

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE DHUN NA nGALL

Oifig Riarthóir na gCruinnithe
Aras an Chontae
Leifear
18 Samhain 2025

FÓGRA CRUINNITHE

DO GACH BHALL DEN CHOMHAIRLE

A Chara,

Beidh Cruinniú de Chomhairle Contae Dhún na nGall ar siúl **Dé Luain, 24 Samhain 2025 ag 11.00 r.n in Áras an Chontae, Leifear.** Ta clár an chruinnithe leis seo. Seolfar nasc leictreonach chuig an chruinniú i gcomhfhreagras eile.

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

Mise, le meas



Pádraig Ó Laifearaigh
Riarthóir Cruinnithe

DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

Office of Meetings Administrator
County House
Lifford
18th November 2025

NOTICE OF MEETING

TO EACH MEMBER OF DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

Dear Councillor,

A Meeting of Donegal County Council will be held on **Monday 24th November 2025 at 11.00am in the County House, Lifford.** The agenda for the meeting is attached. An online link to join the meeting will issue separately.

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

Yours sincerely



Patsy Lafferty
Meetings Administrator

AGENDA

1. **Confirmation of Minutes**

- a) Confirmation of the Minutes of the Special Meeting of Donegal County Council held on the 26th September 2025.
- b) Confirmation of the Minutes of the September Meeting of Donegal County Council held on the 29th September 2025.
- c) Confirmation of the Minutes of the Special Meeting of Donegal County Council held on the 31st October 2025.

2. **Disposal of Land – Section 211 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000(as amended)**

- a) Notice under Section 211 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended) and under Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001 (as amended) – to approve the dispose of 2 plots of land at Ballybroughan, Frosses, Co Donegal to Michael Cunningham.
- b) Notice under Section 211 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended) and under Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001 (as amended) – to approve the disposal by way of lease, a plot of land comprising 0.896 hectares at Atlantic Way, Bundoran to Bundoran Adventure Park Ltd.

3. **Taking of decision pursuant to the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended) (Pursuant to Section 179 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 and Part 8 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001**

- a) To approve the carrying out of works in relation to the proposed Buncrana Enterprise Centre on St Oran's Road, Buncrana.
- b) To approve the construction of 21 no social housing units together with a new vehicular entrance adjoining the L-14452-0, connection to existing services and all associated site development works at Ballymagowan, Dunkineely, Co Donegal.

4. **Housing**

To seek the approval of the Members for increases to Standard Costings under the Housing Grant Schemes, with effect from 1st January 2026.

5. **Corporate**

- a) To fill casual vacancy in the sectoral membership of Coiste na nOileán arising from the resignation of Mr John O' Brien.
- b) To approve Schedule of Plenary Meetings for 2026.

6. **Planning**

To approve the publication of the Proposed Variation to the County Development Plan 2024-2030 (i.e. Proposed Variation No. 1) together

with the associated Environmental Report, Natura Impact Report, Strategic Flood Risk Assessment Report and Local Transport Plans for a 4-week period of public consultation.

7. **Endorsement of Minutes**

To note minutes of the meeting of the Corporate Policy Group held on the 22nd September, 2025.

8. **Community Development**

To approve the Draft Development Fund Initiative Policy 2026.

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

Authorisation of representation at a seminar, meeting or event under Section 142 (5) of Local Government Act, 2001, S.I. No. 668 of 2006, Local Government (Expenses of Local Authority Members) Regulations 2006, S.I. No. 37 of 2010, Guidelines given by the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government in relation to the Local Government Act, 2001 (Section 142) Regulations 2010, and the Local Government (Expenses of Local Authority Members) Regulations, 2014 - 2025 (as amended).

Other

Attendance at the Pride of Place Awards in Limerick on the 7th November, 2025.

Attendance at the Chamber's Ireland Local Government Awards on the 27th November 2025 in the Crowne Plaza Hotel, Santry, Dublin.

Abroad

- Attendance of the Cathaoirleach at a Diaspora focused event in Glasgow City Chambers on Wednesday 10th December 2025. Event is Donegal County Council led in partnership with Glasgow City Council and the Irish Consulate Office in Edinburgh.
- Attendance at the St Patrick's Day Events in the USA in March 2026.

10. **Conference Reports**

- Attendance of Cllr Patrick Mc Gowan at the Red Hugh O' Donnell Commemoration Events in Valladolid, Spain on the 26th and 27th September, 2025.

MOTIONS

DONEGAL MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

Water & Environment

11. **Cllr Micheál Naughton**

"I am asking Donegal County Council to call on the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage Mr. James Browne TD, to change the regulations in relation to the well grant?

12. Cllr Noel Jordan

“I am asking this Council to call on the Department of the OPW to provide an increase in the flood risk mitigation fund so that emergency works can be carried out in the interim on our released capital flood relief schemes.”

Corporate

13. Cllr Niamh Kennedy

“That this Council calls on the Minister for Housing & Local Government and the Minister for Education to explore and assist in every possible way the introduction of Politics and Society as a Leaving Certificate subject in our Donegal Schools, in order to encourage more gender balance and diversity in democracy.”

LIFFORD/STRANORLAR MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

Community Development

14. Cllr Frank Mc Brearty

“I am re-submitting in the interest of real Justice, the below motion for the Nov 2025, full Council meeting at the end of the month, and I will be dealing with Minister for Justice, Jim Callaghan TD response, which took 10 months to come back to myself and Cllr Tómas Sean Devine via the DCC. In fact, it shows that he has no understanding about the injustice’s that these families are going through daily.

Sadly, the Minister deliberately and intentionally fails to mention in his reply that a legal precedent was set on the 28th day of March 2002, when the then Government established a Statutory Judicial Public Inquiry (Morris Tribunal) to investigate the biggest ever Garda Corruption scandal in the States history, and did so while An Garda Siochana (Carty Internal Garda Investigation) Criminal, Garda Complaints Board investigations and multiple Civil Cases were all ongoing at that time, and during the 8 year period of the Morris Tribunal.

This is reflected in then Garda Commissioner Drew Harris’s comments concerning the below motion about a Public Inquiry, that it could be established by Government if that is what the family’s wanted. That is what the families deserve and want. Every aspect of the Sates failures before and after this tragedy must be fully investigated independently if the full truth is to be told.

The 10 innocent victims and their loved ones deserve nothing less. All politics is local and the DCCs local Authority Elected Members must lead the push for this Public Inquiry to be established, weather they agree with it or not. Latin Proverb: Fiat Justitia Ruat Caelum, “Let Justice be done though the Heaven’s fall.”

“Requesting that the new incoming Government establish within its first 100 days an Independent Statutory Judicial Public Inquiry with an open terms of reference into the explosion in Creeslough, Co Donegal that killed 10 people on the 7th Oct 2023, and I am calling on all the elected members of Donegal County Council to support my motion for this much needed Public Inquiry.”

Water & Environment

15. Cllr Martin Scanlon

“Putting forward this motion for the council to write to the relevant minister or ministers to immediately review the current limits in relation to the timeframes regarding well grant applications, and to increase the current guideline cap of €15,000 per household with regards to new multi-annual rural water programme applications.”

INISHOWEN MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

Roads & Transportation

16. Cllr Fionán Bradley

“That roadworks carried out by this Council on main and arterial routes which involve the closure of part or all of a section of road are from this point carried out at night so as to minimise disruption to motorists and all road users.”

Defective Concrete Blocks

17. Cllr Jack Murray

“That this Council notes the recent extension of the Pyrite Remediation Scheme for homeowners affected by pyritic heave in Dublin and Leinster.

This Council further notes that approaching 3,000 homeowners have availed of this genuinely 100% redress scheme with the Housing Agency tasked with carrying out the remediation of properties accepted into the scheme.

This Council calls on the Government to deliver the same redress to all victims of the defective concrete scandals and to urgently introduce a genuinely 100% redress scheme similar to the Pyrite Remediation Scheme for all of the victims of defective concrete blocks in Donegal.”

18. Cllr Joy Beard

“That Donegal County Council writes to the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, and separately to Mr Darren Lehane, Chair of the Appeals Panel, seeking an urgent intervention regarding downgraded determinations and the ongoing appeals backlog under the Enhanced Defective Concrete Blocks Grant Scheme.

This Council notes that many homeowners, who complied fully with the original scheme and received demolition determinations from IS 465 Chartered Engineers, have since had those determinations downgraded by the Housing Agency’s Framework Engineers, often without any inspection.

Appeals in these cases have experienced lengthy delays, in some instances since February 2024, during which time affected homes have continued to deteriorate rapidly.

In line with current scientific evidence, and to ensure that the science is adhered to in all decision-making, this Council calls for:

- a) The reinstatement of the original recommendation made by the homeowners IS465 registered engineer.
- b) The rescinding of Options 2-5, as partial remediation does not work in the case of an internal sulphate attack which have been scientifically proven to be the wrong solution.
- c) A transparent maximum timeframe for the conclusion of all outstanding appeals.

This Council requests a written response from both the Minister and the Chair of the Appeals Panel."

Corporate

19. Cllr Albert Doherty

"Donegal County Council urges the Department of Justice & OPW to provide the essential state investment required that directs and enables the Building Committee of the Courts Service to initiate an immediate works plan that ensures the retention, refurbishment and restoration of District Court Services in Donegal."

Planning

20. Cllr Terry Crossan

"That this Council proceeds to implement Section 34 (6) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) to grant planning permission in respect of planning applications for unfinished developments in rural areas which would materially contravene the Donegal County Development Plan 2024-30."

Housing

21. Cllr Martin Mc Dermott

"That this Council request the Executive to run a public information campaign reminding homeowners to have their electrical systems checked, particularly in respect of older homes. A number of houses have recently come to my attention with wiring failures, which pose a serious safety risk — particularly for elderly people living alone. Furthermore, I ask that this motion be circulated to all Councils, as this measure has the potential to save lives."

GLENTIES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

Roads & Transportation

22. Cllr Denis Mc Gee

"Donegal's rural areas are characterised by limited public lighting, and an absence of footpaths which impacts the safety and wellbeing of residents.

"I ask the Council to explore and implement localised solutions to increase public lighting in isolated communities. I ask that the Council

engages with relevant stakeholders, including Transport Infrastructure Ireland and local communities to ensure that any measures taken align with the specific needs of Donegal's rural population. Improving public lighting in rural Donegal will significantly enhance safety, reduce isolation and improve quality of life for residents. By tailoring our approach to local conditions, we can ensure that our rural communities are safe and well-supported

Environment

23. Cllr Brian Carr

That Donegal County Council carry out a review of beach access for emergency vehicles and ensure that all necessary safety equipment, including life buoys, is regularly inspected and maintained. Furthermore, that these actions apply to all beaches used by the public across County Donegal, and not solely to designated Blue Flag beaches, in the interest of public safety and emergency response capability. Additionally, that Donegal County Council provide an individual identification number or code for every beach and pier in the county, to assist the public in accurately directing emergency services to the correct location in the event of an incident.

LETTERKENNY/MILFORD MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

Corporate

24. Cllr Gerry Mc Monagle

"That this Council recognises that:

- the reunification of Ireland is an objective of Bunreacht na hÉireann; and
- there is a growing national discussion around constitutional change with people from diverse backgrounds now exploring the possibility of Irish unity:

notes that:

- the Good Friday Agreement 1998 provides the democratic and peaceful means to achieve reunification through the provision of unity referendums,
- the significant Joint Oireachtas Committee on the Implementation of the Good Friday Agreement report "Perspectives on Constitutional Change: Finance and Economics", recommends the establishment of Citizen Assemblies and other relevant forums, a designated Joint Oireachtas Committee and a Government Department to take responsibility for planning and preparing for constitutional change, received cross-party support:

And will write to the Office of An Taoiseach, seeking the Irish Government to plan and prepare for Irish unity, through the following actions:

- establish an all-island representative Citizens' Assembly or Assemblies, to allow for informed debate, and a Joint Oireachtas Committee on Irish Unity to enable careful planning,
- produce and publish a plan towards Irish unity in conjunction with civic society and key stakeholders,
- engage with northern protestant and unionist opinion about the future of Ireland; and
- work to secure a date for the referendums on unity provided for in the Good Friday Agreement.”

25. Cllr Declan Meehan

“That this Council opposes the exclusion of trade in services in the Occupied Territories Bill and writes to the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade, Simon Harris TD, calling on him to include a ban on trade in services in the government's proposed Occupied Territories Bill with immediate effect.

Also, that Donegal County Council endorses and supports the following recommendations:

- The Joint Committee on Foreign Affairs and Trade which strongly recommends progressing the Bill and that the prohibition of imports from the Palestinian Occupied Territories should be extended to include trade in services, in line with the Advisory Opinion of the International Court of Justice and the Resolution which Ireland co-sponsored at the United Nations General Assembly
- The Joint Committee recommends that the title of the Bill be the ‘Illegal Settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory (Prohibition of Importation of Goods & Services) Bill’.”

26. Cllr Ciaran Brogan

“I propose that this Council's working group on our future plans for accommodation and in line with our review plan that we look at the possibility of decentralising our council services in line with our current plans for the regeneration of our town centres, so that there is real meaningful permanent employment and a presence of jobs and economic benefits together with the distribution of services for our county and its people.”

Defective Concrete Blocks

27. Cllr Tomás S Devine “

“That this Council support my motion condemning the decision taken by the 79 TDs to vote in favour of the Government's counter motion to the one put forward by Deputy Charles Ward in Dáil Eireann on the 15th October 2025 entitled "Reform of the Defective Concrete Redress Scheme.”

In doing so, these TDs have demonstrated their approval to the defective concrete crisis here in Donegal and other affected counties. This runs contrary to the expressed will of the 37 elected members of DCC as demonstrated by the unanimous passing of 27 motions since July 2024, highlighting the urgent and essential changes that need to be made to the enhanced Defective Concrete Blocks Scheme and the Governments approach to the humanitarian crisis. It's only right the people affected by DCB know that DCC will publicly call out this Government when it makes decisions that are totally and morally wrong."

28. Cathaoirleach's Business.
29. Chief Executive's Management Report.

QUESTIONS

DONEGAL MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

Planning

30. Cllr Micheál Naughton
Can I have update on my motion in May in relation to allocating €5million in the revenue budget for 2026 to deal with derelict sites and buildings?

Corporate

31. Cllr Micheál Naughton
Can I get the full list of vacancies across all departments of Donegal County Council?

INISHOWEN MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

Roads & Transportation

32. Cllr Fionán Bradley
To ask the Director for Roads what steps the Council take with regard to hedges and overgrowth which pose a danger to road users. I understand the law is that it is the landowner's responsibility to maintain vegetation, however in the event a landowner refuses to cut overgrowth what enforcement steps do the Council follow.
33. Cllr Fionán Bradley
To ask the Director for Roads when the review of the winter maintenance programme routes will take place.

Emergency Services

34. Cllr Joy Beard
On 15th October 2025 Minister Browne said in Dail Eireann "— Local Authorities, working together with the Office for Emergency Planning and the National Directorate for Fire and Emergency Management have systems in place to assist all homeowners to remain safe and to secure

alternative accommodation should it be required in the case of any severe weather occurrence:

Could I be advised on specific arrangements referenced by Minister James Browne specifically?

What is the plan currently in place for Donegal?

What criteria would trigger the plan?

How and where emergency or temporary accommodation would be provided?

How homeowners will be notified in advance about the steps to take and who to contact in such circumstances?

Defective Concrete Blocks

35. Cllr Joy Beard

Could I get an itemised breakdown of the costs associated with the streaming of the Defective Blocks Committee meetings?

Community

36. Cllr Albert Doherty

Following my motion adopted on September 29th last re: current CLAR review by Dept. and Council commitment to follow up,

What correspondence has been forwarded by DCC to The Department re: Review & increased eligibility areas for CLAR and what response(s) have been received from Minister Calleary and /or his department?

Housing

37. Cllr Albert Doherty

Energy Efficiency Retrofit Programme

How many housing units were successfully delivered in 2025 to date and in what location? Did discussions with the Department result in council securing additional units/budget during the year?

GLENTIES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

Housing

38. Cllr Brian Carr

My question concerns the maintenance works carried out by the Council on social housing units suspected of being affected by defective concrete blocks, with funding drawn from the social housing maintenance and painting budgets in each Municipal District. Could you please provide details of the total expenditure to date from these budgets in each MD on such works, and confirm whether the Council has submitted a claim to the relevant Government Department seeking reimbursement for this expenditure?

LETTERKENNY/MILFORD MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

Corporate

39. Cllr Tomás S Devine

Recently the Council made us aware of the cost of streaming Plenary meetings - €22,500 euros. Can I get a breakdown of these costs?

40. Cllr Ciaran Brogan

Can we have an updated report on our legal services and the possibility of us employing our own in-house solicitor?

Roads & Transportation

41. Cllr Tomás S Devine

Can this Council supply and fill salt bins in estates they have taken over and also on roads that are not gritted by our lorries?

42. Cllr Ciaran Brogan

Can I have an updated report on all our active travel projects in Donegal in the last 3 years, a breakdown of monies spent, including consultancy fees to date on the programme of the work, and a timeline for the allocations and the schedule of works for the next two years ?

Water & Environment

43. Cllr Gerry Mc Monagle

How many Flood Relief Schemes have been approved by the Department for Donegal and what is the timeline for the starting of these projects and where are they located?

44. Motions from other Councils/Bodies

CLARE COUNTY COUNCIL

"That Clare County Council calls on the Government of Ireland not to support the European Commission's proposal to establish a single common fund under the new Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) 2028-2034, which would merge key EU policy instruments such as the Common Agriculture Fund into one overarching funding mechanism. This Council expresses concern that:-

1. The proposed "Common fund" risks undermining the integrity and transparency of longstanding EU policies that have delivered tangible benefits to Ireland's regions, farmers, and coastal communities.
2. The Commission's justification – that this structure would "simplify" the MFF – fails to recognise that simplification through centralisation can weaken the specific policy objectives and ring-fenced funding that underpin regional and rural development.
3. The proposal links the next MFF to the repayment of EU debt incurred under the Next Generation EU recovery instrument, creating fiscal pressure that is already leading to an overall 20%

reduction in key investment areas compared with the current period.

4. The Commission's claim that the new MFF will be "the biggest EU budget ever" is misleading, as this increase is largely accounted for by debt repayments rather than by additional funding for future programmes or regional growth.

Accordingly, Clare County Council urges the Minister for Public Expenditure, NDP Delivery and Reform, and the Minister for Finance, to:

- Reject any move towards a single aggregated fund that would erode the distinct purposes of the CAP, Cohesion, and Fisheries policies.
- Advocate instead for a transparent, policy based MFF that maintains clear and separate funding streams for agriculture, regional development, and the blue economy; and
- Support an ambitious, adequately resourced EU budget that ensures balanced and sustainable growth across Ireland and the European Union's regions."

GALWAY CITY COUNCIL

"Extension of Free Fares for Under-9s to Commercial Bus Operators
That Galway City Council supports the immediate inclusion of Commercial Bus Operators (CBOs) in the Child Leap Card Scheme, which provides free bus travel for children under nine.

Council notes:

CBOs are an essential part of Ireland's public transport network, already delivering the Young Adult Leap Card and the Department of Social Protection's Travel Pass.

Their exclusion from the under-9 scheme creates unfairness, particularly for rural families who depend on them, and risk a two-tier bus system. Extending the scheme would cost just €1 million, a modest sum that would support families during the cost-of-living crisis and encourage sustainable travel habits among children.

Therefore, Galway City Council calls on the Minister for Transport and the National Transport Authority to:

- 1.Urgently include CBOs in the Child Leap Card Scheme.
- 2.Ensure a fair and consistent transport policy that treats all children equally, regardless of geography or bus service used."

KERRY COUNTY COUNCIL

"That Kerry County Council endorses the End Discrimination of Inheritance (EDIT) campaign and calls on Ministers for Equality, Norma Foley, Public Expenditure, Jack Chambers and Finance Paschal Donoghue to commit to harmonising the inheritance laws and bands so that people with no direct descendants are treated the same as those with children under inheritance law and succession planning. Further, I request that upon adoption, this motion is circulated to all Local Authorities."

KERRY COUNTY COUNCIL

“That Kerry County Council write to the Minister for Health calling for the introduction of a ban on vaping in all workplaces, on the grounds of protecting public health and ensuring safe, aerosol-free working environments.

That this motion would be referred to all local authorities for their support.”

LEITRIM COUNTY COUNCIL

“That Leitrim County Council calls on the Department of Social Protection to undertake an urgent and immediate review around the habitual residence clause for carers allowance. This clause impacts many in border counties where family and immediately family members are caring for loved ones and may only be living five minutes away albeit in another county. Immediate action is required to address this issue.”

LEITRIM COUNTY COUNCIL

“That this Council write to the Minister for Education, Helan McEntee TD, and the Minister of State for Further Education and Skills, Marian Harkin TD, requesting that they develop an alternative pathway for students following completion of the Junior Cycle through the ETB and SOLAS and other networks, to provide skills-based and career-orientated and training opportunities in construction, business, IT, tourism, cosmetology, healthcare and agriculture – to offer students practical routes to employment and further study as an alternative to the traditional Leaving Certificate Programme.”

LIMERICK CITY & COUNTY COUNCIL

“That, Limerick City & County Council call on the Ministers for Agriculture and for Forestry to provide an appropriate Scheme to compensate for the loss of their livelihoods suffered by landowners due to Ash Dieback disease, and that support for this Motion be sought from sister authorities nationally.”

LIMERICK CITY & COUNTY COUNCIL

“That, Limerick City & Council Council write to the Taoiseach, Michael Martin TD, the Minister for Health, Jennifer Carroll-MacNeill TD, and the Minister of State with responsibility for Mental Health, Mary Butler TD, in support of the IACP’s call for increased investment in counselling and psychotherapy in Budget 2026. The IACP’s Budget 2026 Priorities are the following: (i) Removal of VAT on counselling and psychotherapy services; (ii) Extension of tax relief to counselling and psychotherapy fees; and (iii) Investment in and expansion of access to school counselling at the primary and secondary levels. I also ask that this Motion, if passed, is circulated to the thirty other local authorities, asking that they support this campaign.”

MONAGHAN COUNTY COUNCIL

“That this Council condemns all those involved in the neglect, mistreatment and abuse of residences in Nursing Homes and Care

Facilities for the elderly, the most vulnerable in our society and demands of An Taoiseach, Michael Martin TD, the Minister for Health, Jennifer Carroll-MacNeill TD and all of Government to immediately prioritise the strengthening of safe guarding protection across the Health & Social Care Sector, as national confidence, trust and respect for the Health Information and Quality Authority (HIQA), the HSE and the Department of Health is very low, following the revelations of recent years – Children’s Health Ireland (CHI), the numbers of deaths during Covid proved standards were very low in Nursing Homes nationally, the recent RTE Undercover Report exposed the abuse of residences in Nursing Homes and were it not for this programme, the nation would be unaware of these outrageous incidents; hence Monaghan County Council demands of all members, parties and groups in Government to act immediately to ensure the Health and Social Care Sector in Ireland is cleansed of neglect, abuse and wrong doing.”

ROSCOMMON COUNTY COUNCIL

“To write to the Minister for the Local Government to request that development fees be waived for all applicants who served a commencement notice prior to the required deadline in 2024. Some applicants served the notice within the required timeframe, but failed to submit the required waiver form, resulting in them receiving an invoice for development charges. Many applicants were unaware of the need to complete the form, despite meeting all other guidelines of the scheme.”

TIPPERARY COUNTY COUNCIL

“That Tipperary County Council supports the immediate inclusion of Commercial Bus Operators (CBOs) in the Child Leap Card Scheme, which provides free bus travel for children under nine.

Tipperary County Council calls on the Minister for Transport and the National Transport Authority to:

1. Urgently include CBOs in the Child Leap Card Scheme
2. Ensure a fair and consistent transport policy that treats all children equally, regardless of geography or bus service used.”

WEXFORD COUNTY COUNCIL

“That this Council endorses the End Discrimination of Inheritance Tax (EDIT) campaign and calls on Ministers for Equality, Norman Foley, Public Expenditure, Jack Chambers TD and Minister for Finance Paschal Donoghue TD to commit to harmonising the inheritance laws and bands so that people with no direct descendants are treated as equal to families with children in inheritance law and succession planning.”

WEXFORD COUNTY COUNCIL

“While strengthening the welfare and health of animals, making dog breeders and sellers more accountable, transparent and animal welfare centred in their dealings; this Council calls for the reformation of the Dog Breeding Establishment Act (2010) to incorporate “Stout’s Law” into the act.

Stout's Law brings forward changes in the ages, duration and treatment/conditions of breeding age dogs, limits the amounts of litters in a lifetime, the establishment of an single Independent Regulator with a stricter inspection regime and supports for the Local Authorities to work with licenced breeders while outlawing the practice of backyard puppy farms in Ireland."

WEXFORD COUNTY COUNCIL

"With winter approaching we would like to call for an urgent review of the Ash die back situation on our public roads. The older and bigger trees are now being affected and pose a serious risk to road users power lines and telecommunications networks, we call on Co Councils, Departments of Transport, Agriculture and Environment to coordinate a plan to deal with this crisis unfolding on our roads."

**MINUTES OF NOVEMBER MEETING OF DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL HELD
ON 24TH NOVEMBER, 2025 IN THE COUNTY HOUSE, LIFFORD**

C/392/25

MEMBERS PRESENT

Cllrs P Canning, Cathaoirleach, J Beard, F Bradley, C Brogan, B Carr, D Coyle, T Crossan, TS Devine, A Doherty, A Farren, N Jordan, D. M Kelly, N Kennedy, M MacGiolla Easbuig, M McDermott, D McGee, P McGowan, M McMahon, G McMonagle, D Meehan, A Molloy, J Murray, M Naughton, JS O' Fearraigh, and M Scanlon.

Online: Cllrs L Blaney, M Boyle, J Brogan, G Doherty, M Farren, M Harley, J Kavanagh, F McBrearty Jnr, M McBride, M Mc Clafferty, P McGarvey, and Dakota Nic Mheanman.

C/393/25

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE

John G McLaughlin, Chief Executive, Patsy Lafferty, Director of Housing, Corporate & Culture/Meetings Administrator, Bryan Cannon, Director of Roads & Transportation, Michael McGarvey, Director of Water & Environment, Garry Martin, Director of Economic Development, IS & Emergency Services, Richard Gibson, Director of Finance, Eunan Quinn, Senior Planner, Graham Diamond, Senior Executive Planner, John McFeeley, Executive Planner, Frances Friel, Communications Officer, William Colvin, Assistant Communications Officer, Róise Ní Laifeartaigh, Rannóg na Gaeilge, Clíona Ní Ghallachóir, Tacaíocht do Sheirbhísí Aistriúcháin, Anne Marie Crawford, Staff Officer.

C/394/25

**CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF
DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL HELD ON THE 26TH SEPTEMBER,
2025.**

On the proposal of Cllr Scanlon, seconded by Cllr Coyle the Minutes of the Special Meeting of Donegal County Council held on the 26th September, 2025 were adopted.

C/395/25

**CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF
DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL HELD ON THE 29TH SEPTEMBER,
2025.**

On the proposal of Cllr Scanlon, seconded by Cllr Coyle the Minutes of the Special Meeting of Donegal County Council held on the 29th September, 2025 were adopted.

C/396/25

**CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF
DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL HELD ON THE 31ST OCTOBER,
2025**

On the proposal of Cllr Coyle, seconded by Cllr Scanlon the Minutes of the Special Meeting of Donegal County Council held on the 31st October, 2025 were adopted.

C/397/25

**TO APPROVE THE DISPOSAL OF 2 PLOTS OF LAND AT
BALLYBROUGHAN, FROSSES TO MICHAEL CUNNINGHAM.**

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

On the proposal of Cllr Naughton, seconded by Cllr Jordan it was resolved to dispose of 2 plots of land at Ballybroughan, Frosses to Michael Cunningham in accordance with the provisions of Section 211 of the Planning & Development Act, 2000 (as amended) and under Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001, (as amended).

C/398/25

TO APPROVE THE DISPOSAL BY WAY OF LEASE, A PLOT OF LAND COMPRISING 0.896 HECTARES AT ATLANTIC WAY, BUNDORAN TO BUNDORAN ADVENTURE PARK LTD

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

On the proposal of Cllr Jordan, seconded by Cllr Naughton it was resolved to approve the disposal by way of lease, a plot of land comprising 0.896 hectares at Atlantic Way, Bundoran to Bundoran Adventure Park Ltd in accordance with the provisions of Section 211 of the Planning & Development Act, 2000 (as amended) and under Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001, (as amended).

C/399/25

TO APPROVE THE CARRYING OUT OF WORKS IN RELATION TO THE PROPOSED BUNCRANA ENTERPRISE CENTRE ON ST ORAN'S ROAD, BUNCRANA

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

On the proposal of Cllr Bradley, seconded by Cllr Murray the carrying out of works in relation to the proposed Buncrana Enterprise Centre on St. Oran's Road, Buncrana was approved, in accordance with Part XI of the Planning & Development Act, 2000 (as amended) and Part 8 of the Planning & Development Regulations 2001(as amended).

C/400/25

TO APPROVE THE CONSTRUCTION OF 21 NO. SOCIAL HOUSING UNITS TOGETHER WITH A NEW VEHICULAR ENTRANCE ADJOINING THE L-14452-0 AT BALLYMAGOWAN, DUNKINEELY, CO. DONEGAL

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

On the proposal of Cllr Kennedy, seconded by Cllr Naughton the construction of 21no. social housing units together with a new vehicular entrance adjoining the L-14452-0, including connection to existing services and all associated site development works at Ballymagowan, Dunkineely, Co. Donegal was approved, in accordance with Part XI of the Planning & Development Act, 2000 (as amended) and Part 8 of the Planning & Development Regulations 2001(as amended) subject to cognisance being taken of access issues at the National School and in the interest of the overall safety impact. It was agreed that this should be included in the overall plan for the development.

C/401/25 **INCREASES TO STANDARD COSTINGS UNDER THE HOUSING GRANT SCHEMES**
On the proposal of Cllr Scanlon, seconded by Cllr MacGiolla Easbuig the increases to Standard Costings under the Housing Grant Schemes, with effect from 1st January, 2026 were approved.

C/402/25 **FILLING OF THE CASUAL VACANCY IN THE SECTORAL MEMBERSHIP OF COISTE NA NOILEÁN**
Members considered the report circulated with the agenda in relation to the above. On the proposal of Cllr MacGiolla Easbuig, seconded by Cllr McGee it was resolved that the vacancy on the Coiste na nOileán arising from the resignation of Mr John O'Brien be filled by Mr Dónal Coll representing Coiste Forbartha Inis Bó Finne.

C/403/25 **TO APPROVE SCHEDULE OF PLENARY MEETINGS FOR 2026**
Members considered the report circulated with the agenda in relation to the above. On the proposal of Cllr Kennedy, seconded by Cllr Coyle the Schedule of Plenary Meetings of 2026 was approved.

C/404/25 **TO APPROVE THE PUBLICATION OF THE PROPOSED VARIATION TO THE COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2024-2030 (I.E. PROPOSED VARIATION NO. 1)**
Members considered the report circulated with the agenda in relation to the above.

Mr Eunan Quinn, Senior Planner said that it was intended to go out to public consultation for a four week period in the first week of January 2026.

Cllr Mc Gowan referenced the fact that there were lands in Stranorlar that had been taken out in relation to the Residential Zoned land tax and that these were now impossible to access. He said that contact needed to be made with the T.I.I or the lands in question rezoned.

The Cathaoirleach said that there would be an opportunity to consider this issue at the plenary workshop on the 1st December.

On the proposal of Cllr Naughton, seconded by Cllr Scanlon it was resolved to approve the publication of the proposed Variation to the County Development Plan 2024-2030 (Proposed Variation No. 1) together with the associated Environmental Report, Natura Impact report, Strategic Flood Risk Assessment Report and Local Transport Plans for a four-week period of public consultation.

C/405/25 **TO NOTE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CORPORATE POLICY GROUP HELD ON THE 22ND SEPTEMBER, 2025.**
On the proposal of Cllr Scanlon, seconded by Cllr McMonagle the Minutes of the meeting of the Corporate Policy Group held on the 22nd September, 2025 were noted.

C/406/25 **TO APPROVE THE DRAFT DEVELOPMENT FUND INITIATIVE POLICY 2026**
Members considered the report circulated with the agenda in relation to the above.
On the proposal of Cllr Kelly, seconded by Cllr Scanlon the Draft Development Fund Initiative Policy 2026 was approved.

C/407/25 **ATTENDANCE AT CONFERENCE, SEMINAR OR EVENT**
Having noted authorisation of representation at a seminar, meeting or event under Section 142 (5) of Local Government Act, 2001, S.I. No. 668 of 2006, Local Government (Expenses of Local Authority Members) Regulations 2006, S.I. No. 37 of 2010, Guidelines given by the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government in relation to the Local Government Act, 2001 (Section 142) Regulations 2010, and the Local Government (Expenses of Local Authority Members) Regulations, 2014 -2025(as amended).
On the proposal of Cllr Scanlon, seconded by Cllr Coyle attendance at the following was approved.
Other
➤ Attendance at the Pride of Place Awards in Limerick on the 7th November, 2025.
➤ Attendance at the Chamber's Ireland Local Government Awards on the 27th November 2025 in the Crowne Plaza Hotel, Santry, Dublin.
Abroad
➤ Attendance of the Cathaoirleach at a Diaspora focused event in Glasgow City Chambers on Wednesday 10th December 2025. Event is Donegal County Council led in partnership with Glasgow City Council and the Irish Consulate Office in Edinburgh.
➤ Attendance at the St Patrick's Day Events in the USA in March 2026.

C/408/25 **CONFERENCE REPORTS**
On the proposal of Cllr Scanlon, seconded by Cllr Coyle the following conference reports were noted.

- Attendance of Cllr Patrick Mc Gowan at the Red Hugh O' Donnell Commemoration Events in Valladolid, Spain on the 26th and 27th September, 2025.

C/409/25 **REVIEW OF REGULATIONS IN RELATION TO THE WELL GRANT**
On the proposal of Cllr Naughton, seconded by Cllr Scanlon it was resolved to adopt the following motion:-

"I am asking Donegal County Council to call on the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage Mr. James Browne TD, to change the regulations in relation to the well grant?

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

Cllr Naughton said that change was necessary given that there had been no amendments to the scheme over the last number of years. He said that the requirement to have lived in the property for seven years was outdated and the overall grant allocation figure of €5000 insufficient.

Alluding to the success of the Croí Conaithe Scheme which, he contended, had been phenomenal, he said that the seven year requirement was now in effect hindering development in rural Ireland. He referenced also the fact that there were 1400 houses in rural Ireland which had no access to a public water supply and said that the current connection fees being sought by Uisce Éireann were exorbitant and prohibitive. The grant, he said, needed to be increased to between €8k and €10k to allow young couples access housing and restore vacant properties.

Cllr Scanlon supporting the motion said that people in rural communities were being discriminated against and welcomed the call for the removal of the seven year residency clause and an increase in the overall grant allocation.

There was no opposition to the motion.

Mr Michael Mc Garvey, Director Water & Environment said that he would correspond with the Department and highlight members concerns. He said that he would reference the issues raised by members including,

- Seven Year residency clause needs to be removed for well grants as this preventing those availing of the vacant home grants from accessing funding for wells.
- New builds needed to be incorporated in the scheme.
- Grant increase needed to a maximum of €10k

Cllr Naughton welcomed the response and said that the grant needed to be more accessible in light of the demand for housing

C/410/25

PROVIDE AN INCREASE IN THE FLOOD RISK MITIGATION FUND

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

"I am asking this Council to call on the Department of the OPW to provide an increase in the flood risk mitigation fund so that emergency

works can be carried out in the interim on our released capital flood relief schemes.”

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

Cllr Jordan said that he was seeking an update on all flood relief schemes as it was clear that all of the Donegal schemes were far from construction at this point. He cited the need for works to be carried out in advance given that many residents are living with the fear of flooding despite the schemes themselves being released in early 2020/2021. He said that the Department should be contacted, and additional resources sought. Progress on same was, he contended, moving at a very slow pace and people were fearful given the number of severe weather events in recent years.

Continuing Cllr Jordan referenced specific incidences in Pettigo and Inver and thus called on the Office of Public Works to step up and take responsibility.

Cllr Mc Mahon concurred and said that everything possible had to be done to help homeowners and small businesses in these areas. He advised of the need to contact N.I. Water in relation to the situation at Pettigo and for a cross-border approach to be adopted. This Council, he said, needed to be proactive. He called the OPW to be invited to address members in relation to the overall county-wide situation.

The Cathaoirleach suggested that an overview of all the projects be brought to the attention of members at a full plenary meeting.

Mr Michael Mc Garvey, Director Water & Environment said that the overall pace of delivery was slow given the need for environmental assessments and the time needed to deal with specific objections on each scheme. There was, he advised, an excellent Flood Relief Team in place and advance works were being carried out at certain locations. He noted that updates had been given at MD level and said that this could be repeated again in the New Year.

Cllr Jordan said that whilst these updates had been beneficial there was a need for a county-wide update at plenary level. He said that things needed to move forward faster and that advance works had to be agreed with the OPW who needed to take full responsibility and not put the burden on the Roads Section.

The Director of Service said that even if additional staffing resources were put in place there was a dedicated process to be worked through which was at times frustrating.

It was thus agreed that a county-wide update would be provided at a Special Plenary Meeting in early 2026.

**INTRODUCTION OF POLITICS AND SOCIETY AS A LEAVING
CERTIFICATE SUBJECT**

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

“That this Council calls on the Minister for Housing & Local Government and the Minister for Education to explore and assist in every possible way the introduction of Politics and Society as a Leaving Certificate subject in our Donegal Schools, in order to encourage more gender balance and diversity in democracy.”

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

Cllr Kennedy said in the 2024 Local Elections in Donegal there had been a total of 91 candidates and that only 19 of these had been women with three ultimately elected.

This was an ongoing trend, she contended, over the past 125 years. She referred to a meeting which had been held in the County House in 2023 at which the gender balance had been reversed with 33 women and 4 men in the chamber. One outcome of this had been, she added, the passing of a resolution calling on the Minister for Education to make Politics available as a Leaving Certificate subject in all secondary schools.

She acknowledged also the work of the Women’s Regional Caucus and the AILG together with See Her Elected (SHE) in promoting gender balance and diversity at local government level.

Cllr Kennedy alluded to the success of the recent “Students Shaping the Picture of Democracy Seminar in Donegal” which was held recently in Letterkenny. This event which had been a collaboration between Donegal County Council and SHE had brought together over 100 students from across the county to look at the reasons for the under representation of women in politics in Donegal. One issue that had emerged was the fact that schools did not teach politics thus putting students at a disadvantage. It was noted that presently Politics could be taken as an additional exam subject but that this was at an additional cost to the student.

She said that it was imperative that young people were given every opportunity to stand for election in the interest of democracy and that they had an understanding of what their role and responsibility was.

Continuing, she cited the need for the establishment of a bursary to make the subject more accessible at secondary level.

Cllr Beard said this was an excellent idea as politics in society was an important subject and everything possible needed to be done to

encourage female representation. Female participation, she added, brought a different perspective to the political forum. She noted that not all Donegal Schools offered politics something which was essential for the next generation of political leadership.

There was no opposition to the motion.

Mr Patsy Lafferty, Director Housing, Corporate & Cultural Services said that correspondence would issue to the Minister as directed.

Cllr Kennedy noted that the recent seminar in Letterkenny had been a great success and was a step in the right direction in terms of educating our young people on the importance of gender balance in political life.

C/412/25

JUDICIAL PUBLIC INQUIRY INTO THE CREESLOUGH TRAGEDY

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

"I am re-submitting in the interest of real Justice, the below motion for the Nov 2025, full Council meeting at the end of the month, and I will be dealing with Minister for Justice, Jim Callaghan TD response, which took 10 months to come back to myself and Cllr Tómas Sean Devine via the DCC. In fact, it shows that he has no understanding about the injustice's that these families are going through daily.

Sadly, the Minister deliberately and intentionally fails to mention in his reply that a legal precedent was set on the 28th day of March 2002, when the then Government established a Statutory Judicial Public Inquiry (Morris Tribunal) to investigate the biggest ever Garda Corruption scandal in the States history, and did so while An Garda Siochana (Carty Internal Garda Investigation) Criminal, Garda Complaints Board investigations and multiple Civil Cases were all ongoing at that time, and during the 8 year period of the Morris Tribunal.

This is reflected in then Garda Commissioner Drew Harris's comments concerning the below motion about a Public Inquiry, that it could be established by Government if that is what the family's wanted. That is what the families deserve and want. Every aspect of the Sates failures before and after this tragedy must be fully investigated independently if the full truth is to be told.

The 10 innocent victims and their loved ones deserve nothing less. All politics is local and the DCCs local Authority Elected Members must lead the push for this Public Inquiry to be established, weather they agree with it or not. Latin Proverb: Fiat Justitia Ruat Caelum, "Let Justice be done though the Heaven's fall."

"Requesting that the new incoming Government establish within its first 100 days an Independent Statutory Judicial Public Inquiry with an open terms of reference into the explosion in Creeslough, Co Donegal that killed 10 people on the 7th Oct 2023, and I am calling on all the elected

members of Donegal County Council to support my motion for this much needed Public Inquiry.”

Cllr Mc Brearty said that he felt it was important that the elected members all had an opportunity to speak on the motion given the importance and significance of the topic. The Cathaoirleach said that it had been agreed in the case of previous motions that contributions would be confined to those who had proposed and seconded the motion.

Cllr Mc Brearty said this needed to be changed and that the CPG should look at amending the protocol.

Addressing members, he said, that three years on there was still no criminal investigation, no inquest and numerous questions still unanswered, and that for this reason he had submitted the original motion first considered at the 2024 November Plenary Meeting.

He read into the record the letter received from the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs & Migration which highlighted the fact that a criminal investigation was ongoing and that any commentary on the matter could undermine this investigation.

He said that the correspondence had also outlined the necessity of allowing An Garda Siochána to continue with their investigation in conjunction with the Health and Safety Authority and the Commission for the Regulation of Utilities.

He called on members to put pressure on their political colleagues in Government to lead out on the call for an inquiry. The families concerned, he said, did not need any more political waffle, committees or workshops but rather a speedy and honest answer to their questions. Transparency and accountability were missing at this point, he added.

It was, he said, an emotional issue and one which all members should be allowed to contribute to. Justice, he stated, should prevail so that the families concerned got the justice, they deserved.

Cllr Devine supporting the motion said that the response from the Minister’s Office was not adequate and that a fully transparent public inquiry was warranted as soon as possible.

Cllr Mc Monagle said that there were no objections to the motion and that there was unanimous support for same. Cllr Mc Bride concurred with this assessment.

Mr Eamonn Brown, A/Director Community Development & Planning Services said that the motion as agreed would be communicated to the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration.

Cllr Mc Brearty said that initial response from the Minister's Office was late and misleading and made no reference to the fact that the establishment of the Morris Tribunal in 2002 had set the precedent for the setting up of a public inquiry whilst other statutory investigations were ongoing

Concluding he said that the silence was deafening and the fact that only two members commented was a poor reflection on the Council. He said that he would continue to stand by the people of Creeslough until they got the public inquiry that they deserved. The Local Authority, he added, had questions to answer also and particularly why the building concerned got planning permission in the first instance and the necessary safety checks and balances conducted.

C/413/25

LIMITS WELL GRANT APPLICATIONS

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

“Putting forward this motion for the council to write to the relevant minister or ministers to immediately review the current limits in relation to the timeframes regarding well grant applications, and to increase the current guideline cap of €15,000 per household with regards to new multi-annual rural water programme applications.”

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

Cllr Scanlon said the current guideline cap of €15k was insufficient in light of ongoing cost increases. He said that there was a need to roll out a robust model for the delivery of rural water on par with the NBI Broadband Programme.

Cllr Mac Giolla Easbuig supporting the motion said that many rural areas had been left behind and referenced issues in the Rosses, Crolly and Gweedore areas. He said that there had been little or no progress in terms of services on the Islands. It was imperative, he added, that recognition was given to staff on the ground who did their best with the resources they had. Lack of investment in water and sewerage infrastructure, he said, had to be addressed in the long term.

There was no opposition to the motion.

Mr Michael Mc Garvey, Director Water & Environment said that he would write to the Department as directed. He said that he appreciated the comments in relation to the rural water team and noted that €22.5m in funding has been received to advance group water schemes. He said that updates on the schemes would be provided at MD level in Quarter 1 of 2025.

Cllr Scanlon welcomed the response and said it was essential that the cap was removed, and adequate funding was provided to progress these schemes going forward.

C/414/25

ROADWORKS AT NIGHTIME

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

“That roadworks carried out by this Council on main and arterial routes which involve the closure of part or all of a section of road are from this point carried out at night so as to minimise disruption to motorists and all road users.”

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

Cllr Bradley acknowledged the excellent work carried out by the road teams on a daily basis and noted that much additional work was being carried out at this time of year. He cited specific issues on the Buncrana to Derry Road at Fahan which had created long tailbacks and delays in the region of 40 to 50 minutes which had impacted significantly on road users. This type of scenario, he noted, created specific dangers for the emergency services in particular. There were, he advised, in recent weeks three sets of roadworks on the route from Buncrana to Letterkenny which had caused major disruption.

He noted that works had taken place on the road at the roundabout into Buncrana and along the Cockhill Road during the night-time hours with little or no impact.

Cllr Mc Dermott supporting the motion said that the motion was extremely relevant and that there were concerns in relation to the impact on the emergency services.

There was no opposition to the motion.

Mr Bryan Cannon, alluded to his response and said that although the risk of encountering high traffic flows was reduced by working during the night, other factors such as poor driver behaviour, higher speeds, fatigue, difficulty in judging distances and limited vision all contributed to increased risks in working at night. There were other drawbacks, he noted in terms of increased unit costs, additional safety controls with quality control of the works more difficult. Each site, he added, had its own set of considerations and that decisions on temporary traffic management were a matter for the competent designers based on the relevant criteria.

Cllr Bradley said that he appreciated the response but that all roadworks should progress with minimum disruption to the road user.

DEFECTIVE CONCRETE BLOCKS – EXTENSION OF THE PYRITE REMEDIATION SCHEME

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

“That this Council notes the recent extension of the Pyrite Remediation Scheme for homeowners affected by pyritic heave in Dublin and Leinster.”

This Council further notes that approaching 3,000 homeowners have availed of this genuinely 100% redress scheme with the Housing Agency tasked with carrying out the remediation of properties accepted into the scheme.

This Council calls on the Government to deliver the same redress to all victims of the defective concrete scandals and to urgently introduce a genuinely 100% redress scheme similar to the Pyrite Remediation Scheme for all of the victims of defective concrete blocks in Donegal.”

He received a response from the Director of Water Services, Environment, DCB Scheme & Facilities Management in relation to the above.

Cllr Murray welcomed the recent extension of the Pyrite Scheme and said that it needed to be replicated in Donegal. He said that many homeowners in Donegal could not access the Enhanced Defective Concrete Blocks Scheme and were unable to deal with the bureaucracy and the cost of accessing the scheme. He cited the need for a scheme which did not incur any costs for the homeowner. He welcomed the response and said that a strong message should be sent to the Minister in relation to the matter.

There was a grave need also, he said, to have social housing included in the scheme as despite the ongoing building efforts there was no marked reduction in the housing waiting list.

Cllr Doherty referenced the fact that in 2024 members were advised that a social housing remediation scheme was imminent, yet there had been no update on the matter to date. He said that it was eleven years since he had submitted a motion asking for recognition and support for the MICA Action Group together with the need for a redress scheme.

Eleven years on, he noted, that there were major concerns on the slow pace of delivery of the DCB Scheme together with criticisms on the process with regard to decisions made by the Housing Agency who had downgraded particular determinations.

Options 1-5 were, he advised, being downgraded and the associated appeals mechanism was slow and cumbersome. Outcomes applicable to homeowners in the Leinster were not, he advised, happening for

homeowners in Donegal. He called for an evaluation of the appeals process in light of the lengthy delays.

There was no opposition to the motion.

Mr Michael Mc Garvey, Director Water & Environment said that he would arrange to write to the Department as directed.

Cllr Murray thanked members for their support.

C/416/25

DEFECTIVE CONCRETE BLOCKS

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

"That Donegal County Council writes to the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, and separately to Mr Darren Lehane, Chair of the Appeals Panel, seeking an urgent intervention regarding downgraded determinations and the ongoing appeals backlog under the Enhanced Defective Concrete Blocks Grant Scheme.

This Council notes that many homeowners, who complied fully with the original scheme and received demolition determinations from IS 465 Chartered Engineers, have since had those determinations downgraded by the Housing Agency's Framework Engineers, often without any inspection.

Appeals in these cases have experienced lengthy delays, in some instances since February 2024, during which time affected homes have continued to deteriorate rapidly.

In line with current scientific evidence, and to ensure that the science is adhered to in all decision-making, this Council calls for:

- a) *The reinstatement of the original recommendation made by the homeowners IS465 registered engineer.*
- b) *The rescinding of Options 2-5, as partial remediation does not work in the case of an internal sulphate attack which have been scientifically proven to be the wrong solution.*
- c) *A transparent maximum timeframe for the conclusion of all outstanding appeals.*

This Council requests a written response from both the Minister and the Chair of the Appeals Panel."

She received a response from the Director of Water Services, Environment, DCB Scheme & Facilities Management in relation to the above.

Cllr Beard said that the level of downgraded determinations and the appeals backlog was unacceptable. She noted that six appeals had been determined and annulled in the past week. It was imperative, she

said, that an urgent intervention was made to the Chair of the Appeals panel and to the Minister for Housing.

The families concerned, she said, had been pushed back into a further cycle of delay with the applications referred to the Housing Agency. These were families, she said, who were living in deteriorating homes with every delay creating further damage and associated risks to the structural integrity of their homes.

An internal sulphate attack caused by reactive iron sulphate was, she advised, the true mechanism of the failure of these homes. The science was, she added, clear and had to be adhered to. Thus, it was acknowledged that the continued use of options 2, 3, 4, and 5 was wrong and unsafe and the downgrading of applications was prolonging the hardship for homeowners. She cited the need for fairness, clarity and scientific integrity and said that the delays needed to stop, and the scientific evidence heeded.

Cllr Mc Gee said that he was supportive of the motion but that ongoing pleas on behalf of the homeowners were not being taken seriously. He said that he did not blame Donegal County Council and that the fault lay with the Minister and the Government who were not paying attention to the crisis in Donegal.

There was no opposition to the motion.

Mr Michael Mc Garvey, Director Water & Environment said that he would write to the Minister for Housing, Local Government & Heritage and to the Chair of the Appeals Panel in relation to the downgrading of applications and the appeals backlog.

Cllr Beard concluding the debate said that 205 homes had been remediated under the Enhanced Defective Concrete Blocks Scheme and that the majority of these were not rebuilds but rather partial works, surface repairs or temporary solutions and might all need to be revisited in the future. The reality, she stated, was that this was not a 100% remediation scheme and existed in sharp contrast to the Pyrite Scheme where homeowners were not burdened financially or mentally. She called for an end to the discrimination and the introduction of a remediation option which was science based.

C/417/25

RESTORATION OF DISTRICT COURT SERVICES IN DONEGAL

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

"Donegal County Council urges the Department of Justice & OPW to provide the essential state investment required that directs and enables the Building Committee of the Courts Service to initiate an immediate works plan that ensures the retention, refurbishment and restoration of District Court Services in Donegal."

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

Cllr Doherty welcomed the commitment to write to the Department of Justice and the OPW. He noted that there were specific issues in the Inishowen Municipal District and called for Carndonagh to be returned as soon as possible as a District Court venue. It was imperative, he added, that the courthouse in Carndonagh was not allowed to fall into further disrepair given that it had effectively been abandoned since 2019 with no effort made to repair the roof. He said that a local solicitor also had concerns that the Department of Justice were intent on shutting down all Inishowen Court services. It was, he said, very unfair to expect people to travel a distance to access such services.

The importance of the courts service to the local community was acknowledged including the impact on the local economy.

Cllr Jordan said that there were similar issues in Donegal Town where the courthouse had closed several months ago. With the service now being provided in Ballyshannon, he said that people were worried that the facility might not open again. He called on the OPW to address the situation.

There was no opposition to the motion.

Mr Patsy Lafferty, Director Housing, Corporate & Cultural Services said that he would forward correspondence to the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs & Migration and to the Minister of State with responsibility for the OPW.

Cllr Doherty said that it essential that people were aware of the intentions of the Courts Service and that the retention of such services was critical at local level in Donegal.

C/418/25

UNFINISHED DEVELOPMENTS IN RURAL AREAS

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

“That this Council proceeds to implement Section 34 (6) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) to grant planning permission in respect of planning applications for unfinished developments in rural areas which would materially contravene the Donegal County Development Plan 2024-30.”

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

Cllr Crossan acknowledged the response. He said that Donegal was in the middle of housing crisis, and it was in everybody's interest that as many houses as possible were made available particularly those in unfinished estates. He noted that the response referenced the rural unserviced nature of the sites in question, and the fact that the limited scale of development placed them outside the category of cases where Section 34(6) could be considered. He noted that on one of the sites in question there was an occupied house and that services were most available in that development. He asked for additional clarity on the comment that these developments were outside the category of cases where Section 34(6) would generally be considered.

He then called for Section 34(6) to be triggered and asked members for their support. Referencing a letter received from the Senior Planner on the 10th November in respect of one particular development, he asked that the proposal therein be pursued and that further negotiations take place.

Cllr C Brogan supporting the motion said it was important that planning policy was shaped to meet the needs of the people. He said that all members had encountered areas with legacy issues and that the proper tools needed to be in place to address the issues that had arisen.

There was no opposition to the motion.

Mr Eamonn Brown, A/Director Community Development & Planning Services thanked Cllr Crossan for his engagement on the matter over recent days. There were two elements to the response, he noted namely, the provisions and use of Section 34(6) and the acknowledged policy gap in respect of unfinished rural estates.

The vehicle to address these anomalies was, he contended, through a variation of the County Development Plan.

Mr Eunan Quinn, Senior Planner, noted that there had been engagement over the past number of weeks on the issues raised in the motion. The advice, he stated, was based on the appropriateness of Section 34(6) to the circumstances in question and the need to address at this juncture the lack of a policy framework. He said that were Section 34(6) applied to a grant of planning permission proposed by the executive, and where it contravened the Development Plan the requirement was to go out to public consultation and referred again to the applicant who would be kept briefed on the outcome and also to the various prescribed bodies and various third parties for their observations. Crucially it was only granted when the Planning Authority intended to grant planning permission. There was a clear policy vacuum, he noted, which needed to be addressed through the variation process. There was a pathway there, he said, to address such legacy

issues. This was the way to proceed, he advised and not through the misapplication of Section 34(6)

The Cathaoirleach outlined the implications of triggering Section 34(6) and noted that ultimately after the statutory consultation process the matter would revert to Council and that approval of same required the support of three quarters of the members present. He drew attention to the fact that the Senior Planner had indicated that the appropriate mechanism for dealing with this matter was through the variation process.

The Senior Planner said that the fundamental difference here was that the motion referenced individual developments as opposed to addressing the policy vacuum in the County Development Plan. The issue was, he said, that there was no provision to deal with such the developments referenced. The Planning Authority, was, he contended, not in a position to trigger Section 34(6) in a positive way at present.

The Cathaoirleach said that members had concerns in relation to the various assessments, directives etc and the overall timeframe to address the matter through the variation process.

Mr Quinn said that the variation process needed to be complete by July 2026 but that a number of steps needed to be taken to get to that point and have the proposal agreed by members.

Cllr Crossan said that he appreciated the response but asked why Section 34(6) was in place if it could not be utilised. He said that he would like to proceed with the process as requested in the motion.

C/419/25 **ADJOURNMENT OF THE MEETING**

It was unanimously agreed to adjourn the meeting until 1.45pm

C/420/25 **ACCOMMODATION PLANS**

It was agreed to take Cllr C Brogan's motion at this juncture.

On the proposal of Cllr C. Brogan, seconded by Cllr Mc Dermott it was resolved to adopt the following motion:-

"I propose that this Council's working group on our future plans for accommodation and in line with our review plan that we look at the possibility of decentralising our council services in line with our current plans for the regeneration of our town centres, so that there is real meaningful permanent employment and a presence of jobs and economic benefits together with the distribution of services for our county and its people."

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

Cllr Brogan said that the motion was self-explanatory and that there was a huge need to invest in Council services. He urged the executive and members to get together and look at ways of upgrading and investing in Council Headquarters as facilities in Lifford were not up to standard. He noted that there were a number of regeneration plans in motion throughout the county and said that the Council should look at moving services to different parts of Donegal. There was also an opportunity, he said, to lease properties which would be of benefit to many of these towns. This was an opportune time, he added, as the organisational review had just taken place.

Cllr Mc Dermott seconded the motion and contended that there was now a good opportunity to bring services back to the Public Service Centres. He referenced Planning in particular and the fact that it would be of benefit to all concerned if this service was provided at local level.

There was no opposition to the motion.

Mr Patsy Lafferty, Director Housing, Corporate & Cultural Services advised that a review of the management and staffing structure had just been completed in parallel to the Workforce Plan for the period 2025 to 2029. The issue of office accommodation, he stated, was being reviewed and the motion would be considered in the context of this review. It was acknowledged that a working group had been set up to look at the issue of office accommodation and that an examination would take place to examine and explore the most efficient and appropriate location for each department, in the context of the nature of the work and the implications for remote and blended working.

Cllr Mac Giolla Easbuig said that he agreed with the relocation of services to rural areas. He highlighted the fact that staffing complements needed to take into consideration the new statutory obligations for the provision of services through the medium of Irish.

Cllr Brogan welcomed the response and said that the plans as outlined were a work in progress.

C/421/25

PUBLIC INFORMATION CAMPAIGN REMINDING HOMEOWNERS TO HAVE THEIR ELECTRICAL SYSTEMS CHECKED

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

“That this Council request the Executive to run a public information campaign reminding homeowners to have their electrical systems checked, particularly in respect of older homes. A number of houses have recently come to my attention with wiring failures, which pose a serious safety risk — particularly for elderly people living alone. Furthermore, I ask that this motion be circulated to all Councils, as this measure has the potential to save lives.”

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

Cllr Mc Dermott said that he wanted the Council to highlight the need for having electrical systems checked, particularly in older homes. He cited a specific example in his own constituency where wiring had deteriorated to such an extent that the coating on the cabling had melted. It was noted that the Older Persons Grant was available to cover the cost of the necessary electrical works. He drew members attention to a number of photographs which showed clearly the signs of deterioration especially around the electrical sockets.

In the interest of public safety, he said, the message needed to go out that there could be an issue in some older houses. He said that he had also contacted RECI and SAFE Electric in relation to the matter.

The Emergency Services Department, he contended, could do a promotional campaign to highlight the matter in a sensitive way so as not to alarm or frighten elderly residents and those in vulnerable situations.

Cllr Brogan said the motion was very much based on common sense and championed the need to create an awareness of the dangers involved. There was an opportunity, he said for the issue to be highlighted and promoted through the current housing related public information event sessions.

There was no opposition to the motion.

Mr Patsy Lafferty, Director Housing, Corporate & Cultural Services said it was important to raise an awareness of the issue and stated that grant assistance was available from the Council for a range of housing related matters including the Housing Aid for Older People Scheme which provided assistance for older people over 66 years to cover the cost of essential repairs, which included electrical works. The motion was timely, he added, in that the standard costings under the Housing Grant Schemes had been increased with effect from the 1st January 2026.

It would be possible, he said, to have detail provided on the options available at the housing information sessions currently underway in the Public Service Centres and to circulate the motion to other local authorities for their consideration.

Cllr Mc Dermott welcomed the response and thanked all who had assisted with the situation that had arisen in Inishowen.

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

Donegal's rural areas are characterised by limited public lighting, and an absence of footpaths which impacts the safety and wellbeing of residents.

"I ask the Council to explore and implement localised solutions to increase public lighting in isolated communities. I ask that the Council engages with relevant stakeholders, including Transport Infrastructure Ireland and local communities to ensure that any measures taken align with the specific needs of Donegal's rural population. Improving public lighting in rural Donegal will significantly enhance safety, reduce isolation and improve quality of life for residents. By tailoring our approach to local conditions, we can ensure that our rural communities are safe and well-supported".

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

Cllr Mc Gee cited a number of examples where people were afraid to venture out for a walk as public lighting was poor or non-existent. He called on the Council to check out these dangerous locations county-wide.

He was, he said, unhappy with the response and cited the difficulties in explaining to elderly constituents that lighting could not be provided.

Cllr Devine supporting the motion said that it was not just rural areas and cited issues along the Ballymacool Road where the road was dark and the footpath narrow. €7000 per member under the Public Lights and Minor Infrastructure Fund was not, he advised, sufficient.

There was no opposition to the motion.

Mr Bryan Cannon, Director Roads & Transportation said that he appreciated the sentiment and the rationale for the motion. He referenced the detail in his reply and noted that the Public Lights and Minor Infrastructure Fund did not allow for the provision of lights in rural areas. He said that the Roads & Transportation SPC had considered the public lighting policy at its recent meeting and had agreed that an updated policy would go forward to the Corporate Policy Group in January 2026. This, he said, proposed to limit the installation of public lighting to areas within urban speed limits.

Cllr Mc Gee said that he was disappointed as he was not looking for lights all over the place but rather trying to help a number of elderly citizens.

The Director of Service said that he would circulate the terms of the Public Lights and Minor Infrastructure Fund to members so that they were up to speed on the conditions and criteria involved.

C/423/25

REVIEW OF BEACH ACCESS FOR EMERGENCY VEHICLES

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

“That Donegal County Council carry out a review of beach access for emergency vehicles and ensure that all necessary safety equipment, including life buoys, is regularly inspected and maintained.

Furthermore, that these actions apply to all beaches used by the public across County Donegal, and not solely to designated Blue Flag beaches, in the interest of public safety and emergency response capability.

Additionally, that Donegal County Council provide an individual identification number or code for every beach and pier in the county, to assist the public in accurately directing emergency services to the correct location in the event of an incident.”

He received a response from the Director of Water Services, Environment, DCB Scheme and Facilities Management in relation to the above.

Cllr Carr said that he had been involved in an incident three months ago and that as a result he was aware of what was needed and where the gaps were in relation to the beach access for the emergency services. He noted that Blue Flag Beaches were well equipped but that other beached and piers lacked attention.

Donegal, he said, had 18% of the country's coastline and as such needed to lead out in terms of monitoring and safety. He alluded in particular to Tramore Beach, Dooey and Leitirmacaward all of which were extremely busy but had no emergency vehicle access, buoys or proper warning signs. An emergency ambulance arriving at Tramore, he stated, had no access and personnel had to carry equipment for over a kilometre in an emergency situation. Dooey, he added, required helicopter access in such a situation.

He called on the Council to review access to these beaches for the emergency services and noted that there had been engagement with the Director of Service and his team on the matter. Another issue of concern, he said, was that there were no Eircodes for beaches and this was causing difficulties and had implications for life saving operations. Each beach, he added, needed a location code and a sign with a dedicated reference number so that the exact location could be provided in an emergency. The Council, he said, should introduce, promote or create a universal location code for all beaches and piers in the county.

This would he said help locals and tourists alike and Donegal County Council could lead out on the initiative.

Cllr Mc Dermott said the Ambulance Service used a location system and that something similar could be utilised for piers an beaches.

Cllr Jordan seconding the motion said that a location code was an excellent idea and noted that not all beaches had a defibrillator in place. He said that the Council should lead the way on this matter.

There was no opposition to the motion.

Mr Michael Mc Garvey, Director Water & Environment said that he was committed to working on the first part of the motion. People, he noted, were encouraged to go to beaches where the water quality was safe and public lifeguards were on duty. In relation to safety equipment and inspections, he confirmed that there were 188 ring buoys located at the 13 lifeguard beaches and an additional 418 at 69 other beach locations around the coast from Moville to Bundoran. Ring buoys were checked at least monthly during the year, he advised, and during the bathing season checked daily at lifeguarded beaches and fortnightly at other beaches. He noted that when the emergency numbers 112 or 999 were dialled the GPS system on the caller's phone was automatically activated.

He said, he would look at the Blue Flag beaches and designate bathing areas and work with the Irish Coastguard to see what could be done. Updates would be provided, he said, through the Climate Action & Environment SPC and a report brought to members in March 2026.

Cllr Carr thanked members for their support and said that he and his family would be delighted if something could be done to improve beach access in emergency situations.

C/424/25

REUNIFICATION OF IRELAND

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

That this Council recognises that:

- the reunification of Ireland is an objective of Bunreacht na hÉireann; and
- there is a growing national discussion around constitutional change with people from diverse backgrounds now exploring the possibility of Irish unity:

notes that:

- the Good Friday Agreement 1998 provides the democratic and peaceful means to achieve reunification through the provision of unity referendums,
- the significant Joint Oireachtas Committee on the Implementation of the Good Friday Agreement report "Perspectives on Constitutional Change: Finance and Economics", recommends the establishment of Citizen Assemblies and other relevant forums, a designated Joint Oireachtas Committee and a Government Department to take responsibility for planning and preparing for constitutional change, received cross-party support:

And will write to the Office of An Taoiseach, seeking the Irish Government to plan and prepare for Irish unity, through the following actions:

- establish an all-island representative Citizens' Assembly or Assemblies, to allow for informed debate, and a Joint Oireachtas Committee on Irish Unity to enable careful planning,
- produce and publish a plan towards Irish unity in conjunction with civic society and key stakeholders,
- engage with northern protestant and unionist opinion about the future of Ireland; and
- work to secure a date for the referendums on unity provided for in the Good Friday Agreement."

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

Cllr Mc Monagle said the work on the reunification of Ireland was ongoing and growing and that a range of bodies and organisations had worked hard to progress this conversation. He noted that a recent private member's bill put forward by Sinn Fein on this subject had received unanimous support. Those who wanted a united Ireland, he said, needed to take on board the views of all stakeholders. Sinn Fein's Commission on the future of Ireland, he noted, had worked to create an environment where dialogue was encouraged and feedback valued. This message, he said, had been conveyed at both home and abroad and had taken on board the concerns of all involved. This, it was acknowledged had garnered the views of young people and was based on grassroots consultation reaching out to all communities and demographics and political perspectives on this Island.

It was, he added, time for change and the future rested in the hands of people north and south. He alluded to the fact that the First Minister in Northern Ireland was now of the nationalist persuasion, and this clearly indicated that political change was possible. There was now, he confirmed a real opportunity to build a shared future and to build a stronger and more affluent democracy and disregard the division and inequality of the past. This, it was noted, required a collective approach and for the Irish Government to establish as soon as possible a

Citizen's Assembly to discuss Irish unity. All, he contended, should have a say in that discussion and he thus called on the Government and the Taoiseach's office to put the necessary plans in place to enable that discussion take place.

Cllr Murray said it was appropriate that Donegal take the lead in this discussion given that it was most impacted by the border. It was no longer he said about the conversation but rather the timeline for reunification process. Opinion polls, he said, clearly indicated that this was what people wanted and the failure to move forward with this would be irresponsible. It was imperative, he said, that a new Ireland was created encompassing all of the essential political, educational and health services.

There was no opposition to the motion.

Mr Patsy Lafferty, Director Housing, Corporate & Cultural Services advised that a copy of the motion would be forwarded to the Office of An Taoiseach.

Cllr Mc Monagle concluding contended that a general shared future would benefit all elements of the community and facilitate the pooling of resources and talents nationwide so as to allow all concerned to shape their future.

He said that he envisaged a new Ireland where healthcare would be free, housing a right and the education system world class with an economy that served the interest of all the people on this Island.

C/425/25

EXCLUSION OF TRADE AND SERVICES IN THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES BILL

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

“That this Council opposes the exclusion of trade in services in the Occupied Territories Bill and writes to the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade, Simon Harris TD, calling on him to include a ban on trade in services in the government's proposed Occupied Territories Bill with immediate effect.”

Also, that Donegal County Council endorses and supports the following recommendations:

- The Joint Committee on Foreign Affairs and Trade which strongly recommends progressing the Bill and that the prohibition of imports from the Palestinian Occupied Territories should be extended to include trade in services, in line with the Advisory Opinion of the International Court of Justice and the Resolution which Ireland co-sponsored at the United Nations General Assembly

- The Joint Committee recommends that the title of the Bill be the ‘Illegal Settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory (Prohibition of Importation of Goods & Services) Bill’.”

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

Cllr Meehan called on the Government to act decisively and fulfil their obligations in terms of international law. There were, he said, serious legal and humanitarian issues involved that underpinned the passing of this legislation. To do so, he said, would be a concrete act of compliance with international law and human rights directives and would show true action and solidarity with the Palestinian people.

The occupied Territories Bill was, he stated, a critical piece of legislation, but the exclusion of trade and services was a serious omission and undermined the purpose of the legislation. A stand, he contended, need to be taken against the illegal settlements in Palestine and for this reason the bill needed to be comprehensive and consistent. These settlements, it was noted, were built on stolen land seized from Palestinian families and the ultimate aim ethnic cleansing. We cannot , he said, declare these settlements illegal whilst allowing Irish Companies to trade in goods and services. To leave these out, he said, created a loophole. The Joint Committee on Foreign Trade with cross-party backing had, he said, recommended the inclusion of trade in services in line with international law and the resolution which Ireland had co-sponsored at the United Nations General Assembly.

Cllr Meehan highlighted the fact that the Irish people were supportive of the inclusion of trade and services and the Government allegedly so. The delay in passing the legislation was, he added, unsatisfactory.

This Council ,he said, needed to send a clear message that it supported the inclusion of trade and services as there was still nothing in the statute books to reflect the urgency of the situation.

Human rights, he said, had to be defended in words and by actions. He called on the new Minister for Foreign Affairs, Ms Helen Mc Entee T.D to ensure that the OTB is robust and comprehensive and in line with the standards that Ireland has long championed.

He asked members for their support and assistance in standing for justice and in ensuring that Ireland leads the way aligning its legislation with its values.

Cllr J Brogan said that the Government parties had reneged on their election commitments and were stalling in relation to the need to the ban on goods and services. He commended the efforts of Senator Frances Black who had kept the topic on the agenda. A new draft back

in June, he advised, had placed a focus on goods but ignored services. Despite the recommendations of the Joint Committee on Foreign Affairs and Trade there was still no definitive response from the Government, he added. He called on the new Minister for Foreign Affairs, Helen Mc Entee, T.D to include services and speed up the adoption of the Occupied Territories Bill.

There was no opposition to the motion.

Mr Patsy Lafferty, Director Housing, Corporate & Cultural Services said that he would arrange to have the motion forwarded to the Tánaiste and the Minister for Foreign Affairs.

Cllr Meehan in conclusion said that a number of members of the independent grouping had met with the Director of Economic Development, Information Systems and Emergency Services and that a commitment had been given to review the Council's BDS policy. He paid tribute to Cllr Frances Black and her colleagues in the Oireachtas together with Christian Aid Ireland and Irish Palestine Solidarity Campaign who had championed this cause over the last number of years.

C/426/25

DEFECTIVE CONCRETE BLOCKS

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

“That this Council support my motion condemning the decision taken by the 79 TDs to vote in favour of the Government’s counter motion to the one put forward by Deputy Charles Ward in Dáil Eireann on the 15th October 2025 entitled “Reform of the Defective Concrete Redress Scheme.”

In doing so, these TDs have demonstrated their approval to the defective concrete crisis here in Donegal and other affected counties. This runs contrary to the expressed will of the 37 elected members of DCC as demonstrated by the unanimous passing of 27 motions since July 2024, highlighting the urgent and essential changes that need to be made to the enhanced Defective Concrete Blocks Scheme and the Government's approach to the humanitarian crisis. It's only right the people affected by DCB know that DCC will publicly call out this Government when it makes decisions that are totally and morally wrong.”

He received a response from the Director of Water Services, Environment, DCB Scheme and Facilities Management in relation to the above.

Cllr Devine said that the motion was self-explanatory and needed no additional explanation.

Cllr Mc Gee said it was shameful that 79 T.D.s had voted not to help the people of Donegal. He said that people should speak to their Oireachtas member and query why they had voted against their own people. The current scheme, he said, was not working and this needed to be addressed as a matter of urgency.

Mr Michael Mc Garvey, Director Water & Environment, said that the Council would write to the Minister for Housing Local Government & Heritage accordingly.

There was no opposition to the motion .

Cllr Devine said it was disappointing that members had not spoken to the local Oireachtas members on the subject and if they had then their please were not taken seriously. A message needed to be sent nationally, he added, that the present scheme was not working for 99% of the families impacted

C/427/25

CATHAOIRLEACH'S BUSINESS

Meeting with Government Ministers

The Cathaoirleach said that it had been agreed by the CPG that information would be circulated in the New Year in relation to dedicated meetings with the Minister for Local Government, Housing & Heritage and the Minister for Transport. The proposed delegations, he confirmed, would include the Corporate Policy Group, the Executive and the local Oireachtas Members.

Cllr Devine noted that a specific meeting was needed for defective concrete block issues alone.

Letter of Congratulations – President Connolly

It was agreed that a letter of congratulations be sent to President Connolly congratulating her on her inauguration and offering best wishes for her term in office.

Votes of Sympathy

A vote of sympathy was extended to the following:

- Edel Kelly (Shalvey), Senior Management Team Support on the death of her father, Peter O' Donnell.
- Eddie Mc Grane, Water Services, Donegal MD on the death of his mother Eilis Mc Grane.
- The family of the late Dickie Curran former employee of Letterkenny Parks & Open Spaces.
- Cllr Martin Harley on the death of his sister, Margaret Harley.
- Roisin Mc Monagle, Library Administration on the death of her father, Barney Mc Monagle.
- Colin MC Nulty, Area Manager, Lifford, Stranorlar MD on the death of his father, Fergus Mc Nulty.

- The family of the late Anthony Breslin, formerly Water Services, Donegal MD.
- Paul Strawbridge, Water Services, Inishowen MD on the death of his mother, Sheila Strawbridge.

Section 34(6) Planning & Development Act 2000 (As Amended)

Cllr Crossan queried the status of his motion debated earlier in the meeting. Mr Eamonn Brown, A. Director Community Development & Planning Services said that the Planning Division could not act on the proposal and that the appropriate vehicle for addressing the matter highlighted and at a small number of other locations was through the variation of the County Development Plan. The applicable timeline for same was July 2026, he noted which gave reasonable time to address and deal with the public comments submitted.

Planning Workshop

It was unanimously agreed that a Plenary Planning Workshop take place on Monday 1st December 2025 at 10 a.m. in the County House, Lifford to consider issues raised at the workshop on the 5th October in relation to the Proposed Variation No. 1 to the County Development Plan 2024-2030.

C/428/25

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S MANAGEMENT REPORT

The Chief Executive informed members that he was available to discuss any of the items outlined in the report.

Members noted the updates in relation to the following:

1. Corporate

Organisational Structure Review 2025

2. Community Development & Planning Services

Community Development

Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme

Pride of Place Awards

Older Person's Council – Annual General Meeting

Capital Projects Delivery Unit & Taking in Charge of Housing Estates Division

Major Projects Update

Refugee Response Unit Update

Number of Refugees

Local Authority Integration Team (LAIT)

Community Integration Forum

Planning Services

Planning Policy

Review of Development Contribution Scheme

Enforcement

Development Applications Unit

Regeneration and Development Team

Rural Regeneration and Development Fund (RRDF)

Urban Regeneration and Development Fund (URDF)
Croi Conaithe Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant Scheme
Addressing Vacancy and Dereliction

3. Water and Environment

Environment Report
Septic Tank Inspections
Septic Tank Grants & Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant Scheme
Air Quality and Solid Fuel Regulation
Public Service Announcements (PSA's)
Bathing Waters 2025 Season
Solid Fuel Regulations
Community Climate Action Fund – Phase 2
Climate Action Week
Community Climate Action Fund-Showcase Event
Donegal County Council signs up to Reduce Your Use Energy
Campaign for 2025/2026 Winter Season
National Tidy Towns Results
Defective Concrete Blocks - Update

4. Housing, Corporate & Cultural Services

Social Housing
Social Housing Delivery Pipeline 2022-2030
Housing Grants
Energy Efficiency Retrofitting Programme
Culture Division
Creative Ireland
Library Service
Skills for Life
County Donegal Heritage Office
“Working Over By” Travelling Exhibition
Glasgow Corporation Transport & The Donegal Connection
Heritage Week Awards
The Laurels, Glenties Historic Towns Initiative
Ballyshannon Historic Towns Atlas
Local Authority Heritage Practice Seminar

5. Economic Development, I.S. & Emergency Services

Information Systems
Northern Periphery Arc (NPA) European Project: INNOCAP
Economic Development Division
Donegal Tech Advocates Event
“Powering Progress & Opportunities in Offshore Renewables”
Blue BioEconomy Event-BIM in collaboration with Donegal County Council
Disrupt by the Sea 2025 - Showcasing Donegal's Global Innovation Reach
National AI Challenge 2025 – Donegal Punches Above Its Weight
Tip O'Neill Awards
Donegal Tourism Business Clinics

National Quality Standard Awards (NQSA)
Local Enterprise Office
Progress Against Targets
National Women's Enterprise Day
Blas na hÉireann Irish Food Awards
Lead2Grow
Business Supports Clinics
Driving on Ambition
GIFT Project

6. Roads & Transportation

National Roads Office Update
A5/N2 Cross Border Committee
Donegal TEN-T Priority Route Improvement Project
Roads Areas Update
Restoration Improvement and Restoration Maintenance
Community Improvement Schemes
Storm Response
Local Improvement Scheme
Invasive Species Control
Winter Maintenance
Strategic Rehabilitation Regional Road Grant
Central Technical Services
NTA Funded Active Travel Projects
Piers and Harbours
Urban Speed Limits
Fintra Bridge and Road Realignment
R250 Curryanerriagh Bridge (Droichead an Churraoin) and Road Realignment Scheme
Bridge Assessments
Glenmore Bridge
Letterkenny Northern Network Project
Letterkenny Southern Network Project
Road Safety

C/429/25 **UPDATE ON MAY MOTION TO DEAL WITH DERELICT SITES AND BUILDINGS**

Cllr Naughton submitted the following question:-

Can I have update on my motion in May in relation to allocating €5million in the revenue budget for 2026 to deal with derelict sites and buildings?

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

C/430/25 **FULL LIST OF VACANCIES ACROSS ALL DEPARTMENTS OF DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL**

Cllr Naughton submitted the following question:-

Can I get the full list of vacancies across all departments of Donegal County Council?

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

C/431/25

HEDGES AND OVERGROWTH POSING A DANGER TO ROAD USERS.

Cllr Bradley submitted the following question:-

To ask the Director for Roads what steps the Council take with regard to hedges and overgrowth which pose a danger to road users. I understand the law is that it is the landowner's responsibility to maintain vegetation, however in the event a landowner refuses to cut overgrowth what enforcement steps do the Council follow.

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

C/432/25

REVIEW OF THE WINTER MAINTENANCE PROGRAMME

Cllr Bradley submitted the following question:-

To ask the Director for Roads when the review of the winter maintenance programme routes will take place.

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

C/433/25

SEVERE WEATHER OCCURRENCE

Cllr Beard submitted the following question:-

On 15th October 2025 Minister Browne said in Dail Eireann "— Local Authorities, working together with the Office for Emergency Planning and the National Directorate for Fire and Emergency Management have systems in place to assist all homeowners to remain safe and to secure alternative accommodation should it be required in the case of any severe weather occurrence:

Could I be advised on specific arrangements referenced by Minister James Browne specifically?

- *What is the plan currently in place for Donegal?*
- *What criteria would trigger the plan?*
- *How and where emergency or temporary accommodation would be provided?*
- *How homeowners will be notified in advance about the steps to take and who to contact in such circumstances?*

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

C/434/25 **COST OF STREAMING OF THE DEFECTIVE BLOCKS COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

Cllr Beard submitted the following question:-

Could I get an itemised breakdown of the costs associated with the streaming of the Defective Blocks Committee meetings?

She received a response from the Director of Water Services, Environment, DCB Scheme & Facilities Management in relation to the above.

C/435/25 **CLAR REVIEW BY DEPARTMENT**

Cllr A Doherty submitted the following question:-

Following my motion adopted on September 29th last re: current CLAR review by Dept. and Council commitment to follow up,

What correspondence has been forwarded by DCC to The Department re: Review & increased eligibility areas for CLAR and what response(s) have been received from Minister Calleary and /or his department?

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

C/436/25 **ENERGY EFFICIENCY RETROFIT PROGRAMME**

Cllr A Doherty submitted the following question:-

“How many housing units were successfully delivered in 2025 to date and in what location? Did discussions with the Department result in council securing additional units/budget during the year?

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

C/437/25 **FUNDING DRAWN DOWN FROM THE SOCIAL HOUSING MAINTENANCE BUDGET TO DO MAINTENANCE WORKS ON SOCIAL HOUSING UNITS AFFECTED BY DEFECTIVE CONCRETE BLOCKS**

Cllr Carr submitted the following question:-

My question concerns the maintenance works carried out by the Council on social housing units suspected of being affected by defective concrete blocks, with funding drawn from the social housing maintenance and painting budgets in each Municipal District. Could you please provide details of the total expenditure to date from these budgets in each MD on such works, and confirm whether the Council has submitted a claim to the relevant Government Department seeking reimbursement for this expenditure?

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

C/438/25 **BREAKDOWN OF THE COST OF STREAMING PLENARY MEETINGS**

Cllr Devine submitted the following question:-

Recently the Council made us aware of the cost of streaming Plenary meetings - €22,500 euros. Can I get a breakdown of these costs?

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

C/439/25 **UPDATE ON OUR LEGAL SERVICES**

Cllr Brogan submitted the following question:-

Can we have an updated report on our legal services and the possibility of us employing our own in-house solicitor?

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

C/440/25 **SUPPLY AND FILLING OF SALT BINS**

Cllr Devine submitted the following question:-

Can this Council supply and fill salt bins in estates they have taken over and also on roads that are not gritted by our lorries?

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

C/441/25 **ACTIVE TRAVEL PROJECTS**

Cllr Brogan submitted the following question:-

Can I have an updated report on all our active travel projects in Donegal in the last 3 years, a breakdown of monies spent, including consultancy fees to date on the programme of the work, and a timeline for the allocations and the schedule of works for the next two years ?

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

C/442/25 **FLOOD RELIEF SCHEMES**

Cllr McMonagle submitted the following question:-

How many Flood Relief Schemes have been approved by the Department for Donegal and what is the timeline for the starting of these projects and where are they located?

He received a response from the Director of Water Services, Environment, DCB Scheme & Facilities Management in relation to the above.

C/443/25

MOTIONS FROM OTHER COUNCILS/BODIES

Members noted the motions from other Councils.

CLARE COUNTY COUNCIL

“That Clare County Council calls on the Government of Ireland not to support the European Commission’s proposal to establish a single common fund under the new Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) 2028-2034, which would merge key EU policy instruments such as the Common Agriculture Fund into one overarching funding mechanism. This Council expresses concern that:-

5. The proposed “Common fund” risks undermining the integrity and transparency of longstanding EU policies that have delivered tangible benefits to Ireland’s regions, farmers, and coastal communities.
6. The Commission’s justification – that this structure would “simplify” the MFF – fails to recognise that simplification through centralisation can weaken the specific policy objectives and ring-fenced funding that underpin regional and rural development.
7. The proposal links the next MFF to the repayment of EU debt incurred under the Next Generation EU recovery instrument, creating fiscal pressure that is already leading to an overall 20% reduction in key investment areas compared with the current period.
8. The Commission’s claim that the new MFF will be “the biggest EU budget ever” is misleading, as this increase is largely accounted for by debt repayments rather than by additional funding for future programmes or regional growth.

Accordingly, Clare County Council urges the Minister for Public Expenditure, NDP Delivery and Reform, and the Minister for Finance, to:

- Reject any move towards a single aggregated fund that would erode the distinct purposes of the CAP, Cohesion, and Fisheries policies.
- Advocate instead for a transparent, policy based MFF that maintains clear and separate funding streams for agriculture, regional development, and the blue economy; and
- Support an ambitious, adequately resourced EU budget that ensures balanced and sustainable growth across Ireland and the European Union’s regions.”

GALWAY CITY COUNCIL

“Extension of Free Fares for Under-9s to Commercial Bus Operators

That Galway City Council supports the immediate inclusion of Commercial Bus Operators (CBOs) in the Child Leap Card Scheme, which provides free bus travel for children under nine.

Council notes:

CBOs are an essential part of Ireland's public transport network, already delivering the Young Adult Leap Card and the Department of Social Protection's Travel Pass.

Their exclusion from the under-9 scheme creates unfairness, particularly for rural families who depend on them, and risk a two-tier bus system.

Extending the scheme would cost just €1 million, a modest sum that would support families during the cost-of-living crisis and encourage sustainable travel habits among children.

Therefore, Galway City Council calls on the Minister for Transport and the National Transport Authority to:

- 1.Urgently include CBOs in the Child Leap Card Scheme.
- 2.Ensure a fair and consistent transport policy that treats all children equally, regardless of geography or bus service used.”

KERRY COUNTY COUNCIL

“That Kerry County Council endorses the End Discrimination of Inheritance (EDIT) campaign and calls on Ministers for Equality, Norma Foley, Public Expenditure, Jack Chambers and Finance Paschal Donoghue to commit to harmonising the inheritance laws and bands so that people with no direct descendants are treated the same as those with children under inheritance law and succession planning. Further, I request that upon adoption, this motion is circulated to all Local Authorities.”

KERRY COUNTY COUNCIL

“That Kerry County Council write to the Minister for Health calling for the introduction of a ban on vaping in all workplaces, on the grounds of protecting public health and ensuring safe, aerosol-free working environments.

That this motion would be referred to all local authorities for their support.

LEITRIM COUNTY COUNCIL

“That Leitrim County Council calls on the Department of Social Protection to undertake and an urgent and immediate review around the habitual residence clause for carers allowance. This clause impacts many in border counties where family and immediately family members are caring for loved ones and may only be living five minutes away albeit in another county. Immediate action is required to address this issue.”

LEITRIM COUNTY COUNCIL

“That this Council write to the Minister for Education, Helan McEntee TD, and the Minister of State for Further Education and Skills, Marian Harkin TD, requesting that they develop an alternative pathway for students following completion of the Junior Cycle through the ETB and SOLAS and other networks, to provide skills-based and career-orientated and training opportunities in construction, business, IT, tourism, cosmetology, healthcare and agriculture – to offer students practical routes to employment and further study as an alternative to the traditional Leaving Certificate Programme.”

LIMERICK CITY & COUNTY COUNCIL

“That, Limerick City & County Council call on the Ministers for Agriculture and for Forestry to provide an appropriate Scheme to compensate for the loss of their livelihoods suffered by landowners due to Ash Dieback disease, and that support for this Motion be sought from sister authorities nationally.”

LIMERICK CITY & COUNTY COUNCIL

“That, Limerick City & Council Council write to the Taoiseach, Michael Martin TD, the Minister for Health, Jennifer Carroll-MacNeill TD, and the Minister of State with responsibility for Mental Health, Mary Butler TD, in support of the IACP’s call for increased investment in counselling and psychotherapy in Budget 2026. The IACP’s Budget 2026 Priorities are the following: (i) Removal of VAT on counselling and psychotherapy services; (ii) Extension of tax relief to counselling and psychotherapy fees; and (iii) Investment in and expansion of access to school counselling at the primary and secondary levels. I also ask that this Motion, if passed, is circulated to the thirty other local authorities, asking that they support this campaign.”

MONAGHAN COUNTY COUNCIL

“That this Council condemns all those involved in the neglect, mistreatment and abuse of residences in Nursing Homes and Care Facilities for the elderly, the most vulnerable in our society and demands of An Taoiseach, Michael Martin TD, the Minister for Health, Jennifer Carroll-MacNeill TD and all of Government to immediately prioritise the strengthening of safe guarding protection across the Health & Social Care Sector, as national confidence, trust and respect for the Health Information and Quality Authority (HIQA), the HSE and the Department of Health is very low, following the revelations of recent years – Children’s Health Ireland (CHI), the numbers of deaths during Covid proved standards were very low in Nursing Homes nationally, the recent RTE Undercover Report exposed the abuse of residences in Nursing Homes and were it not for this programme, the nation would be unaware of these outrageous incidents; hence Monaghan County Council demands of all members, parties and groups in Government to act immediately to ensure the Health and Social Care Sector in Ireland is cleansed of neglect, abuse and wrong doing.”

ROSCOMMON COUNTY COUNCIL

“To write to the Minister for the Local Government to request that development fees be waived for all applicants who served a commencement notice prior to the required deadline in 2024. Some applicants served the notice within the required timeframe, but failed to submit the required waiver form, resulting in them receiving an invoice for development charges. Many applicants were unaware of the need to complete the form, despite meeting all other guidelines of the scheme.”

TIPPERARY COUNTY COUNCIL

“That Tipperary County Council supports the immediate inclusion of Commercial Bus Operators (CBOs) in the Child Leap Card Scheme, which provides free bus travel for children under nine.

Tipperary County Council calls on the Minister for Transport and the National Transport Authority to:

1. Urgently include CBOs in the Child Leap Card Scheme
2. Ensure a fair and consistent transport policy that treats all children equally, regardless of geography or bus service used.”

WEXFORD COUNTY COUNCIL

“That this Council endorses the End Discrimination of Inheritance Tax (EDIT) campaign and calls on Ministers for Equality, Norman Foley, Public Expenditure, Jack Chambers TD and Minister for Finance Paschal Donoghue TD to commit to harmonising the inheritance laws and bands so that people with no direct descendants are treated as equal to families with children in inheritance law and succession planning.”

WEXFORD COUNTY COUNCIL

“While strengthening the welfare and health of animals, making dog breeders and sellers more accountable, transparent and animal welfare centred in their dealings; this Council calls for the reformation of the Dog Breeding Establishment Act (2010) to incorporate “Stout’s Law” into the act.

Stout’s Law brings forward changes in the ages, duration and treatment/conditions of breeding age dogs, limits the amounts of litters in a lifetime, the establishment of a single Independent Regulator with a stricter inspection regime and supports for the Local Authorities to work with licenced breeders while outlawing the practice of backyard puppy farms in Ireland.”

WEXFORD COUNTY COUNCIL

“With winter approaching we would like to call for an urgent review of the Ash die back situation on our public roads. The older and bigger trees are now being affected and pose a serious risk to road users power lines and telecommunications networks, we call on Co Councils, Departments of Transport, Agriculture and Environment to coordinate a plan to deal with this crisis unfolding on our roads.”

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Cathaoirleach: _____

Dated: _____