



Comhairle Contae Lú
Louth County Council

Cruinniú Míósúil Chomhairle Contae Lú Louth County Council Monthly Meeting

Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of Louth County Council hosted in the Council Chamber of Co. Hall, Dundalk on Monday, 15th June 2026, at 10:30a.m.

In Attendance:

Presiding: Councillor Dolores Minogue – Cathaoirleach

Members: Councillors: Marianne Butler, James Byrne, Kevin Callan, Emma Coffey, Bernie Conlon, Eric Donovan, Ciarán Fisher, Anne-Marie Ford, Michelle Hall (online), Seán Kelly, Rachel Kerley, Sionainn McCann, Debbie McCole, Pearse McGeough, Shane McGuinness, Andrea McKevitt, Paddy McQuillan, Kevin Meenan (online), Dolores Minogue, Robert Nash, Ejiro O'Hare Stratton, Declan Power, John Reilly, John Sheridan, Pío Smith, Jim Tenanty, Antóin Watters, Maeve Yore.

Apologies: Fiona Mhic Conchoille

Officials: David Conway, Chief Executive
Thomas McEvoy, Director of Services
Bernadette Woods, Director of Finance
David Jones, Director of Services
Ger Murphy, Director of Services
Joanna Kelly, Acting Director of Services
David Hanratty, Acting Director of Services
Sinéad Dooley, Meetings Administrator
Anne D Callan, Administrative Officer
Paula Keenan, A/Senior Executive Officer
Gavin McLaughlin, Communications Officer
Olivia McCormack, Senior Executive Officer
Turlough King, A/Senior Planner
Nikki Campbell, Head of Enterprise LEO
Helen Divilly, Head of Information Systems
Mark Johnston, Senior Engineer
Anthony O Donoghue, Senior Executive Officer
Áine McDonald, Assistant Staff Officer
Celine Breen, Assistant Staff Officer

Minute No. 127/26

Minutes of Monthly Meeting held on 18th May 2026

The Minutes were:-

Proposed by: Cllr. Andrea McKevitt
Seconded by: Cllr. Maeve Yore
And Approved.

Minute No. 128/26

Matters Arising

- Cllr. Yore referred to Minute No. 117/26 regarding income derived from the Vacant Tax Levy and noted that no report had yet issued. Director of Finance, Ms. Bernadette Woods, confirmed that the report would issue as a priority.
- Cllr. Yore also sought an update on Dublin City Council's pilot solar-powered bins project. A/Director of Services, Mr David Hanratty, confirmed that he would follow up.
- Cllr. Pearse McGeough referred to the recent fish kill in the River Glyde and commended Inland Fisheries Ireland and the EPA on their rapid response. He requested that Inland Fisheries Ireland be invited to give a presentation. A/Director of Services, Mr David Hanratty noted that fish levels had returned to normal and that an invite would issue to Inland Fisheries Ireland.
- Cllr. Fisher requested an update on the issuing of correspondence regarding the Notice of Motion on Vape Shops (Minute No. 69/26). Director of Services, Mr. Thomas McEvoy, confirmed that he would follow up.

Minute No. 129/26

Minutes of District Meetings – for noting

- Borough District of Drogheda 13th April 2026
- Municipal District of Dundalk 14th April 2026
- Municipal District of Ardee 7th May 2026

Minute No. 130/26

Minutes of Committee Meetings – for noting

- Corporate Policy Group 7th May 2026

Minute No. 131/26

Report from Chairperson of Corporate Policy Group

A report was delivered by An Cathaoirleach Dolores Minogue on proceedings from the Corporate Policy Group meeting held on 7th May 2026.

Minute No. 132/26

Strategic Policy Committee Chairpersons Report

Cllr. Rachel Kerly provided an update from the May meeting of the Strategic Policy Committee for Planning.

Cllr. John Sheridan provided an update from the May meeting of the Strategic Policy Committee for Climate Change and Sustainability.

Minute No. 133/26

Approval of Attendance at Conferences and Training Events

The list as put to the meeting was:-

Proposed by: Cllr. Andrea McKevitt
Seconded by: Cllr. Pio Smith
And Resolved.

Minute No. 134/26

Allocation of Members Community Grants provided for under Section 66 of the Local Government Act 2001

Approval of the grants as presented on the agenda was:

Proposed by: Cllr. Maeve Yore
Seconded by: Cllr. Kevin Callan
And Resolved.

