

**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS OF MONTHLY MEETING OF  
TIPPERARY COUNTY COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, CIVIC OFFICES,  
CLONMEL, AND Remotely Via Zoom  
AT 11 AM on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> January, 2024.**

**Present**

Cllr. G. Darcy, Cathaoirleach.

Cllrs: Ambrose, S. Anglim, M; Bourke, K; Burgess, D; Carroll, J; Coonan, N; Crosse, J; Dunne, D; English, P; Fitzgerald, M; Goldsboro, I; Hanafin, S; Kennedy, R; Lee, S; Lowry, M; McGrath, M; Molloy, R; Moloney, A; Murphy, Marie; Ryan, P; Ryan, S; Smith, Ml

**Remote**

Cllrs: Bonfield, F; Bugler, P; Dennehy, N.P; Hannigan, J; Hourigan, M. Hanna; McGrath, H; McGrath, J; Moran, E; Murphy, Ml; O'Meara, K; O'Meara, Ml; Ryan, A.M;

**Also Present**

Mr. J. MacGrath, Chief Executive, Ms S. Carr, Mr. E. Lonergan, Ms. S. Kennedy, Mr. B. Beck, Director of Services, Ms. Cora Morrissey, SEO, Mr. G. Walsh, Meetings Administrator.

**Apologies**

Black, T; FitzGerald, Ml; FitzGerald J; Morris, S; Ryan, J;

**Item 1.1**

The Cathaoirleach wished everyone a Happy New Year and welcomed all to the January Meeting of the Council.

**Welcome &  
Introduction/Meetings Protocol**

He advised members present in the Chamber that their microphone had to be turned on when they spoke and referred members attending remotely of the protocol for remote meetings circulated with the agenda and asked members to observe the rules contained therein with regard to remote meetings.

The Meetings Administrator took a roll call and commenced the meeting with the opening prayer.

**Vote of Sympathy**

The Cathaoirleach passed a vote of sympathy on behalf of the Council to the family of Bishop William Lee, former Bishop of Waterford and Lismore and a native of Newport.

A vote of sympathy was also passed to Councillors Michael & John FitzGerald on the death of their mother Jane.

A minute's silence was observed and the meeting was adjourned for 5 minutes as a mark of respect.

**Resumption**

**Item 2.1**  
**Disclosure/or**  
**Conflicts of**  
**Interest**

Noted, no matters were notified to the Meetings Administrator

**Item 3.1**  
**Minutes of**  
**Budget Meeting**  
**held on 24<sup>th</sup>**  
**November, 2023**

The Minutes of the Budget Meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> November, 2023, were proposed by **Cllr. R. Kennedy**, seconded by **Cllr. S. Ambrose** and adopted.

**Item 3.2**  
**Minutes of**  
**Council Meeting**  
**held on 11<sup>th</sup>**  
**December, 2023**

The Minutes of the December Monthly Meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> December, 2023, were proposed by **Cllr. Marie Murphy**, seconded by **Cllr. P English** and adopted subject to amendment to include comments of Cllr. Seamus Morris.

**Matters Arising**

Conservation Architect

In response to an enquiry by Cllr M. McGrath, it was confirmed that the closing date for applications for this position had passed and interviews were being held.

**Item 4.1**  
**Approval to**  
**Attendance**

It was proposed by **Cllr. R Kennedy**, seconded by **Cllr Marie Murphy** and resolved: -

"That pursuant to Section 142 (5) of the Local Government Act 2001 and having regard to (i) the benefits likely to accrue, (ii) the general interest of this administrative area and of the local community (iii) the estimated cost of the proposed attendance and the provision made for such purposes in the annual budget, hereby nominate those listed hereunder to attend the following Conferences/Seminars/Trainings: -

Seminar/Conference/ Similar Event	Dates	Venue	Nominees
Celtic Conferences – The Finance Act 2023	12 <sup>th</sup> – 14 <sup>th</sup> January, 2024	McKevitt's Hotel, Carlingford	Cllr. Seamus Morris Cllr. Mary Hanna Hourigan
LAMA – Spring Seminar 'Building for Success'	19 <sup>th</sup> and 20 <sup>th</sup> January, 2024	Abbey Hotel, Donegal	Cllr. Niall Dennehy Cllr. Michael Murphy Seamus Morris Hughie McGrath Phyll Bugler John Carroll John FitzGerald Andy Moloney Siobhan Ambrose Kieran Bourke

