



Comhairle Contae Lú
Louth County Council

Cruinniú Míósúil Chomhairle Contae Lú Louth County Council Monthly Meeting

Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of Louth County Council hosted in the Council Chamber of County Hall, Dundalk on Monday, 20th July 2026, at 10:00a.m.

In Attendance:

Presiding: Councillor Shane McGuinness – Deputy Cathaoirleach

Members: Councillors: Marianne Butler, Kevin Callan, Bernie Conlon, Eric Donovan, Ciarán Fisher, Anne-Marie Ford, Michelle Hall, Seán Kelly, Rachel Kerley, Sionainn McCann, Debbie McCole, Pearse McGeough, Fiona Mhic Conchoille (online), Kevin Meenan, Robert Nash, Ejiro O'Hare Stratton, Declan Power, John Sheridan, Pío Smith, Maeve Yore.

Apologies: Councillors: Emma Coffey, Dolores Minogue, James Byrne, Andrea McKevitt, Paddy McQuillan, John Reilly, Jim Tenanty, Antóin Watters.

Officials: David Conway, Chief Executive
Thomas McEvoy, Director of Services
Bernadette Woods, Director of Finance
Joanna Kelly, Acting Director of Services
Sinéad Dooley, Meetings Administrator
Amanda Brannigan, County Librarian
Eileen McDermott, Senior Executive Librarian
Mark Johnston, Senior Engineer
Turlough King, A/Senior Planner
Declan Grimes, Senior Engineer
Bryan Coughlan, Senior Executive Officer
Finbar Gethins, Senior Executive Officer
Paula Keenan, A/Senior Executive Officer
Anne D Callan, Administrative Officer
Fiona Lennon, Community Climate Action Officer
Jackie Kirwan, Digital Communications Officer
Aine Roddy, Assistant Communications Officer

Minute No. 152/26

Minutes of Annual Meeting held on 15th June 2026

The Minutes were:-

Proposed by: Cllr. Rachel Kerley
Seconded by: Cllr. Maeve Yore
And Approved.

Minute No. 153/26

Minutes of Monthly Meeting held on 15th June 2026

The Minutes were:-

Proposed by: Cllr. Maeve Yore
Seconded by: Cllr. Rachel Kerley
And Approved.

Minute No. 154/26

Matters Arising

None

Minute No. 155/26

Minutes of District Meetings – for noting

- Borough District of Drogheda 11th May 2026
- Municipal District of Dundalk 12th May 2026
- Municipal District of Ardee Annual General Meeting 4th June 2026
- Municipal District of Ardee 4th June 2026
- Borough District of Drogheda Annual Meeting 8th June 2026

Minute No. 156/26

Minutes of Committee Meetings – for noting

- Social Development SPC 24th March 2026
- Corporate Policy Group 4th June 2026

Minute No. 157/26

Report from Chairperson of Corporate Policy Group

A report was delivered by Cllr. Shane McGuinness on proceedings from the Corporate Policy Group meeting held on 9th July 2026.

Minute No. 158/26

Strategic Policy Committee Chairpersons Report

Cllr. Kevin Meenan reported on the Social Development SPC meeting held on 16th June 2026.

Cllr. Robert Nash reported on the Community & Placemaking SPC meeting held on 15th June 2026.

Minute No. 159/26

Approval of Attendance at Conferences and Training Events

The list as put to the meeting was:-

Proposed by: Cllr. Kevin Callan
Seconded by: Cllr. Pio Smith
And Resolved.

Minute No. 160/26

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

Approval of the grants as presented on the agenda was:

Proposed by: Cllr. Kevin Callan
Seconded by: Cllr. Maeve Yore
And Resolved.

Minute No. 161/26

Vacancy on the Planning & Support Infrastructure SPC

Members were advised that the Environmental Pillar of the Planning & Support Infrastructure SPC has been vacant for some time. Louth PPN recently went out to their members seeking nominations and a new representative, Dominic Hartigan of Bird Watch Ireland, was successfully nominated for Council approval.

Proposed by: Cllr. Bernie Conlon
Seconded by: Cllr. Robert Nash
And Approved.

