

**COMHAIRLE CHONTAE DHUN NA nGALL**

Oifig Riarthóir na  
gCruinnithe  
Aras an Chontae  
LEIFEAR  
22 Samhain, 2016

**FOGRA CRUINNITHE**

Beidh Cruinniú Comhairle Chontae Dhún na nGall ar siúl Dé Luain 28 Samhain, 2016, 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**

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**DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL**

Office of Meetings Administrator  
County House  
Lifford  
22<sup>nd</sup> November, 2016

**NOTICE OF MEETING**

A Meeting of Donegal County Council will be held on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> November, 2016, 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**

Confirmation of the Minutes of the September Meeting of Donegal County Council held on the 26<sup>th</sup> September, 2016.

### **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 property at Balwoges, Bruckless, Co Donegal to Ms Rosaleen Reynolds.
- 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 land at Dunlewey to Ms Anne Marie Foeyen.

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

To approve carrying out of Upgrade Works at Swan Park, Buncrana in the Inishowen Municipal District.

### **4. Corporate**

- a) North West Strategic Partnership Governance Arrangements.
- b) To fill vacancy on Earagail Arts Festival Management Ltd.
- c) To note the following changes in the sectoral membership of the Donegal County Council Island's Committee.
  - Marjorie Carrol to replace Bridget McGarvey – Tory Island.
  - Eamonn O'CNaimhsí to replace Seamus Ó Cnaimhsí – Arranmore Island.
- d) To approve Schedule of Council Meetings for 2017.
- e) To approve change in the membership of the Donegal Local Travellers Accommodation Committee – Patsy Lafferty SEO to replace Patrick McLaughlin SEO.

## **5. Finance**

- a) To agree overdraft accommodation of €10 million for full year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2017.
- b) To consider the three year Capital Programme for Donegal County Council for the period 2017-2019 inclusive

## **6. Planning**

- (a)(1) Consideration of Chief Executive's Report on the Public Consultation Period for the Review of the County Development Plan 2012 – 2018 (As Varied) (issued to Members by e-mail on 23<sup>rd</sup> September, 2016 and by post on the 26<sup>th</sup> September, 2016);
- (2) Addendum to Above-noted Report (attached); and
- (3) Authorisation to Chief Executive to proceed to prepare Draft Plan and Environment Report, and agreement of associated Strategic Directions to Chief Executive.

- (b) Planning Review Update.

## **7. Endorsement of Minutes**

To note the Minutes of the Corporate Policy Group Meeting held on the 19<sup>th</sup> September, 2016.

## **8. Deputations**

- a) To consider request for reception of a deputation from the Donegal Women's Network in relation to the potential for Human Trafficking in Donegal.
- b) To consider request for reception of a deputation from SIPTU in relation to the provision of adequate funding for pre-school childcare.

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

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

### Conferences

- Celtic Conferences – Brexit The Economic Consequences for Ireland to be held from Friday 9<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> December, 2016 in the Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford, Co Louth.
- To approve the attendance of Cllr Paul Canning, Chair of the Donegal Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee at the LTACC Conference in Dublin Castle on Friday the 4<sup>th</sup> November, 2016.
- Elected Members Seminar – Community Development Achieving Social Inclusion, Reconciliation and Equality to be held Friday 16<sup>th</sup> to Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> December, 2016 in the Connacht Hotel, Dublin Road, Galway.
- Elected Members Seminar – Local Authorities and Waste Management to be held Friday 13<sup>th</sup> to Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> January, 2017 in the Connacht Hotel, Dublin Road, Galway.

## MOTIONS

### STRANORLAR

#### **Water and Environment**

##### 10. Cllr Patrick McGowan

"That this Local Authority discuss the Governments "Pay By Weight Scheme" deferred until 2017, I propose that all licensed operators be invited to attend a Council meeting to outline their position including what their standing charge and other minimum charge is. Civic minded people would appear to be continually targeted by Government while those who continue to dump illegally are not dealt with effectively."

#### **Community and Enterprise**

##### 11. Cllr Martin Harley

"I am calling on Donegal County Council to instruct the Department of Sport to deliver on its commitment of the original grant proposal to Finn Harps Football Club to complete the Stadium Project at Stranorlar."

## GLENTIES

#### **Water and Environment**

##### 12. Cllr John Sheamais O'Ferrraigh

"Go dtugann Comhairle Contae Dhún na nGall, i bhfianaise ar an thionscnamh 'ASCENT', tacaíocht don togra ina bhfuil sé molta go

bhforbrófar plean forbartha don Earagail agus go ndéanfar infheistíocht sa réigiún máguaird, ó thaobh forbairt an bhonneagair agus áiseanna chuí, ionas go n-éireoidh an ceantar ina mhórshuíomh thurasóireacht an chontae'."

"That Donegal County Council, in light of the ASCENT initiative, supports the project in which it is proposed to create a development plan for "An Earagail" and that investment be made in the surrounding area, in relation to the development of proper infrastructure and amenities, so that the area becomes a major tourism attraction in the County."

13. Cllr Enda Bonner

"That Donegal County Council request the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government to prioritise funding under the Rural Water Programme for the development of new Group Water Schemes to provide much needed Water Services to rural areas of the county."

**Community and Enterprise**

14. Cllr Marie Therese Gallagher

"That Donegal County Council recognise the International Mary From Dungloe Festival as a county festival as Kerry County Council recognise the Rose of Tralee, and partner with the local committee on this its 50th year in existence."

**Corporate**

15. Cllr Michael Cholm MacGiolla Easbuig

Go dtacaíonn Comhairle Contae Dhún na nGall le seasamh Chomhairle Chathair Dhoire agus an tSratha Báin go scaoilfí saor Tony Taylor láithreach bonn agus míniú a lorg ó Sheirbhísí Slándála na Breataine fá cad chuige ar tarraingíodh siar a cheadúnas chun saoirse.

"That Donegal County Council supports calls by Derry City and Strabane District Council for the immediate release of Tony Taylor and an explanation from the British Security Services as to why he had his license revoked."

INISHOWEN

**Planning**

16. Cllr Paul Canning

"I would ask that this Council seeks clarity by way of a written report from the Technical Group that was set up in 2013 to form a Plan (namely National Planning Framework) as a successor strategy to the National Spatial Strategy, on their findings if and when Brexit is acted upon and how this directly affects the Northwest along with what mitigation factors are in place for the Northwest, given that this is a 20 year development strategy."

### **Community and Enterprise**

17. Cllr Jack Murray

"That this Council fully supports Ireland's bid to host the 2023 Rugby World Cup, welcome Celtic Park's inclusion in the list of host stadia, commends the unanimous decision of Derry City and Strabane District Council to support the bid and affirms the full and equal support of Donegal County Council."

18. Cllr Albert Doherty

"That Donegal County Council conduct now a thorough review analysis of "A Roadmap for the delivery of the National Planning Framework" published in December 2015, and investigate how strategies recommended then for delivering infrastructure development, job creation, local and foreign direct investment for Donegal and border counties may now require amendment (esp. following the recent election in USA and recent referendum result in Britain.)

Furthermore that a priority needs list for Donegal County Council is compiled and forwarded for the attention of, 1) Minister for Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government, 2) the Northern and Western Regional Assembly and 3) other bodies related to the National Planning Framework."

### **Corporate**

19. Cllr Martin McDermott

"To call on this Council in light of recent events with the overcrowding in Letterkenny Hospital that we write to the Minister for Health, Simon Harris and ask him to prioritise upgrades and new builds of community hospitals in Donegal."

