



COMHAIRLE CONTAE CHORCAÍ

Minutes of Proceedings at Meeting of Cork County Council held in the Council Chamber, County Hall, Cork on 12th March, 2018.

I LATHAIR

Comhairleoir I. Ó Dúghaill, Leas Méara Chontae

Comhairleoiri Mac Seafraida, Daltúin, Ní Fhúarthain, Ó'Donnabháin, Ó Cainte, S. Ó Coileán, M. Ó Murchú, Ó hEarchaí, R. Mhic Cárthaigh, Ó Colmáin, Lombard, C. Ó Murchú, Ní Cochláin, Ó' Donnabháin, G. Ní Mhuimhneacháin, Críod, Ó Gráda, Ó Luasaigh, Ó Riain, Ó Conbhuí, P. Ó Suilleabháin, Ó Ceocháin, Sheppard, De Barra, Ó Cadhla, Rasmussen, N.Ó Coileán, Uí Thuama, Ó hEigearthaigh, S. NicCárthaigh, Léanacháin-Foghlú, N. MacCárthaigh, Ó Floinn, Mhic Dháibhí, J. Uí Mhurchú, G. Ó Murchú, G. Ó Murchú, B. Ó Muimhneacháin, Uí Mhaoláin, T. Ó Coileán, D. Ó Coileán, Ó Cearúill, J. Ó Suilleabháin, C. Ó Suilleabháin, P.G. Ó Murchú, Uí hEigearthaigh, Ó hAodha.

PRESENT

Councillor Ian Doyle, Deputy County Mayor presided.

Councillors Jeffers, D'Alton, Forde, Ó'Donnabháin, Canty, Collins, M. Murphy, Harris, R. McCarthy, Coleman, Lombard, K. Murphy, Coughlan, O'Donovan, G. Moynihan, Creed, O'Grady, Lucey, Ryan, Conway, P. O'Sullivan, Keohane, Sheppard, Barry, O'Cádhlá, Rasmussen, N. Collins, Twomey, Ml. Hegarty, S. McCarthy, Linehan Foley, N. McCarthy, O'Flynn, Doyle, Dawson, J. Murphy, Gearóid Murphy, G. Murphy, B. Moynihan, Mullane, T. Collins, D. Collins, Carroll, J. O'Sullivan, C. O'Sullivan, P. G. Murphy, Hegarty, Hayes.

Chief Executive, A/Senior Executive Officer.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

1/1-3

Councillor Diarmaid O'Cádhlá proposed that the draft minutes of the meeting of the Council held on the 26th February, 2018 in relation to item 8/2-2(b) be amended as details of the discussion concerning the Corporate Services Report for quarter ending 31.12.2017 where not reflected in the draft minutes of the meeting on 26th February, 2018.

The Chief Executive confirmed the Corporate Services Report presented to members at the meeting on the 26th February, 2018, was factually correct in terms of the Council's Corporate Complaints Procedure and that the member's proposal to amend the draft meeting minutes was noted.

Proposed by Councillor Noel McCarthy

Seconded by Councillor Kay Dawson

RESOLVED:

“That the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 26th February, 2018, be confirmed and signed by the Deputy Mayor subject to the following amendment”

“Page 11:

During the discussion that followed one member stated there were outstanding complaints under the Customer Charter that had not been resolved.

In response the Chief Executive confirmed that the report as presented was accurate and any further queries to be addressed to the SEO in Corporate Services.”

VOTES OF SYMPATHY

2/1-3

- TO: Mrs Bridget Jennings, on the death of her husband, Bob (former Cork County Council)
- TO: Mr. Michael O’Leary, on the death of his partner, Abbie (former VEC County Hall)
- TO: Mrs. Gobnait O’Callaghan, on the death of her husband, Martin.
- TO: Rose Carroll, on the death of her mother, Sheila.

The Deputy Mayor and members said they wished to be associated with all votes of sympathy.

STATUTORY BUSINESS

Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001:

Members noted the following disposals.

AMENDMENT TO DISPOSAL OF LAND SALLYBROOK, GLANMIRE, CO. CORK

3(a)/1-3

In accordance with the provisions of Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001, the disposal of the property as shown hereunder shall be carried out in accordance with the terms specified in the notice issued to members dated 13th February, 2017.

LEASE OF LAND AT CARRIGALOE FERRY PORT, BALLYNOE, COBH, CO. CORK

3(b)/1-3

In accordance with the provisions of Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001, the disposal of the property as shown hereunder shall be carried out in accordance with the terms specified in the notice issued to members dated 22nd February, 2017.

LEASE OF LAND AT GLENBROOK FERRY TERMINAL, STRAND ROAD, PASSAGE WEST, CO. CORK

3(c)/1-3

In accordance with the provisions of Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001, the disposal of the property as shown hereunder shall be carried out in accordance with the terms specified in the notice issued to members dated 22nd February, 2017.

AMENDMENT TO LEASE OF PROPERTY AT 16 MAULBAUN, PASSAGE WEST, CO. CORK

3(d)/1-3

In accordance with the provisions of Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001, the disposal of the property as shown hereunder shall be carried out in accordance with the terms specified in the notice issued to members dated 22nd February, 2017.

DISPOSAL OF FREEHOLD INTEREST IN 3 RIVERDALE, SKIBBEREEN, CO. CORK

3(e)/1-3

In accordance with the provisions of Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001, the disposal of freehold interest in the house and plot as shown hereunder shall be carried out in accordance with the terms specified in the notice issued to members dated 22nd February, 2018.

LEASE OF LAND AT RIVERVIEW ESTATE, BLARNEY, CO. CORK

3(f)/1-3

In accordance with the provisions of Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001, the disposal of the property as shown hereunder shall be carried out in accordance with the terms specified in the notice issued to members dated 22nd February, 2017.

LEASE OF LAND AT KILLAVULLEN, MALLOW, CO. CORK

3(g)/1-3

In accordance with the provisions of Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001, the disposal of the property as shown hereunder shall be carried out in accordance with the terms specified in the notice issued to members dated 22nd February, 2017.

AMENDMENT TO LEASE OF LAND AT DROMAHANE, MALLOW CO. CORK

3(h)/1-3

In accordance with the provisions of Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001, the disposal of the property as shown hereunder shall be carried out in accordance with the terms specified in the notice issued to members dated 22nd February, 2017.

REPORTS & RECOMENDATIONS OF COMMITTEES

CORPORATE POLICY GROUP

4/1-3

Proposed by Councillor Kevin Murphy
Seconded by Councillor Frank O'Flynn

Resolved:

“That the Conference List for March, 2018, be hereby approved.”

During the discussion that followed, members raised the following points;

- Members feel quite distanced from the Corporate Policy Group (CPG)
- Reference was made to Departmental Circular 07/2014 and members requested the minutes of the CPG should be circulated to all members as provided for under paragraph 2.3 of the circular.
- The agenda of CPG should also be circulated to all members
- There is no female representation on CPG and gender balance is an issue
- One member said that CPG represents a culling of decision making by full council
- CPG does not make decisions but instead makes recommendations to full council for decision.

The Chief Executive said that it was not appropriate for him to comment on gender balance as the elected membership of the Strategic Policy Committees (SPC's) determines the gender balance of CPG. The Chief Executive said some of the council's SPC chairs are Party Leaders and that membership of CPG is drawn from the chairs of the SPC'S and where necessary also from elected representatives of Municipal Districts not represented on any SPC. The Chief Executive said the matter concerning the circulation of the minutes of CPG meetings and agendas to all members should be brought to CPG.

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF BLARNEY/MACROOM

5/1-3

MANAGER'S REPORT UNDER SECTION 179, PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT ACT, 2000:

Proposed construction of 18 No: Residential units at Station Road, Blarney, Co. Cork

Proposed by Councillor Bob Ryan

Seconded by Councillor Kevin Conway

RESOLVED:

“Noting that in accordance with Article 179 of the Local Government (Planning and Development) Act, 2000, notice of the proposed development was published, 8 No: submissions were received in respect of the proposal, approval pursuant to Article 179 of the said Act is given for the following:-

Construction of 18 No: Residential units at Station Road, Blarney, Co. Cork

Members commended all staff involved in bringing the Part 8 report to fruition, and for the extensive consultation with the people of Blarney as part of the Part 8 process.

NOTICE OF MOTIONS

E-CENTRES

6-1/3

Councillor Melissa Mullane proposed, seconded by Councillor Bernard Moynihan, the following notice of motion:-

“That this Council provide a written report on E-Centres across the county. Report should include the involvement financially and administratively on the support provided by Cork County Council and to additionally give details on ownership of provided buildings and rental (including costs) up take of desk space at each centre.”

Members noted the report from the Director of Economic Development, Enterprise and Tourism, which outlined as follows:-

There are a few different models of establishment and management of E Centres/ hot desks located across the County.

