

**COMHAIRLE CATHRACH AGUS CONTAE PHORT LÁIRGE  
WATERFORD CITY AND COUNTY COUNCIL**

**COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 9<sup>th</sup> JANUARY, 2020 IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER,  
CIVIC OFFICES, DUNGARVAN, CO. WATERFORD.**

**PRESENT**

|                           |                         |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| Cllr. John Pratt (Mayor)  | Cllr. Joe Kelly         |
| Cllr. Eddie Mulligan      | Cllr. Jason Murphy      |
| Cllr. Donal Barry         | Cllr. Marc O’Cathasaigh |
| Cllr. Liam Brazil         | Cllr. Thomas Phelan     |
| Cllr. Breda Brennan       | Cllr. Jody Power        |
| Cllr. John O’Leary        | Cllr. Seanie Power      |
| Cllr. Joe Conway          | Cllr. Eamon Quinlan     |
| Cllr. Tom Cronin          | Cllr. Seamus Ryan       |
| Cllr. John Cummins        | Cllr. Matt Shanahan     |
| Cllr. Davy Daniels        | Cllr. James Tobin       |
| Cllr. Declan Doocey       | Cllr. Adam Wyse         |
| Cllr. Conor D. McGuinness | Cllr. Jim Griffin       |
| Cllr. Pat Fitzgerald      | Cllr. John Hearne       |
| Cllr. Damien Geoghegan    |                         |

**APOLOGIES**

Cllr. Declan Clune, Cllr. Pat. Nugent, Cllr. Ger Barron, Cllr. Lola O’Sullivan, Cllr. Seamus O’Donnell.

**OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE**

Mr. M. Walsh, Chief Executive  
 Mr. I. Grimes, Director of Services, Housing, Community & Emergency Services.  
 Mr. F. Galvin, Director of Services, Roads, Water & Environment.  
 Mr. K. Kehoe, Director of Services, Corporate, Culture, HR & IS.  
 Mr. M. Quinn, Director of Services, Economic Development.  
 Mr. B. Pollard, Head of Finance.  
 Ms. H. Dunphy, Meetings Administrator.  
 Ms. A. Maher, Corporate Dept.

**1. Confirmation of Minutes**

- a). Plenary Meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> November, 2019
- b). Special Plenary Meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> November, 2019
- c). Statutory Budget Meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> November, 2019
- d). Deferred Budget Meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> December, 2019
- e). Plenary Meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> December, 2019

Proposed by Cllr. Tobin & seconded by Cllr. D. McGuinness.

## **2. Matters Arising**

Cllr. Daniels looked for a response in relation to decentralisation and queried if response to letter to Minister Simon Coveney has been received.

K. Kehoe, DoS confirmed queries will be followed up on.

## **3. Planning**

(a) Planning lists as circulated were noted.

## **4. Land Disposals**

Land Disposals proposed by Cllr. Doocey and seconded by Cllr. Cummins.

## **5. Monthly Management Report**

Cllr. Ryan requested a review of the letting scheme is undertaken as there is currently no potential for families to grow and transfers are hard to get. He stated that public consultation in relation to the development plan is essential.

Cllr. Tobin queried the current position of the Ballyduff Wind Farm as the company have appealed the decision of An Bord Pleanála and can the company apply for retention permission or do they have to wait for the appeal to be heard.

Cllr. Mulligan asked about the progress on the Michael Street Development in relation to handover and purchase and the options for building a new car park at Newgate Street. Also enquired if the Viking Triangle Trust is still in operation, queried the reduction in homeless figures and the amount received for planning contributions for North Quays and if consideration has been given for inflation in the overall cost of the project.

M. Quinn, DOS confirmed that there will be an extensive programme of engagement and consultation carried out initially at the Planning SPC in relation to the development plan and will include public consultation. He updated that a judicial review is currently underway in relation to the wind farm application, on completion of this an application for retention may be made. In regard to Michael Street the phasing of the development is in the developer's plans so this can't be dictated on by the Council and parking can be discussed at a later stage. The Viking Trust is currently in operation but is under review. He confirmed that the maximum fee of €38,000 was paid in planning contributions for the North Quays.

Chief Executive, confirmed that provision has been made for inflation.

I.Grimes, DOS confirmed that the Scheme of Letting Priorities operated by the council is in line with national guidelines and this dictates the size of the property allocated. The reduction in homeless figures is due to the work by the Integrated Services and their work with people in danger of becoming homeless.

Cllr. Daniels enquired if the North Quays and Michael Street projects will develop together, requested an update on the airport and requested detail on the set up on the finance committee as agreed at the budget meeting.

Cllr. Murphy asked in light of the North Quays and city developments what is being done to promote and attract people to Waterford as an affordable place to work and live.

Cllr. Ó Cathasaigh asked if council is liaising with Wexford in relation to the development of the Greenway. He enquired about notification in relation to tree felling and asked for the cost of HAP particularly in light of the rising number of HAP tenancies. He complimented the work of the integrated services in Parnell Street.

Chief Executive confirmed that there is ongoing promotion of Waterford and will continue to develop this for the 2020 work programme. He outlined that the council works closely with both Kilkenny and

Wexford in relation to the development of the Greenways. He confirmed that the Michael Street and North Quays developments will progress together. He advised that the airport CPO was advertised prior to Christmas and planning is due to be lodged shortly, shareholders meeting and EGM due to take place. The financial committee will be discussed with the CPG.

F. Galvin, DoS, stated that a tree management plan will be brought to Environment SPC and he will distribute current plan of work in relation to tree felling to the councillors for their respective areas.

I.Grimes, DoS, explained that HAP is dealt with centrally in Limerick for all local authorities and confirmed that €10.3m was spent in 2018 on HAP, 2019 figures not collated.

Cllr. J. Power sought an update on the National Roads Allocation for 2020 and noted that Carroll's Cross was not included, asked what was the process for the naming of the Sustainable Transport Bridge and if there is a grant for the Viking interactive centre.

Cllr. Cummins requested that a schedule of the timescales for the North Quays development airport is provided, enquired if there are outstanding issues to be resolved in relation to investors and shareholders of the airport.

Cllr. Brennan asked about a date for a presentation from Transport for Ireland (TFI) and review of Bus Éireann routes.

M. Quinn, DoS confirmed that a funding application for Fáilte Ireland will be lodged, a comprehensive plan is currently underway. He will circulate timescale on North Quays project.

Chief Executive outlined that there are some issues areas to be resolved with the airport investors and expects them to be resolved shortly.

F. Galvin, DoS outlined that surveys and reports are being completed in relation to Carroll's Cross and a meeting with TII is due to be held to progress the issues. A meeting with Bus Éireann has been held and they will be invited to present to council once negotiations have concluded. The Sustainable Transport Bridge has yet to be named and will revert to council when it is being dealt with.

Cllr. Griffin enquired about the way that solar farms are being looked at for planning purposes and suggested that off shore wind farms would be more suitable to our climate. He enquired if there would be a workshop on 5G.

Cllr. Quinlan enquired about what greenway funding has been provided, what are other local authorities availing of and questioned what funding role the council has in relation to the older persons council and if it should be supported by local authorities.

Cllr. Barry discussed the rent review forms issued to all tenants and the indication that some will have an increase. He would like the scheme not to be brought in without a hardship clause and feels that OAP's and lone parents will be facing a high increase.

M. Quinn, DoS explained that the effectiveness of solar farms which involves more recent technology is based on daylight and not sunlight only and they only get paid for the electricity they generate with location being of prime consideration. Funding for greenways and feasibility studies for these are being considered.

I.Grimes, DoS outlined that all tenants need to inform the council of any changes in circumstances so that they be taken into consideration as part of a rent review. The scheme referred to is only in draft and has yet to be considered by the Housing SPC. He will review point in relation to the older person's council.

K. Kehoe, DoS confirmed that the EPA are planning to do an information session shortly on 5G and he will circulate any recent information to the members.

Cllr. D. McGuinness enquired about a review of wind energy which is underway and asked about the possibility of having a workshop on the subject. In connection with HAP inspections he noted that the December figures are low and outlined that there is a need for a greater number of inspections particularly for substandard properties. He thanked Ivan Grimes for the assistance he gave recently for an application for the IWIL scheme and feels that the council should promote this scheme more. He noted that there

were a number of malicious call outs for the fire service and asked are they referred to the Gardaí for action.

Cllr. Conway enquired about the number of outages of street lighting over the Christmas period. He noted that the derelict sites register has remained unchanged stating that the sites are a blight on the community and if pursued could be an income generator. He enquired as to why a number of properties CPO'd by the council remain vacant.

Cllr. Fitzgerald enquired if there was re-deployment of staff in the roads sections to deal with issues as some areas suffered as a result.

I.Grimes, DOS confirmed that the HAP inspection figures in December are low as staff were dealing with other necessary work and a catch up on inspections is being looked at. He outlined that the IWIL scheme is a national scheme and he will provide information on the scheme to members. Malicious calls are referred by the central unit to the Gardaí. In relation to the CPO'd properties some are still vacant as they have been identified for special medical needs so they involve much more work before they are reoccupied. He stated that the number of sub-standard HAP units is low.

M. Quinn, DoS confirmed that a wind energy workshop can be looked at, he noted that the recovery process for derelict sites is very slow so very little income results from them.

F. Galvin, DoS explained that the council are looking at replacing all public lighting with LED heads, this is a national programme that is due to commence this year. He stated that there was some re-deployment of staff to deal with issues and this has now been resolved.

Cllr. Kelly outlined that the recent hamper appeal was successful but the civil defence staff were asked not to come in uniform and he requested an explanation on this. He requested detail on the number of housing units that would be delivered in 2020, he requested update on the roll out of the new open library and if it is planned for Carrickphierish library and if Saturday opening could be considered.

Cllr. Shanahan requested a meeting with Waterford Port to be arranged, he outlined his concern about the level of littering and the need to use CCTV cameras to capture offenders. He supports the need for a meeting on 5G and stated that there needs to be engagement with Energia prior to any planning application.

Cllr. Phelan asked about litter enforcement on complaints and what follow up action is taken, he enquired about the result in relation to the legal actions taken.

I. Grimes, DoS said that the civil defence officer was involved in any decision for staff in relation to the hamper appeal and will have him make contact directly. He outlined that the council is on target to deliver houses for 2020 and expects to deliver similar numbers to 2019.

K. Kehoe, DoS spoke about the open libraries and confirmed that Dungarvan is working very well and similar is planned for Lismore. A review of services has been undertaken and Saturday opening is probable for Carrickphierish. He spoke about 5G and the EPA and outlined that up to date information as it is available will be circulated to members to keep them informed of developments.

F. Galvin, DoS explained that CCTV for some problem areas is being worked on but must be justified and explained to the data commissioner. He confirmed that each complaint is investigated and he will review figures as presented in the report.

M. Quinn, DoS outlined that a visit to Waterford Port will be scheduled for Q.1

## **6. Draft Corporate Plan – For Approval**

K. Kehoe, DoS outlined the process undertaken in relation to the development of the Corporate Plan stating that consultation included workshop with councillors, survey with staff and receipt of submissions. The process resulted in the receipt of good proposals which have formed the new vision for the council for the next five years.

A number of councillors commented on the plan, acknowledging it was a good improvement on the previous plan and it will be a promising plan to deliver and to reinforce Waterford as the capital of the South East.

K. Kehoe, DoS confirmed that the document will be on the council website and will be followed now by the development of the Annual Service Plane for 2020.

Proposed by Cllr. McGuinness, seconded by Cllr. Phelan and agreed by all.

## **7. Grants**

(a) Festival & Events Grants – 2020

Proposed by Cllr. Daniels, seconded by Cllr. Tobin and agreed by all.

(a) Arts practice and Venue Grants – 2020.

Proposed by Cllr. Conway, seconded by Cllr. Kelly and agreed by all.

## **8. Traveller Accommodation programme 2019 – 2024 – for approval**

I. Grimes, DoS outlined the process undertaken in relation to the development of the Traveller Accommodation Programme and the requirement of the council to prepare a five year programme in consultation with the relevant agencies and groups. The plan as presented has been approved by the Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee (LTACC) and he commended the work of staff involved in the drafting of the plan.

Cllr. O’Leary as chair of the LTACC recommended and proposed the plan outlining that the plan provides for investment and will help to address the current issue of overcrowding. A number of councillors outlined their support for the plan and raised concerns over the current condition of the sites on the Green Road and Kilbarry. Also highlighted the need for consistent enforcement at the sites.

A show of hands was called for with 20 members voting in favour, one against and one abstention.

## **9. Nomination to Audit Committee.**

K. Kehoe, DoS outlined that members hold two positions on the Audit Committee. As per the Local Government (Audit Committee) Regulations 2014 a person is disqualified from membership of an audit committee if they are already a member of a regional assembly. Cllr. Phelan currently holds positions on both the audit committee and the regional assembly, as a result his position on the audit committee needs to be reappointed.

Cllr. D. Geoghegan was proposed by Cllr. Doocey and seconded by Cllr. S. Power. As there were no further nominations Cllr. Geoghegan was elected to the audit committee.

## **10. Town Twinning Proposal**

K. Kehoe, DoS outlined proposal for new twinning arrangement with Tonsberg, Norway detailing the request to be twinned with a Waterford due to the shared Viking history and linkages that would benefit both locations.

There was a number of comments in favour of this proposal including Cllrs. Mulligan, Griffin, Kelly, Shanahan, Conway, McGuinness, J. Power, Geoghegan and Ryan.

New twinning was proposed by Cllr. Phelan seconded by Cllr. J. Power and agreed.

## 11. Correspondence

Proposed by Cllr. Kelly and seconded by Cllr. Ó Cathasaigh

## 12. Notice of Motions.

### 1. Motion in the names of Cllr. Eddie Mulligan and Jason Murphy

*“That this Council writes to the Minister for Transport stating Waterford City has failed to match the National recovery experienced in Dublin, Galway, Limerick & Cork and request that the feasibility of a bespoke free public transport model, similar to that in place in Dunkirk, be examined for Waterford City in the form of a National Pilot project.*

*In addition, as the City & County Development Plan is being drafted, it is proposed that this Council through the Transport & Environmental Strategic Policy Committees establishes a subcommittee to conduct a cost benefit analysis for inclusion of a free public transport initiative, in the Plan.*

**Reg. No. 148** (dated, 3<sup>rd</sup> November, 2019)

Cllr. Mulligan briefed the members in relation to the motion, outlining that a pilot project would assist in reducing our carbon footprint. Proposal seconded by Cllr. Murphy.

Cllr. Phelan supports the motion and requested it is amended to state Waterford City & County. Cllrs. Hearne, Ó Cathasaigh, Griffin, Kelly, J. Power, Shanahan, S. Power all spoke in support of this motion. Cllr. Mulligan agreed with change and motion agreed by all.

### 2. Motion in the names of Cllr. John Hearne

*“That this council calls for the Minister for Transport to bring in a complete ban on running or racing of horses on public roads, unless it is licensed, regulated and covered by insurance. This applies to a horse drawing a cart or sulky or ridden”.*

**Reg. No. 150** (dated, 18<sup>th</sup> November, 2019)

Cllr. Hearne outlined his concerns in relation to child safety, animal cruelty and motorists. Cllrs. Shanahan, Tobin, Phelan, Geoghegan, Conway, Ó Cathasaigh, and Cllr. Ryan spoke in support.

Proposed by Cllr. Hearne, seconded by Cllr. Kelly and agreed by all.

### 3. Motion in the names of Cllrs. John Cummins, Lola O’Sullivan, Seanie Power, Liam Brazil, Damien Geoghegan, Pat Nugent, Declan Doocey, Tom Cronin, James Tobin, Adam Wyse, Eamon Quinlan, Jason Murphy, Eddie Mulligan, John O’Leary, Marc O’Cathasaigh, Jody Power, Thomas Phelan, John Pratt, Ger Barron, Séamus Ryan and Donal Barry.

*‘The members of Waterford City & County Council share the collective view that we have a responsibility to show leadership in efforts to improve the civility of public discourse on political matters.*

*Accordingly Waterford City & County Council agrees to introduce a voluntary code of conduct for councillors who operate social media accounts/pages/profiles. Signed declarations indicating agreement/non-agreement (or no social media presence controlled by the councillor) will be published and updated annually on the council website. If a councillor declines to sign up to the code this will be recorded on the council website. Candidates at local elections will also be offered the opportunity to sign up to the code at the appropriate time.*

*While being mindful of the right to freedom of expression; the Social Media Code of Conduct will commit signatories to not engaging in personalized or abusive posts or comments about any named individual (or any individual who although unnamed would be readily identifiable to many people). Furthermore, each signatory commits to ensuring that any inappropriate comments left by members of the public on his/her social media account(s) are removed in a timely manner.”*

**Reg. No. 151** (dated 11<sup>th</sup> December, 2019)

Proposed by Cllr. Geoghegan, seconded by Cllr. D. McGuinness and agreed by all.

An extension of standing orders on time was proposed by Cllr. Jody Power and seconded by Cllr. Hearne.

### **13. Notice of Questions.**

Noted

### **14. AOB.**

I.Grimes, DoS informed members that Mr. Kevin Lewis has stepped down from the LCDC, proposed replacement is Mr. Michael O’Brien. Proposed by Cllr. D. McGuinness and seconded by Cllr. Kelly

Congratulations were expressed to Henry Moloney who will be the St. Patrick’s Day Grand Marshall.

Congratulations were expressed to Cllr. McGuinness and his partner Pia on the birth of their daughter recently.

Cllr. Phelan expressed thanks from Cllr. Ger Barron for the help and support he received at the December meeting when he became unwell. Everyone at the meeting wished him a speedy recovery

**Signed:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Mayor**

**Dated:** \_\_\_\_\_