

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE DHUN NA nGALL

Oifig Riarthóir na
gCruinnithe
Aras an Chontae
LEIFEAR
16 Feabhra 2010

Beidh Cruinniú Comhairle Chontae Dhún na nGall ar siúl Dé Luain 22 Feabhra, 2010, ag **12.00 meán lae 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 Bhainisteora Contae le feiceáil ag an gcruinniú.

Mise, le meas

A. MacSuibhne

Riarthóir Cruinnithe(RÚNAI CHONTAE)

DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

Office of Meetings Administrator
County House
Lifford
16th February, 2010

NOTICE OF MEETING

A Meeting of Donegal County Council will be held on Monday 22nd February, 2010, at **12.00 noon 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 County Manager's Orders will be available for inspection at the meeting.

Yours sincerely

E. Sweeney

Meetings Administrator (County Secretary)

AGENDA

1. Confirmation of Minutes

- a) Confirmation of Minutes of Special Meeting of Donegal County Council held on the 15th January, 2010.
- b) Confirmation of Minutes of Meeting of Donegal County Council held on the 25th January, 2010.

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

- a) Notice under Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001 to dispose of land at Merville Green, Merville, Co. Donegal to Mr Adrian Harkin, T/A Just Kayak, C/O Cormac McKeone & Co., 1 Carlisle Terrace, Derry.
- b) Notice under Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001 to dispose of land at Carnamuggagh Lower, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal to Mr Lawrence Harrigan, Highland Motors, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal.

3. Corporate

- a) To note County Manger's Nominees to the Audit Committee.
- b) To consider the implications of S.I. 37 of 2010 and Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government Circular letter LG 2/2010 specifying, inter alia, expenditure limits on the attendance of Elected Members at conferences/seminars/training/meetings or other events (domestic/foreign).

4. Finance

- a) To consider the Local Government Audit Report, including where appropriate County Manager's response, on the Audited Accounts of Donegal County Council for year ending 31st December, 2008.
- b) To consider Audited Financial Statement for 2008 including commentary by the County Manager and the Head of Finance.

5. Roads and Transportation

To consider the proposal for the provision of an RNLI All Weather Lifeboat Berth, Buncrana and implications for a foreshore lease application to construct a breakwater.

6. Planning and Economic Development

To note update on the Lifford Strabane Riverine Project.

7. Water Environment and Emergency Services

To consider request from Rural Water Monitoring Committee that Mr Liam McDermott, Bredaghglen, Moville be elected to the County Committee for Rural Water Monitoring.

8. Endorsement of Confirmed Meetings

- a) Endorsement of the Confirmed Minutes of Meeting of Glenties Electoral Area Committee held on the 10th November, 2009.
- b) Endorsement of the Confirmed Minutes of Meeting of Letterkenny Electoral Area Committee held on the 16th November, 2009.
- c) Endorsement of the Confirmed Minutes of Meeting of Stranorlar Electoral Area Committee held on the 17th November, 2009.
- d) Endorsement of the Confirmed Minutes of Meeting of Inishowen Electoral Area Committee held on the 17th November, 2009.
- e) Endorsement of the Confirmed Minutes of Meeting of Rural Water Monitoring Committee held on the 18th November, 2009.
- f) Endorsement of the Confirmed Minutes of Meeting of Donegal Electoral Area Committee held on the 25th November, 2009.

9. Deputations/Presentations

- a) To consider the request for reception of a deputation from Donegal Women's Domestic Violence Service.

- b) To consider the request for reception of a deputation from ICBAN Ltd, in relation to its role, function, structures etc and an overview of the various programmes being undertaken over the next few years.

10. Conferences

Authorisation of representation at a seminar, meeting or event under Section 142 (5) of Local Government Act, 2001 and S.I. No 668 of 2006, Local Government (Expenses of Local Authority Members) Regulations 2006:-

a) **HOME**

- The 3rd National Summit Renewable Energy, Creating a vision for Renewable Energy in the new economy to be held Thursday 4th March, 2010 at the Croke Park Conference Centre, Dublin.
- Association of County and City Councils Annual Conference to be held from Thursday 4th to Friday 5th March, 2010 at the Ballykisteen Hotel, Limerick Junction, Co. Tipperary.
- National Conference Our Towns A 20:20 Vision to be held Friday 5th and Saturday 6th March, 2010 at Mermaid, Co. Wicklow Arts Centre, Main Street, Bray, Co. Wicklow.
- Rattoo Heritage Society, 18th Annual Kerry Environmental Recognition Conference, to be held from Thursday 4th to Sunday 7th March, 2010 at the Manor West Hotel & Leisure Club, Tralee, County Kerry.
- Clonakilty Tourism Conference, Driving Local Sustainable Tourism in a stagnant Global Economy to be held from Friday 12th to Sunday 14th March, 2010 at the Celtic Ross Hotel, Rosscarbery, West Cork.
- Training Seminar, The Local Government Housing Service to be held from Thursday 18th to Saturday 20th March, 2010 at the Killarney Plaza Hotel and Spa, Kenmare Place, Killarney, Co. Kerry.
- The Institute of Professional Training, Climate Change, Impacts and Strategies; going forward to be held from Friday 26th to Sunday 28th March, 2010 at the Silver Tassie Hotel, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal.

11. Conference Reports

- Clr. Padraig MacLochlainn – Shannon Development National Conference, Dynamic Regions Future Directions in Regional Development held Friday 6th November, 2009.
- Clr. Padraig MacLochlainn – Assembly of European Regions General Assembly held from Wednesday 25th to Friday 27th November, 2009.
- Clr. Noel McBride together with Clrs. Boyle and Byrne – Douglas Hyde Conference held Friday 16th October, 2009.
- Clr. Noel McBride – Health and Safety, Drugs and Alcohol Abuse Seminar held Friday 30th October, 2009.
- Clr. John Ryan together with Mickey Doherty – Service Provision in Local Government held Friday 6th and Saturday 7th November, 2009.
- Clr. Noel McBride together with Clrs Slowey, Ryan, M. Doherty and O’Domhnaill – LAMA Winter Seminar 2009 held Friday 6th and Saturday 7th November, 2009.
- Clr. Charlie McConalogue – LAMA Winter Seminar 2009 held Friday 6th to Sunday 8th November, 2009.
- Clr. Noel McBride together with Clrs. M. Doherty and Ryan Local Government Ethics in Public Life held from Friday 13th to Sunday 15th November, 2009.
- Clr. John Ryan together with Clr. M. Doherty and McBride – Local Government Ethics in Public Life held from Friday 13th to Sunday 15th November, 2009.
- Clr. Charlie McConalogue – Internet Constituents held Friday 4th and Saturday 5th December, 2009.

12. Mayor’s Business

13. Manager’s Report

14. Motions from other Councils

OFFALY COUNTY COUNCIL

“That Offaly County Council contact the Tanaiste, Mary Coughlan, regarding the establishment of Unemployment Centres due to the high level of unemployment in the country.”

BALLINASLOE TOWN COUNCIL

“That this Council write to the Minister of the Environment and seek assurances that a strategic flood risk management programme will now be implemented to lessen the risk of future flooding, and to give advance warning of flood risk”.

BALLINASLOE TOWN COUNCIL

“That the Government introduce a scheme to protect householders who cannot obtain household insurance due to flooding through regular insurance bodies”.

LIMERICK COUNTY COUNCIL

“That, Limerick County Council request the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government to lift the embargo on the employment of outdoor staff in order to protect the investment in the county road network.”

LIMERICK COUNTY COUNCIL

That, Limerick County Council calls on the Government to introduce legislation that Local Authorities, as the Statutory Housing Authority, be given full responsibility for all Social Housing provision and associated housing supports, including the administration of the Rent Supplement Scheme.”

LIMERICK COUNTY COUNCIL

“That, Limerick County Council calls upon the Government to allow persons in Co. Limerick flooded in August 2008 become eligible for consideration for compensation in the recently allowed scheme; that the Government establish under statute a single competent authority to manage and maintain the country’s waterways; that an adequate maintenance schedule for every river and stream in the country be developed; and that the State revoke planning permissions granted for developments not yet commenced on flood plains.”

LIMERICK COUNTY COUNCIL

“That, Limerick County Council calls on the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government to nominate one agency to take control of our rivers nationally; that this agency would identify a time of the year for local authorities, landowners, communities and other organisations to clean and dredge the river banks, beds, and bridges; and that this motion be circulated to all other local authorities for support.”

LIMERICK COUNTY COUNCIL

“That, Limerick County Council requests the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government to reverse the

decision to give the National Roads Authority the management of regional and local roads investment.”

KERRY COUNTY COUNCIL

“That, Kerry County Council calls for the holding of an enquiry into the appointment of rural representatives on An Bord Pleanála as those appointed to represent this category were previously Senior Planning inspectors with the Board.”

KILLARNEY TOWN COUNCIL

“That Killarney Town Council calls on the Minister for Enterprise and Employment to ensure the retention of the minimum wage.”

SOUTH TIPPERARY COUNTY COUNCIL

“That in view of the ongoing revelations surrounding Fás this Council calls for its abolition in its present format.”

SOUTH TIPPERARY COUNTY COUNCIL

“That this Council would appeal to the government to waive VAT on specialised items of medical equipment where the purchase is being funded through voluntary fundraising.”

WATERFORD CITY COUNCIL

“That this Council requests the American Government to stop the extradition proceedings against Sean Garland.”

MONAGHAN TOWN COUNCIL

“In light of the continuing decrease in monthly residential rents in the private sector, that this Council write to Minister John Gormley, Department of Environment and Local Government, seeking similar decreases to rents imposed by Local Authorities to their tenants and that the reduction in revenue to the Council is subvented through the Local Government Fund allocation to each Council.”

MONAGHAN TOWN COUNCIL

“That this Council call on the ESB to resume the previous practice of Meter Readers Leaving cards for absent householders to enter their meter reading and post same to the ESB.”

MONAGHAN TOWN COUNCIL

“That this Council emphatically opposes the threat to the existence of Town Councils as proposed by An Bord Snip Nua (McCarthy

Report) and the sentiments of Minister John Gormley on the same subject. Any such proposals are an attach on the most basic democracy available in the state.”

LISTOWEL TOWN COUNCIL

“Listowel Town Council calls on the Government to support the Family Resource Centre Programme and, in particular, the thirteen Family Resource Centres based in County Kerry. We support the three campaign principles of the Family Resource Centre National Forum, which are:

1. The Family Resource Centre Programme delivers a value for money support for families across Ireland. At times of financial hardship, the services of Family Resource Centre will be needed more than ever. Rather than considering closing or reducing the FRC programme, it should be developed and expanded.
2. The Family Support Agency is the best vehicle to deliver the Family Resource Centre Programme, and the Agency should be maintained.
3. If any changes are to be made in the FRC programme or Family Support Agency, the Family Resource Centre National Forum must be consulted on the way forward.”

CLARE COUNTY COUNCIL

“That this Council calls on the H.S.E.’s Medical Card Section to take into account the statutory pension levy deduction imposed on public sector workers when assessing medical card applications”. (I propose that if adopted this motion be forwarded to the Minister Brian Lenihan TD (Department of Finance), Minister Mary Harney TD (Department of Health and Children), Prof. Brendan Drumm (CEO of the Health Service Executive) and all County, City, Town and Borough Councils).”

ENNIS TOWN COUNCIL

“That Ennis Town Council request Health Minister Mary Harney and Justice Minister Dermot Aherne immediately put a framework in place to regulate the operation of Headshops.”

END

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL, HELD
IN THE COUNTY HOUSE, LIFFORD ON 22nd FEBRUARY, 2010**

C/117/10 MEMBERS PRESENT

Clrs. B. Byrne, Mayor, D. Alcorn, L. Blaney, C. Brogan, G. Crawford, M. Doherty, Padraig Doherty, R. Donaghey, M. Farren, M.T. Gallagher, M. Harley, J. Harte, C. Harvey, D. Larkin, P. Mac Lochlainn, F. Mc Brearty, N. McBride, C. Mc Conalogue, S. McEniff, I. McGarvey, P. McGowan, B. McGuinness, S. O'Domhnaill, B. O'Neill, T. Pringle, J. Ryan, and T. Slowey.

C/118/10 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Clr. Boyle who was unable to attend the meeting.

C/119/10 OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE

Mr Michael McLoone, County Manager, Mr John McLaughlin, Director of Roads and Transportation, Mr Seamus Neely, Director of Water, Environment and Emergency, Mr Francie Coyle, Director Planning and Economic Development, Mr Michael Heaney, Director of Community Cultural and Enterprise, Mr Garry Martin, Acting Head of Finance, Mr Liam Ward, Acting Director of Corporate and Housing, Mr Eunan Sweeney, Meetings Administrator, Ms Annemarie Crawford, Staff Officer.