1. Direct provision of e centres has taken place in Bantry and Fermoy in association with enterprise units which were already in the ownership of the Council. These hot desks are managed and maintained from County Hall, by Council staff.
2. Community E Centres were established by local communities, with grant aid from the Councils Economic Development Fund (EDF). This funding was part of the initial EDF policy to encourage communities to come together to help themselves with the assistance of Council funding. The policy as adopted stated, “Applications will be sought for the establishment or development of an enterprise centre or to provide hot desking facilities. Funding will not be provided for the acquisition or rental of enterprise space. However where a Town / Community provide the space the fund may be used to contribute to the fit out including ICT enablement and hot desking provision.” The Council also provided some assistance in the early operational days of these centres, with set up, branding, advice, & marketing. The day to day running and financial management of these E centres remains with the local community. Details of the funding to the individual centres is outlined in the table below. These buildings are owned locally by a variety of people, i.e. local business people, local community, or other organisations.
3. Hot desk Facilities were also established as part of the development of Enterprise centres. The most notable are at Macroom E, Ludgate Skibbereen, Mitchelstown and the soon to be opened Dunmanway. These are not in the strictest terms E Centres but do provide hot desking and hence similar facilities to E Centres. Dunmanway and Mitchelstown were part of an Enterprise Ireland (EI) Community Enterprise Centre Grant Scheme, which no longer operates. Capital funding in these instances came from EI, Cork County Council and other local sources, including fundraising events and loans in some instances, from Clan Creedo in the case of Dunmanway. Part of the Capital funding would relate to the hotdesking provision. Mitchelstown, Skibbereen & Dunmanway are managed both operationally and financially by local community organisations. Macroom E is managed by a wholly owned Cork County Council Company, and the Council in effect own the building

E-Centre	No. of Hot Desks	No. Occupied	Meeting Room / Training Room	E Centre Owned / Operated By	Amount of funding	Year funded	Cost of Hot-desk

							per week
Fermoy	10	4	2	Cork County Council	funding dependant on maintenance requirements but rent accrues to Council	Ongoing	€50
Bantry	6	2	1	Cork County Council	funding dependant on maintenance requirements but rent accrues to Council	Ongoing	€50
Macroom	6	6	2	Cork County Council owned privately operated	€70,000 part of this money only would relate to hotdesking	Ongoing	€50
Mitchelstown	8	2	2	Mitchelstown Community Enterprise Centre	€279,500 part of this money only would relate to hotdesking	2014	€50
Dunmanway	n/a	n/a	n/a	Brookpark Enterprise Centre ltd	€355,000 part of this money only would relate to hotdesking, not fully drawn down as yet	2017/2018	n/a
Charleville	7	4	1	Charleville Enterprise Centre	€35,000	2012	€50
Millstreet	7	closed	1	Millstreet Community Dev. Group	€60,000	2012	N/A
Bandon	6	2	1	Bandon Chamber Of Commerce	€60,000	2013	€50
Mizen	5	1	1	Mizen Tourism Co-op	€28,776	2013	€50

Ludgate			The Ludgate Hub	€60,000	2016	€95
Bere Island	2		Bere Island Old School Heritage Complex	€10,000	2014	

During the discussion that followed members made the following points:

- Members thanked the Director of Services for the detailed report, in which they were surprised to learn of the closure of the Millstreet centre
- Are payments to the E-Centres once off or annual payments.
- Are the E-Centres audited on an annual basis.
- What analysis is carried out to determine if E-Centres are viable.
- The E-Centres are an outstanding success; however, we need to do more promoting and raising awareness of them.
- The centres provide important opportunities for local and start up businesses
- They are vital for rural Ireland and are important community based centres
- People are not realise the E-Centres are there
- A number of the centre are working positively
- Some centres have very low occupancy and are not fulfilling their potential
- Cork County Council provides financial support and expertise to the E-Centres
- We must be supportive and proactive in increasing occupancy in the E-Centres
- Members highlighted the success of various E-Centres including Charleville, Fermoy and the Ludgate Hub in Skibbereen.
- In Skibbereen, Amazon currently employs 35 peoples working from their homes
- People and businesses want to locate in areas where there is good connectivity and broadband.

The Chief Executive confirmed Millstreet E-Centre received significant support from Cork County Council, and that all financial support provided by the Council to the various E-Centres were once off.

The Chief Executive said E-Centre's generally received one third of their funding from Cork County Council, with the remaining two thirds coming from The Enterprise Ireland Grant Scheme and local communities, respectively. The Chief Executive confirmed that the Millstreet E-Centre has also received significant support from the Local Enterprise Office in North Cork and from IRD Duhallow.

The Chief Executive referred to Macroom E as an example of a very successfully centre as there are a range of businesses operating from Macroom E, where hot desking facilities are also available. He said it is of concern that one of the centres has closed, and that the matter of re-establishing occupancy is being actively looked at.

The Chief Executive confirmed the occupancy levels set out in the report are at a point in time and that he is satisfied there are no issues regarding promoting awareness of the centres as they are being advertised at the core point. The Chief Executive said ideally that every town shown have centres of this nature; however, important facilities such as broadband connectivity do have an influence.

STUDY ON CERTAIN COUNCIL OWNED LANDS FOR THEIR POTENTIAL USE

Councillor Eoghan Jeffers proposed, seconded by Councillor Des O'Grady, the following notice of motion:-

"That Cork County Council would undertake a study on certain lands for their potential use. The study should include the feasibility of verge cutting waste being used for bio mass fuel, a report on lands owned by Cork County Council that may not be suitable for building houses, but could be developed for environmentally friendly energy and waste lands in housing estates be identified that could have the potential for urban farming."

During the discussion that followed, members made the following points:

- There are approximately 12,600 km of roads in the county and the council cuts grass verges on many of these roads during the summer months.
- Roadside verges have huge potential that we are not capitalising on.
- We need to change our outlook on how grass cuttings from road side verges is utilised.
- Verge cuttings could potentially be used to produce biomass fuel and provide green energy to thousands of homes.
- A similar project carried out in Lincolnshire in the UK showed that verge cuttings taken from 8,750km of roads could potentially produce electricity for 4,500 households a year and gas for 1,100 household a year.
- This proposal could revolutionise the councils approach to the environment and renewable energy.
- There needs to be positive engagement from the council and a feasibility study should be carried out.
- There would be many university students eager to carry out a study of this type.
- Members noted that the reuse of verge side cuttings is currently not council policy and agreed the motion should be forwarded to the Environment & Emergency Services SPC for consideration.
- We will also need to work with our tidy town groups in formulating and rolling out any new policy on the matter.
- There is a lot of council owned land not being used and allowed to reach its full potential
- This unused council land could be used for urban farming
- Members referred to a party delegation that recently visited the Basque country and saw examples of urban farming projects, and the success of the Ballymun Regeneration Project and its urban farm.
- Local Authorities in other European countries engage special machinery to carry out verge cutting, and this specialised machinery is able to collect cuttings.
- New projects like these could change our attitudes towards the use of wasteland

The Chief Executive said he supported referring the notice of motion to the Environment SPC for consideration, and commented that the core point to note is we need to first look at what other models are out there and how they are being operated.

The Chief Executive said the council has a number of very successful allotment schemes and agreed the council would look at any surplus land that is not being used for housing. The Chief Executive confirmed that the possibility of utilising unused council owned land as urban farms would also be referred to the Environment SPC for consideration.

THE RETURN OF ‘VOID’ PROPERTIES (UNOCCUPIED COUNCIL OWNED SOCIAL HOUSING UNITS) TO ACTIVE USE

8-1/3

Councillor Diarmaid O’Cádhlá proposed, seconded by Councillor Noel Collins, the following notice of motion:-

“That Council requests a report on the return of ‘Void’ properties (unoccupied Council owned social housing units) to active use, including the following detail for each Municipal District:

1. The number of voids recovered to active use each year during 2015, 2016 and 2017, and the expected number for 2018.
2. The average cost of recovery of void properties, and the range of costs from the least to the most expensive involved, and what do these costs include?
3. What is the average time it takes to recover a void property, from when a decision is made to do so.
4. How long does a void property stand idle, on average, before a decision is made to recover it?
5. Why might a void property stand idle, and how many are currently at this status
6. What proportions of direct labour and/or subcontracted work is involved in the recovery of voids – is each void unit handled individually or are general contracts issued?
7. What is Council’s policy and process for the recovering void property”

Members noted the report from the S/Director of Housing, which outlined as follows:-

The Council endeavours to return all properties to use as soon as possible after they become vacant. Significant progress has been made in relation to vacancy over the last 3 years and, at present, less than 2% of the Council’s Housing Stock is unoccupied.

The Quarterly Report provided to Members at their Divisional Meetings lists the properties that are currently vacant, by Municipal District, indicates the date on which they became vacant, whether the required works are out to tender or are underway, the estimated completion date and whether a tenant has been selected.

1. Voids returned to active use:

The countywide figures for the last 3 years are listed below.

Municipal Districts	2015	2016	2017
West	43	30	24
Bandon/Kinsale	6	7	4
Blarney/Macroom	15	6	3
Ballincollig/ Carrigaline	36	16	22
East Cork	23	10	7
Cobh	21	11	25
Kanturk/Mallow	45	18	42
Fermoy	40	20	22
Total	229	118	149

A proposal for the refurbishment of 108 vacant units will be made to the DHPLG for 2018.

2. The figures published in respect of Cork Co Council in the NOAC Report on Housing Service Indicators for 2016 show an average refurbishment cost of €13,435.35 per unit. The 2017 Indicators are being compiled and will be made available to Members shortly. The costs range from € 1,731.25, where only clean out and electrical, plumbing and asbestos checks were needed to €108,217 where works included;

- Attic Insulation
- Replacing floors
- Dry lining / Wall Insulation
- Altering layout of house including removing internal walls, stairs etc.
- Windows and door replacement
- Re wiring
- New Heating System
- New Plumbing
- New Kitchen
- New Bathroom
- New gutters / downpipes
- New external steps
- New Fencing
- Painting internally and externally

3. The average time to re -let a vacant property included in the Service Indicators Report for 2016 is 16.78 weeks. As with the cost per unit Members will be provided with the 2017 figure as soon as it is available.

4. As soon as the keys are returned to the Council the property is inspected and tender documents are prepared.

5. Properties stand idle while tender process is carried out. In a small number of cases vacancy occurs but tenancy issues may need to be resolved before further action can be taken. At present there are 3 such properties in the County.

6. A direct Labour Force is involved in void refurbishment in North Cork and there are also direct labour staff in West Cork who assist in the refurbishment of vacant properties. All vacant property refurbishment in South Cork is carried out by Contractors. In general contracts are tendered individually but in some cases if more than one property is returned at the same time, in close proximity, then these can be tendered as a bundle.

7. **Voids Maintenance Procedure & Target Timelines.**

A new voids procedure was introduced with effect from 8th January 2018. The aim of the procedure is to categorise the void based on the level of refurbishment work required and to give target times for returning each category to productive use. A new Service Level Agreement with contractors will speed up the tendering process, set out the target return times and have penalties built in to assist in achieving the objectives of the new procedure. The categorisation system is set out on the following table;

Proposed Categorisation System for Vacant Properties		
Class 1	Properties Categorised as Class 1 are properties that require planned maintenance or other minor works such as minor electrical & refreshment works, that could generally be carried out with the tenant insitu:	Target Return Time 2-8 weeks

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Clearance of Belongings - Minor works: minor electrical, repair of leaks etc. - Servicing of boilers and minor plumbing works - Refreshment of decoration if necessary - Other limited Planned Maintenance type works such as External Window & Door replacement, Energy upgrades. 	
Class 2	<p>Properties Categorised as Class 2 are properties that require a Full refurbishment and fabric upgrade, where works cannot be carried out with the tenant insitu:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Full M+E Upgrade. - Windows and Doors Upgrade. - Energy Efficient Works: Cavity & Loft Insulation, Dry lining, stove installation - Internal Fabric Upgrade: Kitchen, Bathrooms, Joinery, timberwork, plastering and redecoration. 	12 weeks
Class 3	<p>Properties Categorised as Class 3 are properties that on top of requiring a Full refurbishment may also require other significant works such as asbestos removal, roof replacement or other specialist works.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Asbestos Removal. - Full M+E Upgrade. - Windows and Doors Upgrade. - Energy Efficient Works: Cavity & Loft Insulation, External Insulation, Dry lining. - Internal Fabric Upgrade: Kitchen, Bathrooms, Joinery, plastering and redecoration. - Roof Refurbishment 	14 weeks
Class 4	<p>Properties Categorised as Class 4 are properties that could be classed as derelict or unsafe to such an extent that they require</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Complete Redesign of Property Required due to fire safety and Layout issues. - Significant Structural Issues requiring input and design from a Structural Engineer. - Property in such condition as could be rendered derelict. - Partial demolition, redesign and reconstruction required. - Full Demolition and Reconstruction of Property required. <p>These properties are not available for letting from traditional means and require the input of an Architect, structural engineer or other External expertise.</p>	32 weeks if classed as a derelict void. 78 weeks if significant redesign is required and property becomes a SHIP type project.

The above timelines are dependent on staff availability, contractor availability and funding.

Members thanked the S/Director of Housing for the detailed report, and during the discussion that followed, members made the following comments;

- The issue of void properties comes up year after year.
- Members welcomed that Cork County Council returned void properties at half the cost of other local authorities.
- €13,000 was the average cost of recovering void properties.
- It takes less than 18 months to recoup these costs once a void property is recovered and re-let.
- Members queried the need to obtain permission from the Department before recovering void properties and stated we should just immediately recover them.
- The issue of voids is not just confined to local authorities.

- There is a vast improvement in the turnaround times of void properties.
- Should we consider selling certain voids that are too costly to repair.
- People who can help with the homelessness are also contributing to the problem.
- Empty properties that remain locked up should be handed over to voluntary housing bodies.
- Recovering voids is the quickest way to provide housing.
- €13,000 per unit is allowed by the Department, the council must use its own resources to fund any balance.
- A direct labour force should be employed by the council around the county to repair voids.
- Members referred to the new voids maintenance procedure (Class 1, 2 & 3) and target timelines, and requested up to date reports be brought to each of the Divisional Committees.
- Direct labour forces are involved in void refurbishments in North Cork and West Cork
- South Cork does not have a direct labour force with refurbishments being carried out by contractors.
- We do not have enough staff to carry out the work required
- Previous notice of motions have requested that tenants be allowed to carry out the works themselves.
- Why are we seeing the unnecessary removal of top of the range items, including modern kitchens, from properties.
- If properties are left vacant for a number of months they will deteriorate at a faster rate.
- Why do some properties take so long to be re offered.
- It is not acceptable that some people are waiting up to 3 months before being offered a turnkey property.
- There are massive savings to be made by quickly returning voided properties and offering them for rental.

The Chief Executive said there has been significant progress made in void turnaround times and that a detailed voids maintenance procedure is in place since January 2018.

The Chief Executive confirmed that reports on the revised voids maintenance procedure would be brought every six months to the Divisional Committees. He outlined that the number of voids at the beginning of 2018 was 108 units, and that this number reflects the significant amount of work that has been undertaken in reducing the number of voids.

