

MINUTES OF MARCH MEETING OF DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL,
HELD IN THE COUNTY HOUSE, LIFFORD ON 5TH APRIL, 2016

C/64/16 MEMBERS PRESENT

Cllrs Ciaran Brogan, Cathaoirleach, L Blaney, E Bonner, J Campbell, P Canning, T Conaghan, G Crawford, N Crossan, A Doherty, G Doherty, L Doherty, R Donaghey, M Farren, M T Gallagher, M Harley, N Jordan, J Kavanagh, N Kennedy, M C Mac Giolla Easbuig, M Mc Bride, J P Mc Daid, M McDermott, S McEniff, I Mc Garvey, P McGowan, B McGuinness, G McMonagle, S O'Domhnaill, J O' Donnell, J S O'Fearraigh, B O'Neill, M Quinn, J Ryan, & T Slowey.

C/65/16 OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE

Seamus Neely, Chief Executive, Joe Peoples, Director of Corporate, Housing and Cultural Services/ Meetings Administrator, Liam Ward, Director of Community, Enterprise and Planning, John McLaughlin, Director of Roads and Transportation, Michael McGarvey, Director of Water and Environment, Paul McGill, Area Manager Corporate Services, Eileen Burgess, County Librarian, Anne Marie Conlon, Communications Officer, Sean O'Daimhin, Oifigeach na Gaeilge, Anne Marie Crawford, Staff Officer.

C/66/16 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cllr Murray who was unable to attend the meeting.

C/67/16 BUNCRANA PIER TRAGEDY

The Cathaoirleach offered his deepest sympathy to the family and loved ones of all who had lost their lives following the tragic incident at Buncrana Pier on Sunday 20th March.

Tributes were paid to all the Emergency Services, the Fire Service, the RNLI, and all who had assisted in any way with the recovery operation.

It was, he acknowledged, a testing time for the local communities in Buncrana and Derry, both of which, he confirmed, had responded in a most dignified manner to the tragedy.

There was acknowledgement also of the role played by Francis Crawford and Davitt Walsh whose heroic efforts on the day had put his own life in danger.

On the proposal of Cllr Brogan, seconded by, Cllr Donaghy it was resolved to adjourn the meeting for fifteen minutes as a mark of respect to all who had lost their lives in the tragedy.

A two minute silence was observed by all.

- C/68/16 WIFI SYSTEM IN THE CHAMBER
On resumption Mr Garry Martin, Head of Finance, Director Information & Emergency Services informed Members that efforts were ongoing to improve Wi-Fi coverage in the Chamber. He thus asked Members, Staff and the media present to deactivate Wi- Fi hotspots on any mobile devices that they were using.
- C/69/16 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF JANUARY MEETING OF DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL HELD ON THE 25TH JANUARY, 2016
On the proposal of Cllr S McEniff, seconded by, Cllr I McGarvey, the minutes of the January Meeting of Donegal County Council held on the 25th January, 2016 were approved.
- C/70/16 DISPOSAL BY WAY OF RELEASE OF RIGHT OF WAY AT THE SIDE OF SI PLOT SI 5118 TO MAUREEN DOOHAN, DAUGHTER OF SI TENANT MARY DOOHAN
Members considered the report circulated with the agenda, in relation to the above.

On the proposal of Cllr Seamus O' Domhnaill, seconded by, Cllr M.T. Gallagher, it was resolved to dispose by way of release of Right of Way at the Side of SI Plot SI 5118 to Maureen Doohan, Daughter of SI Tenant Mary Doohan, in accordance with the provisions of Section 211 of the Planning & Development Act, 2000 (as amended) and Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001.
- C/71/16 DISPOSAL OF PROPERTY IN THE DONEGAL PUBLIC SERVICES CENTRE, DRUMLONAGHER BY WAY OF LEASE TO EMPLOYMENT RESPONSE NORTH WEST
Members considered the report circulated with the agenda, in

relation to the above.

Cllr O' Domhnaill said that he had been informed that the tenant in question had signed the contract on the 1st January, 2016. He queried as to why this was now only coming before the Council and noted that it was effectively asking the Council to endorse the matter retrospectively.

Mr Seamus Neely, Chief Executive, noted that contracts of up to one year duration were managed by the Executive and that any extension beyond that needed a resolution of Council.

Cllr O' Domhnaill noted that the contract was for one year as per the documentation circulated and said that whilst he did not have a problem with same it was imperative that the approval of Council was sought before leases of this nature were commenced.

It was resolved on the proposal of Cllr Brogan, seconded by, Cllr Mc Garvey to defer the matter to the May Council Meeting in order to satisfactorily address the issues raised.

C/72/16 CONSIDERATION OF THE DONEGAL LOCAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ANNUAL REPORT 2015

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

Cllr Gallagher commended Council Staff and Members of the Local Community Development Committee for their efforts to date. She said that the committee had undertaken a considerable body of work and cited the need for all Members to be updated in relation to its activities to date.

On the proposal of Cllr Gallagher, seconded by, Cllr Mc Gowan it was resolved that a presentation in relation to the work of the LCDC be delivered at a future Council Meeting.

C/73/16 APPROVAL OF THE FULL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 2016 NON NATIONAL ROADS BRIDGE STRENGTHENING PROGRAMME

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

On the proposal of Cllr A Doherty, seconded by, Cllr Farren, the implementation of the Non National Roads Bridge Strengthening Programme was approved.

C/74/16 FILLING OF CASUAL VACANCY ON THE COUNTY DONEGAL JOINT POLICING COMMITTEE ARISING FROM THE RESIGNATION OF CLLR FRANK MCBREARTY

On the proposal of Cllr Crossan, seconded by, Cllr Kennedy, it was resolved that the matter be deferred to the May Council Meeting..

C/75/16 FILLING OF CASUAL VACANCY ON COISTE NA GAEILGE ARISING FROM THE RESIGNATION OF CLLR FRANK MCBREARTY

On the proposal of Cllr Crossan, seconded by, Cllr Kennedy, it was resolved that the matter be deferred to the May Council Meeting.

C/76/16 FILLING OF CASUAL VACANCY ON LATCH ARISING FROM THE RESIGNATION OF CLLR FRANK MCBREARTY

On the proposal of Cllr Crossan, seconded by, Cllr Kennedy, it was resolved that the matter be deferred to the May Council Meeting.

C/77/16 FILLING OF CASUAL VACANCY ON THE ROADS AND TRANSPORTATION SPC ARISING FROM THE RESIGNATION OF CLLR FRANK MCBREARTY

On the proposal of Cllr Crossan, seconded by, Cllr Kennedy, it was resolved that the matter be deferred to the May Council Meeting.

C/78/16 RENAMING OF THE MALL BALLYSHANNON TO THE “MEAL SHEAMUIS DE FAOITE”, “THE JAMES WHITE MALL”

On the proposal of Cllr Harley, seconded by, Cllr Jordan it was resolved to rename “The Mall Ballyshannon” to the “Meal Sheamuis De Faoite”, “The James White Mall”.

C/79/16 TO AGREE THE DATE FOR THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL 2016

It was unanimously agreed to hold the Annual General Meeting of Donegal County Council on Wednesday 15th June, 2016 at 3.00pm in the County House, Lifford.

C/80/16 NOTING OF THE REPORT ON IRRECOVERABLE COUNTY RATES 2015

Members noted the report circulated with the agenda in relation to Irrecoverable County Rates in 2015.

C/81/16 CONSIDERATION OF REQUEST FOR RECEPTION OF DEPUTATION FROM THE IRISH CONGRESS TRADE UNIONS REGARDING CONGRESS CHARTER ON FAIR CONDITIONS AT WORK

On the proposal of Cllr M Quinn, seconded by, Cllr P McGowan, it was resolved that a delegation from the ICTU could address a future meeting of the Council.

C/82/16 CONSIDERATION OF REQUEST FOR RECEPTION OF DEPUTATION FROM THE DONEGAL CARAVAN AND CAMPING PARKS ASSOCIATION IN RESPECT OF THE SUSTAINABILITY OF THE CURRENT PROVISIONS OF MOTORHOME PARKING

It was unanimously agreed that the delegation from the Donegal Caravan and Camping Parks Association be invited to meet with the Executive of the Council on a date suitable to both parties.

C/83/16 CONFERENCES

Members were informed that late notification had been received from the Association of Irish Local Government in relation to the "Councils & Public Safety Seminar" to be held on Thursday 11th February, 2016 in the Hillgrove Hotel, Monaghan, for the Border & Western Region Counties. This it was noted was part of the AILG Training Programme for Elected Members in 2016.

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 -2014 as amended and directives issued by the Minister in that regard, on the proposal of Cllr O'Domhnaill, seconded by, Cllr Kavanagh, it was resolved to authorise any member, if he/she so wished, to attend the following conferences, subject to the normal procedures:-

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

Training

- LAMA Spring Training Seminar. “Planning & Flood Plains Insurance & Finding Solutions”, to be held on the 1st & 2nd April, 2016, in the Sligo Park Hotel, Sligo.
- Association of Irish Local Government Training Schedule 2016 to be held at various locations in the Border & Western Region.
- AILG Annual Conference, 2016, to be held on 5th and 6th May, 2016 in the Inishowen Gateway, Bunrana.

