

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE
MINUTES OF MONTHLY MEETING OF GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL
Held at ÁRAS AN CHONTAE, PROSPECT HILL
Monday, 25th November 2024 at 1.00pm

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cathaoirleach Cllr. A. Dolan
Cathaoirleach of the County of Galway

I LATHAIR FREISIN:

Baill: Comh./Cllr. J. Charity, D. Collins, D. Connolly, M. Connolly, S. Cunniffe, S. Curley, T. Ó Curraoin, G. Donohue, P. Feeney, G. Finnerty, T. Grealish, A. Harney, M. Hoade, C. Keane, P. Keaveney, D. Kelly, D. Killilea, P. Killilea, M. Kinane, G. King, M. Lee, P. Mac an Iomaire, M. Maher, E. Mannion, J. McClearn, P.J. Murphy, L. O'Hara, Dr. E. F. Parsons, A. Reddington, P. Roche, N. Thomas, O. Turner, S. Walsh and T. Welby.

Baill ar líne: Comh./Cllr. M. Leainde, K. McHugh Farag.

Oifigh: Mr. L. Conneally, Chief Executive, Mr. L. Hanrahan, Director of Services, Mr. U. Finn, Director of Services, Ms. E. Ruane, Director of Services, Ms. K. O'Connor, Head of Finance, Mr. M. Owens, Director of Services, Ms. J. Brann Meetings Administrator, Ms. H. Riordan, A/Staff Officer, Ms. L. O'Donnell, Assistant Staff Officer.

Thosnaigh an cruinniú leis an paidir.

Thanks were expressed to Director of Services of Physical Development, Fire & Emergency Services and Climate Change and his team for their response to the red

weather warning that week. Also thanks were expressed to the fire service crews that provided support and sandbags.

Members raised the following points and queries:

- It was asked of the Electricity Supply Board (ESB) why it took until yesterday for power to be restored to some areas.
- It was asked if the Clifden Relief Scheme could be expediated to prevent future weather events from having such an impact.

Members Queries were responded to as follows by the Chief Executive:

- Explained that the power line supplying Connemara was broken in 3 different places which created a huge challenge in restoring power.
- The works completed in Clifden since the floods of 2020 offered protection to properties from damage in this weather alert.

ITEM NO.1 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE FOLLOWING MEETINGS

4433

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Walsh **SECONDED** by Cllr. Finnerty the minutes of the Monthly Plenary Meeting held on 21st October 2024 were **AGREED**.

Members raised the following points and queries:

- An update was requested on the preparation of an inventory of Council owned properties with liability for the Residential Zoned Land Tax (RZLT).
- It was asked if polling clerks have received training in advance of the upcoming general election.

Members Queries were responded to as follows by the Chief Executive:

- Expressed his thanks to the staff that responded to the red weather alert.

- RZLT Queries from the Local Government Sector have been put to the Minister and we are awaiting a response. He expects a definite response to be issued by the new Government. The Members will be notified once a response is received.
- A map showing revenue liability is currently being prepared.

ITEM NO.2 CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

4434

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Maher **SECONDED** by Cllr. M. Connolly the minutes of the Corporate Policy Group held on 15th October 2024 were **NOTED**.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Maher **SECONDED** by Cllr. Lee the minutes of the Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee held on 5th July 2024 were **NOTED**.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Hoade **SECONDED** by Cllr. D. Killilea it was **AGREED** that Galway County Council would hold a Civic Reception to honour Mr. Evan O'Brien – World Irish Dancing Champion.

ITEM NO.3 TO CONSIDER REPORT UNDER SECTION 183 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001 TO LEASE OF LAND AT MIDDLEQUARTER, INISHBOFIN - 64SQ METRES.

4435

Statutory Notice issued in accordance with Section 183(1)(b) and report dated 12th November 2024 was published on the Extranet prior to the meeting.

Mr. Finn explained that this Section 183 relates to the leasing of a small area of land to facilitate National Broadband Ireland (NBI) rollout. 83% of the rural population in Co. Galway now have the possibility to connect to broadband. He stated that granting of planning permission is a separate process to the consideration of this Section 183.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Walsh **SECONDED** by Cllr. Mannion it was **AGREED** to lease of land at Middlequarter, Inishbofin, Co. Galway in accordance with the Statutory Notice dated 12th November 2024.

Members raised the following points and queries:

- Enquired if the land in question is under Compulsory Purchase Order to provide an airstrip. Concern was raised that the granting of this Section 183 could impede the development of the airstrip.
- It was queried as to the positioning of poles in scenic areas and why the cables are not run underground. If the positioning of cables was part of the planning or licence agreement with NBI.

Members Queries were responded to as follows by Mr. Hanrahan:

- The positioning of electricity and broadband masts on the Islands is controlled by planning regulations.
- The poles referred to may be exempt from planning permission as they may have been part of a larger planning application covering the replacement of poles.

ITEM NO. 4 TO CONSIDER REPORT UNDER SECTION 183 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001 ON THE DISPOSAL OF PROPERTY AT RAMORE, KILLIMOR, CO. GALWAY – 0.253HECTARES.

4436

Statutory Notice issued in accordance with Section 183(1)(b) and report dated 15th November 2024 was published on the Extranet prior to the meeting.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. McClearn **SECONDED** by Cllr. Maher it was **AGREED** to dispose of property at Ramore, Killimor, Co. Galway in accordance with the Statutory Notice dated 15th November 2024.

ITEM NO. 5 TO CONSIDER REPORT UNDER SECTION 183 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001 ON THE DISPOSAL OF PROPERTY AT COTHILL, WOODFORD, CO. GALWAY – 0.276 HECTARES. 4437

Statutory Notice issued in accordance with Section 183(1)(b) and report dated 15th November 2024 was published on the Extranet prior to the meeting.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. McClearn **SECONDED** by Cllr. Finnerty it was **AGREED** to dispose of property at Cothill, Woodford, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway in accordance with the Statutory Notice dated 15th November 2024.

ITEM NO. 6 TO CONSIDER REPORT UNDER SECTION 183 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001 ON THE DISPOSAL OF PROPERTY AT CHURCH STREET, DUNMORE, CO. GALWAY – 0.104 HECTARES. 4438

Statutory Notice issued in accordance with Section 183(1)(b) and report dated 15th November 2024 was published on the Extranet prior to the meeting.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Turner **SECONDED** by Cllr. Roche it was **AGREED** to dispose of property at Church Street, Dunmore, Co. Galway in accordance with the Statutory Notice dated 15th November 2024.

ITEM NO. 7 (A) TO CONSIDER REPORT UNDER SECTION 183 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001 TO RESCIND DISPOSAL OF LANDS AT GORTNAHOWN, ATHENRY, CO. GALWAY – 0.8372 HECTARES. 4439

Statutory Notice issued in accordance with Section 183(1)(b) and report dated 15th November 2024 was published on the Extranet prior to the meeting.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Feeney **SECONDED** by Cllr. Mannion it was **AGREED** to rescind Resolution 3927 of 28th February 2022 and 7th March 2022 which approved disposal of 0.8372 hectares at Gortnahown, Athenry, Co. Galway.

ITEM NO. 7 (B) TO CONSIDER REPORT UNDER SECTION 183 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001 TO LEASE OF LAND AT GORTNAHOWN, ATHENRY, CO. GALWAY – 0.8372 HECTARES. **4440**

Statutory Notice issued in accordance with Section 183(1)(b) and report dated 15th November 2024 was published on the Extranet prior to the meeting.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Feeney **SECONDED** by Cllr. Maher it was **AGREED** to lease of 0.8372 hectares of land at Gortnahown, Athenry, Co. Galway in accordance with the Statutory Notice dated 15th November 2024.

ITEM NO.8 TO CONSIDER THE REPORT UNDER SECTION 183 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001 FOR THE GRANTING OF TEMPORARY LEASEHOLD AND LICENCE ON LANDS AT THE FORMER GALWAY AIRPORT AT CARNMORE, CO. GALWAY TO GALWAY FLYING CLUB FOR THE PERIOD 23RD DECEMBER 2024 TO 22ND DECEMBER 2025. **4441**

Statutory Notice issued in accordance with Section 183(1)(b) and report dated 13th November 2024 was published on the Extranet prior to the meeting.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Collins **SECONDED** by Cllr. Reddington it was **AGREED** to grant a temporary leasehold and licence on lands at the former Galway Airport at Carnmore, Co. Galway to Galway Flying Club for the period 23rd December 2024 to 22nd December 2025, in accordance with the terms of the Statutory Notice dated the 13th November 2024.

