



Comhairle Contae Lú  
Louth County Council

## **Louth County Council July Meeting**

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

### **In Attendance:**

Presiding: Cathaoirleach: Councillor Kevin Callan

Members: Councillors: Marianne Butler, Paula Butterly, James Byrne, Joanna Byrne, Bernie Conlon, Eric Donovan, Ciarán Fisher, Anne-Marie Ford, Michelle Hall, Seán Kelly, Sionainn McCann, Pearse McGeough, Shane McGuinness, Andrea McKevitt, Paddy McQuillan, Fiona Mhic Conchoille, Kevin Meenan, Dolores Minogue, Ejiro O'Hare Stratton, Declan Power, John Sheridan, Pio Smith, Jim Tenanty, Maeve Yore

Apologies: Councillors: Emma Coffey, Robert Nash, John Reilly, Antóin Watters

Apologies: Executive: None

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  
John O'Hagan, Senior Engineer  
Mark Johnson, Senior Engineer  
Finbarr Gethins, Senior Executive Officer

### **Minute No. 156/24**

### **Minutes from Monthly Meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> May 2024**

Confirmation of the Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of 20<sup>th</sup> of May, 2024 was:

**Proposed by:** Cllr Andrea McKevitt  
**Seconded by:** Cllr John Sheridan  
**And Approved**

## **Minute No. 157/24**

### **Minutes from Annual Meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> June 2024**

Confirmation of the Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of 21<sup>st</sup> of June, 2024 was:

**Proposed by:** Cllr Paula Butterly  
**Seconded by:** Cllr Pio Smith  
**And Approved**

## **Minute No. 158/24**

### **Minutes of District Meetings for Noting**

The Minutes of the following District Meetings were noted by Members present:

- Municipal District of Dundalk 7th May 2024
- Borough District of Drogheda 13th May 2024

## **Minute No. 159/24**

### **Minutes of Committee Meetings for Noting**

The Minutes of the following Committee Meetings were noted by Members present:

- Corporate Policy Group 8th May 2024

## **Minute No. 160/24**

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

An Cathaoirleach Cllr Kevin Callan reported on the July CPG meeting of the 4<sup>th</sup> July 2024.

## **Minute No. 161/24**

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

Approval of Attendance at Conferences as presented on the agenda before them was:

**Proposed by:** Cllr Paula Butterly  
**Seconded by:** Cllr Michelle Hall  
**And resolved**

## **Minute No. 162/24**

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

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

**Proposed by:** Cllr Maeve Yore  
**Seconded by:** Cllr Pio Smith  
**And resolved**

## **Minute No. 163/24**

### **Amendment of Standing Orders – 2024 Consolidated Standing Orders**

Director of Services Joe McGuinness advised of a resolution by Dundalk Municipal District changing the usual day of their monthly meeting from the first Tuesday of the month to the second Tuesday of the month, and that the Consolidated Standing Orders being before Members with an amendment reflecting same.

Approval of amended Standing Orders as set out before Members was:

**Proposed by:** Cllr Maeve Yore  
**Seconded by:** Cllr Andrea McKeivitt  
**And resolved**

## **Minute No. 164/24**

### **Disposal of Proposed Disposal of Former Depot at Bog Road, Tenure, Monasterboice, Co. Louth**

Following some questions raised which were responded to by Director of Services Joe McGuinness, wherein he advised that lands and building which was surplus to the requirements of Louth County Council, was advertised by an auctioneer and was being disposed of at Market Value; In accordance with Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001 as amended, disposal of a **Former Depot at Bog Road, Tenure, Monasterboice, Co. Louth to Dexol Properties Limited** at market value and as set out before Members on the Agenda was:

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

## **Minute No. 165/24**

### **Disposal of lands at Cement Road, Drogheda, Co. Louth to the Minister for Education**

In accordance with Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001 as amended, disposal of lands at Cement Road, Drogheda, Co. Louth to the Minister for Education at market value for the purposes of construction of a school and as set out before Members on the Agenda was:

**Proposed by:** Cllr Liam Reilly  
**Seconded by:** Cllr Emma Coffey  
**And resolved**

## **Minute No. 166/24**

### **Disposal of Coco Cola Building, Donore Road, Drogheda, Co. Louth to Trustees of the Wolfe Tones GFC by way of 10 year lease**

Joe McGuinness Director of Services advised of expressions of interest from several different groups to take over the lease of the building formerly owned by Coco Cola and donated to Louth County Council for use of the community. Conditions attached by Coco Cola while donating the building stipulated that the property should be used by various community groups. The Wolfe Tones agreed as anchor tenant to manage the building and allow use by other parties thereby complying

with the stipulations

In accordance with Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001 as amended, disposal of the **Coco Cola Building, Donore Road, Drogheda, Co. Louth to Trustees of the Wolfe Tones GFC by way of 10 year lease** at a nominal rent as set out before Members on the Agenda was:

**Proposed by:** Cllr Maeve Yore  
**Seconded by:** Cllr Pio Smith  
**And resolved**

#### **Minute No. 167/24**

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

Members noted the return of Kayleigh Mulligan as Manager of Louth Volunteer Centre replacing Olivia Conlon acting Manager, and subsequent change of nominee to the LCDC from Ms. Conlon to Ms. Mulligan.

Approval of the nomination of Ms. Mulligan was:

**Proposed by:** Cllr Maeve Yore  
**Seconded by:** Cllr Bernie Conlon  
**And resolved.**

#### **Minute No. 168/24**

#### **Report on submissions received in respect of the Drogheda BID Proposal 2025 – 2029**

Director of Services Thomas McEvoy advised that Drogheda Business Improvement District proposal from the 1<sup>st</sup> of January 2025 to end of year 2029 had been on public display, attracting one submission. A report on the submission was now before Members for noting. The submission did not create any material change to the original proposal. Drogheda BIDS have a statutory period of 60 days from close of the submission period to proceed to a plebiscite.

It is expected that a plebiscite will be received, and the matter will be before members for resolution in October.

#### **Minute No. 169/24**

#### **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**

- Louth County Council has no input, control or influence with Uisce Eireann
- Different percentages against budget spend to date reflect different commencement times of projects within Directorates
- The IT department are working to establish an updated website

## **Strategic Economic Development**

- An Táin Trail consultation has been ongoing and includes 5 local authorities of which Louth is the lead
- Carlingford Lock is a Cross Border project encompassing Newry Mourne Down District Council, Louth County Council and the Locks Commission
- The County Tourism Strategy is out to tender
- Fáilte Ireland commissioned a feasibility study on an Attraction of Scale Project for Drogheda. This created a number of ideas for development but did not show sufficient plans that could attract large numbers (such as up to 80,000 visitors a day) and/or justify investment of up to a seven figure cost
- Consideration is being given to increasing the Micro-finance Ireland limit for businesses from €25k to €50k as happened during the COVID pandemic, but legislation would need to be enacted to apply this
- Appeals to include all towns and villages in the Shop Front Improvement Grant Scheme will be considered
- Boyne Valley Tourism Strategy is in progress
- Heritage Week will be launched from Beaulieu House on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> July

## **Placemaking & Physical Development**

- The reopening of Fair Street offices to facilitate the first BD meeting of new council was praised by members, with all advised of full opening circa September
- Strong opposition by residents to the proposed Carlingford Greenway extension was stated, with the Director appealing that residents engage in dialogue with the team as all options are currently on display and this will be narrowed down to a preferred route. All concerns, opinions and voices are welcome and will be listened to
- Where Bicycle signage is in situ this will now encompass e-scooters following regulations passed for e-scooters
- ORIS funding has been allocated to Port Beach, works will now go to tender
- Members were cautioned that while there are 20 specific routes planned for Active Travel in Louth, the Department priority has moved to Pathfinder projects
- The criteria for Coastal Protection Works was discussed, with caution given that the number of units is taken into account when examining flood risk, and abandoning rather than saving where it is more cost effective to rebuild is considered at national level
- No High court decision has been made on whether there is a basis for appeal for the Ardee Bypass and this has been put back to October
- No further update has been received from An Bord Pleanála on the West Gate Vision project; it is hoped that a decision will be made in time for the URDF call for proposals but it is unlikely that planning will in place
- Urban Regeneration and Development Fund Call 3 funding application covers the compulsory purchase order of circa 10 properties, valuations are carried out with view to mutual agreement of owners the aim being to target and unlock properties back into use
- The council are engaging with the NTA on bus stops
- Discussions in advance of next 'No Mow May' are welcome to identify a balance between biodiversity measures, and attraction of area; it was suggested that this might be an item for the proposed Community and Placemaking SPC
- A suggestion was made that all beachside toilets be modeled on those in Seapoint

## **Organisational Development**

- A request was made for a register of clothes banks to be distributed to Members
- Community Climate Action Fund applicants will be informed whether they have been successful or not by end of month
- Praise was given to recent local elections and running of same but the location of the count

in the foyer of County Hall was regarded as unsuitable by some Members

- Guidance documents are still awaited on CCTV
- No legislation has been passed on XL Bully dogs nor official guidance received following recent media reports on banning of dogs
- Members should expect response to reps raised through the elected rep system within 5 days
- A further request to accommodate Lourdes Stadium opening on Sunday will be reviewed
- Members noted the submission period for the Noise Action Plan is open but queried why Drogheda Train Station was not highlighted as a specific area under the plan
- The transfer of services of the County Vet to the Department of Agriculture is expected to take place in quarter 3. Control of Dogs and the Dog Pound will stay under the control of the council, but all other services will transfer including abattoir oversight, Control of Horses, and Food Safety inspections

## **Social Development**

- Members noting inspection of 102 Approved Housing Body units queried the process and were advised of schedules of inspections set at start of year, but that if any specific issue was raised to refer this to Housing who could organise inspection
- 142 Units at Finnabair will be managed by an Approved Housing Body with delivery of units expected in 2025 / 2026
- An appeal was made to restore weekend homeless response services
- Praise was given to the new age-friendly coordinator who helps people with applications, as well as to the new Varcities project at the library courtyard
- A survey has issued to determine desired locations for Affordable Housing, all were asked to contribute and share
- Retrofitting of units' project was initially planned for some 240+ units but funding was only received for 140 units, it is hoped that any available funds will be made available for more units later in the year
- A request for an extra column on DPG data to include '2024 applications received' will be accommodated
- Praise was given to the integration team with a call for further expansion of services

## **Minute No. 170/24**

### **Condolences**

Condolences were offered to the family and friends of:

- Mary Matthews, long term committee member of the Louth Traveller Accommodation Committee and well-known community figure
- Zara Murphy age 13 who passed away at a football match
- Owen Gray, musician and charity fundraiser
- Jim Corcoran, popular businessman and Drogheda retailer

## **Minute No. 171/24**

### **Congratulations**

Best wishes were offered to

- Louth Junior Ladies in the All Ireland Final
- Kate O'Connor in the upcoming Olympics

**Minute No. 172/24**

**Correspondence – Noted by Members**

Correspondence from the following was noted by Members

- Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage 16th April 2024
- Clare County Council 14th May 2024
- Monaghan County Council 15th May 2024
- Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage 15th May 2024
- Wicklow County Council 20th May 2024

As there was no other business the meeting concluded.

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

Date:

16<sup>th</sup> September 2024

Cathaoirleach:



Meeting Administrator:

