



Comhairle Contae Lú
Louth County Council

LOUTH COUNTY COUNCIL - CORPORATE POLICY GROUP

Minutes of the Corporate Policy Group Meeting held in the Setanta Room, County Hall, Dundalk on Wednesday, 6th of September 2023 at 09:00am

In attendance:

Cathaoirleach -	Cllr Paula Butterly
Members, Cllrs:	Liam Reilly (Remote) Seán Kelly Pio Smith (Remote)
Apologies, Cllrs:	Joanna Byrne John Reilly
Officials:	Joan Martin Chief Executive Ger Murphy, Director of Services David Jones, Director of Services Joe McGuinness, Director of Services Bernie Woods, Head of Finance Thomas McEvoy, Director of Services Gráinne Tuomey, Meetings Administrator

1. Minutes of the Meeting held on 5th July 2023

The meeting of the CPG on 5th July was abandoned as a quorum was not met.

2. Minutes of the Meeting held on 7th June 2023

The Minutes of the meeting of 7th June 2023 could not be confirmed as it required 2 of those present to have been at the June meeting.

3. Council Meeting Agenda

Members were given a briefing on all items in the Council Agenda including (but not exclusive to):

- Adoption of the BID's scheme which saw 94% of businesses in Dundalk vote to keep but which requires one third of members now to resolve.
- 3 x Section 183 disposals, one of which is a social house being disposed of by lease to Louth Local Development CLG. Clarification was given that to the knowledge of the Executive no Members sit on this committee so no conflict of interest is declarable
- Draft Development Contribution Scheme before Members for adoption. The Chief Executive advised that the scheme replaces the 2016 scheme and while it increases the Development Contribution rate which was dropped in 2013 to encourage development, this has been very low for some time and the new rate brings us back in line with other counties. Louth County Council has a very low-income rate, the increase will assist match fund projects such as Mount Avenue. The levy is regarded as relatively low in the cost of a house build and the scheme is regarded as very generous in terms of exemptions and reductions.

- Local Property Tax (LPT), Members were advised that we are one of the few counties outside of the Dublins that never increases LPT. An increase would be a very useful income source which would cost the individual very little. It was noted 10 submissions were received during the consultation phase, 8 within deadline and 2 outside.

4. Budget 2024 Update

Members were reminded that a Budget Workshop takes place after the Council Meeting and all are encouraged to attend. Lunch will be provided for those attending.

5. Members Communication Plan

Members were requested not to bypass the CRM system by going to individual staff as this does not record the volume and nature of reps made. A review of the system and responses given over the system is ongoing.

6. SPC Annual Work Programmes 2023

Some SPC chair 2023 work programmes are still awaiting clarification.

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

Members considered the Community Grants as presented to them, and it was:

Proposed by: Cllr Seán Kelly

Seconded by: Cllr Pío Smith

And approved to bring these to full Council for consideration.

8. Approval of Attendance at Conferences

Members considered the Conferences as presented to them, and it was:

Proposed by: Cllr Seán Kelly

Seconded by: Cllr Pío Smith

And approved to bring these to full Council for consideration.

9. Any other business

The Chief Executive hopes the Westgate Vision Project will be ready to apply for the URDF as soon as possible.

As there was no other business the meeting concluded.

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

Date:

4 Oct 2023

Cathaoirleach:

Paula Butler

Meetings Administrator:

Celia Murray