



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, 9<sup>th</sup> September 2025 at 5:15pm

### **In attendance:**

**Cathaoirleach:** Councillor Robert Nash

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

### **Apologies:**

**Officials:** Thomas McEvoy, Deputy Chief Executive, Director of Services  
Susan Deery, Acting Meetings Administrator  
Gavin McLaughlin, Communications Officer  
John O'Hagan, Senior Engineer  
Patrick Callan, Senior Executive Engineer  
Christine Mullen, Administrative Officer  
Paula Keenan, Administrative Officer

### **Minute No. 71/25**

#### **Minutes of Annual Meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> July 2025**

Minutes adopted on the;

**Proposal of:** Cllr. Sean Kelly  
**Seconded by:** Cllr. Fiona Mhic Conchoille  
And resolved

### **Minute No. 72/25**

#### **Matters Arising**

Cllr Butler requested an update regarding the opening of the Tennis Courts in Muirhevnamor, which were scheduled for official opening in mid-August. Patrick Callan, Senior Executive Engineer, confirmed that a response on this matter will be provided to the Members in due course.

### **Minute No. 73/25**

#### **Minutes of Special Meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> August 2025**

Minutes adopted on the;

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

### **Minute No. 74/25**

#### **Housing Progress Report**

Members noted the report as circulated in advance of the meeting and Administrative Officers Christine Mullen and Paula Keenan addressed matters raised at the meeting. The following items were noted:

- Members shared their concerns regarding the perceived increase in anti-social behaviour, throughout the district, in recent times and requested clarification on the Council's procedures for addressing such issues. It was confirmed that the Executive is aware of these reports, which are currently under investigation with the intention of progressing them through enforcement. Additionally, it was noted that the Anti-Social Behaviour Policy is expected to be reviewed and updated via the Housing SPC in 2026.
- An update regarding the delay in the delivery of social housing at Mount Avenue was requested. The Housing Section will issue this update to members in the coming days.
- Members requested information on how the Housing Section ensures that properties are suitable for habitation before tenants occupy a HAP property. The Housing Section will provide further details to the Members on this matter.
- It was noted that signs are required at the green area at Maxwell Row where anti-social behaviour is taking place. This request was noted by the Executive.
- Members requested information on the range of schemes available to tenants experiencing housing difficulties, including the Help to Buy Scheme and the Tenant in Situ Scheme. Paula Keenan committed providing this information to the members in due course.
- Members sought confirmation from the Executive that Deerpark on the Carrick Road, Dundalk was Taken-in-Charge. Paula Keenan advised that this matter would be brought to the Planning Section for a response to issue in due course.

### **Minute No. 75/25**

#### **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. The following items were noted:

- Cllr Yore was advised that traffic calming surveys in the area are due to commence in the coming weeks and particular emphasis will be placed on the Shore Road to establish if anything can be provided under Low-Cost Safety Measures.
- Issues with prison vans parking along the taxi rank in Dundalk was raised by Cllr Yore. Director of Services, Mr. Thomas McEvoy explained that the Executive are aware of these issues and discussions have taken place with the Court Service, however, the lack of suitable parking for these vehicles remains an issue.
- Cllr Yore sought an update on the transfer of lands at the Navvy Bank. Mr. McEvoy advised that the Executive have screened a report received from the Department and are actively closing in on the final stages of transfer.
- Issues around the timing of the Road Resurfacing Programme were raised by Cllr Kelly, particularly the matter of the commencement of works coinciding with the reopening of schools following the summer holidays. These issues were noted by Mr Patrick Callan and a commitment given that they would be considered in next year's programme.

- The use of public bins around the town for the dumping of household waste was raised by Cllr Kelly, with Mr. Patrick Callan agreeing to discuss these matters with the Environmental Enforcement Section.
- Cllr Watters discussed the possible purchase of a gully cleaning machine which would be proactive in clearing gullies throughout the year rather than relying on the services of a contractor. Mr Patrick Callan noted these comments and added that this matter is currently with Management Team for their consideration.
- Concerns regarding the quality of the road surface at the Bush junction following the completion of recent improvement works was raised by Cllr Watters. Mr. Patrick Callan informed Members that both the contractor and representatives from the Operations Section conducted specific checks after the works were completed, and all tests were successfully passed.
- Cllr Watters sought clarification on the Dundalk/Carlingford Greenway timeframes and if there may be any delays. Mr Patrick Callan advised that he would organise an update to be sent regarding this matter.
- Cllr McGuinness raised concerns regarding the junction at Sextons on the Dublin Road were raised with reference to a recent accident at this junction. Mr Patrick Callan advised that this junction falls under the remit of Active Travel with future plans for realignment of the junction.
- Members were advised of a meeting planned to take place on 29<sup>th</sup> September 2025 with Uisce Eireann. Cllr Yore requested that the EPA should be invited to attend also.
- Cllr McKeivitt requested that a box junction should be installed at the Ballymascanlon Hotel with Mr. Patrick Callan agreeing to survey the section of road to ascertain its need.
- Cllr Coffey sought confirmation on whether the recent dredging works which took place on the Navvy Bank by the Dublin Port Authority were to be extended. Mr. Patrick Callan committed to referring this query to the Environment Section for comment.
- The provision salt buckets alongside rural roads were suggested by Cllr Mhic Conchoille with Patrick Callan agreeing to investigate the possibilities within the current budget.
- Cllr Mhic Conchoille requested the provision of a cement base alongside the road at Thistle Cross where people congregate to catch the local bus. Patrick Callan agreed to look at the location and consult with the NTA who are actively proposing bus stops within the county.
- Cllr Fisher raised the matter of damaged bollards at Earl Street, Dundalk. Mr. Patrick Callan informed Members that repairs are scheduled to take place next week. However, if the proposed fix proves unsuitable, alternative solutions may need to be considered.
- Cllr Fisher requested a report on what savings have been achieved to date following the installation of LED street lighting. It was noted that Members will receive a report in due course.
- A suggestion for further four way stops at junctions in the area was raised by Cllr Reilly with Mr. Patrick Callan confirming he would revert to the Members in the coming days regarding their legality and future rollout.
- The trees which were felled and removed to the side of the Navvy Bank was raised by Cllr Butler & Cllr Nash with disappointment being noted regarding the manner in which they have been left. Mr. Patrick Callan added that the trees were removed during out of hours and a machine will be required to complete the works, which will take place in the coming weeks.
- The speed signage on Feede Mountain was raised by Cllr Butler, noting that signage is required to alert oncoming traffic of walkers on the road. This request was noted by Mr. Patrick Callan with specific locations to be sent to him by the Members in the coming days.
- Cllr Butler highlighted the increase in camper vans parking at scenic spots within the county where issues around rubbish, noise and harm to habitats were taking place. This was noted by Mr. Patrick Callan who advised it was an enforcement issue which will require regulation with Mr. Thomas McEvoy adding that this area is being addressed within the Tourism Plan.

#### **Minute No. 76/25**

### **Physical Development Report**

Members discussed the report as circulated in advance of the meeting. John O'Hagan, Senior Engineer addressed matters raised at the meeting. The following items were noted:

- Cllr Yore sought an update on the Active Travel Plans for Dundalk with John O'Hagan confirming that tender documents will be received in the coming weeks with a hope that the successful contractor will be appointed in October. Members voiced their frustrations with the slow progress of the projects but were advised that these projects are multi-million-euro contracts which are all dependent on funding. Members expressed views of the requirement of short-term need vs long term need and the possibility that works should be carried out in areas where it is urgently required, rather than wait for funding under the Active Travel Scheme.
- John O'Hagan advised the Members that they will be briefed in late September regarding a future Part 8 Application on the Dundalk to Carlingford Greenway.
- Confirmation was received that the ongoing road closure of Mount Avenue is due to an ESB defect, however, Cllr Kelly noted that communication from the local authority on these matters would be beneficial which may then avert speculation and negative communication from the public.
- Cllr Kelly raised and discussed traffic issues around St Nicholas School to the Fairgreen where there are no parking nor Safe Routes to Schools in place. It was agreed that John O'Hagan would seek an update from An Taisce if any future applications are due to be sought on the Safe Routes to School Programme as St Nicholas' school did not make an application when the previous scheme was open.
- Information was requested on the Public Consultation on the Dundalk Flood Relief Scheme by Cllr Nash, with Members advised by Mr. John O'Hagan that it is hoped the consultation will take place in November/December.

#### **Minute No. 77/25**

#### **To agree the inclusion of additional works under the Road Works Programme 2025**

Members considered the additional works proposed under the Road Works Programme as presented to them and approval was:

**Proposed by:** Cllr. Seán Kelly  
**Seconded by:** Cllr. Antóin Watters  
 And resolved.

#### **Minute No. 78/25**

#### **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. Antóin Watters  
**Seconded by:** Cllr. Andrea McKeivitt  
 And resolved.

#### **Minute No. 79/25**

#### **Community Safety Partnership – Local Authority Membership**

Following discussion, the following Members received support to represent the Municipal District of Dundalk on the Community Safety Partnership:

#### **Councillor Maeve Yore**

**Proposed by:** Cllr Maeve Yore  
**Seconded by:** Cllr Fiona Mhic Conchoille

**Councillor Andrea McKeivitt**

Proposed by: Cllr Emma Coffey  
 Seconded by: Cllr Shane McGuinness

**Councillor Robert Nash**

Proposed by: Cllr John Reilly  
 Seconded by: Cllr Andrea McKeivitt

**Councillor Siannan McCann**

Proposed by: Cllr Antóin Watters  
 Seconded by: Cllr Fiona Mhic Conchoille

A roll call vote was then taken to nominate **two** members from the Municipal District of Dundalk:

Councillor	Cllr Yore	Cllr McKeivitt	Cllr Nash	Cllr McCann	Abstain	Absent
Cllr Butler				1	1	
Cllr Coffey		1	1			
Cllr Fisher		1	1			
Cllr Kelly		1	1			
Cllr McCann	1			1		
Cllr McGuinness		1	1			
Cllr McKeivitt		1	1			
Cllr Mhic Conchoille	1	1				
Cllr Meenan	1			1		
Cllr Nash		1	1			
Cllr Reilly		1	1			
Cllr Watters	1			1		
Cllr Yore	1			1		
	<b>5</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>

Following this vote, Members nominated the following representatives to represent the Municipal District of Dundalk:

Cllr. Andrea McKeivitt  
 Cllr. Robert Nash

**Minute No. 80/25****Suspension of Standing Orders**

In accordance with Standing Order Number 89, the Standing Orders were suspended to allow for the conclusion of business on the agenda for a further fifteen minutes on the:

**Proposal of:** Cllr Andrea McKeivitt  
**Seconded by:** Cllr Emma Coffey  
 And resolved

**Minute No. 81/25**

**Notice of Motion – Cllr. Fiona Mhic Conchoille**  
**Seconded by: Cllr Antóin Watters**

*“That Louth County Council supports the extension of the footpath from Narrow Water Bridge roundabout to Cornmacklagh House to enable improved and inclusive access to the Greenway for all users and also to provide better connectivity to the wider Cornamucklagh and Flagstaff areas.*

*This extension would serve multiple beneficial purposes, including:*

*1. Direct Access to the Greenway from Cornmacklagh House, facilitating easier and safer entry for local residents, visitors, and tourists.*

*2. Provision of Restroom and Changing Facilities at Cornmacklagh House, which would be particularly beneficial for elderly users, families, and persons with disabilities. The inclusion of an accessible changing space would support greater participation from people with disabilities.*

*3. Tourism and Economic Development, as this enhanced access point connects into a wider network of scenic trails, intersecting three counties and offering a strategic location for future tourism initiatives such as guided walking routes, bike hire, local heritage interpretation, and small-scale hospitality services.*

*This proposal supports the Council's commitment to:*

- Promoting active travel and health and well-being,*
- Encouraging inclusivity in public infrastructure, and*
- Strengthening the region's tourism potential through sustainable development.*

*I urge the Council to initiate a feasibility study, in collaboration with relevant stakeholders and landowners, to assess the necessary steps, costs, and potential funding sources (including government grants, accessibility funds, or tourism development programs) for this extension and supporting amenities”.*

#### **Reply from David Jones, Director of Services Capital Projects & Infrastructure:**

Planning for the Carlingford Lough Greenway - Omeath to The Border section was granted such that trailheads would be at Omeath and Victoria Lock where appropriate facilities are available.

The introduction of a trail head as described within this Notice of Motion along the R173 would introduce traffic safety implications given the inherent dangers of road users crossing an 80kph regional road.

Accordingly, the development of a footpath at this location it is not deemed appropriate.

However, it is noted that on completion of the Narrow Water Bridge Project, Council owned land at this site location would become available, whereby Rest Areas (as described within section 2.2 Greenways and Cycle Routes Ancillary Infrastructure Guidelines) could be considered for incorporation, subject to the appropriate consent route, adjacent to the existing greenway, without the need for additional compulsory purchase orders or significant infrastructure to be put in place.

#### **Minute No. 82/25**

#### **Notice of Motion – Cllr. Ciaran Fisher Seconded by: Cllr Seán Kelly**

*That the council survey, prepare and give a projected cost on the installation of parking bays on Bellewsbridge Road, opposite Pairc Eoin Baiste, to alleviate the issues caused by parking during the school drop off/collection and on match days at the pitch.*

#### **Reply from David Hanratty, Director of Services, Operations and Environmental Delivery:**

In response to the motion raised by Cllr. Ciaran Fisher, the council propose not to install expensive additional parking bays but propose:

1. Stakeholder Collaboration: Engage with the local soccer club to promote responsible parking behaviour through signage and direct communication, reducing congestion during peak times.

2. Optimisation of Existing Facilities: Assess the feasibility of utilising nearby underused carparks (e.g. former credit union and church) to accommodate overflow parking, minimising the need for new infrastructure.

3. Traffic Management Measures: Implement enhanced signage and double yellow lines along critical kerb sections, supported by consistent enforcement, to improve safety and compliance.

#### **Minute No. 83/25**

**Notice of Motion – Cllr. Ciaran Fisher**  
**Seconded by: Cllr Seán Kelly**

*That the council install a pedestrian crossing, or lights, on the inner relief road between An Táin Bridge and the Racecourse Road. (Housing estates like Ath Lethan, and attractions like the Spirit Store, are cut off from St Helena's Park without one and vis versa, the town is cut off from the quay. I'm sure records will show it's also a very busy and quick moving road for traffic that is difficult to cross.)*

**Reply from David Hanratty, Director of Services, Operations and Environmental Delivery:**

Louth County Council's (LCC) Active Travel Section currently have two proposed Active Travel Projects which will deliver new infrastructure in the area referenced.

The first project, namely Dundalk Inner Relief Rd Pathfinder Project (Xerox Junction to Tain Bridge) will provide two (2No) new crossing points on the Inner Relief Rd (R132) in this general area. There will be pedestrian / cyclist crossing point at the proposed traffic light junction upgrade of the Inner Relief Rd / St. Helena junction and a second crossing point just south of the Tain Bridge to access the riverside walk along the southern bank of the Castletown River.

A second project, namely Tain Bridge to Racecourse Roundabout which will tie-into with the above project, will provide three (3No) new crossing points at north side of Tain Bridge, north of Ath Lethan and south of roundabout on Racecourse Rd.

Hence in essence, five (5No) new proposed crossing points will be provided in the referenced area. The installation of such infrastructure will be reliant on NTA funding.

#### **Minute No. 84/25**

#### **Condolences**

Condolences were extended to the family and friends of:

Harry Lee, Oaklawns, Dundalk  
Maureen Conroy, Fatima Court, Dundalk

#### **Minute No. 85/25**

#### **Congratulations**

Congratulations were extended to the following:

- Ms. Caroline Hoey, Assistant Staff Officer upon her retirement from Louth County Council.
- Cllr Ciaran Fisher upon his recent marriage
- Those involved in the recent visit of the European Grandmothers to Dundalk, particularly the

staff of the Library and Mr. Pádraig O'Hora, Senior Executive Engineer.

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

**Date:** 14th Oct '25

**Cathaoirleach:** 

**Meeting Administrator:** Sinead Doolan