



Comhairle Contae Lú  
Louth County Council

## **Louth County Council November Meeting**

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Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of Louth County Council hosted in the Council Chamber of Co. Hall, Dundalk on Monday, 20<sup>th</sup> November 2023, at 10:00a.m.

### **In Attendance:**

**Presiding:** Cathaoirleach: Councillor Paula Butterly

**Members:** Councillors: Marianne Butler, James Byrne, Joanna Byrne, Kevin Callan, Bernie Conlon, Edel Corrigan, Tom Cunningham, Emma Cutlip, Michelle Hall, Conor Keelan, Seán Kelly, Pearse McGeough, Andrea McKevitt, Paddy McQuillan, Kevin Meenan, Dolores Minogue, Robert Nash, Declan Power, Liam Reilly John Sheridan, John Reilly, Tomás Sharkey Pío Smith, Jim Tenanty, Eileen Tully, Antóin Watters, Maeve Yore

**Apologies:** Councillors: Andrea McKevitt, Emma Coffey

**Officials:** Joan Martin, Chief Executive  
Joe McGuinness, Director of Services  
Gráinne Tuomey, Meeting Administrator  
Bernie Woods, Director of Services  
Eamon Woulfe, A/Director of Service  
David Jones, Director of Services  
Ger Murphy, Director of Services  
Joanna Kelly, Senior Planner  
John O'Hagan, Senior Engineer  
Mark Johnson, Senior Engineer  
Finbar Gethins, Senior Executive Officer  
Colette Moss, Senior Executive Officer  
Róisín McAuley, Financial Accountant  
Brian Lynch, Financial Accountant

**Minute No. 183/23**

**Minutes from Monthly Meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> October 2023**

**Proposed by:** Cllr Michelle Hall  
**Seconded by:** Cllr Marianne Butler  
**And Approved**

## **Minute No. 184/23**

### **Matters Arising**

Cllr Keelan requested an amendment which was not agreed by Members and a motion was proposed by Cllr Liam Reilly that the meeting move on which was seconded by the Cathaoirleach. Cllr Keelan then requested the following addition to the end of Minute 178/23

*“Cllr Keelan stated this was the third time the same motion was proposed and seconded.”*  
This amendment was seconded by Cllr Joanna Byrne and agreed.

So the paragraph will now read -

*Speaking on the Motion, Cllr Keelan requested a response from Management that they intend to install infrastructure. The Chief Executive advised of no funding source for same and suggested the Councillors Allocations could be used. Cllr Keelan stated this was the third time the same motion was proposed and seconded.*

## **Minute No. 185/23**

### **Minutes of District Meetings – Noted**

- Borough District of Drogheda 2nd October 2023
- Municipal District of Dundalk 3rd October 2023
- Municipal District of Ardee 5th October 2023
- Municipal District of Dundalk 2024 Budgetary Plan Meeting 16th October 2023
- Municipal District of Ardee 2024 Budgetary Plan Meeting 16th October 2023
- Borough District of Drogheda 2024 Budgetary Plan Meeting 16th October 2023

## **Minute No. 186/23**

### **Minutes of Committee Meetings – Noted**

- Corporate Policy Group 4th October 2023

## **Minute No. 187/23**

### **Report from Chairpersons of Corporate Policy Group**

The Cathaoirleach reported on both the October and November CPG meetings. Members were reminded that the Budget meeting was to be held directly after the plenary meeting of Council that afternoon following lunch.

Cllr Butler noting that one CPG meeting was hybrid requested that consideration be given to allow for other hybrid meetings of council.

## **Minute No. 188/23**

### **Report from Chairpersons of Strategic Policy Committees**

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

- Planning and Support Infrastructure SPC Meeting of 18<sup>th</sup> May 2023 by Cllr John Reilly
- Community, Quality of Life and Creativity SPC Meeting of 15<sup>th</sup> November 2023 by Cllr Seán Kelly

Council Members were updated on items discussed and presentations given at all meetings.  
And resolved.