ITEM NO.9 TO CONSIDER AND IF DEEMED APPROPRIATE, APPROVE HOUSING BORROWING REQUIREMENTS AS FOLLOWS:

A. TO CONSIDER AND IF DEEMED APPROPRIATE APPROVE, A LOAN IN THE AMOUNT OF €10 MILLION, TO FACILITATE LAND ACQUISITION TO SUPPORT THE HOUSING CAPITAL PROGRAMME, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 106 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001 (AS AMENDED). **4442**

Report dated 18th November 2024 was published on the Extranet prior to the meeting.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Maher **SECONDED** by Cllr. Mannion it was **AGREED** to approve a loan in the amount of €10 million, to facilitate land acquisition to support the Housing Capital Programme, in accordance with section 106 of the local government act 2001 (as amended).

B. TO CONSIDER AND IF DEEMED APPROPRIATE APPROVE, A LOAN IN THE AMOUNT OF €25 MILLION, TO ENABLE THE DELIVERY OF AFFORDABLE PURCHASE HOUSING, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 106 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001 (AS AMENDED).

4443

Report dated 18th November 2024 was published on the Extranet prior to the meeting.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Curley **SECONDED** by Cllr. D. Killilea it was **AGREED** to approve a loan in the amount of €25 million, to enable the delivery of Affordable Housing Purchase, in accordance with section 106 of the local government act 2001 (as amended).

Members raised the following points and queries:

If this loan is to be used to purchase houses or to pay contractors.

Members Queries were responded to as follows by Mr. Owens:

The €25m funding if approved, will allow the direct build of 3 Affordable housing schemes. One in Baile Chláir and two in Athenry. It will allow the Council to enter into contracts for the schemes. The Athenry scheme is to go to tender in January to appoint a design team, projected delivery is 2026.

Monies will allow the Council to enter into a build contract on Council owned lands. The loan will be repaid once the houses are sold under the Affordable Housing Scheme.

C. TO CONSIDER AND IF DEEMED APPROPRIATE APPROVE, A LOAN IN THE AMOUNT OF €8.5 MILLION, TO ENABLE THE DELIVERY OF AFFORDABLE COST RENTAL HOUSING, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 106 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001 (AS AMENDED).

4444

Report dated 18th November 2024 was published on the Extranet prior to the meeting.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Maher **SECONDED** by Cllr. Mannion it was **AGREED** to approve a loan in the amount of €8.5 million, to enable the delivery of Affordable Cost Rental Housing, in accordance with Section 106 of the Local Government Act 2001 (as amended).

D. TO CONSIDER AND IF DEEMED APPROPRIATE APPROVE, A LOAN IN THE AMOUNT OF €5M, TO FACILITATE THE COMPULSORY PURCHASE ORDERS (CPO) ACTIVATION PROGRAMME, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 106 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001 (AS AMENDED).

4445

Report dated 18th November 2024 was published on the Extranet prior to the meeting.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. D. Killilea **SECONDED** by Cllr. McClearn it was **AGREED** to approve a loan in the amount of €5m, to facilitate the Compulsory Purchase Orders (CPO) Activation Programme, in accordance with Section 106 of the Local Government Act 2001 (as amended).

E. TO CONSIDER AND IF DEEMED APPROPRIATE APPROVE, A LOAN IN THE AMOUNT OF €10 MILLION, TO FACILITATE A HOUSING PLANI MAINTENANCE PROGRAMME, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 106 OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001 (AS AMENDED).

4

Report dated 18th November 2024 was published on the Extranet prior to the meeting.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Maher **SECONDED** by Cllr. Mannion it was **AGREED** to approve a loan in the amount of €10 million, to facilitate a Housing Planned Maintenance Programme, in accordance with Section 106 of the Local Government Act 2001 (as amended).

Members raised the following points and queries:

- If this loan will be used to fund the maintenance of Council houses.
- If the Council can employ its own maintenance staff to carry out maintenance repairs.
- The ambition of the housing budget was praised as a great first step. More ambition and hard work were requested.
- The suitability of older Council houses for retrofit was questioned.
- The monies must be spent on improving the houses and not on reports and consultants.
- An update on the housing maintenance programme was requested for early 2025.
- It was asked why the Council inspect Housing Assistance Payment (HAP) properties to ensure they meet the required standards, but not Council houses.
- Some tenants are waiting up to two years for maintenance repairs to be carried out.
- The 2021 circular from the department regarding affordable housing funding is based on densities per hectare, is out of date and needs to be reviewed. It should be based on income and not the number of dwellings per hectare. The only dwellings that could be provided under the current circular are apartments.
- If applicants for Housing Grants could receive an automatic e-mail to confirm receipt of submitted paperwork.
- If the draw down for Housing Grants could be expediated.
- A particular Council tenant maintenance query was referred to.

