



## **Clár / Meeting Agenda**

### **Ordinary Meeting**

**8<sup>th</sup> June 2020, Solstice Theatre @ 1.30p.m.**

#### **Public Health Guidance - Covid 19**

This meeting is being held in line with public health guidance, with a number of measures in place to protect the health and wellbeing of all meeting attendees.

All Meeting Attendees are therefore requested to:

- Be present at the outset of the meeting and remain in your designated seat (other than for welfare breaks) once the meeting has commenced;
- Comply with the public health advice, specifically physical distancing; cough and sneeze etiquette, proper hand hygiene and to limit social interactions e.g. no hand-shaking;
- Be respectful of others' physical distancing boundaries;
- Adhere to meeting and venue housekeeping arrangements including fire safety arrangements as briefed at the start of the meeting;
- Refrain from bringing food or drink, except bottled water, into the meeting room;
- Adhere to information displayed on signage and to the advice of meeting staff.

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

1.1 Confirmation of minutes of Ordinary Meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2020

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

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

#### **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 Finance**

5.1.1 To receive Draft Annual Financial Statement 2019.



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- 5.1.2 To approve (i) revised expenditure for the financial year ended 31st December, 2019 as set out in Table A in accordance with S104 of the Local Government Act 2001 and (ii) transfers to and from Capital as set out in Table B.
- 5.1.3 To note a Quarterly Financial Statement for Meath County Council as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020.

### **5.2 Corporate Services**

- 5.2.1 To adopt the Audit Committee Charter 2019-2024.
- 5.2.2 To note the Audit Committee Work Programme 2020.
- 5.2.3 To note the Audit Committee 2019 Annual Report.
- 5.2.4 To note the Audit Committee Report in relation to the Annual Financial Statement and Local Government Auditor's Report for the year ended 31st December 2018.
- 5.2.5 To receive and note Meath County Council's Annual Report 2019.
- 5.2.6 To adopt the East Border Region Charter and protocols.

### **5.3 Planning**

- 5.3.1 To receive the Members' views in respect of a proposed development by Lightsource Renewable Energy (ABP-307136-20), for development described as 110kV substation with associated electrical plant, control buildings, welfare facilities, security fencing, additional internal access traces, 110kV overhead line grid connection to existing transmission line on site, which will consist of a 10 year permission, on lands at Harristown, Castlejordan and Clongall, Co. Meath, the subject of the Chief Executive's Report to An Bord Pleanála of June 2020 (as circulated) and, if thought fit, to resolve to attach recommendations to that report in accordance with Section 37(E) of the Planning and Development Acts 2000-2019.
- 5.3.2 To note the revised timetable for the Review of the County Development Plan.

### **5.4 Community**



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- 5.4.1 To receive details and approve the allocations under the Community Grants Scheme 2020, as recommended by the Housing, Community & Cultural Development SPC on May 21, 2020.
- 5.4.2 To receive details and approve the allocations under the Regional Festivals and Participative Events – Small Grants Scheme in Co. Meath as recommended by the Housing, Community & Cultural Development SPC on May 21, 2020.
- 5.4.3 To receive details and approve the allocations under the Carranstown Environmental Projects Grants Scheme 2019, as recommended by the Indaver Community Liaison Committee and endorsed by the Laytown/Bettystown Municipal District Councillors on May 14, 2020.

### **5.5 Transportation**

- 5.5.1 To enter into an agreement with Cavan County Council pursuant to Section 85 of the Local Government Act, 2001, whereby Cavan County Council, will exercise the statutory powers, functions and duties of Meath County Council which are described in the Schedule to the Agreement, in relation to N3 Virginia By-Pass Project.

## **6 Reports**

- 6.1 Chief Executive's Report (including an Up-date on the Financial Impacts of the Covid-19 crisis)
- 6.2 Report from the Corporate Policy Group
- 6.3 Report from the Protocol Committee

## **7 Correspondence**

- 7.1 Correspondence from the Competition and Consumer Protection Commission in response to Notice of Motion 9.9 adopted at the February 2020 meeting of the full Council re. prohibitive and exorbitant costs associated with connecting into the public water, public waste water and sewerage systems particularly for one-off houses.
- 7.2 Correspondence from Department of Justice and Equality in response to Notice of Motion 9.8 and 9.9 at the September 2019 meeting of the full Council and Item 7.2 at the December 2019 meeting of the full Council re. call for immediate closure of all



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Meath based Direct Provision Centres.

- 7.3 LG 2/2020 – Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government re. Ethical Framework for Local Government – Annual Declaration Forms.
- 7.4 Correspondence from Department of Rural and Community Development re. Rural Development Investment Programme.
- 7.5 Correspondence from Immigrant Council of Ireland.

### 8 Notice of Question

#### 8.1 Submitted by the Sinn Féin Councillors

*"To ask the Chief Executive to confirm (a) the amount of decline of commercial rates income to date since the start of the Covid 19 public health emergency (b) the total expected income shortfall as a result of the Government's waiving of commercial rates as an aid to business recovery (c) the additional expenditure incurred by the Council to date as a result of the emergency; and if the CE will detail any contact or discussions with the Department of Housing and Local Government about a compensatory package for the Council to offset the decline in rates income and the added expenditure?"*

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

*"Can the executive provide details of how much of the €600k Councillors discretionary fund for 2020 has been "Paid" to date and provide in tabular form the breakdown of these allocations per Municipal District and per Councillor?"*

#### 8.3 Submitted by Councillor Alan Tobin

*"When will the successful applicants be notified for this year's Community Amenity Project Scheme?"*

#### 8.4 Submitted by Councillor Paul McCabe

*"To ask the Executive how much revenue was received in commercial rates for the months February, March, April and May 2020?"*



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### 8.5 Submitted by Councillor Mike Bray

*"If the waiver is to be extended, what are the estimated shortfalls in commercial rate collections for June, July, August and September 2020 in monetary and percentage terms and have the council explored any contingency plans to make up for these potential shortfalls?"*

## 9 Notice of Motion

### 9.1 Submitted by Councillor Alan Tobin

*"In light of the easing of the easing of restrictions, the ability to adhere to HSE guidelines and the importance of community based volunteerism, call on Meath County Council to reinstate the 2020 Pride of Place competition with amongst other sensible changes, an online awards night.*

### 9.2 Submitted by Councillor Alan Tobin

*"That Meath County Council engages with all hotels, bars, restaurants and coffee shops to help ensure that, as these businesses start to trade once again, outdoor spaces that could be utilised for tables and seating are sought, regulated and allocated in the open air or possibly under limited cover to increase their capacity thus giving them a chance to return to some sort of normal trade."*

### 9.3 Submitted by Councillor Gerry O'Connor

*"That Meath County Council executive immediately reverse the decision to suspend Councillors Discretionary funding."*

### 9.4 Submitted by Councillor Sharon Tolan

*"In order to protect public health, and assist with ensuring public health guidelines can be followed, call on Meath County Council to continue to prohibit vehicle access to all Meath beaches, at least until social distancing is no longer advised by public health officials."*

### 9.5 Submitted by Councillor Mike Bray



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*"That Meath County Council establishes a special taskforce with the relevant stakeholders and the local community in light of the impact the Covid-19 pandemic is having and will continue to have on people's mental health and well-being."*

### 9.6 Submitted by Councillor Paul McCabe

*"That Meath County Council adopts a remote working policy to enable Council staff to work from home, where possible and practicable, in the future and that Meath County Council recognises the great work and commitment to public service has been demonstrated by Council staff over the past number of months."*

### 9.7 Submitted by Councillor Paul McCabe

*"That Meath County Council develops a once off financial grant scheme, to work in addition to the Community Grant scheme to help alleviate the financial trauma being experienced by community and voluntary groups across County Meath and that we recognise the enormous value of these groups in county Meath."*

### 9.8 Submitted by the Sinn Féin Councillors

*"This Council acknowledges the significant financing issues arising from the loss of commercial rates and other revenues due to the Covid19 emergency.*

*We note the Government's announcement of a three-month rates waiver for affected sectors of the economy and the commitment to provide local authorities with an additional €260m to cover this shortfall.*

*However, we do not believe that a three-month waiver or the funding provided will fill the growing financial deficit that Local authorities are accruing due to Covid19.*

*We call on the Government to give a clear commitment to ensure that Local Authorities will not experience any loss in revenue arising from the inability of businesses to pay commercial rates or from the loss of any other revenue source such as car parking, council rents or other charges. We also believe that the initial round of funding announced be provided to Councils as a matter of urgency. We further call on government to state that they will fully fund any extension of the commercial rates waiver and any other revenue shortfall.*

*This Council resolves that there must be no loss of staff or reduction in front line services arising from the Covid19 restrictions and instructs the Manager to write to the Taoiseach, Minister for Finance and Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government to communicate the view of the members as expressed in this motion."*



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### **9.9 Submitted by Councillor Padraig Fitzsimons**

*“That Meath County Council writes to the Rateable Valuation Office seeking a change in the formula for calculating rates, in particular, to the Licencing Trade where Rates have increased at an alarming scale, with many publicans struggling to survive as a result”.*

### **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

**10.4** Schedule of Chief Executive’s Orders – Community

### **11 Any Other Business**

**Please ensure mobile phones are switched off during council meeting.**

**Please note that the use of any recording or audio equipment in the Chamber is forbidden at all times during the meeting.**