

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE DHUN NA nGALL

Oifig Riarthóir na
gCruinnithe
Aras an Chontae
LEIFEAR
24 Samhain, 2015

FOGRA CRUINNITHE

Beidh Cruinniú Comhairle Chontae Dhún na nGall ar siúl Dé Luain 30 Samhain, 2015, ag **11.00 r.n.**
in Áras an Chontae, Leifear

DO GACH BHALL DEN CHOMHAIRLE

A Chara

Iarrtar ort a bheith i láthair ag an chruinniú seo den Chomhairle. Ta Clár an chruinnithe leis seo.

Beidh Clár Orduithe an Phríomh-Fheidhmeannaigh le feiceáil ag an gcruinniú.

Mise, le meas

Seosamh O’Piobla
Riarthóir Cruinnithe

DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

Office of Meetings Administrator
County House
Lifford
24th November, 2015

NOTICE OF MEETING

A Meeting of Donegal County Council will be held on Monday 30th November, 2015, at **11.00am in the County House, Lifford.**

TO EACH MEMBER OF DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

Dear Councillor

You are summoned to attend this meeting of the Council. The Agenda is attached.

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

Yours sincerely

Joe Peoples
Meetings Administrator

AGENDA

1. Confirmation of Minutes

- a) Confirmation of the Minutes of Meeting of Donegal County Council held on the 28th September, 2015.
- b) Confirmation of the Minutes of the Adjourned September Meeting of Donegal County Council held on the 6th October, 2015.
- c) Confirmation of the Minutes of the Special Meeting of Donegal County Council held on the 28th October, 2015.

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

- a) Notice under Section 211 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) and under Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001 – to dispose of by way of sale property at Roundknowes, Altnapaste, Cloghan to Mr William Bustard.
- b) Notice under Section 211 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) and under Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001- to dispose of by way of sale property at Glentown, St Johnston, Co Donegal to Ms Melissa Gibson.
- c) Notice under Section 211 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) and under Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001 – to dispose of by way of sale property at Drumdoit, Castlefin, Co Donegal to Ms Christina Bonner.
- d) Notice under Section 211 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) and under Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001 – to dispose of by way of renewal of leases, 20 Unsold Affordable Housing Units in, Carndonagh, Manorcunningham, Milford, Ramelton and Letterkenny.
- e) Notice under Section 211 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) and under Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001 – to dispose of land at Cool Upper, Cranford to Dennis Sweeney.
- f) Notice under Section 211 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) and under Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001 – to dispose of land at Bunawack, Annagry to Brian Boyle.

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

- a) To approve carrying out of construction work of a single storey building that will contain Ladies, Gents and Disabled Toilets with family changing room facilities, an Information Kiosk/Office, Maintenance Room/Store at Rathmullan Pier, County Donegal.

4. Corporate

- a) To approve revised nominations from the Executive in respect of the membership of Donegal Local Traveller Consultative Committee.
- b) To fill Casual Vacancy on membership of Finn Valley Swimming Pool arising from the resignation of Cllr Frank McBrearty.
- c) Nomination of two representatives from Donegal County Council to serve on the Donegal Youth Council Steering Committee.
- d) To agree date for Workshop on Casual Trading.
- e) To approve Schedule of Meetings for 2016.

5. Infrastructure Development

Infrastructure Development and supporting funding requirements- Draft Report to be circulated and considered at Workshop.

6. Roads and Housing Capital

To approve the expenditure of €234,000 from the Plant Capital Replacement Fund in addition to the previously approved Plant Purchase and Plant Reconditioning Proposal 2015 -2017.

7. Finance

- a) To consider the three year Capital Programme for Donegal County Council for the period 2016-2018 inclusive.
- b) To agree overdraft accommodation of ten million euro (€10,000,000) for full year ending 31st December, 2016.

8. Housing

- a) To approve the proposed policy changes to the Tenants Handbook as agreed by the Housing & Corporate Strategic Policy Committee.
- b) Review of Standard Costings under Housing Adaptations Grant Schemes for Older people and People with a Disability - To

approve the proposed increase in the standard costings as agreed by the Housing & Corporate Strategic Policy Committee.

9. Deputations

Reception of Deputation from “Environment the Musical” regarding the promotion of Environmental Awareness and Responsibility. (12 noon)

10. Endorsement of Minutes

- a) To note the Minutes of the Corporate Policy Group held on the 20th July 2015.
- b) To note the Minutes of the Corporate Policy Group held on the 21st September, 2015.

11. Authorisation of attendance at Seminar, Training or Event

Conferences

- Celtic Conferences – EU Cohesion Policy 2014 – 2020 to be held Friday 11th to Sunday 13th December, 2015 in the Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford, Co Louth.
- Elected Member’s Seminar – The Town Renewal Plan to be held Friday 11th and Saturday 12th December, 2015 at the Connacht Hotel, Dublin Road, Galway.

12. Conference Reports

Clr Paul Canning

AILG 2nd Annual Conference 2015 held Thursday 12th and Friday 13th March, 2015 in the Nuremore Hotel, Carrickmacross.

Clr Terence Slowey

The Housing Debate “Building our Communities through Integrated Working with Local Government” held Thursday 10th September, 2015 at Maynooth University.

Clr Paul Canning

AILG Autumn Seminar 2015 held Thursday 1st and Friday 2nd October, 2015 in the Inchydoney Island, Clonakilty, Cork.

Clr John O’Donnell

AILG Training held Thursday 1st October and Friday 2nd October, 2015 in the Inchydoney Island, Clonakilty, Cork.

Clr Patrick McGowan

AILG Seminar held Thursday 1st and Friday 2nd October, 2015 in the Inchydoney Island, Clonakilty, Cork.

Clr Terence Slowey

AILG Autumn Seminar held Thursday 1st and Friday 2nd October, 2015 in the Inchydoney Island, Clonakilty, Cork.

Clr Gerry McMonagle

AILG Autumn Seminar held Thursday 1st and Friday 2nd October, 2015 in the Inchydoney Island, Clonakilty, Cork.

Clr Nicholas Crossan

AILG Autumn Seminar held Thursday 1st and Friday 2nd October, 2015 in the Inchydoney Island, Clonakilty, Cork.

Clr James Pat McDaid

LAMA, held Friday 9th to Saturday 10th October, 2015 in the Hotel Kilkenny, Kilkenny.

Clr Terences Slowey

LAMA, held Friday 9th and Saturday 10th October, 2015 in the Hotel Kilkenny, Kilkenny.

Clr Terence Slowey

AILG Training held Saturday 17th October, 2015 in the Silver Springs, Cork.

Clr Terence Slowey

AILG Training held Thursday 5th November, 2015 at Shearwater Hotel, Ballinasloe.

Clr Seamus O'Domhnaill

AILG Training held Thursday 5th November, 2015 in the Shearwater Hotel, Ballinasloe, Co Galway.

Clr Gerry McMonagle

AILG Training held Thursday 5th November, 2015 at the Shearwater Hotel, Ballinasloe.

Clr James Pat McDaid

AILG Training held Monday 5th November, 2015 in Ballinasloe.

MOTIONS

DONEGAL MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

Roads and Transportation

13. ClIr Jordan

"I am asking this Council to seek the necessary funding to repair the school ahead warning lights that are in state of disrepair in approximately thirty eight schools throughout the County on the grounds of health and safety for school children."

14. ClIr Mc Eniff

"That Donegal County Council contact Fermanagh and Omagh District Council with regard to the sourcing of funding to deal with the cleaning out of rivers in South Donegal."

Corporate

15. Cllr Kennedy

"That this Council calls on the Government to reinstate the Ministry for Fisheries and separates the Ministry for Fisheries and Agriculture, as both these posts are of the utmost importance and should be equally treated by separate departments".

Housing and Building

16. Cllr Campbell

"This Council resolves to include the following information in relation to the Housing Assistance Payment Scheme in housing reports presented to members at Municipal Districts:

- Tax clearance certificates due
- Tax clearance certificates received
- Inspections due
- Inspections carried out."

Community and Enterprise

17. Cllr O'Neill

"That this Council discuss the plans for the development and promotion of industrial sites that were transferred to this Local Authority over 5 years ago by the IDA."

GLENTIES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

Finance

18. Cllr MT Gallagher

"That this Council contact the Management of the other 30 Local Authorities to inform them of the intention to appeal global re-valuation of 6 utilities, and further ask that they join with Donegal County Council in this process, and that this motion be circulated to all Local Authorities."

Community and Enterprise

19. Cllr MacGiolla Easbuig

"Go ndéanfaidh an Chomhairle seo, tríd a feidhm forbartha eacnamaíochta agus tríd an Oifig Fiontair Áitiúil, traenáil agus oiliúint a chur chun cinn, a spreagadh agus a thairiscint i dtaca le fiontair chomh-oibritheacha thráchtála ar bhonn comhionann le comhlachtaí príobháideacha eile".

"That this Council in its economic development function and through the Local Enterprise Office promotes, encourages and offers training

in the establishment of commercial co-operative enterprises on an equal footing to other private entities."

INISHOWEN MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

Community and Enterprise

20. Cllr Albert Doherty

"Following a lone Joint Policing Committee Meeting in June, the furnishing of membership by PPN to the Council, the rural safety concerns in the Community and the recent upsurge in border crime that this Council,

- 1) Initiate and prioritise the working of an effective joint policing committee with established timely meetings, relevant agenda setting and reporting mechanisms,
- 2) Organise and set in train a cross-border meeting with policing committee(s).
- 3) Discuss and forward to the Justice Minister priority issues adopted and agreed by Council."

Corporate

21. Cllr Murray

That Donegal County Council expresses its serious concern regarding the number of people waiting on beds in Letterkenny General Hospital and calls for adequate investment and a strategic plan to address this problem as a matter of urgency.

Planning and Economic Development

22. Cllr McDermott

"That this Council would review the Development Charges Scheme in order to facilitate business starts thus creating employment activity and growth in town centres throughout our County."

LETTERKENNY MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

Roads and Transportation

23. Cllr O'Donnell

"Calling on this Council to look at all school warning signs and speed limits at schools and install designated bus parking line markings and possibly slow marking on all approach roads throughout the County as

there has been a large number of schools on to me in the past regarding this."

24. Cllr McGarvey

"That Donegal County Council carry out a survey of the areas in the County seriously affected by flooding periodically and seek funding at National and EU level to address the problems"

Corporate

25. Cllr Quinn

"That this Council agrees to schedule as an agenda item for our January Meeting the history, current situation and future of the 'The Whole System of Work'.

26. Cllr McDaid

"That this Council write to the Motor Insurance Industry of Ireland and to the Minister for Transport to try and reduce the exorbitant hikes in insurance premiums for young drivers."

Community and Enterprise

27. Cllr McMonagle

"That this Council commits to a process of providing municipal sports playing pitches that can accommodate multi sports disciplines across its five Municipal Districts."

28. **Cathaoirleach's Business**

29. **Chief Executive's Monthly Management Report**

QUESTIONS

DONEGAL MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

Housing and Building

30. Cllr Campbell

"Can this Council provide details of applications it intends to make to SEAI in 2016 under the various energy efficiency grants schemes available?"

Roads and Transportation

31. Cllr Campbell

"Can this Council provide details of applications it intends to make to the OPW in 2016 under the Minor Flood Mitigation Works and Coastal Protection Scheme?"

Cultural Services

32. **Cllr O’Neill**

“What are the plans to improve the current Library Service?”

STRANORLAR MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

Roads and Transportation

33. **Cllr Crawford**

"In view of recent flooding problems in the Finn Valley and the County in general is back up available to Council Staff when they are overwhelmed and if so how is this help activated?"

34. **Cllr Crawford**

"When will overlay works indicated for the National Primary Network for 2015 be completed, this to include works announced as a result of extra funding?"

35. **Cllr Crawford**

"What plans are in place to ensure that the public will be able to avail of Council Services in the event of an emergency over the Christmas/ New Year Holiday period ?"

GLENTIES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

Community and Enterprise

36. **Cllr MT Gallagher**

"Will this Council in conjunction with Údarás na Gaeltachta proceed to initiate the "Glen of Donegal"/"Gleanntai Dun na nGall" project?"

37. **Cllr MT Gallagher**

"Will this Council be in a position to have a CEDO or relevant staff member in each MD, considering the increased responsibility the council has in this area?"

Finance

38. **Cllr Mac Giolla Easbuig**

“Le hiarraidh ar Chomhairle Contae Dhún na nGall briseadh síos iomlán a thabhairt ar fhiacha na Comhairle de réir iasachta, iasachtóra, cúise agus costas iomlán na n-aisíocaíochtaí bliantúla ar fhiacha, agus an tionchar atá acu ar sholáthar buiséid na Comhairle.

"To ask Donegal County Council for a full breakdown of the Council's debts by loan, lender, purpose and the total cost of annual debt

repayments and the impact that they have on the Council's budget provision?"

Corporate

39. **Cllr Mac Giolla Easbuig**

"Le hiarraidh ar Chomhairle Contae Dhún na nGall briseadh síos iomlán a thabhairt ar líon na rannpháirtithe i Scéim na Tairsí sa Chomhairle, na rannóga ina bhfuil siad, an cineál oibre a dhéanann siad, agus an bhfuil an Chomhairle sásta nach bhfuil siad ag cur as d'fhostaíocht ráithiúil agus d'fhostaíocht shealadach na Comhairle.

"To ask Donegal County Council for a full breakdown of the number of Gateway Scheme participants in the Council, the sections that they are attached to and the type of work that they do and whether the council is satisfied that they are not displacing Council seasonal and temporary employment?"

INISHOWEN MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

Housing and Building

40. **Cllr Albert Doherty**

"Has Donegal County Council

a) completed its assessment of the extent of Mica/Defective block in the council housing stock,

b) furnished the report to Minister Paudie Coffey and his Independent Panel.

and,

c) requested the Minister to meet with cross party delegation from Council on the matter following the adoption of my motion by the plenary Council in July 2015?"

41. **Cllr McDermott**

"To ask this Council what steps we are taking to implement the motion that was passed at Council that 30% of social housing be built in rural areas?"

Corporate

42. **Cllr Albert Doherty**

"What are the consequences, and the implications for Councillors and Senior Management with the implementation of the Lobbying Act? Will the plenary Council facilitate a workshop to explore and discuss the matter?"

Roads and Transportation

43. Cllr McDermott

"To ask this Council how much money has been awarded to Donegal in 2015 for provisions to piers and harbours, and how many outstanding projects are awaiting on funding?"

Cultural Services

44. Cllr Murray

"Can money be made available in the Council's Arts Budget to assist 2016 Easter Rising Commemorations, and if so, how much could be ring fenced?"

Water and Environment

45. Cllr Murray

"Can this Council make money available to assist with the redevelopment of Leisure Centres and assist with match funding to assist facilities such as the Buncrana Leisure Centre?"

LETTERKENNY MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

Roads and Transportation

46. Cllr O'Donnell

"Can this Council formally write to the Minister for Transport and emphasis the urgency of the LIS Scheme being reintroduced as Donegal is totally dependent on this scheme as a large number of our roads are non- county?"

47. Cllr O'Donnell

"What is the latest update on the part -time road workers jobs which were advertised earlier this year and when do we think we will see people being employed?"

48. Cllr McGarvey

"Will an effort now be made to deal with the N14 particularly the Tullyrap Section?"

49. Cllr Kavanagh

"Could the Council assess and make the necessary applications to the Office of Public Works for the alleviation of flooding risks throughout the County noting in particular the flooding risks at Conwal and in the vicinity of the Aura Leisure Centre?"

50. Cllr Mc Bride

"Can Donegal County Council as a matter of urgency review all incidences of serious flooding as reported throughout the County and akin to that reported recently on the Kilmacrennan/ Glenswilly Road and at Abbey Village?"

