

6<sup>th</sup> October, 2020

TO ALL MEMBERS OF DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

The Adjourned September Meeting of Donegal County Council, will be held on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> October, 2020 at 11.00am in the Aura Leisure Centre , Sallaghgrane, Letterkenny to consider the unfinished business listed below:-

Items 9-53

All reports can be accessed on the eCouncil portal Please ensure that you bring the agenda previously distributed to the meeting.



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Meetings Administrator

**MINUTES OF THE ADJOURNED MEETING OF DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL,  
HELD IN THE AURA LEISURE CENTRE LETTERKENNY ON 12<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER,  
2020**

C/173/20

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

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

C/174/20

**APOLOGIES**

Cllrs T Crossan, M Farren and N Kennedy.

C/175/20

**OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE**

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

C/176/20

**ENDORSEMENT OF MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CORPORATE POLICY GROUP HELD ON 13<sup>TH</sup> JULY, 2020**

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

On the proposal of Cllr I Mc Garvey, seconded by Cllr Gallagher it was resolved to endorse the minutes of the meeting of the Corporate Policy Group held on 13<sup>th</sup> July, 2020.

C/177/20

**ATTENDANCE AT CONFERENCE, SEMINAR OR EVENT**

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 2006-2019 as amended and directives issued by the Minister in that regard, on the proposal of Cllr I Mc Garvey, seconded by Cllr Canning, it was resolved to authorise any member, if he/she so wished, to attend the following 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.

### **Training**

- AILG Elected Members Training Programme Module 3 – Moorhead Report held July/August 2020. (Details received after July 2020 Council Meeting).

C/178/20

### **FAIR AND JUST PENALTY POINTS SYSTEM FOR FISHERMEN**

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

“To call on the Minister for the Marine that he must ensure a fair and just penalty points scheme.”

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

Cllr Jordan said that this issue had received much attention at national level yet the current administration had effectively done a u turn by introducing regulations containing a penalty points system for fishermen. The fishing sector, he said, was not opposed to a penalty points system but needed confirmation that an effective appeal system would be put in place. There were, he added a number of issues regarding enforcement measures which the sector were willing to challenge in court.

Failure to resolve this issue would, he confirmed, decimate the fishing industry in Ireland.

There was no opposition to the motion.

C/179/20

### **REQUEST THAT AN OFFICIAL FROM IRISH WATER ATTEND THE NEXT COUNCIL MEETING.**

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

“That Donegal County Council requests an official from Irish Water to attend our next Council meeting or have a workshop with us the elected councillors to address the issues in the County.”

He received a response from the Director of Water & Environment.

Cllr Naughton contended that members were not getting sufficient support from Irish Water and that current arrangements for responding to member's queries were not working.

There were, he said, a number of ongoing issues including problems with the quality of drinking water and the exorbitant costs associated with sewage and water service connection fees all of which impacted severely on those hoping to build their own homes.

This situation, he advised could not go on and there was an onus on the Elected Members to address the issues raised by constituents. He asked that a full one day county-wide workshop be convened with Irish Water officials in attendance and that a concerted effort be made to address the issues raised day in and day out on the provision of water services in Donegal.

There was no opposition to the motion.

C/180/20

**THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE MEETING WITH THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF LEITRIM COUNTY COUNCIL REGARDING THE BRIDGE BETWEEN BUNDORAN AND KINLOUGH**

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

“That the Chief Executive of this Council meet with the Chief Executive of Leitrim County Council regarding the structure of the bridge between Bundoran and Kinlough, also known as Lennox's Bridge. This bridge is a hazard and there has been several serious accidents over the last number of years.”

He received a response from the Director of Roads & Transportation.

Cllr Mc Mahon said that the bridge in question had not been built to accommodate modern day levels of traffic. He noted that there had been a number of serious accidents at this location and that over the past 25 years little had been done to remedy infrastructural deficits at this strategic location.

Concluding he called on the Chief Executive to intervene and liaise with his counterpart in Leitrim to see what could be done to address the situation.

There was no opposition to the motion.

C/181/20

**RENAMING OF BUILDINGS AT THE OLD ARMY BARRACKS LIFFORD**

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

“Buildings on site at Old Army Barracks - Lifford

1. The Prior School
2. Mc Intyre Building

As both buildings have been known as such I propose that these be officially confirmed.”

He received a response from the Director of Housing, Corporate & Cultural Services.

