

**Minutes of Meeting of Leitrim County Council held in the River Bank Restaurant,  
Dromahaire, Co Leitrim on Tuesday, 2<sup>nd</sup> May, 2017**

**Members Present:** Councillor Armstrong–McGuire, Finola  
Councillor Barry, Brendan  
Councillor Dolan, Gerry  
Councillor Dolan, Frank  
Councillor Fallon, Pdraig  
Councillor Ellis, Caillian  
Councillor Guckian, Des  
Councillor Guckian, Sinead  
Councillor Gurn, Felim  
Councillor Logan, Seadhna  
Councillor Mulvey, Caroline  
Councillor McCartin, John  
Councillor McDermott, Sean  
Councillor McGowan, Sean  
Councillor O'Rourke, Paddy  
Councillor Stenson, Enda  
Councillor Warnock, Justin

And Councillor Mary Bohan, Cathaoirleach presiding

**Officials Present:** Mr. Frank Curran, Chief Executive  
Mr. Joseph Gilhooly, Director of Services, Economic  
Development, Planning, Environment and Transportation  
Ms. Mary Quinn, Director of Services, Housing and Community, Corporate  
Services, Culture and Emergency Services  
Mr. Vincent Dwyer, A/Head of Finance and Water Services  
Mr. Shay O'Connor, Senior Engineer, Infrastructure  
Ms. Una Wynne, Financial/Management Accountant  
Ms. Sinead Flynn, Meetings Administrator  
Ms. Kathleen McGovern Ellis, Assistant Staff Officer

**17/59**

**02/05/2017**      **Votes of Sympathy**

The Members extended a vote of sympathy to the following:

- Teresa and Philip Duignan, Gortinee, Aughamore P.O. on the death of Ms. Joanna Duignan
- The McEniff Family, Church Road, Bundoran on the death of Mr. Sean McEniff

**17/60**

**02/05/2017**      **Deimhniu Miontuairisci**

**Proposed by Councillor Enda Stenson, seconded by Councillor Pdraig Fallon and  
RESOLVED:**

“That the Minutes of Leitrim County Council Meeting held in the Council Chamber, Aras An  
Chontae, Carrick-on-Shannon, Co Leitrim on Monday, 6<sup>th</sup> March, 2017 be adopted”.

The Annual Financial Statement for Leitrim County Council for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2016 as circulated to the Members appears as **Appendix 1** to the Minutes of this meeting in the Minute Book.

Mr. Vincent Dwyer, A/Head of Finance & Water Services advised Members that Circular Fin 11/2016 issued by the Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government dated 16<sup>th</sup> December, 2016 authorised Local Authorities to use their historical reserve to write down general revenue reserve deficits or unfunded capital balances. Mr. Dwyer outlined that Leitrim County Council had a Specific Revenue Reserve of €956,814 and that this balance has been applied to write down the General Revenue Reserve. He outlined that by utilising the Revenue Reserve together with a trading surplus of approximately €100,829 the cumulative General Revenue Deficit has been reduced to €266,479. Mr. Dwyer concluded by stating that the Finance Department will continue to prudently manage the Council's financial resources and that efforts to reduce or eliminate the deficit will be ongoing.

This update was welcomed by the Members and the following items were raised:

- Councillor John McCartin sought clarification in relation to a deficit of €58,000 for the Fire Service.

Mr. Vincent Dwyer, A/Head of Finance advised that this deficit is relatively small in the context of an overall budget of €2 million. Mr. Frank Curran also advised that the nature of the fire service call outs are difficult to predict and that responding to weather related incidents can have a significant impact on expenditure in the Fire Service.

- Councillor John McCartin queried if the Fire Service could be used to respond to other types of emergency calls from the public other than fire related incidents.

Mr. Frank Curran, Chief Executive advised that the Fire Service is responsible for responding to fire related incidents only in accordance with the Fire Services Act. He advised that it is a matter for the HSE, and the Gardai to respond to all other emergency incidents.

- Councillor Des Guckian sought an update in relation to fines imposed by the Revenue Commissioners on Leitrim County Council with regard to unfinished estates.

Mr. Vincent Dwyer advised that this issue arose for all local authorities and is an ongoing process.

- Councillor Des Guckian stated that the local authority should have informed the Members of this situation as a matter of courtesy.
- Councillor Justin Warnock queried if Leitrim County Council reimburses Donegal County Council in relation to their attendance at fire incidents in North Leitrim.

Mr. Vincent Dwyer, A/Head of Finance confirmed that reciprocal billing arrangements are in place between neighbouring local authorities in the event of the attendance of a Fire Crew from one administrative area to another.

***Proposed by Councillor Sinead Guckian, seconded by Councillor John McCartin AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED;***

“That Leitrim County Council’s Annual Financial Statement for the Year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2016 be adopted in accordance with Section 108 of the Local Government Act, 2001.”

**17/62**

**02/05/2017 Additional Expenditure incurred by Leitrim County Council during 2016**

Mr. Vincent Dwyer provided an overview of the report on additional expenditure incurred by Leitrim County Council in 2016. Mr. Dwyer outlined that in accordance with Section (108) 4 of the Local Government Act, 2001 the approval of the Members is sought for the additional expenditure incurred by Leitrim County Council in 2016. The report as circulated to the Members, appears as **Appendix 2** to the Minutes of this meeting in the Minute Book.

***Proposed by Councillor Justin Warnock seconded by Councillor Felim Gurn AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED;***

“That additional expenditure incurred by Leitrim County Council in the performance of its functions in 2016 in accordance with the provisions of Section 108(4) of the Local Government Act, 2001 be approved”

**17/63**

**02/05/2017 Draft Annual Report 2016**

Mr. Frank Curran, Chief Executive informed the Members that the Draft Annual Report, 2016 is listed as an agenda item for adoption. The Draft Annual Report, 2016 as circulated to the Members appears as **Appendix 3** to the Minutes of this meeting in the Minute Book. Mr. Curran, highlighted a number of significant achievements of 2016 that are reflected in the 2016 Annual Report.

***Proposed by Councillor Sinead Guckian, seconded by Councillor Caillian Ellis AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED;***

“That Leitrim County Council’s Draft Annual Report, 2016 be adopted”.

**17/64**

**02/05/2017 Date and Time of the Annual Meeting of Leitrim County Council**

The Cathaoirleach, Councillor Mary Bohan informed the Members that the Corporate Policy Group agreed that the Annual Meeting of Leitrim County Council will be held on Friday, 23<sup>rd</sup> June, 2017 at 12 midday.

***Proposed by Councillor Paddy O’Rourke, seconded by Councillor Sinead Guckian AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED;***

“That the Annual Meeting of Leitrim County Council be held on Friday, 23<sup>rd</sup> June, 2017 at 12 midday in the Council Chamber, Aras an Chontae, Carrick on Shannon, Co. Leitrim.”

**17/65**

**02/05/2017 Monthly Management Reports by the Chief Executive**

Monthly Management Reports for the period 1<sup>st</sup> February, 2017 to 28<sup>th</sup> February, 2017 and 1<sup>st</sup> March, 2017 to 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2017 by Mr. Frank Curran, Chief Executive, dated 10<sup>th</sup> March, 2017 and, 12<sup>th</sup> April 2017 respectively, prepared in accordance with Section 136 (2) of the Local Government Act, 2001 as inserted by Section 51 of the Local Government Reform Act, 2014, as circulated to the Members, appear as **Appendix 4** and **Appendix 5** to the Minutes of this meeting in the Minute Book.

Mr. Frank Curran also provided an overview of the Town and Village Renewal Scheme 2017 and the Clar Programme. He outlined that the Expressions of Interest for the Town and Village Renewal Scheme must be submitted by 18<sup>th</sup> May, 2017. Mr. Joseph Gilhooly provided additional information on the application process for the Clar Programme.

The Members expressed concern that the funding available under both schemes will not be sufficient to approve all applications submitted.

Councillor Des Guckian requested that the Chief Executive Monthly Management Report font size for the Finance report be increased to a larger font size. This request was agreed to by Ms. Sinead Flynn, Meetings Administrator.

**17/66**

**02/05/2017 Section 138 (1) of the Local Government Act 2001**

Ms. Sinead Flynn, Meetings Administrator outlined that there were no commitments to note under this item.

**17/67**

**02/05/2017 Corporate Policy Group Report**

Ms. Sinead Flynn, Meetings Administrator gave an overview of the items considered by the Corporate Policy Group at their meeting held prior to the Council meeting.

**Update from Strategic Policy Committee's:**

- **Economic, Development, Enterprise & Planning Strategic Policy Committee**

A meeting of the Economic, Development, Enterprise & Planning Strategic Policy Committee was held on the 28<sup>th</sup> March, 2017. The SPC received a presentation from Mr. Joe Lowe on the Council Food Strategy. Mr. Bernard Greene, Senior Planner also gave a presentation on the National Planning Framework.

**Date for Annual Meeting of Leitrim County Council**

The Corporate Policy Group agreed that the Annual Meeting of Leitrim County Council will be held on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> June, 2017 at 12 midday.

**Workshop on Unfinished Estates**

The CPG agreed that the Planning Department will facilitate Workshops on Unfinished Estates with the Municipal District Members in May, 2017.

The CPG also considered agenda items for the Council meeting and approved the attendance of Members at forthcoming conferences and training seminars.

This update was noted by the Members.

**17/68**

**02/05/2017**

**Conferences/Training**

**Proposed by Councillor Sinead Guckian, seconded by Councillor Justin Warnock AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED:**

“That the attendance of Councillor Pdraig Fallon, Councillor Felim Gurn and Councillor Justin Warnock at the Conference on “Brexit and the Ireland/Northern Ireland Border Corridor” at the Lough Erne Resort, Enniskillen, Co. Fermanagh on the 4<sup>th</sup> May, 2017 be approved”.

“That the attendance of Councillor Justin Warnock and Councillor Felim Gurn at the Conference on “2 day Microsoft Excel Advanced Training for Councillors” at the Clonakilty Hotel, Clonakilty, Co. Cork on the 12<sup>th</sup> May to 14<sup>th</sup> May, 2017 be approved”.

“That the attendance of Councillor Sean McDermott, Councillor Frank Dolan and Councillor Justin Warnock at the AILG Training for the Border & Western Region in Westport, Co. Mayo on the 13<sup>th</sup> May, 2017 be approved”.

***Proposed by Councillor Sean McGowan, seconded by Councillor Sinead Guckian AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED:***

“That the attendance of Councillor Finola Armstrong McGuire, Councillor Paddy O’Rourke, Councillor Frank Dolan, Councillor Enda Stenson, Councillor Sean McDermott and Councillor John McCartin at the AILG Training in Waterford City on the 11<sup>th</sup> February, 2017 be retrospectively approved”.

“That the attendance of Councillor Sean McGowan, Councillor Sinead Guckian, Councillor Frank Dolan, Councillor Paddy O’Rourke and Councillor Enda Stenson at the LAMA Conference in the City North Hotel, Gormanstown, Co. Meath on the 27<sup>th</sup> April to 29<sup>th</sup> April, 2017 be retrospectively approved”.

“That the attendance of Councillor Sinead Guckian, Councillor Paddy O’Rourke, Councillor Sean McDermott and Councillor Sean McGowan at the AILG Annual Conference in Tracey’s West County Hotel, Ennis, Co. Clare on the 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> April, 2017 be retrospectively approved”.

**17/69**

**02/05/2017**

**Meeting Correspondence**

The following items were considered under Meeting Correspondence:

1. Letter dated 9<sup>th</sup> March, 2017 from the Office of the Minister for Health in response to a resolution passed by Leitrim County Council with regard to Home Help.
2. Letter dated 8<sup>th</sup> March, 2017 from Phil Hogan, Member of the European Commission on Agriculture and Rural Development in response to a resolution passed by Leitrim County Council regarding forestry.

Councillor Justin Warnock expressed his disappointment with the reply received in this regard.

3. Letter dated 13<sup>th</sup> March, 2017 from the Office of the Minister of State for Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs in response to a resolution passed by Leitrim County Council with regard to Aughavas Post Office.
- 3(a) Letter dated 23<sup>rd</sup> March, 2017 from the Office of the Minister of State for Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs acknowledging receipt of a resolution from Leitrim County Council with regard to Aughavas Post Office.
- 3(b) Email dated 23<sup>rd</sup> March, 2017 from the Office of the Minister of Communications, Climate Action and Environment acknowledging receipt of a resolution from Leitrim County Council with regard to Aughavas Post Office.
4. Letter dated 16<sup>th</sup> March, 2017 from the Office of the Minister for Health acknowledging receipt of a resolution passed by Leitrim County Council in relation to the Council of Europe Convention against trafficking in Human Organs.
5. Letter dated 21<sup>st</sup> March, 2017 from the Office of the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport acknowledging receipt of a resolution passed by Leitrim County Council with regard to the school bus service.
- 5(a) Email dated 3<sup>rd</sup> April, 2017 from the Minister of State with responsibility for Training, Skills and Innovation with regard to the review of the School Transport Scheme.
6. Letter from the Office of the Minister for Education and Skills acknowledging receipt of a resolution passed by Leitrim County Council with regard to DEIS status.
7. Letter dated 23<sup>rd</sup> March, 2017 from the Department of Social Protection in response to a resolution passed by Leitrim County Council with regard to the decision to consolidate MABS Offices.
- 7(a) Letter dated 23<sup>rd</sup> March, 2017 from the Office of the Minister for Social Protection acknowledging receipt of a resolution passed by Leitrim County Council in relation to MABS offices.
8. Letter dated 23<sup>rd</sup> March, 2017 from the HSE with regard to the School Dental Service.

Councillor Caroline Mulvey proposed that a further letter issue to the HSE seeking clarification on how many students have attended the School Dental Service.

9. Letter dated 23<sup>rd</sup> March, 2017 from the Office of the Minister for Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government acknowledging receipt of a resolution passed by Leitrim County Council with regard to the requirement for Irish language when taking up employment in the Public Library Service.
- 9(a) Letter dated 30<sup>th</sup> March, 2017 from the Office of the Minister for Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government in relation to the requirement for Irish language when taking up employment in the Public Library Service.

10. Letter dated 27<sup>th</sup> March, 2017 from the Office of the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine acknowledging receipt of a resolution passed by Leitrim County Council regarding the Regional Veterinary Laboratory in Doonally, Co. Sligo.
  11. Letter dated 27<sup>th</sup> March, 2017 from the Office of the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine acknowledging receipt of a resolution passed by Leitrim County Council with regard to Areas of Natural Constraint Scheme.
  - 11(a) Letter dated 27<sup>th</sup> March, 2017 from the Office of the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine acknowledging receipt of a resolution passed by Leitrim County Council with regard to the Areas of Natural Constraint Scheme.
  12. Letter dated 24<sup>th</sup> March, 2017 from the Valuation Office in relation to resolutions passed by Leitrim County Council in relation to the revaluation of commercial premises in Co. Leitrim.
  13. Letter dated 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2017 from the Office of the Minister for Finance acknowledging receipt of a resolution passed by Leitrim County Council regarding funding for a Land Drainage Scheme.
  - 13(a) Letter dated 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2017 from the Office of the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine acknowledging receipt of a resolution passed by Leitrim County Council with regard to funding for a land drainage scheme.
  14. Letter dated 7<sup>th</sup> April, 2017 from the Office of the Minister for Education and Skills in relation to the DEIS Status for St. Brigid's National School, Drumkeerin and Lough Allen College, Drumkeerin, Co. Leitrim.
  15. Letter dated 25<sup>th</sup> April, 2017 from the Office of the Minister for Education and Skills acknowledging receipt of a resolution passed by Leitrim County Council with regard to the Leaving Certificate Applied Course and Youthreach.
- Councillor Sinead Guckian expressed her dissatisfaction that the Minister has not responded to the Notice of Motion passed by the Elected Members calling on the Minister to intervene and address the current situation where students in Leitrim have no access to the Leaving Certificate Applied Course, or a dedicated Youth Reach Service, in their own county and proposed that a further letter issue in this regard.
16. Resolution from Kilkenny County Council dated 10<sup>th</sup> March, 2017 calling on the Minister for Health and the HSE to change the review on the standard of cancer care in Ireland from 10 years to 5 years, as the number of cancer patients are increasing each year and new research is being identified.
  17. Resolution from Clare County Council dated 3<sup>rd</sup> April, 2017 requesting the Minister for Social Protection, Leo Varadkar to re-instate the telephone allowance for the elderly.
  18. Resolution from Donegal County Council dated 7<sup>th</sup> April, 2017 calling on the Minister for Defence to formally award the military Medal for Gallantry to the Veterans of the siege of Jadotville, in view of the outstanding bravery and heroism shown.
  19. Resolution from Galway County Council dated 19<sup>th</sup> April, 2017 calling on Irish Rail and Bus Éireann to strongly object to any downgrading of bus or rail services that will affect any town or village in County Galway.

20. ICBAN Update March, 2017.
21. Resolution from Tipperary County Council dated 24<sup>th</sup> April, 2017 calling on the Minister for Social Protection, Mr. Leo Varadkar TD to urge him to allow those over 55 on Community Employment Schemes to continue to do so until they reach 65.
22. Resolution from Sligo County Council calling on the Minister for Planning, Housing and Local Government, Mr Simon Coveney T.D., to make available additional resources to Sligo County Council to support the increased social and economic demands due to Brexit.
23. Letter dated 26<sup>th</sup> April, 2017 from the Office of the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine in relation to the Sligo Regional Veterinary Laboratories.

Councillor Padraig Fallon proposed that a further letter issue to the Minister in this regard. He stated that the Laboratory in Dublin is closed during the summer months and that post mortems have to be carried out in Athlone with staff from Sligo Regional Veterinary Laboratory required to travel to Athlone to carry out this work.

24. Resolution from Waterford City & County Council with regard to the current arrangements where a member who is unable to attend a Council meeting is listed as either absent or that they have sent apologies.
25. Resolution from Waterford City & County Council supporting the legalisation of the use of cannabis for medicinal purposes. It supports that the scope of such use is left to the professional discretion of the medical practitioner involved and the consenting patient.

**17/70**

**02/05/2017      Presentation from Northern & Western Regional Assembly**

Mr. Frank Curran, Chief Executive welcomed Mr. David Minton, Director of the Northern and Regional Assembly to give a presentation on behalf of the Northern & Western Regional Assembly.

Mr. Minton thanked the Cathaoirleach and Elected Members for affording him the opportunity to address the meeting. He provided a detailed presentation on the strategic direction of the Northern & Western Regional Assembly, its role in regional development and how the Assembly can assist Leitrim in achieving it's own objectives. A copy of the presentation appears as **Appendix 6** to the Minutes of this meeting in the Minute Book.

The Cathaoirleach, Councillor Mary Bohan thanked Mr. Minton for his presentation and stated that successful regional development is dependent on stakeholder engagement. Councillor Bohan invited questions and comments from the Members.

The following items were raised:

- Councillor Frank Dolan welcomed Mr. Minton to Dromahaire and he commended Mr. Minton for his role to date as the Director of the Northern & Regional Assembly. Councillor Dolan stressed the importance of the members of the Northern and Regional Assembly working together to benefit the region as opposed to seeking to advance projects at a county level.



- Councillor Enda Stenson called for additional EU funding to be provided for Leitrim. He acknowledged that accessing such funding can be difficult.
- Councillor Pdraig Fallon suggested that regular updates are provided to the Elected Members by the Northern and Regional Assembly.
- Councillor Des Guckian commended Paddy McGuinness, former Chairperson of the Western Development Commission for resigning from his post. He stated that Government Policy in relation to economic development is primarily focused on Dublin and the surrounding area and that the Government are not committed to regional development. He criticised the Government for not providing adequate support to rural communities to create job opportunities for people to live in Leitrim and as a result many young people are forced to emigrate.
- Councillor Paddy O'Rourke referred to Mr. Minton's reference that there are 75,000 students in the region. He welcomed that the students are seen as great asset to the region with the potential to be future entrepreneurs etc. Councillor O'Rourke stated that the success of the strategy is dependent on the engagement of all stakeholders and local communities.
- Councillor Sean McDermott stated that Leitrim requires additional infrastructure and investment.
- Councillor Justin Warnock welcomed that Leitrim County Council will have a Designated Officer to access European Funding.
- Councillor Brendan Barry stated that Ireland West Airport is a major asset for the region and should continue to be promoted to attract new businesses to the region. He requested clarification in relation to what companies are seeking when establishing new businesses in the region.
- Councillor Seadhna Logan stressed that Brexit will have a negative impact on the region and that not enough is being done to address the impact of Brexit.
- Councillor Felim Gurn queried if there was any funding available to develop Greenways.
- Councillor Sean McGowan paid tribute to the good rail infrastructure from Sligo to Dublin. He noted that additional investment in the roads infrastructure is required across the region and he also called for additional investment to improve broadband provision.

In response to the comments raised by the Members, Mr. Minton agreed that accessing European Funding Model streams can be difficult, however, he outlined that the role of the Assembly is to assist and support local authorities to access funding. He stated that the following should be promoted in order for Leitrim to achieve its own objectives:-

- Proactively assist regional economic development through the engagement of key businesses and regional stakeholders in order to identify advantages, synergies and opportunities.
- Facilitate existing and develop new enterprise sector groups to deliver on the advantages, synergies and opportunities for the region through networking, shared resources, economies of scale and cross-sectoral engagement. Leitrim County Council has invested in Ireland West Airport.

