



Comhairle Contae Lú  
Louth County Council

## **Cruinniú Bardasach Dhún Dealgan / Municipal District of Dundalk – December 2025**

Minutes of Municipal District of Dundalk Meeting – Council Chamber, Town Hall, Dundalk -  
Tuesday, 9<sup>th</sup> December 2025 at 5:15 pm.

### **In attendance:**

**Cathaoirleach:** Councillor Robert Nash

**Members:** **Councillor(s)** Marianne Butler, Emma Coffey, Ciaran Fisher, Shane McGuinness, Fiona MhicConchoille, Kevin Meenan (online), Antón Watters, Seán Kelly, Andrea McKeivitt, John Reilly, Maeve Yore

**Apologies:** Councillor Sionainn McCann

### **Officials:**

Thomas McEvoy, Deputy Chief Executive, Director of Services  
Sinéad Dooley, Meetings Administrator  
Declan Grimes, Senior Engineer (online)  
Patrick Callan, Senior Executive Engineer  
John O'Hagan, Senior Engineer  
Gavin McLaughlin, Communications Officer  
Sandra Loughhran, Clerical Officer

### **Minute No. 111/25**

## **Minutes of Monthly Meeting held on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2025**

Minutes adopted on the:

**Proposal of:** Cllr. Maeve Yore  
**Seconded by:** Cllr Marianne Butler  
**And approved.**

### **Minute No. 112/25**

## **Provision of Assistance for the promotion of interests of local community groups or projects, provided under Section 66 of the Local Government**

**Proposal of:** Cllr. Antóin Watters  
**Seconded by:** Cllr. Emma Coffey  
**And approved.**

## Minute No. 113/25

### Housing Progress Report

Members noted the report as circulated in advance of the meeting. Declan Grimes, Senior Engineer, responded to queries raised by Members.

- It was noted that the 2026 programme of works for delivery under the Energy Efficiency Retrofit Program (EERG) is dependent on the Department's funding allocation, which has not yet been confirmed. Mr. Grimes committed to updating Members once confirmation is received.
- It was confirmed that there has been a shift away from 30-year tenancy agreements in recent years.
- Mr. Grimes advised letters have been issued to 58 potential tenants for the Connolly Field's development who will subsequently be interviewed and meet with the Tenant Liaison Officer on-site. Allocations will be prioritised in the New Year while it is also anticipated that 12 units will be made available on Choice Based Letting (CBL) on the 16<sup>th</sup> of December.
- Concerns regarding increasing levels of antisocial behaviour were raised. It was confirmed that the Strategic Policy Committee (SPC) for Social Development is developing a new Antisocial Behaviour and Tenant Handbook. Cllr Meenan, as Chair to the Committee, undertook to convey Members' concerns to the SPC.

## Minute No. 114/25

### Roads and Local Services Report

Members noted the report as circulated in advance of the meeting. Patrick Callan, Senior Engineer, responded to queries raised by Members. It was noted that:

- The Office of Public Works (OPW) is currently reviewing the Flood Relief Scheme, with an update expected in the New Year. However, it was noted that given the recent severe weather and ongoing flooding, including at businesses and premises that were also affected just two years ago by flooding, the update may come too late to address the immediate challenges.
- The issue with the bollards on Earl Street is due to a failed mechanism, which is currently being queried with the manufacturer. If the problem cannot be resolved, the installation of new bollards will be examined.
- Concerns were raised in relation to the new traffic island in front of Xerox which reduces the traffic from 3 lanes down to 1. It was suggested that a sign to advise of new road structure would be beneficial.
- It was suggested that prior notice be given when clearing gullies so cars can be removed before cleaning commences which. Mr. Callan undertook to consider.
- 90% of the time sweeping of roads and footpaths happens at night.
- The previously raised issue in reference to the traffic lights at Xerox and at the Gateway Hotel is resolved and any issues now are purely down to volume. The timings of the lights have been checked multiple times and are correct.
- Details of the Blackrock flower contest are expected to be finalised in January.
- Concerns were raised that the council are no longer collecting bags of leaves from the Tidy Towns. Mr. Callan undertook to get clarity and revert to Members on the matter.
- Responsibility for the opening and closing of sluice gates lies with Uisce Eireann.
- HGV signs are not regulated, and it will be difficult to police the passage of HGVs on roads where such signage has been erected.