Members Queries were responded to as follows by Mr. Owens:

- The monies will be used to bring houses up to rental standards and to meet the landlord responsibilities.

- The Planned Maintenance Programme will be developed by the Strategic Policy Committee (SPC) in early 2025. A new Executive Engineer will have responsibility for its roll out.
- The Council revenue budget will include the capacity to repay the loans that are drawn down.
- Council and HAP properties are inspected against the minimum rental standards.
- Prior to houses being let an electrical certificate is issued.
- The energy retrofit programme has been reviewed. Some of the initial properties that were retrofitted have been revisited.
- The density of affordable houses was raised by the Housing Task Force subgroup. The Department are not currently in a position to change the circular however they will consider applications on a case-by-case basis.

Members Queries were responded to as follows by the Chief Executive:

- This is the first of many ambitious Housing Delivery plans that will be presented to the Members. Lack of housing supply in the market is the largest obstacle to the provision of Social & Affordable housing. Building our own Capital Schemes on Council owned lands is the best way to take control of the number houses that we can provide in the next three years.
- The planned maintenance programme will in the short term make our stock more liveable and in the long term increase the value of our assets.
- Council staff carry out inspections on our own housing stock.
- Housing provision will remain a priority for this Council.

F. TO CONSIDER AND IF DEEMED APPROPRIATE APPROVE, A LOAN FACILITY OF €8 MILLION, FOR LOCAL AUTHORITY HOME LOAN AND LOCAL AUTHORITY PURCHASE AND RENOVATION LOAN, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 106 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001 (AS AMENDED. 4447

Report dated 18th November 2024 was published on the Extranet prior to the meeting.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Maher **SECONDED** by Cllr. Mannion it was **AGREED** to approve a loan facility of €8 million, for Local Authority Home Loan and Local Authority Purchase and Renovation Loan, in accordance with section 106 of the local government act 2001 (as amended).

The Cathaoirleach welcomed the approval of the loans on the agenda, they will provide the Executive with the fire power to fulfill their ambitious plans. It is a bold and ambitious step in the delivery of houses.

Cllr. Maher as the Chairperson of the Housing SPC informed the meeting that the SPC is very ambitious in its plans. The largest hurdle to providing housing is the lack of available land. Vacant and derelict houses need to be restored to use. He raised his concern that not everyone realises that they may be liable for the residential property tax if they own a second property.

ITEM NO. 10 TO CONSIDER AND IF DEEMED APPROPRIATE ADOPTION OF THE GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL CORPORATE PLAN 2025-2029. **4448**

Report was published on the Extranet prior to the meeting.

Ms. Ruane outlined the extensive consultation and engagement process that was undertaken with the Members, staff and stakeholder groups in the preparation of the Corporate Plan 2025-2029. Questionnaires were issued, workshops carried out and public consultation took place. The draft plan has been before the Corporate Policy Group, the full plenary Council and the Local Community Development Committee. Monitoring of the targets set out in the Corporate Plan will be achieved through the implementation of the Business Plans, Team Plans and Personal Development Plans that emanate from the Corporate Plan. The Annual Service Delivery Plan, Monthly Management Reports, Local and National Service Indicators will measure the performance of the Council in its execution of the plan.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Maher **SECONDED** by Cllr. Hoade it was **AGREED** to adopt the Galway County Council Corporate Plan 2025-2029.

ITEM NO. 11 TO CONSIDER AND IF DEEMED APPROPRIATE ADOPTION OF THE GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL DRAFT TRAVELLER ACCOMMODATION PROGRAMME 2025-2029. **4449**

Report was published on the Extranet prior to the meeting.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Maher **SECONDED** by Cllr. Reddington it was **AGREED** to adopt the Galway County Council Traveller Accommodation Programme 2025-2029.

ITEM NO. 12 TO CONSIDER AND, IF DEEMED APPROPRIATE, ADOPT THE ROAD TRAFFIC (SPECIAL SPEED LIMITS) COUNTY GALWAY BYE-LAWS, NO.1 & NO.2 2024 IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 9 OF THE ROAD TRAFFIC ACT 2004. **4450**

Report was published on the Extranet prior to the meeting.

Mr. Finn informed the meeting that the report was previously circulated at Municipal District level and has been presented to the SPC twice. A small number of submissions were received following the public consultation period.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Reddington **SECONDED** by Cllr. Collins it was **AGREED** to adopt the Road Traffic (Special Speed Limits) County Galway Bye-Laws, no.1 2024 in accordance with section 9 of the road traffic act 2004.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Finnerty **SECONDED** by Cllr. Lee it was **AGREED** to adopt the Road Traffic (Special Speed Limits) County Galway Bye-Laws, no.2 2024 in accordance with section 9 of the road traffic act 2004.

ITEM NO. 13 BUDGET 2025 UPDATE

4451

Ms. O'Connor outlined the numerous workshops that have taken place regarding the 2025 budget. The budget book was circulated to the Members on Friday via the Extranet. Physical copies of which will be available for the Members after this meeting.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Hoade **SECONDED** by Cllr. Kinane it was **AGREED** to hold the 2025 Budget meeting of Galway County Council on Saturday 30th November at 09:00am.

The Cathaoirleach reminded the Members that the budget meeting must be attended in person, there is no online facility, as per Standing Orders.

**ITEM NO. 14 TO CONSIDER A DATE AND TIME FOR THE DECEMBER
PLENARY MEETING**

4452

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Maher **SECONDED** by Cllr. Mannion it was **AGREED** to hold the December plenary meeting of Galway County Council on Monday 16th December at 11:00am.

**ITEM NO. 15 TO CONSIDER AND IF DEEMED APPROPRIATE AUTHORISE THE
ATTENDANCE AT TRAINING IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 142(5A) OF THE
LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001 (AS AMENDED).**

4453

Report dated 15th November 2024 was published on the Extranet prior to the meeting.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Hoade **SECONDED** by Cllr. Maher it was **AGREED** to authorise Comh. O Curraoín to attend AILG Autumn Training Seminar 2024 at The Hillgrove Hotel, Monaghan on 11th & 12th September 2024 (Retrospective Approval).

On the **PROPOSAL** of Comh. Mac An Iomaire **SECONDED** by Cllr. Maher it was **AGREED** to authorise Cllr. Hoade to attend WoMeN's Regional Caucus at The Sligo Park Hotel, Sligo on 15th October 2024. (Retrospective Approval).

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Maher **SECONDED** by Cllr. Lee it was **AGREED** to authorise Cllrs. D. Collins, Roche and Maher to attend LAMA Autumn Training Seminar at The Newgrange Hotel, Navan on 17th & 18th October 2024. (Retrospective Approval).

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Maher **SECONDED** by Cllr. Lee it was **AGREED** to authorise Cllr. Roche to attend AILG October Training Module 'Local Authority Finance & Budget System' at The Radisson Hotel, Limerick on 2nd November 2024. (Retrospective Approval).

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Maher **SECONDED** by Cllr. Lee it was **AGREED** to authorise Cllr. Curley to attend AILG October Training Module 'Local Authority Finance & Budget System' at The Sligo Park Hotel, Sligo on 24th October 2024. (Retrospective Approval).

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Maher **SECONDED** by Cllr. Lee it was **AGREED** to authorise Cllrs. Hoade and Leainde to attend AILG November Training Module 'Government Legislation Policy Programme 2024 – A Briefing for Elected Members' at The Claregalway Hotel Galway on 16th November 2024. (Retrospective Approval).

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Maher **SECONDED** by Cllr. Lee it was **AGREED** to authorise Cllrs. Curley, McClearn and King to attend AILG November Training Module 'Government Legislation Policy Programme 2024 – A Briefing for Elected Members' at The Tower Hotel, Waterford on 14th November 2024. (Retrospective Approval).

**ITEM NO. 16 TO CONSIDER AND IF DEEMED APPROPRIATE TO AUTHORISE
THE ATTENDANCE AT CONFERENCES, MEETINGS, OTHER EVENTS IN
ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 142(5) OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT
2001 (AS AMENDED).** **4454**

Report dated 15th November 2024 was published on the Extranet prior to the meeting.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Maher **SECONDED** by Cllr. Lee it was **AGREED** to authorise Cllrs. Maher and Parsons to attend 2024 Suck Valley Way Conference at Hannon's' Hotel, Roscommon on the 13th – 14th March 2024 (*Retrospective Approval*)

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Maher **SECONDED** by Cllr. Lee it was **AGREED** to authorise Cllr. Maher to attend Celtic Conferences – 'A practical guide to Budget 2025' at McKeivitt's Hotel, Carlingford on the 11th -13th October 2024 (*Retrospective Approval*).

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Maher **SECONDED** by Cllr. Lee it was **AGREED** to authorise Cllr. Maher to attend Celtic Conferences – 'Corporate Governance' at O'Donovan's Hotel, Clonakilty on the 23rd – 24th November 2024 (*Retrospective Approval*).

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Maher **SECONDED** by Cllr. Lee it was **AGREED** to authorise Cllrs. Maher and Parsons to attend Celtic Conferences – 'Health Governance' at O'Donovan's Hotel, Clonakilty on the 13th – 15th December 2024.

**ITEM NO. 17 TO CONSIDER THE MANAGEMENT REPORT – NOVEMBER 2024 IN
ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 136(2) OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001
(AS AMENDED).** **4455**

Report dated 18th November 2024 was published on the Extranet prior to the meeting.

The Management Report – November 2024, in accordance with Section 136(2) of the Local Government Act 2001 (As Amended) was **NOTED**.

Members raised the following points and queries:

- Enquired if there had been any engagement following the correspondence that issued to the 40 properties that have been targeted under the Compulsory Purchase Order Activation Programme.
- Confirmation was sought that the Chief Executive's report on the Loughrea Fire Station will be before the Loughrea Municipal District Members in December.
- If an alternative site for the Loughrea Fire Station has been explored.

Members Queries were responded to as follows by Mr. Owens:

- A limited response was received regarding the targeted vacant properties. Reminders were issued last Friday, with response requested within 2 weeks.

Members Queries were responded to as follows by Mr. Finn:

- It is intended that the Chief Executive report on the Loughrea Fire Station will be presented at the Loughrea Municipal District meeting in December. This is subject to the completion of the planner's report.
- The Loughrea Fire Station will be considered under Part 8 of the Planning Act. Submissions have been made and the planners are currently considering them. The report will include recommendation to either not proceed, proceed as proposed or proceed with amendments.

ITEM NO. 18 CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S BUSINESS & CORRESPONDENCE.

4456

The following items of correspondence which were published on the extranet prior to the meeting were **NOTED**:

- Letter dated 15.10.24 from Roscommon County Council. Resolution - Funding for Roadside Tree Survey.
- Letter dated 15.10.24 from Roscommon County Council. Resolution – Dept. of Transport – Bus Allocation.
- Letter dated 15.10.24 from Fingal County Council. Resolution – Levy a transient Visitor Tax.
- Letter dated 04.11.24 to Department of the Taoiseach. Resolution – Occupied Territories Bill
- Letter dated 06.11.24 Katie Downes, Assistant Private Secretary, Office of the Taoiseach. Resolution Acknowledgement.
- Letter dated 07.11.24 from Waterford City & County Council. Resolution – United against gender apartheid.
- Letter dated 11.11.24 from Monaghan County Council. Resolution – Primary Medical Certificate Scheme.
- Letter dated 13.11.24 from Kerry County Council. Resolution – Discretionary Funding Apple Tax Ruling.
- 13th executive Conference of Mayors for Peace.
- Mayors for Peace News Flash dated October 2024.

ITEM 19. NOTICE OF MOTION

4457

Cllr. Collins submitted the following Notice of Motion prior to the meeting:

'I propose that due to the huge success of the Concerts at the Airport site in the Summer of 2024 that Galway County Council again begin the process of engaging with a promotor to provide these concerts at the same site in 2025.'

The following reply issued:

Both Galway County Council & Galway City Council Executives are currently examining a number of short and long-term options for the old Airport site at Carnmore.

The promotion of concerts is one such short-term use of the site in 2025.

At present, long-term options in particular are also being considered.

Cllr. Collins was satisfied with the response that he received. The concerts were a huge success last summer, he welcomed the prospect of concerts being held at the airport again in 2025 as they added much needed social and economic value.

ITEM 20. NOTICE OF MOTION

4458

Cllr. Collins submitted the following Notice of Motion prior to the meeting:

'I propose that Galway County Council write to the Department to request that they broaden out the criteria to allow people to apply for the felling of roadside trees under the Community Involvement Schemes.'

The following reply issued:

Galway County Council acknowledges the importance of public safety and the necessity of maintaining clear and safe roadways for all road users. The Community Involvement Scheme is designed to allow local communities to partner with local authorities to maintain or improve regional and local roads and under this scheme the community contributes 10% of the total cost of the approved works. Eligible works typically include road resurfacing, drainage improvements, safety improvement at junctions and minor upgrades to road infrastructure.

Cllr. Collins spoke on his motion, trees falling due to ash die back is a serious issue. He asked that the Minister be written to regarding his motion.

The Cathaoirleach confirmed that the Minister would be written to, as per this motion.

Members raised the following points and queries:

- It was queried where the Council would find the funding to support the motion if it was implemented. Other schemes may suffer from reduced funding due to it.

- It is very costly for landowners to remove these trees. If the trees fall it is the landowner that is responsible.

ITEM 21. NOTICE OF MOTION

4459

Cllr. Dolan submitted the following Notice of Motion prior to the meeting:

'I, propose that Galway County Council should provide a costed proposal to the members of the council for consideration of taking in charge community playgrounds where the council is currently providing insurance for same.'

Context: Communities across County Galway are struggling to meet their obligations in maintaining playgrounds and need to be supported. Many of these playgrounds were put in place by the communities at no cost to the council but provide a valued amenity. The council needs to step in to support communities in maintaining these playgrounds into the future.'

The following reply issued:

Galway County Council currently has within its' Playground portfolio, 15 Council Owned Playgrounds and 64 Community Playgrounds. Public playgrounds provide a space where people can interact and connect. They help to create a sense of community by bringing people together. Playgrounds are also a great place for children to develop their physical, emotional, social and imaginative skills.

The Council works in partnership with many community groups across the County to assist them in their management of the community owned playgrounds. We provide supports in terms of insurance, funding opportunities, playground inspections and training for community playground committee members.

There are a significant number of factors to consider in the context of changing our operating model from supporting the communities to the Council taking over direct

responsibility in this area, not least the funding and staff resource requirements. In an effort to consider the matter further, we will commit to undertake a detailed costing of the service for further consideration.

The Cathaoirleach was satisfied with the response that he received to his motion. He feels that if the Council is insuring particular playgrounds, then it is in our best interest to also maintain them.

Members raised the following points and queries:

- Sought clarification that the Council will cover the costs of two playground committee members to undertake inspection training.
- The Council need to provide a more supportive role to community playground committees. Some playgrounds are coming to the end of their life span, we must ensure that they continue to meet standards.
- A report stating the costs of maintaining each playground and details of any claims made was requested.
- There is a huge responsibility on the community groups to keep the playgrounds going, they are dependent on grants.
- The matter will be brought up for discussion at SPC.

Members Queries were responded to as follows by Ms. Ruane:

- Confirmed that the cost of training two members from each playground committee will be funded by the Council.
- Insurance claims will form part of the detailed costing report that is being prepared.

ITEM NO.22 CATHAOIRLEACH'S BUSINESS

4460

Members raised the following points and queries:

- Concern was raised about the current high-water levels of the Clare River. It was asked if the Council must liaise with City Council to open gates during high water levels.
- How can Elected Members add a road to the Winter Maintenance Programme.
- What considerations are taken into account when adding a road for gritting on the Winter Maintenance Programme.
- If consideration could be given to using Community Centres as polling stations instead of national schools, particularly in Milltown and Dunmore. Safety, parking, accessibility and disruption need to be considered in selecting polling stations.
- Polling booths in polling stations do not provide privacy.
- The ESB need to invest in infrastructure, as fallen poles can cause loss of power for an extended period.
- R336 needs to be included in the gritting programme.
- For gritting to be effective, it needs to be carried out immediately and 3 times a night.
- If a text alert system for Elected Members could be implemented to keep them informed on the treatment of roads in bad weather.
- Timber ESB poles are not treated anymore, they require better maintenance.
- ESB poles should be made of steel.
- Areas of flooding must be identified and pipes installed to prevent water gathering in the growth around stones.
- The spread of misinformation needs to be addressed.
- Current signage is not adequate to warn of flooding.
- If many applications were received for the Local Improvement Scheme (LIS) and if the old list is now exhausted.
- Need to support schools by providing salt for gritting.
- All Elected Members seeking election in the upcoming General Election were wished well.

Members Queries were responded to as follows by Ms. Ruane:

- Will raise the query with the Returning Officer regarding the polling stations, after the general election.

Members Queries were responded to as follows by Mr. Finn:

- The current weather forecast suggests that the level of the Clare River has reached its peak and water levels will drop.
- The Office of Public Works operate sluice gates.
- A road having been treated should not imply that it is then ice free.
- 1300km of roads are treated twice in bad weather, with priority given to P1 and P2 classified national roads, some regional and local roads included. There is over 6000km of road network in County Galway, it is impossible to treat them all. P3 category roads may be gritted if a third load of grit is spread. Each route takes approximately 4 hours to complete one grit cycle. Consideration needs to be given to rest periods for staff.
- The salt is provided by the Department of Transport and must only be used to treat roads.
- The old LIS list is about to expire and a new list is being compiled.
- Regarding text alerts, in a severe weather event the main focus is to respond to incidents, issuing text alerts will be another burden on the team. He will discuss it with the team. If any Member requires information during a weather event they can contact him.

Members raised the following points and queries:

- If the LIS applications from the previous scheme will be classed as priority applications or if will they have to re-apply.
- It was asked if a list of LIS applications for 2025 could be circulated to the Members.

- Locations that are liable to flooding should be identified and the landowners approached to allow signs to be erected and flood alleviation works carried out.
- It was asked why flooding still occurs in Baile Chláir.
- The successful night at the Chambers Ireland Excellence in Local Government Awards 2024 was commented on.
- It was queried if landowners are obliged to comply with flood relief works.
- 60% - 70% of relief works are complete in Baile Chláir, does an application have to be made for further funding or is the funding still available.

Members Queries were responded to as follows by Mr. Finn:

- A report on the LIS schemes for 2025 can be circulated.
- Current applicants have been informed that they do not need to re-apply.
- It can be difficult to obtain permission from the landowner to carry out works to prevent flooding.
- Issues of water runoff from roads can be raised with the relevant area offices.
- Drainage works have commenced in Baile Chláir. Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) have experienced funding constraints, but it is hoped that funding will be received next year for the works in Baile Chláir.
- The obligations of landowners in the event of flooding are not straightforward, it depend on where the water originally fell.
- There is no requirement for funding to be reapplied for to carry out flood relief works in Baile Chláir.

ITEM NO.23 VOTES OF SYMPATHY / CONGRATULATIONS

4461

A resolution of congratulations was extended to the following:

- Tynagh, Abbey Duniry Senior Hurling Team on becoming Connacht Intermediate Club Hurling Champions.
- Annaghdown Ladies Intermediate Football Team on winning their AIB All-Ireland Intermediate quarter final.
- Clarinbridge Minor Camogie Team on becoming Minor A1 Champions 2024.

- Loughrea Senior Mens Hurling Team on winning the County Final.
- Skehanagh/Menlough camogie team on winning the Rose Nixon title.

The recipients of the Rehab people of the year awards were acknowledged.

A resolution of sympathy was extended to the following:

- Anne Lawless, Dangan, Menlo, Co. Galway.
- John Edward Joyce, The Mustard Seed, Ballingarry, Co. Limerick V94EHN8.
- Colette Walsh, Baunmore, Claregalway, Co. Galway.
- Michéal Owens & Family, Ballymannion, Menlough, Co. Galway.
- Hannah O Tuairisg Lochan Beag, Indreabhán, Co. na Gaillimhe.
- Chris Lawless, Wakefield, Caherlistrane, Co. Galway.
- Carmel Warde Glynn, Ballinamona, Kylebrack, Loughrea, Co. Galway.
- The family of the late Tommy Warde, Ballinamona, Kylebrack, Loughrea Co. Galway.
- John Sullivan, Moneymore, Oranmore, Co. Galway.
- Tom Murray, Staff, C/O County Hall.
- Marie Mannion, - Staff, C/O County Hall.
- Patricia Mannion, - Staff, C/O County Hall.
- The family of the late Johnny Duhan, Barna, Co. Galway.
- The family of the late Máire Ní Fhátharta, Spiddal, Co. Galway.
- The family of the late Noel Tierney, Milltown, Co. Galway.
- Ray Ryan, Kilcloghan's, Tuam, Co. Galway.

Tributes were paid to the late Norah Screene Owens for her work and commitment with the Regional Health Forum.

Also, to the late former Senator Billy Lawless for the kindness and hospitality he showed when he hosted representatives from Galway County Council in Chicago.

Condolences were offered to the families of Johnny Duhan RIP and Máire Ní Fhátharta whom both tragically lost their lives recently at Silverstrand. The work of the emergency services and local volunteers was commended.

The Members were reminded of the civic reception to be held this evening to honour Irish Paralympians, Olympians, footballers, and musicians.

Best wishes and good luck were passed to the 5 Elected Members contesting the General Election.

Chriochnaigh an Cruinniú Ansin.

Submitted, Signed and Approved

Cathaoirleach:

Martina Kirane

Date:

16-12-2024

