

**Minutes of the Corporate Policy Group Meeting held
on Wednesday 7th December 2016 in the Board Room, Áras an Chontae, Mullingar at 8.30am**

Present

Cllr Frank McDermott (Cathaoirleach)
Cllr Ken Glynn
Cllr Paul Hogan
Cllr Tom Farrell
Cllr Aengus O'Rourke

In Attendance

Mr. Pat Gallagher, Chief Executive
Mr. Billy Coughlan, Meetings Administrator
Ms. Martina Slevin, Assistant Staff Officer

Minutes of Previous Meetings

The minutes of previous meeting held on Wednesday 23rd November 2016 at 8.30am were approved as proposed by Cllr Ken Glynn, seconded by Cllr. Aengus O'Rourke.

Matters arising:

No matters arising.

Update on Calendar of Official Openings / Sod Turnings

The following events were noted.

- Chairman's Dinner – Monday 12th December, 2016.
- Civic Reception for Westmeath soldiers of A Company of the 235th Battalion of the United Nations Peace Keeping Forces who fought in Jadotville - date to be confirmed in the New Year.

Billy Coughlan advised the Members that the artist Tom Byrne, who exhibited paintings in the Luan Gallery in Athlone as part of the 2016 celebrations, is donating 3 of these paintings to Westmeath County Council. The Chief Executive has agreed, in consultation with the Arts Officer, Ms. Miriam Mulrennan, to recommend to the CPG that it would be appropriate to show the Council's gratitude for this generous donation, by proposing a motion of appreciation to Mr. Byrne at the December Council Meeting, subject to his availability to attend on the 12th December. This was agreed by the CPG. It was also noted that the paintings will be on display outside the Chamber for viewing on the day of the Council Meeting. In response to Cllr O'Rourke, the Chief Executive advised that the 3 paintings will be added to the Council's existing collection, and it will be decided at a later date as to where they will be displayed.

Motions

No motions for December.

Council Agenda

An Cathaoirleach, Cllr Frank McDermott outlined the contents of the December Council Meeting Agenda, and the following was highlighted:

SPC Recommendations

The Housing SPC will be held on the morning of the December Meeting, and the following may be brought forward as a recommendation of the SPC:

To approve amended Housing Allocation Scheme for Westmeath County Council

It was noted that the above contains 2 substantive amendments:

1. To incorporate reference to Athlone (the former area of ATC) in the WCC scheme
2. To make provision in the scheme for Choice-Based Letting by 31/12/16 in accordance with the Social Housing Allocation (Amendment) Regulations 2016 (S.I. 503 of 2016).

CPG Recommendations

No CPG recommendations for December.

Assessment of upcoming Conferences

Billy Coughlan advised that he had not circulated a list of conferences, as a decision was made at the November CPG Meeting that both Esperanza Enterprises and Celtic Conferences be written to seeking more information on content and speakers for all future conferences notified to Westmeath County Council. It had also been agreed that Esperanza and Celtic conferences listed on the conference schedule for January 2017 be considered again at the December CPG Meeting, subject to the detail requested from the conference providers being available for that meeting.

As an update, Billy Coughlan advised that he had written to both companies. To date, no response has been received from Esperanza. Celtic Conferences responded advising that they will give the Council's request due consideration.

As all four conferences listed for January 2017 are from Esperanza and Celtic, it was agreed not to approve any for going forward to the December Agenda.

Correspondence

No items of correspondence received.

AOB

Civic Amenity Sites

In response to Members questions, the Chief Executive advised that the tender process for appointment of Contractors to the Recycling Centres in Mullingar and Athlone is almost complete, and that the sites are closing temporarily to facilitate the change of the Council's operator. The Council are endeavouring to minimise this period of closure, and it is hoped to have the centres re-opened before Christmas. It was noted that the temporary closures have been widely publicised, and the Chief Executive agreed to keep the Members and the public informed of progress.

Oil Spillage on the Brosna

Billy Coughlan advised that he had e-mailed the Members yesterday evening advising of a small oil spillage on the Brosna, and that the Council are dealing with this spillage in conjunction with Inland Fisheries and booms have been put in place to contain it.

Proposed Material Contravention

In response to An Cathaoirleach's query with regard to a planning application in the Coole area for a one-off rural house, that may involve a material contravention of the County Development Plan, the Chief Executive advised of the timelines involved for advertising and public consultation. If material contravention is deemed necessary, the timelines involved will not allow for this to go on the December Agenda.

This concluded the business of the Meeting

Cllr Frank McDermott
Cathaoirleach

Date