

# **COMHAIRLE CHONTAE DHUN NA nGALL**

Oifig Riathóir na gCruinnith  
Aras an Chontae  
Leifear  
25 Márta, 2025

## **FÓGRA CRUINNITHE**

### **DO GACH BHALL DEN CHOMHAIRLE**

A Chara,

Beidh Cruinniú de Chomhairle Contae Dhún na nGall ar siúl **Dé Luain, 31 Márta 2025 ag 11.00 r.n in Áras an Chontae, Leifear.** Ta clár an chruinnithe leis seo. Seolfar nasc leictreonach chuig an chruinniú i gcomhfhreagras eile.

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

Mise, le meas



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**Pádraig Ó Laifearaigh**  
Riathóir Cruinnithe

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## **DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL**

Office of Meetings Administrator  
County House  
Lifford  
25<sup>th</sup> March 2025

### **NOTICE OF MEETING**

#### **TO EACH MEMBER OF DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL**

Dear Councillor,

A Meeting of Donegal County Council will be held on **Monday 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025 at 11.00am in the County House, Lifford.** The agenda for the meeting is attached. An online link to join the meeting will issue separately.

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

Yours sincerely



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**Patsy Lafferty**  
Meetings Administrator

## **AGENDA**

### **1. Confirmation of Minutes**

- a) Confirmation of the Minutes of the Special Meeting of Donegal County Council held on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of January, 2025.
- b) Confirmation of the Minutes of the January Meeting of Donegal County Council held on the 27<sup>th</sup> of January, 2025.
- c) Confirmation of the Minutes of the Special Meeting of Donegal County Council held on the 24<sup>th</sup> of February, 2025.

### **2. Filling of Casual Vacancy in the Membership of Donegal County Council.**

- a) Filling of casual vacancy on Donegal County Council occasioned by the appointment of Cllr Manus Boyle as a member of Seanad Éireann.
- b) Filling of consequential vacancies arising from a) above:
  - Donegal Municipal District Committee
  - Fisheries Committee
  - Peaceplus Partnership
  - Housing & Corporate Strategic Policy Committee
  - Planning Strategic Policy Committee
  - ICBAN

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

- a) Notice under Section 211 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended) and under Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001 (as amended) – to dispose of a plot of land comprising 0.0050 hectares situated at Upper Mount Marian, Milford, Co. Donegal to Mr. Garret Orr.
- b) Notice under Section 211 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended) and under Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001 (as amended) – to dispose of a plot of land comprising 0.0056 hectares situated at Upper Mount Marian, Milford, Co. Donegal to Mr. Liam Holian.
- c) Notice under Section 211 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended) and under Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001 (as amended) – to dispose of lands at the Port Road/Ramelton Road, by way of a fifty year lease to Dr. John McGeehan, Cyril Kennedy, Dr. Brian Gallagher, Jim O’Sullivan, Conor McCloskey and Marshall McCloughan as the Trustees of Letterkenny Tennis Club.
- d) Notice under Section 211 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended) and under Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001 (as amended) – to dispose of a portion of land at Mountcharles to James Mogan.
- e) Notice under Section 211 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000

(as amended) and under Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001 (as amended) to register a Deed of Grant of Easements at Railway Road, Milltown, Donegal Town to Deramore Investment Holdings Ltd.

- f) Notice under Section 211 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended) and under Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001 (as amended) – to dispose of land at Maas, Glenties to Diane Boyle.

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

- a) To approve the carrying out of works with regard to the construction of 12 No. Social Housing Units at Rosgarrow, Milford.
- b) To approve the carrying out of works with regard to the construction of 16 No. Social Housing Units at Oldtown, Letterkenny.

5. **Housing**

To approve the raising of an additional loan of €2,000,000 to assist first time buyers who wish to purchase a new or second-hand property, or to build their own home but are unable to obtain a loan from private lending agencies.

6. **Corporate**

- a) To fill vacancy on the Northern & Western Regional Assembly arising from the nomination of Cllr Jack Murray to the EU Committee of the Regions.
- b) To approve Schedule of Special Plenary Meetings for 2025.

7. **Finance**

To note report on irrecoverable rates for 2024.

8. **Environment**

To consider and approve the adoption of the Donegal County Council Annual Service Delivery Plan 2025, in accordance with Section 134 (a) of the Local Government Act, 2001.

9. **Community Development**

- a) To approve the nomination of Ms Máire Uí Chomhaill, as a representative of Social Inclusion Interest on PPN, on the Donegal Local Community Development Committee in accordance with of Part 6 of the Local Government Reform Act 2014 and Section 128C (3)(b) of the Local Government Act 2001.
- b) To note Donegal LCDC Annual Report 2024.

10. **Roads & Transportation**

- a. To adopt the 2024 - 2028 Plant Purchase and Refurbishment Programme.
- b. To approve the 2025 Non-National Roads Bridge Strengthening Programme.

11. **Endorsement of Minutes**

To note minutes of the meeting of the Corporate Policy Group held on the 20<sup>th</sup> January 2025.

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

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

**Training**

- ALLG Annual Training Conference to be held on Wednesday, April 2nd, and Thursday, April 3rd at the Limerick Strand Hotel, Limerick.

**Other**

- Attendance of the Cathaoirleach at the Donegal Person of the Year Award Ceremony in the Bonnington Hotel, Dublin on the 29<sup>th</sup> March, 2024.

**Travel Abroad**

- Attendance of the Cathaoirleach at a ceremony in Worcester State University on the 24<sup>th</sup> April, 2025 to accept an honorary degree (Doctor of Humane Letters, honoris causa).
- Attendance of the EU Cerv representative at Meeting V in Budapest and Paszto, Hungary from the 23<sup>rd</sup> to the 26<sup>th</sup> April 2025. (Flight and accommodation costs to be covered by EU Cerv)

13. **Conference Reports**

- Attendance of Cllr Martin Harley at the US Trade Mission and Golden Bridges Conference (Philadelphia & Boston) from the 12<sup>th</sup> to the 17<sup>th</sup> November 2023.
- Attendance of Cllr Jack Murray at the CPMR Atlantic Arc Commission Meeting in Brussels on the 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> January 2025. Martin Harley at the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Island of Ireland Peace Park in Mesen, Belgium on the 11<sup>th</sup> November 2023.
- Attendance of Cllr Martin Harley at the EU Cerv Programme event in Figueira Da Foz, Portugal from the 2<sup>nd</sup> to the 5<sup>th</sup> February 2025.

- Attendance of Cllr Declan Meehan at the Association of Irish Regions Conference in Athlone on the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> February 2025.

## **MOTIONS**

### **GLENTIES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT**

#### **Roads & Transportation**

14. **Cllr John S O' Fearraigh**

"Calling on this Council to abolish landing fees for our Island fishermen with the current increase on petrol and diesel, the upgrading of their vessels and restrictions on fishing, the industry is very much in decline over recent decades."

15. **Cllr Michael Mc Clafferty**

"I am asking this Council to take a stand on road safety in relation to the non-wearing of high vis vests, arm bands etc or indeed proper lighting on bicycles given that these are causing issues for road users, late night walkers, cyclists etc. Furthermore, E Scooters have become a major problem for motorists. Given the number of motorists and pedestrians having accidents and the increasing number of fatalities we need to work with An Garda Siochána, the Minister for Transport, Schools, Youth Clubs etc to highlight these issues."

I would ask also that this Motion is sent around the Country to all other Councils in Ireland for their support.

16. **Cllr Denis Mc Gee**

"That the Council seeks clarification from central government on the procurement process for Vehicle Restraint Systems used on our county's roads. The Council should then provide these details including the cost assessments, tendering processes, and quality control measures, to ensure that taxpayers receive value for money.

The council should also question why T.I.I does not have a specific programme to fund VRS's for non-national roads, given the high incidence of traffic collisions on all our roads."

#### **Corporate**

17. **Cllr Micheál C Mac Giolla Easbuig**

Iarraim ar Chomhairle Contae Dhún na nGall tacú le héilimh TINTEÁN agus chomh maith leis sin, scríobh chuig Rialtas an tSaorstáit ag iarraidh go gcuirfear na héilimh sin ar fad i bhfeidhm lom láithreach.

- Cumhacht reachtúil tithíochta agus na hacmhainní cuí d'Údarás na Gaeltachta
- Scéim na nDeontas Tithíochta Gaeltachta a athbhunú
- Treoirínte Pleanála Gaeltachta a fhoilsiú agus a achtú
- Straitéis Tithíochta agus Pobail do gach Limistéar Pleanála Teanga.

I call on Comhairle Contae Dhún na nGall to support the demands of TINTEÁN and to also write to the Freestate Government asking that these demands are fully implemented immediately.

- Statutory housing power and the appropriate resources for Údarás na Gaeltachta.
- Re-establishing the Gaeltacht Housing Grants Scheme
- Gaeltacht Planning Guidelines published and enacted
- Population and Housing Strategy for each Gaeltacht Language Planning Area

### **LIFFORD/STRANORLAR MUNICIPAL DISTRICT**

#### **Corporate**

18. **Cllr Dakota Nic Mheanman**

"That this Council acknowledges every child's right to a school place and calls on the Minister for Education and the Minister for Children and Disability to take action in regard to capacity issues in the Little Angels School, and that this Council recognises that there is only one school that caters for moderate to severe, profound intellectual disabilities, highlighting the need for another school. I would also ask that this Council writes to the Minister for Health about the need for a dedicated children's respite service in Donegal, given that our children with intellectual disabilities have been continually let down."

### **INISHOWEN MUNICIPAL DISTRICT**

#### **Environment**

19. **Cllr Terry Crossan**

"I propose that more litter bins are positioned along our Greenways as a matter of urgency and that these are emptied on a regular basis."

20. **Cllr Albert Doherty**

"That Donegal County Council demand a special and urgent meeting with Uisce Éireann following the recent but consistent number of water outages that has affected and disrupted education provision (School Closures), Tourism and Hospitality, Businesses, Community events and families in Donegal, and that DCC demand the provision of an immediate contingency and infrastructure programme works response plan from Irish Water to reduce and end water supply interruptions."

#### **Defective Concrete Blocks**

21. **Cllr Joy Beard**

"On 12 March 2025, Ulster University published details of its groundbreaking survey into the mental health of those affected by the defective concrete crisis.

Alarmingly, the study found that over 30% of participants (nearly three times higher than the rate for the Irish population as a whole) were suffering from severe depression. However, of most concern, more than

one third of those surveyed reported having suicidal thoughts after learning that their properties were affected by defective concrete. In light of these shocking statistics, this motion calls on the Executive of Donegal County Council to write to the Minister of Health, seeking an urgent meeting at which targeted mental health interventions will be discussed and agreed, to help address the mental health crisis being experienced by some of the most vulnerable in our county."

### **Roads & Transportation**

22. **Cllr Ali Farren**

"That DCC look into developing or encouraging a better EV charging network for the county, as the annual sales of EV cars has increased over the last few years but Donegal lags behind with public EV charging stations and will the Council do more in every way to increase the number of public charging stations."

### **Corporate**

23. **Cllr Fionán Bradley**

"That this Council call on the HSE to stop downgrading services in the new Primary Care Centres which have been built throughout the County over the last number of years and that we write to the CEO of the HSE and the Minister for Health calling on them both to do everything within their power to ensure that all services currently available in the Primary Care Centres continue to be available within them going forward."

### **Planning**

24. **Cllr Paul Canning**

I would seek the support of my fellow councillors Under Section 13 of the Act to request the Planning Authority of Donegal Co. Council to make a variation to the County Development Plan 2024-2030 insofar as to aligned the policy in relation to Unfinished estates in Rural Areas with the existing policy in the Urban Areas UB-P-13. This proposed policy will read "It is a policy of the Council to consider proposals for RURAL residential development that seek to resolve existing unfinished residential development, including through appropriate reconfiguration of developments, and such proposals shall be considered outside the population targets set by the Core Strategy"

Also, I would request the Planning Authority of this Council to vary the County Development Plan to make reference to and include within its housing policies and objectives the Guidelines Document for Planning Authorities sent recently from the Government namely "Sustainable Residential Development and Compact Settlements". I would be of the opinion that our housing density standards within the County Development Plan are not aligned with those in the Government Guidelines document Chapter 3.

## **LETTERKENNY/MILFORD MUNICIPAL DISTRICT**

### **Corporate**

25. Cllr Donal Coyle

That this Council recognise that on 24th June 2025 the Blaney Family from Rossnakill will have had 100 years of continuous political representation on Donegal County Council.

26. Cllr Tomás Seán Devine

That this Council support my call that the current protocol where we as elected representatives cannot contact or request a meeting etc with the management at Letterkenny University Hospital be scrapped straight away as our hospital is in crisis. The notion that we can only raise matters through the Regional Health Forum is madness as we have a duty of care to those that we represent and surely, we as Councillors should be allowed to challenge the conditions in this hospital in terms of waiting times, staff issues, lack of services, shortages of staff etc and the list goes on.

**Roads & Transportation**

27. Cllr Donal Mandy Kelly

"That this Council review the current policy on the removal of overhanging trees on our roads to make it more workable for landowners please."

28. Cllr Ciaran Brogan

I propose that this Council seek a meeting with the new Minister for Transport to discuss our on-going infrastructure projects in Donegal.

29. Cathaoirleach's Business.

30. Chief Executive's Management Report.

## **QUESTIONS**

### **GLENTIES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT**

**Environment**

31. Cllr Michael Mc Clafferty

What steps have the Council took in relation to dog fouling on our footpaths in our towns or indeed beaches etc?

**Roads & Transportation**

32. Cllr Michael Mc Clafferty

What steps do the Council propose going forward to deal with overhanging trees, branches etc on our main roads or secondary roads ahead of any future storms?

**Planning**

33. Cllr Micheál C. Mac Giolla Easbuig

An bhfuil an tOrdú Aireachta maidir le Plean Forbartha na Condae 2024-30 glactha agus aontaithe ag an Chomhairle?



An dtig leis an Oifig Pleanála glacadh anois le hiarratais do thithe in aice leis an N56?

Has the Ministerial Direction on the County Development Plan 2024-2030 been agreed and adopted by Donegal Co Co?

And therefore, can the planning office make a ruling on applications along the N56?

### **Community**

34. **Cllr Micheál C. Mac Giolla Easbuig**

I ndiaidh dom freastal a dhéanamh ar Chomhdháil Shoillse ar 'The Gaelic Crisis' i Steòrnabhagh, Oileán Leòdhais, Albain a bhí ar siúl ón 29-31 Lúnasa 2022, d'ullmhaigh mise, mar Chathaoirleach ar Choiste na Gaeilge, tuarascáil ina raibh roinnt moltaí maidir le húsáid na Gaeilge i gContae Dhún na nGall. Dírím aird ar leith ar mholadh Uimh. 5:

'Go mbogann an Chomhairle láithreach chun an leagan Gaeilge amháin dár mbailte móra sa Chontae a úsáid ar gach comhfhreagras agus le linn cur i láthair srl, e.g. Leitir Ceanainn, Leifear, Bealach Féich, Carn Domhnach, Baile Dhún na nGall srl.

Bealach simplí dearfach a bheadh anseo don fhoireann dul i ngleic leis an teanga agus í a chur chun cinn ina gcuid oibre go laethúil.

Cuireadh an tuairisc seo os comhair chruinniú Choiste na Gaeilge agus roimh Chruinniú iomlán de chuid na Comhairle, agus tugadh tacaíocht iomlán don tuairisc.

Mar sin, cén fáth nár gníomhaíodh air seo?

Following the attendance at the Soillse Conference on 'The Gaelic Crisis' in Stornoway, Isle of Lewis, Scotland which took place from 29-31 August 2022, I as Cathaoirleach of Coiste na Gaeilge, prepared a report which included a number of recommendations regarding the use of the Irish Language in Donegal County Council. I draw particular attention to recommendation No 5:

'That the Council moves immediately to use the Irish version only of all our bigger towns in the County on all correspondence and during presentations etc, e.g. Leitir Ceanainn, Leifear, Bealach Féich, Carn Domhnach, Baile Dhún na nGall etc. This would be a simple and positive way for staff to engage with and promote the language in their work on a daily basis.' The report was presented to Coiste na Gaeilge and to Full Council, where it received full support and endorsement.

Why has this not been acted upon?

## **INISHOWEN MUNICIPAL DISTRICT**

### **Environment**

35. **Cllr Terry Crossan**

What is the Council policy on the frequency of emptying Council bins in urban areas?

**Defective Concrete Blocks**

36. Cllr Joy Beard

Has the Executive of Donegal County Council been advised when the Government's "guarantee" in the form of a second grant option if required for a period of 40 years" (as outlined in the Ministerial Guidelines) will be issued to those who have remediated their properties under the provisions of the Enhanced Defective Concrete Blocks Scheme?

37. Cllr Joy Beard

Has the Executive of Donegal County Council been advised when legislation will be brought forward to enable the recently revised grant rates under the Enhanced Defective Concrete Blocks Scheme to be applied retrospectively?

**Housing**

38. Cllr Fionán Bradley

To ask the Director for Housing to halt the rent review currently being undertaken so as to find a mechanism which precludes any rent increase for those who live in any of the Council's housing stock affected by DCB.

39. Cllr Albert Doherty

Will Donegal County Council respond urgently and positively to a request for a meeting with senior officials forwarded and requested by CIF?

Will DCC in particular assess and brief members on the correspondence reply from former housing Minister Darragh O'Brien received by CIF and DCC's interpretation of the Dept of Housing's procurement procedures and guidance and the delivery methods for housing delivery in Donegal? (Dept Circular 16/2024 & correspondence Dec 2024)

**Emergency Services**

40. Cllr Albert Doherty

Fire Hydrant inspections, faults, repairs.

How many FH connection faults, inspection reports, repairs required have been received by DCC from fire station personnel in Donegal in 2024 and 2025 to date? And

- What problem areas for early attention are consistently highlighted?
- Are repair works required the responsibility of DCC and/or Uisce Éireann?

**Environment**

41. Cllr Paul Canning

How many applicants/residents have applied for the septic tank upgrade within this county?

42. Cllr Paul Canning

How many grants have been paid out for these upgraded septic tanks since the grant increase arrived?

**LETTERKENNY/MILFORD MUNICIPAL DISTRICT**

**Housing**

43. Cllr Gerry Mac Monagle

How many tenants have been moved out of their Council House due to them being affected by Defective Concrete Blocks, where are the houses located and have the tenants been housed in alternative Social Housing Units?

**Corporate**

44. Cllr Tomás Sean Devine

Can I get an update on the motion Cllr Frank Mc Brearty had passed regarding calling for a public enquiry into the Creeslough tragedy? I am looking for the Government response and the dates the motion was sent to Government and responses from them.

**Finance**

45. Cllr Tomás Sean Devine

Can this Council provide a breakdown to all members of the costs to date of legal fees paid to solicitors and law firms challenging the Coleman legal case regarding defective concrete materials?

**Economic Development**

46. Cllr Gerry Mc Monagle

How many applications has Donegal County Council made to the Shared Ireland Fund, what did the applications apply for and how many have been successful?

**Roads & Transportation**

47. Cllr Ciaran Brogan

What is the cost apportionment method applied by the Machinery Yard in relation to roads work carried out by council staff?

**Environment**

48. Cllr Ciaran Brogan

Can we get an updated report on the progress regarding the provision of new graveyards in Donegal?

49. **Motions from other Councils/Bodies**

**CLARE COUNTY COUNCIL**

"I call on the Minister for Children and Disability, Norma Foley to provide funding for all of the valid applications made by Early Years Educators across the country through the Building Blocks Capital Investment Programme 2025. A pillar service with major waiting lists and need across the country requires sufficient focus and funding now to ensure

those who have taken the time and invested money in developing projects that prove a need in their area should be funded as a matter of urgency to see delivery of much needed additional space in the next 12/18 months.

If agreed, I ask that this motion is shared with other local authorities.”

#### **LIMERICK CITY & COUNTY COUNCIL**

“That this Local Authority would call on the Government to put in place a financial support scheme within the grant aid for older people form to include people in medical need that they would be able to apply for financial aid to help them purchase a generator to allow them to power electric medical devices where loss of power occurs.”

#### **LIMERICK CITY & COUNTY COUNCIL**

“That, Limerick City and County Council expresses its fullest appreciation for all of the work done by the Council staff and staff of other agencies and volunteers who worked 24/7 to alleviate the hardships caused by the recent severe weather event. The Council now calls on the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage to (a) immediately release funds to replenish Local Authority financial resources used to manage the emergency and (b) provide additional adequate funds (or otherwise provide financial arrangements) for Local Authorities impacted to arrange a local scheme to compensate homeowners and businesses for property damage, lost stock or foods or other reasonable uninsured damages caused by snowfall or electricity cuts, and that this Notice of Motion be circulated to all Local Authorities.”

#### **LIMERICK CITY & COUNTY COUNCIL**

“That, given the recent weather events, Limerick City and County Council (a) calls on Uisce Eireann to install generators at every pumping station in the country (b) calls on the ESB to cut back/cut down all trees and/or branches that are in danger of damaging the infrastructure and (c) calls on the Government to set up a special emergency phone number which is activated prior to and manned during all orange and red weather alerts.”

#### **ROSCOMMON COUNTY COUNCIL**

“To write to the next Minister for Education requesting the introduction of extra time for students with Dyslexia, Dyscalculia and other learning difficulties sitting second level examinations. The lack of extra time is a severe disadvantage to such students at this crucial time in their lives. It was also agreed to circulate this to all Local Authorities.”

#### **ROSCOMMON COUNTY COUNCIL**

“In light of over 40 trees falling during Storm Darragh, damaging power lines and leaving homes and businesses without power for days, I propose this Council writes to Nicholas Tarrant, MD of ESB Networks, and Keith Leonard, Head of the National Emergency Coordination Group. They should ensure compliance with wayleaves and exclusion zones near overhead powerlines, requiring forestry owners to meet

clearance standards. ESB Networks should take pre-emptive measures ahead of storms to prevent similar outages. Additionally, compliance with the DAFM Standards for Felling & Restoration near public roads must be enforced to prevent road safety hazards during extreme weather. Subsequent to the submission of this motion the events of Storm Eowyn have further highlighted to need for action on this matter.”

#### **ROSCOMMON COUNTY COUNCIL**

“To write to the Minister for Communications that all emergency frontline services have access to the GOV.NE system to use any network available in the major emergency events to ensure communication channels remain open. It was agreed to circulate this to all Local Authorities.”

#### **ROSCOMMON COUNTY COUNCIL**

“To write to the Department of Agriculture, Department of Transport and Department of Environment, for an incentive to be put in place for landowners to move trees off the roadside. It was agreed to circulate this to all Local Authorities.”

#### **SLIGO COUNTY COUNCIL**

“This local authority call on the Government to initiate a fixed penalty fine of €10,000 on any retailer or person who sells or provides children under the age of 18 with e-liquids, vape kits or nicotine-containing products. To also ask that the HSE create an awareness campaign to highlight the dangers of vaping. A copy of this motion to be sent to all Councils within the state.”

#### **SLIGO COUNTY COUNCIL**

“It is evident now that this Government is incapable of delivering its own yearly housing targets, and the number of families living in emergency accommodation is increasing by at least 16% per year with an estimated 4,000 children homeless in Ireland. I am once again calling on the Government to implement an eviction ban, only in case where the Tenant are abiding with the letting contract, this would protect both Tenant and the landlord. A copy of this motion to be sent to all Councils within the state.”

#### **SLIGO COUNTY COUNCIL**

“That this local authority call on the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage to reinstate the Tenant in Situ scheme and increase the financial threshold limit in line with the current housing market prices in County Sligo. A copy of this motion to be sent to all Councils within the state.”

