

CHONTAE DHUN NA nGALL

Oifig Riarthóir na
gCruinnithe
Aras an Chontae
LEIFEAR
21 Eanáir, 2020

FOGRA CRUINNITHE

Beidh Cruinniú Comhairle Chontae Dhún na nGall ar siúl Dé Luain, 27 Eanáir 2020, ag **11.00 r.n. in Áras an Chontae, Leifear**

DO GACH BHALL DEN CHOMHAIRLE

A Chara

Iarrtar ort a bheith i láthair ag an chruinniú seo den Chomhairle. Ta Clár an chruinnithe leis seo.

Beidh Clár Orduithe an Phríomh-Fheidhmeannaigh le feiceáil ag an gcruinniú.

Mise, le meas

**Seosamh O’Piobla
Riarthóir Cruinnithe**

DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

Office of Meetings Administrator
County House
Lifford
21st January 2020

NOTICE OF MEETING

A Meeting of Donegal County Council will be held on Monday 27th January 2020, at **11.00am in the County House, Lifford.**

TO EACH MEMBER OF DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

Dear Councillor

You are summoned to attend this meeting of the Council. The Agenda is attached.

The Register of Chief Executive’s Orders will be available for inspection at the meeting.

Yours sincerely



Joe Peoples

AGENDA

1. Confirmation of Minutes

- a) Confirmation of the Minutes of the Annual Budget Meeting of Donegal County Council held on the 22nd November, 2019.
- b) Confirmation of the Minutes of the November Meeting of Donegal County Council held on the 25th November, 2019.

2. Disposal of Land – Section 211 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000

Notice under Section 211 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) and under Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001 – to dispose of a plot of land at Séne Lane, Donegal Town, Co Donegal to the Office of Public Works to facilitate the construction of the extension to the Garda Station.

3. Taking of decision pursuant to the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (Part XI), and the Planning and Development Regulations, 2001 Part 8

To approve the carrying out of works with regard to the removal of a pinch point at “Coyles Bridge”, a single span bridge over the Pollan River on the R240 between Quigley’s Point and Carndonagh in the townland of Meenavanaghan.

4. Corporate

- a) To confirm membership of the Strategic Policy Committees for the period 2019 - 2024.
- b) Consideration of the Donegal County Council Corporate Plan 2020 - 2024.
- c) To consider authorisation of Council representation at the St Patrick’s Day events in the USA.
- d) To nominate member to the North West Regional Drug & Alcohol Task Force.
- e) To note obligations on Members under the Local Elections (Disclosure of Donations & Expenditure) Act, 1999 as amended, to submit a Donation Statement by 31st January, 2020.
- f) To note obligations on Members (Part 15) Local Government Act, 2001 Ethics Framework to submit declaration of interest by the 29th February, 2020.

5. Planning

Consideration of Draft Wind Energy Guidelines published by the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government in December 2019.

6. Community and Enterprise

To note the nomination of Shauna McClenaghan, Inishowen Development Partnership, to fill the vacancy on the Donegal Local Community Development Committee.

7. Endorsement of Minutes

- a) To note minutes of the meeting of the Corporate Policy Group held on the 8th November, 2019.

8. Attendance at Conference, Seminar or Event

Authorisation of representation at a seminar, meeting or event under Section 142 (5) of Local Government Act, 2001, S.I. No. 668 of 2006, Local Government (Expenses or Local Authority Members) Regulations 2006, S.I. No. 37 of 2010, Guidelines given by the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government in relation to the Local Government Act, 2001 (Section 142) Regulations 2010, and the Local Government (Expenses of Local Authority Members) Regulations, 2014.

Training

- AILG Elected Members Training Programme Modules 1 & 2.

Module 1

“GDPR- An updated briefing for Elected Members on the operation and implications of GDPR” in the Mullingar Park Hotel, Dublin Road, Mullingar on the 25th January, 2020. (Will be rescheduled to April 2020)

Module 2

“The Development Plan Making process – A briefing for Elected Members” in the Hotel Kilmore, Dublin Road, Cavan on the 13th February, 2020.

Conferences

- Celtic Conferences – “Health and Safety in the Workplace” Clonakilty, Co Cork from the 21st - 23rd February, 2020.
- Celtic Conferences - “Regional Development and EU Cohesion Policy beyond 2020”, Carlingford, Co Louth from the 20th – 22nd March, 2020. (amended date) previously 7th – 9th February.

Travel Abroad

- Attendance of the Conference of Political Maritime Regions representative at the Meeting of the CMPR Political Bureau in Cornwall on the 19th March 2020.

9. Conference Reports

Cllr Niamh Kennedy

47th CPMR General Assembly held on the 17th - 18th October, 2019 in Palermo, Italy.

Cllr Niamh Kennedy

Hericoast Closing Conference held on the 5th - 11th November, 2019 in Bilbao, Spain.

MOTIONS

INISHOWEN MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

Corporate

10. Cllr Jack Murray

"That Donegal County Council, noting the large number of people who are disenfranchised during elections, calls on the incoming Government to completely review the electoral registration system."

11. Cllr Albert Doherty

"That Donegal Co. Council members express their full support for Consultant Geriatrician at Letterkenny University Hospital, Mr. Mulpeter and accordingly that the Council demand from the incoming Government the delivery of a new Stroke Unit, ensuring the establishment, immediate opening of an adequately funded and fully staffed Acute Stroke Unit at Letterkenny University Hospital."

Planning

12. Cllr Paul Canning

"I would ask this Council to carry out a survey of all of the estates that are in the Council takeover process with a view to putting in place a management plan to facilitate the control and disposal of the produced effluent."

Community & Development

13. Cllr Martin Mc Dermott

"To ask this Council to write to the Department of Community & Rural Development stating that we as a Council do not want the Town & Village Renewal Fund amalgamated with the Rural Regeneration funds."

LETTERKENNY- MILFORD MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

Water & Environment

14. Cllr Donal Coyle

"That this Council write to the Irish Water Regulator requesting a review and reduction of costs involved for new water connections."

Information Systems

15. Cllr Gerry Mc Monagle

"That Donegal County Council delay (1) the testing of 5G and the roll-out of 5G in County Donegal (2) call on ComReg to delay the licensing of its roll-out and (3) calls on the Minister for Communication, Climate Action and the Environment to establish the facts about the radiation impact of 5G and to delay the roll-out across the country until a full assessment of the health and environmental implications are carried out with a report to be compiled of the findings and presented to the Oireachtas."

Housing

16. Cllr Liam Blaney

"That this Council discuss the on going MICA issue in Donegal including all communications this Council had with any Government Department or representative regarding same."

Community Development

17. Cllr John O' Donnell

"Calling on this Council to write to the Department making a plea for much needed funding for Finn Harps Football Club."

Planning

18. Cllr Ciaran Brogan

"I propose that we as a Council review the County Development Plan as a matter of urgency so as to address the challenges people are facing with planning at the moment."

DONEGAL MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

Information Systems/Planning

19. Cllr Niamh Kennedy

"That Donegal County Council will hold a special meeting to discuss the concerns of the general public in relation to 5G and also the concerns expressed by the public on the issues of mining in the county."

GLENTIES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

Roads & Transportation

20. Cllr Anthony Molloy

"That this Council discuss the next phase of improvement works planned for 2020 on the N56."

LIFFORD - STRANORLAR MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

Roads & Transportation

21. Cllr Patrick Mc Gowan

"That this Council undertake a Pavement Condition Study Report on all local county roads similar to the study which was carried out on regional roads, as the Department's recent reports on regional roads gave the false impression that roads in the county were in a reasonable condition while in fact they are in a very bad condition getting little or no routine maintenance." (Regional roads are quieter in some cases than local roads which haven't been reclassified in decades which gives a false impression of the state of our roads in this county)

Community Development

22. Cllr Martin Harley

"I am calling on Donegal County Council to work with Finn Harps FC, the Department of Transport, Tourism & Sport, and the FAI as the national

governing body for soccer in Ireland, towards the delivery and completion of the Finn Harps Stadium Project in Stranorlar so as to secure the future of League of Ireland soccer in County Donegal.”

Housing

23. **Cllr Gerry Crawford**

“That this Council debate the Housing Policy in relation to medical support letters required for housing support applications or transfers.”

24. **Cathaoirleach’s Business**

25. **Chief Executive’s Management Report**

QUESTIONS

INISHOWEN MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

Water & Environment

26. **Cllr Rena Donaghey**

Please furnish an up to date report on the current position of all Group Water Schemes by Municipal District?

Roads & Transportation

27. **Cllr Jack Murray**

Can the discretionary street lighting fund in this year’s budget allow for the installation of lights in rural areas?

Housing

28. **Cllr Jack Murray**

What is the average time that someone approved for social housing waits before being allocated a council house across the 5 Municipal Districts of County Donegal?

Corporate

29. **Cllr Albert Doherty**

What current council contacts continue with Derry City and Strabane Council and the Department of Infrastructure to enable provision of road signage and information directions from the North West City Region to nearby Municipal Council (Public Service Centre) towns in Co. Donegal?

30. **Cllr Albert Doherty**

Given that Donegal County Council signed up to the All Ireland Pollinator Plan and signed an agreement with the National Biodiversity Data Centre on November 20th 2019, what cross sectoral implementation plan have the council initiated, or plan to initiate to inform, encourage and enable farmers, businesses, schools and local communities to support pollinators and will the council reduce and encourage the elimination of pesticides use in the county?

Roads & Transportation

31. Cllr Paul Canning

Can I have a list of all traffic speed surveys carried out in border areas over the last six months and detail of the findings in relation same?

LETTERKENNY- MILFORD MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

Planning

32. Cllr Gerry Mc Monagle

How many Section 254 Licences in relation to erection of transmission masts have been granted in the last eighteen months in Donegal and where are their locations?

Economic Development

33. Cllr Ciaran Brogan

What steps are we taking now as a council with the North West City Region and Government to address the challenges of Brexit now that it is definitely happening and can we set aside a full day of Council to have a special Brexit meeting to discuss this in its entirety?

Corporate

34. Cllr Ciaran Brogan

Can the Council confirm that all committees agreed by the power sharing arrangement and established at the Council AGM are up and running?

DONEGAL MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

Planning

35. Cllr Barry Sweeny

Can Donegal County Council provide an update on the review of the casual trading bye-laws for County Donegal?

Information Systems

36. Cllr Barry Sweeny

Can Donegal County Council request an independent study into the health implications of the roll out of 5G in the county?

Roads & Transportation

37. Cllr Barry Sweeny

Can DCC call on the Department for increased funding for LIS and CIS schemes to assist the large waiting lists that exist for these roads and projects?

LIFFORD - STRANORLAR MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

Water & Environment

38. Cllr Patrick Mc Gowan

“Who prioritises and funds which old leaking water mains are to be replaced across the County which has resulted in residents in towns like Castlefin having to choose between dirty brown water contaminated with toxins or no pressure?”

Corporate

39. Cllr Patrick Mc Gowan

Please can I have a further more detailed breakdown (as per response issued in November 2019) of all staff roles in the Council and an explanation as to why there is such a serious gap in staff numbers between Municipal Districts and in particular the Letterkenny - Milford and Lifford - Stranorlar Municipal Districts?

40. Motions from Other Councils/Bodies

KERRY COUNTY COUNCIL

“That this Council calls on the Minister for Business, Enterprise and Innovation to remove the cap on County Enterprise Boards which prevents them from dealing with enterprises that have more than ten employees and that this motion will be circulated to all local authorities in the country.”

MONAGHAN COUNTY COUNCIL

“Monaghan County Council calls on the Minister for Communications, Climate Action and the Environment, Richard Bruton TD and Minister for Finance, Paschal Donohoe, TD to

- Legislate for a deposit return scheme to be introduced on recyclable packaging
- Ensure that all local authorities in the state be funded to provide a climate action officer to incorporate energy efficiency in all aspects of Council work.
- Introduce a carbon tax on aviation fuel.”

SLIGO COUNTY COUNCIL

“To request, in consultation with Coillte, for signage to be placed at local woodland areas and forest recreation walks in order to increase awareness of Lyme Disease, to advise the public of the dangers of contracting Lyme disease from ticks, and how to protect yourself when visiting the outdoors, and also to request that this motion be forwarded to all local authorities for consideration.”

WESTMEATH COUNTY COUNCIL

“For Westmeath County Council to call on the Taoiseach and Minister for Defence, Leo Varadkar, TD to establish without delay a commission on the future of the defence forces in Ireland and also to establish a permanent and independent defence forces pay body.”

WESTMEATH COUNTY COUNCIL

“That Westmeath County Council calls on the Office of Public Works to carry out the necessary excavation works to recover the remains of Joe

Brady, Daniel Curley, Michael Fagan, Thomas Caffrey and Tim Kelly, in what is commonly known as the Invincibles Yard at Kilmainham Gaol. The bodies of these five members of the Irish National beneath the paving slabs of the yard where they were executed in 1883 for their part in the Phoenix Park Assassinations. The families of the five men are represented by the National Graves Association and the wish of the families is for their relatives to be exhumed from Kilmainham Gaol and reinterred in consecrated ground at Glasnevin Cemetery.”

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

“That Wicklow County Council has a social responsibility to serve, inform and protect the public and the environment from exposure to harm, and therefore it opposes the roll-out of unregulated 5G in the County of Wicklow based on the “precautionary principle” pending the enactment by Dáil Eireann of protective legislation.”

**MINUTES OF THE JANUARY MEETING OF DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL,
HELD IN THE COUNTY HOUSE, LIFFORD ON 27th JANUARY, 2020**

C/1/20 **MEMBERS PRESENT**

Cllrs N Crossan (Cathaoirleach), L Blaney, K Bradley, C Brogan, P Canning, T Conaghan, D Coyle, G Crawford, T Crossan, A Doherty, G Doherty, L Doherty, R Donaghey, M Farren, M. T. Gallagher, M Harley, J Kavanagh, D Kelly, N Kennedy, M C Mac Giolla Easbuig, F Mc Brearty Jnr, M Mc Bride, M McClafferty, M McDermott, I Mc Garvey, N Mc Garvey, P McGowan, B McGuinness, G McMonagle, A Molloy, J Murray, M Naughton, J O'Donnell, J S Ó Fearraigh, and B Sweeny.

C/2/20 **OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE**

Seamus Neely, Chief Executive, Joe Peoples, Director of Housing, Corporate and Cultural Services / Meetings Administrator, Liam Ward, Director Community Development & Planning Services, John McLaughlin, Director of Roads & Transportation, Garry Martin, Director of Economic Development, Information Systems & Emergency Services, Richard Gibson, A/Head of Finance, Michael McGarvey, Director of Water & Environment, Sean O'Daimhin, Rannóg na Gaeilge, Róise Ní Laifearthaigh, Rannóg na Gaeilge, Anne Marie Crawford, Staff Officer, Corporate..

C/3/20 **CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL BUDGET MEETING OF DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL HELD ON THE 22ND NOVEMBER, 2019**

On the proposal of Cllr Kennedy, seconded by Cllr Donaghey the minutes of the Annual Budget Meeting of Donegal County Council held on the 22nd November, 2019 were adopted.

C/4/20 **CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER MEETING OF DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL HELD ON THE 25TH NOVEMBER, 2019.**

On the proposal of Cllr Bradley, seconded by Cllr Sweeny the minutes of the November Meeting of Donegal County Council held on the 25th November, 2019 were adopted.

C/5/20 **DISPOSAL OF PLOT OF LAND AT SÉNE LANE, DONEGAL TO THE OFFICE OF PUBLIC WORKS**

Members considered the report circulated with the agenda in relation to the above.

On the proposal of Cllr Conaghan, seconded by Cllr Naughton, it was resolved to dispose of plot of land at Séne Lane, Donegal to the Office of Public works to facilitate the construction of the extension to the Garda Station, in accordance with the provisions of Section 211 of the Planning & Development Act, 2000 (as amended) and under Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001, (as amended).

C/6/20 **TO APPROVE THE CARRYING OUT OF WORKS WITH REGARD TO THE REMOVAL OF A PINCH POINT AT “COYLES BRIDGE”.**

Members considered the report circulated with the agenda in relation to the above.

On the proposal of Cllr McDermott, seconded by Cllr T Crossan, the carrying out of works with regard to the removal of a pinch point at “Coyles Bridge”, a single span bridge over the Pollan River on the R240 between Quigley’s Point and Carndonagh in the townland of Meenavanaghan under Part XI of the Planning & Development Act, 2000 (as amended) and Part 8 of the Planning & Development Regulations 2001(as amended) was approved.

C/7/20 **TO CONFIRM MEMBERSHIP OF THE STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE FOR THE PERIOD 2019-2024.**

Members considered the report circulated with the agenda in relation to the above.

Cllr Mc Brearty queried the fact that the independent grouping had only been allocated 2 positions on the Housing and Corporate SPC despite the fact that they had held three positions on the previous committee. He contended that Cllr Mac Giolla Easbuig and himself had effectively been excluded from holding positions on the new SPC and asked that an explanation be provided as to how the breakdown of members had been negotiated. He said that both Cllr Mac Giolla Easbuig and himself had a specific interest in the work of the Housing SPC and were anxious to progress same during this Council term.

The Cathaoirleach informed the meeting that all members of the independent grouping had been contacted in relation to the allocation of the positions. He noted that Cllr Mac Giolla Easbuig had at that juncture confirmed that he was not a member of the independent grouping and that Cllr Mc Brearty had not provided a response.

A heated exchange took place during which Cllr Mc Brearty said that under the D’Hondt system the independent grouping were entitled to at least three positions. He said that he felt that both Cllr Mac Giolla Easbuig and himself were sufficiently experienced to sit on the Housing SPC.

With no consensus reached it was resolved to adjourn the meeting for a ten minute recess.

On resumption it was unanimously agreed to defer the matter to later in the meeting.

C/8/20 **CONSIDERATION OF THE DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL CORPORATE PLAN 2020-2024.**

Members considered the report circulated with the agenda in relation to the above.

The Chief Executive said that it had been agreed to defer publication of the Corporate Plan 2020-2024 until now as a result of the uncertainty in relation to Brexit and the need to pursue specific issues in relation to Brexit mitigation. He urged members to adopt the plan as presented and said that there would be an opportunity mid year to revisit the plan.

Cllr Mc Gowan said that there was very little in the plan to address the issues affecting businesses along the border.

On the proposal of Cllr Mc Gowan, seconded by Cllr Mc Brearty it was resolved to adopt the Donegal County Council Corporate Plan 2020-2024 in accordance with Section 134 of the Local Government Act, 2001 as amended by the Local Government Reform Act, 2014.

C/9/20 **AUTHORISATION OF COUNCIL REPRESENTATION AT THE ST. PATRICK'S DAY EVENTS IN THE USA**

On the proposal of Cllr Mc Brearty, seconded by Cllr Brogan it was resolved that the Cathaoirleach, the Leas Cathaoirleach and the Chief Executive or his nominees represent the Council at the 2020 St Patrick's Day Events in the USA.

C/10/20 **TO NOMINATE MEMBER TO THE NORTH WEST REGIONAL DRUG & ALCOHOL TASK FORCE**

Members considered the report circulated with the agenda in relation to the above.

On the proposal of Cllr Brogan, seconded by Cllr Mc Dermott it was resolved to appoint Cllr Naughton to the North West Regional Drugs & Alcohol Task Force.

C/11/20 **TO NOTE OBLIGATIONS ON MEMBERS UNDER THE LOCAL ELECTIONS (DISCLOSURE OF DONATIONS & EXPENDITURE) ACT, 1999 AS AMENDED, TO SUBMIT A DONATION STATEMENT BY 31ST JANUARY, 2020.**

The Council noted members' obligations to submit a donation statement under the Local Elections (Disclosure of Donations & Expenditure) Act, 1999 as amended, by 31st January, 2020.

C/12/20 **TO NOTE OBLIGATIONS ON MEMBERS (PART 15) LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT, 2001 ETHICS FRAMEWORK TO SUBMIT DECLARATION OF INTEREST BY THE 29TH FEBRUARY, 2020.**

The Council noted members' obligations to submit a declaration of interest under (Part 15) Local Government Act, 2001 Ethics Framework, and to submit same by the 28th February, 2020.

C/13/20 **CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT WIND EMERGENCY GUIDELINES PUBLISHED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING, PLANNING AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN DECEMBER, 2019.**

Members considered the report circulated with the agenda in relation to

the above.

Mr Liam Ward, Director Community Development & Planning Services informed members that the report was a briefing document and focused primarily on the key elements of the Draft Wind Energy Guidelines published in December 2019. It was, he advised, for considering and noting with no decision required at this juncture. He alluded to the fact that it focused on the key contents of the Draft Guidelines and was of relevance in the preparations for the Wind Energy Variation of the County Development Plan, 2018 - 2024. The report also, he added, clarified the legal status of the Draft Guidelines and clarified the obligations placed on local authorities in relation to the Planning Guidelines generally.

Cllr Mc Brearty said that members did not have the power to overrule the Development Plan in cases where it was contradictory to what the local community actually wanted. Member's, he advised, had no power to overrule national legislation.

The Director of Community Development & Planning Services confirmed that there was a designated period of public consultation in relation to the Draft Wind Energy Development Guidelines and that this was operational from December 2019 until the 19th February, 2020.

Currently, he noted, there was no Wind Energy Policy in the County Donegal Development Plan 2018-2024 as a result of the 2018 judicial review proceedings, and that the guidelines as circulated were relevant to the preparations necessary for the forthcoming Wind Energy Variation of the County Development Plan.

The Council, he said, were currently in a lacuna in relation to the wind energy aspect of the plan and this meant that decisions in relation to wind energy applications had currently to be considered as premature, and as a consequence would ultimately be determined by An Bord Pleánála on appeal.

A process was due to be initiated, he said, to address this lacuna and associated mapping issues. It was hoped, he said, to hold a workshop in the coming months to deal with the range of issues highlighted.

C/14/20 **NOMINATION OF SHAUNA MCCLENAGHAN, INISHOWEN DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP, TO FILL THE VACANCY ON THE DONEGAL LOCAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE.**

Members noted the nomination of Shauna Mc Clenaghan, Inishowen Development Partnership, to fill the vacancy on the Donegal Local Community Development Committee.

C/15/20 **TO NOTE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CORPORATE POLICY GROUP HELD ON THE 8TH NOVEMBER, 2019.**

Members noted the Minutes of the meeting of the Corporate Policy Group held on the 8th November, 2019.

C/16/20 **ATTENDANCE AT CONFERENCE, SEMINAR OR EVENT**

Having noted the revised arrangements under Section 142 5(d) of the Local Government Act, 2001, introduced by the Local Government (Expenses of Local Authority Members) Regulations 2006-2019 as amended and directives issued by the Minister in that regard, on the proposal of Cllr I Mc Garvey, seconded by Cllr Bradley, it was resolved to authorise any member, if he/she so wished, to attend the following conferences, subject to the normal procedures:-

- i. Individual members not exceeding their annual budget for attendance at conferences.
- ii. Payment of expenses for attendance to be conditional on the member furnishing documentary evidence of attendance.
- iii. Submission of a Conference Report.

Training

- AILG Elected Members Training Programme Modules 1 & 2.

Module 1

“GDPR- An updated briefing for Elected Members on the operation and implications of GDPR” in the Mullingar Park Hotel, Dublin Road, Mullingar on the 25th January, 2020. (Will be rescheduled to April 2020)

Module 2

“The Development Plan Making process – A briefing for Elected Members” in the Hotel Kilmore, Dublin Road, Cavan on the 13th February, 2020.

Conferences .

- Celtic Conferences - “Health and Safety in the Workplace” Clonakilty, Co Cork from the 21st - 23rd February, 2020.
- Celtic Conferences - “Regional Development and EU Cohesion Policy beyond 2020”, Carlingford, Co Louth from the 20th - 22nd March, 2020. (amended date) previously 7th - 9th February.
- 31st Colmcille Winter School - “The Contribution of Irish Christianity to Irish, European and World Civilisation” Colmcille Heritage Centre, Gartan, Co Donegal from the 28th - 29th February, 2020.

Travel Abroad

- Attendance of the Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions representative at the Meeting of the CMPR Political Bureau in Cornwall on the 19th March 2020.

C/17/20 **Conference Reports**

Members noted the following Conference Reports:

Cllr Niamh Kennedy

47th CPMR General Assembly held on the 17th - 18th October, 2019 in Palermo, Italy.

Cllr Niamh Kennedy

Hericoast Closing Conference held on the 5th - 11th November, 2019 in Bilbao, Spain.

C/18/20 **FUNDING FOR FINN HARPS STADIUM IN STRANORLAR**

It was unanimously agreed to deal with Motions 17 and 22 at this juncture as they both related to the Finn Harps Stadium Project.

On the proposal of Cllr O'Donnell, seconded by Cllr McGowan, the following motion was adopted:-

"Calling on this Council to write to the Department making a plea for much needed funding for Finn Harps Football Club."

Cllr O'Donnell received a response from the Director of Community Development and Planning Services in relation to the above.

He said that the Department's failure to provide funding had been deeply disappointing.

Cllr Mc Gowan supporting the motion said that it was imperative that nothing derailed the current application for funding given that substantial monies were involved. Donegal County Council, he advised, had to date provided valuable assistance and had been involved in the initial steps to secure a suitable location for the facility. He urged Finn Harps and the FAI to continue with the application on the basis that it had the support of the Council.

Cllr Mc Brearty acknowledged the excellent work done to date by Mr Paul Mc Loone, Finn Harps Board in relation to the funding application.

On the proposal of Cllr Harley, seconded by Cllr Mc Guinness the following motion was adopted:-

"I am calling on Donegal County Council to work with Finn Harps FC, the Department of Transport, Tourism & Sport, and the FAI as the national governing body for soccer in Ireland, towards the delivery and completion of the Finn Harps Stadium Project in Stranorlar so as to secure the future of League of Ireland soccer in County Donegal."

Cllr Harley received a response from the Director of Community Development and Planning in relation to the above.

He noted that there had been ongoing collaboration between Donegal County Council and Finn Harps Football Club over the years. The Council's involvement as a partner would, he advised, add status to the application and build a stronger case with both the Department and the FAI. This, he added, would not only strengthen the application but allow all associated projects to move forward.

Cllr Gary Doherty proposed however that the motions as submitted be amended as follows:-

That Donegal County Council engage with Finn Harps FC and the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport on the proposed new stadium in Stranorlar to ensure that:

- This Council will commit to taking the lead role in administering both the application for funding and the overall project management
- This Council recognises the strategic importance of the new stadium to sport in Donegal, and its relevance in regard to the Local Area Plan for Ballybofey and Stranorlar and the categorisation as a sports hub under the County Development Plan 2018-2024.
- There are no further blocks to the funding process and work can begin on the stadium as soon as possible.

Cllr Mc Brearty said that he could not see how the Club would benefit from the Council being involved as the Club already had someone working on the drawdown of funding.

Cllr Doherty said that the wording of his motion had been agreed and approved by the Club and that there was no ambiguity or any way that blame could be placed on the Council should the project not proceed.

Cllr Brogan said that clarity was needed at national level and that if there was a problem it lay with the Department of Transport, Tourism & Sport.

Cllr Mc Gowan queried as to whether the Council was prepared to step in and take over the role of the FAI.

In response the Director of Community Development & Planning Service, Liam Ward, made reference to the detailed reply provided to Cllr. Harley. The reply, he said, outlined the level and extent of the engagement which had taken place between the Council and Finn Harps Football club to support the application made by the FAI to Department of Transport, Tourism & Sport for funding to complete the Donegal Community Stadium and Regional Development Centre in Stranorlar. Mr. Ward confirmed that the Council had further contact with Finn Harps FC within the past week and on foot of the motion debated in the Chamber today, confirmed that the Council is willing to meet with Finn Harps and the FAI to further progress the matter. In conclusion, Mr. Ward stated that the Council wholeheartedly supports the project, and is committed to continue to play a part in bringing same to fruition.

C/19/20 **COMPLETE REVIEW OF THE ELECTORAL REGISTRATION SYSTEM**
On the proposal of Cllr Murray, seconded by Cllr G Doherty the following motion was adopted:-

“That Donegal County Council, noting the large number of people who are disenfranchised during elections, calls on the incoming Government to completely review the electoral registration system.”

Cllr Murray received a response from the Director of Housing, Corporate and Cultural Services in relation to the above.

He said that the current system was outdated and required an urgent revamp. The need for a unique identifier (PPS Number for example) was highlighted including the necessity of moving to an online registration system.

Cllr Gary Doherty supporting the motion said that its inclusion was timely. He alluded to the short time frame for the submission of applications to the register and the implications of same following the announcement of the 2020 General Election.

There was no opposition to the motion.

Mr Joe Peoples, Director of Housing & Corporate said that the Government had recently following a public consultation process approved a number of reforms to modernise the electoral registration process. There were, he advised, a number of key recommendations for the establishment of a rolling register to replace the existing system. It was expected, he added, that the incoming Government would take the recommendations on board and that the new Electoral Commission would oversee the implementation of the changes.

Cllr Murray welcomed the response and said that hopefully these developments would lead to greater efficiency in advance of the next General Election.

C/20/20 **DELIVERY OF A NEW STROKE UNIT FOR LETTERKENNY UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL.**

On the proposal of Cllr A Doherty, seconded by Cllr McMonagle, the following motion was adopted:-

"That Donegal Co. Council members express their full support for Consultant Geriatrician at Letterkenny University Hospital, Mr. Mulpeter and accordingly that the Council demand from the incoming Government the delivery of a new Stroke Unit, ensuring the establishment, immediate opening of an adequately funded and fully staffed Acute Stroke Unit at Letterkenny University Hospital."

Cllr A Doherty received a response from the Director of Housing, Corporate and Cultural Services in relation to the above.

He outlined the necessity of contacting the incoming Minister for Health in relation to the delivery of the new Stroke Unit.

Mr Mulpeter, he said, had confirmed that a fully functioning unit would help to save the lives of up to twelve people in Donegal each year, who would otherwise die or be left severely disabled as a result of a stroke. Thus he called for the immediate opening of a fully staffed and adequately funded Stroke Unit.

Cllr Mc Monagle supporting the motion said that a big part of the problem was the current HSE staffing embargo . At year end, he said, there were 64 whole-time equivalent posts vacant in Letterkenny University Hospital with 36 of these being in the nursing section. This, he advised indicated that the hospital was not being supported and that the people of Donegal were getting a second rate health service.

There was no opposition to the motion.

Cllr Doherty welcomed the reply and said that it was imperative that the incoming Government addressed the situation with immediate effect.

C/21/20 **MANAGEMENT PLAN TO FACILITATE THE CONTROL AND DISPOSAL OF PRODUCED EFFLUENT IN HOUSING ESTATES.**

On the proposal of Cllr Canning, seconded by Cllr McGowan, the following motion was adopted:-

“I would ask this Council to carry out a survey of all of the estates that are in the Council takeover process with a view to putting in place a management plan to facilitate the control and disposal of the produced effluent.”

Cllr Canning received a response from the Director of Community Development and Planning Services in relation to the above.

He alluded to the fact that there are serious sewerage issues in a number of estates currently included in the Council's estate takeover programme. It was noted that a considerable number of these were in the South Inishowen area.

In many cases, he said, the treatment plants were well past their sell by date and effluent was running down the street. He further outlined the necessity of putting an adequate budget in place so that comprehensive management plans could be drawn up.

Cllr Mc Gowan seconding the motion indicated that there were issues within a number of the larger estates in the programme and noted in particular that there were problems in the Ash Meadows Estate in Stranorlar and in the Killygordon area.

There was no opposition to the motion.

Mr Liam Ward, Director Community Development & Planning Services said that it was generally recognised that many of these treatment plants were becoming increasingly inefficient. The Council, he confirmed, were

currently awaiting a response from the Department of Housing, Planning & Local Government in relation to a funding application under the National Framework for the Multi-Annual Developer Provided Water Services Infrastructure Resolution Programme. Members had been briefed, he added, at recent MD meetings in relation to the status of the takeover process. The Council, he said, remained committed to the process but the primary responsibility for the control and disposal of effluent in estates not taken in charge by the Council remained with the developer or management company.

Members acknowledged the fact that there was ongoing engagement with Irish Water in relation to those estates which did not have developer provided infrastructure.

It was agreed to update members at MD level in relation to the status of the funding application

Cllr Canning said that he could accept that there were processes in place but that it was imperative that a dedicated team with adequate financial backing moved quickly to resolve the issues highlighted.

C/22/20 **AMALGAMATION OF TOWN & VILLAGE RENEWAL FUNDS WITH RURAL REGENERATION FUNDS.**

On the proposal of Cllr McDermott, seconded by Cllr Donaghey the following motion was adopted:-

"To ask this Council to write to the Department of Community & Rural Development stating that we as a Council do not want the Town & Village Renewal Fund amalgamated with the Rural Regeneration funds."

Cllr McDermott received a response from the Director of Community Development and Planning Services in relation to the above.

He welcomed the response which outlined the fact that the Council's Regeneration Team had met with officials from the Department of Community & Rural Development and that separate allocations would issue in 2020. This was essential, he said, given that smaller towns and villages would lose out if there was an amalgamation of funding.

Cllr Donaghey concurred with this assessment.

Mr Liam Ward, Director Community Development & Planning Services informed members that the Council were also concerned about any potential amalgamation and would follow-up with the Department in relation to same .

C/23/20 **REVIEW AND REDUCTION OF COSTS INVOLVED FOR NEW WATER CONNECTIONS.**

On the proposal of Cllr Coyle, seconded by Cllr Blaney, the following motion was adopted:-

"That this Council write to the Irish Water Regulator requesting a review and reduction of costs involved for new water connections."

Cllr Coyle received a response from the Director of Water and Environment in relation to the above.

He alluded to the exorbitant costs being charged at present and the impact on young families, the elderly and those living in areas where the water was not fit for human consumption. Those living in rural areas were particularly affected, he noted, where such costs coupled with other development charges were preventing people from living in their own local communities. There were implications also, he added, for small rural businesses.

Cllr Blaney agreed that the current charges were exorbitant and asked that contact be made with the Commission for the Regulation of Utilities in relation to the excessive fees being charged at present. He asked also that a current pricing schedule be provided.

There was no opposition to the motion.

Cllr Coyle in conclusion asked that the motion be circulated to all Local Authorities for consideration.

C/24/20 **ROLL OUT OF 5G / MINING LICENCES**

It was agreed that Motion No 19 would also be considered at this juncture.

On the proposal of Cllr McMonagle, seconded by Cllr A Doherty, the following motion was adopted:-

"That Donegal County Council delay (1) the testing of 5G and the roll-out of 5G in County Donegal (2) call on ComReg to delay the licensing of its roll-out and (3) calls on the Minister for Communication, Climate Action and the Environment to establish the facts about the radiation impact of 5G and to delay the roll-out across the country until a full assessment of the health and environmental implications are carried out with a report to be compiled of the findings and presented to the Oireachtas."

Cllr McMonagle received a response from the Director of Economic Development, Information Systems and Emergency Services in relation to the above.

He said that he had submitted the motion on the basis that there was rising concern in relation to the roll out of 5G and the potential health risks to the citizens of Donegal. The roll out, he said, was dependent on radiation frequencies being increased and this was worrying given that the acceptable level of radiation in Ireland was way beyond that of many other countries. He queried the standards being followed at national level.

The erection of an increasing number of mobile phone masts was also concerning, he added. He said that additional information was needed in relation to the declaration by the European Commission Group of Experts that there were no risks with non-ionising radiation.

There was acknowledgement also that current guidelines on the matter were considerably out of date and that acceptable levels of non-ionising radiation in Ireland were much higher than in many other countries.

Cllr Mc Monagle said that a technical and medical report was clearly warranted given the increasing number of people in Donegal being diagnosed with cancer and cancer related illnesses. There were genuine concerns, he added, and an independent assessment was needed to allay growing fear in the community.

Cllr Doherty said that whilst it was imperative that optimum resources were delivered it should not be at the cost of the environment or the health of local communities. Lack of information, he said, increased fears at local level.

On the proposal of Cllr Kennedy, seconded by Cllr Canning, the following motion was adopted:-

"That Donegal County Council will hold a special meeting to discuss the concerns of the general public in relation to 5G and also the concerns expressed by the public on the issues of mining in the county."

Cllr Kennedy received a response from the Director of Economic Development, Information Systems & Emergency Services in relation to the above.

She said that she was very much in favour of technological advance but that it should not be at the expense of people's health. The many issues involved, she added, needed to be addressed in a formal manner.

She cited the need for additional information also in relation to the issuing of mining licences which impacted on a number of communities county-wide.

Cllr Canning said that there was a need for additional discussion in a workshop forum. Issues, he contended, needed to be examined in the context of the County Development Plan and in particular in relation to policies surrounding mast and antennae replacement.

There was no opposition to the motions.

The Cathaoirleach responding to a request from Cllr Mc Brearty said that he would not open the matter for general discussion as it required additional debate in meeting or workshop format.

Mr Garry Martin, Director Economic Development, Information Systems and Emergency Services said that a meeting to discuss same would be timely and useful so that all concerned could avail of an independent assessment. The EPA and ComReg, he said, could be invited to meet with the members and provide a briefing on the roll out of 5G and public exposure to non- ionizing radiation together with the licensing implications and an overview as to how electromagnetic field emissions are monitored.

Cllr Mc Monagle welcomed the comments but said that he was unsure as to whether the groups mentioned would bring an independent mindset to the table. He called for the roll out of 5G to be delayed pending an independent review and asked that a copy of the motion be forwarded to the relevant Government Departments.

Cllr Mc Brearty said that the Council did not have the power to delay 5G and asked that input be sought from the Planning Section.

Cllr Canning said it was imperative that the Planning Section is represented at the designated workshop.

Cllr Mc Monagle concluding cited the need for tighter regulation of Section 254 notices given that they were now being used to progress the erection of Transmission Masts.

C/25/20 **MICA ISSUE IN DONEGAL**

On the proposal of Cllr Blaney, seconded by Cllr Coyle the following motion was adopted:-

"That this Council discuss the on going MICA issue in Donegal including all communications this Council had with any Government Department or representative regarding same."

Cllr Blaney received a response from the Director of Housing, Corporate and Cultural Services in relation to the above.

He was, he said, annoyed at the lack of progress on the matter and that nothing had been done following the announcement of the redress scheme in 2018. Initial indications were, he advised, that the scheme would be up and running in the summer of 2019 but this never happened and amounted to nothing more than a political stunt. Homeowners were told, he said, in 2018 that the matter would not go down the same route as the Pyrite Scheme. He drew attention to the fact that homes affected in Limerick had gone down the pyrite redress route without homeowners being asked to pay the 10% own contribution.

There were instances also, it was acknowledged, where homeowners having little or no faith in the scheme had resorted to carrying out the work themselves.

He said that he had little faith in the scheme and was disappointed that the Mica Committee set up in June 2019 had not yet formally met.

Concern was expressed that the Council would not be in apposition to take applications from the public for at least 5-6 weeks after the scheme was announced. It was noted that there were only a couple of laboratories capable of carrying out the testing on the block samples and that this would also lead to significant delays.

Cllr Coyle seconding the motion said that there was a level of frustration among homeowners particularly those whose homes were close to collapse. He called on the Council to work with the Minister to ensure that the scheme was delivered.

There was no opposition to the motion.

Mr Joe Peoples, Director Housing, Corporate & Cultural Services provided an overview of the Council's involvement to date and said that Housing staff had been engaging with the Department over the past number of years. The next stage, he confirmed, would be the finalisation and announcement of the scheme by the Department.

The Council, he confirmed, had been preparing and planning over the past few months, in so far as possible. When the scheme is finalised a period of time would be needed to prepare for opening up the scheme to applicants.

It was extremely important, he added, that the public were not misinformed in relation to the detail of the scheme. Homeowners, he said would be provided with all relevant information when it is available.

Cllr Blaney thanked the Director of Service for his reply and asked that any correspondence that could be circulated be made available to members. He asked also that the reference on the Council's website to the redress scheme being open for applications in the Autumn of 2019 be removed.

C/26/20 **REVIEW OF THE COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN**

On the proposal of Cllr Brogan, seconded by Cllr Canning, the following motion was adopted:-

"I propose that we as a Council review the County Development Plan as a matter of urgency so as to address the challenges people are facing with planning at the moment."

Cllr Brogan received a response from the Director of Community Development and Planning in relation to the above.

He said that there were particular challenges in this area and that a workshop was needed to address a number of these concerns. Areas of contention it was noted were:

- Difficulties being faced by young couples looking to build on family owned lands.
- The need to allow small business development in rural areas.
- Access issues along the N56.

It was important, he said, that the issues outlined were considered by members and the planning team collectively given that there were varying interpretations with regard to some of the general policy issues.

Cllr Canning supporting the motion said that inevitably the result was that people ended up getting enforcement letters and this was not the spirit of what was intended. He acknowledged that there were obstacles for small businesses wanting to develop in rural areas. It was noted that there were interpretation issues also in relation to the “grandparent rule” and the definition of “close vicinity to the site”.

He cited the need for a review of the plan on the basis that a number of the policy changes were necessary given that the spirit of what members had initially envisaged wanted had not been adhered to.

There was no opposition to the motion.

Mr Liam Ward, Director Community Development and Planning said it was appropriate that the effectiveness of objectives and policies within the County Development Plan were reviewed on an ongoing basis. He noted that there were particular concerns in relation to rural housing, small business development in rural areas and access on to National Primary and Secondary routes.

He informed members that in accordance with statutory obligations under Section 15(2) of the Planning & Development Act 2000 as amended the Chief Executive was obliged to bring a report to Council outlining the progress to date in securing the objectives of the Plan no later than two years after the making of the Plan. This report, he advised, was due to be presented to members by the end of May 2020. It was hoped, he advised to hold a workshop to discuss the issues raised and the formal variation of the Plan.

Cllr Brogan welcomed the response and said that the workshop would give all concerned an opportunity to review and assess the implementation of a number of key policy issues.

C/27/20 IMPROVEMENT WORKS FOR 2020 ON THE N56

On the proposal of Cllr Molloy seconded by Cllr N Mc Garvey, the following motion was adopted:-

“That this Council discuss the next phase of improvement works planned for 2020 on the N56.”

Cllr Molloy received a response from the Director of Roads and Transportation in relation to the above.

He alluded in particular to works on the main street in Glenties. The footpaths, he advised, were in a terrible state and a number of injuries had been reported over the past number of weeks as a result of this. He said that improvement works needed to be progressed as soon as possible.

Cllr N Mc Garvey said that Glenties was the gateway to the northwest and it was imperative that it was not left out of the equation given the town's commitment and participation in the Tidy Towns initiative.

There was no opposition to the motion.

Mr John Mc Laughlin, Director Roads & Transportation advised that works on the Main street in Glenties could be considered under the pavement programme as the works in question were not generally carried out as part of the larger scheme. An update, he advised, could be provided at MD level.

C/28/20 **PAVEMENT CONDITION STUDY REPORT ON ALL LOCAL COUNTY ROADS SIMILAR TO THAT CARRIED OUT ON REGIONAL ROADS**

On the proposal of Cllr McGowan, seconded by Cllr Crawford the following motion was adopted:-

“That this Council undertake a Pavement Condition Study Report on all local county roads similar to the study which was carried out on regional roads, as the Department's recent reports on regional roads gave the false impression that roads in the county were in a reasonable condition while in fact they are in a very bad condition getting little or no routine maintenance.” (Regional roads are quieter in some cases than local roads which haven't been reclassified in decades which gives a false impression of the state of our roads in this county).”

Cllr McGowan received a response from the Director of Roads and Transportation in relation to the above.

He said that local roads in the Lifford-Stranorlar Municipal District were in particularly bad state and received less funding than those in other Districts. The roads in question, he noted, were in such a bad state of repair that they could not be surveyed using the general methods and equipment. He called for the Department to be contacted with regard to providing the €500,000 needed for the survey and said that this could then be divided equally among the five Municipal Districts.

Cllr Crawford supporting the motion said that the money if available could be used for urgent remedial works rather than a general survey as all concerned were only too well aware of the state of the roads in question.

There was no opposition to the motion.

Mr John Mc Laughlin, Director of Roads & Transportation said that the Department could be contacted in relation to the funding of same but that there was general acceptance that some local roads were not suitable for machine surveys. He noted however that there was some scope to do sample surveys on local roads.

Cllr Mc Gowan concluding said that such a survey would highlight at national level the fact that additional funding was needed for local roads in Donegal.

C/29/20 **HOUSING POLICY IN RELATION TO MEDICAL SUPPORT LETTERS**

On the proposal of Cllr Crawford, seconded by Cllr McGowan the following motion was adopted:-

“That this Council debate the Housing Policy in relation to medical support letters required for housing support applications or transfers.”

Cllr Crawford received a response from the Director of Housing, Corporate & Cultural Services in relation to the above.

He said that the Department Guidelines in relation to same were outdated and not reflective of what was happening on the ground. The 2016 census, he advised, had indicated that there were 23,000 people in Donegal with a disability. Of these it was acknowledged at least 13% of were living in Social Housing.

Those seeking various types of accommodation, it was noted, often encountered a stumbling block when it came to obtaining a consultant's letter given that many were not in the care of a particular consultant. This was further compounded by the fact that it took up to 3 years to secure such appointments.

He said it was imperative that the proposed departmental review was carried out in a timely fashion and that it took cognisance of the fact that not all those with a medical condition needed to see a consultant.

It was imperative, he added, that the current system was overhauled as people were waiting years for a response to the housing application/transfer.

Cllr Canning concurred with this assessment and contended that the local GP was in most instances well placed to provide the relevant support letters. These over the top requirements, he advised, were also an issue with disability access.

There was no opposition to the motion.

Mr Joe Peoples, Director Housing, Corporate & Cultural Services said the motion was timely in that the Department had recently initiated a review of

the guidelines for social housing support. The issues raised by members could, he advised, be fed into this national review. He said it was important that all Local Authorities operated under the same guidelines.

Cllr Crawford welcomed the reply and asked that a copy of the motion be circulated to all Local Authorities for consideration.

C/30/20 **Cathaoirleach's Business**

Votes of sympathy

A vote of sympathy was extended to the following:-

- Deborah Vance, Central Invoice Matching on the death of her father, Moses Vance.
- The family of the late Packie Mc Guinness formerly Roads & Transportation, Inishowen MD.
- Fiontáin Ó Caoláin , Housing & Corporate, Inishowen Municipal District on the death of his brother, Dermot Keelan.
- Mairead Gibbons, Housing & Corporate, Inishowen MD on the death of her father, Packie Mc Laughlin.

