

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE DHUN NA nGALL

Oifig Riathóir na gCruinnithe
Aras an Chontae
Leifear
21 Eanáir, 2025

FÓGRA CRUINNITHE

DO GACH BHALL DEN CHOMHAIRLE

A Chara,

Beidh Cruinniú de Chomhairle Contae Dhún na nGall ar siúl **Dé Luain, 27 Eanáir 2025 ag 11.00 r.n in Áras an Chontae, Leifear.** Tá 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



Pádraig Ó Laifearthaigh
Riathóir Cruinnithe

DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

Office of Meetings Administrator
County House
Lifford
21st January 2025

NOTICE OF MEETING

TO EACH MEMBER OF DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

Dear Councillor,

A Meeting of Donegal County Council will be held on **Monday 27th January 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



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 11th of November, 2024.
- b) Confirmation of the Minutes of the November Meeting of Donegal County Council held on the 25th of November, 2024.
- c) Confirmation of the Minutes of the Annual Budget Meeting of Donegal County Council held on the 4th of December, 2024.
- d) Confirmation of the Minutes of the Special Meeting of Donegal County Council held on the 9th of December, 2024.
- e) Confirmation of the Minutes of the Adjourned Budget Meeting of Donegal County Council held on the 9th of December, 2024.
- f) Confirmation of the Minutes of the Adjourned Budget Meeting of Donegal County Council held on the 11th of December, 2024.

2. 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 property by way of lease at the Donegal Public Service Centre, Drumlonagher, Donegal Town to Uisce Éireann.
- 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 land at Drumduff, Inver to Niall and Claire Bruton.
- 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 land at Sminver, Ballyshannon to Declan Mc Hugh, Anne Mc Hugh and Barry Mc Hugh.

3. Corporate

- a) To consider authorisation of Council representation at the St Patrick's Day events in the USA.
- b) To confirm membership of the Strategic Policy Committees for the period 2024 - 2029.
- c) Nomination of Member for appointment to the Board of Údarás na Gaeltachta
- d) To fill casual vacancy on the Northwest Regional Development Group arising from the resignation of Cllr Martin Farren.
- e) Filling of remaining vacancy on the Donegal County Council Value for Money Committee.
- f) To agree date for a Plenary Workshop to discuss the operation of the Machinery Yard.

- g) To note obligations on Members under the Local Elections (Disclosure of Donations & Expenditure) Act, 1999 as amended, to submit a donation statement for 2024 by 31st January, 2025.
- h) To note obligations on Members under (Part 15) Local Government Act, 2001 Ethics Framework to submit declaration of interest for 2024 by the 28th of February, 2025.

4. **Finance**

To approve, subject to the sanction of the appropriate Minister, the reassignment of a capital loan in the sum of €1,991,623 for the purpose of co-financing the refurbishment of Bundoran Waterworld.

5. **Planning**

- a) To note the report and request Members' agreement to the preparation of a draft variation to the CDP 2024-2030 (Proposed Variation No. 1) to –
 - 1. Insert new Area Plans for the towns of An Clochán Liath (Dungloe), Ballyshannon, Bridgend, Carndonagh, Donegal Town and Killybegs;
 - 2. Amend the zoning of site NR2.16 at Cockhill, Buncrana – from 'New Residential Phase 2' to 'New Residential Phase 1'; and
 - 3. Amend land use zonings on foot of Residential Zoned Land Tax (RZLT) related landowner submissions, where appropriate, within affected settlements throughout County Donegal.
- b) To Development Contribution Scheme Review. To agree date for Plenary Workshop on the 24th February, 2024 at 12 noon.

6. **Community Development**

Establishment of Local Community Safety Partnership - Nomination of seven members from Donegal County Council.

7. **Fire Service**

To consider the Fire Services Capital Programme 2026-2030.

8. **Endorsement of Minutes**

- a) To note minutes of the Corporate Policy Group meeting held on the 18th November 2024.
- b) To note minute of the Special Corporate Policy Group Meeting held on the 2nd December 2024.

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

Authorisation of representation at a seminar, meeting or event under Section 142 (5) of Local Government Act, 2001, S.I. No. 668 of 2006, Local Government (Expenses 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 (as amended).

Training

- AILG Training Programme for 2025.
- LAMA Spring Seminar to be held on the 30th and 31st January 2025 in the Kilford Arms Hotel, Kilkenny.

Conference

- Association of Irish Regions Seminar to be held in the Radisson Blu Hotel, Athlone on the 5th & 6th February, 2025.
- Irish Building Control Institute -National Building Control Conference to be held in the Radisson Blu Hotel, Little Island, Cork on the 12th and 13th March, 2025.

Other

- Donegal 2040 Site visit to Galway on the 13th and 14th February 2025.
- Attendance at the LAMA Awards 2025 in the Rochestown Park Hotel, Cork on the 22nd February, 2025.

Travel Abroad

- Attendance of the CPMR representative at the Atlantic Arc Commission Hub Meetings in Brussels on the 30th and 31st January 2025.
- Attendance of the EU Cerv Project representative at the Youth & Democracy: Empowering Europe's Next Generation Seminar in Figueira Da Foz Portugal from the 2nd to the 5th February 2025. (Travel and accommodation covered by Eu Cerv)
- Attendance of the Cathaoirleach at the Irish American Business Chamber Network Awards in Philadelphia on the 28th February, 2025.
- Attendance of the Cathaoirleach or the Cathaoirleach's representative at the Intelligent Cities Challenge Closing Conference in Brussels on the 5th and 6th March 2025. (Travel and accommodation covered by ERNACT)
- Attendance of the Cathaoirleach at the EU-Belong Final Event in Strasbourg, France from the 24th to the 27th March, 2025.
- Attendance of the CPMR representative at the CPMR Political Bureau meeting in Bari, Italy on the 27th and 28th March, 2025.

10. Conference Reports

- Attendance of Cllr Martin Harley at the Blue Economy Conference in Plymouth, Boston from the 15th to the 18th October 2023.
- Attendance of Cllr Martin Harley at the 25th Anniversary of the Island of Ireland Peace Park in Mesen, Belgium on the 11th November 2023.
- Attendance of Cllr Martin Harley on the US Trade Mission and Golden Bridges Conference from the 12th to the 17th November 2023.
- Attendance of Cllr Donal Kelly at the Suck Valley "The Rise of Loneliness on the Emerald Isle" – Community Development & Planning Remedies Conference held on the 13th and 14th March 2024 in Hannon's Hotel, Roscommon.
- Attendance of Cllr Michael Mc Clafferty at the Suck Valley "The Rise of Loneliness on the Emerald Isle" – Community Development & Planning Remedies Conference held on the 13th and 14th March 2024 in Hannon's Hotel, Roscommon.

- Attendance of Cllr Jack Murray at the CPMR, General Assembly Meeting in Gozo from the 2nd to the 4th October, 2024 in Gozo, Malta.

MOTIONS

LETTERKENNY/MILFORD MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

Community Development

11. **Cllr Michael Mc Bride**

"That Donegal County Council writes to the incoming Minister for Rural and Community Development asking that minimum funding of €3000 per Man's Shed be made available as this fund is a lifeline for the sheds."

Roads & Transportation

12. **Cllr Donal Coyle**

"That this Council write to the Minister for Transport requesting a substantial increase in the Winter Maintenance Allocation for the County."

13. **Cllr Declan Meehan**

"That this Council will write to the incoming Minister for Transport, requesting that they meet with a delegation from Donegal County Council, with the aim of discussing, securing funding for a feasibility study on a rail connection between Letterkenny and Derry, to progress recommendations made by the All-Island Strategic Rail Review of 2024, and to match the progression of the feasibility study underway on a rail connection between Derry and Portadown."

Economic Development

14. **Cllr Gerry Mc Monagle**

"That this Council seek an urgent meeting with the new Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage to lobby for the,

- Recognition of the North-West City Region within the NPF national hierarchy of city regions and to,
- Further strengthen the role of Letterkenny as a key Regional Growth Centre
- Identify and prioritise enabling and critical infrastructure for the North-West City Region.
- Support the establishment of a dedicated Economic Task Force for the North-West City Region."

GLENTIES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

Dog Control

15. **Cllr Michael Mc Clafferty**

"That this Council takes action on dog owners who are not controlling their dogs properly in our communities, i.e. chasing sheep etc or are a danger to the public, children etc, and that a rule is brought in that all dogs must be on

a lead while in public spaces such as towns, beaches, walks, trails etc. Also, that this motion would be passed around to all the other Council offices around Ireland."

Corporate

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

"That this Council call on the Government to have our emigrants abroad be given voting rights in our Presidential election."

Defective Concrete Blocks

17. **Cllr Denis Mc Gee**

"That the Council advocate for a scheme to be put in place to incentivise landlords to rent to families who have defective block homes and need temporary accommodation."

There are already financial incentives in place for landlords to house certain cohorts. It is imperative that we put similar incentives in place in order to assist those who have already experienced the trauma of living in a defective block home, to get accommodation when it is required.

Community Development

18. **Cllr Brian Carr**

"The Council write to the incoming Minister for Rural and Community Development to request that €75,000 of the recently announced Local Enhancement Programme Fund be ringfenced for Men's and Women's Sheds in the county." This allocation would enable 25 sheds to access a €3,000 sustainability grant, providing vital support for Sheds across the county.

DONEGAL MUNICIPAL DISTRICT"

Housing

19. **Cllr Jimmy Brogan**

"To ask Donegal Co Council to contact the new Minister for Housing and demand that they raise the means allowance substantially for applicants of social housing". The current means allowance is too low which is blocking people from getting on the housing list and availing of housing supports when they can't afford the exorbitant rents which are being charged and can't get a mortgage and is leading to the risk of homelessness.

LIFFORD/STRANORLAR MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

Housing

20. **Cllr Martin Scanlon**

"I am submitting this motion calling on this council to write to both incoming ministers for social protection and housing calling for an urgent review on the threshold rates at which persons are allowed to be placed on the housing list."

Planning

21. **Cllr Dakota Nic Mheanman**

"Go dtacaíonn an comhairle seo le go gcuirfear Straitéis Daonra agus Tithíochta Gaeltachta le chéile do gach Limistéar Pleanála Teanga Gaeltachta le spriocanna soiléire, intomhaiste a leagadh amach chun fás inbhuanaithe na bpobal Gaeltachta a chinntiú, agus soláthar cuí tithíochta a chinntiú chun tacú leis an bhfás sin."

"That this council supports that a Gaeltacht Population and Housing Strategy be drawn up for each Gaeltacht Language Planning Area with clear, measurable targets set out to ensure the sustainable growth of the Gaeltacht communities, and to ensure an appropriate supply of housing to support that growth."

Roads & Transportation

22. **Cllr Patrick Mc Gowan**

"That a full report is presented to this full Council meeting on the Council's current Strategic and Specific Roads Grants priority list that was agreed by this Council along with projects that have been completed or are being progressed at present and include whatever criteria was used to select."

INISHOWEN MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

Planning

23. **Cllr Ali Farren**

In 2024 houses were being built in Donegal that have defective concrete in them and in approximately 15 years these new homes will be crumbling down just like the homes that are covered by the present "Redress" scheme. Every person buying or building a home deserves to know that the products are fit for purpose. At present we can't be sure a home or any building will last because of the lack of regulation!

"I am asking that this new government immediately put into place regulations to ensure block manufacturers produce products fit for purpose and to protect homeowners or any buyer of concrete products.

We also need the Co Council to be able to visit quarries and test blocks before they are used.

People cannot afford to invest in Donegal if they can't be guaranteed that their homes will last and that they won't have to go through the torture many of us are going through for the last 14 plus years.

My first motion of 2025 is very urgent, we need to write to the National Standards Association, the Taoiseach, the Minister of Housing and both ministers of Finance (I would request this motion be sent to all TD's as it's so important they all understand how useless the present regulations are and that they have duty of care to all the people of this country)

Defective Concrete Blocks Scheme

24. **Cllr Joy Beard**

"With the new government in place, this motion calls on the Executive of Donegal County Council to write to the leaders of Fianna Fáil and Fine Gael reminding them of their respective commitments to voters to hold a review into the Defective Concrete Blocks Scheme within months of the general election, and to liaise with the members of the Defective Concrete Blocks Committee to draft a detailed submission to that review outlining the concerns that members have about the workings of the Scheme."

