

**Minutes of the meeting of the Corporate Policy Group held on  
Monday, 4<sup>th</sup> January, 2016 at 2.00 p.m. in the Conference Room,  
Áras Contae an Chláir, New Road, Ennis, Co. Clare.**

**Present:** Cllr. James Breen, Cathaoirleach presiding.  
Cllrs. P. Hayes, G. Flynn, J. Cooney and R. Nagle.

**Officials Present:** Tom Coughlan, Chief Executive.  
Michael McNamara, Senior Executive Officer, Corporate Services.

The Cathaoirleach, Cllr. James Breen presided and wished all a happy and prosperous 2016.

**1. Minutes of meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> December, 2015.**

The minutes of the meeting of the C.P.G. held on 7<sup>th</sup> December, 2015 were circulated with the agenda and were noted by the meeting.

**2. January Council Meeting.**

- The members noted the headed items listed and the notice of motions received for the January agenda.
- S.E.O., Corporate Services pointed out that there would be two presentations before the monthly meeting namely from Irish Water in relation to the proposed abstraction of water for the Eastern/Midlands area and from the Clare Age Friendly Board.

**3. Any other business.**

- The Chief Executive briefed the meeting on the current position at Springfield, Clonlara and referred to the visit there by Simon Coveney, T.D., Minister for Agriculture on Sunday the 3<sup>rd</sup> January. He also paid tribute to the members of Council staff, Fire Service and Civil Defence who have been working there practically around the clock since Christmas. The Cathaoirleach and members joined in complimenting all the above staff.
- There was a discussion on the letter handed in by the Chambers of Commerce at the December meeting of the Council and it was noted that the Chief Executive and Council officials would be meeting with the Chamber in response to the points raised

on that letter. The Chief Executive undertook to report to the next C.P.G. meeting on the outcome of those discussions. It was the view of the C.P.G. members that rate refunds should be concentrated for rate payers who pay up to €5,000 in rates annually as was previously agreed.

- Cllr. G. Flynn referred to the contract awarded recently for the Dog Warden Service and it was agreed that all the Council members would be informed of same with details of the new service provider.
- S.E.O., Corporate Services provided details of activity levels at Westbury in 2015 and referred to the costs of approximately €43,000 per annum to lease the building and associated costs. It was noted that the matter would be further discussed with the area members shortly.
- It was agreed that correspondence received from Cllr. C. Crowe in relation to Cumann na mBan and naming of a particular piece of infrastructure after a member of the Cumann should be referred to the Shannon Municipal District members for consideration.
- Cllr. G. Flynn referred to any implications arising from the decision taken by the Shannon Group Board not to renew Neil Pakey's contract. The Chief Executive referred to the Shannon Groups statement in this regard and stated he had nothing further to add.

That concluded the business of the meeting.

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Michael McNamara,  
Senior Executive Officer,  
Corporate Services.

18<sup>th</sup> January, 2016.

**Minutes of the meeting of the Corporate Policy Group held on  
Monday, 1<sup>st</sup> February, 2016 at 3.00 p.m. in Room 222,  
Áras Contae an Chláir, New Road, Ennis, Co. Clare.**

**Present:** Cllr. James Breen, Cathaoirleach presiding.  
Cllrs. P. Hayes, G. Flynn, J. Cooney and R. Nagle.

**Officials Present:** Tom Coughlan, Chief Executive.  
Michael McNamara, Senior Executive Officer, Corporate Services.  
Ger Dollard, Director of Service.  
Niall Barrett, Head of Finance.

The Cathaoirleach, Cllr. James Breen presided.

**1. Minutes of meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> January, 2016.**

The minutes of the meeting of the C.P.G. held on 4<sup>th</sup> January, 2016 were circulated with the agenda and were noted by the meeting.

**4. February Council Meeting.**

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

- It was agreed to recommend to the full Council that the March meeting be brought forward to Monday the 7<sup>th</sup> March in view of the upcoming St. Patrick's Day festivities.
- It was agreed that the C.P.G. meeting for March would be held on Monday, 29<sup>th</sup> February.

**3. Reply from Mayor of Limerick City & County Council.**

The Meetings Administrator informed the meeting of the response received from Cllr. Liam Galvin, Mayor of the City & County of Limerick to the letter sent by the Cathaoirleach in December. The meeting agreed with the suggestion that initially a meeting would take place between the party groups of the respective Councils – two attending from each grouping on

this Council together with the Cathaoirleach. Arrangements to be made for this meeting to take place in February if possible.

