



Comhairle Contae Lú
Louth County Council

Cruinniú Bardasach Dhún Dealgan / Municipal District of Dundalk – July 2026

Minutes of Municipal District of Dundalk Meeting – Council Chamber, Town Hall, Dundalk -
Tuesday, 14th July 2026 at 5:15 pm.

In attendance:

Cathaoirleach: Councillor Andrea McKeivitt

Members: **Councillor(s)** Marianne Butler, Ciaran Fisher, Shane McGuinness, Kevin Meenan (online), Antóin Watters, Robert Nash, John Reilly, Sionainn McCann and Sean Kelly

Apologies: **Councillor(s):** Fiona MhicConchoille, Maeve Yore, Emma Coffey

Officials: Thomas McEvoy, Director of Services
Sinéad Dooley, Meetings Administrator
Ben Holland, Assistant Engineer
Olivia Gaskin, Acting Administrative Officer
Mark Johnson, Senior Engineer
Gavin McLaughlin, Communications Officer
Sandra Loughran, Clerical Officer

Minute No. 61/26

Minutes of Annual Meeting held on Tuesday 9th June 2026

Minutes adopted on the:

Proposal of: Cllr. John Reilly
Seconded by: Cllr. Robert Nash
And approved.

Minute No. 62/26

Minutes of Monthly Meeting held on Tuesday 9th June 2026

Minutes adopted on the:

Proposal of: Cllr. Antóin Watters
Seconded by: Cllr. Sionainn McCann
And approved.

Minute No. 63/26

Matters Arising

None.

Minute No. 64/26

Taking In Charge Report

Members noted the report, which had been circulated in advance of the meeting. Assistant Engineer, Mr. Ben Holland responded to queries raised by Members. The following matters were discussed:

- Members sought clarification on the timelines associated with the plebiscite process and how these would be communicated to residents of estates awaiting Taking-In-Charge.
- It was suggested that it would be useful if future reports include reference to estates that had successfully progressed through the plebiscite process, for information purposes.
- Members discussed the challenges associated with developments where the original developer is no longer trading and the legal entity no longer exists. It was noted that such cases can present complexities where assets and liabilities have not transferred, creating uncertainty in progressing Taking-In-Charge procedures.
- Members were advised that timelines can be difficult to determine where funding is not available and that a number of estates continue to be affected by legacy issues arising from the economic downturn.
- It was noted that cash bonds are now required for new developments as they provide greater financial security in the Taking-In-Charge process.

Minute No. 65/26

Housing Progress Report

Members noted the report, which had been circulated in advance of the meeting. Acting Administrative Officer, Ms. Olivia Gaskin responded to queries raised by Members. The following points were discussed:

- Members raised concerns regarding communication with complainants in anti-social behaviour cases and the perceived lack of feedback on complaints submitted to the Council. Members were advised that, once a complaint is received, the Council can acknowledge receipt but is limited in the information that can be provided to the complainant due to confidentiality requirements.
- An update was provided on the Tenant Engagement Strategy, including facilitator led workshops held in April. Work is underway on the development of a five-year strategy with realistic and achievable objectives. Members were advised that a draft strategy is expected to be available for Councillor consideration and input in September.
- Members were advised that there are currently two Tenant Liaison Officers and two Anti-Social Behaviour Officers serving the entire county.
- Concerns were raised regarding grass maintenance and tenant responsibilities within certain housing estates.
Clarification was provided regarding restrictions on barbecues at Beacon Court, which arose from guidance issued by the Environment Section.
- Members sought an update in relation to Wadman Park; however, no update was available at the time of the meeting.

Minute No. 66/26

Roads and Services Report

Members noted the report, which had been circulated in advance of the meeting. Senior Engineer, Mr. Mark Johntson responded to queries raised by Members. The following matters were discussed:

- Members were advised that works on Hill Street Bridge would commence on 20th July and would be carried out in three phases. Due to the extent of excavation works required, the bridge would not reopen overnight during the construction period.
- The provision of a pedestrian crossing between Priest's Beach and the Parish Car Park in Blackrock was discussed.
- Concerns regarding the existing taxi rank arrangements within the town were raised and it was noted that a report was recently provided to the Traffic Section for consideration.
- The ongoing issue relating to gates along the Greenway was raised and it was noted that engagement with the landowner would continue.
- Concerns regarding parking difficulties and traffic congestion on the approach road to Templetown Beach were raised.
- Members sought updates on works at Shelling Hill Beach and Gyles Quay. It was noted that funding constraints remain a challenge at Shelling Hill Beach, while a contractor has been appointed for works at Gyles Quay.
- An update was provided on Shared Island funding which will support a feasibility study into the potential restoration of the Carlingford Lough Ferry Service.
- Members discussed anti-dumping measures, including the potential use of CCTV and the increase in on-the-spot fines for illegal dumping.
- Dog fouling at beaches and public spaces was raised. Members were advised of a proposed new grant scheme for bins is expected to assist in addressing dog fouling concerns. The matter will also be discussed with the Dog Warden Service with a view to increasing patrols at local beaches.
- Members requested updates on road markings, weed spraying, grass cutting, speed ramp repairs, litter management and overgrown vegetation at a number of locations throughout the district.
- It was noted that notices have been issued to boat owners in Carlingford requesting the removal of boats from the area.

Minute No. 67/26

Taking in Charge – Lis Na Dara, Lisnawully, Dundalk

It was recommended to the Members that the roads in the development known as Lis Na Dara, Dundalk, be declared Public Roads in accordance with Section 11 of the Roads Act 1993. Furthermore, in accordance with Section 180(4) of the Planning and Development Act, 2000, as amended it was recommended that the Council take in charge any public open space (including roads and footpaths), public lighting, storm water network, unallocated car parks, sewers (excluding service connections) and watermains with the grounds of the development.

Proposed by: Cllr. Marianne Butler
Seconded by: Cllr. Ciaran Fisher
And approved.

Minute No. 68/26

Provision of Assistance for the promotion of interests of local community groups or projects, provided under Section 66 of the Local Government Act 2001

Members considered the Community Grants as presented to them and approval was

Proposed by: Cllr. Antóin Watters

Seconded by: Cllr. Robert Nash

And approved.

Minute No. 69/26

Motion: Cllr. Shane McGuinness

That all future meetings that take place within the Municipal district of Dundalk, Ardee and Drogheda, that we have a section on planning and updates on specific municipal areas, and that a section should be allocated on the agenda and a senior planner available to take overarching questions on our data and forward planning plans specific to each district.

Reply from Thomas McEvoy, Economic Delivery

The role of Elected Members in the planning process is focused on the making of statutory Plans, which is a reserved function.

Planning Development Management and Planning Enforcement are the responsibility of the Executive and in this regard cannot be deliberated upon with members. The Chief Executive's Monthly Report does however provide members with indicators and data in relation to planning applications, planning appeals, pre-planning, and unauthorised development.

Recognising the reserved function of Elected Members in the Plan-making process, the Planning Team will continue to provide all members with briefings setting out the work programme and stages for future Plans, in addition to periodic updates relating to the progress being made in the implementation of Plans.

Due to the complexity and legally prescribed stage-based statutory Plan-making process, it is recognised that there is a requirement to provide regular briefings to members as the review of a Plan commences, particularly at key points in time as the process progresses between stages. In this context the Planning Team will continue to organise workshops/briefings for members when a Plan is being prepared at either a County or Municipal District level. These workshops/briefings are scheduled in agreement with the Corporate Policy Group.

In addition, the Planning Strategic Policy Committee (SPC) advises and assists the Council in formulating, developing, and reviewing planning policies. It serves as a consultative forum bringing together elected members and relevant external stakeholders (e.g., environmental groups, developers, and trade unions) to shape development strategies before they are brought to full council.

Taking the foregoing into account, it is not considered necessary for Senior Planners to also attend Municipal District Meetings as set out in the Motion.

Minutes No. 70/26

Congratulations

Congratulations were extended to:

- The Louth Senior Football Team on reaching their first All-Ireland Senior Football Championship semi-final since 1957.

Condolences

Condolences were extended to the family and friends of:

- Dr Martin Naughton, Dundalk

Minutes No. 71/26

Any Other Business

As there was no other business, the meeting concluded.

The Minutes were confirmed on:

Date:

1st SEPT '26

Cathaoirleach:



Meeting Administrator:

