

Minutes of the Planning and Support Infrastructure Strategic Policy Committee Meeting held in person in the Council Chamber, County Hall on the 13th March 2025 at 4p.m.

In Attendance

Cllr Rachel Kerley	Louth County Council -Chairperson
Cllr Ciaran Fisher	Louth County Council
Cllr Bernie Conlon	Louth County Council
Cllr Ejiro O’Hare Stratton	Louth County Council
Antony McArdle	Community and Voluntary Pillar
Kevin Sweeny	Agriculture and Farming Interest
Vincent Matthews	Development and Construction Interest

Officials

Joanna Kelly	Acting Director of Service
Conor Campfield	Senior Executive Planner
Laura McCarragher	Assistant Staff Officer

Apologies

Cllr Antoin Watters	Louth County Council
Cllr Emma Coffey	Louth County Council
Thomas McEvoy	Director of Service
John O’Hagan	Executive Engineer
William Walsh	Senior Executive Officer

Absent

Pat McCormack	Business & Commercial Interest
---------------	--------------------------------

Cllr Kerley opened the meeting, and all present introduced themselves.

1. Minutes of Meeting dated 12th December 2024

The minute were unable to be adopted due to only one person present from the previous meeting. The minutes will be brought forward to the next meeting for adoption.

2. Matters Arising

Nil

3. Programme of Works 2025

Cllr Kerley opened the discussion for suggestions on what the group would like on the Programme of Works 2025. She also spoke about the Review on the Cuntly Development Plan. Joanna Kelly spoke about the Review that will be happen in the last quarter of this year. She set out what the next stage is for this SPC. A Programme of Works need to go to the Corporate Policy Group for approval. This

SPC then formulates a paper that would influence policies that may be generated or amend a current one. A suggestion was made that the group look at the brand of the Town Centre and the certain standard they have to conform to in the shop fronts.

It was decided that the presentation on the new planning bill would happen before they talked further about the Programme of Works.

4. Presentation on Strategic Overview of the County Development Plan in relation to the new Planning Bill

Senior Executive Planner, Conor Campfield, gave a presentation on how the County Development plan is affected by the new Planning Act. He spoke about the seven thematic Strategies that the new plan will have to fit into. Ms Kelly told the group that there will need to be individual strategies for each theme. Each will need to be aligned with each other and cohesive.

A discussion was had in relation to the zoning of land and population multipliers in areas like Clogherhead. This would fall under an Executive Function and not an issue for this group. Derelict sites were spoken about by Cllr Conlon and if any needed to be noted. Ms Kelly said that is a regeneration strategy.

3. Programme of Works

The discussion moved back to the Programme of Works 2025.

A discussion was had about the look/ brand of the town centre. Vape, Phone shops and barbers with neon light signs were spoke about by a few members. And how maybe there could be a policy on the standard for the town. It was stated by Ms Kelly that we need to be careful not to overlap with the Economic SPC.

A decision was made that the Core Retail Strategies and maps would be circulated, and the discussion would continue online. The group set themselves a deadline of 31st March to have the programme of Works over to the CPG.

1. Any Other Business

Dates for the following 3 meetings were set.

22nd May at 4pm – Hybrid meeting (Teams and Council Chamber)

18th September at 4pm – Hybrid meeting (Teams and Council Chamber)

20th November at 4pm – Hybrid meeting (Teams and Council Chamber)

The Minutes were confirmed on: 1st July 2025