Cllr. Callan sought clarification on Community Grant Allocations not paid out. A/Director of Services Joanna Kelly confirmed that legal opinion was sought and confirmed that the nature of the grant and allocation was ultra vires under Section 66 of the Local Government Act 2001. Seeking a second opinion under S132 was considered and it was agreed to discuss the issue further at the Corporate Policy Group.

Minute No. 135/26

Annual Report 2025 in accordance with Section 221 of the Local Government Act 2001, as amended – For Adoption

Approval of the Annual Report as set out before members was:

Proposed by: Cllr. Seán Kelly
Seconded by: Cllr. Maeve Yore
And Adopted.

Minute No. 136/26

Vacancy on the SPC for Social Development

In accordance with Schedule 10 of the Local Government Act, 2001 as amended, following the election of Joanna Byrne to Dáil Éireann and the subsequent appointment of Cllr. Kevin Meenan as Chair of the SPC for Social Development, a vacancy arose on the SPC.

Cllr. Debbie McCole was nominated to fill the vacancy.

Proposed by: Cllr. Pearse McGeough
Seconded by: Cllr. Eric Donovan
And Adopted.

Minute No. 137/26

Nominee to the Regional Health Forum – Dublin North East

Members were advised of a vacancy on the Regional Health Forum – Dublin North East arising from the resignation of Cllr. Michelle Hall.

Cllr. Anne-Marie Forde was nominated to the Forum.

Proposed by: Cllr. Ejiro O'Hare Stratton
Seconded by: Cllr. Maeve Yore
And Adopted.

Minute No. 138/26

Audit Committee Annual Report 2025

The Audit Committee Annual Report for the year ended 31st December 2025, prepared in accordance with Regulation 15(1)(i) of the Local Government (Audit Committee) Regulations 2014, was considered by members.

Proposed by: Cllr. Maeve Yore
Seconded by: Cllr. Bernie Conlon
And Adopted.

Minute No. 139/26

Audit Committee Charter

The Audit Committee Charter 2025, submitted for adoption in accordance with Article 8 of the Local Government (Audit Committee) Regulations 2014, was considered.

Proposed by: Cllr. Kevin Callan
Seconded by: Cllr. Pío Smith
And Adopted.

Minute No. 140/26

Audit Committee Work Programme 2026

The Audit Committee Work Programme 2026, submitted for adoption in accordance with Article 9 of the Local Government (Audit Committee) Regulations 2014, was considered.

Proposed by: Cllr. Seán Kelly
Seconded by: Cllr. Rachel Kerley
And Adopted.

Minute No. 141/26

Audit Committee Standing Orders

The Audit Committee Standing Orders were noted by members.

Minute No. 142/26

S183 – Proposed Disposal of Property at No. 4 McArdle Green, Moneymore, Drogheda, Co Louth.

Members considered the proposed disposal of property at 4 McArdle Green, Moneymore, Drogheda, Co. Louth, in accordance with Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001.

The proposed disposal, as set out in the notice circulated to members, was:

Proposed by: Cllr. Maeve Yore
Seconded by: Cllr. Pío Smith
And Resolved.

Minute No. 143/26

S183 – Proposed Disposal of Property at No. 24 McArdle Green, Moneymore, Drogheda, Co Louth.

Members considered the proposed disposal of property at 24 McArdle Green, Moneymore, Drogheda, Co. Louth, in accordance with Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001.

The proposed disposal, as set out in the notice circulated to members, was:

Proposed by: Cllr. Pío Smith
Seconded by: Cllr. Kevin Callan
And Resolved.

Minute No. 144/26

S183 – Proposed Disposal of Property at No. 25 McArdle Green, Moneymore, Drogheda, Co Louth.

Members considered the proposed disposal of property at 25 McArdle Green, Moneymore, Drogheda, Co. Louth, in accordance with Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001.

The proposed disposal, as set out in the notice circulated to members, was:

Proposed by: Cllr. Maeve Yore
Seconded by: Cllr. Pio Smith
And Resolved.

Minute No. 145/26

Section 141 Reports 2024 – Compliance with Section 141 of the Local Government Act, 2001 as amended

No Reports.

Minute No. 146/26

Report on reports submitted to the Cathaoirleach under Section 142 of the Local Government Act 2001, as amended.

