

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE DHUN NA nGALL

Oifig Riarthóir na
gCruinnithe
Aras an Chontae
LEIFEAR
19 Eanáir 2021

FÓGRA CRUINNITHE

DO GACH BHALL DEN CHOMHAIRLE

A Chara

Beidh cruinniú ar líne ag Comhairle Contae Dhún na nGall **Dé Luain 25 Eanáir 2021 ar 11am**. Tá an clár don chruinniú ceangailte leis seo. Seolfar nasc chun páirt a ghlacadh sa chruinniú i ríomhphost eile.

Mise, le meas



Seosamh Ó Piobla
Riarthóir Cruinnithe

DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

Office of Meetings Administrator
County House
Lifford
19th January, 2021

NOTICE OF MEETING

TO EACH MEMBER OF DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

Dear Councillor

A Meeting of Donegal County Council will be held online on **Monday 25th January, 2021, at 11.00am**. The agenda for the meeting is attached. A link to join the meeting will issue separately.

Yours sincerely



Joe Peoples
Meetings Administrator

AGENDA

1. Confirmation of Minutes

- a) Confirmation of the Minutes of the Annual Budget meeting of Donegal County Council held on the 25th November, 2020.
- b) Confirmation of the Minutes of the November Meeting of Donegal County Council held on the 30th November, 2020.
- c) Confirmation of the Minutes of the Adjourned November Meeting of Donegal County Council held on the 7th December, 2020.

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 two plots of land at Harbour View Drive Housing Scheme, Killybegs, to Eamonn Gallagher.

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

- a) To approve works in respect of the R250 Baile na Finne Traffic Calming and Pedestrian Linkage Project to include upgrading of the road surface, road drainage and the footpath between the existing speed limits signs and incorporating the junction to the R252 (An Dúchoraidh)

4. Corporate

- a) To consider ICBAN report, “The Framework of Regional Priorities for the Central Border Region, 2021-2027”.
- b) To note obligations on Members under the Local Elections (Disclosure of Donations & Expenditure) Act, 1999 as amended, to submit a donation statement by 31st January, 2021.
- c) To note obligations on Members (Part 15) Local Government Act, 2001 Ethics Framework to submit declaration of interest by the 28th February, 2021.

5. Planning

- a) Proposed Variation to the County Development Plan 2018-2024 to ensure alignment with the National Planning Framework and Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy; To approve the following:-
 - i. Proposed Variation No 2;
 - ii. Approve the document entitled ‘Introduction and Scope of the Proposed Variation to the County Donegal Development Plan, 2018-2024 in respect of the Alignment of the CDP with the National Planning Framework (NPF) and the Regional Spatial Economic Strategy (RSES) (Variation No. 2)’ ;
 - iii. Approve the formal commencement of the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), and Appropriate

Assessment (AA) processes in respect of the "Proposed Variation" as per no. 1 above.

- b) Proposed Variation to the County Donegal Development Plan 2018-2024 in respect of the TEN-T Priority Route Improvement Project, Donegal
- To note the contents of the Strategic Environmental Assessment Environmental Report; the Appropriate Assessment Natura Impact Report ; the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment Report; and the updated introduction to the Proposed Variation document;
 - Approve the commencement of the statutory consultation procedures in relation to the Proposed Variation namely:
 - i. Send notice and copies of the Proposed Variation and the above mentioned reports to the Minister, the Office of the Planning Regulator, the Board, the Regional Assembly, adjoining planning authorities, the prescribed authorities, and the local community development committee in accordance with S.13(2)(a) of the planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended).
 - ii. Publish Newspaper Notices of the Proposed Variation and the abovementioned reports stating inter alia: the reasons for the Proposed Variation, that the Proposed Variation will be available for public inspection at stated places and at stated times for 4 weeks (subject to COVID restrictions), and that written submissions or observations with respect of the Proposed Variation will be taken into account before the making of the Proposed Variation, in accordance with S.13(2)(b) and S.13(3) of said Act.

6. Corporate

To note the submission on the Public Consultation of the Review of the National Development Plan.

7. Endorsement of Minutes

- a) To note minutes of the meeting of the Corporate Policy Group held on the 13th November, 2020 in the County House, Lifford.

MOTIONS

GLENTIES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

Environment

8. **Cllr Micheál Choilm Mac Giolla Easbuig**

"Go gcuirfidh Comhairle Contae Dhún na nGall seirbhísí breise fá choinne páipéir agus plaistigh ar fáil ag ár gcuid bancanna athchúrsála ar fud an chontae".

"That Donegal County Council provide additional services at our bring banks around the county that includes paper and plastic".

INISHOWEN MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

Roads & Transportation

9. **Cllr Albert Doherty**

Donegal has 1134 km of coastline, 17% of the state's total.

"That Donegal County Council,

1) Ensure direct representation and information input into the integrated whole of Government National Coastal Management Strategy,

2) Prepare and forward to the steering group a collated synopsis of completed reports on recent County Coastal Flooding and Erosion Risk Management Studies including the actions and recommendations proposed.

3) Publicise on the Donegal County Council website the RPS Slodden to Binbane CERM recommendations and for a limited time invite input and response contributions from the general public and interested county groups.

4) Invite an OPW representative to the county to visit and view the extent of the erosion and damage caused by coastal erosion in the relevant council municipal area.

5) Insist that the relevant Government Departments and steering group participants deliver and publish their initial findings and recommendations in their timeline indicated i.e. March 2021".

Corporate

10. **Cllr Jack Murray**

"That Donegal County Council expresses our gratitude to all front-line staff during the pandemic, recognises the huge sacrifices being made by so many and calls for proper recognition for all involved; in doing so this council calls for fair pay for all student nurses and midwives during the pandemic".

LETTERKENNY – MILFORD MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

Roads & Transportation

11. **Cllr Ciaran Brogan**

"I propose that we as a Council review the current gritting programme as a matter of urgency with a view to engage with some private contractors and farming operators to grit some local roads".

