

**Minutes of the Planning and Support Infrastructure Strategic Policy Committee Meeting to discuss correspondence from Minister for Local Government and Planning on capacity and availability of Residential lands in Co Louth Via Microsoft Teams on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2026 at 4pm**

**In Attendance**

Cllr Rachel Kerley	Louth County Council-Chairperson
Cllr Ciaran Fisher	Louth County Council
Cllr Antoin Watters	Louth County Council
Vincent Matthews	Development and Construction Interest
Pat McCormack	Business and Commercial Interest

**Officials**

Thomas McEvoy	Director of Service
Turlough King	Senior Executive Planner
Conor Campfield	Senior Executive Planner
Declan Conlon	Executive Planner
Ann McCormick	Executive Planner
Ciara Doran	Assistant Planner
Kim Callan	Staff Officer
Louise Watters	Staff Officer

1. Thomas McEvoy opened the meeting and gave a brief background
  - 31/07/25 Minister requested increased units in Co Louth by roughly 2,850 units
  - Minister requested CE report to assess new numbers
  - CE report produced in February and sent to all Members, the OPR and the Minister on 18<sup>th</sup> February 2026
  - Minister has come back with letter on 6<sup>th</sup> March
2. Turlough King presented slides with main points
  - Sufficient lands need to be zoned for projected housing growth
  - Additional headroom of 50% of zoned lands
  - Long term Strategic and Sustainability Development sites
  - Needs to be a variation of current Development Plan for new numbers required
  - Letter to CE from Minister on 6<sup>th</sup> March highlighted urgency in housing delivery and priority of progressing the variation to the Development Plan

- Recommended next steps i.e.. Review of residential lands, screenings, environmental reports etc, zoning of additional lands, variation to be published end of Q2/early Q3 2026

#### Questions & Remarks

- Cllr Kerley queried how many units we can built on currently zoned land/ T. McEvoy stated we have 365 Hectares which would roughly accommodate 10,500 to 14,216 units phase 1 residential units, advice from Minister is 2850 extra residential units for remaining 2 years of current Development Plan
- V.Mathews also queried numbers of Hectares not built on and how many units can be developed on this zoned land.
- V.Mathews queried the number of landowners who haven't paid the 3% RZLT/ T King stated the Local Authority outline lands then it is up to the Revenue to pursue payment of the RZLT/ T McEvoy also stated it is up to the Revenue as part of the Finance Act
- T McEvoy states Core strategy was 1160 per annum now 1670 per annum/Also states if entering new 10-year plan 2500 units needed per annum totalling 25000 over the 10 years
- Cllr Kerley enquires if variation is agreed when will it go to the Members/ T McEvoy states an email will be circulated to all Members
- Brief process is explained by T. McEvoy and T. King
  - Commence variation process.
  - Parallel to the Variation process a non-statutory public consultation will be initiated Inviting landowners to bring forward land that can be activated.
  - Landowners need to be made aware if land is zoned, they are subject to RZLT.
- Cllr Kerley enquired when would outcome be/ T. King stated a minimum of 16 weeks, Adverts should be out approx. end of June

There were no objections to variation going ahead.

T McEvoy stated process would then commence.

Note would be sent to Members in relation to outcome of this meeting and background of the variation request from the Minister.

T.King to prepare advert on non-statutory 'Call for Sites' consultation.

The minutes were confirmed on

Date: 26<sup>th</sup> May 2026

Chairperson:

Rachel Kerley

Meeting Administrator:

Miss Hooper