#### **SLIGO COUNTY COUNCIL**

“That this local authority call on the government to abolish any plans of introducing further Carbon Taxes for the foreseeable future. A copy of this motion to be forwarded to all local authorities within the state.”

**SLIGO COUNTY COUNCIL**

“That this local authority call on the government to desist from increasing the VAT of 9% to 13.5% on electricity costs that is planned to come into effect from May, 2025. A copy of this motion to be forwarded to all local authorities within the state.”

**SOUTH DUBLIN COUNTY COUNCIL**

“South Dublin County Council formally backs the call for a Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty and urges the Irish Government to support the initiative for a Fossil-Fuel Non Proliferation Treaty. If passed, a letter should be sent to all local Councils and the Minister for the Environment.”

<p align="center"><b>MINUTES OF MARCH MEETING OF DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL HELD ON 31<sup>st</sup> MARCH 2025 IN THE COUNTY HOUSE, LIFFORD</b></p>
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C/87/25

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Cllrs N Kennedy, Cathaoirleach, J Beard, L Blaney, M Boyle, F Bradley C Brogan, J Brogan, P Canning, B Carr, D Coyle, TS Devine, A Doherty, A Farren, M Harley, N Jordan, J Kavanagh, D. M Kelly, M McBride, M Mc Clafferty, M McDermott, P McGarvey, D McGee, P McGowan, M Mc Mahon, G McMonagle, A Molloy, M Naughton, D Nic Mheanman, J.S Ó Fearraigh, M Scanlon.

*Online:* Cllrs J Brogan, G Doherty, M Farren, M C Mac Giolla Easbuig, D Meehan, and J Murray.

C/88/25

**APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Cllr Terry Crossan who was unable to attend the meeting.

C/89/25

**OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE**

John G McLaughlin, Chief Executive, Patsy Lafferty, Director of Housing, Corporate & Culture/Meetings Administrator, Liam Ward, Director of Community Development & Planning Services, Bryan Cannon, Director of Roads & Transportation, Richard Gibson, Director of Finance, Garry Martin, Director of Economic Development, Information Systems & Emergency Services, Michael McGarvey, Director of Water & Environment, Frances Friel, Communications Officer, William Colvin, ASO, Martina Tully, SO, Róise Ní Laifeartaigh, Rannóg na Gaeilge, Clíona Ní Ghallachóir, Tacaíocht do Sheirbhísí Aistriúcháin, Anne Marie Crawford, Staff Officer.

C/90/25

**CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL HELD ON THE 22<sup>ND</sup> JANUARY, 2025**

On the proposal of Cllr Bradley, seconded by Cllr McGowan the minutes of the Special Meeting of Donegal County Council held on the 22<sup>nd</sup> January, 2025 were adopted.

C/91/25

**CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY MEETING OF DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL HELD ON THE 27<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY, 2025**

On the proposal of Cllr McMonagle, seconded by Cllr Scanlon the minutes of the January Meeting of Donegal County Council held on the 27<sup>th</sup> January, 2025 were adopted.

C/92/25

**CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL HELD ON THE 24<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY, 2025**

On the proposal of Cllr McBride, seconded by Cllr McGowan the minutes of the Special Meeting of Donegal County Council held on the 24<sup>th</sup> February, 2025 were adopted.

C/93/25

**FILLING OF CASUAL VACANCY IN THE MEMBERSHIP OF DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL**

Cllr Harley welcomed Senator Manus Boyle to the meeting together with his father former Cllr John Boyle. He proposed that the casual vacancy on Donegal County Council be filled by Mr Michael Boyle. This was duly seconded by Cllr Kavanagh and thus Cllr Michael Boyle was co-opted onto Donegal County Council to fill the casual vacancy arising from the nomination of former Cllr Michael Boyle to Seanad Éireann.

The Cathaoirleach welcomed Cllr Boyle to the meeting and assured him of the co-operation and support of the members going forward.

Members welcomed him to the chamber and congratulated him on his nomination. They said that they were looking forward to working with him on a range of issues and acknowledged that it was a proud day for the Boyle family. Congratulations was also extended to Senator Manus Boyle on his appointment to Seanad Éireann.

The Chief Executive extended congratulations on behalf of the executive and staff of Donegal County Council.

Cllr Boyle thanked members for welcoming him to the chamber and said that he was proud to be the third member of the Boyle family to sit on Donegal County Council and the fourth person from his own townland. He said that he would work hard for the betterment of all and particularly for the people of the Donegal Municipal District. He outlined the need for ongoing co-operation and a commitment to work together for the county as a whole.

C/94/25

**FILLING OF CONSEQUENTIAL VACANCIES ARISING FROM THE NOMINATION OF FORMER CLLR MANUS BOYLE TO SEANAD ÉIREANN**

On the proposal of Cllr Harley, seconded by Cllr Kavanagh it was resolved that Cllr Michael Boyle fill the consequential vacancies arising from the nomination of former Cllr Michael Boyle to Seanad Éireann.

It was thus resolved that he be elected to the following committees/bodies:

- Donegal Municipal District Committee
- Fisheries Committee
- Peaceplus Partnership
- Housing & Corporate Strategic Policy Committee
- Planning Strategic Policy Committee
- ICBAN

C/95/25

**DISPOSAL OF LAND SITUATED AT UPPER MOUNT MARIAN, MILFORD TO MR GARRET ORR**

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



On the proposal of Cllr C Brogan, seconded by Cllr Blaney, it was resolved to disposal of a plot of land comprising 0.0050 hectares situated at Upper Mount Marian, Milford to Mr Garret Orr 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/96/25      **DISPOSAL OF LAND SITUATED AT UPPER MOUNT MARIAN, MILFORD TO MR LIAM HOLIAN**

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

On the proposal of Cllr C Brogan, seconded by Cllr Blaney, it was resolved to disposal of a plot of land comprising 0.0056 hectares situated at Upper Mount Marian, Milford to Mr Liam Holian 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/97/25      **DISPOSAL OF LANDS AT THE PORT ROAD/RAMELTON ROAD, BY WAY OF A FIFTY YEAR LEASE TO THE TRUSTEES OF LETTERKENNY TENNIS CLUB**

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

On the proposal of Cllr C Brogan, seconded by Cllr Kelly, it was resolved to dispose of lands at the Port Road/Ramelton Road, by way of a fifty year lease to Dr John McGeehan, Cyril Kennedy, Dr Brian Gallagher, Jim O'Sullivan, Conor McCloskey and Marshall McCloughan as the Trustees of Letterkenny Tennis Club 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/98/25      **DISPOSAL OF A PORTION OF LAND AT MOUNTCHARLES TO JAMES MOGAN**

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

On the proposal of Cllr Jordan, seconded by Cllr Kavanagh, it was resolved to dispose of a portion of land at Mountcharles to James Mogan 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/99/25      **REGISTER A DEED OF GRANT OF EASEMENTS AT RAILWAY ROAD, MILLTOWN, DONEGAL TOWN TO DERAMORE INVESTMENT HOLDINGS LTD**

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

On the proposal of Cllr Naughton, seconded by Cllr J Brogan, it was resolved to register a deed of grant of easements at Railway Road, Milltown, Donegal Town to Deramore Investment Holdings Ltd in accordance with the provisions of Section 211 of the Planning & Development Act, 2000 (as amended) and under Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001, (as amended).

- C/100/25     **DISPOSAL OF LAND AT MAAS, GLENTIES TO DIANE BOYLE**  
Members considered the report circulated with the agenda in relation to the above.

On the proposal of Cllr Carr, seconded by Cllr Kelly, it was resolved to dispose of land at Maas, Glenties to Diane Boyle 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/101/25     **TO APPROVE THE CARRY OUT OF WORKS WITH REGARD TO THE CONSTRUCTION OF 12 NO. SOCIAL HOUSING UNITS AT ROSGARROW, MILFORD.**  
Members considered the report circulated with the agenda in relation to the above.

On the proposal of Cllr Blaney, seconded by Cllr McGarvey, the carrying out of works with regard to the construction of 12 no. social housing units at Rosgarrow, Milford was approved, in accordance with Part XI of the Planning & Development Act, 2000 (as amended) and Part 8 of the Planning & Development Regulations 2001(as amended).

- C/102/25     **TO APPROVE THE CARRYING OUT OF WORKS WITH REGARD TO THE CONSTRUCTION OF 16 NO. SOCIAL HOUSING UNITS AT OLDTOWN, LETTERKENNY**  
Members considered the report circulated with the agenda in relation to the above.

On the proposal of Cllr McMonagle, seconded by Cllr Devine, the carrying out of works with regard to the construction of 16 no. social housing units at Oldtown, Letterkenny was approved, in accordance with Part XI of the Planning & Development Act, 2000 (as amended) and Part 8 of the Planning & Development Regulations 2001(as amended).

- C/103/25     **APPROVAL OF AN ADDITIONAL LOAN OF €2 MILLION TO ASSIST FIRST TIME BUYERS**  
Members considered the report circulated with the agenda in relation to the above.

Cllr C Brogan welcomed the initiative and said that more needed to be done to assist and encourage young families get on the property ladder.

Cllr Mc Clafferty whilst supportive of the initiative said that it was fine for those who wanted to buy an existing property, but not satisfactory for those who wanted to build on their own land or for those who wanted to build in rural Donegal along the N56. It was an excellent proposal, he said, but refinements were needed.

Cllr Harley concurred but said that additional funding was needed for the scheme at national level and that the Government should also commit to putting in another €2m.

Cllr Mc Monagle said that it was only workable for those who could not secure loans from other agencies.

Cllr M Farren agreed that match funding was needed and that the scheme offered people an opportunity to get on the property ladder.

On the proposal of Cllr C Brogan, seconded by Cllr Mc Gowan it was resolved in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act 2001, Section 106 (as amended), to authorise the borrowing of a loan in the sum of €2,000,000 from the Housing Finance Agency for the purpose of the payment of Local Authority Home Loans (LAHL)

C/104/25

**TO FILL VACANCY ON THE NORTHERN & WESTERN REGIONAL ASSEMBLY ARISING FROM THE NOMINATION OF CLLR JACK MURRAY TO THE EU COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS**

On the proposal of Cllr McMonagle, seconded by Cllr A Doherty, it was resolved that Cllr Brian Carr fill the vacancy on the Northern & Western Regional Assembly arising from the nomination of Cllr Murray to the EU Committee of the Regions.

C/105/25

**TO APPROVE SCHEDULE OF SPECIAL PLENARY MEETINGS FOR 2025**

Members considered the report circulated with the agenda in relation to the above. It was unanimously agreed to approve the schedule subject to the December 2025 meeting being rescheduled to the second week in January, 2026.

C/106/25

**TO NOTE REPORT ON IRRECOVERABLE RATES FOR 2024**

Members considered and noted the report circulated with the agenda in relation to the above. Mr Richard Gibson, Director of Finance, alluding to his report informed members that the cash collected figure of €34,656,183 for 2024 was the highest value of commercial rates ever collected in the county and represented 16% of Donegal County Council's income. It was noted that the collection rate had increased from 70% in 2021 to 80% in 2024 and that the closing arrears figure for 2024 had reduced by €657,785 from 2023 which was a significant decrease. It was too early, he said, to speculate whether this would be an ongoing trend. An overview of the collection performance indicators achieved in 2020 to 2024 was provided together with an analysis of the external

factors affecting collection performance. It was confirmed that the total amount of rates written off in 2024 was €4,532,128. An explanation in relation to the categorisation of write-offs was given and it was confirmed that the value of the 2024 Commercial Rate demand was €38,554,490.

Mr Gibson advised that since 2015 the Council had granted the Early Payment Incentive Credit (previously Small Business Grants Scheme) to customers who had discharged their liability in full and with no outstanding arrears as at the 31<sup>st</sup> October 2024.

Members proceeded to raise the following issues and commended the Finance team on the excellent collection rates and the ongoing interaction that had taken place with local ratepayers.;

- Outlined the need to write to the Minister for Finance with regard to the retention of the 9% vat rate for the hospitality, tourism and small business sectors given the additional costs on these sectors arising from the minimum wage directive and the impact of pension scheme contributions for small business units.
- Hospitality sector, it was noted, had been adversely impacted over the years and has been paying way beyond what it should have.
- Query as to whether any of the hotels currently housing Ukrainian refugees would be in a position accommodate tourists again?
- Number of businesses lost out on the ICOB grant because they were in arrears. Businesses not able to avail of the various incentives should be assisted in accessing the various incentive schemes.
- Query in relation to the inequality in the treatment of county sports facilities and why some bodies were paying rates and others were not.
- Consideration must be given as to how proposed incoming US tariffs will impact on the small business sector in Donegal.
- Airbnb's need to be taken into the loop for rates purposes. Noted however that these provide a vital service in areas where there are no hotels and that a measured approach was needed. Impact of Airbnb's on housing and housing rents in rural areas was also a consideration.
- What plans are in place to deal with any potential economic downturn?
- Query as to how Donegal fared nationally in terms of irrecoverable rates.

Mr Gibson referenced the fact that the mean collection rate in 2024 was 88%. which was favourable with other counties. Donegal County Council was one of the few local authorities, he said, which did not let rates bill go and only relinquished collection when there was a genuine reason to do so. Figures, he said, showed that performance was improving, and that occupancy rates were up in Donegal.

**TO APPROVE THE ADOPTION OF THE DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL ANNUAL SERVICE DELIVERY PLAN 2025**

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

A lengthy debate took place with members raising the following issues

- Insufficient number of septic tanks inspections being carried out. Resources and manpower needs to be increased. Six to nine months inspection times are not practical and must be improved.
- Cllr Naughton proposed seconded by Cllr Mc Gowan that consideration be given to carrying out septic tank grant inspections at the same time as the initial inspections on vacant properties.
- Suggestion that two to three staff be employed to work on septic tank inspections in each Municipal District.
- Maintenance of Public Conveniences a priority issue including the overall funding aspect. Issues with the facilities in Donegal Town, Moville, Magheroarty and Bunbeg.
- Staffing a major issue across all programme areas.
- Continued push needed in terms of the TEN-T and A5 projects.
- Regeneration Projects need to progress at a much quicker pace.
- Twin Towns Regeneration Project must be moved forward and progressed in advance of the TEN-T proceeding.
- Query as to the need for an updated Fire Services Report which would include the Fire Services on the Islands.
- What is the status of the Masterplan for Magheroarty?
- Query as to why there are no Recycling Centres in areas such as Gweedore, Dunfanaghy and Falcarragh.
- Update needed from Uisce Éireann in relation to the Sewerage Systems in Gweedore and Bunbeg.
- Proper survey required and sufficient monies must be earmarked for public lighting in order to enhance the safety aspect.
- Query as to why cameras are not installed at Bottle Banks in order to counteract illegal dumping.
- Is there any way that the Council can assist Tidy Towns and Community Volunteers with insurance costs?
- Proper mechanisms need to be put in place to cover staff leave so as to retain continuity and an acceptable level of service.
- Cognisance to be taken of the fact that sewerage treatment remediation works are not included in the Defective Concrete Blocks Scheme, yet a significant number have been built with defective blocks.

Mr Michael Mc Garvey, Director Water & Environment responding said that consideration could be given to looking at the alignment of the Croí Conaithe and the Septic Tanks grant process. Several of the items raised, he said, could be looked at in the context of the SPC process.

Staffing issues, he noted, were being looked at presently as part of the ongoing organisational review.

He said that the Fire Service and the Roads & Transportation Directorate would respond directly in relation to fire services on the Islands and public lighting issues which had been raised. It was also noted that there had been engagement with the Department with regard to advancing the Treatment Plant at Magheroarty.

Mr Mc Garvey said that in relation to Recycling Centres it was important that those currently in operation were performing to the best of their ability before consideration could be given to establishing new facilities. He advised members that there were legal issues in terms of the use of CCTV at bottling banks.

On the proposal of Cllr Mc Gowan, seconded by Cllr Mc Bride it was resolved to adopt the Donegal County Council Annual Service Delivery Plan 2025 in accordance with Section 134(A) of the Local Government Act, 2001 and Section 50 of the Local Government Reform Act, 2014.

C/108/25     **TO APPROVE THE NOMINATION OF MS MÁIRE UÍ CHOMHAILL AS REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SOCIAL INCLUSION INTEREST ON THE PPN ON THE DONEGAL LOCAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

On the proposal of Cllr O' Fearraigh, seconded by Cllr McDermott, it was resolved to approve the nomination of Ms Máire Uí Chomhail as presentative of the Social Inclusion Interest on PPN on the Donegal Local Community Development Committee in accordance with Part 6 of the Local Government Reform Act 2014 and Section 128C (3)(b) of the Local Government Act 2001.

C/109/25     **TO NOTE DONEGAL LCDC ANNUAL REPORT 2024**

Members considered and noted the Donegal LCDC Annual Report for 2024.

C/110/25     **TO ADOPT THE 2024-2028 PLANT PURCHASE AND REFURBISHMENT PROGRAMME**

On the proposal of Cllr Brogan, seconded by Cllr Kelly, it was resolved to defer consideration of this item until after the Plenary Roads Workshop on the 7<sup>th</sup> April, 2025.

C/111/25     **TO APPROVE THE 2025 NON-NATIONAL ROADS BRIDGE STRENGTHENING PROGRAMME**

Members considered the report circulated with the agenda in relation to the above and raised the following issues:

- New Roads Bridge in Ballybofey a priority given the volume of traffic passing through the town.
- Logue's Bridge in Ballybofey needs urgent attention given that it is being used as a shortcut around the town and is currently in a poor state of repair. Advised that it was no longer viable to wait for works aligned with the Bypass option. Call for a temporary bridge to be put in place.

- Update sought on the bridge at Bonagee and query as to why it is not included on the list. Noted the need for emergency funding at this location. Acknowledged that a short and a long-term solution should be looked at as the closure of the bridge combined with the impact of the four-lane system is impacting on businesses in the area.
- Two bridges in Cloughaneely identified as needing attention given the traffic volumes and the fact that two vehicles cannot pass safely. Works also required on the bridges at Dan Mhici, Glais a Chú and Bunbeg.
- Smaller Bridges on the Wild Atlantic Way must also be looked at given the implications for tourism. Seven bridges identified as needing remediation in the Glenties Municipal District.
- Additional funding required if Treankill Bridge is to be brought to an acceptable standard.
- Stronger application must be made in respect of all bridges along the R250 from Glenswilly to Fintown.
- Footbridge needed alongside the Mill Bridge in Buncrana.
- Coillte need to be contacted regarding the transport of heavy loads in and around forestry's and the impact of same on the bridge infrastructure.
- General agreement that the overall funding element was inadequate and that additional monies needed to be provide at national level.
- Bridge in Malin Town needs strengthened and the bridge at Carrygawley requires strengthening.
- Craignahorna Bridge between Carndonagh and Buncrana needs attention.

Cllr Mc Gee proposed seconded by Cllr Ali Farren that consideration be given to widening the two bridges in the Glenties Municipal District.

Mr Bryan Cannon, Director of Roads & Transportation thanked members for their contribution. He said that €250,000 had been allocated from discretionary maintenance funding for bridge repairs thus amounting to €50,000 per Municipal District and facilitating works on two bridges per district.

He confirmed that every effort would be made to push for funding for Logue's Bridge in Ballybofey. With regard to Bonagee Bridge, he said that staff were working on interim measures but that the long-term outlook would necessitate its inclusion on the Programme for Bridges. In relation to the bridges referenced in the Glenties and Inishowen MD he said that if there were specific needs in each MD then that was what the discretionary monies were there for. It was imperative, he added, that there was an overall prioritisation of the work needed to be done.

Other avenues of funding would have to be pursued, he advised, if a footbridge was to be provided at the Mill Bridge in Buncrana.

He noted that funding from the Specific Improvement Grant had been received in terms of taking the project through the various stages of consent and that construction funding would then be applied for.

The work on bridges, he said was seasonal taking place from May to September and that works had to be planned to be completed within that timeframe. On this basis, he asked, members to approve the 2025 programme and said that the area teams would be receptive to discuss the various issues highlighted by members in today's discussion. This was also something, he said that could be raised at MD level when the Schedule of Municipal District Works was being approved.

Cllr Brogan asked if there was a timeline for works at Bonagee.

Cllr Mc Gowan proposing the 2025 Non-National Roads Bridge Strengthening Programme advised again of the need for interim works at Logue's Bridge and or the need for a Bailey Bridge given its importance as an alternative route through Ballybofey.

He was informed that all concerned were on the same wavelength and in agreement that a backup plan was needed. The Director of Service assured Cllr Brogan that the team were working on an interim solution for Bonagee.

Thus, on the proposal of Cllr Mc Gowan, seconded by Cllr Scanlon the 2025 Non-National Roads Bridge Strengthening Programme was adopted.

C/112/25

**TO NOTE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CORPORATE POLICY GROUP HELD ON 20<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY, 2025.**

On the proposal of Cllr C Brogan, seconded by Cllr Mc Monagle the minutes of the meeting of the Corporate Policy Group held on 20<sup>th</sup> January, 2025 was noted.

C/113/25

**ATTENDANCE AT CONFERENCE, SEMINAR OR EVENT**

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

On the proposal of Cllr Mc Gowan, seconded by Cllr Mc Monagle attendance at the following was approved.



### Training

AILG Annual Training Conference to be held on Wednesday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>, and Thursday April 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Limerick Strand Hotel, Limerick.

### Other

- Attendance of the Cathaoirleach at the Donegal Person of the Year Award Ceremony in the Bonnington Hotel, Dublin on the 29<sup>th</sup> March, 2025

### Travel Abroad

- Attendance of the Cathaoirleach at a ceremony in Worcester State University on the 24<sup>th</sup> April, 2025 to accept an honorary degree (Doctor of Humane Letters, honoris causa).
- Attendance of the EU Cerv representative at Meeting V in Budapest and Paszto, Hungary from the 23<sup>rd</sup> to the 26<sup>th</sup> April 2025. (Flight and accommodation costs to be covered by EU Cerv).

C/114/25

### **CONFERENCE/EVENT REPORTS**

On the proposal of Cllr McGowan, seconded by Cllr McMonagle the following conference/event reports was noted:-

- Attendance of Cllr Martin Harley at the US Trade Mission and Golden Bridges Conference (Philadelphia & Boston) from the 12<sup>th</sup> to the 17<sup>th</sup> November 2023.
- Attendance of Cllr Jack Murray at the CPMR Atlantic Arc Commission Meeting in Brussels on the 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> January 2025. Martin Harley at the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Island of Ireland Peace Park in Mesen, Belgium on the 11<sup>th</sup> November 2023.
- Attendance of Cllr Martin Harley at the EU Cerv Programme event in Figueira Da Foz, Portugal from the 2<sup>nd</sup> to the 5<sup>th</sup> February 2025.
- Attendance of Cllr Declan Meehan at the Association of Irish Regions Conference in Athlone on the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> February 2025.

C/115/25

### **ABOLITION OF LANDING FEES FOR ISLANDS FISHERMEN**

It was unanimously agreed at this juncture to deal with the Roads & Transportation submissions as the Director of Service had to leave the meeting early as a result of another commitment.

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

*"Calling on this Council to abolish landing fees for our Island fishermen with the current increase on petrol and diesel, the upgrading of their vessels and restrictions on fishing, the industry is very much in decline over recent decades."*

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

Cllr O' Fearraigh said that the fishermen concerned faced a number of challenges and with rising fuel costs were finding it difficult to make a living. Additional challenges in terms of revised quotas and the decline in the industry had, he advised, serious implications going forward. He welcomed the fact that a review of the Harbour Byelaws could be included in the Roads & Transportation Draft Programme of Work.

