

## ***Minutes of Council Meeting February 2021***

Minutes of Ordinary Meeting of Louth County Council hosted in Council Chamber and held remotely over MS teams on 15<sup>th</sup> February 2021 at 10.00 a.m.

### **In attendance:**

**Cathaoirleach:** Cllr. Dolores Minogue

**Members:** Councillors: Marianne Butler, Paula Butterly, James Byrne, Joanna Byrne, Kevin Callan, Emma Coffey, Hugh Conlon, Edel Corrigan, Tom Cunningham, Maria Doyle, Michelle Hall, Conor Keelan, Seán Kelly, Fiachra MacRaghnaill, Pearse McGeough, Andrea McKevitt, Paddy McQuillan, Kevin Meenan, Declan Power, John Reilly, Liam Reilly, Tomás Sharkey, John Sheridan, Pio Smith, Jim Tenanty, Eileen Tully, Antoin Watters, Maeve Yore

**All Councillors attended remotely**

**Officials:** J. Martin, Chief Executive – present in Council Chamber  
F. Pentony, Director of Services – attended remotely  
C. Duff, Director of Services – attended remotely  
J. McGuinness, Director of Services – attended remotely  
P. Donnelly, Director of Services – attended remotely  
B. Woods, Head of Finance – attended remotely  
G. Tuomey, Meetings Administrator – present in Council Chamber  
M. Bagnell, Head of I.T. (present in Council Chamber)

### **Minute No. 12/21**

#### **Confirmation of Minutes**

**Proposed by:** Cllr. S. Kelly

**Seconded by:** Cllr. L. Reilly

**And resolved:**

That the minutes of the Monthly Meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> January 2021 be confirmed.

### **Minute No. 13/21**

#### **Matters Arising**

Minute 5/21 referenced the stakeholders in the Port Access funding application but the query was around who were the stakeholders in the feasibility study.

Members also asked for updates on items under matters arising on play grounds and MyWaste. Members were advised that a review of existing playground services and maintenance requirements was a priority over new facilities, and were reminded that Matters arising are for point of clarity of minutes.

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### **Minute No. 14/21**

#### **Minutes for noting**

Minutes of the meetings listed below were noted by the members.

Corporate Policy Group 6<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Borough District of Drogheda 11<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Municipal District of Dundalk 12<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Municipal District of Ardee 14<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Based on matters raised by Members under this item:

Members were advised that a detailed report will be circulated to Members on MyWaste initiative.

### **Minute No. 15/21**

#### **Casual Vacancy – Cllr. Colm Markey**

In accordance with the provisions of Section 19 (2) of the Local Government Act 2001, a casual vacancy has occurred in the membership of Louth County Council by reason of the nomination of Cllr. Colm Markey to the European Parliament (Midlands North-West).

**Proposed by : Cllr. Maria Doyle**

**Seconded by :Cllr. John Reilly**

**And resolved:**

That Paula Butterly shall fill the casual vacancy on Louth County Council arising from the resignation of Cllr. Colm Markey. The Cathaoirleach, Chief Executive and members welcomed Cllr. Butterly and wished her well.

### **Minute No. 16/21**

#### **Report on CPG Meeting**

The Cathaoirleach informed the members that the meeting of the CPG was held in the Council chamber, at 9.00 am on Wednesday 3rd February 2021 by zoom. Members noted the minutes of the January meeting. Members discussed the format of remote meetings and agreed that; All present should made known at start of meeting, Cameras should be kept on at all times, All attendees must have a clear or neutral background, The integrity of the Meeting should be maintained at all times.

CPG Members were given a briefing on items in the Council Agenda including:

- Casual Vacancy of Colm Markey
- Presentation on National Broadband Ireland

Members discussed the Communication Plan and highlighted areas of concern re responses.

Members were advised that Management Team are considering how to recognise the contribution of Liam Reilly Musician and will approach the family after the month's mind.

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### **Minute No. 17/21**

#### **Report on SPC's**

Planning and Support Infrastructure: Cllr Maria Doyle advised that the SPC met and agreed on the formulation of a three year work plan, discussed Casual Trading and the status of the Draft Co. Dev. Plan among other items.

