

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF LAOIS COUNTY COUNCIL HELD ON THE
21ST OF JUNE 2024 IN ÁRAS AN CHONTAE**

PRESENT:	Councillors	Paschal McEvoy	In the Chair
		Willie Aird	Conor Bergin
		Paddy Bracken	Ben Brennan
		Ollie Clooney	Caroline Dwane Stanley
		John Joe Fennelly	Catherine Fitzgerald
		Padraig Fleming	James Kelly
		John King	Seamus McDonald
		Aisling Moran	Tommy Mulligan
		Aidan Mullins	Vivienne Phelan
		Marie Tuohy	Barry Walsh

IN ATTENDANCE:

Mr. Simon Walton, Interim Chief Executive, Mr. Donal Brennan, Director of Services, Mr. Gerry Murphy, Head of Finance, Ms. Angela McEvoy, Director of Services, Mr. Paul McLoughlin, A/Director of Services, Ms. Irene Delaney, Administrative Officer & Ms. Michelle McCormack, S.O.

(87) Declaration by Returning Officer of persons to be Members of Laois County Council and their respective Municipal Districts as a result of a poll taken on the 7th of June 2024

Ms. Irene Delaney, Administrative Officer read the declared results of the poll taken on the 7th of June 2024 to secure the seats on Laois County Council in the three Municipal Districts as follows:-

Borris-in-Ossosry/Mountmellick Municipal District

1. Conor Bergin, Shanboe, Borris-in-Ossory, Co. Laois.
2. James Kelly, Main Street, Mountrath, Co. Laois.
3. Paddy Bracken, Garoon, Mountmellick, Co. Laois.
4. John King, Church Street, Rathdowney, Co. Laois.
5. Ollie Clooney, The Swan Road, Durrow, Co. Laois.
6. Seamus McDonald, Drummond, Rosenallis, Co. Laois.

Graiguecullen/Portarlinton Municipal District

1. Aidan Mullins, Foxcroft Street, Portarlinton, Co. Laois.
2. Paschal McEvoy, 13 The Glebe, Stradbally, Co. Laois.
3. Ben Brennan, Monavea, Crettyard, Co. Laois.
4. Padraig Fleming, Westbank House, The Swan, via Athy, Co. Laois.
5. Aisling Moran, Cullenagh, Ballylinan, Co. Laois.
6. Vivienne Phelan, Upper Main Street, Stradbally, Co. Laois.

Portlaoise Municipal District

1. Willie Aird, Nutgrove, Abbeyleix Road, Portlaoise, Co. Laois.
2. Caroline Dwane Stanley, 40 Clonrooske Abbey, Portlaoise, Co. Laois.
3. Tommy Mulligan, 25 Kylebrook, Abbeyleix Road, Portlaoise, Co. Laois.
4. John Joe Fennelly, Ballymullen, Abbeyleix, Co. Laois.
5. Catherine Fitzgerald, 14 Cherrygarth, Portlaoise, Co. Laois.
6. Marie Tuohy, Summerhill Lane, Stradbally Road, Portlaoise, Co. Laois.
7. Barry Walsh, Main Street, Ballyroan, Co. Laois.

(88) PRESENTATION TO OUTGOING CATHAOIRLEACH

Mr. Simon Walton, Interim Chief Executive made a formal presentation to Councillor Paschal McEvoy, the outgoing Cathaoirleach of a bound book of the minutes of meetings together with a photo album containing photographs of various events held during the year. Mr. Walton on behalf of the Management and Staff thanked Councillor McEvoy for his assistance during his term as Cathaoirleach of Laois County Council.

The Members individually and collectively also thanked the outgoing Cathaoirleach, Councillor Paschal McEvoy, for his work and dedication during his term as Cathaoirleach of Laois County Council. Councillor McEvoy thanked the Interim Chief Executive & Staff of Laois County Council and also his fellow elected Members for the sentiments expressed.