- Promote the region internally and externally in order to maximize the region's economic potential based on its key advantages, capacities and opportunities and through active engagement with wider economic initiatives and funding opportunities.
- Foster an even stronger spirit of entrepreneurship in the Upper Shannon Erne Future Economy Project by sharing knowledge, experience and expertise between the various participating businesses.
- Ensure that there is an effective and co-ordinated executive support system in place to maximise the potential of the initiative, and to secure further participation of businesses across the region.

Mr. Minton thanking the Members for inviting him to address the meeting and he advised that he looked forward to working with them in the future.

### Notices of Motions

17/71

02/05/2017

#### Housing Estates taken in Charge

***To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Des Guckian;***

"That Council Officials provide, to Elected Members, a full list of all estates in Co. Leitrim taken-in-charge by the Council since January, 2009 and the actual date of the taking-in-charge of each."

***Report by Director of Services for Economic Development, Planning, Environment and Transportation.***

"

Number	Estate	Date taken in charge
1	Oaklands, Carrick on Shannon	12 <sup>th</sup> May, 2009
2	Sheila Mor's, Manorhamilton	12 <sup>th</sup> May, 2009
3	Ascaill Loch Bofinne (Phase 1), Dromod	5 <sup>th</sup> October, 2009
4	Ascaill Loch Bofinne (Phase 2), Dromod	5 <sup>th</sup> October, 2009
5	Sliabh View, Mohill	5 <sup>th</sup> July, 2010
6	Sliabh View, Mohill	6 <sup>th</sup> July, 2010
7	Clooneen Park, Manorhamilton	7 <sup>th</sup> March, 2011
8	Rock Valley, Dromahaire	7 <sup>th</sup> March, 2011
9	Rock Valley, Dromahaire	13 <sup>th</sup> April, 2011
10	Drowes Court, Tullaghan	8 <sup>th</sup> April, 2011
11	Glendara, Dromod	8 <sup>th</sup> April, 2011
12	Cuan Eislinne, Dromod	15 <sup>th</sup> September, 2011
13	Ascaill Loch Bofinne (Phase 3), Dromod	10 <sup>th</sup> October, 2011
14	Shannagh Grove, Mohill	5 <sup>th</sup> March, 2012
15	Drowes Close, Tullaghan,	5 <sup>th</sup> March, 2012
16	Tir Na Si, Carrick on Shannon	5 <sup>th</sup> November, 2012
17	Carraig Beag, Carrick on Shannon	6 <sup>th</sup> March, 2012
18	Ashdale, Drumshanbo	8 <sup>th</sup> May, 2013
19	Hillcrest Grove, Drumshanbo	8 <sup>th</sup> May, 2013
20	Cois Cuan, Drumshanbo	7 <sup>th</sup> October, 2013
21	Cluain Si, Carrick on Shannon	18 <sup>th</sup> March, 2014
22	Speers Green, Dromahaire	23 <sup>rd</sup> February, 2015
23	Belmont Heights, Drumshanbo	23 <sup>rd</sup> February, 2015
24	Portroosc, Rooskey	23 <sup>rd</sup> February, 2015
25	Shannon Grove, Carrick on Shannon	23 <sup>rd</sup> February, 2015
26	Ashbrook Crescent, Mohill	23 <sup>rd</sup> February, 2015

27	Ard An Chuain, Dromod	9 <sup>th</sup> February, 2015
28	Windmill Park (North Section), Drumkeernan	20 <sup>th</sup> July, 2015
29	Millbrook Kinlough, Kinlough	20 <sup>th</sup> July, 2015
30	Ros Na Hinse, Carrick on Shannon	20 <sup>th</sup> October, 2015
31	Caldaragh Crescent, Carrick on Shannon	20 <sup>th</sup> October, 2015
32	Drumcala, Dromod	21 <sup>st</sup> October, 2015
33	Dun Ri, Carrick on Shannon	21 <sup>st</sup> October, 2015
34	The Paddocks, Carrick on Shannon	25 <sup>th</sup> April, 2016
35	Rockingham, Carrick on Shannon	25 <sup>th</sup> April, 2016
36	Fan Na Greine, Dromod	25 <sup>th</sup> April, 2016
37	Riversdale, Leitrim Village	25 <sup>th</sup> April, 2016
38	The Fairways, Dromod	26 <sup>th</sup> April, 2016

Councillor Des Guckian proposed that a copy of the reply to his Notice of Motion be circulated to all Members. He stated that in recent years over 230 housing estates were developed in Leitrim and that this poses a major financial burden on Leitrim County Council. Councillor Guckian also stated that local people were denied planning permission to build a single rural dwelling on family owned land.

The Cathaoirleach, Councillor Mary Bohan advised that the issue of unfinished estates in the county was raised with Minister Damian English during his recent visit to Leitrim. She also advised that a Workshop on Unfinished Estates will be held in each Municipal District in May, 2017.

**17/72**

**02/05/2017**

**Planning Permission in Rural Leitrim**

***To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Enda Stenson;***

"I ask the support of all Members here, that we invite, Mr. Simon Coveney, to the Council Chamber to discuss, the whole issue of building a dwelling house in Co. Leitrim, as the law now stands, there are huge areas of this County that will NEVER see a rural dwelling erected again, this is a sobering thought, and the Minister MUST address this urgently."

Councillor Enda Stenson sought an update as to where Leitrim County Council is currently in relation to the pilot projects on zero discharge.

