

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE DHUN NA nGALL

Oifig Riathóir na gCruinnithe
Aras an Chontae
Leifear
16 Iúil, 2024

FÓGRA CRUINNITHE

DO GACH BHALL DEN CHOMHAIRLE

A Chara,

Beidh Cruinniú de Chomhairle Contae Dhún na nGall ar siúl **Dé Luain, 22 Iúil 2024 ag 11.00 r.n in Áras an Chontae, Leifear.** Ta clár an chruinnithe leis seo. Seolfar nasc leictreonach chuig an chruinniú i gcomhfhreagras eile.

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

Mise, le meas

Pádraig Ó Laifearaigh
Riathóir Cruinnithe

DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

Office of Meetings Administrator
County House
Lifford
16th July, 2024

NOTICE OF MEETING

TO EACH MEMBER OF DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

Dear Councillor,

A Meeting of Donegal County Council will be held on **Monday 22nd July, 2024 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 6th of February, 2024.
- b) Confirmation of the Minutes of the Special Meeting of Donegal County Council held on the 12th of February, 2024.
- c) Confirmation of the Minutes of the Special Meeting of Donegal County Council held on the 8th of May, 2024.
- d) Confirmation of the Minutes of the May Meeting of Donegal County Council held on the 20th of May, 2024.
- e) Confirmation of the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Donegal County Council held on the 21st of June, 2024.

2. **Taking of decision pursuant to the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (Part XI), and the Planning and Development Regulations, 2001**

To approve the carrying out of works regarding the the demolition of existing derelict dwelling & construction of a two-storey apartment block containing 2 no. 2-bed apartments complete with new vehicular entrance onto Laghy Main Street, onsite parking area, connection to existing services including upgrading of storm drainage network & all associated site development works at Main Street, Laghy, Co. Donegal.

3. **Corporate**

- a) Draft Scheme for the establishment and operation of Strategic Policy Committees 2019-2024.
- b) Establishment and Election of Members to the Emergency Response Committee.
- c) Establishment and Election of Members to Coiste na Gaeilge.
- d) Establishment and Election of Members to the Islands Committee.
- e) Election of Members to the Donegal Heritage Forum.
- f) Election of Members to the Inishowen Development Partnership.
- g) Election of Members to Latch Ltd.
- h) Election of Members to Colmcille Heritage Centre.
- i) Election of Members to Erne Enterprise.
- j) Election of Members to Letterkenny Theatre Management Company Ltd.
- k) Election of Members to Ballyshannon Leisure Centre.
- l) Election of Members to Bundoran Waterworld.
- m) Election of Members to Finn Valley Leisure Centre.
- n) Election of Members to Letterkenny Sports Complex.
- o) Election of Members to Western Inter County Rail Committee.

4. **Finance**

- a) To consider and note the Audited Financial Statement (Audited) 2023.
- b) To consider and note the Local Government Audit Report on the Annual Financial Statement for 2024.

- c) To note the report from the Donegal County Council Audit Committee on its consideration of the 2023 Audited Financial Statement and Audit Report for 2023 of Donegal County Council as required by Section 121(3) of the Local Government Act, 2001 (as amended).

5. **Community Development**

Local Community Safety Partnership – Expression of Interest process for Chairperson of the Partnership.

6. **Planning**

County Donegal Development Plan, 2024-2030: “Notification of the Minister’s intention to issue a direction to Donegal County Council’.

7. **Roads & Transportation**

To approve the commencement of the public consultation process for the Draft Road Traffic (Special Speed Limits) (County of Donegal) (Amendment) Bye Laws 2024.

8. **Endorsement of Minutes**

- a) To note minutes of the meeting of the Corporate Policy Group held on the 13th May, 2024.
- b) To endorse minutes of the meeting of the County Donegal Heritage Forum held on the 11th May 2023.
- c) To endorse minutes of the meeting of the County Donegal Heritage Forum held on the 13th July 2023.
- d) To endorse minutes of the meeting of the County Donegal Heritage Forum held on the 5th October 2023.
- e) To endorse minutes of the meeting of the County Donegal Heritage Forum held on the 8th February 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).

Other

- Attendance of the A5/N2 Cross Border Committee members at a meeting with Mr John O’ Dowd MLA, Infrastructure Minister in the Northern Ireland Executive, in Aughnacloy, Co Tyrone on Monday 12th August, 2024.

Travel Abroad

- Attendance of the Cathaoirleach at the London Irish Vintage Club Day in Greenford, West London on the 8th of September, 2024.

- Attendance of the EU Cerv Project representative at the YOUth & Democracy: Empowering Europe's Next Generation Seminar in Sofia, Bulgaria from the 9th to the 12th September, 2024.
- Attendance of the CPMR representative at the 52nd CPMR General Assembly meeting in Gozo, Malta from the 2nd to the 4th of October, 2024.

MOTIONS

GLENTIES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

Defective Concrete Blocks

10. **Cllr Denis Mc Gee**

"I propose the motion that three hubs should be established in the county for all those affected by defective concrete products. These hubs should be located east, west, and central in the county. The centres should be staffed by well-informed facilitators who will have the up-to-date knowledge and resources to help the people of Donegal. The number of staff in these hubs should match the level of need required considering the large number of those that are affected by this issue".

LIFFORD/STRANORLAR MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

Finance

11. **Cllr Patrick Mc Gowan**

"That the Council Management present what plans it has to deal with allocating the council's own funding across the county following my motion earlier this year".

"That this Council agree to develop a plan to distribute Council own funding and resource to all towns and villages across the County prior to the next Council budget in October / November 2024. An agreement similar to 2014 when the then Council agreed to support former Town Councils from a sudden loss in revenue and agreed to top sliced supports in order to lessen the impact on them as they were no longer had Town Council status. This agreement by all members saw the former town councils continue to grow and benefit from that decision. A new agreement would ensure balance in the way all local towns and villages are supported based on their size so that even the smallest towns & villages receive some mainstream country wide resources".

Defective Concrete Blocks

12. **Cllr Frank Mc Brearty**

That this newly elected council calls on the Minister for Housing, Local Government & Heritage Darragh O'Brien TD, Secretary General of the Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage Mr Graham Doyle, the Minister for Justice Helen McEntee TD and Secretary General of the Department of Justice Ms Oonagh McPhilip's to ensure and put the Housing Agency on notice that if they do not desist from and reverse their unlawful actions to overturn qualified and registered I.S. 465 Chartered Engineers recommendations made on behalf of their clients "based on

science" and that the Housing Agency gives a legal undertaking that they will not ignore the science which proves that Mica and Freeze Thaw is not the cause of the Donegal defective concrete scandal incorrectly labelled as the Mica Scandal by those in power. The Engineers recommendations are legally based on scientific evidence obtained from scientific testing, especially that of Petro lab from Cornwall in the UK. The above departments must legally act before it is too late for the affected homeowners who have had their engineers' recommendations downgraded to date. The Housing Agency's illegal actions have been imposed on desperate homeowners unlawfully, which has resulted in them accepting an incorrect engineering solution forced on them because of the flawed I.S. 465 Mica protocol enforced by DCC and HA when entering both the 90/10 and now the enhanced grant schemes. The Housing Agency must act on this unlawfulness with immediate effect and do so based on the science that proves that the presence of Mica in concrete blocks and the incorrect theory that Freeze Thaw is a contributing factor in the defects identified in the Irish Mica Standard I.S. 465 Protocol used for testing is a clear breach of EU directives that have been endorsed by the NSAI in the I.S. EN 771-3:2002 standard and standards prior to this. The I.S. EN 12620:2002 standard for aggregates used in concrete is also being ignored by the Irish Mica Standard I.S. 465 protocol, which is also a clear breach of EU directives and Irish Standards that must be adhered to for concrete blocks manufactured in the Republic of Ireland. The Department must act now, and the evidence today shows that Local Authorities all over Ireland are testing all new developments under the block's standard I.S. EN 771-3 and not the Mica Standard I.S. 465. The over whelming scientific evidence of internal sulphate attack in the concrete blocks tested over the last 4 and half years is now undeniable, and this evidence is supported by the world's leading experts from around the world by way of peer review studies and peer reviewed literature published in the past and today. If the departments above do not act on this motion, then I am calling on the newly elected council to come together and take the appropriate legal action in the superior courts and do so on behalf of all those directly and indirectly affected by the defective concrete scandal labelled incorrectly as caused by Mica and Freeze Thaw.

INISHOWEN MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

Veterinary Services

13. **Cllr Terry Crossan**

"I propose that D.C.C. dog warden services are increased to include weekends and Bank Holidays. There should also be an emergency number available for out of hours requirements.

Corporate

14. **Cllr Jack Murray**

"That this Council notes the ongoing reduction in services provided by local health centres across Donegal, expresses our ongoing opposition to this

decline, and resolves to contact the Minister for Health, demanding immediate intervention to save these vital services".

Housing

15. Cllr Paul Canning

"Taking on board the New Development Plan and in particular Policy RH-P-4, I would ask that this council puts in place a plan under the remit of the Housing Capital team to look at options and proposals that will help construct social and affordable housing at locations around rural schools and rural settlements through the development of wastewater treatment facilities along with negotiations with developers to bring life back into our small rural settlements".

Defective Concrete Blocks

16. Cllr Joy Beard

"That as a matter of urgency (i) this Council engages with suppliers to explore either the purchase or leasing of modular homes and (ii) identifies suitable sites across the county to provide temporary accommodation for those availing of the Enhanced Defective Blocks Scheme and for those living in unsafe and unhealthy homes due to the presence of defective concrete".

17. Cllr Martin Mc Dermott

"To call on this Council to send letter to the Minister for Housing and the National Standards Authority requesting the immediate publication of the new standard to the replace the IS465 standard that is being used to determine the remediation options for the Defective Concrete block Scheme".

Roads & Transportation

18. Cllr Albert Doherty

"That Donegal County Council engage with RSA to establish, encourage and advance how interests that result in the provision of additional Commercial Vehicle Road Worthiness Test Operator(s) in the County can be delivered."

LETTERKENNY/MILFORD MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

Defective Concrete Blocks

19. Cllr Gerry Mc Monagle

As we are in the midst of a housing crisis with a severe shortage of social and private housing to meet the growing demand for housing in the county.

"This Council now calls on our Housing Directorate to put together a plan and an application for funding to the Minister for Housing, Darragh O'Brien for the provision of modular homes to support and house those families whose homes are to be demolished due to Defective Concrete Blocks.

Corporate

20. **Cllr Michael Mc Bride**

I am asking Donegal County Council to carry out a root and branch review of our electoral registers and review the methods used to maintain these important documents.

Corporate

21. **Cllr Tomás Seán Devine**

"That the Elected Members support me in a vote of no confidence in the Housing Minister, Darragh O'Brien".

22. Cathaoirleach's Business.

23. Chief Executive's Management Report.

QUESTIONS

GLENTIES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

Defective Concrete Blocks

24. **Cllr Denis Mc Gee**

Will the council set up, as a matter of urgency, a strategic plan to deal with all those affected by defective concrete blocks in the county?

Corporate

25. **Cllr Denis Mc Gee**

Is there anything that the council can do to influence the HSE to take immediate steps to improve the health services in Donegal? We need the embargo to be lifted, medical services to be provided in local communities and the number of respite beds increased.

LIFFORD/STRANORLAR MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

Defective Concrete Blocks

26. **Cllr Frank Mc Brearty**

How many applications to the 90/10 defective concrete blocks grant scheme have been downgraded by Donegal County Council and how many of those that were passed over to the enhanced grant scheme have been downgraded by the Housing Agency to date.

Housing

27. **Cllr Patrick Mc Gowan**

Can this Council employ a few plumbers who have some experience in Air to Water systems, especially as these are now the Council's preferred heating system? Issues can arise and we should have an independent professional to advise if it is a tenant's issue or a faulty system.

28. Cllr Patrick Mc Gowan

Can this Council review how residents are supported in maintaining their estates and consider collecting funding from each house to maintain the green areas, walls and fences etc?

29. Cllr Frank Mc Brearty

What alternative accommodation has been sourced for the tenants living in the 8 owned Council houses at Railway Park St Johnston that have been identified by Petrolab as defective due to internal sulphate attack in the blocks and what is the time frame for full demolition and rebuild of their homes?

INISHOWEN MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

Planning

30. Cllr Ali Farren

On the canvas, Defective Concrete homeowners asked why did the council not regulate the quarries because if they had maybe 1000s of homeowners would have escaped this nightmare? Has the council inspected every quarry in the county to ensure that they are not producing defective concrete building material or if it's not their job who is responsible to ensure people who are rebuilding never have to encounter the same problem again?

Veterinary Services

31. Cllr Terry Crossan

How many licensed dogs are there in the County and what percentage of the overall dog population does that represent?

32. Cllr Terry Crossan

Is there enough information out there to inform owners of dogs that would come under Dangerous Dogs Legislation of the requirements for compliance to keep such dogs especially when out in public places?

Housing

33. Cllr Albert Doherty

How many AHBs are active in Donegal and currently have housing schemes approved for Social Housing delivery in the County?

Have AHBs and ICSH responded to recent correspondence from DCC and outlined how recent ongoing issues and requirements are to be addressed to enable the approval of future potential Housing Schemes in the county?

34. Cllr Albert Doherty

Social Housing Remediation

Donegal Co. Council forwarded to the Department of Housing a detailed social housing remediation submission on Jan 24th 2024.

Will the Council outline the correspondence received from the Department since January on this matter, the number, and dates of follow up on this matter by DCC to the Department and outline the current council plan to

engage with the Department to procure the necessary funding to commence work on the remediation of social houses?

35. Cllr Martin Mc Dermott

How many SI houses have been built per MD since 2010?

Environment

36. Cllr Paul Canning

Has this Council any plans to increase the workforce that are inspecting our septic tanks at present given that the grants have increased significantly but require a tank inspection before an application can be made?

Planning

37. Cllr Paul Canning

Is this Council in a position to accept any material as a finish to the exterior of a dwelling, if not, can I have a breakdown of what is accepted and what is not accepted?

Defective Concrete Blocks

38. Cllr Joy Beard

Does the Council have plans to assess the number of properties affected by the presence of defective concrete in the county, including commercial, residential, functional (i.e. septic tanks), community and public service buildings?

39. Cllr Joy Beard

In light of reports in "The Ditch" does the Council intend to write to the Attorney General or the Department of Housing to confirm whether the Enhanced Defective Blocks Scheme has been set up in such a fashion so as to deliberately discourage applicants by not offering 100% redress and intentionally not providing the most appropriate remediation option?

LETTERKENNY/MILFORD MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

Housing

40. Cllr Gerry Mc Monagle

Has Housing Capital/Housing Directorate identified any sites across the County that would be suitable locations to place modular homes and if so, where are the sites?

41. Cllr Gerry Mc Monagle

How many families, individuals are currently in receipt of homeless vouchers, what number of individuals and families have presented to Council with Eviction Notices in the last twelve months and what are the long-term plans of this Council to deal with the rising number of people presenting as homeless in the County?

Roads & Transportation

42. Cllr Michael Mc Bride

Can Donegal County Council give us a presentation on Japanese knotweed and other invasive species and who is responsible for the delivery of the current policy within Donegal Council?

Planning

43. **Cllr Michael Mc Bride**

Can the new Council be given a presentation on Donegal County Council's policy on CE certification?

Cllr Tomás Seán Devine

44. Will the Council arrange to open public buildings for families affected by DCB on the nights where there are severe weather warnings and where it is not possible to pay for emergency accommodation hotels etc.?

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

CLARE COUNTY COUNCIL

"I am calling on the Taoiseach of the day Simon Harris and the coalition partners Fianna Fail, Fine Gael and the Green Party to address the huge failures in the reconfigured health services established by the Government some years ago and the establishment of the HSE for responsibility in implementing the policy.

Health services for the public in Ireland has been led by Health Ministers from Fianna Fail, Progressive Democrats and Fine Gael for over 24 years and the current model of reconfiguration has been a failure. Recent reports indicated that rural parts of Ireland have been impacted the most and have a higher risk of poor outcomes and this is borne out by the experience of people from Clare attending overcrowded emergency departments and at times having tragic outcomes. People in need of health services from Clare are suffering and there is no evidence to suggest that the reconfigured health service has delivered improved outcomes. I am calling on the Government to urgently address the serious consequences for the public in Clare from the current government's model of health care. I would request the circulation of this motion if supported to our Oireachtas Members in Clare and other local authorities."

FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

"That Fingal County Council formally backs the call for a Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty, and urges the Irish Government to support the initiative for a Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty, if passed, a letter should be sent to all Local Authorities, An Taoiseach, An Tanaiste and the Minister for the Environment."

LIMERICK CITY & COUNTY COUNCIL

"That, Limerick City and County Council call on the Minister for Finance, Michael McGrath, T.D., and the Government, to allow taxpayers one week where no tax is paid, in line with Social Welfare recipients whereby their welfare payments increase at Christmas, and, if agreed, that the Motion be circulated to all Local Authorities."

TIPPERARY COUNTY COUNCIL

“That Tipperary County Council would write to the Minister for Land use and Biodiversity, Pippa Hackett, asking that she implements in full, without further delay the recommendations of the report titled “Review of support for farmers impacted by Ash Dieback” which was compiled by Dir Matthew Crowe, Jerry Grant and Jo O’Hara.

In June 2023, Dr. Matthew Crowe, Jerry Grant and Jo O’Hara were asked to carry out a rapid review of the DAFM approach and supports for landowners affected by ash dieback since 2013 and to provide the Minister with advice and recommendations on a way forward in line with the draft Forest Strategy. The report was submitted to the Minister last September.

Furthermore, that the letter would be sent to the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine, the Taoiseach, Tánaiste, and the Minister for the Environment and that this motion is circulated to all Local Authorities.”

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

“Due to the very worrying increase in road fatalities throughout the country, this Council demands that the Government provides funding for the employment of a full time Road Safety Officer in each Local Authority in the country.”

**MINUTES OF JULY MEETING OF DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL HELD ON 22ND
JULY, 2024 IN THE COUNTY HOUSE, LIFFORD**

C/215/24

MEMBERS PRESENT

Cllrs N Kennedy, Cathaoirleach, J Beard, L Blaney, M Boyle, F Bradley C Brogan, J Brogan, P Canning, B Carr, D Coyle, T Crossan, TS Devine, A Doherty, A Farren, M Farren, M Harley, N Jordan, DM Kelly, M McClafferty, M McDermott, P McGarvey, D McGee, P McGowan, G McMonagle, D Meehan, A Molloy, M Naughton, D NicMheanman, JS Ó Fearraigh, M Scanlon.

Online: Cllrs G Doherty, J Kavanagh, M MacGiolla Easbuig, F McBrearty, M McBride, J Murray.

C/216/24

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE

John G McLaughlin, Chief Executive, Bryan Cannon, Director of Roads & Transportation, Eamon Brown, Divisional Manager, Housing & Corporate, Meetings Administrator, Richard Gibson, Director of Finance, Garry Martin, Director of Economic Development, Information Systems & Emergency Services, Michael McGarvey, Director of Water & Environment Liam Ward, Director of Community Development & Planning Services, Eunan Quinn, Senior Planner, Paul Christy, Senior Executive Planner, Alana Green, Executive Planner, Roisin Kelly, Executive Planner, Cillian Smith, Executive Planner, Frances Friel, Communications Officer, Róise Ní Laifeartaigh, Rannóg na Gaeilge, Clíona Ní Ghallachóir, Tacaíocht do Sheirbhísí Aistriúcháin, Anne Marie Crawford, Staff Officer.

C/217/24

**CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF
DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL HELD ON THE 6TH FEBRUARY, 2024**

On the proposal of Cllr Canning, seconded by Cllr Coyle, the minutes of the Special Meeting of Donegal County Council held on the 6th February, 2024 were adopted.

C/218/24

**CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF
DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL HELD ON THE 12TH FEBRUARY, 2024**

On the proposal of Cllr Devine, seconded by Cllr Canning, the minutes of the Special Meeting of Donegal County Council held on the 12th February, 2024 were adopted.

C/219/24

**CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF
DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL HELD ON THE 8TH MAY, 2024**

On the proposal of Cllr Coyle, seconded by Cllr Harley, the minutes of the Special Meeting of Donegal County Council held on the 8th May, 2024 were adopted.

C/220/24

**CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE MAY MEETING OF
DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL HELD ON THE 20TH MAY, 2024**

On the proposal of Cllr Harley, seconded by Cllr McDermott, the minutes of the May Meeting of Donegal County Council held on the 20th May, 2024 were adopted.

- C/221/24 **CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL HELD ON THE 21ST JUNE, 2024**
 On the proposal of Cllr Meehan, seconded by Cllr McDermott, the minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Donegal County Council held on the 21st June, 2024 were adopted.
- C/222/24 **TO APPROVE THE CARRYING OUT OF WORKS REGARDING THE DEMOLITION OF EXISTING DERELICT DWELLING & CONSTRUCTION OF A TWO STOREY APARTMENT BLOCK AT MAIN STREET, LAGHY, CO. DONEGAL**
 Members considered the report circulated with the agenda in relation to the above.

 On the proposal of Cllr Jordan, seconded by Cllr Kennedy, the carrying out of works regarding the demolition of existing derelict dwelling & construction of a two storey apartment block containing 2 no. 2 bed apartments complete with new vehicular entrance onto Laghy Main St, onsite parking area, connection to existing services including upgrading of storm drainage network & all associated site development works at Main Street, Laghey was approved, in accordance with Part XI of the Planning & Development Act, 2000 (as amended) and Part 8 of the Planning & Development Regulations 2001(as amended).
- C/223/24 **DRAFT SCHEME FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT AND OPERATION OF STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEES 2024-2029**
 Mr Paul Mc Gill, Area Manager, Housing & Corporate informed members that the report set out the detail in relation to the establishment of the scheme including the make-up and numbers proposed for each individual committee. A consultation period of one month was being proposed, he said, and this was a sufficient timeframe to enable the nomination process. It was intended, he added, following the public consultation period to come back to members with the proposals for the adoption of the scheme.
 On the proposal of Cllr McMonagle, seconded by Cllr McGowan it was resolved to approve the commencement of the public consultation process in respect of the Draft Scheme for the Establishment and Operation of Strategy Policy Committees for the period 2024-2029.
- C/224/24 **ESTABLISHMENT AND ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE EMERGENCY RESPONSE COMMITTEE.**
 On the proposal of Cllr Mc Monagle, seconded by Cllr Mc Gowan it was resolved to re-establish the Emergency Response Committee in accordance with Section 51, of the Local Government Act, 2001 (as amended) with the following membership as agreed at municipal district level.
- Cllr Gary Doherty
 - Cllr Noel Jordan
 - Cllr Gerry Mc Monagle

- Cllr Jack Murray
- Cllr John Sheamais Ó Fearraigh

C/225/24

ESTABLISHMENT AND ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO COISTE NA GAEILGE

On the proposal of Cllr Mc Monagle, seconded by Cllr Mc Gowan it was resolved to re-establish Coiste na Gaeilge in accordance with Section 51, of the Local Government Act, 2001 (as amended) with the following membership as agreed as agreed at municipal district level:

- Cllr Donal Coyle
- Cllr Terry Crossan
- Cllr Albert Doherty
- Cllr Micheál C Mac Giolla Easbuig
- Cllr Denis Mc Gee
- Cllr Declan Meehan
- Cllr Anthony Molloy
- Cllr Dakota Nic Mheanman
- Cllr John Sheamais Ó Fearraigh
- Cllr Martin Scanlon
- **Vacancy Donegal MD**
- **Vacancy Donegal MD**

C/226/24

ESTABLISHMENT AND ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE ISLANDS COMMITTEE

On the proposal of Cllr Mc Monagle, seconded by Cllr Mc Gowan it was resolved that the following be appointed to the Islands Committee:

- All Members of the Glenties Municipal District
- **Vacancy Letterkenny/Milford MD**

C/227/24

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE DONEGAL HERITAGE FORUM

On the proposal of Cllr Mc Monagle, seconded by Cllr Mc Gowan it was resolved to appoint the following to the Donegal Heritage Forum as agreed at municipal district level. Members noted that Cllr Coyle was the second nominee and not Cllr Kelly as outlined in the report.

- Cllr Albert Doherty
- Cllr Donal Coyle
- Cllr Michael Mc Mahon
- **Vacancy Glenties MD**
- **Vacancy Lifford/Stranorlar MD**

C/228/24

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE INISHOWEN DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP

On the proposal of Cllr Mc Monagle, seconded by Cllr Mc Gowan it was resolved to appoint the following as Donegal County Council representatives to the Inishowen Development Partnership and as agreed by the members of the Inishowen Municipal District:

- Cllr Joy Beard
- Cllr Albert Doherty
- Cllr Ali Farren
- Cllr Jack Murray

C/229/24

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO LATCH LTD

On the proposal of Cllr Mc Monagle, seconded by Cllr Mc Gowan it was resolved to appoint the following as Donegal County Council representatives to Latch Ltd based on the recommendation of the members of the Lifford/Stranorlar Municipal District:

- Cllr Gary Doherty
- Cllr Martin Harley
- Cllr Martin Scanlon

C/230/24

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO ERNE ENTERPRISE

On the proposal of Cllr Mc Monagle, seconded by Cllr Mc Gowan it was resolved to appoint the following as Donegal County Council representatives to Erne Enterprise based on the recommendation of the members of the Donegal Municipal District:

- Cllr Michael Mc Mahon
- Cllr Michéal Naughton

C/231/24

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO COLMCILLE HERITAGE CENTRE

On the proposal of Cllr Mc Monagle, seconded by Cllr Mc Gowan it was resolved to appoint the following as Donegal County Council representatives to the Colmcille Heritage Centre as agreed by the members of the Letterkenny/Milford Municipal District:

- Cllr Donal Coyle
- Cllr Donal Mandy Kelly
- Cllr Jimmy Kavanagh
- Cllr Michael Mc Bride
- Cllr Declan Meehan

C/232/24

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO LETTERKENNY THEATRE MANAGEMENT COMPANY LTD

On the proposal of Cllr Mc Monagle, seconded by Cllr Mc Gowan it was resolved to appoint the following as Donegal County Council representatives to the Letterkenny Theatre Management Company Ltd based on the recommendation of the members of the Letterkenny/Milford Municipal District:

- Cllr Donal Coyle
- Cllr Tomás Seán Devine
- Cllr Jimmy Kavanagh
- Cllr Gerry Mc Monagle

C/233/24 **ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO BALLYSHANNON LEISURE CENTRE**
On the proposal of Cllr Mc Monagle, seconded by Cllr Mc Gowan it was resolved to appoint the following as Donegal County Council representatives to Ballyshannon Leisure Centre as agreed by the members of the Donegal Municipal District:

- Cllr Manus Boyle
- Cllr Noel Jordan
- Cllr Michael Mc Mahon

C/234/24 **ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO BUNDORAN WATERWORLD**
On the proposal of Cllr Mc Monagle, seconded by Cllr Mc Gowan it was resolved to appoint the following as Donegal County Council representatives to Bundoran Waterworld based on the recommendation of the members of the Donegal Municipal District:

- Cllr Michael Mc Mahon
- Cllr Michéal Naughton
- Mr Barry Sweeny
- **Vacancy Donegal MD**

C/235/24 **ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO FINN VALLEY LEISURE CENTRE**
On the proposal of Cllr Mc Monagle, seconded by Cllr Mc Gowan it was resolved to appoint the following as Donegal County Council representatives to Latch Ltd based on the recommendation of the members of the Lifford/Stranorlar Municipal District:

- Cllr Martin Harley
- Cllr Patrick Mc Gowan
- Cllr Dakota Nic Mheanman
- Cllr Martin Scanlon

C/236/24 **ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO LETTERKENNY SPORTS COMPLEX**
On the proposal of Cllr Mc Monagle, seconded by Cllr Mc Gowan it was resolved to appoint the following as Donegal County Council representatives to the Letterkenny Sports Complex based on the recommendation of the members of the Letterkenny/Milford Municipal District:

- Cllr Ciaran Brogan
- Cllr Jimmy Kavanagh
- Cllr Donal Mandy Kelly
- Cllr Michael Mc Bride
- Cllr Gerry Mc Monagle

C/237/24 **ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO WESTERN INTER COUNTY RAIL COMMITTEE**
On the proposal of Cllr Mc Monagle, seconded by Cllr Mc Gowan it was resolved to appoint the following to the Western Inter-County Rail Committee as recommended by the members of the various Municipal

District Committees:

- Cllr Fionán Bradley
- Cllr Tomás Seán Devine
- Cllr Niamh Kennedy
- Cllr Patrick Mc Gowan
- **Vacancy Glenties MD**

C/238/24 **TO CONSIDER AND NOTE THE AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENT (AUDITED) 2023.**

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

Mr Richard Gibson, Director of Finance said that the report was a summary of the overall financial performance in 2023. He noted that there had been an overall surplus of €1,151,999 which had the effect of improving the accumulated revenue deficit from €4,895,529 at the end of 2022 to €3,743,530 at the end of 2023. Capital Expenditure, he advised, had increased from €114,789,446 in 2022 to €161,613,970 in 2023.

On the proposal of Cllr M Farren seconded by Cllr Scanlon members noted the Audited Financial Statement for 2023.

C/239/24 **TO CONSIDER AND NOTE THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT AUDIT REPORT ON THE ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR 2023**

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

Mr Richard Gibson, Director of Finance said that this was the Statutory Audit Report and reflected the positive audit opinion of the Local Government Auditor. He said that he had identified a number of issues and that the associated Chief Executive's response was outlined in the report.

On the proposal of Cllr M Farren, seconded by Cllr Scanlon members noted the Local Government Audit Report on the Annual Financial Statement for 2023.

C/240/24 **TO NOTE THE REPORT FROM THE DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL AUDIT COMMITTEE ON ITS CONSIDERATION OF THE 2023 AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENT AND AUDIT REPORT FOR 2023 OF DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL AS REQUIRED BY SECTION 121(3) OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT, 2001 (AS AMENDED)**

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

On the proposal of Cllr M Farren, seconded by Cllr Scanlon members noted the above report.

C/241/24

LOCAL COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP – EXPRESSION OF INTEREST PROCESS FOR CHAIRPERSON OF THE PARTNERSHIP

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

Mr Liam Ward, Director Planning & Community Development said that an expression of interest process was being undertaken by the Council in order to identify a suitable Chairperson for the Partnership in Donegal with a deadline of the 2nd August, 2024. Cllr A Doherty said that the new process placed extensive responsibility on the Chairperson and queried what support and salary was available to the successful applicant. Local communities needed to be alerted to the process and the significance of the role, he added.

The Director of Planning & Community Development said that the report had been placed on the agenda to generate awareness. He was, he advised, appreciative of the fact that there were concerns regarding the voluntary nature of the post and the level of commitment involved.

Cllr Canning concurred and queried whether or not Donegal County Council would be part of the Assessment Panel. He was, he said, concerned, that the Elected Members were being more and more excluded from the overall process.

Cllr Mc Monagle said that the Joint Policing Committee in the main had worked but that the task of the Chairperson going forward was immense. There was also a responsibility, he noted, to ensure that the various sub-groups that emanated from the JPC had sufficient focus and diversity. He said that he had concerns but was willing to go along with the process. It was imperative, he stated, that any initiatives arising from the JPC were properly funded.

C/242/24

COUNTY DONEGAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN, 2024-2030: NOTIFICATION OF THE MINISTERS INTENTION TO ISSUE A DIRECTION TO DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

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

8 Sites in Buncrana

Members advised of the following:

- Urgent and immediate need for housing in Buncrana.
- Minister is forcing zoning on farmers who do not want to develop their land.

It was resolved initially on the proposal of Cllr Murray, seconded by Cllr Bradley to reject the Minister's direction in respect of the 8 sites in Buncrana.

After further consideration it was resolved on the proposal of Cllr Bradley, seconded by Cllr Murray to accept the Minister's direction in respect of NR1.11 and NR1.12 but to reject his decision on the remaining 6 sites.

It was also agreed to include the reasons as agreed at the Special Plenary Meeting on the 12th February, 2024 as the rationale for members decision.

3 Sites in Ballybofey/Stranorlar

Members advised of the following:

- Material Alteration 19. (B) 2 – 200 metres from college and has water and sewerage services. New Treatment Plant in the area which support the “New Residential Phase 2” designation. This is infill and sustainable development.
- A(V)BE1 – Economic zoning Donegal Road
- No area in the town to set up business on a large scale. Members zoning in February was to facilitate business set up.
- Sensible to have new manufacturing facility on the outskirts of the town with easy access and proximity to the National Primary Road.
- NR2.2 Ongoing development in this area which supports the original decision by members.

It was resolved on the proposal of Cllr Harley, seconded by Cllr Mc Gowan to reject the Minister's direction and to include the the reasons as agreed at the Special Plenary Meeting on the 12th February, 2024 as the rationale for the members decision.

Settlement Frameworks

Carrick

On the proposal of Cllr Kennedy, seconded by Cllr Boyle it was resolved to reject the Minister's direction given the potential for an educational/tourism business to develop at this location and the fact that there is no other suitable location in Carrick.

Bruckless

It was resolved on the proposal of Cllr Kennedy, seconded by Cllr Jordan to reject the Minister's direction.

Members advised that there was development on this site already and that there was a specific need for housing at this location. They said that cognisance had been taken of the floodplain issues and noted that works had already been carried out along the river.

Mountcharles

It was resolved on the proposal of Cllr Jordan, seconded by Cllr J Brogan to reject the Minister's decision for the following reasons:

- Two sites. Previously constrained in terms of wastewater capacity. New Treatment Plant being constructed at present.

- Little or no development over the past twenty years and there is an opportunity now to allow the village to develop in terms of proper sustainable development and the promotion of business and job opportunities.
- Opportunity now to identify sites and boost tourism related activities.
- Development will allow people to live in their own locality.
- Mountcharles is five minutes from Donegal Town where there is a deficit of land for zoning. Opportunity here to keep people in their own area and provide an alternative to one-off housing.

Newtowncunningham

It was noted that the original proposal required amendment.

It was thus resolved on the proposal of Cllr Canning, seconded by Cllr Crossan to reduce the original proposal and to include a 1-acre site for the purpose of regeneration of the town centre and away from the National Primary Road.

Fahan

It was resolved on the proposal of Cllr Canning, seconded by Cllr A Farren to reject the Minister's direction. Members said that there was an awareness of the lack of wastewater infrastructure and the SAC and SPA designations around Lough Swilly. They advised that there were a number of developers in a position to continue with the development of and the improvement of the marina and that a hotel type development at the location was a possibility going forward. It was noted that plans were in place for a Greenway to run through this location. Cognisance was also taken of the proximity to Derry and the associated tourism potential.

Kilmacrennan

It was resolved on the proposal of Cllr Mc Bride, seconded by Cllr Mc Garvey to reject the Minister's direction and to include the rationale as provided previously.

Creeslough

It was resolved on the proposal of Cllr O' Fearraigh, seconded by Cllr Mc Clafferty to reject the Minister's direction.

Members drew attention to the fact that this could possibly be a ten -year plan and that there would be significant funding opportunities going forward for Creeslough. They alluded also to the fact that the need for housing in this location had been consistently noted at MD level. They said that the removal of the designation would limit opportunities going forward. Cognisance, they said, needed to be taken of a projected population increase which would have a significant impact on future development. They queried what options were available should the direction proceed.

Dunfanaghy

It was resolved on the proposal of Cllr Mc Clafferty, seconded by Cllr Blaney to reject the Minister's direction for the following reason

- No alternative offered. Relatively small site and people are looking to build there on their own land.
- Noted Donegal County Council own a small piece of land in this area, and this would be beneficial in terms of the extension of the graveyard.

TP-12 Access

Members noted the following:

- No movement in terms of ongoing access to the N56.
- Must go back to Minister and the paragraph as agreed previously by the members must be included. Noted that road safety is paramount and that there are plenty of clear exits onto the N56 with various sections of the road upgraded in the past number of years.
- Contradiction in that people already living and using laneways, access routes to the N56 are being refused permission to build. Clarification needed regarding the definition of "Intensification".
- Access issues are having a negative impact on west and southwest of Donegal. Must find a way to amend the policy at national level as decisions are being made in Dublin with no regard for the way of life in Donegal or the impact on rural communities.
- Query as to the impact of the impending speed limit review.
- Raises issues in terms of where people can actually build. Civil Servants and policy makers in Dublin are not in tune with the needs of rural Ireland and the needs of those living along the N56. Options for building are becoming more and more limited. Economic development is being hindered.
- Road safety issues whilst not a major drawback are being used to entrench the policy.
- Specific issues regarding the hindrance of development and lack of investment from the Five Points, Killybegs to the Port itself and along the Five Points to Ardara road.

Cllr Canning proposed, seconded by Cllr Mc Clafferty that consideration be given to the taking of legal action in relation to Policy TP-12 and access onto the N56. This action he advised could be taken in response to the discriminatory aspect of the policy.

Cllr Mc Brearty said that he supported legal action but that the corporate entity could not legally represent the members on this matter. He said that members could challenge national legislation by way of judicial review.

The Director of Planning & Community Development cited the necessity of holding back on any consideration of legal action until the final direction was received. He suggested that legal advice could be taken as to what

the options were for the Planning Authority and the Elected Members to challenge the Ministerial direction.

Leaving aside the legal aspect, he said, that the report to the Minister was due to be submitted by the 14th August and would include the detail on the 26 submissions received to date and the issues raised by members during the course of the meeting.

C/243/24

COMMENCEMENT OF THE PUBLIC CONSULTATION PROCESS FOR THE DRAFT ROAD TRAFFIC (SPECIAL SPEED LIMITS) (COUNTY OF DONEGAL) (AMENDMENT) BYE LAWS 2024

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

Mr Bryan Cannon, Director Roads & Transportation said that approval was being sought to publish the amendments to the Draft Road Traffic (Special Speed Limits) (County of Donegal) (Amendment Byelaws) 2024 in light of the recent Road Traffic Act 2024 No 10 which became law in April 2024. Following the submission process, he said, that the matter would be brought back to members for consideration.

Members advised of the following:

- Reduction to 60km was inappropriate on some roads.
- Not just a matter of reducing the speed limit. Need proper policy to deter reckless drivers.
- Traffic calming options need to be examined.
- Safety measures essential in Housing Estates. This could be examined at budget time.
- Noted ongoing issues re hedge cutting and were of the opinion that the current policy is not working.
- Suggestion that where there are issues in relation to hedge cutting that the Roads Division should proceed to cut same and send the bill to the relevant landowners.
- Concern that the 30km limit in urban areas was unrealistic.
- That the number one cause of accidents at present was mobile phone use.
- Lack of adequate speed traffic unit in the county.
- Consideration should be given to using the average speed between two points on a road instead of reducing the speed limits.
- Educational aspect and promotion of Road Safety the way forward.
- Road Safety Working Group need to engage and work with people.
- Public consultation should be widened to include the promotion of and enhancement of the road safety aspect.

Mr Bryan Cannon, Director Roads & Transportation said that he was well aware that the lowering of speed limits was not the be all and end all when it comes to road safety. He alluded to the overall government strategy and the vision zero focus which covered seven main areas. He said that he welcomed any opportunity to avail of any funding.

He alluded to the fact that the strategy covered a wide range of issues and said that the new Roads SPC would maintain an ongoing focus on all aspects of road safety. With regard to the list of housing estates and those referenced by Cllr A Doherty, he advised, that the overall list had been based on those adopted under the "Taking in Charge Programme". Any that had not been referenced, he confirmed could be included through the public consultation process.

With regard to hedge cutting, he said that if there were concerns in relation to particular roads and that it was imperative that these issues were brought to the attention of the local area teams so that matters could be resolved when the hedge cutting moratorium ended.

The consultation and byelaws, he advised, were very much a statutory process, but that all other aspects of road safety and the need for an educational programme highlighting the various elements was something that could be undertaken by the Road Safety Working Group. They could, he advised, discuss and examine ways of ensuring that there was better engagement with the general public.

Cllr Mc Clafferty asked that every effort be made to ensure no hedge cutter would be penalised for clearing and cutting at a dangerous junction. Cllr Devine referenced a particular situation in the Letterkenny/Milford MD where fines had been issued for the cutting hedges outside the designated timeframe even though they were clearly a danger to the public.

Cllr Mac Giolla Easbuig asked if there was any provision that would allow the Council to cut hedgerows where required and send the bill to the landowner concerned.

On the proposal of Cllr A Doherty, seconded by Cllr McGowan it was resolved to approve the commencement of the public consultation process for the Draft Road Traffic (Special Speed Limits) (County of Donegal) (Amendment) Bye Laws 2024. Cllr McMonagle proposed, seconded by Cllr McGowan that the scope of the public consultation be widened to include the promotion of road safety and extended beyond the five Public Service Centres to local venues and halls.

C/244/24 **TO NOTE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CORPORATE POLICY GROUP HELD ON THE 13TH MAY, 2024**

Members noted the Minutes of the meeting of the Corporate Policy Group held on the 13th May, 2024.

C/245/24 **TO ENDORSE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNTY DONEGAL HERITAGE FORUM HELD ON THE 11TH MAY, 2023**

Members noted the minutes of the meeting of the County Donegal Heritage Forum held on the 11th May, 2023.

C/246/24 **TO ENDORSE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNTY DONEGAL HERITAGE FORUM HELD ON THE 13TH JULY, 2023.**

Members noted the minutes of the meeting of the County Donegal Heritage Forum held on the 13th July, 2023.

C/247/24 **TO ENDORSE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNTY DONEGAL HERITAGE FORUM HELD ON THE 5TH OCTOBER, 2023**

Members noted the minutes of the meeting of the County Donegal Heritage Forum held on the 5th October, 2023.

C/248/24 **TO ENDORSE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNTY DONEGAL HERITAGE FORUM HELD ON THE 8TH FEBRUARY, 2024.**

Members noted the minutes of the meeting of the County Donegal Heritage Forum held on the 8th February, 2024.

C/249/24 **ATTENDANCE AT CONFERENCE, SEMINAR OR EVENT**

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

On the proposal of Cllr Canning, seconded by Cllr McMonagle the attendance of the A5/N2 Cross Border Committee members at a meeting with Mr John O'Dowd MLA, Infrastructure Minister in the Northern Ireland Executive, in Aughnacloy, Co. Tyrone on Monday 12th August, 2024 was approved.

On the proposal of Cllr Blaney, seconded by Cllr McGowan the attendance of the Cathaoirleach at the London Irish Vintage Club Day in Greenford, West London on the 8th September, 2024 was approved.

On the proposal of Cllr Blaney, seconded by Cllr McMonagle the attendance of the EU Cerv Project representative at the Youth & Democracy: Empowering Europe's Next Generation Seminar in Sofia, Bulgaria from the 9th to the 12th September, 2024 was approved.

On the proposal of Cllr McMonagle, seconded by Cllr McGowan the attendance of the CPMR representative at the 52nd CPMR General Assembly meeting in Gozo, Malta from the 2nd to the 4th October, 2024 was approved.

C/250/24 **ESTABLISHMENT OF HUBS FOR ALL THOSE AFFECTED BY DEFECTIVE CONCRETE PRODUCTS**

On the proposal of Cllr McGee, seconded by Cllr Devine it was resolved to adopt the following motion.

"I propose the motion that three hubs should be established in the county for all those affected by defective concrete products. These hubs should

be located east, west, and central in the county. The centres should be staffed by well- facilitators who will have the up-to-date knowledge and resources to help the people of Donegal. The number of staff in these hubs should match the level of need required considering the large number of those that are affected by this issue".

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

Cllr Mc Gee said that this was the biggest issue in the county at present and asked that three hubs be set up and staffed by suitably trained facilitators. These, he contended, should be located in Glenties, Letterkenny and Inishowen and staffing reflective of the demand for same. People's voices, he said, needed to be heard and no one must be left behind regardless of their situation.

Cllr Devine, seconding the motion said this was a very valid point and that the hubs were needed as a matter of urgency.

There was no opposition to the motion.

Mr Michael Mc Garvey, Director Water & Environment alluded to the fact that Donegal County Council was only administering the scheme on behalf of the Government. He agreed that there was need for assistance for the homeowners concerned as the process was complex. He alluded to the fact that the Department had approved funding for Defective Concrete Blocks (DCB) Community Facilitators employed by the Donegal Local Development Company and Inishowen Development Partnership Their role, he advised, involved assisting homeowners through the DCB application process, sourcing or securing alternative accommodation and signposting them to other supports and services. The rollout of the DCB Community Facilitator initiative, had, he confirmed, had already had a positive response with assistance provided to almost 1500 homeowners. The Council had also, he confirmed, supported a request from the agencies outlined for an increase in the number of facilitators and a business case made to the Department.

Cllr Mc Gee said that three hubs were only the tip of the iceberg, and even more were required. People, he said, were in dire straits and believed that no one was listening. It was imperative, he added, that this matter was kept on the agenda.

C/251/24

THAT THE COUNCIL MANAGEMENT PRESENT WHAT PLANS IT HAS TO DEAL WITH ALLOCATING THE COUNCIL'S OWN FUNDING ACROSS THE COUNTY

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

"That the Council Management present what plans it has to deal with allocating the council's own funding across the county following my motion earlier this year".

“That this Council agree to develop a plan to distribute Council own funding and resource to all towns and villages across the County prior to the next Council budget in October / November 2024. An agreement similar to 2014 when the then Council agreed to support former Town Councils from a sudden loss in revenue and agreed to top sliced supports in order to lessen the impact on them as they were no longer had Town Council status. This agreement by all members saw the former town councils continue to grow and benefit from that decision. A new agreement would ensure balance in the way all local towns and villages are supported based on their size so that even the smallest towns & villages receive some mainstream country wide resources”.

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

Cllr Mc Gowan said that this was a follow on from his motion earlier in the year and one most appropriate for the new Council term. He called on members and the executive to explore new ideas and funding options. It was noted that over the past ten years funding had been provided for the former Town Councils out of the Council’s own resources. He said that the question must now be asked as to what could be put in place for all the other towns in the county? The time was right, he said, to streamline opportunities and co-ordinate resources. He requested a breakdown of expenditure from the Councils’s own resources which had been spent on the maintenance of towns and villages in the county.

Cllr C Brogan concurred and said that the Council should now take the opportunity to review the various Directorates and see how bread and butter services could be enhanced. A lot of the smaller issues, he said, were not getting funded and that issues such as housing maintenance and grass cutting were no longer being carried out in towns like Letterkenny. He called for a dedicated mechanism to be put in place so that the various pressure points could be pinpointed, and improvements made.

There was no opposition to the motion.

Mr Richard Gibson, Director of Finance outlined the statutory budget process and the approach to drafting the Council’s budget for 2025. He noted that the motion had been raised at CPG and was something that would be kept in mind as the 2025 budget was being prepared at both CPG and at MD level.

There was no knowledge yet of the financial package that would be available in 2025, he said, but that the Schedule of Municipal District Works would provide members with an opportunity to allocate budgets and discuss local work programmes.

Cllr Mc Gowan concluding said that this needed to be looked at by Roads, Environment, and Housing collectively and a new approach taken. There was little or no power at MD level, he contended. He called for a co-ordinated approach and collective assessment of the allocation process as the current approach was cumbersome and outdated.

I.S 465

On the proposal of Cllr McBrearty, seconded by Cllr Devine it was resolved to adopt the following motion.

That this newly elected council calls on the Minister for Housing, Local Government & Heritage Darragh O'Brien TD, Secretary General of the Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage Mr Graham Doyle, the Minister for Justice Helen McEntee TD and Secretary General of the Department of Justice Ms Oonagh McPhilip's to ensure and put the Housing Agency on notice that if they do not desist from and reverse their unlawful actions to overturn qualified and registered I.S. 465 Chartered Engineers recommendations made on behalf of their clients "based on science" and that the Housing Agency gives a legal undertaking that they will not ignore the science which proves that Mica and Freeze Thaw is not the cause of the Donegal defective concrete scandal incorrectly labelled as the Mica Scandal by those in power. The Engineers recommendations are legally based on scientific evidence obtained from scientific testing, especially that of Petro lab from Cornwall in the UK. The above departments must legally act before it is too late for the affected homeowners who have had their engineers' recommendations downgraded to date. The Housing Agency's illegal actions have been imposed on desperate homeowners unlawfully, which has resulted in them accepting an incorrect engineering solution forced on them because of the flawed I.S. 465 Mica protocol enforced by DCC and HA when entering both the 90/10 and now the enhanced grant schemes. The Housing Agency must act on this unlawfulness with immediate effect and do so based on the science that proves that the presence of Mica in concrete blocks and the incorrect theory that Freeze Thaw is a contributing factor in the defects identified in the Irish Mica Standard I.S. 465 Protocol used for testing is a clear breach of EU directives that have been endorsed by the NSAI in the I.S. EN 771-3:2002 standard and standards prior to this. The I.S. EN 12620:2002 standard for aggregates used in concrete is also being ignored by the Irish Mica Standard I.S. 465 protocol, which is also a clear breach of EU directives and Irish Standards that must be adhered to for concrete blocks manufactured in the Republic of Ireland. The Department must act now, and the evidence today shows that Local Authorities all over Ireland are testing all new developments under the block's standard I.S. EN 771-3 and not the Mica Standard I.S. 465. The over whelming scientific evidence of internal sulphate attack in the concrete blocks tested over the last 4 and half years is now undeniable, and this evidence is supported by the world's leading experts from around the world by way of peer review studies and peer reviewed literature published in the past and today. If the departments above do not act on this motion, then I am calling on the newly elected council to come together and take the appropriate legal action in the superior courts and do so on behalf of all those directly and indirectly affected by the defective concrete scandal labelled incorrectly as caused by Mica and Freeze Thaw.

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

Cllr Mc Brearty said the motion was for all those who had been let down by this defective standard and asked members to support the motion in solidarity with those homeowners who had received downgraded recommendations as a result of the faulty IS465 standard which Donegal County Council had assisted in developing. He noted that members running in the 2024 Local Elections had promised to support homeowners and through this motion today could do that and stand by them in attempting to get the faulty decisions reversed.

To grant people anything other than option 1 was, he advised totally unacceptable.

Cllr Devine supporting the motion said that he concurred with the assessment provided by Cllr Mc Brearty. He had, he said, met many families whose applications had been downgraded by the Housing Agency. He referred to a particular anomaly where a semi-detached house was downgraded, and the adjoining property had received a demolition order. It was time, he said, to move on from IS465.

There was no opposition to the motion.

Mr Michael Mc Garvey, Director Water & Environment said that correspondence would issue to those identified in the motion.

Cllr Mc Brearty said that the response from the Director was insufficient, and the overwhelming evidence is that total sulphites are the cause of structural defects in properties in Donegal. The Council, he said, needed to accept the fact that they had got it wrong with the mica theory. It was nothing short of a cover up, he added, and warranted a public enquiry.

C/253/24

DOG WARDEN SERVICES

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

“I propose that D.C.C. dog warden services are increased to include weekends and Bank Holidays. There should also be an emergency number available for out of hours requirements.

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

Cllr Crossan said that there had been a number of dog attacks recently and that all had happened at weekends when the dog warden service was not available. Those involved, he noted, had contacted the Gardaí who in turn referred them to the Dog Warden service. He called for increased resources to be made available and more done to ensure that all relevant criteria and regulations were adhered to.

Cllr Murray supporting the motion said having a set of rules was meaningless if they were not enforced. He cited recent issues that had arisen in Swan Park and outlined the need for a warden at this location. Options such as a dog friendly zone, he advised, needed to be explored and dogs kept on a leash in public places.

There was no opposition to the motion.

Mr Eamon Brown, Meetings Administrator said that it was not just Donegal County Council involved and that a case had been made nationally by the Local Authority Sector for additional resources across the entire sector.

C/254/24

REDUCTION IN SERVICES AT THE LOCAL HEALTH CENTRES ACROSS DONEGAL

On the proposal of Cllr Murray, seconded by Cllr A Doherty it was resolved to adopt the following motion.

"That this Council notes the ongoing reduction in services provided by local health centres across Donegal, expresses our ongoing opposition to this decline, and resolves to contact the Minister for Health, demanding immediate intervention to save these vital services".

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

Cllr Murray referred in particular to the local health centre in Fahan and the fact that there was now no nursing cover. He asked that contact be made with the Health Service Executive so as to ensure that this facility remained open and that the services of a Public Health Nurse were retained at this location. He alluded also to issues in Kilmacrennan.

Cllr A Doherty supporting the motion referenced the fact that child dental services had been moved to the Primary Care Centre in Buncrana from Carndonagh thus creating access issues for parents in the Carndonagh and Merville areas.

There was no opposition to the motion.

Mr Eamon Brown, Divisional Manager, Housing & Corporate said that correspondence would issue to the Minister and the HSE as requested.

C/255/24

THAT THE COUNCIL PUT IN PLACE A PLAN TO LOOK AT OPTIONS AND PROPOSALS THAT WILL HELP CONSTRUCT SOCIAL AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING AT LOCATIONS AROUND RURAL SCHOOLS AND RURAL SETTLEMENTS

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

"Taking on board the New Development Plan and in particular Policy RH-P-4, I would ask that this council puts in place a plan under the remit of the Housing Capital team to look at options and proposals that will help construct social and affordable housing at locations around rural schools and rural settlements through the development of wastewater treatment facilities along with negotiations with developers to bring life back into our small rural settlements".

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

Cllr Canning said that with the commencement of the new Development Plan it was imperative that Policy RH-P-4 was acted upon, and efforts made to ensure the survival of smaller settlements across the county. Noting that Irish Water did not appear to be at the table, he called on Donegal County Council to deliver in terms of proposals catering for 20-30 housing developments in such locations.

Cllr Mc Dermott said it was essential that help was forthcoming for these smaller rural communities who were struggling and where it was often too late when the local school closed. Council policy had not helped previously, he said, in that social housing had been more or less concentrated in the larger towns. The whole S.I process, he added, had fallen on deaf ears and was more or less non-existent at this point in time.

Mr Eamon Brown, Divisional Manager, Housing & Corporate said that the need for housing provision in smaller towns was acknowledged and that Housing Capital already took cognisance of Policy RH-P-4.

The motion, he advised, would be referred to Housing Capital in terms of the wider context of housing delivery.

C/256/24

THAT THE COUNCIL WRITE TO THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING AND THE NATIONAL STANDARDS AUTHORITY REQUESTING THE IMMEDIATE PUBLICATION OF THE NEW STANDARD TO REPLACE THE IS465

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

"To call on this Council to send letter to the Minister for Housing and the National Standards Authority requesting the immediate publication of the new standard to the replace the IS465 standard that is being used to determine the remediation options for the Defective Concrete block Scheme".

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

Cllr Mc Dermott said that this was in a similar vein to the motion submitted by Cllr Mc Brearty. The standard we are working to at the minute is well

out of date, he said, and there were situations out there where the recommendations coming from the Housing Agency were questionable especially in relation to bison slabs and Option Three which goes as far as the top of the rising wall.

C/257/24

PURCHASE OR LEASE OF MODULAR HOMES TO PROVIDE TEMPORARY ACCOMMODATION FOR THOSE AVAILING OF THE ENHANCED DEFECTIVE BLOCKS SCHEME

It was unanimously agreed to take Motion No. 16 and Motion No 19 together.

On the proposal of Cllr Beard, seconded by Cllr McGee it was resolved to adopt the following motion.

“That as a matter of urgency (i) this Council engages with suppliers to explore either the purchase or leasing of modular homes and (ii) identifies suitable sites across the county to provide temporary accommodation for those availing of the Enhanced Defective Blocks Scheme and for those living in unsafe and unhealthy homes due to the presence of defective concrete”.

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

Cllr Beard said that in the midst of the housing and defective concrete block crisis there were no homes to rent. She noted that there was a grant available for temporary accommodation but there was nowhere to go. Families, she said, were being forced to live in homes which were becoming more and more unsafe.

Modular Homes, she said, were a quick fix solution and could accommodate families with specific needs. This was now a priority, she said, given the health and safety issues involved.

She asked what the alternative options were said it was not good enough to say that we could not do it. In the midst of this humanitarian crisis, it was very clear, she said, that modular homes offered the quickest and effective solution.

Cllr Mc Gee concurred with this assessment.

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

As we are in the midst of a housing crisis with a severe shortage of social and private housing to meet the growing demand for housing in the county.

“This Council now calls on our Housing Directorate to put together a plan and an application for funding to the Minister for Housing, Darragh O Brien

for the provision of modular homes to support and house those families whose homes are to be demolished due to Defective Concrete”.

Cllr Mc Monagle said that all acknowledged that housing was in short supply and that people were living in dangerous conditions. It was evident, he said that the private sector was not in a position to assist at this point in time, and that the Local Authority was not meeting its housing targets. Rental had become a very expensive option, he noted, and this too was in short supply.

He called on the Housing Directorate to put together a plan and to submit same to the Minister for Housing as soon as possible, given that he had previously indicated that he was amenable to receiving such a proposal.

Modular Homes, he contended, offered an immediate solution and there was a need also to identify specific locations where these could be located. There was a responsibility, he added to ensure that people had a roof over their head. He asked that an application be put together and sent to the Minister and that following same all the political groupings put pressure on the Minister to deliver the necessary funding.

There was no opposition to the motion.

Mr Michael Mc Garvey, Director Water & Environment said that all involved wanted to assist the homeowners but pointed out that Donegal County Council's role and function was to administer the Enhanced Scheme. He said that this role did not involve providing alternative accommodation for private homeowners. The key housing related role and function of local authorities, was, he advised, to provide social housing.

Donegal County Council, he noted, faced challenges in securing accommodation and the housing team were looking at a plan to utilise existing vacant accommodation. He had he said spoken with the Cathaoirleach and the Leas-Cathaoirleach this morning and would push for a meeting with the Department highlighting the fact that the €15,000 allocated for temporary accommodation was not enough.

He confirmed that the motions as agreed would be forwarded to the Department for consideration and every effort would be made to lobby for an increase in the temporary accommodation grant.

Cllr Mc Monagle said it was imperative that no difference was made in relation to social and private homeowners. The Council, he contended, needed to represent all the electorate and go to the Minister with a dedicated and costed plan. No one, he said, was asking Donegal County Council to provide the modular homes.

Cllr Beard outlined the necessity of thinking outside the box so as to ensure that everything possible was done to assist those living in intolerable conditions. It was evident, she said, that the full scale of the

problem had yet to be realised and there was nothing in place to deal with the many complex issues arising.

Cllr Mc Gee said that the Minister needed to come to Donegal and see the situation for himself.

Cllr Mc Monagle asked for a commitment that a dedicated plan would be put in place. The Chief Executive said that he could not give an absolute response but would revert with an update in due course.

C/258/24

ESTABLISH, ENCOURAGE AND ADVANCE INTERESTS THAT RESULT IN THE PROVISION OF ADDITIONAL COMMERCIAL VEHICLE ROAD WORTHINESS TEST OPERATORS IN THE COUNTY

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

"That Donegal County Council engage with RSA to establish, encourage and advance how interests that result in the provision of additional Commercial Vehicle Road Worthiness Test Operator(s) in the County can be delivered."

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

Cllr A Doherty welcomed the response and said that the absence of a Test Centre in Inishowen meant that commercial and businesspeople had to make an 80-mile round trip to access services. He alluded to a response received from the RSA who had indicated that they were not responsible for the opening of centres but that same was a commercial decision for private operators to make.

He said that the Minister for Transport, Mr Eamon Ryan, T.D should also be contacted regarding the implications for the business sector.

It was clear, he advised, that there was a gap in the service and thus called on Donegal County Council to represent the business community in Inishowen who needed a CRVT centre as a matter of urgency.

Cllr T Crossan concurred with this assessment.

Mr Bryan Cannon, Director Roads & Transportation said that there were four vehicle test centres located in Donegal along the eastern spine and in West Donegal and Letterkenny. It would be possible, he added, to write to the Road Safety Authority to see how alternative facilities could be found. Acknowledging that the provision was a matter for the private sector, he noted that that the Local Enterprise Office would be in a position to assist with business setups.

Cllr Doherty asked that the motion be forwarded to the Road Safety Authority and to the Minister for Transport, Mr Eamon Ryan, T.D.

ELECTORAL REGISTER

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

I am asking Donegal County Council to carry out a root and branch review of our electoral registers and review the methods used to maintain these important documents.

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

Cllr Mc Bride said that he had two issues namely the fact that there were a number of deceased persons listed on the register and that multiple names were recorded as living in two and three bed accommodation. It was not possible, he said, that these were all living at these addresses and there was a danger that there could be an abuse of polling cards. He cited the need for intermittent workshops and for the matter to be kept on the agenda on a regular basis.

Cllr Devine seconded the motion and noted that there had been an issue in Letterkenny of people getting polling cards at two to three different addresses.

There was no opposition to the motion.

Mr Paul Mc Gill, Area Manager, Housing & Corporate said that he would take on board the comments raised by Cllr Mc Bride and if there was to be a follow-up then a specific mechanism could be agreed. One option, he said, was to pursue same through the Housing & Corporate SPC.

The accuracy of the register was, he stated, critical for any electoral event. The priority for staff, he said, had been to deal with applications and that over 16,000 applicants had been added to the register over a four-month period. 95% to 98% of this, he said, was in line with the provisions of the Electoral Reform Act 2022 including the verification of details where people had gone online and entered their Eircode, PPS No, etc.

He said that there were a number of deceased persons on the register and that it was intended to deal with this issue as a matter of urgency.

It was confirmed that a number of polling cards had been returned by An Post and these would be used to bring the register up to date. The number one priority prior to any electoral event, he confirmed, was to get all applicants on the register.

Generally, he said, there were issues in relation to identical surnames and people not giving a specific address or Eircode, thus making it more difficult to make amendments. The register, he added, was in transition for the next number of years and he encouraged anyone who had not

updated their details to complete same as this was the only mechanism for ensuring the accuracy of the register.

Cllr Mc Bride acknowledged the work of the team working on the register. He asked that the matter be kept on the agenda going forward.

C/260/24

VOTE OF NO CONFIDENCE IN THE HOUSING MINISTER DARRAGH O'BRIEN

On the proposal of Cllr T Devine, seconded by Cllr A Farren it was resolved to adopt the following motion.

"That the Elected Members support me in a vote of no confidence in the Housing Minister, Darragh O'Brien".

Cllr Devine alluding to a recent report by "The Ditch" in respect of the Attorney General's advice to the Minister for Housing that DCB homeowners would seek the most generous grants was, he said, a cause for concern and showed that there was no empathy for the people of Donegal. He thus called on members to support the vote of no confidence in the Minister for Housing, Darragh O'Brien, T.D.

Cllr A Farren concurred and said that DCB homeowners were very disappointed and felt that they had been badly treated.

Cllr C Brogan said that a lot of work had been done on the scheme and that the Minister had indicated that he would come to Donegal shortly. He said a more considerate approach should be adopted. He was, he confirmed aware of the fact that there was a need for review and that there was an increase in the pipeline. It was imperative, he added, that the scheme worked for all concerned. He alluded to the considerable funding that had been directed towards the scheme and cited the need for a joint approach as opposed to chasing headlines that did not actually achieve anything. People, he said, needed to have a realistic approach and be aware of what was actually achievable. He thus called on members to defer the motion until they had an opportunity to meet with the Minister and discuss the difficulties encountered at present.

Cllr C Brogan proposed, seconded by Cllr Blaney that the motion be deferred pending further consultation with the Minister.

Cllr Kavanagh said that a vote of no confidence would send out the wrong message and create the impression that members were unwilling to work with the Minister.

Cllr Mac Giolla Easbuig, supporting the motion said it was clear where Fianna Fáil and Fine Gael policies lay and that there were people in Donegal who were not receiving any assistance and now had nowhere to live.

Cllr Mc Bride said he was in support of the motion and expressed concern that the Minister's visit would possibly be in August when there were no meetings.

Cllr Mc Brearty supported the motion but said that though relevant the members had no power and could not do anything about the outcome. The whole thing, he said, had been subject to a cover up and it was now widely accepted that mica was not the cause of the structural defects. It was incredible, he said, that anyone would think that the scheme was working.

Cllr Mc Gee supporting the motion said that the Minister was not interested in visiting Donegal. He called for the immediate revision of IS465 in light of the recent scientific research results. This was not only about the DCB issues, he said, as the Minister had not delivered in terms of social housing and other related housing issues.

Cllr Mc Gowan in support of the counter proposal by Cllr C Brogan said that a considerable amount of progress had been made to date on the scheme. There were very few people in the county, he said, who were not impacted in some way. He noted that it was not down to one specific Minister and that there was a need for a co-ordinated approach from the Council.

Cllr G Doherty said that a vote of no confidence would highlight to the Minister exactly what the people of Donegal were dealing with. The lack of social housing, missed housing targets, insufficient rental accommodation combined with a failure to implement enhanced regulations for the proper testing of concrete blocks all contributed to the situation. This was supported by Cllrs A. Doherty, Mc Monagle and Murray.

Cllr Canning said that the adoption of the motion would send out the wrong message and possibly impact on the Minister's intention to come to Donegal. Cllr Blaney contended that the motion was populist and said that his presence in the county would afford an opportunity to highlight the inconsistencies in the scheme to date.

The Cathaoirleach said that she was of the opinion that this was the wrong time to send out such a message and that there was merit in listening to what the minister had to say.

A recorded vote was taken by the Meetings Administrator in relation to the counter proposal by Cllr Brogan, seconded by Cllr Blaney.

This resulted in 11 voting for with 18 voting against.

Those voting for were:

Cllrs Blaney, Bradley, C Brogan, Canning, Coyle, Kavanagh, Kelly, Kennedy, Mc Gowan, Molloy and Naughton. (11)

Those voting against were:

Cllrs Beard, J Brogan, Carr, Crossan, Devine, A Doherty, G Doherty, A Farren, Jordan, Mac Giolla Easbuig, Mc Brearty, Mc Bride, Mc Gee, Mc Monagle, Meehan, Murray, Nic Mheanman, and O' Fearraigh. (18)

Cllrs Boyle, M Farren, Harley, Mc Clafferty, Mc Dermott, Mc Garvey, Mc Mahon and Scanlon abstained.

Thus, the counter proposal was rejected, and the motion as submitted by Cllr Devine adopted.

C/261/24

CATHAOIRLEACH'S BUSINESS

Votes of Sympathy

A vote of sympathy was extended to the following:

- Mairead Cranley, Community Development on the death of her father Thomas Flannery.
- Paul Gallagher, Environment on the death of his mother Eileen Gallagher.
- Kathleen Logue, Information Systems on the death of her father PJ McGuire.
- Charles Sweeney, Community Development & Planning on the death of his mother Sadie Sweeney.
- Yvonne Nelis, Income Collection on the death of her mother Rose Nelis.
- Alana Green, Community Development & Planning on the death of her father Charles Green.

Freedom of the County

On the proposal of Cllr Kennedy, seconded by Cllr Molloy, it was resolved to award the Freedom of the County to Jim Mc Guinness in recognition of his outstanding contribution to Gaelic Football in Donegal.

Water Services Workshop Date

Cllr Blaney said that no responses had been received in relation to the queries raised at the last plenary workshop. He said that he could see no benefit in proceeding with another workshop as the previous one had been of no benefit to members.

Mr Michael Mc Garvey, Director Water & Environment advised members that it would be prudent to run with the workshop in September and that a request could be made to Uisce Eireánn to meet members at MD level.

Cllr Mc Clafferty said that there were serious problems in the Glenties area and that warranted consideration and needed to be discussed at local level.

After considerable debate members failed to select a date for the workshop.

Hedgerows

Cllr Mc Clafferty asked for an update in relation to the cutting of hedges and what could be done to secure an exemption from fines for those who were willing to cut hedgerows/grass etc close to dangerous junctions.

Mr Bryan Cannon, Director of Roads & Transportation informed members that the enforcement of the Wildlife and Heritage Acts was not within the remit of Donegal County Council and that they could not provide such exemptions. The Roads Authority had, he advised, some authority under the Roads Act to carry out works where there were safety issues but that this did not extend to individuals.

Cllr Mc Gowan asked if the Council could issue a letter to a landowner to cut material in proximity to a dangerous junction and thus do so under the instruction of the Council.

The Director of Roads & Transportation said that if there were particular issues, then the first point of contact should be through the MDs. He advised that there were policies in place at this level to deal with the issues concerned.

CPMR Atlantic Arc Commission Meeting in Cantabria

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

On the proposal of Cllr Mc Monagle, seconded by Cllr Blaney, it was resolved that the CPMR representative could attend the CPMR Atlantic Arc Commission meeting in Cantabria from the 19th to the 20th September.

C/262/24

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S MANAGEMENT REPORT

Members considered the report circulated with the agenda and noted the contents of same. The Chief Executive asked if there were any queries and said that he would provide any member who wished with a response outside of the meeting.

1. Finance

- A. Budget 2025-Local Property Tax (LPT) Public Consultation
- B. DETE Increased Cost of Business (ICOB) grant scheme

2. Community Development & Planning Services

- A. Community Development
 - (i) CLAR Programme 2024
 - (ii) Town & Village Programme 2023
 - (iii) Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme 2023
 - (iv) Community Recognition Fund 2024

- B. Urban & Rural Regeneration & Development
 - (i) Rural Regeneration & Development Fund (RRDF)
 - (ii) Urban Regeneration & Development Fund (URDF)

(iii) Croi Conaithe Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant Scheme

- C. Major Projects Update
- D. Ukrainian and International Protection Accommodation and Integration Unit
- E. Planning Services Update

3. Water and Environment

A. Environment

- (i) Half Price Bulky Goods Events*
- (ii) National Food Waste Recycling Week*
- (iii) WEEE Collection Days in Donegal during July 2024*
- (iv) Bathing Waters 2024 Season*
- (v) EPA 2023 Annual Report on Domestic Wastewater Treatment Systems Inspections*

B. Defective Concrete Blocks - Update

4. Housing, Corporate & Cultural Services

A. Social Housing Programme Update

B. Affordable Housing Survey

C. Cultural Services

- (i) Creative Ireland*
- (ii) Library Service*
- (iii) Arts Service*
- (iv) Museum Service*
- (v) Heritage Office*

D. Draft Traveller Accommodation Programme 2025-2029

E. Homeless Action Plan 2023-2028

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

A. Information Systems Update

B. Fire Service

- (i) Operations*
- (ii) Fire Prevention*
- (iii) Major Emergency Management*

6. Roads & Transportation

A. TEN-T PRIP Donegal Update

B. A5 Western Transport Corridor and Access to the Northwest

C. Donegal National Road Projects 2023 Midyear Status

D. TII Greenways Projects

E. General Issues for National Roads arising Mid 2024

F. Piers and Harbours

G. Part 8 Planning Processes

H. Speed Limit Review 2024

I. Noise Action Plan 2024 – 2028

- J. Restoration Improvement (RI) and Restoration Maintenance (RM) Programmes
- K. Local Improvement Schemes
- L. Maintenance Works

The following questions were noted.