## Minute No. 115/25

### Physical Development Report

John O'Hagan, Senior Engineer, attended the meeting and responded to queries from the Elected Members. It was noted that:

- Approval is awaited from the National Transport Authority (NTA) to proceed with the tender process for the Active Travel Pathfinder project.
- Details of the 40 mobility hubs planned for the Dundalk area are being finalised and will be shared with Members prior to publication.
- It is hoped that options for a Flood Relief Scheme will be ready for public consultation in Q1 2026.
- A Part 8 will be required for realignment of the junction at Sextons with confirmation of available budget not expected before February 2026.
- Works at Taffee's Castle are being carried out on a phased basis and require annual approval. The Department is currently satisfied with the standard of works being undertaken.
- The Safe Routes to School scheme is overseen by An Taisce, which develops the programme, while Louth County Council is responsible for its implementation. It is understood that the scheme is not expected to reopen nationally due to its current scale, with only 30 schools per year progressing from the existing list.

## Minute No. 116/25

**Motion: Cllr. Fiona Mhic Conchoille**

**Seconded by: Antóin Watters**

That Louth County Council undertake an urgent investigation into the recurring flooding problems affecting two sections of the R173 Regional Road on either side of Omeath village. These locations have a long-standing history of flooding, which is unacceptable given the risks to public safety and the potential obstruction of emergency service vehicles and local traffic. The investigation should include: 1. A comprehensive assessment of the causes and frequency of flooding at these sites, with particular attention to the impact of high tides coinciding with periods of heavy rainfall. 2. An examination of the interaction between tidal conditions and the flow of the Essmore River, including the effects of high tide meeting river discharge. 3. The identification and costing of viable flood defence and mitigation measures, which may include: • Raising and strengthening river banks where appropriate; • Installation of flood barriers or drainage improvements; and • Other sustainable flood prevention options designed to protect the regional road and surrounding properties.

Background / Rationale: The R173 is a key transport route through Omeath and a vital link between the Cooley Peninsula and neighbouring counties. However, two sections on either side of the village frequently flood—especially when high tides coincide with heavy rain—posing safety risks, restricting emergency access, and disrupting traffic and commerce. Flooding on the south side appears linked to tidal surges in Carlingford Lough interacting with the Essmore River's outflow and drainage capacity. An urgent investigation is needed to identify causes and develop costed, practical solutions—such as enhanced drainage, riverbank reinforcement, or sustainable flood defences—to protect public safety and ensure the continued accessibility of this key regional route.

[https://maps.app.goo.gl/C4dhu1sBqRJbp6U48?q\\_st=ipc](https://maps.app.goo.gl/C4dhu1sBqRJbp6U48?q_st=ipc)

[https://maps.app.goo.gl/Tto3yefPXj34gCVf6?q\\_st=ipc](https://maps.app.goo.gl/Tto3yefPXj34gCVf6?q_st=ipc)

### **Reply from David Hanratty, Operations & Environment Delivery**

These locations will be assessed by the Operations Team with a view to establishing what interventions are needed and if appropriate, applying for funding for inclusion on a future road works programme.

## Minute No. 117/25

### **Motion: Cllr. Andrea McKeivitt & Cllr. John Reilly Seconded by: Emma Coffey**

Calling on Louth County Council to pause the Dundalk Bay to Carlingford Greenway project until such time that the Louth county development plan review is completed and the TII full review of the National and Regional Code of Best Practice for greenways has been conducted.

I am requesting this in light of the vast amount of submissions which have been submitted to the review in respect of MOV38 concerning the use of CPOs to facilitate greenways.

In light of these submissions and the overarching concerns by the people of the peninsula I am asking that this process is paused until such time that a meaningful debate can take place in the chamber regarding CPOs.

