th of December 2025 in the Cooley Room, County Hall, Dundalk at 3pm.

Present: Cllr. Kevin Meenan (Chairperson)

Cllr. Anne-Marie Ford
Cllr. Eric Donovan
Grainne Murphy

Officials: Ger Murphy, Director of Services
Declan Grimes, Senior Engineer
Christine Mullen, Acting Senior Executive Officer
Eileen McDermot, Senior Executive Librarian
Paula Keenan, Administrative Officer
Catherine Treanor, Assistant Staff Officer

Apologies: Cllr. Jim Tenanty
Cllr. Maeve Yore
Amina Ndoye
Barbara Rajska
Colm O 'Hanrahan
Damien Mc Kenna
Monica Murphy

Welcome & Introduction

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and provided an overview of the agenda.

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

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

Housing Capital Delivery Update

Declan Grimes, Senior Engineer provided an update on the Housing Delivery Programme, outlining delivery targets for the period 2022 – 2026. It was highlighted that the targets for 2025 were significantly exceeded. Under the Housing for All delivery programme the target was: 172 units, yet 562 would be delivered. It was noted that the projected target for 2026 is 175 and the Council is on projected to deliver 556.

The new National Housing Plan: *Delivering Homes, Building Communities 2025-2030* was noted. Social Housing Targets for Louth County Council for period 2025-2030 will be set by Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage. Delivery of the targets will be met by a range of measures including LA build, turnkeys, Part V & partnerships with AHB's.

The presentation outlined current schemes under construction including Mount Avenue Dundalk where 93 units would be delivered in 2026. Boice Court, Mell, Drogheda had 13 units delivered in 2025 and a further 59 units to be delivered in 2026.

Under the Accelerated Delivery Programme, the developments at Bakery View Drogheda, Greenhills Grange Drogheda, Ravel Drive Dunleer and An Mullach Louth Village were noted. Also discussed was the Social Housing PPP Programme at Ballymakenny East, Drogheda, which will see the construction of 130 social housing units. The newly constructed Traveller Group Housing units at Derryveigh and Clontygora, Dundalk were also noted. The presentation concluded by showcasing a number of Turnkey Developments across the county.

The Chair thanked Declan for the presentation and introduced the next speaker, Paula Kennan, Administrative Officer.

Estate Management – Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy (2026)

Paula Keenan, Administrative outlined the statutory requirement to update the ASB Strategy and explained why a new Strategy is needed specifically in relation to data, engagement with tenants, partnerships & collaborations with other groups and organisations, communication with tenants & enforcement in relation to anti-social behaviour.

Paula advised that a new partnership structure would have the potential to strengthen engagement within our estates and to modernise how the Council collects data to inform decisions and enhance enforcement pathways. While the legislative framework remains the same, local needs have changed in terms of greater complexities in terms of antisocial behaviour and vulnerabilities. It was noted there is a strong collaboration with An Garda Síochána which LCC envisages building on going forward. The presentation highlighted the need for improvements in data collection, as data is key when addressing anti-social behavior. A 'balanced model' will see the creation of two pillars - Prevention & Support /Enforcement.

The presentation outlined the importance of building and improving on residence associations. It was noted this will take time, but it key to the strategy. The strategy will also consider innovative ways in which residents can report ASB without the fear of being targeted. One area up for discussion is a 'community report' rather than an individual statement thereby giving anonymity to the complainant.

The draft timeline for the development of the strategy was outlined as follows:
1. Feb–Mar 2026: establish & launch the Tenant Forum, project initiation & facilitator to be appointed
2. Apr–May 2026: countywide consultation
3. June–2026: SPC co-design workshops & draft strategy development
4. July-Sept 2026: graphic design, Housing SPC approval & adoption by Council

It was agreed that the ASB Strategy should be a standing item on Housing SPC Agenda for 2026 – to facilitate Co-Design Approach. The presentation concluded with an overview of newly updated tenant handbook. The new handbook is a mix of practical information, rules & regulations. It provides a clear insight into what can be expected from LCC and in turn what is expected from the tenant. The new handbook will be available in hardcopy and a QR code keyring will be given to all new tenants for quick access.

The Chair thanked Paula and the floor was handed over to Eileen McDermot, Senior Executive Librarian.

Library Service Development Programme

Eileen McDermot, Senior Executive Librarian, introduced herself as she was recently appointed. Eileen provided an overview of the route to developing a new Library Service Development Plan. She acknowledged that library services have evolved considerably in recent years and the confirmed the future plan will be pragmatic & ambitious with citizens interests at the core. It is essential that we capture the voice of those who do not use our services, therefore engagement is key. High level themes are required, and it is essential that these translate into concrete, practical & achievable actions. Also discussed was the importance of proactive & critical evaluation to ensure improvements going forward.

Important documentation for reference includes: '*Library is The Place*' which outlines the national strategy from 2023-27. This is the core document for libraries issued by the LGMA and the second is '*The Public Library Standards & Benchmarks*'. '*The State of the Estate*' examines the quality of resources available. This is a nationwide survey of County Librarians on every element of services provided e.g. building, IT, Irish language provision etc.

Public consultation will go live in January 2026. This will include stakeholder consultation including the elected members and the SPC. Engagement will take place with all library service staff members in order to get their insight and buy-in to the plan. There will be 20+ focus group consultations, from adult learners, and a range of groups through the county.

The Chair thanked Eileen for her presentation.

SPC Work Programme 2026

Ger Murphy, Director of Services outlined a suggested workplan for 2026 as follows to which the committee members agreed:

1. Anti-Social Behavioural Strategy
2. Library Service Development Plan
3. Housing Delivery Programme
4. Debt Management
5. Regional Homeless Action Plan
6. Arts Plan

The Chair thanked the officials for their presentations, and this concluded the business of the meeting.

Minutes confirmed on: Date: 16-03-26

Cllr. Kevin Meenan (Chairperson) Signed: Kevin Meenan