



Comhairle Contae Lú
Louth County Council

Cruinniú Míosúil Chomhairle Contae Lú Louth County Council Monthly Meeting

Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of Louth County Council hosted in the Council Chamber of Co. Hall, Dundalk on Monday, 15th December 2025, at 10:00a.m.

In Attendance:

Presiding: Councillor, Seán Kelly – Cathaoirleach

Members: Councillors: Marianne Butler, James Byrne, Kevin Callan, Emma Coffey, Bernie Conlon, Eric Donovan, Ciarán Fisher, Ann-Marie Ford, Michelle Hall, Rachel Kerley, Debbie McCole (online), Pearse McGeough, Shane McGuinness, Paddy McQuillan, Fiona MhicConchoille, Kevin Meenan, Dolores Minogue (online), Robert Nash, Ejiro O'Hare Stratton, Declan Power, John Reilly, Maeve Yore, Sionainn McCann (online)

Apologies: Councillors, Andrea McKevitt, Jim Tenanty, Pio Smith, John Sheridan

Officials: David Conway, Chief Executive
Thomas McEvoy, Director of Services
Joanna Kelly, Acting Director of Services
Bernadette Woods, Director of Finance
David Hanratty, Acting Director of Services
David Jones, Director of Services
Ger Murphy, Director of Services
Susan Deery, A/Meetings Administrator
Bryan Coughlan, Senior Executive Officer
Colette Moss, Senior Executive Officer
Helen Divilly, Head of Information Systems
John O'Hagan, Senior Engineer
Mark Johnston, Senior Engineer
Finbar Gethins, Senior Executive Officer
Turlough King, Acting Senior Planner
Olivia McCormack, Senior Executive Officer
Nikki Campbell, Head of Enterprise, LEO
Aine Roddy, Assistant Communications Officer
Sharon Keaveney, Assistant Staff Officer
Sandra Loughran, Clerical Officer

Minute No. 273/25

Approval to host a hybrid meeting

In accordance with Standing Order No. 6 Members resolved that the meeting be convened in a hybrid format.

Proposed by: Cllr. Kevin Callan
Seconded by: Cllr. Emma Coffey
And Approved.

Minute No. 274/25

Minutes of Monthly Meeting held on 17th November 2025

The Minutes were:-

Proposed by: Cllr. Kevin Callan
Seconded by: Cllr. Emma Coffey
And Approved.

Minute No. 275/25

Minutes of Budget Meeting held on 17th November 2025

The Minutes were:-

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

Minute No. 276/25

Minutes of District Meetings – for noting

- Municipal District of Ardee 4th September 2025
- Municipal District of Dundalk 14th October 2025
- Borough District of Drogheda 3rd November 2025
- Municipal District of Ardee 6th November 2025

Minute No. 277/25

Minutes of Committee Meetings – for noting

- Corporate Policy Group 6th November 2025

Minute No. 278/25

Report from Chairperson of Corporate Policy Group

A report was delivered by An Cathaoirleach Seán Kelly on proceedings from the Corporate Policy Group meeting held on 4th December 2025.

Minute No. 279/25

Strategic Policy Committee Chairpersons Report

None.

Minute No. 280/25

Approval of Attendance at Conferences

The list of conferences presented to the meeting was initially proposed by Cllr. Yore and seconded by Cllr. Coffey. Upon discussion, Cllr. Butler raised concerns regarding the rationale for hosting the Irish Mayors Conference in Slovenia. In response, Cllr. Hall clarified that the event in question was the "Urban Future: The Better Cities Conference," specifically designed for EU Mayors and focused on urban placemaking. Following this explanation, Cllr. Yore subsequently withdrew her original proposal for the list of conferences as presented.

The list as presented was then:-

Proposed by: Cllr. Michelle Hall
Seconded by: Cllr. Kevin Callan
And resolved.

Minute No. 281/25

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. Yore
Seconded by: Cllr. Coffey
And resolved.

Minute No. 282/25

Annual Financial Statement 2024

Consideration of the Audit Committee's Report on the Audited Annual Financial Statement for 2024 and the Local Government Auditor's Report under Section 60 of the Local Government Act 2014.