No Reports.

Minute No. 147/26

Breithniú ar Thuarascálacha ar Chomhréitigh ón bPriomhfheidhmeannach / Consideration of Reports and Recommendations from Chief Executives Monthly Management Report

Finance and System Support

The following was noted in relation to Finance and System Support:

- Cllr. Pio Smith sought clarification in relation to write-offs. Director of Finance, Ms. Bernadette Woods, confirmed that write-offs were as a result of removal of development contributions for charitable organisations and for developments that were not carried out and planning permission had expired.
- The use of tablets/laptops by Councillors will be reviewed in conjunction with the Council's IT Security requirements.

Economic Delivery

The following was noted in relation to Economic Delivery:

- The Council will continue to seek funding under the Irish Walled Towns Network to carry out much needed work. The Heritage Officer will provide an update.
- Members noted the continued increase in entries on the Derelict Sites Register, with approximately 80 properties currently listed. Members encouraged continued engagement with property owners and the public.
- Variation No. 4 of the Louth County Development Plan is currently underway. There have been 98 Submissions received to date and the public consultation period ends 24th July 2026. There will be a briefing for Councillors on Thursday 18th June 2026.
- The need for the provision of dedicated coach, motorhome and camper parking facilities in the County was discussed. This is covered in the Tourism Strategy which was recently launched.

- The provision of Data Centres is set nationally, they provide significant benefits to the economy and a minimum of 80% of their energy needs must be from renewable sources.
- Work on Roche Castle has not yet commenced. No communication has been received to date from the OPW. This will be followed up
- No reply has been received to date from Transport Infrastructure Ireland in relation to Motorway Signage to historic sites. This will be followed up.

Operations and Environment Delivery

The following was noted in relation to Operations and Environment Delivery:

- Significant concerns were raised in relation to illegal dumping in areas including Rathmullan and Hillview, Drogheda. It was noted that, in addition to clean-up, efforts should be made to identify and address the source of such dumping. The matter will be progressed with An Garda Síochána and through the Community Safety Partnership.
- Confirmation of funding has not yet been received in relation to the Nature Based Solution Projects. This will be followed up.
- Concerns were raised regarding diversion routes following a fatal accident on the N2, which were considered unsuitable for HGVs. While An Garda Síochána has responsibility for traffic management, the matter will be referred to the Operations Team for further review and potential engagement with Monaghan County Council.
- No reply has been received to date in relation to a request to the Department for increased funding for roads in Co. Louth. This will be followed up.
- The broken/missing swings in Tullyallen Playground will be repaired/replaced.
- No reply has been received to date from the Department in relation to the Storm Damage Funding. This will be followed up.
- Erosion at Clogherhead Beach and fencing along the headland walk to be reviewed by the Operations Team.

HR, Corporate and Community Delivery

The following was highlighted in relation to HR, Corporate and Community Delivery:

- Concerns were raised regarding CRM cases being closed prior to a response issuing. It was acknowledged that this is an ongoing issue and will be investigated to ensure that cases are appropriately tracked and resolved.
- Feedback to be provided in relation to a Community Recreation Application which was rejected.
- Concerns were raised regarding recent changes to the 'Louth in Bloom' competition structure, including the reduction in award categories, which has led to dissatisfaction among Resident Associations. The rationale for these changes will be reviewed.
- Clarity on timelines to be provided for spending under the Local Enhancement Programme.

Housing and Culture Delivery

The following was highlighted in relation to Housing and Culture Delivery:

- It was noted that Approved Housing Bodies operate independently in relation to rent and deposit arrangements.
- Facilitating mutual housing transfers was discussed. Mechanisms for this had been looked at nationally but studies showed a poor uptake.
- Projects under the three year Capital Programme will be included in the Chief Executive's Monthly Report within the next few months.
- The Cost Rental Friendly Scheme in Hartfield will consist of apartments only. A breakdown of unit types will be provided.

- A presentation will be given to the SPC in relation to Modular Extensions, and then to the Council.
- Approval has been received for thirty nine units, in four developments under the Affordable Housing Scheme.

Major Capital Projects and Infrastructure Delivery

The following was highlighted in relation to Major Capital Projects and Infrastructure Delivery:

- Changing shelters at the County's three Blue Flag Beaches will be installed within the next month.
- It was confirmed that there are currently no plans to remove Hill Street Bridge, and that planning conditions relating to the Tesco development will be reviewed in this context.
- Applications under the Town and Cities Regeneration Investment Fund (TCRIF) closed on 1 May 2026. Projects are expected to be up and running by September 2027.
- Contract has been signed for the N53. Details in relation to the Project Liaison Officer will be circulated to Members.
- Ardee By-Pass Case Management of Judicial Review will be heard in High Court on 8 July 2026 and subsequent feedback will be provided.
- Results of the mid-year review for URDF Call 3 will be circulated to members in the August CE Report.
- Part 8 process for works at Dundalk Fire Station (Training Centre) will commence shortly. Non-statutory consultations with residents will take place.
- It was clarified that applications for funding under the Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS) may only be made by the Council.

Minute No. 148/26

Notice of Motion: Cllr. Kevin Callan
Seconded: Cllr. Antóin Watters

Motion: Cllr. Kevin Callan

"Will this council create an inventory of all 1916 Gardens and Memorials created in the County in 2016 to commemorate the centenary of the 1916 Rising for the purposes of ensuring that tricolour flags are available on a continuous basis for any groups maintaining these sites.

This motion is set down in the interests of maintaining the flag as the local authority responsible for the county and to continue cooperation with groups working to maintain these important sites."

Reply: J. Kelly, A/Director of Services, HR, Corporate & Community Delivery

The Council recognises the significance of the 1916 Gardens and memorials across the County and acknowledges the role of local community groups in their upkeep. In this regard the Council will compile an inventory of all such sites.

The flying of the National Flag is governed by the National Flag Protocol issued by the Department of the Taoiseach. As custodian of public spaces the Council must ensure that any display of the National Flag is carried out in full compliance with these protocols, including requirements relating to dignity, condition, timing and manner of display.

In this context the Council will engage constructively with local groups and communities to support the respectful maintenance of these important commemorative sites, while ensuring adherence to the national standards governing the use of the National Flag.

Minute No. 149/26

Notice of Motion: Cllr. Andrea McKevitt

Seconded: Cllr. Seán Kelly

Motion: Cllr. Andrea McKevitt

“Call on Louth County Council to light all County buildings blue on the 25th of July 2026 to mark World Drowning Prevention Day”.

Reply: J. Kelly, A/Director of Services, HR, Corporate & Community Delivery

The Council notes the Notice of Motion calling for all Council buildings to be illuminated in blue on 25th July 2026 to mark World Drowning Prevention Day.

The Council acknowledges the importance of raising awareness of water safety and drowning prevention and supports initiatives that promote this important message.

However, it should be noted that the Council is currently reviewing its policy in relation to the illumination of buildings for commemorative purposes. This review will include consideration of the increasing number of requests received, the need for a consistent and equitable approach, and the associated resource and budgetary implications. Pending the completion and adoption of this updated policy, the Council is not in a position to undertake additional lighting initiatives at this time.

It should also be noted that a number of buildings would require lighting upgrades and, in some cases, there are costs associated with facilitating such illumination.

Notwithstanding this, the Council will continue to support World Drowning Prevention Day through appropriate awareness-raising initiatives. These will include promotion across the Council's communications channels, highlighting key water safety messages. The Council's Water Safety Officer, along with Beach Lifeguards, will also assist in promoting water safety awareness in the lead up to and on the day.

Minute No. 150/26

Correspondence

Members noted the following correspondence:

- Monaghan County Council 21st April 2026
- Clare County Council 12th May 2026
- Longford County Council 18th May 2026
- Cavan County Council 19th May 2026
- Waterford City & County Council 20th May 2026
- Waterford City & County Council 20th May 2026
- Galway County Council 28th May 2026

- Galway County Council 28th May 2026
- Galway County Council 28th May 2026

Minute No. 151/26

Condolences

Condolences were extended to the family and friends of:

- Mr Eamonn Carroll, Blackrock, Co Louth.
- John Cahill, Belfast.
- Pauline Mc Grory, Castlebellingham.

Congratulations

- Louth Senior Football Team on their win against Armagh on Sunday 14th June 2026

The Minutes were confirmed at a meeting of the Council held on:

Date:

20th July '26

Cathaoirleach:



Meeting Administrator:

