



Comhairle Contae Lú  
Louth County Council

## **Cruinniú Míósúil Chomhairle Contae Lú 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, 17<sup>th</sup> November 2025, at 10:00a.m.

### **In Attendance:**

Presiding: Councillor, Seán Kelly – Cathaoirleach

Members: Councillors: Marianne Butler, Kevin Callan, Emma Coffey, Eric Donovan, Ciarán Fisher, Anne-Marie Ford, Michelle Hall, Rachel Kerley, Sionainn McCann, Debbie McCole, Pearse McGeough, Shane McGuinness, Andrea McKevitt, Paddy McQuillan, Fiona MhicConchoille, Kevin Meenan, Dolores Minogue, Robert Nash, Ejiro O'Hare Stratton, Declan Power, John Reilly, John Sheridan, Pio Smith, Jim Tenanty, Antóin Watters, Maeve Yore.

Apologies: Councillors James Byrne, Bernie Conlon,

Officials: David Conway, Chief Executive  
Thomas McEvoy, Director of Services  
Joanna Kelly, Acting Director of Services  
Bernadette Woods, Director of Finance  
David Hanratty, Acting Director of Services  
David Jones, Director of Services  
Ger Murphy, Director of Services  
Sinéad Dooley, Meetings Administrator  
Helen Divilly, Head of Information Systems  
John O'Hagan, Senior Engineer  
Willie Walsh, Senior Executive Officer  
Susan Deery, Administrative Officer  
Mark Johnston, Senior Engineer  
Finbar Gethins, Senior Executive Officer  
Gavin McLaughin, Communications Officer  
Aine Roddy, Assistant Communications Officer  
Conor Campfield, Senior Executive Planner  
Bryan Coughlan, Senior Executive Officer  
Olivia McCormack, Senior Executive Officer  
Eileen McDermott, Senior Executive Librarian  
Brian Lynch, Financial Accountant  
Roisin McAuley, Financial Accountant  
Colette Moss, Senior Executive Officer

The Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Sean Kelly, on behalf of the Council, expressed sincere condolences to the families, friends, and colleagues of the five young adults who tragically lost their lives in an accident on Saturday, 15th November at Gibstown, County Louth. Members joined in these sympathies and paid tribute to the emergency services personnel who responded to the incident.

It was noted that condolence books would be made available in all local authority buildings across the county in the coming days. A minute's silence was observed.

#### **Minute No. 242/25**

##### **Approval to host a hybrid meeting**

In accordance with Standing Order No. 6 Members resolved that the meeting be convened in a hybrid format.

**Proposed by:** Cllr. Antóin Watters

**Seconded by:** Cllr. Pio Smith

And Approved.

#### **Minute No. 243/25**

##### **Minutes Monthly Meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> October 2025**

The Minutes were:-

**Proposed by:** Cllr. Maeve Yore

**Seconded by:** Cllr. Michelle Hall

And Approved.

#### **Minute No. 244/25**

##### **Minutes of District Meetings – for noting**

- Municipal District of Dundalk 9<sup>th</sup> September 2025
- Municipal District of Ardee 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2025
- Borough District of Drogheda 6<sup>th</sup> October 2025
- Borough District of Drogheda Special Meeting 14<sup>th</sup> October 2025

#### **Minute No. 245/25**

##### **Minutes of Committee Meetings – for noting**

- Corporate Policy Group 9<sup>th</sup> October 2025

## **Minute No. 246/25**

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

A report was delivered by An Cathaoirleach Seán Kelly on proceedings from the Corporate Policy Group meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> November 2025.

## **Minute No. 247/25**

### **Strategic Policy Committee Chairpersons Report**

Councillor Pío Smith, Chair of the Economic Development SPC provided an update from the November meeting.

Councillor Robert Nash, Chair of the Community & Placemaking SPC provided an update on a Special Meeting of the Committee held in November, which was convened to finalise and approve the Draft Traffic Calming Policy.

Councillor Rachel Kerley, Chair of the Planning SPC provided an update from the November meeting.

## **Minute No. 248/25**

### **Approval of Attendance at Conferences and Training Events**

The list as put to the meeting was:

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

## **Minute No. 249/25**

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

Approval of the grants as presented on the agenda before them was:

**Proposed by:** Cllr Pío Smith  
**Seconded by:** Cllr Maeve Yore  
**And resolved.**

## **Minute No. 250/25**

### **To Consider and Adopt Draft Traffic Calming Policy**

Mr. Hanratty presented the Draft Traffic Calming Policy 2025 to the Members and advised the policy was endorsed by the Community & Placemaking SPC at meetings held on 25<sup>th</sup> September and 4<sup>th</sup> November 2025.

The following matters were clarified:

- Members may raise matters at the relevant Municipal District meeting; a specific Notice of Motion is not required for each matter.
- Current legislation and national guidelines set out a hierarchy of traffic calming measures, with speed ramps to be installed only as a last resort.
- The data used to develop the policy was gathered over time through digital signage and 24-hour surveys on relevant routes, including details of traffic types. Any future data collected may be incorporated into the policy through subsequent reviews.

The Draft Traffic Calming Policy 2025 was adopted:

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

### **Minute No. 251/25**

#### **Section 141 Reports 2024 – Compliance with Section 141 of the Local Government Act, 2001 as amended**

In accordance with Section 141 of the Local Government Act 2001, as amended (which requires Members to report at least annually on the activities and operations of Bodies, Boards and Committees to which they are elected, appointed or nominated to represent Louth County Council), reports were given by the following Councillors:

- Cllr. Pio Smith reported on the 2025 AILG Training Programme meeting.
- Cllr. Ejiro O'Hare Stratton reported on two meetings of the Peace Plus Partnership, which took place in Q3 of 2025.

### **Minute No. 252/25**

#### **Report on reports submitted to the Cathaoirleach under Section 142 of the Local Government Act 2001, as amended.**

A report, prepared by Mr. Tomas McEvoy, Director of Services, on the Louth County Council Delegation Visit to the Sister and Partner Cities Conference, Szombathely, Hungary, was duly noted.

### **Minute No. 253/25**

#### **Attendance of Drogheda Port Company before Council – Resolution for approval**

In accordance with the provisions of Section 23 of the Harbours Act 2015 Members resolved to invite the Chief Executive and/or Chairperson of Drogheda Port Company to present a report at the December Meeting of Council.

**Proposed by:** Cllr Kevin Callan  
**Seconded by:** Cllr Pio Smith  
**And resolved.**

## Minute No. 254/25

### Feasibility Review of the Live Broadcasting and Online Observation of Public Council Meetings – for approval

Acting Director of Services, Joanna Kelly presented the Draft Feasibility Review on the Live Broadcasting and Online Observation of Public Council Meetings prepared on behalf of the Corporate Policy Group following the Notice of Motion passed by the Council on 16<sup>th</sup> June 2025.

Ms. Kelly advised that while the broadcasting or enabling online observation of Council meetings is technically feasible, the review concluded that the associated risks - particularly regarding data protection, privacy, and unauthorised recording - currently outweigh the potential benefits.

Cllr. Marianne Butler expressed disappointment with the findings and indicated that she would not be supporting the recommendations. Cllr. Meenan, while noting some personal misgivings, confirmed that he would support Cllr. Butler's position. Cllr. Yore also indicated her support for Cllr. Butler. Cllrs. Callan, Ford, Fisher, Hall, Nash, and Minogue voiced their support for the recommendations.

Cllr. Kevin Callan **proposed** and Cllr. Jim Tenanty **seconded** the approval of the recommendations.

As Members were not in agreement, a roll-call vote was taken, and the recommendations were approved by 17 votes to 9.

Name	For	Against	Abstain	Absent
Marianne Butler		1		
James Byrne	1			
Kevin Callan	1			
Emma Coffey				1
Bernie Conlon				1
Eric Donovan		1		
Ciarán Fisher	1			
Anne-Marie Ford	1			
Michelle Hall	1			
Seán Kelly	1			
Rachel Kerley	1			
Sionainn McCann		1		
Debbie McCole		1		
Pearse McGeough		1		
Shane McGuinness	1			
Andrea McKeivitt	1			
Paddy McQuillan	1			
Fiona MhicConchoille		1		
Kevin Meenan		1		
Dolores Minogue	1			
Rober Nash	1			
Ejiro O'Hare Stratton	1			
Declan Power	1			
John Reilly	1			
John Sheridan				1
Pio Smith	1			
Jim Tenanty	1			
Antóin Watters		1		
Maeve Yore		1		
<b>Total Votes</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>3</b>

## Minute No. 255/25

### **Breithniú ar Thuarascálacha ar Chomhréitigh ón bPríomhfheidhmeannach / Consideration of Reports and Recommendations from Chief Executives Monthly Management Report**

#### **Finance and System Support**

No queries were raised.

#### **Economic Delivery**

- Cllr. Yore congratulated all involved in Frostival and the Lú Festival, including Members of Civil Defence and An Garda Síochána.
- Cllr. Minogue commended Moya Hodggers, Arts Officer, her team and all contributors to the planning and success of the Ferdia Festival.
- Cllr. Butler expressed concern regarding the recent announcement by the Housing Minister permitting the development of small wastewater treatment systems within housing developments and their subsequent Taking in Charge. Mr. McEvoy noted that guidelines have yet to be issued but confirmed that compliance with EU requirements will remain necessary.
- Recent dredging at Soldiers Point was queried by Cllr. Reilly and it was confirmed by Mr. McEvoy that licence to carry out these works was granted by the Port Operator under Dublin Port.
- Cllr. Smith sought confirmation that a Changing Place facility would be included in the upgrade plans for West Gate House, however, Mr. McEvoy confirmed that plans are progressing in the first instance for the provision of same within Scotch Hall which will be open 7 days a week.

#### **Operations and Environment Delivery**

The following was noted in relation to Operations and Environment Delivery:

- Cllr. Yore enquired about ongoing traffic light upgrades at major junctions, particularly at the Xerox junction in Dundalk. Mr. Hanratty confirmed that this forms part of an ongoing programme of works with several junctions completed during 2025. A follow up on the timeframe for the upgrade of lights at Xerox will be provided in due course.
- Cllr. McGuinness raised concerns regarding the availability of bus stops on the Ardee Road, Dundalk, and issues with buses operating at full capacity. Mr. Hanratty advised that he will consult with the Infrastructure Section regarding the potential provision of bus shelters at this location.
- Cllr. Reilly sought confirmation from the executive that sluice gates at the Coes Road are inspected prior to rain/flood warnings and cleared of debris. Mr. Hanratty noted this and confirmed that inspections will be carried out going forward.
- The use of RAP Recycled material for road resurfacing works was commended by Cllr. Reilly with a suggestion that this material is also used for LIS/CIS Schemes. Mr. Hanratty noted his comments and will revert to the Operations Team with this suggestion.
- Cllr. Meenan requested that An Garda Síochána be on point duty when traffic lights are out of order, particularly at the Xerox junction, noting confusion over whether traffic control should be managed by the Council or An Garda Síochána. Mr. Hanratty advised that he would investigate and devise a protocol to address this matter.
- Cllr. Minogue praised the communication which was received by Members during the recent storm event but requested the provision of a dedicated sweeper for the Mid-Louth area. Mr. Hanratty confirmed that budget constraints do not allow for this provision at present.

- Cllr. Nash referred to the recent collapse of a vessel in Clogherhead Harbour and sought an update on the provision of a Harbour Master for Dundalk, Annagassan, Clogherhead and Carlingford. Mr. Hanratty acknowledged budget constraints but confirmed that the matter will be re-examined by the Executive.

## **HR, Corporate and Community Delivery**

The following was highlighted in relation to HR, Corporate and Community Delivery:

- Joanna Kelly, Acting Director of Services, advised that the Outdoor Recreational Strategy is currently being finalised with actions identified to improve facilities in the Muirhevnamor area through a holistic approach.
- Cllr. Watters sought additional information following the announcement of €20,000 funding for changing facilities within the county. Ms. Kelly confirmed that the provision of these facilities would be prioritised for Blue Flag beaches, with ongoing enhancements to take place over time.
- Cllr. Yore sought an update on the Masterplan for Muirhevnamor Park. Ms. Kelly advised that €150,000 has been allocated in the 2026 budget for a feasibility study.
- Members expressed their gratitude to the staff of Corporate Services for organising the Civic Reception on 4<sup>th</sup> November for Louth GAA Senior, U20 and LGFA Football Teams.

## **Housing and Culture Delivery**

The following was highlighted in relation to Housing and Culture Delivery:

- Cllr. Smith noted the funding of €200m over 5 years available from the Housing Activation Office. Mr. Murphy adding that the Executive awaits further the detail on the next stages of this plan.
- Cllr. Meenan welcomed the new Housing Action Plan. Mr. Murphy confirmed that the plan contains 250 actions covering homelessness, affordable delivery and land activation and noted that Louth County Council has already exceeded its 2026 delivery target.
- Members discussed income limits for social housing applicants, noting that these limits have not been revised in years and, in some cases, result in applicants being removed from the list when earnings exceed the threshold. Mr. Murphy advised that this is a national criterion with no local discretion but agreed to relay the feedback to the Department.
- Cllr. McCann sought information on tenants not in a legal tenancy and facing homelessness due to lack of documentation from the Rental Tenancy Board (RTB). Mr. Murphy advised that registering tenancies with the RTB is a legal obligation; however, the Homeless Team would assess such cases.
- Cllr. Coffey noted that the Local Authority Mortgage and Fresh Start programmes are not widely known or understood by constituents. Mr. Murphy agreed to take steps to raise awareness of these schemes.
- Cllr. McGeough highlighted the lack of properties within Ardee on the Choice Based Letting (CBL) system and requested a simplified schedule of upcoming housing availability. Mr. Murphy agreed to review this request.

## **Major Capital Projects and Infrastructure Delivery**

The following was highlighted in relation to Major Capital Projects and Infrastructure Delivery:

- Cllr. Donovan sought an update on Phase 3 of the PANCR project. Mr. Jones confirmed that a business case is currently being compiled and will be submitted to the Department for potential funding.

- Cllr. Butler requested confirmation on when the next round of the Safe Routes to Schools funding will become available. Mr. Jones advised that an announcement is not expected imminently.
- Mr. Jones confirmed that the first Compulsory Purchase Order under the URDF applications will be advertised within the coming week, with valuations currently underway on other properties.
- Cllr. Hall sought an update on the provision of bus shelters and requested a list of all locations, which will be provided by the Operations Section in due course.
- Cllr. Yore enquired about progress on the Town Centre First initiative in Dunleer. Mr. Jones confirmed that this project is now complete, with works ongoing in Clogherhead. He added that a final draft of the Clogherhead Town Centre First plan will be available to Drogheda Members next week.
- Confirmation on the commencement of the Safe Routes to Schools works at Callystown National School was requested by Cllr. Power. Mr. Jones confirmed that contracts have been signed and works are due to commence by year end.
- Cllr. Smith enquired about progress of Westgate House. Mr. Jones confirmed that consultants have been tendered with four tenders received. He also advised that proposed works at St. Dominic's Playground are at an advanced stage and are expected to be presented to Drogheda Members in January.
- Mr. Jones confirmed to Cllr. McQuillan that realignment of the Mell and Cement Road junction has been incorporated into the design of an Active Travel Project.

### **Minute No. 256/25**

**Notice of Motion: Cllr. Shane McGuinness**

**Seconded: Cllr. Emma Coffey**

That the council start all planned road work programmes within the county of Louth no earlier than 9am on any workday Mon to Fri going forward. This would facilitate public transport, workers, all families, children, carers and older people to get to their destination prior to 9am and that this motion would come under any section of roadworks which are facilitating roads, housing, infrastructure or any works that will be tendered going forward either by the council or any contractor brought in by the council.

#### **Reply from David Hanratty, A/Director of Services, Operations and Environment Delivery**

*After careful consideration, I do not recommend changing the start time to 9:00 a.m. for the following reasons:*

*Road works are scheduled to maximise productivity within daylight hours and minimise disruption. Delaying the start by one hour each day would reduce the effective working window, leading to extended project durations. These longer timelines would increase labour costs, plant hire and traffic management expenses significantly.*

*While the intention is to ease morning traffic, later starts may push works further into peak afternoon periods, increasing congestion and safety risks for road users and workers at those times.*

*Notwithstanding these issues, each job will continue to be assessed on a case-by-case basis, and project delivery plans will take account of the concerns raised. For Example: night-time work considered in Town centre locations, or out-of-term work near schools.*

*For these reasons, I recommend maintaining the current default start time to ensure projects are delivered efficiently, within budget, and balancing community needs with operational requirements.*

Members indicated their support in principle to Mr. Hanratty's response.

## Minute No. 257/25

**Notice of Motion:** Cllr. Dolores Minogue  
**Seconded:** Cllr. Rachel Kerley

I am requesting that the Chairperson convene a meeting with Iarnród Éireann (Irish Rail), regarding the reopening of Dunleer railway station and that the six Mid-Louth Councillors be included. The station's reopening is of major importance for our community, it would improve regional connectivity, ease traffic congestion, support economic development and provide a sustainable transport option for commuters and businesses alike. For these reasons, it is essential that the Mid-Louth Councillors, as the local representatives of the area.

### **Reply from Thomas McEvoy, Director of Services, Economic Delivery**

*This is a matter for the Members.*

Following discussion, it was agreed that this invitation would be reflective of all 29 Members and not just the six Mid-Louth Members.

## Minute No. 258/25

### **Suspension of Standing Orders**

In accordance with Standing Order Number 89, the Standing Orders were suspended to allow for the conclusion of business on the agenda on the:

**Proposal of:** Cllr. Kevin Callan  
**Seconded by:** Cllr. Maeve Yore  
And resolved

## Minute No. 259/25

**Notice of Motion:** Cllr. John Reilly  
**Seconded:** Cllr. Andrea McKevitt

Asking LCC to approve and support a fitting location commemoration - honouring the creativity and vision of Greenore Business Man Ronan O'Rahilly, whose Radio Caroline changed the world of broadcasting back in 1964 with the launch of the MV Caroline, which was the first pirate radio station to broadcast popular music of the 60's.

