



Comhairle Contae Lú  
Louth County Council

## **Cruinniú Bardasach Dhún Dealgan / Municipal District of Dundalk – May 2023**

Minutes of Municipal District of Dundalk Meeting – Council Chamber, Town Hall, Dundalk -  
Tuesday, 2nd May 2023 at 5:15pm

### **In attendance:**

**Cathaoirleach:** Councillor Kevin Meenan

**Members:** Councillor(s) Marianne Butler, Edel Corrigan, Conor Keelan, Seán Kelly, John Reilly, Liam Reilly, Andrea McKeivitt, Tomás Sharkey, Antóin Watters, Maeve Yore.

**Apologies:** Councillor Emma Coffey

**Officials:** Thomas McEvoy, Director of Services  
Bryan Coughlan, Meetings Administrator  
John Lawrence, Senior Executive Officer  
Olivia McCormack, Senior Executive Officer  
Paddy Connolly, Senior Executive Engineer

### **Minute No. 37/23**

### **Minutes of Meeting held on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> April 2023**

An amendment was made to Minute No. 33/23 to show as follows:

Referring to the number of proposed Housing Units in the LDA report, and citing figures on tenants on rent arrears and arrears of €2m, on homeless and waiting lists, Cllr Sharkey suggested that information was not going to members and **Proposed** that Dundalk District Members were provided with a Special Housing Meeting to go through all stages from the proposal to occupation. This was **Seconded by** Cllr Keelan. Director of Services Paddy Donnelly suggested that he bring the request back to the CPG for consideration and responding to various items raised by Cllr Sharkey, advised members that the Housing Delivery Action Plan 2022 – 2027 on the website sets out targets and actions for housing, that in excess of 3000 individuals/families were on the HAP scheme, with 120 recent properties coming on stream, and cited an increase in social housing properties to 4,200, and that payment plans are sought to combat arrears where possible. Cllr Sharkey stated that it was now over 18mths since minutes of a Housing Strategic Policy Committee had been brought to the County Council meeting for noting. The Director advised that these are published on our website on approval. Cllr Yore complimented staff on bringing rent arrears down from €5.9 million to €2 million. Cllr John Reilly suggested that if a special housing meeting was arranged that members of the Construction Industry be invited to attend to advise on different housing model options.

**Proposal of** – Cllr Tomás Sharkey

**Seconded by** – Cllr Conor Keelan

**And resolved**

The minutes of the monthly meeting held on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> April 2023 were confirmed on the:

**Proposal of** - Cllr Seán Kelly  
**Seconded by** - Cllr Maeve Yore  
**And approved.**

### **Minute No. 38/23**

#### **Matters Arising**

The upcoming visit to the Cavanhill Water Treatment Plant for members of the Dundalk and Ardee municipal districts was welcomed by Cllr. Sean Kelly and this was supported by the rest of the members in attendance.

It was agreed that Brigid 1500 would become a standing item on the agenda and that updates would be provided by the relevant officials.

**Proposed by** – Cllr. Sean Kelly  
**Seconded by** – Cllr. Andrea McKeivitt  
**And resolved**

### **Minute No. 39/23**

#### **Allocation of Members Community Grants provided for under Section 66 of the Local Government Act 2001**

Members considered the Community Grants as approval of same was:

**Proposed by:** Cllr Maeve Yore  
**Seconded by:** Cllr Andrea McKeivitt  
**And resolved.**

### **Minute No. 40/23**

#### **Housing Progress Report**

Members noted the report as circulated at the meeting and John Lawrence, Senior Executive Officer addressed all matters raised at the meeting.

