

**CORPORATE POLICY GROUP**

Minutes of the meeting held at 9.00 am on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> November 2022 in the Setanta Room, County Hall, Dundalk.

**In attendance:**

**Cathaoirleach:** Cllr Conor Keelan

**Members:** Cllr Joanna Byrne  
Cllr John Reilly

**Officials:** Joan Martin, Chief Executive  
Joe McGuinness, Deputy Chief Executive  
Paddy Donnelly, Director of Services  
Bernie Woods, Head of Finance  
Catherine Duff, Director of Services  
Gráinne Tuomey, Meetings Administrator

**Apologies Cllrs:** Liam Reilly, John Sheridan, Pio Smith

**Apologies Officials:** Thomas McEvoy, Director of Services

**1. Minutes of 8<sup>th</sup> June 2022**

The Minutes were again deferred for adoption to the next meeting as the minutes sign off requires attendance of both Cllrs Joanna Byrne and Pio Smith.

**2. Minutes of 5<sup>th</sup> October 2022**

Adoption of the Minutes of the meeting of 5<sup>th</sup> October 2022 were:

**Proposed by:** Cllr John Reilly

**Seconded by:** Cllr Conor Keelan

And resolved.

**3. Matters Arising**

None.

**4. Budget 2023**

The Chief Executive, Joan Martin, briefed Members on clarification received from the Department of funding for 2023 including 85% of wage increases and money towards energy costs. Proposals in the draft budget include a standard hourly pay parking rate of €1.30 in both Drogheda and Dundalk towns, a €1 weekly increase on social housing rents to contribute towards Local Property Tax payable and the required equalisation of rates which will see Members asked to resolve several proposals in order, to obtain a standard rate of valuation of 65 for everyone. This equalisation will see no increase in revenue

to Louth County Council is required by law. A breakdown of examples on what this will mean to individuals will be sent to Members in advance of the Council Meeting.

A separate resolution already made by Drogheda Members to instil a €1 daily charge on free car parks will be dealt with outside the normal budget process.

Members were advised that the budget meeting would take place following the ordinary meeting of Louth County Council, following lunch at 1p.m.

## **5. Council Meeting Agendas**

Members were given a briefing on all items in the Council Agenda including (but not exclusively):

- Resolution sought on a replacement for the Regional Health Forum following Cllr John Sheridan's resignation from the board – this is the third time before the Council
- Four no. S183 proposals being brought before Members, including 1 disposal to assist AHB provision of 30 units for independent living, 1 lease disposal in Muirhevna to assist community groups 1 disposal of lands to IDA to assist the promotion of business to Louth, and 1 to facilitate utility provision.
- S85 agreement which allows for Louth County Council to carry out bridge works on behalf of Meath County Council
- Two briefings to be given to the Council on current Active Travel project status and on an overview on the Residential Zoned Land Tax process and how it affects individual households.

## **6. Allocation of Members Community Grants provided for under Section 66 of the Local Government Act 2001**

Members considered the Community Grants as presented to them, and it was:

**Proposed by:** Cllr Joanna Byrne

**Seconded by:** Cllr John Reilly

And approved to bring these to full Council for consideration.

## **7. To consider and recommend Conferences and Events**

Members considered the Conferences and Events as presented to them, and it was

**Proposed by:** Cllr Joanna Byrne

**Seconded by:** Cllr John Reilly

And approved to bring these to full Council for consideration.

## **8. Members Communication Plan**

Members were advised of continuous monitoring of Sugar reps made. On questioning Members raised no issues currently.

## **9. SPC Work Programmes**

Nothing raised under this item

9. AOB

Members were advised that books of condolences for the Queen and for the victims of the Cresslough tragedy in Donegal had both been sent on behalf of the Cathaoirleach and Councillors.

No further progress had been made on a memorial for Liam Reilly Bagatelle at this time.

There being no other business, the meeting concluded.

The Minutes were confirmed at a meeting of the Corporate Policy Group held on:

Date: 7 Dec 2022  
Cathaoirleach: Conor Keenan  
Meetings Administrator: Alice Quinlan