#### **4. Any other business.**

- Ger Dollard briefed the members in relation to grant funding for swimming pools available from the Department of Tourism, Transport and Sport with one application per county being invited. He informed the members that submissions had been received from Shannon, Lahinch and Kilkee with proposed improvement works at each facility outlined and that works could also be undertaken at the Ennis facility. He outlined that the Department had now clarified that the Local Authority must own the facility for which grant aid is being sought. Ennis was the only pool therefore eligible for this grant funding.
- The Chief Executive referred to the recent meeting with the Chambers in response to the letter handed in at the December meeting of the Council in relation to the rates issue. He referred to the three issues discussed at that meeting as follows:
  - Car parking – the Chambers were proposing the addition of 500 permanent car parking spaces and that the charge be reduced to €1 per unit. The Councils response to this was that they were also keen to provide additional parking in the town centre area but this cannot be provided in a very short time span and the matter is being progressed in so far as is possible. In relation to the €1 charge per unit proposed, discussions are ongoing with car parking interests and various packages are under consideration. There will be further discussions with the Ennis Municipal District members in this regard.
  - Town Team – this was a model by Retail Excellence Ireland and operating in some towns at present and involved statutory community and other interested parties. It was noted that the CEDRA Sub-committee were to discuss this issue at their next meeting later this month.
  - Rates – Niall Barrett briefed the members of the discussion in this regard and said this was discussed under a number of headings as follows:
    - Rates proposed for 2016 are as agreed in Budget 2016 and no changes can be entertained at this stage.
    - Rate payers on payment plans. The Councils proposals were that people on payment plans to the end of August each year be included. The Chamber sought this to be extended to the end of December. It was agreed that this could be facilitated while cash flow issues may arise.
    - Extension of the rates grant scheme for people – this was initially to apply for ratepayers with rates liability of up to €5,000 per annum. The Chamber wished this to be extended to include rate payers with a liability of up to €7,500 per annum. Having discussed the implications of same the members agreed that this was not recommended. It was

also agreed that the question of the retention of the grants scheme for future years can only be done on a year by year basis.

- Ger Dollard briefed the members on the proposals for the Market area in Ennis which is currently under construction.
- The Chief Executive informed the members that it is proposed to appoint a second Senior Executive Engineer in the West Clare area.

That concluded the business of the meeting.

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Michael McNamara,  
Senior Executive Officer,  
Corporate Services.

2<sup>nd</sup> February, 2016.

**Minutes of the meeting of the Corporate Policy Group held on  
Monday, 29<sup>th</sup> February, 2016 at 2.15 p.m. in Room 316,  
Áras Contae an Chláir, New Road, Ennis, Co. Clare.**

**Present:** Cllr. James Breen, Cathaoirleach presiding.  
Cllrs. G. Flynn, J. Cooney and R. Nagle.

**Apologies:** Cllr. P. Hayes.

**Officials Present:** Tom Coughlan, Chief Executive.  
Michael McNamara, Senior Executive Officer, Corporate Services.  
Ger Dollard, Director of Service.  
Niall Barrett, Head of Finance.

The Cathaoirleach, Cllr. James Breen presided.

**1. Minutes of meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> February, 2016.**

The minutes of the meeting of the C.P.G. held on 1<sup>st</sup> February, 2016 were circulated with the agenda and were noted by the meeting.

**5. March Council Meeting.**

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

- Cllr. G. Flynn referred to the motion submitted in relation to the Crematorium site in Shannon and referred to the decision of the Shannon Municipal District that this item would be on the April agenda.
- The Chief Executive referred to the motion submitted in relation to interest charges on loans and pointed out the very significant time taken to obtain details for the responses. Niall Barrett stated that elements of the response would be sensitive as regards interest rates of various banks.

**5. Interim Financial Report 2015.**

Niall Barrett, Head of Finance briefed the members in relation to the favourable financial outcome at the end of 2015 which arose from increased rates income and increased receipts

from NPPR. He confirmed that these were once off monies and would not arise in future years. These increased monies will enable the Council to provide matching funding which is required where some grant funding was provided to the Council in recent months under the Limerick Hinterland Study, the Designated Urban Centre Grant Scheme and the REDZ Grants.

The Council will also be in a position to provide funding for other projects and there was a discussion on suitable projects in this regard. Following the outcome of that discussion a report is to be prepared for the March agenda.

The Chief Executive informed the members that there are potential financial liabilities in meeting regulatory requirements in relation to infill at a roadworks scheme/wetlands in Liscannor and disposal of asbestos and regulatory requirements. These matters will be addressed in the context of the Annual Financial Statement.

## **6. Limerick Hinterland Report.**

The Chief Executive informed the members that the Limerick Hinterland Study was commissioned to examine the impact of the Limerick Regeneration on its Hinterland. Arising from this study, the Council has now been advised by the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government that a sum of €500,000 is being made available to Clare County Council and that this sum must be matched by the local authority. Areas in the county have been identified to benefit from this funding. Following a discussion on same it was agreed that a report with recommendations would be put before the members at the March meeting.

## **7. Service Delivery Plans.**

Senior Executive Officer, Corporate Services advised the members of the requirement of the Council to prepare Service Delivery Plans for each section. These Plans have now been prepared and will be before the members for consideration and adoption at the March meeting.

## **8. Any other business.**

- Senior Executive Officer, Corporate Services advised the members that it was proposed to have the joint meeting with the party leaders from Limerick City and County Council on the 9<sup>th</sup> March next at 10.30 a.m. here in the Council offices. This arose from an initiative of the Cathaoirleach of this Council.
- The Cathaoirleach and members joined in paying tribute to Michael McNamara on his imminent retirement and thanked him for his contribution to the Corporate Policy Group meetings over the years.
- The Chief Executive informed the members that he will be completing his contract as Chief Executive on the 19<sup>th</sup> April next. He said it would be business as usual until then and he would be informing the elected members and staff later that day of his intentions.

That concluded the business of the meeting.

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Michael McNamara,  
Senior Executive Officer,  
Corporate Services.

3<sup>rd</sup> March, 2016.



**Minutes of Corporate Policy Group meeting held on  
Monday, 11<sup>th</sup> 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 29<sup>th</sup> February, 2016.**

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

**6. April Council Meeting.**

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

**9. 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.

**10. 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.

### **11. 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, 18<sup>th</sup> April to discuss how the allocation of the €400,000 would be divided.

### **12. 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).

### **13. Process for filling Chief Executive vacancy.**

Ger Dollard has been appointed by the Minister as temporary Chief Executive from Wednesday, 20<sup>th</sup> 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 21<sup>st</sup> April, 2016.

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

#### **14. 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.

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Carmel Greene,  
Senior Executive Officer,  
Corporate Services.

12<sup>th</sup> April, 2016.

**Minutes of Corporate Policy Group meeting held on  
Monday, 18<sup>th</sup> April, 2016 at 11.30 a.m. in Room 316,  
Áras Contae an Chláir, New Road, Ennis, Co. Clare.**

**Present:** Cllr. J. Breen. Cathaoirleach presiding.  
Cllrs. J. Cooney, G. Flynn, R. Nagle and P. Hayes.

**Apologies:** Anne Haugh, Director of Services.

**Officials Present:** Ger Dollard, Deputy Chief Executive.  
Carmel Greene, Senior Executive Officer, Corporate Services.

Cathaoirleach, Cllr. J. Breen presided.

**1. Allocation of roads funding of €400,000 allocated from AFS 2015.**

The meeting was called to discuss how the funding of €400,000 for roads, footpaths, hedgecutting, etc. allocated from the Annual Financial Statement for 2015 was to be divided between the Municipal Districts. This item was deferred from the previous CPG meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> April until all members were present.

Options proposed and considered included:

1. Division equally by the four municipal districts.
2. Funding to be divided on basis of length of road network in each Municipal District.
3. €100,000 for each Municipal District and if any isunspent in any Municipal District, it could go to West Clare.

Cllr. J. Cooney proposed an alternative split in an attempt to rebalance the funding to areas with greatest road network.

West Clare	-	€140,000
Killaloe	-	€120,000
Shannon	-	€ 70,000
Ennis	-	€ 70,000

This was agreed to by the members for the purposes of this funding but was not to be seen as a principle governing future funding allocations.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

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Carmel Greene,  
Senior Executive Officer,  
Corporate Services.

18<sup>th</sup> April, 2016.

**Minutes of Corporate Policy Group meeting held on  
Friday, 29<sup>th</sup> 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.

**Officials Present:** Ger Dollard, Chief Executive.  
Carmel Greene, Senior Executive Officer, Corporate Services.

Cllr. J. Breen presided.

**1. Minutes of meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> April, 2016.**

The minutes of the meeting of the C.P.G. held on 11<sup>th</sup> April, 2016 were circulated. Two amendments were agreed to Items No. 5 and No. 7.

**2. Minutes of meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> April, 2016.**

The minutes of the meeting of the C.P.G. held on 18<sup>th</sup> April, 2016 were circulated and one amendment was agreed.

**3. May Council Meeting.**

The members noted the headed items and the notice of motions received for the May agenda. It was agreed that the briefing on Solar Energy by Pat Stephens be held at 3.00 p.m.

**4. Official Invitation to the 4<sup>th</sup> China-South Asia Exposition and the 24<sup>th</sup> China Kunming Import and Export Commodities Fair.**

The Chief Executive notified the members of the visitation of the Vice Governor of the Yunnan Province in May and members will be notified of the details in due course.

The Chief Executive advised the members that an invitation to the Cathaoirleach was received from the Governor of Yunnan Province and efforts are being made to see if some businesses can attend. It was proposed by Cllr. R. Nagle and seconded by Cllr. J. Cooney that this be on the agenda for the May meeting for approval of members.

**5. Fix date for June Monthly Meeting.**

Contact is being made with University of Limerick to agree a date for the June monthly meeting to be held there on the kind invitation of the President Don Barry.

**6. Fix date for A.G.M.**

It was agreed to recommend to the full Council that the annual meeting be held on Monday, 27<sup>th</sup> June at 3.00 p.m.

**7. Irish Congress of Trade Unions - Charter for Fair Conditions at Work - Request to Address the Elected Members**

The Irish Congress of Trade Unions has asked to make a presentation to the Council on the Charter for fair conditions at work. It was agreed that this could be done at the May meeting for ten minutes at 4.45 p.m. before motions start, if the date is suitable to I.C.T.U.

**8. Any other business.**

None.

That concluded the business of the meeting.

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Carmel Greene,  
Senior Executive Officer,  
Corporate Services.

4<sup>th</sup> May, 2016.

**Minutes of Corporate Policy Group meeting held on  
Wednesday, 8<sup>th</sup> June, 2016 at 4.00 p.m. in Room 316,  
Áras Contae an Chláir, New Road, Ennis, Co. Clare.**

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

**Officials Present:** Ger Dollard, Chief Executive.  
Carmel Greene, Senior Executive Officer, Corporate Services.

Cllr. J. Breen presided.

**1. Minutes of meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> April, 2016.**

The minutes of the meeting of the C.P.G. held on 29<sup>th</sup> April, 2016 were circulated and agreed having been proposed by Cllr. G. Flynn and seconded by Cllr. P. Hayes.

**2. June Council Meeting.**

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

**3. Clare Soccer League Oscar Traynor Winners 2016.**

The members had no objection to the proposal for a civic reception for the Clare Soccer League Oscar Traynor Winners 2016 and it will be brought forward for consideration at the July meeting.

**4. Any other business.**

- The Chief Executive outlined changes to the processing of payroll for elected members under a project called mypay.
- In relation to the second tranche for funding under severe weather allocation the Council has been allocated €800,000 having requested €2 million.
- The Leuven Institute for Ireland and Europe based in Belgium have issued an invitation for training for elected members. Further details may become available in due course.
- The Chief Executive advised members that the Fleadh 2016 Committee propose to use parts of this building (including Council Chamber and members rooms) during the All Ireland Fleadh in August. The members had no objection to this proposal.



- The Chief Executive advised the members that an Ennis Municipal District Member and the Chief Executive are attending the funeral of Muhammad Ali, R.I.P. in the U.S.A. This will be for approval at the June meeting of the Council.
- Oireachtas members will be asked to confirm if they can attend the July meeting of Council at 3.00 p.m. and this can be further discussed at the July meeting of C.P.G.
- A query was raised regarding who the representative from Ennis Municipal District will be when Cllr. J. Breen completes his term as Cathaoirleach. The Chief Executive outlined that there is no explicit criteria and it is the members of the MD that are the decision makers in this matter and who they select is a matter for them.
- Discussion took place on the practice of informing elected members of appointment of tenants to houses in their areas and if it is to be dis-continued. The Chief Executive confirmed that this is the intention and is due to the need for compliance with the provisions of the Data Protection Act as it is personal information. The members reiterated their view that elected members should be informed and asked the Chief Executive to assess if there is any option to supply this information.
- The Cathaoirleach thanked the members of the Corporate Policy Group and the executive for their co-operation during his year in office and wished them well for the future. The members thanked Cllr. J. Breen for his leadership during the year.

That concluded the business of the meeting.

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Carmel Greene,  
Senior Executive Officer,  
Corporate Services.

9<sup>th</sup> June, 2016.

**Minutes of Corporate Policy Group meeting held on  
Monday, 4<sup>th</sup> July, 2016 at 3.00 p.m. in Room 316,  
Áras Contae an Chláir, New Road, Ennis, Co. Clare.**

**Present:** Cllrs. B. Chambers, G. Flynn, P. Hayes, A. Norton, R. Nagle  
and J. Cooney.

**Officials Present:** Ger Dollard, Chief Executive.  
Carmel Greene, Senior Executive Officer, Corporate Services.

Cllr. B. Chambers presided.

**1. Minutes of meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> June, 2016.**

The minutes of the meeting of the C.P.G. held on 8<sup>th</sup> June, 2016 were circulated and agreed having been proposed by Cllr. G. Flynn and seconded by Cllr. J. Cooney.

**5. July Council Meeting.**

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

**6. Oireachtas Members to attend the July Council meeting.**

Many members have submitted items which they wish to raise at the July meeting, when the Oireachtas members are present. It was agreed that these be circulated to the Oireachtas members in advance of the meeting.

The Meetings Administrator was asked to contact each of them to confirm their attendance and the time for this agenda item was amended from 3.00 p.m. to 5.30 p.m.

It was noted that up to a number of years ago, the Oireachtas Members used to come in to a meeting of the C.P.G.

**7. Update on process for recruitment of Chief Executive.**

Ger Dollard set out the process under the Local Government (Appointment of Chief Executive) Regulations 2014 and the meetings to be held. The formal recommendation has been received and a C.P.G. meeting must now be held within 5 days for the members of C.P.G. to convey their views.

It was agreed that a Special Meeting of C.P.G. will be held on Thursday, 7<sup>th</sup> July at 9.00 a.m. in Room 316, Áras Contae an Chláir.

## **8. Local Property Tax – Advertisement for Submissions regarding Local Adjustment Factor.**

The Chief Executive advised that the public consultation process has now commenced on the “Local Adjustment Factor” in relation to Local Property Tax. A decision is required to be made on this by 30<sup>th</sup> September, 2016 and it is a key factor in the Council’s 2017 budget process.

## **9. Special Meeting for Draft County Development Plan**

There was general consensus that a special meeting be arranged to discuss the Draft County Development Plan. It was proposed to hold this meeting on Monday, 25<sup>th</sup> July at 3.00 p.m. subject to the agreement of Council.

## **10. Presentation on draft Flood Risk Management Plans**

In order to have sufficient time to consider this, the members proposed that it be held at 2.00 p.m. before the September Council meeting on Monday, 12<sup>th</sup> September, 2016.

## **11. Any other business.**

- A motion was proposed at the June meeting to have a meeting of Clare, Limerick and Galway local authorities. It was agreed that there is scope for co-operation and exchange of ideas that would be worth pursuing between the authorities and it was agreed that this could be progressed in October.

That concluded the business of the meeting.

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Carmel Greene,  
Senior Executive Officer,  
Corporate Services.

5<sup>th</sup> July, 2016.

**Minutes of Corporate Policy Group meeting with Oireachtas Members held on  
Monday, 25<sup>th</sup> July, 2016 at 10.00 a.m. in Room 316,  
Áras Contae an Chláir, New Road, Ennis, Co. Clare.**

**Present:** Cllrs. B. Chambers, G. Flynn, P. Hayes, A. Norton, R. Nagle  
and J. Cooney.

**Oireachtas Member:** Deputy Michael Harty, T.D.  
Deputy Timmy Dooley, T.D.  
Deputy Joe Carey, T.D.  
Senator Martin Conway

**Officials Present:** Gerard Dollard, Chief Executive.  
Carmel Greene, Senior Executive Officer, Corporate Services.

**Apologies:** Deputy Pat Breen, Minister for Employment & Small Business.

Cllr. B. Chambers welcomed the Oireachtas Members to the meeting of the Corporate Policy Group.

The Chief Executive advised the Oireachtas Members of the motion that was brought forward by the independent Councillors and passed unanimously by the elected Council in May 2016. The topics submitted by the individual members had been forwarded to all present.

He outlined the purpose of the meeting, which was to:

- (a) Set out the key issues that the Councillors wish to bring to the attention of the Oireachtas members for their support and action at national level and for discussion by full Council.
- (b) Discuss how the resolution passed at the May meeting can be progressed.
- (c) Consider the most appropriate way for ongoing interaction between elected Council and Oireachtas members.

