



Comhairle Contae Lú
Louth County Council

LOUTH COUNTY COUNCIL - CORPORATE POLICY GROUP

Minutes of the Corporate Policy Group Meeting held in the Setanta Meeting Room,
County Hall, on Thursday, 9th July 2026 at 9:30am

In attendance:

Cathaoirleach, Cllr: Dolores Minogue

Members, Cllrs: Rachel Kerley (online), Kevin Meenan, Robert Nash, John Sheridan, Pío Smith

Officials: David Conway, Chief Executive
Thomas McEvoy, Director of Services
Bernadette Woods, Director of Services
Joanna Kelly, Acting Director of Services
David Hanratty, Acting Director of Services
David Jones, Director of Services
Ger Murphy, Director of Services
Sinéad Dooley, Meetings Administrator

Apologies:

1. Minutes of Meeting held on 4th June 2026

The minutes of the Corporate Policy Group meeting held on 4th June 2026 were confirmed as

Proposed by: Cllr. Kevin Meenan

Seconded by: Cllr. Pío Smith

And approved

2. Matters Arising

There were no Matters Arising.

3. SPC Work Programme – Update from each SPC Chair

Members discussed a number of policy matters currently under consideration by the SPCs and noted ongoing work being progressed by the respective committees, including the development of a Draft Memorial Policy and Cemetery Bye-Laws by the Community and Placemaking SPC, and the completion of the Draft Library Service Development

Programme 2026–2030 by the SPC for Social Development following an extensive consultation and review process.

4. Vacancy from the Environment Pillar on the SPC for Planning and Strategic Infrastructure

Director of Services, Mr. Thomas McEvoy advised that the Environmental Pillar of the Planning & Support 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. The nomination will now proceed to Council for final approval.

5. Council Meeting Draft Agenda

Acting Director of Services, Joanna Kelly, presented the July Council Meeting Agenda to the Members and highlighted specific matters arising, including:

- Library Development Programme for adoption
- Presentation on climate action funding initiatives including: Climate Action Week Grants, Community Based Climate Innovation Course and LEAF Funding
- S.183 proposed Disposal of the Old Station House, Omeath, Co. Louth

In respect of Agenda Item No. 10 – Section 141 Reports, Members discussed the benefits of membership of regional organisations and representative bodies. It was noted that such representation provides opportunities to: influence regional planning and economic policy; advocate for County Louth priorities and infrastructure investment; support the interests of Dundalk, Drogheda and the wider county in relation to future growth and development; and strengthen collaboration with neighbouring local authorities, government agencies and regional stakeholders.

6. Members Allocations

Noted.

7. Members' Request to Seek Legal Opinion re Section 66 of the Local Government Act 2001

As agreed at the Council Meeting held on 15th June 2026, where it was determined that the Corporate Policy Group would consider the Members' request to seek a second legal opinion, Cllr. Pio Smith advised that he would raise the matter with the Association of Irish Local Government (AILG) and seek guidance on the appropriate course of action.

Decision: Noted. Cllr. Smith to revert with any guidance received from AILG.

8. Attendance at Conferences and Training Events

Noted.

9. Draft Policy for Illumination of Civic Buildings ("Light-Up Policy")

The draft policy was considered.

Members discussed the criteria for requests to illuminate civic buildings and the need for a consistent and sustainable approach. It was suggested that further research be undertaken into practices adopted in other European countries, such as Denmark, with a view to identifying cost-effective measures and available lighting technologies. Members also requested that indicative costings and potential lighting options be examined.

To avoid "light-up fatigue", it was suggested that each incoming Cathaoirleach agree a schedule of approximately four to five annual illumination events at the commencement of their term. Members further noted that the policy should provide flexibility to accommodate exceptional circumstances, including emergency situations and events involving local, national or international tragedies.

Decision: It was agreed that the draft policy be reviewed further, including consideration of international best practice, cost implications and available technologies, and be brought back to the October CPG meeting for further consideration.

10. Future Meeting Dates

Members agreed that future Corporate Policy Group meetings should revert to Wednesday mornings at 9.30 a.m. It was further agreed that the relevant Standing Orders be amended accordingly and that the proposed amendment be brought before the July Council Meeting for approval.

Proposed by: Cllr. Dolores Minogue

Seconded by: Cllr. Robert Nash

And Resolved.

11. Request from Graduate Programme for Two Students to Present at September Council Meeting

Acting Director of Services, Joanna Kelly, advised Members that two former participants in the Graduate.ie Programme, had offered to attend the September Council Meeting to share their experiences of representing Louth County Council at the European Parliament in Strasbourg and to acknowledge the Council's support for the programme.

Decision: Agreed that the two former participants be invited to make a presentation at the September Council Meeting.

12. Any other business

Local Property Tax

Members were advised that the Notice of Consideration of Setting a Local Adjustment Factor was published on 7th July 2026. Public submissions are invited and must be received by 21st August 2026. The Council will consider the matter at its September 2026 meeting.

Civic Protocols

Members requested that the Council's Civic Protocols be reviewed to ensure that office holders, including the Leas-Chathaoirleach and Leas-Mhéara, receive individual invitations to appropriate civic and ceremonial events.

The matter arose following the recent European Union Flag Raising Ceremonies, where a general invitation had issued to Members. It was suggested that the Protocols provide greater clarity regarding invitations to official events involving the Cathaoirleach, Leas-Chathaoirleach and other office holders.

Decision: Agreed that the Civic Protocols be reviewed and updated as appropriate.

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

Date:

10TH SEPT '26

Cathaoirleach:

Dalton Munn

Meetings Administrator:

Sinead Doyle