(89) Election of Cathaoirleach

It was proposed by Councillor John Joe Fennelly and seconded by Councillor Catherine Fitzgerald:

“That Councillor Pdraig Fleming be appointed Cathaoirleach for the coming year”

It was proposed by Councillor Aisling Moran and seconded by Councillor Marie Tuohy:

“That Councillor James Kelly be appointed Cathaoirleach for the coming year”

A Roll Call Vote was taken which resulted as follows:

COUNCILLOR		FOR COUNCILLOR FLEMING	FOR COUNCILLOR KELLY	ABSTAIN
FIRST NAME	SURNAME			
William	AIRD	✓		
Conor	BERGIN	✓		
Paddy	BRACKEN	✓		
Ben	BRENNAN		✓	
Ollie	CLOONEY	✓		
Caroline	DWANE STANLEY		✓	
John Joe	FENNELLY	✓		
Catherine	FITZGERALD	✓		
Padraig	FLEMING	✓		
James	KELLY		✓	
John	KING	✓		
Seamus	MCDONALD	✓		
Paschal	MCEVOY	✓		
Aisling	MORAN		✓	
Tommy	MULLIGAN		✓	
Aidan	MULLINS		✓	
Vivienne	PHELAN	✓		
Marie	TUOHY		✓	
Barry	WALSH	✓		

The result of the Roll Call Vote was as follows:-

- ❖ 12 votes in favour of Councillor Pdraig Fleming
- ❖ 7 votes in favour of Councillor James Kelly

Councillor Pdraig Fleming having been elected Cathaoirleach, thanked his proposer and seconder and his colleagues who supported him and he then took the Chair. The Interim Chief Executive, Mr. Simon Walton, on behalf of the Management and Staff at Áras an Chontae extended warm congratulations to Councillor Pdraig Fleming on his election.

(90) Election of Leas-Cathaoirleach

It was proposed by Councillor Willie Aird and seconded by Councillor Conor Bergin:

“That Councillor John King be appointed Leas-Cathaoirleach for the coming year”

It was proposed by Councillor James Kelly and seconded by Councillor Caroline Dwane Stanley:

“That Councillor Ben Brennan be appointed Leas-Cathaoirleach for the coming year”

A Roll Call Vote was taken which resulted as follows:

COUNCILLOR		FOR COUNCILLOR KING	FOR COUNCILLOR BRENNAN	ABSTAIN
FIRST NAME	SURNAME			
William	AIRD	✓		
Conor	BERGIN	✓		
Paddy	BRACKEN	✓		
Ben	BRENNAN		✓	
Ollie	CLOONEY	✓		
Caroline	DWANE STANLEY		✓	
John Joe	FENNELLY	✓		
Catherine	FITZGERALD	✓		
Pdraig	FLEMING	✓		
James	KELLY		✓	
John	KING	✓		
Seamus	MCDONALD	✓		
Paschal	MCEVOY	✓		
Aisling	MORAN		✓	
Tommy	MULLIGAN		✓	
Aidan	MULLINS		✓	
Vivienne	PHELAN	✓		
Marie	TUOHY	✓		
Barry	WALSH		✓	

The result of the Roll Call Vote was as follows:-

- ❖ 12 votes in favour of Councillor John King
- ❖ 7 votes in favour of Councillor Ben Brennan

Councillor John King having been elected Leas Cathaoirleach, thanked his proposer and seconder and his colleagues who supported him.

(91) Confirm date for the first meetings of the Municipal Districts (in accordance with Paragraph 57(b)(4)(b) of the Local Government Reform Act, 2014 as follows:-

- On the proposition of Councillor Willie Aird seconded by Councillor Catherine Fitzgerald, the Members agreed that the Portlaoise Municipal District would take place on the 26th of June 2024 at 11.00 a.m.
- On the proposition of Councillor Aidan Mullins seconded by Councillor Ben Brennan, the Members agreed that the Graiguecullen/Portarlinton Municipal District would take place on the 26th of June 2024 at 2.00 p.m.
- On the proposition of Councillor John King seconded by Councillor Conor Bergin, the Members agreed that the Borris-in-Ossory/Mountmellick Municipal District would take place on the 27th of June 2024 at 9.30 a.m.

(92) Appoint 7 Members to the Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee

The Cathaoirleach advised the Members that these appointments are subject to grouping under Paragraph 18 of Schedule 10 of the Local Government Act, 2001 as amended. The minimum number to form a group for these appointments is 3. The Cathaoirleach enquired if Members wished to form a group for these appointments.

Councillors Tommy Mulligan, Caroline Dwane Stanley & Aidan Mullins formed a group to propose the nomination of:

- **Councillor James Kelly**

Councillors Marie Tuohy, James Kelly & Ben Brennan formed a group to propose the nomination of:

- **Councillor Tommy Mulligan**

No further groups were formed and the remaining Members were elected by those Members who did not form a group.

On the proposition of Councillor John Joe Fennelly and seconded by Councillor Catherine Fitzgerald, the following members were nominated:

- **Councillor Catherine Fitzgerald**
- **Councillor Paddy Bracken**
- **Councillor Paschal McEvoy**

On the proposition of Councillor Willie Aird and seconded by Councillor Conor Bergin, the following members were nominated:

- **Councillor John King**
- **Councillor Vivienne Phelan**

The Members appointed to the Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee were Councillor James Kelly, Councillor Tommy Mulligan, Councillor Catherine Fitzgerald, Councillor Paddy Bracken, Councillor Paschal McEvoy, Councillor John King, and Councillor Vivienne Phelan.

(93) Appoint 9 Members (three from each Municipal District) to the Naming Committee

The Cathaoirleach advised the Members that these appointments are subject to grouping under Paragraph 18 of Schedule 10 of the Local Government Act, 2001 as amended. The minimum number to form a group for these appointments is 3. The Cathaoirleach enquired if Members wished to form a group for these appointments.

Councillors Tommy Mulligan, Aidan Mullins & Caroline Dwane Stanley formed a group to propose the nomination of:-

- **Councillor James Kelly**

Councillors Marie Tuohy, James Kelly & Ben Brennan formed a group to propose the nomination of:-

- **Councillor Marie Tuohy**

The following Members sought to form an additional group - Councillors Aisling Moran, James Kelly & Marie Tuohy to propose the nomination of:-

- **Councillor Ben Brennan**

Following a request for clarification, the Members were advised by Mr. Donal Brennan, Director of Services that the appointments to this Committee was on the basis of 9 appointments and not 3 separate appointments of 3 Members to each Municipal District. Those seeking to form a group to nominate Councillor Ben Brennan withdrew the nomination and requested that their disagreement with the interpretation be noted in the minutes of the meeting.

No further groups were formed and the remaining Members were elected by those Members who did not form a group.

On the proposition of Councillor John Joe Fennelly and seconded by Councillor Seamus McDonald, the following members were nominated:

- **Councillor Catherine Fitzgerald**
- **Councillor Paddy Bracken**
- **Councillor Pdraig Fleming**
- **Councillor Paschal McEvoy**

On the proposition of Councillor Willie Aird and seconded by Councillor John King, the following members were nominated:

- **Councillor Conor Bergin**
- **Councillor Vivienne Phelan**
- **Councillor Willie Aird**

The Members appointed to the Naming Committee were Councillor James Kelly, Councillor Marie Tuohy, Councillor Ben Brennan, Councillor Catherine Fitzgerald, Councillor Paddy Bracken, Councillor Pdraig Fleming, Councillor Paschal McEvoy, Councillor Conor Bergin, Councillor Vivienne Phelan, and Councillor Willie Aird.

(94) Appoint 6 Members to the Laois & Offaly Education & Training Board (three to be male and three to be female)

The Cathaoirleach advised that Laois County Council is required to establish panels of candidates for election comprising of all the female and male members of Laois County Council who seek election to the Laois & Offaly Education & Training Board. The three female appointments to be taken first.

On the proposition of Councillor John Joe Fennelly seconded by Councillor Paschal McEvoy, the following Member was nominated:-

- **Councillor Catherine Fitzgerald**

On the proposition of Councillor Willie Aird seconded by Councillor John King, the following Member was nominated:-

- **Councillor Vivienne Phelan**

On the proposition of Councillor Aisling Moran seconded by Councillor James Kelly, the following Member was nominated:-

- **Councillor Caroline Dwane Stanley**

As there were no further nominations, the above Members were deemed appointed to the Laois & Offaly Education & Training Board.

The Cathaoirleach then proceeded with the male appointments.

On the proposition of Councillor John Joe Fennelly seconded by Councillor Paschal McEvoy, the following Member was nominated:-

- **Councillor Ollie Clooney**

On the proposition of Councillor Aisling Moran seconded by Councillor James Kelly, the following Member was nominated:-

- **Councillor Tommy Mulligan**

On the proposition of Councillor Barry Walsh seconded by Councillor Vivienne Phelan, the following Member was nominated:-

- **Councillor John King**

As there were no further nominations, the above Members were appointed to the Laois & Offaly Education & Training Board.

(96) Election of Chairs Designate to the Four Strategic Policy Committees

The Cathaoirleach advised the Members that these appointments are subject to grouping under Paragraph 18 of Schedule 10 of the Local Government Act, 2001 as amended. The minimum number to form a group for these appointments is 5. The Cathaoirleach enquired if Members wished to form a group for these appointments.

Councillors Aisling Moran, Ben Brennan, Marie Tuohy, Caroline Dwane Stanley & Aidan Mullins formed a group to propose the nomination of the following:-

- **Councillor James Kelly**

No further groups were formed and the remaining Members were elected by those Members who did not form a group.

On the proposition of Catherine Fitzgerald seconded by Councillor Paschal McEvoy, the following Members were nominated:-

- **Councillor John Joe Fennelly**
- **Councillor Paddy Bracken**

On the proposition of Councillor Barry Walsh seconded by Councillor Vivienne Phelan, the following Member was nominated

- **Councillor Willie Aird**

As there were no further nominations, the above Members were appointed as Chairs Designate to the Strategic Policy Committees.

(97) Nominate 3 Members as delegates to the Association of Irish Local Government

The Cathaoirleach advised the Members that these appointments are subject to grouping under Paragraph 18 of Schedule 10 of the Local Government Act, 2001 as amended. The minimum number to form a group for these appointments is 7. The Cathaoirleach enquired if Members wished to form a group for these appointments. No groups were formed for these nominations.

On the proposition of Councillor James Kelly seconded by Councillor Ben Brennan, the following Member was nominated:-

- **Councillor Aisling Moran**

On the proposition of Councillor Willie Aird seconded by Councillor Barry Walsh, the following Member was nominated:-

- **Councillor John King**

On the proposition of Councillor Catherine Fitzgerald seconded by Councillor Paschal McEvoy, the following Member was nominated:-

- **Councillor John Joe Fennelly**

As there were no further nominations, the above Members were appointed as delegates to the Association of Irish Local Government.

(98) Appoint 3 Members to the Local Community Development Committee

The Cathaoirleach advised the Members that these appointments are subject to grouping under Paragraph 18 of Schedule 10 of the Local Government Act, 2001 as amended. The minimum number to form a group for these appointments is 7. The Cathaoirleach enquired if Members wished to form a group for these appointments.

Councillors Aisling Moran, Ben Brennan, James Kelly, Marie Tuohy, Caroline Dwane Stanley, Aidan Mullins & Tommy Mulligan formed a group and proposed the nomination of the following Member:-

- **Councillor Tommy Mulligan**

No further groups were formed and the remaining Members were elected by those Members who did not form a group.

On the proposition of Councillor John Joe Fennelly seconded by Councillor Catherine Fitzgerald, the following Member was nominated:-

- **Councillor Paschal McEvoy**

On the proposition of Councillor Willie Aird seconded by Councillor Barry Walsh, the following Member was nominated:-

- **Councillor John King**

As there were no further nominations, the above Members were appointed to the Local Community Development Committee.

(99) Appoint 3 Members to the Laois Arts Theatre Company Ltd (Dunamaise Arts Centre)

The Cathaoirleach advised that the Grouping System does not apply to these appointments.

On the proposition of Councillor James Kelly seconded by Councillor Aisling Moran, the following Member was nominated:-

- **Councillor Tommy Mulligan**

On the proposition of Councillor John Joe Fennelly seconded by Councillor Catherine Fitzgerald, the following Member was nominated:-

- **Councillor Pdraig Fleming**

On the proposition of Councillor Willie Aird seconded by Councillor Barry Walsh, the following Member was nominated:-

- **Councillor Vivienne Phelan**

As there were no further nominations, the above Members were appointed as the Council nominees to the Laois Arts Theatre Company Ltd (Dunamaise Arts Centre)

(100) Appoint 2 Members to the Board of Laois Leisure Limited

The Cathaoirleach advised that the Grouping System does not apply to these appointments.

