

Minutes of Meeting: Louth Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)

Date: 20th April 2026 at 4.00pm

Location: Cooley Room, County Hall, Dundalk and via Teams

In attendance: Cllr. Kevin Meenan, Chairperson
Cllr. Ejiro O'Hare Stratton
Cllr. Shane McGuinness
Mr. David Conway, C.E. of LCC
Ms. Nikki Campbell, LEO
Mr. Ciaran Reid, LLD (via Teams)
Ms. Bridie Pepper, HSE (via Teams)
Mr. Liam Reilly, PPN (via Teams)
Mr. Pat McCormick, Chamber of Commerce Dundalk
Ms. Lorraine O'Malley, DSP (via Teams)
Ms. Carol Murphy, PPN
Ms. Jasmine Mathew, PPN
Mr. Eugene Conlon, PPN
Ms. Kayleigh Mulligan, Louth Volunteer Centre
Mr. Hubert Murphy, Chamber of Commerce Drogheda (via Teams)
Mr. Kevin Sweeney, IFA

Officials: Ms. Paula Keenan, A/Senior Executive Officer LCC/Chief Officer
Ms. Joanna Kelly, A/Director of Services LCC
Ms. Sinead McVerry, Administrative Officer LCC
Ms. Miriam Roe, Senior Staff Officer LCC
Ms. Ann Monahan, Staff Officer LCC

Apologies: Cllr. Dolores Minogue
Ms. Sadie Ward-McDermott, LMETB
Ms. Bernardine Quinn, PPN

Guests: Ms. Mary O'Neill, LLD
Ms. Grainne Flanagan, Administrative Officer, PEACEPLUS Programme

LCDC MATTERS

Cllr. Kevin Meenan, Chairperson, advised the members that Ms. Paula Keenan, Acting Senior Executive Officer, had been appointed Chief Officer of the LCDC with effect from 7th April 2026. He acknowledged her experience to date within the Council and welcomed her to the role.

LCDC Minute No. 26/2026

1. Minutes of LCDC Meeting Monday 23rd March 2026:

On the proposal of Mr. Kevin Sweeney, seconded by Mr. Eugene Conlon and unanimously agreed by the members, the minutes of the meeting held on the 23rd March 2026 were adopted.

LCDC Minute No. 27/2026

2. Declaration of Conflict of Interest:

Cllr. Kevin Meenan, Chairperson, reminded members to declare their Conflict of Interest at the beginning of the meeting or as it appears on the agenda, if applicable. Due to conflicts of interest in relation to the Local Enhancement Programme 2026, it was agreed that approval of proposed funding for each Municipal District would be considered separately.

LCDC Minute No. 28/2026

3. Matters Arising:

There were no LCDC matters arising.

LCDC Minute No. 29/2026

4. LCDC Correspondence:

Ms. Paula Keenan referred members to the Invitation to Participate in Public Consultation on Ireland's Government Digital Wallet, which was circulated by email.

LCDC Minute No. 30/2026

5. PEACEPLUS:

Ms. Keenan briefed the members on four projects being brought before the LCDC. She also advised that Ms. Grainne Flanagan, Administrative Officer, PEACEPLUS Programme, was present at the meeting should the members have any queries.

The PEACEPLUS Partnership, at its meeting on 14th April 2026, in County Hall, Dundalk, recommended the following projects to the LCDC for approval.

Noted: Cllr. Ejiro O'Hare-Stratton, having declared a conflict of interest in respect of this and the subsequent project, left the meeting.

- **Entrepreneurship/Social Entrepreneurship for the Traveller Community and Ethnic Minority Communities Projects**

Recommendation: The recommendation of the PEACEPLUS Partnership is to approve the awarding of this tender to Culture Connect.

Decision: On the proposal of Ms. Carol Murphy, seconded by Cllr. Kevin Meenan, the awarding of tender to Culture Connect was approved.

- **Multicultural/Inter-Cultural Programme**

Recommendation: The recommendation of the PEACEPLUS Partnership is to approve the awarding of this tender to Culture Connect.

Decision: On the proposal of Ms. Carol Murphy, seconded by Mr. Eugene Conlon, the awarding of tender to Culture Connect was approved.

Noted: Cllr. Ejiro O'Hare-Stratton rejoined the meeting at this juncture.

- **LGBTIQIA+ Capacity Building Programme**

Recommendation: The recommendation of the PEACEPLUS Partnership is to approve the awarding of this tender to Outcomers.

Decision: On the proposal of Ms. Carol Murphy, seconded by Cllr. Kevin Meenan, the awarding of tender to Outcomers was approved.

- **Introduction to Community Restorative Justice**

Recommendation: The recommendation of the PEACEPLUS Partnership is to approve the awarding of this tender to Community Restorative Justice Ireland Newry-Armagh.

Decision: On the proposal of Mr. Eugene Conlon, seconded by Mr. Kevin Sweeney, the awarding of tender to Community Restorative Justice Ireland Newry-Armagh was approved.

Following the conclusion of this agenda item, Ms. Gráinne Flanagan left the meeting.

LCDC Minute No. 31/2026

6. Age Friendly Strategy 2026-2031:

Ms. Sinéad McVerry briefed the members on the new Louth Age Friendly Strategy, a five-year plan covering the period 2026–2031. The strategy is aligned with the eight themes of the World Health Organisation's Global Network for Age Friendly Cities and Communities and includes cross-cutting objectives linked to the Louth Local Economic and Community Plan 2024–2029.

The strategy contains 28 actions to be delivered by the Louth Age Friendly Alliance, with support from the Louth Older People's Council and the Age Friendly Programme Manager. The official launch is scheduled for May 2026.

It was noted that Louth County Council was the first Age Friendly Local Authority in Ireland and continues to lead on innovative age-friendly initiatives, including this new strategy.

LCDC Minute No. 32/2026

7. Local Enhancement Programme 2026:

Noted: Cllr. Kevin Meenan, Chairperson, declared a conflict of interest in relation to a funding application within the Dundalk MD area. Consequently, the committee agreed to consider funding allocations by District as separate decisions. As the Dundalk MD was the first district for decision, Ms. Carol Murphy, Vice Chairperson, took the chair for this portion of the meeting.

Conflict of Interest: Cllr. Kevin Meenan and Mr. Liam Reilly left the meeting.

Ms. Murphy reminded members of the confidential nature of the funding and that each Municipal District's proposed funding would be subject to separate approval by the DRCDG before letters of offer could issue.

Ms. Sinead McVerry then advised members that assessments had taken place of all the applications received. Recommendations for the distribution of funding were based on a number of factors including the quality of the applications received and their consistency with the LECP.

She referred members to information provided in their meeting packs, which included a full list of all the applications recommended for funding. The table below sets out a summary of how the total fund of €239,207.33 was allocated throughout the county:

Summary - Local Enhancement Programme 2026 - Total Budget €239,207.33					
Area	No. of applications received	Funding requested	Not considering	No. of applications recommended for funding	Total funding recommended
Dundalk	62	€219,088.34	23	39	€107,230.87
Drogheda	39	€164,985.32	11	28	€82,485.29
Ardee	19	€69,617.07	4	15	€49,491.17
Not applicable	1	€5,000.00	1		
TOTALS	121	€458,690.73	39	82	€239,207.33

a) Dundalk Municipal District:

Recommendation: To approve the allocation of Local Enhancement Programme funding to the groups in the Dundalk Municipal District, proposed in the circulated report, in the amount of €107,230.87.

Decision: On the proposal of Mr. Eugene Conlon, seconded by Mr. Kevin Sweeney, the allocation of Local Enhancement Programme funding to the groups in the Dundalk Municipal District, proposed in the circulated report, in the amount of €107,230.87 was approved.

Noted: Cllr. Kevin Meenan, Chairperson and Mr. Liam Reilly rejoined the meeting at this juncture and Cllr. Meenan took the Chair.

b) Borough District of Drogheda:

Ms. Carol Murphy and Ms. Kayleigh Mulligan, having declared a conflict of interest, left the meeting.

Recommendation: To approve the allocation of Local Enhancement Programme funding to the groups in the Borough District of Drogheda, proposed in the circulated report, in the amount of €82,485.29.

Decision: On the proposal of Mr. Pat McCormick, seconded by Cllr. Ejiro O'Hare-Stratton, the allocation of Local Enhancement Programme funding to the groups in the Borough District of Drogheda, proposed in the circulated report, in the amount of €82,485.29 was approved.

Noted: Ms. Carol Murphy and Ms. Kayleigh Mulligan rejoined the meeting at this juncture.

c) Ardee Municipal District:

Recommendation: To approve the allocation of Local Enhancement Programme funding to the groups in the Ardee Municipal District, proposed in the circulated report, in the amount of €49,491.17.

Decision: On the proposal of Ms. Carol Murphy, seconded by Ms. Jasmine Mathew, the allocation of Local Enhancement Programme funding to the groups in the Ardee Municipal District, proposed in the circulated report, in the amount of €49,491.17 was approved.

LCDC Minute No. 33/2026

8. HSE Structure Update:

Ms. Bridie Pepper, HSE, provided the members with an update in relation to recent changes to the national structure of the HSE. She advised that this involves the reorganisation of the HSE into six operational regions with responsibility for the planning and coordinated delivery of health and social care for their respective populations. Louth is now part of the Health Region HSE Dublin and North East which also includes Cavan, Meath, Monaghan and North Dublin.

LCDC Minute No. 34/2026

9. Next Meeting of LCDC:

Cllr. Kevin Meenan, Chairperson, informed the members that the date of the next LCDC meeting is Monday 18th May 2026. The meeting will be a hybrid meeting.

The business of the LCDC meeting concluded.

Minutes confirmed at meeting held on:

18 - 5 - 26

Chairperson:

Kevin Meenan