



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, 9<sup>th</sup> April 2026 at 9:30am

### In attendance:

**Cathaoirleach, Cllr:** Seán Kelly (online)

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

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

**Absent:** Cllr Robert Nash

### 1. Minutes of Meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> March 2026

Subject to the amendment of the following paragraph, which reflects the removal of the term "taskforce".

#### "Drogheda Forum

*Mr. Conway advised that a draft Terms of Reference are under discussion for the establishment of a Forum to support the enhancement of physical and economic development in Drogheda. The proposed stakeholders currently include the Executive, Love Drogheda and Drogheda BID's".*

The minutes of the Corporate Policy Group meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> March 2026 were confirmed as:

**Proposed by:** Cllr. Seán Kelly  
**Seconded by:** Cllr. Kevin Meenan  
And approved

### 2. Matters Arising

None

### **3. SPC Work Programme – Update from each SPC Chair**

Brief progress updates were provided by Cllrs. Kerley, Meenan, Sheridan and by Mr. David Jones in Cllr. Nash's absence in respect of the Planning, Social Development, Climate Change & Sustainability and Community & Placemaking SPCs respectively.

### **4. Council Meeting Agenda**

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

- Presentation of the Annual Financial Statement 2025 for approval.
- S183 disposal of surplus lands to Ballymakenny Residential Properties Ltd., Drogheda, Co. Louth – 0.745 hectares for approval.
- Local Authority Home Loan and Local Authority Purchase and Renovation Allocation for 2026.
- LCDC Annual Report 2025 for noting by the Members.
- Outdoor Recreation Plan, Sports Plan and Play Policy for adoption by the Members.
- Age Friendly Strategy for noting. An official launch of this strategy will take place in due course, with a date to be confirmed.
- Section 141 Reports 2026. It was noted that a new period has commenced with Members who are appointed to outside bodies or committees now required to notify the council within 15 working days of the end of each 3 monthly period to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026. Discussion around the reporting of payments took place with the Executive to examine requirements and current gathering of information.
- Discussion around the presenting of Section 142 Reports took place with Ms. Olivia McCormack confirming that reporting of the US/Canda visit may take place at the April meeting, however, it would be confirmed if it would form part of the Chief Executive Management Report or via the Section 142 section of the agenda.
- East Border Region 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary presentation to Council will take place after the coffee break.
- Notice of Motions as submitted, with discussion around the deferring of one of Cllr. Michelle Hall's Motion to the Borough District of Drogheda meeting in May, which is proposing the installation of three seats in recognition of former Councillors. Mr. David Jones advised the group that a Memorials Policy is part of the Community & Placemaking SPC work programme for 2026, which will assist with such proposals going forward.

### **5. Members Allocations**

Ms. Bernadette Woods advised Members that two allocations were omitted from the list which was presented to the Members of the CPG. It was agreed that the additional allocation requests be included on the list for approval by Council.

### **6. Attendance at Conferences and Events**

Noted.

A query arose regarding the Association of Irish Regions Annual Training Seminar 2026, which took place in January, and why it had not appeared on any of the previously approved listings of Conferences and Events for attendance. It was agreed that the Meeting Administrator would investigate and include it on the April listing for retrospective approval by Council.

## 7. Annual Financial Statement 2025

Ms. Bernadette Woods presented the Annual Financial Statement to the Members, which had been submitted to the Department in advance of the statutory deadline of 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026. Income & Expenditure figures, together with Capital Expenditure were outlined and explained. It was noted that Ms. Woods will provide a detailed presentation to the Members at the Plenary Council Meeting.

## 8. Draft Civic Protocols

The draft document was noted by the Members with all proposed amendments accepted. The Meetings Administrator committed to circulating a clean copy to the Members in advance of its presentation to Council.

## 9. Outdoor Recreation Plan, Sports Plan and Play Policy

Mr. David Jones advised that Cllr. Nash, Chair of the Community & Placemaking SPC, will advise Council that it is recommended that the three Policies are adopted by the Members.

It was noted that the Policies will be formally launched in due course.

## 10. Any other business

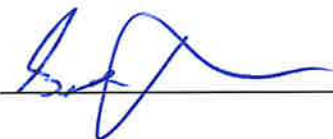
- Members Expenses – Cllr. Kelly asked that Members be advised in future years prior to the releasing of expenses figures. This request was noted by Ms. Bernadette Woods.
- Civic Reception – Discussion took place on a proposed Civic Reception with particular reference to arrangements for public attendance and associated governance matters.
- Netuno Twinning Trip – Members noted the proposed upcoming trip to Netuno.

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

Date:

7<sup>th</sup> MAY 2026

Cathaoirleach:

  
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Meetings Administrator:

Sinead Dooley