

Minutes of Meeting of Leitrim County Council held in the Council Chamber, Aras An Chontae, Carrick-on-Shannon, Co. Leitrim on Monday, 7th January 2019

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

And Councillor McGowan, Sean
Cathaoirleach presiding

Apologies: Councillor Ellis, Caillian
Councillor McCartin, John

Officials Present: Mr Lar Power, Chief Executive
Mr. Joseph Gilhooly, Director of Services, Economic Development, Planning and Transportation
Ms. Mary Quinn, Director of Services, Housing and Community, Corporate Services, Culture and Emergency Services
Mr. Vincent Dwyer, Head of Finance, Water Services & Environment
Mr. Shay O'Connor, Senior Engineer
Mr Francis Gaffney, A/Senior Engineer
Mr. Bernard Greene, Senior Planner
Mr Justin Fannon, Senior Executive Officer
Ms Samantha, Healy, Senior Executive Officer
Mr. Kieran Brett, Meetings Administrator
Ms. Stephanie McCabe, Clerical Officer

At the outset of the meeting Cathaoirleach, Councillor Sean McGowan outlined that Senator John Dolan, Chief Executive Officer with Disability Federation of Ireland was available to meet with Members.

19/01
07/01/2019

Deimhniu Miontuairisci

Proposed by Councillor Paddy O'Rourke 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 November 2018 be adopted".

Proposed by Councillor Paddy O'Rourke seconded by Councillor Des Guckian and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED:

"That the Minutes of Budget Meeting of Leitrim County Council held in Aras an Chontae on Monday, 26th November, 2018 be adopted".

19/02
07/01/2019

To approve the Chief Executive' s Report

Proposed by Councillor Finola Armstrong Guire Seconded by Councillor Des Guckian and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED

To approve the Chief Executive' s Report and Recommendation pursuant to Section 179 of the Planning & Development Acts 2000 - 2018 & Part 8 of the Planning & Development Regulations 2001 – 2018 to construct Hartley Cartown Sewerage Scheme comprising 2,540m, of gravity sewer, 1,680m of rising main and 3 no. pumping stations with associated site works in the townlands of Hartley, Cartown, Corhawnagh & Cloonsheerevagh, Carrick on Shannon, Co. Leitrim. The proposed works will be along local roads, L3400-0, L34001-0, L34011-0 & L7401-0.

The Report as circulated to the Members, appears as **Appendix 1** to the Minutes of this meeting in the Minute Book.

19/03
07/01/2019

**Agreement with Roscommon County Council
under Section 85 of the Local Government Act, 2001**

Proposed by Councillor Finola Armstrong Guire Seconded by Councillor Enda Stenson and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED

To consider resolution to enter into an agreement with Roscommon County Council under Section 85 of the Local Government Act, 2001 concerning the design, construct and completion of the Carrick on Shannon Flood Defence Scheme with Leitrim County Council being the administering authority.

The Report as circulated to the Members, appears as **Appendix 2** to the Minutes of this meeting in the Minute Book.

19/04

07/01/2019

To approve the establishment of the County Heritage Forum

Proposed by Councillor Finola Armstrong Guire Seconded by Councillor Des Guckian and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED

Councillor Sinead Guckian stated that the terms of reference didn't specify details in relation to the Chairperson of the Forum. She proposed that the Chairperson should be an elected member. Councillor Paddy O'Rourke seconded the proposal which was agreed.

19/05

07/01/2019

Progress report on the Council's Corporate Plan

To receive progress report on the Council's Corporate Plan in accordance with Section 134 of the Local Government Act 2001 as amended.

The Report as circulated to the Members, appears as **Appendix 3** to the Minutes of this meeting in the Minute Book. The report was noted by Members.

19/06

07/01/2019

Presentation from & David Minton & Denis Kelly, Northern Western Regional Assembly regarding draft Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy

Cathaoirleach, Councillor Sean McGowan welcomed Mr. David Minton, Director and Mr. Denis Kelly, Senior Planner from the Northern and Western Regional Assembly

The presentation as circulated to the Members, appears as **Appendix 4** to the Minutes of this meeting in the Minute Book. The report was noted by Members.

Mr David Minton thanked Members for the invitation to present the draft strategy and advised that it will be on public display until 8th February 2019.

Members highlighted various issues including planning for one off houses, broadband, foreign direct investment, infrastructure deficits, forestry, tourism and greenways.

