

**Minutes of the Corporate Policy Group Meeting held
on Wednesday 19th October 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. Trisha Mulvaney, Clerical Officer

Cllr. Frank McDermott welcomed Cllr. Aengus O'Rourke onto the CPG committee.

Minutes of Previous Meetings

The minutes of previous meeting held on Wednesday 14th September 2016 at 8.30am were approved as proposed by Cllr. Paul Hogan and seconded by Cllr. Ken Glynn.

Matters arising:

No matters arising.

Update on Calendar of Official Openings / Sod Turnings

The following events were noted.

- Westmeath County Council Remembrance Mass and Long Service Awards - Friday 11th November, 2016 at 7p.m.
- Chairman's Dinner – Proceed with day of December Council Meeting Monday 12th December, 2016.

Events concluded:

- Address to Elected Members on Housing by Minister Damien English – 19th September, 2016
- Photocall: Signing of Contract (Mullingar Street Enhancement) – 30th September, 2016 by Chief Executive and Cathaoirleach
- Center Parcs Photocall and Press Briefing attended by Pat Gallagher CE and Cllr. Frank McDermott Cathaoirleach on the 7th October, 2016
- St. Vincent de Paul Centenary Celebrations and Book Launch – 16th October, 2016 attended by Cllr. Frank McDermott Cathaoirleach

Consideration of date for next Finance Committee Meeting

The Chief Executive advised that a meeting of the Finance Committee of the Council was due in October, but recommended that in line with practice in previous years, this would be postponed and the business taken up at the Council's Preliminary Budget Meeting (In-Committee) proposed for November 21st next.

2017 Budget Process

The Chief Executive advised the Members that he and the Head of Finance were available to meet the representatives of each group on the Council in the coming week and requested they revert to him as soon as possible to confirm arrangements.

The Chief Executive recommended that the Preliminary Budget In-Committee meeting be held at 10 a.m. on Monday 21st November, 2016 and with Statutory Budget Meeting at 10 a.m. on Monday 28th November, 2016. The CPG agreed to recommend this for Council approval.

Mullingar Integrated Arts Centre Update

The Chief Executive advised the CPG members that following consideration of the presentations made to Council in June by Mr. John McGrath and Mr. Stephens, he is preparing a further report for the members' consideration. The CPG agreed to recommend holding an In-Committee Council meeting to consider the matter on Monday 14th November, 2016 at 5 p.m.

Motions

No motions were received from the Members for the October Meeting.

Council Agenda

Mr. Billy Coughlan, Meetings Administrator, outlined the contents of the October Council Meeting Agenda, and the following items were highlighted.

Item 4: (i) Disposal of Land/Property: Proposed 10 year licence of 8 Connaught Street, Athlone to Athlone Community Services Council Ltd., in accordance with the terms of Section 183 Notice of the Local Government Act 2001 circulated within the specified period

BC advised the Members that this is a renewal of a lease.

Item 5: To agree dates to consider Budget 2017

The CPG agreed to recommend the 21st November, 2016 for the Preliminary Budget Meeting in-committee and the 28th November, 2016 for the Statutory Budget Meeting.

Item 6: To receive presentation from the Housing Design Team

BC advised the Members that David Hogan, Director of Services and Ciaran Martin A/SEO, will deliver the presentation. Paul Hogan Architect will also be in attendance.

Item 7: To receive update on Music Generation

BC advised the Members that Miriam Mulrennan will deliver presentation.

Item 8: To consider and approve Draft Audit Committee Charter

Approved by CPG for recommendation for adoption by the full Council.

Item 9: To fill the vacancy on the Joint Policing Committee to replace Senator Aidan Davitt

Noted by the CPG.

Item 10: To fill the vacancy on the Economic Development, Enterprise and Community SPC to replace Cllr. Aengus O'Rourke following his appointment as Chairman of this SPC

Noted by the CPG.

Item 11: To receive update on Local Improvement Schemes

BC advised the Members that Barry Kehoe, Director of Services will present the update report.

Item 12: To approve Speed Limit Byelaws for Housing Estates

BC advised the Members that Barry Kehoe, Director of Services will present the report for approval by the full Council. It has already been considered by the Municipal Districts.

Item 13: To receive Presentation on the Regulation of the Lobbying Act

BC advised the Members that Barry Kehoe, Director of Services will deliver the presentation on this.

CPG Recommendations

It was proposed by Cllr. Paul Hogan, seconded by Cllr. Ken Glynn and agreed, to place winter gritting on the Council Agenda.

Assessment of upcoming Conferences

The following upcoming conferences were considered by the CPG:

	Date	Conf Length	Conference	Location	Conf Cost	Overnight Cost	Travel	Total Estimate Cost	Distance x return Mgr .5907
1	11th to 13th November	3 days	CELTIC CONFERENCE S: Waterways Ireland, The vision and expectations for 2017-2020	Clonakilty Hotel, Clonakilty, Co. Cork	€ 100.00	€ 250.00	€ 343.79	€ 693.79	582km return
2	14th to 15th November	2 days	SAFE Ireland Summit 2016	The Round Room, Mansion House, Dublin	€ 395.00	€ -	€ 185.48	€ 580.48	157km return x2=314km
3	18th to 20th November	3 days	CELTIC CONFERENCE S: Rebuilding Ireland. Action Plan for Housing and Homelessness	Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford, Co. Louth	€ 100.00	€ 250.00	€ 150.04	€ 500.04	254km return
4	23rd to 24th November	2 days	ACE: 2 day microsoft Excel Workshop for Cllrs	Clonakilty Hotel, Clonakilty, Co. Cork	€ 150.00	€ 150.00	€ 343.79	€ 643.79	582km return
5	30th to 1st December	2 days	ACE: 2 day microsoft Excel Workshop for Cllrs	Clonakilty Hotel, Clonakilty, Co. Cork	€ 150.00	€ 150.00	€ 343.79	€ 643.79	582km return

Following an assessment of the conference schedule, the following conference was approved for the Members of Westmeath County Council to attend:

2	14th to 15th November	2 days	SAFE Ireland Summit 2016	The Round Room, Mansion House, Dublin	€ 395.00	€ -	€ 185.48	€ 580.48	157km return x2=314 km
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Billy Coughlan to advise the Members accordingly requesting they confirm if they wish to attend in order that their attendance may be approved by the full Council at the October Meeting.

Correspondence

BC advised of the following items of correspondence received.

1. Motion agreed at September Meeting of South Dublin County Council re Bees – **noted by CPG**
2. Motion agreed at September Meeting of Carlow County Council re Irish Water Response to Carlow Co. Co. on water and sewage lines which pass through backyards and gardens is unacceptable – **Agreed to circulate to the Members of the Council as correspondence on the October Council Meeting Agenda.**
3. Motion agreed at a recent meeting of the Municipal District of Tralee re Post Office Network - **Agreed to circulate to the Municipal Districts for consideration**
4. Letter from Minister Simon Coveney TD dated 23rd September 2016 re: Ministerial Direction in respect of the Westmeath County Development Plan 2014-2020 - **CE advised that it would be in order to place correspondence before the Council meeting for formal noting.**

The Chief Executive brought to the Members' attention correspondence received from Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs (DAHRRGA) in regard to both the CLÁR 2016 and REDZ programmes, inviting proposals by Nov. 4th next.

Mr. Gallagher outlined the details of each of them. €5m for REDZ programme and €3m for CLÁR has become available nationally. Under the Clár Programme there are 3 measures open for applications:

1. School safety – lights/markings
2. Outdoor Play facilities
3. Additional funding of roads under LIS

It was agreed to advise the Members of these programmes at the Council meeting next Monday.

The Chief Executive had arranged for both Municipal District Directors to co-operate to manage the preparation of the submissions within the tight timeframe available, and keep the Members updated.

Cllr. Ken Glynn suggested marketing of the greenway which he raised at District level and the CPG Members supported this. Cllr. Hogan enquired why a more detailed proposal had not been prepared for the Athlone REDZ area. The Chief Executive advised that having regard to the extent of that area outside the County, and the short timeframe available on this occasion, the portion of the Athlone REDZ area within Westmeath would be considered along with Mullingar MD in preparing the current WCC submission.

The CE noted the views expressed by the Members.

AOB

Cllr. Tom Farrell proposed that the Council hold the January Council Meeting in Moate Amenity Park and this was supported by Cllr. Frank McDermott to acknowledge the work done in this area. Billy Coughlan advised the Members that the schedule of meetings for 2017 will be presented at the next CPG meeting for their consideration.

Billy Coughlan advised of a resolution passed at the June Athlone Municipal District Meeting to host a Civic Recognition for Athlone Credit Union on the occasion of their 50th Anniversary in 2016. The CPG approved this Reception and for it to be performed by the Mayor of Athlone Municipal District.

This concluded the business of the Meeting

Cllr Frank McDermott
Cathaoirleach

Date