Corporate

51. Cllr Quinn

"How many persons are currently employed by Donegal County Council on the Job Bridge and Gateway Schemes and in what capacity are they employed?"

52. Cllr Shiels

"Has Donegal County Council received any correspondence in the calendar year 2015 from the Standards in Public Office (SIPO) Commission in relation to expenses complaints/issues and if so to whom and to what did that relate?"

53. Cllr Mc Bride

"What is the eligibility criteria and the process for selecting eligible candidates for the Summer Job Scheme and the Gaeltacht Grants Scheme and the arrangements for notifying unsuccessful applicants"?

Planning

54. Cllr Shiels

"Can the Council confirm that (1) it has fully co-operated with the planning review being conducted by Rory Mulcahy SC on behalf of the Department of the Environment and confirm what such co-operation entailed; and (2) confirm what County Council officials (if any) have been interviewed by Mr Mulcahy; and (3) confirm when the Council has been informed that a report will be completed by Mr Mulcahy SC."

Water and Environment

55. Cllr McGarvey

"Has Donegal County Council any policy to protect access to our beaches around our Coast?"

Housing and Building

56. Cllr Kavanagh

"Has the Housing SPC finalised its review of Housing Adaption Grants and has new criteria been agreed?"

Finance

57. Clr Shiels

"Can the Council confirm why an estimate for Elected Members expenses for 2016 of €511,700 was provided in the Budget when a sum of only €397,300 was estimated in the same budget document as the actual cost for 2015 - why is there an expected increase in elected members expenses of €114,400 for 2016?"

Community and Enterprise

58. Clr McMonagle

"Can we have an update on the number of funding applications that have been made through INTERREG V by this Council and where those applications are at?"

59. *Motions from Other Councils/Bodies*

SOUTH DUBLIN COUNTY COUNCIL

"Following a recent human rights delegation to Brussels, led by Lynn Boylan MEP, I ask that this council write to The Department of Foreign Affairs asking them to publicly demand the release of Firhouse teenager Ibrahim Halawa. This strong approach has resulted in the release of American, Mohammed Soltan, Canadian, Mohammed Fahmy and Australian Peter Greste".

TIPPERARY COUNTY COUNCIL

"I am calling on Tipperary County Council to support the campaign to lobby the Department of Education to introduce the topic of suicide awareness, depression and mental health into the Irish Secondary school education curriculum as presently it is not."

LEITRIM COUNTY COUNCIL

That Leitrim County Council call on the support of all Members, to ask the Minister for Finance to reduce the amount of Inheritance Tax now payable on transfer of lands or property at the moment. How can we encourage young people to take over the running of farms or business, having first to pay a tax greater in some cases that the holding is worth."

LEITRIM COUNTY COUNCIL

"That Leitrim County Council call on the Minister for Social Protection to have epilepsy included as a condition for a Free Travel Pass."

GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL

“That Galway County Council request an amendment by the Government to the current legislation governing the administration/collection of commercial rates.

That the Government generate a ‘Commercial Rates Credit Scheme’ to support business owners and occupiers that are financially impacted by infrastructure works/road works carried out in their area that persist 2 weeks.

GALWAY CITY COUNCIL

“That this Council calls for the immediate review of the HAP system given that anyone receiving this payment is removed from the Housing Waiting List.”

ASHBOURNE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

“That Meath County Council writes a letter to Alan Kelly, the Minister for Environment, Community and Local Government on behalf of all Ashbourne Municipal District Councillors requesting that Irish Water, or the Local Authority, accepts responsibility for all sewerage mains and infrastructure maintenance, including those running through non-public property and that appropriate funding be made available and that this motion is shared with all local authorities if adopted.”

CORK CITY COUNCIL

“That Cork City Council would request The Minister for Education and Science and the NCCA to review the downgrading of history as a mandatory core subject on the revised Junior Certificate Curriculum in second level school.”

SLIGO COUNTY COUNCIL

“Sligo County Council welcomes the fact that the Irish League of Credit Unions has launched a Plan to lend enough money to build 35,000 Social Houses over the next six years.

This Council calls on Minister Kelly and the Department of Environment to engage with the I.L.C.U. as they are prepared to invest a significant amount of Money in Social Housing.”

CAVAN COUNTY COUNCIL

“To write to the Minister for Agriculture asking that he consider implementing a plan for spreading slurry other than the calendar dates

that presently exist and which take no cognisance of unpredictable weather conditions”.

MINUTES OF NOVEMBER MEETING OF DONEGAL COUNTY
COUNCIL, HELD IN THE COUNTY HOUSE, LIFFORD ON 30TH
NOVEMBER, 2015

C/475/15 MEMBERS PRESENT

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

C/476/15 OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE

Mr Seamus Neely, Chief Executive, Mr Joe Peoples, A/ Director of Housing, Corporate & Cultural Services, Meetings Administrator, Mr John McLaughlin, Director of Roads & Transportation, Mr Garry Martin, Head of Finance & Director of Information & Emergency Services, Mr Michael McGarvey, A/Director of Water & Environment, Mr Liam Ward, Director of Community and Enterprise and Planning, Mr Eunan Quinn, A/Senior Planner, Ms Anne Marie Conlon, Communications Officer, Mr Sean O' Daimhin, Oifigeach na Gaeilge, Ms Anne Marie Crawford, Staff Officer, Corporate Services.

C/477/15 CLARIFICATION IN RELATION TO COUNCILLORS
EXPENSES

Cllr Mc Monagle requested clarification in relation to recent claims in the public arena that the Council had increased Members expenditure for 2016 by 29% at the 2016 Budget Meeting. The Head of Finance, Mr Garry Martin, responding, alluded to the fact that the matter had been clarified in a response provided under Member's Motions and Questions. He confirmed that there had in fact been a decrease in Member's expenses year on year and that the 2016 allocation was €2,217 less than that provided in 2015. The increase in the overall budget line, he advised, could be attributed to the re-categorisation of some expenditure elements.

Cllr Mc Monagle welcomed the clarification and the fact that the Council had not increased the provision under Member's expenditure.

C/478/15 CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF MEETING OF DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL HELD ON THE 28TH SEPTEMBER, 2015
On the proposal of Cllr A Doherty, seconded by, Cllr McGarvey, the minutes of the meeting of Donegal County Council held on the 28th September, 2015 were approved.

C/479/15 CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF ADJOURNED SEPTEMBER MEETING OF DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL HELD ON THE 6TH OCTOBER, 2015
On the proposal of Cllr Crawford, seconded by, Cllr Farren, the minutes of the Adjourned September meeting of Donegal County Council held on the 6th October, 2015 were approved.

C/480/15 CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING OF DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL HELD ON THE 28TH OCTOBER, 2015
On the proposal of Cllr McGarvey, seconded by, Cllr Harley, the minutes of the Special Meeting of Donegal County Council held on the 28th October, 2015 were approved.

C/481/15 DISPOSAL BY WAY OF SALE OF PROPERTY AT ROUNDKNOWES ALTNAPASTE CLOGHAN TO MR WILLIAM BUSTARD
Members considered the report circulated with the agenda, in relation to the above.

On the proposal of Cllr Harley, seconded by, Cllr McGowan it was resolved to dispose by way of sale, property at Roundknowes, Altnapaste, Cloghan to Mr William Bustard in accordance with the provisions of Section 211 of the Planning & Development Act, 2000 (as amended) and Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001.

C/482/15 DISPOSAL BY WAY OF SALE OF PROPERTY AT GLENTOWN, ST JOHNSTON, CO DONEGAL TO MELISSA GIBSON
Members considered the report circulated with the agenda, in relation to the above.

On the proposal of Cllr Crawford, seconded by, Cllr McGowan, it was resolved to dispose by way of sale, property at Glentown, St Johnston to Ms Melissa Gibson in accordance with the provisions

of Section 211 of the Planning & Development Act, 2000 (as amended) and Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001.

C/483/15 DISPOSAL BY WAY OF SALE OF PROPERTY AT DRUMDOIT, CASTLEFIN, CO DONEGAL TO MS CHRISTINA BONNER

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

On the proposal of Cllr McGowan, seconded by, Cllr G Doherty it was resolved to dispose by way of sale, property at Drumdoit, Castlefin, Co Donegal to Ms Christina Bonner in accordance with the provisions of Section 211 of the Planning & Development Act, 2000 (as amended) and Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001.

C/484/15 DISPOSAL BY WAY OF RENEWAL OF LEASES OF 20 UNSOLD AFFORDABLE HOUSING UNITS IN CARNDONAGH, MANORCUNNINGHAM, MILFORD, RAMELTON, AND LETTERKENNY

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

On the proposal of Cllr McDermott, seconded by, Cllr McMonagle it was resolved to dispose by way of renewal of leases, of 20 unsold Affordable Housing Units in Carndonagh, Manorcunningham, Milford, Ramelton and Letterkenny in accordance with the provisions of Section 211 of the Planning & Development Act, 2000 (as amended) and Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001.

C/485/15 DISPOSAL OF LAND AT COOL UPPER, CRANFORD, TO MR DENNIS SWEENEY

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

On the proposal of Cllr McDermott, seconded by, Cllr McMonagle, it was resolved to dispose of land at Cool Upper, Cranford to Mr Dennis Sweeney in accordance with the provisions of Section 211 of the Planning & Development Act, 2000 (as amended) and Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001.

C/486/15 DISPOSAL OF LAND AT BUNAWACK, ANNAGRY TO MR

BRIAN BOYLE

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

On the proposal of Cllr Bonner, seconded by, Cllr Gallagher, it was resolved to dispose of land at Bunawack, Annagry to Mr Brian Boyle, in accordance with the provisions of Section 211 of the Planning & Development Act, 2000 (as amended) and Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001.

C/487/15 TAKING OF A DECISION WITH REGARD TO APPROVAL OF CARRYING OUT OF CONSTRUCTION WORK OF A SINGLE STOREY BUILDING THAT WILL CONTAIN LADIES, GENTS AND DISABLED TOILETS WITH FAMILY CHANGING ROOM FACILITES, AN INFORMATION KIOSK/OFFICE, MAINTENANCE ROOM/STORE AT RATHMULLAN PIER, COUNTY DONEGAL

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

On the proposal, of Cllr McGarvey , seconded by, Cllr McMonagle, the carrying out of works under Part XI of the Planning & Development Act, 2000 (as amended) and Part 8 of the Planning & Development Regulations 2001(as amended) with regard to the carrying out of construction work of a single storey building that will contain Ladies, Gents and Disabled Toilets with family changing room facilities, an information kiosk/office, maintenance room/store at Rathmullan Pier, Co Donegal was approved.

C/488/15 TO APPROVE REVISED NOMINATIONS FROM THE EXECUTIVE IN RESPECT OF THE MEMBERSHIP OF DONEGAL LOCAL TRAVELLER CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

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

On the proposal of Cllr Mc Monagle, seconded by Cllr Canning, the following revised nominations from the Executive to the Donegal Local Traveller Consultative Committee were approved:-

- Mr Joe Peoples, Director of Housing, Corporate & Cultural Services.

- Mr Patrick Mc Laughlin, Senior Executive Officer
- Mr Fergus Mc Ateer, Traveller Accommodation/ Liaison Officer.

C/489/15 FILLING OF CASUAL VACANCY ON MEMBERSHIP OF FINN VALLEY SWIMMING POOL ARISING FROM THE RESIGNATION OF CLLR FRANK MCBREARTY

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

On the proposal of Cllr L Doherty, seconded by Cllr Mc Brearty it was resolved that Cllr G Doherty fill the casual vacancy on the Finn Valley Swimming Pool arising from the resignation of Cllr Frank Mc Brearty.

C/490/15 NOMINATION OF TWO REPRESENTATIVES FROM DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL TO SERVE ON THE DONEGAL YOUTH COUNCIL STEERING COMMITTEE

On the proposal of Cllr Mc Brearty, seconded by Cllr Mc Bride, it was resolved to defer this item to later in the meeting.

C/491/15 TO AGREE DATE FOR WORKSHOP ON CASUAL TRADING

On the proposal of Cllr Mc Brearty, seconded by Cllr Mc Bride, it was resolved to defer this item to later in the meeting..

C/492/15 APPROVAL OF SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS FOR 2016

Members considered the report circulated with the agenda, in relation to the above. On the proposal of Cllr Gallagher, seconded by Cllr Mc Monagle the Schedule of Plenary Council Meetings for 2016 was approved, subject to the July 2016 Council Meeting date being amended to the 18th July.

Cllr Mc Brearty said that he had been elected onto the Drugs taskforce by the NWRA and asked that a schedule of meeting dates and times for these meetings be sought so that they could be included on the 2016 Meeting Planner.

C/493/15 INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT AND SUPPORTING FUNDING REQUIREMENTS

Mr John Mc Laughlin, Director Roads & Transportation advised that it was intended to circulate a report later in the afternoon and that Members could then if they so wished consider same in workshop format. On the proposal of Cllr Gallagher, seconded by

Cllr Mc Gowan, it was resolved to defer the item to later in the meeting.

C/494/15 TO APPROVE THE EXPENDITURE OF €234,000 FROM THE PLANT CAPITAL REPLACEMENT FUND IN ADDITON TO THE PREVIOUSLY APPROVED PLANT PURCHASE AND PLANT RECONDITIONING PROPOSAL 2015 – 2017

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

The Director of Roads & Transportation responding to a number of queries confirmed that the possibility of buying a Pot Hole Machine had been investigated and considered by the Roads SPC. The conclusion was, he said, that the machine itself was too expensive. It would be possible, he said, to revisit the matter again. Cllr Mc Brearty said that a motion had been approved by the Stranorlar MD in relation to the acquisition of this type of machinery.

The Director informed Cllr Campbell that it was too early at this stage to confirm exactly the overall impact of the Brine Management Plant and that a decision would be made in due course.

On the proposal of Cllr O' Neill, seconded by Cllr Mc Brearty it was resolved that €234,000 from the Plant Capital Replacement Fund in addition to the previously approved Plant Purchase and Plant Re-Conditioning proposal 2015-2017 be spent on acquiring the following items:-

1 No Service Van	€50,000
2 No Brine Manufacturing Plants	€34,000
Lump Sum for re spray	€10,000
1 No 6 Wheel Lorry	€140,000
Total	€234,000

C/495/15 CONSIDERATION OF THE THREE YEAR CAPITAL PROGRAMME FOR DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL FOR THE PERIOD 2016 – 2018 INCLUSIVE

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

A lengthy debate ensued with Members highlighting a number of

issues that warranted consideration and prioritisation. These included:

- The progression and development of the A5.
- Need to prioritise and progress works on the N14.
- N15 Blackburn Bridge particularly on the Ballybofey side a priority given that there have been fatalities at that location.
- Identified the need for a combined 10 year Roads/OPW Capital Programme to deal with flooding issues in the County.
- Investment needed in the Marine & Leisure area and a clear indication as to the status of this funding.
- Errigal identified as a key flagship tourism project. Funding issues a priority here.
- Query as to the status of the allocation for servicing roads leading to the Council's Housing Stock.
- Capital Investment needed for the replacement of windows and doors.
- Donegal Town Library – information sought as to when funding could become available nationally..
- Funding implications for Mountcharles to Inver Project.
- Work needed in relation to storm drainage in Letterkenny.
- Breakdown requested in relation to where the €2.5 million capital funding for former Town Council projects will be spent.
- Status of the outer relief road for Buncrana.
- Update needed with regard to previous requests for the upgrading of Regional to National Roads and how that fits in with the Capital Programme.
- Breakdown requested in relation to Water and Environment Services and the provisions for Group Water Schemes.
- Update sought in relation to the provision of a Salt Barn in Carndonagh.
- Upgrade of the N56 a priority as it forms an integral part of the Wild Atlantic Way initiative.
- Rannagh Pier/Aranmore Island Pier upgrades a priority.
- Proper Breakwater needed at Magheraroarty Pier.
- Ongoing investment needed in the water supply in West Donegal
- Protection of the Fishing industry and the waters off the Donegal coast a priority.

The Directors of Services then responded to a number of issues/queries raised by the Elected Members.

Members were informed that the report had been prepared in accordance with Section 135 of the Local Government Act, 2001 and that total estimated capital spend for the period 2014-2018 was €50,053,139.

On the proposal of Cllr Bonner, seconded by, Cllr Mc Brearty, the Three Year Capital Programme for Donegal County Council for the period 2015-2018 was adopted.

C/496/15 TO AGREE OVERDRAFT ACCOMMODATION OF TEN MILLION EURO FOR FULL YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER, 2016

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

It was noted that the Bank had made, and was continuing to make, available to the Council overdraft facility (the “**Facility**”) for the purposes of the working capital needs of the Council. It was thus resolved on the proposal of Cllr Mc Dermott, seconded by Cllr O’Neill in accordance with Section 106 of the Local Government Act 2001 and subject to the sanction of the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government , that:

- (a) It is in the best interests of the Council and in line with its statutory rights and obligations to avail of the Facility and provide the Guarantee up to an amount of ten million euro (€10,000,000);
- (b) Accordingly, the Council agrees to avail of the Facility and provide the Guarantee;
- (c) Each of the persons undertaking the roles of Donegal Chief Executive and the Head of Finance from time to time be authorised, together and separately, to negotiate the terms of each of the facility letters put, and to be put, in place to document the Facility (each, a “**Facility Letter**” and together, the “**Facility Letters**”), together with any amendments or variations to the Guarantee or replacement Guarantee, and to sign each such Facility Letter and Guarantee by way of acceptance of the terms of such document (including, without

limitation, all terms and conditions referred to in each such Facility Letter) and that each such signed Facility Letter and Guarantee shall be fully binding on, and enforceable against, the Council; and

- (d) The Council ratifies the availing of the Facility by the Council, within the limits specified, and confirms the execution of all Facility Letters together with the Guarantee.

C/497/15 APPROVAL OF THE PROPOSED POLICY CHANGES TO THE TENANTS HANDBOOK AS AGREED BY THE HOUSING AND CORPORATE STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE

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

Cllr Mc Brearty paid tribute to all who had contributed to the new handbook, and thanked the former Director of Housing, Mr Liam Ward for his input and assistance. Donegal County Council Tenants, he said, had now greater rights and would benefit significantly from the changes. Increased funding in 2016 would, he confirmed further augment the process.

A number of Members cited the need for additional funding particularly in relation to the upgrading of windows and doors. Increased funding, they advised was a positive step but the process of replacement needed to continue on a much wider scale.

On the proposal of Cllr Mc Brearty, seconded by, Cllr Donaghey, the proposed policy changes to the Tenants Handbook as agreed by the Housing & Corporate SPC were approved.

C/498/15 REVIEW OF THE STANDARD COSTINGS UNDER HOUSING ADAPTATIONS GRANT SCHEMES FOR OLDER PEOPLE AND PEOPLE WITH DISABILITY – TO APPROVE THE PROPOSED INCREASE IN THE STANDARD COSTINGS AS AGREED BY THE HOUSING AND CORPORATE STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE

Members considered the report circulated with the agenda, in relation to the above and welcomed the increase in standard costings.

It was noted the changes in the grant system would allow applicants previously unable to access monies due to difficulties

with match funding to make a renewed applications.

Cllr Mc Garvey highlighted the necessity of looking at Adaptation Grants on a individual basis.

Mr Liam Ward, Director of Community Enterprise & Planning Services indicated that the increased costings would be applied to any approvals issued on or after the 1st December, 2015 and that those already approved but not started on that date would be eligible to reapply for the increased levels.

On the proposal of Cllr Mc Brearty, seconded by Cllr Donaghey it was resolved to increase the standard costings under Housing Adaptations Grant Schemes for Older People and People with a Disability and to apply same to approvals issued on or after the 1st December, 2015.

C/499/15

RECEPTION OF DEPUTATION FROM “ENVIRONMENT THE MUSICAL” REGARDING THE PROMOTION OF ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS AND RESPONSIBILITY

Members welcomed Ms Annette Mc Nelis and Mr Ciaran Mc Nelis to the Meeting.

Ms Mc Nelis informed Members that she was a composer and song writer from Inishowen who worked as a creative music workshop leader. She proceeded to update Members in relation to the educational benefits of the “Environment the Musical” resource pack. This she stated was a unique Donegal product which was now being recognised nationwide as a valuable resource and offered real value for money investment. It was acknowledged that the pack also complemented the work of Local Authorities, the Green School Initiative and the Tidy Towns Committees.

Ms Mc Nelis also provided a short explanation of how the musical worked in practice. She called on the Council to lead the way in promoting this resource as a Donegal product which served to create awareness about the Environment. Concluding she asked Members to explore the possibility of investing in the programme.

Congratulations were extended to Ms Mc Nelis on her informative presentation with a number of Members acknowledging the educational benefits of the package. The need to create an awareness of the Environment at school level was deemed to be a

most worthwhile initiative.

C/500/15 ADJOURNMENT OF THE MEETING

It was unanimously agreed to adjourn the meeting until 2pm.

C/501/15 TO NOTE THE MINUTES OF THE CORPORATE POLICY GROUP HELD ON 20TH JULY 2015

On the proposal of Cllr Slowey, seconded by, Cllr Gallagher, the minute of the Corporate Policy Group held on the 20th July 2015 were noted.

C/502/15 TO NOTE THE MINUTES OF THE CORPORATE POLICY GROUP HELD ON THE 21ST SEPTEMBER 2015

On the proposal of Cllr McBrearty, seconded by, Cllr McEniff, the minutes of the Corporate Policy Group held on the 21st September, 2015 were noted.

C/503/15 CONFERENCES

Having noted the revised arrangements under Section 142 5(d) of the Local Government Act, 2001, introduced by the Local Government (Expenses of Local Authority Members) Regulations 2006 -2014 as amended and directives issued by the Minister in that regard, on the proposal of Cllr Kennedy, seconded by, Cllr McBride, it was resolved to authorise any member, if he/she so wished, to attend the following conferences, subject to the normal procedures:-

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

Conferences

- Celtic Conferences – EU Cohesion Policy 2014 – 2020 to be held Friday 11th to Sunday 13th December, 2015 in the Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford, Co Louth.
- Elected Member's Seminar – The Town Renewal Plan to be held Friday 11th and Saturday 12th December, 2015 at the Connacht Hotel, Dublin Road, Galway.

C/504/15 CONFERENCE REPORTS

On the proposal of Cllr Kavanagh, seconded by, Cllr McBrearty,

the members noted the following conference reports:-

Cllr Paul Canning

AILG 2nd Annual Conference 2015 held Thursday 12th and Friday 13th March, 2015 in the Nuremore Hotel, Carrickmacross.

Cllr Terence Slowey

The Housing Debate “Building our Communities through Integrated Working with Local Government” held Thursday 10th September, 2015 at Maynooth University.

Cllr Paul Canning

AILG Autumn Seminar 2015 held Thursday 1st and Friday 2nd October, 2015 in the Inchydoney Island, Clonakilty, Cork.

Cllr John O’Donnell

AILG Training held Thursday 1st October and Friday 2nd October, 2015 in the Inchydoney Island, Clonakilty, Cork.

Cllr Patrick McGowan

AILG Seminar held Thursday 1st and Friday 2nd October, 2015 in the Inchydoney Island, Clonakilty, Cork.

Cllr Terence Slowey

AILG Autumn Seminar held Thursday 1st and Friday 2nd October, 2015 in the Inchydoney Island, Clonakilty, Cork.

Cllr Gerry McMonagle

AILG Autumn Seminar held Thursday 1st and Friday 2nd October, 2015 in the Inchydoney Island, Clonakilty, Cork.

Cllr Nicholas Crossan

AILG Autumn Seminar held Thursday 1st and Friday 2nd October, 2015 in the Inchydoney Island, Clonakilty, Cork.

Cllr James Pat McDaid

LAMA, held Friday 9th to Saturday 10th October, 2015 in the Hotel Kilkenny, Kilkenny.

Cllr Terences Slowey

LAMA, held Friday 9th and Saturday 10th October, 2015 in the Hotel Kilkenny, Kilkenny.

Cllr Terence Slowey

AILG Training held Saturday 17th October, 2015 in the Silver Springs, Cork.

Cllr Terence Slowey

AILG Training held Thursday 5th November, 2015 at Shearwater Hotel, Ballinasloe.

Cllr Seamus O’Domhnaill

AILG Training held Thursday 5th November, 2015 in the Shearwater Hotel, Ballinasloe, Co Galway.

Cllr Gerry McMonagle

AILG Training held Thursday 5th November, 2015 at the Shearwater Hotel, Ballinasloe.

Cllr James Pat McDaid

AILG Training held Monday 5th November, 2015 in Ballinasloe.

C/505/15

SEEKING OF FUNDING FOR THE REPAIR OF SCHOOL
AHEAD WARNING LIGHTS IN THE COUNTY

On the proposal of Cllr Jordan, seconded by, Cllr O'Fearraigh, the following motion was adopted:-

"I am asking this Council to seek the necessary funding to repair the school ahead warning lights that are in state of disrepair in approximately thirty eight schools throughout the county on the grounds of health and safety for school children."

Members were informed that:-

A School Flashing Lights (SFLs) programme (co-funded with each school) was introduced approximately 15 years ago. All but approximately 10 schools in the County now have school flashing lights (and signage). The remainder have not applied despite repeated invitations over the years. During 2015, a new school flashing lights policy was presented, discussed and agreed with the Roads & Transportation SPC and subsequently approved by plenary council. In particular

**AGREED SCHOOL FLASHING LIGHTS PROGRAMME AND
POLICY 2015**

1. That Donegal County Council will supply and install SFLs to all remaining schools on the regional and local road network, on receipt of an application form from schools interested in this road safety provision with the provision of funding of 50% of the cost of this road safety measure up to the maximum amount of €3,500 per school. As part of the application, each school must commit to the provision of the remaining 50% plus any costs above €7,000. To ease the burden on schools, and especially smaller schools, it is proposed that 2 payment options be available once the application has been approved :

- School to pay for the lights in instalments over the course of the 12 months
- One-off lump sum payment on receipt of invoice from Donegal County Council (existing arrangement)

2. That on satisfactory completion of the School Flashing Lights Programme, the schools safety initiative shall commence and shall incorporate works such as school road markings, pedestrian railings, other appropriate road measures, based on an application process with each school assessed for site specific needs and suitability of measures adopted based on Road Safety Engineer recommendation and ability of school to co-fund costs at 50/50 ratio. This will be a slow application process as each school will require individual assessment.

3. That Donegal County Council approves the proposal to source the parts for 19 schools with SFL identified as not working but repairable and arrange for the completion of the repairs, utilizing the €15,000 budget accrued from 2014 and specifically set aside to facilitate this work.

4. That Donegal County Council will provide a specific and additional lump sum Own Resources allocation of €141,000 to the Roads & Housing Capital Directorate in budget 2016 to fund the full cost of replacing/repairing SFLs at the 38 schools requiring major parts or full replacement/upgrade, to facilitate the provision of fully operational SFLs at said identified 38 schools within the year.

5. That Donegal County Council will provide a specific SFLs budget (of approximately €20,000 per annum) to the Roads & Housing Capital Directorate to facilitate the management and maintenance of the installed school flashing lights.

The funding of the aforementioned policy by Council will facilitate in part the delivery of the motion. There is a standard lining layout as per specified for lining in front of schools, however, as per the policy item no 2, each school will have to be individually assessed and co-funded provided prior to installation. In addition, there is currently a full county wide speed limit review underway with assessment of speed limits on the County's regional and local roads to commence between December 2015 and April 2016 prior to the commencement of the public consultation on draft byelaws. The assessment must be undertaken in accordance with the Departments "Guidelines for setting and managing speed limits in Ireland", a copy of which has been circulated to all Councillors for their information.

In summary, the current programmes, if appropriate funding is made available, will assist the Council in continuing to deliver a safe road network and assist the schools with the safe access and egress of their pupils/staff. It is understood from our Finance Section that a blend of Revenue and DCS Funds will be made available to fund the works”.

Cllr Jordan noted that there were many instances of such lights being in a poor state of repair. He noted that there were a number of safety implications involved and that the matter needed to be dealt with in an efficient and speedy manner.

Cllr O’ Fearraigh supporting the motion said that there were issues also in relation to the lifespan of these lights.

It was acknowledged that there were ongoing problems in relation to lighting at Frosses NS and Min a Gabhann NS.

There was no opposition to the motion.

Mr John Mc Laughlin, Director Roads & Transportation alluded to the fact that new Schools Flashing Lights Policy had been adopted by the Council in 2015 and that the funding provision as outlined in his reply would be available in 2016.

He informed Cllr Jordan that co-funding was not required in respect of the own resources allocation of €141,000 but that it was a feature of the other funding aspects.

He would, he confirmed, liaise with Cllr Jordan regarding some of the local issues raised.

C/506/15 SOURCING OF FUNDING TO DEAL WITH THE CLEANING OUT OF RIVERS IN SOUTH DONEGAL

On the proposal of Cllr McEniff, seconded by, Cllr Canning, the following motion was adopted:-

“That Donegal County Council contact Fermanagh and Omagh District Council with regard to the sourcing of funding to deal with the cleaning out of rivers in South Donegal .”

Members were informed that:-

“The Council do not have responsibility for rivers in the county

and do not undertake works on watercourses other than for the maintenance of road crossings (bridges, culverts, pipes, etc.) or where such watercourses are piped through towns and villages or it has been given responsibility as part of a particular Drainage District.

While the Council can contact Fermanagh and Omagh, it is unlikely that they would provide funding but they may support cross border applications with Donegal.

The Office of Public Works (OPW) is the lead State body for the co-ordination and implementation of Government policy on the management of flood risk in Ireland.

The OPW is also the national authority for the implementation of the EU Directive on the Assessment and Management of Flood Risks [2007/60/EC]. The Office of Public Works is the body through which Central Government exercises its statutory responsibilities in respect of river drainage and flood relief. It derives its statutory authority from the Arterial Drainage Acts, 1945 and 1995 and the European Communities (Assessments and Management of Flood Risk) Regulations 2010.

The OPW has very defined areas where they are responsible for the maintenance of rivers catchments, estuarine embankment and flood relief schemes in Donegal. Under Section 37 of the Arterial Drainage Act 1945, the OPW is statutorily obliged to maintain all rivers, embankments and urban flood defences on which it has executed works since the 1945 Act in “proper repair and effective condition”.

The Council will contact the OPW in the first instance in relation to cleaning out of these rivers after the motion is adopted.”

Cllr Mc Eniff alluded in particular to the dangerous situation arising from the flooding of the Termon River and which has occurred over the past 15-20 years. He called on the Executive to get in touch with their counterparts in Northern Ireland as this was a cross-border issue.

Cllr Mc Gowan proposed, seconded by Cllr Canning that both ICBAN and the NWRCBG be contacted with regard to potential funding opportunities, and that the OPW be informed of the need

for an immediate response.

On the proposal of Cllr Mc Brearty, seconded by Mc Gowan the motion was amended as follows and adopted:-

“That Donegal County Council contact Fermanagh and Omagh District Council and Derry City & Strabane District Council with regard to the sourcing of funding to deal with the cleaning out of rivers in South Donegal

There was no opposition to the motion,

Mr Mc Laughlin agreed to follow up the matter with the OPW.

Cllr Mc Eniff again outlined the seriousness of the situation and welcomed any possible liaison with ICBAN and the NWRCBG.

C/507/15

CALL FOR THE REINSTATEMENT OF THE MINISTRY FOR FISHERIES AND SEPARATION OF MINISTRY FOR FISHERIES AND AGRICULTURE

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

"That this Council calls on the Government to reinstate the Ministry for Fisheries and separates the Ministry for Fisheries and Agriculture, as both these posts are of the utmost importance and should be equally treated by separate departments".

Cllr Kennedy said that both departments warranted equal treatment and that the amalgamation of both ministries had led to a serious neglect of the Fishing Industry. This she noted, had major implications for the fishing community as a whole with many trawlers forced to fish further north and for very little gain. It was essential, she added, that the Minister for Fisheries and Agriculture deal with the protection of our natural assets.

Cllr Crossan seconding the motion said that support was essential given that many people across Donegal were employed in the Fishing Industry.

There was no opposition to the motion.

C/508/15 HOUSING ASSISTANCE PAYMENT SCHEME

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

"This Council resolves to include the following information in relation to the Housing Assistance Payment Scheme in housing reports presented to members at Municipal Districts:

- *Tax clearance certificates due
- *Tax clearance certificates received
- *Inspections due
- *Inspections carried out."

Members were informed that:-

“Under the terms of the Housing Assistance Payment Scheme (HAP), to be eligible to receive payments, landlords must demonstrate their compliance with all relevant tax obligations by producing a valid tax clearance certificate.

In the interests of efficiency and effectiveness, like all other local authorities presently operating the scheme, Donegal County Council has entered into a Shared Services Agreement with Limerick City & County Council to perform the Housing Assistance Payments transactional functions.

These functions include the matter of tax clearance compliance and tax clearance renewal and they are therefore dealt with entirely by Limerick City & County Council.

In relation to inspections, landlords are required to certify that the property meets the statutory requirements as set out in the Housing (Standards for Rented Houses) Regulations 2008 and the Housing (Standards for Rented Houses) (Amendments) Regulations 2009. The Council are also required to carry out an inspection to ensure that the property meets the said standards.

Given the uptake in relation to HAP, the Council have identified the need for the establishment of a dedicated unit focusing solely on inspections. When this unit is established, the preparation of management reports for circulation to Municipal District meetings will be factored into the work programme.”

Cllr Campbell noted that inspections were due to begin in January 2016 and asked that the Lead Authority provide the statistical information in relation to tax clearance certificates etc.

Cllr Mac Giolla Easbuig concurred with this approach.

There was no opposition to the motion.

Mr Joe Peoples, Director Housing, Corporate & Cultural Services reaffirmed the fact that the statistical information requested was a matter for the Lead Authority, Limerick City & County Council. Arrangements, he advised, were currently being put in place to proceed with the inspection process.

It was confirmed that reports regarding the ongoing transfer of Rent Supplement tenancies to HAP would be provided to the Municipal District Meetings.

C/509/15 CALL FOR THE COUNCIL TO DISCUSS THE DEVELOPMENT AND PROMOTION OF THE IDA SITES THAT WERE TRANSFERRED TO THE COUNCIL BY THE IDA

On the proposal of Cllr O'Neill, seconded by, Cllr Ryan, the following motion was adopted:-

"That this Council discuss the plans for the development and promotion of industrial sites that were transferred to this Local Authority over 5 years ago by the IDA."

Members were informed that:-

“Donegal County Council are actively promoting and developing the sites transferred from IDA in 2011. The sites include :- Lands / Units at Ballyshannon, Donegal Town, Letterkenny, Milford, Buncrana and Carndonagh.

The sites are advertised on all Donegal County Councils related websites under the heading of Economic Development lands.websites. Donegal County Council are currently working on a brochure to promote all Economic Development sites within the County.

Development / Improvement works.

Donegal Town,

Development works to the value of approximately €250,000 has been carried out over the last 3 years at the Donegal Craft Village and included work such as replacement of the asbestos roof, refurbishment of units, re-glazing of the units.

It is proposed to carry out further works at that site in the coming years including increasing the carpark, toilets facilities, direct access of the regional road, construction of additional units, etc.

DCC are currently progressing the disposal of a 1 acre site to Moll Industries to allow for expansion which will result in creation of up to 10-15 new jobs.

Ballyshannon,

The Design team are currently working on options to improve the entrance to the Ballyshannon Business Park which will include enhancement works and are planned to be carried out in 2016. Servicing of additional sites within the park will be progressed as and when the market demands.

DDC are currently progressing the disposal of 3 Units to a local business to sustain the existing jobs and allow for the creation of additional jobs in the medium term.

Lisnennan, Letterkenny

DCC took in charge Roads & Services at this site

Carndonagh

DCC took in charge Roads & Services at this site

Lisfannon, Bucrana

DCC have recently completed the sale of a 2 acre site to a local business to sustain the existing jobs and allow them to expand and to create additional jobs in that area.

The Design team are currently progressing the enhancement of the Industrial Park including improving the appearance of the park entrance.”

Cllr O’Neill thanked the Director of Service for his response and welcomed the developments outlined in the reply. He was, he said, disappointed that no real progress had been made with regard to

vacant properties in Ballyshannon. He called for a more vigorous inter-agency approach to reinvent these sites and engage with local businesses.

This it was acknowledged needed to be done particularly in relation to the site at Portnason in Ballyshannon. Businesses there, he contended, needed help and action was needed sooner rather than later.

Cllr Ryan also outlined his support.

There was no opposition to the motion.

Mr Liam Ward, Director Housing, Corporate & Cultural Services said that he was happy to take on board the request for a more integrated inter-agency approach and would explore the matter further over the coming month. The Council, he said, would work with any business which expressed an interest.

C/510/15

APPEAL OF GLOBAL RE-VALUATION OF 6 UTILITIES

On the proposal of Cllr Gallagher, seconded by, Cllr Campbell, the following motion was adopted:-

"That this Council contact the Management of the other 30 Local Authorities to inform them of the intention to appeal global re-valuation of 6 utilities, and further ask that they join with Donegal County Council in this process, and that this motion be circulated to all local Authorities."

Members were informed that:-

“Global re-valuations have been applied to six utilities in Donegal in accordance with Section 53 of the Valuation Act 2001. The adjustment has given rise to an estimated loss of some €688,000 to the Council in 2016 as a result of a reduction in Rates payable by these utilities. A final review and calculations will be carried out on receipt of the actual Valuation certificates relating to the affected properties, some of which are still awaited.

Circular Fin13/2015, dated 20th November 2015, advises that following discussions, between DECLG and Department of Public Expenditure & Reform, that the DECLG is making an additional allocation of €516,455 from the Local Government Fund, as a once

off allocation to Donegal County Council for 2016, in light of the Global re-valuation and given the notification being advised at such an advanced stage of the 2016 Revenue Budget process.

The final date for lodgement of appeal to the Valuation office, in line with Section 54 of the Valuation Act 2001, in relation to this matter, is 4th February 2016.”

Cllr Gallagher said that Donegal County Council had been put in an impossible situation by this revaluation of the utility companies concerned. She acknowledged the fact that the Department had approved a once off payment of 75% of the monies concerned, but this still left a deficit of €171,000. She said it was imperative that the Council did not reduce expenditure to cover this deficit. The Council, she added, was not able to revalue small businesses and therefore confined in the assistance that it could provide. It was extremely unfair, she said, that these large utilities were able to benefit and prosper to the detriment of small indigenous businesses. She enquired as to what would happen in 2016 and beyond when similar revaluations were carried out.

Cllr Gary Doherty supporting the motion said that the timing of the announcement was particularly bad and resulted in many Local Authorities passing their Budgets without prior knowledge of the loss in income. He called on the Executive to write to the Department and ensure that this does not happen again.

Cllr Ryan asked if there was any downside regarding the potential to appeal.

There was no opposition to the motion.

Mr Garry Martin, Head of Finance reminded Members that the Chief Executive had confirmed during the budget deliberations that there was no intention to reduce expenditure or decrease income to address this issue. It would, he said, be dealt with on a rounded basis in its own right.

He said it was the intention of the Authority to address the loss of expenditure in 2016 as a result of the late notification of the revaluation. Section 53 of the Valuation Act, 2001, he confirmed, provided the statutory basis for these revaluations which were carried out in five year cycles. The primary interest, he said, was to address the situation properly and reduce the liability to the

maximum extent possible.

It was noted that the matter was up for discussion at the Heads of Finance Meeting in early December and also by the CCMA , thus providing an opportunity to elicit the views of the sector as a whole. The €688,000 liability, he noted, was based on the information provided at the time but that depending on individual valuations there would need to be an overall assessment of the amount that needed to be appealed.

He advised that the final date for appeal to the Valuation Office was the 4th February, 2016 and that the Corporate Policy Group would be kept informed of any developments.

Cllr Gallagher concluding said it was essential that the matter was appealed and ultimately overturned as the same scenario would surely arise in the coming years.

C/511/15 COUNCIL SUPPORTS FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMERCIAL CO-OPERATIVE ENTERPRISES

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

Go ndéanfaidh an Chomhairle seo, tríd a feidhm forbartha eacnamaíochta agus tríd an Oifig Fiontair Áitiúil, traenáil agus oiliúint a chur chun cinn, a spreagadh agus a thairiscint i dtaca le fiontair chomh-oibritheacha thráchtála ar bhonn comhionann le comhlachtaí príobháideacha eile.

"That this Council in its economic development function and through the Local Enterprise Office promotes, encourages and offers training in the establishment of commercial co-operative enterprises on an equal footing to other private entities."

Members were informed that:-

“Tá an Oifig Fiontair Áitiúil ag feidhmiú mar ‘phointe chéad teagmhála’ d’aon duine nó d’aon ghrúpa ar mian leo gnólacht bheag nó mionghnólacht a bhunú i nDún na nGall, agus cuireann an oifig a cuid seirbhísí agus cláracha oiliúna agus traenála ar fáil do gach earnáil ghnó agus do gach cineál gnó - bíodh sin an trádalaí aonair, an comhlacht teoranta nó an comharchumann. Tá na cláracha forbartha bainistíochta, atá á reáchtáil ag an Oifig

Fiontair Áitiúil, oscailte do ghnólachtaí atá ann cheana féin, beag beann ar an chineál gnólachta atá ann a fhad is go bhfuiltear ag díriú ar chúrsaí tráchtála. Tá an Oifig Fiontair Áitiúil sásta an cineál seo gnólachta a chur chun tosaigh ar chomhchéim leis trádálaí aonair, an comhlacht teoranta nó páirtnéireacht.

Tá gné láidir shóisialta ag cuid mhór comharchumannn agus ar an ábhar sin is minic gur fearr an freastal a dhéantar orthu tríd na háisíneachtaí agus na heagraíochtaí sin a bhfuil de chúram orthu tograí eacnamaíochta sóisialta a fhorbairt, ar nós na gComhlachtaí Forbartha Áitiúla. Thacódh an Oifig Fiontair Áitiúil le haon togra úr a tharraingeodh aird ar an ghá atá ag tograí geilleagar sóisialta / pobail díriú ar an ‘bhunlíne dúbailte’, is é sin, inmharthanacht tráchtála a bhaint amach chomh maith le freastal ar riachtanas sóisialta.

The Local Enterprise Office is the " first stop shop"/"first point of contact" for any individual or group wishing to set up a small or micro business in Donegal and provides its services and training programmes to all business sectors and to all business models - sole traders, partnerships, limited companies or co-operatives. The management development programmes run by the Local Enterprise Office are open to existing commercial businesses, again irrespective of the form of the business and provided they have a commercial focus. The Local Enterprise Office is happy to highlight this form of business as having equal merit as that of sole trader, limited company or partnership.

Many co-operatives have a strong social dimension and this often makes them more appropriately served by agencies/organisation which have a remit in the development of social economy projects, such as the Local Development Companies. The Council through the Local Enterprise Office would support any new initiatives that would highlight the need for social economy/community projects to be focussed on the " double bottom line" i.e. achieve commercial viability as well as address a social need."

D’fháiltigh an Clr. Mac Giolla Easbuig roimh an fhreagra agus leag sé béim ar an ghá atá le fiontair chomharchumannacha i nDún na nGall. Ligfeadh sé seo, ar seisean, do ghnólachtaí beaga fáil a bheith acu ar sheirbhísí ar bhonn comhionann le fiontair eile, agus bheadh sé ina chuidiú mór in iarthar an chontae ach go háirithe. Thacaigh an Clr. Campbell leis an rún

Aithníodh go raibh tábhacht leis an mhúnla comharchumannach ó thaobh rannpháirtíocht leanúnach laistigh de phobail áitiúla agus gurbh fhéidir sin a úsáid mar bhonn láidir le maoiniú a tharraingt isteach. Rinneadh moladh go bhféadfaí an coincheap a chur chun tosaigh trí Thograí Forbartha Eacnamaíochtaí agus tríd an Oifig Fiontair Áitiúil

Agus é ag tabhairt freagra ar cheisteanna an Chomhairleora, dúirt Liam Mac an Bhaird, an Stiúrthóir Pobail, Fiontair agus Seirbhísí Pleanála gur dtiocfaí féachaint arbh fhéidir comhdháil a reáchtáil i dtaca le Comharchumainn.

Bheadh an Oifig Fiontair Áitiúil sásta, ar seisean, béim a leagan ar, agus oiliúint a sholáthar do, gach gné den earnáil ghnó. Níor chuir éinne i gcoinne an ruin.

Mar fhocal scoir, dúirt an Clr. Mac Giolla Easbuig gur chóir do Chomhairle Contae Dhún na nGall a bheith níos réamhghníomhaí i dtaca le cur chun cinn choincheap na gcomharchumann, agus béim ar leith a chur ar na buntáistí don phobal seachas ar an tóraíocht bhrabúis.

Cllr Mac Giolla Easbuig welcomed the reply and highlighted the need for co-operative based enterprises in Donegal. This, he contended, would allow small businesses access services on a par with other enterprises and would be of particular benefit in the west of the County.

Cllr Campbell supported the motion.

It was acknowledged that the co-operative model provided for ongoing engagement within the local communities and could be used a solid base to draw in funds.

It was suggested that the concept could be progressed through Economic Development Initiatives and the Local Enterprise office.

Mr Liam Ward, Director of Community & Enterprise and Planning Services responding to Member's queries said that the possibility of holding a conference on Co-operatives could be investigated.

The Local Enterprise Office, he advised would be happy to highlight and provide training to all elements of the business

sector.

There was no opposition to the motion,

Cllr Mac Giolla Easbuig concluding said that Donegal County Council needed to take a more proactive approach in prioritising the concept of co-operatives with an emphasis on the benefits to the community rather than the pursuit of profit.

C/512/15 CALL FOR THE PRIORTISING AND WORKING OF THE JOINT POLICING COMMITTEE IN RESPONSE TO THE UPSURGE IN BORDER CRIME

On the proposal of Cllr Albert Doherty, seconded by, Cllr Gary Doherty, the following motion was adopted:-

"Following a lone Joint Policing Committee Meeting in June, the furnishing of membership by PPN to the Council, the rural safety concerns in the Community and the recent upsurge in border crime that this Council,

- 1) Initiate and prioritise the working of an effective joint policing committee with established timely meetings, relevant agenda setting and reporting mechanisms.
- 2) Organise and set in train a cross-border meeting with Policing Committee(s).
- 3) Discuss and forward to the Justice Minister priority issues adopted and agreed by Council."

Members were informed that:-

"It is proposed that the Joint Policing Committee will meet in January 2016. The committee will then begin the process of framing a work programme that reflects the priority areas that were agreed by the membership in their planning workshop. These include road safety, rural isolation, public order, anti-social behaviour and cross border safety concerns.

In order to facilitate a January 2016 meeting of the Joint Policing Committee (JPC) and to address the areas of concern raised within the motion, arrangements will be made at an early date to facilitate a meeting of the elected members nominated onto the JPC to agree

selection arrangements for the position of Chair and Vice Chair of the Committee.

Once this process is complete, a meeting of the JPC steering committee will take place to agree the agenda and other matters relating to the 1st meeting of the Committee. The steering committee comprises of the Chief Executive, Chief Superintendant, Director of Services, Chair and Vice Chair of the JPC.

Arrangements are being set in train to ensure that these preliminary matters are addressed to facilitate a January 2016 meeting of the Joint Policing Committee.”

Cllr Doherty expressed grave disappointment that the Donegal County Council Joint Policing Committee was not as yet operating as a fully functioning committee and was thus not fully prepared for the new oversight and accountability framework.

The JPC, he contended, provided a forum whereby issues of public concern and safety could be debated and discussed. This, he confirmed, was not happening in Donegal.

He asked that every effort be made to ensure that a Steering Committee Meeting was held prior to the Committee Meeting in January, 2016.

There were specific issues, he said which needed to be addressed including the lack of Gardai in rural areas, public safety issues, burglaries, and cross-border crime activity.

Cllr Gary Doherty supporting the motion said the JPC needed to be up and running as soon as possible in order to enforce the fight against rural crime.

It was thus resolved that a meeting of the Donegal Joint Policing Committee be held on the 22nd January, 2015 at 2pm.

Cllr Mc Brearty said that he could not support the motion as he was of the opinion that the new Policing Authority would not be independent and that the designated Head of the Authority had no previous knowledge of the policing system. There was, he said, no accountability at local level and that the existence of numerous enquiries over the past number of years clearly indicated that the

system was not working. Many incidences of garda corruption, he stated, had not been adequately dealt with.

He said that he was not anti-gardai but that there was no independent mechanism regulating the police force in Ireland and therefore no accountability.

His own experience of the JPC, was, he said, that it was a talking shop and that many topics could not be explored for operational reasons.

Cllr Mac Giolla Easbuig also indicated that he could not support the motion.

A recorded vote was then taken by the Meetings Administrator resulting in the following:-

18 voting for, 6 voting against and 1 abstention.

Those voting in favour included:

Cllrs Blaney, Brogan, Crossan, A Doherty, G Doherty, L Doherty, M Farren, M T Gallagher, Jordan, Kavanagh, Kennedy, Mc Dermott, Mc Garvey, Mc Monagle, O' Domhnaill, O' Fearraigh, O' Neill, and Quinn (18)

Those voting against included:

Cllrs Campbell, Conaghan, Mac Giolla Easbuig, Mc Brearty, Mc Bride, and Shiels (6)

Cllr Harley abstained.

Cllr Doherty thanked all who had contributed to the debate and acknowledged the importance of Members who ultimately represented the people of Donegal being included in the new structure.

C/513/15 REVIEW OF THE DEVELOPMENT CHARGES SCHEME TO FACILITATE BUSINES STARTS

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

"That this Council would review the Development Charges Scheme in order to facilitate business starts thus creating employment activity and growth in town centres throughout our county."

Members were informed that:-

“A review of Donegal County Council's Development Contribution Scheme is currently underway. A workshop was held on 29th September 2015 to discuss the Draft Development Scheme and a working draft presented at that time included provisions that sought to raise adequate resources to assist in the provision of necessary infrastructure and to provide waivers/reductions in certain situations. It is envisaged that the approach proposed will support economic development, including business start ups.

Following the feedback received and with a desire to ensure that the new DCS is robust enough to support the development of necessary infrastructure, it is considered appropriate to review the type of issue raised in this motion again with Members through a further workshop before seeking agreement to publish the draft scheme.”

Cllr Mc Dermott advised that were many difficulties and obstacles in trying to locate business activity within town centres. He alluded also to the unfair car-parking charges for those who either opened or extended a business in these locations. He welcomed the fact that a review was in progress and called on the Council to provide some initiatives in this area for example exemption from car-parking charges for properties vacant over a particular period of time.

Cllr O' Domhnaill supporting the motion advised of the need to incubate businesses, thus facilitating development in our towns and villages. A rational approach, he confirmed, was needed and every assistance given to encourage entrepreneurial skills.

Cllr O' Neill asked that the motion be amended to include a 75% derogation for those wishing to locate businesses in town centre areas. Cllr Campbell contended however that this was out of order in light of the current review process.

Mr Liam Ward, Director Community, Culture & Planning Services confirmed that this issue had been discussed at the workshop in September and provisions outlined regarding the putting in place of adequate resources to assist with the provision of the necessary infrastructure. He informed the meeting that the changes suggested by Cllr O' Neill were not permissible under the existing legislation, but that it would be possible to look at the issues raised in the motion in workshop format early in January 2016.

Cllr Mc Dermott said that there was clearly a need for change but that he was fully aware of the need to ensure that the DCS was robust enough to facilitate development.

Cllr O' Neill said that he had introduced the amendment purely on the basis of the need to help the business sector in general.

The motion was thus carried without any opposition.

C/514/15 COUNCIL CONCERNS REGARDING THE NUMBERS WAITING ON BEDS AT LETTERKENNY GENERAL HOSPITAL

On the proposal of Cllr Murray, seconded by, Cllr Quinn, the following motion was adopted:-

“That Donegal County Council expresses its serious concern regarding the number of people waiting on beds in Letterkenny University Hospital and calls for adequate investment and a strategic plan to address this problem as a matter of urgency”

Cllr Murray said that he was introducing the motion on foot of having received representations from a lady who had recently waited 27 hours to be seen in the A&E Department in Letterkenny.

Cllr Quinn asked that the motion be amended to include the following wording:-

“and gives support to the INMOs upcoming actions aimed at tackling the problems facing the A&E Department at Letterkenny University Hospital”

He said it was essential that the Government invested in health rather than giving concessions to large utility companies.

Cllr Mc Brearty noted that there had been a number of Motions passed on this topic and that nothing had changed. He called on the Management of Letterkenny University Hospital to step down.

Thus on the proposal of Cllr Murray, seconded by Cllr Quinn the motion was amended as follows:-

“That Donegal County Council expresses its serious concern regarding the number of people waiting on beds in Letterkenny University Hospital and calls for adequate investment and a strategic plan to address this problem as a matter of urgency and gives support to the INMOs upcoming actions aimed at tackling the problems facing the A&E Department at Letterkenny University Hospital”.

A show of hands taken by the Meetings Administrator resulted in 21 voting for with 1 voting against.

The motion was thus adopted.

Cllr Murray concluding said that the strike in question was not for personal gain but rather a selfless act to support the patients in Letterkenny University Hospital.

C/515/15 CALL ON THE COUNCIL TO LOOK AT SCHOOL WARNING SIGNS AND SPEED LIMITS AND THE INSTALLATION OF DESIGNATED BUSPARKING LINE MARKINGS

The following motion submitted by Cllr O’ Donnell was proposed by Cllr McBride, and seconded by, Cllr O’Domhnaill:-

"Calling on this Council to look at all School warning signs and speed limits at schools and install designated bus parking line markings and possibly slow slow marking on all approach roads throughout the County as there has been a large number of schools on to me in the past regarding this."

Members were informed that:-

“A School Flashing Lights programme (co-funded with each school) was introduced approximately 15 years ago. All but approximately 10 schools in the County now have school flashing lights (and signage). The remainder have not applied despite

repeated invitations over the years. During 2015, a new school flashing lights policy was presented, discussed and agreed with the Roads & Transportation SPC and subsequently approved by Plenary Council. In particular

AGREED SCHOOL FLASHING LIGHTS PROGRAMME AND POLICY 2015

1. That Donegal County Council will supply and install SFLs to all remaining schools on the regional and local road network, on receipt of an application form from schools interested in this road safety provision with the provision of funding of 50% of the cost of this road safety measure up to the maximum amount of €3,500 per school. As part of the application, each school must commit to the provision of the remaining 50% plus any costs above €7,000. To ease the burden on schools, and especially smaller schools, it is proposed that 2 payment options be available once the application has been approved :
 - school to pay for the lights in instalments over the course of the 12 months
 - one-off lumps sum payment on receipt of invoice from Donegal County Council (existing arrangement)
2. That on satisfactory completion of the School Flashing Lights Programme, the schools safety initiative shall commence and shall incorporate works such as school road markings, pedestrian railings, other appropriate road measures, based on an application process with each school assessed for site specific needs and suitability of measures adopted based on Road Safety Engineer recommendation and ability of school to co-fund costs at 50/50 ratio. This will be a slow application process as each school will require individual assessment.
3. That Donegal County Council approves the proposal to source the parts for 19 schools with SFL identified as not working but repairable and arrange for the completion of the repairs, utilizing the €15,000 budget accrued from 2014 and specifically set aside to facilitate this work.
4. That Donegal County Council will provide a specific and additional lump sum Own Resources allocation of €141,000 to the Roads & Housing Capital Directorate in budget 2016 to fund the full cost of replacing/repairing SFLs at the 38 schools requiring major parts or full replacement/upgrade, to facilitate the provision

of fully operational SFLs at said identified 38 schools within the year.

5. That Donegal County Council will provide a specific SFLs budget (of approximately €20,000 per annum) to the Roads & Housing Capital Directorate to facilitate the management and maintenance of the installed school flashing lights.

The funding of the aforementioned policy by Council will facilitate in part the delivery of the motion. There is a standard lining layout as per specified for lining in front of schools, however, as per the policy item no 2, each school will have to be individually assessed and co-funded provided prior to installation.

In addition, there is currently a full county wide speed limit review underway with assessment of speed limits on the County's regional and local roads to commence between December 2015 and April 2016 prior to the commencement of the public consultation on draft byelaws. The assessment must be undertaken in accordance with the Departments "Guidelines for setting and managing speed limits in Ireland", a copy of which has been circulated to all Councillors for their information.

In summary, the current programmes, if appropriate funding is made available, will assist the Council in continuing to deliver a safe road network and assist the schools with the safe access and egress of their pupils/staff. It is understood from our Finance Section that a blend of Revenue and DCS Funds will be made available to fund the works."

C/516/15 CALL FOR THE COUNCIL TO CARRY OUT A SURVEY OF THE AREAS IN THE COUNTY SERIOUSLY AFFECTED BY FLOODING PERIODICALLY AND SEEK FUNDING AT NATIONAL AND EU LEVEL

On the proposal of Cllr McGarvey, seconded by, Cllr McBride, the following motion was adopted:-

That Donegal County Council carry out a survey of the areas in the County seriously affected by flooding periodically and seek funding at National and EU level to address the problems"

Members were informed that:-

“The Office of Public Works (OPW) is the lead State body for the co-ordination and implementation of Government policy on the management of flood risk in Ireland. The OPW is also the national authority for the implementation of the EU Directive on the Assessment and Management of Flood Risks [2007/60/EC].

The Office of Public Works is the body through which Central Government exercises its statutory responsibilities in respect of river drainage and flood relief. It derives its statutory authority from the Arterial Drainage Acts, 1945 and 1995 and the European Communities (Assessments and Management of Flood Risk) Regulations 2010.

The OPW has very defined areas where they are responsible for the maintenance of rivers catchments, estuarine embankment and flood relief schemes in Donegal. Under Section 37 of the Arterial Drainage Act 1945, the OPW is statutorily obliged to maintain all rivers, embankments and urban flood defences on which it has executed works since the 1945 Act in “proper repair and effective condition”.

The Council may make an application for funding up to €500,000 to carry out works under the Minor Works Mitigation Scheme, Coastal & Non Coastal Flooding and the Minor Flood Mitigation Works & Coastal Protection Scheme which was introduced by OPW in 2009.

In conjunction with the Roads Area Teams, Road Design makes the applications on behalf of Donegal County Council each year and where funding is approved the works are subsequently carried out either by Donegal County Council Direct Labour force or by a Contractor.

The OPW are managing the Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management (CFRAM) study with RPS as the consulting Engineers. The study has produced much information on flood risk areas (AFA's) in County Donegal and OPW has commenced the Statutory Consultation on the draft flood risk maps to meet the requirements of S.I. No 122 of 2010 since Friday 20th November 2015.

The next stage of Optioneering has commenced and the OPW along with their Consultants RPS will be developing options for

Council Engineers and Planners to engage and review the documentation.

Flood risk management plans will be published in 2016 and will inform the capital works programme. Until the plans are developed it is not possible to put any cost to the implementation of the Flood Risk Management Plans.

In recognition of the increased requirement for funding arising from the Plans, the Government, in September, announced a Capital Programme covering the period 2016-2021 and has increased significantly the amount of funding to be made available for flood mitigation initiatives to €430 million. The Programme will see the current annual allocation for this area of €45 million rise to €100 million by 2021.

In response to the recent flooding on the weekend of 14th, 15th November, RPS CFRAMS team carried out Flood Event Response surveys in the following AFA's; Ballybofey, Castlefin, Letterkenny, Donegal Town and Burnfoot.

Donegal County Council staff met with the Flood Event Response teams in these particular areas and also in other areas where significant flooding occurred. Information regarding internal flooding of properties and flood depth data was recorded.

Donegal County Council will commence application preparation over the coming months and shall submit its application to the OPW for funding in May 2016.

The applications are prepared by the Municipal District teams with assistance from the Road Design office, therefore once the application is have been assessed and are ready to submit to the OPW for funding, the Area Manager in each Municipal District should be able to advise the members accordingly.

The Council on its own will not be carrying out surveys but will work together with others such as the OPW in the manner described above and the Council will submit applications for funding of particular works that emerge.”

Cllr Mc Garvey introducing the motion said that the overall policy was reactive rather than preventative and that this needed to change.

He noted that there had been a number of initiatives including Government Programmes introduced in 2004 and in 2011 where 300 sites prone to flooding had been identified. The EU Directive issued in 2007 had, he stated, also provided an opportunity to address the problems.

He expressed disappointment that the CFRAM study currently underway had no specific reference to areas such as Castlefin and Ramelton.

Cllr Mc Bride supporting the motion alluded to the fact that nothing had been done in relation to inland flooding, particularly in areas such as the Finn Valley, the Lennon Valley, Abbey Village etc.

It was acknowledged also that the Stormont House Agreement had made recommendations in relation to a cross-border flood prevention programme.

There was no opposition to the motion.

Mr John Mc Laughlin, Director of Roads & Transportation acknowledged that there had been serious flooding issues across the County over the past number of weeks. His reply, he said clearly set out the role of the OPW and the linkages with Donegal County Council.

The OPW, he advised was the lead state body in relation to flood risk management and also provided funding of up to €500,000 under various schemes for flood prevention and restoration works.

He said that this was something that could be debated further at the proposed workshop on infrastructure development

Cllr Mc Garvey reiterated his call for the introduction of more preventative measures and urged Members and the general public to get involved in the public consultation element of the CFRAM study which was currently underway.

On the proposal of Quinn, seconded by, Cllr Gallagher, the following motion was adopted:-

"That this Council agrees to schedule as an agenda item for our January meeting the history, current situation and future of the 'The Whole System of Work'.

Members were informed that:-

“Arrangements will be made to have this item included on the agenda for the January meeting of the Council subject to the motion, as proposed, being adopted by the Council.”

Cllr Quinn outlined in brief the history of the WSW and noted that there had been considerable controversy over the years in terms of the €2.5 to €3million spent on the development of the project. One of the last formal debates, he noted, had suggested that the WSW was still looked upon as an investment opportunity and could possibly generate income through other Local Authorities using the system. The debate, he advised, had now been going on for over six and a half years and a formal decision needed to be taken at Council level.

New Members of the Council, he stated, needed to be informed in relation to the cost of the programme, and whether or not it still represented an investment opportunity or was to be written off as a financial folly.

Cllr Gallagher supporting the motion said the issue needed to be cleared up once and for all.

There was no opposition to the Motion.

Mr Joe Peoples, Director Housing, Corporate & Cultural Services said that a report on this item would be presented to the January Council Meeting.

C/518/15 EXORBITANT HIKES IN INSURANCE PREMIUMS FOR YOUNG DRIVERS

The following Motion submitted by Cllr McDaid fell as there was no proposer and seconder:-

"That this Council write to the Motor Insurance Industry of Ireland and to the Minister for Transport to try and reduce the exorbitant hikes in insurance premiums for young drivers."

C/519/15 PROVISION OF MUNICIPAL SPORTS PLAYING PITCHES TO ACCOMMODATE MULTI SPORTS DISCIPLINES IN ALL FIVE MUNICIPAL DISTRICTS

On the proposal of Cllr McMonagle, seconded by, Cllr Murray, the following motion was adopted:-

"That this Council commits to a process of providing municipal sports playing pitches that can accommodate multi sports disciplines across its five Municipal Districts."

Members were informed that:-

"An objective emerging from the Local Economic and Community Plan is to promote health and wellbeing throughout the County by way of supporting Donegal as an Active County which embraces and promotes sports and physical activity to all abilities and ages. The Council will continue to build on the existing facilities that are available and will seek funding when opportunities arise to further develop additional facilities throughout the County. Consideration needs to be given to the longer term implications arising as to the development, management and maintenance of any such facilities.

The Council also recognises that many sporting organisations have invested heavily in the development of their facilities over the past number of years in all areas across the County. This has seen a significant improvement in the range and quality of facilities that are available within the County."

Cllr Mc Monagle noted that in recent years considerable emphasis had been placed on sports development and the promotion of a healthy lifestyle. This, he said had led to the development of many organised Soccer and Gaelic football clubs catering for club members specifically.

He said that with the growing number of unorganised sports, there was a need for municipal playing pitches.

He asked that contact be made with the HSE, the SEUPB and INTERREG with a view to potential funding opportunities.

Cllr Murray supported the motion.

Mr Liam Ward, Director Community & Enterprise and Planning Services, said that he would be happy to look at any funding opportunities and would explore the issue with the HSE etc . He noted however that the provision and maintenance of playing fields was not something that the Council pursued on any great scale. He indicated however that were specific insurance considerations associated with this type of activity.

Acknowledging the spirit of the motion, he said it would be possible to look at the development of additional facilities.

Cllr McMonagle welcomed the response and asked that every effort be made to develop the concept of Municipal Playing Fields in Donegal.

C/520/15 INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT AND SUPPORTING FUNDING REQUIREMENTS

It was unanimously agreed that a Workshop would be held on Wednesday 9th December in the County House, Lifford to discuss infrastructure Developments and the supporting funding requirements. It was further agreed that this would be preceded by a Workshop on Casual Trading at 1.00pm.

C/521/15 NOMINATION OF TWO REPRESENTATIVES FROM DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL TO SERVE ON THE DONEGAL YOUTH COUNCIL STEERING COMMITTEE

On the proposal of Cllr Mc Bride, seconded by Cllr Mc Monagle, it was resolved that the following be appointed as representatives on the Donegal Youth Council Steering Committee:-

November 2015 – June 2017

Cllr J. P Mc Daid

Cllr G Mc Monagle

June 2017 – June 2019

Cllr J Kavanagh

Cllr M Cholm Mac Giolla Easbuig

C/522/15 STATEMENT ON COUNCILLORS EXPENSES

Cllr Mc Monagle proposed, seconded by, Cllr Mc Garvey, that a statement be issued clarifying the fact that Members had not approved an increased allocation for Members Expenses at the

Annual Budget Meeting held on the 18th November, 2015.

C/523/15 CATHAOIRLEACH'S BUSINESS

Votes of Sympathy

A vote of sympathy was extended to the following:-

- Martina Mc Brearty, Housing, Letterkenny on the death of her father, Con Mc Brearty.
- Paula Mc Cann, Income Collection, Carndonagh, on the death of her mother, Molly Cormican.
- Donna Rodgers, HR Section on the death of her father, Peadar Rodgers.
- Geoffrey Browne, formerly Information Systems on the death of his father, Victor Browne.
- Geraldine Gallagher, formerly Roads Section on the death of her sister, Doreen Carlin.
- The family of the late Martin (Marty Granaghan) formerly Town Foreman Bundoran and Bundoran Fire Brigade.
- Paul Christy, Planning Section, on the death of his mother, Jean Christy

T.T.I Delegation - 4th December, 2015

On the proposal of Cllr Mc Brearty, seconded by, Cllr Mc Guinness, the attendance of Members at the annual meeting with Transport Infrastructure Ireland on Friday 4th December, 2015 was approved

Golden Bridges Event/Massachusetts Networking Programme

The Cathaoirleach updated Members in relation to his attendance at the Golden Bridges Events and the Massachusetts Networking Programme held in Boston in October, 2015.

Vote of Congratulations

Congratulations was extended to Finn Harps Football Team on their promotion to the Senior Football League.

C/524/15 CHIEF EXECUTIVES MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT

Members considered the report circulated with the agenda and addendum circulated during the meeting.

An update was provided in relation to the following:-

- New Tenant Purchase Scheme for Existing Local Authority Houses
- SPACEial North West wins Chambers Ireland Excellence in Local
- Government Award
- The Global Irish Economic Forum
- Local Diaspora Toolkit launched
- Commercial Rates Global Valuations – Circular Fin 13/2015 – 20th November 2015
- Charles Thomson Award – Irish Water Safety

The Members noted the following questions:-

C/525/15 COUNCIL APPLICATIONS TO THE SEAI IN 2016 UNDER THE VARIOUS ENERGY EFFICIENCY GRANTS SCHEMES

The following question was submitted by Cllr Campbell:-

"Can this Council provide details of applications it intends to make to SEAI in 2016 under the various energy efficiency grants schemes available?"

Cllr Campbell was informed:

“The Council has recently formed an Energy Team who are working closely with SEAI with a view to the Council obtaining ISO 50001 accreditation by June 2016.

The Council as a public body is required to save 30% energy between 2009 and 2020. It is expected that the Council will make applications to SEAI for related work in 2016.

The Council have submitted an application to SEAI for a survey/inventory on its public lighting stock in late 2015 and this will carry over to 2016.”

C/526/15 CLARIFICATION ON COUNCIL APPLICATIONS TO THE OPW IN 2016 UNDER THE MINOR FLOOD MITIGATION WORKS AND COASTAL PROTECTION SCHEME

The following question was submitted by Campbell:-

"Can this Council provide details of applications it intends to make to the OPW in 2016 under the Minor Flood Mitigation Works and Coastal Protection Scheme?"

Cllr Campbell was informed that:-

“The Office of Public Works (OPW) is the lead State body for the co-ordination and implementation of Government policy on the management of flood risk in Ireland.

The OPW is also the national authority for the implementation of the EU Directive on the Assessment and Management of Flood Risks [2007/60/EC]. The Office of Public Works is the body through which Central Government exercises its statutory responsibilities in respect of river drainage and flood relief.

It derives its statutory authority from the Arterial Drainage Acts, 1945 and 1995 and the European Communities (Assessments and Management of Flood Risk) Regulations 2010.

The OPW has very defined areas where they are responsible for the maintenance of rivers catchments, estuarine embankment and flood relief schemes in Donegal.

Under Section 37 of the Arterial Drainage Act 1945, the OPW is statutorily obliged to maintain all rivers, embankments and urban flood defences on which it has executed works since the 1945 Act in “proper repair and effective condition”.

The Council may make an application for funding up to €500,000 to carry out works under the Minor Works Mitigation Scheme, Coastal & Non Coastal Flooding and the Minor Flood Mitigation Works & Coastal Protection Scheme which was introduced by OPW in 2009.

In conjunction with the Roads Area Teams, Road Design has been making the applications on behalf of Donegal County Council each year and where funding is approved the works are subsequently carried out either by Donegal County Council Direct Labour force or by a Contractor.

The OPW are managing the Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management (CFRAM) study with RPS as the consulting

Engineers. The study has produced much information on flood risk areas (AFA's) in County Donegal and OPW has commenced the Statutory Consultation on the draft flood risk maps to meet the requirements of S.I. No 122 of 2010 since Friday 20th November 2015.

The next stage of Optioneering has commenced and the OPW along with their Consultants RPS will be developing options for Council Engineers and Planners to engage and review the documentation. Flood risk management plans will be published in 2016 and will inform the capital works programme. Until the plans are developed it is not possible to put any cost to the implementation of the Flood Risk Management Plans.

In recognition of the increased requirement for funding arising from the Plans, the Government, in September, announced a Capital Programme covering the period 2016-2021 and has increased significantly the amount of funding to be made available for flood mitigation initiatives to €430 million. The Programme will see the current annual allocation for this area of €45 million rise to €100 million by 2021.

In response to the recent flooding on the weekend of 14th, 15th November, RPS CFRAMS team carried out Flood Event Response surveys in the following AFA's; Ballybofey, Castlefin, Letterkenny, Donegal Town and Burnfoot.

Donegal County Council staff met with the Flood Event Response teams in these particular areas and also in other areas where significant flooding occurred. Information regarding internal flooding of properties and flood depth data was recorded.

Donegal County Council will commence application preparation over the coming months and shall submit its application to the OPW for funding in May 2016. The applications are prepared by the Municipal District teams with assistance from the Road Design office, therefore once the application have been assessed and are ready to submit to the OPW for funding, the Area Manager in each Municipal District would be able to advise the members accordingly.

Separately, It is expected that our Environment Section will submit a number of applications to OPW for coastal protection particularly

at beaches and it is anticipated that it will follow a similar process to the described above and can be made available through the Municipal District structure when appropriate.”

C/527/15 PLANS FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF THE CURRENT LIBRARY SERVICE

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

What are the plans to improve the current Library Service.

Cllr O’Neill was informed that:-

“The Library Service is due to prepare a new 5 year strategic plan within which plans for the development of the service, including capital developments, will be set out.

Developments will be in line with the national strategic plan for public libraries, Opportunities for All and will work towards the national standards and benchmarks for public libraries.

The priorities currently being developed through Opportunities for all working groups include Literacy & Reading Development and Business & Employment Supports.”

C/528/15 RECENT FLOODING ISSUES AND THE COUNCIL RESPONSE AND SUPPORTS AVAILABLE

The following question was submitted by Cllr Crawford:-

"In view of recent flooding problems in the Finn Valley and the County in general is back up available to Council Staff when they are overwhelmed and if so how is this help activated?"

Cllr Crawford was informed that:-

“The primary role for the Council Roads Department during incidences of flooding is to endeavour to keep our road network passable to the greatest extent practical and to protect our public infrastructure along with considering the safety of the travelling public.

In this context we would normally deploy our roads crews to clear blockages, remove debris, close flooded roads and set up traffic diversions.

The Council also maintain a store of sandbags in several of our depots and our staff are also well placed to arrange for delivery of sand through our contacts with local quarries.

In times of flooding the Council can make some sand and sandbags available to members of the public seeking to protect their homes and properties from flood waters.

In addition the Fire Service may assist with pumping of floodwaters and in rescuing individuals trapped by rising floodwaters. Further, the Civil Defence Department can be mobilised.

Having regard to the role of the Council during flooding incidences and the nature of flooding generally, there is not normally a requirement to seek external assistance outside of the Council's own staff and the access it has to a range of plant, equipment and materials suppliers.

Local Management have the ability to transfer crews to where they are most needed and can work across District Boundaries and get help from neighbouring Districts if they have capacity. Where external assistance is required (beyond our staff and contractors) the Army is likely to be the only practical option available and a request for assistance would be initiated at senior level in the Council through the Chief Executive's Office.

It should be noted that the type of flooding experienced recently in the Finn Valley and elsewhere was well beyond what could be realistically stopped by road crews or indeed the Army.

The issue of the safety of any workers in the vicinity of such deep floodwaters must be considered. The extent and depth of floodwaters in a number of locations and especially along the River Finn was well beyond what clearing of blocked drainage outlets or stacking of sandbags could prevent.

The Council is pleased with the response of its Road Workers who worked during Saturday night and all day Sunday on the weekend of the flooding.”

C/529/15 TIMEFRAME FOR THE COMPLETION OF THE OVERLAY WORKS INDICATED FOR THE NATIONAL PRIMARY NETWORK FOR 2015

The following question was submitted by Cllr Crawford:-

"When will overlay works indicated for the National Primary Network for 2015 be completed, this to include works announced as a result of extra funding?"

Cllr Crawford was informed that:-

“On the National Primary Network in 2015:-

The N15 Liscooley Pavement Strengthening Scheme is currently being constructed and is expected to be completed in December 2015.

With regard to the extra funding :-

The N14 Lifford to R264 (Murlough Road) Scheme is at Design Stage with topographical survey and preliminary ground and drainage investigations underway. Main Construction is expected to be in Q2 2016.”

C/530/15 CONFIRMATION OF THE PLANS THAT ARE IN PLACE FOR EMERGENCIES IN RELATION TO COUNCIL SERVICES DURING THE CHRISTMAS PERIOD

The following question was submitted by Cllr Crawford:-

"What plans are in place to ensure that the public will be able to avail of Council Services in the event of an emergency over the Christmas/ New Year Holiday period"?

Cllr Crawford was informed that:-

“Arrangements are being put in place to respond to severe weather incidents or issues arising from them over the coming Christmas period. This will be similar in nature to what was applied during the most recent years incidences of severe weather.

Regarding the Fire service, they are on a constant state of emergency readiness.

A protocol is currently being reviewed with Irish Water with the objective of ensuring an appropriate local capacity to deal with issues arising in this area should such an incident occur during the period.

Final arrangements will be reviewed in mid December with all services and relevant contact numbers will be given to the members and publicised in the local media and on the Councils website.

Additional information, including links to the "Be Winter Ready" booklet has already been circulated by the Council to various networks across the County including Community Groups, Family Resource Centres, Care of the Aged groups and SVDP. This will also be circulated to the members of the Council to allow for their own circulation to local networks or groups that may gain value from it."

C/531/15 CALL FOR THE COUNCIL IN CONJUNCTION WITH UDARAS NA GAELTACHTA TO INITIATE THE "GLEN OF DONEGAL"/"GLEANNATAI DUN NA NGALL" PROJECT

The following question was submitted by Cllr Gallagher:-

"Will this Council in conjunction with Udaras na Gaeltachta proceed to initiate the "Glens of Donegal"/" Gleannta Dún na nGall" project?"

Cllr Gallagher was informed that:-

"The Council will undertake to meet with officials from Udaras in the coming weeks to discuss the Glens of Donegal/Gleannta Dhun na nGall Project and revert back to the Members in due course"

C/532/15 PROVISION OF A CEDO OR RELEVANT STAFF MEMBER IN EACH MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

The following question was submitted by Cllr Gallagher:-

"Will this Council be in a position to have a CEDO or relevant staff member in each MD, considering the increased responsibility the Council has in this area?"

Cllr Gallagher was informed that:-

“The Municipal districts are served by individual staff members from the Community Development Division of the Directorate. This work is supplemented by centrally located staff particularly in tourism and funding areas as the need arises. It is proposed to monitor the operation within the municipal area in the coming months, however further opportunities may now arise with the implementation of the Rural Development Programme under the auspices of the LCDC where additional resources could be identified in co-operation with the Implementing partners to progress work areas and develop programmes throughout the County.”

C/533/15 BREAKDOWN OF THE COUNCIL’S DEBTS

The following question was submitted by Cllr MacGiolla Easbuig:-

Le hiarraidh ar Chomhairle Contae Dhún na nGall briseadh síos iomlán a thabhairt ar fhiacha na Comhairle de réir iasachta, iasachtóra, cúise agus costas iomlán na n-aisíocaíochtaí bliantúla ar fhiacha, agus an tionchar atá acu ar sholáthar buiséid na Comhairle.

"To ask Donegal County Council for a full breakdown of the Council's debts by loan, lender, purpose and the total cost of annual debt repayments and the impact that they have on the Council's budget provision?"

Cllr MacGiolla Easbuig was informed that:-

“Iniata leis seo gheobhaidh tú scairbhileog leathnaithe, a cuireadh ar fáil i dtús ama mar chuid de chruinniú Bhuiséad Ioncaim 2016 a reáchtáladh ar an 18 Samhain 2015, agus ar a bhfuil eolas breise anois i dtaca le hiasachtóirí agus i dtaca le táillí ar an Chuntas Ioncaim agus Caiteachais araon agus ar an Chlár Comhardaithe le haghaidh 2016.

Attached find expanded spread sheet, originally presented as part of the 2016 Revenue Budget meeting held on 18th November 2015, and now including additional detail on lender and on charge to both Income & Expenditure Account and to Balance Sheet in respect of 2016.” Appendix 1

C/534/15 BREAKDOWN OF THE GATEWAY PARTICIPANTS IN THE COUNCIL

The following question was submitted by Cllr MacGiolla Easbuig:-

Le hiarraidh ar Chomhairle Contae Dhún na nGall briseadh síos iomlán a thabhairt ar líon na rannpháirtithe i Scéim na Tairsí sa Chomhairle, na rannóga ina bhfuil siad, an cineál oibre a dhéanann siad, agus an bhfuil an Chomhairle sásta nach bhfuil siad ag cur as d'fhostaíocht ráithiúil agus d'fhostaíocht shealadach na Comhairle.

"To ask Donegal County Council for a full breakdown of the number of Gateway Scheme participants in the Council, the sections that they are attached to and the type of work that they do and whether the Council is satisfied that they are not displacing Council seasonal and temporary employment?"

Cllr MacGiolla Easbuig was informed that:-

“The Council has a system in place which has been agreed with the relevant staff representative organisations locally in relation to compliance with the terms of the Gateway Scheme.

The terms of the scheme and system in place deals with various matters including potential displacement and so forth. Currently we have 36 Gateway participants, who are involved in various types of projects throughout the county. A breakdown of participants by section is outlined below:

- Roads Areas (28 participants).
- Community & Enterprise (1 participant).
- Cultural Services (5 participants).
- Housing Services (2 participants).”

C/535/15 UPDATE ON THE ASSESSMENT OF MICA DEFECTIVE BLOCKS IN THE COUNCIL HOUSING STOCK

The following question was submitted by Cllr Albert Doherty:-

"Has Donegal County Council

- a) completed its assessment of the extent of Mica/Defective block in the Council Housing Stock,
- b) furnished the report to Minister Paudie Coffey and his Independent Panel and,

c) requested the Minister to meet with cross-party delegation from Council on the matter following the adoption of my motion by the plenary council in July 2015?"

Cllr Doherty was informed that:-

“Following on from the extensive discussions which took place at both the July and September meeting in connection with the presence of muscovite mica in Council housing stock, the detailed tests results of the sub-floor blocks in Inishowen have been received and have confirmed that no remedial action is required to the sub-floor.

Having regard to the compressive strength tests in particular, which indicated a low strength, this informed that the external leaf blocks should be removed and replaced and work is presently ongoing in the context of finalising a tender document to have these works carried out on one of the properties. It is expected that this will be complete shortly and that the actual works can commence in January.

Meanwhile, in conjunction with the carrying out of remedial works to five properties in an estate in Letterkenny, block work tests were also carried out.

While the full set of results have not yet been received, results from the compressive strength tests have informed that in this case, the blocks in all five houses are of sufficient strength to the extent that the complete removal is not required but that a reinforced render and wet dash finish is appropriate to address the problem. These works are presently underway and are expected to be completed before Christmas.

The costings and methodology associated with the two different solutions, having regard to the extent of the problem, will be of benefit in determining the appropriate remedial action as well as an overall estimate of the costs associated with the problem in our stock generally.

In conjunction with this, work is also ongoing in the context of seeking to ensure that a comprehensive picture is built up of the potential presence of muscovite mica in the two areas presently showing cause for concern and this work will continue.

The Council have also been keeping the Department updated in relation to this matter. Towards this end, the Minister has on 27th of November announced the establishment of an expert group to investigate the problems that have emerged in concrete blocks in Donegal and Mayo.

The expert group will have the following terms of reference: -

- (i) To identify, insofar as it is possible, the numbers of private dwellings which appear to be affected by defects in the blockwork in the Counties of Donegal and Mayo;
 - (ii) To carry out a desktop study, which would include a consultation process with affected homeowners, public representatives, local authorities, product manufacturers, building professionals, testing laboratories, industry stakeholders and other relevant parties, to establish the nature of the problem in the affected dwellings;
 - (iii) To outline a range of technical options for remediation and the means by which those technical options could be applied; and
 - (iv) To submit a report to the Minister of State by 31 May 2016.
- The Council will engage fully with this process and it is believed that the findings in relation to tests already carried out and the alternative approaches being taken will be of significant benefit.”

C/536/15

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MOTION BY THIS COUNCIL TO PROVIDE 30% OF SOCIAL HOUSING IN RURAL AREAS

The following question was submitted by Cllr McDermott:-

"To ask this Council what steps we are taking to implement the motion that was passed at Council that 30% of social housing be built in rural areas?"

Cllr McDermott was informed that:-

“The Council is continuing to progress the programme of work under the Social Housing Strategy in line with the targets set out for the period 2015/2017 through the various mechanisms including construction, acquisition leasing etc.

The primary driver must be to meet the need on the housing waiting list as effectively and efficiently as possible through the various options. A number of the schemes that are being proposed

and submitted for project appraisal are located in rural towns and villages.

Similarly opportunities for acquisitions which are being considered are emerging in rural towns and villages. As a result of the scale of the programme and the variety of mechanisms that are being pursued to deliver the programme it is premature at this stage to indicate what percentage of the need over the programme period will be provided through new build in rural areas.”

C/537/15 CONSEQUENCES AND THE IMPLICATIONS FOR COUNCILLORS AND SENIOR MANAGEMENT WITH THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE LOBBYING ACT

The following question was submitted by Cllr Albert Doherty:-

"What are the consequences, and the implications for Councillors and Senior Management with the implementation of the Lobbying Act? Will the plenary Council facilitate a workshop to explore and discuss the matter?"

Cllr Doherty was informed that:-

“The Regulation of Lobbying Act 2015 commenced operation on 1st September 2015. The Act is designed to provide information to the public on various aspects of lobbying and the Standards in Public Office Commission is the regulator of lobbying and will establish and maintain an online Register of Lobbying and oversee compliance with the legislative provisions. A summary of the main provisions of the Act together with additional information was circulated to members in early July 2015. The Council will explore the potential to arrange a presentation on the implications of the Lobbying Act for elected members at a workshop early in 2016.”

C/538/15 CLARIFICATION ON THE FUNDING AWARDED IN 2015 FOR PROVISION OF PIERS AND HARBOURS AND THE NUMBER OF OUTSTANDING PROJECTS AWAITING FUNDING

The following question was submitted by Cllr McDermott:-

"To ask this Council how much money has been awarded to Donegal in 2015 for provisions to piers and harbours and how many outstanding projects are awaiting on funding?"

Cllr McDermott was informed that:-

“This Council applied for funding totalling €1.5m to carry out works at 23 individual piers and 5 Marine Tourism Leisure projects in 2015. Funding of €195,000 was provided by Dept. of Agriculture, Food and the Marine to carry out works at three piers while funding totalling €190,000 was provided to complete two Marine leisure & Tourism projects.

A further €80,000 was provided in October to enable three further pier projects to be completed. All of the applications made in 2015 were to maintain the existing infrastructure with no further development at any facility. Approximately 15 piers require funding to carry out various repairs and a further 6 piers throughout the County require funding in excess of €1m per pier to carry out major works. Some major schemes have already been planned and designed and are awaiting funding to proceed to construction.

The Department provide 75% of the funding and the Council have to match it with 25%.”

C/539/15 CALL FOR THE PROVISION OF MONIES IN THE ARTS BUDGET TO ASSIST 2016 EASTER RISING COMMERATIONS

The following question was submitted by Cllr Murray:-

Can money be made available in the Council's Arts Budget to assist 2016 Easter Rising commemorations, and if so, how much could be ringfenced?

Cllr Murray was informed that:-

“Funding to support a range of activities has been provided in the Council's 2016 Budget which would assist in the delivery of a number of 2016-related arts, library, museum and archive proposals, all of which are outlined in the programme launched on 8th October and available on ireland.ie or on the DCC website.

Additional funding from the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, DECLG and IPB Insurance to the value of €94,000 was notified to the Council since the Budget was adopted.”

C/540/15 FUNDING FOR THE REDEVELOPMENT OF LEISURE CENTRES

The following question was submitted by Cllr Murray:-

"Can this Council make money available to assist with the redevelopment of Leisure Centres and assist with match funding to assist facilities such as the Buncrana Leisure Centre?"

Cllr Murray was informed that:-

“Donegal County Council have and will continue to work with community groups and organisations in scoping the potential to improve and extend recreational and leisure facilities throughout the county This work involves exploring funding options, and the viability and sustainability of projects.

The Council has been working with Buncrana Leisure Centre Community Company in progressing options to refurbish the Buncrana Leisure Centre. Planning permission for the proposed refurbishment has been secured and contract documents are currently with the Department of Transport Tourism and Sport for approval.

The progression of this project will also be subject to the sourcing of an appropriate financial package to deliver same.”

C/541/15 REQUEST TO THE MINISTER TO REINTRODUCE THE LIS SCHEME

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

"Can this Council formally write to the Minister for Transport and emphasise the urgency of the LIS Scheme being reintroduced as Donegal is totally dependent on this scheme as a large number of our roads are non- county?"

Cllr O’Donnell was informed that:-

“The Department of Transport have permitted individual Local Authorities to prioritise up to 15% of the initial Discretionary Grant for LIS should they choose to do so. In the case of County Donegal, the Council has decided not to top slice such grants for LIS purposes. The Council has already written to the Minister for

Transport earlier this year requesting the introduction of a specific LIS fund and that reply will be made available.”

C/542/15 UPDATE ON THE PARTTIME ROADS WORKERS JOBS AS ADVERTISED EARLIER THIS YEAR

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

"What is the latest update on the part- time road workers jobs which were advertised earlier this year and when do we think we will see people being employed?"

Cllr O’Donnell was informed that:-

“The Council received in excess of 400 applications for the General Operative recruitment campaign. The recruitment campaign covers both permanent and temporary positions. Applications are being shortlisted at present and on completion of this exercise interviews will be arranged.

It is expected that interviews will be held in Jan/Feb 2016 and appointment of successful candidates will follow as suitable vacancies arise.

The budget and funding available from all sources for 2016 will be examined when it is known and based on that, a determination will be made as to how many positions need to be filled and in what locations.”

C/543/15 CALL FOR ACTION ON THE N14 ESPECIALLY THE TULLYRAP SECTION

The following question was submitted by Cllr McGarvey:-

"Will an effort now be made to deal with the N14 particularly the Tullyrap Section?"

Cllr McGarvey was informed that:-

“Work on the development of the N14 Manorcunningham to Lifford Major Realignment Scheme (19km) has been suspended since the onset of the financial crisis.

This route is part of the TEN - T Network in Donegal and an allocation from TII in 2015 facilitated the preparation of a Corridor

Needs Study on sections of the TEN - T Network with the objective of prioritising sections to be improved in the short to medium term.

Preliminary results of the study indicate that the development of this section along with the link to the A5 WTC at Strabane would represent very good value for money.

The next stage of the TEN - T improvement project will involve the development of this project and others including the Letterkenny Relief Road and the Ballybofey - Stranorlar Bypass through the Statutory Procedures Process subject to TII approval.

In the interim there are proposals for some on line improvements along the existing route at both Feddyglass (near Tullyrap) and Drumoghill. Funding for the advancement of these proposals will be sought as part of the forthcoming DCC Members Delegation to the TII on 4th December 2015.”

C/544/15 APPLICATIONS TO THE OPW FOR THE ALLEVIATION OF FLOODING RISKS

The following question was submitted by Cllr Kavanagh:-

"Could the Council assess and make the necessary applications to the Office of Public Works for the alleviation of flooding risks throughout the County noting in particular the flooding risks at Conwal and in the vicinity of the Aura Leisure Centre?"

Cllr Kavanagh was informed that:-

“The Office of Public Works (OPW) is the lead State body for the coordination and implementation of Government policy on the management of flood risk in Ireland.

The OPW is also the national authority for the implementation of the EU Directive on the Assessment and Management of Flood Risks [2007/60/EC].

The Office of Public Works is the body through which Central Government exercises its statutory responsibilities in respect of river drainage and flood relief. It derives its statutory authority from the Arterial Drainage Acts, 1945 and 1995 and the European

Communities (Assessments and Management of Flood Risk) Regulations 2010.

The OPW has very defined areas where they are responsible for the maintenance of rivers catchments, estuarine embankment and flood relief schemes in Donegal. Under Section 37 of the Arterial Drainage Act 1945, the OPW is statutorily obliged to maintain all rivers, embankments and urban flood defences on which it has executed works since the 1945 Act in “proper repair and effective condition”.

The Council may make an application for funding up to €500,000 to carry out works under the Minor Works Mitigation Scheme, Coastal & Non Coastal Flooding and the Minor Flood Mitigation Works & Coastal Protection Scheme which was introduced by OPW in 2009.

In conjunction with the Roads Area Teams, Road Design makes the applications on behalf of Donegal County Council each year and where funding is approved the works are subsequently carried out either by Donegal County Council Direct Labour force or by a Contractor.

The OPW are managing the Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management (CFRAM) study with RPS as the consulting Engineers.

The study has produced much information on flood risk areas (AFA's) in County Donegal and OPW has commenced the Statutory Consultation on the draft flood risk maps to meet the requirements of S.I. No 122 of 2010 since Friday 20th November 2015.

The next stage of Optioneering has commenced and the OPW along with their Consultants RPS will be developing options for Council Engineers and Planners to engage and review the documentation.

Flood risk management plans will be published in 2016 and will inform the capital works programme. Until the plans are developed it is not possible to put any cost to the implementation of the Flood Risk Management Plans.

In recognition of the increased requirement for funding arising from the Plans, the Government, in September, announced a Capital Programme covering the period 2016-2021 and has increased significantly the amount of funding to be made available for flood mitigation initiatives to €430 million. The Programme will see the current annual allocation for this area of €45 million rise to €100 million by 2021.

In response to the recent flooding on the weekend of 14th, 15th November, RPS CFRAMS team carried out Flood Event Response surveys in the following AFA's; Ballybofey, Castlefin, Letterkenny, Donegal Town and Burnfoot. Donegal County Council staff met with the Flood Event Response teams in these particular areas and also in other areas where significant flooding occurred. Information regarding internal flooding of properties and flood depth data was recorded.

Donegal County Council will commence application preparation over the coming months and shall submit its application to the OPW for funding in May 2016. The applications are prepared by the Municipal District teams with assistance from the Road Design office, therefore once the applications have been assessed and are ready to submit to the OPW for funding, the Area Manager in each Municipal District should be able to advise the members accordingly.

It is in this context that the two locations above at Conwal and Aura Leisure Center will be considered.”

C/545/15 REVIEW OF ALL INCIDENCES OF FLOODING
THROUGHOUT THE COUNTY

The following question was submitted by Cllr McBride:-

"Can Donegal County Council as a matter of urgency review all incidences of serious flooding as reported throughout the County and akin to that reported recently on the Kilmacrennan/ Glenswilly Road and at Abbey Village?"

Cllr McBride was informed that:-

“The Office of Public Works (OPW) is the lead State body for the coordination and implementation of Government policy on the management of flood risk in Ireland.

The OPW is also the national authority for the implementation of the EU Directive on the Assessment and Management of Flood Risks [2007/60/EC]. The Office of Public Works is the body through which Central Government exercises its statutory responsibilities in respect of river drainage and flood relief. It derives its statutory authority from the Arterial Drainage Acts, 1945 and 1995 and the European Communities (Assessments and Management of Flood Risk) Regulations 2010.

The OPW has very defined areas where they are responsible for the maintenance of rivers catchments, estuarine embankment and flood relief schemes in Donegal. Under Section 37 of the Arterial Drainage Act 1945, the OPW is statutorily obliged to maintain all rivers, embankments and urban flood defences on which it has executed works since the 1945 Act in “proper repair and effective condition”.

The Council may make an application for funding up to €500,000 to carry out works under the Minor Works Mitigation Scheme, Coastal & Non Coastal Flooding and the Minor Flood Mitigation Works & Coastal Protection Scheme which was introduced by OPW in 2009.

In conjunction with the Roads Area Teams, Road Design makes the applications on behalf of Donegal County Council each year and where funding is approved the works are subsequently carried out either by Donegal County Council Direct Labour force or by a Contractor.

The OPW are managing the Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management (CFRAM) study with RPS as the consulting Engineers.

The study has produced much information on flood risk areas (AFA's) in County Donegal and OPW has commenced the Statutory Consultation on the draft flood risk maps to meet the requirements of S.I. No 122 of 2010 since Friday 20th November 2015.

The next stage of Optioneering has commenced and the OPW along with their Consultants RPS will be developing options for

Council Engineers and Planners to engage and review the documentation.

Flood risk management plans will be published in 2016 and will inform the capital works programme. Until the plans are developed it is not possible to put any cost to the implementation of the Flood Risk Management Plans.

In recognition of the increased requirement for funding arising from the Plans, the Government, in September, announced a Capital Programme covering the period 2016-2021 and has increased significantly the amount of fun

In relation to local and minor maintenance works that is within the scope of the Councils resources and practice, area engineers will already be aware of incidences of flooding within their areas of responsibility and will, where appropriate, be considering remedial works that might alleviate such flooding in the future.

In view of the limited resources at the disposal of the Council remedial measures will of necessity need to be considered in the context of the impact of flooding.

For example, in situations where the only consequence of the flooding is that a lightly trafficked local road is closed for a short time involving a minor detour for local traffic it is unlikely extensive works could be justified.

In relation to flood impacts on private property such as Abbey Village the Council does not have a role in providing flood mitigation measures however the Council would try to be as helpful as possible to people in such circumstances and may be in a position to indicate how they could move forward.”

C/546/15 NUMBERS CURRENTLY EMPLOYED BY DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL ON JOBBRIDGE SCHEME

The following question was submitted by Cllr Quinn:-

"How many persons are currently employed by Donegal County Council on the Job Bridge and Gateway Schemes and in what capacity are they employed?"

Cllr Quinn was informed that:-

“Currently the Council has 7 participants on the Job Bridge Scheme, and 36 participants on the Gateway Scheme. They are employed in various sections of the Council, summarised as follows:

- Gateway: Roads Areas (28 participants), Community & Enterprise (1 participant), Cultural Services (5 participants), Housing Services (2 participants).
- JobBridge: Cultural Services (5 participants), Corporate Services (1 participant), Laboratory (1 participant).”

C/547/15 CLARIFICATION OF ANY CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED BY DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL FROM THE STANDARDS IN PUBLIC OFFICE COMMISSION IN 2015

The following question was submitted by Cllr Shiels:-

"Has Donegal County Council received any correspondence in the calendar year 2015 from the Standards in Public Office (SIPO) Commission in relation to expenses complaints/issues and if so to whom and to what did that relate?"

Cllr Shiels was informed that:-

“Donegal County Council has not received any correspondence in the calendar year 2015 from the Standards in Public Office Commission in relation to expenses complaints/issues.”

C/548/15 CRITERIA FOR THE PROCESS OF SELECTING ELIGIBLE CANDIDATES FOR THE SUMMBER JOB SCHEME AND THE GAELTACHT GRANTS SCHEME

The following question was submitted by Cllr McBride:-

"What is the eligibility criteria and the process for selecting eligible candidates for the Summer Job Scheme and the Gaeltacht grants Scheme and the arrangements for notifying unsuccessful applicants"?

Cllr McBride was informed that:-

“With regard to the Student Summer Jobs Scheme, the Council has obtained Departmental sanction for a number of years to employ around 20 students, during the months of July and August. In order

to be eligible, students must have completed at least 2 years at third level, and must be returning to continue their third level studies in September. We take on a variety of students from different academic backgrounds, e.g. Business / Administration, Engineering, Science, and so forth. The number of applications each year is significant. The process for selection involves an independent panel of three persons and the successful candidates are drawn by lot.

Two of the panel select numbers at random from a range of numbers within each category. Once the numbers are selected and recorded, they are matched with the corresponding names by the representative from Human Resources. These are then crossed checked and verified.

In 2015, due to the significant number of applications and short time frame for selection and notification, an announcement was put on our website to the effect that the selection process had been completed, and that successful applicants had been notified directly.

For 2016, we are looking at various options for communication, including text, to enable us to communicate individually with applicants, particularly when the timeframe from sanction to advertising and selection is short.

We are also endeavouring to get sanction at an early stage for 2016, to allow for earlier advertisement and selection. The scheme has proved to be a very positive initiative, and it is intended to continue with same in 2016.

The procedure for the award of Donegal County Council Gaeltacht Scholarships is that an Open Draw is carried out by a combination of the Council's Irish Language Development Officer, another member of staff as an independent witness, and an elected member of the Council.

The Scheme usually receives over 500 applications, and a total of 34 Scholarships are awarded. A total of 100 names are drawn out, and placed in order from 1 to 100, to provide a list from which the Council can work through, in order of their placing in the draw.

The unsuccessful candidates (especially those drawn after number 50) are normally informed first by post, while arrangements are made to try and ensure that those successful candidates, or potentially successful candidates, are matched to a suitable college taking into account their preferences, the number of scholarships available for a particular college, etc.

If a successful student declines a scholarship, which can occur for a variety of reasons (e.g. not their first preference), the Council then offers it to the next student on the waiting list.

This process can take a number of weeks to work through and explains the different timeframes in contacting students and making definite offers.”

C/549/15 DETAILS OF COUNCIL CO-OPERATION WITH THE PLANNING REVIEW

The following question was submitted by Cllr Shiels:-

"Can the Council confirm that (1) it has fully co-operated with the planning review being conducted by Rory Mulcahy SC on behalf of the Department of the Environment and confirm what such co-operation entailed; and (2) confirm what County Council Officials (if any) have been interviewed by Mr Mulcahy; and (3) confirm when the Council has been informed that a report will be completed by Mr Mulcahy SC."

Cllr Shiels was informed that:-

“The Council has been fully engaging and co-operating with the Planning Review being conducted by Mr. Rory Mulcahy SC.

All requests made by him to the Council have been promptly addressed. The process is ongoing and the Council is not in a position at this time to say when his Report will be delivered.

The nature of this non-statutory Review is such that it is not conducted in public and it is considered that it would not be appropriate for the Council (or other participants) to comment further on the progress of the Review pending it’s conclusion.”

C/550/15 PROTECTION OF ACCESS TO OUR BEACHES AROUND OUR COAST

The following question was submitted by Cllr McGarvey:-

"Has Donegal County Council any policy to protect access to our beaches around our coast?"

Cllr McGarvey was informed that:-

“Beach access is an ongoing challenge in an ever changing environment. Coastal erosion, accretion and wind-blown sand can pose year round difficulties. However, of the 21 Designated Beaches in Co Donegal, 12 beaches have had infrastructure improvements to allow them accessible by visitors of all abilities. A further seven beaches now require investment to allow safe access.

Dune erosion has become a concern at many beaches and poses a threat to the Blue Flag and Green Coast status of a number of beaches if it is not addressed.

This problem is due primarily to pressures from beach visitors trampling the dunes and repeatedly raised by An Taisce and the National Parks and Wildlife Service.

Proper dedicated beach access is required at these beaches and protection measures introduced to allow the dunes recover. This approach has proved very successful elsewhere in allowing the ecosystem recover from the increased pressures.

Donegal County Council are working to explore funding options from the OPW and other sources.”

C/551/15 UPDATE ON THE REVIEW OF THE HOUSING ADAPTION GRANTS BY THE HOUSING SPC

The following question was submitted by Cllr Kavanagh:-

"Has the Housing SPC finalised its review of housing adaption grants and has new criteria been agreed?"

Cllr Kavanagh was informed that:-

“A review of the standard costings under the Housing Adaptations Grant Schemes for Older People and People with a Disability has been completed and has recommended an increase in the costings.

This has been endorsed by the Housing & Corporate Services Strategic Policy Committee and the matter is on the agenda for consideration by the full Council at the November meeting.”

C/552/15

CLARIFICATION ON THE EXPECTED INCREASE OF
€114,000 IN 2016 FOR MEMBERS EXPENSES

The following question was submitted by Cllr Shiels:-

"Can the Council confirm why an estimate for Elected Members expenses for 2016 of €511,700 was provided in the Budget when a sum of only €397,300 was estimated in the same budget document as the actual cost for 2015 - why is there an expected increase in Elected Members expenses of €114,400 for 2016?"

Cllr Shiels was informed that:-

“A budget line of €441,140 was included in the Adopted Budget 2015 under "Expenses LA Members". Owing to projected savings in the area of Conference Expenses, Communications Expenses and Members Allowances, the estimated outturn for 2015 at the time of preparation of the Draft Budget Book was €397,300. Projected savings in this area of an estimated €43,840 continue to be line with the projected outturn figure as stated in the Draft Budget Book.

Donegal County Council's Budget for 2016, adopted by the Members at the Budget Meeting of the 18th November 2015, contains a provision of €511,700 under "Expenses LA Members".

The adopted budget for 2016 is increased by an amount of €70,560, under this heading, when compared to the adopted budget for 2015. However, this is mainly attributable to a budget transfer of €66,000 from the "Representational Payments" budget line, which has decreased by €66,000 year-on-year.

The reason for this is the re-categorisation of some expenditure elements (namely the SPC Chair Allowances and Municipal District Chair Allowances) and their transfer into the category "Expenses LA Members". All other budget headings in this area remain largely unchanged.

Overall, the total budget for Service H09 "Local Representation/Civic Leadership" has reduced year-on-year by an amount of €2,217."

C/553/15 UPDATE ON THE NUMBER OF FUNDING APPLICATIONS MADE THROUGH INTERREG V BY THIS COUNCIL

The following question was submitted by Cllr McMonagle:-

"Can we have an update on the number of funding applications that have been made through INTERREG V by this Council and where those applications are at?"

Cllr McMonagle was informed that:-

"The Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB) is the managing authority with responsibility for the Interreg VA programme.

The first calls under this programme have recently been announced and Donegal County Council through the European Funding and Policy Unit has been exploring the opportunities presented by the programme to Donegal and the wider North West region.

The Interreg VA programme will provide opportunities for projects to apply for funding under four main thematic areas: Research and Innovation (including Renewables and Life Sciences) €60mn; Environment €72mn; Sustainable Transport €40mn; and Health €53mn.

The Council has been actively working with cross border partners to advance project bids under this programme, the details of which are set out below. Under the Research and Innovation thematic priority, Donegal County Council has been working with cross border partners on two main projects as follows:

1. Development of centres of excellence for marine resources and renewables: Lead partner CASE (Centre for Advanced Sustainable Energy) located at Queen's University Belfast, partners Donegal County Council, Letterkenny Institute of Technology and Dumfries and Galloway Council, Scotland. The closing date for this submission is April 2016.
2. Donegal Clinical Research Academy and Centre for Patient Safety: Lead partner University of Ulster, partners Donegal County Council and Donegal Clinical Research Academy / Letterkenny

General Hospital. The closing date for this submission is April 2016.

Under the Environment thematic priority, the Water and Environment section of Donegal County Council is acting as lead partner on a project addressing river restoration and catchment resilience.

The project partners are Loughs Agency, AFBI (Agri Food and BioSciences Institute), Inland Fisheries Ireland, University of Ulster, Geological Survey Northern Ireland and Blackwater catchment group. The closing date for this submission is January 2016.

Under the Sustainable Transport priority, Donegal County Council will be working with Derry and Strabane Council on the development of new cross border cycleways and greenways.

An initial partner meeting is scheduled for November 2015. It is hoped that a bid can be developed under this priority for submission by the closing date of January 2016.

The Interreg VA programme involves a two stage application process. Projects must achieve success at stage 1 to be invited to submit full project bids to the stage 2 process.

Projects invited to submit a Stage 2 bid will be required to submit a detailed business plan. Projects must be concentrated and have clear measurable outputs and there is an enhanced focus on cross border value being achieved under the Interreg VA programme.

Full details of all EU projects undertaken and planned by Donegal County Council are located in the European Funding and Policy Unit bulletin newsletter which is produced on a quarterly basis. All information relating to the new Interreg VA programme is located at www.seupb.eu.”

C/554/15

MOTIONS FROM OTHER COUNCILS

Member noted the following notices of motions from other Councils:-

SOUTH DUBLIN COUNTY COUNCIL

“Following a recent human rights delegation to Brussels, led by Lynn Boylan MEP, I ask that this council write to The Department of Foreign Affairs asking them to publicly demand the release of Firhouse teenager Ibrahim Halawa. This strong approach has resulted in the release of American, Mohammed Soltan, Canadian, Mohammed Fahmy and Australian Peter Grete”.

TIPPERARY COUNTY COUNCIL

“I am calling on Tipperary County Council to support the campaign to lobby the Department of Education to introduce the topic of suicide awareness, depression and mental health into the Irish Secondary school education curriculum as presently it is not.”

LEITRIM COUNTY COUNCIL

That Leitrim County Council call on the support of all Members, to ask the Minister for Finance to reduce the amount of Inheritance Tax now payable on transfer of lands or property at the moment. How can we encourage young people to take over the running of farms or business, having first to pay a tax greater in some cases that the holding is worth.”

LEITRIM COUNTY COUNCIL

“That Leitrim County Council call on the Minister for Social Protection to have epilepsy included as a condition for a Free Travel Pass.”

GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL

“That Galway County Council request an amendment by the Government to the current legislation governing the administration/collection of commercial rates.

That the Government generate a ‘Commercial Rates Credit Scheme’ to support business owners and occupiers that are financially impacted by infrastructure works/road works carried out in their area that persist 2 weeks.

GALWAY CITY COUNCIL

“That this Council calls for the immediate review of the HAP system given that anyone receiving this payment is removed from the Housing Waiting List.”

ASHBOURNE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

“That Meath County Council writes a letter to Alan Kelly, the Minister for Environment, Community and Local Government on behalf of all Ashbourne Municipal District Councillors requesting that Irish Water, or the Local Authority, accepts responsibility for all sewerage mains and infrastructure maintenance, including those running through non-public property and that appropriate funding be made available and that this motion is shared with all local authorities if adopted.”

CORK CITY COUNCIL

“That Cork City Council would request The Minister for Education and Science and the NCCA to review the downgrading of history as a mandatory core subject on the revised Junior Certificate Curriculum in second level school.”

SLIGO COUNTY COUNCIL

“Sligo County Council welcomes the fact that the Irish League of Credit Unions has launched a Plan to lend enough money to build 35,000 Social Houses over the next six years.

This Council calls on Minister Kelly and the Department of Environment to engage with the I.L.C.U. as they are prepared to invest a significant amount of Money in Social Housing.”

CAVAN COUNTY COUNCIL

“To write to the Minister for Agriculture asking that he consider implementing a plan for spreading slurry other than the calendar dates that presently exist and which take no cognisance of unpredictable weather conditions”.

This concluded the business of the meeting.