



Comhairle Contae Lú
Louth County Council

Cruinniú Bardasach Dhún Dealgan / Municipal District of Dundalk

Minutes of Municipal District of Dundalk Meeting – Council Chamber, Town Hall, Dundalk -
Tuesday, 14th October 2025 at 5:15pm

In attendance:

Cathaoirleach: Councillor Robert Nash

Members: Councillor(s) Marianne Butler (online), Emma Coffey, Ciarán Fisher (online), Shane McGuinness, Fiona MhicConchoille, Kevin Meenan (online), Antóin Watters, Maeve Yore

Apologies: Councillor(s) Seán Kelly, Andrea McKevitt, John Reilly, Sionnain McCann,

Officials: David Conway, Chief Executive
Thomas McEvoy, Deputy Chief Executive, Director of Services
Bernadette Woods, Director of Services
Sinéad Dooley, Meetings Administrator
Áine Roddy, Assistant Communications Officer
Declan Grimes, Senior Engineer
Patrick Callan, Senior Executive Engineer
Keith McArdle, Executive Engineer
Finbar Gethins, Senior Executive Officer
Lorraine Quigley, Administrative Officer

Minute No. 86/25

Minutes of Annual Meeting held on 9th September 2025

Minutes adopted on the;

Proposal of: Cllr. Maeve Yore
Seconded by: Cllr. Antóin Watters
And resolved

Minute No. 87/25

Matters Arising

None

Minute No. 88 /25

Taking in Charge

Members noted the report as circulated in advance of the meeting. Keith McArdle, Executive Engineer, addressed matters raised. It was noted that:

- Subject to the availability of requisite funding, Sandy Grove/Close and Dunmor may be progressed in 2026.
- Garry Bawn and Seacrest Manor have been completed. Members commended the work undertaken and acknowledged the positive impact of both projects.

Minute No. 89/25

Housing Progress Report

Members noted the report as circulated in advance of the meeting and Declan Grimes, Senior Engineer addressed matters raised at the meeting. The following items were noted:

- Following queries raised by Cllrs Meenan, Nash, and Butler on various housing developments Mr. Grimes confirmed that:
 - 98 social housing units had been delivered to date in 2025.
 - An additional 465 units are projected for delivery in Q4 2025 through a combination of Louth County Council Direct Build Projects, Part V agreements, Turnkey arrangements with private developers, and collaboration with Approved Housing Bodies (AHBs) bringing the total number of social housing units delivered in 2025 to 565—exceeding the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage's 'Housing for All' target of 172 units by 393.
 - Contracts for the development of 70 units at Connolly's Field site are due to be signed in the coming days.
 - 36 units have been completed at Racecourse Meadows.
 - 88 units at Gullion Park are expected to be available by year-end for allocation in 2026.
- Mr Grimes undertook to seek an update on Kincora House at Seatown.
- Cllr Butler noted that the NOAC report highlighted a national average re-letting time of 33 weeks, compared to 113 weeks in Louth. Mr. Grimes acknowledged the discrepancy and assured members that re-letting and void properties are processed as promptly as possible, subject to the condition of the property and the extent of works required.
- Cllr Yore requested an update on anti-social behaviour measures and the Tenancy Handbook. She also queried whether other local authorities had been consulted regarding approaches to rent arrears and emphasised the need for national action. Mr. Grimes advised that rent arrears are being proactively managed, with 88 letters issued this month alone. He added that an Estate Management Manual is currently in development to support ongoing efforts in this area.

Minute No. 90/25

Roads and Local Services Report

Members discussed the report as circulated in advance of the meeting. Patrick Callan, Senior Executive Engineer addressed matters raised at the meeting. In response to queries raised by Cllrs Watters, Fisher, Yore, McGuinness, MhicConchoille, Butler and Nash the following items were noted:

- There are no current plans to extend or implement a new Waiver Scheme.
- Progression of the Speed Limit Review to its next stage is pending notification from the

Department.

