

## **Louth County Council Monthly Meeting 17<sup>th</sup> October 2022**

Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of Louth County Council hosted in the Council Chamber County Hall, Dundalk on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> October at 10.00 a.m.

### **In attendance:**

Presiding: Councillor, Conor Keelan - Cathaoirleach

Members: Councillors: Marianne Butler, Paula Butterly, James Byrne, Joanna Byrne, Kevin Callan, Emma Coffey, Bernie Conlon, Tom Cunningham, Maria Doyle, Seán Kelly Fiachra Mac Raghnaill, Pearse McGeough, Andrea McKeivitt, Kevin Meenan, Declan Power, John Reilly, Liam Reilly, Pío Smith, Jim Tenanty, Eileen Tully, Antoin Watters, Maeve Yore

Apologies: Councillors: Edel Corrigan, Michelle Hall, Paddy McQuillan, Dolores Minogue, Tomás Sharkey, John Sheridan.

Officials: Joan Martin, Chief Executive  
Joe McGuinness, Director of Services  
Gráinne Tuomey, Meeting Administrator  
Paddy Donnelly, Director of Services  
Bernie Woods, Director of Services  
Catherine Duff, Director of Services  
Thomas McEvoy, Director of Service  
John O'Hagan, Senior Engineer  
Joanna Kelly, Senior Planner  
John Lawrence, Senior Executive Officer  
Bryan Coughlan, Senior Executive Officer  
Colette Moss, Senior Executive Officer  
Aveen Moore, Communication Officer  
Moya Hodggers, Arts Officer  
Martina Sheeran, Senior Engineer  
Mark Johnson, Senior Engineer

### **Minute No. 155/22**

### **Confirmation of Minutes**

Minutes of the Monthly Meeting on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> September 2022 were:

**Proposed by** Cllr Paula Butterly  
**Seconded by** Cllr Liam Reilly  
and adopted.

## **Minute No. 156/22**

### **Minutes of Municipal District Meetings – Noted**

The following Minutes were Noted by Members:

- Borough District of Drogheda 4th July 2022
- Special Meeting Municipal District of Ardee 26th July 2022
- Municipal District of Ardee 1st September 2022
- Borough District of Drogheda 5th September 2022

## **Minute No. 157/22**

### **Minutes of Committee Meetings – Noted**

The following Minutes were Noted by Members:

- Corporate Policy Group Meeting 7th September 2022
- Audit Committee Meeting 30th June 2022
- Community, Quality of Life & Creativity 15th June 2022

## **Minute No. 158/22**

### **Report from Chairperson of Corporate Policy Group**

Cathaoirleach Cllr Conor Keelan advised Members that the July CPG meeting was held in person at 9.00 am on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> October 2022 in the Setanta Room, County Hall.

He advised members that the CPG considered a mutual swap of SPC members, as allowed under SPC Standing Order No. 8. He advised this was approved and Cllr Emma Coffey who will now attend the Housing SPC and Cllr Seán Kelly who will now attend the Community SPC.

Members received a briefing on Budget 2023 from Bernie Woods, Head of Finance.

Members were given a briefing on all items in the Council Agenda by Joe McGuinness, Deputy Chief Executive including:

- Outstanding report under S141 annual reporting of committee members – LAMA
- The Louth Arts Development Plan 2022 – 2026 which was drafted in accordance with statute and which was before the Members for noting

- S85 agreement on the FASTER project which allows for Louth County Council to carry out works on behalf of Meath County Council to facilitate the installation of rapid EV chargers
- Nominations for various boards which need to be resolved by council
- A S183 proposal being brought before Members, for fee simple
- Approval request for a €5m overdraft facility in case needed
- Members were reminded to get all outstanding requests for allocation or community funding in asap to ensure payment before year end
- The Audit Committee Charter as noted
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Other items were discussed including

The need to first log issues on Sugar in order that responses can be monitored

Membership of the Placenames Committee and the need to have a Drogheda Borough District Member Rep.

