

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE DHUN NA nGALL

Oifig Riarthóir na
gCruinnithe
Aras an Chontae
LEIFEAR
20 Marta, 2018

FOGRA CRUINNITHE

Beidh Cruinniú Comhairle Chontae Dhún na nGall ar siúl Dé Luain 26 Marta, 2018, ag **11.00 r.n. in Áras an Chontae, Leifear**

DO GACH BHALL DEN CHOMHAIRLE

A Chara

Iarrtar ort a bheith i láthair ag an chruinniú seo den Chomhairle. Ta Clár an chruinnithe leis seo.

Beidh Clár Orduithe an Phríomh-Fheidhmeannaigh le feiceáil ag an gcruinniú.

Mise, le meas

**Seosamh O’Piobla
Riarthóir Cruinnithe**

DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

Office of Meetings Administrator
County House
Lifford
20th March 2018

NOTICE OF MEETING

A Meeting of Donegal County Council will be held on Monday 26th March 2018, at **11.00am in the County House, Lifford.**

TO EACH MEMBER OF DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

Dear Councillor

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

The Register of Chief Executive’s Orders will be available for inspection at the meeting.

Yours sincerely

**Joe Peoples
Meetings Administrator**

AGENDA

1. Confirmation of Minutes

- a) Confirmation of the Minutes of the Meeting of Donegal County Council held on the 29th January, 2018.
- b) Confirmation of the Minutes of the Special Meeting of Donegal County Council held on the 19th February, 2018.

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

- a. Notice under Section 211 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) and under Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001 – to dispose of land at Lisfannon Industrial Estate, Buncrana, Co Donegal to James O'Donnell, 21 Links View, Lisfannon, Co Donegal.
- 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 by way of lease property at Greencastle Pier, Greencastle to the Foyle Fishermen's Co-Op.

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

To approve the carrying out of works for the introduction of a One Way System in Letterkenny, Co Donegal at Cathedral Road, College Road and Sentry Hill Road, located in the Letterkenny Municipal District.

4. Corporate

- a. To fill Casual Vacancy on Strengthening Families Programme Advisory Board - NW Alcohol Forum.
- b. To consider and approve the adoption of the Donegal County Council Annual Service Delivery Plan 2018, in accordance with Section 134 (a) of the Local Government Act, 2001.
- c. To afford a civic reception to Nora Stapleton former Irish Rugby International in recognition of her numerous sporting achievements and as the holder of two six nations medals and a Grand Slam title in 2013.
- d. To afford a civic reception to Altan in recognition of their contribution to Irish traditional music and the fact that they have been excellent ambassadors for Donegal over the past thirty years.
- e. To consider and adopt the Annual Report for 2017 from the Donegal County Council Audit Committee.

- f. To name the road known as the Rossnowlagh Link Road as “James White Road” agus as Gaeilge, “Bóthar Shéamuis de Faoite”.

5. Community and Enterprise

- a. To consider the Donegal Local Community Development Committee Annual Report 2017.
- b. To note the nomination of Ms Siobhan McLaughlin to fill the casual vacancy on the Donegal Local Development Committee.

6. Roads and Transportation

To approve the 2018 National Roads Bridge Strengthening and Preventative Bridge Maintenance Programme.

7. Finance

- a) To consider the report on uncollected commercial rates for year ending 2017 in accordance with Section 26 of the Local Government (Financial and Audit Procedures) Regulations 2014.
- b) To adopt Schedule of Municipal District Works for the Glenties Municipal District in accordance with subsection (4) of Section 103A of the Local Government Act 2001.

8. Planning & Economic Development

The Draft Seven Strategic Towns Local Area Plans, 2018-2024.

Consideration of: Chief Executive’s Report of 23rd February, 2018 on Submissions Received (already forwarded separately to Members); and Addendum of 21st March, 2018 to Chief Executive’s Report (to be forwarded separately on 21st March, 2018)

9. Attendance at Conference, Seminar or Event

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

Training

- LAMA – Local Authority Members Association Spring Training Seminar New National Planning Framework to be held

Friday 6th and Saturday 7th April, 2018 in the Central Hotel, Donegal Town, Co Donegal.

- AILG Spring Seminar to be held Thursday 12th and Friday 13th April, 2018 in the Park Hotel & Leisure Centre, Dungarvan, Co. Waterford.

Conferences

- European Energy Poverty Conference 2018 – ‘A united approach’ to be held Thursday 29th March, 2018 in Croke Park, Dublin.
- Major Tourism Conference – “Learn from the Best” to be held Wednesday 11th April, 2018 in the Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford.
- Policy Forum for Ireland Seminar – Priorities for the implementation of the National Planning Framework to be held Thursday 31st May, 2018 in Central Dublin.

10. Conference Reports

- Cllr Jack Murray – Anniversary of twinning between Buncrana and Frehel held from Friday 22nd to Monday 25th September, 2017 in Frehel, France.
- Cllr Martin McDermott – Celtic Conferences Seminar (Brexit) held from Friday 20th to Sunday 22nd October, 2017 in Clonakilty, Cork.
- Cllr Jimmy Kavanagh – Bank of Ireland, Enterprise Town Awards held Wednesday 15th November, 2017 in Tullamore.
- Cllr Terence Slowey – Cross Border Co-operation Post Brexit held Thursday 16th November, 2017 in the Market House Theatre, Armagh.
- Cllr Jimmy Kavanagh – Delegation to meet Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport Thursday 16th November, 2017 in Dail Eireann, Dublin.

MOTIONS

LETTERKENNY MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

Housing and Corporate

11. Cllr Adrian Glackin

"That this Council requests funding from the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government to employ an independent Housing Officer, whose remit will include working progressively with the growing number of people presenting themselves as homeless in the

County, while also acting as an advocate for those with mental health or other related issues that contributed to their homelessness."

Community & Enterprise

12.Cllr Ciaran Brogan

"I propose that this Council form a working group immediately to take advantage of any further/future opportunities that may become available as a result of the recent national planning framework announcement so that we have a blue print of our county's needs going forward to 2040 and to ensure that we maximise all funding opportunities lead by our C.E."

DONEGAL MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

Roads and Transportation

13.Cllr Noel Jordan

"That this Council submit a submission to the Boundary Commission in the North to stress this Council's clear dissatisfaction with the proposed boundary changes 2018 which is clearly a return to gerrymandering practices of the past."

STRANORLAR MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

Roads and Transportation

14.Cllr Liam Doherty

"I am asking this Council to erect adequate signage on all Disabled Parking Bays and to highlight the fines that are imposed if drivers park illegally."

15.Cllr Gerry Crawford

"That this Council discuss the terrible road conditions in many areas and that emergency funding be sought to deal with this increasing problem."

16.Cllr Gary Doherty

"That Donegal County Council makes an urgent appeal to the Minister for Transport and to Transport Infrastructure Ireland for additional funding to deal with the crisis on our roads in the County and that this Council takes measures to ensure that roads funding is allocated to those roads in the poorest condition."

Corporate

17. Cllr Patrick Mc Gowan

"That this Council call on the Government to review the way CE schemes are being negatively affected by changes introduced over the last few years."

GLENTIES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

Corporate

18. Cllr John Sheamais O’Fearraigh

Go roghnóidh Comhairle Contae Dhún na nGall comhalta de Choiste na nOileán le dhul ar Choimisiún Oileán an CPMR’.

“That Donegal County Council elect a member of the Islands Committee on to the CPMR Islands Commission.”

19. Cllr Terence Slowey

"That Donegal County Council discuss the Public Service Card and alert the people of Donegal that it will become a requirement from the 9th April 2018 to present a Public Service Card to get a driving licence or renew an existing licence".

20. Cllr Micheál C Mac Giolla Easbuig

"Ag tabhairt faoi deara gur theip ar an Stát bonn comórtha céad bliain – 1916 – a bhronnadh ar bhaill den tseirbhís dóiteáin, iarrann an Chomhairle seo ar Chomhlachas na hÉireann agus Rialtas Áitiúil (AILG):

- (a) Moltaí a dhréachtú chun na boinn sin a chur ar fáil agus a bhronnadh ar bhaill den tseirbhís dóiteáin a sheirbheáil sa bhliain céad bliain (2016) i ngach ceantar údaráis áitiúil sa stát;
- (b) iarraidh ar gach údarás áitiúil an maoiniú is gá le a chur ar fáil le costas iomlán na mbonn comórtha a chlúdach;
- (c) iarr ar an Roinn Tithíochta, Pleanála agus Rialtas Áitiúil tacaíocht a thabhairt do na húdaráis áitiúla agus sciar den chostais a íoc.

“Noting the failure of the State to award 1916 centenary commemorative medals to members of the fire service, this Council asks the Association of Irish Local Government (AILG) to:

- (a) draft proposals for the provision of such medals and the presentation of such medals to members of the fire service who served in the centenary year (2016) in each local authority area in the state;

- (b) request each local authority to contribute the necessary funding to cover the costs of the commemorative medals;
- (c) request the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government to assist the local authorities and to make a financial contribution towards the costs”.

Community and Enterprise

21. **Cllr Marie Therese Gallagher**

"That this Council through its Economic Development Committee create a working document for the future needs of the sectors within the county, and that this document would be presented to TDs and Ministers."

Housing

22. **Cllr Seamus O’Domhnaill**

"Given the Social Housing Crisis that we find ourselves in, I am asking that we as Council discuss the progress which we have made to date or lack there of in respect to Housing Construction by DCC and that we set up as a matter of urgency a Council taskforce led out by Housing Construction to include the Roads Section, Planning Section, Community Development and Irish Water to ensure that the delivery of Social Housing units are fast tracked to deal with the crisis in Donegal."

INISHOWEN MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

Corporate

23. **Cllr Nicholas Crossan**

"That Donegal County Council write to Shane Ross, Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport, and the RSA to ensure that Donegal gets more permanent driving testers, to help alleviate the current backlog."

24. **Cllr Albert Doherty**

"That Donegal County Council note and support the investigation by the Data Protection Commissioners into the Public Services Card (PSC) presently underway, concur with the many concerns expressed by the Irish Council for Civil Liberties (ICCL) regarding card uses and privacy rights, including the related biometric database and the single customer view database, demand the immediate suspension of PSC roll out by government (DEASP) until current investigations are complete and concerns allayed."

Emergency Services

25. Cllr Jack Murray

"That Donegal County Council recognises that the retained fire service was the only front-line emergency services organisation in the state whose members did not receive commemorative 1916 centenary medals and commits to rectifying this by commissioning its own such medals for fire fighters in the county."

Housing

26. Cllr Bernard McGuinness

"That this Council discuss the housing need in the County."

27. **Cathaoirleach's Business**

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

QUESTIONS

LETTERKENNY MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

Roads and Transportation

29. Cllr Adrian Glackin

"Was the same qualifying criteria adopted in each Municipal District when deciding LIS allocations in 2017 and if not, what variations existed?"

30. Cllr Adrian Glackin

"What was the highest amount allocated to a single LIS grant in the 2017 scheme, and which was the lowest LIS grant allocated in the 2017 scheme, and in which municipal districts were they in?"

31. Cllr Ciaran Brogan

"Can I have a updated report on my motion calling on the Department of Transport to reinstate regional roads/strategic roads monies to Local Authorities, and have we had a response from the Department?"

Housing

32. Cllr Ciaran Brogan

Can I have an updated report on our request to the Department of Housing regarding concerns in relation to the restrictions on tenants when buying out their own houses?

DONEGAL MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

Roads and Transportation

33. Cllr John Campbell

"To ask the Director of Roads to provide a breakdown with reference to both Municipal District and Roads Services Supervisor's areas in tabular form, of the following information as of March 13th 2018:

- 1) Total number of LIS applications received. (Inclusive of those received under 2017 call)
- 2) Total number of LIS applications deemed eligible and on hands.
- 3) Total cost estimated for those applications presently on hands.
- 4) Total number of LIS applications which received funding under 2017 allocation whether expended or due to be expended.
- 5) Total cost estimated for those applications which received funding under 2017 allocation whether expended or due to be expended.

*Please make the above available in electronic format (excel spreadsheet)"

STRANORLAR MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

Environment & Emergency Services

34. Cllr Gerry Crawford

"Following my question in 2017 to consider the use of Drones as part of our lifeguard programme, what progress has been made?"

Roads and Transportation

35. Cllr Gerry Crawford

"How many claims have been made to this council in 2017 in relation to poor road conditions and or poor footpath conditions, also the total cost of any claims paid?"

36. Cllr Gary Doherty

"Can this Council provide me with the latest figures from the road conditioning survey in the County?"

37. Cllr Patrick McGowan

"Has the Council applied to the Department for funding to link the N15 and the R252 Glenties-Dungloe road and if so what is the reason this important link has not been successfully funded to date, can this project be raised with the appropriate Minister and his officials immediately."

Housing

38. Cllr Gary Doherty

"How many vouchers for bed & breakfast accommodation have been issued to persons presenting as homeless in each of the years 2014 - 2017?"

Community and Enterprise

39. Cllr Patrick McGowan

"Can the Council outline what existing and planned supports it has for existing Community Enterprise Centres across the County both directly by the Council and through the Council's Local Enterprise Office and can a county-wide structure be put in place to encourage better liaison and co-operation between the Council and these established Community Enterprise Centres."

GLENTIES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

Community and Enterprise

40. Cllr Marie Therese Gallagher

"Have resources been deployed to bring the proposed Greenway from Letterkenny to Burtonport to application stage?"

41. Cllr Marie Therese Gallagher

"Has any progress been made on establishing a task force for the Donegal Gaeltacht?"

42. Cllr Seamus O'Domhnaill

"Can this Council please outline a full breakdown of the Community Development Budget spent by and drawn down from outside bodies to show where all monies are being spent. Can I also be afforded a list of how much money is spent by the section in regards to Trade Shows & Conferences both by way of attendance and hosting both in Ireland and abroad whilst listing each event?"

Environment & Emergency Services

43. Cllr Seamus O'Domhnaill

"What progress has been made in regards to the County Tidy Towns Scheme and when will the awards be presented, also outline the marking and adjudicating role which the Council has undertaken?"

INISHOWEN MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

Roads and Transportation

44. Cllr Jack Murray

"What is the latest update from the OPW regarding the funding of flood defences in the areas worst hit in the county, particularly those close to homes which were damaged and remain in danger?"

Environment & Emergency Services

45. Cllr Albert Doherty

Council role and related contracts.

"What roles and related actions are required and/or occur in Donegal County Council departments ie: Roads, Planning, Water and Environment etc when public infrastructure contracts awarded to companies by Uisce Eireann in the county are delayed, compromised or require replacement contractors for works completion?"

46. Cllr Jack Murray

"Does this Council intend to provide funding to support the draw down of state monies in order to construct a new leisure centre facility in the county, particularly where it is engaging with a standing committee with a proposal in place?"

47. Cllr Rena Donaghey

"What is the current position on the Takeover of Group Water Schemes?"

Housing

48. Cllr Bernard McGuinness

"What is the current housing need in each town and village in the County?"

Planning

49. Cllr Albert Doherty

Derelict Site Act 1990 and Council Actions.

During this council period 2014 to date:-

- a) How many prosecutions by council of site owners who did not comply to notices served have occurred?
- b) Has Council purchased any lands/sites under compulsory orders?
- c) In what instances and number has the council carried out the works deemed necessary and charged costs to site and or land owners?"

50. Motions from Other Councils/Bodies

LEITRIM COUNTY COUNCIL

“That Leitrim County Council call on the Minister of State for Disabilities and the Minister for Finance with a view to seeking that the medical criteria for entry to the drivers and passengers with Disabilities Tax Relief Scheme be amended to include those without the use of one hand or arm.”

GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL

“This Local Authority calls on the Minister for Transport (Minister Shane Ross, T.D.) and the Minister for Justice and Equality (Minister Charlie Flanagan TD) to provide each Local Authority with efficient laws (Bye Laws) to deal with the illegal parking of caravans and camper vans on public and private roads, right of ways and non-designated camp sites. Sufficient powers should be given to each Authority to remove and impound illegally parked caravans and to confiscate unclaimed caravans in a timely fashion similar to unclaimed motor vehicles.”

GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL

“That Galway City Council write to the Department of the Environment and request that they prepare legislation regarding the disposal of paint under the Producer Responsibility Initiative similar to the WEE Scheme where paint would be brought back to the suppliers and disposed of by the paint companies.”

CLARE COUNTY COUNCIL

“That this Council supports the call for publicly-funded higher education and rejects income contingent loans.”

CLARE COUNTY COUNCIL

“That Clare County Council call on the Minister for housing, Environment and Local Government and the Minister for Finance to put in place a redress scheme to provide financial support to purchasers of houses and apartments who now find that their property was not properly constructed and is non compliant with building and Fire Regulations. These homeowners are victims of poor building methods and are now facing huge expense to address the necessary measures to bring their property up to a safe and compliant level. The purchasers of these properties followed due process in acquiring their property and trusted the legal, planning and regulatory measures in place to protect them, but now find they are exposed to costs they cannot afford and could in extreme cases face the possibility of being

rendered homeless if necessary remedial safety works are not carried out.”

CLARE COUNTY COUNCIL

“That this Council calls on the Minister for Trade and Employment to introduce financial incentives to companies who are prepared to employ apprentices.”

CLARE COUNTY COUNCIL

“That Clare Council request the Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment in view of the recent study findings issued by NUIG that 73% of deep water fish living in the North West Atlantic Ocean had ingested micro plastic, which is one of the highest recordings found worldwide, to tackle this time bomb before it is too late.”

**MINUTES OF MARCH MEETING OF DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL,
HELD IN THE COUNTY HOUSE, LIFFORD ON 26TH MARCH, 2018**

C/65/18 MEMBERS PRESENT

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

C/66/18 OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE

Seamus Neely, Chief Executive, Joe Peoples, Director of Housing, Corporate and Cultural Services / Meetings Administrator, John McLaughlin, Director of Roads & Transportation, Liam Ward, Director of Community, Enterprise & Planning Services, Michael Mc Garvey, Director of Water & Environment, Garry Martin, Director of Finance, Information Systems & Emergency Services, Eunan Quinn, Senior Planner, Paul Christy, Senior Executive Planner, Corina Higgins, Assistant Planner, Joseph Duffy, Assistant Planner, Anne Marie Conlon, Communications Officer, Róise Ní Laifeartaigh, Rannóg na Gaeilge, Anne Marie Crawford, Staff Officer.

C/67/18 CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF
DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL HELD ON THE 29TH
JANUARY, 2018

On the proposal of Cllr Crawford, seconded by, Cllr Glackin the minutes of the meeting of Donegal County Council held on the 29th January 2018, were adopted.

C/68/18 CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL
MEETING OF DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL HELD ON THE
19TH FEBRUARY, 2018

On the proposal of Cllr Murray, seconded by, Cllr Farren the minutes of the Special Meeting of Donegal County Council held on the 19th February 2018, were adopted.

C/69/18 DISPOSAL OF LAND AT LISFANNON INDUSTRIAL
ESTATE, BUNCRANA TO JAMES O' DONNELL

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

On the proposal of Cllr Canning, seconded by Cllr Murray it was resolved to dispose of 0.897 acres (0.363ha) approximately at the Lisfannon Industrial Estate, Buncrana, Co Donegal to James O' Donnell in accordance with the provisions of Section 211 of the Planning & Development Act, 2000 (as amended) and under Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001, (as amended).

C/70/18 DISPOSAL OF PROPERTY AT GREENCASTLE PIER TO THE FOYLE FISHERMEN'S CO-OP

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

On the proposal of Cllr Mc Guinness, seconded by Cllr Farren it was resolved to dispose by way of lease property consisting of 1,409 sq meters approximately at Greencastle Pier, Greencastle, Co Donegal for a period of 99 years commencing on 1st May, 2018 to Foyle Fisherman's Co-Op in accordance with the provisions of Section 211 of the Planning & Development Act, 2000 (as amended) and under Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001, (as amended).

C/71/18 TO APPROVE THE CARRYING OUT OF WORKS FOR THE INTRODUCTION OF A ONE WAY SYSTEM IN LETTERKENNY CO DONEGAL AT CATHEDRAL ROAD, IN THE LETTERKENNY MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

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

On the proposal of Cllr Kavanagh, seconded by Cllr Mc Bride the carrying out of works on the Cathedral Road / Convent Road – College Row / Sentry Hill Road for the improvement of local traffic management and for the provision of pedestrian/cycle crossing facilities with the aim of implementing town centre traffic management schemes so as to improve traffic flow and reallocate road space to pedestrians and cyclists in Letterkenny, under Part XI of the Planning & Development Act, 2000 (as amended) and Part 8 of the Planning & Development Regulations 2001(as amended) was approved.

C/72/18 CASUAL VACANCY ON STRENGTHENING FAMILIES PROGRAMME ADVISORY BOARD- NW ALCOHOL FORUM

On the proposal of Cllr Donaghey, seconded by Cllr Canning it was resolved that Cllr Mc Gowan fill the casual vacancy on the Strengthening Families Advisory Board – NW Alcohol Forum occasioned by the resignation of Cllr Rena Donaghey.

C/73/18 CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF THE DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL ANNUAL SERVICE DELIVERY PLAN 2018

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

On the proposal of Cllr Kavanagh, seconded by Cllr Gallagher the Donegal County Council Annual Service Delivery Plan 2018 was adopted in accordance with Section 134 (a) of the Local Government Act, 2001.

C/74/18 CIVIC RECEPTION FOR NORA STAPLETON

On the proposal of Cllr Murray, seconded by Cllr Donaghey, it was resolved to afford a civic reception to Nora Stapleton, former Irish Rugby International in recognition of her numerous sporting achievements and as the holder of two six nations medals and a Grand Slam title.

C/75/18 CIVIC RECEPTION FOR ALTAN

On the proposal of Cllr O' Fearraigh, seconded by Cllr Bonner it was resolved to afford a civic reception to Altan in recognition of their contribution to traditional Irish music and the fact that they have been excellent ambassadors for Donegal over the past thirty years.

C/76/18 ADOPTION OF THE ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2017 FROM THE DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL AUDIT COMMITTEE.

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

On the proposal of Cllr Jordan, seconded by Cllr Blaney it was resolved to adopt the Annual Report for 2017 from the Donegal County Council Audit Committee.

C/77/18 NAMING OF ROSSNOWLAGH LINK ROAD AS BÓTHAR SHÉAMUIS DE FAOITE- JAMES WHITE ROAD

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

On the proposal of Cllr O' Neill, seconded by Cllr Naughton it was resolved to name the road known as the Rossnowlagh Link Road (R-231-9) as "Bóthar Shéamuis De Faoite" – the "James White Road".

C/78/18 CONSIDERATION OF THE DONEGAL LOCAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT

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

On the proposal of Cllr Mc Gowan, seconded by Cllr Jordan it was resolved to adopt the Donegal Local Community Development Committee Annual Report, 2017.

C/79/18 CASUAL VACANCY ON SECTORAL MEMBERSHIP OF THE DONEGAL LOCAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Members considered the report circulated with the agenda in relation to the above and noted the nomination of Ms Siobhan Mc Laughlin (Social Inclusion Pillar of the PPN) to the Donegal Local Development Committee.

C/80/18 TO APPROVE THE 2018 NON NATIONAL ROADS BRIDGE STRENGTHENING PROGRAMME AND PREVENTATIVE BRIDGE MAINTENANCE PROGRAMME

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

On the proposal of Cllr Blaney, seconded by Cllr Mc Gowan the 2018 Non National Bridge Strengthening and Preventative Bridge Maintenance Programme was adopted.

C/81/18 CONSIDERATION OF REPORT ON UNCOLLECTED COMMERCIAL RATES FOR YEAR ENDING 2017

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

On the proposal of Cllr O' Neill, seconded by Cllr Jordan , members noted the report as presented in accordance with subsection (4) of Section 103A of the Local Government Act, 2001.

C/82/18 TO ADOPT SCHEDULE OF MUNICIPAL DISTRICT WORKS FOR THE GLENTIES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT.

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

Cllr Seamus O' Domhnaill said that the Glenties members had been unanimous in their decision not to adopt the schedule at MD level as they felt that the Glenties area was not being treated on parity with other districts. It would be wrong, he said, to adopt something that did not adequately serve the Glenties area. If and when the deficit could be agreed with the Executive, it would, he said, be possible to adopt the Schedule of Works for the Glenties Municipal District.

Cllr Mc Brearty enquired as to why this had not been raised at the CPG Meeting.

He was informed that it was a matter for consideration by the Council and could not be decided by the Corporate Policy Group.

No decision was taken by the Council to adopt the Schedule of Municipal District Works for the Glenties Municipal District.

C/83/18 DRAFT SEVEN STRATEGIC TOWNS LOCAL AREA PLANS 2018-2024, CONSIDERATION OF CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT DATED 23RD FEBRUARY, 2018 AND ADENDUM DATED 21ST MARCH.

Draft Ballybofey-Stranorlar Local Area Plan 2018-2024

In the context of the debate on the subject of Proposed Material Alteration No. BS14 and Submission No.BS24 Cllr Mc Gowan said that as there was still deliberation to be made on the preferred route for the Ballybofey/ Stranorlar Bypass, it would be prudent, he said, to await the final results of the TEN-T Route Selection process before taking any decisions on zoning the lands at Corcam for economic development. He thus called for a guarantee that the Forward Planning Section would review the Ballybofey/Stranorlar Plan early in 2019.

Cllr Mc Gowan said that he concurred with Submission BS12 as the lands in question were elevated and had never flooded. It was important also, he acknowledged, that landowners who had opened up their land in good faith to accommodate a recreational walkway

were not disadvantaged.

On this basis he proposed, seconded by Cllr Crawford that the Material Alteration outlined below go out to public consultation as a Proposed Material Alteration to the Draft Ballybofey-Stranorlar Local Area Plan 2018-2024

Map No 3 Draft Land Use Zoning Map for Ballybofey - Section 5.6.2 Table 5.1 (Lands identified to meet residential housing need in Ballybofey)

1. To amend the zoning of lands identified from: (a) 'Local Environment'; and (b) 'Recreation and Amenity' to 'Primarily Residential'. **Vide Appendix 1**

A number of members alluded to the fact that Submissions had been made by the public even though there had been no definitive outcome as to the route of the Bypass.

Mr Liam Ward, Director Community, Enterprise & Planning Services said that the Executive were happy to give a commitment that there would be a review of the Town Plan when the route of the Bypass was finally established.

Cllr Harley said it was imperative that nothing was done to jeopardise the Bypass route whatever it turned out to be. He thus proposed, seconded by Cllr Mc Brearty that the Material Alteration outlined below go out to public consultation as a Proposed Material Alteration to the Draft Ballybofey-Stranorlar Local Area Plan 2018-2024.

Map No 3 Draft Land Use Zoning Map for Ballybofey- OPP Site 6

“To amend the zoning of lands from ‘Opportunity Site’ (OPP6) to:

- (a) Part ‘Recreation and Amenity’; and
- (b) Part ‘Local Environment’. **Vide Appendix 1**

as identified on map entitled ‘Proposed Material Alteration BSMA1’.

Draft Ballyshannon Local Area Plan 2018-2024

Mr Paul Christie, Senior Executive Planner said that there had been

a need to identify additional housing sites in Ballyshannon arising from the proposed rezoning of Site PR1. This had led to the identification of three additional sites as ‘Primary Residential’ referred to as; BY1A, BY1B and BY1C in the addendum to the Chief Executive’s Report.

Cllr O’ Neill alluding to Submission BY9 in the Chief Executive’s Report dated 23rd February, 2018 and the request to remove the ‘Local Environment’ and ‘Visually Vulnerable’ zonings from the subject lands at Back Mall, Town Parks, Ballyshannon to facilitate the future development of a family home on the subject lands, was, he said, a reasonable request . He said that it could be looked at also in terms of ‘One Off Housing’.

Cllr O’ Neill thus proposed, seconded by Cllr Kennedy that the Material Alteration outlined below go out to public consultation as a Proposed Material Alteration to the Draft Ballyshannon Local Area Plan 2018-2024:-

Map No. 4 Draft land Use Zoning Map for Ballyshannon.

“To amend the zoning of lands from ‘Local Environment’ to ‘Town Centre’”. **Vide Appendix 1**

He further proposed, seconded by Cllr Kennedy that Opportunity Site 2 as referenced in Submission BY32 be redesignated as part of the core town centre. It was therefore resolved that the Material Alteration outlined below go out to public consultation as a Proposed Material Alteration to the Draft Ballyshannon Local Area Plan 2018-2024:-

“To amend the zoning of lands from ‘Opportunity Site 2’ to ‘Town Centre’”. **Vide Appendix 1**

Draft Bridgend Local Area Plan 2018-2024

Mr Paul Christie, Senior Executive Planner referred to an important issue that was addressed in Recommendation BE1 of the Addendum to the Chief Executive’s Report dated 21st March, 2018. The recommendation, he said, provided for a strengthening of the objective regarding the need for an alternative strategic road link between Donegal and Derry.

Cllr Ryan said that there were a number of suitable sites for

housing development in Bridgend but that the Sewage System needed to be upgraded to allow the land to be rezoned. Cllr Murray said that income from development charges could be ring fenced for this purpose.

Cllr Mc Brearty alluded to the fact that the local authority was obliged to install storm damage systems when building local authority houses. This was something, he contended, that needed to be progressed with the private sector and advocated that provision for same be made in the new Development Plan.

Cllr Ryan proposed, seconded by Cllr Canning that the Material Alteration outlined below go out to public consultation as a Proposed Material Alteration to the Draft Bridgend Local Area Plan 2018-2024:-

Map No.1 Draft land Use Zoning Map for Bridgend.

“Extend the Local Area Plan Boundary to include additional lands to the east of the Aileach Valley Housing Estate and south of the L-8061-1 road and zone the intervening lands as ‘Primarily Residential’. **Vide Appendix 1**

The Chief Executive said that he could see what members were trying to achieve with regards the use of the Development Contribution Scheme but that direct funding was needed to deal with sewerage issues.

Cllr Murray was informed that it would be prudent not to include the Irish Water Investment Plan in any of the policy recommendations as many of the proposals coming forward needed to be supplemented by investment plans and any separation would weaken other areas of the plan.

Draft Carndonagh Local Area Plan 2018-2024

Cllr Albert Doherty outlined his support for the recommendations contained in CN1 and CN2 of the Addendum to the Chief Executive’s Report and noted that the lack of land for opportunity housing had been an issue in the past.

He outlined his support for the Barrack Hill Master Plan and advised of the need to target traffic issues from the centre out whilst acknowledging the potential of Bridge Street and Malin

Street.

Cllr Doherty proposed, seconded by Cllr Mc Dermott that the flood risk assessment work carried out in respect of lands at Site PR4 needed to be re-visited on the basis of the evidence of the recent extensive flood event in August, 2017.

Cllr Mc Guinness advised that there was a need to look again at Submission CN9 as the site in question had planning permission granted a number of years ago. He then proposed, seconded by Cllr Albert Doherty that the Material Alteration outlined below go out to public consultation as a Proposed Material Alteration to the Draft Carndonagh Local Area Plan 2018-2024:-

Map No. 5 Draft Land use Zoning Map for Carndonagh.

“To amend the zoning of lands from ‘Local Environment’ to ‘Primarily Residential’”. **Vide Appendix 1**

On the basis of the need for more housing land supply in the town, and also having regard to established housing in the area of the site referred to in Submission Ref CN1 Cllr Mc Dermott proposed, seconded by Cllr Mc Guinness that the Material Alteration outlined below go out to public consultation as a Proposed Material Alteration to the Draft Carndonagh Local Area Plan 2018-2024:-

Map No. 5 Draft Land use Zoning Map for Carndonagh.

“To amend the zoning of lands identified on the map as “Strategic Residential Reserve” and referred to in Submission CN1 from “Strategic Residential Reserve” to ‘Primarily Residential’”.
Vide Appendix 1

Cllr Mc Guinness said that he was supportive of the Submission CN21 in relation to Opportunity Site 5 and was of the opinion that as access had been granted previously it would only be fair to have the lands in question zoned for housing. He asked if the access road provision could be revisited.

He thanked all who had worked and contributed to the Draft Plan but contended that more land was required in Carndonagh so as not to impede housing development.

Mr Liam Ward, Director Community, Enterprise & Planning said that there would be a separate public consultation process for the Barrick Hill Master Plan. Acknowledging the comment from Cllr Mc Dermott that there were a number of sites that needed to be changed to 'Residential', he outlined the necessity of identifying same. He confirmed that there had been discussion with the owner of lands referred to in CN21 and that they were happy to co-operate subject to whatever else the plan might present.

Draft Dungloe Local Area Plan 2018-2024

Cllr Gallagher acknowledged the work done to date and thanked all that had made Submissions in relation to the plan. There was, she advised, no risk of flooding with regard to Opportunity Site 3 and noted that the tide in Dungloe only came in two hours per day. She asked that the flood risk designation be looked at again and she also advised of the need to provide limited one off housing in Dungloe.

On the proposal of Cllr Gallagher, seconded by Cllr Bonner, it was resolved that the Material Alteration outlined below go out to public consultation as a Proposed Material Alteration to the Draft Clochán Liath (Dungloe) Local Area Plan 2018-2024:-

Section 4.6: Housing (An Clochán Liath) Dungloe .

“To provide for limited low-density housing in exceptional circumstances in the areas zoned as ‘Local Environment’ in An Clochán Liath”. **Vide Appendix 1**

Cllr Gallagher further proposed, seconded by Cllr Bonner that the Material Alterations outlined below go out to public consultation as Proposed Material Alterations to the Draft Clochán Liath (Dungloe) Local Area Plan 2018-2024:-

Map No 2 (Draft Land Use Zoning Map for An Clochán Liath-Dungloe) and Section 4.6.2 Table 4.1

1. “To amend zoning of lands from ‘Local Environment’ to ‘Low Density Housing on lands at Chapel Road as identified on Submission Ref CL17. **Vide Appendix 1.**
2. Extend the Local Area Plan Boundary along the lands in the north-eastern part of the town to the north of the N56 and

zone the intervening lands as (a) ‘Local Environment’ and (b) ‘Established Development. **Vide Appendix 1.**

3. Extend the Local Area Plan Boundary and zone the intervening lands as ‘Strategic Residential Reserve ‘ on lands to the south of Chapel Road and as referenced in Submission Ref CL23’. **Vide Appendix 1.**

Cllr Gallagher outlined the necessity of preparing town drainage maps and said that these could be done in tandem with the Development Plan.

Cllr Bonner referring to Submission CL6 noted that the lands in question had been zoned as residential in the previous Development Plan. He was, he said, puzzled as to why they were now zoned for ‘Community and Leisure’. He outlined the necessity of retaining lands for residential development out as far as the Dungloe Bay area.

He thus proposed, seconded by Cllr Gallagher that the Material Alteration outlined below go out to public consultation as a Proposed Material Alteration to the Draft Clochán Liath (Dungloe) Local Area Plan 2018-2024:-

Map No 2 (Draft Land Use Zoning Map for An Clochán Liath) & Section 4.6.2 – Table 4.1

1. “Amend zoning of lands from ‘Masterplan Area’ to ‘Primarily Residential’”. **Vide Appendix 1.**

Mr Liam Ward, Director of Community, Enterprise & Planning services said that clarity was required in relation to ‘Opportunity Site 3’.

On the proposal of Cllr Gallagher, seconded by Cllr Bonner it was resolved that the Material Alteration outlined below go out to public consultation as a Proposed Material Alteration to the Draft Clochán Liath (Dungloe) Local Area Plan 2018-2024:-

Map No 2 (Draft Land Use Zoning Map for An Clochán Liath)

“To extend the Local Area Plan Boundary and zone the intervening lands as ‘Local Environment’ as referred to in Submission Ref

CL14 (6)". **Vide Appendix 1**

Donegal Town Local Area Plan 2018-2024

Alluding to Submission DT15 Cllr Jordan proposed, seconded by Cllr Naughton that the area of car-parking identified on the map accompanying Proposed Material Alteration DTMA16 and DTMA17 as contained in the Chief Executive's report be reduced slightly and that Proposed Material Alteration DTMA16 goes out for public consultation on that basis

With regard to Opportunity Site 2, Submission DT18 and recommended Proposed Material Alteration DTMA19 as recommended in the Chief Executive's report:

Cllr Jordan queried the need for the flooding references in the relevant Policy DT-ED-2 but ultimately was satisfied that the inclusion of same was appropriate.

Cllr Jordan proposed, seconded by Cllr Naughton that the area identified as 'Town Centre' on Proposed Material Alteration DTMA19 go out for public consultation and that it be revised as per that identified on the amended map contained in the addendum to the Chief Executive's report.

Draft Killybegs Local Area Plan 2018-2024

Cllr Kennedy drew member's attention to the fact that out of the 838 Submissions received in respect of Killybegs, 737 had referred to the future development of the St Catherine's Well Complex. She outlined in detail the historic nature of the site and the fact that it was an integral part of the heritage of Killybegs which itself is one of the 6 historic towns in the county. It was imperative, she added that this area was protected and proposed the following:-

- That a 40m Buffer Zone be put in place around the area of St Catherine's Well and a designation of 'Visually Vulnerable' retained. This to extend from the existing walkway seawards for a distance of 40 metres.
- The site between the Fire Station and the Roundabout be zoned for community use with a layer of visually vulnerable.
- That a Hydrology Report be a mandatory requirement for proposed developments requiring excavations and land clearings in the harbour area.

Cllr Naughton said that he could not concur totally with this and proposed that consideration be given to the impact on the harbour and the adjoining area particularly with regard to the future economic development of the town. It was important, he added, that the wider economic picture was taken into consideration.

Cllr O' Neill supporting Cllr Kennedy's proposal said that this offered the best option going forward and would afford the community in Killybegs an opportunity to consider and negotiate the matter in the coming weeks. He proceeded to second Cllr Kennedy's proposal.

Cllr Mc Brearty said it was extremely important that historical monuments were protected given that a number of sites in the county had already been destroyed.

Cllr Naughton withdrew his motion at this juncture and said that he was hopeful that wider consideration would be given to the matter during the period of public consultation.

C/84/18 ADJOURNMENT OF THE MEETING

It was unanimously agreed to adjourn the meeting until 2.15pm.

C/85/18 DRAFT SEVEN STRATEGIC TOWNS LOCAL AREA PLANS 2018- 2024 – DRAFT KILLYBEGS LOCAL AREA PLAN

Cllr Canning said that allowing the original map to go out to public consultation would give additional scope to tease out the matter in more detail.

The Chief Executive said that this would afford members the opportunity to look again at the overall concept of the principle being used in this instance.

Cllr Campbell said that whilst he supported much of what Cllr Kennedy had put forward, he was anxious that proper access to Area 1 be provided. He proposed an alternative arrangement to that submitted by Cllr Kennedy.

Mr Liam Ward, Director Community, Enterprise & Planning informed members that Cllr Campbell's proposal was at variance with that put forward by Cllr Kennedy as it clearly sought to amend the relevant boundary by increasing the "Buffer Zone" and "Visually Vulnerable" area as referenced by, and when compared

to Cllr Kennedy's proposal.

There was no seconder for Cllr Campbell's proposal.

On the proposal of Cllr Kennedy, seconded by Cllr O' Neill it was resolved that the Material Alteration outlined below go out to public consultation as a Proposed Material Alteration to the Killybegs Local Area Plan 2018-2024:-

Map No. 7 (Draft Land Use Zoning Map for Killybegs) & Section 10.5.4: 'Economic Development Policies' – Killybegs.

“1. Amend the zoning of lands from:

(a) 'Port/Harbour Related Activities' and (b) Amenity/Open Space and Visually Vulnerable to 'Community' and 'Visually Vulnerable.

Vide Appendix 1

2. Amend the zoning of lands from (i) Amenity/Open Space; and (ii.) 'Visually Vulnerable' to 'Port/Harbour Related Activities'

Vide Appendix 1

3. Amend the text of the Local Area Plan so that a hydrology report be mandatory”.

Cllr Naughton alluding to Submission KB138 proposed that 0.809 hectares along the 'Industrial Road' be zoned from 'Economic Development' to 'Low Density Housing' as the site in question was on elevated ground along the Wild Atlantic Way and would not be a problem in terms of visual impact.

Cllr O' Neill said that he could not support the motion given that Donegal County Council had invested considerable monies in the Industrial Road back in 2005, all of which had been designed to alleviate traffic congestion in the town.

Cllr Naughton noted however that there was a house built on an adjacent field. Cllr Jordan at this juncture suggested that the designation be amended to “One Off Housing”.

Cllr Naughton then proposed , seconded by Cllr Jordan that the 2 acres, 0.809 hectares alluded to in Submission KB138 be zoned for 'One Off Housing'.

Cllr Kennedy suggested that the zoning be amended to ‘Local Environment’.

Mr Paul Christie, Senior Executive Planner, said that even limited zoning would raise access issues as either the residential traffic would have to use one of the limited permitted industrial accesses or would have to create a new access. The policy up to now, he said, had been not to permit any additional new access.

Mr Eunan Quinn, Senior Planner, warned against chipping away at relevant designations as this, he said, would lead to piecemeal development and was the wrong direction to take. The Authority, he said, had taken a long term view in relation to the development of the lands.

The Cathaoirleach informed members that there were now two items to be considered, namely a proposal from Cllr Kennedy, seconded by Cllr O’ Neill to amend the designation to ‘Local Environment’ and one from Cllr Naughton seconded by Cllr Jordan advocating that the lands in question be zoned for ‘One Off Housing’.

C/86/18 ADJOURNMENT OF THE MEETING.

The Cathaoirleach at this juncture said that additional clarity was needed. It was thus unanimously agreed to adjourn the meeting for a short period.

C/87/18 DRAFT SEVEN STRATEGIC TOWNS LOCAL AREA PLANS 2018- 2024 - DRAFT KILLYBEGS LOCAL AREA PLAN

On resumption it was resolved on the proposal of Cllr Naughton, seconded by Cllr Jordan that the Material Alteration outlined below go out to public consultation as a Proposed Material Alteration to the Draft Killybegs Local Area Plan 2018-2024:-

Map No. 7 (Draft Land Use Zoning Map for Killybegs)

“To amend the zoning of lands from ‘Economic Development’ to ‘Local Environment’”. **Vide Appendix 1.**

Cllr Naughton said that he was supportive of Submission KB504 and proposed , seconded by Cllr O’ Domhnaill that the restriction on the placement of permanent mobile homes be removed.

Cllr Campbell said that this would not be a prudent move as the presence of permanent/static mobile homes would require additional sewage disposal facilities. He thus proposed, seconded by Cllr O' Neill to accept the Chief Executive's recommendation and thus not to materially alter the Draft Killybegs Local Area Plan 2018-2024:-

Mr Paul Christy, Senior Executive Planner responding to a query from Cllr Blaney, said the decision to restrict permanent mobile homes at this location was consistent with County Development Plan Policy.

The Meetings Administrator informed members that a vote would be taken initially in relation to Cllr Naughton's amendment which sought to remove the restriction on the placement of permanent mobile homes on zoned lands at Opportunity Site 6.

A recorded vote was then taken by the Meetings Administrator.

This resulted in 10 voting for with 18 against.

Those voting for included:-

Cllrs Blaney, Bonner, Canning, Conaghan, Crawford, Donaghey, Kennedy, Mc Gowan, Naughton and O' Domhnaill. (10)

Those voting against included:-

Cllrs Campbell, Crossan, A Doherty, G Doherty, L Doherty, Farren, Gallagher, Glackin, Harley, Jordan, Mc Brearty, Mc Bride, Mc Garvey, Mc Monagle, Murray, O' Fearraigh, O' Neill and Slowey. (18)

Thus it was resolved to accept the Chief Executive's recommendation in relation to Submission KB504.

In accordance with Section 20(3)(d) of the Planning & Development Act 2000 (As Amended), and having considered the Draft Plan and the Chief Executive's Report, it was resolved on the proposal of Cllr Mc Bride, seconded by Cllr O' Neill to:

~proceed to issue for public consultation the Proposed Material Alterations as set out in Section 11 of the Chief Executive's

Report, subject to any further amendments to these Proposed Material Alterations agreed at the meeting, and to the inclusion of any additional Proposed Material Alterations agreed at the meeting; and

~to proceed with the further steps as set out in Sections 20(3) of the Planning & Development Acts, 2000 (As Amended) including the making of determinations as to (i.) whether a Strategic Environmental Assessment and/or Appropriate Assessment are required in respect of one or more of the Proposed Material Alterations; and (ii.) the period(s) of time considered necessary to undertake the aforementioned assessments.

Mr Liam Ward, Director Community, Enterprise and Planning Services acknowledged all who had been involved in the process and thanked members for their ongoing contribution and co-operation.

C/88/18

ATTENDANCE AT CONFERENCES/SEMINARS/EVENTS

Having noted the revised arrangements under Section 142 5(d) of the Local Government Act, 2001, introduced by the Local Government (Expenses of Local Authority Members) Regulations 2006 -2018 as amended and directives issued by the Minister in that regard, on the proposal of Cllr Crawford, seconded by, Cllr Mc Bride, 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 – Local Authority Members Association Spring Training Seminar New National Planning Framework to be held Friday 6th and Saturday 7th April, 2018 in the Central Hotel, Donegal Town, Co Donegal.
- AILG Spring Seminar to be held Thursday 12th and Friday 13th April, 2018 in the Park Hotel & Leisure Centre, Dungarvan, Co. Waterford.

Conferences

- European Energy Poverty Conference 2018 – ‘A united approach’ to be held Thursday 29th March, 2018 in Croke Park, Dublin.
- Major Tourism Conference – “Learn from the Best” to be held Wednesday 11th April, 2018 in the Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford.
- Policy Forum for Ireland Seminar – Priorities for the implementation of the National Planning Framework to be held Thursday 31st May, 2018 in Central Dublin.

C/89/18

CONFERENCE REPORTS

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

- Cllr Jack Murray – Anniversary of twinning between Buncrana and Frehel held from Friday 22nd to Monday 25th September, 2017 in Frehel, France.
- Cllr Martin McDermott – Celtic Conferences Seminar (Brexit) held from Friday 20th to Sunday 22nd October, 2017 in Clonakilty, Cork.
- Cllr Jimmy Kavanagh – Bank of Ireland, Enterprise Town Awards held Wednesday 15th November, 2017 in Tullamore.
- Cllr Terence Slowey – Cross Border Co-operation Post Brexit held Thursday 16th November, 2017 in the Market House Theatre, Armagh.
- Cllr Jimmy Kavanagh – Delegation to meet Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport Thursday 16th November, 2017 in Dail Eireann, Dublin.

C/90/18

REQUEST FUNDING FROM THE DEPARTMENT TO EMPLOY AN INDEPENDENT HOUSING OFFICER

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

"That this Council requests funding from the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government to employ an independent Housing Officer, whose remit includes working progressively with the growing number of people presenting themselves as homeless in the County, while also acting as an advocate for those with mental health or other related issues that contributed to their homelessness."

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

He advised of the need for an all encompassing approach to deal with the issues raised and one which would allow those presenting as homeless an opportunity to get the help that they needed. He noted that housing rents in Donegal were at an all time high and that persons seeking assistance under the HAP Scheme were being asked for one month rent in advance and a months rent in deposit. He thus called for the HAP payments to be increased and a root cause analysis to be carried out.

Cllr Doherty acknowledged that there was a demand out there for HAP, but contended that changes to the payment system were needed going forward. He asked that further information be made available on the new Tenancy Support & Sustainment Service.

There was no opposition to the motion.

Mr Joe Peoples, Director Housing, Corporate & Cultural Services alluded to the fact that there was an increasing level of activity in housing in terms of both house construction and turnkeys. The motion, he said, highlighted the fact that there was need for collaboration among the various public service agencies and that in many cases interventions were required from a number of public service agencies. The new Tenancy Support & Sustainment Service would, he advised, liaise with the Homeless Action Team and other public service agencies to determine the most appropriate intervention on a case by case basis.

C/91/18 WORKING GROUP TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF ANY OPPORTUNITIES ARISING AS A RESULT OF THE NATIONAL PLANNING FRAMEWORK

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

"I propose that this Council form a working group immediately to take advantage of any further/future opportunities that may become available as a result of the recent national planning framework announcement so that we have a blue print of our county's needs going forward to 2040 and to ensure that we maximise all funding opportunities led by our CE".

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

He outlined the need for a dedicated team, led by the Chief Executive within Donegal County Council to work collaboratively on all issues relating to the county's economic and infrastructural needs. He acknowledged that much positive work had been carried out to date, but that a specific focus was needed to progress a number of projects going forward.

The group, he added, could meet monthly/bimonthly with the aim of maximising potential opportunities and securing the relevant funding. It would be helpful, he said, if the group could provide quarterly updates for members and these could be circulated at MD level.

Cllr Crawford welcomed the initiative and noted that whilst Donegal County Council by and large operated on a proactive basis, there was a need for general collaboration.

There was no opposition to the motion.

The Chief Executive noted that there was currently a good set of governance arrangements with Derry City & Strabane District Council and that the strategic partnership was working well.

He acknowledged the fact that work needed to be done within the county in the context of the National Planning Framework and the National Development Plan. There were, he advised a range of opportunities and challenges which needed to be looked at particularly in terms of infrastructural need. Going forward, he said, it would be prudent to look at a reconfiguration of a number of council committees. Much work had still to be done, he noted particularly in relation to the seven strategic towns. Every effort, he confirmed, would be made to maximise development opportunities for the county taking cognisance of our role in the economic & spatial strategy with a focus also on the regional dimension.

Cllr Brogan welcomed the response and asked that an update be provided to the May Meeting.

C/92/18 SUBMIT A SUBMISSION TO THE BOUNDARY COMMISSION IN THE NORTH REGARDING PROPOSED BOUNDARY CHANGES 2018.

The following motion was submitted by Cllr Jordan:

"That this Council submit a submission to the Boundary Commission in the North to stress this councils clear dissatisfaction with the proposed boundary changes 2018 which is clearly a return to gerrymandering practices of the past. "

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

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

"That this Council submit a submission to the Boundary Commission in the North to stress this Councils clear dissatisfaction with the proposed boundary changes 2018 which is clearly a return to gerrymandering practices of the past and that the Boundary Commission revert back to the original Commission Report of 2016".

The motion was unanimously agreed.

Cllr Jordan informed members that the 2018 boundary changes represented a return to gerrymandering and were particularly backward looking given that this year saw the 50th anniversary of the Civil Rights Movement.

Cllr Murray outlined his support for the motion.

Mr Joe Peoples, Director Housing, Corporate & Cultural Services said that on foot of the motion arrangements would be made to convey members concerns and the motion as amended to the N.I Boundary Commission.

C/93/18 ADEQUATE SIGNAGE ON ALL DISABLED PARKING BAYS

Cllr Liam Doherty submitted the following motion:-

"I am asking this council to erect adequate signage on all Disabled Parking Bays and to highlight the fines that are imposed if drivers park illegally."

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

He then proposed, seconded by Cllr Murray that the motion be amended as follows:-

“I am asking this Council to erect adequate signage on all Disabled Parking Bays within a six month timeframe and to highlight the fines that are imposed if drivers park illegally”.

This was unanimously agreed.

Cllr Doherty said that there was an ongoing problem with the signage in Disabled Parking Bays, and that many drivers were unaware that they were actually parking illegally as markings on the ground were not clearly visible. He was, he said, of the opinion that upright signage could be erected at a fairly competitive price. He outlined the need to communicate this stipulation also to private car park owners and noted that it was something that could be encouraged as part of the normal planning process.

Cllr Crossan highlighted the need to also include “Preferential” Parking Spaces also.

Cllr Murray supporting the motion said that the signage could be erected at a reasonable cost and he welcomed the insertion of a specific timeline.

Cllr Harley said it was imperative that the signs were put in the right locations.

There was no opposition to the motion.

Mr John Mc Laughlin, Director Roads & Transportation said that between 5 and 10 locations could be selected at Municipal District level and new signage erected to highlight the penalties for parking illegally. The cost would then, he advised, be charged against the local maintenance budget and progress monitored to determine the overall effect.

Cllr Doherty outlined the need to deal with the matter on a county-wide basis and said that in areas where there were upright signs a

small plaque could be added highlighting the fines for parking illegally.

C/94/18 URGENT APPEAL TO THE MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT AND TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE IRELAND FOR ADDITIONAL EMERGENCY FUNDING FOR ROADS

It was unanimously agreed to take Motions 15 and 16 together as both related to additional funding for roads in the county.

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

"That this Council discuss the terrible road conditions in many areas and that emergency funding be sought to deal with this increasing problem."

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

On the proposal of Cllr G Doherty, seconded by Cllr Crawford the following Motion was adopted:-

"That Donegal County Council makes an urgent appeal to the Minister for Transport and to Transport Infrastructure Ireland for additional funding to deal with the crisis on our roads in the County and that this Council takes measures to ensure that roads funding is allocated to those roads in the poorest condition."

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

Cllr Crawford acknowledged the excellent work carried out by roads staff but noted that only so much could be done to alleviate the problems within the current budgetary framework.

People were, he said, being prevented from living their normal daily lives. He alluded to the fact that there were an increasing number of claims being lodged against the Council for road and footpath damages.

He welcomed the LIS monies and the funding received for flood damage, but said that additional money was needed to deal with the crisis on Donegal roads.

It was essential, he said, that the Minister visits Donegal and the Stranorlar Municipal District in particular to assess the situation for himself.

Cllr Doherty said that the roads in the Stranorlar Municipal District were in a deplorable condition. The Chief Executive of Transport Infrastructure Ireland had, he advised, confirmed that there was a €100 million under spend on roads country wide.

Exceptional funding measures, he said, were needed and he called on the Minister for Transport to visit Donegal and see the state of the roads.

There was no opposition to the motion.

Mr John Mc Laughlin, Director Roads & Transportation said that the funding position was well documented and that road maintenance and improvement works funding had been significantly reduced over the past ten years. The recent harsh winter and significant rainfall levels since August of last year had, he advised impacted significantly on roads budgets and capacity to carry out repairs. He noted that a number of MDs had a delegation meet with the Minister in Dublin to seek additional funding.

Cllr Crawford noted that the Stranorlar MD was in fact the gateway to Donegal and that if there was to be further economic and infrastructural development under the new National Planning Framework and the National Development Plan 2018- 2027 then considerable investment in the Stranorlar MD roads network was warranted.

It was thus agreed that a request to meet with a delegation from the Stranorlar MD be forwarded to the Minister for Transport, Shane Ross, T.D.

Cllr Doherty concluding the debate said that cognisance also needed to be taken of the fact that whilst there was no large scale industry in the Stranorlar MD, there was a significant agricultural presence and large scale forestry development which generated major road usage.

C/95/18

COMMUNITY EMPLOYMENT SCHEME REVIEW

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

" That this Council call on the Government to review the way CE Schemes are being negatively affected by changes introduced over the last few years "

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

He outlined the need for a review of the manner in which Community Employment Schemes were administered.

Cllr Blaney supporting the motion noted that in 2008 the Labour Court had recommended that an agreed pension scheme should be introduced for CE Scheme Supervisors and Assistant Supervisors. This, he advised, had not yet been implemented.

There was no opposition to the motion.

Mr Joe Peoples, Director Housing, Corporate and Cultural Services confirmed that a copy of the motion would be forwarded to the Minister for Employment Affairs and Social Protection, Regina Doherty, T.D, the Department of An Taoiseach, all local authorities and the Association of Irish & Local Government.

C/96/18

POSSIBLE REPRESENTATION OF A MEMBER OF THE ISLANDS COMMITTEE ON TO THE CPMR ISLANDS COMMISSION

On the proposal of Cllr O’Ferraigh, seconded by Cllr Gallagher, the following motion was adopted:-

"Go roghnóidh Comhairle Contae Dhún na nGall comhalta de Choiste na nOileán le dhul ar Choimisiún Oileán an CPMR’.

"That Donegal County Council elect a member of the Islands Committee on to the CPMR Islands Commission."

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

He informed members that many of the issues affecting the Donegal Islands fell between stools and that a nominee from amongst the Island representatives would ensure a strong voice at EU level. Such an appointment, he added would ensure that Islanders were kept informed and in touch with all relevant funding opportunities.

Cllr Gallagher concurred with this and said that such a move would allow Islanders to keep up to speed with issues such as fishing quotas, farming rights etc.

There was no opposition to the motion.

Mr Joe Peoples, Director Housing, Corporate and Cultural Services said that the selection process could be checked and an update provided to members.

C/97/18

PUBLIC SERVICE CARD

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

"That Donegal County Council discuss the Public Service Card and alert the people of Donegal that it will become a requirement from the 9th April 2018 to present a Public Service Card to get a driving licence or renew an existing licence".

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

He drew members attention to the fact that as and from the 9th April, it would be mandatory to present a Public Service Card to acquire a driving licence or renew an existing licence.

The RSA, he noted, had introduced this requirement as an anti-fraud measure. He said that whilst he had no problem with the card there was a slight concern that information if leaked could get into the public domain.

Cllr O' Neill concurred with this assessment.

There was no opposition to the motion.

Cllr Slowey concluding the debate said that the card would allow the holder to access Social Welfare payment data, pension calculations etc, revenue balancing statements etc. It was essential, he added, that people were aware of the new requirements but noted that there was an onus on all concerned to ensure that data was stored in a safe and secure manner.

C/98/18

FAILURE OF THE STATE TO AWARD 1916 MEDALS TO THE FIRE SERVICE

This motion submitted by Cllr MacGiolla Easbuig was not moved.

"Ag tabhairt faoi deara gur theip ar an Stát bonn comórtha céad bliain – 1916 – a bhronnadh ar bhaill den tseirbhís dóiteáin, iarrann an Chomhairle seo ar Chomhlachas na hÉireann agus Rialtas Áitiúil (AILG):

- (a) Moltaí a dhréachtú chun na boinn sin a chur ar fáil agus a bhronnadh ar bhaill den tseirbhís dóiteáin a sheirbheáil sa bhliain céad bliain (2016) i ngach ceantar údaráis áitiúil sa stát;
- (b) iarraidh ar gach údarás áitiúil an maoiniú is gá le a chur ar fáil le costas iomlán na mbonn comórtha a chlúdach;
- (c) iarr ar an Roinn Tithíochta, Pleanála agus Rialtas Áitiúil tacaíocht a thabhairt do na húdaráis áitiúla agus sciar den chostais a íoc.

“Noting the failure of the State to award 1916 centenary commemorative medals to members of the fire service, this Council asks the Association of Irish Local Government (AILG) to:

- (a) draft proposals for the provision of such medals and the presentation of such medals to members of the fire service who served in the centenary year (2016) in each local authority area in the state;
- (b) request each local authority to contribute the necessary funding to cover the costs of the commemorative medals;
- (c) request the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government to assist the local authorities and to make a financial contribution towards the costs.”

C/99/18

WORKING DOCUMENT FOR THE FUTURE NEEDS OF THE SECTORS WITHIN THE COUNTY

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

"That this Council through its Economic Development Committee create a working document for the future needs of the sectors within the County, and that this document would be presented to TDs and Ministers."

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

She outlined the need for a document which would focus specifically on all aspects of economic development within the County and which could be utilised by all of the social and economic sectors. A number of areas were identified namely the educational sector and the need to focus specifically on youth retention. The fact that the L.Y.I.T had been given the green light to apply for university status, it was acknowledged, was a step in the right direction.

She said that the document also needed to provide direction in a number of other areas including, public transportation, links to tourism related activity. Going forward, it was acknowledged that issues such as the deficit of infrastructure, together with health, education and business needs would be a core element of the overall working document.

Cllr Doherty welcomed the motion and said that it would be an excellent initiative for the local authority. It would, he contended, allow for consultation with a number of sectors and allow for an assessment of where the main areas of deficiency were. Concern was expressed in relation to the lack of dedicated transportation links in east Donegal.

There was no opposition to the motion.

Mr Liam Ward, Director Housing, Corporate & Cultural Services informed members that a review of the economic actions within the Local Economic & Community Plan would be carried out and presented to members. The findings would then, he confirmed, be considered by the LCDC and circulated to the Oireachtas Members and Government Ministers.

C/100/18

HOUSING CONSTRUCTION IN THE COUNTY

On the proposal of Cllr O'Domhnaill, seconded by Cllr Gallagher, the following motion was considered:-

"Given the Social Housing Crisis that we find ourselves in, I am asking that we as Council discuss the progress which we have made to date or lack there of, in respect of Housing Construction

by DCC and that we set up as a matter of urgency a Council Taskforce led out by Housing Construction to include the Roads Section, Planning Section, Community Development and Irish Water to ensure that the delivery of Social Housing units are fast tracked to deal with the crisis in Donegal."

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

Alluding initially to the Glenties Municipal District, he said, that there had been a clear lack of endeavour in terms of housing construction, and that this was something that needed to be addressed in a county-wide context given the level of homelessness in the county. He was, he said, of the opinion that greater collaboration was needed amongst the various departments within the Council in order to draw down all available funding for the provision of social housing.

He alluded in particular to the deficit of social housing in the Falcarragh and Dunfanaghy areas. Concern was also expressed in relation to the delay in progressing S.I housing. Donegal County Council as a body, he contended, had not done enough to deliver housing in the County. He cited the need for the establishment of dedicated taskforce led by Housing Construction to remedy the situation. This body could in turn, he added, report to the Corporate Policy Group in the first instance and then to Plenary Council regarding specific construction projects.

Cllr Gallagher supporting the motion concurred that a multifaceted approach was required and outlined the fact that a phased payment system was essential to allow local and small contractors become involved in the process.

Housing was a key element, she noted, in developing sustainable communities. Land acquisition it was acknowledged, was another key element going forward.

There was no opposition to the motion.

Mr Joe Peoples, Director Housing, Corporate & Cultural Services, alluding to his response said that it was widely recognised that the economic downturn had seen a lack of investment in the housing sector and had impacted also on the Council's own capacity to

invest in Social Housing.

It had taken time, he added, to kick start the programme but he was pleased to say that this was now being achieved and that a number of projects were either at construction or would be going to construction in 2018.

The Council, he stated, had land banks in a number of areas and these would be utilised as the year progressed. Upwards of 150 tenancies, it was noted, were created each year from within the existing housing stock. The Housing Assistance Programme, he outlined, was an initiative that had delivered in a relatively short space of time.

He proceeded to update members in relation to developments and activity through the various options being pursued namely:

- Building an existing Landbank.
- Acquisitions
- Turnkey Development
- Approved Housing Bodies
- Leasing Initiatives
- HAP & RAS Schemes.
- Reletting of existing Housing Stock.

It was noted that significant work had been done by the Housing Construction Department to date and that considerable effort had been made to streamline the process. It would be unreasonable, he said, to say that the Housing Programme itself was not working or that there was any lack of commitment. With the relevant Government funding it was hoped, he added, to advance the housing programme significantly over the next two to three years.

There was no opposition to the motion.

Cllr O' Domhnaill acknowledged the excellent work that had been done to date and alluded in particular to the efforts of Mr John Gallagher, Senior Engineer.

The Housing Construction Section, he said, needed more support to speed up and aid the delivery of additional housing units. A taskforce as outlined in the motion would, he contended, help to

deal with the current logjam.

The Director of Service acknowledged that not all sites acquired by the Council had been suitable for social housing but that this would be carefully monitored in the future.

The acceleration of development was, he advised, timely and it was intended to progress with the ongoing collaborative working arrangements included structured engagement with the individual local area teams.

C/101/18 NEED FOR MORE PERMANENT DRIVING TESTERS

On the proposal of Cllr Crossan, seconded by Cllr Kennedy, the following motion was adopted:-

"That Donegal County Council write to Shane Ross Minister for Transport Tourism and Sport, and the RSA to ensure that Donegal gets more permanent driving testers, to help alleviate the current backlog."

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

He alluded to the fact that the waiting time for a driving test in Buncrana was over 23 weeks and that this inordinate delay was causing problems for the public in general.

This was effectively, he said, an attack on rural Ireland.

He had, he confirmed, written to the Minister back in 2017 with regard to the appointment of additional driving testers yet not one had been appointed in the whole north west of Ireland.

It was noted that in 2006 Donegal had 6 driving testers but that this had now dwindled to two.

This was an issue, he said, which needed to be addressed, given the extraordinarily high insurance costs facing many young people with provisional licences.

Cllr Kennedy supporting the motion said that it was timely and that something needed to be done urgently.

There was no opposition to the motion.

Cllr Crossan thanked members for their support and outlined again the fact that more permanent testers were needed to clear the backlog in Donegal.

C/102/18

SUPPORT FOR THE INVESTIGATION BY THE DATA PROTECTION COMMISSIONERS INTO THE PUBLIC SERVICES CARD

Cllr Albert Doherty submitted the following motion;-

"That Donegal County Council note and support the investigation by the Data Protection Commissioners into the Public Services Card (PSC) presently underway, concur with the many concerns expressed by the Irish Council for Civil Liberties (ICCL) regarding card uses and privacy rights, including the related biometric database and the single customer view database, demand the immediate suspension of PSC roll out by government (DEASP) until current investigations are complete and concerns allayed."

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

He thus proposed, seconded by Cllr Gary Doherty that the motion be amended as follows:-

"That Donegal County Council note and support the investigation by the Data Protection Commissioners into *the legal basis for the* Public Services Card (PSC) presently underway, concur with the many concerns expressed by the Irish Council for Civil Liberties (ICCL) regarding card uses and privacy rights, including the related biometric database and the single customer view database, demand the immediate suspension of PSC roll out by government (DEASP) until current investigations are complete and concerns allayed."

This was unanimously agreed and adopted.

Cllr Doherty said that the fall out from the recent Cambridge Analytical Scandal and issues with Google and Facebook had generated serious repercussions for all data gathering firms. Trust issues in relation to data privacy, he advised, needed to be addressed.

The Irish Council for Civil Liberties had, he noted, raised a number of concerns including the:

- Lack of clarity and security associated with the new PSC.
- Unclear legal basis for its introduction.
- The fact that European law in relation to privacy was being breached.
- There would be an oppressive effect on the most vulnerable members of society.

The problem Cllr Doherty contended was that people going forward would have no choice if they wanted to access public services.

He called for the implementation of the card to be suspended until all concerns had been allayed.

Cllr Gary Doherty concurred with this assessment and said that there had been a number of data breaches in countries where national identity cards were being used.

There was no opposition to the motion.

Cllr Albert Doherty concluding the debate asked that the motion be forwarded to the Minister for Justice & Equality, Charles Flanagan, T.D., the Minister for Employment Affairs & Social Protection, Regina Doherty, T.D., Pat Breen, Minister of State for Trade, Employment, Business, EU Digital Single Market and Data Protection and the Irish Council for Civil Liberties for their information.

C/103/18

RETAINED FIRE SERVICE 1916 COMMEMORATION
MEDALS

On the proposal of Cllr Murray, seconded by Cllr Glackin, the following motion was adopted:-

"That Donegal County Council recognises that the retained fire service was the only front-line emergency services organisation in the state whose members did not receive commemorative 1916 centenary medals and commits to rectifying this by commissioning its own such medals for fire fighters in the county."

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

He said that it had been particularly disappointing that 1916 commemorative medals had not been presented to members of the fire service in Donegal. Many were, he stated, extremely frustrated that they had been overlooked and that despite a number of meetings with the Minister there had been no movement on the matter. He asked that the issue be addressed immediately. The motion, he noted, called on Donegal County Council to commission medals for its own fire fighters.

Cllr Glackin outlined his support for the motion.

Cllr O' Neill noted that two members of the Fire Service in Donegal had met with Minister John Paul Phelan in relation to the matter.

There was no opposition to the matter.

Members were informed that the matter would be co-ordinated and dealt with through the AILG and the National Directorate for Fire and Emergency Management.

Cllr Murray concluding the debate asked that further contact be made with Minister Phelan in relation to the matter.

C/104/18 DISCUSSION IN RELATION TO HOUSING NEEDS IN THE COUNTY

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

"That this Council discuss the housing need in the County."

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

He said it was obvious from the reply that there was a significant housing need in the county. Donegal County Council, he said, had led out on the matter and had done an excellent job to date. He noted that in 1998 there had been 193 persons in need of housing as opposed to 892 at present.

Current housing policy was, he stated, depopulating rural Donegal, and he called on the Council to concentrate on providing housing in the areas of greatest need. S.I. Housing, he added, also needed to be promoted and encouraged as it allowed people to live in their own localities.

He alluded also to the fact that a greater emphasis needed to be placed on building social housing adjacent to rural schools and assist in the rejuvenation of these areas.

A call was made also for expressions of interest for Turnkey Social Housing to be advertised in more locations.

Cllr Slowey supporting the motion said that Donegal County Council was one of the largest housing providers in the country and thus it was imperative that ever funding opportunity was availed of at national level. He cited the importance of having the relevant manpower in place to avail of same.

He called also for the reintroduction of the Serviced Sites Initiative.

There was no opposition to the motion.

Mr Joe Peoples, Director Housing, Corporate & Cultural Services thanked members for their comments and said that all involved would like to see housing need being satisfied.

There was, he acknowledged, the potential to get involved in various opportunities which could accommodate the renovation of derelict properties in small towns and villages, and that this was being explored.

The Chief Executive confirmed that there was an intention to move forward with the serviced sites initiative and that the social housing programme had been the priority.

Cllr Mc Guinness concluding called for every effort to be made progress with the land acquisition process and that in the long term consideration be given to accommodating small building contractors within the county who were available to build one or two houses in designated rural locations.

Votes of Sympathy

A vote of sympathy was extended to the following:-

- Angela Gallagher, Water & Environment, Donegal PSC on the death of her mother, Mary Byrne.
- Evelyn Sharpe, Finance on the death of her father, Jimmy Mc Gurran.
- Maeve Mc Elroy, Central Planning Unit on the death of her father, John Tourish.
- Anne Marie Bonner, Housing & Corporate, Dungloe on the death of her father, John Kelly.

Events Attended by the Cathaoirleach

Cllr Mc Monagle informed members that he had attended the following events in his capacity as Cathaoirleach. He thanked all involved for their hard work and commitment.

- Opening of Letterkenny Courthouse on 12th February, 2018.
- Donegal County Council Sports Bursary Awards on the 16th February, 2018 in the County House, Lifford.
- Signing of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Higher and Further Education and Training Institutions of the North West City Region on Friday 23rd February, 2018 in the LYIT, Letterkenny.
- Launch of the North West Greenway Network on Monday 26th February in An Grianan, Burt.
- Attendance at the Indian Community HOLI Festival in Letterkenny on the 3rd March, 2018.
- Launch of Enterprise Week on Monday 5th March, 2018 in the Solis Lough Eske.
- Pan Celtic Launch in An Grianan, Letterkenny on Wednesday 7th March, 2018.
- Meeting with Minister of State for European Affairs, Helen Mc Entee, T.D and Senior European Officials in Newry on 6th March in relation to Brexit issues.
- Marine Tourism Seminar in the Shandon Hotel, Portnablagh on Thursday 8th March, 2018.

- Launch of the “Big Clean Up” in Ballyliffen on Friday 16th March, 2018.
- Youth Council Sexual Health Conference in the Mount Errigal Hotel” on Thursday 22nd March,2018.
- Photocall for Student Enterprise Final on Wednesday 14th march in the Silver Tassie Hotel.

St Patrick’s Day Events in Donegal

The Cathaoirleach congratulated all who had been involved in organising events and parades across the county. He acknowledged the level of commitment shown and the excellent community spirit which had been displayed.

Visit of the Leas Chathaoirleach to St Patrick’s Day Events in the USA.

The Cathaoirleach informed the members that the Leas Chathaoirleach had attended a number of events in the USA and invited him to address the meeting regarding the visit.

A copy of Cllr Jordan’s report on his visit to the USA was circulated to members and he then provided an update in relation to the various events attended and meetings that had taken place during the visit.

C/106/18 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:-

Community, Enterprise & Planning

- A. Project Ireland 2040- National Planning Framework and National Development Plan 2018-2027.
- B. Update on Timelines for Development Plans Process
 - (1) Regional Spatial & Economic Strategy
 - (2) County Development Plan 2018-2024
 - (3) Seven Strategic Towns Local Area Plan
- C. Enterprise Week 2018.
- D. Employment Survey.

- E. Local Enterprise Office Events.
- F. Launch of Seachtain na Gaeilge.
- G. Launch of Pan Celtic Programme.
- H. Marine Tourism Conference.
- I. PEACE IV Funding.
- J. Riverine Project.
- K. 'Developing Place-based Entrepreneurship, Innovation and Branding in Donegal' Seminar.

Housing, Corporate & Cultural Services.

(A). Donegal Refugee Resettlement Programme

(B). Library Service

- New Public Library Strategy
- Spring into Story time Programme

(C). Museum Service

- Seminar "A vote for Change-100 years on", 17th May, 2018.

(D). Regional Cultural Centre

- War-Torn Children-Exhibition & Events
- 21st Bealtaine Festival

(E). Donegal Heritage Office

- Traditional Shopfronts & Vernacular Signage Seminar

Water & Environment

A. Litter and Waste Enforcement

- Anti-Dumping Initiative 2018
- Introduction of Tyre Compliance Scheme
- Recycling Centres-Signage

B. Environment Awareness

- Big Donegal Clean Up'18
- Green Schools
- Leave No Trace Workshops
- Stop Food Waste-"Food-Make the Most of It" Campaign

Roads & Transportation

- Local Improvement Schemes Grant 2018
- 2018 Roadworks Programme
- Housing Estate Speed Limits

- EU funded Cross-Border North West Greenway Network

Arrangements for the Realignment of Work Directorates.

The Chief Executive informed members that some organisational changes were now necessary together with the realignment of work programmes to maximise opportunities arising from the newly published National Planning Framework. The organisation of the work of the Council would now, he confirmed, be restructured into the following Directorates.

- Housing Corporate Cultural Services
- Roads & Transportation
- Community & Planning
- Economic Development, Emergency & Information Systems
- Water & Environment
- Finance

A number of issues were then raised by members including,

1. The necessity of paying grant monies earlier in the year so that Tidy Towns Committees could progress works in advance of the Tidy Towns Competition.
2. Whether the new organisational arrangements would give rise to an additional Strategic Policy Committee.
3. The need to progress the Burtonport- Letterkenny Greenway and prepare a funding application for submission to the Department as soon as possible.
4. That Donegal County Council in collaboration with Derry City and Strabane District Council submit a revised proposal for the Riverine Project prior to the relevant deadline.

Mr Liam Ward, Director of Community, Enterprise & Development confirmed that a revised Riverine proposal would be submitted prior to the 23rd June deadline and that cognisance would be taken of the areas in which the original proposal had fallen short.

The Chief Executive advised that there were no plans to change or introduce an additional SPC during the lifetime of the present Council. He would, he confirmed, engage further with the members on this.

The following questions were noted.

C/107/18 LIS APPLICATIONS IN 2017

Cllr Glackin submitted the following question:-

"Was the same qualifying criteria adopted in each Municipal District when deciding LIS allocations in 2017? and if not, what variations existed?"

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

C/108/18 AMOUNTS ALLOCATED TO A SINGLE LIS GRANT

Cllr Glackin submitted the following question:-

"What was the highest amount allocated to a single LIS grant in the 2017 scheme, and which was the lowest LIS grant allocated in the 2017 scheme, and in which municipal districts were they in?"

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

C/109/18 UPDATE ON MOTION TO REINSTATE REGIONAL ROADS/STRATEGIC ROADS MONIES TO LA

Cllr Brogan submitted the following question:-

"Can I have a updated report on my motion calling on the Department of Transport to reinstate regional roads/strategic roads monies to Local Authorities, and have we had a response from the Department?"

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

C/110/18 RESTRICTIONS ON TENANTS WHEN BUYING OUT THEIR OWN HOUSES

Cllr Brogan submitted the following question:-

"Can I have an updated report on our request to the Department of Housing regarding concerns in relation to the restrictions on tenants when buying out their own houses?"

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

C/111/18 TOTAL NUMBER OF LIS APPLICATIONS FOR 2017

Cllr Campbell submitted the following question:-

To ask the Director of Roads to provide a breakdown with reference to both Municipal District and Roads Services Supervisor's areas in tabular form, of the following information as of March 13th 2018:

- 1) Total number of LIS applications received.(Inclusive of those received under 2017 call)
- 2) Total number of LIS applications deemed eligible and on hands.
- 3) Total cost estimated for those applications presently on hands.
- 4) Total number of LIS applications which received funding under 2017 allocation whether expended or due to be expended.
- 5) Total cost estimated for those applications which received funding under 2017 allocation whether expended or due to be expended.

*Please make the above available in electronic format (excel spreadsheet).

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

C/112/18 USE OF DRONES AS PART OF OUR LIFEGUARD PROGRAMME

Cllr Crawford submitted the following question:-

"Following my question in 2017 to consider the use of Drones as part of our Lifeguard Programme, what progress has been made?"

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

C/113/18 HOW MANY CLAIMS AND COSTS PAID IN RELATION TO POOR ROAD CONDITIONS

Cllr Crawford submitted the following question:-

“How many claims have been made to this council in 2017 in relation to poor road conditions and or poor footpath conditions Also the total cost of any claims paid?”

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

C/114/18 LATEST FIGURES FROM THE ROAD CONDITIONING SURVEY

Cllr G Doherty submitted the following question:-

"Can this Council provide me with the latest figures from the road conditioning survey in the County?"

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

C/115/18 FUNDING TO LINK THE N15 AND R252 GLENTIES – DUNGLOE ROAD

Cllr McGowan submitted the following question:-

"Has the Council applied to the Department for funding to link the N15 and the R252 Glenties-Dungloe road and if so what is the reason this important link has not been successfully funded to date, can this project be raised with the appropriate Minister and his officials immediately."

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

C/116/18 HOW MANY VOUCHERS FOR B&B HAS BEEN ISSUED BETWEEN 2014-2017

Cllr G Doherty submitted the following question:-

"How many vouchers for bed & breakfast accommodation have been issued to persons presenting as homeless in each of the years 2014 - 2017?"

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

C/117/18 COMMUNITY ENTERPRISE CENTRES

Cllr McGowan submitted the following question:-

"Can the Council outline what existing and planned supports it has for existing Community Enterprise Centres across the County both directly by the Council and through the Council's Local Enterprise Office, and can a county-wide structure be put in place to encourage better liaison and cooperation between the Council and these established Community Enterprise Centres."

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

C/118/18 PROPOSED GREENWAY FROM LETTERKENNY TO BURTONPORT

Cllr Gallagher submitted the following question:-

"Have resources been deployed to bring the proposed Greenway from Letterkenny to Burtonport to application stage?"

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

C/119/18 TASK FORCE FOR THE DONEGAL GAELTACHT

Cllr Gallagher submitted the following question:-

"Has any progress been made on establishing a task force for the Donegal Gaeltacht?"

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

C/120/18 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BUDGET

Cllr O'Domhnaill submitted the following question:-

"Can this Council please outline a full breakdown of the Community Development Budget spent by and drawn down from outside bodies to show where all monies are being spent. Can I also be afforded a list of how much money is spent by the section in regards to Trade Shows & Conferences both by way of attendance and hosting both in Ireland and abroad whilst listing each event?"

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

C/121/18 COUNTY TIDY TOWNS SCHEME

Cllr O'Domhnaill submitted the following question:-

"What progress has been made with regards to the County Tidy Towns Scheme and when will the awards be presented, also outline the marking and adjudicating role which the Council has undertaken?"

Cllr O'Domhnaill received a response from the Director of Environment and Emergency Services in relation to the above.

C/122/18 FUNDING FOR FLOOD DEFENCES

Cllr Murray submitted the following question:-

"What is the latest update from the OPW regarding the funding of flood defences in the areas worst hit in the county, particularly those close to homes which were damaged and remain in danger?"

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

C/123/18 COUNCIL ROLE AND RELATED CONTRACTS

Cllr A Doherty submitted the following question:-

"Council role and related contracts.

What roles and related actions are required and/or occur in Donegal County Council Departments ie: Roads, Planning, Water and Environment etc when public infrastructure contracts awarded to companies by Uisce Eireann in the county are delayed, compromised or require replacement contractors for works completion?"

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

C/124/18 NEW LEISURE CENTRE FACILITY IN THE COUNTY

Cllr Murray submitted the following question:-

"Does this Council intend to provide funding to support the draw down of state monies in order to construct a new leisure centre facility in the county, particularly where it is engaging with a standing committee with a proposal in place?"

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

C/125/18 CURRENT POSITION ON THE TAKEOVER OF GROUP WATER SCHEMES

Cllr Donaghey submitted the following question:-

"What is the current position on the takeover of Group Water Schemes?"

Cllr Donaghey received a response from the Director of Environment and Emergency Services in relation to the above.

C/126/18 CURRENT HOUSING NEEDS

Cllr McGuinness submitted the following question:-

"What is the current housing need in each town and village in the County?"

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

C/127/18 DERELICT SITES ACT 1990

Cllr A Doherty submitted the following question:-

Derelict Site Act 1990 and Council Actions.

During this council period 2014 to date:-

- a)How many prosecutions by council of site owners who did not comply to notices served have occurred?
- b)Has Council purchased any lands/sites under compulsory orders?
- c)In what instances and number has the Council carried out the works deemed necessary and charged costs to site and or land owners?"

Cllr Doherty received a response from the Director of Planning in relation to the above.

C/128/18 MOTIONS FROM OTHER COUNCILS

Members noted the following motions from other Councils.

LEITRIM COUNTY COUNCIL

"That Leitrim County Council call on the Minister of State for Disabilities and the Minister for Finance with a view to seeking

that the medical criteria for entry to the drivers and passengers with Disabilities Tax Relief Scheme be amended to include those without the use of one hand or arm.”

GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL

“This Local Authority calls on the Minister for Transport (Minister Shane Ross, T.D.) and the Minister for Justice and Equality (Minister Charlie Flanagan TD) to provide each Local Authority with efficient laws (Bye Laws) to deal with the illegal parking of caravans and camper vans on public and private roads, right of ways and non-designated camp sites. Sufficient powers should be given to each Authority to remove and impound illegally parked caravans and to confiscate unclaimed caravans in a timely fashion similar to unclaimed motor vehicles.”

GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL

“That Galway City Council write to the Department of the Environment and request that they prepare legislation regarding the disposal of paint under the Producer Responsibility Initiative similar to the WEE Scheme where paint would be brought back to the suppliers and disposed of by the paint companies.”

CLARE COUNTY COUNCIL

“That this Council supports the call for publicly-funded higher education and rejects income contingent loans.”

CLARE COUNTY COUNCIL

“That Clare County Council call on the Minister for housing, Environment and Local Government and the Minister for Finance to put in place a redress scheme to provide financial support to purchasers of houses and apartments who now find that their property was not properly constructed and is non compliant with building and Fire Regulations. These homeowners are victims of poor building methods and are now facing huge expense to address the necessary measures to bring their property up to a safe and compliant level. The purchasers of these properties followed due process in acquiring their property and trusted the legal, planning and regulatory measures in place to protect them, but now find they are exposed to costs they cannot afford and could in extreme cases face the possibility of being rendered homeless if necessary remedial safety works are not carried out.”

CLARE COUNTY COUNCIL

“That this Council calls on the Minister for Trade and Employment to introduce financial incentives to companies who are prepared to employ apprentices.”

CLARE COUNTY COUNCIL

“That Clare Council request the Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment in view of the recent study findings issued by NUIG that 73% of deep water fish living in the North West Atlantic Ocean had ingested micro plastic, which is one of the highest recordings found worldwide, to tackle this time bomb before it is too late.”

This concluded the business of the meeting.