



Comhairle Contae Lú  
Louth County Council

## **Cruinniú Míósúil 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, 16<sup>th</sup> June 2025, at 10:15a.m.

### **In Attendance:**

Presiding: Councillor, Seán Kelly – Cathaoirleach

Members: Councillors: Marianne Butler, James Byrne, Kevin Callan, Emma Coffey, Bernie Conlon, Eric Donovan, Ciarán Fisher, Anne-Marie Ford, Michelle Hall, Rachel Kerley, Sionainn McCann, Pearse McGeough, Shane McGuinness, Andrea McKevitt, Paddy McQuillan, Fiona MhicConchoille, Kevin Meenan, Dolores Minogue, Robert Nash, Ejiro O'Hare Stratton, Declan Power (online), John Reilly, John Sheridan, Pío Smith, Jim Tenanty, Antóin Watters (online), Maeve Yore.

Apologies: Councillor Debbie McCole

Officials: Thomas McEvoy, Deputy Chief Executive  
Joanna Kelly, Acting Director of Services  
Bernadette Woods, Director of Finance  
David Jones, Director of Services  
Ger Murphy, Director of Services  
David Hanratty, Acting Director of Services  
Colette Moss, Acting Director of Services  
Sinead Dooley, Meetings Administrator  
Olivia McCormack, Senior Executive Officer  
Helen Divilly, Head of IT  
Finbar Gethins, Senior Executive Officer  
Gavin McLaughin, Communications Officer  
John O'Hagain, Senior Engineer  
Amanda Brannigan, County Librarian  
Aine McDonald, Assistant Staff Officer  
Celine Breen, Assistant Staff Officer  
Susan Deery, Administrative Officer

**Minute No. 143/25**

**Minutes of Meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> May 2025**

The Minutes were:-

**Proposed by:** Cllr Maeve Yore

**Seconded by:** Cllr Bernie Conlon  
And Approved.

#### **Minute No. 144/25**

#### **Matters Arising**

- Cllr John Reilly enquired if there has yet been a response from the Revenue Commissioners regarding their invitation to attend a meeting with the members. The Meetings Administrator will follow up.
- Cllr Jim Tenanty sought an update to the provision of signage for graveyards which are closed for burials. Joanna Kelly, Acting Director of Services will revert.

#### **Minute No. 145/25**

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

- Municipal District of Ardee 1<sup>st</sup> May 2025
- Borough District of Drogheda 12<sup>th</sup> May 2025
- Municipal District of Dundalk 13<sup>th</sup> May 2025

#### **Minute No. 146/25**

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

- Corporate Policy Group 7<sup>th</sup> May 2025

#### **Minute No. 147/25**

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

A report was delivered by An Cathaoirleach Seán Kelly on behalf the Chairperson of the Corporate Policy Group, Cllr. Kevin Callan, on proceedings from the Corporate Policy Group meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> June 2025.

#### **Minute No. 148/25**

#### **Strategic Policy Committee Chairpersons Report**

Cllr Robert Nash, Chair of the Community & Placemaking SPC provided an update from the March meeting.

Cllr Pio Smith, Chair of the Economic Development SPC provided an update from the May meeting.

### **Minute No. 149/25**

#### **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. Andrea McKeivitt  
**Seconded by:** Cllr. Kevin Callan  
**And resolved.**

### **Minute No. 150/25**

#### **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 on the following bodies/boards/committees by the following Councillors:

- Cllr Michelle Hall reported on the Regional Health Forum meeting which took place on 26<sup>th</sup> May 2025.
- Cllr Shane McGuinness reported on the Local Sports Partnership meeting which took place on 6<sup>th</sup> June 2025.
- Cllr John Reilly provided a report on the meeting of Carlingford Lough Association which took place on 30<sup>th</sup> April 2025.
- Cllr Pio Smith provided a report on the Association of Irish Local Government (AILG) Executive meeting.

### **Minute No. 151/25**

#### **Approval of Nomination of New Members to LCDC**

The nomination of Mr. Liam Reily as PPN Community and Voluntary Pillar on the LCDC was:

**Proposed by:** Cllr. Emma Coffey  
**Seconded by:** Cllr. Kevin Callan  
**And resolved.**

The nomination of Mr. Eugene Conlon as PPN Environment Pillar Representative on the LCDC was:

**Proposed by:** Cllr. Pearse McGeough  
**Seconded by:** Cllr. James Byrne  
**And resolved.**

### **Minute No. 152/25**

#### **Dundalk Local Area Plan Judicial Review Authorisation**

Cllr Shane McGuinness declared a conflict of interest and withdrew from the meeting while this matter was considered.

Deputy Chief Executive Thomas McEvoy explained that following the amendment made on the Dundalk Local Area Plan changing the zoning from "A2 Residential" to "Strategic Reserve", Glenveagh Homes Limited have filed a Judicial Review, and as a result, he now required Members to authorise LCC to defend the case.

