

**CORPORATE POLICY GROUP**

Minutes of the meeting held at 9.00 am on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2022 in the Setanta Room, County Hall, Dundalk.

**In attendance:**

**Cathaoirleach -** Cllr. Conor Keelan

**Members:** Cllr. John Reilly  
Cllr. John Sheridan

**Apologies:** Cllrs. Joanna Byrne, Liam Reilly, Pio Smith

**Officials:** Joan Martin, Chief Executive  
Paddy Donnelly, Director of Services  
Thomas McEvoy, Director of Services  
Bernie Woods, Head of Finance  
Bryan Coughlan, A/Director of Services  
Willie Walsh, A/Director of Services  
Gráinne Tuomey, Meetings Administrator

**1. Minutes of 8<sup>th</sup> June 2022**

The Minutes were deferred for adoption to the next meeting as there were insufficient Members present who had attended the 8<sup>th</sup> of June meeting. Members present at June meeting were Councillors Joanna Byrne, Maria Doyle and Pio Smith. While Cllr. Doyle has rescinded her seat the minutes can still be approved on attendance of Councillors Byrne and Smith.

**2. Minutes of 6<sup>th</sup> July 2022**

Adoption of the Minutes of the meeting of 6<sup>th</sup> July 2022 were:

**Proposed by:** Cllr John Sheridan

**Seconded by:** Cllr Conor Keelan

And resolved.

**3. Council Meeting Agendas**

Members were given a briefing on all items in the Council Agendas including (but not exclusively):

- Local Property Tax – the Chief Executive will give a shorter version of the workshop presentation to full Council.
- Budget dates for confirmation.
- Chief Executive Report on the Draft Development Contribution Scheme for North Drogheda for adoption by Councillors, this was described as very important.
- Three S.183 proposals being brought before Members, 1 for additional lands to Creative Spark to allow for expansion, 1 for rectification of historic disposal that was never finalised, 1 for fee simple to grant freehold.

- Nominations for various boards which need to be resolved by Council.
- Approval of an additional €3.5m Home Loan Application is before the council for approval following exhaustion of previous €5m loan approved.
- Outstanding report under S.141 Annual Reporting of Committee Members – LAMA.
- Members were advised the Scheme of Priority for Affordable Dwelling Purchase Arrangements 2022 had been presented to SPC, was with CPG for noting, and was agreed to go before Members for approval as a reserved function.

**4. Allocation of Members Community Grants provided for under Section 66 of the Local Government Act 2001**

Members considered the Community Grants as presented to them, and it was:

**Proposed by:** Cllr John Sheridan

**Seconded by:** Cllr Conor Keelan

And approved to bring these to full Council for consideration.

**5. To consider and recommend Conferences and Events**

Members considered upcoming Conferences and Events as presented to them, and it was :

**Proposed by:** Cllr John Sheridan

**Seconded by:** Cllr Conor Keelan

And approved to bring these to full Council for consideration.

**6. Mutual Swaps between SPC's for Approval**

A discussion took place around requested mutual swaps of SPC Members

The following was agreed:

Cllr Maria Doyle to join Housing SPC following her resignation and Cllr John Reilly's subsequent approval by resolution as Chair to the Planning SPC

Other mutual swap proposed was to be revisited by CPG at next meeting.

**7. Budget 2023 Process**

A budget workshop which was provided to Members in the first week in September, with low attendance, will be briefed to full Council.

**8. Proposed Civic Reception**

Proposals before the CPG for Civic Receptions were discussed along with other medal winners locally. It was suggested that either one reception for all be held or that nominations form part of normal civic awards. It was noted that budget has been exhausted due to the number of receptions held to date in 2022 and that individual awards incur significant costs. It was agreed that the Cathaoirleach should refer these back to the MD for further discussion.

**9. Louth SPC/JPC IFA Membership**

The proposal from the IFA to replace the existing member of three SPCs with three new members was welcomed. It was thought that this format might assist with better attendance. Approval to put this and the nominees for JPC before full Council for resolution was

**Proposed by** Cllr John Sheridan

**Seconded by** Cllr John O'Reilly

And approved

**10. LECP 2023-2029 Process**

The Chief Executive advised the new LECP was not radically different from the existing plan but built on and simplified the format of the plan, making it more readable and accessible. It will incorporate necessary changes on Climate Action and Energy Saving measures and would see a change to Directors with the new changes to the Directorates, so Joe McGuinness would replace Paddy Donnelly on the Community Side, with Thomas McEvoy on the Economic side.

**11. Members Communication Plan**

Sugar cases are examined weekly by the Senior Management Team.

Members complimented the front desk teams on assistance and responses given, with Cllr Sheridan noting 4 different queries he submitted were all handled extremely professionally and timely, a sentiment which was echoed by the Cathaoirleach.

**12. SPC Work Programmes**

This is a standing item – no updates were discussed.

**13. AOB**

Members were reminded of the upcoming visit of Minister Eamon Ryan to County Hall.

There being no other business, the meeting concluded.

The Minutes were confirmed at a meeting of the Corporate Policy Group held on:

Date: 5<sup>th</sup> Oct 2022  
Cathaoirleach: Conor Keenan  
Meetings Administrator: Alice Quaney