

**MINUTES OF THE ADJOURNED MARCH MEETING OF DONEGAL COUNTY
COUNCIL HELD ON 6th APRIL 2022**

C/87/22

MEMBERS PRESENT

Cllrs J Murray, Cathaoirleach, L Blaney, K Bradley, P Canning, T Conaghan, D Coyle, G Crawford, N Crossan, T Crossan, A Doherty, G Doherty, L Doherty, R Donaghey, M Harley, N Jordan, D M Kelly M Mc Bride, M Mc Clafferty, N Mc Garvey, M Mc Mahon, G Mc Monagle, M Naughton, J O' Donnell, J S Ó'Fearraigh, and B Sweeny.
Online: M Farren, M T Gallagher, J Kavanagh, N Kennedy, M C Mac Giolla Easbuig, M McDermott, I Mc Garvey, P Mc Gowan, J Mc Guinness, & A Molloy.

C/88/22

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE

John Mc Laughlin, Chief Executive, Patsy Lafferty, Director of Housing, Corporate and Cultural Services / Meetings Administrator, Richard Gibson, Head of Finance, Bryan Cannon, A/Director of Roads & Transportation, Liam Ward, Director of Community Development & Planning Services, Con Mc Laughlin, A/Director of Water & Environment, Garry Martin, Director Economic Development, Information Systems & Emergency Services, Paul Christy, Senior Executive Planner, Frank Sweeney, Senior Executive Planner, Frances Friel, Communications Officer, William Colvin, Assistant Communications Officer, Seán O' Daimhin, Rannóg na Gaeltachta, Róise Ní Laifearthaigh, Rannóg na Gaeilge, Anne Marie Crawford, Staff Officer.

C/89/22

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL HELD ON THE 31ST JANUARY 2022

On the proposal of Cllr Crawford seconded by Cllr Canning the minutes of the meeting of Donegal County Council held on the 31st January 2022 were adopted.

C/90/22

MINUTES OF THE ADJOURNED MEETING OF DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL HELD ON THE 7TH FEBRUARY 2022

On the proposal of Cllr Mc Monagle, seconded by Cllr Sweeney the minutes of the adjourned meeting of Donegal County Council held on the 7th February 2022 were adopted.

C/91/22

MINUTES OF THE ADJOURNED MEETING OF DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL HELD ON THE 21ST FEBRUARY 2022

On the proposal of Cllr Coyle, seconded by Cllr L Doherty the minutes of the adjourned meeting of Donegal County Council held on the 21st February 2022 were adopted.

Cllr A Doherty was informed that details in respect of the Working Group on Constitutional Change would be included on the agenda for the May Council Meeting.

C/92/22 **MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL HELD ON THE 24TH FEBRUARY 2022**
On the proposal of Cllr Jordan, seconded by N McGarvey the minutes of the Special Meeting of Donegal County Council held on the 24th February 2022 were adopted.

C/93/22 **MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL (MICA) HELD ON THE 24TH FEBRUARY 2022**
On the proposal of Cllr McMonagle, seconded by Cllr Bradley the minutes of the Special Meeting of Donegal County Council held on the 24th February 2022 were adopted.

C/94/22 **DISPOSAL OF A RURAL COTTAGE AT BALLINACARRICK, BALLINTRA TO MR JOHN GERARD MC GRORY**
Members considered the report circulated with the agenda in relation to the above.

On the proposal of Cllr Jordan, seconded by Cllr Sweeny, it was resolved to dispose of a rural cottage at Ballinacarrick, Ballintra to Mr John Gerard McGrory in accordance with the provisions of Section 211 of the Planning & Development Act, 2000 (as amended) and under Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001, (as amended).

C/95/22 **DISPOSAL OF LAND AT STRANORLAR BY WAY OF LEASE TO SEÁN MACCUMHAILLS GAA CLUB, BALLYBOFEY**
Members considered the report circulated with the agenda in relation to the above.

On the proposal of Cllr G Doherty, seconded by Cllr Harley, it was resolved to dispose of land at Stranorlar by way of lease to Seán Mac Cumhail's GAA Club, Ballybofey in accordance with the provisions of Section 211 of the Planning & Development Act, 2000 (as amended) and under Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001, (as amended).

C/96/22 **DISPOSAL OF LAND AT BALLYBOE PARK, GLENCAR, LETTERKENNY TO BALLYBOE INVESTMENT LTD**
Members considered the report circulated with the agenda in relation to the above.

On the proposal of Cllr Coyle, seconded by Cllr Kavanagh, it was resolved to dispose of land at Ballyboe Park, Glencar, Letterkenny to Ballyboe Investment Ltd in accordance with the provisions of Section 211 of the Planning & Development Act, 2000 (as amended) and under Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001, (as amended).

Responding to a query from Cllr Kavanagh it was confirmed that amended

plans outlining the additional lands added could be circulated to members

C/97/22

APPROVAL OF WORKS IN RESPECT OF A BRING BANK FACILITY FOR RECYCLING GLASS, CANS, TEXTILES TOGETHER WITH STORAGE FOR WASTE PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT WITH APPROPRIATE ACCESS FOR PARKING, SIGNAGE AND FENCING AT UDARAS NA GAELTACHTA, DERRYBEG INDUSTRIAL ESTATE

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

On the proposal of Cllr O 'Fearraigh, seconded by Cllr Jordan, works in respect of a bring bank facility for recycling glass, cans, textiles together with storage for waste prevention and management with appropriate access for parking, signage and fencing at Udarás Na Gaeltachta, Derrybeg Industrial Estate including all associated site development works under Part XI of the Planning & Development Act, 2000 (as amended) and Part 8 of the Planning & Development Regulations 2001(as amended) were approved.

C/98/22

APPROVAL OF WORKS IN RESPECT OF THE CONSTRUCTION OF NEW PUBLIC REALM ENVIRONMENTS AT GAMBLE'S SQUARE, MARKET CROSS AND THE QUAYS, RAMELTON

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

On the proposal of Cllr Sweeny, seconded by Cllr O'Donnell, the construction of new public realm environments at Gamble's Square, Market Cross, Market Square and the Quays, Ramelton with re-prioritisation for pedestrian use, inclusive of new surface material together with modified footpaths, new crossing arrangements, new street furniture including new public seating and new public art and signage, enhancement to public lighting, drainage and utilities, connection to services and landscaping within the overall development area and including Shore Road, Castle Street and Bridge Street, Ramelton under Part XI of the Planning & Development Act, 2000 (as amended) and Part 8 of the Planning & Development Regulations 2001(as amended) was approved.

C/99/22

APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR TO THE HOUSING & CORPORATE STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE

On the proposal of Cllr Harley, seconded by Cllr Sweeny, it was resolved that Cllr Mc Guinness be appointed chair of the Housing & Corporate Strategic Policy Committee.

C/100/22

FILLING OF CASUAL VACANCY ON COISTE NA GAEILGE ARISING FROM THE RESIGNATION OF CLLR MICHAEL MC CLAFFERTY

It was unanimously agreed to defer the matter to the next meeting of Council.

C/101/22 FILLING OF CASUAL VACANCY ON COISTE NA GAEILGE ARISING FROM THE RESIGNATION OF CLLR FRANK MC BREARTY

It was unanimously agreed to defer the matter to the next meeting of Council.

C/102/22 CASUAL VACANCY ON THE BREXIT COMMITTEE ARISING FROM THE RESIGNATION OF CLLR FRANK MC BREARTY

It was unanimously agreed to defer the matter to the next meeting of Council.

C/103/22 FILLING OF CASUAL VACANCY ON THE COUNTY DONEGAL HERITAGE FORUM ARISING FROM THE RESIGNATION OF CLLR MARTIN FARREN

It was unanimously agreed to defer the matter to the next meeting of Council.

C/104/22 FILLING OF CASUAL VACANCY ON THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, ENTERPRISE AND EMERGENCY STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE ARISING FROM THE RESIGNATION OF CLLR GARY DOHERTY

On the proposal of Cllr G Doherty, seconded by Cllr Jordan it was resolved that Cllr Mc Mahon fill the casual vacancy on the Economic Development, Enterprise & Emergency Strategic Development arising from the resignation of Cllr G Doherty.

C/105/22 FILLING OF CASUAL VACANCY ON THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, ENTERPRISE AND EMERGENCY STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE ARISING FROM THE RESIGNATION OF CLLR MARIE T GALLAGHER

It was unanimously agreed to defer the matter to the next meeting of Council.

C/106/22 FILLING OF VACANCY ON THE CLIMATE ACTION & ENVIRONMENT STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE

It was unanimously agreed to defer the matter to the next meeting of Council.

C/107/22 DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL ISLANDS COMMITTEE

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

It was clarified that the Inis Oirthir representative was Dinny Mc Cullough and that the representative for Rutland/ Inis Mhic an Dhoirn was F. Laird

Dinsmore who had replaced Rosaleen Mc Shane. Clarification was also provided that Johnny Rodgers was now the representative for Iniscaorach replacing Hughie Gallagher.

Cllr O' Fearraigh queried if the resignations had been submitted in writing.

C/108/22 **FILLING OF CASUAL VACANCY ON THE NORTH WEST REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT GROUP ARISING FROM THE RESIGNATION OF CLLR FARREN**

On the proposal of Cllr O' Donnell, seconded by Cllr O' Fearraigh it was resolved that Cllr N Crossan fill the casual vacancy on the North West Regional Development Group arising from the resignation of Cllr Farren.

C/109/22 **FILLING OF CASUAL VACANCY ON DONEGAL LOCAL DEVELOPMENT COMPANY LTD ARISING FROM THE RESIGNATION OF CLLR BRADLEY**

On the proposal of Cllr Bradley, seconded by Cllr N Crossan it was resolved that Cllr O' Donnell fill the casual vacancy on Donegal Local Development Company Ltd arising from the resignation of Cllr Bradley.

Cllr N Crossan was informed that the vacancies as listed were member's positions.

C/110/22 **PURCHASE OF FIVE HOUSES IN BUNCRANA – FILE REVIEW BY OUTSIDE COMPANY**

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

Mr Richard Gibson, Head of Finance advised that quotations had been sought from a number of audit firms regarding a review of the process involved in acquiring the five houses. He noted that some informal enquiries had been made but no definitive submissions received to date. This, he contended, would impact on the delivery of the external review. It was acknowledged that more time would be needed if a comprehensive review was to be carried out.

Cllr Mc Monagle asked that the minutes of the recent Housing SPC meeting be circulated as there had been a comprehensive update given at the meeting, which was helpful.

Mr Patsy Lafferty, Director Housing, Corporate & Cultural Services advised that the draft minutes of the Housing, Corporate & Cultural Services SPC meeting would be considered at the forthcoming meeting and when adopted would be circulated to all members.

Cllr A Doherty said that he had previously raised a number of questions on the actions carried out after the Council received correspondence from the Department in October and signed off on the purchase on the 11th November. He proposed that a timeframe extension for the review should be allowed if required and this was seconded by Cllr Crossan.

Members proceeded to advise of the following:

- That any review carried out needed to be thorough and robust and must hold the executive and the local authority to account.
- No issue with the additional timeframes involved as long as the matter was thoroughly investigated.
- Definitive timeframe must be provided at the May Council Meeting in relation to the commencement of the investigation and the publication of the audit report.
- Answers must be provided in respect of the questions and issues raised by members during the Special Meeting on mica.
- Delay in dealing with the matter was causing problems for Inishowen members, who were having to deal with derogatory remarks and accusations of corruption on an ongoing basis.
- Call for the two members who accused the Council of corruption to provide evidence of same or failing that to issue an apology to all the members concerned and withdraw the allegations. The good name of people cannot be tarnished by unfounded malicious innuendo.

The Cathaoirleach said that in the interest of transparency, he had together with the Chief Executive written to the members concerned. One member had responded, he added, with a file received as the result of an FOI request. This file, he said, had been passed on to An Garda Síochána. He noted that the file in question had already been sent to a number of media outlets.

The Chief Executive informed members that he wanted to have the report finalised as quickly as possible and published within a dedicated timeframe. It was essential also, he added, that a competent firm were engaged to carry out the review. He confirmed an update would be given to members as soon as the relevant consultants were appointed.

In relation to the corruption allegations raised back in November, the Chief Executive indicated that he would bring a report to members, outlining the steps taken since then, letters sent out, and information received, so that members had the exact correspondence, for discussion, possibly at the May meeting.

He advised that he would arrange to include the draft minutes of the SPC Meeting in the document being prepared which would answer all questions raised by members at the Special Meeting on Mica and expected same to be circulated to members and made available on the website, early the following week.

He confirmed that both the Director of Community Development & Planning Services and himself would arrange to meet with Cllr I Mc Garvey regarding a number of historical items and that specific answers had been provided.

Cllr Mc Garvey said that he was available to discuss the matter further and highlighted specific issues with regard to the erection of a mast in Milford.

Members asked that the detail and responses on the mica issue be issued in the format of a press release when available.

C/111/22 **2022 NON-NATIONAL ROADS BRIDGE STRENGTHENING PROGRAMME**

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

On the proposal of Cllr, A Doherty, seconded by Cllr Donaghey it was resolved to approve the 2022 Non-National Roads Bridge Strengthening Programme.

C/112/22 **ANNUAL SERVICE DELIVERY PLAN 2022**

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

On the proposal of Cllr, A Doherty, seconded by Cllr Harley it was resolved to adopt the Donegal County Council Annual Service Delivery Plan 2022 in accordance with Section 134(A) of the Local Government Act, 2001.

The Chief Executive responding to a query from Cllr A Doherty, said that it would be possible to set up a small working group to look at the issues raised by Cllr Doherty and to examine current response mechanisms for dealing with member's representations.

C/113/22 **IRRECOVERABLE RATES FOR 2021**

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

On the proposal of Cllr O' Donnell, seconded by Cllr Bradley members considered and noted the report on Irrecoverable Rates for 2021.

C/114/22

**PROPOSED VARIATION TO THE COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN
2018-2024 (AS VARIED) IN RESPECT OF THE WIND ENERGY POLICY
FRAMEWORK**

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

Cllr G Doherty alluded to the previous amendment proposed by himself and seconded by Cllr Gallagher to retain the previous position i.e. that "Moderately High" and "Moderately Low" landslide susceptibility areas would be included in the "Not Normally Permissible" designation in Map 8.2.1. He referred also to the Geological Survey of Ireland National Landslide Susceptibility mapping which had ascertained that the area around Meenbog was at moderate risk of landslides, yet a major landslide in November 2020 had caused untold damage. It was important, he added, that protection for this area be enshrined in the Development Plan.

Reference was also made to the two significant amendments proposed by Cllr Gallagher in February 2022 i.e. that wind farm development should not be permitted in 4 specific areas of visual influence. On this basis, he said, he was happy to support the amendments and for the proposals to go out to public consultation.

Clarity was sought in relation to the augmentation of existing windfarms with particular reference to the Meenbog site, and the fact that serious questions now needed to be asked. It was noted that the expert analysis provided at the initial planning stage had indicated that a bog slide was a probability if the development was allowed to proceed. This Council and local residents had been ignored at the time, he added, with the terrible consequences now evident for all to see. A similar event at Derrybrien in Galway, it was acknowledged, had resulted in the decommissioning of that particular development.

Cllr Doherty asked for reassurance that the Meenbog site would not be classed as "Augmentation" when the investigation into the landslide was concluded, and that the developer would not be allowed to proceed with a massive industrial scale development on a site that is clearly not suitable for windfarm development.

Cllr Mc Bride alluding to the mapping circulated to members asked if the areas marked in red as "not permissible" were specifically for wind farm development or if there were implications for the construction of housing, farm buildings etc in the Pearl Mussel River Basin (catchment) areas.

Cllr Canning noted that it had been clarified by the Senior Planner that the protection of the Fresh water Pearl Mussel was in the context of wind farm development only and did not include other infrastructure.

Cllr Blaney said that the proposals left very little room for wind farm development in the county as a whole, and that he was fearful that the adoption of same would ultimately lead to restrictions on the building of dwelling houses, farm buildings etc in the future. He said that he was of the opinion that the proposals would be rejected by the Department and the Regulator and that inevitably they would have to be brought back to the members for amendment.

On the proposal of Cllr G Doherty, seconded by Cllr Gallagher it was resolved to approve the commencement of the statutory consultation procedure in relation to the Proposed Variation in accordance with the details set out in the recommendation and the amendments as proposed by the elected members.

Members advised of the following:

- That additional focus was needed on the development of renewable, offshore, and solar energy sources.
- Gweebarra River Basin, Freshwater Pear Mussel Catchment areas St Johns Point and the EHSA (per Map 7.2.1 of the CDP 2018-2024 [As Varied]) to be included under the "Augmentation" issue.
- Hydropower aspect should be explored. Noted the possibility of developing turbines in the sea off Killybegs.
- Self-sufficiency and sustainability key aspects going forward in terms of planning for future energy needs.

Mr Liam Ward, Director Community Development & Planning Services said that it was clear that members wanted to move forward with the issue and clarified the following:

- That there was a valid planning permission in place for the development at Meenbog and an ongoing investigation into the landslide which had not yet concluded. He said that follow-up action may be needed when the investigation was completed.
- In relation to the Fresh Pearl Water Mussel Catchment areas, the policy referred to wind farm development only.
- Alternative renewable energy sources were being looked at at national level.

Mr Paul Christy, Senior Executive Planner alluding to the recommendation on page 5 of the report Part A (1)(a) with regard to the incorporation of "Landslide Susceptibility" into the formulation of Proposed Map 8.2.1; Wind Energy noted that members had clarified that all landslide susceptibility areas i.e. "High" and "Moderately High" and "Moderately Low" would be incorporated into the "Not Normally Permissible Area".

Items 1(b) and 2(a) &(b) were generally straightforward, he added.

With regard to Part B 1(a) he said it was the Planning Services understanding that members wished to include the Gweebarra River Basin areas contained within the "Especially High Scenic Amenity " (EHSAs) on MAP 7.1.2 "Scenic Amenity"; Freshwater Pearl Mussel Catchments; and St John's Point within the " Not Normally Permissible" designation on Map 8.2.1, Wind Energy and that:

In relation to Policy E-P-23 that the following areas, items (b) to (e) are to be included also as areas not permissible for wind farm development:

- (a) The zone of visual influence of Glenveagh National Park.
- (b) The Gweebarra River Basin.
- (c) Areas contained within the "Especially High Scenic Amenity" on Map 7.1.2 "Scenic Amenity"
- (d) Freshwater Pearl Water Mussel Catchments; and
- (e) St John's Point.

Part B 1(b)(ii) in respect of the augmentation, upgrade and improvement of existing windfarms or sites with permission and the impact on the four additional areas outlined above as not permissible for wind farm development. The Planning Authority, he advised, recommended that the augmentation issue should be considered as acceptable in principle as this is consistent with the treatment of the rest of the "Not Normally Permissible" area.

Members concurred with this assessment and on the proposal of Cllr G Doherty, seconded by Cllr Gallagher it was resolved to approve the commencement of the statutory consultation procedures in respect of the Proposed Variation to the County Development Plan, 2018-2024 (As Varied) in respect of the Wind Energy Framework.

C/115/22

APPROVAL OF THE PROPOSED DRAFT LETTERKENNY PLAN AND LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN

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

Cllr Mc Bride proposed, seconded by Cllr Coyle the following amendment:

"That all reference to the Letterkenny 2040 Plan be removed from the proposed Letterkenny Area Plan 2021-2027 so that the 2040 Plan does not impact on any future development in the town centre".

Cllr Kavanagh proposed, seconded by Cllr Bradley and supported by Cllr I Mc Garvey the following amendment to the Draft Letterkenny Plan 2022-2028:

“That Zone A retain its current planning status so that town centre lands are available for current and future development”. He alluded to the fact that flood mitigation measures could be put in place to protect any such proposals. It was essential, he added, that town centre lands were kept available for development. It was noted also that the lands in question were located in close proximity to the Atlantic Technical University and that student accommodation would be a priority going forward.

Cllr Mc Monagle proposed, seconded by Cllr Bradley the following amendment to the Draft Letterkenny Plan 2022-2028:

“That similar zoning be applied to Flood Zone A & Flood Zone B with no restrictions on development on any of the lands zoned A& B” and that any future or proposed Strategic Environmental Assessment includes all of the lands deemed as Town Centre”.

He noted that Letterkenny was one of the 6 Regional areas selected under the 2040 Plan and that the ambitions were for the town to attain city status in the short term. For this reason, he said, the current zoning must be retained on town centre lands. The ambition was there, he added, to develop the town centre and enhance and drive future development. It was noted that there had been discussion with the OPW and that the CFRAMs Programme had not suggested that development could not take place, but rather that it could be accommodated with the proper flood risk mitigation works.

Cllr Bradley concurred with this assessment and said it was imperative that the current zoning designation remained.

Cllr O’ Donnell proposed, seconded by Cllr Kavanagh that the lands south of the Leck Road and proposed to be zoned “Strategic Residential Reserve” be zoned the same as the lands to the north of the Leck Road where they are designated as the “South Letterkenny Strategic Development Zone”.

It was vital, he added, that this designation prevailed because of the viability of the infrastructural costs of the project including the new bridge and retail centre. The development of town centre lands close to the town would, he added, be of benefit in terms of the housing need going forward.

On the proposal of Cllr Mc Bride, second by Cllr O’ Donnell it was resolved to:

- i. Approve the Proposed Draft Letterkenny Plan and Local Transport Plan as contained in the document submitted with this report (the

'Proposed Draft Plan') together with the amendments outlined above.

- ii. Authorise the Executive to further edit the approved Proposed Draft Plan where such requirements are identified and where any such edits would be non-material in nature.
- iii. Approve the formal commencement of the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Appropriate Assessment (AA) processes, and completion of the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment and Traffic and Transport Assessment processes in respect of the approved Proposed Draft Plan.
- iv. Approve, subject to the outcome of the screening processes for SEA (Strategic Environmental Assessment) and AA (Appropriate Assessment), the preparation of an Environmental Report (for SEA) and Natura Impact Report (for AA)

Mr Liam Ward, Director Community & Planning, thanked members for their input and noted that considerable and open engagement had taken place in relation to the drafting of the plan. The executive had, he advised, presented the Draft Letterkenny Local Area Plan to members seeking approval to move to the next stage of the process which was the finalisation of the environmental reports. He said that the plan was not yet at the stage where it could go out to public consultation. The members, he confirmed, had an express right to make changes to the plan and based on these changes the executive would prepare the Environmental Report.

The following changes to the plan had, he confirmed, had now been proposed and seconded by the members:

- 1) All of the references to the Letterkenny 2040 Regeneration Strategy to be removed from the Letterkenny Draft Local Area Plan. He alluded to the fact that the 2040 Regeneration Strategy was not a finalised document and said that in his opinion it would be counter-intuitive to proceed with the adoption of the Draft Letterkenny Area Plan without reference to the 2040 Strategy.
- 2) Flood Zone A to retain the current zoning status as per the previous Plan.
- 3) Flood Zone B to retain its existing designation.
- 4) Lands south of the river to i.e. south of the Leck Road to be zoned in a similar manner to those north of the Leck Road.

He called on members to clarify that these were the relevant amendments and said that he was of the belief that it would be incumbent on the Council at a future stage in the process to take on board the output of the Letterkenny 2040 Regeneration Strategy with the Spatial Plan for the development of Letterkenny.

Mr Paul Christy, Senior Executive Planner said that the Strategic Environmental Assessment, the Environmental Reports, Natura Impact Report and the Flood Risk Assessment Report would have to be updated on the basis of the amendments outlined above. These, he said, could give to rise issues which would have to be brought to the attention of the members at a later date.

Member's acknowledged that the outline provided by the Director of Community & Planning Services was correct.

Further clarification was provided by the Director of Service that when the amendments outlined by members were weaved into the Draft Local Area Plan the issues that arose in the Strategic Environmental Assessment, the Appropriate Assessment and the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment together with the Traffic and Transport Assessment would come back to members for consideration and when complete would go out to public consultation

C/116/22

PLANNING REPORT TO MEMBERS IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 37E OF THE PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT ACT 2000 (AS AMENDED) IN RESPECT OF STRATEGIC INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT IN NORTH INISHOWEN - FUTURE ENERGY GLENARD DESIGNATED ACTIVITY COMPANY

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

Mr Liam Ward, Director Community Development & Planning Services , responding to a query from Cllr A Doherty confirmed that the deadline for submissions had passed, but that An Bord Pleanála had been contacted and confirmation received that they would accept the report and any resolutions passed by members as a result of that consideration.

It was noted that Donegal County Council as the planning authority, was obliged as a consultee on the matter to prepare a report, and include any recommendations endorsed by the members together with a record of the minute approving same.

Cllr A Doherty said that the issues highlighted in the document reflected the local community's concerns. He said that the report was comprehensive and that it was imperative that if there were implications in the future with regard to road development and any other related developments that An Bord Pleanála and the Council could add them in so as to address the relevant concerns.

It was agreed that the report as presented be submitted to An Bord Pleanála.

- C/117/22 **DATE FOR COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOUR-YEAR REVIEW WORKSHOP**
 It was unanimously agreed that the workshop place on Thursday 28th April 2022 commencing at 10am in the Aura Leisure Centre.
- C/118/22 **DONEGAL LOCAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2021**
 Members considered the report circulated with the agenda in relation to the above and noted the contents of same.
- C/119/22 **TO ESTABLISH AND NOMINATE MEMBERS TO THE PEACE PLUS PARTNERSHIP 2022**
 It was unanimously agreed to defer the matter to the May meeting to allow for further discussion on the relevant representation.
- C/120/22 **TO NOTE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CORPORATE POLICY GROUP HELD ON THE 24TH JANUARY 2022.**
 On the proposal of Cllr Canning, seconded by Cllr Sweeny, the minutes of the meeting of the Corporate Policy Group held on the 24th January 2022 were noted.
- C/121/22 **TO ENDORSE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF COISTE NA GAELIGE HELD ON 11TH FEBRUARY 2021**
 On the proposal of Cllr N McGarvey, seconded by Cllr T Crossan the minutes of the meeting of Coiste Na Gaeilge held on 11th February 2021 were endorsed.
- C/122/22 **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 2006-2021 as amended and directives issued by the Minister in that regard, on the proposal of Cllr McMonagle, seconded by Cllr T Crossan, it was resolved to authorise any member, if he/she so wished, to attend the following conferences/ events, 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 Members Training Programme for 2022.
- AILG Annual Training Conference 2022 to be held from the 23rd - 24th March 2022 in the Inishowen Gateway Hotel, Bunrana, Co Donegal.

Conferences

- Rural Regeneration Post Pandemic- “The Challenges and Opportunities to Unlocking our Potential” to be held from the 27th - 28th April 2022 in the Abbey Hotel, Roscommon.

Abroad

- Attendance of the CPMR Representative at the General Assembly of the CPMR Atlantic Arc Commission to be held on the 24/25th May 2022 in St Sebastián, Spain.

C/123/22

PURCHASE OF A ROAD LINING LORRY AND PROVISION OF TRAINING FOR STAFF

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

“With the increasing difficulties getting Road Lining Contractors to reline our roads after remedial and resurfacing works on our roads, I would like to propose in the interest of road safety that Donegal County Council invest in and buy a Road Lining Lorry and train up the required workers to enable us to carry out these very important safety works as and when required”.

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

Cllr Mc Monagle expressed concern at the delay in carrying out relining works in instances where remedial and resurfacing works had taken place. This, he said, was impacting on road users and in Letterkenny in particular it had led to the creation of an unsafe environment for drivers.

He cited the necessity of exploring options which would allow the Council buy its own road lining lorry and the use of our own workers to carry out the relevant lining works which would be cost effective in the long run.

He acknowledged that there were difficulties in sourcing road lining contractors and said that in his opinion there was a significant body of work to be undertaken.

Cllr Gallagher seconding the motion concurred with this assessment.

There was no opposition to the motion.

Mr Bryan Cannon, A/Director Roads & Transportation acknowledged the issues highlighted by Cllr Mc Monagle and said that there was a particular rationale with regards this issue and that this had been detailed in the

response. He was, he said, happy to look at any areas of concern and confirmed that the matter would be kept under review.

Concluding Cllr Mc Monagle asked that specific attention be paid to the following in and around Letterkenny:

- The many yellow boxes on back roads that had not been reinstated.
- Mini-Roundabout at Oldtown.
- Roundabout at the Circular Road.
- Road at the end of Ard O' Donnell.

He asked that every effort be made to address the situation.

C/124/22

AMENDMENT OF THE CURRENT COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN IN RELATION TO LOG CABINS AND MODULAR HOMES

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

"That Donegal County Council amend the current County Development Plan allowing Log cabins and Modular Homes to be built arising from the housing crisis we are suffering, due to current building costs, Mica and the war in the Ukraine".

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

Cllr Mc Bride said that given the current housing crisis it was imperative that consideration was given as to what could and could not be accepted going forward from a planning point of view. It was acknowledged that that log cabins could now be built to a very high standard as was evidenced in countries like Spain and in Scandinavia. These homes, he contended, were quick to build and would help get people onto the housing market.

Cllr Blaney said that it was an option worth exploring and that consideration had to be given to their suitability given the current housing crisis and the impending refugee crisis.

There was no opposition to the motion.

Mr Liam Ward, Director Community Development & Planning Services, noted that there was provision in the Local Government Planning Acts to set aside planning regulations for emergency purposes and that clarity was awaited from the Department of Housing, Planning & Local Government.

The matter was something, he advised, that could be further explored at the forthcoming workshop on the review of the County Development Plan.

He alluded also to the fact that there was provision within the current County Development Plan to respond to the need for modular homes on appropriately located and serviced lands.

C/125/22

IMPLEMENTATION OF TAX RELIEF ON FUEL FOR THIS YEAR ENDING 2022

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

“That this Council write to Minister for Transport, Eamon Ryan requesting that a commitment be made to implement a tax relief on fuel for this year ending 2022 as a matter of urgency for all transport companies, haulage companies, and agricultural contractors please”.

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

Cllr Kelly said that the hike on fuel costs over the past few weeks had impacted significantly on haulage companies and agricultural contractors thus creating a knock-on effect for all associated economic activities. Businesses, he advised, were struggling to survive and an element of tax relief would ensure that the local economy was protected.

He noted that a recent survey had indicated that up to 95% of Bus Operators could not guarantee that they would be able to operate the School Transport Scheme up until the end of June 2022.

Cllr Coyle said that the situation was becoming particularly challenging and outlined his support for the motion.

There was no opposition to the motion.

C/126/22

DEVELOPMENT OF TOURIST FACILITY ATTRACTIONS AND ACCOMMODATION AREAS

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

“That Donegal County Council look at developing tourist facility attractions and accommodation areas”.

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

Cllr Mc Garvey said that that he was aware of a particular instance where a family were deprived of carrying on in a tourism related business and that if there were irregularities, then the Council needed to be proactive. He asked that all options be explored and that some provision be made to

allow the business in question operate. It was imperative, he added, that there was a full enquiry to establish all relevant facts.

Cllr Blaney noted that excellent work had been done in a number of areas and cited the example of the Great Arch in Fanad. He said he looked forward to working with Cllr Mc Garvey on a number of projects going forward and helping all those involved to achieve the relevant goals.

There was no opposition to the motion.

Mr Garry Martin, Director Economic Development, Information Systems & Emergency Services noted that a comprehensive response had been provided.

C/127/22

GEO DIRECTORY BI-ANNUAL COMMERCIAL PROPERTY REPORT Q4 2021- PILOT PROGRAMME ON TOWN REGENERATION

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

“That this Council recognising reports from Geo Directory Bi-annual Commercial Property Report Q4 2021 and earlier reports undertakes a pilot project focusing on town regeneration under the Government’s “Housing for All” Programme, focusing on towns with the highest commercial vacancy rate in the county”.

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

Cllr Mc Gowan asked that Ballybofey/Stranorlar with the highest commercial vacancy rate in the country be prioritised as a designated location for the development of a pilot programme focusing on town regeneration under the Government’s “Housing for All” Programme. There were several buildings around Mc Clay’s Corner, he added, which could be utilised if a pilot project was put in place.

Cllr Crawford outlined his support for the motion.

There was no opposition to the motion.

Mr Patsy Lafferty, Director Housing, Corporate & Cultural Services said that the Council would focus on the locations listed in the report with the highest vacancy rates and that options could be explored as to how such towns could be revitalised for housing, recreation and commercial purposes. The Council would be obtaining additional resources under “Housing for All” and the “Town Centre First” initiatives which would assist with this.

C/128/22

THAT DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL APPLY FOR FUNDING FROM THE SHARED IRELAND FUND

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

“That Donegal County Council apply for funding from the Shared Ireland Fund to refurbish and realign strategic cross-border roads linking some of our larger towns”.

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

Cllr Naughton welcomed the response and said that he was firmly of the opinion that the motion was not premature and that now was the time to tap into the various elements of this funding.

Cllr Coyle supporting the motion said that it was timely given the need for infrastructural development in the county.

There was no opposition to the motion.

Mr Bryan Cannon, A/Director Roads & Transportation advised that this was an evolving area and that there would be ongoing discussion with members as the matter progressed.

C/129/22

UNDOCUMENTED IRISH IN AMERICA

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

“That this Council ask the Department of Foreign Affairs to take a more proactive approach as regards to the Undocumented Irish in America. This has been a long-term problem and is now causing major issues for families in both Ireland and America”.

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

Cllr Mc Mahon said that this matter had been in the public domain on numerous occasions and much work was yet to be done in terms of bringing the matter to a satisfactory conclusion. The undocumented, he said, had become increasingly isolated and had been failed over the years by the political system. A proactive approach, he contended, was needed as many of the families involved were getting on in years and this combined with covid-19 restraints on travel had made the situation particularly difficult.

The undocumented, it was acknowledged had contributed enormously to the local economy in the USA and in turn to their native localities over the years. The time was opportune, he said, to sort the issue once and for all given the current political sentiment in the USA. He said that it was imperative that the correspondence to the Minister, reflected the need to set up an All-Ireland Working Group to progress the matter. He called also for the appointment of a Special Envoy whose role would be to liaise with the relevant authorities in both jurisdictions on regularising the situation for the undocumented.

It was noted that much excellent work was taking place on the ground but political intervention was needed at this juncture. He informed members that there were over 800,000 undocumented Irish living in the USA and they were not looking for anything other than what they were entitled to.

Cllr Jordan said he was happy to second the motion and could understand the frustration that existed as there had been a lack of political will to sort the situation in both the USA and in Ireland. He applauded Cllr Mc Mahon for his efforts and his commitment over the years in documenting the plight of the undocumented.

There was no opposition to the motion.

Cllr Mc Mahon thanked members for their support and said that every effort needed to be made to endure that the matter was kept to the fore and called again on the Government to consider the appointment of a Special Envoy.

C/130/22

STAFF TO ASSIST WITH THE MICA APPLICATION PROCESS

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

“That this Council due to the problems that people are having with the mica application process put in place staff to be available in the MDs at least 1 or 2 days a week to facilitate people with their paperwork and to upload their applications”.

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

Cllr Mc Dermott acknowledged the efforts of the staff in the Mica Office and said that they did a great job with the resources available to them. The application process, he advised, was cumbersome and many did not have the expertise to follow-up on many of the requirements that were needed. Engineers, he added, needed to step up and ensure that applications were processed in a timely manner.

He cited the need for a collaborative team response for the various services over the coming months and that this Council as the Local Authority needed to focus on getting all the various organisations together to assist people in making and progressing their grant applications.

There was no opposition to the motion.

Mr Patsy Lafferty, Director Housing, Corporate & Cultural Services acknowledged the comments made by Cllr Mc Dermott and said that it was anticipated that the new enhanced Defective Blocks Scheme would have a much more streamlined application process. He noted that a scanning service was in place in a number of the public libraries and that this service could be utilised immediately, with assistance also available in terms of uploading the documents etc.

Cllr Mc Dermott thanked all involved for their help to date but cited the need to ensure that all available assistance was provided to help people who found themselves in this situation. The focus now, he said, must be on ensuring that there was ongoing collaboration between all the organisations involved.

C/131/22 **RESPONSIBILITIES PERTAINING TO OUR FORESHORES – SPECIAL AREAS OF CONSERVATION**

On the proposal of Cllr T Crossan, seconded by Cllr A Doherty it was resolved that the motion outlined below be deferred pending clarification as to which Government Department is actually responsible for the issues raised in the motion:

"Can Donegal County Council ensure that Minister Mc Conalogue is cognisant of his responsibilities pertaining to our foreshores especially where SPAs are concerned and where Section 23 (5) of the Wildlife Act is being contravened".

C/132/22 **EXTENSION OF CLÁR AREA IN DONEGAL & INCLUSION OF ADDITIONAL ELECTOREAL DIVISIONS ENABLING COMMUNITY ACCESS TO THE RURAL INVESTMENT PROGRAMME**

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

Extension of CLAR area in Donegal & inclusion of additional electoral divisions enabling community access to the rural investment programme. *"That Donegal County Council seek from Government the inclusion of additional electoral divisions for the CLÁR (Ceantair Laga Ard-Riachtanas) programme, and that the Council executive compose for Government a report of support for the inclusion of electoral divisions presently excluded from the CLÁR programme, and that this motion is forwarded for the*

attention of Minister Heather Humphreys, (Dept. of Social Protection, Community & Rural Development & the Islands) and Minister Charlie Mc Conalogue, (Dept of Agriculture, Food and the Marine)"

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

Cllr Doherty noted that the 31st March had been the deadline for submissions under the CLÁR Programme and that for many schools and community groups this was a means of securing safety related interventions which were of benefit to the local community. He alluded to several examples in the Inishowen Municipal District where certain schools were excluded as they were not in a designated Clár area yet neighbouring schools which were strategically located were able to avail of the funding. In many instances, he said, schools had no option but to look for funding through other options such as the Member's Development Fund. He asked that the safety aspect, be highlighted and forwarded to the Minister's concerned given the lack of disposable income for many schools, and the limited resources available to the Department of Education to carry out such works.

Cllr T Crossan seconding the motion said it was very apparent that many areas in the county were suffering because of this exclusion.

There was no opposition to the motion.

Mr Liam Ward, Director Community Development & Planning Services noted that Donegal County Council had been very active and successful in securing Clár funding. He was, he confirmed happy to look at progressing some of the ideas suggested by Cllr Doherty.

C/133/22

REPLACEMENT OF PUBLIC WATER MAINS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTY

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

"I would ask that Donegal County Council engage Irish Water to invest significantly on infrastructure regarding the replacement of public water mains throughout the county".

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

Cllr Farren highlighted the need for significant investment in water mains throughout the county and alluded to the serious problem with bursts in the Merville area. He thanked the Donegal County Council staff who carried out

remedial works but said that pipe replacement was the only solution at this juncture. The situation needed to be addressed, he added, not only for domestic users but for local industry and the tourism sector in general.

There were issues also it was acknowledged with regard to the timing of repair works over the winter period with water being switched off overnight in many instances.

He asked that Irish Water be contacted regarding these concerns and that an emphasis needs to be placed on finding adequate funding to carry out replacement works.

Cllr Mc Dermott outlined his support for the motion and said that all members could relate to the issues raised by Cllr Farren.

There was no opposition to the motion.

The Chief Executive thanked Cllr Farren for his assessment of the situation and said that the matters raised during the debate would be conveyed to Irish Water.

Concluding Cllr Farren thanked members for their support.

C/134/22

CATHAOIRLEACH'S BUSINESS.

Votes of Sympathy

A vote of sympathy was extended to the following:

- Marie Little, Housing, Donegal Public Service Centre on the death of her mother, Molly Mc Elhinney.
- The family of the late Sean Mc Gee, Milford Roads Division.
- Martin Mc Bride, formerly Planning Services on the death of his mother Susan Mc Bride.
- Cahir Doherty, Housing, Carndonagh on the death of his mother, Barbera Doherty.
- Patsy Mc Hugh, former Staff Welfare Officer on the death of his mother, Mary Mc Hugh.
- The family of the late Willie Browne, former Roads Service Supervisor, Stranorlar.
- Cllr Liam Doherty on the death of his father William Doherty.

Attendance at the Irish American Business Chamber Network Ambassadors Awards on Friday 4th March In Philadelphia

The Cathaoirleach advised that he had attended the Irish American Business Chamber Network Ambassador's awards on Friday 4th March 2022 in Philadelphia. The event he noted had provided a forum for the exchange of information for doing business in the Greater Philadelphia

region and the island of Ireland. This provided an opportunity also to connect with a number of prominent members of the Donegal Diaspora in the US.

St Patrick's Day Events in the USA

The Cathaoirleach informed members that he had attended the St Patrick's Day events in Philadelphia, New York and Boston during which, he had an opportunity to meet with members of the Donegal Associations and various other groupings from the wider Diaspora. It was noted that there had been an opportunity in Philadelphia to meet with Minister Roderic O' Gorman and members from the Consul General of Ireland office. There had been an opportunity also, he added in New York to attend the Ireland's Future USA 2022 event and to attend presentations in respect of various training and development programmes at the New York Fire Department Fire Academy.

The Boston element of the trip, he noted had involved meeting with several Donegal businesses who were taking part in a trade visit to the city and participating in the Donegal Business networking event. There had also been an opportunity in Boston, he added to meet with a number of prominent political representatives.

COP26 Climate Change Conference – Glasgow 8th-11th November 2021

The Cathaoirleach informed members that this had been an interesting and extremely worthwhile event during which he had sat in on a number of events and plenary sessions including one chaired by Alok Sharma, President of COP26.

He said that many of the sessions, he attended, had focused on transport and the need to convert to electric vehicles. He noted that Denmark was hoping to have the last combustion engine powered car sold in 2030 and that this type of goal was something that would be particularly challenging for a rural county such as Donegal and the creation of the necessary infrastructure to allow such a change to take place.

He expressed disappointment at the lack of an Irish presence and the fact that the Government chose to be represented by the EU.

The Cathaoirleach confirmed that he had met with the AER President, Magnus Berntsson to discuss co-operation from Donegal.

LAMA Spring Training Seminar on Rural Development & the IPI Annual Planning Seminar

Members were informed that details of the IPI Annual Planning Seminar and the Lama Spring Seminar had been received late for inclusion on the agenda. It was confirmed that the events would be held on the 7th and 8th

and the 11th and 12th April 2022 respectively in the Kilkenny Ormonde Hotel and the Hotel Kilkenny, College Road, Kilkenny.

It was unanimously agreed 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 2006-2022 as amended and directives issued by the Minister in that regard, to authorise any member, if he/she so wished, to attend the LAMA Spring Seminar on Rural Development and the IPI Annual Planning Seminar 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.

Global Irish Festival Series- International Launch in New York

Members were informed that Fáilte Ireland were launching the Global Ireland Festival Series 2022 in conjunction with Tourism Ireland and the Irish Consulate in New York on Wednesday 20th April.

The launch it was noted provided an opportunity to promote the activity of each of the host counties and to connect with Irish diaspora and networks to promote the Global Irish Festival Series initiative. The event it was confirmed would generate press coverage in Ireland, North America and in the UK promoting the Festival Series. Each Local Authority it was noted would have the opportunity to invite key clients to the event as guests of the local authority.

Members unanimously approved the attendance of the Cathaoirleach at the event in New York on the 20th April.

Association of Irish Local Government Spring Seminar

Cllr Mc Dermott thanked Cllr Nicholas Crossan for his work on the recent AILG Spring Seminar which had taken place in Buncrana. He acknowledged the excellent work that had gone into bringing the conference to Buncrana and the fact that that delegates had travelled from all over the country to attend.

Cllr Crossan was appreciative of the comments and thanked all who had contributed to the success of the event.

Vote of Congratulations

Congratulations was extended to Mr Noel Cunningham on becoming the 42nd Donegal Person of the Year.

Cllr Gary Doherty commended the Cathaoirleach in getting the business done at the meeting and referred to the fractious nature of the events in recent months. He proposed that the Council take whatever steps necessary to support the Cathaoirleach and Chief Executive in carrying out their roles to defend themselves and cover any costs that may be necessary in doing so. This was seconded by Cllr T Crossan.

C/135/22

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S MANAGEMENT REPORT.

The Cathaoirleach's report was proposed by Cllr Harley and seconded by Cllr Donaghey.

Members noted the report and addendum circulated in relation to the above.

1. Community Development & Planning Services

- A. Regeneration & Development Team Update
- B. Town & Villages Programme 2021
- C. CLÁR 2022
- D. Local Ceremony of Remembrance & Reflection

2. Economic Development, Information Systems & Emergency Services

- A. Local Enterprise Week 2022

3. Housing, Corporate & Cultural Services

A. Housing

- (i) *Social Houses affected by Defective Concrete Blocks*
- (ii) *Amended Defective Concrete Blocks Grant Scheme Regulations*
- (iii) *Energy Efficiency Retrofit Programme*

B. Cultural Services

- (i) *Creative Ireland Programme*
- (ii) *Library Service*
- (iii) *County Donegal Heritage Office*
- (iv) *Colmille 1500*
- (iv) *Decade of Centenaries Programme 2022*

4. Roads & Transportation

- A. Donegal National Roads Office Update

5. Water and Environment

- A. Litter and Waste Management
 - (i) *Recycling Centres*
 - (ii) *National Stop Food Waste Day*
 - (iii) *School Campaigns & Competitions*

- B. Climate Action
 - (i) *Climate Adaptation – Training Programme*
 - (ii) *Community Climate Action Programme*
 - (iv) *Decarbonisation Zone*

- C. Coastal Management
 - (i) *Blue Flag Beaches*
 - (ii) *Accessible Picnic Benches*
 - (iii) *Conference*
 - (iv) *Beach Maintenance*

- D. Public Conveniences
 - (i) *'Think Before you Flush' Campaign*

- E. Rural Water Programme
 - (i) *County Donegal Group Water Scheme Sector*
 - (ii) *Multi Annual Rural Water Programme 2019-2021*
 - (iii) *Multi Annual Rural Water Programme 2022-2024*

- F. Flood Relief Schemes - Updates

The Chief Executive drew attention to the fact that additional information had been circulated in relation to the Shared Island Local Authority Development Fund and that a call would be made mid-May regarding the projects to be selected.

Responding to query from Cllr Mc Monagle, he confirmed that the Economic Development Section would co-ordinate a series of workshops prior to a decision being made so that there could be an alignment of the relevant applications.

Cllr Mc Monagle drew attention to the fact that there were reports of raw sewage leaking into the Swilly at Ramelton and that this was causing numerous problems at that location. He asked that the matter be addressed urgently.

Update were also requested in relation to the TEN-T project and the amount of monies allocated to the Glenties Municipal District for LIS works.

Cllr G Doherty commended the Cathaoirleach on the smooth running of the meeting and noted that this was due to the steps taken by both the Cathaoirleach and the Chief Executive over the past number of months.

The following questions were submitted.

C/136/22 IDENTIFICATION OF LANDS TO FACILITATE THE BUILDING OF MODULAR HOMES TO ASSIST FAMILIES AFFECTED BY MICA

Cllr McMonagle submitted the following question:

Has this Council sought or identified lands to facilitate the building of Modular Homes to help and assist those families whose homes are affected by MICA and have received a demolition order?

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

C/137/22 NUMBER OF ONE-OFF HOUSES BUILT IN DONEGAL IN RURAL AREAS

Cllr Coyle submitted the following question:

What number of one-off houses in rural areas have been built in Donegal in the years 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021?

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

C/138/22 CURRENT SERVICE LEGAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN IRISH WATER AND DCC

Cllr McMonagle submitted the following question:

When will the current Service Level Agreement between Irish Water and Donegal County Council in relation to Staff and provision of Water Services come to an end and will it be renegotiated?

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

C/139/22 PRICES BEING CHARGED BY IRISH WATER

Cllr I McGarvey submitted the following question:

Is there any prospect of Donegal County Council asking Irish Water to look at the prices being charged to applicants throughout the county?

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

C/140/22 **FLOOD RISK PROVISIONS COUNTY WIDE**
Cllr I McGarvey submitted the following question:

What is being done in relation to flood risk provisions county-wide?

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

C/141/22 **UPDATED LIST OF ALL HOUSING REQUIRED IN EACH TOWN IN DONEGAL**
Cllr Harley submitted the following question:

Can you give me an updated list of all the housing required in Co Donegal with all towns listed?

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

C/142/22 **PLANS THAT EXIST TO GIVE HOUSING THE PRIORITY IT DESERVES BY HAVING ITS OWN DIRECTORATE WITH SEPARATE DIVISIONAL MANAGERS**
Cllr McGowan submitted the following question:

What plans the Council has, to give housing the priority it deserves by having its own Directorate with separate Divisional Managers for Construction and Land Acquisition, Affected Materials Mica & Pyrrhotite affected dwellings, Housing Applications, Loans and Grants etc?

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

C/143/22 **TEXT ALERT COMMITTEES**
Cllr McGowan submitted the following question:

Can this Council's Joint Policing Committee write to the Minister for Justice and her Department requesting them to pay the costs of texts on behalf of Text Alert Committees?

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

C/144/22

SHARED IRELAND FUND

Cllr Naughton submitted the following question:

Has Donegal County Council made any request or applied for any funding from the Shared Ireland Fund, and if so for what?

He received a response from the Director of Economic Development in relation to the above.

C/145/22

TRAFFIC SURVEYS CARRIED OUT ON ALL CROSS- BORDER ROADS

Cllr Naughton submitted the following question:

Can I have a list of all the traffic surveys carried out on all cross-border roads and the detail of the findings in relation to same?

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

C/146/22

HOUSING FOR ALL

Cllr A Doherty submitted the following question:

Housing for All

Are the additional personnel resources allocated to DCC in place and has the necessary repair programme of works required for the council housing stock commenced?, Also what positive housing supply role for towns will "Croi Conaithe" (Pathway 4) provide in the county?

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

C/147/22

TEMPORARY ACCOMMODATION FOR MICA FAMILIES

Cllr McDermott submitted the following question:

What have we done as a Council for temporary accommodation for mica families?

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

C/148/22

S.I. HOUSES

Cllr McDermott submitted the following question:

How much has been spent on S.I. houses in the county in the last 5 years?

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

C/149/22

FORESHORE LICENCES

Cllr T Crossan submitted the following question:

Can Minister Charlie Mc Conalogue, Minister of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, confirm the number of foreshore licences that have been issued for works carried out below the HWM on Donegal Sea Loughs and Beaches since he was appointed Minister? and also, can the Minister confirm whether Ecological or Environmental Impact Surveys were required to accompany these applications and if it is the case that no foreshore licences were issued why is it that works below the HWM continue with apparent impunity ?

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

C/150/22

RIGHTS OF NATURE

Cllr A Doherty submitted the following question:

Rights of Nature.

Has Donegal County Council explored and progressed this initiative, including engaging with other local authorities, (including cross border), with local stakeholders, academia etc. as promised? and will Council outline and report on county based activities planned in relation to the implementation of the "Rights of Nature" motion adopted by members?

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

C/151/22

MOTIONS FROM OTHER COUNCILS/BODIES

Members noted the following motions from other Councils.

BALLINAMORE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

"I propose that Ballinamore Municipal members write to An Taoiseach, An Tanaiste and Pacal Donohoe, Minister for Finance, to reduce the VAT rate on diesel and petrol by 50% for six months to help reduce the cost of living."

CLARE COUNTY COUNCIL

"We call on the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine and the Minister for Transport to put in place a system of compensation and indemnity as a component of the licensing system for forestry. It is anticipated that this compensation fund will cover the cost of repairs and

maintenance to damage caused to the public road network by forestry planting, maintenance and harvesting.

CLARE COUNTY COUNCIL

"We further call on the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine and the Minister for Transport to make it a requirement that forestry license holders – prior to commencing licenced forestry activities – consult with the relevant local authority with a view to minimizing damage to the public road network."

CLARE COUNTY COUNCIL

"I am calling on the Minister for Finance to broaden the Household Benefits Package and include exemption from property tax for those people that are under extreme pressure to meet day to day expenses in light of the rising cost of living and their struggle to survive on a very low level of income."

SLIGO COUNTY COUNCIL

That the member of Sligo County Council:

-unequivocally supports the retention of a full-time air sea rescue service at Sligo Airport as currently provide by the crew of Rescue 118.

-call on the Minister for Transport, Eamon Ryan TD to ensure Sligo Airport is put on a level playing field and supported with the capital investment needed in line with funding given to other airports.

-That this motion be relayed to Leitrim County Council, Mayo County Council, Roscommon County Council, Galway County Council, Derry County Council, Donegal County Council, the Minister for Transport, Eamon Ryan TD, the Minister of State at the Department of Transport with special responsibility for International and Road Transport and Logistics, Hildegard Naughton."

SLIGO COUNTY COUNCIL

"Given that building materials and labour has gone up by than 60% on the Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage to increase accordingly the maximum grant from €8000 to €15,000 and from €30,000 to €45,000 for housing adaption grant for people with a disability."

SLIGO COUNTY COUNCIL

"To call on the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage to increase the maximum grant under the older persons grant scheme by 50% to reflect building inflation and also to increase the overall allocation to the county a pro rata amount."

SLIGO COUNTY COUNCIL

"To call on the HSE and the Department of Health to end the practice of pursuing patients, including cancer patients with private commercial debt

collection agencies and to review exemptions to the inpatient charge by the Department of Health, and for this be shared with all other local authorities around the country.”

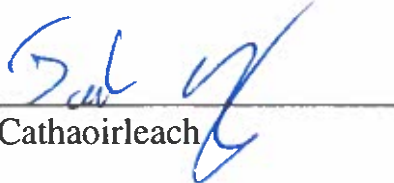
TIPPERARY COUNTY COUNCIL

“That Tipperary County Council supports the “Women of Honour” campaign for a statutory Commission of Investigation into alleged issues with our Defence Forces surrounding dignity in the workplace, bullying, harassment, discrimination, assault, sexual harassment and sexual assault.”

KERRY COUNTY COUNCIL

“That Kerry County Council writes to Minister Eamon Ryan, Minister for Environment, Climate and Communications, objecting to the Bill brought forward by the Green Party in relation to the granting of planning permission for LNG infrastructure in Ireland.”

This concluded the business of the meeting.


Cathaoirleach


Dated



Full Council - 28th March 2022 Motions

Agenda Item No.13

Office Ref:FC-2022-02004

Submitted By: Cllr. Gerry McMonagle

Assigned To: Roads

Motion "With the increasing difficulties getting Road Lining Contractors to reline our roads after remedial and resurfacing works on our roads, I would like to propose in the interest of road safety that Donegal County Council invest in and buy a Road Lining Lorry and train up the required workers to enable us to carry out these very important safety works as and when required."

Signed Off By:

Response: Donegal County Council has established over a long period of time, competence to undertake a wide range of road maintenance activities through our directly employed workforce. While specialised plant and training is provided to undertake these activities the expertise is essentially acquired through undertaking these activities directly under the guidance of already experienced operatives. Health and safety controls for these high risk activities have also evolved over time and are kept under continuous review as we learn from feedback from undertaking the work and from those directly involved. Having sufficient work available to firstly justify the significant investment needed to purchase the specialised plant and training required, and thereafter to ensure that operatives can build up and maintain a high level of expertise through ongoing works. Road lining is highly specialised work involving specialised equipment, operatives and materials. Currently this work is not within the competence of the Council to oversee or undertake. The level of this type of work needed by Council varies from year to year but on average it is expected that there would be around 2 months of work available for a lining gang each year. This level would be insufficient to justify the investment needed. The current difficulties in sourcing road lining contractors to undertake works in this county are acknowledged. It is understood however that a local Donegal contractor has recently invested in road lining equipment and has employed experienced staff and will shortly be able to bid for road lining work in this county. It is expected that this development will go a long way to addressing the current difficulties.

Agenda Item No.14

Office Ref:FC-2022-02002

Submitted By: Cllr. Michael McBride

Assigned To: Planning

Motion "That Donegal County Council amend the current County Development Plan allowing Log cabins and Modular Homes to be built arising from the housing crisis we are suffering due to current building costs, Mica and the war in the Ukraine. "

Signed Off By:

Response: Following recent advice provided by the Department of Housing, Planning & Local Government, the Council is awaiting amendments to legislation providing exemptions enabled under Section 181 of the Planning Act to facilitate measures that respond to the needs associated with facilitating emergency accommodation. Recently enacted provisions that provide exemptions relating to the reuse of existing vacant commercial properties can further provide viable opportunities to meet the pressing needs arising from the war in Ukraine and MICA. Members will be kept up-to-date with the publication and enactment of any such provisions as soon as possible. Members are also advised that the current provisions of the County Development Plan have the scope to respond to the provision of modular homes on appropriately located and serviced lands without the need for further variation to policy. It remains that the content of any legislative changes that have been indicated as necessary in light of the Ukraine war will need to be accounted for in the upcoming review of the County Development Plan and this will form a key component of discussions with Members during the preparation of a new Plan.

Agenda Item No.15

Office Ref:FC-2022-02018

Submitted By: Cllr. Donal Mandy Kelly

Assigned To: Corporate

Motion "That this Council write to Minister for Transport, Eamon Ryan requesting that a commitment be made to implement a tax relief on fuel for this year ending 2022 as a matter of urgency for all transport companies, haulage companies, and agricultural contractors please."

Signed Off By:

Response: The Council will write to the Minister if the motion is passed.

Agenda Item No.16

Office Ref:FC-2022-02022

Submitted By: Cllr. Ian McGarvey

Assigned To: Economic Development

Motion "That Donegal County Council look at developing tourist facility attractions and accommodation areas."

Signed Off By:

Response: Donegal County Council recognizes the important role that tourism plays in the county in terms of driving economic development and job creation and in this regard has invested substantially in the development of a range of key tourism products that have led to the positioning of the county as a much sought after destination of choice for visitors. In supporting the development of this sector, the Council has and is committed to continuing to collaborate with a wide range of public and private stakeholders and actively engages with communities, business and the various state agencies to develop local tourism products, attractions and experiences. This includes the following: Donegal County Council is currently leading on the development of a large-scale €12.5m immersive heritage and cultural experience project to re-imagine the visitor experience at the spectacular Fort Dunree and Discovery Point along the Wild Atlantic Way. It is anticipated that this new experience upon completion, will attract over 100,000 visitors per annum and have a significant impact in the creation of new employment opportunities and large scale economic activity in the area. The Slabh Liag Strategic Development Project constituted an investment of €4.95m by Donegal County Council, Fáilte Ireland and the SEUPB aiming to protect the landscape and in tandem, to generate economic activity by providing sustainable local employment within the local community. The capital works delivered a transportation hub, visitor centre, car parking facilities, road improvements and an upland path to conserve the unique landscape amid growing visitor numbers. Works are currently proceeding in Bundoran under the Fáilte Ireland Destination Towns initiative aiming to boosting the attractiveness and tourism appeal, in addition to the planned development of access and public amenities at Tullan Strand, Bundoran. Likewise the Council is progressing Water Activity facilities at Downings. Under the Local Authority Weatherproofing & Outdoor Dining Infrastructure Scheme from Fáilte Ireland new projects in Letterkenny at An Grianan and Oceanside Bundoran will see the development of new outdoor dining and entertainment spaces in both locations costing over €200k in funding. Funding of €250k has also been secured under the Outdoor Public Space Scheme 2021, for the development of the town center/Diamond Area in Donegal Town. The Wild Atlantic Way is a key calling card of Donegal and coastal tourism is hugely important to the county and in this regard the Council invests substantially each year in initiatives such as the international Blue Flag and Green Coast beach awards. In 2021 Donegal was awarded with 14 Blue Flag Beaches including 2 Marinas and 4 Green Coasts and 13 Wheelchair accessible beaches, with beach wheelchairs available for use at Rathmullan, Downings, Carrickfinn, Rosnowlough, Narin and Marble Hill and 12 bespoke bicycle stands installed at strategic locations along the coast. The Council is also progressing various trail developments in the county including greenways and these will act as key attractors for the county.

Agenda Item No.17

Office Ref:FC-2022-02026

Submitted By: Cllr. Patrick Mc Gowan

Assigned To: Housing

Motion "That this Council recognising reports from GeoDirectory Bi-annual Commercial Property Report Q42021 and earlier reports undertakes a pilot project focusing on town regeneration under the Government's "Housing for All" Programme, focusing on towns with the highest commercial vacancy rate in the county."

Signed Off By:

Response: At 13.9%, the national commercial vacancy rate in Q4 2021 was at its highest level since Geo Directory began reporting on this data in 2013. County Donegal has the 4th highest commercial vacancy rate in the country at 16.9% according to the report, and the town with the highest commercial vacancy rate in the country at 30.0%, is Ballybofey. From other towns in the county included in the analysis, Letterkenny has the next highest commercial vacancy rate at 20%. It is likely that COVID-19 will have prolonged structural implications for the commercial stock, given it has accelerated the rise in online shopping and hybrid working practices. The hope is that the economic recovery, combined with recent government incentives to rejuvenate towns and villages, will assist with re-occupancy over the coming years. In this regard, there are opportunities to revitalise these premises using some of the Government funding initiatives available, for example through Housing for All, the Town and Village Renewal Scheme, the Town Centre First Initiative and the URDF and RRDF funding programmes. As remote working is expected to continue beyond the pandemic, and online commerce increases in popularity, there needs to be a policy conversation around how vacant commercial properties are regenerated on our main streets for the wider benefit. Many of these properties have potential be returned to commercial, community or residential uses. The most appropriate re-use of these premises will need to be determined in a planned manner on a town by town basis. The GeoDirectory data highlights the necessity to address commercial vacancy in the two aforementioned locations of Ballybofey / Stranorlar and Letterkenny, and cross directorate engagement has already commenced with a view to exploring best options for regeneration of these towns as well as a number of other locations throughout the county. Additional staffing resources will be key to the successful rollout of regeneration projects. At present, the Council is in the process of appointing a number of additional staff approved under 'Housing for All' who will be initially tasked with identifying suitable land and infill properties that could be acquired for housing purposes. Further resources will be required in the broader regeneration context under the Town Centre First Initiative, and details are awaited in this regard.

Agenda Item No.18

Office Ref:FC-2022-02010

Submitted By: Cllr. Michael Naughton

Assigned To: Roads

Motion "That Donegal County Council apply for funding from the Shared Ireland Fund to refurbish and realign strategic cross-border roads linking some of our larger towns."

Signed Off By:

Response: Funding for road improvement projects normally comes from either Transport Infrastructure Ireland (National Roads) or the Department of Transport (Regional and Local Roads). It is unclear at this time what criteria will be applied to Shared Island funding and whether or not cross border roads will be eligible for such funding. The Council has received a preliminary notification of the Government's intention to launch a Shared Island Local Authority Development funding scheme in the coming weeks and it is anticipated that the closing date for applications to the scheme, will be mid-May. This matter is being discussed at CPG and it is expected that discussions with the wider council on which projects to prioritise for this initial funding scheme will take place shortly. It is suggested that this Motion might be premature until the Shared Island funding criteria has been clarified and projects have been considered and agreed at Plenary Council level.

Agenda Item No.19

Office Ref:FC-2022-02021

Submitted By: Cllr. Michael McMahon

Assigned To: Corporate

Motion "That this Council ask the Department of Foreign Affairs to take a more proactive approach as regards to the Undocumented Irish in America. This has been a long-term problem and is now causing major issues for families in both Ireland and America."

Signed Off By:

Response: The Council will write to the Department if the motion is passed.

Agenda Item No.20

Office Ref:FC-2022-02013

Submitted By: Cllr. Cllr Martin McDermott

Assigned To: Housing

Motion "That this Council due to the problems that people are having with the mica application process put in place staff to be available in the MDs at least 1 or 2 days a week to facilitate people with their paperwork and to upload their applications. "

Signed Off By:

Response: The Council has received requests over a period of time for assistance in local offices, in relation to the Defective Concrete Blocks Grant Scheme application process. The nature of assistance being sought was initially unclear. However, this has now been clarified and it has been confirmed that some applicants may require assistance with scanning documents and uploading them as part of the application process. I can confirm that this can be facilitated at a number of public libraries, where scanning facilities are already available to the public, and can be utilised as required with immediate effect. The libraries where this is available are as follows. • Central Library Letterkenny • Carndonagh Community Library • Buncrana Community Library • Twin Towns Community Library • Bundoran Community Library • Leabharlann Phobail Ghaoth Dobhair • Leabharlann Phobail na Rosann

Agenda Item No.21

Office Ref:FC-2022-02016

Submitted By: Cllr. Terry Crossan

Assigned To: Planning

Motion "Can Donegal County Council ensure that Minister Mc Conalogue is cognisant of his responsibilities pertaining to our foreshores especially where SPAs are concerned and where Section 23 (5) of the Wildlife Act is being contravened. "

Signed Off By:

Response: Currently, applications for foreshore licences are the responsibility of the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine. As a statutory consultee to certain license applications, Donegal County Council comments on issues affecting the current objectives and policies of the Council such as those set out in the County Development Plan. While environmental considerations relating to EU Habitats can be commented on through DCC submissions to the Department, they remain the competent deciding authority on such matters when considering license applications. Notwithstanding the recent enactment of the Maritime Area Planning Act where Coastal Planning Authorities will be the consenting authority for some activities within the nearshore area (out to 3 nautical miles from the high water mark) the operation of this legislation has not yet commenced and Coastal Authorities are awaiting publication of associated regulations that give effect to the Act. It is however likely that certain activities such as aquaculture will not fall within the remit of Coastal Authorities and will continue to be subject to consenting/licensing by the Department. Members will be updated when further clarity on these matters

becomes available.

Agenda Item No.22

Office Ref:FC-2022-02007

Submitted By: Cllr. Albert Doherty

Assigned To: Community

Motion "Extension of CLAR area in Donegal & inclusion of additional electoral divisions enabling community access to the rural investment programme. "That Donegal County Council seek from government the inclusion of additional electoral divisions for the CLAR (Ceantair Laga Ard-Riachtanas) programme, That Council executive compose for government a report of support for the inclusion of electoral divisions presently excluded from the CLAR programme, That this motion is forwarded for the attention of Minister Heather Humphreys,(Dept.of Social Protection, Community & Rural Development & the Islands) and Minister Charlie Mc Conalogue, (Dept of Agriculture,Food and the Marine)"

Signed Off By:

Response: The content of this motion is noted. Subject to the consideration of the Motion at plenary Council level, arrangements can be made for a report to be developed as suggested. Arrangements will also be made to forward the Motion to Minister Heather Humphreys,(Dept. of Social Protection, Community & Rural Development & the Islands) and Minister Charlie Mc Conalogue, (Dept of Agriculture,Food and the Marine)

Agenda Item No.23

Office Ref:FC-2022-02003

Submitted By: Cllr. Cllr Martin Farren

Assigned To: Water

Motion "I would ask that Donegal County Council engage Irish Water to invest significantly on infrastructure regarding the replacement of public water mains throughout the county."

Signed Off By:

Response: Should this motion be passed Donegal County Council will write to Irish Water (IW) requesting that they review the extent of the pipeline replacement programme in the county. Donegal County Council Water Services staff regularly provides IW with updates with respect to the burst frequency, water quality issues and poorly performing pipelines, including those sections that require replacement on roads that are earmarked for resurfacing, etc so as to ensure that pipelines are prioritised for replacement. Michael McGarvey Director of Water and Environmental Services



Full Council - 28th March 2022 Questions

Agenda Item No.26

Office Ref:FC-2022-02005

Submitted By: Cllr. Gerry McMonagle

Assigned To: Housing

Question "Has this Council sought or identified lands to facilitate the building of Modular Homes to help and assist those families whose homes are affected by MICA and have received a demolition order?"

Signed Off By:

Response: Advantages and benefits to modular construction include; saving time, no weather delays, no need to store materials, lower labour costs, and lower volume of waste. In this regard, the Council is reviewing its existing landbank throughout the county and examining the potential for delivering housing including modular options in the context of; 1. Availability of water and wastewater infrastructure 2. Adequate access road and footpath 3. Ground Conditions 4. Residential Zoning 5. Surface water disposal 6. Suitability for sewerage treatment The Council is also reviewing expressions of interest from land and property owners to sell land to the Council. In addition to the above the Council has carried some preliminary examinations of modular home options. This will be explored further when the Special Project Delivery Team is set up, and this is currently in the process of being arranged.

Agenda Item No.27

Office Ref:FC-2022-02019

Submitted By: Cllr. Donal Coyle

Assigned To: Planning

Question "What number of one off houses in rural areas have been built in Donegal in the years 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021?"

Signed Off By:

Response: The information relating to the completion of one-off dwellings in rural areas will be sought from external sources and provided to members as soon as possible. In the interim the following information is available with regard to the number of rural one-off dwellings permitted for the years 2017 to 2020: 2017 - 513 units 2018 - 522 units 2019 - 551 units 2020 - 594 units (NB: the information for 2021 is not complete as yet and will be made available in due course).

Agenda Item No.28

Office Ref:FC-2022-02006

Submitted By: Cllr. Gerry McMonagle

Assigned To: Water

Question "When will the current Service Level Agreement between Irish Water and Donegal County Council in relation to Staff and provision of Water Services come to an end and will it be renegotiated?"

Signed Off By:

Response: The Service Level Agreement (SLA) between Donegal County Council and Irish Water (IW) for the continued provision of water & waste water services within Donegal was initiated in 2014. Originally, it was envisaged that the SLAs between Local Authorities and IW were due to conclude at the end of 2025. However, the Minister set out in his policy paper of February 2021 that it is important to move now towards the development of a fully integrated single public utility and he asked that all parties work toward having a replacement for the current SLAs in place before the end of 2022. Discussions are currently taking place between relevant stakeholders through the WRC process.

Agenda Item No.29

Office Ref:FC-2022-02024

Submitted By: Cllr. Ian McGarvey

Assigned To: Water

Question "Is there any prospect of Donegal County Council asking Irish Water to look at the prices being charged to applicants throughout the County?"

Signed Off By:

Response: Donegal County Council will forward this request to Irish Water asking them to review their pricing structure as set out in this Plenary Question. Michael McGarvey Director of Water and Environmental Services

Agenda Item No.30

Office Ref:FC-2022-02023

Submitted By: Cllr. Ian McGarvey**Assigned To:** Water**Question** "What is being done in relation to flood risk provisions county-wide?"**Signed Off By:****Response:** Please see attached updates for the Flood Relief Schemes countywide. Michael McGarvey Director of Water and Environmental Services [Appendix 1](#)

Agenda Item No.31

Office Ref:FC-2022-02001

Submitted By: Cllr. Martin Harley**Assigned To:** Housing**Question** "Can you give me an updated list of all the housing required in Co Donegal with all towns listed?"**Signed Off By:****Response:** The total gross number of households on the housing waiting list, including the number on the transfer list and the resultant net need, is 2,663. The breakdown of the housing need for each settlement is set out in the attached Appendix 1. The transfer list includes applicants who are in receipt of the Housing Assistance Payment which is a form of social housing support and is a payment that is made directly to the landlord towards the rent of an applicant who has been approved on the housing waiting list. The transfer list also includes tenants of the Council who have been approved for a transfer as a result of a change in their circumstances, e.g. requirement for ground floor accommodation due to medical needs. See attachment. [Appendix 2](#)

Agenda Item No.32

Office Ref:FC-2022-02025

Submitted By: Cllr. Patrick Mc Gowan**Assigned To:** Housing**Question** "What plans the Council has to give housing the priority it deserves by having its own Directorate with separate Divisional Managers for Construction and Land Acquisition, Affected Materials Mica & Pyrrhotite affected dwellings, Housing Applications, Loans and Grants etc? "**Signed Off By:****Response:** In light of the additional challenges associated with the new Housing for All Strategy, particularly in relation to the significant change in focus to 'new build', the Council has examined its resource requirements, and made application to the Department for additional staff for the Housing Capital team (lead out by Senior Engineer/Divisional Manager). Approval has been received and a key initial focus of the additional resources in this regard will relate to engineering staff who will be tasked with identifying land and infill properties suitable for housing projects. The recruitment of these staff is well advanced. Similarly, in relation to Mica in Social Houses, the Council made application to set up a Special Project Delivery Team headed up by a new post at Senior Engineer / Divisional Manager level. Approval has just been received in this regard to recruit an initial number of staff to set up the team. The staff will transition into the new roles shortly, and discussions in relation to work of the team are ongoing with the Department Both these initiatives will strengthen the Councils ability to address the housing challenges in the county. In addition, there is a Divisional Manager at Senior Executive Officer level, with responsibility for all MD Services within Housing & Corporate Services, which includes inter alia stock management, tenancy management, housing applications, allocations, grants, loans and so forth. Under the new Enhanced Scheme for Defective Concrete Blocks it is anticipated that there will be no requirement for Council engineering staff in light of the new role planned for the Housing Agency. This will be important to ensure that our engineering staff are assigned to the core duties normally carried out by other local authorities.

Agenda Item No.33

Office Ref:FC-2022-02020

Submitted By: Cllr. Patrick Mc Gowan**Assigned To:** Community**Question** "Can this Council's Joint Policing Committee write to the Minister for Justice and her Department requesting them to pay the costs of texts on behalf of Text Alert Committees?"**Signed Off By:** LIAM WARD**Response:** This matter will be raised at the next meeting of the Joint Policing Committee

Agenda Item No.34

Office Ref:FC-2022-02011

Submitted By: Cllr. Michael Naughton

Assigned To: Economic Development

Question "Has Donegal County Council made any request or applied for any funding from the Share Ireland Fund? And if so for what?"

Signed Off By:

Response: The Shared Island unit has only recently made a call for formal submissions from cross-border collaborations between Councils in Ireland and Northern Ireland and which must be led by an Irish council. Options for a very limited (1 -2) submissions will be considered by the members in due course and will likely see collaborations with our neighbouring Councils in Derry City & Strabane and Fermanagh & Omagh. These funds of up to €150,000 per submission are aimed at enabling the development of business cases, design works etc. and are expected to be strategic and impactful in nature. The Council has had ongoing conversations with Shared Island over the past number of years to get an understanding and a sense of the type and form of supports available, in the context of necessary enabling infrastructure and being mindful of the Department of An Taoiseach's objectives for the initiative. Discussions around education and economic development initiatives have seen engagements between leads in these sectors, including the Council, exploring potential collaborations on a cross border basis and Shared Island has expressed an interest in supporting a number of initiatives in these sectors that contribute to the objectives of the unit.

Agenda Item No.35

Office Ref:FC-2022-02012

Submitted By: Cllr. Michael Naughton

Assigned To: Roads

Question "Can I have a list of all the traffic surveys carried out on all cross-border roads and the detail of the findings in relation to same?"

Signed Off By:

Response: Attached is a list of cross border road traffic counts completed over the last 5 years and details of the findings. [Appendix 3](#)

Agenda Item No.36

Office Ref:FC-2022-02008

Submitted By: Cllr. Albert Doherty

Assigned To: Housing

Question "Housing for All Are the additional personnel resources allocated to DCC in place and has the necessary repair programme of works required for the council housing stock commenced?, Also what positive housing supply role for towns will "Croi Conaithe" (Pathway 4) provide in the county?"

Signed Off By:

Response: The Council made application in October 2021 to set up a Special Project Delivery Team to address defective block issues within Council stock. Approval has just been received in this regard to recruit an initial number of staff to set up the team. The staff will transition into their new roles shortly, and discussions in relation to the work of the team are ongoing with the Department. The new Croí Conaithe (Towns) Fund being introduced under Housing for All is to assist people who buy derelict properties to renovate then and live in them as their principle residence. In addition, it is envisaged that the fund will provide for servicing sites for new homes in order to attract people to build their own homes in smaller towns and villages. The full details of the scheme are awaited and are expected shortly.

Agenda Item No.37

Office Ref:FC-2022-02014

Submitted By: Cllr. Cllr Martin McDermott

Assigned To: Housing

Question "What have we done as a Council for temporary accommodation for mica families? "

Signed Off By:

Response: The Council has made arrangements to transfer Council tenants in Mica affected stock to alternative Council accommodation in various locations. In some instances, tenants have sought permanent transfers, whereas in other cases, tenants would like the option to return to their original home after remediation works have been carried out. This is ongoing on a case by case basis, and by and large involves transfers to houses which have become vacant for one reason or another. The Council does not generally have a direct role in relation to rehousing private homeowners. However, the new enhanced scheme will provide for accommodation costs where homeowners have to move out of their home while remediation works are carried out. In addition to the above the Council has carried some preliminary examinations of modular home options. This will be explored further when the Special Project Delivery Team is set up, and this is currently in the process of being arranged.

Agenda Item No.38

Office Ref:FC-2022-02015

Submitted By: Cllr. Cllr Martin McDermott

Assigned To: Housing

Question "How much has been spent on S.I houses in the county in the last 5 years "

Signed Off By:

Response: The Council continues to deliver Specific Instance housing in the county where a specific need arises in accordance with the current policy / department guidelines. Currently, two no. SI houses are at construction stage, with a funding approval totalling almost €0.5m. This covers site investigation fees, construction costs as well as all other design, certification and technical fees. A further two SIs are also in the pipeline, one at design stage, and one where legal land transfer is required.

Agenda Item No.39

Office Ref:FC-2022-02017

Submitted By: Cllr. Terry Crossan

Assigned To: Roads

Question "Can Minister Charlie Mc Conalogue, Minister of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, confirm the number of foreshore licences that have been issued for works carried out below the HWM on Donegal Sea Loughs and Beaches since he was appointed Minister, and also can the Minister confirm whether Ecological or Environmental impact surveys were required to accompany these applications? If it is the case that no foreshore licences were issued why is it that works below the HWM continue with apparent impunity ? "

Signed Off By:

Response: The Council's Piers & Harbours section, in the past 8 years have submitted, 4 applications for foreshore leases/licences for works below the HWL on Inish Eoghain Sea Loughs. Approval has been received for one of these while the remaining 3 continue to progress through final stages of the approvals process. Ecological/ Environmental impact surveys as appropriate are required to accompany these applications. It is likely that other foreshore leases/licence applications have been submitted however the Council would not have any details of these. The Council can correspond further with the Minister in the event that this motion is adopted.

Agenda Item No.40

Office Ref:FC-2022-02009

Submitted By: Cllr. Albert Doherty

Assigned To: Environment

Question "Rights of Nature. Has Donegal County Council explored and progressed this initiative, including engaging with other local authorities,(including cross border), with local stakeholders, academia etc. as promised? and will Council outline and report on County based activities planned in relation to the implementation of the "Rights of Nature" motion adopted by members? "

Signed Off By:

Response: Donegal County Council has been exploring this initiative in recent months and will bring a report to the Climate and Environment SPC in Q3 2022. Michael McGarvey Director of Water & Environmental Services

GLENTIES FLOOD RELIEF SCHEME

Briefing Note 5 – February 2022

Progress Summary

Surveys capturing the data needed to build an up to date computer model of the Owenea, Stracashel and Gortnamucklagh Rivers, existing defences and floodplains in the area are complete.

Using this data, we have built a computer model to represent the Owenea, Stracashel and Gortnamucklagh rivers. We have added river flows to drive the model and replicate flood conditions, for past and future predicted (design) events. Our team has fine-tuned the model to see that it is replicating the past flood extents and depths which have been recorded including events in 2015, 2019 and flooding observed earlier in 2021 at Mulantyboyle. This made use of the data (photographs and reports) of past flood events provided by local residents, businessowners and stakeholders to ensure the closest representation of events which took place on the ground in Glenties

We are now developing options and considering potential flood risk management measures which may be applicable at Glenties. A computer model representing the Owenea, Stracashel and Gortnamucklagh Rivers is now complete and has been assessed through sensitivity testing which will inform the potential options for the Glenties FRS. RPS are currently preparing a draft of the Glenties FRS Hydraulics Report and is due to be issued to the Steering Group in February 2022. The final report will be issued following the Steering Group review. Upon completion of the Hydraulics Report flood risk management measures will then be assessed in the computer model to evaluate which is the most effective for the scheme area. A technical workshop to discuss the development of options was held in early November 2021 and was attended by the Glenties FRS Steering Group.

A property economic damage assessment is ongoing for the Glenties FRS. This will provide estimates of the monetary impacts caused by flooding, from which the potential benefits of the flood scheme can be calculated across its design life. This assessment will help inform what potential options are economically viable, when compared against the whole life cost of the option.

The RPS Environmental Team issued the Draft Environmental Constraints Study report in September 2021 for Steering Group review. The final report is due to be completed mid-February 2022. The report considers the key environmental issues which may be impacted by, or impose constraints on, the flood scheme. The report considers Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna, Soils and Geology, Archaeology, Architectural and Cultural Heritage, Land Use and Material Assets, Landscape and Visual Impact, in addition to Population and Human Health. The report will be available on the project website by mid-February.

Further detailed environmental surveys have taken place since August including the completion of ecological surveys that are seasonally constrained, e.g. aquatic ecology and fisheries surveys. These specialist surveys build on the initial baseline surveys already undertaken in 2020 and 2021.

Note too that a new newsletter will be posted on the scheme website this quarter, see:

<https://countydonegalfrs.ie/glentiesfrs/index.php/news/>

Next Steps

Data Collection: RPS have now received all outstanding data sets in relation to Stage I of the Project.

Surveys: The detailed surveys have been completed. Final data has been provided to the Project Team for use in the hydraulic model. RPS are currently looking at whether further surveys are needed to inform the preliminary design of a scheme.

Hydrological Analysis: The design flows and water levels which are used within the models to simulate flooding have been finalised, and the Draft Hydrology Report is complete.

Hydraulic Analysis: The hydraulic model has been calibrated and validated using data from historical flood events to ensure that it provides an accurate representation of the flooding mechanisms. The model will now be used to assess and compare various engineered options which will reduce the flood risk in Glenties. The Draft Hydraulics Report is currently being prepared.

Scheme Analysis and Development: A list of all potential flood risk management measures which may be applicable at Glenties are currently being produced. These will be screened so that measures which could be technically and economically viable, and socially and environmentally acceptable are taken forward for detailed assessment.

Environmental Assessment: Further surveys are proposed in the coming months including protected species surveys, archaeological and architectural surveys.

Projected Key Milestone Dates

- Completion of Final Environmental Constraints Report – February 2022
- Completion of Draft Hydrology Report – November 2021
- Completion of Draft Hydraulic Modelling Report – February 2022
- Ecological surveys – ongoing throughout 2021 and early 2022
- Identification of Preferred Option – May 2022
- Completion of Environmental Impact Assessment Report – November 2022

The Stage I programme has been extended by approximately four (4) months due to technical challenges in the analysis. The Project Team are working hard to mitigate programme delay by assessing potential opportunities to accelerate project tasks.

BURNFOOT FLOOD RELIEF SCHEME

Briefing Note 5 – February 2022

Progress Summary

Surveys capturing the data needed to build an up to date computer model of the Burnfoot and Skeoge Rivers, tributaries, existing defences, culverts and floodplains in the area are complete.

Using this data RPS have built a computer model to represent the Skeoge River, and the Burnfoot River and its tributaries. River flows and water level inputs have been added to drive the model and replicate flood conditions, for past and future predicted (design) events. The hydraulic modelling team has fine-tuned the model to check that it is as accurate as possible, particularly in relation to the August 2017 flood. This made use of the data (photographs, measurements and reports) of past flood events provided by local residents, business owners and stakeholders to ensure the closest representation of events which took place on the ground in Burnfoot. The model has been assessed through sensitivity testing which will inform the potential options for the Burnfoot FRS.

A draft of the Burnfoot FRS Hydraulics Report was issued to the Steering Group in January 2022 and the final report will be issued following the Steering Group review. A short-list of flood risk management measures is currently being assessed in the computer model to evaluate which is the most effective for the scheme area. The list will be inclusive of, but not limited to those outlined in North Western Flood Risk Management Plan, with all measures being screened, identifying those that could be progressed to a more detailed assessment. A technical workshop to discuss the development of options was held in early November 2021 and was attended by the Burnfoot FRS Steering Group.

A property economic damage assessment is ongoing for the Burnfoot FRS. This will provide estimates of the monetary impacts caused by flooding, from which the potential benefits of the flood scheme can be calculated across its design life. This assessment will help inform what potential options are economically viable, when compared against the whole life cost of the option.

The RPS Environmental Team issued the Draft Environmental Constraints Study report in September 2021 for Steering Group review. The final report was then completed in January 2022. The report considers the key environmental issues which may be impacted by, or impose constraints on, the flood scheme. The report considers Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna, Soils and Geology, Archaeology, Architectural and Cultural Heritage, Land Use and Material Assets, Landscape and Visual Impact, in addition to Population and Human Health. The report is now available on the project website.

Further detailed environmental surveys have taken place since August including the completion of ecological surveys that are seasonally constrained, e.g. aquatic ecology and fisheries surveys and the ongoing over-wintering bird surveys in Burnfoot will continue until March 2022. These specialist surveys build on the initial baseline surveys already undertaken in 2020 and 2021.

Note too that a new newsletter will be posted on the scheme website this quarter, see: <https://countydonegalfrs.ie/burnfootfrs/index.php/news/>

Next Steps

Data Collection: All outstanding data sets in relation to Stage I of the Project have been received.

Surveys: The detailed surveys have been completed. Final data has been provided to the Project Team for use in the hydraulic model. RPS are currently looking at whether further surveys are needed to inform the preliminary design of a scheme.

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Hydrological Analysis: The design flows and water levels which are used within the models to simulate flooding have been finalised, and the Draft Hydrology Report is complete.

Hydraulic Analysis: The hydraulic model has been calibrated and validated using data from historical flood events to ensure that it provides an accurate representation of the flooding mechanisms. The model will now be used to assess and compare various engineered options which will reduce the flood risk in Burnfoot. The Draft Hydraulics Report is now complete.

Scheme Analysis and Development: A list of all potential flood risk management measures which may be applicable at Burnfoot are currently being produced. These will be screened so that measures which could be technically and economically viable, and socially and environmentally acceptable are taken forward for detailed assessment.

Environmental Assessment: Further surveys are proposed in the coming months including protected species surveys, archaeological and architectural surveys.

Projected Key Milestone Dates

- Completion of Final Environmental Constraints Report – January 2022
- Completion of Draft Hydrology Report – November 2021
- Completion of Draft Hydraulic Modelling Report – January 2022
- Ecological surveys – ongoing throughout 2021 and early 2022
- Identification of Preferred Option – June 2022
- Completion of Environmental Impact Assessment Report – November 2022
- Ongoing management of invasive species in line with the management plan

The Stage I programme has been extended by approximately five (5) months due to technical challenges in the analysis. The Project Team are working hard to mitigate programme delay by assessing potential opportunities to accelerate project tasks.

Buncrana Flood Relief Scheme – Briefing Note No. 03

1. Progress Summary

1.1 Engineering Surveys and Site Investigations:

- a. **Culvert Condition Survey:** The culvert condition surveys were completed. A review of the survey data is currently underway before its inclusion in the hydraulic model.
- b. **LiDAR Survey:** The LiDAR survey has yet to commence due to unsuitable weather conditions. Alternative options are being implemented in the interim by the project team.

1.2 Hydrology and Hydraulics:

The hydrology assessment is progressing and will be submitted for review by the Steering Group in March 2022. The hydraulic modelling is progressing and will continue to mid-2022 before draft outputs are ready for review.

1.3 Environmental Assessments:

The environmental constraints report has been issued to the Steering Group for review along with the invasive species management plan. The environmental constraints report will be issued to the scheme website once finalised. Specialist third party environmental surveys are being arranged for the 2022 season. The procurement competition for invasive species treatment will commence in the coming weeks.

1.4 Stakeholder and Third-Party Communications

1.4.1 Project Website

The project website is being updated on an ongoing basis with a quarterly newsletter to be posted after the issue of this Briefing Note.

1.4.2 Collaborative Workshop

A collaborative workshop with relevant sections of Donegal Co. Co. and external organisations was held on 8th December 2021. The purpose of the workshop was to ensure coordination between other projects and to share relevant information.

1.4.3 Ongoing data gathering

Following the recent occurrence of storms Dudley, Eunice and Franklin, the project team would like to express our thanks for video and photos received to date and would similarly welcome any additional relevant information. Photos and videos are useful for model calibration and can be submitted via the project website. See countydonegalfrs.ie and select the relevant scheme.

2. Next Steps

- **LiDAR Survey:** Waiting on suitable weather conditions.
- **Hydrology:** Submission of draft hydrology report in March 2022.
- **Hydraulic Modelling:** Continuation of hydraulic modelling.
- **Environmental Assessment:** Procurement of specialist surveys
- **Invasive Species Treatment Contract:** Tender documents in progress.

NA DÚNAIBH (DOWNINGS) FLOOD RELIEF SCHEME

Briefing Note 5 – February 2022

Progress Summary

Surveys capturing the data needed to build an up to date computer model of the Rosapenna Stream Sheephaven Bay, existing defences, culverts and floodplains in the area are complete.

Using the data gathered during the detailed river, culvert, beach and terrain surveys, we have built a computer model to represent the Rosapenna Stream and the coastal mechanisms of Sheephaven Bay. We have added river flows and water level inputs to drive the model and replicate flood conditions. Our team has fine-tuned the model to check that it is as accurate as possible, for both past and future predicted (design) events. This made use of the data (photographs and reports) of past flood events provided by local residents, businessowners and stakeholders to ensure the closest representation of flood events which have been observed at Na Dúnaibh. The model has been assessed through sensitivity testing which will inform the potential options for Na Dúnaibh FRS. A draft of Na Dúnaibh FRS Hydraulics Report was issued to the Steering Group in January 2022 and is currently undergoing review. The final report will be issued following Steering Group review.

A short-list of flood risk management measures is currently being assessed in the computer model to evaluate which is the most effective for the scheme area. The list will be inclusive of, but not limited to those outlined in North Western Flood Risk Management Plan, with all measures being screened, identifying those that could be progressed to a more detailed assessment. A technical workshop to discuss the development of options was held in late October 2021 and was attended by Na Dúnaibh FRS Steering Group.

A property economic damage assessment is ongoing for Na Dúnaibh FRS. This will provide estimates of the monetary impacts caused by flooding, from which the potential benefits of the flood scheme can be calculated across its design life. This assessment will help inform what potential options are economically viable, when compared against the whole life cost of the option.

The RPS Environmental Team issued the Draft Environmental Constraints Study report in September 2021 for Steering Group review. The final report was then completed in December 2021. The report considers the key environmental issues which may be impacted by, or impose constraints on, the flood scheme. The report considers Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna, Soils and Geology, Archaeology, Architectural and Cultural Heritage, Land Use and Material Assets, Landscape and Visual Impact, in addition to Population and Human Health. The report is now available on the project website.

Further detailed environmental surveys have taken place since August including the completion of ecological surveys that are seasonally constrained, e.g. aquatic ecology and fisheries surveys and the ongoing over-wintering bird surveys in Na Dúnaibh which are due to continue until March 2022. These specialist surveys build on the initial baseline surveys already undertaken in 2020 and 2021.

Note too that a new newsletter will be posted on the scheme website this quarter, see: <https://countydonegalfrs.ie/downingsfrs/index.php/news/>

Next Steps

Data Collection: RPS have now received all outstanding data sets in relation to Stage I of the Project.

Surveys: The detailed surveys have been completed. Final data has been provided to the Project Team for use in the hydraulic model. RPS are currently looking at whether further surveys are needed to inform the preliminary design of the scheme.

Hydrological Analysis: The design flows and water levels which are used within the models to simulate flooding have been finalised, and the Draft Hydrology Report is complete.

Hydraulic Analysis: The hydraulic model has been calibrated and validated using data from historical flood events to ensure that it provides an accurate representation of the flooding mechanisms. The model will now be used to assess and compare various engineered options which will reduce the flood risk in Na Dúnaibh. The Draft Hydraulics Report is now complete.

Scheme Analysis and Development: A list of all potential flood risk management measures which may be applicable at Na Dúnaibh is currently being produced. These will be screened so that measures which could be technically and economically viable, and socially and environmentally acceptable are taken forward for detailed assessment.

Environmental Assessment: Further surveys are proposed in the coming months including protected species surveys, archaeological and architectural surveys.

Projected Key Milestone Dates

- Completion of Final Environmental Constraints Report – December 2021
- Completion of Draft Hydrology Report – September 2021
- Completion of Draft Hydraulic Modelling Report – February 2021
- Ecological surveys – ongoing throughout 2021 and early 2022
- Identification of Preferred Option – June 2022
- Completion of Environmental Impact Assessment Report – January 2023

The Stage I programme has been extended by approximately seven (7) months due to technical challenges and increased scope in the analysis. The Project Team are working hard to mitigate programme delay by assessing potential opportunities to accelerate project tasks.

1. Progress Summary.

1.1 Engineering Surveys and Site Investigations:

- a. **Culvert Condition Survey:** The culvert condition surveys were completed. A review of the survey data is currently underway before its inclusion in the hydraulic model.
- b. **LiDAR Survey:** The LiDAR survey has yet to commence due to unsuitable weather conditions. Alternative options are being implemented in the interim by the project team.
- c. **Site Investigation Works (Ramelton Quay Wall)** The tender documents for site investigation works at Ramelton quay wall are being finalised.

1.2 Hydrology and Hydraulics:

The hydrology assessment is progressing and will be submitted for review by the Steering Group in February 2022. The hydraulic modelling is progressing and will continue to mid-2022 before draft outputs are ready for review.

1.3 Environmental Assessments:

The environmental constraints report has been issued to the Steering Group for review along with the invasive species management plan. The environmental constraints report will be issued to the scheme website once finalised. Specialist third party environmental surveys are being arranged for the 2022 season. The procurement competition for invasive species treatment will commence in the coming weeks.

1.4 Stakeholder and Third-Party Communications

1.4.1 Project Website

The project website is being updated on an ongoing basis with a quarterly newsletter to be posted after the issue of this Briefing Note.

1.4.2 Collaborative Workshop

A collaborative workshop with relevant sections of Donegal Co. Co. and external organisations was held on 9th December 2021. The purpose of the workshop was to ensure coordination between other projects and to share relevant information.

1.4.3 Ongoing data gathering

Following the recent occurrence of storms Dudley, Eunice and Franklin, the project team would like to express our thanks for video and photos received to date and would similarly welcome any additional relevant information. Photos and videos are useful for model calibration and can be submitted via the project website. See countydonesgalfrs.ie and select the relevant scheme.

2. Next Steps

- **LiDAR Surveys:** Waiting on suitable weather conditions.
- **Hydrology:** Submission of the draft hydrology report due in February 2022.
- **Hydraulic Modelling:** Continuation of hydraulic model build.
- **Environmental Assessment:** Procurement of specialist surveys
- **Site Investigations:** Assessment of quay wall.
- **Invasive Species Treatment Contract:** Tender documents in progress

LIFFORD FLOOD RELIEF SCHEME

Briefing Note 8 – February 2022

Progress Summary

The Steering group confirmed the Hydrological Analysis report as final in December 2021 and is available on the project website (www.liffordfrs.ie). The Project Team have completed the full suite of model simulations for the design return periods. Draft flood extents maps have also been reviewed by the Steering Group. A decision from the steering group is required in relation to baseline model sign off.

Causeway Geotech was appointed to undertake ground investigations (in the form of excavated trial pits and boreholes) to the area north of the town. Work commenced 31/01/22 with the objective that the findings will inform the scheme design and confirm the condition of the existing embankments. Similarly, NWFS was appointed to undertake vegetation clearance along the river wall in town, to facilitate a structural assessment and appraisal of the existing masonry wall. Clearance work was scheduled to commence 14/02/2022 but due to adverse weather conditions and high river level was postponed until 21/02/2022. An ECoW with forest habit and mammal/ predator management has been appointed to complete the site induction and periodic inspection of works completed by the Forestry Contractor.

A third otter survey was completed in January 2022, where three otters were observed on the bank at the site of the proposed vegetation clearance. A final Otter Survey is to be undertaken to gather further data over the winter and then preparation will commence on the otter survey report. Invasive Species continue to be monitored, with the Invasive Species Management Plan (ISMP) is being updated as and when invasive plant species become evident.

Next Steps

Hydrological Analysis: The final hydrology report, which provides the necessary inputs to the hydraulic computer model in order to allow simulation of a range of flooding scenarios, has been approved.

Hydraulic Analysis: The model will be used to produce updated flood maps before assessing and comparing various options which will reduce the flood risk in Lifford, pending approval of the baseline model.

Scheme Analysis and Development: Utilising the findings of the ground investigation and hydraulic analysis, an assessment of viable flood relief options will be undertaken. The assessment will compare the technical and economic suitability of options as well as their environmental and social impact to determine the preferred flood relief scheme.

Environmental Assessment: Reporting on field surveys carried out in the preceding seasons will be completed. The Invasive Species Management Plan will be updated as applicable.

Projected Key Milestone Dates

- Ground Investigation Survey – Feb 2022
- Completion of wall clearance – Feb 2022
- Completion of Final Hydraulic Analysis – TBC
- Undertaking ecological surveys – ongoing

CASTLEFINN FLOOD RELIEF SCHEME

Briefing Note 5 – February 2022

Progress Summary

Surveys capturing the data needed to build an up to date computer model of the River Finn, its incoming watercourses, existing defences, culverts and floodplains in the area are complete.

Using this data RPS have built a computer model to represent the River Finn and its tributaries. River flows, and water level inputs have been added to drive the hydraulic model and replicate flood conditions for past and future predicted (design) events. The hydraulic modelling team has fine-tuned the model to see that it is replicating the past flood extents and depths which have been recorded, particularly the major flood events which occurred in November and December 2015. This made use of the data (photographs and reports) of past flood events provided by local residents, businessowners and stakeholders to ensure the closest representation of events which took place on the ground in Castlefinn.

A computer model representing the River Finn and its tributaries is now complete and has been assessed through sensitivity testing which will inform the potential options for the Castlefinn FRS. A draft of the Castlefinn FRS Hydraulics Report was issued to the Steering Group in December 2021 and subsequently reviewed by the Steering Group. The final report will be issued in February 2022. A short-list of flood risk management measures is currently being assessed in the computer model to evaluate the most effective for the scheme area. The list will be inclusive of, but not limited to those outlined in North Western Flood Risk Management Plan, with all measures being screened, identifying those that could be progressed to a more detailed assessment. A technical workshop to discuss the development of options was held in early November 2021 and was attended by the Castlefinn FRS Steering Group.

A property economic damage assessment is ongoing for the Castlefinn FRS. This will provide estimates of the monetary impacts caused by flooding, from which the potential benefits of the flood scheme can be calculated across its design life. This assessment will help inform what potential options are economically viable, when compared against the whole life cost of the option.

The RPS Environmental Team issued the Draft Environmental Constraints Study report in September 2021 for Steering Group review. The final report was then completed in December 2021. The report considers the key environmental issues which may be impacted by, or impose constraints on, the flood scheme. The report considers Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna, Soils and Geology, Archaeology, Architectural and Cultural Heritage, Land Use and Material Assets, Landscape and Visual Impact, in addition to Population and Human Health. The report is now available on the project website.

Further detailed environmental surveys have taken place since August including the completion of ecological surveys that are seasonally constrained, e.g. aquatic ecology and fisheries surveys. These specialist surveys build on the initial baseline surveys already undertaken in 2020 and 2021.

Note too that a new newsletter will be posted on the scheme website this quarter, see: <https://countydonegalfrs.ie/castlefinnfrs/index.php/news/>

Next Steps

Data Collection: RPS have now received all outstanding data sets in relation to Stage I of the Project.

Surveys: The detailed surveys have been completed. Final data has been provided to the Project Team for use in the hydraulic model. RPS are currently looking at whether further surveys are needed to inform the preliminary design of a scheme.

Hydrological Analysis: The design flows and water levels which are used within the models to simulate flooding have been finalised, and the Draft Hydrology Report is complete.

Hydraulic Analysis: The hydraulic model has been calibrated and validated using data from historical flood events to ensure that it provides an accurate representation of the flooding mechanisms. The model will now be used to assess and compare various engineered options which will reduce the flood risk in Castlefinn. The Draft Hydraulics Report is now complete.

Scheme Analysis and Development: A list of all potential flood risk management measures which may be applicable at Castlefinn are currently being produced. These will be screened so that measures which could be technically and economically viable, and socially and environmentally acceptable are taken forward for detailed assessment.

Environmental Assessment: Further surveys are proposed in the coming months including protected species surveys, archaeological and architectural surveys.

Projected Key Milestone Dates

- Completion of Final Environmental Constraints Report – December 2021
- Completion of Draft Hydrology Report – October 2021
- Completion of Draft Hydraulic Modelling Report – December 2021
- Ecological surveys – ongoing throughout 2021 and early 2022
- Identification of Preferred Option – June 2022
- Completion of Environmental Impact Assessment Report – November 2022
- Ongoing management of invasive species in line with the management plan

The Stage I programme has been extended by approximately five months due to technical challenges in the analysis. The Project Team are working hard to mitigate programme delay by assessing potential opportunities to accelerate project tasks.

Ballybofey & Stranorlar Flood Relief Scheme—Briefing Note No.03

Progress Summary

1.1 Engineering Surveys and Site Investigations:

- a. **Culvert Condition Survey:** The culvert condition surveys were completed. A review of the survey data is currently underway before its inclusion in the hydraulic model.
- b. **LiDAR Survey:** The LiDAR survey has yet to commence due to unsuitable weather conditions. Alternative options are being implemented in the interim by the project team.
- c. **Site Investigation Works (Embankment):** The tender documents for site investigation works at Ballybofey embankment are being finalised.

1.2 Hydrology and Hydraulics:

The draft hydrology report is due to be submitted for review by the Steering Group in February 2022. The hydraulic modelling is progressing and will continue to mid-2022 before draft outputs are ready for review.

1.3 Environmental Assessments:

The environmental constraints report has been issued to the Steering Group for review along with the invasive species management plan. The environmental constraints report will be issued to the scheme website once finalised. Specialist third party environmental surveys are being arranged for the 2022 season. The procurement competition for invasive species treatment will commence in the coming weeks.

1.4 Stakeholder and Third-Party Communications

1.4.1 Project Website

The project website is being updated on an ongoing basis with a quarterly newsletter to be posted after the issue of this Briefing Note.

1.4.2 Collaborative Workshop

A collaborative workshop with relevant sections of Donegal Co. Co. and external organisations was held on 7th December 2021. The purpose of the workshop was to ensure coordination between other projects and to share relevant information.

1.4.3 Ongoing data gathering

Following the recent occurrence of storms Dudley, Eunice and Franklin, the project team would like to express our thanks for video and photos received to date and would similarly welcome any additional relevant information. Photos and videos are useful for model calibration and can be submitted via the project website. See countydonegalfrs.ie and select the relevant scheme.

2. Next Steps

- **LiDAR Survey:** Waiting on suitable weather conditions
- **Hydrology:** Submission of the draft hydrology report due in February 2022.
- **Hydraulic Modelling:** Continuation of hydraulic modelling.
- **Environmental Assessment:** Procurement of specialist surveys
- **Site Investigations:** Assessment of Ballybofey embankment.
- **Invasive Species Treatment Contract:** Tender documents in progress.

Appendix 2

Appendix 1.

Municipal District	Waiting List (Net Need)	Transfer List	Total Gross Need
Donegal	174	221	395
Ballintra	3	4	7
Ballyshannon	37	51	88
Bruckless	5	1	6
Bundoran	36	61	97
Carrick	3	1	4
Donegal	64	69	133
Dunkineely	3	3	6
Frosses	1	2	3
Glencolmcille	4	0	4
Kilcar	3	3	6
Killybegs	8	14	22
Laghy	2	5	7
Mountcharles	4	6	10
Pettigo	1	1	2
Glenties	102	111	213
Annagry	6	4	10
Ardara	13	6	19
Arranmore	0	1	1
Bunbeg	1	0	1
Burtonport	4	3	7
Creel	5	6	11
Derrybeg	4	0	4
Doochary	1	0	1
Dunfanaghy	11	8	19
Dungloe	17	30	47
Falcarragh	14	14	28
Fintown	3	2	5
Glenties	5	11	16
Gortahork	5	6	11
Gweedore	9	16	25
Lettermacaward	0	1	1
Loughanure	3	1	4
Magheroarty	0	2	2
Tory Island	1	0	1
Inishowen	187	458	645
Ballyliffin	1	2	3
Bridgend	7	11	18
Buncrana	80	188	268
Burnfoot	9	8	17

Burt	4	3	7
Carndonagh	28	78	106
Carrigans	3	9	12
Clonmany	8	20	28
Culdaff	3	6	9
Fahan	2	4	6
Gleneely	1	6	7
Glengad	0	3	3
Greencastle	5	7	12
Inch	0	2	2
Killea	1	2	3
Malin	3	7	10
Malin Head	1	1	2
Manorcunningham	3	15	18
Moville	6	35	41
Muff	5	21	26
Newtowncunningham	14	28	42
Redcastle	3	2	5
Letterkenny - Milford	320	744	1064
Carrigart	19	11	30
Churchill	3	10	13
Downings	4	9	13
Fanad	0	5	5
Glenswilly	3	1	4
Kerrykeel	7	6	13
Kilmacrennan	15	30	45
Letterkenny	239	606	845
Milford	9	22	31
Newmills	1	2	3
Ramelton	18	30	48
Rathmullan	1	9	10
Termon	1	3	4
Lifford - Stranorlar	154	192	346
Ballindrait	4	2	6
Ballybofey/Stranorlar	67	75	142
Castlefin	10	7	17
Cloghan	1	0	1
Convoy	13	21	34
Drumkeen	3	3	6
Killygordon	1	8	9
Lifford	30	42	72
Liscooley	1	1	2
Porthall	2	1	3
Raphoe	12	24	36

St. Johnston	<i>10</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>18</i>
Total	937	1726	2663

Appendix 3

Location	Date Completed	AADT	85%ile Speed	Speed Limit
N13 Callaghans Motorway Stores	Mar-22	11037	88 kph	100 kph
R238 Muff	Feb-22	8345	89 kph	80 kph
N3 Clyhore	Jun-21	5920	78 kph	80 kph
N14 Lifford	May-20	8839	69 kph	50 kph
L2051 Newtoncunningham Main Street	Jan-20	4207	40 kph	50 kph
R236 Carrigans (Derry Side)	Mar-19	3624	40 kph	50 kph
R237 Killea	Sep-19	5785	73 kph	50 kph
R232 Laghey to Pettigo	May-18	1828	94 kph	80 kph