



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, 5th March 2026 at 9:30am

In attendance:

Cathaoirleach, Cllr: Seán Kelly

Members, Cllrs: Rachel Kerley (online), Kevin Meenan, Robert Nash, John Sheridan,

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
David Jones, Director of Services
Sinéad Dooley, Meetings Administrator

Absent: Cllr Pio Smith

1. Minutes of Meeting held on 5th March 2026

The minutes of the Corporate Policy Group meeting held on 5th March 2026 were confirmed as

Proposed by: Cllr. Robert Nash

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. Meenan, Kerley, Nash, and Sheridan in respect of the Social Development, Planning, Community & Placemaking and Climate Change & Sustainability SPCs respectively.

Chief Executive, David Conway, requested that, going forward, a one-pager document collating SPC Work Programme updates be prepared for discussion at future meetings of the CPG.

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 Service Delivery Plan 2026
- Two Section 183s – including proposed leasing of unused ground floor space at the Fair Street Offices to a commercial tenant and Disposal of a property at No. 3 Mill Lane, Drogheda
- Arts Grant Funding Awards for 2026
- 2025 progress update on the Louth Climate Action Plan 2024-2029
- Notice of Motions and Questions as submitted. It was noted that two submitted Notices of Motion were similar in subject matter and it was suggested that the respective Members liaise to consider bringing forward a single joint Motion at a later date. It was also noted that a submitted Notice of Question was akin to a voluminous Freedom of Information request and would require a significant investment of staff time resources to address - time that would ultimately be diverted from managing daily operational issues and maintaining service-level provision. It was suggested that a high-level response be provided.

5. Members Allocations

Noted.

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 further queried whether approval to attend could be granted retrospectively.

Members were advised that the notice had not been received by the Meetings Administrator for inclusion, though it was noted that the Chief Executive had attended. Members were reminded that they may also at liberty to liaise directly with the Finance Section should they become aware of relevant events they may wish to attend. It was noted that retrospective approval for attendance is not standard practice, though a commitment was given to ascertain whether an exception could be considered in this instance.

7. Draft Civic Protocols

The Executive advised that additional time was required to complete the review of the amendments to the Draft Civic Protocols as put forward by the Members. Accordingly, the matter was deferred to the next meeting of the CPG. It was requested that the revised draft document be circulated to Members at least three days in advance of the next meeting.

8. East Border Region 50th Anniversary Presentation to Council

Cllr Kelly advised that the East Border Region is set to celebrate its 50th Anniversary in 2026 and that it is proposed it address the April meeting of Plenary Council.

9. Any other business

- St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee – Cllr. Nash advised that the Committee was still awaiting its funding allocation and queried when the payment would issue. Director of Services, Ms. Bernadette Woods, undertook to confirm the expected payment date.

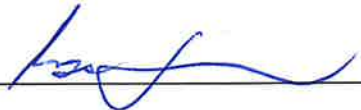
- Meeting Room Policy for Elected Members – Cllr. Kelly noted that the new Meeting Room Policy for Elected Members was working well and requested that the Proclamation Room at the Town Hall be added as an additional meeting space available to Members. Ms. Kelly undertook to consider the request.
- Attendance at Training – Cllr. Kelly queried why LCC was not covering travel and subsistence for a Member's attendance at a Masters programme in Maynooth, noting that other Local Authorities appear to be doing so. Ms. Woods advised that LCC has not historically covered travel and subsistence for course attendance, but has covered course fees only. She undertook to confirm the statutory provisions governing such payments.
- County Development Plan - Director of Services, Mr. Thomas McEvoy, confirmed that a Special Meeting is scheduled for Friday, 27th March at 2.00 p.m. in the Council Chamber, County Hall, Dundalk, to consider and adopt motions from Members in relation to Directions to the Chief Executive for the pre-draft of the County Development Plan.
- Cyber Security Training – Ms. Woods advised that not all Members had completed the requisite Cyber Security Training and, as a consequence, a process of restricting access would now commence.
- Drogheda Forum/Taskforce – Mr. Conway advised that draft Terms of Reference are under discussion for the establishment of a Taskforce to support the enhancement of physical and economic development in Drogheda. The proposed stakeholders currently include the Executive, Love Drogheda, and Drogheda BIDs.

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

Date:

7th May '2026

Cathaoirleach:



Meetings Administrator:

Sinead Doherty