Cllr Jordan supporting the motion said that the past number of years had been difficult for the fishing industry arising from the hefty pier charges and the fact that the fleet were often tied up for significant periods of time but were still obliged to pay.

Mr Bryan Cannon, Director of Roads & Transportation alluded to the fact that a review of the Harbour Byelaws could be included for consideration by the Roads SPC. He noted however that these were a source of income for the Council and to abolish same would result in the Council losing out on this income source.

Cllr Mac Giolla Easbuig said he could see the rationale for reviewing the byelaws but that the income was important for the Council. He asked why the specific reference to Islands fishermen and noted that the fees were not excessive in terms of the catches landed by the larger fishing boats. He proposed, seconded by Cllr J Brogan that there should be no abolition of fees.

The Cathaoirleach queried the necessity of a counter motion as the Byelaws were to be reviewed anyway. Cllr Mac Giolla Easbuig disagreed and asked why a difference was being made between fishermen on the Islands and those on the mainland.

A recorded vote was then taken by the Meetings Administrator on the motion as submitted by Cllr O' Fearraigh.

This resulted in 25 voting for with 2 against.

Those voting in favour included:

Cllrs Beard, Blaney, Boyle, Bradley, Canning, Carr, Coyle, Devine, A Doherty, A Farren, Harley, Jordan, Kelly, Kennedy, Mc Clafferty, Mc Dermott, Mc Garvey, Mc Gee, Mc Gowan, Mc Mahon, Mc Monagle, Molloy, Nic Mheanman, O' Fearraigh and Scanlon. (25)

Cllrs J Brogan and Mac Giolla Easbuig voted against.

Thus, the motion submitted by Cllr O' Fearraigh and seconded by Cllr Jordan as outlined above was adopted.

**ROAD SAFETY – THE NON-WEARING OF HIGH VIS VESTS, ARM BANDS, AND PROPER LIGHTING ON BICYCLES – ISSUES WITH E SCOOTERS.**

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

*“I am asking this Council to take a stand on road safety in relation to the non-wearing of high vis vests, arm bands etc or indeed proper lighting on bicycles given that these are causing issues for road users, late night walkers, cyclists etc. Furthermore, E Scooters have become a major problem for motorists. Given the number of motorists and pedestrians having accidents and the increasing number of fatalities we need to work with An Garda Síochána, the Minister for Transport, Schools, Youth Clubs etc to highlight these issues.”*

*I would ask also that this Motion is sent around the Country to all other Councils in Ireland for their support.*

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

Cllr Mc Clafferty said that people walking on our roads in dark clothing had become a major issue and that a stand needed to be taken to prevent injuries and fatalities. He alluded to the fact that cyclists were not using proper lighting on their bicycles and highlighted the fact that E Scooters had become a major problem over the past year or so.

Cllr Blaney concurred and said that there was no reason as to why people could not abide with the safety requirements which were in the best interests of all concerned.

There was no opposition to the motion.

Mr Bryan Cannon, Director Roads & Transportation outlined the importance of highlighting the issue given the number of fatalities on our roads. Donegal County Council and the Road Safety Authority, he advised, provided high visibility vests free of charge to the public and community groups each year whilst actively promoting the “Be Seen, Be Safe” campaign in the Autumn months. It was noted that the delivery of active travel, segregated cycling, and walking infrastructure further enhanced the safety of vulnerable road users and also provided safe and dedicated road crossing facilities to assist in navigating towns and villages. He confirmed that the motion would be forwarded to other local authorities for consideration.

Cllr Mc Clafferty welcomed the reply.

**THAT DCC LOOK INTO DEVELOPING OR ENCOURAGING A BETTER EV CHARGING NETWORK FOR THE COUNTY**

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

*"That DCC look into developing or encouraging a better EV charging network for the county, as the annual sales of EV cars has increased over the last few years but Donegal lags behind with public EV charging stations and will the Council do more in every way to increase the number of public charging stations."*

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

Cllr Farren said that Donegal County Council needed to look at encouraging or developing a better EV charging network to facilitate tourism development. Figures had indicated, he said, that international tourism numbers were dropping and that there would be an increased dependency on stay at home visitors thus highlighting the need for additional charging stations.

Cllr Beard alluded to the 25% drop in international visitors and said that Donegal as a rural county needed reliable infrastructure. Without this, she said it would not be possible to develop the green tourism initiative.

There was no opposition to the motion.

Mr Bryan Cannon, Director Roads & Transportation alluded to his reply and the support provided by Zero Emission Vehicles Ireland (ZEVl) to support consumers, the public sector and businesses to make the switch to zero emission vehicles. It was noted that the National EV Charging Plan had been developed to further this aim and focusing on two areas with the National Road/Motorway Network EV Charging Plan being led by the TII and the Regional and Local EV Charging Plan Network Plan being led by Local Authorities. As a result, he said, that Local Authorities received funding to develop strategies to develop charging facilities. Donegal County Council, he noted, was the lead authority for the west and north of the Wild Atlantic Way and in conjunction with Clare, Galway, Mayo and Sligo County Councils would be appointing a consultant in the coming weeks to develop EV charging strategies in the region. There would be an opportunity, he added, for members and the public to get involved in the consultation process. He advised also of the guiding principles applicable for this strategy.

Cllr Farren welcomed the reply and said that Malin Head as a key destination on the Wild Atlantic Way needed to be at the forefront of any EV charging initiative. The Local Authority, he contended, needed to be actively involved in the installation of such facilities.

C/118/25

**THAT THE COUNCIL SEEK CLARIFICATION FROM CENTRAL GOVERNMENT ON THE PROCUREMENT PROCESS FOR VEHICLE RESTRAINT SYSTEMS USED ON OUR COUNTY ROADS**

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

*“That the Council seeks clarification from central government on the procurement process for Vehicle Restraint Systems used on our county's roads. The Council should then provide these details including the cost assessments, tendering processes, and quality control measures, to ensure that taxpayers receive value for money. The council should also question why T.I.I does not have a specific programme to fund VRS's for non-national roads, given the high incidence of traffic collisions on all our roads.”*

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

Cllr Mc Gee queried the excessive costs involved in providing such systems and asked for additional clarity on the operation of same. He cited the need to look at the value for money aspect and asked if it was possible to source same more competitively.

Cllr A Farren supporting the motion said that it was imperative that value for money was sought and consideration to sourcing the service locally.

There was no opposition to the motion.

Mr Bryan Cannon, Director Roads & Transportation noted that the specification and guidance for VRS (Crash Barriers) had evolved considerably over the past number of years and that it was imperative that all current requirements, standards and guidelines were adhered to. Any change would, he advised, necessitate looking at the alternatives that were out there. The Council, he said, had installed VRSs at a number of locations on Non-National road network funded through the Department of Transport Safety Works but that monies were not available for the maintenance of VRSs on the Non-National road network. He would, he advised, write to the Department of Transport as requested. This was also something, he added, which could be looked at by the Roads & Transportation SPC.

C/119/25

**THAT THE COUNCIL REVIEW THE CURRENT POLICY ON THE REMOVAL OF OVERHANGING TREES ON OUR ROADS**

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

*“That this Council review the current policy on the removal of overhanging trees on our roads to make it more workable for landowners please.”*

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

Cllr Kelly said this was a serious issue and that the current policy was not working as it should. Landowners, he said, were having to put traffic management measures in place and that the cost of employing private companies to carry out same was excessive. He asked that the Roads and Transportation SPC review the policy and cited the need for the Council to become more directly involved in the process especially in relation to the traffic management issue. Clarity was requested on who was actually responsible for the area between the edge of the road and boundary fencing and he cited the need for ongoing engagement on the matter. It was noted that the majority of landowners were amenable to working with the Council on the matter.

Cllr Kelly said that the Agriculture Committee had agreed to write to the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Martin Heydon, T.D requesting that consideration be given to the implementation of a scheme to encourage landowners to look after hedges and overhanging trees.

Cllr Blaney, seconding the motion alluded to the impact of overhanging trees on powerlines. He alluded to specific problems in the Milford Electoral EA where overhanging trees were damaging car mirrors and traffic was unable to pass safely. This was, he contended, an ongoing issue in this particular area. The Council., he said, needed to work with the landowners and provide assistance with roads management.

There was no opposition to the motion.

Mr Bryan Cannon, Director Roads and Transportation said that the issues raised were of a practical nature and could be included in the draft SPC work programme. He agreed to circulate a copy of the "Guide for Landowners to Managing Roadside Trees" as compiled by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, along with the Tree Council of Ireland for member's information.

Cllr Kelly welcomed the response and advised of the need for a balanced approach to the issue.

C/120/25

**THIS COUNCIL SEEK A MEETING WITH THE NEW MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT TO DISCUSS OUR ON-GOING INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS**

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

*I propose that this Council seek a meeting with the new Minister for Transport to discuss our on-going infrastructure projects in Donegal.*

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

Cllr Brogan said that Donegal as a county with no rail network depended on its roads network and that it was imperative that this adequately maintained and enhanced. He cited the need for a cross-party delegation to meet with the Minister for Transport, Mr Darragh O'Brien, T.D to discuss the infrastructural deficits in the county given that TEN-T initiative was progressing and would be a game changer for the county.

There was a need also, he advised, to look at quick fixes for projects such as the Southern Relief Road in Letterkenny. He alluded also to the massive population movement in Letterkenny on a daily basis and the need to look again at some of the proposals for Active Travel. He said that a proposal needed to be put to the Minister and if this required additional outside assistance then that should be sought.

Cllr Kelly concurred and referenced the earlier discussion in relation to the bridge programme, overhanging trees etc outlining the need for additional funding resources. A lot of issues, he advised, needed to be teased out including the concerns raised in relation to Active Travel in Letterkenny.

There was no opposition to the motion.

Mr Bryan Cannon, Director Roads and Transportation said that it would be possible to issue an invitation to the Minister to ensure delivery on the potential for the county.

C/121/25

**CALLING ON DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL TO SUPPORT THE DEMANDS OF TINTEÁN AND TO ALSO WRITE TO THE FREESTATE GOVERNMENT ASKING THAT THESE DEMANDS ARE FULLY IMPLEMENTED IMMEDIATELY.**

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

Iarraim ar Chomhairle Contae Dhún na nGall tacú le héilimh TINTEÁN agus chomh maith leis sin, scríobh chuig Rialtas an tSaorstáit ag iarraidh go gcuirfear na héilimh sin ar fad i bhfeidhm lom láithreach.

- Cumhacht reachtúil tithíochta agus na hacmhainní cuí d'Údarás na Gaeltachta
  - Scéim na nDeontas Tithíochta Gaeltachta a athbhunú
  - Treoirínte Pleanála Gaeltachta a fhoilsiú agus a achtú
  - Straitéis Tithíochta agus Pobail do gach Limistéar Pleanála Teanga.
- I call on Comhairle Contae Dhún na nGall to support the demands of TINTEÁN and to also write to the Freestate Government asking that these demands are fully implemented immediately.
- Statutory housing power and the appropriate resources for Údarás na Gaeltachta.
  - Re-establishing the Gaeltacht Housing Grants Scheme
  - Gaeltacht Planning Guidelines published and enacted

- Population and Housing Strategy for each Gaeltacht Language Planning Area.

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

Cllr Mac Giolla Easbuig said that people in the Gaeltacht were Irish speakers and that the issues highlighted in the motion were items that warranted discussion at SPC and committee level. He noted that there had been discussion on the matter by Coiste na Gaeilge.

Cllr J Brogan supporting the motion outlined the importance of keeping the language alive and of ensuring that all the necessary supports were in place to sustain and revitalise Gaeltacht Communities whilst maintaining their distinct identity.

There was no opposition to the motion.

Cllr Mac Giolla Easbuig acknowledged the response and said that Government policy must endeavour to ensure that Irish speaking families had access to all the necessary housing supports to allow them to live in the Gaeltacht areas.

C/122/25

#### **CAPACITY ISSUES IN THE LITTLE ANGELS SCHOOL**

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

*“That this Council acknowledges every child's right to a school place and calls on the Minister for Education and the Minister for Children and Disability to take action in regard to capacity issues in the Little Angels School, and that this Council recognises that there is only one school that caters for moderate to severe, profound intellectual disabilities, highlighting the need for another school. I would also ask that this Council writes to the Minister for Health about the need for a dedicated children's respite service in Donegal, given that our children with intellectual disabilities have been continually let down.”*

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

Cllr Nic Mheanman said the motion was self-explanatory and that the expansion of the Little Angels School was something that warranted immediate attention. She alluded also to the need for a dedicated respite service for children. It was noted that the facility in Drumboe had long since closed thus creating undue stress and hardship for many families who depended on this service.

Cllr Mc Monagle outlined the fact that it had been brought to the attention of the Minister that there were capacity issues and that the demand for places exceeded what the new school could deliver. This demand, he contended, would only increase and cited the need to



look at adding three additional classrooms or consider an alternative site for another school.

He referenced also the fact that two out of the four respite centres in Donegal were no longer available and the other two only available on alternative weekends. It was essential, he said, that a purpose built respite centre for children was provided . The need for same, he said, was well documented so that children could have the full benefit of these services at an important stage in their development.

There was no opposition to the motion.

It was thus resolved to forward the motion to the relevant Government Ministers.

C/123/25

**LITTER BINS - GREENWAYS**

The following motion submitted by Cllr T Crossan was proposed by Cllr A Doherty and seconded by Cllr Nic Mheanman, it was resolved to adopt the following motion:-

*"I propose that more litter bins are positioned along our Greenways as a matter of urgency and that these are emptied on a regular basis."*

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

C/124/25

**THAT DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL DEMAND A SPECIAL AND URGENT MEETING WITH UISCE EIREANN**

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

*"That Donegal County Council demand a special and urgent meeting with Uisce Éireann following the recent but consistent number of water outages that has affected and disrupted education provision (School Closures), Tourism and Hospitality, Businesses, Community events and families in Donegal, and that DCC demand the provision of an immediate contingency and infrastructure programme works response plan from Irish Water to reduce and end water supply interruptions."*

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

Cllr Doherty made reference to outages in the North Inishowen area and the fact that these had occurred with some frequency particularly at weekends. He noted that various responses issued had referenced the fact that planned infrastructural works on the network were at preliminary design stage and likely to be costed for inclusion in the 2026 programme. Members, he said, needed to be kept informed and in the loop on outages county-wide including detail on the planned responses. He expressed concern that an Uisce Éireann representative

had not been available to attend a public meeting in Clonmany which had sought to highlight ongoing water outage issues in that area.

Donegal County Council personnel, he said, had a critical role to play in ensuring that Uisce Éireann personnel committed to a dedicated meeting with the elected members.

Cllr O' Fearraigh noted that there had been similar problems in the Glenties Municipal District and that there had been difficulties in getting same resolved. It had resulted, he said, in schools closing and the tourism industry being severely impacted. He alluded also to issues in the summer months when a significant number of young people attended Irish language courses in the Gaeltacht areas. It was imperative, he said, that members were briefed on Uisce Éireann's investment programme and when and where new pipelines were to be laid.

There was no opposition to the motion.

Mr Michael Mc Garvey, Director Water & Environment said that he had already spoken to Uisce Éireann and with Deputy Pádraig Mac Lochlainn. He said he would email Uisce Éireann again and ask them to reconsider making personnel available for the meeting on the 2<sup>nd</sup> April.

Cllr Doherty concluding again outlined the need for an urgent meeting with Uisce Éireann at which members would be briefed on the relevant timelines and programmes on the various infrastructural needs and deficits in the county.

C/125/25

**CORRESPONDENCE TO ISSUE TO THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH,  
SEEKING AN URGENT MEETING IN RELATION TO THE  
GROUNDBREAKING SURVEY INTO THE MENTAL HEALTH OF  
THOSE AFFECTED BY THE DEFECTIVE CONCRETE CRISIS**

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

**Defective Concrete Blocks**

*"On 12 March 2025, Ulster University published details of its groundbreaking survey into the mental health of those affected by the defective concrete crisis.*

*Alarmingly, the study found that over 30% of participants (nearly three times higher than the rate for the Irish population as a whole) were suffering from severe depression. However, of most concern, more than one third of those surveyed reported having suicidal thoughts after learning that their properties were affected by defective concrete. In light of these shocking statistics, this motion calls on the Executive of Donegal County Council to write to the Minister of Health, seeking an urgent meeting at which targeted mental health interventions will be*

*discussed and agreed, to help address the mental health crisis being experienced by some of the most vulnerable in our county."*

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

Cllr Beard said that there were many people out there who could not get finance to access the scheme and thus felt abandoned. It was imperative, she added, that something was done to alleviate the despair and hopelessness that existed and to help people rebuild their lives. She noted that an Ulster University study in the region had found that 30% of participants were suffering from severe depression with one third harbouring suicidal thoughts. Thus she called for an urgent meeting with the Minister for Health with the aim of securing mental health initiatives especially for the most vulnerable in society.

Cllr Devine supporting the motion advised that there was a lack of transparency and respect. The 100% Redress party, had, he advised, contacted the Minister but had not received a response to date. He said that it was important that all 37 members were united in a call for action.

There was no opposition to the motion.

Mr Michael Mc Garvey, Director Water & Environment, acknowledged that the motion was a very important one and said that he would be happy to write to the Minister as requested.

C/126/25

**THAT THIS COUNCIL CALL ON THE HSE TO STOP  
DOWNGRADING SERVICES IN THE NEW PRIMARY CARE  
CENTRES THROUGHOUT THE COUNTY**

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

*"That this Council call on the HSE to stop downgrading services in the new Primary Care Centres which have been built throughout the County over the last number of years and that we write to the CEO of the HSE and the Minister for Health calling on them both to do everything within their power to ensure that all services currently available in the Primary Care Centres continue to be available within them going forward."*

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

Cllr Bradley using Inishowen as an example said that over three years ago Buncrana had been in receipt of a range of HSE services. Ten days ago, he said, the Civil Registration Office in the town closed on a temporary basis. He outlined a range of statistical information which

highlighted service delivery options in Louth and Leitrim. Comparing this to the Inishowen Peninsula, he said that elderly and sick people would now have to travel to Letterkenny to access births, deaths and marriage services. He noted that the round journey time from Malin Head to Letterkenny was two hours and thirty-four minutes covering a distance of 162 kms. Despite the contention that this service could be accessed online, he noted, that many of those availing of the service were elderly with no access to transport or broadband facilities. It was, he added, that this service was retained in Inishowen.

Cllr Mc Dermott concurred with this assessment and outlined the need to reinstate the Civil Registration Office facility in Buncrana as a matter of urgency.

C/127/25

**REQUEST THE PLANNING AUTHORITY TO MAKE A VARIATION TO THE COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2024-2030**

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

*I would seek the support of my fellow councillors Under Section 13 of the Act to request the Planning Authority of Donegal Co. Council to make a variation to the County Development Plan 2024-2030 insofar as to aligned the policy in relation to Unfinished estates in Rural Areas with the existing policy in the Urban Areas UB-P-13. This proposed policy will read "It is a policy of the Council to consider proposals for RURAL residential development that seek to resolve existing unfinished residential development, including through appropriate reconfiguration of developments, and such proposals shall be considered outside the population targets set by the Core Strategy" Also, I would request the Planning Authority of this Council to vary the County Development Plan to make reference to and include within its housing policies and objectives the Guidelines Document for Planning Authorities sent recently from the Government namely "Sustainable Residential Development and Compact Settlements". I would be of the opinion that our housing density standards within the County Development Plan are not aligned with those in the Government Guidelines document Chapter 3.*

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

Cllr Canning said it was essential that the policy in relation to Unfinished estates in Rural Areas was aligned with the existing policy in the Urban Areas UB-P-13. Alluding to Letterkenny in particular, he said, that its status as a growth centre warranted a proper density designation and one aligned with national policy.

Cllr Mc Gowan seconded the motion.

There was no opposition to the motion.

Mr Liam Ward, Director Planning & Community Development advised that on this basis the executive was now obliged to present to members a report to initiate the variation within four weeks of the adoption of the motion. The view in planning, he said was that the request to include within its housing policies and objectives the Guidelines Document for Planning Authorities ("Sustainable Residential Development and Compact Settlements) as recently issued by the Government was something that could be added as a non-material amendment to the plan. He said that the revisions to the " National Planning Framework" were awaited and expected in the coming weeks. He said that it was anticipated that on receipt of same Local Authorities would have to carry out a variation of their County Development Plans to take into account increased targets in terms of housing development.

Cllr Canning accepted the reply.

C/128/25

**THAT THIS COUNCIL RECOGNISE THE BLANEY FAMILY WILL HAVE 100 YEARS OF CONTINUOUS POLITICAL REPRESENTATION ON DCC ON 24<sup>TH</sup> JUNE, 2025.**

Cllr Coyle proposed the following motion:-

*That this Council recognise that on 24th June 2025 the Blaney Family from Rosstown will have had 100 years of continuous political representation on Donegal County Council.*

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

Cllr Coyle outlined in detail the political history of the Blaney family which had begun with the election of Neal Blaney as a Sinn Féin candidate in the 1925 Local Elections and who remained a Councillor until 1948. It was noted that in that period he had also been a member of Dáil Éireann and Seanad Éireann and had subsequently served as a member of the Fianna Fáil party. He was Chair of the Council from 1945-1948. After his death in 1948 his son Neil T Blaney was elected to Donegal County Council and served until 1957 having assumed the role of Chairperson from 1955-1957. Neil T Blaney was also a member of Dáil Éireann from 1948 until his death in 1995.

In 1957, Harry Blaney a brother of Neal T Blaney took his seat on Donegal County Council and served until 1999. During that time, he had been Chair of the Council on two occasions, 1967-1968 and 1986-1987. Harry was elected to Dáil Éireann in 1997. His son Niall Blaney became a member of the Local Authority in 1999 and served until 2003 when he was elected to Dáil Éireann. He is currently a member of Seanad Éireann.

Cllr Liam Blaney succeeded his brother Niall in 2003 and is currently a member of Donegal County Council and served as Cathaoirleach from 2022-2023.

Cllr Coyle asked members to support the motion and requested that a Civic Reception be afforded to the Blaney Family considering their lengthy and dedicated service to the people of Donegal since 1925. This, he advised, would serve to acknowledge the century long contribution that the Blaney family had made to public life and their continuous representation on Donegal County Council since 1925, service in Dáil Eireann, Seanad Eireann and the European Parliament. This level of service, he said, was unparalleled and displayed a true sense of public duty and dedication to the community.

Cllr Scanlon seconded the motion and acknowledged the huge contribution made by the Blaney family to political life in Donegal. It was fitting, he said, that a civic reception take place to honour this achievement.

There was no opposition to the motion.

Cllr Coyle concluding asked that the necessary arrangements be put in place for the reception.

C/129/25

**CURRENT PROTOCOL FOR CONTACTING OR REQUESTING A MEETING ETC WITH THE MANAGEMENT AT LETTERKENNY UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL**

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

*“That this Council support my call that the current protocol where we as elected representatives cannot contact or request a meeting etc with the management at Letterkenny University Hospital be scrapped straight away as our hospital is in crisis. The notion that we can only raise matters through the Regional Health Forum is madness as we have a duty of care to those that we represent and surely, we as Councillors should be allowed to challenge the conditions in this hospital in terms of waiting times, staff issues, lack of services, shortages of staff etc and the list goes on.*

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

Cllr Devine alluded to the fact that whilst the population in Donegal was rising staff numbers at Letterkenny University Hospital were reducing. He expressed concern that Cllrs were unable to secure a meeting with hospital staff and noted that a previous meeting with hospital management had been subsequently cancelled.

It was, he advised unacceptable that Cllrs could only raise matters through the Regional Health Forum as members locally needed to be able to raise queries on the conditions at the hospital, waiting times, the lack of specific services and the impact of staff shortages. He referenced also the fact that successive Minister's for Health had shown little or no interest in concerns raised by members.

Cllr Beard said that it was totally unacceptable that members were barred from contacting hospital management when there were serious issues and concerns to be raised. Members, she noted, were not looking to interfere but needed to be able to engage with the management in relation to the concerns raised by the general public.

Cllr C Brogan as a representative on the Regional Health Forum said that a range of issues were discussed at this forum and expressed surprise that the personnel in Letterkenny University Hospital would not facilitate a meeting. He said that a lot of people worked very hard in the hospital and that this needed to be acknowledged. He would, he said, raise the issues concerned with the Regional Health Forum.

There was no opposition to the motion.

Cllr Devine, said that he did not dispute the fact that a lot of excellent work was done, but expressed dismay at the fact that members were not able to request a meeting with hospital management on ongoing issues which directly affected constituents.

Cllr Mc Monagle said that he would seek clarification at the next Regional Forum Meeting.

C/130/25

### **CATHAOIRLEACH'S BUSINESS**

#### *Votes of Sympathy*

A vote of sympathy was extended to the following:

- Charlie Cannon, formerly Roads, Letterkenny/Milford MD on the death of his father John (Retired Clerk of Works).
- Rosemary Coyle, Motor Tax and Stephanie Kearns, Flood Relief Unit on the death of their father Charlie Kearns.
- Paul O' Donnell, Roads & Transportation, Letterkenny on the death of his son, Odhran.
- Donna Cavanagh, Library Service on the death of her mother Maureen Quinn.
- Pauline McLoughlin, Veterinary Office on the death of her mother, Greta Devine
- Máire Boyle, Letterkenny Roads on the death of her father, Phil Bán Boyle.
- Cllr Noel Jordan on the death of his brother Alan.
- Cllr Michael Mc Clafferty on the death of his mother, Bridie.
- Francie Duffy on the death of his wife Breid Duffy.
- Francie Duffy on the death of his brother Phil Duffy, former Waterworks Inspector.
- The family of the late Anthony Gallagher, Donegal County Council School Warden, Letterkenny.
- James Mc Laughlin, Housing, Inishowen MD on the death of his brother Charlie Mc Laughlin.

- Noel Mongan (Water Services), Eunan Mongan (Water Services) and Joe Mongan, Roads Section (Donegal MD) on the death of their brother, Frank Mongan.
- Brian O' Donnell formerly Reprographics Services on the death of his brother, Patsy O' Donnell.

#### Events Attended

The Cathaoirleach informed members that she had attended the following events:

#### Intelligent Cities Closing Conference& Mayors Business Forum on the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> March in Brussels.

This she advised had provided an opportunity to discuss and align thoughts on future commitments for smarter, greener and more inclusive cities. It also afforded an opportunity to forge collaborations with other cities and key urban stakeholders. The conference, she noted, had provided inspiring keynotes from global leaders in urban transformation and involved interactive workshops and an opportunity to exchange views and avail of networking opportunities with the relevant industry experts.

#### Local Enterprise Week Opening Event in the Radisson Hotel, Letterkenny on the 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2025.

#### Reception in honour of Sean M. O'Brien, General President of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters in Lifford on the 11<sup>th</sup> March 2025.

#### St Patrick's Day Events in the USA 14<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> March, 2025.

The Cathaoirleach advised that she had travelled to Boston for the St Patrick's Day events on the 16<sup>th</sup> March 2025 with the Leas-Cathaoirleach, Cllr Kavanagh attending events in Boston on the same date.

Cllr Kennedy confirmed that she had attended the St Patrick's Day Breakfast organised by Senator Nick Collins and afterwards participated in the South Boston St Patrick's Day Parade on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> March. There had been an opportunity afterwards to meet with members of the Diaspora in Boston City Centre. The delegation, then travelled on evening of the 16<sup>th</sup> March to New York.

Both the Cathaoirleach and the Leas-Cathaoirleach attended mass on the morning of the 17<sup>th</sup> March and took part along with the members of the Donegal Association of New York in the St Patrick's Day parade. This was followed by a meeting with the Donegal Association and the extended Diaspora.

The delegation met with Enterprise Ireland on the morning of the 18<sup>th</sup> March to discuss matters of mutual interest.

#### EU Belong Event in Strasbourg from the 24<sup>th</sup> to the 27<sup>th</sup> March 2025

This was attended by the Cathaoirleach and two members of staff from the Community Development Section. This took place during the 48<sup>th</sup>



Session of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities in Strasbourg, France. The Cathaoirleach thanked Mr Paddy Doherty, AO, Community Development and Ms Christina O' Donnell, Staff Officer, Social Inclusion for their contribution and assistance with the event.

Civic Reception for Naomh Pádraig Uisce Chaoín in the County House, Lifford on the 28<sup>th</sup> March 2025.

Launch of Social Inclusion Week 2025 in An Grianan Theatre on the evening of the 28<sup>th</sup> March.

Attendance at the Donegal Person of the Year Award Ceremony on the 29<sup>th</sup> March 2025 in the Bonnington Hotel, Dublin.

#### Killybegs Regeneration Project

It was noted that the official opening of the project would take place in May 2025 and would be officially opened by the Minister for Rural, Community Development & the Gaeltacht.

#### Cathaoirleach's Concert – Friday 18<sup>th</sup> April 2025

Cllr Kennedy reminded members that this event in support of Donegal Domestic Violence Services was taking place on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> April at 8pm in An Grianan Theatre, Letterkenny. She said that she had organised the event to create awareness of domestic violence and abuse in Donegal and to highlight the fact that more needed to be done to assist vulnerable people. She said that she was delighted to be hosting the concert with Moya Brennan of Clannad and Mairéad Ní Mhaonaigh of Altan as an awareness event to help break the stigma of and empower people whilst raising funds for Donegal Domestic Violence Services.

C/131/25

### **CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S MANAGEMENT REPORT**

Members considered the report circulated with the agenda and received an update on the following:

1. Local Authority Members Association (LAMA) Council of the Year Award.
2. Community Development & Planning Services
  - Community Development
    - Community Recognition Fund 2025
    - Dormant Accounts fund
    - 2025 Town & Village Renewal Scheme
  - Planning Services
    - Transboundary Public Consultation-Dalradian Gold Mine Project
  - Capital Projects Delivery Unit and Taking in Charge of Housing Estates Division
    - Major Projects
    - Refugee Response Unit
3. Water and Environment
  - Climate Action

- Decarbonising Zones
- Falcarragh Tidy Towns-5 Year Strategic Plan Launch
- Eco Buncrana – Eco Strategy and Action Plan
- Conversations Towards Actions: Climate Justice

#### Environment

- National Agricultural Inspection Plan
- Water Framework Monitoring
- Septic Tanks
- Septic Tank Grant Scheme

#### Flood Relief Scheme (FRS) Unit Updates

#### Defective Concrete Blocks – Update

### 4. Housing, Corporate & Cultural Services

#### Social Housing Delivery

- Social Housing Delivery Programme
- Land Acquisition
- Social Housing through Turnkey Acquisition
- Extensions to Existing Social Housing
- Secondhand Acquisitions Program

#### Library Service

- Creative February
- Seachtain na Gaeilge
- Ireland Reads 2025

#### Arts Service

- Cathaoirleach's Concert in support of Donegal Domestic Violence Services
- Fly-A-Kite for Diversity
- Biodiversity Office35
- National Tree Week 202535

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

#### Fire Service

- Operations
- Fire Prevention
- Major Emergency Management

#### Information Systems

- Online Submission Tool
- Defective Concrete Blocks
- Network, Infrastructure & Security
- EU Projects
- National Broadband Plan

#### Economic Development

- First Green Hydrogen Stakeholder Meeting
- Blue Economy Working Group Workshop
- Love Donegal Day wins Best Communication at LAMA Council Awards
- Believe in Branding: Building a Strong Identity for Business Strategy
- Sean M. O'Brien Visit
- Alpha Innovation Annual Community Check In

- Innovation Exchange Preview Event hosted in Inishowen Innovation
- Inaugural Tourism Connect event in Letterkenny

## 6. Roads & Transportation

### Roads Areas Update

- DOT Non-National Road Grant Allocations 2025
- Restoration Improvement and Restoration Maintenance
- TII Maintenance Allocations
- Údarás Bus Shelters
- Local Improvement Schemes
- Velocity Patcher Trial
- Official Languages Act Signage Programme

### National Roads Office Update

- TEN-T Priority Route Improvement Project Donegal
- A5 Western Transport Corridor and Access to the Northwest
- A5/N2 Cross Border Committee
- TII Greenways Projects
- TII Active Travel Projects
- All Ireland Strategic Rail Review

A number of issues were raised by members.

- Query as to the filling of the Waste Awareness Officer position and the reason for the delay in same.
- Clarity requested in relation to the Ballybofey Flood Relief Scheme. It was noted that every effort would be made to raise the profile of this project.
- Members advised of the need to acknowledge the work of community volunteers, Tidy Towns volunteers and to look at ways of recognising their contributions on a county-wide basis. Query raised as to recent developments on the provision of insurance for community volunteers.
- It was agreed that detail on the Second Hand Acquisitions Programme would be circulated when issued by the Department.

C/132/25

### **DOG FOULING ON OUR FOOTPATHS AND BEACHES**

Cllr Mc Clafferty submitted the following question:-

*What steps have the Council took in relation to dog fouling on our footpaths in our towns or indeed beaches etc?*

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

C/133/25

### **WHAT STEPS DO THE COUNCIL PROPOSE GOING FORWARD TO DEAL WITH OVERHANGING TREES**

Cllr Mc Clafferty submitted the following question:-

*What steps do the Council propose going forward to deal with overhanging trees, branches etc on our main roads or secondary roads ahead of any future storms?*

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

C/134/25

**HAS THE MINISTERIAL DIRECTION ON THE COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2024-2030 BEEN AGREED AND ADOPTED BY DCC**

Cllr MacGiolla Easbuig submitted the following question:-

*An bhfuil an tOrdú Aireachta maidir le Plean Forbartha na Condae 2024-30 glactha agus aontaithe ag an Chomhairle?  
An dtig leis an Oifig Pleanála glacadh anois le hiarratais do thithe in aice leis an N56?*

*Has the Ministerial Direction on the County Development Plan 2024-2030 been agreed and adopted by Donegal County Council?  
And therefore, can the planning office make a ruling on applications along the N56?*

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

C/135/25

**USE OF THE IRISH LANGUAGE IN DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL**

Cllr MacGiolla Easbuig submitted the following question:-

I ndiaidh dom freastal a dhéanamh ar Chomhdháil Shoillse ar ‘The Gaelic Crisis’ i Steòrnabhagh, Oileán Leòdhais, Albain a bhí ar siúl ón 29-31 Lúnasa 2022, d’ullmhaigh mise, mar Chathaoirleach ar Choiste na Gaeilge, tuarascáil ina raibh roinnt moltaí maidir le húsáid na Gaeilge i gContae Dhún na nGall. Dírím aird ar leith ar mholadh Uimh. 5:

‘ Go mbogann an Chomhairle láithreach chun an leagan Gaeilge amháin dár mbailte móra sa Chontae a úsáid ar gach comhfhreagras agus le linn cur i láthair srl, e.g. Leitir Ceanainn, Leifear, Bealach Féich, Carn Domhnach, Baile Dhún na nGall srl.  
Bealach simplí dearfach a bheadh anseo don fhoireann dul i ngleic leis an teanga agus í a chur chun cinn ina gcuid oibre go laethúil.

Cuireadh an tuairisc seo os comhair chruinniú Choiste na Gaeilge agus roimh Chruinniú iomlán de chuid na Comhairle, agus tugadh tacaíocht iomlán don tuairisc.

Mar sin, cén fáth nár gníomhaíodh air seo?

Following the attendance at the Soillse Conference on ‘The Gaelic Crisis’ in Stornoway, Isle of Lewis, Scotland which took place from 29-31 August 2022, I as Cathaoirleach of Coiste na Gaeilge, prepared a report which included a number of recommendations regarding the use

of the Irish Language in Donegal County Council. I draw particular attention to recommendation No 5:

‘That the Council moves immediately to use the Irish version only of all our bigger towns in the County on all correspondence and during presentations etc, e.g. Leitir Ceanainn, Leifear, Bealach Féich, Carn Domhnach, Baile Dhún na nGall etc. This would be a simple and positive way for staff to engage with and promote the language in their work on a daily basis.’ The report was presented to Coiste na Gaeilge and to Full Council, where it received full support and endorsement.

Why has this not been acted upon?

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

C/136/25

**WHAT IS THE COUNCIL POLICY ON THE FREQUENCY OF EMPTYING COUNCIL BINS IN URBAN AREAS**

Cllr T Crossan submitted the following question:-

*What is the Council policy on the frequency of emptying Council bins in urban areas?*

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

C/137/25

**HAS DCC BEEN ADVISED WHEN THE GOVERNMENT’S “GUARANTEE” IN THE FORM OF A SECOND GRANT OPTION IF REQUIRED FOR A PERIOD OF 40 YEARS WILL BE ISSUED**

Cllr Beard submitted the following question:-

**Defective Concrete Blocks**

Has the Executive of Donegal County Council been advised when the Government’s “guarantee” in the form of a second grant option if required for a period of 40 years” (as outlined in the Ministerial Guidelines) will be issued to those who have remediated their properties under the provisions of the Enhanced Defective Concrete Blocks Scheme?

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

C/138/25

**LEGISLATION FOR THE REVISED GRANT RATES UNDER THE ENHANCED DEFECTIVE CONCRETE BLOCKS SCHEME**

Cllr Beard submitted the following question:-

*Has the Executive of Donegal County Council been advised when legislation will be brought forward to enable the recently revised grant rates under the Enhanced Defective Concrete Blocks Scheme to be applied retrospectively?*

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

C/139/25      **HALTING OF THE RENT REVIEW CURRENTLY BEING UNDERTAKEN**

Cllr F Bradley submitted the following question:-

*To ask the Director for Housing to halt the rent review currently being undertaken so as to find a mechanism which precludes any rent increase for those who live in any of the Council's housing stock affected by DCB.*

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

C/140/25      **WILL DCC RESPOND URGENTLY AND POSITIVELY TO A REQUEST FOR A MEETING WITH SENIOR OFFICIALS FORWARDED AND REQUESTED BY CIF**

Cllr A Doherty submitted the following question:-

Will Donegal County Council respond urgently and positively to a request for a meeting with senior officials forwarded and requested by CIF?

Will DCC in particular assess and brief members on the correspondence reply from former housing Minister Darragh O'Brien received by CIF and DCC's interpretation of the Dept of Housing's procurement procedures and guidance and the delivery methods for housing delivery in Donegal?

(Dept Circular 16/2024 & correspondence Dec 2024)

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

C/141/25      **FIRE HYDRANT INSPECTIONS, FAULTS, REPAIRS**

Cllr A Doherty submitted the following question:-

*Fire Hydrant inspections, faults, repairs.*

*How many FH connection faults, inspection reports, repairs required have been received by DCC from fire station personnel in Donegal in 2024 and 2025 to date? And*

- *What problem areas for early attention are consistently highlighted?*
- *Are repair works required the responsibility of DCC and/or Uisce Éireann?*

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

- C/142/25      **SEPTIC TANK UPGRADE WITHIN THE COUNTY**  
Cllr Canning submitted the following question:-
- How many applicants/residents have applied for the septic tank upgrade within this county?*
- He received a response from the Director of Water Services, Environment, DCB Scheme & Facilities Management in relation to the above.
- C/143/25      **HOW MANY GRANTS HAVE BEEN PAID OUT FOR THE UPGRADED SEPTIC TANKS**  
Cllr Canning submitted the following question:-
- How many grants have been paid out for these upgraded septic tanks since the grant increase arrived?*
- He received a response from the Director of Water Services, Environment, DCB Scheme & Facilities Management in relation to the above.
- C/144/25      **HOW MANY TENANTS HAVE BEEN MOVED OUT OF THEIR COUNCIL HOUSE DUE TO THEM BEING AFFECTED BY DEFECTIVE CONCRETE BLOCKS**  
Cllr McMonagle submitted the following question:-
- How many tenants have been moved out of their Council House due to them being affected by Defective Concrete Blocks, where are the houses located and have the tenants been housed in alternative Social Housing Units?*
- He received a response from the Director of Housing, Corporate & Cultural Services in relation to the above.
- C/145/25      **UPDATE ON THE MOTION CLLR MCBREARTY HAD PASSED CALLING FOR A PUBLIC ENQUIRY INTO THE CREESLOUGH TRAGEDY**  
Cllr Devine submitted the following question:-
- Can I get an update on the motion Cllr Frank Mc Brearty had passed regarding calling for a public enquiry into the Creeslough tragedy? I am looking for the Government response and the dates the motion was sent to Government and responses from them.*
- He received a response from the Director of Housing, Corporate & Cultural Services in relation to the above.
- C/146/25      **PROVIDE A BREAKDOWN OF THE LEGAL FEES PAID TO SOLICITORS AND LAW FIRMS CHALLENGING THE COLEMAN LEGAL CASE REGARDING DEFECTIVE CONCRETE MATERIALS**

Cllr Devine submitted the following question:-

*Can this Council provide a breakdown to all members of the costs to date of legal fees paid to solicitors and law firms challenging the Coleman legal case regarding defective concrete materials?*

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

C/147/25      **HOW MANY APPLICATIONS HAS DCC MADE TO THE SHARED IRELAND FUND**

Cllr McMonagle submitted the following question:-

*How many applications has Donegal County Council made to the Shared Ireland Fund, what did the applications apply for and how many have been successful?*

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

C/148/25      **WHAT IS THE COST APPORTIONMENT METHOD APPLIED BY THE MACHINERY YARD IN RELATION TO ROAD WORKS CARRIED OUT BY COUNCIL STAFF**

Cllr C Brogan submitted the following question:-

*What is the cost apportionment method applied by the Machinery Yard in relation to roads work carried out by council staff?*

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

C/149/25      **UPDATE ON THE PROGRESS REGARDING NEW GRAVEYARDS IN DONEGAL**

Cllr C Brogan submitted the following question:-

*Can we get an updated report on the progress regarding the provision of new graveyards in Donegal?*

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

C/150/25      **MOTIONS FROM OTHER COUNCILS/BODIES**

Members noted the motions from other Councils.

**CLARE COUNTY COUNCIL**

"I call on the Minister for Children and Disability, Norma Foley to provide funding for all of the valid applications made by Early Years Educators across the country through the Building Blocks Capital Investment Programme 2025. A pillar service with major waiting lists and need



across the country requires sufficient focus and funding now to ensure those who have taken the time and invested money in developing projects that prove a need in their area should be funded as a matter of urgency to see delivery of much needed additional space in the next 12/18 months.

If agreed, I ask that this motion is shared with other local authorities."

#### **LIMERICK CITY & COUNTY COUNCIL**

"That this Local Authority would call on the Government to put in place a financial support scheme within the grant aid for older people form to include people in medical need that they would be able to apply for financial aid to help them purchase a generator to allow them to power electric medical devices where loss of power occurs."

#### **LIMERICK CITY & COUNTY COUNCIL**

"That, Limerick City and County Council expresses its fullest appreciation for all of the work done by the Council staff and staff of other agencies and volunteers who worked 24/7 to alleviate the hardships caused by the recent severe weather event. The Council now calls on the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage to (a) immediately release funds to replenish Local Authority financial resources used to manage the emergency and (b) provide additional adequate funds (or otherwise provide financial arrangements) for Local Authorities impacted to arrange a local scheme to compensate homeowners and businesses for property damage, lost stock or foods or other reasonable uninsured damages caused by snowfall or electricity cuts, and that this Notice of Motion be circulated to all Local Authorities."

#### **LIMERICK CITY & COUNTY COUNCIL**

"That, given the recent weather events, Limerick City and County Council (a) calls on Uisce Eireann to install generators at every pumping station in the country (b) calls on the ESB to cut back/cut down all trees and/or branches that are in danger of damaging the infrastructure and (c) calls on the Government to set up a special emergency phone number which is activated prior to and manned during all orange and red weather alerts."

#### **ROSCOMMON COUNTY COUNCIL**

"To write to the next Minister for Education requesting the introduction of extra time for students with Dyslexia, Dyscalculia and other learning difficulties sitting second level examinations. The lack of extra time is a severe disadvantage to such students at this crucial time in their lives. It was also agreed to circulate this to all Local Authorities."

#### **ROSCOMMON COUNTY COUNCIL**

"In light of over 40 trees falling during Storm Darragh, damaging power lines and leaving homes and businesses without power for days, I propose this Council writes to Nicholas Tarrant, MD of ESB Networks, and Keith Leonard, Head of the National Emergency Coordination

Group. They should ensure compliance with wayleaves and exclusion zones near overhead powerlines, requiring forestry owners to meet clearance standards. ESB Networks should take pre-emptive measures ahead of storms to prevent similar outages. Additionally, compliance with the DAFM Standards for Felling & Restoration near public roads must be enforced to prevent road safety hazards during extreme weather.

Subsequent to the submission of this motion the events of Storm Eowyn have further highlighted the need for action on this matter.”

#### **ROSCOMMON COUNTY COUNCIL**

“To write to the Minister for Communications that all emergency frontline services have access to the GOV.NE system to use any network available in the major emergency events to ensure communication channels remain open. It was agreed to circulate this to all Local Authorities.”

#### **ROSCOMMON COUNTY COUNCIL**

“To write to the Department of Agriculture, Department of Transport and Department of Environment, for an incentive to be put in place for landowners to move trees off the roadside. It was agreed to circulate this to all Local Authorities.”

#### **SLIGO COUNTY COUNCIL**

“This local authority call on the Government to initiate a fixed penalty fine of €10,000 on any retailer or person who sells or provides children under the age of 18 with e-liquids, vape kits or nicotine-containing products. To also ask that the HSE create an awareness campaign to highlight the dangers of vaping. A copy of this motion to be sent to all Councils within the state.”

#### **SLIGO COUNTY COUNCIL**

“It is evident now that this Government is incapable of delivering its own yearly housing targets, and the number of families living in emergency accommodation is increasing by at least 16% per year with an estimated 4,000 children homeless in Ireland. I am once again calling on the Government to implement an eviction ban, only in case where the Tenant are abiding with the letting contract, this would protect both Tenant and the landlord. A copy of this motion to be sent to all Councils within the state.”

#### **SLIGO COUNTY COUNCIL**

“That this local authority call on the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage to reinstate the Tenant in Situ scheme and increase the financial threshold limit in line with the current housing market prices in County Sligo. A copy of this motion to be sent to all Councils within the state.”

**SLIGO COUNTY COUNCIL**

“That this local authority call on the government to abolish any plans of introducing further Carbon Taxes for the foreseeable future. A copy of this motion to be forwarded to all local authorities within the state.”

**SLIGO COUNTY COUNCIL**

“That this local authority call on the government to desist from increasing the VAT of 9% to 13.5% on electricity costs that is planned to come into effect from May, 2025. A copy of this motion to be forwarded to all local authorities within the state.”

**SOUTH DUBLIN COUNTY COUNCIL**

“South Dublin County Council formally backs the call for a Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty and urges the Irish Government to support the initiative for a Fossil-Fuel Non Proliferation Treaty. If passed, a letter should be sent to all local Councils and the Minister for the Environment.”

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Cathaoirleach:\_\_\_\_\_

Dated:\_\_\_\_\_