

25<sup>th</sup> November, 2014

TO ALL MEMBERS OF DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL
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The Adjourned November Meeting of Donegal County Council, will be held on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> December, 2014, at 1.00pm, in the County House, Lifford to consider the unfinished business listed at Items:-

14, 16, 18, 21-24, 26, 28 – 55.

Please ensure that you bring the agenda previously distributed to the meeting.

I wish to draw your attention to the following schedule which will be in operation on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> December:-

- 1.00pm Adjourned November Meeting
- 2.30pm Planning Workshop
- 5.00pm Meeting with the County Solicitor

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Meetings Administrator

MINUTES OF ADJOURNED NOVEMBER MEETING OF DONEGAL  
COUNTY COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNTY HOUSE LIFFORD ON 2<sup>ND</sup>  
DECEMBER, 2014

C/589/14 MEMBERS PRESENT

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

C/590/14 OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE

Mr Seamus Neely, Chief Executive, Mr Liam Ward, Director of Housing, Corporate & Planning Control/ Meetings Administrator, Mr Joe Peoples, A/Director of Water & Environment, Mr John Mc Laughlin, Director Roads & Transportation, Ms Anne Marie Conlon, Communications Officer, Ms Anne Marie Crawford, Staff Officer, Corporate Services.

C/591/14 APOLOGIES

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

C/592/14 PROBLEMS WITH STANDING WATER ON OUR ROADS AND BLOCKAGE OF THE DRAINAGE NETWORK.

On the proposal of Cllr. Mc Daid, seconded by, Cllr O' Domhnaill, the following motion was adopted:-

"That this Council because of the increasing problems with standing water on our roads and the increasing blockage of the drainage network ensures that such problems are dealt with as a matter of urgency and that the level of manpower needed matches the demand to ensure the safety of the travelling public."

Members were informed that:-

"The Council budget provides significant resources for drainage works. In 2014 the Council's adopted budget provided that the 40% - 50% (between €2.8M and €3.5M) of the general maintenance funding (sourced from the Council's own resources, DTTAS and NRA grants) be used to address drainage on roads. This equates to between 1800 and 2500 days per year for crews on

general drainage cleaning and opening outlets or over 100 days per year per RSS area. In addition the Council seeks and receives significant funding for specific problems from the NRA, DTTAS, OPW and other sources. This can be delivered in the normal way using our own staff or hired contractors or a combination of both.

For 2015 members are required under the Local Government Act to adopt a service delivery plan. A similar process has been in place for many years in Roads where members have agreed a road works programme. This process will be completed for 2015 as grants become known over the coming months.

It is initially expected that similar recommendations will be made for 2015 as for 2014 in relation to proportions of money to spent on roads maintenance activities including Drainage Works on Roads, Road Surface Repairs, Verge Maintenance, Sign Maintenance, Bridge Inspections, and Emergency RTC and Flooding response.

Separately the Council in 2013 adopted the following policy:

“It is the policy of Donegal County Council that land and property owners be encouraged in the first instance to comply with their responsibilities to take all reasonable steps to ensure that:

- (a) water is not prevented, obstructed or impeded from draining into, onto, under, through or to their land from a public road,
- (b) water, soil or other material is prevented from flowing or falling onto a public road from their land.

Where in the opinion of the Council a land or property owner fails to comply with their responsibilities the Council may take legal action against the land or property owner concerned and recover their cost in doing so in accordance with the law.”

Members also agreed proportionate incremental actions in support of the policy including:

- Advertising re need for drainage twice a year.
- Initiating local verbal contact in relation to particular issues with land or property owners.
- Where matters require issuing follow up letters
- Following up with landowner in relation the issues raised
- If required formal legal notice to issue.
- Legal action to be taken as required.

The Council wishes to acknowledge the work many landowners do to comply with the above policy and their obligations generally. The Council will address any particular issues Councillors or members of the public have identified in this context”

Cllr McDaid outlined the dangers associated with excess surface water and noted that the lack of resources was impacting significantly on the drainage works programme. Ineffective drainage, he added, was creating numerous traffic hazards across the County.

He queried whether an Engineer’s Report in relation to drainage issues was compiled prior to commencement of repair works..

The solution, he advised, was to seek additional monies from the Department.

Cllr O’ Domhnaill concurred with his comments and outlined his support for the carrying out of a preliminary drainage survey. This, he advised, would outline clearly where the relevant water tables were to be constructed.

The need for adequate drainage along road sides and specific measures to deal with the problem of overgrowth were noted.

There was no opposition to the Motion.

Cllr Mc Brearty on a point of order noted that the Council had a specific policy in relation to drainage.

Mr John Mc Laughlin, Director Roads & Transportation alluding to his reply confirmed that a dedicated drainage policy had been in operation since September 2013.

It was intended, he said, to renew focus on the matter in the Spring of 2015. He agreed to write to the Department with regard to the funding issues highlighted.

Cllr McDaid concluding the debate called for existing funding to be doubled and the utilisation of any additional resources that became available.

C/593/14 BEACH MANAGEMENT AND THE APPOINTMENT OF A BEACH MANAGEMENT OFFICER.

It was agreed to defer the following Motion submitted by Cllr O'Neill to later in the Meeting.

That this Council discusses Management on our beaches across County Donegal and arrangements be put in place in advance of 2015 with the appointment of a Beach Management Officer."

C/594/14 REMOVAL OF FLUORIDE FROM THE IRISH WATER SUPPLY.  
THAT THE COUNCIL MAKE AVAILABLE ANY RESEARCH AND RESULTS ETC REGARDING FLUORIDATION OF WATER.

It was agreed to deal with Motion No 16 and Motion No 28 at this juncture as both related to the fluoridation of the water supply.

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

*"That this Council calls for Fluoride or any derivative to be removed from the Irish Water Supply, and to make it a crime for anyone to put it into the water supply."*

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

*"That the Council make available to the Members any research into fluoridation of water by the Council and what the results were and how often was it tested for the correct levels"*.

Members were informed that:-

“Fluoridation of public water supplies began in Ireland in 1964 on foot of the Health (Fluoridation of Water Supplies) Act 1960.

The act provides that health authorities arrange for the fluoridation of public piped water supplies and that local authorities act as their agents for doing this.

The Council did not engage in any research into fluoridation as the HSE is the competent authority. The HSE carries out a programme of routine monitoring of fluoridated public supplies. The Irish

Expert Body on Fluorides and Health has prepared position statements on this matter and these are publically accessible on their website.”

Cllr Liam Doherty outlined the necessity of keeping pressure on the Government to remove fluoride from the water supply system. He said that he wanted to see the evidence that fluoride was safe to use and that there were no associated side effects. It was acknowledged that fluoride was not used in the Northern Irish Water Supply nor indeed in a number of other European Countries.

Cllr Mc Monagle asked that representative from the HSE be invited to meet with Members in order for an informed debate and discussion to take place.

Cllr Mc Dermott noted that there were a number of questions to be answered and inconsistencies with regard to the permitted recommended daily intake.

Cllr O’Domhnaill called on the Government to cease adding fluoride to the Irish Water Supply as it was not needed for the protection of dental health. Statistics from other countries had to date, he added, clearly proved that this was the case.

There was no opposition to the Motions outlined above.

Mr Joe Peoples, A/Director Water & Environment agreed to engage with Irish Water and the Minister for Health in relation to the matter. It would be possible he added, to invite representatives from the HSE and the Irish Expert Body on Fluorides and Health to a future meeting of the Council to clarify many of the issues raised.

Cllr Doherty said that he would welcome any opportunity to meet with the HSE to clarify the issues involved.

Cllr Mc Dermott noted that many of the statistics on the IEBFH referred back to the eighties, nineties and early 2000 and thus there was need at this juncture for an informed debate on the use of fluoride in the water supply.

C/595/14 TO ENSURE THE PROVISION FOR A HUMANITARIAN VISA FOR UNDOCUMENTED IRISH LIVING IN THE UNITED STATES.

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

"I move that Donegal County Council call on Minister Jimmy Deenihan, the first ever Minister for the Irish Overseas and Diaspora, to exert all diplomatic and political efforts on President Barrack Obama in the formulation of the impending Executive Order on Immigration due to be signed by him in the coming weeks, to ensure the provision for a humanitarian visa that would allow the estimated 50,000 undocumented Irish living in the United States to leave and return to the US if they are in need to travel to their home counties to be with family members in times of distress, illness or bereavement."

Members were informed that:-

“Donegal County Council has worked closely with the Donegal Community in the United States and has used every opportunity to raise the issue of our undocumented community in the US at every level possible.

The recent announcement by President Obama is welcome and Donegal County Council, through its Donegal Diaspora Project, will continue to support our community in the US in all ways possible.

During his recent visit to Massachusetts, the Cathaoirleach John Campbell met with the Donegal Community in Boston including those working for the undocumented Donegal people. Meetings were also held with the Irish Pastoral Centre and with the Irish International Immigration Centre, two organizations which provide a range of services and supports for Irish immigrants in the greater Boston area, both of which have a close partnership with Donegal County Council.”

Cllr Bonner said that as a Member of the Ireland/American Association he had a particular interest in the motion. He was, he said, optimistic in relation to the statement issued by President Obama in the interim and the possibility that at least 20,000 of the 50,000 Undocumented Irish in the US could be eligible for the visa.

This Order, he noted, gave hope to many hardworking Irish People, but there were many, he said who were not covered by the specific stipulations. He thus cited the need for a humanitarian visa for those unable to obtain citizenship under the current legislation.

There was no opposition to the motion.

The Chief Executive informed Members that Donegal County Council delegations visiting the US over the past five years had been particularly proactive in highlighting the cause of the Undocumented Irish in America.

The Cathaoirleach alluded also to the extensive representations made over the last number of years.

Cllr Bonner concluding the debate outlined the necessity of retaining the valuable social and economic links which had been established in recent years with the New York, Philadelphia, Boston and Chicago Donegal Associations.

C/596/14 CHANGES MADE TO THE SCHOOL TRANSPORT SCHEME WHICH WILL IMPACT ON RURAL FAMILIES.

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

"That this Council condemn the changes that the Department of Education have introduced to the School Transport Scheme, considering the severe effects the changes have made to rural dwellers, and that this Council write to the Minister outlining the challenges these changes are having on families and children across Donegal and demand equal opportunities for all children to access education wherever their family lives in this Country."

Cllr Gallagher highlighted the difficulties being experienced by families in rural areas as a result of the Department's School Amalgamation policy.

She drew attention to the situation in the Meenacross area of Dungloe where the closure of the local National School would result in a number of children having to travel to Dungloe to attend School. The problem here, she noted, was that the children in question were no longer eligible for school transport.



She outlined the need for a common sense approach to the problem.

Cllr Quinn advised that it was a bureaucratic nightmare and a major issue in a County which did not even have a dedicated public transport system. He asked that the Motion be forwarded to Ms Jan O' Sullivan, T.D. Minister for Education & Training.

There was no opposition to the Motion.

Cllr Gallagher asked that she receive a copy of the correspondence prior to it being sent to the Department.

C/597/14 THAT THE COUNCIL CALL ON THE HSE TO TAKEOVER ANY COMMUNITY AND NOT FOR PROFIT OLD PEOPLE'S HOMES.

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

“Go n-iarrann Comhairle Contae Dhún na nGall ar an HSE seilbh a ghlacadh ar aon Teach Altranais Pobail gan Bhrábús do Sheandaoine a bhfuil deacrachtaí airgeadais acu ar mhaithe leis na hothair, na baill foirne, na baill teaghlaigh agus an pobal i gcoitinne”

“That Donegal County Council calls on the HSE to takeover any Community and not for profit Old People's Homes that find themselves in financial difficulty in the interest of patients, staff, family members and the community at large.”

It was generally agreed that the takeover of such homes would be of considerable benefit to the families, patients and staff in the units concerned and would allow greater access to much needed facilities.

Cllr Mac Giolla Easbuig proposed, seconded by, Cllr Gallagher that the Motion be forwarded to the HSE for their attention.

C/598/14 THE NUMBER OF PUBLIC AND PRIVATE GROUP WATER SCHEMES TAKEN OVER AND NOT TAKEN OVER BY DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL.

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

"That we discuss why Public and Private Group Water Schemes were not taken over by this Council prior to January 2014 as was agreed at a previous Council Meeting and whether it is possible to be afforded the numbers of Group Schemes who had applied for takeover by Donegal County Council as well as a run down of the Schemes which were taken over by this Council between June and the end of December 2013."

Members were informed that:-

"The provision of water services in the County has been significantly advanced through Group Water Schemes over the years, with a very significant investment in particular over the last ten years to service a considerable proportion of the population.

The following provides an indication of the extent of the activity on group schemes;

Schemes taken over – 253  
Schemes abandoned - 315  
Schemes not commenced – 114  
Schemes not taken over – 389

The members will be aware that the Council has to all intents and purposes taken responsibility for the operation and maintenance of a significant number of group schemes in the public interest primarily to conserve water and to ensure continuity of supply, where trustees or beneficiaries were no longer in a position to maintain their scheme.

Of the 389 Schemes not taken in charge the Council had advanced work with 120 of these schemes in relation to the process of taking-in-charge during 2013.

The process provides for the transfer of infrastructure, pumping stations, pipe network etc to the Council. It should be noted that not all schemes make application for take-over with some preferring to operate as they are.

From January 2013 to December 2013, 11 schemes were taken-in-charge by Donegal County Council.

This responsibility has now transferred to Irish Water from January 2014. Whilst the authority to take-in-charge has transferred to Irish Water it is anticipated that the Council will continue to have a significant role in assisting Irish Water in processing applications for taking-in-charge and will be working in collaboration with both Irish Water and the schemes based on the preparatory work done to date to complete the transfer process in those cases where applications were being processed by the Council prior to the transfer taking place.”

Cllr O’ Domhnaill said he was disappointed with the number of Group Water Schemes taken over and enquired as to whether every effort had been made to take over the schemes in question. Any Group Scheme that wanted to, should, he said, have been taken over.

He enquired also as to Irish Water’s position in relation to Group Scheme Takeover.

Cllr Donaghey alluded to the extensive work programme carried out by Donegal County Council over the years in relation to Group Scheme provision and expressed disappointment in relation to the general takeover statistics.

She asked whether the Council was still in the process of taking over schemes and handing them over to Irish Water.

There was no opposition to the Motion.

Mr Joe Peoples, A/ Director Water & Environment said that a considerable amount of work had been done to date with up to 120 schemes advanced for takeover. These, he added, would feed ultimately into the transfer process.

He acknowledged that there were difficulties, particularly in relation to schemes with no management structure in place and that the transfer of specific assets often resulted in a lengthy timeframe.

The previous Council, he contended, had raised concerns in relation to bulk metering and in relation to individuals who had wanted to be metered and assessed individually. These issues, he acknowledged, had been clearly identified to Irish Water.

There was no opposition to the Motion.

Cllr O' Domhnaill said, he was, clearly not in favour of cutting out the middle man i.e. Donegal County Council. There was, he acknowledged, no surety for people on Group Water Schemes and many were left in the position that they did not know whether they would be metered or not.

C/599/14 THAT THE COUNCIL WILL NOT DISCLOSE THE PRIVATE INFORMATION OF OUR COUNCIL HOUSING TENANTS TO IRISH WATER.

The following Motion was submitted by Cllr Murray:-

"In order to avoid risking data protection infringement regarding the request from Irish Water for details of Council Housing tenants, that this Council will not disclose this private information to a third party without the prior consent of the tenant."

Members were informed that:-

"Irish Water has written to all Local Authorities asking them to prepare a listing of all domestic properties in their ownership with current tenant occupiers (names only). Irish Water confirmed that it requires this information under section 26(1)(a) and section 26(5)(a) of the Water Services Act 2013, which empowers Irish Water to request Local Authorities to provide such information as Irish Water may reasonably require to enable it to perform its functions under the Act. Section 26(3) of the Act obliges Local Authorities to comply with a request made pursuant to section 26.

Irish Water has also confirmed that they will provide Local Authorities with details of a secure file transfer mechanism for submitting tenant names to them. The details and timing of the process have not as of yet been received."

Cllr Murray noted that a Section 140 Motion had already been passed in relation to this matter. He asked if any further information had been received from Irish Water.

Mr Liam Ward, Director Housing, Corporate & Planning Services confirmed that there was no change in the Council's position, and that on receipt of the secure file transfer mechanism, the Council would take the necessary steps to ensure compliance with the

relevant legal position. With regard to the Section 140 passed at the November Meeting

The Chief Executive had, he noted, advised on the day of the following:-

*“The wording of the Motion as presented complied with the minimum requirements for a Section 140. and therefore warranted inclusion on the agenda. Beyond that, he said, the provisions of the 2001 Act, stated that a Section 140 required a minimum of at least one third of the Councillors present voting in favour. He informed Members that the motion if passed was likely to be void given that the actions sought in the Motion may or may not happen and that there was no provision to amend a function which the Chief Executive was legally obliged to carry out”*

Cllr Murray asked that any decision made by the Executive be relayed in the first instance to the Elected Members.

Cllr Quinn said that Cllr Murray had clearly indicated the necessity for all Elected Members to be involved in the decision process.

Cllr Mc Brearty queried whether the Section 140 Motion had any legal standing and advised of the need for additional clarification from Irish Water.

Mr Seamus Neely, Chief Executive, informed Members that the Section 140 Motion as presented met the minimum requirements and had been legally passed.

There was a question, he noted, as to whether the material content of the motion was lawful and whether it could be given legal effect.

He said he was of the opinion that he could not act on what the Motion said as it was not lawful with respect to the enabling legislation.

C/600/14

#### CATHAOIRLEACH'S BUSINESS

##### *Golden Bridges Report- October 2014*

A copy of the Cathaoirleach's Report in relation to the Donegal Delegation's visit to Massachusetts in October 2014 was circulated to the Meeting. (Vide Appendix 1) This visit, he said, had built on ongoing relationships and was part of a wider North West of

Ireland Delegation. It had helped, he confirmed, to build positive relationships and create partnerships and collaborations across a wide range of educational, political, cultural and economic sectors.

Members congratulated the Cathaoirleach on his comprehensive and informative report . There was general acknowledgement that this and a number of other visits undertaken by previous Cathaoirligh were now beginning to generate positive developments for the County.

Cllr Sheils however queried whether such trips yielded any positive benefit, particularly in relation to job creation. The general public, he said, were not convinced that such trips were in the best interests of the County. Budget 2015, he noted, had seen zero allocations for a number of worthwhile projects yet there had been a €15,000 allocation for foreign travel.

Cllr Bonner contended however that valuable links had been created over the years and cited the ability of Radox in Dungloe to break into the american market as one such positive spin-off from these types of trips.

It was acknowledged that the various Donegal County Council Delegations had helped to create a positive relationship with the Donegal Diaspora. The importance of developing such relationships was noted.

The Cathaoirleach extended thanks to the Mayor of Derry, Cllr Brenda Stevenson who had participated in the trip. The overall event, he said, had been a fine example of what collaboration and joined up thinking could do.

The Chief Executive thanked members for their comments and the constructive criticism offered. The Council in its remit as a development organisation had, he confirmed, a responsibility to promote the County in its entirety.

He outlined the mutual benefits of the Diaspora Programme and the level of opportunity that it had created. Reference was made also to the valuable educational links established in conjunction with the LYIT, Derry City Council and the University of Ulster.

It was noted that there had been considerable engagement on the nursing side between the LYIT and the University of Massachusetts and a valid relationship created in relation to health innovation.

He cited also the benefits accruing from the extension of the North West Science Park into the North West Region.

Delegations, he confirmed, only visited locations where there was particular value and had to date generated many positive results. Relationships created, he acknowledged, would provide endless opportunities if managed effectively.

Links established with a key company in the North East of the US, had already, he added, resulted in connections being made with up to ten key enablers in the Massachusetts area.

The Chief Executive warned that any negativity could at this juncture damage potential development opportunities.

He noted that no other agency in Ireland promoted an individual policy brand and that this was something that Donegal County Delegations did when participating in such trips.

Members asked that the report be made available on the Council Website.

They also requested and it was unanimously agreed that a quarterly update be provided on the development and promotion of the Donegal County Brand.

#### *Votes of Sympathy*

A vote of sympathy was extended to the following:-

- Paddy Carr, Roads Section, Letterkenny M.D, on the death of his father, Denis Carr.
- Patsy Devlin, Road Section, Inishowen M.D, on the death of his mother, Anna Devlin.
- Charlie Devlin, Housing & Corporate, Inishowen M.D, on the death of his mother, Anna Devlin.
- Eamonn Kelly, Roads, Letterkenny M.D, on the death of his brother, Tony Kelly.

- Virginia Mc Loone, former Area Manager, Glenties Electoral Area, on the death of her husband, Neil Mc Loone.
- Martin Gallagher, Machinery Yard, on the death of his brother, Patrick Gallagher.
- Patsy Lafferty, H.R on the death of his brother , Michael, Lafferty.
- Patrick Gibson, Water & Environment, Letterkenny, on the death of his mother, Margaret Gibson.

*Donegal County Council Motions noted by other Local Authorities*

The Cathaoirleach advised that the following Emergency Motion agreed at the Adjourned July Meeting of Donegal Council held on the 29<sup>th</sup> July, 2014 had been noted by Dublin City Council:-

“That Donegal County Council expresses its solidarity with the besieged Palestinian people and condemns the current atrocities in Gaza.

It calls on the Government to send a clear message to Israel that these acts of war are against international law and to request an immediate ceasefire.

It also calls on the Government to expel the Israeli Ambassador to Ireland until all hostilities are ended, unilateral peace talks are entered into, and the human rights of the Palestinian people are respected whilst also criticising the Irish Government stance in abstaining from the UN vote.

That the people of Donegal boycott Israeli goods and that any national investment in Israel is withdrawn by the Government”.

C/601/14 CHIEF EXECUTIVE’S MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT  
Members considered the report circulated during the meeting in relation to the above.

*Preparation of Donegal County Council Corporate Plan 2015-2019*

On the proposal of Cllr Farren, seconded by, Cllr Mc Guinness it was resolved to prepare and approve the new Donegal County Council Corporate Plan 2015-2019 by the 2<sup>nd</sup> June, 2015.

*Local & Economic Community Plan*

Members were informed that seven priority goals had been



identified in respect of the Local and Economic Community Plan. These it was acknowledged had been endorsed by the Corporate Policy Group and that further definition of the objectives framing the priority goals would be considered by both the Economic Development Committee and the Local Community Development Committee.

A number of Members enquired as to the status of the Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme and whether all relevant structures were in place to meet the 1<sup>st</sup> April deadline.

Members requested a briefing similar to that provided in the past by Enterprise Ireland, the Local Development Companies, the various Enterprise Agencies etc. It was suggested that this be held early in the New Year.

It was noted that much of the groundwork had already been done in Donegal and there was some concern that the County would be held back because of inactivity in other areas of the Country.

Members requested additional information with regard to the operation of the Local Enterprise Offices, the Local Community Development Committee and the Economic Development Committee and the proposed interaction process.

The Chief Executive noted that Donegal County Council was in a position to meet the tight tendering details applicable to the SICAP Programme. It was, he noted, well placed to be amongst the first in the Country to implement the programme. He acknowledged also the excellent co-operation from all the participating agencies.

C/602/14 SUBMISSION OF MOTIONS AND QUESTIONS

Members queried the current distribution method for questions and motions. A number expressed concern in relation to the current policy of distributing replies to Member's Questions to individual Members and not in collective format to all Members of the Council.

**The following questions were noted.**

C/603/14 IS THERE ANY RESPONSE FROM THE TAOISEACH'S OFFICE IN RELATION TO THE A5 MEETING

The following question was submitted by Cllr Brogan:

"Have this Council received any response from the Taoiseach's Office to meeting a deputation from Donegal County Council in relation to progressing the A5."

Cllr Brogan was informed that:-

“A request was made to the Taoiseach's Office to meet a deputation from this Council in relation to this matter on the 25th March 2015. The request was acknowledged by return and was forwarded to the Diary Secretary. A further reply was received in early April stating that the matter will be brought to the Taoiseach's attention as soon as possible.”

C/604/14

WHAT PROGRESS HAS THIS COUNCIL HAD WITH PUTTING TOGETHER OUR MAIN INFRASTRUCTURE PLAN.

The following question was submitted by Cllr. Brogan:-

"What progress has this Council had with putting together our main infrastructure plan to address our top priorities for Co. Donegal so that we can then meet our Oireachtas Members and send this to Government to be included in any future stimulation package that may come."

Cllr Brogan was informed that:-

“Each Council Section that deals with Infrastructure has its own plans and this normally forms part of our 3-Year Capital Plan.

For example, the national road projects have a list of projects that are being advanced across the county with plans and projections in place for each project. This type of plan gets discussed from time to time and indeed the Council will be attending a delegation to the NRA on 11 December 2014 to discuss this plan as it does on an annual basis.

It has been agreed on foot of discussions at the September 2014 Council Meeting and the recent Budget Meeting to assemble a Council-Wide Plan and to pursue the delivery on this Plan with Oireachtas Members and Government Departments.

It is anticipated that the draft plan with initial priorities will be ready early in the New Year. It is proposed that this draft Plan will require review and agreement of the projects and their priorities with Council Members. After that is agreed, it is proposed to meet Oireachtas members and then make submissions to the respective Government Departments. It will be important to set overall priorities and also sets of priorities that relate to particular funding Departments.

The following sections are proposed to be included in the Draft Plan for infrastructure:

1. National Roads Schemes
2. Broadband Provision
2. Housing Projects
3. Non-National Roads
4. Tourism Flagship Projects
5. Piers and Harbours and Coastal Protection
6. Flood Alleviation
7. Town Center Enhancement and Renewal

It is proposed to work through the Corporate Policy Group initially and then involve the full Council in a Workshop format.”

C/605/14 MEETING WITH TDs, MINISTERS AND MEPs TO DISCUSS THE DEVELOPMENT OF DONEGAL

The following question was submitted by Cllr. McGarvey:-

"Has an approach been made to our TDs, Ministers and MEPs to meet with our Council to discuss the Development of Donegal."

Cllr McGarvey informed that:-

“The Council, through its Economic Development Committee and its management role of the LCDC, is leading out on the preparation of the Donegal Local Economic and Community Plan.

Seven priority goals have been agreed and endorsed by the CPG. Objectives and actions are now being identified and there will be engagement with all relevant departments and with our Donegal Oireachtas members with regard to implementation of this plan, once it has been completed in the first half of 2015.”

C/606/14 ADVANTAGES/DISADVANTAGES OF PUTTING FLUORIDE IN THE WATER SUPPLY

The following question was submitted by Cllr. McMonagle:-

"Can this Council organise an information/presentation to the Council Members on the advantages/disadvantages of putting fluoride in the water supply?"

Cllr McMonagle was informed that:-

“The HSE is the competent authority in this matter. The Council will follow up with the HSE with regard to a presentation to members on the fluoridation of water supplies.”

C/607/14 CAN THE COUNCIL CONFIRM AND PROVIDE WRITTEN DETAILS REGARDING OUTSIDE CONSULTANTS.

The following question was submitted by Cllr. Shiels:-

"Can the Council confirm and provide written details of (a) the names of all outside consultants (being any person or company not directly employed by the Council as employees) engaged by it in the last 7 years, (b) the precise work they were engaged in by reference to specific contracts setting out full details of the work engaged in, (c) the time period they were engaged for (by reference to a start and finish date) and (d) the amount by which the Council has remunerated these persons/companies?"

Cllr Shiels was informed that:-

“The question as set out will require a substantial resource to research and respond to and will require substantial input from all Directorates as part of this. Much of the detail requested will require a manual trawl of files as certain detail is not retained on financial management systems.

On this basis it is not possible to respond to the question at this time but work will commence in compiling the information and a response will issue as soon as the work is complete.”

C/608/14 WATER CHARGES FEES IMPOSED BY IRISH WATER TO FIX LEAKS IN COUNTY COUNCIL HOUSES.

The following question was submitted by Cllr. G Doherty:-

"Will this Council undertake to pay for all water charges fees imposed by Irish Water to fix leaks in County Council Houses leased to tenants?"

Cllr Doherty informed that:-

“There has been much coverage and debate in the National media in relation to Irish Water, its Charging policies and also the responsibilities of owners and occupiers of properties.

The Water Services Act (No 2) 2013 defines the customer as being the occupier of the property provided with water services and the person who may be legally charged for water services.

In this regard, the Council views the responsibility resting with the tenant in this matter.”

C/609/14 CARBON MONOXIDE MONITORING

The following question was submitted by Cllr. Crawford:-

"What has this Council done since December 2013 to improve its policy in relation to carbon monoxide monitoring and response to that alert?"

Cllr Crawford was informed that:-

“It has not been this Council’s policy to install Carbon Monoxide Alarms in its rented housing stock generally.

Carbon monoxide alarms (and radon gas monitors) have however been installed in a limited number of dwellings under the ‘Insulation’ Programme, currently underway.

This matter was reviewed recently and it has now been decided that such alarms will now be installed in all dwellings having such works carried out in the future.

It is intended that the insulation in all of the Council’s rented properties will be upgraded to current standards under this programme over the next few years.”

C/610/14 BREAKDOWN OF ALL COUNCIL STAFF

The following question was submitted by Cllr. McGowan:-

"Following my question to the Stranorlar Municipality Meeting on 30th October, 2014 in which the response was short in detail, may I have a breakdown of all staff working in Donegal County Council, their positions, roles and in which location they work from?"

Cllr McGowan was informed that:-

"As part of the Workforce Planning exercise underway within the Local Government Sector, Donegal County Council has engaged in an extensive review of staffing assigned to each section of the Council. This work has been underway over the past number of months and has been influenced by many critical factors, including the following:

- => Local Government Reform Programme and the establishment of Municipal Districts
- => Abolition of Town Councils and the integration of Town Council employees into Council Structures
- => The significant reductions in staffing numbers in the period 2008 to 2014
- => Desire to ensure that all front line services are properly resourced to deliver on work programmes
- => Forward planning for future vacancies that will arise due to normal retirements etc
- => The advent of the Roads Management Office and the staffing implications arising there from.

During this process, there has been ongoing and regular engagement with staff and their Unions.

This work is now at an advanced stage with regard to office based staff with some further engagements necessary in relation to outdoor staffing structures.

It is suggested that it would be beneficial to await the conclusion of this exercise prior to making the information sought available. However, should it be necessary to provide the current breakdown, which will change as a consequence of the exercise currently underway, arrangements will be made to provide this information without undue delay."

C/611/14 HEALTH AND SAFETY ISSUES

The following question was submitted by Cllr. McGowan:-

"What plans have this Council to address major problems of safety on main National Primary Roads in the County and respond to my concerns outlining what funding if any has been sought to date for items such as bridges, and whether a request has been made to the relevant Government Departments for urgent funding with regard to health and safety aspects in Towns on our National Primary Roads as well as outside schools and other places where the public gather in large numbers?"

Cllr McGowan was informed that:-

“Under the Roads Acts 1993, the National Roads Authority (NRA) has overall responsibility for the planning and supervision of works for the construction and maintenance of National Roads. The authority is obliged to arrange, as far as possible, for many of its functions, including project planning and design and the carrying out of construction and maintenance works to be performed on its behalf by the relevant local authority.

In this regard Donegal County Council has proposed a number of Major realignment schemes for the national network in the County where deficiencies exist, and these include the N15 Ballybofey/Stranorlar bypass, the N14 Lifford - Letterkenny realignment scheme, the N56 Letterkenny Relief road and other such schemes.

As Members are aware due to the recent financial crisis the NRA has suspended works on these projects and the Council will continue to seek their advancement as economic conditions improve.

There are a number of minor alignment schemes on the national network that the Council have advanced design solutions for and among these are the low traffic volume realignment schemes on the N56 between Dungloe and Glenties and the N15 Blackburn Bridge realignment scheme in the vicinity of the twin towns.

The Council has applied for funding to progress these schemes to construction in 2015 and a decision is awaited.

Bridges on the national network are managed through the NRA's bridge management system EIRSPAN, where bridges are routinely

inspected and assessed with regard to structural condition and load carrying capacity. Funding is allocated to structures that are identified as requiring urgent remedial action using this system and the works are normally carried out through regional framework contracts.

The most recent framework contract for Donegal bridges includes the Shell Bridge near Letterlenny as well as Goland Bridge near Ballybofey.

In relation to safety schemes the recent EU directive on Road Infrastructure Safety Management outlines how safety on national networks is addressed. Network Safety Ranking is a process described in the NRA Design Manual for Roads and Bridges under NRA HD15. Network Safety Ranking uses collision data to rank the safety of national roads and to identify high collision locations on the national road network. The high collision locations that require engineering remedial solutions are identified. The possible options are considered. Each location is ranked against all other similar sites on the national road network. This ranking process is used to target the implementation of road safety remedial schemes. Safety schemes are thus generated centrally by the NRA, local authorities can submit schemes for funding for locations it considers to be safety related however these will not qualify for funding unless they fulfil the requirements of the standards as outlined in NRA HD15. The Corcam bends on the N15 east of Stranorlar is one such safety scheme identified under HD15 and an engineering solution is being considered by the Regional Road Safety Engineer at present. Funding applications to address 'health & safety aspects in towns on the national network' that are not identified through the criteria outlined above should firstly be generated locally where the issue can be clearly identified and assistance sought through the Council's road safety engineer or the relevant H & S Officer. The scheme can then be assessed and a decision as to which Government Department the funding request should be forwarded to can be made."

C/612/14 WINTER MAINTENANCE

The following question was submitted by Cllr Crawford:-

"What steps has this Council taken to ensure maximum ability to deal with any period of adverse weather which may occur over the winter months?"



Cllr Crawford was informed that:-

“The Council has in place a Winter Service Plan to deal with adverse weather. Weather forecasts are monitored daily by the Council's Duty Engineers and where necessary winter service operatives are mobilised to respond to any predicted adverse snow and frost weather events.

Preparatory staff workshops have been held in each Municipal District to review preparedness for frost and snow. All winter service equipment has been serviced over the summer/autumn and has been discharged to the MDs from the Council's machinery yard and is ready for use.

The Council's road salt storage facilities are currently filled to approximately 80% capacity. These levels will be brought to 100% as soon as the NRA release the allocation for the county. Salt stocks are constantly monitored throughout the winter/spring period and where necessary additional salt is transported from the NRA's regional depot in Co. Louth. We also have two extra rented facilities in Donegal which are 100% full.

It is expected that the above arrangements will deal with the majority of adverse weather events likely over the winter period. If necessary, in the event of extreme events, additional measures will be implemented.”

C/613/14 EMERGENCIES OVER THE CHRISTMAS PERIOD

The following question was submitted by Cllr, Crawford:-

"What plans does this Council have to deal with emergencies arising over the Christmas period"?

Cllr Crawford was informed that:-

“Arrangements are being put in place to respond to severe weather incidents or issues arising from them over the coming Christmas period. This will be similar in nature to what was applied during the most recent years incidences of severe weather.

Regarding the Fire service, they are on a constant state of emergency readiness.

A protocol is currently being reviewed with Irish Water with the objective of ensuring an appropriate local capacity to deal with issues arising in this area should such an incident occur during the period.

Final arrangements will be reviewed in mid December with all services and relevant contact numbers will given to the members and publicised in the local media and on the Councils website.

Additional information, including links to the " Be Winter Ready " booklet has already been circulated by the Council to various networks across the County including Community Groups, Family Resource Centres, Care of the Aged groups and SVDP. This already has or will shortly also be circulated to the members of the Council themselves to allow for their own circulation to local networks or groups that may gain value from it."

C/614/14 PENSION BILL FOR DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

The following question was submitted by Cllr. Harley:-

"How much was the Pension Bill for Donegal County Council in 2013 and what was the average age of those receiving a pension?"

Cllr Harley was informed that:-

"The total cost of Pensions and Gratuities for Donegal County Council in 2013 was €7,446,698. This amount is made up of Pensions at €5,935,879 and Gratuities at €1,291,859. The average age of our pensioners is currently 72."

C/615/14 LIST OF GROUP SCHEMES IN THE COUNTY

The following question was submitted by Cllr Bonner:-

"Please provide for a list of Group Water Schemes in the County and indicate which ones have been taken over by the Council."

Cllr Bonner was informed that:-

"There are approximately 1071 Group Schemes countywide and a breakdown of the schemes is as follows:-

- Schemes taken over 253

- Schemes abandoned 315
- Schemes not commenced 114
- Schemes not taken over 389

Please find attached list of Group Schemes in the County indicating the Schemes taken over by the Council.” (Vide Appendix 2)

C/616/14 TELEPHONE DIRECTORY FOR ALL COUNCIL STAFF

The following question was submitted by Cllr. Bonner:-

"Please provide a telephone directory for all Council Staff at Head Office and in each Electoral and Municipal District Area to be given to Members."

Cllr Bonner was informed that:-

“Arrangements will be made through the Municipal District to provide the contact details requested.”

C/617/14 THE NUMBER ON THE COUNCIL HOUSING WAITING LIST.

The following question was submitted by Cllr. Gallagher:-

"I request on a county-wide basis the numbers on the Donegal County Council Housing Waiting List for the years outlined together with a breakdown per Electoral Area for each of the years specified;-

2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014.

Cllr Gallagher was informed that:-

“The table below sets out the number of approved Housing Applicants in each Municipal District:-

- Inishowen 552
- Donegal 240
- Glenties 258
- Letterkenny 825
- Stranorlar 370

**Total: 2245**

The waiting list is continually changing on a day to day basis with regard being had to the number of new applications received/ tenancies created etc. and is therefore maintained on a real time basis only. As such, historical information at this level is not retained.

The following table however provides the details of the overall level of need as per the statutory housing needs assessment completed during 2008, 2011 and 2013.”

- 2008            1,858
- 2011            2,176
- 2013            2,038.

C/618/14    FIVE YEAR PLAN FOR 2009-2014 SPCS

The following question was submitted by Cllr. Gallagher:-

"Under legislation there is to be a five year plan to be developed for each SPC, I would request a copy of each five year plan that was drawn up by each SPC in 2009.

Cllr Gallagher was informed that:-

“The establishment of Strategic Policy by Local Authorities was provided for in the Local Government Act, 2001 (Section 48). In this regard Section 48 refers to guidelines being issued by the Minister relating to the establishment and operation of such Committees.

In relation to the establishment of SPC’s following the local elections in 2009, Circular Letter LG 10/09 dated 10<sup>th</sup> June 2009 set out the following guidance:

SPCs should adopt a multi-annual work programme linked to the local authority’s Corporate Plan and updated regularly as necessary.

Meeting documentation should, ideally, be circulated to SPC members two weeks in advance and, additionally, agendas and minutes should be circulated to other councillors in the county.

The CPG should decide the work programmes of the SPCs and recommend issues to be considered by the SPCs.

Similar guidance was issued to Local Authorities in May 2014 following the Local Elections under Circular Letter LG 07/2014 dated 29<sup>th</sup> May, 2014.

In terms of plans adopted by SPCs' in 2009, the first meeting of the Housing & Corporate Services SPC was held on 14<sup>th</sup> April, 2010. At the meeting, the SPC considered a draft list of Policy Areas which would form its Work Programme over the lifetime of the SPC. Following consideration, the following Policy Programmes was agreed by the Committee:-

1. Policy on Housing Adaptation Grant Schemes for Older People and People with a Disability.
2. Housing Services Plan.
3. Allocations Policy.
4. Rent Scheme.
5. Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy.
6. Homeless Action Plan.
7. Incremental Purchase Scheme.
8. Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2009-matters arising.
9. Winter Gritting Programme – Social Housing Estates.
10. Social Welfare Act 2005 – deduction for rent from Social Welfare.
11. Traveller Accommodation Programme 2009-2013.
  - Mid-term review.
  - Preparation of new programme.
12. Tenants Handbook.
13. Measures to deal with Unsold Affordable Housing Units.
14. Derelict Sites & Dangerous Buildings.
15. Social Housing Investment Programme – Leasing Initiative.
16. Sustainable Housing – Green Agenda.
17. Social Housing Infrastructure – Playgrounds etc.

It is understood that each SPC developed a similar programme of Policy Areas which was considered from time during their lifetime”.

C/619/14 PURCHASE OF COUNCIL HOUSES.

The following question was submitted by Cllr. O'Domhnaill:-

"When will Council Tenants be permitted to apply to purchase their houses?"

Cllr O'Domhnaill was informed that:-

"The Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2014 was enacted earlier this year.

Part 3 of the Act sets out the arrangements and makes provision for the purchase of houses by tenants. This part of the Act has not been commenced at this time. It is anticipated that this will happen in the near future, and that Local Authorities will be issued with Circular Letters from the Department of the Environment, Community & Local Government setting out the procedures to be followed and the criteria applying to same.

Arrangements will be made to bring this information to the attention of Elected Members as soon as it becomes available."

C/620/14 LIST OF TOP 20 COMMERCIAL RATES DEBTORS IN THE COUNTY.

The following question was submitted by Cllr. MacGiolla Easbuig:-

"Le fialfraí ar Chomhairle Contae Dhún na nGall na fiche féichiúnaí ar rátaí trachtála is mó sa chontae a liostáil."

"To ask Donegal County Council to list the top 20 Commercial Rates Debtors in the County".

Cllr MacGiolla Easbuig informed that:-

"Déantar an measúnú i dtaca le féichiúnaithe rátaí a chur i dtoll a chéile ag deireadh na bliana, mar chuid den phróiseas 'RA 16', nuair a amharcann an Ceannasaí Airgid ar gach féichiúnaí rátaí chun cinneadh a dhéanamh an féidir an táille a bhailiú, nó nach féidir.

Má mheastar gur féidir na costais a bhailiú (ie go bhfuil siad inbhailithe) déantar iad a thabhairt ar aghaidh mar riaráiste. Agus má mheastar nach féidir iad a bhailiú, déantar iad a dhíscríobh.

Ina dhiaidh sin, tugtar tuairisc chuig cruinniú iomlán den Chomhairle mar eolas agus le breathnú air. Táthar ag súil go dtarlóidh sé seo, i dtaca le deireadh na bliana 2014, le linn an chéad ráithe de 2015. Mar chuid de seo, is féidir linn an 20 féichiúnaí is mó a liostú.

The assessment of rates debtors is completed at year end as part of the RA 16 process, where the Head of Finance reviews all outstanding Rates debtors and assesses whether the charges are collectable or not.

If deemed collectable they are carried forward as arrears and if deemed uncollectable they are written off.

A report on this is subsequently brought to the full Council for their information and review. It is expected that this will take place, in respect of 2014 year end, during Quarter 1 2015. As part of this the top 20 debtors can be listed.”

C/621/14 PROVISION OF BROADBAND FOR DONEGAL ISLANDS.

The following question was submitted by Cllr. MacGiolla Easbuig:-

"Cad é atá Comhairle Contae Dhún na nGall a dhéanamh maidir le seirbhísí leathanbhanda a chur ar fail do na hoileáin ar fad I nDún na nGall".

"What is Donegal County Council doing in relation to the provision of Broadband for all the Donegal Islands?"

Cllr MacGiolla Easbuig was informed that:-

“Is iad na comhlachtaí teileachumarsáide san earnáil phríobháideach atá freagrach as seirbhísí leathanbhanda a sholáthar ar fud na hÉireann, agus iad ag feidhmiú i dtimpeallacht tráchtála atá á rialú ag ComReg. Is í an Roinn Cumarsáidí, Fuinnimh agus Acmhainní Nádurtha atá freagrach as polasaí agus pleanáil straitéiseach maidir le leathanbhanda.

Cé nach bhfuil aon fhreagracht dhíreach ar Chomhairle Contae Dhún na nGall i dtaca le soláthar seirbhísí leathanbhanda, mar sin féin, tacaíonn an Chomhairle leis an ghéarghá atá le seirbhís

leathanbhanda ardulais ar fud an chontae, na hoileáin san áireamh. Bíonn an Chomhairle de shíor ag déanamh stocaireachta leis an Roinn agus le lucht soláthair leathanbhanda chun seirbhísí a fheabhsú i nDún na nGall.”

San am i láthair, tá suirbhé leathanbhanda a dhéanamh ag an Chomhairle, a thugann deis do phobal Dhún na nGall an luas leathanbhanda atá acu faoi láthair a chur in iúl. Déanfar an t-eolas seo a chur ar léarscáil agus cuirfear faoi bhráid na Roinne é le tacú leis an chás ar son tuilleadh infheistíochta ón Rialtas agus ó lucht soláthair teilechumarsáidí in achan chuid den Chontae, na hoileáin san áireamh.

Is féidir an suirbhé a fháil ar shuíomh idirlín na Comhairle [www.ccdhunnangall.ie](http://www.ccdhunnangall.ie), ar Thairseach an Chontae [www.donegal.ie](http://www.donegal.ie) agus ar na meáin shóisialta ar fad ar a bhfuil an Chomhairle. Tá cóipeanna crua den suirbhé ar fáil ó Leabharlanna na Comhairle.

The responsibility for the provision of broadband services throughout Ireland rests with private sector telecommunications companies operating in a commercial environment regulated by ComReg. Broadband policy and strategic planning is the responsibility of the Department of Communications Energy and Natural Resources.

Whilst having no direct responsibility in the provision of broadband services, Donegal County Council nevertheless supports the absolute need for high speed broadband availability countywide - including the islands.

The Council continually lobbies the Department and the broadband providers to improve services within Donegal.

At the moment the Council is running a broadband survey which allows the Donegal public to record the broadband speed they currently received.

This data will be mapped and presented to the Department to underpin the case for increased investment from both Government and the telecommunications providers in all parts of the County, including the islands.



The survey can be located on the Council's website [www.donegalcoco.ie](http://www.donegalcoco.ie) on the County Portal [www.donegal.ie](http://www.donegal.ie) and on the complete range of Council Social Media sites. Hard copies of the survey can also be obtained from Council Libraries.”

C/622/14 SIGNAGE TO MALIN HEAD AND TOURISM PROMOTION OF THE WILD ATLANTIC WAY.

The following question was submitted by Cllr. A Doherty:-

"Will the Council engage with all new "Super Councils" in the north of Ireland and with the Northern Tourism Board to request increased signage to Malin Head and tourism promotion of the "Wild Atlantic Way".

Cllr Doherty was informed that:-

“Donegal County Council is working closely with the new Derry/Strabane Council in preparation of the Council assuming responsibility for its region next March. Discussions are ongoing across a range of sectors with a view towards identifying and pursuing collaboration for mutual benefit. This is building on the ongoing partnership between Donegal, Derry and Strabane Councils over the years, a partnership which has seen a range of valuable projects being implemented.

Tourism will be a key focus of the Donegal/Derry tourism partnership with the Wild Atlantic Way linking through Derry City on to the Causeway Coast. It is envisaged that strategic projects such as Malin Head will be complimented by Strategic projects on the other side of the border such as the proposed Maritime Heritage Museum in Ebrington.

It is also proposed that Donegal Tourism Limited will work closely with its counterparts in Derry to market the North West Region for tourism purposes.

The Cathaoirleach, along with the Mayor of Derry, Cllr. Brenda Stevenson, recently led a North West of Ireland delegation to Massachusetts, jointly engaging with a range of partners across various sectors in a joined-up North West context. It is proposed that the two councils will continue with this cooperative approach into the future.”

C/623/14 BREAKDOWN OF THE FUNDING BY THE EU UNIT

The following question was submitted by Cllr. Canning:-

"Can I have a breakdown of the funding brought into this county by the EU Unit in 2013 and in 2014."

Cllr Canning was informed that:-

"The EU unit of Donegal County Council was established with three overall aims:

- To maximise opportunities to attract funding to support the work of Donegal County Council
- To develop networks of interest and benefit to Donegal County Council, and
- To raise the profile of EU affairs within Donegal County Council

The Unit has continued to work proactively with local, regional and transnational partners to participate in programmes of value to Donegal County Council under the new Funding Programme cycle 2014-2020. In 2014, the EU unit was involved in submitting funding applications to the following programmes:

Europe for Citizens Programme

1. LADDER: ALDA (Association of Local Democracy Agencies); Donegal Budget €152,475  
ERASMUS + - SPORT programme
2. European Walking Weeks: Regione Piemonte, Italy; total value €1,665,781. Donegal Budget € 81,630  
DG Move road safety
3. SAVRU- Safety Actions for Vulnerable road users. Lead partner - South end on Sea Borough Council, South end on Sea England - total value and budget held by lead partner - € 214,000  
DG Enterprise - COSME programme
4. Sea Europe: Travelecoology (Spain); total value €249,966.  
Donegal Budget €32,600
5. Hiking Europe: Catalan Tourist Board; total value €328,689.  
Donegal Budget €51,018  
Interreg V Northern Periphery and Arctic Programme
6. COOL Route – yacht cruising route : Cork Institute of Technology; total value €2mn Donegal Budget €320,000

7. SPREE energy efficiency measures: Lead partner Crichton Carbon Centre, Drumfries and Galloway Scotland ; total value € 2mn. Donegal Budget €464,000  
SEAI Research, Development and Demonstration Programme (Approved Sept 2014)
8. Research into Societal acceptance for renewable energy and infrastructural projects. total value €18,000  
Interreg IV North West Europe (Approved July 2014)
9. RENEW project: QUESTOR at Queens University Belfast (QUB); Donegal Budget €68,237

The EU unit is awaiting the assessment of the above applications with a decision expected in 2015. Approved projects will typically run for a three year period from 2015-2018. This work continues to build upon work and relationships established with key networks in 2013, including FEDETON (Promotion of European Networks of Nautical Tourism); AER (Assembly of European Regions), IRO (Irish Regions Office) and NEA (Marine and water leisure based tourism and promotion across Europe).

The EU unit also seeks to influence and shape the content of future EU programmes through its policy and networking function. Submissions have been made to the cross border Interreg V and Peace 4 programmes, transnational Interreg programmes (Atlantic Area; Northern Periphery), and BMW Regional OP.

In anticipation of the next funding call, including the opening of the cross border funding programmes of Interreg and Peace, the EU Unit is laying the foundations for further targeted work and funding applications in 2015.

Key programmes to be considered for future applications include: Interreg V and Peace 4 cross border funding programmes; LIFE+; ERASMUS+; SEAI; Interreg V Northern Periphery and Arctic programme 2nd call; Horizon 2020; Interreg V Atlantic Area Programme 1st call; Interreg V North West Europe programme 1st Call; and Creative Europe. This work has been undertaken in conjunction with various directorates of Donegal County Council, with planning project teams in place and actively assessing and

considering future funding and networking opportunities for Donegal.

In October 2014, the EU unit hosted the Assembly of European Regions Plenary meeting and workshops in a conference in Letterkenny titled E-health: Independence and Inclusion in the 21st Century. The conference had over 100 delegates in attendance from across Europe and a number of collaborative opportunities are now being followed up.

The EU Unit produces an electronic bulletin which provides updates, news and information on a regular basis on the work of the EU unit. The next issue of the bulletin will be published in December 2014.

The schedule below details the projects underway within Donegal County Council and supported under the last funding period 2007-2013. These projects were supported under the Interreg IVA and Peace III funded programmes and continue to be delivered and implemented in 2013.

#### Schedule of Interreg IVA and Peace III funded projects 2007-2013 programme

##### Interreg IVA programme

1. Sailwest €7.4mn
2. Freshwater pearl mussel €2.2mn
3. River Links €2.1mn
4. SPACEial €526,000
5. Gobbins / Sliabh Liag €1.7mn (Donegal)
6. Women Into Public Life €898,000
7. Malin Head €220,000
8. ANSWER project £350,000 - Donegal
9. Urban and Village renewal €995,000
10. Business Bootcamp €500,000
11. REN-NET €350,000
12. Inch Levels €750,000
13. C-GAP £150,000

##### Peace III

14. Pettigo Termon project €8mn
15. Hands of History Project €300,000.

C/624/14 REMEDIAL WORKS TO BACK LANES OF COUNCIL HOUSING ESTATES.

The following question was submitted by Cllr. McDermott:-

"To ask the Council have they any provision for doing remedial works to back lanes of Council Housing Estates."

Cllr McDermott was informed that:-

"There is no specific funding set aside to carrying out remedial works to back lanes of Council housing estates.

The maintenance funds provided on an annual basis are prioritised to cover routine maintenance works to the actual housing stock as opposed to carrying out remedial works to roads or lanes servicing such estates.

The carrying out of road works in council housing estates has not to date been considered in the context of the Annual Road Works Programme and would require a policy change to facilitate same."

C/625/14 ROAD SURVEYS FOR HOUSING ESTATES THAT HAVE APPLIED FOR TAKEOVER.

The following question was submitted by Cllr. Canning:-

"Has any visits or road surveys been made by any Roads Engineers to any of the housing estates that have applied for takeover."

Cllr Canning was informed that:-

"Site inspections by Area engineering staff have been undertaken in the context of assisting the Taking in Charge team in compiling information for claims on security bonds. The work involves quantifying and costing outstanding works associated with developments to inform claims made by the Council on security bonds to progress sites toward formal taking in charge.

Additionally, site inspections and reports (17 no.) as part of formal taking in charge procedures were submitted by the Town Engineer for housing developments in Letterkenny earlier this year."

C/626/14 WINTER ROADS PROGRAMME

The following question was submitted by Cllr. McDermott:-

"To ask the Council for the winter roads programme and to look at certain roads that were taken off for no reason."

Cllr McDermott was informed that:-

"The Council's gritting routes are available interactively online at <http://www.donegalcocowinterweather.ie/>. The current routes were adopted by the Council members in 2011 along with a limited number of additional routes in 2012 agreed by members. There are no routes taken off for no reason. Should any member have any questions regarding the routes and their priority in their area, they should contact the relevant Engineering Area Manager in their Municipal District. Arrangements can be made to circulate a copy of the winter maintenance plan to Members of the Council through the Municipal District Offices.

Specific items can be discussed with the member raising this question."

C/627/14

#### MOTIONS FROM OTHER BODIES

The following Motions from other Local Authorities were noted:-

#### SOUTH DUBLIN COUNTY COUNCIL

"That this Council, acting on humanitarian grounds, being deeply concerned that an Irish Citizen Mr. Ibrahim Halawa, at age 17 and a minor according to Egyptian law, was arrested during his summer holidays in Egypt in 2013 and continues to be detained in Egypt, calls on the Minister of Foreign Affairs to ensure that Ibrahim be allowed basic civil and human rights including that he be given access to his lawyer and be given the right to a proper court hearing or that he be released forthwith into the care of his family. That this motion be forwarded to the Minister for Foreign Affairs and that it be copied to all other County Council."

#### SOUTH DUBLIN COUNTY COUNCIL

"This Council acting on behalf of its hard pressed taxpayers and concerned for the future funding of the services and facilities it provides, calls on the Taoiseach, Minister for Finance and the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government to repeal or amend the current legislation setting up the Local Property Tax, which is neither a wealth tax or a feasible means of funding Local Government and replace it with a sustainable local

service charge that is based on the funding of named local services, is linked on ability to pay and to general taxation in such a manner that it excludes double taxation is fair, equitable and transparent. And that the Chief Executive Officer to write to the Taoiseach and named Ministers conveying the decision of this Council and copying the County Councils.”

#### MONAGHAN COUNTY COUNCIL

“That this Municipal District Authority calls on the Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, Ms Heather Humphreys to examine the possibility of the introduction of an adequate high level grant aid scheme for buildings that are listed, both commercial and residential.”

#### KERRY COUNTY COUNCIL

“That this Council calls on the Minister for Defence to rescind the 21 year rule from members of the Defence Forces.”

After some discussion it was agreed that the Corporate Policy Group would examine the current distribution method and that the Party Whips would discuss same with the matter being brought back to the Council in the New Year.

#### C/628/14 ADJOURNMENT OF THE MEETING

On the proposal of Cllr Mc Brearty, seconded by, Cllr Brogan it was resolved to adjourn the meeting until 5pm and thus proceed with the consideration of Item 4(h) in committee. Members of the Media were informed that they could not be in attendance for this section of the meeting.

#### C/629/14 TO CONSIDER LEGAL ADVICE IN RELATION TO ACCESS TO AUGHADAHOR BEACH, CARRIGART

As agreed prior to the adjournment and in accordance with Section 45 of the Local Government Act, 2001 it was unanimously agreed to proceed with Item 4(h) in committee.

After a lengthy discussion it was agreed that the Mayor of Letterkenny would facilitate a meeting in a neutral capacity, between the local residents, the developer in question and Letterkenny Municipal District Members with the aim of obtaining a satisfactory resolution to the problem.

This concluded the business of the Meeting.

