

**Minutes of Meeting of Leitrim County Council held in the Council Chamber,
Aras An Chontae, Carrick-on-Shannon, Co. Leitrim on Monday, 2nd July 2018**

Members Present: Councillor Armstrong-McGuire, Finola
Councillor Bohan, Mary
Councillor Barry, Brendan
Councillor Dolan, Frank
Councillor Dolan, Gerry
Councillor Ellis, Caillian
Councillor Fallon, Padraig
Councillor Guckian, Des
Councillor Logan, Seadhna
Councillor Mulvey, Caroline
Councillor McCartin, John
Councillor McDermott, Sean
Councillor O'Rourke, Paddy
Councillor Stenson, Enda
Councillor Warnock, Justin

And Councillor McGowan, Sean
Cathaoirleach presiding

Apologies: Councillor Guckian, Sinead
Councillor Gurn, Felim

Officials Present: Mr Lar Power, 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, Head of Finance and Water Services
Mr Billy Lowe, Senior Engineer
Mr. Shay O'Connor, Senior Engineer
Mr. Bernard Greene. Senior Planner
Mr. Finian Joyce, Chief Fire Officer
Mr Shane Tiernan, Senior Executive Officer
Mr Noel O'Reilly, Senior Assistant Chief Fire Officer
Mr Brendan McKenna, Senior Executive Officer
Ms Johanna Daly, Administrative Officer
Ms. Mairead Shanley, Meetings Administrator
Ms. Kathleen McGovern Ellis, Assistant Staff Officer

At the outset of the meeting the Councillor Enda Stenson congratulated Cathaoirleach, Councillor Sean McGowan on his election as Chairperson of Leitrim County Council.

Cathaoirleach, Councillor Sean McGowan advised Councillor Sinead Guckian was absent from the meeting as she was attending a meeting on the review of the role of elected members of local authorities commissioned by Minister of State for Local

Government and Electoral Reform. Councillor Sinead Guckian had been selected as one of the AILGs representatives to participate in the review.

18/100

02/07/2018

Votes of Sympathy

The Members extended a vote of sympathy to the following:

- Henry Sorohan, Main Street, Drumshanbo on the death of Kevin Sorohan.
- Jim Gralton, Shancurry, Drumshanbo on the death of Margaret Rose Gralton.
- Oliver McGuinness, Shannon Lodge, Carrick-on-Shannon, Co Leitrim on the death of Marie McGuinness.
- Tommy O'Dowd, Jamestown, Carrick-on-Shannon, Co Leitrim on the death of Annie O'Dowd.
- Pat Mulvey, Main Street, Carrick-on-Shannon, Co Leitrim on the death of Mary Mulvey.
- Mary Glancy, Cloonshebane, Hartley, Carrick-on-Shannon on the death of Pat Murtagh.

18/101

02/07/2018

Deimhniu Miontuairisci

Proposed by Councillor Finola Armstrong McGuire seconded by Councillor Enda Stenson and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED:

“That the Minutes of Leitrim County Council Meeting held in the Council Chamber, Aras An Chontae, Carrick-on-Shannon, Co Leitrim on Monday, 5th March 2018 be adopted”.

Proposed by Councillor Finola Armstrong McGuire seconded by Councillor Sean Mc Dermott and RESOLVED:

“That the Minutes of Leitrim County Council Meeting held in the Council Chamber, Aras An Chontae, Carrick-on-Shannon on Friday, 29th June 2018 be adopted”.

Councillor Des Guckian said he had left the Annual meeting in protest, as he felt he had been robbed of his rights. Councillor Des Guckian said that he had not said that the Annual meeting should not be held but rather that there was no need for the meeting to select the Chair when it had already been agreed.

He referred to the comments by Members as backstabbing and none of the Members has said anything while he was at the meeting.

Cathaoirleach, Councillor Sean McGowan said that Members were responding as he was going out the door and they were not saying anything behind his back.

18/102

02/07/2018

Ballinamore Fire Station

Report Ref 18-C-03 from Mr. Lar Power, Chief Executive in relation to the demolition of an existing Fire Station, construction of a new fire station and drill tower along with associated site works at Stradermot Td., Golf Links Road, Ballinamore, Co Leitrim in accordance with Section 179 of the Planning & Development Acts 2000-2017 and Part 8 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001-2018, as circulated to the Members, appears as **Appendix 1** to the Minutes of this meeting in the Minute Book.

Proposed by Councillor Caillian Ellis, seconded by Councillor Brendan Barry and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED:

"That the demolition of an existing Fire Station, construction of a new fire station and drill tower along with associated site works at Stradermot TD., Golf Links Road, Ballinamore, Co Leitrim be approved".

18/103

02/07/2018 Local Authority development in partnership with Waterways Ireland

Report Ref 18-C-02 from Mr. Lar Power, Chief Executive in relation to the development in partnership with Waterways Ireland, as part of the North Shannon Blueway Phase III, the construction of a 1km cycle/pedestrian trail including a new footbridge, new car park and entrance road at Drumshanbo Lock and a new pedestrian/cycle road crossing including widening of the existing footpath on the R208 regional road, at Blackrock, Carricknabrack and Corrachuill townlands, Drumshanbo, County Leitrim in accordance with Section 179 of the Planning & Development Acts 2000-2017 and Part 8 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001-2018, as circulated to the Members, appears as **Appendix 2** to the Minutes of this meeting in the Minute Book.

Proposed by Councillor Enda Stenson, seconded by Councillor Brendan Barry and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED:

"That the development in partnership with Waterways Ireland, as part of the North Shannon Blueway Phase III, the construction of a 1km cycle/pedestrian trail including a new footbridge, new car park and entrance road at Drumshanbo Lock and a new pedestrian/cycle road crossing including widening of the existing footpath on the R208 regional road, at Blackrock, Carricknabrack and Corrachuill townlands, Drumshanbo, County Leitrim be approved".

Councillor Des Guckian stated that he was not opposing the development but would like to see some of the substantial funding also used in roads.

Councillor Finola Armstrong McGuire queried as to what the timeframe was involved.

Councillor Brendan Barry welcomed this development and noted it would be very beneficial to Lough Allen Hotel and Leitrim Village Hotel and it will definitely bring people into the area.

Mr Joseph Gilhooly, Director of Services, Economic Development, Planning, Environment and Transportation confirmed that the work is ready to start and the work will be complete by late Autumn. Mr Gilhooly advised that funding streams for blueways is not for use on roads.

Councillor Caillian Ellis welcomed the development and insisted that extreme pressure be put on Waterways Ireland to clear the hedges on the canal way from Ballinamore to Ballyconnell as currently only one boat can go through a particular route due to the overhanging trees on the canal.

Councillor Gerry Dolan supported this.

18/104

02/07/2018

Disposal of Rural Cottage and adjoining site

Notice of Intention dated 12th June 2018 from Shane Tiernan, Senior Executive Officer, Housing & Corporate Services in relation to the disposal of Rural cottage and adjoining site comprising circa 0.934 acres (0.378 Hectares) in the townland of Moneengaugh, Glenade, Co Leitrim (registered in the name of Leitrim County Council – Folio No LM5367F in accordance with Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001 as circulated to all Members which appears as **Appendix 3** to the Minutes of this meeting in the Minute Book.

Proposed by Councillor Justin Warnock, seconded by Councillor Mary Bohan and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED:

“That the disposal of rural cottage and adjoining comprising circa 0.934 acres (0.378 Hectares) in the townland of Moneengaugh, Glenade, Co Leitrim (registered in the name of Leitrim County Council – Folio No LM5367F in accordance with Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001 and Notice of Intention dated 12th June 2018 as circulated to all Members be approved”.

18/105

02/07/2018

Housing Allocation Scheme 2018

Report dated 25th June 2018 from Mary Quinn, Director of Services, Housing, Community, Corporate Services, Culture and Emergency Services in regard to the amendment of Housing Allocation Scheme to provide for clarification on matters relating to refusals of offers (to include RAS, SHLI and AHB's) as circulated to all Members which appears as **Appendix 4** to the Minutes of this meeting in the Minute book.

Proposed by Councillor Enda Stenson, seconded by Councillor Mary Bohan and RESOLVED:

“That the Housing Allocation Scheme, 2018 in accordance with Section 22 of the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 2009 and Social Housing Allocation Regulations 2011 (S.I No. 198 of 2011) be adopted.

Councillor Des Guckian expressed his concern in relation to the word “refusals” and he pointed out that there should be more room for compromise in this regard. Councillor Guckian noted that this document was very broad and it should be looked at in some detail. He said the word “Reasonable Offer” is very open and he proposed that there should be an appeals system in place.

Councillor Des Guckian sought clarification on the term “Compassionate Grounds”.

In reply Ms Quinn confirmed that this was inserted from the National Regulations and the words “Reasonable Offer” is used nationally and exceptional medical/disability or compassionate grounds is where a tenant has a serious disability/medical condition or illness for which the allocation of a transfer to an alternative housing authority dwelling would improve the tenant’s medical condition. The housing authority shall obtain and have regard to a report from an Occupational Therapist/Medical Practitioner in respect of any specific accommodation requirements.

Councillor Finola Armstrong McGuire stated that these amendments have been taken from the National Regulations, it is very clear that the 12 months commence at a certain date, this is a very good clarification and she supported the clarification.

Councillor Enda Stenson paid tribute to the Housing Staff and insisted that additional staff be employed in the Housing Section.

Councillor Mary Bohan stated the no more obstacles should be introduced.

Councillor Padraig Fallon noted he was happy with the word “Reasonable” and outlined that he has clients currently waiting up to 3 months before an Occupational Therapist reports can be obtained.

In reply to Councillor Padraig Fallon, Ms Mary Quinn advised that she would follow up on the issue raised.

18/106
02/07/2018

OPW Flood Risk Management Plans

Report dated 1st June 2018 from Joseph Gilhooly, Director of Services, Economic Development, Planning, Environment and Transportation in relation to the Flood Risk Management Plans as circulated to all Members which appears as **Appendix 5** to the Minutes of this meeting in the Minute book.

Mr Brendan McKenna, Senior Executive Engineer provided a detailed presentation on the Flood Risk Management Plans. A copy of the presentation appears as **Appendix 6** to the Minutes of this meeting in the Minute Book.

Cathaoirleach, Councillor Sean McGowan thanked Mr Brendan McKenna for his presentation and invited any questions/comments from the Members.

The following items were raised:-

Councillor Des Guckian asked for a breakdown of the €9 million funding which is allocated to Leitrim.

Councillor Sean McDermott queried if the 3 River Basin Districts cause any problem.

Councillor John McCartin queried who do Leitrim County Council call upon in regard to flood issues in the County and how do we get all the agencies to make a decision in this regard.

Councillor Enda Stenson queried as to what the time scale is involved when these works will be completed and is there a design. Councillor Enda Stenson referred to the Glass Wall in Waterford which is very impressive and he encouraged all Members to go and look at it.

Councillor Des Guckian said that €9 million out of €1 billion nationally is relatively small and he paid tribute to Minister Boxer Moran and noted that the plan should not be adopted until a clear indication is sought from the ESB in regard to Lough Allen.

Mr Brendan McKenna replied as follows:-

- €6.5 million allocated to Carrick-on-Shannon
- €1.6 million allocated to Dromod
- €260,000 allocated to Mohill
- €1.05 million allocated to Leitrim Village
- CFRAM is on a six year cycle
- Weekly emails received from ESB
- Threats of flooding are notified a week in advance

- Multi Agency Approach is in place to get all Agencies to make decisions in regard to flooding issues

Mr Lar Power, Chief Executive advised Members that Minister Boxer Moran is very anxious about this issue and was due to be here today. The Glass Wall project in Waterford is 800 metres in length and he agreed to facilitate members to be taken to see it. Mr Power recommended that the Members should adopt the Plan.

Proposed by Councillor Enda Stenson, seconded by Councillor Gerry Dolan and RESOLVED:

“That the OPW Flood Risk Management Plans in accordance with Regulations 20 (1), (2) & (3) of the European Communities (Assessment & Management of Flood Risks) Regulations 2010 – 2015 be adopted.

18/107

02/07/2018

Monthly Management Reports by the Chief Executive

Monthly Management Reports for the period 1st April, 2018 to 30th April 2018 and 1st May, 2018 to 31st May 2018 by Lar Power, Chief Executive, dated 14th May, 2018 and 14th June 2018 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, appears as **Appendix 7** and **Appendix 8** to the Minutes of this meeting in the Minute Book.

The reports as circulated were noted by the Members.

18/108

02/07/2018

National & Local Performance Indicators 2017

Report dated 26th June, 2018 from Mr. Lar Power, Chief Executive in relation to the National and Local Performance Indicators, 2017 as circulated to the Members appears as **Appendix 9** to the Minutes of this meeting in the Minute Book.

The report was noted by the Members.

18/109

02/07/2018

Leitrim County Council's Budgetary Process

Mr. Vincent Dwyer, Head of Finance and Water Services provided an update in relation to the Council's Budgetary Process. He outlined that the budgetary process will have regard to the Council's current financial position and the projected income and expenditure for 2019. Mr. Dwyer advised that an advertisement on the Local Property Tax (LPT) will be publicised shortly, the decision to vary the LPT will then be considered by the Members at the September Council meeting, the General Municipal Allocation will be agreed at the October Municipal District meetings and the Budget Meeting will be held in November, 2018.

Councillor Des Guckian proposed that Leitrim County Council should be seeking €20 million from National Budget to do our country lanes.

The update on the Budgetary Process was noted by the Members.

18/110

02/07/2018

Local Improvement Scheme relates to roadway at Keshcarrigan Village

Report dated 26th June 2018 from Shay O'Connor, Senior Engineer, Roads seeking approval of Leitrim County Council to proceed with Local Improvement Scheme where the cost exceeds the current approved limit of €65,000 as circulated to the Members appears as **Appendix 10** to the Minutes of this meeting in the Minute Book.

Proposed by Councillor Caillian Ellis, seconded by Councillor Paddy O'Rourke and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED:

"That the LIS Scheme where the cost exceeds the current approved limit of €65,000 be approved".

Councillor Des Guckian noted that the local contribution required in this instance is 10% and he said he was aware of another local contribution which was 15%.

Mr Shay O'Connor, Senior Engineer advised the Local contribution shall be 10% of total costs for schemes with 5 residents or less, and 15% for schemes with greater than 5 residents.

18/111

02/07/2018

Section 138 (1) of the Local Government Act 2001

Mr Lar Power, Chief Executive outlined that there were no commitments to note under this item.

18/112

02/07/2018

Corporate Policy Group Report

Ms Mary Quinn, Director of Services, Housing, Community, Corporate Services, Culture and Emergency Services 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

- **Housing Policy, Social & Cultural Development Strategic Policy Committee**

Councillor Gerry Dolan outlined that a meeting of the Housing Policy, Social & Cultural Development Strategic Policy Committee took place on Wednesday, 23rd May, 2018 and considered the following items:

- Presentation on Leitrim Healthy Ireland Strategy
- Housing Programme

- **Environmental, Transportation & Infrastructural Policy Strategic Policy Committee**

Mr Joseph Gilhooly, Director of Services, Economic Development, Planning, Environment and Transportation outlined that a meeting of the Environmental, Transportation & Infrastructural Policy Strategic Policy Committee took place on 29th May 2018 and consider the following items:

- Irish Water
- Rural Water Programme
- Litter Upkeep – Review of Incentives

Ms Mary Quinn outlined that circular on Elected Members Training was noted and advised that a briefing will be held for Elected Members in September in relation to DATA Protection

She also indicated that an update from the Leitrim Local Community Development Committee was received which included details of actions taken in relation to:

- Leitrim Peace Partnership
- Healthy Ireland
- Social Inclusion & Community Activation Programme
- Leader (Rural Development)

Ms. Quinn also outlined that an over-view of items listed on the agenda for the Council meeting was provided and that the attendance of Members at forthcoming Conferences/Seminars was also agreed by the Corporate Policy Group.

Councillor Justin Warnock queried if the wording in the County Development Plan in relation to Afforestation had been looked at.

In reply to Councillor Justin Warnock , Mr Joseph Gilhooly advised that the Economic, Development, Enterprise & Planning Strategic Policy Committee had to be reschedule their last meeting due to death of Scott Coomb's wife Orla Parkinson and this meeting will take place in the coming weeks and he will report back to the full September Meeting.

18/113

02/07/2018

Conferences/Training

**Proposed by Councillor Enda Stenson, seconded by Councillor Mary Bohan
AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED:**

“That the attendance of Councillor Finola Armstrong McGuire at the LCDC Induction Training on the 26th January 2018 in Station House Hotel, Ballina, Co Offaly be retrospectively approved”.

“That the attendance of Councillor Finola Armstrong McGuire at the LCDC Training on the 31st January 2018 in Tullamore Court Hotel, Tullamore, Co Offaly be retrospectively approved”.

18/114
02/07/2018

Meeting Correspondence

1. Letter of acknowledgement received 11th May 2018 from the Office of the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport in regard to Resolution passed by Leitrim County Council in regard to fast tracking of the upgrade to the N4 between Mullingar and County Leitrim, Carrick-on-Shannon and Castlebaldwin to Collooney.
- 1(a). Letter received 22nd June 2018 from the Office of the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport in regard to the N4.
2. Letter of acknowledgement received 21st May 2018 from the Office of the Minister for Health in regard to Resolution passed by Leitrim County Council regarding speech and language therapy services in St Patrick's Hospital, Carrick-on-Shannon.
3. Resolution received from Waterford City & County Council on 29th May 2018 welcoming the statutory investigation into Cervical Check announced by the Minister for Health.
4. Resolution received from Waterford City & County Council on 29th May 2018 calling on the Minister for Health to request the HSE to review the decision to restrict the use of versatis pain relief patches to patients who are in chronic pain, outside those who are experiencing post herpetic neuralgia and to revert back to the pre December status while the review is being undertaken.
5. Resolution received from Waterford City & County Council on 29th May 2018 calling on the Department of Education and Skills and/or Department of Health to introduce a scheme to provide all teachers and Special Needs Assistants with Occupational First Aid training, encompassing CPR.

Proposed by Councillor Brendan Barry, seconded by Councillor Padraig Fallon McGowan AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED

“That Leitrim County Council call on the Department of Education and Skills and/or Department of Health to introduce a scheme to provide all teachers and Special Needs Assistants with Occupational First Aid training, encompassing CPR”.

Councillor Brendan Barry proposed that this be forwarded to all Local Authorities.

6. Resolution received from Waterford City & County Council on 29th May 2018 calling on the Minister of Health to include those that are not children or Young Adults in the provision by the HSE of Free Style Libre to sufferer's of Type 1 Diabetes.

7. Resolution received from South Dublin County Council on 1st June 2018 expressing the wishes of the Area Committee solidarity with the Palenstinians and the unarmed peaceful protesters who were shot at, with some being murdered by the IDF and calling on the Chief Executive to write to the Minister for Foreign Affairs & the Taoiseach to immediately expel the Israeli Ambassador from Ireland, for Israel's crimes against the Palestinian people and to express to the Israeli's that these actions are unacceptable under international law and to end its military onslaught.
 8. Resolution received from Donegal County Council on 5th June 2018 calling on the Government to immediately expel the Israeli ambassador in protest at the massacre of unarmed civilians in Gaza by the Israelie Defence Forces and applauding the recent decision of Dublin City Council to support the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions movement. Reaffirming their solidarity with the Palestinian people and commit the Council to implementing a policy of Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions against Israel until there is freedom for the Palestinian people. Support the holding of an internal enquiry into the killings.
 9. Letter received 6th June 2018 from the Office of the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine acknowledging receipt of Resolution passed by Leitrim County Council in regard to the suckler payments.
 10. Letter received 6th June 2018 from the Office of the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine acknowledging receipt of Resolution passed by Leitrim County Council in regard to the subsidy for fertilizer.
 - 10(a) Letter received 8th June 2018 from the Office of the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine in regard to fodder conservation and a subsidy for fertilizer.
- Councillor Des Guckian expressed his disappointment with the reply received in this regard.
11. Letter received 6th June 2018 from the Office of the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine acknowledging receipt of Resolution passed by Leitrim County Council in regard to Low Input Permanent Pasture date to be extended.
 12. Letter received 6th June 2018 from the Office of the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine acknowledging receipt of Resolution passed by Leitrim County Council in regard to the Areas of Natural Constraints Scheme.
 13. Letter received 7th June 2018 from the Office of the Minister for Employment Affairs and Social Protection acknowledging receipt of Resolution passed by Leitrim County Council in regard to financial incentives for companies who are prepared to employ apprentice.

- 13(a) Letter received 14th June 2018 from the Office of the Minister for Education and Skills in regard to financial incentives for companies who are prepared to employ apprentices.
- 14. Letter received 7th June 2018 from Health Service Executive in regard to Nursing home places in County Leitrim.
- 15. Letter received 7th June 2018 from the Office of the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport in regard to funding of LIS Schemes.
- 16. Letter received 8th June 2018 from the Office of the Minister for Finance acknowledging receipt of Resolution passed by Leitrim County Council regarding the Disabled Drivers and Disabled Passengers Scheme.

Councillor Padraig Fallon expressed his disappointment with the reply received in this regard and proposed that a further letter issue to Minister Paschal Donohue.

- 17. Letter received 11th June 2018 from the Office of the Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government acknowledging receipt of Resolution passed by Leitrim County Council requesting a review of the terms and conditions of the Housing Grant Scheme.
- 18. Letter received 16th May 2018 from the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine regarding designations of SACs and NHAs.
- 18(a) Letter received 14th June 2018 from the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht in relation to the SAC's and NHA's.

Councillor Des Guckian expressed his disappointment in relation to the reply received in this regard.

- 19. Memo issued from Terry McGovern, A/SEO, Economic Development, Planning, Environment and Transportation dated 14th June 2018 to the Cathaoirleach and Each Elected Member of Leitrim County Council in regard to the 2018 Mattress Amnesty – Anti Dumping Initiative 2018.
- 20. Letter received 15th June 2018 from the Office of the Minister for Health in regard to the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services in Sligo.
- 21. Letter received 15th June 2018 from the Office of the Minister for Health acknowledging receipt of Resolution passed by Leitrim County Council in regard to Medical Cards for patients who receive a cancer diagnosis.
- 21(a) Letter received 25th June 2018 from the Office of the Minister for Health in regard to Medical Cards for patients who receive a cancer diagnosis.
- 22. Resolution received from Kerry County Council on 19th June 2018 opposing efforts to require people to work until they are 68.

23. Resolution received from Kerry County Council on 19th June 2018 welcoming the new proposal from An Post to the Post Office Network and calling on An Post and the Government to seek a new international partner to allow the Post Offices to offer full Banking Services including Current Accounts, Loans and mortgages.

Proposed by Councillor Des Guckian, seconded by Councillor Padraig Fallon McGowan AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED

“That Leitrim County Council welcome the new proposal from An Post to the Post Office Network and calling on An Post and the Government to seek a new international partner to allow the Post Offices to offer full Banking Services including Current Accounts, Loans and mortgages”.

All Members supported the motion.

24. Letter received 20th June 2018 from the Office of the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine regarding an extension to GLAS deadlines for particular actions to 15th May 2018 .
25. Letter received 22nd June 2018 from the Office of the Minister for Finance regarding the taxation of rental income.
26. Local Government Funding (Baseline) Review – Methodology for the allocation of Local Government Funding.

Mr Vincent Dwyer, Head of Finance advised that the objective of the review is to recommend a set of key indicators which may be used to allocate any available additional funding to local authorities in a fair, equitable and transparent manner. The closing date for receipt of written submissions is Tuesday, 3rd July 2018.

The following item was also raised under Meetings Correspondence

Councillor Caillian Ellis queried if Minister Eoghan Murphy or the EPA have responded to the invite from Leitrim County Council inviting them to come to Leitrim to discuss the problems with the zero discharge from septic tanks which is causing in relation to people getting planning permission for a rural house.

In reply to Councillor Caillian Ellis, Mr Joseph Gilhooly, Director of Services, Economic Development, Planning, Environment and Transportation confirmed Leitrim County Council will follow up with the Minister, the EPA and Environmental Health Officer for Fermanagh and Omagh District Council in this regard with a view to having a presentation at the September Council meeting.

Councillor Caillian Ellis expressed his disappointment that the invite issued to Minister Eoghan Murphy and EPA has not been acknowledged to date.

Cathaoirleach, Councillor Sean Gowan acknowledged that this is a very important issue and he paid tribute to the Executive who are working with EPA and the Department in this regard.

18/115
02/07/2018

Vote of Congratulations

The Members proposed a vote of congratulations to Ms Orla McNabola, Attyrory, Dublin Road, Carrick-on-Shannon on being Crowned Miss Leitrim 2018 and wished her every success in the National Final of Miss Ireland.

Notices of Motions

18/116
02/07/2018

Freedom of conscience clause

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

"That we strongly urge the government, opposition and all who are charged with drafting, passing and implementing upcoming legislation, to allow abortion on demand in this state, to include freedom of conscience clauses to allow doctors, nurses and ancillary medical staff and, also, hospitals and clinics to opt out and to refuse to participate in the facilitation of such abortions."

Councillor Des Guckian gave the background to his motion and proposed that the Taoiseach and Minister Simon Harris be contacted to include the freedom of conscience clauses in the new legislation in regard to abortion.

Proposed by Councillor Des Guckian, seconded by Councillor Justin Warnock and RESOLVED:

"That Leitrim County Council strongly urge the government, opposition and all who are charged with drafting, passing and implementing upcoming legislation, to allow abortion on demand in this state, to include freedom of conscience clauses to allow doctors, nurses and ancillary medical staff and, also, hospitals and clinics to opt out and to refuse to participate in the facilitation of such abortions."

Councillor Mary Bohan supported the insertion of the freedom of conscience clauses in the legislation and noted it is a difficult situation for doctors and nurses.

Councillor Seadhna Logan said it was wrong for the Leitrim County Council to support this issue as this is a backward step for Leitrim.

18/117

02/07/2018

Staffing levels in Leitrim Schools

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

"I propose that Leitrim County Council call on Minister for Education and Skills, Richard Bruton, TD and the Department of Education to ensure that no school in Leitrim has a reduction of staffing levels due to pupil numbers. Our Schools must be afforded every opportunity to ensure survival."

Councillor Pdraig Fallon gave the background to his motion and proposed that a minimum of 2 years moratorium should be put in place prior to any school closure.

Proposed by Councillor Pdraig Fallon, seconded by Councillor Mary Bohan and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED:

"That Leitrim County Council call on Minister for Education and Skills, Richard Bruton, TD and the Department of Education to ensure that no school in Leitrim has a reduction of staffing levels due to pupil numbers. Our Schools must be afforded every opportunity to ensure survival."

Councillor Des Guckian supported the moratorium for a year or two to see if the situation has improved and he noted that this will have an effect on Secondary schools in the future.

Councillor Enda Stenson noted that Elected Members of Leitrim County Council have done all they can in this regard and Members have gone on delegations to the Department of Education and Skills in this regard. Councillor Enda Stenson said that he is aware of 5 families who are willing to come to his area but the one off rural house issue is proving difficult for them.

Councillor Brendan Barry noted that Leitrim has a great quality education and is a great place to live in.

Mr Joseph Gilhooly outlined that rural regeneration is a much broader issue than one off rural houses. He outlined that the important message is to get out to the Public is that if you want to live in Leitrim there is accommodation, he acknowledged that sites available on family farms is proving difficult with T-Testing. Mr Gilhooly said that both staff and elected members are working tirelessly to get a solution to this issue and have a pilot in place.

18/118
02/07/2018

Broadband in Mohill

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

"I ask Mr Shane Tiernan, Broadband Officer what strength of fibre cable (if any) is connected to Mohill, as you are aware Mohill has embarked on a smart Town project, under the leadership of the town team, with Joe Lowe, Leitrim LEO Office and John Mannion driving this forward, essential to this is high powered Broadband, this includes not only the town but all surrounding areas."

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

"Fibre speed broadband with speeds from 30MB/sec to 100Mb/sec is already available in the greater Mohill town area as detailed by the green area in the image attached. The artery routes out of Mohill and properties along them as detailed in green - yellow on the attached image are currently going live with a min of 30mb download speeds and up to 100mb with all to be active by year end 2018. This is described as next generation access and considered high speed broadband . This will cover a 2 to 3 mile radius of the town along the major routes. Those along routes in white on the attached image may have broadband but this is subject to connectivity testing. These areas will receive next generation broadband by 2022 under the national broadband plan rollout."

Councillor Enda Stenson outlined that Mohill is part of the smart town project and he highlighted that it is very important that high powered broadband is available in Mohill town and the surrounding areas.

Councillor Seadhna Logan supported the motion and expressed his concerns in this regard and said the service provision is non-existent outside of the town and highlighted that this is not fair on rural Ireland.

