

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

COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 31st May 2021 BY ZOOM

Present

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

Apologies: Cllr. Adam Wyse

Officials in Attendance

Mr. Michael Walsh, Chief Executive
 Mr. Kieran Kehoe, Director of Services, Corporate, Culture, HR & IS
 Mr. Ivan Grimes, Director of Services, Housing, Community & Emergency Services
 Mr. Fergus Galvin, Director of Services, Roads, Water & Environment
 Mr. Michael Quinn, Director of Services, Economic Development and Planning
 Mr. Bernard Pollard, Head of Finance
 Ms. Honor Dunphy, Meetings Administrator
 Mr. Dave Mitchell, SSO, Corporate
 Mr. Liam McGree, Senior Planner
 Mr. David Quinn, Assistant Planner
 Ms. Deirdre Purcell, Assistant Staff Officer, Planning
 Mr. Hugh O'Brien, Senior Executive Planner
 Mr. Marcus Linehan, Planning
 Ms. Rose Ryall, Conservation Officer
 Mr. Seamus Doran, Administrative Officer, Planning
 Mr. Conan Power, Communications Unit

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

1. Approval of the Draft City and County Development Plan and Commence Public Consultation

Cllr. Geoghegan outlined the purpose of the meeting and handed over to Liam McGree, SP, who summarised the council's position in the formulation process. He explained that 46 weeks had elapsed from the two-year period of the plan creation and adoption. The current iteration version for consideration at this meeting was the Pre-Draft that would be placed on public display to allow public consultation over a 10-week period from early June. He explained that since 8th April there had been thirteen meetings resulting in the updated draft document of 24th April and an accompanying document containing eleven further proposed amendments dated 31st May 2021.

L. McGree, SP then took the members through the details of the eleven recent proposed changes and suggested the use of the following resolution for acceptance:

That the members of Waterford City and County Council, in accordance with section 11(5)(c) of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended):

- *having reviewed the Draft Plan (Working Draft) circulated by the Chief Executive on the 8th of April 2021.*
- *having engaged in a series of thirteen separate thematic and area based workshops to consider the content of that Draft Plan*
- *having reviewed an Amended Working Draft circulated on the 24th May 2021, which included a significant number of amendments following on for the previous workshop sessions,*

resolve to amend the Draft Plan to include all of the amendments previously circulated on the 24th May 2021, subject to the eleven specific supplementary amendments as set out in Waterford City & County Council Draft Development Plan 2022 – 2028 Amendments to Working Draft dated 31st May 2021.

Cllr. Phelan thanked the staff in the planning department, the Mayor and his fellow councillors for all the hard work involved in contributing to creating the first unitary plan for Waterford City and County. This sentiment was expressed by all subsequent contributors. L McGree, (Senior Planner) acknowledged the gratitude expressed for the Planning department and added that colleagues from across all areas of the council had contributed to the process. Cllr Phelan then formally proposed acceptance of the draft and putting it before the public for the consultation period. Cllr Kelly seconded the proposal welcoming in particular the recent changes to the Tycor road area (subject to involving local residents in decisions) and Carrickphierish.

Cllrs. Power, O'Leary, Brazil, Roche, Pratt, Nugent, Cronin, Tobin, McGuinness, Doocey, Fitzgerald, Ryan, Gallagher, F. Quinlan, Griffin, E. Quinlan, J. Power, Hearne, O'Sullivan and Mulligan spoke in favour of proceeding with acceptance and commencing public consultation.

Cllr. Daniels suggested that consultation with local residents should occur when linking estates to avoid anti-social behaviour. Cllr Gallagher welcomed this permeability in conjunction with residents.

Cllr. Roche welcomed the inclusion of Waterford City as the regional capital and the home of TUSE in the latest iteration.

The way Rural Housing approach was addressed was positively received by Cllrs. S. Power, Brazil, McGuinness, Fitzgerald and Cronin. With regard to zoning Cllrs Doocey, McGuinness, Fitzgerald and Griffin, Pratt and Cronin felt that there might be a need to more land being considered for housing to satisfy demand with it being pointed out that any deficiency in the supply of sites would increase the cost of housing.

Regarding Wastewater Treatment and the adoption of EPA policy this was welcomed by Cllr. S. Power, Cllr. Brazil while Cllr. Cronin pointed out that of the 30 towns and villages in the plan only 6 currently had

the required adequate water and sewage resources. Cllr. Fitzgerald stated that those areas that have adequate services should be focussed on.

Cllrs O' Leary, J. Power and Gallagher suggested that renewable energy were hugely important elements of this plan particularly future wind energy policy.

Cllr. Nugent supported by Cllr. Cronin and Cllr. O' Sullivan expressed some concern and suggested amendments relating to previously zones lands and green belts areas.

Cllr. Mulligan asked that the members get a hardcopy of the final draft that would go on display and supported by Cllrs. Gallagher and J. Power suggested that members could do their further submissions as part of the consultation.

L. McGree. SP, committed to the distribution of hard copies to members and copies to neighbouring Local Authorities and stated that Cllr. Nugent's concerns were addressed in the final version and there were opportunities for further changes as the plan progressed through consultation. There was text in S 7.11.5 that allowed consideration to be given to building on green belt areas. He also clarified the role of the Planning Regulator at the request of Cllr. Geoghegan. He clarified for Cllr. Roche that Cody's Pond was included in the Grace Dieu site designation.

Cllr. Geoghegan then asked that the members accept the motion as presented without amendment and deal with any proposed amendments or concerns in the future phases which might even require further public consultation.

This was accepted and agreed that the plan will be published in its presented format, without amendment, and will be made available for public consultation as required by legislation.

Signed: _____
Mayor

Dated: _____