

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE DHUN NA nGALL

Oifig Riarthóir na
gCruinnithe
Aras an Chontae
Leifear
22 Samhain, 2022

FÓGRA CRUINNITHE

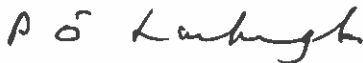
DO GACH BHALL DEN CHOMHAIRLE

A Chara

Beidh Cruinniú de Chomhairle Contae Dhún na nGall ar siúl **Dé Luain, 28 Samhain, 2022** ag **11.00 r.n in Áras an Chontae, Leifear.** Tá Clár an chruinnithe leis seo. Seolfar nasc leictreonach chuig an chruinniú i gcomhfhreagras eile.

Beidh Clár Orduithe an Phríomh-Fheidhmeannaigh le feiceáil ag an chruinniú

Mise, le meas



Pádraig Ó Laifearaigh
Riarthóir Cruinnithe

DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

Office of Meetings Administrator
County House
Lifford
22nd November, 2022

NOTICE OF MEETING

TO EACH MEMBER OF DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

Dear Councillor,

A Meeting of Donegal County Council will be held on Monday 28th November, 2022, at 11.00am in the County House, Lifford. The agenda for the meeting is attached. An online link to join the meeting will issue separately.

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

Yours sincerely



Patsy Lafferty
Meetings Administrator

AGENDA

1. **Confirmation of Minutes**
 - a) Confirmation of the Minutes of the September Meeting of Donegal County Council held on the 26th September, 2022.
 - b) Confirmation of the Minutes of the Special Meeting of Donegal County Council held on the 18th October, 2022.
 - c) Confirmation of the Minutes of the Special Meeting of Donegal County Council held on the 26th October, 2022.

2. **Disposal of Land – Section 211 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000(as amended)**
 - a) Notice under Section 211 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) and under Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001 (as amended) – to dispose of property in the Carndonagh Public Services Centre, Malin Road, Carndonagh by way of lease to The Commissioners of Public Works in Ireland.
 - b) Notice under Section 211 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) and under Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001 (as amended) – to dispose of property at the Milford Public Service Centre by way of lease to The Commissioners of Public Works in Ireland.
 - c) Notice under Section 211 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) and under Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001 (as amended) – to dispose of land between Church Street and The Steeples, Ramelton to Mr John Mc Bride.
 - d) Notice under Section 211 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) and under Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001 (as amended) – to dispose of land between Church Street and The Steeples, Ramelton to Ms Ina Mc Garvey.
 - e) Notice under Section 211 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) and under Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001 (as amended) – to dispose of land between Church Street and The Steeples, Ramelton to Ms Áine Mc Laughlin.
 - f) Notice under Section 211 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) and under Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001 (as amended) – to dispose of land at Cabry, Quigley's Point to Mr Brian Doherty.

3. **Taking of decision pursuant to the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (Part XI), and the Planning and Development Regulations, 2001**
 - a) To approve the carrying out of works in respect of the construction of 56 no. social housing units including all associated site development works at Ballymacarry, Buncrana.

- b) To approve the carrying out of works so as to facilitate the development of "The Eat Out" Outdoor Dining Infrastructure Project, in Letterkenny.

4. **Corporate**

- a) To approve the Schedule of Plenary Council Meetings for 2023.
- b) Nomination of Member for appointment to the Board of Údarás na Gaeltachta.
- c) Nomination of members to the 100th Anniversary, Drumboe Martyrs Commemoration Committee
- d) To nominate 4 number members to the Western Inter-County Railway Committee.
- e) To fill casual vacancy on the Donegal County Heritage Forum. (Inishowen Municipal District)
- f) Establishment of Working Group in the aftermath of the Creeslough Tragedy.

5. **Finance**

- a) To consider the Three -Year Capital Programme for Donegal County Council for the period 2023- 2025 inclusive.

6. **Planning**

- a) To consider the Strategic Environmental Assessment Report (ER), the Appropriate Assessment Natura Impact Report (NIR), the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) Report and the Traffic Modelling/Forecasting Report.
 - Decide on the final content of the Draft Letterkenny Plan, having regard to conclusions reached in the reports referenced at (a) above and the recommendations arising of the Executive.
 - Approve publication of the Draft Letterkenny Plan for public consultation in accordance with the provisions of Section 20 of the Planning & Development Act 2000 (as amended).
- b) To agree dates for the next Plenary Workshops on the County Development Plan Review.

7. **Economic Development**

- To approve the nomination of 5 No. Elected Members, one from each Municipal District, to the position of Director with Donegal 2040 Strategic Development Designated Activity Company.

8. **Endorsement of Minutes.**

- a) To note minutes of the meeting of the Corporate Policy Group held on the 19th September, 2022.
- b) To note minutes of the meeting of Coiste na Gaeilge held on 25th February, 2022.
- c) To note minutes of the meeting of Coiste na Gaeilge held on 29th April, 2022.

9. **Attendance at Conference, Seminar or Event**

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

Training

- LAMA Training Seminar “The Cost of Living Crisis and Sustainable and Renewable Energy” held from the 9th - 10th November, 2022 in the Four Seasons Hotel, Monaghan.

Other

- Approval to attend the Annual TII Delegation to Dublin on Thursday 8th December, 2022.

Conferences

- Celtic Conferences “The Finance Act 2022” to be held from the 6th - 8th January, 2023 in the Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford, Co Louth.
- Celtic Conferences “The Local Authority Procurement Process” to be held from the 20th – 22nd January, 2023 in O’ Donovan’s Hotel, Clonakilty, Co Cork.
- Celtic Conferences “Modular Housing in Ireland” to be held from the 3rd - 5th February, 2023 in the Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford, Co Louth.
- Celtic Conferences “Protecting your Health as a Public Representative” to be held from the 3rd – 5th March, 2023 in O’ Donovan’s Hotel, Clonakilty, Co Cork.

10. **Report on attendance at Conference/Event**

Cllr Martin Harley

Red Hugh O’ Donnell Anniversary Celebrations in Valladolid and Simancas, Spain.

MOTIONS

INISHOWEN MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

Housing

11. **Cllr Albert Doherty**

The Science and Societal Impact of Defective Concrete.

"That Donegal County Council,

1) Acknowledge, lobby and support the proposal (Dr. Karen Kirby et al) submitted to the University of Ulster for a Ph D scholarship award to study the science and societal impact of Defective Concrete on affected families and their local communities.

2) That the Council's Chief Executive engages with the Educational Institutions & partners in the NWTEC and HEA and lobbies for the support of the proposal submitted.

3) That the Council endorse and support the ETB submissions to relevant Government departments seeking the provision of significant educational support measures for schools and communities affected by Defective Blocks and urge from government a generous and positive response.

4) That DCC seek assurances from related Government departments that ample educational supports, choices, and assistance will be in place that will enable the "Delivering Equality of Opportunity in Schools and communities for families affected by Defective Concrete Blocks,"

12. **Cllr Johnny Mc Guinness**

"In light of recent developments would Donegal County Council please advise on what plans are afoot, if any, in relation to housing mica families going forward. I propose that an emergency fund / evacuation fund be set up by Central Government in order to address the worst affected families, and that this Council writes to the Minister for Housing on the matter".

Roads & Transportation

13. **Cllr Terry Crossan**

"That the Council write to the Minister of Agriculture, Food and the Marine and ask him to legislate to have aquaculture trestles, that have taken over our estuarine waters, to be properly marked with buoys and lights to ensure the safety of small inshore craft".

14. **Cllr Paul Canning**

"I am asking this Council to seek clarification from Transport Infrastructure Ireland TII/NRA as to why they are not in favour of allowing our Council to put down ramps to slow down the traffic within our towns and villages given that the Design Manual is ok with it"

Environment

15. Cllr Jack Murray

"That this Council, once again, reaffirms its absolute commitment to delivering top class leisure centre facilities in County Donegal, and in doing so, commits to exploring all potential avenues of funding, including that of the Rural Regeneration & Development Fund".

LETTERKENNY/MILFORD MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

Emergency Services

16. Cllr Gerry Mc Monagle

"That Donegal County Council notes that in a recent survey conducted by Retained Fire Service 60% of Retained Fire Fighters intend to leave the service in the near future, many within the next year. We also note that a ballot amongst Retained Firefighters has commenced and that reports suggest that up to 97% are in favour of Industrial action.

These actions are unprecedented and such I am now asking that:

This Council calls on the Minister of Housing, Local Government and Heritage to act on these concerns and begins a transformation of the current Fire Service into one that is "Fit for Purpose" with Fair Pay and Conditions, Pensions, working conditions and with adequate time off for our Retained Firefighters with their families. The Retained Fire Service delivers an invaluable service to our communities. Its members are professional, dedicated and want to make the service better, and a safer place to work. The current model of Management is no longer fit for purpose. The recruitment and retention crisis brought about by staffing shortages are now placing unsustainable demands upon the Retained Fire Service. I am therefore asking Members of this Council to support my motion and that we write to the Minister outlining our concerns and call on him to immediately initiate a process of transformation within the Service. Failure to address these issues will only place the health and safety of Retained Fire Fighters and members of the public in danger during emergency callouts".

Corporate

17. Cllr Ciaran Brogan

"I propose that this Council review the Directorates of this Council with a focus on the prioritisation and resourcing of the services most in need".

LIFFORD/STRANORLAR MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

Roads & Transportation

18. Cllr Patrick Mc Gowan

"That this Council carry out an independent lighting survey on towns located on the N15 such as Ballybofey and Stranorlar".

DONEGAL MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

Roads & Transportation

19. **Cllr Niamh Kennedy**

"That Donegal County Council will establish a cross directorate working group on the potential of a rail network in County Donegal. That we will look at this from a cross-border, Shared Island point of view. If we are to be serious about connectivity and the green agenda, our over reliance on cars and the opening up of the County to real tourism numbers we must have the political will and drive to create this working group with all the key stakeholders in the room - Roads and Transportation, Economic Development, Environment, the lobby groups (Into the West and others)".

20. **Cllr Noel Jordan**

"I am calling on this Council to ask the Department of Transport for a meeting to discuss an increase of funding for our regional and local roads maintenance throughout our county for which a delegation from each Municipal, and our CEO and Road's officials can attend".

Corporate

21. **Cllr Barry Sweeny**

"That this Council creates a Family Tree style document/resource to include all members of staff of DCC showing Name, Role/Title and Section in order to inform elected members and Council staff of "Who's Who in DCC". This should be a live document that would be updated when staff members change roles, enter or leave employment or when new positions are created within the Council. The resource would also include Elected Members".

GLENTIES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

Water & Environment

22. **Cllr John S O' Fearraigh**

"That Donegal county Council write to the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, to re-introduce the Sewer Tanks Registration Scheme which ceased in 2013, for homeowners to avail of in Donegal".

Roads & Transportation

23. **Cllr Michael Mc Cafferty**

"I propose we bring about an organised Deer Culling Policy for County Donegal to cut our deer numbers down in a humane way, in the interests of road safety and to prevent the destruction of crops. It is also very important that the proposal which has been mooted referencing the introduction of wolf packs back into rural Ireland to contain the deer population does not proceed in the interest of public safety".

24. Cathaoirleach's Business
25. Chief Executive's Management Report

QUESTIONS

INISHOWEN MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

Roads

26. Cllr Albert Doherty
What initiatives and actions are necessary and planned to ensure that the County Council Public Lighting Team will identify and locate public lights not presently listed nor located on the Public Lighting Database?
27. Cllr Jack Murray
What is the current position of the TII regarding the reclassification of our regional roads, to that of national roads, such as the Derry to Bunrana road and the Derry to Moville road?
28. Cllr Paul Canning
Is there any other County Council within the Country putting in Ramps as a mechanism of slowing down traffic?
29. Cllr Paul Canning
Has there been any recorded accidents within the Country caused entirely by a ramp?

Housing

30. Cllr Albert Doherty
What number of Council Housing stock to date have been listed as affected by Defective Concrete and confirmed to Dept. of Housing, and what funding has been applied for to the Dept. to enable extensive works to commence on the affected Council houses and when will works required commence?
31. Cllr Jack Murray
Can this Council provide an updated breakdown of all applications received for the Defective Concrete Blocks Scheme, providing the numbers in each stage of the application process, up to the completion of works?

LETTERKENNY/MILFORD MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

Corporate

32. Cllr Ciaran Brogan
Can we get an updated report on what steps are being taken to have performance reports across all the Directorates in Donegal County Council on a quarterly basis as agreed by Council?

Economic Development

33. Cllr Ciaran Brogan
Can this Council arrange a meeting with LUH, Letterkenny University Hospital with a view to exploring Capital Investment Projects through the Shared Island Unit and report back to us as elected members?

LIFFORD/STRANORLAR MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

Community Development

34. Cllr Patrick Mc Gowan
Can I have an update on my earlier Q&M, regarding CCTV for towns in Donegal and the request that the Council's Joint Policing Committee write to the Minister of Justice and her Department requesting them to pay the costs of texts on behalf of text alert committees?

Housing

35. Cllr Patrick Mc Gowan
Why is Donegal County Council delaying tenants from purchasing their houses in cases where they are over thirty years plus old?

GLENTIES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

Housing

36. Cllr Michael Mc Cafferty
Can I have an update on the plans that this Council has to build Social Housing in each Municipal District?

Veterinary Services

37. Cllr Michael Mc Cafferty
How many actual dogs are in Donegal at present and how many are licenced?

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

Cork City Council.

"That Cork City Council writes to the Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources to ask that in light of the climate emergency declared by Cork City Council in 2019, that they refrain from issuing any further prospecting licences for mining.

In this letter the Council shall express solidarity with campaigns against goldmining in the Sperrin mountains, Co Tyrone and in Counties Leitrim and Donegal where the Government and Ministers addressed is issuing prospecting licenses against the democratic will of Leitrim County Council and through this act is actively detrimental to both of these shared environmental struggles".

Cork City Council.

"Cork County Council calls on EPA to put in place a full suite of end of waste criteria to support the circular economy and climate action. These

criteria must allow for an efficient means to move materials out of the waste streams in all areas including,

- Construction and demolition waste materials such as concrete, top-soil,
- Concrete products such as blocks and kerbs, timber, etc to reduce the demand for virgin materials and it must allow for materials from smaller projects coming to locations such as civic amenity sites.
- Re-use schemes such as paint, bicycles etc coming to locations such as civic amenity sites.
- Items such as furniture, toys tools, equipment and schoolbooks coming to locations such as civic amenity sites to extend their useful life or for parts to extend the life of other items.

Members agreed that a copy of this letter would be circulated to the EPA and the Southern Regional Assembly.

Fermanagh & Omagh District Council

"That Fermanagh and Omagh District Council supports fully the Justice for Noah campaign,

This Council requests that there should be a rigorous, open and transparent police investigation, where every avenue is explored, to get justice for Noah and his family.

This Council also calls on the Secretary of State to withdraw PII (Public interest immunity) Certificate in this case.

Finally, we request that this motion is sent in writing to all other Councils on the island of Ireland as well as the relevant leaders of the political parties that are members of the Policing Board".

Limerick City & County Council

"That due to the ongoing war in Ukraine and the global grain shortage, the Minister for Agriculture should, as a matter of urgency, establish an Expert National Review Group on Horticulture to include the main stakeholders and to report back in six months. The purpose of the Group would be to review all food industries under the headings, Food Security; Import Substitution; Employment Opportunities. Areas to include – Protected Crops, Fruit Production – Top Fruits(apples), Soft Fruits and the Seed Potato Sector. This motion to be circulated to all local authorities".

Longford County Council

"That following the publication of the Social Housing Assessment Regulations in which Longford was left out, that Longford County Council write to the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Darragh O'Brien to move Longford from Band 3 into Band 2 to raise the basic income threshold from €25,000 to €30,000".

Monaghan County Council

"That Monaghan County Council notes that Citizens' Assemblies are powerful democratic exercises that inform citizens, allowing them to debate specifics, develop positions and inform policy. They have operated effectively in many jurisdictions across the world.

This Council calls on the Irish Government to establish an all-Ireland Citizens' Assembly to debate and discuss our constitutional future".

The debate on Irish Unity is live and growing, and we must plan for constitutional change, in the context of the Good Friday Agreement provision for a Unity referendum".

Monaghan County Council

"That Monaghan County Council also invites officials from the Taoiseach's Shared Island Unit to present to Council and provide an update on activity and plans for the future".

Offaly County Council

"At the October meeting of Offaly County Council, the Members passed a resolution highlighting the difficulties faced by emergency medical technicians including low salary and poor working conditions resulting in a number of technicians leaving the service. The further highlighted the issue of the ambulances covering countywide, often leaving none available for Offaly and surrounding areas".

Sligo County Council

" In light of the huge staffing issues our health service is now facing that Sligo County Council calls on the Minister for Health to undertake a review of the numbers of doctors and nurses being trained annually with a view of doubling capacity within the system as is required.

Furthermore, that the Minister for Health instructs the Department of Health and the Health Service Executive to implement a workforce strategy for the retention of nurses and doctors to stay working within our health service instead of paying millions for recruitment campaigns overseas.

That this motion be relayed to the Minister for Health, the Taoiseach, the Tánaiste and every Local Authority".

Sligo County Council

"That Sligo County Council ensure that all new buildings have a changing facility for people with Disability."

Wicklow County Council

"That Wicklow County Council asks the Government to recognise the European Commission's confirmation that the Government could exceptionally address the case of C.J. Gaffney and the MV Mary Kate through the European Maritime Fisheries Fund (EMFF)".

**MINUTES OF NOVEMBER MEETING OF DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL HELD
ON 28th NOVEMBER, 2022 IN THE COUNTY HOUSE, LIFFORD**

C/401/22 **MEMBERS PRESENT**

Cllrs L. Blaney, Cathaoirleach, K. Bradley, C. Brogan, P. Canning, T. Conaghan, D. Coyle, G. Crawford, N. Crossan, T. Crossan, A. Doherty, L Doherty, R Donaghey, M Farren, M. Harley, N Jordan, J Kavanagh, M Kelly, N. Kennedy, M. McBride, M. Mc Clafferty, M. McDermott, I. Mc Garvey, P. McGowan, J. McGuinness, M. Mc Mahon, G. Mc Monagle, A. Molloy, M. Naughton, J. O Donnell, J. S Ó Fearraigh, and B. Sweeny.

Online: M Mac Giolla Easbuig, N Mc Garvey.

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

C/402/22 **OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE**

Liam Ward, Deputy Chief Executive, Director of Community Development & Planning Services, Patsy Lafferty, Director of Housing, Corporate and Cultural Services, Meetings Administrator, Bryan Cannon, A/Director of Roads & Transportation, Garry Martin, Director of Economic Development, Information Systems & Emergency Services, Michael Mc Garvey, Director of Water & Environment, Richard Gibson, Head of Finance, Eunan Quinn, Senior Planner, Paul Christy, Senior Executive Planner, Daragh Mc Donough, IS Project Leader, Frances Friel, Communications Officer, William Colvin, Assistant Communications Officer, Seán O' Daimhin, Rannóg na Gaeilge, Róise Ní Lائفeartaigh, Rannóg na Gaeilge, Anne Marie Crawford, Staff Officer.

C/403/22 **SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS TO FACILITATE A
PRESENTATION FROM THE MICA ACTION GROUP**

On the proposal of Cllr Brogan, seconded by Cllr Mc Monagle it was resolved in accordance with Standing Order No. 28 to suspend Standing Order No. 8 to facilitate presentations from representatives of homeowners who had come to Lifford to highlight issues pertaining to Defective Concrete Blocks issue.

The Cathaoirleach invited the representatives present to address the Chamber.

Paddy Diver addressing the meeting said that Donegal County Council was not doing enough to help Mica Families.

He outlined the need for a Project Plan to be put in place to ensure that all those affected by the issue were taken seriously, and also called on the Council and the Executive to address those in attendance outside the Chamber.

At this juncture, he said that if this demand was not met then a line would have to be crossed. He thus called for the following to be put in place:

- The €15,000 allocated for alternative accommodation to be paid as soon as practical.
- The 400 applicants awaiting Stage 1 approval to be prioritised.
- That modular homes be provided immediately for the ten families whose homes were in imminent danger.

Sharon O' Connor gave a detailed account of her own situation and of the difficulties being experienced by her elderly parents who had built their new home only ten years ago. It was heart breaking, she said, to see people spend the twilight years of their life trying to deal with this situation, and through no fault of their own. Their homes, she stated, were twisted, and infested with mice and at this point impossible to heat. It was scandalous, she said that people had to live in this way.

Yvonne Shelvin outlined the fact that over ten years ago her home had been designated as unsound and that since then she and her husband Michael had been struggling to get help of any kind. Nobody was listening, she said, either at local or national level and the stresses and strains being experienced by their family and numerous other householders were never ending. People were broken and scarred, she said, and children were growing up knowing nothing else but living in broken and dangerous surroundings. The problem, she contended, was man made and the members of the Council were doing nothing to help or stand up for their local communities. It was pitiful, she said that people had to fight against their own Local Authority to get help. Minister O' Brien, she said, was not listening to the people on the ground.

Ray Doherty said that people were scared and frustrated and were being forced to make their families live with this horror. He was now in a position, he said, where water was coming in through the roof and the only option was to move out of his home. Having made an application in 2020, he said, that he was no further forward and now found himself in the position of not able to secure rented accommodation.

It was impossible, he added, to get money from the financial institutions and therefore the option of moving forward was not available. He called for dedicated plan to be put in place so that modular homes could be put in place for those most in need. Many of the people outside the Chamber, he said, had taken the day off work to come here and simply wanted a release from the nightmare that they were forced to live. Representations, he said, remained unanswered and he reminded all present that they represented the taxpayers who now found themselves in this position. He called on members to stand up and help the mica families.

Lisa Hone, Chairperson of the Mica Action Group addressing the meeting advised that Mica families were fighting hard for recognition and were being continually turned away and belittled. Action was needed now, she said, and proceeded to read into the record letter

dated 28th November outlining the position of the Mica Action Group & 100% Redress. The letter called for urgent action on the following:

- Alternative housing or emergency housing funding, that will not be deducted from the final remediation allowance, for those in unsafe homes.
- An immediate release of the €20k accommodation/storage allowance.
- Modular homes to provide accommodation for homeowners during remediation work.
- Swift processing of all applications, with triaging to identify those in the most badly affected homes.
- Testing of foundations to reassure homeowners that remediation solutions are viable.

This, she contended, was an exceptional crisis and needed an exceptional response, with homeowners looking to councillors and the executive to champion and fight for what was needed.

Given the level of remediation required, she said a dedicated plan needed to be put in place and pressure put on the Department to put in place the necessary resources. National and Local Government were aware of what was needed yet homeowners were continually met with arrogance and indifference. This she advised, should be the last day that affected families were forced to protest.

Ms Hone called on the Council to address the homeowners who had come today to the County House to protest.

The Cathaoirleach thanked all who had delivered the presentations and said that a written reply would issue in the very near future.

Mr Liam Ward, Deputy Chief Executive, acknowledged the testimonies of the representatives and the passion with which they had been delivered. There was, he said, considerable awareness of the issues involved and the impact on homeowners and their families. The Council, he said, was not immune to the crisis as many Donegal County Council staff and members had also been impacted by the crisis.

The executive, he said wanted to work with all stakeholders so that a scheme could be implemented which would deal with the scale and enormity of the problem. He alluded to the fact that the mechanisms were in place to facilitate engagement and further discussion.

He committed to take note of the issues raised today and provide a full response by Friday 2nd December setting out the relevant issues and identifying where action needed to be taken. He acknowledged that there were several pressing matters that needed immediate attention, but that the Council needed clarity as to where the responsibility lay and was committed to working with all the stakeholders concerned.

Ms Hone responding said that it was imperative that the Council did not adopt a blinkered view as this was not the way forward. The appropriate infrastructure together with a dedicated plan was needed now, she said. The past two and a half years had been a disaster, she confirmed, and the Defective Concrete Block Schemes a bureaucratic nightmare.

Concluding she called again on the Council to adjourn the meeting and go out and address the people who had taken the time to come to Lifford to highlight the nightmare that they were living through.

The Cathaoirleach said that he would together with the Deputy Chief Executive, Liam Ward go out and address the crowd, if it could be assured that this would do some good.

Cllr Mc Monagle noted that a motion seeking a delegation to meet with the Minister in relation to the issues raised today had been passed at the Budget meeting. On the proposal of Cllr Blaney, seconded by Cllr Brogan it was resolved to adjourn the meeting for a 15-minute period to facilitate this engagement.

C/404/22

CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER MEETING OF DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL HELD ON THE 26TH SEPTEMBER 2022

On the proposal of Cllr McGowan, seconded by Cllr Farren the Minutes of the September Meeting of Donegal County Council held on the 26th September, 2022 were adopted.

Cllr A Doherty referring to Minute C/356/22 queried whether his motion as adopted at the September Meeting had been forwarded to the Minister for consideration, and whether an acknowledgement or response had been received to date.

Cllr N Crossan on a point of order asked for an update in relation the allegations of corruption made at the 2021 Budget Meeting and whether as requested at subsequent meetings a satisfactory response had been received from the Councillor concerned. The Deputy Chief Executive confirmed that further contact had been made with the Councillor concerned and that a written response was awaited.

Cllr Crossan contended that this was not an adequate response and that answers were needed as soon as possible. The Cathaoirleach said that he would ensure that this was followed up as soon as possible.

Cllr Mc Garvey alluding to the plans by Irish Water to take over a number of older Group Water Schemes said it was imperative that recognition and some form of guarantee was given to those who had had ownership of and had put considerable time and energy into securing and maintaining the schemes.

C/405/22 **CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL HELD ON THE 18THOCTOBER, 2022**

On the proposal of Cllr McGowan seconded by Cllr McBride the Minutes of the Special Meeting of Donegal County Council held on the 18th October, 2022 were adopted.

C/406/22 **CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL HELD ON THE 26THOCTOBER, 2022**

On the proposal of Cllr McGowan seconded by Cllr Mc Bride the Minutes of the Special Meeting of Donegal County Council held on the 26th October, 2022 were adopted.

C/407/22 **DISPOSAL OF PROPERTY IN THE CARNDONAGH PUBLIC SERVICE CENTRE, MALIN ROAD, CARNDONAGH BY WAY OF LEASE TO THE COMMISSIONERS OF PUBLIC WORKS IN IRELAND**

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

On the proposal of Cllr A Doherty, seconded by Cllr N Crossan, it was resolved to dispose of property in the Carndonagh PSC, Malin Road, Carndonagh by way of lease to The Commissioners of Public Works in Ireland in accordance with the provisions of Section 211 of the Planning & Development Act, 2000 (as amended) and under Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001, (as amended).

C/408/22 **DISPOSAL OF PROPERTY AT THE MILFORD PUBLIC SERVICE CENTRE BY WAY OF LEASE TO THE COMMISSIONERS OF PUBLIC WORKS IN IRELAND.**

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

On the proposal of Cllr McMonagle, seconded by Cllr I McGarvey, it was resolved to dispose of property at the Milford PSC by way of lease to The Commissioners of Public Works in Ireland in accordance with the provisions of Section 211 of the Planning & Development Act, 2000 (as amended) and under Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001, (as amended).

C/409/22 **DISPOSAL OF LAND BETWEEN CHURCH STREET AND THE STEEPLES, RAMELTON TO MR JOHN MCBRIDE**

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

On the proposal of Cllr I McGarvey, seconded by Cllr J O'Donnell, it was resolved to dispose of land between Church Street and The Steeples, Ramelton to Mr John McBride in accordance with the provisions of Section 211 of the Planning & Development Act, 2000 (as amended) and under Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001,

(as amended).

C/410/22 **DISPOSAL OF LAND BETWEEN CHURCH STREET AND THE STEEPLES, RAMELTON TO MS INA MCGARVEY**

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

On the proposal of Cllr I McGarvey, seconded by Cllr J' O' Donnell, it was resolved to dispose of land between Church Street and The Steeples, Ramelton to Ms Ina McGarvey in accordance with the provisions of Section 211 of the Planning & Development Act, 2000 (as amended) and under Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001, (as amended).

C/411/22 **DISPOSAL OF LAND BETWEEN CHURCH STREET AND THE STEEPLES, RAMELTON TO MS ÁINE MCLAUGHLIN**

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

On the proposal of Cllr I McGarvey, seconded by Cllr O'Donnell, it was resolved to dispose of land between Church Street and The Steeples, Ramelton to Ms Áine Mclaughlin in accordance with the provisions of Section 211 of the Planning & Development Act, 2000 (as amended) and under Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001, (as amended).

C/412/22 **DISPOSAL OF LAND AT CABRY, QUIGLEYS POINT TO MR BRIAN DOHERTY**

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

On the proposal of Cllr T Crossan, seconded by Cllr A Doherty, it was resolved to dispose of land at Cabry, Quigleys Point to Mr Brian Doherty in accordance with the provisions of Section 211 of the Planning & Development Act, 2000 (as amended) and under Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001, (as amended).

C/413/22 **TO APPROVE THE CARRYING OUT OF WORKS IN RESPECT OF THE CONSTRUCTION OF 56 NO. SOCIAL HOUSING UNITS INCLUDING ALL ASSOCIATED SITE DEVELOPMENT WORKS AT BALLYMACARRY, BUNCRANA**

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

On the proposal of Cllr R Donaghey, seconded by Cllr N Crossan, the carrying out of works in respect of the construction of 56 no. social housing units including all associated site development works at Ballymacarry, Buncrana was approved in accordance with Part XI of the Planning & Development Act, 2000 (as amended) and Part 8 of the Planning & Development Regulations 2001(as amended).

C/414/22

TO APPROVE THE CARRYING OUT OF WORKS SO AS TO FACILITATE THE DEVELOPMENT OF “THE EAT OUT” OUTDOOR DINING INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT IN LETTERKENNY

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

On the proposal of Cllr Brogan, seconded by Cllr D Coyle, the carrying out of works to facilitate the development of “The Eat Out” Outdoor Dining Infrastructure Project, in Letterkenny was approved in accordance with Part XI of the Planning & Development Act, 2000 (as amended) and Part 8 of the Planning & Development Regulations 2001(as amended).

C/415/22

TO APPROVE THE SCHEDULE OF PLENARY COUNCIL MEETINGS FOR 2023

Members considered the report circulated with the agenda in relation to the above. On the proposal of Cllr McGowan, seconded by Cllr Crawford the Schedule of Plenary Meetings for 2023 was approved.

C/416/22

NOMINATION OF MEMBER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE BOARD OF ÚDARÁS NA GAELTACHTA

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

Cllr Mc Monagle proposed, seconded by Cllr A Doherty that Cllr John S O’ Fearraigh be nominated as the Donegal County Council nominee.

Cllr Brogan proposed, seconded by Cllr Conaghan that Cllr Anthony Molloy be nominated to the position.

Cllr Doherty said that both candidates were extremely capable but alluded to the fact that the position was only for a two-year period and suggested that the status quo be retained and Cllr O’ Fearraigh reappointed.

The Cathaoirleach as there were two proposals called on the Meetings Administrator to take a recorded vote.

This resulted in 24 votes for Cllr Molloy and 8 votes for Cllr O’ Fearraigh.

Those voting for Cllr O’ Fearraigh included:

Cllrs T Crossan, A Doherty, L Doherty, Jordan, Mc Mahon, Mc Monagle, Murray and O’ Fearraigh. (8)

Those voting for Cllr Molloy included:

Cllrs Blaney, Bradley, Brogan, Canning, Conaghan, Coyle, Crawford, N Crossan, Donaghey, Farren, Harley, Kavanagh, Kennedy, Mc Bride, Mc Clafferty, Mc Dermott, I Mc Garvey, N Mc Garvey, Mc Gowan, Mc Guinness, Molloy, Naughton, O, Donnell and Sweeny (24)

Cllr Anthony Molloy was selected as the Donegal County Council nominee to the Board of Údarás na Gaeltachta.

Cllr O' Fearraigh thanked all who had supported him. He had been privileged, he said, to serve on the Board for the last five years and that it was important that the excellent co-operation between Donegal County Council and Údarás na Gaeltachta was maintained. He congratulated Cllr Molloy on his appointment.

Cllr Molloy thanked members for the nomination and said he would strive to do the very best he could over the next two years. He thanked Cllr O' Fearraigh for his tremendous work with Údarás.

C/417/22

NOMINATIONS OF MEMBERS TO THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY, DRUMBOE MARTYRS COMMEMORATION COMMITTEE

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

On the proposal of Cllr Mc Gowan, seconded by Cllr Harley it was resolved that the Cathaoirleach of the County and the Cathaoirleach of each Municipal District would be the members of the Committee along with a nominee from each of the remaining party groupings.

It was thus resolved to appoint the following to the 100th Anniversary Drumboe Martyrs Commemoration Committee:

- Cllr Liam Blaney
- Cllr Martin Harley
- Cllr Niamh Kennedy
- Cllr Gerry Mc Monagle,
- Cllr Patrick Mc Gowan
- Cllr Anthony Molloy
- Cllr Donal Mandy Kelly
- Cllr Paul Canning.

C/418/22

NOMINATION OF 4 NO. MEMBERS TO THE WESTERN INTER-COUNTY RAILWAY COMMITTEE

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

It was unanimously agreed to defer the matter to later in the meeting.

C/419/22

TO FILL CASUAL VACANCY ON THE DONEGAL COUNTY HERITAGE FORUM (INISHOWEN MUNICIPAL DISTRICT)

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

Mr Patsy Lafferty, Meetings Administrator said that the vacancy was for the Inishowen Municipal District and that the previous nominee had been Cllr Martin Farren.

Cllr Sweeny proposed, seconded by Cllr O' Donnell that the vacancy be filled by Cllr Johnny Mc Guinness.

Cllr Murray proposed, seconded by Cllr T Crossan that Cllr Albert Doherty fill the vacancy.

A show of hands taken by the Meetings Administrator resulted in 24 voting for Cllr Mc Guinness and 8 voting for Cllr A Doherty.

Cllr Mc Guinness was thus selected as the Inishowen Municipal District representative to the Donegal County Heritage Forum.

C/420/22

ESTABLISHMENT OF WORKING GROUP IN THE AFTERMATH OF THE CREESLOUGH TRAGEDY

On the proposal of Cllr Brogan, seconded by Cllr McMonagle it was resolved to establish a Working Group with representation from Donegal County Council and the local community to look at the developmental and regeneration needs of the community and the village as they strive to come to terms with the unbelievable tragedy that befell their community on the 7th October, 2022.

It was further resolved that the following would represent Donegal County Council:

- Cllr Liam Blaney, Cathaoirleach
- Cllr Anthony Molloy, Cathaoirleach Glenties MD
- Cllr Michael Mc Clafferty
- Cllr John S O' Fearraigh.

It was noted that the current Cathaoirleach of the County and the current Cathaoirleach of the Glenties Municipal District would remain as part of the Working Group until it had concluded its work.

It was clarified that the three community representatives referenced by Cllr Brogan were not part of the Working Group and were nominees who had been selected to represent the community in their engagement with the Red Cross.

C/421/22

TO CONSIDER THE THREE-YEAR CAPITAL PROGRAMME FOR DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL FOR THE PERIOD 2023-2025 INCLUSIVE

It was unanimously agreed to defer consideration to later in the meeting.

C/422/22

TO CONSIDER THE STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT REPORT (ER), THE APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT NATURA IMPACT REPORT (NIR) - THE STRATEGIC FLOOD RISK ASSESSMENT (SFRA) REPORT AND THE TRAFFIC MODEL-LING/FORECASTING REPORT – DRAFT LETTERKENNY PLAN AND LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN

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

Mr Liam Ward, Deputy Chief Executive noted that the Letterkenny Area Plan had been under discussion for some time and that the recommendations today were set out in pages 25 and 26 of the report.

He alluded to the key steps taken to date in the process. At the plenary meeting in March 2022, subsequently adjourned until the 6th April, 2022 members had approved the contents of the Draft Letterkenny Plan and Local Transport Plan for the purposes of proceeding to statutory environmental reports and technical assessments subject to a number of resolutions requiring amendment to the documents made on the day. It was noted that there had been specific reference to the Letterkenny 2040 Plan and developments in relation to the East of the Isle Burn and, in the Town Centre, and the policy around strategic lands to the south of the river. This was followed up, he noted with revised text at the meeting on the 30th May 2022 and subsequently approved by members. Approval to proceed with the preparation of the various environmental and technical reports was also provided at this juncture he added.

The reports before members today, he said, had been prepared in respect of the members Approved Draft Plan and it was that version of the Draft Plan that had been circulated on eCouncil for ease of reference. The key findings, he advised were contained within the technical and environmental reports and included in the recommendations alluded to earlier.

The recommendations at 4(b) he confirmed dealt with five strategic issues detailed in the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment. It was noted that one of these was significant and would result in a material change to the May Draft Plan i.e. the policy with regard to the development east of the Isle Burn. A second recommendation, he stated, was of moderate significance and related to land opposite the Educate Together School. The other three, he said, were minor in nature and dealt with lands on the High Road/De Valera Road, former Oatfield site and the former UNIFI site.

He said that the recommendations at 4(c) dealt with the Natura Impact Report and were minor in nature.

The recommendation at 4(d) related to one specific issue in the Traffic Modelling Report and the need to factor into consideration the Southern Network Project when assessing proposals for south of the river which was similar to the need for consideration of the TEN-T Project which was already contained within the Draft Plan.

4(e), he noted aimed to introduce a new policy into the plan safeguarding the carrying capacity of the N56 throughout the plan area and had been recommended in consultation with the National Roads Office.

The overall recommendations, he said, necessitated that members take account of the environmental and technical reports at 4(a) and the requirement to authorise commencement of public consultation as outlined in 4(f) Pg. 26.

Cllr Mc Monagle at this juncture said that there had been considerable discussion to date and members were anxious that the public consultation process commenced. He thus proposed to accept Recommendations A, B (2,3 & 4) and 5 (D, E & F). but not to accept Recommendation B1 which if permitted would restrict development in the east of the Isle Burn. Continuing he proposed that the contents of the Draft Plan for public consultation as it pertains to the area East of the Isle Burn remain as per the draft previously agreed by Members at the May, 2022 Plenary Council meeting, and which did not restrict development to the East of the Isle Burn on the basis of flooding concerns. Cllr Kavanagh seconded the proposal.

Cllr Canning said that he had no issue with proceeding to public consultation on the grounds that any submissions made would then have to be taken into consideration. There had been several issues since the start of the process, he noted, which required clarification and in particular the guidelines that came from the Planning Authority. in relation to the objective that zoned housing lands in the existing Development Plan that are serviced and can be developed for housing within the life of the new Development Plan should not be de-zoned. There were, he said, lands that were zoned and served by infrastructure that is now being de-zoned. He queried what would happen if a submission came in regarding this issue as it could lead ultimately to a developer taking a judicial review.

He alluded also to the fact that with the introduction of the Residential Zoned Land Tax there could possibly be an issue with regards lands on the periphery of Letterkenny. These lands, he contended, should be zoned as "Open".

It was imperative, he said, that lands were zoned for building going

forward.

Concluding, he said, that indications were that Plans of this nature would going forward be applicable for a ten-year period, and if this was the case then meticulous scrutiny was needed.

Cllr Brogan asked for clarification regarding the proposal by Cllr Mc Monagle and whether it was part of CFRAMS and if there were any implications for Donegal County Council by not having it in the Plan. It was important, he said, that it went to public consultation warts and all.

Cllr Mc Monagle said that the whole report was going out warts and all and that it was not about restricting development. It was, he confirmed about the need to move forward with every opportunity available to develop the town of Letterkenny. Everybody, he said, was being treated equally and the Executive would look at the submissions as they came in.

Cllr I Mc Garvey, said that it was evident given the pace of growth in Letterkenny that a plan was needed. He referenced the housing situation, the traffic problems, and the need for a new bridge. This, he advised, needed to be looked at in terms of the hospital services, water and sewerage issues and development balanced to meet the needs of the people.

Cllr O' Donnell said that he was disappointed given the current housing crisis that nothing had been done to deal with partly finished housing estates. He said that he was hopeful that if submissions were received from specific developers that these could be included in the plan. A ten-year plan, he added, would be more beneficial and would better accommodate the needs of the town.

Cllr Bradley said that he would be supportive of a ten-year plan and that it was imperative that public consultation commenced as soon as possible.

Cllr Mc Bride said that the outturn with regard to housing development in Letterkenny had been disappointing over the last number of years and this needed to change given that the town was the economic driver in the county. Student accommodation issues, he affirmed, needed to be addressed and that when applications came in for developments of this nature, they should be looked at favourably. He acknowledged the need to get things right if Letterkenny was to prosper in the years ahead.

Mr Liam Ward, Deputy Chief Executive, alluded to the fact that a review of planning legislation was ongoing and that this would likely recommend a ten-year life span for plans such as this. The review, he noted, was expected by year end. This was something, he added,

which had been envisaged in the preparations to date. Submissions, he said, would get full consideration and the statutory reports would be brought back to members.

Regarding the query from Cllr Brogan, he said that the executive had gone with the decision taken by members at the May meeting and that is what has been proposed and seconded today. It was anticipated, he added, that when the public consultation process had been completed, and all the submissions received that a report would issue to the members.

He advised that the submitted Environmental Report and the submitted Natura Impact Report prepared in respect of the May Draft Plan Variation now need to be adjusted to encompass and reflect the amendments proposed by Cllr Mc Monagle and seconded by Cllr Kavanagh. Members, he said, needed to consider the revised Natura Impact Report and the Environmental Report before they made their final decision to go out to public consultation.

The reports in question, he advised, had been circulated on eCouncil. It was thus agreed to defer the matter to later in the meeting to allow for consideration of same.

C/423/22

TO AGREE DATES FOR THE NEXT PLENARY WORKSHOPS ON THE COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN REVIEW

Members considered the report circulated with the agenda in relation to the above. It was unanimously agreed to hold Plenary Workshops on the County Development Plan Review on the dates indicated below:

- Friday 20th January, 2023 at 10a.m. in the County House, Lifford.
- Friday 17th February, 2023 at 10a.m. in the County House, Lifford.

C/424/22

TO APPROVE THE NOMINATION OF 5 NO. ELECTED MEMBERS, ONE FROM EACH MUNICIPAL DISTRICT, TO THE POSITION OF DIRECTOR WITH DONEGAL 2040 STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT DESIGNATED ACTIVITY COMPANY.

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

On the proposal of Cllr O'Donnell, seconded by Cllr Brogan, it was resolved that the following members based on their nomination at Municipal District level be appointed to serve on the Board of Donegal 2040 Strategic Development Designated Activity Company:

- Inishowen - Paul Canning.
- Letterkenny/Milford - Ciaran Brogan.
- Donegal - Niamh Kennedy.

- Lifford/Stranorlar - Garry Doherty
- Glenties - Michael Mc Clafferty

C/425/22 **TO NOTE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CORPORATE POLICY GROUP HELD ON THE 19TH SEPTEMBER, 2022**

Members noted and endorsed the minutes of the meeting of the Corporate Policy Group held on the 19th September, 2022.

Cllr Mc Monagle queried if arrangements had been made to facilitate the holding of a reception for the Finn Valley Vikings Power Lifting Team. He was informed that an update would issue to members in due course.

Cllr N Crossan congratulated Cllr Molloy on the publication of his autobiography.

C/426/22 **TO NOTE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF COISTE NA GAEILGE HELD ON 25TH FEBRUARY, 2022**

Members noted and endorsed the minutes of the meeting of Coiste na Gaeilge held on 25th February, 2022.

C/427/22 **TO NOTE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF COISTE NA GAEILGE HELD ON 29TH APRIL, 2022**

Members noted and endorsed the minutes of the meeting of the Coiste na Gaeilge held on 29th April, 2022.

C/428/22 **ATTENDANCE AT CONFERENCES/SEMINARS OR EVENTS**

Having noted the revised arrangements under Section 142 of the Local Government Act, 2001, together with the Local Government (Remuneration & Expenses of Local Authority Members) Regulations 2010 -2021, as amended and directives issued by the Minister in that regard, on the proposal of Cllr McBride seconded by Cllr O'Donnell, it was resolved to authorise any member, if he/she so wished, to attend the following conferences/ events, 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.
- i. Submission of a Conference Report.

Training

- LAMA Training Seminar “The Cost of Living Crisis and Sustainable and Renewable Energy” held from the 9th - 10th November, 2022 in the Four Seasons Hotel, Monaghan.

Other

- Approval to attend the Annual TII Delegation to Dublin on Thursday 8th December, 2022.

Conferences

- Celtic Conferences “The Finance Act 2022” to be held from the 6th - 8th January, 2023 in the Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford, Co Louth.
- Celtic Conferences “The Local Authority Procurement Process” to be held from the 20th – 22nd January, 2023 in O’ Donovan’s Hotel, Clonakilty, Co Cork.
- Celtic Conferences “Modular Housing in Ireland” to be held from the 3rd - 5th February, 2023 in the Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford, Co Louth.
- Celtic Conferences “Protecting your Health as a Public Representative” to be held from the 3rd – 5th March, 2023 in O’ Donovan’s Hotel, Clonakilty, Co Cork.

C/429/22

REPORT ON ATTENDANCE BY CLLR HARLEY AT THE RED HUGH O’DONNELL ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS IN VALLADOLID AND SIMANCAS, SPAIN

Members considered the report circulated with the agenda in relation to the above and noted the report submitted by Cllr Harley in relation to his attendance at the Red Hugh O’Donnell Anniversary Celebrations in Valladolid, Spain in September, 2022.

C/430/22

ADJOURNMENT OF THE MEETING

Members unanimously agreed to adjourn the meeting until 2.45pm.

The Cathaoirleach noted that a launch to mark the publication of “Donegal County Council 1898-2019 – A History” written by Mr Vincent Breslin would take place in the Chamber during the recess.

C/431/22

TO CONSIDER THE STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT REPORT (ER), THE APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT NATURA IMPACT REPORT (NIR), THE STRATEGIC FLOOD RISK ASSESSMENT (SFRA) REPORT AND THE TRAFFIC MODEL-LING/FORECASTING REPORT- DRAFT LETTERKENNY PLAN AND LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN

Mr Liam Ward, Deputy Chief Executive referred to the earlier discussion on this matter. He noted that Members now have had the opportunity to consider and note the revised Environmental Report and revised Natura Impact Report.

On the proposal of Cllr Mc Monagle, seconded by Cllr Coyle and having considered and taken into account the contents of the Revised Strategic Environmental Assessment Report, the Appropriate Assessment Natura Impact Report, the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment Report, and the Traffic Modelling Forecast Report and having taken on board the resolution proposed by Cllr Mc Monagle, and seconded by Cllr Kavanagh, it was resolved that that the Draft Letterkenny Plan & Local Transport Plan proceed to public consultation inclusive of the resolution passed earlier in the meeting.

**TO CONSIDER THE THREE-YEAR CAPITAL PROGRAMME FOR
DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL FOR THE PERIOD 2023-2025
INCLUSIVE**

Mr Richard Gibson, Head of Finance informed members that in accordance with Section 135 of the Local Government Act 2001, the Council is required on an annual basis to prepare and consider a 3-year capital programme.

The 3-year capital budget, he advised, was prepared based on the following:

- a. Funding currently available or expected to be available
- b. Best estimates of the anticipated costs of capital projects as known at the time the report is draft.

The normal uncertainty with respect to the availability of capital funding in the medium to long-term generally, meant, he said, that only 2023 is presented in specific detail, with the remaining two years being a best estimate only. This, he said, simply reflected the normal position, at this point in the financial cycle as to the level of funding likely to be available for those years

It was noted that the Three-Year Capital Programme set out the projects and programmes that the Council planned to undertake subject to funding becoming available during the lifetime of the plan

The report, he said, outlined estimated expenditure of over €937m for the 3-year period, with expenditure of €292m during 2023 (year 1 of the plan). Most of the expenditure, it was noted, was in the housing division with estimated expenditure of almost €132m in 2023 and almost €458m over the period 2023 – 2025.

An overview of expenditure on a directorate basis was provided.

The actual amount of capital expenditure for the 6-year period 2016 – 2021 was confirmed to be almost €465m, with capital expenditure in 2022 expected to approach €100m mark.

He noted that capital expenditure had been steadily increasing in recent years from €27m in 2014 to €97.5m in 2021 and that in spite of the resource challenges and financial challenges to co-finance projects, the level of ambition in terms of capital investment had not been in any way diminished. He alluded to the fact that when additional central government supports became available, then the scale of the Council's ambitions could be increased. It was hoped, he added, to bring forward ideas for capital projects, to submit applications for funding, and to strive to create that all important co-financing capacity in order to maximise the level of capital investment for the development of the County in the years ahead.

He said that the executive would work with the elected members to explore options for expanding the organisation's co-financing capacity and to make sure that as many projects as possible could be delivered in a timely and affordable manner. Some projects, he said, would go ahead within the lifetime of this plan and some would proceed at lower value, with some possibly overachieving in terms of their magnitude and value. Nevertheless, he confirmed, the level of the Council's investment in capital projects in the county over the next three years would be in the hundreds of millions of euro.

He said that before the start of the local financial year the Chief Executive was obliged to prepare and submit to the elected council a report indicating the programme of capital projects proposed by the local authority for the forthcoming and the following two local financial years having regard to the resources that were available.

Members were advised of the following budgetary commitment:

2023 to 2025 Budget	€937,283,449
2023 Budget	€292,113,149
2022 Projected Expenditure	Close to €100m
Council contribution to 3-Year Programme (2022-2024) €85.3m	

Cllr Brogan welcomed the report and said that the level of ambition detailed was to be complimented. He said that the programme was innovative and challenging and thus proposed the adoption of same. Cllr Harley seconding the proposal said that it was essential for the good of the county that such ambitious goals were set.

Cllr A Doherty whilst welcoming the report said that additional clarification was required in terms of the housing spend, the monies available and needed for the remediation of mica affected social housing including any plans and actions that the Council had to deal with the issues faced by mica affected families. He queried whether a target of 10 was adequate for single housing units.

Cllr I Mc Garvey said that the Council need to do more in terms of working with the various housing agencies on the issue of house purchases. He outlined the necessity of keeping pressure on our national representatives, so that all available funding could be secured for the benefit of the county.

Cllr Jordan asked that correspondence be forwarded to the relevant authorities reading the extension of the Brexit Adjustment Fund – Local Authority Marine Infrastructure Scheme for Piers and Harbours, as many projects had not yet secured offshore licences and there was

a danger that the county would miss out on funding to restore and develop piers and harbours.

Cllr Sweeny alluded to the fact that investment seemed concentrated in certain parts of the county and that the Donegal Municipal District was lagging behind, with the major spend seemingly allocated to the northern half of the county. He said that the south of the county was lagging behind and that this was reflected in the fact that:

- Greenway and Active Travel Projects were not being developed.
- Piers and Harbours not getting their fair share of funding.
- No mention of housing for Ballyshannon.
- Concern that the library in Ballyshannon was still closed.
- Fire Stations in the South of the County not getting sufficient attention or funding.
- Coastal erosion issues need to be addressed with Rossnowlagh particularly in need of attention.
- Flood Relief System for the South of the County must be progressed.

The Cathaoirleach said that Minister Mc Conalogue was aware of the issues in relation to the Brexit Fund for Piers and Harbours. He said that the objective here was to spend as much as possible in the first half of the year and that negotiations were ongoing in relation to shortening the waiting time for foreshore licences.

He alluded to a number of allocations that were relevant to the Letterkenny/Milford area and the fact that an unprecedented amount of funding was available. Congratulating the Head of Finance and his team, he said that the emphasis going forward should be to ensure that match funding requirements were reduced so that additional projects could be brought on board.

Cllr Farren supporting the Capital Budget welcomed the funding for the breakwater at Greencastle. He applauded the fact that the capital spend had increased significantly over the years and said that this was a credit to the Head of Finance and the Senior Management Team.

Mr Liam Ward, Deputy Chief Executive, in relation to the issues raised by Cllr Sweeny, acknowledged the request for a dedicated heat map and said that this could be arranged outlining the capital spend on an area basis for the county as a whole.

Mr Patsy Lafferty, Director Housing, Corporate, & Cultural Services In relation to the Defective Concrete Blocks/Social Housing issues noted that there had been engagement with the Department regarding approval for the setting up of a Project Delivery Team.

A detailed submission, he confirmed, had been made to the Department seeking the appointment of consultants to oversee those houses which required remedial works. Approval was awaited, he added, and it was hoped that works would commence as early as possible in the New Year.

A Housing Acquisition Policy in light of the Defective Concrete Blocks issue, he said, was being developed in collaboration with the Housing SPC and a discussion document prepared. It was hoped, he added, that the parameters for same would be well developed by December and a policy in place to commence housing acquisition in the New Year.

Responding to a query from Cllr A Doherty, he said that remedial works would commence initially on houses that were already vacated and that works would then progress on a rolling basis.

Mr Bryan Cannon, A/ Director Roads & Transportation regarding the Brexit Adjustment Fund – Local Authority Marine Infrastructure Scheme for Piers and Harbours said that contact could be made with the Department in relation to the possible extension of the scheme.

In relation to Greenways and Active Travel Projects, he confirmed, that there was continual assessment of all available opportunities in terms of moving forward additional projects with the T.I.I and other interested stakeholders. He alluded to the fact that 4 separate Part VIII approvals for projects in the south of the county had been approved recently.

C/433/22

DEER CULLING POLICY FOR COUNTY DONEGAL.

Members unanimously agreed to deal with Motion No. 23 at this juncture.

On the proposal of Cllr Mc Clafferty seconded by Cllr Molloy it was resolved to adopt the following motion:

"I propose we bring about an organised Deer Culling Policy for County Donegal to cut our deer numbers down in a humane way, in the interests of road safety and to prevent the destruction of crops. It is also very important that the proposal which has been mooted referencing the introduction of wolf packs back into rural Ireland to contain the deer population does not proceed in the interest of public safety".

He received a response from the Director of Roads & Transportation.

Cllr Mc Clafferty outlined the dangers involved and said that the issue was a significant problem in the Glenties Municipal District. Something needed to be done, he advised, as there were considerable health and safety issues involved in terms of road safety and for the farming

population in general. He highlighted the fact that several cars had been badly damaged and that no one was prepared to take responsibility.

Cllr Molloy concurred and outlined the fact that there were significant issues and that deer were posing a danger to road users.

There was no opposition to the motion.

C/434/22

SOCIAL HOUSING IN DONEGAL

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

The Science and Societal Impact of Defective Concrete.

"That Donegal County Council,

- 1) Acknowledge, lobby, and support the proposal (Dr. Karen Kirby et al) submitted to the University of Ulster for a Ph D scholarship award to study the science and societal impact of Defective Concrete on affected families and their local communities.*
- 2) That the Council's Chief Executive engages with the Educational Institutions & partners in the NWTEC and HEA and lobbies for the support of the proposal submitted.*
- 3) That the Council endorse and support the ETB submissions to relevant Government departments seeking the provision of significant educational support measures for schools and communities affected by Defective Blocks and urge from government a generous and positive response.*
- 4) That DCC seek assurances from related Government departments that ample educational supports, choices, and assistance will be in place that will enable the "Delivering Equality of Opportunity in Schools and communities for families affected by Defective Concrete Blocks."*

He received a response from the Director of Housing, Corporate & Cultural Services.

Cllr Doherty said that eight years ago the mica issue had been brought to members attention by members of the Mica Action Group and the ensuing years had generated a myriad of problems as identified in the motion submitted. A recent conference on the topic in Letterkenny, had identified, he said, a number of actions which the Council could take part in.

Cllr Doherty said that many have alluded to the mental health tsunami that is just around the corner and queried what thoughts if any have been given to the response that such a natural disaster warranted. Everything must be done, he contended, to slow down the impact for the families affected.

Cllr Murray seconding the motion said that the impact was devastating for young people and something needed to be done without delay.

There was no opposition to the motion.

Cllr Doherty thanked all who had supported the motion. He referred to the fact that young people were affected by the environment in which they grew up in. He said it was imperative that the voices of those who had addressed the Council on the issue earlier in the meeting were listened to.

C/435/22

PROPOSAL THAT AN EMERGENCY FUND/EVACUATION FUND BE SET UP BY CENTRAL GOVERNMENT IN ORDER TO ADDRESS THE WORST AFFECTED MICA FAMILIES

On the proposal of Cllr McGuinness, seconded by Cllr Kavanagh it was resolved to adopt the following motion:

"In light of recent developments would Donegal County Council please advise on what plans are afoot, if any, in relation to housing mica families going forward. I propose that an emergency fund / evacuation fund be set up by Central Government in order to address the worst affected families, and that this Council writes to the Minister for Housing on the matter".

He received a response from the Director of Housing, Corporate & Cultural Services.

Cllr Mc Guinness said that people deserved to feel safe in their own home and that what was happening in Donegal was a humanitarian disaster and warranted immediate intervention.

Cllr Kavanagh supporting the motion, said that action was needed now if a tragedy was to be avoided.

There was no opposition to the motion.

C/436/22

LEGISLATION TO HAVE AQUACULTURE TRESTLES PROPERLY MARKED INCLUDING BUOYS AND LIGHTS TO ENSURE THE SAFETY OF SMALL INSHORE CRAFT

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

"That the Council write to the Minister of Agriculture, Food and the Marine and ask him to legislate to have aquaculture trestles, that have taken over our estuarine waters, to be properly marked with buoys and lights to ensure the safety of small inshore craft".

He received a response from the Director of Roads & Transportation.

Cllr Crossan said that there was proper regulation and licencing in some areas, but that there were issues with Lough Foyle which had long been the focus of the ongoing territorial dispute. He noted that in the area from Culmore to Clar there were upward of 80,000 of these trestles. He called for appropriate legislation to be put in place to address the safety issues outlined in the motion.

Supporting the motion, Cllr A Doherty alluded to the fact that Foyle was an economic driver and an employment provider and as such that controls needed to be in place to ensure that this was a safe environment for all who worked there.

There was no opposition to the motion.

C/437/22

RAMPS WITHIN OUR TOWNS AND VILLAGES TO SLOW DOWN TRAFFIC

On the proposal of Cllr Canning, seconded by Cllr Naughton it was resolved to adopt the following motion:

"I am asking this Council to seek clarification from Transport Infrastructure Ireland TII/NRA as to why they are not in favour of allowing our Council to put down ramps to slow down the traffic within our towns and villages given that the Design Manual is ok with it"

He received a response from the Director of Roads & Transportation.

Cllr Canning thanked the Director of Services for his response and said he firmly believed that raised ramps were a necessity in towns and villages.

It was noted that temporary ramps in Newtowncunningham worked well. He advised of the need for physical ramps in Killea, given the number of heavy vehicles that used this route. This, he contended, could be in the form of a raised platform similar to that in place at Bridgend School.

This issue was something, he added, which needed to be raised again with Transport Infrastructure Ireland.

Cllr Naughton seconding the motion said that a similar situation existed in South Donegal, particularly outside the School in Laghey. He queried how the installation of ramps did not seem to be a problem in some other counties.

Mr Bryan Cannon, A/Director Roads & Transportation said that the response outlined the variety of Design Guides that existed but and that no one solution fitted all.

The issue, he said, was a challenge for all Local Authorities and that Donegal as a rural authority needed to look at the needs of vehicles

and pedestrians alike and in doing so there would have to be an element of sacrifice on both sides.

He alluded to the fact that there were different levels of interventions in some schemes and noted that the Cathedral One Way System in Letterkenny had combined raised tables and crossing points.

This was something, he said, which could be discussed further by the Roads & Transportation SPC and with the T.I.I Road Safety personnel.

There was no opposition to the motion.

Cllr Canning concluding called on the Road Design Team to look at the provision of ramps in all towns and villages.

C/438/22

PROVISION OF TOP CLASS LEISURE CENTRE FACILITIES IN CO. DONEGAL

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

"That this Council, once again, reaffirms its absolute commitment to delivering top class leisure centre facilities in County Donegal, and in doing so, commits to exploring all potential avenues of funding, including that of the Rural Regeneration & Development Fund".

He received a response from the Director of Water & Environment. Cllr Murray welcomed the response and the fact that funding options for the Buncrana Community Leisure Centre were currently being explored through RRDF funding as part of the "Re-empower Buncrana" project. It was encouraging, he said, to see the project move to the next stage and the public were appreciative of the commitment shown to date.

Cllr Donaghey thanked the Council and all other stakeholders who had been involved to date. She acknowledged the funding commitment provided by the Council to date and said that it was a matter of concern that families had to travel outside the peninsula to access indoor swimming facilities.

There was no opposition to the motion.

Mr Michael Mc Garvey, Director of Water & Environment, said that the Council was actively working with the local community and pursuing available funding options. He confirmed that RRDF funding options were being looked at in conjunction with the Regeneration Team and that there was also ongoing engagement with the Oireachtas members regarding same.

TRANSFORMATION OF THE FIRE SERVICE

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

"That Donegal County Council notes that in a recent survey conducted by Retained Fire Service 60% of Retained Fire Fighters intend to leave the service in the near future, many within the next year. We also note that a ballot amongst Retained Firefighters has commenced and that reports suggest that up to 97% are in favour of Industrial action.

These actions are unprecedented and such I am now asking that:

This Council calls on the Minister of Housing, Local Government and Heritage to act on these concerns and begins a transformation of the current Fire Service into one that is "Fit for Purpose" with Fair Pay and Conditions, Pensions, working conditions and with adequate time off for our Retained Firefighters with their families. The Retained Fire Service delivers an invaluable service to our communities. Its members are professional, dedicated and want to make the service better, and a safer place to work. The current model of Management is no longer fit for purpose. The recruitment and retention crisis brought about by staffing shortages are now placing unsustainable demands upon the Retained Fire Service. I am therefore asking Members of this Council to support my motion and that we write to the Minister outlining our concerns and call on him to immediately initiate a process of transformation within the Service. Failure to address these issues will only place the health and safety of Retained Fire Fighters and members of the public in danger during emergency callouts".

He received a response from the Director of Economic Development Information Systems & Emergency Services.

Cllr Mc Monagle said that the motion spoke for itself. Firefighters, he noted provided an invaluable service and the unprecedented actions outlined were symptomatic of the dissatisfaction that existed in a service that was no longer for purpose. He asked that contact be made with the Minister as soon as possible as there were serious health and safety issues involved.

He welcomed the response and the fact that a national review was underway on the retained fire service model. It was concerning, he said that retained firefighters were on call 24 hours a day and called to deal with all types of emergencies, yet only paid at a rate of €1.50 per hour. He cited the need for urgent action.

Cllr Murray concurred with this assessment and said that low morale was causing conscientious and dedicated staff to leave the service.

All in Donegal County Council, he affirmed, were proud of the professionalism shown by our firefighters and it was thus imperative that they were adequately compensated given the risks involved.

There was no opposition to the motion.

Ms Anne Marie Conlon, Head of Economic Development, deputising for the Director of Services, referred to the response circulated and the fact that specific challenges had been identified. It was hoped, she added, that the national review currently underway would address many of the issues highlighted. Donegal County Council, she advised was fully supportive of any recommended changes that that would enhance the role and make the service more attractive to new recruits.

Cllr Mc Monagle said that he hoped that the review would be completed as soon as possible and that there would be sufficient incentive to attract new recruits to the service.

C/440/22

**DIRECTORATE REVIEW WITH A FOCUS ON THE
PRIORITISATION AND RESOURCING OF THE SERVICES MOST
IN NEED**

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

"I propose that this Council review the Directorates of this Council with a focus on the prioritisation and resourcing of the services most in need".

He received a response from the Director of Corporate, Housing & Cultural Services.

Cllr Brogan said that the county faced many challenges going forward and that that a review of the workload by Directorate was needed at this juncture to assess exactly where resources were lacking.

Donegal County Council, he acknowledged, was a large organisation and referred to the whole area of housing, where, he contended, a dedicated support team needed to be put in place.

The whole area of economic development, and the development of the North West Region, he advised needed adequate resourcing.

He alluded to other areas such as those staff seconded to Irish Water and the need for engagement with the staff concerned.

Another area that warranted consideration, he advised, was the whole area of tourism development as there were concerns at present that this lay between two Directorates.

He asked that an update be provided in relation to the matter in the New Year.

Cllr Mc Dermott seconding the motion said that he agreed with the issues raised by Cllr Brogan.

There was no opposition to the motion.

Mr Liam Ward, Deputy Chief Executive, noted that the last significant review had taken place in 2010/2011 and that there were regular reviews in terms of staffing structures. He would, he confirmed, discuss the matter with the Chief Executive and come back to members within the timeframe stipulated.

C/441/22

PRESENTATION TO CLLR IAN MC GARVEY

The Cathaoirleach informed members that Cllr Ian Mc Garvey had advised of his intention to retire early in 2023. He noted that he had been first elected in 2004 and had been returned at every subsequent election.

Members at this juncture congratulated Cllr Mc Garvey on his dedication and commitment over the years all inspired by his commitment to work for the common good.

All present took the opportunity to thank him for his service, noting that the passion and sincerity that he brought to the chamber had been unrivalled and unequalled.

They wished him and his wife Marjorie many years of good health and a happy retirement.

Mr Liam Ward, Deputy Chief Executive on behalf of the Senior Management Team and the staff of Donegal County Council thanked Cllr Mc Garvey for his many years of service and for the passion and determination that he had shown over the years, all for the benefit of the people of Donegal. His drive and ambition, it was noted, were characteristics which had served him well as over the years he had been an excellent ambassador for Donegal.

Cllr Mc Garvey said that he was most appreciative of the kind words directed towards him. He said that over the years it had been a collaborative effort and that he had enjoyed working with the members for the betterment of the county. Life, he contended, was about challenges and his life experiences had been of enormous help in his political life. It was, he advised, never about personal gain but rather about contributing to and assisting the electorate to the best of his ability.

A presentation was made to Cllr Mc Garvey acknowledging his outstanding service and commitment to the people of Donegal.

ESTABLISHMENT OF A CROSS DIRECTORATE WORKING GROUP ON THE POTENTIAL OF A RAIL NETWORK IN CO DONEGAL

On the proposal of Cllr Kennedy, seconded by Cllr I McGarvey it was resolved to adopt the following motion:

"That Donegal County Council will establish a cross directorate working group on the potential of a rail network in County Donegal. That we will look at this from a cross-border, Shared Island point of view. If we are to be serious about connectivity and the green agenda, our over reliance on cars and the opening up of the County to real tourism numbers we must have the political will and drive to create this working group with all the key stakeholders in the room - Roads and Transportation, Economic Development, Environment, the lobby groups (Into the West and others)".

She received a response from the Director of Roads & Transportation.

Cllr Kennedy said that Donegal was often forgotten when it came to funding initiatives and that it was a recognised fact that the county had not really seen the benefit of any increase in tourism numbers. What was needed, she stated, was a top-class rail network that would open up the county and enhance the tourism potential. There was on onus on the elected members, she said, to drive this forward given the lack of political will in relation to rail infrastructure at present.

She welcomed the response and agreed that it was evident going forward that with the relevant structures the necessary infrastructure could be put in place.

Cllr I Mc Garvey welcomed the opportunity to second the motion and alluded to the fact that rail networks were in place in areas similar to Donegal in both England and Scotland. He noted that Donegal had previously had a viable working rail system that had worked well. This mode of transport was something, he said, that would be most welcome in term of measures to deal with climate change and the reduction of fuel consumption. It would take, he said, a collaborative approach to ensure that a viable rail network was reinstated in Donegal.

There was no opposition to the motion.

Mr Bryan Cannon, A/Director Roads & Transportation referred to the fact that an All-Ireland Strategic Rail Review was ongoing on an All-Ireland basis and said that this would inform the development of rail sector on the Island of Ireland over the coming decades.

This was something, he advised, which needed to be considered in the context of the size of the Island and the peripherality of Donegal.

He said that the report when available could be brought to the Roads & Transportation SPC and a view on the approach considered by the Council. This approach, it was acknowledged, was something that could be looked at in tandem with current roads infrastructure.

C/443/22

INCREASED FUNDING FOR REGIONAL AND LOCAL ROADS MAINTENANCE

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

"I am calling on this Council to ask the Department of Transport for a meeting to discuss an increase of funding for our regional and local roads maintenance throughout our county for which a delegation from each Municipal, and our CEO and Road's officials can attend".

He received a response from the Director of Roads & Transportation.

Cllr Jordan said that he was aware that this motion had been raised in several Municipal Districts given the huge shortfall in the amount of funding received for regional and local road maintenance. Donegal, he noted, received funding which only covered about one third of its road network. He called on the Chief Executive and roads officials to meet with the Department with a view to addressing this anomaly.

He said that Municipal Districts approved four-year roads plans, but the lack of adequate funding meant that some roads never actually got remediated. Another problem, he contended, was the fact that the price of materials had doubled in price. It was essential, he said, that funding issues were addressed as soon as possible.

Cllr Mc Monagle cited to need to ensure that deficits in many of the link roads tied into the TEN-T Project were addressed.

There was no opposition to the motion.

Mr Bryan Cannon, Director Roads & Transportation said that representations could be made to the Department of Transport for a meeting to discuss same.

C/444/22

INDEPENDENT LIGHTING SURVEY ON TOWNS LOCATED ON THE N15 SUCH AS BALLYBOFEY & STRANORLAR

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

"That this Council carry out an independent lighting survey on towns located on the N15 such as Ballybofey and Stranorlar".

He received a response from the Director of Roads & Transportation.

Cllr Mc Gowan referred in particular to the need for an inspection of the lights on the main street in Ballybofey/Stranorlar as there were health and safety issues involved.

He called for the replacement of wooden poles as many of these were an eyesore at present.

Cllr Canning outlined his support for the motion.

There was no opposition to the motion.

Mr Bryan Cannon, A/ Director Roads & Transportation alluded to the fact that there were approximately 19,000 public lights in Donegal with two thirds of these currently upgraded to LED lamps. The remainder, he noted, would be retrofitted under the upcoming Public Lighting Energy Efficiency Programme. An independent public lighting survey in towns on the N15, he added, could be considered in terms of work and budgetary planning. Specific areas of concern, could, he advised, be considered by the Council's Public Lighting Team in the interim.

Cllr Mc Gowan said that a review was needed urgently given the ongoing discussion regarding Public Realm Streetscapes etc.

C/445/22

ORGANISATIONAL CHART AND STAFFING LIST - DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

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

"That this Council creates a Family Tree style document/resource to include all members of staff of DCC showing Name, Role/Title and Section in order to inform elected members and Council staff of "Who's Who in DCC". This should be a live document that would be updated when staff members change roles, enter, or leave employment or when new positions are created within the Council. The resource would also include Elected Members".

He received a response from the Director Housing, Corporate & Cultural Services.

Cllr Sweeny advised of the need for a dedicated resource which was easy to navigate, and which would keep members informed as staff positions rotated. He said that the motion would complement Cllr Brogan's earlier motion.

Cllr Mc Guinness said that this would be a valuable resource and would help increase efficiencies.

There was no opposition to the motion.

Mr Patsy Lafferty, Director Housing, Corporate & Cultural Services said that a database of the relevant key contacts could be made available for the various services.

C/446/22

RE-INTRODUCTION OF THE SEWER TANKS REGISTRATION SCHEME

On the proposal of Cllr O' Fearraigh, seconded by Cllr T Crossan it was resolved to adopt the following motion:

"That Donegal County Council write to the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, to re-introduce the Sewer Tanks Registration Scheme which ceased in 2013, for homeowners to avail of in Donegal".

He received a response from the Director of Water & Environment.

Cllr O' Fearraigh said that a grant of €4000 had been available ten years ago and a similar initiative was needed now. This, he advised, had been a good scheme and one which needed to be put back on the Programme of Works to assist homeowners deal with the problem of aging tanks and associated environmental issues.

Cllr T Crossan supported the call for the reopening of the scheme.

Mr Michael Mc Garvey, Director Water & Environment, said that up to 100 tanks per year were inspected and that up to 50% of these were deemed to be non-compliant.

Correspondence, he confirmed, had issued to the EPA regarding same. He would, he advised, write to the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage as proposed.

Cllr O' Fearraigh thanked members for their support.

C/447/22

NOMINATION OF 4 NO. MEMBERS TO THE WESTERN INTER-COUNTY RAILWAY COMMITTEE

It was unanimously agreed that representation be sought from each of the Municipal Districts.

Cllr Mc Monagle proposed, seconded by Cllr Murray that Cllr Mc Mahon represent the Donegal Municipal District.

Cllr Mc Gowan proposed, seconded by Cllr L Doherty that Cllr Gerry Crawford represent the Lifford/ Stranorlar Municipal District

Cllr Kavanagh proposed, seconded by Cllr Harley that Cllr Mc Guinness represent the Inishowen Municipal District.

Cllr Molloy proposed, seconded by Cllr Crawford, that Cllr Mc Clafferty represent the Glenties Municipal District.

Cllr Mc Guinness proposed, seconded by Cllr Harley, that Cllr Kavanagh represent the Letterkenny/ Milford Municipal District.

It was agreed to contact the Western Inter-County Railway Committee regarding the nomination of the additional representative.

C/448/22

CATHAOIRLEACH'S BUSINESS

Votes of Sympathy

A vote of sympathy was extended to the following:

- Sean Doohan, Roads, Section, Letterkenny/Milford MD on the death of his father, John Doohan.
- The family of the late Patrick Monaghan, formerly Roads Section, Donegal MD.
- Anthony Harkin, Water Services, Inishowen MD on the death of his father Tony Harkin.
- Peter Kane, National Roads Office, Donegal Town on the death of his father Peter.
- The family of the late Liam Collins, formerly Letterkenny/Milford MD Housing Maintenance.
- Garry Martin, Director of Service on the death of his mother, Mary Martin.

Association of Irish Regions Conference

Members were informed that the Association of Irish Regions was holding its first regional seminar and training event to explore regional perspectives for policy making, economic and spatial development and how the Regions are a key delivery mechanism for strong regional development. It was confirmed that the brochure would be included on the agenda for the January Council Meeting.

Events Attended

- NESC Shared Island Event (Launch of Research Paper) held on the 7th October, 2022 in the Playhouse, Derry.
- Donegal Association of New York, 125th Anniversary Celebrations in New York on the 15th October, 2022.
- Opening of the GAA Centre of Excellence in Convoy on the 21st October, 2022.
- "Investment in the North West" Event at the Epic Museum in Dublin – a joint initiative with Derry City and Strabane District Council on the 26th October, 2022.
- Attendance at the LEO office in Letterkenny for the visit of Minister Damien English on the 2nd November, 2022.
- Delivered opening address at the Civil Defence Officers - Annual Conference in the Clanree Hotel, Letterkenny on the 9th November, 2022.
- Attendance at the Golden Bridges Awards in the USA from the 14th to the 19th November, 2022.

- Addressed the Donegal Youth Council at their Annual General meeting on the 22nd November, 2022.
- Attended the Chambers Ireland Excellence in Local Government Awards in the Crowne Plaza, Santry on the 24th November, 2022.

Congratulations was extended to the Ramelton Heritage Project and the Trail Gazers Project both of whom who had been nominated for awards, with the Ramelton Heritage Project winning the Heritage and Built Environment Award. He informed members that the KPMG Property Industry Excellence Awards had taken place the same night and that Cllr Niamh Kennedy and Cllr Barry Sweeny had attended same. The Ballyshannon Historic Towns Initiative had been successful at these awards and were joint winners of the Community & Heritage Award.

C/449/22

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S MANAGEMENT REPORT

The Deputy Chief Executive highlighted the main aspects of the report and members were briefed in relation to the following:

1 Community Development & Planning Services

- A. URDF and RRDF Funding Programmes Update
- B. Residential Zoned Land Tax
- C. Community Development Funding Programmes Update

- (i) *Donegal Youth Council*
- (ii) *LEADER Programme 2023-2027*
- (iii) *Intercultural Fashion Show*

2 Water and Environment

- A. Waste and Litter Management
 - (i) *Choose to Reuse for "Reuse Month" in October*
 - (ii) *School Bikes Africa Campaign*
 - (iii) *Reuse in the Garden Workshops Return for 2022*
- B. Water Quality
 - (i) *Septic Tank Inspections*
 - (ii) *Public Information Messages for Farmers*
 - (iii) *Farm Inspections*
 - (iv) *Oil Pollution*
- C. Air Quality
 - (i) *Solid Fuel Regulations 2022 – 31 October 2022*
 - (ii) *Petrol Vapour Recovery Requirements*
- D. Rural Water Programme
 - (i) *Co Donegal Group Water Scheme Sector*
 - (ii) *Group Water Scheme Takeover Requests*

- (iii) GWS Takeover Project – Works to Date*
- (iv) Orphan Schemes*
- (v) Multi Annual Rural Water Programme 2022-2025*
- (vi) Measure A8*
- (vii) Well Grants*

E. Coastal Management

- (i) Beach Management*
- (ii) Beach Lifeguards*
- (iii) Beach Safety*
- (iv) Bathing Waters – Season Review*

3. Housing, Corporate & Cultural Services

A. Cultural Services

- (i) Arts Update*
- (ii) Archives*
- (iii) County Donegal Heritage Office*

B. Housing

- (i) Social Housing Developments on Council Land*
- (ii) Social Housing through Turnkey Acquisition*
- (iii) Housing Lands and Land Acquisition*
- (iv) Approved Housing Bodies*

4. Economic Development, Information Systems & Emergency Services

A. Economic Development

- (i) #BuyDonegal 2022*
- (ii) Buncrana NTE Advisor*
- (iii) Invest in the North West Event*

B. Fire Service

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

C. Local Enterprise Office (LEO)

- (i) Figures*
- (ii) Upcoming Programmes*
- (iii) Ongoing Programmes*
- (v) Upcoming Activities*

5. Roads & Transportation

- A. TEN-T Update
- B. Area Updates

Cllr Martin Mc Dermott in relation to the Defective Concrete Blocks issue called on the Deputy Chief Executive to issue urgent correspondence to the two senior officials in the Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage dealing with the defective blocks issue. This, he said, should highlight the need to put emergency funding in place immediately to assist those mica affected families whose homes were now at the point where they were inhabitable. There were, he advised ten to twelve houses which needed immediate intervention and it was now a case of demanding that help be provided. This was duly proposed by Cllr Mc Dermott and seconded by Cllr Blaney.

Cllr Mc Monagle referred to his motion agreed at the Budget Meeting on the 21st November in relation to the unnecessary delays with the new Defective Concrete Blocks Scheme, and the need to provide modular homes as matter of urgency to alleviate the suffering of those families most affected by mica. He queried if any feedback had been received to date and said that more effective communication was required to ensure that all stakeholders were kept up to date with developments.

Several members expressed concern that the executive had met with the Minister and that an update had not been forthcoming.

Cllr A Doherty asked that an update be provided at MD level in relation to the role and remit of the Ukrainian Response Co-ordinator together with the role to be played by the Local Authority. He asked if there were any plans in place to hold public consultation/information events regarding the implications of the Residential Zoned Land Tax particularly in relation to the farming community.

The Deputy Chief Executive clarified that an invite had issued in September for all Chief Executives and all Directors of Housing to attend a plenary session in Dublin in early October. This, he said, had not been possible in light of the Cresslough tragedy and Minister O' Brien had subsequently made time available to meet with the Chief Executive, the Director of Housing, Corporate & Cultural Services together with the Senior Engineer and that this was the meeting that had taken place.

In light of the proposal made by Cllr Mc Dermott, he said that he would have no difficulty with this and that a communication could go off in the morning regarding same.

He informed Cllr Mc Monagle that his motion requesting a delegation to meet the Minister as agreed at the Budget meeting on the 21st November had been forwarded to the Minister for his attention on the 22nd November.

He also noted that senior staff in Donegal County Council had sat down just over two weeks ago and went through the issues with the Mica Action Group. He noted that not all the issues that needed to be resolved were within the realms of the Local Authority.

It was noted that the Chair of the Mica Action Group had met with the Cathaoirleach and members of the executive prior to the meeting and that a commitment had been given that the lines of communication would remain open.

The Cathaoirleach he confirmed had given a commitment that replies to the questions raised by the Mica Action Group would be forwarded by the end of the week and an offer had been extended to meet again in relation to the matter.

Regarding the role and brief of the Ukrainian Co-Ordinator, he said, that details could be provided to members.

Cllr A Doherty was informed that arrangements had been put in place in each Municipal District to provide access to the maps setting out details of lands impacted by the Residential Zoned Land Tax and that a conversation would be had with the relevant planning personnel regarding the need for a public consultation event.

Mr Patsy Lafferty, Director Housing, Corporate & Cultural Services commenting on the remarks made by the Deputy Chief Executive in relation to the meeting with Minister O' Brien said this had been a proactive discussion in relation to the Defective Concrete Blocks issue, social and private housing and the plight of the mica impacted families currently living in living in bad conditions. There had also been discussion, he added, in relation to the next steps regarding stage 1 applications.

There was, he advised, a communications gap to the extent that Donegal County Council did not have all the solutions. He said that there had been a meeting with the Mica Action Group at their request and that the Council through a press release had communicated what the next steps were in relation to Stage 1 applications as it related to new parameters received from the Department. He alluded to the fact that there had been meetings with Engineers Ireland and the Chartered Engineers Grouping. Communication, he advised, had issued directly to the homeowners waiting the longest in relation to their Stage 1 application. He said that there was a lot of communication ongoing and that it needed to be teased out just where the message was not getting across. He reiterated that the Council cannot communicate the

solutions to issues which are not within the Council responsibility to resolve.

Cllr Mc Monagle queried what had been discussed with the Minister in relation to the ten families most in need. He expressed concern that little or no clarity had been provided for the ten families involved.

It was shocking he said that there had been no response from the Minister regarding the request for a meeting.

The Director of Housing, Corporate & Cultural Services confirmed that a range of issues had been discussed at the meeting ranging from Stage 1 applications and other associated issues including the plight of the ten families in poor accommodation. The Minister, he advised, had said he was aware of the issues and was working to find an appropriate solution.

The Deputy Chief Executive said that a meeting had been offered to the Mica Action Group at 9am this morning but that they had not been in a position to take up the offer. The Council would, he confirmed, put out by way of response the most up to date information available and set out clearly where the responsibility lay in terms of moving things along. This he said would issue by Friday of this week.

The Cathaoirleach had also committed to facilitating a meeting the following week. It was not a case, he said, of not sharing or withholding information, but rather taking cognisance of the fact that not all the information was available to the Council. He said it needed to be set out exactly what was in the Council's gift to resolve.

Cllr Mc Monagle asked that a copy of the response to the Mica Action Group be circulated to members for their attention.

The following questions were submitted.

C/450/22

PUBLIC LIGHTING – LOCATION OF LIGHTS NOT LISTED ON PUBLIC LIGHTING DATABASE

Cllr A Doherty submitted the following question:

What initiatives and actions are necessary and planned to ensure that the County Council Public Lighting Team will identify and locate public lights not presently listed nor located on the Public Lighting Database?

He received a response from the Director of Roads & Transportation.

C/451/22

RECLASSIFICATION OF REGIONAL ROADS TO NATIONAL ROADS

Cllr Murray submitted the following question:

What is the current position of the TII regarding the reclassification of our regional roads, to that of national roads, such as the Derry to Buncrana road and the Derry to Moville road?

He received a response from the Director of Roads & Transportation.

C/452/22 **RAMPS AS A MECHANISM OF SLOWING DOWN TRAFFIC**

Cllr Canning submitted the following question:

Is there any other County Council within the Country putting in Ramps as a mechanism of slowing down traffic?

He received a response from the Director of Roads & Transportation.

C/453/22 **IS THERE ANY RECORDED ACCIDENTS WITHIN THE COUNTRY CAUSED ENTIRELY BY A RAMP?**

Cllr Canning submitted the following question:

Has there been any recorded accidents within the Country caused entirely by a ramp?

He received a response from the Director of Roads & Transportation.

C/454/22 **WHAT NUMBER OF COUNCIL HOUSING STOCK IS LISTED AS AFFECTED BY DEFECTIVE CONCRETE**

Cllr A Doherty submitted the following question:

What number of Council Housing stock to date have been listed as affected by Defective Concrete and confirmed to Dept. of Housing, and what funding has been applied for to the Dept. to enable extensive works to commence on the affected Council houses and when will works required commence?

He received a response from the Director of Housing, Corporate & Cultural Services.

C/455/22 **BREAKDOWN OF ALL DEFECTIVE CONCRETE BLOCKS APPLICATIONS**

Cllr Murray submitted the following question:

Can this Council provide an updated breakdown of all applications received for the Defective Concrete Blocks Scheme, providing the numbers in each stage of the application process, up to the completion of works?

He received a response from the Director of Roads & Transportation.

C/456/22 **PERFORMANCE REPORTS ACROSS ALL DIRECTORATES**

Cllr Brogan submitted the following question:

Can we get an updated report on what steps are being taken to have performance reports across all the Directorates in Donegal County Council on a quarterly basis as agreed by Council?

He received a response from the Director of Housing, Corporate & Cultural Services.

C/457/22 **MEETING WITH LETTERKENNY UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL WITH A VIEW TO EXPLORING CAPITAL INVESTMENT PROJECTS THROUGH THE SHARED ISLAND UNIT**

Cllr Brogan submitted the following question:

Can this Council arrange a meeting with LUH, Letterkenny University Hospital with a view to exploring Capital Investment Projects through the Shared Island Unit and report back to us as elected members?

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

C/458/22 **CCTV FOR TOWNS IN DONEGAL.**

Cllr McGowan submitted the following question:

Can I have an update on my earlier Q&M, regarding CCTV for towns in Donegal and the request that the Council's Joint Policing Committee write to the Minister of Justice and her Department requesting them to pay the costs of texts on behalf of text alert committees?

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

C/459/22 **WHY IS DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL DELAYING TENANTS FROM BUYING THEIR OWN HOUSES**

Cllr McGowan submitted the following question:

Why is Donegal County Council delaying tenants from purchasing their houses in cases where they are over thirty years plus old?

He received a response from the Director of Housing, Corporate & Cultural Services.

C/460/22 **COUNCILS PLANS TO BUILD SOCIAL HOUSING IN EACH MUNICIPAL DISTRICT**

Cllr Mc Clafferty submitted the following question:

Can I have an update on the plans that this Council has to build Social Housing in each Municipal District?

He received a response from the Director of Housing, Corporate & Cultural Services.

C/461/22 **HOW MANY DOGS ARE IN DONEGAL AND HOW MANY ARE LICENCED**

Cllr Mc Clafferty submitted the following question:

How many actual dogs are in Donegal at present and how many are licenced?

He received a response from the Director of Housing, Corporate & Cultural Services.

C/462/22 **Motions from Other Councils/Bodies**
Cork City Council.

“That Cork City Council writes to the Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources to ask that in light of the climate emergency declared by Cork City Council in 2019, that they refrain from issuing any further prospecting licences for mining.

In this letter the Council shall express solidarity with campaigns against goldmining in the Sperrin mountains, Co Tyrone and in Counties Leitrim and Donegal where the Government and Ministers addressed is issuing prospecting licenses against the democratic will of Leitrim County Council and through this act is actively detrimental to both of these shared environmental struggles”.

Cork City Council.

“Cork County Council calls on EPA to put in place a full suite of end of waste criteria to support the circular economy and climate action. These criteria must allow for an efficient means to move materials out of the waste streams in all areas including,

- Construction and demolition waste materials such as concrete, top-soil,
- Concrete products such as blocks and kerbs, timber, etc to reduce the demand for virgin materials and it must allow for materials from smaller projects coming to locations such as civic amenity sites.
- Re-use schemes such as paint, bicycles etc coming to locations such as civic amenity sites.
- Items such as furniture, toys tools, equipment and schoolbooks coming to locations such as civic amenity sites to extend their useful life or for parts to extend the life of other items.

Members agreed that a copy of this letter would be circulated to the EPA and the Southern Regional Assembly.

Fermanagh & Omagh District Council

“That Fermanagh and Omagh District Council supports fully the Justice for Noah campaign,

This Council requests that there should be a rigorous, open and transparent police investigation, where every avenue is explored, to get justice for Noah and his family.

This Council also calls on the Secretary of State to withdraw PII (Public interest immunity) Certificate in this case.

Finally, we request that this motion is sent in writing to all other Councils on the island of Ireland as well as the relevant leaders of the political parties that are members of the Policing Board”.

Limerick City & County Council

“That due to the ongoing war in Ukraine and the global grain shortage, the Minister for Agriculture should, as a matter of urgency, establish an Expert National Review Group on Horticulture to include the main stakeholders and to report back in six months. The purpose of the Group would be to review all food industries under the headings, Food Security; Import Substitution; Employment Opportunities. Areas to include – Protected Crops, Fruit Production – Top Fruits(apples), Soft Fruits and the Seed Potato Sector. This motion to be circulated to all local authorities”.

Longford County Council

“That following the publication of the Social Housing Assessment Regulations in which Longford was left out, that Longford County Council write to the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Darragh O’Brien to move Longford from Band 3 into Band 2 to raise the basic income threshold from €25,000 to €30,000”.

Monaghan County Council

“That Monaghan County Council notes that Citizens’ Assemblies are powerful democratic exercises that inform citizens, allowing them to debate specifics, develop positions and inform policy. They have operated effectively in many jurisdictions across the world. This Council calls on the Irish Government to establish an all-Ireland Citizens’ Assembly to debate and discuss our constitutional future”. The debate on Irish Unity is live and growing, and we must plan for constitutional change, in the context of the Good Friday Agreement provision for a Unity referendum”.

Monaghan County Council

“That Monaghan County Council also invites officials from the Taoiseach’s Shared Island Unit to present to Council and provide an update on activity and plans for the future”.

Offaly County Council

“At the October meeting of Offaly County Council, the Members passed a resolution highlighting the difficulties faced by emergency medical technicians including low salary and poor working conditions resulting in a number of technicians leaving the service. The further highlighted the issue of the ambulances covering countywide, often leaving none available for Offaly and surrounding areas”.

Sligo County Council

“ In light of the huge staffing issues our health service is now facing that Sligo County Council calls on the Minister for Health to undertake a review of the numbers of doctors and nurses being trained annually with a view of doubling capacity within the system as is required.

Furthermore, that the Minister for Health instructs the Department of Health and the Health Service Executive to implement a workforce strategy for the retention of nurses and doctors to stay working within our health service instead of paying millions for recruitment campaigns overseas.

That this motion be relayed to the Minister for Health, the Taoiseach, the Tánaiste and every Local Authority”.

Sligo County Council

“That Sligo County Council ensure that all new buildings have a changing facility for people with Disability.”

Wicklow County Council

“That Wicklow County Council asks the Government to recognise the European Commission’s confirmation that the Government could exceptionally address the case of C.J. Gaffney and the MV Mary Kate through the European Maritime Fisheries Fund (EMFF)”.

This concluded the business of the meeting.