The principle of working together for the benefit of the people of County Clare was agreed by all present.

In relation to item (a), it was agreed that the three key issues for discussion at the September meeting are:

1. Local Government funding for Clare.
2. Funding for roads, especially local roads.
3. The housing crisis.

In relation to item (b), it was agreed that the motion passed by Council can be addressed following review of progress made at the C.P.G. meeting in September.

In relation to item (c), it was agreed that a further meeting between the C.P.G. and the Oireachtas members would be held on Friday, 2<sup>nd</sup> September at 10.00 a.m.

The members asked the Oireachtas members to work with the relevant departments at Government level in the period leading up to Budget 2017. The Oireachtas members undertook to arrange meetings with the Minister for Housing & Local Government and the Minister for Transport between now and the meeting in September.

In preparation for these meetings, a briefing note on issues of concern on Local Government funding and roads funding will be prepared by the Chief Executive and sent to the Oireachtas members.

That concluded the business of the meeting.

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Carmel Greene,  
Senior Executive Officer,  
Corporate Services.

25<sup>th</sup> July, 2016.

**Minutes of Corporate Policy Group meeting with Oireachtas Members held on  
Friday, 2<sup>nd</sup> September, 2016 at 10.00 a.m. in Room 316,  
Áras Contae an Chláir, New Road, Ennis, Co. Clare.**

**Present:** Cllrs. B. Chambers, A. Norton, J. Cooney, R. Nagle, G. Flynn and P. Hayes.

**Oireachtas Member:** Deputy Michael Harty, T.D.  
Deputy Timmy Dooley, T.D.  
Deputy Joe Carey, T.D.  
Senator Martin Conway

**Officials Present:** Gerard Dollard, Chief Executive.  
Carmel Greene, Senior Executive Officer, Corporate Services.

**Apologies:** Deputy Pat Breen, Minister for Employment & Small Business.

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The Cathaoirleach opened the meeting and thanked the Oireachtas members for attending.

The Chief Executive summarised the key issues in the report which was circulated on Local Government funding for Clare and how the changes in structures in Local Government and the funding of same has affected the funding for services in County Clare. Clare receives the 3<sup>rd</sup> lowest level of Local Government funding in the country. This has resulted in the amount of discretionary funding in Local Property Tax being only €500,000 in 2015 and nil in 2016.

The report shows clearly that County Clare is at the lower end of the table even taking into account the rates income from Shannon Airport and Moneypoint.

In relation to roads funding, the table in the report summarises the position and the funding for roads in the County is down from €32m. funding in 2008 to €18.8m in 2016, a reduction of 41.5%. During this period, the county has suffered from severe weather incidents which have had significant effects on the condition of the road network in the county. He also pointed out the long term effects of under funding on roads.

The Members spoke of the need for investment in order to progress and encourage development in the county and of the impact that an allocation of funding can have when applied to particular areas giving the recent example of the works done for in preparation for the Fleadh in Ennis.

All Members agreed that the Oireachtas members have a key role to play to ensure equity between the local authorities and that Clare has the fourth lowest allocation of Local Government fund. Even with no adjustment in LPT, Clare would still be in the lower levels of the list and it is arguable that Clare should get money from the equalisation fund.

It was acknowledged that the two meetings held have established a working relationship with Oireachtas members and Members expressed hope that the Oireachtas members and Councillors would work collectively for the betterment of the County. It was proposed and agreed that a delegation of Councillors would meet with Oireachtas Members to lobby Government and to proceed with a common purpose. All those present committed to working to achieve such meeting.

It was accepted that the Local Property Tax is a decision for the local authority members and has an impact on the local authority budget. However, Members voiced their concerns that if the Council was to leave LPT without a cut of 15%, it will not resolve the funding shortfall in its entirety unless we can get an improved share of funding at national level. Members also expressed the view that while the LPT was originally intended to be a funding stream for Local Government, part of it is now being taken from us into an equalisation fund and given to other local authorities. There was general consensus that the local property receipts in Clare should remain in Clare and that a review of the operation of the LPT at national level is needed.

Additional information was sought by those present in relation to Rates income and the Chief Executive undertook to expand the report to include analysis regarding the income of the Council on a comparative basis with other local authorities in order to aid the discussions at national level.

The CPG Members and Oireachtas Members agreed that a meeting with Paschal Donohue, Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform, Shane Ross, Minister for Transport and Sport and Simon Coveney, Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government should be arranged. The Oireachtas members are to revert to the Cathaoirleach with the dates of the proposed meetings, which it is expected will occur in the next two weeks.

That concluded the business of the meeting.

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Carmel Greene,  
Senior Executive Officer,  
Corporate Services.

2<sup>nd</sup> September, 2016.

**Minutes of Corporate Policy Group meeting held on  
Monday, 3<sup>rd</sup> October, 2016 at 1.00 p.m. in Room 316,  
Áras Contae an Chláir, New Road, Ennis, Co. Clare.**

**Present:** Cllrs. B. Chambers, G. Flynn, A. Norton, R. Nagle, J. Cooney and P. Hayes.

**Officials Present:** Pat Dowling, Chief Executive.  
Carmel Greene, Senior Executive Officer, Corporate Services.

Cllr. B. Chambers presided.

**1. Minutes of meetings held on 2<sup>nd</sup> September and 5<sup>th</sup> September, 2016.**

The minutes of the meetings of the C.P.G. held on 2<sup>nd</sup> September and 5<sup>th</sup> September, 2016 were circulated and agreed having been proposed by Cllr. R. Nagle and seconded by Cllr. G. Flynn.

**12. October Council Meeting.**

The members noted the headed items and discussed the notice of motions received for the October agenda.

**13. Update on request for meeting with TII.**

The current dates being considered for this meeting are 19<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> or 21<sup>st</sup> October.

It was agreed to see if TII can come to Clare for this meeting.

**14. Update from meeting with Minister Simon Coveney.**

The Chief Executive updated the members on the recent meeting with Minister Simon Coveney where the discussion centred on local government funding, roads funding and housing projects needing to be progressed in County Clare. The members thanked the Chief Executive and officials for their work on bringing the meeting to fruition. They also thanked the Oireachtas Members for arranging the meeting. A follow up letter will issue to the Minister.

The Chief Executive undertook to establish what form of representation the Council can have on the Board of Shannon Airport.



### **15. Request for meeting of Clare County Council to be held in Ailwee Cave in 2016.**

The members acknowledged the kind invitation of the Director of the Ailwee Cave and Birds of Prey Centre to hold the November meeting of the Council at the centre to celebrate their 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The matter is on the agenda (as a motion) for the October meeting of the Council. It was pointed out that there is a Civic Reception arranged for the November meeting.

### **16. Request for January 2017 meeting of Clare County Council to be held in Shannon Airport.**

The members acknowledged the kind invitation of the Chairman of the Shannon Group to hold the January meeting of Council at Shannon Airport. This matter will be on the agenda for the November Council meeting.

### **17. Any other business.**

- The members welcomed the commitment of the Chief Executive to reviewing workforce levels.
- With regard to the new structure with 5 Directorates, the Chief Executive clarified that there will be little additional costs from the changes he had made. He will seek the approval from the Department to the additional Director post. An examination of the levels of front-line staff is being undertaken with a view to ensuring needs of the county are met with appropriate staffing levels.
- It was agreed that the Chief Executive will bring proposals on aligning the Strategic Policy Committees to the new directorate structure, to the next meeting of the C.P.G.
- The members congratulated Cllr. Pat Daly on his appointment as President of the AILG.
- The Cathaoirleach proposed a vote of sympathy to Siobhan Garvey, Staff Officer on the death of her mother, Carmel O’Dea, R.I.P. and this was agreed by all.

That concluded the business of the meeting.

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Carmel Greene,  
Senior Executive Officer,  
Corporate Services.

3<sup>rd</sup> October, 2016.

**Minutes of Corporate Policy Group meeting held on  
Monday, 7<sup>th</sup> November, 2016 at 3.00 p.m. in Room 316,  
Áras Contae an Chláir, New Road, Ennis, Co. Clare.**

**Present:** Cllrs. P. Murphy, G. Flynn, A. Norton, R. Nagle, J. Cooney and P. Hayes.

**Officials Present:** Pat Dowling, Chief Executive.  
Carmel Greene, Senior Executive Officer, Corporate Services.

**Apologies:** Cllr. B. Chambers, Cathaoirleach.

Cllr. P. Murphy presided.

**1. Minutes of meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> October, 2016.**

The minutes of the meeting of the C.P.G. held on 3<sup>rd</sup> October, 2016 was circulated and agreed having been proposed by Cllr. G. Flynn and seconded by Cllr. J. Cooney.

