Comhairle Contae **Lú**
Louth County Council

Cruinniú Bardasach Dhún Dealgan / Municipal District of Dundalk – October 2026

Minutes of Municipal District of Dundalk Monthly Meeting – Council Chamber, Town Hall, Dundalk -Tuesday, 6th October 2026 at 5:15 pm.

In attendance:

Cathaoirleach: Councillor John Reilly

Members: **Councillor(s)** Marianne Butler, Sean Kelly (online), Sionainn McCann, Shane McGuinness, Fiona Mhic Conchoille, Kevin Meenan, Robert Nash, Antóin Watters and Maeve Yore

Apologies: **Councillor(s):** Andrea McKevitt, Emma Coffey and Ciaran Fisher

Officials:
Thomas McEvoy, Director of Services
Bernadette Woods, Director of Services
Sinéad Dooley, Meetings Administrator
Patrick Callan, Senior Executive Engineer
Anthony Donoghue, Senior Executive Officer
Eamonn McArdle, Executive Planner
Robert Page, Chief Fire Officer
John O'Hagan, Senior Engineer
Ben Holland, Assistant Engineer
Aine Roddy, Communications Officer
Sandra Loughran, Clerical Officer
Aleksandra Bylinko, Clerical Officer

Minute No. 89/26

Minutes of Monthly Meeting held on Tuesday 1st September 2026

Minutes adopted on the:

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

Minute No. 90/26

Notice of Motion for Purpose of Dealing with Urgent Business

In compliance with Standing Order No. 20, Cllr. Watters sought the consent of the Members to consider the following Emergency Notice of Motion as urgent business:

"The members of the Dundalk Municipal District express their serious alarm and concern at the determination of the Parades Commission in relation to the Drumcree Parade along the Garvaghy Road in Portadown. The members request that these concerns be conveyed to the Taoiseach and Tánaiste and call on the Government, in the context of its role as co-guarantor of the Good Friday Agreement, to raise the matter with the British Government and seek to ensure that the concerns of the Garvaghy Road community are fully respected."

The proposal to consider the matter as urgent business was:

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

A roll call vote took place on the proposal to admit the motion as urgent business.

Councillor	For	Against	Abstain	Absent
Butler, Marianne	1			
Coffey, Emma				1
Fisher, Ciarán				1
Kelly, Seán	1			
McCann, Sionainn	1			
McGuinness, Shane				1
McKevitt, Andrea				1
MhicConchoille, Fiona	1			
Meenan, Kevin	1			
Nash, Robert	1			
Reilly, John	1			
Watters, Antóin	1			
Yore, Maeve	1			
Result	**9**	**-**	**-**	**4**

The proposal was carried and the motion was admitted for consideration as urgent business.

The Emergency Motion was subsequently considered and supported.

Minute No. 91/26

Part 8 for Dundalk Fire Station

Senior Engineer, John O'Hagan, Chief Fire Officer, Robert Page and Executive Planner, Eamonn McArdle presented the Chief Executive's Part 8 Report in respect of Dundalk Fire Station.

Members welcomed the proposal and acknowledged the extensive engagement undertaken with local residents through the non-statutory consultation process. It was noted that the proposed facility will provide significant benefits for fire and emergency services across the North-East Region and that the project is expected to be transformative for the area. Officials advised that, subject to funding, construction is expected to commence in Spring 2027 with completion anticipated in 2028.

The Part 8 was approved on the:

Proposal of: Cllr. Maeve Yore
Seconded by: Cllr. Sionainn McCann
And Resolved.

Minute No. 92/26

Draft Budgetary Plan for 2027

Director of Services, Ms. Bernadette Woods, presented the Draft Budgetary Plan for 2027 and advised that a General Municipal Allocation of €100,000 was proposed for the Municipal District of Dundalk.

