

KILDARE COUNTY COUNCIL
Minutes of meeting of Full Council
held at 3:00 p.m.
Monday 30 November 2020
Newbridge Town Hall, Newbridge, Co Kildare.

Members Present: Councillor M Stafford (Cathaoirleach), Councillors VL Behan, A Breen, A Breslin, F Brett, B Caldwell, B. Clear, a A Connolly, N Connolly, Í Cussen, B Dooley, S Doyle, K Duffy, T Durkan, A Farrelly, A Feeney, C Galvin, P Hamilton, N Heavey, C Kelly, C Kenny, N Killeen, M Leigh, V Liston, P McEvoy, F McLoughlin Healy, S Moore, J Neville, T O'Dwyer, C Pender, E Sammon, P Ward, B Weld and B Wyse.

Apologies: Councillors M Coleman, D Fitzpatrick, I Keatley, N Ó'Cearúil, P O'Dwyer and R Power.

Also Present: Mr P Carey, Chief Executive, Ms A Aspell, Mr J Boland, Ms S Kavanagh and Mr E Ryan (Directors of Service), Ms C Barrett (A/Director of Service), Ms F Millane (A/Head of Finance), Ms B Sweeney (Financial Accountant), Ms C O'Grady (Meetings Administrator) and Mr J Hannigan (Meetings Secretary).

The Cathaoirleach welcomed everyone to the November meeting of full council.

01/1120

Bereavements

The Cathaoirleach extended his sympathy to the family of the late:

Sandra Willoughby, wife of George Willoughby SEE in Roads.

Margaret O'Toole former staff member Planning and mother of Deirdre O'Toole, Housing.

02/1120

Minutes and Progress Report

The council considered the minutes of the monthly meeting held on 19 October 2020 together with the progress report.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Moore, seconded by Councillor McEvoy and agreed by the members present, that the minutes of the monthly meeting held on the 19 October be adopted. The progress report was noted.

03/1120

Chief Executive's Monthly Management Report

The members noted the Chief Executive's monthly management report for November.

04/1120

Section 183 Notice for Disposal of Lands

The members considered the statutory notice of the 13th November, 2020 pursuant to Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001, as amended:

- i. Disposal of Land at Mountain View, Athgarvan, Newbridge – Proposed disposal of 0.3223 ha. of land

Councillor McLoughlin Healy asked that this item be adjourned to the next meeting as she was unhappy with the valuation provided. She informed the members that as public representatives they had a duty to get the best value when agreeing to the disposal of public lands. She described the piece of land as a "ransom strip" and believed that the price sought should be calculated as a % of the potential profit. Councillor Heavy asked that 3 valuations be sought.

A lengthy discussion took place and the following points were made:

- The council were developing 18 houses and the developer was developing 113 houses,
- This council housing development had gone through the Part 8 process
- Using the "ransom strip" method of negotiation was not for the greater good and it would delay and increase the cost of housing,
- Should the council be required to seek 2 to 3 valuations on all S183 disposals

The Cathaoirleach informed the members that they had been advised that the proper procedures had been followed. Ms A Aspell Director of Service confirmed to the members that the proper procedures had been followed and noted that the valuation was provided by a reputable company. She confirmed it had always been the intention to use this land for access to the development and this was referenced during the Part 8 process.

Councillor McEvoy proposed that the question be put and this was seconded by Councillor Wyse. Councillor McLoughlin Healy asked for a roll call vote. The Meetings Administrator informed the members that under Standing Orders a roll call vote required the support of a quorum (eleven members) to approve it. The Cathaoirleach requested a show of hands in support of this request. As the request for a roll call vote did not receive the support of 11 members, the Cathaoirleach confirmed that the request fell.

The disposal of the lands at Mountain View, Athgarvan was proposed by Councillor Doyle and seconded by Councillor Weld.

The Cathaoirleach informed the members there would be no further debate on the matter as it had been fully debated and he was putting the disposal of land as outlined, pursuant to (Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001, as amended) to a vote.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Doyle seconded by Councillor Weld with 24 members voting in favour, 5 members voting against and 2 members abstaining, that pursuant to Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001 as amended, and statutory notice issued on 13th November, 2020 that the council consent to the disposal of 0.3223 ha. of land at Mountain View, Athgarvan, Newbridge.

05/1120

Remote Meetings and Changes to Standing Orders

It was agreed by the members to take Councillor Galvin's adjourned motion from the October meeting on remote working along with this item.

Adjourned motion - That in order to facilitate all elected members in the unprecedented circumstances of the global Covid-19 pandemic, a mechanism or mechanisms be put in place by the council to allow members who cannot attend physical meetings to participate remotely with The Protocol and Procedures Committee recommendation that the consideration of remote

attendance of meetings in response to changes in legislation and the public health guidance to limit the spread of the Covid-19 virus.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Galvin and seconded by Councillor Feeney

The report from Corporate Services to the October meeting stated that since the start of the pandemic in March, the councils IS Department has gone to extraordinary lengths to facilitate numerous mechanisms to enable both remote working and to allow the elected members (and non-elected members e.g. SPCs) to participate in meetings remotely and in the main, this has been done via Microsoft Teams. Similarly, briefings for the elected members by staff and national bodies have been held on-line also. Work continues in this regard as Government Health advice has consistently been that where possible, all meetings should be held virtually. However, as the members have been previously advised, attendance at statutory meetings of the council cannot be facilitated virtually/remotely due to current legislative requirements.

We are aware of work ongoing at national level in this area and are expecting that legislation will be passed in the next few weeks that will facilitate council meetings to be held remotely and allow the potential for hybrid style meetings involving both physical and remote attendance. On receipt of any such Ministerial Order, Kildare County Council will commence the process of liaising and consulting with the relevant national bodies involved. In addition, the council will go through all protocols to consult with the members, amend standing orders as required and commence any necessary physical and technical infrastructure installation, having regard to the budgetary requirements for same. The members will be kept updated at all times.

The report to the November meeting from the Protocol and Procedures Committee in relation to item 4 recommended the consideration of remote attendance of meetings in response to changes in legislation and the public health guidance to limit the spread of the Covid-19 virus.

Subject to any agreement to proceed with remotely attended meetings, the Committee recommends that the December meeting of full council is conducted with all members attending remotely.

Draft changes to the Standing Orders have been prepared to take into account the following:

- The Guidelines from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage for Standing Orders regulating the proceedings of meetings of the Council in relation to remote attendance. The guidance follows on the Civil Law and Criminal Law (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2020 (Section 29) (Local Authorities) (Designation) Order 2020 (S.I. No. 445 of 2020).

- Clarification that the business of an adjourned Meeting should stand adjourned until the next Meeting.

The proposed Standing Orders reflect the available technologies and the need to review the performance of meetings with remotely attending participants

Councillor Galvin welcomed the recommendation and looked forward to seeing how well this would work saying that it was great to have the option and made the role of councillor more family friendly.

Councillor Feeney supported the proposal and informed the members that as there was no maternity or paternity leave available for councillors perhaps a co-option for an agreed period of time could be considered for these situations.

On behalf of the Protocol and Procedures Committee, Councillor McEvoy advised the members that they had considered the extra technology available and recommended that the amendments to Standing Orders be adopted.

The members agreed that the December full council meeting would be held remotely on Microsoft Teams. The Cathaoirleach confirmed that the Press and members of the public would be facilitated to attend this remote meeting.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Galvin seconded by Councillor Feeney and agreed by the members present that the amendment to Standing Orders to facilitate remote meetings be agreed and that the December meeting of full council would be held remotely on Microsoft Teams.

06/1120

Kildare County Council Draft Alcohol Bye-Laws 2020

The Meetings Administrator informed the members that Kildare County Council conducted a public consultation process in relation to the making of bye laws for the Control of Consumption and Possession of Alcohol in Public Places between Wednesday, 16 September 2020 and Wednesday, 28 October 2020.

This consultation process was conducted following the cessation, in March 2020, of the consultation process arising from Covid-19 related restrictions that involved the closure of a range of public buildings.

Within the 6-week period outlined above a copy of the draft Kildare County Council (Control of Consumption & Possession of Alcohol in Public Places) Draft Bye-Laws 2020 were available to be viewed or inspected at the following locations during normal business hours:

Online <https://consult.kildarecoco.ie>

Corporate Services Department (Level 1), Kildare County Council, Aras Chill Dara, Naas.

Athy Customer Service Point, Rathstewart, Athy.

Local libraries in Athy, Ballitore, Castledermot, Celbridge, Clane, Clocharin, Kilcock, Kilcullen, Kildare Town, Leixlip, Maynooth, Monasterevin, Naas, Newbridge and Rathangan

The consultation was publicised by publication of advertisements in local newspapers, on the Council website and social media activity.

A report was circulated that summarised the submissions received and the council's response to the issues raised. It was recommended that the elected members adopt the draft Kildare County Council (Control of Consumption and Possession of Alcohol in Public Places) Bye-Laws 2020, with the amendments noted, in accordance with their powers under Sections 199 and 200 of the Local Government Act 2001 (as amended by the Local Government Reform Act 2014).

In adopting the Kildare County Council (Control of Consumption & Possession of Alcohol in Public Places) Bye-Laws 2020, the members resolve that existing bye-laws for the Control of Consumption and Possession of Alcohol in Public Places are revoked. These were bye-laws adopted between 1999–2010.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Durkan and seconded by Councillor A Connolly with all members agreeing that the elected members adopt the draft Kildare County Council (Control of Consumption and Possession of Alcohol in Public Places) Bye-Laws 2020, with the amendments noted, in accordance with their powers under Sections 199 and 200 of the Local Government Act 2001 (as amended by the Local Government Reform Act 2014).

07/1120

Gnó an Chathaoirleach/Chairs Business

The Cathaoirleach informed the members that he had attended two events during the last month, the signing of the contracts for the new Naas Library and the launch of the Taste of Kildare which was going to be a virtual event this year. He also asked the members that if possible, they would limit their motions for the December meeting to urgent business only.

08/1120

Comhfhreagras/Correspondence

The Meetings Administrator confirmed seven items of correspondence had been received and circulated to the members, with the progress report along with three resolutions from other local authorities. She also advised the members that a copy of the submission to the Department on Women and Diversity in Local Government had been circulated to the members with the progress report.

09/1120

Conferences and Training

The Meetings Administrator referred to the report dated 26 November 2020 circulated to the members. The Meetings Administrator confirmed there were 2 requests for training but as these were free online events, the approval of the members was not required.

The report was noted.

10/1120

Meetings calendar for 2021

The Meetings Administrator referred to the draft calendar and report circulated previously which outlined the proposed dates of meetings for 2021 and changes from that agreed previously.

Resolved with the agreement of the members present, the meetings calendar for 2021 was approved.

11/1120

Draft Commercial Incentive Scheme

Ms F Millane A/Head of Finance informed the members that details of the scheme had previously been circulated to the members and thanked the Finance Committee for their input into developing the scheme

Councillor Duffy recommended the scheme to the members noting the scheme would incentivise businesses to reoccupy vacant premises. Councillor Sammon thanked the Finance committee for their work in developing the scheme. Councillor Moore informed the members that there were quite a few exemptions for businesses, but they had to take into account the danger of unfair competition. He noted that the Finance committee would review the scheme in 18 months.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Duffy, seconded by Councillor Sammon and agreed by the members present that the Commercial Incentive Scheme be adopted.

12/1120

Developments and Taking in Charge

The following adjourned motion in the name of Councillor Peter Hamilton was considered by the members.

That in light of the challenges experienced of properly completing developments and taking in charge very large housing developments, the council investigates and reports on procedures understood to be applied in other counties to plan and take in charge portions of large developments in more manageable modular sections.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Peter Hamilton and seconded by Councillor V. Liston.

A report was received from the Development Control Section informing the members that it was currently reviewing its Taking in Charge Policy and will review the practices in other authorities as part of this process.

The process of Taking in Charge may be initiated by a request from the developer or the majority of owners of the dwellings. This is subject to the development being completed to the satisfaction of Kildare County Council and in accordance with the granted planning permission and any associated conditions. There are no statutory time limits placed on developers to complete developments (See Section 40(2)(a)(iv) of the Planning & Development Act 2000, as amended). Where a development is not completed to the required standards, enforcement proceedings using the Planning legislation can be initiated or the bond can be invoked.

Kildare County Council has taken estates in charge on a phased basis in the past, however the preference is to take a complete development in charge as a unit. There are complexities involved in phasing associated with the location of infrastructure like pumping stations and attenuation systems and not all developments are suitable for a phased approach.

The requirement to lodge a Development Bond is a standard condition of a planning permission for a housing development, as permitted under Section 34(4)(g) of the Planning & Development Act 2000, as amended: *the giving and maintaining of adequate security for satisfactory completion of the proposed development*. The preference of the Development Control Section is for a cash bond but with larger developments the bond amounts can be significant, and many developers opt for an insurance bond. Kildare County Council currently accepts both.

Councillor Hamilton welcomed the report and acknowledged the work of the staff in development control. He highlighted one very difficult case in his municipal district. He believed that the current system was not serving the people well. He believed a rolling cash deposit system would be a better option operating on a rolling fund as one section is completed it rolls over to the next.

Councillor Killeen informed the members that work over the last number of years has been focused on the issues as a result of the fallout of the property crash. She highlighted issues with Strategic Housing Developments, Apartment Blocks and developments run by management companies and enquired if it would be possible to take part of an estate in charge

The following points were raised by the members

- Could a time limit be put in place to complete the taking in charge e.g. one year after the last house is occupied.
- A lot of problems are with underground services
- There were issues with bringing pumping stations up to standard particularly in older developments.
- There are older estates that have not been taken in charge and are now in very poor condition.
- In some instances, calling in the bond was statute barred due to the passage of time
- Was it possible to request the PPN number of developers

Ms. Barrett informed the members that the Building and Development Control Section were currently reviewing the scheme and comments from the members would be welcomed as part of this. She confirmed that when the review was complete, it would be sent to both the Planning and the Transport Strategic Policy Committees for consideration. She confirmed the council do not take in charge apartment blocks and where management companies were involved with developments, these needed to be wound down before the council could act. She also advised that it was normal practice that the wearing course was the last piece of the development after all the construction traffic had ceased and underground surveys were completed.

Mr Ryan informed the members that the council had detailed legislative powers to deal with taking in charge issues. He stated he did not think that the council had the powers to ask for the PPN numbers of developers.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Hamilton seconded by Councillor Liston and agreed by the members present that the report be noted and members would be invited to submit their observations to the Building and Development Control section to assist in the review.

13/1120

Building/Units and Centres Owned or in Control of the Council

The following adjourned motion in the name of Councillor F McLoughlin Healy was considered by the members

That the council provide a list of all buildings/units/centres owned or in control of the council, outlining whether they are open or closed, the governance structures in place and any Covid-19 training that has been provided to volunteers and/or staff.

The motion was proposed by Councillor McLoughlin Healy and seconded by Councillor Pender

A report was received from the Facilities Department informing the members that Áras Chill Dara and the Athy Customer Service point remain open to the public, on an appointment basis only. This is in line with the current Level 5 and previous Level 3 requirements. All relevant instruction and training have been, and continues to be, delivered to staff in relation to national health advice requirements and guidelines issued related to Covid-19. Two Covid-19 worker representatives have been appointed who meet regularly with HR and the Health and Safety Officer in relation to staff welfare.

A report was received from the Libraries Services that in line with Level 5 requirements, Kildare Libraries are currently closed but are providing a house bound service to isolated members of the community. Furthermore, the library service are providing online programming for children and adults along with access to a full suite of services. Library items can be ordered online: www.kildare.ie/library. A full list of our library contact information is available at www.kildare.ie/library/Library/. In all situations, the health and safety of library staff is paramount and all health and safety/Covid protocols are being observed.

A report was received from the Community Section informing the members that council run Community Halls ie. Newbridge, Bishoplands and Maynooth remain closed to the public until

further notice. They have on occasion been used for particular events where we can ensure Covid Regulations are being adhered to. Unfortunately, we do not have the resources to make these facilities available to the public as we would normally due to Covid requirements. Our community centres that are outsourced are being run by external committees and it is their obligation to ensure all HSE Covid regulations are being met.

A report was received from the Roads Transportation and Public Safety Department that all of the Municipal District Engineering Offices (5) are open and functioning. The number of staff in each office is being managed locally to comply with public health guidance and staff are working from home, on site and in the office depending on their assigned tasks. A full back to work Covid briefing was done with all our outdoor workers before they came back to work, and protocols continue to be adhered to.

All of our six Fire Stations are fully operational. The fire service in Kildare is a retained service so staff only respond to their stations on the activation of their alerters for a fire call. The Fire Service has provided Covid information to all staff and additional safety procedures have been introduced based on national guidance. The normal governance arrangements continue via the management and supervision structures. Processes have been reviewed with respect to the SOGs issued nationally and where additional safety measure were required, they have been introduced. Local managers provide ongoing oversight of compliance and Lead Worker Representative have been nominated to raise any concerns on behalf of staff. A list of the buildings was provided at Appendix 1.

Councillor Mc Loughlin Healy stated she was not satisfied that the report was complete and asked that the schedule be completed to include all buildings eg community halls/houses which are referenced in the response but not included in the schedule. She also asked for additional information in relation to the governance structures that are in place particularly in relation to premises where the day-to-day operation is outsourced.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor McLoughlin Healy seconded by Councillor Pender and agreed by the members present that the report be noted and the additional information sought by Councillor McLoughlin Healy be provided.

14/1120

Playgrounds that do not have wheelchair accessible equipment

The following adjourned motion in the name of Councillor Aidan Farrelly was considered by the members:

That the council provides a report on the location of playgrounds in the county that do not currently have wheelchair accessible equipment installed and that in accordance with the aims of the County Play Strategy 2018-2028, commits to retrofit all of these playgrounds with a minimum of one wheelchair accessible piece of equipment in the next 18-24 months.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Aiden Farrelly and seconded by Councillor Killeen.

A report was received from the Parks Department informing the members that the County Play Strategy contains an objective to providing accessible play opportunities and actions to continue to use existing accessible equipment and increase the diversity of accessible play equipment in consultation with community groups. This objective and actions refer to all disabilities not just physical. A consideration of all recent playground installations, has been access and inclusive equipment for disabilities in line with best practise for playground design. The use exclusive equipment for a particular disability is not considered best practise. There are 28 playgrounds in Kildare. A preliminary audit of these indicates that there maybe 6 older playgrounds(10years+) which are not inclusive for wheelchair users. The improvement of these for wheelchair users can be incorporated into the playground works programme but will need a longer timeframe to complete because of existing commitments and funding will also have to be identified.

Councillor Farrelly stated that it would be an excellent way to mark Disability Day by having all playgrounds in the county having at least one piece of play equipment that was suitable for people with disabilities. Playgrounds are integral part of the development of inclusivity for young people and it would be great to have all playgrounds in the county with the same level of play equipment as in Clane. He enquired if it would be possible to have these 6 playgrounds on a works programme for the coming year and the costs could be circulated to each municipal district so they could look at how this might be funded.

Ms Kavanagh advised the members that a time frame was not referred to in the report, but that a works programme was circulated to each municipal district committee where it would be discussed adding this would be best dealt with at municipal district level. She confirmed the staff in the Parks

Department were best placed to decide on the type of play equipment, needed, given their experience and expertise.

Councillor Farrelly asked that each municipal district committee be briefed on the sites that required upgrading at their next municipal district meeting.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Farrelly seconded by Councillor Killeen and agreed by the members present that the report be noted and that each municipal district be briefed on the parks/playgrounds that needed upgrading including the cost involved.

15/1120

Midland Regional Transition Team and Climate Action Innovation

The following motion in the name of Councillors Aoife Breslin, Kevin Duffy, Pádraig McEvoy, Mark Stafford and Paul Ward was considered by the members

That Kildare County Council identifies a strategy to prepare for local, national and EU opportunities emerging from the work of the Midlands Regional Transition Team (MRTT) and Climate Action innovation.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Breslin and seconded by Councillor McEvoy.

A report was received from Director of Services Mr Boland informing the members that this motion was welcome and with the agreement of the members, it is proposed that the three Municipal District Committees impacted ie. Clane-Maynooth Kildare-Newbridge and Athy - meet jointly (when restrictions allow) to examine the relevant issues further. The Climate Action Regional Office is represented on the Midland Regional Transition Team and is therefore, familiar with the key issues. The CARO would be more than pleased to make a presentation to the joint meeting of the Municipal District Committees and to take on board/escalate any suggestions or proposals on the part of the elected members.

A report was also received from the Senior Architect informing the members that in January 2020 Kildare County Council became involved in the Midlands Energy Efficiency Retrofitting Programme, a pilot programme for deep retrofitting of the social housing stock. The pilot programme involved the allocation of €20m in funding across eight Local Authority's from the midlands and west of the country with Kildare County Council receiving an initial allocation of

€3.3m. It is estimated that this allocation will allow Kildare County Council to deep retrofit between 80 and 100 housing units. Work has commenced in identifying units suitable for this programme. Retrofitting work is planned to commence in April 2021. Participation in this pilot programme is seen as positioning Kildare County Council to avail of significant future funding for retrofitting works.

The members welcomed the opportunity for the meeting of the three Municipal Districts which would help in shaping the direction of the MRTT. Councillor Breslin stated she believed as part of this process, that the social history of the area needed to be recorded.

Councillor Duffy pointed out that this was a huge opportunity for the region and it was important that members have an input into the direction of MRTT. Councillor Stafford fully supported the motion and suggested that the Climate Action SPC be involved. He advised that the total fund was €75 million and that €810,000 of this had been allocated to the Allenwood Enterprise Park. Councillor McLoughlin Healy asked that the report to the October MD meeting be circulated to the members and stated that a masterplan for Bord na Mona was required

Mr Boland undertook to circulate the report and informed the members that he would facilitate a joint meeting of the municipal districts and the CARO and confirmed that the Economic Development section were very proactive in this area. He also confirmed it was an important strategic issue for the Climate Action SPC.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Breslin seconded by Councillor McEvoy and agreed by the members present that the report be noted, and that Mr Boland would circulate a copy of the.

16/1120

Adapt the Roofs of Bus Shelters in Kildare with special fittings to Embrace Climate Action

The following motion in the name of Councillors Nuala Killeen and Chris Pender was considered by the members

That Kildare County Council adopt a strategy and encourage the National Transport Authority to adapt the roofs of bus shelters in Kildare with special fittings to embrace climate action and biodiversity, as done successfully in Utrecht in the Netherland

The motion was proposed by Councillor Killeen and seconded by Councillor Pender.

