



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

**Louth County Council**

**Policy on the use of Council Owned or Managed Land**

**for the holding of a Funfair**

## **Section 1 - Purpose of the Policy**

This policy sets out the requirements, procedures, and conditions under which funfairs may be permitted to operate on lands owned or managed by Louth County Council.

## **Section 2 - Scope**

This policy applies to all Funfairs wishing to operate on council owned or managed land.

A funfair is defined “an entertainment where fairground equipment is used” as per Section 476 of Planning and Development Act 2024.

Louth County Council recognises the social and cultural benefits of funfairs and, in principle, supports the holding of such activities. However, the Council also has a responsibility to protect the amenity, accessibility, and shared use of public spaces for the wider community. Accordingly, a balanced approach will be applied to ensure that funfairs can be accommodated where appropriate while safeguarding the interests of all users of Council owned or managed lands.

## **Section 3 – Legislative and Regulatory Compliance**

### **3.1 Statutory Compliance**

All funfair and fairground operators must comply with all applicable statutory requirements, including but not limited to:

- Planning and Development Acts 2000–2024 (as amended)
- Planning and Development Regulations 2001–2025 (as amended)
- Planning and Development (Funfairs and Fairground Equipment) Regulations 2025
- Safety Regulations as per S.I. No. 427 of 2025 – Planning and Development (Funfairs and Fairground Equipment) Regulations 2025
- Safety, Health and Welfare at Work Act 2005 and associated Regulations
- Fire Services Acts 1981 and 2003
- Environmental Protection Agency Acts 1992–2023
- Waste Management Acts 1996–2023
- Licensing of Outdoor Events Regulations (where applicable)

Compliance with this policy does not exempt an operator from obtaining any statutory consent, licence, permit, or authorisation required under law.

### **3.2 Planning Requirements**

Operators must determine whether planning permission is required under the Planning and Development Acts and associated Regulations.

In particular:

- Where the anticipated attendance exceeds 5,000 persons, planning permission is required under the Planning and Development (Funfairs and Fairground Equipment) Regulations 2025.
- Where the duration, scale, frequency, or physical impact of the installation exceeds exempted development thresholds, planning permission must be obtained in advance.
- Where temporary structures require Fire Safety Certificates or Disability Access Certificates, these must be secured prior to installation.

Written confirmation of planning status may be required by Louth County Council prior to approval.

### **3.3 Safety Certification of Equipment**

All rides, amusements, inflatables, and associated structures must:

- Be certified by a competent and qualified independent inspection body
- Hold valid inspection documentation in accordance with S.I. No. 427 of 2025
- Be erected and operated by suitably trained and competent personnel
- Undergo daily operational safety checks

The Council reserves the right to request copies of all certification and inspection reports.

### **3.4 Event Licensing Requirements**

Where a funfair forms part of a larger public event:

- An Event Licence may be required under relevant legislation.
- Compliance with Local Authority event licensing conditions is mandatory.
- Operators must cooperate with An Garda Síochána, Fire Authority, HSE, and other statutory agencies as required.

### **3.5 Insurance Requirements**

Operators must maintain:

- Public Liability Insurance with a minimum indemnity of €6.5 million per occurrence (or such higher amount as may be specified by the Council)
- Employer's Liability Insurance (where applicable)
- Indemnification of Louth County Council as an insured party

Insurance documentation must be valid for the full duration of the event, including build-up and breakdown periods.

### **3.6 Enforcement and Legal Liability**

Failure to comply with statutory obligations may result in:

- Refusal of Council approval
- Immediate suspension of operations
- Reporting to relevant statutory authorities
- Forfeiture of deposits
- Civil recovery of costs

The operator bears full legal responsibility for compliance with all legislative requirements.

## **Section 4 - Application Process**

Applicants must submit required documentation including insurance, safety certificates, layout plans, and risk assessments a minimum of 3 weeks in advance. Please see Funfair application checklist to ensure that you have submitted all required documentation.

Please note that all applications requiring a closure of a car park or road must be submitted 8 weeks in advance of event date, due to statutory advertising timelines. An event licence must be obtained if the funfair/fairground is part of a wider event.

Where applications or expressions of interest have been submitted by more than one operator for a specific location and date. Louth County Council will make a decision as to which operator is given permission. The Council's decision on this will be final.

Where the council make a decision that it does not wish to approve use of land owned or managed by Louth County Council for the holding of a funfair, this will be communicated to the applicant at the earliest opportunity. The Council's decision on this will be final.

The Council will specify the operating hours and duration of the event. The Council's decision on this will be final.

## **Section 5 - Site Management & Requirements**

Louth County Council advises that Funfair operators who wish to use council owned or managed lands, may only operate on hard surface areas. This is to protect the amenity of green spaces.

Requirements include:

- protection of council property,
- managing utilities
- managing access,
- noise controls,
- environmental responsibilities, including litter control. Funfair operators must ensure compliance of all attendees to Louth County Council Bye Laws 2018(Regulation and Control of the Consumption of Intoxicating Liquor in Public Spaces)

## **Section 6 - Public Safety and Crowd Management**

Funfair operators must designate safety personnel, implement crowd control measures, and maintain emergency access procedures.

Operators must determine whether planning permission is required under the Planning and Development Acts and associated Regulations. In particular:

- Where the anticipated attendance exceeds 5,000 persons, planning permission is required under the Planning and Development (Funfairs and Fairground Equipment) Regulations 2025.

- Where the duration, scale, frequency, or physical impact of the installation exceeds exempted development thresholds, planning permission must be obtained in advance.
- Where temporary structures require Fire Safety Certificates or Disability Access Certificates, these must be secured prior to installation.

Written confirmation of planning status may be required by Louth County Council prior to approval.

### **Section 7 - Council Oversight and Inspections**

The Council may inspect sites and enforce compliance, including suspension or closure of operations for non-compliance under Section 48 Planning & Development Act 2024

### **Section 8 - Fees**

A daily usage fee of €300 per day will apply. Payment must be received a minimum of 7 days in advance. Please note related charges such as use of utilities may also apply.

An additional refundable deposit of €500 must be paid in to secure the location. Please note this deposit will be refunded within 2 weeks of completion of the funfair, following a satisfactory inspection of the site by an authorised officer of Louth County Council.

Please note use of pay-parking bays incurs an additional charge as per Louth County Council's Parking Control Pay Parking Bye – Laws which can be found on [Pay Parking & Traffic Management - Louth County Council](#)

### **Section 9 - Insurance Requirements**

Operators must maintain:

- Public Liability Insurance with a minimum indemnity of €6.5 million per occurrence (or such higher amount as may be specified by the Council)
- Employer's Liability Insurance (where applicable)

- Indemnification of Louth County Council as an insured party

Insurance documentation must be valid for the full duration of the event, including build-up and breakdown periods.

## **Section 10 - Enforcement and Legal Liability**

Failure to comply with statutory obligations may result in:

- Refusal of Council approval
- Immediate suspension of operations
- Reporting to relevant statutory authorities
- Forfeiture of deposits
- Civil recovery of all costs

The operator bears full legal responsibility for compliance with all legislative requirements

## **Section 11 – Data Protection**

All personal data submitted will be processed in accordance with GDPR.

Policy Review

The Council will review this policy annually or upon receipt of updated ministerial guidelines.