The following items were highlighted:

- The recent visit of the Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government, Darragh O'Brien TD was welcomed
- Considerable discussion took place about Housing Assistance Grants following on from the announcement of the Council's allocation which was increased from 2022. John Lawrence informed the meeting that considerable focus was being placed on HAGs and that the Housing Department were looking for people to revert with work programmes and to have contractors on site as soon as possible.
- The meeting was also informed, in response to a query by Cllr Sharkey, that the per grant funding levels are fixed at a national level and so they can not be adjusted to account for inflationary pressures. Cllr. Butler **proposed** writing to DHPLG to highlight the need for increasing the grants and this was **seconded** by Cllr. Kelly. John Lawrence noted that this would also require an increase in the Council's matched funding.

- One of the terms of the landbank loans agreement with the DHPLG is that LCC will be on-site at the five locations before the end of 2024. Site investigation works will commence on each site shortly but one site requires a flood risk assessment.
- Cllr Sharkey sought an update on the request for a special meeting to discuss housing matters, as agreed at the April MD meeting. This is being discussed at the May meeting of the Corporate Policy Group.
- Cllr Keelan enquired about the implications for people who are removed from the housing list and was informed by John Lawrence that the number of people removed following a Social Housing Assessment is low and that if there is a genuine reason for an applicant not responding, they are reinstated onto the list.

### **Minute No. 41/23**

#### **Roads and Local Services Report**

Members discussed the report as circulated at the meeting. Paddy Connolly, Senior Executive Engineer addressed matters raised.

Along with potholes, cycling infrastructure, road safety and signage requests, parking, traffic light sequencing and traffic light repair, school traffic wardens, the following items were highlighted:

- Many members expressed appreciation to the Council's outdoor crews for specific works undertaken recently across the district.
- Members queried plans for increasing the number of outdoor staff in North Louth and were given an update on the ongoing review of the outdoor workforce.
- The JCB Pro Pothole machine is currently in South Louth, and is due to return to North Louth imminently.
- Frustration was aired at the lack of progress on repairing the Custom House roof.
- The need for Active Travel interventions at various school sites was raised. It was noted in particular that some students have additional difficulty in learning to use public transport independently.
- It is important that cognisance is taken of existing traffic management issues when new building works are commencing in particular locations.
- A request was made for a safety audit to be undertaken on the piers in Carlingford.
- The letters of offer relating to the Local Improvement Scheme have been circulated and it will go to tender shortly.
- The Local Area Plans for Dundalk and Drogheda will be commencing soon but the two year review of the County Development Plan won't be happening until next year.
- A discussion was had around sheep grazing on commonage in County Louth and who is liable for damage caused by animals involved in traffic collisions. Thomas McEvoy referred to correspondence received from the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine which confirmed that Louth County Council has no role.
- A discussion was had around Graveyard Sunday and it was noted that in previous years a Working Group had been set up for same.
- It was noted that signage is being procured in preparation for Brigid's Day 2024 and that it should be completed shortly.

### **Minute No. 42/23**

#### **Placemaking**

Olivia McCormack, Senior Executive Officer, welcomed queries on the report as issued and gave updates on timelines and schemes within the report.

The following items were highlighted/discussed:

- The design contract for Bridge Street was signed on the 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2023. Significant work has already been undertaken and it is hoped to have boots on the ground in 2024. The importance of undertaking proper public consultation was noted as being of extreme importance.
- An update was provided on the Living in Carlingford, Visiting Carlingford regeneration scheme.

**Minute No. 43/23**

It was agreed that the Municipal District of Dundalk Annual Meeting will take place on 6<sup>th</sup> June 2023 at 5.15pm

**Minute No. 44/23**

**Correspondence noted**

- Correspondence to Uisce Eireann dated 28<sup>th</sup> March 2023
- Correspondence from Uisce Eireann dated 19<sup>th</sup> April 2023

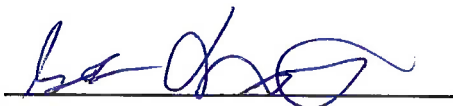
As there was no other business the meeting concluded

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

**Date:**

6<sup>th</sup> June 2023

**Cathaoirleach:**



**Meeting Administrator:**

