



## *Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes*

### *Ordinary Meeting*

*4<sup>th</sup> April 2016, Council Chamber*

#### **Presiding**

Cathaoirleach, Councillor Brian Fitzgerald

#### **Councillors Present:**

Councillors, Joe Bonner, Sinéad Burke, Eugene Cassidy, Francis Deane, Seán Drew, Eimear Ferguson, Pdraig Fitzsimons, Enda Flynn, Wayne Forde, Joe Fox, Noel French, Michael Gallagher, David Gilroy, Trevor Golden, Johnny Guirke, Wayne Harding, Jim Holloway, Suzanne Jamal, Tom Kelly, Sharon Keogan, Nick Killian, Caroline Lynch, Stephen McKee, Ronan McKenna, Paddy Meade, Maria Murphy, Gerry O'Connor, Claire O' Driscoll, Maria O' Kane, Damien O' Reilly, Darren O'Rourke, Bryan Reilly, Joe Reilly, Sarah Reilly, Tommy Reilly, Seán Smith, Alan Tobin, Sharon Tolan, Gillian Toole.

#### **Apologies:**

#### **Officials in attendance:**

**Chief Executive:** Jackie Maguire

**Directors of Service:** Kevin Stewart, Des Foley, Fiona Lawless, Barry Lynch

**Meetings' Administrator:** Olive Falsey

**Senior Executive Officers:** Dara McGowan, Larry Whelan, Ger Murphy, Fiona Fallon

#### **1 Confirmation of Minutes**

- 1.1 Confirmation of minutes of Ordinary meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> March 2016.  
The minutes of Ordinary meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> March 2016 were confirmed on the proposal of **Councillor Tommy Reilly** and seconded by **Councillor Francis Deane**.
- 1.2 Confirmation of Special Meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> March 2016.  
The minutes of Special meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> March 2016 were confirmed on the proposal of **Councillor Tommy Reilly** and seconded by **Councillor Maria Murphy**.

#### **2 Matters arising from the Minutes**

No matters arising.



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### **3 Expressions of Sympathy and Congratulations**

Sympathy was extended to:

- Amanda Murtagh, Planning Department, on the death of her brother Keith Smyth.
- The family of the late Brian Smyth, a former employee of Meath County Council and Captain of the Meath team that won the All Ireland senior football final in 1949.
- Jerry Kelly, Finance and Assumpta Kelly, former employee, on the death of their father / father-in-law Cornelius (Con) Kelly.
- Liam Henry, former employee, on the death of his father William (Bill) Henry.
- The family of the late Tommy Grimes former Councillor and Chair of Kells Town Council.
- The family of the late Paddy O' Brien, member of the Meath teams that won the All Ireland senior football finals in 1949 and 1954.

Congratulations were extended to:

- Councillor Claire O' Driscoll on the birth of her baby girl.
- Meath County Council and all those involved in the Battle of Ashbourne Ceremonial event on (Easter) Monday 28<sup>th</sup> March.
- Dunshaughlin Historical Society and everybody involved in the naming of the James Fox Bridge.
- The committee and all involved in organising the memorial events for Philip Clarke.
- Sibéal Ní Chasaide, Rath Chairn, on her performance at 'Centenary' in the Bord Gáis Theatre on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> March.
- All involved in the official opening of the Laytown Bettystown Remembrance Garden.
- All schools in the county on celebrating Proclamation Day.
- Councillor Noel French and everybody involved in the organisation of the commemoration of Eamonn Duggan, a native of Longwood.
- Ballivor Community Library on the implementation of the 1916 Wedding photography project.
- All involved in the organisation of the commemorative event on the Hill of Tara on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> March.



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- RTÉ on the excellent standard of programming over the Easter period of commemoration.
- Drogheda Comhaltas on Macalla 1916 performance in the TLT, Drogheda.
- All communities involved in the organisation of St. Patrick's Day parades in the towns and villages across County Meath.
- All the volunteers involved in the 'Clean up Navan' campaign.

### **4 Disposal of Land in accordance with Statutory Notices circulated pursuant to the provisions of Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001**

### **5 Statutory Business**

#### **5.1 Corporate Services**

- 5.1.1 To receive the Audit Committee's Annual Report, 2015.

Frank McLoughlin, Chair of the Council's Audit Committee, provided an overview of the report and informed the meeting of the committee's objectives for 2016.

The Chair responded to a number of issues raised by Councillors. The Cathaoirleach thanked Frank McLoughlin for attending the meeting. The report was noted by the Councillors.

#### **5.2 Community**

- 5.2.1 Section 85 Agreement between Meath County Council and Westmeath County Council and Eirgrid PLC for the administration of the Eirgrid Community Gain Fund for the Mullingar Reinforcement Project in the jurisdiction of Westmeath County Council and Meath County Council, as agreed at Trim Municipal District.

With regard to the above item, it was explained that the Mullingar Kinnegad 110Kv Project was approved by an Bord Pleanála in January 2013. It was noted that the Eirgrid Community Gain Fund was set up in response to a Government Policy Statement on Strategic Importance of Transmission and Other Energy Infrastructure issued in July 2012. It was also noted that the matter of the Section 85 agreement had been discussed and agreed at Trim Municipal District.



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Approved on the proposal of **Councillor Noel French** and seconded by **Councillor Gillian Toole**.

- 5.2.2 The provision of a guarantee under S66(1)(a) of the Local Government Act 2001 for lands at Athboy Cowpark, as agreed at Kells Municipal District.

Approved on the proposal of **Councillor David Gilroy** and seconded by **Councillor Bryan Reilly**.

### **5.3 Transportation**

- 5.3.1 To note the upcoming Part 8 for the N51 Dunmoe Phase 2 Road Scheme (as discussed at the Navan and Laytown/Bettystown MD Meetings in January 2016).

Noted by the Councillors.

## **6 Reports**

### **6.1 Chief Executive's Report**

Councillors raised a number of issues with regard to housing, particularly the slow progress in relation to funding from the DoECLG, the figures regarding requests for emergency accommodation and whether the Council could acquire derelict houses around the county for refurbishment.

Barry Lynch, Director of Services, provided responses on the matters raised. It was agreed that the Meath Dáil Deputies would be invited to the next Housing Community and Cultural SPC.

### **6.2 Report from the Corporate Policy Group**

The Meetings Administrator advised that the Corporate Policy Group reviewed the agenda for the full Council meeting and received information on the particulars of some items.

### **6.3 Report from the Protocol Committee**

The Meetings Administrator advised that the Protocol Committee received and noted reports on conferences submitted by Councillors, and a list of conferences relevant to the business of the Council was approved.

Reports were provided on the St. Patrick's Day travel to the United States and London.

The forthcoming All Ireland US Sister Cities Summit (21-24 April) was noted.



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### 7 Correspondence

- 7.1 Correspondence from Mark H. Durkan, Minister of the Environment, Department of the Environment, Northern Ireland in response to Notice of Motion 8.7 adopted at the February meeting of the Full Council re. North South Interconnector.

Noted by the Councillors.

- 7.2 Correspondence from Alex White, Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources in response to Notice of Motion 8.7 adopted at the February meeting of the Full Council re. North South Interconnector.

Noted by the Councillors.

**Councillor Ronan McKenna** outlined his concerns regarding the Council's representation and support for the communities at the Oral Hearing.

Kevin Stewart, Director of Services, responded and refuted any suggestion that the Council was not supporting the process. He informed that a comprehensive and robust submission had been made in response to the Planning Application and that the Council had made representations at every stage and attended at the Hearing, when requested. He reminded Councillors of the statutory role of the Council with regard to the Strategic Infrastructure Development process and noted that that inspector had specified that she did not wish to hear evidence already in the submission. **Councillor Darren O'Rourke** proposed that the Council would write to the Minister, An Bord Pleanála and Eirgrid to withdraw the planning application and suspend the Oral Hearing in light of the current issues. The proposal was seconded by **Councillor Michael Gallagher**.

- 7.3 Correspondence from Paschal Donohoe, Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport in response to Notice of Motion 8.5 adopted at the February meeting of the Full Council re. Winter Gritting Routes.

Noted by the Councillors.

- 7.4 Correspondence from Paschal Donohoe, Minister for Transport Tourism and Sport in response to Notice of Motion 9.8 adopted at the March meeting of the Full Council re. extra funds for the provision of speed ramps and other traffic calming measures within housing estates for public safety in County Meath.

Noted by the Councillors.

With regard to the items of correspondence 7.3 and 7.4, Councillors raised a number of issues with regard to the responses received from the Minister's office, particularly in relation to the allocation of funding to the Council.

Responses were provided by Barry Lynch, Director of Services, on the matter.

- 7.5 National Transport Authority – Re. Sustainable Transport Measures Programme 2016.

Noted by the Councillors. Councillors raised a number of issues including the decision making process with regard to the funding of projects, the breakdown of expenditure re



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the Ratoath Town Cycle and Pedestrian Network and that no other element of the cycle network in Bettystown had been funded.

Responses were provided by Barry Lynch, Director of Services, on the matters raised.

- 7.6 Invitation to submit views on the development of Ireland's first statutory National Climate Change Adaptation Framework (NAF).

Noted and welcomed by the Councillors.

### **8 Notice of Question**

#### **8.1 Submitted by Councillor Wayne Forde**

*"Can I ask the Executive of Meath Co Council to confirm if they are considering taking on more outdoor staff, and employing more Gateway staff, permanently, as they are doing tremendous work around County Meath?"*

#### **Response**

Meath County Council's staffing complement is informed by a workforce planning process. The aim of this process is to ensure that the Council is appropriately staffed so as to deliver required services.

The Council reviews staffing requirements in the outdoor grades on an ongoing basis. This is done in the context of the new staffing structure in the Transportation Department and Municipal Districts.

Should a decision be made that it is appropriate and necessary to recruit additional outdoor staff, either by open competition or from the Gateway staff cohort, specific sanction approval from the DoECLG as well as the budget to fund same from internal Council resources will be required. Please note that as yet there is no indication as to whether there will be a continuation of the Gateway scheme beyond the current intake.

Noted by the Councillors.

#### **8.2 Submitted by Councillor Gerry O' Connor**

*"Can the executive provide (a) details of current staff levels/ functions in each of the six Municipal Districts and (b) outline its plans for proactive training of replacement staff in advance of current staff retirements?"*

#### **Response**

The Transportation (Operations) Department is managed by way of an overall countywide approach and the deployment of staff in relation to both pro-active and re-active works is organised on this basis. Arising from the 2015 staff restructuring exercise, greater staff mobility and flexibility throughout the county, particularly in



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relation to the outdoor staff complement is underway. The organisation is already benefiting from same where staff are being utilised across Municipal District boundaries. Further benefits will be realised over time.

The following outlines the staff complements for the ‘indoor’ and ‘outdoor’ cohorts assigned to the Transportation (Operations) Department.

### Management, engineering & technical (‘indoor’) staff:

Senior Engineer	1
Senior Executive Engineer	3
Executive Engineer	7
Assistant Engineer/Technician	10
<b>Total</b>	<b>21</b>

*The above does not include the 5 clerical/administrative staff assigned specifically to the Transportation (Operations) Department and the 15 Customer Service staff based in the Civic Offices.*

### Supervisors and operatives/drivers (‘outdoor’) staff:

Supervisors	18
Operative / Driver	92
<b>Total</b>	<b>110</b>

Plus **88 Gateway staff** located throughout the county.

*The above does not include School Wardens, Litter/Dog Wardens, Traffic Wardens, Water/Wastewater Caretakers etc., based in each of the Municipal Districts.*

Please note that, since January 2014, as part of the workforce planning process the Council has replaced, or is in the process of replacing, all posts which have become vacant due to resignations/retirements etc. As part of the new Transportation (Operations) Department staffing structure, the Council has also increased the staff complement by recruiting six additional General Operative positions in 2015 and three additional engineer/technician positions in late 2015/early 2016.



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The staffing structure in each of the Municipal Districts will be kept under review and the Council will seek to augment resources where appropriate and subject to sanction and budget availability.

In terms of training, it is noted that all new Meath County Council staff receive required training either as part of specific training courses on particular work activities, or appropriate 'on the job' training alongside experienced Council staff.

Noted by the Councillors.

**Councillor Gerry O' Connor** sought clarification regarding the replacement of staff on retirement/resignation and a response to this matter was provided by the Chief Executive.

### 8.3 Submitted by Councillor Caroline Lynch

*"Can the housing section confirm that a tenant on the HAP Scheme whose landlord does not renew their lease will be entitled to access emergency accommodation support if they need it?"*

#### Response

The Homeless Service of Meath County Council will be available to applicants who entered the HAP scheme, in the circumstances where the landlord does not renew the lease, and as a result, the tenant faces difficulties in fulfilling their accommodation needs in the short term.

Noted by the Councillors.

### 8.4 Submitted by Councillor Darren O'Rourke

*"To ask for information on the number of individuals and families who have presented to the Settlement Officers in the first three months of 2016, and how many required emergency accommodation and how these figures compare to the same period in 2013, 2014 and 2015?"*

#### Response

Presentations to Homeless Service & Emergency Accommodation Placements 2013-2016 (January – March period)

	2013	2014	2015	2016
<b><u>January – March</u></b>				
<b>No. of Homeless Presentations</b>	127	170	236	172





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<u>January - March</u>				
<b>No. of Households Placed in EA</b>	21	21	48	28

Noted by the Councillors.

### 8.5 Submitted by Councillor Noel French

*“Can Meath County Council provide information with regard to progress of the renewable energy plan as agreed by motion of Meath County council?”*

#### Response

As was pointed out in a response to a similar type motion submitted to the September 2015 Council meeting, there is a number of provisions contained within the Meath County Development Plan 2013-2019 in respect of Renewable Energy and including objectives to:

- Investigate the preparation of a renewable energy strategy promoting technologies which are most viable in County Meath,
- To pursue sustainable energy policies in accordance with the White Paper “Towards a Sustainable Energy Future for Ireland 2007-2020”,
- To commit to developing a more diverse range and combination of energy sources including wind energy, micro hydro power, solar energy, bio fuels, geothermal (deep and shallow), anaerobic digestion and combined heat and power in order to deliver on the targets set down in the National Renewable Energy Action Plan (NREAP) Ireland,
- To investigate the potential of renewable energy identified in the initial assessment areas with a view to developing a renewable energy strategy for the County.

While due to resource constraints, it has not been possible to advance these objectives, it is proposed that they will receive further consideration when establishing a Climate Change Adaptation Team, which Local Authorities have been requested to do following the enactment of the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act 2015. It is considered that renewable energy will form a key part of local adaptation strategies which this and all other Councils have to prepare.

Noted by the Councillors. **Councillor French** sought clarification in regard to the timeframe for the publication of a renewal energy plan and outlined his concerns on the matter. The Chief Executive explained that the resources were not in place to develop a



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renewable energy strategy, but that it will be considered and form a key part of local adaptation strategies.

### **9 Notice of Motion**

#### **9.1 Submitted by the Cathaoirleach, Councillor Brian Fitzgerald**

*“Meath County Council fully endorses the 1916 Rising as being the most significant event in our history that paved the way to our independence, and rescinds a previous motion adopted in 1916, however well meaning, that was critical of the Rising. The Council further pledges, in honour of these brave, courageous, idealistic and sincere men and women, to do everything in its power, where possible, to help reconcile any differences that exist between the various traditions on the island of Ireland. Furthermore, this Council calls on all local authorities on the island to do likewise and ensure that the need for arms will never again be considered to advance the cause of Ireland.”*

The motion was proposed by the **Cathaoirleach, Councillor Brian Fitzgerald** and seconded by **Councillor Ronan McKenna**.

The Cathaoirleach outlined the sentiment of the motion and, after a lengthy debate on the matter, it was duly adopted following a show of hands vote.

#### **9.2 Submitted by Councillor Claire O’Driscoll**

*“That Meath County Council as part of its next County Development Plan include a ban on fast food outlets that sell foods high in fat, salt and sugar from within 400 metres of schools, parks or playgrounds, excluding premises zoned town centre.”*

#### **Supporting Information subject to the motion being proposed, seconded and considered.**

The Planning and Development Acts prescribe how Planning Authorities are to approach the review of their County Development Plans. Meath Co. Council will commence the review of its current Plan in December 2016, with a view to having a new plan in place by 17th December 2018.

The statutory content of County Development Plans is set out in Section 10 of the Planning and Development Acts, and further guidance is offered on the process of plan making in statutory Guidelines for Planning Authorities.