***Proposed by Councillor Enda Stenson seconded by Councillor Des Guckian AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED;***

"That Leitrim County Council invite, Mr. Simon Coveney, to the Council Chamber to discuss, the whole issue of building a dwelling house in Co. Leitrim, as the law now stands, there are huge areas of this County that will NEVER see a rural dwelling erected again, this is a sobering thought, and the Minister MUST address this urgently."

**17/73**

**02/05/2017**

**Infrastructural Works**

***To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Sean McGowan;***

"I seek the support of Members in calling on Mr. Frank Curran, Chief Executive to explore the possibility of applying for a low cost/ interest free loan to carry out some much needed infrastructural works under the Capital Programme. I would suggest that the following works

would be considered - provision of footpaths, public lighting and playgrounds. As it stands Leitrim County Council are unable to fund the above mentioned works out of the road and general grant allocations and this situation is unlikely to change in the near future."

**Report by A/Head of Finance & Water Services**

"Leitrim County Council are required to seek loan approval based upon the following procedure:

1. A resolution must be passed in the first instance by Leitrim County Council to approve the raising of a loan.
2. Application for loan approval from the Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government.

In making a loan application to the Department, Leitrim County Council is required to identify what provision has or will be made in future budgets to meet the loan repayments or detail alternative sources of finance where applicable. Therefore in considering the progression of a loan application, it will be necessary to clearly identify the budgetary proposals to meet the repayments over the duration of the loan."

Councillor Sean McGowan outlined that he submitted this Notice of Motion in order to seek an alternative funding source for the provision of footpaths, public lighting and playgrounds by the Council obtaining a low cost interest free loan to fund the works.

The Cathaoirleach, Councillor Mary Bohan expressed her concern in this regard. She advised that she would have a difficulty with approving the loan request as the measure would in effect be letting the Government off the "hook" in relation to their responsibility to provide funding for such services.

Councillor Sinead Guckian supported the Notice of Motion but also acknowledged Councillor Mary Bohan's concerns. Councillor Paddy O'Rourke and Councillor Felim Gurn also supported the proposal.

The Cathaoirleach, Councillor Mary Bohan again cautioned that this proposal would set a precedent and that the Council should not be required to borrow money in order to fund the provision of essential services that should be financed by Central Government.

Councillor Padraig Fallon and Councillor Sean McDermott also agreed with Councillor Bohan and stated that if the Council commenced such practice it would create an expectation to continue to borrow money to fund day to day services. The Members stated that the Council could not take such a decision.

Mr. Frank Curran advised that the reduction in the Annual Roads Allocation from €16 million to €8 million has had a significant impact on the local authority Roads Work Programme. He advised that loan approval would have to be sanctioned by the Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government and approved by the Members. Mr. Curran also that in order to examine the proposal would have to be examined in the context of the budgetary preparation process for 2018.

17/74

02/05/2017

**Remote Area Grant**

***To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Padraig Fallon;***

"I propose that this Council call on the Department of Education and the relevant Ministers to conduct a review of the Remote Area Grant and that this review reflect the operating costs on

parents and guardians with regard to providing school transport."

**Proposed by Councillor Pdraig Fallon, seconded by Councillor Mary Bohan AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED;**

"That Leitrim County Council call on the Department of Education and the relevant Ministers to conduct a review of the Remote Area Grant and that this review reflect the operating costs on parents and guardians with regard to providing school transport."

17/75

02/05/2017

**Aura Leisure**

**To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Sinead Guckian;**

"I ask the Chief Executive if Aura Leisure are in breach of their Management Licence, with the recently proposed price increases, for community clubs using the Carrick-on-Shannon facility and also, with the proposed reduction in allocated hours for community groups."

**Report by Director of Services for Economic Development, Planning, Environment and Transportation.**

"The matter of access to the Aura Leisure Centre for swimming clubs was raised at the last Carrick on Shannon Municipal District Meeting. A meeting has been held by Leitrim County Council with the senior management of Aura, the centre operation company. Aura has reassured Leitrim County Council that their primary aim is to deliver a fair and equitable allocation of available hours for swim clubs across their current swim club customers. Rates for swim clubs are effectively pool hire rates and are outside of the Licence provision whereby the Council is to be consulted on admission fees. Following feedback and subsequent meetings with the Carrick Fins club the proposed rate increases were reduced and phased over a longer period of time. The rate charged to Carrick Fins is currently a historically low rate and the operator is of the view that it is unsustainable and not equitable. The revised rates being proposed, with all clubs paying the same, are seen as reasonable on a regional basis. The operator advises that the Connaught Development Officer of Swim Ireland concurs with this view. Adjustments in method of operation by the club in order to maximise their use of the dedicated lanes would also provide for lower costs while another local club who has to avail of hours in Sligo due to the limited availability of hours at Aura could be accommodated. In conclusion the operator agreed to extend the deadline on Carrick Fins to the end of the week i.e. 5th May."

Councillor Sinead Guckian queried if Aura Leisure are providing the service they were intended to provide in accordance with their license agreement. This Notice of Motion was also supported by all Councillor Sean McGowan, Councillor Enda Stenson, Councillor Finola Armstrong-McGuire and Councillor Des Guckian.

Councillor Des Guckian stated that he previously requested a copy of the licence from Leitrim County Council and that he has not been provided with a copy of the license to date.

Councillor Caroline Mulvey stated that the Community Groups in Leitrim have only access to very limited hours in the Aura Leisure Centre.

Mr. Joseph Gilhooly advised that Aural Leisure is under the same Operator since 2005 and he stated that the facility is meeting the terms and conditions of its agreement to operate the facility. He outlined that the issue arose as two swimming clubs were using the facility and were being charged different rates. Mr. Gilhooly outlined as detailed in the reply to the Notice of Motion that

revised rates are being proposed, with all clubs paying the same, are seen as reasonable on a regional basis. Mr. Gilhooly advised that two meetings have taken place with Carrick Fins Club and a final meeting will take place this evening with a representative from Swim Ireland also due to attend the meeting.

17/76

02/05/2017

**Housing Aid for Older People**

***To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Justin Warnock;***

"I ask Leitrim County Council to call on Minister Simon Coveney TD., Minister for Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government to immediately increase the funding for the Housing Aid for Older People and the Mobility Aids Grants Schemes as these grants are totally inadequate to meet the needs of our older people, especially those who live on their own throughout County Leitrim."

Councillor Justin Warnock cited that funding for the Housing Aid for Older People and the Mobility Aids Grants Schemes is totally inadequate. He advised that by approving grant-aid under the schemes to upgrade properties that those properties will eventually be passed on to the next generation to meet their housing need.

Ms. Mary Quinn, Director of Services, Housing and Community, Corporate Services, Culture and Emergency Services outlined that 20% is funded from Leitrim County Council's own resources and 80% is funded by the Department. The Housing Aid for Older People and the Mobility Aids Grants Scheme is only a contribution to the carrying out of works. To date 27 applications have been received with a total of €145,667 being paid out of allocation of €380,000.

***Proposed by Councillor Justin Warnock, seconded by Councillor Sean McGowan AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED;***

"That Leitrim County Council call on Minister Simon Coveney TD., Minister for Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government to immediately increase the funding for the Housing Aid for Older People and the Mobility Aids Grants Schemes as these grants are totally inadequate to meet the needs of our older people, especially those who live on their own throughout County Leitrim."

17/77

02/05/2017

**Road Re-alignments and new road lay-outs**

***To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Sean McDermott;***

"I ask Leitrim County Council to request Transport Infrastructure Ireland that, in future, when road re-alignments and new road lay-outs are carried out on National Primary roads, that provision will be made for a hard shoulder."

***Report by Director of Services for Economic Development, Planning, Environment and Transportation.***

"This item was discussed at the Environmental, Transportation and Infrastructural Policy SPC in 2016. This committee adopted a policy that all new road schemes in this county should have a hard shoulder. This policy was advised to the TII. Their response in March 2016 was that as a roads authority Leitrim County Council are obliged to comply with the NRA Design Manual for Roads and Bridges. Any alteration to these standards will require approval of a Departure from the Standards."

***Proposed by Councillor Sean McDermott, seconded by Councillor Felim Gurn AND UNANIMOULSY RESOLVED***

"That Leitrim County Council request Transport Infrastructure Ireland that, in future, when road re-alignments and new road lay-outs are carried out on National Primary roads, that provision will be made for a hard shoulder."

**17/78**

**02/05/2017**

**Heritage Centre, Kiltyclogher**

***To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Felim Gurn;***

"I ask that the Executive to contact the OPW to ascertain if they do not intend renewing funding for a Guide/Manager at the Heritage Centre in Kiltyclogher which, if withdrawn, could result in visitors being unable to visit Seán Mac Diarmada's homestead."

***Proposed by Councillor Felim Gurn, seconded by Councillor Mary Bohan AND UNANIMOULSY RESOLVED***

"That the Executive to contact the OPW to ascertain if they do not intend renewing funding for a Guide/Manager at the Heritage Centre in Kiltyclogher which, if withdrawn, could result in visitors being unable to visit Seán Mac Diarmada's homestead".

**17/79**

**02/05/2017**

**Brexit Negotiations**

***To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Caroline Mulvey;***

"I call on Leitrim County Council to demand that this Government adopt the position for Brexit negotiations of, "designated special status for the north within the European Union" as the recent Notice of Motion that was passed in the Dáil stated."

***Proposed by Councillor Caroline Mulvey, seconded by Councillor Mary Bohan AND UNANIMOULSY RESOLVED***

"That Leitrim County Council demand that this Government adopt the position for Brexit negotiations of, "designated special status for the north within the European Union" as the recent Notice of Motion that was passed in the Dáil stated."

17/80

02/05/2017

**2017 National Reserve**

The Cathaoirleach, Councillor Mary Bohan proposed that Motion No. 21 in the name of Councillor Brendan Barry and Motion No. 27 in the name of Councillor Gerry Dolan would be taken concurrently as they both relate to the same matter. This was agreed by the Members.

***To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Brendan Barry;***

"I request that Leitrim County Council call on the Minister for Agriculture, Michael Creed to amend the rules so young farmers who will be completing their Agricultural courses in June can apply to the 2017 National reserve and to ask the Minister how he plans to support these young trained farmers who his Department encouraged to start farming if they are excluded from the 2017 National reserve?"

***To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Gerry Dolan;***

"I call on this Council to seek the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine to change the rules of entry into the new National Reserve Scheme for 2017. The current terms and conditions state that only young farmers who have the Green Certificate completed will be eligible to enter the 2017 National Reserve. Due to the current long waiting lists of young farmers looking to begin the Green Certificate Course, any young farmer that has signed up for the Green Certificate Course should be eligible for entry into the National Reserve 2017 Scheme."

***Proposed by Councillor Brendan Barry, seconded by Councillor Gerry Dolan AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED:***

"That Leitrim County Council call on the Minister for Agriculture, Michael Creed to amend the rules so young farmers who will be completing their Agricultural courses in June can apply to the 2017 National reserve and to ask the Minister how he plans to support these young trained farmers who his Department encouraged to start farming if they are excluded from the 2017 National reserve?"

