

**MINUTES OF THE ADJOURNED NOVEMBER MEETING OF DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 13th DECEMBER, 2021 (ONLINE)**

**C/289/21 MEMBERS PRESENT**

Cllrs J Murray (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, R Donaghey, 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 Mc Dermott, I Mc Garvey, N Mc Garvey, P Mc Gowan, M Mc Mahon, G Mc Monagle, A Molloy, M Naughton, J O' Donnell, J S Ó Fearraigh and B Sweeny.

**Apologies**

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

**C/290/21 OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE**

John McLaughlin, Chief Executive, Patsy Lafferty A/Director of Housing, Corporate and Culture / Meetings Administrator, Liam Ward, Director Community Development & Planning Services, Richard Gibson, Head of Finance, Garry Martin, Director Economic Development, Information Systems and Emergency Services, Brendan O'Donnell, A/Director of Roads & Transportation, Michael Mc Garvey, A/Director Water & Environment, Eunan Quinn, Senior Executive Planner, Sean O'Daimhin, Rannóg na Gaeilge, Anne Marie Crawford, Staff Officer, Corporate Services.

The Cathaoirleach welcomed members and the public to the meeting and said that as this was the third attempt to complete the November meeting it was imperative that all concerned complied with Standing Order No 38. Members speaking on a motion, he advised, should speak for no longer than four minutes and the member seconding same for no longer than two minutes.

Cllr Harley proposed a vote of sympathy to the family of the late Martin Griffin formerly Roads Section. He proceeded to inform members that he had forwarded an email to the Chief Executive and the Cathaoirleach advising them of his intention to leave the meeting should there be any unnecessary interruptions or any form of verbal abuse directed at staff or members.

**C/291/21 TO APPROVE DONEGAL CARAVAN, CAMPING AND CAMPER VAN STUDY**

It was noted that this item had been deferred pending further consultation with the some of the associated representative bodies.

On the proposal of Cllr Mc Gowan, seconded by Gallagher it was resolved to adopt the Donegal Caravan, Camping and Camper Van Study.

It was further agreed that a copy of the report be made available to any member who requested same.

C/292/21 **FIRST RESPONDER ROLE FOR THE FIRE SERVICE**

On the proposal of Cllr Mc Clafferty, seconded by Cllr O' Fearraigh it was resolved to adopt the following motion:-

*"That we ask our Fire Service to step in as first responders when 999 is called to assist in emergencies before the ambulance doctor arrives, so as to administer first aid, use defibrillators etc where a heart attack has occurred".*

Cllr Mc Clafferty received a response from the Director of Economic Development, Information Systems and Emergency Services in relation to the above.

He noted that there were specific geographical issues in Donegal compounded by the fact that many areas of the county were a considerable distance from Letterkenny University Hospital. He said it would be most helpful if the Fire Service could step in as first responders to assist with medical emergencies until medical assistance became available. They could, he advised, administer first aid and use defibrillators where applicable.

He noted that Laois, Carlow and West Meath County Councils were already piloting this method of response. The key issue in a medical emergency, he said, was timing and the involvement of the Fire Service as first responders would result in an earlier intervention.

He cited also the need for all patrol cars to be fitted with defibrillators so that assistance could be provided as soon as possible in a medical emergency.

Cllr O' Fearraigh supporting the motion concurred with this assessment.

There was no opposition to the motion.

Mr Garry Martin, Director Economic Development, Information Systems and Emergency Services confirmed that he would bring a report to the Economic Development, Enterprise & Emergency SPC outlining the detail as to why there were difficulties and challenges in undertaking such a role. It was not, he said, that the Fire Service did not want to respond but rather that it had to meet its own statutory obligations.

Cllr Mc Clafferty thanked the Director of Service for his reply and noted that careful consideration was needed in relation to the manner. The rationale of utilising the service would, he advised, hopefully overcome the difficulties that existed. He said he was hopeful that a solution would be found going forward, and suggested that a conversation be had with the Carlow, Laois and West Meath authorities regarding the operation of this activity in their areas of responsibility.

C/293/21 **"HOUSING FOR ALL FRAMEWORK" INCLUSION OF ADDITIONAL POLICIES**

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

*"That this Council apply to the Department to request that two specific policies be included within the "Housing for All" framework, one to ensure that both social and affordable housing can be built in small settlement areas, and that this is part of building sustainable rural communities across Donegal, and also to have a specific aggressive building policy for Gaeltacht areas, and that this Council engage with all national language authorities and offices to seek support for this policy immediately".*

Cllr Gallagher received a response from the Director of Housing, Corporate & Culture in relation to the above.

She alluded to the fact that Donegal was a predominately rural county and outlined the need for schemes in all Municipal Districts. The "Housing for All" Plan, she said, catered for the larger towns and there was little or no reference to affordable housing, something which was also compounded by the fact that planning laws and regulations made it increasingly difficult to build in rural areas.

Cllr O' Fearraigh supporting the motion said that this was particularly true for Gaeltacht areas.

There was no opposition to the motion.

Mr Patsy Lafferty, A/Director Housing, Corporate & Culture, confirmed that that a Housing Delivery Action Plan was currently being prepared and would set out the key issues and challenges facing the delivery of housing in the county. It was noted that there had been ongoing consultation at MD level and that the issue of affordable housing had been raised on a number of occasions. There was, he confirmed, a housing need in over 80 different locations in the county, and that due to the geographical spread and rural nature of the county, half of the settlements had a housing need of less than 10 households.

The focus within this new programme, he added, would be on "new build" as opposed to leasing and acquisitions with an emphasis on acquiring land going forward not only in larger towns but in smaller towns and villages and in Gaeltacht areas.

Mr Lafferty advised that issues relating to Donegal and the challenges facing rural communities and Gaeltacht areas would be highlighted and submitted to the Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage and the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sports and Media by year end.

Cllr Gallagher said that it was important that contact was made with the Minister and that he was made aware of the urgency in providing affordable accommodation in Donegal. She would, she said, write to the Minister herself regarding the need for affordable accommodation as there was an inherent danger that only those larger towns would benefit from the new Housing Programme.

**C/294/21 REINTERMENT OF THE REMAINS OF THE INVINCIBLES IN GLASNEVIN CEMETERY**

On the proposal of Cllr Mac Giolla Easbuig, seconded by Cllr Mc Brearty it was resolved to adopt the following motion;-

*"Go n-iarrfaidh Comhairle Contae Dhún na nGall ar Oifig na nOibreacha Poiblí an tochailt riachtanach a dhéanamh le coirp Sheosaimh Uí Bhrádaigh, Dhónaill Uí Uirthille, Mhícheáil Uí Fhaogáin, Thomáis Mhic Cafraidh agus Thaidhg Uí Cheallaigh a fháil ar ais ó Chlós na hInvincibles, mar a thugtar air go coitianta, i bPríosún Chill Mhaighneann. Tá coirp an chúigir seo, a bhí ina mbaill de Invincibles Náisiúnta na hÉireann, ina luí thíos faoi leaca pábhála an chlóis san áit ar cuireadh chun báis iad in 1883 de bharr an pháirt a bhí acu i maruithe Pháirc an Fhionnuisce. Déanann Cumann Uaigheanna na Laochra Gael ionadaíocht ar son theaghlaigh an chúigir; is mian leis na teaghlaigh go ndí-adhlacfaí na coirp agus go n-athchuirfí iad i Reilig Ghlas Naíon".*

*"That Donegal County Council calls on the Office of Public Works to carry out the necessary excavation to recover the remains of Joseph Brady, Daniel Curley, Michael Fagan, Thomas Caffrey and Timothy Kelly at what is commonly called the Invincibles Yard in Kilmainham Jail. The bodies of these five members of The Irish National Invincibles, lie beneath paving slabs of the yard where they were executed in 1883 for their part in the Phoenix Park assassinations. The families of the five men are represented by the National Graves Association; it is the wish of the families that their relatives remains be exhumed and re-interred in Glasnevin Cemetery".*

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

Cllr Mac Giolla Easbuig outlined the background to the motion and the fact that the men's families were campaigning for their relative's remains to be re-interred in Glasnevin Cemetery.

Cllr Mc Brearty seconding the motion said that people should never be ashamed of their own history and that those referred to in the motion had died to make this country a republic. The motion highlighted the fact, he said, that certain parts of our history had been ignored and that the Government now needed to do the right thing as highlighted by Cllr Mac Giolla Easbuig.

There was no opposition to the motion.

Mr Patsy Lafferty, A/Director Housing, Corporate & Culture, said that the Council would forward a copy of the motion to the Office of Public Works.

C/295/21 **RIGHTS OF NATURE**

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

*"Rights of Nature.*

*Donegal County Council (DCC) notes the legal and social movement globally for the 'Rights of Nature' aimed to strengthen protections for people, place and planet.*

*DCC recognises that Rights of Nature can help catalyse an innovative rethinking about how to create regenerative, not extractive economies while also making human and other living communities safer, stronger and more resilient,*

*DCC commends the excellent work already being done by council staff and community groups on the climate emergency and biodiversity crises but recognises the need for a rights-based approach to nature.*

*DCC will over the next eighteen months, collaborate with civic society including The Gathering, Friends of the Earth(NI), Trade Unions and those who have carried out biodiversity audits and drawn up biodiversity action plans for areas of Donegal to explore what Rights of Nature means for the people and economies of the region and to investigate how Rights of Nature could be expressed in community plans, corporate plans, improvement objectives and other strategic frameworks. In particular, the council will in the next eighteen months hold a number of community workshops and work with the local community and stakeholders to draw up a "Declaration for the Rights of Nature" for the council area to be brought back to the plenary council for adoption.*

*DCC asks for a report to come to council on embedding 'Rights of Nature' as a keystone concept into council's operational practices, planning processes and long-term decision making.*

*Donegal County Council notes our position as a border region and our mutual environmental obligations under the 'Espoo Convention' and so invites all border counties to also explore 'Rights of Nature' for their council areas".*

Cllr Doherty received a response from the A/Director of Water & Environment in relation to the above.

This motion, he said, implied that there was now an opportunity for Donegal County Council to become an environmental leader in the face of ongoing bio-diversity emergencies. He said that he hoped it would allow and enable debate to take place. It was important, he added, that we rethink our relationship with nature. Cllr Doherty welcomed the response and the fact that the Rights of Nature initiative was supported by the Environmental Justice Network Ireland (EJNI). He said that he was looking forward to working with Donegal County Council to explore all relevant options.

Cllr Crossan said that the motion had been well articulated by Cllr Doherty and provided an excellent opportunity for Donegal County Council to become an environmental leader.

There was no opposition to the motion.

Mr Michael Mc Garvey, A/Director Water & Environment confirmed that an update would issue to members at MD level over the coming months.

Cllr Canning stated however that a cautious approach was needed as on occasion too much leeway was given to protecting certain habitats. He alluded to the need for affordable housing as alluded to by Cllr Gallagher in her motion and the difficulties being faced by families in rural areas when seeking planning permission.

Cllr Crawford suggested that Cllr Doherty postpone the motion until clarity was provided in relation to the overall impact on agriculture and agricultural development. This was something, he noted, which could be considered by the Climate Action & Environment SPC and teased out in that forum.

Cllr Doherty welcomed the observations from Cllrs Canning & Crawford. He said that his motion was effectively calling for a way of rethinking our relationship with nature. It was, he added, not prescriptive but enabling and sought to invite participation and dialogue. The motion, he said, referred to our mutual environmental obligations and invited all the relevant parties to explore the "Rights of Nature", whilst encouraging co-operation and the mutual exchange of dialogue.

The Director of Service in conclusion noted that the initiative could be explored with other Local Authorities, relevant agencies, academia, NGOs and communities with a report to be brought to the Climate Action and Environment SPC in early 2022.

**C/296/21 RETENTION OF COMMERCIAL RATES WAIVER IN 2022**

On the proposal of Cllr Farren, seconded by Cllr Mc Dermott it was resolved to adopt the following motion;-

*"That this Council write to central Government requesting that the commercial rates waiver be retained in 2022 in recognition of the ongoing impact that Covid-19 is having on the business sector".*

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

He noted that Covid-19 had had a huge impact on businesses over the past 18 months and said that without this support many of them would have gone under. He thanked the Head of Finance for his response and acknowledged the monies provided to date by the Government.

It was noted that over 2800 business in the county had benefitted from the Commercial Rates Waiver to date. He asked that a request be made for the retention of the scheme in 2022 as a means of assisting the many businesses still struggling to make ends meet and those who had no certainty with regards to future opportunities. Commercial rates, it was acknowledged, were just one aspect of the problem as enterprises struggled with overheads, insurance costs, electricity costs etc.

Cllr Mc Dermott supporting the motion said that it was timely and that assistance would be required again well into 2022.

There was no opposition to the motion.

Mr Richard Gibson, Head of Finance said that it was well recognised that businesses would have a number of challenges to face in 2022. He emphasised the fact that over €39m had been paid put in business supports in 2021 and that over the course of the pandemic €52 million had been provided overall for Donegal businesses in a speedy and efficient manner. He agreed to write to the Minister for Housing, Local Government & Heritage as directed in the motion.

Cllr Farren said that he was hopeful that there was light at the end of the tunnel and that the continuation of the commercial rates waiver into 2022 would be a life saver for many small businesses.

**C/297/21 PROCUREMENT OF PROPERTIES TO ALLEVIATE THE SERIOUS EMERGENCY HOUSING SITUATION**

Cllr T Crossan proposed,, seconded by Cllr A Doherty hat the following motion be adopted:-

*"To call on the Government to allow Donegal County Council to source and procure properties in what is becoming an increasingly serious emergency housing situation.*

He received a response from the A/Director of Housing, Corporate & Culture in relation to the above.

Cllr Crossan said that he had recently become aware of a number of properties that might be available to Donegal County Council in light of the current housing crisis. This was something, he said, that needed to be examined further as there were currently unnecessary delays in acquiring properties given the necessity to obtain Department approval. The Council, he advised, needed to be able to acquire properties immediately in a housing emergency.

Cllr A Doherty supporting the motion said that the current situation was affecting the Council's ability to acquire properties in the long term and that all available options needed to be looked at going forward.

Cllr Mc Brearty said that he was opposed to the motion but that this was not a reflection on Cllr Crossan's valid call for additional housing support.

He objected to the motion on legal grounds and contended that Donegal County Council should not be involved in acquiring or procuring property until there was a full and inclusive investigation into the Acquisition Programme and in particular properties acquired in An Crannla in Buncrana, and a range of properties purchased in the Lifford/Stranorlar MD from 2018 to the present. Accountability, he advised, was the word here, and the fact that the Council had not confirmed to the Department that the five houses in Buncrana had deleterious material in them. This, he added, was deliberately done for political reasons and a waste of tax payers money. He was, he confirmed, awaiting information in relation to a number of other acquisitions.

Cllr Mac Giolla Easbuig said that he was in agreement with much of what Cllr Mc Brearty had said, but expressed reservation about stopping the purchase of accommodation given the seriousness of the current housing crisis.

Cllr Crossan said that he wanted to make it unequivocally clear that neither himself or as far as he was aware any of the other Inishowen MD members had any prior knowledge that there was mica in the houses in An Crannla.

Cllr Farren said that in the last few weeks accusations had been made suggesting that the Inishowen MD members were corrupt. He said that he was personally very annoyed at this and was extremely disappointed that the late Cllr Bernard Mc Guinness's name was being tarnished in this manner. He asked that the records be checked and the comments in question retracted. The Inishowen members, he added, operated as a team and it was extremely important that these allegations were refuted once and for all.

The Cathaoirleach said that these allegations were extremely serious. He said that the claims had been double checked and the minutes reviewed. He said that at no time had any document been circulated to a meeting of the Inishowen Municipal District Committee meeting to say that the houses in An Crannla had mica. The families in question were very annoyed, he said, at the level of intrusion and media attention being generated.

Cllr N Crossan said he wanted to protect his own name and wanted to know under Standing Orders how a person could come to a meeting and say that the Inishowen members were corrupt. He said that there was an obligation on the person making the allegations to substantiate their claims and clear the matter up once and for all.

Cllr Donaghey said it was despicable what was being said with regard to the Inishowen members and the late Cllr Bernard Mc Guinness in



particular. Allegations of this nature, she said, should not be made without being substantiated. The householders in question, she noted, had been distraught at all the attention and the fact that their homes could be in line for demolition. The houses she noted did have mica but were not in a hazardous state at this point in time.

Cllr Canning concurred with this and the comments made by the other Inishowen MD members.

Cllr Mac Giolla Easbuig said that he did not have prior knowledge of the proposal by Cllr Mc Brearty and asked for clarification.

The Cathaoirleach said that going by the translation received it was apparent that Cllr Mac Giolla Easbuig was in agreement with Cllr Mc Brearty's proposal. He asked Cllr Mac Giolla Easbuig to clarify whether or not he was seconding the motion.

Cllr Mac Giolla Easbuig said that he supported an independent enquiry but needed additional clarity on Cllr Mc Brearty's proposal.

The Cathaoirleach noted that members had already supported the holding of a public enquiry and said if he was not seconding Cllr Mc Brearty's proposal then he would have to move on with the meeting.

He said Cllr Crossan's motion was a one sentence motion and members were either in favour or against.

Cllr Mc Brearty said that on a point of order, the An Crannla houses had deleterious materials in them and the Council did not test them. A full independent inquiry would, he added, confirm what those reasons were. He said that the Inishowen members must have been aware of the procurement of the houses under the acquisition process and it was obvious, he added, that they had not been told that the properties had mica. This, he said, warranted an independent inquiry. The buck, he said, stopped with the executive, the Chief Executive, the previous Chief Executive and the staff concerned as to why the Inishowen members had not been informed about the mica content in the houses in An Crannla. The Cathaoirleach asked Cllr MacGiolla Easbuig to clarify his comments.

At this juncture Cllr Mac Giolla Easbuig said that he was seconding Cllr Mc Brearty's objection to the motion.

The Cathaoirleach noted that there was a division and called on the Meetings Administrator to take a vote.

A recorded vote was then taken by the Meetings Administrator on the motion as submitted by Cllr T Crossan.

This resulted in 32 voting for, 1 voting against with 2 abstentions.

Those voting in favour included:-

Cllrs L Blaney, C Brogan, P Canning, T Conaghan, D Coyle, G Crawford, N Crossan, T Crossan, A Doherty, G Doherty, L Doherty, R Donaghey, M Farren, M T Gallagher, M Harley, N Jordan, J Kavanagh, D M Kelly, N Kennedy, M Mc Clafferty, M Mc Dermott, I Mc Garvey, N Mc Garvey, P Mc Gowan, M Mc Mahon, G Mc Monagle, A Molloy, J Murray, M Naughton, J O' Donnell, J S Ó Fearraigh and B Sweeny. (32)

Cllr Mac Giolla Easbuig voted against. (1)

Cllrs Mc Brearty & Mc Bride abstained. (2)

The motion as submitted by Cllr Crossan was duly adopted.

Cllr Crossan thanked all who had supported the motion and said that he was disappointed that anyone would be opposed to the idea of trying to increase the ability of this Council to procure properties especially in these times of housing crisis. He welcomed the response from the executive and said that the Inishowen members knew nothing about these allegations. He said that if the evidence existed to substantiate these claims, then it should be brought to the proper forum for investigation.

**C/298/21 ENGAGEMENT WITH THE SHARED ISLAND UNIT AND ACCESS TO BREXIT ADJUSTMENT FUNDING**

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

*"I propose that we engage as a matter of urgency with the Government Shared Island Unit with a view to accessing Brexit adjustment funding for Donegal and the North West region".*

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

He noted that the Grant Thornton report which had highlighted the risks applicable to Donegal in light of the Brexit scenario had identified specific challenges for Donegal whilst also acknowledging the fact that 93% of the county's border was with Northern Ireland. He acknowledged the work carried out to date by the Council and the fact that there had been communication between the Shared Island Unit and the North Western Regional Development Group.

This Council, he contended, needed to meet with the S.I.U so that an assessment of the opportunities available to the Council could be further explored. Much of the impact of Brexit had, he noted been camouflaged to date by the pandemic. He outlined particular areas such as the LYIT where there was scope for further development and the many cross-

border initiatives that were taking place. It was imperative, he added, that Donegal County Council were at the heart of discussion going forward.

Cllr Canning supporting the motion called for a joined up approach and suggested that the matter be further progressed by the Cathaoirleach, Cllr Murray and Cllr Brogan in his capacity as chair of the NWRCEB.

There was no opposition to the motion.

Mr Garry Martin, Director Economic Development, Information Services & Emergency Services said that his Directorate was following up on the matter and looking at how Donegal could put best articulate its investment needs.

Cllr Brogan welcomed the response and advised that it was extremely important that Donegal had access to all available opportunities.

#### **C/299/21 REVIEW OF THE NATIONAL AMBULANCE SERVICE**

On the proposal of Cllr Mc Monagle, seconded by Cllr A Doherty it was resolved to adopt the following motion;-

*"That this Council calls on the Minister of Health and the National Ambulance Service to immediately embark on a review of the Ambulance Service currently being provided and notes that: —*

*the National Ambulance Service and emergency services are at crisis point, with health care professionals expecting a very challenging winter with insufficient ambulance capacity; — response times standards state that life threatening callouts should be responded to within 19 minutes in 81.5% of cases; — state-wide response times for life threatening (ECHO) callouts within this timeframe have decreased from 80% in December 2017 to 76% in December 2019, in particular outside of Dublin; and — state-wide response times for potentially life threatening (DELTA) callouts within this timeframe have fallen from 54% in December 2017 to 49% in December 2019, and that rates in the summers of 2020 and 2021 were down on previous years; and further notes that:*

*the annual spend on private ambulance services has risen from €2.1 million in 2011 to €10.1 million in 2019; — in 2019, with the largest use of private ambulance services being Letterkenny University Hospital at a cost of (€1.6 million),*

*Ambulances are too often travelling in excess of 150 kilometres to reach a destination, with instances in excess of 400 kilometres, and there are extreme geographical disparities in ambulance coverage.*

*Our ambulances are often left idling outside of hospitals for hours on end due to a lack of bed capacity and an inability to transfer patients, particularly Covid-19 patients, as accident and emergency services can not operate in an efficient and effective manner due to a shortage of Beds and Staff.*

*An unacceptably high proportion of shifts, possibly as many as half or more, already run overtime, with 12-hour shifts often lasting 15 hours or*

*more leaving National Ambulance Service staff at low morale with widespread burn out and occupation-related mental health difficulties; I am therefore now calling on the Minister to urgently review the adequacy of National Ambulance Service resources, to identify additional budgetary needs to phase out use of private services, reduce reliance on overtime, fill vacancies, and expand staffing and the ambulance fleet to meet need;*

*—  
The NAS must also urgently review the adequacy of the spatial distribution and coverage of the ambulance fleet, ambulance stations, and rapid deployment points to ensure an equitable distribution of services across regions and to reach response time standard targets; —*

*We must also avoid Ambulance call centres directing long-distance callouts to teams which are nearing the end of their shift and ensure adequate coverage to support this;*

*The Minister and National Ambulance Service must now embark on a complete overview of its operation and service and they must put in place a service that is adequate and fit for purpose to meet the growing and changing needs of our citizens. I thank the Members for their support.*

Cllr Mc Monagle received a response from the Director of Housing, Corporate & Culture in relation to the above.

He said that he was well aware of the difficulties facing the service and the increasing demands placed on ambulance personnel. The National Ambulance Service in its present format was, he said not fit for purpose and not based on a viable rural model. It had become apparent, he added, that ambulance personnel in Donegal were being redeployed to other health areas outside the county something which depleted service delivery within Donegal. Another area of contention, he stated, was the fact that crews were often tied up for long periods at the hospital itself.

Service provision, he said, needed to be reviewed and adequate budgets put in place. He expressed concern at the use of private ambulances with up to €10.1 million being spent on these in 2019. Letterkenny University Hospital, had spent the highest portion of this budget, he noted, with €1.6 million being paid out in 2019 for private ambulances .

Cllr A Doherty said that the current model was based on an urban model and that there was a dire need to review the adequacy of the spatial distribution. He said that as an Emergency Service they deserved equal parity with other frontline services.

There was no opposition to the motion.

Mr Patsy Lafferty, A/Director Housing, Corporate & Culture agreed to forward a copy of the motion to the Minister for Health.

Cllr Mc Monagle called on the National Ambulance Service to review the adequacy of the Service and the spatial distribution of the fleet so that crews would be in a position to meet the response times needed.

C/300/21 **RESTORATION OF SECTION 140 MOTIONS**

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

*"That this Council apply to the Department for the restoration of Section 140 Motions to Councils". (To be circulated to all other Local Authorities)*

Cllr Mc Garvey received a response from the Director of Housing, Corporate & Culture in relation to the above.

He said that he had submitted the motion as presently there was clear evidence to suggest that democracy was under attack.

Councillors, he noted, had lost key decision making functions over the years and cited a number of examples including:

- Abolition of the Dual Mandate.
- Loss of Water Services function to Irish Water.
- Removal of decision making functions in relation to LIS schemes.
- Lack of representation on the Regional Health Forum coupled with the disbandment of the Regional Health Boards.

It was, he said, disappointing that Councillors were being thwarted in relation to their ability to represent the people who had elected them. He would, he advised, continue to represent the people of Donegal to the best of his ability and said that officials were obliged to deal with all the issues raised in a responsible way.

Cllr Blaney supporting the motion concurred with the fact that member's decision making functions had been continuously eroded over the past number of years.

There was no opposition to the motion.

Mr Patsy Lafferty, A/Director Housing, Corporate & Culture noted that the Local Government Reform Act 2014 had amended the circumstances in which a section 140 did not apply. Any amendment to these provisions would, he advised, require further legislation.

He said that a copy of the motion would be forwarded to the Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage and circulated to other local authorities as requested.

Cllr Mc Garvey acknowledged the response and said that proactive activity was needed. Inaction was the biggest problem, he said, at this point in time.

C/301/21 **CALL FOR LEGAL PROCEEDINGS TO BE ISSUED SEEKING DAMAGES AND COSTS AGAINST COMPANIES WHO HAVE SUPPLIED DEFECTIVE CONCRETE PRODUCTS**

Cllr Mc Brearty proposed that the following motion be adopted:-

*" With more than an estimated thousand council homes and other Council owned and run properties such as the Aura Leisure Centre, Public Service Centres and other properties having been identified as having possible deleterious materials such as Mica, Pyrite, Pyrrhotite and others Sulphides in them, I am now calling on the members of Donegal County Council to request the Council to issues proceedings in the Commercial section of the High Court to seek damages and costs against Cassidy Bros Concrete Products Ltd and Cassidy's Topmix Ltd on the following grounds:*

*That they knowingly supplied concrete, concrete blocks and concrete products to Donegal County Council, contractors that have done work on behalf of the Council, contractors/developers that have supplied the council with social housing and any other properties that the council now own and run. That the council add to these proceedings, any other companies, manufacturers and quarry owners that have supplied defective concrete products that do not met Irish/EU standards. That the council seek punitive and aggravated damages from these companies for not abiding to Irish and EU standards as set out in the Guidelines and any other damages that are appropriate. That these companies will be held responsible in the criminal courts for any injury or loss of life to tenants, patrons and staff that live in, visit, or use council owned facilities and properties until full liability, remediation, settlements or judgements are accepted and agreed by the defendants in the commercial section of the high court. That the council ensure that full liability cover is held on their properties that have been identified or will be identified with any deleterious materials such as Mica, Pyrite, Pyrrhotite and other Sulphides. That the council begin the due diligence process to identify all properties affected and where the concrete products were purchased. That they seek the assistance of revenue, companies, contractors and developers to establish where these concrete products were purchased, if they have not already done so within their own records. That the council request their Banks, lenders and Insurance companies to join this litigation in the commercial section of the high court against the companies, manufacturers and quarry owners that are responsible for this horrendous scandal".*

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

He advised at this juncture that he wished to amend the motion so as to remove the names of specific companies and to amend same with a reference to all manufacturers and companies who knowingly supplied defective materials. The failure of the Council to police this activity was clear to be seen, he contended. Donegal County Council, he said, had a responsibility to police quarries and manufacturers who had created and supplied these products. There had been, he said, no planning enforcement on this activity and no building control officer in place which indicated clearly that the Council had not done its job in ensuring that the relevant conditions were in place. The Council, he said, must now follow these contractors and manufacturers.

He further advised that the Council had the power to chase after these suppliers through the civil litigation process. It was, he added, not seeking the appropriate advice and the response to date had been nothing but a whitewash. He alluded also to the value for money aspect of the situation and the fact that protocols had not been adhered to.

The motion was amended as follows and seconded by Cllr Mc Bride:-

*" With more than an estimated thousand council homes and other Council owned and run properties such as the Aura Leisure Centre, Public Service Centres and other properties having been identified as having possible deleterious materials such as Mica, Pyrite, Pyrrhotite and others Sulphides in them, I am now calling on the members of Donegal County Council to request the Council to issues proceedings in the Commercial section of the High Court to seek damages and costs against all manufacturers and suppliers on the following grounds:*

*That they knowingly supplied concrete, concrete blocks and concrete products to Donegal County Council, contractors that have done work on behalf of the Council, contractors/developers that have supplied the council with social housing and any other properties that the council now own and run. That the council add to these proceedings, any other companies, manufacturers and quarry owners that have supplied defective concrete products that do not met Irish/EU standards. That the council seek punitive and aggravated damages from these companies for not abiding to Irish and EU standards as set out in the Guidelines and any other damages that are appropriate. That these companies will be held responsible in the criminal courts for any injury or loss of life to tenants, patrons and staff that live in, visit, or use council owned facilities and properties until full liability, remediation, settlements or judgements are accepted and agreed by the defendants in the commercial section of the high court. That the council ensure that full liability cover is held on their properties that have been identified or will be identified with any deleterious materials such as Mica, Pyrite, Pyrrhotite and other Sulphides. That the council begin the due diligence process to identify all properties affected and where the concrete products were purchased. That they seek the assistance of revenue, companies, contractors and developers to establish where these concrete products were purchased, if they have not already done so within their own records. That the council request their Banks, lenders and Insurance companies to join this litigation in the commercial section of the high court against the companies, manufacturers and quarry owners that are responsible for this horrendous scandal".*

Cllr Mc Bride advised of the need to support the mica homeowners and referred to the fact that these were the electorate who voted members on the Council in the first place.

There was no opposition to the motion

Cllr Mc Monagle asked for clarity and as to whether or not Cllr Mc Bride was in support of taking such legal action.

In reply Cllr Mc Bride said it was imperative that the Council stood with affected homeowners in Donegal and that he would support any initiative which aimed to do this.

Mr Patsy Lafferty, A/Director Housing, Corporate & Culture outlined that a written response had issued on the motion.

**C/302/21 REASSESSMENT OF WORK PRACTICES AND STAFF PLACEMENTS IN THE HOUSING DIRECTORATE**

On the proposal of Cllr Crawford, seconded by Cllr Mc Gowan it was resolved to adopt the following motion;-

*"That this Council reassess the work practices and staff placements over all of the Housing Directorate to better meet the challenges resulting from the mica crisis and to enable the fullest benefit of the "Housing for All" initiative to be achieved, and so as to be able to best deal with any delays which may present from Irish Water".*

Cllr Crawford received a response from the Director of Housing, Corporate & Culture in relation to the above.

He said that all concerned were aware of the complexities with regard to the current housing crisis and the fact that over the next few years there would be significant challenges to be met in terms of social housing provision. He called for a review of current staff placements and practices in order to increase efficiency, and to ensure the completion of allocated tasks.

He outlined the need for dedicated people to be allocated to specific tasks and teams put in place to deal with issues as they arise.

Cllr Mc Gowan seconding the motion said that the Government had laid down specific challenges in "Housing for All Plan" and that there was now an onus on the Council to ensure that the resources were in place to deliver same. He advised of the need to proceed with the purchase of houses and sites where applicable and asked that a comprehensive analysis be undertaken so as to determine the best possible method of utilising derelict buildings.

There was no opposition to the motion.

Mr Patsy Lafferty, A/Director Housing, Corporate & Culture said that going forward defective concrete block issues would present significant challenges for the council.

It was intended, he confirmed, to set up a dedicated Special Projects Delivery Team to manage and deliver a dedicated programme of works. A



submission, he advised, had already been sent to the Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage seeking approval for the establishment of the team and funding for the costs associated with the programme. A response it was noted was expected early in 2022.

In addition it was noted that the Project Ireland 2040 strategy provided for the compact growth and regeneration of urban and rural settlements and this would place an increased emphasis on land acquisition, infill development, regeneration etc.

He confirmed that structures were being reviewed in the context of new housing strategies.

Cllr Crawford said that a team effort would be required going forward and welcomed the fact that there would be an opportunity for further discussion at the forthcoming plenary workshop.

**C/303/21 CIVIC RECEPTION FOR FINN HARPS UNDER 14 AND UNDER 15 TEAMS IN RECOGNITION OF THEIR NATIONAL CUP FINAL WINS**

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

*"That Donegal County Council afford a Civic Reception to the Finn Harps U14 and U15 teams who both won their respective National Cup Finals recently."*

Cllr Doherty received a response from the A/Director of Housing, Corporate & Culture in relation to the above.

He said that the teams alluded to in the motion were representative of communities all across Donegal. Their success, he noted was testament to the dedication and commitment shown and the excellent management structure in place. An excellent youth programme was now in place, he noted, and had contributed to this achievement. Successes such as these, would, he advised, be more common place when the new Community Stadium was up and running.

Cllr L Doherty said the recognition was well deserved and offered great hope for the future of the Senior Team.

There was no opposition to the motion.

Mr Patsy Lafferty, A/Director Housing, Corporate & Culture said that arrangements would be made to get in contact with the recipients. The Cathaoirleach said that he would be proud to host same.

Thanking all concerned Cllr Doherty said that he appreciated that the reception might take a different format given the current health restrictions. It boded well, he said, for Finn Harps and soccer in general in the county.

**C/304/21 RESPONSE TO THE NATIONAL TRANSPORT AUTHORITY PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON "CONNECTING IRELAND"**

On the proposal of Cllr Mc Gowan, seconded by Cllr Brogan it was resolved to adopt the following motion;-

*"That this Council prepare a response to the National Transport Authority (NTA) public consultation on "Connecting Ireland" which proposes a series of new public transport routes as well as improving some existing routes:-*

- As the county most dependent on roads, there should be positive discrimination towards the residents of this county and visitors to same in any review of public transport.*
- Hospital appointments and other national services are mainly centred in the cities and there should be a plan in place which allows people to plan journeys which can offer a viable door to door integrated transport service without too much inconvenience".*

Cllr Mc Gowan received a response from the Director of Roads & Transportation in relation to the above.

He welcomed the response and outlined the importance of ensuring that an integrated bus service was in place linking every town and village in the country with the major city areas and backed up with a dedicated customer charter for those using public transport. It was very important, he added, that the public in Donegal availed of the opportunity to make a submission. He cited also the need for Donegal County Council to get involved, given that there were currently limited transport options in the county.

Cllr Brogan said that the motion had been well outlined and the lack of service options overall was an ongoing issue. The NTA, he said, needed to engage with Donegal in relation to Transport Hubs and the designation of same.

There was no opposition to the motion.

Mr Brendan O' Donnell, A/Director Roads & Transportation said that the Council was not well positioned to comment on the detail of the NTA proposals as that this was something that needed to come in the first instance from the service users. It would be possible, he said, for the Council to promote the NTA survey through its social media channels and encourage a response from public transport users.

He alluded to the fact that it would be possible to put in a high level observation on the ambitions that public transport should meet in Donegal. It was noted that the Northern Western Regional Assembly had compiled a number of high level strategic points.

Cllr Mc Gowan said it would look strange if a submission emanated from the NWRA and none from Donegal County Council when they had

highlighted the fact that Donegal was one of the least connected counties in Ireland. He asked that a full submission be made by the Council.

Concluding, he highlighted, the need for a fully integrated bus service to Dublin/Galway with adequate linkage into local bus services. There was room also, he added, to involve the Letterkenny Institute of Technology in the process.

**C/305/21 REUSE OF WINDOWS AND DOORS AND OTHER HOUSEHOLD MATERIALS FROM MICA AFFECTED HOMES**

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

*"That this Council seeks to establish a programme to reuse windows, doors and other household materials from mica affected homes that are to be demolished. Many products of a certain age may not meet current Irish standards and building regulations but could be put to very good use in developing countries. Using existing channels and existing charitable organisations a positive scheme somewhat like the "Bikes for Africa" could be implemented to provide a resource to poorer countries and also within Ireland to reuse an enormous amount of waste product. I ask that Donegal County Council acts sensitively to evaluate a system where a positive and charitable aspect can be derived from the disastrous mica situation".*

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

This was something, he advised, that needed to be considered given the level of waste that was expected to be generated in the next few years. He cited the need to think outside the box in relation to the possible reuse of this material. There was a possibility, he noted, that items such as windows and doors which did not meet the current building standards could be used elsewhere. This, it was acknowledged, could be progressed through charities and their particular channels and shipping methods. He referred in particular to organisations such as "Habitat for Humanity" and the "Niall Mellon Trust".

He noted that the materials might not be able to be used directly but that they could be sold on to generate capital for education and literacy programmes etc.

Now was the time, he added, to think about the environment and the circular economy with a dedicated emphasis on repurposing. This was something, he advised, that warranted consideration by the Climate Action & Environment SPC.

Cllr Harley supporting the motion said that further research was needed as it was a sensitive issue and needed to be addressed as the rebuilding programme moved forward.

There was no opposition to the motion.

Mr Michael Mc Garvey, A/ Director Water & Environment alluding to his reply said that he was happy to explore the matter further and that a report would be brought to the Climate Action & Environment SPC early in 2022. It was hoped, he said, to get as meaningful a use as possible out of the material in a systematically and environmentally safe manner.

Concluding Cllr Sweeny said that he welcomed the response and the fact that the viability of using these materials could be looked at for the benefit of other communities and also for the people of Donegal.

### **C/306/21 CATHAOIRLEACH'S BUSINESS**

#### Workshops – 10<sup>th</sup> January 2022

On the proposal of Cllr Murray, seconded by Cllr Brogan it was resolved that the following plenary workshops would be held on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> January, 2022 commencing at 11.00am:-

- Three Year Capital Budget 2022-2024
- Housing for All – Delivery Action Plan

The Cathaoirleach responding to a query from Cllr Naughton said that the meeting could be held in person if that was what the members wished but that this would be dependent on the prevailing health guidelines.

#### Mica Redress Committee Update

The Cathaoirleach called on Cllr Mc Dermott as chair of the Mica Redress Committee to update members in relation to the discussion which had taken place at the recent Mica Redress Committee meeting. He asked that the information be provided in writing to all members.

Cllr Mc Dermott confirmed that the Council was still taking applications in relation to the redress scheme, but that there was a stall on deciding upon applications at stage 1 pending further clarification from the Department regarding IS465 and other deleterious materials. He confirmed that Cllr Albert Doherty and himself were scheduled to meet with the Department and that an update would issue as soon as this had taken place.

Cllr Mc Brearty said that he was in agreement that something needed to emanate from the members and the executive so as to hold the Department to account.

He thus proposed that the members of Donegal County Council call on the Government to scrap immediately IS465 given that there was agreement at the aforementioned Mica Redress Committee meeting that IS465 was outdated.

The Cathaoirleach at this juncture reminded Cllr Mc Brearty that considerable time had been spent on the mica issue at the adjourned meeting on the 6<sup>th</sup> December and that the presentation made at the recent Mica Redress Committee meeting would be circulated to all members for their information.

Cllr Mc Brearty said that he had made a proposal and was seeking a seconder for same.

The Cathaoirleach said that it had been agreed at the last meeting that this would be done and that Cllr Mc Dermott would follow up on same.

Following a heated exchange the Cathaoirleach said that ample consideration had been given to the matter and he proceeded to take a contribution from Cllr Mc Bride.

Cllr Mc Bride alluded to the fact that a number of homeowners who had been approved for demolition had contacted him to obtain an update. Mr Patsy Lafferty, A/ Director Housing, Corporate & Culture said that he would arrange for the team to contact Cllr Mc Bride or the applicants themselves directly.

Cllr Mc Monagle welcomed the fact that Cllr Mc Dermott and Cllr A Doherty were to meet with the Department and said that a concerted effort was needed to ensure that those who had spent upwards of €6000 on the testing process got this money refunded.

#### Continuing Professional Development in Climate Crisis and Local Government

Cllr Nicholas Crossan informed members that the AILG in association with University College Cork was offering members an opportunity to obtain a certificate in Continuing Professional Development in Climate Crisis and Local Government a 12 week NFQ Level 7 course. It was, he advised, open initially to 25 members but the pilot programme, if successful, would be extended and developed further.

He thanked Cllrs Mc Monagle and Mc Gowan for their support over the past year. It was acknowledged that training had been curtailed over the past year or so due to the pandemic but that the AILG were committed to providing members with an opportunity to upskill and had now moved 50% of all training online.

He said that it would be helpful if a short slot could be provided at each plenary meeting to update members on developments.

#### **C/307/21 CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S MANAGEMENT REPORT**

Members were updated in relation to the following:-

##### **1. Community Development & Planning Services**

- A. Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme 2021 (ORIS)
- B. Sláintecare Healthy Communities Programme
- C. Letterkenny Town – Social Enterprise Capital Grants Scheme
- D. Regeneration & Development Team Update

## **2. Economic Development, Emergency Services and Information Systems**

### **A. Fire Services**

- (i) Incident Activity*
- (ii) Training*
- (iii) Fire Prevention*

### **B. Donegal Digital**

### **C. Local Enterprise Office Update**

### **D. Civil Defence Update**

### **E. #BuyDonegal Campaign wins Excellence in Local Government Award**

## **3. Housing, Corporate & Cultural Services**

### **A. Housing**

- (i) Housing for All – Social Housing Programme Update*
- (ii) Social Houses Affected by Defective Concrete Blocks*
- (iii) Repair & Leasing Scheme*

### **B. Cultural Services**

- (i) Library Service*
- (ii) Regional Cultural Centre*
- (iii) Museum*
- (iv) Donegal Heritage Office*

## **4. Roads & Transportation**

### **A. Roads General Update**

### **B. Central Technical Services Division Update**

### **C. Donegal National Roads Office Update**

## **5. Water and Environment**

### **A. Litter and Waste Management**

- (i) Recycle Soft Plastic Waste in the Household Recycle Bin*
- (ii) Reuse Month - October 2021*
- (iii) Letterkenny Rotary Club's Annual School Bikes Africa Appeal*
- (iv) Bring Bank Relocated*
- (v) Anti Dumping Initiative - Your County Your Waste*
- (vi) Environment Section Awareness Video on the dangers of Bonfires*
- (vii) Green Schools*

### **B. Climate Action Update**

- (i) *Decarbonisation Zones*
  - (ii) *North West Regional Energy Strategy*
  - (iii) *Climate Action Training Programme*
  - (iv) *Climate Action Community Engagement*
  - (v) *Climate Action Adaptation Progress Report*
  - (vi) *Climate Action Plan 2021*
  - (viii) *Community Climate Action Programme*
- C. Coastal Management
- (i) *Quad Bikes and Scramblers*
  - (ii) *National Biodiversity Action Plan – Local Authorities Funding Scheme 2021*
- D. River Basin Management Plan
- (i) *Draft River Basin Management Plan*
- E. Group Water Schemes
- (i) *County Donegal Group Water Scheme Sector*
  - (ii) *Group Water Scheme Takeovers*
  - (iii) *Orphan Group Water Schemes*
  - (iv) *Multi Annual Rural Water Programme 2019-2021*
  - (v) *Multi Annual Rural Water Programme 2022-2024*

The following questions were submitted;-

**C/308/21 NATIONAL GREEN FLAG ACCREDITATION –POLICY TO ENCOURAGE MORE ENTRANTS**

Cllr M T Gallagher submitted the following question:-

*Following on from this week's announcement of national green flag accreditation by An Taisce, will Donegal County Council develop a policy and encourage more entrants to these national awards similar to that of Blue Flag Beaches?*

She received a response from the A/Director of Water & Environment in relation to the above.

**C/309/21 OUTDOOR RECREATION STRATEGY – BUILDING OF PUBLIC PARKS IN EACH MUNICIPAL DISTRICT**

Cllr M T Gallagher submitted the following question:-

In conjunction with the development of the Outdoor Recreation Strategy will this Council develop a policy to develop a programme to build public parks in each MD that are suitable for all ages and abilities?

She received a response from the Director of Community Development & Planning Services in relation to the above.

C/310/21 **PROPERTIES BOUGHT BY THE COUNCIL AND TESTED FOR MICA SINCE 2013**

Cllr Micheal C MacGiolla Easbuig submitted the following question:-

An dtig le CCDnaG a chur in iúl dom cá mhéad réadmhaoín, agus an áit ina bhfuil siad, atá ceannaithe ag an Chomhairle ó 2013, de réir ceantar bardais, agus lena chois sin, a chur in iúl dom cá mhéad de na réadmhaoine seo a scrúdaíodh fá choinne míoca sular ceannaíodh iad?

Can DCC inform me of how many properties and the location of these properties that have been bought by the Council since 2013 per municipal area and further advise as to how many of these properties were tested prior to buying for mica?

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

C/311/21 **PRIORITY GIVEN TO ENSURING THAT STAFF WITH IRISH ARE DEPLOYED TO ROLES OR TASKS IN THE GAELTACHT.**

Cllr Micheal C MacGiolla Easbuig submitted the following question:-

Cad iad na socruithe atá i bhfeidhm ag CCDnaG, nó cad iad na socruithe a chuirfidh siad i bhfeidhm, lena chinntiú, nuair a thugtar róil nó tascanna oibre do bhaill foirne sa Ghaeltacht, gur baill foirne a bhfuil Gaeilge acu a úsáidfear seachas baill foirne nach bhfuil Gaeilge acu?

What arrangements has DCC in place, or what arrangements will they put in place, to ensure that when staff are given roles or tasks in the Gaeltacht, that priority is always given to ensuring that staff with Irish are deployed rather than staff who don't speak Irish?

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

C/312/21 **DISABILITY PARTICIPATION AND AWARENESS (NEW ANNUAL FUNDING).**

Cllr A Doherty submitted the following question:-

Disability Participation and Awareness  
(New Annual Funding)

What applications have Donegal County Council submitted to this fund enabling the Council to implement opportunities for people with disabilities to partake in activities at local level and remove barriers to community involvement?(Closing date Nov.8th 2021) and how many meetings have the "Disability Strategy Committee" held in this council period.? (Since June 2019)?

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

C/313/21 **MICA FAMILIES-ALTERNATIVE ACCOMMODATION NEEDS**



Cllr A Doherty submitted the following question:-

Mica Families

What rental properties have been identified, secured or are being pursued by DCC to address,

a) Plight and housing need of families living in council housing stock requiring alternative housing as a result of MICA?

b) Requirement of alternative housing need for families living in private homes affected by Mica? And has DCC submitted and secured from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage a costed plan to enable repair and rebuild of council housing stock affected by Mica?

He received a response from the A/Director of Housing, Corporate & Culture in relation to the above.

**C/314/21 BREAKDOWN OF STAFF CURRENTLY WORKING FROM HOME**

Cllr T Crossan submitted the following question:-

In view of the fact that Donegal County Council have endorsed "Donegal Remote Working Strategy for Business" and have signed up to a national initiative to introduce blended working arrangements for their staff, what is the breakdown of staff who are currently working remotely and does D.C.C intend to increase this number, where possible, in line with other agencies, in a timely manner?

He received a response from the A/Director of Housing, Corporate & Culture in relation to the above.

**C/315/21 HOW MANY PLAYING FIELDS/PITCHES HAVE THE COUNCIL DEVELOPED SINCE 2000-2021 AND WHERE ARE THEY LOCATED?**

Cllr Mc Monagle submitted the following question:-

How many playing fields/football pitches have the County Council developed in the County since 2000-2021 and how many are still in the Council's ownership and where are the pitches they provided situated?

He received a response from the Director of Community Development & Planning Services in relation to the above.

**C/316/21 HOW MANY OF OUR SOCIAL HOUSES HAVE BEEN TESTED FOR MICA TODATE**

Cllr Mc Monagle submitted the following question:-

How many of our Social Houses have been tested for mica to date, where are they situated and when will we receive the test results?

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

**C/317/21 UPDATE REPORT ON REBUILDING IRELAND PROGRAMME**

Cllr Brogan submitted the following question:-

Can we have a updated report on what steps have been taken by DCC in the last 5 years under the "Rebuilding Ireland Programme" for housing in Donegal in each MD in the county in all areas, including land bought for social affordable housing/serviced sites, housing loans, CPOs of derelict sites for social housing and what additional staff have we applied to the Department for in the area of housing in the last 5 years ?

He received a response from the A/Director of Housing, Corporate & Culture in relation to the above.

**C/318/21 S.I. HOUSES IN THE COUNTY**

Cllr I Mc Garvey submitted the following question:-

Will this Council accept and progress applications for S.I Houses in the County?

He received a response from the A/Director of Housing, Corporate & Culture in relation to the above.

**C/319/21 RESTORATION OF TOWN COUNCILS**

Cllr I McGarvey submitted the following question:-

What is the possibility of restoring Town Council status to Letterkenny, Buncrana, Donegal Town etc?

He received a response from the A/Director of Housing, Corporate & Culture in relation to the above.

**C/320/21 UPDATE REPORT ON ALL RECRUITMENT POSITIONS WITHIN DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL**

Cllr Brogan submitted the following question:-

Can we have a updated report on all recruitment positions within Donegal County Council at the moment and what steps are being taken to fill any outstanding positions and a timeframe for same?

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

**C/321/21 PLACING OF GATES ON PUBLIC ROADS**

Cllr Crawford submitted the following question:-

What action has been taken by each Municipal District to deal with the placing of gates on public roads?

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

**C/322/21 HOW MANY FAMILIES ARE IN HAPs ACCOMMODATION**

Cllr Crawford submitted the following question:-

How many families in each Municipal District are in HAPs accommodation?

He received a response from the A/Director of Housing, Corporate & Culture in relation to the above.

**C/323/21 GROSS NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS ON THE HOUSING WAITING LIST**

Cllr G Doherty submitted the following question:-

What is the cumulative total of the gross number of households on the housing waiting list across the five Municipal Districts in the County?

He received a response from the A/Director of Housing, Corporate & Culture in relation to the above.

**C/324/21 NUMBER OF NEW BUILDS FOR 2022 UNDER THE "HOUSING FOR ALL" STRATEGY**

Cllr G Doherty submitted the following question:-

What is the projected total number of new build Local Authority homes to be delivered in the County in 2022 under the 'Housing for All' strategy?

He received a response from the A/Director of Housing, Corporate & Culture in relation to the above.

**C/325/21 CONSTRUCTION OF NEW SOCIAL AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING**

Cllr McGowan submitted the following question:-

What is the delay in bringing new social and affordable housing to construction and how many staff are working exclusively on housing construction, together with a list of sites identified in East Donegal Two Tier towns?

He received a response from the A/Director of Housing, Corporate & Culture in relation to the above.

**C/326/21 WHAT MEASURES ARE IN PLACE NOW TO PREVENT FAULTY MATERIALS BEING USED IN CONSTRUCTION**

Cllr McGowan submitted the following question:-

What measures are in place now compared to when mica/pyrite was getting into concrete products unchecked, so as to ensure that faulty materials are not being used in construction and with whom does the responsibility lie? Please give details.

He received a response from the Director of Community Development & Planning Services in relation to the above.

**C/327/21 Motions from Other Councils/Bodies**

Members noted the following motions from other Councils.

**FERMANAGH AND OMAGH DISTRICT COUNCIL**

That this Council states its "continued opposition to the illegal and inhumane blockade of Cuba by the USA. Notes that, prior to the pandemic, this blockade has prevented essential supplies such as fuel entering the country which has far-reaching consequences. Further notes, with increased concern, the impact that this blockade is having during the Covid 19 pandemic whereby essential medical supplies, needed to save lives, are being restricted;

That this Council sends its solidarity to all those in our district who have loved ones in the country. Further, that this Council sends our solidarity to Cuba through the Cuban Ambassador to Ireland, Hugo Ramos, and that we invite the Ambassador to meet with our Council to express this directly and hear about how this blockade is affecting citizens in our district; That this council notes, despite the pressures caused by the imposition of unjust sanctions, the positive role that Cuba has played in providing practical solidarity and support to so many countries in the global struggle against Covid 19.

That this Council praises the efforts of the Cuban Solidarity Forum Ireland, supports their 'Syringes for Cuba' campaign, and highlights this campaign to the people of our district using any means available to us. Further, that this Council invites representatives from the Cuban Solidarity Forum Ireland to meet with council to update us on the campaign and ongoing situation.

That this Council writes to both Health Ministers on the island to request that they explore ways in which assistance could be provided to assist in medical supply provision to Cuba. Further, that this Council requests that, on behalf of the people of our district, both Health Ministers advocate for the inclusion of any successful medications and treatments, including those developed in Cuba, in the fight against Covid 19.

That this Council notes the most recent vote on 23<sup>rd</sup> June, 2021 by the UN General Assembly, and every vote since 1992, to demand the end of the US blockade by the international community.

That this Council, on behalf of those in our district with loved ones in Cuba as well as everyone in our district who would benefit from Cuban Covid 19 medications, call on the US government, via the US Ambassador to Ireland, to bring this blockade to an end, particularly due to the devastating effect it is having during the Covid 19 pandemic.

Finally, that this motion is circulated to all councils on the island of Ireland and that they are requested to adopt a similar position.

**SLIGO COUNTY COUNCIL**

"That this Council in conjunction with Tusla, Dept of Children and Equality and the Gardaí establish an appropriate and safe Refuge Centre for victims and survivors (mainly women) of domestic violence in Sligo and surrounding area."

**SOUTH DUBLIN COUNTY COUNCIL**

"That this Council agrees to write to the Department of the Taoiseach, all other Local Authorities in the state and Retail Ireland calling on the Irish and International Supermarkets operating here to join the Boycott of all Israeli Goods as a response to the current and never-ending Murderous Campaign against the Palestinian People including thousands of innocent Men, Women and Children."

This concluded the business of the meeting.



## Full Council - 29th November 2021 Motions

Agenda Item No.17

Office Ref:FC-2021-06024

Submitted By: **Cllr Michael McClafferty**

Assigned To: Emergency Services

**Motion** "That we ask our Fire Service to step in as first responders when 999 is called to assist in emergencies before the ambulance doctor arrives, so as to administer first aid, use defibrillators etc where a heart attack has occurred". "

Signed Off By: GARRY MARTIN

**Response:** Donegal County Council has a statutory function as a Fire Authority under the Fire Services Acts, 1981 and 2003, to make provision for the prompt and efficient extinguishing of fires in buildings and other places in its functional area and for the protection and rescue of persons and property from injury by fire. The primary tasks also extend to rescue and recovery functions associated with Road traffic incidents and similar events requiring the capabilities of the service. The rationale for a number of personnel in each brigade area being trained as Emergency First Responders is so that the Fire Service has the capability to provide medical assistance to brigade personnel who may sustain an injury on the incident or training ground (given the nature and inherent risk associated with the role) and to meet the Councils obligations to its employees under the General Application Regulations / Safety, Health and Welfare at Work Act, 2005 in that context. The Fire Service of Donegal Council is not resourced to provide a structured medical service to the public in addition to its core functions, as the provision of the former would put at risk its capability of performing its core functions. The statutory responsibility for the provision of medical response services to the public rests with the Health Service Executive (HSE) who are resourced and best placed to discharge that role. In that context, the HSE has not requested Council assistance in the delivery of its ambulance response service. It should also be noted that while the HSE is a national organisation, it is funded wholly from central Government, while Donegal County Council funds the day to day running costs of its Fire Service through locally generated revenue, including commercial rates and local property tax. The delivery of any form of additional services through the Fire Service would have to be funded from these local sources in the absence of a change in National policy on role and funding model.

Agenda Item No.18

Office Ref:FC-2021-06019

Submitted By: **Cllr. Maire Therese Gallagher**

Assigned To: Housing and Capital

**Motion** "hat this Council apply to the Department to request that two specific policies be included within the "Housing for All" framework, one to ensure that both social and affordable housing can be built in small settlement areas, and that this is part of building sustainable rural communities across Donegal, and also to have a specific aggressive building policy for Gaeltacht areas, and that this Council engage with all national language authorities and offices to seek support for this policy immediately". "

Signed Off By: Patsy Lafferty

**Response:** Under Housing for All, each local authority has to prepare a Housing Delivery Action Plan by mid December 2021. The Plan will set out how we will approach delivery, and identify the key issues, particularly the challenges. Preparatory work has already commenced in this regard and consultation with elected members at Municipal District level is ongoing. It is also planned to have a Plenary Workshop shortly. One of the key considerations in Donegal relates to the fact that there is a housing need in 80 different locations in the county. This is due to the geographical spread, and relatively rural nature of the county with many smaller towns and villages. Around half of the settlements have a housing need of less than 10 households. This has implications for our delivery approach which must balance the need to supply substantial numbers but also in the right locations. In addition, the focus within the new programme will be on 'new build' as opposed to acquisitions and leasing, which formed a key element of the previous programme. In light of same, we have a significant requirement to acquire land going forward, not only in larger towns but also in smaller towns and villages, including Gaeltacht areas. Traditionally, the Council has not pursued land acquisition for housing purposes via Compulsory Purchase Order. However, this is an approach that will require consideration. The number of locations with a need for landbank and smaller sized schemes will necessitate a greater number of individual projects, which has significant resource implications. While there will be less focus on house acquisitions under the new Programme, some feedback from the consultation process to date would indicate that due to the nature of some of our settlements it is envisaged that house acquisitions may be required in some instances, and this will also have the benefit of utilising existing vacant properties. In summary, having regard to the focus on 'new build' under the new Programme, the significant number of smaller settlements that we have in a large rural county, and our requirement to acquire landbank in various locations, the Council has made an early submission to the Department for additional resources. We anticipate a decision on same shortly. Within our Housing Delivery Action Plan, it is intended to highlight the issues pertaining to County Donegal, including those as outlined above in relation to smaller

settlements, for submission to the Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage before year end. In addition, subject to the passing of the motion, the Council can write to the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media, in order to highlight the housing issues pertaining to Gaeltacht areas.

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**Agenda Item No.19**

Office Ref:FC-2021-06031

**Submitted By: Cllr. Michéal Cholm Mac Golla Easbuig****Assigned To:** Corporate

**Motion** "Go n-iarrafaidh Comhairle Contae Dhún na nGall ar Oifig na nOibreacha Poiblí an tochtail riachtanach a dhéanamh le coirp Sheosaimh Uí Bhrádaigh, Dhónaill Uí Uirthille, Mhicheáil Uí Fhaogáin, Thomáis Mhic Caffraidh agus Thaidhg Uí Cheallaigh a fháil ar ais ó Chlós na hInvincibles, mar a thugtar air go coitianta, i bPríosún Chill Mhaighneann. Tá coirp an chúigir seo, a bhí ina mbaill de Invincibles Náisiúnta na hÉireann, ina luí thíos faoi leaca pábhála an chlóis san áit ar cuireadh chun báis iad in 1883 de bharr an pháirt a bhí acu i marúithe Pháirc an Fhionnuisce. Déanann Cumann Uaigheanna na Laochra Gael ionadaíocht ar son theaghligh an chúigir; is mian leis na teaghligh go ndí-adhlacfaí na coirp agus go n-athchuirfí iad i Reilig Ghlas Naíon". "That Donegal County Council calls on the Office of Public Works to carry out the necessary excavation to recover the remains of Joseph Brady, Daniel Curley, Michael Fagan, Thomas Caffrey and Timothy Kelly at what is commonly called the Invincibles Yard in Kilmainham Jail. The bodies of these five members of The Irish National Invincibles, lie beneath paving slabs of the yard where they were executed in 1883 for their part in the Phoenix Park assassinations. The families of the five men are represented by the National Graves Association; it is the wish of the families that their relatives remains be exhumed and re-interred in Glasnevin Cemetery".

**Signed Off By:** Patsy Lafferty**Response:** Subject to the passing of the motion, the Council can write to the Office of Public Works.

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**Agenda Item No.20**

Office Ref:FC-2021-06008

**Submitted By: Cllr. Albert Doherty****Assigned To:** Water and Environment

**Motion** "Rights of Nature. Donegal County Council (DCC) notes the legal and social movement globally for the 'Rights of Nature' aimed to strengthen protections for people, place and planet. DCC recognises that Rights of Nature can help catalyse an innovative rethinking about how to create regenerative, not extractive economies while also making human and other living communities safer, stronger and more resilient, DCC commends the excellent work already being done by council staff and community groups on the climate emergency and biodiversity crises but recognises the need for a rights-based approach to nature. DCC will over the next eighteen months, collaborate with civic society including The Gathering, Friends of the Earth(NI), Trade Unions and those who have carried out biodiversity audits and drawn up biodiversity action plans for areas of Donegal to explore what Rights of Nature means for the people and economies of the region and to investigate how Rights of Nature could be expressed in community plans, corporate plans, improvement objectives and other strategic frameworks. In particular, the council will in the next eighteen months hold a number of community workshops and work with the local community and stakeholders to draw up a "Declaration for the Rights of Nature" for the council area to be brought back to the plenary council for adoption. DCC asks for a report to come to council on embedding 'Rights of Nature' as a keystone concept into council's operational practices, planning processes and long-term decision making. Donegal County Council notes our position as a border region and our mutual environmental obligations under the 'Espoo Convention' and so invites all border counties to also explore 'Rights of Nature' for their council areas."

**Signed Off By:** MICHAEL MCGARVEY

**Response:** Rights of Nature is an initiative supported by the Environmental Justice Network Ireland (EJNI). It is "a way of re-thinking our relationship with nature – from one of dominance to one of sharing, caring, respect and interdependency. It can also act as a catalyst to shift our thinking from an extractive economy towards a regenerative economy. The EJNI's Rights of Nature project will provide support and a platform for collaborations between activists, NGOs, lawyers, and academics who aim to develop the rights of nature conversation on the island of Ireland." ( <https://ejni.net/rights-of-nature/#resources>) In the event that this motion is adopted, Donegal County Council will explore this initiative through engagement with other Local Authorities, relevant agencies, academia, NGOs and communities and will bring a report on the initiative to the Climate and Environment SPC in early 2022. Michael McGarvey Director of Water & Environmental Services

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**Agenda Item No.21**

Office Ref:FC-2021-06007

**Submitted By: Cllr. Martin Farren****Assigned To:** Finance

**Motion** ""That this Council write to Central Government requesting that the commercial rates waiver be retained in 2022 in recognition of the ongoing impact that Covid-19 is having on the business sector""

**Signed Off By:** Richard Gibson**Response:** Donegal County Council recognises the very challenging environment many businesses face as a result of

the Covid-19 pandemic. Commercial Rates waivers and business support grants administered by Donegal County Council in 2020 and 2021, together with other valuable supports provided by the Council's Local Enterprise Office and Economic Development Division, were key elements of the national response to supporting businesses throughout the Covid-19 pandemic. During 2020, 4,159 businesses in Donegal benefitted from a nine-month waiver of Commercial Rates at a total cost of €14.9m. In addition, during 2020, Donegal County Council processed 4,392 Covid-19 Business Restart Grants totalling €24.3m. Both schemes were fully funded by central government. During 2021, Donegal County Council administered the Small Business Assistance Scheme for Covid (SBASC). SBASC grants were provided to businesses not eligible for the Covid Restrictions Support Scheme (CRSS – which was administered by the Revenue Commissioners). 163 SBASC grants were provided to Donegal businesses during 2021 at a total cost of €619,000. The waiving of Commercial Rates for some businesses has continued into 2021, albeit on a more targeted basis. By year-end, it is expected that Commercial Rates waivers will have been applied to approximately 2,800 businesses in Donegal in 2021 at an estimated cost of €12.5m. Central government funding has been provided to fully offset the cost of providing SBASC grants and of applying waivers of Commercial Rates. The Council will write to the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage when the motion has been adopted.

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**Agenda Item No.22**

Office Ref:FC-2021-06022

**Submitted By:** Cllr. Terry Crossan**Assigned To:** Housing and Capital**Motion** "To call on the Government to allow Donegal County Council to source and procure properties in what is becoming an increasingly serious emergency housing situation."**Signed Off By:** Patsy Lafferty

**Response:** Tenants of Council dwellings with significant deterioration will have to be relocated temporarily to facilitate remedial works to their homes. However, the availability of alternative accommodation (both temporary and permanent) is a cause of concern. Similar challenges will be encountered by private homeowners affected by defective concrete blocks, and the outcome of the review of the Defective Concrete Blocks Scheme is awaited in this regard. To date the Council have been able to facilitate the transfer of some tenants to alternative accommodation, and the Council will continue to explore a range of options to provide alternative accommodation for affected tenants. In addition to utilising our own social housing stock, the Council will also be exploring other options in suitable locations, and would encourage owners of vacant properties to contact the Council in relation to same. The repair and lease scheme for example can provide up to €60,000 to owners of vacant properties in order to carry out repairs / improvement works to bring them up to the standard for rented accommodation and the cost of the works is then deducted from lease payments over an agreed lease term. However, specific and exceptional measures will be required to address the challenges of providing accommodation, that are outside the scope of the existing Departmental schemes, such as short term leasing, temporary on-site accommodation such as mobile or modular homes and other arrangements that may emerge. The Council has commenced engagement with the Department in this regard. It is anticipated that the Council will require flexibility over and above the provisions of existing schemes. The Council will write to the Minister for Housing Local Government and Heritage when the motion is adopted.

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**Agenda Item No.23**

Office Ref:FC-2021-06025

**Submitted By:** Cllr. Claran Brogan**Assigned To:** Economic Development**Motion** "I propose that we engage as a matter of urgency with the Government Shared Island Unit with a view to accessing Brexit adjustment funding for Donegal and the North West region".**Signed Off By:** GARRY MARTIN

**Response:** In early 2021 Donegal County Council commissioned Grant Thornton to carry out an assessment of the risks presenting for Donegal in the context of Brexit and to identify essential investment proposals that will strengthen Donegal's economic resilience and economic potential in the face of Brexit. The report noted that Brexit has heightened the impact of underinvestment in Donegal in terms of connectivity and accessibility including in terms of attracting Foreign Direct Investment as well as the direct impacts of Brexit on the Fishing Sector and to a lesser extent on tourism and for all Donegal businesses that rely on UK markets. The report calls for investment in a range of enabling infrastructure and strategic initiatives and has identified both the Shared Island Fund and the Brexit Adjustment Reserve as potential sources of funding for a number of these essential investments. Shared Island Fund The €500m Shared Island Fund, with a planned availability out to 2025, will provide the resources to deliver on the government's commitment to build a shared island underpinned by the Good Friday Agreement. The Shared Island Fund aims to foster new investment and development opportunities on a North/South basis and support the delivery of key cross-border infrastructure initiatives set out in the Programme for Government. It also opens the way for investing in new all-island initiatives in areas such as research, health, education and the environment, in addressing the particular challenges of the North West and Border communities, achieving greater connectivity on the island and enhancing the all-island economy and all aspects of North South cooperation. This fund offers opportunities for Donegal to access balancing capital investment which complements the existing City Deal funding currently in train in the Derry City & Strabane District Council area as well as any emerging strategic collaborations of a capital nature on a cross border basis, including those with Fermanagh & Omagh District Council. It is intended to continue to explore opportunities for investment from this fund in Donegal during 2022. Brexit Adjustment Reserve The Brexit Adjustment Reserve (BAR) has been established by the European Council to provide support to Member States, regions and sectors, in particular those that are worst affected by the adverse



consequences of the withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the European Union, thus mitigating its impact on the economic, social and territorial cohesion. The BAR will provide financial contributions to cover all or part of the additional public expenditure incurred by Member States, especially those relying most heavily on trade and economic relations with the United Kingdom, for measures directly linked to the withdrawal. Ireland has secured just over €1bn from the BAR. The Seafood Taskforce In 2021 Minister for Agriculture, Food & the Marine, Charlie McConalogue TD established The Seafood Taskforce to examine the implications of the EU/UK Trade & Cooperation Agreement (TCA) for the Fishing Industry and Coastal Communities and to consider initiatives to address those implications. As part of the consultation process Donegal County Council made a detailed submission to the Taskforce and the final report of the Taskforce 'Navigating Change' was published in October 2021. The report recommended proposed schemes and funding recommendations totalling €423.3m and is currently being considered by the Minister. Other BAR opportunities While the initial and primary focus has been on those areas most clearly affected by Brexit to this point, such as Fisheries, other areas may also be impacted in time, as the final form of Brexit and its impact on various economic sectors becomes apparent. While Brexit has clear negative implications for certain sectors in Donegal, there are also emerging opportunities, given our geographic location and existing economic bases. In that context, it is felt that further engagement with central government is needed to further explore how best those opportunities can be realised, including through the BAR.

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**Agenda Item No.24**

Office Ref:FC-2021-06015

**Submitted By:** Cllr. Gerry McMonagle**Assigned To:** Corporate

**Motion** "That this Council Calls on the Minister of Health and the National Ambulance Service to immediately embark on a review of the Ambulance Service currently being provided and notes that: — the National Ambulance Service and emergency services are at crisis point, with health care professionals expecting a very challenging winter with insufficient ambulance capacity; — response times standards state that life threatening callouts should be responded to within 19 minutes in 81.5% of cases; — state-wide response times for life threatening (ECHO) callouts within this timeframe have decreased from 80% in December 2017 to 76% in December 2019, in particular outside of Dublin; and — state-wide response times for potentially life threatening (DELTA) callouts within this timeframe have fallen from 54% in December 2017 to 49% in December 2019, and that rates in the summers of 2020 and 2021 were down on previous years; and further notes that: the annual spend on private ambulance services has risen from €2.1 million in 2011 to €10.1 million in 2019; — in 2019, with the largest use of private ambulance services being Letterkenny University Hospital at a cost of (€1.6 million), ambulances are too often travelling in excess of 150 kilometres to reach a destination, with instances in excess of 400 kilometres, and there are extreme geographical disparities in ambulance coverage. Our ambulances are often left idling outside of hospitals for hours on end due to a lack of bed capacity and an inability to transfer patients, particularly Covid-19 patients, as accident and emergency services can not operate in an efficient and effective manner due to a shortage of Beds and Staff. an unacceptably high proportion of shifts, possibly as many as half or more, already run overtime, with 12-hour shifts often lasting 15 hours or more leaving National Ambulance Service staff at low morale with widespread burn out and occupation-related mental health difficulties; I am therefore now calling on the Minister to urgently review the adequacy of National Ambulance Service resources, to identify additional budgetary needs to phase out use of private services, reduce reliance on overtime, fill vacancies, and expand staffing and the ambulance fleet to meet need; — The NAS must also urgently review the adequacy of the spatial distribution and coverage of the ambulance fleet, ambulance stations, and rapid deployment points to ensure an equitable distribution of services across regions and to reach response time standard targets; — We must also avoid Ambulance call centres directing long-distance callouts to teams which are nearing the end of their shift and ensure adequate coverage to support this; The Minister and National Ambulance Service must now embark on a complete overview of its operation and service and they must put in place a service that is adequate and fit for purpose to meet the growing and changing needs of our citizens. I thank the Members for their support."

**Signed Off By:** Patsy Lafferty**Response:** The Council will write to the Minister as requested, subject to the agreement of the elected members.

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**Agenda Item No.25**

Office Ref:FC-2021-06028

**Submitted By:** Cllr. Ian McGarvey**Assigned To:** Corporate

**Motion** "That this Council apply to the Department for the restoration of Section 140 Motions to Council". (To be circulated to all other Local Authorities)"

**Signed Off By:** Patsy Lafferty

**Response:** Section 140 of the Local Government Act 2001 provides, inter alia and subject to certain limitations, that the elected Council may by resolution require any particular act, matter or thing specifically mentioned in the resolution and which the local authority or the chief executive concerned can lawfully do, to be done in the performance of the executive functions of the local authority. Where a resolution is passed and when money for its purpose has been provided, the chief executive shall implement the decision. Section 140 of the Principal Act has been amended by new provisions in Section 52 of the Local Government Reform Act 2014. It amends the circumstances where Section 140 does not apply as follows: (a) so as to prevent the performance of any function of a local authority or the chief executive is required by law or by order of a court to perform, (b) to any act, matter or thing to be done or effected in the performance of the executive functions of a local authority in respect of its functions as a planning

authority under the Planning and Development Act 2000, and (c) to a decision to provide, to any named person or group, any service, finance or other form of assistance or benefit, financial or otherwise. Any amendment to these provisions would require further legislation.

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**Agenda Item No.26**

Office Ref:FC-2021-06001

**Submitted By: Cllr. Frank McBrearty**

**Assigned To:** Housing and Capital

**Motion**

"With more than an estimated thousand council homes and other Council owned and run properties such as the Aura leisure centre, Public service centres and other properties having been identified as having possible deleterious materials such as Mica, Pyrite, Pyrrhotite and others Sulphides in them, I am now calling on the members of Donegal County Council to request the Council to issues proceedings in the Commercial section of the High Court to seek damages and Costs against Cassidy Bros Concrete Products Ltd and Cassidys Topmix Ltd on the following grounds: That they knowingly supplied concrete, concrete blocks and concrete products to Donegal County Council, contractors that have done work on behalf of the Council, contractors/developers that have supplied the council with social housing and any other properties that the council now own and run. That the council add to these proceedings, any other companies, manufacturers and Quarry owners that have supplied defective concrete products that do not met Irish/EU standards. That the council seek punitive and aggravated damages from these companies for not abiding to Irish and EU standards as set out in the Guidelines and any other damages that are appropriate. That these companies will be held responsible in the criminal courts for any injury or loss of life to tenants, Patrons and staff that live in, visit, or use council owned facilities and properties until full liability, remediation, settlements or judgements are accepted and agreed by the defendants in the commercial section of the high court. That the council ensure that full liability cover is held on their properties that have been identified or will be identified with any deleterious materials such as Mica, Pyrite, Pyrrhotite and other Sulphides. That the council begin the due diligence process to identify all properties affected and where the concrete products were purchased. That they seek the assistance of revenue, companies, contractors and developers to establish where these concrete products were purchased, if they have not already done so within their own records. That the council request their Banks, lenders and insurance companies to join this litigation in the commercial section of the high court against the companies, manufacturers and quarry owners that are responsible for this horrendous scandal."

**Signed Off By:** Patsy Lafferty

**Response:**

The issue of proceedings/civil litigation by the Council against any party is a function of the Chief Executive in accordance with Section 153 of the Local Government Act 2001 as amended. Where the matter in question concerns the performance by the Council of a reserved function, the Chief Executive is required to act with the express authorisation of the elected Council. The matters at issue here do not involve a reserved function. In a case where the Council suffers damage/loss as a result of the actions or inactions of another identified party or parties, the decision to embark (or otherwise) on litigation against such party/parties would be made only after going through normal due diligence. Such would involve establishing in so far as possible the facts of the matter, identifying the party or parties who may have a legal liability, taking legal advice to confirm or otherwise if such liability can be established against the other party or parties concerned to the standard of proof required before the relevant court, taking into account the costs of such litigation and whether recovery of the Council's losses (including costs) is likely to be achieved (or not) having regard to the means of that party/parties etc. It is important to note that Donegal County Council generally did not purchase concrete blocks from Cassidys Quarry for social housing or other buildings. The Council acquired houses with concrete blocks that contained deleterious materials through a combination of direct purchases from owners, developers or through building contractors. In these cases, the direct contractual relationship with the Council is with other parties and this could add to the complexity of any litigation and might bring them into the case. The Council's immediate focus in relation to mica affected council dwellings, is to procure funding to do the level of repairs required. An initial submission has been made to the Department seeking such funding and a decision on that is awaited. The Minister is on record as saying that Government are looking at all sources of recoupment of State monies paid out to deal with the mica issue. It is understood that this means looking to any party or parties who may have a legal liability for the mica problem for particular properties. If the elected members are of the view that every effort should be made to seek to recover amounts from any party that would lessen the loss to the State caused by the mica programme, the Council can bring the wishes and views of the members to the attention of the Department. The Council Executive in any event will be liaising with the Department on all aspects of the application for funding which may include any avenue for recoupment back of state funds paid out. As regards non residential Council properties affected by Mica they will be examined individually and funding sought for necessary repairs on a case by case basis. Examination of any avenue for recoupment of such funding can be addressed in the same way as for the residential properties. In relation to injuries caused in or at Council properties, the Council has the normal range of liability insurances in place for all its properties. The Council Executive is open to examining the potential for civil litigation to succeed, while taking into consideration the challenges outlined above. It would be important to set out the likely costs and how they would be provided for in the annual budget. It is proposed that legal advice will be taken and that a report is presented to a Corporate Policy Meeting in quarter 1 of 2022. It is hoped that more clarity will be known about the Governments position by then, and the Council would not be interfering with the States course of action.

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**Agenda Item No.27**

Office Ref:FC-2021-06002

**Submitted By: Cllr. Gerry Crawford**

**Assigned To:** Housing and Capital

**Motion** "That this Council reassess the work practices and staff placements over all of the Housing Directorate to better meet the challenges resulting from the mica crisis and to enable the fullest benefit of the "Housing for All" initiative to be achieved, and so as to be able to best deal with any delays which may present from Irish Water."

**Signed Off By:** Patsy Lafferty

**Response:** Defective Concrete Blocks in Social Houses. The remediation of social homes affected by Defective Concrete Blocks is a priority for this Council, and will pose significant challenges, due to the scale, the personal impact on tenants and the series of consequential impacts which is unprecedented. Because of the scale of the work involved, it is necessary to establish a dedicated Special Project Delivery Team to manage and deliver the necessary programme of works, and the significant logistical challenges. The staff assigned will include the appropriate skill mix and expertise to carry out all the relevant work tasks such as preparing a project plan for works to all houses, assessing the house condition, preparing and designing the appropriate remedial options / works, tendering and overseeing the works on site as well as tenant liaison to include arrangements for alternative accommodation and supporting tenants through the process while works are ongoing. In this regard, the Council has recently made a submission to the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage seeking approval to set up a Special Project Delivery Team and a funded multi-annual Programme, with a view to implementing a Remedial Works Programme over the next four years, and confirmation that the Department will fund all costs associated with the Project. Housing for All. One of the key policy changes going forward under Housing for All is that there will be a greater focus on 'new build' with less focus on other supply mechanisms such as acquisitions and leasing compared with the previous programme. In addition, Project Ireland 2040 provides for compact growth and regeneration of urban and rural settlements to be pursued. In this context, the identification and acquisition of suitably located and zoned land will be necessary, as well as suitable infill and regeneration opportunities. While this Council has traditionally not pursued land acquisition for housing purposes via Compulsory Purchase Order, it is an approach that will need consideration going forward. In light of the associated resource implications arising from the new Policy, the Council has made an early submission requesting approval for additional resources, and we anticipate a decision on same shortly. In addition to the above, there will be a requirement for a cross directorate interaction to coordinate our approach to land acquisition, infill development, regeneration and so forth. Significant interaction is already ongoing in this regard which will be continuing. Communications with other key stakeholders such as Irish Water will also be critical going forward. Under Housing for All, each local authority has to prepare a Housing Delivery Action Plan by mid December 2021. The Plan will identify the key issues and challenges, such as those outlined above, and set out how we will address same. Preparatory work has already commenced in this regard with internal cross directorate discussions. Consultation with elected members at municipal district level is also ongoing, and it is planned to have a Plenary Workshop on the matter shortly.

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**Agenda Item No.28**

Office Ref:FC-2021-06009

**Submitted By:** Cllr. Gary Doherty

**Assigned To:** Corporate

**Motion** "That Donegal County Council afford a Civic Reception to the Finn Harps U14 and U15 teams who both won their respective National Cup Finals recently."

**Signed Off By:** Patsy Lafferty

**Response:** The honour of a Civic Reception is a matter for the elected members to consider. Subject to the passing of the motion, contact can be made with the recipients.

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**Agenda Item No.29**

Office Ref:FC-2021-06012

**Submitted By:** Cllr. Patrick Mc Gowan

**Assigned To:** Roads and Transportation

**Motion** "That this Council prepare a response to the National Transport Authority ( NTA) public consultation on "Connecting Ireland" which proposes a series of new public transport routes as well as improving some existing routes:- •As the county most dependent on roads, there should be positive discrimination towards the residents of this county and visitors to same in any review of public transport. • Hospital appointments and other national services are mainly centred in the cities and there should be a plan in place which allows people to plan journeys which can offer a viable door to door integrated transport service without too much inconvenience"."

**Signed Off By:** BRENDAN O'DONNELL

**Response:** The NTA Connecting Ireland initiative has been underway by the NTA since early this year. In their commentary on their website the NTA have stated that "Connecting Ireland seeks to make public transport for rural communities more useful for more people, and it will do this by: •Improving existing services; •Adding new services; and •Enhancing the current Demand Responsive Transport (DRT) network which meets the transport needs of people who live in remote locations." "The NTA has already undertaken a comprehensive analysis to better understand where rural bus service improvements are required with a view to introducing new and improved connections between villages and towns; and providing better access to public transport in rural areas." "As part of the Connecting Ireland initiative, the NTA completed a comprehensive assessment of the existing network of regular public transport services operating across the country on a county-by-county basis. This has given us a clear understanding of how well the public transport network currently serves our towns and villages in terms

of service levels at certain times of the day and days of the week. It has also helped us to clearly identify the issues such as gaps in the network where the option to use public transport is not available." At this stage of the Connecting Ireland project gaps in service provision have been identified and proposals have been developed to address these gaps. The Council could comment on generic issues around the importance of public transport to the county but would not however have an in depth knowledge of the public transport demands for particular areas. As such the Council would not be well positioned to comment on the detail of the NTA proposals. As the Connecting Ireland survey is aimed at capturing the views of individual service users it is suggested that maximising the number of survey responses from service users in the county would be a more beneficial approach. It is proposed therefore that the Council could promote the NTA survey on our social media feeds to encourage as many public transport users to review the NTA proposals and make a submission.

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**Agenda Item No.30**

Office Ref:FC-2021-06018

**Submitted By: Cllr. Barry Sweeney**

**Assigned To:** Water and Environment

**Motion** "That this Council seeks to establish a programme to reuse windows, doors and other household materials from mica affected homes that are to be demolished. Many products of a certain age may not meet current Irish standards and building regulations but could be put to very good use in developing countries. Using existing channels and existing charitable organisations a positive scheme somewhat like the "Bikes for Africa" could be implemented to provide a resource to poorer countries and also within Ireland to reuse an enormous amount of waste product. I ask that Donegal County Council acts sensitively to evaluate a system where a positive and charitable aspect can be derived from the disastrous mica situation"."

**Signed Off By:** MICHAEL McGARVEY

**Response:** See Attached Response

# Appendix 1

## Question 29



Proposed Public Transport Improvements in County Donegal					
	Proposals	Connecting	Serving	Description	
Regional Corridor Proposals	31	Dublin	Donegal Town	Virginia, Cavan, Belleurbet, Erenskillen, Ballyshannon and other places en route	This corridor is currently served by routes 30 and X30. We propose to maintain the existing level of service and better integrate routes along the corridor to provide a minimum service frequency of 2 hours.
	34	Sligo	Derry / Londonderry	Bundoran, Ballyshannon, Donegal, Ballybofey, Letterkenny and other places en route	This corridor is currently served by routes E4, 440 and 964. We propose more frequent services on this corridor and a better integration of existing services. A minimum service frequency of 1 hour is proposed.
	36A	Dublin	Letterkenny	Dublin Airport, Managh, Omagh, Strabane, Lifford and other places en route	This corridor is currently served by routes 32 and 932. We propose to maintain the existing level of service and better integrate routes along the corridor. A minimum service frequency of 2 hours is proposed.
Local Route Proposals	293	Donegal	Glencolmcille	Mountcharles, Killybegs, Kacor, Carrick and other places en route	We propose to integrate routes 293 and 490 between Glencolmcille and Donegal Town. Minimum service of 7 return trips Monday to Saturday & return trips on Sunday.
	487	Letterkenny	Strabane	Drumkeen, Conroy, Ballendrait, Lifford and other places en route	We propose to alter route 487 to serve Ballindrait. Minimum service of 6 return trips Monday to Saturday, 3 return trips on Sunday.
	547	Ballyshannon	Carrick-on-Shannon	Bundoran, Killybegs, Manohamilton, Drumkeeran, Drumshanbo, Lettrim and other places en route	We propose to integrate routes 567, 567A, 983 and 983A to create a continuous route between Carrick-on-Shannon, Drumshanbo, Manohamilton and Ballyshannon. Minimum service of 3 return trips a day along the full route, additional services between Carrick-on-Shannon and Drumshanbo and between Killybegs and Ballyshannon.
	957	Letterkenny	Greencastle	Bridging, Mull, Quigley's Point, Moyile and other places en route	We propose to extend route 951 from Moyile to Greencastle. Minimum service of 3 return trips a day.
	956	Derry / Londonderry	Buncrana	Bundoran, Buncrana, Fahan and other places en route	We propose to increase the frequency of existing route 956 from Buncrana to Derry / Londonderry. Minimum service frequency of 1 hour is proposed.
	992	Dungloe	Croily	Burtonport, Donegal Airport, Annagry and other places en route	We propose to extend route 992 to serve Annagry and increase its frequency. Minimum service of 3 return trips a day.
Existing Routes	Route	Connecting	Serving	Regional Corridor Proposals	
	194	Bundoran	Enniskillen	Ballyshannon, Belleek, Pettigo and other places en route	<p><b>Regional Corridor Proposals</b></p> <p>Regional Corridors generally operate along main roads, connecting cities and large towns and settlements en route. Corridors can consist of several routes, some provided commercially and some by the State, using financial support. Some run the full length of the corridor between points and some only in sections. Connecting Ireland will improve the level of service during the core day, evenings and on weekends on Regional Corridors. We will do this by liaising with existing service providers. New services may be added or existing services improved.</p> <p><b>Local Route Proposals</b></p> <p>Local routes connect smaller towns and villages and their rural catchments with nearby larger towns. This will improve access to the range of services available in larger centres at more useful times of the day and week for those living in rural areas and smaller villages. It will also permit transfers to Regional Services to travel onwards with limited reliable connections.</p> <p><b>Existing Routes</b></p> <p>No significant changes are planned to these routes. As the public transport network develops, and as more people travel more often and more widely by public transport, we will continue to review their usage and take steps to ensure their continued fitness-for-purpose.</p> <p><b>Notes</b></p> <p>"Serving" The map shows the main alignments of our planned routes and services. Most journeys will take the route shown, however there may be a need to deviate from that route to provide connectivity to smaller settlements or areas located off the main alignment but which also require a level of service. Distinctions may be drawn in the passenger information that we prepare, in support to the maps shown. Connecting Ireland proposes a steady change in public transport connectivity. The minimum level of service we have identified is a starting point in many cases. Where our analysis demonstrates a need for levels of service above the minimum, we will plan to provide that, where funding can be identified. Improvements may be delivered in stages as the project proceeds.</p>
	271	Burtonport	Letterkenny	Dungloe, Loughaure, Croily and other places en route	
	288	Ballybofey	Derry / Londonderry	Killygordon, Castlefin, Lifford, St. Johnston and other places en route	
	290	Ballybofey	Letterkenny	Killygordon, Castlefin, Raphoe and other places en route	
	292	Donegal	Ballyshannon	Laghey, Balintra, Rosnowlagh and other places en route	
	300	Fanad	Letterkenny	Portlaoine, Carragee, Rathmullan, Ramilton and other places en route	
	480	Derry / Londonderry	Sligo	Letterkenny, Ballybofey / Stranorlar, Donegal Town, Ballyshannon, Bundoran and other places en route	
	491	Letterkenny	Ballybofey	Drumkeen and other places en route	
	492	Donegal	Dungloe	Killybegs, Aldara, Glenties and other places en route	
	494	Strabane	Ballybofey	Lifford, Castlefin, Killygordon and other places en route	
	931	Annagry	Belfast	Burboe, Falcarragh, Durlanaghy, Letterkenny, Derry / Londonderry and other places en route	
	932	Annagry	Dublin	Croily, Letterkenny, Ardee and other places en route	
	933	Moyile	Dublin	Buncrana, Derry / Londonderry, Managh, Ardee and other places en route	
	951	Carndonagh	Letterkenny	Ballyfin, Buncrana, Buncroft, Bridgend and other places en route	
	952	Moyile	Derry / Londonderry	Glenties, Culladuff, Main Town, Carndonagh, Quigley's Point and other places en route	
	954	Carndonagh	Main Road	Main Town and other places en route	
	955	Buncrana	Carndonagh	Clonmany, Ballyfin and other places en route	
	957	Greencastle	Derry / Londonderry	Moyile, Quigley's Point, Mull and other places en route	
	961	Croily	Letterkenny	Annagry, Keadue, Burtonport, Dungloe and other places en route	
	964	Croily	Galway	Letterkenny, Donegal, Sligo, Claremorris and other places en route	
	983	Manohamilton	Letterkenny	Falcarragh, Durlanaghy, Creeblough, Malmacremnan and other places en route	
	984	Falcarragh	Dungloe	Gortahork, Buncrana, Buncroft, Croily, Loughaure and other places en route	
	974	Glen	Letterkenny	Downings, Carrigat, Millard, Ramilton and other places en route	
	982	Sligo	Ballyshannon	Cliffoney, Mullaghmore, Bundoran and other places en route	
	988	Cloghan	Letterkenny	Stranorlar, Conroy and other places en route	
989	Carrigans	Letterkenny	St. Johnston, Drumkeeran and other places en route		
991	Carrigat	Downings	Downings, Doosy, Grebe and other places en route		
994	Portlaoine	Donegal	Kilbooney, Ardee, Ardaghilly and other places en route		
1426	Stranorlar	Derry / Londonderry	Conroy, Raphoe, St. Johnston and other places en route		
14	Derry / Londonderry	Mull	Tray Park, Heathfield, Cullinac Road and other places en route		



## Appendix 2

### Question 30

The issues, difficulties and opportunities in dealing with used building materials and products arising from MICA-affected buildings in Donegal (and Mayo) were discussed at the Donegal County Council (DCC) Climate Action and Environment Strategic Policy Committee meeting on Wednesday 14th July 2021.

DCC set out the steps it has taken at local, regional and national level. A number of follow up meetings were held with representatives from the Connacht Ulster Waste Enforcement Regional Lead Authority, the Regional Waste Planning Office and Mayo County Council Environment Section a view to clarifying alternative options for the reuse of building materials for other construction purposes and the safe deposition of clean inert demolition waste material.

#### **Reuse of Building Materials for Other Construction Purposes**

The potential for reuse of materials that may arise from MICA homes is being explored by Donegal County Council (DCC). DCC has been engaging with our counterparts in the Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA), the National Trans Frontier Shipment Office (NTFSO), the Connacht Ulster Waste Management Planning Office (CURWMPO) and other agencies in examining initiatives currently in operation. These include a number of initiatives involving the of reuse initiatives operating in Northern Ireland, and projects promoted by organisations such as the Irish Green Building Council.

**A report will be brought to the Climate Action and Environment SPC in early 2022.**

#### **Safe Deposition of Clean Inert Demolition Waste Material.**

These options include the reprofiling of sites where planning is in place (more relevant to standalone sites), and the acceptance of clean inert waste demolition material on sites where a Certificate of Registration and Planning Permission has been granted for this acceptance. It is also important to clearly remind affected homeowners and contractors that any material and waste arising from the remediation of MICA affected houses must be dealt with properly and in a way that will not cause future generations any environmental problem. DCC are actively seeking alternative solutions for dealing with the substantial volume of blocks that will be generated.

There are collectors and waste facilities in a number of locations throughout County Donegal who are in a position to accept this material in regulated sites. However additional capacity will be required to deal with the large volumes of material that will be involved in the months and years ahead.

DCC are actively examining other alternatives and are in discussions relevant stakeholders including private sector operators regarding same. It would be preferable and in keeping with

the circular economy if we could secure authorisation to process the material and reuse it for other purposes.

The advice that was issued to homeowners and supervising Engineers through the MICA redress scheme is summarised below:

#### **Advice for Homeowners**

There is environmental protection legislation in place for both the vehicles moving waste and the sites accepting waste. In order to adhere to this legislation, you must therefore;

- Ensure that the person removing your waste from site (concrete blocks, insulation, timber etc) holds a valid waste collection permit for your waste type – you can check the national register at [www.nwcpc.ie](http://www.nwcpc.ie) or ask your collector to provide you with a copy of the Waste Collection Permit.

Ensure that the facility taking your waste is properly authorised and holds the necessary waste authorisation for the waste type – you can check the national register

at <http://facilityregister.nwcpc.ie/> or ask the waste facility to provide you with a copy of the authorisation (Certificate of Registration, Waste Facility Permit or Waste licence).

If you are ever in doubt or want to find out more information on this you can also contact the Customer Contact Centre of Donegal County Council at 074 91 53900 and your query will be dealt with by the team in our Environment Office.

Remember it is your waste and subsequently your responsibility to ensure that it is properly managed and not disposed of in a manner that could harm our environment.

#### **Advice for Supervising Engineers**

There is environmental protection legislation in place for both the vehicles moving waste and the sites accepting waste. In order to adhere to this legislation you must therefore ensure that contractors undertaking works can provide proof of the following to the homeowner prior to receiving payment for the works. It is advised that contractors;

- Ensure that the person removing any waste from site (concrete blocks, insulation, timber etc) holds a valid waste collection permit for the waste type. They can check the national register at [www.nwcpc.ie](http://www.nwcpc.ie) or ask the collector to provide you with a copy of the Waste Collection Permit.
- Ensure that the facility taking the waste is properly authorised and holds the necessary waste authorisation for the waste type. They can check the national register at <http://facilityregister.nwcpc.ie/> or ask the waste facility to provide you with a copy of the authorisation (Certificate of Registration, Waste Facility Permit or Waste licence).
- Provide receipts from the waste collector for all waste removed from site that show the volume and nature of each waste type and the waste facility to which the waste has been brought.

**Michael McGarvey**

**Director of Water & Environmental Services**





## Full Council - 29th November 2021 Questions

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**Agenda Item No.33**

Office Ref:FC-2021-06020

**Submitted By:** Cllr. Maire Therese Gallagher

**Assigned To:** Water and Environment

**Question** "Following on from this weeks announcement of national green flag accreditation by An Taisce, will Donegal County Council develop a policy and encourage more entrants to these national awards similar to that of Blue Flag Beaches?"

**Signed Off By:** MICHAEL MCGARVEY

**Response:** Donegal County Council congratulates the recent Donegal winners of An Taisce's Green Flag Awards for Ireland's best public parks and gardens. Green Flags were awarded to Donegal County Council for Barrack Hill Town Park, National Parks & Wildlife Service for Glenveagh National Park and in the Community Awards Section a Green Flag was awarded to The River Walk Dungloe. The Green Flag Awards are judged against strict criteria, including horticultural standards, cleanliness, sustainability, and community involvement. Donegal County Council will explore opportunities on a cross-directorate basis to encourage more entrants in the future. A report will be brought to the Climate Action and Environment SPC in early 2022. Michael McGarvey Director of Water & Environmental Services

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**Agenda Item No.34**

Office Ref:FC-2021-06021

**Submitted By:** Cllr. Maire Therese Gallagher

**Assigned To:** Community and Enterprise

**Question** "In conjunction with the development of the Outdoor Recreation Strategy, will this Council develop a policy to develop a programme to build public parks in each MD that are suitable for all ages and abilities?"

**Signed Off By:** Liam Ward

**Response:** ORNI have been appointed as consultants working with us in delivering the first Outdoor Recreation Strategy for Donegal, considering physical activities that take place in the natural environment. Part of this process will consider the provision of play spaces across the county that are place based and universally accessible for our communities and the visitors we welcome. Based on initial consultation and considering the high level overview the Strategy will provide in relation to outdoor recreation in Donegal it is our intention to progress further thematic based policy documents which will likely emanate from the Outdoor Recreation Strategy including Community Trail Plans as well as a Play Strategy, thereby providing a platform to explore the great outdoors as well as complementary and dedicated play spaces. The conversation in relation to our play spaces will develop during this period of public consultation to inform the detail of the Outdoor Recreation Strategy and which is scheduled to commence early in the first quarter of 2022 and we very much look forward to how these conversations unfold.

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**Agenda Item No.35**

Office Ref:FC-2021-06032

**Submitted By:** Cllr. Michéal Cholm Mac Giolla Easbulg

**Assigned To:** Housing and Capital

**Question** "An dtig le CCDnaG a chur in iúl dom cá mhéad réadmhaoin, agus an áit ina bhfuil siad, atá ceannaithe ag an Chomhairle ó 2013, de réir ceantar bardais, agus lena chois sin, a chur in iúl dom cá mhéad de na réadmhaoine seo a scrúdaíodh fá choinne míoca sular ceannaíodh iad? Can DCC inform me of how many properties and the location of these properties that have been bought by the council since 2013 per municipal area and further advise as to how many of these properties were tested prior to buying for mica?"

**Signed Off By:** Patsy Lafferty

**Response:** Details in relation to the number of acquisitions over the period in question are outlined in the attached appendix. The acquisition of dwellings by the Council traditionally would have involved an assessment that included a non-invasive external and internal visual inspection. More recently, with the greater awareness of arising issues relating to defective concrete blocks, the assessment process would have developed further and incorporated testing of dwellings. To date, tests have been carried out to 2 dwellings where acquisitions have been completed. Tests are planned in relation to further dwellings that are being considered, the outcome of which will further inform the preparation of a policy on acquisitions, going forward.

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**Agenda Item No.36**

Office Ref:FC-2021-06033

**Submitted By:** Cllr. Míchéal Cholm Mac Golla Easbuig

**Assigned To:** Corporate

**Question** "Cad iad na socruithe atá i bhfeidhm ag CCDnaG, nó cad iad na socruithe a chuirfidh siad i bhfeidhm, lena chinntiú, nuair a thugtar ról nó tascanna oibre do bhaill foirne sa Ghaeltacht, gur baill foirne a bhfuil Gaeilge acu a úsáidfead seachas baill foirne nach bhfuil Gaeilge acu? What arrangements has DCC in place, or what arrangements will they put in place, to ensure that when staff are given roles or tasks in the Gaeltacht, that priority is always given to ensuring that staff with Irish are deployed rather than staff who don't speak Irish?"

**Signed Off By:** Patsy Lafferty

**Response:** The Council is fully committed to making the Irish Language the working language of the Dungloe Public Services Centre and to ensuring that those staff who are working in frontline office roles within the Centre are providing a service through Irish to all customers of Donegal County Council as required. The Council, through the Human Resources Division, also ensures that where recruitment panels are being established across various grades, that applicants are made aware that appointments to services within the Donegal Gaeltacht require a competency in the Irish Language. The Human Resources Division working closely with Rannóg na Gaeilge, ensures that an assessment of an applicant's competence in the Irish Language is carried out as part of the selection process in relation to any vacancy which arises in a frontline role.

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**Agenda Item No.37**

Office Ref:FC-2021-06005

**Submitted By:** Cllr. Albert Doherty

**Assigned To:** Corporate

**Question** "Disability Participation and Awareness (New Annual Funding) What applications have Donegal County Council submitted to this fund enabling the Council to implement opportunities for people with disabilities to partake in activities at local level and remove barriers to community involvement?(Closing date Nov.8th 2021) and how many meetings have the "Disability Strategy Committee" held in this council period (since June 2019)?"

**Signed Off By:** Patsy Lafferty

**Response:** The Council has recently submitted an application under the Disability Participation and Awareness Fund. The Council's proposal includes for the provision of a changing places facility, disability awareness, training and accessibility database mapping, and the development of work placements for participants with disabilities. The Disability Strategy Committee has not met for some time, and it is intended to address same in early 2022.

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**Agenda Item No.38**

Office Ref:FC-2021-06006

**Submitted By:** Cllr. Albert Doherty

**Assigned To:** Housing and Capital

**Question** "Mica Families . What rental properties have been identified, secured or are being pursued by DCC to address, a) Plight and housing need of families living in council housing stock requiring alternative housing as a result of Mica? b) Requirement of alternative housing need for families living in private homes affected by Mica? and has DCC submitted and secured from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage a costed plan to enable repair and rebuild of council housing stock affected by Mica?"

**Signed Off By:** Patsy Lafferty

**Response:** The Council is continuing to explore all options to identify suitable alternative accommodation for Council tenants who have to relocate from their homes due to defective blocks. A number of these options are under active consideration at present and includes private short-stay accommodation as well as the Council's own voids/casual vacancies. In addition, the Council encourages all accommodation providers or owners of private vacant dwellings to contact us to explore potential accommodation solutions. The Council also encourages owners of properties in need of refurbishment to contact us to discuss the assistance available to bring such properties back into productive use. The provision of modular homes is another option being explored. The outcome of the current review of the Defective Concrete Block Grant Scheme is awaited in relation to affected private homeowners. The Council plans to establish a dedicated Special Project Delivery Team to address the necessary planning and implementation of the necessary works to Council owned properties, as well as the challenges of providing accommodation while works are progressing. In this regard, the Council confirms that a submission has been made to the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage seeking approval to proceed with the establishment of the Project Team, and confirmation that the Department will fund all costs associated with the project. The submission is being considered by the Department.

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**Agenda Item No.39**

Office Ref:FC-2021-06023

**Submitted By:** Cllr. Terry Crossan

**Assigned To:** Corporate

**Question** "In view of the fact that Donegal County Council have endorsed "Donegal Remote Working Strategy for Business" and have signed up to a national initiative to introduce blended working arrangements for their staff, what is the breakdown of staff who are currently working remotely and does D.C.C intend to increase this number, where possible, in line with other agencies, in a timely manner?"

**Signed Off By:** Patsy Lafferty

**Response:** Following the recent announcement by the Government of further restrictive measures to slow down the spread of the Coronavirus, the Council has put in place the necessary measures to facilitate all staff who can carry out work remotely to do so. The potential to facilitate remote / home working is being balanced with the requirement to continue to provide services to the public. At present, attendance at our workplaces is on an agreed basis for essential business purposes only. Guidance in relation to the work of the Council that is deemed to be an essential service has not changed. Many Council services fall in to this category. All line managers are currently reviewing their workplace arrangements including reviewing rotas and attendance arrangements to ensure compliance with public health measures, while also making arrangements with staff for any work which can be carried out remotely. The Council has many staff at various levels and skills who provide a wide range of services. Some staff work indoors in an office environment, some work outdoors, some serve the public at counters while others work in teams in closed offices. Risk assessments have been carried out across many of our workplaces in line with prescribed protocols, and adjustments or modifications deemed necessary have been put in place in line with these protocols and our existing health and safety policies. Our office based staff currently fall into a number of categories: • Staff working from home full-time on an agreed basis, • Staff working a blended pattern of in the office and at home, and • Staff working full time from the office with full controls in place. The Council has also facilitated flexible working arrangements and has put in place mechanisms to enable any staff who require alternative arrangements to be put in place (such as staggered attendance hours or weekend working). More broadly, the local government sector is continuing to progress its planning for the implementation of Government policy on blended working for 2022, which outlines that home and remote working should be the norm for 20% of public sector employees. Working with our Information Systems Department, the Council will agree an investment plan to assist in further enhancing the capacity of our systems to facilitate remote working both now and into the future.

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**Agenda Item No.40**

Office Ref:FC-2021-06017

**Submitted By:** Cllr. Gerry McMonagle

**Assigned To:** Planning and Economic Development

**Question** "How many playing fields/football pitches have the County Council developed in the County since 2000-2021 and how many are still in the Council's ownership and where are the pitches they provided situated?"

**Signed Off By:** Liam Ward

**Response:** In terms of the provision of Playing Fields / Football Pitches across the County, this has not been a core function of Donegal Co. Council, nor does the Council have the structures and resources at present to embark on a programme of providing such facilities in each Municipal District. Consideration also needs to be given to the longer term implications arising as to the development, management and maintenance of any such facilities. The Council also recognises that many sporting organisations have invested heavily in the development of their facilities over the past number of years in all areas across the County. This has seen a significant improvement in the range and quality of facilities that are available within the County. Many of these sporting organisation have been supported by the Council through the Development Fund Initiative and other funding programmes. That said, the Council has developed a limited number of playing facilities in cases where a funding opportunity arose and the details are provided hereunder; The following Multi Use Games Areas have been developed by the Council Festival Park - MUGA Shorefront, Aileach Road, Buncrana Ballymacool Town Park - MUGA Mini-pitch Ballymacool Town Park, Letterkenny Cill Bhríde MUGA Cill Bhríde, Carndonagh Killea Community MUGA Letterkenny Road, Killea The Council provides an annual maintenance on these facilities. 2 no playing pitches were developed as part of the Letterkenny Regional Sports Complex and are managed as part of the overall complex by Aura Letterkenny Ltd.

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**Agenda Item No.41**

Office Ref:FC-2021-06016

**Submitted By:** Cllr. Gerry McMonagle

**Assigned To:** Housing and Capital

**Question** "How many of our Social Houses have been tested for mica to date, where are they situated and when will we receive the test results?"

**Signed Off By:** Patsy Lafferty

**Response:** Sampling and testing of concrete cores extracted from 34 social housing properties located in Buncrana, Carndonagh, Moville, Clonmany, Malin, Letterkenny and Carrigart has been carried out and forms part of the submission made recently to the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage for funding to undertake the works programme for mica affected social housing. The submission includes 44 properties in total (including 10 adjoining semi-detached properties). The assessment of the appropriate remedial works to the affected dwellings has regard to the Building Condition Assessment for each property, test results and in particular potential for future deterioration of the properties as per I.S. 465+A1 2020. The conclusion of the assessment involves interaction with the Department of Housing,

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**Agenda Item No.42**

Office Ref:FC-2021-06026

**Submitted By:** Cllr. Claran Brogan

**Assigned To:** Housing and Capital

**Question** "Can we have a updated report on what steps have been taken by DCC in the last 5 years under the "Rebuilding Ireland Programme" for housing in Donegal in each MD in the county in all areas, including, land bought for social affordable housing/serviced sites, housing loans, CPOs of derelict sites for social housing and what additional staff have we applied to the Department for in the area of housing in the last 5 years ?"

**Signed Off By:** Patsy Lafferty

**Response:** The Council has taken significant steps over the last 5 years to deliver social housing throughout the county during the Rebuilding Ireland Programme. This has included In-House Design and Build, Turnkey Acquisitions, Individual House Acquisitions, Approved Housing Body Projects, Leasing, and the return of vacant properties to productive use. Land was acquired in a number of locations (for example, Dungloe, Killybegs, Dunfanaghy), and the Council is examining further options as a result of expressions of interest sought earlier this year. Schemes have been constructed on own land in Letterkenny, Donegal Town and St. Johnston in recent times, and further projects are either on site or at various stages of design/planning in various locations such as Buncrana, Raphoe, Dunfanaghy, Ballybofey, Lifford, Bundoran, Carrigart, Dungloe and Letterkenny. Over the course of the period from 2017 until the end of 2021, the Council will have delivered over 700 new units of social housing accommodation. Supply was achieved via a range of delivery mechanisms, including new build, acquisitions and leasing, as well as delivery in conjunction with Approved Housing Bodies. In general terms, around two thirds of delivery was provided via new build and acquisitions, with the remaining being provided via leasing and Approved Housing Body projects. In addition to the above, the Council have refurbished an additional 700 or so void properties for reletting, over this period. Over the course of the Programme the Council would have received Department sanction for a number of additional architectural staff. More recently, in light of the increased focus under 'Housing for All' on new build going forward, the Council has already sought additional resources in light of the significant land acquisition that will be required. This Council has not traditionally pursued land acquisition for housing purposes via CPO. However, this is an approach that is likely to be required going forward, hence the early application for additional resources. A decision on the application is expected shortly. The Council made application under the previous programme under the Local Housing Infrastructure Housing Activation Fund (LIHAF) to open up land for development in for social, affordable and private housing including serviced sites in Letterkenny, but the application was not successful. The successful projects were primarily in the larger city areas. In relation to housing loans, the Council has approved 58 applications since the introduction of the Rebuilding Ireland Home Loan Scheme in February 2018. 29 of these approvals have been drawn down to date.

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**Agenda Item No.43**

Office Ref:FC-2021-06030

**Submitted By:** Cllr. Ian McGarvey

**Assigned To:** Housing and Capital

**Question** "Will this Council accept and progress applications for S.I Houses in the County?"

**Signed Off By:** Patsy Lafferty

**Response:** The Policy for accepting applications for Specific Instance (S.I) Dwellings was adopted in mid 2016 following consideration by the Housing and Corporate Strategic Policy Committee. The policy sets out the process of assessing applications for S.I. houses in a number of stages. The initial stage involves determining the eligibility of the applicant for social housing support, including classification of the need and consideration as to whether there is the availability of alternative accommodation in an area to meet the need. If the applicant meets the criteria, and no other accommodation is available to meet the need, we then assess the suitability of the site being provided in terms of title, access, ground conditions, Part 8, etc. If all is in order, an application is then made to the Department to seek funding for the construction of the S.I. dwelling. Two S.I's are currently under construction and another number are at advanced stages of consideration with the Department.

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**Agenda Item No.44**

Office Ref:FC-2021-06029

**Submitted By:** Cllr. Ian McGarvey

**Assigned To:** Corporate

**Question** "What is the possibility of restoring Town Council status to Letterkenny, Buncrana, Donegal Town etc ?"

**Signed Off By:** Patsy Lafferty

**Response:** The Local Government Reform Act 2014 provided for the dissolution of eighty Town Councils throughout Ireland and in the case of Donegal the Town Councils were in Letterkenny, Buncrana, Bundoran and Ballyshannon. Any change to this position would require new legislation.

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**Agenda Item No.45**

Office Ref:FC-2021-06027

**Submitted By:** Cllr. Caran Brogan

**Assigned To:** Corporate

**Question** "Can we have a updated report on all recruitment positions within Donegal County Council at the moment and what steps are being taken to fill any outstanding positions and a timeframe for same ?"

**Signed Off By:** Patsy Lafferty

**Response:** The Council has already commenced the process of planning and organising work programmes for 2022, and is actively considering the staffing resources that will be required to assist the Council in continuing to deliver essential public services across all Directorates. Arrangements have been made through the Council's Human Resources Division to establish panels across various grades throughout 2021. This work has included: • Establishing new panels at clerical administrative grades – for all grades from Grade VII (Administrative Officer) to Grade III (Clerical Officer). • Establishing panels to fill posts agreed in the New Workforce Plan for the Library Service. • Establishing panels for Professional / Technical grades – all grades from Senior Engineer to Assistant Engineer • Establishing various technician grade panels (including Civil Technician, GIS, and Architectural technicians) • Establishing panels for specified purpose / project posts (including Waste Enforcement Officers, Age Friendly Regional Development Officer and Slaintecare Community Development Officers) • Establishing panels for Outdoor workers in roads, housing and water services (including Water Wastewater caretaker grades V and III, General Operatives, Plant Operators, Maintenance Craftspersons, and Building Supervisors), and • Establishing panels for the officer grades of the Fire Service and Civil Defence. The Council will also establish panels to meet any additional requirements which we may have for staff, including for seasonal workers. These include arrangements for outdoor workers in such areas as General Operatives (parks and spaces), Beach lifeguards for the summer bathing season, and the employment of traffic wardens. A number of recruitment processes for emergency services personnel in the Retained Fire Service recently concluded with the filling of vacancies underway. The Council continues to seek approval from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage on an ongoing basis to fill vacancies as they arise. With panels now established across various grades, the process for the filling of any vacancies is progressing having regard to a range of considerations, including Budget 2022. The Council has also made arrangements to extend the temporary contracts of existing staff working in critical and essential services areas as necessary to assist in the delivery of programmes of work in 2022. These include outdoor, professional/technical and administrative grades across various services areas (e.g. Roads, Housing, Environment, Machinery Yard, Finance, Community Development, Information Systems, Economic Development and Planning Service).

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**Agenda Item No.46**

Office Ref:FC-2021-06004

**Submitted By:** Cllr. Gerry Crawford

**Assigned To:** Roads and Transportation

**Question** "What action has been taken in each Municipal District to deal with the placing of gates on public roads?"

**Signed Off By:** BRENDAN O'DONNELL

**Response:** It is an offence to place an obstruction on a public road. In all MD's, if Area Engineers notice, or if it is brought to their attention that a gate is placed across a public road, then the Roads staff will engage with the landowners concerned, requesting the removal of the obstruction. The engagement can be in the form of verbal, written or legal intervention. There are examples of all 3 in the Municipal Districts. In a small number of cases, where there are questions around where the public road ends and the private road commences or where the gates have been in place for many years, the legal position is less clear and specific legal advices may be needed before the appropriate action can be initiated.

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**Agenda Item No.47**

Office Ref:FC-2021-06003

**Submitted By:** Cllr. Gerry Crawford

**Assigned To:** Housing and Capital

**Question** "How many families in each Municipal District are in HAPs accommodation?"

**Signed Off By:** Patsy Lafferty

**Response:** There are 1,791 households currently on HAP in the county. 1,495 of these have applied and are on the Council Housing Transfer list. A breakdown of the households on the Transfer List by Municipal District is attached as requested.

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**Agenda Item No.48**

Office Ref:FC-2021-06010

**Submitted By:** Cllr. Gary Doherty

**Assigned To:** Housing and Capital

**Question** "What is the cumulative total of the gross number of households on the housing waiting list across the five Municipal Districts in the County?"

**Signed Off By:** Patsy Lafferty

**Response:** The total gross number of households on the housing waiting list, including the number on the transfer list and the resultant net need, across the five Municipal Districts is set out in the attached appendix. The transfer list includes applicants who are in receipt of the Housing Assistance Payment which is a form of social housing support and is a payment that is made directly to the landlord towards the rent of an applicant who has been approved on the housing waiting list. The transfer list also includes tenants of the Council who have been approved for a transfer as a result of a change in their circumstances, e.g. requirement for ground floor accommodation due to medical needs.

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**Agenda Item No.49**

Office Ref:FC-2021-06014

**Submitted By: Cllr. Gary Doherty**

**Assigned To:** Housing and Capital

**Question** "What is the projected total number of new build Local Authority homes to be delivered in the County in 2022 under the 'Housing for All' strategy?"

**Signed Off By:** Patsy Lafferty

**Response:** The Council has received our target in respect of the new Housing for All Social Housing Delivery Programme. Over the duration of the Programme the Council has been allocated a target of 879 units. A breakdown of targets per year is as follows: (2022 - 220 units), (2023 - 155 units), (2024 - 159 units), (2025 - 171 units), (2026 - 174 units). The new Programme will have a significantly increased focus on 'new build', and less reliance on acquisitions, leasing etc. It is anticipated therefore that the majority of units delivered will be newly constructed. Under Housing for All, each local authority has to prepare a Housing Delivery Action Plan by mid December 2021. The Plan will set out how we will approach delivery, identify the key issues, particularly gaps / challenges. In general terms the approach will include: • Identifying the housing need by location and align our supply plans to the need. • Ensuring adherence with National Planning Framework / compact growth objectives. • Considering existing landbank, and new landbank required to deliver on targets. • Outlining details of delivery streams (Local Authority Landbank, Approved Housing Body Delivery, Part V, Turnkey etc.) • Outlining type of housing required, including housing for people with disabilities, older people, etc. Preparatory work has already commenced in this regard which includes analysis of need by location, type of need and so forth. Consultation with elected members has commenced via Strategic Policy Committee and via workshops at Municipal District Level. It is also intended to have a Plenary Workshop in early December.

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**Agenda Item No.50**

Office Ref:FC-2021-06014

**Submitted By: Cllr. Patrick Mc Gowan**

**Assigned To:** Housing and Capital

**Question** "What is the delay in bringing new social and affordable housing to construction and how many staff are working exclusively on housing construction, together with a list of sites identified in East Donegal Two Tier towns?"

**Signed Off By:** Patsy Lafferty

**Response:** Social housing projects are funded by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage and are required to be delivered in accordance with the requirements of the Public Spending Code. This involves a series of steps and activities which are necessary to take the project from concept to completion and evaluation. Stages in the process are as follows; strategic assessment, approval in principle, Part 8 Planning Approval, design, procurement, tendering and construction. The Public Spending Code is a set of rules, procedures, and guidance which seeks to ensure that value for money is secured in all public projects, to identify all costs, and to minimise any potential overruns on the project budget. The Gallows Lane, Social Housing Project in Lifford and the Trusk Road Social Housing Project in Ballybofey are planned to be tendered on the E Tenders public procurement website at end of November and early December 2021 respectively, following which tenders will be reviewed and assessed with construction planned for 2022 and 2023. In light of the increased focus under 'Housing for All' on New Build going forward, the Council has already sought additional resources with a view to significant land acquisition that will be required to meet the housing targets. This Council has traditionally not pursued land acquisition for housing purposes via CPO. However, this is an approach that is likely to be required going forward to acquire suitable sites in towns and villages where it is not possible to acquire sites by agreement and a housing need exists.

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**Agenda Item No.51**

Office Ref:FC-2021-06013

**Submitted By: Cllr. Patrick Mc Gowan**

**Assigned To:** Planning Control

**Question** "What measures are in place now compared to when mica / pyrite was getting into concrete products unchecked, so as to ensure that faulty materials are not being used in construction and with whom does the responsibility lie?. Please give details."

**Signed Off By:** Liam Ward

**Response:** The European Union (Construction Product) Regulations 2013 (CPR) came into force across the entire European Union on 1st July 2013 with the result that each construction product for which a harmonised European Product standard (known as a hEN) is in force needs a Declaration of Performance from the

Manufacturer and be affixed with the CE mark before it can be placed on the market. The EU Construction Products Regulations 2013 set out harmonized conditions for the marketing of construction products in order to ensure the free movement of such products across member states of the EU. Where a construction product covered by a harmonised standard is being placed on the EU market, the CPR requires the manufacturer to draw up a 'declaration of performance' and affix a 'CE' marking to the product. In order to do so, manufacturers must test and declare the performance of their construction products using a common technical language prescribed in the harmonised standard. Under these Construction Product Regulations, responsibility for ensuring that a construction product placed on the market is in compliance with the relevant harmonised European Standard lies with the Manufacturer. The "Withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the European Union (Consequential Provisions) Act 2020 (Construction Products – Market Surveillance) Regulations 2020 (S.I. 682 of 2020)" appointed Dublin City Council-National Building Control Office as a competent authority for the carrying out of Market Surveillance functions under the European Union (Construction Products) Regulations 2013 (S.I. No.225 of 2013) for all construction products in the State. This saw Dublin City Council become the lead local authority for the National Market Surveillance Office, which provides oversight, support and direction for the development, standardisation and implementation of Market Surveillance of Construction Products as an effective shared service in the 31 Building Control Authorities who are also designated Market Surveillance Authorities under the regulations. The National Building Control & Market Surveillance Office, have authorised officers who monitor compliance with the statutory requirements set out under the European Union (Construction Products) Regulations 2013 and Regulation (EU) No. 305/2011 on a nationwide basis. The full range of Market Surveillance powers are also retained by each of the 31 MSAs. On the 1st March 2014, the Building Control Amendment Regulations came into effect (BCAR 2014). These introduced new laws relating to the commencement and certification of construction works and include the nomination of a 'Designer' to design works in accordance with the Building Regulations, a 'Builder' to carry out works in accordance with the Building Regulations, and the nomination of a competent person, as an 'Assigned Certifier,' to inspect and certify the works to ensure compliance with the Building Regulations. When a construction product is used in a building project it then becomes subject to the Building Regulations and responsibility for ensuring compliance with the Building Regulations lies with the Building Owner, Designer and Builder. An owner will normally appoint an Assigned Certifier who will be responsible for collating all of the information and carrying out the relevant inspections on a building project to ensure that it is constructed in compliance with the Building Regulations using products which are fit for purpose. Regulation D1 of the Second Schedule of the Building Regulations states that "All works to which these Regulations apply shall be carried out with proper materials and in a workmanlike manner." Regulation D3 defines proper materials as meaning "materials which are fit for the use for which they are intended and for the conditions in which they are to be used, and includes materials which: (a) bear a CE Marking in accordance with the provisions of the Construction Products Regulation; (b) comply with an appropriate harmonised standard or European Technical Assessment in accordance with the provisions of the Construction Products Regulation; or (c) comply with an appropriate Irish Standard or Irish Agrément Certificate or with an alternative national technical specification of any State which is a contracting party to the Agreement on the European Economic Area, which provides in use an equivalent level of safety and suitability" The Assigned Certifier, appointed by the building owner, is responsible for ensuring that all relevant evidence is collated to ensure that the product being used is fit for purpose as set out above and then ensuring, along with the builder, that the product is used correctly, and in accordance with the method prescribed by the manufacturer, to ensure it complies with the Building Regulations. The responses to queries raised at the special Council meeting In July Special Meeting 9th July 2021 are available on [donegalcoco.ie](http://donegalcoco.ie) and provides further clarity in this regard.

Appendix 1

Question 35

**Council Meeting (November 2021)**

**Acquisitions.**

<b>House Acquisition Programme 2013 - 2021</b>	
<b>Municipal District</b>	<b>No. of Properties Acquired</b>
Letterkenny Milford	74
Donegal	22
Glenties	34
Lifford Stranorlar	64
Inishowen	62
<b>Total</b>	<b>256</b>



Appendix 2

Question 47

**COUNCIL QUESTION NOVEMBER 2021 (HAP)**

Active HAP Tenancies in County Donegal at 15 November 2021			<b>1,791</b>
<b>HAP Tenants on Housing List</b>			
<b><i>Municipal District</i></b>	<b><i>Single Person Households</i></b>	<b><i>Households of 2 or more persons</i></b>	<b><i>Total</i></b>
Donegal	102	90	<b>192</b>
Glenties	48	44	<b>92</b>
Inishowen	148	238	<b>386</b>
Letterkenny	292	359	<b>651</b>
Stranorlar	86	88	<b>174</b>
	<b>676</b>	<b>819</b>	<b>1,495</b>

Appendix 3

Question 48

**COUNCIL QUESTION – NOVEMBER 2021**

**Housing Waiting List.**

<b>Municipal District</b>	<b>Waiting List (Net Need)</b>	<b>Transfer List</b>	<b>Total Gross Need</b>
Donegal	182	220	402
Glenties	94	110	204
Inishowen	195	443	638
Letterkenny - Milford	334	759	1,093
Lifford – Stranorlar	154	183	337
<b>Totals</b>	<b>959</b>	<b>1,715</b>	<b>2,674</b>