- The Safe Routes to School programme is an initiative led by An Taisce. However, concerns raised by Councillors regarding specific locations will be communicated for further consideration.
- The Executive continues to proactively engage with landowners regarding hedge cutting and will address any hedge-related obstructions at junctions as they arise.
- Updates on the Tree Maintenance Policy, licensing arrangements for fertiliser use, the installation of cats eyes at certain ramps, the reflectiveness of speed signage and the matter of parking and commencement of clamping at Dundalk Train Station will be referred to relevant staff for consideration and response.
- The issue of cover for Traffic Wardens remains under active consideration.
- LCC has no legal position to address parking at Blackrock Village.

Minute No. 91/25

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 report as presented to them and approval was:

Proposed by: Cllr. Maeve Yore
Seconded by: Cllr. Emma Coffey
And resolved.

Minute No. 92/25

Draft Budgetary Plan for 2026

Director of Finance, Bernadette Woods, presented the draft budgetary plan 2026 for the Municipal District of Dundalk, advising that the budget process is still at an early stage, and there is no indication from Central Government on the grant funding for 2026. On that basis, it is proposed to allocate €100,000 to each district for their General Municipal Allocation for 2026.

The allocation of €100,000 for the Municipal District of Dundalk's General Municipal Allocation for 2026 was approved.

Proposed by: Cllr. Maeve Yore
Seconded by: Cllr. Emma Coffey
And Resolved.

Minute No. 93/25

Part 8 Dundalk Athletics Track

Senior Executive Officer, Finbar Gethins presented the Chief Executive's Part 8 Report in respect to Dundalk Athletics Track.

The Part 8 was approved on the:

Proposal of: Cllr. Emma Coffey
Seconded by: Cllr. Maeve Yore
And resolved.

Minute No. 94/25

Extinguishment of Public Right of Way – Seaview Terrace, Dundalk Co. Louth

Senior Executive Engineer, Patrick Callan presented the Report in accordance with Section 73 of the Roads Act 1993 on the proposed Extinguishment of the Public Right of Way on the Seaview Terrace, Newry Road, Dundalk.

Cllr Yore indicated that she was not happy to approve the proposal having raised questions in respect to confirmation of road ownership. However, the proposal was ultimately approved by Members on the:

Proposal of: Cllr. Emma Coffey

Seconded by: Cllr. Shane McGuinness

And resolved.

Minute No. 95/25

Extinguishment of Public Right of Way – Omeath, Co. Louth

Senior Executive Engineer, Patrick Callan presented the Report in accordance with Section 73 of the Roads Act 1993 on the proposed Extinguishment of the Public Right of Way at Omeath, Co. Louth.

Members approved the proposal on the:

Proposal of: Cllr. Fiona MhicConchoille

Seconded by: Cllr. Antóin Watters

And resolved.

Minute No. 96/25

Notice of Motion – Cllr. Ciarán Fisher

Seconded by: Cllr. Emma Coffey

"I hereby propose that Louth County Council initiate a review of the existing pay parking / pay-and-display areas in the Municipal District of Dundalk.

The purpose of this review is to assess potential expansions of the pay parking area and to reduce the pressure on peripheral areas which report parking issues, while ensuring sustainable and equitable parking management.

The review should specifically consider the following:

- *Increased provisions for employee parking to address the needs of local workers and reduce congestion in core areas.*
- *Current practices of employee parking on the fringes of the existing pay parking area, with particular attention to areas like Seatown and surrounding streets, to evaluate impacts on local traffic and accessibility.*
- *The introduction of tiered parking rates, with lower rates applied in peripheral zones as distance from the town centre or high-demand areas increases, to encourage balanced usage.*
- *Variable lower rates based on street-specific circumstances, such as streets without residential houses or sections of streets adjacent to walls with no houses, to minimize impacts on non-residential areas.*
- *Integration of relevant proposals from Ireland's Active Travel Programme, which aims to promote walking and cycling for improved public health, environmental protection, and urban*

liveability.

