



COMHAIRLE CONTAE CHORCAÍ

Minutes of Proceedings at Meeting of Cork County Council held in the Council Chamber, County Hall, Cork on 10 December, 2018.

I LATHAIR

Comhairleoir P.G. Ó Murchú, Méara Chontae

Comhairleoiri MacCraith, Mac Seafraida, D. Ó'Donnabháin Dheasmhumhnaigh, Ó Cainte, M. Ó Murchú, NicCárthaigh, 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, Ó hEachteirn, Uí Thuama, Ó hEigearthaigh, S. NicCárthaigh, Léanacháin-Foghlú, Ní Bhrian, N. MacCárthaigh, Ó Floinn, Ó Dúghaill, Mhic Dháibhí, Uí Mhurchú, Ó Sé, Gearoid. Ó Murchú, G. Ó Murchú, B. Ó Muimhneacháin, Uí Mhaoláin, T. Ó Coileán, D. Ó Coileán, Ó Cearúill, J. Ó Suilleabháin, C. Ó Suilleabháin, Uí hEigearthaigh, Ó hAodha. D. Ó hUrthuile.

PRESENT

Councillor Patrick G. Murphy, County Mayor presided.

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

Chief Executive, Director of Services (Planning), Senior Executive Officer.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

1/1-12

Councillor Kevin Conway noted that the minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 26th November, 2018, omitted a number of points raised by members during the discussion on estates taken in charge. Councillor Kevin Conway requested that the minutes be amended to reflect both member's and the Chief Executive's comments on the matter.

Proposed by Councillor Frank O'Flynn

Seconded by Councillor Derry Canty

RESOLVED:

“That the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 26th November, 2018, be confirmed and signed by the Mayor, subject to the following amendment:-

“One members expressed his concern that some housing estates in the county that were built in the 1970"s and had been taken in charge by Cork County Council had green areas within them that were still registered in the names of the builders who built the estates. The member asked if there were implications for the Council or their agents entering the said green areas to carry out maintenance including clearing trees, lighting etc, given that the Council does not have ownership of the green areas. The member asked that that all estates affected by this problem should be identified and rectified.

The Chief Executive confirmed that the matter would be further discussed at Development Committee.”

VOTES OF SYMPATHY

2/1-12

- TO: Teresa and Don O’Sullivan, on the death of their son, Ryan (Cork County Council, Bandon Office)
- TO: Councillor Joe Carroll, on the death of his sister, Mary.
- TO: Zena O’Sullivan, on the death of her husband, Patrick.
- TO: Jerry Sullivan, on the death of his wife, Peggy.
- TO: Mary Singleton, on the death of her husband, Denis.
- TO: Liam Singleton, on the death of his father, Denis.
- TO: Susan Mackessy, on the death of her father, Daniel.
- TO: Kate Coveney, on the death of her mother, Peggy.

Suspension of Standing Orders

Councillor Frank O’Flynn requested a Suspension of Standing Orders to discuss the Community CCTV Schemes.

The Mayor confirmed the matter would be discussed under Any other Business at the end of the meeting.

STATUTORY BUSINESS

Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001:

Members noted the following disposals.

DISPOSAL OF FREEHOLD INTEREST IN HOUSE AND PLOT AT 12 PARNELL PLACE, CORK ROAD, FERMOY, CO. CORK

3(a)/1-12

In accordance with the provisions of Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001, the disposal of freehold interest in house and plot as shown hereunder shall be carried out in accordance with the terms specified in the notice issued to members dated 28th November, 2018.

Land held under	
Leasehold Interest:	12 Parnell Place, Cork Road, Fermoy, Co. Cork Folio No. 11554L
From whom acquired:	Unknown
Consideration:	€ 350.00 inclusive of administration charges
Covenants, Conditions and agreements:	Conditions pursuant to Housing Act, 1966 and Landlord & Tenant Acts, 1947 – 1984.

DISPOSAL OF PROPERTY BY WAY OF LEASE AGREEMENT AT RATHCORMAC COMMUNITY PARK, RATHCORMAC, CO. CORK.

3(b)/1-12

In accordance with the provisions of Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001, the disposal of property as shown hereunder shall be carried out in accordance with the terms specified in the notice issued to members dated 27th November, 2018.

Situation:	Rathcormac Community Park, Rathcormac, Co. Cork
Area:	4.132 hectares
Consideration:	€200.00 per annum
Term:	99 years (be way of lease agreement)

GRANT OF RIGHT-OF-WAY AT UPLANDS, FERMOY, CO. CORK

3(c)/1-12

In accordance with the provisions of Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001, the disposal of property as shown hereunder shall be carried out in accordance with the terms specified in the notice issued to members dated 27th November, 2018.

Situation:	Grant of Right-of-Way at Uplands, Fermoy, Co Cork.
Area:	0.0007 hectares/0.0017 acres
Consideration:	€1 plus payment of Council's costs.

DISPOSAL OF FREEHOLD INTEREST IN HOUSE AND PLOT AT 6 PHILOMENA PLACE, CARRIGALINE, CO. CORK

3(d)/1-12

In accordance with the provisions of Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001, the disposal of freehold interest in house and plot as shown hereunder shall be carried out in accordance with the terms specified in the notice issued to members dated 27th November, 2018.