**2. November Council Meeting.**

The members considered the location for the November meeting in light of the fact that it may be adjourned. It was agreed that the meeting would be held here in Áras Contae an Chláir. The holding of the meeting in Aillwee Cave can be held at a future date to be agreed by Council.

Cllr. G. Flynn advised the members that a meeting of Standing Orders Committee has been scheduled for 5<sup>th</sup> December at 2.00 p.m. and Cllr. G. Flynn asked all groupings to ensure they can attend.

**3. Conferring of Civic Honours.**

This was previously considered when Municipal Districts were established and it was determined that they would be done at county level. The members discussed the matter and felt that the Civic Reception should be at county level as Clare County Council is the body giving the reception and it is seen as an honour by the recipient.

One option discussed was that Municipal Districts may wish to put money from their GMA into a fund to give awards or recognition to groups in their Municipal District and that could be their decision. The option of doing this type of “recognition award” would need to be done in a standardised approach and it was agreed to look at this option and see what criteria would be involved. It was agreed that Civic Receptions would remain the responsibility of the full Council.

#### **4. Proposal for revision to Strategic Policy Committee Scheme.**

A draft proposal on the structure for SPC's to align with the revised Directorate structure and policy areas was circulated. It is proposed that the current elected members would remain as members in current SPC's, albeit some in amended policy areas.

It was felt that sectoral interests may need to be reminded of their duties in attending SPC meetings and participating in the policy discussions.

It was felt that it would be beneficial to ensure that there are representatives from each Municipal District on each SPC and this can be considered the next time (2019).

The members supported the proposed amendments and agreed to bring it before the elected members at the Council meeting in November.

#### **5. Any other business.**

Cllr. J. Cooney proposed a vote of sympathy to the Cathaoirleach, Bill Chambers on the untimely passing of his brother Denis and also Cllrs. C. Curtin and P.J. Kelly on the death of their mother in law Mrs. Barry. Cllr. G. Flynn seconded this.

All the members wished to be associated with the expressions of sympathy.

That concluded the business of the meeting.

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Carmel Greene,  
Senior Executive Officer,  
Corporate Services.

9<sup>th</sup> November, 2016.

**Minutes of Corporate Policy Group meeting held on  
Monday, 5<sup>th</sup> December, 2016 at 3.00 p.m. in Room 316,  
Áras Contae an Chláir, New Road, Ennis, Co. Clare.**

**Present:** Cllrs. B. Chambers, Cathaoirleach, G. Flynn, A. Norton,  
R. Nagle, J. Cooney and P. Hayes.

**Officials Present:** Pat Dowling, Chief Executive.  
Carmel Greene, Senior Executive Officer, Corporate Services.

**Apologies:**

Cllr. B. Chambers presided.

**1. Minutes of meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> November, 2016.**

The minutes of the meeting of the C.P.G. held on 7<sup>th</sup> November, 2016 was circulated and agreed having been proposed by Cllr. G. Flynn and seconded by Cllr. R. Nagle.

**2. December Council Meeting.**

The members noted the headed items and discussed the notice of motions received for the December agenda.

**3. Briefing by Irish Water on the proposals for water supply from River Shannon on Monday, 12<sup>th</sup> December, 2016.**

The Chief Executive updated the meeting on the fact that Irish Water has also briefed Management Team on this strategic project. The Council intends to continually bring the interests of County Clare to the attention of Irish Water during the life time of the Project.

**4. Update on meeting with T.I.I.**

The Chief Executive updated the members on the recent delegation from Clare County Council who met with Transport Infrastructure Ireland (T.I.I.) The issues arising on the projects were discussed and it is intended that further interactions with T.I.I. on the matters discussed will be arranged.

## **5. Update re Shannon Group.**

The Chief Executive advised the members that he has formally written to the Chairperson of the Shannon Group seeking that Clare County Council be represented on the Board for strategic and economic reasons. This has the support of Tipperary County Council and Limerick County and City Council with the intention of representing the regional approach. The three local authorities are seeking to advance a regional economic strategy, of which Shannon Airport is a key element.

This would require a ministerial appointment to the Board. At present, there is no provision in the legislation for sectoral nominations and the Chief Executive has now written to Minister Shane Ross, T.D., on the matter. The members expressed their support to the Chief Executive for his efforts in this regard.

## **6. Any other business.**

None.

That concluded the business of the meeting.

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Carmel Greene,  
Senior Executive Officer,  
Corporate Services.

6<sup>th</sup> December, 2016.