



Comhairle Contae Lú  
Louth County Council

## **Louth County Council Monthly 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, 16th December 2024, at 10:00a.m.

### **In Attendance:**

- Presiding:** Councillor, Kevin Callan – Cathaoirleach
- Members:** Councillors: Marianne Butler, Eric Donovan, Ciaran Fisher, Anne-Marie Ford, Rachel Kerley, Sionainn McCann, Debbie McCole, Andrea McKeivitt, Pearse McGeough, Shane McGuinness, Paddy McQuillan, Kevin Meenan, Fiona MhicConchoille, Dolores Minogue, Robert Nash, Ejiro O’Hare-Stratton, Declan Power, John Reilly, John Sheridan, Jim Tenanty, Pio Smith, Antóin Watters, Maeve Yore
- Apologies:** Cllr. Bernie Conlon, Thomas McEvoy
- Officials:** Joe McGuinness, Temporary Chief Executive  
Ger Murphy, Director of Services  
David Jones, Director of Services  
Bernie Woods, Director of Finance  
David Hanratty, A/Director of Services  
Bryan Coughlan, Meeting Administrator  
Finbar Gethins, Senior Executive Officer  
John O’Hagan, Senior Engineer  
Joanna Kelly, Acting Director of Services  
Colette Moss, Senior Executive Officer

### **Minute No. 318/24**

#### **Minutes of Special Meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> November 2024**

- Proposed by:** Cllr. Maeve Yore  
**Seconded by:** Cllr. Pio Smith  
**And Approved**

### **Minute No. 319/24**

## **Minutes of Monthly County Council meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> November 2024**

**Proposed by:** Cllr. Pio Smith  
**Seconded by:** Cllr. Kevin Callan  
And Approved

### **Minute No. 320/24**

## **Minutes of Statutory Budget Meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> November 2024**

**Proposed by:** Cllr. Kevin Callan  
**Seconded by:** Cllr. Maeve Yore  
And Approved

### **Minute No. 321/24**

## **Matters Arising**

In response to queries from Cllr. Maeve Yore, it was confirmed that the Executive would be meeting with Uisce Eireann in February and, also that there was no update on the planning permission on the Point Road site.

### **Minute No. 322/24**

## **Minutes of District Meetings – for noting**

- Municipal District of Dundalk – 8th October 2024
- Municipal District of Dundalk Special Meeting – 21st October 2024
- Borough District of Drogheda – 4<sup>th</sup> November 2024
- Municipal District of Ardee – 7<sup>th</sup> October 2024

### **Minute No. 323/24**

## **Minutes of Committees – for noting**

- Audit Committee 25<sup>th</sup> April 2024
- Corporate Policy Group – 6<sup>th</sup> November 2024
- Audit Committee 7<sup>th</sup> November 2024

### **Minute No. 324/24**

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

A report was delivered by the Chairperson of the Corporate Policy Group, Cllr. Kevin Callan, on proceedings from the Corporate Policy Group meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> December 2024.

### **Minute No. 325/24**

### **Casual Vacancy – Cllr. Paula Butterly**

As per section 19 of the Local Government Act 2001, as Cllr. Butterly is a member of the Fine Gael party, the nomination of her replacement was a matter for the party.

Rachel Kerley was co-opted to Louth County Council on the

**Proposal of:** Cllr. Dolores Minogue  
**Seconded by:** Cllr. Robert Nash  
**And resolved**

Following her co-option, Cllr. Kerley paid tribute to the work of Paula Butterly, thanked her party for their support and expressed that she was looking forward to representing the Ardee Local Electoral Area.

Councillors Smith, Nash, Sheridan, Yore, Reily, McGeough, Butler, Meenan, Tenanty and Callan all welcomed Cllr. Kerley to the Council and paid tribute to the two previous members who had been elected to Dáil Eireann, Joanna Byrne and Paula Butterly.

### **Minute No. 326/24**

### **Casual Vacancy – Cllr. Joanna Byrne**

As per section 19 of the Local Government Act 2001, as Cllr. Byrne is a member of the Sinn Féin party, the nomination of her replacement was a matter for the party.

Debbie McCole was co-opted to Louth County Council on the:-

**Proposal of:** Cllr. Eric Donovan  
**Seconded by:** Cllr. Pearse McGeough  
**And resolved**

Joe McGuinness, Temporary Chief Executive, welcomed both of the new Councillors on behalf of the Executive.

### **Minute No. 327/24**

### **Vacancy for Chair of Planning SPC – Cllr. Paula Butterly**

Following the election of Paula Butterly to Dáil Eireann, there was a vacancy for Chair of the Planning Strategic Policy Committee. As a group had previously been formed in accordance with Schedule 10 of the Local Government Act, 2001, the following members were precluded from voting:

Cllr. Eric Donovan  
Cllr. Kevin Meenan  
Cllr. Antoin Watters  
Cllr. Fiona MhicConchoille  
Cllr. Pearse McGeough  
Cllr. Sionainn McCann

Cllr. Rachel Kerley was appointed to the vacancy on the:-

**Proposal of:** Cllr. Robert Nash  
**Seconded by:** Cllr. Dolores Minogue  
**And resolved**

#### **Minute No. 328/24**

#### **Vacancy for Chair of Social Development SPC – Cllr. Joanna Byrne**

Following the election of Joanna Byrne to Dáil Eireann, there was a vacancy for Chair of the Social Development Strategic Policy Committee. As a group had previously been formed in accordance with Schedule 10 of the Local Government Act, 2001 to appoint to this position, the nomination of the incoming Chair was a matter for the following members:

Cllr. Eric Donovan  
Cllr. Kevin Meenan  
Cllr. Antoin Watters  
Cllr. Fiona MhicConchoille  
Cllr. Pearse McGeough  
Cllr. Sionainn McCann

Cllr. Kevin Meenan was appointed to the vacancy on the:-

**Proposal of:** Cllr. Pearse McGeough  
**Seconded by:** Cllr. Fiona MhicConchoille  
**And resolved**

#### **Minute No. 329/24**

#### **Vacancy on Eastern and Midlands Regional Assembly**

The election of Paula Butterly to Dáil Eireann, resulted in a vacancy to be filled by Louth County Council on the Eastern and Midlands Regional Assembly.

Cllr. Rachel Kerley was appointed to the vacancy on the:-

**Proposal of:** Cllr. Robbert Nash  
**Seconded by:** Cllr. Dolores Minogue  
**And resolved**

#### **Minute No. 330/24**

#### **Approval of Attendance at Conferences**

The list as put to the meeting was:-

**Proposed by:** Cllr. Kevin Callan  
**Seconded by:** Cllr. Pio Smith  
**And resolved**

### **Minute No. 331/24**

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

The list as put to the meeting was:-

**Proposed by:** Cllr. Maeve Yore  
**Seconded by:** Cllr. John Sheridan  
**And resolved**

### **Minute No. 332/24**

#### **Section 183 – Proposed disposal of at Mullaharlin Park, Dundalk, Co. Louth property known as the Community Building**

The proposed disposal of .10887 hectares of land at Mullaharlin Park to Woman's Aid Dundalk CLG under Article 206 of the Planning and Development Regulations, 2001 was

**Proposed by:** Cllr. Maeve Yore  
**Seconded by:** Cllr. Robert Nash  
**And resolved**

### **Minute No. 333/24**

#### **Consideration of Draft Corporate Plan 2024 - 2029**

In accordance with Section 134 of the Local Government Act, a draft Corporate Plan 2024 - 2029 had been prepared for consideration at the meeting. Joe McGuinness introduced the draft plan to members and advised of the legislative obligations that are on Members regarding its approval. Mr. McGuinness highlighted the importance of the Plan in terms of setting the strategic direction that the overall Authority would take over the lifetime of the elected Council.

The Draft Plan as presented to the meeting was:-

**Proposed by:** Cllr. John Sheridan  
**Seconded by:** Cllr. Maeve Yore  
**And adopted**

### **Minute No. 334/24**

#### **Consideration of Draft North East Region Homelessness Action Plan 2024 - 2026**

In accordance with Section 31 of the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 2009, a draft Homelessness Action Plan 2024 - 2026 for the North East Region was presented to the meeting by Ger Murphy. Mr. Murphy advised that the Plan was approved by the North East Region Homelessness Consultative Forum prior to being brought to the Council.

