

Public Document Pack

Minutes of Leitrim County Council held in the Council Chamber, Áras an Chontae, Carrick on Shannon, Co. Leitrim on Monday, 6 January 2020

Members Present: Councillor Sean McGowan
Councillor Brendan Barry
Councillor Mary Bohan
Councillor Frank Dolan
Councillor Gerry Dolan
Councillor Caillian Ellis
Councillor Pádraig Fallon
Councillor Paddy Farrell
Councillor Des Guckian
Councillor Felim Gurn
Councillor Sean McDermott
Councillor Finola Armstrong McGuire
Councillor Thomas Mulligan
Councillor Paddy O'Rourke
Councillor Ita Reynolds Flynn
Councillor Enda Stenson
Councillor Justin Warnock

Councillor Enda McGloin (Cathaoirleach) presiding

Officials Present: Lar Power, Chief Executive
Joseph Gilhooly, Director of Services, Economic Development, Planning and Infrastructural Services
Vincent Dwyer, Head of Finance, Finance, Water, Environment, Climate Action and Cultural Services
Mary Quinn, Director of Services, Housing, Corporate Services, Community and Cultural Services
Samantha Healy, Senior Executive Officer Corporate Services and Housing
Kieran Brett, Meetings Administrator
Kathleen Ellis, Assistant Staff Officer
Vivienne Egan, Senior Executive Planner
Justin Fannon, Senior Executive Officer Housing Capital
Bernard Greene, Senior Planner
Terry McGovern, Senior Engineer
Marie Mulligan, Senior Executive Engineer
Shay O'Connor, Senior Engineer
Una Wynne, Financial Management Accountant

MM.1.20 Votes of Sympathy

At the outset of the meeting Councillor Paddy O'Rourke requested the opportunity to pay

tribute to the late Jim Joe Shortt former Elected Member of Leitrim County Council. Councillor Paddy O'Rourke and the Members commended the late Jim Joe Shortt for his outstanding contribution to public office as an Elected Member of Leitrim County Council for 30 years from 1979 to 2009 and extended their sympathy to his dear friend Maureen Doherty and his family.

The Chief Executive on his own behalf, and on behalf of the staff, also extended his sympathy to the Shortt family.

Proposed by Councillor Paddy O'Rourke, Seconded by Councillor Mary Bohan and unanimously Resolved:-

"That Leitrim County Council adjourns the meeting for 15 minutes as a mark of respect to Jim Joe Shortt, recently deceased, former Elected Member of Leitrim County Council".

The Members extended a vote of sympathy to the following:

- Sr Isobella Hoban, Main Street, Carrigallen, Co Leitrim on the death of Vincent Hoban.
- Roisin Costello & Family, Corglass, Ballinaglera, Co Leitrim on the death of Patrick Costello.
- Noel Beirne, Mahanagh, Drumshanbo on the death of Mai Beirne.
- Pat Gallagher, Aughoo, Ballinamore, Co Leitrim on the death of Mary Gallagher.
- Cathal Gormley, Geevagh, Co Sligo on the death of Bridie Gormley.
- The Gannon Family, Wyndcrest, Ballindrimley, Castlerea, Co. Roscommon on the death of F.Gerard M. Gannon.
- Paul McHugh, Bunnybeg, Eslin Bridge, Carrick-on-Shannon, Co Leitrim on the death of Noelle McHugh.
- The Notley Family, Main Street, Dromod, Co Leitrim on the death of Violet Notley.
- The Gallagher Family, Tawlaughtbeg, Mohill, Co Leitrim on the death of John Gallagher
- The Reynolds Family, Cloneagh, Bornacoola, Dromod, Co Leitrim on the death of Brian Reynolds.
- The Faughnan Family, Dromod Village, Dromod, Co Leitrim on the death of Brian Faughnan.
- The Tiernan Family, Cloone Village, Cloone, Co Leitrim on the death of Maureen Tiernan.

MM.2.20 Adoption of Minutes

"That the Minutes of Leitrim County Council Meeting held in Aras An Chontae, Carrick-on-Shannon, Co Leitrim on Monday, 4th November 2019 be adopted".

Councillor Des Guckian requested the following amendment to the Minutes of 4th November 2019 Council Meeting under his motion on development funding:-

“Councillor Des Guckian’s motion was supported by Councillor Paddy O’Rourke and Councillor Justin Warnock”.

The above amendment to the Minutes was agreed by the Members to be incorporated into the Minutes of 4th November 2019.

Proposed by Councillor Mary Bohan seconded by Councillor Sean McGowan and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED:

“That the Minutes of Leitrim County Council Budget Meeting held in Aras An Chontae, Carrick-on-Shannon, Co Leitrim on Monday, 11th November 2019 be adopted”.

MM.3.20 To receive report on Programme of Capital Projects for the forthcoming three years in accordance with Section 135 of the Local Government Act, 2001 as amended

Report dated 2nd January 2020 from Mr Lar Power, Chief Executive on Leitrim County Council’s Programme of Capital Projects for the forthcoming three years, in accordance with the provisions of Section 135 of the Local Government Act 2001, as amended, as circulated to each Member appears as **Appendix 1** to the Minutes of this Meeting in the Minute Book.

The following comments were raised by Members:-

Councillor Brendan Barry sought an update on Carrick-on-Shannon Water Treatment Plant Extension & Leitrim Regional Water Supply Scheme and the construction of Turnkey Projects on Dowra Road, Drumshanbo.

