



Comhairle Contae Lú
Louth County Council

Cruinniú Míosúil 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, 21st September 2026, at 10:00 a.m.

In Attendance:

Presiding: Councillor Dolores Minogue - Cathaoirleach

Members: Councillors: Marianne Butler, James Byrne, Kevin Callan, Emma Coffey, Bernie Conlon, Eric Donovan, Ciarán Fisher, Anne-Marie Ford, Michelle Hall (online), Seán Kelly (online), Rachel Kerley, Sionainn McCann, Pearse McGeough, Shane McGuinness, Andrea McKevitt, Paddy McQuillan, Fiona Mhic Conchoille, Kevin Meenan, Ejiro O'Hare Stratton (online), John Reilly, John Sheridan, Jim Tenanty, Antóin Watters and Maeve Yore.

Apologies: Councillors: Debbie McCole, Robert Nash, Declan Power, Pío Smith,.

Officials: David Conway, Chief Executive
Thomas McEvoy, Director of Services
Ger Murphy, Director of Services
David Jones, Director of Services
David Hanratty, A/Director of Services
Bernadette Woods, Director of Finance
Sinéad Dooley, Meetings Administrator
Amanda Brannigan, County Librarian
Mark Johnston, Senior Engineer
John O'Hagan, Senior Engineer
Turlough King, A/Senior Planner
Helen Divilly, Head of Information Systems
Nikki Campbell, Head of Enterprise
Roisin McAuley, Accountant
Bryan Coughlan, Senior Executive Officer
Finbar Gethins, Senior Executive Officer
Olivia McCormack, Senior Executive Officer
Anthony O'Donoghue, Senior Executive Officer
Paula Keenan, A/Senior Executive Officer
Anne D Callan, Administrative Officer
Gavin McLaughlin, Communications Officer
Niamh Griffin, Assistant Staff Officer

Minute No. 182/26

Minutes of Annual Meeting held on 20th July 2026

The Minutes were:-

Proposed by: Cllr. Rachel Kerley

Seconded by: Cllr. Maeve Yore

And Approved.

Minute No. 183/26

Matters Arising

None

Minute No. 184/26

Minutes of District Meetings – for noting

- Borough District of Drogheda Annual Meeting 8th June 2026
- Borough District of Drogheda 8th June 2026
- Municipal District of Dundalk Annual Meeting 9th June 2026
- Municipal District of Dundalk 9th June 2026
- Municipal District of Ardee 2nd July 2026
- Borough District of Drogheda 6th July 2026
- Municipal District of Dundalk AGM 14th July 2026
- Municipal District of Dundalk 14th July 2026

Minute No. 185/26

Minutes of Committee Meetings – for noting

- Audit Committee Meeting 22nd January 2026
- Audit Committee Meeting 23rd April 2026
- Corporate Policy Group 9th July 2026

Minute No. 186/26

Report from Chairperson of Corporate Policy Group

A report was delivered by Cllr Dolores Minogue on proceedings from the Corporate Policy Group meeting held on 10th September 2026. Matters discussed included preparation of the 2027 Budget, Local Property Tax, the proposed overdraft facility for 2027, Annual Service Delivery Plan Mid-Year Review, Speed Limit Review Phase 2 and other agenda items before Council.

Minute No. 187/26

Strategic Policy Committee Chairperson's Report

No substantive reports were presented. Cllr. Kevin Meenan advised that the September meeting of the Housing and Culture Delivery SPC had been cancelled and would instead take place in October 2026.

Minute No. 188/26

Approval of Attendance at Conferences and Training Events

The list as put to the meeting was:-

Proposed by: Cllr. Kevin Callan
Seconded by: Cllr. Rachel Kerley
And Resolved.

Minute No. 189/26

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. Maeve Yore
Seconded by: Cllr. Bernie Conlon
And Resolved.

Minute No. 190/26

To agree the date for the 2027 Draft Budget Meeting

It was agreed that the 2027 Draft Budget Meeting would take place immediately following the November Council Meeting.

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

Minute No. 191/26

To agree a variation to the basic rate of local Property Tax 2027 – Local Adjustment Factor

Director of Finance, Bernie Woods, presented to the Members and advised that, under the Finance (Local Property Tax) Act 2012, as amended, the Council may vary the basic rate of LPT by up to -15% or +25% and that any decision must be made and notified to the Revenue Commissioners by 15 October 2026. Members were further advised that Louth County Council's provisional LPT allocation for 2027 was €11,966,198, comprising locally retained LPT of €11,525,104 and equalisation funding of €441,094, and that each 1% variation in the LPT rate would have an impact of approximately €115,251 on Council income.

Members indicated that they wished to allow further consideration of the matter before making a determination.

On the **Proposal** of Cllr. John Reilly, **Seconded by** Cllr. Jim Tenanty, it was agreed to defer consideration of the Local Property Tax variation and on the **Proposal** of Cllr. Marianne Burtler, **Seconded by** Cllr. Rachel Kerley, it was agreed to convene a Special Meeting of Louth County Council on Tuesday 29th September 2026 at 6:30pm, for the purpose of determining the Local Adjustment Factor for 2027.

Minute No. 192/26

Approval of a €5 million overdraft facility for 2027

Director of Finance, Bernie Woods, advised that under Section 106 of the Local Government Act 2001, Council approval is required to continue the €5million overdraft facility for the year 1st January 2027 to the 31st of December 2027.

The approval of the €5million overdraft facility for 2027 was:

Proposed by: Cllr. Kevin Callan
Seconded by: Cllr. Marianne Butler
And Resolved.

Minute No. 193/26

Service Delivery Plan 2026 – Mid-Year Update

Chief Executive, David Conway presented the Annual Service Delivery Plan 2026 – Mid-Year Progress Update and invited comments and observations from Members.

In relation to the Road Safety section of the report, Cllr. Maeve Yore sought clarification regarding the Collision Prevention Meetings referenced in the update, including the organisations involved and whether records or minutes of such meetings were maintained. A/Director of Services, David Hanratty, undertook to examine the matter and revert to the Member.

Minute No. 194/26

S183 – Proposed Disposal of Property at The Twenties, Moneymore, Drogheda, Co . Louth to Drogheda Amateur Boxing Club.

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

Members considered the proposed disposal of property at The Twenties, Moneymore, Drogheda, in accordance with Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001.

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

Proposed by: Cllr. Kevin Callan
Seconded by: Cllr. Ejiro O'Hare Stratton
And Resolved.

Minute No. 195/26

S183 – Proposed Disposal of Property at The Twenties, Moneymore, Drogheda, Co Louth to Moneymore FC

Members considered the proposed disposal of property at The Twenties, Moneymore, Drogheda, in accordance with Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001.

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

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

Minute No. 196/26

Speed Limit Review Phase 2 Bye-laws – For Adoption

Members were advised that an error had been identified in the documentation associated with the Speed Limit Review Phase 2 and, as a result, the item was withdrawn from consideration at the meeting.

Members expressed concern regarding the resulting delay to the process. A/Director of Services, David Hanratty, advised that the matter would be brought back before Council at the October Meeting and confirmed that the anticipated implementation timetable remained unchanged.

Members acknowledged the importance of ensuring the accuracy of the documentation and accepted that it was preferable to address the issue at this stage in order to avoid any potential technical or legal difficulties arising at a later stage.

Minute No. 197/26

Annual Report 2025 in accordance with Section 221 of the Local Government Act 2001, as amended

Noted.

Minute No. 198/26

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

No Reports.

Minute No. 199/26

Report On Reports Submitted to the Cathaoirleach Under Section 142 of the Local Government Act 2001, as amended.

No Reports.

Minute No. 200/26

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

Finance and System Support

- Cllr Fiona Mhic Conchoille enquired about tourism accommodation levies. Director of Services, Bernie Woods, advised that all potential income streams are considered as part of the budget process but there are currently no plans to introduce a tourism levy for the 2027 Budget.

Economic Delivery

The following was noted in relation to Economic Delivery:

- Members welcomed the strong performance of the Council as reflected in the NOAC Local Authority Performance Indicator Report 2025.

- Concerns were expressed regarding the potential provision of data centres within the county. Members were advised that there are currently no data centres in County Louth. It was further noted that any future proposals would be considered through the planning process and in the context of the County Development Plan. The KPMG Report on the Value of Data Centres to Ireland to be circulated to the Members.
- An update was provided on ongoing engagement with the TII regarding signage for Faughart and St Brigid's Shrine.
- Members sought an update in relation to the review of Protected Structures and requested further information be circulated.
- The potential development of the North South Way Peace Camino forms part of ongoing discussions through REACT in Armagh under the Shared Island Grant Scheme.

Operations and Environment Delivery

The following matters were raised in relation to Operations and Environment Delivery:

- Members noted the significant increase in Environmental Complaints recorded in the NOAC Report and sought clarification in relation to the increase. A/Director of Services, David Hanratty, advised that the matter would be reviewed and further details circulated to Members.
- Concerns were raised regarding anti-social behaviour at the Park and Ride at Junction 16. It was suggested that the matter be raised through the Community Safety Partnership.
- Concerns were also expressed regarding break-ins to vehicles at Ravensdale Park. It was agreed that this matter should likewise be raised with the Community Safety Partnership.
- Members discussed the ongoing issue of abandoned boats in Carlingford and acknowledged the efforts of local fishermen in helping to prevent pollution. The Executive advised that efforts were continuing to identify and engage with owners with a view to securing the removal of the vessels. A/Director of Services, David Hanratty agreed to organise a meeting with the relevant stakeholders.
- An update on the proposed location of Park & Ride facilities to be sought from TII and provided to the Members.
- Members to be provided with a copy of the Tree Maintenance Policy.
- Members were advised that Appropriate Assessment Screening has been completed in respect of the Rampart River Programme and that the Council was now progressing the Part 8 process.
- Concern was expressed regarding delays in the provision of an EV charging point in Omeath. Members were advised that the matter would continue to be pursued with the ESB.
- Members also raised issues relating to litter management and pothole repairs across the county.

HR, Corporate and Community Delivery

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

- Members congratulated all those involved with Blackrock Tidy Towns on winning a Gold Medal in the Entente Florale Europe Competition and St. Francis National School on receiving the School Grounds Thematic Prize.
- Members were advised that five sports centres had been identified to act as Community Support Centres in the event of an emergency and that six generators had been acquired. The Executive confirmed that details would be communicated to the public once arrangements were finalised.
- Members noted the success of the Louth Disability Cycling Hub and commended all those involved in the initiative.

Housing and Culture Delivery

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

- Concerns were expressed regarding difficulties experienced by some new tenants in operating and managing modern heating systems. The Executive advised that training and support provided to new tenants would be reviewed.
- Members were advised that applications for Disability Adaptation Grants were currently closed as the Council was focusing on fully expending the current year's allocation. It is anticipated that the scheme will reopen in the New Year.
- Members commended the Housing Team on the continued delivery of social housing projects and the significant number of retrofit works completed.
- Members were advised that the Council continues to focus on reducing Rent Arrears. Additional resources and revised procedures have contributed to a reduction in arrears from €4 million to €3.6 million.
- Members sought a breakdown of housing allocations and it was agreed that the information would be reviewed and circulated.
- Members welcomed the completion of An Mullach housing estate in Louth Village and noted that the units are available through the Choice Based Letting Scheme.

Major Capital Projects and Infrastructure Delivery

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

- Members sought updates on a number of major infrastructure projects and funding programmes, including Urban Regeneration and Development Fund (URDF) projects, Nature Based Solution Projects, Narrow Water Bridge and ongoing Compulsory Purchase Order processes.
- Updates were provided in respect of a number of capital projects currently underway across the county.
- Members were advised that the Ardee Castle Project continues to progress well. It was noted that, on completion of the project, consideration would be given to facilitating a site visit for Members.

Minute No. 201/26

Presentation from two secondary school participants in the Graduate.ie Programme

Members received a presentation from Sadbh McDonnell and Cormac Reynolds, participants in the Graduate.ie Programme, who outlined their experience of attending the European Parliament in Strasbourg in December 2025 as part of a visit funded by Louth County Council.

The students spoke about their participation in a range of educational and civic engagement activities, including presentations, discussions and a mock European Parliamentary session with students from across the European Union and the United Kingdom. They reflected on the insights gained into European institutions, democracy and public policy, and outlined the personal benefits of participating in the programme.

Minute No. 202/26

Presentation from Inland Fisheries Ireland

Members received a presentation from representatives of Inland Fisheries Ireland (IFI) outlining the organisation's role in the protection, management and conservation of Ireland's inland fisheries and sea angling resources.

The presentation included an overview of IFI's statutory functions, its collaborative work with local authorities and other agencies, and a number of fisheries and habitat restoration projects underway within County Louth. Members were also provided with an update on the significant fish kill that occurred in the River Glyde in June 2026, the response undertaken by IFI, ongoing enforcement actions and measures supporting the recovery of the river.

Details were provided on initiatives aimed at improving water quality and fish habitats, including restoration works on the Rivers Dee, Fane and Glyde, together with community-based environmental projects operating within the county.

A question and answer session followed the presentation, during which Members raised a number of matters relating to water quality, pollution incidents, habitat protection and fisheries management. Members thanked the representatives of Inland Fisheries Ireland for their informative presentation and engagement with the Council.

Minute No. 203/26

Notice of Motion: Cllr. John Reilly
Seconded: Cllr. Rachel Kerley

Motion: Cllr. John Reilly

“Louth County Council to write to the Minister of Justice to facilitate An Garda Siochana to access the M1 motorway at Junction 20 at Carrickarnon, to facilitate better policing in the area”.

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

This is a matter for the members.

Minute No. 204/26

Notice of Motion: Cllr. Shane McGuinness
Seconded: Cllr. James Byrne

Motion: Cllr. Shane McGuinness

“That starting with the October Council meeting and going forward, that all councillors get a copy of the list of Chief Executive orders by email, at least 5 working days prior to the meeting to allow Cllrs time to request a copy of any particular order that they feel they need further information or clarity on in time for the County Council meeting”.

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

Section 151 of the Local Government Act, as amended provides that a register is kept of every order made in accordance with this section. This register is made available at every meeting of the local authority for inspection by the elected council and contains any orders made by the executive since the last previous meeting of the local authority. Any member of the local authority is entitled on request to be furnished with a copy of a particular order.

Given the large number of Chief Executives Orders generated each month, the request for a list by email at least 5 working days prior to the meeting would put an undue administrative burden on staff where there is no provision in the legislation for same and moreover would needlessly introduce a data protection risk.

Chief Executive Orders remain available to any Councillor who requests same.

Minute No. 205/26

Correspondence

- Leitrim County Council 15th July 2026
- Leitrim County Council 15th July 2026
- Leitrim County Council 15th July 2026
- Carlow County Council 16th July 2026
- Carlow County Council 16th July 2026
- Roscommon County Council 29th July 2026
- Roscommon County Council 29th July 2026

Minute No. 206/26

Condolences

Condolences were extended to the family and friends of:

- Very Rev. Mark O'Hagan
- James Mac Guill, Dundalk.

Congratulations

- Blackrock Tidy Towns on winning a Gold Medal in the Entente Florale Europe Competition and St. Francis National School on winning the School Grounds Thematic Prize.

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

Date:

19th Oct '26

Cathaoirleach:

Dáire Hume

Meeting Administrator:

Sinead Doherty