Property:	6 Philomena Place, Carrigaline, Co. Cork
Leasehold Interest:	Folio No. 112299F
Consideration:	€ 5713.82 inclusive of administration charges (previously paid in full)
Covenants, Conditions and agreements:	Conditions pursuant to Housing Act, 1966 and Landlord & Tenant Acts, 1947 – 1984.

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF FERMOY

4/1-12

Resolution under Section 179 of the Planning Act 2000 Section 3 (4a & 4b), as amended

Members noted the Part 8 Report for the proposed development on 0.374 hectares of land adjacent to the Brigown Road in Mitchelstown, Co Cork.

Proposed by Councillor Frank O’Flynn

Seconded by Councillor Kay Dawson

Resolved:

“Noting that in accordance with Article 83, Part 8 of the Local Government Planning and Development Regulations, 2001 as amended,, notice of the proposed development was published, 3 No. submissions were received in respect of the proposal, approval pursuant to Article 179 of the said Act is given for the following:-

The construction of 8 no. social housing units, comprising of: (i) 3 no. single-storey 2-bed bungalow type houses; (ii) 5 no. single-storey 1-bed, bungalow type houses; with (iii) renewable energy design measures for each housing unit; and (b) supporting development works, including (i) site clearance, removal of trees and treatment and removal of Japanese knotweed; (ii) below ground services; (iii) underground surface water attenuation; (iv) site access and construction of a new entrance off the Brigown road; (v) connection to public utilities and ancillary works, (vi) temporary construction signage; (vii) estate signage; (viii) Varied site boundary treatments including partial removal of existing hedgerows and construction of retaining walls, fencing and landscaping; (ix) All associated site works.

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF BLARNEY/MACROOM

5/1-12

Resolution under Section 179 of the Planning Act 2000 Section 3 (4a & 4b), as amended

Members noted the Part 8 Report for the proposed residential development on 0.358 hectares of land adjacent to the road at Sleaveen East, Macroom, Co Cork.

Proposed by Councillor Des O'Grady

Seconded by Councillor Bob Ryan

Resolved:

“Noting that in accordance with Article 83, Part 8 of the Local Government Planning and Development Regulations, 2001 as amended,, notice of the proposed development was published, 1 No. submissions were received in respect of the proposal, approval pursuant to Article 179 of the said Act is given for the following

The construction of an 8 unit, residential apartment development comprising of: (i) 5 no. 2- bed apartments; (ii) 3 no. 1-bed, apartments; with (iii) renewable energy design measures for each unit; and (b) supporting development works, including (i) site clearance, ; (ii) below ground services; (iii) site access and construction of a new entrance off the road at Sleaveen East, including alterations to the public footpath; (v) connection to public utilities and ancillary works, (vi) temporary construction signage; (vii) estate signage; (viii) Varied site boundary treatments and construction of retaining walls, fencing and landscaping; (ix)Construction of a central courtyard, steps, balconies and bin stores (x) All associated site works

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF WEST CORK

6/1-12

Resolution under Section 179 of the Planning Act 2000 Section 3 (4a & 4b), as amended

Members noted the Part 8 Report for the proposed Social Housing Unit at Louisville, Newtown House, Bantry, Co. Cork.

Proposed by Councillor Joe Carroll

Seconded by Councillor Mary Hegarty

Resolved:

“Noting that in accordance with Article 83, Part 8 of the Local Government Planning and Development Regulations, 2001 as amended,, notice of the proposed development was published, no submissions were received in respect of the proposal, approval pursuant to Article 179 of the said Act is given for the following

(a) Demolition of 1 no. existing single storey residential unit and existing front garden wall; (b) Provision of 1 no. single storey 3 bed residential unit; (c) Hard landscaping including a new front garden wall; driveway with on-curtilage parking and rear garden walls; (d) Soft landscaping including planting; (e) Construction of and / or remedial works to boundaries with adjacent sites; (f) Connection to watermain, foul sewer and storm sewer drainage systems; (g) Connection to public utilities; (h)All associated site works.

REPORTS & RECOMMENDATIONS OF COMMITTEES

CORPORATE POLICY GROUP

ESTABLISH A JOINT VENTURE WITH THE IRELAND STRATEGIC INVESTMENT FUND

7(a)/1-12

Members noted the Chief Executive's report regarding the proposal to Establish a Joint Venture with the Ireland Strategic Investment Fund aimed at providing a "Design-Build-Finance" commercially-driven service for the Housing Development Sector, and to take a 50% Equity Share in same.

The Chief Executive outlined to members that Cork County Council has worked with the Ireland Strategic Investment Fund over the past eighteen months with a view to bringing an off balance sheet product to the market. The Chief Executive said that he was seeking Approval of Council, by Resolution, such that Cork County Council can Invest in and Establish a Joint Venture with the Ireland Strategic Investment Fund aimed at providing a "Design-Build-Finance" commercially-driven service for the Housing Development Sector, and to take a 50% Equity Share in same.

