

COMAIRLE CATHRACH AGUS CONTAE PHORT LÁIRGE

**Item
No.**

WATERFORD CITY AND COUNTY COUNCIL

MONTHLY COUNCIL MEETING HELD 13TH MAY, 2021

C O R R E S P O N D E N C E

1. CORRESPONDENCE:

- a). Email dated 12th April, 2021 from the office of the Minister for Public Expenditure & Reform responding to letter re. Motion No. 167.
- b). Letter dated 15th April, 2021 from the office of the Minister Children, Equality & Disability acknowledging receipt of letter re. Motion No. 181.
- c). Email dated 15th April, 2021 from the office of the Minister for Further and Higher Education acknowledging receipt of letter re. Motion No. 175.
- d). Email dated 15th April, 2021 from the office of the Minister of State with responsibility for Local Government & Planning acknowledging receipt of letter re. Motion No. 184.
- e). Letter dated 15th April, 2021 from the office of the Taoiseach acknowledging receipt of letter re. Motion No. 179
- f). Letter dated 16th April, 2021 from the office of the Minister of State for Children, Equality & Disability responding to letter re. Motion No. 182.
- g). Email dated 16th April, 2021 from the office of the Minister of State with responsibility for Local Government & Planning acknowledging receipt of letter re. Motion No. 176.
- h). Email dated 20th April, 2021 from the office of the Minister of State with responsibility for Local Government & Planning responding to letter re. Motion No. 184.
- i). 23rd April, 2021 Audit Committee Work Programme 2021
- j). Letter dated 27th April, 2021 from the office of the Minister for Justice responding to letter re. Motion No. 168.
- k). Letter dated 4th May, 2021 from the office of the Minister of State with responsibility for Local Government & Planning responding to letter re. Motion No. 176.
- l). Letter dated 4th May, 2021 from the office of the Minister of State Minister of State with responsibility for Disability responding to letter re. Motion No. 182.
- m). Letter dated 5th May, 2021 from the office of the Minister of State at the Office of Public Works responding to letter re. Motion No. 169.

2. CONFERENCES:

Audit, Governance & Risk Management Training for Audit (and Risk) Committee Members, 3rd June, 2021 via MS Teams.

3. MAYORAL/CATHAOIRLEACH RECEPTION/FUNCTIONS:

4. MOTIONS RECEIVED:

Cork City Council

At the March meeting of Cork City Council the members passed the following resolution and it was agreed to circulate to all Local Authorities :

"That Cork City Council will send a letter of support which condemns the racial and misogynistic abuse being inflicted on the Lord Mayor of Dublin Cllr. Hazel Chu"

Roscommon County Council

At a recent Plenary Meeting of Roscommon County Council the following motion was adopted and it was agreed to circulate to all Local Authorities for their support:

*" It was **AGREED** to write to the Taoiseach and Minister Heather Humphreys at the Department of Rural and Community Development to immediately establish an Annual Fund for necessary capital works projects at our nations cemeteries to specifically address the deterioration of pavements, boundary walls, overgrown trees and other similar capital works requirements in the interest of health and safety, stimulating local economies, pride of place at these sacred public spaces, but most importantly in deference to the memory of our deceased loved ones throughout the county. It was further agreed to circulate the motion to all Local Authorities.."*

Donegal County Council

At a recent meeting of Donegal County Council the following motion was adopted and it was agreed to circulate to all Local Authorities :

"Iarraim ar Chomhairle Contae Dhún na nGall tacú le hiarrachtaí Phobalscoil na Rosann ina bhfeachtas chun dul i ngleic leis an anás míosta i gContae Dhún na nGall. Chuige seo, ba chóir dúinn a chinntiú go bhfuil teacht, saor in aisce, ar earraí slaintíochta in achan fhoirgneamh de chuid Chomhairle Contae Dhún na nGall, ionaid phobail, linnte snámha agus leabharlanna, fá choinne oibríthe agus baill den phobal. Tá an rún seo ag moladh go mbunófaí grúpa oibre traspholaitiúil leis an taighde riachtanach uilig, agus leis an éascaíocht uilig, a bheadh de dhíth a dhéanamh leis an rún seo a chur i bhfeidhm gan mhoill".

"I call on Donegal County Council to support the endeavours of Rosses Community School in their campaign to address period poverty, in County Donegal. In doing so we should make available access to sanitary items free of charge in all Donegal County Council buildings, community centres, swimming pools and libraries, for both workers and members of the public. This motion calls for a cross political working group to be set up to carry out all necessary research and facilitation for this motion to become a reality in a timely manner."