The first step will be the preparation of Strategic issues papers, which shall address the objectives and policies to deliver an overall strategy for the proper planning and sustainable development of the county. This initial consultative stage represents the appropriate mechanism for Councillors, the general public and statutory agencies to



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feed into strategic issues informing the preparation of a draft County Development Plan.

While Councillors may advocate issues to be addressed in the review of the County Development Plan at any time, binding decisions on the content of the Plan can only be made during the statutory Development Plan review process. It is therefore recommended that this motion be deferred and that Cllr. O'Driscoll raise it in the context of the statutory plan preparation stage post December 2016.

The motion was proposed by the **Councillor Claire O' Driscoll** and seconded by **Councillor Ronan McKenna**.

Following a lengthy debate on the matter it was agreed that the motion would be referred to the Planning Economic Development and Enterprise SPC for consideration.

### **9.3 Submitted by Ratoath Municipal District Councillors**

*"We urgently call on the Council to address the staff shortage at all levels in the Ratoath Municipal District by recruiting additional staff or redeploying staff from another area."*

#### **Supporting Information subject to the motion being proposed, seconded and considered.**

Meath County Council's staffing complement is driven by a workforce planning process. The aim of this process is to ensure that the Council is appropriately staffed so as to deliver required services. The process also ensures that the Council appropriately utilises the staffing complement and associated skill-sets available.

The new staffing structure in the Municipal Districts came into effect in early 2015 and, as with the implementation of many new arrangements, it takes a period of time to become fully embedded. The Council, and particularly the Transportation Department, is engaging in ongoing review of the new staffing structure. This includes the implementation of a number of new processes and initiatives, which assist with the effective operation of the new staffing structure.

As part of the workforce planning process, since January 2014 the Council has replaced, and will continue to replace, all posts which become vacant due to resignations/retirements etc. As part of the new Municipal District structure, the Council also increased the outdoor staffing complement by recruiting six additional General Operative positions in 2015 – three of which were assigned to the Ratoath Municipal District. Three new engineering/technician positions have also recently been recruited to the countywide structure.

Arising from the 2015 staff restructuring exercise, the organisation is also benefiting from greater staff mobility and flexibility throughout the county and further benefits will be realised over time.



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It must be noted that any increase in the Council's staffing complement will require specific sanction approval from the DoECLG, as well as the budget to fund same from internal Council resources. The reassignment of staff from another work area will require the review of how services may be maintained in the area from which the staff are reassigned.

The staffing structure in each of the Municipal Districts will be kept under review and the Council will seek to augment resources where appropriate and subject to sanction and budget availability.

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Nick Killian** and seconded by **Councillor Gerry O' Connor**.

A lengthy debate took place on the matter. The Chief Executive advised that a Workforce Plan had been agreed with the DoECLG and that any decision to go beyond that plan, with regard to recruitment, would have to be considered in terms of affordability by the Council. It was noted that the Council had made a case to the Department and had received sanction for additional housing staff. The Chief Executive outlined recent recruitment figures but noted that the moratorium had not been lifted.

**Councillor Trevor Golden** proposed an amendment to the motion as follows:

*"That Meath County Council would call on the Minister to engage with Council officials with regard to staffing levels, and that the necessary additional funding would be provided to Meath County Council to enable the County achieve the national average per capita of staff levels as a minimum."*

The Chief Executive noted the support of the Councillors but explained that the moratorium is still in place and reiterated that a Workforce Plan had been agreed with the DoECLG.

The amended motion, proposed by **Councillor Golden** and seconded by **Councillor Nick Killian** was adopted.

### **9.4 Submitted by Councillor Alan Tobin**

*"That Meath County Council leads by example in supporting animal welfare and agrees to ban all circuses using wild animals in any capacity for entertainment purposes in any area controlled by Meath County Council. This Council calls on the government to consider a ban on the use of wild animals in circuses in Ireland as proposed in other European Countries."*

**Supporting Information subject to the motion being proposed, seconded and considered.**

In recent years, there has been a significant global shift in attitudes towards the use of wild animals in circus shows, and a growing number of countries have banned the practice. The Netherlands recently became the ninth EU Country to introduce a ban on



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the use of wild animals in circuses – there is also political commitment in a number of other countries to such a ban.

