

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE DHUN NA nGALL

Oifig Riarthóir na
gCruinnithe
Aras an Chontae
LEIFEAR
21 Samhain, 2017

FOGRA CRUINNITHE

Beidh Cruinniú Comhairle Chontae Dhún na nGall ar siúl Dé Luain 27 Samhain, 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**

DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

Office of Meetings Administrator
County House
Lifford
21st November, 2017

NOTICE OF MEETING

A Meeting of Donegal County Council will be held on Monday 27th November, 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 the Special Meeting of Donegal County Council held on the 25th September, 2017.
- b. Confirmation of the minutes of the September Meeting of Donegal County Council held on the 25th September, 2017.
- c. Confirmation of the Minutes of the Adjourned September Meeting of Donegal County Council held on the 2nd October, 2017.
- d. Confirmation of the Minutes of the Adjourned September Meeting of Donegal County Council held on the 23rd October, 2017

2. Standards in Public Office Report- Senator Brian Ó' Domhnaill

Investigation by the Standards in Public Office Commission of December 2016, of alleged contravention of the Ethics in Public Office Acts 1995 and 2001 and Part 15 of the Local Government Act 2001- Senator Brian Ó Domhnaill.

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 of by way of renewal of lease of Unsold Affordable Housing Unit at 30 Railway Park, Donegal Town, Co Donegal to STEER Housing Association.
- 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 of SI House at Golan, Milford to Sarah Kelly.
- 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 of plot of land at Newmill Ramelton to Lexie Mortimer.
- 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 by way of lease property in the Donegal Public Services Centre , Drumlonagher, Donegal Town to the Commissioners of Public Works in Ireland.

4. Finance & Emergency Services .

- a) To agree overdraft accommodation of €10 million for full year ending 31st December 2018.
- b) To consider the Three Year Capital Programme for Donegal County Council for the period 2018 – 2020 inclusive.

5. Roads & Transportation

To make the “Donegal County Council (Ballybofey Car Parks) (Amendment) Bye-Laws 2017.

6. Corporate

- a) To approve the Schedule of Council Meetings for 2018.
- b) To note the nomination of Mr Liam Mc Elhinney, to fill the casual vacancy on the Donegal Local Development Company in accordance with Part 6 of the Local Government Reform Act 2014 and Section 128C (3)(b) of the Local Government Act, 2001.

7. Planning

Draft County Donegal Development Plan 2018 – 2024 – Consideration of: 1. The Draft Plan; 2. The Chief Executive’s Report on Submissions Received in respect of the Draft Plan; 3. Additional Non-Material Amendments to the Draft Plan arising pursuant to a Stage 1 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment; and 4. Authorisation to Proceed to Issue Material Alterations.

8. Community & Enterprise

To Consider Report on Joint Delegation from Donegal County Council, Letterkenny Institute of Technology (LYIT) and Údarás na Gaeltachta to Dujiangyan City, Chengdu Neusoft University Chengdu, Sichuan Province, People's Republic of China from Sept 18th to Sept 23rd 2017.

9. Attendance at Conference, Seminar or Event

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

Conferences

- Housing Agency Seminar, Bedford Hall, Dublin Castle to be held Tuesday the 28th November, 2017
- Celtic Conferences – A practical guide to Budget 2018 to be held from Friday 8th to Sunday 10th December, 2017 at the Clonakilty Hotel, Clonakilty, Co Cork.
- Elected Member’s Training Seminar – Local Authorities and Regional Assemblies Managing Executive Governance to be held Friday 15th and Saturday 16th December, 2017 at the Connacht Hotel, Dublin Road, Galway.
- Celtic Conferences ODCE/Office of the Director of Corporate Enforcement to be held from Thursday 21st to Saturday 23rd December, 2017 in the Clonakilty Hotel, Clonakilty, Co Cork.

MOTIONS

GLENTIES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

Corporate

10. Cllr John Sheamais O’ Fearraigh

"That Donegal County Council write to the Department of Education and the Minister for Education to include Community Schools in the DEIS Programme."

11. Cllr Seamus O’ Domhnaill

"That this Council call on the General Manager of Letterkenny University Hospital and the Regional Chief Officer of the HSE to meet with the members of Donegal County Council to discuss the chaotic situation that is presiding in Letterkenny University Hospital and the Accident & Emergency Department in Letterkenny University Hospital as well as the poor ambulance response times being experienced in some parts of this County, and that they discuss with us how they are going to tackle these massive problems in our County that affect peoples lives on a daily basis."

Housing

12. Cllr Enda Bonner

"That Donegal County Council finalizes all purchases under the Tenant Purchase Scheme that were applied for without further delay."

Community & Enterprise

13. Cllr Marie Therese Gallagher

"That Donegal County ensure that all resources that are required to bring the Burtonport-Letterkenny Greenway to application stage for capital funding are put in place to ensure that this vital amenity and economic driver is delivered for this County."

14. Cllr M Choilm MacGiolla Easbuig

Go ndéanfaidh Comhairle Contae Dhún na nGall comharthaíocht úr mhór a dhearadh agus a a chur suas le ceantracha Gaeltachta na condae a fhógairt agus a chur chun cinn, sa dóigh is go mbeidh cuairteoirí agus turasóirí chuig an Ghaeltacht ar an eolas faoin oidhreacht bheo speisialta teanga san áit a bhfuil siad ag dul isteach ann, agus le go spreagfaí muintir na Gaeltachta an teanga agus a bhféiniúlacht ar leith Gaeltachta a choinneáil beo. Ba chóir go mbeadh a leithéid de chomharthaíocht iontach feiceálach, agus ba chóir go ndéanfaí lógó agus mana spreagúil a dhearadh agus a chumadh go speisialta fána choinne, i gcomhar leis na pobail éagsúla sa Ghaeltacht agus i gcomhar le háisineachtaí eile a mbainfeadh seo leo.

That Donegal County Council design and erect large signage to properly demarcate and promote the Gaeltacht areas of the county, so that visitors and tourists are aware of the unique, living, linguistic heritage of the area they are entering, and local Gaeltacht residents are inspired to keep the language and their Gaeltacht identity alive. Such signage should have a strong visual impact, and include a specially designed logo and motto in consultation with the various Gaeltacht communities and other relevant agencies.

INISHOWEN MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

Housing

15. Cllr Martin McDermott

"To call on this Council to contact Minister Damien English and ask him to prioritise commitments he made for the provision of social housing for residents of Mica affected houses, where their homes are at a stage that they are unsafe to live in."

Planning

16. Cllr Paul Canning

"Given the lack of infrastructure for the treatment of effluent within the majority of our small towns and villages, I would ask that this council puts in place a plan that will:

- Zone areas within Part C: Objectives and Policies of the towns, within this proposed development plan 2018-2024. that will facilitate future treatment systems and reed beds etc.
- Prioritise the need for investment in proper treatments systems within these towns
- Put in place proposals with a full set of costings per town in order to provide a road map going forward for future investors”.

Community & Enterprise

17. Cllr Albert Doherty

"That Donegal County Council acknowledge,

a)The validity of the Pobal HP Deprivation Index for Small Areas and its primary role in shaping, guiding and monitoring public policies for an inclusive and sustainable society

b)Analyse the findings, results for County Donegal of the three dimensions of affluence/disadvantage identified, Demographic Profile, Social Class Composition and Labour Market Situation.

c)Forward related evidenced data that highlights and demands from government interest and investment in the economic, social, cultural and environmental needs in Donegal and the Rural NW of Ireland."

LETTERKENNY MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

Planning

18. Cllr Ciaran Brogan

"I propose that this Council revert back to having planning based in each Municipal District so as to understand the needs of each area and to get a better understanding of the challenges and opportunities in each district making the service more available to applicants".

19. Cllr John O'Donnell

"Calling on this Council to remove the internal layout of all dwellings and commercial premises from the planning website and to request all other County Councils to do the same as this is a very easy way for burglars to obtain the layout of any premises. If anyone wants to view these layouts they must request them and log their details with the department."

Roads & Transportation

20. Cllr Ian Mc Garvey

“That this Council look for specific funding for the N14 to deal with road conditions along this route namely road width and trees that are a safety issue for road users”.

Corporate

21. Cllr Michael McBride

"That Donegal County Council write to the Minister for Justice asking for an increase in Garda numbers in Donegal as a matter of urgency"

22. Cllr Adrian Glackin

"I wish to condemn the current underfunding of services in Letterkenny University Hospital and ask that this Council writes to the Minister for Health to increase funding for Letterkenny University Hospital to re-open the short stay ward, reduce waiting lists and alleviate the current crisis of overcrowding and people on trollies".

DONEGAL MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

Roads & Transportation

23. Cllr Barry O’Neill

"That this Council discuss and review the Car Parking charges in the towns where they apply at present across the County."

24. Cllr Micheál Naughton

"That this Council would request a meeting with Michael Ring TD, Minister of Rural & Community Development in relation to getting extra funding for the LIS scheme for Donegal. The funding received in 2017 is inadequate for the number of applications received".

Corporate

25. Cllr Noel Jordan

"That Donegal County Council calls on Department of the Marine to ensure that a planned new mechanism for the imposition of penalty points for the fishing industry does not discriminate against fishermen by unfairly impacting on their livelihoods; and to give a guarantee that any such new mechanism will allow for recourse to the justice system."

STRANORLAR MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

Corporate

26. Cllr Gary Doherty

"That Donegal County Council call on the Government to adequately invest in mental health services to tackle the chronically high suicide rate in Ireland, including the teen suicide rate which is the fourth highest in the European Union."

Water & Environment

27. Cllr Patrick McGowan

"That this Council devise a method of streamlining many of the community grants especially in the Environment Section to help groups with scarce resources save time on form filling etc."