### **Reply from David Jones, Major Capital Projects & Infrastructure Delivery**

Louth County Council, in conjunction with Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII), is currently progressing the planning and design of the proposed Dundalk Bay to Carlingford Greenway project. The project aims to restore and enhance connectivity between communities in the area through the provision of a greenway, improving non-motorised accessibility for the communities concerned.

The process has reached Public Consultation No. 3 in respect of the preferred route corridor, which was launched on 25th November 2025. Future phases of the process include identification of preferred route, preliminary design, environmental evaluation and planning consent.

The project is being developed in accordance with TII's Code of Best Practice for Greenways, inclusive of public consultation, landowner engagement and land acquisition, TII's funding approval process, and within the overarching context of the Council's County Development Plan 2021-2027. The Council will continue to progress the planning and design of the project under the existing applicable policy and guideline frameworks that are currently in place.

### **Discussion:**

A number of Members, including Cllrs Butler, Yore and Fisher voiced their opposition to the motion indicating that neither Louth County Council or they as elected members have the legal power to pause a TII-funded Greenway project while Cllr Watters suggested that the Notice needed to go further and proposed that it be amended.

On the proposal of Cllr Kelly, seconded by Cllr Coffey, Standing Orders were suspended for a short recess to afford Members the opportunity to consult on and consider alternative wording for the Notice.

Following the recess, Members reconvened and Cllr Watters proposed, seconded by Cllr Yore, that the Notice of Motion be withdrawn for clarification to be sought on the Council Executive's actual powers and an Emergency Motion raised at Monday's forthcoming meeting of full Council.

Following a Roll Call vote Cllr Watters' proposal was defeated with the Cathaoirleach casting the deciding vote.

Councillor	For	Against	Abstain	Absent
Butler, Marianne	1			
Coffey, Emma		1		

Fisher, Ciarán	1			
Kelly, Seán		1		
McCann, Sionnain				1
McGuinness, Shane		1		
McKevitt, Andrea		1		
MhicConchoille, Fiona	1			
Meenan, Kevin	1			
<b>Nash, Robert</b>		<b>1+1</b>		
Reilly, John		1		
Watters, Antóin	1			
Yore, Maeve	1			
<b>Result</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>		<b>1</b>

Cllr Coffey proposed, seconded by Cllr Reilly, that the Motion be amended to include the following text:

*“We are disappointed with the council’s refusal to pause this process and wish to write to TII seeking clarification on whether the Council executive have the power to pause this process.*

*Additionally we will write to TII, An Taoiseach, An Tánaiste, Minister of Agriculture, and Minister of Transport, requesting a meeting to discuss this motion and the effect it is having on the lives of the people of the Cooley peninsula.”*

Following a Roll Call vote Cllr Coffey’s amendment was accepted with the Cathaoirleach casting the deciding vote.

Councillor	For	Against	Abstain	Absent
Butler, Marianne		1		
Coffey, Emma	1			
Fisher, Ciarán		1		
Kelly, Seán	1			
McCann, Sionnain				1
McGuinness, Shane	1			
McKevitt, Andrea	1			
MhicConchoille, Fiona		1		
Meenan, Kevin		1		
<b>Nash, Robert</b>	<b>1+1</b>			
Reilly, John	1			
Watters, Antóin		1		
Yore, Maeve		1		
<b>Result</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>6</b>		<b>1</b>

## Minutes No. 118/25

### Condolences

Condolences were extended to the family and friends of:

- Kathleen (Kitty) Laverty (née Burns), Mill Street
- Vera Shevlin, Drumcar

**Minutes No. 119/25**

**Congratulations**

Congratulations were extended to:

- Owen O'Neill on his retirement from Louth County Council after 46 years' service.

Best wishes were extended to Cllr Andrea McKevit on her upcoming wedding.

**Minutes No. 120/25**

**Any Other Business**

As there was no other business, the meeting concluded.

**The Minutes were confirmed on:**

**Date:**

13<sup>th</sup> Jan '26

**Cathaoirleach:**

[Signature]

**Meeting Administrator:**

Sinead Doolan