25. Cllr Martin Mc Dermott

"To ask Donegal county council in conjunction with the Housing Agency to have an information day for professionals and builders to explain exactly what is required when filling in forms for the Defective Concrete Block Scheme."

Community Development

26. Cllr Albert Doherty

"That Donegal County Council calls on the Minister and Department of Rural and Community Development and/or relevant Dept in the new Government to designate, extend and include additional electoral areas enabling their eligibility and access for funding from the CLAR Programme".

Housing

27. Cllr Jack Murray

"That this council will prioritise the acquisition and construction of homes throughout County Donegal, specifically to be allocated to those with disabilities, in order to allow them to reside in their own community; and that this prioritisation would include the allocation of houses within planned housing developments, as well as seeking houses on the open market which would be suitable for such citizens."

28. Cllr Paul Canning

"I would ask that the housing section of this council carries out a complete audit of all of the estates that are affected by overgrown trees that could and will create a hazard into the future insofar as branches falling off damaging solar panels, roofs along with the possibility of a danger to children at play with a view to managing the overgrowth of these trees."

Corporate

29. Cllr Fionán Bradley

"That this Council condemns, rejects, and opposes any and all forms of violence, bullying, harassment, intimidation and haranguing directed towards any politician or candidate who runs for public office, or towards their family, friends, associates, canvassers or staff. To also condemn damage to their property, assets, or vehicles. That we shall endeavour to foster an environment of respect towards each other, towards members of the Oireachtas and all those who are candidates for public office."

30. Cathaoirleach's Business.

31. Chief Executive's Management Report.

QUESTIONS

LETTERKENNY/MILFORD MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

Housing

32. Cllr Tomás S Devine

Can I get an update on all test results and tests carried out on all social homes being built in Donegal, and can we get an update on the 14 Cluid houses in Letterkenny?

33. Cllr Gerry Mc Monagle

How many housing applicants have we across the five MDs designated as in need of a five bedroom house or higher as per each MD and can I be informed as to how many five bed houses have, we built or purchased in each MD since 2019?

34. Cllr Gerry Mc Monagle

How many house purchase requests have been sent to the Department of Housing since 2019, how many of those requests were signed off on by the Department and finally is there a ceiling/policy from the Department on how many house purchases that they will sign off on for the County per annum?

Planning

35. Cllr Tomás S Devine

Can I get an update on what unfinished estates the council are planning to take over this year?

36. Cllr Ciaran Brogan

Can we have an updated report on our derelict site registration across all our Municipal districts and the number of CPOs we have instigated ?

Roads & Transportation

37. Cllr Donal Coyle

Can I have an update and proposed timeline for the TEN-T Project?

38. Cllr Ciaran Brogan

Can we have an updated report on the current status of the Ten-T project including the Bonagee Relief Road - Manorcunningham to Lifford and the Ballybofey-Stranolar By-pass?

39. Cllr Ciaran Brogan

Can we have a breakdown of the actual schedule of works planned for this year from the recent allocation from the NTA active travel?

GLENTIES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

Dog Control

40. Cllr Michael Mc Clafferty

Can I get a report of how many dog attacks happened in Ireland and in this county in the last 10 years on sheep or other livestock that we have recorded. Also,

- How many humans were attacked by Dogs in the last 10 years?
- How many dogs have the Council put down over the last 10 years please?

LIFFORD/STRANORLAR MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

Roads & Transportation

41. Cllr Patrick Mc Gowan

Can I have a copy of all the Active Travel applications under consideration and at early stages of planning across the County? Has there been a recent change as to how Active Travel projects are currently being prioritised and can I get an list of the latest list that was sent to the Department for consideration along with an explanation on how this list was created?

Community Development

42. Cllr Patrick Mc Gowan

Can I have an update on my earlier Q&M, CCTV for Ballybofey and Stranorlar and Letterkenny, what is the reason for the long delay?

INISHOWEN MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

Housing

43. Cllr Albert Doherty

Government Scheme for the Remediation of Social Homes in Donegal. Following the meeting on Dec 5th last between the Council delegation and the Department of Housing officials in Dublin, will the Council now make early contact with the Minister and Department of Housing highlighting and demanding an urgent need for the putting in place of the scheme for the Remediation of Social Homes in Donegal?

Planning

44. Cllr Joy Beard

During the year ending 31st December 2024, in its role as Market Surveillance Authority, how many quarry inspections were undertaken by members of the Council's staff and what testing was carried out during each visit?

45. Cllr Joy Beard

In light of the public inquiry into the proposed Dalridian Gold Mine project in the Sperrin mountains, County Tyrone, being suspended, does the Council intend to hold a workshop for elected members to outline its position and the potential implications for Donegal if planning is approved?

46. Cllr Albert Doherty

Transboundary Status application receipt and responses.

What correspondence has DCC received from the Dept. of Infrastructure relating to the application to further develop mining in the Sperrins ? When was the correspondence received and to whom was the correspondence addressed?

What responses to date have DCC forwarded to DFI?

Following the publication of a public notice by DCC on the application, how many responses/submissions were received and where are they currently located?

What presence, engagement and participation to date have DCC Officials and or Council legal representatives had at the planning enquiry in Omagh?(Now suspended)

What related actions are necessary and expected from DCC when the planning enquiry resumes?

Environment

47. Cllr Fionán Bradley

What update, if any, has been received from the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport in relation to live applications which this Council has submitted for funding under the LSSIF?

Defective Concrete Blocks

48. Cllr Jack Murray

Can this council provide a liaison person, dedicated to answering queries from competent building professionals in relation to defective block grant queries, rather than have them wait for responses from the central helpdesk, as this could help address queries or issues in a more timely manner and help streamline the process?

Roads & Transportation

49. Cllr Fionán Bradley

“To ask the Director for Roads what amount of funding the Council anticipates it will receive from the Department of Transport in 2025 for the LIS programme within the County.”

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

CLARE COUNTY COUNCIL

“That Clare County Council oppose the recent decision by the GAA, whereby children under the age of sixteen will be charged a fee to gain admittance to GAA matches, and that we call on the GAA to reverse this decision as a matter of urgency. It is also proposed that this Notice of Motion be circulated to all Local Authorities across the country.”

CLARE COUNTY COUNCIL

“We request Clare County Council to make urgent contact with the Department of Local Government regarding housing aid for Older People’s Grant in connection with the exclusion of new fossil fuel boilers, oil or gas.”

LEITRIM COUNTY COUNCIL

“That Minister Helen McEntee and Department of Justice give consideration to increasing the grant funding available for community groups, that will make the installation of CCTV in towns and villages viable an economically sustainable and will be significant benefit in the prevention of crime and motion circulated so that it is noted by all local authorities.”

LEITRIM COUNTY COUNCIL

“That Leitrim County Council calls on the next Government and all the elected members of both Houses of the Oireachtas to pass whatever legislation necessary to hold the referendum, promised by the previous administration, to allow our diaspora to vote in the Presidential Election to be held in November of this year.”

ROSCOMMON COUNTY COUNCIL

“It was agreed to write to the Taoiseach and the Tánaiste to consider in the formation of the incoming government that the matter of rural and urban isolation and loneliness is directly allocated to a Ministry.”

WEXFORD COUNTY COUNCIL

“That Wexford County Council calls on Irish Public Bodies Mutual Insurances (IPB) to provide affordable underwriting options for insurance cover specifically tailored to the needs of community centres and similar community organisations and playgrounds. These centres are essential to the social fabric of our inclusion. However, rising insurance premiums are increasingly limiting the ability of community groups to operate and expand their services.

By offering more affordable insurance options, IPB could ensure community centres to continue and enhance their work without the heavy burden of unsustainable insurance costs. Wexford County Council urges IPB to consider the positive impact of such support on communities across the county and to act in the interest of promoting accessible, community-based services for all.”

MINUTES OF JANUARY MEETING OF DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL HELD ON 27TH JANUARY, 2025 IN THE COUNTY HOUSE, LIFFORD

C/4/25

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 Farren, N Jordan, D. M Kelly, M McBride, M Mc Clafferty, M McDermott, P McGarvey, D McGee, P McGowan, M Mc Mahon, G McMonagle, D Meehan, A Molloy, M Naughton, D Nic Mheanman, J.S Ó Fearraigh.

Online: Cllrs T Crossan, G Doherty M Harley, J Kavanagh, M Mac Giolla Easbuig, J Murray, M Scanlon.

C/5/25

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, Eunan Quinn, Senior Planner, Planning, Joseph McTaggart, Chief Fire Officer, Frances Friel, Communications Officer, William Colvin, ASO, Martina Tully, ASO, Róise Ní Laifeartaigh, Rannóg na Gaeilge, Dónall MacGiolla Choill, Tacaíocht do Sheirbhísí Aistriúcháin, Anne Marie Crawford, Staff Officer.

C/6/25

**CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF
DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL HELD ON THE 11TH NOVEMBER, 2024**

On the proposal of Cllr Meehan, seconded by Cllr McGonagle, the minutes of the Special Meeting of Donegal County Council held on the 11th November, 2024 were adopted.

C/7/25

**CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF DONEGAL
COUNTY COUNCIL HELD ON THE 25TH NOVEMBER, 2024**

On the proposal of Cllr P McGowan, seconded by Cllr Meehan, the minutes of the Meeting of Donegal County Council held on the 25th of November, 2024 were adopted.

C/8/25

**CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL BUDGET
MEETING OF DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL HELD ON THE 4TH
DECEMBER, 2024**

On the proposal of Cllr McBride, seconded by Cllr Scanlon, the minutes of the Special Meeting of Donegal County Council held on the 4th December, 2024 were adopted.

C/9/25

**CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF
DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL HELD ON THE 9TH DECEMBER, 2024**

On the proposal of Cllr O'Fearraigh, seconded by Cllr McDermott, the minutes of the Special Meeting of Donegal County Council held on the 9th December, 2024 were adopted.

C/10/25 **CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE ADJOURNED BUDGET MEETING OF DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL HELD ON THE 9th DECEMBER, 2024**

On the proposal of Cllr M Farren, seconded by Cllr Naughton, the minutes of the Adjourned Budget Meeting of Donegal County Council held on the 9th December, 2024 were adopted.

C/11/25 **CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE ADJOURNED BUDGET MEETING OF DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL HELD ON THE 12TH DECEMBER, 2024**

On the proposal of Cllr McMonagle, seconded by Cllr Kelly, the minutes of the Adjourned Budget Meeting of Donegal County Council held on the 12th December, 2024 were adopted.

C/12/25 **IMPACT OF STORM ÉOWYN**

Cllr Mc Dermott thanked the Chief Executive, the Director of Water & Environment and the Director of Housing, Corporate & Cultural Services for the assistance provided to Defective Concrete Blocks Families prior to the arrival of Storm Éowyn. He further acknowledged the work carried out in the aftermath of the storm by the Roads & Emergency Services teams. Tribute was also paid to the ESB staff who were faced with many challenges and obstacles.

Cllr Beard reiterated the sentiment expressed by Cllr Mc Dermott and said she was grateful for the refuge options provided and cited the need to adopt a proactive approach for dealing with severe weather events in a timely fashion and the compilation of a comprehensive emergency plan.

On the proposal of Cllr Mc Dermott, seconded by Cllr Blaney it was resolved that correspondence issue to the Mr James Browne, T.D. Minister for Housing, Local Government & Heritage requesting that he meet with the full Council or the Defective Concrete Blocks Committee in relation to the issues at hand.

Cllr Mc Bride proposed, seconded by Cllr Kennedy that Mr Ciaran Mullooly, MEP and Vice Chair of the EU Housing Crisis Committee also be invited to attend.

Cllr Mc Monagle said that members needed direct access to the ESB and that this was something that needed to be included on the agenda when the meeting with the minister was confirmed.

A lengthy debate ensued, and the following issues were raised.

- Was there anything that could be done to assist a number of vulnerable and elderly people who were not in a position to remove fallen trees etc.
- Proactive approach must be taken to review and remove broken and damaged trees on side roads including those covered in ivy which are already vulnerable in any storm.

- Application should be made to the Department for funding to deal with dangerous trees and vegetation. Suggested that a scheme in operation in the early nineties which utilised seasonal workers to clear dangerous trees and those close to ESB lines be re-introduced. Further engagement needed with the ESB, and the matter pursued by the Roads & Transportation SPC.
- Further suggestion that Coillte be invited to attend any dedicated meeting and clarification provided on their role.
- Concern regarding the state of houses affected by defective blocks in Ard na Guaile Duibhe in Moville and the urgent need for the Department to give approval for the Social Housing Remediation.
- Noted that the combined Donegal County Council and Civil Defence response had been excellent.
- Briefing requested in relation to the role of the new Community Fora.
- Noted that there had been issues with Air to Water heating systems as a result of power outages. Suggestion that generators could be installed when retrofitting works are being carried out and dedicated plan put in place to deal with these types of emergencies.
- Uisce Éireann should be contacted regarding the installation of generators at pumping stations so as to ensure that water supply is not interrupted when there are power cuts.
- Number of vulnerable people waiting on LIS approval had access issues in the aftermath of the storm.
- Outlined need for a joint assessment of the impact/response mechanisms and an invitation extended to other utility organisations to meet and discuss the difficulties encountered.
- Noted that there had been issues in Falcarragh in terms of access for the ambulance service.
- Role of farming and community groups should be assessed and developed going forward.
- Plan needed to ensure that vulnerable people are protected and can get to a safe environment.
- Query as to whether fire service personnel could be trained in the use of chainsaws.

The Chief Executive thanked members for their comments and alluded to the fact that there had been considerable planning in advance of the storm. He said that a request had been made to assist defective concrete block families and that the cost would be reimbursed nationally.

The emphasis now, he said was on the recovery aspect and local authorities were now the main co-ordinators for aid. A dedicate freephone number and an email address had been set up, he added, and that these would also feed into the ESB. Support, he said, would be provided through the dedicated community hubs.

Every effort, he said, was being made to see where the gaps were, and he encouraged members to identify and report issues arising locally. He acknowledged the community effort that had been made in the last number of days.

The HSE, he advised, was following up in relation to the situation in Falcarragh and the Council had no involvement here.

The Director of Community Development & Planning Services would be confirmed as co-ordinating the overall response.

C/13/25

DISPOSAL OF PROPERTY BY WAY OF LEASE AT THE DONEGAL PUBLIC SERVICE CENTRE, DRUMLONAGHER, DONEGAL TOWN TO UISCE EIREANN

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

On the proposal of Cllr Jordan, seconded by Cllr Naughton, it was resolved to disposal of property by way of lease at the Donegal Public Service Centre, Drumlough, Donegal Town to Uisce Eireann 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/14/25

DISPOSAL OF LANDS AT DRUMDUFF, INVER TO NIAL AND CLAIRE BRUTON

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

On the proposal of Cllr Jordan, seconded by Cllr J Brogan, it was resolved to disposal of lands at Drumduff, Inver to Nial and Claire Bruton 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/15/25

DISPOSAL OF LANDS AT SMINVER, BALLYSHANNON TO DECLAN MCHUGH, ANNE MCHUGH AND BARRY MCHUGH

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

On the proposal of Cllr McMahon, seconded by Cllr Naughton, it was resolved to disposal of lands at Sminver, Ballyshannon to Declan McHugh, Anne McHugh and Barry McHugh 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/16/25

COUNCIL REPRESENTATION AT THE ST PATRICKS DAY EVENTS IN THE USA

Members considered the report circulated with the agenda in relation to

the above. On the proposal of Cllr McBride, seconded by Cllr McGowan it was resolved to approve the attendance of the Cathaoirleach and Leas Cathaoirleach at the St. Patrick's Day events in the USA.

C/17/25

MEMBERSHIP OF THE STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEES FOR THE PERIOD 2024-2029.

Mr Patsy Lafferty, Director Housing, Corporate & Cultural Services noted that the Donegal County Council Strategic Policy Committee Scheme had been adopted a number of months ago and that subsequently there had been engagement with the various pillars to confirm the sectoral membership. It was now intended, he said, to nominate members to the specific SPCs and confirm the sectoral nominations. He proceeded to outline the required membership for each Strategic Policy Committee.

It was unanimously agreed to defer the matter to later in the meeting.

C/18/25

NOMINATION OF MEMBER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE BOARD OF UDARAS NA GAELTACHTA

Members considered the report circulated with the agenda in relation to the above. Mr Patsy Lafferty, Meetings Administrator informed members that the position was for the period 2025/2026.

Cllr Anthony Molloy was proposed by Cllr Coyle, and this was seconded by Cllr C Brogan. Cllr Coyle said that he was a fitting candidate and had over two years' experience on the board of Údarás na Gaeltachta. He acknowledged also the great effort he had made to become fluent in the Irish language.

Cllr Nic Mheanman proposed, seconded by Cllr A Doherty that the position be filled by Cllr John S O' Fearraigh. She said that Cllr O' Fearraigh was well qualified for the position and his considerable experience at community level made him an ideal candidate for the position.

Cllr Devine proposed, seconded by Cllr A Farren that Cllr Denis Mc Gee be selected as the Donegal County Council nominee. Cllr Mc Gee, he said, resided in a Gaeltacht area and thus had a broad knowledge of the challenges and difficulties faced by Gaeltacht communities.

As there was more than one nomination for the position a recorded vote was taken by the Meetings Administrator, and this resulted in the following:

- | | |
|----------------------------|----------|
| ▪ Cllr Anthony Molloy | 18 votes |
| ▪ Cllr John S O' Fearraigh | 10 votes |
| ▪ Cllr Denis Mc Gee | 6 votes |

Those voting for Cllr Molloy included:

Cllrs Blaney, Boyle, Bradley, C Brogan, Canning, Coyle, M Farren, Harley,

Kavanagh, Kelly, Kennedy, Mc Clafferty, Mc Dermott, Mc Garvey, Mc Gowan, Molloy, Naughton and Scanlon . (18)

Those voting for Cllr O' Fearraigh included:

Cllrs Carr, Crossan, A Doherty, Jordan, Mc Mahon, Mc Monagle, Meehan, Murray and Nic Mheanman and O' Fearraigh. (10)

Those voting for Cllr Mc Gee included:

Cllr Beard, J Brogan, Devine, A Farren, Mac Giolla Easbuig and Mc Gee. (6)

Cllr Mc Bride abstained.

Thus, Cllr Anthony Molloy was selected as the Donegal County Council nominee to the Board of Údarás na Gaeltachta.

Cllr Molloy thanked his proposer and seconder and acknowledged the calibre of the other candidates. He was he said looking forward to the two year term and would strive to do his best for the people of Donegal.

C/19/25 **TO FILL CASUAL VACANCY ON THE NORTHWEST REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT GROUP ARISING FROM THE RESIGNATION OF CLLR MARTIN FARREN**

On the proposal of Cllr Mc Gee, seconded by Cllr Mc Bride it was resolved that Cllr Tomás Sean Devine fill the vacancy on the North-West Regional Development Group arising from the resignation of Cllr Martin Farren.

C/20/25 **FILL OF REMAINING VACANCY ON THE DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL VALUE FOR MONEY COMMITTEE**

On the proposal of Cllr Kennedy, seconded by Cllr Mc Bride it was resolved that Cllr Martin Scanlon fill the remaining vacancy on the Donegal County Council Value for Money Committee.

C/21/25 **DATE FOR PLENARY WORKSHOP – MACHINERY YARD**

It was unanimously agreed to hold a Plenary Workshop to discuss the operation of the Machinery Yard on Monday 7th April, 2025 at 10am in the County House, Lifford.

C/22/25 **TO NOTE OBLIGATIONS ON MEMBERS UNDER THE LOCAL ELECTIONS (DISCLOSURE OF DONATIONS & EXPENDITURE) ACT, 1999 AS AMENDED, TO SUBMIT A DONATION STATEMENT FOR 2024 BY 31ST JANUARY, 2025.**

Members noted the obligation under the Local Elections (Disclosure of Donations & Expenditure) Act, 1999 as amended, to submit a donation statement for 2024 by 31st January, 2025.

C/23/25 **TO NOTE OBLIGATIONS ON MEMBERS UNDER (PART 15) LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT, 2001 ETHICS FRAMEWORK TO SUBMIT**

DECLARATION OF INTEREST FOR 2024 BY THE 28TH FEBRUARY, 2025.

Members noted obligations under (Part 15) Local Government Act, 2001 Ethics Framework to submit declaration of interest for 2024 by the 28th February, 2025.

C/24/25

TO APPROVE THE REASSIGNMENT OF A CAPITAL LOAN IN THE SUM OF €1,991,623 FOR THE PURPOSE OF CO-FINANCING THE REFURBISHMENT OF BUNDORAN WATERWORLD.

Members considered the report circulated with the agenda in relation to the above. On the proposal of Cllr Mc Mahon, seconded by Cllr Naughton it was resolved to approve, subject to the sanction of the appropriate Minister, the reassignment of a capital loan in the sum of €1,991,623 for the purpose of co-financing the refurbishment of Bundoran Waterworld.

Cllr Mc Mahon thanked all involved and said that Bundoran Waterworld had been a great success story for Bundoran and had served the town of Bundoran very well. He noted that it had an excellent staff base and provided considerable employment in the town. Cllr Naughton concurred and said that it was a huge tourist attraction and a great asset for the town of Bundoran.

C/25/25

TO NOTE THE REPORT AND REQUEST MEMBERS AGREEMENT TO THE PREPARATION OF A DRAFT VARIATION TO THE CDP 2024-2030 (PROPOSED VARIATION NO. 1)

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

On the proposal of Cllr A Doherty, seconded by Cllr Jordan it was resolved to insert new Area Plans for the towns of An Clochán Liath (Dungloe), Ballyshannon, Bridgend, Carndonagh, Donegal Town and Killybegs;

On the proposal of Cllr Bradley, seconded by Cllr Canning it was resolved to amend the zoning of site NR2.16 at Cockhill, Buncrana – from ‘New Residential Phase 2’ to ‘New Residential Phase 1.’

On the proposal of Cllr Canning, seconded by Cllr A Doherty it was resolved to amend land use zonings on foot of Residential Zoned Land Tax (RZLT) related landowner submissions, where appropriate, within affected settlements throughout County Donegal.

Cllr A Doherty asked that more information be provided on the Residential Zoned Land (RZLT) as there were issues that needed further consideration.

Mr Liam Ward, Director Community Development & Planning Services thanked members for agreeing to the process in relation the review of the six towns outlined above and said that it was hoped to bring the relevant reports to the July meeting.

He informed Cllr Doherty that item 2 in the report detailed the update on the RZLT and the potential variations arising on foot of rezoning requests by landowners. The final revised RZLT map he advised would be published on the 31st January. It was noted that the Finance Act of 2024 brought in certain mechanisms to allow landowners seek exemptions in cases where they had inter alia submitted a request for a change to the zoning of the land included on the 31st of January map. The period for landowners to make submissions, it was confirmed, was the 1st February to the 1st April 2025 and the relevant legislation was in place to facilitate any requests that might arise through the variation process. The Planning Authority were then, he said, obliged to consider such requests, evaluate same and consider whether or not to proceed with a variation. This legal provision, he advised, had the potential to add a significant number of rezoning elements to the variation process. Members of the public could, he said, after the publication of the map on the 31st January make a submission within the timeframe outlined above and if this meets the relevant criteria then same could be considered as part of the variation process. Cllr Doherty welcomed the fact that there was a submission process and designated time period for same.

Cllr Mc Dermott asked if the members had any say in the process after the relevant submissions had been made. He was informed that members would be advised of any requests for rezoning that were received and as to how these met the requirements of the Finance Act. It was confirmed that it was ultimately an executive decision but that members would be informed of same. It was also acknowledged that there was an appeal mechanism in place, undertaken by An Bord Pleanála and that appeals would only be accepted on the basis of requests received by the local authority for rezoning.

C/26/25 **PLENARY WORKSHOP – DEVELOPMENT CONTRIBUTION SCHEME REVIEW**

It was unanimously agreed to hold a plenary workshop on Thursday 6th March 2025 at 2pm in the Council Chamber, Lifford in respect of the Development Contribution Scheme review.

C/27/25 **ESTABLISHMENT OF LOCAL COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP - NOMINATION OF SEVEN MEMBERS FROM DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL**

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

Mr Liam Ward, Director Community Development & Planning Services advised that there was a requirement to nominate seven number members from Donegal County Council.

Cllr Canning said that he was disappointed at the way this had come about and that it was clear that the power and role of the elected members had been significantly reduced. Concerns in relation to same had been raised at the Joint Policing Committee meetings, he noted, and the

Partnership would now be chaired by a non-member of Council.

Cllr Mc Monagle concurred and said that he had not been aware until after the deadline of the process for selecting the Chair of the Partnership. The whole process, he contended, had been going on far too long and a void had been created with the disbandment of the Joint Policing Committee.

He asked when the Chairperson would be selected and at what point would other agencies be invited to become involved. Further discussion was needed, he added.

Cllr Mc Bride said that he was disappointed that this had gone on for so long as Garda resources were continually being reduced and rural stations closed. He said that it was not possible to have a fitting level of policing in the county without the necessary resources in place. It was imperative, he added, that the committee got up and running and that everything possible was done to access the necessary funding and resources. He said that each electoral area should have a representative on the committee.

Cllr Naughton asked for detail in relation to the two nominations for the Chair of the Partnership and whether or not the position had been filled.

Cllr Mc Clafferty also highlighted the resourcing issues and the fact that Garda numbers in the county were not sufficient.

Mr Liam Ward, Director Community Development & Planning Services said that there was a late change to the process and thus subsequently confirmed that Cllrs were eligible to apply for the position of chairperson. This, he noted, had been brought to the attention of the Corporate Policy Group. A public advertisement had issued, he said, for the Chairperson position and two applications received within the timeline. Guidance issued nationally had set out the selection process, he advised and that had included the involvement of the Chief Executive and a representative from the Department of Justice. The applications had been considered he said, and a recommendation made to the Minister for Justice who now has to confirm the appointment.

Donegal, it was noted, was in the same position as a number of other local authorities and awaited confirmation from the Minister's office. It was confirmed that a LCSP Co-ordinator had been appointed and that they would have access to a support member of staff. It was thus important, he said, that the nomination of the elected members was concluded today.

Cllr Brogan asked that the matter be deferred to later in the meeting.

C/28/25

FIRE SERVICES CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2026-2030

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

Cllr Mc Mahon proposed, seconded by Cllr Naughton that the approval of the programme be deferred pending the submission of a business plan to the Department for the construction of two new fire stations in Ballyshannon and Bundoran. He said this had been agreed by the Donegal MD members and asked all members for their support.

Cllr Naughton supporting the deferral said that a decision on the programme could be put back until the May meeting.

Cllr Mc Dermott asked for an update in relation to the request for a second water tanker.

Cllr Mc Monagle queried if there were any plans to provide training on the use of chainsaws to the fire service and whether or not equipment of this nature was available in the various Fire Stations.

Cllr Mc Gee cited the necessity of ensuring that fire services on the Islands were sufficiently resourced.

Mr Garry Martin, Director Economic Development, Information Systems and Emergency Services said that sanction would have to be sought from the Department to submit the 2026-2030 Capital Programme after the designated closing date. He noted that a very good workshop had been held with the Donegal MD members the previous week and that every effort would be made to make the best business case for the two stations involved based on the evidence at hand. Considerable efforts had been made previously, in relation to the matter, he noted, and it was anticipated that there would be challenges to the proposal at departmental level. The first task, he said, was to get an extension of time from the National Fire Directorate in relation to the plan and then to submit the business case as outlined.

Mr Joseph Mc Taggart, Chief Fire Officer confirmed that a second water tanker would be available in the next number of months and would be located in line with the best needs of the service. The Department, he said, expected the Fire Service to locate resources which they funded in where they would best meet the operational needs of the Fire Service in Donegal.

Chainsaws, he advised, were very dangerous tools and specific competency was required in the use of same. Any proposed use would he noted be most likely to be in inclement weather or when conditions were not most appropriate. The Health and Safety Authority, he noted, had decreed that in order to be competent in the use of a chainsaw, personnel had to be provided with the relevant tools, PPE and training all backed up with a dedicated level of training. Whilst the tools, PPE, and training could be provided, it was not possible within the Fire Service to facilitate the experience aspect. There were, he advised, health and safety obligations to be met and thus it was not intended to put chainsaws on fire appliances for general use.

Cllr Mc Monagle said, he could not accept this answer and that it was something that needed to be looked at again given that fire personnel were generally first at the scene of an accident. Experience, he said, would come with training and use.

Cllr J Brogan concurred and noted that many members of the fire service were from a rural background and had experience which could be utilised.

Cllr Mc Gowan alluded to the fact that angle grinders were currently used by fire service personnel and that additional training should be put in place covering the use of chainsaws. He said that the services of Coillte could be utilised in terms of training provision.

Cllr Mc Dermott proposed, seconded by Cllr M Farren that consideration be given to locating the second water tanker in Inishowen.

The Chief Fire Officer, in response said that the need for chainsaws by the Fire Services was extremely limited and that the scenario for dealing with fallen trees was very different to the skills utilised in tree cutting. The amount of training and the resources needed he said did not warrant the use of chainsaws by fire service personnel.

Cllr Mc Monagle said , he could not agree with this response and that a small number of staff in each station could be trained to use a chainsaw. The service was, he contended, an emergency service and needed to respond with the tools to do the job.

The Director of Service noted that there was a mixed approach across the country and that local arrangements were in place. Personnel, he said, were not experts and noted that there was duty of care to staff in terms of their operating environment. The current policy, he advised, was there for a good reason. He said that he would speak to personnel within the service and get their views on the matter thus keeping the issue under review.

Concluding, he said it was of immense value to get the second water tanker and that every effort would be made to balance the requests made with the operational needs of the service.

C/29/25 **ADJOURNMENT OF THE MEETING**

It was unanimously agreed to adjourn the meeting until 2.30pm.

C/30/25 **ENDORSEMENT OF MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CORPORATE POLICY GROUP HELD ON THE 18TH NOVEMBER 2024**

Members noted the minutes of the meeting of the Corporate Policy Group held on the 18th November 2024.

C/31/25 **ENDORSEMENT OF MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CORPORATE POLICY GROUP HELD ON THE 2ND DECEMBER 2024**

Members noted the minutes of the meeting of the Corporate Policy Group held on the 2nd December 2024.

C/32/25

ATTENDANCE AT EVENTS

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 (as amended).

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

Cllr Blaney noted that the LAMA Awards were taking place on the 22nd February and highlighted the fact that seven Donegal projects were competing in the various award categories. Cllr Mc Mahon said he was disappointed that the LAMA Yearbook once again had excluded the six counties from the mapping.

Cllr Blaney, the Donegal County Council LAMA representative said that he would bring the matter to the attention of the board but that the current reasoning was that the body only represented the 26 counties.

Training

- AILG Training Programme for 2025.
- LAMA Spring Seminar to be held on the 30th and 31st January 2025 in the Kilford Arms Hotel, Kilkenny.

On the proposal of Cllr Mc Gowan, seconded by Cllr Mc Bride attendance at the following conference events was approved:

Conference

- Association of Irish Regions Seminar to be held in the Radisson Blu Hotel, Athlone on the 5th & 6th February, 2025.
- Irish Building Control Institute -National Building Control Conference to be held in the Radisson Blu Hotel, Little Island, Cork on the 12th and 13th March, 2025.

On the proposal of Cllr C Brogan, seconded by Cllr Mc Clafferty attendance at the following events was approved:

Other

- Donegal 2040 Site visit to Galway on the 13th and 14th February 2025.
- Attendance at the LAMA Awards 2025 in the Rochestown Park Hotel, Cork on the 22nd February, 2025.

On the proposal of Cllr Mc Monagle, seconded by Cllr C Brogan it was resolved to approve the following:

Travel Abroad

- Attendance of the CPMR representative at the Atlantic Arc Commission Hub Meetings in Brussels on the 30th and 31st January 2025.
- Attendance of the EU Cerv Project representative at the Youth & Democracy: Empowering Europe's Next Generation Seminar in Figueira Da Foz Portugal from the 2nd to the 5th February 2025. (Travel and accommodation covered by Eu Cerv)
- Attendance of the Cathaoirleach at the Irish American Business Chamber Network Awards in Philadelphia on the 28th February, 2025.
- Attendance of the Cathaoirleach or the Cathaoirleach's representative at the Intelligent Cities Challenge Closing Conference in Brussels on the 5th and 6th March 2025. (Travel and accommodation covered by ERNACT)
- Attendance of the Cathaoirleach at the EU-Belong Final Event in Strasbourg, France from the 24th to the 27th March, 2025.
- Attendance of the CPMR representative at the CPMR Political Bureau meeting in Bari, Italy on the 27th and 28th March, 2025.

C/33/25

CONFERENCE REPORTS

Members noted the following Conference Reports:

- Attendance of Cllr Martin Harley at the Blue Economy Conference in Plymouth, Boston from the 15th to the 18th October 2023.
- Attendance of Cllr Martin Harley at the 25th Anniversary of the Island of Ireland Peace Park in Mesen, Belgium on the 11th November 2023.
- Attendance of Cllr Martin Harley on the US Trade Mission and Golden Bridges Conference from the 12th to the 17th November 2023.
- Attendance of Cllr Donal Kelly at the Suck Valley "The Rise of Loneliness on the Emerald Isle" – Community Development & Planning Remedies Conference held on the 13th and 14th March 2024 in Hannon's Hotel, Roscommon.
- Attendance of Cllr Michael Mc Clafferty at the Suck Valley "The Rise of Loneliness on the Emerald Isle" – Community Development & Planning Remedies Conference held on the 13th and 14th March 2024 in Hannon's Hotel, Roscommon.

On the proposal of Cllr Mc Monagle, seconded by Cllr C Brogan it was resolved that Donegal County Council take a table at the forthcoming LAMA Awards Night in the Rochestown Park Hotel, Cork on the 22nd February, 2025.

C/34/25

FUNDING FOR MEN'S AND WOMEN'S SHEDS

It was resolved to take Motion No 11 and Motion No 18 at this juncture.

On the proposal of Cllr Mc Bride, seconded by Cllr Blaney the following motion was adopted:

That Donegal County Council writes to the incoming Minister for Rural and Community Development asking that minimum funding of €3000 per Man's Shed be made available as this fund is a lifeline for the sheds."

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

On the proposal of Cllr Carr, seconded by Cllr Mc Bride, the following motion was adopted:

"The Council write to the incoming Minister for Rural and Community Development to request that €75,000 of the recently announced Local Enhancement Programme Fund be ringfenced for Men's and Women's Sheds in the county." This allocation would enable 25 sheds to access a €3,000 sustainability grant, providing vital support for Sheds across the county.

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

Cllr Carr said that in previous years €1.2m of a sustainability grant was managed by Irish Men's Shed's Association and that applicants in Donegal were able to put in vouched receipts and obtain up to €3000 in funding per annum. 25 Men's Sheds had received funding as a result with €75k coming into the county for these initiatives. This year, he said that the funding was to be allocated through the LCDC under the Local Enhancement Programme Fund.

The main issue now, he said, was that the mechanism for funding had changed and only up to €500 could be sought for running costs. Funding of these operational costs were essential, he added, and the reduction in funding was severe blow to what was a vital community initiative. He asked that the detail of the motion be communicated to Mr Dara Calleary, T.D , Minister for Rural and Community Development before the 23rd February.

Cllr Mc Bride said that he was in agreement with this assessment and that the funding decision needed to be revised otherwise the Sheds would be forced to close. These were, he noted, vital and effective projects and excellent additions to local communities.

There was no opposition to the motion.

The Chief Executive said that the Council would write to the Minister as directed.

FEASIBILITY STUDY – RAIL CONNECTION LETTERKENNY TO DERRY

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

“That this Council will write to the incoming Minister for Transport, requesting that they meet with a delegation from Donegal County Council, with the aim of discussing, securing funding for a feasibility study on a rail connection between Letterkenny and Derry, to progress recommendations made by the All-Island Strategic Rail Review of 2024, and to match the progression of the feasibility study underway on a rail connection between Derry and Portadown.”

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

He noted that the 14th February was the 60th anniversary of the closure of the Great Northern Railway linking Derry and Portadown via Carrigans and St Johnston thus removing the last piece of rail infrastructure in Donegal and heightening the county’s isolation. Letterkenny, he added, had lost its Rail Station in 1953 and was presently the third largest town in Ireland without rail. With both Swords and Navan in the process of having rail links restored, Letterkenny it was noted would effectively become the largest town in Ireland with no rail link.

Donegal, he said, as a rural county had the highest levels of car dependency in the country and that despite a number of advances in local transport links two third of people commuted daily by car or van. He alluded to the fact that the All-Ireland Strategic Rail review had recommended that the Derry to Portadown Link should be progressed followed by the Derry to Letterkenny element. There was, he contended, an urgency to progress the Derry-Letterkenny link and to seek a meeting with the Minister with regard to funding for a feasibility study.

Cognisance, he said, needed to be taken of the huge volume of interaction between Derry and Donegal and the fact that 38% of cross-border workers were based and worked in Derry. Of these, it was noted, that 95% were from Donegal. This interdependency, he added, was not only confined to employment but extended also to the education sector. There was recognition also of the fact that 40% of the passengers using Derry City Airport were from Donegal.

Given the fact that the All-Ireland review had actively promoted the Derry to Portadown Rail link and the corresponding link to Dublin, it was imperative, he added, that Donegal had a connection into that line.

Cllr Meehan said it was vital that these rail connections were progressed as they were important pieces of infrastructure in terms of developing the Northwest City Region in a sustainable way. He said that monies needed for a feasibility study were small compared to the €17.1 billion that was

available within the Irish Infrastructure Fund. He cited the need for ongoing engagement with Translink and for greater use of Shared Island funding to assist with the development of rail infrastructure in Donegal. There was room also, he said, for further co-operation with Derry City & Strabane District Council and Fermanagh & Omagh District Council.

Cllr J Brogan supporting the motion said that this was an important initiative given the general increase in population and said that a rail link from Letterkenny to Sligo to Galway would be a valuable asset in terms of overall linkage and associated development along the west coast of Ireland.

There was no opposition to the motion.

Mr Bryan Cannon, Director Roads & Transportation responding said that that there was reference in the Chief Executive's report to the upcoming discussions with Translink. It would be possible, he said, to write to the Minister as requested following this interaction.

C/36/25

INCREASE IN WINTER MAINTENANCE ALLOCATION

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

"That this Council write to the Minister for Transport requesting a substantial increase in the Winter Maintenance Allocation for the County."

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

He welcomed the comprehensive response and said that the gritting programme was at capacity with the only solution being increased funding at national level if more routes were to be included. He noted that there were resource issues also in terms of equipment, salt and grit stocks and the availability of personnel. He cited the need for additional gritting in the Convoy, Glenmacquin, Mongorrry and Galdonagh areas.

Cllr Blaney supporting the motion said that prior to 2009/2010 many more roads had been included on the gritting programme. The reduction of funding at that time had significantly reduced the programme and the impact was still being felt today.

There was no opposition to the motion.

Mr Bryan Cannon, Director Roads & Transportation advised that Donegal County Council had one of the most extensive winter maintenance programmes in the country. He noted that there had been a review in 2021 and an additional 135km added. It would be possible, he said, for the new Roads & Transportation SPC to examine the policy considerations as part of its work programme and that recommendations could be brought to MD and Plenary meetings.

He said that correspondence would issue to the Minister and that it should also be noted that logistic, human and technical resource considerations had also to be factored into the process.

C/37/25

RECOGNITION FOR THE NORTHWEST CITY REGION

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

“That this Council seek an urgent meeting with the new Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage to lobby for the,

- *Recognition of the North-West City Region within the NPF national hierarchy of city regions and to,*
- *Further strengthen the role of Letterkenny as a key Regional Growth Centre*
- *Identify and prioritise enabling and critical infrastructure for the North-West City Region.*
- *Support the establishment of a dedicated Economic Task Force for the North-West City Region.”*

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

He said that the time was right with the advent of a new Government and a new Minister in situ to lobby for the recognition of the Northwest City Region, given that it would be 2030 before there would be another review.

A lot of work, he said, needed to be done to get this recognition as currently all the major areas of growth were located below the Dublin-Galway line. The Northwest, he contended, had been neglected and the lack of investment in the region reflected in the National Planning Framework.

He alluded to the lack of infrastructure in the region and the need to develop same to accommodate additional population growth. Continued focus on the southern regions would, he advised, push the Northwest further back. This was something, he said, which needed to be progressed by the Oireachtas members in the county. He said the potential existed for the Northwest to become a net contributor to the overall economy.

Cllr A Doherty said that the motion was timely given that the new Government had just taken office, and it was hoped that the regional independent grouping would ensure that the NW City Region got the support it needed.

There were, he noted four key asks in the recommendation as submitted and unfortunately the recognition sought had not been reflected in the subsequent review. It was important, he said, that this together with the

All-Ireland Rail review and the Shared Island initiative were progressed and driven forward by Donegal County Council and neighbouring Councils given the urgent need for investment in the Northwest.

This was also something, he noted, which had been advocated by the Northern and Western Regional Assembly together with a policy of positive discrimination to deliver regional equality in the Northwest.

There was no opposition to the motion.

Mr Garry Martin, Director Economic Development, Information Systems and Emergency Services said that it was clear that the key recommendations had not been recognised in the review and that on foot of this letters had been sent to the previous Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage and to the previous Minister for Agriculture together with the Northern & Western Regional Assembly highlighting the fact that none of the recommendations in the submissions to the First Revision of the National Planning Framework had been acknowledged or addressed. It was timely, he said, that a such a request be forwarded to the incoming Minister. It was important, he said, that this accelerated investment was obtained to allow the region to become a net contributor to the economy. He agreed to follow-up with a letter to the Minister for Housing, Local Government & Heritage, Mr James Browne, T.D.

Cllr Mc Monagle said it was imperative that every effort was made to lobby for the recognition of the Northwest City Region and increase the regions share of the investment and infrastructure. He said that the Government also needed to be reminded that the review did not address many of the recommendations of the cross-border dimension of Strand 2 of the Good Friday Agreement, many of which still apply, and which have implications under Brexit.

C/38/25

CONTROL OF DOGS

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

“That this Council takes action on dog owners who are not controlling their dogs properly in our communities, i.e. chasing sheep etc or are a danger to the public, children etc, and that a rule is brought in that all dogs must be on a lead while in public spaces such as towns, beaches, walks, trails etc. Also, that this motion would be passed around to all the other Council offices around Ireland.”

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

He said this was an increasing problem county-wide and that dog owners needed to take responsibility. It was a particular problem at lambing season, he noted, and there were also issues on our beaches, car-parks, forest parks etc.

It was important, he said, that there was an awareness of the problem and that a dedicated campaign was needed to ensure that dogs were kept on their leads in public places. It was noted that dog fouling had also become a major issue.

Cllr Blaney supporting the motion said that he hoped the appointment of second dog warden in the county would help the situation. It was to be noted, he said, that most dog owners were responsible and that it was a few who created the majority of the problems.

There was no opposition to the motion.

Mr Patsy Lafferty, Director of Housing, Corporate & Cultural Services provided a summary of his response, and an overview of the mechanisms used by the Dog Wardens for the control of dogs including the appropriate actions taken.

Cllr Mc Clafferty welcomed the response and outlined the need for common sense in dealing with the problem.

C/39/25

EMIGRANTS ABROAD SHOULD BE GIVEN VOTING RIGHTS IN THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

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

"That this Council call on the Government to have our emigrants abroad be given voting rights in our Presidential election."

Cllr O' Fearraigh received a response from the Director of Housing, Corporate & Cultural Services.

He acknowledged the great work carried out by President Higgins and said that it was very important that Irish Emigrants were given the vote for the next presidential election.

Cllr Mc Mahon supporting the motion said that Irish people were scattered all over the world with many thousands undocumented in the USA. The right to vote, he said, would mean a lot to people in this situation. He alluded also to the fact that those living in the six counties did not have a vote and cited the need for an All-Ireland jurisdiction.

There was no opposition to the motion.

Mr Patsy Lafferty, Director of Housing, Corporate & Cultural Services said that in order to vote in a presidential election you had to be 18 or over, an Irish citizen and ordinarily resident in Ireland. He said that the detail of the motion would be forwarded to the Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage.

C/40/25

RENTAL COSTS DEFECTIVE CONCRETE BLOCKS FAMILIES

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

"That the Council advocate for a scheme to be put in place to incentivise landlords to rent to families who have defective block homes and need temporary accommodation."

There are already financial incentives in place for landlords to house certain cohorts. It is imperative that we put similar incentives in place in order to assist those who have already experienced the trauma of living in a defective block home, to get accommodation when it is required.

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

He noted that there were already financial incentives in place for landlords to house certain cohorts. It was imperative, he said, that similar incentives were put in place in place to assist those living in defective block homes, secure accommodation when required. He said that a proactive approach was needed to deal with high rental prices and assist families in this situation.

Cllr A Farren said that a dedicated scheme was needed and would be a positive step in assisting families who had to move out of their properties.

There was no opposition to the motion.

Mr Michael Mc Garvey, Director of Service said that correspondence would issue to the Minister as requested.

Cllr Mc Gee welcomed the response and asked that it be forwarded as a matter of urgency.

C/41/25

MEANS ALLOWANCE - SOCIAL HOUSING APPLICANTS

It was resolved to deal with Motions 19 and 20 collectively.

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

"To ask Donegal Co Council to contact the new Minister for Housing and demand that they raise the means allowance substantially for applicants of social housing". The current means allowance is too low which is blocking people from getting on the housing list and availing of housing supports when they can't afford the exorbitant rents which are being charged and can't get a mortgage and is leading to the risk of homelessness.

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

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

The current means allowance, he advised was too low and prevented people from getting on the housing list and availing of housing supports. They could not, he advised, afford the exorbitant rents which are being charged and many were unable to secure a mortgage all of which led to the risk of homelessness. The cost of living and a huge increase in private rental costs all contributed to the problem, he added. Many people on the lower scale of the minimum wage, he advised, were caught in this trap and unable to get on the property ladder. He cited the need for a substantial increase in the income limits to assist people in this situation.

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

"I am submitting this motion calling on this Council to write to both incoming Ministers for Social Protection and Housing calling for an urgent review on the threshold rates at which persons are allowed to be placed on the housing list."

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

Cllr Scanlon said that there was an anomaly in that people on the minimum wage could not avail of any additional working hours as the increase would put them over the income threshold for social housing and knock them off the waiting list.

There was no opposition to the motions.

Mr Patsy Lafferty, Director Housing, Corporate & Cultural Services said that the response provided gave a detailed overview of the relevant thresholds.

Cllr Brogan said that the threshold needed to be urgently reviewed, and the relevant supports provided.

C/42/25

SUSTAINABLE GROWTH OF THE GAELTACHT COMMUNITIES

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

"Go dtacaíonn an comhairle seo le go gcuirfear Straitéis Daonra agus Tithíochta Gaeltachta le chéile do gach Limistéar Pleanála Teanga Gaeltachta le spriocanna soiléire, intomhaiste a leagadh amach chun fás inbhuanaithe na bpobal Gaeltachta a chinntiú, agus soláthar cuí tithíochta a chinntiú chun tacú leis an bhfás sin."

"That this Council supports that a Gaeltacht Population and Housing Strategy be drawn up for each Gaeltacht Language Planning Area"

with clear, measurable targets set out to ensure the sustainable growth of the Gaeltacht communities, and to ensure an appropriate supply of housing to support that growth."

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

Cllr Nic Mheanman highlighted the fact that there was a lack of service provision in Gaeltacht areas and that this had impacted on rural communities and forced young people to emigrate. Schools, Post Offices, local community services, she said, were all disappearing.

Thus, she called on the Council to develop a policy to support housing in Gaeltacht areas and to encourage people in these areas to keep the Irish language alive.

Cllr O' Fearraigh concurred and said that current Government housing policy was having a negative impact in these areas and on the people who lived there. It was imperative, he said, that a language policy was adhered to as locals were unable to buy houses because of the high prices and were effectively priced out of the housing market. The absence of a language impact assessment was also a major issue, he added.