Conferences

- Dundalk Chamber of Commerce - Cross Border Tourism Conference 2016, to be held on Wednesday 20th April, 2016 in the Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford, Co. Louth.
- Celtic Conferences - Local Economic & Community Plans, to be held on 8th, 9th & 10th April, 2016 in the Clonakilty Hotel, Clonakilty, Co. Cork.
- Institute of Professional Training - Training Seminar for Local Authorities 2014 FOI Act & W.R.C. to be held on the 15th, 16th and 17 April, 2016 in the Silver Tassie Hotel, Letterkenny.
- Celtic Conferences - “Auditing and Governance in Local Government”, to be held in the Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford, Co. Louth on 15th, 16th and 17th April, 2016.

C/84/16

THAT DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL LOOK AT PROVIDING ADEQUATE FUNDING FOR THE ERECTION OF MOMUMENTS IN THE COUNTY

On the proposal of Cllr O’Fearraigh, seconded by, Cllr L Doherty, the following motion was adopted:-

"Go bhféachfadh Comhairle Contae Dhún na nGall le maoiniú dóthanach a sholáthar le leachtanna agus séadchomharthaí a chur suas sa Chontae".

"That Donegal County Council look at providing adequate funding for the erection of monuments in the County".

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

Cllr O’ Fearraigh said that the funding and maintenance of monuments within the County was something that needed to be adequately resourced particularly from a tourism perspective.

He referred to the Magheraclogher Beach in Gweedore and the remains of Bád Eddie which were now in a terrible condition. He said that funds were needed to cast a replica of the boat, which over the years had proved to be a valuable asset to the area particularly in terms of tourism.

Reference was made also to the need to fund and build proper monuments to commemorate the likes of Rory Gallagher and also those who had partaken in the events of 1916.

Cllr L Doherty seconded the motion.

There was no opposition to the motion.

Mr Joe Peoples, Director Housing, Corporate & Cultural Services said there was a need to look at the policy of providing and funding monuments generally. It was, he advised, something that could be considered by the relevant Strategic Policy Committee. He outlined the need for clear guidelines and a specific policy focus. It was acknowledged however that this was something that needed to be considered within the context of the multi-annual budget cycle.

Cllr O' Fearraigh welcomed the fact that it might be possible to source funding for such activities in the future.

Cllr Harley said that it was imperative that proper public consultation was incorporated into any future policy framework.

C/85/16 VARIATION IN THE ORDER OF BUSINESS

It was agreed that Item No 17 submitted by Cllr Sean Mc Eniff would be considered at this juncture

C/86/16 THAT THIS COUNCIL REVIEW THE BUSINESS PROPERTIES THAT ARE VACANT FOR THREE YEARS OR MORE AND CONSIDER ALLOWING THEM A RATE FREE PERIOD OF THREE YEARS

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

"That the Council review business properties that are vacant for three years or more and consider allowing them a rate free period of three years".

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

Cllr Mc Eniff said it was imperative that efforts were made to pursue such a strategy, as presently rural Ireland was under threat and towns such as Ballyshannon had been devastated by years of unemployment and lack of financial investment.

There was no opposition to the motion.

Mr Garry Martin, Head of Finance, Director of Information & Emergency Services said that there had in the past been a number of requests for a similar type initiative.

A proposal at the 2012 Budget Meeting for a Rates Initiative, had, he stated been followed through with the Department.

There, had, he confirmed, been no intervention from the Department to date or any waiver scheme sanctioned. It was unlikely, he added, that this stance would change in the current economic climate.

He acknowledged the fact that was a specific legal impediment to the motion, but agreed to explore the matter with the Department again even though sanction was unlikely at this juncture.

C/87/16 TOBAR TRAINING CENTRE

The Cathaoirleach welcomed Members of Staff and Trainees from the Tobar Training Centre in Gweedore to the meeting.

C/88/16 CALL FOR DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL TO RECOGNISE THE FACT THAT THE REPUBLIC DECLARED IN THE 1916 PROCLAMATION WAS AN ALL IRELAND REPUBLIC

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

“Aithníonn an Chomhairle seo gur Poblacht Uile-Éireann a fógraíodh i bhForógra 1916, ina raibh gach ceann den Dá Chontae is Tríocha, chomh maith le hoileáin, bealaí uisce agus farraigí na hÉireann. Dálta sínitheoirí Fhorógra 1916 dearbhaímid go bhfuil ceart dochloíte ag muintir na hÉireann gach cuid de na críocha náisiúnta seo a rialú. Glacaimid an deis seo i mbliana, céad bliain ó

Éirí Amach 1916, ár ndlúthpháirtíocht a chur in iúl agus a ghabháil leis an dá mhíliún saoránach Éireannach a bhfuil cónaí orthu faoi Riall na Breataine sna Sé Chontae go fóill, agus iarraidid ar Rialtas na Breataine deireadh a chur le gach maíomh a dhéanann siad ar dhlínse seo na hÉireann".

