

**MINUTES OF JULY MEETING OF DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL,  
HELD IN THE COUNTY HOUSE, LIFFORD ON 27TH JULY, 2015**

**C/316/15**     MEMBERS PRESENT

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

**C/317/15**     OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE

Mr Seamus Neely, Chief Executive, Mr Liam Ward, Director of Housing and Corporate, Meetings Administrator, Mr John McLaughlin, Director of Roads & Transportation, Mr Garry Martin, Head of Finance & Director of Emergency Services, Mr Joe Peoples, A/Director of Water & Environment, Mr Denis Kelly, Senior Executive Planner, Ms Colette Beattie, Assistant Planner, Ms Eileen Burgess, Divisional Manager, Cultural Services, Dr. Joseph Gallagher, Heritage Officer, Ms Anne Marie Conlon, Communications Officer, Mr Sean O' Daimhin, Oifigeach na Gaeilge, Ms Anne Marie Crawford, Staff Officer, Corporate Services.

**C/318/15**     APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cllrs. Gallagher, McBrearty, McEniff and Murray who were unable to attend the meeting.

**C/319/15**     CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE MAY MEETING OF DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL HELD ON THE 25TH MAY, 2015

On the proposal of Cllr McGowan, seconded by, Cllr Kennedy the minutes of the May Meeting of Donegal County Council held on the 25th May, 2015 were approved. Cllr Kennedy noted that there was a typographical error in Minute C/229/15 and that the figure of €30m over a ten year period was incorrect. It was acknowledged that the figure in question was in fact €30,000 over a ten year period.

**C/320/15**     CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE ADJOURNED MAY MEETING OF DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL HELD ON THE 15TH JUNE, 2015

On the proposal of Cllr McGowan, seconded by, Cllr Quinn, the

minutes of the Adjourned May Meeting of Donegal County Council held on the 15th June, 2015 were approved.

C/321/15 CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL HELD ON THE 15TH JUNE, 2015

On the proposal of Cllr Quinn, seconded by, Cllr Kavanagh, the minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Donegal County Council held on the 15th June, 2015 were approved.

C/322/15 DISPOSAL OF OFFICE ACCOMMODATION AT DONEGAL PSC BY WAY OF LEASE TO IRISH WATER.

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

On the proposal of Cllr Quinn , seconded by, Cllr Conaghan , it was resolved to formally dispose of office accommodation at Donegal PSC by way of lease to Irish Water in accordance with the provisions of Section 211 of the Planning & Development Act, 2000 (as amended) and Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001.

Cllr Quinn said that whilst he welcomed any opportunity to increase revenue for the Council there were a number of issues which needed to be taken into consideration. He enquired as to whether the venture would impact negatively on staff in the Public Service Centre.

For clarification purposes, he reiterated, Sinn Fein's policy in relation to Irish Water and said that if in Government they would abolish Irish Water. He cautioned against entering into a long term leasing agreement which could in the future impact negatively on the Council.

Mr Liam Ward, Director Housing , Corporate and Planning Control said that the matter was before Members to formalise the arrangements and that no member of staff would be disadvantaged. Many of the Irish Water staff involved, he added had worked previously with the Council and had welcomed the opportunity to be able to work in Donegal. He confirmed that should there be any change in the status of Irish Water, then the lease would fall and the accommodation revert to the Council.

C/323/15 TAKING OF A DECISION WITH REGARD THE CARRYING OUT OF CONSTRUCTION WORK FOR THE REPLACEMENT OF THE TULLYMORE BRIDGE, SINGLE SPAN MASONRY ARCH EXTENDED WITH A SLAB CROSSING AN UNNAMED STREAM, WITH A LARGE DIAMETER PIPE IN THE TOWNLANDS OF TULLYMORE AND TULLYCLEAVE BEG, IN THE GLENTIES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT.

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

On the proposal, of Cllr Slowey, seconded by, Cllr Jordan , the carrying out of works under Part XI of the Planning & Development Act, 2000 (as amended) and Part 8 of the Planning & Development Regulations 2001(as amended) with regard to the construction work for the replacement of the Tullymore Bridge, single span masonry arch extended with a slab crossing an unnamed stream, with a large diameter pipe in the townlands of Tullymore and Tullycleave Beg, in the Glenties Municipal District was approved.

C/324/15 TAKING OF A DECISION WITH REGARD TO APPROVE CARRYING OUT OF CONSTRUCTION WORK IN RELATION TO 8 NO DWELLINGS TOGETHER WITH A SMALL PUMPING STATION AND ASSOCIATED SITE DEVELOPMENT WORKS AT RAYMOGHEY, MANORCUNNINGHAM.

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

On the proposal, of Cllr Canning , seconded by Cllr McGowan, the carrying out of works under Part XI of the Planning & Development Act, 2000 (as amended) and Part 8 of the Planning & Development Regulations 2001(as amended) with regard to the carrying out of construction work in relation to 8 no dwellings together with a small pumping station and associated site development works at Raymoghey, Manorcunningham was approved.

C/325/15 TAKING OF DECISION WITH REGARD TO CARRYING OUT OF CONSTRUCTION WORK IN RELATION TO THE DEMOLITION OF EXISTING DWELLING AND ITS REPLACEMENT WITH A NEW 3 BEDROOM, SINGLE STOREY DWELLING AT DRUMNAHOAGH,LETTERKENNY.

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

On the proposal of Cllr Blaney , seconded by Cllr Canning , the carrying out of works under Part XI of the Planning & Development Act, 2000 (as amended) and Part 8 of the Planning & Development Regulations 2001(as amended) with regard to the construction work in relation to the demolition of existing dwelling (destroyed by fire) and its replacement with a new 3 bedroom, single storey dwelling at Drumnahoagh, Letterkenny was approved.

C/326/15 TO NOTE THE AUDITED ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR 2014.

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

On the proposal of Cllr Mc Bride, seconded by Cllr Mc Guinness the Audited Annual Financial Statement for 2014 was noted.

C/327/15 TO NOTE THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT AUDIT REPORT FOR 2014.

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

On the proposal of Cllr Slowey, seconded by Cllr Crawford the Local Government Audit Report for 2014 was noted.

C/328/15 TO NOTE THE REPORT FROM THE COUNCIL'S AUDIT COMMITTEE IN RELATION TO THE AUDITED AFS FOR 2014.

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

On the proposal of Cllr Mc Garvey, seconded by Cllr Blaney, the report from the Donegal County Council Audit Committee in relation to the Audited Annual Financial Statement for 2014 was noted.

C/329/15 TO CONSIDER THE PROPOSED VARIATION NO. 3 (RURAL HOUSING) TO THE COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2012 - 2018 (AS VARIED), AND THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT ON SUBMISSIONS RECEIVED IN RESPECT OF IT, AS REQUIRED PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OF THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT ACT 2000 (AS AMENDED).

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

Cllr Canning said that he was somewhat disappointed that the initial intention for this variation had been somewhat diminished as it had moved through the planning process. It was however at this stage, he added, better to proceed with the variation and examine the matter further when the County Development Plan was being reviewed.

On the proposal of Cllr Canning seconded by Cllr Mc Dermott, it was resolved in accordance with Section 13 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) to make Variation No. 3 (Rural Housing) to the County Donegal Development Plan 2012-2018 (as varied) in accordance with the recommendation contained within the Chief Executives Report dated July 2015 (Vide Appendix 1):

1. Changes proposed to RH-P-3 text to be deleted; and
2. Changes proposed to RH-P-5 text to proceed, subject to the following words being deleted “owned the land, continuously since prior to 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2008 or having”

C/330/15 TO AGREE DATE FOR A WORKSHOP IN SEPTEMBER TO CONSIDER:- DRAFT COUNTY DONEGAL DEVELOPMENT CONTRIBUTION SCHEME, AND REVIEW OF CASUAL TRADING BYLAWS.

It was resolved to hold the workshop on Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> September, 2015, in the County House, Lifford.

Cllr Bonner enquired as to what the position was in relation to the work-shop on coastal erosion as agreed previously and the update if any in relation to the attendance of the OPW and the National Parks and Wildlife Service .

Mr John Mc Laughlin, Director Roads & Transportation informed the meeting that based on the separate request from the Inishowen Municipal District the OPW had indicated a preference however to meet with the Engineering Staff. The Cathaoirleach called on the Director of Service to invite both the OPW and the National Parks & Wildlife Service to meet with the full Council. Cllr Brogan said that in the event that there was a difficulty with this request then the Minister needed to be informed.

C/331/15 TO APPROVE THE PREPARATION OF SPECIAL SPEED LIMIT BYE-LAWS FOR HOUSING ESTATES CURRENTLY UNDER THE OWNERSHIP OF DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL. TO APPROVE THE INTRODUCTION OF THE 30KPH ZONES INCLUSIVE OF SLOW ZONE SIGNAGE (WHERE APPLICABLE) AS FUNDING BECOMES AVAILABLE, AND ON ADOPTION OF PUBLISHED BYELAWS.

Members considered the report circulated with the agenda in relation to the above. They enquired as to whether the Bye-laws applied to private estates as general safety measures affected all sections of the community.

Mr John Mc Laughlin, Director Roads & Transportation provided an overview of the report and informed Members that the “Guidelines for setting and managing speed limits in Ireland” as issued by the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport would be a valuable source of reference over the coming months.

It was recommended, he said, that a 30km speed limit and new combined slow zone sign (as applicable ) be introduced as a pilot scheme in selected estates in each of the 5 Municipal Districts.

The relevant estates, he added, were in Council control and no private estate could be considered unless formally taken over by the Council. What was proposed now, he confirmed, was a Pilot Scheme to use the 2015 allocation of €152,000.

Referring to the Estates Listing, he said that it would be possible to amend same but that this would have to be done at District level. Members raised a number of issues including;-

- Need to address safety issues outside schools.
- Roads classification in Donegal outdated and needs to be reviewed.
- Roads should be named and numbered.
- Speed limit signs are often not acknowledged.
- Noted that the responsibility for various aspects of road safety lay ultimately with the public themselves.
- Query as to the value of locating speed vans at particular locations.

- Need for addition to and restructuring of the bye-laws so as to empower private developers in relation to the various safety issues.
- Outlined need for significant safety signage.

Responding to a query in relation to the inclusion of additional Housing Estates, the Director of Roads & Transportation advised that the initial allocation was designed to kick start the process and that this would be further cemented with the adoption of the Bye-laws later in the year. The target, he confirmed, was to have all Bye-laws adopted by year end. Members, he noted, could allocate monies from their own allocations. The aim at this juncture, it was acknowledged, was to create an awareness of the project. The Director of Service said that the main concern here was to ensure that the Bye-laws worked.

On the proposal of Cllr Mc Guinness, seconded by Cllr Mc Gowan it was resolved that Special Speed Limit Bye-laws be prepared for Housing Estates currently under the ownership of Donegal County Council.

It was further resolved on the proposal of Cllr Mc Guinness, seconded by Cllr Blaney that 30kph zones inclusive of slow zone signage (where applicable), be introduced as funding became available , and on adoption of the published Bye-laws.

C/332/15 TO ADOPT THE COUNTY DONEGAL HERITAGE PLAN (2014 – 2019).

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

On the proposal of Cllr Mc Bride, seconded by Cllr Mc Garvey the County Donegal Heritage Plan 2014-2019 was adopted.

C/333/15 TO RECEIVE PRESENTATION ON DONEGAL TOURISM ACTIVITY IN THE CONTEXT OF BUDGET 2015.

Members welcomed the following to the Meeting:-

- Barney Mc Laughlin, Administrative Officer, Community & Enterprise.
- Joy Harron, Marine Tourism , Marketing Development Officer, Donegal Tourism.

- Sandra Meehan, Marketing Tourism Officer, Donegal Tourism.
- Iga Lawne, Tourism Support Officer, Donegal Tourism.

A detailed and comprehensive presentation was delivered to Members and focused on the following issues -

1. Tourism Overview for the County.
  2. Impact of the Donegal Gathering
  3. Donegal Tourism Marketing Campaign
  4. Developments in Marine Tourism Management.
- (Vide Appendix 2)

Members were appreciative of the update provided, and acknowledged that it had provided an excellent insight and broad overview of the level of tourism activity in Donegal. A lengthy debate ensued with a wide range of issues raised (Vide Appendix 3).

Concluding the debate the Cathaoirleach thanked all involved in the delivery of the presentation. He said it was apparent that there was a top class team involved in tourism promotion and that the efforts as outlined were effectively a work in progress. He cited the need to have a “Schedule of Events” placed on the website so as to provide prospective visitors with information on events in the County. He advised also of the importance of having an update on tourism activity presented to Members at Budget time.

It was agreed that Members would be updated individually in relation to their individual queries.

C/334/15 TO NOTE REPORT ON DONEGAL GREENWAY – WALKING AND TRAILS DEVELOPMENT.

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

C/335/15 TO FILL CASUAL VACANCY ON THE DONEGAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING BOARD ARISING FROM THE RESIGNATION OF CLLR MARIE THERESE GALLAGHER.

On the proposal of Cllr Quinn, seconded by Cllr Mc Garvey it was resolved that Cllr O’ Ferraigh fill the casual vacancy on the Donegal Education & Training Board occasioned by the

resignation of Cllr Marie Therese Gallagher.

C/336/15 TO CONSIDER PROPOSAL TO SUPPORT IRELAND WEST AIRPORT KNOCK.

There was a suggestion initially that the matter be deferred until the end of the meeting. However on the proposal of Cllr Mc Guinness, seconded by Cllr Mc Garvey it was resolved to continue the debate and proceed with the consideration of the proposal to support Ireland West Airport, Knock.

The Chief Executive informed Members that the matter had been discussed at the May Council Meeting and at two successive CPG Meetings. The CPG, he said, had endorsed the application as it afforded an opportunity of keeping the County to the fore in terms of tourism promotion. It would, he confirmed also ensure that the County benefitted from the further development of the Wild Atlantic Way.

He said that the proposal was for a ten year period and that failure to get involved may in the long run inhibit the County in terms of tourist numbers visiting Donegal.

The Cathaoirleach said that the CPG had discussed the matter extensively and that information had been made available to all Groupings and the Party Whips. He suggested that the matter be deferred to later in the meeting to allow for further discussion.

Cllr Quinn said that the Sinn Fein Grouping were opposed to the proposal on the basis that Knock Airport had been inadequately funded over many years by central government and as a result was now placed in the invidious position of having to seek funding from Local Authorities. Support for the proposal, he added, would have a detrimental impact on local airports such as those at Carrickfinn and the City of Derry Airport. He thus proposed that the proposal be rejected.

Cllr Mac Giolla Easbuig said he was concerned that the contribution payable could increase in the future. He said he was of the opinion that tourists would only come as far as Bundoran anyway and would not venture into the Rosses or Gweedore. The monies in question, he contended, would be far better spent on projects within the County.

Cllr O' Domhnaill said that the development of Knock Airport as a major tourism hub was essential and that in the long run it could only strengthen and increase the tourism potential for Donegal. Backing for the project would, he advised, give rate payers the chance to make money and develop further business opportunities. He called for the matter to be put to a vote and warned against holding the region as a whole back.

Cllr Bonner said that he had a number of reservations. These included:-

- The fact that the allocation would be used to fund the capital deficit incurred by Knock Airport to date.
- Concern that Carrickfinn Airport had not been able to avail of strategic funding and was not made aware of the necessity of applying to the Council annually.
- Difficulty with the concept of "Preference Shares" and as to how these could be redeemed if the Airport was struggling in the future

The Chief Executive said that it had been useful to hear the views of the Members. There were, he acknowledged, both opportunities and implications going forward. He noted that there was considerable concern as to how the proposal would impact on other airports together with the importance of the cross-border dimension. The development of the Wild Atlantic Way would, he confirmed, increase the tourism potential of Donegal and ensure that tourists travelled beyond the south on the County. The proposal, he confirmed, fitted into the "Proposed Strategic Model for Regional Development & Growth" and engagement had taken place in the past in terms of Donegal County Council's support for the North West Air Access Consortium.

In terms of Carrickfinn Airport, it was noted that there had been engaged communication with this body and that the resources of Donegal County Council had been made readily available to them.

Mr Neely said that it would make good financial sense to contribute to any of these Airports.

The contribution, it was noted, would be paid on an annual basis over the next ten years and would allow the County to be involved

in all relevant marketing opportunities.

Cllr Mc Guinness called on Members to embrace the county-wide aspect of the proposal.

Concluding the debate the Chief Executive reminded Members that the proposal would open the door for advertising at Knock Airport and allow us compete with other regions at that point of entry. He outlined also the implications for job creation and the boost for local businesses.

Cllr Mc Garvey was supportive of the proposal and said that an inward approach had been taken for far too long.

Cllr Mc Monagle said that he could not support the request as he had concerns as to where the money would come from and any possible benefits that might accrue. A number of key items had not been provided, he added, including data on passenger surveys, the long-term benefits accruing and the level and rate of promotional marketing that would take place. It was, he said, the responsibility of central government to fund such deficits.

Cllr Bonner again voiced concern at the lack of visible evidence for the proposal

Cllr Kennedy outlined the necessity of looking towards new markets and the fact that Knock Airport was well situated to be the central hub in the Wild Atlantic Way project.

Cllr Ryan said that it would be counter-productive to go against the proposal given the significance of the tourism market in Donegal as identified in the presentation delivered earlier in the meeting.

Cllr A Doherty seconded Cllr Quinn's proposal not to proceed with the provision of assistance to Ireland West Airport Knock

Cllr Mc Guinness proposed, seconded by Cllr Ryan that a recorded vote be taken.

The Chief Executive reminded Members that there had been considerable discussion by the CPG and the proposal circulated to the PartyWhips.

A recorded vote was then taken by the Meetings Administrator, This resulted in 20 voting for with 9 against.

Those voting in favour included;  
Cllrs Blaney, Brogan, Campbell, Canning, Conaghan, Crawford, Crossan, Donaghey, Farren, Harley, Kavanagh, Kennedy, Mc Daid, Mc Dermott, Mc Garvey, Mc Gowan, Mc Guinness, O' Domhnaill, Ryan and Slowey(20)

Those voting against included;-

Cllrs Bonner, A Doherty, G Doherty, L Doherty, Jordan, Mac Giolla Easbuig, Mc Monagle, O' Fearraigh, and Quinn (9)

The Cathaoirleach informed the meeting that Cllr Mc Brearty had asked that his support for the proposal be recorded.

Thus it was resolved to support Ireland West Airport, Knock over a ten year period with an annual contribution of €30,000.

C/337/15 NORTH WEST OF THE ISLAND OF IRELAND – A PROPOSED STRATEGIC MODEL FOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND GROWTH

Members considered the report circulated prior to the meeting in relation to the above.

The Chief Executive informed Members that there had been active engagement with Derry City and Strabane District Council and with the International Centre for Local and Regional Development in order to establish collaborative working arrangements now and in the future. This, he advised, involved specific emphasis on designated areas of intent namely;

- Reliance on the existence of the NWRCBG.
- Emphasis on the development of the North West as a region/gateway with the potential for inward investment.

He called on Members to endorse this Shared Approach so as to allow both Councils seek the support of the relevant Government Departments.

Members were supportive of the proposal and welcomed the continuing role of the NWRCBG. They noted the necessity of

maintaining a county-wide focus.

The Cathaoirleach welcomed the development and congratulated the Chief Executives of both Authorities in relation to their combined efforts. It was a significant development for the region, he noted, which had a combined population of 400,000. The proposal, it was noted, would now be presented to the Irish Government and to the Stormont Assembly as a means of accessing funding. This, he said, could be further progressed by sending cross-party delegations to meet with both Governments.

Members thus endorsed the “Proposed Strategic Model for Regional Development and Growth.

C/338/15

ENFORCEMENT PUBLIC HEALTH TOBACCO ACTS

Cllr Canning enquired as to the correspondence if any that issued from the County Council following the adoption of his motion in relation to the enforcement of the Public Health Tobacco Acts in February 2015. He was he said extremely concerned over being threatened by legal action as a result of comments during the meeting. He has, he confirmed raised the issue on the basis of the mandate given to him when elected by the people of Inishowen. He had, he said, simply highlighted in the Chamber the situation as it existed. It was now the case, he said, that Members were being more and more stifled every day.

Mr Liam Ward, Director Housing, Corporate & Planning Control noted that the minutes of the meeting were already in the public domain and that any correspondence to the HSE was confined to the wording of the motion as adopted.

C/339/15

TO CONSIDER REQUEST FOR RECEPTION OF DEPUTATION FROM THE “FAMILIES OF THE UNDOCUMENTED IRISH IN THE UNITED STATES” AT THE SEPTEMBER 2015 COUNCIL MEETING.

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

On the proposal of Cllr Mc Gowan, seconded by Cllr Slowey it was resolved that a deputation from the “Families of the Undocumented Irish in the United States” could attend the September Meeting of Donegal County Council

- C/340/15 TO CONSIDER REQUEST FOR RECEPTION OF DEPUTATION IN RELATION TO “ENVIRONMENT THE MUSICAL” WITH REGARD TO THE PROMOTION OF ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS AND RESPONSIBILITY AT THE NOVEMBER 2015 COUNCIL MEETING.  
On the proposal of Cllr Donaghey, seconded by Cllr Crossan it was resolved that a deputation from the “ Environment the Musical” could attend the November Meeting of Donegal County Council
- C/341/15 TO NOTE THE MINUTES OF THE CORPORATE POLICY GROUP MEETING HELD ON THE 18TH MAY, 2015.  
On the proposal of Cllr MacGiolla Easbuig. Seconded by Cllr. Canning , the Minutes of the Corporate Policy Group Meeting held on the 18th May, 2015 were noted.
- C/342/15 TO NOTE THE MINUTES OF THE CORPORATE POLICY GROUP MEETING HELD ON THE 29TH JUNE, 2015.  
On the proposal of Cllr MacGiolla Easpuig, seconded by Cllr. Canning, the Minutes of the Corporate Policy Group Meeting held on the 29th June, 2015 were noted.
- C/343/15 TO NOTE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE DONEGAL HERITAGE FORUM HELD ON THE 8TH MAY, 2015.  
On the proposal of Cllr A Doherty, seconded by Cllr Canning, the Minutes of the Donegal Heritage Forum held on the 8th May, 2015 were noted.
- C/344/15 TO NOTE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE DONEGAL HERITAGE FORUM HELD ON THE 18TH SEPTEMBER, 2014.  
On the proposal of Cllr Canning, seconded by Cllr A Doherty, the Minutes of the meeting of the Donegal Heritage Forum held on the 18th September, 2014 were noted.
- C/345/15 CONFERENCES  
Having noted the revised arrangements under Section 142 5(d) of the Local Government Act, 2001, introduced by the Local Government (Expenses of Local Authority Members) Regulations 2006 -2014 as amended and directives issued by the Minister in that regard, on the proposal of Cllr A Doherty, seconded by Cllr. McDermott, it was resolved to authorise any member, if he/she so wished, to attend the following conferences, subject to the normal

procedures:-

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

**Conferences:-**

- Elected Member's Training Seminar – Planning and Building Regulations to be held from Monday 27th and Tuesday 28th July, 2015 at the Connacht Hotel, Dublin Road, Galway.
- Elected Member's Training Seminar – Changes to Community Development to be held from Friday 31st to Saturday 1st August, 2015 at the Connacht Hotel, Dublin Road, Galway.
- The Institute of Professional Training, 'Planning: Planning & Development (No 2) Bill 2014' Office of the Planning Regulator, to be held Friday 7th to Sunday 9th August, 2015 in the Silver Tassie Hotel, Letterkenny.
- Celtic Conferences – Regulation of Lobbying Act 2015 to be held from Friday 7th to Sunday 9th August, 2015 at the Clonakilty Hotel, Clonakilty, Co Cork.
- Celtic Conferences – Local Economic and Community Plans, to be held from Friday 4th to Sunday 6th September, 2015 in the Horse and Jockey Hotel, Horse and Jockey, Co Tipperary.
- The Housing Debate: (Re) Building our Communities through Integrated Working with Local Government, to be held Thursday 10th September, 2015 at Maynooth University Campus.

C/346/15 **CONFERENCE REPORTS**

Members noted the following conference reports:-

- Cllr John O'Donnell  
Elected Members Training on Disclosures Act 2014 held 12th December, 2014 at the Connaught Hotel, Galway.
- Cllr Gerry McMonagle  
AILG Training Seminar held Thursday 26th February 2015 in the Welcome Inn Castlebar, Co Mayo.
- Cllr Enda Bonner  
CPMR held Friday 27th February, 2015 in Nantes, France.
- Cllr John O'Donnell

AILG Training held Thursday 26th and Friday 27th February, 2015 at Castlebar.

- Cllr Nicholas Crossan  
AILG Second Annual Conference 2015 held the Thursday 12th and Friday 13th March, 2015 in the Nuremore Hotel, Carrickmacross, Co Monaghan.
- Cllr John O'Donnell  
AILG Training held Thursday 12th and Friday 13th March, 2015 at Carrickmacross, Co Monaghan.
- Cllr John O'Donnell  
St Patricks Day Events held from Monday 16th to Wednesday 18th March, 2015 in Nottingham, England.
- Cllr Seamus O'Domhnaill  
AILG Local Development and Local Authorities held Monday 23rd March, 2015 in the Clayton Hotel, Galway.
- Cllr P McGowan  
LAMA Spring Training Seminar held Friday 10th and Saturday 11th April, 2015 in the Ard Ri House Hotel, Tuam, Co Galway.
- Cllr Terence Slowey  
LAMA Spring Seminar held Friday 10th and Saturday 11th April, 2015 in the Ard Ri Hotel, Tuam.
- Cllr Patrick McGowan  
AILG Training Local Economic Development held Thursday 23rd April, 2015 at the Clayton Hotel, Galway City.
- Cllr Gerry McMonagle  
AILG Module 2 Local Economic Development held Thursday 23rd April, 2015 in the Clayton Hotel, Galway.
- Cllr James Pat McDaid  
AILG Economic Development held Thursday 23rd April, 2015 in the Clayton Hotel, Galway.
- Cllr Nicholas Crossan  
AILG Training April 2015 held Thursday 23rd April, 2015 at the Clayton Hotel Galway City.
- Cllr Terence Slowey  
AILG Module 2 Economic Development Thursday 23rd April, 2015 Clayton Hotel, Galway.
- Cllr Nicholas Crossan  
Irish Public Bodies AGM held Friday 1st May, 2015 in the Dublin City Aisling Hotel.
- Cllr Nicholas Crossan  
AILG Elected Member Training held Thursday 7th May, 2015 in the Spring Hill Court Hotel, Kilkenny.

- Cllr Jimmy Kavanagh  
AILG Training for Elected Members Local Community Development and LCDC's Saturday 16th May, 2015 in the Radisson Blu Hotel, Sligo.
- Cllr Terence Slowey  
AILG Training for Elected Members Module 3 Local Community Development & LCDC's – A New Role for Local Authorities Saturday 16th May, 2015 Radisson Blu Hotel, Sligo.
- Cllr Nicholas Crossan  
AILG held Thursday 25th June, 2015 at the Hodson Bay Hotel, Athlone.
- Cllr Terence Slowey  
AILG Module 4 Training Finance and Housing Strategy held Thursday 25th June, 2015 at the Hodson Bay Hotel, Athlone.
- Cllr Frank McBrearty Jnr  
Irish Innocence Project International Conference and Wrongful Conviction Film Festival held Friday 26th and Saturday 27th June, 2015 at Griffin College, Dublin.

C/347/15 CREATION OF A DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AND RURAL AFFAIRS

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

"That this Council lobby the Government to create a Department of Community and Rural Affairs and give full cabinet decision and powers to that position in order to halt the rural decline."

Members were informed that:-

“The areas of Community and Rural Development are key to County Donegal and Donegal County Council and its partner organisations places strong emphasis on activity relating to these areas. At present our Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) has a strong focus with regard to these in the goals and objectives which are emerging. Community and rural development will continue to be of importance to this county over the coming period”

Cllr Mc Dermott advised of the need to stand up for rural Ireland as little was being done to halt the diminution of basic services or to deal with the unemployment crisis.

Cllr O' Domhnaill outlined his support for the Motion noting that

the County had been deprived by this and successive Governments down through the years.

There was no opposition to the Motion.

Cllr Mc Dermott thanked all for their support and advised of the need to keep the matter on the agenda in relation to the run-up to the next election. He alluded also to the significance of the Social Housing Strategy 2020 which afforded the opportunity to locate houses in rural areas.

C/348/15 REVIEW THE PROCEDURES IN RELATION TO THE DISCUSSION OF MOTIONS AT COUNCIL MEETINGS OR REVIEW STANDING ORDERS.

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

"That this Council review the procedures in relation to the discussion of Motions at Council Meetings or review Standing Orders in relation to the discussion of same."

Members were informed that:-

“The current arrangements for dealing with Motions at Council meeting were agreed by full Council at the adjourned Council meeting held on 29th September, 2014. These arrangements were developed following engagement with Party Whips, the Standing Orders Sub-Committee and the Corporate Policy Group and are as set out in Standing Order 28 to 44. In terms of the number of speakers on each motion, these arrangements are covered in Standing Orders 28 and 29 as set out below:

Motions, Amendments and Order of Debate

28. The proposer of a Motion listed in the Agenda may indicate to the Cathaoirleach which member is to second the motion and the Cathaoirleach shall ascertain that a Motion is seconded before the proposer is permitted to speak.

29. Where a motion has been duly proposed and seconded, the Cathaoirleach shall ascertain if any member proposes to oppose the motion;

(f) Where no member proposes to oppose the motion, the

Executive will be given an opportunity to respond to the motion if appropriate and the motion will then be put to the floor. The Cathaoirleach shall allow the proposer of the motion an opportunity to sum up.

(ii) Where there is opposition, the Cathaoirleach shall allow two members to put the opposing arguments. The Executive will be given an opportunity to respond to the motion if appropriate and the motion shall be put to the floor and then a vote shall be taken. On determination of the vote, the Cathaoirleach shall allow the proposer of the motion an opportunity to sum up.

It is suggested that in the event that members wish to review these arrangements, that this matter should be referred to the Standing Orders Sub-Committee for consideration and to report back to full Council at the September, 2015 meeting.”

Cllr Mc Guinness said that whilst he was aware of the reasons for the change in the system it was becoming more and more apparent that the present system inhibited debate. He alluded to an earlier motion which, he contended, contained some inaccuracies yet as he was not opposed in principle was prevented from speaking on the matter. Other parties, he said, should have the right to correct inaccuracies and make comments on individual Motions. He proposed, seconded by Cllr Slowey that the motion be referred to the Standing Orders Committee for consideration.

There was no opposition to the Motion.

Mr Liam Ward, Director Housing Corporate & Planning Control acknowledged the spirit in which the Motion had been put forward.

Responding to a query in relation to Member’s Questions he confirmed that replies to all Motions and Questions were available on the Member’s Extranet.

C/349/15

SEEK A COUNCIL DELEGATION MEETING WITH THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT TO ENSURE THAT A FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE REDRESS SCHEME IS PROVIDED TO ALL PARTIES AFFECTED BY MUSCOVITE MICA/DEFECTIVE BLOCKS.

On the proposal of Cllr. A Doherty, seconded by, Cllr M Quinn,

the following motion was adopted:-

“That this Council seek a cross-party council delegation meeting with the Minister for Environment and Local Government to ensure that a financial assistance redress scheme is provided to all parties affected by muscovite mica/ defective blocks”.

Members were informed that:-

“The current position with regard to the Council's approach to assessing the potential extent of the Muscovite MICA (defective blocks) issue in our Housing Stock was recently communicated to each Elected Member and is also part of the Chief Executive's Monthly Management Report for the July 2015 meeting.

It is noted in the Chief Executive's report that the Minister for Housing, Planning and Construction, Paudie Coffey TD, has announced the establishment of an independent panel of experts to examine the defective blocks issue. Donegal County Council will engage with this process, as appropriate.

Subject to this motion being adopted by Council, arrangements will be made to contact the office of the Minister of the Environment, Community & Local Government seeking the delegation as proposed.”

Cllr Doherty alluding to the response provided enquired as to whether arrangements had been put in place to test sub-floor blocks. The issue was not, he added, confined to the Inishowen Municipal District. It was imperative, he said, that those purchasing and renting Council Houses were fully informed of the situation in relation to mica. Referring to the fact the Minister for the Environment, Heritage & Local Government had just sanctioned a €550 million loan to Irish Water, he advised of the need to contact the Minister's Office as soon as possible so that action could be taken to address the problem of defective blocks caused by muscovite mica.

Cllr Quinn highlighted a particular case in the Kilmacrennan area and noted that the blocks were deteriorating to such an extent that the family in question would shortly be forced to leave their home. The family in question, he stated, already held a mortgage on the property and were not in a position to address the problem financially.

In the long-term cases such as this would, he confirmed, impact on

the Local Authority as the Housing Body and there would be an increasing number of families out there who would need to have their housing needs addressed by the Council. It was vital, he said, that a Redress Scheme was initiated and that the Council was united in its approach.

There was no opposition to the Motion.

Mr Liam Ward, Director Housing, Corporate & Planning Control confirmed that arrangements were being put in place to test sub-floor structures. The matter, he said, would be further addressed in the context of the Chief Executive's Report. It was intended, he added, to come back to Council with a conclusive report on sub-floor structures. It was noted that a survey of other stock was ongoing. He agreed to forward the motion to the Department for consideration.

Members were reminded that the Minister for Housing, Planning and Construction Mr Paddy Coffey, T.D had announced the establishment of an independent panel of experts to examine the defective blocks issue. It was noted however that he had indicated that it would not be possible to remedy every building deficit in the County.

C/350/15 REQUEST MEETING WITH THE MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND CALL ON HIM TO REINSTATE TOWN COUNCILS & RESTORATION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL STRUCTURE

It was agreed to take items 16 and 17 at this juncture.

On the proposed of Cllr. McDaid and seconded by Cllr. Donaghey, the following motion was adopted:-

"That this Council request a meeting with the Minister for Environment and call on him reinstate Town Councils in light of the review being carried out by the Department into the decision taken to abolish Town Councils and the severe negative socio-economic impact on Donegal as a result of the decision."

Members were informed that:-

"The Local Government Reform Act 2014 introduced a number of very significant changes to the structures of Local Government in Ireland, which included the abolition of Town Councils and

provided for the establishment of Municipal District arrangements. It is understood that arrangements are underway at Departmental level to carry out a review of the arrangements provided for in the LG Reform Act 2014 and it is understood that this review is ongoing.

Subject to this motion being adopted by Donegal County Council, arrangements will be made to contact the office of the Minister for the Environment, Community & Local Government to request a meeting in accordance with the spirit of the motion.”

On the proposal of Cllr. McGarvey and seconded by Cllr Crossan, the following motion was adopted:-

"That this Council recommend the restoration of the Town Council Structure as appropriate to service the needs of Co Donegal more effectively."

Members were informed that:

“The Local Government Reform Act 2014 introduced a number of very significant changes to the structures of Local Government in Ireland, which included the abolition of Town Councils and provided for the establishment of Municipal District arrangements. It is understood that arrangements are underway at Departmental level to carry out a review of the arrangements provided for in the LG Reform Act 2014 and it is understood that this review is ongoing.

Subject to this motion being adopted by Donegal County Council, arrangements will be made to convey the recommendation as set out to the Department of the Environment, Community & Local Government.”

Cllr Mc Daid said it was vital that local democracy was restored as it was evident that the new structure was not working effectively for Letterkenny Town and its environs. This could be seen quite clearly, he noted in areas such as community funding where sports clubs etc were now relying on funding from the local Councillors.

Cllr Donaghey added that Towns Councils at the second tier of local Government exercised limited but important functions. The current situation was, she said, affecting every aspect of town life.

Cllr Mc Garvey alluded also to the current imbalance in the

Letterkenny Municipal District. It had, he said, created an urban rural divide and was leading to the depletion of services in rural areas. He said that if an when Letterkenny needed additional funding then it should come from the Council and that allocations in general needed to be commensurate with the needs of the areas in question.

Cllr Crossan said it was essential that recognition was given to the larger areas of population.

Cllr Slowey said he was opposed to the Motion on the basis that the initial structure had been flawed with no recognition for large urban areas such as Ballybofey/ Stranorlar whilst smaller conglomerations had attained Town Council status.

Cllr Mc Guinness noted that under the previous structure as towns and population changed the areas classified as “The Environs” had not benefitted to any great degree. He noted that arrangements were in place at Department level to review the matter.

Cllr Mc Gowan outlined his opposition to the Motion in the format as submitted by Cllr Mc Garvey. He said that the Council should make a case on demographic grounds for towns such as Letterkenny, Buncrana and Ballybofey/Stranorlar.

A show of hands was taken by the Meetings Administrator with Members voting in favour of the resolutions subject to the amendment that any restoration programme would consider those larger towns meeting pre-determined criteria.

C/351/15

THAT THIS COUNCIL CALL ON THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL PROTECTION JOAN BURTON TD TO REVERSE HER DISASTROUS CUTS RECENTLY IMPLEMENTED ON LONE PARENT FAMILIES.

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

"That this Council calls on the Minister of Social Protection Joan Burton TD to reverse her disastrous cuts recently implemented on Lone Parent families. The Tanaiste, Joan Burton, had previously made commitments that there would be affordable and accessible childcare before reduction of payments. This never happened and to date Ireland has one of the highest childcare costs in the OECD

countries. In light of these failures I would ask this Council for their support in calling on the Tánaiste and Minister for Social Protection to abandon her plan to phase out Lone Parent Payments once children reach seven years of age at the next up and coming budget."

Cllr Mc Monagle noted that this had been the eighth cut in recent times and that many of those affected were now on the breadline. Assurances had been given previously, he said, that a safe and affordable childcare system would be put in place and this had not happened. Income reductions overall, it was noted, had put many below the poverty line.

Cllr Doherty noted that upwards of 17,000 lone parents had been affected by the cuts. 7,500 of these, he added, were in Donegal and comprised 13% of the population.

There was no opposition to the Motion.

Cllr Mc Monagle thanked Members for their support and asked that correspondence be forwarded as soon as possible to the Tánaiste's Office.

C/352/15

THAT ALL MEMBERS OF DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL WELCOME THE DECISION OF TANAISTE, JOAN BURTON TO MEET WITH THE FAMILY OF THE LATE EDDIE FULLERTON.

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

"That all Members of Donegal County Council welcome the decision of Tánaiste, Joan Burton to meet with the family of the late Eddie Fullerton."

Cllr Quinn said that the family of the late Cllr Fullerton had been treated abysmally over the years. A copy of the findings of a Senior Garda Enquiry carried out over ten years ago had, he noted, never been made available to the Fullerton family. He expressed concern also at the lack of co-operation from Senior Gardai in relation to the Police Ombudsman's investigation in Northern Ireland. He welcomed the fact that the Tánaiste was now going to meet with the late Cllr Fullerton's family. It was not too late, he added, for Senior Garda personnel to co-operate with the Police.

Ombudsman's enquiry as it was not expected to issue until 2016.

Cllr Doherty read into the record the following commentary from An Tánaiste, Ms Joan Burton T.D. in response to a request from Deputy Pádraig Mac Lochlainn T.D . to meet with the Fullerton Family:-

"Collusion between the security forces and the paramilitaries was endemic. The people responsible must be brought to justice. That is also the Labour party position. The families of the victims deserve nothing less."

Cllr Donaghey outlined her support for the Motion and proposed that it be amended to include the call for a full public enquiry into his death. This was seconded by Cllr Quinn and the Motion was amended as follows:-

"That all Members of Donegal County Council welcome the decision of Tánaiste, Joan Burton to meet with the family of the late Eddie Fullerton and that a full Public Enquiry be carried out in relation to his death"

C/353/15 BEACH WHEELCHAIRS ON A PILOT BASIS AT A NUMBER OF BLUE FLAG BEACHES IN THE COUNTY.

On the proposal of Cllr Kavanagh seconded by Cllr. Ryan , the following motion was adopted:-

"That Donegal County Council follow the example of Wexford County Council by introducing "beach wheelchairs" on a pilot basis at a number of blue flag beaches in the County."

Members were informed that:-

"The Council has consulted with Wexford County Council in relation to the pilot initiative to introduce a service for people with disabilities at one of its beaches. The pilot is ongoing and the outcome and learning from the pilot will be useful in informing considerations on the provision of a similar service in Donegal. A review of the existing access to the Blue Flag Beaches will be undertaken to identify the most suitable location for a pilot. Practical considerations around how the service would be operated -perhaps through local community/business -will also need to be

teased out. The Council will also engage with groups/organisations representing people with disabilities to establish the best approach in advance of a proposal being prepared.”

Cllr Kavanagh advised that the implementation of such a scheme would be welcomed by families of children with disabilities . He noted that it had been particularly successful in Wexford and was something that could be successfully introduced to Donegal beaches in 2016.

There was no opposition to the Motion.

Cllr Kavanagh thanked all for their support and welcomed the positive response.

C/354/15 THAT THE COUNCIL REQUEST IRISH WATER TO HAVE THE SCREENING FACILITIES AT BONAGEE WASTE FACILITY UPGRADED.

The following Motion submitted by Cllr McBride was proposed by Cllr Brogan and seconded by Cllr McGarvey and subsequently adopted:-

"I am asking Irish Water to have the screening facilities at Bonagee Waste Facility upgraded to facilitate contractors who are experiencing costly delays."

Members were informed that:-

“Responsibility for the operation of the plant at Bonagee is the responsibility of Irish Water. Following consideration of the motion, and subject to same being passed, the Council will bring the matter to the attention of Irish Water.”

C/355/15 THAT THIS COUNCIL DOUBLE ITS 2016 STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT FUND FROM ITS 2015 AMOUNT OF €740,000 TO A SUM OF €1,480,000.

The following Motion submitted by Cllr Shiels fell in the absence of a proposer and seconder:-

"That this Council will double its 2016 Strategic Development Fund from its 2015 amount of €740,000 to a sum of €1,480,000 with a view to substantially increasing and prioritising funding to local community groups working voluntarily for the betterment of

their own areas and the local facilities and resources available to them whether they be of a tourist, sporting or social nature or otherwise."

C/356/15 THIS COUNCIL TO REQUEST THAT AN TAOISEACH ENDA KENNY TO FORMALLY ASK THE US AMBASSADOR TO IRELAND TO INCLUDE IRELAND IN THE NEXT ROUND OF VISA WAIVERS.

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

"For this Council to request that An Taoiseach Enda Kenny to formally ask the US Ambassador to Ireland to include Ireland in the next round of visa waivers for our Undocumented Irish and that this Council contacts all other Councils to request same."

Members were informed that:-

"The issue of the undocumented Irish in the United States is one which has been of great importance to Donegal County Council over the years. Donegal County Council has engaged directly with representatives of the undocumented through the Donegal Diaspora Project at events such as the Golden Bridges. Every opportunity has been used to highlight this issue at all political levels and through all political and other relevant connections in the United States.

This issue was most recently highlighted at the meeting held on July 20th between Mr. Kevin O'Malley, Ambassador of the United States and the Cathaoirleach, Chief Executive and Director of Community, Culture & Development Planning."

Cllr Kennedy welcomed the fact that it had been agreed to receive a delegation from the "Families of the Undocumented Irish in the United States"

It was imperative, she said, that something was done to assist those families who lived in continual fear of deportation and who were unable to return home in times of crisis. A visa waiver was needed, she said, to help those who found themselves living with such trauma and emotional heartbreak.

Cllr Crossan seconding the motion advised of the need to maintain a profile in relation to all issues associated with the Irish Diaspora.

There was no opposition to the Motion .

Mr Michael Heaney, Director Community, Culture & Development Planning advised that every opportunity had been taken in conjunction with the Donegal Diaspora Project to highlight the plight of the undocumented at both a business and political level. The main constraint, he said, was the fact that the issue was a political matter in the USA and therein lay the holdup.

C/357/15 THIS COUNCIL REQUESTS THE DEPARTMENT OF MARINE AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO INSTALL AIDS TO NAVIGATE LIGHTS AT PORT ROCK INVER, BURTONPORT AND MULROY BAY.

On the proposal of Cllr Jordan and seconded by Cllr Quinn the following motion was adopted:-

"That this Council requests the Department of Marine and Natural Resources to install aids to navigation lights at Port Rock, Inver, Burtonport, and Mulroy Bay in the interest of safety for fishing boats."

Members were informed that:-

“Funding has been allocated this week that will enable these projects to progress this year. Statutory Sanction for the light at Port Inver and Burtonport is awaited from the Commissioner of Irish Lights however works can now proceed on the structures to support the lights.”

Cllr Jordan said that he was gravely concerned in relation to safety issues at these three locations and that it would take approximately €70,000 in total to install the lights in question. This, he said, was a small price to pay to save lives along these stretches of the coast.

Cllr Quinn said that the replacement of the lighting would be beneficial to all those using the waters in question and not just local fishermen.

Mr John Mc Laughlin, Director Roads & Transportation alluded to his reply and the fact that funding had now been received.

There was no opposition to the Motion.

Cllr Jordan thanked the Director of Service and Mr Cathal Sweeney, Marine Engineer for their assistance in the matter.

C/358/15

THIS COUNCIL CLEARLY OUTLINE HOW THE PROPERTY TAX FUND WORKS IN RELATION TO PUBLIC SERVICES AND THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT.

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

"That this Council clearly outlines how the Property Tax fund works in relation to public services and the LGF."

Members were informed that:-

The Legislation Underpinning Local Property Tax is Contained variously in the Finance (Local Property Tax) Act 2012 and the Finance (Local Property Tax) (Amendment) Act 2013.

Revenue has the responsibility for the collection of the Local Property Tax which is based upon the mid point valuation of a range of property values and calculated at 0.18% on valuation bands up to €1m and 0.25% on the value over €1m.

In respect of 2015, a Local Property Tax allocation of €22,720,760, including

Equalisation funding of €13,898,282, was made to Donegal County Council based upon estimations calculated by the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government and Revenue. This allocation is remitted to the Council on an instalment basis throughout the year and is a substantial contributor to the overall estimated income of €131,256,154 as per the adopted revenue budget for 2015.

The Local Property Tax has replaced the Local Government Fund as the primary block grant contribution from the Department of the Environment, Community & Local Government.

The Local Property Tax allocation, including equalisation amount, is allocated to expenditure areas which are not otherwise the subject of specific grant allocation and include, inter-alia contributions to expenditure areas such as:

- • Payroll & Staff Costs.
- • Pensions & Gratuities
- • Insurance, Loan & Financial Changes
- • Materials
- • Contracts requiring Matching Funding
- • Grants & Contributions.

The extent to which public services are provided is a function not only of the available Local Property Tax but also of other available income from sources including commercial rates, grants fees & changes and NPPR charges. As such the funding provided from the Local Property Tax can best be described as matching or contributing to the overall expenditure of the Council across a range of areas not otherwise funded and contributing some 17% of all estimated income for 2015 in respect of the Council's revenue budget"

Cllr Mc Gowan alluded to the fact that Donegal County Council was currently seeking submissions with regard to the percentage increase/ decrease in the Local Property Tax. The fact that this emanated from the Council, he said, gave the impression that monies generated were being collected by them. The public, he said, needed to know where the €13m income collected in Donegal was spent, as it was clear that it was not being used to provide any additional services. He called on the Director of Service to clearly outline the position.

Cllr Bonner said that if Donegal was to get all the services it needed then the LPT would need to be increased by more than 15%.

Mr Garry Martin, Head of Finance alluding to the reply said that the Council was statutorily obliged to initiate a public consultation process given that the Authority had the right to vary the Local Property Tax within its administrative area by up to 15%. The variance would then, he said be determined by Members at the September 2015 Council Meeting. The LPT, he added, accounted for 17% of Donegal County Council's income and contributed to areas which were not publically or fully funded.

Mr Martin noted that the County's income areas were limited and that funding from the LPT at best only matched or contributed to the overall expenditure of the Council.

There was no opposition to the Motion.

Cllr Mc Gowan concluded by saying that the public were still confused as to what the process was and the expectation out there was that monies collected in Donegal should be spent in the County.

C/359/15 THIS COUNCIL ESTABLISH TOURISM COMMITTEES IN EACH OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICTS.

On the proposal of Cllr G Doherty and seconded by Cllr. McMonagle the Motion was adopted:-

"That this Council establishes Tourism Committees in each of the Municipal Districts. These committees should include Sectoral Interests, Members and Officials to ensure that each District is maximising its tourism potential."

Members were informed that:-

“Donegal County Council working with its partner agencies with communities and with tourism providers places a very strong emphasis on tourism development and the marketing and promotion of County Donegal for tourism purposes. At present Donegal County Council operates through and engages with relevant stakeholders through a range of structures.

Tourism marketing and promotion is managed and co-ordinated by DCC through Donegal Tourism Limited. This is a collaborative platform which includes membership from Donegal County Council, Failte Ireland, Udaras na Gaeltachta, the Irish Hotels Federation, local tourism organisations and the tourism trade. The Donegal Tourism Sectoral Forum which is also managed by DCC involves all stakeholders, public, private and community and works to coordinate all aspects of tourism planning and development in the county.

There is also engagement on Tourism with all sectors through the Planning & Economic Development and the Community, Social & Cultural Strategic Policy Committees. At present there is a strong tourism focus and a range of tourism actions are being identified in all of the designated development hubs in the county. These hubs are Bundoran, Ballyshannon, Donegal Town, Ballybofey/Stranorlar, Buncrana, Carndonagh, Killybegs and Pairc Ghno Gaoth Dobhair.

As this is an important resource for the county, it can if Members wish, be a standing item at Municipal District meetings in order to update and advance all aspects of the sector. In this context, local tourism stakeholders can be engaged with as appropriate.”

Cllr Doherty expressed concern that there were no major tourism projects earmarked for progression in the Stranorlar Municipal District . He said, that he was of the opinion that the establishment of a Tourism Committee in each district would allow the areas concerned to promote and progress projects which were of value locally.

Cllr Mc Monagle said that dedicated focus groups were required given the variety of tourist attractions in Donegal and that these could play a vital role in identifying projects and dealing with potential problems at local level.

There was no opposition to the Motion.

Mr Michael Heaney, Director Community, Culture and Development Planning advised that the Council had agreed to establish Development Hubs in 2<sup>nd</sup> Tier Towns a feature which would assist the development of the tourism product locally. Each Municipal District, he said, would get an update in relation to the priorities in their area. He acknowledged the excellent work carried out by the Local Community Tourism Committees and the fact that there was ongoing engagement with these bodies.

With regard to this engagement, he confirmed that it would be possible to bring a report to the next MD Meetings in relation to the development concepts being proposed by these community groups.

Cllr Doherty again stressed the importance of developing Local Tourism Committees and said that there was merit in inviting the Community Groups concerned to address the Council.

C/360/15

THAT THIS COUNCIL SUPPORT THE ENDING OF THE DEGRADING PROCESS OF FULL BODY SEARCHES OF REPUBLICAN POLITICAL PRISONERS HELD WITHIN MAGHABERRY PRISON.

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

"Go dtacaíonn an Chomhairle seo le deireadh a chur le cuardach tairéach lánchoirp a dheanamh ar chimi polaitiúla poblachtanacha i Maigh gCabraí, agus go dtacaíonn an Chomhairle seo le Comhaontu Lunasa 2010 a chur i bhfeidhm ina iomláine, comhaontu ar cuspoir leis reimeas príosúin nua-aimseartha a chruthú ata ag teacht go huile is go hiomlan leis na caighdeáin is airde cearta daonna."

"That this Council supports the ending of the degrading process of full-body searches of republican political prisoners held within Maghaberry Prison and for the full implementation of the August 2010 Agreement designed to create a modern prison regime that is fully compliant with the highest human rights standards."

Cllr Mac Giolla Easbuig said that it was important that the Council supported the Motion.

Cllr Mc Monagle said that he had no difficulty with the Motion as the searches in question were nothing short of degrading. He was, he said, somewhat concerned that the wording of the Motion was being interpreted as selective and thus proposed that it be amended to include reference to "all political prisoners".

Cllr Mac Giolla Easbuig said that he wished to retain the reference to "republican prisoners".

Cllr O' Domhnaill said that he was in agreement with Cllr Mac Giolla Easbuig and it was thus agreed that the Motion be amended as follows:-

"Go dtacaíonn an Chomhairle seo le deireadh a chur le cuardach tairéach lánchoirp a dhéanamh ar chimí polaitiúla poblachtánacha i Maigh gCabraí, agus ar gach cime eile, agus go dtacaíonn an Chomhairle seo le Comhaontú Lúnasa 2010 a chur i bhfeidhm ina iomláine, comhaontú ar cuspoir leis réimeas príosúin nua-aimseartha a chruthú atá ag teacht go huile is go hiomlán leis na caighdeáin is airde cearta daonna"

"That this Council Supports the ending of the degrading process of full-body searches of republican political prisoners and all other prisoners held within Maghaberry Prison and for the full implementation of the August 2010 Agreement designed to create a

modern prison regime that is fully compliant with the highest human rights standards"

There was no opposition to the Motion.

C/361/15 CAN THIS COUNCIL DISCUSS THE DONEGAL FIRE SERVICE TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE EFFECTS WHICH IRISH WATER WILL HAVE ON THE PROVISION OF WATER FOR THE UNITS.

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

"Can this Council discuss the Donegal Fire Service taking into account the effects which Irish Water will have on the provision of water for the Units, Cross Border cover as well as best practice models which are in place across the nation."

Members were informed that:-

"The Fire Service under an existing arrangement currently pays a fixed water charge of €200 per fire station per year which includes for water used for training and for public protection. The protocols under which charges are to be paid to Irish Water have not changed at this juncture.

In 1965 Donegal County Council entered into an agreement with the Northern Ireland Fire Authority for the provision, by the Northern Ireland Fire Authority, of operational fire services in a defined part of County Donegal. Currently, that service is provided from fire stations situated in Derry City and in Strabane to an area of County Donegal in the vicinity of the border from North of Muff to North of Castlefinn and from Irvinestown to an area around Pettigo. This arrangement is considered an effective means of providing operational fire services to this area. The alternatives to availing of the services of the Northern Ireland Fire Authority are to either construct two new stations which would incur substantial initial and ongoing capital costs in addition to ongoing annual running costs. The ongoing annual running costs of the two stations would be a multiple of the monies currently paid to the Northern Ireland Fire Authority. The other option is to provide operational fire services from the existing fire stations in County Donegal. This would result in a reduced level of services and would have the potential consequences associated with a reduced

level of service.

The Fire Service model in use in County Donegal is known as the Retained model. That is a model where firefighters are paid a retainer to be available to respond to incidents and are also paid for responding to incidents and for training. This model is in use outside of the larger centres of population such as the cities of Dublin, Cork, Galway, Limerick, Galway and Waterford and the towns of Drogheda and Dundalk. Based on the 2011 census the smallest of these centres would have a population 93% larger than, for example, the population of Letterkenny.”

Cllr O’ Domhnaill said that he had concerns in relation to understaffing in the main Fire office in Letterkenny and in particular the lengthy delay in issuing Fire Certificates. He enquired as to whether an application had been made to the Department for additional staffing. This, he said would allow the service to generate extra revenue. He asked also if a copy of the recent audit carried out nationally in relation to the Fire Service was available and whether it would be distributed to Members for consideration.

He asked also for clarification in relation to the charges for water usage as utilised by the Fire Service and any arrangements regarding same that may have been included in the Service Level Agreement with Irish Water.

A number of other issues were raised including:-

- Whether the Fire Service had to inform Irish Water in relation to the number of Fires that they attended.
- Were service charges applicable to the volume of water used?
- What checks and balances existed in relation to the use of the Northern Ireland Fire Service and whether or not a Service Level Agreement was in place with the NI Authority?

Welcoming the fact that the service was now represented at SPC level, he cited the need for a workshop to address the above and other ongoing issues.

Cllr Canning seconding the Motion said that the employment of staff to deal with Fire Safety Certificates would be self paying in

the long-run. He alluded to the need to promote the work of the fire service particularly at primary and secondary school level.

Addressing the Meeting, the Director of Emergency Services, Mr Garry Martin said that there was a nominal charge to each Fire Station for water used, but that there were no plans in the near or mid-term to alter this arrangement. The public, he said, were not charged for the water used to fight a fire. It was noted that this had never been the case and that this position was unlikely to change. It was acknowledged that there was also a reliable waiver scheme in operation.

Alluding to the ongoing arrangements in place with the NI Fire Service, he confirmed, that there was a Standard Operating Procedure in place. It was acknowledged however that in some incidences a stronger presence than that required was in force, but that this was down to a different approach to health and safety, signage, lighting techniques etc. There was, he added, on going collaboration, something which benefitted the public on both sides of the border.

The Director of Service advised that he was not aware of any problem in relation to the issuing of fire certificates but could confirm that delays where they existed were due to the need for further information or other outstanding issues.

Staffing levels, he said, would continue to be monitored in the context of the national review. With regard to the national audit, he confirmed that the Council was not in a position at present to discuss the findings but that as soon as this changed and update would be provided.

There was no opposition to the Motion.

C/362/15 THIS COUNCIL CALL ON THE MINISTER FOR JUSTICE TO ENACT LEGISLATION TO STOP THE PRACTICE OF CHARGING OF LOCAL COMMUNITY GROUPS AND CHARITY ORGANISATIONS FOR POLICING SERVICES.

The following Motion submitted by Cllr Gallagher was proposed by Cllr Quinn, seconded by Cllr A Doherty and subsequently adopted:-

"That this Council calls on the Minister for Justice to immediately enact legislation to stop the practice of the charging of local community groups and charity organisations for policing services, and that this motion is circulated to all local authorities."

Members were informed that:-

"There is a strong community focus on festivals and events in all parts of Donegal. Donegal County Council works closely with and provides a range of supports in as far as possible to such community groups. The issue referred to in this motion has emerged as one which places a financial burden on community events who are not well resourced in the first place."

C/363/15 THAT THE COUNCIL REQUEST THE DEPARTMENT OF MARINE AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO REINTRODUCE SALMON LICENCES

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

"That Donegal County Council request the Department of Marine and Natural Resources to reintroduce Salmon Licences for those fishermen who did not avail of the "Buy Out" of same."

Members were informed that:-

"A request will be made to the Department of Marine and Natural Resources if the Council resolves to do same."

Cllr Bonner alluded to the effects that "Buy-Out" of the Licences had on both the Fishing and Tourist Industry. It was imperative, he said, that those who had opted out of the scheme were allowed to return and earn a living from this activity.

Cllr Mc Dermott seconding the Motion, said that stocks had built up considerably and that those who had not opted for the "Buy-Out" should be allowed to obtain new licences.

There was no opposition to the Motion.

Mr Michael Heaney, Director Community, Culture & Development Planning said that it would be possible to issue correspondence outlining same to the Department of the Marine & Natural

Resources.

Cllr Bonner asked that the motion be circulated to the following Local Authorities:-

Waterford, Kerry, Clare, Galway & Mayo

C/364/15 CATHAOIRLEACH'S BUSINESS

*Votes of Sympathy*

- Caitriona Mc Elhinney, Finance, Carndonagh on the death of her father, Mickey Mc Elhinney.

*Workshops*

Members agreed to the holding of the following Workshops:-

- Finance Workshop – Local Property Tax & Budget 2016 to be held Monday 21<sup>st</sup> September in the County House, Lifford at 2pm.
- Workshop on Development Contribution Scheme and Casual Trading Bye-laws to be held Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> September, 2015 in the County House, Lifford at 10.00am.
- Workshop on Planning Control Function to be held on Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> September, 2015 in the County House, Lifford at 11.00am.

C/365/15 CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT

Members noted the report circulated with the agenda and addendum issued during the Meeting. Updates were provided in relation to the following:-

- Cockhill Bridge – Approval for funding for new bridge
- Presence of Muscovite Mica in Council Housing Stock
- Annual Financial Statement 2014, Audit Report 2014
- Wifi Services in Council Buildings
- LEADER/Rural Development Programme 2015 – 2020
- Tip O'Neill Irish Diaspora Award 2015
- Donegal Diaspora Entrepreneurship Visit
- Donegal Tourism Map

- Walks/Trails Development - Donegal
- Bunagee Pontoon Project/Sail West
- Malin Head Phase I Launch
- Fanad Head Lighthouse Development (Phase I/Phase II)
- Greencastle Pontoon Facility
- Sail West Project
- Cool Route Project
- Maritime History and Heritage Identified as Potential Theme
- for Atlantic Area Project
- NEA 3 Update for EU Bulletin
- Rathmullan Beach Playground Opening
- Buncrana Outdoor Gym
- LADDER Project Visit
- EU Unit Update
- Five Donegal nominees for IPB Pride of Place Competition
- Donegal Promotional DVD
- Donegal Prospectus
- The Bell and Shrine of St. Conall Cael
- Meeting with the American Ambassador
- Donegal Craft Village
- Blue Flag and Green Coast Awards 2015
- Lifeguards and Beach Infrastructure
- 2015 Non-National Road Grant Allocations
- Social Housing Strategy 2015–2020 –
- Press Release by DECLG on Allocations made on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> July, 2015.
- Wainfest – Arts and Book Festival for Children
- Read Your Mind Project in Donegal Libraries
- Ireland 2016 – Update July 2015
- Wild Atlantic Way Signage

*Resignation of Mr Michael Heaney, Director Community, Culture & Planning Development.*

Members paid tribute to Mr Michael Heaney, Director Community, Culture and Development Planning wishing him well in his new position as Director of Enterprise, Employment and Property with Údarás na Gaeltachta. It was acknowledged that he had been instrumental over the years in obtaining and securing funding for wide range of projects throughout the County. Reference was made also to the fact that he was leaving behind one of the most progressive and successful Community & Enterprise Sections in the Country.

Mr Heaney, they said, was a fine example of a public servant who had shown considerable commitment and loyalty to this County, and that it was a severe blow to lose an official of his calibre.

The Chief Executive also expressed his appreciation and extended congratulations on behalf of the Senior Management team and the staff of Donegal County Council. He had, he said, a real awareness of the value of cultural activities and in his years with the Council had strived continually to improve the economic and development status of the Council.

Mr Heaney responding thanked all concerned for their comments and kind words, and acknowledged the courteous manner in which he had been treated over the years. He thanked the Chief Executive, and Member of the Senior Management Team for their help and assistance over the years. Concluding, he paid particular tribute to the Community, Enterprise and Development Planning Section which, he said, was leaving in very capable hands.

**The following questions were noted**

C/366/15 NUMBER OF DWELLINGS THAT HAVE BEEN DEMOLISHED IN THE LAST FIVE YEARS THAT DIDN'T HAVE THE BENEFIT OF PLANNING PERMISSION

The following question was submitted by Cllr. Canning:-

“How many dwellings has been demolished in the last 5 years that didn't have the benefit of Planning Permission?”

Cllr Canning was informed that:-

“There have been no such cases in the last 5 years where the end result was demolition of a dwelling. It is not possible to be

definitive in relation to the actual number of cases where demolition has formed the basis of an enforcement action but it is appropriate to point out that where such cases have been closed negotiated remedies have been arrived at that avoided demolition.”

C/367/15 IS THIS COUNCIL AWARE OF ANY GRANTS DRAWN DOWN BY INDIVIDUALS THAT HAVE HAD THEIR SEPTIC TANK ETC TURNED DOWN

The following question was submitted by Cllr. Canning:-

"Is this Council aware of any grants drawn down by individuals that have had their septic tank etc turned down by the Environment Section?"

Cllr. Canning was informed that:-

“The Council has carried out approximately 170 septic tank inspections, under the EPA's National Inspection Plan, since its introduction in July 2013. Septic tanks/treatment systems which do not meet the requirements, (approx. 30%) were issued with an Advisory Notice, listing the remedial actions required to achieve compliance. A grant scheme is available to assist owners of premises connected to domestic waste water treatment systems with the cost of repairs, where the works arise directly from an inspection. The level of grant available is determined on the basis of gross household income and is either 80% or 50% of the approved cost of the works subject to a maximum of €4,000. Maintenance issues are not covered and the septic tank must have been registered at or prior to the 1st February 2013 to be eligible to apply for a grant. To date 6 grant applications have been approved and processed.”

C/368/15 WHAT ASSISTANCE IS AVAILABLE FOR PRIMARY SCHOOLS TO SET UP A LIBRARY

The following question was submitted by Cllr McDermott:-

"To ask the council what assistance is available for Primary Schools trying to set up a library within their own school?"

Cllr McDermott was informed that:-

“Each library has strong relationships with schools in their locality and this relationship is welcomed by schools.

Local authority library staff regularly provide advice to teachers and/or principals. For example, in Inishowen, local public library staff have provided support in the setting up of libraries in Scoil Iosagain, Buncrana, Scoil Eoghain, Merville, Scoil Cholmcille, Glengad, and Scoil Naomh Fionáin, Whitecastle. Staff visited the schools to meet the responsible teachers & pupils to advise on how to organize the books, how to record loans, sourcing books/book suppliers, and so on. Information on services available to schools in the public library and online was also provided.

Local public libraries provide a variety of other supports to local primary schools, eg. teachers may borrow block loans for extended periods for their classes and/or may bring their pupils to the local public library for tours and/or for events (both during Wainfest and all year round), for research eg on local history, and/or for borrowing reading material. Online resources such as reference encyclopaedias, specialist dictionaries, newspapers worldwide etc are also available. Teachers and library staff work together on a variety of programmes that support literacy development, eg. Battle of the Books in Inishowen, bitesize books across the county). There is no cost to the school for any of these services. Funding is provided by the Department of Education direct to schools from which the purchase of library books can be funded (up to 2008, the Department provided a per capita grant to local authorities to purchase books to support primary school services, since 2008 this grant scheme was suspended). The School Library Association in the Republic of Ireland (SLARI) offers support and information to all those involved in primary and post-primary school libraries [www.slari.ie](http://www.slari.ie) . There are also a number of publications available to support teachers and schools in setting up school libraries, the details of which can be found on the [www.askaboutireland.ie](http://www.askaboutireland.ie) website.”

C/369/15 BREAKDOWN OF MONIES SPENT ON PIERS AROUND DONEGAL

The following question was submitted by Cllr McDermott:-

"To ask the Council for a breakdown of monies spent on piers around Donegal in the last year?"

Cllr McDermott was informed that:-

“Donegal Co. Council have a budget of €900k to spend on Harbour and Pier Maintenance throughout the year. As well as the cost of

general maintenance of infrastructure this figure also covers the cost some drainage works, maintenance dredging, waste disposal, mooring buoys, defouling slipways, water & ESB, maintenance of cranes, marine service support costs, foreshore leases and administration. The cost of maintaining navigation lights and radio navigational warnings is also included here.

Last year the Council were successful in securing additional funding for storm damage and harbour development projects however this year out of 23 applications made for piers requiring capital works between the value of €10,000 and €150,000 only 3 were successful.

The revenue budget that the council have each year is for maintenance only and any significant works carried out to piers for example repairs carried out to access road at Leenan this year and the extension of the slipway at Glengad last year impact significantly on resources.”

C/370/15 UPDATE OF THE MOTION FROM CLLR MCGUINNESS ON ROAD TAKEOVER

The following question was submitted by Cllr McGuinness:-

"What is the position in relation to my Motion on Road Takeover as submitted to the September 2014 Council Meeting and the recommendation that a report in relation to same would be brought back to full Council for discussion when considered by the Roads and Transportation SPC?"

Cllr McGuinness was informed that:-

“The proposed Policy on the Take-Over of Roads is still being considered by the Roads and Transportation SPC. The latest draft of the policy is to be considered by the SPC at it's next meeting on 15th October next. Much of the issues around the take-over of roads have now been considered by the members of the SPC and it is anticipated that a policy will be completed shortly for consideration by the full Council.”

C/371/15 REGISTRATION OF ELECTORS

The following question was submitted by Cllr A Doherty:-

"Will the Council follow up on reply received from Garda re Registration of Electors which to date can only be regarded as a receipt of motion passed and no indication of action(s) proposed."

Cllr Doherty was informed that:-

“Arrangements will be made to make further contact with the Gardaí in this matter seeking a response to the motion recently passed by Donegal County Council in this matter.”

C/372/15 CAN THE COUNCIL CONFIRM IT HAS ANY SPARE OFFICE SPACE IN ANY OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE BUILDINGS

The following question was submitted by Cllr Shiels:-

“Can the Council confirm with specific reference to regard to each of its public services buildings if it has spare office space at each building and if so if it is willing to make same available for use by local voluntary community and charity groups at a nominal cost rather than such public office space going to waste?”

Cllr Shiels was informed that:-

“In recent years, the Council has been proactive in identifying available office space in our Public Services Centres and engaging with various external agencies to lease office accommodation to them, with a view to advancing the Intergrated Service Delivery agenda and also in assisting the Council with the ongoing costs of maintaining our Public Services Centres.

As a consequence, taking into account leasing arrangements already entered into and arrangements currently being explored, it is envisaged that the Public Services Centres in Letterkenny, Dungloe, Donegal Town, Carndonagh and Milford will be fully occupied by the Council and various external agencies within the coming months.”

C/373/15 BREAKDOWN OF ALL COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH REPRESENTATIONS AT THE SAINT PATRICK’S DAY CELEBRATIONS

The following question was submitted by Cllr. Quinn:-

"Please provide a complete breakdown of all costs to the Council associated with our representation at the St. Patrick Day celebrations in America in March of this year. The breakdown should include costs of travel expenses for all officials and elected members (inside and outside the country), subsistence costs, airline

costs, accommodation costs and any other associated costs?"

Cllr Quinn was informed that:-

"The attached table (Vide Appendix 4) provides the breakdown of the costs to Donegal County Council with regard to our representation at the St. Patrick Day celebrations in America in March 2015."

C/374/15 SUMMARY OF THE ALLOCATION AND SPEND ON GRANTS FOR HOUSING ADAPTION AND MOBILITY AIDS FOR PEOPLE WITH A DISABILITY FOR 2012, 2013, 2014, AND 2015

The following question was submitted by Cllr Kavanagh:-

"Can the Council provide a summary of the allocation and spend on grants for housing adaption for people with a disability for 2012, 2013, 2014 and 2015 to date, and provide the same information for mobility aids grants for the same period?"

Cllr Kavanagh was informed that:-

"Please find attached the information as requested (Vide Appendix 5). The number of grants in each category is also included. We have also included the figures for the Housing Aid for Older People grants as the overall Allocation is for all grants and is not broken down into grant type."

C/375/15 CAN THIS COUNCIL GIVE A FULL AND DETAILED BREAKDOWN OF THE HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT CHARGES OF €400,000

The following question was submitted by Cllr. Shiels:-

"Can the Council provide a full and detailed breakdown of where the 'historical development charges' of €400,000 (recently r

The following question was submitted by Cllr. Shiels:-

" "Can the Council provide a full and detailed breakdown of where the 'historical development charges' of €400,000 (recently released to carry out additional road works in each municipal area) were actually collected by reference to the various roads areas within each municipal area?"

Cllr Shiels was informed that:-

“Historical Development Contributions in the sum of €440,000 have been set aside for roads infrastructure works to be carried out in 2015, with this funding allocated equally between each of the Municipal Districts. It is not possible to identify the collection of these monies on a Municipal District basis using the collection systems in place and those that existed when these charges were mainly being collected. Historical Development Charges arise from permissions granted prior to the introduction of the 2004 Development Contribution Scheme. Only cash collected (as opposed to invoices issued) is recognised as valid income being available for allocation to services.”

C/376/15 WILL THE COUNCIL APPROACH ALL SECTIONS INVOLVED IN ALL FISHING TO AGREE A COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN TO MAXIMISE OUR FISHING RESOURCES

The following question was submitted by Cllr. McGarvey:-

"Will Donegal County Council approach all sections involved in all fishing to agree a County Development Plan working together to maximise our fishing resources?"

Cllr McGarvey was informed that:-

“The Fishing resources is an important natural resource with economic and community benefits for County Donegal. This will be reflected in our LECP. A meeting of stakeholders can be organised in this context to agree the best way forward for this resource.”

C/377/15 TO ASK ALL SERVICE PROVIDERS IN DONEGAL TGO IMPROVE OUR COMMUNICATIONS SERVICES MAINLY IN MOBILE PHONE AND BROADBAND

The following question was submitted by Cllr McGarvey:-

"Can we ask all service providers in Donegal to improve our Communication services, mainly in Mobile Phone and Broadband because many areas have no cover at present?"

Cllr McGarvey was informed that:-

“The Information Systems Department maintains regular contact with the main Telecommunications Operators in the County in relation to their plans and to highlight situations where services can be improved.

Members will recall the presentation given by the Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources at the March Council”.

C/378/15 CAN THE COUNCIL ORGANISE A WORKSHOP IN REALTION TO GRAVEYARDS

The following question was submitted by Cllr McBride:-

"Can Donegal County Council organise a workshop to discuss the whole issue of graveyards/ownership/repairs and a plan to keep all historic graveyards open?"

Cllr McBride was informed that:-

“The Council’s budget provides €40,000 county wide for burial grounds under Environmental Services. This budget covers grass cutting and minor tidy up work in graveyards in the care of the Council that graveyard caretakers did in the past and which is being carried out by MD Roads in cases where caretakers have retired. Structures within these graveyards tend to be of cultural and/or archaeological importance and many are protected under statute. Repairing such structures is highly specialised work and the budget is not sufficient for this. Also the Council's roads staff have no expertise in either planning or carrying out such works. A discussion on how the Council might deal with these issues in future would be useful.”

C/379/15 COUNCIL POLICY ON CHARGES FOR ADVERTISING ROAD CLOSURES ON BEHALF OF COMMUNITY AND CHARTIABLE ORGANISATIONS

The following question was submitted by Cllr McMonagle:-

"Is it the policy of Donegal County Council to charge Community and Charitable organisation for the cost of advertising road closures in local papers related to their events and if so how much has been collected by Council and from which organisations over the years 2012 2013 2014 and 2015?"

Cllr McMonagle was informed that:-

“The temporary closure of a public road is a statutory function of the Council. The statutory process for this is set out in the Roads Act and involves a number of steps that must be carried out in order that the road closure is legal. This process is administered by the Council's roads section. One of the road closure requirements is for a notice to be placed in a newspaper circulating in the area. This advertisement is placed by the Council and the cost of the advertisement is recouped from the applicant. The Council does not charge any administration costs to applicants. All applicants are liable for the advertising costs and no distinction is made regarding the type of the applicant. Details of the costs involved for the four years requested are attached (Vide Appendix 6).”

C/380/15 ACQUISITION OF NEW FIRE TENDER

The following question was submitted by Cllr Kavanagh:-

Has Donegal Fire Service taken delivery of a new fire engine, and can this be used to replace the most antiquated fire engine in the County?"

Cllr Kavanagh was informed that:-

“Donegal County Council was one of a number of local authorities given approval to purchase Class B Fire Appliances earlier this year. A number of local authorities have been designated as lead authorities to progress the procurement process. Donegal is included in the group which has Roscommon County Council as the lead authority. It is not envisaged that delivery of the Donegal appliance will be effected until the latter part of 2016. This will however be influenced by a number of factors such as the production capacity of the successful tenderer and the number of tenders won.

The appliance delivered to Donegal Fire Service at that time will be allocated having regard to the operational needs of the Service.”

C/381/15 PROVISION OF FUNDING FOR THE REPAIR AND UPKEEP OF COUNCIL OWNED HOUSING STOCK

The following question was submitted by Cllr McEniff:-

"Why is there no monies set aside to repair windows and doors for existing council tenants who are paying their rent.

As a Landlord the County Council is responsible for the upkeep of their rented properties but when the tenant asks for something to be repaired they are told that there is no money to do so.

Cllr McEniff was informed that:-

“Works such as servicing of windows and doors are funded out of the revenue maintenance budgets while replacement is carried out under refurbishment programmes and have specific monies provided towards such programmes by the Department. The current programme prioritises a 'comfortable living' base as being the minimum baseline standard which must be achieved in all housing stock. Therefore Phase 1 of this programme is concentrated on insulation works. When all stock has been retrofitted to this baseline standard the Department has indicated that replacement of windows and doors will form part of phase two.

In the meantime any necessary works to service windows and doors will continue out of day to day maintenance budgets.”

C/382/15 REQUEST TO THE HSE TO PROVIDE A BREAKDOWN OF HSE OWNED AND RENTED PROPERTIES IN DONEGAL

The following question was submitted by Cllr Kennedy:-

"Will this Council contact the HSE and request that they provide this Council with the list of all property in Donegal owned by them and leased to them, the name, size, purpose, owner and rent payable to the owner of the properties?"

Cllr Kennedy was informed that:-

“Arrangements can be made to contact the HSE in this regard but it should be noted that the HSE would not be obliged to provide Donegal County Council with this information.

It is suggested that it may be more appropriate for this request to be channelled through the Council's representatives on the HSE Regional Forum.”

C/383/15 UPDATE ON STAFF CHANGES AND REORGANISATION

The following question was submitted by Cllr Campbell:-

"Due to the high volume of staff changes and reorganisation within directorates over recent times. Can this Council provide members with a graphical representation of the present management structure of the organisation both centrally and for each MD, indicating the incumbent officer and primary responsibilities of that individual?"

Cllr Campbell was informed that:-

"It is acknowledged that there has been significant staffing changes in the organisation over recent times, arising from the retirement of key staff both at Municipal District and Central Services levels. Arrangements have been made for the interim filling of many of these posts pending the conclusion of the Workforce Planning discussions with the Department of the Environment, Community & Local Government.

It is now confirmed that the discussions with the DECLG on the Council's Workforce Plan are at a very advanced stage and the Council anticipate that, pending a successful conclusion to these discussions, we will be in a position to make arrangements for the permanent filling of many of these posts.

Pending the conclusion of this process, arrangements will be made to circulate to all members a graphical presentation of the management structures in the organisation and the current interim assignments to each of these roles."

C/384/15 BREAKDOWN OF PLANNING STATISTICS FOR THE PERIOD COVERED BY THE PRESENT DEVELOPMENT PLAN

The following question was submitted by Cllr Campbell:-

"Please provide in tabular form the following planning statistics broken down by: 1)Settlement Hierarchy Tier; 2)Year, for the period covered by the present County Development Plan:

- a) Number of housing units for which permission was granted
- b) Number of housing units for which a commencement notice was submitted?"

Cllr Campbell was informed that:-

“The information requested will be prepared and circulated to members as soon as possible.”

C/385/15

TIMEFRAME FOR THE COMPLETION OF THE TIER 2 LOCAL AREA PLANS AND THE STATUTORY REVIEW OF THE COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN

The following question was submitted by Cllr Campbell:-

"Can this Council provide an indicative timeline for the completion of

- a) the tier 2 local area plans
- b) the statutory review of the CDP?"

Cllr Campbell was informed that:-

“a) the tier 2 local area plans

Members will have received formal confirmation that a preliminary consultation exercise to inform the preparation of a draft Local Area Plan has commenced in respect of the following Towns/settlements in County Donegal:

- Ballybofey- Stranorlar,
- Ballyshannon,
- Bridgend,
- Carndonagh,
- Donegal Town,
- Dungloe and
- Killybegs

This preliminary consultation exercise commenced on the 16th July 2015 and extends to 11th September 2015 inclusive, during which time written submissions or observations can be made to the Central Planning Office, County House, Lifford. A series of Information Booklets to inform the consultation process is available on the Council’s website, in the Public Libraries and at the Public Service Centres, consisting of (i) A general Information Booklet and (ii) 7 other booklets - one per town.

This preliminary consultation exercise will help inform the draft plan, which will be worked through with Members at Municipal

District level in respect of the individual towns and collectively through the Economic, Enterprise and Planning Policy SPC before being presented to the Council in draft format. The Local Area Plan will necessitate a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and an Appropriate Assessment (AA) to be undertaken in respect of it and the associated documents shall be placed on public display with the draft Local Area Plan once the Council's Members agree to it being published. Subsequently, a report on submissions received shall be prepared by the Chief Executive for consideration by Members of Council. The anticipated timeline for completion of this stage would be Q2 2016.

b) The statutory review of the CDP

The Statutory review of the County Donegal Development Plan 2012-2018 (as varied) is due to commence in June 2016. In advance of the statutory review it will also be necessary to undertake preliminary work in respect of Strategic Environmental Assessment and an Appropriate Assessment. It is anticipated that this preliminary work will commence in Q1 2016, the formal statutory review process will commence in June 2016 and the plan making cycle timeline is circa 2 years from commencement of the formal process."

C/386/15 STEPS ON TAKING ON OUTDOOR STAFF BY THE COUNCIL

The following question was submitted by Cllr McGowan:-

"What steps are the Council taking to take on outdoor staff and what is the policy for ensuring local people are priorities?"

Cllr McGowan was informed that:-

"Please find attached, a detailed breakdown of staff in Donegal County Council by location and grade. Further analysis of staffing numbers can be provided if required."

C/387/15 BREAKDOWN OF STAFFING THROUGHOUT THE COUNTY, THEIR POSITIONS AND BASE LOCATIONS

The following question was submitted by Cllr McGowan:-

"Please can I have a detailed breakdown of staffing throughout the County, their positions and the locations they are based?"

Cllr McGowan was informed that:-

“Please find attached, a detailed breakdown of staff in Donegal County Council by location and grade (Vide Appendix 7). Further analysis of staffing numbers can be provided if required.”

C/388/15 BREAKDOWN OF COUNCIL SPENDING ON TOURISM IN 2014 AND THE PROJECTS FUNDED

The following question was submitted by Cllr Gary Doherty:-

"Can I have a breakdown of the Council's Tourism spending in 2014 and the projects funded?"

Cllr Gary Doherty was informed that:-

“Donegal County Council recognises tourism as a key resource for the County. During 2014, tourism product development remained a priority with significant capital investment in a number of the flagship projects dotted along the Wild Atlantic Way namely Sliabh Liag, Malin Head and Inch Levels. Festivals and Events have also proven to be key products for tourism in County Donegal with Donegal adopting a strategy of fostering “indigenous” festivals and also of attracting “external” events to the county for the immediate and longer term benefits they can bring. Such external events have included e.g. Fleadh Ceol na hEireann, Oreamhas na Gaeilge and the Pan Celtic. Indigenous festivals include key festivals led out on by the local authority e.g. The Earagail Arts Festival and the Donegal Bay and Bluestacks Festival. They are spread across the whole county and are important in branding the county and in attracting tourists (from within as well as outside the county). The Council also supported a wide range of smaller community led festivals which are of value in attracting people to different parts of the county. Both the Donegal Film Office and the Donegal Diaspora project received financial support during 2014.

Donegal Tourism Ltd, a collaborative platform led by Donegal County Council and involving public, private and community sectors lead out on a number of promotional and marketing campaigns during the year. The govisitdonegal website continued to increase in profile along with the Donegal Gathering website

and various promotional activities delivered by Donegal Tourism Ltd heavily concentrated on the Irish and UK markets.

Donegal County Council recognises the significant importance tourism has to our local economy and will continue to further develop and promote our tourism offerings to ensure visitors to our County gain worthwhile experiences.”

C/389/15 NUMBER OF KITCHEN UNITS REPLACED IN COUNCIL HOUSING STOCK SINCE 2012

The following question was submitted by Cllr Gary Doherty:-

"How many kitchen units have been replaced in Council Housing Stock since 2012?"

Cllr Doherty was informed that:-

“The Council has replaced in excess of 60 kitchens in its Housing Stock in the period from 2012 to date. In addition, the Council has carried out partial replacement / improvement of many more kitchen units over the same period. A significant number of the replacement kitchens have been installed in our vacant houses prior to reletting.”

C/390/15 CLARIFICATION ON INTENDED LANDS TO BE PURCHASED FOR SOCIAL HOUSING AND THE NUMBERS PER TOWN IN EACH MUNICIPAL DISTRICT ON THE SOCIAL HOUSING WAITING LIST

The following question was submitted by Cllr O’Domhnaill:-

“Can this Council advise where it is intended that lands will be purchased across the County to provide social housing for the vast amount of people who are currently on Housing Lists and can I be provided with a breakdown of numbers who are on the waiting lists in Towns across the County broken down by Municipal District?"

Cllr O’Domhnaill was informed that:-

“As part of the implementation of the Social Housing Strategy 2015-2020, the Council is looking at a number of options in terms of meeting the targets provided by the Department of the Environment, Community & Local Government and projects which will be approved / funded by them. These options include:

1. New build / construction
2. Acquisitions
3. Returning vacant houses to productive use
4. Projects under the Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS) in co-operation with Approved Housing Bodies.

In terms of the New Build / Construction option, it has been the Council's approach to first of all examine our existing landbank and sites where Part VIII Planning approval is already in place in order to expedite the delivery of units under this option. In this regard, Stage 1 approval has been received from the DECLG for projects in Ardara (8 Units), Donegal Town (24 Units) and Newtowncunningham (6 units). The Council has submitted further project appraisals to the DECLG for consideration and is hopeful that further approvals will be forthcoming. These include proposals in Carndonagh (4), Manorcunningham (8), Letterkenny (28) and Dunfanaghy (6) on existing landbanks. Project appraisal of a CAS scheme of 10 units at Donegal Town has also been approved by the department. It is understood from a recent Press Release by Minister Alan Kelly and Minister of State, Paudie Coffey that formal approval is forthcoming with respect to Carndonagh and Dunfanaghy and a further approval for additional units under the CAS scheme.

From the work done to date, it is evident that sufficient land bank may not be available to meet the need in some locations, particularly Letterkenny, and the Council is likely to seek to acquire further land bank in the near future in this area.

In terms of the numbers on our Waiting List by town by Municipal District, please find attached table which provides this detail (Vide Appendix 8)."

C/391/15 CLARIFICATION ON THE INDIVIDUALS RESPONSIBLE TO DEVELOP PROPOSALS FROM MD AREA LEVEL

The following question was submitted by Cllr Gallagher:-

"Who is responsible to develop proposals made at MD area level?"

Cllr Gallagher was informed that:-

“It is the responsibility of the relevant Directorate to develop on proposals made at Municipal District level, subject to the necessary budget provision and approvals being in place.

It is now the practice that each of the core Council service areas are represented at Municipal District meetings including:

Roads & Transportation  
Housing Services  
Corporate Services  
Planning Control function  
Environmental Services  
Community & Enterprise

Proposals emerging in the above service areas would fall under the responsibility of the relevant Directorate. Follow ups to matters raised at MD meetings is co-ordinated through the Area Manager Housing & Corporate Services.”

C/392/15

APPRAISAL OF NEW COUNCIL STRUCTURE

The following question was submitted by Cllr Gallagher:-

"Will a review be undertaken to appraise the progress of the new structures within the Council in conjunction with Elected Members?"

Cllr Gallagher was informed that:-

“The Local Government Reform Act 2014 introduced a number of very significant changes to the structures of Local Government in Ireland, which included the abolition of Town Councils and provided for the establishment of Municipal District arrangements.

It is understood that arrangements are underway at Departmental level to carry out a review of the arrangements provided for in the LG Reform Act 2014 and it is understood that this review is ongoing.

In terms of local implementation of the Local Government reforms, the new Municipal District arrangements are in place for approximately 12 months at this stage. The Council is happy to review any aspect of the new arrangements with Elected Members

should concerns exist at to their effectiveness, subject to this overall context as set out.”

C/393/15 USE OF NATIONAL SCHOOLS FOR POLLING BOOTHS BY DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

The following question was submitted by Cllr MacGiolla Easbuig:-

"Lena fhiafraí de Chomhairle Contae Dhún na nGall cad chuige a leanann siad orthu ag úsáid scoileanna náisiúnta mar ionaid vótála le linn toghcháin áitiúla, ós rud é go gcuireann sé isteach go mór ar thuismitheoirí a chaithfidh socruithe a dhéanamh fá choinne lá saoire scoile dá bpáistí nach raibh súil leis, agus cad é an costas atá ar an Chomhairle as seomraí ranga a fháil ar cíos don lá"

To ask why Donegal County Council continue to use national schools for polling booths during local elections, given the amount of disruption it causes to parents having an unscheduled day off from school for their children and how much does it cost the council to hire classrooms for the day?"

Cllr Mac Giolla Easbuig was informed that:-

“Is faoi fhreagracht an Cheann Comhairimh Áitiúil sa Chontae atá sé na socruithe a dhéanamh i dtaca le hionaid a roghnú mar Ionaid Vótála ar lá toghcháin nó ar lá reifrinn. Is iondúil gurb é/í an Cláraitheoir Contae i dTeach na Cúirte i Leitir Ceanainn a dhéanann seo, agus ní bhíonn ról ag Comhairle Contae Dhún na nGall sna socruithe seo. Is féidir leis an Chomhairle an méid atá ina ábhar inní agat a chur in iúl don Chláraitheoir Contae.

The arrangements for the appointment of places to act as Polling Booths on the day of an Election or Referendum falls under the responsibility of the Local Returning Officer in the County. This person is normally the County Registrar based in the Courthouse in Letterkenny and Donegal County Council does not have a role in such arrangements. The Council can make arrangements to bring your concerns to the attention of the County Registrar.”

C/394/15 OUTLINE OF THE POLICY ADOPTED BY THE PLANNING SECTION REGARDING REQUESTED SITE VISITS BY ELECTED MEMBERS

The following question was submitted by Cllr O’Domhnaill:-

"Can this Council outline the policy which is being adopted by the Planning Section in relation to requested site visits by Elected Members?"

Cllr O'Domhnaill was informed that:-

"The position of the Planning Control section is to facilitate requests for meetings with Members. It is acknowledged that some meetings have been difficult to facilitate because of time restrictions and the availability of staff and as a result it has been problematic to make suitable arrangements and continue to consistently meet the statutory obligations associated with formal cases.

However, it remains the position that staff may be contacted directly by Members via the list of contact phone numbers and emails previously circulated with a view to setting up site meeting as appropriate."

C/395/15

SERVICE PROVISION BY DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL  
PROVIDED FROM THE LOCAL PROPERTY TAX FUNDING  
RECEIVED FROM THE DEPARTMENT

The following question was submitted by Cllr Bonner:-

"What services do Donegal County Council provide from the Local Property Tax Funding received from the Department?"

Cllr Bonner was informed that:-

"The legislation underpinning Local Property Tax is contained variously in the Finance (Local Property Tax) Act 2012 and the Finance (Local Property Tax) (Amendment) Act 2013.

Revenue has the responsibility for the collection of the Local Property Tax which is based upon the mid point valuation of a range of property values and calculated at 0.18% on valuation bands up to €1m and 0.25% on the value over €1m.

In respect of 2015, a Local Property Tax allocation of €22,720,760, including equalisation funding of €13,898,282, was made to Donegal County Council based upon estimations calculated by the Department of the Environment, Community and Local

Government and Revenue. This allocation is remitted to the Council on an instalment basis throughout the year and is a substantial contributor to the overall estimated income of €131,256,154 as per the adopted revenue budget for 2015.

The Local Property Tax has replaced the Local Government Fund as the primary block grant contribution from the Department of the Environment, Community & Local Government.

The Local Property Tax allocation, including equalisation amount is allocated to expenditure areas which are not otherwise the subject of specific grant allocation and include, inter-alia, contributions to expenditure areas such as;

- Payroll & staff costs
- Pensions & gratuities
- Insurance, loan & financial charges
- Materials
- Contracts requiring matching funding
- Grants & contributions

The extent to which public services are provided is a function not only of the available Local Property Tax but also of other available income from sources including commercial rates, grants, fees & charges and NPPR charges. As such, the funding provided from the Local Property Tax can best be described as matching or contributing to the overall expenditure of the Council across a range of areas not otherwise funded and contributing some 17% of all estimated income for 2015 in respect of the Councils revenue budget.”

C/396/15 COUNCIL INTENTIONS REGARDING SUBMITTING AN APPLICATION UNDER THE OPW’S MINOR FLOOD MITIGATION WORKS AND COASTAL PROTECTION SCHEME THIS YEAR

The following question was submitted by Cllr Mac Giolla Easbuig:-

" An bhfuil sé de rún ag Comhairle Contae Dhún na nGall iarratas a dhéanamh i mbliana faoi Scéim Mionoibreacha um Maolú Tuilte agus Cosaint an Chósta de chuid na hOifige um Oibreacha Poiblí?"

"Does Donegal County Council intend submitting an application under the OPWs, Minor Flood Mitigation Works and Coastal Protection Scheme this year?"

Cllr Mac Giolla Easbuig:-

"The two areas where applications are currently being considered this year for Coastal Protection works are at Maghery Beach and Ballyliffin beach."

C/397/15

#### MOTIONS FROM OTHER COUNCILS/BODIES

The following motions from other Councils were noted:-

##### KERRY COUNTY COUNCIL

"That Kerry County Council write to all Local Authorities and the Minister for Environment in relation to the levying of rates on private childcare providers. There are 126 childcare providers in Kerry but just 20 are paying rates and this is unfair and puts them at a disadvantage. Members asked that private childcare providers would not be levied with rates."

##### SOUTH DUBLIN COUNTY COUNCIL

"That council will write to the Minister for Environment Alan Kelly stating that a bin waiver should be introduced for people with health issues. Over 20000 people in Ireland suffer from bowel disease and are fitted with a stoma. These people have to use their bin to dispose of these colostomy bag through no fault of their own, and with pay by weight being introduced this will be a big cost to them. There is also many other conditions that people have medical waste that has to be put in the bin."

##### FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

"Go dtacaionn an Comhairle seo le deireadh a bheith curtha leis an maolu ar stadas na Gaeilge san Eoraip agus go scribhfaidh an Comhairle chuig an Rialtas ag eileamh orthu scriobh chuig Comhairle na nAiri chun iarraidh orthu ligint don mhaolu ar stadas na Gaeilge san AE dul in ea gag deireadh 2016.

That this Council supports the ending of the derogation on the status of the Irish Language in the European Union and that this Council will write to the Government and call on them to write to the Council of Ministers requesting that the derogation on the status of Irish in the EU be allowed lapse at the end of 2016."

### CORK CITY COUNCIL

That the opening of the Social Housing Project at Phase II Glen Housing Development will proceed Friday 12th June, 2016. Comhairleoir K. McCarthy requested that his objection to this matter be noted. That the Minister would be written to advising him of the decision to proceed on Friday 12th June 2016, and also inviting him to visit the City Hall to meet with the Elected Members in the near future.

That correspondence issues to all other Local Authorities advising them of the decision of An Chomhairle.

### BALLINA MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

“That we, as Public Representatives, support the freedom of the press and also the freedom of Members of the Oireachtas to go about their business without fear of legal threat or any other threat; that this Motion is forwarded to all Councils for their support.”

### DUBLIN CITY COUNCIL

“That this Council recognises that Women and Children are made Homeless by Domestic Violence. In 2014 513 referrals were made from Women’s Aid to refuges with 137 refuges citing that they were full therefore no accommodation was available. Women cannot move on from refuges as there is no alternative accommodation available therefore creating a shortage of spaces in centres and in many cases forcing the victim to remain in the abusive home.

This Council needs to ensure that suitable, safe and secure accommodation is available for victims of domestic violence and that they are rehoused as a matter of priority.”

### CORK CITY COUNCIL

“That State Job activation measures should be available to all who are unemployed, not only to those on the Live Register. That if passed, this motion would be circulated to all local authorities in the country for support.”

### MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF CARRICKMACROSS – CASTLEBLANEY

“That Carrickmacross/Castleblaney Municipal District immediately calls on the Minister for Agriculture Simon Coveney,

to intervene to ensure that maps that are being used for the new GLAS Environmental Scheme, are the same as those used for the REPS Scheme which ends this year as there are serious discrepancies in the maps being used presently.”

MONAGHAN COUNTY COUNCIL

“That in view of the work carried out by the Kevin Bell Repatriation Trust (KBRT) bringing home the remains of people who die as a result of an accident/tragic circumstances abroad, for burial at home in Ireland, and in view of the fact that KBRT is a non-profit making registered charity and operates on a voluntary basis, that Monaghan County Council calls on the Minister for Foreign Affairs to ensure that funding is allocated on an annual basis to the KBRT, thereby ensuring the viability of the KBRT into the future.”

This concluded the business of the meeting.