



Comhairle Contae Lú
Louth County Council

15th July 2026.

TO/EACH LOCAL AUTHORITY

A Chara,

At the March meeting of Louth County Council, the Members passed the following Motion:

"That Louth County Council:

1. *Notes with concern the ongoing proliferation of vape shops in our town centres, which is resulting in retail saturation, a reduction in economic diversity, a decline in the vitality, pull, and dwell factors of our streetscapes, and heightened public health risks—particularly for young people exposed to vaping products in proximity to schools and residential areas.*
2. *Recognises the limitations under the current Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended): these businesses are classified as general retail uses, which severely restricts the Council's ability to require planning permission for changes of use, to refuse applications on grounds of community needs, oversupply, suitability, density, or location, or to impose conditions aligned with local development plan objectives for vibrant, mixed-use town centres.*
3. *Resolves to write to the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, the Office of the Planning Regulator, and any other relevant planning authorities, urging the following amendments to the Planning and Development Regulations and associated guidelines: o The establishment of a distinct use class for vape shops and comparable premises, treating any change of use to this category as a material change requiring full planning permission—similar to the controls already in place for off-licences and betting offices.*

The granting of explicit powers to local authorities to refuse planning applications for such uses where they would lead to over-concentration,

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Féach foláirimh faoi Lú ón gComhairle ag www.mapalerter.ie/Louth
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based on factors including density thresholds, suitability for the location, public health impacts, and the need to maintain a balanced retail mix that supports economic diversity and urban regeneration. The introduction of mechanisms to enable the phasing out, relocation, or restriction of existing such premises in sensitive or unsuitable areas (e.g., high streets, near schools, or areas of high residential density), including through development plan policies, supplementary planning guidance, or transitional arrangements to protect community well-being.

4. *Circulate a copy of this motion to other local authorities for their consideration and support."*

The above motion is circulated for your information and consideration.

Is mise le meas,


Sinéad Dooley
Meetings Administrator