"This Council recognises that the Republic declared in the 1916 Proclamation was an all-Ireland Republic, encompassing all thirty-two counties as well as Ireland's Islands, Waterways and Seas. Like the signatories of the 1916 Proclamation we assert the indefeasible right of the Irish people to control of this national territory. We take the opportunity of the centenary of the 1916 Rising to extend our solidarity to the two million Irish citizens who continue to live under British rule in the Six Counties and to call on the British Government to end all claims of jurisdiction over Ireland."

Cllr Mac Giolla Easbuig said that he had submitted the motion in solidarity with the two million citizens who remained under British rule in the Six Counties. It was their right, he added, to have full independence as sought by those who lost their lives in 1916.

Cllr Blaney supporting the motion, said that Britain should make a declaration of intent to hand back Northern Ireland.

Cllr Crossan opposed the motion on the basis that majority of people in both the North and South of Ireland had voted in favour of the Good Friday Agreement and that the necessary institutions were in place based on the will of the people within both jurisdictions.

Cllr Crossan proposed, seconded by Cllr Mc Garvey that the motion should not proceed.

Cllr Mc Garvey whilst recognising the sentiment of the motion said that caution was needed and that recognition had to be given to the fact that many cross-border initiatives, and various strands of co-operation in a wide range of areas now existed.

Cllr Mac Giolla Easbuig called for the motion to be put to a vote.

A show of hands was then taken by the Meetings Administrator and resulted in 11 voting for and 11 voting against.

The Cathaoirleach confirmed that he did not wish to exercise his casting vote and thus the motion fell.

C/89/16 RECOMMENDATION BY DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL TO THE INCOMING GOVERNMENT TO ADOPT AND IMPLEMENT THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE ALL PARTY OIREACTAS COMMITTEE ON JOBS, ENTERPRISE AND INNOVATION REPORT ON THE “ALL ISLAND ECONOMY”

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

"As the Brexit poll of June 23rd nears with its possible economic consequences for Donegal, Border Communities and the Island's Economy, that Donegal County Council recommend to the incoming government the adoption and implementation of the recommendations of the all party Oireachtas Committee on Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation Report on the "All Island economy" (Jan. 2016) and welcome the recent International Report "Modelling Irish Unification" (2016 March) by Dr. Kurt Hubner which highlights the economic benefits to the island of Ireland in the event of unification."

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

Cllr Doherty alluded to the All Party Oireachtas Committee on Jobs Enterprise and Innovation Report on the “All Ireland Economy” which he contended outlined in detail the economic benefits of Irish Unification. This was a report, he said, to which a number of Members had contributed thus creating a specific footprint for the area in general. He alluded to the fact that 36% of all tourist visits to the North West originated in Northern Ireland , a feature which benefitted the economy in Donegal significantly. It was extremely important, he added, that this report was endorsed and implemented by the incoming Government. Attention was drawn also to the report on “ Modelling Irish Unification” by Dr Kurt Hubner which, he advised, clearly highlighted the economic benefits that could accrue from a 32 County Ireland.

Cllr Doherty said that both the German and Korean unification models clearly outlined the possibilities for long-term benefit

There were, he added, many issues relevant to the population of this County that could be progressed and improved under such a framework including mobile phone coverage and the promotion of Town Centre's and Retail Development. This, he advised, was a small Island with two separate tax regimes, two currencies and separate legal systems and thus placing counties such as Donegal at great social disadvantage.

Cllr Mc Monagle supporting the motion said that it was apt and timely and alluded to the fact that there was ongoing collaboration between Donegal County Council and Derry City & Strabane and Fermanagh & Omagh District Councils.

Tax harmonisation, he said, was another major issue he confirmed, and attention was drawn to the fact that the population of the entire island of Ireland was less than many of the cities in Britain and Europe. It was imperative, he said, that the reports on the benefits of unification as alluded to by many prominent economists were taken on board.

There was no opposition to the motion.

Cllr Doherty thanked Members for supporting the motion and asked that it be forwarded to all Border Counties and to the incoming Government for attention.

C/90/16 SEEKING OF FUNDING BY DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL
TO HAVE THE BREAKWATER AT GREENCASTLE
REOPENED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE

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

"When the new Government is in place, I would ask that Donegal County Council seek funding to have the Breakwater at Greencastle reopened as soon as possible."

Cllr M Farren received a response from the Director of Roads and Housing Capital in relation to the above.

Cllr Quinn said he was of the opinion that the motion was local in nature and therefore should be discussed at Municipal District level. Mr Joe Peoples, Meetings Administrator confirmed however that an administrative error had resulted in its inclusion and thus asked members how they wished to proceed.

