

**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS OF MONTHLY MEETING OF TIPPERARY COUNTY COUNCIL
HELD
REMOTELY VIA MS TEAMS
AT 10.00 AM
ON MONDAY 13th April 2026.**

Remote

Cllr. John Carroll, Cathaoirleach

Cllrs: Aceson, T; Ambrose, S; Anglim, M; Bonfield, F; Bourke, K; Brennan, MI; Browne, L; Bugler, P; Burgess, D; Cahill Skehan, K; Crosse, J; Dennehy, N; Dunne, D; English, P; FitzGerald, J; Fitzgerald, M; Goldsboro, A; Hannigan, J; Hourigan, MH; Kennedy, R; Kennedy, W; Lee, S; Lowry, MI; McGrath, M; Molloy, R; Moloney, A; Morgan Walsh, L; Murphy, M; O'Heney, J; O'Meara, J.P. O'Meara, MI; Quirke O'Meara, P; Ryan A.M.; Ryan J; Ryan, P; Ryan, S; Smith, MI;

Apologies

Cllrs: Moran, E; Morris, S

Also Present

Ms. Sinéad Carr, Chief Executive

Mr. Jonathan Cooney, Mr. Anthony Coleman, Mr. Damien Ginty, Mr Eamon Lonergan, Directors of Services. Mr. Robert Johnston S.E.E.

Mr Ger Walsh, Meetings Administrator

Item 1.1

Welcome & Introduction/ Meetings Protocol

The Cathaoirleach welcomed all to the April Meeting of the Council. He noted that the decision to hold the April meeting fully remotely via MS Teams was taken following consultation with the Chief Executive and the Privilege and Procedure Committee members considering the current fuel situation in Ireland and the associated need to reduce non-essential travel at this time.

He advised members 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. He checked with each councillor attending remotely that they could see and hear clearly. He welcomed the media, the staff members and the members of the public who were in attendance.

The Cathaoirleach then called on the Meetings Administrator to take a roll call who confirmed a quorum was present and commenced the meeting with the opening prayer.

The Cathaoirleach referred to an emergency motion received from Cllrs. David Dunne and Ann Marie Ryan requesting that the motion be taken as urgent business relating to the impact of the fuel protests on the delivery of council services. However, acknowledging the fact that the protests had lifted and the fact that the Chief Executive had intended to brief the members on the impact of fuel costs on the Budget for 2026 under Item No. 16.1 A.O.B. both Cllr. Dunne and Cllr. Ryan were satisfied to withdraw the motion to allow the matter to be considered under A.O.B. as part of the Chief Executive briefing on the impact of the fuel costs on council services.

Item 2.1
Disclosure/or
Conflicts of
Interest

It was noted that no disclosures or conflicts of interest were notified to the Meetings Administrator in advance of the meeting

Item No. 3.1
Minutes of
Council Meeting
held on 9th
March 2026

The Minutes of Council Meeting held on the 9th March 2026 were proposed by **Cllr. Mark Fitzgerald**, seconded by **Cllr. Michael Séan Ryan** and approved.

Matters Arising

There were no matters arising

Item No. 4.2
Approval to
Attendance

It was proposed by **Cllr. Roger Kennedy** and seconded by **Cllr. Fiona Bonfield** 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: -

Seminars/ Conferences/ Similar Events	Dates	Venue	Nominees
AILG Annual Training Conference	22 nd - 23 rd April	Minella, Clonmel, Tipperary	Mary Hanna Hourigan Mark Fitzgerald Andy Moloney Richie Molloy John Fitzgerald Marie Murphy Tom Acheson Sean Ryan Eddie Moran Siobhan Ambrose Declan Burgess Michael Brennan John O Heney William Kennedy Joe Hannigan Mairin McGrath Liam Browne John Carroll Micheal Anglim Amy Goldsboro Michael O Meara

Item 4.3

Reports on Conferences attended were noted.

**Reports on
Conferences**

**Item No. 5.1
Section 183**

**Notice -
Disposal of circa
0.0025ha at
Garrykennedy,
Portroe, Co
Tipperary to ESB
Networks**

It was proposed by **Cllr. Fiona Bonfield**, seconded by **Cllr. Joe Hannigan** and resolved: -

"That in accordance with the provision of Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001, Tipperary County Council hereby approves of the Disposal of circa 0.0025ha at Garrykennedy, Portroe, Co Tipperary to ESB Networks in accordance with the terms of the Notice under the above section, as circulated on Wednesday 1st April 2026."

The disposal of the property was required to facilitate the transfer of ownership of a site containing a substation to ESB Networks

**Item No. 5.2
Section 183
Notice -
Disposal of circa
0.0332ha at
Garrykennedy,**

It was proposed by **Cllr. Joe Hannigan**, seconded by **Cllr. Fiona Bonfield** and resolved: -

"That in accordance with the provision of Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001, Tipperary County Council hereby approves of the disposal of circa 0.0332ha at Garrykennedy, Portroe, Co."

Portroe, Co. Tipperary to Portroe GAA Club

Tipperary to Portroe GAA Club for a consideration of €250 plus the Council's legal fees in accordance with the terms of the Notice under the above section, as circulated on Wednesday 1st April 2026."

The disposal of the property was required to facilitate the construction of a new entrance to a proposed car and bus parking area serving the Portroe club

Item No. 5.3
Section 183
Notice -
Disposal of circa 0.0064ha at Garryard East, Silvermines East, Nenagh Co Tipperary to ESB Networks

It was proposed by **Cllr. Fiona Bonfield**, seconded by **Cllr. John Carroll** and resolved: -

"That in accordance with the provision of Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001, Tipperary County Council hereby approves of the disposal of circa 0.0064ha at Garryard East, Silvermines East, Nenagh Co Tipperary to ESB Networks in accordance with the terms of the Notice under the above section, as circulated on Wednesday 1st April 2026."

The disposal of the property was required to facilitate the transfer of ownership of a site containing a substation to ESB Networks

Item No. 5.4
Section 183
Notice -
Disposal of circa 0.014ha (140sqm) at, Liscahill, Thurles, Co. Tipperary to Eileen and Thomas Ryan

It was proposed by **Cllr. Kay Cahill Skehan**, seconded by **Cllr. Séan Ryan** and resolved: -

"That in accordance with the provision of Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001, Tipperary County Council hereby approves of the disposal of circa 0.014ha (140sqm) at, Liscahill, Thurles, Co. Tipperary as contained in Folio TY1772F to Eileen and Thomas Ryan for a consideration of €100 plus Council's legal fees in accordance with the terms of the Notice under the above section, as circulated on Wednesday 1st April 2026."

The disposal of the property was required to facilitate the regularisation of a mapping error.

It was proposed by **Cllr. Pat English**, seconded by **Cllr. Tom Acheson** and resolved: -

Item No. 5.5
Section 183
Notice -
Disposal by way of a 99 year lease agreement of property at Old Bridge, Clonmel to Teach an Tseandroichid Cuideachta Faoi Theorainn Rachaiochta

"That in accordance with the provision of Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001, Tipperary County Council hereby approves of the disposal by way of a 99 year lease agreement of property at Old Bridge, Clonmel to Teach an Tseandroichid Cuideachta Faoi Theorainn Rachaiochta in accordance with the terms of the Notice under the above section, as circulated on Wednesday 1st April 2026."

The disposal of the property was required to facilitate the amendment of a leaseholder's name. The disposal in question was previously approved by the Council in June 2023 and required formal updating.

Item No. 5.6
Section 183
Notice -
Disposal of circa
0.0397ha of
land at No. 7
Northview
Close, Clonmel,
Co. Tipperary to
Thomas & Alison
Butler

It was proposed by **Cllr. Tom Acheson**, seconded by **Cllr. John FitzGerlad** and resolved: -

"That in accordance with the provision of Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001, Tipperary County Council hereby approves of the disposal of circa 0.0397ha of land at No. 7 Northview Close, Clonmel, Co. Tipperary to Thomas & Alison Butler in accordance with the terms of the Notice under the above section, as circulated on Wednesday 1st April 2026."

The disposal of the property was required to facilitate the regularisation of a mapping error.

Item No. 5.7
Section 183
Notice -
Disposal by way
of a 99 year
lease agreement
between
Tipperary
County Council
and Cashel
Handball Club,
for premises
know as Cashel
Handball Alley,
at O'Connor's
Field, Friar
Street, Cashel

It was proposed by **Cllr. Declan Burgess**, seconded by **Cllr. Roger Kennedy** and resolved: -

"That in accordance with the provision of Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001, Tipperary County Council hereby approves of the disposal by way of a 99 year lease agreement between Tipperary County Council and Cashel Handball Club, for premises know as Cashel Handball Alley, at O'Connor's Field, Friar Street, Cashel a consideration of €100 plus Council's legal fees in accordance with the terms of the Notice under the above section, as circulated on Wednesday 1st April 2026."

The disposal of the property was required to facilitate the regularisation of area under a 99-year lease agreement.

Item No. 5.8
Section 183
Notice -
Disposal of
Serviced Site
"A" at The
Crescent
Housing Estate,
Boherlahan, Co.
Tipperary to Ms
Lorraine Hannon
and Tamer
Mohammad
Nagib

It was proposed by **Cllr. Declan Burgess**, seconded by **Cllr. Roger Kennedy** and resolved: -

"That in accordance with the provision of Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001, Tipperary County Council hereby approves of the disposal of Serviced Site "A" at The Crescent Housing Estate Boherlahan, Co. Tipperary to Ms Lorraine Hannon and Tamer Mohammad Nagib for a consideration of €25,000 fees in accordance with the terms of the Notice under the above section, as circulated on Wednesday 1st April 2026."

The disposal of the property was required to facilitate the transfer of a serviced site under an affordable housing pilot project funded under the Croí Cónaithe (Towns) Fund.

Item No. 5.9
Section 183
Notice -
Disposal of circa
0.0336ha at

It was proposed by **Cllr. Tom Acheson**, seconded by **Cllr. John FitzGerald** and resolved: -

**Fethard Rd,
Rathronan, Co.
Tipperary to
Tony and
Siobhan Joyce**

"That in accordance with the provision of Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001, Tipperary County Council hereby approves of the disposal of circa 0.0336ha at Fethard Rd, Rathronan, Co. Tipperary to Tony and Siobhan Joyce for a consideration of €500 plus the Council's legal fees in accordance with the terms of the Notice under the above section, as circulated on Wednesday 1 st April 2026."

**Item No. 5.10
Strategic
Infrastructure
Development
(SID)
application by
Soleirtricity
Lisheen Ltd**

The disposal of the property was required to facilitate the regularisation of a mapping error.

To note Chief Executives Report prior to Tipperary County Council's submission on the proposed Strategic Infrastructure Development (SID) application by Soleirtricity Lisheen Ltd for a 10 year planning permission for a 110kV electrical substation and associated 110Kv underground grid connection, cabling and associated works located in the townlands of Killoran, Co. Tipperary (www.cooleenysubstation.com), in accordance with section 182A of the Planning & Development Act 2000.

It was clarified to the members that where a Strategic Infrastructure Development is received under Section 37 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), there is a statutory requirement that the Planning Authority would seek the views of the Elected Members. In this case, the Elected Members can, by resolution, attach recommendations, if any, to the Chief Executive's Report.

Where this happens the CE report, resolution and meeting administrator's record must be submitted to the Comisiun Pleanala within the statutory timeframe.

However, there is no provision for this when the Strategic Infrastructure Development is made under Section 182 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended). The Planning Authority submission on an application for approval under Section 182 is not subject to any statutory requirement relating to the formal submission of a Chief Executive's Report to the Elected Members of the Council. Section 182 applications relate to electricity transmission lines.

For applications lodged under Section 182, the Planning Authority considers it appropriate that the matter should be placed on the agenda of the Plenary Council meeting so that the Elected Members of Tipperary County Council, are aware of the application and the Planning Authority's view on the application. Individual Elected Members are still entitled to make a submission directly to the Coimisiún by the 17th April for ACP 324114 Soleirtricity Lisheen and the 22nd April for Item No. 5.11 Strategic Infrastructure Development (SID) application by Killough Solar ACP 324132 Killough SID.

**Item No. 5.11
Strategic
Infrastructure
Development
(SID)**

This item was noted, similar to Item No. 5.10, in that there is no statutory requirement relating to formal submission of a Chief Executives Report and it is appropriate to list the motion on the agenda for the members information only.

application by Killough Solar

To note Chief Executives Report prior to Tipperary County Council's submission on the proposed Strategic Infrastructure Development (SID) application by Killough Solar for the development of a 110kV electrical Gas Insulated Switchgear substation providing a connection to the national grid via a Loop In/Loop Out (LI/LO) connection to the existing Killhill- Thurles 110kv overhead line within the townland of Graigue, Co. Tipperary in accordance with section 182A of the Planning & Development Act 2000.

This item was noted.

Item No. 5.12
Local Authority own development pursuant to Article 81 of Part 8 of the Planning development Regulations (as amended)

The Chief Executives report as circulated with the agenda noted the council proposes to carry out a Housing Development at Derry, Rathcabbin, Co. Tipperary in accordance with Part 8 of the Planning and development Regulations 2001, as amended, Tipperary County Council made available for public inspection the plans and particulars of the proposed development of 7 social houses on a site sized 0.41ha (These measurements excluded the site area that extends along the public road).

The dwellings proposed consist of:

- 4no. 3-bed two-storey houses,
- 2no. 2-bed single-storey houses and
- 1no. 3-bed single-storey house

The development includes a new entrance, access roadway, footpaths, bin storage, car parking, boundary works, landscaping, drainage connection, related ancillary services and all associated site works.

Access to the development site is via the L5046 and the site is located east of the Village housing development. The site is adjoined to the west by the Village housing development and there are 2 detached dwellings located either side of the access road.

Plans and particulars of the proposed development including AA and EIA Screening Reports, were available for inspection and purchase during office hours from 14th January 2026 to 18th February 2026 at the following locations:

- Tipperary County Council, Civic Offices, Emmet Street, Clonmel, Co. Tipperary E91 N512
- Tipperary County Council, Civic Offices, Limerick Road, Nenagh, Co. Tipperary E45 A099
- Online at <https://planning.localgov.ie>

Submissions and observations with respect to the proposed development could be made in writing to Jonathan Cooney, Director of Services, Housing, Tipperary County Council, Civic Offices, Emmet Street, Clonmel, Co. Tipperary or online at <https://planning.localgov.ie> no later than close of business on 5th March 2026

The Planning Authority was satisfied that the proposal is in accordance with the Tipperary County Development Plan 2022-2028, is acceptable in terms of design and layout and presents no significant impacts on the conservation objectives of any Natura 2000 site.

The development as set out on the plans and particulars is considered acceptable and is consistent with the principle of the proper planning and sustainable development of the area. Therefore, it is recommended that the proposed development should proceed subject to the following recommended requirements and conditions.

The development should be subject to the following:

1. Tipperary County Council shall enter into connection agreements with Uisce Eireann to provide for service connections to the public water supply and wastewater collection network and shall adhere to the standards and conditions set out in that agreement.
2. The proposed weld mesh fencing is replaced with a concrete post and panel fence along the north and east site boundaries.

Following consideration, it was proposed by **Cllr. Fiona Bonfield**, seconded by **Cllr. Mark Fitzgerald** and agreed: -

"That the development, as proposed in the Chief Executives Report, be proceeded with subject to the recommended requirements and conditions", as outlined above.

Item No. 5.13
Draft Service
Delivery Plan
2026

The Cathaoirleach invited Mr. Ger Walsh, Meetings Administrator to brief the members on the plan. The Local Government Reform Act 2014 established the requirement for each Local Authority to prepare and Annual Service Delivery Plan identifying the services that it proposes to deliver to the public for the year ahead.

It was noted that the draft plan outlines how the Council will deliver both statutory and discretionary services during the year. The Plan reflects the operation of a large-scale, multi-service organisation within an increasingly complex regulatory and service environment and sets out the key strategic delivery priorities and organisational considerations for 2026 across the principal Directorates.

Overall, the plan provides a robust and compliant framework for service delivery in 2026, while highlighting the need for continued organisational adaptation, investment in enabling functions and close Senior Management Team oversight of capacity and risk.

There were no further queries or comments.

It was proposed by **Cllr. Roger Kennedy**, seconded by **Cllr. Tom Acheson** and resolved:

"That the Draft Service Delivery Plan 2026 as presented be and is hereby adopted by Tipperary County Council in accordance with Section 134 (a) of the Local Government Act 2001 (as amended by Section 50 of the Reform Act 2014)".

The Cathaoirleach welcomed Ms. Melanie Scott, Arts Officer to the meeting.

Item No. 5.14
Arts Act Grants
2026

The Council considered a report outlining the rationale for the Arts Act Grant Scheme recommendations for 2026. It was noted that applications closed on 19 February 2026 and were assessed competitively by the Arts Officer, together with an independent assessor, having regard to the budget available.

Members were advised that demand for the scheme has increased significantly in recent years, including an 18% increase in applications since 2025, and that the budget for 2026 had been set at €70,000. The recommended allocation provides funding of €68,900 to 46 arts and community groups across the county, including 11 new applicants. One application was not recommended for funding.

It was further noted that the scheme supports quality artistic practice, public engagement and the development of the arts in the county, and that all grant payments will be subject to the submission of receipted expenditure in accordance with scheme guidelines.

Ms. Scott recommended the adoption of the report as proposed.

Members paid tribute to Melanie Scott, Arts Officer for her dedication and hard work and acknowledged the work of the volunteers around the county.

It was proposed by **Cllr. Andy Moloney**, seconded by **Cllr. Declan Burgess** and resolved: -

"That that allocation of grants to the sum of €68,900 as per the attached schedule under the Arts Act 2003 are approved".

No.	Group	Recommended Allocation 2026 €
1	Fionn Mac Cumhaill Players, Mullinahone	600
2	Voices of the Derg Choir, Ballina	800
3	Roscrea Musical Society	3,500
4	Tipperary Musical Society	3,500
5	Creative Minds Productions, Clonmel	2,000
6	Avista St Annes, Roscrea	1,250
7	Cashel Day Care Centre for the Elderly	300
8	Cahir Comhaltas	2,000
9	Uproar Choir, Clonmel	1,000
10	Cloughjordan Cine Club	1,100
11	Clonmel Theatre Guild	600
12	Moyne Variety Group	300
13	Aras Mhuire Day Care Centre, Nenagh	900
14	Ballyporeen Community Council	800
15	IWAI - Lough Derg Branch	300
16	Classical Events String Quartet/The Freewheeling Artists, Tipperary Town	1,500

17	Cashel Choral & Dramatic Society	500
18	St Pauls Community Centre, Clogheen	800
19	Newport Musical Society	1,000
20	Fethard & District Day Care Centre CLG	1,000
21	Limelight Theatricals, Thurles	2,000
22	Ballingeary ICA	750
23	Nenagh Players	1,000
24	Clontempo Choir, Clonmel	1,200
25	Irish Wheelchair Association (North Tipperary)	800
26	Live Art Ireland, Borrisokane	2,600
27	Burncourt Community Council CLG	1,000
28	Thurles Musical Society	3,500
29	Thurles Community Panto Society	1,500
30	Homeland, Roscrea	4,500
31	Thomas MacDonagh Museum, Cloughjordan	1,200
32	St Cronan's Association CLG, Roscrea	1,500
33	Circular Square (Suircan Environmental), Clonmel	1,000
34	Templemore Active Retirement	1,000
35	Lorrha Dorrha Ladies Club	600
36	Ballymackey Women's Shed	700
37	CRK Active Retirement Association, Carrig	300
38	Roscrea Youth Service (RYS)	1,200
39	Meitheal 21-Down Syndrome Tipperary Thurles	600
40	Cloughjordan Circus Club CLG	5,500
41	St Marys Choral Society, Clonmel	3500
42	Comhaltas Kilcash	1000
43	Carrick on Suir Musical Society	3,500
44	Silver Arch Family Resource Centre, Nenagh	400
45	South Tipperary Art Group, Juniors, Clonmel	800
46	Nenagh Choral Society	3,500

The Cathaoirleach invited Mr. Ger Walsh, Meetings Administrator and Mr. Jonathan Cooney, Director of Services to brief the members on the Clonmel B.I.D. process.

Item No. 5.15

**Business
Improvement
District Scheme
(B.I.D.) Clonmel
Borough District**

The Council considered a detailed update on the proposed Business Improvement District (BID) for Clonmel, including the statutory framework governing the scheme, the outcomes of public consultation, and the progression of the proposal to a ratepayer plebiscite in accordance with the Local Government (Business Improvement Districts) Act 2006 and the associated Regulations.

The Meetings Administrator, Mr. Ger Walsh, advised that the BID proposal was placed on public display from 20 November to 22 December 2025 and that a total of 235 submissions were received, 226 of which supported advancing the proposal. He informed Members that the BID proponents had formally requested that the Council proceed to a ratepayer plebiscite by letter dated 18 March 2026.

It was outlined that ballot papers would issue on 14 April 2026, with the closing date for return being 13 May 2026, and that the opening of the

ballot box and counting of votes would take place at 3.00 p.m. on that date. Mr. Walsh confirmed that the Chief Executive had appointed a Returning Officer and Deputy Returning Officer and that a report on the outcome of the plebiscite would be brought before the June 2026 meeting of the Council for consideration, at which time a resolution supported by at least one-third of the full Council would be required to approve the BID scheme.

Several members spoke in favour of the proposed Clonmel BID.

Cllr. Siobhan Ambrose welcomed the initiative and referred to her engagement with the BID group and to the successful operation of similar schemes in other towns, particularly Sligo. She highlighted the ability of BID schemes to access funding not otherwise available to local authorities and praised the level of organisation and commitment shown by the Clonmel business community.

Cllr. Tom Acheson also supported the proposal, describing it as a positive and necessary step driven by local businesses and noting that the scheme would operate on a defined five-year basis, subject to review. He commended the work of the Town First team in bringing the proposal to its current stage.

Cllr. John FitzGerald expressed strong support for the BID, speaking from his experience as a long-standing Clonmel ratepayer, and described the proposal as one of the most constructive initiatives to come before the town in many years. He urged ratepayers to engage with the plebiscite process.

Cllr. Pat English outlined his support for the scheme, referring to meetings he had attended with the BID proponents and to the positive impacts of BID schemes in other towns, and noted the enthusiasm demonstrated by local businesses.

Cllr. Richie Molloy also supported the proposal, acknowledging that while it would involve additional cost to businesses, many were willing to give the scheme an opportunity on a trial basis to address ongoing town centre challenges.

In contrast, Cllr. Niall Dennehy stated his opposition to the proposed BID. He stated that while the stated objectives of the scheme were not in dispute, he was of the view that the functions proposed were already being delivered by Tipperary County Council and other bodies funded by Clonmel ratepayers. He questioned whether the level of support demonstrated during consultation represented a clear majority, noting that approximately 200 supportive submissions, when considered against an estimated 800 ratepayers, did not, in his view, constitute sufficient mandate.

Cllr. Dennehy also queried the legality of the process having regard to legal advice received by the council. Cllr. Dennehy further argued that Clonmel already had a Council Project Manager, like Nenagh, and that this role should address the objectives proposed under the BID without imposing additional financial burdens on ratepayers. He raised concerns regarding equity, contending that larger businesses would incur significantly higher costs while retaining only a single vote in the plebiscite, and criticised what he described as selective engagement with ratepayers. He also raised

governance and procedural concerns, including the identification of the BID proponents in public notices, data protection and GDPR considerations, the democratic and constitutional implications of the BID mechanism following the abolition of town councils in 2014, and the appropriateness of councillors from outside Clonmel voting on a scheme impacting Clonmel ratepayers alone.

Cllr. Dennehy further stated that no plebiscite wording could be authorised outside of legislative requirements and formally advised that he did not consent to the Clonmel BID plebiscite being conducted in his name as a Councillor or as a Member of the Council, indicating that this position had been communicated to the Executive through solicitors.

In response to the queries raised, Mr. Ger Walsh clarified that the Chief Executive is legally entitled and obliged to seek legal advice in the discharge of statutory and executive functions however such advice does not supplant the statutory role of elected members in respect of reserved function. Where the matter is a statutory obligation, an administrative function or an executive act required by legislation, the chief executive is not only entitled but obliged to seek legal advice where necessary to ensure lawful compliance and act on that advice in discharging executive responsibilities. In such cases, no council approval is required to obtain legal advice.

He further clarified who the BID proponent is, why Tipperary County Council is the relevant rating authority of the Clonmel BID and the statutory steps completed to date and the remaining decision points. He further clarified that members are not being asked to approve the BID proposal at this stage. The council's role is to ensure the statutory process is carried out lawfully, transparently and fairly. Members may nominate representatives to witness ballot paper posting and the opening of the ballot box. Following publication of the plebiscite result, a report will be brought to the council at its June Meeting and members will then consider whether to pass the required resolution to establish the BID area and approve the BID scheme, noting that at least one third of the full Council must vote in favour of the establishment of the BID scheme.

He noted a BID proposal must specify the name of the BID proponent and an address for service of notices and that the legislation does not require a single incorporated proponent and does not prohibit multiple named persons acting jointly provided the identity of the proponent is clear, explicit and unambiguous in the proposed documentation and a service address is specified.

The Local Government Reform Act 2014 reduced rating authorities from 88 to 31 and references to "voting authorities" in the BID legislation and the 2007 Regulations are to be read as meaning the current local authority/rating authority structure. There is nothing in the legislation or regulation that precludes the establishment of a BID in a town due to the dissolution of town councils in 2014

Mr. Jonathan Cooney, Director of Services, advised that the BID proposal would not replace or duplicate the statutory functions of the local authority and confirmed that Clonmel has a dedicated town Project Manager working

on URDF and other capital projects independently of the BID. He reiterated that Members would have the opportunity to vote for, against or abstain from the proposal when it returns for decision at the June meeting.

The Chief Executive, Ms. Sinead Carr, emphasised that no decision was being sought at the April meeting and that the item was before Members for noting only. She confirmed that the statutory process was compliant, encouraged eligible ratepayers to participate in the plebiscite, and assured Members that the procedure was legally valid. Ms. Carr also acknowledged the high level of engagement and commitment shown by the Clonmel business community, regardless of the outcome.

It was noted that the proposed Clonmel BID generated a substantial and robust debate, with clearly articulated views expressed both in support of and in opposition to the initiative. The Council noted the update and that a further report, incorporating the outcome of the ratepayer plebiscite, would be brought before the June 2026 meeting of Tipperary County Council for consideration and decision.

It was proposed by the Cathaoirleach, **Cllr. John Carroll**, seconded by **Cllr. Tom Acheson** and agreed that the Leas Cathaoirleach, Mr. Mark Fitzgerald and the Mayor of Clonmel, Mr. Pat English would witness the posting of the ballot papers and the opening of the ballot box.

It was proposed by **Cllr. Roger Kennedy** and seconded by **Cllr. Pat English** and resolved: -

Item No. 6.1
Ratification of
Members to
Strategic Policy
Committee
(SPC)

"That Trish Markey, be and is hereby appointed as the County Tipperary Chamber representative on the Social Inclusion, Community & Rural Development Strategic Policy Committee (SPC)."

Item No. 6.2
Ratification of
Member to Local
Community
Development
Committee
(LCDC)

It was proposed by **Cllr. Declan Burgess** and seconded by **Cllr. Séan Ryan** and resolved: -

In accordance with Section 36 of the Local Government Act 2001, as amended by Section 49A (1), Chapter 2 of Part 6 of the Local Government Reform Act 2014 and Article 4 (1) of the Local Community Development Committee (Section 128E) Regulations 2014, and statutory instruments no. 314 of 2014 the Local Community Development Committee (section 128e) (amendment) (no. 1) regulations 2014

"That Darragh Scott, be and is hereby appointed to the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) as the Irish Farmers' Association (IFA) representative".

The Cathaoirleach acknowledged and thanked Mr. Pat Carroll for his contribution and service, noting that Mr. Scott was replacing him in the role.

Item 6.1
Consideration of
Management
Report as per

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.

Section 136 (2)
of the Local
Government Act,
2001, as
amended by the
Local
Government
Reform Act,
2014

- Economic, Community and Rural Development
- Environment & Climate Action
- Corporate Services
- Housing Services

Economic, Community and Rural Development

On the proposal of the Cathaoirleach, it was agreed by the members to take Item No. 7.3 New Vacant Business-property Re-open (VBR) Grant Scheme portal as part of the Management Report Economic Community & Rural Development.

Item No. 7.3
New Vacant
Business-
property Re-
open (VBR)
Grant Scheme
portal

Mr. Damien Ginty, Director of Services welcomed Ms. Ruth Maher, I.S. Project Leader and Ms. Kathleen Prendergast, Economic Development Officer.

Mr. Ginty reminded members that the Vacant Property Re-Open Grant Scheme was adopted by the Council in October 2025, and Mr. Ginty acknowledged and thanked the Members for their support in approving the scheme.

It was noted that the scheme builds on a range of town centre initiatives progressed by the Council in recent years, including festival and events funding, painting and enhancement schemes, Shop Local campaigns, the Retail Symposium held in the Hotel Minella, and the Love Tipperary Gift Card. Members were advised that the associated digital portal is designed not only to facilitate applications for the Vacant Property Re-Open Grant, but also to assist prospective business owners by enabling them to visualise potential uses for vacant properties and to better understand the opportunities available.

The Council received a presentation from Ms. Maher on the Vacant Business Re-open Grant (VBR) digital property portal, which has been developed as part of the Council's wider economic development and town centre regeneration initiatives. The portal, accessible at tipperarycoco.vbrgrant.ie, is designed to support the re-use of vacant commercial properties by framing them as viable business opportunities and by improving access to relevant data, supports and grant information.

Members were advised that the project builds on the existing Vacant Business Rates (VBR) scheme as a pilot digital portal to support the identification and reuse of vacant commercial properties. The platform integrates multiple datasets, including property listings, zoning, rates information, land-use classification and local amenities, and provides visual tools and downloadable brochures to illustrate potential uses, business concepts, franchise opportunities and available grant supports.

The portal is aimed at a wide range of users, including VBR applicants, investors, business owners, elected Members, Town Teams, enterprise supports, planners and property agents, and is intended to assist investment analysis, lead generation and place-making.

It was noted that the platform forms part of a broader "Reboot" approach to tackling vacancy and promoting commercial reuse and living-over-the-shop

opportunities. Future enhancements are planned, including integration with additional grant schemes, property triage tools, digital mapping, and practical supports such as planning checklists and cost calculators, with the overall objective of supporting town centre renewal, business activity and housing regeneration across the county.

In responding to Members' queries, Ms. Kathleen Prendergast, Economic Development Officer, confirmed that a property must be vacant for a minimum period of three months to qualify under the VBR scheme and clarified that the scheme provides a direct grant rather than a rates reduction. She advised that the VBR scheme is part of a wider suite of town centre and vacancy initiatives and that the Living Over the Shop scheme operates separately, albeit in a complementary manner. Ms. Prendergast outlined plans to actively promote the portal through direct engagement with auctioneers, solicitors and accountants across the county and encouraged Members to assist in raising awareness locally.

Ms. Ruth Maher, IS Project Leader, confirmed that the portal draws on live datasets from MyHome.ie and includes both commercial properties for sale and to let. She advised that the system integrates a wide range of datasets, including rates information, planning applications, transport and parking facilities, and nearby amenities, and that it allows users to visualise potential business uses through concept imagery and generated proposals. Ms. Maher advised that the portal's functionality would continue to evolve and that further datasets and linkages, including planning and business supports, could be developed over time.

Mr. Damien Ginty, Director of Services, addressed queries relating to planning and overhead accommodation, advising that the Council continues to apply relevant planning provisions, including exemptions under Article 106A where applicable, and that reasonable and pragmatic approaches are taken in town centre locations to support reuse and regeneration. He stated that the VBR portal and associated schemes are intended to work in tandem with existing regeneration initiatives and planning policy, with the overarching objective of reducing vacancy, supporting enterprise development and revitalising town centres across the county.

It was agreed that the background information, together with a link to the relevant website, would be issued to elected members and the potential for integrating links to the ePlan platform and the Local Enterprise Office (LEO) websites within the portal would be assessed.

The Cathaoirleach thanked the officials for their comprehensive responses and Members for their constructive engagement with the presentation.

Mgmt. Report **contd.**

Mr. Ginty responded to general queries raised in relation to the Management Report as follows:

Local Enterprise Office (LEO) Supports

Mr. Ginty confirmed that Local Enterprise Office supports are available, particularly for existing small businesses, including energy efficiency grants, digital supports and mentoring. He advised that new businesses locating in town centres would also be signposted to appropriate LEO supports and staff assistance to aid start-up and sustainability.

Living Over the Shop and Planning Considerations

The Living Over the Shop Scheme operates separately from the Vacant Business Re-Open Grant Scheme, though both are complementary. He advised that the Living Over the Shop Scheme supports the conversion of upper floors to residential use while the ground floor remains in commercial use. He further confirmed that planning exemptions under Article 106A may apply in suitable cases and that the Council takes a reasonable and pragmatic approach to matters such as car-parking requirements in town centre and constrained locations, particularly where regeneration objectives are being advanced.

Interaction of Grant Schemes

It was confirmed that, subject to eligibility criteria being met, the Living Over the Shop Scheme and the VBR grant can both be availed of, provided that commercial use is retained at ground-floor level. The schemes are designed to work together to support town centre regeneration rather than operate in isolation.

Tourism Performance and Market Response

The challenges arising from cancellations among international visitors, particularly from markets such as Australia were acknowledged and reflects wider global trends and confirmed that Fáilte Ireland is launching a targeted domestic tourism campaign focused on short breaks and weekend travel. Tipperary Tourism Company, in partnership with regional initiatives such as Munster Vales, Horse Country and Destination Lough Derg, will intensify efforts to promote Tipperary as a central and accessible destination for the domestic market.

Support for Local Economy and Accommodation Sector.

Tipperary's strong tourism offer; central location and accessibility was acknowledged, noting that collaboration with adjacent local authorities and tourism bodies continues to maximise visitor numbers and support the accommodation sector. The Council is committed to supporting local businesses and communities through coordinated economic, tourism and rural development initiatives.

Environment & Climate Action

It was agreed on the proposal of the Cathaoirleach to take Item 7.2 Local Authority Climate Action Plan Progress Report 2025 and Item 12.3 NOM 3130 in the names of Cllr. Séan Ryan & Cllr. Amy Goldsboro, together at the start of the Management Report on Environment & Climate Action

Mr. Eamon Lonergan, Director of Services, addressed the Council in relation to the Climate Action Progress Report, noting that the Council's Climate Action Plan contains 137 actions extending to 2029 and that the report presented to Members comprises 80 pages across eight thematic sections, incorporating 20 case studies demonstrating progress and learning. He described the Plan as ambitious and acknowledged the significant work involved in its implementation, commending the ongoing programme management and the progress achieved during 2025. He highlighted that climate action is being embedded across Tipperary County Council's own operations while also supporting local communities.

Item No. 7.2 Local Authority Climate Action Plan Progress Report 2025

Mr. Lonergan referred to Section 6 of the report, which addresses decarbonisation, noting that this remains one of the most significant challenges facing the organisation. He stated that Tipperary County Council is the fifth-largest producer of greenhouse gas emissions within the local authority sector due to the scale of its operations, including a large building portfolio, extensive vehicle fleet and public lighting infrastructure. He advised that the Climate Action Plan sets out a detailed pathway to meet statutory targets, including a 51% reduction in fossil fuel usage, but emphasised that achieving these targets represents a major challenge over the coming years.

He informed Members that nine major retrofit projects across ten buildings, primarily leisure centres and civic offices, have been identified as priorities, focusing on the Council's highest energy-consuming facilities. Mr. Lonergan noted that the Council has committed €200,000 in the 2026 budget to support this work, which will assist in leveraging loan funding but will only fund approximately one-third of the required programme. He advised that further funding allocations would be required, given the proximity of the 2030 climate targets, and stressed the need to accelerate project delivery, with design teams, surveys and tender processes already underway on several projects.

Mr. Lonergan further highlighted emerging challenges arising from new EU directives, including additional energy efficiency obligations and forthcoming legislation on heating and district heating, all of which will place further demands on the local authority. He stated that, while strong progress has been made in optimisation and energy efficiency across buildings, decarbonisation and energy efficiency remain the most pressing challenges.

In conclusion, Mr. Lonergan emphasised that, while substantial progress has been achieved and is evidenced in the report, the Council faces a significant challenge in achieving the 2030 targets and in planning for longer-term objectives such as net zero by 2050. He indicated that further detail on emerging requirements would be brought to Members during the year and concluded by inviting Ms. Clare Lee (Climate Action Programme Manager) to address the meeting and provide an overview of the report and recent progress.

In her presentation Ms. Lee outlined the progress made under the Tipperary County Council Climate Action Plan and the challenges associated with reducing greenhouse gas emissions across the organisation. Members were advised of the scale of the greenhouse gas emissions challenge facing the local authority and the importance of sustained action to meet national and local climate targets.

The presentation highlighted progress under the theme of Organisational Energy Management, with a particular focus on actions to decarbonise Council facilities and the Council vehicle fleet. It was noted that these measures form a key part of the Council's commitment to reducing emissions from its own operations and demonstrating leadership in climate action.

Members were informed that the Annual Climate Action Progress Report for 2025 was prepared in accordance with Action 17 of the Local Authority Climate Action Plan (LACAP), which requires local authorities to show leadership through the publication and promotion of climate action measures and achievements. The preparation and publication of an annual progress report is a statutory requirement of the Department of Climate, Energy and the Environment.

It was noted that the report details actions undertaken during 2025 and serves as an important monitoring and reporting mechanism to track progress against the objectives of the Climate Action Plan. Members were also advised that further information on the Council's Climate Action Plan and ongoing initiatives is available on the Tipperary County Council website.

Following the presentation of the Climate Action Progress Report, the Cathaoirleach, Mr. John Carroll, invited comments and queries from Members. Members welcomed the report and commended the work of the Climate Action Office, highlighting the importance of climate action and renewable energy initiatives at both organisational and community level.

In response to members queries, Mr. Eamon Lonergan, Director of Services, acknowledged the range and depth of Members' queries and outlined that decarbonisation and energy efficiency represent the Council's most significant climate challenges. He advised that information on electric vehicle battery performance and lifespan is available through SEAI guidance and that further public awareness may be beneficial in supporting informed decision-making. He highlighted that HVO fuel plays a central role in the Council's fleet decarbonisation strategy, with most vehicles currently operating on HVO, and noted that while EVs are being introduced where suitable, not all vehicles are appropriate for full electrification. He advised that significant funding requirements remain for the decarbonisation of buildings, fleet and public lighting, that national bodies such as the CCMA and LGMA are treating this matter as a priority, but that no indication of increased national funding has yet been received.

Mr. Lonergan outlined progress on the identified nine retrofit projects across ten major buildings, confirmed that design and preparatory work is underway, and advised that the Council is focusing on its highest energy-using buildings to achieve the required reduction targets. He also clarified that nature-based solutions are being embedded across capital projects such as roads, car parks and town centre schemes, supported by expertise from LAWPRO and national advisory bodies.

Ms. Clare Lee, Climate Action Programme Manager, responded to queries relating to community engagement and sustainability. She advised that Community Climate Action Programme applications from Tipperary have been submitted to the Minister, with 24 projects identified, and that decisions are awaited, with an update to be circulated once received. Ms. Lee outlined the Council's role in supporting the circular economy, noting new national legislation on textiles, ongoing education and awareness initiatives, and recent engagement with schools and communities. She also confirmed that sustainable tourism is being addressed at both local and national levels, with actions under the Climate Action Plan and alignment

with Fáilte Ireland's sustainability requirements, supported locally through the Council's Tourism Development Office.

In concluding remarks, Mr. Lonergan acknowledged the significant progress made in the implementation of the Climate Action Plan, while emphasising the scale of the challenge ahead in meeting 2030 and longer-term net-zero targets. He thanked Members for their ongoing support, particularly through the SPC process, and stressed the importance of continued engagement, public buy-in and central government funding to enable the Council to accelerate climate action delivery.

It was agreed that details of the 24 projects identified as suitable under the Community Climate Action fund would be circulated to the members. It was also agreed to revert to Cllr. Shane Lee in relation to additional buildings he queried.

The Cathaoirleach thanked Members, Mr. Lonergan and Ms. Lee for the constructive discussion and reiterated the importance of climate action considering current global energy and geopolitical challenges.

The **Motion Reference No. 3130** was proposed by **Cllr. Séan Ryan**.

Item No. 12.3
Cllr. Séan Ryan
& Cllr. Amy
Goldsboro (NOM
Ref. 3130)

"We request that Tipperary County Council writes to the Minister for Climate, Energy and the Environment Darragh O'Brien TD outlining this Council's commitment to delivering on the measures in its LACAP but clearly highlighting the challenges facing the Council in doing so.

In particular we request that the urgent need for increased national financial support and grant funding for local authorities is highlighted to ensure that the statutory targets of 50% energy efficiency and 51% emissions reduction are met by 2030. We also note that there are new and emerging targets that local authorities will need to comply with, up to 2050 which will also have to be funded.

The SEAI Pathfinder programme provides capital funding to local authority's for energy and decarbonisation works to it's public facilities/buildings, but this requires 50% match funding from the local authority, which represents a €5.5 million investment by Tipperary County Council before 2030.

With the 2030 statutory deadline fast approaching, there is an urgent need to accelerate energy retrofitting and decarbonisation of our facilities and of our local authority fleet, so there needs to be improved national funding provided to local authorities with immediate effect."

The motion was seconded by **Cllr. Amy Goldsboro**.

In moving the motion Cllr. Sean Ryan referred to the challenges outlined in the Climate Action Progress Report and by the Director of Services and Climate Action Office, noting the extensive remit of the Local Authority

Climate Action Plan and the scale of work required to reduce energy use and increase efficiency across public lighting, buildings, facilities and the Council fleet. He highlighted the size of the organisation, including approximately 300 vehicles and 1,300 staff, and the significant cost implications associated with decarbonisation measures such as fleet transition, use of HVO fuel, building retrofits, public lighting upgrades and renewable energy installations.

Cllr. Ryan noted that while match funding may be available through programmes such as SEAI, the Council is required to fund a substantial portion of the costs, placing added pressure on annual budgets already impacted by inflation and rising operational costs. He proposed that the Council write to the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Minister Darragh O'Brien, seeking additional funding to enable local authorities to implement Climate Action Plan commitments and reduce their carbon footprint.

Cllr. Amy Goldsboro echoed the view that meaningful climate action will require additional resourcing and stated that, as a member of the Environmental SPC, she was aware of the financial scale involved. She confirmed her support for the motion.

It was agreed to forward the Motion to the Minister for Climate, Energy & the Environment for comment/response.

It was agreed on the proposal of the Cathaoirleach to take Item No. 11.1 NOM Ref. 3123, Item No. 11.2 NOM Ref. 3124, Item No. 11.3 NOM Ref. 3126 as part of the Management Report on Environment & Climate Action

The Motion Reference No. 3123 was proposed by **Cllr. Michael Brennan**.

Item No. 11.1
Cllr. Michael
Brennan (NOM
Ref. 3123)

"That Tipperary County Council establish an Animal Welfare Committee, operating as a sub-committee of the Environment & Climate Action Strategic Policy Committee, with the purpose of improving coordination oversight, and policy development in relation to animal welfare across the county.

The proposed Committee will:

- 1. Provide a structured forum for engagement between Tipperary County Council, An Garda Siochana, the Department of Agriculture, the ISPCA/NSPCA, local veterinary professionals, and recognised welfare organisations.***
- 2. Review and make recommendations on issues relating to horse control, dog control, farm animal welfare, abandoned or neglected animals, and support for local rescues.***
- 3. Examine enforcement challenges and opportunities for improved multi-agency cooperation.***
- 4. Advise on the allocation of animal welfare grants and the development of local welfare initiatives.***
- 5. Promote public awareness of responsible animal ownership and welfare standards.***

- 6. Report quarterly to the Environment & Climate Action SPC, with recommendations brought forward to the full Council where appropriate.**
- 7. Provide for seizure, impoundment, and associated fees where animals are found to be unlicensed, uncontrolled, or kept in breach of welfare standards.**
- 8. Introduce penalties for breaches, including fines and cost recovery for enforcement actions.**
- 9. Provide for a public consultation process prior to adoption, ensuring community input and transparency.**

Rationale:

Animal welfare issues in Tipperary frequently involve multiple agencies and require coordinated response. Establishing a dedicated committee will strengthen communication, improve enforcement outcomes, support local rescues, and ensure that Tipperary County Council continues to meet its responsibilities under national animal welfare legislation and the Department of Agriculture's Animal Welfare Strategy."

The Motion was seconded by **Cllr. Liam Browne**.

In introducing the motion, Cllr. Michael Brennan outlined the increasing complexity of animal welfare issues across the county, including dog control, horse control, farm animal welfare, abandoned and neglected animals, and the pressures experienced by both enforcement authorities and voluntary rescue organisations. He stated that animal welfare matters frequently involve multiple agencies and that a dedicated committee would provide a structured forum to improve coordination, address gaps in communication, and enhance policy oversight at local level.

Seconding the motion, Cllr. Liam Browne expressed strong support for the proposal and referred to the high level of public concern regarding animal welfare incidents and enforcement outcomes. He stated that elected members regularly receive representations from constituents and animal welfare groups seeking greater clarity and coordination in responses to welfare issues. He was of the view that a formal committee structure could assist in improving transparency, strengthening engagement with relevant agencies, and ensuring that animal welfare matters are dealt with in a consistent and strategic manner.

During the discussion, several Members expressed support in principle for improved coordination on animal welfare matters, acknowledging the role played by voluntary organisations and frontline enforcement staff. Several Members referred to the emotional and sensitive nature of animal welfare cases and the reputational impact on the local authority when incidents arise, regardless of the statutory division of responsibility.

Other Members emphasised the importance of clearly distinguishing between animal welfare and animal control, noting that public understanding of these roles is often unclear. In this context, Cllr. Michael Brennan agreed to amend the wording of the motion, replacing the

reference to "farm animal welfare" with "farm disposal," to more accurately reflect the Council's statutory role and responsibilities.

It was stated that better communication and public information would be beneficial in managing expectations and explaining the limits of the Council's statutory powers.

Concern was also expressed by some Members regarding the capacity and resources available to the Council and partner agencies, and the potential risk that a new committee, if not clearly defined, could create expectations beyond the Council's legal remit. Members acknowledged, however, that a forum for structured discussion could assist in identifying issues and improving cooperation, even in an advisory capacity.

The Executive Response was noted by the meeting as follows:

Tipperary County Council acknowledges the proposal to establish an Animal Welfare Committee under the Environment & Climate Action Strategic Policy Committee.

It is not considered necessary to establish an Animal Welfare Committee for the reasons outlined hereunder:

Under current legislation, Tipperary County Council does not hold responsibility for animal welfare. Responsibility for the welfare, protection, and enforcement of standards relating to animals' rests with:

- *The Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM)*
- *The ISPCA*
- *An Garda Síochána*
- *The Council's statutory remit is limited to animal control, specifically under the following legislation:*
- *Control of Horses Act 1996*
- *Control of Dogs Act 1986*

In addition, Tipperary County Council adopted Control of Horse Bye Laws in 2015, which further regulate the control and management of horses within the county.

Given that the Council has no statutory mandate in animal welfare, any proposed change in policy direction, such as the establishment of a dedicated Animal Welfare Committee that would be effective and collaborative would require agreements and consideration at a national stakeholder level.

It should be noted that the Government's Animal Welfare Strategy 2026-2030 is currently being developed by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine.

Despite not having statutory responsibility for animal welfare, Tipperary County Council maintains a very strong record of communication and cooperation with all relevant agencies involved in animal control and the executive is committed to continuing to develop positive operational and working relationships with the various agencies."

Following the executive response, Mr. Eamon Lonergan, Director of Services, clarified for Members that the Council's current animal-related functions are confined to animal control under existing legislation and that enforcement actions are carried out in cooperation with other agencies where appropriate. He reiterated that any expansion of governance structures into animal welfare would require national-level agreement and legislative consideration.

Ms. Sinéad Carr, Chief Executive, advised Members that the Strategic Policy Committee framework remains the appropriate mechanism for examining policy-related matters within the Council's remit and for engaging with national policy developments. She noted the ongoing preparation of the Government's Animal Welfare Strategy and advised that the Council would continue to engage constructively with relevant agencies within its statutory role.

Several Members acknowledged the Executive Response and emphasised the importance of continuing strong inter-agency cooperation and clear communication with the public. It was noted that the discussion had highlighted a strong level of public interest in animal welfare matters and the need for clarity regarding the respective roles of statutory bodies.

The motion was noted, and it was agreed that the matter be dealt with in accordance with the Council's statutory remit and existing governance and legislative frameworks.

It was proposed by **Cllr. Siobhán Ambrose**, seconded by **Cllr Mark Fitzgerald** and agreed that the motion would be referred to the Environment & Climate Action Strategic Policy Committee (SPC) for further consideration.

Item No. 11.2
Cllr. Michael
Brennan (NOM
Ref. 3124)

The Motion Reference No. 3124 was proposed by **Cllr. Michael Brennan**.

"That Tipperary County Council prepare draft bye laws under the Control of Horses Act 1996, modelled on the Kilkenny County Council Equine Bye Laws, to address the dangers associated with sulky use on public roads and to strengthen animal welfare and public safety protections across the county.

Further, that these draft bye laws include provisions to:

Prohibit sulky racing and the use of sulkies on all public roads within County Tipperary. Require a valid horse licence for any horse kept or moved within the county, with enforcement powers for Gardaí and authorised officers. Mandate full equine identification compliance, including microchipping, passports, and proof of ownership. Require that any person in control of a horse on a public road must be over 16 years of age, competent, and able to demonstrate proper control of the animal. Prohibit the use of horses on public roads without appropriate tack, including bridles and other equipment necessary for safe handling. Require proof of lawful access to suitable land for keeping any horse within the county. Provide for seizure, impoundment, and associated fees where horses are found

to be unlicensed, uncontrolled, or kept in breach of welfare standards. Introduce penalties for breaches, including fines and cost recovery for enforcement actions. Enable multi agency enforcement, including cooperation between Tipperary County Council, An Garda Síochána, and the Department of Agriculture. Provide for a public consultation process prior to adoption, ensuring community input and transparency.

Rationale: Recent incidents in Clonmel and across Tipperary have highlighted the significant risks posed by sulky use on public roads, resulting in serious danger to motorists, pedestrians, and the animals involved. Kilkenny County Council has already implemented robust bye laws that prohibit sulky racing and strengthen equine control, providing a clear and effective model. Adopting similar measures in Tipperary would enhance public safety, improve animal welfare, and give Gardaí and Council officers the enforcement tools they currently lack."

The Motion was seconded by **Cllr. Liam Browne.**

In moving the motion Cllr. Michael Brennan outlined the urgent need for Tipperary County Council to develop robust equine bye-laws modelled on those already adopted by Kilkenny County Council. He stated that recent incidents across the county, particularly in Clonmel, had demonstrated the real and escalating dangers posed by the use of sulkies on public roads, both to road users and to the animals themselves.

Cllr. Brennan emphasised that current legislative and enforcement arrangements were inadequate, citing significant public expenditure on horse seizure and rehoming, and called for bye-laws that would prohibit sulky use on public roads, require horse licensing, full identification including microchipping and passports, proof of lawful land access, minimum age and competence requirements for handlers, and clear powers of seizure, impoundment, and penalties. He described the situation as requiring "urgent action" and stressed that animal welfare and public safety must be addressed together.

Cllr. Liam Browne, in seconding and supporting the motion, echoed these concerns and highlighted the fragmented nature of responsibility between the Council, An Garda Síochána, and the Department of Agriculture, which he said had resulted in a lack of effective enforcement. He described ongoing and often dangerous situations involving sulkies on public roads and pointed to the confusion that arises when no single agency has clear authority to intervene. Cllr. Browne argued that sulky racing on roads is not a cultural issue but a serious road safety matter and warned that fatalities or serious injuries were inevitable if decisive action was not taken. He strongly supported a multi-agency enforcement approach and the inclusion of meaningful sanctions to ensure compliance.

The Executive response was noted by the meeting as follows:

Tipperary County Council notes the proposal that draft byelaws be prepared under the Control of Horses Act 1996, modelled on the Kilkenny County Council Equine Bye-Laws, to address risks associated with sulky use on

public roads and to enhance public safety and animal welfare protections across the county.

All road users, including those operating horse-drawn vehicles, are subject to national road traffic laws. The drivers of all vehicles used on public roads, including horse-drawn carriages, are required to comply with road traffic legislation and to behave in a safe manner paying due care to other road users. The regulation of horse-drawn vehicles on public roads is governed primarily by the Roads Act 1993 and associated road traffic legislation, which is enforced by An Garda Síochána.

Tipperary County Council adopted Control of Horses Bye Laws in 2015. These bye laws regulate the control and management of horses within the county under the provisions of the Control of Horses Act 1996. The bye-laws set out requirements regarding horse ownership, identification, control, licensing and seizure.

The concerns regarding horse-drawn vehicles and associated public safety issues are acknowledged, so a review of the Tipperary County Council Control of Horses Bye Laws 2015 can be referred to the Environment & Climate Action Strategic Policy Committee (SPC), if that is the consensus of the elected members. The SPC may then consider whether amendments or clarifications to the existing bye-laws should be included in forthcoming SPC Work Programmes.

In responding to the debate, Eamon Lonergan, Director of Services, acknowledged the seriousness of the issues raised and confirmed that the Council currently operates within tight legislative and resource constraints in relation to animal welfare and horse control. He explained that enforcement under the Control of Horses Act is challenging, with the Council's role often limited to liaison with An Garda Síochána, the Department of Agriculture, and animal welfare bodies such as the ISPCA.

Mr. Lonergan noted that while the issues around sulkies, uncontrolled horses, and public safety are well recognised, any local bye-laws would need to be supported by adequate resources and clear legal authority. He advised that detailed consideration at Strategic Policy Committee (SPC) level, together with engagement with national authorities, would be necessary to ensure that any measures adopted would be effective and enforceable, rather than aspirational.

Sinead Carr, Chief Executive, supported the general intent of the motion while cautioning members about the limits of local authority powers without additional legislative backing and funding. She stressed that if Tipperary County Council were to assume stronger enforcement responsibilities through bye-laws, this would have significant legal, operational, and financial implications, including the potential need for additional legal budgets and staff resources, which would ultimately fall on ratepayers.

Ms. Carr emphasised the importance of inter-agency cooperation and advocated for a coordinated approach through the Environment and Climate Action SPC, with a view to preparing a strong, evidence-based submission to Government as part of the forthcoming national Animal Welfare Strategy. She advised against the creation of measures that would amount to a

talking shop and would be without the necessary statutory powers to deliver real change and underscored the need for public consultation and stakeholder engagement before any bye-laws were adopted.

Overall, there was broad agreement across the chamber that the risks associated with sulky use on public roads, deficiencies in enforcement, and ongoing animal welfare concerns require a more structured and enforceable response.

It was agreed to refer the motion to the relevant SPC for further consideration.

The Motion Reference No. 3126 was proposed by **Cllr. Liam Browne**.

Item No. 11.3
Cllrs. Liam
Browne, Niall
Dennehy &
Richie Molloy
(NOM Ref.
3126)

"That this Council calls on the Minister for Transport, the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine, and the Government to introduce comprehensive national legislation governing the use of horse drawn sulkies on public roads, and further calls for enabling powers to allow local authorities to implement and enforce supporting bye laws.

In particular, this Council requests that national legislation include provisions for:

- ***The establishment of a Sulky Road Use Licence (SRUL) for all sulky drivers, including mandatory equine handling and road safety training, a practical driving assessment, and proof of public liability insurance.***
- ***A prohibition on persons under 18 years of age driving or controlling a sulky on public roads.***
- ***The creation of a National Sulky Horse Register, requiring microchipping, veterinary certification of fitness, and up to date welfare records for all horses used in sulky driving.***
- ***Mandatory protective equipment for all drivers, including certified equestrian helmets, high visibility clothing, gloves, and appropriate footwear.***
- ***Minimum construction and safety standards for sulkies, including lighting, reflective markings, braking systems, and annual roadworthiness inspections.***
- ***A clear rule that no more than one person may be carried on a sulky at any time.***
- ***A statutory offence for organising, promoting, participating in, or assisting in sulky racing on public roads, closing the current gap where participation is not explicitly prohibited.***
- ***Stronger animal welfare protections, including minimum age requirements for horses, fitness to work standards, and restrictions on use during extreme weather.***
- ***Enforcement powers for Gardaí and authorised officers to inspect sulkies and horses, request proof of licensing and registration, issue fines, and impound sulkies or seize horses where necessary.***
- ***Enabling provisions allowing local authorities to introduce local bye laws, including designated sulky routes, signage, and community education programmes.***

This Council further notes that these measures are necessary to improve road safety, protect animal welfare, reduce the risk of collisions and injuries, and support responsible sulky use within communities where the practice is culturally significant.

Accordingly, this Council resolves to write to the relevant Ministers, the Road Safety Authority, and the Oireachtas Transport Committee requesting that these proposals be considered as part of forthcoming road safety and animal welfare legislation."

The Motion was seconded by **Cllr. Richie Molloy**.

The executive response was noted as follows: -

Tipperary County Council notes the motion calling on the Minister for Transport, the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine, and the Government to introduce comprehensive national legislation governing the use of horse-drawn sulkies on public roads, and further calling for enabling powers to allow local authorities to implement and enforce supporting by-laws.

If there is consensus among the Elected Members, Tipperary County Council will forward a formal request to the following bodies:

- *Minister for Transport*
- *Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine*
- *Road Safety Authority (RSA)*
- *Oireachtas Transport Committee*

This correspondence will request that the above Departments and agencies consider the introduction of comprehensive national legislation governing the use of horse-drawn sulkies on public roads, to be examined as part of forthcoming road-safety and animal-welfare legislative measures. Subject to Council approval this motion will be referred to the Minister for Transport, Darragh O'Brien and the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Martin Heydon for their consideration/response.

In moving the motion Cllr. Browne stated that there is an onus on organisers to be compliant within the parameters of the law. He acknowledged the potential issues for other horse drawn vehicles.

Members spoke broadly in support of the motion but suggested that the motion would be better served by referring to the SPC to further strengthen it. It was noted that the use of sulkies is a legitimate activity that is subject to adherence to Road Safety and Animal Welfare legislation. It was noted that a private members bill regarding sulky racing was not supported by the larger parties.

Following further discussion and consideration, it was agreed that the motion would be referred to the Environment & Climate Action Strategic Policy Committee (SPC) for further consideration and a report will issue to the council within approximately 3 months.

**Mgmt. Report
contd.**

There were no further queries or comments raised on the Environment & Climate Action Report.

Corporate Services

It was agreed on the proposal of the Cathaoirleach to take Item 7.4 Draft Annual Report 2025 and Item No. 7.5 Tipperary Local Authority Performance Indicator Report, as part of the Management Report on Corporate Services.

**Item No. 7.4
Draft Annual
Report 2025**

The Cathaoirleach invited Mr. Ger Walsh, Meetings Administrator, to brief the members on both items.

In accordance with Section 221 of the Local Government Act 2001, a draft of the annual report shall be submitted to the members of the county council or city council concerned not later than the 30th day of April each year. The draft Annual Report for year ended 31st December 2025 as circulated was noted. The Final report will be presented to the Council at the June Meeting.

**Item No. 7.5
Tipperary Local
Authority
Performance
Indicator Report**

Mr. Walsh advised that Tipperary County Council's 2024 Performance Report assesses activity across 48 indicators and 129 sub-indicators within 11 service areas. Overall, the report presents a generally positive performance, while also identifying several ongoing challenges. He noted that the report provides a comprehensive and independently validated overview, supporting transparency and accountability in local government.

The Council ranked 14th of 31 local authorities, with 84% of indicators rated green or amber. Performance remained broadly consistent with 2023, although the number of year-on-year improvements was lower.

Significant achievements were recorded in several areas, including:

- Increased social housing delivery and reduced vacancy rates
- Excellent compliance with drinking water quality standards
- Strong condition of primary road networks
- Efficient planning decisions
- Robust financial management, evidenced by a revenue surplus and high collection rates

Challenges remain in:

- Housing re-let turnaround times and associated costs
- Low levels of compliance within the private rented sector
- Structural deficiencies on rural roads
- Slower progress in LED public lighting conversion
- Rising costs across ICT, fire services, and corporate functions

The report highlights sector-wide data quality limitations and advises caution when comparing performance between authorities due to varying local contexts. Greater value can be gained by tracking Tipperary's performance trends over time to inform strategic planning and decision-making.

**Mgmt. Report
contd.**

Mr. Eamon Lonergan responded to general queries raised in relation to the Management Report as follows:

Nenagh Water Quality

The indicator relates to compliance for private supplies only and does not apply to public water schemes.

CCTV

The business case for Littleton will be brought to the Oversight Committee for consideration and, subject to approval, will progress from there.

Housing Services

Mr. Jonathan Cooney, Director of Services, and Mr. Robert Johnston, S.E.E., responded to general queries raised by Members in relation to the Management Report as follows:

Affordable Housing

A decision on two affordable housing schemes for Clonmel is awaited following engagement with the Department. Members will be informed once the decision is communicated. Thereafter, a call for expressions of interest will issue, with timelines dependent on the level of interest received.

Student Accommodation – Clonmel

The Department is currently considering funding options. It was noted that any decision regarding student accommodation rests with the Department of Education.

One- and Two-Bed Housing Policy

An update from the Working Group will be provided to the SPC in May.

Vacant Homes Grants

This matter falls under the remit of the Planning Directorate.

Social Housing

The Department is preparing detailed guidance under a new programme aimed at supporting housing delivery in smaller villages. Land is also being acquired for this purpose. Members were advised to liaise directly with Mr. Robert Johnston, S.E.E., regarding any queries on rural housing schemes.

Tenant in Situ Scheme

The role of the Council is primarily related to the turnaround process.

HAP Placefinder

The possibility of the HAP Placefinder service operating in Thurles once per month can be considered once the second position is filled.

9-9 Service

It was agreed to engage with Cllr. Pat English regarding a specific case involving a client who can no longer avail of the 9-9 service.

Housing Figures

A breakdown of housing need by Municipal District will be circulated to Members.

Tyone Housing Development

It was agreed to revert to Cllr. Dr. Phyl Bugler with a progress report on this development.

Springfield Meadows

This is a private development, and as such any issues arising would not be addressed through the Local Authority.

Templeberry

Works are ongoing.

Threshold Limits

The concerns raised by Members have been formally highlighted to the Department.

Cold Weather Initiative

This initiative is limited to specific funding periods and is not expected to continue outside the designated months. Alternative options are currently being examined.

Voids

The management of void properties is a district-level matter. A review of voids is ongoing, and proposed changes will be communicated to Members at the June meeting. The current void level of 1.75% compares positively with the national average.

Housing Assistance Payment (HAP)

HAP thresholds are currently under national review.

Planning Process

The single-stage and four-stage planning processes are operating in parallel at present. Schemes proceeding through planning are being evaluated under the single-stage process. A full comparison of the effectiveness of the single-stage process in expediting delivery will not be available until it has fully progressed.

Donohil Development

The Part 8 process is expected to be advertised next month.

Drangan Development

A decision is expected by the end of Q3.

Kilcooley Way Development

The design team is progressing the project, with site investigations currently underway.

Suspension of Standing Orders

On the proposal of Cllr. David Dunne, seconded by Cllr. Peggy Ryan, it was agreed to suspend Standing Orders to allow the business of the meeting to be completed. The meeting was adjourned for a 15-minute break at 2:00PM.

Resumption of Standing Orders

The meeting resumed at 2.15PM.

Item No. 8.1

**Agree dates for
Councillor
Workshops /
Training**

The following workshops were proposed by **Cllr. Marie Murphy**, seconded by **Cllr. Mark Fitzgerald** and agreed: -

- Anti-Fraud & Corruption Policy Briefing & Personal Security Awareness Training- Thursday, 14th May 2026 - Thurles MD Offices and remotely via MS Team.
- Governance Training (Ethics, Standards, Lobbying, GDPR & Code of Conduct Training for Elected Members) - 19th May 2026 - Thurles MD Offices and remotely via MS Team.
- Variation to the County Development Plan - Friday 22nd May (Time and Venue TBC)

Members were briefed on the necessity for the workshops, with particular emphasis on the requirement for the Council to prepare a Chief Executive's Report on the consultation relating to the Variation to the County Development Plan no later than Friday, 15 May. It was noted that a decision by the Members will be required at the June Council meeting.

Members preference for morning sessions was noted.

Item No. 9.1
Consideration of
Orders for the
period to the
31st March 2026

Chief Executive Orders and Delegated Officers Orders for the period to the 31st March 2026 were noted.

Item No. 10.1
Cllr. Richie
Molloy (NOM
Ref. 3092)

At the request of Cllr. Molloy, it was agreed to defer NOM 3092 to the May meeting for consideration.

Item No. 12.1
Cllr. Seamus
Morris (NOM
Ref. 3122)

At the request of Cllr. Morris, it was agreed to defer NOM 3122 to the May meeting for consideration.

Item No. 12.2

The Motion Ref. no. 3125 was proposed by **Cllr. Dr. Phyll Bugler**.

"I hereby request Tipperary County Council to write to Minister of Transport to introduce legislation making it mandatory for pedestrians and cyclists to wear Hi-Vis jackets/ vests in the interest of public safety. It is extremely difficult to see pedestrians and cyclists who are not wearing Hi-Vis jackets/ vests especially on narrow country roads and in towns."

The motion was seconded by **Cllr. Tom Acheson**.

Members spoke in support of the motion and following further consideration it was proposed by Cllr. Pat English, seconded by Cllr. David Dunne and agreed to amend the motion to include e-scooters.

Item No's 13.1 – 13.3

It was agreed that the amended motion will be referred to the Minister for Transport, Darragh O'Brien for consideration/response.

The following items of correspondence were noted.

- Reply dated 12th March 2026 from Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade re Cllr. Pat English NOM Ref. No. 3094 Occupied Territories Bill
- Reply dated 24th March 2026 from Minister for Defence re Cllr. Declan Burgess NOM Ref. No. 3075 – Triple Lock.
- Reply dated 26th March 2026 from Minister for Housing re Cllr. Mairín McGrath NOM Ref. No. 3095 - Housing Adaptation Grants for Older People and Disabled People Scheme

The following Resolutions from other Local Authorities were considered and noted: -

Item No. 14.1
Motions from
other Councils

Longford County Council

"I call upon Longford County Council to write to the Minister for Children, Disability & Equality, Norma Foley TD and Minister of State Emer Higgins TD to strongly advocate for an emergency payment to be made to disabled people to alleviate the shortfall from cuts to disability funding in Budget 2026, as a mechanism to bridge the gap until an annual Cost of Disability payment (which the government has committed to implement) in 2027 is put in place to address the extra expenses faced by disabled people.

It was agreed that Longford County Council would write to the Minister for Children, Disability & Equality, Norma Foley TD and Minister of State Emer Higgins TD and the Notice of Motion will be circulated to all Local Authorities."

Sligo County Council

"That this Council calls on the Government to:

- a) Recognise the serious harm suffered by women and children in Mother and Baby Homes and related institutions
 - b) Notes that over 1,090 babies and children died at Sean Ross Abbey, and that many burial locations remain unknown
 - c) Notes that this issue is also relevant locally, including Sligo County Home/ St. John's Hospital and boarded-out child records
 - d) Expresses concern at the continued sealing of State records relating to Mother and Baby Homes and the Ryan Report, denying survivors and families access to the truth
 - e) Investigate and excavate burial sites where children are believed to be buried
 - f) Unseal institutional records and provide survivors and families access to their own information
 - g) Extend redress to all survivors, without exclusion.
- and agrees to write to the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality and An Taoiseach and forward this motion to all TDs and Senators and other Councils".

Leitrim County Council

"That Leitrim County Council call on the TII to set up a separate funding

stream to support County Councils to carry out maintenance and repairs on greenways, separate from the Roads funding allocated to each County Council. The issue of maintenance on greenways is an issue all over the country as greenway demonstration stretches are developed and brought into use."

Galway County Council

"That this Council call upon Government to enact legislation to systematically, sustainably and steadily increase the provision of Irish medium education so that future generations of Irish children will have the opportunity to be educated through their national language, if they desire.

Further, that this council –

Requests that this motion be circulated to the Minister for Education, the Taoiseach, the Minister for the Gaeltacht, all Oireachtas members in the constituency, and the other local authorities for their information."

Clare County Council

"As elected members of this Council, we are deeply conscious of the financial pressure facing many people in our communities. For disabled people, that pressure is significantly greater.

Disabled people incur additional and unavoidable costs every single day. These include higher heating and electricity usage, transport costs, the running of essential equipment, personal assistance, and the practical realities of living in environments that are not fully accessible. These costs rise further during winter months.

These are not discretionary expenses. They are structural costs linked directly to impairment and to systemic barriers.

Across our county, disabled people are making impossible choices: between heating and participation, between mobility and food, between independence and debt. This is not acceptable in a society that claims to value equality and inclusion.

While local authorities do not determine national social protection policy, we are the closest tier of government to our communities. We see the impact of poverty in housing applications, in requests for supports, and in the growing strain on families.

We are therefore calling on this Council to formally request that Government introduce an immediate emergency cost of disability payment. This payment should recognise the additional costs borne by disabled people and be delivered in a way that does not exclude those who are in employment. Disabled people should not be penalised for working. Nor should they be pushed into poverty because of unavoidable additional costs.

A national gathering is planned for 1pm on 28 February at the Garden of Remembrance to highlight this issue. Many would prefer not to have to gather in protest, but to see leadership and action instead. As councillors, we have a responsibility to stand with our constituents and to send a clear message to Government that this matter requires urgent attention.

We respectfully ask our fellow elected members to support this call. If successful, please forward this motion to all County Councils as correspondence."

Members passed a vote of sympathy to the following: -

Item No. 15.1
Expressions of
Votes of
Sympathy /
Congratulation

- Cllr Séamie Morris, on the death of his father Jimmy (James) Morris and on the death of his uncle's Martin and Peter Morris.
- Majella O'Brien, Roscrea Regional Training Centre, on the death of her mother, Rita Gleeson, and aunt of Cathaoirleach, Cllr. John Carroll.
- Colette Coonan, Roads Section, on the death of her father William (Willie) Hynes.
- Marie McMahon, Museum Curator, on the death of her father John Casey.
- The family of Paddy Hoare, former Assistant Town Foreman, Cashel Area.

Item No. 16.1
A.O.B.

Fuel Crisis

Ms. Sinéad Carr, Chief Executive, referenced the recent ongoing fuel crisis and protests and the impact on the council budget. She advised that the emerging fuel and energy crisis, arising from ongoing international conflict, is already impacting on the Council's operational costs and may be further compounded by wider inflationary pressures, with potential implications for commercial ratepayers. While no immediate budgetary action is being taken, Directors have been requested to plan based on a potential additional 2% inflationary pressure within existing allocations. Initial estimates suggest that increased fuel costs could range between €250,000 and €400,000, depending on price escalation.

The Chief Executive confirmed that the situation is being closely monitored, with contingency plans under development. Any requirement to adjust services would likely arise from June onwards, should pressures persist. She emphasised that the Council's priority remains to operate within the adopted budget, and that Members will be kept informed through the CPG and the full Council as necessary.

Ms Carr outlined that approximately 60% of fuel usage relates to the machinery yard, with a further 12% attributable to general roads works and housing maintenance. Remaining costs arise across fire services, corporate buildings, environmental services (including road sweeping) and housing maintenance, reflecting a broad organisational impact.

Ms Carr reiterated that fuel price volatility has only emerged in recent weeks and confirmed that a detailed report, including options and cost implications, will be brought to Members in June if the issue continues. She expressed hope that fuel supply conditions would stabilise and noted that potential Government support for local authorities may assist in mitigating impacts. She said that the update was intended as an early warning and reassurance that the Council is proactively planning responses should action be required.

Tourism Boards

Mr. Ger Walsh Meetings Administrator referred to a motion, on behalf of the Fine Gael group, which had been submitted by Cllr. Declan Burgess and noted as per Standing Orders that the motion was not submitted to the appropriate email address secretary@tipperarycoco.ie and was therefore

not listed on the agenda. At the request of Cllr. Dr. Phyll Bugler, it was agreed to consider the motion under A.O.B.

Cllr. Bugler referred to the wording of the motion as follows: -

That this Chamber requests that an elected member be appointed to represent the elected members on each of the boards of Tipperary Tourism, Munster Vales, and Lough Derg.

Tourism is a vital sector for our towns and rural communities, supporting local businesses, employment, and regional development. The elected members place significant importance on the continued growth and promotion of tourism across the county.

We value the opportunity to work collaboratively alongside Council representatives and other key stakeholders on these three tourism boards.

In response to the Notice of Motion seeking the appointment of an elected member to the boards of Tipperary Tourism, Munster Vales and Lough Derg, the executive advised that these organisations operate as independent entities, each with its own governance structures, constitutions and board appointment processes. As such, the Council does not have the authority to unilaterally appoint elected Members to these boards by resolution of the Chamber.

Ms Sinéad Carr, Chief Executive, confirmed that the Council remains actively engaged with all three tourism bodies through executive representation, partnership working and operational involvement, and acknowledged the strategic importance of tourism to the county's economic and community development. She advised that any proposal to change board composition would require formal engagement with the organisations concerned and careful consideration of governance, legal and company-law requirements.

She further noted that Munster Vales and Loch Derg were operational boards and it was not appropriate for councillor's to sit on those boards.

Cllr. Phyll Bugler welcomed the clarification provided. However, she emphasised the importance of continued collaboration between elected Members, the Executive and tourism stakeholders, while recognising the governance limitations outlined in the response.

It was acknowledged that tourism plays a vital role in supporting towns, rural communities and local enterprise. It was noted that ongoing engagement mechanisms already in place ensure that the interests of the elected Members and the Council are reflected in regional and county tourism initiatives. Notwithstanding these mechanisms and following further consideration, it was agreed that a letter would be issued to the relevant boards requesting consideration of the councils request that an elected members be appointed to represent the council on each of the Boards of Tipperary Tourism, Munster Vales and Loch Derg..

There being no other business, the Meeting concluded at 2.39PM

Signed/  Date 13th April 2026
Cathaoirleach.

Signed/  Date 13th April 2026
Meetings Administrator