

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE DHUN NA nGALL

Oifig Riarthóir na
gCruinnithe
Aras an Chontae
LEIFEAR
23 Marta 2021

FÓGRA CRUINNITHE

DO GACH BHALL DEN CHOMHAIRLE

A Chara

Beidh cruinniú ar líne ag Comhairle Contae Dhún na nGall **Dé Luain 29 Marta 2021 ar 11am.** Tá an clár don chruinniú ceangailte leis seo. Seolfar nasc chun páirt a ghlacadh sa chruinniú i ríomhphost eile.

Mise, le meas



Seosamh Ó Piobla
Riarthóir Cruinnithe

DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

Office of Meetings Administrator
County House
Lifford
23rd March, 2021

NOTICE OF MEETING

TO EACH MEMBER OF DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

Dear Councillor

A Meeting of Donegal County Council will be held online on **Monday 29th March, 2021 at 11.00am.** The agenda for the meeting is attached. A link to join the meeting will issue separately.

Yours sincerely



Joe Peoples
Meetings Administrator

AGENDA

1. Confirmation of Minutes

Confirmation of the Minutes of the Meeting of Donegal County Council held on the 25th January, 2021.

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

- a) Notice under Section 211 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) and under Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001 – to dispose of Specific Instance Cottage at Curraghmore, Ballybofey to John Murphy.
- b) Notice under Section 211 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) and under Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001 – to dispose of interest in a portion of lands at the Shore Road Killybegs to the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine.

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

To approve the construction of 11 no 2 storey social housing units at Killylastin, Letterkenny including all associated site development works.

4. Corporate

- a) To consider and adopt the Annual Report for 2020 from the Donegal County Council Audit Committee.
- b) Filling of casual vacancy on the Donegal Education & Training Board arising from the resignation of Cllr Ian Mc Garvey.
- c) To adopt policy in relation to the maintenance of Council Housing Estates as recommended by the Roads & Transportation and the Housing & Corporate Strategic Policy Committees and endorsed by the Corporate Policy Group.
- d) To approve a €500,000 increase in co-funding for the Inishowen Digital Innovation Hub in Buncrana.

5. Finance

To consider the report on irrecoverable rates for year ending 2020 in accordance with Section 26(2) of the Local Government Financial Procedures & Audit Regulations 2014.

6. Community Development

To note the Donegal Local Community Development Committee Annual Report for 2020.

7. Economic Development

- a) To adopt report on “Responding to Brexit – An Investment Plan for Donegal & the North West Region”.
- b) To adopt the Donegal County Council Remote Working Strategy for Business.

- c) To note report on agreed proposals for submission to a) “Reimagining Outdoor Public Spaces” grant scheme and b) eligible towns on Failte Ireland Tourism Recovery Task Force report, for public realm enhancements to support the post-Covid trading environment for the hospitality sector.
- d) To adopt the Minor Tourism Related Works Grant Scheme

8. Roads & Transportation

- a) To approve the implementation of the proposed 2021 Non - National Roads Bridge Strengthening Programme.
- b) To consider the Raphoe Drainage (Flood Relief) Scheme in accordance with the provisions of the Arterial Drainage Act, 1945.

9. Water & Environment

To fix a date for a workshop on the Decarbonisation Zone Initiative.

10. Endorsement of Minutes

- a) To note minutes of the meeting of the Corporate Policy Group held on the 18th January, 2021.

MOTIONS

INISHOWEN MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

Environment

11. Cllr Terry Crossan

“I propose that DCC implement a more stringent enforcement policy regarding the prosecution of people found to be dumping illegally in the County. There has been an increase in this activity in recent times which incurs a significant cost in terms of clean-up and disposal on the Council. Council staff could be better deployed in more constructive projects beneficial to the environment instead of having to revisit locations of serial dumping on a regular basis. Illegal dumping should become more high risk in terms of the possibility of detection and prosecution.”

Housing

12. Cllr Albert Doherty

Housing. (Supported)

“That this Council acknowledge that housing provision with supports is a vital element of facilitating older people to remain in their communities and live independently. Furthermore that DCC now initiate immediate and sustained engagement with The Dept. of Housing, Planning and Local Government, Dept. of Health, AHBs, HSE et al and ensure that the ageing population in Donegal has a range of options for living independently and alternatives to long term residential care to support ageing in place and in line with the policy statement 'Housing Options for Our Ageing Population.’”

Corporate

13. **Cllr Jack Murray**

"In advance of the 30th anniversary of his assassination, Donegal County Council expresses its ongoing support and solidarity with the family of Cllr Eddie Fullerton and echoes their demand for truth and justice; further that this Council resolves to write to both the British and Irish Justice Ministers asking for their full cooperation and transparency in the investigation."

LETTERKENNY/MILFORD MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

Corporate

14. **Cllr Jimmy Kavanagh**

"That this Council supports the extension of the free travel scheme to include persons with epilepsy."

15. **Cllr Gerry Mc Monagle**

"That this Council opposes the Land Development Agency Bill being brought forward by Government. I believe the Bill is fundamentally flawed. The Land Development Agency will erode local democracy and further undermine Donegal County Council's ability to deliver social and affordable housing on public land. I am therefore asking that you the Members support this motion and that we write to the Minister for Housing, Local Government & Heritage, Darragh O'Brien expressing our concerns at the Land Development Agency Bill."

Roads & Transportation

16. **Cllr Ian Mc Garvey**

"That this Council discuss the whole system of operation in respect of the proposed roads programme for Donegal County Council over the next five years."

DONEGAL MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

Corporate

17. **Cllr Tom Conaghan**

"That Donegal County Council supports the appointment of an "Independent Meat Regulator". An Independent Meat Regulator will reform the meat industry between producer and processor."

Economic Development

18. **Cllr Micheál Naughton**

"That Donegal County Council request a meeting as a matter of urgency with the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine Mr. Charlie Mc Conalogue TD, to deal with the feasibility report commissioned by the Killybegs Harbour Development Group in relation to the Killybegs Harbour."

Housing

19. Cllr Michael Mc Mahon

"That this Council meet with the Minister Darragh O'Brien in the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage with regards to the Energy Efficiency/Retrofitting Programme."

Water & Environment

20. Cllr Noel Jordan

"I am asking this Council to uphold the Service Level Agreement with Irish Water to 2024 and that workers in our water section remain under the Donegal County Council."

LIFFORD/STRANORLAR MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

Corporate

21. Cllr Gary Doherty

"That Donegal County Council extends its solidarity and support to the family of Noah Donohoe and supports their campaign for truth and justice and that this Council also agrees to light up the County House blue in support of the 'Justice for Noah' Campaign."

Housing

22. Cllr Patrick Mc Gowan

"That this Council begin planning for wild flower gardens in all our Council owned estates which have large green areas as biodiversity gardens will have multiple benefits for everyone and save residents associations and this Council a small fortune cutting acres of grass every year as well as benefiting nature through pollination and providing areas for nature to flourish."

GLENTIES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

Economic Development

23. Cllr Marie Therese Gallagher

"That this Council call on the Bank of Ireland to reverse its decision to withdraw the services of five branches in Donegal, and that we request a meeting for a delegation of members with the CEO of BOI and the Minister for Finance to outline our opposition to these closures and the consequences this decision has on the five towns in our county."

Corporate

24. Cllr Micheál C Mac Giolla Easbuig

"Iarraim ar Chomhairle Contae Dhún na nGall tacú le hiarrachtaí Phobalscoil na Rosann ina bhfeachtas chun dul i ngleic leis an anás míosta i gContae Dhún na nGall. Chuige seo, ba chóir dúinn a chinntiú go bhfuil teacht, saor in aisce, ar earraí sláintíochta in achan fhoirgneamh de chuid Chomhairle Contae Dhún na nGall, ionaid phobail, linnte snámha agus leabharlanna, fá choinne oibrithe agus baill den phobal. Tá an rún seo ag moladh go

mbunófaí grúpa oibre traspholaitiúil leis an taighde riachtanach uilig, agus leis an éascaíocht uilig, a bheadh de dhíth a dhéanamh leis an rún seo a chur i bhfeidhm gan mhoill.”

“I call on Donegal County Council to support the endeavours of Rosses Community School in their campaign to address Period poverty, in County Donegal. In doing so we should make available access to sanitary items free of charge in all Donegal County Council buildings, community centres, swimming pools and libraries, for both workers and members of the public. This motion calls for a cross political working group to be set up to carry out all necessary research and facilitation for this motion to become a reality in a timely manner.”

25. Cathaoirleach’s Business

26. Chief Executive’s Management Report

QUESTIONS

INISHOWEN MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

Corporate

27. Cllr Albert Doherty

Period Poverty

Presently, a national government committee considers this issue, however will Donegal County Council join with other councils throughout Ireland and agree to have free sanitary products available in the toilets of all council buildings and also in swimming pools, libraries and public buildings under the remit of the County Council?

Economic Development

28. Cllr Albert Doherty

How to date has Donegal County Council sought financial supports and access funding for projects/shared projects from the 1 Billion euro Brexit Stimulus project and the 500 Million euro Shared Island fund and how does the recently proposed "reopening of a further public enquiry into the A5" announcement by Infrastructure Minister Mallon affect projects and spend envisaged?

LETTERKENNY/MILFORD MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

Water & Environment

29. Cllr Ian Mc Garvey

Will we treat our Islands equal to the mainland in terms of facilities and services?

30. Cllr Ian Mc Garvey

Can we ask Irish Water to come in and discuss service needs going forward in respect of the various services provided by Irish Water in Donegal?

DONEGAL MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

Corporate

31. Cllr Michael Mc Mahon

Has this Council made any preparations for extra summer staff across all council directorates given that numerous work programmes have been delayed due to Covid-19?

LIFFORD/STRANORLAR MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

Corporate

32. Cllr Gary Doherty

How does this Council intend on spending the €1.2 million allocated from the Dept of Environment for the retrofit scheme to local authority housing stock considering the huge demand and need for these works throughout the County?