Sligo County Council

At the Ordinary meeting of Sligo County Council held on the 12th April, 2021 the following motions were adopted and it was agreed to circulate to all Local Authorities :

¹ *I propose that Sligo County Council write to An Tánaiste and ask him to intervene on the crisis facing our community sector in relation to insurance.*

The community sector is facing so many challenges in re-opening vital programmes and services, and may not be in a position to recover from the impact of Covid-19 unless the cost of insurance is sorted. A review of the Judicial Guidelines has taken place recently. These guidelines control the amount of damages awarded for personal injury claims and hence the cost of insurance. These guidelines only brought damages for minor, fully-recovered injuries down by 52% in Ireland which means that we are still an outlier in Europe. An 80% reduction is required to bring us in line with England and Wales and get insurance costs down to affordable levels, especially for the community sector."

"For this Council to write to the Minister for Finance Paschal Donohue following his recent remarks stating that taxes will rise after Covid and ask him not to increase taxes but instead borrow money to stimulate the economy over the next decade.

History shows that we cannot tax our way out of recession . The ECB are prepared to lend billions to allow the country to get back on track. An infrastructure plan including a massive house building programme should be included. In a decade, taxes will increase incrementally due to job creation therefore strengthening the economy and increasing our ability to repay the ECB".

Limerick City & County Council

At the March meeting of Limerick City & County Council the following motions were adopted and it was agreed to circulate to all Local Authorities for their support :

"That, Limerick City and County Council call on Mr. Darragh O'Brien, TD, Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, to retain the existing policies in relation to one-off rural housing as per the adopted Limerick County Development Plan 2010-2016 (Section 3.9 Rural Settlement Policy and including the Rural Settlement Strategy Map) in the emerging Limerick City and County Development Plan 2022-2028."

"That, Limerick City and County Council, recognising the scale of the Housing crisis, reaffirm its commitment to work with Government and all relevant agencies towards delivering new housing units and, in particular, ensuring that sufficient Social and Affordable housing is built for those in need of same.

Recognising, however, its duty to use Limerick City and County Council property in the best interests of society, this Council reject the provisions contained in the Land Development Agency Bill, 2021, published by the Government, removing the role of the Elected Members of Local Authorities in approving the transfer or sale of lands to the Land Development Agency.

The Council further agrees to write to the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage urging a removal of that provision and to ensure that Elected Councillors retain the right to control such sales or transfers and be able to prepare and plan for appropriate housing delivery on Council-owned lands.

The Council further agrees to circulate this Motion to each Local Authority and the Association of Irish Local Government requesting their support for this."

Clare County Council

At the April Meeting of Clare County Council the following motions were adopted and it was agreed to circulate to all Local Authorities :

"I am asking Clare County Council to write to the Taoiseach, Minister for Finance and the Minister for Social Protection, to prioritise that the carers allowance is no longer means tested after the 2021 budget. Given that the majority of carers are female and the fact that carer's allowance is means tested a huge amount of women don't receive any money due to their partners earnings.

This means that women carers are reliant on their husband or partner for financial support with no support from the state. This is a throw back to the 1800's when women were not recognised by society for their contributions or value to the state. Carers are saving the state millions for this service with no recognition. The carers allowance should be provided to the carer regardless of their partners income, as that is their only means of income.

Why is it that the carers allowance is means tested but the children's allowance is universal? Is one not as important as the other? I would like the Ministers and the Taoiseach to answer these questions.

I would also like that this motion is circulated to all councils across Ireland to show solidarity and support for all carers."

"That Clare County Council ask the HSE and the "Connecting for Life" initiative to pilot a Community Psychiatric Car service in the County. This has been successfully piloted by the NHS in London. The Mental Health Joint Response Car (MHJRC) involves having a Community Psychiatric Nurse and Emergency Medical Technician on call 24/7. The rationale is that people in mental health crises in the community do not

often require admission to hospital, rather to address their issues with trained personnel in their own homes. Equally the qualified personnel can also make the call if actual hospital admission is warranted. To date, evaluation of the pilot has proven successful in the UK and a further 7 cars are now in operation. Currently, Goal four of Connecting for Life, Ireland's national strategy to reduce suicide 2015- 2020, aims to enhance accessibility, consistency and care pathways of services for people vulnerable to suicidal behaviour. This motion seeks to enact this in real time in our communities."

"That Clare County Council write to the Department of Health and to Minister Stephen Donnelly requesting that Victims of Domestic, sexual and gender-based violence have access to free psychological support and counselling during and after the legal process as required.

We request this support be provided bearing in mind that convicted perpetrators have access to these services at least over the duration of sentence. If passed we ask that this motion is shared with all other local authorities for support."

Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council

At the April Meeting of Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council the following motion was adopted and it was agreed to circulate to all Local Authorities :

"That Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council supports the campaign of Epilepsy Ireland to address long-standing issues that continue to impact on people with epilepsy and their families in Ireland today, namely;

- 1. Access to Free Travel.*
- 2. Provision of Reasonable Accommodations for State Examinations for students with epilepsy.*

The Motion to be then sent to the Minister for Health, the Minister for Transport, the Minister for Education, and to other Local Authorities for correspondence purposes."