

**COMHAIRLE CHONTAE DHUN NA nGALL**

Oifig Riarthóir na  
gCruinnithe  
Aras an Chontae  
LEIFEAR  
18 Iúil, 2017

**FOGRA CRUINNITHE**

Beidh Cruinniú Comhairle Chontae Dhún na nGall ar siúl Dé Luain 24 Iúil, 2017, 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**

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**DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL**

Office of Meetings Administrator  
County House  
Lifford  
18<sup>th</sup> July 2017

**NOTICE OF MEETING**

A Meeting of Donegal County Council will be held on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> July 2017, 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  
Meetings Administrator**

# AGENDA

## **1. Confirmation of Minutes**

- a) Confirmation of the Minutes of May Meeting of Donegal County Council held on the 29<sup>th</sup> May, 2017.
- b) Confirmation of the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Donegal County Council held on the 14<sup>th</sup> June, 2017.

## **2. Filling of Casual Vacancy in the membership of the Council**

- a) Filling of casual vacancy occasioned by the death of Cllr Sean McEniff.
- b) Filling of consequential vacancies arising from a) above:-
  - Donegal Municipal District
  - Economic, Enterprise & Planning Policy SPC
  - Ballyshannon Leisure Centre
  - Pettigo/Tullyhommon Partnership Board
  - Donegal Tourism

## **3. Disposal of Land – Section 211 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000**

- a) 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 by way of lease property in Carndonagh Public Service Centre to Teagasc.
- b) 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 by way of lease property in Donegal Public Service Centre to Donegal Local Development Company Ltd.
- c) 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 by way of lease property in Donegal Public Service Centre to Employment Response North West.
- d) 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 0.19 hectares of land at Meenagran, Binbane , Frosses, Co Donegal to Anthony Gallagher.

**4. Taking of decision pursuant to Planning & Development Act, 2000 (Part XI), and Planning & Development Regulations, 2001 (Part 8).**

- a) To approve the carrying out of construction works to construct Phase 3 of a housing development comprising 8 No Social Housing Units, at Radharc na Trá Bréige, Drumcarbit, Malin, Co Donegal in the Inishowen Municipal District.
- b) To approve the carrying out of construction works to construct Phase 2 of a housing development comprising 6 No Social Housing Units at Cois Aoibhinn, St Johnston, Co Donegal in the Stranorlar Municipal District.
- c) To approve the carrying out of construction works to implement a Safety Improvement Scheme at the N56 Four Lane Road Letterkenny, within the townlands of Drumnahoagh and Bonagee in the Letterkenny Municipal District.

**5. Corporate**

- a) To fill the casual vacancy on Donegal Sports Partnership arising from the resignation of Cllr Jack Murray.
- b) To note change in the Sectoral Membership on the Donegal Local Development Company.
- c) To consider and adopt the Annual Report for 2016 from the Audit Committee in Donegal County Council.
- d) To approve 15 year lease in respect of the former Buncrana Town Council Offices.

**6. Roads and Transportation**

To approve the recommendation that Donegal County Council abandon the public road in accordance with Section 12 of the Roads Act, 1993 and extinguish the public rights of way in accordance with Section 73 of the Roads Act, 1993 at Galwolie, Cloghan, Co Donegal.

**7. Finance**

- a) To consider and note the Donegal County Council audited Annual Financial Statement 2016.
- b) To consider and note the Local Government Audit Report on the Annual Financial Statement for 2016.
- c) To note the report from the Donegal County Council Audit Committee on its consideration of the 2016 Audited Financial Statement and Audit Report for 2016 of Donegal County Council as required by Section 121 (3) of the Local Government Act 2001 (as amended).

**8. Endorsement of Minutes**

- a. To note Minutes of the Corporate Policy Group Meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> May, 2017.
- b. Endorsement of the Minutes of the County Donegal Heritage Forum held on the 20<sup>th</sup> April, 2017.

**9. Conference Reports**

**Clr Terence Slowey**

28<sup>th</sup> Colmcille Winter School held 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> February, 2017 in Gartan, Co Donegal.

**Clr Terence Slowey**

Messines Commemoration held 7<sup>th</sup> June, 2017 at Mesen in Belgium.

**10. Reception of Deputation**

- a) Reception of Deputation from Donegal Lyme Disease Support Group in relation to the dangers of Lyme Disease and associated co-infections. (12.15pm)
- b) Reception of Deputation from the Community Implementation Group with regard to the "Connection for Life Strategy". (12.40pm)

**11. Presentation**

To consider request for presentation from ICBAN in relation to the "National Broadband Plan for Ireland".

**MOTIONS**

**DONEGAL MUNICIPAL DISTRICT**

**Community and Enterprise**

**12. ClIr Noel Jordan**

"I am asking this Council to select a spokesperson for our fishing industry in the wake of the British Government triggering the withdrawal from the London Fisheries Convention."

**Roads and Transportation**

**13. ClIr Barry O'Neill**

"That Donegal County Council immediately undertake a formal review of Car Parking charges both on-street and off-street in the towns in which they apply across the County?"

## STRANORLAR MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

### *Community and Enterprise*

14. Cllr Gerry Crawford

"That this Council in conjunction with the Dept of Tourism & the Dept of Rural and Community Affairs seek to put in place measures and supports to assist start up businesses in addition to supporting where possible existing businesses along the Wild Atlantic Way within the County."

15. Cllr Martin Harley

"That Donegal County Council and Donegal Tourism work with all business in Donegal to enable best return and advertising of the county in 2018 and into the future coming from the Irish Open Golf taking place in Ballyliffin in July 2018."

16. Cllr Liam Doherty

"That this Council calls on the Government to urgently take action to incentivise job growth and to increase investment in the county with the view to tackling the problem of unemployment as was recently demonstrated by the census data for 2016 which shows that Donegal has a higher unemployment rate than the state average as well as an ageing population."

### *Corporate*

17. Cllr Gary Doherty

"That Donegal County Council calls on the Government to bring forward legislation to give greater protection to consumers from exorbitant price increases on insurance policies which are above and beyond industry averages."

### *Roads and Transportation*

18. Cllr Patrick McGowan

"That this Council seek a immediate meeting between the TII and the TEN-T Network National Primary Road Project Consultants working on the Ballybofey and Stranorlar By-Pass, Lifford to Letterkenny New Realignment National Primary Road, Letterkenny New National Primary Link Road, local councillors, oireachtas members and senior council management to discuss progress and lobby collectively for funding."

## GLENTIES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

### **Corporate**

19. **Cllr Marie Therese Gallagher**

"That this Council call on Central Government and the Minister of Education to introduce free 3rd level education to ensure that all opportunity of access is afforded to our young people regardless of income or post code."

20. **Cllr Seamus Ó Domhnaill**

"Can this Council discuss the impacts which the Draft County Development Plan will have on rural parts of Donegal if adopted from a point of view of economic development, rural housing guidelines, economic investment into the areas and de-population of rural areas ?"

### **Water and Environment**

21. **Cllr John Sheamais O'Ferrairgh**

"That Donegal County Council ask for the new bin charges to be abolished as these place even more of a financial burden on householders."

## **INISHOWEN MUNICIPAL DISTRICT**

### **Roads and Transportation**

22. **Cllr Paul Canning**

"Given the recent news that the Irish Open is coming to Donegal in 2018, I would ask this Council to support a motion that would allow this Council to design and manicure the Roundabouts that are on the main arteries to Ballyliffin Gold Club using a golf theme as the template to promote this event."

### **Community and Enterprise**

23. **Cllr Albert Doherty**

"To complement Connectivity, Tourism Promotion and Marketing of the North West City Region that Donegal County Council seek from the Department for Infrastructure and Derry City and Strabane Council et al, the provision of Road Signage and Information directions to the Municipal Council (Public Service Centre) towns in Donegal."

24. **Cllr Bernard McGuinness**

"That the Council establish an implementation plan in cooperation with Ballyliffin Golf Club and all other relevant bodies on their hosting of the Irish Open 2018."

### **Finance & Emergency**

25. Cllr Martin McDermott

"To call on this council to ask the HSE to change their protocol so that when an emergency call is made for an ambulance to attend a car accident that the fire brigade be called out at the same time on all occasions."

**Housing**

26. Cllr Jack Murray

"That Donegal County Council calls on the Government to introduce a redress scheme for home owners affected by defective blocks, without delay."

**LETTERKENNY MUNICIPAL DISTRICT**

**Housing**

27. Cllr Adrian Glackin

"That Donegal County Council carry out a pro-active investigation of council housing stock and properties for evidence of MICA."

**Corporate**

28. Cllr Michael McBride

"That Donegal County Council contact the relevant minister/s relaying the views of the general public about the manner in which they are being treated by insurance companies (premiums) and ask that the matter be dealt with in the Oireachtas as a matter of urgency to protect all sectors of our society in a reasonable manner."

29. **Cathaoirleach's Business**

30. **Chief Executive's Monthly Management Report**

**QUESTIONS**

**STRANORLAR MUNICIPAL DISTRICT**

**Water and Environment**

31. Cllr Gerry Crawford

"Will this Council consider using drone technology to assist with life guarding operations on our beaches similar to what is being done by Clare County Council?"

**Roads and Transportation**

32. Cllr Gary Doherty

"Can this Council provide me with a list of all footpath repairs carried out since 2014 and the cost of same?"

33. Cllr Patrick McGowan

"Please can I have details of the street lighting replacement program with a progress report MD by MD?"

**Community and Enterprise**

34. Cllr Patrick McGowan

"What is this Council doing to address the major issues facing this County namely rural depopulation, the threats arising from the decentralisation of services, shortage of medical and other essential services and can we draw up a strategic plan to lobby Government in light of the Brexit negotiations so as to ensure that the Donegal region is prioritised for all relevant supports both nationally and at European level given that balanced regional development is one of the key stones of EU Policy?"

**GLENTIES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT**

**Housing**

35. Cllr Marie Therese Gallagher

"Could I be furnished with a copy of the Council's Housing Capital Plan?"

**Finance & Emergency**

36. Cllr Marie Therese Gallagher

"Would this Council consider assigning a day a month resource in each MD to public relations?"

37. Cllr Seamus Ó Domhnaill

"Can this Council please provide details in a tabular format as to the amount of office space owned by Donegal County Council on a square metre basis broken down on a Municipal District basis and naming the Buildings concerned, Can the Council also provide details as to the space which is used within Council Buildings by other organisations and name them and also include open spaces or shared spaces which is used by both Donegal County Council and outside organisations. I wish to have the Lifford Barracks, the PSC's, Laboratory, Libraries, and any other offices which are within Council ownership included in this breakdown."

**Community and Enterprise**

38. Cllr Seamus Ó Domhnaill



"Can this Council please advise me as to any steps which have been taken to address my motion from September 2016 namely "That this Council set up a forum to discuss Donegal Mental Health and how we as a County can protect and assist our people in accessing help from the appropriate services which they require, I wish for a workgroup to be set up which would invite all bodies within our County to be involved so that the best steps can be taken to reduce the suicide rate in our County". Please answer in terms as to whether a workgroup has been set up, whether all of the mental health bodies have been contacted and particular focus the answer in the knowledge that suicides are at an unprecedented level within our County and urgently needs to be addressed, I feel that Donegal County Council are best suited to bringing the various bodies together and seek guidance and solutions so as to assist with this matter."

39. Cllr John Sheamais O'Fearraigh

"Regarding Knock Airport can I be provided with figures for the number of tourists travelling from Knock Airport to Donegal since the investment/financial assistance package was introduced?"

**INISHOWEN MUNICIPAL DISTRICT**

**Community and Enterprise**

40. Cllr Martin McDermott

"To ask the Council how many staff work in Community and Culture broke down into each MD?"

41. Cllr Bernard McGuinness

"What is the update on my motion from the last meeting regarding setting up a special committee to assist existing industries including farming and fishing?"

**Water and Environment**

42. Cllr Paul Canning

"Can I have an update in relation to the Service Level Agreement and any proposals between Irish Water and Donegal County Council?"

43. Cllr Bernard McGuinness

"Give a breakdown of the cost to the Council of each of the swimming pools in the county?"

**Roads and Transportation**

44. Cllr Albert Doherty

"Who is conducting and funding the county-wide report relating to the piers and slipways in Donegal. What is the nature and remit of the investigation and when is the report findings and or recommendations due?"

45. Cllr Martin McDermott

"To ask the Council how many designated disabled car parks we have in the County?"

### **Planning**

46. Cllr Albert Doherty

"Who are, and what number of building control officers work or are engaged by Donegal County Council? What number of enforcement actions have the officers carried out under the "Construction Products Directive" since - 1993?"

### **Emergency Services**

47. Cllr Jack Murray

"Can the Council provide an annual breakdown of the revenue brought in from fire call out charges over the last ten years?"

48. Cllr Jack Murray

"Can the Council provide an annual breakdown of the number of call outs by the fire service over the last ten years?"

## **LETTERKENNY MUNICIPAL DISTRICT**

### **Water and Environment**

49. Cllr Adrian Glackin

"Can this Council be updated on where the current investigation into illegal dumping on an industrial scale in Donegal is currently at?"

### **Community and Enterprise**

50. Cllr Michael McBride

"Has Donegal County Council identified any possible funding opportunities from Europe to complete the Letterkenny to Burtonport railway line for a walkway/cycleways?"

51. **Motions from other Councils/Bodies**

### **TIPPERARY COUNTY COUNCIL**

"That Tipperary County Council calls on the Minister for Health to take the necessary measures to make Regional Health Forum Committees relevant."

“That this Council calls on the government to extend children’s allowance for parents who have children in Third Level Education but have no access to grants due to their before tax earnings. The extended children’s allowance could be capped at a level which will not be extended to those with very high earnings.”

#### SLIGO COUNTY COUNCIL

That Sligo County Council calls on the Government to prioritise ratifying the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.”

#### SOUTH DUBLIN COUNTY COUNCIL

“Members of South Dublin County Council are calling on the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs Katherine Zappone to increase investment in Early Childhood Care and Education to ensure that children have access to quality, sustainable and affordable childcare with decent pay and conditions for professionals in the sector.

The Council recognises that Early Years Educators are hugely dedicated professionals who care for and educate children during the most crucial years of their development. However the Irish Government lags behind other European countries in terms of how much we invest in Early Years Education. As a result, many qualified professionals are struggling to make ends meet and providers are struggling to stay open.

We call on Minister Zappone to put children first and invest in quality childcare and Early Years Education.”

#### SLIGO COUNTY COUNCIL

“Noting that the Local Government Management Agency (LGMA) is primarily funded by county and city councils, who contribute in excess of €10 million per year to the agency: and noting that the Board of the agency is composed of 11 members (8 Chief Executives of county and city councils, 3 officials from the Department of Housing, Planning and Community and Local Government and no elected representative): and further noting the significant role of the agency in terms of influencing government policy on local government: and noting that councils and elected councillors are not provided with any information as to the activities of the LGMA: this Council requests the Association of Irish Local Government (AILG) to provide a briefing for elected members module on “The role, funding and activities of the Local Government Management Agency” as part of

its annual Training Programme: and further we request the AILG to ensure that an elected councillor will be included as a speaker at the said briefing.”

**MINUTES OF JULY MEETING OF DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL,  
HELD IN THE COUNTY HOUSE, LIFFORD ON 24<sup>TH</sup> JULY, 2017**

**C/224/17**     **MEMBERS PRESENT**

Cllrs Gerry Mc Monagle, Cathaoirleach, L Blaney, E Bonner, C Brogan, J Campbell, P Canning, T Conaghan, G Crawford, N Crossan, A Doherty, L Doherty, R Donaghey, M Farren, M T Gallagher, A Glackin, M Harley, N Jordan, J Kavanagh, M C Mac Giolla Easbuig, F McBrearty, M Mc Bride, J P Mc Daid, M McDermott, I Mc Garvey, P McGowan, B McGuinness, J Murray, M Naughton, S O'Domhnaill, J S O'Fearraigh, J Ryan and T Slowey.

**C/225/17**     **OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE**

Seamus Neely, Chief Executive, Joe Peoples, Director of Housing, Corporate and Cultural Services / Meetings Administrator, John McLaughlin, Director of Roads and Transportation, Liam Ward, Director Community, Enterprise & Planning Services, , Michael Mc Garvey, Director Water & Environment, Richard Gibson, Acting Director of Finance, Information Systems and Emergency Services, Eunan Quinn, Senior Planner, Eileen Burgess, County Librarian, Sean O'Daimhin, Oifigeach na Gaelige, Anne Marie Crawford, Staff Officer.

**C/226/17**     **APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Cllrs G Doherty, N Kennedy and J O' Donnell who were unable to attend the meeting.

**C/227/17**     **FILMING IN THE CHAMBER**

In accordance with Standing Order No. 28, it was unanimously agreed to suspend Standing Order No. 62 to allow the members of the media present film in the Council Chamber for the duration of Item No 2.

**C/228/17**     **VOTE OF SYMPATHY**

Members proposed a vote of sympathy to the families of the late Margaret Mc Gonigle, Mairead Mundy and Rachel Battles all from Bruckless who had died as the result of a tragic accident in Co Louth.

**C/229/17**     **CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE MAY  
MEETING OF DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL HELD ON THE  
29<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2017**

On the proposal of Cllr Conaghan, seconded by, Cllr Mc Brearty the minutes of the May Meeting of Donegal County Council held on the 29<sup>th</sup> May, 2017 were adopted.

In response to a query raised by Cllr Crossan, the Meetings Administrator confirmed that any member who was recorded as being present for a specific meeting was legally entitled to propose the adoption of the associated minutes.

C/230/17 CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL HELD ON THE 14<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2017

On the proposal of Cllr Gallagher, seconded by, Cllr Donaghey the minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Donegal County Council held on the 14<sup>th</sup> June, 2017 were adopted.

C/231/17 FILLING OF CASUAL VACANCY ON DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL OCCASIONED BY THE DEATH OF CLLR SEAN MC ENIFF

On the proposal of Cllr Brogan, seconded by Cllr O' Domhnaill it was resolved that Michéal Naughton fill the casual vacancy on Donegal County Council occasioned by the death of the late Cllr Sean Mc Eniff.

Cllr Brogan acknowledged the contribution of the late Cllr Mc Eniff to politics in Donegal and said that he would indeed be a hard act to follow. He welcomed Cllr Naughton to the Council and assured him that he would have the full support and co-operation of the members.

Representatives from the various groupings extended their best wishes and said that they were looking forward to working with Cllr Naughton at both district and plenary level.

The Chief Executive congratulated him on his co-option and extended best wishes on behalf of the management and staff of Donegal County Council.

Cllr Naughton addressing the Council expressed sympathy to the Mc Gonigle, Mundy and Battles families on their recent tragic loss.

It was, he confirmed, an honour and a privilege to become an elected member and he paid tribute to the exemplary work carried out by the late Cllr Mc Eniff.

He thanked all the candidates who had taken part in the selection process and his fellow party members for their support.

Tourism, he stated, was one of his main priorities and it was his intention, he said, to make Donegal a place to be proud of. This, he said, would involve collaborating with his fellow councillors and the Oireachtas Members.

It was imperative, he added, that the proximity of Donegal to Dublin was continually highlighted so that all involved in the tourism industry were aware of what Donegal had to offer. The importance of keeping Donegal and rural Ireland to the fore was also a priority.