Cllr Crawford welcomed the fact that Council staff were now occupying office accommodation at the Old Army Barracks site. This, he acknowledged, had breathed life into the complex again, something that had been missing since the 28<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion vacated the site in 2009.

He called for the buildings generally known as the “Mc Intyre Building” and the “Prior School” to be officially renamed as such.

The Mc Intyre Building, he noted, had been named in honour of Cpt Kevin Mc Intyre who had served at the barracks and whose family had many connections with Donegal County Council.

The Prior School, he confirmed had been named after Eleanor Price of Ballindrait who had made provision in her will to build a school in Lifford at the cost of £2000. The school completed in 1880, he said, had strong historical links to the Lifford and Strabane area and the retention of the Prior name would serve to honour all those who had attended the school from 1880 until 1971.

There was no opposition to the motion.

C/182/20

#### **SCHOOL TRANSPORT ISSUES**

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

“In light of the serious difficulties faced by families in Donegal in trying to secure places on school transport this year this Council: -

- Commits to immediately raising concerns regarding the number of available places on school buses with the Minister for Transport and the Minister for Education
- Calls on the Department of Transport and the Department of Education to review the current system of allocating places on school transport and to put an action plan in place to ensure that every child who pays for school transport receives a place for same;
- Supports the call for the fleet to be dramatically increased to accommodate those thousands of children who are so far left without transport and the need to plan ahead for future years.”

Cllr L Doherty received a response from the Director of Housing, Corporate & Cultural Services.

There was no opposition to the motion.

C/183/20

#### **SUPPORT FOR WORKERS IN THE MUSIC, THEATRE, ENTERTAINMENT AND EVENTS INDUSTRIES.**

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

“That Donegal County Council supports the workers in the music, theatre, entertainment and events industries, and calls on the Government to recognise its importance and introduce supports to ensure the survival of the sector through the Covid-19 crisis and beyond.”

Cllr G Doherty received a response from the Director of Housing, Corporate & Cultural Services.

He said that the music and entertainment industry had been badly hit and had not received the same supports as other sectors. He noted that a recent package available through the Arts Council had only been available to established professional musicians. There was also he advised no formal representative group for ordinary working musicians.

The impact on this sector It was noted had been catastrophic with many of those working in the sound, lighting production end of the sector now struggling to make ends meet as there had been no live events since March 2020.

He called on the Government to restore the Pandemic Unemployment Payment to €350 over the winter months and asked for clarity in relation to the public health guidelines which restricted and impacted on the live music scene.

There was no opposition to the motion.

C/184/20

### **CONTINUED DEVELOPMENT OF THE TOURISM SECTOR**

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

“That this Council identify tourism projects of large, medium and small scale throughout the county, and work on cross directorate basis to ensure project development and infrastructure is put in place to ensure the continued development of the tourism sector in Donegal, following on from the huge success of projects developed over the past decade.”

Cllr Gallagher received a response from the Director of Economic Development, Emergency Services and Information Systems.

She noted that excellent work had been carried out in the past and in particular initiatives undertaken by the former County Development Board and built on by Donegal County Council had led to the development of a number of flagship tourism projects in the county namely Sliabh Liag, Fanad Lighthouse and Malin Head.

The summer of 2020 had, she advised, shown clearly that there were infrastructural deficiencies and safety issues to be addressed if the county was to accommodate increased tourist numbers.

It was imperative, she said that a cross directorate approach was taken and welcomed the fact that the Council was working on detailed terms of reference for the development of a new tourist strategy. This was essential, she said if increased tourist numbers were to be accommodated.

There was no opposition to the motion.

C/185/20

**CONSTRUCTION OF 2 NO. EPR REACTOR UNITS IN THE UK**

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

“That this Council write to all relevant Government Departments in regard to the construction of 2 No UK European Pressurised Reactor Units (UK EPR Reactor Units) planned for Suffolk England as I believe that these units will have serious health implications for us all.”

He received a response from the Director of Housing, Corporate & Cultural Services.

Cllr Mc Clafferty voiced strong concern in relation to the planned construction of a nuclear facility at Suffolk, England.

There were dangers, he said, associated with this type of development including the potential for leaks, explosions and the contamination of workers.

It was noted that there had been several incidents to date at the Sellafield Plant all of which had concerning implications for this country.

The necessity of adequate decommissioning practises was also noted given the close proximity to Ireland.

The people of Donegal, he said, needed to challenge the development in order to protect this and future generations.

He alluded also to the rumoured dumping of barrels of waste off Tory Island in the 1950s and said that the matter needed to be investigated once and for all.

There was no opposition to the motion.

C/186/20

**IMPACT OF THE PANDEMIC ON SPORTING, VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS.**

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

“That this Council recognises the huge adverse impact that the pandemic has had on sporting, voluntary and community organisations and affirms that there is a need for greater supports to help them maintain their services.”

Cllr Murray received a response from the Director of Planning & Community Services.

He said that Covid-19 had impacted significantly on those community groups who had been particularly active during the lockdown. Normal fundraising events were not now possible, he said, and many were struggling to operate at this stage.

He called on the Government to provide additional support for these groups who played a vital role in maintaining the mental and physical well being of local communities.

There was no opposition to the motion.

C/187/20

**DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL DEMANDS THAT THE GOVERNMENT INITIATE IMMEDIATE ACTION TO SUPPORT THIRD LEVEL STUDENTS AND THEIR FAMILIES**

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

“Donegal County Council demands that the government initiate immediate actions to support families and students including,

- 1) An immediate reduction in Third Level fees,
- 2) An immediate increase in SUSI supports
- 3) Provide funding alleviation and recompense measures for students with partial access to campuses and student accommodation, and with the onset of increased online and blended learning further demands an urgent positive support from Government including early action from NBI to provide for high speed broadband access in rural areas of Donegal.”

He received a response from the Director of Housing, Corporate & Cultural Services.

Cllr Doherty said that the pandemic had severely interrupted the lives of students and their families and in many cases had caused undue hardship.

The disruption of exams, additional IT requirements and the fact that many students had paid for accommodation yet their classes were now being delivered online were highlighted.

He asked that the motion be forwarded to the relevant Government Ministers and to National Broadband Ireland for their attention.

There was no opposition to the motion.

C/188/20

**EMERGENCY FUNDING TO ADDRESS COASTAL EROSION.**

On the proposal of Cllr A Doherty, seconded by Cllr Gallagher the following motion submitted by Cllr T Crossan was adopted.

“I propose that Donegal County Council as a matter of urgency seek emergency funding, from whatever source, to initiate remedial works to address coastal erosion that is having a serious impact on some of our regional roads and to implement safety measures where roads run parallel to foreshores and coastlines with steep inclines towards the sea.”

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

Cllr Doherty said that this was a serious issue affecting a number of Municipal Districts.

He asked that members be updated in relation to the RPS study on Binbane.

There was no opposition to the motion.

C/189/20

**CARRYING OUT OF A SURVEY IN EACH MUNICIPAL DISTRICT TO DETERMINE THE NUMBER OF DISHES ERECTED ON MASTS**

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

“That this Council carry out a survey in each Municipal District to determine that the number of dishes erected on masts is compliant with Planning Regulations.”

He received a response from the Director of Planning & Community Development.

Cllr Coyle said that he wanted to highlight the anxieties that existed in relation to the proliferation of these structures throughout the county. It was important, he said, that all of these were compliant with the relevant planning regulations.

Welcoming the lengthy response, he said, it was essential that the number and location of such masts were identified.

He outlined the need for an inclusive map showing the location of masts. The response, he noted, had identified resource implications and he thus called for a check to be carried out on a subset of masts i.e. two per Municipal District to identify the level of compliance.

He queried the following:-

1. The number of masts installed under the exempted development clause?
2. Details of the two number valid complaints to date and the methodology used to resolve same.

He further requested that the masts at Mongorry Hill and Murren Hill be considered for inclusion in the submission from the Letterkenny-Milford Municipal District.

There was no opposition to the motion.

C/190/20

**PREPARATION AND PRESENTATION OF PROPOSALS TO THE GOVERNMENT IN LIGHT OF THE BREXIT SITUATION TOGETHER WITH THE IMPLICATIONS FOR THE NORTH WEST.**

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

“I propose that this Council in conjunction with NWRDG prepare our proposals and present the new Government and the Taoiseach's Department with them with a view to a meeting soon in light of the Brexit situation and the implications for us in the North West.”

He received a response from the Director of Economic Development, Information Systems and Emergency Services.

Cllr Brogan said that there were challenging times ahead and that recent events had clearly shown that the border existed only on paper. The economic, cultural and social life of the region was, he stated, clearly entwined and many interdependences existed.

Acknowledging the excellent co-operation that existed between the local authorities in the North West Region, he said it was imperative that the region was viewed as a singular entity in terms of future economic development. This was an important issue also, he contended, in terms of the new Shared Ireland initiative.

Concluding he said it was extremely important that there was ongoing collaboration with the North West Regional Development Group in relation to ongoing Brexit preparations.

There was no opposition to the motion.

C/191/20

**REVIEW THE FACILITIES AVAILABLE TO VISITORS AND THE IDENTIFICATION OF CURENT SHORTFALLS**

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

“That Donegal County Council review the facilities we have available to our visitors, identify the shortfalls and put a plan in place to build on the success of our 2020 holiday season.”

He received a response from the Director of Economic Development, Information Systems and Emergency Services.

Cllr Mc Bride thanked all who had worked to promote our tourism product and acknowledged that the Staycation Marketing campaign had been particularly successful for Donegal this year with a massive increase in first time visitors to the county. He said that this in itself had generated a number of issues which needed to be addressed going forward.

It was noted that there had been parking and access issues at a number of locations and that deficiencies existed in camping/ and campervan facilities. He alluded in particular to parking problems that had arisen at Glenveigh National Park and at Errigal Mountain.

The success of the Wild Atlantic Way, he said, warranted increased investment in camping/camper van facilities.

There was no opposition to the motion.

C/192/20

**URGENT INVESTMENT NEEDED FOR THE PROTECTION OF OUR HEALTH SERVICES**

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

“That this Council now calls on the current Government to make the urgent investment needed to protect our health services. This investment must be substantial enough to allow for the expansion of our health service physical infrastructure, address the deficit in our bed capacity, our ever growing waiting lists and allow for the necessary recruitment and protection of health care workers.”

He received a response from the Director of Housing, Corporate & Cultural Services.

Cllr Mc Monagle called for monies to be made available nationally so as to increase the capacity of our hospitals and to employ additional health care staff. These, he said, were not normal times and extra initiatives were needed from Government if bed capacity was to be increased.

It was time, he advised, to move away from the sticking plaster approach and make a long term investment in our health services.

There was no opposition to the motion.

C/193/20

**CATHAOIRLEACH'S BUSINESS**

*European Regional Development Fund*

The Cathaoirleach drew attention to the fact that European Commission findings had identified regional disparities in Ireland as

among the highest in the European Union. She advised that it had been well publicised that the Northern and Western region had not performed economically as well as its fellow regions in Ireland and relative to the EU norm. This, she said, was set to continue and there were further complications in terms of Brexit and the disproportionate economic impact of Covid-19 on the region. As a result of the regions poor economic performance, the European Commission, it was noted, had officially downgraded the Northern and Western Regions from a “More Developed Region” to a “Transition Region” post 2020.

Donegal County Council representatives on the Northern Western Regional Assembly and their NWRA colleagues were she confirmed calling for the more effective use of European Regional Development Funds.

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

*“That Donegal County Council write to the Minister of Public Expenditure and Reform, Michael McGrath TD and request the following:-*

*According to the European Commission, regional disparities in Ireland are among the highest in the European Union. As a result of our poor economic performance the west and border region (NUTS II) has been downgraded from ‘Developed’ to ‘in Transition’. All the economic indicators show a trend towards widening regional inequality. Management and delivery of European Regional Development Funds is essential to the regions performance and we ask that these funds continue to be managed by the regions (NWRA), in the regions with increased flexibility and consistent with regional priorities”*

#### *Transport Infrastructure Ireland*

On the proposal of Cllr Brogan, seconded by Cllr I Mc Garvey it was resolved that an online meeting be organised with Transport Infrastructure Ireland to discuss funding requirements for 2021.

#### *Opening of Meenamulligan Bridge*

On the proposal of Cllr Canning, seconded by Cllr Mc Gowan it was resolved that the Cathaoirleach would officially open Meenamulligan Bridge subject to Covid-19 regulations on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> October, 2020 or on an alternative date if applicable.

C/194/20

### **CHIEF EXECUTIVE’S MANAGEMENT REPORT**

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

1. Living with COVID-19
2. Community Development & Planning Services

- A. Update on Proposed Variations to County Donegal Development Plan, 2018-2024
  - *TEN-T Priority Route Improvement Project (Donegal)*
  - *Adoption of NWRA RSES*
  - *Wind Energy Policy*
  - *Issues Raised by Members*
- B. Update on Letterkenny Local Area Plan
- C. Failte Ireland Funding Programmes – Platforms for Growth
- D. 2020 Community Development Funding Schemes
  - *Town & Villages Renewal Scheme – Accelerated Measure Round 1, 2 and 3*
  - *Town & Village Renewal Scheme 2020*
  - *CLÁR Scheme*
  - *Community Enhancement Programme*
- E. Regeneration Team Update
  - *Rural Regeneration and Development Fund (RRDF)*
  - *Urban Regeneration and Development Fund (URDF)*

### 3. Finance

- A. Business Restart Grant Scheme

### 4. Economic Development, Emergency Services and Information Systems

- A. Economic Development Initiatives 2020
  - *Love Donegal*
  - *Donegal Connect*
  - *Buy Donegal*
- B. Supporting Recovery of the Tourism and Hospitality Sector in Donegal
- C. Micro-Enterprise Assistance Fund
- D. BREXIT
- E. Local Enterprise Office COVID-19 Supports
- F. Information Systems Update
  - *Information Systems COVID-19 Response*
  - *Broadband Connection Points*

### G. Fire Service Update

- *Incident Activity*
- *Statutory Fire Safety*

### 5. Roads & Transportation

- A. Roads Programme Update

- *2020 Road Strengthening and Resurfacing Works*
- *Active Travel and Climate Change Adaptation Measures*
- *2020/2021 Winter Maintenance*
- *Major Non-National Roads Projects*

## 6. Housing, Corporate & Cultural Services

### A. Housing Capital Update

- *Social Housing Developments*
- *Social Housing through Turnkey Acquisition*
- *House Acquisition Programme*
- *Lands / Property for Social Housing Purposes*
- *Visit of Minister Darragh O'Brien TD to the County*

### B. Cultural Services

- *Creative Ireland Programme 2020*
- *Library Service*
- *Arts Service*
- *Regional Cultural Centre*
- *Museum*
- *Archives*
- *County Donegal Heritage Office*

## 7. Water and Environment

### A. Waste and Litter Management

- *Waste Presentation Bye-Laws*
- *Bulky Goods*
- *MyWaste – National Upcycling Competition*
- *Online Community Workshops*
- *Raphoe Clean Up*

### B. CFRAMS Unit

- *Lifford Flood Relief Scheme*
- *Castlefinn Flood Relief Scheme*
- *Ballybofey-Stranorlar Flood Relief Scheme*
- *Na Dúnaibh (Downings) Flood Relief Scheme*
- *Kerrykeel Flood Relief Scheme*
- *Ramelton Flood Relief Scheme*
- *Burnfoot Flood Relief Scheme*
- *Buncrana-Luddan Flood Relief Scheme*
- *Glenties Flood Relief Scheme*

### C. Coastal Management

- *Summer Beach Season*
- *Beach Lifeguards*
- *Stranding of Whales*

## 8. Updates Previously Provided to Members (Appendices)

### A. Restart Grant Plus' Scheme - Appendix 1

### B. Notification of Funding Allocation in respect of Housing Grants for 2020 - Appendix 2

C. Notification of Funding Allocation in respect of Active Travel Measures and Climate Change Adaptation Measures - Appendix 3

C/195/20

**MOTIONS UNDER URGENT BUSINESS**

Members unanimously resolved to adopt the following motions submitted to the September Council Meeting under urgent business:-

Concerns in relation to the status of Prisoners

*“Donegal County Council notes with concern the ongoing protests by Republican prisoners in Portlaoise, Maghaberry and Hydebank Prisons. We acknowledge the distress being caused to the families of prisoners currently on hunger strike in the 6 and 26 counties and because of the failure of the Northern Ireland Office and Prison Authorities to provide regular updates on the prisoner’s ongoing welfare and conditions. Donegal County Council shall write to the N.I.O – calling on the Prison Service to release updates on the prisoner’s status/conditions. Donegal County Council has concerns that the facility (Foyle House) and procedures currently being used at Maghaberry poses a risk to the physical and mental health and welfare of prisoners. Donegal County Council calls on the administration in the 6 counties to do all in its power to resolve these issues and bring about an end to the current hunger strike.*

Methodology for dealing with Council Motions

*“That this Council devise a structure that motions by members become more effective in dealing with the problems raised and that the response state the following:*

- *Approach to be pursued.*
- *Who will deal with the issue and when.*
- *Relevant time scale.*
- *That the Elected Member be kept advised.*
- *Outcome be sent to the relevant members.”*

C/196/20

**STAFF CURRENTLY EMPLOYED IN THE WATER SECTION**

Cllr Naughton submitted the following question:-

How many staff are employed in the water section in Donegal County Council? and ,

- (i) How much does it cost the Council in wages for the year for the water staff?
- (ii) How much of this is funded by Irish Water?

