



COMHAIRLE CONTAE CHORCAÍ

Minutes of Proceedings at Meeting of Cork County Council held in the Council Chamber, County Hall, Cork on 22nd May, 2017.

I LATHAIR

Comhairleoir S. MacCraith, Méara Chontae

Comhairleoiri Mac Seafráida, Daltúin, Ní Fhúarthain, D. Ó Donnabháin, Ní Dheasmhumhnaigh, Ó Cainte, S. Ó Coileán, Ó hEarchaí, R. Mhic Cárthaigh, Ó Colmáin, Lombard, C. Ó Murchú, 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, A. Ó Suilleabháin, Uí Thuama, Ó hEigeartaigh, S. NicCárthaigh, Léanacháin-Foghlú, Ní Bhrian, N. MacCárthaigh, Ó Floinn, Ó Dúghaill, Mhic Dháibhí, J. Uí Mhurchú, Ó Sé, G. Ó Murchú, T. Ó Coileán, D. Ó Coileán, Ó Cearúill, C. Ó Suilleabháin, Uí hEigeartaigh, Ó hAodha, Ó hUrthuile.

PRESENT

Councillor S. McGrath, County Mayor presided.

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

Chief Executive, Senior Executive Officer.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

1/5-2

Proposed by Councillor Michael Hegarty

Seconded by Councillor Frank O'Flynn

RESOLVED:

“That the minutes of meeting of the Council held on 8th May, 2017, be confirmed and signed by the Mayor.”

Suspension of Standing Orders –

Cllr. John Paul O’Shea proposed, seconded by Cllr. Timmy Collins the suspension of Standing Orders to discuss the withdrawal of Ambulance Services in Millstreet.

It was agreed that this matter would be discussed at 1pm.

Suspension of Standing Orders –

Cllr. Marcia D’Alton proposed, seconded by Cllr. Diarmaid Ó Cadhla the suspension of Standing Orders to discuss that An Bord Pleanála would make public the Further Information received from Indaver in connection with the planning application for the incinerator at Cork Harbour.

It was agreed that this matter would be discussed at 1pm.

VOTES OF SYMPATHY

2/5-2

TO: Cllr. Deirdre O’Brien, on the death of her mother, Ann.

STATUTORY BUSINESS

Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001:

Members noted the following disposals.

DISPOSAL OF SITE AT 33 CORONEA, SKIBBEREEN, CO. CORK.

3(a)/5-2

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 12th April, 2017.

DISPOSAL OF 22 KILBROGAN STREET, BANDON, CO. CORK

3(b)/5-2

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 5th May, 2017.

DISPOSAL OF LAND ADJACENT TO CEMETERY AT GOULDSHILL, MALLOW, CO. CORK.

3(c)/5-2

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 12th May, 2017.

REPORTS & RECOMMENDATIONS OF COMMITTEES

Corporate Policy Group:

CONFERENCE LIST FOR MAY, 2017

4/5-2

Proposed by Councillor John Paul O'Shea

Seconded by Councillor Frank O'Flynn

RESOLVED:

“That the Conference List for May, 2017, be hereby approved.”

QUARTERLY REPORT ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

5/5-2

Members noted the Quarterly Report on Economic Development (January to April 2017), and thanked the Director of Services, Economic Development, Enterprise and Tourism for the report.

Ballincollig/Carrigaline Municipal District:

SECTION 85 AGREEMENT WITH CORK CITY COUNCIL

6(a)/5-2

Members noted the following report, which outlined as follows:-

South Douglas Road/N40 off-ramp West Douglas

The Douglas Land Use and Transportation Study (DLUTS) recommended measures across the Douglas area to improve travel conditions for vehicles, pedestrians, cyclists and public transport users. One of the measures proposed is the installation of a signalized junction to replace the existing roundabout at the South Douglas Road/N40 off ramp West Douglas.

The works will involve

- Removal of the existing roundabout
- Installation of traffic signals on three approach roads
- Revised layout of road into Willow Park and Gaelscoil Na Doughlaise, incorporating possible signalisation.
- Revised layout of lanes and the end of N40 off ramp
- Extension of footpaths and construction of a traffic island
- Coordination with signals at West Douglas/N40 On Ramp

Benefits of the proposed scheme

- Roundabout removed and replaced with signalised junction
- Better distribution of time for all traffic at junction
- Safer access to schools for pupils and parents
- Much-improved pedestrian facilities
- Bus Detection enabling improved journey times
- Linking of two traffic signalized junctions at Douglas West with junctions at Douglas East

- Performance example: No blocking back onto the N40
- Performance example: Improved journey times for buses on South Douglas Road

Proposed by Councillor Derry Canty

Seconded by Councillor Joe Harris

RESOLVED:

“It is an objective of Douglas LUTS that the existing roundabout at the junction of the South Douglas Road and the N40 off ramp at West Douglas be upgraded to a signalised junction. Having considered concerns raised by Members of the Ballincollig/Carrigaline Municipal District and following consultations with Cork City Council in relation to the entrance to Willow Park, it is proposed the entrance may be controlled by traffic signals as opposed to a yellow box as had been suggested in the original documentation. The proposal as shown on the attached information note has been changed to reflect this change.

Following the consideration of the Members of the Ballincollig/Carrigaline Municipal District, the agreement of full Council is sought to the entering into a Section 85 agreement with Cork City Council for the purposes of Planning and Construction of the junction upgrade.”

SECTION 85 AGREEMENT WITH CORK CITY COUNCIL TO FACILITATE THE PLANNING AND CONSTRUCTION OF DOUGLAS FLOOD RELIEF SCHEME

6(b)/5-2

Members noted the following report, which outlined as follows:-

Cork County Council, in collaboration with the Office of Public Works (the funding authority for the scheme), intends to undertake engineering works along the Ballybrack Stream, Grange Stream and Tramore River with the objective of minimising the risk of flooding in the areas of Douglas and Togher in County Cork. Numerous significant flood events have occurred in the Douglas and Togher areas, necessitating the proposal to introduce flood relief works.

The proposed Douglas Flood Relief Scheme (including Togher Culvert) will include the construction of direct flood defences and conveyance improvement measures along the Ballybrack Stream, Grange Stream and Tramore River. The direct defences proposed include flood walls and embankments with the conveyance improvements consisting of channel widening, channel deepening and the introduction of or replacement of culverts.

The overall location of the proposed scheme, presented in **Figures 1a** and **1b** below, show key plans of the proposed flood defence works in Douglas and Togher respectively.

The works to be constructed within the functional area of Cork City Council along the Tramore River are shown of **Figure 2** and **Figure 3** enclosed.

For more details on the Scheme’s development and consultation please refer to the scheme website (www.douglasfrs.ie).

Construction works for the proposed scheme will take place in four separate areas along the Tramore River, Ballybrack Stream and Grange Stream as follows:

Area 1: Ballybrack Stream through Douglas.

Area 2: Tramore River through St Patrick's Mills, Douglas.

Area 3: Grange Stream (tributary of Ballybrack Stream) through Donnybrook Commercial Centre.

Area 4: Tramore River through Togher.

All areas are located south of the N40 Cork City South Ring Road. In Douglas, the northern extent of the proposed scheme is at St Patricks Mills and the southern extent is as far as the Donnybrook Commercial Centre. In Togher, the northern extent is at the Greenwood Estate, and the southern extent is at the Lehenaghmore Industrial Estate.

The Works proposed consist of:

1. **Ballybrack Stream through Douglas** – Construction of flood defence walls and embankments, channel widening and deepening, bridge removal, bridge replacement, road re-grading, tree felling, landscaping, service diversions and all associated works.
2. **Grange Stream, Donnybrook Commercial Centre** - Construction of channel widening, deepening and re-grading, replacement culvert, road re-grading, tree felling, landscaping, service diversions and all associated works.
3. **Tramore River, Togher** - Flood defence works consisting of channel realignment, new trashscreen, culvert replacement, flood defence walls, road re-grading and reinstatement, tree felling, landscaping, service diversions and all associated works.
4. **Tramore River, St Patricks Mills Douglas** – Construction of new flood defence walls and bridge parapet, road re-grading and reinstatement, service diversions and all associated works.
5. The works to be constructed within the functional area of Cork City Council along the Tramore River are shown of Figure 2 and Figure 3 enclosed.

Proposed by Councillor Derry Canty

Seconded by Councillor Deirdre Forde

RESOLVED:

“To facilitate the proposed PLANNING AND CONSTRUCTION OF DOUGLAS FLOOD RELIEF SCHEME, Cork County Council is of the opinion that it would be more convenient that Cork County Council would carry out on behalf of Cork City Council its powers, functions and duties as a Local Authority and/or as a Roads Authority and/or as a Planning Authority insofar as they relate to, concern and/or involve the proposed works set out in the Schedule hereto, insofar as the proposed works shall be situated within the administrative area of Cork City Council and Cork County Council is able and willing to do so.

Accordingly, Cork County Council hereby resolves to enter into an Agreement with Cork City Council pursuant to the provisions of Section 85 of the Local Government Act 2001 and Section 14 of the Roads Act 1993.”

KANTURK/MALLOW MUNICIPAL DISTRICT:

7(a)/5-2

At the meeting of Kanturk/Mallow Municipal District on the 5th May, 2017, Members agreed the following Notice of Motion:

“That an urgent meeting be requested with the Minister for Environment regarding funding to Cork County Council under the various national grant schemes and in particular Town and Village Renewal Scheme again this year as the current regime of national government granting the same amount of money and/or allowing the same number of applications per County without taking size, population, number of towns, number of LCDC’s into account is clearly discriminating unfairly to County Cork, when historically the Cork County was treated as three separate areas of North, South and West for particularly this reason.”

During a discussion that followed, Members made the following points:

- Members welcomed the announcement of funding of €20 million under the Town and Village Renewal Scheme.
- The Scheme would be very beneficial, if it were properly implemented.
- Funding of €380,000 that was allocated to Cork County was insufficient.
- Cork County is not getting its fair share as the entire county is limited to a total of 15 projects.
- Geographically, North Cork is as large as some other Local Authority areas.
- Population of Ballincollig Carrigaline Municipal District is bigger than County Longford.
- The North, South and Western Divisions should be treated as three separate areas in terms of funding.
- There is huge competition for funding, and communities are unfairly competing against each other.
- Passage West Town submitted its proposals to the Department in December 2016; however, it is still waiting for a response.
- The time scale for submitting applications for funding is too short.

Councillor John Paul O’Shea proposed, seconded by Councillor Frank O’Flynn that a strongly worded letter be sent to the Minister requesting an urgent meeting regarding funding to Cork County Council under the various national grant schemes and in particular Town and Village Renewal Scheme.

The Mayor said that staff from the Council’s Community and Enterprise Department should be asked to attend the meeting with the Minister also.

The Chief Executive said he fully supported pressing the case for a significant increase in funding. The Chief Executive informed Members that to date 40 expressions of interest have been received from communities, which will be assessed by the Municipal Districts and Council Engineers.

Members said they supported the proposal and it was agreed to write to the Minister.

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

7(b)/5-2

Members noted the report for the proposed Kanturk Firestation.

Proposed by Councillor John P. O'Shea

Seconded by Councillor Timmy Collins

RESOLVED:

“Noting that in accordance with Article 179 of the Local Government (Planning and Development) Act, 2000, notice of the proposed development was published, that 1 no. submissions were received in respect of the proposal, approval pursuant to Article 179 of the said Act is given for the following:-

Kanturk Firestation, Kanturk, Co. Cork

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

7(c)/5-2

Members noted the report for the proposed Kanturk Link Road.

Proposed by Councillor John P. O'Shea

Seconded by Councillor Timmy Collins

RESOLVED:

“Noting that in accordance with Article 179 of the Local Government (Planning and Development) Act, 2000, 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:-

Kanturk Link Road, Kanturk, Co. Cork

EAST CORK MUNICIPAL DISTRICT:

8/5-2

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

Members noted the report outlining the proposed L3622 CBC Road and L3677 Ashlin Road Improvement Scheme, Midleton.

Proposed by Councillor Noel Collins

Seconded by Councillor Michael Hegarty

RESOLVED:

“Noting that in accordance with Article 179 of the Local Government (Planning and Development) Act, 2000, notice of the proposed development was published, that 5 No. submissions were received in respect of the proposal, approval pursuant to Article 179 of the said Act is given for the following:-

L3622 CBS Road and L3677 Ashlin Road Improvement Scheme, Midleton

WEST CORK MUNICIPAL DISTRICT:

9/5-2

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

Members noted the report outlining the proposed Clonakilty Fire Station.

