

**Minutes of Corporate Policy Group meeting held on
Monday, 11th April, 2016 at 3.00 p.m. in Room 316,
Áras Contae an Chláir, New Road, Ennis, Co. Clare.**

Present: Cllrs. J. Cooney, G. Flynn, R. Nagle and P. Hayes.

Apologies: Cllr. J. Breen.

Officials Present: Tom Coughlan, Chief Executive.
Carmel Greene, Senior Executive Officer, Corporate Services.
Niall Barrett, Head of Finance.

Cllr. J. Cooney presided in the absence of the Cathaoirleach, Cllr. J. Breen.

Cllr. J. Cooney welcomed Carmel Greene, Senior Executive Officer to her first C.P.G. meeting.

1. Minutes of meeting held on 29th February, 2016.

The minutes of the meeting of the C.P.G. held on 29th February, 2016 were circulated with the agenda and were noted by the meeting.

2. April Council Meeting.

The members noted the headed items listed and the notice of motions received for the April agenda.

3. Site at Illaunamanagh, Shannon.

Shannon Area Councillors had asked that this matter be raised at C.P.G. meeting. As it has since been dealt with at the March Council meeting, this matter was ruled out of order by the Chairperson.

4. Long Term Vacant Property Incentive Scheme for Town Centre – Rates.

Niall Barrett, Head of Finance set out the key principles of the scheme being proposed. The long term vacant property incentive scheme for 88 town and village centres in the county is being introduced with the objective of regenerating them, and giving support for business set-ups. Discussion took place on whether it should be limited to town and village centres or open to all commercial properties in the county. Members welcomed the proposed scheme

and agreed in principle that the scheme would not be limited to town and village centres, but would apply county wide.

Niall Barrett, Head of Finance set out the key principles of the proposed rates payment incentive scheme which was initially discussed at budget time. The proposed schemes will be before the members for consideration and adoption at the April meeting of the Council.

5. Allocation of roads funding allocated from AFS.

At the March meeting of the Council, a sum of €400000 was allocated from the Annual Financial Statement for roads. It was proposed by Cllr. G. Flynn and seconded by Cllr. J. Cooney that it should be allocated equally between the four Municipal Districts with agreement on specific road related works (including footpaths) to be agreed at Municipal District level was proposed.

Cllr. R. Nagle proposed that it be allocated by road length, similar to the general Roadworks Programme Budget, and that West Clare has 47% of road network in the county.

In the absence of a Councillor from the Ennis Municipal District, this item was deferred to the next C.P.G. meeting so that the data from each Municipal District in terms of road network would be determined and to work out the allocation for each area (excl. Motorways and those funded by T.I.I.) by road length.

It was agreed to meet in advance of Council meeting on Monday, 18th April to discuss how the allocation of the €400,000 would be divided.

6. Assistance for Aviation related employment creation.

If major employment creation opportunity arises through the International Aviation Centre, the Council should consider what assistance could be provided by the Council over a period of a number of years. This may be brought before the members at a future meeting (May meeting).

7. Process for filling Chief Executive vacancy.

Ger Dollard has been appointed by the Minister as temporary Chief Executive from Wednesday, 20th April, 2016.

The Chief Executive outlined the process for filling the vacancy of Chief Executive. The appointment is a reserved function of the County Council. Following the recommendation of the Public Appointments Commission, the C.P.G. would meet to fulfil the requirements of the regulations in relation to the process.

The Chief Executive advised that the closing date for applications is 21st April, 2016.

It was agreed that a copy of the 2014 regulations be sent to the members of C.P.G.

8. Any other business.

- Cllr. G. Flynn asked what level of oversight the Councils Engineers have on Contractors engaged by the Council. Cllr. J. Cooney stated that the work done in Killaloe MD is up to a very high standard.
- The Chairperson and the members joined in paying tribute to Tom Coughlan on his imminent retirement and thanked him for his significant contribution to the Corporate Policy Group and the Council as Chief Executive. All the members wished him well in the future. His management of the county in the difficult economic times deserved great credit. The Chief Executive thanked the members for their co-operation and their good wishes.

That concluded the business of the meeting.

Carmel Greene,
Senior Executive Officer,
Corporate Services.

12th April, 2016.