LAMA Spring Seminar

Members were informed that advance notification had been received of the LAMA Spring Seminar to be held on Thursday 12th and Friday 13th March, 2020 in the Sligo Park Hotel, Sligo.

Having noted the revised arrangements under Section 142 5(d) of the Local government Act, 2001, introduced by the Local Government (Expenses of Local Authority Members) Regulations 2006-2018 as amended and directives issued by the Minister in that regard, it was unanimously agreed to authorise any member, if he/she so wished, to attend the above conference, subject to the normal procedures:-

- i. Individual members not exceeding their annual budget for attendance at conferences.
- ii. Payment of expenses for attendance to be conditional on the member furnishing documentary evidence of attendance.
- iii. Submission of a Conference Report.

Tug of War World Championships

Members were informed that the 2020 Indoor Tug of War World Championships would be taking place in The Aura Complex, Letterkenny between the 20th and 23rd February.

On the proposal of Cllr Mc Dermott, seconded by Cllr Mc Guinness it was resolved to hold a reception for the organisers of the event on Thursday 20th February, 2020 at 7pm in the Letterkenny Public Services Centre.

Fire Service in Donegal

The Cathaoirleach confirmed that a letter had issued to Mr Eoghan

Murphy, T.D., Minister for Housing, Planning & Local Government requesting a meeting in relation to the provision of fire services in South Donegal.

LYIT involvement in the Sigerson Cup

Congratulations was extended to the Letterkenny Institute of Technology on reaching the semi-final of the Sigerson Cup.

C/31/20 **Chief Executive's Management Report**

Members considered the report circulated with the agenda in relation to the above. An overview of the following was provided:-

- **Finance**

- A. Commercial Rates Incentive Scheme.

- **Community Development & Planning Services**

- A. Rural Regeneration & Development Fund (RRDF) Call for Category 2 Applications.
 - B. Urban Regeneration & Development Fund (URDF) Call for Category 2 Applications.
 - C. Donegal TEN-T Project and County Development Plan 2018-2024.
 - D. National Marine Planning Framework.
 - E. Platforms for Growth – Immersive Heritage and Cultural Attractions.
 - F. Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme 2019.

- **Water & Environment**

- A. Waste Management

- (i) National Waste Enforcement Priorities 2020.

- B. Air Quality Monitoring

- (ii) Impact of burning smoky coal on air quality in Letterkenny highlighted.

- C. Coastal Management

- (i) Arranmore Public Conveniences Upgrade

- (ii) Port Arthur Beach Access

- (iii) Clean Coasts Roadshow

- D. CFRAM Unit Update

- (i) Donegal Bundle 1

- (ii) Lifford Flood Relief Scheme (FRS)

- (iii) Ballybofey Stranorlar, Bunrana Ludden and Ramelton Flood Relief Schemes.

- **Economic Development, Emergency Services & Information Systems**
 - A. LEO Update
 - (i) LEO Activities
 - (ii) Border Stimulus Package
 - B. Launch of MalinBeg Mobile Phone Blackspot Digital Innovation Project

- **Housing, Corporate & Cultural Services**
 - A. Housing Capital Update
 - (i) Social Housing Developments
 - (ii) House Acquisition Programme
 - (iii) Buy & Renew
 - (iv) Social Housing through Turnkey Acquisition

 - B. Cultural Services
 - (i) Creative Ireland Programme 2020
 - (ii) Library Service
 - (iii) Regional Cultural Centre (RCC)
 - (iv) Donegal Heritage Office

- **Roads & Transportation**
 - A. Bridges Update
 - B. Piers and Harbours
 - C. Northwest Greenway Network
 - D. Road Management Office (Shared Service)
 - (i) Pavement Management
 - (ii) Road Licensing
 - E. National Roads Office Update
 - (i) National Road Infrastructure Progress in 2019
 - (ii) TII National Road Allocations 2020
 - (iii) N13 Bridgend
 - (iv) N56 Doonwell to Drumbrick
 - (v) N56 Cycleway from Illistrin to Letterkenny
 - (vi) Pipeline projects at early stage scope and appraisal
 - (vii) Ten-T Priority Improvement Project Donegal
 - (viii) N14/N15
 - (ix) Major Construction Works
 - (x) Land Acquisition
 - (xi) Pavement & Minor Works
 - (xii) Bridges
 - (xiii) Safety
 - (xiv) Maintenance

Members were informed that they should liaise with the Director of Services and the Senior Planner in relation to submissions on the Draft National Marine Planning Framework on or before the 27th March, 2020. It was generally acknowledged that Donegal County Council needed to be part of the foreshore leasing process and that as a coastal county needed to have a definitive plan in place. It was suggested that marine and aquaculture issues be included as ongoing items on the MD meeting agenda.

Member asked for an update on the Commercial Rates Incentive Scheme prior to consideration of the 2021 budget. They queried whether or not there were any other incentives available to assist small local businesses along the border area.

Concern was expressed at the lack of Social Housing development in West Donegal and the fact that the current legislation effectively excluded small local contractors.

Cllr A Doherty queried the status of remedial works on the Quigley's Point to Carndonagh Road and asked that an update be provided to the Inishowen Municipal District Committee in relation to a permanent solution to the issues at this location.

There was general agreement that there was a need for additional incentives to encourage the use of smoky coal in the Letterkenny and environs area.

Members cited the need for greater engagement with the OPW in relation to flood relief plans. This it was noted was particularly significant for the Letterkenny Town Centre area. They called also for the dredging of the River Swilly at Oldtown.

Information was requested in relation to the number and status of S.I housing developments. Members asked that a meeting of the Mica Committee be convened as soon as possible pending the release of the Mica Redress Scheme.

Cllr Mc Dermott asked that contact be made with Irish Water in relation to the reinstatement of the road at Malin Head.

Cllr I Mc Garvey proposed, seconded by Cllr Brogan that a letter of sympathy be sent to the family of the late Seamus Mallon whose lifelong contribution to Irish politics had been instrumental in moving the peace process forward.

Cllr Mc Brearty acknowledging that it was the 75th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz – Birkenau said that it was important that the event was marked so that future generations would be at all times aware of the atrocities that took place there. He proposed, seconded by Cllr Mc Bride

that an acknowledgement be forwarded to the Holocaust Education Trust Ireland (HETI).

The Chief Executive advised members that a briefing note on the Border Stimulus Package would issue from the Local Enterprise Office for circulation at the next round of MD meetings.

He noted that a CFRAM workshop was scheduled In the Letterkenny PSC for the 4th February and that the Letterkenny members would have an opportunity during same to further discuss flood relief issues.

Members were advised that it would be possible to deal with a number of specific items in the next variation process.

C/32/20 **TO CONFIRM MEMBERSHIP OF THE STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE FOR THE PERIOD 2019-2024.**

The Cathaoirleach said that the independent grouping had met but had not reached any conclusive agreement. He queried whether or not it was possible to proceed on this basis and as to whether additional membership could be added to each SPC.

Mr Joe Peoples, Director Housing, Corporate & Cultural Services said that the scheme had gone through the public consultation process and had been agreed and adopted by Council back in September 2019. The membership of each committee as established, he noted, had been drawn up in line with the scheme already agreed by members. He reminded members that the membership of the committees was a matter for Council to determine and that there were 2 vacancies to be filled by elected members: one on the Housing & Corporate SPC and one on the Climate Action and Environment SPC.

On the proposal of Cllr Gallagher, seconded by Cllr Gallagher the following Chairs Designate were appointed to their respective SPCs:-

Strategic Policy Committee	Chairperson
Economic Development & Emergency	Cllr Ciaran Brogan
Roads & Transportation	Cllr John O' Donnell
Housing & Corporate	Cllr Bernard Mc Guinness
Community, Social & Cultural	Cllr Marie T Gallagher
Climate Action & Environment	Cllr Gary Doherty
Planning	Cllr Paul Canning

The following questions were noted.

C/33/20 **UPDATED REPORT ON THE CURRENT POSITION OF ALL GROUP WATER SCHEMES BY MUNICIPAL DISTRICT**

Cllr Donaghy submitted the following question:-

Please furnish an up to date report on the current position of all Group Water Schemes by Municipal District?

Cllr Donaghey received a response from the Director of Water and Environment in relation to the above.

C/34/20 **DISCRETIONARY STREET LIGHTING FUND**

Cllr Murray submitted the following question:-

Can the discretionary street lighting fund in this year's budget allow for the installation of lights in rural areas?

Cllr Murray received a response from the Director of Roads and Transportation in relation to the above.

C/35/20 **AVERAGE WAITING TIME FOR THE ALLOCATION OF SOCIAL HOUSING**

Cllr Murray submitted the following question:-

What is the average time that someone approved for social housing waits before being allocated a council house across the 5 Municipal Districts of County Donegal?

Cllr Murray received a response from the Director of Housing, Corporate & Cultural Services in relation to the above.

C/36/20 **ROAD SIGNAGE AND INFORMATION DIRECTIONS FROM THE NORTH WEST CITY REGION TO NEARBY TOWNS IN CO. DONEGAL**

Cllr A Doherty submitted the following question:-

What current council contacts continue with Derry City and Strabane Council and the Department of Infrastructure to enable provision of road signage and information directions from the North West City Region to nearby Municipal Council (Public Service Centre) towns in Co. Donegal?

Cllr A Doherty received a response from the Director of Housing, Corporate & Cultural Services in relation to the above.

C/37/20 **ALL IRELAND POLLINATOR PLAN**

Cllr A Doherty submitted the following question:-

Given that Donegal County Council signed up to the All Ireland Pollinator Plan and signed an agreement with the National Biodiversity Data Centre on November 20th 2019, what cross sectoral implementation plan have the council initiated, or plan to initiate to inform, encourage and enable farmers, businesses, schools and local communities to support pollinators and will the council reduce and encourage the elimination of pesticides use in the county?

Cllr Doherty received a response from the Director of Housing, Corporate & Cultural Services in relation to the above.

C/38/20 **TRAFFIC SPEED SURVEYS CARRIED OUT IN BORDER AREAS**

Cllr Canning submitted the following question:-

Can I have a list of all traffic speed surveys carried out in border areas over the last six months and detail of the findings in relation same?

Cllr Canning received a response from the Director of Roads and Transportation in relation to the above.

C/39/20 **NUMBER OF SECTION 254 LICENCES GRANTED IN RESPECT OF TRANSMISSION MASTS OVER THE PAST 18 MONTHS**

Cllr McMonagle submitted the following question:-

How many Section 254 Licences in relation to erection of transmission masts have been granted in the last eighteen months in Donegal and where are their locations?

Cllr McMonagle received a response from the Director of Community Development and Planning in relation to the above.

C/40/20 **BREXIT CHALLENGES AND NEED FOR DISCUSSION**

Cllr Brogan submitted the following question:-

What steps are we taking now as a council with the North West City Region and Government to address the challenges of Brexit now that it is definitely happening and can we set aside a full day of Council to have a special Brexit meeting to discuss this in its entirety?

Cllr Brogan received a response from the Director of Economic Development, Information Systems & Emergency in relation to the above.

C/41/20 **STATUS OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES AGREED AT THE 2020 AGM**

Cllr Brogan submitted the following question:-

Can the Council confirm that all committees agreed by the power sharing arrangement and established at the Council AGM are up and running?

Cllr Brogan received a response from the Director of Housing, Corporate & Cultural Services in relation to the above.

C/42/20 **REVIEW OF CASUAL TRADING BYE-LAWS**

Cllr Sweeny submitted the following question:-

Can Donegal County Council provide an update on the review of the casual trading bye-laws for County Donegal?

Cllr Sweeney received a response from the Director of Community Development and Planning in relation to the above.

C/43/20 **INDEPENDENT STUDY INTO THE ROLLOUT OF 5G**

Cllr Sweeny submitted the following question:-

Can Donegal County Council request an independent study into the health implications of the roll out of 5G in the county?

Cllr Sweeny received a response from the Director of Information Systems in relation to the above.

C/44/20 **NEED FOR INCREASED FUNDING FOR LIS AND CIS SCHEMES**

Cllr Sweeny submitted the following question:-

Can DCC call on the Department for increased funding for LIS and CIS schemes to assist the large waiting lists that exist for these roads and projects?

Cllr Sweeny received a response from the Director of Roads and Transportation in relation to the above.

C/45/20 **PRIORITISATION AND FUNDING FOR OLD LEAKING WATER MAINS**

Cllr McGowan submitted the following question:-

“Who prioritises and funds which old leaking water mains are to be replaced across the County which has resulted in residents in towns like Castlefin having to choose between dirty brown water contaminated with toxins or no pressure?

Cllr McGowan received a response from the Director of Water and Environment in relation to the above.

C/46/20 **DETAILED BREAKDOWN OF ALL STAFF ROLES IN THE COUNCIL**

Cllr McGowan submitted the following question:-

Please can I have a further more detailed breakdown (as per response issued in November 2019) of all staff roles in the Council and an explanation as to why there is such a serious gap in staff numbers between Municipal Districts and in particular the Letterkenny - Milford and Lifford - Stranorlar Municipal Districts?

Cllr McGowan received a response from the Director of Housing, Corporate & Cultural Services in relation to the above.

C/47/20 **MOTIONS FROM OTHER COUNCILS**

Members noted the following motions from other Councils.

KERRY COUNTY COUNCIL

“That this Council calls on the Minister for Business, Enterprise and

Innovation to remove the cap on County Enterprise Boards which prevents them from dealing with enterprises that have more than ten employees and that this motion will be circulated to all local authorities in the country.”

MONAGHAN COUNTY COUNCIL

“Monaghan County Council calls on the Minister for Communications, Climate Action and the Environment, Richard Bruton TD and Minister for Finance, Paschal Donohoe, TD to

Legislate for a deposit return scheme to be introduced on recyclable packaging.

Ensure that all local authorities in the state be funded to provide a climate action officer to incorporate energy efficiency in all aspects of Council work.

Introduce a carbon tax on aviation fuel.”

SLIGO COUNTY COUNCIL

“To request, in consultation with Coillte, for signage to be placed at local woodland areas and forest recreation walks in order to increase awareness of Lyme Disease, to advise the public of the dangers of contracting Lyme disease from ticks, and how to protect yourself when visiting the outdoors, and also to request that this motion be forwarded to all local authorities for consideration.”

WESTMEATH COUNTY COUNCIL

“For Westmeath County Council to call on the Taoiseach and Minister for Defence, Leo Varadkar, TD to establish without delay a commission on the future of the defence forces in Ireland and also to establish a permanent and independent defence forces pay body.”

WESTMEATH COUNTY COUNCIL

“That Westmeath County Council calls on the Office of Public Works to carry out the necessary excavation works to recover the remains of Joe Brady, Daniel Curley, Michael Fagan, Thomas Caffrey and Tim Kelly, in what is commonly known as the Invincibles Yard at Kilmainham Gaol. The bodies of these five members of the Irish National beneath the paving slabs of the yard where they were executed in 1883 for their part in the Phoenix Park Assassinations. The families of the five men are represented by the National Graves Association and the wish of the families is for their relatives to be exhumed from Kilmainham Gaol and reinterred in consecrated ground at Glasnevin Cemetery.”

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

“That Wicklow County Council has a social responsibility to serve, inform and protect the public and the environment from exposure to harm, and therefore it opposes the roll-out of unregulated 5G in the County of Wicklow based on the “precautionary principle” pending the enactment by Dáil Eireann of protective legislation.”

This concluded the business of the meeting

Cathaoirleach

Date