"That Leitrim County Council call on the Minister for Agriculture, Michael Creed to amend the rules so young farmers who will be completing their Agricultural courses in June can apply to the 2017 National reserve and to ask the Minister how he plans to support these young trained farmers who his Department encouraged to start farming if they are excluded from the 2017 National reserve?"

17/81

02/05/2017

**Ambulance Service**

***To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Seadhna Logan;***

"Figures released by the National Ambulance Service show there is just one ambulance stationed in Carrick-on-Shannon and one in Manorhamilton for day and night shifts in County Leitrim. As a result if the South Leitrim Ambulance is out on a call or transporting a patient to a hospital outside of the county, it is not possible for an emergency response within the recommended 18 minutes and 59 seconds of being alerted. This Council calls on the HSE's National Ambulance Service to invest in the necessary resources and ensure that Leitrim has a fit for purpose ambulance service that can cope with the demand in the county within the recommended time limits."



**Proposed by Councillor Seadhna Logan, seconded by Councillor Sean McGowan AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED**

"Figures released by the National Ambulance Service show there is just one ambulance stationed in Carrick-on-Shannon and one in Manorhamilton for day and night shifts in County Leitrim. As a result if the South Leitrim Ambulance is out on a call or transporting a patient to a hospital outside of the county, it is not possible for an emergency response within the recommended 18 minutes and 59 seconds of being alerted. This Council calls on the HSE's National Ambulance Service to invest in the necessary resources and ensure that Leitrim has a fit for purpose ambulance service, that can cope with the demand in the county within the recommended time limits."

**17/82**

**02/05/2017**

**Relieving Flood Waters**

***To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Finola Armstrong-McGuire;***

"I will ask what works have been carried out in Co. Leitrim to relieve flooding along the banks of the Shannon and its feeding drains and canals in the past 6 months? How much communication has been engaged in, with the Board of Works and the ESB?"

***Report by Director of Services for Economic Development, Planning, Environment and Transportation.***

"In the past 6 months Leitrim County Council and Roscommon County Council has cleaned up the banks along the River Shannon at Jamestown. These works were funded by the OPW and will help in relieving flood waters around Carrick on Shannon town. This council has also installed non-return valves in all the known surface water outlets in Carrick on Shannon and Leitrim Village. This will prevent flood water going up the surface water system during flood events.

The national Shannon Flood Risk State Agency Coordination Working Group was established last year and includes all agencies involved with the River Shannon. This group has worked to coordinate activities along the River Shannon. Agreement has been reached on the control of water levels in Lough Allen. There are also proposals being considered to dredge the Upper Shannon."

Councillor Finola Armstrong McGuire acknowledged the reply to her Notice of Motion. She queried if Leitrim County Council will be in a position to provide assistance to landowners to carry out drainage works.

Mr. Shay O'Connor advised that the budget for drainage works is minimum and he advised that the Council are discussions with the Office of Public Works (OPW) to establish if any central funding source can be accessed.

**17/83**

**02/05/2017**

**Jobpath Programmes**

***To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Paddy O'Rourke;***

"I ask this Council to contact the relevant Minister with a view to having a more user friendly system in place under which Jobpath Programmes are operated. Currently the system prevents people obtaining positions on Community Employment Schemes or training programmes more relevant to their requirements whilst they are on a Jobpath Programme. This system simply has to change."

**Proposed by Councillor Paddy O'Rourke, seconded by Councillor Justin Warnock AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED**

"That Leitrim County Council contact the relevant Minister with a view to having a more user friendly system in place under which Jobpath Programmes are operated. Currently the system prevents people obtaining positions on Community Employment Schemes or training programmes more relevant to their requirements whilst they are on a Jobpath Programme. This system simply has to change."

**17/84**

**02/05/2017**

**Afforestation**

**To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Frank Dolan;**

"I propose that Leitrim County Council call on Mr. Simon Coveney, Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government for a national policy to regularise all activity around afforestation i.e. from planning permissions right through to extraction. If this does not happen, it may have serious consequences for our County."

**Proposed by Councillor Frank Dolan, seconded by Councillor Mary Bohan AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED:**

"That Leitrim County Council call on Mr. Simon Coveney, Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government for a national policy and to seek a meeting with him to regularise all activity around afforestation i.e. from planning permissions right through to extraction. If this does not happen, it may have serious consequences for our County".

**17/85**

**02/05/2017**

**Issues facing Irish Citizens**

**To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Mary Bohan;**

"I propose that Leitrim County Council call on the Taoiseach, Mr. Enda Kenny, the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade, Mr. Charles Flanagan and all Government Ministers to address the many serious issues facing Irish citizens returning to live in this country from abroad. I further call for proper cross agency supports to be put in place to deal with this matter."

**Proposed by Councillor Mary Bohan, seconded by Councillor Padraig Fallon AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED:**

"That Leitrim County Council call on the Taoiseach, Mr. Enda Kenny, the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade, Mr. Charles Flanagan and all Government Ministers to address the many serious issues facing Irish citizens returning to live in this country from abroad. I further call for proper cross agency supports to be put in place to deal with this matter."

The business the meeting concluded at 2.10 p.m.

**Signed:**

**Councillor Finola Armstrong-McGuire  
Cathaoirleach**

**Signed:**

**Sinead Flynn  
Meetings Administrator**

**Dated: 3<sup>rd</sup> July, 2017**