It was unanimously agreed to proceed with the motion.

Cllr Farren alluded to the fact that was a verbal agreement in existence which provided for the reopening of the Breakwater at Greencastle as soon as additional funding became available. Given the recent upturn in the economy, it was imperative, he said, that this was done as soon as possible. €10.4 million was needed, he confirmed, to finish the project which was vital for the local community in Inishowen.

Cllr Mc Guinness, said he was of the opinion that the motion was county-wide given the fact that overall funding was a matter for the Council as a whole. With the economy edging toward recovery, the time was right, he noted, to seek monies for the completion of the project given the obvious economic and tourism benefits which would accrue.

There was no opposition to the motion.

Cllr Farren concluding said it was essential that there was cross-party co-operation to ensure the completion of the project and that the Council Executive seek the relevant funding as soon as the new Government was in place.

C/91/16

PROVISION OF THE FIRE SERVICE DOING CALL OUTS IN CASES OF EMERGENCIES FOR CARDIAC ARREST

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

"To ask this Council to meet with the Minister for Health and the HSE to look at the provision of the Fire Service doing call outs in cases of emergencies for cardiac arrest as all fire stations now have a defibrillator and personnel trained in cardiac first response as this would be of vital help in rural areas".

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

Cllr Mc Dermott said that the intention of his motion was not to detract from the obvious need for a more structured ambulance service in Inishowen, which encompassed an area of over 400sq kilometres and was larger than Co Louth.

It made sense, he contended, for Fire Service personnel to be able to do call outs in response to cardiac arrest emergencies in rural areas such as Inishowen.

The Department of Health, the National Ambulance Service and the Health Service Executive were, he contended, largely unaware of the geography of the peninsula and the associated road network. A co-ordinated effort, he advised was needed at this juncture.

Cllr Crawford supporting the motion said that the issue was complex and technical with the Fire Service also having to work within its own capabilities. Donegal County Council representatives on the HSE West, he stated, were continually frustrated in relation to the inadequacy of service provision and the slow pace of change. He highlighted also the need for community involvement and called for a Forum to be set up comprising the Health Service Executive, the Local Community and Donegal County Council which would strive to progress the matter in order to achieve a positive outcome for patients generally.

Cllr Kennedy suggested that all Municipal Districts be represented on this forum.

There was no opposition to the motion.

Mr Garry Martin, Head of Finance & Director of Information & Emergency Services said that his response had clearly outlined the complexities of the situation and that the primary focus was for all citizens to get the best service response possible. He confirmed that he had no view or access to information in relation to the National Ambulance Service.

The matter, he contended, was one that needed to be dealt with at national level given the obvious resource implications involved.

He was, he added, happy to assist in any process that could further the progress of the motion.

Cllr Mc Dermott concluding the debate acknowledged the need for a co-ordinated approach and thanked all who had supported the motion.

C/92/16

CALLS FOR THE COUNCIL TO MAKE STRONG
REPRESENTATIONS TO THE NRA IN AN EFFORT TO GET

MOTORWAY/DUAL CARRIAGEWAY DESIGNED AND BUILT TO DONEGAL

On the proposal of Cllr J P McDaid, seconded by, Cllr Crawford the following motion was adopted:-

"That this Council make strong representations to the NRA in a effort to get a motorway/dual carriageway designed and built to Donegal, and prior to that being done that the Letterkenny to Lifford road be re-designed and built, as having travelled the Country in the last few years it's embarrassing to see how neglected Donegal is regarding motorways in comparison to the rest of the Country".

Cllr McDaid received a response from the Director of Roads and Housing Capital in relation to the above.

He said that such infrastructural development was essential if investment was to come to Donegal and particularly in light of the current economic upturn.

The Letterkenny to Lifford Road, he confirmed, needed addressing immediately. He called for the matter be kept on the agenda going forward.

Cllr Crawford supporting the motion said that the issues were long standing and required an ongoing focus.

There was no opposition to the motion.

Mr John Mc Laughlin, Director Roads & Transportation said that a renewed focus would be placed on arranging meetings with the relevant transport Ministers in both jurisdictions in order to capitalize on any new developments.

Cllr Mc Daid reiterated his call for a renewed focus on the A5 and the Letterkenny to Lifford Road.

C/93/16 ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING

It was unanimously agreed to adjourn the meeting until 2.00pm.

C/94/16 THAT DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL SEEK A WORKING MEETING WITH ALL OUR OIREACHTAS REPRESENTATIVES ALONG WITH OUR MEPS

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

"That Donegal County Council seeks a working meeting with all our Oireachtas Representatives along with our MEPs which will focus collectively on issues such as economic development, tourism development, and all other barriers to reducing our unemployment levels."

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

Cllr Quinn advised Members that it was time to address in a meaningful way the many legacy issues facing this County, ranging from lack of motorway access to high unemployment levels which were a result of continuous underfunding and lack of investment.

Change was needed, he said, and required ongoing political will and co-operation. He called for a political taskforce to be set up with the immediate aim of bringing Donegal up to a level of development taken for granted by other Counties.

Cllr A Doherty supporting the motion advised of the need for a single voice to tackle issues such as emigration, unemployment, the lack of Roads Infrastructure and Public Transport, and the demise of the Fishing Industry. Every effort, he said, needed to be made to maximise the potential of Carrickfinn and Derry City Airports in terms of tourism development.

There was no opposition to the motion.

Cllr Mc Garvey advised of the need to draw up a county-wide list of priorities.

The Cathaoirleach alluded to the fact that there was already a unique template in operation in terms of the ongoing collaboration with Derry City and Strabane District Council.

Cllr Quinn concluding said that it would be essential that those attending any such meeting came to the table with no preconceived ideas and were willing to move forward in a meaningful and inclusive way.

C/95/16

CALL ON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH TO REVERSE THE
DECISION ON THE LOCATION OF THE NATIONAL
CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

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

"We the Members of Donegal County Council call on the Minister for Health to reverse the decision to locate the National Children's Hospital at St. James Hospital and locate the new Children's Hospital for all the children of Ireland at Connolly Hospital, Blanchardstown. The Connolly site offers 145 acres, vast space for expansion, easier access for the children of Donegal and extensive parking. The co-location with Connolly Hospital and the new Rotunda Maternity Hospital will result in better clinical outcomes. It will be cheaper and faster to build than on the St. James's Site."

Cllr McMonagle received a response from the Director of Housing, Corporate and Culture in relation to the above.

He said that he had been approached by a number of parents regarding the difficulties in travelling to Dublin to access child healthcare appointments. He was, he said, firmly of the opinion that the Connolly Hospital site was the best location for this facility, given the parking amenities available and the fact that the site was accessible to all. There was also he added considerable room for expansion at this location. He called on the Department to review the matter urgently.

Cllr Quinn supporting the motion said that all citizens were entitled to a say as to where the facility was located and that overall the Connolly site was a much more viable option for families travelling to Dublin.

There was no opposition to the Motion.

Cllr Mc Monagle thanked all who had supported the motion, outlining again the long-term benefits of the Connolly site. He asked that the motion be circulated to all Local Authorities for consideration.

C/96/16

UPDATE AND DISCUSSION ON THE HOUSING ESTATES
WHO HAVE APPLIED FOR TAKEOVER IN EACH MD

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

“That an update be provided and a discussion take place in relation to all Housing Estates who have applied for take over in each Municipal District?

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

Mr Eunan Quinn, Senior Planner circulated a number of reports detailing the programme of work involved in the “Taking in Charge” of Housing Developments at Municipal District level.

Cllr Mc Gowan noted that there were particular difficulties in relation to those estates where the Stand Alone Treatment Plants were no longer fit for purpose.

Donegal, he added, had a larger number of such estates and these did not seem to be coming forward for takeover.

In many cases, he noted, the sewage was running out onto the adjacent roads.

He enquired also in relation to the staffing resources allocated to estate takeover and expressed concern that staff movement would impact adversely on this work.

Cllr Canning supporting the motion noted that there were over 140 estates in Inishowen that required attention.

There was no opposition to the motion.

Mr Liam Ward, Director Community, Enterprise & Planning Services alluding to the documentation circulated confirmed that notices for takeover had been published in respect of 30 estates to date and that notices were ready to publish in respect of 29 estates. Work, he added, was ongoing in relation to the publication of 13 additional notices. He advised that there had been significant developments since the end of 2014 and that there was ongoing collaboration with other agencies such as Irish Water. The resources needed to effect change, he added, would be made available into the future.

Cllr Gallagher asked that information be provided in relation to the plans for dealing with those estates with stand alone treatment plants.

The Cathaoirleach said it would be useful to have further workshops in relation to takeover of estates at Municipal District level.

Cllr Mc Gowan concluding referred to specific problems in the Flaxfield Estate in Convoy and Dromore Park in Killygordon which, he contended, required immediate attention.

C/97/16

CATHAOIRLEACH'S BUSINESS

Votes of Sympathy

- Anne Melley, Planning, on the death of her mother, Mary (Mamie) Melley.
- Christy O' Donnell, Roads, on the death of his father, Charlie O' Donnell.
- Breege Stewart, formerly Internal Audit, on the death of her father, Charlie O' Donnell.
- Maria Mc Cafferty, Roads, on the death of her brother, Brendan Mc Cafferty.
- Jamie Gallagher, Roads, Dungloe PSC on the death of his father, Colm Gallagher.
- Marie Guthrie, formerly Finance, on the death of her father, Paddy Mc Elchar.
- Daragh Mc Donough, Information Systems, on the death of his father, Pat Mc Donough.

Attendance at the St Patricks's Day Events in the USA

The Cathaoirleach circulated a report detailing his attendance at a number of events in Philadelphia, New York and Boston.

Reception for Caroline Faulkner

Members were informed that a reception had been held in the Letterkenny Public Services Centre on the 24th March to honour Caroline Faulkner, outgoing Senior Managing Director and Chief Information Officer for Pramerica Systems Ireland. This, he said, provided an opportunity to pay tribute to Caroline and to Pramerica for their contribution to the County in terms of job creation and their involvement in a number of charitable works.

Civic Reception for Finn Harps

Members were informed that the reception had to be rescheduled as the club were now playing a re-fixture on that date. It was thus confirmed that the reception was being rescheduled to Monday 16th May, 2016.

Development Contribution Workshop

It was agreed to hold a workshop in relation to the Draft Development Contribution Scheme on Thursday 21st April, 2016.

Congratulations

Congratulations was extended to the 28th Battalion Unit – Irish Army, Finner Camp who led the parade at the 1916-2016 Commemoration Celebrations in Dublin on Easter Sunday.

Sister Cities Exchange Programme

Cllr Mc Dermott confirmed that the Inishowen Municipal District had received an invitation from the Mayor of Charlestown, St Louis inviting two Members to take part in a festival at the end of May, 2016. This he said, was directly related to the Exchange Programme currently underway in conjunction with the Community School in Carndonagh.

Cllr Mc Dermott proposed, seconded by, Cllr Mc Guinness that two representatives from the Inishowen Municipal District take part in the exchange programme.

C/98/16

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT

Members considered the report circulated with the agenda and addendum circulated during the meeting. An update was provided in relation to the following:-

- Housing Adaptation Grant Schemes for Older People and People with a Disability
- Donegal Business Week 2016
- Donegal Business Awards
- Local Enterprise Development Plan 2016
- Donegal County Council set to benefit from European Funding on a number of projects including the:
 - *HERICOAST Project*
 - *NICHE Project*

- *ERUDITE Project*
- *SECURE Project*
- *WaterPro Project*
- *ASCENT Project*
- *Northwest Greenways Network Project*
- *Catchment Care Project*
- Severe Weather Funding
- Local Government Shared Payroll Project

Nomination to the Donegal County Council Audit Committee

Members noted the casual vacancy on the Donegal County Council Audit Committee arising from the resignation of Mr Mícheál Mac Giolla Easbuig. They endorsed the appointment of the Chief Executives's nominee Mr Henry Mc Garvey, Secretary Financial Controller, Letterkenny Institute of Technology.

Members noted the following questions:-

C/99/16 LACK OF INSTRUCTIONS ON POLLING CARDS ON HOW TO MARK THE BALLOT

The following question was submitted by Cllr O'Fearraigh:-

Cén fath nach bhfuil eolas a chur ar na cardaí votail faoi uimhir a usaídh agus gan marc, muillead tharr 800 vóta ag an toghuchan dirneach maidir le seo?

Why can it not be indicated clearly on Voting Cards (Polling Cards) that numerals are to be used when voting and not a mark (i.e. X) - there were over 800 spoiled votes at the last election because people marked their paper with an X instead of numerically?

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

C/100/16 UPDATE ON THE MEETINGS HELD BETWEEN DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL AND THE EXPERT PANEL TO INVESTIGATE MUSCOVITE MICA

The following question was submitted by Cllr A Doherty:-

"How many meetings and visits have the expert panel to investigate Muscovite Mica under chairperson Dennis McCarthy had with Donegal County Council, and will the Council press for

the completion of the investigation and the conclusion of the report by May 31st, 2016 and pending the findings demand that a Government led Remediation Plan and Financial Redress Scheme be established for the Council and affected householders?

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

C/101/16 UPDATE ON THE PROGRESS THAT AT LEAST 25% OF THE SOCIAL HOUSING POLICY FOR 2020 WILL BE SI HOUSES

The following question was submitted by Cllr McDermott:-

“What progress has the Council made in relation to insuring that at least 25% of the social housing policy for 2020 will be SI houses?”

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

C/102/16 CLARIFICATION ON THE NUMBERS OF TYRE PRODUCERS, IMPORTERS, RETAILERS AND TYRE WASTE COLLECTORS ARE UNDER CURRENT REGULATIONS REGISTERED WITH DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

The following question was submitted by Cllr A Doherty:-

“How many tyre producers, importers, retailers and tyre waste collectors are under current regulations registered with Donegal County Council and given that the outgoing Government and Minister have formally approved REPAK ELT to operate new regulations and obligations for the above mentioned parties, is the Council aware of job losses envisaged for current waste providers, prospect of extra costings instigated by REPAK ELTs creation, lack of public consultation process before REPAK ELTs establishment and the opposition by ITWRA to current proposals?”

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

C/103/16 BREAKDOWN OF THE NUMBERS OF ROAD STAFF WORKERS PER EACH MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

The following question was submitted by Cllr McDermott:-

How many full time road staff workers are there in each of the Municipal Districts and can I have a breakdown by district for each area?

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

C/104/16 TIMEFRAME FOR THE PUTTING IN PLACE OF THE REDUCTION IN DEVELOPMENT CHARGES

The following question was submitted by Cllr O'Donnell:-

When will the reduction in development charges be put in place?

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

C/105/16 ACTIVE APPLICATONS UNDER THE NEIGHBOURHOOD SCHEME

The following question was submitted by Cllr Kavanagh:-

Does Donegal County Council have any active applications in place under the "Neighbourhood Scheme" and if so, for what areas?

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

C/106/16 PUBLIC AREA ENHANCEMENT SCHEME FOR 2016

The following question was submitted by Cllr Kavanagh:-

Is there a Public Area Enhancement Scheme in place for 2016, and have Donegal County Council received an allocation under same?

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

C/107/16 BREAKDOWN OF THE FUNDING PER EACH MUNICIPAL DISTRICT RECEIVED FROM THE NRA AND THE PROJECTS TO BE FUNDED

The following question was submitted by Cllr McDaid:-

Can I have a breakdown regarding funding from the NRA for 2016 per Electoral Area, and the projects/roads which will benefit in each Electoral Area?

Cllr McDaid received a response from the Director of Roads and Housing Capital in relation to the above.

C/108/16 CONTRACT OF ETHICS

The following question was submitted by Cllr Quinn:-

Why has the "Contract of Ethics", which was promised by the Executive in January, not been forwarded to Councillors?

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

C/109/16 CLARIFICATION ON THE MONIES COLLECTED ON RATES FROM WIND FARMS IN DONEGAL

The following question was submitted by Cllr Kennedy:-

How much money is collected on rates from wind farms in Donegal, can I please have a breakdown of payments per windfarm?

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

C/110/16 CLARIFICATION ON THE SUBSIDIES IN RELATION TO WINDFARMS IN DONEGAL

The following question was submitted by Cllr Kennedy:-

What is the amount of subsidies given to these wind farms in Donegal, can I please have a breakdown per wind farm?

Cllr Kennedy received a report from the Director of Finance, Information & Emergency Services in relation to the above.

C/111/16 UPDATE ON THE COUNCIL/NRA MEETING IN DECEMBER 2015 IN RELATION TO PAVEMENTS AND MINOR WORKS – 2016 PROGRAMME

The following question was submitted by Cllr McGowan:-

Can an update be given on the Council/NRA meeting in December, 2015 in relation to Pavements and Minor Works - 2016 Programmes and any reports from other connected bodies such as Irish Water, which projects are being funded etc.?

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

C/112/16 PROGRESS REPORT TO THE COUNCIL OF THE PERFORMANCE OF THE CITIZEN INFORMATION AND MABS SERVICES COUNTY-WIDE

The following question was submitted by Cllr McGowan:-

Can a progress report be given to the full Council on County-wide Citizens Information and MABs services which are proving to be very inadequate in some large areas of the County and questions needs to be asked of the Local Service Providers by the Council who are represented on the Committee?

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

C/113/16 MOTIONS FROM OTHER COUNCILS

The following motions from other Councils were noted:-

Offaly County Council

“Offaly County Council calls on the Minister for Education to introduce as a matter of urgency, a module in National Schools through Ireland which would make it compulsory to teach mindfulness and coping mechanisms as part of the school curriculum for all Primary Children and that the necessary teacher training is provided”.

Dublin City Council

“That Dublin City Council, in the context of the “age friendly villages” initiative, undertakes to arrange a “Caring for Dementia” Concert as an acknowledgement of carers who care for loved ones with dementia”.

Limerick City & County Council

“That Limerick City and County Council request the Ministers responsible, namely Finance & Agriculture, to legislate for the immediate reintroduction of the Early Retirement and Farm

Installation Schemes so as to ensure viability and continuity within this valuable sector of our local economy; and that we seek the support of Councils nationwide with Farming Interests.”

Leitrim County Council

“That Leitrim County Council will join with Donegal County Council in the appeal regarding the global re-valuation of 6 utilities.”

This concluded the business of the meeting.