

**Minutes of December Meeting of Carlow County Council, held in the
Council Chamber, County Offices, Athy Road, Carlow, on Monday
12th December 2022 at 2.00 p.m.**

Present: Councillor B. O'Donoghue (Cathaoirleach)
Councillor J. Cassin
Councillor A. Dalton
Councillor M. Doran
Councillor A. Gladney
Councillor T. Kinsella
Councillor A. McDonald
Councillor J. McDonald
Councillor K. Murnane
Councillor C. Murphy
Councillor J. Murphy
Councillor T. O'Neill
Councillor W. Paton
Councillor J. Pender
Councillor F. Phelan
Councillor W. Quinn
Councillor A. Wallace

In attendance: Mr. M. Rainey, Interim Chief Executive
Mr. P. Delaney, Head of Finance
Mr. K. Cullinane, Acting Director of Service – Corporate/HR,
Planning, Health and Safety, Economic Development & LEO
Mr. P. O'Gorman, Director of Services, Transportation,
Environment & Water Services, Building Control and
Emergency Services
Mr. M. Brennan, Director of Services, Community, Housing,
Recreation & Amenity
Ms. F. O'Neill, Acting Director of Services
J. Shorthall, County Librarian
Mr. E. Brophy, Senior Executive Officer,
Ms. L. O'Callaghan, Administrative Officer
Ms. C. Healy, Staff Officer
P. J. Leonard, Financial Accountant (Remotely)
S. Dowling Arts Officer (Remotely)
B. O'Donovan, Senior Executive Officer (Remotely)
N. Lawler, Senior Executive Officer (Remotely)
Deputy J. Murnane O'Connor (Remotely)

Apologies: Cllr. Fergal Browne
Minister M. Noonan

1.0 Dramatic Presentation by Carlow Little Theatre as part of Carlow County Council Decade of Centenaries Programme of the Centenary Period 1913 – 1923

The Cathaoirleach welcomed the members of Carlow Little Theatre who gave a dramatic presentation of a selection of oration and performance commemorating the events of the Decade of Centenaries from 1913 to 1923. The Cathaoirleach on behalf of the elected members thanked Carlow Little Theatre for their excellent performance marking the momentous events.

2.0 Presentation from Professor Veronica Campbell, President, South East Technological University SETU (in this order with the consent of the members)

The Cathaoirleach welcomed Professor Veronica Campbell, President of the South East Technological University SETU to the meeting.

Professor Campbell thanked the members for having her at the meeting and she briefed members on background to getting Technological University status, the five campus locations Carlow, Waterford, Wicklow, Kilkenny and Wexford, total students 18,438 which includes full-time, part-time and international students and an annual expenditure of €147 million. She spoke about structures in place and the new Strategic Plan (2023 – 2028) which is currently in process and which involves consultation with SETU community and external stakeholders.

Members thanked Professor Campbell for her presentation and praised all involved for their hard work in securing Technological University status. Questions raised from members included Accommodation; Car-parking; Transportation; Apprenticeship; Land Acquisition and University Status for Carlow College.

Professor Campbell answered questions raised by the members.

VOTES OF CONGRATULATIONS

Chloe Black on winning gold and the most technical female fighter award at the Italia Isma Muaythai championships which were held in Istanbul recently.

3.0 Confirmation of Minutes/Dearbhú Miontuairiscí

3.1 Proposed by Councillor T. Kinsella Seconded by Councillor J. Pender

Following a show of hands, it was unanimously resolved:-
‘That the Minutes of the November Monthly Meeting of Carlow County Council held in the Council Chamber, County Offices, Athy Road, Carlow, on Monday 14th November 2022 at 2.00 p.m. having been circulated to each Member be taken as read, confirmed as to accuracy and accordingly signed”

3.2 Proposed by Councillor T. O’Neill Seconded by Councillor J. Murphy

Following a show of hands, it was unanimously resolved:-
‘That the Minutes of the 2023 Budget Meeting of Carlow County Council held in the Council Chamber, County Offices, Athy Road, Carlow, on Friday 25th November 2022 at 2.00 p.m. having been circulated to each Member be taken as read, confirmed as to accuracy and accordingly signed”

4.0 Business prescribed by Statute, Standing Orders or Resolutions of Council/Gnó forordaithe do réir reachtaíochta, orduithe seasta, nó rúin an Chomhairle

4.1 Affordable Housing Act 2021 – Section 11, Affordable Housing (No. 2) Regulations 2022. Affordable Housing of Priority for Affordable Dwelling Purchase Arrangements

M. Brennan briefed the members on Carlow County Council’s Scheme of Priority for Affordable Dwelling Purchase Arrangements which is provided for in the Housing for All Plan. The Plan was agreed by the Housing Community & Wellbeing Strategic Policy Committee at meeting

held on 15th November 2022. He advised that the Agreed Draft Scheme is sent to the Minister who may review. Questions raised by members were answered by M. Brennan.

Proposed by Councillor A. McDonald
Seconded by Councillor J. Cassin and

Following a show of hands, it was unanimously resolved:-

“That we the Members of Carlow County Council approve Carlow County Council’s Scheme of Priority for Affordable Dwelling Purchase Arrangements”

4.2 To approve County Carlow Culture & Creative Strategy 2023 – 2027

Sinead Dowling, Arts Officer gave presentation on the County Carlow Culture & Creative Strategy 2023 – 2027. The vision for County Carlow is to create a future with culture and creativity at the centre to drive and promote quality of life, happiness, health, well-being and economic prosperity through a people led programme that enables and entwines culture and creativity in everyday lives to the benefit of all. The strategic priorities of the Strategy are

- Connecting people, ideas and communities
- Capture and Champion the leadership role Culture and Creativity Plays
- Celebrate and Cherish County Carlow’s People, Natural Environment, History and Heritage
- Build Capacity across the Culture and Creativity Sector

S. Dowling advised County Carlow received the largest amount of investment to a local authority 2018 - 2022 in the amount of €1,006,740

The members commended Sinead and the Arts Team for their work and funding success.

Proposed by Councillor M. Doran
Seconded by Councillor J. Cassin and

Following a show of hands, it was unanimously resolved:-

“That we the Members of Carlow County Council approve the County Carlow Culture & Creative Strategy 2023 - 2027”

4.3 Approval to the attendance of the Cathaoirleach of the Council and Mayor of the Carlow Municipal District (or nominees) at the New York St Patick's Day Parade

Proposed by Councillor T. O'Neill

Seconded by Councillor T. Kinsella

Following a show of hands, it was unanimously resolved:-

“That we the Members of Carlow County Council approve the attendance of the Cathaoirleach of the Council and Mayor of the Carlow Municipal District (or nominees) at the New York St Patick's Day Parade”

4.4 Approval of Active Travel Study Trip

P. O'Gorman briefed the members on the proposed Active Study Trip to the Netherlands due to take place in first quarter of 2023. Proposal was discussed at the Corporate Policy Group meeting and it was recommended that the Cathaoirleach, the three Municipal District Chairs and the Chair of the Transportation & Infrastructure should attend.

Proposed by Councillor F. Phelan

Seconded by Councillor W. Paton

Following a show of hands, it was unanimously resolved:-

“That we the members approve Active Travel Study Trip”

4.5 To approve the terms and conditions applicable to overdraft facility of €7,000,000 for year ending 31st December 2023

Proposed by Councillor J. Cassin

Seconded by Councillor W. Quinn

Following a show of hands, it was unanimously resolved:-

“That the Elected Members of the Council do hereby approve the terms and conditions applicable to overdraft facility of €7,000,000.00 made available by Allied Irish Banks, p.l.c. (the “**Bank**”) to the Council under the Offer Letter dated 5th December 2022.”

5.0 Consideration of Reports and Recommendations/Breithniú ar Thuarascálacha agus ar Mholtaí

5.1 Carlow Town URDF Update

K. Cullinane gave a comprehensive presentation on Carlow Town URDF Project. He advised that a letter was received from the Department giving the Council permission to proceed with the procurement of a

design team for the Town Centre Regeneration subproject, in order to progress the required detailed design work, planning consents and any necessary land acquisition.

Questions raised by members were answered in detail by K. Cullinane.

5.2 Training and Conference Approvals

Proposed by Councillor F. Phelan

Seconded by Councillor K. Murnane and

Following a show of hands, it was unanimously resolved:-

“That we, the members of Carlow County Council approve the following training / conferences”

Celtic Conference – “The Finance Act 2022” in Carlingford, Co. Louth

Date: 6th Jan – 8th Jan 2023

Venue: The Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford, Co. Louth.

Fee: €100.00 (no meals provided)

Celtic Conference – “Local Authority Procurement Process” in Clonakilty, Co. Cork.

Date: 20th – 22nd January 2023

Venue: O’ Donovan’s Hotel, Clonakilty, Co. Cork.

Fee: €100.00 (no meals provided)

Celtic Conference – “Modular Housing in Ireland” in Carlingford, Co. Louth

Date: 3rd, 4th and 5th February 2023

Venue: The Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford, Co. Louth

Fee: €100.00 (no meals provided)

Celtic Conference – “Protecting Your mental health as a Public Representative”

Date: 3rd – 5th March 2023

Venue: O’ Donovan’s Hotel, Clonakilty, Co. Cork.

Fee: €100.00 (no meals provided)

6.0 Chief Executives Report/Tuarascáil an Phríomhfheidhmeannaigh

The Chief Executives Report was discussed. Issues raised by the members were responded to.

7.0 Notices of Motion/Fógraí Rúin

7.1 Standing in the name of Cllr. Andrea Dalton

Proposed by Councillor A. Dalton

Seconded by Councillor J. Pender and

Agreed following a show of hands

“This motion requests Carlow County Council to explore the provision of park and ride area near Junction 5 on the motorway (Tinryland) as there is an unused parcel of land owned by the Council near here. The motion would like to see this land assessed for suitability for a park and ride area and if deemed suitable progressed to the development of same. This motion is brought to County Council level as this area straddles 2 Municipal Districts - Carlow and Tullow”

7.2 Standing in the name of Cllr. Adrienne Wallace

Proposed by Councillor A. Wallace

Seconded by Councillor J. Cassin and

Agreed following a show of hands

“This Council notes that the government set an annual target of 70,000 retrofits to a B2 rating but have only achieved 28,800 under the National Residential Retrofit Plan and that there is an average of a two year wait for households applying for the Better Energy Warmer Homes Scheme. As such this Council will write to An Taoiseach, Minister Eamonn Ryan, and Minister Malcolm Noonan to urge that the Government's National Retrofitting Plan is revised to ensure it is accessible for people on lower incomes and delivered in a timely fashion with consideration to the climate emergency we are in.

In addition, this Council will ask the department to introduce schemes to allow private homeowners to opt-in to retrofitting when social housing in their area is being upgraded. This could save time and money and help meet ambitious retrofitting targets.”

8.0 Any other business with the consent of the Cathaoirleach/Aon gnó eile le haontú an Chathaoirligh

None

9.0 Presentation to Civil Defence Volunteers – Covid 19 Medals

In acknowledgement by the Government for the exceptional service given by the Civil Defence Volunteers, for their work in assisting in the community during the Covid 19 Pandemic, Covid 19 medals will be presented to 9,500 volunteers across the Country.

The Cathaoirleach presented ten members of Carlow Civil Defence with Covid 19 Medals.

This concluded the business of the meeting