### **Minute No. 159/22**

#### **Compliance with Section 141 of the Local Government Act, 2001, as amended**

In accordance with S141 (1)(a) of the Local Government Act 2001, as amended, a verbal report was received from Cllr Eileen Tully on matters arising during Local Authority Members Association meetings. Members were advised that discussion items included among others 'Rising Energy Costs, Housing Ukrainian Refugees, and Affordable Housing for Irish Residents.'

This completed the requirement of Members to report on board meetings for 2022 under this Section of the Act.

### **Minute No. 160/22**

#### **Louth Arts Development Plan 2022 – 2026**

Paddy Donnelly Director of Services advised that the Plan had been drafted in line with statutory guidelines, had gone to public consultation and was now with Members for Noting.

### **Minute No. 161/22**

#### **Section 85 Agreement – Faster Project**

Catherine Duff, Director of Services referred to the documents as presented and advised that in order for Louth County Council to carry out works on behalf of Meath County Council a Section 85 Agreement required the resolution of Members.

Approval of the agreement was

**Proposed by:** Cllr Marianne Butler

**Seconded by:** Cllr James Byrne

And resolved.

### **Minute No. 162/22**

#### **Replacement Nomination to the Regional Health Forum Dublin North East - For Approval**

As no nominees were put forward for this item the matter was again deferred.

### **Minute No. 163/22**

#### **Replacement Nomination to Local Community Development Committee - For Approval**

Members were advised of the nomination of Ms. Una McGoey to replace Mr. Sean Farrell as Chair of the Dundalk Chamber of Commerce and of the requirement of the Elected Members to approve this as a reserved function under Section 36 of the Local Government Reform Act 2014.

Approval of the nomination was :

**Proposed by** Cllr Marianne Butler

**Seconded by** Cllr Antóin Watters

And resolved.

### **Minute No. 164/22**

#### **Notice under Section 183 - Proposed Disposal of Fee Simple for property at 79A West Street, Drogheda**

In accordance with S183(1)(b) of the Local Government Act 2001 as amended, it was agreed the **disposal of Lands adjacent at 79A West Street, Drogheda** shall be carried out in accordance with terms specified in the resolution;

This was:

**Proposed by:** Cllr Maeve Yore

**Seconded by:** Cllr Seán Kelly

And Resolved.

### **Minute No. 165/22**

**Approval of €5 million Overdraft Facility for 2023 under Section 106 of the Local Government Act 2001 in accordance with S106 of the Local Government Act 2001 as amended, approval of a €5 million overdraft facility for 2023 was:**

**Proposed by:** Cllr Liam Reilly

**Seconded by:** Cllr Emma Coffey

And Resolved.

### **Minute No. 166/22**

#### **Allocation of Members Community Grants**

In accordance with Section 66 of the Local Government Act 2001 as amended, approval of Allocation of Members Community Grants as notified to the Elected Members was:

**Proposed by:** Cllr Antóin Watters

**Seconded by:** Cllr Emma Coffey

And Resolved.

## **Minute No. 167/22**

### **Audit Committee Charter**

In accordance with Article 8(1) of the Local Government Audit Committee Regulations 2014, approval of the revised Audit Committee Charter without amendment as notified to the Elected Members was:-

**Proposed by:** Cllr Kevin Callan  
**Seconded by:** Cllr Andrea McKeivitt  
And Resolved.

## **Minute No. 168/22**

### **Breithniú ar Thuarascálacha agus ar Chomhréitigh ón bPríomhfheidhmeannach / Consideration of Reports and Recommendations from Chief Executive**

#### **Monthly Management Report**

- Support Services
- Strategic Economic Development
- Placemaking & Physical Development
- Organisational Development
- Social Development

Members discussed the report as issued and the following items were highlighted:

#### **Support Services**

- An upcoming scheme to allow Local Authorities to bid for extensions of water supply was discussed with Bernie Woods Director advising to wait for scheme to issue to determine terms.
- Covid Rates Waiver and Rebates on Vacancies and properties to let made up a majority of the €2m rates write off. Members were advised of no increasing trend.
- Well grant procedures are set nationally, and Louth County Council will not get front load grant payments to contractors.

#### **Strategic Economic Development**

- Fire closure notices served following inspections by Louth County Council Fire Prevention Section were noted.
- Dunleer Fire Station is at tender evaluation stage.

## **Placemaking & Physical Development**

- Greenway projects may be combined in future
- Outdoor Dining Fáilte Ireland scheme – Fáilte Ireland sets conditions and timescale
- Ardee Bypass Legal Action – adjournment was sought and hearing is due to resume at end of month
- N2 Consultation with land owners is ongoing, initially with those most affected but engagement will be sought with all interested parties
- More information was requested on Active Travel in the CE Report
- Negotiations are ongoing with landowners on the proposed Boyne Enterprise Link Road
- School Warden placement will be looked at as part of the Active Travel process
- Footpath at Carnbeg Hotel is fully the responsibility of the hotel owners
- Housing Speed Estate limit Scheme will be advertised for expressions of interest soon
- Mount Avenue Tender is with Dept. for provision of through road

## **Organisational Development**

- Consideration will be given to provision of a collection facility in Ardee during Mattress & other Waste Amnesties
- Invitations to Councillors for Ministerial visits are issued on foot of request by individual Minister's office
- Congratulations were offered to Louth Sports Centre on After School & Adult courses

## **Social Development**

A motion for a joint committee to be set up with Residents of Halliday's Mills, Council Officials, Co-operation Ireland AHB and Gardaí was:

**Proposed by** Cllr Kevin Meenan

**Seconded by** Cllr Maeve Yore

But Members were advised by both the Director of Housing and the Chief Executive that this was not a matter for Louth County Council. Members were advised that while Louth County Council works closely with Cooperation Ireland it would be inappropriate for Council Officials to attend such a meeting, as the property owners and landlords have full responsibility for prevention and action on Anti Social Behaviour onsite.

Some discussion took place on this item with stated disagreement between officials and some Members on the item with Cllr Coffey suggesting that a meeting would raise false hope for tenants as Louth County Council have no legal remit to interfere with the landlord tenant relationship and Cllr Callan agreeing that such a meeting might blur lines on legal responsibilities.

### **Minute No. 169/22**

#### **Condolences**

Members expressed sympathy to the family and friends of:

Retired Garda Sergeant Thomas Byrne who served the County of Louth for many years.  
Ex Louth County Council Staff Members, Michael Treanor, Vincent Heeney.

### **Minute No. 170/22**

#### **Congratulations**

Congratulations were offered to St. Mary's GFC Ardee on winning the Leinster Senior Championship for the first time in 27 years.

### **Minute No. 171/22**

#### **Notice of Question - Cllr. Pio Smith – Noted**

*"Requesting that this Local Authority outline in tabular form all of the projects that required match funding that in 2022 and the amount that was allocated to each project"*

**Reply: All**

*This is a significant piece of work to collate and will not be available until the November Meeting.*

### **Minute No. 172/22**

#### **Notice of Question: Cllr. Marianne Butler – Noted**

*"Has Louth County Council applied for funding to install the necessary technology in the Council Chamber to provide for hybrid remote meetings?"*

**Reply: Bernie Woods, Head of Finance and Director of Support and Water Services**

*"We have made enquiries regarding the funding opportunity for Hybrid meetings, mentioned by the Department earlier this year, but to date they have not formalised the amount available or how we can apply for same. As soon as it is available we will apply for the funding".*

**Minute No. 173/22**

**Correspondence – Noted**

Members noted the following Correspondence which issued

- Tipperary County Council dated 16th September 2022
- Mayo County Council dated 16th September 2022
- Sligo County Council dated 19th September 2022
- Sligo County Council dated 19th September 2022
- Limerick City and County Council 22nd September 2022
- Monaghan County Council 6th October 2022

As there was no other business the meeting concluded.

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

Date: 21<sup>st</sup> Nov 2022

Cathaoirleach: Conor Keelan

Meeting Administrator: Alice Monaghan