Proposed by Councillor Joe Carroll

Seconded by Councillor Danny Collins

RESOLVED:

“Noting that in accordance with Article 179 of the Local Government (Planning and Development) Act, 2000, 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:-

Clonakilty Fire Station

COBH MUNICIPAL DISTRICT:

10/5-2

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

Members noted the report outlining the proposed renovation and extension to existing Playground at Five Foot Way Carpark, Whitepoint, Cobh, Co. Cork.

Proposed by Councillor Sinead Sheppard

Seconded by Councillor Kieran McCarthy

RESOLVED:

“Noting that in accordance with Article 179 of the Local Government (Planning and Development) Act, 2000, 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:-

Renovation and extension to existing Playground at Five Foot Way Carpark, Whitepoint, Cobh, Co. Cork.

ROADS MANAGEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT:

11/5-2

Members noted the County of Cork Road Traffic Special Speed Limit (Regional & Local Roads) Bye-Laws 2017.

Proposed by Councillor Frank O'Flynn

Seconded by Councillor Tim Collins

RESOLVED:

“In accordance with Section 9 of the Road Traffic Act, 2004, as amended, the County of Cork Road Traffic Special Speed Limit (Regional & Local Roads) Bye-Laws 2017 are hereby adopted by Cork County Council.”

CORRESPONDENCE FROM GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING, PLANNING, COMMUNITY AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT.

12/5-2

Members noted letter dated 4th May, 2017, from the Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government, in response to Council’s letter in relation to Council’s motion regarding dog licences.

Councillor Des O’Grady stated that he was disappointed with the response, and that the matter should be referred back to the Minister outlining that current exemptions under the Control of Dogs legislation should be amended to particularly include assistance dogs for children with autism.

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

HEALTH SERVICE EXECUTIVE

13/5-2

Members noted letter dated 5th May, 2017, from the HSE, in response to Council’s letter of 15th February, 2017 regarding the restoration of SouthDoc in Kinsale.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATIONS, CLIMATE ACTION & ENVIRONMENT

14/5-2

Members noted letter dated 8th May, 2017, in response to Council’s Motion of 24th October, 2016, regarding Post Offices.

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING, PLANNING, COMMUNITY AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT.

15/5-2

Members noted letter dated 10th May, 2017, from the Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government, in response to Council’s letter of 27th April, 2017 regarding the designation of the southern side of Carrigaline as a Rent Pressure Zone.

Councillor Eoghan Jeffers thanked the Department for the response received, and welcomed the announcement of a review of Rent Pressure Zones in June 2017.

NOTICES OF MOTION

HARDSHIP EXPERIENCED BY HOMELESSNESS

16/5-2

Councillor Diarmaid O Cadhla proposed, seconded by Councillor Kieran McCarthy, the following notice of motion:-

“That Council consider the crisis in housing and the hardships experienced by homelessness, ‘couch surfing’ and by ever increasing rents. That Council consider the difficulties faced by

young couples unable to acquire a home at reasonable cost and the consequent difficulties that creates for the establishment of new families.

Council therefore resolves as follows, without prejudice to the Minister’s ‘Rebuilding Ireland - Housing Action Plan’:

1. That Council should include provision for direct investment in public housing in its annual Budget for 2018.
2. That the Chief Executive submit a report identifying existing Council owned properties where it may be possible to provide public housing.
3. That the Chief Executive submit a report to Council on strategies for direct investment in public housing, including outline costings for different quantities of units at a selection of the above properties and the expected lead time for full delivery of such projects.
4. That the Chief Executive submit a report to Council showing the average cost of a single new public housing unit, and, based on average public housing rents, show what period of time it takes to recover such investment. The cost of ongoing maintenance, finance, and reasonable overheads should be included in the report.
5. That Council encourages all members to open public discussion on the question of housing in the Municipal Areas, and in doing so to ask the people what priorities they would like to see in the Council’s Budget for 2018.
6. That Council schedule a Special Meeting following the August holiday to consider the housing crisis with a view to formulating policy based on priorities expressed by the people during public consultation.”