The Chief Executive commented that the proposed joint venture would not be restricted to Cork only, it could have an all Republic of Ireland remit to facilitate the housing construction sector and that the Joint Venture will be constituted such that it can provide the commercially-driven service across the State in a manner that could prove to be part of the solution to a long-term national problem.

The Chief Executive stated that Cork County Council has a number of active initiatives including the Housing Directorates ongoing Housing Delivery Programme, targeted investment at a Municipal District level in Place Making, Sustainable Transport and Roads Infrastructure as well as Economic Development and Supporting Services/Facilities. The Chief Executive stated that Cork County Council has engaged in Active Land Management Practices in the form of:

- Focussed delivery of the DHPLG supported LIHAF Urban Expansion Areas, including the creation of a dedicated Team to oversee and manage same
- The introduction of a comprehensive Vacant Sites Register
- The Strategic Land Reserve initiative
- Improved monitoring practices to better understand Housing Supply issues

The Chief Executive commented that there are some issues, particularly in the Cork Metropolitan Area, including how can Cork County Council facilitate multiple land owners to develop infrastructure on their lands on planning approved sites.

The Chief Executive stated the Ireland Strategic Investment Fund has confirmed its in principle ability to initially provide debt financing facilities of up to €25m to the Joint Venture on commercial terms and on a project by project basis – subject to each project being subject to a commercially acceptable agreement with the landowner/developer.

The Chief Executive said that the joint venture has the potential to create, on a fully commercial basis, the conditions that will introduce increased certainty of supply in the housing market, and that the joint venture will be capable of working with multiple owners of adjacent sites, to deliver infrastructure in a coordinated and consolidated basis, thereby enabling sites of strategic scale which may otherwise remain undeveloped.

The Chief Executive said that the joint venture will be constituted such that it can provide the commercially-driven service across the State in a manner that could prove to be part of the solution to a long-term national problem. Cork County Council will share joint control with the Ireland Strategic Investment Fund as shareholder, and that the Cork County Council will have the ability to appoint two Directors to the Board, which will be overseen by an independent Chairperson. The joint venture will

be the first of its kind in the Country, and will provide housing related infrastructure services on a commercial basis. The Chief Executive said is intended that the joint venture would be operational by Quarter 1 of 2019.

Members thanked the Chief Executive for his briefing, and during the discussion that followed, members commented as follows;

- The proposed joint venture represents a significant investment and will require in depth discussions.
- The Sinn Fein Party previously sought for the establishment of an off balance sheet arm's length building company.
- The proposal needs further discussion at Development Committee.
- We cannot get an adequate number of houses under Part V.
- Is this proposal more about facilitating the development of private housing than public housing?
- The support of the State to provide infrastructure has not been there to date.
- People in the development business have to borrow at high interest rates.
- Financing infrastructure is one of the main problems in the housing market.
- This proposal will be a fantastic initiative.
- We are ensuring a there will be a financial mechanism available for developers to provide much needed housing.
- We should support this landmark decision as it has the potential to unlock key strategic sites.
- One member expressed their disappointment that members had not received a detailed presentation on the proposal prior to this meeting.
- The proposal is broadly welcome, but there are a number of concerns that need to be addressed.
- What is the definition of the large scale sites?
- If we approve this proposal we need to seek that at least 25% be given over to Part V.
- Will housing delivered under this be affordable?
- As the Board will be appointed, there will be a lack of democratic control?
- We need accountability on the Board.
- It needs to be building social housing and it does not go that far.
- There is a fear that costs will be added on at the other end and the units will not be affordable
- How will the company be financed if sales do not occur?
- We need to avoid an anti-rural bias.
- Who will staff the executive?
- Where will the company be based?
- What are the risks for Cork County Council?
- Are we doing this in a fool proof way?
- Questions were raised at Corporate Policy Group regarding what is the potential of challenges to planning permission where Cork County Council is a 50% stakeholder?
- What is the total makeup of the Board?
- Do members have any rights in terms on making appointments to the company's board?
- What level of reporting will come from the executive of the new company?
- Our planning skills are being called upon to provide a national solution
- Cork County Council should only focus on Cork.
- This council previously resolved that the housing crisis be declared a national emergency.
- People on the ground will see this as another stratum of bureaucracy.
- Will this be seen as another "job for the boys"?
- What is the legal structure and status of the company?
- Who decides the sites that are to be developed?
- What percentage of houses will be affordable or social?
- Should we make this commercial investment, the only return would be than developers would provide affordable housing.

- It is hypocritical not to support the joint venture
- What about the availability of developers and the ability to find the workforce to deliver infrastructure.

The Chief Executive outlined that the previous Director of Services, Planning, had provided members with an extensive presentation at Development Committee in October. He confirmed that the proposal is not a joint venture to build houses; but instead it will deliver the infrastructure that will support the building of houses. The Chief Executive said that it will bring viability to the market and should bring a level of affordability to the purchaser.

