



Comhairle Contae Lú
Louth County Council

LOUTH COUNTY COUNCIL - CORPORATE POLICY GROUP

Minutes of the Corporate Policy Group Meeting held in the Setanta Room, County Hall Dundalk on
Wednesday, 4th of October 2023 at 09:00am

In attendance:

Cathaoirleach - Cllr Paula Butterly (In Person)

Members, Cllrs: Joanna Byrne (Remote)
Seán Kelly (Remote)
John Reilly (In Person)
Liam Reilly (Remote)
Pio Smith (Remote)

Apologies, Cllrs: None

Officials: Joan Martin Chief Executive
Joe McGuinness, Director of Services
Ger Murphy, Director of Services
David Jones, Director of Services
Bernie Woods, Director of Services
Thomas McEvoy, Director of Services
Yvonne O'Brien, Director of Services
Gráinne Tuomey, Meetings Administrator

1. Minutes of the Meeting held on 7th June 2023

Approval of the minutes of the meeting of 7th June 2023 was:

Proposed by: Cllr John Reilly
Seconded by: Cllr Joanna Byrne
And agreed

2. Minutes of the Meeting held on 6th September 2023

Approval of the minutes of the meeting of 6th September 2023 was:

Proposed by: Cllr Seán Kelly
Seconded by: Cllr Paula Butterly
And agreed

3. Council Meeting Agenda

Members were given a briefing on all items in the Council Agenda including (but not exclusive to):

- Approval is sought from Members for a €5 million overdraft facility in the event that it is needed

in 2024.

- S141 responsibilities – Members were reminded that the S141 report to council is a report on the activities of any body to which they are appointed. The quarterly report that is filled out online is on attendances at meetings.
- Approval is sought to fill a vacancy on the LCDC.
- Members were advised that on foot of reassurance from the Department on finances for a 3 year period, the Chief Executive had signed the Master Co-operation Agreement with Uisce Eireann. Members will be informed when the transfer of services to Uisce Eireann will take place.
- Cllr Joanna Byrne advised that the Emergency Motion raised at the September meeting where items had been deferred could now be withdrawn as matters had evolved since.

4. Budget 2024 Update

Members were reminded that the MD Budget Meetings take place before the main council meeting on 16th October, an allocation of €100,000 per MD is currently proposed.

The main Budget Meeting takes place after the Council Meeting in November. Lunch will be provided. Budget items were discussed including concerns on Climate Action costs, Public Lighting contract cessation in 2024 and the Dundalk BIDs rate increase which will see Commercial Rates in Dundalk go in line with those in Drogheda town.

The draft Budget will go out to Members on 13th of November 2023.

5. Members Communication Plan

A backlog of Sugar cases was noted due to recent industrial action. Recent behaviour at Council Meetings was referred to and Members were reminded of the Code of Conduct for Councillors and of the requirement to adhere to Standing Orders.

6. SPC Annual Work Programmes 2023

Cllr Liam Reilly and Cllr Pio Smith confirmed that they would both report on this item.

7. Allocation of Members Community Grants provided for under Section 66 of the Local Government Act 2001

Members considered the Community Grants as presented to them, and it was:

Proposed by: Cllr Paula Butterly

Seconded by: Cllr Seán Kelly

And approved to bring these to full Council for consideration.

8. Approval of Attendance at Conferences

Members considered the Conferences as presented to them, and it was:

Proposed by: Cllr Paula Butterly

Seconded by: Cllr Seán Kelly

And approved to bring these to full Council for consideration.

9. Any other business

Responding to queries raised, Joe McGuinness advised of a review of fleet management and operations.

Members briefly discussed the impact of the new Development Contribution Scheme.

As there was no other business the meeting concluded.

The Minutes were confirmed at a meeting of the Corporate Policy Group held on:

Date: 8 Nov 2023

Cathaoirleach: Paula Butler

Meetings Administrator: Aisling