Minute No. 162/26

Section 141 Reports 2024 – Compliance with Section 141 of the Local Government Act, 2001 as amended

- Cllr. Fiona Mhic Conchoille provided a report on the Regional Health Forum Dublin North East.
- Cllr. Declan Power provided reports from recent meetings of the Oversight Committee of the Dublin Belfast Economic Corridor and the Louth Sports Partnership.

Minute No. 163/26

Report on reports submitted to the Cathaoirleach under Section 142 of the Local Government Act 2001, as amended.

None

Minute No. 164/26

Library Development Programme 2026 – 2030

Ms. Amanda Brannigan, County Librarian, gave a presentation on the Library Development Programme 2026 – 2030. The Council has a statutory obligation under the Local Government Act 2001 to prepare and adopt a Library Development Programme for a five-year period. The Programme was developed following an extensive consultation process and was approved by the Social Development SPC, chaired by Cllr. Kevin Meenan.

Members were advised that the consultation process engaged more than 1000 respondents and included contributions from stakeholders across the education, youth, health, disability, arts, migrant support, local government and community & voluntary sectors. The Programme sets out six strategic objectives focussed on accessible library spaces, collections and resources, digital services, communications, staff development, and lifelong learning and outreach, ensuring that library services remain central to community life in County Louth.

Members warmly welcomed the Programme, commended the extensive work undertaken in its preparation, and acknowledged the significant achievements and continued growth of the Library Service. Particular tribute was paid to library staff for their commitment, energy and enthusiasm in delivering high-quality services across the county. Broad support was expressed for the vision and strategic direction set out in the Programme.

Members formally adopted the Library Development Programme 2026-2030 as required under the Local Government Act, 2001. A formal launch of the Programme will take place in Ardee Library on August 27th.

Proposed by: Cllr. Kevin Meenan
Seconded by: Cllr. Maeve Yore
And Adopted.

Minute No. 165/26

Presentation on Climate Action Funding Initiatives

Ms. Fiona Lennon, Community Climate Action Officer, delivered a presentation on a number of Climate Action funding and engagement initiatives, including Climate Action Week Grants, the Community Based Climate Innovation Course and the Local Environmental Action Fund (LEAF). Members were advised of funding opportunities available to community groups and individuals, as well as measures being undertaken by the Council to support climate action awareness, education and community participation across the county.

The presentation outlined plans for Climate Action Week 2026, grant support for community-led events, the rollout of a Community Based Climate Innovation Course in partnership with Trinity College Dublin and the IKC3 project, and the availability of LEAF funding to support local environmental and climate action projects.

Members welcomed the range of initiatives presented and acknowledged the ongoing work of the Climate Action Team in supporting communities to engage with climate action measures and funding opportunities. Members highlighted the importance of promoting awareness of available funding schemes, encouraging broad community participation and ensuring opportunities are accessible across the county. Clarification will be sought regarding participation by persons under 18 years of age in the Community Based Climate Innovation Course.

Members thanked Ms. Lennon for the presentation and requested that the presentation slides be circulated.

Minute No. 166/26

S183 – Proposed Disposal of The Old Station House, Omeath, Co. Louth to Omeath Tidy Towns.

Cllr. Fiona MhicConchoille declared a conflict of interest and withdrew from the meeting while the matter was considered.

Members considered the proposed disposal of The Old Station House, Omeath, in accordance with Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001.

It was confirmed that the acquisition cost of €135,000 was fully grant funded.

The proposed disposal, as set out in the notice circulated to Members, was:

Proposed by: Cllr. Maeve Yore
Seconded by: Cllr. Kevin Meenan
And Resolved.

Minute No. 167/26

Consolidated Standing Orders for Adoption

Updated Consolidated Standing Orders reflecting changes in the schedule for CPG Meetings, to the second Wednesday of the month, and Dundalk Municipal District Meetings, to the first Tuesday of the month, were:

Proposed by: Cllr. Maeve Yore
Seconded by: Cllr. Pio Smith
And Resolved.

Minute No. 168/26

Breithniú ar Thuarascálacha ar Chomhréitigh ón bPríomhfheidhmeannach / Consideration of Reports and Recommendations from Chief Executives Monthly Management Report

Finance and System Support

- Cllr. Pio Smith sought clarification on the level of Council reserves. It was confirmed that reserves currently stand at approximately €4.4 million. Members were advised that maintaining reserves was important in protecting against unforeseen expenditure and economic downturns.

Economic Delivery

The following was noted in relation to Economic Delivery:

- The recent Living Cities Initiative, public information sessions, held in Dundalk and Drogheda were a great success and staff were commended on their input.

- An update was provided on Irish Rail's national car parking strategy and engagement regarding CIE-owned lands at Dundalk Train Station.

Operations and Environment Delivery

The following was noted in relation to Operations and Environment Delivery:

- Clarification was provided regarding the eligibility criteria for private well grants.
- A grant of €10,000 for dog fouling bins has been obtained and the location of the extra bins will be followed up.
- Concerns were raised regarding a significant sewage spill from a private pumping station in Drogheda. Members were advised that the matter would be followed up with the parties responsible.
- Members highlighted issues relating to the provision of brown bins in certain developments and requested further enforcement where required.
- Updates were provided on repair works underway at Carlingford and Gyles' Quay following storm damage.
- Members received an update regarding illegally moored vessels in Clogherhead and the ongoing enforcement process.
- Concerns regarding water pressure issues in parts of the county were discussed and it was noted that these matters fall within the remit of Uisce Éireann.
- Members requested updates on a number of road and public realm projects, including resurfacing programmes, road safety measures, the N33 junction layout, and storm damage at Salterstown.

HR, Corporate and Community Delivery

The following was highlighted in relation to HR, Corporate and Community Delivery:

- Members sought details regarding the operation, management, staffing and usage arrangements for the Dundalk Athletics Track once opened and provided suggestions for consideration in respect to the Official opening of the facility.
- Members were advised that details in relation to Muirhevnamor Park, 'Our Place Our Future' survey, was expected from Sláintecare & Healthy Ireland and an update would be provided.
- Members were advised that correspondence had recently been received from the HSE regarding Bully's Acre and that engagement on the matter was ongoing.
- Members welcomed the success of Your Council Day 2026 and acknowledged the contribution of staff to the event.
- Suggestions were made regarding future public engagement initiatives, particularly involving students and young people.
- Members noted ongoing voter engagement and voter registration awareness initiatives.

Housing and Culture Delivery

The following was highlighted in relation to Housing and Culture Delivery:

- Members commended staff on the continued delivery of retrofit and housing programmes.
- The work of the Housing Team in increasing housing delivery across the county was acknowledged.
- Concerns were raised regarding anti-social behaviour in housing estates and the impact of poorly managed rental properties.
- Members were advised that the Council continues to proactively investigate complaints, carry out inspections and utilise available enforcement measures where appropriate.
- Figures in relation to the number of applicants refused social housing to be collated.

- Clarification was provided regarding the operation of the Choice Based Lettings Scheme and social housing vetting procedures. It was confirmed that vetting is carried out on the lead applicant only.
- Members were advised that the housing development at Ravel Drive, Dunleer, remains on programme for delivery in March 2027.
- The promotion and awareness of affordable housing schemes was also discussed.

Major Capital Projects and Infrastructure Delivery

The following was highlighted in relation to Major Capital Projects and Infrastructure Delivery:

- Members requested updates on a number of major infrastructure projects and funding programmes, including Urban Regeneration and Development Fund (URDF) projects and ongoing Compulsory Purchase Order processes.
- A supplementary briefing on Greenway projects throughout the county will be provided to members.
- Members welcomed progress on the PANCR project and raised concerns regarding aspects of the cycle lane layout, which will be examined further.
- An update was provided on the proposed Leonard's Junction Scheme, with a member briefing scheduled prior to the commencement of the Part 8 process.
- Members were advised that the Rock Road project is progressing through the required environmental screening and assessment stages.
- Ongoing work to identify suitable locations for motorhome parking facilities in support of the County Tourism Strategy was noted.
- Members also discussed road safety improvements, Greenway delivery and public realm projects across the county.

Minute No. 169/26

Notice of Motion: Cllr. Maeve Yore
Seconded: Cllr. Robert Nash

Motion: Cllr. Maeve Yore

"That Louth County Council affirms its support for independent, trusted, and high-quality local media and journalism, and will write to Coimisiún na Meán, the Taoiseach, and the Minister for Communications to emphasise the importance of local radio and reporting in sustaining a strong shared identity and sense of belonging nationwide".

Reply: J. Kelly, A/Director of Services, HR, Corporate & Community Delivery

This is a matter for the members.

Minute No. 170/26

Notice of Motion: Cllr. Rachel Kerley
Seconded: Cllr. Kevin Meenan

Motion: Cllr. Rachel Kerley

"This Council calls on the GAA to ensure all inter-county senior football and hurling games for 2027 are available for all to see on free-to-air TV and, where required, on other online streaming

platforms. Everyone should be able to watch their county team compete at inter-county Championship matches”.

Reply: J. Kelly, A/Director of Services, HR, Corporate & Community Delivery

This is a matter for the members.

Minute No. 171/26

Notice of Motion: Cllr. Fiona MhicConchoille

Seconded: Cllr. Kevin Meenan

Motion: Cllr. Fiona MhicConchoille

“That this Council calls on the Government and the Minister for Social Protection to urgently establish a Waste Collection Allowance under the Household Benefits Package. That this Council recognises that refuse and recycling charges have increased significantly in recent years and now place a substantial financial burden on older persons, people living alone, carers, people with disabilities, and low-income households. Given that waste collection is an essential public health service, this Council believes that households already struggling with rising energy, food, and housing costs should receive direct support towards these charges, in the same way that assistance is currently provided for electricity and heating costs under existing social protection supports. That this Council further calls on the Government to work with local authorities and licensed waste operators to develop and implement a practical, fair and accessible scheme to assist eligible households with the cost of waste collection services. A copy of this motion shall be forwarded to the Minister for Social Protection, the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications, all local authorities, and the Oireachtas members for County Louth”.

“Go nglaoonn an chomhairle seo ar an rialtas agus ar an Aire Coimirce Sóisialaí chun liúntas bailiú dramhaíola a bhunú faoin phacáiste sóchair teaghlaigh. Go dtugann an chomhairle seo faoi deara go bhfuil bailiú dramhaíola riachtanach mar sheirbhís sláinte poiblí, creideann an chomhairle seo go mba chóir do theaghlaigh a bhfuil ag streachailt le costais fuinnimh, bia agus costais tithíochta cheana (agus iadsan ag ardú), tacaíocht díreach a fháil sa mhodh céanna a bhfuil cabhair ann le haghaidh leictreachais agus costais teasa faoi thacaíochtaí coimirce sóisialaí. Go nglaoonn an chomhairle seo ar an rialtas chun oibriú le húdaráis áitiúla agus le hoibritheoirí dramhaíola ceadúnaithe chun scéim phraiticiúil agus chothrom a fhorbairt agus a chur i bhfeidhm do theaghlaigh incháilithe leis na costais do sheirbhísí bailiú dramhaíola. Beidh cóip den rún seo curtha ar aghaidh chuig an Aire Coimirce Sóisialaí, chuig an Aire Comhshaoil, Aeráide agus Cumarsáide, na húdaráis áitiúla go léir agus na baill Oireachtais anseo i gContae Lú”.

Reply: D. Hanratty, A/Director of Services, Operations and Environment Delivery

This is a matter for the members.

Is ábhar é seo do na baill.

Minute No. 172/26

Correspondence

- Wexford County Council 11th June 2026
- Dublin City Council 8th July 2026

Minute No. 173/26

EU Presidency – Video message from the Portuguese Ambassador to Ireland

Minute No. 174/26

Condolences

Condolences were extended to the family and friends of:

- Dr Martin Naughton, Dundalk.
- Robert and Kathleen Marks, Greenore.
- Raven Adams, Belfast.

Congratulations

- Rian McCrystal winner of the 2026 Quanta Capital Junior Tour of Ireland (Cycling)
- Louth Senior Football Team on a successful year.

The Minutes were confirmed at a meeting of the Council held on:

Date: 21st Sept 26

Cathaoirleach: Dálas Whiff

Meeting Administrator: Sinead Dooley