



COMHAIRLE CONTAE CHORCAÍ

Minutes of Proceedings at Meeting of Cork County Council held in the Council Chamber, County Hall, Cork on 24th September, 2018.

I LATHAIR

Comhairleoir S. MacCraith

Comhairleoiri, Daltúin, Ní Fhúarthain, D. Ó'Donnabháin, Dheasmhumhnaigh, Ó hEarchaí, 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 Cecháin, Sheppard, De Barra, Ó Cadhla, Rasmussen, N. Ó Coileán, Ó hEachteirn, Uí Thuama, Ó hEigeartaigh, S. NicCárthaigh, Ní Bhrian, N. MacCárthaigh, Ó Floinn, Ó Dúghaill, Mhic Dháibhí, Uí Mhurchú, Ó Sé, G. Ó Murchú, Gearóid Ó Murchú, B. Ó Muimhneacháin, Uí Mhaoláin, T. Ó Coileán, D. Ó Coileán, J. Ó Suilleabháin, C. Ó Suilleabháin, Ó hUrthuile.

PRESENT

Councillor Seamus McGrath, presided.

Councillors D'Alton, Forde, D. Ó'Donnabháin, Desmond, Canty, J. Harris, Coleman, Lombard, K. Murphy, Coughlan, O'Donovan, G. Moynihan, Creed, O'Grady, Lucey, Ryan, Conway, P. O'Sullivan, K. McCarthy, Keohane, Sheppard, Barry, Ó Cadhla, Rasmussen, N. Collins, Ahern, Twomey, Hegarty, S. McCarthy, O'Brien, N. McCarthy, O'Flynn, Doyle, Dawson, J. Murphy, O'Shea, Gearóid Murphy, G. Murphy, B. Moynihan, Mullane, T. Collins, D. Collins, J. O'Sullivan, C. O'Sullivan, Hurley.

Deputy Chief Executive, A/Head of Finance, Senior Executive Officer

Cameras in the Council Chamber

It was agreed by members to allow proceedings in the Council Chamber to be film and sound recorded by RTE.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Minutes of Special Meeting of the Council held on 7th September, 2018.

1(a)/2-9

Proposed by Councillor Frank O'Flynn
Seconded by Councillor Timmy Collins

RESOLVED:

“That the minutes of the Special Meeting of the Council held on 7th September, 2018, be confirmed and signed by the Mayor.”

Minutes of Meeting of the Council held on 10th September, 2018.

1(b)/2-9

Members agreed to insert:

“A member stated that whilst he supported the thrust of the motion he suggested adding ‘public & private’ to number 4 on the motion” “

In lieu of:

“Add ‘public & private’ to number 4 on the motion” on page 9.

Proposed by Councillor June Murphy
Seconded by Councillor Alan Coleman

RESOLVED:

“That the minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 10th September 2018, be confirmed and signed by the Mayor.”

Minutes of Special Meeting of the Council held on 13th September, 2018.

1(c)/2-9

Proposed by Councillor Sinead Sheppard
Seconded by Councillor June Murphy

RESOLVED:

“That the minutes of the Special Meeting of the Council held on 13th of September, 2018, be confirmed and signed by the Mayor.”

VOTES OF SYMPATHY

2/2-9

TO: Sheila Lane on the death of her husband, Jeremiah.

STATUTORY BUSINESS

PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS ACT – 1993

3/2-9

Councillor D Ó Cadhla proposed, seconded by Councillor K. McCarthy the following motion:-

“That Cork County Council would nominate Gemma O’ Doherty as a candidate in the forthcoming Presidential Election to be held on Friday, 26th October, 2018.”

Councillor Ó Cadhla asked that members would facilitate the democratic process by nominating Gemma O’ Doherty and allowing citizens to have a say. He further stated that the current process was flawed and needed to be reviewed.

The Mayor requested that a vote be taken, which resulted as follows:-

FOR: Councillors Harris, Coleman, K. McCarthy, Keohane, Ó Cadhla.

[5]

AGAINST: Councillors McGrath, Forde, Canty, Lombard, K. Murphy, O'Donovan, G. Moynihan, Creed, Lucey, Ryan, P. O'Sullivan, Sheppard, Barry, Rasmussen, Hegarty, S. McCarthy, N. McCarthy, O'Brien, O'Flynn, Doyle, Dawson, O'Shea, Gearóid Murphy, G. Murphy, T. Collins, D. Collins, J. O'Sullivan, Hurley.