Cllr. Kevin Meenan welcomed the Plan, stated it was very comprehensive, and thanked the staff involved in making it.

**Proposed by:** Cllr. Kevin Meenan

**Seconded by:** Cllr. Maeve Yore  
**And adopted**

## **Minute No. 335/24**

### **Consideration of Reports and Recommendations from the Chief Executives Monthly Management Report**

#### **Support Services**

No matters raised.

#### **Strategic Economic Development**

In response to comments from Cllr. Shane McGuinness, Joanna Kelly stated that where there are issues relating to Planning compliance, all documentation is made available to the public and is fully transparent. She also refuted any suggestion that developers are treated differently by the Council depending on their size. Joe McGuinness added that Planning staff work to support and advise the Members of the Council and that the Executive and Members are all part of Louth County Council.

Ms. Kelly also clarified that zoning changes arising from the Dundalk Local Area Plan will not take effect until such time as the County Development Plan has been reviewed to take them into account.

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

The following was discussed in relation to Placemaking and Physical Development

- It is hoped that a decision will be received from An Bord Pleanála in early 2025 to allow the Westgate Vision to progress.
- Compulsory Purchase Order process has commenced with regard to the Boyne Enterprise Road
- ORIS funding is not sufficient to meet the tender prices for disability works at Templetown and Port Oriel. A solution is currently being sought.
- The Roads Works Programme 2024 is coming to a conclusion.
- The Members expressed their gratitude to staff for the work undertaken as a result of Storm Darragh.

#### **Organisational Development**

The matters discussed in relation to Organisational Development were:

- In response to a query from Cllr. John Sheridan, it was confirmed that the grace period for bin collection companies in providing brown bins is now over and that the Council would be moving towards enforcement where warranted.
- Joe McGuinness wished Garrett Shine, County Veterinarian Officer, well in his transfer to the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine. A number of Members also spoke to thank Mr. Shine for all his work over the years and highlighted that he had been a forerunner nationally in the role.
- In response to a query from Cllr. Yore, it was confirmed that the Council would be going to tender for the running track at Dundalk Sports Centre during the first week of January.
- Cllr. Pio Smith welcomed the investment in Millmount.
- Cllr. John Reilly welcomed the two new HVO Fire Trucks.

#### **Social Development**

The following was discussed in relation to Social Development:

- The increase in the number of Disabled Persons Grants being processed was commended by Cllr. Pearse McGeough.
- In response to her query on banning smartphones, Cllr. Dolores Minogue was advised that this is not an area that falls under the remit of a local authority.

#### **Minute No. 336/24**

**Notice of Motion:** Cllr. James Byrne

*That the Elected Members of Louth County Council harness the support of the Minister for Housing, Heritage and Local Government Darragh O'Brien TD to appoint a Deputy CEO with special responsibility for Drogheda.*

As Cllr. Byrne was not present, and there was no alternative proposed specified in writing, the motion was not moved.

#### **Minute No. 337/24**

**Notice of Motion:** Cllr. Pio Smith

**Seconded by:** Cllr. Fiona MhicConchoille

*Asking that this council agrees that the occupied territories bill should be enacted as soon as possible by government.*

**Reply from David Hanratty, A/Director of Services:**

*This is a matter for the Members.*

Cllr. Kevin Callan welcomed Senator Frances Black to the meeting and there was general support across the Chamber for the motion. In supporting the motion, Cllr. Fiona MhicConchoille stated that the delay in enacting the bill is disheartening and Cllr. Marianne Butler commended the work of Grace O'Sullivan in being one of the original co-signatures.

#### **Minute No. 338/24**

**Notice of Motion:** Cllr. Emma Coffey

*That within 3 months of the formation of the next Government, the Government Minister with responsibility for local government should convene a "Local Democracy Taskforce (the Taskforce) to finalise a programme for the reform and strengthening of local government based on the recommendations of the reports and reviews and the submissions received by the Seanad Public Consultation Committee.*

As Cllr. Coffey was not present, and there was no alternative proposed specified in writing, the motion was not moved.