Ms. Bernadette Woods, Director of Finance presented the following reports to the Members:

- Audit Committee's Report on the 2024 Annual Financial Statement
- The Local Government Auditor's Report on the 2024 Annual Financial Statement

- The 2024 Audited Annual Financial Statement

Members considered the reports as presented and no matters arising were noted.

Minute No. 283/25

Drogheda Port Company Presentation

Mr. Gerard Deegan, Chairman of Drogheda Port Company, attended the meeting and delivered a comprehensive presentation to Members outlining the company's recent activities, ongoing progress, and strategic plans for the future of Drogheda Port.

Following his presentation, Members engaged in a detailed discussion, seeking further clarification on several key matters.

Mr. Deegan also extended an invitation to Members to visit Drogheda Port in 2026 for an in-depth tour of the company's operations.

Minute No. 284/25

Section 141 Reports 2024 – Compliance with Section 141 of the Local Government Act, 2001 as amended

In accordance with Section 11 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 by the following Councillors:

- Cllr. Emma Coffey reported on the 2025 activities of the Eastern & Midlands Regional Assembly and outlined the group's priorities for 2026.

Minute No. 285/25

Breithniú ar Thuarascálacha ar Chomhréitigh ón bPriomhfheidhmeannach / Consideration of Reports and Recommendations from Chief Executives Monthly Management Report

Finance and System Support

The following was highlighted in relation to Finance and System Support:

- In reference to section 7.3 of the 2024 Audit Report, Members requested further information on the subdivision of land with Uisce Éireann, in particular the land valued at €1.3 million. Director of Finance, Ms. Woods clarified that the land valued at €1.3 million was at Castletown Mount and that the transfer of ownership on the affected lands is underway.
- An update on the progress of the new website was requested by Members with Ms. Woods confirming that options were being considered in tandem with the new CRM system. If this option is not viable then a tender for services would be considered.

Economic Delivery

- The Members were informed that the Rates Waiver Programme would be promoted via the Council's social media platforms in the New Year.

- Mr. McEvoy confirmed to the Members that the Draft Tourism Report was forwarded to the Department for review, and it is expected to be signed off early in the New Year.
- Future rollout of BCP (Broadband Connection Points) would be referred to the Broadband Officer for an update to issue to the Members in due course.
- It was queried if Ardee could be added to the Living Cities project. Mr. McEvoy advised Members that the legislation for the current programme was already in place, but that Ardee may be considered for the next tranche.

Operations and Environment Delivery

The following was noted in relation to Operations and Environment Delivery:

- The Members requested clarity on the recent pilot programme targeting households which do not have bin collections and how the council deals with private bins left kerbside. A/Director Mr. Hanratty confirmed it is a process of a “reverse register” and a process of elimination to ascertain which households do not have a waste provider registered. He also referred the Members to the Waste Segregation Byelaws which outlines the process.
- Members raised concerns regarding permitted collection times for bins in residential areas, following reports of collections occurring as early as 5:00 a.m. Mr. Hanratty clarified that collection times are regulated under the terms of the collection licence and confirmed that specific details would be provided to Members. Additionally, Members requested a review of bin provision at the Frostival event. A commitment was given to assess current arrangements and ensure improved bin provision for future events.
- Members requested the possibility of taking in charge the signs for the Boyne Valley Camino which are currently being installed. Mr. Hanratty confirmed this would be examined and will revert in due course.

HR, Corporate and Community Delivery

The following was highlighted in relation to HR, Corporate and Community Delivery:

- Members sought information on the provision of bootcamps and couch to 5k programmes for the New Year with Ms. Kelly, A/Director of Services to revert with details of sports fitness programmes.

Housing and Culture Delivery

The following was highlighted in relation to Housing and Culture Delivery:

- Information on whether social housing may have been retrofitted with fibre glass insulation 30 years ago was requested. Mr. Murphy, Director of Services agreed to consult with Senior Engineer Declan Grimes and revert.
- The Members raised concerns with the increasing amount of rent arrears as outlined in the recent Local Government Audit report with Mr. Murphy confirming significant work is progressing in this area and referred members to the Chief Executive response on this matter contained within the Audit Report.
- Mr. Murphy advised the members that there were 14 Local Authority Home Loans issued in 2024 with the 2025 number to be confirmed in due course. Members questioned why the Local Authority housing loans were not eligible for purchases under the ‘First Home Scheme’. Mr. Murphy is to review the criteria and revert with his findings.
- In response to a query from Members, Mr. Murphy confirmed that the full Housing Adaptation Grant/Disabled Persons Grant budget has been allocated and will be fully recouped for 2025.

- An update on the estimated completion date for the Women's Aid project at Highfield was requested with Mr. Murphy agreeing to revert with an update, however, he clarified that Louth County Council are not directly involved in delivering the project

Major Capital Projects and Infrastructure Delivery

The following was highlighted in relation to Major Capital Projects and Infrastructure Delivery:

- An update on the Active Travel/ Pathfinder projects for Dundalk was requested with Mr. Jones, Director of Services advising that the current projects are with the National Transport Authority (NTA) for approval, however he also informed Members of the reduction in budget allocation to Active Travel in 2026.
- The URDF Call 3 programme was discussed, with Mr. Jones outlining that the preferred approach would begin with voluntary acquisition, supported by the engagement of a professional valuer, before consideration is given to pursuing the Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) route.
- The Ardee to Clontibret Road improvement scheme (N2), led by Monaghan County Council, was discussed by Members. Mr. Jones agreed to seek an update from Monaghan County Council on Departmental funding and revert to Members in due course.
- Members requested an update on the meeting with the Office of Public Works (OPW) on flood defences with emphasis on works at Carlingford and Bellurgan. Mr. Jones and Mr. John O'Hagan, Senior Engineer stated that works at Bellurgan would be reviewed in Q1 2026 and following a request for an update on works at Termonfeckin, Mr. O'Hagan advised that he revert with an update in due course.
- Members highlighted worsening traffic congestion on the Dublin Road, Drogheda and indicated that investment via the Pathfinder programme would be welcome.

Minute No. 286/25

Notice of Motion: Cllr. Kevin Callan

Seconded: Cllr. Paddy McQuillan

Will this council enter into communications with Irish Rail to approach the possible provision of a Drogheda Northern Environs located Train Station to replicate a similar approach taken by Limerick City Council and County Council. That council having taken a collaborative approach with Irish Rail for the granting of permission on lands for a Moyross located Train Station in the County.

Reply from David Jones, Director of Major Capital Projects and Infrastructure Delivery

'The Council will engage with Iarnród Éireann in advancing the objective as contained in the County Development Plan 2021-2027 in respect of improved rail services in the County, including a new rail station for North Drogheda'.

Minute No. 287/25

Correspondence

Members noted the following correspondence:

- Laois County Council 6th November 2025
- Clare County Council 13th November 2025
- Leitrim County Council 13th November 2025
- Leitrim County Council 13th November 2025
- Wexford County Council 20th November 2025
- Donegal County Council 26th November 2025
- Longford County Council 2nd December 2025

Minute No. 288/25

Condolences

Condolences were offered to the family and friends of:

- Caolán Tasker Dullaghan, Dowdallshill, Dundalk
- Victims of the attack on Bondi Beach, Australia
- John McGuinness, The Square, Blackrock

Members observed a minute of silence as a mark of respect for the individuals named above.

Minute No. 289/25

Congratulations

- Members congratulated the organisers on the success of the 'Mass of the Bells' which took place on 23rd November at St. Peters Church in Drogheda.
- Members congratulated the Cross Border Orchestra of Ireland on the successful event held on 14th December in St. Patricks Church, Dundalk.

Any Other Business

Cathaoirleach Seán Kelly expressed his sincere appreciation to the Members, Executive, and Press for their support and cooperation throughout 2025, and extended warm wishes for a Happy Christmas to all present.

David Conway, Chief Executive, also conveyed his gratitude for the dedication and commitment shown during a year marked by significant change. He wished everyone a peaceful and prosperous New Year, noting that 2026 will bring fresh opportunities for continued progress and development.

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

Date: 19th Jan '26

Cathaoirleach: 

Meeting Administrator: 