



Comhairle Contae Lú
Louth County Council

LOUTH COUNTY COUNCIL - CORPORATE POLICY GROUP

Minutes of the April Corporate Policy Group Meeting held in the Setanta Room, County Hall Dundalk
on Wednesday, 5th April 2023 at 10:30am

In attendance:

Cathaoirleach - Cllr Conor Keelan

Members, Cllrs: John Reilly
John Sheridan

Apologies, Cllrs: Joanna Byrne
Andrea McKeivitt
Liam Reilly
Pio Smith

Officials: Joan Martin Chief Executive
Joe McGuinness, Deputy Chief Executive
Paddy Donnelly, Director of Services
Bernie Woods, Head of Finance
Catherine Duff, Director of Services
Thomas McEvoy, Director of Services
Gráinne Tuomey, Meetings Administrator

1. Minutes of the Meeting held on 8th March 2023

Adoption of the Minutes of the meeting of 8th March 2023 were

Proposed by: Cllr John Sheridan

Seconded by: Cllr John Reilly

And resolved.

2. Matters Arising

None

3. Council Meeting Agenda

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

- The AFS – Annual Financial Statement which will require Members to approve accounts and transfer funds to Capital Accounts. The Chief Executive will be recommending that any surplus funds be held for energy or any project overrun costs
- The Casual Vacancy of Cllr. Fiachra Mac Raghnaill. A co-option nominee has yet to be provided but as the legislation states it must be at the next available meeting, this item will remain on the agenda until filled
- A S183 disposal. Members were advised of changes to the S183 process whereby the Land Development Agency will have “first call” on any lands Local Authorities dispose off within a

census town, i.e. a town with over 10,000 population, including small plots or backyard disposals. Members were further advised that one of the 4 parcels identified in a recent LDA report for housing development is an LCC owned plot which currently houses our machinery yard at the back of the Archives building and in front of St. Malachy's Villas, the other parcels are owned by the ESB, CIE and HSE lands at the hospital.

- Members were reminded of their responsibility under Section 141 of the Local Government Act 2001 as amended to report on the activities and operations of Bodies, Boards and Committees, **annually** or if so requested by resolution or Cathaoirleach. Director of Services Joe McGuinness advised that this gives other Members the opportunity to request information on committee activities.
- Members were also reminded of the Section 141 requirement to complete a quarterly return on attendances including a nil return, and that this is regularly audited by the Department.
- The Draft Annual Report is required to be brought before Members by end of April.
- A presentation was requested from the Road Safety Officer on the Road Safety Plan
- Considering Notices of Motion Members were advised that the Executive are in direct talks with the Irish Coastguard on lands, however all lands must first be prioritised for housing or other Louth County Council developments.
- Legal Advice was sought on another submitted motion which suggested that the motion could be considered defamatory, and the Chair should make the call on whether to accept or reject the motion. If accepting the motion, Members must be cautioned that they could be considered in contempt of court if they discuss this at a public meeting. The CE strongly advised the Cathaoirleach to heed legal advise on this.

4. Request from Uisce Éireann for dates for Workshops

Members were advised of a proposed Irish Water Workshop and contact person to attend. It was suggested and agreed that this be held after the May Council Meeting and lunch would be served.

5. 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 John Sheridan

Seconded by: Cllr John Reilly

And approved to bring these to full Council for consideration.

6. SPC Annual Work Programmes 2023

Some SPC chair 2023 work programmes are still awaiting clarification.

7. Members Communication Plan

Praise was given to the Customer Service team on processing Councillor Requests. A request for a digital solution to upload MD Allocations and Expenses was again suggested by Members.

8. Any Other Business

Members were advised of a requirement for Louth County Council to adopt a Training Plan for Elected Member, with a Circular setting out suggestions around same having issued from the Department. Further updates would be given on this in due course.

As there was no other business the meeting concluded.

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

Date: 5/4/23

Cathaoirleach: Canor Redan

Meetings Administrator: [Signature]