## **LETTERKENNY**

### **Roads and Transportation**

20. Cllr John O'Donnell

"Calling on this Council to write again to the Government and emphasise how important LIS Schemes are to this County, and that we need them reinstated thus allowing the Council to give permanent posts to temporary road workers."

21. Cllr Gerry McMonagle

"That Donegal County Council takes whatever steps necessary in order to ensure that the protocols pertaining to road closures are clear, widely circulated and communicated in a timely manner to all stakeholders prior to the closure of any road within the county."

**Corporate**

22. Cllr Michael McBride

"That this Council support my vote of no confidence in the HSE which was passed unanimously at the Letterkenny Municipal Meeting."

23. Cllr Ian McGarvey

"That this Council ask the Government to review the Constitution in view of the changes that have taken place in our Country."

**Community and Enterprise**

24. Cllr Ciaran Brogan

"I propose that Donegal County Council and Derry City and Strabane District Council continue to build on its enhanced relationship and joined up working documents with a view to setting up a permanent office in Brussels due to Brexit as now more than ever we need to highlight the huge lack of infrastructure needs in the northwest part of our island."

**DONEGAL**

**Planning**

25. Cllr Noel Jordan

"I am asking this Council to appoint a Bio Diversity officer for the County."

26. **Cathaoirleach's Business**

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

## QUESTIONS

### STRANORLAR

#### **Roads and Transportation**

28. Cllr Patrick McGowan

"Can the main traffic bottlenecks across the County be highlighted and prioritised such as McClays Corner, Pole Star Roundabout, Killross Junction etc and agree a plan to fast track traffic solutions such as the replacement of Logue's Bridge as a relief road, install a roundabout at Kilross etc.?"

#### **Housing**

29. Cllr Gerry Crawford

"How many families are on the Council Housing Waiting List and how is this need reflected in the latest Government housing plan?"

#### **Water and Environment**

30. Cllr Patrick McGowan

"Can the Council outline what plans there are to address problems affecting rivers such as the River Finn, so that common issues such as sewerage discharge, lack of riverside amenities, angling and flooding issues are dealt with, and a dedicated strategy put in place to deal with the River Finn going forward?"

### GLENTIES

#### **Water and Environment**

31. Cllr Marie Therese Gallagher

"Will Donegal County Council write to the Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries to invite them to Donegal to meet with the Council on the need to have proper notice on aquaculture licensing?"

#### **Community and Enterprise**

32. Cllr Marie Therese Gallagher

"What is the situation with regards the provision of funding for Enterprise Centres and the allocation of funds to complete projects such as the Glenties Enterprise Centre?"

## INISHOWEN

### **Water and Environment**

33. Cllr Paul Canning

"Has this Council a financial plan in place to support our Tidy Towns Groups going into the future given the amount of work they do for their communities."

34. Cllr Jack Murray

"Following the passing of my motion by Donegal County Council, what steps have been taken to ensure that Tidy Towns Committees in former Town Council areas continue to receive the financial support that previously came from Town Councils?"

### **Roads and Transportation**

35. Cllr Paul Canning

"Given the amount of leaves that seem to have fallen at the one time, has the Council put in place any measures to keep the gullies cleared in the event of a flash flood."

36. Cllr Jack Murray

"What is Donegal County Council's policy in relation to the installation of speed ramps, ie on what roads are they deemed acceptable?"

37. Cllr Albert Doherty

"Which Government Department is responsible for supporting Donegal County Council in the running and maintenance of ports and harbours, and will Donegal County Council seek a more equitable and adequate distribution of funding from the Department of the Marine for Coastal Infrastructure and upkeep of ports?"

38. Cllr Martin McDermott

"Please confirm by Municipal District the amount of money ring fenced for the employment of gardeners in recreational parks throughout the County?"

### **Planning**

39. Cllr Albert Doherty

"How many planning applications or exemptions have been received in 2015 and 2016, and in what location for permission to erect fencing

and/or terminate "right of way" in Special Areas of Conservation, Special Protected Areas and Natura 2000 Habitats?"

## LETTERKENNY

### **Corporate**

40. Cllr John O'Donnell

"Is this Council still planning to construct a new chamber for the members and has it been designed and costed yet?"

### **Roads and Transportation**

41. Cllr Jimmy Kavanagh

"Could the Council outline details of any updates to public lighting which are planned for 2017?"

42. Cllr Ciaran Brogan

"Have we ever had a reply from the Taoiseach's Office or Minister for Transport in relation to receiving a deputation from the North West in relation to our infrastructure needs?"

### **Water and Environment**

43. Cllr John O'Donnell

"Does this Council charge for private contractors to discharge at local sewerage treatment plants?"

### **Housing**

44. Cllr Gerry McMonagle

"Can I have a breakdown of our housing stock as per Municipal District how many voids per Municipal District and the figures per Municipal District of how many applicants have currently an application for social housing with Council, and how many HAP applicants are there per Municipal District?"

45. Cllr Ciaran Brogan

"How many Council Mortgages have been approved by this Council in the last three years and can we have a special workshop to discuss our buying out scheme with a view to helping people who find themselves in huge difficulties trying to acquire a permanent home and maybe go to Government to identify the gaps?"

### **Corporate**

46. Cllr Gerry McMonagle

"How many new staff have the Council recruited this year and what sections of the Council have they been employed in, and in relation to new outdoor staff what Municipal Districts will new employees be deployed too?"

### **Community and Enterprise**

47. Cllr Jimmy Kavanagh

"Could I have an update on what projects are being applied for under REDZ and Clar?"

### **Planning**

48. Cllr Jimmy Kavanagh

"Can the Council outline the next batch of estates that will be taken in charge by the Council, and when this is likely to happen?"

### **49. Motions from Other Councils/Bodies**

#### **SOUTH DUBLIN COUNTY COUNCIL**

"That this Council concerned at the need for sustainable funding for local government and services and being dissatisfied with the unfair and unworkable elements of the current Local Property Tax, calls on the Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government and the Minister for Finance to amend the relevant legislation also as to provide for a system of funding for Local Government that is based on the provision of local services; on site value not property value; that is linked on ability to pay; that is linked to general taxation; and , that enables Local Authorities to engage with their citizens in setting service levels, in determining budgets and in levying charges. That the Chief Executive convey the contents of this motion to the above Ministers and that a copy be circulated to all City and County Councils and to the AILG."

MINUTES OF NOVEMBER MEETING OF DONEGAL COUNTY  
COUNCIL, HELD IN THE COUNTY HOUSE, LIFFORD ON 28<sup>TH</sup>  
NOVEMBER, 2016

C/331/16 MEMBERS PRESENT

Cllrs Terence Slowey, Cathaoirleach, L Blaney, E Bonner, C Brogan, 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, M Mc Bride, J P McDaid, M McDermott, I Mc Garvey, P McGowan, B McGuinness, G McMonagle, J Murray, S O'Domhnaill, J O' Donnell, J S O'Fearraigh, & J Ryan.

C/332/16 OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE

Seamus Neely, Chief Executive, Joe Peoples, Director of Housing, Corporate and Cultural Services / Meetings Administrator, Liam Ward, Director of Community, Enterprise and Planning Services, John McLaughlin, Director of Roads and Transportation, Garry Martin, Director of Finance, Information Systems and Emergency Services, Paul McGill, Area Manager Corporate Services, Eileen Burgess, County Librarian, Eunan Quinn, Senior Planner, Paul Christie, Senior Executive Planner, Anne Marie Conlon, Communications Officer, Sean O'Daimhin, Oifigeach na Gaelige, Anne Marie Crawford, Staff Officer.

C/333/16 APOLOGIES

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

C/334/16 CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER MEETING OF DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL HELD ON THE 26<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2016

On the proposal of Cllr Albert Doherty, seconded by, Cllr Kavanagh, the minutes of the meeting of Donegal County Council held on the 26<sup>th</sup> September, 2016 were approved.

C/335/16 DISPOSAL OF PROPERTY AT BALWOGES, BRUCKLESS, CO DONEGAL TO MS ROSALEEN REYNOLDS

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

On the proposal of Cllr Kennedy, seconded by, Cllr Conaghan, it was resolved to dispose of property at Balwoges, Bruckless, Co

Donegal to Ms Rosaleen Reynolds 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/336/16 DISPOSAL OF LAND AT DUNLEWEY TO MS ANNE MARIE FOEYEN

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

On the proposal of Cllr McGarvey, seconded by, Cllr McMonagle, it was resolved to dispose of property at Dunlewey, to Ms Anne Marie Foeyen, 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/337/16 TO APPROVE THE CARRYING OUT OF UPDGRADE WORKS AT SWAN PARK, BUNCRANA IN THE INISHOWEN MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

Members considered the report circulated in relation to the above.

On the proposal of Cllr Donaghey, seconded by, Cllr Murray, 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) for upgrade works at Swan Park, Buncrana in the Inishowen Municipal District were approved.

C/338/16 NORTH WEST STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS

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

On the proposal of Cllr Albert Doherty, seconded by, Cllr Harley, the Updated Partnership Agreement and detailed governance and financial arrangements for the North West Regional Development Group (NWRDG), including the high level budget across the three Regional Development Pillars were approved.

C/339/16 FILLING VACANCY ON EARAGAIL ARTS FESTIVAL MANAGEMENT COMPANY LTD

It was unanimously agreed to defer this item to the January Council Meeting.

C/340/16 TO NOTE CHANGES IN THE SECTORAL MEMBERSHIP OF THE DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL ISLAND'S COMMITTEE

Members noted the following changes in the sectoral membership of the Donegal County Council Island's Committee

- Marjorie Carrol to replace Bridget McGarvey – Tory Island.
- Eamonn O'CNaimhsí to replace Seamus Ó Cnaimhsí – Arranmore Island.

C/341/16 SCHEDULE OF COUNCIL MEETINGS FOR 2017

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

On the proposal of Cllr Donaghey, seconded by, Cllr Kavanagh the Schedule of Council Meetings for 2017 was approved.

C/342/16 APPROVAL OF THE CHANGE IN THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE DONEGAL LOCAL TRAVELLERS ACCOMMODATION COMMITTEE

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

On the proposal of Cllr Albert Doherty, seconded by, Cllr Kavanagh, it was resolved that Patsy Lafferty SEO replace Patrick McLaughlin, SEO as a member of the Donegal Local Traveller Accommodation Committee.

C/343/16 TO AGREE OVERDRAFT ACCOMMODATION OF €10 MILLION FOR FULL YEAR ENDING 31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER, 2017

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

After due consideration, it was resolved, on the proposal of Cllr McGarvey, seconded by, Cllr Kennedy, in accordance with section 106 of the Local Government Act 2001 and subject to the sanction of the Minister for Housing, Planning, 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 and 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/344/16 CONSIDERATION OF THE THREE YEAR CAPITAL PROGRAMME FOR DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL FOR THE PERIOD 2017 – 2019 INCLUSIVE

On the proposal of Cllr Farren, seconded by, Cllr McDermott, the Three Year Capital Programme for Donegal for the period 2017 – 2019 inclusive was adopted.

C/345/16 CONSIDERATION OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE’S REPORT ON THE PUBLIC CONSULTATION PERIOD FOR THE REVIEW OF THE COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2012 – 2018 (AS VARIED), AND ADDENDUM TO THE ABOVE-NOTED REPORT AND AUTHORISATION TO CHIEF EXECUTIVE TO PROCEED TO PREPARE DRAFT PLAN AND ENVIRONMENT REPORT, AND AGREEMENT OF ASSOCIATED STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS TO CHIEF EXECUTIVE

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

A number of concerns were raised including:-

- i. That fact new Members had not had sufficient opportunity to become au fait with the intricacies of the plan.

- ii. Considerable emphasis was being placed on meeting targets with little consideration for Member's issues.
- iii. Assurance they said was needed in relation to the strategic direction in which the plan was heading.

Cllr Canning asked that the matter be deferred to allow for open discussion in workshop format.

The Chief Executive welcoming the discussion said it was extremely important that all Members understood the issues at hand as the plan was the blueprint for development in towns and communities throughout the County.

Members he said were being asked today to agree a number of strategic directions thus allowing work to begin on the new Draft Development Plan. Considerable discussion, he said, was needed in relation to land use policies and that the cross-border dimension needed to be considered going forward. In many respects, the detailed discussion in relation to the new Draft Development Plan starts now, he said, and Members were being asked to make a decision to allow this process to begin

It was acknowledged that there was still much work to be done and that further discussion would take place at a series of workshops scheduled to take place in the first quarter of 2017.

A lengthy discussion took place during which Members raised a number of issues. These included:-

- Flexibility was needed particularly with regard to those who wished to live in their own local rural community.
- Border issues were extensive and that a dedicated focus was needed in relation to day to day issues in particular.
- Structural analysis need with regard to the Tier Structure.
- National Guidelines were one of the main problems and did not always operate in Donegal's favour.
- Draft Plan needs to address the fact that many Holiday Homes throughout the County will become Retirement Homes and that some cross-border villages are nothing more than sleeper towns.

- A positive and proactive approach was necessary so as to make best use of our tourism attractions and cross-border links.
- That the new Development Plan offered an opportunity to look at the Northwest as a whole and build on the ongoing collaboration with cross-border Councils.
- Members were supportive of a more regional approach being taken.
- Donegal needed to be best placed going forward in terms of the impact of Brexit.

The Chief Executive said that it would be useful to recap and consider where the Development Plan sat within the National Planning Framework.

The NPF, he said, was being reviewed with the first draft due to be published in the first quarter of 2017 and would give Members the opportunity to consider same before the publication of our own Draft Plan.

Members comments on policy issues could, he advised, be submitted to the Department. The Council it was noted was time bound to move on with the process and that the decision to proceed with the preparation of the plan needed to be made before Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> December taking into consideration that the Chief Executive's Report had been circulated to Members on the 23<sup>rd</sup> September, 2016.

He said that he shared Member's concerns and that there was a need for a policy framework that addressed these issues. Members were not, he added, being asked to adopt the Draft Plan but simply move forward with the preparations for the formulation of same using the ten themed headings outlined in the report as the basis for the overall policy document.

It would be possible, he confirmed, to take out the reference to the Finn Valley Border Area and amend same to "Border Area" to reflect the cross-border issues and concerns raised by Members and also to review the Urban Settlement Hierarchy and the position of settlements in the Tiers contained therein.

He confirmed that every effort was being made to move forward in a proactive manner and alluded to the efforts being made to have the Northwest designated a city region. He urged Members to work with the Executive and to take the decision to move on with the

preparation of the Draft Plan. It was noted that a series of workshops would be held in 2017 giving Members an opportunity to formulate a plan which would be beneficial for all the citizens of the County.

On the proposal of Cllr Canning, seconded by Cllr Crawford it was resolved to proceed with the preparation of the Draft County Development Plan subject to the following amendments:-

1. Clarification that preparation work on the 'Core Strategy Including Housing' section of the Plan, one of the Themed Responses referred to at sub-para. (1a) of the Recommendation, will specifically include a review of the Urban Settlement Hierarchy and the position of settlements in the Tiers contained therein; and
2. In sub-para. (1c) of the CE's Recommendation, amendment of the term 'Finn Valley Border Area' to 'Border Area' to reflect that the cross-border issues and concerns are in respect of the entirety of the length of the Border area and are not just restricted to the Finn Valley area.

- C/346/16 PLANNING REVIEW UPDATE  
Members noted the report circulated with the agenda in relation to the above.
- C/347/16 TO NOTE THE MINUTES OF THE CORPORATE POLICY GROUP MEETING HELD ON THE 19<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER, 2016  
On the proposal of Cllr McGuinness, seconded by, Cllr Canning, the minutes of the Corporate Policy Group held on the 19<sup>th</sup> September, 2016 were noted.
- C/348/16 CONSIDERATION OF REQUEST FOR RECEPTION OF A DEPUTATION FROM THE DONEGAL WOMEN'S NETWORK IN RELATION TO THE POTENTIAL FOR HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN DONEGAL  
On the proposal of Cllr Donaghey, seconded by, Cllr McGowan, it was agreed that a deputation from Donegal Women's Network could address a future meeting of the Council.
- C/349/16 CONSIDERATION OF REQUEST FOR RECEPTION OF A DEPUTATION FROM SIPTU IN RELATION TO THE

## PROVISION OF ADEQUATE FUNDING FOR PRE-SCHOOL CHILDCARE

On the proposal of Cllr McMonagle, seconded by, Cllr McGowan it was agreed that a deputation from SIPTU could address a future meeting of the Council.

It was requested at this juncture that the Corporate Policy Group review arrangements for the reception of delegations and the allocation of time at Council Meetings.

### C/350/16 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 McGowan, 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 – Brexit The Economic Consequences for Ireland to be held from Friday 9<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> December, 2016 in the Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford, Co Louth.
- To approve the attendance of Cllr Paul Canning, Donegal Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee at the LTACC Conference in Dublin Castle on Friday the 4<sup>th</sup> November, 2016.
- Elected Members Seminar – Community Development Achieving Social Inclusion, Reconciliation and Equality to be held Friday 16<sup>th</sup> to Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> December, 2016 in the Connacht Hotel, Dublin Road, Galway.
- Elected Members Seminar – Local Authorities and Waste Management to be held Friday 13<sup>th</sup> to Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> January, 2017 in the Connacht Hotel, Dublin Road, Galway.

C/351/16 PAY BY WEIGHT SCHEME

On the proposal of Cllr McGowan, seconded by, Cllr McDermott, the following motion was adopted:-

"That this Local Authority discuss the Governments "Pay By Weight Scheme" deferred until 2017, I propose that all licensed operators be invited to attend a Council meeting to outline their position including what their standing charge and other minimum charge is. Civic minded people would appear to be continually targeted by Government while those who continue to dump illegally are not dealt with effectively."

Cllr McGowan received a response from the Director of Water and Environment.

The new scheme, he said, was haphazard and he thus called for the licensed operators to be invited in to update the Council in relation to the proposed scale of charges.

The scheme, he contended, served only to target civic minded people. He called on the Chief Executive to bring in the licensed operators and look at the possibility of linking the pricing structure to the licence provision.

Cllr Mc Dermott seconding the motion alluded to the uncertainty regarding charges and said that many older people would be left in a vulnerable position.

There was no opposition to the motion.

Mr Joe Peoples, Director Housing, Corporate and Cultural Services responding on behalf of the Director of Water & Environment, said it would be possible to refer the matter to the next Water & Environment Strategic Policy Committee and suggested that the Irish Waste Management Association should be consulted.

Cllr Mc Gowan contended however that many of the waste management operators in the County were not part of this representative body.

Given the importance of the issue, the Cathaoirleach asked that a report on the matter be brought to the March 2017 meeting.

C/352/16 DELIVERY OF ORIGINAL GRANT PROPOSAL TO FINN HARPS FOOTBALL CLUB

On the proposal of Cllr Harley, seconded by, Cllr Kavanagh, the following motion was adopted:-

"I am calling on Donegal County Council to instruct the Department of Sport to deliver on its commitment of the original grant proposal to Finn Harps Football Club to complete the Stadium Project at Stranorlar.

Cllr Harley received a response from the Director of Community Enterprise and Planning Services.

He said it was essential that this project was delivered on given that planning approval for the new stadium had been granted back in 2005. Lack of finance, he added, had caused the project to stall thus preventing other associated developments from proceeding.

He asked that the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport be contacted in relation to the payment of the €3.5 million approved to date.

Cllr Kavanagh seconding the motion noted that the project was one that would benefit the entire County.

There was no opposition to the Motion.

Mr Liam Ward, Director Community, Enterprise and Planning Services agreed to contact the Department regarding the outstanding grant monies.

Cllr Harley welcomed this response.

C/353/16 CALL FOR COUNCIL SUPPORT IN CREATING A DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR "AN EARAGAIL" IN LIGHT OF THE ASCENT INITIATIVE

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

"Go dtugann Comhairle Contae Dhún na nGall, i bhfianaise ar an thionscnamh 'ASCENT', tacaíocht don togra ina bhfuil sé molta go bhforbrófar plean forbartha don Earagail agus go ndéanfar infheistíocht sa réigiúin máguaird, ó thaobh forbairt an bhonneagair

agus áiseanna chuí, ionas go n-éireoidh an ceantar ina mhórshuíomh thurasóireacht an chontae'."

"That Donegal County Council, in light of the ASCENT initiative, supports the project in which it is proposed to create a development plan for An Earagail and that investment be made in the surrounding area, in relation to the development of proper infrastructure and amenities, so that the area becomes a major tourism attraction in the county."

Cllr O'Fearraigh received a response from the Director of Community and Enterprise and Planning Services:-

He called on the Council to co-operate with the local committee to promote this project and ensure that the proper amenities are put in place to allow for the ongoing development of Errigal and the wider Dunlewey area. He called on the Council to collaborate with the relevant authorities in relation to similar type projects which had been undertaken in areas such as Wales.

Cllr Gallagher seconding the Motion asked that every effort be made to promote the natural beauty of the area in conjunction with the local community.

There was no opposition to the motion.

Mr Liam Ward, Director Community, Enterprise & Planning Services said that Donegal County Council would continue to play a leading role in the ongoing development of the area and would seek to learn from initiatives undertaken in other areas.

Cllr O' Fearraigh thanked Members for their support and said that that if Errigal was developed to its full potential the effects would be beneficial for the whole of Donegal.

C/354/16

CALL ON THE DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING, PLANNING, COMMUNITY AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT TO PROCEED WITH THE PRIORITISATION OF FUNDING UNDER THE RURAL WATER PROGRAMME SO AS TO BRING MUCH NEEDED WATER SERVICES TO RURAL AREAS IN THE COUNTY

On the proposal of Cllr Bonner, seconded by, Cllr Donaghey, the following motion was adopted:-

"That Donegal County Council request the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government to prioritise funding under the Rural Water Programme for the development of new Group Water Schemes to provide much needed Water Services to rural areas of the County."

Cllr Bonner received a response from the Director of Water and Environment in relation to the above:-

He said that he had encountered a number of difficulties recently when trying to establish which organisation actually had responsibility for Group Water Schemes. He queried the status of the Maghera GWS and asked that an update be provided as soon as possible.

Cllr Donaghey outlined the importance of group schemes for rural Donegal and alluded to the fact that no new schemes had been initiated in the past number of years. It was imperative, she added, that funding was sought to allow new schemes progress. It was further suggested that the Rural Water Monitoring Committee be re-established.

There was no opposition to the Motion.

Mr Joe Peoples, Director Housing, Corporate and Cultural Services responding on behalf of the Director of Water & Environment, suggested that a report be presented to each Municipal District Committee regarding the number of schemes on hand and their status in the context of the multi annual rural water programme 2016 – 2018.