Proposed by Councillor Mary Bohan seconded by Councillor Sinead Guckian and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED:

"That Leitrim County Council make the following submission to the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy "That all afforestation development i.e. planting and extraction be subject to planning and that the current Planning Acts be amended to incorporate this change."

Mr Joseph Gilhooly, Director of Services advised members that a workshop with

members will be arranged for 28th January at 12 o'clock.

19/07

07/01/2019

To approve revised Business Incentive Scheme

Proposed by Councillor Sinead Guckian Seconded by Councillor Finola Armstrong McGuire and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED

“That the Business Incentive Scheme be approved”.

19/08

07/01/2019

Rate Collection Report for 2018 and schedule of uncollected Rates

To note Rate Collection Report for 2018 and schedule of uncollected Rates.

Mr. Vincent Dwyer, Head of Finance, Water Services & Environment advised that Report would be brought to the January Municipal District Meetings.

19/09

07/01/2019

Monthly Management Reports by the Chief Executive

To consider Monthly Management Reports by the Chief Executive for October and November 2018 in accordance with the provisions of Section 136(2) of the Local Government Act 2001 as inserted by Section 51 of the Local Government Reform Act 2014 (Reports previously circulated).

The Report as circulated to the Members, appears as **Appendix 5** to the Minutes of this meeting in the Minute Book.

This update was noted by Members.

19/10

07/01/2019

Corporate Policy Group Report

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, 21st November 2018 and considered the following items:

- Presentation on Mortgage to Rent Scheme
- Update on Housing
- Update on Sports Strategy

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

Councillor Sinead Guckian outlined that a meeting of the Environmental, Transportation & Infrastructural Strategic Policy Committee took place on Tuesday 4th December and considered the following items:

- Update LIS Schemes
- Local Link Presentation
- The Members received a presentation from Brendan McKenna, Senior Executive Engineer on the River Basin Management Plan 2018-2021
The Members received a presentation from Brendan McKenna, Senior Executive Engineer on ***Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management (CFRAM)***
- The Members received a presentation from Vincent Dwyer, Head of Finance & Director of Services Water Services & Environment, on the status of the Climate Change Adaptation Plan

In relation to the Update on Local Improvement Schemes, a lengthy discussion took place with Members in relation to whether the scheme should remain closed and whether the 37 new applications received by the Council even though the Scheme was closed should be returned to the applicants and advised to reapply when the scheme officially reopens.

Councillor Pdraig Fallon proposed that the scheme be reopened and the 37 applications received be added to the list of existing applicants. This was seconded by Councillor Brendan Barry.

Councillor Paddy O'Rourke proposed that a decision on the reopening of the scheme be deferred pending a meeting with Minister Ring. This was seconded by Enda Stenson.

Mr Kieran Brett, Meetings Administrator outlined that as there were two proposals a vote would be required and would have to be taken on the counter proposal first.

The result of the poll taken was as follows:

FOR	AGAINST	Abstain	Absent
Armstrong-McGuire, Finola	Barry, Brendan		
Bohan, Mary	Fallon, Pdraig		Ellis, Caillian
Dolan, Frank	Mulvey, Caroline	Guckian , Des	
Dolan, Gerry	Logan, Seadhna		
Guckian, Sinead	Gurn, Felim		
McDermott, Sean			McCartin, John
McGowan, Sean			
O'Rourke, Paddy			
Warnock, Justin			
Stenson, Enda			
10	5	1	2

Mr. Brett outlined that there were 10 votes in favour of the counter-proposal, 5 votes against and one abstained and 2 absent. He outlined that, accordingly, the counter-proposal was carried and the original proposal defeated.

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

Councillor Sean McDermott outlined that a meeting of the Economic Development, Enterprise and Planning Strategic Policy Committee took place on Monday 10th December 2018 and considered the following items:

- Update on the Rates Incentive Scheme
- Presentation on the Economic Profile and Plan for County Leitrim
- Update on Broadband

Councillor Mary Bohan raised the issue of posters for the Local Elections. She said that she had been approached by Tidy Towns Committees who were seeking agreement from Members that no posters would be erected inside 30 mile speed limits. Councillor Mary Bohan also suggested that there should be no posters erected for Local Elections as across the county. As has applied in the Ballinamore Municipal District for many years.

No agreement was reached in relation to the issue and Councillor Mary Bohan requested that Members consider the matter further.