A report was received from the Roads Transportation and Public Safety Department that subject to the agreement of the members, Kildare County Council would contact the National Transport Agency and discuss the potential adaption of bus shelter roofs to greener, more biodiverse and environmentally friendly roofs. This method of urban gardening accepts that an unhealthy environment including poor air quality is the second main cause of disease. Recognising that many bee species are endangered and in response to this decline in the bee population, the local authority can play a role in urban beekeeping by ensuring that as many bus stop shelter roofs are fitted with some grass and wildflowers on the roof that aim to encourage pollination. This could be piloted in a municipal district. It would support the council's biodiversity goals. There are new bus stops planned for the county.

Councillor Pender informed the members that Dublin City Council had already agreed to this initiative to create biodiversity

Ms C Barrett stated that the council would contact the National Transport Authority as requested. **Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Breslin seconded by Councillor McEvoy and agreed by the members present that the report be noted and a letter to issue to the NTA to discuss the potential adaptation of the roofs of bus shelters.

17/1120

Temporary demountable dwellings

The following motion in the name of Councillor Weld was considered by the members:

That the council return to the policy of providing "temporary demountable dwellings" for people who have a site, as this would help to alleviate the ongoing shortage of suitable accommodation for rent.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Weld and seconded by Councillor Durkan

A report was received from the Housing Department informing the members that Demountable dwellings built to the relevant standards for housing are subject to the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) and planning permission is required.

The Council has, in the past, provided a limited number of demountable dwellings on humanitarian grounds, and where the site was in the ownership of the individual/ family.

There is currently no policy in place for provision of demountable dwellings and the number of requests for such accommodation is relatively low. In addition, there is no specific funding provided for provision of demountable dwellings. Subject to the agreement of the members it is recommended that this matter be referred to the Housing Strategic Policy Committee for consideration.

Councillor Weld stated that he was happy for this motion to be referred to the Housing Strategic Policy Committee.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Weld seconded by Councillor Durkan and agreed by the members present that the report be noted and that this matter be referred to the Housing Strategic Policy Committee for consideration.

18/1120

Workshop on Child First Policy

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Veralouise Behan
That the council run a workshop or information event for councillors, in conjunction with the relevant Government bodies, on the protocols surrounding the “Children First” policy.
The motion was proposed by Councillor Behan and seconded by Councillor A Connolly

A report was received from the community department informing the members that TUSLA (The Child and Family Agency) worked with the Department of Children and Youth Affairs (now the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth) and HSE to develop a universal e-learning programme called ‘Introduction to Children First’. This programme has been written to support people of all backgrounds and experience in recognising concerns about children and reporting such concerns if they arise. The programme is based on [Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children](#) and the Children First Act 2015.

The programme takes approximately 1.5 hours to complete but it can be done in a number of sittings. The programme will allow you to log back in and resume where you left off. It covers topics including:

- Recognising and reporting child abuse;
- The role of mandated persons;
- The responsibilities of organisations working with children to safeguard children;
- The role of designated liaison persons.

To find out more and to commence the programme please go to <https://www.tusla.ie/children-first/children-first-e-learning-programme/>

When the programme is completed the participant will receive a certificate of completion sent directly to their email address.

Councillor Behan welcomed the report and queried the provision of training specifically for the members.

Ms Kavanagh stated that Tusla was the governing body in this area and that under the legislation, members were not mandated persons. She would recommend however, that members avail of the online training provided as she had completed the course and it was very beneficial. She stated that if the members had concerns in this area, they should contact the on duty social worker. She also advised the members of the possible emotional impact of these cases and reminded them that the council provided an online support service for staff and elected members to support their wellbeing.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Behan and seconded by Councillor A Connolly and agreed by all members present that the report be noted.

The Cathaoirleach confirmed that the 2-hour time limit for meetings held in person was almost up, and it was agreed that the remaining agenda items would stand adjourned to the December meeting.

The meeting concluded.