



Comhairle Contae Lú  
Louth County Council

## **Cruinniú Pleanála Speisialta Chomhairle Contae Lú Louth County Council Special Planning Meeting**

---

Minutes of the Special Planning Meeting of Louth County Council hosted in the Council Chamber of Co. Hall, Dundalk on Friday, 27<sup>th</sup> March 2026, at 2:00p.m.

### **In Attendance:**

Presiding: Councillor Seán Kelly – Cathaoirleach

Members: Councillors: Marianne Butler, James Byrne (online), Emma Coffey, Bernie Conlon, Eric Donovan, Anne-Marie Ford, Michelle Hall (online), Sionainn McCann, Pearse McGeough, Shane McGuinness, Andrea McKeivitt, Paddy McQuillan (online), Fiona MhicConchoille, Kevin Meenan, Dolores Minogue, Declan Power (online), John Sheridan (online), Pío Smith (online), Jim Tenanty, Antóin Watters, Maeve Yore

Apologies: Councillors: Kevin Callan, Ciarán Fisher, Rachel Kerley, Debbie McCole, Robert Nash, Ejiro O'Hare Stratton, John Reilly,

Officials: Thomas McEvoy, Deputy Chief Executive  
Joanna Kelly, A/Director of Services  
Bernadette Woods, Director of Finance  
Sinéad Dooley, Senior Executive Officer  
Turlough King, A/Senior Planner  
Susan Deery, Administrative Officer  
Conor Campfield, Senior Executive Planner  
Declan Conlon, Executive Planner  
Ciaran Kelly, Assistant Planner  
Kim Callan, Staff Officer  
Aine Roddy, Assistant Communications Officer

### **Minute No. 76/26**

#### **To consider the Chief Executive's Report in response to Motions received from the Members relating to the preparation of the Draft Development Plan**

Cathaoirleach Seán Kelly introduced the meeting and reminded Members of their obligations under the Local Government Act 2001 and the Code of Conduct for Councillors stating that:

*"The 2001 Act prohibits a councillor from influencing or seeking to influence a decision of a local authority in any matter with which the local authority is concerned in the performance of its functions and in which, or related to which, the councillor has actual knowledge that s/he or a connected person has a pecuniary or other beneficial interest.*

*Additionally, under the 2001 Act councillors must disclose at a meeting of the local authority or of its committees any pecuniary or other beneficial interest, (of which they have actual knowledge) they or a connected person have in, or material to, any matter with which the local authority is concerned in the discharge of its functions, and which comes before the meeting. The councillor must withdraw from the meeting after disclosure and must not vote or take part in any discussion or consideration of the matter or seek to in any other aspect influence the decision making of the Council.*

*The 2001 Act also provides that where a councillor has actual knowledge that a matter is going to arise at a meeting at which s/he will not be present, but if she were, a disclosure would be necessary, then in advance of the meeting s/he must make such disclosure in writing to the Ethics Registrar.*

*The test to be applied by a councillor is not just what s/he might think- but rather whether a member of the public knowing the facts of the situation would reasonably think that the interest concerned might influence the person in the performance of his or her functions. If so, disclosure should follow, and a councillor should consider whether in the circumstances s/he should withdraw from consideration of the matter. In this context it is important to ensure that as well as the avoidance of actual impropriety, occasions for suspicion and appearance of improper conduct are also avoided in case of private or personal interests. The public perception how a councillor is deals with such matters is important for maintaining public trust in local government”.*

Deputy Chief Executive, Mr. Thomas McEvoy outlined the purpose of the meeting and advised that it was being conducted in accordance with the requirements of the Planning & Development Act 2000. He further advised that amended legislation may be introduced later in the year indicating that as the law changes so too will the approach to the preparation of the Draft Development Plan.

Mr. McEvoy noted that, at Pre-Draft Consultation stage, a total of 363 submissions were received from a range of public stakeholders. He advised that the focus of the meeting was on the motions submitted by the Elected Members, which represents Stage 4 of the process (16 stages in total).

A/Senior Planner, Mr. Turlough King, advised the Members that all motions received were assessed in accordance with the requirements of the Planning & Development Act 2000, and that the Chief Executive's recommendations are strategic in nature, informed by relevant guidelines and policies and consistent with the principles of sustainable planning.

Cllr. Kelly outlined the procedure for the meeting and advised that motions would be grouped for voting purposes under three categories: accepted, amended and rejected.

In recognition of the absence of Cllr Ciaran Fisher from the meeting and having regard to the number of motions submitted by him, clarification was sought as to whether those motions would be revisited and considered at a later stage in the process. Mr. King indicated that the motions may be examined again at the Draft Plan stage.

Having regard to Standing Order No. 23, Cllr. Kelly advised that Cllr. Fisher's motions would be deemed 'dropped' in his absence.

**Theme: Housing & Sustainable Communities x 18 motions**

**Motions Accepted:**

<b>Motion No.</b>	<b>Submitted By:</b>	<b>Seconded by:</b>
3	Cllr. Michelle Hall	Cllr. Maeve Yore
4	Cllr. Michelle Hall	Cllr. Emma Coffey
6	Cllr. Ciaran Fisher	Dropped
9	Cllr. Ciaran Fisher	Dropped
13	Cllr. Ciaran Fisher	Dropped
14	Cllr. Dolores Minogue	Cllr. Maeve Yore

**Motions Accepted with Amendments:**

<b>Motion No.</b>	<b>Submitted By:</b>	<b>Seconded by:</b>
1	Cllr. Maeve Yore	Cllr. Andrea McKevitt
5	Cllr. Michelle Hall	Cllr. Andrea McKevitt
7	Cllr. Ciaran Fisher	Dropped
8	Cllr. Ciaran Fisher	Dropped
10	Cllr. Ciaran Fisher	Dropped
11	Cllr. Dolores Minogue	Cllr. Emma Coffey
12	Cllr. Dolores Minogue	Cllr. Maeve Yore
15	Cllr. Ciaran Fisher	Dropped
16	Cllr. Dolores Minogue	Cllr. Bernie Conlon
17	Cllr. Dolores Minogue	Cllr. Maeve Yore

**Motions Rejected:**

<b>Motion No.</b>	<b>Submitted By:</b>	<b>Seconded by:</b>
2	Cllr. Shane McGuinness	Cllr. Maeve Yore
18	Cllr. Dolores Minogue	Cllr. Emma Coffey

**Theme: Transport, Connectivity and Active Travel x 14 motions**

**Motions Accepted:**

<b>Motion No.</b>	<b>Submitted By:</b>	<b>Seconded by:</b>
27	Cllr. Dolores Minogue	Cllr. Andrea McKevitt
30	Cllr. Dolores Minogue	Cllr. Emma Coffey

**Motions Accepted with Amendments:**

<b>Motion No.</b>	<b>Submitted By:</b>	<b>Seconded by:</b>
22	Cllr. Ciaran Fisher	Dropped
24	Cllr. Bernie Conlon	Cllr. Maeve Yore
25	Cllr. Dolores Minogue	Cllr. Andrea McKevitt
26	Cllr. Dolores Minogue	Cllr. Emma Coffey
28	Cllr. Dolores Minogue	Cllr. Andrea McKevitt
29	Cllr. Dolores Minogue	Cllr. Marianne Butler
31	Cllr. Dolores Minogue	Cllr. Anne-Marie Ford

**Motions Rejected:**

<b>Motion No.</b>	<b>Submitted By:</b>	<b>Seconded by:</b>
19	Cllr. Shane McGuinness	Cllr. Emma Coffey
20	Cllr. Ciaran Fisher	Dropped
21	Cllr. Dolores Minogue	Cllr. Bernie Conlon
32	Cllr. Dolores Minogue	Cllr. Andrea McKevitt

**Motions Rejected – Alternative Proposed:**

Motion No.	Submitted By:	Seconded by:
23	Cllr. Ciaran Fisher	Dropped

**Theme: Economic Development, Tourism and Town Centre Vitality x 7 motions****Motions Accepted:**

Motion No.	Submitted By:	Seconded by:
59	Cllr. Dolores Minogue	Cllr. Bernie Conlon
60	Cllr. Dolores Minogue	Cllr. Bernie Conlon

**Motions Accepted with Amendments:**

Motion No.	Submitted By:	Seconded by:
55	Cllr. Maeve Yore	Cllr. Bernie Conlon
56	Cllr. Michelle Hall	Cllr. Maeve Yore
57	Cllr. Ciaran Fisher	Dropped
58	Cllr. Dolores Minogue	Cllr. Marianne Butler
61	Cllr. Dolores Minogue	Cllr. Bernie Conlon

**Theme: Social and Community Infrastructure x 13 motions****Motions Accepted:**

Motion No.	Submitted By:	Seconded by:
40	Cllr. Dolores Minogue	Cllr. Jim Tenanty

**Motions Accepted with Amendments:**

Motion No.	Submitted By:	Seconded by:
33	Cllr. Shane McGuinness	Cllr. Andrea McKeivitt
34	Cllr. Michelle Hall	Cllr. Marianne Butler
35	Cllr. Ciaran Fisher	Dropped
36	Cllr. Ciaran Fisher	Dropped
37	Cllr. Dolores Minogue	Cllr. Bernie Conlon
38	Cllr. Dolores Minogue	Cllr. Andrea McKeivitt
39	Cllr. Dolores Minogue	Cllr. Marianne Butler
41	Cllr. Dolores Minogue	Cllr. Emma Coffey
42	Cllr. Dolores Minogue	Cllr. Bernie Conlon
43	Cllr. Dolores Minogue	Cllr. Antoin Watters
44	Cllr. Dolores Minogue	Cllr. Antoin Watters
45	Cllr. Dolores Minogue	Cllr. Bernie Conlon

**Theme: Heritage, Regeneration and Vacant Buildings x 9 motions****Motions Accepted:**

Motion No.	Submitted By:	Seconded by:
46	Cllr. Dolores Minogue	Cllr. Jim Tenanty
47	Cllr. Dolores Minogue	Cllr. Emma Coffey
48	Cllr. Dolores Minogue	Cllr. Jim Tenanty
49	Cllr. Dolores Minogue	Cllr. Jim Tenanty
51	Cllr. Dolores Minogue	Cllr. Bernie Conlon
54	Cllr. Dolores Minogue	Cllr. Bernie Conlon

**Motions Accepted with Amendments:**

Motion No.	Submitted By:	Seconded by:
52	Cllr. Dolores Minogue	Cllr. Marianne Butler

53	Cllr. Ciaran Fisher	Dropped
----	---------------------	---------

**Motions Rejected:**

Motion No.	Submitted By:	Seconded by:
50	Cllr. Dolores Minogue	Cllr. Jim Tenanty

**Theme: Settlement Specific x 5 motions**

**Motions Rejected:**

Motion No.	Submitted By:	Seconded by:
62	Cllr. Dolores Minogue	Cllr. Marianne Butler
63	Cllr. Dolores Minogue	Cllr. Marianne Butler
64	Cllr. Dolores Minogue	Cllr. Bernie Conlon
65	Cllr. Dolores Minogue	Cllr. Jim Tenanty
66	Cllr. Dolores Minogue	Cllr. Emma Coffey

**Theme: Environment, Climate, Biodiversity and Green Infrastructure x 4 motions**

**Motions Accepted with Amendments:**

Motion No.	Submitted By:	Seconded by:
67	Cllr. Ciaran Fisher	Dropped
68	Cllr. Ciaran Fisher	Dropped
69	Cllr. Ciaran Fisher	Dropped
70	Cllr. Ciaran Fisher	Dropped

**Theme: Utilities and Services x 3 motions**

**Motions Accepted:**

Motion No.	Submitted By:	Seconded by:
71	Cllr. Ciaran Fisher	Dropped

**Motions Accepted with Amendments:**

Motion No.	Submitted By:	Seconded by:
72	Cllr. Ciaran Fisher	Dropped
73	Cllr. Dolores Minogue	Cllr. Emma Coffey

A roll-call vote was subsequently conducted to adopt the Chief Executive's Report in response to Strategic Directions from the Elected Members at the Pre-Draft Stage of the County Development Plan Review 2026.

The result of the vote was as follows:

Name	For	Against	Abstain	Absent
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>19</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>10</b>

And Adopted.

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

Date: 18th May '26

Cathaoirleach: 

Meeting Administrator: 