It was agreed that STOP Suicide Group and Comhairle na nÓg will attend the March Council Meeting

19/11

07/01/2019

Conferences/Training

**Proposed by Councillor Enda Stenson, seconded by Councillor Felim Gurn
AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED:**

“That the attendance of Cllr Sean McGowan at the Leitrim London Association Dinner Dance in London from 2nd March to 3rd March 2019 be approved”.

“That the attendance of Cllr Sean McGowan at the St Patrick’s Day Celebration in New York from 7th March to 18th March 2019 be approved”.

19/12

07/01/2019

Meeting Correspondence

1. Letter dated 31st October 2018 from RSA
2. Letter dated 5th November 2018 from the Minister for Disabilities in regard to Universal Payments for people with Disabilities.
3. Letter dated 6th November 2018 from the Office of the Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government in regard to pilot project for zero discharge waste water treatment and disposal system.
4. Letter dated 15th November 2018 from the Head of Social Care, HSE in regard to request for an increase in funding for Home support services in Co Leitrim.
5. Resolution received on the 22nd November 2018 from Monaghan County Council in regard to Sale/Purchase of Part V Housing.
6. Letter dated 22nd November 2018 from the Office of the Minister for Health in regard to Screening Packages.
7. Letter dated 22nd November 2018 from the Office of the Taoiseach acknowledging receipt of Resolution from Leitrim County Council in regard to the Water Pollution Amendment Bill 2018.

- 7a. Letter dated 10th December 2018 from the Office of the Minister in regard to the Local Government Water Pollution Amendment Bill 2018.
- 7b. Letter dated 10th December 2018 from the EPA regarding Resolution passed by the Members of Leitrim County Council in regard to revision of the 2009 Code of Practice: Wastewater Treatment and Disposal Systems Serving Single Houses.
8. Letter dated 22nd November 2018 from the Office of the Taoiseach in regard to provision of adequate funding for footpaths and public lighting.
9. Letter dated 29th November 2018 from the Office of the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade in regard to Livestock Exports.
10. Resolution passed by Donegal County Council in regard to having history as an optional subject in the Junior Certificate.
11. Letter dated December 2018 from the Office or the General Manager, HSE in regard to Home Care Support.
- 11a Letter from the Office of the Minister for Health dated 19th December 2018 in regard to funding for Home Care Support.
- 12 Letter dated 30th November 2018 from the Office of the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine in regard to Livestock Exports post Brexit.
13. Letter dated 5th December 2018 from the President of Ireland in relation to his re-election as President.
14. Resolution from Donegal County Council in regard to Support for the Irish Language Act in Northern Ireland.
15. Resolution from Monaghan County Council in regard to Medical Care Services.
16. Resolution from Kerry County Council in regard to helping undocumented in America becoming citizens.
17. Resolution from Roscommon County Council in regard to Home Help Hours and Home Care Packages.

Councillor Mary Bohan supported the motion from Roscommon County Council in relation to Home Care Packages. Councillor Paddy O'Rourke requested that the Council again write to the HSE in relation to this as the response in his opinion was not adequate.

19/13
07/01/2019

Votes of Sympathy

The Members extended a vote of sympathy to the following:

- Annette Auhl, Boyle Road, Carrick-on-Shannon, Co. Roscommon on the death of Tony Keane.
- Paul Mulvey, Rathallen, Boyle, Co. Roscommon on the death of Kitty (Catherine) Duignan.
- Maura O'Rourke, Aughalough, Aughavas on the death of Charlie O'Rourke.
- Michael and Sheila McCabe, Corrawallen, Carrigallen, Co. Leitrim on the death of Jim McCabe.
- Paul and Imelda Prior, Drumderg, Ballinamore, Co. Leitrim on the death of Josephine Prior.
- Marion McCarthy and family, Keeldrin, Corawallen, Carrigallen, Co. Leitrim on the death of Charlie McCartin.
- Kathleen and Pdraig Ellis, Treanmore, Mohill, Co. Leitrim on the death of Peggy Ellis.
- Niall McManus and the McManus family, Corrachuill, Drumshanbo, Co. Leitrim on the death of Chris McManus.
- Carmel and Helena, La Belle Fleur Florists, Drumshanbo, Co. Leitrim on the death of Helen O'Rourke.
-

Notice of Motions

19/14
07/01/2019

Brexit

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

"That, on the Brexit issue, Leitrim County Council urge our Irish government not to gang up with the other twenty six countries against our biggest trading partner, which is Britain."

19/15
07/01/2019

National Office for Suicide Prevention

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

"I propose that Leitrim County Council contact the Minister for Health, the HSE and the National Office for Suicide Prevention and ask what are their current practices, policies with regard to funding regional Suicide Prevention Groups as opposed to National Groups"

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

"That Leitrim County Council contact the Minister for Health, the HSE and the National Office for Suicide Prevention and ask what are their current practices, policies with regard to funding regional Suicide Prevention Groups as opposed to National Groups".

19/16

07/01/2019

Road Traffic Legislation

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

"That Leitrim County Council would not support or promote any attempt by Minister Shane Ross in his attempts to further amend road traffic legislation with regard to penalties for non mandatory display of licences or a staggered system, as proposed for speeding. That we would write to his department and express our frustration and anger with his anti-rural, anti-driver agenda. Finally that we as a council acknowledge the ministers proposals are regressive and disproportionately impact rural Ireland."

Proposed by Councillor Seadhna Logan seconded by Councillor Padraig Fallon AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED:

"That Leitrim County Council would not support or promote any attempt by Minister Shane Ross in his attempts to further amend road traffic legislation with regard to penalties for non mandatory display of licences or a staggered system, as proposed for speeding. That we would write to his department and express our frustration and anger with his anti-rural, anti-driver agenda. Finally that we as a council acknowledge the ministers proposals are regressive and disproportionately impact rural Ireland".

19/17

07/01/2019

Criminal Repeat Offenders

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

"I call on the support of Elected Members of Leitrim County Council to write to the Minister for Justice, Charlie Flanagan TD to demand, "that criminal repeat offenders do not get bail"."

Proposed by Councillor Justin Warnock seconded by Councillor Sean McDermott AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED:

"That Leitrim County Council call on the support of Elected Members of Leitrim County Council to write to the Minister for Justice, Charlie Flanagan TD to demand, "that criminal repeat offenders do not get bail".

19/18

07/01/2019

St. Patrick's Hospital

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

"I ask has any discussions taken place between HSE and Leitrim County Council regarding the development of the promised new build to St Patrick's Hospital."

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

"The HSE will be contacted seeking an update for the Council."

Mr Bernard Greene, Senior Planner confirmed that the site at the back of the hospital is no longer suitable and the HSE are actively looking for an alternative site.

Councillor Enda Stenson requested that the Council contact the HSE again in relation to this matter.

19/19

07/01/2019

Irish Farmers and Businesses - Brexit

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

"I request that Leitrim County Council call on the Taoiseach Leo Varadkar, The Government and the EU Commission to allocate additional funding, resources and measures to help Irish Farmers and Businesses to cope with the increased costs, volatility, uncertainty and difficulties as a result of Brexit."

Proposed by Councillor Brendan Barry seconded by Councillor Justin Warnock AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED:

"That Leitrim County Council call on the Taoiseach Leo Varadkar, The Government and the EU Commission to allocate additional funding, resources and measures to help Irish Farmers and Businesses to cope with the increased costs, volatility, uncertainty and difficulties as a result of Brexit.

19/20
07/01/2019

A.I.B.P Group

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

"I ask the Chief Executive to make contact with the Management of A.I.B.P. group of companies to find out what plans they have in mind if any, in relation to the former meat plant in Dromod."

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

"It is planned that early in 2019 the project development officer within the economic development section of Leitrim County Council will meet the Dromod Development Association to assist in the development of village priorities for Dromod. The priorities and the follow on key actions identified will, without doubt, include the former meat plant site."

Councillor Des Guckian supported this motion however stated that the reply does not address what AIPB intend to do with the site.

19/21
07/01/2019

Forestry/CIS Scheme

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

"I request support from Leitrim County Council to make it compulsory for forestry land owners especially state owned, to contribute towards CIS schemes once a clear felling licence is applied for."

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

"It is not compulsory at present for a forestry company/land owner to contribute to a CIS when a felling license is applied for. In some instances road improvement works are not necessary for forestry activities. Leitrim County Council cannot force forestry companies to avail of the CIS scheme as this is voluntary and in general we do find good co-operation where CIS schemes are available. Funding Approval for Community Involvement Schemes was received in 2018 for both 2018 and 2019. Following Funding Approval, Leitrim County Council advertised the Community Involvement Scheme Programme and applicants interested in applying to have their road upgraded under the CIS Programme were invited to apply for this Scheme. Where roads serving Forestry are included for upgrade under this Scheme, the relevant Forestry Company were approached and were requested to make a local contribution towards the cost of the roads upgrade. In 2018, a total of 15 CIS Schemes were completed in County Leitrim and of these 15 Schemes, a total of 6 Schemes involved roads serving Forestries and in all 6 of these cases, the Local Contribution was either paid in full or in part by the relevant Forestry Company.

The Community Involvement Scheme Programme will continue in 2019 and again

where Forestry Roads are involved, the required Local Contribution will be sought from the Forestry Company."

19/22

07/01/2019

Telesis Property Marking Machine

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

"A Telesis Property Marking Machine was demonstrated to the JPC in early December. What is the position with our County borrowing this machine? Or have the Finance department sanctioned the purchase of one for the county?"

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

"The Council are in discussions with Sligo County Council with a view to borrowing the machine. As discussed at the JPC meeting in the event that this cannot be facilitated the option of purchase will be examined."

All members welcomed this update.

19/23

07/01/2019

Long Term Illness Scheme

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

"I ask Leitrim County Council to call on the Minister for Health to include cancer and epilepsy patients to be included on the long-term illness scheme."

Proposed by Councillor Gerry Dolan seconded by Councillor Felim Gurn AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED:

"That Leitrim County Council to call on the Minister for Health to include cancer and epilepsy patients to be included on the long-term illness scheme."

19/24
07/01/2019

Signage Sean Mac Diarmada

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

"I ask the Executive to look at the possibility of having signage as you enter County Leitrim - Welcome to County Leitrim The Homestead of Sean Mac Diarmada."

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

"The Councils current county boundary signage is consistent with our Tourism Strategy reflecting the broad offering of the County as a tourist destination and there are no plans to amend same."

19/25
07/01/2019

Genomics Scheme

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

"I call on Leitrim County Council to ask Minister Michael Creed TD to conduct a review of the Genomics Scheme in view of the negative impact it has had on the national herd, with a very evident increase in narrow backed cattle of poor confirmation being presented with an attempt to market them as suitable breeding stock. This nonsense has to be stopped."

Proposed by Councillor Paddy O'Rourke seconded by Councillor Gerry Dolan AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED:

"That Leitrim County Council ask Minister Michael Creed TD to conduct a review of the Genomics Scheme in view of the negative impact it has had on the national herd, with a very evident increase in narrow backed cattle of poor confirmation being presented with an attempt to market them as suitable breeding stock. This nonsense has to be stopped".

19/26
07/01/2019

Broadband

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

"I propose that Leitrim County Council call on the Minister for Communications,

Climate Action and Environment to explain to this why the broadband has not been rolled out as promised to areas such as Drumkeeran. This is the second deadline that has been missed"

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

"The village of Drumkeeran and a number of other villages in Co. Leitrim are to be connected to fibre by EIR under the eir300k project. The most recent figures indicate only approx. 1/3 (1049 out of 2996) of the premises included in Co. Leitrim project have been delivered. Eir's rural deployment of high speed broadband is a commercial undertaking and the decision as to what areas and premises are serviced and the timeframe of same are made by Eir internally on a commercial basis. County Councils cannot direct commercial providers regarding infrastructure or the delivery of any specific broadband product. The most recent date provided by EIR for completion of the EIR300K project for Drumkeeran and the villages in Co Leitrim is now June 2019. In addition the National Broadband Plan aims to deliver high speed broadband to the remaining 11,000 premises in the intervention area of County Leitrim between 2019 and 2023."

Proposed by Councillor Mary Bohan seconded by Councillor Sean McGowan AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED:

"That Leitrim County Council call on the Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment to explain to this why the broadband has not been rolled out as promised to areas such as Drumkeeran. This is the second deadline that has been missed".

19/27

07/01/2019

Harvesting of Rainwater

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

"I ask if any progress has been made regarding the Harvesting of Rainwater. At council meetings held early in 2018 an indication was given that the council would engage with the Department of The Environment on this issue."

Report by Head of Finance & Water Services

"Leitrim County Council will follow up with the Department to establish if any national funding streams or initiatives are forthcoming regarding the harvesting of rainwater."

Signed:

**Councillor Sean McGowan
Cathaoirleach**

**Kieran Brett
Meetings Administrator**

Dated: 4th March 2019