

**Minutes of the Planning and Support Infrastructure Strategic Policy Committee Meeting held in person in the Cooley Room, County Hall and on Teams on the 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2025 at 4p.m.**

**In Attendance**

Cllr Rachel Kerley	Louth County Council - Chairperson
Cllr Ciaran Fisher	Louth County Council
Cllr Antoin Watters	Louth County Council (Microsoft Teams)
Vincent Matthews	Development and Construction Interest
Thomas McEvoy	Director of Service
John O'Hagan	Executive Engineer
Cormac McGee	Vacant Homes Officer Louth County Council

**Officials**

Turlough King	Acting Senior Planner
Frances Hodgers	Staff Officer

**Absent**

Cllr Ejiro O'Hare Stratton	Louth County Council
Cllr Bernie Conlon	Louth County Council
Cllr Emma Coffey	Louth County Council
Anthony McArdle	Community and Voluntary Pillar
Jennifer Owens	Youth Work Ireland
Pat McCormack	Business & Commercial Interest
Kevin Sweeney	Agriculture and Farming Interest
William Walsh	Senior Executive Officer

Cllr Kerley opened the meeting.

**1. Minutes of Meeting dated 12<sup>th</sup> December 2024**

The minutes were again unable to be adopted due to insufficient persons from the 12<sup>th</sup> December meeting being present. It was agreed that this could possibly be done by email.

**Minutes of Meeting dated 1<sup>st</sup> July 2025**

Proposed: Cllr Kerley. Seconded: CllrFisher. Adopted.

**2. Presentation by Cormac McGee Vacant Homes Officer**

Vacant Homes Officer Cormac McGee (SSO) give a presentation on vacant and derelict homes in Co. Louth.

- Cllr Fisher requested clarification between dereliction and vacant homes. This was clarified as vacant homes being in a state of disrepair but generally in fair to good condition and can

be refurbished through grants. Derelict properties are unoccupied and uninhabitable potential for CPO. Thomas, added that a property is considered derelict if its condition detracts from the appearance of the surrounding area 'what it looks like from the roadside'. Sometimes buildings can be dangerous and not deemed derelict.

- It was noted that Ardee Bakery needed attention.
- Vincent Matthews highlighted that the heart of Dundalk Town Centre has lack of businesses due to 4 out of town retail parks that were approved. Thomas explained that there is a draft scheme going forward to the Council Meeting in November regarding a rates waiver scheme to encourage businesses into Drogheda town centre this would allow 100% Waiver for Year 1, 50% Waiver for Year 2 and 25% Waiver for Year 3 dependent on the business owner taking on the business for 4 years. It was also noted businesses which would not qualify for this scheme such as, vape, amusements, off licence, takeaways etc.
- It was also mentioned that with Dunnes Stores closing on West St. this has been a big loss and it is doubtful Dunnes Stores will sell on the property. LCC has reached out to Dunnes Stores.
- Improvement scheme for shop front façade being run by Dundalk Bids is being rolled out to Drogheda.
- Cllr Fisher highlighted an aspiration if each Municipal District Area could get one property back into use could it be assigned for community purposes i.e. buy or sell.
- Cllr Watters commended the work being done on the Vacant Homes Team.
- Council Meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> November will discuss the Self-Sustaining Groups Dundalk, Drogheda, Ardee, and Dunleer – this will roll out to other areas such as Omeath is there is an appetite for it.
- Shopfront standards discussed regarding Neon Lights in vape shops and nail bars. Thomas reiterated shop front grants will not be approved if the shop does not meet with the required standards set.

**AOB:**

Turlough King give an update on the Dev. Plan 2027 – 2033 – CE Report to be ready by end January 2026 and pre-draft of Dev. Plan will be on display September 2026.

**Date:** Adopted 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2026

**Chairperson:**



**Meeting Administrator:**

