



Comhairle Contae Lú  
Louth County Council

## **Cruinniú Míósúil Chomhairle Contae Lú Louth County Council Monthly Meeting**

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Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of Louth County Council hosted in the Council Chamber of Co. Hall, Dundalk on Monday, 20<sup>th</sup> October 2025, at 10:00a.m.

### **In Attendance:**

Presiding: Councillor, Seán Kelly – Cathaoirleach

Members: Councillors: Marianne Butler, James Byrne, Kevin Callan, Bernie Conlon, Eric Donovan Ciarán Fisher, Anne-Marie Ford, Michelle Hall, Seán Kelly, Rachel Kerley, Sionainn McCann, Debbie McCole, Pearse McGeough, Shane McGuinness, Andrea McKevitt, Fiona MhicConchoille, Kevin Meenan, Dolores Minogue (online), Robert Nash, Ejiro O'Hare Stratton, Declan Power, John Reilly, John Sheridan, Jim Tenanty, Antóin Watters, Maeve Yore.

Apologies: Councillors Emma Coffey, Paddy McQuillan, Pio Smith

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  
Turlough King, Acting Senior Planner  
Ann McCormick, Executive Planner  
Declan Conlon, Executive Planner  
Gareth McShane, Assistant Planner  
Kim Callan, Staff Officer  
Moya Hodgers, Arts Officer  
Nikki Campbell, Head of LEO  
Sarah Smyth, Clerical Officer  
Finbar Gethins, Senior Executive Officer  
Gavin McLaughin, Communications Officer

## **Minute No. 214/25**

### **Minutes Monthly Meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> September 2025**

The Minutes were:-

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

## **Minute No. 215/25**

### **Minutes Special Council Meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2025**

The Minutes were:-

**Proposed by:** Cllr Andrea McKeivitt  
**Seconded by:** Cllr Maeve Yore  
And Approved.

## **Minute No. 216/25**

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

- Municipal District of Ardee July 2025
- Municipal District of Ardee Special Meeting 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2025
- Borough District of Drogheda 1<sup>st</sup> September 2025
- Borough District of Drogheda Special Meeting 8<sup>th</sup> September 2025

## **Minute No. 217/25**

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

- Corporate Policy Group 4<sup>th</sup> September 2025

## **Minute No. 218/25**

### **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 9<sup>th</sup> October 2025.

## **Minute No. 219/25**

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

Councillor Robert Nash, Chair of the Community & Placemaking SPC provided an update from the September meeting.

Councillor Kevin Meenan, Chair of the Social Development SPC provided an update from the September meeting.

**Minute No. 220/25**

**Approval of Attendance at Conferences**

The list as put to the meeting was:

**Proposed by:** Cllr John Sheridan  
**Seconded by:** Cllr Andrea McKeivitt  
**And resolved.**

**Minute No. 221/25**

**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 Maeve Yore  
**Seconded by:** Cllr Andrea McKeivitt  
**And resolved.**

**Minute No. 222/25**

**To consider adoption of Variation No. 3 of the County Development Plan**

Thomas McEvoy, Director of Services, provided a presentation to Members on the Proposed Variation No. 3 of the Louth County Development Plan 2021–2027.

He recommended that the members adopt the variation, inclusive of the modifications as outlined in the Chief Executive's Report.

The Variation No. 3 of the County Development Plan was:

**Proposed by:** Cllr Bernie Conlon  
**Seconded by:** Cllr Maeve Yore  
**And resolved.**

**Minute No. 223/25**

**S183 October Council Meeting – Disposal of lands at Cement Road, Drogheda, Co. Louth to the Minister for Education and Youth**

The proposed disposal of lands at Cement Road, Drogheda, Co. Louth was:

**Proposed by:** Cllr Antóin Watters  
**Seconded by:** Cllr Maeve Yore  
**And resolved.**

**Minute No. 224/25**

**To consider adoption of the Draft Housing Allocation Scheme**

Director of Services, Ger Murphy, advised that a revised Housing Allocation Scheme has been prepared under Section 22 of the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2009 and associated regulations. The scheme, last updated in 2016, outlines priorities and procedures for allocating

dwellings, including proportional allocation and a mechanism for 'Rightsizing'. He advised that the making of the scheme is a Reserved Function and was presented to Members for their consideration and adoption.

The Draft Housing Allocation Scheme was:

**Proposed by:** Cllr Kevin Meenan  
**Seconded by:** Cllr Maeve Yore  
**And resolved.**

#### **Minute No. 225/25**

#### **Public Art Policy 2025 - 2030**

Director of Services, Ger Murphy, advised that a Public Art Policy has been prepared to provide a framework for the management and development of public art in Louth. The policy aims to formalise systems and structures while supporting programming and commissioning opportunities. It is designed to positively impact the county and its citizens, and to offer artists—both established and emerging—opportunities to create new work with the Council.

He further advised that an Advisory Group will be established and each Municipal/Borough district will be asked to nominate one Elected Member to sit on the Group.

Members welcomed the development of the Public Art Policy 2025-2030.

#### **Minute No. 226/25**

#### **Nuclear Free Local Authorities Membership**

Further to previous discussions (Ref: Minute No. 198/25), Acting Director of Services Joanna Kelly advised that, following investigations, regular mailouts and invitations to quarterly meetings had been issued to Cllr Marianne Butler, who had been listed as the County Council's notified representative to the NFLA Steering Committee, despite never having been formally appointed to the role.

Ms Kelly further noted that any Member may be designated as an affiliate for the purpose of receiving correspondence and participating in initiatives. She confirmed that information outlining the benefits of membership had been circulated to Elected Members to assist in their consideration of whether the Council should continue its affiliation with the organisation.

In light of Louth County Council's existing membership in the "Mayors for Peace" initiative, Members agreed to discontinue the Council's subscription to the Nuclear Free Local Authorities.

**Proposed by:** Cllr Maeve Yore  
**Seconded by:** Cllr Robert Nash  
**And Resolved.**

#### **Minute No. 227/25**

#### **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 Robert Nash reported on a recent meeting of the Dundalk BIDS Company.

#### **Minute No. 228/25**

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

A report, submitted by Councillor Michelle Hall, on the Placemaking Week Europe Conference which took place on 22-25<sup>th</sup> October 2025 in Reggio Emilia, Italy, was duly noted.

#### **Minute No. 229/25**

#### **To consider and adopt the Draft Traffic Calming Policy**

Consideration and adoption of the Draft Traffic Calming Policy, was deferred to the next Council meeting.

**Proposed by:** Cllr Robert Nash  
**Seconded by:** Cllr Maeve Yore

#### **Minute No. 230/25**

#### **Amenity Grant Scheme 2025 - for Approval**

Joanna Kelly, Acting Director of Services presented a memorandum to the Members detailing the Amenity Grant Scheme 2025 and recommended approval of the schedules as set out therein.

The 2025 scheme was approved by Members.

**Proposed by:** Cllr Robert Nash  
**Seconded by:** Cllr Andrea McKeivitt  
**And resolved.**

#### **Minute No. 231/25**

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

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

No issues were highlighted.

#### **Economic Delivery**

- Feedback is currently awaited on options which have been presented to CIE on parking options at Dundalk Train Station.
- A discussion took place regarding the validation of planning submissions during which it was confirmed that current legislation does not require the presentation of identification. However, it was noted that identification-related issues are addressed through the validation process within

the Planning Department. It was agreed that this matter would be raised at the next scheduled meeting with Oireachtas members.

- In reference to the most recent NOAC Report and the low rate of building inspections, it was noted that while the number of inspections has remained consistent, the volume of commencements has tripled between 2023 and 2024. As a result, the inspection rate has decreased proportionally. It was further noted that additional staffing resources have been allocated to address the increased number of commencements.
- Cllr Reilly highlighted the upcoming 60th anniversary in 2026 of Pirate Radio stations in County Louth and queried how this legacy could be honoured or recognised. He spoke of Greenore businessman Ronan O'Rahilly, whose Radio Caroline revolutionised broadcasting in 1964 with the launch of the MV Caroline—the first pirate radio station to broadcast popular music of the 1960s. Thomas McEvoy, Director of Services, indicated that the narrative could potentially be incorporated into Louth's tourism story.
- Thomas McEvoy, Director of Services, confirmed his willingness to liaise with TII regarding signage for Faughart and St Brigid's Shrine.
- Cllr O'Hare Stratton acknowledged the range of upcoming initiatives in Drogheda, including the Lú Festival and the launch of the Digital Hub. She requested additional support from the local authority to facilitate pop-up shops and enhance nighttime events. Thomas McEvoy, Director of Services, indicated that the matter would be referred to the Nighttime Economy Advisor.

## **Operations and Environment Delivery**

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

- The current locations of CCTV units are yielding results, and the next round of locations are currently being identified.
- Members expressed frustration over traffic congestion, early work start times, and the apparent lack of notification regarding roadworks at Blackrock. David Hanratty, Acting Director of Services, advised that all available options had been considered, and that the works were deemed urgent and expected to be completed within 5 days. He acknowledged that, while unfortunate, the disruption was an inevitable short-term inconvenience. He further explained that the start times could not be adjusted due to budgetary and scheduling constraints. However, he assured members that their concerns would be taken into account for future projects, including requests for additional signage.
- Cllr Declan Power raised concerns regarding alleged overcrowding and environmental hazards at Clogherhead Harbour. In response, David Hanratty, Acting Director of Services, confirmed that enforcement proceedings are currently underway to address the issues highlighted.
- Details on the number of applications received under the CIS Scheme to be shared with the members in due course.
- Members were assured that regular engagement is maintained with Coillte and other relevant organisations, and that staffing is in place to respond promptly to any emergencies over the coming months.
- While no specific opening date for submissions to the Community Climate Action Fund has been set, all applications must be submitted by 23rd December.
- Cllr Reilly requested information regarding equipment available to for water removal and suction following storm events. David Hanratty, Acting Director of Services, advised that a high-capacity pumping system is currently being procured for deployment by both the Fire Service and Operations in response to flooding incidents.
- Cllr Reilly sought an update on the proposed erection of weight limit signage at Carrickedmond and raised concerns regarding exemptions for individuals requiring essential access. David

Hanratty, Acting Director of Services, undertook to review the relevant legislation to determine exemptions for property owners and others with essential access needs.

- Cllr Fisher proposed the introduction of identifiers or names on bridges within North Louth to support emergency response efforts. David Hanratty, Acting Director of Services, confirmed that the introduction of bridge numbers could be considered as part of the bridge maintenance programme.
- Multi-agency checkpoints involving An Garda Síochána, the Revenue Commissioners, and other relevant bodies are carried out regularly, with approximately 15–20 joint operations each year. During these operations, Louth County Council staff focus specifically on monitoring waste movements.
- Specific locations requiring line markings / renewal of faded markings should be reported to Operations for appropriate attention. Likewise, any issues relating to signage and Road Opening Licences should be referred to Operations for review.

### **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 manner.
- Cllr Sheridan referenced two previously approved Notices of Motion concerning the name of roads in the Castleguard area of Ardee and Haggardstown area of Dundalk. Joanna Kelly, Acting Director of Services, undertook to investigate both matters and provide an update in due course.

### **Housing and Culture Delivery**

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

- Members were reminded that pest control is the responsibility of the tenant, as outlined in the tenancy agreement.
- Ger Murphy, Director of Services, informed members of the supports available to individuals facing termination notices from HAP properties, including tenant in situ arrangements, homeless services and placefinder services.
- A coordinated response involving the Council's Environment, Operations, and Housing sections is currently underway in relation to reports of anti-social behaviour.

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

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

- Scaffolding works at Westgate House in Drogheda are in place as a safe-guarding perspective.
- Cllr Yore requested clarification on the preferred route for the Dundalk to Carlingford Greenway. David Jones, Director of Services, advised that the proposed corridor is expected to be published in early November, with a schedule of engagement to be arranged in advance to briefing the members of the Municipal District of Dundalk.
- David Jones, Director of Services, informed members that a letter of intent has been issued to the contractor for the Ardee Castle project, with works expected to take 12-18 months.
- Cllr Donovan raised concerns regarding bus access on the Old Slane Road, Drogheda. John O'Hagan, Senior Engineer confirmed that a development currently in the planning system includes the installation of a roundabout to address the issue.

- Cllr O'Hare Stratton sought an update on the provision of a bus shelter at Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital, for which funding was received last year. This matter will be referred to the operations team for follow-up.
- Following a query on the RDF Call 3 Funding by Cllr Butler, David Jones, Director of Services, advised that a full review of the buildings assessed under the scheme will be carried out by year end.

#### **Minute No. 232/25**

#### **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 Maeve Yore  
**Seconded by:** Cllr Michelle Hall  
 And resolved

#### **Minute No. 233/25**

#### **Condolences**

Condolences were offered to the family and friends of:

- Cormac Greene, Kingswood, Dundalk
- Mark O'Connor, Drumgowna, Louth
- Louise O'Connor, Drumgowna, Louth
- Evan O'Connor, Drumgowna, Louth

#### **Minute No. 234/25**

#### **Congratulations**

Cathaoirleach Seán Kelly led tributes to Uachtarán na hÉireann, Michael D. Higgins, in recognition of his 14 years of dedicated service as President of Ireland.

Tributes were also delivered on behalf of the political parties by Cllrs Meenan, Tenanty, Hall, Yore, Nash, and Butler.

#### **Minute No. 235/25**

**Notice of Motion:** Cllr. Ciarán Fisher  
**Seconded:** Cllr. Jim Tenanty

*"That Louth CoCo write a letter to Minister for Agriculture, Food, and the Marine (DAFM), asking them to consider the proposals made in the 'Animal Health and Welfare (Welfare of Pigs) Bill 2025', with a view to bringing the most practicable elements that improve pig welfare into practice, in a timely and affordable manner".*

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

This is a matter for the members.

#### **Minute No. 236/25**

**Notice of Motion:** Cllr. Dolores Minogue - **Dropped**

*I am requesting that the Chairperson convene a meeting with the relevant decision-makers 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.*

Note: Cllr Minogue's motion was dropped in accordance with Standing Order No. 23, which provides:

"A motion may either be proposed by the member in whose name it stands or if he or she be absent, by any member authorised by him or her in writing to propose it on his or her behalf, but unless so proposed, and in the absence of a request in writing from the member in whose name it stands to postpone it, the motion shall be dropped and shall not again be set down in the Notice Paper except on fresh notice".

### **Minute No. 237/25**

**Notice of Motion:** Cllr. Dolores Minogue - **Dropped**

*That the LCC consider introducing or supporting a "Talent Development Fund" designed for athletes who:*

- 1. Have demonstrated commitment and potential in their sport.*
- 2. Are not currently receiving professional-level funding or sponsorship.*
- 3. Require financial support for training, competition entry, equipment, or travel.*

*Benefits:*

- Encourages local talent to stay engaged in sport.*
- Raises the profile of the community through future sporting success.*
- Promotes equal access to opportunity regardless of financial background.*

Note: Cllr Minogue's motion was dropped in accordance with Standing Order No. 23, which provides:

"A motion may either be proposed by the member in whose name it stands or if he or she be absent, by any member authorised by him or her in writing to propose it on his or her behalf, but unless so proposed, and in the absence of a request in writing from the member in whose name it stands to postpone it, the motion shall be dropped and shall not again be set down in the Notice Paper except on fresh notice".

### **Minute No. 238/25**

**Notice of Motion:** Cllr. Siobhán McCann

**Seconded:** Cllr. Antóin Watters

*Louth County Council recognises that:*

- The reunification of Ireland is an objective of Bunreacht na hÉireann.*
- There is a growing national discussion around constitutional change, with people from diverse backgrounds now exploring the possibility of Irish unity*
- The Good Friday Agreement provides the democratic means to achieve reunification through the unity referendums.*

*Therefore, this Council calls on the Irish Government to plan and prepare for Irish unity through the following actions:*

- *Establish an all-island Citizens' Assembly and a Joint Oireachtas Committee on Irish Unity*
- *Produce and publish a plan towards Irish unity in conjunction with civic society and key stakeholders, including local government*
- *Work to secure a date for the referendums on unity provided for in the Good Friday Agreement.*

*Aithníonn Comhairle Contae Lú:*

- *Gur cuspóir i mBunreacht na hÉireann é athaontú na hÉireann*
  - *Go bhfuil plé náisiúnta ag tarlú maidir le athrú bunreachtúil idir daoine ó chúlraí éagsúla ag ceistiú féidearachtaí na hAontachta.*
  - *Tugann an Comhairle faoi deara go dtugann Comhaontú Aoine an Chéasta bealach daonlathach chun Éire Aontaithe a bhaint amach. Sé sin trí reifrinn daonlathach.*
- Mar sin glaonn an Comhairle seo ar an Rialtas chun*
- *Comhthionól Saoránach a bhunú chomh maith le Coiste Oireachtais chun Éire Aontaithe a phlé.*
  - *Chun plean a fhorbairt agus a fhoilsiú i dtreo Aontú na hÉireann a fhorbairt le sochaí sibhialta, agus príomh geallchoimeádaithe mar na húdaráis áitiúla san áireamh.*
  - *Obair i dtreo dáta do reifreann mar atá leagtha síos i gComhaontú Aoine an Chéasta*

**Background / rationale** *Given Louth's position as a border county and its role in cross border initiatives and project, the council has a particular responsibility to consider and contribute to discussions about constitutional change.*

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

Is Ábhar é seo do na Baill.

This is a matter for the Members.

#### **Minute No. 239/25**

**Notice of Question: Cllr. Ciarán Fisher**

*Have we data on how many people have presented to Louth County Council as homeless, as a result of domestic violence?*

**Reply from Ger Murphy, Director of Services, Housing and Culture Delivery**

As part of homelessness services reporting requirements, details of the reason for homelessness presentations, including domestic violence, to Louth County Council are recorded. From January 2025 two single persons and five families, presented in this category. Please note that this does not include persons/families who presented directly to refugees in Dundalk and Drogheda.

#### **Minute No. 240/25**

**Notice of Question: Cllr. Pío Smith**

*Asking that the Local Authority outline the amount of money spent on each traffic calming measure in Louth in the years 2024 and 2025 and the criteria used to allocate funding.*

**Reply from David Hanratty, Director of Services, Operation and Environment Delivery**

The amount of money spent on traffic calming from annual budget for same, in 2024, was c.€140,000 (details to follow). And in 2025 the projected spend 140,000 on the following planned traffic calming projects.

|          |  |          |
|----------|--|----------|
| R166-141 | R166 Hacketts Cross Clogherhead            | € 8,024  |
| R166-125 | Crossing @ R166 Chapel Road Clogherhead    | €39,634  |
| R215-4   | R215 Duffys Cross                          | €16,171  |
| R132-119 | Whitehouse Cross                           | € 12,856 |
| L-20022  | Magnet Building Raised Crossing            | € 29,115 |
|          | County Wide- Line Marking                  | € 7,000  |
|          | Traffic Calming General                    | € 10,000 |
|          | Annagassan Traffic Calming- Speed Cushions | € 17,549 |

The council has its own traffic calming policy 2015 and under review the new 2025 traffic calming policy (in draft) to inform decision making. The data-driven safety analysis from our speed/traffic counter is used to determine interventions to calm traffic in sites of interest. The RSA collision data is not available to inform decision making throughout 2024 or 2025.

### Minute No. 241/25

#### Correspondence

Members noted the following correspondence:

- Carlow County Council 12th September 2025
- Sligo County Council 18th September 2025
- Kerry County Council 18th September 2025
- Roscommon County Council 25th September 2025
- Limerick City and County Council 26th September 2025
- Limerick City and County Council 30th September 2025
- Wexford County Council 3rd October 2025

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

Date:

17th Nov '25

Cathaoirleach:

[Signature]

Meeting Administrator:

Sinead Dooley