During consideration of the General Municipal Allocation, Members discussed parking charges and the operation of card payments at parking meters. It was noted that a wider review of pay parking arrangements is due to commence shortly and members agreed not to alter charges pending completion of that review.

The allocation of €100,000 for the Municipal District of Dundalk's General Municipal Allocation for 2027 was approved on the:

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

Minute No. 93/26

Taking In Charge Report

Members noted the report, which had been circulated in advance of the meeting. Assistant Engineer, Mr. Ben Holland responded to queries raised by Members. The following matters were noted:

- Development-led applications continue to be prioritised where developers are actively engaging to resolve outstanding issues.
- Funding constraints remain a challenge in addressing legacy issues where bonds were not secured.
- Cash bonds are now required for new developments to avoid recurrence of historical issues.
- Marlmount remains on the Taking in Charge programme.
- It was confirmed that bonds may be drawn down where necessary to complete works, where a developer cannot fulfil their obligations.
- Members requested details of estates proposed for progression during 2027/2028 and emphasised the need to continue addressing longstanding legacy estates.

Minute No. 94/26

Housing Progress Report

Members noted the report, which had been circulated in advance of the meeting. Senior Executive Officer, Mr. Anthony Donoghue responded to queries raised by Members. The following matters were noted:

- Estates of ten or more houses are subject to social and affordable housing requirements.
- Approximately 177 homes are expected to become available through Choice Based Lettings and other housing delivery programmes before year end.
- Progress in reducing rent arrears was acknowledged.
- Properties at Louth Village are expected to be advertised through Choice Based Lettings, with allocations anticipated in November.
- Bayview units are expected to be advertised shortly.

- Guidance videos are available for tenants in relation to the operation of heat pump systems.
- Engagement will take place with the Maintenance Team regarding asbestos concerns at Church View, Dromiskin.
- Members raised concerns regarding anti-social behaviour and public disorder. It was noted that these matters would be raised through the Community Safety Partnership and that work is progressing on an Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy.

Minute No. 95/26

Roads & Local Services Report

Members noted the report, which had been circulated in advance of the meeting. Senior Executive Engineer, Mr. Patrick Callan responded to queries raised by Members. The following matters were noted:

- Repairs to traffic signals at the bypass roundabout are expected shortly and traffic light timings on the Carrick Road will be reviewed.
- The absence of school crossing patrols will be referred to the relevant section.
- An RFQ has issued in respect of works at Dowdallshill Cemetery, including boundary wall works, a memorial garden and a columbarium wall.
- Engagement will take place with undertakers regarding proposed cemetery bye-laws.
- Concerns regarding public realm maintenance in Carlingford, including bins, bottle banks, railings and Taaffe's Castle, were noted. Bespoke replacement railings have been ordered.
- Fence repair works along the Greenway are due to commence and the condition of the Navy Bank jetty will be examined.
- Concerns regarding flags and related public safety issues will be investigated.
- There are currently 28 roads awaiting progression under the Community Involvement Scheme.
- Speed cushions are being used in place of raised pedestrian crossings where appropriate to facilitate emergency vehicle access.
- Parking capacity issues at the running track will form part of the emerging Master Plan.
- Issues relating to the Park & Ride facility, including access to CCTV footage, will be examined.
- Damage to roads arising from construction traffic must be rectified by the relevant developer or contractor.
- Active Travel proposals and the Muirhevnamor Master Plan remain under consideration, with a further update expected in due course.

Minute No. 96/26

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. Maeve Yore
And approved.

Minute No. 97/26

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

Notice of Motion That Louth County Council engages with Newry, Mourne and Down District Council and the Department for Infrastructure (DFI) to jointly assess and consider road safety improvements on the Flagstaff and Ferry Hill Road, with particular attention to the poor visibility at the junction of FerryHill and Flagstaff Road . Given the anticipated increase in traffic following the opening of the Narrow Water Bridge, both councils should identify and implement appropriate measures to improve visibility, enhance road safety and ensure the route is suitable for the expected increase in vehicle movements. Fógra Rúin Go dtéann Comhairle Chontae Lú i ngleic le Comhairle Ceantair an Iúir, Mhúrn agus an Dúin agus an Roinn Bonneagair chun feabhsuithe sábháilteachta ar bhóithre a mheas maidir le Bóthar Chraobh na gCaorach agus Bóthar Chnoc an Bhealaigh, le haird áirithe dírithe ar an easpa léargais ag an acomhal idir na bóithre seo. Agus an méadú tráchta a bhfuiltear ag súil leis tugtha faoi deara, I ndiaidh oscailt Droichid an Chaoluisce, ba chóir don dá chomhairle bealaí oiriúnacha a chur i bhfeidhm chun léargas a fheabhsú, sábháilteacht ar bhóithre a fheabhsú agus cínnte a dhéanamh go mbeidh an bealach I gceart don méadú a bhfuiltear ag súil leis ó thaobh taistil na bhfeithiclí.

Reply from David Jones, Major Capital Projects & Infrastructure Delivery
As part of the development process of the Narrow Water Bridge, traffic modelling was conducted to predict traffic movement post construction, which indicated that no significant increase in traffic is expected along this route, with the majority of traffic being locally generated.

Traffic patterns will be reassessed in the immediate period following the opening of the bridge in order to allow for comparison against the predicted modelling.

In respect of the junction highlighted, an assessment will be carried regarding the requirement for any enhanced road safety measures at this location, with any identified intervention subject to inclusion in any future Road Works Programme and in the context of its road classification, namely a Local Secondary Road.

The subject matter of the Motion will be shared with the relevant officials in DFI, as the Roads Authority in Northern Ireland, for their consideration.

Aontaítear tabhairt faoin measúnú atá beartaithe chun cur leis an bpróiseas pleanála fórsa saothair atá le teacht. Scrúdófar sa mheasúnú na riachtanais oibríochtúla, na tairbhí féideartha, na costais agus na roghanna maoinithe atá ar fáil a bhaineann leis an ról nua seo a bhunú. Ba cheart a thabhairt faoi deara, áfach, go mbeadh post breise i gceist leis seo laistigh den struchtúr eagraíochtúil agus, dá bhrí sin, go mbeadh acmhainní breise foirne agus airgeadais ag teastáil. Beidh gá aon mholadh a eascróidh as an measúnú a bhreithniú i gcomhthéacs phlean foriomlán fórsa saothair na Comhairle, thosaíochtaí seirbhíse na Comhairle agus na n-acmhainní atá ar fáil.

Minute No. 98/26

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

That Louth County Council undertake an assessment of the operational, safety, environmental and management requirements of Carlingford Harbour and Greer's Quay, Omeath, and examine the feasibility of establishing a dedicated Coastal Management Role for the Municipal District. Such a role could incorporate Harbour Master/Pier Warden functions within Carlingford Harbour and Greer's Quay, together with seasonal Beach Ranger duties at Blue Flag and designated

