

## Special Planning Meeting of Louth County Council – 16<sup>th</sup> April 2021

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Minutes of the Special Meeting to consider the Chief Executive's Report on submissions made on the Draft County Development Plan of Louth County Council held via MS Teams, hosted from the Chamber, Co. Hall, Dundalk on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> April 2021 at 5.30 p.m.

### **In attendance:**

#### **Presiding:**

Councillor Dolores Minogue, Cathaoirleach (present in Chamber)

#### **Members:**

Councillors: *Marianne Butler, Paula Butterly, James Byrne, Joanna Byrne, Emma Coffey, Edel Corrigan, Tom Cunningham, Maria Doyle, Michelle Hall, Seán Kelly, Fiachra MacRaghnaill, Pearse McGeough, Andrea McKeivitt, Kevin Meenan, Declan Power, John Reilly, Tomás Sharkey, John Sheridan, Pio Smith, Jim Tenanty, Antoin Watters*

**All Councillors attended remotely**

#### **Apologies:**

Councillors: *Kevin Callan, Hugh Conlon, Conor Keelan, Paddy McQuillan, Liam Reilly, Eileen Tully Maeve Yore*

**Officials:** (R) signifies Remote Attendance. (P) signifies Present in Chamber

**Chief Executive:** Joan Martin, Chief Executive (P)

**Directors of Service:** Frank Pentony (P), Joe McGuinness (R),

**Meetings Administrator:** Gráinne Tuomey (P)

**Senior Planner:** Joanna Kelly (P)

**Senior Executive Planner:** Turlough King (P)

**Senior Executive Planner:** Marguerite Quinn (P)

**Assistant Planner:** Ciara Doran (R)

**Senior Staff Officer:** Clare O'Hagan (R)

The Cathaoirleach Dolores Minogue welcomed Members to the Special Council Meeting to consider the Chief Executive's Report on the submissions made on the Draft County Development Plan. She then requested the Meeting's Administrator go through the protocols for meetings.

Gráinne Tuomey, Meeting Administrator outlined the procedures for remote meeting participation, in line with the Council's adopted Standing Orders and gave a detailed presentation with regards to the Members' Statutory Obligations concerning:

- Ethical Framework
- Disclosure at Meetings
- Disclosure in Advance of Meetings

The Cathaoirleach advised Members of a large number of decisions required and suggested that they keep the hard copy book of the CE recommendations at their side for reference. She then called on the Meeting Administrator to take a roll call.

Following Roll Call the Meetings Administrator advised Members of the need to have a quorum of 9 Members present at all times.

The Chief Executive personally welcomed the Members to the first Special Meeting on the Draft Louth County Development Plan 2021 – 2027, whereby following consideration of the Chief Executive Report given to them in March, they would now be asked to accept or amend her recommendations in the report. She advised that it was a tiring process so she would recommend that no meeting lasted over 3 hours. Members were advised they would start with recommendations on the submissions made by the Office of the Planning Regulator which have to adhere to sustainable and legal guidelines.

Joanna Kelly, Senior Planner, then advised on the current status of the process, the timeline of same, and highlighted the amount of participation of Public and Elected Members to date. Members were also informed on the legal background for adoption of the plan.

The Cathaoirleach then called Members to commence and decide on first recommendation.

### **1.1 Office of the Planning Regulator (OPR) Submission No. LCDP DR817**

#### **1. Core Strategy and Settlement Hierarchy**

##### **Recommendation 1: To make no change to the Draft Plan, on foot of submission by the OPR**

The Chief Executive followed by Joanna Kelly, Senior Planner, gave a briefing which summarised the key points raised in the submissions from the Office of the Planning Regulator, (OPR) and on recommendation number 1

The Executive advised that while the Council must have regard to Section 28 Guidelines: Housing Supply Target Methodology for Development Planning issued by the DHLGH in December 2020, there was no legal mechanism to implement the Guidelines at this stage in the Development Plan process. In addition a recent Circular Letter in relation to Housing Need and Demand Assessment (HNDA) issued by DHLGH in April 2021 could also be dealt with at a later stage through variation of the Development Plan if necessary.

The Cathaoirleach sought members to propose and second the CE recommendation.

Cllr. Butler advised she had not had sight of Circular Letter or of the Section 28 Guidelines and proposed that the Members deferred making a decision until such time as they had all documentation.

Cllr. Doyle seconded this proposal.

Cllr. Meenan supported the motion and suggested they could make a decision after they had read guidelines.

Joanna Kelly advised that the Core Strategy was intrinsic to the rest of the plan and the Executive requested a short adjournment to discuss the proposal.

Following a discussion between Officials, Members were advised that as the Core Strategy was fundamental to the Development Plan process, if the decision was not made on the first recommendation then the matter would have to be deferred until the next meeting, and the Circular Letter and Guidelines would be issued to Members in the interim.

No member expressed disagreement

Meeting was adjourned to Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> April at 5.30p.m. and Members were issued with the link to Guidelines and the Circular on the Department website directly after the meeting.