Brexit, he advised, was also another key issue that warranted specific consideration as there were specific implications for the tourism, cultural and farming sectors.

Concluding, he thanked his wife Annette, family and friends for their support.

C/232/17 FILLING OF CONSEQUENTIAL VACANCIES ARISING FROM THE DEATH OF THE LATE CLLR SEAN MC ENIFF

On the proposal of Cllr Brogan, seconded by Cllr O' Domhnaill it was resolved that Cllr Naughton fill the casual vacancies on the following committees:-

- Donegal Municipal District
- Economic Enterprise & Planning Policy SPC
- Ballyshannon Leisure Centre
- Pettigo/Tullyhommon Partnership Board
- Donegal Tourism

C/233/17 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 BY WAY OF LEASE PROPERTY IN CARNDONAGH PUBLIC SERVICE CENTRE TO TEAGASC

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

Cllr O' Domhnaill said he was concerned that members were now being asked to retrospectively approve the lease in question and that the approval requested today was merely a rubber stamping exercise.

He asked for a full explanation as to how this had come about and requested that the matter be deferred to the next meeting of Council. It was imperative, he said, that this type of scenario did not occur in the future.

Mr Joe Peoples, Director Housing, Corporate and Cultural Services said that it would be possible to bring a report back to a future meeting of Council. He said that the lease in question was the continuation of an existing lease which the Council had approved previously and that all terms and conditions remained the same.

Cllr Mc Guinness said that as there were no material changes to the lease in question then there was no point in deferring the matter on the basis of the explanation received, but agreed with Cllr O' Domhnaill that in future these should be brought to the Council in advance of the lease expiring. He for one, he contended, would not like to see any disruption for the services in question.

After some debate and the acknowledgement of Cllr Mc Guinness's request that there be no disruption in service, Cllr O' Domhnaill agreed to approve the lease subject to an assurance that future leasing arrangements would be brought before the members for consideration in a timely fashion.

On the proposal of Cllr O' Domhnaill, seconded by, Cllr Mc Guinness, it was resolved to dispose of by way of lease property in the Carndonagh Public Service Centre to Teagasc, in accordance with the provisions of Section 211 of the Planning & Development Act, 2000 (as amended) and Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001.

C/234/17 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 BY WAY OF LEASE PROPERTY IN DONEGAL PUBLIC SERVICE CENTRE TO DONEGAL LOCAL DEVELOPMENT COMPANY LTD.



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

On the proposal of Cllr Campbell, seconded by, Cllr Mc Bride, it was resolved to dispose of by way of lease property in the Donegal Public Service Centre to Donegal Local Development Company Ltd, in accordance with the provisions of Section 211 of the Planning & Development Act, 2000 (as amended) and Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001.

C/235/17 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 BY WAY OF LEASE PROPERTY IN DONEGAL PUBLIC SERVICE CENTRE TO EMPLOYMENT RESPONSE NORTH WEST

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

On the proposal of Cllr Campbell, seconded by, Cllr Mc Brearty it was resolved to dispose of by way of lease property in the Donegal Public Service Centre to Employment Response North West, in accordance with the provisions of Section 211 of the Planning & Development Act, 2000 (as amended) and Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001

C/236/17 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 0.19 HECTARES OF LAND AT MEENAGRAN, BINBANE, FROSSES, CO DONEGAL TO ANTHONY GALLAGHER

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

On the proposal of Cllr Campbell, seconded by, Cllr Mc Brearty, it was resolved to dispose of 0.19 hectares of land at Meenagran, Binbane, Frosses, Co Donegal to Anthony Gallagher in accordance with the provisions of Section 211 of the Planning & Development Act, 2000 (as amended) and Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001

C/237/17 TO APPROVE THE CARRYING OUT OF CONSTRUCTION WORKS TO CONSTRUCT PHASE 3 OF A HOUSING DEVELOPMENT COMPRISING 8 NO SOCIAL HOUSING UNITS, AT RADHARC NA TRÁ BRÉIGE, DRUMCARBIT, MALIN, CO DONEGAL

Members considered the report circulated in relation to the above.

On the proposal of Cllr Mc Dermott, seconded by, Cllr Mc Guinness, the carrying out of construction works to construct Phase 3 of a Housing Development comprising 8 No Social Housing Units at Radharc na Trá Bréige, Drumcarbit, Malin, Co Donegal in the Inishowen Municipal District 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/238/17 TO APPROVE THE CARRYING OUT OF CONSTRUCTION WORKS TO CONSTRUCT PHASE 2 OF A HOUSING DEVELOPMENT COMPRISING 6 NO SOCIAL HOUSING UNITS AT COIS AOIBHINN, ST JOHNSTON, CO DONEGAL.

Members considered the report circulated in relation to the above.

On the proposal of Cllr Crawford, seconded by, Cllr Mc Brearty, the carrying out of construction works to construct Phase 2 of a Housing Development comprising 6 No Social Housing Units at Cois Aoibhinn, St Johnston, Co Donegal in the Stranorlar Municipal District 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/239/17 TO APPROVE THE CARRYING OUT OF CONSTRUCTION WORKS TO IMPLEMENT A SAFETY IMPROVEMENT SCHEME AT THE N56 FOUR LANE ROAD LETTERKENNY, WITHIN THE TOWNLANDS OF DRUMNAHOAGH AND BONAGEE, LETTERKENNY, CO DONEGAL

Members considered the report circulated in relation to the above.

Cllr Brogan advised that he was aware of the interest of a connected person and withdrew from the chamber for the duration of the consideration of this matter.

Cllr Glackin proposed, seconded by Cllr Mc Bride that the carrying out of construction works to implement a safety improvement scheme at the N56 Four Lane Road, Letterkenny within the

townlands of Drumnahoagh and Bonagee in the Letterkenny Municipal District be approved.

Cllr Blaney, on the basis that the works in question were premature, proposed that the works in question should not proceed as they would lead to further traffic congestion in the town. He queried also the status of the proposed works for the new trunk water main from Manorcunningham into Letterkenny and cited the need for ongoing collaboration with Irish Water.

He said he was of the opinion that a reduction in the speed limit along the route in question would be more beneficial and would have a huge impact on the traffic flow generally. The proposed works, he advised, would also have a detrimental effect for rate payers in the vicinity.

Cllr O' Domhnaill seconding the proposal asked if the relevant funding was in place and said that a number of issues needed to be addressed prior to the commencement of works. These included,

- Discussions with Irish Water in relation to the installation of the trunk main and associated timeline.
- Further workshops to discuss and analyse the proposals.
- Greater interaction with the businesses concerned.

He queried whether a right turning lane would be permitted, and whether there were any proposals for further meetings with T.I.I. in relation to the Bonagee Link.

Cllr Canning supported this proposal and said that he was firmly of the opinion that a reduction in the speed limit would be more beneficial at this stage as Letterkenny could not take anymore tailbacks. He queried whether or not there had been consultation with businesses in the Bonagee Business Park , Dry Arch Business Park and in the immediate vicinity of the route.

Acknowledging the fact that there had been 10 minor and 4 major accidents recorded at this location over the last ten years, he queried the relevance of the works in question when towns such as Carrigans which had an accident recorded every 3 weeks or so could not avail of even minor safety improvement works.

Cllr Glackin said that a proactive approach was warranted as Letterkenny continued to expand and that there pros and cons with any enhancements to the roads infrastructure.

Cllr Mc Bride said that the proposal offered a chance to upgrade facilities generally and had been discussed a number of times in workshop format. The level of traffic using this section of road, he advised, warranted immediate safety improvements.

A lengthy debate ensued with Members raising the following issues:-

- Possible effect on businesses in Letterkenny and the ongoing implications as a result of Brexit.
- Implications for traffic movement when the road has to be closed off in accordance with new Garda rules.
- Query as to whether the speed limit had been reduced on this section of road.

Mr John Mc Laughlin, Director Roads & Transportation informed the meeting that there had been four workshops held to date and that the issues highlighted above had been robustly debated.

He confirmed that T.I.I. would shortly be putting up signs reducing the speed limit on this route to 80km per hour. It was noted that there had been ongoing contact with the Minister for Transport in relation to the Bonagee Link.

Mr Mc Laughlin said that for the duration of the works the first three lanes would be open as much as possible and that it was not intended to have the road closed for any significant period of time.

Traffic disruption would, he said, be manageable.

The T.I.I was, he advised, committed to putting money into the project as soon as it was ready to start.

It was noted that works relating to the Bonagee Link would not have much impact on the project as proposed.

The Chief Executive informed members that Letterkenny Chamber of Commerce were supportive overall of the safety and accumulated benefits of the proposed works.

The location of speed vans, he said, was a matter for the Gardai.

Cllr Bonner queried whether the works in question would be carried out at night so as to keep disruption at a minimum.

Members also asked if there was an emergency plan in place to deal with serious traffic incidents that occurred on this stretch of road.

Mr Mc Laughlin said that in the event of a road traffic accident the closure of the road was a matter for the Gardaí.

Concluding, he said, that the right turning lane at the Dry Arch would remain open to allow access to the Dry Arch Business Park and was included as part of the overall proposal.

A show of hands in relation to the adoption of the proposal was then taken by the Meetings Administrator.

This resulted in 12 voting for with 11 voting against.

Thus on the proposal of Cllr Glackin, seconded by Cllr Mc Bride the carrying out of construction works to implement a safety improvement scheme at the N56 Four Lane Road, Letterkenny within the townlands of Drumnahoagh and Bonagee in the Letterkenny Municipal District was approved 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/240/17 TO FILL CASUAL VACANCY ON DONEGAL SPORTS PARTNERSHIP ARISING FROM THE RESIGNATION OF CLLR JACK MURRAY.