#### **Minute No. 339/24**

**Notice of Motion:** Cllr. Marianne Butler  
**Seconded by:** Cllr. Kevin Callan

*That Louth County Council reviews and updates the Traffic Calming Policy that was adopted on 18<sup>th</sup> May 2015.*

*Since this policy was adopted the 30km/h special speed limits are now an option for housing estates and DMURS was last updated in 2020. Our traffic calming policy should incorporate these changes and others while making traffic calming measures more accessible for our local communities.*

**Reply from David Jones, Director of Services:**

*It is proposed that a review of Louth County Council's Traffic Calming Policy be included as part of the 2025 Work Programme for the Community & Placemaking Strategic Policy Committee.*

In speaking to the motion, Cllr. Butler noted that there is significant levels of speeding in areas where there are no traffic calming measures. Councillors Minogue, Nash, McGeough and Sheridan spoke to support the motion, with Cllr. Sheridan stating that it should be socially unacceptable to speed or use phones when driving.

#### **Minute No. 340/24**

**Notice of Motion:** Cllr. John Reilly  
**Seconded by:** Cllr. Kevin Callan

*That Louth County Council recognises the need for the Carlingford Ferry Service to continue through a tendering process to be established by mid-December which will seek to ensure the continuity and sustainability of the service into the future.*

**Reply from Thomas McEvoy, Director of Services:**

*Louth County Council recognises the need for the Carlingford Ferry service to continue and will investigate the feasibility of this model in consultation with relevant Government Departments.*

Cllr. Andrea McKevitt spoke to support the principle of the motion but did express concern with its wording as presented to the meeting.

#### **Minute No. 341/24**

**Notice of Question:** Cllr. Marianne Butler

How many traffic speed assessments were carried out by Louth County Council in 2023 and year to date in 2024, kindly provide details of locations and results of these counts in either list or table form.

**Reply from David Jones, Director of Services:**

NO	LOCATION	RESULT (km/hr)	Speed limit
1	Location of traffic speed assessment i.e. R132 @ Retail Park	85% speed	
2	Sundays Gate - Hardmans Garden Drogheda (SRTS)	Northbound 38.48Kph	50
		Southbound 36.26Kph	50
3	Marleys Lane @300m north of Donore Road Junction	Northbound 57.0 Kph	50
		Southbound 59.8 Kph	50
4	Carrickedmond	80.82	50
5	Dungooley church rd before brig	85.14	60
6	rathmore cottages, kilcurly	60.3	80
7	bet m1 flyover and coffin brig	76.14	50
8	Bellurgan	86.6	80
9	Rahanna	59.76	80
10	Ballynagasson	79.92	60
11	Callystown rd L6979	68.94	80
12	cardistown L5199	73.08	80
13	Coast rd Port L2244	73.44	80
14	Cockle Hill	82.98	80
15	Flagstaff	54.9	80
16	sheepgrange	56.34	80
17	Slieve HBX	54.48	80
18	Ashfield	20	30
19	Ballsgrove	38	50
20	Ballymakenny Road	53	50
21	Bothar Brugha	52	50
22	Bryanstown	38	50
23	Sandpit	54	50
24	Sean O Carroll Street	57	50
25	Cockle Road - Monasterboice	74	80
26	Collon	79	80
27	Dillonstown	85	80
28	Five Oaks	38	30
29	Flaxmill Lane	48	50
30	Forest Grange	39	50
31	Forest Park	27	30
32	Knocknacleva	34	80
33	Francis Street	45	50
34	Marian Park	26	50
35	Marsh Road 150814	49	50
36	Oulsters Lane	44	50
37	Patrick Street	43	50

38	R132 Valley Inn	81	100
39	R169	78	80
40	Riverview Mell	35	50
41	Townrath	67	80
42	Tullyallen	51	50
43	Sienna	36	50
44	Termonfeckin	48	50
45	Togher To Martins Cross	77	80
46	Dunleer	48	50
47	Dunlee Ardee Rd	46	50

### Minute No. 342/24

#### Condolences

On the proposal of Cllr. Antoin Watters, seconded by Cllr. Andrea McKeivitt, condolences were offered to Padraic O'Connor for his commitment to Louth GAA and St. Patricks.

There being no other business, Cllr. Kevin Callan expressed thanks to the Members, staff and press, wished all present a Happy Christmas and the meeting concluded.

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

Date: 20<sup>th</sup> January 2025

Cathaoirleach: Kevin Callan

Meeting Administrator: [Signature]