

**Minutes of Corporate Policy Group meeting held on
Friday 1st May, 2020 at 9.30 a.m. by teleconference from the Boardroom
Áras Contae an Chláir, New Road, Ennis, Co. Clare.**

Present in Boardroom: Cllr. C. Colleran Molloy, Pat Dowling, Chief Executive, Noeleen Fitzgerald, Head of Finance, Ann Reynolds, A/Senior Executive Officer & Caroline O'Connor, Financial Accountant.

Members dialled in: Cllrs. B. Chambers, G. Flynn, P. McMahon, J. Crowe, and P. Hayes.

Cllr. C. Colleran Molloy presided.

1. Minutes of meeting held on 2nd March, 2020.

The minutes of the C.P.G. meeting held on 2nd March, 2020 were approved having been proposed by Cllr. G. Flynn and seconded by Cllr. P. McMahon.

The group discussed the holding of the May Council meeting in the context of the current Public Health restrictions, which are in place until Tuesday 5th May and expected to continue for at least another 2 week period. The Taoiseach is due to make a further announcement.

It was noted that all MDs had been consulted by conference call on the matter and there was general consensus that the meeting should be postponed in view of the public health restrictions. It was agreed to hold the matter under review pending further government announcements and any revisions to restrictions. It was noted that members continue to fulfil their duties via video and teleconferencing with relevant staff on a daily/weekly basis and at Municipal District level.

2. Headed Items and Notices of Motion for March Council Meeting.

The draft agenda was circulated to members by email and the headed items and notices of motion were discussed and reviewed. It was noted there were no statutory items requiring decision of the Council on the Agenda. Concern was raised in relation to Notice of motion regarding request to “freeze rates”. Noeleen Fitzgerald advised that she participates in a national group “Acute Financial Matters” which is examining the impact on commercial rates income and the impact on other income streams within the sector. There are intensive negotiations nationally and it is expected there will be some form of compensatory provision agreed nationally.

3. Any other business.

Pat Dowling updated the members and discussed the following items:

- Business Continuity- the Local Government sector has submitted a report to government recommending that some further services recommence, such as some minor roadworks, some small contracts and some essential maintenance of open spaces and grass cutting. Any services will resume on the condition of adherence to

social distancing. There is intensive ongoing national review of how the Planning System can re-open on which Liam Conneally is a participant.

- Based on current Public Health advice it is expected that social distancing requirements will be in place for the foreseeable future and local authorities will have to plan work on this basis.
- The Crisis Management Team convenes on Tuesday and Thursday mornings and as required thereafter. The Council is working with the other Principal Response agencies (HSE, Public Health, Gardai, Limerick & Tipperary Councils, Fire Service) to co-ordinate the emergency response regionally – weekly meetings by conference call. There are also weekly update conference calls with the LGMA and CCMA.
- Locally the Community Response helpline is operating and volunteers are continuing to respond to needs of the elderly and vulnerable members of our communities. A Wellbeing campaign was launched last week and will continue over the coming weeks. An economic recovery plan is being developed. The Council is continuing to source adequate supplies of PPE for the future.
- Noeleen Fitzgerald advised that the Annual Financial Statement 2019 is now being closed out, with an end of year balanced account. A general outline of the overall position was provided. It is now intended to focus on the challenges being posed in 2020.

It was agreed to reconvene CPG by conference call in 2 weeks for further review. This concluded the business of the meeting.

Ann Reynolds
A/Senior Executive Officer
Corporate Services

1st May 2020.