33. Cllr Gerry Crawford

During year 2020 and 2021 to date how many projects over the different directorships have been stalled or unable to begin due to COVID 19 restrictions?

Water & Environment

34. Cllr Gary Doherty

How many people have been successfully prosecuted by this Council for illegal dumping, littering or dog fouling in the period 2015-2020?

Finance

35. Cllr Gerry Crawford

How many claims have been made against this Council in each MD in relation to road or footpath conditions for the years 2019, 2020, and 2021 to date?

Roads & Transportation

36. Cllr Patrick Mc Gowan

What response has the Council received from the Department to the five year county-wide priority specific road's list submission that this Council forwarded to them last year and has there been any allocations or discussions about future allocations made to the County since that time?

Economic Development

37. Cllr Gerry Crawford

Has this Council had a noticeable increase in enquiries from firms or companies seeking to locate in our border areas or indeed within the County with the progression of Brexit ?

38. Cllr Patrick Mc Gowan

Apart from Derry and Letterkenny what plans are envisaged for the rest of the North West City Region and can details be given on specific plans for the Donegal Border corridor with Tyrone and Fermanagh?

GLENTIES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

Housing

39. Cllr Micheál C Mac Giolla Easbuig

Cad chuige nach mbíonn oifigigh shinsearacha ón Rannóg Tógála Tithíochta ag freastal ar chruinnithe Ceantar Bardais ag am nuair atá géarchéim tithíochta ann, agus an bhfuil sé i gceist acu a bheith i láthair uaidh seo ar aghaidh?

Why do senior staff from Housing Construction not attend Municipal District meetings at a time of housing crisis, and do they intend to do so going forward? We further request this motion be forwarded to every one of our Oireachtas members and to every other local authority in Ireland for their observations.”

CLARE COUNTY COUNCIL

“I am calling on Minister Darragh O’Brien and Minister of State Peter Burke to urgently review planning policy in relation to the Development of Residential property.

1/ What I am looking for is more clarity and transparency in relation to developers applying for private residential development and disposal of the total development when completed for social housing.

2/ Developers are required to deliver on Part V of their obligations in the delivery of a portion of the development for Social and Affordable Housing and this has to be agreed with the planners with input from Senior Officers within the housing section.

3/ Planning and housing have a duty to deliver balanced tenure and sustainable communities where a mix of housing would be available for both private and social needs.

4/ The development of large scale housing requires considerable assistance and support at local level and in some instances local services are not sufficient to provide school placements and other essential support for some vulnerable families and this has to be a consideration for planners.

5/ Currently members of the public wishing to purchase their own property are finding it very difficult to find private property for sale as the policy in planning is mostly focused on the delivery of social housing and in turn this policy puts more pressure on local authorities waiting lists and for the lower

to middle income bracket they cannot get on the list due to income thresholds.

Public confidence needs to be strengthened in the whole planning process and I am hopeful the Ministers will find the balance required in the development of vibrant communities.”

CLARE COUNTY COUNCIL

“In light of the incredible services and commitment given to the country by your frontline staff, healthcare workers, carers and lifesavers over the period of the Covid 19 Global Pandemic I call on the government to explore any and every manner to tangibly recognise this extraordinary above and beyond service.

I propose this recognition should be in the form of direct tax free bonus payment similar to the €500 one off payment scheme introduced in Scotland, a tax credit, additional paid leave, or other appropriate clear and tangible reward to mark this commitment.

To do this I call on the Department of Health to lead a cross department group with the achievement of above as its one objective.”

CLARE COUNTY COUNCIL

“That Clare County Council call on the Minister for Transport, Climate, Environment and Communication to provide specific funding to all local authorities in order to create a role for an active and sustainable travel officer so that alternatives to the dependency on cars can be worked on. The role would also include modal shift, behavioural change and designing for the active mobility of people of all ages and abilities who have a right of access to our public streets.”

DÚN LAOGHAIRE-RATHDOWN COUNTY COUNCIL

- (a) “That Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council, recognising the scale of the Housing crisis, reaffirms its commitment to work with Government and all relevant agencies towards delivering new housing units and in particular ensuring that sufficient Social and Affordable housing is built for those in need of same.”
- (b) Recognising, however, its responsibility to use Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown property in the best interests of society this Council rejects the provisions contained in the Land Development Agency 2021 Bill published by the Government removing the role of the elected members of Local Authorities in approving the transfer or sale of lands to the Land Development Agency.”
- (c) “The Council further agrees to write to the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage urging a removal of that provision and to ensure that elected Councillors retain the right to control such sales or transfers and be able to prepare and plan for appropriate housing delivery on Council owned lands. The Council further agrees to circulate this motion to each Local Authority and the Association of Irish Local Government requesting their support for this.”

GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL

“That Galway County Council circulate the “Agri Kids Be Farm Safe Presentation” to all 31 Local Authorities and invite each local authority to join in this initiative of Farming Safety and Safety Measures in Council Awareness Programmes at a local level.”

KERRY COUNTY COUNCIL

“That Killarney MD would write to the Minister for Health requesting the immediate introduction of payment to student nurses, once they take up placement duties. If this motion is passed, I ask that it would be circulated to all other Local Authorities requesting their support.”

KERRY COUNTY COUNCIL

“That this Council writes to Ms Samantha Power, newly appointed Head of US Aid by President Biden to address this Council at some future date.”

KERRY COUNTY COUNCIL

“That this Council calls on the Government to utilise its seat on the United Nations Security Council to deliver Statehood to the Palestinian people.”

KERRY COUNTY COUNCIL

“That we the members of Kerry County Council oppose the introduction of the Land Development Agency Bill”

LAOIS COUNTY COUNCIL

At the February meeting of Laois County Council held on the 22nd of February, 2021, the matter was raised of the new Land Development Agency Bill 2021 which was published on the 5th February, 2021. We, the Members of Laois County Council are expressing our strong opposition to this Bill. If enacted, it will remove the powers from Local Authority Members in particular, the local knowledge and also our reserved functions under Section 183 notices for the disposal of public lands owned by Local Authorities. It is a further erosion of Local Authority Member’s power. The Members requested that the matter be referred to Darragh O’Brien, Minister for Housing, Planning, & Local Government as a matter of urgency. We are strongly requesting that this part of the Bill be dissolved.

LEITRIM COUNTY COUNCIL

“That Leitrim County Council write to Ministers Charlie McConalogue T.D., Eamon Ryan T.D., Senator Pippa Hackett and Malcom Noonan T.D. to desist from using the pesticide cypermethrin in controlling the pine weevil and instead deploy mechanical measures on tree stumps to control this pest when felling Sitka Spruce industrial plantations. We are in a national biodiversity crisis and this toxic chemical when used kills all insects and the runoff contaminates our water courses, all measures should be taken to progress towards the eradication of pesticides.”

LIMERICK CITY & COUNTY COUNCIL

“That, Limerick City and County Council requests the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage to immediately suspend the statutory time period for the preparation of the Draft Limerick Development Plan 2022-

2028 until such time as (a) public health restrictions are lifted to allow for safe face-to-face engagement between the Elected Members, the public and the Executive and (b) the Department provides a definition of the 'social and economic need' as referred to in the National Planning Framework."

LIMERICK CITY & COUNTY COUNCIL

"That Limerick City & County Council acknowledge the oversight role played by Councils in mother and baby homes, and call on all Councils to write to the Government to establish a national day of recognition for the women and their children impacted; and that the Council write to the Minister for Children asking that the survivors be given access to a written copy of Final Report of the Commission of Investigation into Mother and Baby Homes."

SLIGO COUNTY COUNCIL

"That Sligo County Council engage with their relevant partners including Sligo PPN, Sligo Volunteer Centre to address the urgent needs of the hundreds of community groups across County Sligo who are facing a funding crisis to keep electricity, insurance, credit facilities, heating, maintenance costs and other recurring fixed costs serviced as a result of the Covid 19 pandemic.

Whilst recognising that there has been many beneficial schemes open to the C&V sector to in turn support their communities over the pandemic, there is now a requirement to support the C&V sector themselves to stay afloat.

In addition, that this Local Authority write to the Taoiseach, Tanáiste, Leader of the Green Party and the Minister for Rural Affairs and Community Development to request a scheme be devised to address the Community and Voluntary Sectors funding needs."

SLIGO COUNTY COUNCIL

"To call on Sligo County Council to write to the Government and An Post asking them to give a 2 year extension to the current contract that most of the local Post Offices are engaged in. This is because Covid 19 has had a dramatic negative effect on their income due to the reduction in footfall."

SLIGO COUNTY COUNCIL

"To call on Sligo County Council to formally request the Minister for Agriculture to seek the appointment of 'an Independent Meat Regulator' with statutory powers. The purpose of such an independent regulator will be to have legislative powers to investigate anti-competitive behaviour by meat processors, meat traders, bodies associated with the trade of meat, trade of meat by-products and/or trade by retailers who operate along the meat supply chain."

SLIGO COUNTY COUNCIL

"I call on Sligo County Council to make a formal submission to the Minister for Housing, Local Government & Heritage outlining our complete

opposition to the proposed provisions of the Land Development Agency Bill 2021.

The proposed removal of the Section 183 reserved function of Elected Members in relation to the disposal of local authority held land to the IDA as provided for in Part 7 Section 56 of the bill is unacceptable and an affront to local democracy. As advocates for the empowerment of local government, we can never support or accept any diminution in the reserved functions and powers of elected Councillors.

We also have concerns regarding the potential long term implications for local authorities in delivering social and affordable housing on local authority held land due to the extensive remit of the IDA. We believe that this a major battle in our ongoing fight to preserve the local democratic function in the face of ever increasing centralism.”

SOUTH DUBLIN COUNTY COUNCIL

“During the massive struggle that has been waged by ex-Dehenhams workers across the companies 11 stores in Ireland the deficit of workers protection in liquidations has again been sharply exposed. This Council calls for the immediate implementation of the Duffy/Cahill Report, compiled in the aftermath of The Clery’s dispute as one way of strengthening workers’ rights and tackling the legal outs provided to major corporations who engage in tactical liquidations in order to avoid their obligations under hard won workers’ rights. If passed this Council communicates such in writing to Government, to all Local Authorities and to the ICTU offering its support for implementation.”

TIPPERARY COUNTY COUNCIL

“That Tipperary County Council call on the Government to introduce a National day of recognition for the survivors and victims of Mother and Baby Homes. That survivors of Mother and Baby Homes should have the right to information about their birth Mother and their full identity. The Government would establish a proper redress scheme for survivors and victims and immediately provide counselling and other mental health services to survivors of Mother and Baby Homes to support them in this remarkably difficult time. Also, that we as a council recognise the Historical role that County, Borough and Town Councils from Tipperary played in the running of Mother and Baby Institutions in this County, so that we can be sure that this sad part of our past is known and not hidden away. That the government would also support the excavation, exhumation and where possible the identification of remains of babies buried at institutions and insure their dignified reburial and in particular support the endeavours of the We are Still Here Sean Ross Group to complete a 3D scan dig of identified burial locations at Sean Ross. The Council also calls on Minister Roderic O’Gorman to extend the lifetime of the commission to allow the DPC (data protection commission) to fully investigate the destroying of recordings of evidence without making full transcripts. This immediate action is required to preserve the testimony of witnesses.”

TIPPERARY COUNTY COUNCIL

“That Tipperary County Council write to the Minister of Environment, Climate and Communication, Eamon Ryan, TD seeking a 75% rebate in the PSO levy on ESB bills for Community Halls and facilities because of their inability to fundraise due to Covid 19. This motion if passed should be circulated to all other Councils and DPER.”

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

“That the Members of Wicklow County Council call on the Government to reinstate, in the Land Development Agency Bill, the legal requirement that Councillors must consent to the sale of all public land in the ownership of the Council by way of a Disposal Motion (Section 183) voted for by a majority of Councillors in public session.”

**MINUTES OF THE MARCH MEETING OF DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL
HELD ON MONDAY 29TH MARCH, 2021 (ONLINE)**

C/40/21 MEMBERS PRESENT

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

C/41/21 OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE

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

**C/42/21 CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY MEETING OF
DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL HELD ON 25TH JANUARY, 2021.**

On the proposal of Cllr Sweeny, seconded by Cllr Kennedy the Minutes of the Meeting of Donegal County Council held on the 25th January, 2021 were adopted.

**C/43/21 DISPOSAL OF SPECIFIC INSTANCE COTTAGE AT CURRAGHAMONE,
BALLYBOFEY TO JOHN MURPHY**

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

On the proposal of Cllr Harley, seconded by Cllr McGowan, it was resolved to dispose of Specific Instance Cottage at Curraghmore, Ballybofeigh to John Murphy 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/44/21 DISPOSAL OF INTEREST IN A PORTION OF LANDS AT THE SHORE
ROAD, KILLYBEGS TO THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD
AND THE MARINE.**

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

On the proposal of Cllr Kennedy, seconded by Cllr Sweeny it was resolved to dispose of interest in a portion of lands at the Shore Road, Killybegs to the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine 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/45/21 **CONSTRUCTION OF 11 NO 2 STOREY SOCIAL HOUSING UNITS AT KILLYLASTIN, LETTERKENNY**

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

On the proposal of Cllr Brogan, seconded by Cllr McMonagle, the construction of 11 no. 2 storey social housing units at Killylastin, Letterkenny including all associated site development works) under Part XI of the Planning & Development Act, 2000 (as amended) and Part 8 of the Planning & Development Regulations 2001(as amended) was approved.

C/46/21 **ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2020 FROM THE DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL AUDIT COMMITTEE**

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

On the proposal of Cllr Brogan, seconded by Cllr Kelly, the Annual Report for 2020 from the Donegal County Council Audit Committee was adopted.

C/47/21 **FILLING OF CASUAL VACANCY ON THE DONEGAL EDUCATION & TRAINING BOARD**

On the proposal of Cllr Kennedy, seconded by Cllr McBride, it was resolved that Cllr John O'Donnell fill the casual vacancy on the Donegal Education & Training Board arising from the resignation of Cllr Ian Mc Garvey.

C/48/21 **ADOPTION OF POLICY IN RELATION TO THE MAINTENANCE OF COUNCIL HOUSING ESTATES.**

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

On the proposal Cllr Brogan, seconded by Cllr MacGiolla Easbuig the policy in relation to the maintenance of Council Housing Estates as recommended by the Roads & Transportation and the Housing & Corporate Strategic Policy Committees and endorsed by the Corporate Policy Group was adopted.

C/49/21 **TO APPROVE A €500,000 INCREASE IN CO-FUNDING FOR THE INISHOWEN DIGITAL INNOVATION HUB IN BUNCRANA**

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

The Chief Executive informed members that the construction costs associated with the project had increased by €226,147 and that allowing for other cost increases, and a contingency amount of €150,000 that a further co-funding amount of €500,000 was now required from the Council.

He welcomed Kevin Mc Shane, Austin Sammon , Tarla MacGabhann, John Andy Bonar, LYIT, and Colm Mc Colgan, ERNACT to the meeting.

Members received a detailed presentation on the project and were informed

that the overall aim was to provide a focus for high quality job creation in Inishowen.

On the proposal of Cllr Murray, seconded by Cllr Mc Dermott it was resolved to approve an increase in co-funding for the Inishowen Digital Innovation Hub by €500,000 thus increasing the total amount of co-funding to €1.9m.

C/50/21 **TO CONSIDER THE REPORT ON IRRECOVERABLE RATES FOR YEAR ENDING 2020**

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

They congratulated the Head of Finance and his team for their excellent work given the challenges faced over the past 13 months. There was acknowledgement also of the support provided at national level to assist local authorities in balancing their books.

Mr Richard Gibson, Head of Finance noted that performance in 2020 had been severely impacted due to the Covid-19 situation. He confirmed that 75% of commercial rate bills had been written off in 2020. Despite the challenges, he confirmed that €14,797,548 had been collected in 2020. Commercial rate waivers, he added, had amounted to €14,871,514 but that the cost of applying same was fully compensated by central government.

It was important, he said, to focus on the positives and noted that the main focus for rates collection staff in 2020 had been the implementation of the Restart Grant Scheme. A total of €24.3m had been paid out under this scheme and when combined with the Commercial Rates Waiver had resulted in €39.2m being paid out to the business community in Donegal.

Overall rate collection rates, it was confirmed, had decreased from 76% in 2019 to 61% in 2020.

Alluding to the fact that the overall 2020 demand had been €35,782,979, he acknowledged, the impact of the supports provided by government and the effort made by the business community to pay what they could in 2020.

He welcomed the fact that business supports were due to continue into 2021 and said that as in 2020 Donegal County Council would have a key role in delivering supports to the business sector.

Cllr Farren said that pressure needed to be maintained at central government level to ensure that funding was available for the next few years at least.

Responding to a query from Cllr Mc Clafferty, the Head of Finance confirmed that businesses which had traded for part of the year were also eligible for grant aid.

He said that it was imperative that businesses got in touch with the Local Enterprise Office or the Finance Section of Donegal County Council to discuss the available supports. It was noted that the Revenue Commissioners were also offering assistance in terms of the CRISS Scheme.

C/51/21 **TO NOTE THE DONEGAL LOCAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2020.**

Members noted the Donegal Local Community Development Committee Annual Report for 2020.

C/52/21 **RESPONDING TO BREXIT – AN INVESTMENT PLAN FOR DONEGAL & THE NORTH WEST REGION**

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

Mr Garry Martin, Director Economic Development, Information Systems & Emergency Services said that the report produced by Grant Thornton highlighted the fact that the peripheral location of Donegal combined with years of under investment had led to significant gaps in infrastructure thus contributing to widespread economic disparity in the North West region.

He said that Donegal was also particularly exposed to Brexit as a result of its border with Northern Ireland.

It was, he said, an excellent report which highlighted the need for inward investment, the acceleration of digital connectivity and additional infrastructural input.

A lengthy debate ensued during which members acknowledged the work done to date by the NWRCBG and the Corporate Policy Group. It was they advised a working document and one that would need to be revisited on a number of occasions going forward.

They identified the following as key elements in the process:

- Ongoing commitment needed to ensure the progression of the N2/A5 projects.
- Co-ordinated approach required in relation to all the western seaboard rail proposals together with the relevant feedback on the rail feasibility study.
- Needs to be cross-border recognition of educational qualifications.
- Outlined the need for an additional chapter in the report on funding requirements
- Specific focus needed on water and wastewater issues and in particular the Irish Water Investment Programme 2020-2024.
- Greater collaboration needed with Fermanagh and Omagh District Council.
- Further investment needed in the Foyleside area.

- Development of the many smaller piers and harbours should be a priority.
- Potential of Rathmullan as a deep water pier must be explored.
- Cognisance needs to be taken of the huge costs being incurred by those seeking access to water/wastewater services

Mr Garry Martin, Director Economic Development, Information Systems and Emergency Services thanked members for their contribution. The report, he advised, was a high level initial report and a working document. It clearly stated, he said, that Brexit was a process rather than an event and captured the enabling information to allow for the mitigation of the impact of Brexit. It was, he advised, about positioning ourselves ahead of the demands from other parts of the country. The report itself, it was noted, would form part of the submission to central government.

Specific actions, he said, were needed to enable infrastructural development and economic development together with an increased emphasis on building the research and innovation capacity within the county. Citing a number of examples, he said that investment in a number of specific sectors such as Killybegs, Greencastle and Burtonport Harbours would create the enabling infrastructure and economic climate needed to soften the impact of Brexit. Donegal's situation, he said, was unique and it was imperative that central government responded differently given the issues at stake here.

The Cathaoirleach acknowledged all who had contributed to the report. She said that it was an excellent working document which could be added to as the Brexit process moved forward.

On the proposal of Cllr Brogan, seconded by Cllr Gallagher, it was resolved to adopt the report on "Responding to Brexit – An Investment Plan for Donegal & the North West Region".

C/53/21 **DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL REMOTE WORKING STRATEGY FOR BUSINESS**

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

Mr Garry Martin, Director Economic Development, Information Systems and Emergency Services said that Covid-19 had catapulted the concept of remote working into everyday life.

Donegal, he said, had already benefitted from the shift to remote working with many returning or choosing the county as a destination to work from. The report, he noted, outlined the benefits of working remotely and the positive aspects associated with a good life work balance.

The development of the Inishowen Digital Innovation Hub and smaller digital hubs in Killybegs, Burtonport etc would, he advised, contribute to the overall success of the strategy.

Further work was needed, he said, so that businesses would have access to a skilled workforce and to ensure that all the enabling pieces of investment ran in parallel with this objective.

Cllr Coyle alluded to the fact that there were many vacant buildings in towns and villages throughout the county. These, he said, could be used as digital hubs given that it was anticipated that up to 20% of all public sector staff would be working remotely by the end of 2021.

Cllr N Crossan called for every effort to be made to secure funding under the Rural Development Investment Fund. He proposed, seconded by Cllr Donaghey that the Old Garda Station in Bunrana be purchased for use as a community hub/facility.

Cllr Sweeny said that additional consideration needed to be given to the reuse and repurposing of vacant buildings in towns and villages across the county for both business and use as living accommodation.

Cllr Harley advised of the need for additional investment so that IT facilities could be provided in all towns and villages thus encouraging the development of small scale digital hubs and increased economic activity for all aspects of the community.

Mr Garry Martin, Director Economic Development, Information Systems and Emergency Services advised of the need for balanced commercial, retail and residential development in town centre settings and noted that this was something that was being looked at in terms of the Rural Regeneration Programme.

With regards remote working, he said, that a balanced approach was needed and that Digital Hubs offered people the chance to live and work in their own localities.

On the proposal of Cllr Brogan, seconded by Cllr Sweeny it was resolved to adopt the Donegal County Council Remote Working Strategy for Business.

C/54/21 **PROPOSALS FOR SUBMISSION TO (A) “REIMAGINING OUTDOOR PUBLIC SPACES” GRANT SCHEME AND (B) ELIGIBLE TOWNS ON FÁILTE IRELAND TOURISM RECOVERY TASK FORCE REPORT, FOR PUBLIC REALM ENHANCEMENTS TO SUPPORT THE POST-COVID TRADING ENVIRONMENT FOR THE HOSPITALITY SECTOR**

Members considered and noted the contents of the report in relation to the agreed proposals for submission to (a) “Reimagining Outdoor Public Spaces” Grant Scheme and (b) Eligible Towns on Fáilte Ireland Tourism Recovery Task Report, for public realm enhancements to support the post-covid trading environment for the hospitality sector.

C/55/21 **TO ADOPT THE MINOR TOURISM RELATED WORKS GRANT SCHEME**
Members considered the report circulated with the agenda, in relation to the

above and acknowledged the innovative work carried out to date in relation to the scheme.

Mr Garry Martin, Director Economic Development, Information Systems and Emergency Services alluded to the €500,000 budget (€100,000 per Municipal District) which had been made available in 2021 for allocation in each MD to carry out minor tourism product related works.

He clarified that the terms of reference provided for applications from community based groups in County Donegal and for submissions from Donegal County Council services. The final decision, he advised, lay with the elected members in each Municipal District.

Responding to a query from Cllr Mc Gowan, he said that details of any additional Fáilte Ireland funding would be circulated to members when available.

On the proposal of Cllr Brogan, seconded by Cllr McGowan, it was resolved to adopt the Minor Tourism Related Works Grant Scheme.

C/56/21 **IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROPOSED 2021 NON-NATIONAL ROADS BRIDGE STRENGTHENING PROGRAMME**

On the proposal of Cllr Kennedy, seconded by Cllr Brogan the implementation of the proposed 2021 Non-National Roads Bridge Strengthening Programme was approved.

C/57/21 **TO CONSIDER THE RAPHOE DRAINAGE (FLOOD RELIEF) SCHEME**

Members noted that a Flood Relief Drainage Scheme had been prepared by the Commissioners for Public Works under the Arterial Drainage Act, 1945 for Raphoe.

Mr Brendan O' Donnell, A/ Director Roads & Transportation advised members that a Flood Relief Scheme had been prepared by the Commissioners for Public Works under the Arterial Drainage Act, 1945 for Raphoe. It was, he said, a reserved function of the Council and that members were obliged to consider same and make observations in relation to the scheme as appropriate.

It was noted that a workshop had been held and contact made with all the Lifford/Stranorlar MD members regarding the scheme. Links to the virtual documents were now available, he said, and hard copy of same was available for viewing at the Council's offices in Lifford.

He said that he would relay any observations/submissions made by members to the Office of Public Works.

Cllr Mc Brearty advised of the following :-

- i. Adequate compensation needs to be provided by the OPW for any landowners impacted by the CPO process.

- ii. The OPW need to commit to maintaining the relief scheme when completed.
- iii. Donegal County Council must commit to upgrading and completing drainage works within Raphoe Town itself.

Cllr I Mc Garvey said that cognisance needed to be taken of the fact that in the past drainage on the upper reaches of rivers had caused flooding downstream.

C/58/21 TO FIX A DATE FOR A WORKSHOP ON THE DECARBONISATION ZONE INITIATIVE

On the proposal of Cllr Gallagher, seconded by Cllr Brogan, it was unanimously agreed to hold a workshop on Decarbonisation Zones on Friday 23rd April, 2021 commencing at 9.30a.m.

Cllr Mc Dermott proposed, seconded by Cllr Brogan that a water safety programme be initiated and carried out locally backed up with a dedicated promotional campaign. It was further agreed that signage identifying areas unsuitable for bathing be erected at all appropriate locations throughout the county.

C/59/21 MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE MEETING OF THE CORPORATE GROUP HELD ON THE 18TH JANUARY, 2021

On the proposal of Cllr Gallagher, seconded by Cllr Brogan, the minutes of the meeting of the Corporate Policy Group held on the 18th January, 2021 were endorsed.

Cllr Gallagher said that often the reports circulated with the agenda were voluminous in nature and asked if there was any way that these could be circulated prior to the agenda issuing.

C/60/21 ADJOURNMENT OF THE MEETING

On the proposal of Cllr Mc Gowan, seconded by Cllr Mc Monagle it was resolved to adjourn the meeting for a ten minute recess.

C/61/21 IMPLEMENT A MORE STRINGENT ENFORCEMENT POLICY REGARDING THE PROSECUTION OF PEOPLE FOUND DUMPING ILLEGALLY.

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

“I propose that DCC implement a more stringent enforcement policy regarding the prosecution of people found to be dumping illegally in the County. There has been an increase in this activity in recent times which incurs a significant cost in terms of clean-up and disposal on the Council.

Council staff could be better deployed in more constructive projects beneficial to the environment instead of having to revisit locations of serial dumping on a regular basis. Illegal dumping should become more high risk in terms of the possibility of detection and prosecution.”

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

Cllr Crossan complemented all those who had been involved in community clean-ups throughout the county and acknowledged also the co-operation that these groups had received from Donegal County Council. He called for more stringent measures to be taken and said that where the evidence was clear, legal proceedings should be instigated. He alluded to a number of recent incidents in the Ballybofey and Inishowen areas.

Cllr G Doherty supporting the motion advised that the motion was timely and noted that there had only been 14 prosecutions over the last five years.

There was no opposition to the motion.

C/62/21 **MOTION UNDER URGENT BUSINESS**

A request signed by Cllrs G Doherty, M T Gallagher, J Murray, G Mc Monagle, T Crossan, A Doherty, J S Ó Fearraigh, N Jordan, L Doherty, and M Mc Mahon, to have the following motion discussed as urgent business in accordance with Standing Order No. 27 was submitted to the Meetings Administrator :-

“That Donegal County Council notes with extreme disappointment the decision to delay the commencement of the A5 Project, recognises the vital strategic importance of the project for the development of the north west region, and will write to Ministers Mallon and Ryan to ask that efforts are redoubled to ensure the delivery of the A5/N2 Scheme.”

It was unanimously agreed to consider same prior to the close of business

C/63/21 **HOUSING PROVISION WITH SUPPORTS**

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

Housing. (Supported)

"That this Council acknowledge that housing provision with supports is a vital element of facilitating older people to remain in their communities and live independently. Furthermore that DCC now initiate immediate and sustained engagement with The Dept. of Housing, Planning and Local Government, Dept. of Health, AHBs, HSE et al and ensure that the ageing population in Donegal has a range of options for living independently and alternatives to long term residential care to support ageing in place and in line with the policy statement 'Housing Options for Our Ageing Population.'"

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

Cllr Doherty said that it was well documented that Ireland had an aging population and that every effort should now be made to address the challenges posed by this statistic.

He cited the need to plan for the future so that the needs of an aging population could be met. A key priority, he contended, was to ensure that people were able to live for as long as possible on their own and in a safe environment whilst remaining socially connected.

It was also important, he said, that the Council engage with organisations such as ALONE to ensure that all viable options were explored.

He acknowledged the efforts of the Council to date and cited the need to provide independent living accommodation so that the elderly could have access to options other than long term residential care.

People in this category, he added, wanted options for retirement and to be able to live safely within the local community. He asked that the motion be forwarded to the Minister for Housing, Local Government & Heritage, Darragh O' Brien, T.D and to the Minister of State at the Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage with responsibility for Local Government & Planning, Mr Peter Burke, T.D.

Cllr Mc Monagle concurred with this assessment and advised of the need for secure gated accommodation with all ancillary facilities provided. This, he said, was something that should be explored in every town and village.

There was no opposition to the motion.

C/64/21 **30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ASSASSINATION OF CLLR EDDIE FULLERTON**

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

"In advance of the 30th anniversary of his assassination, Donegal County Council expresses its ongoing support and solidarity with the family of Cllr Eddie Fullerton and echoes their demand for truth and justice; further that this Council resolves to write to both the British and Irish Justice Ministers asking for their full co-operation and transparency in the investigation."

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

Cllr Murray paid tribute to the Fullerton family whom he said had never faltered in their quest for justice. It was important at this juncture, he said, that truth and justice prevailed. It was important, he said that the Council showed solidarity with the Fullerton family and asked that a copy of the resolution be forwarded to the Justice Ministers in both jurisdictions.

Cllr Donaghey seconding the motion said that Cllr Fullerton was a dedicated and committed member of Donegal County Council whose life had been tragically cut short. As an Inishowen member she said that she

was fully supportive of the motion and that it was imperative that full co-operation and transparency was a feature of the investigation.

There was no opposition to the motion.

C/65/21 **EXTENSION OF THE FREE TRAVEL SCHEME TO INCLUDE PERSONS WITH EPILEPSY**

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

“That this Council supports the extension of the free travel scheme to include persons with epilepsy.”

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

Cllr Kavanagh informed the meeting that there were up to 40,000 people in Ireland who had been diagnosed with epilepsy and somewhere in the region of 10-15,000 who may be suffering from uncertified epilepsy.

A small number of these, he advised, depended on public transport as their sole means of travel and as such should be able to access the free travel scheme. People in this category, he advised, did not receive any qualifying social welfare payments and thus were not eligible for the free travel scheme. Given the limited numbers involved, he said, the cost of financing same would be minimal and that access to free travel could be applied for on a standalone basis.

He asked that a copy of the motion be forwarded to the Minister for the Environment, Climate, Communications and Transport, Eamon Ryan T.D, the Minister for Social Protection, Rural and Community Development, Heather Humphreys TD and the Minister of State with responsibility for Disability, Anne Rabbitte, T.D.

Cllr Harley said that the motion was timely and thanked Cllr Kavanagh for his contribution.

There was no opposition to the motion.

C/66/21 **THAT THE COUNCIL OPPOSES THE LAND DEVELOPMENT AGENCY BILL**

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

“That this Council opposes the Land Development Agency Bill being brought forward by Government. I believe the Bill is fundamentally flawed. The Land Development Agency will erode local democracy and further undermine Donegal County Council's ability to deliver social and affordable housing on public land. I am therefore asking that you the Members support this motion and that we write to the Minister for Housing, Local Government

& Heritage, Darragh O'Brien expressing our concerns at the Land Development Agency Bill."

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

Cllr Mc Monagle said that there had been a number of issues with the first draft of the bill in terms of weak management functionality, limited CPO powers and little or no reference to the use of open land.

The fact that the scheme had been revised by the present minister and not referred to the Housing Committee, thus going directly to the Cabinet in December 2020 was, he noted, a matter of concern. This time, he advised, there were similar weaknesses and limited reference to social housing. He alluded also to the meaningless definition of affordable housing within the bill with its €400 to €450K limits not applicable in any shape or form to rural Ireland.

There were issues also, he contended, in relation to the whole legal structure of the Land Development Agency and the fact that the FOI Act did not apply to the agencies concerned.

The general thrust of the matter, he said, was that any state agency that wanted to sell land had to go through the Land Development Agency first and the overall outcome would be to inflate the price of land and ultimately the cost of providing accommodation.

The bill in effect, he said, represented an attack on local democracy as members no longer had a role in the planning process or in zoning lands for affordable housing. He asked that the motion be brought to the attention of the Minister for Housing, Local Government & Heritage, Mr Darragh O'Brien, T.D. Safeguards were needed, he advised, with regard to the function of members regarding the use of publically owned lands.

Cllr Gallagher said there were genuine concerns that the powers of local authorities were being eroded. She said that a similar scenario had existed when water services were transferred to Irish Water and responsibility transferred to a national body. The Department, she said, needed to look at resourcing local authorities and coming up with affordable plans in conjunction with the elected members and the local authority teams.

There was no opposition to the motion.

C/67/21 **DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL ROADS PROGRAMME**

On the proposal of Cllr Mc Garvey, seconded by Cllr Blaney, it was resolved to adopt the following motion:-

"That this Council discuss the whole system of operation in respect of the proposed roads programme for Donegal County Council over the next five years."

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

Cllr Mc Garvey expressed concern that road works listed in the latter years of the programme would not be completed given the limitations of the current funding mechanisms. He was, he said, firmly of the opinion that monies should be borrowed to advance the works in question and ensure the completion of the projects within the designated timeframes. He said that the overall cost of borrowing same would be in the region of €133,000 and that this would be money well spent to ensure the timely completion of the five year programme. It was time, he said, to bring things together so that all users could benefit. He alluded to a number of specific projects, all of which, contended, would benefit from such an approach.

Cllr Blaney, supporting the motion said that members were frustrated with the current system and asked that consideration be given to looking at all methods of drawing down funding.

There was no opposition to the motion.

Cllr Mc Garvey concluding outlined the need to address funding mechanisms and again advocated borrowing monies to ensure the overall completion of the five year roads programme.

C/68/21 **APPOINTMENT OF AN INDEPENDENT MEAT REGULATOR**

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

"That Donegal County Council supports the appointment of an "Independent Meat Regulator". An Independent Meat Regulator will reform the meat industry between producer and processor."

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

Cllr Conaghan said that this was an important issue and one that had the support of the Donegal Beef Plan Movement. The appointment of a regulator would, he said, help the production and provision of meat products generally. A number of other local authorities had, he confirmed, adopted similar resolutions. He said that there was a significant demand being put on producers at present coupled with uncertainty as to when stock would be ready for market.

Cllr Blaney supporting the motion advised that €1m had been provided in the last budget for the development of such an office including the associated consultation with all relevant stakeholders. He called for the immediate appointment of the Meat Regulator and the transfer of all powers legally available to the office of same to be enforced by the end of this year.

There was no opposition to the motion.

It was agreed to forward a copy of the motion to the Minister for Agriculture, Food & the Marine, Mr Charlie Mc Conalogue T.D for his attention.

C/69/21 **FEASIBILITY REPORT IN RELATION TO KILLYBEGS HARBOUR**

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

“That Donegal County Council request a meeting as a matter of urgency with the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine Mr. Charlie Mc Conalogue TD, to deal with the feasibility report commissioned by the Killybegs Harbour Development Group in relation to the Killybegs Harbour.”

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

Cllr Naughton alluded to the effects of Brexit and the impact on the fishing industry in particular. Members were informed that the Killybegs Harbour Development Group had a combined annual turnover of over €300m and employed in the region of 1200 people with 90% of their income generated from the export market.

The companies in question, he noted, had over the last number of years invested up to €50m in business development so as to ensure the continued growth of the harbour and the protection of the blue economy.

The feasibility study in question, led by the Killybegs Harbour Development Group and funded by Enterprise Ireland, the KHDG, Donegal County Council and the Local Enterprise Office had, he noted, investigated what was needed for the development of the harbour and also to ensure the long-term future of the port.

It had been established that there were two main areas of investment that required attention, namely the provision of a dry dock with a syncrolift and an extension to the pier itself.

The completion of same Cllr Naughton said would be a game changer for Killybegs and Donegal as a whole. He asked that a meeting be sought as soon as possible with the Minister for Agriculture, Food & the Marine, Mr Charlie Mc Conalogue to discuss the issues highlighted in the report.

Killybegs, he advised, with the appropriate support could become the centre of excellence for the blue economy.

Cllr Molloy supporting the motion said that Killybegs now more than ever needed support given that the variables were in place to ensure its development as Ireland’s premier port.

There was no opposition to the motion.

C/70/21 **ENERGY EFFICIENCY/RETROFITTING PROGRAMME**

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

"That this Council meet with Minister Darragh O'Brien in the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage with regards to the Energy Efficiency/Retrofitting Programme."

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

Cllr Mc Mahon said that it was imperative that all housing stock was kept in good repair and outlined the need for proper and timely maintenance to facilitate this objective.

Funding to date, he advised, had been piecemeal and sporadic in nature. He advised of the need for additional investment so that all relevant retrofit works could be carried out in a timely manner, particularly the replacement of windows and doors in houses that have already had attic and wall insulation work done under the programme.

Cllr Jordan supporting the motion said that ideally a retrofit programme should consist of window and door replacement initially, followed by the relevant insulation works.

There was no opposition to the motion.

C/71/21 **UPHOLD THE SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENT WITH IRISH WATER TO 2024**

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

"I am asking this Council to uphold the Service Level Agreement with Irish Water to 2024 and that workers in our water section remain under the Donegal County Council."

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

Cllr Jordan alluded to the ongoing lack of investment in water infrastructure and queried why the Service Level Agreement with Irish Water was being reviewed at this juncture given that the original agreement was until 2024.

There were, he advised, consequences for Donegal and the danger that the utility was heading for full privatisation.

He said that he had been asked to take the motion forward on behalf of water services workers who genuinely feared for their jobs as more and more works are privatised. It was essential, he added, that their rights and priorities were taken into consideration.

Cllr G Doherty said that this was a hugely important motion and referred to the intense discussion that had taken place in relation to the initial transfer to Irish Water. It was wrong, he contended, to renege on the agreement and cut the process short by three years. It was essential, he added, that Irish Water and the Minister are reminded that Donegal County Council staff should not be transferred to an entity such as Irish Water.

There was no opposition to the motion.

C/72/21 **JUSTICE FOR NOAH CAMPAIGN**

On the proposal of Cllr G Doherty, seconded by Cllr Gallagher, it was resolved to adopt the following motion:-

"That Donegal County Council extends its solidarity and support to the family of Noah Donohoe and supports their campaign for truth and justice and that this Council also agrees to light up the County House blue in support of the 'Justice for Noah' Campaign."

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

Cllr Doherty outlined the background to the campaign and said it was essential that the line of enquiry in relation to the case was extended and every effort made to ensure that Noah's family received the justice that they deserved.

The Justice for Noah Campaign, he advised, had made a huge impact and he paid tribute to Noah's mother Fiona and the Donohoe family circle for their exceptional courage and bravery.

The lighting up of the County House in blue would, he said, show that the people of Donegal were supportive of the campaign.

Cllr Gallagher supporting the motion said it was an emotive topic and one that deserved all our support. It was important, she added, that people in Donegal had an opportunity to express their solidarity with the Donohoe family in their search for justice.

There was no opposition to the motion.

C/73/21 **BIODIVERSITY GARDENS IN COUNCIL OWNED ESTATES**

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

"That this Council begin planning for wild flower gardens in all our Council owned estates which have large green areas as biodiversity gardens will have multiple benefits for everyone and save residents associations and this Council a small fortune cutting acres of grass every year as well as

benefiting nature through pollination and providing areas for nature to flourish."

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

Cllr McGowan said that the introduction of wild flower gardens in council estates would have many benefits, particularly where there were expanses of ground that were unused. He suggested that a part-time horticulturalist d be employed to train the relevant Donegal County Council staff.

He called on the Council to get actively involved and suggested that a pilot scheme be initiated in the Lifford – Stranorlar Municipal District.

Cllr Canning outlined his support for the motion

There was no opposition to the motion.

Mr Joe Peoples, Director Housing, Corporate & Cultural Services noted that there had been provision of €100,000 in the 2021 Budget to support and stimulate the Pollinator Plan and biodiversity.

It was intended, he said, that there would be collaboration with the roads and environment sections and also with interested community groups and residents.

The National Pollinator Plan, he advised, had just been published and that while there was an emphasis on road verges consideration would be given to supporting residents associations who wanted to look at developing wild flower gardens.

C/74/21 **BANK OF IRELAND CLOSURES**

On the proposal of Cllr Gallagher, seconded by Cllr Mc Mahon, it was resolved to adopt the following motion:-

"That this Council call on the Bank of Ireland to reverse its decision to withdraw the services of five branches in Donegal, and that we request a meeting for a delegation of members with the CEO of BOI and the Minister for Finance to outline our opposition to these closures and the consequences this decision has on the five towns in our county."

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

Cllr Gallagher outlined the economic impact that such closures would have and referred in particular to the devastation that this would cause in Dungloe where the impact of recent hotel closures was also being felt. She asked that Bank of Ireland be asked to delay closures until 2022 at least.

Cllr Mc Mahon supporting the motion outlined the impact this decision would have for Bundoran a town dependent on tourism. This, he said, would counteract the work being done by the Council to generate economic development throughout the county. This, he contended, on top of the pandemic did not auger well for Donegal.

Cllr Noreen Mc Garvey noted that three of the banks concerned were located in the Glenties Municipal District. She said that there was huge cross-party support for the motion in the Glenties MD.

Cllr Gallagher concluding said that the proposed closures clearly targeted rural Ireland and asked that the request for a delegation be forwarded as soon as possible.

C/75/21 **CAMPAIGN TO ADDRESS PERIOD POVERTY**

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

“Iarraim ar Chomhairle Contae Dhún na nGall tacú le hiarrachtaí Phobalscoil na Rosann ina bhfeachtas chun dul i ngleic leis an anás míosta i gContae Dhún na nGall. Chuige seo, ba chóir dúinn a chinntiú go bhfuil teacht, saor in aisce, ar earraí sláintíochta in achan fhoirgneamh de chuid Chomhairle Contae Dhún na nGall, ionaid phobail, linnte snámha agus leabharlanna, fá choinne oibrithe agus baill den phobal. Tá an rún seo ag moladh go mbunófaí grúpa oibre traspholaitiúil leis an taighde riachtanach uilig, agus leis an éascaíocht uilig, a bheadh de dhíth a dhéanamh leis an rún seo a chur i bhfeidhm gan mhoill.”

“I call on Donegal County Council to support the endeavours of Rosses Community School in their campaign to address period poverty, in County Donegal. In doing so we should make available access to sanitary items free of charge in all Donegal County Council buildings, community centres, swimming pools and libraries, for both workers and members of the public. This motion calls for a cross political working group to be set up to carry out all necessary research and facilitation for this motion to become a reality in a timely manner.”

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

Cllr Mac Giolla Easbuig said that period poverty was a very real issue in Ireland and the stigmas around periods affect many in our community, especially in low income households. It is our responsibility; he said to help break down this stigma by providing these items free in all of our public buildings. Both Dublin and Cork County Councils have already passed a motion to provide free sanitary items in their public buildings, he said, and it was important for our communities that Donegal County Council acts immediately and does the same.

A recent survey, he noted, carried out by plan.ie found that 50% of Irish girls have faced issues around the affordability of period products, in

particular within the homeless community and among those in Direct Provision Centres who do not have adequate access to sanitary items.

Cllr Noreen Mc Garvey supporting the motion congratulated Rosses Community School on their initiative and noted that the motion had also received unanimous support at MD level.

There was no opposition to the motion.

Cllr Mac Giolla Easbuig thanked members for their support and asked that the motion be circulated to all local authorities on the Island of Ireland.

C/76/21 **CATHAOIRLEACH'S BUSINESS**

Votes of Sympathy

A vote of sympathy was extended to the following:-

- Anthony Walsh, Human Resources on the death of his sister, Karen McGuire.
- Noelle Alcorn, Customer Service Centre, Milford PSC on the death of her mother, Margaret.
- The family of the late Jim Canney, formerly Environment Section.
- Majella Mc Clay, Housing & Corporate, Lifford on the death of her mother, Isa Brennan.
- Anna Brogan, Cultural Services on the death of her father, James Doherty.
- Kathleen Gallagher, Fire Service, Letterkenny on the death of her brother, Patrick Gallagher.
- The family of the late Sharon O'Kane, Central Invoice Matching, Lifford.
- Eddie McCleary, Building Supervisor, Milford PSC on the death of his father, Willie Mc Cleary.
- The family of the late Packie Tourish, formerly Motor Tax Section.
- Martin Roarty, Environment Section on the death of his mother, Phyliss Roarty.
- Brendan Moyne, RSS, Merville on the death of his father, Colm Moyne.
- Fiontán Ó Caoláin, Training Department on the death of his mother, Genevieve Keelan.

Greetings from Yazan R Rimawi, Mayor West Bani Zaid Municipality
Greetings from Yazan R Rimawi, Mayor West Bani Zaid Municipality, Palestine. The Cathaoirleach informed members that St Patrick's Day greetings had been received from Yazan Rimawi, Mayor of West Bani Zaid Municipality, Palestine.

Pop-Up Test Centre in Inishowen

The Cathaoirleach expressed concern at the high incidence rate of Covid-19 in the Inishowen Peninsula with the rate in South Inishowen three times the national average. Alluding to the fact that number of pop-up test centres had been set up in Dublin and Tullamore over the last week, she called for

a similar type initiative in Inishowen. This, she said, would actively help in finding people with the disease who were asymptomatic. Recognising that it was a changing situation, she called for the public to be cautious at all times and to respect the public health advice. She called on the public to limit their interactions as much as possible. It was thus agreed that contact be made with the Minister for Health, Stephen Donnelly, T.D in relation to the provision of a pop-up centre in Inishowen.

URDF Funding

There was warm welcome for the €13.6m URDF funding allocated to Letterkenny. The Cathaoirleach said that with the inclusion of match funding the overall investment of €18m was of significant importance to the town.

Launch of Enterprise Week (1st - 5th March 2021)

Congratulations was extended to all involved in the launch of National Enterprise Week

Marine Tourism Conference

The success of the Donegal Marine Tourism Conference on the 23rd March, 2021 was noted.

The Cathaoirleach said that she had been delighted to attend the event hosted by Donegal County Council in association with Donegal Tourism CLG and the CAPITEN project funded by the EU Atlantic Area Programme.

Remote Working

The Cathaoirleach said that as part of Enterprise Week, she had taken part in an event to promote Donegal as an ideal location for remote working

She advised that with a superb quality of life, a low cost of living, open spaces, excellent connectivity, a talented workforce and a range of digital working hubs, Donegal was well placed to reap the benefits of remote working in an increasingly digitalised world.

Donegal County Council, she added, were committed to enabling the acceleration of remote working in the county through infrastructure investments, and various initiatives aimed at promoting the capacity for remote working in the county

Shared Island Unit – North West Growth Partnership

The Cathaoirleach said that under the Shared Island Unit initiative the Taoiseach had addressed the members of the North West Growth partnership back in February 2021. This she advised had provided an opportunity to discuss in detail a number of key priorities for the North West City Region. She noted that the Taoiseach had agreed to replenish the €500,000 fund.

C/77/21

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S MANAGEMENT REPORT.

Members received an update in relation to the following:-

1. Finance

- A. Reimbursement of Loss of Goods and Services Income and Covid Emergency Expenditure 2020
- B. Small Business Assistance Scheme for COVID (SBASC)

2. Community Development & Planning Services

- A. Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme 2020
- B. Regeneration & Development Team Update
 - (i) *Rural Regeneration and Development Fund (RRDF)*
 - (ii) *Urban Regeneration and Development Fund (URDF)*

3. Economic Development, Emergency Services and Information Systems

A. Local Enterprise Office (LEO)

- (i) *Trading Online Voucher*
- (ii) *Training and Mentoring*
- (iii) *Enterprise Week 2021*
- (iv) *Sector Development*
- (v) *Diaspora*

- B. Emergency Services – Civil Defence
- C. Emergency Services – Fire Service

4. Roads & Transportation

- A. A5 Western Transport Corridor Scheme Update
- B. Roads Programme Update
- C. Central Technical Services Division Update

- (i) *Burtonport Harbour Regeneration Project*
- (ii) *NW Greenway - Update*
- (iii) *Public Lighting 2021*
- (iv) *Fishery Harbour & Coastal Infrastructure Development Programme 2021*
- (v) *Harbour Supplies Management System*

D. National Road Design Office Update

- (i) *General*
- (ii) *Planning, Design and Construction 2021*
- (iii) *Climate Action and Active Travel*

- (iv) *Signs, Delineation and Traffic Calming*
- (v) *Donegal National Roads Office CPD Accreditation*

5. Housing, Corporate & Cultural Services

A. Housing Capital Update

- (i) *Social Housing Developments*
- (ii) *Social Housing through Turnkey Acquisition*
- (iii) *House Acquisition Programme*
- (iv) *Lands / Property for Social Housing Purposes*
- (v) *Specific Instance Houses*

B. Cultural Services

- (i) *Creative Ireland Programme*
- (ii) *Library Service*
- (iii) *Regional Cultural Centre*
- (iv) *Museum*
- (v) *Archives*
- (vi) *Donegal Heritage Office*

6. Water and Environment

A. Waste and Litter Management

- (i) *Environment Grants for Community Groups*
- (ii) *Litter Fines & Prosecutions 2020*
- (iii) *“Lets Talk Climate” – Climate Actions Workshops for Community Groups*

B. Coastal Management

- (i) *Beach Reviews*
- (ii) *Islands Water Safety*
- (iii) *Quad Bike and Scramblers*

C. Landfill Remediation

- (i) *Balbane Landfill Remediation Project*

D. Flood Relief Schemes (FRS)

- (i) *Donegal Bundle 1 Flood Relief Scheme – Burnfoot, Castlefinn, Na Dúnaibh and Glenties*
- (ii) *Donegal Bundle 2 Flood Relief Scheme – Ballybofey-Stranorlar, Buncrana-Luddan and Ramelton*
- (iii) *Kerrykeel Flood Relief Scheme*
- (iv) *Lifford Flood Relief Scheme*

7. Meeting An Taoiseach Micheál Martin with North West Regional Development Group

8. Sea Food Task Force

9. Appendices

A. Copy of Presentation to An Taoiseach Micheál Martin on 18th February 2021 Appendix 1

B. Further Waiver of Commercial Rates for Q1 2021 (9 Feb 2021) Appendix 2

C. Commercial Rates: Deferral of National Revaluation Programme to 2022 (1 March 2021) Appendix 3

D. Small Business Assistance Scheme for COVID (12 March 2021) Appendix 4

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

The following questions were noted

C/78/21 **PERIOD POVERTY**

Cllr A Doherty submitted the following question:-

Period Poverty.

Presently, a national government committee considers this issue, however will Donegal County Council join with other councils throughout Ireland and agree to have free sanitary products available in the toilets of all council buildings and also in swimming pools, libraries and public buildings under the remit of the County Council?

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

C/79/21 **FINANCIAL SUPPORTS & ACCESS FUNDING FOR PROJECTS/SHARED PROJECTS**

Cllr A Doherty submitted the following question:-

How to date has Donegal County Council sought financial supports and access funding for projects/shared projects from the 1 Billion euro Brexit Stimulus project and the 500 Million euro Shared Island fund and how does the recently proposed "reopening of a further public enquiry into the A5" announcement by Infrastructure Minister Mallon affect projects and spend envisaged?

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

C/80/21 **EQUAL TREATMENT FOR ISLANDS**

Cllr I McGarvey submitted the following question:-

Will we treat our Islands equal to the mainland in terms of facilities and services?

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

C/81/21 **IRISH WATER AND SERVICE NEEDS IN DONEGAL**
Cllr I McGarvey submitted the following question:-

Can we ask Irish Water to come in and discuss service needs going forward in respect of the various services provided by Irish Water in Donegal?

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

C/82/21 **ADDITIONAL SUMMER STAFF**
Cllr McMahon submitted the following question:-

Has this Council made any preparations for extra summer staff across all council directorates given that numerous work programmes have been delayed due to Covid-19?

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

C/83/21 **€1.2M ALLOCATED FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT FOR THE RETROFIT SCHEME**
Cllr G Doherty submitted the following question:-

How does this Council intend on spending the €1.2 million allocated from the Dept of Environment for the retrofit scheme to local authority housing stock considering the huge demand and need for these works throughout the County?

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

C/84/21 **PROJECTS STALLED DUE TO COVID 19**
Cllr Crawford submitted the following question:-

During year 2020 and 2021 to date how many projects over the different directorships have been stalled or unable to begin due to COVID 19 restrictions?

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

C/85/21 **PROSECUTIONS FOR ILLEGAL DUMPING, LITTERING & DOG FOULING**

Cllr G Doherty submitted the following question:-

How many people have been successfully prosecuted by this Council for illegal dumping, littering or dog fouling in the period 2015-2020?

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

C/86/21 **CLAIMS AGAINST THE COUNCIL IN RELATION TO ROAD OR FOOTPATH CONDITIONS**

Cllr Crawford submitted the following question:-

How many claims have been made against this Council in each MD in relation to road or footpath conditions for the years 2019, 2020, and 2021 to date?

He received a response from the Head of Finance in relation to the above.

C/87/21 **RESPONSE RECEIVED FROM THE DEPARTMENT TO THE FIVE YEAR COUNTYWIDE PRIORITY SPECIFIC ROADS LIST SUBMISSION**

Cllr McGowan submitted the following question:-

What response has the Council received from the Department to the five year county-wide priority specific road's list submission that this Council forwarded to them last year and has there been any allocations or discussions about future allocations made to the County since that time?

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

C/88/21 **ENQUIRIES FROM FIRMS OR COMPANIES SEEKING TO LOCATE IN OUR BORDER AREAS**

Cllr Crawford submitted the following question:-

Has this Council had a noticeable increase in enquiries from firms or companies seeking to locate in our border areas or indeed within the County with the progression of Brexit?

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

C/89/21 **WHAT PLANS ARE ENVISAGED FOR THE NORTH WEST CITY REGION**

Cllr McGowan submitted the following question:-

Apart from Derry and Letterkenny what plans are envisaged for the rest of the North West City Region and can details be given on specific plans for the Donegal Border corridor with Tyrone and Fermanagh?

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

C/90/21 **WHY DO SENIOR STAFF FROM HOUSING CONSTRUCTION NOT ATTEND THE MD MEETINGS**

Cllr Mac Giolla Easbuig submitted the following question:-

Cad chuige nach mbíonn oifigigh shinsearacha ón Rannóg Tógála Tithíochta ag freastal ar chruinnithe Ceantar Bardais ag am nuair atá géarchéim tithíochta ann, agus an bhfuil sé i gceist acu a bheith i láthair uaidh seo ar aghaidh?

Why do senior staff from Housing Construction not attend Municipal District meetings at a time of housing crisis, and do they intend to do so going forward?

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

C/91/21 **MOTION UNDER URGENT BUSINESS**

On the proposal of Cllr G Doherty, seconded by Cllr Brogan it was resolved to adopt the following motion submitted under urgent business earlier in the meeting:-

"That Donegal County Council notes with extreme disappointment the decision to delay the commencement of the A5 Project, recognises the vital strategic importance of the project for the development of the North West Region, and will write to Ministers Mallon and Ryan to ask that efforts are redoubled to ensure the delivery of the A5/N2 Scheme."

Cllr Doherty said that questions needed to be asked as to how ongoing public enquiry saga had been allowed to develop and the fact that any commitment to go to construction was at least 2 years away. It was imperative also; he added that the Irish Government stepped up in relation to funding for the A5 link to Lifford. The current delays, he said, were to the detriment of the entire region.

Cllr Brogan said he believed that the legal challenges could be overcome and the onus now was to ensure that there were no glitches ahead. This was a key piece of infrastructure, he noted, for the North West and asked that correspondence be forwarded to the Ministers as soon as possible.

Mr John Mc Laughlin, Chief Executive, said that, he had no concerns in relation to the commitment of the Irish Government, but said that the current delay was a setback for the region. It was imperative, he said, that the matter was kept on the agenda and that every effort would be made to get this prime physical connection over the line.

The Cathaoirleach thanked members for their co-operation and contributions.

C/92/21 **MOTIONS FROM OTHER COUNCILS/BODIES**

Members noted the following motions from other Councils.

CLARE COUNTY COUNCIL

“We are calling on the Government to enforce the laws of the land that exist in relation to tackling the unauthorised occupation of public lands all over Ireland. Level 5 Covid restrictions have been in place for some time and are likely to continue in to the future. Local authorities are precluded from taking action at this time and in the interest of Public Health & Environmental considerations we are calling on the Government to engage a Task force and design a mechanism or policy to protect all citizens in Ireland from the unauthorised occupation of Public Lands. We would also request the circulation of this motion to the other 30 Local Authorities, The Oireachtas Members, LAMA & The AILG.”

Cllr Mac Giolla Easbuig said that he could not support the above motion and asked that his opposition to same be noted, as in his opinion the motion was discriminatory in nature.

CLARE COUNTY COUNCIL

Given the impact Covid 19 has had nationally on work and living patterns, and the opportunities this creates to ‘proactively address issues of town/village decline’ and to promote ‘compact growth’ in those settlements, we would ask the Minister of Housing, Local Government and Heritage that he undertake a review to the current National Planning Framework, and prior to the outcome, he remove reference to, and requirement for local authorities to adhere to, the two tiered approach to land zoning in the delivery of the next County Development Plan due to its negative impact on the ‘facilitation of the building of homes within the existing footprint of rural settlements’ and the ability to deliver on our own rural development goals. We further request this motion be forwarded to every one of our Oireachtas members and to every other local authority in Ireland for their observations.”

CLARE COUNTY COUNCIL

“I am calling on Minister Darragh O’Brien and Minister of State Peter Burke to urgently review planning policy in relation to the Development of Residential property.

1/ What I am looking for is more clarity and transparency in relation to developers applying for private residential development and disposal of the total development when completed for social housing.

2/ Developers are required to deliver on Part V of their obligations in the delivery of a portion of the development for Social and Affordable Housing and this has to be agreed with the planners with input from Senior Officers within the housing section.

3/Planning and housing have a duty to deliver balanced tenure and sustainable communities where a mix of housing would be available for both private and social needs.

4/ The development of large scale housing requires considerable assistance and support at local level and in some instances local services are not sufficient to provide school placements and other essential support for some vulnerable families and this has to be a consideration for planners.

5/ Currently members of the public wishing to purchase their own property are finding it very difficult to find private property for sale as the policy in planning is mostly focused on the delivery of social housing and in turn this policy puts more pressure on local authorities waiting lists and for the lower to middle income bracket they cannot get on the list due to income thresholds. Public confidence needs to be strengthened in the whole planning process and I am hopeful the Ministers will find the balance required in the development of vibrant communities.”

CLARE COUNTY COUNCIL

“In light of the incredible services and commitment given to the country by your frontline staff, healthcare workers, carers and lifesavers over the period of the Covid 19 Global Pandemic I call on the government to explore any and every manner to tangibly recognise this extraordinary above and beyond service.

I propose this recognition should be in the form of direct tax free bonus payment similar to the €500 one off payment scheme introduced in Scotland, a tax credit, additional paid leave, or other appropriate clear and tangible reward to mark this commitment.

To do this I call on the Department of Health to lead a cross department group with the achievement of above as its one objective.”

CLARE COUNTY COUNCIL

“That Clare County Council call on the Minister for Transport, Climate, Environment and Communication to provide specific funding to all local authorities in order to create a role for an active and sustainable travel officer so that alternatives to the dependency on cars can be worked on. The role would also include modal shift, behavioural change and designing for the active mobility of people of all ages and abilities who have a right of access to our public streets.”

DÚN LAOGHAIRE-RATHDOWN COUNTY COUNCIL

(d) “That Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council, recognising the scale of the Housing crisis, reaffirms its commitment to work with Government and all relevant agencies towards delivering new housing units and in particular ensuring that sufficient Social and Affordable housing is built for those in need of same.”

(e) Recognising, however, its responsibility to use Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown property in the best interests of society this Council rejects the provisions contained in the Land Development Agency 2021 Bill published by the Government removing the role of the elected members of Local Authorities in approving the transfer or sale of lands to the Land Development Agency.”

- (f) “The Council further agrees to write to the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage urging a removal of that provision and to ensure that elected Councillors retain the right to control such sales or transfers and be able to prepare and plan for appropriate housing delivery on Council owned lands. The Council further agrees to circulate this motion to each Local Authority and the Association of Irish Local Government requesting their support for this.”

GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL

“That Galway County Council circulate the “Agri Kids Be Farm Safe Presentation” to all 31 Local Authorities and invite each local authority to join in this initiative of Farming Safety and Safety Measures in Council Awareness Programmes at a local level.”

KERRY COUNTY COUNCIL

“That Killarney MD would write to the Minister for Health requesting the immediate introduction of payment to student nurses, once they take up placement duties. If this motion is passed, I ask that it would be circulated to all other Local Authorities requesting their support.”

KERRY COUNTY COUNCIL

“That this Council writes to Ms Samantha Power, newly appointed Head of US Aid by President Biden to address this Council at some future date.”

KERRY COUNTY COUNCIL

“That this Council calls on the Government to utilise its seat on the United Nations Security Council to deliver Statehood to the Palestinian people.”

KERRY COUNTY COUNCIL

“That we the members of Kerry County Council oppose the introduction of the Land Development Agency Bill”

LAOIS COUNTY COUNCIL

At the February meeting of Laois County Council held on the 22nd of February, 2021, the matter was raised of the new Land Development Agency Bill 2021 which was published on the 5th February, 2021. We, the Members of Laois County Council are expressing our strong opposition to this Bill. If enacted, it will remove the powers from Local Authority Members in particular, the local knowledge and also our reserved functions under Section 183 notices for the disposal of public lands owned by Local Authorities. It is a further erosion of Local Authority Member’s power. The Members requested that the matter be referred to Darragh O’Brien, Minister for Housing, Planning, & Local Government as a matter of urgency. We are strongly requesting that this part of the Bill be dissolved.

LEITRIM COUNTY COUNCIL

“That Leitrim County Council write to Ministers Charlie McConalogue T.D, Eamon Ryan T.D., Senator Pippa Hackett and Malcom Noonan T.D. to desist from using the pesticide cypermethrin in controlling the pine weevil and instead deploy mechanical measures on tree stumps to control this

pest when felling Sitka Spruce industrial plantations. We are in a national biodiversity crisis and this toxic chemical when used kills all insects and the runoff contaminates our water courses, all measures should be taken to progress towards the eradication of pesticides.”

LIMERICK CITY & COUNTY COUNCIL

“That, Limerick City and County Council requests the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage to immediately suspend the statutory time period for the preparation of the Draft Limerick Development Plan 2022-2028 until such time as (a) public health restrictions are lifted to allow for safe face-to-face engagement between the Elected Members, the public and the Executive and (b) the Department provides a definition of the ‘social and economic need’ as referred to in the National Planning Framework.”

LIMERICK CITY & COUNTY COUNCIL

“That Limerick City & County Council acknowledge the oversight role played by Councils in mother and baby homes, and call on all Councils to write to the Government to establish a national day of recognition for the women and their children impacted; and that the Council write to the Minister for Children asking that the survivors be given access to a written copy of Final Report of the Commission of Investigation into Mother and Baby Homes.”

SLIGO COUNTY COUNCIL

“That Sligo County Council engage with their relevant partners including Sligo PPN, Sligo Volunteer Centre to address the urgent needs of the hundreds of community groups across County Sligo who are facing a funding crisis to keep electricity, insurance, credit facilities, heating, maintenance costs and other recurring fixed costs serviced as a result of the Covid 19 pandemic.

Whilst recognising that there has been many beneficial schemes open to the C&V sector to in turn support their communities over the pandemic, there is now a requirement to support the C&V sector themselves to stay afloat.

In addition, that this Local Authority write to the Taoiseach, Tanáiste, Leader of the Green Party and the Minister for Rural Affairs and Community Development to request a scheme be devised to address the Community and Voluntary Sectors funding needs.”

SLIGO COUNTY COUNCIL

“To call on Sligo County Council to write to the Government and An Post asking them to give a 2 year extension to the current contract that most of the local Post Offices are engaged in. This is because Covid 19 has had a dramatic negative effect on their income due to the reduction in footfall.”

SLIGO COUNTY COUNCIL

“To call on Sligo County Council to formally request the Minister for Agriculture to seek the appointment of ‘an Independent Meat Regulator’

with statutory powers. The purpose of such an independent regulator will be to have legislative powers to investigate anti-competitive behaviour by meat processors, meat traders, bodies associated with the trade of meat, trade of meat by-products and/or trade by retailers who operate along the meat supply chain.”

SLIGO COUNTY COUNCIL

“I call on Sligo County Council to make a formal submission to the Minister for Housing, Local Government & Heritage outlining our complete opposition to the proposed provisions of the Land Development Agency Bill 2021.

The proposed removal of the Section 183 reserved function of Elected Members in relation to the disposal of local authority held land to the IDA as provided for in Part 7 Section 56 of the bill is unacceptable and an affront to local democracy. As advocates for the empowerment of local government, we can never support or accept any diminution in the reserved functions and powers of elected Councillors.

We also have concerns regarding the potential long term implications for local authorities in delivering social and affordable housing on local authority held land due to the extensive remit of the IDA. We believe that this a major battle in our ongoing fight to preserve the local democratic function in the face of ever increasing centralism.”

SOUTH DUBLIN COUNTY COUNCIL

“During the massive struggle that has been waged by ex-Dehenhams workers across the companies 11 stores in Ireland the deficit of workers protection in liquidations has again been sharply exposed. This Council calls for the immediate implementation of the Duffy/Cahill Report, compiled in the aftermath of The Clery’s dispute as one way of strengthening workers’ rights and tackling the legal outs provided to major corporations who engage in tactical liquidations in order to avoid their obligations under hard won workers’ rights. If passed this Council communicates such in writing to Government, to all Local Authorities and to the ICTU offering its support for implementation.”

TIPPERARY COUNTY COUNCIL

“That Tipperary County Council call on the Government to introduce a National day of recognition for the survivors and victims of Mother and Baby Homes. That survivors of Mother and Baby Homes should have the right to information about their birth Mother and their full identity. The Government would establish a proper redress scheme for survivors and victims and immediately provide counselling and other mental health services to survivors of Mother and Baby Homes to support them in this remarkably difficult time. Also, that we as a council recognise the Historical role that County, Borough and Town Councils from Tipperary played in the running of Mother and Baby Institutions in this County, so that we can be sure that this sad part of our past is known and not hidden away. That the government would also support the excavation, exhumation and where possible the identification of remains of babies buried at institutions and insure their dignified reburial and in particular support the endeavours of the

We are Still Here Sean Ross Group to complete a 3D scan dig of identified burial locations at Sean Ross. The Council also calls on Minister Roderic O’Gorman to extend the lifetime of the commission to allow the DPC (data protection commission) to fully investigate the destroying of recordings of evidence without making full transcripts. This immediate action is required to preserve the testimony of witnesses.”

TIPPERARY COUNTY COUNCIL

“That Tipperary County Council write to the Minister of Environment, Climate and Communication, Eamon Ryan, TD seeking a 75% rebate in the PSO levy on ESB bills for Community Halls and facilities because of their inability to fundraise due to Covid 19. This motion if passed should be circulated to all other Councils and DPER.”

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

“That the Members of Wicklow County Council call on the Government to reinstate, in the Land Development Agency Bill, the legal requirement that Councillors must consent to the sale of all public land in the ownership of the Council by way of a Disposal Motion (Section 183) voted for by a majority of Councillors in public session.”

This concluded the business of the meeting.