On the proposition of Councillor James Kelly seconded by Councillor Aisling Moran, the following Member was nominated:-

- **Councillor Marie Tuohy**

On the proposition of Councillor Willie Aird seconded by Councillor John King, the following Member was nominated:-

- **Councillor Vivienne Phelan**

The above two members were appointed as the Council nominees to the Board of Laois Leisure.

(101) Appoint 3 Members to the Portlaoise Enterprise Centre Limited

The Cathaoirleach advised that the Grouping System does not apply to these appointments.

Following a request for clarification, the Members were advised by Mr. Donal Brennan, Director of Services that the appointments to this limited Company are not subject to the Grouping System. Those seeking to form a group requested that their disagreement with the interpretation be noted in the minutes of the meeting.

On the proposition of Councillor James Kelly seconded by Councillor Aisling Moran, the following Member was nominated:-

- **Councillor Tommy Mulligan.**

However, the meeting was advised by Mr. Donal Brennan, Director of Services that the grouping system under Paragraph 18 of Schedule 10 of the Local Government Act, 2001 as amended does not apply to appointments to limited Companies.

On the proposition of Councillor Catherine Fitzgerald seconded by Councillor Seamus McDonald, the following Member was nominated:-

- **Councillor John Joe Fennelly**

On the proposition of Councillor Barry Walsh seconded by Councillor John King, the following Member was nominated:-

- **Councillor Willie Aird**

On the proposition of Councillor Willie Aird seconded by Councillor John King, the following Member was nominated:-

- **Councillor Barry Walsh**

A discussion ensued following which Councillor Barry Walsh withdrew his nomination. No further nominations were submitted.

Therefore, Councillors Tommy Mulligan, John Joe Fennelly & Willie Aird were appointed as the Council nominees to the Board of Portlaoise Enterprise Centre.

(102) Appoint 2 Members to the Portarlington Enterprise Centre Limited

The Cathaoirleach advised that the Grouping System does not apply to these appointments.

On the proposition of Councillor James Kelly seconded by Councillor Aisling Moran, the following Member was nominated:-

- **Councillor Aidan Mullins**

On the proposition of Councillor Willie Aird seconded by Councillor Barry Walsh, the following Member was nominated:-

- **Councillor Vivienne Phelan**

Therefore, Councillors Aidan Mullins and Councillor Vivienne Phelan were appointed as the Council nominees to the Board of Portarlington Enterprise Centre.

(103) Appoint 3 Members to the Kyletelesha Monitoring Committee

The Cathaoirleach advised the Members that these appointments are subject to grouping under Paragraph 18 of Schedule 10 of the Local Government Act, 2001 as amended. The minimum number to form a group for these appointments is 7. The Cathaoirleach enquired if Members wished to form a group for these appointments.

Councillors Aisling Moran, Ben Brennan, James Kelly, Marie Tuohy, Caroline Dwane Stanley, Aidan Mullins and Tommy Mulligan formed a group to propose the appointment of the following Member:-

- **Councillor Marie Tuohy**

No further groups were formed and the remaining Members were elected by those Members who did not form a group.

On the proposition of Councillor John Joe Fennelly seconded by Councillor Catherine Fitzgerald, the following Member was nominated:-

- **Councillor Paddy Bracken**

On the proposition of Councillor Barry Walsh seconded by Councillor Vivienne Phelan, the following Member was nominated:-

- **Councillor Willie Aird**

As there were no further nominations, the above Members were appointed to the Kyletelesha Monitoring Committee.

(104) Appoint 3 Members to the Rural Water Monitoring Committee

The Cathaoirleach advised the Members that these appointments are subject to grouping under Paragraph 18 of Schedule 10 of the Local Government Act, 2001 as amended. The minimum number to form a group for these appointments is 7. The Cathaoirleach enquired if Members wished to form a group for these appointments. No groups were formed for these appointments.

On the proposition of Councillor James Kelly seconded by Councillor Aisling Moran, the following Member was nominated:-

- **Councillor Ben Brennan**

On the proposition of Councillor Catherine Fitzgerald seconded by Councillor John Joe Fennelly, the following Member was nominated:-

- **Councillor Padraig Fleming**

On the proposition of Councillor John King seconded by Councillor Barry Walsh, the following Member was nominated:-

- **Councillor Conor Bergin**

As there were no further nominations, the above Members were appointed to the Rural Water Monitoring Committee.

(105) Appoint 3 Members to the Leader LAG

The Cathaoirleach advised the Members that these appointments are subject to grouping under Paragraph 18 of Schedule 10 of the Local Government Act, 2001 as amended. The minimum number to form a group for these appointments is 7. The Cathaoirleach enquired if Members wished to form a group for these appointments.

On the proposition of Councillor Willie Aird seconded by Councillor Vivienne Phelan, the following Member was nominated:-

- **Councillor Barry Walsh**

On the proposition of Councillor John Joe Fennelly seconded by Councillor Catherine Fitzgerald, the following Member was nominated:-

- **Councillor Paschal McEvoy**

On the proposition of Councillor James Kelly seconded by Councillor Ben Brennan, the following Member was nominated:-

- **Councillor Aisling Moran**

As there were no further nominations, the above Members were confirmed as the Council nominees to the Leader Local Action Group.

(106) Appoint 3 Members to the Dublin Mid-Leinster Regional Health Forum

The Cathaoirleach advised the Members that these appointments are subject to grouping under paragraph 8 of the Health Act, 2014 (Regional Health Forums) Regulations 2005. The minimum number to form a group for these appointments is 7. The Cathaoirleach enquired if Members wished to form a group for these appointments. No groups were formed for these appointments.

On the proposition of Councillor Willie Aird seconded by Councillor Barry Walsh, the following Member was nominated:-

- **Councillor John King**

On the proposition of Councillor James Kelly seconded by Councillor Ben Brennan, the following Member was nominated:-

- **Councillor Aisling Moran**

On the proposition of Councillor John Joe Fennelly seconded by Councillor Paddy Bracken, the following Member was nominated:-

- **Councillor Padraig Fleming**

As there were no further nominations, the above Members were confirmed as the Council nominees to the Dublin Mid-Leinster Regional Health Forum

(107) Appoint 2 Members to the Heritage Forum

The Cathaoirleach advised the Members that these appointments are subject to grouping under Paragraph 18 of Schedule 10 to the Local Government Act, 2001 as amended. The minimum number to form a group for these appointments is 10. The Cathaoirleach enquired if Members wished to form a group for these appointments. No groups were formed.

On the proposition of Councillor James Kelly seconded by Councillor Aisling Moran, the following Member was nominated:-

- **Councillor Tommy Mulligan.**

On the proposition of Councillor John King seconded by Councillor Conor Bergin, the following Member was nominated:-

- **Councillor Willie Aird**

On the proposition of Councillor John Joe Fennelly seconded by Councillor Catherine Fitzgerald, the following Member was nominated:-

- **Councillor Padraig Fleming**

Councillor Tommy Mulligan withdrew his nomination. No further nominations were submitted. Therefore, Councillor Padraig Fleming & Councillor Willie Aird were appointed.

(108) Appoint 2 Members to the Eastern & Midland Regional Assembly

The Cathaoirleach advised the Members that these appointments are subject to grouping under Paragraph 18 of Schedule 10 to the Local Government Act, 2001 as amended. The minimum number to form a group for these appointments is 10. The Cathaoirleach enquired if Members wished to form a group for these appointments. No groups were formed for these appointments.

On the proposition of Councillor Willie Aird seconded by Councillor Barry Walsh, the following Member was nominated:-

- **Councillor John King**

On the proposition of Councillor Paddy Bracken seconded by Councillor John Joe Fennelly, the following Member was nominated:-

- **Councillor Catherine Fitzgerald**

As there were no further nominations, the above Members were confirmed as the Council Nominees to the Eastern & Midland Regional Assembly.

(109) Appoint 2 Members to the Audit Committee

The Cathaoirleach advised the Members that these appointments are subject to grouping under Paragraph 18 of Schedule 10 to the Local Government Act, 2001 as amended. The minimum number to form a group for these appointments is 10. No group was formed.