Mr Joseph Gilhooly, Director of Services, advised that works were being carried out to ensure proper water treatment standards are in place and advised that the Rossinver water supply scheme is being developed.

Ms Mary Quinn, Director of Services advised that the construction of Turnkey Projects on Dowra Road, Drumshanbo is a scheme delivered in 2019.

Councillor Des Guckian expressed his concerns in regard to the Flood Relief Scheme-CFRAMS for towns and villages and to the large loans to finance the Programme of Capital Projects for the forthcoming three years and stated he opposed an extension of the N4 design proposals at Annaduff as the local people are very concerned about the loss of their rights along the N4.

Mr Joseph Gilhooly advised that every effort is being made to expedite the Flood Relief Scheme.

Councillor Sean McDermott queried if other projects come on stream will they be included in this programme.

Mr Lar Power, Chief Executive advised that Leitrim County Council is going to avail of every

possible opportunity and some projects will fall in and some may fall out.

Councillor Sean McGowan paid tribute to the ambitious Plan and said there is a need for a By Pass in Carrick-on-Shannon and he welcomed the Rural Regeneration Scheme for Mohill.

Mr Gilhooly advised that the N4 is listed on the TII projects list and that the road will be designed and built in accordance with TIII standards.

Councillor Justin Warnock queried if there was any funding available for the R280.

Mr Gilhooly advised that works will continue on the R280 through the Restoration and Improvement Works programme and no large scheme is currently planned for this road.

The report was noted by the Members.

MM.4.20 Capital Investment Programme - Phase 1 Raising of Loan:

Report dated 2nd January 2020 from Joseph Gilhooly, Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Economic Development, Planning & Infrastructure Services in regard to raising a loan of €8.1 m to meet the overall projected match funding requirement for Phase 1 of the Capital Investment Programme for the period 2020-2025 as circulated to each Member appears as **Appendix 2** to the Minutes of this Meeting in the Minute Book.

Proposed by Councillor Paddy O'Rourke, seconded by Councillor Sean McDermott and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED:

"That the raising of a loan of €8.1m for the purposes of matched funding required for Phase 1 of the Capital Investment Programme for the Period 2020-2025 be approved".

MM.5.20 Capital Investment Programme 2020-2025 - Phase II - Loan Reassignment

Notice to approve the reassignment of €5m borrowing (previously approved for the construction of Phase II of the Civic Office development at Carrick on Shannon at Council meeting 6th March 2017) to provide match funding for the Phase 1 of the Capital Investment Programme 2020-2025.

Proposed by Councillor Finola Armstrong McGuire, seconded by Councillor Felim Gurn and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED:

"That the reassignment of €5m borrowing (previously approved for the construction of Phase II of the Civic Office development at Carrick on Shannon at Council meeting 6th March 2017) to provide match funding for the Phase 1 of the Capital Investment Programme 2020-2025 be approved".

MM.6.20 Annual Service Delivery Plan 2020

The Draft Annual Service Delivery Plan, 2020 as circulated to the Members appears as

Appendix 3 to the Minutes of this meeting in the Minute Book.

Proposed by Councillor Enda Stenson, seconded by Councillor Mary Bohan and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED:

“That Leitrim County Council’s Annual Service Delivery Plan, 2020 be adopted”.

MM.7.20 Traveller Representative Nominations to the Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee

Report dated 19th December 2019 from Administrative Officer, Corporate Services with the Traveller Representative Nominations to the Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee in accordance with the provisions of Section 22 of the Housing (Traveller Accommodation) Act 1998 as circulated to each Member appears as **Appendix 4** to the Minutes of this Meeting in the Minute Book.

Proposed by Councillor Finola Armstrong McGuire, seconded by Councillor Enda Stenson and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED:

“That the Traveller Representative Nominations to the Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee in accordance with the provisions of Section 22 of the Housing (Traveller Accommodation) Act 1998 be approved”.

MM.8.20 Membership of the Strategic Policy Committees

Report dated 23rd December 2019 from the Kieran Brett, Administrative Officer, Corporate Services with the Membership of the Strategic Policy Committees as circulated to each Member appears as **Appendix 5** to the Minutes of this Meeting in the Minute Book.

Ms Quinn advised that one member opted not to participate on any Strategic Policy Committee and therefore a vacancy exists for an elected Member on the Planning, Economic Development and Infrastructure SPC and she confirmed the matter had been discussed by the CPG and that Cllr Justin Warnock has volunteered to be a member this SPC.

Proposed by Councillor Sean McGowan seconded by Councillor Paddy Farrell and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED:

“That the Membership of the Strategic Policy Committees be approved”.

MM.9.20 Update on Broadband

Update on National Broadband Plan dated 2nd January 2020 from Joseph Gilhooly, Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Services, Economic Development, Planning & Infrastructural Service as circulated to each Member appears as **Appendix 6** to the Minutes of this Meeting in the Minute Book.

The following comments were raised by Members.

- Clarification sought if it is 'Fibre to the home' that is to be delivered.
- Concern expressed that the service is very unsatisfactory in Drumkeeran with service only available on one side of the Road.
- Community Groups cannot get any up to date information in relation to National Rollout to community centres.
- The service would have been more beneficial if it had been rolled out to National Schools who are located close to Community Centres and are open whereby members of the public can use this service during the day.
- Clarification sought on who is going to open Community Centres for the public to use the necessary service.

Mr Joseph Gilhooly responded as follows:-

- The plan has been developed on the 'fibre to the home' concept.
- Broadband Officer will follow up with EIR in relation to issues in Drumkeeran.
- 13 community centre locations are county wide
- Rollout is quite comprehensive

Councillor Sean McDermott noted that the School in Glenfarne can have a service for themselves or can share with the Community and there is no requirement to have someone in the school in order to use the service.

Councillor Justin Warnock welcomed the service in the Askill and Aghanlish Community Centres and noted the service will enhance these areas.

Councillor Des Guckian referred to the map showing the huge gaps in the broadband provision and referred to the many people who are forced to pay private contractors to provide services.

Councillor Enda Stenson proposed that a Broadband Clinic be held for Elected Members.

Mr Joseph Gilhooly advised that Ms Johanna Daly is the Broadband Officer and all issues in relation to broadband can be taken up with her in this regard.

Councillor Ita Reynolds Flynn noted that a Broadband Meeting has been scheduled for 3 pm on the 14th February 2020 with Community Groups and she highlighted that the time is unsuitable for many members who will be working at this time.

Mr Gilhooly advised that this will be taken up with the Broadband Officer.

MM.10.20 Leitrim Heritage Plan 2020-2025

Leitrim Heritage Plan 2020-2025 as circulated to the Members appears as **Appendix 7** to the Minutes of the this meeting in the Minutes Book.

Ms Sarah Malone, Heritage Officer gave a presentation on Leitrim Heritage Plan 2020-2025.

The Members paid tribute to the Heritage Officer for her work in the development of

Leitrim Heritage Plan for the whole of the county.

The Members raised the following:-

- Cllr Felim Gurn called for a review of Heritage Town Status or Designation. This was supported by Councillor Sean McGowan and Cllr Ita Reynolds Flynn.
- Councillor Padraig Fallon proposed that the Sean MacDiarmada's Homestead be continuously promoted. It was noted that there is no staff employed in the winter time to show tourists around. Councillor Justin Warnock supported this and referred to the discovery of the Metholic Tomb in Kiltyclogher recently.
- Cllr Des Guckian called for the promotion of O'Carolan, venues for Irish Traditional Music and Dance to be promoted and also protection of ownership and rights to cut turf on their bogs.

Councillor Felim Gurn proposed that Leitrim County Council calls on the Minister for Community Heritage and the Gaeltacht, Joseph Madigan T.D., and the Minister for Rural and Community Development Michael Ring T.D. to reintroduce a scheme whereby small towns with a population of less than 1,500 can achieve a heritage town designation or status. Councillor Mary Bohan supported the proposal.

Councillor Finola Armstrong McGuire welcomed the public consultation on the Leitrim Heritage Plan. Cathaoirleach, Cllr Enda McGloin concurred with Cllr Armstrong McGuire and said it is important to encourage the public to make submissions in this regard.

Councillor Des Guckian noted it is important that Historical sites are not forgotten about.

In response to the issues raised Ms Sarah Malone commended the Members for their support on the Leitrim Heritage Plan.

Proposed by Councillor Sean McDermott seconded by Councillor Paddy Farrell and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED:

“That the draft Heritage Plan 2020-2025 be put on public display for a period of 4 weeks”.

MM.11.20 Corporate Policy Group Report

Ms Mary Quinn, Director of Services, Housing, Corporate Services, Community and Cultural Services outlined that the Corporate Policy Group considered the following:-

- Update on Capital Report 2020-2025
- Update on the Annual Service Delivery Plan 2020
- Draft Heritage Plan 2020-2025
- Meeting request from Fermanagh & Omagh District Council with a small group of members to discuss Tourism in the region. Agreed by the Corporate Policy Group that members of the Planning, Economic Development and Infrastructure SPC, whose remit includes tourism, would attend the meeting.
- Review of items listed on the agenda for the Council meeting.
- Attendance of Members at forthcoming Conferences/Seminars was agreed by the

Corporate Policy Group.

MM.12.20 Monthly Management Reports by Chief Executive

Monthly Management Reports for the period 1st October 2019 to 31st October 2019 and 1st November 2019 to 30th November 2019 by Lar Power, Chief Executive, dated 15th November 2019 and 12th December 2019 respectively, prepared in accordance with Section 136 (2) of the Local Government Act, 2001 as inserted by Section 51 of the Local Government Reform Act, 2014, as circulated to the Members, appears as **Appendix 8** and **Appendix 9** to the Minutes of this meeting in the Minute Book.

These reports were noted by Members.

Councillor Des Guckian queried as to how much was received from Minister Ring for the My Open Library Service in 2020.

Ms Mary Quinn advised that she will revert to the Member in question with the amount received.

MM.13.20 Section 138(1) of the Local Government Act 2001

Ms Mary Quinn, Director of Services, Housing, Community, Corporate Services, Culture and Emergency Services outlined that there were no commitments to note under this item.

MM.14.20 Conferences/Training

“That the attendance of Cllr Finola Armstrong McGuire at the AILG training in Cavan on the 13th February 2020 be approved”.

“That the attendance of Cllr Enda McGloin at the Leitrim Peoples Association Dinner Dance in London on the 29th February to 2nd March 2020 be approved”.

“That the attendance of Cllr Caillian Ellis, Councillor Paddy O’Rourke, Councillor Justin Warnock, Councillor Paddy Farrell, Councillor Felim Gurn, Councillor Padraig Fallon and Councillor Brendan Barry at the AILG Training in Waterford on the 15th February 2020 be approved”.