Approval to defend the Judicial Review was:

**Proposed by:** Cllr Kevin Callan  
**Seconded by:** Cllr Emma Coffey  
**And approved.**

#### **Minute No. 153/25**

**Section 183 – Proposed Disposal of Fee Simple interest in the property at 37 Marsh Road, Drogheda, Co. Louth to LPR of Thomas Dennis Deceased.**

The proposed disposal of Fee Simple Interest in the property at 37 Marsh Road, Drogheda, Co. Louth to LPR of Thomas Dennis Deceased was:

**Proposed by:** Cllr Kevin Callan  
**Seconded by:** Cllr James Byrne  
**And resolved.**

#### **Minute No. 154/25**

**Section 183 – Proposed Disposal of Fee Simple interest in the property at 14 Donore Road, Drogheda, County Louth to Michael & Gillian Plunkett.**

The proposed disposal of Fee Simple Interest in the property at 14 Donore Road, Drogheda, County Louth to Michael & Gillian Plunkett.

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

#### **Minute No. 155/25**

**Section 183 – Proposed Disposal of Fee Simple interest in the property at South Side, Chord Road, Drogheda, Co. Louth to Gerard Conaghy.**

The proposed disposal of Fee Simple Interest in the property at South Side, Chord Road, Drogheda, Co Louth to Gerard Conaghy.

**Proposed by:** Cllr Michelle Hall  
**Seconded by:** Cllr Ejiro O'Hare Stratton  
**And resolved.**

## Minute No. 156/25

**Annual Report 2024 in accordance with Section 221 of the Local Government Act 2001, as amended.**

Approval of the Annual Report as set out before members was:

**Proposed by:** Cllr Rachel Kerley  
**Seconded by:** Cllr Robert Nash  
**And resolved.**

## Minute No. 157/25

### **Audit Committee Annual Report 2024**

The Audit Committee Annual Report 2024 was noted by members.

## Minute No. 158/25

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

Cllr Kelly reminded Members of the 4minute limited per individual contribution and asked that Municipal/Borough District issues be raised at the relevant Municipal / Borough District meetings.

### **Finance and System Support**

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

- Rates Write Off totalling €992,628 was confirmed a result of vacancies, bad debts and Court proceedings. No other recourse is available to the Council other than to write off these debts.
- Development Levies Write Offs totalling €474,229 was confirmed as a result of the Development Plan expiring and where the development did not go ahead.

### **Economic Delivery**

- A request for the age profile of participants who participated in the Drogheda Night Survey was requested.
- It was noted that the Night-Time Economy Officer piloted 'Late Night Cafes' in Drogheda and it was queried if similar would be done in Dundalk. It was confirmed that the expectation would be to expand the pilot to include both Dundalk and Ardee.
- The cost of the St Patricks Day Trip to New York was discussed and validation was provided by the Executive and Members of the importance of the annual trip for Economic, Tourism and International Relations. The Deputy Chief Executive clarified that all claims for subsistence are subject to full Local Government Audit.
- The Council undertook to seek an update from the OPW regarding works at Roache Castle which had commenced a number of years ago but currently no progress at the site.
- It was confirmed that the Broadband Officer is currently examining the matter of public wifi.
- Out of date signs on An Tain Bridge are to be examined and updated accordingly.
- Confirmation was given that Uisce Eireann are to carry out works on the N2 by October and resurfacing will then take place upon completion of the works
- It was confirmed that approval has been provided for the appointment of a Tain Trail Officer and that Failte Ireland have carried out a body of work which will form a Programme of Works to subsequently inform a Service Level Agreement to be agreed by all parties.

## **Operations and Environment Delivery**

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

- Confirmation was given regarding the Bye-Laws, in place since 2019, in respect to the Presentation of Household & Commercial Waste. Fixed Penalty Notices have been issued as a result of the enactment of these Bye-Laws.
- It was confirmed that the upgrade of the Fire Station Training School will include gas-fired combustion as a fixed requirement.
- The presentation of Algae-Bloom on Blackrock Beach was confirmed to be a naturally occurring phenomenon and the local authority have received no reports of a sewerage plant malfunction. Confirmation was given that the local authority are unable to clean this up as it is a biological process.
- Clarification was provided that twelve septic tank inspections are to be carried out each year by the local authority and the public are unable to specifically request their tank to be inspected.
- Following a query on when Demonstrator Projects would be introduced into the county, it was confirmed that the Urban Waste Treatment Directive needs to be transposed into Irish Law in the first instance.
- Dumping at Chapel Street is being monitored daily.
- It has been confirmed that the mattress amnesty will continue in September 2025, with coverage extending to Dundalk, Drogheda, and Mid Louth.
- The CCTV Steering Group has approved the implementation of CCTV monitoring, and a recommendation has been submitted to the Chief Executive.
- A Feasibility Study on coastal erosion at Clogherhead will be undertaken to assess its impact and identify potential actions.
- Heavy litter collected during recent beach cleanups by community groups will be reported to the beach cleaning teams for prompt action.
- An analysis report on noise pollution from Warrenpoint Port is to be circulated to the members.
- Road conditions on the R2278, Five Oaks & Scotch Hall Traffic Lights were highlighted.

## **HR, Corporate and Community Delivery**

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

- It was confirmed that the rollout of the Dog Poo bins and bags was a pilot scheme via Tidy Towns with plans to continue the rollout next year into shops, charities etc.
- The Electoral Register team were commended for the successful report in the Electoral Commission Oversight Report where Louth was identified as having one of the more accurate registers in the Country.
- PPN Advocacy training will be examined by the local authority to establish if it can be further rolled out in the future.
- The provision of a Beach Warden in Blackrock will be investigated.

## **Housing and Culture Delivery**

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

- It was confirmed that work on housing issues at Riverlane, Dundalk will continue in relation to Minimum Standards. However, it was also noted that these properties are not registered with the Residential Tenancies Board.
- The process and procedures concerning vacant properties were clarified for the members, who were also encouraged to report any antisocial behaviour arising from such vacancies.

- The local authority will ensure that applicants approved for the transfer list are duly informed.
- Concerns of members were noted regarding Rent Pressure Zones, and it was confirmed that the local authority are currently waiting on details surrounding the legislation.
- Challenges related to rent arrears were acknowledged, and members were provided with clarification on payment plans, enforcement procedures, and court processes.

### **Major Capital Projects and Infrastructure Delivery**

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

- Members will receive briefing on the matter of the R178 Dundalk to Cavan Strategic Route.
- Confirmation was received that consultants are currently working on the Dundalk Flood Relief options and once complete a report and a consultation will be organised.
- The Section 38 consultation for the Knockbridge Safe Routes to School Project has concluded, with 11 submissions received. No amendments to the plans are necessary.
- Lawrences Gate Part 8 work is ongoing with a report to be presented to members in 2025.
- A briefing of members will take place in early July on the Active Travel proposals for Drogheda to the Bridge of Peace.
- Access and toilet facilities along the Omeath to Newry Greenway was discussed, however, no funding is currently available to address this matter.
- Confirmation was received that a Part 8 application is forthcoming on the Northern Cross Route. Phase 3 will be implemented at a later stage, pending the securing of funding.
- Clarification was given that the funding received for the Dundalk Carlingford Greenway would be used to take the project to Planning Consent.
- The Local Authority will request support from An Garda Síochána for temporary traffic management in Ardee town to help alleviate congestion.

### **Minute No. 159/25**

#### **Suspension of Standing Orders No. 5**

On the **proposal of** Councillor Kevin Callan, **seconded by** Councillor Emma Coffey, Standing Orders were suspended to complete the remaining items on the agenda.

### **Minute No. 160/25**

#### **Condolences**

Condolences were offered to the family and friends of:

Mr. Peter Murphy, Collon, County Louth

Ms. Colette Campbell, Dunleer, County Louth

### **Minute No. 161/25**

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

**Seconded:** Cllr. Maeve Yore

*“In the interest of transparency and best practice set by other city and county councils, that Louth County Council will allow broadcast of public council meetings live on the internet. Also immediately allow members of the public observe meetings via MS Teams.”*

**Reply: Joanna Kelly, Acting Director of HR, Corporate & Community Delivery:**

There is no provision in legislation governing the broadcast of council meetings live on the internet. Standing Orders also do not provide for the broadcasting of council meetings. There is a concern that live broadcasting may give rise to these meetings being recorded and the possibility of comments at meetings being taken out of context. Members of the public are welcome and encouraged to attend Council meetings in person. This matter can be reviewed upon any such provision in legislation governing broadcasting of council meetings to the public.

In accordance with Standing Order No. 25 an amendment to the Notice of Motion was **proposed by Councillor Pio Smith and seconded by Councillor Emma Coffey** that:

*“In the interest of transparency and best practice set by other city and county councils, that the Corporate Policy Group consider, over a period of six months, the feasibility of allowing the broadcasting of public council meetings live on the internet and to allow members of the public to observe meetings via MS Teams”.*

A roll call was then taken to approve the amendment to the Notice of Motion:

<b>Name</b>	<b>For</b>	<b>Against</b>	<b>Abstain</b>	<b>Absent</b>
Marianne Butler	1			
James Byrne				1
Kevin Callan	1			
Emma Coffey	1			
Bernie Conlon	1			
Eric Donovan	1			
Ciarán Fisher	1			
Anne-Marie Ford				1
Michelle Hall	1			
Seán Kelly	1			
Rachel Kerley	1			
Sionainn McCann	1			
Debbie McCole				1
Pearse McGeough	1			
Shane McGuinness	1			
Andrea McKeivitt	1			
Paddy McQuillan	1			
Fiona MhicConchoille	1			
Kevin Meenan	1			
Dolores Minogue	1			
Rober Nash	1			
Ejiro O'Hare Stratton	1			
Declan Power	1			
John Reilly				1
John Sheridan				1
Pio Smith	1			
Jim Tenanty	1			
Antóin Watters	1			
Maeve Yore	1			
<b>Total Votes</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5</b>

**Correspondence**

Members noted the following correspondence:

- Carlow County Council 12<sup>th</sup> May 2025
- Fingal County Council 15<sup>th</sup> May 2025
- Donegal County Council 29<sup>th</sup> May 2025

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

Date: 21st July '25

Cathaoirleach: 

Meeting Administrator: Sinead Dooley