On the proposal of Cllr Gallagher, seconded by Cllr Murray it was resolved that Cllr Albert Doherty fill the casual vacancy on Donegal Sports Partnership Ltd arising from the resignation of Cllr Jack Murray.

C/241/17 TO NOTE CHANGE IN THE SECTORAL MEMBERSHIP ON DONEGAL LOCAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Members considered the report circulated in relation to the above and noted that Ms Máire Uí Mhaoláin, Comhar na nOileán had

replaced Ms Noreen Ui Mhaoldomhnaigh as the Comhar na nOileán representative on the Donegal Local Community Development Committee.

C/242/17 TO CONSIDER AND ADOPT THE ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2016 FROM THE AUDIT COMMITTEE IN DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

Members considered the report circulated in relation to the above.

On the proposal of Cllr Mc Garvey, seconded by Cllr Kavanagh it was resolved to adopt the Annual Report for 2016 from the Audit Committee in Donegal County Council.

C/243/17 TO APPROVE 15 YEAR LEASE IN RESPECT OF THE FORMER BUNCRANA TOWN COUNCIL OFFICES.

Members considered the report circulated in relation to the above.

On the proposal of Cllr Donaghey, seconded by Cllr Ryan it was resolved to lease a portion of the former Town Council Offices in Buncrana to a special company (to be set up as an executive function) by Donegal County Council for a period of 15 years to facilitate the development of a Digital Innovation Centre in Buncrana.

Mr John Mc Laughlin, Director Roads & Transportation responding to queries confirmed that it was necessary to have the lease sanctioned and approved in principle so as to avail of the relevant funding mechanisms. The matter, he said, would come back again to members for consideration as soon as further information was available.

C/244/17 MOTION UNDER URGENT BUSINESS

A request in the names of Cllrs Gallagher, Mc Dermott, A Doherty, Conaghan, Murray, Mc Brearty, Mc Daid , Farren, Donaghey, L Doherty, Glackin, O' Fearraigh, Crossan, Mc Garvey, Slowey, Kavanagh, Brogan, Mc Gowan, Crawford, O' Domhnaill and Canning to have the following motion discussed under Standing Order 27 as Urgent Business was placed before the Council:-

*“That this Council call on Minister Ring to immediately streamline the application process to ensure that the leader Programme can be assessed by small community groups.”.*

It was unanimously agreed to consider this motion prior to the end of the meeting.

C/245/17 MOTION UNDER URGENT BUSINESS

A request in the names of Cllrs Mc Bride, Mc Brearty, O' Domhnaill, Canning, Naughton, McDaid, Bonner, Crawford, Mc Gowan and Mc Dermott to have the following motion discussed under Standing Order 27 as Urgent Business was placed before the Council:-

*“ In relation to the Heritage Bill 2016 under consideration, the County Donegal Heritage Forum proposes that Donegal County Council write to the Minister for Culture to express the view that the Heritage Bill 2016 should be amended so that only hedges on the road side of roadside hedges be permitted to be cut during the proposed extended period and that no burning of vegetation be permitted during the proposed extended period.”*

It was unanimously agreed to consider this motion prior to the end of the meeting.

C/246/17 RECEPTION OF DEPUTATION FROM THE DONEGAL LYME AND CO-INFECTION GROUP

Members welcomed the following members of the Donegal Lyme and Co-infection Group:-

- Charlie Harkin, Chairperson
- Nicola Allen, Spokesperson
- Fiona Doogan, Group Member
- Peter Patton, Group Member
- Roisin Mc Geever, Group Member

Ms Nicola Allen addressing members said that Lyme Disease was an infection caused by numerous strains of borrelia a cork shaped bacteria and most commonly spread by ticks and biting insects. The ticks, she said, were found in moist and humid environments i.e. woodlands, grasses, bogs, etc.

People, she added were most likely to come in contact with ticks through farming, forestry, walking ,running, cycling , hiking and camping in an infected area or brushing against infected vegetation.

Information was provided in relation to the symptoms of the disease and related co-infections.

One of the primary aims of the group, she confirmed, was to raise awareness of disease so as to minimise the risk for the general public going forward. This she added needed to be done in conjunction with the statutory agencies namely the HSE and a partnership steering group set up to address the issue. The need for signage on all Council owned land was also highlighted.

Ms Allen said that going forward there were a number of issues that needed addressing including:-

- The necessity of having Lyme disease labelled as a chronic illness.
- Compulsory screening for the disease when blood is being donated.
- Research studies needed to establish what infections were present in the tick population.
- Why Irish Doctors did not accept the results from foreign laboratories.
- Formal recognition of the disease by Irish GPs.
- Explanation needed as to why the Oireachtas had done nothing to address the issues and concerns highlighted above.

The remaining members of the delegation then highlighted their own personal difficulties and struggles to have Lyme Disease officially recognised in Ireland.

The Cathaoirleach thanked the delegation for the moving and informative presentation.

There was general agreement that this was an issue which could be highlighted by the Donegal County Council representatives on the Regional Health Forum at the next appropriate meeting of the forum.

It was further agreed to contact the Minister for Health, Simon Harris T.D. to highlight the plight and difficulties being experienced by those suffering from Lyme disease in Donegal.



Members said that the correspondence in question needed to highlight the fact that Lyme Disease required immediate categorisation as a chronic illness and that blood testing and treatment facilities were required as a matter of urgency.

C/247/17 RECEPTION OF DEPUTATION FROM CONNECTING FOR LIFE DONEGAL 2015-2020

The Cathaoirleach welcomed the members of the Community Implementation Group comprising Mr Liam Ward, Director Community, Culture & Enterprise, Donegal County Council, Ms Anne Sheridan, Health Service Executive, and Ms Susan Mc Laughlin, Foroige.

Mr Liam Ward, Director Community, Culture & Enterprise said that the Connecting for Life Strategy was a national initiative introduced in 2015 with the aim of improving the understanding of and attitudes to suicidal behaviour, mental health and well being within the community. The overall vision it was acknowledged was for a county where fewer lives are lost through suicide, and where communities and individuals are empowered to improve their mental health and wellbeing.

An overview was presented of the strategic goals of the group going forward including the necessity of promoting key actions at local level.

Ms Sheridan advised that the work would be progressed by the key organisations involved and their partner groups.

A number of key statistics were provided including the fact that the suicide rate had increased for males in the 55-64 age bracket and for women in the 35-54 and 65+ age brackets.

An overview of the progress made to date and initiatives undertaken by the Connecting for Life Strategy Group over the past two years were brought to member's attention.

There was recognition also of the strong level of engagement across the various sectors and the need to focus on prevention and early intervention allied to the increasing level of public concern.

It was acknowledged that there were challenges going forward particularly in relation to the geography of the County and the stigma associated with mental health issues.

Members were advised of the need to be suicide alert whilst also using every opportunity to create an awareness of the matter including signing up to and distributing key updates and alerts.

The Cathaoirleach thanked the members of the group for the informative presentation.

During the ensuing debate a number of issues were raised by members who applauded the work carried out to date by the group.

It was suggested that members could promote the initiative through the use and circulation of the Connecting for Life logo on various social media platforms.

Mr Liam Ward, Director Community, Enterprise & Planning Services thanked members for their comments and support and said that it was essential that a positive awareness of the situation was created in order to create a message of hope for all those affected by suicide.

C/248/17 ADJOURNMENT FOR LUNCH

Members unanimously agreed to adjourn the meeting for lunch.

C/249/17 TO APPROVE THE RECOMMENDATION THAT DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL ABANDON THE PUBLIC ROAD IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 12 OF THE ROADS ACT, 1993 AND EXTINGUISH THE PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 73 OF THE ROADS ACT, 1993 AT GALWOLIE, CLOGHAN, CO DONEGAL.

Members considered the report circulated in relation to the above. On the proposal of Cllr Mc Gowan, seconded by Cllr Harley, it was resolved to abandon the public road at Galwolie, Cloghan, Co Donegal in accordance with Section 12 of the Roads Act, 1993 and extinguish the public rights of way in accordance with Section 73 of the Roads Act, 1993.

C/250/17 TO CONSIDER AND NOTE THE DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL AUDITED ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT 2016.

Cllr O' Domhnaill proposed, seconded by Cllr Canning that a Special Meeting of Council be held to discuss the audited annual financial statement for 2016. This document together with the associated Local Government Audit Report on the AFS for 2016 together with the consideration from the Donegal County Council Audit Committee of the AFS 2016, he advised, warranted further discussion.

This, he added, could be accommodated better at a Special Meeting of Council where there would be less time constraints involved.

It was thus resolved to defer this item to a Special Meeting of Council at a time to be agreed later in the meeting.

C/251/17 TO CONSIDER AND NOTE THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT AUDIT REPORT ON THE ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR 2016.

On the proposal of Cllr O' Domhnaill seconded by Cllr Canning it was resolved to defer this item to a Special Meeting of Council at a time to be agreed later in the meeting.

C/252/17 TO NOTE THE REPORT FROM THE DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL AUDIT COMMITTEE ON ITS CONSIDERATION OF THE 2016 AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENT AND AUDIT REPORT FOR 2016 OF DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL AS REQUIRED BY SECTION 121 (3) OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001 (AS AMENDED).

On the proposal of Cllr O' Domhnaill seconded by Cllr Canning it was resolved to defer this item to a Special Meeting of Council at a time to be agreed later in the meeting.

C/253/17 TO NOTE MINUTES OF THE CORPORATE POLICY GROUP MEETING HELD ON 22<sup>ND</sup> MAY, 2017.

Members noted the minutes of the Corporate Policy Group Meeting held on the 22<sup>nd</sup> May, 2017.

C/254/17 ENDORSEMENT OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNTY DONEGAL HERITAGE FORUM HELD ON THE 20<sup>TH</sup> APRIL, 2017.

