Minutes of the Corporate Policy Group Meeting held on Wednesday 24th April 2019 in the Board Room, Áras an Chontae, Mullingar at 8.30am

Present
Cllr Emily Wallace
Cllr Paul Hogan
Cllr Ken Glynn
Cllr Aengus O’Rourke

In Attendance
Mr. Pat Gallagher, Chief Executive
Ms. Anne Galvin, Meetings Administrator
Ms. Martina Slevin, Assistant Staff Officer

Apologies
Cllr John Dolan, Cathaoirleach

Cllr Aengus O’Rourke chaired the meeting in the absence of An Cathaoirleach, Cllr John Dolan. Cllr O’Rourke welcomed Anne Galvin to her first CPG Meeting in her new role as Meetings Administrator.

Minutes of Previous Meeting
The minutes of the last CPG meeting held on Wednesday 20th March 2019 at 8.30am were approved as proposed by Cllr Ken Glynn, and seconded by Cllr Paul Hogan.

Matters arising
The Chief Executive, Pat Gallagher, referred to request from Community First Responders who requested (through An Cathaoirleach, Cllr John Dolan) an opportunity to make a presentation to the Members to explain the benefits to both rural and urban communities of CFR Schemes. This request was considered at the March CPG meeting, when it was agreed to seek the advice of the Civil Defence Officer, Mr. Brian Gillen. The Chief Executive advised that Brian Gillen had responded to him, stating that he was not familiar with this organisation’s services, and recommended that the matter be referred to the Pre Hospital Emergency Care Council, the Health Service Executive and the National Ambulance Service.

In response Cllr Paul Hogan advised that as far as he was aware, there is a network of First Responders in Westmeath. Cllr Ken Glynn also advised that he is aware of an attempt to form a group locally.

It was agreed that as the approach from Community First Responders was made through An Cathaoirleach, Cllr John Dolan, that he should have the final call with regard to making a presentation to the Members.

Update on Calendar of Events
The following events were noted:
- Cathaoirleach Awards - Friday 3rd May 2019, Belvedere House and Gardens
- IBYE County Final - Thursday 2nd May 2019, Dead Centre Brewing, Costume Place, Athlone
- IBYE Regional Final (Laois, Offaly, Kildare & Westmeath) - Tuesday 11th June 2019, Bloomfield House Hotel, Mullingar.

Motions
Cllr. Ken Glynn:
“That Westmeath County Council home to two Garrison Towns, repeat their call that the Minister of state with special responsibility for defence immediately address the issue of low pay and conditions for members of the defence forces”.

Motion approved by the Members to go forward for the April 2019 Agenda.
Requests for Address of Recognition

- To consider Athlone Municipal District resolution for an Address of Recognition to be awarded to the local Special Olympians on their achievements in the 2019 Special Olympics.

  Approved to go forward as a recommendation of the CPG, as proposed by Cllr Paul Hogan and seconded by Cllr Aengus O'Rourke.

- To consider Athlone Municipal District resolution for an Address of Recognition to be awarded to the Sub Aqua Club and RNLI

  Approved to go forward as a recommendation of the CPG, as proposed by Cllr Paul Hogan and seconded by Cllr Aengus O'Rourke.

It was further recommended that both events should be hosted by Athlone Municipal District with the Mayor officiating.

April 2019 Council Meeting Agenda

The Chief Executive outlined the contents of the April 2019 Council Meeting Agenda, and the following items were highlighted.

Item 5: To consider Section 85 Agreement with Roscommon County Council Fire Service

The Chief Executive advised of a long standing arrangement between Roscommon and Westmeath County Councils Fire Brigades in regard to the provision of fire services in South Roscommon by Athlone Fire Brigade. This item is subject to confirmation from Roscommon County Council, which is awaited. The Chief Executive advised of ongoing discussions between Westmeath and Roscommon in this regard.

Items 6(c): To make Variation (No.4) to the Athlone Town Development Plan 2014-2020, incorporating the Athlone Joint Retail Strategy 2019-2026, having considered the proposed Variation (Draft Athlone Joint Retail Strategy) and Chief Executive's Report

Cllr Paul Hogan advised of his intention to make a non-material amendment to Item 6 (c), as agreed at recent joint meeting of Roscommon and Westmeath Elected Members.

In response to Cllr Aengus O’Rourke, the Chief Executive advised that Items 6 (a), 6(b) and 6(c) in relation to Athlone Joint Retail Strategy 2019-2026 and Westmeath County Retail Strategy 2019-2026 will be presented at the April Meeting by the Planning Staff.

The Chief Executive expressed his appreciation to the Members of both Athlone Municipal Districts (in Westmeath and Roscommon) for their engagement and assistance in moving this forward.

Item 7: To consider Draft Annual Report 2018

The Chief Executive advised that the draft Annual Report 2018 is being presented to the Members for their consideration in the context of any amendments that may be required, and that it is proposed to have the final report presented for adoption at the June Council Meeting.

Assessment of upcoming Conferences

No Conferences listed for April

Correspondence:

- Correspondence from TII (11 March & 08 April) Agreed to add to April Agenda.
- Motion from Waterford City and County Council re National Children’s Hospital. Noted by the CPG
• Motion from Waterford City and County Council re Defence Forces Pay and Condition - Noted by the CPG
• Motion from Carlow County Council re income for social housing - Noted by the CPG
• Resolution from Tipperary County Council re free legal aid - Noted by the CPG
• Motion from Donegal County Council re All-Ireland pollinator Plan - Noted by the CPG
• Acknowledgement from Minister for Justice and Equality re insurance costs - To be circulated to the Members
• Acknowledgement from Minister Eoghan Murphy in relation to 2019 Westmeath Polling Scheme - Noted by the CPG
• Motion from Kilkenny County Council re use of ‘fada’ in Irish language - Noted by the CPG
• Request from Chinese delegation from Shaanxi Province for visit to Westmeath - Noted by the CPG. Response to issue advising that WCC has signed a co-operation agreement with Hubei Province of the People’s Republic of China, and therefore is not in a position to facilitate this request.
• Letter from Irish Rural Link re National Broadband Plan – To be circulated to Members

Recommendations from Corporate Policy Group

• To award an Address of Recognition to the local Special Olympians on their achievements in the 2019 Special Olympics, as resolved by Athlone Municipal District

• To award an Address of Recognition to the Sub Aqua Club and RNLI, as resolved by Athlone Municipal District.

AOB
Retirement of Billy Coughlan, Meetings Administrator
Cllr Paul Hogan enquired if it was intended to have a retirement function for Billy Coughlan to mark his recent retirement from Westmeath County Council. It was agreed that Anne Galvin would arrange to revert to Cllr Hogan and all the elected members in this regard.

To conclude the meeting, Cllr Aengus O’Rourke wished everyone the best of luck in the forthcoming elections.

This concluded the business of the Meeting

Cllr Aengus O’Rourke

Date