



COMHAIRLE CONTAE CHORCAÍ

Minutes of Proceedings at Meeting of Cork County Council held in the Council Chamber, County Hall, Cork on 9th April, 2018.

I LATHAIR

Comhairleoir D. Ó hUrthuile, Méara Chontae

Comhairleoiri MacCraith, Mac Seafraida, Daltúin, Ní Fhúarthain, D. Ó'Donnabháin Dheasmhumhnaigh, Ó Cainte, S. Ó Coileán, M. Ó Murchú, Ó hEarchaí, R. Mhic Cárthaigh, Ó Colmáin, Lombard, C. Ó Murchú, Ní Cochláin, J. Ó' Donnabháin, G. Ní Mhuimhneacháin, Críod, Ó Gráda, Ó Luasaigh, Ó Riain, Ó Conbhuí, P. Ó Suilleabháin, C. MacCárthaigh, Ó Ceocháin, Sheppard, De Barra, Ó Cadhla, Rasmussen, N.Ó Coileán, Uí Thuama, Ó hEigeartaigh, S. NicCárthaigh, Léanacháin-Foghlú, Ní Bhrian, N. MacCárthaigh, Ó Floinn, Ó Dúghaill, Mhic Dháibhí, Uí Mhurchú, Ó Sé, 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, Ó hAodha.

PRESENT

Councillor Declan Hurley, County Mayor, presided.

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

Chief Executive, Senior Executive Officer.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

1/1-4

Proposed by Councillor Kevin Conway

Seconded by Councillor Timmy Collins

RESOLVED:

“That the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 26th March, 2018, be confirmed and signed by the Mayor.

VOTES OF SYMPATHY

2/1-4

- TO: Mr. Richard Hennessey on the death of his mother, Nora
TO: Mrs Nora O'Driscoll on the death of her husband, Sonny
TO: Mrs Mary Daly on the death of her husband, David
TO: Mrs Mary Murnane on the death of her husband, Bob
TO: Monsignor Kevin O'Callaghan on the death of his brother, Timothy

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

Councillor Frank O'Flynn proposed, seconded by The Mayor Declan Hurley, a suspension of Standing Orders at 1pm to discuss the fodder crisis.

The Mayor agreed to the suspension of Standing orders at 1pm to discuss this.

STATUTORY BUSINESS

3/1-4

Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001:

Subject to the heading on item 3(f) being amended, Members noted the following disposals.

DISPOSAL OF DERELICT SITE AT CHAPEL LANE, DONERAILE, MALLOW, CO. CORK

3(a)/1-4

DISPOSAL OF LAND AT COOMLOGANE, MILLSTREET, CO CORK

3(b)/1-4

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 21st March, 2017.

LEASE OF ROOM AT CARNEGIE HALL, MILLSTREET

3(c)/1-4

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 21st March, 2017.

**DISPOSAL OF LAND AT REAR OF 12 DAN DESMOND VILLAS, PASSAGE WEST
MEASURING C.0.02 ACRES.**

3(d)/1-4

**DISPOSAL OF LAND AT ESTUARY MEWS, NORWOOD COURT, ROCHESTOWN, CO
CORK.**

3(e)/1-4

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 21st March, 2017.

**DISPOSAL OF MV SUBSTATION SITE AT ARD NA MARA, CAPPAGH, KINSALE, CO
CORK.**

3(f)/1-4

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 21st March, 2017.

**GRANT OF WAYLEAVE AT BRAMBLE HILL, CASTLETREASURE, DOUGLAS, CO.
CORK**

3(g)/1-4

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 21st March, 2017.

REPORTS & RECOMMENDATIONS OF COMMITTEES

4/1-4

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF BALLINCOLLIG/CARRIGALINE

“That the Committee requests Cork County Council to actively seek the required funding to progress the development of the Carrigaline Inner Relief Road to the Construction Phase.”