On the proposition of Councillor Willie Aird seconded by Councillor Vivienne Phelan, the following Member was nominated:-

- **Councillor Conor Bergin**

On the proposition of Councillor John Joe Fennelly seconded by Councillor Seamus McDonald, the following Member was nominated:-

- **Councillor Padraig Fleming**

Councillor Aisling Moran enquired as to the possibility of a third nomination to the Audit Committee. Mr. Donal Brennan, Director of Services referred to the Local Government (Audit Committee) Regulations, 2014 which provides that the maximum Council membership of the Audit Committee is not more than two serving or retired Elected Members.

Councillor Conor Bergin and Councillor Padraig Fleming were appointed as members of the Audit Committee.

(110) Appoint 5 Members to the Public Events Committee

The Cathaoirleach advised that these appointments are subject to grouping under Paragraph 18 of Schedule 10 to the Local Government Act, 2001 as amended. The minimum number to form a group for these appointments is 4. The Cathaoirleach enquired if Members wished to form a group for these appointments.

Councillors Aisling Moran, Caroline Dwane Stanley, Tommy Mulligan, Ben Brennan & Aidan Mullins formed a group to propose the appointment of the following Member:

- **Councillor James Kelly**

Councillors Tommy Mulligan, Marie Tuohy, Ollie Clooney & James Kelly formed a group to propose the appointment of the following Member:-

- **Councillor Aisling Moran**

No further groups were formed and the remaining Members were elected by those Members who did not form a group.

On the proposition of Councillor Willie Aird seconded by Councillor Barry Walsh, the following Member was nominated:-

- **Councillor Vivienne Phelan**

On the proposition of Councillor John Joe Fennelly seconded by Councillor Seamus McDonald the following Members were-nominated:-

- **Councillor Paschal McEvoy**
- **Councillor Catherine Fitzgerald**

As there were no further nominations, the above Members were appointed to the Public Events Committee.

(111) Appoint the Cathaoirleach of Laois County Council & two Members as Directors to the Board of the Portlaoise Innovation Centre Designated Activity Company

The Cathaoirleach advised that the grouping system does not apply for these appointments.

On the proposition of Councillor James Kelly seconded by Councillor Ben Brennan, the following Member was appointed:-

- **Councillor Aisling Moran**

On the proposition of Councillor Barry Walsh seconded by Councillor John King, the following Member was appointed:-

- **Councillor Willie Aird**

On the proposition of Councillor Catherine Fitzgerald seconded by Councillor John Joe Fennelly, the following Member was appointed:-

- **Councillor Paschal McEvoy**

It was noted that Councillor Pdraig Fleming in his capacity as the serving Cathaoirleach is also appointed to the Board.

Councillor Aisling Moran withdrew her nomination. Thereby, Councillor Willie Aird & Councillor Paschal McEvoy were appointed as the Council Nominees to the Board.

(112) Appoint the Cathaoirleach & three additional Members (one from each group) to the Town Twinning Committee

The Cathaoirleach advised the Members that these appointments are subject to grouping under Paragraph 18 of Schedule 10 to the Local Government Act, 2001 as amended. The minimum number to form a group for these appointments is 7. The Cathaoirleach enquired if Members wished to form a group for these appointments.

It was noted that **Councillor Pdraig Fleming** in his capacity as the serving Cathaoirleach is also appointed to the Committee.

On the proposition of Councillor James Kelly seconded by Councillor Ben Brennan, the following Member was nominated:-

- **Councillor Aisling Moran**

On the proposition of Councillor Willie Aird seconded by Councillor John King, the following Member was nominated:-

- **Councillor Conor Bergin**

On the proposition of Councillor John Joe Fennelly seconded by Councillor Paschal McEvoy, the following Member was nominated:

- **Councillor Catherine Fitzgerald**

As there were no further nominations, the above Members were appointed to the Town Twinning Committee.

(113) Appoint 2 Members(one from Graiguecullen/Portarlinton MD & one from Portlaoise MD) to the Laois/Kilkenny Re-Inforcement Project Community Forum

The Cathaoirleach advised that these appointments are subject to grouping under Paragraph 18 of Schedule 10 to the Local Government Act, 2001 as amended. The minimum number to form a group for these appointments is 10. The Cathaoirleach enquired if Members wished to form a group for these appointments. No groups were formed for these appointments.

On the proposition of Councillor John Joe Fennelly seconded by Councillor Catherine Fitzgerald, the following Member was appointed to the Laois/Kilkenny Re-Inforcement Project Community Forum:-

- **Councillor Paschal McEvoy**

On the proposition of Councillor Barry Walsh seconded by Councillor Vivienne Phelan, the following Member was appointed to the Laois/Kilkenny Re-Inforcement Project Community Forum:-

- **Councillor Willie Aird**

(114) Appoint 1 delegate to attend the A.G.M. of Irish Public Bodies Insurances Ltd.

On the proposition of Councillor Catherine Fitzgerald seconded by Councillor Paschal McEvoy, the following Member was nominated to attend the A.G.M. of Irish Public Bodies Insurances Ltd:-

- **Councillor John Joe Fennelly**

On the proposition of Councillor Aisling Moran seconded by Councillor Ben Brennan, the following Member was nominated to attend the A.G.M. of Irish Public Bodies Insurances:

- **Councillor James Kelly**

A Roll Call Vote was taken which resulted as follows:

COUNCILLOR		FOR COUNCILLOR FENNELLY	FOR COUNCILLOR KELLY	ABSTAIN
FIRST NAME	SURNAME			
William	AIRD	✓		
Conor	BERGIN	✓		
Paddy	BRACKEN	✓		
Ben	BRENNAN		✓	
Ollie	CLOONEY	✓		
Caroline	DWANE STANLEY		✓	
John Joe	FENNELLY	✓		
Catherine	FITZGERALD	✓		
Padraig	FLEMING	✓		
James	KELLY		✓	
John	KING	✓		
Seamus	MCDONALD	✓		
Paschal	MCEVOY	✓		
Aisling	MORAN		✓	
Tommy	MULLIGAN		✓	
Aidan	MULLINS		✓	
Vivienne	PHELAN	✓		
Marie	TUOHY		✓	
Barry	WALSH	✓		

The result of the Roll Call Vote was as follows:-

- ❖ 12 votes in favour of Councillor John Joe Fennelly
- ❖ 7 votes in favour of Councillor James Kelly

Therefore, Councillor John Joe Fennelly was appointed to attend the A.G.M. of Irish Public Bodies Insurances Limited.

(115) Appoint 1 Member to the Board of Abbeyleix Heritage Trust

On the proposition of Councillor Willie Aird seconded by Councillor John King, the following Member was appointed to the Board of Abbeyleix Heritage Trust:

- **Councillor Barry Walsh**

(116) Appoint 1 Member to the Local Authority Members Association

On the proposition of Councillor John Joe Fennelly seconded by Councillor Paddy Bracken, the following Member was appointed:-

- **Councillor Seamus McDonald**

(117) Appoint 1 Member to the Midland Regional Drugs Task Force

On the proposition of Councillor John Joe Fennelly seconded by Councillor Catherine Fitzgerald, the following Member was appointed:-

- **Councillor Paschal McEvoy**

(118) Appoint 1 Member to the Board of Treo Nua Limited

On the proposition of Councillor John Joe Fennelly seconded by Councillor Paddy Bracken, the following Member was nominated: -

- **Councillor Catherine Fitzgerald**

On the proposition of Councillor James Kelly seconded by Councillor Aisling Moran, the following Member was nominated:

- **Councillor Caroline Dwane Stanley**

A discussion ensued following which Councillor Catherine Fitzgerald withdrew her nomination. Therefore, Councillor Caroline Dwane Stanley was appointed.

(119) Appoint the Cathaoirleach or a nominated member to the Midlands Regional Transition Team Steering Committee

On the proposition of Councillor John Joe Fennelly seconded by Councillor Catherine Fitzgerald, it was agreed that that Councillor Padraig Fleming in his capacity as the serving Cathaoirleach be appointed.

(120) Induction Training for newly Elected Members

Details of A.I.L.G. Induction Training was circulated to all Members. Further in house training for newly elected Members to be arranged.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

SIGNED: _____
CATHAOIRLEACH

CERTIFIED: _____
DIRECTOR OF SERVICES
CORPORATE AFFAIRS

~~~~~