

**CORPORATE POLICY GROUP**

Minutes of the meeting held at 9.00 am on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> July 2021 by zoom

**In attendance:**

**Members:** Cathaoirleach - Cllr. Pío Smith  
Cllr. Joanna Byrne  
Cllr. Liam Reilly  
Cllr. Emma Coffey  
Cllr. Maria Doyle  
Cllr. Jim Tenanty

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

**1. Minutes of 9<sup>th</sup> June 2021**

Proposed by Cllr Pío Smith  
Seconded by Cllr Joanna Byrne

**2. Matters arising**

None

**3. Council Meeting Agenda**

Members were given a briefing on items in the Council Agenda including:

- Adoption of Development Plan Minutes – the CE advised that she would require a proposer and seconder on all 18 sets of Minutes which would be time consuming but would mean that everything had been properly signed off on.
- SPC – two meetings took place, so two reports expected.
- Casual Vacancy of Cllr Conlon RIP.
- Adoption of the Regional Homeless Action Plan.
- Local Property Tax – Members were advised the new scheme is currently out to public consultation. The CE advised she would not be asking the Members to increase LPT, every year they are asked and refuse and they know the impact on services of not increasing, it is a matter for the members.
- Periodic Speed Bye-laws – Only 1 submission to date.
- PPN – 2 vacancies arising from resignation and 1 from rotation as required by standing orders.
- Allocations, Motions and Questions

**4. Development Plan Process**

Frank Pentony, Director of Services, advised that Material Alterations went out on Public Display on the 29<sup>th</sup> June with a closing date of 28<sup>th</sup> July with everything available online and by appointment. Copies were also available in Dundalk, Drogheda and Ardee libraries. The CE Report on submissions would be available by 26<sup>th</sup> August and Members would have to mid October to consider the CE report so a series of meetings would go on September Agenda.

#### **5. Local Property Tax Process**

Already discussed under the Council Agenda item

#### **6. Audit Committee attendance at a future Council Meeting**

Members were advised that the Audit Committee had requested to attend a Council Meeting as part of a new induction process for non elected Audit Committee members to get an overview of how the council works. Clarification was given that attendance was not as part of their function but purely to get a greater overview on the council. The CPG had no objection to their attendance and an invite could issue for July.

#### **7. Draft Workplan Climate Change & Energy**

Catherine Duff, Director of Services, advised the group that the workplan had gone to the SPC in July and it was now with CPG for finalisation. This was noted.

#### **8. Sustainable Energy Communities Policy**

The Policy as presented was noted by the CPG.

#### **9. Members Communication Plan**

Members advised that while communications had vastly improved, some sections were not responding to them on issues raised and while they got the initial confirmation that the call had been logged on Sugar, they were having to call back into Customer Services to find out the updated status by sections.

The CE advised that she consistently got reports of calls raised and that there were few open calls to Councillors.

A request was made for Councillors to be able to view and track their own calls so they would know if works were complete and wouldn't have to ring back.

#### **10. PPN Social Inclusion Nominations To LCDC**

Paddy Donnelly, Director of Services advised on this as per the item on the Agenda in the Council Meeting.

#### **11. SPC Work Programmes**

As discussed in Council Agenda.

#### **12. DKIT - Technological University Vision - Briefing to Council**

Cllr Smith advised that he had forwarded the suggestion that DKIT meet to the Meeting Administrator so was in favour of this meeting. Cllr Coffey advised that she had attended a meeting on the proposed change to the TU status and was also in favour of the attendance as the enhancement to university status bodes well for the county at large, but would presume that the presentation would be more condensed. The CPG were in favour of a presentation from DKIT.

#### **13. Commission of Investigation into Mother and Baby Homes**

Members advised that while this had been brought to the whips for discussion, a decision on how to proceed was still outstanding. Due to the sensitivities involved and the desire to give

the report and how it might impact effected persons fair consideration, it was agreed to bring it to the whips for discussion in interim.

**14. AOB**

The recent death of serving Councillor Hugh Conlon, RIP, was discussed and it was agreed to mark his passing at the beginning of the meeting. Members agreed that Cllr Conlon was a popular politician and most Members might want to speak about him at the meeting. Cllr Tenanty as a close friend of Hugh, advised that he or his family would not like a lot of fuss and that one rep to speak on behalf of each party would be enough. It was decided that Members could not really be prevented from speaking if this was their wish but this would be preferable if it could be achieved.

There being no other business, the meeting concluded.

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

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Cathaoirleach: \_\_\_\_\_

Meetings Administrator: \_\_\_\_\_