Members noted the minutes of the meeting of the County Donegal Heritage Forum held on the 20<sup>th</sup> April, 2017.

C/255/17 CONFERENCE REPORTS

On the proposal of Cllr Mc Guinness, seconded by Cllr Kavanagh, the following conference reports were noted:-

**Cllr Terence Slowey**

28<sup>th</sup> Colmcille Winter School held 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> February, 2017 in Gartan, Co Donegal.

**Cllr Terence Slowey**

Messines Commemoration held 7<sup>th</sup> June, 2017 at Mesen in Belgium.

C/256/17

REQUEST FOR PRESENTATION FROM ICBAN

On the proposal of Cllr Mc Brearty, seconded by Cllr Mc Gowan it was resolved that ICBAN be invited to address members in relation to the “National Broadband Plan for Ireland” at 10am on the 25<sup>th</sup> September, 2017 in advance of the September Council Meeting.

C/257/17

SELECTION OF A COUNCIL SPOKESPERSON FOR OUR FISHING INDUSTRY

Cllr Noel Jordan proposed, seconded by Cllr A Doherty that the following motion be adopted:-

"I am asking this Council to select a spokesperson for our fishing industry in the wake of the British Government triggering the withdrawal from the London Fisheries Convention."

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

Donegal having the largest coastline in the country, he said, needed, to be prepared going forward and a dedicated person appointed to liaise with the fishing industry. The primary focus of the Donegal County Council Marine Section over the years, it was noted, had been on piers and harbours and maritime administration.

It was, he confirmed, time for the Council to be seen to respond to the threat to the fishing industry.

Cllr Brogan alluded to the fact that there had already been a number of resolutions passed in relation to the Brexit issue and associated implications for the fishing and other industries in Donegal.

Cllr Mc Guinness outlined the need for a forum to represent fishing interests in the County.

Cllr Brogan thus proposed that the motion be amended as follows:-

I am asking this Council to select a spokesperson for our fishing industry in the wake of the British Government triggering the withdrawal from the London Fisheries Convention and that a working group equivalent to a Strategic Policy Committee be set up to deal with agriculture, fishing, tourism and business matters in light of the Brexit scenario”

There was no opposition to the motion.

He requested also that an update be provided in relation to the outcome of meetings in Brussels regarding the impact of Brexit on the North West Region.

This was duly agreed and the motion amended as outlined above.

Mr Seamus Neely, Chief Executive confirmed that meetings had taken place at European Parliament and Commission level and an update provided as to how Brexit might impact on the North West region. It was hoped, he said, to update members at the September Council Meeting in relation to the outcome of these meetings and initiatives to be pursued under the INTERREG umbrella including territorial co-operation.

The next step, he added, was for the various groupings to agree the membership of the committee and that once formally established there would be an opportunity to see how the Council could promote and represent the fishing industry.

Cllr Jordan said that he was happy with the amendment and thanked all who had contributed to the debate.

C/258/17

CALL FOR A FORMAL REVIEW OF CAR PARKING CHARGES

The following motion proposed by Cllr Barry O’ Neill was not moved.

"That Donegal County Council immediately undertake a formal review of Car Parking charges both on-street and off-street in the towns in which they apply across the County"

C/259/17 SETTING UP OF MEASURES AND SUPPORTS TO ASSIST BUSINESSES ALONG THE WILD ATLANTIC WAY

On the proposal of Cllr Gerry Crawford, seconded by, Cllr Mc Dermott, the following motion was adopted:-

"That this Council in conjunction with the Dept of Tourism & the Dept of Rural and Community Affairs seek to put in place measures and supports to assist start up businesses in addition to supporting where possible existing businesses along the Wild Atlantic Way within the County."

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

He said that it was important for Donegal to capitalise on the success of the Wild Atlantic Way and the benefits extended to all local communities in the county.

He called for the Council to liaise and work with the Department of Tourism and the Department of Community & Rural Affairs to put together an initiative that would create sustainable projects, new business opportunities and employment in areas where it was most needed. Tourism diversification it was acknowledged also needed to be actively pursued.

There was also opportunity, he said, within the drafting of the new commercial rates bill to create such opportunities and give breaks to new and existing businesses so as to create a climate where new enterprise is encouraged and supported.

Funding opportunities under the LEADER Programme, he confirmed, also needed to be explored and utilised by the Council.

Going forward, he outlined, the need for a partnership approach between state departments and the Local Authority so as to get the most benefit out of the Wild Atlantic Way.

Cllr Mc Dermott supporting the motion outlined the need for a proactive approach both at local and national level.

There was no opposition to the motion.

Mr Liam Ward, Director Community, Enterprise & Planning Services acknowledged the contribution from members and said that with the re-establishment of the Enterprise & Skills Sub Committee under the auspices of the Local Economic Development Committee the actions and supports outlined above could be pursued and co-ordinated.

Cllr Crawford welcomed the response and said that a “need to do approach” was required and a positive mindset adopted if local communities in Donegal were to benefit in a meaningful way from the success of the Wild Atlantic Way

C/260/17 IRISH OPEN GOLF EVENT TAKING PLACE IN BALLYLIFFIN IN JULY 2018

It was unanimously agreed to take Items 22 and 24 also at this juncture as they all related to the holding of the Irish Open in Donegal in 2018.

On the proposal of Cllr Martin Harley, seconded by, Cllr Kavanagh, the following motion was adopted:-

*"That Donegal County Council and Donegal Tourism work with all business in Donegal to enable best return and advertising of the county in 2018 and into the future coming from the Irish Open Golf taking place in Ballyliffin in July 2018."*

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

Cllr Harley said that the holding of the Irish Open 2018 in Ballyliffin presented a unique opportunity to showcase Donegal. He paid tribute to Rory Mc Ilroy whose backing had been instrumental in bringing the event to Donegal.

Cllr Kavanagh supported the motion and congratulated all involved with the venture as it offered a fantastic opportunity to promote the county both at home and abroad.

There was no opposition to the motion.

Cllr Harley in conclusion suggested that a promotional video be commissioned to showcase the County prior to the holding of the Irish Open in July 2018.

On the proposal of Cllr Paul Canning, seconded by, Cllr Mc Dermott, the following motion was adopted:-

*"Given the recent news that the Irish Open is coming to Donegal in 2018, I would ask that this Council support a motion that would allow this Council to design and manicure the Roundabouts that are on the main arteries to Ballyliffin Golf Club using a golf theme as the template to promote the event."*

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

He said that this was something that could be done in conjunction with the various golf clubs throughout the County and utilising where possible the services of their many experienced greenkeepers.

Cllr Mc Dermott supporting the motion said that this was an excellent idea and that the opportunity existed to promote not only Ballyliffin but the county as a whole.

There was no opposition to the motion.

Cllr Albert Doherty suggested that an effort be made also to have promotional signage erected on the major roundabouts adjacent to Derry City for the benefit of visitors crossing the border into Donegal.

Mr John Mc Laughlin, Director Roads & Transportation said that additional planting and landscaping could be carried out to show the County in its best light and that consideration could be given to including also some type of monument.

He said that the Implementation Group mentioned earlier would get together early September so that proposals could be developed and costed in tandem with the 2018 budgetary process.

It was noted that arrangements had been made to meet with Mr John Farren, General Manager, Ballyliffin Golf Club.



On the proposal of Cllr Bernard McGuinness, seconded by, Cllr Ryan, the following motion was adopted:-

*"That the Council establish an implementation plan in cooperation with Ballyliffin Golf Club and all other relevant bodies on their hosting of the Irish Open 2018."*

Cllr Mc Guinness congratulated Ballyliffin Golf Club on being selected as the venue for the 2018 Irish Open. This, he said, had been the result of extensive work and preparations over the past number of years.

It was important, he added, that Donegal County Council step up to the mark and set up a dedicated team to liaise and work with the relevant partners to ensure the success of the event and significant coverage for the county. He outlined also the need to explore all funding avenues at Department level and to source additional funding for roads infrastructure in particular. Associated issues such as the funding and continuation of the Foyle Ferry Service, he added, needed further attention and clarification.

It was essential, he added; that a meeting be set up with Ballyliffin Golf Club and all relevant stakeholders as soon as possible.

Cllr Ryan supporting the motion said that there was a major task ahead and that the extensive press coverage generated by the event presented a unique opportunity for Donegal to showcase all that the county had to offer.

There was no opposition to the motion.

Mr Liam Ward, Director Community, Enterprise & Planning Services confirmed that the Council would play its part and assist with the management of the event. There were plans, he confirmed, to engage actively with Ballyliffin Golf Club in relation to the significant logistical challenge that lay ahead.

C/261/17 DONEGAL UNEMPLOYMENT FIGURES FROM THE 2016 CENSUS

On the proposal of Cllr Liam Doherty, seconded by, Cllr Gallagher, the following motion was adopted:-

"That this Council calls on the Government to urgently take action to incentivise job growth and to increase investment in the county with the view to tackling the problem of unemployment as was recently demonstrated by the census data for 2016 which shows that Donegal has a higher unemployment rate than the state average as well as an ageing population."

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

He said that young people had no option but to emigrate given that the County's unemployment rate was over 5% higher than the national average. This, he contended, needed to be addressed as a matter of urgency as the county stood to lose a whole generation of young people to emigration. Training opportunities, it was acknowledged were also limited.

Cllr Gallagher noted that the demography of the county was changing and that intuition and forcefulness was needed now to get investment into the county.

Donegal needed infrastructure, she added, particularly in relation to its rural status. She outlined the need for more community hospitals and the extension of respite services as the age profile of the population increased.

There was no opposition to the motion.

Mr Liam Ward, Director Community, Enterprise & Planning Services said that the Council through the Local Economic Development Committee would strive to implement the objectives contained in the Local Economic and Community Plan for Donegal and alluded to the work being carried out in relation to the creation of a digital hub in Buncrana.

The Council, he confirmed, were also putting significant effort into working with Derry City and Strabane District Council in order to create investment and employment opportunities.

Cllr Doherty welcomed the response provided and said it was imperative that there was ongoing engagement with the IDA and Enterprise Ireland.

C/262/17 PROTECTION OF CONSUMERS FROM EXORBITANT PRICE INCREASES ON INSURANCE POLICIES

The following motion submitted by Cllr Gary Doherty was not moved.

"That Donegal County Council calls on the Government to bring forward legislation to give greater protection to consumers from exorbitant price increases on insurance policies which are above and beyond industry averages."

C/263/17 CALL FOR STAKEHOLDER MEETINGS TO DISCUSS, PROGRESS AND LOBBY IN RELATION TO MAJOR ROADS PROJECTS IN THE COUNTY

On the proposal of Cllr Patrick McGowan, seconded by, Cllr Mc Daid, the following motion was adopted:-

"That this Council seek a immediate meeting between the TII and the TEN-T Network National Primary Road Project Consultants working on the Ballybofey and Stranorlar By-Pass, Lifford to Letterkenny New Realignment National Primary Road, Letterkenny New National Primary Link Road, local councillors, oireachtas members and senior council management to discuss progress and lobby collectively for funding."

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

He welcomed the commitment to advance these projects given the fact that the routes concerned would be directly impacted by Brexit. There was a need, he contended, for balanced regional development. It was important, he added, that a meeting was held as soon as possible with the consultants working on these projects and a request made for all three to be progressed simultaneously.

Cllr Mc Daid supporting the motion concurred with the above and outlined the need for the routes in question to be adequately funded so as to encourage investment into the County. There were implications also, he added, in relation to the ongoing traffic delays in Letterkenny.

There was no opposition to the motion.

Mr John Mc Laughlin, Director Roads & Transportation agreed to follow up in relation to the request for a meeting.

Concluding Cllr Mc Gowan asked that contact be made with the Minister and a meeting be arranged to outline the necessity of funding all three projects simultaneously.

C/264/17 CALL FOR THE INTRODUCTION OF FREE THIRD LEVEL EDUCATION

On the proposal of Cllr Marie Therese Gallagher, seconded by, Cllr Glackin, the following motion was adopted:-

"That this Council call on Central Government and the Minister of Education to introduce free third level education to ensure that all opportunity of access is afforded to our young people regardless of income or post code."

She noted that the costs involved with third level education were creating limitations for young people generally. It was, she confirmed, all about equality of opportunity and at present many young people in the County were being denied the opportunity to pursue the career of their choice.

Cllr Glackin supporting the motion said that such inequalities confined young people from families with limited means to unemployment and certain emigration.

There was no opposition to the motion.

Cllr Gallagher welcomed the support for the motion and cited the need for equal opportunity within all sections of the community.

C/265/17 IMPACTS OF THE DRAFT DONEGAL COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN ON RURAL DONEGAL

The following motion was proposed by Cllr Seamus Ó Domhnaill, and seconded by Cllr Canning:-

"Can this Council discuss the impacts which the Draft County Development Plan will have on rural parts of Donegal if adopted from a point of view of economic development, rural housing guidelines, economic investment into the areas and de-population of rural areas"

Cllr Ó Domhnaill received a response from the Director of Economic , Enterprise, and Planning Services in relation to the above.

He cited the need for the public in general to become more involved in the Donegal County Development Plan Public Consultation process as evidence suggested that there had been limited engagement to date. A plethora of legislation, he contended, was making it more and more difficult to build in rural areas of Donegal. The County, he said, often found itself fighting to gain parity with Dublin and the east coast.

Rural Donegal, he added, was becoming increasingly isolated as industrial development became confined to the major centres of population.

He advised of the need to strengthen the many small towns throughout the County and the necessity of allowing people live and exist in these areas. It posed the question, he said, as to whether rural Donegal was to be sacrificed for city status in the North West region.

This was further compounded, he said, by the fact that Irish Water did not permit extensions to specific infrastructural facilities in rural areas of the County.

Cllr Canning seconding the motion alluded to the fact that the relevant infrastructure was not in place and that the Development Plan if adopted in its current format would encourage urban rather than rural development.

There was no opposition to the motion.

Mr Liam Ward, Director Community, Enterprise & Planning Services said that it was very important that the general public engaged with the consultation process. The concerns raised by Cllr O' Domhnaill and Cllr Canning, he added, would be included with submissions received as a result of the general consultation process and scheduled to finish on the 1<sup>st</sup> September, 2017. There would also, he confirmed, be an opportunity to debate the issues further at workshop and plenary council level.

Cllr O' Domhnaill cited the need to have the issues raised discussed in a more open forum and called on the general public to engage proactively with the process otherwise he said rural Donegal would become decimated through a lack of services, infrastructure and social housing.

C/266/17 CALL FOR THE ABOLITION OF THE NEW BIN CHARGES  
On the proposal of Cllr John Sheamais O'Fearraigh, seconded by, Cllr Glackin the following motion was adopted:-

"That Donegal County Council ask for the new bin charges to be abolished as these place even more of a financial burden on householders."

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

He said that the bin charges should be abolished as they were placing an unnecessary burden on householders and served only to encourage people to dump their waste along the roadside.

There had, he noted, been much talk in relation to the introduction of the new charges but as yet not one of these companies had been invited in to explain the fee structure or indeed comment on the level of employment being created. It was imperative, he added, that these fees were not introduced

Cllr Glackin seconding the motion highlighted the fact that not enough brown bins were being provided and said that all indications were that there would be additional costs involved. Other issues such as damage to the environment and the rise in illegal dumping, he said, needed to be addressed. He cited the need for additional information to be provided in relation to the matter.

There was no opposition to the motion.

Mr Michael Mc Garvey, Director Water & Environment agreed that more information was needed and said that this would be provided to members at MD and plenary level as soon as it became available. It was noted that Donegal County Council had no role in the determination of the charges.

There was no opposition to the motion.

Cllr O' Fearraigh acknowledged the response and called for the Waste Management Companies to be brought in to address members regarding the charge schedule.

C/267/17 PROVISION OF ROAD SIGNAGE AND INFORMATION DIRECTIONS TO THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL (PUBLIC SERVICE CENTRE) TOWNS IN DONEGAL

On the proposal of Cllr Albert Doherty, seconded by, Cllr Murray , the following was adopted:-

"To complement Connectivity, Tourism Promotion and Marketing of the North West City Region that Donegal County Council seek from the Department for Infrastructure and Derry City and Strabane Council et al, the provision of Road Signage and Information directions to the Municipal Council (Public Service Centre) towns in Donegal."

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

He outlined the need for a more coherent and balanced approach to regional development and applauded the efforts of Mr Seamus Neely, Chief Executive, Donegal County Council and Mr John Kelpie, Chief Executive, Derry City and Strabane District Council for their efforts to date in promoting the North West City Region.

There was acknowledgement also of the important role of the ferry services in this equation and the overall implication for the tourist industry in the North West.

He thus advised of the need for directional signage to the Public Service Centre Towns in Donegal and asked that a copy of the resolution be forwarded to the Minister for Tourism, Transport and Sport, Shane Ross T.D. and the Minister of State at the Department of Finance and the Department of Public Expenditure, Mr Patrick O' Donovan T.D.

Cllr Murray supporting the motion said that it needed to be examined also in the context of the Brexit scenario. He asked also that Lifford as the County Town and the headquarters of Donegal County Council be included with the request.

There was no opposition to the motion.

Mr Joe Peoples, Director Housing , Corporate & Cultural Services said that it would be possible to write to all the stakeholders involved but noted that there were a number of agencies involved in the promotion and marketing of the North West Region.

Cllr Doherty said that he was happy to have Lifford as the County Town to be included in any correspondence that issued.

C/268/17 THAT THE FIRE SERVICE BE CALLED SIMULTANEOUSLY WITH THE AMBULANCE SERVICE TO ATTEND CAR ACCIDENTS

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

"To call on this Council to ask the HSE to change their protocol so that when an emergency call is made for an ambulance to attend a car accident that the fire brigade be called out at the same time on all occasions."

Cllr McDermott received a response from the Director of Finance, Information Systems, and Emergency Services in relation to the above.

He said it was imperative that both the Ambulance and the Fire Service were called to the scene of an accident at the same time given the interdependency that existed between both services. There had, he advised, been a number of incidents to date whereby ambulance personnel had to wait for a fire tender to arrive before removing injured persons from the scene of serious car accidents.

Cllr Blaney seconding the motion said that the current protocol was unsatisfactory and could lead ultimately to the loss of life, serious illness and damage to property. He enquired as to the options available to persons dialling 999.

The Chief Executive advised members that in the past there had been more of an opportunity to enter into dialogue with the HSE at local level regarding issues such as this.

He said he would ask the Chief Fire Officer to engage with the HSE. The Donegal Fire Service he said had in the past developed a



practice with the HSE regionally to ensure that a fire brigade is mobilised to all RTC's where attendance is required. Not all RTC's require the attendance of a fire brigade and the Fire Service will continue to mobilise when called to do so by the HSE Ambulance Service.

There was no opposition to the motion.

Cllr Mc Dermott said that very often the Fire Brigade were the last unit to be called to the scene of an accident and asked that every effort be made to address this situation.

Cllr Campbell asked that a copy of the relevant HSE protocols be sought for member's information.

C/269/17 REDRESS SCHEME FOR HOME OWNERS AFFECTED BY DEFECTIVE BLOCKS AND THAT DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL CARRYOUT AN INVESTIGATION OF COUNCIL HOUSING STOCK AND PROPERTIES FOR EVIDENCE OF MICA

It was unanimously agreed to consider Motions 26 and 27 together.

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

*"That Donegal County Council calls on the Government to introduce a redress scheme for home owners affected by defective blocks, without delay."*

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

The report of the Expert Panel on Concrete Blocks in Donegal and Mayo, he said, was in effect a technical overview and made no provision for any form of redress. This, he added, was unsatisfactory given that people's homes were crumbling in front of their eyes.

Cllr Doherty concurred with this and said that members had a responsibility to ensure that everything possible was done to assist those householders affected.

There was no opposition to the motion.

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

*"That Donegal County Council carry out a pro-active investigation of council housing stock and properties for evidence of MICA."*

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

He said it was imperative that all Council Housing Stock was inspected and the results made available.

Supporting the motion, Cllr Doherty said that he had concerns in relation to the walk by evaluation of mica affected houses and asked that a comprehensive examination of Council Housing stock be carried out.

There was no opposition to the motion.

Cllr Mc Guinness said it was essential that a mechanism was found to deal with motions which emanated at MD level and necessitated discussion at plenary level. He noted that in this instance Cllr Murray had forsaken his own submission so that the motion outlined above and sanctioned by all the Inishowen MD members could be brought to the attention of the wider council. He called for a review of Standing orders.

Mr Joe Peoples, Director Housing, Corporate and Cultural Services agreed to look into the matter.

The Report of the Expert Panel on concrete Blocks in Donegal and Mayo, it was acknowledged had outlined a range of technical options for remediation and the means by which technical options could be applied by the affected homeowners in a manner that delivered cost effective and satisfactory outcomes.

Mr Peoples advised that the panel has made a number of recommendations which fell into two broad categories:

- a. Providing technical guidance to homeowners, and
- b. Preventing the problem from recurring again.

In the case of the former the Panel, he said, had made two recommendations in relation to:

1. Testing and Categorisation Protocol,;
2. Competent Professional Oversight.

With regard to the Testing and Categorisation Protocol the Panel, he advised, had recommended that a simple standardised protocol be developed by the National Standards Authority of Ireland to;

- a. Assess and categorise the damage.
- b. Establish the extent of the problem.
- c. Identify the scope of any testing required.
- d. Aid selection of an appropriate remedial solution.

It was noted that the panel had also recommended in the area of competent professional oversight that homeowners should seek the advice of a competent professional where there were concerns in relation to Health and Safety and that the inspection of any proposed remedial works should be monitored by a competent professional.

The Panel, he added, had also has also set out a number of technical options for the remediation of affected dwellings, ranging from demolishing the entire dwelling to the foundation level and rebuilding to taking down the outer leaf of the affected wall only and re-rendering.

The Council it was acknowledged would continue to monitor housing stock particularly from a health and safety perspective and welcomed the recommendation of the Expert Panel with regard to the development of a protocol by the National Standards Authority of Ireland, which, when developed, would enable the Council to make appropriate assessments about the nature of remedial works on a case by case basis.

He said that this would also assist in the preparation of a robust case to the Department for the funding for such works.

Members, he said, were aware of the content of the report issued by the Expert Panel. The Council, he confirmed would work with the Department and assist in the work of the National Standards Authority so as to ensure that Donegal County Council had the relevant knowledge to test its own properties.

The NSA protocol would, he confirmed, give some certainty and protection in relation to the work to be carried out

It was acknowledged that there was a need also for certainty with regard to the recovery of the associated costs.

C/270/17 EXTENSION OF MEETING

On the proposal of Cllr Gallagher, seconded by Cllr Mc Guinness it was resolved in accordance with Standing Order No 28 to suspend Standing Order No 3 and extend the meeting to allow for the completion of the remaining business on the agenda.

C/271/17 INSURANCE COMPANIES AND THEIR TREATMENT OF THE GENERAL PUBLIC

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

"That Donegal County Council contact the relevant minister/s relaying the views of the general public about the manner in which they are being treated by insurance companies (premiums) and ask that the matter be dealt with in the Oireachtas as a matter of urgency to protect all sectors of our society in a reasonable manner."

He said that the assertion by the insurance agencies that premiums were too low was totally inaccurate and that increases over the past year had more to do with corporate profit than anything else. Such increases, he said, were not sustainable and showed zero respect for the customer.

Things, he said, needed to change at national level and he asked that a copy of the resolution be forwarded to Regina Doherty T.D., Minister for Employment & Social Protection, Frances Fitzgerald T.D., Minister for Enterprise & Innovation and Mr Michael Ring T.D. Minister for Community & Rural Affairs.

Cllr Blaney said that the increased premiums were a problem across all sectors of the insurance industry and cited the need for greater regulation of the industry generally.

There was no opposition to the motion.

Cllr Mc Bride thanked members for their support.

C/272/17 CATHAOIRLEACH'S BUSINESS

*Votes of sympathy*

A vote of sympathy was extended to the following:-

- The family of the late Owen Harkin, Water Works Caretaker, Inishowen Water Services.
- Paul O' Donnell, Letterkenny Roads on the death of his mother, Bida O' Donnell.
- Kieran Friel, Waterworks Inspector, Milford on the death of his father Anton Friel.
- Cormac Shaw, Housing, Stranorlar on the death of his father, Chris Shaw.
- Con O' Donnell, Waterworks Inspector, Fintown/ Dungloe on the death of his father, Packie O' Donnell.

*Launch of North West Greenways Project*

Members were informed that the official launch of the North West Greenways Project would take place during the third week in September and that the date would be circulated in due course.

C/273/17 CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT

Members considered the report circulated with the agenda in relation to the above and noted the following items:-

**1. Community, Enterprise & Planning**

- A. LEO - Local Enterprise Office
- B. Malin Head Access & Amenity Improvement Project
- C. All Ireland Rowing Championship 2017 and Donegal Bay Maritime Festival.
- D. Official Opening of Marine Development at Bunagee Pier, Culdaff
- E. Donegal Awarded 'Media's Favourite Place in Ireland' at TravelMedia.ie Awards

**2. Housing, Corporate & Cultural Services**

- A Social Housing through Turnkey Acquisition
- B Donegal Refugee Resettlement Programme

**C Social Housing Developments**

**D Creative Ireland Programme**

**E Library Service:**

- i. Summer Stars Reading Programme
- ii. Wainfest Arts and Book Festival for Children
- iii. Library – physical, virtual and on social media

**F County Arts:**

- I. Earagail Arts Festival
- II. Culture Night & Donegal Bay and Blue Stacks Festival

**G Regional Cultural Centre - 10<sup>th</sup> Birthday Exhibitions**

**H Archives Services - A Trek Through Time: Images from Donegal County Archives**

**I County Donegal Heritage Office:**

- (i) Heritage Week in County Donegal
- (ii) Study of Lime Kilns in County Donegal

### **3. Roads & Transportation**

**A. Major Developments/New Construction on National Roads**

**B. Operation and Network Management on National Roads**

**C. Updates:**

- i. 2017 Road Works Programme
- ii. 3-Year Footpath & Public Lighting Programme
- iii. Recruitment
- iv. Bridge Development
- v. Joe Bonnar Road

**D TII Energy Reducing Public Lighting Scheme Programme 2017**

**E DAFM Fishery Harbour & Coastal Infrastructure Development Programme**

**F Tyrconnail & Fintra Bridge**

**G RMO**

- i. Update
- ii. Road Licensing
- iii. Pavement Management
- iv. Public Lighting

#### **4. Water & Environment**

##### **A Coastal Management**

- i. Water Safety
- ii. Beach Maintenance
- iii. Beach Wheelchairs
- iv. New bespoke bike-stands at beaches
- v. Coca Cola Clean Coast Week

##### **B Public Conveniences**

**C The 2017 Gum Litter Taskforce (GLT) gum litter education campaign**

##### *Bundoran/Ballyshannon Fire Station.*

Cllr Campbell expressed disappointment that the consultants report in relation to Ballyshannon and Bundoran Fire Stations had not yet been completed and queried the need for such a report as it was clear that there was a need for the status quo to remain. He said that there had been no move made to fill the vacancies promised by the Executive and alluded to in the Chief Executive's Report circulated in March, 2017. The Section 26 Plan, he noted, had still not been updated.

The Chief Executive said that it was intended that the Consultants would be engaging with the Donegal MD members in due course and should be in a position to indicate the timeframe for the completion of their report.

He confirmed that the Consultants would also be engaging with fire service personnel in the two Fire Stations concerned.

Cllr Campbell asked to have details circulated about the process involved in recruiting fire service personnel.

*Special Meeting to consider Items 7(A), 7 (B) and 7(C)*

It was agreed that the Special Meeting to consider Items 7(a), 7(b) and 7 (c) would be held at a date to be agreed by the members.

C/274/17 MOTION UNDER URGENT BUSINESS- LEADER PROGRAMME

The following motion submitted earlier in the meeting was unanimously agreed:-

*“That this Council call on Minister Ring to immediately streamline the application process to ensure that the leader Programme can be assessed by small community groups.”*

C/275/17 MOTION SUBMITTED UNDER URGENT BUSINESS – HERITAGE BILL 2016

The following motion submitted earlier in the meeting was unanimously agreed:-

*“In relation to the Heritage Bill 2016 under consideration, the County Donegal Heritage Forum proposes that Donegal County Council write to the Minister for Culture to express the view that the Heritage Bill 2016 should be amended so that only hedges on the road side of roadside hedges be permitted to be cut during the proposed extended period and that no burning of vegetation be permitted during the proposed extended period.”*

**The following questions were noted by members:-**

C/276/17 USE OF DRONE TECHNOLOGY FOR LIFE GUARDING OPERATIONS ON OUR BEACHES

Cllr Gerry Crawford submitted the following question:-



"Will this Council consider using drone technology to assist with life guarding operations on our beaches similar to what is being done by Clare County Council?"