28. Cathaoirleach's Business

29. Chief Executive's Monthly Management Report

QUESTIONS

GLENTIES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

Housing

30. Cllr Enda Bonner

"What was the number of county-wide Tenant Purchase applications and what are the eligible numbers who applied?"

31. Cllr Enda Bonner

"What is the total number of applications at present for Council Houses in the County?"

32. Cllr M Choilm MacGiolla Easbuig

"Cá mhéad saothraí oilte atá fostaithe chun tithe a chothabháil in achan Cheantar Bardais agus cén costas atá i gceist leis an fhostaíocht seo?"

"How many skilled labourers are employed in housing maintenance in each MD and what costs are associated with this employment?"

33. Cllr Seamus O'Domhnaill

"Has this Council got a timeframe for how long it should take to turn a vacant Council House around to be in a position to be re-let?"

Corporate

34. Cllr Seamus O'Domhnaill

"Can I receive a copy of the workforce plan document which was drawn up by this Council and be advised as to how it has been adopted?"

Community & Enterprise

35. Cllr M Choilm MacGiolla Easbuig

"An dtig liom cóip den phlean fórsa oibre a d'ullmhaigh an Chomhairle seo a fháil, agus eolas a fháil ar cén dóigh ar glacadh leis?"

"Can Donegal County Council please provide me with a breakdown of the specific actions taken by our Enterprise Section to implement my motion on promotion of the co-operative business model?"

INISHOWEN MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

Housing

36. Cllr Martin McDermott

"How many S.I. houses have the Council built in the last 3 years?"

Community & Enterprise

37. Cllr Jack Murray

"Can this Council outline the extent of its role in assisting the preparations for the Irish Open in Ballyliffin next year, and further outline future plans on same?"

Roads & Transportation

38. Cllr Paul Canning

"Have we any proposals in relation to the Roundabouts promoting the arrival of the Irish Open to our County?"

Corporate

39. Cllr Martin Mc Dermott

"How many outdoor road staff are there in each MD, broke down per each Engineer?"

Water & Environment

40. Cllr Jack Murray

"Has this Council received any feedback from Irish Water regarding the upgrade of wastewater infrastructure in strategic towns around the County?"

41. Cllr Paul Canning

"Has any approach been made to this Council from Irish Water about road openings or road works insofar as upgrading the water pressure in certain towns prior to taking the water from the Fullerton Dam to Letterkenny?"

42. Cllr Albert Doherty

"How many e car charge points are in Co. Donegal and where are they located? Who or what service is responsible for the publicity, promotion of use and service to e car charge points?"

Finance

43. Cllr Albert Doherty

"2016/21 Capital Investment Plan (mid term review) and 10 Year National Investment Plan. What Council infrastructural proposals, costings and requirements have been submitted to the Department for Public Expenditure and Reform for inclusion in the Capital Investment Plan and National Investment Plan?"

LETTERKENNY MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

Information Systems

44. Cllr Adrian Glackin

"Could I please have an update on the roll out of broadband in the County"?

Cultural Services

45. Cllr Jimmy Kavanagh

"Have the council specific plans for the recent allocation to the library service in the County?"

Roads & Transportation

46. Cllr Ciaran Brogan

"Can I have a report on the proposed works schedule for the much welcomed construction to start on the N56 Coolbuoy to Kilmacrennan (Blue Banks) and the timeframe for same?"

Corporate

47. Cllr Ian Mc Garvey

“What happened to the Donegal County Council Rail Committee?”

DONEGAL MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

Housing

48. Cllr Barry O’Neill

"What amount of money is being paid by Donegal County Council for rental of properties for services and can a full list/breakdown be furnished?"

49. Cllr John Campbell

To ask the Director of Housing to provide a breakdown by Municipal District in tabular form outlining how many local authority houses have had; 1) cavity wall insulation; 2) attic insulation; 3) door & window replacement; improvements carried out under the department's energy efficiency programme and how many remain to be done in each category of works?

50. Cllr Micheál Naughton

"Can I request to get a list of private owned properties that is either leased or rented by Donegal County Council and the cost associated with each?"

Finance

51. Cllr John Campbell

"To ask the Director of Finance to provide an analysis in tabular form in relation to rates arrears to indicate the following:

- 1) The number of accounts comprising arrears accrued in 2014
- 2) The number of accounts comprising arrears accrued in 2015
- 3) The number of accounts comprising arrears accrued in 2016

And to further breakdown each category 1-3 by status to indicate the following:

- A) number of accounts where settlements are agreed/pending/being discharged by instalment
- B) number of accounts related to a business in liquidation/receivership/ceased trading
- C) number of accounts subject to revisions/appeals/VTA
- D) number of accounts where a six day notice has been issued
- E) number of accounts referred to county solicitor

- F) number of accounts subject to court proceedings
- G) number of accounts where court judgement has been obtained"

Community & Enterprise

52. Cllr John Campbell

"To ask the Director of Community Enterprise and Planning to provide a summary of the actions/initiatives/events undertaken by our Enterprise Section in 2017 to encourage business start up in Donegal".

STRANORLAR MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

Community & Enterprise

53. Cllr Gary Doherty

"Can this Council carry out a feasibility study on future potential Greenway routes including the route from Lifford/Strabane through to Barnesmore Gap?"

54. Cllr Gary Doherty

"Following a welcome increase in the Tourism Budget over the last number of years, can this Council provide a breakdown of where this funding was spent for each of the years 2014 - 2017?"

Housing

55. Cllr Patrick McGowan

"Please can the Council give details of the number of people with disabilities who are on the Council housing list, what is their average time on the waiting list and is there a priority mechanism in place to fast track disabled applicants?"

Roads & Transportation

56. Cllr Patrick McGowan

"Has the Council any plans to spread out the number of road staff across the County considering the very big imbalance between some areas?"

57. **Motions from Other Councils/Bodies**

CLARE COUNTY COUNCIL

"In the backdrop of our national housing emergency and the stresses experienced by so many at risk of homelessness due to mortgage distress, that Clare County Council call on An Taoiseach to support

enactment by the Oireachtas of the National Housing Co-op Bill 2017 to provide for the establishment of an Industrial & Provident Society to be called the National Housing Co-operative Society with the mandate and powers to acquire, manage, rent or sell distressed mortgages so that the occupants of houses can move from the status of distressed mortgagor by means of “rent and mortgage” and that this Clare County Council Motion once passed, be copied to all other local authorities encouraging their adoption of similar such motion.”

“That Clare County Council call on the Minister for Social Protection to reverse the unfair and discriminatory policy of penalising home makers that took some time out to care for their family prior to 1994 and to address the Austerity measure that penalised approximately 35,000 people, mainly women, that was brought in by the Government on 6th April 2012 concerning Contributory Pension Entitlements and if the motion is agreed that the request be sent to the Minister and also circulated to all other Councils.”

KILKENNY COUNTY COUNCIL

“That Kilkenny County Council writes to the Minister of Health Simon Harris, the Minister for Education Richard Bruton and the Minister for Children & Youth Affairs Katherine Zappone to put into consideration collectively a compulsory training program of occupational first aid training for all teachers and SNAs that are physically capable to provide CPR, in both primary and secondary schools throughout Ireland. In consideration with recent statistics – 15 people a day die from sudden death syndrome and 125 people die a year from choking. We believe that this responsibility lies with all 3 ministers as in education, health and putting children first.”

WEXFORD COUNTY COUNCIL

“Wexford County Council calls on the government to immediately implement the Private Members Motion which was unanimously passed in November 2016 regarding rural post offices that will ensure a financially stable Post Office network and the protection of this vital service in our communities.”

TIPPERARY COUNTY COUNCIL

“I am calling on the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport to reintroduce the Urban Road Minor Improvement Grant as the loss of same has caused significant deterioration to the urban roads in towns in the County of Tipperary.”

MONAGHAN COUNTY COUNCIL

“That Monaghan County Council fully supports and endorses the SIPTU Big Start/Early Years Campaign objectives of adequate investment in the early years sector to deliver quality and affordable childcare with decent pay for highly qualified early years professionals, to secure quality early years care and education services for children 6 months – 5 years that are accessible, affordable and support parents/families to promote children’s health, well being, learning and development in line with quality standards.”

BALLINA MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

“That Mayo County Council (Ballina Municipal District) calls on the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine and the Department of Agriculture to take immediate action to deal with the problems caused by the spread of ragwort and to implement the existing laws to deal with the problem and call on the Minister to put in place an incentive scheme to encourage farmers and other landowners to take action to deal with this very serious problem. Ballina Municipal District further calls on Mayo County Council who are in serious breach of the Noxious Weeds Act to take action to contain the prevent the spread of ragwort and other noxious weeds. The Council also calls on the Minister to update the Noxious Weeds Act 1936 to make it relevant in the present time. That this Motion is circulated to all local authorities for their support and also to the IFA and Irish Creamery Milk Association”

LEITRIM COUNTY COUNCIL

“That Leitrim County Council call on the Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government Eoghan Murphy TD to ban the use of glyphosate weed killers in all public areas in our thirty-one local authorities.”

“That Leitrim County Council call on the Department and the Minister Mr Eoghan Murphy TD, to review the terms and conditions of the Housing Grant Scheme to allow Local Authorities to use discretion in the awarding of house repair grants for older people. In the case where an applicant has transferred ownership of their home over to one of their children, but they will still continue to live in their home for the rest of their days, that they would be entitled to apply for and received grant approval for works on the merits of their own income.”

LIMERICK CITY AND COUNTY COUNCIL

“That, the Government put in place one Agency with full responsibility for the maintenance/repair/upkeep of all our rivers and streams.”

OFFALY COUNTY COUNCIL

“That this Council calls for a complete overhaul for how our Social Housing Programme is administered by Department.

We suggest that a Capital Housing Allocation (possible multi annual) be made available to each Council each year for the provision of suitable accommodation either to a new build or purchase to meet the needs of our ever growing waiting lists.

The present system has failed as is evidenced by the length of waiting lists in every Council area. We have successive Ministers blaming Councils for failing to provide houses, while their Department exert unbelievable bureaucratic control of every stage of building process from land purchase to approval of Tenders.

Propose that this motion be circulated to all Councils”.

MINUTES OF NOVEMBER MEETING OF DONEGAL COUNTY
COUNCIL, HELD IN THE COUNTY HOUSE, LIFFORD ON 27TH
NOVEMBER, 2017

C/408/17 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, G Doherty, L Doherty, R Donaghey, M Farren, M T Gallagher, A Glackin, M Harley, N Jordan, J Kavanagh, N Kennedy, M C Mac Giolla Easbuig, F McBrearty, M Mc Bride, M McDermott, I Mc Garvey, P McGowan, B McGuinness, J Murray, M Naughton, S O'Domhnaill, J O'Donnell, J S O'Fearraigh, B O'Neill, J Ryan and T Slowey.

C/409/17 OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE

Seamus Neely, Chief Executive, Joe Peoples, Director of Housing, Corporate and Cultural Services / Meetings Administrator, John McLaughlin, Director of Roads & Transportation, Liam Ward, Director of Community, Enterprise & Planning Services, Michael Mc Garvey, Director of Water & Environment, Garry Martin, Director of Finance , Information Systems & Emergency Services, Anne Marie Conlon, Communications Officer, Rosemary Mc Clafferty, Staff Officer, Anne Marie Crawford, Staff Officer.

C/410/17 CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL HELD ON THE 25TH SEPTEMBER, 2017 IN THE COUNTY HOUSE , LIFFORD.

On the proposal of Cllr Mc Bride, seconded by Cllr Harley, the minutes of the Special Meeting of Donegal County Council held on the 25th September, 2017 were adopted.

C/411/17 CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER MEETING OF DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL HELD ON THE 25TH SEPTEMBER, 2017 IN THE COUNTY HOUSE, LIFFORD

On the proposal of Cllr Mc Garvey, seconded by Cllr Harley, the minutes of the Special Meeting of Donegal County Council held on the 25th September, 2017 were adopted.

C/412/17 CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE ADJOURNED SEPTEMBER MEETING OF DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL HELD ON THE 2ND OCTOBER, 2017

On the proposal of Cllr Kennedy, seconded by Cllr Crawford, the minutes of the Adjourned September Meeting of Donegal County Council held on the 2nd October, 2017 were adopted.

C/413/17 CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE ADJOURNED SEPTEMBER MEETING OF DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL HELD ON THE 23RD OCTOBER, 2017

On the proposal of Cllr Mc Garvey, seconded by Cllr Harley, the minutes of the Adjourned September Meeting of Donegal County Council held on 23rd October, 2017 were adopted.

C/414/17 INVESTIGATION BY THE STANDARDS IN PUBLIC OFFICE COMMISSION OF DECEMBER, 2016, OF ALLEGED CONTRAVENTION OF THE ETHICS IN PUBLIC OFFICE ACTS 1995 AND 2001 AND PART 15 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001 – SENATOR BRIAN Ò DOMHNAILL

The Cathaoirleach informed Members that a legal issue had arisen and that the item in question was being deferred to a later date.

C/415/17 RENEWAL OF LEASE OF UNSOLD AFFORDABLE HOUSING UNIT AT 30 RAILWAY PARK DONEGAL TOWN TO STEER HOUSING ASSOCIATION.

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

On the proposal of Cllr Conaghan, seconded by Cllr Kennedy, it was resolved to dispose of by way of renewal of lease unsold affordable housing unit at 30 Railway Park, Donegal Town in accordance with the provisions of Section 211 of the Planning & Development Act, 2000 (as amended) and under Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001(as amended).

C/416/17 DISPOSAL OF SI HOUSE AT GOLAN, MILFORD TO SARAH KELLY.

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

On the proposal of Cllr McBride, seconded by Cllr Blaney, it was resolved to dispose of an S.I. House at Golan, Milford to Sarah Kelly in accordance with the provisions of Section 211 of the Planning & Development Act, 2000 (as amended) and under Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001(as amended).

C/417/17 DISPOSAL OF PLOT OF LAND AT NEWMILL, RAMELTON TO LEXIE MORTIMER.

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

On the proposal of Cllr McGarvey, seconded by Cllr Blaney, it was resolved to dispose of a plot of land at Newmill, Ramelton to Lexie Mortimer in accordance with the provisions of Section 211 of the Planning & Development Act, 2000 (as amended) and under Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001 (as amended).

C/418/17 DISPOSAL BY WAY OF LEASE PROPERTY IN THE DONEGAL PSC, DRUMLONAGHER, DONEGAL TOWN TO THE COMMISSIONERS OF PUBLIC WORKS IN IRELAND

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

On the proposal of Cllr Conaghan, seconded by Cllr Jordan, it was resolved to dispose of, by way of lease property in the Donegal PSC, Drumlonagher, Donegal Town to the Commissioners of Public Works in Ireland in accordance with the provisions of Section 211 of the Planning & Development Act, 2000 (as amended) and under Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001 (as amended).

C/419/17 TO AGREE OVERDRAFT ACCOMMODATION OF €10 MILLION FOR FULL YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER, 2018

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

After due consideration, it was resolved, on the proposal of Cllr Bonner, seconded by, Cllr Kennedy, in accordance with section 106 of the Local Government Act, 2001 and subject to the sanction of the Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government that:-

- a. It is in the best interests of the Council and in line with its statutory rights and obligations to avail of the facility and provide the Guarantee up to and amount of ten million euro (€10,000,000);
- b. Accordingly, the Council agrees to avail of the Facility and provide the Guarantee;
- c. Each of the persons undertaking the roles of Donegal Chief Executive and the Head of Finance from time to time be authorised, together and separately, to negotiate the terms of each of the

facility letters put, and to be put, in place to document the Facility (each, a “Facility Letter” and together, the “Facility Letters”), together with any amendments or variations to the Guarantee or replacement Guarantee, and to sign each such Facility Letter and Guarantee by way of acceptance of the terms of such document (including, without limitation, all terms and conditions referred to in each such Facility Letter) and that each such signed Facility Letter and Guarantee shall be fully binding on, and enforceable against, the Council; and.

d. The Council ratifies the availing of the Facility by the Council, within the limits specified, and confirms the execution of all Facility Letters together with the Guarantee.

C/420/17 TO CONSIDER THE THREE YEAR CAPITAL PROGRAMME FOR THE PERIOD 2018 – 2020

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

Mr Garry Martin, Director of Finance, Information Systems and Emergency Services outlined the main aspects of the report.

The proposed €95,898,740 capital spend was, he said, conditional on a number of factors, namely the allocation and availability of funding, loan sanction approval from the DHPLG and the Council’s capacity to match fund. A detailed breakdown of the projected spend by Directorate was provided.

A lengthy debate ensued with members highlighting a number of issues namely:-

- That a more ambitious Housing Programme was needed.
- The Buy and Renew Initiative needed to be actively promoted.
- A breakdown was requested in relation to proposed housing works for 2018.
- Social Housing Stock needs improving and updating.
- Additional funding needs to be made available centrally.
- There had been a number of problems with the 2017 LIS allocations.
- Highlighted need for meeting with the Minister in relation to Greencastle Pier.

- Update sought in relation to the operation of Recycling Centres throughout the County. To be to be provided through the MD structure.
- Requested that reference be made in the plan regarding the provision of support for Buncrana Leisure Centre. Inishowen MD Members to be notified when meeting with Buncrana Leisure Centre Committee is taking place.

C/421/17 ADJOURNMENT FOR LUNCH

On the proposal of Cllr Mc Monagle, seconded by Cllr Brogan it was resolved to adjourn the meeting until 2pm.

C/422/17 TO CONSIDER THE THREE YEAR CAPITAL PROGRAMME FOR THE PERIOD 2018 – 2020

On resumption the Directors of Service responded in detail to a range of issues raised by the members.

Mr Joe Peoples, Director Housing, Corporate & Cultural Services informed members that the Capital Housing Programme was an indicative programme for the next three years and that it was hoped that the Council would be in a position to add to the plan over the period in question.

It was noted that the Council did have a good land bank and that this could be utilised going forward. He said that it was intended to go to the market again in terms of Turnkey Acquisition.

With regard to social housing affected by mica, the Council would, he advised, await the report from the Expert Panel regarding the test protocol so that it would be in a position to estimate the nature and extent of the works required. At that point, he said, the Council would be making a case to the Department of Housing , Planning & Local Government for funding for essential remedial works.

Regarding the lack of housing development in Lifford, Mr Peoples confirmed that lands earmarked for that purpose had proved unsuitable and that it was now intended to go back to the market in terms of Turnkey accommodation.

Mr John Mc Laughlin, Director Roads & Transportation advised of the following:-

- That monies for Dunfanaghy Car-Park had been included in the Revenue Budget partly under development contribution monies and in the 2018 Town and Village Programme.
- With regards the marine provision it was noted that matching funding would have to be provided should the relevant capital funding become available.
- It was acknowledged that the Bridge Programme was a rolling one and provided for those along regional local roads.
- Only one grant source was available for the provision of crash barriers and that works relating to same would have to be prioritised.
- No major funding had been provided for piers in the last number of years.

Mr Mc Laughlin acknowledged member's comments in relation to Rannagh Pier, Rathmullan Pier and a number of piers in the North Inishowen area. It was noted that there was a need for additional funding and increased co-operation with Roinn na Gaeltachta.

- If a case was to be made for roads used by the agricultural sector then a special request would have to be made to the Department of Transport.
- The Mountcharles to Inver Road was included in the capital programme but that a new line needed to be opened up if the project was to be taken to 5 Points. This it was acknowledged was something that could be discussed by the delegation scheduled to meet with the T.I.I on the 30th November.
- Noted that match funding would need to be found if the Department put up the €10m for Greencastle Harbour.
- Tirconaill Bridge would be dealt with as a revenue project.
- Remedial works costs in relation to flood relief are a matter for the OPW.

Cllr Mc Brearty queried whether it was possible to pass a resolution giving members greater input into the LIS process.

Mr Liam Ward, Director Community, Enterprise & Planning informed members of the following:-

- That there was specific reference in the 2018 Budget Book to Greenways including the provision of staff resources to deal with applications in 2018.

- It was anticipated that the Mountain Path works at Sliabh Liag would be completed by year end and that the only outstanding work at this stage was the establishment of a local committee. General indications were he said, that the first meeting of the committee would take place in the first quarter of 2018.
- That €100,000 had been provided for the provision of a foul pumping station at Gleann Rua Housing Estate in Letterkenny.
- Positive advances were being made regarding the takeover of eight estates in the Ballybofey/Stranorlar area with 15 more identified for progression in 2018. Update on same to be provided at MD level
- The Designated Urban Centres Grant Scheme had provided €1m of funding for a Social Enterprise Building, improved town centre linkages and works on the Joe Bonner Link Road with €1m match funding to be provided from the Council's own resources.
- The €270,000 provided in respect of Malin Head was related to the overall masterplan for the area.
- Confirmed that DCS monies were not specific to the area in which they were collected.
- Monies confirmed under the 2017 Town and Village Renewal Scheme would be spent in 2018 with increased funding expected in 2018.
- The Community & Enterprise Section would work with all relevant community groups to progress a number of Greenways routes in 2018.
- Agreed to explore funding options for Blueways development in 2018.
- Projects related to Bliain na Gaeilge were not catered for under the Capital Programme. It was confirmed that should specific obligations arise the Council would not be found wanting.

Mr Garry Martin, Director Finance, Information Systems and Emergency Services said that there was ongoing engagement between the Council and the Management of Buncrana Leisure Centre. A detailed business submission had been received, he said, but this required further consideration.

Regarding Development Charges, he confirmed that these were accounted for on a cash basis as per audit recommendations and allocated to the various services where they were made available to co-fund various projects at MD level on an equitable basis.

Resources for the Fire Services on Tory and Arranmore had, he confirmed, been examined in the context of the Section 26 Plan. This, he advised, still had to be approved by the members and as such it would have been premature to include reference to same in the Capital Budget given that specific requirements still had to be defined.

999 calls, he said, were routed through CAMP WEST a 24 hour Fire and Ambulance Control Centre in Castlebar and if non fire rerouted to the relevant service.

Mr Michael Mc Garvey, informed members that a number of Sewerage Treatment Plants were being progressed in the County noting particularly the works in Mountcharles and Greencastle. Going forward he confirmed it was intended that there would be continuing engagement with the members and Irish Water in terms of the Irish Water Capital Investment Plan.

He advised that there would be continuing focus on the takeover of Group Water Schemes and that a staffing resource would be in place to deal with this process for the next three years.

With regard to Recycling Centres it was confirmed that the present contract was in the process of being reviewed with the aim of upgrading the current service levels. It was agreed that an update would be provided at MD level when this was completed.

An expression of interest, it was confirmed, had been received regarding public toilet facilities in Ballybofey with continuing engagement taking place in relation to the facilities in Moville.

Funding identified in the report for coastal erosion and protection measures it was acknowledged excluded external funding for such structures. It was acknowledged that there was ongoing positive engagement between Donegal County Council and the OPW.

There was confirmation also that a commitment had been sought from the Department of Housing, Planning & Local Government for exceptional grant funding to complete the landfill restoration at Balbane.

It was agreed to notify the Inishowen MD members in relation to the upcoming meeting with the Buncrana Leisure Centre Committee.

Cllr Crawford asked that his disappointment at the lack of housing provision in Lifford be noted.

C/423/17 DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL (BALLYBOFEY CAR PARKS)

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

On the proposal of Cllr G Doherty, seconded by Cllr L Doherty, it was resolved to make the Donegal County Council (Ballybofey Car Parks) (Amendment) Bye-Laws 2017.

C/424/17 TO APPROVE THE SCHEDULE OF COUNCIL MEETINGS FOR 2018

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

On the proposal of Cllr Kavanagh, seconded by Cllr Crawford it was resolved to approve the Schedule of Council Meetings for 2018.

Cllr Kavanagh advised that there was an issue in relation to the overlap of Letterkenny MD and Islands Committee Meetings. Given that it was not possible to amend the timing of same it was resolved on the proposal of Cllr Kavanagh, seconded by Cllr Crawford that attendance at Islands Meetings be non-compulsory for members of the Letterkenny Municipal District.

C/425/17 TO NOTE THE NOMINATION OF MR LIAM MCELHINNEY TO FILL THE CASUAL VACANCY ON THE DONEGAL LOCAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Members considered the report circulated with the agenda in relation to the above:-

On the proposal of Cllr O'Domhnaill, seconded by Cllr McGarvey, Members noted the nomination of Mr Liam McElhinney to fill the casual vacancy on the Donegal Local Development Committee in accordance with Part 6 of the Local Government Reform Act, 2014 and Section 128C (3) (b) of the Local Government Act, 2001.

C/426/17 DRAFT COUNTY DONEGAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2018-2024 CONSIDERATION OF (1) THE DRAFT PLAN, (2) THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE REPORT AND (3) ADDITIONAL NON-MATERIAL AMENDMENTS.

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

On the proposal of Cllr McMonagle, seconded by Cllr Campbell it was resolved to defer consideration of this item to an adjourned meeting of the Council to be held on Wednesday 13th December, 2017 at 10.00am in the County House, Lifford.

C/427/17 JOINT DELEGATION FROM DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL, LYIT AND UDARAS NA GAELTACHTA TO DUJIANGYAN CITY, CHENGDU NEUSOFT UNIVERSITY CHENGDU, SUCHUAN PROVINCE, PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA FROM SEPT. 18TH TO SEPT 23RD 2017.

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

On the proposal of Cllr Mc Brearty, seconded by Cllr Jordan it was resolved that Donegal County Council would explore the option of entering into a formal twinning arrangement with Dujiangyan City, Sichuan Province, People's Republic of China and extend a formal invitation to the Executive Vice Mayor of Dujiangyan Municipal People's Government to visit Donegal in April/ May 2018 to further advance the twinning arrangements.

Cllr Brogan proposed, seconded by Cllr Mc Garvey that the Elected Members be part of any future delegation.

C/428/17 ATTENDANCE AT CONFERENCES, SEMINARS OR EVENTS

Having noted the revised arrangements under Section 142 5(d) of the Local Government Act, 2001, introduced by the Local Government (Expenses of Local Authority Members) Regulations 2006 -2017 as amended and directives issued by the Minister in that regard, on the proposal of Cllr McBride, seconded by, Cllr Kennedy, it was resolved to authorise any member, if he/she so wished, to attend the following conferences, subject to the normal procedures:-

- i. Individual members not exceeding their annual budget for attendance at conferences.

- ii. Payment of expenses for attendance to be conditional on the member furnishing documentary evidence of attendance.
- Housing Agency Seminar, Bedford Hall, Dublin Castle to be held Tuesday the 28th November, 2017.
 - Celtic Conferences – A practical guide to Budget 2018 to be held from Friday 8th to Sunday 10th December, 2017 at the Conakilty Hotel, Clonakilty, Co. Cork.
 - Elected Member’s Training Seminar – Local Authorities and Regional Assemblies Managing Executive Governance to be held on Friday 15th and Saturday 16th December, 2017 at the Connacht Hotel, Dublin Road, Galway.
 - Celtic Conferences ODCE/Office of the Director of Corporate Enforcement to be held from Thursday 21st to Saturday 23rd December, 2017 in the Clonakilty Hotel, Clonakilty, Co. Cork.

Cllr Mc Brearty asked that a list of all monies paid to each individual Councillor since 2014 be made available.

He was informed that this information was currently available on the DCC website.

C/429/17 THAT DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL WRITE TO THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO INCLUDE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS IN THE DEIS PROGRAMME

The following motion was submitted by Cllr O’ Fearraigh:-

"That Donegal County Council write to the Department of Education and Minister for Education to include Community Schools in Donegal in the DEIS Programme."

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

He noted that funding had been allocated to the programme nationally but that no school in Donegal would benefit from it. There was, he confirmed an onus on the Council to highlight the matter and bring it to the attention of the Minister for Education.

Cllr Doherty outlined the need for feeder primary schools to be included also and thus on the proposal of Cllr O’Fearraigh and seconded by Cllr A Doherty, the following motion was adopted:-

"That Donegal County Council write to the Department of Education and Minister for Education to include Community Schools and associated feeder Primary Schools in Donegal in the DEIS Programme.

There was no opposition to the motion.

Cllr Mc Brearty asked that a copy of the motion be circulated to the Education & Training Board.