There was no opposition to the motion.

Mr Eunan Quinn, Senior Planner said that there was a policy context in the Development Plan process with ongoing submissions and discussions with the Irish language organisations in Donegal. He said that the Council's own Oifigeach na Gaeilge had advocated for the adoption of and increase in the percentage rates and uptakes for the allocation of housing. It was essential, he added, that local schools and services were retained and that the land use planning needs of the Gaeltacht were reviewed on a regular basis.

Cllr Nic Mheanman welcomed the response.

C/43/25

COUNCIL'S CURRENT STRATEGIC AND SPECIFIC ROADS GRANTS

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

"That a full report is presented to this full Council meeting on the Council's current Strategic and Specific Roads Grants priority list that was agreed by this Council along with projects that have been completed or are being progressed at present and include whatever criteria was used to select."

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

Cllr Mc Gowan noted that in 2020 there had been intense consultation with the aim of drawing up a priority list for strategic roads projects

He referenced the road adjacent to St Mary's National School in Stranorlar up by the Mill Brae and Mc Clays Corner which is going to act as a western link to the town. This road he said would have increased significance when the Bypass is built and that there had been a number of accidents. Stranorlar, he said, had one of the most badly laid out junctions in the country.

He asked that detail be circulated in relation to any relevant correspondence with the Department, and that the roads included on the Strategic & Specific Roads Grants priority list be included on the agenda of any future meetings with the Department.

He cited the need to prioritise the top 3 to 7 roads which had been included on the list initially and said that the urgency to upgrade same still existed.

Cllr Coyle supporting the motion acknowledged the implications for the county as a whole.

There was no opposition to the motion.

Mr Bryan Cannon, Director Roads & Transportation alluded to his response and the overview provided in relation to several projects county-wide. He said that a number of the projects on the list had progressed with funding from other sources. It was acknowledged that in the case of each of the projects on the priority list a business case had been submitted and a project appraisal form forwarded to the Department in accordance with the requirements of the Public Spending Code.

The list he advised could be revisited in terms of tapping into the various other funding streams and brought to the attention of the Minister at any future delegation meetings.

Cllr Mc Gowan whilst welcoming the response said the fact remained that the number 1 project on the list had not to date received any funding from this or any other source.

C/44/25

DEFECTIVE CONCRETE BLOCKS

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

In 2024 houses were being built in Donegal that have defective concrete in them and in approximately 15 years these new homes will be crumbling down just like the homes that are covered by the present "Redress" scheme. Every person buying or building a home deserves to know that the products are fit for purpose. At present we can't be sure a home, or any building will last because of the lack of regulation!

“I am asking that this new government immediately put into place regulations to ensure block manufacturers produce products fit for purpose and to protect homeowners or any buyer of concrete products.

We also need the Co Council to be able to visit quarries and test blocks before they are used.

People cannot afford to invest in Donegal if they can't be guaranteed that their homes will last and that they won't have to go through the torture many of us are going through for the last 14 plus years.”

Cllr Farren advised that his first motion of 2025 is very urgent, we need to write to the National Standards Association, the Taoiseach, the Minister of Housing and both ministers of Finance (I would request this motion be sent to all TD's as it's so important they all understand how useless the present regulations are and that they have duty of care to all the people of this country)

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

Cllr Farren said it was extremely important that all TDs received a copy of the motion given the need to ensure that people were familiar with the fact that there were still ongoing issues in terms of the quality and suitability of concrete products on general. The whole aspect of Market Surveillance needed to be reviewed, he added and a system in place to ensure that the final product was fit for purpose.

Cllr Mc Gee supporting the motion said that the issue was lack of oversight and that quarries should have been closed until it was clear what was going on. It was essential, he said, that anyone building today had clarity in relation to the issues. They needed, he advised, to have confidence in the products that they were using. A proper standard and comprehensive market surveillance was the key to sorting the problem, he contended.

Cllr Mc Clafferty said that he agreed with the sentiment of the motion but was unable to support same in light of a serious issue in the Glenties MD.

It was agreed to defer the motion to later in the meeting.

C/45/25

REVIEW OF THE DEFECTIVE CONCRETE BLOCKS SCHEME

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

“With the new Government in place, this motion calls on the Executive of Donegal County Council to write to the leaders of Fianna Fáil and Fine Gael reminding them of their respective commitments to voters to hold a review into the Defective Concrete Blocks Scheme within months of the general election, and to liaise with the members of the Defective Concrete

Blocks Committee to draft a detailed submission to that review outlining the concerns that members have about the workings of the Scheme."

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

Cllr Beard acknowledged that there had been major flaws with the scheme initially and said that the Defective Concrete Blocks Committee was well placed to advise and provide an input into the review given the level of knowledge and first-hand experience of the situation within this grouping.

She asked that the motion be communicated to the relevant political groupings as requested.

Cllr Devine outlined his support for the motion and said that it was also important that the Minister for Housing, Local Government & Heritage, Mr James Browne T.D. was invited to meet with members to discuss the situation.

There was no opposition to the motion.

Mr Michael Mc Garvey, Director of Service said that the motion would be forwarded to the parties referenced in the motion.

C/46/25

INFORMATION DAY FOR PROFESSIONALS AND BUILDERS IN RELATION TO THE FILLING IN OF FORMS FOR THE DEFECTIVE CONCRETE BLOCK SCHEME

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

"To ask Donegal county council in conjunction with the Housing Agency to have an information day for professionals and builders to explain exactly what is required when filling in forms for the Defective Concrete Block Scheme."

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

Cllr Mc Dermott noted that DCB applicants were constantly getting requests for further information when it came to payment stage. Many of these, he said, involved simple issues that the assigned engineer or professional should have been able to sort. An information day, he contended, would allow all concerned to get together and serve to highlight what exactly was required in terms of the designated forms, the breakdown of information required, and clarity as to who should sign and where. This was something, he said, that needed to be done sooner rather than later and would assist in speeding up the payment process.

Cllr Canning supporting the motion said a similar initiative had been taken in relation to planning issues a number of years ago and had worked well.

It was important, he added, that builders were aware of what they were signing off on and the implications of same. The importance of checking blocks and concrete materials prior to and during construction was something that needed to be emphasised, he added. Other aspects such as signing off on cube and sump tests, it was acknowledged, needed to be clarified and the importance of same highlighted. He noted that in some cases professionals from other jurisdictions were working on the applications and that they at times viewed the criteria from a different perspective. It was imperative, he said, that each professional knew exactly what they were responsible for as there was no room for error going forward.

There was no opposition to the motion.

Mr Michael Mc Garvey, Director , Director of Water & Environment, alluded to his response and the fact that Donegal County Council's responsibility lay in administering the scheme on behalf of the Department. Responsibility for all engineering and technical aspects, he advised, lay with the homeowners competent Building Professional or with the Housing Agency. Engagement, he stated, had taken place with the Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage regarding a training programme for Competent Building Professionals under the Enhanced DCB Scheme. He cited the necessity of this being centrally led and said that there was ongoing engagement with the Department in relation to same and that an update would be provided to the DCB Committee.

Cllr Mc Dermott responding said that the Council was the main cog in terms of the processing of payments and analysing whether or not the paperwork was correct. In this respect, he emphasised, the need for the Council to take the lead as soon as possible and referenced the fact that neither the Department nor the Housing Agency had shown any interest in providing the required training.

C/47/25

**EXTEND AND INCLUDE ADDITIONAL ELECTORAL AREAS
ENABLING THEIR ELIGIBILITY AND ACCESS FOR FUNDING FROM
THE CLAR PROGRAMME**

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

"That Donegal County Council calls on the Minister and Department of Rural and Community Development and/or relevant Dept in the new Government to designate, extend and include additional electoral areas enabling their eligibility and access for funding from the CLAR Programme".

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

Cllr Doherty said that the CLÁR Programme effectively benefitted weaker areas where there was a singular great need and was delivered through

the Local Authority in consultation with Schools, local and voluntary groups and the Local Development Companies and was an effective support unit for many local areas. He said that there were a significant number of areas in electoral districts in Inishowen which could be included in any extension of eligibility. Reference was made to areas such as Glentogher, Carndonagh, Cloontagh, Glassalts, Rasheeny, Gaddyduff, Drumfries and the Illies. On foot of a previous motion, it was noted, that a request for the extension of CLÁR areas in Donegal had been submitted to the Department in 2022 following the extensive review carried out in 2021 to no avail.

Given that the new Draft Programme for Government had referenced the need to include rural areas previously ineligible, he cited the need to bring the matter to the attention of the Minister for Rural & Community Development & the Gaeltacht, Mr Dara Calleary, T.D. This, he contended, was also something that needed to be followed up on by the local Oireachtas members.

Cllr Nic Mheanman concurred with this and said that there were similar discrepancies in the Lifford/Stranorlar MD.

There was no opposition to the motion.

The Chief Executive said that correspondence would issue as requested reflecting members contributions.

C/48/25

PRIORITISATION OF THE ACQUISITION AND CONSTRUCTION OF HOMES THROUGHOUT DONEGAL FOR THOSE WITH DISABILITIES

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

“That this council will prioritise the acquisition and construction of homes throughout County Donegal, specifically to be allocated to those with disabilities, in order to allow them to reside in their own community; and that this prioritisation would include the allocation of houses within planned housing developments, as well as seeking houses on the open market which would be suitable for such citizens.”

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

Cllr Murray said this was something that all nine members in Inishowen were in agreement with following a recent meeting with a concerned parent in Inishowen. He welcomed the comprehensive response which had focused on physical and sensory disabilities. The case in question, he said, involved a child with an intellectual disability whose mother was seriously concerned that further down the road her daughter might have to be housed elsewhere. The Inishowen members, he said, had advocated the need to construct houses suitable for people with disabilities and of the need to assign a specific number of houses in large scale development for

this category of applicant. The need to actively look at houses on the market and vacant properties was also highlighted.

He advised of the need for information from the Disability Housing Steering Group to be disseminated to all members and the issue highlighted above followed up through all appropriate channels.

Cllr Canning alluding to the response said that in his opinion Donegal County Council had the capability and the personnel to take a project to planning application stage and thus earmark a piece of ground for this type of development. He noted the requirement to liaise with the HSE but advocated that where there was no commitment or response, the Council should proceed to move and put a shovel ready project in place which could be amended then as required.

There was no opposition to the motion.

Mr Patsy Lafferty, Director Housing, Corporate & Cultural Services said that the Council did engage with a range of other agencies and the HSE through the Disability Housing Steering Group. This, he said, steered our own housing delivery and the builds on our own land. Efforts were made, he said, to secure housing for families with specific needs.

In relation to Group Homes, he said, that one was to be provided in the new Social Housing development at Rockytown in Buncrana. The process for same, he said, involved more than the Local Authority and that they through the Department sourced the funds to build such projects but could only get such approval when there was confirmation that the HSE were going to cover the running costs.

He said that the Council were open to taking on board the concerns raised by members and cited the possibility of providing same possibly under the Part 8 process.

Cllr Murray welcomed the comments and the Group Home initiative in the Rockytown development. He cited the need for a follow-up meeting with the Disability Housing Steering Group in relation to the matters raised.

C/49/25

**COMPLETE AUDIT OF ALL THE ESTATES AFFECTED BY
OVERGROWN TREES**

Cllr Canning submitted the following motion:

“I would ask that the housing section of this council carries out a complete audit of all of the estates that are affected by overgrown trees that could and will create a hazard into the future insofar as branches falling off damaging solar panels, roofs along with the possibility of a danger to children at play with a view to managing the overgrowth of these trees.”

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

Cllr Canning said that he wished also to include a reference to overgrown and dangerous trees along main roads and thus on the proposal of Cllr Canning, seconded by Cllr Kelly it was resolved to adopt the following motion:-

I would ask that the housing section of this council carries out a complete audit of all of the estates that are affected by overgrown trees that could and will create a hazard into the future insofar as branches falling off damaging solar panels, roofs along with the possibility of a danger to children at play with a view to managing the overgrowth of these trees and to carry out an audit on main roads of trees that are potentially dangerous."

Farmers, he said, had been encouraged for environmental reasons and under the Habitats Directives not to cut hedges/trees in between their fields and along the roads. 90% of these trees were now causing the problem for the ESB, he noted. There were issues here, he said, and welcomed the fact that a team was to be set up to liaise with the ESB.

He alluded to a motion submitted previously and said that a budget was needed to cover the cost of installing generators when retrofitting social housing development. It was further suggested that Uisce Éireann be contacted in relation to the installation of generators at the various pumping stations so as to prevent water outages during and after power cuts.

Cllr Kelly said the motion was timely given that more storms were predicted and cited to the need to be prepared for these type of weather events. He said that this was something that could be brought up at the next Agriculture Committee meeting and that correspondence should issue from this forum asking the Minister for Agriculture, Food & Fisheries, and the Marine, Mr Martin Heydon, T.D. to look at introducing incentives to encourage farmers to cut trees, hedges and overgrowth along roadsides and verges.

There was no opposition to the motion.

Mr Patsy Lafferty, Director Housing, Corporate & Cultural Services stated that there was ongoing maintenance of estates and that this involved an assessment of the general overall condition of Council estates. Any concerns in relation to the potential risk of trees, he said, should be reported to the local Housing Office who would arrange for the appropriate follow-up.

Cllr Canning in conclusion advocated the need to address issues such as the location and the amount of trees in an estate at the planning application stage.

THAT THE COUNCIL CONDEMNS, REJECTS AND OPPOSES ANY AND ALL FORMS OF VIOLENCE, BULLYING, HARASSMENT, INTIMIDATION AND HARANGUING DIRECTED TOWARDS ANY POLITICIANS AND THEIR FAMILIES

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

“That this Council condemns, rejects, and opposes any and all forms of violence, bullying, harassment, intimidation and haranguing directed towards any politician or candidate who runs for public office, or towards their family, friends, associates, canvassers or staff. To also condemn damage to their property, assets, or vehicles. That we shall endeavour to foster an environment of respect towards each other, towards members of the Oireachtas and all those who are candidates for public office.”

Cllr Bradley said that politicians by the very nature of the job put themselves in the public eye. He noted that a recent report by the UCD Centre for Digital Policy had found that 94% of politicians and 72% of political staff had encountered some form of abuse in the course of their work.

TDs and Senators had indicated that 67% of this abuse was in relation to immigration issues and 40% associated with housing and homelessness issues. Political staff had a rate of 46% and 40% respectively.

A point to note, he advised was the fact that 46% of Oireachtas members had indicated that they avoided a specific policy issue due to harassment and were afraid to discuss or highlight same.

73% of Oireachtas members, it was acknowledged, had received abuse on social media. A third of those surveyed, he noted, had received abuse at a social event or in the course of their daily work. 28% of political staff, he added, had been abused in their offices.

He referenced also the abuse directed at politicians when canvassing and noted that there had been 36 incidents reported nationally in terms of the destruction of posters during the 2024 Local Election. There had been, he added 55 such occurrences during the recent general election with 90% of these related to social media.

He said that the aim of his motion was to highlight the situation and convey the fact that this type of behaviour was totally unacceptable in any forum.

Cllr Brogan supporting the motion said that the facts had been well outlined and said that mutual respect was the key issue here.

C/51/25

DEFECTIVE CONCRETE BLOCKS REGULATIONS

Reverting to Cllr A Farrens earlier motion, Cllr Mc Clafferty said that he still had an issue and was looking for evidence and results of the tests that proved that the blocks being used at present were fit for purpose.

Cllr Mc Monagle noted that the Senior Executive Engineer, Housing had confirmed at the Special Meeting on the 22nd January that the Council carried out a test at the point of manufacture, on site and also at a later stage in the process in line with the standard set by Donegal County Council.

Cllr Mc Gee said that it was imperative that a test was carried out on the stone in the quarry and the results made available in the interest of transparency.

The Chief Executive alluded to the fact that the motion had asked for five specific letters to issue and that this would be followed up on. Referencing the reply, he alluded to the fact that where there was an issue in terms of non-compliance as the option existed to report same to the Market Surveillance Authority for follow-up. The Council, he said, was not the Quality Controller for block making but would follow-up in terms of its market surveillance obligations. He alluded also to the fact that the Senior Housing Engineer had also clearly outlined previously that the Council had increased the standard for its own social housing developments in the absence of the new national standard for concrete products.

Cllr Mc Clafferty said he was not happy with the response and had concerns in relation to the Respond development in Dungloe.

Cllr Mc Dermott said that the motion as submitted by Cllr A Farren was an excellent one, but that Cllr Mc Clafferty had made an important point in terms of what was happening in Donegal. Thus, he said, it was important that every effort was made to get the Department and the National Standards Authority to speed up the process and produce a suitable national standard for concrete products and give clear direction on this very serious issue.

The scheme, he advised, clearly stated that it was the applicant's responsibility to ensure that the blocks they were using were fit for purpose in the same way that the Council had to determine same for its social housing developments.

The Cathaoirleach at this juncture noted that the motion had been proposed and seconded and said that specific issues could be debated outside of the meeting.

C/52/25

MEMBERSHIP OF THE STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEES 2024-2029

Mr Patsy Lafferty, Director Housing, Corporate & Cultural Services said that there had been considerable engagement during the course of the

meeting with the various political groupings. He said that the SPC Chairs had been agreed at a previous meeting as outlined below:

- Roads & Transportation – Cllr Noel Jordan
- Housing & Corporate – Cllr Liam Blaney
- Community Social, Cultural & the Gaeltacht – Cllr Donal M Kelly
- Planning – Cllr Gerry Mc Monagle
- Climate Action & the Environment – Cllr Michael Mc Clafferty
- Economic Development, Enterprise & Emergency Services – Cllr Pauric Mc Garvey

On the proposal of Cllr C Brogan, seconded by Cllr Mc Gowan it was resolved to appoint the following to the **Roads & Transportation SPC**.

Sectoral

Gareth Whitmore – Irish Farmers Association
Bernard O’ Donnell – Construction Industry Federation
George Mills – Public Private Network

Elected Members

Cllr Martin Harley
Cllr Pauric Mc Garvey
Cllr Michael Mc Clafferty
Cllr Terry Crossan
Cllr Brian Carr
Cllr Martin Farren
Cllr Patrick Mc Gowan
Cllr Micheál Naughton
Cllr Denis Mc Gee
Cllr Noel Jordan (Chair)

On the proposal of Cllr Mc Clafferty, seconded by Cllr Scanlon it was resolved to appoint the following to the **Housing & Corporate SPC**.

Sectoral

John Sweeney – Irish Farmers Association
John Gildea – Construction Industry Federation
Marie Little – Irish Congress of Trade Unions
Hugh Friel – Public Participation Network

Elected Members

Cllr Manus Boyle
Cllr Martin Scanlon
Cllr Albert Doherty
Cllr Dakota Nic Mheanman
Cllr Terry Crossan
Cllr Declan Meehan
Cllr Joy Beard
Cllr Micháel Cholm Mac Giolla Easbuig
Cllr Martin Mc Dermott

Cllr Fionán Bradley
Cllr Liam Blaney (Chair)

On the proposal of Cllr Mc Monagle, seconded by Cllr Bradley it was resolved to appoint the following to **the Community, Social, Cultural & Gaeltacht SPC**.

Sectoral

Kevin Mc Caul – Irish Congress Trade Unions
Sile Uí Ghallachóir - Public Participation Network
Charles Awari - Public Participation Network
Rachel Grant - Public Participation Network

Elected Members

Cllr Jimmy Kavanagh
Cllr Niamh Kennedy
Cllr Jack Murray
Cllr Terry Crossan
Cllr Brian Barr
Cllr Donal Coyle
Cllr Anthony Molloy
Cllr Declan Meehan
Cllr Ali Farren
Cllr Donal Mandy Kelly (Chair)

On the proposal of Cllr C Brogan, seconded by Cllr Mc Monagle it was resolved to appoint the following to the **Planning SPC**.

Sectoral

Frank Clean – Irish farmers Association
Dessie Dorrian – Construction Industry Federation
Vincent Callaghan - Public Participation Network
Ann Mc Gowan - Public Participation Network

Elected Members

Cllr Manus Boyle
Cllr Albert Doherty
Cllr Michael Mc Mahon
Cllr Martin Scanlon
Cllr Paul Canning
Cllr Micheál Naughton
Cllr Tomás Seán Devine
Cllr Gerry Mc Monagle (Chair)

On the proposal of Cllr Mc Clafferty, seconded by Cllr Mc Dermott it was resolved to appoint the following to the **Climate Action & Environment SPC**.

Sectoral

Michael Chance - Irish Farmers Association

Liam Gallagher - Construction Industry Federation
Toni Devine - Public Participation Network

Elected Members

Cllr Martin Harley
Cllr Martin Scanlon
Cllr Martin Farren
Cllr Brian Carr
Cllr Gary Doherty
Cllr Noel Jordan
Cllr Terry Crossan
Cllr Ciaran Brogan
Cllr Michael Mc Clafferty (Chair)

On the proposal of Cllr Mc Bride, seconded by Cllr O' Fearraigh it was resolved to appoint the following to the **Economic Development, Enterprise & Emergency Services SPC**.

Sectoral

Joe Sweeney – Irish Farmers Association
Michael Kelly - Construction Industry Federation
Martin O' Rourke – Irish Congress Trade Unions
Martina Mc Ginty - Public Participation Network
Hazel Russell - Public Participation Network

Elected Members

Cllr Martin Harley
Cllr Jimmy Kavanagh
Cllr Niamh Kennedy
Cllr Albert Doherty
Cllr Terry Crossan
Cllr Michael Mc Mahon
Cllr Michael Mc Clafferty
Cllr Jimmy Brogan
Cllr Donal Mandy Kelly
Cllr Martin Mc Dermott
Cllr Michael Mc Bride
Cllr Pauric Mc Garvey (Chair)

C/53/25

**ESTABLISHMENT OF LOCAL COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP -
NOMINATION OF SEVEN MEMBERS FROM DONEGAL COUNTY
COUNCIL**

Cllr C Brogan proposed Cllrs Canning and Coyle on behalf of the Fianna Fáil grouping.

Cllr Mc Monagle proposed Cllrs Nic Mhenaman and Mc Monagle on behalf of the Sinn Féin grouping.

Cllr Mc Bride proposed Cllrs J Brogan and Mc Clafferty on behalf of the independent grouping.

Cllr A Farren proposed Cllr Devine on behalf of the 100% Redress grouping.

On the proposal of Cllr C Brogan , seconded by Cllr Mc Gowan it was unanimously agreed to nominate the following to serve on the new Donegal Local Community Safety Partnership.

Cllrs Canning, Coyle, Nic Mheanman, Mc Monagle, J Brogan, Mc Clafferty & Devine.

C/54/25

CATHAOIRLEACH'S BUSINESS

Votes of Sympathy

A vote of sympathy was extended to the following:

- Allison Steele, Planning, on the death of her father, Ernie Steele.
- Julie Corry, Biodiversity Officer, on the death of her mother, Gabrielle Farrell.
- Paul Christy, formerly Planning on the death of his brother, Aidan.
- Seamus Canning, Housing & Corporate, Letterkenny on the death of his mother, Mary.
- The family of the late Patsy Duffy, Stranorlar.
- Deputy Marian Harkin on the death of her mother, Annie.
- The family of the late Kacper Dudek, Lifford.
- The family of the late David Magee, formerly Manager at Fort Dunree.

Civic Reception

On the proposal of Cllr Bradley, seconded by Cllr Farren it was resolved to afford a Civic Reception to Naomh Padraig Uisce Chaoín on their outstanding achievement in winning the Ulster Junior Championships

Epilepsy Awareness

The Cathaoirleach drew attention to the fact that National Epilepsy was on the 10th February and cited the need to promote the promotion of “Time, Safe, Stay” as the three words for seizure response”.

The following motion was unanimously agreed:

“That this Council calls on the Chief Executive to recognise the estimated 1400 people who live with epilepsy in Donegal and the 45,000 people who live with epilepsy nationally by writing to the Minister for Health Jennifer Carroll MacNeill, T.D. calling for the implementation of the World Health Organisation’s Intersectoral Global Action Plan on epilepsy and other neurological conditions, seeking that an implementation plan be developed by the Department of Health, and that action is taken on Epilepsy Ireland’s specific priorities within the plan and that the Council acknowledges Epilepsy Ireland’s awareness raising efforts on International Epilepsy Day, and that the promotion of “Time, Safe, Stay” as the three words for seizure response”.

Domestic Violence Awareness Campaign

The Cathaoirleach informed members that it was intended to hold an awareness event/concert highlighting domestic violence in An Grianan Theatre on the 18th April. This she said was a very serious issue and it was important that issues were highlighted. It was noted that refuge facilities were scarce throughout the county and that it was imperative that all was done to secure adequate funding and the provision of suitable accommodation. Funding, she said, needed to be sought nationally to address the deficiencies.

C/55/25

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S MANAGEMENT REPORT

Members considered the report circulated with agenda together with the addendum dated the 27th January 2025 and received an update in relation to the following:

1. Community Development & Planning Services

Community Development

Local Enhancement Programme 2025

Planning Services

- Development Applications Unit
- E-Planning
- Enforcement
- Planning Policy
- Conservation Services

Urban & Rural Regeneration and Development

- Rural Regeneration and Development Fund
- Urban Regeneration and Development Fund
- Croi Conaithe Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant Scheme

Capital Projects Delivery Unit and Taking in Charge of Housing Estates

Division

- Major Projects
- Taking in Charge of Private Housing Estates

Refugee Response Unit

- Offer a Home
- Local Authority Integration Team (LAIT)

2. Water and Environment

Facilities Management

- Clonleigh House

Climate Action

- Sustainable Energy Community-Pettigo
- Climate Action Plan Implementation
- Communities Caring for Water Conference 2024

Environment

- Natural Christmas Tree Recycling

Defective Concrete Blocks - Update

3. Housing, Corporate & Cultural Services

Social Housing Delivery

- Social Housing Delivery Programme
- Land Acquisition
- Social Housing through Turnkey Acquisition

Donegal County Council Acquisitions 2024

Current Housing Stock

Energy Efficiency Retrofit Programme

Library Service

County Donegal Heritage Office

Regional Cultural Centre

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

Fire Service

- Major Emergency Management

Civil Defence

6. Roads & Transportation

- Central Technical Services
- Roads Area Update
- National Roads Office Update

C/56/25

STORM ÉOWYN UPDATE

Mr Liam Ward, Director Community Development & Planning Services said that he had in the course of the day attended two meetings and one through the Office of Local Government Chief Executives had advocated the setting up of Local Co-ordination Groups in every county bringing together the various agencies, voluntary and community groups to assist and respond in the aftermath of the storm. An invite had issued, he advised the previous evening and a meeting with all the relevant agencies locally had just concluded. He said that there had been an excellent response and an that an update had been provided by all the stakeholders involved. He acknowledged the many community and sporting organisations together with various commercial entities who had made their premises available to the general public.

It was not intended, he said, to set up any additional community hubs but that a map had been circulated highlighting those in operation and additional facilities could be put in place if needed.

A follow-up meeting, he advised, was planned and said that members could contact him if they became aware of any member of the public needing assistance.

The Chief Executive noted that specific queries could be directed to the dedicated email address humanitarianassistance@donegalcoco.ie

Cllr Mc Gowan said the main issues had been power outages and the fact that the Uisce Éireann did not have generators to ensure that water pumping stations remained operational. There were issues, he said, where those that were most vulnerable were not able to be moved and this combined with no dedicated backup for Air to Water heating systems had caused considerable problems. He said it was essential that a plan was put in place to deal with situations such as these going forward.

Mr Liam Ward, Director Community Development & Planning Services advised that a vulnerable person's register was maintained with an input from the HSE and the Gardaí. Any concerns, he advised, could be forwarded to the email address alluded to above and would be checked against the register in question and responded to as appropriate.

The Chief Executive said that the Air to Water issue, was a national issue and not unique to Donegal and that there had to be collective approach to looking at alternative options in emergency situations.

Cllr J Brogan said that over the course of the weekend, he had difficulty in getting through to ESB personnel with calls directed to the 1800 number. Councillors, he advised, needed access to the relevant personnel so that they could relay information to the community in general during such emergencies.

The following questions were noted

C/57/25

UPDATE ON ALL TEST RESULTS AND TESTS CARRIED OUT ON ALL SOCIAL HOMES BEING BUILT IN DONEGAL

Cllr Devine submitted the following question:-

Can I get an update on all test results and tests carried out on all social homes being built in Donegal, and can we get an update on the 14 Cluid houses in Letterkenny?

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

C/58/25

HOW MANY HOUSING APPLICANTS HAVE WE DESIGNATED AS IN NEED OF A FIVE BEDROOM HOUSE OR HIGHER

Cllr McMonagle submitted the following question:-

How many housing applicants have we across the five MDs designated as in need of a five bedroom house or higher as per each MD and can I be informed as to how many five bed houses have, we built or purchased in each MD since 2019?

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

C/59/25 **HOW MANY HOUSE PURCHASE REQUESTS HAVE BEEN SENT TO THE DEPARTMENT**

Cllr McMonagle submitted the following question:-

How many house purchase requests have been sent to the Department of Housing since 2019, how many of those requests were signed off on by the Department and finally is there a ceiling/policy from the Department on how many house purchases that they will sign off on for the County per annum?

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

C/60/25 **UNFINISHED HOUSING ESTATES UPDATE**

Cllr Devine submitted the following question:-

Can I get an update on what unfinished estates the council are planning to take over this year?

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

C/61/25 **UPDATED REPORT ON OUR DERELICT SITE REGISTRATION**

Cllr C Brogan submitted the following question:-

Can we have an updated report on our derelict site registration across all our Municipal districts and the number of CPOs we have instigated ?

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

C/62/25 **UPDATE ON THE TEN-T PROJECT**

Cllr Coyle submitted the following question:-

Can I have an update and proposed timeline for the TEN-T Project?

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

C/63/25 **UPDATE ON THE TEN-T PROJECT**

Cllr C Brogan submitted the following question:-

Can we have an updated report on the current status of the Ten-T project including the Bonagee Relief Road - Manorcunningham to Lifford and the Ballybofey-Stranolar By-pass?

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

C/64/25 **NTA ACTIVE TRAVEL**

Cllr Brogan submitted the following question:-

Can we have a breakdown of the actual schedule of works planned for this year from the recent allocation from the NTA active travel?

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

C/65/25

DOG CONTROL

Cllr McClafferty submitted the following question:-

Can I get a report of how many dog attacks happened in Ireland and in this county in the last 10 years on sheep or other livestock that we have recorded. Also,

- How many humans were attacked by Dogs in the last 10 years?*
- How many dogs have the Council put down over the last 10 years please?*

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

C/66/25

ACTIVE TRAVEL

Cllr McGowan submitted the following question:-

Can I have a copy of all the Active Travel applications under consideration and at early stages of planning across the County? Has there been a recent change as to how Active Travel projects are currently being prioritised and can I get an list of the latest list that was sent to the Department for consideration along with an explanation on how this list was created?

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

C/67/25

UPDATE ON MY EARLIER Q&M, CCTV FOR BALLYBOFEY & STRANORLAR

Cllr McGowan submitted the following question:-

Can I have an update on my earlier Q&M, CCTV for Ballybofey and Stranorlar and Letterkenny, what is the reason for the long delay?

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

C/68/25

GOVERNMENT SCHEME FOR THE REMEDIATION OF SOCIAL HOMES IN DONEGAL

Cllr A Doherty submitted the following question:-

Government Scheme for the Remediation of Social Homes in Donegal.

Following the meeting on Dec 5th last between the Council delegation and the Department of Housing officials in Dublin, will the Council now make early contact with the Minister and Department of Housing highlighting and demanding an urgent need for the putting in place of the scheme for the Remediation of Social Homes in Donegal?

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

C/69/25 **HOW MANY QUARRY INSPECTIONS WERE UNDERTAKEN IN 2024**
Cllr Beard submitted the following question:-

During the year ending 31st December 2024, in its role as Market Surveillance Authority, how many quarry inspections were undertaken by members of the Council's staff and what testing was carried out during each visit?

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

C/70/25 **PROPOSED DALRIDIAN GOLD MINE PROJECT IN THE SPERRIN MOUNTAINS, CO. TYRONE**
Cllr Beard submitted the following question:-

In light of the public inquiry into the proposed Dalridian Gold Mine project in the Sperrin mountains, County Tyrone, being suspended, does the Council intend to hold a workshop for elected members to outline its position and the potential implications for Donegal if planning is approved?

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

C/71/25 **TRANSBOUNDARY STATUS APPLICATION RECEIPT AND RESPONSES.**
Cllr A Doherty submitted the following question

*Transboundary Status application receipt and responses.
What correspondence has DCC received from the Dept. of Infrastructure relating to the application to further develop mining in the Sperrins ? When was the correspondence received and to whom was the correspondence addressed?
What responses to date have DCC forwarded to DFI?
Following the publication of a public notice by DCC on the application, how many responses/submissions were received and where are they currently located?
What presence, engagement and participation to date have DCC Officials and or Council legal representatives had at the planning enquiry in Omagh?(Now suspended)*

What related actions are necessary and expected from DCC when the planning enquiry resumes?

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

C/72/25 **UPDATE ON THE LIVE APPLICATIONS WHICH THIS COUNCIL HAS SUBMITTED FOR FUNDING UNDER THE LSSIF**

Cllr Bradley submitted the following question:-

What update, if any, has been received from the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport in relation to live applications which this Council has submitted for funding under the LSSIF?

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

C/73/25 **DEFECTIVE CONCRETE BLOCKS**

Cllr Murray submitted the following question:-

Can this council provide a liaison person, dedicated to answering queries from competent building professionals in relation to defective block grant queries, rather than have them wait for responses from the central helpdesk, as this could help address queries or issues in a more timely manner and help streamline the process?

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

C/74/25 **AMOUNT OF FUNDING DOES THE COUNCIL ANTICIPATE IT WILL RECEIVE IN 2025 FOR THE LIS PROGRAMME WITHIN THE COUNTY**

Cllr Bradley submitted the following:-

“To ask the Director for Roads what amount of funding the Council anticipates it will receive from the Department of Transport in 2025 for the LIS programme within the County.”

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

C/75/25 **MOTIONS FROM OTHER COUNCILS/BODIES**

Members noted the motions from other Councils

CLARE COUNTY COUNCIL

“That Clare County Council oppose the recent decision by the GAA, whereby children under the age of sixteen will be charged a fee to gain admittance to GAA matches, and that we call on the GAA to reverse this decision as a matter of urgency. It is also proposed that this Notice of Motion be circulated to all Local Authorities across the country.”

CLARE COUNTY COUNCIL

"We request Clare County Council to make urgent contact with the Department of Local Government regarding housing aid for Older People's Grant in connection with the exclusion of new fossil fuel boilers, oil or gas."

LEITRIM COUNTY COUNCIL

"That Minister Helen McEntee and Department of Justice give consideration to increasing the grant funding available for community groups, that will make the installation of CCTV in towns and villages viable an economically sustainable and will be significant benefit in the prevention of crime and motion circulated so that it is noted by all local authorities."

LEITRIM COUNTY COUNCIL

"That Leitrim County Council calls on the next Government and all the elected members of both Houses of the Oireachtas to pass whatever legislation necessary to hold the referendum, promised by the previous administration, to allow our diaspora to vote in the Presidential Election to be held in November of this year."

ROSCOMMON COUNTY COUNCIL

"It was agreed to write to the Taoiseach and the Tánaiste to consider in the formation of the incoming government that the matter of rural and urban isolation and loneliness is directly allocated to a Ministry."

WEXFORD COUNTY COUNCIL

"That Wexford County Council calls on Irish Public Bodies Mutual Insurances (IPB) to provide affordable underwriting options for insurance cover specifically tailored to the needs of community centres and similar community organisations and playgrounds. These centres are essential to the social fabric of our inclusion. However, rising insurance premiums are increasingly limiting the ability of community groups to operate and expand their services.

By offering more affordable insurance options, IPB could ensure community centres to continue and enhance their work without the heavy burden of unsustainable insurance costs. Wexford County Council urges IPB to consider the positive impact of such support on communities across the county and to act in the interest of promoting accessible, community-based services for all."

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Cathaoirleach:_____

Dated:_____