

**MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER MEETING OF LAOIS COUNTY COUNCIL HELD  
IN ARAS AN CHONTAE, PORTLAOISE, ON THE 18<sup>TH</sup> OF DECEMBER 2017**

<b><u>PRESENT:</u></b>	<b>Councillor</b> <b>Padraig Fleming</b>	In the Chair
	<b>Councillors</b> William Aird	Paddy Bracken
	Ben Brennan	Paschal McEvoy
	Catherine Fitzgerald	Brendan Phelan
	David Goodwin	Tom Mulhall
	Seamus McDonald	Noel Tuohy
	John Joe Fennelly	James Kelly
	Mary Sweeney	Aidan Mullins
	Jerry Lodge	John Moran
	John King	Caroline Dwane Stanley

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Messrs John Mulholland, Chief Executive, Kieran Kehoe, Director of Services, Gerry Murphy, Head of Finance, Mr. Donal Brennan, Director of Services, Ms. Irene Delaney, Administrative Officer & Ms. Michelle McCormack, Executive Secretary.

**176. CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER MEETING OF LAOIS COUNTY COUNCIL HELD ON THE 27<sup>TH</sup> OF NOVEMBER 2017**

On the proposition of Councillor John King seconded by Councillor Paschal McEvoy, the Minutes of the November meeting held on the 27<sup>th</sup> of November 2017 were confirmed as circulated.

**177. REPORT ON CPG MEETING HELD ON THE 20<sup>TH</sup> OF NOVEMBER 2017**

On the proposition of Councillor Seamus McDonald seconded by Councillor John Joe Fennelly, the report on the CPG meeting held on the 20<sup>th</sup> of November 2017 was confirmed as circulated.

**178. REPORT ON MUNICIPAL DISTRICT MEETINGS HELD IN NOVEMBER 2017**

On the proposition of Councillor John Joe Fennelly seconded by Councillor Seamus McDonald, the reports on the Municipal District Meetings held in November 2017 were confirmed as circulated.

**179. CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSED JOINT CIVIC RECEPTION TO KILN LANE RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION & MOUNTRATH KETTLEBELLS**

It was noted that this matter was recommended for consideration by the Corporate Policy Group on the 11<sup>th</sup> of December 2017 and also by the Members at an in-committee meeting held on the 18<sup>th</sup> of December 2017. On the proposition of Councillor James Kelly seconded by Councillor John Joe Fennelly, the Members unanimously agreed to hold a joint Civic Reception to Kiln Lane Residents Association & Mountrath Kettlebells.

**180. DISPOSAL OF LAND UNDER SECTION 183 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT, 2001**

**(i) DISPOSAL OF FREEHOLD INTEREST AT 11 BELADD, PORTLAOISE, CO. LAOIS.**

On the proposition of Councillor Willie Aird seconded by Councillor Catherine Fitzgerald, the Members unanimously agreed to the disposal of freehold interest at 11 Beladd, Portlaoise, Co. Laois in the townland of Beladd for a consideration of €300,000

**(ii) DISPOSAL OF 0.318 HECTARES OF LAND AT ROCKFOREST, DERRYGOONEY, KNOCK, ROSCREA, CO. TIPPERARY**

On the proposition of Councillor John King seconded by Councillor Brendan Phelan, the Members unanimously agreed to the disposal of 0.318 hectares of land at Rockforest, Derrygooney, Knock, Roscrea, Co. Tipperary in the townland of Rockforest for a consideration of €20,000

**181. REGIONAL, SPATIAL & ECONOMIC STRATEGY (RSES) FOR THE EASTERN & MIDLAND REGION – BRIEFING BY MR. KIERAN KEHOE, DIRECTOR OF SERVICES**

Mr. Kieran Kehoe, Director of Services delivered a brief presentation on the Regional, Spatial & Economic Strategy (RSES) for the Eastern & Midland Region. Mr. Kehoe advised the Members that the RSES is a strategic policy document setting out the vision for the development of the region over the next 12 years to 2030. Mr. Kehoe responded to the various queries raised by the Members and indicated that workshops will be scheduled in due course. Members were also informed that a public consultation process is ongoing at present and the closing date for the making of submissions to EMRA is the 26<sup>th</sup> of January 2018. Mr. Kehoe confirmed that work is ongoing in relation to the preparation of a submission from Laois County Council.

**182. ADOPTION OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE CHARTER 2018**

The Members were circulated with a copy of the Audit Committee Charter for 2018 and on the proposition of Councillor Jerry Lodge seconded by Councillor John Joe Fennelly, the Members unanimously adopted the Audit Committee Charter 2018 as presented.

**183. ADOPTION OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE ANNUAL WORK PROGRAMME 2018**

The Members were circulated with a copy of the Audit Committee Annual Work Programme for 2018 and on the proposition of Councillor Jerry Lodge seconded by Councillor Paddy Bracken, the Members unanimously adopted the Audit Committee Annual Work Programme for 2018.

**184. REPORT ON COMMITTEE'S FINDINGS IN RELATION TO THE AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENT AND STATUTORY AUDIT REPORT 2016**

The members were circulated with a copy of the Committee's findings in relation to the Audited Financial Statement and Statutory Audit Report 2016 and on the proposition of Councillor Jerry Lodge seconded by Councillor John Joe Fennelly, the Members unanimously adopted the report on the Committee's findings in relation to the Audited Financial Statement and Statutory Audit Report 2016

**185. LAOIS COUNTY COUNCIL MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT FOR DECEMBER 2017**

Mr. John Mulholland, Chief Executive briefed the meeting on this matter and the report for December was circulated. The report was unanimously agreed and noted. A number of queries were raised on the report and the Directors of Services responded to the various queries raised.

**186. PRESENTATION BY MS. AMY KELLY & MR. JIMMY MCGOVERN ON BEHALF OF THE UNION OF STUDENTS IN IRELAND ON THE CASSEL'S REPORT**

The Cathaoirleach welcomed Ms. Amy Kelly and Mr. Jimmy McGovern representing the Union of Students in Ireland to deliver their presentation on the Cassel's Report and the proposals in relation to the future funding of third level education in Ireland. The Union of Students in Ireland sought the support of Laois County Council in relation to their proposals to devise a more equitable solution.

On the proposition of Councillor John King seconded by Councillor James Kelly, the Members unanimously agreed that the matter be given further consideration by the tabling of a motion for consideration at the January or February Council meeting.

On the proposition of Councillor John King and unanimously agreed, the Members proposed a deputation comprising of the following Members:-

- Councillor Jerry Lodge
- Councillor John King
- Councillor James Kelly
- Councillor Padraig Fleming, Cathaoirleach

to meet with Minister Richard Bruton, Minister for Education & Skills to discuss the matter further.

**187. RATIFICATION OF CONFERENCES/ATTENDANCE AT TRAINING**

The Members were circulated with the list of conferences/training for ratification and forthcoming conferences/training which was agreed.

## **188. CORRESPONDENCE**

The following correspondence was circulated which had been received since the last meeting of Laois County Council:

- (i) Correspondence to the Cathaoirleach from the Minister of Health in relation to Portlaoise General Hospital dated the 1<sup>st</sup> of December 2017

## **189. NOTICE OF MOTIONS**

### **Notice of Motion No: 52/2017**

Councillor Willie Aird proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That Laois County Council requests Mr. Charles Flanagan, T.D., Minister for Justice & Equality to write to Chief Superintendent, John Scanlon to ensure that crimes that are associated with the midlands prison in Portlaoise are not reported as part of the crime lists for Laois”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor John King. It was agreed that a letter issue to Minister Flanagan in this regard.

### **The following two Notice of Motions were taken together**

### **Notice of Motion No: 53/2017**

Councillor Willie Aird proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That Laois County Council invite Mr. Simon Harris, T.D., Minister for Health and Dr. Susan O’ Reilly to attend the January meeting of Laois County Council to discuss the future of the Midlands Regional hospital at Portlaoise”***

### **Notice of Motion No: 55/2017**

Councillor Tom Mulhall proposed the following Notice of Motion:

***“That this Council write to Mr. Simon Harris, Minister for Health, calling on him to meet with the public representatives in Laois as promised at this meeting in January 2017 in Portlaoise in relation to the future of Portlaoise Hospital”***

Both Notice of Motions were seconded by Councillor John King . A lengthy discussion ensued regarding the issue of the Midlands Regional hospital at Portlaoise.

During the discussion reference was made to Minister Simon Harris’ meeting with Minister Charles Flanagan & Deputies Sean Fleming & Brian Stanley held on Friday, December 15<sup>th</sup> 2017. Following that meeting, the Minister and the two T.D.s were subsequently informed that the H.S.E. proposed to launch the Dublin Midlands

Hospital Group Strategic Plan 2018-2023 on Thursday, 21<sup>st</sup> of December 2017 at 11.00 a.m. in Trinity Biomedical Sciences Institute.

The Members referred to the commitment given by Minister Harris when he met the Members of Laois County Council in January 2017 in the Killeshin Hotel, Portlaoise indicating that he would revert back to them prior to any decision being made regarding the Midlands Regional Hospital.

On the proposition of Councillor Caroline Dwane Stanley seconded by Councillor Catherine Fitzgerald, the Members unanimously passed a Motion that the Minister for Health, Mr. Simon Harris be requested to cancel this launch having regard to the uncertainty regarding the future of the Midlands Regional Hospital, Portlaoise. It was agreed that immediate contact be made with Minister Simon Harris in this regard so that further discussions can take place in relation to this matter.

It was also agreed that Minister Simon Harris & Dr. Susan O' Reilly be requested to attend the January meeting of Laois County Council.

**Notice of Motion No: 54/2017**

Councillor Noel Tuohy proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That this Council compliment all those involved in organising the hugely successful hospital rally and those who attended”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Catherine Fitzgerald and noted.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

**SIGNED:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**CATHAOIRLEACH**

**CERTIFIED:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**DIRECTOR OF SERVICES  
CORPORATE AFFAIRS**