Members noted the response from the Direct of Roads as follows:

Cork County Council made an application for funding for the construction of the Carrigaline Western Relief Road to the Department of Transport, Tourism & Sport (DTTaS) last year. DTTaS then requested that Cork County Council submit a Project Appraisal to the Department setting out the Carrigaline Western Relief Road project details and associated project costs.

The Carrigaline Western Relief Road Project Appraisal Report was submitted to DTTaS in Dublin in mid-February by the Council. The Department reverted to the Council on 26th March that the Strategic Research & Analysis Division (SRAD) of the Department have carried out a review of the Report and set out a number of items on which they are seeking further information and/or detail. A response to this request for further information and detail will be prepared and submitted in the coming weeks.

In the discussion that followed members made the following points:

- The Ballincollig/ Carrigaline MD is seeking the full support of Council to pursue every avenue of funding available to ensure that this project proceeds to construction phase as soon as possible. The land acquisitions and planning permissions are in place.
- This project is essential for the further development of Carrigaline.
- Traffic congestion is a quality of life issue for residents as the infrastructure hasn't grown in line with population.
- The construction of this road won't alleviate traffic to any great degree. It will however open up a new commercial area and this is also very important.

Responding to a query from members the Chief Executive confirmed that he would seek clarity on the Kinsale project.

Members agreed to write to the Minister giving their full support to this project and asking that funding be made available.

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF COBH

5/1-4

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

Part 8 Report: Vehicular Capacity Improvement Interventions at Little Island, Co. Cork

Proposed by Councillor Diarmaid Ó Cadhla
Seconded by Councillor Cathal Rasmussen

RESOLVED:

“Noting that in accordance with Article 179 of the Local Government (Planning and Development) Act, 2000, notice of the proposed development was published, 4 No: submissions were received in respect of the proposal, approval pursuant to Article 179 of the said Act is given for the following:-

Vehicular Capacity Improvement Interventions at Little Island, Co. Cork

During the discussion members made the following points:

- This proposal is broadly welcomed but there are concerns regarding pedestrian safety as in order to complete the works the width of the footpath crossing the bridge will be halved.

- There could be issues with pedestrian access from the train station.
- Members are looking for assurance regarding pedestrian safety.
- The lack of space for a cycle path will not encourage use of alternative transport.

The Chief Executive responded that this is a firm proposal to alleviate congestion and the report refers to optimising footpath width, the design is to follow.

CORRESPONDENCE FROM GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

6/1-4

Members noted the letter from the Department of Health dated 28th March, 2018 in response to the Council's letter 14th March, 2018, requesting the HSE to review the decision to restrict the use of Versatis pain relief patches to patients, in chronic pain.

Members made the following points:

- It's not common knowledge that 'GPs can apply for reimbursement for unlicensed uses', this should be more widely publicised
- No appeals have been granted to date and appeals process needs to be reviewed.
- Not happy with the response received, need to write back.
- Need to ask that appeals be expedited.
- while this medication is designed to alleviate shingles it is also the only effective pain medication for other suffers of severe pain

Members agreed to write back stating that they were unhappy with the response and that this is the only form of pain relief that can be taken by some patients and that existing appeals need to be expedited.

NOTICE OF MOTIONS

HAP RECIPIENTS AND THE SOCIAL HOUSING LIST

7/1-4

Councillor Melissa Mullane proposed, seconded by Councillor Mary Rose Desmond, the following notice of motion:-

"That this council writes to the Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government seeking a change in the current operation of The Housing Assistance Payment (HAP) scheme. This change would mean that all HAP recipients will remain on the social housing waiting list unless they wish to opt out"

Members note the response from the Director of Housing as follows.

As per Housing Circular 18/2018 dated 7th February 2018, the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government have reiterated the policy that the Local Authority's 'Net Need' figure should not include those in HAP or RAS accommodation. A HAP tenant however has an option to sign a transfer form if they wish to access other social housing supports. In practice, the majority of those signing up to HAP opt to sign this form.

