



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

### In attendance:

**Cathaoirleach, Cllr:** Seán Kelly

**Members, Cllrs:** Rachel Kerley, Kevin Meenan, Robert Nash, Pío Smith (Online)

**Officials:** David Conway, Chief Executive  
Thomas McEvoy, Deputy Chief Executive  
Joanna Kelly, Acting Director of Services  
Bernadette Woods, Director of Services  
David Hanratty, Acting Director of Services  
Ger Murphy, Director of Services  
Bryan Coughlan, Senior Executive Officers  
Sinéad Dooley, Meetings Administrator

**Apologies:** Cllr John Sheridan  
David Jones, Director of Services

### 1. Minutes of Meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> January 2026

The minutes of the Corporate Policy Group meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> January 2026 were confirmed as

**Proposed by:** Cllr. Rachel Kerley  
**Seconded by** Cllr. Robert Nash  
And approved

### 2. Matters Arising

None

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

- Social Development– Cllr. Meenan indicated that work was progressing on the Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy with a view to presenting on it to Municipal and Borough Districts in March.
- Community and Placemaking – Cllr. Nash advised that the Community and Placemaking SPC had met with the Graveyard Committee and is progressing work on the Cemetery Bye-Laws, with the intention of having them finalised in advance of the Blessings of the Graves in July.

- Economic Development - Cllr. Smith advised that proposed items for inclusion in the Economic Development SPC Work Programme for 2026 comprise the Broadband/Digital Strategy, Enterprise Policy and the Shopfront Improvement Grants.
- Planning - Cllr. Kerley indicated that the Planning SPC would be meeting in the coming weeks to finalise the Planning SPC Work Programme for 2026.

#### **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 Service Delivery Plan 2025 End Year Review
- Vacancies arising on a number of groups for filling including Louth Sports Partnership, North-East Regional Homelessness Forum and the LCDC
- The attendance of the Association of Irish Local Government to present to Members
- Notice of Motions and Questions as submitted

#### **5. Members Allocations**

Noted.

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

Noted.

#### **7. Amendments to Standing Orders**

Further to the agreement reached in December, the Standing Orders have been amended to provide for the accommodation of hybrid meetings as standard practice and will be presented to the full Council for adoption.

#### **8. Draft Civic Protocols**

Cllr. Kelly advised that the current draft of the Civic Protocols reflected the amendments proposed by Members and that these changes had now been incorporated into the document. The Executive undertook to consider the revised draft, and the item was deferred for further discussion to the next meeting of the CPG.

#### **9. Draft Meeting Room Policy for Elected Members**

Following a further update to the Draft Meeting Room Policy for Elected Members, it was agreed that the document could be presented to full Council for consideration.

#### **10. Any other business**

- Travel to North America – A draft itinerary for the upcoming visit to North America is currently being developed.
- County Development Plan – It was noted that two initial workshops will be held with the Members to address queries on the County Development Plan, with a third workshop to be

scheduled if required.

- Operations' WhatsApp Group' – It was agreed that, rather than extending the Operations Weather WhatsApp Group to Oireachtas Members that Council Members would update them directly.
- Use of the social media platform 'X' - A decision has been taken to minimise posts to the X platform and to not permit imagery of people to be posted on this platform. The use of the platform will be restricted to essential communications such as the dissemination of weather and other alert messaging as required.

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

Date:

5<sup>TH</sup> MARCH '26

Cathaoirleach:



Meetings Administrator:

Binead Doolan