C/263/24 **SET UP A STRATEGIC PLAN TO DEAL WITH ALL THOSE AFFECTED BY DEFECTIVE CONCRETE BLOCKS IN THE COUNTY**

Cllr McGee submitted the following question:

Will the council set up, as a matter of urgency, a strategic plan to deal with all those affected by defective concrete blocks in the county?

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

C/264/24 **REQUEST THE HSE TO TAKE IMMEDIATE STEPS TO IMPROVE THE HEALTH SERVICES IN DONEGAL**

Cllr McGee submitted the following question:-

Is there anything that the council can do to influence the HSE to take immediate steps to improve the health services in Donegal? We need the embargo to be lifted, medical services to be provided in local communities and the number of respite beds increased.

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

C/265/24 **HOW MANY APPLICATIONS TO THE 90/10 DEFECTIVE CONCRETE BLOCKS GRANT SCHEME HAVE BEEN DOWNGRADED BY DCC**

Cllr McBrearty submitted the following question:-

How many applications to the 90/10 defective concrete blocks grant scheme have been downgraded by Donegal County Council and how many of those that were passed over to the enhanced grant scheme have been downgraded by the Housing Agency to date.

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

C/266/24 **CAN THE COUNCIL EMPLOY A FEW PLUMBERS WHO HAVE SOME EXPERIENCE IN AIR TO WATER SYSTEMS**

Cllr McGowan submitted the following question:-

Can this Council employ a few plumbers who have some experience in Air to Water systems, especially as these are now the Council's preferred heating system? Issues can arise and we should have an independent professional to advise if it is a tenant's issue or a faulty system.

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

C/267/24 **MAINTAINING ESTATES AND CONSIDER COLLECTING FUNDING FROM EACH HOUSE TO MAINTAIN THE GREEN AREAS, WALLS AND FENCES ETC**

Cllr McGowan submitted the following question:-

Can this Council review how residents are supported in maintaining their estates and consider collecting funding from each house to maintain the green areas, walls and fences etc?

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

C/268/24 **WHAT ALTERNATIVE ACCOMMODATION HAS BEEN SOURCED FOR THE TENANTS LIVING IN THE 8 OWNED COUNCIL HOUSES AT RAILWAY PARK, ST JOHNSTON**

Cllr McBrearty submitted the following question:-

What alternative accommodation has been sourced for the tenants living in the 8 owned Council houses at Railway Park St Johnston that have been identified by Petrolab as defective due to internal sulphate attack in the blocks and what is the time frame for full demolition and rebuild of their homes?

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

C/269/24 **DID THE COUNCIL INSPECT EVERY QUARRY IN THE COUNTY TO ENSURE THEY ARE NOT PRODUCING DEFECTIVE CONCRETE BUILDING MATERIAL**

Cllr A Farren submitted the following question.

On the canvas, Defective Concrete homeowners asked why did the council not regulate the quarries because if they had maybe 1000s of homeowners would have escaped this nightmare? Has the council inspected every quarry in the county to ensure that they are not producing defective concrete building material or if it's not their job who is responsible to ensure people who are rebuilding never have to encounter the same problem again?

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

C/270/24 **HOW MANY LICENSED DOGS ARE THERE IN THE COUNTY**

Cllr T Crossan submitted the following question.

How many licensed dogs are there in the County and what percentage of the overall dog population does that represent?

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

C/271/24

IS THERE ENOUGH INFORMATION OUT THERE TO INFORM OWNERS OF DOGS THAT WOULD COME UNDER DANGEROUS DOGS LEGISLATION OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR COMPLIANCE TO KEEP SUCH DOGS ESPECIALLY WHEN OUT IN PUBLIC PLACES

Cllr Crossan submitted the following question.

Is there enough information out there to inform owners of dogs that would come under Dangerous Dogs Legislation of the requirements for compliance to keep such dogs especially when out in public places?

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

C/272/24

AHBs and ICSH

Cllr A Doherty submitted the following question.

How many AHBs are active in Donegal and currently have housing schemes approved for Social Housing delivery in the County?
Have AHBs and ICSH responded to recent correspondence from DCC and outlined how recent ongoing issues and requirements are to be addressed to enable the approval of future potential Housing Schemes in the county?

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

C/273/24

SOCIAL HOUSING REMEDIATION

Cllr A Doherty submitted the following question.

Social Housing Remediation
Donegal Co. Council forwarded to the Department of Housing a detailed social housing remediation submission on Jan 24th 2024.
Will the Council outline the correspondence received from the Department since January on this matter, the number, and dates of follow up on this matter by DCC to the Department and outline the current council plan to engage with the Department to procure the necessary funding to commence work on the remediation of social houses?

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

C/274/24

HOW MANY SI HOUSES HAVE BEEN BUILT PER MD SINCE 2010

Cllr McDermott submitted the following question.

How many SI houses have been built per MD since 2010?

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

C/275/24 **HAS THE COUNCIL ANY PLANS TO INCREASE THE WORKFORCE THAT ARE INSPECTING SEPTCI TANKS**

Cllr Canning submitted the following question.

Has this Council any plans to increase the workforce that are inspecting our septic tanks at present given that the grants have increased significantly but require a tank inspection before an application can be made?

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

C/276/24 **IS THE COUNCIL IN A POSITION TO ACCEPT ANY MATERIAL AS A FINISH TO THE EXTERIOR OF A DWELLING**

Cllr Canning submitted the following question.

Is this Council in a position to accept any material as a finish to the exterior of a dwelling, if not, can I have a breakdown of what is accepted and what is not accepted?

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

C/277/24 **DEFECTIVE CONCRETE BLOCKS**

Cllr Beard submitted the following question.

Does the Council have plans to assess the number of properties affected by the presence of defective concrete in the county, including commercial, residential, functional (i.e. septic tanks), community and public service buildings?

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

C/278/24 **ENHANCED DEFECTIVE BLOCKS**

Cllr Beard submitted the following question.

In light of reports in "The Ditch" does the Council intend to write to the Attorney General or the Department of Housing to confirm whether the Enhanced Defective Blocks Scheme has been set up in such a fashion so as to deliberately discourage applicants by not offering 100% redress and intentionally not providing the most appropriate remediation option?

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

C/279/24 **SUITABLE LOCATIONS TO PLACE MODULAR HOMES**

Cllr McMonagle submitted the following question.

Has Housing Capital/Housing Directorate identified any sites across the County that would be suitable locations to place modular homes and if so, where are the sites?

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

C/280/24 **HOMELESSNESS IN THE COUNTY**

Cllr McMonagle submitted the following question.

How many families, individuals are currently in receipt of homeless vouchers, what number of individuals and families have presented to Council with Eviction Notices in the last twelve months and what are the long-term plans of this Council to deal with the rising number of people presenting as homeless in the County?

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

C/281/24 **JAPANESE KNOTWEED AND OTHER INVASIVE SPECIES**

Cllr McBride submitted the following question.

Can Donegal County Council give us a presentation on Japanese knotweed and other invasive species and who is responsible for the delivery of the current policy within Donegal Council?

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

C/282/24 **CE CERTIFICATION**

Cllr McBride submitted the following question.

Can the new Council be given a presentation on Donegal County Council's policy on CE certification?

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

C/283/24 **OPEN PUBLIC BUILDINGS FOR FAMILIES AFFECTED BY DCB**

Cllr Devine submitted the following question.

Will the Council arrange to open public buildings for families affected by DCB on the nights where there are severe weather warnings and where it is not possible to pay for emergency accommodation hotels etc.?

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

MOTIONS FROM OTHER COUNCILS/BODIES

Members noted the motions from other councils.

CLARE COUNTY COUNCIL

“I am calling on the Taoiseach of the day Simon Harris and the coalition partners Fianna Fail, Fine Gael and the Green Party to address the huge failures in the reconfigured health services established by the Government some years ago and the establishment of the HSE for responsibility in implementing the policy.

Health services for the public in Ireland has been led by Health Ministers from Fianna Fail, Progressive Democrats and Fine Gael for over 24 years and the current model of reconfiguration has been a failure. Recent reports indicated that rural parts of Ireland have been impacted the most and have a higher risk of poor outcomes and this is borne out by the experience of people from Clare attending overcrowded emergency departments and at times having tragic outcomes. People in need of health services from Clare are suffering and there is no evidence to suggest that the reconfigured health service has delivered improved outcomes. I am calling on the Government to urgently address the serious consequences for the public in Clare from the current government’s model of health care. I would request the circulation of this motion if supported to our Oireachtas Members in Clare and other local authorities.”

FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

“That Fingal County Council formally backs the call for a Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty, and urges the Irish Government to support the initiative for a Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty, if passed, a letter should be sent to all Local Authorities, An Taoiseach, An Tanaiste and the Minister for the Environment.”

LIMERICK CITY & COUNTY COUNCIL

“That, Limerick City and County Council call on the Minister for Finance, Michael McGrath, T.D., and the Government, to allow taxpayers one week where no tax is paid, in line with Social Welfare recipients whereby their welfare payments increase at Christmas, and, if agreed, that the Motion be circulated to all Local Authorities.”

TIPPERARY COUNTY COUNCIL

“That Tipperary County Council would write to the Minister for Land use and Biodiversity, Pippa Hackett, asking that she implements in full, without further delay the recommendations of the report titled “Review of support for farmers impacted by Ash Dieback” which was compiled by Dir Matthew Crowe, Jerry Grant and Jo O’Hara.

In June 2023, Dr. Matthew Crowe, Jerry Grant and Jo O’Hara were asked to carry out a rapid review of the DAFM approach and supports for landowners affected by ash dieback since 2013 and to provide the Minister with advice and recommendations on a way forward in line with the draft Forest Strategy. The report was submitted to the Minister last September.

Furthermore, that the letter would be sent to the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine, the Taoiseach, Tánaiste, and the Minister for the Environment and that this motion is circulated to all Local Authorities.”

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

“Due to the very worrying increase in road fatalities throughout the country, this Council demands that the Government provides funding for the employment of a full time Road Safety Officer in each Local Authority in the country.”

This concluded the business of the meeting.