### **Reply from Thomas McEvoy, Director of Economic Delivery**

*The pioneering efforts of Ronan O'Rahilly, his entrepreneurial spirit and his family's significant contributions to Greenore Port are indeed notable.*

*We are willing to explore ways to weave his story and that of Radio Caroline into the broader tourism narrative of the Cooley area to help create a more meaningful and memorable experience for tourists to the area. However, at this stage we do not intend to provide a site commemoration.*

## Minute No. 260/25

**Notice of Motion:** Cllr. Anne-Marie Ford  
**Seconded:** Cllr. Robert Nash

That Louth County Council write to Central Government and in particular the Minister for Transport and Minister for Housing and Local Government, in relation to an increase in budget for roads of all classifications in Louth. There is a marked differentiation between the current budget and funding provided for the upkeep of the roads to Louth County Council and the exceptional amount of traffic on the roads due to it being a commuter county and its significant location being advantageously placed between Dublin and Belfast. The volume of traffic therefore is higher than other counties and the wear and tear of our roads happens at a quicker pace than in other counties. An increase in funding at national level to Louth County Council would address this.

**Reply from David Hanratty, A/Director of Operations and Environment Delivery**

*This is a matter for the Members.*

**Minute No. 261/25**

**Notice of Motion: Cllr. Eric Donovan**  
**Seconded: Cllr. Debbie McCole**

That Louth County Council writes to the Minister for Health, Jennifer Carroll MacNeill to urge the Irish Government and the Northern Executive to take the necessary steps to enhance co-operation between the existing health services North and South and move towards the full integration of service planning and delivery on an island wide basis.

Further, that such reform should be implemented in a planned, systemic, strategic way to build an all-island Irish National Health and Care service. This Council also contends that it is essential that all of this work is accountable to the Irish Government, the Northern Executive and transparent to the public.

Go bhfuil Comhairle Chontae Lú ag scríobh chuig an aire sláinte Jennifer Carroll MacNeill chun moladh ar rialtas na hÉireann agus ar an fheidhmeannas sa tuaisceart, na céimeanna riachtanacha a thógáil, chun comhoibriú idir na córais sláinte atá ann sa tuaisceart agus sa deisceart a fhorbairt agus chun bogadh i dtreo comhtháthú iomlán ó thaobh pleanáil seirbhísí agus soláthar seirbhíse ar bhonn lán oileán a chur ar fáil.

Chomh maith le seo, go mbeidh leasú mar seo curtha i bhfeidhm i mbealach pleanáilte, córasach agus straitéiseach chun seirbhís náisiúnta sláinte agus cúraim uile-oileáin a thógáil. Maíonn an comhairle seo go bhfuil sé riachtanach go mbeidh an rialtas Éireannach agus an fheidhmeannas thuaidh freagrach as an obair seo agus go mbeidh an obair thrédhearcach.

**Reply from Joanna Kelly, A/Director of Services, HR, Corporate and Community Delivery**

*This is a matter for the Members.*  
*Is ábhar é seo do na Baill*

**Minute No. 262/25**

**Correspondence**

Members noted the following correspondence:

- Galway City Council 16<sup>th</sup> October 2025
- Wexford County Council 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2025
- Wexford County Council 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2025
- Kerry County Council 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2025
- Kerry County Council 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2025

- Kerry County Council 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2025
- Donegal County Council 4<sup>th</sup> November 2025

**Minute No. 263/25**

**Condolences**

Condolences were offered to the family and friends of:

- Mary Capplis, The Square, Blackrock
- Keith Lynch, Dundalk, Louth
- Ronan Maguire, Blackrock Cove, Blackrock
- Shirley Magennis, Tower View, Ardee
- Dylan Commins, Coole, Ardee
- Chloe McGee, Barnadonagh, Carrickmacross
- Shay Duffy, Mullyore, Carrickmacross
- Alan McCluskey, Corstown, Drumconrath,
- Chloe Hipson, North Lanarkshire, Scotland

Members paused for a minute of silence as a mark of respect for the individuals named above.

**Minute No. 264/25**

**Congratulations**

St. Fechin's LGFA were congratulated on securing the Leinster LGFA Intermediate Club Championship.

Congratulations were extended to the Ireland soccer team on their outstanding victory over Hungary, securing a place in the World Cup playoffs.

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

Date: 15.12.25

Cathaoirleach: 

Meeting Administrator: 