The Chief Executive advised members it would not be prudent for Cork County Council itself to fully fund the repair of voids, when funding is available from Government and the council should avail of this source of funding. The Chief Executive confirmed that applying to the department for funding does not slow down repair works being carried out and that repair work programmes continue to be prepared and tendered.

The Chief Executive said the contents of properties are not being emptied needlessly and that in each case a detailed survey of the property is carried out first as there are standards the council must meet.

GATEWAY SCHEME

9-1/3

Councillor Des O'Grady proposed, seconded by Councillor Melissa Mullane, the following notice of motion:-

“To seek a report on the total cost to Cork County Council of operating the Gateway scheme since 2014. The report to contain the year on year budget allocation to the Scheme, the amounts expended and any savings made since the scheme ended in August 2017. The report

to also contain information on any subsequent employment, provided by the Council, from among the 205 participants.

Members noted the report from the Head of Personnel, which outlined as follows:-

Costs incurred by the Council in operating the Gateway Scheme shown below.

Gateway - Revenue Roads Expenditure

2014	10,275.52
2015	381,249.04
2016	393,510.04
2017	323,635.57
2018	14,972.69
	1,123,642.86

Gateway Capital Projects

2014	-
2015	5,357.73
2016	137,459.91
2017	177,546.37
	320,364.01

Payroll cost for the participants is not reflected in the Council's budget as Department of Social Protection retained responsibility for payment of social protection allowances through the POBAL system. Additional funding grant of €615 per participant in respect of training was claimed from DSP. Balance of training funding, transports costs, etc provided for by Council's revenue budget. Payroll costs for Gateway Foremen (8 no) included in Revenue expenditure above.

€400,000 GATEWAY budget provided in 2017 has been added to Council's Roads Maintenance budget for 2018.

During the life of the Scheme, 22 no participants were recruited to temporary posts within the Council.

Current situation regarding former GATEWAY participants is as follows:

Permanent appointments to the Council:

1 Foreman Roadworks
8 General Operatives

Temporary & Seasonal Appointments:

1 Foreman Roadworks
24 General Operatives plus 4 to commence in coming weeks

As part of agreed Workforce Plan numbers for General Operative grades, recruitment has commenced to fill additional 39 permanent General Operative positions. Filling of these General Operative positions is confined to former GATEWAY participants/existing temporary employees in first instance. 57 applications were received and interviews are currently underway.

Members thanked the Head of Personnel for the report, and during the discussion that followed, members made the following comments;

- It comes as a surprise that the Gateway Scheme is not cost neutral to Cork County Council as €1.5 million operating the scheme has fallen on the council.
- Central Government should have fully funded the scheme.
- The cost of operating the Gateway Scheme in addition to the money from recent storm damage that the Government has failed to recoup will have a huge knock on effect of the council's finances.
- Local authorities carrying out Government works and schemes are not being adequately compensated.
- €400,000 left over should be ring fenced and municipal district level.
- It is positive that some savings were made.
- We need to decide how balance in the Council's Roads Maintenance budget for 2018 will be divided up and allocated between the municipal districts.
- 25% of people on the scheme got permanent jobs.
- Members welcomed that 39 permanent General Operative positions are to be filled.
- The Gateway Scheme was not ideal; however, it provided additional services at a time when the recruitment embargo was in place, and has had a positive outcome.

PAINT REUSE SCHEME

10-1/3

Councillor Marcia D'Alton proposed, seconded by Councillor Derry Canty, the following notice of motion:-

“That Cork County Council would initiate a paint reuse scheme in each of its 11 Civic Amenity Sites. The aim of the scheme would be to offer good quality reusable paint to community groups, charities and others while reducing the volume and cost of waste for disposal.”

Members noted the report from the Senior Engineer, Environment, which outlined as follows:-

Cork County Council would be supportive of the reuse of paint accepted at Civic Amenity sites.

Some research on paint reuse schemes show that various types of schemes operate. All the schemes I have found were run by groups not the Council, including one in Britain where a commercial company, Newlife Paints Ltd in the UK, was setup to utilise these paints. The Council facilitated the groups in sourcing the paint at their recycling centres.

The commercial company accepted only water based paints to create new paint for sale which include a minimum of 50% old paint.

Community schemes varied in the types of paint accepted, some water based only, some water and latex based and some both oil and water based. Some schemes only accepted cans with a minimum volume of paint. Some did not accept paint more than a certain age.

One of the main issues arising in schemes like this was having someone with the skills to assess the paint to determine if was suitable for reuse; the Council would not have such a person on the Civic Amenity sites. The types of issues needing to be assessed would be:-

- Does the colour match that on the tin?
- Is the paint quality suitable for use?
- Is the paint as it says on the tin, i.e. not contaminated (e.g. weed killers or hazardous materials added)?

The Council would be supportive of paint reuse schemes and would work with any group operating such a scheme

Members thanked the Senior Engineer for the report, and during the discussion that followed, members made the following comments;

- 1 litre of paint can pollute up to 250,000 litres of water.
- In 2014, 9.5 million litres of paints, varnish, ink and adhesive were treated as hazardous waste.
- Half of this was treated in Ireland, and the other half was exported abroad for treatment.
- 50% of waste paint is suitable for reuse.
- Many countries have initiated paint reuse schemes or community paint recycling programmes. These include Australia, New Zealand, Canada and the Rediscover Paint project in Ballymun.
- A nationwide paint reuse network that operates in the UK, called Community RePaint, collects leftover paint at civic amenity sites and other participating hardware stores and redistributes it to benefit individuals, families, communities and charities in need at an affordable cost.
- We need to formalise a paint reuse scheme at each of our civic amenity sites and segregate hazardous from non-hazardous paint.
- It would be very beneficial to make it available to schools, charities and community groups.
- Reuse schemes like this are supported by the Southern Waste Management Region Office and are a stated aim of the National Waste Prevention Committee.
- At Clonakilty civic amenity there was an informal arrangement that allowed community groups and organisations to reuse paint supplies.
- Members noted that whilst it would be very worthwhile it could be costly in terms of administering the scheme.

Members agreed to refer the notice of motion to the Environment & Emergency Services SPC for further consideration.

IDA IRELAND

11-1/3

Councillor Frank O'Flynn proposed, seconded by Councillor Gillian Coughlan, the following notice of motion:-

“That Cork County Council would request the IDA to attend a Development Committee meeting of Cork County Council to outline its plans and timeframe for the development of the IDA held lands in Cork County.”

During the discussion that followed, members made the following points:

- As the economy is now beginning to lift, now is the time for the IDA to drive the Cork Region.
- The IDA has roughly 75 acres of land spread over 14 individual sites.
- IDA sites provide fantastic opportunities for entrepreneurs and SME’s
- A number of these sites are in key locations, which are close to motorways.
- Can Cork County Council do anything to promote these sites.
- The IDA site in Fermoy is lying idle for over 11 years.
- Members asked if the Government is really serious about its regional plan for jobs.
- The IDA appears to be pushing a few key hubs around the country in regions such as Shannon, Dublin and port areas.
- The IDA has no presence west of Cork City.
- The IDA are sitting on lands.
- Agri Tech and Agri Processing have huge potential and we need to encourage employment in the tertiary sector.
- Is there a possibility for an outreach centre to be developed in West Cork.
- Representatives from Enterprise Ireland should also be invited to attend a Development Committee meeting.
- Members noted that the council’s Economic Development Committee is carrying out great work at promoting job creation.

The Chief Executive said Cork County Council has a good working relationship with IDA Ireland, and confirmed an invitation would issue to the IDA and Enterprise Ireland.

MENTAL HEALTH CHARTER

12-1/3

Councillor Joe Harris proposed, seconded by Councillor June Murphy the following notice of motion:-

“That this Council call on financial institutions to introduce a mental health charter, which includes one weeks training for staff over a 12 month period. It would also include a number of areas like correspondence, vulnerable people, and proactive support”

During the discussion that followed, members made the following points:

- It is a requirement of the Central Bank that senior personnel working in the financial sector undertake and pass a probity /fitness to practice test.
- The main banks would have had anywhere of up to 20 senior management involved in the tracker mortgage scandal.
- Banker’s licence to practice should have been withdrawn.
- The Central Bank was also complicit in the tracker mortgage scandal
- The sale of distressed mortgages to outside agencies and vulture funds is a worrying trend.
- It is very important for the Government to take note of the notice of motion.
- When the banks failed they were fully supported by the State
- The banks should now support the very people that bailed the banks out.

- A serious look needs to be taken at how the banks are treating people.
- We are supposedly a civilised and humane society
- We should not go down the American route of how people are treated by financial institutions
- It is very difficult for people to deal with financial institutions.
- People incorrectly taken off tracker mortgages are still struggling and the impact on family life is indescribable
- People behind desk are often far removed from the impact of their decisions.
- The Council recently issues rent review letters, which have caused unnecessary anxiety.
- The notice of motion should be brought to the attention of former councillor, Pat Buckley T.D

Members agreed to write to the Central Bank and Deputy Pat Buckley on the matter.

AN BORD PLEANÁLA

13-1/3

Councillor Noel Collins proposed, seconded by Councillor John O'Sullivan, the following notice of motion:-

“That this Council call on the Government to amend legislation whereby An Bord Pleanála will be held accountable to Dail Eireann, in a reasoned way, to enable a greater cataloguing of the Board's decisions, so that scholars can examine them and ensure there is a consistency of interpretation where the Board is concerned.”

During the discussion that followed, members made the following points:

- If we are to sustain our economic and social advancement, it is vital that An Bord Pleanála should dispose of its business with rapidity.
- A major aspect of the board that needs to be addressed is the level of secrecy of the board.
- An Bord Pleanála needs to apply decisions in consistent manner
- The level at which inconsistent decisions are being made is a major problem.
- The board's reasons for refusals should be clearly set out on appeal.
- There is no reason why the board cannot meet in public session in the interest of openness and transparency.
- There needs to be more public deliberation by the board.
- It is improper to suggest, that a judicial body cannot be accountable to Dail Eireann in a reasoned way
- Cork County Council provides considerable reports as part of any planning process, which is transparent and open.
- The board is not required to record the minutes of their meetings.
- When the board hands down its decision the reason for a refusal must be set out in the decision on appeal, and equally the various conditions attaching to a development.
- Decisions' of the board being reversed is not acceptable when no explanation is provided
- Target decision dates are being missed by the board and deferred over and over
- These ongoing delays are not acceptable
- We also need to look at putting more planners in place to speed up the council's planning process
- The reputation and good standing of An Bord Pleanála is gone.
- An Taisce is often being used an objector by stealth.
- Government plans to reduce the time frame for seeking judicial review of the board's decisions from 8 weeks down to 4 weeks.
- An Bord Pleanála is totally overworked, yet completely under resourced.

- It needs to be totally restructured
- An Bord Pleanála decides on major infrastructure projects, it needs a major overhaul and an adequate complement of staff.
- It is over three and a half years and still no decision on the breakwater in Baltimore
- The board originally refused permission for the liquefied natural gas terminal in Shannon; however 26 days later it granted for permission without any reason for changing its decision.

Members agreed to write to the Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government.

FREESTYLE LIBRE REIMBURSEMENT SCHEME

14-1/3

Councillor June Murphy proposed, seconded by Councillor Rachael McCarthy, the following notice of motion:-

"That this Council call on the Minister of Health and the HSE to include all citizens with Type 1 diabetes to be included in the Freestyle Libre reimbursement scheme and medical card."

During the discussion that followed, members made the following points:

- The Freestyle Libre is an innovative glucose monitoring device that can be used by diabetics.
- The cost of the device is €120 a month.
- Seventeen countries have set up reimbursement schemes.
- The Freestyle Libre reimbursement scheme should be all inclusive for all citizens.
- The libre device helps children and adults alike.
- What the view of the HSE.
- Diabetes is a life long illness.
- There are only 20,000 people in Ireland with Type 1 Diabetes so why has the Minister decided to exclude certain people.
- The glucose level finger prick test is especially painful for younger people and the libre device will make a huge difference to their quality of life.
- Sugar tax revenues should be ring fenced for the treatment of diabetes and obesity.
- Members thanked the East Cork Journal for following the original notice of motion when first raised at municipal district level.

Members agreed to amend the notice of motion and request the Minister and the HSE to also provide clarification on the timeframe of the existing scheme.

VERSATIS PAIN RELIEF PATCHES

15-1/3

Councillor Danielle Twomey proposed, seconded by Councillor Paul; Hayes, the following notice of motion:-

"That this Council calls on the Minister of Health, Deputy Simon Harris, to request the HSE to review the decision to restrict the use of Versatis pain relief patches to patients, in chronic

pain, outside those experiencing post herpetic neuralgia, and to revert to the pre-December status while this review is being undertaken."

- The Government is targeting people living with chronic pain in an attempt to cut costs
- It is cruel to withdraw pain relief without offering alternatives
- The cost of this vital instrument is on average €400 per month.
- That is €100 per week, and on a fixed income this could mean the difference between paying one's bills, food shopping or living a week in chronic pain
- Once again this is another hit by the HSE and Government at the sick, elderly and vulnerable
- Over seven thousand people have signed an online petitions supporting a call for pain relief patches to be covered by the medical card scheme

Members agreed to write to the Minister of Health on the matter.

VOTES OF CONGRATULATIONS

TO: Eddie O'Brien, on receiving the Corkman of the Year Award in New York.

Members said they wanted to thank municipal district and roads staff, Civil Defence and all volunteers for their hardwork and efforts during Storm Emma.

The Deputy Mayor complimented Cork County Council staff and Met Eireann for their work.

Members also thanked the Council's Communications Section for providing constant updates during the storm.

The Chief Executive thanked all members of staff for their efforts during Storm Emma.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Councillor Rachael McCarthy asked the Chief Executive to clarify how many snowploughs are in the council's fleet.

The Chief Executive said he could not confirm at this point in time the exact numbers, and confirmed the council does have a number of snow ploughs. He also said the council's fleet of road graders are very effective at clearing snow.

Opening of Tenders

The Deputy Mayor informed members that the following tenders would be opened at the meeting

- N22 Baile Bhuirne Macroom Road Development Technical Advisory Services - 3 Tenders
- Cork Footbridges & Parapet Replacement 2018 Eirspan – Task No. 298 - 5 Tenders

This concluded the business of the meeting.