



Comhairle Contae Lú  
Louth County Council

## **Louth County Council Monthly Meeting**

Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of Louth County Council hosted in the Council Chamber of Co. Hall, Dundalk on Monday, 20<sup>th</sup> February 2023, at 10:00a.m.

### **In Attendance:**

Presiding: Councillor, Conor Keelan - Cathaoirleach

Members: Councillors: Marianne Butler, Paula Butterly, James Byrne, Emma Coffey, Bernie Conlon, Edel Corrigan, Tom Cunningham, Maria Doyle, Michelle Hall, Seán Kelly, Andrea McKevitt, Pearse McGeough, Kevin Meenan, Dolores Minogue, Declan Power, John Reilly, Liam Reilly, Tomás Sharkey, John Sheridan, Pío Smith, Jim Tenanty Eileen Tully, Antóin Watters

Apologies: Councillors: Joanna Byrne, Kevin Callan, Paddy McQuillan, Maeve Yore

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

### **Minute No. 14/23**

### **Minutes from meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> January 2023**

**Proposed by** Cllr Seán Kelly  
**Seconded by** Cllr Bernie Conlon  
**And Approved**

### **Minute No. 15/23**

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

- Municipal District of Ardee 1st December 2022
- Municipal District of Dundalk 10th January 2023
- Municipal District of Ardee 12th January 2023

## **Minute No. 16/23**

### **Minutes of Committee Meetings - Noted**

- Placenames Committee 21st February 2022
- Placenames Committee 16th May 2022
- Community, Quality of Life and Creativity 7th September 2022
- Planning and Support Infrastructure SPC 17th November 2022
- Climate Action and Energy SPC 7th November 2022
- Planning and Support Infrastructure SPC 15th December 2022
- Audit Committee Meeting 8th December 2022
- Corporate Policy Group Meeting 4th January 2023

## **Minute No. 17/23**

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

Councillor Pio Smith advised Members that the CPG meeting was held in person at 9.00 am on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> February in the Setanta Room, County Hall. As Councillor Keelan was unable to attend the meeting, Members requested that Cllr Smith stand in as chair of the CPG.

Cllr Smith advised that Members were given a briefing on all items in the Council Agenda including (but not exclusively):

- Responsibility of Members under S141 to report annually on activities of committees, and quarterly on attendance including a nil report
- A Section 85 agreement for Dublin City Council to lead on providing Social Housing Units
- The Casual Vacancy following Cllr Mac Raghnaill's resignation to be heard at March meeting
- It was agreed to accept a deputation from Comhairle na nÓg
- Approval was given to bring conferences and grants to Council

Other items were discussed including

- Correspondence from AILG on Councillor security and it was agreed that Executive might organise a local briefing
- SPC annual work programme updates to be given at next CPG meeting by Chairs
- Uisce Éireann have requested dates for workshops and CPG Members were to bring this back to respective parties for agreement
- Members are to report items on the SUGAR system before raising at MD meetings
- Cllr John Sheridan gave a report to CPG on the planned annual work programme of the Community and Quality of Life SPC. Items for discussion in 2023 are
  - Museum & Arts
  - LGBTQI+
  - Volunteerism
  - A presentation by Dáil na nÓg

## Minute No. 18/23

### Report from Chairpersons of Strategic Policy Committees

#### Economic Development and Enterprise Support

Cllr Pio Smith advised Members that a meeting of the Economic Development and Enterprise Support SPC had taken place in January 2023

Items discussed included

- A review of the existing LECP, and the process for new LECP was outlined. A joint SPC/LCDC meeting was agreed for 20th March in County Hall with KPMG attending to assist.
- A Shop Front Improvement Scheme was agreed for 2023, following the terms of the 2022 scheme
- An update on Tourism was received and with mention of Tourism/Holiday Show in Jan at which LCC attended/ exhibited (Visit Louth and Sea Louth)
- A detailed spec for a Night-Time Economy Adviser for Drogheda has been agreed, LCC has commenced the recruitment process by firstly seeking sanction from DHLGH to recruit for this position
- Peace Plus update

#### Planning & Support Infrastructure SPC

Cllr John Reilly advised Members that a meeting of the Planning & Support Infrastructure SPC had taken place on the 15<sup>th</sup> of December 2023.