C/120/10 ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING

On the proposal of Clr. Donaghey, seconded by Clr. Brogan, it was resolved to adjourn the meeting to 2.30pm so as to complete the business of the January Adjourned Council Meeting.

C/121/10 MAYOR'S BUSINESS

The Mayor informed the meeting that he had spoken with the Donegal Association in New York and, together with the Deputy Mayor, had accepted a private invitation to represent the people of Donegal at the forthcoming St Patrick's Day celebrations. He intended to travel to Chicago in a similar capacity.

The trip he advised, would be at each member's own expense, a feature he hoped would be replicated by all future Mayors.

Following a request by Members to respond on the issue, the Mayor advised that he had dealt with it under Mayor's Business.

Clr. Mac Lochlainn protested at the variation of the order of business without the Council's consent and accused the Mayor of using the Chamber to advance his own agenda.

C/122/10 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING OF DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL HELD ON 15TH JANUARY, 2010.

On the proposal of Clr. Larkin, seconded by Clr. Donaghey, the Minutes of the Special Meeting of Donegal County Council held on 15th January, 2010 were adopted.

C/123/10 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL HELD ON 25TH JANUARY, 2010.

On the proposal of Clr. Larkin, seconded by Clr. Crawford, the Minutes of the Meeting of Donegal County Council held on 25th January, 2010 were adopted.

C/124/10 ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING.

Owing to general disorder impeding the orderly transaction of business the Mayor adjourned the Meeting until 3.30pm.

On resumption, the Mayor stated he advised that continuously disrupting the business of the meeting was unacceptable and that he had been entitled, as Mayor, to make a personal statement and in doing so was not in any way addressing the motion to suspend the 2010 St Patrick's Day Trip.

C/125/10 DISPOSAL OF LAND AT MOVILLE GREEN, MOVILLE, CO DONEGAL

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

On the proposal of Clr. McGuinness, seconded by Clr. P. Doherty, it was resolved to transfer a plot of land at Moville Green, Moville, Co Donegal to Mr Adrian Harkin, T/A Just Kayak, C/O Cormac McKeone & Co, 1 Carlisle Terrace, Derry, in accordance with Section 211 of the Planning &

Development Act, 2000 and Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001.

C/126/10 DISPOSAL OF LAND AT CARNAMUGGAGH LOWER, LETTERKENNY, CO DONEGAL

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

On the proposal of Clr. Larkin, seconded by Clr. Brogan, it was resolved to transfer a plot of land at Carnamuggagh Lower, Letterkenny to Mr Lawrence Harrigan, Highland Motors, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal, in accordance with Section 211 of the Planning & Development Act, 2000 and Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001 subject to the verification of the address in question.

The Director of Roads and Transportation agreed to check same and revert to Members in due course.

C/127/10 TO NOTE COUNTY MANAGER'S NOMINEES TO AUDIT COMMITTEE

The Director Corporate and Housing advised that the following had been nominated by the County Manager as his nominees to the Audit Committee, and endorsed by the Corporate Policy Group: -

- Mr. Ian Ireland, Chief Executive, Donegal Creameries
- Mr. Donal Mac Lochlainn , Drumboy, Lifford
- Mr. John Andy Bonar, Head of Business Development, LYIT.

C/128/10 CONSIDERATION OF THE IMPLICATIONS OF S.I. 37 OF 2010 AND DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND HERITAGE, LOCAL GOVERNMENT CIRCULAR LETTER LG 2/2010 WITH REGARDS TO EXPENDITURE LIMITS ON THE ATTENDANCE OF ELECTED MEMBERS AT CONFERENCES/SEMINARS/TRAINING/MEETINGS OR OTHER EVENTS (DOMESTIC/FOREIGN)

On the proposal of Clr. McGuinness, seconded by Clr. P O'Doherty, the Council noted the report circulated with the agenda in relation to the above.

C/129/10 TO CONSIDER THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT AUDIT REPORT, INCLUDING, WHERE APPROPRIATE, COUNTY MANAGER'S RESPONSE, ON THE AUDITED ACCOUNTS OF DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL FOR YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER, 2008.

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

A report in the name of the Mayor outlining proposals from the Corporate Policy Group Meeting on the 19th February 2010 was circulated at the meeting (Vide Appendix 1).

On the proposal of Clr. P. Doherty, seconded by Clr. Alcorn, the Local Government Audit Report for year ending 31st December, 2008 was noted.

On the proposal of Clr. Mc Gowan, seconded by Clr. Pringle, it was resolved to proceed as per the proposals from the CPG set out in the Mayor's report, referred to above, and that the matter be discussed at the Special Council Meeting on 1st March, 2010 to discuss the Corporate Budget.

Members requested that all relevant documentation be circulated in advance of the meeting.

Responding to a number of queries raised by Members, the Mayor advised that there would be an opportunity to debate the matter in full at the Special Council Meeting on the 1st March.

C/130/10 CONSIDERATION OF THE AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR 2008 INCLUDING COMMENTARY BY THE COUNTY MANAGER AND HEAD OF FINANCE

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

On the proposal of Clr. McEniff, seconded by Clr. Brogan, the Council noted the Audited Financial Statement for 2008.

C/131/10 TO CONSIDER THE PROPOSAL OF THE PROVISION OF AN RNLI ALL WEATHER LIFEBOAT BERTH AT BUNCRANA AND IMPLICATIONS FOR A FORESHORE LEASE APPLICATION TO CONSTRUCT A BREAKWATER.

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

On the proposal of Clr. Donaghey, seconded by Clr. Mc Conalogue, it was resolved to accept the proposal from Buncrana Town Council to include: -

1. That Donegal County Council and Buncrana Town Council enter into a maintenance harbour dredging contract with the likes of the Derry Port and Harbour Authority for plough dredging using the harbour vessel Otter Bank in conjunction with a pier and beach based long reach excavator.
2. That both Councils support the provision of a foreshore licence to enable this to be done (including any necessary amendment to the legislation). This would constitute a formal arrangement between the Council and RNLI to guarantee the requirements for all weather operations from Buncrana berth for launch and recovery operations.

Clr. Mac Lochlainn asked that his support for the project be recorded.

C/132/10 TO NOTE UPDATE ON THE LIFFORD STRABANE RIVERINE PROJECT

On the proposal of Clr. Harley, seconded by Clr. Crawford, the Council noted the update and supported the applications in relation to the Lifford Strabane Riverine Project.

C/133/10 CONSIDERATION OF REQUEST BY THE RURAL WATER MONITORING COMMITTEE THAT MR LIAM MCDERMOTT, BREDAGHLEN, MOVILLE BE ELECTED TO THE COUNTY COMMITTEE FOR RURAL WATER MONITORING

On the proposal of Clr. Donaghey, seconded by Clr. Pringle, it was resolved that Mr Liam McDermott be included as an additional representative of the Group Schemes Sector on the Rural Water Monitoring Committee.

C/134/10 ENDORSEMENT OF THE CONFIRMED MINUTES OF MEETING OF GLENTIES ELECTORAL AREA COMMITTEE HELD ON 10th NOVEMBER, 2009

On the proposal of Clr. O'Domhnaill, seconded by Clr. Slowey, it was resolved to endorse the confirmed Minutes of Meeting of Glenties Electoral Area Committee held on the 10th November, 2009.

- C/135/10 ENDORSEMENT OF THE CONFIRMED MINUTES OF MEETING OF LETTERKENNY ELECTORAL AREA COMMITTEE HELD ON 16th NOVEMBER, 2009
On the proposal of Clr. Larkin, seconded by Clr. McBride, it was resolved to endorse the confirmed Minutes of Meeting of Letterkenny Electoral Area Committee held on the 16th November, 2009.
- C/136/10 ENDORSEMENT OF THE CONFIRMED MINUTES OF MEETING OF STRANORLAR ELECTORAL AREA COMMITTEE HELD ON 17th NOVEMBER, 2009
On the proposal of Clr. Crawford, seconded by Clr. Harvey, it was resolved to endorse the confirmed Minutes of Meeting of Stranorlar Electoral Area Committee held on the 17th November, 2009.
- C/137/10 ENDORSEMENT OF THE CONFIRMED MINUTES OF MEETING OF INISHOWEN ELECTORAL AREA COMMITTEE HELD ON 17th NOVEMBER, 2009
On the proposal of Clr. M. Doherty, seconded by Clr. Donaghey, it was resolved to endorse the confirmed Minutes of Meeting of Inishowen Electoral Area Committee held on the 17th November, 2009.
- C/138/10 ENDORSEMENT OF THE CONFIRMED MINUTES OF MEETING OF RURAL WATER MONITORING COMMITTEE HELD ON 18th NOVEMBER, 2009
On the proposal of Clr. Donaghey, seconded by Clr. M. Doherty, it was resolved to endorse the confirmed Minutes of Meeting of Rural Water Monitoring Committee held on the 18th November, 2009.
- C/139/10 ENDORSEMENT OF THE CONFIRMED MINUTES OF MEETING OF DONEGAL ELECTORAL AREA COMMITTEE HELD ON 25th NOVEMBER, 2009
On the proposal of Clr. McEniff, seconded by Clr. Pringle, it was resolved to endorse the confirmed Minutes of Meeting

