

CORPORATE POLICY GROUP

Minutes of the meeting held at 9.00 am on Wednesday 9th March 2022 in the Setanta Room, County Hall, Dundalk.

In attendance:

Members:	Cllr. Joanna Byrne Cllr. Maria Doyle Cllr. Jim Tenanty
Apologies:	Cathaoirleach Cllr. Pio Smith Cllr. Liam Reilly Cllr. Emma Coffey
Officials:	Joan Martin, Chief Executive Joe McGuinness, Director of Services Paddy Donnelly, Director of Services Frank Pentony, Director of Services Bernie Woods, Head of Finance Gráinne Tuomey, Meetings Administrator

The Meeting was chaired by Cllr. Maria Doyle, in the absence of the Cathaoirleach Cllr. Pio Smith as agreed by Members.

1. Minutes of 9th February 2022

Proposed by Cllr. Jim Tenanty
Seconded by Cllr. Joanna Byrne

2. Council Meeting Arrangements

It was agreed to hold the March Council meeting in the Chamber of County Hall. A request was made to ensure ventilation measures were kept in place. The inability to provide hybrid access to the meeting was confirmed so all Members must attend in person.

4. Council Meeting Agenda

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

- SPC work programme - compliance with S141 of the Act where members on boards have to report annually to full council was discussed. It was noted that there are 19 boards so this may take up some time at the meeting. Members were requested to keep reports brief and where more than one member is on the same board that only one report on same.
- Survey Monkey return should be completed even where Member is not on a board as a nil return, as this is a statutory quarterly return. Issues with filling in a nil return will be discussed with the IT dept.
- The structure of the meeting was discussed and it was agreed to move statutory items above the Chief Executive Report.

- A Notice of Motion as submitted referring to the council giving 'official recognition' to an item and what this involved was discussed and it was agreed further clarity was needed on the motion at the meeting.
- A notice of motion on Tertiary Roads was noted as was the volume of tertiary roads in the county.
- A previous request to have Drogheda Port reps attend the meeting was discussed, with the Meetings Administrator advising that they had confirmed ability to attend but only by remote access. As the upcoming meeting was being held in person hybrid attendance was not possible. Due to the packed agenda it was suggested that this be delayed to the April meeting, with adoption of the AFS also noted as due for April.

5. Covid Memorial Day

Members were advised that on foot of correspondence received from the Department, that a short, solemn ceremony was being organised on the 20th March at Dundalk at 11am followed by Drogheda at 3pm with the Cathaoirleach of Ardee being invited to lay a wreath at either or both locations. Invites were to issue to Elected and Oireachtas Members to attend either or both, with notification of the event to issue thereafter to general public with no one particular group to be given preference over others.

Consideration was being given of commission of a piece of art for the county thereafter.

The Cathaoirleach of Ardee advised that his Municipal District Members would not be happy with this arrangement and would want to know why they were not being included.

The Chief Executive advised that this was a county wide memorial and the greater consideration was to marking the event.

6. Members Communication Plan

Members were advised that Reps made over Sugar continue to be monitored and any issues regarding non response to reps should be raised. Members advised responses have improved particularly in operations. The level of detail in the Chief Executive Report and News on a page was noted.

7. SPC Work Programmes

Following some discussion on difficulties encountered in maintaining a quorum, it was agreed that the executive would look at standing orders and legislation to see if there was anything there that could help with attendance.

7. AOB

Condolences were extended to:

Councillor Dolores Minogue following the loss of her mother-in-law Bridie Minogue.

Director of Services, Catherine Duff on the passing of her father, Matthew Duff.

School Visits: A request was made to recommence school visits of the chamber as had been provided prior to the COVID pandemic. This will be further explored by Corporate Services.

St. Patricks Day trip to New York: Members were advised that four representatives would attend the St. Patricks Day Parade in New York following an invitation from the Louth Association of New York, the Cathaoirleach, Head of Enterprise, Director of Corporate Services, and the Cathaoirleach for Ardee

Municipal District. The Mayor of Drogheda and the Cathaoirleach of Dundalk had also been invited but declined.

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: _____