### **Minute No. 189/23**

#### **Freastal ar Chomhdhálacha a Cheadú / Approval of Attendance at Conferences**

**Proposed by:** Cllr John Reilly

**Seconded by:** Cllr Seán Kelly

And resolved

### **Minute No. 190/23**

#### **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 Antóin Watters

**Seconded by:** Cllr John Reilly

And resolved

### **Minute No. 191/23**

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

##### **- Amenity Grants**

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

**Proposed by:** Cllr Seán Kelly

**Seconded by:** Cllr Liam Reilly

And resolved

The Chief Executive advised Members that this extra grant funding was made possible due to land legacy loan agreement with the Department.

### **Minute No. 192/23**

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

Reports on meetings of the following bodies were presented by the following Members

- Regional Health Forum – Dublin North East from Cllr Michelle Hall

A query was raised about the Peace Partnership Board and the Chief Executive advised that the listing was correct.

## Minute No. 193/23

### **Vacancy on Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)**

Following consideration and recommendation of the Corporate Policy Group (CPG) to accept Olivia Conlon, Acting Manager, Louth Volunteer Centre (LVC) as the new Louth Volunteer Centre nominee to the LCDC, replacing Kayleigh Mulligan, Manager, Louth Volunteer Centre, under Section 36 of the Local Government Reform Act 2014 it was:

**Proposed by:** Cllr Maeve Yore

**Seconded by:** Cllr Dolores Minogue

And resolved that Olivia Conlon would replace Kayleigh Mulligan on the LCDC.

## Minute No. 194/23

### **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 in particular were highlighted under the relevant Directorates:

#### **Support Services**

- Members were advised of the imminent handover of water services to Irish Water/Uisce Eireann and to use the Elected Rep Contact system of Uisce Eireann to raise any queries

#### **Strategic Economic Development**

- Members praised recent events such as Frostival, the Lú Festival, Pride of Place awards, etc. A request for statistics on footfall and tourism take up on foot of these and other measures was requested.
- The ongoing recruitment of Retained Firefighters was discussed, and a query raised on fire alarm activation billing in the case of false alarms.
- The Chief Fire Officer will report on Radon at the next County Council meeting.
- Members were updated on recruitment of a Tourist Officer, Assistant Civil Defence Officer and employment of a Broadband Officer.

#### **Placemaking & Physical Development**

- Ardee Bypass hearing date is set for 9<sup>th</sup> April 2024.
- The FASTER electrical charger unit planned for the Tennis Club in Dundalk is a double unit
- Narrow Water Bridge is on track to make recommendation for funding under the Shared Island Fund
- Recent flooding, response, measures and future mitigations. Members were advised of overload to system from unprecedented 120mls of rain fall in a very short period of time. The CFRAM scheme which is to set up to prevent erosion and mitigate against rising tidal waters would not assist with this
- Pier works at Annagassan and Clogherhead and the need to ensure proper drainage measures and prevent pooling of water on same will be brought to the attention of the contractor

- Phase 1 of the Port Access Northern Cross Route is progressing well and is expected to be substantially complete by end of year
- A one-month gully cleaning programme is to commence in Mid-November targeting 3000 gullies across the county
- Vandalism to ring buoys was highlighted
- Circa €5.8m is to be invested in public lighting programme in coming years, in the meantime the moratorium on new lighting remains in place

### **Organisational Development**

- A request to fly the Palestinian Flag will be considered under the approved Protocol
- Recent praise for the standard of Louth Electoral Register at a Department meeting was noted
- Dundalk swimming pool will close for a period to allow reconfiguration of the changing village which will include disabled changing places
- The Draft Climate Action Plan will go out this week and must be adopted by the 24<sup>th</sup> February. The plan will be open for Public Consultation from the 22<sup>nd</sup> November until the 20<sup>th</sup> December
- The feeding of gulls, littering and poor waste disposal encourages gulls to migrate into towns. Environmental Health Officers are employed by the HSE and not Louth County Council
- Louth County Council is fully committed to the National Public Lighting Efficiency Project (PLEEP)
- The family of the late Liam Reilly Musician have not yet confirmed agreement with any memorials proposed.
- A Climate Community Fund is to be established allotting €602k over a 3-year period for community led climate action measures

### **Minute no. 195/23**

#### **Suspension of Standing Order No. 3**

As Standing Order no. 3 states that the “The ordinary monthly meeting shall commence at 1000 hrs and shall conclude no later than 1330 hrs” and as the time was encroaching 1330hrs, a motion to Suspend Standing Order to complete the meeting was

**Proposed by:** Cllr Liam Reilly

**Seconded by:** Cllr Joanna Byrne

And on questioning all Members present confirmed there were no objections, thus meeting the requirement of Standing Order no. 69 which states at least two thirds of the members present vote in favour.

Present at time of the proposal were Cllrs: Conlon, McQuillan, Yore, Kelly, Sheridan, Byrne (James), Reilly (Liam), Reilly (John), Tully, Nash, Minogue, Keelan, Smith, Cutlip, Hall, Butler, Corrigan, Watters, McGeough, Cunningham, Callan, Tenanty, Power, Byrne (Joanna), Meenan.

#### **Social Development**

- The Housing Section are in constant communication with the Department on the Social Housing Investment Programme (SHIP)
- Up to 100 applications have been received under the Croí Conaithe restoration scheme. All works must be complete and inspected before funding issues

- Works on units at Trinity Close which were flood damaged is on schedule
- The Energy Retrofit Scheme over-delivery was noted and praised. The aim is to get as many units retrofit as possible by 2030
- The Estate Management Team is actively engaging with An Garda Siochana on issues around drug debts and drug intimidation. They also note an increase of tenants with family members on drugs affecting their ability to pay rent

### **Minute No. 196/23**

**Notice of Motion:** Cllr Declan Power  
**Seconded by:** Cllr Kevin Callan

*"Calling on Louth Co. Council to explore the possibility of installing communication boards in all playgrounds within the County. The communication board is a great tool that displays photos, symbols, or illustrations to help children with limited language skills express themselves."*

**Reply: David Jones, Director of Services, Placemaking and Physical Development**  
*Louth County Council will endeavor to install communication boards in all playgrounds within the County during 2024.*

Speaking on the Motion, Cllr Power welcomed the response and looked forward to seeing the boards in all playgrounds. Other Members spoke in support of the motion.

### **Minute No. 197/23**

**Notice of Motion:** Cllr Joanna Byrne  
**Seconded by:** Cllr Kevin Meenan

*The members of Louth County Council acknowledge the study by St Vincent de Paul (SVP), Energy Poverty Action Plan Consultation, that almost a third (31.5%) of children living in poverty were living in housing with a leaking roof, damp walls, floors or foundations, or rot in window frames of floor, almost twice the rate (15.5%) of children not in poverty, and almost 7 percentage points higher than the average for children in poverty in EU27 countries (24.6%), which puts the children at risk of respiratory and other illnesses.*

*We call on the Government to implement minimum energy efficiency standards in legislation and put in place strict timelines on both public and private landlords to deal with issues such as damp and mould.*

**Reply: Ger Murphy, Director of Services, Social Development**

*Matter for the Members.*

Cllr. Byrne spoke on her motion calling the Government to address this issue within specific time frame with Cllr Meenan also speaking in support.

Cllr. Joanna Byrne advised that this had been looked at in the September meeting of the Housing SPC.

**Minute No. 198/23**

**Notice of Question: Cllr Conor Keelan – Noted**  
**Notice of Question: Cllr Declan Power - Noted**

In accordance with Standing Order 12(vi) the response to Notices of Questions raised by both Cllr Conor Keelan and by Cllr Declan Power were noted without debate.

**Minute No. 199/23**

**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:

18 Dec 2023

Cathaoirleach:

Paula Ballydooley

Meeting Administrator:

Alice Quoney