bathing areas during peak tourism periods. The assessment should consider: 1. Harbour and pier management, maintenance and public safety requirements. 2. Vessel management, mooring arrangements and issues relating to abandoned, derelict or partially submerged vessels. 3. Environmental protection, pollution prevention and the safeguarding of water quality within Carlingford Lough. 4. The increasing levels of commercial, marine, recreational and tourism activity within Carlingford Harbour and the wider lough area. 5. The provision of a visible point of contact for harbour users, visitors, local businesses and local communities. 6. Seasonal Beach Ranger functions, including visitor support, environmental awareness, beach safety promotion and liaison with relevant agencies regarding anti-social behaviour and public safety concerns. 7. The responsibilities, operational benefits, costs and potential funding opportunities associated with such a role. A report on the findings of this assessment should be presented to the Dundalk Municipal District.
Go bhfuil Comhairle Chontae Lú chun measúnú a dhéanamh ar na riachtanais oibríochta, sláinte, timpeallachta agus bainistíochta a bhaineann le Cuan Chairlinn agus Cé Greer agus Ó Méith chun scrúdú a dhéanamh ar an fhéidearthacht maidir le ról áirithe a chruthú don bhainistíocht chósta don cheanta bardasach. Is féidir le ról mar seo dualgais a shealbhú cosúil le máistir Cuain, feidhmeanna laistigh de chuan Chairlinn agus Cé Greer le chéile le dualgais mhaor trá ag ceantair snámha áirithe. Ba chóir don mheasúnú aire a chur air: 1. Bainistíocht chuan agus ché agus riachtanais sábháilteachta poiblí. 2. Bainistíocht loinge. 3. Cosaint an chomhshaoil, cosc ar truailliú agus cosaint ar chaighdeán an uisce. 4. An méadú a ghníomhaíocht thráchtála, mhara, chaitheamh aimsire agus thurasóireachta laistigh de chuan Chairlinn. 5. Pointe teagmhála a sholáthar d'úsáideoirí an chuain, do chuairteoirí agus do phobail áitiúla. 6. Feidhmeanna mhaorga trá cosúil le tacaíocht do chuairteoirí, sláinte trá a chur chun cinn agus dul i ngleic leis na seirbhísí oiriúnacha maidir le hiompar frithshóisialta agus imní faoi shábháilteacht phoiblí. 7. Na dualgais, buntáistí oibríochta, costais agus deiseanna maoinithe a ghabhann le ról mar seo. Ba chóir do thuairisc ar na torthaí don mheasúnú seo a chur ar fháil.

Reply from David Hanratty, Operations & Environment Delivery
It is agreed to undertake the proposed assessment in order to feed into the upcoming workforce planning process. The assessment will examine the operational requirements, potential benefits, costs and available funding options associated with establishing this new role. It should be noted, however, that this would represent an additional position within the organisational structure and would therefore require additional staffing and financial resources. Any recommendation arising from the assessment will need to be considered in the context of the Council's overall workforce plan, service priorities and available resources.

Mar chuid de phróiseas forbartha Dhroichead Chaol Uisce, rinneadh samhaltú tráchta chun gluaiseachtaí tráchta tar éis na tógála a thuar, agus léirigh sé sin nach bhfuiltear ag súil le méadú suntasach ar an trácht feadh an bhealaigh seo, agus gur trácht a ghintear go háitiúil a bheidh i bhformhór an tráchta.

Déanfar patrúin tráchta a athmheas sa tréimhse díreach tar éis oscailt an droichid ionas gur féidir iad a chur i gcomparáid leis an samhaltú réamh-mheasta.

Maidir leis an acomhal atá aibhsithe, déanfar measúnú ar an ngá atá le haon bhearta feabhsaithe sábháilteachta ar bhóithre ag an láthair seo, agus beidh aon idirghabháil a shainaithneofar faoi réir a cur san áireamh in aon Chlár Oibreacha Bóthair amach anseo agus á breithniú i gcomhthéacs a aicmithe bóthair, is é sin Bóthar Áitiúil Tánaisteach.

Roinnfear ábhar na Rúin leis na hoifigigh ábhartha sa Roinn Bonneagair (Dfl), mar an tÚdarás Bóithre i dTuaisceart Éireann, lena bhreithniú.

Condolences

Condolences were extended to the family and friends of:

- Jean Nash (née McArdle), mother of Cllr. Robert Nash
- Patrick Aubrey Halley, former Assistant Chief Fire Officer with the Louth County Fire Service
- Joe Corcoran, former Principal of Ó'Fiaich College

Minutes No. 100/26

Any Other Business

As there was no other business, the meeting concluded.

The Minutes were confirmed on:

Date: 3rd Nov 26

Cathaoirleach: _____

Meeting Administrator: Sinéad Dooley