In Ireland and the UK, the practice remains legal and, while the Minister for Agriculture in 2014 stated that he did not intend to ban the use of wild animals in circuses but instead suggested the need to introduce a Code of Practice under the newly-introduced Animal Health and Welfare Act 2013, no such code or new measures have been introduced as yet. A number of animal welfare groups including the ISPCA are strongly supporting the need for a complete ban on the use of wild animals in circuses in Ireland and point to the holding of wild animals such as elephants, tigers, lions, zebra and sea lions, in substandard and inadequate conditions for the sole purpose of performing for circus audiences.

While the Council can seek to impose conditions as part of any rental or leasing arrangements for Circuses which are being held on its lands including the banning of the use of wild animals in shows, it is suggested that pending the introduction of legislation at National level or the aforementioned Code of Practice, it is not in a position to introduce any restrictions beyond that.

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Alan Tobin** and seconded by **Councillor Sharon Tolan**. Following a lengthy debate it was noted, as outlined in the supporting information that the Council can only seek to impose conditions as part of any rental or leasing arrangements for Circuses which are being held on its lands. In that context, the motion was adopted.

### **9.5 Submitted by Ratoath Municipal District Councillors**

*"The Ratoath Municipal District Councillors unanimously disagree with the site which has been identified for an M3 Motorway Service Area by Halcrow Barry Consultants working on behalf of Transport Infrastructure Ireland. The preferred site is situated west of the M3 between Derrockstown Road and Raynestown Road, in the townlands of Mill Land, Derrockstown and Raynestown, approximately 4km south of Dunshaughlin. We are very unhappy that Halcrow Barry have failed to address our concerns in relation to this project. We call on Meath County Council to write to TII stating our dissatisfaction with this project to date & to ask them to address the concerns of the local Councillors who are living in the vicinity of this proposed project."*

### **Supporting Information subject to the motion being proposed, seconded and considered.**

Halcrow Barry have produced a Site Selection Study for the proposed M3 Service Area which sets out the analysis of the options considered and which identifies the preferred site location 2A. A copy of the report is available at the following link:



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[http://www.t4msa.ie/support\\_material/M3/M3\\_MSA\\_Site\\_Selection\\_Report\\_Rev\\_B.pdf](http://www.t4msa.ie/support_material/M3/M3_MSA_Site_Selection_Report_Rev_B.pdf)

It is noted in the recommendations section of the report that on the basis of the assessment undertaken to date, Site 2A is identified as the preferred site for the proposed M3 MSA for the following reasons:

- Site 2A has a clear benefit over the other sites in the environmental assessment.
- It is the best performing site with regards to Air Quality, Noise, Landscape and Visual.
- It is also the equally preferred site in the engineering assessment.
- It is ranked as neutral in the economic assessment.

It is recognised that Site 2A has a number of constraints including the existing 220kV overhead power line, the impact on adjacent landowners and residents and an existing motorway attenuation pond. During the Preliminary Design Stage, it is proposed that mitigation measures can be developed/applied to address these issues using best practice and experience of previous TII MSA's.

Halcrow Barry has therefore recommended to TII that the preferred site, Site 2A is progressed to the next stage of development i.e. Preliminary Design. It should also be noted that a planning application (RA160148) from Applegreen Service Areas Ltd. for an offline service area at Knock, Dunshaughlin, has been referred to TII for comment as part of the planning permission assessment process.

Following a debate on the matter, the motion, proposed by the **Councillor Gerry O' Connor** and seconded by **Councillor Gillian Toole**, was unanimously adopted.

### **9.6 Submitted by Councillor Noel French**

*"That Meath County Council support the case to the NTA for a transport service between Buvinda House and Railway Street, Navan, for staff and customers of Meath County Council."*

#### **Supporting Information subject to the motion being proposed, seconded and considered.**

The Council has already engaged in some discussions with the NTA regarding the implications of relocating staff from existing offices in the town to the new Corporate HQ. These discussions have focussed on:

- Improving connectivity and accessibility to Buvinda House, in particular improving bus services from the town and environs to the new HQ.



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- Reducing reliance on car journeys by staff and the general public to/from Buvinda.
- Encouraging staff to return to the town centre during lunch times by sustainable modes of transport.

Currently, there is only one town bus serving the south east of the town. Meath County Council acknowledges that this is a limited service and the Council would support an enhanced town service with improved connectivity and reliability. The Council also supports the improvement of cycling and pedestrian links across Navan and will continue to engage with the NTA to promote this and the case for improving the routing and scheduling of the existing bus service.

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Noel French** and seconded by **Councillor Alan Tobin**, Following a debate on the matter and based on the supporting information, which confirmed that the Council would continue to engage with the NTA, the motion was duly noted.

### **9.7 Submitted by Councillor Noel French**

*“That Meath County Council’s Chief Executive considers the employment of an architect on Council staff to provide a faster service for the provision of affordable housing and improve design standards of our urban spaces.”*

#### **Supporting Information subject to the motion being proposed, seconded and considered.**

The human resource requirement for Meath County Council is driven by the workforce planning process. The purpose of this process is to ensure that the Council is appropriately staffed so as to deliver required services. The process also ensures that the Council appropriately utilises the staffing complement and associated skill-sets available.

The appointment of an architect has not been included the workforce planning process to date. This is, in part, due to the availability of the following skill-sets within the Council i.e. Heritage, Conversation, Planning, Civil Engineering, Tourism and Economic Development.

The Council also utilises an architectural framework, which is being drawn from for design requirements for various Housing and other projects.

As well as the above national staffing approval requirements remain in place across the local government sector in terms of the creation of new positions. The Council must adhere to this as well as overall budgetary implications.



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Arising from the above the Council does not propose to appoint an architect at this time.

The motion, proposed by the **Councillor Noel French** and seconded by **Councillor Alan Tobin**.

Following a debate on the matter, advice from the Chief Executive, and having considered the supporting information, the motion was noted by the Councillors.

### **9.8 Submitted by Councillor Paddy Meade**

*"This Council requests that provision be made for new canal bye-laws via a dedicated Canal Bill during the next Dáil, when possible, rather than including any future legislation in a joint Bill such as the Heritage Bill 2016. Furthermore in developing The Canal (Amendment) Bill 2017 that recognition be given to the canal users, canal communities and Local Authorities adjoining the canals by way of pre-legislative consultation and scrutiny. This approach would be in line with Government reform and best practice."*

The motion, proposed by the **Councillor Paddy Meade** and seconded by **Councillor Alan Tobin**, was unanimously adopted.

### **9.9 Submitted by Councillor Caroline Lynch**

*"Meath County Councillors ask that the Minister review the HAP application form and remove the declaration section that asks applicants to agree to removal from the housing list in order to access this housing support."*

The motion, proposed by the **Councillor Caroline Lynch** and seconded by **Councillor Darren O' Rourke**, was unanimously adopted.

### **9.10 Submitted by Councillor Darren O'Rourke**

*"That Meath County Council calls on the Minister for Education and Skills to make provision in the Technological Universities Bill 2015, for the nomination of representatives from the Meath County Council area to the governing body of the new Dublin Technology University."*

The motion, proposed by the **Councillor Darren O' Rourke** and seconded by **Councillor Joe Fox**, was unanimously adopted.

### **9.11 Submitted by Councillor Stephen McKee**

*"That Meath County Council calls on the Minister for Justice and Equality, the relevant Garda Authorities and the Garda Commissioner to reverse the decision to merge the Ashbourne and Laytown Garda Districts, in effect since 2012, and to provide a well-resourced policing service for the two areas."*





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The motion, proposed by the **Councillor Stephen McKee** and seconded by **Councillor Sharon Tolan**, was unanimously adopted.

### **9.12 Submitted by Councillor Claire O'Driscoll**

*"That this Council writes to the Minister requesting regulation and legislation of the au pair industry in the country following the recent WRC ruling."*

The motion, proposed by the **Councillor Claire O' Driscoll** and seconded by **Councillor Sinéad Burke**, was unanimously adopted.

## **10 Schedule of Chief Executive & Approved Orders (For Information Only)**

- 10.1 Schedule of Chief Executive's Orders – Transportation
- 10.2 Schedule of Chief Executive's Orders – Environment
- 10.3 Schedule of Chief Executive's Orders – Housing Construction
- 10.4 Schedule of Chief Executive's Orders – Community & Enterprise

Noted by the Councillors.

## **11 Any Other Business**