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**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF KERRY COUNTY COUNCIL TO
CONSIDER THE 2017 SERVICE DELIVERY PLAN FOR THE OPERATIONS
DIRECTORATE
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, ARAS AN CHONTAE, TRALEE,
ON MONDAY, 3rd APRIL 2017**

PRESENT/I LÁTHAIR

Councillors/Comhairleoirí

M. O'Shea

R. Beasley

J. Lucid

M. Cahill

B. Cronin

J. Culloty

T. Ferris

S. Cosai Fitzgerald

N. Foley

M. Gleeson

D. Grady

J. Healy-Rae

N. Kelliher

P. Connor-Scarteen

M. Kennelly

D. Nolan

D. McCarthy

J. Moloney

N. Moriarty

T. O'Brien

B. O'Connell

L. Purtill

J. Finucane

J. Sheahan

T. McEllistrim

A. Thornton

IN ATTENDANCE/I LÁTHAIR

Ms. Moira Murrell, Chief Executive

Mr. C. O'Sullivan, Director of Services, Operations & Safety

Mr. M. Scannell, A/Director of Services

Mr. D. Doyle, S.E., Operations & Safety

Mr. P. Neary, S.E., Operations & Safety

Mr. G. Riordan, S.E., Operations & Safety

Mr. T. Sheehy, S.E., Operations & Safety

Mr. P. Curry, A/S.E., Kerry National Road Design Office

Mr. F. Hartnett, S.E.E., Tralee Municipal District

Mr. P. Teahan, S.E.E., South & West Kerry Municipal District

Mr. E. Scanlan, S.E.E., Listowel Municipal District

Mr. B. Lennon, A/S.E.E., Operations & Safety

Mr. C. Mangan, S.E.E., Water Services

Ms. K. Lynch, SEO Finance

Mr. G. O'Brien, A/S.E.O. Environment & Planning

Mr. L. Quinlan, S.E.O. Corporate Affairs

Ms. M. West, A.O., Operations & Safety

Ms. N. Purtill, S.O., Operations & Safety

Ms. K. Doody, S.O., Operations & Safety

Ms. C. Leahy, A.S.O, Operations & Safety

APOLOGIES/ LEITHSCÉAL A GHABHÁIL

Cllr. P. Daly

Cllr. S. Locke

Cllr. P. McCarthy

ABSENT/AS LÁTHAIR

Cllr. J.F. Flynn

Cllr. D. Quigg

Cllr. G. Spring

Cllr. M. Healy-Rae

The meeting commenced at 10.30a.m.

Cllr. M. O'Shea, Cathaoirleach, commenced the meeting. It was noted that the four Schedule of Municipal District Works Plans have already been extensively debated and adopted. It was agreed that the Service Delivery Plan is the Elected Member's Plan and should be conveyed as such. It was further agreed that a press release would issue on the achievements met in each Municipal District. in terms of the Service Delivery Plan for the past 12 months.

Item 1. Consideration of the Service Delivery Plan 2017

The Members discussed the programme at length, and the Members thanked Mr. Charlie O'Sullivan, Director of Services, Operations and Safety, for the preparation of the Service Delivery Plan 2017. Members wished to acknowledge and compliment the works carried out by the Area Engineers, Outdoor Staff and the Area Offices.

The following specific issues were raised by the Members:

Cllr. Donal O'Grady:-

- Welcomed the Service Delivery Plan 2017.
- Expressed concern regarding the reduction in staff numbers.

Cllr. Michael Gleeson:-

- Congratulated St. Brendan's Killarney on winning the All-Ireland Colleges.
- Expressed concern regarding the Lewis Road Junction onto the Bypass Road where an accident had occurred this morning.
- Expressed concern regarding the N22 road through Glenflesk which he feels is disintegrating rapidly and asked that representations be made again to the T.I.I.

Cllr. Niall Kelliher:-

- Congratulated St. Brendan's Killarney on winning the All-Ireland Colleges.
- Expressed concern regarding lags appearing in NP and NS routes in the charge of the T.I.I. and stated that a plan is needed to deal with them.

Cllr. Toiréasa Ferris:-

- Expressed concern regarding the lack of durapatcher in the County when there has been considerable investment in neighbouring counties.
- Tralee/Fenit Walkway needs to be prioritised.

Cllr. John Joe Culloty:-

- Congratulated St. Brendan's Killarney in winning the All-Ireland Colleges.
- Concurred with Cllr. Gleeson regarding the Lewis Road Junction where an accident had occurred this morning. Asked if a 60km speed limit sign could be provided as a short-term measure.

- Expressed concern regarding the Killarney By-Pass Road stating that it requires urgent attention.

Cllr. Aoife Thornton:-

- Requested more funding for roads in North Kerry. She would like an opportunity to meet with the Minister next time he is in Kerry.

Cllr. Norma Foley:-

- Welcomed the ongoing parking review. Requested more user friendly access to parking and asked about park by text.
- Expressed concern that only 16 taking in charge applications can be progressed out of 41 applications this year.
- Welcomed the footpath improvement allocation but said that greater investment is needed in Tralee.
- Requested a full report on progress on the Tralee/Fenit Greenway.

Cllr. Jim Finucane:-

- Referred to the recent submission to the National Planning Framework but expressed concern regarding the proposal from Central Government that the funding would come from own resources.
- Requested continued investment in the Wild Atlantic Way. Stated that a cycleway the full length of the WAW should be supported. Added that all Councils involved should meet to agree a co-ordinated approach on a regional basis.

Cllr. Dan McCarthy:-

- Welcomed the Service Delivery Plan 2017.
- Concurred with Cllr. O'Grady regarding the need for more staff on the ground.
- Expressed concern regarding the extended closure of the Molls Gap Road due to road works.

Cllr. Terry O'Brien:-

- Congratulated Tralee Warriors Basketball Club on winning the Basketball Ireland Men's Champions Trophy.
- Requested progress on the Tralee/Fenit Greenway as there is concern that the project won't go ahead.

Cllr. Johnny Healy-Rae:-

- Expressed concern regarding the Poulgorm Bridge following recent heavy rain.
- Requested traffic calming measures at Iveragh.
- Expressed concern regarding the waiting time for public lighting repairs.
- Expressed concern regarding car parking in Kenmare and Dingle as we are approaching tourist season.
- Expressed concern regarding staffing levels due to sick leave in a particular area. Asked if seasonable workers could be made permanent.
- Expressed concern regarding no durapatcher in the S&W MD area.
- Expressed concern regarding the use of black tar on road works which he feels doesn't provide VFM.

Cllr. Robert-Beasley:-

- Requested that Duagh/Asdee could be included in capital programme sewerage scheme investment.
- Expressed concern regarding roads in North Kerry.
- Requested that funding is sought for Phase 2 of Dale Road and a programme of works put in place.
- Requested that footpaths, as well as roads, would be done along the Wild Atlantic Way

Cllr. John Sheahan:-

- Congratulated St. Brendan's Killarney on winning the All-Ireland Colleges.
- Concurred with previous speakers regarding the Lewis Road Junction and the introduction of speed limits at this location.
- Commended the cycle lane at Muckcross Road and requested a cycle lane at Ballydowney
- Welcomed the Kilcummin Sewerage Scheme but said that the roads need to be improved in this area.

Cllr. Tom McEllistrim:-

- Expressed concern that Local Improvement Schemes and Community Involvement Schemes do not have adequate funding.
- Raised concerns regarding flooding at Kilmoyley Graveyard and stated that the road should be piped and drained.

Cllr. Jimmy Maloney:-

- Requested more T.I.I. funding for pavement overlays to address the issues of potholes and lags on the N69.

Cllr. Norma Moriarty:-

- Welcomed the Service Delivery Plan 2017.
- Expressed concern regarding staffing issues in the South and West MD.
- Referred to the severe weather event in Caherciveen in October 2016 and expressed disappointment that there was no funding from Central Government allocated towards repairs. She welcomed the funding for the bridge repairs.

Cllr. Dianne Nolan:-

- Concurred with Cllr. Sheehan regarding his request for cycle lanes and said that road safety for both cyclists and road users is of paramount importance.
- Concurred with previous speakers regarding the Wild Atlantic Way.
- Expressed concern regarding lack of funding for local and regional roads.
- Stated that traffic management plans should be part of the programme particularly in Listowel.

Cllr. Mike Kennelly:-

- Welcomed the Service Delivery Plan 2017.
- Expressed concern that there is not enough outdoor staff in the Listowel area.
- Expressed concern regarding the Listowel to Tralee Road just outside Listowel and asked that representations be made to the T.I.I.
- Asked that the exact position in relation to the Listowel Bypass is relayed to the public as soon as possible and asked that the landowners adjacent to the proposed bypass are consulted.

- Welcomed the Listowel Greenway initiative but asked that representatives from the Council meet with landowners concerned.
- Expressed concern that the lack of sewerage scheme at Duagh and Ballyduff is contributing to de-population as people can't get planning permission as a result.

Cllr. Séamus Cosaí Fitzgerald:-

- Welcomed the progress on the N86.
- Welcomed funding for the fourth phase of the Dingle Relief Road but now needs to see it progressed.
- Provision of car parking in Dingle is very important, therefore funding needs to be provided.
- Welcomed the additional turn key housing allocations but stated that a commitment for more is required.

Cllr. Liam Purtill:-

- Expressed concern regarding roads in the Ballylongford area damaged as a result of wind farm drilling. Also damaged as a result of rain and asked when Kerry County Council is going to invest in these roads.

Cllr. Michael Cahill:-

- Welcomed the Service Delivery Plan 2017.
- Expressed concern regarding the Tralee Killorglin Road going into Killorglin. Fexco are making substantial investment in Killorglin and therefore should be provided with a footpath out to their new premises. Asked that the T.I.I. are requested to provide funding for road improvement in this location.
- Expressed concern regarding erosion/coastal flooding in the Cromane Lower area.
- Asked that every effort is made to acquire the lands required at Cliff Road, Rossbeigh.
- Welcomes the response to his notice of motion regarding Behy Bridge.
- Concurred with previous speakers regarding the provision of cycleways.
- Expressed concern regarding staffing in the Killorglin/Caherciveen area.
- Requested that footpaths in Killorglin Area are wheelchair friendly.

Cllr. Patrick O'Connor-Scarreen:-

- Welcomes the energy efficiency improvements to 210 local authority houses.
- Welcomed the feasibility study at Ard Bhearna, Kenmare. Commended the work of the housing estates unit.
- Welcomed the allocation towards footpaths and the two bridges at Doory and Portmagee.
- Hopes more than 5 Local Improvement Schemes can be carried out this year.
- Thanked staff and management for their efforts regarding the Macroom Bypass and requested that representations are continued.
- Thanked staff and management for their work regarding the South Kerry Greenway.
- Welcomed the speed limit review.

Cathaoirleach Michael O'Shea:-

- Expressed concern regarding staffing and requested that seasonal staff are made permanent.
- Referred to forthcoming meeting between Minister Ross and landowners in South Kerry regarding the greenway and is pleading with him to take an impartial approach.
- Highlighted the importance of greenways in the National Development Plan 2040 which proposed one greenway from South West to North West of Ireland.

- Expressed concern regarding the road going into Killorglin at Astellas. Asked that the T.I.I. are requested to provide funding.

Cllr. Brendan Cronin:-

- Welcomes funding for roads in Kilcummin.
- Thanked housing staff for works regarding housing grant applications.
- Expressed concern regarding caretaker retiring at Aglish Cemetery and not being replaced.
- Queried what voting rights TDs have in relation to the Service Delivery Plan.
- Welcomed the excellent works at Plunkett Street but asked will the street be re-opened by the 14th April 2017 as scheduled.
- Asked for the position regarding the CPO at Knockeenduff.

Cllr. John Lucid:-

- Welcomed the Service Delivery Plan 2017.
- Expressed concern regarding road between Causeway and Ballyheigue on the Wild Atlantic Way.
- Expressed concern regarding the condition of the Dale Road.
- Welcomed the allocation towards footpaths but requested that it is extended to villages.
- Welcomed the new Sewerage Treatment Plan at Ardfert.
- Expressed concern that the lack of sewerage scheme at Duagh and Ballyduff.
- Expressed concern regarding the bog road at Ballyheigue which is seriously flooded.

Mr. Charlie O’Sullivan acknowledged the appreciation conveyed to the staff. He stated that he will be arranging a press release regarding the works carried out in the MD areas. He then responded to broader issues raised as follows:-

- The key challenges for the directorate are the level of state funding which the Department of Transport, Tourism & Sport has acknowledged is inadequate. Funding is driven by Corporate Plan and LECP as prescribed in legislation.
- A regular programme of footpath repairs to be put in place over the next year.
- Wild Atlantic Way is identified as a priority in the Corporate Plan. Conference to be arranged which will bring together all the stakeholders.
- In terms of Greenways, the priorities are South Kerry and the Southern Trail. In relation to the Southern Trail, the final legal agreement has been secured with CIE and this is very welcome. It is the intention of Kerry County Council to progress with the Tralee/Fenit Greenway later this year.
- Public Lighting:- new procedures are being put in place to report the status of repairs to Elected Members.
- Pavement Overlays:- no details received yet for 2017.
- Listowel By-Pass:- sought pre-planning meeting with An Bord Pleanála and will be proceeding with an application and preparing an EIS.
- Kilcummin Road deferred until the sewerage scheme is completed. Still on the programme but timeline depends on the completion of the sewerage scheme.
- Not aware of the issue of the caretaker at Aglish Cemetery but will investigate it.
- Confirmed that TDs do not have voting rights in relation to the development and adoption of the Service Delivery Plan. The Plan is developed following the budget and grant allocation and it is not a matter for Oireachtas Members.

- Acknowledged impact of staffing and resources on the programme. Confirmed that panels are in place and there will be appointments but staffing levels will not be going back to pre-recession levels, as the funding is not in place.
- Plant:- reviewing operations of Machinery Yard. Trialling a high velocity patching unit at present in the Killarney area. Will be considering other areas following this. Need to consider best value for money before purchasing.
- Confirmed that Plunkett Street will be completed by the 14th April 2017.
- In relation to the CPO at Knockeenduff, Killarney it is intended that the CPO will be published within the next fortnight. Negotiations are ongoing with the landowner in this regard.

Cllr. Toiréasa Ferris and Cllr. Norma Foley expressed their appreciation to Mr. Eamon Scanlan, S.E.E. for all his work in the Tralee area over the past number of years. The Elected Members concurred with this expression of appreciation.

Cllr. Aoife Thornton requested that Minister Ross is invited to meet with the Elected Members when he is visiting Kerry to discuss the most serious issues in relation to our roads network. This was unanimously agreed.

On the proposal of Cllr. Robert Beasley and seconded by Cllr. Séamus Cosaí Fitzgerald, the Service Delivery Plan 2017 was adopted as presented.

Item 2: AOB

Approval for opening of tenders for Denny Site - Demolition and Site Remediation Project 2017.

This was proposed by Cllr. Toiréasa Ferris, seconded by Cllr. Norma Foley and agreed.

Approval for the attendance of Cathaoirleach Michael O'Shea at official launch of ESIF Website on 5th April 2017 at 14.15 at Govt. Buildings, Upper Merrion Street, Dublin.

This was proposed by Cllr. Dan McCarthy, seconded by Cllr. Niall Kelliher and agreed.

Meeting concluded at 12.10 p.m.

Liam Quinlan
Meetings Administrator

Cathaoirleach of Kerry County Council