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

C/277/17 PROVISION OF A LIST OF ALL FOOTPATH REPAIRS CARRIED OUT SINCE 2014 AND THE COST OF SAME

Cllr Gary Doherty submitted the following question:-

"Can this Council provide me with a list of all footpath repairs carried out since 2014 and the cost of same?"

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

C/278/17 DETAILS OF THE STREET LIGHTING PROGRAMME

Cllr Patrick McGowan submitted the following question:-

"Please can I have details of the street lighting replacement program with a progress report MD by MD?"

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

C/279/17 COUNCIL ACTION ON MAJOR ISSUES FACING THIS COUNTY

Cllr Patrick McGowan submitted the following question:-

"What is this Council doing to address the major issues facing this County namely rural depopulation, the threats arising from the decentralisation of services, shortage of medical and other essential services and can we draw up a strategic plan to lobby Government in light of the Brexit negotiations so as to ensure that the Donegal region is prioritised for all relevant supports both nationally and at European level given that balanced regional development is one of the key stones of EU Policy?"

Cllr McGowan received a response from the Director of Community, Enterprise and Planning Services in relation to the above.

C/280/17 REQUEST BY CLLR GALLAGHER TO BE FURNISHED WITH THE COUNCIL'S HOUSING CAPITAL PLAN

Cllr Marie Therese Gallagher submitted the following question:-

"Could I be furnished with a copy of the Council's Housing Capital Plan?"

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

C/281/17 PROVISION OF ONE DAY PER MONTH RESOURCE BY THE COUNCIL IN EACH MD TO PUBLIC RELATIONS

Cllr Gallagher submitted the following question:-

"Would this Council consider assigning a day a month resource in each MD to public relations?"

Cllr Gallagher received a response from the Head of Finance, Information and Director of Emergency Services in relation to the above.

C/282/17 BREAKDOWN IN TABULAR FORMAT OF THE OFFICE SPACE OWNED BY DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

Cllr Seamus Ó Domhnaill submitted the following question:-

"Can this Council please provide details in a tabular format as to the amount of office space owned by Donegal County Council on a square metre basis broken down on a Municipal District basis and naming the Buildings concerned, Can the Council also provide details as to the space which is used within Council Buildings by other organisations and name them and also include open spaces or shared spaces which is used by both Donegal County Council and outside organisations. I wish to have the Lifford Barracks, the PSCs, Laboratory, Libraries, and any other offices which are within Council ownership included in this breakdown."

Cllr Ó Domhnaill received a response from the Head of Finance, Information Systems & Director of Emergency Services in relation to the above.

C/283/17 PROGRESS ON CLLR SEAMUS Ó DOMHNAILL'S MOTION FROM SEPTEMBER 2016 IN RESPECT OF DONEGAL MENTAL HEALTH

Cllr Seamus Ó Domhnaill submitted the following question:-

"Can this Council please advise me as to any steps which have been taken to address my motion from September 2016 namely "That this Council set up a forum to discuss Donegal Mental Health and how we as a County can protect and assist our people in accessing help from the appropriate services which they require, I wish for a workgroup to be set up which would invite all bodies within our County to be involved so that the best steps can be taken to reduce the suicide rate in our County". Please answer in terms as to whether a workgroup has been set up, whether all of the mental health bodies have been contacted and particular focus the answer in the knowledge that suicides are at an unprecedented level within our County and urgently needs to be addressed, I feel that Donegal County Council are best suited to bringing the various bodies together and seek guidance and solutions so as to assist with this matter."

Cllr Ó Domhnaill received a response from the Director of Community, Enterprise and Planning Services in relation to the above.

C/284/17 FIGURES FROM KNOCK AIRPORT IN RELATION TO NUMBER OF TOURISTS TRAVELLING ON TO DONEGAL

Cllr John Sheamais O'Fearraigh submitted the following question:-

"Regarding Knock Airport can I be provided with figures for the number of tourists travelling from Knock Airport to Donegal since the investment/financial assistance package was introduced?"

Cllr O'Fearraigh received a response from the Director of Community, Enterprise and Planning Services in relation to the above.

C/285/17 STAFFING NUMBERS PER MD IN THE COMMUNITY AND CULTURE DEPARTMENT

Cllr Martin McDermott submitted the following question:-

"To ask the Council how many staff work in Community and Culture broke down into each MD?"

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

C/286/17 UPDATE ON CLLR BERNARD MCGUINNESS'S MOTION REGARDING SETTING UP A SPECIAL COMMITTEE TO ASSIST EXISTING INDUSTRIES INCLUDING FARMING AND FISHING

Cllr Bernard McGuinness submitted the following question:-

"What is the update on my motion from the last meeting regarding setting up a special committee to assist existing industries including farming and fishing?"

Cllr McGuinness received a response from the Director of Community, Enterprise and Planning Services in relation to the above.

C/287/17 UPDATE ON THE SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENT BETWEEN DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL AND IRISH WATER

Cllr Paul Canning submitted the following question:-

"Can I have an update in relation to the Service Level Agreement and any proposals between Irish Water and Donegal County Council?"

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

C/288/17 BREAKDOWN ON THE COST TO THE COUNCIL OF EACH OF THE SWIMMING POOLS IN THE COUNTY

Cllr Bernard McGuinness submitted the following question:-

"Give a breakdown of the cost to the Council of each of the swimming pools in the county?"

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

C/289/17 CLARIFICATION ON THE REPORT INTO THE PIERS AND SLIPWAYS IN THE COUNTY

Cllr Albert Doherty submitted the following question:-

"Who is conducting and funding the county-wide report relating to the piers and slipways in Donegal. What is the nature and remit of the investigation and when is the report findings and or recommendations due?"

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

C/290/17 NUMBER OF DESIGNATED DISABLED CAR PARKS IN THE COUNTY

Cllr Martin McDermott submitted the following question:-

"To ask the Council how many designated disabled car parks we have in the County?"

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

C/291/17 BREAKDOWN OF THE NUMBERS EMPLOYED IN THE BUILDING CONTROL DEPARTMENT

Cllr Albert Doherty submitted the following question:-

"Who are, and what number of building control officers work or are engaged by Donegal County Council? What number of enforcement actions have the officers carried out under the "Construction Products Directive" since - 1993?"

Cllr Doherty received a response from the Director of Community, Enterprise and Planning Services in relation to the above.

C/292/17 BREAKDOWN OF THE ANNUAL REVENUE FROM FIRE CALL OUT CHARGES OVER THE LAST TEN YEARS

Cllr Jack Murray submitted the following question:-

"Can the Council provide an annual breakdown of the revenue brought in from fire call out charges over the last ten years?"

Cllr Murray received a response from the Director of Finance Information Systems and Emergency Services in relation to the above.

C/293/17 ANNUAL BREAKDOWN OF THE NUMBER OF FIRE CALLOUTS OVER THE LAST TEN YEARS

Cllr Jack Murray submitted the following question:-

"Can the Council provide an annual breakdown of the number of call outs by the fire service over the last ten years?"

Cllr Murray received a response from the Director of Finance, Information Systems and Emergency Services in relation to the above.

C/294/17 UPDATE ON THE CURRENT INVESTIGATION INTO ILLEGAL DUMPING

Cllr Adrian Glackin submitted the following question:-

"Can this Council be updated on where the current investigation into illegal dumping on an industrial scale in Donegal is currently at?"

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

C/295/17 FUNDING FOR THE COMPLETION OF THE LETTERKENNY TO BURTONPORT RAILWAY LINE FOR A WALKWAY/CYCLEWAY

Cllr Michael McBride submitted the following question:-

"Has Donegal County Council identified any possible funding opportunities from Europe to complete the Letterkenny to Burtonport railway line for a walkway/cycleways?"

Cllr McBride received a response from the Director of Community, Enterprise and Planning Services in relation to the above.

C/296/17 MOTIONS FROM OTHER COUNCILS

Members noted the following motions received from other Councils:-

TIPPERARY COUNTY COUNCIL

“That Tipperary County Council calls on the Minister for Health to take the necessary measures to make Regional Health Forum Committees relevant.”

“That this Council calls on the government to extend children’s allowance for parents who have children in Third Level Education but have no access to grants due to their before tax earnings. The extended children’s allowance could be capped at a level which will not be extended to those with very high earnings.”

#### SLIGO COUNTY COUNCIL

That Sligo County Council calls on the Government to prioritise ratifying the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.”

#### SOUTH DUBLIN COUNTY COUNCIL

“Members of South Dublin County Council are calling on the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs Katherine Zappone to increase investment in Early Childhood Care and Education to ensure that children have access to quality, sustainable and affordable childcare with decent pay and conditions for professionals in the sector.

The Council recognises that Early Years Educators are hugely dedicated professionals who care for and educate children during the most crucial years of their development. However the Irish Government lags behind other European countries in terms of how much we invest in Early Years Education. As a result, many qualified professionals are struggling to make ends meet and providers are struggling to stay open.

We call on Minister Zappone to put children first and invest in quality childcare and Early Years Education.”

#### SLIGO COUNTY COUNCIL

“Noting that the Local Government Management Agency (LGMA) is primarily funded by county and city councils, who contribute in excess of €10 million per year to the agency: and noting that the Board of the agency is composed of 11 members (8 Chief Executives of county and city councils, 3 officials from the Department of Housing, Planning and Community and Local Government and no elected representative): and further noting the significant role of the agency in terms of influencing government

policy on local government: and noting that councils and elected councillors are not provided with any information as to the activities of the LGMA: this Council requests the Association of Irish Local Government (AILG) to provide a briefing for elected members module on “The role, funding and activities of the Local Government Management Agency” as part of its annual Training Programme: and further we request the AILG to ensure that an elected councillor will be included as a speaker at the said briefing.”

This concluded the business of the meeting.



