



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, 13th May 2025 at 5:15pm

In attendance:

Cathaoirleach: Councillor Séan Kelly

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

Apologies: Councillor(s) Emma Coffey, Andrea McKevitt, Kevin Meenan,

Officials: Thomas McEvoy, Director of Services
Joe McGuinness, Director of Services
Sinéad Dooley, Meetings Administrator
John Lawrence, Senior Executive Officer
Paddy Connolly, Senior Executive Engineer

Minute No. 34/25

Suspension of Standing Orders

Standing Orders were suspended to acknowledge the retirement of Director of Services, Joe McGuinness from Louth County Council on 13th May following 41 years of distinguished service. Members congratulated him on his achievements throughout his tenure with Louth County Council, expressed their appreciation for all his guidance and assistance over the years and wished him health and happiness for the future.

Minute No. 35/25

Minutes of monthly Meeting held on Tuesday 8th April 2025

Proposal of: Cllr. Maeve Yore
Seconded by: Cllr. Fiona Mhic Conchoille
And resolved

Minute No. 36/25

Matters arising

None

Minute No. 37/25

Housing Progress Report

Members noted the report as circulated in advance of the meeting and John Lawrence, Senior Executive Officer addressed matters raised at the meeting. The following items were noted:

- Members noted the forthcoming retirement of Brona O'Reilly, expressed appreciation for all her assistance over the years and wished her well into the future.
- Cllr Butler commended the work on Relet and Void Properties which currently stands at a figure of 7, down from 15 in 2024.
- On foot of concerns raised by Cllr Nash, Mr Lawrence clarified the position in respect of the provision of emergency accommodation for those presenting as homeless indicating that the service operated on a countywide basis and was not restricted to Dundalk Simon Community. He further advised that the primary objective was to ensure that nobody was sleeping rough and while persons presenting as homeless often wished to remain in a particular area it is not always possible to facilitate same. As Louth County Council operates a contract with the Simon Community it will always be the first option to pursue but when demand exceeds availability at the Simon Community alternative accommodation will be offered with people referred to B&Bs in Dundalk and Drogheda. Mr Lawrence strongly refuted the suggestion that the Simon Community was not safe but he did recognise that it was not an ideal environment for people who have done great work to overcome addictions.
- 75% of the 2025 allocation (€3.3m) for housing grants has been committed. Applications received far exceed the budget allocation which has resulted in a temporary pause on the acceptance of new applications for Housing Adaptation Grants (HAGs), Mobility Aid Grants (MAGs) and Housing Aid for Older Persons (HOPs). Subject to the availability of funding, Priority 1 applications (cases where the person is terminally ill, primarily dependent on family or carer or where adaptations would support them leaving hospital or residential care) will continue to be accepted and assessed.
- Mr Lawrence advised that the Council operates the housing adaptation scheme on behalf of the Department and that it would be unlikely that changes could be made to the form. However, he committed to circulating the contact details for the Age Friendly Officer who is available to assist older persons in completing forms.
- The Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2014 provides Councils with the powers to address cases of anti-social behaviour and Mr Lawrence confirmed that a number of cases are awaiting Court hearings.

Minute No. 38/25

Roads and Local Services Report

Members discussed the report as circulated in advance of the meeting. Paddy Connolly, Senior Executive Engineer, responded to issues raised by Elected Members. The following was noted:

- Matters raised in respect of accessibility at beaches, public lighting and inaccuracies of Dead Sure reporting, speed limits & low cost safety measures with particular reference to Grange Cross and Cooley Kickhams, signage at St Helena's Park denoting access points and opening times, sea/bathing water testing at Omeath, bins for Dog Fouling along the

Carlingford to Omeath Greenway, to be brought to the attention of relevant personnel for appropriate action.

- Cllr. McCann queried in circumstances whereby a footpath posed an accessibility issue for a wheelchair user outside their residence if there was recourse to any particular scheme for assistance. Mr Connolly invited Cllr. McCann to send in the details and he would access indicating that while there was no specific budget repairs are carried out whenever possible.
- Cllr. MhicConchoille raised issues in respect of limited parking capacity in Omeath particularly from 9am on Saturdays and Sundays. Cllr. McGuinness also advised of his experience of witnessing incidents of road rage while in Omeath over the May Bank Holiday and expressed the view that should further greenways in the County be developed that planning for parking needed to be taken into consideration. Mr Connolly advised that a capital funding stream would be required for the development of parking but undertook to speak with colleagues in the Community Section.
- Similarly, and in response to Cllr. Reilly's query in respect to greenspace next to the creche at Coulter Place and whether it could be incorporated to expand availability of parking for children attending the creche, Mr Connolly reiterated the requirement for funding to develop parking.
- With reference to the high number of potholes yet to be repaired in the North Louth area, Cllr. Kelly requested a comprehensive report on the operation of the JCB Pothole Pro Machine with details on the number of potholes repairs it had completed. Mr Connolly undertook to pass on the request to relevant colleagues while also noting that LCC contractors had completed a significant number of repairs on potholes across Dundalk including at St Helena's and Roden Place to be addressed tomorrow 14th May. He also indicated that the JCB Pothole Pro Machine was not suitable for addressing some legacy repair issues.
- Cllr. Reilly raised an issue concerning 'Grazing Season' and the 1994 Annual Welfare Act which provides for the animals 'right to roam'. He referenced a past incident whereby a farmer was found liable but legal advice now suggests that farmers should not pay out. Cllr. Reilly asked that the legal standing be checked in respect to circumstances whereby an incident occurs but there is no signage advising of animals roaming.
- Road markings at the Ballymascanlon roundabout are a matter for TII.
- It was suggested that Mark Johnston, Senior Engineer be invited to attend the next meeting of the Municipal District of Dundalk. Cllr. Kelly undertook to write to Mr Johnston in the first instance.

Minute No. 39/25

To agree a date for the Annual Meeting of Municipal District of Dundalk

It was agreed to convene the Annual Meeting of the Municipal District of Dundalk on Tuesday 10th June as

Proposed by: Cllr. Antóin Watters
Seconded by: Cllr. Marianne Butler
And resolved.

Minute No. 40/25

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. Maeve Yore
Seconded by: Cllr. Robert Nash
And resolved.

Minute No. 41/25

Road Safety Working Together Group – Request for MD Member Nomination

Councillor Maeve Yore was nominated to represent the Municipal District of Dundalk on the Road Safety Working Together Group.

Proposed by: Cllr. Séan Kelly
Seconded by: Cllr. Antóin Watters
And resolved.

Minute No. 42/25

Congratulations

- Congratulations were extended to both Louth Seniors and Under 20s GAA Teams on their respective recent successes.

Minute No. 43/25

Condolences

- Condolences were extended to the family and friends of Garda Kevin Flatley.

Minute No. 44/25

Any Other Business

- Cllr Kelly advised that Dowdallshill Graveyard Committee met week of 5th May and confirmed that the annual Blessings of the Graves was scheduled to take place Sunday 20th July.

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

Date:

10th June '25

Cathaoirleach:

[Signature]

Meeting Administrator:

[Signature]