Cllr Bonner welcomed the response and said that it was imperative that funding was found to allow new Group Water Schemes proceed.

C/355/16 RECOGNITION BY THE COUNCIL OF THE INTERNATIONAL MARY FROM DUNGLOE FESTIVAL AS A COUNTY FESTIVAL

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

"That Donegal County Council recognise the International Mary From Dungloe festival as a county festival as Kerry County Council recognise the Rose of Tralee, and partner with the local committee on this its 50th year in existence."

Cllr Gallagher received a response from the Director of Community, Enterprise and Planning in relation to the above.

She informed Members that the local committee in Dungloe had worked extremely hard to promote the festival internationally and often in challenging financial circumstances. It now needed additional support, she added, to reach out to the Members of the Diaspora and put it on a par with other national festivals.

Seconding the Motion, Cllr Bonner called on Donegal County Council to give as much support as they could to the festival committee.

There was no opposition to the Motion.

The Director of Community, Enterprise and Planning Services , Mr Liam Ward said that the Council would support the further development of the festival through the Diaspora Programme and provide assistance where possible to the local committee.

Cllr Gallagher concluding welcomed the response and said that the festival committee would welcome any assistance that could be provided.

C/356/16 THAT DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL SUPPORTS CALLS BY DERRY CITY AND STRABANE DISTRICT COUNCIL FOR THE RELEASE OF TONY TAYLOR

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

Go dtacaíonn Comhairle Contae Dhún na nGall le seasamh Chomhairle Chathair Dhoire agus an tSratha Báin go scaoilfí saor Tony Taylor láithreach bonn agus míniú a lorg ó Sheirbhísí Slándála na Breataine fá cad chuige ar tarraingíodh siar a cheadúnas chun saoirse.

"That Donegal County Council supports calls by Derry City and Strabane District Council for the immediate release of Tony Taylor

and an explanation from the British Security Services as to why he had his license revoked."

Cllr Mac Giolla Easbuig said that Mr Taylor had been put back in prison with no apparent reason. An explanation was warranted, he added.

Cllr Campbell seconding the Motion said that everyone was entitled to justice and called for clarification as to what Mr Taylor was actually being charged with.

Cllr Crossan queried whether the matter was before the courts.

Cllr Mc Monagle said that it appeared that the Department of Justice in Northern Ireland was not going to proceed as no charges had been levied.

Cllr Mc Guinness queried the relevance of Donegal County Council passing such Motions.

Responding Cllr Mac Giolla Easbuig said that the matter in question was a social justice issue and relevant to all.

He thanked all who had supported the motion and asked that an explanation be provided as to why Mr Taylor had been arrested and his licence revoked.

C/357/16 REQUEST FOR A WRITTEN REPORT FROM THE  
TECHINCAL GROUP SET UP TO FORM THE NATIONAL  
PLANNING FRAMEWORK

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

"I would ask that this Council seeks clarity by way of a written report from the Technical Group that was set up in 2013 to form a Plan (namely National Planning Framework) as a successor strategy to the National Spatial Strategy, on their findings if and when Brexit is acted upon and how this directly affects the Northwest along with what mitigation factors are in place for the Northwest, given that this is a 20 year development strategy."

Cllr Canning received a response from the Director of Community and Enterprise and Planning Services:-

He called on the Council to seek clarity from the Technical Group given that they had been tasked with developing the National Planning Framework prior to the initiation of Brexit. The North West, he said, had changed dramatically and there was a danger that Donegal and the northwest would be left behind. The County, it was acknowledged would struggle to get direct investment and thus cognisance needed to be taken of what actually suited Donegal best.

He expressed concern in relation to the establishment of an office for a planning regulator who would oversee the use of all regional strategies. Rural Donegal, he contended, was under severe threat Cllr O' Domhnaill supporting the motion noted that at during one of the initial briefings in relation to the National Planning Framework it was clearly demonstrated that no specific recognition had been given to the six counties. It was apparent he said that there was a north south divide given that no consideration was being given to infrastructural needs north of the Dublin /Galway line until at least 2020.

It was imperative, he said, that a Special Meeting was held to discuss same and he suggested that Mr Paul Hogan, Principal Officer, Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government be invited to attend to discuss the County's infrastructural needs together with the local Oireachtas Members.

There was no opposition to the Motion.

Mr Liam Ward, Director Community, Enterprise & Planning Services acknowledged Members comments and said that there would be an opportunity to make submissions when the Draft National Planning Framework went out to public consultation. He alluded also to the forthcoming conference on Brexit hosted jointly by Donegal County Council and Derry City and Strabane District Council during which it was hoped to assess and discuss further the potential impact of this decision. It would, he confirmed, be possible to facilitate a Special Meeting if that was what the Members wanted.

Cllr Canning reiterated the need for a Special Meeting as soon as the Draft Framework was received.

C/358/16 COUNCIL SUPPORT FOR IRELANDS BID TO HOST THE 2023 RUGBY WORLD CUP

On the proposal of Cllr Murray, seconded by, Cllr A. Doherty the following motion was adopted:-

"That this Council fully supports Ireland's bid to host the 2023 Rugby World Cup, welcomes Celtic Park's inclusion in the list of host stadia, commends the unanimous decision of Derry City and Strabane District Council to support the bid and affirms the full and equal support of Donegal County Council."

Cllr Murray received a response from the Director of Community, Enterprise and Planning Services:-

He said that the inclusion of Celtic Park would reap enormous benefit for the Northwest as a whole and commended all involved in the preparation of the bid.

Cllr A Doherty seconding the motion welcomed the symbolic nature of the bid and said that if successful it would create a vibrant economic and social hub for the cross-border communities concerned.

There was no opposition to the Motion.

Mr Liam Ward, Director Community, Enterprise and Planning Services confirmed that Donegal County Council was willing to help within the confines of the available resources.

C/359/16 REVIEW ANALYSIS BY DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL OF "A ROADMAP FOR THE DELIVERY OF THE NATIONAL PLANNING FRAMEWORK"

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

"That Donegal County Council conduct now a thorough review analysis of "A Roadmap for the delivery of the National Planning Framework" published in December 2015, and investigate how strategies recommended then for delivering infrastructure development, job creation local and foreign direct investment for Donegal and border counties may now require amendment (esp. following the recent election in USA and recent referendum result in Britain.)

Furthermore that a priority needs list for Donegal County Council is compiled and forwarded for the attention of, 1) Minister for Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government, 2) the Northern and Western Regional Assembly and 3) other bodies related to the National Planning Framework."

Cllr Doherty received a response from the Director of Community, Enterprise and Planning Services in relation to the above:-

He contended that the key to enhanced infrastructure development, job creation and local and foreign investment was the promotion and designation of the Northwest as a city region. Statistical analysis of the of the region, he outlined, clearly showed that this was the way forward given that the Northwest continually lagged behind Dublin and the other city regions.

Cllr Mc Monagle said it was imperative that Councillors had an input and welcomed the proposed period of consultation.

The designation of the Northwest as a city region would, he confirmed be most welcome given that Donegal always seemed to be on the margins when it came to infrastructural development.

There was no opposition to the Motion.

Mr Liam Ward, Director Community, Enterprise and Planning Services confirmed that the Council's submission in relation to strategic issues as provided for under the public consultation phase of the Draft NPF would be robust and take into consideration all emerging issues. He said that it would also be possible to facilitate further discussion at a Special Meeting of Council.

Cllr Doherty outlined the need for a proactive approach going forward and ongoing collaboration with all of the agencies involved.

C/360/16 REQUEST THAT THE COUNCIL WRITE TO THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH SIMON HARRIS AND ASK THAT HE PRIORITISE THE UPGRADES AND NEW BUILDS OF COMMUNITY HOSPITALS IN THE COUNTY IN LIGHT OF THE RECENT OVERCROWDING IN LETTERKENNY HOSPITAL

On the proposal of Cllr McDermott, seconded by, Cllr Brogan the following motion was adopted:-

"To call on this Council in light of recent events with the overcrowding in Letterkenny Hospital that we write to the Minister for Health Simon Harris and ask him to prioritise upgrades and new builds of community hospitals in Donegal."

Cllr Mc Dermott said that this was an extremely important issue for the people of Donegal as a whole and that pressure needed to be maintained nationally if there was to be a change in the situation. Practically this, he maintained, was the way forward and would alleviate pressure on an overburdened Letterkenny University Hospital.

Supporting the motion, Cllr Brogan said that this was an ongoing issue which had been continually raised by the Members on the Regional Health Forum West.

There was no opposition to the motion.

Cllr Mc Dermott concluding said that Donegal was very much a community orientated place and that every effort needed to be made to ensure that the elderly were able to return to their own communities. Given that there was a limited public transport network it was essential, he added, that funding for Community Hospitals was prioritised.

C/361/16 REINSTATEMENT OF THE LIS SCHEME IN DONEGAL

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

"Calling on this Council to write again to the Government and emphasise how important LIS Schemes are to this County and that we need them reinstated thus allowing the Council to give permanent posts to temporary road workers."

Cllr O'Donnell received a response from the Director of Roads and Transportation in relation to the above.

He alluded to the importance of this scheme for Donegal given the extended road network of local roads. This was something, he confirmed that could be raised by the DCC delegation at their

forthcoming meeting with the Transport Infrastructure Ireland on the 8<sup>th</sup> December.

Cllr Blaney seconding the Motion said that it was blatantly obvious that the roads in the County had deteriorated since the LIS Schemes had lapsed. He asked that correspondence outlining the importance of such schemes be forwarded to the Minister for Regional Development, Rural Affairs, Arts and the Gaeltacht.

There was no opposition to the motion.

Mr John Mc Laughlin, Director of Roads and Transportation agreed to forward correspondence to the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport and also to the Minister for Regional Development, Rural Affairs Arts and the Gaeltacht.

Thanking Members for their support, Cllr O' Donnell asked that the Department be asked to consider the request and look at increasing the allocated budget year on year.

C/362/16 DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL ROAD CLOSURE  
PROTOCOL

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

"That Donegal County Council takes whatever steps necessary in order to ensure that the protocols pertaining to road closures are clear, widely circulated and communicated in a timely manner to all stakeholders prior to the closure of any road within the county."

Cllr McMonagle received a response from the Director of Roads and Transportation in relation to the above.

He expressed concern in relation to a recent road closure in the Letterkenny Municipal District which, he contended, had not abided by the general protocols pertaining to road closures, and had left a number of businesses in serious jeopardy given that they had lost between 60 and 80 percent of their daily business.

Cllr L Doherty said that it was imperative that all involved complied with Section 75 of the Roads Act 1993.

There was no opposition to the motion.

Mr John Mc Laughlin, Director Roads & Transportation confirmed that as soon as the NRO became aware of the issue it was sorted. All relevant parties, he noted were obliged to follow the general protocol.

Cllr Mc Monagle said that the contractor in this instance had not adhered to same and outlined the need for greater consultation going forward.

C/363/16

CALL FOR VOTE OF NO CONFIDENCE IN THE HSE

Cllr McBride proposed, seconded by, Cllr Brogan, that the following motion be adopted:-

"That this Council support my vote of no confidence in the HSE which was passed unanimously at the Letterkenny Municipal Meeting."

*Suspension of Standing Orders*

On the proposal of Cllr Brogan, seconded by Cllr Blaney it was resolved in accordance with Standing Order No 28 to suspend Standing Order No 30 to allow a representative from each grouping and the DCC representatives on the Regional Health Forum West to contribute to the debate.

Cllr Mc Bride said that the HSEs Mission Statement advocated fair and efficient treatment for all yet there was constant overcrowding and implementation of the full capacity protocol at Letterkenny General Hospital. It was acknowledged that over the years considerable financial investment had been made in Health Service Executive with no corresponding improvement in services.

A lengthy debate ensued with Members noting the following:-

- HSE unable to process persons presenting at A&E. Waiting times a major issue.
- Concern in relation to the ongoing implementation of the "Full Capacity Protocol" at Letterkenny University Hospital.
- Monies pumped into HSE but no improvement in services.
- Ambulance Service – present cover not sufficient for an area the size of Donegal.

- Concern regarding use of private ambulances and the fact that these are often procured from outside the County.
- Staff struggling to cope on a daily basis.
- Essential that Community Hospitals are maintained and funded as they are strategically placed to deal with a number of the overcrowding issues in Letterkenny University Hospital.
- Noted the plight of parents requiring palliative care at home for their children. Present service inadequate.
- Inhumane that patients from Donegal are expected to travel to Galway for treatment on an ongoing basis
- Contended that Donegal is looked upon as the poor relation within the Saolta Regional Health Forum Western Region and that the resources needed to support and run Letterkenny University Hospital are not sufficient. Saolta Group too large and Letterkenny University Hospital despite being the 6<sup>th</sup> largest hospital in Ireland does not feature in the top ten funded hospitals nationwide.
- Current system of healthcare is not working and thus there is a need to revert back to the Health Board Model.
- Lack of accountability a problem within the HSE.
- Constructive criticism needs to be taken on board by the HSE.

Cllr Brogan proposed, seconded by Cllr Mc Garvey in accordance with Standing order No 28 to suspend Standing Order No 3 so as to continue the meeting after 6pm and thus complete the remaining items on the agenda.

Cllr Mc Bride proposed seconded by Cllr Brogan that the motion be amended as follows and a copy circulated to all Local Authorities for consideration:-

"That this Council support my vote of no confidence in the HSE which was passed unanimously at the Letterkenny Municipal Meeting and that the HSE revert to the old Health Board Model".

There was no opposition to the motion.

Cllr Mc Bride thanked Members for their support and said it was intended to draft a letter with the assistance of the various

groupings in the Council and circulate same to each Local Authority.

C/364/16 THAT THE GOVERNMENT REVIEW THE CONSTITUTION IN LIGHT OF THE CHANGES IN OUR COUNTRY

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

"That this Council ask the Government to review the Constitution in view of the changes that have taken place in our Country."

Cllr Mc Garvey alluded in particular to Article 40 of the Constitution and the fact that all citizens should be held equal before the law. In some instances, he advised, it would be more appropriate to change the Social Protection Policy to the Social Injustice Policy. This, he said, was particularly relevant in the areas of health and social justice.

Members as Elected Representatives, had he confirmed an obligation to raise such injustices and the Council as body to collectively do its best.

Cllr Crossan seconding the motion said that there was an onus on Members generally to wear the county jersey and ensure that Donegal was at all times ably represented.

There was no opposition to the Motion.

C/365/16 CALL FOR ENHANCED WORKING RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN DERRY CITY AND DISTRICT COUNCIL AND DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL WITH A VIEW TO SETTING UP A PERMANENT OFFICE IN BRUSSELS

On the proposal of Cllr Brogan, seconded by, Cllr Crawford the following motion was adopted:-

"I propose that Donegal County Council and Derry City and Strabane District Council continue to build on its enhanced relationship and joined up working documents with a view to setting up a permanent office in Brussels due to Brexit as now more than ever we need to highlight the huge lack of infrastructure needs in the northwest part of our island."

Cllr Brogan received a response from the Director of Community, Enterprise and Planning Services in relation to the above.

The Northwest, he said, had been deprived for a long number of years but now with the new enhanced working arrangements between Donegal County Council and Derry City and Strabane District Council there was an opportunity to actively seek enhanced infrastructural investment.

This was important, he said, given the ongoing challenges in the areas of health, employment etc.

He cited the need for collective collaboration and dedicated input from our MEPS and Oireachtas Members.

Cllr Crawford seconding the Motion said that Donegal County Council was lucky to have a CEO who was not only forward thinking but actively involved in the promotion of the County, something that was clearly demonstrated in the new working arrangements between the two Councils.

There was no opposition to the motion.

Mr Liam Ward, Director Community, Enterprise & Planning Services said that the Council would explore options in this area in conjunction with Derry City and Strabane District Council including any opportunities that may be available in the Irish Regions Office in Brussels.

It was agreed that a follow-up report would be brought to the Council Meeting in March, 2017.

C/366/16 APPOINTMENT OF A BIO DIVERISTY OFFICER IN  
DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

Cllr Jordan withdrew the following motion:-

“I am asking this Council to appoint a Bio-Diversity Officer for the County”

C/367/16 CATHAOIRLEACH’S BUSINESS

*Letter of Thanks*

The Cathaoirleach read into the record correspondence from William C Campbell expressing his sincere thanks for the Civic

Reception accorded to him by Donegal County Council on the 26<sup>th</sup> September, 2016

*2016/ Boston Massachusetts Trade Mission & Investment Mission & Golden Bridges Conference.*

A report detailing the work of the joint trade mission involving both Donegal County Council and Derry City and Strabane District Council and led jointly by the Cathaoirleach Cllr Terence Slowey was presented to the meeting.

*Chambers Ireland Excellence in Local Government Awards*

Members were informed that Donegal County Council had scooped the Joint Local Authority Initiative award at this year's Chambers Ireland Excellence in Local Government Awards for its work with Derry City and Strabane District Council on the "North West of the Island of Ireland – A Strategic Model for Regional Development and Growth" Initiative.

*Correspondence from Donegal Action for Cancer Care*

Members were informed of the details in relation to correspondence received from Betty Holmes, Chairperson DACC regarding ongoing concerns in relation to Donegal's Health Care Services.

*Votes of Sympathy*

A vote of sympathy was extended to the following:-

- Michael Mc Garvey, Director Water & Environment on the death of his mother, Annie Mc Garvey.
- Caroline Mc Cleary, Community & Enterprise on the death of her father, George Donnelly.
- Our former colleague Mairead Maguire, on the death of her sister Maura Maguire.
- Joseph Gallagher, Heritage Officer, on the death of his father, Jamsie Gallagher.
- Joanne Kelly (Chambers), Clerical Officer, Housing, Stranorlar, on the death of her father, Joseph Joey Chambers.
- Anna Brogan, Assistant Staff Officer, Library Admin, and our former colleague Catriona Clay on the death of their brother,

Jimmy Doherty (Waterworks Inspector, Water Conservation, Letterkenny MD).

- Donal Walker, Senior Executive Engineer, Housing Construction and Parking Section, on the death of his mother Mary Ann Walker (Wife of our former Colleague retired Revenue Collector Andy Walker).
- Pascal Blake, Letterkenny on the death of his mother, Mary.

C/368/16

#### CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT

Members considered the report circulated with the agenda in relation to the above and received an update in relation to the following:-

- ISO 50001 Accreditation for Energy Management
- Proposed nomination to the Audit Committee  
Members endorsed the nomination of Mr Mícheál Mac Giolla Easbuig, Regional Manager, Údarás na Gaeltachta, to fill the casual vacancy on the Audit Committee arising from the resignation of Ms Deirdre McGlone.
- IMPROVE Project – Open Data Seminar
- SECURE Launch Conference
- Donegal County Council's Communications Office
- Fire Service Two Month Report
- The ASCENT Project
- Designated Urban Centre Grant Scheme/Social Enterprise Building
- Town & Villages Programme
- CLAR
- LEADER/RDP
- PEACE IV
- Donegal Tourism Ltd/Marine Tourism Marketing & Development
- Local Enterprise Office (LEO)
- Tip O' Neill Schools Competition
- Reuse Month
- Lifeguard Service & Facilities
- Coastal Erosion Surveys

- Enforcement Figures 2016.
- *Donegal County Council named overall winner of the “Road Safety Award 2016”*
- *Donegal Road Safe Show*
- Construction of a new bridge at Cockhill, Buncrana
- *Donegal’s 2016 Centenary Celebration*
- *My Open Library*
- *Wainfest*
- *Regional Cultural Centre - Lived Lost Lives Exhibition*
- *Letterkenny Trad Week 2017*
- *Donegal County Museum - Events to commemorate World War*
- *County Donegal Heritage Office - Traditional Shopfronts Guidance Document*
- *Study of the Maritime Built Heritage*
- *Audit of Oral History Recordings for County Donegal*

*North West Greenways Project*

Mr Neely informed Members that following the publication of his report there had been confirmation from the Special EU Programmes Body that funding of €14.86 million was being awarded to the North West Greenways Network which will see the creation of 46.5km of new greenways through three distinct routes connecting Donegal to Derry and Strabane. It was noted that €2.9 million co-funding was required from both Donegal County Council and Derry City and Strabane District Council with €350,000 of that being provided under the North West Strategic Partnership Fund.

C/369/16

CONTINUATION OF THE MEETING IN COMMITTEE

On the proposal of Cllr Ryan, seconded by Cllr Kavanagh it was resolved in accordance with Section 45 of the Local Government Act, 2001 to continue with the remainder of the meeting in committee.

**The following questions were noted:-**

C/370/16

TRAFFIC BOTTLENECKS IN THE COUNTY

The following question was submitted by Cllr McGowan:-

"Can the main traffic bottlenecks across the County be highlighted and prioritised such as McClays Corner, Pole Star Roundabout, Killross Junction etc and agree a plan to fast track traffic solutions such as the replacement of Logue's Bridge as a relief road, install a roundabout at Killross etc.?"

Cllr McGowan received a response from the Director of Roads and Transportation in relation to the above.

C/371/16 NUMBER OF FAMILIES ON THE HOUSING WAITING LIST IN THE COUNTY

The following question was submitted by Cllr Crawford:-

"How many families are on the Council Housing Waiting List, and how is this need reflected in the latest Government Housing Plan?"

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

C/372/16 PLANS TO ADDRESS THE ISSUES AFFECTING OUR RIVERS IN THE COUNTY

The following question was submitted by Cllr McGowan:-

"Can the Council outline what plans there are to address problems affecting rivers such as the River Finn, so that common issues such as sewerage discharge, lack of riverside amenities, angling and flooding issues are dealt with, and a dedicated strategy put in place to deal with the River Finn going forward?"

Cllr McGowan received a response from the Director of Community, Enterprise and Planning in relation to the above.

C/373/16 AQUACULTURE LICENSING IN THE COUNTY

The following question was submitted by Cllr Gallagher:-

"Will Donegal County Council write to the Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries to invite them to Donegal to meet with the Council on the need to have proper notice on aquaculture licensing?"

Cllr Gallagher received a response from the Director of Community, Enterprise and Planning in relation to the above.

C/374/16 FUNDING FOR ENTERPRISE CENTRES IN DONEGAL

The following question was submitted by Cllr Gallagher:-

"What is the situation with regards the provision of funding for Enterprise Centres and the allocation of funds to complete projects such as the Glenties Enterprise Centre?