			Michael Fitzgerald Máirín McGrath Declan Burgess Roger Kennedy Mary Hanna Hourigan Imelda Goldsboro Sean Ryan Micheál Anglim Michael O'Meara Marie Murphy Mark Fitzgerald Kevin O'Meara Joe Hannigan Richie Molloy John Crosse Noel Coonan
AILG – Elected Members Briefing – Annual Declarations, Donations, Code of Conduct, and LRA	27 <sup>th</sup> January, 2024	Greenhills Conference & Leisure, Limerick	Sean Ryan Imelda Goldsboro Michael Murphy Phyll Bugler Seamus Morris Marie Murphy Michael Fitzgerald John Fitzgerald Declan Burgess Máirín McGrath Siobhan Ambrose Richie Molloy Kevin O Meara

Nottingham Irish Festival.

Members were informed that an invitation request to the Cathaoirleach had been received from the British Ambassador to Ireland H.E. Mr. Martin Fraser in partnership with Nottingham Irish Festival to attend a reception celebrating 25 years of the Nottingham Festival and the twinning of the 2024 Festival with County Tipperary

It was proposed by **Cllr. R Kennedy** seconded by **Cllr. Marie Murphy** and resolved: -

**“That the Cathaoirleach Cllr G. Darcy would attend the Nottingham Irish Festival on the 16<sup>th</sup> February, 2024 in the Embassy of Ireland in London and if he was unable to attend the Leas Cathaoirleach or a nominated District Cathaoirleach would attend”.**

Nottingham St. Patrick’s Festival 2024

Members were informed that each year since its inception in 1999, the Nottingham Festival committee had drawn lots from the 32 counties for a local resident to be its Grand Marshal and this year, it was County Tipperary's turn and the home county of the Festival Chairperson, Mr. Gerry Molumby.

The Festival committee had invited the Cathairleach to attend the Festival on the 17<sup>th</sup> March, 2024.

It was proposed by **Cllr. R. Kennedy** seconded by **Cllr Marie Murphy** and agreed: -

**"That the Cathairleach Cllr G. Darcy would attend the Nottingham St Patricks Days Festival on the 17<sup>th</sup> March, 2024 and if he was unable to attend the Leas Cathairleach or a nominated District Cathairleach would attend."**

#### **Item 4 .2**

##### **Reports on Conferences**

Proposed by **Cllr. R. Kennedy** seconded by **Cllr. Marie Murphy** and noted.

#### **Item 5.1**

##### **Section 183 Notice - Disposal of property at Roscrea Road, Templemore**

It was proposed by **Cllr S. Lee** seconded by **Cllr E. Moran** and resolved: -

**"That in accordance with the provision of Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001, Tipperary County Council hereby approves of the extension of the existing lease with BT Harps Soccer Club for lands on Roscrea Road, Templemore, Co. Tipperary as contained in Folio TY62182F to the 20<sup>th</sup> May, 2064, and that the seal of the Council be affixed thereto in accordance with the terms of the Notice under the above section, as circulated on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> January, 2024".**

The disposal was required to facilitate the extension of existing lease.

#### **Item 5.2**

##### **Section 179A Notification - Housing Development at Radharc Na Carraige, Templemore Road, Roscrea**

Members were advised that under Section 179 A and Section 262 of the Planning and Development Act 2000, Tipperary County Council proposed to carry out a housing development at Radharc Na Carraige, Templemore Road, Roscrea, County Tipperary consisting of the construction of 47 no. new social housing units including 12 no. 1-Bed apartments in 6 No. two storey blocks (6 No. at Ground Level & 6 No. at First Floor Level), 3 no. 1-Bed single storey houses, 2 no. 2-Bed single storey houses, 9 no. 2-Bed two storey houses, 2 no. 3-Bed single storey houses. 13 no. 3-Bed two storey houses, 6 no. 4-Bed two storey houses, with a new entrance and associated site development works.

The development as outlined was proposed by **Cllr P English** seconded by **Cllr S. Hanafin** and agreed.

#### **Item 5.3**

##### **Draft CCTV Policy**

Mr. Brian Beck, Director of Services gave members an overview of the Draft CCTV Policy. The policy had been considered by the JPC, the SPC and the members at a workshop and the opinions and observations of the members had been taken on board in finalizing the draft policy.

The draft CCTV Policy as circulated set out Tipperary County Councils policy in relation to the use of Closed-Circuit Television Systems (CCTV) within County Tipperary and related to existing CCTV systems and any new CCTV systems that might be launched during the lifetime of the policy. The Council currently operated CCTV systems for a variety of purposes,

including, Community CCTV Schemes, Property security, personal security of staff, surveillance in support of its statutory responsibilities.

The draft policy set out: -

- Why and how the Council use CCTV, and how the Council would process data recorded by CCTV cameras;
- How the Council would ensure that the legal rights of individuals whose images are recorded by the Council's CCTV systems, relating to their personal data, are recognised and respected;
- How the Council would assist its staff in complying with their own legal obligations when working with personal data;
- How individuals could exercise their rights in respect of personal data created by the Council's CCTV Systems.
- How the Council proposes to progress applications for new CCTV systems and for the upgrading and/or expansion of existing CCTV systems;

Members welcomed the draft policy. Concerns were raised on the capital and revenue financing of CCTV schemes and how Municipal Districts and communities would meet these costs. The need to explore various options to ensure best value for money was also highlighted. Reference was made to the Oversight Committee and its composition.

Mr. B. Beck, DOS, stressed that the policy related to Community CCTV Schemes and was not a Garda CCTV Scheme and was not intended to replace Garda presence in communities.

There was financial assistance of up to €40,000 to qualifying organisations towards the capital costs associated with the establishment of a local community CCTV system and €5,000 towards maintenance costs. There were no grants available towards the replacement or upgrade of a CCTV system which had a lifespan of 10-15 years. In this regard each Municipal District would be obliged to consider ongoing budget implications as part of the application process.

The policy was intended to streamline applications and the role of the oversight committee was to ensure applications were fully completed and compliant with the policy prior to submission to the Garda Commissioner as incomplete applications could delay the process considerably. While there was no elected member on the oversight committee, members were an integral part of the application process through the Municipal District, the Joint Policing Committee, the Corporate Policy Group and the Plenary Council.

Following further consideration, it was proposed by **Cllr N. Coonan** seconded by **Cllr D. Dunne** and resolved: -

**“That Tipperary County Council hereby adopts the CCTV Policy as presented at the Council Meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> January, 2024.”**

At the request of Cllr S. Ambrose, supported by Cllr P. English, it was agreed to seek an update from the Garda Commissioner on the current status of the Community CCTV application for Clonmel Borough District.

**Item 5.4**  
**South-East**  
**Regional**  
**Homeless Action**  
**Plan 2023-2026**

Ms. S. Carr, Director of Services advised members that Mr. Cora Morrissey, Housing Officer, would give an overview of the South-East Regional Homeless Action Plan 2023-2026 and on the draft Housing Allocation Scheme 2024.

Ms. Morrissey advised members that Section 37 of the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2009 required that a Homelessness Action Plan which outlined the measures proposed to be undertaken to address homelessness in the administrative area (in this instance the South East Region) by the Housing Authorities, the HSE, and any other bodies providing services to address homelessness operational in the region, be developed. For the purpose of this Homelessness Action Plan, the south east region consists of Waterford City and County Council, Wexford County Council, Kilkenny County Council, Carlow County Council, and Tipperary County Council. (Waterford City and County Council is the designated Lead Local Authority).

A series of meetings of the South East Regional Homelessness Consultative Forum took place as part of the Statutory requirement to formally adopt this plan. Feedback was ongoing from all regional stakeholders including the regional Homeless Action Teams during the planning and consultation process. The South East Region Homelessness Action Plan 2023-2026 was approved by the Tipperary County Council Strategic Policy Committee on the 6th December 2023.

Following consideration, it was proposed by **Cllr P. English** seconded by **Cllr R. Kennedy** and resolved: -

**“That pursuant to Section 37 of the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2009 this Council resolved to adopt the South East Regional Homeless Action Plan 2023-2026”.**

Members were advised that a cold weather initiative had been launched which would offer accommodation in Clonmel for rough sleepers during spells of extremely cold weather.

The option of designated wet and dry accommodation for homeless persons would be examined by the SPC Sub Group.

**Item 5.5**  
**Tipperary**  
**County Council**  
**Draft Housing**  
**Allocation**  
**Scheme 2024**

Ms. Cora Morrissey gave a presentation on the Draft Allocation Scheme noting that each Local Authority was required to prepare a Housing Allocation Scheme, (Section 22 of the Housing Act, 2009) as a means of prioritising the allocation of all housing support to qualified households and households approved for a transfer to another dwelling.

Members had requested that specific items concerning housing allocation would be reviewed and, in this connection, a sub-group under the Housing SPC had been established. Specific queries had been raised with other local authorities in the South East to establish their practices. Proposed changes to the scheme were discussed and reviewed by the SPC Working Group and have been endorsed by the SPC for adoption by the full Council.

The main changes related to:

- Succession of Tenancy - Exceptional circumstances introduced to allow an occupant to qualify for succession and to remain in that property regardless of property type or size. Two specific criteria applied, the applicant has resided consecutively for 15 years in that property and was aged 55 or over.
- Ratio of allocation 20% (previously 10%) of vacancies within each of the general and transfer lists would be allocated based on length of time on the list.
- Allocation of two-bed properties to one-bed applicant/single person households: The Council may reserve a number of vacancies arising in 2-bedroom properties for this category of applicant.  
Note: *As there were more applicants approved for one bed compared to two bed dwellings it was proposed not to implement this change until more one bed properties became available*  
Homeless - In the event of a refusal of an offer of a property by an applicant in emergency accommodation (B&B, OFD etc) they would no longer have a basis of homeless need in line with the Tipperary County Council Standard Operating Procedure for Homeless Services.
- Breaches of Tenancy – The wording was strengthened inclusion of definition of Anti-Social Behaviour. Stronger legal standing in Court.

Minor alterations were also outlined in relation to RAS tenants, downsizing.

Cllr K. Bourke, Chair of the Housing SPC, thanked the members of the sub-group who had achieved, in his opinion, a fairer allocation scheme and recommended its approval. Ms. S. Carr, Director of Services, also thanked the sub group for their input to the amendment of the Scheme.

Members welcomed the allocation scheme and raised queries which were responded to as follows: -

Choice Based Letting (CBL) – single person applicants for 2 bed dwellings would not have the facility to apply through CBL

Areas of Choice Homeless Applicants – The standard operating procedure for housing allocations applied to homeless applicants and the Council were cognisant of applicant's circumstances in every housing allocation and because of this there were few allocations outside of an area of choice. However, it can happen as demand is greater than supply.

Following It was proposed by **Cllr K. Bourke** seconded by **Cllr S. Ryan** and resolved: -

**“That pursuant to Section 22 of the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2009 as amended and subject to the approval of the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, that this Council resolves to adopt the Tipperary County Council Housing Allocation Scheme”.**

Ms Morrissey gave an update on homeless services to include the current staffing structure, community clinics, the emergency accommodation resources available, the challenges facing the homeless team, the council's

record in housing people in emergency accommodation or in receipt of a notice to quit. Ms Morrissey also gave an update on the cold weather initiative that is being rolled out on a pilot basis in Clonmel to cater for rough-sleepers.

At the request of Cllr Marie Murphy, seconded by Cllr S. Ambrose, it was agreed to write to the HSE South outlining the lack of support services for Housing First applicants in the south of the county and a copy of the correspondence to be sent to the relevant Ministers and copied of the members.

## **Item 5.6**

### **Ethics Framework**

Mr. Ger Walsh, Meetings Administrator, referred to Part 15 of the Local Government Act 2001 (the 2001 Act) which set out the ethical framework for all those involved in the Local Government Service, both members and employees. The framework imposed a statutory duty on all in the service to maintain proper standards of integrity, conduct and concern for the public interest.

Members were informed that Annual Declarations under Section 171 of the 2001 Act, were required to be submitted to the Ethics Registrar in writing on or before the last day in February 2024 containing particulars of his or her declarable interests and an undertaking to have regard to and be guided by the relevant Code of Conduct in the exercise of his or her functions.

Also, in accordance with electoral legislation members were required to submit a Donation Statement in respect of donations received, the value of which exceeded €600.00. These statements were to be furnished to the Ethics Registrar not later than 31<sup>st</sup> January 2024.

## **Item 6.1**

### **Ratification of Nominees - JPC**

It was proposed by **Cllr S. Ambrose**, seconded by **Cllr M. McGrath** and resolved: -

In Accordance with the Garda Síochána Act 2005 (Section 36), that provides for the establishment of a Joint Policing Committee (JPC) in each Local Authority that; The following be ratified as members of The Tipperary Joint Policing Committee.

- Chief Superintendent Aileen Magner (An Garda Síochána)
- Deputy Mattie McGrath (Oireachtas)
- Deputy Jackie Cahill (Oireachtas)
- Deputy Michael Lowry (Oireachtas)
- Deputy Martin Browne (Oireachtas)
- Deputy Alan Kelly (Oireachtas)
- Cllr. Shane Lee (Tipperary County Council)
- Cllr. David Dunne (Tipperary County Council)
- Cllr. Mark Fitzgerald (Tipperary County Council)
- Cllr. Noel Coonan (Tipperary County Council)
- Cllr. Ger Darcy (Tipperary County Council)
- Cllr. Hughie McGrath (Tipperary County Council)
- Cllr. Fiona Bonfield (Tipperary County Council)
- Cllr. John Crosse (Tipperary County Council)
- Cllr. Marie Murphy (Tipperary County Council)



- Cllr, Tony Black (Tipperary County Council)
- Cllr. Annemarie Ryan (Tipperary County Council)
- Cllr. Jim Ryan (Tipperary County Council)
- Cllr. Pat English (Tipperary County Council)
- Cllr Siobhan Ambrose (Tipperary County Council)
- Cllr Richie Molloy (Tipperary County Council)
- Pat Carroll (Farming Pillar)
- Michelle Aylward (Chambers Ireland/Business Pillar)
- Margaret Sheehy (PPN Nenagh MD)
- Anne Williamson (PPN Carrick on Suir)
- Gerard Fogarty (PPN Thurles MD)
- Sabelo Mavuso (PPN Migrant Seat)
- Cathal O hEanna (PPN Tipperary Cahir Cashel MD)
- **Daniel Long (PPN Clonmel MD)**
- Brian Beck (TCC Official)
- Geraldine Manning (TCC Official)

## **Item 7.1**

### **Consideration of Management Report**

The Cathaoirleach referred to the Management Report as circulated with the Agenda noting that the reports related to the Directorates based in Clonmel and any queries/clarifications would be dealt with by the relevant Director of Services.

Cllr Marie Murphy requested that consideration would be given to the insertion of an executive summary at the start of each directorate highlighting changes to the previous directorate report. This request was seconded by Cllr Ambrose. It was agreed to refer the motion to the Privilege and Procedure Committee for further consideration.

#### Economic, Community and Rural Development

Mr. Brian Beck, D.O.S. highlighted the following items under the Economic, Community and Development Directorate.

#### CLÁR Funding

Notification had been received that Tipperary had received funding of €229,957 in funding under the 2023 CLÁR Programme.

#### Ballingarrane Precinct 3 Project

Members viewed a short promotional video on the Ballingarrane Precinct 3 Project developed to assist the I.D.A in marketing the project internationally. Members welcomed the project and urged that the planning process would be commenced as soon as possible.

Mr. Beck, responded to queries raised on the Economic, Community and Rural Development Directorate as follows: -

Littleton – It was noted that there was a new concept/structure in place to assist communities and groups were encouraged to liaise with the Council in this regard.

CCTV Clonmel – It was agreed to seek an update on the community CCTV application for Clonmel.

Just Transition Fund – It was noted that a Tourism Activator for the EU Just Transition Fund would be appointed to work with individuals and communities. Reference was made to the recent launch of a Tourism Learning Network Programme as part of the EU Just Transition Fund Regenerative Tourism and Placemaking Scheme.

Tourism Officer, Lough Derg – Members were informed that the appointment of a Lough Derg Tourism Officer was being progressed.

## **Corporate Services**

On the proposal of the Cathaoirleach it was agreed to take Items 7.2 and 7.3 as part of the Management Report on Corporate Services.

### **Item 7.2** **Tipperary Local Authority Performance Indicators Report 2022**

The Tipperary Local Authority Performance Indicators Report 2022 had been circulated to the members and Mr. G. Walsh, S.E.O. Corporate Services, gave the members a presentation on the report.

In September 2022, NOAC published its Local Authority Performance Indicator Report, the ninth (9th) in the annual series, in order to provide objective information on performance. These indicators record local authority activity in relation to certain aspects of their wide-ranging functions.

The 2022 report detailed 44 indicators in 11 areas: In the 2022 report, two additional indicators, Climate Change and Economic Development were included.

Tipperary improved its ranking (out of 31 authorities) across 35 indicators, dropped ranking across 41 indicators with no change across 11 indicators. The average ranking for Tipperary out of 31 authorities across the 87 indicators was 15th in 2022, compared to 14th in 2021. Tipperary recorded a top 5 performance across 12 indicators in 2022 compared to 14 in 2021, 9 in 2020 and 6 in 2019.

Mr Walsh advised that the data represented a picture in time. The composite data enabled the identification of trends across multiple services and provides an insight into the capacity of the sector to respond to emerging policies and/ or national emergencies.

It was noted that Tipperary had improved its performance over the past 5 years up to 2022 in the following areas:

- Year-end housing stock figures have increased by 16%;
- The level of housing vacancy reduced from a high of 4.6 in 2019 to 1.76 in 2022;
- The percentages of Regional, Local Primary, Secondary & Local Tertiary roads surveyed have increased significantly since 2014;

- The PSCI ratings for all categories of roads has continued to improve. - 376 kms of Regional strengthened and resealed over the period while 1,446.5Kms of Local Roads has been strengthened and re-sealed;
- Percentage of Motor Tax transactions conducted online increased by 36% over the period;
- The level and usage of local authority websites has increased significantly by 176% and social media followers by 207%;
- The Council's revenue account balance has continued to show a surplus over the period;
- Commercial Rates collection levels continued to improve from 81% in 2014 to 88% in 2022;
- Rents & Annuities collection levels maintained its collection levels at 97% compared with 2014;
- Housing Loan collection levels improved its percentage rate from 79% in 2014 to 97% in 2022.

Overall, the process enabled the Council to track its performance over time and also facilitated the Council to compare its performance with other local authorities of a similar profile and size.

Mr. Joe MacGrath, Chief Executive, stressed that the statistics in the report were independently verified by NOAC. The trend outlined in the report was encouraging in respect of the Council's overall performance and identified areas to improve. The report would become part of Management Team, Audit Committee and Team Development Plans for review.

Mr. MacGrath complimented Mr. Ger Walsh on his analysis of the report following detailed consideration by him.

The Cathaoirleach welcomed the contents of the report.

### **Item 7.3**

#### **Electoral Register Update**

Mr. G. Walsh, Meetings Administrator, made a presentation to the members updating them on the Electoral Register.

The Electoral Reform Act was signed in to law 25<sup>th</sup> July 2022 and Parts 1, 2, 3, 6 and 9 commenced on the 13th October 2022. The Act provided the legislation for a range of significant electoral reforms e.g.

#### Key Changes for Local Authority/Customer

- Rolling Register. A single live and continuously updated register – Draft, Final and supplement replaced.
- Simplified process

All register to vote applications were to be submitted to the Local Authority in the first instance. The majority of engagement would be via a single, simple form with online registration/updating of details can be carried out on [www.checktheregister.ie](http://www.checktheregister.ie). In order to ensure that the register was accurate and comprehensive, it was important that Tipperary County

Council engage the public and encourage them to provide the necessary information.

Ongoing efforts to raise public awareness about the importance of the register was essential. In addition to any national campaigns commissioned by the Department / Electoral Commission, Tipperary County Council have carried out a number of public awareness campaigns including:

- Facebook meta advertising,
- An Post Leaflet Drop to every household in Tipperary,
- Letters to duplicate electors
- Letters to electors in Carrick On Suir Local Electoral Area.

As per the regulations where entries were not updated or information cannot be confirmed, local authorities can follow up and ultimately remove entries if they cannot be confirmed as appropriate or accurate and people would be given ample opportunities to engage before they were removed from the register.

Since November 2022, 8,642 updates and new registrations had been received by Tipperary County Council.

Timelines for Referendum/Local & European Elections was outlined as follows: -

- ❖ Referendum 8 March 2024
- ❖ Local and Europeans 6-9 June indicative only.

In this regard the closing dates for applications received on or after 14<sup>th</sup> day before polling day shall have no effect. For the Referendum in March, Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> February would be the last day for applications. In respect of Postal/Special Voters received on or after 21<sup>st</sup> day before polling day shall have no effect, the last day for applications for the referendum will be the 11<sup>th</sup> February 2023;

Legislative provisions were that as soon as practicable after the 14<sup>th</sup> day before polling date at an election or referendum the local authority shall publish the register and publish a list of names added to the register since the date of making the polling date order in respect of that election or referendum. The register in force would be the one published after the closing date, this would be the first cut combined with the remainder (the balancing list).

