



Comhairle Contae Lú  
Louth County Council

## **LOUTH COUNTY COUNCIL - CORPORATE POLICY GROUP**

Minutes of the Corporate Policy Group Meeting held in the Setanta Room, County Hall Dundalk, and online, on Wednesday, 6th November 2024 at 09:00am

### **In attendance:**

**Cathaoirleach, Cllr:** Kevin Callan

**Members, Cllrs:** Paula Butterly  
Robert Nash  
Joanna Byrne (online)  
Pio Smith (online)

**Apologies, Cllrs:** James Byrne

**Officials:** Joe McGuinness, Temporary Chief Executive  
David Jones, Director of Services  
Thomas McEvoy, Director of Services (online)  
Ger Murphy, Director of Services  
Bernie Woods, Director of Finance  
Yvonne O'Brien, A/Director of Services  
Bryan Coughlan, Meeting Administrator (online)

### **1. Minutes of the Meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> October 2024**

The minutes of the Corporate Policy Group meeting held on Wednesday 9th October 2024 were confirmed on the

**Proposal of:** Cllr. Kevin Callan  
**Seconded by:** Cllr. Robert Nash  
And approved

### **2. Matters Arising**

None

### **3. Budget 2025**

Joe McGuinness briefed members on the preparation of the budget for 2025. He advised that a balanced budget would be issued to all Members on the following Monday and would be hand-delivered. He also noted that there is a new provision regarding making a scheme

for the abatement of rates on vacant properties to be considered and that one submission had been received during the public consultation phase.

Bernie Woods advised the CPG that the Members can design a scheme by street, business type or else common to the whole county, and that it will be a separate item on the budget meeting agenda.

#### **4. Corporate Plan 2024 – 2029: Timelines**

Ger Murphy briefed the meeting on the updated timelines attached to the new Corporate Plan.

#### **5. Members Allocations**

Noted

#### **6. To consider and recommend conferences and events**

The list of conferences and events was noted.

#### **7. Members Communication Plan**

The Chief Executive enquired whether there had been any improvements on some of the issues raised in recent months by Members. Cllr. Pio Smith said that there had been little change and highlighted the absence in many cases of a notification as to how an issue was resolved. This was echoed by Cllr. Paula Butterly.

Joe McGuinness advised that the Council is currently investing in a new CRM system and that it would be important to get the practice.

Cllr. Joanna Byrne stated that she had noticed an improvement in responses and specifically highlighted the Housing Maintenance section.

#### **8. Council Meeting Agenda**

Joe McGuinness presented the agenda to the members which includes matters such as:

- Dundalk LAP
- Four section 183s
- SPC Scheme 2024 – 2029 – appointment of Members to each committee
- Presentation by Drogheda Port Company

In relation to a query regarding the Local Community Safety Partnership, Joe McGuinness informed the meeting that clarity was still awaited regarding whether the grouping system would apply.

Joe McGuinness also informed the meeting that the budget meeting would commence immediately following the conclusion of the Monthly Council Meeting.

The motions included on the agenda were also noted.

## 9. Any Other Business

The following were raised:

- The process to appoint the new Chief Executive was set out by Joe McGuinness.
- Noted that there is a Twinning request received.
- Discussion regarding the Council's legal powers to deal with vacant sites. It was confirmed by Thomas McEvoy that the Council does not have any compulsory sales orders powers.
- John Reilly is resigning from Dundalk BIDs.

The Minutes were confirmed at a meeting of the Corporate Policy Group held on:

Date:

4/12/24.

Cathaoirleach:



Meetings Administrator:

