

**Minutes of Corporate Policy Group meeting held on  
Friday, 2<sup>nd</sup> February, 2018 at 4.00 p.m. in Boardroom 316,  
Áras Contae an Chláir, New Road, Ennis, Co. Clare.**

**Present:** Cllr. T. McNamara, Cathaoirleach, Cllrs. R. Nagle, J. Cooney and G. Flynn.

**Officials Present:** Pat Dowling, Chief Executive.  
Carmel Greene, Senior Executive Officer, Corporate Services.  
Leonard Cleary, Director of Rural Development (for Item 3)

**Apologies:** Cllr. P. Hayes.

Cllr. T. McNamara presided.

**1. Minutes of meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> January, 2018.**

The minutes of the C.P.G. meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> January, 2018 were approved having been proposed by Cllr. J. Cooney and seconded by Cllr. R. Nagle.

**2. Headed Items and Notices of Motion for February Council Meeting.**

Tributes were paid to Colm Wiley, former Cathaoirleach and Councillor, who passed away this week. Subject to the approval of Council, the February meeting may be adjourned.

The members noted the headed items and discussed the notice of motions received for the February agenda.

It was noted that there is a briefing in relation to the new Library at 2.30 p.m. on Monday, 12<sup>th</sup> February.

A deputation from the Union of Students of Ireland is arranged for Monday, 12<sup>th</sup> February at 3.00 p.m.

**3. Draft Community Supports Scheme 2019.**

Leonard Cleary, Director of Rural Development attended for this item and outlined to the members the objectives of the scheme, which is based on two key points (i) the need for co-ordinated customer contact regarding various community grants and (ii) more demonstratable transparency/governance regarding GMA decisions. The arrangements would still allow each Directorate and elected members input into the decision making process, with due regard to the powers given to the MD members.

It is intended that the application process would be as simple and straight forward as possible and co-ordinated by the Community Department.

It was agreed that this draft scheme needs to be discussed at Municipal Districts first before it can be considered by full Council.

#### **4. Allowances to Members of Municipal Districts.**

In relation to the new allowance of €1,000 per annum for members of Municipal Districts, the members agreed to making this payment by means of €500 paid bi-annually. It was clarified that this allowance is taxable.

#### **5. Local Electoral Area Boundary Committees.**

Deferred.

#### **6. Any other business.**

- The Chief Executive outlined the outcome of the recent interviews for Director of Service to fill the two vacant posts. The filing of these posts will allow the organisation structure to be decided upon towards the end of February. The importance of continuity of key staff at Municipal District level was highlighted by the members.
- Cllr. J. Cooney paid tribute to the staff of the Killaloe Municipal District for response to flooding in the area on Sunday, 21<sup>st</sup> January.
- The Chief Executive asked the members to advise their groupings of the need to ensure they attend meetings, including those of committees, of which they are a member.
- The financial position of Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann 2016 and 2017 was discussed and it was agreed to make a final contribution towards the overall deficit, in recognition of the excellent events and their value to County Clare.
- The need to advance the roads programme as soon as possible was highlighted by all. The option to apply funds to discretionary maintenance should also be explored.
- The members congratulated all involved in the refurbishment of the Boardroom and it is now a place to host meetings with business people and potential investors.
- The Chief Executive updated the members on the recent housing summit held by Minister Eoghan Murphy and the new schemes of housing supports while these will be included in the training programme for elected members, it was agreed that the detail of the new schemes is to be issued to members as soon as possible.
- Regarding a request to have a Civic Reception for an individual, it was proposed and agreed that this person would be honoured by a reception in conjunction with a

meeting of the Shannon Municipal District to be held in Áras Contae an Chláir. If this is agreed at Shannon Municipal District, the Cathaoirleach will be invited to attend.

As all matters on the agenda had not been dealt with, it was agreed that the meeting be adjourned to next Monday, 12<sup>th</sup> February.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

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Carmel Greene,  
Senior Executive Officer,  
Corporate Services Department,  
Finance and Support Services Directorate.

5<sup>th</sup> February, 2018.