Members welcomed the changes to the Register of Electors and Mr. G Walsh responded to queries raised as follows: -

Dummy Dwelling – the term Dummy Dwelling was used as an identifier where a dwelling did not have an Eircode.

Voters Details – To ensure accuracy of the electoral register voters were asked to provide their PPS, Eircode, phone number and email address. These details were required to ensure the accuracy and integrity of the

electoral register and assist in removing duplicate entries. These details would not appear on the Register of Electors.

Removal from Register – A voter would only be removed from the Register of Electors after 3 attempts to contact the voter.

Public Awareness – National campaigns for public awareness and engagement following reform of the electoral registration process had taken place.

Members highlighted the need for information leaflets to be distributed in various languages to assist immigrants.

## **Item 7.1**

### **Management Report continued**

#### **Environment & Climate Action**

Mr Eamon Lonergan, Director of Services, responded to queries raised as follows: -

There were no questions raised.

#### **Housing & Ukrainian Refugee Accommodation Response**

Ms. S. Carr, Director of Services, responded to queries raised as follows: -

Housing Maintenance – If there was a significant mould/damp issue in a local authority dwelling, the problem area would be inspected and if deemed necessary a specialist would be engaged to report on the action required. In minor issues, tenants would be advised of actions to take to alleviate the problem.

Croi Conaithe Scheme– Members expressed concerns regarding delays in the payment of the approved grant applications for the Croi Conaithe Scheme and were advised that these applications had to go through a number of legal processes before payment but every effort was being made to expedite the process.

48 No. Scheme in Farranlahassery, Cahir– This Respond Housing Estate was scheduled for completion in 2024.

Single Rural Housing – In response to an enquiry about the possibility of Local Authorities purchasing single rural houses, it was noted that in exceptional circumstances where the dwelling/site complied with planning permission and could be used for social housing, this option may be considered.

Affordable Housing – the progression of affordable housing options throughout the County was being examined.

Adaptation Grants – It was confirmed that all functional and workable proposals to adapt homes for the needs of its occupants were considered.

Racket Hall Country House Hotel – Members expressed dissatisfaction regarding the lack of consultation that had taken place in housing International Protection applicants in the Racket Hall Hotel in Roscrea. They voiced concerns at the lack of services for these families and the need for extra resources as Roscrea had already accepted a large number of International Protection Applicants and Ukrainian refugees to the area. They referred to the welcome that the community in Roscrea had given to refugees already accommodated in the area. At the request of the members it was agreed to invite Minister O’Gorman to meet with representatives from Roscrea to discuss the concerns of the local community and to ascertain the future plans for the hotel once the contract to accommodate International Protection applicants ceases.

Mr. Joe MacGrath, Chief Executive, acknowledged the exemplary manner the people in Roscrea had welcomed refugees and the difficult situation in Roscrea following the news of further refugees being accommodated in the local hotel. The County Council had been notified of this at the same time as members. It would now be necessary to ensure that support teams were on hand. In this regard a meeting of the Community Forum which comprised representation by all the relevant agencies together with the Cathaoirleach would be held in the coming days. The Chief Executive also acknowledged the extraordinary pressure the Department was under to accommodate refugees and those seeking international protection and the difficult circumstances that people arriving found themselves in. In this regard the Council would continue to manage the situation and undertake tasks asked for.

**Item 8.1**  
**Date for**  
**Workshop/**  
**Rural**  
**Enterprise**  
**Policy**

It was proposed by Cllr Marie Murphy, seconded by Cllr J. Carroll and agreed that a Councillor Workshop would be held on Tuesday 20th February, 2024 at 2 p.m. in relation to the Rural Enterprise Policy.

Cllr Carroll requested that the workshop would be held in person.

**Item 8.2**  
**Political**  
**Affiliation**

Members were informed that notification had been received of the Political Affiliation of Cllr A.M Ryan to the Sinn Féin Group.

**Item 9.1**  
**Presentation by**  
**Comhairle na**  
**nOg**

The Cathaoirleach welcomed Ms Olivia D’Arcy, Chair South Tipperary Comhairle na nOg and Ms Niamh Brennan, Vice-Chair and invited them to make a presentation to the members on the activities of Comhairle na nOg.

They outlined details of a survey they had carried out with their peers on their experiences during Covid, their remote wellbeing project and their focus at their AGM on wellbeing and mental health. They were appreciative of the linkage they had with Tipperary County Council and in particular their annual meeting with the Chief Executive. For 2024 the theme for their workplan was Vaping and Drugs and they hoped to heighten the awareness of the dangers of both. They referred to challenges facing their branch due to rising transport and venue hire costs.

Members congratulated Ms. D'Arcy and Ms. Brennan on their presentation and on their ambitious workplan. They acknowledged the work of Ms. P. Strappe, Co-ordinator Youth Work Ireland and Ms. A. Sheehan of Tipperary County Council.

The Chief Executive joined in congratulating Ms. D'Arcy and Ms. Brennan for their presentation and said it was important for the members to hear the views and topics important to Comhairle na nOg members and for these to be considered when formulating and implementing policies.

**Item 10.1**  
**Consideration of**  
**Orders for the**  
**period to the**  
**31<sup>st</sup> December,**  
**2023**

Chief Executive Orders and Delegated Officers Orders for the period to the 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2023 were noted.

**Item 11.1**  
**Correspondence**

Correspondence as circulated was noted as follows: -

- Letter dated 22<sup>nd</sup> December, 2023 from Ambassador, Embassy of India

**Item 12.1**  
**Motions from**  
**other Councils**

**Clare County Council**

"We are calling on the Minister for Justice, Helen McEntee and the Garda Commissioner, Drew Harris to revisit the current model of policing as it is not fit for purpose and is based on reactionary policing and in the current times the public feel very vulnerable both in rural communities and urban communities throughout Clare and find the lack of adequate number of Gardai on the ground is having a negative impact on their lives".

**Clare County Council**

"I am calling on the Housing Minister Darragh O'Brien to review the Part V obligations placed on private housing developers and especially the social element and focus the obligation on the development of affordable housing and housing for people with disabilities. The current policy is a barrier to the development of private housing and especially for people in lower income categories that are struggling to secure their own home. Local authorities are best placed to deliver social housing and need to be properly resourced".

**Clare County Council**

"Clare County Council calls on the Minister for Housing, Local Government & Heritage to publish the 2022-2025 Multi Annual Rural Water Programme without further delay. We are now at the end of year 2 of a 4-year programme and still we have no clarity for the many active group water schemes awaiting funding. Request that the motion be circulated to Clare Oireachtas members & all County Councils".



**Limerick City & County Council**

“That, Limerick City and County Council write to the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications, Mr. Eamon Ryan, TD, asking when the wind energy development guidelines will be revised and updated.”

**Limerick Joint Policing Committee**

“That this Joint Policing Committee write to the Commissioner to state our opposition to proposals to disband dedicated customer policing and that we ask for the retention of these units and circulate this motion to all local authority Joint Policing Committees”.

**Item 13.1**

**Expressions of votes of sympathy**

Members passed a vote of sympathy to the following: -

- Eamonn O’Dwyer, Traffic Warden, Clonmel Borough District on the death of his daughter Joanne
- Family of Tom Quinlan, Environmental Worker, Tipperary County Council CE Scheme
- Marie Dunne, Traffic Warden, Carrick on Suir MD on the death of her mother Alice
- Family of Sheila Marnane, sister of former Councillor Michael Maguire.
- Janice Gardiner, Internal Audit Section on the death of her mother Noreen Gardiner
- Family of Eddie Cooney, former Civil Defence Officer, South Tipperary County Council, father of Jonathan Cooney, Housing and father-in-law of Claire Cooney, Corporate Services.
- Family of Richard Moloney, father of Collette Moloney, Environment & Climate Action and father-in-law of Joe Burke, Water Services.
- Martin Kennedy (former Councillor) on the death of his mother Peggy Kennedy
- Family of Michael Deegan (former County Manager)

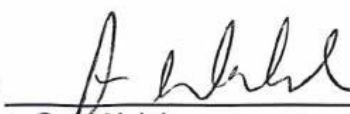
**Item 14.1**

**Any Other Business**

The meeting then concluded.

Signed/ \_\_\_\_\_  
Cathaoirleach.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed/  \_\_\_\_\_  
Ger Walsh,  
Meetings Administrator.

Date:



