

KILDARE COUNTY COUNCIL
Minutes of meeting of Full Council held at 3:00 p.m.
Monday 25 July 2022 in
Áras Chill Dara, Devoy Park, Naas, Co Kildare.

Members Present: Councillor F Brett (Cathaoirleach), Councillors A Breen, A Breslin, B Caldwell, M Coleman, N Connolly, Í Cussen, S Doyle, K Duffy, T Durkan, A Farrelly, A Feeney, C Galvin, P Hamilton, N Heavey, I Keatley, C Kelly, C Kenny, N Killeen, M Leigh, P McEvoy, S Moore, J Neville, N Ó'Cearúil, P O'Dwyer, T O'Dwyer, C Pender, R Power, M Stafford, B Weld and B Wyse.

Members Online: Councillor VL Behan, B Clear, A Connolly, D Fitzpatrick, E Sammon.

Apologies: Councillor B Dooley, V Liston, F McLoughlin Healy, and P Ward

Also Present: Ms A Aspell, Mr E Ryan, Ms E Wright (Directors of Service), Ms M Higgins, Mr K Kavanagh (A/Directors of Service), Ms F Millane (A/Head of Finance), Mr D Hodgins (Senior Engineer) Ms C O'Grady (Meetings Administrator) and Ms K Keane (Meetings Secretary) and other officials.

The members agreed to the suspension of standing orders to continue the previous special meeting of council to 3.25pm and delay the start of this meeting as referenced in the separate minutes of the special meeting.

The Cathaoirleach welcomed everyone to the July meeting of Full Council and sought the members continued co-operation in adhering to protocols on speaking times to continue the efficient use of the time available.

01/0722

Bereavements

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

Ruairí McDonnell, son of Ruth O'Reilly, Housing Department

Margaret Ludden, mother of Teresa Ludden, Human Resources

Joseph Cronin, father of Fergal Cronin, Water Services

A minute's silence was observed.

02/0722

Declaration of Interests

The Cathaoirleach sought any declarations of interests from the members, as required under Section 177 of the Local Government Act 2001 as amended.

There were no interests declared.

03/0722

Minutes and Progress Report

The council considered the draft minutes of the annual meeting held on 24 June 2022, the monthly meeting held on 27 June 2022, the special meeting held on 24 February 2022 together with amendments as outlined in the report of 20th July, 2022 and the progress report.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Ó'Cearúil, seconded by Councillor Keatley and agreed by the members present, the minutes of the annual meeting on 24 June 2022 were adopted.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Ó'Cearúil, seconded by Councillor Keatley and agreed by the members present, the minutes of the monthly meeting on 27 June 2022 were adopted.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Brett, seconded by Councillor Keatley and agreed by the members present, the minutes of the special meeting on 24 February 2022 with amendments were adopted. The progress report was noted.

04/0722

Chief Executive's Monthly Management Report

The members noted the Chief Executives monthly management report.

05/0722

Section 183 Notice for Disposal of Lands

The members considered the disposal of lands pursuant to Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001, as amended at the Dominican site in Athy to Clúid, Approved Housing Body, for the provision of housing for older persons

The Cathaoirleach confirmed the members had received the statutory notice setting out the details of the proposed disposal.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Keatley, seconded by Councillor Leigh and with the agreement of the members present that pursuant to Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001 as amended, and the statutory notice issued on 13 July 2022, the council's consent to the Disposal of lands at the Dominican site in Athy to Clúid, Approved Housing Body, for the provision of housing for older persons, was given.

06/0722

Quarterly Update on Climate Action

The members considered the quarterly update on Climate Action which outlined the Climate Action Regional Office had been working to support its 17 constituent local authorities in driving a range of climate action projects. This includes Adaptation Strategies and Local Authority Climate Action Plans. They are working in partnership with the EPA/Climate Ireland in developing draft guidelines for local authorities on the development of their Local Authority Climate Action Plans (LA CAPs). The CCMA endorsed the draft guidelines in December 2021 giving them over to the Department of Environment, Climate and Communications (DECC) for review and discussion. They will be released to the sector as Ministerial Guidelines in line with the provisions of the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021.

The CAROs are also currently working on a framework for the provision of expert consultancy services to work with local authorities on the required preparatory work

(ahead of the statutory plan making phase) which is nearing completion and will be available to all local authorities very soon.

An update was provided on Decarbonisation Zones (DZ's) confirming the ongoing development and implementation of DZs will be taken forward as a component of the LA CAPs. Each local authority will now incorporate their candidate DZs into their LA CAP. Work is also ongoing to update the Local Authority Climate Action Plan Guidelines, to support the integration of the candidate DZ, as a component of the LA CAP.

The Local Authority Climate Action Training Programme commenced in January 2021 and has reached the end of its first phase of training courses delivered to the sector. To date c.16,600 staff and elected members from the network of local authorities have received training. Attention is turning to the second phase of training. An evaluation of the training programme as progressed to date was endorsed by the CCMA CATN Committee in March 2022, with planning for phase two underway in line with recommendations of this report.

A reconfigured working group is being established in relation to Key Performance indicators. Director of Infrastructure & Climate Change DLRCC, to develop outcome indicators in support of the new LA Climate Action Plans. Baseline research is ongoing and it is expected to deliver draft KPIs to the CATN by the end of 2022.

The CCMA BEIUR committee have considered the next phase of the Economic Development projects which includes training, research projects and engagement with key stakeholders to mainstream this subject area into broader policy areas such as Just Transition and Imagining Local Authority Fleet 2030, Community Climate Action Fund and the Gaa Green Club Programme. Other Climate Action initiatives currently underway include the Gas Innovation Fund, Agritourism projects, Murals and Communication and Mainstreaming via websites and different social platforms. The report was noted.

07/0722

Section 141 Reports from Other Bodies

The members considered reports from members appointed to Other Bodies pursuant to Section 141 of the Local Government Act 2001, as amended. The following report was received at the July meeting

- Kildare-Meath Upgrade Community Forum.

The Cathaoirleach asked that the members direct any questions they had on the report to the members appointed to the relevant body.

The report was noted.

08/0722

Loan Sanction of €10.8 Million

The members considered the approval of a loan sanction of €10.8 million in order to provide mortgage facilities to first time borrowers under the Local Authority Housing Loan Scheme.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Duffy, seconded by Councillor Moore and agreed by the members present, the approval of a loan sanction of €10.8 million in order to provide mortgage facilities to first time borrowers under the Local Authority Housing Loan Scheme was approved.

09/0722

Finished, unfinished, and estates under construction

The members considered a report on finished, unfinished and estates under construction.

Mr Maher A/SEO Transportation confirmed that a total of 10 estates had been taken in charge since the last report was presented, a further 12 had been added to the list and there were 133 sites being monitored across the county by the Building and Development Control team. In response to a query regarding the number of estates that can realistically be taken in charge in a year and the budget implications of same going forward, Mr Maher stated it was intended to have another 5 estates taken in charge by the end of the year and the section was proactively drawing down bonds from different providers to cover the costs in relation to same. He also confirmed that LPT funding was being assigned in some MDs to older estates where

there were no bonds. Following further discussion, it was agreed that the report would be listed for each Municipal Committee in Q3 2022 so the members could discuss the matter in more detail in relation to their own municipal district.

The report was noted.

10/0722

Gnó an Cathaoirleach/Cathaoirleachs Business

The Cathaoirleach confirmed he had attended a number of events over the last month to include the following

Admadiyya Muslim conference Glenroyal Hotel 2nd July

Healthy Ireland event Athy 11th July

All Ireland Twinning event 17th July Dublin

He confirmed he had met with Senator Mark Delaney, Leader of the Seanad and also with the State of Maryland Governor Larry Hogan and First Lady Yumi Hogan who visited MERITS recently.

The Cathaoirleach also reminded members of the upcoming CDP workshop that was taking place online on the 24 August at 10am. He also stated that the Protocol and Procedures Committee were looking at streamlining/simplifying the process for political groups to make submissions/submit motions to planning meetings. He asked the Chair of each group to consider this with a view to advancing proposals in this regard and to contact the Chair of the Protocol & Procedures Committee on same.

11/0722

Comhfhreagras/Correspondence

The Meetings Administrator confirmed six motion referrals had been received from other local authorities and had been circulated to the members with the Progress Report. The correspondence was noted.

12/0722

Conferences and Training

The members considered the conference and training report that was circulated in advance of the meeting. The Meetings Administrator confirmed that retrospective

approval was being sought for the AILG training on the 23 July as the details were not provided in time for inclusion on the June agenda for either CPG or Full Council.

AILG Autumn Training	Celebrating Local Government	AILG	Knightsbrook Hotel Trim	14-15 September		€145 plus travel and subs
AILG Training Programme 4	Local Authority Audit Committees and the Governance and Oversight Role of Elected Members	AILG	Allingham Arms Hotel – Bundoran	Sat 23 July (Northern and Western/ Eastern & Midlands Regional Assembly members may attend)	Cllr F Brett Cllr J Neville	€70 plus travel and subs

Resolved with the agreement of the members, the conference and training report as circulated was approved and Councillors Brett and Neville were approved to attend AILG Training Programme 4.

13/0722

Environmental Services and Water Strategic Policy Committee

The members received a report from the Chair of the Environmental Services and Water Strategic Policy Committee Councillor Suzanne Doyle.

Councillor Doyle outlined the membership of the committee and the key policy areas they were concentrating on currently, noting that new legislation had been enacted around illegal dumping. She gave special mention and thanks to the Community Wardens in Kildare County Council who carry out extremely difficult but invaluable work confirming that 228 fines for illegal dumping had issued in 2021 with a successful outcome achieved in 38 cases and noted just how difficult it was to establish the burden of proof in these cases. Councillor Doyle referenced the National Waste Management Plan and the Circular Economy Bill and confirmed the SPC and were looking at trialling Big Belly Bins which was being budgeted for in 2023. The SPC was looking at ways of enhancing Brown Bin usage and were also involved in advancing the Civic Amenity Site in the north of the county. She also referenced the work ongoing on the audit of waste/litter bins throughout the county noting the outcome was going to have an impact both on budgets and changes in the numbers of bins in the MDs.

Following the presentation, the members raised the following queries:

- Would the Circular Economy Bill be a vehicle to help with funding streams?
- What department will be managing the new vacant property grant?
- The Brown Bin service is not available in many rural parts of the county
- Could the council consider partnership with the business community on the Big Belly Bins, like the reverse vending machines?

Mr Boland thanked Councillor Doyle and all the members on the SPC for their continued interest and work in this important area confirming there would be funding available following the adoption of the National Waste Management Plan and Circular Economy Bill. He confirmed there would also be a new impetus around the provision of Brown Bins following the adoption of the Bill too. Mr Boland confirmed there was a trial ongoing in South Dublin County Council in relation to Big Belly Bins and the learnings arising from that would be considered before advancing it further in Kildare.

14/0722

Climate Action Strategic Policy Committee

The Cathaoirleach confirmed the presentation from the Chair of the Climate Action SPC was deferred to the September meeting of council.

15/0722

Referral from Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District Committee.

The following referral from the June meeting of the Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District Committee was considered by the members.

That the council outline measures it takes to mitigate high radon levels both in its housing stock and to raise awareness of the need for residents to test for radon levels particularly in high-risk areas

The motion was proposed by Councillor Liston and seconded by Councillor Caldwell.

The following report was provided to the June meeting of the Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District Committee meeting, and an extract from the minutes of that meeting to inform the members of the discussion held on same.

Report: Since 1998, Irish Building Regulations have required that reasonable measures be taken during the construction of new buildings to avoid danger to health due to radon and these mitigation measures are outlined in the Department Technical Guidance Document Part C. All houses acquired by Kildare County Council constructed within this time frame would be subject to these regulations.

In the late 2000s, Kildare County Council had a programme of temporary radon monitoring in houses where significant works were carried out. The information gathered was returned to the Radiological Protection Institute of Ireland and formed part of their national survey. This monitoring ceased in the early 2010s.

On the recent publication of the updated EPA national radon maps, radon monitoring has been reintroduced at properties where Disabled Persons Grant works are being carried out, particularly for extensions and significant works.

There is currently no programme of radon monitoring throughout the remainder of Kildare County Council stock.

Extract of MD Minutes:

Councillor Liston furnished the members with the following details, arising from work by the EPA;

- 350 new lung cancer cases nationally reported to be linked with radon
- 1:10 home in Celbridge at risk of high radon and in some areas are 1:5
- That the cost is €29 per detector and that each house would need two, one upstairs and one downstairs. The detectors are placed in a person's house for a period of one month and then sent back for testing.
- What are the council going to do moving forward?
- Clarification sought into why currently this is being limited to just houses in receipt of Disabled Persons Grant.
- At a cost of €58 per household could an application to the local authority be looked into to run a pilot scheme in the Municipal District?

Ms Farrar informed the members that:

- The Council was not obliged to offer this to all homes and would be cost prohibitive, involving potentially 6,000 properties.
- The Council would need the tenants to buy into the scheme and agree to do the correct monitoring.
- At present this cannot be initiated and would require further investigation and funding sources would need to be identified.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Liston, seconded by Councillor Neville and agreed by the members that this motion be referred to Full Council for discussion.

End of extract.

Councillor Cussen noted the response that had issued to the MD had indicated the proposal was cost prohibitive, and sought the members support to refer the motion to the Housing SPC for further discussion. Following discussion, it was noted there were radon maps on the EPA website which identified areas with high radon levels.

Ms Aspell confirmed she had no objection to the motion being referred to the Housing SPC as proposed, however she did note this matter was the responsibility of the HSE and would require a national intervention if it was to further advance.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Cussen, seconded by Councillor Kelly and agreed by the members that the motion would be referred to the Housing SPC for further discussion.

16/0722

Raise the Roof campaign

The following motion in the names of Councillors Angela Feeney, Anne Breen and Aoife Breslin was considered by the members.

That the council supports the 'Raise the Roof' campaign, by writing to the Minister for Housing calling for urgent action, through legislation, if necessary, to address the current housing emergency and growing levels of homelessness in the county.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Feeney and seconded by Councillor Hamilton.

A report from Ms C O'Grady, A/Director of Service, Housing and Corporate Services stated that subject to the members agreement, a letter can issue to the Minister for Housing as requested.

Councillor Feeney stated that everyone realised how critical the housing and homeless crisis had become, with more and more people turning to the local authority for support. She stated that the average waiting time for those on the housing list was 12 years and a limit of €320k applied to a council home loan. She noted the difficulties being encountered by people looking to source HAP properties and that homeless presentations were increasing to a worrying degree with families ending up in B&B's a long distance away from schools and family supports.

Councillor Feeney stated that each year, the Finance Section wrote to the Department highlighting the fact that Kildare had one of the lowest per capita funding levels in the country but nothing had come of these communications to date. She took the opportunity to compliment the Finance and the Housing Departments on the great work they did with the limited funding available to them.

Councillor Farrelly noted that the Department of Housing had recently launched a proposal for consultation which was to be welcomed. Councillor Killeen stated that the Raise the Roof campaign was a coalition of political parties and trade unions coming together to try and tackle the unmet need of families that cannot get support in sourcing housing accommodation.

The Cathaoirleach asked the members to confirm by a show of hands if they wanted to write to the Minister for Housing as requested.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Feeney, seconded by Councillor Hamilton with 11 members voting in favour, 12 voting against and no abstentions, the motion fell.

17/0722

Age Friendly Parking Bays

The following motion in the names of Councillors Íde Cussen and Bernard Caldwell was considered by the members.

That the council install Age Friendly Parking Bays in Áras Chill Dara and that members be given a listing per municipal district of all Age Friendly Parking Bays in Kildare County Council parking areas.

The motion was proposed by Councillor I Cussen and seconded by Councillor B Caldwell.

A report from Ms E Wright, Director of Service, Roads Transportation and Public Safety stated that the Transportation Department can confirm the following Age Friendly parking spaces per Municipal District:

- Athy Municipal District – One (Athy Town)
- Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District – none
- Naas Municipal District – Four (Two in Naas and two in Sallins)
- Clane-Maynooth Municipal District – Four (Two in Clane, two in Kilcock, none in Maynooth)
- Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District – One (One in Celbridge, none in Leixlip)

The Transportation Department can also confirm that these will be included in the future review of all Parking Bye-Laws.

A report from Ms C O'Grady, A/Director of Service, Housing and Corporate Services stated that Facilities are in the process of finalising a design for the installation of Age Friendly parking spaces within the existing car park of Áras Chill Dara.

Councillor Cussen thanked the Director for the report noting that Wicklow County Council had installed some of these spaces in their carpark. Councillor Caldwell asked that consideration be given to providing these spaces in towns that do not yet have them, along with the relevant directional signage.

Ms Wright noted that the location of these spaces was hugely important as they needed to be near a post office/bank or a shop. The council also had to ensure that the streets were not overly cluttered with the signage that was necessary.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Cussen, seconded by Councillor Caldwell and agreed by the members present, the report was noted.

18/0722

Current Housing List Figures

The following motion in the names of Councillors Mark Leigh and Ciara Galvin was considered by the members.

That the council provide a breakdown of the current housing list figures for the County, including people availing of the HAP scheme.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Leigh and seconded by Councillor Galvin.

A report from Ms C O'Grady, A/Director of Service, Housing and Corporate Services stated that the Summary of Social Housing Assessments 2021 (SSHA) published by the Housing Agency gives a detailed breakdown of social housing applicants and can be accessed at <https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/f6119-summary-of-social-housing-assessments-2021-key-findings>. The Members were provided with an update on the SSHA in the April monthly Chief Executive Report.

The total number of households included in the SSHA was 2937, an additional 2,469 housing applicants were receiving social housing support in the form of HAP. The SSHA 2021 count date was the 17 November 2021.

Councillor Leigh noted that Councillor Feeney had spoken on this issue in an earlier motion, thus he was happy to accept the report.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Leigh, seconded by Councillor Galvin and agreed by the members present, the report was noted.

19/0722

RTE Investigates Programme

The following motion in the names of Councillors Mark Stafford and Pádraig McEvoy was considered by the members.

That the council considers the legal advice received on foot of the RTE Investigates programme, reflects on the learnings and evaluates options open to the elected members.

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

A report from Ms C O'Grady, A/Director of Services, Housing and Corporate Services stated that this is a matter for the members to consider. A copy of the legal advice was circulated to the members on the 20 May and has been recirculated separately, as it is only for the information of the Elected Members and the Executive.

Councillor Stafford stated that as a local authority public representative, your reputation and good name was hugely important and any potential defamation had to be viewed in that context. He stated that the council now had to consider if defamation of the council or of the elected members occurred during the RTE Primetime Investigates 'Chamber Secrets' program. He noted that by being featured on the show, it was reasonable to believe that by implication, reasonable members of society might think Kildare County Council had done something wrong. He also noted there had been further commentary on social media that could also be considered as defamatory. Councillor Stafford stated the members were grateful for the legal advice that had been sought on their behalf and asked that the motion be referred to the Protocol and Procedures Committee for further consideration, and a commitment given that the matter would be dealt with within the year.

Councillor McEvoy stated it was important to further review the matter and as Chair of the Protocol and Procedures Committee he was happy for the motion to be referred to the committee as suggested by Councillor Stafford.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Stafford, seconded by Councillor McEvoy and agreed by the members present, the report was noted and the members agreed that the motion be referred to the Protocol and Procedures Committee.

20/0722

County Development Plan Suspension

The following motion in the name of Councillor Suzanne Doyle was considered by the members.

That the council suspends work on the current County Development Plan as provided for within the Planning & Development (Amendment) (No.3) Bill 2021, Section 2 given the restrictions of public engagement due to Covid constraints and Covid related delay in accurate census data that has resulted in serious anomalies in the core strategy, it is prudent to await direction from likely review of NDP in order to align the core strategy and adjust the County Development Plan to accurately reflect and accommodate the population of county.

The motion was proposed by Councillor S Doyle and seconded by Councillor N Ó'Cearúil.

A report from Ms A Granville A/Director of Services, Planning and Strategic Development stated that it is the Executive's contention that it is not in the interest of Kildare County Council to accede to the Councillor's request. However, I can understand the valid concerns raised as Kildare has experienced rapid growth and that strong growth trend is set to continue for the life of the next County Development Plan.

I would like to reassure the members that there are no anomalies in the Core Strategy of the Draft Kildare County Development Plan 2023-2029 (dCDP) as it has been prepared in accordance with the current policies of the Government, i.e. the National Planning Framework (2018) as reviewed, and its Implementation Roadmap, the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy for the Eastern Midlands Region (2019) and the Housing Supply Target Methodology for Development Planning Guidelines for Planning Authorities [HSTs] (Dec 2020) issued under Section 28 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended).

For the avoidance of doubt, the housing targets contained in Table 2.8 of the Draft County Development Plan 2023-2029 are not based on 2016 census data, or an estimated population in 2021, but on Central Statistics Office (CSO) housing completion rates [in County Kildare] and the Section 28 Ministerial Guidelines on Housing Supply issued by the Government in December 2020. These targets are based on ESRI research which provides a robust, up-to-date and independently

developed housing demand projection, to inform policy and investment with regard to housing at national and local levels. The ESRI data provides an integrated model of housing demand that takes into account demographic, economic and housing market factors, including inter-county migration, at individual local authority level. While it is unfortunate that the detailed Census 2022 figures (SAP [Small Area Population] level) are not available at this stage, the preliminary Census 2022 results from CSO has no direct implications on the housing targets set out in the Core Strategy in the Draft County Development Plan.

The suspension of work on the current County Development Plan raises many serious and significant concerns for the organisation and the businesses and citizens of the County as a whole and has implications for the Councils broader plan making work programme. Any delay in adopting a County Development Plan and in turn the Core Strategy (which, as noted above, is not directly impacted by the Census) would unjustifiably suspend all work regarding the preparation of Local Area Plans. Kildare Town, Maynooth and Newbridge Local Area Plans, which are currently being reviewed, would be further delayed for an indiscriminate length of time. Kilcullen, Clane, Monasterevin, Kilcock, Leixlip, Celbridge and Sallins LAPs would also be delayed further.

In relation to public consultation, I would suggest that there has been an extensive and innovative public consultation process undertaken by KCC. There has been significant engagement from and with the public during both the pre-draft and draft stages of the CDP, with the delivery of a series of independently facilitated online webinars ([2 Pre-draft][3 Draft]) ensuring that public engagement has not suffered and, has in fact, been more out-reaching and engaging than previous plans when comparisons between attendance numbers are considered. The Planning Department also provided a virtual consultation room to which there were ca. 5,000 visits and also launched a podcast series to assist the general public and interested parties in understanding the County Development Plan.

Kildare County Council has consulted with the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage who have advised that they have no current plans to

review the National Development Plan (NDP), which was recently reviewed in 2021. To halt the statutory CDP process pending a further review, that may or may not happen, would not yield any discernible benefits for County Kildare.

The provisions of the “Bill” [sic] referenced in the motion are noted, however, in the interests of clarity, these provisions of the Planning & Development Acts, 2000 (as amended) relate to legislative procedures to extend the CDP review period rather than an indefinite suspension. It should also be noted that such extensions are subject to additional environmental considerations and consultations with statutory bodies.

Councillor Doyle noted the report and stated she had huge concerns over the Core Strategy of the County Development Plan being based on the Housing Needs Assessment as opposed to current census data, as there was no other data that was as accurate and stronger than up to date census data. She noted that using incorrect data at this point in the process was only going to create more difficulties for the council down the line. She expressed the view that the CDP online consultations had not reached a wide enough audience and heretofore, Kildare had been constrained by previous plans in the number of units it could deliver, especially given the volume of units being delivered in Kildare by SHDs alone.

A discussion took place amongst the members and the following points were made:

- If census data could not be used, could the electoral division preliminary data be used?
- The information being used was 6 years old and what was the difference between it and the current census data.
- Could SHD’s be ex- quota ie. not taken into consideration in the overall figures

Ms Granville responded that the National Planning Framework was published in 2018 and the current National Development Plan supported the Governments Capital Programme with the aim being to ensure that the provision of social infrastructure kept pace with development. She stated that the online consultation

rooms had proved very popular, and the targets set out in the draft CDP were for the period 2023 to 2029. Ms Granville stated towns in County Kildare were very different, such as Naas and Athy, and for this reason the council had received license from the Regulator to form a bespoke approach when dealing with these. She noted that Kildare was one of the highest performing counties in the country when it came to delivering housing and confirmed that there was an agreement in place to review the CDP if the census data transpired to be materially different to the data currently being used. She concluded by stating there were no anomalies in the Core Strategy and a letter from the Planning Regulator had confirmed that. She also noted that following a discussion at a recent MD, an AIRO mini-census was completed with the result very closely replicating the result from the method currently being used.

The Cathaoirleach called for a show of hands vote on Councillor Doyle's motion that was before the members.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Doyle, seconded by Councillor Ó' Cearúil with 7 members voting in favour, 21 members voting against and with 2 abstentions, the motion fell.

21/0722

Safe Overtaking for Cyclists Signage

The following motion in the name of Councillor Tracey O'Dwyer was considered by the members.

That Kildare County Council confirms if they have made an application to the Department of Transport to avail of the funding provided specifically for the purchase of new "Safe Overtaking for Cyclists Signage" which advises motorists of the need to leave adequate space when overtaking cyclists, as outlined in circular RST 04/219 relating to new signage concerning the safe overtaking width for cyclists which was issued to all local authorities on the 19 December 2019.

The Cathaoirleach confirmed Councillor T O'Dwyer was absent and had authorised Councillor K Duffy to move her motion on her behalf.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Duffy and seconded by Councillor Durkan.

A report from Ms E Wright, Director of Service, Roads Transportation and Public Safety stated that the signage referred to relates to an advertisement campaign undertaken by the Road Safety Authority that aimed to raise awareness of advised minimum safe passing distances to be observed by motorists when overtaking cyclists on the road. The campaign recommended minimum passing distances. The advice note from the Department advised that the signs could be used where warranted. Our resources are currently focussed on completing the Speed Limit Review and an assessment of where this signage may be warranted has not yet been completed.

We are confident that funding for this signage will continue to be available to Kildare County Council and we will work with our Active Travel team and the NTA to ensure that a programme for the provision of the necessary and appropriate cycle signage is put in place.

Councillor Duffy stated it had been brought to Councillor T O'Dwyer's attention that there was none of this signage in Kildare and asked if the council could now apply for funding for signage for a few popular cycling routes throughout the county. Councillor Keatley supported the motion and stated the members received a high volume of requests for safety signage and the council now needs to act on this in order to give the public some reassurance that this council is trying to make it safer for cyclists in the county.

Ms Wright stated the process to apply for funding was still open to the council, but that it had been constrained due to the pandemic and the resources assigned to the Speed Limit Review. She confirmed that she would ask for an assessment of what cycling routes could be considered in this regard.

Councillor Duffy confirmed there were maps available online which demonstrated the most popular cycling routes.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Duffy, seconded by Councillor Durkan and agreed by the members present, the report was noted.

22/0722

Renovation and Reallocation of Social Housing Units 2022

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

That the council outlines the budget allocated for renovating and reallocating it's social housing units in 2022 and what this budget equates to in the number of homes reallocated to date this year including where relevant, when these works resulted in an increase in BER, what number of reallocations it projects for the remainder of this year, how many units currently remain empty and unallocated and identify it's projections for 2023.

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

A report from Ms C O'Grady, A/Director of Service, Housing and Corporate Services stated that the Housing Maintenance budget allocation for 2022 is €10,543,684; this allocation is used to implement all maintenance programmes including: planned maintenance and pre-letting repairs, response maintenance, apartment block maintenance and management company engagement, windows & doors replacement, local property tax commitments and repairs in extenuating circumstances, such as works required to fire damaged properties beyond the range of insurance cover.

Of this allocation, approximately €2.5M is used directly for the completion of pre-letting repairs that are required before housing units are re- tenanted. This includes units returned to Kildare County Council in various states of disrepair and as such the costs associated with allocation differs from unit to unit. To the end of June this year, we have completed pre-letting works on 98 units with 87 allocated.

In relation to increasing the Better Energy Rating of units as they are refurbished, it has to be noted that many of the units that benefit from pre-letting repairs are of an older age-profile and the council's specifications for these works will ensure an increase in BER. These works include increasing the depth of attic insulation in line with current standards, replacement of inefficient boilers, increased wall insulation as

required, and replacement of doors and windows as required. These improvements are recorded against each unit in a post works BER certificate.

In relation to the remainder of 2022, we estimate that we will complete the full range of pre-letting repairs on an additional c.75 units leading to a total for this year of c.170. The progression of this quantity of void turnaround for the remainder of this year will be contingent on resources and funding but every effort will be made by staff in Housing Maintenance to achieve these targets, at a minimum. Of these additional 75 units, it is estimated that the majority will be allocated within this calendar year however it must be noted that the Housing Allocations Team work closely with prospective tenants during the Christmas period to ensure that family routines are not disrupted during this time.

Currently 138 units, from a total of 4,980 (2.77%) are awaiting pre-letting repairs and a further 18 (0.36%) are completed and about to be allocated. It is expected that a similar amount of units will be prepared for pre-letting in 2023 but it must be noted that the Housing Section of Kildare County Council are projecting an increase in our housing stock of approximately 250 units by the end of this year and moving into early 2023.

It is also noted that our vacancy rates are low and below the national average (Performance Indicator Report 2020). The monthly vacant house reports to both full council and each municipal district provide information on vacancy as the year progresses.

Councillor Farrelly firstly commended the staff in the Housing Departments Maintenance section for the great work they were doing, however he noted there was a frustration by some on the length of time taken to turn properties around after they become vacant. He noted the budget figure of €2.5m which averaged at roughly €15k per unit stating a more detailed breakdown was needed in relation to the management of the 130 units, how works were prioritised and was there an agreed timeline to relet these units.

Ms Aspell confirmed the issue regarding the maintenance turn around time and timeframes for reletting had been referred to the Housing SPC for consideration since their last meeting.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Farrelly seconded by Councillor Killeen and agreed by the members, the report was noted.

23/0722

Emergency Accommodation Centre

The following motion in the name of Councillor Naoise Ó Cearúil was considered by the members.

That the council establishes an emergency accommodation centre in the North of the County.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Ó Cearúil and seconded by Councillor R Power.

A report from Ms C O'Grady, A/Director of Housing and Corporate Services stated that Kildare County Council in conjunction with the Peter McVerry Trust (PMVT) currently operate a 4-suite Family Hub in North Kildare, located in Prosperous. Emergency Accommodation is also provided on a needs basis in a large guest house facility in the Celbridge area. The following homeless facilities are also provided throughout the County:

- Michael Garry House (STA) is in operation in Newbridge providing supported accommodation for up to 21 individuals.
- Kerdiffstown House provides supported temporary accommodation for up to 40 single adults. Cold Weather beds are also provided in this facility throughout the Winter periods with up to 20 beds available when required.
- Jigginstown Manor, Naas operated by Tiglin on behalf of Kildare County Council provides 12 own front door transitional units for young adults exiting emergency accommodation
- The Family Hub in Athy operated by the PMVT on behalf of Kildare County Council has 7 family suites and a further two one-bedroom transitional units.

- Two Shared Housing properties are operated by Teach Íosa on behalf of Kildare County in the Athy area, this provides progressions from homelessness for up to 5 individuals.

The provision of an emergency accommodation centre in the North of the County would require the acquisition of a suitable facility and the procurement of a Homeless Service provider to operate the facility on behalf of Kildare County Council, and would be subject to approval and funding from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

Councillor Ó'Cearúil stated he was seeing an increased demand for HAP and non-HAP properties in the north of the county and that currently, there was a total of 6 properties available on Daft.ie for the entire north of the county. He accepted the council did not have control over the supply of housing but stated he was seeking a more equitable distribution of homeless resources throughout the entire county.

The Cathaoirleach sought the members agreement to suspend standing orders by 10 minutes to defer the start of the next meeting and to enable this meeting to continue. The members agreed.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor McEvoy, seconded by Councillor Hamilton and with the unanimous agreement of the members, standing orders were suspended by 10 minutes.

Following a discussion, the members made the following points:

- The council should write to the Minister asking that in any case where a HAP tenant who was on the housing list were to be made homeless, the council should be allowed to purchase the unit for its own housing stock
- Unacceptable that Kildare tenants are being sent to Carlow to be housed
- People being made homeless by landlords was increasing and other options other than moving out of the county had to be investigated.

Ms Aspell stated she agreed with the members and the executive was open to any and all suggestions in this regard. She stated the Mid-East Strategic Management Group had discussed this matter but any solution would require funding from the

Department of Housing. Ms Aspell also confirmed the Minister had given some derogation to local authorities to buy some properties where people are in HAP and the property is being sold.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Ó Cearúil, seconded by Councillor Power and agreed by the members present, the report was noted.

24/0722

Housing Maintenance Contracts

The following motion in the name of Councillor Nuala Killeen was considered by the members.

That the council provides a report in tabular format on the cost and number of ongoing maintenance contracts in respect of leased units and PPP and other housing pillar delivery arrangements, the number of units covered by external maintenance contracts, per town, the number of companies involved in delivering maintenance and the estimated costs planned for the next 5 years in tabular format, and to confirm which aspects of the service are covered under contractual arrangements and which are delivered in-house, to include details provided (see attached).

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

A report from Ms C O'Grady, A/Director of Service, Housing and Corporate Services stated that subject to the agreement of the members, the council will examine providing the information requested. It is noted that the information requested will require the input of a number of Departments and may require input from the relevant SPCs.

Councillor Killeen noted the report and stated she was happy to receive the report in September. She stated it was evident that the numbers were increasing since 2018 and with that came an increasing budget and it would be prudent to examine the numbers in advance of the budget discussions.

The members sought clarity on what Councillor Killeen was seeking and asked could the request be refined as currently written it would involve a substantial amount of work to gather the information.

Councillor Killeen stated she did not want to refine the information as essentially, she was looking for a reporting mechanism to inform the impending budget discussion and to establish what costs are being borne inhouse and what costs are outsourced.

The Cathaoirleach asked the members to indicate by way of a show of hands if they were in favour of the motion.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Killeen, seconded by Councillor Pender with 8 members voting in favour, 15 members voting against and no abstentions, the motion was defeated.

25/0722

Provision of Housing and Emergency Accommodation

The following motion in the name of Councillor Chris Pender was considered by the members.

That in recognising the severity of the current housing crisis, the council agrees to implement a robust workflow process that comprehensively documents the actual real time unmet need of provision of housing and emergency accommodation in the community to include a) the number of homeless presentations to the housing section, whether repeat or unique, including but not limited to in person and on the phone b) how many of those presentations are in relation to new housing applications ie. have never been on a housing list before, or are homeless presentations of families that were couch surfing with termination notices filed and c) details of the outcome of the homeless presentation assessment.

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

A report from Ms C O'Grady, A/Director of Service, Housing and Corporate Services stated that the Housing need in the county is established by the annual Summary of Social Housing Assessments (SSHA) and targets for delivery relate to need determined. The SSHA 2021 determined that 243 (8.3%) households were included

on the social housing list on the basis of the following need: 'homeless, institution, emergency accommodation or hostel'.

The Housing Delivery Action Plan has been circulated to the elected members for information; and a briefing will be arranged for the elected members in September. The Housing Department has consulted with the Cathaoirleach about this.

The Housing Portal (developed inhouse) and PASS 2 (managed by the Dublin Regional Homeless Executive) record information regarding homeless presentations and subsequent placements in Emergency Accommodation.

Information on homelessness is provided to the elected members on a monthly and quarterly basis by way of the Chief Executive Report, it also details the work of the Homeless team. Amendments to the reporting process and the workflow process can be referred to the Housing SPC for consultation and agreement. The following is an extract of the information in this month's report:

Homeless Presentations

2021	Cases	Unique	Repeats
Total	1234	304	930
2021	Total Cases	Unique	Repeats
Quarter 1	296	92	204
Quarter 2	312	113	199
Total	608	205	403

Homeless Presentations: Unique Presentations Breakdown

2021	Adults	Dependents
Total	363	310
2021	Adults	Dependents
Quarter 1	99	81
Quarter 2	133	83
Total	232	164

Families in Private Emergency Accommodation (including Supported Temporary Accommodations and Family Hubs) as at 30 June 2022

Duration	No. of Households		
	with Dependents	Adults	Dependents
0 - 6 Months	26	43	41

6 - 12 Months	6	10	7
12 - 18 Months	3	4	4
18 - 24 Months	3	3	3
24 - 30 Months	2	2	2
36 Months +	5	9	7
Total	45	71	64

Families in Own Front Door Accommodation as of 30 June 2022

Duration	No. of Households with Dependents	Adults	Dependents
0 - 6 Months	6	7	8
6 - 12 Months	4	6	9
12 - 18 Months	0	0	0
18 - 24 Months	1	2	2
24 - 30 Months	0	0	0
+ 36 Months	1	1	0
Total	12	16	19

Councillor Pender welcomed the report but noted the position with regard to the unmet housing need ie. homeless presentations that are told to go home or stay on a friend's couch, was not being captured and recorded.

The Cathaoirleach sought the members agreement to suspend standing orders by 15 minutes to defer the start of the next meeting and enable this meeting to continue. The members agreed.

Resolved with the unanimous agreement of the members, standing orders were suspended by 15 minutes.

Ms Aspell stated there may be occasions where someone can move home to family, but that had always been the case. She undertook to examine how this information was being recorded in the Housing Needs Assessment and revert to Councillor Pender.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Pender, seconded by Councillor Killeen and agreed by the members present, the report was noted.

26/0722

Single Cemetery Plots

The following motion in the name of Councillor Noel Heavey was considered by the members.

That the council undertake a feasibility study with a view to running a pilot project to favour the sale of SINGLE plots rather than DOUBLE/FAMILY plots in cemeteries and graveyards under the control of Kildare County Council.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Heavey and seconded by Councillor Ó'Cearúil.

The Cathaoirleach sought the members agreement to suspend standing orders by 5 minutes to defer the start of the next meeting and enable this meeting to continue.

The members agreed.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Power seconded by Councillor O'Cearúil and with the unanimous agreement of the members, standing orders were suspended by 5 minutes.

A report from Mr J Boland, Director of Service, Environment, Water Services and Climate Action stated that this is a very well intentioned and worthwhile motion and is very relevant in the context of the increased cost of providing cemetery extensions, particularly in certain parts of the county. Indeed, already in a few cemeteries, such a policy is already being followed where there are limited spaces available.

However, there are likely to be challenges progressing this as a broad county-wide policy particularly as there will clearly be a range of sensitivities involved and in truth, the initiative does not lend itself to a 'feasibility study' or 'pilot'. There may also be practical aspects as there can be limitations to the number of burials in a single plot where certain ground conditions exist.

Another possibility worth considering is perhaps to restructure the pricing policy more in favour of single plots and this aspect might be worth examining.

Councillor Heavey thanked the Director for the report stating there was severe pressure across the county on this matter and due to our culture, double grave plots are automatically offered to people regardless of whether they have family or not and asked the council to consider changing this culture.

Mr Boland reiterated the sensitivities around this issue but said he was happy for the motion to be referred to the Environment Services and Water SPC for further discussion.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Heavey, seconded by Councillor Ó'Cearúil and agreed by the members present, the report was noted, and it was agreed to refer the motion to the Environment Services and Water SPC for further discussion.

27/0722

Notice of proposed amendments to Minutes

The Cathaoirleach stated the next item on the agenda was the motion in the name of Councillor Fiona McLoughlin Healy. He confirmed that as Councillor McLoughlin Healy was not in attendance and as she had not issued any instruction to him or the Meetings Administrator in relation to authorising a proposer, in accordance with standing orders the motion is removed from the agenda and will not appear on any agenda unless on fresh notice.

The meeting concluded and the council then met in private session as is required by the Local Government (Appointment of Chief Executive Regulations) 2014 to consider the recommendation of the Corporate Policy Group in relation to the appointment of Chief Executive.

28/0722

Appointment of Chief Executive

The members considered the recommendation of the Corporate Policy Group in relation to the appointment of Chief Executive.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Seamie Moore, seconded by Councillor Naoise Ó'Gearúil and unanimously agreed by the members present, that the recommendation of the Corporate Policy group be accepted, and that Ms Sonya Kavanagh be appointed Chief Executive of Kildare County Council.

The meeting concluded.