of Donegal Electoral Area Committee held on the 25th November, 2009.

C/140/10 CONSIDERATION OF A REQUEST FOR RECEPTION OF DEPUTATION FROM DONEGAL WOMEN'S DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SERVICE

On the proposal of Clr. Harvey, seconded by Clr. Gallagher, it was resolved that a deputation from Donegal Women's Domestic Violence Service be permitted to address a future meeting of Donegal County Council.

C/141/10 CONSIDERATION OF A REQUEST FOR RECEPTION OF DEPUTATION FROM ICBAN LTD

On the proposal of Clr. Alcorn, seconded by Clr. Byrne, it was resolved that a deputation from ICBAN Ltd be permitted to address a future meeting of Donegal County Council.

C/142/10 CONFERENCES

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 and directives issued by the Minister in that regard, on the proposal of Clr. McGowan, seconded by Clr. Alcorn, it was resolved to authorise any member, if he/she so wished, to attend the following conferences, subject to the normal procedures:-

1. Individual members not exceeding their annual budget for attendance at conferences.
2. Payment of expenses for attendance to be conditional on the member furnishing documentary evidence of attendance.

HOME

- The 3rd National Summit Renewable Energy, Creating a vision for Renewable Energy in the new economy to be held Thursday 4th March, 2010 at the Croke Park Conference Centre, Dublin.
- Association of County and City Councils Annual Conference to be held from Thursday 4th to Friday 5th March, 2010 at the Ballykisteen Hotel, Limerick Junction, Co. Tipperary.

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- Training Seminar, The Local Government Housing Service to be held from Thursday 18th to Saturday 20th March, 2010 at the Killarney Plaza Hotel and Spa, Kenmare Place, Killarney, Co. Kerry.
- The Institute of Professional Training, Climate Change, Impacts and Strategies; going forward to be held from Friday 26th to Sunday 28th March, 2010 at the Silver Tassie Hotel, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal.

C/143/10 TO NOTE VARIOUS CONFERENCE REPORTS

On the proposal of Clr. McGowan, seconded by Clr. Alcorn, the following Conference Reports were noted: -

- Clr. Padraig MacLochlainn – Shannon Development National Conference, Dynamic Regions Future Directions in Regional Development held Friday 6th November, 2009.
- Clr. Padraig MacLochlainn – Assembly of European Regions General Assembly held from Wednesday 25th to Friday 27th November, 2009.
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- Clr. Charlie McConalogue – Internet Constituents held Friday 4th and Saturday 5th December, 2009.

C/144/10 MANAGER’S REPORT

An Addendum to the County Manager’s Report was circulated prior to the meeting was noted.

C/145/10 MOTIONS FROM OTHER COUNCILS

On the proposal of Clr. MacLochlainn, seconded by Clr. Pringle, the following motion was adopted: -

“That Killarney Town Council calls on the Minister for Enterprise and Employment to ensure the retention of the minimum wage.”

Members noted the following motions from other Councils:

OFFALY COUNTY COUNCIL

“That Offaly County Council contact the Tanaiste, Mary Coughlan, regarding the establishment of Unemployment Centres due to the high level of unemployment in the country.”

BALLINASLOE TOWN COUNCIL

“That this Council write to the Minister of the Environment and seek assurances that a strategic flood risk management programme will now be implemented to lessen the risk of future flooding, and to give advance warning of flood risk”.

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“That the Government introduce a scheme to protect householders who cannot obtain household insurance due to flooding through regular insurance bodies”.

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“That, Limerick County Council request the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government to lift the embargo on the employment of outdoor staff in order to protect the investment in the county road network.”