He received a response from the Director of Water & Environment.

C/197/20 **HOW MANY PLANNED ROAD RESTORATION WORKS ARE ON HOLD OR DELAYED.**

Cllr Crawford submitted the following question:-

How many planned road restoration works on national primary, regional and county roads are on hold or delayed and at what locations due to planned, pending or delayed Irish Water works?

He received a response from the Director of Roads & Transportation.

C/198/20 **LOW COST FLOODING MEASURES TO ALLEVIATE FLOODING IN EAST DONEGAL**

Cllr McGowan submitted the following question-

Can I have details in relation to all low cost flooding measures and similar type works being undertaken by this Council to alleviate flooding in East Donegal having regard to recent decisions by An Bord Pleanála?

He received a response from the Director of Roads & Transportation.

C/199/20 **REQUESTS TO PROVIDE 4 OR MORE BEDROOM HOMES AND SPECIAL ACCOMMODATION REQUIREMENTS.**

Cllr Crawford submitted the following question:-

What requests are there with this Council to (a) provide 4 or greater number bedroom homes and (b) the number of applications that exist for special accommodation requirements? Please advise in relation to the preferred locations for the applications concerned?

He received a response from the Director of Housing, Corporate & Cultural Services.

C/200/20 **HOW MUCH IS PAID OUT IN HOUSING ASSISTANCE PAYMENT EACH MONTH**

Cllr G Doherty submitted the following question:-

Can I have a breakdown per Municipal District of how much is paid out to landlords by Donegal County Council each month for Housing Assistance Payments (HAP)?

He received a response from the Director of Housing, Corporate & Cultural Services.

C/201/20 **TOTAL AMOUNT OF THE COUNCIL DEBT**

Cllr McBrearty submitted the following question:-

What is the total amount of debt across all sections of the Council?

He received a response from the A/Head of Finance.

C/202/20 **HOW MUCH HAS BEEN PAID OUT UNDER THE RESTART GRANT SCHEME**

Cllr G Doherty submitted the following question:-

How much has been paid out to businesses in Donegal under the Restart Grant Scheme by Donegal County Council?

He received a response from the A/Head of Finance.

C/203/20 **DERELICT BUILDINGS IN EACH MUNICIPAL DISTRICT**

Cllr McGowan submitted the following question:-

Can I have a list of derelict buildings across each MD that this council is actively targeting with a progress report on each case outlining the method being used in each case?

He received a response from the Director of Community Development & Planning Services.

C/204/20 **OPERATION OF THE SEPTIC TANK GRANT SCHEME**

Cllr McGowan submitted the following question:-

Can a report be given on how the septic tank grant scheme is being operated in the county and explain why this conflicts with the scheme when it was first launched, as the vast majority of the county is not covered by the scheme? (Please include numbers by MD area and outline the criteria used).

He received a response from the Director of Water & Environment.

C/205/20 **HOW MANY MEMBERS OF STAFF HAVE TESTED POSITIVE FOR COVID 19?**

Cllr McBrearty submitted the following question:-

How many members of staff have tested positive for Covid-19 that they are aware of?

He received a response from the Director of Housing, Corporate & Cultural Services.

C/206/20 **DOG FOULING**

Cllr McClafferty submitted the following question:-

Given that dog fouling has become a major problem in many public areas, can this Council look at increasing enforcement measures, making dog waste bags available in a number of public spaces and increasing the number of dog waste disposal bins available?

He received a response from the Director of Water & Environment.

C/207/20

**REQUEST FOR A MEETING BETWEEN IRISH WATER AND DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL**

Cllr Gallagher submitted the following question:-

Will this Council through its Chief Executive appeal to the Department for a meeting between Department Officials, Irish Water and this Council, to discuss and highlight the need for policy change in Irish Water regarding water connections and costings, and the need for better communication?

She received a response from the Director of Water & Environment.

C/208/20

**CAMPER VAN SERVICES FOR THE 2021 HOLIDAY SEASON**

Cllr McClafferty submitted the following question:-

Can the Council come up with any solutions ahead of the 2021 holiday season in relation to camper vans etc as our beaches were simply not able to cope with the huge volume of tourists that travelled to Donegal this year?

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

C/209/20

**BURTONPORT TO LETTERKENNY GREENWAY**

Cllr Gallagher submitted the following question:-

When do the Council expect to assign personnel to develop the Burtonport to Letterkenny Greenway?

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

C/210/20

**INFORMATION SUPPLIED TO IRISH WATER REGARDING THE PRIORITY LIST FOR COUNTY WATER MAINS**

Cllr Murray submitted the following question:-

Can this Council provide the information supplied to Irish Water which was used to decide the list of priorities for investment in the county's water mains?

He received a response from the Director of Water & Environment.

C/211/20

**ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN REGARDING THE IMMINENT THREAT OF SEA EROSION ALONG THE WILD ATLANTIC WAY**

Cllr A Doherty submitted the following question:-

What decisive actions will Donegal County Council take to assist links clubs along Donegal's Wild Atlantic Way confront the imminent threat of sea erosion issues to their links courses? (National Treasures) and will the Council seek the support and assistance from national

Government, from the OPW, from National Parks and Wildlife to assist clubs wishing and willing to protect their lands and SAC areas.?

He received a response from the Director of Water & Environment.

C/212/20 **BREAKDOWN OF ILLEGAL DUMPING ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS SINCE THE COVID OUTBREAK**

Cllr Crossan submitted the following question:-

What is the breakdown regarding illegal dumping enforcement actions since the covid outbreak? Warning letters / fines / legal actions?

He received a response from the Director of Water & Environment.

C/213/20 **ESTIMATED NUMBER OF VEHICLES WHICH CROSS THE BORDER ON ROADS FROM DONEGAL TO DERRY, TYRONE AND FERMANAGH**

Cllr Murray submitted the following question:-

What is the estimated total number of vehicles which crosses the border on roads from Donegal to Derry, Tyrone and Fermanagh on a weekly, monthly or annual basis?

He received a response from the Director of Roads & Transportation.

C/214/20 **FUNDING FOR A NUMBER OF COASTAL EROSION PROJECTS**

Cllr Crossan submitted the following question:-

Will Donegal County Council seek funding for a number of coastal erosion projects, especially where roads are being damaged, as a matter of urgency?

He received a response from the Director of Roads & Transportation.

C/215/20 **MICA (COUNCIL HOUSING STOCK/REMEDIAL WORKS PLAN**

Cllr A Doherty submitted the following question:-

MICA (Council Housing Stock/Remedial Works Plan)

What funding requisite to date has the Council submitted to the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage to enable the immediate commencement of remedial works on council houses and family homes and is the necessary funding secured to permit and progress preparatory works on all council homes including the testing of block samples, the assessment of the structural condition and the dates for the remedial works plans to the housing stock agreed?

He received a response from the Director of Housing, Corporate & Cultural Services.

C/216/20 **1500<sup>TH</sup> ST. COLMCILLE CELEBRATIONS PLANNED FOR JUNE 2021**

Cllr McBride submitted the following question:-

In light of the 1500th Colmcille celebrations planned for June 202, what funding has been committed to date for preservation works at sites associated with St Colmcille and will the works in question be completed prior to June 2021?

He received a response from the Director of Housing, Corporate & Cultural Services.

C/217/20 **HERITAGE FUNDING APPLICATIONS SINCE 2014.**

Cllr McMonagle submitted the following question:-

How many Heritage Funding applications were made by this Council since 2014, how many were successful, amounts received and projects that were supported by these Grants?

He received a response from the Director of Housing, Corporate & Cultural Services.

C/218/20 **UPDATE ON PROPOSAL TO EMPLOY AN INHOUSE SOLICITOR**

Cllr Brogan submitted the following question:-

Can I have an updated report on our proposal as a Council to employ our own in-house Executive Solicitor?

He received a response from the Director of Housing, Corporate & Cultural Services.

C/219/20 **UPDATED PROGRESS REPORT ON THE TEN-T PROJECT**

Cllr Brogan submitted the following question:-

Can we have an updated progress report on the proposed Ten-T Project and the scheduled timeframe for same?

He received a response from the Director of Roads & Transportation.

C/220/20 **FUNDING APPLICATIONS IN RELATION TO THE STRENGTHENING OF OR REPAIR OF PIERS IN DONEGAL**

Cllr McMonagle submitted the following question:-

How many funding applications have been submitted by this Council to the Department of Marine or any other body in relation to the strengthening of or repair of piers in Donegal, and how many have been successful and where are their locations?

He received a response from the Director of Roads & Transportation.

**MOTIONS FROM OTHER COUNCILS**

Members noted the following motions from other Councils.

**DERRY CITY AND STRABANE DISTRICT COUNCIL**

That Council believes that care homes and the organisation and operation of domiciliary care services across the North should be brought back into the public ownership as part of the National Health Service.

**DERRY CITY AND STRABANE DISTRICT COUNCIL**

That the COVID 19 crisis presents an unprecedented threat to public health. The scale of the crisis clearly demonstrates the critical role of the fully funded and protected public health service.

**DERRY CITY AND STRABANE DISTRICT COUNCIL**

Council agrees that two divergent public health strategies to deal with a pandemic on the island of Ireland, North and South, is irrational, impractical and dangerous. Council calls for a fully integrated all-Ireland public health strategy.

**DERRY CITY AND STRABANE DISTRICT COUNCIL**

Council supports the campaign for an all-Ireland health service free at the point of delivery from the cradle to the grave.

**DERRY CITY AND STRABANE DISTRICT COUNCIL**

Council agrees to invite representatives from the all-Ireland health service campaign to make a presentation to Council.

**KERRY COUNTY COUNCIL**

That Kerry County Council write to the Minister for Finance and request that a state pension public service fund be put in place for public service workers as a matter of urgency.

**KILDARE COUNTY COUNCIL**

That the members of Kildare County Council supports the request from Féileacáin to waive the fees for family grave plots where a baby will be buried and that we write to the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government to request that; all local authorities waive the fees for family grave plots where a baby is buried, that the Department should instruct all local authorities to waive the fees for planning permission for headstones where a baby will be buried and that a Children's Funeral Fund be established in Ireland.

**KILDARE COUNTY COUNCIL**

That Kildare County Council requests that the Minister undertakes the following: That the stillbirth register and stillbirth certification be removed and be replaced with a birth certificate and death certificate for babies who are stillborn, so that babies who are stillborn can be registered on the birth and death register and can receive the same state records of their existence as everyone else. Parents whose

babies who are currently listed on the stillbirth register should be given the opportunity to have their babies placed on the birth and death register and to receive a birth and death certificate for their babies.

#### **LOUTH COUNTY COUNCIL**

That Louth County Council establishes a special taskforce with the relevant stakeholders and the local community in light of the impact COVID 19 is having and will continue to have on people's mental health and well being.

#### **LIMERICK CITY AND COUNTY COUNCIL**

The Economic Development, Enterprise and Planning Strategic Policy Committee recommends that Limerick City and County Council request an urgent meeting with the Minister with responsibility for Planning to outline the Council's opposition to the National Planning Framework on Rural Housing Policy; the SPC also recommends that the request be circulated to all local authorities.

#### **LIMERICK CITY AND COUNTY COUNCIL**

That Limerick City and County Council totally reject the National Planning Framework policy regarding once-off rural housing based on social and economic need; (b) a meeting be arranged with the Minister responsible to highlight the issues around this policy; and (c) this motion be circulated to all Local Authorities to discuss and support same.

#### **ROSCOMMON COUNTY COUNCIL**

It was agreed that Roscommon County Council call on the present or incoming government to financially support all Tidy Towns 7 Voluntary Group in County Roscommon to ensure maintenance of all public areas not under the remit of the Local Authority. The future of ongoing support from Local business and fundraising will be seriously impacted due to COVID 19. In the interest of visual appearance and tourism after this pandemic, we need to attract visitors to the country to support our local business (ratepayers). The good work of many volunteers both in County Roscommon and nationwide needs to be supported.

#### **SLIGO COUNTY COUNCIL**

For Sligo County Council to write to the relevant Ministers to address the issue of extending the timescale and conditions of employment of Tús and CE participants and helping out in so many ways, and are also benefiting socially from these schemes. However after a certain period of time they must leave the scheme and cannot avail of it again until another period of time has passed. This is unsatisfactory for many participants and also for the sponsor groups in the communities where they work. Can this motion be shared with all other local authorities.

This concluded the business of the meeting.