

**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS OF MONTHLY MEETING OF  
TIPPERARY COUNTY COUNCIL HELD  
IN CIVIC OFFICES, CLONMEL ON MONDAY  
AT 11 AM ON 9<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2018**

**Present**

Cllr. Phyll Bugler, Cathaoirleach.

Cllrs. Ambrose, S; Anglim, M; Bonfield, F; Bourke, K; Browne, M; Carey, C; Carroll, J; Crosse, J; Darcy, G; Doran, D; Dunne, D; English, P; Fahey, J; FitzGerald, M; Goldsboro, I; Hanafin, S; Hannigan, J; Hogan, Hanna Hourigan, M; J; Kennedy, R; Leahy, D; Lonergan, M; Lowry, M; McGrath, H; McLoughlin, L; Molloy, R; Moloney, A; Moran, E; Murphy, Marie; Murphy, Ml.; O'Meara, M; Ryan, J; Ryan, M; Ryan, S; Smith, M; Wood, T.

**Also Present**

J. MacGrath, Chief Executive, M. O'Connor, K. Cashen, S. Carr, C. Curley, S. Keating, P. Slattery, Directors of Service, G. Walsh, Meetings Administrator.

**Apologies**

Cllr. E. O'Meara, S. Morris, J. Bourke

**Vote of  
Sympathy and  
Adjournment.**

A vote of sympathy to the family of Sean Treacy, former T.D., MEP, Ceann Comhairle, Mayor and Member of Clonmel Borough Council, Cathaoirleach and Member of South Tipperary County Council was proposed by **Cllr. R. Kennedy** and seconded by **Cllr. S. Ryan**.

Members paid tribute to Mr. Treacy's political career and his contribution to Tipperary. The meeting was adjourned for a short period as a mark of respect.

**Item 1.1**

Proposed by **Cllr. R. Kennedy** seconded by **Cllr. J. Carroll** and resolved

**Minutes of  
Council Meeting  
held on 12<sup>th</sup>  
March 2018**

"That the minutes of the Council Meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> March 2018 in the Civic Offices, Nenagh, Co. Tipperary, as presented be adopted".

**Item 2.1**

It was proposed by **Cllr. M. FitzGerald**, seconded by **Cllr. S. Ryan** and resolved:-

**Conferences  
/Seminars  
/Training**

"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:-

<b>Seminar/ Conference/ Similar Event</b>	<b>Dates</b>	<b>Venue</b>	<b>Nominees</b>
Dundalk Chamber "Cross Border Tourism Conference 2018"	11 <sup>th</sup> April 2018	Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford, Co. Louth	Cllr. M. Ryan Cllr. M. FitzGerald Cllr. J. Carroll Cllr. M. Anglim Cllr. S. Ambrose
LAMA "Spring Training Seminar"	5 <sup>th</sup> , 6 <sup>th</sup> & 7 <sup>th</sup> April 2018	Central Hotel, Donegal.	Cllr. M. Smith Cllr. S. Ryan Cllr. Ml. Murphy Cllr. I. Goldsboro Cllr. M. Lonergan Cllr. J. Crosse

			Cllr. L. McLoughlin Cllr. M. Ryan Cllr. H. McGrath Cllr. Marie Murphy Cllr. M. Hanna-Hourigan Cllr. S. Morris Cllr. E. Moran Cllr. M. Anglim Cllr. K. Bourke Cllr. R. Molloy Cllr. J. Hannigan Cllr. J. Hogan Cllr. A. Moloney
AILG Annual Conference	12 <sup>th</sup> -13 <sup>th</sup> April 2018	The Park Hotel, Dungarvan, Co. Waterford	Cllr. S. Ryan Cllr. R. Molloy Cllr. H. McGrath Cllr. I. Goldsboro Cllr. J. Ryan Cllr. M. Ryan Cllr. S. Morris Cllr. G. Darcy Cllr. M. Hanna-Hourigan Cllr. A. Moloney Cllr. M. O'Meara Cllr. D. Leahy Cllr. M. Anglim Cllr. J. Hannigan Cllr. J. Carroll
University of Limerick "Project Ireland 2040"	13 <sup>th</sup> April 2018	University of Limerick Concert Hall	Cllr. Marie Murphy Cllr. Ml. Murphy Cllr. M. FitzGerald
SEAI Energy Show	18 <sup>th</sup> -19 <sup>th</sup> April 2018	RDS Dublin	Cllr. A. Moloney Cllr. Marie Murphy Cllr. M. Smith Cllr. M. FitzGerald Cllr. M. Hanna-Hourigan Cllr. L. McLoughlin Cllr. D. Doran Cllr. J. Carroll Cllr. M. Anglim
Irish Planning Institute "Annual Planning Conference 2018"	19 <sup>th</sup> -20 <sup>th</sup> April 2018	Rose Hotel, Tralee, Co. Kerry	Cllr. M. Hanna-Hourigan

**Item 2.2**  
**Reports on**  
**Conferences**

Proposed by **Cllr. M. Fitzgerald** seconded by **Cllr. S. Ryan** and noted.

**Item 3.1**  
**Draft Service**  
**Delivery Plan**  
**2018**

Section 134A of the Local Government Act 2001 as amended established the requirement for each Local Authority to prepare an Annual Service Delivery Plan identifying the services that it proposed to deliver to the public for 2018. It also sets out standards to which they are to be delivered, monitored and evaluated. The plan takes account of and is consistent with the Budget adopted by the members and takes account of all plans, statements and strategies that set out policies and objectives for all of its functional area.

Proposed by **Cllr. M. FitzGerald** seconded **Cllr. R. Kennedy** and resolved:

"That the Draft Service Delivery Plan 2018 as presented be adopted by the Council in

accordance with Section 134A of the Local Government Act 2001 as amended”.

**Item 3.2**

Proposed by **Cllr. I. Goldsboro** seconded **Cllr. J. Carroll** and resolved:

**Local community  
Development  
Committee  
(LCDC) Annual  
Report 2017**

“In accordance with Section 128B(1) of the Local Government Act 2001, the Local Community Development Committee is required to prepare, adopt and submit an Annual Report to the Local Authority on an annual basis in respect of the performance of its functions in the previous calendar year”.

**Item 4.1**

Proposed by **Cllr. R. Kennedy** seconded **Cllr. S. Ryan** and resolved:

**Ratification of  
Nominee to  
LCDC**

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 the following name be ratified a member (public) of The Tipperary Local Community & Development Committee (TLCDC)  
Tipperary County Council Representative

Mr Joe McGrath (Chief Executive)

**Item 4.2**

Proposed by **Cllr. J. Carroll** seconded **Cllr. M. Hanna-Hourigan** and resolved

**Ratification of  
Nominees to  
Economic  
Development  
and Enterprise  
Strategic Policy  
Committee**

“That the nomination, by the Tipperary Public Participation Network, of Ms. Mary Spillane, 8 Pallasderg, Newtown, Nenagh, Co. Tipperary be accepted as their representative to the Economic Development and Enterprise Strategic Policy Committee, in replacement for Mr. Jimmy Ryan”.

Proposed by **Cllr. J. Carroll** seconded by **Cllr. M. Hanna-Hourigan** and resolved

“That the nomination, by the Irish Farming Association, of Ms. Imelda Walsh, Barbaha, Carrigatoher, Nenagh, Co. Tipperary be accepted as their representative to the Economic Development and Enterprise Strategic Policy Committee, in replacement for Mr. Tim Cullinan”.

**Item 5.1**

The Management Report with a focus on directorates based in Nenagh as circulated with the Agenda was noted and considered by the Council.

**Consideration of  
Management  
Report**

**Community & Economic Development**

It was agreed on the proposal of the Cathaoirleach to take Item 7.5 Motion No. 1314 submitted by Cllr MI Murphy as part of the Management Report on Community and Economic Development.

**Item 7.5**

Motion No. 7.5(1314) was proposed by **Cllr. M. Murphy**

**Notice of Motion  
Brexit - Strategy  
to Assist SME's**

**"Taking into account the likely negative impact Brexit will have on Ireland, that the CEO would outline Tipperary County Council's strategy to assist SME's prepare for such impact with particular emphasis on the important role of the Community & Economic Development Directorate and Local Enterprise Offices."**

The Motion was seconded by **Cllr. M. FitzGerald**

The reply to the Motion was noted as follows:-

In response, it is acknowledged that Brexit poses unprecedented economic, social, political

and diplomatic challenges for Ireland and for the past year and a half the Government has been working on a proactive, strategic and coherent response. Last November the Government strategy titled **Building Stronger Business** – responding to Brexit by competing, innovating and trading was launched and sets out clearly Ireland's response in terms of designated areas of responsibility, budgets, actions, impacts etc. While our Community & Economic Development Directorate will work with all stakeholders to minimise impact for Tipperary firms, primary responsibility lies with the Department of Business Enterprise & Innovation though it's agencies Enterprise Ireland, IDA, InterTrade ireland, Science Foundation Ireland etc and our Local Enterprise Office who's remit is limited to the micro enterprise sector i.e. firms employing 10 staff or less.

LEO Tipperary is actively engaging with portfolio clients (300 firms) to build resilience to deal with any kind of Brexit and promoting early planning to counteract potential negative impacts. The LEO is actively disseminating information through the various social media channels as it becomes available and working closely with Enterprise Ireland, InterTrade Ireland and other stakeholders to maximise available resources for Tipperary firms.

The Local Enterprise Office Tipperary launched a number of initiatives and supports to assist the business community and continues to identify client businesses that are exposed to the nine areas of potential Brexit impact. Potential challenges for Tipperary firms include changing UK market dynamics, currency, customers, competition, sourcing, transport & logistics, regulations and standards, customs, tariffs and taxation and the restrictions to the movement of people/labour. A specific suite of supports to combat the effects of Brexit was rolled out last year which includes the Brexit Scorecard, dedicated Mentoring, LEAN for Micro, The Enterprise Europe Network, Technical Assistance for Micro Exporters Grants, Trading on Line Vouchers, Microfinance Loans, Training and Management Development and the promotion of the new €300m Brexit Loan Scheme. In 2017, the keyword was awareness and in 2018 the keyword is ACTION with firms encouraged to implement actions that strengthen business generally.

In 2017 a number of local firms were provided with mentor support to address currency, supply chain and export related issues. A special allocation was made available to the LEO by Enterprise Ireland to fund Brexit related seminars and supports and all LEO clients were encouraged to participate in the various Enterprise Ireland Brexit related road shows.

### ***Brexit Seminar March 2018***

Recently during Local Enterprise Week, LEO Tipperary organised a successful 'Bracing Tipperary Business for Brexit' event held at the Horse and Jockey Hotel on the 14<sup>th</sup> of March. This event attracted over 40 firms and delegates heard from speakers drawn from cross-border trade, currency trading and enterprise support areas. Speakers included John Finn of Treasury Solutions; Garrett Harty InterTrade Ireland, PJ O'Reilly, Regional Manager of Enterprise Europe Network; Catherine Hogan of Enterprise Ireland; and Rita Guinan, Local Enterprise Office Tipperary. Delegates at the seminar were left in no doubt as to the challenges that Brexit represents for companies in Tipperary. Delegates also learned about supports available and heard of opportunities that Brexit may present and were urged to engage in rigorous planning as a matter of urgency to safeguard their operations.

### ***The range of interventions available through LEO Tipperary includes;***

***Brexit Mentoring Support:*** LEO Tipperary has available a panel of Mentors to help companies to address issues or concerns that they have in relation to Brexit. Mentors are assigned free of charge and some of the areas in demand include financial and currency planning; market research; sales and marketing; intellectual property; procurement, supply chain management etc.

***Brexit Scorecard:*** This is a free online tool which allows business owners to assess their Brexit-readiness, flagging areas of risk and generating proposed follow-up actions, information and signposting resources. LEO Tipperary offers free mentoring to clients with a Brexit consultant using the scorecard as a template for further action. Further information and the Scorecard can be accessed at [www.prepareforBrexit.ie](http://www.prepareforBrexit.ie)

***LEAN for Micro:*** Companies in Tipperary are being encouraged to reinforce their competitiveness by taking part in the LEAN programme where they will have access to a LEAN mentor for 7 in-company visits. The overall cost per business is €2,800 (subsidised

cost to participating firm is €250). LEAN for Micro is designed to encourage existing firms to adopt LEAN business principles in their organisations to increase competitiveness, and develop the strategies that will enhance their ability to withstand the challenges presented by Brexit. LEAN is open to all sectors in the County including retail. Further information is available for the Tipperary LEO website:

**<https://www.localenterprise.ie/Tipperary/Training-Events/Lean-for-Micro.html>**

**Technical Assistance for Micro Exporters:** Technical Assistance for Micro Exporters' Grants are available to LEO clients to explore and develop new export market opportunities. Under the scheme costs incurred in investigating, researching and accessing export markets can be part funded. Eligible costs include exhibiting at Trade Fairs, production of marketing material, development of websites specifically targeting overseas markets, translation of promotional materials and websites for export markets, new business model development etc. Grants cover 50% of eligible costs to a maximum value of €2,500 and aim to increase the numbers of LEO clients internationalising their business in 2018 and beyond.

**Trading Online Voucher Scheme:** This grant scheme encouraged LEO client companies to develop their online presence in order to enter new markets by providing them with 50% of the cost of developing an eCommerce website or enhancing their existing on line presence. Research conducted in 2016 among recipients of the Trading Online Voucher has highlighted that 3 out of 5 businesses have begun to export for the first time as a direct result of their trading online project. This scheme is particularly important in the context of supporting local firms to achieve their export ambitions and grow sales outside of the UK in other European jurisdictions.

**Microfinance Ireland Loans:** Access to finance to start and grow a business or for working capital will prove ever more crucial in the post-Brexit business environment where there will be implications for all sectors. LEO Tipperary clients can avail of preferential interest rates of 6.8% on loans of between €2,000 and €25,000 over 3 to 5 years. Loans can be used to fund start up costs, working capital, purchase of stock, equipment, machinery, business expansion etc. LEO Tipperary will provide mentoring to successful applicants to ensure that they receive the extra support required to grow their enterprise both pre and post Brexit.

**Enterprise Europe Network:** Each Local Enterprise Office now has a contact who works directly to assist clients to access the services and vast networks of the EEN, the world's largest support network for small and medium enterprises, active in more than 60 countries with more than 600 member organisations. The Network specialises in partnering companies internationally to develop ongoing commercial relationships and partnerships in supply chain and R & D. LEO Tipperary and the Enterprise Europe Network can help owner/ managers to write a company profile which can be accessed for expressions of interest by potentially hundreds of future overseas trading partners and the Network will follow up all business leads on their behalf.

### **Brexit Loan Scheme**

The Local Enterprise Office will actively promote the new Brexit Loan Scheme which will provide affordable financing to Irish businesses that are either currently impacted by Brexit or will be in the future. The new Scheme is being delivered by the Strategic Banking Corporation of Ireland (SBCI) through commercial lenders to get much needed working capital into Irish businesses. The new Brexit Loan Scheme aims to make up to €300 million available to businesses with up to 499 employees at a proposed interest rate of 4%. The scheme is open both to State Agency clients and those businesses that do not have any relationship with State Agencies. The finance will be easier to access, more competitively priced, and at more favourable terms than current offerings. Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine's share of funding ensures that at least 40% of the fund will be available to food businesses. Due to State aid rules, the Scheme will not be available to farmers and fishermen. An alternative scheme for primary producers in the agriculture sector and fishermen is currently

under consideration. The loans will be for up to 3 years and the fund will run for two years up to 2020.

Cllr MI Murphy stressed the need to heighten awareness, devise and implement plans in preparation for the impact of Brexit and the need for all agencies to work together.

Members supported the motion and spoke of the need for Tipperary to be prepared for the risks and opportunities that Brexit posed.

Mr. Joe MacGrath welcomed the opportunity to discuss the impact Brexit will have on Ireland and outlined engagements that had taken place with senior officials from the E.U. Commission and Parliament through the County and City Management Association and it was apparent from these meetings that the E.U. recognised the unique position and special circumstances of the Island of Ireland. The role of the Council was to continue to heighten awareness to the local economy and business forums and a Brexit Seminar would be organised in this regard.

Following further discussion, it was agreed that the motion be referred to the Tipperary Economic & Enterprise Forum and the Economic Development & Enterprise SPC for further consideration and to revert back to the full Council with their deliberations for further debate.

#### **Suicide Prevention Officer**

In response to the renewed request by Cllr. Doran for a budget provision for a Suicide Prevention Officer, it was reiterated that the H.S.E. were the expert authority in this field and provided two dedicated Resource Officers for Suicide Prevention in Tipperary.

#### **Scheme of Capital Grants for the Development of Community, Recreation Sports & Arts Facilities and Amenities**

Mr. Pat Slattery, Director of Service, Community & Enterprise referred to a Press Release issued by the Council following the meeting announcing that 109 community, sport and art projects across the county are set to benefit from €2.1 Million in capital funding under the Council's Scheme of Capital Grants for Community Facilities & Amenities. The Scheme was a key element in the Council's objective to support vibrant, sustainable and inclusive communities across the county and to work in partnership with communities to deliver the infrastructure necessary to support this.

The Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Dr. Phyll Bugler welcomed the scheme stating that it is an important part of the Council's work to support local communities to provide facilities that are needed in their localities and the funding announced will have a significant impact across the county.