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“That, Limerick County Council requests the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government to reverse the decision to give the National Roads Authority the management of regional and local roads investment.”

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“That, Kerry County Council calls for the holding of an enquiry into the appointment of rural representatives on An Bord Pleanála as those appointed to represent this category were previously Senior Planning inspectors with the Board.”

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“That in view of the ongoing revelations surrounding Fás this Council calls for its abolition in its present format.”

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“That this Council emphatically opposes the threat to the existence of Town Councils as proposed by An Bord Snip Nua (McCarthy Report) and the sentiments of Minister John Gormley on the same subject. Any such proposals are an attack on the most basic democracy available in the state.”

LISTOWEL TOWN COUNCIL

“Listowel Town Council calls on the Government to support the Family Resource Centre Programme and, in particular, the thirteen Family Resource Centres based in County Kerry. We support the three campaign principles of the Family Resource Centre National Forum, which are:

4. The Family Resource Centre Programme delivers a value for money support for families across Ireland. At times of financial hardship, the services of Family Resource Centre will be needed more than ever. Rather than considering closing or reducing the FRC programme, it should be developed and expanded.
5. The Family Support Agency is the best vehicle to deliver the Family Resource Centre Programme, and the Agency should be maintained.
6. If any changes are to be made in the FRC programme or Family Support Agency, the Family Resource Centre National Forum must be consulted on the way forward.”

CLARE COUNTY COUNCIL

“That this Council calls on the H.S.E.’s Medical Card Section to take into account the statutory pension levy deduction imposed on public sector workers when assessing medical card applications”. (I propose that if adopted this motion be forwarded to the Minister Brian Lenihan TD (Department of Finance), Minister Mary Harney TD (Department of Health and Children), Prof. Brendan Drumm (CEO of the Health Service Executive) and all County, City, Town and Borough Councils).”

ENNIS TOWN COUNCIL

“That Ennis Town Council request Health Minister Mary Harney and Justice Minister Dermot Aherne immediately put a framework in place to regulate the operation of Headshops.”

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Meeting of Donegal County Council on 22nd February, 2010

**Item 4: Finance – Local Government Audit Report:
Proposal from Corporate Policy Group meeting on 19th February, 2010**

At the meeting of the Corporate Policy Group held on February 19th, the members reviewed the report of the Local Government Auditor on the accounts of Donegal County Council for 2008. In particular, the CPG was given a detailed briefing by the County Manager on the procurement of consulting services, as referred to in Paragraph 7.1 of the Auditor's report.

The County Manager reviewed the background to and history of his work in the development and implementation of a sustained programme of innovation in the Council since 1995. It included the selection and funding of Donegal County Council as a pilot site for the decentralisation of services and the establishment of Public Service Centres, the piloting of new management structures, the co-ordination of public service provision and the creation of effective systems to support the delivery of services against a background of diminished resources. It was noted that the OECD in their recent review of the Irish Public Service had established that the methodologies and tools to achieve such objectives did not exist in the public sector. Donegal County Council had already formed that view. It was against this background that the research and development work had been undertaken to create these methodologies and management tools for the Council, with specialist support.

The Manager outlined the approach to be taken in the delivery of the work programmes as provided for in the 2010 Budget. The members of the CPG agreed that, the new approach to budgeting which links the determination of staffing levels and other resources to the levels of

service which can be achieved in each discrete service provided by the Council is in line with what the Members requested in the preparation of the 2010 Budget. This approach has the potential to deliver significant additional productivity, equity in the distribution of work amongst staff and transparency in matching staffing and resources to the levels of service being provided. It was also agreed that potential application of this approach across the public sector generally should be pursued with Central Government in the context of the Efficiency Review of Local Authorities announced in the Local Government Fund General Purpose Grant allocation letter of December 11th, 2009 (the letter stated that the 2010 budgeting process was an opportunity for Elected Members and management to continue to widen that deepen their examination of the scope for efficiencies and rationalisation of expenditure arrangements in all service areas in 2010). The CPG requested that a comprehensive briefing would be provided for the full Council on the new Whole System of Work Framework following the Council meeting on March 1st (to deal with the review of the Capital Programme/Development Contribution Scheme 2005-2009 and the issues to be considered in preparing the Capital Programme 2010-2012). The CPG proposing that the Council receive this presentation from the County Manager on Monday next, March 1st.



Cllr. Brendan Byrne
Mayor, Donegal County Council