Cllr Gallagher received a response from the Director of Community, Enterprise and Planning in relation to the above.

C/375/16 FINANCIAL PLAN BY DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL TO SUPPORT OUR TIDY TOWNS GROUPS

The following question was submitted by Cllr Canning:-

Has this Council a financial plan in place to support our "Tidy Towns Groups" going into the future given the amount of work they do for their communities?

Cllr Canning received a response from the Director of Water and Environment in relation to the above.

C/376/16 CLARIFICATION ON THE STEPS THAT HAVE BEEN TAKEN BY DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL SINCE PASSING OF CLLR MURRAY'S MOTION ON FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO THE TIDY TOWNS GROUPS OF THE FORMER TOWN COUNCIL AREAS

The following question was submitted by Cllr Murray:-

"Following the passing of my motion at Donegal County Council, what steps have been taken to ensure that Tidy Towns Committees in former Town Council areas continue to receive the financial support that previously came from Town Councils?"

Cllr Murray received a response from the Director of Water and Environment in relation to the above.

C/377/16 MEASURES TO KEEP THE GULLIES CLEARED IN THE EVENT OF FLASH FLOODS

The following question was submitted by Cllr Canning:-

"Given the amount of leaves that seem to have fallen at the one time, has the council put in place any measures to keep the gullies cleared in the event of a flash flood."

Cllr Canning received a response from the Director of Roads and Transportation in relation to the above.

C/378/16 CLAIFICIATON ON THE COUNCILS POLICY IN RELATION TO THE INSTALLATION OF SPEED RAMPS

The following question was submitted by Cllr Murray:-

"What is Donegal County Council's policy in relation to the installation of speed ramps, ie in what roads are they deemed acceptable?"

Cllr Murray received a response from the Director of Roads and Transportation in relation to the above.

C/379/16 FUNDING OF PORTS AND HARBOURS

The following question was submitted by Cllr A Doherty:-

"Which Government Department is responsible for supporting Donegal County Council in the running and maintenance of Ports and Harbours and will Donegal County Council seek a more equitable and adequate distribution of funding from the Department of the Marine for Coastal Infrastructure and upkeep of ports?"

Cllr Doherty received a response from the Director of Roads and Transportation in relation to the above.

C/380/16 BREAKDOWN BY MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF THE MONEY RINGFENCED FOR THE EMPLOYMENT OF GARDENERS IN RECREATIONAL PARKS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTY

The following question was submitted by Cllr McDermott:-

"Please confirm by Municipal District the amount of money ring fenced for the employment of gardeners in recreational parks throughout the County?"

Cllr McDermott received a response from the Director of Roads and Transportation in relation to the above.

C/381/16 PLANNING APPLICATIONS AND EXEMPTIONS APPLICATIONS NUMBERS TO ERECT FENCING AND OR TERMINATE RIGHT OF WAY IN SPEICAL AREAS OF

CONSERVATION SPECIAL PROTECTED AREA AND  
NATURA 200 HABITATS

The following question was submitted by Cllr A Doherty:-

“How many planning applications or exemptions have been received in 2015 and 2016, and in what location for permission to erect fencing and/or terminate "right of way" in Special Areas of Conservation, Special Protected Areas and Natura 2000 Habitats?”

Cllr Doherty received a response from the Director of Community, Enterprise and Planning in relation to the above.

C/382/16 UPDATE ON COUNCIL PLANS TO CONSTRUCT A NEW  
COUNCIL CHAMBER AND CLARIFICATION ON THE  
COSTING INVOLVED

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

"Is this Council still planning to construct a new chamber for the members and has it been designed and costed yet?"

Cllr O’Donnell received a response from the Director of Housing, Corporate and Cultural in relation to the above.

C/383/16 UPDATES ON THE PUBLIC LIGHTING PLANNED FOR 2017

The following question was submitted by Cllr Kavanagh:-

"Could the Council outline details of any updates to public lighting which are planned for 2017?"

Cllr Kavanagh received a response from the Director of Roads and Transportation in relation to the above.

C/384/16 NORTHWEST DEPUTATION ON INFRASTRUCTURE NEEDS  
TO THE TAOISEACHS OFFICE AND MINISTER FOR  
TRANSPORT

The following question was submitted by Cllr Brogan:-

“Have we ever had a reply from the Taoiseach's Office or Minister for Transport in relation to receiving a deputation from the North West in relation to our infrastructure needs?”

Cllr Brogan received a response from the Director of Roads and Transportation in relation to the above.

C/385/16 CLARIFICATION SOUGHT ON THE CHARGES APPLIED FOR PRIVATE CONTRACTORS TO DISCHARGE AT LOCAL SEWERAGE TREATMENT PLANTS

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

"Does this Council charge for private contractors to discharge at local sewerage treatment plants?"

Cllr O'Donnell received a response from the Director of Water and Environment in relation to the above.

C/386/16 BREAKDOWN OF THE FIGURES PER MUNICIPAL DISTRICT IN RELATION TO THE HOUSING STOCK IN THE COUNTY AND FIGURES RELATING TO SOCIAL HOUSING APPLICATIONS AND HAP

The following question was submitted by Cllr McMonagle:-

"Can I have a breakdown of our housing stock as per Municipal District, how many voids per municipal district and the figures per Municipal District of how many applicants have currently an application for social housing with the Council and how many HAP applicants are there per Municipal District?"

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

C/387/16 UPDATE ON THE NUMBER OF COUNCIL MORTGAGES APPROVED IN THE LAST THREE YEARS BY DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

The following question was submitted by Cllr Brogan:-

"How many Council Mortgages have been approved by this Council in the last three years and can we have a special workshop to discuss our Buying out Scheme with a view to helping people who find themselves in huge difficulties trying to acquire a permanent home and maybe go to government to identify the gaps?"

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

C/388/16 UPDATE ON THE NUMBERS IN RELATION TO THE RECRUITMENT OF NEW STAFF BY THE COUNCIL  
The following question was submitted by Cllr McMonagle:-

"How many new staff have the Council recruited this year and what sections of the Council have they been employed in and in relation to new outdoor staff what Municipal Districts will new employees be deployed too?"

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

C/389/16 UPDATE ON THE PROJECTS THAT HAVE APPLIED UNDER REDZ AND CLAR  
The following question was submitted by Cllr Kavanagh:-

"Could I have an update on what projects are being applied for under REDZ and Clar?"

Cllr Kavanagh received a response from the Director of Community, Enterprise and Planning in relation the above.

C/390/16 OUTLINE FROM COUNCIL ON THE NEXT BATCH OF ESTATES TO BE TAKEN IN CHARGE AND THE TIMEFRAME FOR SAME  
The following question was submitted by Cllr Kavanagh:-

"Can the Council outline the next batch of estates that will be taken in charge by the Council, and when this is likely to happen?"

Cllr Kavanagh received a response from the Director of Community, Enterprise and Planning in relation to the above.

C/391/16 MOTIONS FROM OTHER COUNCILS/BODIES  
The following motion from South Dublin County Council was noted:-

SOUTH DUBLIN COUNTY COUNCIL

"That this Council concerned at the need for sustainable funding for local government and services and being dissatisfied with the unfair and unworkable elements of the current Local Property Tax, calls on the Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government and the Minister for Finance to amend the relevant legislation also

as to provide for a system of funding for Local Government that is based on the provision of local services; on site value not property value; that is linked on ability to pay; that is linked to general taxation; and , that enables Local Authorities to engage with their citizens in setting service levels, in determining budgets and in levying charges. That the Chief Executive convey the contents of this motion to the above Ministers and that a copy be circulated to all City and County Councils and to the AILG.”

This concluded the business of the meeting.