[28]

ABSTAIN: Councillors D'Alton, O'Grady, Conway, Twomey, J. Murphy, Mullane.

[6]

Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001:

Members noted the following disposals:

LEASE OF LAND AT MOGEELY, CO. CORK

4(a)/2-9

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 6th September, 2018.

Area: 0.8286 hectares (2.0475 acres) as outlined on map. (Including a right of way in favour of Mogeely Soccer Club measuring 65 linear metres in length, 5m in width.
Part of Folio CK19123F

From Whom Acquired: Unknown – Predates Property Section Records.

Consideration: €200.00 per annum.

Term: 35 years (by way of lease).

DISPOSAL OF LAND AND GRANT OF RIGHT-OF-WAY AT SUNBERRY HEIGHTS, BLARNEY.

4(b)/2-9

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 6th September, 2018.

Situation: Disposal of land and grant of right-of-way at Sunberry Heights, Blarney.

Area: Land measuring 1 sq. metre/0.0001 hectares/0.0002 acres and right-of-way measuring 39 sq. metres/0.0039 hectares/0.0096 acres

From Whom Acquired: Unknown. Registered to CCC since 1993.

Consideration: €500 plus discharge of Council's costs

MANAGER'S REPORT PERSUANT TO THE REQUIREMENTS OF SECTION 179 OF THE PLANNING ACT 2000 SECTION 3 (4A & 4B), AS AMENDED-

Part 8 Report: Proposed construction of 18 No. social housing units at Spa Road, Dunmanway (Kearneys Field)

5/2-9

Proposed by Councillor Declan Hurley

Seconded by Councillor Timmy Collins

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:-

FINANCIAL BUSINESS

6/2-9

Consideration of report on the financial impact of the LPT variation under Section 20 of the Finance (Local Property Tax) Act 2012, as amended by Section 5 of the Finance (Local Property Tax) Act 2013.

The A/Head of Finance outlined the provisions of the report and letter from the Chief Executive as circulated to Members and drew their attention to the figures outlined below:

Economic impact of a 2.5%, 5%, 10% or 15% LPT reduction for the property owner of a property valued between €150,000 & €200,000 (29.2% of properties in County Cork)

Valuation Band	Midpoint	0.18 %	LPT If reduced by: 2.5%		LPT If reduced by: 5%		LPT If reduced by: 10%		LPT If reduced by: 15%		
			0.176 %	Savings Per House	0.171 %	Savings Per House	0.162 %	Savings Per House	0.153 %	Savings Per House	
		€	€	€	€	€	€	€	€	€	
150,001	200,000	175,000	315	307	-8	299	-16	284	-32	268	-47

Economic impact on Cork County if the 2019 LPT is varied:

	Cork County Council	Discretionary LPT Allocation 2019
	€	
Local Property Tax 2019	40,938,533	
80% of LPT Retained	32,750,826	
Assigned in lieu of State funding for Housing & Roads Services	(16,160,362)	
Baseline - GPG & PRD allocation 2014	(8,402,758)	
Available for local activities & projects if:		
No change to the local property tax for 2018	8,187,707	8,187,707
5% reduction : Projected cost of a -5% local adjustment factor in 2018	(2,046,927)	6,140,780
10% reduction : Projected cost of a -10% local adjustment factor in 2018	(4,093,853)	4,093,854
15% reduction : Projected cost of a -15% local adjustment factor in 2018	(6,140,780)	2,046,927
5% increase : Projected additional income from a +5% local adjustment factor in 2018	2,046,927	10,234,634
10% increase : Projected additional income from a +10% local adjustment factor in 2018	4,093,853	12,281,560
15% increase : Projected additional income from a +15% local adjustment factor in 2018	6,140,780	14,328,487

There was one submission received from the public regarding the variation of the LPT. The individual requested the rate not to be increased for 2019 and if possible to consider lowering it.

The Deputy Chief Executive stated that as the Council was about to enter a period of uncertainty regarding the boundary changes and while a broad outline of the financial arrangements between the City and the County have been outlined no details are available as yet and therefore it may be prudent to take a conservative approach.

There are significant additional costs facing the Council in the coming year in relation to pay and pensions of €4.8m and €9m in non pay. Even with no change to the LPT a deficit position is likely.

A reduction in the LPT will come off the discretionary element not the total.

