

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE DHUN NA nGALL

Oifig Riarthóir na gCruinnithe
Aras an Chontae
LEIFEAR
25 Marta 2014

Beidh Cruinniú Comhairle Chontae Dhún na nGall ar siúl Dé Luain 31 Marta, 2014, 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 le seo.

Beidh Clár Orduithe an Bhainisteora Contae le feiceáil ag an gcruinniú.

Mise, le meas

**Liam Mac a'Bhaird
Riarthóir Cruinnithe**

DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

Office of Meetings Administrator
County House
Lifford
25th March, 2014

NOTICE OF MEETING

A Meeting of Donegal County Council will be held on Monday 31st March, 2014, at **11.00 am in the County House, Lifford.**

TO EACH MEMBER OF DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

Dear Councillor

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

The Register of County Manager's Orders will be available for inspection at the meeting.

Yours sincerely

**Liam Ward
Meetings Administrator**

AGENDA

1. Confirmation of Minutes

- a) Confirmation of the Minutes of the Budget Meeting of Donegal County Council held on the 18th December, 2013.
- b) Confirmation of the Minutes of the Adjourned Budget Meeting of the 6th January, 2014.
- c) Confirmation of the Minutes of the Adjourned Budget Meeting of the 7th January, 2014.
- d) Confirmation of the Minutes of the Adjourned Budget Meeting of the 13th January, 2014.
- e) Confirmation of the Minutes of the Adjourned January Meeting of Donegal County Council held on the 24th February, 2014.
- f) Confirmation of the Minutes of the February Meeting of Donegal County Council held on the 24th February, 2014.

MOTIONS

- (L) Local
- (C) County
- (O) Other

GLENTIES ELECTORAL AREA

Housing and Capital

2. Clr Slowey

"That this Council put in place a Representative Committee to ensure a new 37 Member Council Chamber is fully functional for a 21st Century Donegal." (C)

Water and Environment

3. Clr O'Domhnaill

"That this Council discuss and prioritise the upgrade of the Falcarragh Sewerage Treatment Plant and also seek to allow capacity within the plant to allow for the Gortahork Plant to be coupled and treated in Falcarragh." (L)

Corporate

4. Clr Alcorn

"That we the Members of Donegal County Council ask the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform to lift the embargo on recruitment in the Public Service, in particular because of the steady decline in the Employees of Donegal County Council." (C)

Finance

5. Clr M T Gallagher
"That this Council consider allocating a member of staff to engage with small business/rate payers to provide assistance to this sector, who are finding it increasingly difficult to keep their doors open." (C)

INISHOWEN ELECTORAL AREA

Roads and Transportation

6. Clr Canning
"I would ask that this Council sets up an emergency traffic management plan in partnership with the emergency services providing one way systems adjacent to all major arteries within the County." (C)

Housing and Building

7. Clr McGuinness
"That this Council seek permission from the Department and the Minister of Environment to purchase and build houses in the County." (C)

Corporate

8. Clr Murray
"That Donegal County Council requests that all positions which are to be recruited to staff election day, such as election booths and the count centre, are advertised as widely as possible, including in social welfare offices." (O)
9. Clr Donaghey
"That the Minister responsible for the Telecommunications explain why any ESB-related fibre broadband will most likely simply be in areas that already have - or are scheduled for - high-speed broadband and nothing is being done for rural areas where it is crucial to ensure that rural communities, business and schools survive." (O)

Water and Environment

10. Clr Ryan
"That this Council expedite plans already agreed to upgrade the sewage treatment system in Bridgend to enable the connection of the three housing estates in Bridgend, Aileach Valley, Carrick Bridge and Stoney Bridge and to ring fence the necessary funding required to

enable these three estates be connected to the existing sewer network."
(L)

LETTERKENNY ELECTORAL AREA

Corporate

11. Clr Larkin

"That this Council discuss the very serious issue of waiting times for the general anaesthetic service in Letterkenny Hospital which is leading to 6 months waiting time for special needs and young children who are requiring basic dental treatment." (O)

12. Clr Quinn

"Donegal County Council welcomes the additional resource recently allocated to North Donegal MABS, however we believe that the temporary appointment of an additional MABS Officer for 6 months will not be sufficient to address the waiting lists along with the ever increasing number of people availing of the service. Accordingly we request that Minister Burton approves the continued resource until the waiting list has been cleared." (O)

Community and Enterprise

13. Clr Blaney

"Considering that Donegal County Council have failed to obtain applications for licence to operate the roll on/ roll off ferry service for the 2014 Season between the harbours of Rathmullan and Buncrana, I call on this Council to open discussions with all roll on/roll off ferry operators in Donegal and elsewhere to ascertain what interest exists to take on this route." (C)

14. Clr N McBride

"That this Council make contact with the United States Embassy and formally request that recognition be given to the fact that James Buchanan the 15th President of the United States of America had strong parental links with Donegal." (O)

Roads and Transportation

15. Clr Brogan

"I propose that this Council discuss the criteria for where speed cameras are parked in Co Donegal and if and what input our road safety team have had into this process." (C)

DONEGAL ELECTORAL AREA

Corporate

16. Clr McEniff

"That the Council investigate the possibility of taking over the repair and maintenance of the Town Clock in Ballyshannon." (O)

STRANORLAR ELECTORAL AREA

Roads and Transportation

17. Clr Crawford

"That this Council put in place a much needed one way traffic system in Lifford." (L)

18. Clr McGowan

"That Donegal County Council re-establish "Land Drainage Committees" with representation from land owners etc following the Council elections in May 2014 as flooding is causing serious damage to public and private roads as well as other property and no one takes responsibility when drains are not maintained or are diverted onto someone else's property resulting in damage to property." (C)

Corporate

19. Clr G Doherty

"That this Council calls on Eircom to immediately upgrade the telephone exchange in St Johnston to facilitate an effective broadband service for the village." (L)

Community and Enterprise

20. Clr McBrearty

"I am calling on the Government to abolish Joint Policing Committee and replace them with Policing Boards with the same powers as policing Boards in Northern Ireland." (O)

21. Disposal of Land – Section 211 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 land at St Eunan's Terrace Raphoe to the Trustees of Raphoe Boxing Club.
- 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 land at Magherasollus, Raphoe known as Sheldon's Quarry, to Mr Atty Magee, Raphoe.

22. Community and Enterprise

To establish Donegal Local and Community Development Committee – Seeking the nomination of 3 Members of Donegal County Council onto the LCDC Committee.

23. Roads and Transportation

To approve the 2014 Bridge Strengthening Programme.

24. Planning and Economic Development

Consideration of the Draft Buncrana and Environs Development Plan 2014-2020 and Environmental Report together with the Managers Report and attached Addendum. (Please arrange to bring copy circulated previously on the 7th February, 2014).

25. Corporate

To decide whether to issue polling cards to Local Government Electors for the Local Elections on 23rd May, 2014.

26. Endorsement of Minutes

- a) Endorsement of the Confirmed Minutes of the Letterkenny Electoral Area Committee Meeting held on the 19th November, 2013.
- b) Endorsement of the Confirmed Minutes of the Stranorlar Electoral Area Committee Meeting held on the 14th January, 2014.
- c) Endorsement of the Confirmed Minutes of Donegal Electoral Area Committee Meeting held on the 15th January, 2014.
- d) Endorsement of the Confirmed Minutes of Island Committee Meeting held on the 21st January, 2014.
- e) Endorsement of the Confirmed Minutes of Inishowen Electoral Area Committee Meeting held on the 21st January, 2014.
- f) Endorsement of the Confirmed Minutes of the Letterkenny Electoral Area Committee Meeting held on the 21st January, 2014.
- g) Endorsement of the Confirmed Minutes of the Glenties Electoral Area Committee Meeting held on the 21st January, 2014.
- h) To note Minutes of Corporate Policy Group Meeting held on 17th February, 2014.

27. Request for Deputation

To consider request for reception of Deputation from Mica Action Group.

28. Authorisation of representation at a Seminar, Meeting 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 of 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:-

- 12th Carlow Tourism National Conference to be held from Thursday 3rd to Saturday 5th April, 2014 at the Talbot Hotel, Portlaoise Road, Carlow Town.
- Elected Member's Training Seminar – Data Protection to be held from Friday 4th to Saturday 5th April, 2014 at Aras an Mhuilinn, Jail Hill, Mount Street, Mullingar, Co Westmeath.
- Training Seminar for Councillors – Retirement Planning for Councillors to be held Friday 4th and Saturday 5th April, 2014 at the Fairways Hotel, Dublin Road, Dundalk, Co Louth.
- Irish Planning Institute – National Planning Conference 2014 to be held Thursday 10th and Friday 11th April, 2014 in Limerick City.
- Training Seminar for Councillors – Tourism in Local Communities, to be held Friday 11th and Saturday 12th April, 2014 at the Talbot Hotel, Wexford.
- BGSEminarz – Training Seminar, Environmental and Cost Effective Solutions to Waste Water Treatment to be held from Friday 11th to Sunday 13th April, 2014.
- Training Seminar for Councillors – The Local Government Arts Service to be held from Saturday 12th and Sunday 13th April, 2014 at the Clybaun Hotel, Clybaun Road, Knocknacarra, Galway.
- The Institute of Professional Training – 5 Week Countdown to Local Elections 2014 – A Ballot Box to Council Chamber Module to be held from Friday 18th to Sunday 20th April, 2014 at the Silver Tassie Hotel, Letterkenny, Co Donegal.
- Elected Member's Training Seminar – Social Clauses in Public Procurement to be held Friday 25th and Saturday 26th April, 2014 in the Westport Plaza Hotel, Castlebar Street, Westport, Co. Mayo.

- BGSeminarz – Training Seminar, The Elected Members, the Environment and the Community to be held from Friday 25th to Sunday 27th April, 2014 at the Maldron Hotel, Portlaoise, Co Laois.

29. Conference Reports

Clr Dessie Larkin

Housing Grants and Schemes held Friday 13th and Saturday 14th December, 2013 at the Connacht Hotel, Dublin Road, Galway

Clr Terence Slowey

LAMA Spring Seminar held from Friday 31st January to Saturday 1st February, 2014 at the Four Seasons Hotel, Monaghan.

Clr Dessie Larkin

IPA Tutorial held Sunday 2nd to Monday 3rd February, 2014 at the IPA HQ Dublin.

Clr John Boyle

Association of County and City Councils held Thursday 6th and Friday 7th March, 2014 in the Slieve Russell Hotel, Cavan.

Clr Dessie Larkin

IPA Tutorial held Saturday 22nd and Sunday 23rd March, 2014 at the IPA Headquarters in Dublin.

30. Mayor's Business

31. Manager's Report

QUESTIONS

- (L) Local
- (C) County
- (O) Other

GLENTIES ELECTORAL AREA

Roads and Transportation

32. Clr Slowey

"Will this Council survey the newly surfaced carpark in Narin Blue Flag Beach to maximize parking, carry out the necessary markings and provide signage to ensure proper safe traffic flow to and from the Narin/Portnoo Golf Club?" (L)

33. Clr Alcorn

"What is the prescribed timescale for Donegal County Council to reply to claim forms submitted by members of the public, who have

unfortunately had major damages done to their Vehicles on Donegal Roads?"

34. Clr O'Domhnaill

"Can this Council arrange to have a footpath constructed from the junction in Gortahork Village to the Parish Hall (approx 250 metres) on the Baltony Road?" (L)

Water and Environment

35. Clr Slowey

"Will the work starting in April on the new Sewerage Treatment Plant at Glenties include whatever measures are necessary to solve the sewerage smells on the Glenties Main Street at the Bridge and Community Centre?" (L)

36. Clr O'Domhnaill

"In regards to our Potable Water Quality within Donegal can I have the following points answered:

What measures are in place at the water treatment plants, to ensure correct procedures are adhered to? Log sheets, dates, times, amounts, who administered it?

How many (qualified) people are employed at these sites (Pump Houses) and who else is there to oversee the procedures, regarding the amount of chemicals being used are correct?

Are there any audits conducted (how often) at the pump houses in relation to how many chemicals are being used and ordered, to what is actually being placed in the water system i.e. to much or to little?

What is the serviceability of our pump houses, how up to date are they in comparison with for example Northern Ireland?

What amount of chemicals are being used added to our water in comparison to Northern Ireland for example?

Could we have an independent water survey carried out to confirm or deny the quality of our water, for the people and re-assurance?" (C)

37. Clr Alcorn

"Re: Burtonport Sewerage Scheme:-

Due to several correspondence received from E.P.A., can I get an assurance that the proposed Burtonport Sewerage Scheme will be

included on the Small Capital Schemes for 2014, as I have been raising this matter continuously since 1999?"

Corporate

38. Clr M T Gallagher
"Considering the changes to the running of this council in June will this Council get a full briefing on how these changes will be enacted to this Council?" (C)
39. Clr M T Gallagher
"Will this Council discuss publicly the WSW prior to the ending of this Council so as to finalise this debacle?" (C)

INISHOWEN ELECTORAL AREA

Roads and Transportation

40. Clr Canning
"Has there been any further developments in relation to the Manor Roundabout, further to a motion which I had passed previously?" (L)
41. Clr Canning
"Is there a problem with the road surface material on the dual carriageway joining Letterkenny with the Manor Roundabout?" (L)
42. Clr McGuinness
"Will the Council engage with those who carried out the (Life Project) in relation to coastal erosion in the County?" (C)

Housing and Building

43. Clr McGuinness
"Give full details of the housing needs in each Electoral Area?" (C)

Corporate

44. Clr Murray
"Can this council provide a breakdown of all costs associated with the 3 delegations (from Donegal County Council, Letterkenny Town Council and Buncrana Town Council) which travelled to America for St Patrick's Day 2014 ie travel, accommodation and subsistence?" (O)

Water and Environment

45. Clr Murray

"Can this Council provide an emergency strategy in order to assist residents in estates whose wastewater treatment system is failing and is creating an environmental hazard?" (C)

LETTERKENNY ELECTORAL AREA

Roads and Transportation

46. Clr Larkin

"Could the Members see the design and spec for the proposed pedestrian crossing at the Aura Leisure Centre?" (L)

47. Clr Brogan

"What response have this Council received from the Taoiseach's Office and the Minister for Transport regarding a meeting with a cross-party delegation from our Council to clarify the Government position on the A5 and Letterkenny to Strabane Road?" (C)

48. Clr N McBride

"Can Donegal County Council take over the lights at the slipway in Downings and those surrounding the Laurentic Gun?" (L)

49. Clr N McBride

"Can traffic calming measures be installed outside both national schools in Ramelton?" (L)

Water and Environment

50. Clr Quinn

"Please advise me on what actions the Council has taken to stop the overflow of waste/effluent from the pumping station on Brookfield Heights, Letterkenny?" (L)

51. Clr Blaney

"When does Donegal County Council intend to decommission the water source at Gortlough, Rathmullan and have the Rathmullan, Drumhalla, Oughterlin and White Strand areas connected to the water supply from Milford?" (L)

52. Clr Brogan

"When is it expected that we as Members of Donegal County Council will meet with Members of Irish Water as they said in January, they would meet in March but this didn't happen?" (C)

Corporate

53. Clr Quinn

"Has there been any discussions between the Council and the Trade Unions regarding the Gateway Initiative?" (C)

Community and Enterprise

54. Clr Blaney

"Will Donegal County Council furnish me with an annual breakdown of subsidies provided, traffic volume and length of service since inception in relation to the Rathmullan-Buncrana car ferry service, all of which I have requested on various occasions recently?" (C)

STRANORLAR ELECTORAL AREA

Roads and Transportation

55. Clr Crawford

"Will this Council initiate the Provision of traffic control lights on the N14 at the bottom of Croaghan Heights in the interest of Road Safety?" (L)

56. Clr G Doherty

"Has this Council explored the possibility of introducing 'Parent & Child' parking bays in public car parks?" (C)

57. Clr McBrearty

"Can the Council outline what the cost would be on a CPO for a footpath on lands at the R-236-6 starting at the L-2374-4, known locally as the Race Course Road up to the Royal School, as the land would need a CPO on the right hand side to join up with the footpath at Beechwood Ave, and what funding could be applied for on the building of a footpath at the R-236-6, and how does the town boundary and speed limit sign affect such funding as this section of road is just outside the speed limit of the town?" (L)

Water and Environment

58. Clr Crawford

"What is the present position in relation to the provision of Sewerage Treatment Works in St Johnston?" (L)

Corporate

59. Clr McGowan

"Please can I have an update on my motions over the last 24 months?" (O)

60. Clr McGowan

"Will Donegal County Council through its membership of the Citizens Information Board and the MABS Boards in Donegal demand a proper Information Service be opened in Ballybofey to service the Stranorlar Area which is without a service between Buncrana and Donegal Town despite there being a dozen offices in the County?" (L)

61. Clr McBrearty

"Can legal advice be given on the passing of a resolution by full Council on un-used funding from a Members Conference allocation being redirected to their Members Development Fund. If passed by resolution of full Council, does this have a legal standing?" (C)

Finance

62. Clr G Doherty

"What percentage of Donegal County Council's housing tenants are currently in rent arrears?" (C)

63. Motions from Other Councils/Bodies

EDENDERRY TOWN COUNCIL

"That Edenderry Town Council calls on the Government to overturn the decision to impose a Student Service Charge on apprentices while undergoing the education module of their apprenticeship training in Institutes of Technologies."

CLONES TOWN COUNCIL

"We call on the minister for the Environment, community and Local Government, Dept. Phil Hogan, T.D. to abolish the extra charge people are forced to pay, as a result of taxing their car for a three-month period as opposed to a twelve-month period."

LIMERICK COUNTY COUNCIL

"That, Limerick County Council would call upon the Government to immediately take steps to legislate against all types of top-ups and bonuses where tax payers' money is involved and, furthermore, that the support of all local authorities be sought for this Motion."

NORTH TIPPEARARY COUNTY COUNCIL

"Calling on the Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation to introduce legislation on low cost selling as soon as possible to protect small retailers."

LIMERICK COUNTY COUNCIL

“That, Limerick County Council would call on the Government to introduce the necessary legislation that will ensure the retention of the post office network throughout Ireland and further that support for this Motion would be requested from all local authorities.”

MINUTES OF MARCH MEETING OF DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL,
HELD IN THE COUNTY HOUSE, LIFFORD ON 31ST MARCH, 2014

C/154/14 MEMBERS PRESENT

Clrs I Mc Garvey, Mayor, D Alcorn, L Blaney, J Boyle, C Brogan, B Byrne, J Campbell, P Canning, G Crawford, G Doherty, M. Doherty, Pdraig Doherty, R. Donaghey, M Farren, M T Gallagher, M Harley, D Larkin, F Mc Brearty, M McBride, N Mc Bride, S McEniff, P McGowan, B McGuinness, J Murray, S O'Domhnaill, B O'Neill, M Quinn, J Ryan, and T Slowey.

C/155/14 OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE

Mr Seamus Neely, County Manager, Mr Liam Ward, Director of Housing and Corporate, Meetings Administrator, Mr John McLaughlin, Director of Roads & Transportation, Mr Garry Martin, Head of Finance & Director of Emergency Services, Mr Joe Peoples, A/Director of Water & Environment, Mr Michael Heaney, Director of Community Culture & Planning, Mr Eunan Quinn, A/Senior Planner, Mr Denis Kelly, Senior Executive Planner, Mr Stephen Flynn, Senior Engineer, Ms Ann Marie Conlon, Communications Officer, Ms Anne Marie Crawford, Staff Officer, Corporate Services.

C/156/14 QUERY REGARDING IRISH WATER

Clr Gallagher enquired as to why the proposed meeting with Irish Waters as agreed in conjunction with the 2014 Budget deliberations had not yet taken place. It was imperative she said that a date was set prior to the end of the meeting.

Clr Mc Gowan proposed, seconded by Clr Brogan that Question 52 on the agenda which alluded to same be re-designated as a Motion.

C/157/14 VARIATION IN THE ORDER OF BUSINESS

At this juncture on the proposal of Clr Mc Brearty, seconded by Clr Mc Gowan it was resolved to vary the order of business and deal with the following items:-

Items 1, 21 (a) and (b), 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, and 29.

At the request of Clr Murray it was agreed to leave Item 24 until later in the meeting.

- C/158/14 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF BUDGET MEETING OF DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL HELD ON THE 18TH DECEMBER, 2013
On the proposal of Clr Donaghey, seconded by, Clr McBrearty, the Minutes of the Budget Meeting of Donegal County Council held on the 18th December, 2013 were adopted.
- C/159/14 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF ADJOURNED BUDGET MEETING HELD ON THE 6TH JANUARY, 2014
On the proposal of Clr Donaghey, seconded by, Clr Farren, the Minutes of the Adjourned Budget Meeting of Donegal County Council held on the 6th January, 2014 were adopted.
- C/160/14 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF ADJOURNED BUDGET MEETING HELD ON THE 7TH JANUARY, 2014
On the proposal of Clr Farren, seconded by, Clr Harley, the Minutes of the Adjourned Budget Meeting of Donegal County Council held on the 7th January, 2014 were adopted.
- C/161/14 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF ADJOURNED BUDGET MEETING HELD ON THE 13TH JANUARY, 2014
On the proposal of Clr Farren, seconded by, Clr Harley, the Minutes of the Adjourned Budget Meeting of Donegal County Council held on the 13th January, 2014 were adopted.
Clr Mc Brearty asked that it be noted that neither he nor any other Member of Donegal County Council received any extra remuneration for attendance at any of the Adjourned Budget Meetings.
- C/162/14 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF ADJOURNED JANUARY MEETING HELD ON THE 24TH February, 2014
On the proposal of Clr Farren, seconded by, Clr Mc Brearty, the Minutes of the Adjourned January Meeting of Donegal County Council held on the 24th February, 2014 were adopted.
- C/163/14 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF FEBRUARY MEETING HELD ON THE 24TH FEBRUARY, 2014
On the proposal of Clr Mc Brearty, seconded by, Clr Boyle, the Minutes of the February Meeting of Donegal County Council held on the 24th January, 2014 were adopted.

C/164/14 DISPOSAL OF LAND AT ST EUNAN'S TERRACE RAPHOE TO THE TRUSTEES OF RAPHOE BOXING CLUB

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

On the proposal of Clr Mc Brearty, seconded by, Clr Farren, it was resolved to formally dispose of land at St Eunan's Terrace, Raphoe to the Trustees of Raphoe Boxing Club, 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/165/14 DISPOSAL OF LAND AT MAGHERASOLLUS, RAPHOE KNOWN AS SHELDON'S QUARRY TO MR ATTY MAGEE, RAPHOE

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

On the proposal of Clr McBrearty, seconded by, Clr Farren, it was resolved to formally dispose of land at Magherasollus, Raphoe known as Sheldon's Quarry to Mr Atty Magee, Raphoe, 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/166/14 ESTABLISHMENT OF THE DONEGAL LOCAL AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE AND THE SELECTION OF 3 NO MEMBERS OF DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL ONTO THE LCDC COMMITTEE

Members considered the report circulated with the agenda in relation to the above. Clrs Brogan and Mc Brearty suggested that it might be more appropriate to deal with same in June following the Local Government Elections.

Clr Mc Guinness asked as to the possibility of retaining the DLDC and Inishowen Partnership structures.

Mr Michael Heaney, Director Community, Culture and Planning advised that the establishment of the Donegal Local Community Development Committee had to be in accordance with Department Guidelines and timescales. It was essential, he confirmed, that this Committee was established as soon as possible, given that it would have an oversight role in relation to the existing LCDP funding allocation for Donegal from July 2014.

He cited the need to have a robust community and economic development plan for the County in place in order to avail of designated funding. It was not possible, he confirmed, to have a separate LCDC for Inishowen or the Gaeltacht. The overall aim it was acknowledged was follow up on and progress specific actions in relation to the various Municipalities and the Off-Shore Islands.

The County Manager confirmed that it would be possible to proceed with the establishment of the committee and leave the selection of the three Elected Members until the next Meeting of Council.

Responding to a number of queries, Mr Michael Heaney, Director Community, Culture & Enterprise confirmed that the number of State Agencies involved was limited to three and that consensus would be sought from all the agencies currently represented on the County Development Board.

It was noted that there was already significant representation from the State Agency Sector on the Donegal Economic Development Committee.

Clr Canning suggested that membership be amended to provided for the election of five Elected Members from Donegal County Council.

Clr Quinn said he was of the opinion that Donegal County Council should not tender for these services given that the present system was more than fit for the purpose.

The County Manager said that the likes of the DLDC and Inishowen partnership would not be subsumed into Donegal County Council. The overall process, it was acknowledged, would allow Donegal County Council an oversight role in economic development.

The Director of Community, Culture & Enterprise advised that one of the main benefits was that there would now be one central co-ordinating body, through which all relevant funding streams would be channelled.

Clr Brogan suggested that the Party Whips meet to discuss same and that the matter be considered later in the meeting or at the Adjourned Council Meeting whichever was most appropriate.

Clr Mc Brearty cited the need for all Public Representatives to be represented at the meeting as local communities were, he added, entitled to equal representation.

Queries were raised also in relation to the redeployment of staff from the Development Companies concerned and as to whether or not the process was being rushed through.

Clr Mc Guinness warned against scaremongering in relation to the jobs aspect. He said that the existing companies would continue to function but that Donegal County Council would now have a say in what they did rather than the Department. It was essential, he added, that a workshop be held to discuss the matter.

Clr Gallagher said she was of the opinion that a Public Meeting was warranted in order to obtain clarification on the transfer process, and that representatives from the DLDC and Inishowen Partnership should be invited to attend.

The County Manager said it was a matter for the Council as to how it intended to fulfil its obligations noting that it was ultimately statutorily obliged.

He suggested that the matter be dealt with immediately after the forthcoming workshop on the Local Government Reform Programme.

Mr Liam Ward, Meetings Administrator left the meeting at this juncture. Mr Joe Peoples assumed the role of Meetings Administrator in his absence.

On the proposal of Clr Brogan, seconded by Clr Mc Guinness it was resolved that the Party Whips meet to discuss same and that the matter be revisited later in the evening.

Clr Mc Gowan suggested that four or five groupings be formed to discuss same.

Thus it was unanimously agreed to defer the item until 5pm.

- C/167/14 APPROVAL OF THE 2014 SPECIALIST BRIDGE STRENGTHENING WORKS PROGRAMME
Members noted the report circulated with the agenda in relation to the above.
On the proposal of Clr Farren, seconded by, Clr McBrearty, the 2014 Specialist Bridge Strengthening Works Programme was approved.
- C/168/14 TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE ISSUING OF POLLING CARDS
On the proposal of Clr McGowan, seconded by Clr Brogan, it was resolved to issue Polling Cards to Local Government Electors for the Local Elections on 23rd May, 2014.

On the proposal of Clr Alcorn, seconded by, Clr O'Domhnaill it was resolved that every effort be made to ensure that voting for those living on the Off Shore Islands is held on the same day as voting on the mainland.

Clr McGuinness proposed, seconded by, Clr Brogan, that applications from those taking part in pre-planned pilgrimages abroad for a postal vote would be favourably considered.

Clr Slowey advocated the need for rationalisation of the electoral process, and the necessity of putting an Electoral Commission in place.
- C/169/14 ENDORSEMENT OF THE CONFIRMED MINUTES OF MEETING OF LETTERKENNY ELECTORAL AREA COMMITTEE HELD ON THE 19TH NOVEMBER 2013
On the proposal of Clr McGowan, seconded by, Clr Brogan, it was resolved to endorse the Confirmed Minutes of Meeting of Letterkenny Electoral Area Committee held on the 19th November, 2013.
- C/170/14 ENDORSEMENT OF THE CONFIRMED MINUTES OF MEETING OF STRANORLAR ELECTORAL AREA COMMITTEE HELD ON THE 14TH JANUARY 2014
On the proposal of Clr McGowan, seconded by, Clr McBrearty, it was resolved to endorse the Confirmed Minutes of Meeting of Stranorlar Electoral Area Committee held on the 14th January 2014.

- C/171/14 ENDORSEMENT OF THE CONFIRMED MINUTES OF MEETING OF DONEGAL ELECTORAL AREA COMMITTEE HELD ON THE 15TH JANUARY 2014
On the proposal of Clr McEniff, seconded by, Clr Campbell, it was resolved to endorse the Confirmed Minutes of Meeting of Donegal Electoral Area Committee held on the 15th January 2014.
- C/172/14 ENDORSEMENT OF THE CONFIRMED MINUTES OF MEETING OF ISLAND COMMITTEE HELD ON THE 21ST JANUARY 2014
On the proposal of Clr Alcorn, seconded by, Clr O'Domhnaill, it was resolved to endorse the Confirmed Minutes of Meeting of Island Committee held on the 21st January 2014.
- C/173/14 ENDORSEMENT OF THE CONFIRMED MINUTES OF MEETING OF INISHOWEN ELECTORAL AREA COMMITTEE HELD ON THE 21ST JANUARY 2014
On the proposal of Clr Farren, seconded by, Clr Donaghey, it was resolved to endorse the Confirmed Minutes of Meeting of Inishowen Electoral Area Committee held on the 21st January 2014.
- C/174/14 ENDORSEMENT OF THE CONFIRMED MINUTES OF MEETING OF LETTERKENNY ELECTORAL AREA COMMITTEE HELD ON THE 21ST JANUARY 2014
On the proposal of Clr Brogan, seconded by, Clr McGarvey, it was resolved to endorse the Confirmed Minutes of Meeting of Letterkenny Electoral Area Committee held on the 21st January 2014.
- C/175/14 ENDORSEMENT OF THE CONFIRMED MINUTES OF MEETING OF GLENTIES ELECTORAL AREA COMMITTEE HELD ON THE 21ST JANUARY 2014
On the proposal of Clr Alcorn, seconded by, Clr Slowey, it was resolved to endorse the Confirmed Minutes of Meeting of Glenties Electoral Area Committee held on the 21st January 2014.
- C/176/14 TO NOTE THE CONFIRMED MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE CORPORATE POLICY GROUP HELD ON 17TH FEBRUARY 2014
Members noted the confirmed minutes of the Corporate Policy Group held on the 17th February 2014.

C/177/14 TO CONSIDER REQUEST FOR DEPUTATION FROM MICA ACTION GROUP

On the proposal of Clr McGuinness, seconded by, Clr Murray, it was resolved that a deputation from MICA Action Group could address a future meeting of the Council.

C/178/14 CONFERENCES

Having noted the revised arrangements under Section 142 5(d) of the Local Government Act, 2001, introduced by the Local Government (Expenses of Local Authority Members) Regulations 2006 and 2010 and directives issued by the Minister in that regard, on the proposal of Clr Alcorn, seconded by, Clr Farren, it was resolved to authorise any member, if he/she so wished, to attend the following conferences, subject to the normal procedures:-

1. Individual members not exceeding their annual budget for attendance at conferences.
 2. Payment of expenses for attendance to be conditional on the member furnishing documentary evidence of attendance.
 3. Submission of a Conference Report
- 12th Carlow Tourism National Conference to be held from Thursday 3rd to Saturday 5th April, 2014 at the Talbot Hotel, Portlaoise Road, Carlow Town.
 - Elected Member's Training Seminar – Data Protection to be held from Friday 4th to Saturday 5th April, 2014 at Aras an Mhuilinn, Jail Hill, Mount Street, Mullingar, Co Westmeath.
 - Training Seminar for Councillors – Retirement Planning for Councillors to be held Friday 4th and Saturday 5th April, 2014 at the Fairways Hotel, Dublin Road, Dundalk, Co Louth.
 - Irish Planning Institute – National Planning Conference 2014 to be held Thursday 10th and Friday 11th April, 2014 in Limerick City.
 - Training Seminar for Councillors – Tourism in Local Communities, to be held Friday 11th and Saturday 12th April, 2014 at the Talbot Hotel, Wexford.
 - BG Seminarz – Training Seminar, Environmental and Cost Effective Solutions to Waste Water Treatment to be held from Friday 11th to Sunday 13th April, 2014.
 - Training Seminar for Councillors – The Local Government Arts Service to be held from Saturday 12th and Sunday 13th April,

2014 at the Clybaun Hotel, Clybaun Road, Knocknacarra, Galway.

- The Institute of Professional Training – 5 Week Countdown to Local Elections 2014 – A Ballot Box to Council Chamber Module to be held from Friday 18th to Sunday 20th April, 2014 at the Silver Tassie Hotel, Letterkenny, Co Donegal.
- Elected Member's Training Seminar – Social Clauses in Public Procurement to be held Friday 25th and Saturday 26th April, 2014 in the Westport Plaza Hotel, Castlebar Street, Westport, Co. Mayo.
- BGSEminarz – Training Seminar, The Elected Members, the Environment and the Community to be held from Friday 25th to Sunday 27th April, 2014 at the Maldron Hotel, Portlaoise, Co Laois.

C/179/14 CONFERENCE REPORTS

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

Clr Dessie Larkin

Housing Grants and Schemes held Friday 13th and Saturday 14th December, 2013 at the Connacht Hotel, Dublin Road, Galway

Clr Terence Slowey

LAMA Spring Seminar held from Friday 31st January to Saturday 1st February, 2014 at the Four Seasons Hotel, Monaghan.

Clr Dessie Larkin

IPA Tutorial held Sunday 2nd to Monday 3rd February, 2014 at the IPA HQ Dublin.

Clr John Boyle

Association of County and City Councils held Thursday 6th and Friday 7th March, 2014 in the Slieve Russell Hotel, Cavan.

Clr Dessie Larkin

IPA Tutorial held Saturday 22nd and Sunday 23rd March, 2014 at the IPA Headquarters in Dublin.

C/180/14 ABOLISHMENT OF JOINT POLICING COMMITTEES

It was unanimously agreed to amend the designation of the following Motion No 20 to county-wide:-

"I am calling on the Government to abolish Joint Policing Committees and replace them with Policing Boards with the same powers as Policing Boards in Northern Ireland."

C/181/14 PUTTING IN PLACE OF A REPRESENTATIVE COMMITTEE TO ENSURE THE NEW 37 MEMBER COUNCIL CHAMBER IS FULLY FUNCTIONAL FOR A 21ST CENTURY DONEGAL

On the proposal of Clr Slowey, seconded by, Clr M T Gallagher the following motion was adopted:-

"That this Council put in place a Representative Committee to ensure a new 37 Member Council Chamber is fully functional for a 21st Century Donegal."

Members were informed that:-

This item is also covered in the Manager's Report to this Council Meeting as follows:

The new Council to be elected in May 2014 will consist of 37 members including the Mayor. This is an increase of 8 Elected Members from the current 29 Member Council. The existing Council Chamber in Lifford cannot accommodate 37 elected members and the required staff for the running of the meetings. In addition, the space for the press and the members of the public is very restricted and limited.

The Architect's Office examined a number of preliminary options in 2013 to accommodate the new Council as follows:

- 1) Expand existing Chamber to incorporate the Committee Room and adjoining corridor;
- 2) Expand existing Chamber to incorporate the Mayor's Office and adjoining corridor;
- 3) Set up the Council Chamber in the Training Room; and,
- 4) Construct a new purpose-built Chamber.

General discussions were had with the Corporate Policy Group on this matter and it has been agreed that a sub-group of some staff and members of the new Council should be formed to work through the options, and help decide what is the best long-term facility for the Lifford Council Chamber. It is expected that this sub-group would take the following into consideration:

- 1)The requirements of the Council Chamber for the next 40-50 years;
- 2)The frequency of Central/Plenary Council Meetings;

- 3)The most up to date technologies;
- 4)Recognition of short comings in the existing facility based on the current needs;
- 5)The role of the Chamber beyond the holding of Council Meetings;
- 6)Visit and review other more modern Council Chambers that are operating well elsewhere; and,
- 7)The scale of expenditure required.

Realistically, after the new Council is elected, it will likely take a couple of meetings before the sub-group can be formed and possibly another 6 to 8 months afterwards to reach a conclusion. Thereafter would follow the tender and construction period.

As an interim measure for holding the initial meetings of the new Council, the following proposal is being considered (which involves a very limited expenditure and will not compromise any future decision of the Council):

- 1)Interim Chamber to be set-up in Training Room;
- 2)Existing furniture to be utilised and added to if necessary;
- 3)Portable and wireless microphones will be placed on each desk;
- 4)The existing electrical sockets will be utilised for charging points for phones, laptops, i-pads etc;
- 5)Support will be provided in the use of i-pads;
- 6)The layout will be as shown on the attached drawing (D-1)
(Vide Appendix 1)

This arrangement can be reviewed after the holding of the first meeting of the new Council”

Members welcomed the comprehensive answer provided with a number of issues raised during the course of the debate. These included:-

- The need for involvement of Members of the Press and Media in the Representative Committee.
- Youth Council representation a priority also.
- Public submissions deemed a necessity.
- The need for maximum utilisation of the Chamber when not in use for Council Meetings.

- Request that artefacts in the Chamber be utilised in the temporary accommodation and in a new chamber if applicable.
- A new chamber would need to fit in with the character of the building.
- Cognisance to be taken of changing technology needs.
- Seating and spacing of same to be carefully considered.
- Heating/Air Conditioning Systems needed to be fit for the purpose.
- Public access a major priority.
- All funding opportunities to be explored in the interest of providing a fully functional chamber for the incoming Council and the people of Donegal.

C/182/14 ADJOURNMENT FOR LUNCH

On the proposal of Clr Mc Gowan, seconded by Clr. Mc Guinness it was resolved to adjourn the meeting until 2pm.

C/183/14 DISCUSSION ON THE UPGRADE OF THE FALCARRAGH SEWERAGE TREATMENT PLANT AND THE COUPLING OF THE GORTAHORK PLANT TO BE TREATED IN FALCARRAGH

On the proposal of Clr O'Domhnaill, seconded by, Clr Alcorn, the following motion was adopted:-

"That this Council discuss and prioritise the upgrade of the Falcarragh Sewerage Treatment Plant and also seek to allow capacity within the plant to allow for the Gortahork plant to be coupled and treated in Falcarragh."

Members were informed that:-

“The following information is being provided to the Council to enable consideration of the motion in the context of the transfer of the water service function to Irish Water.
Falcarragh Sewerage Scheme was included on the Water Services Investment Programme (WSIP) 2010-2013 as a scheme for planning. The Preliminary Report (PR) was completed and had been submitted to the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government.

Under the Wastewater Discharge (Authorisation) Regulations, 2007 (S.I. No. 684 of 2007) a system for the licensing or certification of discharges from wastewater treatment plants (WWTP) was brought into law. Under the regulations the EPA authorises discharges from municipal wastewater treatment plants subject to discharge limits and conditions that are set out in the waste water discharge authorisations. The authorisations come in the form of Licences for larger centres and Certificates for smaller centres. The licence for Falcarragh has not yet been issued by the EPA although the certificate for Gortahork has. Progression of a scheme(s) through planning, procurement, and construction will be a matter for Irish Water with regard to the following key considerations; environmental compliance, asset condition, and asset performance.

It is anticipated that Irish Water will be announcing the investment programme for 2014/2015 shortly.”

Clr O’ Domhnaill said that the Falcarragh Sewerage Treatment Plant was not fit for purpose at present and expressed concern that little had been done to progress same over the past five years.

The issue of environmental compliance was raised including the fact that untreated discharges from the Falcarragh and Gortahork Schemes were currently running into pristine waters nearby.

Mr Joe Peoples, Director Water & Environment advised that these matters were now the responsibility of Irish Water. He said that compliance would be a key focus for Irish Water in the short term.

He acknowledged that the Members had passed the motion and said that the Council would convey the request for a meeting with Irish Water on plans to develop the Scheme.

Clr O’ Domhnaill said it was imperative that residents from the Falcarragh and Gortahork areas were afforded the opportunity to meet with Irish Water and the Water & Environment Section of Donegal County Council. He asked also if consideration could be given to having one treatment plant service both areas.

C/184/14 CALL ON THE MINISTER FOR PUBLIC EXPENDITURE AND REFORM TO LIFT THE EMBARGO ON RECRUITMENT IN THE PUBLIC SERVICE

On the proposal of Clr Alcorn, seconded by, Clr Quinn, the following motion was adopted:-

"That we the members of Donegal County Council ask the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform to lift the embargo on recruitment in the Public Service, in particular because of the steady decline in the Employees of Donegal County Council."

Members were informed that:-

“The moratorium on recruitment in the Public Sector was introduced in March 2009 as a direct consequence of the significant deterioration of the Public finances generally. The moratorium remains in place to date.

For the duration of the moratorium, as vacancies arise, the Council must, in the first instance, seek to reallocate or reorganise work or staff in order to address same. Any exceptions to this principle require the sanction of the Department.

In terms of the actual reduction in staffing numbers within Donegal Co. Council for the duration of the moratorium, the following presents the situation:

Staffing Numbers (WTE) as at 31st Dec 2008	1116.30
Staffing Numbers (WTE) as at 31st Dec 2013	803.13

These figures do not include Retained Firefighters or non-DoECLG posts. The overall reduction of 313.17 WTE posts represents a reduction of 28% from the December 2008 figures for Donegal Co. Council.

It should also be noted that the Council had a significant number of applications under the Voluntary Retirement Scheme announced by the DoECLG in 2013. A key requirement of this scheme was that where any employee availed of the scheme, it was conditional that no application could be made to fill that particular post, with the only option available to continue their work being through the reallocation or redistribution of other staffing resources. In this regard, a further 28 employees will have retired from the organisation in the period from 1st Jan 2014 to 31st March 2014 under the scheme and these numbers will be reflected in the overall staffing return to 31st March 2014, when finalised early next week.

The Council has been proactive in seeking sanction from the Department for a derogation from the moratorium in situations where it is evident no other option exists to get the necessary work done. Examples include:

1. Seasonal Workers in Roads
2. Housing Maintenance
3. Vacancies within the Retained Fire Service
4. Beach / Life Guards for Summer Season

Such applications have generally been successful but are clearly conditional on the necessary funding being in place to support the employment of the numbers involved.

The Council is also currently considering the staffing implications arising from the Local Government Reform programme which is underpinned by the Local Government Reform Act 2014, enacted in January 2014. As Members will be aware, this reform programme will see major changes in the way in which Local Authority services are delivered across the County to take account of the establishment of Municipal District arrangements and the merger of Town Councils into the County Council. As part of this process, each Local Authority is required to carry out a Workforce Planning exercise which is to be used to determine the staffing resources needed by the Council following the Local Elections in May 2014 as we implement the new arrangements. This work is ongoing and will be subject to consultation and negotiation with employees and Trade Unions in the normal manner.”

Members debated at length the effects of the lack of recruitment on ongoing service delivery particularly at local level. There were, they noted, questions to be answered in terms of how the new Municipal Districts would operate and the long term service implications taking into consideration the depleted staff numbers.

It was acknowledged that a similar crisis existed across the entire public service area. Cllr Larkin alluded to a number of examples of reduced service delivery in the Orthodontist Service in Donegal. Members applauded the efforts of staff within the various services for their ongoing commitment to service delivery across the County.

The County Manager updated Members in relation to the new Workforce Planning exercise which was being undertaken in order to determine staffing resources for Donegal County Council in the period following the 2014 Local Government Elections.

Clarity was requested at this juncture in relation to a number of Motions raised under urgent business at the January Council Meeting and in particular the motion requesting the Executive not to partake in the Gateway Scheme.

Clr Gallagher advised that she was of the opinion that the seven emergency motions alluded to in C/153/14 had all been formally read into the record and agreed.

Concern was expressed that the wording of the minute seemed to suggest that none of the motions had been passed.

Mr Joe Peoples, Director of Water & Environment responding on behalf of the Meetings Administrator who was not present, said that the record was simply acknowledging a matter of fact that no vote had taken place.

He noted that the Minutes of the February Council Meeting had already been proposed and seconded earlier in the meeting.

There was now, he noted, a suggestion that the record did not reflect what the decision of the Council had been as the Members were unanimously agreed that all seven motions had been passed.

Clr O' Neill enquired as to the implications for Motion No 7 given that there was a motion of a similar nature on the March Agenda.

Clr Larkin contended however that it was not possible to amend the minutes after they had been adopted.

A further suggestion that all the minutes be deferred for adoption to the next meeting was met with disapproval by Clr Mc Guinness, who said it was not possible to go back over the matter at this stage as to do so would set a dangerous precedent.

Clr Mc Brearty asked why the issue had not been flagged by the CPG.

Mr Peoples advised that it was a matter for the Members to check and validate the record, a process which had occurred earlier in the meeting when the minutes had been proposed and seconded. He said that he could not read anywhere in the record that the motions under urgent business were not passed and that the record reflected the decision that all seven had been passed.

Clr Larkin stated that he had a difficulty with Minute C/140/14 and proposed, seconded by Clr Canning that a record be made of the fact there was an inaccuracy here and that the text should reflect the fact that both properties were to be negotiated for.

C/185/14 MOTION UNDER URGENT BUSINESS

Motion No 1

A request signed by Clrs Gallagher, Alcorn, Slowey, O' Domhnaill and Byrne to have the following motion discussed as urgent business in accordance with Standing Order 28 was submitted to the Meetings Administrator:-

“That this Council undertake to immediately hold a meeting with Uisce Eireann to ensure the following issues are dealt with within the present Dungloe/Glenties Sewerage Scheme”

Measures undertaken to have odour issue in town of Glenties dealt with:-

- Scheme to be extended to include large population centres in both towns, and
- Connections be made available to houses on the schemes route”

Clr Murray proposed, seconded by Clr O' Domhnaill that the matter be considered at 5.45pm prior to the close of business.

Motion No 2

A request signed by Clrs M Mc Bride, Campbell, G Doherty, Slowey, Harley, Boyle, Mc Guinness, M. Doherty, O' Neill, Ryan, Mc Brearty, Farren, Gallagher, N. McBride, P Doherty, Quinn, Murray, Canning, Donaghey, Brogan, Mc Eniff and O' Domhnaill to have the following motion discussed as urgent business in accordance with Standing Order 28 was submitted to the Meetings Administrator:-

“I propose that the junction at Drumardagh on the Dual Carriageway be reviewed as a safety measure. It has been brought to my attention by local residents who have highlighted two separate incidents where cars have turned onto the fast lane of the outbound traffic. This is a very dangerous situation and I am asking Donegal County Council to ask the NRA to review safety at this junction as a matter of urgency”

Clr Murray proposed, seconded by Clr O’ Domhnaill that the matter be considered at 5.45pm prior to the close of business.

Motion No 3

A request signed by Clrs Quinn, G Doherty, Murray, Gallagher, Byrne, Blaney, Larkin, Donaghey, Farren, Mc Brearty, Alcorn, Crawford, Mc Eniff and Mc Gowan to have the following motion discussed as urgent business in accordance with Standing Order 28 was submitted to the Meetings Administrator:-

“Many residents of our County are presently living in fear because of the scourge of crime. Those, however, who are most affected are our elderly, particularly as their sense of vulnerability and isolation has been exacerbated by the withdrawal in last year’s budget of the Free Telephone Rental.

In view of the above, the Elected Members of Donegal County Council call on Taoiseach Enda Kenny to intervene in order to have the Allowance restored as a matter of urgency and funding provided for the installation of street lighting in isolated areas”.

Clr Murray proposed, seconded by Clr O’ Domhnaill that the matter be considered at 5.45pm prior to the close of business.

The County Manager left the meeting at 4.45pm and Mr John Mc Laughlin, Director of Roads & Transportation deputized for the remainder of the meeting.

C/186/14 CALL FOR THE COUNCIL TO CONSIDER ALLOCATING A MEMBER OF STAFF TO ENGAGE WITH THE SMALL BUSINESS/RATE PAYERS TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE TO THIS SECTOR

On the proposal of Clr Gallagher, seconded by, Clr P Doherty that the following motion was adopted subject to the inclusion of the wording in each Electoral Area:-

"That this Council consider allocating a Member of Staff in *each Electoral Area* to engage with small business/rate payers to provide assistance to this sector, who are finding it increasingly difficult to keep their doors open."

Members were informed that:-

“The establishment of the Local Enterprise Office (LEO) as a constituent element of the Council, currently expected to commence in mid April, offers a range of opportunities for small business, via the Council, to gain access to:

- Direct grant aid for eligible activities associated with business start up, consolidation and expansion,
- Grant aid for various business support and establishment activities including mentoring in the full range of functional business competencies
- Opportunities to engage in a range of sectoral support initiatives

All of these have the objective of assisting business establish, consolidate, survive and expand as appropriate in each individual case. The services of the LEO, while based in the Enterprise Fund Centre in Letterkenny, will have a presence through assigned staff in each Electoral Area office providing the initial advice on services available to customers.

Furthermore, within the Income Collection Unit, the Council have dedicated staff involved in the collection of commercial rates. A major part of the collection staff's role is proactive and continuous engagement with our rate payers. Throughout the year, staff employed in the collection of commercial rates have ongoing discussions with customers in relation to agreeing payment plans to discharge their rates liability. When agreeing payment plans the financial position of our rate payers and current trading conditions are to the fore while at the same time the needs and financial position of the Council must be borne in mind also.

As part of ongoing discussions and as the first point of contact with customers, our collection staff are in a position to assist with queries relating to other services within the Council or queries relating to functions carried out by another agency, such as the Valuation Office. In addition, and due to their knowledge and extensive experience in dealing with businesses, the collection staff

are adequately placed to offer relevant support and assistance and where necessary and depending on the nature of the query, to direct the business to the appropriate body or organisation if it is not within the remit of Donegal County Council.

The collection staff have built up good working relations with all customers and endeavour to continue to build on these relationships going forward.”

Clr Gallagher outlined the need to have a non office based Member of Staff in each Electoral Area out engaging with local businesses.

Mr Liam Ward, Meetings Administrator returned to the meeting at this juncture.

A lengthy debate ensued during which Members considered a number of issues including:-

- The need for a reduction in the valuation of specific buildings coupled with an overall review of the Valuation System.
- Specific need for a two tier system to be introduced.
- The fact that Donegal County Council needed to engage proactively with the local indigenous enterprises.
- The need to provide adequate support for employers who had struggled with the effects of the economic downturn.
- Credit issues for Small Medium Enterprises need to be addressed.

Clr Mc Guinness noted that the 2014 Budget deliberations had outlined support for the ongoing Government review of the Commercial Rates System including the continuation of the campaign to seek exemptions for small and start-up business enterprises.

There was general acknowledgement that Donegal County Council Staff had engaged positively with their customer base to make payment of rates as easy as possible. It was suggested that IBEC be invited to address the Members of the Council.

Calls were made also for balanced regional development and the initiation of an adequate funding mechanism for the local indigenous business sector.

Concern was expressed in relation to the impact of the new HGV Levy User Charge on business activity in the North West.

It was further suggested that the old Town Council Offices could be used to accommodate the new Local Enterprise Offices as they were ideally situated to connect with the local business community.

Clr Larkin asked that the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government be made aware of the fact that the new legislation for dealing with vacant properties would ultimately have a negative impact on the small business sector.

Clr Mc Brearty advised that persons living in areas which did not have an adequate potable water supply should be exempt from water charges. He was, he added, prepared to head a campaign of this nature to stop Irish Water collecting such charges until the water supply in question was brought up to an acceptable standard.

Clr Ryan asked that clarification be sought from Irish Water in relation to the Leaks Policy.

Mr Garry Martin, Head of Finance, alluded to the excellent work carried out by the County Enterprise Board regarding Enterprise Week across the County. It was anticipated, he added, that the new Local Enterprise Offices would also offer considerable opportunities to the small business sector. He noted that there had been proactive engagement with the DCC Customer base and acknowledged Members comments in relation to same.

Ongoing credit issues, it was established, would continue to present a challenge but that every effort would be made to encourage businesses to make specific arrangements with local collection staff.

Clr Gallagher concluding the debate raised the issue of the proposed meeting with Irish Water. She was, she said, hopeful that there would be positive engagement between the Local Enterprise Offices and the small business sector.

C/187/14 CONSIDERATION OF THE DRAFT BUNCRANA AND ENVIRONS DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2014 – 2020 AND ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT TOGETHER WITH THE MANAGERS REPORT AND ATTACHED ADDENDUM

Members considered the report circulated with the agenda, the Manager's Report circulated previously on the 7th February, 2014 together with the memo providing clarification in relation to Map No 2 and circulated during the meeting. (Vide Appendix 2)

On the proposal of Clr Canning, seconded by Clr Farren it was resolved to make the Buncrana & Environs Development Plan 2014-2020 in accordance with the recommendations contained in the County Manager's Report with the exception of the following:-

- a) It was decided not to accept the recommendation of the Manager in relation to submission 4, lands at Luddan and alternatively to rezone the lands from "Agriculture/Rural" to Strategic Environmental reserve in accordance with Map 1 within the report.
- b) It was decided to rezone lands at Millfield from "Agriculture/Rural" to "Strategic Environmental Assessment and Appropriate Assessment" in accordance with Map No 2 circulated during the meeting.

Clr Mc Gowan proposed, seconded by Clr Harly that an update be provided in relation to the status of the Ballybofey/Stranorlar Town Plan.

C/188/14 PROGRESSION OF BUSINESS

Responding to a query from Clr Ryan, the Meetings Administrator updated Members in relation to the requirements of Standing Order Number 60. He advised of the following:-

"A Member may speak once upon any item on the agenda or on any Motion, except a Motion that is to be put without debate. No member shall address the Council for more than two (2) minutes on any item save that in relation to a Motion, the proposer may speak for not more than four (4) minutes. The proposer of a Motion has the right of reply whilst the Motion remains before the chair but in such reply he shall strictly confine himself to answering previous speakers and shall not introduce any new matter into the debate. His reply shall not exceed two (2) minutes. When the proposer

replies the debate on the Motion is closed and the question shall be put forthwith”

C/189/14 CALL FOR THE SETTING UP OF AN EMERGENCY TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT PLAN IN PARTNERSHIP WITH EMERGENCY SERVICES PROVIDING ONE WAY SYSTEMS ADJACENT TO ALL MAJOR ARTERIES WITH THE COUNTY

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

"I would ask that this Council sets up an emergency traffic management plan in partnership with the emergency services providing one way systems adjacent to all major arteries in the County."

Members were informed that:-

The following information is provided to Members to assist in their consideration of this motion.

Since the Gardai introduced its policy of closing roads completely where there has been a serious or fatal road traffic collision generally for at least a day, a number of diversions where traffic was diverted onto narrow local roads have occurred where the local roads could not handle the increase in traffic volumes or the constant two way flow of buses, vans and lorries.

The decision to divert two-way traffic from busy major routes onto narrow local roads can result in the diversion routes becoming clogged-up quickly with larger vehicles such as buses unable to pass each other. This leads to complete traffic jams and driver frustration.

The Council is the Road Authority for the county and has responsibility for the upkeep, maintenance and improvement of the road network.

The Gardai Síochána are the Traffic Authority for the county and under the Road Traffic Act has the responsibility and powers to preserve order in relation to traffic when there is an event, or where there is traffic congestion. They have the power to divert, regulate and control traffic including indicating the direction traffic is to proceed or any other prohibitions by oral or manual direction. The

Gardai have the authority to close roads, divert traffic and regulate the flow of traffic on an ad hoc basis.

The Council as Roads Authority may also close a road without notice in the interests of public safety or for some other reason provided it consults with the Gardaí.

The Council has prepared diversion routes at a number of locations in the county in conjunction with the Gardaí to address occurrences such as accidents or major events and these are applied as required.

A significant problem exists around many of the high traffic volume urban centres without a bypass in so far as many of the available local roads onto which traffic is diverted when there is an unplanned event (such as a Road Traffic Collision) do not have the capacity to carry the volume and type of traffic diverted. This can be exacerbated where there are limited river crossings (such as Letterkenny). Similar problems exist where there are long diversions along the regional or national network to the urban centre (for example an RTC between Burnfoot and Buncrana has no obvious diversion route for HGVs along a national or regional road other than via Muff/Carndonagh). Consideration should be given to a policy of upgrading certain secondary routes where they are likely to be the only reasonable diversion route in a busy area.

The Council is happy to cooperate on the identification of diversion routes, however, it is important in so doing to recognise and understand where the powers, responsibilities and liabilities rest. This can come to the fore when difficulties arise as a result of heavy traffic being diverted from a main route onto a narrow substandard road”.

Clr Canning alluded to recent problems in Letterkenny and advised of the need for a Plan B when emergency situations occurred on any of the main arteries in the County. He asked that a working group be set up comprising, Donegal County Council, the Gardaí, and Civil Defence to co-ordinate a planned response in the event of such incidences.

Members commended the emergency services who had attended the incident in Letterkenny and extended best wishes to the young man concerned.

During the debate a number of issues were raised including:

- The potential benefit of utilising social media when incidents of this nature occurred.
- Utilisation of two way radios and diversion signs deemed a priority.
- Issue of Letterkenny Relief Road needs to be progressed.
- That the introduction of Policing Boards would provide an effective mechanism for dealing with such situations.
- The need for a new Bridge in Letterkenny.

C/190/14 VARIATION IN THE ORDER OF BUSINESS

It was unanimously agreed to vary the order of business and deal with Item No 8 at this juncture.

C/191/14 CALL FOR WIDE ADVERTISING OF THE RECRUITMENT OF ELECTION STAFF FOR BOOTHS AND THE COUNT CENTRES

On the proposal of Clr Murray, seconded by, Clr Quinn the following motion was adopted:-

"That Donegal County Council requests that all positions which are to be recruited to staff Election Day, such as Election Booths and the Count Centre, are advertised as widely as possible, including in social welfare offices."

Members were informed that:-

“European and Local Authority elections will take place on Friday May 23rd by way of a combined poll. Staffing appointments for polling day and ballot paper segregation & reconciliation will be made by the European Local Returning Officers and will not be a matter for Donegal Co. Council.

Staffing arrangements for the European Constituency Counts will be handled by the European Constituency Returning Officers and again the Council has no role in such appointments.

The Local Electoral Area counts in Donegal are administered primarily by Local Authority staff.”

C/192/14 CALL FOR THE SETTING UP OF AN EMERGENCY TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT PLAN IN PARTNERSHIP WITH

EMERGENCY SERVICES PROVIDING ONE WAY SYSTEMS
ADJACENT TO ALL MAJOR ARTERIES WITH THE COUNTY

Mr John Mc Laughlin, Director Roads & Transportation advised that he planned to meet with the Gardaí to ascertain what might be put in place for events such as these.

Clr Mc Brearty proposed, seconded by Clr. Larkin that a delegation comprising all groupings in the Council meet with the Minister in relation to the provision of funding for the Bonagee Link Road.

Concluding the debate Clr Canning enquired as to whether any lessons had been learnt from the recent incident in Letterkenny.

The Director of Service advised that his reply set out exactly the Council's position and he agreed to provide an update for the April Council Meeting.

C/193/14 DATE FOR THE ADJOURNED MEETING AND WORKSHOPS

On the proposal of Clr Canning, seconded by Clr Donaghey it was resolved to adjourn any remaining business on the agenda to 10.00am on Monday 14th April, 2014.

It was further agreed to hold a Workshop on the implementation of CDP Policy on Sightlines/Distances at 2pm on Monday 14th April, 2014 following the Council Meeting, with a Workshop on the local Government Reform Process to commence at 4pm

C/194/14 VARIATION IN THE ORDER OF BUSINESS

It was unanimously agreed to vary the order of business and deal with Items 10 and 11 at this juncture.

C/195/14 UPGRADING OF THE SEWAGE TREATMENT SYSTEM IN BRIDGEND

On the proposal of Clr Ryan, seconded by, Clr Farren, the following motion was adopted:-

"That this Council expedite plans already agreed to upgrade the sewage treatment system in Bridgend to enable the connection of the three Housing Estates in Bridgend, Aileach Valley, Carrick Bridge and Stoney Bridge and to ring fence the necessary funding required to enable these three estates be connected to the existing sewer network."

Members were informed that:-

The Council secured funding under the Public Safety Initiative for work on unfinished housing estates and arrangements are currently being made to have this work carried out.

In December 2014, the DECLG announced details of a further fund (Special Resolution Fund) of €10m targeted at those developments recorded as being “unfinished developments” in the Department National Housing Development Survey 2013. The closing date for the receipt of applications was 28th February 2014 and the Council has made application for monies from the fund. Indications from the Department are that decisions on these applications will be made at an early date to enable work on funded projects to be initiated as soon as possible.

The Council is mindful of the need to maximise the potential funding from external sources such as the PSI and the Special Resolution Fund to bring estates up to a satisfactory standard.

In addition, the Council has been assessing the levels of infrastructural deficit particularly wastewater at estates throughout the County including the three estates at Bridgend with options currently being developed to connect these estates to the public sewer network. There are a number of estates throughout the County where there are very significant issues with failing wastewater infrastructure and the Council is in the process of preparing resolution on a case by case basis in order to address these issues. While the focus has been on securing the best outcome from external funding sources to resolve the outstanding issues at as many locations as possible, there will be a considerable number remaining to be addressed and the priority in the next period will be to finalise the works to be carried out at the locations identified including mechanisms for funding from the various sources available.

C/196/14 DISCUSSION ON THE WAITING TIMES FOR THE GENERAL ANAESTHETIC SERVICE IN LETTERKENNY HOSPITAL WHICH IS CAUSING DELAYS IN BASIC DENTAL TREATMENT FOR YOUNG CHILDREN

On the proposal of Clr Larkin, seconded by, Clr Farren, the following motion was adopted:-

"That this Council discuss the very serious issue of waiting times for the general anaesthetic service in Letterkenny Hospital which is leading to 6 months waiting time for special needs and young children who are requiring basic dental treatment."

C/197/14 ESTABLISHMENT OF THE DONEGAL LOCAL AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE AND THE SELECTION OF 3 NO MEMBERS OF DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL ONTO THE LCDC COMMITTEE CONTD.

Clr Quinn proposed, seconded by Clr Mc Brearty that the matter be deferred to the Adjourned Council Meeting on the 14th April.

The Mayor agreed to facilitate Clr Brogans request for an additional 10 minutes to continue with the discussions. As these did not reach conclusion the matter was deferred to the next meeting.

C/198/14 MAYORS BUSINESS

Votes of Sympathy

A vote of sympathy was extended to the following:-

- Jim Mc Laughlin, Carndonagh Roads, on the death of his brother, Peter Mc Laughlin.
- Teresa Sweeney, Letterkenny Town Council, on the death of her mother, Margaret Crawford.
- Patrick Dorrian, Letterkenny Roads, on the death of his mother, Celia Dorrian.
- Martin Dorrian, formerly Letterkenny Roads, on the death of his mother, Celia Dorrian.
- Paddy Mc Laughlin, Carndonagh Roads, on the death of his father Patrick Mc Laughlin – Mooney.
- The family of the late Sarah O' Donnell, The Diamond, Lifford.
- Greta Gillen, Convoy on the death of her husband, Tommy.
- The family of the late Patrick Harkin, formerly Carndonagh Roads.
- Anthony Gallagher, Water & Environment, Stranorlar on the sudden death of his brother, Patrick.

C/199/14 MOTIONS UNDER URGENT BUSINESS

Motion No 1 – Dungloe/Glenties Sewerage Scheme

Mr Liam Ward, Meetings Administrator proceeded to read into the record the following motion which Members had agreed to take earlier in the meeting.

It was proposed by Clr Gallagher and seconded by Clr. Slowey.

“That this Council undertake to immediately hold a meeting with Uisce Eireann to ensure the following issues are dealt with within the present Dungloe/Glenties Sewerage Scheme:-

- Measures undertaken to have odour issue in town of Glenties dealt with:-
 - Scheme to be extended to include large population centres in both towns, and
 - Connections be made available to houses on the schemes route”

Clr Gallagher noted that there had been issues regarding the public consultation process with concern being raised that Irish Water had not been sufficiently involved in the overall process.

Clarification was needed also, she advised, with regard to the costing and the overall implications of same including the fact that in one particular area over 75 houses had been excluded from the scheme.

The Water & Environment Section it was acknowledged were fully aware of the problems.

Concern was expressed also that there was no mechanism to connect a new Housing Estate in Dungloe to the Sewerage Network.

Members asked that be kept full informed of all developments relating to the Scheme.

Mr Joe Peoples, Director Water & Environment said that he would engage positively with Irish Water who were now responsible for the matter.

Motion No 2- Drumardagh Junction

Mr Liam Ward, Meetings Administrator proceeded to read into the record the following motion which Members had agreed to take earlier in the meeting.

“I propose that the junction at Drumardagh on the Dual Carriageway be reviewed as a safety measure. It has been brought to my attention by local residents who have highlighted two separate incidents where cars have turned onto the fast lane of the outbound traffic. This is a very dangerous situation and I am asking Donegal County Council to ask the NRA to review safety at this junction as a matter of urgency”

It was proposed by Clr M Mc Bride and seconded by Clr Quinn.

Clr Mc Bride asked that orange poles be placed at this location so that the sweep of the road was visible for all to see. He called on the Council to engage with the NRA in the interest of public safety.

Motion No 3- -

Mr Liam Ward, Meetings Administrator proceeded to read into the record the following motion which Members had agreed to take earlier in the meeting.

“Many residents of our County are presently living in fear because of the scourge of crime. Those, however, who are most affected are our elderly, particularly as their sense of vulnerability and isolation has been exacerbated by the withdrawal in last year’s budget of the Free Telephone Rental.

In view of the above, the Elected Members of Donegal County Council call on Taoiseach Enda Kenny to intervene in order to have the Allowance restored as a matter of urgency” and funding provided for the installation of street lighting in isolated areas”.

It was proposed by Clr Quinn and seconded by Clr Gallagher.

Clr Quinn outlined the need to restore confidence amongst the elderly in the community and asked for cross-party support in relation to the motion.

On the proposal of Clr Murray, seconded by Clr Quinn it was resolved to amend the motion as follows:-

Many residents of our County are presently living in fear because of the scourge of crime. Those, however, who are most affected are our elderly, particularly as their sense of vulnerability and isolation has been exacerbated by the withdrawal in last year's budget of the Free Telephone Rental.

In view of the above, the Elected Members of Donegal County Council call on Taoiseach Enda Kenny to intervene in order to have the Allowance restored as a matter of urgency *and funding provided for the installation of street lighting in isolated areas*".

This was unanimously agreed.

C/200/14

COUNTY MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr John Mc Laughlin, Director Roads & Transportation informed Members that the Manager's Report was being circulated for their information.