The Chief Executive then responded to member's questions, as follows;

- Cork County Council will be a 50% stakeholder with the Ireland Strategic Investment Fund and each shareholder will have the right to appoint two directors to the Board.
- The Board will have a responsibility to operate to its shareholders.
- There are nine major urban expansion areas in the Cork Metropolitan and the company would focus on these types of sites along with other strategic lands.
- The company must operate completely independent of Cork County Council.
- The directors will operate the company and will apply for planning permission for the delivery of infrastructure.
- The company's Chief Executive will need to have pre-planning discussion with Cork County Council as part of any application for planning permission.
- The Board will consist of 5 members and the company's Chief Executive will nominate 2 directors.
- The executive will be appointed by the company.
- Site selection will be entirely a matter for the company, and that the company will decide on its own investments.
- There will be no liability to Cork County Council except for the €150,000 invested each year and the directors will be appointed on a limited liability basis.
- The issue of the availability of workforce is fundamentally different to the workability of this scheme.
- The more active a housing market the more ability it will have to attract skills.

The Chief Executive said he will be seeking a report for Council at least annually and that as bureaucrats we are the most accountable and publically available public servants in the Country. The Chief Executive asked one member did she have evidence to support her comment that it was another "job for the boys", and stated if she did not then to please withdraw her statement.

The member said she had no evidence of that culture existing in Cork County Council. The member said that the national public perception could be that Cork County Council could be involved in an unnecessary joint venture, where our role is unclear.

The Chief Executive stated he took serious offence to suggest there is something perceived from taking this approach and that the member should withdraw their outrageous comments.

The member said that she was casting no aspersion whatsoever on any individual in Cork County Council but we needed to be careful with public monies and need transparency

Member's commented as follows;

- Cork County Council has no involvement in the operation of the company, what then will we be involved in?
- The Chief Executive will appoint two directors and the ISIF will appoint two directors
- The company will appoint the executive.
- As elected members are we being quite removed from the board and the executive?

- What level of consultation has there been with the construction sector.
- Do we have the right to look for affordable options under the joint venture.
- This proposal deserves the merit of further discussions.
- This is for developing infrastructure of private lands.
- We have passed three social housing Part 8's at this meeting, is there a conflict if we are getting private lands ready for development.
- Is there scope to change the social and affordable percentages?
- We do not have the ability to direct where the houses will be developed.
- Strategic Land Reserves (SLR) are to be one of the main focuses of the company.
- Yet the majority of these SLR's going forward will be located within the new city boundary, to the benefit to Cork City Council.

The Director of Services, Planning, informed members that work commenced on the joint venture eighteen months ago, and that affordability is best served by the supply and availability of houses into the market; however, the delivery issue has not moved on yet.

The Director of Services, Planning, said that Cork County Council will not be in this for developers, but for communities, and that this proposal is about putting conditions in place to deliver houses. He confirmed that the project manager will be Cork based and the Construction Industry Federation has indicated there are a number of developers very interested in the option.

The Director of Services, Planning stated that there is a number of zoned land areas around the county and the land is in the ownership of a number of shared owners. The proposal is about delivering housing on appropriately zone land, and that the Council's housing needs assessment, which will inform the upcoming County Development Plan, will also identify the housing type mix required.

Member's commented as follows;

- The more housing provided the more prices will increase, as was shown in our recent past.
- We can only demand the Government increase the Part V percentage.

The Director of Services, Planning stated that the proposal will enable finance to be freed up to develop infrastructure and it will be part of the solution of putting conditions in place which will impact on affordability.

The Chief Executive said it was his understanding that the elected body of Council recognises that this is a model required to bring something unique to the market that will increase housing supply. He confirmed the company will have no direct day to day dealings with the local authority and that there are a whole range of controls requiring that the company is separate to Cork County Council.

The Chief Executive commented that it is very important that Cork County Council does not delay and he acknowledged that there is wider debate to be had around housing; however, Cork County Council cannot make a decision on what social and affordable percentages should be include. The Chief Executive said ultimately this proposal is about building infrastructure, not housing.

Member's commented as follows;

- It is our job to tease out all issues.
- Are we exposed to any others risks or liabilities.
- Can the Chief Executive clarify the limited liability of directors?
- The matter should be deferred and sent to Development Committee for discussion.

The Chief Executive informed members that a deferral would bring the matter out to the next Development Committee meeting on the third Friday in January, 2019.

Following a request from members for the Chief Executive and Director of Services, Planning to meet and discuss with Party Representatives, the Mayor agreed a recess of the meeting.

The meeting reconvened at 1:10pm.

On the proposal of Councillor Anthony Barry, seconded by Councillor Kevin Conway, members agreed an extension of time until 2:00pm.

Members unanimously agreed to resolve;

“Pursuant to Section 66 of the Local Government Act 2001 (as amended), to Establish a Joint Venture with the Ireland Strategic Investment Fund aimed at providing a “Design-Build-Finance” commercially-driven service for the Housing Development Sector, and to take a 50% Equity Share in same, is hereby approved”

CONFERENCE LIST FOR DECEMBER, 2018

7(a)/1-12

Members noted the Conference List for December, 2018.

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF KANTURK/MALLOW

8/1-12

“That Cork County Council write to the Minister advising of the need for discretion at Local Authority level from Local and Regional Roads Grants funding allocations and disappointment that this flexibility has changed.”

Members noted the response from the Substitute Director of Services, Roads, which outlined as follows;

In 2014, when Regional and Local Road Grants were at their lowest the Department of Transport Tourism & Sport allowed Local Authorities the facility to transfer 25% of their Restoration Improvement Grants (Resurfacing) to Discretionary Maintenance (Routine Road Maintenance works). This facility to transfer up to 25% continued through 2015 and 2016. It was reduced to 22% in 2017 and to 19% in 2018. We were advised earlier this year that the facility will be withdrawn from 2019 onwards, presumably because the Discretionary Grants are increasing. I agree that we should request the continuation of the facility.

Members thanked that the Substitute Director of Services, Roads, for the response, and agreed to write to the Minister on the matter.

CORRESPONDENCE FROM GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING, PLANNING AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Derelict Sites Levy and Vacant Sites levy

9(a)/1-12

Members noted the correspondence dated 19th November, 2018, in response to Council's letter dated 30th October, 2018, requesting that the derelict sites levy be increased from 3% to 10% per annum and to make the levy payable annually by the property owners and that a charge on the property be used only as a last resort.

During a discussion on the matter, member's commented as follows;

- We welcome the increase in both the Derelict Sites Levy and Vacant Sites levy from 3% to 7%.
- How far does the derelict site register extend.
- Is the derelict site register available to view?

The Chief Executive confirmed a register is in place and lists per Municipal District are available.

Local Property Tax

9(b)/1-12

Members noted the correspondence dated 23rd November, 2018, in response to Council's letter dated 11th July, 2018, requesting that all Property Taxes collected in the County of Cork be kept in the County of Cork.

NOTICES OF MOTION

SHELTERED HOUSING FOR THE ELDERLY

10/1-12

Councillor Marcia D'Alton sent her apologies and was not in attendance at the meeting.

Members agreed for the motion to be deferred until the next meeting.

MARINE TOURISM OFFICER

11/1-12

Councillor Christopher O'Sullivan proposed, seconded by Councillor Paul Hayes, the following notice of motion

"That the executive of Cork County Council would create and fill the position of a marine tourism officer for the county"

Members noted the response from the Substitute Director of Services, Economic Development, Enterprise & Tourism, which outlined as follows;

Cork County Council provides for a significant level of resource being provided to support the development of tourism in Cork County. Within this, staff specifically designated to the central Tourism Unit work closely with staff across the organisation to drive product and experience development, of which there have been many successes. The designation of specific posts to particular areas of tourism development is a matter for the Chief Executive and at present the structures in place ensure that marine tourism receives a considerable level of attention across the Municipal Districts, Coastal Management Office and Tourism Unit, Economic Development, Enterprise & Tourism Directorate. Examples of this include:

Municipal Districts

Cruise Tourism – A Tourism Consultant is currently employed on contract to increase the number of cruise calls to West Cork. This has resulted in a 50% increase in cruise calls to 12 in 2018 v 8 in 2017. The stops included were Bantry, Glengarriff, Bere Island, Schull and Cape Clear with 13 visits currently scheduled for 2019.

Maintenance & Upkeep of Piers – continuous maintenance & upkeep is carried out as required including the Islands.

Blueways: The development of the River Ilen Blueway which extends from Skibbreen to Baltimore

Coastal Management, Water Services Directorate

The role of the Coastal Management Committee which meets bi monthly is to review the work of the Coastal Management Unit and to assist in the prioritisation of future works.

Marine Tourism Infrastructure works completed in recent years include:

- Schull Pontoon & Gangway
- Glengarriff Pier (currently being refurbished)
- Youghal Boardwalk repair
- Youghal/Cobh/Passage West Pontoons
- Coastal Protection works at Ballybrannigan, Garretstown and Garryvoe beaches
- Statutory process is currently underway for dredging projects to be undertaken in Courtmacsherry, Glengarriff and Reen, Union Hall

Tourism Unit, Economic Development, Enterprise & Tourism Directorate

This Unit works closely with Fáilte Ireland, Tourism Ireland, Visit Cork, Local Development Companies, Tourism Service Providers and Local Communities in maximising the economic return to the Cork economy through the promotion of Tourism related activity, including Marine Tourism, thereby increasing domestic and overseas visitor numbers as outlines in Government & local policy documents.

Growing Tourism in Cork – A Collective Strategy 2016 - 2020- Such was Cork County Council's appreciation of the importance of continuing to grow tourism in Cork that the first ever Tourism Strategy for Cork was jointly commissioned with Cork City Council led by a high level Tourism Strategy Group to develop a vision and action plan to give cohesive direction to the future growth of tourism in Cork. This strategy was launched in January, 2016. The tourism proposition for Cork under this strategy is that **“Cork is Ireland's Maritime Haven with a significant maritime history spanning over a thousand years, set in a beautiful soft coastal environment”**. The plan contains 28 actions to deliver on this proposition.

A specific Tourism Statement of Strategy and Work Programme for Cork County (2017 – 2022) which is closely aligned to “*Growing Tourism in Cork – A Collective Strategy*” was also developed which clearly outlines significant additional actions which Cork County Council plans to undertake.

Marine Leisure Infrastructure Strategies:

In 2008 Cork County Council published a Marine Leisure Infrastructure Strategy for the Western Division. A subsequent Marine Leisure Infrastructure Strategy for the Southern Division (2010-2020) covering the area from Timoleague to Youghal was launched in 2010. Many of the actions contained in these strategies have been delivered through the Coastal Management Unit.

Members thanked that the Director of Services for the response, and commented as follows;

- Cork County Council is very active in promoting tourism.
- The response highlights the vast amount of work that has been undertaken by Cork County Council in support the development of tourism in Cork County.
- This motion is asking for a specific strategy and the appointment of a marine and tourism officer, similar to what has happened in County Donegal.
- This is not a parochial motion; it is about packaging and advertising areas of the county for example Ballycotton, Youghal, Kinsale, Courtmacsherry, and Glandore.
- It would be a proactive step to create this position.
- Failte Ireland have left us down and have failed Cork County,
- A dedicated marine section should be established in the organisation as it would bring all tourism promotion under the one umbrella.
- Marine resources bring high levels of tourism to the county.
- Union Hall has been fighting for some time to have their pier repaired

The Chief Executive welcomed members commented that Cork County Council is so highly focussed and proactive on tourism. The Chief Executive said Cork County Council’s Tourism Department works across a broad range of areas and themes in promoting tourism and he was satisfied the organisation is well structured to respond to marine tourism. The Chief Executive stated that if the organisation was to create a level of specialisation; it could end up diffusing the broadness of tourism. He confirmed the proposal sought will remain on the general tourism agenda, and agreed that the matter should be referred to the Tourism SPC for further discussion.

PROTECTION FOR TENANTS IN THE PRIVATE RENTED SECTOR

12/1-12

Councillor Noel Collins proposed, seconded by Councillor John Paul O’Shea, the following notice of motion

“On the question of local authority housing and for the protection of tenants this Council

- a) *Call on the Minister to consult with voluntary groups about setting up a housing commission mandated to draw up a comprehensive plan for all actors of the housing market for the next 5 to 10 years, that would act as a protection for tenants in the private rented sector.*
- b) *That the Chief Executive report on the acquisition of lands for housing in Cork, and if it is his intention to invite voluntary groups, to build thereon, and if he will make services sites available, as heretofore.”*

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

Cork County Council operates an opportunities register with larger AHBs to identify where potential projects can be advanced. In the past number of weeks alone, Approved Housing Bodies working in partnership with Cork County Council have held sod turnings in both Duntahane, Fermoy(46 units) (Respond) and Commoge, Kinsale (40 units) (Cluid) for the development of 96 units on lands that were previously in Council ownership. In addition, Respond are today (10th December, 2018) turning the sod for a further development of 40 units in Market Green, Middleton. Cork. Cork County Council will continue to work closely with the Approved Housing Bodies Sector in this regard.

The Council continues to progress the development of housing schemes on its existing landbank and is seeking to identify and acquire suitable land for future construction. The subsidised sites scheme that was available in the past has been discontinued. A number of serviced sites remain undeveloped at various locations in the county and are for sale on the open market.

During the discussion members commented as follows;

- Unfortunately it will take another two years prolonging the waiting of 900 people on the housing waiting list.
- Young couples have their hopes dashed due to escalating house prices.
- Landowners and building contractors need to join forces to deliver houses at affordable costs.
- Hyperinflation in the housing market will not go away.
- It is unbelievable that a deposit can be placed on a house yet it will remain for sale.
- The Government must accept there is a major housing crisis and declare it a national emergency.
- The response outlines a worthy collaboration with Approved Housing Bodies.
- The Approved Housing Bodies should attend Development Committee and outline their plans.

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

PROJECT IRELAND 2040

13/12-1

Councillor Anthony Barry proposed, seconded by Councillor Seamus McGrath the following notice of motion:-

That Cork County Council requests a meeting between a delegation of elected members and officials from the local authority and the Minister and planning officials from the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government to discuss project Ireland 2040 and the plans and ambitions for Cork County contained therein.

Members noted the report from the Director of Services, Planning, which outlined as follows:-

The Executive of Council has continuing engagement with Department officials on Project Ireland 2040: The National Planning Framework, and that this has resulted in a significant positive outcome for future growth targets for County – rising from approx 43,000 to approx 104,000 with potential further growth allocations.

There is merit in Council ensuring all Government Departments and all National Agencies are fully briefed by Department on the ambitions for Cork County as set out in Project Ireland 2040: The

National Planning Framework, such that their respective investment decisions are updated as appropriate are aligned with the growth strategy for County Cork.

Council will also need assurances that the required investment monitoring models are put in place by Government.

There is also merit in meeting with DHPLG Officials to help ensure existing Cork County Council policy aligns itself with emerging national policy and to maximise benefit from upcoming investment calls including under the URDF/RRDF Schemes. Detailed discussions would also have the added benefit of providing the basis for DHPLG input to the upcoming County Development Plan 2014 Review process.

Members welcomed the response from the Director of Services, Planning, and commented as follows;

- The new guidelines far exceed the densities set out in our County Development Plan and Local Area Plans
- Our job is to build sustainable communities.
- The Department is pushing for densities in excess of what we have planned for.
- This is opening up the entire country to high density apartments and duplexes.
- Apartments are not sought after outside of urban areas.
- If the developers are not going to make it pay then who else is going to develop or deliver houses.
- A rail corridor does not justify high density along its entire scope.
- Increased densities and heights are justified in larger urban centres, but it needs to work from the core out.
- High density developments in greenbelt locations/fringes of urban areas will be totally unacceptable.

PROJECTS REFERRED TO INDEPENDENT CONCILIATION

14/12-1

Councillor Des O'Grady proposed the following notice of motion:-

To seek a written report on the number of Cork County Council projects that were referred to the independent conciliation process when a final figure for work undertaken could not be agreed by Cork County Council and the Contractor involved in each case. This report to be in the form of an itemised list for the years 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018 to date. The report to include, in each case, the value of the tender originally accepted by the Council, the amount recommended by the Conciliator and paid out to the contractor by the Council, and the number of unsuccessful original tenders that came in under the amount recommended by the Conciliator in each case.

Members noted the report from the Director of Corporate Services, which outlined as follows:-

As part of national procurement governance the Office of Government Procurement (OGP), under construction procurement, has drafted a suite of documents known as the Contract Works Management Framework (CWMF). There are 11 different suites of documents which each include all the documents needed to conduct the particular procurement exercise including the relevant contract to be awarded under the process. All of these contracts make provision for access to some or all of the following mechanisms which can be used to resolve contract disputes namely the 'Dispute Management Procedure', 'Conciliation' and 'Arbitration'.

Conciliation is best described as a settlement negotiation carried out between the disputing parties with the assistance of an independent neutral namely a ‘Conciliator’. The Conciliator who oversees the process will require both parties to send him/her details of the dispute which will normally be circulated to the other side although the Conciliator is free to meet with the parties separately and to receive material on a confidential basis from any party. The Conciliator will convene a meeting of the parties where they will normally meet in joint session and subsequently the Conciliator will meet the parties in private sessions. The Conciliator is obliged to maintain the confidentiality of any information given to him/her privately and the purpose of his/her discussions with the party is to arrive at an agreed settlement.

Where the conciliation process is available and parties fail to reach agreement the Conciliator under some contracts is required to issue a written recommendation. It should be noted however that entry to the conciliation process is on a voluntary basis and is not binding on either party to reach agreement or accept a recommendation where one is made. However, in the context of best practice public procurement a successfully negotiated settlement to a dispute will in the vast majority of cases represent the best value for money. A Review across all Directorates to establish where conciliation arose as part of a final account settlement provides the following information for Council:

Water Services

In the time period set out in the motion (2015, 2016, 2017, 2018) all Water Services contracts had novated to Irish Water and Cork County Council was not involved in conciliation or agreeing final accounts. In coastal management and flood projects, where Cork County Council is client, the Council has not had any final accounts which have been referred to conciliation.

Housing

There are no Housing projects that fall under the parameters set out in the notice of motion.

Planning

There are no conciliations relating to Planning Directorate for the stated period.

Environment

There were no conciliations on completed projects in the years in question.

Architects

There have been no conciliations in the last 5 years.

Roads

Year	Project	Original Tender Amount	Amount recommended by the Conciliator	Amount paid to the contractor by CCC	No. of unsuccessful tenders that came in under the amount recommended by the Conciliator
2017	6 no. Bridges	€285,956.75 (Excl VAT)*	€457,521.78 (Excl VAT)	€457,521.78 (Excl VAT)	1

*Coolmucky Bridge was tendered as part of a number of structures repaired through a single bridge repair contract.

Members welcomed the response from the Director of Corporate Services, and commented as follows;

- Can Chief Executive provide more information on the process and order regarding dispute management, conciliation and arbitration.
- Works were not carried out satisfactorily on the Coolmucky Bridge.
- The costs of works originally provided were €76,000.

- The contract has to return to do other works.
- An additional €175,000 from the initial figure to the final figure is a result of conciliation.
- Was this extra money all related to the extra works required on the bridge?
- Cheapest is not always the best

The Chief Executive clarified that conciliation can arise at different stages of a contract, both during construction and at final account stage. The Chief Executive confirmed that in the 6 No. Bridges Contract, there was one tender less than the conciliation price, but also 1 greater than the conciliation price.

One member asked at what stage a further tender would be required for additional works carried out on a project.

The Chief Executive confirmed that the Director of Services, Roads and Transportation would respond to the member on the matter.

STRATEGIC REVIEW OF ITS SERVICE DELIVERY MODEL

15/12-1

Councillor John O’Sullivan proposed the following notice of motion:-

“That, in light of the city boundary extension, that this council should initiate a long term strategic review of its service delivery model including the appropriateness of maintaining its administrative base within the territory of another local authority (Cork City) area.”

Members noted the report from the Director of Corporate Services, which outlined as follows:-

The Cork boundary alteration programme is the most complex and significant local government boundary reform in the State for several decades, and involves the transition of c 85,000 citizens and in excess of 400 no. services from County to City. This, combined with the recent recommendations of the Local Electoral Area Boundary Committee which has proposed changes to the Cork County local electoral areas, will mean that the local government arrangements in Cork will be different following the local elections in May 2019.

In order to ensure a successful transition of services to the City Council and the continuing robustness of our own current service delivery model which serves the citizens of Cork County well, it is not envisaged that there will be a fundamental change in our approach in the short to medium term.

The County will continue to deliver local services through 8 no. Municipal Districts, albeit altered in nature to reflect the upcoming Ministerial Order re local electoral areas, and through its strong functional based structure.

On a continuing basis, the organisation gives consideration to the most appropriate means and methods of service delivery. This organisation has invested considerable energy and resources in driving the digital and online services agenda in recent times, and has implemented a best in class service design philosophy in ensuring that we, as a service delivery organization, collaborate with our citizens and service users, and design our operating model in support of same.

Over the next 12 months, the priority of Council will be to continue to drive the boundary transition programme, ensure that the transition to a newly elected Council in May, 2019 is effectively managed and thereafter consider the range of issues that might arise from a strategic shift that is envisaged by the motion.

Members welcome the response, and during the discussion that followed, members' comments included as follows;

- County towns need to be supported and developed as hubs to keep rural areas alive and vital.
- It is very important that we make a commitment to our county towns.
- They will be our beacons to create development in rural areas.
- We might consider putting council departments in our county towns and this will show investors that Cork County Council is supporting rural areas.
- It is important that we review all commitments and carry out forward strategic planning.

HPV VACCINE

16/12-1

Councillor Diarmaid Ó Cadhla proposed the following notice of motion:-

In the interest of public safety in the provision of health care, and the necessity for informed consent, that this Council write to the Minister for Health asking:

1. *Why the manufacturer's Patient Information Leaflet (PIL) is not distributed with the HPV Vaccine (Gardasil) that is being promoted in our schools?*
2. *What precautions are taken to ensure that the HPV vaccine is not administered to children who already have a HPV infection, to prevent them being harmed?*
3. *Given the manufacturers claim that 2.5% of those who receive the HPV vaccine suffer serious adverse affects what has been the experience in Ireland, how many adverse impacts have there been and what help is being provided to those affected?*
4. *What is the expected effective life of the HPV vaccine, how long it is claimed to work for?*
5. *What is the annual cost of the HPV vaccine to our state, and how much public money is spent promoting it?*

One member commented that there are many groups spreading misinformation about the vaccine.

As there was no seconder, the notice of motion was defeated.

VOTES OF CONGRATULATIONS

TO: Bandon U-18's Rugby Club on their success of winning the All -Ireland.

TO: Fr. O'Neills on winning the U-21 Premier 1Couty Hurling Championship.

TO: Mourneabbey Ladies Football on winning the All-Ireland Senior Club Championship.

TO: Rachel Sheehan of Passage West G.A.A on winning a Munster Minor Medal for Cork.

TO: Raffeen Creak on winning the Junior County Pitch & Putt title.

TO: Cloughduv Hurling Club on winning the Munster Junior Hurling Championship.

TO: Bernie Meade on scoring 1-12 in the All-Ireland U-21 final in 1968 and for holding the record since.

TO: Glanmire Ladies GAA Footballers on winning the Junior A All Ireland Club Championship.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

COMMUNITY CCTV SCHEMES

Councillor Frank O'Flynn informed members that on the 29th November the Minister provided clarification in the Dáil on community closed circuit television CCTV schemes. Councillor O'Flynn informed members that the Minister had given clear guidance that once the schemes are approved through full council, the Joint Policing Committees will be satisfied.

Members commented as follows;

- Could Cork County Council look at a joint CCTV installation scheme with a number of other local authorities to share overall costs?
- Why are we not putting in place CCTV schemes?
- Members asked for the immediate roll out of schemes before Christmas.
- In Mitchelstown a huge amount of work has been carried out including identifying suitable sites, putting in place the tender and awarding the tender.

The Mayor informed members the Director of Corporate Services is preparing a position paper on the current situation regarding community CCTV schemes.

The Chief Executive stated that the guidance does not deal with the fundamental issue of how to deal with GDPR, data protection, access and encryption. He then confirmed that a report on the matter will be brought before Corporate Policy Group.

The Chief Executive said there are a number of legal issues to be examined and that a decision by council on the scheme will need to be taken correctly in the first place.

FISHERIES

On the request of Councillor Paul Hayes, members agreed to write to Patrick Murphy, CEO of the Irish South and West Fish Producers Organisation extending an invitation to attend the next Development Committee meeting in order to discuss the issues and concerns facing the fishing industry, especially in light of Brexit.

This concluded the business of the Meeting