During the discussion that followed members made the following points:

- Previously those in receipt of rent supplement had to be on the housing list in order to be eligible for the payment.
- There should be an opt out system for the housing list in operation
- HAP recipients are not aware that they need to go on the transfer list to remain on the housing list.
- HAP doesn't provide the same security as social housing
- There is a Very effective Choice Based Letting Scheme in operation in the County and the Minister should be made aware of this.

Members agreed to write to the Minister.

HOUSING APPLICANTS WITH DISABILITIES

8/1-4

Councillor Des O'Grady proposed, seconded by Councillor Gearóid Murphy, the following notice of motion:

“To seek a written report on the total number of approved applicants with disabilities currently on the Social Housing waiting list. The report to separately outline the number of applicants with physical, sensory, mental health or intellectual disabilities and also the numbers in each category who require adapted or specialized housing. The report to outline the number of applicants with disabilities who were allocated housing by the Council in 2016 and 2017.

The report to also include the number of approved applicants who have dependents or partners with disabilities in their family unit and the number of families in this category who were allocated housing in the last 2 years.

The report to include information on initiatives undertaken by the Council to accelerate the allocation of units to people with disabilities over the last few years and if there are any measures presently in the pipeline to speed up allocations to people in this category.”

Members note the response from the Director of Housing as follows.

Current Figures for Approved Applicants with Disability Basis of Need

Basis of Need	No of Applicants
Disability requirement - intellectual	46
Disability requirement - mental	168
Disability requirement - physical	405
Disability requirement - sensory	62
Total	681

An accurate figure for the numbers in each category who require adapted or specialized housing requires a more detailed analysis of the applications than could be carried out in the time available. This is being worked on at present and will be available following the completion of the 2018 SSHA.

Allocation Figures of Applicants with Disabilities

YEAR	INTELLECTUAL	MENTAL HEALTH	PHYSICAL	SENSORY	Total	Total Allocations
2016	3	9	35	8	55	387
2017	7	18	53	17	95	474

The number of approved applicants who have dependents or partners with disabilities in their family unit and the number of families in this category who were allocated housing in the last 2 years is not captured at present. This figure will be compiled and made available to Members.

The Council's Disability Strategy was considered at the most recent meeting of the Housing Strategic Policy Committee and it will be put before Members for approval in April. This Strategy has specific targets to cover Acquisitions, New Builds, Vacant Units, Part V Properties and Grant Aid for Adaptations. A Steering Group is in place to monitor both targets and on- going allocations.

During the discussion that followed members made the following points:

- There is a huge issue with the number of allocations versus applications
- There is a lack of funding for disabled grants for council stock from central government
- The demand is clear from the report
- There is a need for a serious percentage of units to incorporate universal design during this phase of provision whether through Council Schemes, schemes provided by Approved Bodies and Turnkey Schemes
- A recently adopted Council scheme had no downstairs bathroom or bedroom in their designs.
- The Housing SPC has produced a draft Housing Disability Strategy and this will be coming before Full Council soon for adoption.
- The figures don't capture those on the housing list whose children have disability.

The Chief Executive confirmed that where there is disclosure that a member of a family has a disability it is taken into account in the household's housing application.

BUILT HERITAGE INVESTMENT SCHEME

9/1-4

Councillor Deirdre O'Brien proposed, seconded by Councillor Frank O'Flynn, the following notice of motion:

“That this Council allocate match funding to the Built Heritage Investment Scheme 2018 (BHIS) and the Structures at Risk Fund (SRF) 2018

Members noted the response from the Architectural Conservation Officer as follows.

The Built Heritage Investment Scheme and the Structures at Risk Fund are funding streams for buildings which are protected structures and/or located within Architectural Conservation Areas. The schemes are directly funded by the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht and administrated by the Architectural Conservation Officer or similar approved of each local authority.

In 2018, Cork County Council was awarded an allocation of €50,000 for the entire county under the Built Heritage Investment Scheme. The allocations for Cork County Council under the Structures at Risk Fund have not yet been announced.

Under the terms of Circular BHIS18/1, the total value of all public funding provided for individual projects must not exceed 50% of the total project cost. Funding from other exchequer sources cannot be used to satisfy the matching expenditure requirement. The LA's overall allocation must be match by an equal contribution from private funds.

During the discussion that followed members made the following points:

- This is a great scheme but underfunded.
- Additional funding is sought for built heritage in Cork County.
- The vernacular architecture is part of the history of the county.
- Built heritage contributes to ‘product’ Ireland and any investment pays dividends.
- Tidy towns groups are looking at ruins and seeking for funding for feasibility for structural works
- The Historical Monuments Committee is very aware of the lack of funding.
- There needs to be sufficient staff and funding for work on national monuments.

In response the Chief Executive stated that while he recognised Council’s wishes the Director of Planning has a definitive budget and this issue should be revisited at budget time.

RECOGNITION AND PROMOTION OF THE IRISH LANGUAGE

10/1-4

Councillor Diarmaid Ó’Cádhlá proposed, the following notice of motion:

“Go ndéannan an Chomhairle seo cinneadh, maidir le haitheantas agus chur chun cinn ár dteanga Náisiúnta, a pholasáí a athrú sa mhéid gur gá, mar a leanas:

1. Go gcuirfear na focail ‘Comhairle Contae Chorcaí’ ar dhroim na casóga buí atá in úsáid ag oibríthe seachas an leagan lán-Béarla atá ann faoi láthair.
2. Chun cinntiú go bhfuil comharthaíocht an Chomhairle, de chuile saghas, i halla an contae agus taobh amuigh de ag tabhairt aitheantas ceart don Ghaeilge.
3. Cleachtas a thosú maidir le gach aoinne (idir eagraíochtaí, daoine aonarach, rannóga d’aon eagraíochtaí, grúpaí phobail slr.) a bhfaigheann maoiniú nó cúnamh airgead, nó cúnamh in aon slí eile ón gComhairle, go n-iarrfear orthu, i litir, conas atá siad chun an Ghaeilge a chur chun cinn ina chuid ghnóthaí nó imeachtaí – agus go bhfaighimid freagra ar an litir son.
4. Chun tuairisc a chur os comhair an Chomhairle go rialta, ar conas atá siadsan a bhfuair aon mhaoiniú uainn ag úsáid na Gaeilge.
5. Chun moladh dos na Ceantair Bardais an cleachtas céanna a thosú maidir len a chuid oibre féin.”

“That this Council decide to change its policy to the extent necessary, in relation to the recognition and promotion of our National language, as follows:

1. That the English words ‘Cork County Council’ which are currently in use on Council workers (High-Vis) Jackets be replaced with the words: ‘Comhairle Contae Chorcaí’
2. To ensure that Council signage, of all kinds, both within County Hall and outside gives proper recognition to the Irish language.
3. Commence practice of sending a letter to all persons, be they organizations, individual persons, sections of any organizations, community groups etc, who receive funding or financial assistance, or any other type of assistance from the Council, requesting to know how they intend to promote the Irish language in their affairs or events - and that we ensure that we receive a response to the letter.
4. That a Regular report be presented to the Council on how these groups who have received funding from the Council are using Irish.

5. That a recommendation be made to the Municipal Districts that they begin the same practice with regards to their own work.”

Members noted the response from the Director of Corporate Services as follows.

1. In 2017 Cork County Council issued a new Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) range to its outdoor staff which included the text “Cork County Council & Comhairle Contae Chorcaí”. Cork County Council also sources a number of other PPE garments that have the words “Cork County Council”. These garments are supplied under an existing PPE contract. As part of this contract the supplier is required to pre-order and hold in stock a reserve of per branded PPE for delivery to Cork County Council. This PPE contract is due to expire on 13 January 2019, at which time the branding will be updated to include the text in Irish.
2. Cork County Council is aware of its obligations under the Official Languages Act 2003. All signage on site at County Hall is intended to be bilingual, with the text in Irish first and taking equal prominence to the English text.
The Regulations do not apply to traffic signs covered under the Road Traffic Act or to signs covered by the Safety Health & Welfare at Work Regulations 2007.
3. The award of funding by Cork County Council (to individuals/community groups/business organisations etc) is generally administered in accordance with the applicable governing legislation/policy provisions. The specific terms and conditions that govern eligibility for funding are generally specified in legislation/policies, and are often set at a national level. In such cases, it may not possible or appropriate for Cork County Council to apply additional obligations on funding applicants which diverge from the scope of the funding programmes. This would require further detailed examination but, notwithstanding this, the Council will continue to support and promote greater use of the Irish language where practicable.
4. See above. This can be further examined but it should be noted that local authorities not have any specific mandate in this regard. The Council must at all times be cognisant of its statutory obligations and the optimum use of its resources.
5. The afore-mentioned matters require consideration at a Corporate level prior to any decision being taken regarding application at a Municipal District level.

During the discussion members made the following points.

- The response wasn't given in Irish and English even though the Notice of motion was.
- There is a need to do what we can to strengthen the continued use of the Irish language.
- We should ask for what is worth having.
- It is insulting to think that we only look at the Irish language when we are obligated to do so.
- We need more positive discrimination schemes e.g. painting/ signage schemes putting the name of a business in Irish.
- Could Number 3 on the Notice of Motion be amended to “any help they would require to promote the Irish language would be given by Cork County Council”.
- The positive scope of this Notice of Motion should be supported.
- Bilingual signage should be supported especially in ‘heritage areas’.

The Chief Executive responded as follows.

- Cork County Council is a significant supporter of the Irish language

- The Irish officer is very active in promoting events and raising awareness of the language generally
- While recognising the intent of the motion due to practicalities and resourcing it would not be possible to implement numbers 3 and 4 of the motion.
- The recipients of community grants via the MDs could be encouraged to promote the Irish language.

Members further commented.

- Do not wish to place further obligations on any group in receipt of funding and a limited roll out by way of Community Grants including offers of help would be acceptable
- Do see promotion of the Irish language and commend the work of the Irish Officer

Members agreed to refer the motion to the Arts & Culture SPC for discussion and the advice and input of the Irish Officer.

TAKING IN CHARGE ESTATES

10/1-4

Councillor Seamus McGrath proposed, seconded by Councillor Mary Rose Desmond the following notice of motion:

“To provide a full written update on the Council’s plans to Take in Charge a bundle of residential estates. To explain why no such bundle of estates was Taken in Charge during 2016 or 2017, despite numerous requests from members to maintain the momentum of 2014 and 2015. Furthermore, that this Council recommends a target that residential estates would be Taken in Charge within a specified period – proposal 10 years – from the completion of the development. “

Members noted the response of the Senior Executive Officer, Planning as follows.

As you are aware 174 estates were taken in charge in 2014 and a further 92 in 2015. 10 estates were taken in charge in 2016 under the National Taking in Charge Initiative. A further 3 were taken in charge in 2017. The number of estates taken in charge in 2014 - 2015 was unprecedented and indicative of the large volume of applications that had accumulated following a period of unprecedented building activity in the preceding years.

Prior to Irish Water coming in to being the Taking in Charge process was a straightforward process, totally in the control of the Council. The Council is now subject to a Memorandum of Understanding with Irish Water in relation to Taking in Charge. There is a two step process involved before Irish Water will consider giving approval in principle to taking water related infrastructure in charge. Similarly, public lighting audits did not form part of the process when the large bundles were taken in charge in 2014 – 2015.

Currently, we have 174 Taking in Charge applications on hand; 161 of which are valid. These are summarised in the table below, with a breakdown by category and by Municipal District.

Applications received from developers are more straightforward in that all relevant documentation required by both the Council and Irish Water (as-built drawings, water audits, cctv camera sewer surveys, etc.) is normally provided by the developer. The developer is also present to carry out snags and bring the estate to the required standard, albeit some developers are more proactive than others.

Some 65 of the applications below are from residents. Residents' applications do not provide as built drawings, water audits, CCTV camera sewer surveys, etc. These items are required in order to progress matters with Irish Water, to identify defects, to allow snag lists to be prepared. In the vast majority of these cases the developer is not involved; the site is in private ownership and the bond monies, if available, may not be enough to carry out the required works. Any works to be carried out have to be procured under public procurement guidelines; this can often be a lengthy process.

I draw your attention to Category 2 in the table below; these 26 estates have Waste Water Treatment Plants. There is currently no national strategy for dealing with such estates; Irish Water will not take the treatment plants in charge.

The Estates' Section hopes to be in a position, subject to Irish Water's co-operation, to commence the formal taking in charge process for a number of the Category 3 (53 estates) and Category 5 (56 estates) within the next quarter. The exact number will depend on the satisfactory completion of snagging works and satisfactory resolution of other outstanding issues. Further details of those estates to be progressed will be provided to the Municipal District meetings at an early date.

With regard to the proposal that the Council would recommend *a target that residential estates would be Taken in Charge within a specified period – proposal 10 years – from the completion of the development*; the Council is currently looking at this matter in the context of the review of the standard bond wording and hopes to complete same in the near future.

SUMMARY

MD	cat.1	cat.2	cat.2a	cat.3	cat.4	cat.5	cat.6	cat.6a	cat.7	TOTAL
COBH	0	2	2	6	3	6	0	0	3	22
EAST	0	3	0	8	0	14	0	1	2	28
BLARNEY-MACROOM	0	5	2	1	0	6	1	0	1	16
B'COLLIG-C'LINE	1	3	0	1	0	12	4	0	1	22
BANDON-KINSALE	0	4	0	2	1	1	1	0	2	11
WEST	0	4	1	3	1	7	5	0	0	21
KANTURK-MALLOW	0	0	0	17	4	5	1	1	2	30
FERMOY	0	0	0	15	2	5	0	0	2	24
	1	21	5	53	11	56	12	2	13	174

CATEGORY DESCRIPTION

updated category / new application

1. TIC statutory process underway

2. Estate contains WWTP. TIC subject to Irish Water approval (their current policy excludes estates with WWTP)

2a) Departmental funding approved under NTICI. Council engaging with Irish Water and Dept

3. Plan to progress to TIC subject to legal/engineering issues being resolved and Irish Water's agreement in principle

4. Developer not progressing TIC/no longer active. Progressing TIC may be dependent on additional

funding to bring estate to TIC standard.

5. Snags to be carried out by developer / Receiver

**6. Considered unsuitable for TIC e.g., private gated development and/or Management Company in place
6a) Estate road and services not directly connected to existing public networks. TIC would not be in accordance with Council or Irish Water's policy/procedures**

7. Invalidated TIC application. Insufficient information submitted.

NOTE: All TIC applications are subject to (a) new Protocols in place with Irish Water which have to be complied with to secure their (Irish Water's) agreement in principle to take the Sanitary Services in these estates in charge and (b) compliance with Planning, Engineering and Legal issues

During the discussion that followed members made the following points:

- There was very little movement in 2017/16 compared to 2015/14, would like to see the momentum return
- There are 65 petitions on hand from residents.
- The response re bonds is welcome.
- The Irish Water issue is unacceptable; residents are being held to ransom and are funding the maintenance of 21 plants themselves.
- Irish Water is blocking the Taking in Charge on a whim.
- There is no national strategy in place.
- A strong letter needs to issue regarding this issue.
- What type of funding is received from the National Taking in Charge Initiative (NTICI)
- The Council should insist on drawing bonds down as soon as possible to protect residents.

The Chief Executive informed members that he would get the details of site resolution plans of the 4 sites in receivership.

Members agreed to write to the Minister.

EXTENSION OF TIME TO 2PM

The Mayor called for an extension of time to 2pm.

Proposed by Councillor Kevin Conway
Seconded by Councillor Alan Coleman

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

At 1pm, Members discussed the fodder crisis and made the following points:

- Call on the Minister to put in place resources to help farming families such as an emergency hardship fund.
- The fodder shortage is an animal welfare issue and a farmer welfare issue.
- The Co-ops were first to recognise this as a crisis
- This is repeat of 2013, there needs to be a solution found to this issue.
- There has been a total systems failure with regard to this as it was flagged as far back as last autumn.

- The farmers plan for a 90 day winter, the winter so far has lasted 180 days and counting.
- The government is subsidising the importation of fodder but some farmers are paying €90 per bale.
- The Minister received poor advice from Teagasc.
- There is a need to highlight the impact this crisis is having on the mental health of farmers.
- Changing weather patterns mean animals cannot be left out the same way they used to.
- There needs to be a review of where the industry is going.
- The Minister is in regular contact with the Department and Teagasc.
- The transport subsidy is in place.
- Some fodder being imported is rotten.
- The support the farmers have shown one and other is to be commended.
- We can't allow the endangerment of the reputation of our food industry.
- There needs to be supports put in place for affected farmers such as low interest loans to get them through this crisis.
- Delay in action has exacerbated the crisis.
- There are health implications for animals inside for 6 months.
- The €90 per bale figure is not accurate, these are large bales comprising of 3 regular sized bales.
- The tillage sector should provide feed for the livestock sector.
- A national reserve of fodder needs to be established.

Members agreed to email the minister asking the following:

- That the transport subsidy be increased
- A hardship fund be established
- Support for mental health of farmers
- A national fodder reserve be established
- Low cost credit facilities be extended to affected farmers

FAMILY INCOME SUPPLEMENT

11/1-4

Councillor Rachel McCarthy proposed, seconded by Councillor Des O'Grady the following notice of motion:

“That Cork County Council will reverse its decision to:

- a) include FIS for the purpose of calculating means for Social Housing, and
- b) further reverse its decision to include FIS in the calculation of Rents as it is causing undue hardship on families in both circumstances”.

Members noted the response from the director of Housing as follows.

Cork County Council is required by the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government, in accordance with the Social Housing Support – Household Means Policy, issued under Regulation 17 of the Social Housing Assessment Regulations 2011, to include FIS for the purposes of determining the means of Social Housing Applicants and therefore does not have the authority or discretion to disregard same.

Heretofore, in terms of consistency it was anomalous that income included in determining means was not included in the determination of rent payable. Furthermore, as previously outlined, the non inclusion of FIS, in the determination of rent payable, led to inequities in the calculation of rent, in households of comparable formation and income, that was unjust and unfair. The new scheme has

been introduced, has been accepted by the majority of the tenants of Cork County Council and is being collected. There is no plan to unwind the inclusion of FIS which was notified to Members, at the Housing SPC and at the Council's Development Committee, well in advance of the rent review being finalised.

A Differential Rent Scheme is made under Section 58 of The Housing Act 1966 and Section 9 of the Housing Miscellaneous Provisions Act 1992 and is an executive function.

During the discussion that followed members made the following points:

- Any changes such as those outlined should have come before the SPC.
- Members weren't aware of the of the Department's instruction to include FIS.
- FIS should be included in the calculations as its unfair not to.
- This is a national issue, more local discretion should be allowed.

The Chair of the SPC agreed that the matter be referred back to the SPC and clarification would be sought as to whether or not there was any local discretion allowed.

Members agreed to refer the motion back to the Housing SPC.

VOTES OF CONGRATULATIONS

- TO: Hazel Symons on winning the National Kettlebells Championship in Tramore recently.
- TO: Dan McSweeney on being awarded a lifetime achievement award at The Opinion/ Bandon Co-op Awards 2018.
- TO: Colette Twomey on being awarded West Cork Person of the Year at The Opinion/ Bandon Co-op Awards 2018.
- TO: Aileen Loughrey for her excellent work on Seachtain na Gaeilge
- TO: Anne Marie O'Brien on being awarded the Culture Award at The Opinion/ Bandon Co-op Awards 2018.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

In response to a member's query the Senior Executive Officer confirmed that as in accordance with Standing Orders, the Mayor has the final say with regard to what is included on the agenda.

This concluded the business of the meeting.