During the discussion members made the following points:

- Services can only be provided if finances are available and the LPT has provided opportunities to provide services for the MDs such as the Town Development Fund, funding for playgrounds and parks etc

- The Sinn Fein Party made a promise to the electorate to reduce the property tax; this is a tax on debt, not the ability to pay.
- Revenue can place a charge on your property if you don't pay the LPT
- This is a regressive tax
- The Council's reserves could be used for services in the final year of this Council.
- The discretionary MD fund is welcome, unspent monies are returned to the area offices, would it be possible to see where these funds are spent
- Where is the MD Report 2017 available and how was it distributed
- Would it be possible to work on joint projects with other MDs

In response to member's comments the Deputy Chief Executive stated that a budget surplus for this year was not envisaged.

In response to member's comments the Deputy Chief Executive confirmed that a copy of the MD Report for 2017 would be made available to them.

11.48 A five minute recess was granted to the Independents Group

11.53 Meeting resumed

Councillor Frank O'Flynn proposed, seconded by Councillor Kevin Murphy that there be no change to the LPT for 2019.

Councillor Melissa Mullane proposed, seconded by Councillor Des O'Grady the reduction of the LPT for 2019 by 15%.

The Deputy Mayor then read into the record that the options were to:

- Vary the basic rate and set a local adjustment factor that will apply for a period of one year from the next Local Property Tax liability date, or
- Not vary the basic rate.

The Deputy Mayor requested that a vote be taken on the proposed amendment first, which resulted as follows:-

FOR: Councillors O'Grady, O'Cádhlá, Twomey, M. Mullane.

[4]

AGAINST: Councillors McGrath, D'Alton, Desmond, Harris, Forde, D. Ó'Donnabháin, Desmond, Canty, J. Harris, Coleman, Lombard, K. Murphy, O'Donovan, G. Moynihan, Creed, Lucey, Ryan, Conway, P. O'Sullivan, Keohane, Barry, Rasmussen, N. Collins, S. McCarthy, N. McCarthy, O'Flynn, Doyle, Dawson, J. Murphy, O'Shea, Gearóid Murphy, G. Murphy, B. Moynihan, T. Collins, D. Collins, J. O'Sullivan, C. O'Sullivan, Hurley.

[33]

The Mayor declared the motion defeated.

The Mayor then requested that a vote be taken on the substantive motion, which resulted as follows:-

FOR: Councillors McGrath, D'Alton, Forde, Desmond, Harris, Desmond, J. Harris, Coleman, Lombard, K. Murphy, O'Donovan, G. Moynihan, Creed, Lucey, Ryan, Conway, P. O'Sullivan, Keohane, Barry, Rasmussen, N. Collins, Ml. Hegarty, S. McCarthy, N. McCarthy, O'Brien, O'Flynn, Doyle, Dawson, J. Murphy, O'Shea, Gearóid Murphy, G. Murphy, B. Moynihan, T. Collins, D. Collins, J. O'Sullivan, C. O'Sullivan, Hurley.

[36]

AGAINST: O'Grady, K. McCarthy, O'Cádhlá, Twomey, M. Mullane.

[4]

The Mayor declared the motion carried.

REPORTS & RECOMENDATIONS OF OFFICERS

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S MANAGEMENT REPORT TO COUNCIL

CORK COUNTY LIBRARY REPORT FOR PERIOD ENDING 30TH JUNE, 2018

7 (a)/2-9

Members noted the Report of Cork County Library for the period ending 30th June, 2018.

Members commended the wide variety of services provided by the library and the energetic, efficient and highly competent staff.

In response to members' queries the Deputy Chief Executive confirmed that Kinsale library was a priority along with Youghal Library and it was hoped that both would be progressing soon.

CORPORATE SERVICES DIRECTORATE PERIOD ENDING 31ST AUGUST, 2018

7(b)/2-9

Members noted the Report of the Corporate Services Directorate for the period ending 31st August, 2018.

In response to members' queries regarding the number of FOIs that were withdrawn or partially granted, the status of complaints (how many were upheld) and the number of CPOs that were initiated as a result of dereliction, the Deputy Chief Executive agreed to seek a response from the relevant sections and revert

NOTICE OF MOTIONS

RATES WAIVER

8/2-9

Councillor Marcia D’Alton proposed, seconded by Councillor Cathal Rasmussen, the following notice of motion:-

“That this Council would agree to draft a scheme providing for the waiver of a portion of the rates due to Cork County Council when ratepayers in a town centre can demonstrate a reduction in turnover of 30% or more due to an extended period of road closures granted by Cork County Council. That approval for this waiver scheme would be sought from the Minister in accordance with the requirements of Section 2 of the Local Government (Rates) Act 1970.”

Members noted the report from the Loraine Lynch, Head of Finance, which outlined as follows:-

Rate is a property tax whereby liability is calculated by multiplying the ‘Rateable Valuation’ (RV) of a property as determined by the Commissioner of Valuation, by the ‘Annual Rate on Valuation’ (ARV) set by the Elected Members at the Budget Meeting.

Rate is not a tax on turnover or linked to activity or profitability but is incurred solely because the property exists and is liable to be taxed.

The environment or circumstances in which ratepayers operate may be impacted upon by a variety of events or activities. These may be local, national or indeed global in nature and can impact on ratepayer/s in any given location, urban or otherwise, or within a particular sector. However any such impact does not temper the onus or liability of the ratepayer to pay rates as levied.

Infrastructural project work is regularly undertaken by or on behalf of the Council at various locations throughout the county. Such projects include a range of capital works and Initiatives to improve infrastructure, services, amenities and the public realm generally. Such works are invariably carried out following consultation with the communities affected and may involve road closures.

The use of a waiver scheme to assist ratepayers who are encountering trading difficulty during such a period of road closure would be inappropriate in the context of rates being a property tax rather than a tax on turnover or trading activity.

Such a scheme would also, inter alia;

- Discriminate against the bulk of ratepayers who are not in a ‘town centre’.
- Be unfair on the remaining ratepayers, many of whom would be based in more peripheral or less favourable locations.
- Would impose an additional burden on remaining ratepayers to fund such a waiver scheme and may, in many instances, result in ratepayers subsidising competitors.
- Be extremely challenging to administer on the basis of fairness and equity. Considerations in this regard include determining “loss of turnover” as a direct consequence of a road closure, as distinct from other potential factors; definition of a “town centre” etc.

The Council is always cognizant of the disruption caused by road closures, for whatever purpose, to the business community and community generally.

With particular regard to ratepayers, it is important to emphasise that the Council continues to take a proactive approach to engagement with those who wish to address their liability but may be experiencing challenges in doing so.

Any such ratepayer facing difficulties is encouraged to contact the Rate Collection Office at an early date to discuss and agree acceptable payment solutions.

During the discussion that followed members made the following points:

- Many retailers in town centres have lost business as a result of road closures limiting access to trade as a result of roadworks being carried out by the Council or its contractors, by Irish Water, gas-related, broadband-related.
- Cork County Council grants the road closure licence.
- Road closures can have demonstrable effects on a town centre business by blocking shop frontage, restricting access or deterring footfall. This can negatively impact the business trading environment and affect business finance.
- Even when the road is reopened, the effect of a prolonged road closure can linger.
- Need to be conscious of how the Lower Harbour Scheme and the Street Improvement Scheme in Cobh will affect businesses for up to four years
- This is in line with Sinn Fein's policy on levying rates on the basis of profitability
- This may be outside of the Council's remit and may require legislative change
- The word 'waiver' should be replaced with 'rebate' as it is within the Council's power to grant a rebate
- The process for examining road closure permits should look at the consequences of the road closure
- Why restrict it to the 'town centre', why not all of an affected town
- Night-time and weekend work needs to be incorporated into contracts
- The businesses in Passage West need relief as their turnover has been affected and this is just the start of the scheme
- A rates freeze in towns undergoing works could be a more workable solution
- Where is legislation does it state that

The Deputy Chief Executive responded as follows:

- While cognisant of the disruption caused by road closures, any change has to be reflected in legislation
- Not all impacts are Council related and therefore can foresee a problem with Cork County Council subsidising works they're not responsible for
- Infrastructural works improve facilities for all in an area
- How can a 30% reduction be verified
- Rates are the Council's most important source of income at 41%
- The Council will facilitate payment plans or delayed payments where a specific approach is made, and agreement is reached
- The legislative provisions are contained in the Local Government (Rates) Act, 1970, Local Government Reform Act 2014 and there is also a bill before the Dáil, the Local Government (Rates) Bill 2018 therefore it is inappropriate for Council to move forward with this motion

The Deputy Mayor stated that the response to the motion was somewhat disappointing and that more clarity was needed on the precise legal position therefore he proposed that the motion be sent to Development Committee for further discussion and to investigate the power of members regarding waivers.

The Deputy Mayor also stated in response to a query from a member, that while the issue of cut rates for new business wasn't central to the current discussion it could be raised at the Development Committee discussion.

Members agreed to forward the motion to Development Committee.

DISABILITY PROVISION

9/2-9

Councillor Diarmaid Ó Cadhla proposed, seconded by Councillor Des O'Grady, the following notice of motion:-

Council notes that our housing list includes approximately 450 qualified households (2017 data) that are categorised with various disabilities.

Council further notes our obligation under UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) to provide 'adequate housing' for people with disabilities.

According Council requests as follows:

- A report detailing the current number of qualified households on our housing list, where disability exists.
- A report detailing the number of households where disability exists that are excluded from our housing list, as their housing need is deemed to be satisfied, but that are inadequately housed in a HAP, RAS or other publically supported accommodation.
- That this Council write separately to both the Minister for Housing and the Minister with responsibility for Disabilities requesting that people with disabilities currently in HAP/RAS, and such, be included in the housing list if they are not in adequate accommodation.
- A report detailing the number of 'adequate houses' allocated, or adjustments made to reach adequacy in existing properties, to people/households with disabilities during 2015, 2016, 2017 and year to date 2018.
- What policy, if any, is in place to ensure that new social or affordable housing, whether sourced directly or with the Approved Housing Bodies or through acquisition, is disability friendly or has provision made for easy adjustment, wet rooms, wheelchair accessibility etc.
- What additional resource and/or guidelines has Council received from Government following the ratification of CRPD in order to assist with the implementation of the terms of the Convention.
- When will Council produce the information leaflet agreed by Council in last May?

“That the Executive prepare a brochure/leaflet for users of Council services outlining the rights of people with disabilities and Council's commitment to equality – to be made available at all points where services are offered. That this brochure should also invite suggestions from members of the public, or from organisations dealing with disabilities, in regards to its implementation of the Convention – and that these be reported to Council periodically.”

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

The following is a breakdown of the Total No. of Approved Applicants with a Disability Basis of Need as 19th September, 2018.

Disability – Unspecified	1
Disability requirement - intellectual	48
Disability requirement - mental	171
Disability requirement - physical	406
Disability requirement - sensory	58
Total	684

In the case of HAP, 325 recipients who have indicated that they have a disability are approved transfer applicants:

Disability – Unspecified	1
Disability requirement - intellectual	24
Disability requirement - mental	64
Disability requirement - physical	210
Disability requirement - sensory	26
Total	325

Allocations made to persons with Disability as a basis of need:

Year	No. of Allocations
2015	55
2016	64
2017	88
2018	74
Total	281

DPG's (Disabled Persons Grant Applications) on Council owned properties progressed:

Year	Minor Works	Extensions
2015	57	5
2016	64	6
2017	95	8
2018	25	0
Total	241	19

Please note with regards to Minor Works for 2018 a further 25 applications are in progress, 15 are ready to commence, 24 tenders have been sought and we are currently awaiting 55 OT Reports.

I wish to confirm that all newly built properties are in full compliance with the current Part M of the current Building Regulations, which requires that all units are fully accessible on the ground floor with bathroom and washing facilities available for visiting mobility impaired users. All acquired properties are acquired on the basis that they are fully accessible or that they can be easily adapted or extended for mobility impaired users.

At its meeting of the 23rd April 2018, the Council adopted its Strategic Plan for Housing Persons with disabilities. The Plan includes the following targets;

Acquisitions: Provision of units under this strategy will be governed by suitability

New Builds: Under this strategy the Council will endeavour to provide 20% of new builds subject to funding and approval from the Department of Housing, Planning, Community & Local Government

(DHPC&LG). Also it is envisaged that new builds being provided by AHBs will apply similar targets. Principal of Universal Design to be incorporated into new build schemes but subject to funding approval from DHPC&LG

Vacant units: Priority for adapted properties will be to people with a physical disability on the Housing List. The council will endeavour to provide 5% of all allocations to persons with disability.

Part V: The Council will use negotiations of Part V agreements to ascertain if there is an opportunity to source units for people with disability on the Housing list.

Other: Continue with Grants Scheme for Owner Occupiers. The DHPC&LG have been contacted about amalgamating the budget for the two types of disability grants for owner occupier and council owned properties.

With regards to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), further clarification on its implementation is awaited from the Department of Housing.

No. 7 “When will Council produce the information leaflet agreed by Council in last May? *“That the Executive prepare a brochure/leaflet for users of Council services outlining the rights of people with disabilities and Council’s commitment to equality – to be made available at all points where services are offered. That this brochure should also invite suggestions from members of the public, or from organisations dealing with disabilities, in regards to its implementation of the Convention – and that these be reported to Council periodically.”*

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

In July of this year Cork County Council published 2 leaflets outlining our Commitment to Citizens and our Customer Service Strategy. These leaflets are in the process of being made available throughout all public offices, libraries and headquarters of the organisation.

The leaflet outlining our commitment to citizens clearly highlights our commitment to equality of treatment for all of our citizens in their dealings with the Council and specifically states that Cork County Council will ensure of eases of access to people with disabilities.

The commitment informs our Customer Service Strategy which is based on the objective of promoting excellence in service provision which is responsive to the needs and expectation of all citizens of Cork County and customers of Cork County Council.

During the discussion members made the following points:

- There is still no response to the letter written to the Minister in May regarding the UN Convention on the Rights of persons with Disabilities, we need to write back seeking a response
- Standard housing reports understate the issue of disability
- The leaflets circulated are inadequate, there is no mention of disability
- There is a growing number of housing applicants with disabilities
- Central Government should be doing more to oblige Councils to build disability friendly housing
- It is easier at present to have a house adapted for disabilities rather than built

The Deputy Chief Executive responded as follows:

- Both leaflets have a reference to disability
- There is currently an Accessibility Charter and a Disability Access Policy in place and these are under review
- In May it was confirmed that the aforementioned documents were under review and that the input from members in relation to the Notice of Motion in May would be considered as part of this review
- There has been no response from Central Government regarding additional resources

It was agreed by members to write back to the Minister seeking a response.

TWIN-TREND APPROACH TO THE HEALTH SERVICES

10/2-9

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

“That the Minister for Health seeks to root out the current twin-trend approach to the health services in Ireland”

During the discussion members made the following points:

- The current system is archaic whereby the poor are denied medical attention
- There should be one health system based on medical need not the ability to pay
- Many of those not eligible for Medical Cards cannot afford to take their children to the doctor
- The Minister needs to abolish the HSE
- 14 buses have gone from Cork to Belfast taking patients for Cataract Operations

Members agreed to write to the Minister

The Mayor called for an extension of time to 1.30pm

Proposed: Councillor Frank O’Flynn
Seconded: Councillor Declan Hurley

CORRESPONDENCE FROM OTHER BODIES

CONSULTANT PAEDIATRIC RHEUMATOLOGIST

13(a)/2-9

Members noted Correspondence dated 5th July, 2018, in response to members’ letter requesting the hiring of a consultant paediatric rheumatologist with a multi-disciplinary team for the Southern Region.

Members agreed that while the response was welcome no time line was referenced.

Members agreed to write back to the HSE requesting a timeline.

IMPROVEMENTS TO HOME SUPPORT SERVICES

13(b)/2-9

Correspondence dated 4th July, 2018, in response to member's letter requesting improvements to home support services.

Members agreed to defer this item at the request of Councillor Danny Collins

AUTHORITY TO ENTER RIVERS IN FLOOD RISK AREAS

14/2-9

Members noted correspondence dated 13th July, 2018, in response to members' letter asking that Cork County Council should have the overriding authority to enter rivers in flood risk areas to remove debris.

Members agreed to seek a report from the County Engineer to provide clarity in this area.

VOTES OF CONGRATULATIONS

- TO: Aoife O'Sullivan on Winning Miss Ireland
- TO: Gary & Paul O'Donovan on winning gold medals at the World Rowing Championship
- TO: Ian McDonagh & Conor Nelligan and staff on a wonderful Culture Night in County Hall and excellent coordination of events throughout the County.
- TO: Niall Murphy on being appointed principal of Marie Immaculate Community College, Dunmanway.
- TO: Kevin Ivers on winning the East Cork Junior A Hurling Title.
- TO: All Cork County Tidy Towns 2018 Winners

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

OPENING OF TENDERS

The following tenders were opened at the meeting:-

- 5 tenders for the appointment of an Engineering Design team for the construction of Lifeguard & Beach Facility, Front Strand, Youghal

9% VAT RATE

Councillor C. O'Sullivan:

"That this council would implore on the Minister of Finance to maintain the 9% VAT rate currently in place for the hospitality industry, when he is compiling his upcoming budget. Those in the hospitality sector, especially those in rural areas, depend very heavily on this reduced rate to keep themselves afloat."

Members agreed to write to the Minister for Finance.

REBUILDING IRELAND HOME LOAN

In response to a query relating to a specific case by Councillor Deirdre Forde, the Deputy Chief Executive agreed to make enquiries and revert to her.

This concluded the business of the meeting.