“That the attendance of Cllr Mary Bohan and Councillor Enda McGloin at the Pride of Place National Awards in Kilkenny on the 30th November 2019 be retrospectively approved”.

“That the attendance of Cllr Enda McGloin at the Chambers of Ireland Awards 2019 in Santry, Dublin on the 28th November 2019 be retrospectively approved”.

“That the attendance of Cllr Enda McGloin at the National Enterprise Awards in the Lyrath Estate, Kilkenny on the 5th December 2019 be retrospectively approved”.

“That the attendance of Cllr Ita Reynolds Flynn at the AILG Training in Tipperary on the 13th

July 2019 be retrospectively approved”.

“That the attendance of Cllr Sean McGowan at the 120th Anniversary of Local Election 1899 in the Custom House, Dublin on the 18th April 2019 be retrospectively approved”.

“That the attendance of Cllr Paddy O’Rourke at a meeting with Minister Stauton in Dail Eireann on the 24th October 2019 be retrospectively approved”.

“That the attendance of Councillor Sean McDermott, Councillor Sean McGowan, Councillor Frank Dolan, Councillor Mary Bohan, Councillor Pdraig Fallon and Councillor Justin Warnock at the Sean MacDiarmada Summer School in June 2019 be retrospectively approved”.

“That the attendance of Cllr Frank Dolan at the Age Friendly Shared Service on Monday 16th December 2019 in Slane Castle, Slane, Co Meath be retrospectively approved”.

MM.15.20 Meeting Correspondence

1. Letter from County Leitrim Society of New York dated 4th November 2019.
2. Resolution from Roscommon County Council dated 11th November 2019 regarding request for the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Health to meet to discuss the proposed closure of Cuisle Centre, Donamon, Co. Roscommon.
3. Letter of acknowledgement dated 19th November 2019 from the Office of Minister from Agriculture, Food and the Marine regarding awareness campaign – roadside trees and Hedges.

Councillor Mary Bohan expressed her disappointment with the reply received in this regard and proposed that a further letter issue to the Minister requesting that there is a need for this awareness campaign.

Councillor Brendan Barry concurred with Cllr Bohan’s remarks on this issue.

4. Letter of acknowledgement dated 20th November 2019 from Office of Public Works regarding areas prone to flooding in County Leitrim.
5. Email received 22nd November 2019 from Office of Minister for Health regarding home help hours.
6. Letter of acknowledgement dated 21st November 2019 from Office of Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government regarding Housing Grant Scheme.

Councillor Paddy O’Rourke expressed his disappointment with the reply received in this regard and pointed out that this would be a very beneficial to the county. Cathaoirleach, Cllr Enda McGloin proposed that a copy of the correspondence issue to the 4 Dail Deputies in the constituency.

7. Letter of acknowledgement dated 21st November 2019 from Central Bank of Ireland regarding dual pricing in the insurance industry.

Councillor Des Guckian expressed his disappointment with the reply received from the Central Bank outlining they do not have a role in relation to the setting of prices of insurance policies or in the approval of premium rates, Councillor Des Guckian called on the Minister for Finance as to who has the role in this regard as people are being ripped off.

8. Letter of acknowledgement dated 25th November 2019 from Office of Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government regarding the review of the 2006 Wind Energy Development Guidelines.
9. Letter from Senator Robbie Gallagher dated 27th November 2019 in relation to PQ regarding sustainable rural housing guidelines following the Flemish Decree.
10. Letter from Richard Bruton, Minister from Communications, Climate Action & Environment regarding the Climate Action Charter.
11. Letter from National Transport Authority dated 10th December 2019 regarding the Local Area Hackney Scheme.
12. Letter from Office of Minister of Transport, Tourism & Sport dated 11th December 2019 regarding Local Area Hackney Scheme.
13. Letter from Office of Minister for Business, Enterprise and Innovation dated 11th December 2019 regarding sourcing new investment and jobs for Leitrim.

Councillor Des Guckian expressed his disappointment with the reply received in this regard and sought clarification on who verifies these figures.

Cathaoirleach, Cllr Enda McGloin welcomed the positive figures and noted they have to stand up to Dáil Deputies questions.

14. Letter from Office of Minister for Finance and Public Expenditure and Reform dated 12th December 2019 regarding the development of the Northern and Western Region.
15. Resolution from Kerry County Council dated 17th December 2019 calling on the Minister from Business, Enterprise and Innovation to remove the cap on County Enterprise Boards.
16. Letter from County Leitrim Society of New York dated 10th December 2019.
17. Letter from IDA Ireland dated 20th December 2019 in relation to industry to Mohill.

18. Email received 23rd December 2019 from Office of Minister for Health regarding home help hours.

19. Letter from Office of Minister for Department of Transport Tourism & Sport dated 31st December 2019 regarding awareness campaign about land owners responsibility for roadside hedges and tree.

Other items raised under Meeting Correspondence

Irish Beef Sector

Councillor Brendan Barry noted that only one reply was received from a retailer on foot of a resolution passed by Leitrim County Council in September in relation to the Irish Beef Campaign.

Commemoration service for members of the Royal Irish Constabulary (RIC) and Dublin Metropolitan Police (DMP) - 17th January 2020

Councillor Mary Bohan expressed her dissatisfaction with the above commemoration and pointed out that it is disgrace and she said she would not like to be represented at it.

Councillor Pdraig Fallon supported Councillor Bohan and said he did not approve of the commemoration.

All supported the motion.

Cathaoirleach, Cllr Enda McGloin outlined he had been invited to this Commemoration in his capacity of Cathaoirleach of Leitrim County Council and his diary was free on this date.

MM.16.20 To receive a delegation from Comhaile na nOg to launch their Use Your Brain Workbook

The Cathaoirleach, Councillor Enda McGloin welcomed Scott Ferns and Grainne Reynolds on behalf of the Comhairle na nOg to the meeting. The Cathaoirleach also welcomed Fiona Taylor, Co-Ordinator of Comhairle na nOg, to the meeting.

A copy of the presentation deliver by the Comhaile na nOg members appears as **Appendix 10** to the Minutes of this meeting in the Minute Book.

The Cathaoirleach, Councillor Enda McGloin and the Members unanimously paid tribute to the students and their mentors. Members said they were very impressed with the issues raised especially Home Care and that not enough emphasis is being placed on apprenticeships. Members outlined that workshops should be held for parents/guardians in relation to Apprenticeships.

MM.17.20 Motion from Councillor Des Guckian:

"The current National Plan, Project Ireland 2040, promotes an urban hierarchy to the detriment of mostly rural counties like Leitrim. Therefore, I seek the support of the members in asking Leitrim County Council to call upon the Government to change it and to devise a National Plan which promotes more balanced development and investment across all parts of Ireland.

I ask that a copy of this motion be circulated to all the other 30 Councils."

Report by Deputy Chief Executive/Director of Services, Economic Development, Planning and Infrastructural Services

"Project Ireland 2040 does not promote an urban hierarchy in isolation from the need to continue to investment in the future of the other areas of the Country. Project Ireland 2040 sets out to achieve a balance between the careful management of the sustainable growth of compact cities, towns and villages that will add value and create more attractive places in which people can live and work along with enhanced regional accessibility but also along with strengthened rural economies and communities. Leitrim to date has secured significant investment arising from these high level objectives of Project Ireland 2040 with key examples being the urban regeneration programme facilitating almost €9m investment in the future of Carrick on Shannon with the municipal district towns of Manorhamilton and Ballinamore securing almost €4m. Similarly the Regional Enterprise Development Fund is supporting the expansion of both the Hive in Carrick on Shannon and the Food Hub in Drumshanbo."

Councillor Des Guckian gave the background to his motion and called on the support of the Leitrim County Council members to call on the Government to change Project Ireland 2040 and devise a National Plan which promotes more balanced development and investment across all parts of Ireland.

Councillor Justin Warnock and Councillor Pdraig Fallon supported the motion. Councillor Paddy O'Rourke commended Cllr Des Guckian for brining the motion forward.

Councillor Enda McGloin paid tribute to the successful decentralisation in Carrick-on-Shannon.

Councillor Paddy O'Rourke noted the difference the Decentralisation of the payments section of the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine which was moved to Cavan and the positive impact this has made in the parish of Carrigallen creating very valuable employment and if this did not happen people would be living on the East Coast of Ireland.

All Members supported the motion.

Councillor Des Guckian welcomed the Members debate on this issue.

Mr Joseph Gilhooly, Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Services, Economic Development, Planning and Infrastructural Services advised that funds for projects are currently depending on Project 2040 e.g. Food Hub and the Hive.

Proposed by Councillor Des Guckian seconded by Councillor Justin Warnock AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED:

"The current National Plan, Project Ireland 2040, promotes an urban hierarchy to the detriment of mostly rural counties like Leitrim. Leitrim County Council call upon the Government to change it and to devise a National Plan which promotes more balanced development and investment across all parts of Ireland. I ask that a copy of this motion be circulated to all the other 30 Councils."

MM.18.20 Motion from Councillor Enda McGloin & Councillor Pdraig Fallon:

It was agreed that Motion No 16 in the name of Councillor Enda McGloin and Motion No 19 in the name of Cllr Pdraig Fallon be taken concurrently as they relation to the same issue.

To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Enda McGloin;

"I call on Leitrim County Council to review the current differential rent scheme. I propose that the review be undertaken by the Housing Strategic Policy Committee early in 2020."

Report by Director of Services, Housing, Corporate Services, Community and Cultural Services

"The matter will be included in the Housing SPC work programme in 2020."

To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Pdraig Fallon;

"I propose that this local authority calls for a review of the income limit criteria used for eligibility purposes for social housing allocation."

Report by Director of Services, Housing, Corporate Services, Community and Cultural Services

"The income limit criteria is set at a national level."

Councillor Enda McGoin confirmed that he is happy with the reply received in this regard.

Councillor Pdraig Fallon outlined that this is the sixth or seventh time he has had a repeated call for a review of the income limit criteria for Social Housing Applicants and it is well beyond time for a review.

The motion was supported by Councillor Bohan who stated she had direct experience with a couple with 3 children with an income just over €32,000 limit and they could not qualify for social housing.

Councillor Mary Bohan proposed that a letter issue to the Minister and the Dail Deputies in this constituency to increase the income limit criteria used for eligibility purposes for social housing allocation.

Councillor Des Guckian supported both motions.

Ms Mary Quinn informed the meeting that a number of Social Housing reforms are being considered at the moment.

Councillor Pdraig Fallon said a review of the scheme had been carried out 18 Months ago and has not been published to date but a request by Deputy Martin Kenny in the Dail under PQ stated results will be published in the near future.

MM.19.20 Motion from Councillor Ita Reynolds Flynn:

"I would like to receive an update with regard to obtaining a permanent unit for people with high dependency disabilities in South Leitrim."

Report by Director of Services, Housing, Corporate Services, Community and Cultural Services

"In order to establish the housing needs for people with disabilities in South Leitrim, to determine eligibility for housing support and potential housing options, housing applications should be completed and submitted. Assistance in this regard will be provided through the housing office."

Councillor Ita Reynolds Flynn gave the background to her motion and said she would like to see a Respite Centre in South Leitrim.

Ms Mary Quinn, Director of Services, said that a Housing Disability Steering Group is established in each Local Authority and representatives from the HSE are on this group to establish need and projected needs for housing of people with disabilities.

Councillor Brendan Barry, Councillor Des Guckian, Councillor Sean McGowan, Councillor Felim Gurn and Councillor Justin Warnock supported the motion.

Councillor Felim Gurn said the Town Development Plans should address bungalows.

Councillor Justin Warnock said it is important that the most vulnerable in our society are supported.

MM.20.20 Motion from Councillor Sean McGowan:

"I ask the Chief Executive to facilitate discussions with all other relevant stakeholders; Gardaí, HSE, Community Groups, etc. to try and find a workable solution to rural transport, similar to what is operating in Clare County Council, to help those most vulnerable /isolated in the community."

Report by Director of Services, Housing, Corporate Services, Community and Cultural Services

"Rural Transport is matter for the Rural Transport Local Link Service and arrangements are being made for their attendance at the January MD meetings in Manorhamilton and Carrick-on-Shannon."

Councillor Sean McGowan called on the Chief Executive and Executive to liaise with Clare County Council and to put something in place in this regard as the Authority who looks after the development of Leitrim.

Councillor Felim Gurn supported the motion.

Councillor Des Guckian said people can't depend on the goodwill of volunteers and there needs to be funding.

Ms Mary Quinn, Director of Services said Rural Transport is a matter for Rural Local Link Service and they will be attending the Municipal District Meetings of Manorhamilton and Carrick-on-Shannon in January.

MM.21.20 Motion from Councillor Felim Gurn:

"We now know that Brexit is clearly taking place after the election results in the UK and Northern Ireland. We now know that the Irish Government is trying to get a 1 billion fund from the EU to mitigate against the impact of Brexit on the Irish economy and border counties. Will the Executive put forward a tourism strategy to alleviate the pressure that this will have in the border regions and enable us to secure funding for Cross Border funding on projects such as the SLNCR greenway and the Ballinamore greenway from this new funding stream and not be left behind in the aftermath of Brexit."

Report by Deputy Chief Executive/Director of Services, Economic Development, Planning and Infrastructural Services

"The Council is very conscious of the potential impact of Brexit on the County and in this regard the Council is and will continue to monitor and influence as far as possible all opportunities that become available in relation to the development of the county. In this regard, the Council has as a key objective for the continued development of tourism as a key economic sector for the County into the future."

Councillor Felim Gurn gave the background to his motion and called on Leitrim County Council to put forward a tourism strategy to alleviate the pressure of Brexit that will have in the border regions and enable Leitrim to secure funding for Cross Border funding on projects.

Councillor Justin Warnock and Councillor Sean McDermott supported the motion.

Councillor Des Guckian said funding needs to be put in place to help farming.

Councillor Frank Dolan said Brexit will have a huge effect on border counties and money will be ring fenced and Leitrim needs to be on watch to secure this funding.

All Members supported the Motion.

MM.22.20 Motion from Councillor Sean McDermott:

"I will ask if Carbon Monoxide alarms can be provided to householders as part of a scheme similar to the scheme provided for Smoke Alarms by Leitrim County Council, these alarms are very important as carbon monoxide can be a silent killer."

Report by Head of Finance & Water Services

"The provision of smoke alarms is a national initiative and the inclusion of Carbon Monoxide alarms in this scheme is a matter for the sponsoring Department."

Councillor Sean McDermott proposed that a letter issue to the Department to get a Carbon Monoxide Alarm scheme in place for householders.

All Members supported the motion.

MM.23.20 Motion from Councillor Brendan Barry:

"I request that Leitrim County Council ask the HSE what extra funding, strategies and additional resources were put in place in 2019 to solve the trolley crisis in our hospitals and what it plans to do differently or additionally in 2020?"

Councillor Brendan Barry pointed out that 760 people are waiting on trolleys this morning in our hospitals.

Councillor Mary Bohan supported the motion and said step down facilities are not available.

All members supported the motion

Proposed by Councillor Brendan Barry seconded by Councillor Justin Warnock AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED:

"That Leitrim County Council ask the HSE what extra funding, strategies and additional resources were put in place in 2019 to solve the trolley crisis in our hospitals and what it plans to do differently or additionally in 2020?"

MM.24.20 Motion from Councillor Paddy O'Rourke:

"I call on the government to instruct the climate change action committee to look elsewhere when creating suggestions as to how to reduce Ireland's carbon footprint.

There seems to be a contrived campaign to influence the nation's opinion that the only solution is the elimination of the national suckler herd in order to create headroom for the further expansion of the dairy herd on the better lands of Munster. Already we have seen the acceleration of the closure of the Power plants at Lanesboro and Shannonbridge. If the action committee is not controlled, it will cast the herd owners of the suckler cows on the same human scrap heap in the name of climate change responsibility."

Councillor Paddy O'Rourke gave the background to his motion and proposed that the Government instruct the climate change action committee to look elsewhere when creating suggestions as to how to reduce Ireland's carbon footprint as there seems to be a campaign

to eliminate the National Suckler herd to create headroom for the further expansion of the dairy herd.

Councillor Paddy O'Rourke proposed that a copy of this motion be sent to the Minister.

Councillor Mary Bohan supported the motion and noted the Minister said recently that the National Suckler Herd would be reduced.

Councillor Brendan Barry pointed out that this damaging our entire beef sector.

Councillor Des Guckian pointed out the jet trails of aeroplanes does more damage to the environment than the beef industry or burning turf.

Councillor Enda McGloin pointed out that Ireland are obliged to comply with EU Regulations or fines will be imposed.

Proposed by Councillor Paddy O'Rourke seconded by Councillor Mary Bohan AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED:

"That Leitrim County Council call on the Government to instruct the climate change action committee to look elsewhere when creating suggestions as to how to reduce Ireland's carbon footprint. There seems to be a contrived campaign to influence the nation's opinion that the only solution is the elimination of the national suckler herd in order to create headroom for the further expansion of the dairy herd on the better lands of Munster. Already we have seen the acceleration of the closure of the Power plants at Lanesboro and Shannonbridge. If the action committee is not controlled, it will cast the herd owners of the suckler cows on the same human scrap heap in the name of climate change responsibility."

MM.25.20 Motion from Councillor Paddy Farrell:

"I ask Leitrim County Council to call on the Minister with responsibility for Insurance to bring about reform to the rip off insurance premiums in this state."

Councillor Paddy Farrell gave the background to his motion and proposed that a letter issue to the Minister to bring about reform in this regard.

Councillor Felim Gurn pointed out that when Community Groups are unable to run events it will be a big issue.

All members supported the motion.

Proposed by Councillor Paddy Farrell, seconded by Councillor Paddy O'Rourke AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED:

"That Leitrim County Council call on the Minister with responsibility for Insurance to bring about reform to the rip off insurance premiums in this state."

MM.26.20 Motion from Councillor Justin Warnock:

"The R280 from Carrick on Shannon to Bundoran in County Donegal is a vital piece of infrastructure which is necessary for the economic development of our county, but unfortunately it needs upgrading along its route. Lennox's Bridge on the Donegal border is one piece of infrastructure which is no longer fit for purpose and is impacting negatively on the economic growth of our county, so therefore I will ask for the support of the elected members and the Executive of Leitrim County Council in collaboration with Donegal County Council to immediately seek funding for a new bridge from Minister Shane Ross TD's Department of Transport."

Report by Deputy Chief Executive/Director of Services, Economic Development, Planning and Infrastructural Services

"Leitrim County Council continues to pursue the upgrading of the bridge referred. A detailed Bridge Appraisal Report, together with a Multi Criteria Analysis of the need for a replacement bridge at this location, was submitted to the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport, last October, as part of our request for funding, under the Specific Grant Applications program for 2020. We will work in partnership with Donegal County Council to advance this project."

Councillor Justin Warnock proposed that a meeting between the Chief Executive of Leitrim County Council and the Chief Executive of Donegal County Council in this regard take place. Councillor Justin Warnock said that North Leitrim will not only benefit from this but all of Leitrim and he insisted that the R280 should be upgraded and made fit for purpose.

Councillor Mary Bohan, Councillor Felim Gurn and Councillor Sean McDermott supported the motion.

Mr Terry McGovern, A/Senior Engineer outlined that a Bridge Appraisal Report, together with a Multi Criteria Analysis of the need for a replacement bridge at this location, was submitted to the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport, as part of our request for funding, under the Specific Grant Applications program for 2020.

Proposed by Councillor Justin Warnock, seconded by Councillor Mary Bohan AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED:

"The R280 from Carrick on Shannon to Bundoran in County Donegal is a vital piece of infrastructure which is necessary for the economic development of our county, but unfortunately it needs upgrading along its route. Lennox's Bridge on the Donegal border is one piece of infrastructure which is no longer fit for purpose and is impacting negatively on the economic growth of our county, so therefore Leitrim County Council in collaboration with Donegal County Council immediately seek funding for a new bridge from Minister Shane Ross TD's Department of Transport."

MM.27.20 Motion fro Councillor Mary Bohan:

"I propose that Leitrim County Council call on the Minister for Health, Mr Simon Harris T.D and the Minister for Children Ms. Katherine Zappone to make the necessary resources available as a matter of urgency to deal with the long waiting times for children accessing outpatient appointments including paediatric specialist areas, speech and language and CAMHS."

Councillor Mary Bohan gave the background to her motion and proposed that a letter issue to the Taoiseach, Minister for Health and Minister for Children to make the necessary resources available to deal with the long waiting times for children accessing outpatient appointments. Councillor Bohan said this is one of the biggest scandals in the history of the state.

All supported the motion.

Proposed by Councillor Mary Bohan, seconded by Councillor Des Guckian AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED:

"That Leitrim County Council call on the Minister for Health, Mr Simon Harris T.D and the Minister for Children Ms. Katherine Zappone to make the necessary resources available as a matter of urgency to deal with the long waiting times for children accessing outpatient appointments including paediatric specialist areas, speech and language and CAMHS".

MM.28.20 Motion from Councillor Enda Stenson:

"I ask have we made any progress on the Zero discharge licence. We have reached the end of a decade since this draconian law was introduced, and promises have been made, by various Ministers and Government Departments since, all to no avail Rural Leitrim is now feeling the terrible effects, of this ruling. As a local Authority about to embark on a New County Development plan, we must take a stand on this issue now."

Report by Deputy Chief Executive/Director of Services, Economic Development, Planning and Infrastructural Services

"As has been advised to the Members significant process has been made in discussions with the Department over the last number of months in regard to pursuing with the trial of the zero discharge updated design. In principle it has been agreed that the testing should be pursued as a research initiative in conjunction with the EPA research programme as against a standalone trial system led by Leitrim County Council. This step is most welcome and in this regard Leitrim County Council with academic support through Trinity College has prepared the research proposition paper which has recently been submitted to the Department for consideration and referral to the EPA. The matter will continue to be pursued by the Council with the Department."

Councillor Enda Stenson proposed that as the New County Development Plan is being drawn up the Members of Leitrim County Council need to allow for one off houses to be built on the land.

Councillor Justin Warnock pointed out that what has been lost will never be understood. We have lost a generation, because we can't let our young people build on their own land.

Cathaoirleach, Cllr Enda McGloin asked the Executive if the Department is being evasive on this issue.

Councillor Sean McDermott expressed his concerns and said that this is a biggest issue for Rural Leitrim since it came into effect 10 years ago and something has to be done in the New County Development Plan to resolve this issue. Councillor Sean McDermott said that a parish needs a quota in order to survive, the bar is too high and the land in Leitrim needs to be taken into consideration in this regard. Councillor Sean McDermott said it is terrible to live in a parish and see it melting away. Councillor Sean McDermott paid tribute to Minister Ring in regard to this issue.

Councillor Brendan Barry referred to Deputy Martin Kenny's bill in relation to Local Government (Water Pollution)(Amendment) Bill 2018 and he queried as to where this is now and if this could be progressed further.

Councillor Gerry Dolan sought clarification on pumping stations and if they can be reverted to, as they were in use 10-15 years ago.

Councillor Frank Dolan supported the motion and he insisted that something must be put into the County Development Plan in this regard. Councillor Frank Dolan outlined that he was speaking to colleagues in Cavan/Sligo and Longford with similar ground conditions and there is no problem in getting planning permission for rural houses.

Councillor Des Guckian pointed out that Leitrim is losing young couples as they are moving from border parishes like Gortletteragh and into County Longford.

Councillor Paddy O'Rourke said we can't concede defeat on behalf of the citizens of Leitrim and he expressed his concerns on how can we attract investment when 87% of land mass has been unsuccessful for zero discharge.

Councillor Ita Reynolds Flynn supported the motion.

Councillor Pdraig Fallon pointed out that people are very angry and frustrated when they can't build in Leitrim.

Councillor Enda Stenson expressed his concerns and said it is getting very serious when it comes to fielding football teams.

Mr Joseph Gilhooly, Director of Services advised that the Implementation of the Code of Practice was introduced 10 years ago.

Significant progress has been made with discussions with the Department and the EPA to pursuing a solution to zero discharge.

Monthly contact with the Department offered has been very helpful. It has been agreed

that the testing should be pursued as a research initiative in conjunction with the EPA research programme as against a standalone trial system led by Leitrim County Council. This step is most welcome and in this regard Leitrim County Council with academic support through Trinity College has prepared the research proposition paper which has recently been submitted to the Department for consideration and referral to the EPA.

Councillor Brendan Barry queried if the T90 Test was being changed.

Mr Joseph Gilhooly, Director of Services, said it was referred to the EPA for approval and this is awaited.

Councillor Frank Dolan queried as to the timescale involved if these talks are successful.

Mr Gilhooly advised it could take a period of two years and a year for monitoring.

Councillor Felim Gurn queried if there are any other counties that have this issue.

Councillor Brendan Barry said if an area on the site is dry, it should not be totally ruled out.

Mr Gilhooly advised that there is no other county which would have this land type.

Cathaoirleach, Councillor Enda McGloin said that this matter will continue to be pursued by Leitrim County Council and taken up with the Minister and EPA.

The Members agreed that a workshop for Elected Members be held to give an overview of the County Development Plan review process and timeframes in the coming weeks.

Mr Gilhooly advised that the Carrick-on-Shannon Town plan will be incorporated into the County Development Plan.

MM.29.20 Motion from Councillor Gerry Dolan

"That Leitrim County Council call on ESB Networks to engage with forestry owners in relation to felling of trees that are close to overhead powerlines."

Councillor Gerry Dolan gave the background to his motion and called on the ESB networks to engage with Forestry owners in this regard.

All Members supported the motion.

Councillor Brendan Barry outlined that he had received assurances from Forestry Companies in January 2019 in relation to felling of trees close to overhead ESB lines but they did not get in on site until December 2019.

Proposed by Councillor Gerry Dolan, seconded by Councillor Brendan Barry AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED:

"That Leitrim County Council call on ESB Networks to engage with forestry owners in relation to felling of trees that are close to overhead powerlines."

Signed:

Councillor Enda McGloin
Cathaoirleach

Kieran Brett
Meetings Administrator

Dated: Monday, 2 March 2020

Document is Restricted

This page is intentionally left blank

Document is Restricted

This page is intentionally left blank

Document is Restricted

This page is intentionally left blank

Document is Restricted

This page is intentionally left blank

Document is Restricted

This page is intentionally left blank

Document is Restricted

This page is intentionally left blank

Document is Restricted

This page is intentionally left blank

Document is Restricted

This page is intentionally left blank

Document is Restricted

This page is intentionally left blank

Document is Restricted

This page is intentionally left blank