



Comhairle Contae **Lú**  
**Louth** County Council

## **Cruinniú Bardasach Dhún Dealgan / Municipal District of Dundalk**

Minutes of Municipal District of Dundalk Meeting – Council Chamber, County Hall, Dundalk -  
Tuesday, 11<sup>th</sup> February 2025 at 5:15pm

### **In attendance:**

**Cathaoirleach:** Councillor Séan Kelly

**Members:** Councillor(s) Marianne Butler, Emma Coffey, Ciarán Fisher, Sionnain McCann, Shane McGuinness, Kevin Meenan, Fiona MhicConchoille, Robert Nash, John Reilly, Antóin Watters, Maeve Yore

**Apologies:** Councillor Andrea McKeivitt

**Officials:** David Conway, Chief Executive  
Thomas McEvoy, Director of Services  
Ger Murphy, Director of Services  
Olivia McCormack, Senior Executive Officer  
Mark Johnston, Senior Engineer  
Sinéad Dooley, Meetings Administrator

### **Minute No. 6/25**

#### **Minutes of monthly Meeting held on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> January 2025**

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

### **Minute No. 7/25**

#### **Matters arising**

Under Minute No. 3/25 an update was sought on the outcome of the meeting held with the Public Lighting contractor. Mark Johnson, Senior Engineer, confirmed that the meeting took place, and that the contractor was on the ground working having been in Ardee 10<sup>th</sup> February and Drogheda 11<sup>th</sup> February.

## Minute No. 8/25

### **Provision of Assistance for the promotion of interests of local community groups or projects provided under Section 66 of the Local Government Act 2001**

Members considered the Community Grants as presented to them and approval was

**Proposed by** Cllr. Antóin Watters  
**Seconded by** Cllr. Kevin Meenan

## Minute No. 9/25

### **Housing Progress Report**

Members noted the report as circulated in advance of the meeting and Ger Murphy, Director of Services, addressed matters raised at the meeting.

The following items were highlighted:

- Members acknowledged the Council's achievement in completing the Social Housing Project at Grange Close resulting in Ireland's first houses constructed using concrete printing technology.
- Direction is awaited from the Department in respect of the Tenant in-situ Scheme which remains a commitment under the Programme for Government – Securing Ireland's Future.
- Ger Murphy will arrange for Declan Grimes, Senior Engineer, to provide Members with an outline of the energy efficiency retrofit programme as part of the Housing Report agenda item at the March MD meeting.
- Cllr. Mhic Conchoille queried the length of time a Council house in Omeath has remained vacant. Ger Murphy committed to determining the position indicating that it could be down to a number of reasons such as the extent (which in some instances can be significant) of internal works required before reallocating.
- The handover process is currently being finalised in respect of MacNeill View and Ger Murphy will revert on when the Units will become available on Choice Based Letting.
- Cllr. Kelly raised concerns in respect of the number of grant application forms being returned to applicants. Ger Murphy advised that Staff Members were happy to work with applicants to make the process as straightforward as possible.
- In response to Cllr. Reilly's communications with the Revenue Commissioners, it is now understood that Revenue are in attendance, on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of the month, at the Citizens Information Centre.
- Ger Murphy undertook to follow-up on the matter of Allocation Reports which had previously been provided to Members on a monthly basis.
- It was noted that the matter of vacant retail premises was a broader issue not specific to housing and would require wider discussion. Thomas McEvoy, Director of Services, also advised that there were various incentive schemes which could be considered in respect of vacant retail premises.

## Minute No. 10/25

### Roads and Local Services Report

Members discussed the report as circulated in advance of the meeting. Thomas McEvoy, Director of Services and Mark Johnston, Senior Engineer, addressed matters raised.

The following items were highlighted:

- Funding for the 2025 Roads Work Programme has not yet been allocated but it is anticipated that it will be similar to what was provided in 2024 (€12m) and on that basis a list of 2025 activities will be presented at the March MD meeting.
- A three-year resurfacing plan has been completed and available for sharing with Members.
- Under the Roads Act the Council can enforce the clean-up of muck and debris on roads arising from works on construction sites. Mark Johnston undertook to follow up on the issue highlighted by Members, specifically the condition of the Red Barns Road.
- It was noted that Elected Members agreed in 2015 a plan for trees which provided that for every tree cut down, four are planted. The plan also provides for the pruning of diseased trees and the thinning out of clusters. Mark Johnston advised that there was no policy to cut down trees to let more light into an area but added that as the existing plan is now ten years old a review of same is timely.
- An Internal debrief on Storm Eowyn is scheduled to take place on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February. A debrief with Elected Members will be arranged shortly thereafter. It was confirmed that the Council continues to address works arising as a consequence of Storm Eowyn including the rebuilding of walls and reinstating of footpaths.
- While it is planned that appropriate safe crossing will be provided at St Helena's Park under the Active Travel Inner Relief Road Project Mark Johnston undertook to examine the possibility of closing the gate directly opposite Lidl, to encourage people to use the existing traffic lights for safe crossing.
- Mark Johnston undertook to look at road safety concerns raised in respect of the Waterworks Juncture at Ravensdale on the Newry Road.
- Other items raised by Members included Dog Fouling, the Accessibility Scheme, Parking and Loading Bays which Mark Johnston undertook to raise with relevant Officials.

## Minute No. 11/25

### Placemaking Report

Members noted the report as circulated in advance of the meeting.

Olivia McCormack, Senior Executive Officer, responded to questions from the elected members. The following matters were noted:

- Members expressed appreciation for the works at Bridge Street and extended compliments to both the Contractors involved and the Team overseeing the project.
- Olivia McCormack undertook to ask the Contractor to erect additional road signage for traffic approaching the Newry Road Bridge to address road safety concerns raised by Members.
- Consideration will also be given to incorporating the repainting of the Pedestrian Crossing at St. Nicholas'

- Cllr. McGuinness raised a matter in respect of Western relief road names which Olivia McCormack undertook to forward to relevant colleagues for response. Thomas McEvoy, Director of Services, also advised that there is a Place-naming Committee and undertook to circulate the details of same with Members.
- While Carlingford was not successful under the Rural Regeneration Development Fund application process the Council is actively pursuing alternative avenues with a view to advancing to construction and delivery.
- Members were invited to send in suggestions for consideration under the Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS).
- The Department of Rural and Community Development has yet to advise of the outcome of expressions of interests made under Call 3 of the Community Recognition Fund 2024.
- Consideration will be given to the installation of retractable bollards at Earl Street and the Square.

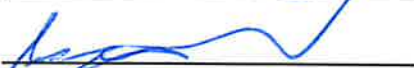
**Minute No. 12/25**

**Any Other Business**

- Cllr. Kelly advised that it is hoped that a Civic Reception for Eve McCrystal and Kate O'Connor could be arranged for some time in April – date to be confirmed.

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

**Date:** 11<sup>th</sup> MARCH '25

**Cathaoirleach:** 

**Meeting Administrator:** Sinead Doolan