



Comhairle Contae Lú
Louth County Council

Louth County Council April Meeting

Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of Louth County Council hosted in the Council Chamber of Co. Hall, Dundalk on Monday, 15th April 2024, at 10:00a.m.

In Attendance:

- Presiding:** Cathaoirleach: Councillors Andrea McKeivitt and Paula Butterly
- Members:** Councillors: Marianne Butler, Joanna Byrne, Kevin Callan, Emma Coffey, Bernie Conlon, Edel Corrigan, Tom Cunningham, Emma Cutlip, Conor Keelan, Seán Kelly, Pearse McGeough, Andrea McKeivitt, Kevin Meenan, Dolores Minogue, Robert Nash, Declan Power, John Reilly, Liam Reilly, John Sheridan, Pío Smith, Jim Tenanty, Antóin Watters, Maeve Yore
- Apologies:** Councillors: James Byrne, Michelle Hall, Paddy McQuillan, Tomás Sharkey Eileen Tully
- Officials:** Joan Martin, Chief Executive
Joe McGuinness, Director of Services
Gráinne Tuomey, Meeting Administrator
Bernie Woods, Director of Services
Thomas McEvoy, Director of Services
Yvonne O'Brien, A/Director of Services
David Jones, Director of Services
Ger Murphy, Director of Services
Joanna Kelly, Senior Planner
John O'Hagan, Senior Engineer
Mark Johnson, Senior Engineer
Colette Moss, Senior Executive Officer

Minute No. 73/24

Standing Order No. 8 - Chairing of Meetings

In accordance with Standing Order No. 8, the leas-Chathaoirleach Cllr. Andrea McKeivitt took the chair in the absence of the Cathaoirleach Cllr. Paula Butterly.

Minute No. 74/24

Minutes from Monthly Meeting held on 25th March 2024

Proposed by : Cllr Seán Kelly
Seconded by: Cllr Antóin Watters
And Approved

Minute No. 75/24

Minutes from Special Meeting held on 3rd April 2024

Proposed by : Cllr Sean Kelly
Seconded by: Cllr Joanna Byrne
And Approved

Minute No. 76/24

Minutes of District Meetings – Noted

- Municipal District of Dundalk 5th March 2024
- Municipal District of Ardee 7th March 2024

Minute No. 77/24

Minutes of Committee Meetings – Noted

- Corporate Policy Group 13th March 2024

Minute No. 78/24

Report from Chairpersons of Corporate Policy Group

Not given

Minute No. 79/24

Report from Chairpersons of Strategic Policy Committees

None given

Minute No. 80/24

To receive the draft Annual Report in accordance with Section 221(b) of the Local Government Act as amended

Members noted the draft Annual Report as set out before them and were advised that the full report would be before them by the end of June in line with legislation.

Minute No. 81/24

Standing order no. 8 - Chairing of Meetings

In accordance with Standing Order no. 8, the leas-Chathaoirleach Cllr Andrea McKeivitt vacated the chair on the arrival of the Cathaoirleach Cllr Paula Butterly, who took the chair.

Minute No. 82/24

To consider and approve the draft Annual Financial Statement 2023

Members considered the AFS as set out before them on the agenda. Director of Services Bernie Woods set out that there was a small surplus of some €197k which will be added to the general reserve.

Cllr Keelan referring to audit committee meetings raised some items on bridging loans, legacy loans, liability to Louth County Council of Uisce Eireann transfer, revaluation, lease schemes, and asset stock takes.

Bernie Woods Director of Service advised of payments of loans to the Housing Finance Agency, national ongoing agreements on Uisce Eireann, provision made to cover where revaluation appeals result in less rates, assets are not purchased under lease agreements and are not revalued once purchased, no substantial stock is stored by the council.

Cllr McGeough queried the increase of a figure from 2022 to 2023 listed as other under operational expenses on page 27 and was advised that this related to a compensation payment on malicious damage.

Cllr Cutlip queried whether regular cost benefit analyses, value for money analyses are carried out and on outsourcing and was advised of the council's requirements to follow national procurement guidelines and use the OGP framework. The Chief Executive further clarified our requirements to adhere to the Public Spending Code and ensure that business plans and reviews are carried out.

Approval of the Annual Financial Statement 2023 was

Proposed by Cllr Kevin Callan

Seconded by Cllr Pio Smith

And resolved.

Minute No. 83/24

Vacancy on Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) – Sectoral Representative

Members noted the resignation of Ms Una McGoey as Business Pillar Representative on the LCDC, and the nomination from Chambers Ireland of Mr Pat McCormick as her replacement on the committee.

Approval of the nomination of Mr. McCormick was:

Proposed by: Cllr Marianne Butler

Seconded by: Cllr Liam Reilly

And resolved.

Minute No. 84/24

Freastal ar Chomhdhálacha a Cheadú / Approval of Attendance at Conferences

Members noting that while there were currently no conferences before them, but that often late notification was received, agreed that any standard conferences that might arise during the month in AILG or LAMA could be approved in advance. Advance approval was:

Proposed by: Cllr Liam Reilly

Seconded by: Cllr Pio Smith

And resolved.

Minute No. 85/24

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 Pio Smith

Seconded by: Cllr Andrea McKevitt

And resolved

Minute No. 86/24

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

In accordance with Section 141 of the Local Government Act 2001, as amended, (which requires Members to report at least annually on the activities and operations of Bodies, Boards and Committees to which they are elected, appointed or nominated to represent Louth County Council), reports were given on the following bodies/boards/committees by the following Councillors:

- LSP – Local Sports Partnership - Cllr Tom Cunningham
- Rural Water Committee – Cllr Tom Cunningham, who noted no meetings were held.
- Regional Homeless Forum – Cllr Conor Keelan

Minute No. 87/24

Consideration of Reports and Recommendations from the 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

- Issues with Louth County Council website search engine is still being investigated by the software supplier

Strategic Economic Development

- No confirmation has been received about any proposed extension to the Temporary Development Contribution Waiver Scheme
- Until a draft Building Control Bill becomes enacted no changes proposed under the bill can be affected
- A report on the New York St. Patrick's Day Trip will issue to Members following the meeting. Not all costs have been approved on Agresso yet, but they will also be furnished to Members once available
- Live enforcement cases or cases which may be subject to legal action will not be commented on

Placemaking & Physical Development

- Urban Regeneration and Development Fund phase 1 application covers the design element only, strand 2 will encompass planning. The Road Works Programme is a €28m cross county investment
- High Court action continues on Ardee Bypass
- Discussions are ongoing on phase 2 of PANCR
- Further environmental reports have been commissioned for St Laurence Gate Plaza
- A conclusion is still sought following ongoing consultation on the Boyne Enterprise Link Road
- Non statutory public consultation is hoped to commence in May on the Carlingford Dundalk Greenway
- The proposed Carlingford Greenore Flood Relief Project is in early stages
- A second JCB Pro Pothole machine is to be purchased along with a third Multihog Sweeper
- National guidelines on Speed Limit Reviews are awaited before any local measures can be considered
- Concerns were raised about four province flags being erected during the night and what they may signify. It was noted that questions raised previously on these on social media attracted very negative elements
- It was suggested that traffic lights installed on new PANCR were not needed
- Obelisk Bridge works continue to meet targets
- Fair Street new offices are expected to open in May
- Updates were given on ORIS (Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme) beach accessibility planned works
- Safe routes to school is a subset of Active Travel works
- Monuments funding was welcomed, particularly for Cappocksgate.
- Dundalk Port is still in the control of Dublin Port
- A request for the Road Sweeper Rota to issue to estates in advance so cars are moved will be looked at
- A meeting is to be convened with interested bodies on taxi ranks in Dundalk

- A question on whether a sub-committee set up on Dowdallshill graveyard constitutes a committee of council will be looked at.

Organisational Development

- €604k allocation to the Community Climate Action Fund is to be granted over a 3-year period, a note on how this is to be dispersed will issue to members.
- Change of opening schedule for Lourdes Stadium will be examined

Social Development

- Issues with anti-social behaviour and criminal damage to units under construction in Boice Court were noted with the development of 72 units being described as important to the area
- A drop in the number of applications for HAP was noted
- The housing section work closely with An Garda Síochána to tackle anti-social behaviour.
- The Library 30th Anniversary celebrations were praised
- Difficulty in obtaining 4bed properties is affecting ability to accommodate transfer requests
- Significant volumes of housing maintenance requests are coming in
- Several schemes are being considered for Affordable Housing
- Where home loan applications are being considered the ability to repay is vital
- A rough sleeper count will be carried out within 2024
- The five Accelerated Delivery Programme Schemes must be onsite by end of year
- Concern was raised about 19 x 1Bed units going up on Barrack St in proximity to Halliday's Mills and potential ASB. The housing section are working closely with Simon AHB who will manage the site

Minute No. 88/24

Notice of Motion – Cllr James Byrne

In accordance with Standing Order no. 12(vii)(b) this Notice of Motion was deferred in the absence of Cllr Byrne

Minute No. 89/24

**Notice of Motion
Seconded by**

**Cllr John Sheridan
Cllr Andrea McKeivitt**

"De réir miontuairiscí 84/20, go faigheann baill an Comhairle nuashonrú ar obair Comhairle Chondae Lú maidir le comhlíonadh rialacháin de chuid Acht an dTeangacha Oifigiúil 2003

As per minute 84/20, that members receive an update on the ongoing work of Louth County Council to comply with regulations of the Official Languages Act 2003"

Reply: J. McGuinness, Director of Services, Organisational Development

Is féidir liom a dheimhniú go bhfuil Comhairle Contae Lú ag leanúint ar aghaidh le comhlíonadh Acht na dTeangacha Oifigiúla a chur chun cinn agus dul i mbun idirchaidrimh leis an gCoimisinéir Teanga ar aon ábhar a d'fhéadfaí a chur os ár gcomhair.

Mar shampla, cuireadh conradh le seirbhís aistriúcháin le déanaí tríd an Oifig um Sholáthar Rialtais (OGP) agus tá obair ag dul ar aghaidh le haistriúchán doiciméad, láithreán gréasáin agus fógraí

poiblí/fógraí.

I can confirm that Louth County Council continue to progress compliance with the Official Languages Act and liaise with An Comisinear Teanga on any matters which may be brought to our attention. For example, a recent translation service has been contracted via the Office of Government Procurement (OGP) and work is progressing with the translation of documents, website and public notices/advertisements.

Members noted the response of the Executive. Cllr Sheridan speaking as gaeilge welcomed the response, with the Chief Executive also responding as gaeilge advising of 100k people in the County having declared they speak Irish in the census, and her determination to promote Irish in the workplace through Irish classes and other measures.

Other Members spoke to support and commend the motion.

Minute No. 90/24

Notice of Motion
Seconded by

Cllr Emma Cutlip
Cllr Paula Butterly

This Council Recognises the importance of good planning for the future of this area and acknowledge Irelands commitments under the terms of the Aarhus Convention, and thank the many community, voluntary and civic minded bodies for their work in trying to ensure a better and more inclusive County.

This Council rejects the terms of the Planning and Development Bill currently before the Oireachtas, which seriously threatens good planning, ignores the Aarhus Convention and significantly reduces the opportunities for Citizens and Councillors to actively engage in the planning process.

This Council further calls on TDs and Senators to use their influence to reject the Bill as it currently stands and to defend the rights of Citizens and Councillors to proactively engage in good planning and to ensure that there is certainty for all – Communities and Developers - in agreed Development plans.

This Council further requests an opportunity to present a case to the Oireachtas Committee dealing with the Bill and requests the Planning SPC to prepare a submission for same.

Reply: T. McEvoy, Director of Services, Strategic Economic Development

This is a matter for members.

Members noted the response of the Executive. Clarity was sought from Cllr Cutlip as to whether she wanted correspondence to issue and if so to whom and she clarified it was to go to the select house committee.

Minute No. 91/24

Notice of Motion
Seconded by

Cllr Emma Coffey
Cllr Joanna Byrne

That Louth County Council calls on the Minister of the Department of Housing to include Part 5 housing stock acquired by Louth County Council be included in the Tenant Purchase Scheme going forward.

Reply: G. Murphy, Director of Services, Social Development

This is a matter for the Members.

Members noted the response of the Executive. Cllr Coffey confirmed that she was asking to write to the Department.

Cllr Cutlip spoke to oppose the motion while other members spoke in support of the motion.

As opposition to the motion had been raised a roll call vote on the motion was called as follows:

Councillor	For	Against	Abstain	Absent
Marianne Butler	1			
Paula Butterly	1			
James Byrne				1
Joanna Byrne	1			
Kevin Callan				1
Emma Coffey	1			
Bernie Conlon	1			
Edel Corrigan				1
Tom Cunningham	1			
Emma Cutlip		1		
Michelle Hall				1
Conor Keelan	1			
Sean Kelly	1			
Pearse McGeough	1			
Andrea McKevitt	1			
Paddy McQuillan				1
Kevin Meenan	1			
Dolores Minogue	1			
Robert Nash	1			
Declan Power	1			
John Reilly	1			
Liam Reilly				1
Tomás Sharkey				1
John Sheridan	1			
Pio Smith				1
Jim Tenanty				1
Eileen Tully				1
Antóin Watters				1
Maeve Yore	1			
	17	1	0	11

And Cllr Coffey's Motion was passed.

Minute No. 92/24

Correspondence – Noted by Members

Correspondence from the following body was noted by Members

- Westmeath County Council 2nd April 2024

As there was no other business the meeting concluded.

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

Date:

20/5/2024

Cathaoirleach:

Paula Buckley

Meeting Administrator:

Angus