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

1. All construction projects for Social Housing are 100% funded by Central Government. The Annual Budget of Cork County Council relates to current and not capital expenditure and the focus within the Housing Directorate activities within the Annual Budget is on maintenance, social operations, rent collection & administration, homeless services, community development & support, support to the Capital Programme, RAS Programme, HAP administration, & Grants. The Council’s Capital programme provides for investment in construction. A Housing Capital Programme in the sum of €191.7m was recently (April 2017) approved by the Members of Cork County Council for the next three years to develop various schemes and projects throughout the County. Within this budget there is a provision for €160.5m of expenditure on new social housing. Aside from the Capital Programme there are also a number of sites in Cork County identified for the development of housing through a public private partnership approach.

The sites identified for Social Housing Construction include;

Project Name	No. of Units
2017 Delivery	
Tur Liath, Oliver Plunkett Hill, Fermoy	10
Total	10
2018 Delivery	
90 Castletreasure Grove, Douglas	1
Fairfield, Masseytown, Macroom (Phase 1)	7
81 Belmont Place, Cobh	1
Radharc na Chroisigin, Model Village, Dripsey	6

12 & 14 Droum, Castletownbere	2
Newtown House, Bantry	1
Ard na Greine, Courtmacsherry	15
Stag Park, Mitchelstown	3
Station Road, Blarney	16
Brigown Rd., Mitchelstown	6
Bluepool, Kanturk	16
Townshend St., Skibbereen (LAGS)	6
Kearneys Field, Dunmanway	20
Sleaveen East, Macroom	5
Cloyne, East Cork	9
Total	114
2019 Delivery	
Kilnagleary, Carrigaline (Phase 1)	49
Kilnagleary, Carrigaline (Phase 2 & 3)	38
Poulavone, Ballincollig	67
Beechfield, Fermoy	6
Beechgrove, Clonakilty	56
Total	216
Overall Total SHIP Construction	340

Turnkey Housing	No. of Units
2017 Delivery	
Castletreasure Douglas Phase 2	16
An Faill, Cul Ard, Carrigtwohill	29
Castletreasure Douglas Phase 3	12
College Manor, Cobh	32
Bandon	11
Clondulane, Fermoy	2
Total	102
2018 Delivery	
Abbeywood, Midleton	61
Crann Ard, Fermoy	52
Whitechurch	8
Bantry	30
Kanturk	25
Castletownbere	16
Millstreet	6
Youghal	40

Powdermills, Ballincollig	34
Town Centre Dunmanway	20
Station Road, Carrigtwohill	25
Total	317
Overall Total Turnkey Units	419

2. The Council owns a significant amount of property that is suitable for Social Housing and many of these sites have been identified in the above SHIP Construction capital programme. Other sites are currently being assessed for suitability.

The Council's Voids Programme for 2017 will return 80 social properties to productive use.

3. The delivery year associated with the development of each site is outlined in the above tables. As new projects come on stream they are added to the Table at the appropriate delivery date.
4. The average cost of providing a new 3 bedroomed Social House in Cork County currently is approximately €210,000 and the average Social rent is approximately €200 per month. The cost of the development of social housing is not linked to rents. Local Authority rent is calculated on the basis of a Differential Rent Scheme that is based on income with allowances for the number of dependents in each household. Rents are calculated on having regard to the individual circumstances in each household irrespective of the cost of providing a house or its location.

The Housing Revenue Budget, which provides for current expenditure associated with the activities detailed above is €49m for 2017, annual income from rents is approximately €17m.

During a discussion that followed, Members made the following points:

- Members thanked the Director of Services, Housing, for the report.
- The motion was designed to address the housing crisis in advance of the Budget Meeting for next year.
- It was hoped that the motion would lead to formal discussions on the housing crisis in each of the Municipal Districts.
- It is up to Members to put forward proposals on how to deal with the housing crisis.
- Some Members felt that they have no say on how social housing is allocated/built or developed.
- The Council does not have the finances to construct social housing directly.
- The Council needs to adopt a policy of constructing housing.
- Government has allocated billions in funding under the Social Housing Strategy; however, houses are still not being built.
- Government policy over the past 10-15 years has been to move people into the private rental market.
- In Fermoy Town only 10 houses have been delivered in the past 15 years.
- A proposal should be put forward under the Local Infrastructure Housing Activation Fund (LIHAF), that social housing should be constructed by the Council.
- This Council should adopt policies for the social & affordable housing sectors.
- Specific housing types need to be examined
- There is a need to identify how much property does the Council own that is "shovel ready", and in what areas.
- The turnaround time for voids is too long.
- Families are losing out, and the biggest losers are families living in hotels.

The Chief Executive said the motion was seeking Members engagement in the formulation of the Council's housing budget process, and that this already takes place. In September, Members will commence discussions on the Local Property Tax and the Member's decision to increase or decrease the LPT rate would affect the level of services that the Council could deliver in 2018. The Chief Executive said that following the LPT discussions, the budget preparation process would commence at Corporate Policy Group and Development Committee, and would be followed by the Municipal District Budget Allocation discussions.

The Chief Executive said that Council's annual housing budget relates to its maintenance programme and not capital delivery. The Council operates under a 3 year capital budget and has reached/exceeded all of its housing targets. The Chief Executive informed Members that the Council is currently examining its future housing needs from 2018 onwards and that a housing construction program will commence in 2018 -2019 and beyond under the next 3 year capital programme.

The Chief Executive said it would not be prudent to advance the purchase of houses to meet the Council short term needs until a commitment was received from the Department. The Chief Executive said that in September the Director of Services, Housing would provide the Development Committee with a comprehensive report on how the Council is delivering on its objectives under the Housing Strategy and would provide details of void units. The Development Committee would also be briefed with details of land suitable for development in Council ownership in areas where there is a demand for housing.

Members welcomed the Chief Executive's response and made the following additional points;

- There is a need to set a marker on the point of housing.
- The provision of public housing should be at zero cost to Cork County Council over a period of time.
- Cost estimates for the provision of housing should be identified.
- Provision for financing loans needs to be examined.
- Start identifying unused sites for 1 off houses in towns and villages.

The Mayor asked for confirmation that Members were in agreement with the Chief Executive's proposal to provide in September a report on housing to the Development Committee. Members agreed to the Chief Executive's proposal.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS FOR RETENTION

17/5-2

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

“To seek a written report on the number of planning applications for Retention made in the last 3 years. The report to include the total number of retention applications made in 2014, 2015 and 2016, the number that were successful and the number refused. The report to include separately the total number of applicants that applied for new planning permission at the same time as seeking retention over the 3 years and the outcomes. With regard to the number of retention applications that were refused the action taken by the Council against transgressors to be outlined giving the final outcome and the numbers in each category.”

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

	Received		Decisions made			
	Permission for Retention only	Permission & Permission for Retention	Permission for Retention only		Permission & Permission for Retention	
			<i>Granted</i>	<i>Refused</i>	<i>Granted</i>	<i>Refused</i>
2014	294	181	263	12	143	9
2015	309	214	268	3	168	6
2016	315	245	270	11	215	5

Figures for the last three years above. It should be noted that the Decisions column refers to decisions made within the quoted year not decisions made on the applications quoted for the same year, i.e., a decision made in early 2014 may relate to an application received in 2013.

It should also be noted that not all retention applications relate to unauthorised developments – retention permission may be sought to retain a telecommunications mast/temporary classroom for a period in excess of that originally permitted. A number of these applications will have arisen from existing enforcement cases but precise details would not be available.

During a discussion that followed, Members made the following points:

- Members thanked the Director of Services, Planning, for the report.
- 87% of retentions were granted.
- 82% of retentions with application for permission were granted.
- The statistics are very useful but sadly the numbers are of no surprise.
- Figures are damning
- The message being sent out is to build without permission and apply for retention later
- A quarterly report from Planning should be presented to full Council.
- Report to provide a breakdown of the types of retention applied for
- Perception that majority of retentions relate to houses built with no permission
- There was a perception that most retention applications related to houses.
- Applications generally arise from small extensions and perimeter walls being too high.
- Is there a problem with serial offenders?
- Statute of limitations is impacting on enforcement cases.

The Chief Executive said the Council is at times criticised for not granting permission, and also for granting permission to regularise development. 6-7% of planning applications are retention for minor development issues such as small extensions and the opening of entrances onto land. Applicants apply for retention in order to obtain a certificate of compliance and sell a property. The figures outlined in the report reflect the Planning Department's active procedure of identifying unauthorised development and demonstrates very strong activity by the Council in responding to unauthorised development. The Chief Executive said that he was happy to bring reports on planning to full Council.

Members thanked the Chief Executive for the figures provided, and made the following additional points:

- No information on the number of enforcement cases was made available.
- Full planning permission should not be granted until after retention has been dealt with.

INCREASE SERVICES AVAILABLE AT LOCAL POST OFFICES

18/5-2

Councillor Paul Hayes proposed, seconded by Councillor John Paul O'Shea, the following notice of motion:-

“This Council writes to the relevant Government Department(s) asking what practical steps it has proposed or implemented to increase services available at local Post Offices in an effort to make them more viable and lessen the chances of their impending closure”

During a discussion that followed, Members made the following points:

- The matter was previously raised under “Any other Business” at the March meeting.
- The An Post Chief Executive announced that between 80 and 200 post offices face closure.
- 1/3 of Post Offices have closed in the past 20 years.
- 1,100 Post Offices left in the Country, of which over 50% are loss making.
- Post Offices primarily handle social protection payments.
- The Department of Social Protection is moving towards electronic transfers of money
- The Board and Management of An Post are dismantling the Post Office structure from within.
- The Board of An Post has reduced the remuneration of Postmasters in local post offices while at the same time sanctioning massive bonuses to the CEO.
- The increase in the price of the stamp will kill of Post Offices.
- Closure of Post Offices has a massive impact on rural communities
- The Kerr report on the future of the Post Office Network put forward very good proposed services that could be provided through Post Offices.
- There is a need for implementation of the actions proposed in the 3 reports on rural Post Offices.
- Pressure needs to be put on T.D's in relation to this issue.
- The Chief Executive Officer of An Post should be invited to attend a Development Committee meeting.

The Mayor and Members said they fully supported the motion, and agreed to write to the relevant Ministers.

Members also agreed to write to An Post and invite An Post's Chief Executive Officer to attend the Council's Development Committee meeting.

CAPITAL GAINS TAX

19/5-2

Councillor Joe Harris proposed, seconded by Councillor Timmy Collins, the following notice of motion:-

“I request this Council to pass a motion calling on the minister to reduce Capital Gains Tax for a 12 month period to 15% in order to get the vacant housing market moving.”

During a discussion that followed, Members made the following points:

- Properties are not coming on the market due to Capital Gains Tax
- The 12 period proposed in the motion should be increased to 24 months.

- There are countless houses lying idle in our towns and villages
- The Council should purchase these idle houses and revitalise the towns/villages.
- People should not pay CGT if selling a house to the Council.
- Members expressed concern that any reduction would reduce the State finances.
- There is a need to generate taxes and reinvest it in social housing
- Capital Gains Tax was reduced in the 2017 Budget, yet the Housing Crisis has worsened.
- Members raised concerns that a reduction in Capital Gains Tax would also apply to transfers of wealth.
- A reduction in the tax should just be in relation to the housing market and not across the board.

Members agreed to write to the Minister for Finance.

INTEREST RATES

20/5-2

Councillor Noel Collins proposed, seconded by Councillor Michael Hegarty, the following notice of motion:-

“That this Council call on the Minister for Finance to intervene, by way of legislation, with Banks & other Financial Institutions, to prevent them gouging mortgage holders, with penal interest rates.”

During a discussion that followed, Members made the following points:

- In the past 6 years, 7,500 family homes have been repossessed.
- 45,000 mortgages are in long term arrears.
- 33, 000 residential mortgages are more than 2 years in arrears
- Spiralling house prices make it more attractive for banks and vulture funds to reposes homes.
- Banks and Financial Institutions’ were left run riot with regards to mortgage lending.
- The Central Bank is also complicit with the lending institutions.
- People are being viewed as clients and not citizens of this country.
- There is a need to hold those responsible to account and to compensate those affected.
- The pressure being put on families by banks is immense.
- Changes to bankruptcy laws are 10 years too late.
- Legislation is urgently needed to help those affected before it is too late.
- Existing tenants need to be protected when a house is repossessed.
- Banks are contacting mortgage holders seeking increased payments and changes to existing agreements.

Members agreed to write to the Minister for Finance.

RATIFY THE RIGHTS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

21/5-2

Councillor Danielle Twomey proposed, seconded by Councillor June Murphy, the following notice of motion:-

“That this Council ask the Minister of State, Finian McGrath, to clarify if Ireland will ratify the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities within the Year of 2017, as stated previously, and if the remaining points within the 'road map to ratification' have commenced and a timescale for such.”

During a discussion that followed, Members made the following points:

- Ireland signed the convention 10 years ago however the Government has yet to ratify the convention treaty.
- We are the only EU State yet to ratify the convention.
- North Korea has even ratified the convention.
- Sent a clear message that people with disabilities are not a priority of the Government
- People with disabilities have the right to live their lives the same as everyone else.
- Most local authorities has signed up to the Barcelona Convention

Members agreed to write to the Minister.

VOTES OF CONGRATULATIONS

22/5-2

TO: Everton AFC on winning the 1st Division, and their promoted to the Premier Division, Munster Senior League.

TO: Joan Tobin on her retirement from the Cork County Library.

TO: The players and management of the Cork Senior Hurling Team following their recent Senior Hurling Championship Quarter Final win over Tipperary,

TO: Darragh Fitzgibbon, Charleville G.A.A on his selection to the Cork Senior Hurling Team

TO: Wilton United FC on winning the Youth Premier League.

TO: Cork County Council on the recent opening of the new Dunmanway Swimming Pool

TO: Corporate Services Department on the tremendous success of the Cork County Mayor's Community Awards.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

23/5-2

NATIONAL TAKING IN CHARGE SCHEME

Councillor Christopher O'Sullivan queried if the National Taking in Charge Scheme would be going ahead in 2017, and also whether the Council had a "Slush Fund" in relation to housing estate across the County that are yet to be taken in charge.

The Chief Executive said the he would seek clarification on the points raised and would revert back to Members with a response.

CORK AIRPORT

Councillor Paul Hayes told Members of the inaugural flight operated by Wow Air between Reykjavik and Cork Airports. Councillor Hayes asked for a meeting to be arranged with Management in Cork Airport, so that Members could be provided with an update on the future plans for the airport.

Members agreed to write to Management in Cork Airport to arrange a meeting.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

DISCONTINUATION OF MILLSTEET AMBULANCE SERVICE

During a discussion on the matter Members made the following points:-

- Last Wednesday the ambulance serving Millstreet was discontinued with no prior notification or consultation.
- Understand that there was an issue with resources but it is up to all agencies to manage their resources effectively.
- Members of the Regional Health Forum did not hear about this until after the service was cancelled.
- The Millstreet ambulance was operating between 8am and 8pm and received on average 4 calls per day
- The rapid response vehicle that operates outside of these hours was introduced as a cost cutting exercise.
- The rapid response vehicle cannot provide transportation to a hospital.
- The ambulance service is being decimated and that people are afraid.
- There will be increased pressure on the ambulances serving Macroom, Kanturk and Killarney as each call takes on average 3 to 4 hours to respond to.

Members agreed to write to the Head of the National Ambulance Service requesting a meeting with the Municipal District Members in relation to the withdrawal of ambulance services.

AN BORD PLEANÁLA

Members made the following points:-

- On Monday 15th May, An Bord Pleanála received further information from Indaver in respect of the application for the proposed waste incinerator at Ringaskiddy.
- Third Parties only became aware through the media that the information had been received.
- An Bord Pleanála has not made available the further information it received.
- In the past, An Bord Pleanála gave third parties only 6 weeks to assess over 4,000 pages of information and 263 drawings relating to the proposed incinerator.
- It was clear that there was not a level playing field between the applicant and those in opposition to the application.

Members agreed to write to An Bord Pleanála, requesting that the further information be made available to all interested third parties and that An Bord Plea provide third parties with ample time consider the further information and respond.

This concluded the business of the Meeting