Councillor Sean McGowan supported the motion.

Mr Shane Tiernan outlined that Mohill has currently fibre broadband with speeds of 30 MB/sec to 100 MB/sec. Artery routes out of Mohill are currently going live with download speeds of 30 MB per second up to 100 MB per second all to be active by the end of 2018.

Councillor Enda Stenson welcomed this.

Councillor Mary Bohan queried if Drumkeeran are to be guaranteed to get this before the end of the year.

Mr Shane Tiernan outlined that all on the list will be active by end of 2018 and he noted that Fenagh is not on the list.

Councillor Brendan Barry sought clarification in this regard and in reply Shane Tiernan said that due to technical issues this route cannot be cut into.

18/119

02/07/2018

Review of the Tenant Purchase Scheme

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

"I ask Leitrim County Council to write to the Minister for Housing to ask him when the result of the review of the Tenant Purchase Scheme will be published. When the scheme was announced it was envisaged that many would benefit to purchase their homes with the added advantage of the purchase prices they paid being a source of income for the local authority. However because of rules regarding income of purchasers i.e. (the disregard of income from social welfare sources mitigates against certain age groups and people participating in the scheme) only a handful of people have benefited from the scheme."

Councillor Paddy O'Rourke gave the background to his motion.

Proposed by Councillor Paddy O'Rourke, seconded by Councillor Padraig Fallon and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED:

"That Leitrim County Council write to the Minister for Housing to ask him when the result of the review of the Tenant Purchase Scheme will be published. When the scheme was announced it was envisaged that many would benefit to purchase their homes with the added advantage of the purchase prices they paid being a source of income for the local authority. However because of rules regarding income of purchasers i.e. (the disregard of income from social welfare sources mitigates against certain age groups and people participating in the scheme) only a handful of people have benefited from the scheme.

Councillor Padraig Fallon said he has received confirmation from Deputy Martin Kenny that the report is finalised on the review of the Tenant Purchase Scheme and the review will be published shortly.

All Members supported the motion.

Ms Mary Quinn, Director of Services, Housing, Planning, Community, Corporate, Culture and Emergency Services confirmed that the Department has advised that the review is imminent.

18/120
02/07/2018

GLAS Scheme

To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Caillian Ellis;

"I propose that Leitrim County Council write to the Minister for Environment and the Minister for Agriculture requesting that they extend the time limits and relax restrictions for the Glas Scheme in relation to cutting hedges, spreading slurry and mowing meadows for County Leitrim."

Councillor Caillian Ellis said that farmers hands are tied and they are furious on this issue as the restrictions are crippling them.

Proposed by Councillor Caillian Ellis, seconded by Councillor Paddy O'Rourke and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED:

"That Leitrim County Council write to the Minister for Environment and the Minister for Agriculture requesting that they extend the time limits and relax restrictions for the Glas Scheme in relation to cutting hedges, spreading slurry and mowing meadows for County Leitrim."

Councillor Des Guckian said it is important that a sensible compromise is reached.

Councillor Justin Warnock said that certain flexibility should be in place and he noted that he would not want to see people being put out of the scheme.

18/121
02/07/2018

Meat Factories

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

"I propose that Leitrim County Council write to the Minister for Agriculture calling for proper regulation and control to be introduced into the way the Meat Factories do business with the farming producers. At the moment Factories can, with a flick of a pen lower their quotes as they wish without any known reason."

Proposed by Councillor Frank Dolan, seconded by Councillor Des Guckian and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED

"That Leitrim County Council write to the Minister for Agriculture calling for proper regulation and control to be introduced into the way the Meat Factories do business with the farming producers. At the moment Factories can, with a flick of a pen lower their quotes as they wish without any known reason."

18/122
02/07/2018

Forestry

The Cathaoirleach, Councillor Sean McGowan proposed that Motion No 25 in the name of Councillor Caroline Mulvey and Motion No 28 in the name of Councillor Gerry Dolan would be taken concurrently as they all relate to the same matter. This was agreed by the Members.

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

"I will ask the Elected members to support this motion - To hold a plebiscite in County Leitrim on the Governments Forestry Policy, which is funded by the Irish taxpayer. This policy is decimating our rural communities, destroying our environment and is exploiting our county, as Leitrim has already exceeded the 17% national target of afforestation."

Report by Director of Services, Housing and Community, Corporate Services, Cultural and Emergency Services

"The Local Authority has no legislative provisions for the holding of a plebiscite in regard to Government Policy."

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

"As conifer plantations are a potential fire hazard and planting has taken place in close proximity to farms, rural homes, rural schools and villages. I ask Leitrim County Council if Coillte and the private forestry companies have their plantations insured to cover costs of damages in the event of a fire?"

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

"I will ask for the support of the Elected Members in calling on the Forestry Appeals Committee to facilitate all Leitrim appeals and hold their oral hearings in Carrick on Shannon."

Councillor Justin Warnock said he was very disappointed with the reply received in this regard. Councillor Justin Warnock referred to a Public meeting which was held

recently in Drumshanbo which was attended by huge numbers and showed that people are shouting to stop Afforestation in County Leitrim. Councillor Warnock stated that when our schools are closed our rural areas will be to, letting in forestry companies is destroying our County. Councillor Justin Warnock described it as "Beating the people of Leitrim and it is not right".

Councillor Caroline Mulvey said that it is very important that insurance cover is in place for private forestry companies to cover fire damage costs in the event of a fire hazard.

Councillor Gerry Dolan proposed that all Forestry Appeals be heard in Carrick-on-Shannon not in Portlaoise.

Proposed by Councillor Gerry Dolan, seconded by Councillor Justin Warnock and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED

"That Leitrim County Council call on the Forestry Appeals Committee to facilitate all Leitrim appeals and hold their oral hearings in Carrick on Shannon."

Councillor Justin Warnock queried as to what can the people do to protect the landscape.

In reply Mr Lar Power, Chief Executive acknowledged the divided view in relation to forestry, and he accepted the right of farmers have to sell their land to whoever they wish and he stated that Leitrim County Council have no legislative provisions in regard to the Governments Forestry Policy.

Councillor Mary Bohan proposed that a letter issue to the Minister and our local TD's to put Afforestation on the Government's Agenda for discussion.

Councillor Sean McDermott re-iterated that until a level playing field is achieved the issue will not be re-solved.

Councillor Caroline Mulvey stated that farmers need to be given more financial support to make farming more profitable and sustainable for them to survive on the land.

Councillor Caroline Mulvey sought clarification on the 10 tonne rule for forestry companies extracting timber on local roads.

Councillor Justin Warnock said that he had been contacted by an auctioneer claiming Leitrim County Council was destroying the price of land – land that was worth €5,500 to the forestry is now worth €1,000.

Mr Joseph Gilhooly, Director of Services, Economic Development, Planning, Environment and Transportation advised that Leitrim County Council will write to Collite in regard to insurance cover and this is a matter for each individual.

Mr Shay O'Connor, Senior Engineer, advised that the 10 tonne rule is being actively discussed with Forestry companies and he asked if there was any specific issues on roads to let him know and he will follow up.

18/123

02/07/2018

Backstop Agreement

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

"I request Leitrim County council to support this motion. The dithering over the backstop agreement cannot be allowed to continue, that the Irish people need certainty, and that this issue must be resolved. The reason for this is simple: the backstop is an insurance policy for the north in the absence of a new trade agreement between Britain and the EU. Its purpose is to address the special and unique circumstances here and to ensure there is no hard border on the Island of Ireland."

Councillor Brendan Barry gave the background to his motion and proposed that this be forwarded to the Taoiseach, Minister Coveney and Minister McEntee.

All members supported the motion and stated that it is imperative that there is no border on this island.

Proposed by Councillor Brendan Barry, seconded by Councillor Paddy O'Rourke and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED

"That Leitrim County Council request that the dithering over the backstop agreement cannot be allowed to continue, that the Irish people need certainty, and that this issue must be resolved. The reason for this is simple: the backstop is an insurance policy for the north in the absence of a new trade agreement between Britain and the EU. Its purpose is to address the special and unique circumstances here and to ensure there is no hard border on the Island of Ireland."

18/124

02/07/2018

Battery Storage Facility in Flagford

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

"In light of the recent granting of planning permission by Roscommon County Council for a controversial and experimental battery storage facility in Flagford, 3kms from Carrick on Shannon, are Leitrim County Councils fire brigade adequately trained and resourced to deal with potential disasters at this location as the designated first responders in this area?"

Report by Director of Services, Housing and Community, Corporate Services, Cultural and Emergency Services

"The fire service are currently carrying out a risk assessment of the risks involved and are consulting with our colleagues in other authorities where this type of installation has already been installed. Should the construction of this facility proceed, any additional training required will be provided to Leitrim County Council's fire brigade and we will be ready to deal with any incident that may arise"

Councillor Seadhna Logan paid tribute to the complementary service the Leitrim Fire Service provide in Leitrim and he expressed his concerns in regard to the recent granting of planning permission by Roscommon County Council for a controversial and experimental battery storage facility in Flagford, 3kms from Carrick on Shannon and he criticised Roscommon County Council for the lack of consultation Roscommon County Council has had with Leitrim Fire Service in this regard. Councillor Seadhna Logan said that he does not doubt the capability of the Fire Staff.

Councillor Finola Armstrong McGuire noted that 4 No objections have been lodged with An Bord Pheanla in regard to this planning decision.

Councillor Des Guckian supported the motion.

Mr Joseph Gilhooly advised that the planning issue is currently on appeal and is not available to the public as of yet. Leitrim County Council have been aware of residents concerns since the Planning Application was granted Permission by Roscommon County Council and he advised Mr Lar Power, Chief Executive and Joseph Gilhooly have met residents and listened to their concerns.

Best practice for Leitrim County Council is to make an observation on the appeal which they will be doing in due course when the sight of the appeal is available to the public.

Mr Finian Joyce, Chief Fire Officer outlined that he became aware of the Planning Application when it was granted planning permission, he is currently liaising with his colleagues in Roscommon Fire Service, Offaly and Northern Ireland in this regard. The Fire Safety Certificate Application has not been submitted to date to Roscommon County Council, when it is lodged with Roscommon, the Chief Fire Officer in Roscommon with liaison with Leitrim Fire Service in this regard and all adequate training and additional services will be looked at.

Councillor Seadhna Logan thanked Mr Finian Joyce, Chief Fire Officer for his comprehensive reply and sought clarification on where the additional funding will come from.

Mr Finian Joyce, Chief Fire Officer said he would make no further comment until the Fire Safety Certificate is submitted.

18/125
02/07/2018

Community Welfare Officer

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

"I seek the support of members of Leitrim County Council in calling on Minister Regina Doherty and Department of Employment Affairs & Social Protection to reinstate the service of the Community Welfare Officer back into the towns of Mohill and Drumshanbo."

Proposed by Councillor Sean McGowan, seconded by Councillor Mary Bohan and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED

"That Leitrim County Council call on Minister Regina Doherty and Department of Employment Affairs & Social Protection to reinstate the service of the Community Welfare Officer back into the towns of Mohill and Drumshanbo."

18/126
02/07/2018

Lough MacNea Upper be included in the Area of Protection

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

"I ask Leitrim County Council if Lough MacNea Upper can be included in the Area of Protection recommended in Leitrim under the River Basin Management Plan."

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

"The River Basin Management Plan (RBMP) (2018-2021) was formally launched in the Custom house, Dublin by Mr Eoghan Murphy. T.D Minister for Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government on Tuesday 17th April 2018. The Plan has 10 no Priority Areas of Action as listed in Appendix 2 of the RBMP document. Further details on the Areas of Action are available on www.waterandcommunities.ie and www.catchments.ie .

Lough Mac Nea Upper is not included or listed as an Area of action in the River Basin Management Plan. It must be pointed out that the Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government ran a public consultation process on the Draft river Basin management Plan from the 28th February 2017 to Thursday 31st August 2017 where the public could made submission on the plan.

Section 11 of the RBMP outlines the Communication and Public & Stakeholder Engagement during the formulation stages of the plan.

Three Public Consultation processes were held in respect of the Plan

- The Significant Water Management Issues Consultation (which is mandated under the WFD and was held in 2015-2016)
- A National Public Consultation on the draft River Basin Management Plan (RBMP) (held in 2017 which allowed people to give their views on the structures and measures set out in the draft document and on how the final plan should be developed)
- The Local Authority Waters and Communities Office's (LAWCO) local public consultation on the draft RBMP which ran concurrently with the national consultation process.

The EPA/LAWCO held workshops with all statutory bodies namely EPA, LAWCO, Waterways Ireland, Teagasc, Department of Agriculture, National Parks & Wild Life, Irish Water, Marine Institute, Inland Fisheries Ireland, Office of Public Works, Coillte, EPA Regional office Staff, Forest Services, Loughs Agency, Geological Survey of Ireland, ESB & Regional Authorities.

A presentation was given by LAWCO/Local Authority staff on the Draft River Basin Management Plan for Ireland to the Environment, Transportation & Infrastructure Policy Committee on Wednesday 3rd May 2017.

Leitrim County Council also held a briefing session in conjunction with LAWCO on the proposed Areas of Action in Leitrim on Thursday 26th October 2017 to the elected members and to members of the public and the public were invited to make submissions on the Areas of Action to LAWCO as part of the process.

To conclude, extensive consultation has taken place from 2015 to the launch of the plan in April 2018. Lough Mac Nean upper cannot be added as an Area of Action as the period of Public Consultation has now ended and the plan was launched and thus is now active.

If you need any further info on the River Basin Management Plan (2018-2021) a copy of plan can be downloaded from the following link:

http://www.housing.gov.ie/sites/default/files/publications/files/rbmp_reportbodyenglish_web_version_final_0.pdf

Councillor Sean McDermott said he was happy with the reply received in this regard.

18/127

02/07/2018 Increase income threshold for Local Authority housing applicants

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

"I propose that Leitrim County Council call on the Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government Mr Eoghan Murphy, TD to increase the income threshold for Local Authority housing applicants. The current income limit of €26,000 is unrealistic and is causing hardship for many people."

All Members supported the motion.

Proposed by Councillor Mary Bohan, seconded by Councillor Padraig Fallon and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED

"That Leitrim County Council call on the Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government Mr Eoghan Murphy, TD to increase the income threshold for Local Authority housing applicants. The current income limit of €26,000 is unrealistic and is causing hardship for many people."

18/128

02/07/2018

Carrick Water Treatment Plant

To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor John McCartin;

"Carrick water treatment plant, is running at capacity. This is barely enough to meet water supply demands of South Leitrim with no spare capacity. In the event of a major burst, the plant takes weeks to replenish supplies. If there was a burst during peak usage, the outcome would be catastrophic. Irish water's initiatives on leakage reduction will help but these measures will be too little, too late. The plant's in need of immediate extension, however the planning and procurement process for this will take considerable time. I propose that we call on Irish Water to immediately upgrade the plant."

Report by Head of Finance & Water Services

"The Carrick on Shannon water treatment plant must now operate on a twenty four hour basis to address current demand within the South Leitrim area. Any loss of production due to maintenance issues or breakdown will result very quickly in outage or water restrictions on the ground. The plant requires urgent expansion to meet current and future needs. Leitrim County Councils Water Services Division is in near constant discussions with Irish Water with a view to having this treatment Plant at Carrick significantly extended. However it is still not included in their Capital Programme to year 2021. This issue is of significant concern to us."

Councillor John McCartin expressed his concerns in regard to the reply received and said it was alarming that there are no plans for the upgrading of the plant which is currently running on a thin red line.

Councillor McCartin noted procurement and planning stages will all take time, the increased demand and no corresponding investment by Irish Water is worrying and this issue needs to be moved on quickly to the Minister.

Councillor Enda Stenson and Councillor Paddy O'Rourke supported the motion.

Councillor Brendan Barry said that if this investment is not carried out soon it will pose a risk to jobs in the food sector in Drumshanbo.

Councillor Caroline Mulvey queried as to why the Carrigallen Co-Operative Group Water Scheme has no water for the last 2-3 days.

Mr Vincent Dwyer, Head of Finance acknowledged the serious concerns expressed and outlined that the water treatment plant in Carrick-on-Shannon is operating on a 24 hour basis to address the current demand within the South Leitrim area.

Mr Billy Lowe, Senior Engineer, Water Services outlined that 2.5 million gallons of water is the maximum capacity of water treatment plant a day. A new pump is in place from Lower Mong. The Carrigallen Group Water Scheme is a private scheme with 400 premises, they have three bore holes of their own and an allocation of 50 cubic metres of water a day is given to this scheme from Leitrim County Council. Mr Lowe outlined that the standard of water is very high in Leitrim at 99.8% recorded on a yearly basis in accordance with the EPA Regulations. Mr Lowe said that it could be four years before funding is forthcoming for the Carrick-on-Shannon Water treatment Plant.

Councillor John McCartin called out to the public to conserve water during this dry spell.

Councillor Paddy O'Rourke acknowledged the Carrigallen Group Scheme is a very well run water scheme but cannot obtain the desired amount of water from Leitrim County Council. Councillor O'Rourke stated that repairs are being carried out on the scheme.

The business of the meeting concluded at 1.35 pm

Signed

**Councillor Sean McGowan
Cathaoirleach**

**Maireád Shanley
Meetings Administrator**

Dated: 3rd September 2018