

**CORPORATE POLICY GROUP**

Minutes of the meeting held remotely at 9.00 am on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> July 2022 in the Setanta Room, County Hall, Dundalk.

**In attendance:**

<b>Cathaoirleach -</b>	Cllr. Conor Keelan
<b>Members:</b>	Cllr. Liam Reilly Cllr. John Sheridan
<b>Apologies:</b>	Cllrs. Joanna Byrne, Maria Doyle, Pio Smith
<b>Officials:</b>	Joan Martin, Chief Executive Joe McGuinness, Director of Services Catherine Duff, Director of Services Bernie Woods, Head of Finance Gráinne Tuomey, Meetings Administrator

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

The Minutes were deferred for adoption at next meeting as there were no Members present who had attended the 8<sup>th</sup> of June meeting

**2. 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. Liam Reilly

**Seconded by:** Cllr. Conor Keelan

And approved to bring these to full Council for consideration.

**3. To consider and recommend Conferences and Events**

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

**Proposed by:** Cllr. Liam Reilly

**Seconded by:** Cllr. John Sheridan

And approved to bring these to full Council for consideration.

**4. Council Meeting Agendas**

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

- Two Section 85 proposals being brought before Members, 1 for Meath County Council to carry out footpath works on behalf of Louth County Council and 1 where Louth County Council was to install EV chargers on behalf of various other Councils as lead authority on the FASTER project.

- CE Report on Submissions received to the proposed Variation No. 1 of the LCDP 2021-2027 – the Chief Executive explained that this dealt with legislation that came out in the middle of the County Development Plan process and set out a new way of calculating population growth. It is proposed to reduce the figures of units allowable in Drogheda to maintain the extra lands zoned in rural areas by councillors. The Planning Regulator made a recommendation that the Core Strategy had too many houses being provided for.
- Reports outstanding under S141 annual reporting of committee members – it was suggested that members be phoned in advance of the July meeting
- The vacancy of SPC chair following resignation from role of Cllr. Maria Doyle, was approved to go to Council. Executive advised that 7 out of 8 Sinn Fein members would be precluded from voting should more than one nomination be made as they had previously formed a group to elect an SPC chair. Members were advised of possible mutual swap of SPC attendees being proposed thereafter.
- A previous request that an update on CFRAM be given to Members at Council Meeting, was being accommodated at the July meeting

## **5. Development Plan Matters**

Members were advised the Draft Development Contribution Scheme for North Drogheda was on Public Display and the intention of the scheme was to ringfence levies for the Port Access Road.

## **6. Budget 2023 Process**

Members of the public are invited to make submissions on variations to Local Property Tax rates. CPG members were advised that the Executive need an increase of 15% to be spent at Chief Executive discretion as the continuity of services was endangered by having the same Local Property Tax income since 2009. A rate equalisation process must be completed by 2024 and a proposal may be brought back to Members to equalise the valuation rate at 60 and immediately increase it to 62. The Executive advised that the council cannot take another revenue hit and that a balance budget will be brought to members if they increase the Local Property Tax. With increasing energy and other costs projects which require match funding will have to be cut. When the Local Property Tax equalisation scheme goes, Louth income will decrease from €9.2m to €7m.

A Budget Workshop will be provided to Members in the first week in September.

## **7. Members Communication Plan**

The level of items being raised at Meetings was discussed, with Members requesting items where plans were already in place such as the Road Works Programme, public lighting etc. A briefing on protocols for members was suggested.

The protest at the July Dundalk Municipal meeting was noted as disruptive to the meeting due to the noise.

## **8. SPC Work Programmes**

This would be looked at again in September.

9. AOB

A written request from a group 'TASC' to meet the Drogheda Municipal Members was not deemed suitable as it was not in line with their reserved functions. It was agreed for the Chief Executive and Head of Finance to meet them in the first instance and revert back to CPG in September.

There being no other business, the meeting concluded.

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

Date: 7<sup>th</sup> Sept 2022  
Cathaoirleach: Conor Keelan  
Meetings Administrator: Arla Quaney