Upon completion of the review, any recommended expansions, rate adjustments, or other changes to the pay parking areas shall be presented to the Council for approval on a street-by-street basis, allowing members to vote individually on each proposed street or zone.

This motion seeks to align parking policies with broader sustainability goals while supporting local businesses, residents, and active travel initiatives."

Reply from Bernadette Woods, Director of Services, Finance and System Support

A full review of all our pay parking areas across Louth will be undertaken in 2026.

Minute No. 97/25

Notice of Motion – Cllr. Ciarán Fisher

Seconded by: Cllr. Emma Coffey

"I hereby propose that Louth County Council commit to undertaking bi-annual clean-up operations of the Ramparts River, to be conducted twice per year, e.g. autumn and spring.

This maintenance should be specifically aimed at, but not limited to, removing excess vegetation and ensuring unobstructed water flow. These operations shall continue until such time as works to improved the flow course of the waterway is implemented. Such as is outlined in the options of the 2022 CBEC eco-engineering report.

This motion aims to maintain the river's functionality and ecological health in the interim, while advancing long-term sustainability goals for the benefit of the local community, biodiversity, and flood risk management."

Reply from David Hanratty, Director of Services, Operations & Environment Delivery

Louth County Council acknowledges public interest in the condition of the Ramparts River in Dundalk and appreciates the concerns raised regarding vegetation growth and overall river management.

It is important to note that the Ramparts River serves a dual function, with its primary role being that of an urban drainage channel. As such, its management must balance flood risk mitigation with environmental and biodiversity considerations.

The Council recognises that the growth of vegetation along the riverbanks contributes positively to local biodiversity. However, due to the slow-moving nature of the stream, vegetation—including river grasses—naturally establishes within the channel. This is a typical characteristic of low-energy watercourses, where sediment deposition creates conditions conducive to flora and fauna development. Unlike fast-flowing rivers with gravel beds, the Ramparts River's natural state is a vegetated, silted stream.

To manage this, Council staff undertake annual maintenance works, including cutting back vegetation along the banks to prevent encroachment into the channel, which could impede flow and increase the risk of flooding. In-channel vegetation removal was also undertaken during April 2025 and was managed sensitively to ensure the river continues to function effectively as a drainage asset. There is an in-channel project planned shortly for the river in 2026. This project will be delivering Option Two as contained within the 2022 CBEC eco-engineering report.

Louth County Council remains committed to maintaining the Ramparts River in a manner that supports both its functional role and its ecological value. Any future works will continue to be guided by best practice in environmental management and flood prevention.

Minute No. 98/25

Notice of Question – Cllr. Andrea McKeivitt

“Carlingford Lough Greenway

1. Could you please provide the following information regarding the Carlingford Lough Greenway - Specifically, I would like to know how many Compulsory Purchase Orders (CPOs) were required for this project, and whether all individuals affected by these CPOs have been compensated accordingly, if not how many are outstanding?

2. To date what is the exact figure spent on the proposed Carlingford - Dundalk Bay Greenway.”

Reply from David Jones, Director of Services, Major Capital Projects & Infrastructure Delivery

1. In total, 28 landowners were affected by the Carlingford Lough Greenway and subject to the Compulsory Purchase Order process associated with the project.

In terms of compensation for lands acquired, the following is the current situation:

- Agreement has been reached with 22 landowners in respect of compensation and standard conveyancing is ongoing between the respective law agents regarding completion of sales. Out of these three landowners have been paid who have met all legal requirements for contracts to be exchanged.
- Negotiations are ongoing with five landowners.
- Claims are still awaited from one landowner.

2. To date, €621,590 has been expended in relation to the proposed Carlingford to Dundalk Greenway.

Minute No. 99/25

Condolences

Condolences were extended to the family and friends of:

- Cormac Green, Caretaker, Town Hall, Louth County Council
- Tommy Campbell, Dromiskin

Minute No.100/25

Congratulations

Congratulations were extended to:

- Dundalk FC on securing First Division Title

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

Date:

11/11/2025

Cathaoirleach:

[Signature]

Meeting Administrator:

Eiread Donohy