

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

COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 14TH JANUARY 2021 BY ZOOM

Present

Cllr. Ger Barron	Cllr. Jason Murphy
Cllr. Donal Barry	Cllr. Pat Nugent
Cllr. Liam Brazil	Cllr. Seamus O'Donnell
Cllr. Breda Brennan	Cllr. John O'Leary
Cllr. Declan Clune	Cllr. Lola O'Sullivan
Cllr. Joe Conway	Cllr. Thomas Phelan
Cllr. Tom Cronin	Cllr. Jody Power
Cllr. Conor D. McGuinness	Cllr. Seanie Power
Cllr. David Daniels	Cllr. John Pratt
Cllr. Declan Doocey	Cllr. Eamon Quinlan
Cllr. Pat Fitzgerald	Cllr. Frank Quinlan
Cllr. Susan Gallagher	Cllr. Mary Roche
Cllr. Damien Geoghegan	Cllr. Seamus Ryan
Cllr. Jim Griffin	Cllr. Adam Wyse
Cllr. John Hearne	Cllr. Eddie Mulligan
Cllr. Joe Kelly	

Apologies: Cllr. James Tobin

Officials in Attendance

Mr. M. Walsh, Chief Executive
 Mr. K. Kehoe, Director of Services, Corporate, Culture, HR & IS
 Mr. I. Grimes, Director of Services, Housing, Community & Emergency Services
 Mr. F. Galvin, Director of Services, Roads, Water & Environment
 Mr. M. Quinn, Director of Services, Economic Development and Planning
 Mr. B. Pollard, Head of Finance
 Ms. H. Dunphy, Meetings Administrator
 Mr. D. Mitchell, Corporate
 Ms. C. Hartley, Communications Unit
 Mr. L. McGree, Senior Planner
 Mr. H. O'Brien, Senior Executive Planner

Meetings Administrator carried out a roll call to confirm meeting attendance.

The Mayor called for a minute silence in memory of Pat Hayes (Former Mayor of Waterford City) and Mrs. Ann Tobin wife of Cllr. James Tobin who both passed away in December.

1. Confirmation of Minutes

Minutes of meetings held on the 10th December, 24th December and 29th December 2020 proposed by Cllr. Eamon Quinlan seconded by Cllr Daniels and agreed by all.

A correction to the minutes of 10th December requested by Cllr. Brennan. She requested an update to the plans for the RSC and if funding was available at the last plenary on 10th December and no response was recorded in the minutes. Information to issue directly.

2. Matters Arising

Cllr. Phelan requested more detail on the Covid Recovery Plan. M. Quinn, DoS, responded the appropriate and required level of detail had been provided, more detail taken to the SPC periodically. Cllr Phelan commented that it was not acceptable to him that all councillors could not have all the information which was noted.

3. Planning

a). Planning lists as circulated were noted.

4. Land Disposals

Cllr. Murphy commented that 16 of the targeted 20 CPOs were in process. He requested that a clause was inserted into disposal contracts that allowed a fixed period of time to be allowed in contracts to put residential dwellings into use in a certain timeframe to avoid them becoming derelict again.

Cllr. Barry expressed point that all CPO disposals should be put into housing stock to reduce waiting list.

Cllr. O'Leary appreciates the extra information that is now being provided regarding land disposals.

Cllr. Mulligan requested update on the progress with the lease to the Granary as previously raised.

Cllr. Kelly enquired if any guidance in relation to what could be added to housing stock or disposed of.

Cllr. Daniels asked if the Tenant Purchase Scheme was still in operation.

Cllr. Ryan agreed with Cllr. Barry enquiring as to when Housing SPC would be reviewing the policy.

Cllr. S. Power asked about the Tenant Purchase Scheme eligibility criteria and in particular, the requirement for an income greater than €15,000, which is harsh if the applicant, is receiving financial support for the purchase from their family.

I. Grimes, DoS, stated that the Tenant Purchase Scheme was still in operation and the income criteria such as the €15,000 threshold were set out in regulation at a national level. No discretion is allowed.

Regarding the disposal of properties, the council had retained 19 of the 24 purchased via CPO and the remaining 5 were in very poor condition and would cost a lot to restore so they were being disposed of. The disposals were determined under the 2017 Vacant Homes Plan, the Housing SPC has established a sub committee to review this policy and will be meeting in the coming weeks.

K. Kehoe DoS stated that Granary lease will be dealt with at February/March plenary meeting, discussions held with tenants to finalise details.

Cllr. Murphy enquired if a percentage could be set for what could be purchased for public ownership versus put back into the council stock.

Cllr. Geoghegan asked for clarification if it was the exception rather than the rule to dispose of units.

I. Grimes, DoS, stated disposal was the exception, CPOs were expensive and time consuming to conduct.

The disposals list proposed by Cllr. Geoghegan, seconded by Cllr. Wyse and agreed by all.

5. Monthly Management Report

Cllr. Pratt raised the issue of Waterford Area Partnership (WAP) noting press reports were very bleak stating there were 40 jobs at risk. He enquired as to plans by the board to secure jobs and programme work, if SICAP targets have been reached, if any meetings have been held between WCCC and WAP and how the issues can be resolved.

Cllr. Clune enquired if there was an average cost or range per tenancy for the active council tenancies. He requested the following additional information to be included in the housing section report; number of successful housing adaptation grants, removal of older capital programmes, update of detail on refurbishment of houses to see availability, new location based table to include total number of tenants,

number of houses awaiting refurbishment, number of houses ready to occupy and the total amount of housing stock.

Cllr. Brennan enquired as to when the consultation would begin following the announcement of Bus Connect and the new bus routes by the NTA, queried the data regarding on-the-spot fines in the report as the years stated seem out of date and if the figure for S.71 abandoned cars was duplicated. Suggested increased advertisement of the Homeless Hub as it is an extremely valuable service to the community, enquired as to the number of housing inspectors for rented properties given the high number of inspection failure. The ability for the council to stop HAP payments in the case of properties that were substandard was also requested to be clarified and noted appreciation of work of the housing inspectors.

I.Grimes, DoS, replied that adaptation grant figures reflected those that had applied and been approved but it was dependant on the applicants to do the work and to draw down the funds, he will update the format of the table to show refurbishment data and look at improving the public profile of the Homeless Hub. He noted that the council does stop HAP payments on houses that are substandard when inspected. He will review inclusion of additional data in the Management Report and will need to compile data on the average costs for the HAP tenancies. He outlined that the WAP operates independently of the council, the LCDC contracts WAP for the provision of SICAP services and the Council are generally satisfied that it has been meeting its targets. The LCDC or the Council had no role or oversight in the governance of WAP as it is an independent company.

Cllr. E. Quinlan raised the need for a contingency plan to ensure that the WAP services could be continued, he queried the progress on the afforestation plans and asked if the executive could provide a list of potential sites that are council owned and suitable for pop up forests. He also enquired if there would be new small Business Grants to replace the two Pandemic Supports provided currently.

Cllr. Ryan requested additional detail to be provided regarding the Michael Street development as part of the North Quays, noted that the Shop Local campaign should be pushed to support our local businesses when shopping online and asked what practical supports the council were putting in place regarding parking and rates to support these businesses. He paid tribute to the council workers gritting the roads in the early mornings and enquired if a comparison could be made with other Local Authorities in relation to road projects. He further enquired if it would be possible to submit scanned housing applications rather than paper ones during the current lock down.

Cllr. Barry noted his concern in relation to the position with WAP, stating that services and programmes it provided needed to continue. He hoped the matter could be resolved quickly.

I.Grimes, DoS, reiterated that neither the LCDC nor Council had any responsibility for WAP governance, outlining that advice was being obtained on what contingencies the council could make regarding service continuity as a matter of urgency. He noted that scanned applications had been accepted in the past.

F. Galvin, DoS stated that no information from the NTA regarding consultation on new bus routes, confirmed typo with on-the-spot fines and S.71 detail not duplicated. Noted that comparison between authorities on road budgets they would not be comparable as budget is for specific projects which are different in nature and lengths. The allocation of Ordinary Roads Grant roads is expected shortly from the Department of Transport and should be reported on at the February district meetings. He will revert with report on the afforestation initiative.

M. Quinn, DoS, noted that in relation to the pandemic supports there is a reasonable expectation that central government would extend supports, the Business Support Grants announced in December replaced previous schemes and more generous than what was offered previously. Would review having supports more prominently positioned on the website, in addition LEO also offering supports and mentoring to local businesses. Will continue to support shop local campaign and will circulate the business support scheme details again to all Councillors.

Cllr. Quinlan enquired if details of quarter one rates waiver is known.

B. Pollard, HoF, expecting details on future rate waivers and will revert when available.

Cllr. Griffin suggested a workshop in relation to the WAP situation, working group to review preparations for upcoming tourist season and disabled access at beaches and amenities. Enquired if liaison officers could be provided to help those vulnerable people in need of housing that cannot get to the council offices now and requested a review of stock in relation to overcrowding and need to self-isolate.

Cllr. Mulligan enquired if the North Quays contract had been completed and if proof of funds had been received from the developer. Requested impact assessment on the council's own workforce from Covid. Requested update on Vision 2040 project, progress on airport CPO and enquired if online payment system for parking could be introduced and introduction of bicycle parking bins.

Cllr. Hearne requested council representatives to request a better deal from the government for the Debenhams workers, noted consideration needs to be given to development of a support called 'Ask Ani' to help victims of domestic abuse. Noted that reports on disability friendly city and the Irish Wheelchair Association report should be brought to the relevant SPC for discussion and requested details on report in relation to sulkies.

I.Grimes, DoS, stated that a workshop for the WAP could be considered, noted that a liaison officer and two social workers available in housing to assist vulnerable people. Outlined that not practical to conduct a review of the 5,000 houses in the housing stock related to impact of Covid but the council were being guided by the HSE public health guidance and protocols. The Disability report from Irish Wheelchair association received and distributed to all engineers and technical staff internally for consideration.

K. Kehoe, DoS stated that the Business Continuity Plan has been in operation since the start of the pandemic and noted that there has been no impact on service due to the built-in resilience of the plan. Noted that the Keep Well Programme will assist in similar issues to the 'Ask Ani' campaign. The matter of the airport CPO is currently with An Bord Pleanála.

M. Walsh (CE) stated that the North Quays contract will be finalised in coming weeks and will confirm completion with members, suggested update on Vision 2040 with workshop for members.

Cllr. Conway requested update on the Climate Action Plan and complemented work of all council staff in provision of services during this difficult time.

Cllr. D. McGuinness noted that removing HAP payments for substandard houses impacts tenants more than the landlords requesting offending landlords to be named and shamed, enquired if the council would be making a submission regarding the micro generation of renewable energy suggesting a workshop to discuss. Welcomed recent social media campaign on illegal dumping enquiring if CCTV can be used to control the problem and enquired if refuse collection providers were required to collect dry recyclables.

Cllr. P. Fitzgerald requested council to exert influence on Irish Water regarding planning issues, enquired about safety provisions for roads crew in current pandemic and asked if there is sufficient stock of salt and grit. Enquired about the coastal erosion grant aid from the OPW has progressed.

F. Galvin, DoS stated that no compatible online parking payment system had been identified yet but would continue to explore, the cycle bins suggested were extremely expensive and would need a funding scheme to progress. He noted that the Climate Action Team was an internal cross departmental team and reports to the Environment SPC, he will follow up the sulky issue with the Department of Transport. He outlined that the use of mobile CCTV to curtail illegal dumping it is not an option now due to data protection issues but is being reviewed. Noted that providers are obliged to provide a three-bin option for residents in any urban area with a population greater than five hundred people. He outlined that the roads crews work under strict safety guidelines and the stocks of salt and grit were maintained up to a high level until April. He stated that there are 45 applications for the coastal erosion grants and need to wait until assessment has concluded.

I.Grimes, DoS stated that where HAP was withdrawn for substandard accommodation there were flexible arrangements and additional supports in place to assist impacted tenants. The council would consider the naming and shaming on landlords of substandard properties but would need to get legal clarification.

M. Quinn, DoS commented that there is a review process in place for planning with Irish Water for infrastructural requirements related to the development plan which should deliver the required commitments. The Council has no direct control or influence on the Irish Water Capital Budgets.

Cllr. Gallagher raised the issue of the ban on smoky coal not applying to Dungarvan due to the population size and asked if any air quality monitoring was occurring in the area. Noted that shared pedestrian and cycles schemes are against the national cycle manual and asked why this is the case. Enquired if footpaths were gritted under the Winder Maintenance Programme and if student summer jobs in the council will be advertised in 2021.

Cllr. Kelly raised the subject of the 1073 litter bin presentation letters issued by the council asking what action was to be taken and requested details on the re use of paint initiative. He commended the Waterford Sports Partnership 'Get Walking' Initiative.

Cllr. Murphy supported the need for footpath gritting, enquired as to what the council was bidding upon under the Choice Based Lettings Scheme (CBL). Suggested that unused festival funding due to cancelled events is redirected to capital project works for the county.

F. Galvin, DoS stated that there are national moves to extend the ban on smoky coal, responsibility for monitoring the air quality lies with the EPA station in city and considering one for Dungarvan. He outlined that there are isolated areas where there is insufficient space that a shared pedestrian/ cycle scheme needs to be put in place. Noted that there are insufficient resources to grit footpaths in the same manner as the roads but that it was done on a case-by-case basis if there was a prolonged cold spell. The bin letters were sent to people who had not engaged with any collection service to enquire how they were disposing of household rubbish, currently following up on these and will inform the members know of the outcome. Noted that the paint recycling scheme is being piloted and details to be confirmed.

K. Kehoe, DoS that any student jobs, such as lifeguards, will be advertised in the normal way.

M. Quinn, DoS stated that management of the spend on festivals will be reviewed and brought to council.

I. Grimes, DoS noted that don't distinguish between different types of properties purchased stating that significant sums have been spent to bring properties into our stock and represent long term housing solutions for recipients. He thanked Waterford Sports Partnership and Cllr. Kelly for input on Keep Well Waterford programme.

Cllr. Barron requested update on new Fire Station for Kilmacthomas as current location unsuitable.

Cllr. Phelan requested update on the timing of commencement of the Michael Street development, enquired if the free Christmas tree recycling was still available, requested minutes of climate change action group to be made available to members. Requested progress regarding deep retro fitting of council housing stock, enquired if council received requested allocation under National Roads Programme and requested clarity as to why the financial data relating to spend on development management was 168% on expenditure and 254% on income.

Cllr. Roche made enquiries regarding to WIT/TUSE progress and requested invitation was extended to Professor Willie Donnelly or Tom Boland to present to the council given how key it is to the economic health of the region. Enquired if council was represented on the Governing Body and on board of WAP. Requested information relating to Waterford Crystal relocating to the North Quays, update on Greenway extension into the city and if there would be a workshop on Vision 2040.

Cllr. O'Leary commented that there was too little time allowed for questions on the Management Report.

Cllr. J. Power requested detail regarding data protection issues associated with the use of CCTV to prevent illegal dumping, requested bi-yearly update to the members on work of the climate change committee and enquired about installation of Air/Heat pumps to residential property.

Cllr. Wyse supported the suggestion of using unspent funds from the Festival Budgets for capital projects in the community, enquired to the likelihood that HAP would be increased nationally when the likely rent increases occur from April when rent freezes end and asked if the council could request that the Minister for Housing increases the HAP payments in line with changes to rents.

Cllr. Nugent requested representation made to Irish Water in relation to the costs associated with connection to the network.

Cllr. Brazil highlighted that illegal dumping is out of hand, noting penalties need to be increased.

Cllr. F. Quinlan requested more enforcement and provision of bins to tackle issue of dog fouling.

Cllr. Daniels noted that Waterford had great opportunities in financial services sector after Brexit suggesting a IFSC South East which could be part of the North Quays or Michael St.

Cllr. O’Sullivan stated that she sat on the board of governors of WIT as the WWETB representative, suggested a meeting in April to review unused festival funding, agreed with need to name and shame those involved in illegal dumping, requested statistics on fines for dog fouling in 2020.

F. Galvin, DoS stated the council recycling sites are open as normal for people to recycle Christmas trees, the climate action team will be increasing their operations as await new legislation in the next 12 months. Council received what was requested in terms of road grants and noted the SEAI website had details of grants available to individuals that wished to install Air/Heat pumps. Outlined the council could not name and shame those it fined for illegal dumping, can only do so if prosecuted in court, also stated that had good support from Gardaí in the county. Dog wardens are patrolling extensively, 4 fines issued in 2020.

M. Quinn, DoS informed the meeting that he sat on the WIT governing body as a representative of the council and he would bring up the invitation for WIT to present to the plenary. He noted that the North Quays project is being delivered collectively with the developer, no plans for Waterford Crystal to relocate to the North Quays and city to the Greenway link was scheduled to be open in Q1 2022. Workshop will be scheduled for Vision 2040 and can review content of management report in workshop. In respect of the connection fees to the Irish Water network he explained that local authorities had no control around charges, he noted that there is a South East regional approach to building the financial services sector, but it would not be an IFSC as Dublin has a particular legal designation.

I.Grimes, DoS confirmed that the new Fire Station for Kilmacthomas is included under current plans, he explained that deep retrofit of all the social housing stock would cost between €40k and €50k per unit and because of this it would require new funding source from central government. HAP payments are assessed quarterly by Department of Housing, two rent pressure zones allocated with 4% per annum cap on increases.

Cllr. Roche asked why the Board of WAP did not have places reserved for the council nominees and suggested the council would write to WIT to ask them to update the council on current issues.

Chief Executive outlined that when SICAP was introduced in 2014 it ended the council involvement on the board as would have posed a conflict of interest, no councillors, or members of the executive sit on the WAP board.

B. Pollard, HoF) outlined that the amounts greater than 100% were because of the passing through of restart grant funding though the council accounts.

6. Draft Development Plan – Direction of CE on matters for consideration

L. McGree, SP, outlined details of consultation and workshops undertaken to date and requested the members to endorse the plan as presented to enable progress to the next phase.

Cllr. Phelan proposed inclusion of the phrase “Just transition to a low carbon society”.

Cllr. D. McGuinness welcomed focus on climate change and requested consultation would include input from young people.

Cllr. Ryan commended engagement with the elected representatives and asked for clarification on when the process would get to the level of Local Area Plans.

Cllr. Gallagher supported emphasis on the climate change.

H. O’Brien, SEP, outlined hierarchy of plans noting that main Development Plan needs to be adopted before development of Local Area Plan.

Cllr. Damien Geoghegan formally proposed the adoption of the report seconded by Cllr. McGuinness and agreed by all.

7. Keep Well Waterford

C. Hartley, Communications Officer outlined details of the initiative noting the five themes, adding that brochure issuing to all households across the county.

A number of councillors commented on and commended the initiative complimenting development of the it during the current lockdown, noting that it was an example of working together for the local good with interagency co-operation and the involvement of voluntary organisations. It is an initiative that promotes the benefits for physical and mental health for all.

Mayor thanked C. Hartley, team, and Waterford Sports Partnership for the fantastic initiative.

8. Amendment to Standing Orders

(a) Amendment to Section 5: Place, Date and Time of Meeting

(i) allow the Mayor with majority approval of CPG to change date and location of the Plenary meeting and

(ii) allow the Mayor of the Metropolitan District and Cathaoirligh of Dungarvan Lismore and Comeragh districts with majority approval of CPG to change the date and location of their respective meetings. This is subject to review at the end of each calendar year.

(b) Amendment to Section 35: Questions

Notice of Questions shall be given according to the rules governing Notice of Motion. Response will issue by email to all councillors at the start of the meeting Written reply shall be furnished at the Meeting, on the Agenda for which, the question appears with no debate allowed.

(c) Addition to Appendix 4

Under Civic Honours add in ‘*Certificate of Congratulations*’

Amendments to the standing orders proposed by Cllr. Clune, seconded by Cllr Phelan and agreed by all. Cllr. Roche suggested that an extension to the time spent on the management report be considered. Mayor noted that this would be considered as part of future workshop on standing orders. Cllrs. Roche and Kelly requested clarification on process for the Certificate of Congratulation. K. Kehoe, DoS stated that will follow the same process as any other honour whereby brought to CPG and then to council for approval.

9. Supporting Waterford Community Fund

I.Grimes DoS presented the proposed additional criteria for the Supporting Waterford Community Fund from the SPC.

(i) Applicants must have a bank / credit union / post office account in their own groups name. Applicants will no longer be able to use an umbrella account.

(ii) Only applicants who have less than €5,000 in their account at the end of the previous year shall be eligible, excluding any ring-fenced funding administered by Waterford Council, e.g., Community Enhancement Programme 2020, Mental Health Fund etc. Copy of bank statement showing end of year balance must be submitted with their application form for their application to be valid.

(iii) Residents Associations and Tidy Town groups shall continue to receive a slightly higher allocation than all other applicants (to remain at approx €50 difference).

Cllr Wyse who chaired the SPC stated that the rationale for these changes was to direct funds to smaller organisations with the greatest need and less access to other schemes.

Cllr. Mulligan noted his reservation with the €5k limit as it would exclude some organisation that have fund raised or represented larger memberships.

Cllr. Kelly expressed the same concern stating it provided a disincentive to fundraise.

Cllrs. Hearne, Quinlan, Phelan supported Cllrs. Mulligan and Kelly asking for clause 2 to be removed.

Cllr. Wyse stated that the rationale for including the €5k threshold was to focus on smaller organisations in the greatest need.

Cllr. E. Quinlan proposed amendment to clause 2 to allow for an explanation to be provided when an applicant's balance exceeded €5k.

Cllr. Kelly objected to this and asked that clause 2 was removed completely.

Cllr. Griffin formally proposed that clause 2 be removed and this was seconded by Cllr Mulligan,

Two options were put forward:

1. Take out clause 2 (Proposed by Cllr Griffin and seconded by Cllr Mulligan)
2. Amend clause 2 to provide for discretion by WCCC officials (Proposed by Cllr. E Quinlan and Seconded by Cllr Geoghegan.) adding the following text "An explanation would be sought for any organisation with a balance greater than €5,000 with discretion being allowed by the council officials."

A roll call vote was called for to consider the amendment.

Name:	For	Against
Ger Barron (Lab)	Yes	
Donal Barry (Ind)	Yes	
Liam Brazil (FG)	Yes	
Breda Brennan (SF)		No
Declan Clune (Ind)	Yes	
Joe Conway (Ind)		No
Tom Cronin (FF)	Yes	
Conor D. McGuinness (SF)		No
Davy Daniels (Ind)		No
Declan Doocey (FG)	Yes	
Pat Fitzgerald (SF)		No
Susan Gallagher (GP)		No
Damien Geoghegan (FG)	Yes	
Jim Griffin (SF)		No
John Hearne (SF)		No
Joe Kelly (Ind)		No
Eddie Mulligan (FF)		No
Jason Murphy (FF)	Yes	
Pat Nugent (FG)	Yes	
John O'Leary (FF)	Yes	
Lola O'Sullivan (FG)	Yes	
Thomas Phelan (Lab)		No
Jody Power (GP)		No

Seanie Power (FG)	Yes	
John Pratt (Lab)		No
Eamon Quinlan (FF)	Yes	
Frank Quinlan (FG)	Yes	
Seamus Ryan (Lab)		No
Mary Roche (Ind)		No
Adam Gary Wyse (FF)	Yes	
Result	15 For	15 Against

Due to tie in results, the Mayor had casting vote and voted in favour, so the amendment carried.

10. Correspondence

Cllr. Conway noted further to letter from the Minister for Health regarding Covid that it was unfair for administration staff to be getting vaccine in advance of the front-line workers.

Cllr. Barry raised the Manchester City Council invitation regarding Mayors for Peace Chapter from September and requested update.

Cllr. Kelly commented that there was an argument for teachers and students to get priority for vaccination and agreed with Cllr. Conway.

Cllr. D. McGuinness commended Galway County Council on their Domestic and Gender based violence initiative which was very important especially in the current times.

K. Kehoe, DoS, will revert with update on Mayors for Peace.

Proposed by Cllr. J Power, seconded by Cllr Pratt and agreed by all.

Cllr. Geoghegan requested extension of Standing Orders for 30 minutes, proposed by Cllr. Clune, seconded by Cllr. Brennan, agreed by all.

11. Motions

Motion in the name of Cllr. Mary Roche (Following review by Procedures Committee)

“That Waterford City & County Council in light of current COVID 19 restrictions and improved technology agrees to investigate how Plenary Council meetings can be broadcast live in a cost-effective manner and if such can be determined agrees to broadcast such meetings for a period of 12 months after which time Council will review the decision with a view to its long-term continuance or otherwise.”

Reg. No. 157 (dated 22nd May 2020)

In proposing the motion Cllr Roche outlined that a number of other local authorities were streaming / broadcasting their council meetings noting that Cork County Council was currently streaming their Zoom plenary meetings on You Tube for zero cost. The council needs to be proactive in progressing this issue outlining that it is easier to carry out now that meetings are online.

Cllr. Phelan seconded motion outlining that this motion adds to the transparency of the council. that it would add to the transparency.

Cllr. Barry outlined that any broadcasting needed to be on an appropriate platform such as the Council Website and not on social media platforms, meetings held after working hours allow others to participate.

Cllr. Kelly supported the motion stated that the members were elected by the people so proceedings should be broadcast, particularly as meetings are not currently in person.

Cllr. Clune noted that need to use current technology to progress this and noted that meetings could be uploaded to the website for future reference.

Cllr. E Quinlan pointed out that the motion was about the feasibility of broadcasting rather than deciding to broadcast, proposal would need to revert to council for decision.

Cllrs. Brennan, Pratt, Fitzgerald, Ryan, Daniels, S. Power, Griffin agreed with the proposed motion.

Cllr. McGuinness added his support that the motion was to investigate broadcasting and its feasibility and need to include the district meetings also.

Cllr. Jason Murphy outlined that meetings have historically been open to the public when in the chamber.

Cllr. Clune stated that a time limit needed to be put on any investigation requesting report for next meeting, supported by Cllr. J. Power.

Cllr Roche thanked all for their engagement and welcomed the positive support of the motion, she noted that Dublin City Council had an archive of meetings available online.

The motion was passed.

K. Kehoe, DoS stated that there would be feedback available at February Plenary meeting.

Remaining motions deferred to next meeting.

12. AOB

Proposed by Cllr. O’Sullivan seconded by Cllr. S. Power that Cllr. F. Quinlan is the Fine Gael representative on the Commemoration Committee. Proposed by Cllr. Conway seconded by Cllr. Clune that Cllr. Kelly is the Independent representative on the Commemoration Committee.

Cllr. Pratt suggested an event like the Gathering is organised post Covid 19.

Cllr. Phelan commended Cllr. Geoghegan on the establishment of the First Citizens Forum of the South East. Cllr. Geoghegan outlined that it comprised of the Chief Executives and First Citizens from Waterford, Kilkenny, Wexford, Carlow, and Tipperary whose objective is to have one voice for the South East on the tacking on regional issues and priorities. He will keep members updated on developments.

Signed: _____
Mayor

Dated: _____