Members welcomed the scheme and thanked the staff of the Community & Economic Development Section for their administration of the scheme.

Mr. Joe MacGrath joined in welcoming the scheme which was financed solely from development levies and subsequently invested in local communities. The scheme was a clear indication of the Council's commitment to making County Tipperary a more vibrant and sustainable place. The funding would be put to good use by community and sports groups over the coming twelve months for the benefit of the people who live in their communities.

## Water & Environment

### Water Network Issues Fethard Regional Water Supply Scheme

Members were informed that the "Do Not Drink" Notice had been lifted from the Fethard Regional Water Supply Scheme and consumers were thanked for their patience and co-operation during the interruption to their supply.

### Workshop with Irish Water and Environment

It was noted that this rescheduled workshop would take place in Thurles Municipal District on the 12<sup>th</sup> April, 2018 at 1.30 p.m.

### Air Pollution

In response to a query by Cllr D. Leahy in relation to concerns regarding Air Pollution emitted by traffic in the centre of Tipperary Town, it was agreed that this matter would be discussed with the Environmental Protection Agency, noting that the EPA set Guidelines as to where monitors are placed and a mobile monitor would be investigated for Tipperary Town. It was noted that an Air Monitor was being rolled out in Nenagh as a pilot scheme with a view to extending the scheme to the other towns across the county.

### Burial Grounds

It was noted that uniform charges and practices in relation to local authority graveyards across the County was being examined. However ground conditions in certain locations dictated grave depths.

In relation to cremations, presently the burial of ashes were treated the same as a full burial. The provision of a special wall for cremated remains would be an alternative and this option would receive consideration going forward.

### Silvermines Lead Poisoning Incident

Members were informed that the draft final report would be available on this incident within the next month and Nenagh Municipal District members would be updated.

It was agreed on the proposal of the Cathaoirleach to take Items 7.1 & 7.4, Motion Nos . 1304&1309 as part of the Management Report on Water & Environment.

## Item 7.1

Motion No. 7.1(1304) was proposed by **Cllr. A. Moloney**

### Notice of Motion

#### Penalty Points for Motorists Tipping Litter from Vehicles

"That this Council support a call for penalty points for motorists tipping litter from their vehicles in an effort to keep Ireland Roadsides Clean".

The motion was seconded by **Cllr. S. Hanafin**

The reply to the Notice of Motion was noted as follows:-

This proposal could have a positive effect on the attitude of motorists towards littering. Should the Members approve the motion, the Council will write to the Minister for Communications, Climate Action and the Environment asking that he use his good offices to arrange for the necessary legislation to be enacted.

Some members did not support the motion as in their opinion penalty points were to encourage safe driving and should not be used as a deterrent for littering.

Members expressed their disgust at the increase in flytipping throughout the County. They queried what actions were being taken to deal with this illegal dumping on roadsides. They urged the public to be vigilant and report incidents of flytipping in their area.

Mr. Sean Keating, D.O.S., referred to new Waste Byelaws that were being formulated that would impose a requirement on householders to provide evidence of the disposal of their household waste. The Council were enforcing the law but there were difficulties in identifying the culprits of flytipping and clean up costs were significant. The Litter Plan was being examined to explore new initiatives to increase awareness.

As there wasn't unanimous support for the motion, a vote was taken on the motion as follows:-

	<b>Comhairleoir</b>	<b>FOR</b>	<b>AGAINST</b>	<b>ABSENT</b>	<b>ABSTAIN</b>
1.	Ambrose, Siobhan		√		
2.	Anglim, Micheál			√	
3.	Bonfield, Fiona	√			
4.	Bourke, Joe			√	
5.	Bourke, Kieran		√		
6.	Browne, Martin		√		
7.	Bugler, Phyll	√			
8.	Carey, Catherine			√	
9.	Carroll, John	√			
10.	Crosse, John	√			
11.	Darcy, Ger	√			
12.	Doran, David		√		
13.	Dunne, David		√		
14.	English, Pat			√	
15.	Fahey, John	√			
16.	FitzGerald, Michael	√			
17.	Goldsboro, Imelda	√			
18.	Hanafin, Seamus	√			
19.	Hannigan, Joe			√	
20.	Hogan, John		√		
21.	Hourigan, Mary Hanna	√			
22.	Kennedy, Roger	√			
23.	Leahy, Denis	√			
24.	Lonergan, Martin	√			
25.	Lowry, Michael			√	
26.	McGrath, Hughie	√			
27.	McLoughlin, Louise			√	
28.	Molloy, Richie			√	
29.	Moloney, Andy	√			
30.	Moran, Eddie			√	
31.	Morris, Seamus			√	
32.	Murphy, Marie			√	
33.	Murphy, Michael			√	
34.	O'Meara, Eddie			√	
35.	O'Meara, Michael			√	
36.	Ryan, Jim	√			
37.	Ryan (Coole), Mattie		√		
38.	Ryan, Sean	√			
39.	Smith, Michael	√			
40.	Wood, Tom			√	
	<b>TOTALS</b>	18	7	15	



The motion was carried by 18 votes to 7 and would be forwarded to the Minister for Communications, Climate Action and the Environment

#### Item 7.4

#### Notice of Motion

#### Power Points for Hybrid and Electric Automobiles

Motion No. 7.4(1309) was proposed by **Cllr. A. Moloney**

**"With the recent announcements from leading Car Companies that diesel cars will be phased out and replaced with hybrid and electric automobiles. What plan has this Council for rolling out power points in our towns and villages and has consideration been given to solar charged power points".**

The Motion was seconded by **Cllr. J. Carroll**

The reply to the Notice of Motion was noted as follows:-

Tipperary County Council was working with Tipperary Energy Agency in gathering data to ascertain the demand and usage levels for this infrastructure. Currently, all-electric vehicle charging points are in the control of the ESB. The funding of this infrastructure and ongoing operational costs would require input from the Department of Communications, Climate Action & Environment. The next step was to develop a policy for the installations of such infrastructure in the county. Research was ongoing into the suitability of using solar power to charge electric cars.

At the request of Cllr M. Lowry it was agreed to write to the Department of Communications, Climate Action and the Environment seeking clarity in relation to the proposed phasing out of diesel cars.

### Housing

#### Co-Operative Housing Schemes

It was agreed to explore the development of Co-Operative housing with particular reference to the Coolnamuck Road lands in Carrick-on-Suir where site infrastructure was in place.

#### Development at Wallers Lot, Cashel

The impact of flooding at this location was an issue and recommendations for the site were being examined and costed to obtain the optimum solution. Until that matter was resolved, housing development cannot be progressed at this site.

#### Choice Base Letting

This option had been used in the letting of one property and its suitability for future use would be examined. It was noted that choice based letting was more accelerated in the City Councils.

#### Item 7.2

#### Notice of Motion

#### Housing Tenant Handbook and Housing Maintenance Policy

Motion No. 7.2(1306) was not moved in the absence of **Cllr. P. English**.

**"That Tipperary County Council review its housing tenant handbook and housing maintenance policy, as a number of tenants are unable to afford certain repairs to the houses they are renting from this Authority".**

### Human Resources/Corporate Services

It was agreed on the proposal of the Cathaoirleach to take Item 7.3, Motion No.1308 as part of the Management Report on Corporate Services.

#### Item 7.3

#### Notice of Motion

Motion No. 7.3(1308) was proposed by **Cllr. D. Doran**

**"I am calling on Tipperary County Council to ensure that the out-of-hours number that**

**Out of Hours  
Emergency  
Number**

**is currently available to the public in case of emergencies pertaining to this Local Authority is made free phone rather than the premium 1890 charged number".**

The motion was seconded by **Cllr. C. Carey.**

**The reply to the Notice of Motion was noted as follows:-**

Tipperary County Council's current out of hours contact number 1890 923 948 was provided as part of the package of call management services procured by the Council post-merger to ensure that it could respond to all emergency requests outside of normal office hours. The Council engaged Call Management contact centre services to receive calls from the public and has a duty roster to ensure that Council staff are available at all times to receive calls during out of office hours. Staff are fully trained to ensure that critical information is obtained as expeditiously as possible and avoid unnecessary delays.

Most carriers sell landline and mobile packages through bundles which best suit the customer's requirements. When the customer uses up all their bundle entitlements then the customer has to pay the tariff applied by the operator. The costs of the calls differ across operators and further differences occur if customers are using landline or mobile networks and if they are using bill pay or prepay packages. In addition there are different tariffs associated with peak calls, evening and weekend calls.

The 1890 number in operation is referred to as Call Save or LoCall number and calls are charged per minute, normally at local call rates for land line providers. It is a shared cost number meaning that the cost of the call is split between the calling party and the called party. There is a monthly rental fee for 1890 numbers for the organisation. The cost to the council ranges from 3 cent per minute to 10 cent per minute depending on whether the caller is calling from a landline or a mobile. The cost to the calling party is dependent on the duration of the call, which is difficult to predict and manage as it will depend on the phone operators and bundle used by the customer. In general, the average cost to the customer would be in the region of 15 cent per minute if calling from a mobile during evenings or weekends.

To change to a free phone number would have significant budgetary implications for the Council as firstly the financial cost would have to be provided for as the Council would take on the full cost of the call. Secondly, from previous experience, a free phone number can be misused inappropriately by callers and therefore the Council would have no control over the costs, depending on the package the person is calling from and thirdly, account would have to be taken of all references where the existing number is available via telephone directories, websites etc and appropriate changes carried out including advertising and promotion of the new number.

The Council's existing out of hours call management contract was due to be reviewed during 2018 and a review of all call options would be carried out as part of that process with a view to reducing the cost to the caller however it was not recommended that a free phone number be introduced for the reasons stated above.

**Item 5.2  
Deaft Annual  
Report 2017**

The draft Annual Report had been circulated to the members for consideration. The final report would be brought before the members at the June Meeting for adoption as required by Section 221 of the Local Government Act, 2001. It was noted that the report included particulars of the policies, programmes, services and other activities undertaken by the Council in 2017, including information in relation to the performance of functions by the Municipal Districts.

**Item 5.3  
Performance**

The Performance Indicators Report for 2016 had been circulated to the members for noting. Mr. Ger Walsh, Meetings Administrator advised the Members that the 2016 Introduction

## Indicators 2016

Performance Indicator Report was published by NOAC on 25<sup>th</sup> January 2018. This was the third annual Performance Indicator Report in relation to the function of scrutinizing Local Authority Performance against 32 relevant indicators. The NOAC reports for 2014, 2015 and 2016 follow on from the service indicator reports published by the Local Government Management Agency (LGMA) in respect of local authority activity in the years 2004 to 2013.

The Meetings Administrator advised members that appendices to the report showed year on year indicator performance against national and service delivery plan targets and comparable local authorities in terms of similar size and population, namely Kerry, Mayo, Donegal and Galway. This information was relevant to the Council, both to track their own performance over time and to compare their performance with similar size authorities. These are a useful reflection of performance and are used to set priorities and targets and to seek to strengthen areas where our comparative performance is less than optimal.

It was noted that the Council spent €136M in 2016 providing economic and social services to its citizens and the Indicators were an important resource for Management, Elected Members and the Citizen to review aspects of its activity in the interest of accountability and transparency.

The indicators covered a wide range of functions carried out by Local Authorities in the areas of Housing (4), Roads (3), Water (1), Economic Development (3), Planning (5), Waste/Environment (3), Fire Service (3), Library/Recreation (2), Youth/Community (2), Corporate (4) and Finance (2).

It was noted that Tipperary were audited by NOAC during 2016 who were satisfied that the systems used by the Council to record the required data were reliable and in general Tipperary County Council performed reasonably well across the majority of the indicators in comparison with the National average.

The 2016 set of indicators were amended to include additional Planning and Economic Development Indicators and the indicators relating to private rented housing, roads improvement and maintenance grant expenditure and the revenue account balance contained more information than the 2015 Report.

The highlights of the 2016 Performance Indicators were :-

- The national median time to re-let a social house reduced from 22.6 in 2015 to 20.9 weeks in 2016. The average re-let time for Tipperary County Council was 25.89 weeks. However, the median cost of repair of a unit increased from €10,522 in 2015 to €12,552 in 2016 whereas for Tipperary County Council, the average cost was €6,833.37.
- The median maintenance cost by unit was 969.12 compared to 623.64 for Tipperary County Council.
- The number of tenancies in the private rented sector increased by almost 1% between 2015 and 2016 to 311,295 units with a total of 7,327 tenancies registered in Tipperary compared with a national average of 10,042.
- Tipperary manage and maintain 95,709Km. of regional and local roads.
- 70.1% of motor tax transactions were conducted online compared to 68.9% in Tipperary County.
- The median value of area surveys that are unpolluted/litter free/slightly polluted was 85% compared to 84% in Tipperary.
- 63,587 pollution complaints were made to Local Authorities with 1,394 complaints in Tipperary.
- 58,806 samples were taken at private water schemes with Tipperary showing a 98.13% compliance with statutory requirements compared to a national average of

- 97.77%.
- There was a 36.9% increase in new builds notified to Local Authorities with a median of 19.42% of buildings inspected as % of new buildings notified to Local Authorities. The figure for Tipperary was 27.5%.
  - Almost 17.2M visits to Libraries where 18.2 million items were borrowed; in Tipperary there were 462,450 visits representing 2.9 per head of population compared to an average of 3.61. The number of items borrowed in Tipperary was 480,000 compared to a mean of 605,782.
  - 26,858 people working in Local Government, a reduction from 35,007 in 2008. The figure for Tipperary at 31/12/2016 was 982.83 compared to an average of 866.40. The % of paid working days lost to medically certified sickness absence was 4.35 compared to a median of 3.69.
  - There were over 59.1M visits to Local Authority Websites. The number following Local Authority via social media increased by 80.4% to 1.6M in 2016. Tipperary had 1,304,601 visits to its website compared to an average to 1,908,056 and had 19,164 social media followers compared to an average of 37,534.
  - The Local Enterprise Office assisted the creation of 3,355 whole time equivalent jobs with Tipperary creating 140.5 jobs compared to an average of 111.8.

The Infographic for Tipperary would be placed on the website together with the National Infographic.

**Item 6.1**

**CE Orders to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018**

Chief Executive and Delegated Officers Order for the period to the 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2018 were noted.

**Item 8.1**

**Notice of Motion  
The Right to  
Housing to every  
Citizen of the  
Irish State**

Motion No. 8.1 (1307) was not moved in the absence of **Cllr. P English**.

**"That Tipperary County Council request the Irish Government to hold a referendum or introduce legislation within a set timeframe that affirms the right to housing for every citizen of the Irish State"**

**Item 9.1**

**Correspondence**

Correspondence as circulated was noted

**Items 10.1 to 10.5**

**Resolutions from other local authorities**

Resolutions from other Local Authorities were noted:

**Clare County Council**

That this Council supports the call for publicly-funded higher education and rejects income contingent loans.

**Clare County Council**

That Clare County Council call on the Minister for Housing, Environment and Local Government and the Minister for Finance to put in place a redress scheme to provide financial support to purchasers of houses and apartments who now find that their property was not properly constructed and is non-compliant with Building and Fire Regulations. These homeowners are victims of poor building methods and are now facing huge expense to address the necessary measures to bring their property up to a safe and compliant level. The

purchasers of these properties followed due process in acquiring their property and trusted the legal, planning and regulatory measures in place to protect them, but now find they are exposed to costs they cannot afford and could in extreme cases face the possibility of being rendered homeless if necessary remedial safety works are not carried out.

### **Clare County Council**

That this Council calls on the Minister for Trade and Employment to introduce financial incentives to companies who are prepared to employ apprentices.

### **Clare County Council**

That Clare Council request the Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment in view of the recent study findings issued by NUIG that 73% of deep water fish living in the North West Atlantic Ocean had ingested micro plastic, which is one of the highest recordings found worldwide; to tackle this ticking time bomb before it is too late.

### **Sligo County Council**

That Sligo County Council hereby calls on the Gaelic Athletic Association to ensure any matches broadcast on channels requiring subscription fees are also made available on free to air television in order to allow access for everyone in the country to view matches. This should be done in order to reflect that the GAA is a unique part of Irish culture which belongs to the Irish people and has been built by their efforts along with significant State Investment from taxpayers money.

#### **Item 11.1**

#### **Expression of Votes of Sympathy**

Votes of Sympathy were extended to the following:

- Norah Deacon, Motor Tax, Clonmel on the death of her mother, Lucy
- Kate Mulcahy on the death of her husband, Paul, former Senior Engineer with Tipperary County Council
- Family of Sean Treacy, former MEP, Ceann Comhairle, TD, Member of Clonmel Borough Council, Cathaoirleach and Member of South Tipperary County Council.
- Nuala Gleeson & Family on the death of Thomas Gleeson, grandson of William O'Dwyer, former South Tipperary MCC
- Denis & Mary Kenneally on the death of their daughter, Rachel Kenneally, grand-daughter of Jim Hanley, former MCC South Tipperary County Council
- Mary Clancy on the death of her husband, Sean son of former Council Chairman Ned Clancy.

#### **Item 10.1**

#### **Acknowledgement**

The response of the Civil Defence, Gardai, Fire Brigade and River Rescue was acknowledged to the recent incidents on the River Suir.

The meeting then concluded.

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

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

Signed/

  
\_\_\_\_\_

Ger Walsh,  
Meetings Administrator.

Date:

\_\_\_\_\_