C/430/17 THAT DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL REQUEST A MEETING WITH THE GENERAL MANAGER OF LETTERKENNY UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL AND THE REGIONAL CHIEF OFFICER OF THE HSE IN RELATION TO LETTERKENNY UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL

On the proposal of Cllr O'Domhnaill and seconded by Cllr Brogan, the following motion was adopted:-

"That this Council call on the General Manager of Letterkenny University Hospital and the Regional Chief Officer of the HSE to meet with the members of Donegal County Council to discuss the chaotic situation that is presiding in Letterkenny University Hospital and the Accident & Emergency Department in Letterkenny University Hospital as well as the poor ambulance response times being experienced in some parts of this County and that they discuss with us how they are going to tackle these massive problems in our County that affect peoples lives on a daily basis."

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

Addressing the meeting, he said that there was a crisis situation in Donegal regarding health care and that it was proving very difficult to make representations and liaise with senior staff members in the Health Service Executive. Ongoing problems in relation to waiting lists etc were, he said, a management issue and needed addressed urgently. This, he contended, was a matter of life and death and warranted a response from the staff in question. He highlighted the need for greater accountability and noted that if city status was to be afforded to the North West region then there was no reason that Letterkenny University Hospital could not become a Centre of Excellence.

Cllr Brogan said that as a representative on the Regional Health Forum West he was fully convinced of the need to return to the old health board model which had worked well in the past for Donegal. He welcomed any opportunity to meet with HSE management as it was evident that there was far too much focus on the Galway region.

Concern was expressed also in relation to the cost of employing agency staff in Letterkenny University Hospital.

There was no opposition to the motion.

Cllr O' Domhnaill reiterated the need for a meeting with the General Manager of Letterkenny University Hospital, the HSE Regional Manager and the Area Operations Manager West, National Ambulance Service to discuss the situation and see what can be done to tackle the problems within the various services which are impacting most severely on the lives of many people in Donegal.

C/431/17 FINALISE ALL PURCHASES UNDER THE TENANT PURCHASE SCHEME WITHOUT DELAY

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

"That Donegal County Council finalises all purchases under the Tenant Purchase Scheme that was applied for without further delay."

Cllr Bonner received a response from the Director of Housing, Corporate & Cultural Services in relation to the above. This, he said, was one of the better schemes that had been introduced and he thus called for the process to be speeded up and applications finalised.

Cllr Gallagher supporting the motion said that there were a number of anomalies in the scheme including the fact that Carer's Allowance had not been included. It was noted that there were issues also in relation to the income threshold. These she said needed to be addressed by the Department.

There was no opposition to the motion.

Mr Joe Peoples, Director Housing, Corporate & Cultural Services said that there had been limited take up of the scheme and that the Council was simply working within the restrictions imposed by the Department.

Cllr Bonner concluding alluded to the benefits of the scheme and the fact that it allowed people to own their own house and stay in their own locality.

C/432/17 BURTONPORT- LETTERKENNY GREENWAY
On the proposal of Cllr Gallagher and seconded by Cllr O’Fearraigh, the following motion was adopted:-

"That Donegal County ensure that all resources that are required to bring the Burtonport-Letterkenny Greenway to application stage for capital funding are put in place to ensure that this vital amenity and economic driver is delivered for this County."

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

She alluded to the fact that a feasibility study had been undertaken some time ago and had clearly indicated that the project would offer value for money. It was noted however that a number of issues needed to be addressed before the project got off the ground. Time was running out, she contended, and the actions identified to progress the scheme needed to be activated. It was acknowledged that funding was the main priority and that the project needed to be progressed as a county-wide priority.

Cllr O’ Fearraigh concurred with this assessment and said that the development of the Burtonport-Letterkenny Greenway would be a welcome addition to the tourism product of the County.

There was no opposition to the motion.

Mr Liam Ward, Director Community, Enterprise & Planning Services noted concerns in relation to the timing of the project and said that the Council were examining options to deliver this body of work with a view to preparing and application for funding in 2018.

Cllr Gallagher thanked the Director of Service for his response.

C/433/17 ERECT LARGE SIGNAGE TO PROMOTE THE GAELTACHT AREAS OF THE COUNTY

On the proposal of Cllr MacGiolla Easbuig and seconded by Cllr Blaney, the following motion was adopted:-

“Go ndéanfaidh Comhairle Contae Dhún na nGall comharthaíocht úr mhór a dhearadh agus a chur suas le ceantracha Gaeltachta na condae a fhógairt agus a chur chun cinn, sa dóigh is go mbeidh cuairteoirí agus turasóirí chuig an Ghaeltacht ar an eolas faoin oidhreacht bheo speisialta teanga san áit a bhfuil siad ag dul isteach ann, agus le go spreagfaí muintir na Gaeltachta an teanga agus a bhféiniúlacht ar leith Gaeltachta a choinneáil beo. Ba chóir go mbeadh a leithéid de chomharthaíocht iontach feiceálach, agus ba chóir go ndéanfaí lógó agus mana spreagúil a dhearadh agus a chumadh go speisialta fána choinne, i gcomhar leis na pobail éagsúla sa Ghaeltacht agus i gcomhar le háisineachtaí eile a mbainfeadh seo leo.”

“That Donegal County Council design and erect large signage to properly demarcate and promote the Gaeltacht areas of the county, so that visitors and tourists are aware of the unique, living, linguistic heritage of the area they are entering, and local Gaeltacht residents are inspired to keep the language and their Gaeltacht identity alive. Such signage should have a strong visual impact, and include a specially designed logo and motto in consultation with the various Gaeltacht communities and other relevant agencies.”

Cllr MacGiolla Easbuig received a response from the Director of Community, Enterprise & Planning Services in relation to the above.

This initiative, he said, would ensure that tourists were adequately informed in relation to the heritage of a particular area and also go some way in keeping the Irish language alive. It would also, he contended, be particularly beneficial at a time when the Gaeltacht identity was under threat.

Cllr Blaney supporting the motion said that it was essential that local community groups had an input into the design and size of the logo.

There was no opposition to the motion.

C/434/17 PRIORITISE THE PROVISION OF SOCIAL HOUSING FOR RESIDENTS WHOSE HOUSES ARE AFFECTED BY MICA

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

"To call on this Council to contact Minister Damien English and ask him to prioritise commitments he made for the provision of social housing for residents of Mica affected houses where their homes are at a stage that they are unsafe to live in."

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

He said that a number of homeowners now found themselves in the position where they not able to live in their homes any longer. He alluded also to the dangers facing many of these families and the fact that for many a serious health and safety issue now existed. Thus he called on the Minister and the Department to make provision for the families affected. It was imperative, he said, that a means was found to help these people whether through the provision of additional payments or through the Housing Assistance Programme. Donegal County Council, he added, also needed to play its part going forward.

Cllr Blaney said that there was no sign of things improving and that the Minister needed to deal with the situation in a timely fashion.

There was no opposition to the motion.

Mr Joe Peoples, Director Housing, Corporate & Cultural Services said that he was anxious not to down play the circumstance s but the reality was that Donegal County Council was limited in what it could do. It would be possible he said to engage with the Department again and relay member's concerns to Minister English.

Cllr Jordan took the chair for a brief period at this juncture.

There was no opposition to the motion.

Cllr Mc Dermott said that the Minister had given a commitment to deal with the situation and that the situation needed to be addressed urgently as the situation was worsening day by day.

C/435/17 LACK OF INFRASTRUCTURE - THE TREATMENT OF EFFLUENT.

On the proposal of Cllr Canning and seconded by Cllr McDermott the following motion was adopted:-

"Given the lack of infrastructure for the treatment of effluent within the majority of our small towns and villages, I would ask that this Council puts in place a plan that will:

- Zone areas within Part C: Objectives and Policies of the towns, within this proposed development plan 2018-2024. that will facilitate future treatment systems and reed beds etc.
- Prioritise the need for investment in proper treatments systems within these towns
- Put in place proposals with a full set of costings per town in order to provide a road map going forward for future investors"

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

He said he was apprehensive as to how this issue would be dealt with in the context of the Draft Development Plan as the National Planning Framework had effectively designated towns with a population of 1500 or less as rural areas.

Such a policy, he added, was leading to the demise of the rural way of life and was backed up by Irish Water who had indicated that they could not support the development of treatment systems. The crux of the matter was, he added, that developers would not be able to get planning permission for developments in the smaller towns and villages.

Cllr Mc Dermott said that it would lead to a downward spiral with rural schools closing and the rural way of life decimated.

There was no opposition to the motion.

Mr Liam Ward, Director Community, Enterprise & Planning Services, alluded to his reply and the need for flexibility going forward. The motion, he noted, highlighted the need for greater

engagement with Irish Water regarding their Capital Investment Programme.

Cllr Canning queried whether or not there was in provision within “Settlement Envelopes” for the provision of Treatment Systems. This, he advised needed to be looked at and consideration given to zoning an extra couple of acres for the installation of reed beds.

C/436/17 POBAL HP (HAASE AND PRATSCHKE, 2016) DEPRIVATION INDEX

On the proposal of Cllr A Doherty and seconded by Cllr G Doherty the following motion was adopted:-

"That Donegal County Council acknowledge,

a)The validity of the Pobal HP Deprivation Index for Small Areas and its primary role in shaping, guiding and monitoring public policies for an inclusive and sustainable society

b)Analyse the findings, results for County Donegal of the three dimensions of affluence/disadvantage identified, Demographic Profile, Social Class Composition and Labour Market Situation.

c)Forward related evidenced data that highlights and demands from Government interest and investment in the economic, social, cultural and environmental needs in Donegal and the Rural NW of Ireland."

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

He informed members that Donegal had been identified as the most deprived area in the country in each of the last four censuses. He alluded to the fact that a significant number of areas in Inishowen had been classified as below average under the Small Area designation.

It was essential, he added, that the findings were acted upon and he called on the Council’s Research & Policy index to extract the relevant data so as to assist with issues such as the Brexit debate, the National Planning Framework and the initiatives being undertaken by Derry City and Strabane District Council to generate further investment for the county.

The figures, he noted, had specific implications also for the education sector and in particular cross-border programmes together with the future needs in terms of rural infrastructure.

He asked that the motion be amended so as to forward related evidenced data in Part C of the motion to the relevant Government Departments.

Cllr G Doherty said that small towns in rural areas had been worst affected and hit disproportionately by the economic crisis. He cited the need for increased investment to tackle the deprivation in these disadvantaged areas.

There was no opposition to the motion.

Mr Liam Ward, Director of Community, Enterprise & Planning Services acknowledged the amendment to the motion and said that it would be possible to circulate a copy of the data to members when available.

Concluding Cllr A Doherty requested that the motion be forwarded to the Minister Michael Ring, T.D , Minister for Rural & Community Development.

C/437/17

PLANNING BASED IN THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICTS

On the proposal of Cllr Brogan and seconded by Cllr McGuinness the following motion was adopted:-

"I propose that this Council revert back to having planning based in each Municipal District so as to understand the needs of each area and to get a better understanding of the challenges and opportunities in each district making the service more available to applicants".

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

He said that he had submitted the motion as it was clearly evident that the delivery of the planning service at district level was a more efficient way of doing business and provided for greater accessibility given the geographical layout of the county. It would, he advised, allow also for greater co-operation with other council services particularly the roads division. He thus called on the Executive to revert to the old area based planning system as this afforded planning staff an opportunity to see at first hand the difficulties facing local communities.

Cllr Mc Guinness said that he had no problem supporting the motion as in his opinion planning services needed to be brought closer to the people. The current system whereby Planners were based one day a week at district level was not working, he added. The general consensus among members, he said, was that planning service should be brought back to the local areas. He said that he had no issue with the Planning Staff but that the present system generated specific accessibility issues.

There was no opposition to the motion.

The Chief Executive said that the centralisation of the service had been directly related to the downturn in the economy and general activity levels. Workloads, he noted had changed at MD level and the issue was one of resource deployment. Cognisance had been taken, he said, of the concerns raised. Members, he added, should not have any difficulty in accessing the service. He was, he advised, anxious to work with all the members to ensure that the any changes to the system met their specific needs.

Cllr Brogan said it was all about dealing with the challenges and opportunities ahead and thus welcomed the fact that there would be an opportunity to review service provision in the New Year.

C/438/17 REMOVAL OF ALL INTERNAL LAYOUT PLANS FROM THE PLANNING WEBSITE

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

"Calling on this Council to remove the internal layout of all dwellings and commercial premises from the planning website and to request all other Councils to do the same as this is a very easy way for burglars to obtain the layout of any premises. If anyone wants to view these layouts they must request them and log their details with the department."

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

This information, he said, was making it potentially very easy for criminals to target specific properties. He asked that the matter be

highlighted at Department level and that the concerns raised be considered in the context of the new E-Planning System.

Cllr Canning supporting the motion said that very often these layouts identified where the alarm, fuse boxes, fire exits etc were located . It was concerning, he said, that very often national policy dictated specific elements of rural living particularly as there was an increase in burglaries along the border area.

There was no opposition to the motion.

Mr Liam Ward, Director Community, Enterprise & Planning Services agreed to raise the matter with the Department of Housing, Planning & Local Government.

C/439/17 ROAD FUNDING FOR THE N14

On the proposal of Cllr McGarvey and seconded by Cllr Crawford the following motion was adopted:-

“That this Council look for specific funding for the N14 to deal with road conditions along this route namely road width and trees that are a safety issue for road users”.

Cllr McGarvey received a response from the Director of Roads & Transportation in relation to the above.

He highlighted the need to deal with the many serious issues that existed along this particular route, alluding in particular to the dangerous bends at Tullyrap.

Cllr Crawford supporting the motion expressed disappointment at the lack of progress given that a full application for funding had gone to the NRA three years ago. He asked also how the relevant accident figures were collated. Successive T.I.I. delegations had, he advised, raised this matter with little success. A specific mindset existed, he contended, in Dublin that presented Donegal as being remote and thus impacted on funding availability. Works were needed urgently, he said, and the lack of progress to date was extremely unfair to those who had been hurt and injured on this stretch of road.

Mr John Mc Laughlin, Director of Roads & Transportation noted that there had been specific mention of Tullyrap. The Roads

Directorate were, he advised, looking in the interim to progress the road at Tullyrap. It was noted that in the long term the TEN-T Route Improvement Project would go a long way in solving many of the problems being encountered along the route of the N14.

There was no opposition to the motion.

Cllr Mc Garvey concluding said that it would take very little money to sort the problem at Tullyrap which was particularly bad in periods of severe weather. Other sections of the road from Lifford to Letterkenny and the Four Lane into Letterkenny also warranted attention. The need to progress the Bonagee Link was also acknowledged.

He asked that the local Oireachtas Members and Minister Mc Hugh be updated in relation to the need for specific funding for the N14 including the works at Tullyrap.

C/440/17 INCREASE IN GARDA NUMBERS IN DONEGAL

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

"That Donegal County Council write to the Minister for Justice asking for an increase in Garda numbers in Donegal as a matter of urgency."

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

He alluded to the fact that there had been a 23% reduction in Garda numbers nationally. Donegal, he advised, had been particularly badly hit with many rural stations closed. This was, he contended, a very serious issue given the current increase in crime and our position along the border. The Garda Vehicle Fleet in Donegal was now, he said, seriously outdated, the Pulse System inefficient, and manpower levels at an all time low.

Resources, he advised were being deployed in the major urban areas to deal with the major criminal cartels. This ongoing lack of resources in Donegal would, he advised, have serious long term implications.

Cllr Blaney supporting the motion said that the force in Donegal was totally overwhelmed and that urgent intervention was needed.

There was no opposition to the motion.

Cllr Mc Bride thanked members for their support noting that many of the social problems that existed in rural towns and villages were directly related to the reduction in Garda numbers in Donegal.

C/441/17 INCREASED FUNDING AND THE NEED FOR THE RE-OPENING OF THE SHORT STAY WARD IN LETTERKENNY UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL

On the proposal of Cllr Glackin and seconded by Cllr Gallagher the following motion was adopted:-

"I wish to condemn the current underfunding of services in Letterkenny University Hospital and ask that this Council writes to the Minister for Health to increase funding for Letterkenny University Hospital to re-open the short stay ward, reduce waiting lists and alleviate the current crisis of overcrowding and people on trollies".

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

He said that the overcrowding issue was now a fully blown crisis and unfortunately affected the most vulnerable in society. The closure of beds in the community hospitals and in short stay wards he added, was contributing to the problem.

It was noted that in many cases services were being retained simply through the intervention of volunteers.

Cllr Gallagher supporting the motion said that a strategic approach was needed to deal with the problem. The time for talking was over, she said, and action needed on behalf of the people of Donegal.

There was no opposition to the motion.

Cllr Glackin thanked members for their support. He said there was a need for a systematic review of the practices and productivity in

Letterkenny General Hospital otherwise the problem would only get worse.

C/442/17 REVIEW OF CAR PARKING CHARGES

On the proposal of Cllr O'Neill and seconded by Cllr Kennedy the following motion was adopted:-

"That this Council discuss and review the Car Parking charges in the towns where they apply at present across the County."

Cllr O'Neill received a response from the Director of Roads & Transportation in relation to the above.

He said that he had requested a review of the charges in Ballyshannon at least two years ago and that nothing had changed in the interim. The cost of providing this service, he noted, was in the region of €36,000 and the associated income from same amounted to €6000. All in all the application of the charges was having a negative impact on business in the town of Ballyshannon, he said, with many outlets struggling to make ends meet.

It was noted that 4 miles away in Bundoran that charges had been suspended for the winter season. Expressing disappointment with the reply, he asked that car parking charges in Ballyshannon to be suspended immediately.

Cllr Kennedy outlined her support for the motion.

There was no opposition to the motion.

Mr John Mc Laughlin, Director of Roads & Transportation noted that the motion had requested a review of the charges in the various towns county-wide. Any other decisions to be taken in relation to the issue, were, he advised, a matter for the Elected Members. The matter, he said, could be dealt with early in 2018 and the Roads SPC asked to review the matter. It was acknowledged that any decision to abolish charges in Ballyshannon would have a knock on effect in terms of the other towns where car parking charges applied.

Cllr O'Neill said that the rate payers in Ballyshannon needed help and called on the Executive to suspend the charges in Ballyshannon immediately.

C/443/17 EXTRA FUNDING FOR LIS SCHEMES IN DONEGAL

On the proposal of Cllr Naughton and seconded by Cllr O'Domhnaill the following motion was adopted:-

“That this council would request a meeting with Michael Ring TD, Minister of Rural & Community Development in relation to getting extra funding for the LIS scheme for Donegal. The funding received in 2017 is inadequate for the number of applications received.”

Cllr Naughton received a response from the Director of Roads & Transportation in relation to the above.

He welcomed the fact that €2.5 million had since been allocated to Donegal under the LIS Scheme. This allocation, he advised, fell way short of what was actually needed given the volume of roads in the County. He thus called on the Minister to provide additional funding under this heading in 2018.

Supporting the motion Cllr O' Domhnaill said that there had been a number of anomalies and issues with the 2017 Scheme. He also outlined the need for additional funding in 2018.

There was no opposition to the motion.

Mr John Mc Laughlin, Director of Roads & Transportation confirmed that he would write to the Minister regarding the need for additional funding.

Cllr Naughton thanked members for their support and reiterated the need for additional monies in 2018.

C/444/17 PENALTY POINTS IN THE FISHING INDUSTRY

On the proposal of Cllr Jordan and seconded by Cllr Gallagher the following motion was adopted:-

"That Donegal County Council calls on Department of the Marine to ensure that a planned new mechanism for the imposition of penalty point for the fishing industry does not discriminate against fishermen by unfairly impacting on their livelihoods; and to give a guarantee that any such new mechanism will allow for recourse to the justice system."

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

There was, he confirmed, considerable anger in the fishing community that fishermen would not be able to get rid of penalty points on fishing licences despite being cleared in court of not having committed an offence. Clarity was needed, he said and adequate recourse to the judicial system to ensure that natural justice was delivered.

Cllr Gallagher supporting the motion said it was grossly unfair that there was no right of appeal. She expressed concern also in relation to the fact that it would be the skipper of the boat who would be awarded the penalty pints.

There was no opposition to the motion.

Cllr Jordan thanked all who had supported the motion advising that the whole situation had left fishermen feeling threatened.

C/445/17

CALLING ON THE GOVERNMENT TO ADEQUATELY INVEST IN MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

On the proposal of Cllr G Doherty and seconded by Cllr Gallagher the following motion was adopted:-

"That Donegal County Council call on the Government to adequately invest in mental health services to tackle the chronically high suicide rate in Ireland, including the teen suicide rate which is the fourth highest in the European Union."

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

He alluded to various aspects of the service which, he contended, were significantly underfunded and under resourced.

The "Vision for Change" Strategy document effective from 2006 had, he advised, recommended that 13,000 full time staff were needed to adequately deliver the service. Presently there were, he confirmed, 9,500 wholtime staff employed in this area. Successive Governments, he said, had failed to invest in mental health services thus failing to implement the "Vision of Change"

Cllr Gallagher said that the lack of services locally was shocking and that there was an acute need to look for a Centre of Excellence for Donegal. It was imperative, she said, that members showed solidarity with parents facing such difficulties. There was a need, she said, to fight collectively for services in the North West.

There was no opposition to the motion.

Concluding Cllr Doherty paid tribute to all the Suicide Crisis Prevention Teams who worked under difficult circumstances and with strained financial resources.

C/446/17 STREAMLINING OF COMMUNITY GRANTS IN THE ENVIRONMENT SECTION

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

"That this Council devise a method of streamlining many of the community grants especially in the Environment Section to help groups with scarce resources save time on form filling etc."

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

He alluded to the fact that many community groups had little time and resources for administrative duties and said it was imperative that a way was found to simplify the process. He suggested that some of the forms be amalgamated and processes overhauled to assist with this streamlining.

Cllr Crawford outlined his support for the motion.

Mr Michael Mc Garvey said that the Council were committed to improving the application process and that every effort would be made to pay monies in a timely fashion in 2018.

Cllr Mc Gowan thanked all for their support.

C/447/17 CATHAOIRLEACH'S BUSINESS
Votes of Sympathy

- Stephen Mc Crory, Road Design on the death of his father, Noel Mc Crory.

- Loretta Devenney, Planning on the death of her sister Ann Brogan.
- Roisin Mc Bride , Roads Management Office on the death of her aunt, Rose Patton Milford

CPMR Brexit Conference

Members were informed that Cllr O' Fearraigh had attended the Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions Brexit Conference organised by the Welsh Government on the 16th November, 2017. Donegal was asked in early November to provide a speaker at the event by the Welsh First Minister Carwyn Jones.

Cllr O' Fearraigh's address to the delegates, he advised, highlighted the disproportionate impact that Brexit would have on CPMR Regions and the North West Region in particular.

Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

Members were informed that correspondence had been received from Senator John Dolan in relation to the Government's failure to ratify the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

It was unanimously agreed to write to the Taoiseach and request that the Government ratify the Convention as a matter of urgency.

Excellence in Local Government Awards

Congratulations was extended to the following who had all received nominations for the Excellence in Local Government Awards:-

- Wainfest Arts & Book Festival under the Best Library service category.
- County Donegal in 1916 History & Education Pack under the Commemorations and Centenaries category.
- Sea Sessions Surf & Music Festival under the Festival of the Year category.

The Cathaoirleach paid tribute to the award winning Sea Sessions group advising that their win was a testimony to the festival organisers and the team in Donegal County Council who supported them.

Pride of Place Awards & All Ireland One Act Drama Festival Letterkenny

Welcome was extended to all visiting Letterkenny for the Pride of Place Awards on the 2nd December, 2017 and the All Ireland One Act Drama Festival from the 1st to the 3rd December, 2017.

Naomh Conaill

Congratulations was extended to Naomh Conaill , Glenties on reaching the Donegal Senior Football Championships.

C/448/17 CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT
Members considered the report circulated with the agenda in relation to the above and received an update in relation to the following:-

1. Community, Enterprise & Planning

- A. RAPID Scheme
- B. Donegal Tourism Seminar
- C. Local Enterprise Development Plan 2017 - 2020
- D. Irelands Best Young Entrepreneur (IBYE)
- E. Local Enterprise Office Network Local Investment and Innovation Fund

2. Finance, Information Systems and Emergency Services

- A. Voluntary Emergency Services Conference / Exposition Finner Camp – 21st October 2017

3. Housing, Corporate & Cultural Services

- A. Irish Refugee Protection Programme
- B. Wainfest Arts and Book Festival for Children
- C. Culture Night
- D. Donegal Bay and Bluestacks Festival

4. Water & Environment

- A. Litter and Waste Enforcement
 - (i) New Tyre Regulations
 - (ii) Historic Tyre Stockpile Clean-up
 - (iii) Meenaclady Clean up

(iv) Anti Dumping Initiative – Phase I

B. Environmental Awareness

- (i) Reuse Month – October 2017
- (ii) Household Hazardous Waste Collection 2017
- (iii) ‘Adopt A Road’ Scheme 2017
- (iv) Halloween Bonfires

C. Coastal Management

- (i) 2017 Big Beach Cleanup in Donegal
- (ii) Green Coast Workshops
- (iii) Funding Awarded for OPW Erosion Studies
- (iv) Beach Access Repairs

The following questions were noted.

C/449/17 NUMBER OF COUNTY-WIDE TENANT PURCHASE APPLICATIONS

Cllr Bonner submitted the following question:-

"What were the number of countywide Tenant Purchase applications and what are the eligible numbers who applied?"

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

C/450/17 TOTAL NUMBER OF HOUSING APPLICATIONS

Cllr Bonner submitted the following question:-

"What is the total number of applications at present for Council Houses in the County?"

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

C/451/17 HOW MANY SKILLED LABOURERS ARE EMPLOYED IN HOUSING MAINTENANCE

Cllr MacGiolla Easbuig submitted the following question:-

"Cá mhéad saothraí oilte atá fostaithe chun tithe a chothabháil in achan Cheantar Bardais agus cén costas atá i gceist leis an fhostaíocht seo?"

"How many skilled labourers are employed in housing maintenance in each MD and what costs are associated with this employment?."

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

C/452/17 THE TIMEFRAME TO TURN A VACANT HOUSE INTO A RE-LET

Cllr O'Domhnaill submitted the following question:-

"Has this Council got a timeframe for how long it should take to turn a vacant Council House around to be in a position to be re-let?"

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

C/453/17 WORKFORCE PLAN DOCUMENT

Cllr O'Domhnaill submitted the following question:-

"Can I receive a copy of the Workforce Plan Document which was drawn up by this Council and be advised as to how it has been adopted?"

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

C/454/17 PROMOTION OF CO-OPERATIVE BUSINESS MODEL

Cllr MacGiolla Easbuig submitted the following question:-

"An dtig le Comhairle Contae Dhún na nGall briseadh síos a thabhairt dom ar na gníomhartha ar leith atá déanta ag an rannóg fiontair s'againn an rún uaimse a chur i bhfeidhm, maidir le múnla gnó an chomharchumannachais?"

"Can Donegal County Council please provide me with a breakdown of the specific actions taken by our enterprise section to implement my motion on promotion of the co-operative business model ?

Cllr MacGiolla Easbuig received a response from the Director of Community, Enterprise & Planning Services in relation to the above.

C/455/17 S.I. HOUSES BUILT IN THE LAST 3 YEARS
Cllr McDermott submitted the following question:-

“How many S.I. houses have the Council built in the last 3 years?”

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

C/456/17 IRISH OPEN IN BALLYLIFFIN NEXT YEAR
Cllr Murray submitted the following question:-

“Can this Council outline the extent of its role in assisting the preparations for the Irish Open in Ballyliffin next year, and further outline future plans on same?”

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

C/457/17 ROUNABOUTS PROMOTING THE ARRIVAL OF THE IRISH OPEN
Cllr Canning submitted the following question:-

“Have we any proposals in relation to the Roundabouts promoting the arrival of the Irish Open to our County?”

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

C/458/17 OUTDOOR ROAD STAFF IN EACH MD
Cllr McDermott submitted the following question:-

“How many outdoor road staff are there in each MD, broken down per each Engineer?”

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

C/459/17 UPGRADE OF WASTEWATER INFRASTRUCTURE IN STRATEGIC TOWNS

Cllr Murray submitted the following question:-

“Has this Council received any feedback from Irish Water regarding the upgrade of wastewater infrastructure in strategic towns around the County?”

Cllr Murray received a response from the Director of Water & Environment in relation to the above.

C/460/17 IRISH WATER

Cllr Canning submitted the following question:-

"Has any approach been made to this Council from Irish Water about road openings or road works insofar as upgrading the water pressure in certain towns prior to taking the water from the Fullerton Dam to Letterkenny?"

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

C/461/17 E-CAR CHARGE POINTS

Cllr A Doherty submitted the following question:-

"How many e car charge points are in Co. Donegal and where are they located? Who or what service is responsible for the publicity, promotion of use and service to e car charge points?"

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

C/462/17 2016/21 CAPITAL INVEST PLAN (MID TERM REVIEW) AND 10 YEAR NATIONAL INVESTMENT PLAN

Cllr A Doherty submitted the following question:-

“2016/21 Capital Investment Plan (mid term review) and 10 Year National Investment Plan. What Council infrastructural proposals, costings and requirements have been submitted to the Department for Public Expenditure and Reform for inclusion in the Capital Investment Plan and National Investment Plan?”

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

C/463/17 ROLL OUT OF BROADBAND

Cllr Glackin submitted the following question:-

“Could I please have an update on the roll out of broadband in the County?”

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

C/464/17 LIBRARY SERVICE

Cllr Kavanagh submitted the following question:-

“Have the Council specific plans for the recent allocation to the library service in the County?”

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

C/465/17 N56 COOLBUOY TO KILMACRENNAN (BLUEBANKS)

Cllr Brogan submitted the following question:-

"Can I have a report on the proposed works schedule for the much welcomed construction to start on the N56 Coolbuoy to Kilmacrennan (Blue Banks) and the timeframe for same?."

Cllr Brogan received a response from the Director of Roads & Transportation in relation to the above.

C/466/17 DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL RAIL COMMITTEE

Cllr McGarvey submitted the following question:-

“What happened to the Donegal County Council Rail Committee?”

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

C/467/17 RENTAL OF PROPERTIES

Cllr O’Neill submitted the following question:-

“What amount of money is being paid by Donegal County Council for rental of properties for services and can a full list/breakdown be furnished?”

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

C/468/17 BREAKDOWN OF LOCAL AUTHORITY

Cllr Campbell submitted the following question:-

“To ask the Director of Housing to provide a breakdown by municipal district in tabular form outlining how many local authority houses have had; 1) cavity wall insulation; 2) attic insulation; 3) door & window replacement; improvements carried out under the department's energy efficiency programme and how many remain to be done in each category of works?”

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

C/469/17 LIST OF PRIVATE OWNED PROPERTIES EITHER LEASED OR RENTED BY DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

Cllr Naughton submitted the following question:-

“Can I request to get a list of private owned properties that is either leased or rented by Donegal County Council and the cost associated with each?”

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

C/470/17 ANALYSIS IN RELATION TO RATES ARREARS

Cllr Campbell submitted the following question:-

"To ask the Director of Finance to provide an analysis in tabular form in relation to rates arrears to indicate the following:

- 1) The number of accounts comprising arrears accrued in 2014
- 2) The number of accounts comprising arrears accrued in 2015
- 3) The number of accounts comprising arrears accrued in 2016

And to further breakdown each category 1-3 by status to indicate the following:

A) number of accounts where settlements are agreed/pending/being discharged by instalment

B) number of accounts related to a business in liquidation/receivership/ceased trading

C) number of accounts subject to revisions/appeals/VTA

D) number of accounts where a six day notice has been issued

E) number of accounts referred to county solicitor

F) number of accounts subject to court proceedings.

G) number of accounts where court judgement has been obtained."

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

C/471/17 THE TIMEFRAME TO TURN A VACANT HOUSE INTO A RE-LET

Cllr O'Domhnaill submitted the following question:-

"Has this Council got a timeframe for how long it should take to turn a vacant Council House around to be in a position to be re-let?"

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

C/472/17 ACTIONS/INITIATIVES/EVENTS UNDERTAKEN BY OUR ENTERPRISE SECTION IN 2017 TO ENCOURAGE BUSINESS START UP IN DONEGAL

Cllr Campbell submitted the following question:-

"To ask the Director of Community Enterprise & Planning to provide a summary of the actions/initiatives/events undertaken by your Enterprise Section in 2017 to encourage business start up in Donegal."

Cllr Campbell received a response from the Director of Community, Enterprise & Planning in relation to the above.

C/473/17 CARRY OUT A FEASIBILITY STUDY ON FUTURE POTENTIAL GREENWAY ROUTES

Cllr G Doherty submitted the following question:-

“Can this Council carry out a feasibility study on future potential Greenway routes including the route from Lifford/Strabane through to Barnesmore Gap?”

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

C/474/17 BREAKDOWN ON WHERE THE TOURISM FUNDING WAS SPENT FOR THE YEARS 2014-2017

Cllr G Doherty submitted the following question:-

“Following a welcome increase in the Tourism Budget over the last number of years, can this Council provide a breakdown of where this funding was spent for each of the years 2014-2017.

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

C/475/17 NUMBER OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES ON THE COUNCIL HOUSING LIST

Cllr McGowan submitted the following question:-

“Please can the Council give details of the number of people with disabilities who are on the Council housing list, what is their average time on the waiting list and is there any priority mechanism in place to fast track disabled applicants?.”

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

C/476/17 IMBALANCE OF ROAD STAFF BETWEEN SOME AREAS

Cllr McGowan submitted the following question:-

"Has the Council any plans to spread out the number of road staff across the County considering the very big imbalance between some areas?."

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

C/477/17 MOTIONS FROM OTHER COUNCILS

Members noted the following motions from other Councils.

CLARE COUNTY COUNCIL

“In the backdrop of our national housing emergency and the stresses experienced by so many at risk of homelessness due to mortgage distress, that Clare County Council call on An Taoiseach to support enactment by the Oireachtas of the National Housing Co-op Bill 2017 to provide for the establishment of an Industrial & Provident Society to be called the National Housing Co-operative Society with the mandate and powers to acquire, manage, rent or sell distressed mortgages so that the occupants of houses can move from the status of distressed mortgagor by means of “rent and mortgage” and that this Clare County Council Motion once passed, be copied to all other local authorities encouraging their adoption of similar such motion.”

“That Clare County Council call on the Minister for Social Protection to reverse the unfair and discriminatory policy of penalising home makers that took some time out to care for their family prior to 1994 and to address the Austerity measure that penalised approximately 35,000 people, mainly women, that was brought in by the Government on 6th April 2012 concerning Contributory Pension Entitlements and if the motion is agreed that the request be sent to the Minister and also circulated to all other Councils.”

KILKENNY COUNTY COUNCIL

“That Kilkenny County Council writes to the Minister of Health Simon Harris, the Minister for Education Richard Bruton and the Minister for Children & Youth Affairs Katherine Zappone to put into consideration collectively a compulsory training program of occupational first aid training for all teachers and SNAs that are physically capable to provide CPR, in both primary and secondary schools throughout Ireland. In consideration with recent statistics – 15 people a day die from sudden death syndrome and 125 people die a year from choking. We believe that this responsibility lies with all 3 ministers as in education, health and putting children first.”

WEXFORD COUNTY COUNCIL

“Wexford County Council calls on the government to immediately implement the Private Members Motion which was unanimously passed in November 2016 regarding rural post offices that will ensure a financially stable Post Office network and the protection of this vital service in our communities.”

TIPPERARY COUNTY COUNCIL

“I am calling on the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport to reintroduce the Urban Road Minor Improvement Grant as the loss of same has caused significant deterioration to the urban roads in towns in the County of Tipperary.”

MONAGHAN COUNTY COUNCIL

“That Monaghan County Council fully supports and endorses the SIPTU Big Start/Early Years Campaign objectives of adequate investment in the early years sector to deliver quality and affordable childcare with decent pay for highly qualified early years professionals, to secure quality early years care and education services for children 6 months – 5 years that are accessible, affordable and support parents/families to promote children’s health, well being, learning and development in line with quality standards.”

BALLINA MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

“That Mayo County Council (Ballina Municipal District) calls on the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine and the Department of Agriculture to take immediate action to deal with the problems caused by the spread of ragwort and to implement the existing laws to deal with the problem and call on the Minister to put in place an incentive scheme to encourage farmers and other landowners to take action to deal with this very serious problem. Ballina Municipal District further calls on Mayo County Council who are in serious breach of the Noxious Weeds Act to take action to contain the prevent the spread of ragwort and other noxious weeds. The Council also calls on the Minister to update the Noxious Weeds Act 1936 to make it relevant in the present time. That this Motion is circulated to all local authorities for their support and also to the IFA and Irish Creamery Milk Association”

LEITRIM COUNTY COUNCIL

“That Leitrim County Council call on the Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government Eoghan Murphy TD to ban the use

of glyphosate weed killers in all public areas in our thirty-one local authorities.”

“That Leitrim County Council call on the Department and the Minister Mr Eoghan Murphy TD, to review the terms and conditions of the Housing Grant Scheme to allow Local Authorities to use discretion in the awarding of house repair grants for older people. In the case where an applicant has transferred ownership of their home over to one of their children, but they will still continue to live in their home for the rest of their days, that they would be entitled to apply for and received grant approval for works on the merits of their own income.”

LIMERICK CITY AND COUNTY COUNCIL

“That, the Government put in place one Agency with full responsibility for the maintenance/repair/upkeep of all our rivers and streams.”

OFFALY COUNTY COUNCIL

“That this Council calls for a complete overhaul for how our Social Housing Programme is administered by Department. We suggest that a Capital Housing Allocation (possible multi annual) be made available to each Council each year for the provision of suitable accommodation either to a new build or purchase to meet the needs of our ever growing waiting lists. The present system has failed as is evidenced by the length of waiting lists in every Council area. We have successive Ministers blaming Councils for failing to provide houses, while their Department exert unbelievable bureaucratic control of every stage of building process from land purchase to approval of Tenders. Propose that this motion be circulated to all Councils”.

This concluded the business of the meeting.