### **Minute No. 18/21**

#### **Monthly Management Report**

Members noted contents of the report and the following issues were highlighted:

- Members queried whether lands could be taken from us under the Land Development Bill, and noted that the bill refers to market value but does not reference S2.1.1 of the Land Act, or S183 of the Local Government Act which require Councillors approval to dispose of lands, and considered whether this is a stripping of Councillor rights and a contravention of the programme of Government.
- No visible impact on LCC services from Brexit currently.
- Members requested a link to the page on OPW website which updates on CFRAM on next CE report, and link to be put on LCC website.
- Members noted an increase in the prevalence of dog fouling; discussed methods of tackling same and requested operations consider various options including positive enforcement, and DNA testing of waste.
- Details of registered Derelict Sites and any associated levies are to be made available to Members.
- The County Development Plan in force on the date of planning decisions made on applications is the relevant plan.
- Dromin Graveyard is not in the ownership of Louth County Council.
- Link to the Electoral Register is live from the date of meeting, 15<sup>th</sup> February 2021, and all those registering online will go on draft register.
- Louth County Council is taking a coordinated approach with An Garda Síochána, Coillte and the local Farming Community to tackle issue of fires on the Cooley peninsula.
- The effect of Covid-19 on household income is considered by the rents team in housing who actively assist tenants in cases of hardship to determine their differential rent.
- An undertaking was given to engage with applicants on the Choice Based Letting application process.

The Chief Executive and Directors of Service responded to all queries raised.

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### **Minute No. 19/21**

#### **Office of the Chief Executive**

At the conclusion of debate on the February Chief Executive's Report the Cathaoirleach informed the members that she had been given the prescribed notification from the Chief Executive of her Extension of Period of Tenure as Chief Executive. This notification was in compliance with Section 147 (3) of the Local Government Act, 2001, as amended.

### **Minute No. 20/21**

#### **Section 85 Agreement - Louth County Council / Meath County Council**

**Proposed by:** Cllr. Eileen Tully

**Seconded by:** Cllr. Pío Smith

**And resolved:**

To confirm the agreement between Louth County Council and Meath County Council in Accordance with the Provisions of Section 85 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001 For the Drogheda Flood Relief Scheme

### **Minute No. 21/21**

#### **National Broadband Ireland Presentation**

Members received a presentation from Pat O'Toole, Director of Deployment/Connections with National Broadband Ireland which was well received and generated several queries from Members.

### **Minute No. 22/21**

#### **To confirm the Nominations to the Governance/Oversight committee of the Dublin / Belfast Economic Corridor**

The following Councillors were nominated to the Governance/ Oversight committee of the Dublin / Belfast Economic Corridor

Nominations took place at the January 2021 District Meetings

**Cllr Fiachra MacRaghnaill - Borough District of Drogheda**

Proposed at Council Meeting by: Cllr M. Hall

Seconded by: Cllr P. Smith

**Cllr. Hugh Conlon - Municipal District of Ardee**

Proposed at Council Meeting by: Cllr J. Sheridan

Seconded by: Cllr J. Tenanty

**Cllr. Seán Kelly - Municipal District of Dundalk**

Proposed at Council Meeting by: Cllr M. Yore

Seconded by: Cllr. L. Reilly

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### **Minute No. 23/21**

#### **Nomination to the Association of Irish Local Government**

Cllr. C. Keelan was nominated to the AILG at the January 2021 meeting of the Municipal District of Dundalk

**Proposed by: Cllr. L. Reilly**  
**Seconded by: Cllr. M. Butler**  
**And Resolved**

### **Minute No. 24/21**

#### **Vacancy – Climate Action & Energy SPC**

Cllr. Maria Doyle proposed that newly elected **Councillor Paula Butterly** fill the vacancy on the Climate Action & Energy SPC. This was seconded by Cllr. Marianne Butler.

### **Minute No. 25/21**

#### **Vacancy – Audit Committee**

Cllr. Maria Doyle proposed that newly elected **Councillor Paula Butterly** fill the vacancy on the Audit Committee. This was seconded by Cllr. Eileen Tully.

### **Minute No. 26/21**

#### **Joint Policing Committee Annual Report**

Members noted receipt of the Annual Report of the Joint Policing Committee for 2020 in accordance with Section 36 (50 (a) of the Garda Síochána Act 2005.

### **Minute No. 27/21**

#### **Notice of Motion**

**Proposed by Cllr. C. Keelan**  
**Seconded by Cllr. E. Coffey**

"Recognising the existence of the RSES, that Louth County Council calls on the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage to enact the office of Mayor in each of the Regional Growth Centres across the state so as to assist in their economic development and promotion."

That this motion be sent to the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, the Regional Assemblies, and to the AILG and LAMA.

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### **Minute No. 28/21**

#### **Notice of Motion**

**Proposed by Cllr. J. Reilly**

**Seconded by Cllr. M. Doyle**

Calling on Louth County Council to contact Irish Water to extend the mains water supply to the Kilcurry, Faughart and Ravensdale areas

**Reply:**

**We will raise the issue with Irish Water and ask them to review it under their capital programme**

### **Minute No. 29/21**

#### **Notice of Motion**

**Proposed by Cllr. Joanna Byrne**

**Seconded by Cllr. T. Cunningham**

"Calling on Minister Stephen Donnelly to review the rollout of vaccines and expedite the place of Firefighters and other essential Local Authority Staff, like those in Homeless Services, Water Services etc. who cannot work from home and have to come in contact with other people as part of their day to day duties.

Louth has consistently been one of the worst hit counties with Covid-19 cases, our Hospital's are at breaking point and our Firefighter's are and will continue to be relied upon to assist the medical services in this county. It is imperative they are considered in the same category as Frontline Healthcare Workers and protected in order to allow them continue providing the invaluable service they do for our communities."

### **Minute No. 30/21**

#### **Notice of Motion**

**Proposed by Cllr. T. Cunningham**

**Seconded by Cllr. E. Corrigan**

This Council notes the centenary of the passing by the British Parliament at Westminster of the Government of Ireland Act in December 1920, the Act which provided for the Partition of Ireland. We recall the deep injustices, divisions and conflict caused by this Act. We reiterate our support for the Good Friday Agreement and the political process arising from it, including the revoking of the Government of Ireland Act. We reaffirm our support for the self-determination of the people of Ireland as expressed in Article 3.1 of Bunreacht na hÉireann and for the bringing about of a United Ireland "by peaceful means with the consent of a majority of the people, democratically expressed, in both jurisdictions". Accordingly we call on both the Irish and British governments to fully implement the Good Friday Agreement and all their obligations with regard to the rights of citizens; we call on the British government to agree to set a date for the Irish Unity referendum as provided in the Agreement; we call on the Irish government to work for this outcome. We stand ready

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as a Council to work with all statutory bodies and with civic society to plan and prepare for the referendum on Irish Unity and for a positive outcome to the referendum.

Therein followed a discussion on the motion just passed.

Cllr. Pio Smith proposed an amendment to the motion to read as follows:

This Council notes the centenary of the passing by the British Parliament at Westminster of the Government of Ireland Act in December 1920, the Act which provided for the Partition of Ireland. We recall the deep injustices, divisions and conflict caused by this Act. We reiterate our support for the Good Friday Agreement and the political process arising from it, including the revoking of the Government of Ireland Act. We reaffirm our support for the self-determination of the people of Ireland as expressed in Article 3.1 of Bunreacht na hÉireann and for the bringing about of **an Agreed** Ireland "by peaceful means with the consent of a majority of the people, democratically expressed, in both jurisdictions". Accordingly we call on both the Irish and British governments to fully implement the Good Friday Agreement and all their obligations with regard to the rights of citizens; we call on the **Northern Ireland Secretary of State to announce a period of detailed review of the evidence that a majority might support a united Ireland. Furthermore we call on the British, Northern Ireland and Irish Governments to develop a clear plan for when referendums North and South could be called, the design and process preceding and following them, the timing and terms on which sovereignty would transfer, if that were the option chosen by the voters, the form a united Ireland would take and any changes to the UK union if the vote was for status quo.**

This amendment was seconded by Cllr. Maeve Yore.

Following a roll call vote the amendment was passed.

#### **Councillors voting in favour of amendment**

M. Butler, P. Butterly, J. Byrne, E. Coffey, M. Doyle, M. Hall, S. Kelly, F. MacRaghnaill, A. McKevitt, D. Minogue, L. Reilly, J. Sheridan, P. Smith, M. Yore.

**Total 15 (fifteen)**

#### **Councillors voting against amendment**

J. Byrne, E. Corrigan, T. Cunningham, P. McGeough, K. Meenan, D. Power, J. Reilly, T. Sharkey, A. Watters.

**Total 9 (nine)**

**Absent:** Cllrs H. Conlon, C. Keelan, P. McQuillan, D. Power, E. Tully

**Total 5 (five)**

### **Minute No. 31/21**

#### **Notice of Question – Cllr. Joanna Byrne**

Can Louth County Council provide the following data;

The overall number of housing allocations made for the year of 2020 split by:

(i) each Municipal District,

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- (ii) the area of choice within each MD
- (iii) bedroom Size within (i) and (ii)
- (iv) Avg waiting time of (iii)
- (v) How many of the overall number are local authority managed or VHB's.

