

**Minutes of Corporate Policy Group meeting held on
Monday, 3rd July, 2017 at 3:00 p.m. in Room 316,
Áras Contae an Chláir, New Road, Ennis, Co. Clare.**

Present: Cllr. T. McNamara, Cathaoirleach, Cllrs. G. Flynn, J. Cooney and P. Hayes.

Officials Present: Pat Dowling, Chief Executive.
Carmel Greene, Senior Executive Officer, Corporate Services.
Anne Haugh, Director of Physical Development. (for Item 3)

Apologies: Cllr. R. Nagle.

Cllr. T. McNamara presided.

At the outset the Cathaoirleach thanked and acknowledged the contributions of the former Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Bill Chambers, and also Ann Norton who represented the Ennis Municipal District on the C.P.G. for the last year.

1. Minutes of meeting held on 2nd June, 2017.

The minutes of the meeting of the C.P.G. held on 2nd June, 2017 were circulated and agreed having been proposed by Cllr. G. Flynn and seconded by Cllr. J. Cooney.

2. July Council Meeting.

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

- In relation to Item No. 29 on the agenda for the July Council Meeting, the members felt that it would be appropriate to host a civic reception for the band Stocktons Wing, who are celebrating their 40 year anniversary and they would recommend this to full Council.

3. Funding options for local roads.

Anne Haugh, Director of Service attended for this item, which related to the allocation of the remaining €100,000 from last year's Annual Financial Statement for works to local roads. The view of the members on how to address the local improvement needs is that this requires an annual programme rather than one sum in one year. They agreed that this should be considered further in the context of Budget 2018 and suggested commencing this process by doing a few in each Municipal District each year, with a new applications process. It was proposed and agreed that the existing €100,000 would be banked this year and add €100,000 from next year's budget to kick start the scheme.

4. Acceptance of nomination by George O’Callaghan, Chief Executive of the Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board of Mr. Paul Patton as replacement for Aobhan Haverty on the Local Community Development Committee (L.C.D.C.).

There was no objection to this nomination.

5. Any other business.

- In relation to fire inspections on properties where there may be cladding, the members sought assurance that a review of this would be carried out on the housing stock. The Chief Executive advised that this is being co-ordinated at a national level, and the members asked that if additional funding is needed, it should be sought.
- The Chief Executive highlighted that County Clare is 450 years old in 2020 and a working group has been established to celebrate this with a view to doing a publication on County Clare and its government, throughout this period.
- The Chief Executive outlined that the changes made to Management Team structure last year will be reviewed after a year in operation. He also stated that he was setting up the role of Business Review Leader within the Council, which will be established in the next few months to look at processes, procedures and how we do our business. The members supported the proposal.
- The Chief Executive updated the members on a proposal for financial support to the Shannon Group by the local authorities in mid west region. The money was originally provided in 2015, to help the Shannon Group increase its market share going forward. This was supported by the members having been proposed by Cllr. G. Flynn and seconded by Cllr. J. Cooney.
- The Chief Executive advised that it is likely that two vacancies on the Board of the Shannon Group may be advertised by the Public Appointments Service in September. Following discussion, it was also suggested that the Minister should be invited to visit the Airport.
- The Chief Executive informed the members of a likely imminent announcement by Fáilte Ireland on a lakes destination route, which hopefully will include County Clare and should have a positive impact on the county.
- C. Greene advised the members that the Constituency Commission report issued recently and has been circulated to the members by e-mail. The report recommends that for electoral purposes, the Dáil constituency of Clare will match the County Clare boundary and that 5,994 people in the electoral division of Ballyglass will be transferred back to the Clare constituency.
- In relation to the proposal agreed at the June meeting to hold a seminar in relation to the potential impact of Brexit, it was agreed to defer this until the situation regarding Brexit was clearer. This was agreed and could be done in conjunction with AILG.

- A request has been received from the organiser of the O’Dea Clan Gathering for a Civic Reception. It is understood that the Ennis Town Council hosted Civic Receptions previously for these O’Dea Clan gatherings. Due to the provisions of Standing Orders, the members felt that such an event would not be in accordance with the new policy.
- A proposal has been received from the Imetri Region of Georgia following a meeting with the Ambassador from Georgia, Russia. It was agreed to refer this to the Twinning Committee. In addition, it was agreed that an invitation will issue to the Yunnan Province to visit Clare during 2018. A reply is to issue to their recent correspondence in this regard.
- The Department has informed us that the regulations on proposed changes to Councillors expenses have not yet been made and thus the proposed changes will be implemented when regulations are made and will be back-dated to 1st July.
- The Chief Executive outlined the process to date on the development of a Clare Rural Development Strategy and the recent appointment of a Minister for Rural Affairs. A special meeting of Council may be needed to endorse the strategy in advance of a launch of the strategy. The members supported this.
- The Chief Executive proposed that the Local Property Tax decision could be considered at the September meeting of Council. The members felt that a special meeting would be more appropriate, in terms of time lines, including summer. The third Monday in September (18th) is an option for this meeting, to be agreed at the July meeting.

That concluded the business of the meeting.

Carmel Greene,
Senior Executive Officer,
Corporate Services Department,
Finance and Support Services Directorate.

4th July, 2017.