



Comhairle Contae Lú
Louth County Council

Louth County Council November Meeting

Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of Louth County Council hosted in the Council Chamber of Co. Hall, Dundalk on Monday, 18th December 2023, at 10:00a.m.

In Attendance:

Presiding: Cathaoirleach: Councillor Paula Butterly

Members: Councillors: Marianne Butler, James Byrne, Joanna Byrne, Kevin Callan, Tom Cunningham, Emma Cutlip, Conor Keelan, Seán Kelly, Pearse McGeough, Andrea McKevitt, Kevin Meenan, Dolores Minogue, Robert Nash, Declan Power, Liam Reilly John Sheridan, John Reilly, Jim Tenanty, Eileen Tully, Antóin Watters, Maeve Yore

Apologies: Councillors: Emma Coffey, Bernie Conlon, Edel Corrigan, Michelle Hall, Paddy McQuillan, Tomás Sharkey, Pío Smith,

Officials: Joan Martin, Chief Executive
Joe McGuinness, Director of Services
Gráinne Tuomey, Meeting Administrator
Bernie Woods, Director of Services
Eamon Woulfe, A/Director of Services
Yvonne O'Brien, A/Director of Services
David Jones, Director of Services
Ger Murphy, Director of Services
Joanna Kelly, Senior Planner
Mark Johnson, Senior Engineer
Finbar Gethins, Senior Executive Officer
Colette Moss, Senior Executive Officer

Minute No. 201/23

Minutes from Monthly Meeting held on 20th November 2023

Proposed by: Cllr Liam Reilly
Seconded by: Cllr Maeve Yore
And Approved

Minute No. 202/23

Matters Arising

None

Minute No. 203/23

Minutes from Budget Meeting held on 20th November 2023

Proposed by: Cllr Liam Reilly
Seconded by: Cllr John Sheridan
And Approved

Minute No. 204/23

Minutes of District Meetings – Noted

- Municipal District of Ardee 2nd November 2023
- Borough District of Drogheda 6th November 2023
- Municipal District of Dundalk 7th November 2023

Minute No. 205/23

Minutes of Committee Meetings – Noted

- Community, Quality of Life & Creativity Strategic Policy Committee 7th June 2023
- Audit Committee Meeting 21st June 2023
- Audit Committee Meeting 28th September 2023
- Corporate Policy Group 8th November 2023

Minute No. 206/23

Report from Chairpersons of Corporate Policy Group

The Cathaoirleach reported on the December CPG meeting.

Minute No. 207/23

Report from Chairpersons of Strategic Policy Committees

Reports were given on the following SPC meetings by respective Chairs of SPC

- Housing SPC Meeting of 21st November by Cllr Joanna Byrne
- Climate Change and Energy Meeting of 27th November by Cllr Liam Reilly

Council Members were updated on items discussed and presentations given at both meetings.

Minute No. 208/23

Freastal ar Chomhdhálacha a Cheadú / Approval of Attendance at Conferences

Proposed by: Cllr Liam Reilly
Seconded by: Cllr Jim Tenanty
And resolved

Minute No. 209/23

Allocation of Members Community Grants provided for under Section 66 of the Local Government Act 2001

Approval of the grants as presented on the agenda before them was:

Proposed by: Cllr Liam Reilly
Seconded by: Cllr John Sheridan
And resolved

Minute No. 210/23

Compliance with Section 141 of the Local Government Act, 2001, as amended

Members were advised of two outstanding annual reports for the following groups:

- Eastern & Midland Regional Assembly – Cllrs Conor Keelan and Emma Coffey
- Governance/Oversight Committee of the Dublin Belfast Economic Corridor –Cllrs Emma Cutlip, Bernie Conlon and Seán Kelly

Cllr Keelan stated he would talk to the Director of Services Joe McGuinness on this and was reminded that his reporting obligation was to the Elected Members and not the Executive. Cllr Keelan then reiterated that he would speak to the Director.

Minute No. 211/23

Draft Climate Action Plan

David Hanratty Senior Executive Officer and Rory Sheehan Climate Officer presented Members with an overview of the draft Climate Action Plan, which they advised followed guidelines issued by the Minister. Members were reminded that the Draft Plan was currently open for submissions until the 20th December, and contained 79 proposed actions.

A Q&A session followed the presentation with the climate action team being thanked for their work to date. Items highlighted included an ongoing strategic review of the council fleet with consultants currently onsite examining all aspects of fleet from vehicles used -v- needed to preferential fuel types.

Minute No. 212/23

Consideration of Reports and Recommendations from Chief Executive Monthly Management Report

Members considered the Report as presented to them, raised questions, and received responses from the Executive.

The following items were highlighted under the relevant Directorates:

Support Services

- Members were updated on the status of the Master Agreement between Louth County Council and Uisce Eireann. The Executive raised concerns about future recoupable monies that currently fund Central Management Charges.

- Members were encouraged to use the Elected Rep Contact system of Uisce Eireann to raise any queries

Strategic Economic Development

- Members again praised recent events such as Frostival, and the Lú Festival.
- Members were updated on the expected appointment of a Tourist Officer in January, whose role it is foreseen will be roving capacity as required around the county
- Comments on encouraging history and a suggestion around reenactment of the demise of Robert the Bruce were made
- Application for funding for Dunleer Fire station is with the Department

Placemaking & Physical Development

- Obelisk Bridge is progressing within planned time frame with expected completion in May 2024
- Two Multihog road sweepers are arriving to the County today
- Narrow Water Bridge funding request is with the Department and response awaited
- Development of Data Sharing Agreements on Traffic Collision Data are ongoing. This poses issues with evidence-based planning for Low-Cost Safety works and the Executive are considering other options to inform spend priorities
- Background works are ongoing on a Speed Limit Byelaw Review for Louth, in the interim National Reviews on Speed Limits are also ongoing and may affect local Byelaws which are due for adoption in May 2024
- An online non statutory meeting with various stakeholders on recent floods and possible mitigations against future flooding can be accommodated
- Parking signage at the night Taxi Rank on Park Street will be reviewed
- A response from the Department indicates that no funding will be provided for an extension to the LIS scheme for private road owners affected by recent flooding. Many members spoke to express disappointment with the government's decision not to assist landowners many of whom rely on being able to use the roads to access farms

Organisational Development

- Members of the public are encouraged to use the recycling centers in Drogheda and Dundalk after Christmas to dispose of recyclable waste and Christmas trees. Consideration will be given to assistance for Christmas tree disposal in the Ardee area.
- Works to the Electoral Register were praised with an appeal made for voters to update their details on checktheregister.ie including EirCodes to ensure the correct polling district is assigned to households
- Noting that Louth had reportedly the highest number of reported dog bites in the country, but also the second highest enforcement figures in the country a request for a campaign on responsible dog ownership and control was requested
- Members were requested to continue using the Electoral Reps system on Sugar to log calls to assist with monitoring and efficient response
- A request for a list of estates inspected under the MyWaste initiative will be considered

Social Development

- The Affordable Housing Scheme in Cois Ferraige Blackrock is progressing well and expected to launch in January 2024. Updates will be given to Members on a number of other proposed schemes in Q1, 2024
- A concerted effort to bring vacant properties back into stock is being made
- An increase in approvals for housing grants in 2023 versus 2022 was reported
- Flood mitigations to stop entry of waters to council houses will be examined

- Members were updated on the new permanent Integration Team which the Executive had assigned under the Ukrainian Directorate which was initially assigned under a temporary arrangement

Minute No. 213/23

Notice of Motion: Cllr Conor Keelan – Joint Policing Committees

The Cathaoirleach requested if there was a Seconder on this motion, but Cllr Keelan asked that 'Urgent Business' be addressed first.

Minute No. 214/23

Urgent Business Cllr Conor Keelan

Cllr Keelan requested that an Emergency Motion handed to the Cathaoirleach at the start of the meeting be proposed and discussed. The Cathaoirleach advised Cllr Keelan that she had already indicated to him before the meeting that he had reached his quota of 2 notices per meeting (*Reference SO 12(iv) No member shall be permitted to have more than two Notices (Motion or Question) (including adjourned motions / questions) on the Agenda for any one meeting.*)

A heated discussion followed.

Cllr Liam Reilly proposed that the meeting 'Move on' but Cllr Keelan called for adoption of his motion on the agenda so he could withdraw it and enter the other motion and was further advised that he could not do so.

Cllr Keelan said that he would read out his motion anyway and was advised not to.

The Cathaoirleach requested if there was a Seconder on Cllr Keelan's motion regarding Joint Policing Committees, no member came forward in support of Cllr Keelan.

Cllr Keelan requested it noted that he had asked to withdraw the motion on the agenda.

Minute No. 215/23

Notice of Question: Cllr Emma Cutlip - Noted

Notice of Question: Cllr Conor Keelan - Noted

In accordance with Standing Order 12(vi) the response to the Notices of Question raised by each of Cllr Emma Cutlip and Cllr Conor Keelan were noted without debate.

Minute No. 216/23

Condolences

The Cathaoirleach called for condolences. Cllr Keelan proposed that he had submitted the Emergency Motion in good time and questioned the authority of the Cathaoirleach, and was advised that we were now on Condolences.

Condolences were offered for the family and friends of the late:

Hugh McPartland, former footballer, Dundalk
Mrs Maureen Martin, Carlingford
Seamus Curtis, Ex-Retained Firefighter Ardee
Paddy Callan, Ardee

Minute No. 217/23

Correspondence

An item of Correspondence listed on the agenda was noted.

There being no other business the meeting concluded.

The Minutes were confirmed at a meeting of the Council held on:

Date: 15/1/2024

Cathaoirleach: 

Meeting Administrator: 