**Reply from Mr. P. Donnelly, Director of Services, Housing and Quality of Life:**

The overall number of housing allocations made for the year 2020 split by:-

1. Each Municipal District
2. Area of choice within each District
3. Bedroom size
4. Average waiting time
5. How many managed by LCC and Approved Housing Bodies

**No. 1**

1. Ardee - 103
2. Drogheda 125
3. Dundalk 256

**No. 2 & No.3**

**Ardee Municipal District**

Area of Choice	No. of beds	allocations
Ardee	2	5
Ardee	3	10
Ardee	4	1
Castlebellingham/Kilsaran	2	2
Collon	3	1
Dunleer/Tinure	1	2
Dunleer/Tinure	2	38
Dunleer/Tinure	3	37
Dunleer	4	6
Louth Village	2	1
Total Allocations		103

**Drogheda Municipal District**

Area of choice	No. of beds	Allocations
Drogheda North	1	10
Drogheda North	2	10
Drogheda North	3	35
Drogheda North	4	3
Drogheda South	1	5
Drogheda South	2	23
Drogheda South	3	25
Clogherhead	2	1
Clogherhead	3	2
Tullyallen	2	2
Termonfeckin	2	1
Termonfeckin	3	7
Termonfeckin	4	1
Total		125



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### **Dundalk Municipal District**

Area of Choice	No. of beds	Allocations
Dundalk	1	16
Dundalk	2	95
Dundalk	3	56
Dundalk	4	8
Carlingford/Omeath/Greenore	2	4
Carlingford/Omeath/Greenore	3	2
Carlingford/Omeath/Greenore	4	1
Blackrock/Haggardstown /Dromiskin	2 bed	1
Blackrock/Haggardstown/Dromiskin	3 bed	52
Blackrock/Haggardstown /Dromiskin	4 bed	21
Total		256

### **No. 4**

With the introduction of CBL allocations based on length of time vary depending on the interest in a particular property, therefore someone could be on the list for 12 years and not express an interest and someone could be 2 years and be successful

The average waiting time varies depending on area of choice and no of bedrooms required. The following is the position for each Municipal District

#### **Ardee**

1 bed/2 bed 13 years  
3 bed 13 years  
4 bed 11 years  
5 bed 2 years

#### **Drogheda**

1 bed/2 bed 13 years  
3 bed 11 years  
4 bed 9 years  
5 bed 4 years

#### **Dundalk**

1bed/2 bed 13 years  
3 bed 12 years  
4 bed 12 years  
5 bed 4 years

### **No 5**

A total of 484 allocations were made in 2020, of which 294 are managed by Louth County Council and 190 managed by the Approved Housing Bodies.

### **Minute No. 32/21**

#### **Notice of Question – Cllr. Edel Corrigan**

How many vacant commercial properties are there registered in Louth?

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### **Reply from Bernie Woods, Head of Finance**

**Louth County Council does not hold a register of vacant commercial properties and there is no requirement for businesses to register their property as vacant with the Council under any legislation.**

### **Minute No. 33/21**

#### **Notice of Question – Cllr. Conor Keelan**

"Since 2019 how many individuals have been removed from the Housing List for reasons other than having been allocated a Council house and what have been the reasons in each case?"

#### **Reply from P. Donnelly, Director of Services**

The reply will be available at the March monthly meeting.

### **Minute No. 34/21**

#### **Notice of Question – Cllr. Tom Cunningham**

How many fishing vessels are operating out of Port Oriel Clogherhead?

#### **Reply : From Catherine Duff, Director of Services, Operations**

Paying the yearly charge, there are:

30 boats of less than 10m in length and 6 larger boats (>12m).

In addition there are currently a further 6 larger boats using the port paying a daily charge. These would use the port on a less regular basis than the boats paying a yearly charge, but nevertheless Port Oriel is their home port.

There are also another 6 or so larger long range boats (ranging far to sea) which would berth at Port Oriel maybe once a year or so, paying daily charges

### **Minute No. 35/21**

#### **Notice of Question – Cllr. Tom Cunningham**

How many fishing vessels pay their harbour dues?

#### **Reply : From Catherine Duff, Director of Services, Operations**

36 boats paying yearly charges, a further 12 larger boats paying daily charges because of a less regular pattern of use of the port, half of which berth at Port Oriel not much more than once a year or so because of the extent and range of the journeys they undertake.

Problems with non-payment very rarely arise."

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**Minute No. 36/21**

**Correspondence**

Correspondence as listed with the Agenda was noted by the members

**Minute No. 37/21**

**Motions from other Councils**

Motions from other Councils as listed with the Agenda was noted by the members

**Minute No. 38/21**

**Condolences**

Members expressed sympathy to the family and friends of:

Tom Sheedy, Rath, Ardee Rd Dundalk  
Donny Lynch, Sandy Lane, Blackrock, Co Louth  
Marion Campbell, Tuites Lane, Blackrock Co Louth  
Olive Traynor, Hillview Drogheda

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

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Cathaoirleach: \_\_\_\_\_

Meetings Administrator: \_\_\_\_\_