Corporate

12. **Cllr Gerry Mc Monagle**

"That this Council enter into a twinning arrangement with Bani Zaid Municipality in the Ramallah District of the West Bank of Palestine. The Twinning request from Bani Zaid is asking that we co-operate and share our experience on Culture, Tourism, Environment, Planning and Economic Development. I believe that this can be done through our Director of Services and will not be an added cost to the council"

DONEGAL MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

Environment

13. **Cllr Barry Sweeny**

"That Donegal County Council further resource our Litter Unit to "ramp up" our fight against illegal dumping and littering across our county. Investment in appropriate equipment, technologies and staff allocation to prevent, monitor, clean-up and enforce should all be considered".

LIFFORD-STRANORLAR MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

Economic Development

14. **Cllr Patrick Mc Gowan**

"That this Council discuss what changes BREXIT will have on NI and UK companies tendering for contracts, services and materials to Donegal County Council and other state agencies as well as changes Donegal firms will face tendering across the border".

15. **Cathaoirleach's Business**

16. **Chief Executive's Management Report**

QUESTIONS

GLENTIES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

Water & Environment

17. **Cllr Micheál Choilm Mac Giolla Easbuig**

An bhfuil soláthar leordhóthanach uisce ag Leitir Ceanainn agus ag bailte móra eile sa chontae chun freastal ar a gcuid riachtanas faoi láthair agus chun tacú le tuilleadh forbartha amach anseo? Buíoch duit ach freagra a thabhairt maidir le gach ceann de na príomhbailte.

Do Letterkenny and the other major towns in the County have sufficient water supply to meet their needs at present? (Please include a reply in respect of each of the major towns).

INISHOWEN MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

Economic Development

18. **Cllr Albert Doherty**

RTE News Mapping (Graphic) Error.

Has Donegal County Council (Economic Development Unit/Tourism Marketing Unit etc) contacted or been contacted by RTE regarding the Brexit News story and the depiction of seven Ulster counties (including

Donegal) in an extended Irish Border Map? and will Donegal County Council now respond and brief RTE on the appropriate mapping required and the location of Donegal in the nine county Ulster province and the thirty two county island of Ireland?

19. Cllr Albert Doherty

Staycation 2021 and Donegal County Council

What cross directorate recommendations and planning is current or being developed to improve the visitors experience and entice visitors to enjoy the Donegal Beaches, Hills, Caravan/Camping and to improve the business for the county hospitality sector in 2021? and will the plan include council engagement with tourism providers and consultation with local community residents?

LETTERKENNY - MILFORD MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

Housing

20. Cllr Ciaran Brogan

Can we get an updated report on the Mica situation per MD?

21. Cllr Gerry Mc Monagle

How many housing voids do we currently have across the county, how long have they been void and can I have a breakdown of each Municipal District numbers?

Economic Development

22. Cllr Ciaran Brogan

Can we have an updated report on what steps we have taken as a Council to source additional funding for Donegal, in light of the impact Brexit is having on our county, i.e. European Investment Fund, Brexit Infrastructure funding?

Roads & Transportation

23. Cllr Gerry Mc Monagle

How many funding applications have we made since 2014 for the upgrade and development of our Piers and Jetties, and what Piers and Jetties were applied for, how many of the applications were successful, amount of grants awarded and where were the successful Piers and Jetties located?

DONEGAL MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

Environment

24. Cllr Barry Sweeny

How many litter fines were issued by DCC in 2020, how many of those were paid and what was the value recouped?

25. Cllr Barry Sweeny

How many litter related court prosecutions were undertaken by DCC in 2020, what were the legal costs to the council and what was the monetary value of these proceedings worth in return to Donegal County Council?

LIFFORD-STRANORLAR MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

Roads & Transportation

26. Cllr Patrick Mc Gowan

Please give a report on street lighting upgrades & infills across the county for each town & village with a time frame for completion of existing initiatives?

Environment

27. Cllr Patrick Mc Gowan

Please outline this Councils policy on household waste subsidies and how does this compare to other counties such as Limerick and what subsidy does the Department give to local authorities to implement a household waste subsidy scheme if any?

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

GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL

“The Mother and Baby Homes represent a very dark part of our State’s history. That survivors of Mother and Baby Homes have legitimate concerns regarding access to personal information. Therefore, that Galway County Council will write to the Taoiseach and Minister for Children, Disability, Integration requesting the following: That the Final Report of the Mother and Baby Homes Commission of Investigation be published as soon as possible and include the details of the experiences of survivors in each institution. That the Government provide a full State response to the findings and recommendations of the Final Report. That the Government publish new statutory information and tracing legislation without delay. That survivors of Mother and Baby Homes are given access to their personal records consistent with GDPR. That the Department of Children and Túsła work with the Office of the DPC to ensure that rights of survivors to personal information about themselves under data protection legislation and the GDPR are fully respected. That the Government urgently put in place a range of supports for survivors and adoptees. That the Government continues to engage in consultation with survivors and their organisations as they establish a national archive of records related to institutional trauma 20th century.”

GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL

“I propose that Galway County Council write to Minister for Justice Helen McEntee to request that the review of the 3rd National Strategy on Domestic Sexual and Gender based Violence is expedited to provide a fit for purpose strategy taking into account the additional reported rise in domestic abuse incidents occurring during COVID Pandemic restricted conditions and the urgent need for additional refuge places and adequately resourced services.”

WATERFORD CITY AND COUNTY COUNCIL

“That Waterford City and County Council:

- Sends its solidarity and support to the former Debenhams workers seeking a just and fair settlement from their former employer.
- Reaffirms the Council’s support for workers’ rights, the principle of collective bargaining, and fairness and dignity at work.
- Calls on the Government to implement the Duffy-Cahill report; to legislate to protect workers from strategic liquidations and asset stripping by companies; and to protect collective bargaining agreements.
- Calls for KPMG and Government to immediately engage with the workers and their representatives in the Mandate trade union.”

WEXFORD COUNTY COUNCIL

“That this Council calls on the Department of Education and the Higher Education Institutions/Bodies to offer a rebate scheme to third level students who are charged full rate for on-campus accommodation but are afforded limited access due to Covid restrictions for the Academic Year 2020/2021. Upon passage, this motion is circulated to all Local Authorities.”

**MINUTES OF THE JANUARY MEETING OF DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL HELD
ON MONDAY 25TH JANUARY, 2021 (ONLINE)**

C/1/21 **MEMBERS PRESENT**

Cllrs R Donaghey (Cathaoirleach), L Blaney, K Bradley, C Brogan, P Canning, T Conaghan, D Coyle, G Crawford, N Crossan, T Crossan, A Doherty, G Doherty, L Doherty, M Farren, Maire T Gallagher, M Harley, N Jordan, J Kavanagh, D M Kelly, N Kennedy, M C Mac Giolla Easbuig, F Mc Brearty Jnr, M Mc Bride, M Mc Clafferty, M McDermott, I Mc Garvey, N Mc Garvey, P Mc Gowan, B McGuinness, M McMahan, G Mc Monagle, A Molloy, J Murray, M Naughton, J S Ó Fearraigh, and B Sweeny.

C/2/21 **OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE**

John McLaughlin, Chief Executive, Joe Peoples, Director of Housing, Corporate and Cultural Services / Meetings Administrator, Liam Ward, Director Community Development & Planning Services, Brendan O'Donnell, A/Director of Roads & Transportation, Richard Gibson, Head of Finance, Garry Martin, Director of Economic Development, Information Systems & Emergency Services, Michael Mc Garvey, A/Director of Water & Environment, Seán O'Daimhin, Rannóg na Gaeilge, Frances Friel, Communications Officer, Anne Marie Crawford, Staff Officer, Corporate.

C/3/21 **WELCOME ADDRESS**

The Cathaoirleach welcomed members to the meeting noting that this was the first meeting of Council to be conducted entirely online. She outlined a number of general guidelines for those participating in the meeting. In accordance with Standing Orders, she said that sound recording or communication equipment of any kind was not to be used without the prior permission of the Council.

C/4/21 **CATHAOIRLEACH'S BUSINESS**

Votes of Sympathy

A vote of sympathy was extended to the following:-

- Jimmy Mc Geehin, formerly Roads Service on the death of his brother, Donnachadh Mc Geehin.
- Shaun Paul Murphy, Community Development on the death of his father, John Murphy.
- Jacqueline Abbas, Library Service on the death of her brother, Roderick Forsyth MacLennan.
- Mark Sweeney, Roads Service, Donegal MD on the death of his mother, Maureen Sweeney.
- Kevin Mc Caul, Library service on the death of his father, Michael Mc Caul.
- Dearn Mc Clintock, Water & Environment on the death of his son Michael Mc Clintock.
- Donal Murphy, Roads, Donegal MD on the death of his mother, Mary Patricia Murphy.

- The family of the late Andrew Scanlon, formerly Water Maintenance, Stranorlar area.
- The family of the late Martin Flanagan, formerly Water & Environment, Lifford.
- Eileen Mc Loughlin, Housing/ Corporate on the death of her father, John Doherty.
- Paddy Doherty, Community & Development on the death of his father, John Doherty.
- John Mc Hugh, Roads Stranorlar on the death of his daughter Grace.
- Mary Connolly, Finance Section on the death of her mother, Kathleen Connolly.
- The family of the late May Walsh, former Branch Librarian, Ballyshannon Library.
- Mairead Shiels, Income Collection on the death of her mother Lala Shiels.
- Graham Diamond, Central Planning Unit on the death of his mother, Breege Diamond.

C/5/21 **ADJOURNMENT OF THE MEETING**

A ten minute recess was proposed by Cllr Brogan and seconded by Cllr Mc Clafferty to deal with general connectivity issues.

C/6/21 **RESUMPTION OF THE MEETING**

The Cathaoirleach proceeded to acknowledge the commitment and contribution of front line workers in the maintenance of critical services to the community during the pandemic. She drew attention to the fact that the Council had been able to maintain the provision of essential services through the adoption of new working arrangements. The Council, she said, would continue to work with all relevant agencies and the community and voluntary groups co-ordinating arrangements for the provision of services and supports to community and business groupings.

She outlined the necessity of continuing to adhere to the public health advice in order to support the exceptional work being carried out by the health and emergency services.

It was resolved at this juncture to deal with items no. 1, 6 and 7.

C/7/21 **CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL BUDGET MEETING OF DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL HELD ON THE 25th NOVEMBER, 2020**

On the proposal of Cllr McGuinness, seconded by Cllr Sweeny the minutes of the Annual Budget Meeting of Donegal County Council held on the 25th November, 2020 were adopted.

C/8/21 **CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER MEETING OF DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL HELD ON THE 30th NOVEMBER, 2020.**
On the proposal of Cllr McBride, seconded by Cllr Naughton the minutes of the meeting of Donegal County Council held on the 30th November, 2020 were adopted.

C/9/21 **CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE ADJOURNED NOVEMBER MEETING OF DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL HELD ON THE 7th DECEMBER, 2020**
On the proposal of Cllr Blaney, seconded by Cllr Sweeny the minutes of the Adjourned November Council Meeting held on the 7th December, 2020 were adopted.

C/10/21 **MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CORPORATE POLICY GROUP HELD ON THE 13TH NOVEMBER, 2020**
On the proposal of Cllr Brogan, seconded by Cllr McDermott it was resolved to note the minutes of the meeting of the Corporate Policy Group held on the 13th November, 2020.

C/11/21 **TO NOTE THE SUBMISSION ON THE PUBLIC CONSULTATION OF THE REVIEW OF THE NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN**
Members considered the report circulated with the agenda in relation to the above.

Cllr Albert Doherty referenced page 6 of the report and said that the Inishowen MD members had not received a formal presentation on the matter. This, he said was not satisfactory given the impending deadline for submissions.

Mr Garry Martin, Director Economic Development, Information Systems and Emergency Services noted that the report had been circulated in advance of the meeting to facilitate discussion and revisions to the Draft. It would be possible, he said, to facilitate an online workshop for the Inishowen members in the next few days.

The Chief Executive outlined the main aspects of the Draft Submission and said that any member who wished to do so could also make a submission on or before Friday 29th January, 2021.

C/12/21 **DISPOSAL OF TWO PLOTS OF LAND AT HARBOUR VIEW DRIVE HOUSING SCHEME, KILLYBEGS TO EAMONN GALLAGHER**
Members considered the report circulated with the agenda in relation to the above.

On the proposal of Cllr Kennedy, seconded by Cllr Sweeny, it was resolved to dispose of two plots of land at Harbour View Drive Housing Scheme, Killybegs to Eamonn Gallagher 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/13/21 **WORKS IN RESPECT OF THE R250 BAILE NA FINNE TRAFFIC CALMING AND PEDESTRIAN LINKAGE PROJECT**

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

On the proposal of Cllr Gallagher, seconded by Cllr O'Fearraigh, the works in respect of the R250 Baile na Finne Traffic Calming and Pedestrian Linkage Project to include upgrading of the road surface, road drainage and the footpath between the existing speed limits signs and incorporating the junction to the R252 (An Dúchoraidh) 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/14/21 **ICBAN REPORT, "THE FRAMEWORK OF REGIONAL PRIORITIES FOR THE CENTRAL BORDER REGION, 2021-2027"**

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

The Chief Executive advised that ICBAN were anxious to have the report endorsed by the members of Donegal County Council. It was he said a broad ranging document and highlighted regional priorities under a number of headings namely economic development, infrastructure and connectivity, education, training & skills, liveable communities, natural capital (greening the region)and managing and delivering the framework of regional priorities.

Mr Garry Martin, Director, Economic Development, Information Systems and Emergency Services said that the Donegal and Lifford-Stranorlar Municipal Districts had advocated the need for greater engagement with Fermanagh and Omagh District Council in line with the working relationship that currently exists with Derry City and Strabane District Council. In light of the Brexit issue it was envisaged, he said, that matters of common interest and the objectives of the elected members would be progressed.

Cllr Mc Gowan cited the need for more engagement and said that a significant input was needed from the Lifford-Stranorlar MD. He said a team effort was required and every effort should be made to find a dedicated tourism project along the border area.

On the proposal of Cllr Sweeny, seconded by Cllr Mc Gowan it was resolved to endorse the report on the "Framework of Regional Priorities for the Central Border Region of Ireland/Northern Ireland, 2021-2027.

C/15/21 **TO NOTE OBLIGATION ON MEMBERS TO SUBMIT A DONATION STATEMENT BY 31ST JANUARY, 2021.**

Mr Joe Peoples, Meetings Administrator reminded members of their obligation to submit a donation statement under the Local Elections (Disclosure of Donations & Expenditure) Act, 1999 as amended, by 31st January, 2021.

He said that cognisance would be taken of the fact that there were difficulties in having the declaration signed by a Peace Commissioner/ Solicitor under current Covid-19 restrictions. Reasonable flexibility would, he advised, be applied in terms of the deadline for submitting statements.

C/16/21 **TO NOTE OBLIGATION ON MEMBERS TO SUBMIT DECLARATION OF INTEREST BY THE 28TH FEBRUARY, 2021.**

Mr Joe Peoples, Meetings Administrator reminded members of their obligation to submit a declaration of interest under Part 15 of the Local Government Act, 2001 (Ethics Framework), by 28th February, 2021.

C/17/21 **PROPOSED VARIATION TO THE COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2018-2024 TO ENSURE ALIGNMENT WITH THE NATIONAL PLANNING FRAMEWORK AND REGIONAL SPATIAL AND ECONOMIC STRATEGY**

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

Cllr Canning said that members were in effect being dictated to when it came to the alignment of national policies with local planning policy issues.. He highlighted in particular issues with Policy TP- 4 (Intensification at Junctions onto National Roads) and Settlement Boundaries where the current framework boundary may go through an individual housing estate. The National Planning Framework and Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy, he advised, focused mainly on urban issues. Concern was expressed also that there had been little or no recognition of the “North West City Region”. He outlined the need for further discussion in relation to “Proposed Variation No 2 to the County Development Plan 2018-2024” so that members concerns could be adequately addressed going forward.

He proposed, seconded by Cllr Brogan that the matter be deferred pending further consideration at a workshop.

Cllr Brogan said that it was imperative that these concerns were addressed at Municipal District level initially. He noted that the North West Region Cross-Border Group had already considered many of the issues in question. It was important, he said, that all concerned got their act together so that special status could be sought for the region. He acknowledged that there were concerns in relation to the core strategy and that the National Planning Framework would have to take into consideration the fact that there would be changes in issues such as work arrangements for businesses and workers going forward. There was also, he advised, a serious lack of infrastructure in many of our smaller towns. It was imperative, he added, that water services looked at capacity issues in these towns. Each Municipal District, he said, needed to look at the issues in their particular area so that a comprehensive assessment could be brought forward for discussion at plenary level.

Cllr Mc Guinness alluded to the fact that a concerted effort had been made in Inishowen to get the road network upgraded with the Buncrana to Bridgend Road being treated as a National Primary Road for planning

purposes in the hope that National Primary status would be granted. This, he said, had never materialised despite the road being one of the busiest in Donegal. He alluded also to the need for further discussion on issues such as rural depopulation, the demise of the fishing industry and service failures particularly in relation to water infrastructure.

Cllr I Mc Garvey said that Brexit was one of the major concerns for this county and that due consideration was needed so as to ensure the harmonisation of all trade related matters.

Cllr Mc Monagle concurred with the need to address all Brexit related issues. He expressed concern in relation to the pace of development for water services infrastructure and the fact that this was hampering the development of many of our smaller towns and villages. He cited the need for balanced regional development and said that unless special status was granted, communities on both sides of the border would suffer. It was important, he added, that commitment and support was sought at national level for investment in the North West City Region.

Cllr Gallagher said that the Sinn Fein grouping could not support the variation as more in depth discussion was needed in terms of the National Planning Framework and the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy. She referred to ongoing attempts to deal with the Wind Energy Policy and the fact that the national guidelines had still not issued. Failure to address intensification issues, she said, prevented members from adequately representing local communities.

Cllr Naughton said that there were proposals in the Framework and the Strategy that would put many small enterprises out of business and that members had a duty to protect local businesses and initiatives.

Cllr Mc Gowan said he was concerned that rural Ireland was being overlooked and that in effect there was a veto at national level on what was being agreed locally. A number of projects in the Lifford/Stranorlar Municipal District, he noted, were continually being held up by Irish Water. He called for a review of the Town Tier System and said that special status designation was needed for the area along the border. He drew attention also to the fact that there was no joined up approach in terms of the two separate Transportation Plans for the County.

Cllr N Crossan said that cognisance needed to be taken of changes in retail patterns and the fact that small artisan shops and businesses were going to come dominant in the future.

Cllr Harley said he was concerned at the level of investment by Irish Water going forward and the fact Irish Water were not able to follow-up in terms of water and sewerage connections once planning permission had been granted.

Cllr Mc Dermott noted that there had been a number of changes in the economic landscape of the County over the past number of months and said that the Donegal County Development Plan 2018-2024 needed to be revisited in order to deal with changing perspectives. This, he added, was fuelled in part by Brexit, and also the economic crisis created by Covid-19.

Mr Liam Ward, Director Community Development & Planning Services acknowledging the decision to defer the matter, noted that the issues raised by members at the meeting on the 30th November, 2020 and in the ensuing workshop had been taken into consideration in the report to members. He said that a review of the National Planning Framework and the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy was not being proposed here, but rather what was being sought was approval for the technical alignment process which the Council was obliged to do.

He said that there was specific reference to the North West City Region in the Framework and the Spatial and Economic Strategy. A written response in relation to the various issues raised would, he confirmed, be circulated in advance of the next workshop on the 22nd February, 2021 and that there would also be an opportunity at Municipal District level to consider same. With regard to the County Development Plan review, it was noted, that this was due to commence in 2022 and that a number of strategic issues would be considered at that juncture.

Alluding to Policy TP- 4, he said, that a variation to the Development Plan would not address this issue and that any amendment to same would require ongoing engagement with Transport Infrastructure Ireland.

C/18/21 **PROPOSED VARIATION TO THE COUNTY DONEGAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2018-2024 IN RESPECT OF THE TEN-T PRIORITY ROUTE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT, DONEGAL**

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

Cllr Brogan advised of the need for a local workshop so that the members of the Letterkenny/Milford Municipal District and the Lifford/Stranorlar Municipal District could be kept up to speed with the developments and have a dedicated input into the project. It was vital, he said, that everything was done correctly given that this was the biggest piece of infrastructure in the North West in our lifetime.

On the proposal of Cllr Brogan, seconded by Cllr Mc Gowan, members resolved to:

To note the contents of the Strategic Environmental Assessment Environmental Report; the Appropriate Assessment Natura Impact Report ; the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment Report; and the updated introduction to the Proposed Variation document;

Approve the commencement of the statutory consultation procedures in relation to the Proposed Variation namely:

- i. Send notice and copies of the Proposed Variation and the above mentioned reports to the Minister, the Office of the Planning Regulator, the Board, the Regional Assembly, adjoining planning authorities, the prescribed authorities, and the local community development committee in accordance with S.13(2)(a) of the planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended).
- ii. Publish Newspaper Notices of the Proposed Variation and the abovementioned reports stating inter alia: the reasons for the Proposed Variation, that the Proposed Variation will be available for public inspection at stated places and at stated times for 4 weeks (subject to COVID restrictions), and that written submissions or observations with respect of the Proposed Variation will be taken into account before the making of the Proposed Variation, in accordance with S.13(2)(b) and S.13(3) of said Act.

Cllr Coyle alluding to the lengthy report circulated said it was imperative that members received a briefing prior to the commencement of the consultation process. He enquired as to whether members would have access to the submissions in advance of the Chief Executive's report being circulated. He said that there were a number of concerns in relation to access roads onto the TEN-T route and the subsequent impact on planning permissions.

Cllr Harley advised of the need for the relevant timeframes to be extended in light of the ongoing Covid-19 restrictions, so as to facilitate all those who wanted to be involved with the process. He asked that some leeway be provided to those who wanted to build within the 300m corridor.

Cllr Gallagher said that an aggressive media campaign was needed to ensure that the public were adequately informed in relation to developments going forward.

Mr Liam Ward, Director Community Development & Planning Services acknowledged the comments made by the members and said that a workshop would be arranged prior to the commencement of the public consultation process. He said that there had been continuous engagement with those affected by the proposed routes and that this would continue as the final designs were worked through. He thanked members for their input and support.

C/19/21

PROVISION OF ADDITIONAL SERVICES AT BRING BANKS

On the proposal of Cllr MacGiolla Easbuig, seconded by Cllr McBride it was resolved to adopt the following motion:-

“Go gcuirfidh Comhairle Contae Dhún na nGall seirbhísí breise fá choinne páipéir agus plaitigh ar fáil ag ár gcuid bancanna athchúrsála ar fud an chontae”.

"That Donegal County Council provide additional services at our bring banks around the County that includes paper and plastic".

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

Cllr Mc Bride supporting the motion said that this was a county-wide issue and alluded in particular to difficulties being encountered in Letterkenny area.

There was no opposition to the motion.

Mr Michael Mc Garvey, Director Water & Environment informed members that such a service had been provided by a number of local authorities and subsequently withdrawn as it had encouraged more littering and vandalism, together with overflowing banks and a reduction in overall cleanliness levels. He informed members that the Council did not have the necessary resources or budget in place to accommodate this.

C/20/21 **COASTAL FLOODING AND EROSION**

On the proposal of Cllr A Doherty, seconded by Cllr T Crossan it was resolved to adopt the following motion:-

Donegal has 1134 km of coastline, 17% of the state's total.

"That Donegal County Council,

- 1) Ensure direct representation and information input into the integrated whole of Government National Coastal Management Strategy,
- 2) Prepare and forward to the steering group a collated synopsis of completed reports on recent County Coastal Flooding and Erosion Risk Management Studies including the actions and recommendations proposed.
- 3) Publicise on the Donegal County Council website the RPS Slodden to Binbane CERM recommendations and for a limited time invite input and response contributions from the general public and interested county groups.
- 4) Invite an OPW representative to the county to visit and view the extent of the erosion and damage caused by coastal erosion in the relevant council municipal area.
- 5) Insist that the relevant Government Departments and steering group participants deliver and publish their initial findings and recommendations in their timeline indicated i.e. March 2021".

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

Cllr Doherty welcomed the response and said it was imperative that Donegal County Council stepped up to the mark as it had a responsibility towards coastal communities. He advised also of the importance of feeding into national strategy in terms of information gathered through our own

management grouping. It was noted that the OPW also had a significant role to play in terms of any remediation process.

Cllr T Crossan outlined his support for the motion.

C/21/21 **GRATITUDE TO ALL FRONT LINE STAFF DURING THE PANDEMIC**

On the proposal of Cllr Murray, seconded by Cllr McMonagle it was resolved to adopt the following motion:-

“That Donegal County Council expresses our gratitude to all front-line staff during the pandemic, recognises the huge sacrifices being made by so many and calls for proper recognition for all involved; in doing so this council calls for fair pay for all student nurses and midwives during the pandemic”.

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

There was no opposition to the motion.

C/22/21 **REVIEW THE CURRENT GRITTING PROGRAMME**

On the proposal of Cllr Brogan, seconded by Cllr Molloy it was resolved to adopt the following motion:-

"I propose that we as a Council review the current gritting programme as a matter of urgency with a view to engage with some private contractors and farming operators to grit some local roads".

He received a response from the A/Director of Roads & Transportation in relation to the above.

Cllr Brogan called for an urgent review of the programme on the basis that many of the routes in question needed urgent review both in urban and rural areas. Past motions, he said, had clearly outlined the need to involve the private sector and the farming community.

Cllr Molloy cited a number of examples in the Glenties Municipal area where amendments were needed to the existing routes.

There was no opposition to the motion.

Mr Brendan O’ Donnell, A/Director Roads & Transportation proposed a workshop on Tuesday 16th February, 2021 at 10.00am to address the issues raised by members. This was unanimously agreed.

Cllr Brogan outlined the need for consultation at Municipal District level prior to the workshop.

Mr O’ Donnell noted the request for feedback at MD level and said it was essential that there was consensus at local level in relation to any proposed

amendments. Members, he said, needed to be clear as to what these additional routes would be and how they would be serviced.

He drew attention to the fact that approximately 1000km of roads were being gritted under the current programme and that additional requests had been received to include a further 240km of road.

C/23/21 **TWINNING ARRANGEMENT WITH BANI ZAID MUNICIPALITY IN THE RAMALLAH DISTRICT OF THE WEST BANK OF PALESTINE.**

On the proposal of Cllr McMonagle, seconded by Cllr Murray it was resolved to adopt the following motion:-

“That this Council enter into a twinning arrangement with Bani Zaid Municipality in the Ramallah District of the West Bank of Palestine. The Twinning request from Bani Zaid is asking that we co-operate and share our experience on Culture, Tourism, Environment, Planning and Economic Development. I believe that this can be done through our Director of Services and will not be an added cost to the council.”

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

Cllr Mc Monagle informed members that a request had been received from the Mayor of West Bani Zaid Municipality, Yazan R Rimawi to enter into a twinning agreement with West Bani Zaid in the northern are of Ramallah, Palestine.

The request, he advised, sought to explore areas of mutual co-operation and encourage the exchange of ideas and experiences in both regions.

Cllr Murray supporting the motion said that it was important that the message went out that this part of the world had not been forgotten. It would be, he said, an excellent gesture in that both regions shared a similar identity and history.

There was no opposition to the motion.

C/24/21 **THAT THE COUNCIL FURTHER RESOURCE OUR LITTER UNIT TO RAMP UP OUR FIGHT AGAINST ILLEGAL DUMPING AND LITTERING ACROSS OUR COUNTY**

On the proposal of Cllr Sweeny, seconded by Cllr Harley it was resolved to adopt the following motion:-

"That Donegal County Council further resource our Litter Unit to “ramp up” our fight against illegal dumping and littering across our county. Investment in appropriate equipment, technologies and staff allocation to prevent, monitor, clean-up and enforce should all be considered".

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

Cllr Sweeny welcomed the reply and acknowledged the excellent work carried out by the Environment Section together with the efforts of the many Tidy Town volunteers across the county. Despite their best efforts, he said littering and illegal dumping had reached epidemic proportions. The imposition of fines and prosecution measures it was acknowledged had not proved particularly successful.

He outlined the need to focus on preventative measures going forward, and the need to change the current mindset. Ensuring that householders accounted for all waste was essential, he said, going forward.

There was general agreement of the need to push forward with initiatives such as the mattress amnesty together with reductions in the cost of disposing of bulky goods'

Cllr Harley supporting the motion alluded to the excellent work carried out by Caroline Meehan, Litter Warden in the Lifford- Stranorlar Municipal District. It was important, he said, that the problems were addressed given the ongoing focus on promoting Donegal as a premier tourist destination.

There was no opposition to the motion.

C/25/21 **IMPACT OF BREXIT ON NORTHERN IRELAND AND UK COMPANIES TENDERING FOR CONTRACTS.**

On the proposal of Cllr McGowan, seconded by Cllr Brogan it was resolved to adopt the following motion:-

“That this Council discuss what changes BREXIT will have on NI and UK companies tendering for contracts, services and materials to Donegal County Council and other state agencies as well as changes Donegal firms will face tendering across the border”.

He received a response from the Director of Economic Development, Information Systems & Emergency Services in relation to the above.

Cllr Mc Gowan welcomed the detailed response but said that there were many obstacles to be overcome particularly for small and medium business entities. He noted that contractors in Donegal had to pay national union rates yet firms coming in from Northern Ireland etc were only obliged to do so after a particular period of time. This, he advised, created an unfair advantage. It was noted that there were issues also in relation to, (a) professional insurance and how it was levied, (b) quality assurance standards and (c) CE marks for specific professions.

He alluded to the fact that there were implications also for Donegal County Council in terms of the provision of Social Housing. The introduction of new rules and regulations in relation to procurement, he said, was holding up the programme.

Cllr Brogan supporting the motion asked that a report be prepared outlining the challenges and potential opportunities presented by Brexit. This report, he said, should also address infrastructural and economic deficits in the region. He said that arrangements should also be made for a delegation to meet with the Taoiseach's Department to highlight the huge challenges facing Donegal.

There was no opposition to the motion.

The Chief Executive informed members that the proposed delegation would be followed up with the Taoiseach's Department.

C/26/21 **CATHAOIRLEACH'S BUSINESS**

Commitment and Contribution of Frontline Staff during Covid-19 Crisis

The Cathaoirleach read into the record the following statement:-

"We remember also all those who have passed away from COVID 19 and their families and loved ones and the many people who are currently being cared for in our hospitals.

I want to acknowledge the commitment and contribution of front line workers to the maintenance of critical services to our citizens during the pandemic. The Council has been able to maintain the provision of essential services during the pandemic with staff adopting new working arrangements to ensure that services are delivered. The Council has ongoing engagement with the HSE, An Garda Síochána and community and voluntary group's co-ordinating the arrangements for the provision of services and supports to our communities and business. We have also relied on the strong sense of community that is prevalent in the county.

It is critically important at this time that we all continue to adhere to the public health advice to support the exceptional work being done in our health service which is being severely stretched with the numbers in hospital. I want to pay particular tribute to all those working in health care and to thank them for all their efforts over the last twelve months. We hope that the current promising signs that infection levels may be reducing continues and the numbers being admitted for hospital care stabilises and begins to reduce".

Mother & Baby Homes

The Cathaoirleach acknowledging the publication of the Final Report of the Commission of Investigation into Mother and Baby Homes advised members of the following;-

"I want to acknowledge the work of the Commission of Investigation into the Mother and Baby Homes and other related matters. It shone an important light into a dark and difficult chapter of very recent Irish life.

I want to especially, and most sincerely pay tribute to the former residents of these institutions. I want to acknowledge their courage and thank them

for giving their testimonies. No one could read their reports without saying it was wrong. For decades, Irish society was defined by silence on these matters of what was done to some of our most vulnerable citizens. Their stories and their truth can now be heard, acknowledged and understood.

Following the publication of the *Final Report of the Commission of Investigation into Mother and Baby Homes*, An Taoiseach Micheal Martin, T.D. issued a formal apology on behalf of the State to former residents of the Mother and Baby Home institutions.

The Government now intends to give detailed consideration to the Report over the coming months with a view to developing a comprehensive Government Action Plan spanning 8 themes across 22 measures. It is critically important that a Redress Scheme for survivors is brought forward quickly and that survivors have access to their records including records of their adoption as soon as possible.

Donegal County Council will actively participate with Government in furthering the development of the Government Action Plan as it relates to local government. Donegal County Council is committed to supporting local measures that form part of the suite of follow-up actions, for example, in relation to memorialisation projects in line with the wishes of former residents and access to archives and records. I ask for the full agreement of Council in supporting the follow-up actions and providing the necessary resources”.

Increase in reported incidents of domestic and sexual violence

The Cathaoirleach informed members that there had been an increase in reported incidents of domestic and sexual violence during the COVID-19 pandemic. She said it was imperative that a request was sent to the Minister for Justice, Helen Mc Entee TD, seeking improved services and the creation of additional refuge places together with the implementation of suitable policies and a co-ordinated approach so that sustainable intervention could take place in order to (a) prevent and (b) effectively respond to domestic and sexual violence.

She said that since April 2020 the numbers accessing services has steadily increased each month, according to information supplied by Garda Headquarters and that violence had effectively appeared to move indoors.

It was unanimously agreed to forward this request to the Minister for Justice, Ms Helen Mc Entee, T.D.

C/27/21

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S MANAGEMENT REPORT

Members received an update in respect of the following:

1. Community Development & Planning Services

A. 2021 Community Development Funding Schemes

- (i) *Town & Villages Programme 2020*
- (ii) *Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme 2020*

B. Regeneration Team Update

- (i) *Rural Regeneration and Development Fund (RRDF)*
- (ii) *Urban Regeneration and Development Fund (URDF)*

2. Economic Development, Emergency Services and Information Systems

- A. Local Enterprise Office (LEO) Update
- B. Fire Service Update

- (i) *Operations*
- (ii) *Fire Prevention*

3. Roads & Transportation

- A. Roads Programme Update
- B. Central Technical Services Division Summary
- (i) *An Bord Pleanála Processes 2021*
- (ii) *Public Lighting 2021*
- C. National Road Design Office Update

4. Housing, Corporate & Cultural Services

- A. Housing Capital Update
 - (i) *Social Housing Developments*
 - (ii) *Social Housing through Turnkey Acquisition*
 - (iii) *Lands / Property for Social Housing Purposes*
 - (iv) *House Acquisition Programme*
 - (v) *Specific Instance Houses*
- B. Cultural Services
 - (i) *Creative Ireland Programme 2020*
 - (ii) *Regional Cultural Centre*
 - (iii) *Museum*
 - (iv) *Archives*

The Chief Executive advised members that they could contact him directly in relation to any of the issues outlined in the report.

Members submitted the following questions.

C/28/21 DO LETTERKENNY AND THE OTHER MAJOR TOWNS IN THE COUNTY HAVE SUFFICIENT WATER SUPPLY

Cllr MacGiolla Easbuig submitted the following question:-

An bhfuil soláthar leordhóthanach uisce ag Leitir Ceanainn agus ag bailte móra eile sa chontae chun freastal ar a gcuid riachtanas faoi láthair agus chun tacú le tuilleadh forbartha amach anseo? Buíoch duit ach freagra a thabhairt maidir le gach ceann de na príomhbhailte.

Do Letterkenny and the other major towns in the County have sufficient water supply to meet their needs at present? (Please include a reply in respect of each of the major towns).

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

C/29/21 RTE NEWS MAPPING (GRAPHIC) ERROR

Cllr A Doherty submitted the following question:-

RTE News Mapping (Graphic) Error.
Has Donegal County Council (Economic Development Unit/Tourism Marketing Unit etc) contacted or been contacted by RTE regarding the Brexit News story and the depiction of seven Ulster counties (including Donegal) in an extended Irish Border Map? and will Donegal County Council now respond and brief RTE on the appropriate mapping required and the location of Donegal in the nine county Ulster province and the thirty two county island of Ireland?

He received a response from the Director of Economic Development, Information Systems & Emergency Services in relation to the above.

C/30/21 STAYCATION 2021 AND DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

Cllr A Doherty submitted the following question:-

Staycation 2021 and Donegal County Council
What cross directorate recommendations and planning is current or being developed to improve the visitors experience and entice visitors to enjoy the Donegal Beaches, Hills, Caravan/Camping and to improve the business for the county hospitality sector in 2021? and will the plan include council engagement with tourism providers and consultation with local community residents?

He received a response from the Director of Economic Development, Information Systems & Emergency Services in relation to the above.

C/31/21 UPDATED REPORT ON THE MICA SITUATION PER MD

Cllr Brogan submitted the following question:-

Can we get an updated report on the Mica situation per MD?

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

C/32/21 **HOUSING VOIDS**

Cllr McMonagle submitted the following question:-

How many housing voids do we currently have across the county, how long have they been void and can I have a breakdown of each Municipal District numbers?

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

C/33/21 **ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR DONEGAL – BREXIT IMPLICATIONS**

Cllr Brogan submitted the following question:-

Can we have an updated report on what steps we have taken as a Council to source additional funding for Donegal, in light of the impact Brexit is having on our county, i.e. European Investment Fund, Brexit Infrastructure funding?

He received a response from the Director of Economic Development, Information Systems & Emergency Services in relation to the above.

C/34/21 **FUNDING APPLICATIONS MADE SINCE 2014 FOR THE UPGRADE AND DEVELOPMENT OF OUR PIERS AND JETTIES.**

Cllr McMonagle submitted the following question:-

How many funding applications have we made since 2014 for the upgrade and development of our Piers and Jetties, and what Piers and Jetties were applied for, how many of the applications were successful, amount of grants awarded and where were the successful Piers and Jetties located?

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

C/35/21 **HOW MANY LITTER FINES WERE ISSUED AND PAID FOR IN 2020**

Cllr Sweeny submitted the following question:-

How many litter fines were issued by DCC in 2020, how many of those were paid and what was the value recouped?

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

C/36/21 **HOW MANY LITTER RELATED COURT PROSECUTIONS WERE UNDERTAKEN BY DCC IN 2020**

Cllr Sweeny submitted the following question:-

How many litter related court prosecutions were undertaken by DCC in 2020, what were the legal costs to the council and what was the monetary value of these proceedings worth in return to Donegal County Council?

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

C/37/21 **REPORT ON STREET LIGHTING UPGRADES AND INFILLS ACROSS THE COUNTY.**

Cllr McGowan submitted the following question:-

Please give a report on street lighting upgrades & infills across the county for each town & village with a time frame for completion of existing initiatives?

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

C/38/21 **HOUSEHOLD WASTE SUBSIDY SCHEME**

Cllr McGowan submitted the following question:-

Please outline this Council's policy on household waste subsidies and how does this compare to other counties such as Limerick and what subsidy does the Department give to local authorities to implement a household waste subsidy scheme if any?

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

C/39/21 **MOTIONS FROM OTHER COUNCILS**

Members noted the following motions from other Councils.

GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL

"The Mother and Baby Homes represent a very dark part of our State's history. That survivors of Mother and Baby Homes have legitimate concerns regarding access to personal information. Therefore, that Galway County Council will write to the Taoiseach and Minister for Children, Disability, Integration requesting the following: That the Final Report of the Mother and Baby Homes Commission of Investigation be published as soon as possible and include the details of the experiences of survivors in each institution. That the Government provide a full State response to the findings and recommendations of the Final Report. That the Government publish new statutory information and tracing legislation without delay. That survivors of Mother and Baby Homes are given access to their personal records consistent with GDPR. That the Department of Children and Túsla work with the Office of the DPC to ensure that rights of survivors to personal information about themselves under data protection legislation and the GDPR are fully respected. That the Government urgently put in

place a range of supports for survivors and adoptees. That the Government continues to engage in consultation with survivors and their organisations as they establish a national archive of records related to institutional trauma 20th century.”

GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL

“I propose that Galway County Council write to Minister for Justice Helen McEntee to request that the review of the 3rd National Strategy on Domestic Sexual and Gender based Violence is expedited to provide a fit for purpose strategy taking into account the additional reported rise in domestic abuse incidents occurring during COVID Pandemic restricted conditions and the urgent need for additional refuge places and adequately resourced services.”

WATERFORD CITY AND COUNTY COUNCIL

“That Waterford City and County Council:

- Sends its solidarity and support to the former Debenhams workers seeking a just and fair settlement from their former employer.
- Reaffirms the Council’s support for workers’ rights, the principle of collective bargaining, and fairness and dignity at work.
- Calls on the Government to implement the Duffy-Cahill report; to legislate to protect workers from strategic liquidations and asset stripping by companies; and to protect collective bargaining agreements.
- Calls for KPMG and Government to immediately engage with the workers and their representatives in the Mandate trade union.”

WEXFORD COUNTY COUNCIL

“That this Council calls on the Department of Education and the Higher Education Institutions/Bodies to offer a rebate scheme to third level students who are charged full rate for on-campus accommodation but are afforded limited access due to Covid restrictions for the Academic Year 2020/2021. Upon passage, this motion is circulated to all Local Authorities.”

This concluded the business of the meeting.