



Comhairle Contae Lú
Louth County Council

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 19th May 2025, at 10:00a.m.

In Attendance:

Presiding: Councillor, Kevin Callan – Cathaoirleach

Members: Councillors: Marianne Butler, Kevin Callan, Emma Coffey, Bernie Conlon, Eric Donovan, Ciarán Fisher, Anne-Marie Ford, Michelle Hall, Seán Kelly, Rachel Kerley, Sionainn McCann, Debbie McCole, Pearse McGeough, Shane McGuinness, Andrea McKevitt, Fiona MhicConchoille, Kevin Meenan, Dolores Minogue, Robert Nash, Ejiro O'Hare-Stratton, Declan Power, John Reilly, Jim Tenanty, Antóin Watters, Maeve Yore

Apologies: Councillors: James Byrne, Paddy McQuillan, John Sheridan, Pio Smith

Officials: David Conway, Chief Executive
Joanna Kelly, Acting Director of Services
Ger Murphy, Director of Services
David Jones, Director of Services
Colette Moss, Senior Executive Officer
Bernie Woods, Director of Finance
David Hanratty, Acting Director of Services
Sinéad Dooley, Meeting Administrator
Turlough King, Senior Executive Planner
John O'Hagan, Senior Engineer
Nikki Campbell, Head of LEO
Gavin McLaughlin, Communications Officer
Bryan Coughlan, Senior Executive Officer
Finbar Gethins, Senior Executive Officer
William Walsh, Senior Executive Officer
Mark Johnston, Senior Engineer
Helen Divilly, Head of IT
Susan Deery, Administrative Officer

Minute No. 122/25

Minutes of Meeting held on 28th April 2025

The Minutes were:-

Proposed by: Cllr. Michelle Hall

Seconded by: Cllr. Maeve Yore
And Approved

Minute No. 123/25

Matters Arising

With reference to Minute No.113/25 it was confirmed that:

- An update on the Hill of Rath will be made available to the members in due course.
- An expenses report on the St. Patricks Day trip to New York has been completed and will issue to members.
- The Táin Trail Service Level Agreement expected to be agreed week of 18th May with the position for Officer to be advertised shortly thereafter.
- The Broadband Officer has been appointed and commenced the role.
- Four submissions have been received in response to the tender for the provision of CCTV and it is hoped that the successful tenderer will be appointed within the coming weeks.

Minute No. 124/25

Minutes of District Meetings – for noting

- Municipal District of Ardee 3rd April 2025
- Borough District of Drogheda 7th April 2025
- Municipal District of Dundalk 8th April 2025

Minute No. 125/25

Minutes of Committee Meetings – for noting

- Corporate Policy Group 16th April 2025

Minute No. 126/25

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 7th May 2025.

Minute No. 127/25

Strategic Policy Committee Chairpersons Report

No update.

Minute No. 128/25

Approval of Attendance at Conferences

The list as put to the meeting was:

Proposed by: Cllr. Emma Coffey

Seconded by: Cllr. Michelle Hall

And resolved

Minute No. 129/25

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. Bernie Conlon

Seconded by: Cllr. Rachel Kerley

And resolved

Minute No. 130/25

To agree a date for the Annual Council Meeting

Joanna Kelly, Acting Director of Services advised that the Annual Council Meeting should occur 14 days before the anniversary of the initial AGM. She suggested and it was agreed that the 2025 AGM should occur on 16th June 2025.

Minute No. 131/25

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

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

It was queried if the format of the housing report could be replicated in the Monthly Housing Reports provided to Members. Director of Services, Ger Murphy, advised that similar could be developed for the monthly reports.

A number of clarifications were raised in respect of terminology which Acting Director of Services, Joanna Kelly, committed to reviewing.

Minute No. 132/25

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). No reports were presented.

Minute No. 133/25

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

Chief Executive, David Conway, provided a brief presentation demonstrating restructuring within the Executive, including the creation of an additional Directorate. It is Mr Conway's expectation that the new structure will assist and improve the overall efficiency and effectiveness of the organisation.

Members expressed appreciation for the presentation and welcomed the new approach which they considered to be refreshingly diverse.

Support Services

- Cllr. Tenanty raised the issue of a lack of information for both members of the public and Councillors on graveyards and queried who should be contacted for information? Acting Director of Services, Joanna Kelly, undertook to revert.

Strategic Economic Development

- The naming of Cois Ferraige housing estate in Dundalk is to be referred to the Placenames Committee to examine a duplication of placename in the area.

Placemaking & Physical Development

The following was noted in relation to Placemaking and Physical Development:

- A detailed note will be issued to the members in the coming weeks on ORIS (Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme).
- Confirmation was received that Louth County Council Public Liability Insurance will only cover events where the council manages/organises the event directly.
- Issues regarding parking at local beaches will be examined.
- Ongoing maintenance, pest control and safety at The Glen in Drogheda to be investigated.
- Road Signs vandalised on the R132 to be investigated.
- Road conditions on the R166 have been raised with the team and will be investigated.
- Confirmation was received that consultation with neighbours of The Glen Playground is imminent with wider public consultation to take place in due course.
- Additional roads which are to be completed under the Recycled Asphalt programme will be identified in the coming weeks.
- The LCC Litter Management Plan is based on a policy of 'Leave no Trace' with citizens encouraged to bring their litter home for disposal. However, 700 bins are distributed Countywide with a commitment to install an additional bin at the playground in St Helena's Park in Dundalk. A survey of littering on Mount Avenue is ongoing.
- Future Active Travel Scheme plans may alleviate issues which are ongoing on the Dublin Road, Dundalk.
- Confirmation was received that a desk-top exercise on the regeneration of Castlebellingham will take place which will be a pre-cursor for the Town Centre First programme.

- A business case, seeking formal approval for funding to enable entering a contract with the successful tenderer for regeneration works at Ardee Castle, is currently with the Department for consideration.
- In respect to appropriate signage on Cooley comanage it was noted that actions had been agreed upon with Coillte in 2024.

Organisational Development

The matters noted in relation to Organisational Development included:

- Dumping at Wadman Park on private property is the responsibility of the land owner.
- Confirmation was received that Planning Permission, unless exempt, must be sought in advance of applying for a Waste Facility permits. It was recommended that the Environment Section be contacted for guidance.
- The Council was commended on its participation in Biodiversity Week and “No Mow May”.
- Clarification was received that the upgrade of the Bush machinery yard in Cooley will involve the construction of a new depot facility.
- The CCTV tender is now complete with applications being assessed this week.

Social Development

The following was highlighted in relation to Social Development:

- Less funding is available in 2025 for the Tenant in Situ Scheme which is operating as a new scheme. However, it is LCC’s intention to make purchases for TISU.
- Anti Social Behaviour within estates will be monitored, however, any instances of ASB should be reported to An Garda Síochána.
- The Homeless Section of the Council continues to work to exit clients from Emergency Accommodation and is working closely with people who are facing homelessness.
- Alternative accommodation for people using the library to study will be examined with the possibility of using the Church Library in Drogheda in the future.
- Confirmation was received that the Council is making a concerted effort to tackle rent arrears, however, it is also noted that rent collection is increasing due to increased housing stock.
- Funding of €2.69million housing adaption grant was both projected and welcomed and those who are in receipt of a grant offer are advised to ensure works are completed before end of November.
- Confirmation was received that the council are on target to reach Private Rental Inspections for 2025.
- A discussion was held regarding the organisation of St. Patrick’s Day Parades, during which concerns were raised about funding, administrative support, and insurance. It was concluded that while the Local Authority will offer support for community events, it is important to recognize that such events should also be rooted in and driven by the community.

Minute No. 134/25

Congratulations

The members unanimously commended Louth GAA and Louth LGFA for their recent historic accomplishments in Leinster.

Minute No. 135/25

Condolences

Condolences were offered to the family and friends of:

Mr. Harry Smyth, Ardee Road, Dundalk

Mr. Martin Gill, Muirhevnamor, Dundalk

A minute silence was observed in remembrance of Garda Kevin Flatley, An Garda Síochána.

Minute No. 136/25

Notice of Motion: Cllr. John O'Reilly

Seconded: Cllr. Ciaran Fisher

I propose that Louth Co Council seriously consider commissioning a feasibility study on transforming a currently underutilised parcel of land in the Fatima area into a dedicated sport and recreational facility.

This would, in turn, possibly free up land closer to the Schools that would accommodate Road Safety in the vicinity of the three local schools.

Reply: Joe McGuinness, Director of Organisational Development

The Council will review options with this particular piece of land whilst noting that it is a natural floodplain.

Minute No. 137/25

Notice of Motion: Cllr. John O'Reilly

Seconded: Cllr. Kevin Callan

That Louth County Council explore the possibility of providing free public Wi-Fi in Omeath village, to complement the ongoing regeneration efforts and enhance its appeal as a stop-off point on the Greenway, thereby boosting tourism in the wider Cooley Peninsula.

Reply: Thomas McEvoy, Director of Strategic Economic Development

The Broadband Officer supports local, regional and national policies and initiatives intended to close the digital divide by improving connectivity and promoting the use of digital technologies to support balanced regional social and economic development.

The Broadband Officer will assess potential funding opportunities to provide free public Wi-Fi. If further funding opportunities like WiFi4EU or similar funding calls open then the Broadband Officer will lead applications for them. All opportunities to implement new initiatives for enhancing digital connectivity will be explored.

Minute No. 138/25

Correspondence

Members noted the following correspondence:


- Kerry County Council 22nd April 2025

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

Date:

16th June '25

Cathaoirleach:



Meeting Administrator:

Sinead Dooley