He advised that discussion took place in relation to the following,

- Motorhomes/Campervan Bye-laws
- RZLT (Residential Zoned Land Tax) – Joanna Kelly Senior Planner advised of map availability on website allowing for ease of use to zoom into locations
- Possible Survey of Quays & Piers' Safety
- Road Safety Survey – Adrian O'Sullivan, Road Safety Officer gave a resumé of the County Louth Road Safety Plan 2022-2030 and answered questions arising. Responding to a query raised John O'Hagan Senior Engineer advised of no legal basis for 4-way stops. Members were circulated with the presentation.

The next meeting is to be held in person on **Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2023 at 4pm** in the Council Chamber, Louth County Council.

## Minute No. 19/23

### Freastal ar Chomhdhálacha a Cheadú / Approval of Attendance at Conferences

**Proposed by:** Cllr Pio Smith  
**Seconded by:** Cllr Emma Coffey  
**And resolved**

## **Minute No. 20/23**

### **Allocation of Members Community Grants provided for under Section 66 of the Local Government Act 2001**

**Proposed by:** Cllr Marianne Butler  
**Seconded by:** Cllr Andrea McKeivitt  
**And resolved**

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

### **Section 85 Agreement – Provision of Social Housing via a Public Private Partnership**

Paddy Donnelly Director of Services referred to the documents as presented and advised that to allow Dublin City Council to carry out works on the Council's site at Ballymakenny (East), Drogheda on behalf of Louth County Council a Section 85 Agreement required the resolution of Members. Approval of the agreement was

**Proposed by:** Cllr James Byrne  
**Seconded by:** Cllr Liam Reilly  
**And resolved**

## **Minute No. 22/23**

### **JPC Annual Report as submitted under Section 36 (5) of Garda Síochána Act 2005**

Director of Services, Joe McGuinness advised Members the report was for their consideration and noting. No queries were raised and the report was deemed noted.

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

### **Consideration of Reports and Recommendations from Chief Executives Monthly Management Report**

#### **Support Services**

Members expressed concern about the capacity of Collon Waste Water Treatment Plant to accommodate any new builds as tankers have been noted removing waste offsite twice daily. Praise was given to the cleanup around the Water Plant at Ravensdale. Request for extension of water mains to North Louth will be brought to Irish Water/Uisce Éireann by water services.

#### **Strategic Economic Development**

Members received updates on various items including upcoming Local Area Plans and Dunleer Fire Station from Thomas McEvoy, Director of Services and the Executive.

A reminder was given that Local Enterprise week runs from the 6<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> March 2023 and that there are various supports available all year round for Businesses

#### **Placemaking & Physical Development**

Members considered the report as issued and Catherine Duff, Director of Services and John O'Hagan, Senior Engineer responded to queries raised.

Updates were given on Ardee Educate Together, the Newry Omeath Greenway, and the Boyne Enterprise Link Road. The following items were highlighted:

- Funding for planned Town & Village projects which are not progressing is not transferrable.
- A new Litter Task Force is being set up internally to examine how best to tackle the exponential increase in illegal dumping. This is being led by Director Joe McGuinness
- The Sugar System should be used in the absence of Fix Your Street which is no longer operational
- The Council do not install cattle grids on public roads, they have in the past replaced and upgraded existing grids

## **Organisational Development**

Joe McGuinness, Director of Services was questioned as to why Gambling Addiction was not in the JPC work programme under the Drugs & Alcohol heading, and a request was made to include Nurturing Children and Young People, Reporting on Domestic Violence, and a greater focus on Crimes against Women in the work programme. It was suggested that the JPC work was led by the Community Safety Strategy, and the JPC Steering Committee was made up of chairs of the Policing Fora, while the Drugs and Alcohol Forum work plan was set by external agencies. Paddy Donnelly, Director of Services advised that a review of the Drugs and Alcohol Forum work plan was to commence and perhaps gambling could be raised there. Joe McGuinness advised that he might raise other items informally to An Garda Síochána.

## **Social Development**

It was confirmed that a Vacant Homes Officer Robert Byrnes has been appointed and various sites are being identified with Castlebellingham being targeted as a pilot project to tackle vacancy and dereliction.

A request was made for a presentation on Retrofitting

Concern was raised about Turn Key units being provided and purchased in second phases of developments where the first phase snagging was not complete. Paddy Donnelly, Director of Services suggested that snagging would be dealt with under planning conditions and purchase of Turn Key units was an objective of the Housing for All Programme

The reporting table in the CE Report on grant schemes will be amended to include outstanding applications and other items

## **Minute No. 24/23**

### **Impending Resignation of Cllr Maria Doyle under Section 18(1) of the Local Government Act, 2001, as amended**

Cllr Maria Doyle advised Members of her intention to resign at some point before the next Council Meeting but that she did not have the date as yet. She thanked her colleagues for their patience and support over the last 12 years having been initially coopted onto Dundalk Town Council. Speaking on her time as a Member, and after thanking all her fellow Councillors past and present, Fine Gael colleagues, council officials, media and family, Cllr Doyle said it was her biggest joy to be able to help people describing it as a privilege.

Member reps from all parties spoke highly of Cllr Doyle's service, describing her as a supportive

colleague who acted with dignity and integrity, a capable politician, diligent and hardworking, professional, respectful and inclusive.

The Chief Executive speaking on behalf of herself, the Executive and staff of Louth County Council spoke of Cllr Doyle's passionate commitment.

All who spoke wished Cllr Doyle well.

### **Minute No. 25/23**

#### **Congratulations**

Members congratulated Cllr Edel Corrigan on her recent wedding.

### **Minute No. 26/23**

#### **Housing Legacy Loans Report**

Joan Martin, Chief Executive of Louth County Council presented Members with a report and advised that in Dec 2022 the Council received a capital grant for housing site costs in the sum of €45.3m from the Department of Housing. This grant included €35.31m to repay legacy land loans relating to the sites.

The report as presented to Members set out a proposal on how funds received could be spent which the Chief Executive advised was in effect a mini budget which would require the approval of Members.

Responding to questioning on the notice period time frame for presentation of the proposed spend, the Chief Executive advised of her authority to present on the incurring of additional expenditure without notice once a budget is adopted under Section 104 of the Local Government Act 2001, as amended.

Following some discussion on the content of the document, wherein the majority of Members welcomed and praised the document before them, in accordance with Section 104(2) of the Local Government Act 2001, as amended, adoption of the incurring of additional expenditure as presented to members, was

**Proposed by:** Cllr Eileen Tully

**Seconded by:** Cllr Paula Butterly

**And resolved.**

### **Minute No. 27/23**

#### **Presentation Comhairle na nÓg**

The Cathaoirleach Cllr Conor Keelan welcomed 3 representatives from Comhairle na nÓg to the meeting, Aisling McQuillan Dundalk Chair, Leah Shevlin Mid-Louth Chair, Andrew Rothsbotham – National Executive, who presented a report to the Members on Comhairle na nÓg activities and Key Events both Nationally and in Louth over the past year, as well as advising of upcoming events and consultations with educational and cross border groups in 2023. The representatives also spoke of the results of a recent consultation which helped identify current key issues facing young people.

Members praised the presentation and commended those presenting as well as the activities and

participation of the Comhairle in current events and Dáil na nÓg.

The Chief Executive echoed this praise and encouraged the participation of the Comhairle in both the LECP to raise the voice of young people and in the PEACE programme and suggested that if the Comhairle had any projects that required funding that the Council might be open to assist same.

### Minute No. 28/23

#### Correspondence Noted

- Cork County Council 9th January 2023
- Leitrim County Council 13th January 2023
- Tipperary County Council 20th January 2023
- Cavan County Council 26th January 2023
- Minister Darragh O'Brien 31st January 2023

There being no other business the meeting concluded.

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

Date:

20/3/2023

Cathaoirleach:



Meeting Administrator:

