

**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS OF MONTHLY MEETING OF TIPPERARY COUNTY COUNCIL  
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, CIVIC OFFICES, CLONMEL  
AND REMOTELY VIA ZOOM  
AT 10.00 AM  
ON MONDAY 9<sup>th</sup> February, 2026.**

**Present**

Cllr. John Carroll, Cathaoirleach

Cllrs: Acheson, T; Ambrose, S; Anglim, Ml; Bonfield, F; Bourke, K; Brennan, Ml; Browne, L; Burgess, D; Crosse, J; Dennehy, N; Dunne, D; English, P; FitzGerald, J; Goldsboro, A; Hourigan, M.H.; Kennedy, R; Kennedy, Wm; Lee, S; McGrath, M; Moloney, A; Moran, E; Morgan Walsh, Louise; Murphy, M; O'Heney, J; O'Meara, JP; Ryan, S; Smith, Ml;

**Remote**

Cllrs: Bugler, P; Hannigan, J, Lowry, Ml, Molloy, R; Morris, S; O'Meara, Ml, Quirke O'Meara, P; Ryan, J; Ryan, P;

**Apologies**

Cllr: Kay Cahill Skehan, Mark Fitzgerald, Anne Marie Ryan (Shiner)

**Also Present**

Ms. Sinéad Carr, Chief Executive

Mr. Eamon Lonergan, Mr. Liam Brett, Mr. Brian Beck, Mr. Anthony Coleman, Mr. Jonathan Cooney, Mr. Damien Ginty Directors of Services

Mr. Denis Holland S.E. Mr James Murray, S.E, Mr. Robert Johnston S.E.E. Mr. Fergal Condon A.O., Mr. Shane O'Dwyer

Mr Ger Walsh, Meetings Administrator

**Item 1.1**

**Welcome &  
Introduction/  
Meetings  
Protocol**

The Cathaoirleach welcomed all to the February Meeting of the Council, advising members present in the Chamber that their microphone had to be turned on when they spoke and referred members attending remotely of the protocol for remote meetings circulated with the agenda and asked members to observe the rules contained therein with regard to remote meetings. He checked with each councillor attending remotely that they could see and hear clearly. He welcomed the media, the staff members and the members of the public who were in attendance.

The Meetings Administrator took a roll call confirmed a quorum was present and commenced the meeting with the opening prayer.

The Cathaoirleach welcomed the members of Comhairle na nÓg to the meeting. On the proposal of the Cathaoirleach and in line with Standing Order No. 86, it was agreed to take Item No. 7.1 Comhairle na nÓg presentation at 12 noon.

**Item 2.1**  
**Disclosure/or**  
**Conflicts of**  
**Interest**

No disclosures or conflicts of interest were notified to the Meetings Administrator in advance of the meeting

**Item No. 3.1**  
**Minutes of**  
**Council Meeting**  
**held on 13<sup>th</sup>**  
**January 2026**

The Minutes of Council Meeting held on the 13<sup>th</sup> of January 2026 were proposed by **Cllr. Séan Ryan**, seconded by **Cllr. Michael Brennan** and approved.

**Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising

**Item 4.1**  
**Training and**  
**Development**  
**Programme for**  
**Elected**  
**Members 2026**

The Cathaoirleach invited Mr. Ger Walsh, Meetings Administrator to brief the members.

Mr. Walsh presented the Draft Training and Development Programme for Elected Members for 2026, prepared in accordance with the statutory framework under Section 142 of the Local Government Act 2001 (as amended) and relevant Departmental Circulars.

The programme outlines the policy basis for councillor training, emphasising value for money, continuous learning, and alignment with the functions and strategic needs of the Council. It details the governance arrangements whereby attendance at conferences and training is a reserved function of the Plenary Council, with authorisation processes overseen by the Privilege and Procedure Committee and the Corporate Policy Group. A €5,000 annual training allowance per councillor is provided for in the Revenue Budget, with a separate conference allocation capped at €700 per member and €1,000 maximum annually.

The programme sets out the scope of permissible training, including AILG and LAMA events, local induction supports, QQI-validated courses, and specialist training linked to local authority functions. It identifies approved and potential training providers such as the Institute of Public Administration, LGIU, representative bodies, and in-house training units.

Key training themes for 2026 include governance, ethics and standards, fraud and corruption prevention, ICT skills, cybersecurity, climate action, corporate governance, Irish language training, and supports for the Tipperary Women's Caucus.

The draft programme also includes a schedule of recommended courses for 2026 across all four quarters. Monitoring and evaluation arrangements include post-training reporting requirements, publication of statutory registers, and a year-end review to inform future training plans.

In response to a query regarding Code of Conduct Training for elected members, Mr. Ger Walsh, Meetings Administrator agreed to follow up with Cllr. Smith.

It was proposed by **Cllr. Roger Kennedy**, seconded by **Cllr. Mary Hanna Hourigan** and agreed: -

***"That the Training and Development Programme 2026 would be adopted".***

It was proposed by **Cllr. Roger Kennedy** and seconded by **Cllr. Marie Murphy** and resolved: -

**Item No. 4.2**  
**Approval to**  
**Attendance**

"That pursuant to Section 142 (5) of the Local Government Act 2001 and having regard to (i) the benefits likely to accrue, (ii) the general interest of this administrative area and of the local community (iii) the estimated cost of the proposed attendance and the provision made for such purposes in the annual budget, hereby nominate those listed hereunder to attend the following Conferences/Seminars/Trainings: -

<b>Seminars/ Conferences/ Similar Events</b>	<b>Dates</b>	<b>Venue</b>	<b>Nominees</b>
AILG Module 1 "What Local Authorities in Ireland can offer to support Disabled People and age Population	19 <sup>th</sup> Feb.	Fairways Hotel Dundalk	Liam Browne Mairin McGrath Richie Molloy
AILG Module 1 "What Local Authorities in Ireland can offer to support Disabled People and age Population	21 <sup>st</sup> Feb.	Hotel Kilkenny	Andy Moloney Sean Ryan Phyll Bugler Michael Brennan Amy Goldsboro Mary Hanna Hourigan
AIR Training Seminar	25 <sup>th</sup> & 26 <sup>th</sup> Feb.		John Fitzgerald Mark Fitzgerald Niall Dennehy John Carroll Eddie Moran Micheal Anglim Declan Burgess Mairin McGrath Kieran Bourke Michael Smith Michael Brennan

### ***Invitation to Cathaoirleach to visit Maryland, USA in March 2026***

The members were informed that an official invitation had been received from the Secretary of State of Maryland inviting the Cathaoirleach and a delegation from Tipperary County Council to visit Maryland in March. The invitation highlights the long-standing relationship between Maryland and Ireland and proposes engagement on areas including higher education, research and emerging technologies, agriculture and equine initiatives, and life sciences. The proposed delegation would include the Chief Executive, Ms. Sinéad Carr and Mr. Anthony Fitzgerald, Head of Enterprise.

The invitation was approved by the CPG and recommended for adoption by the Plenary Council.

It was proposed by **Cllr. Roger Kennedy**, seconded by **Cllr. Marie Murphy** and agreed: -

***"That the Cathaoirleach Cllr. John Carroll and a delegation from Tipperary County Council would accept the invitation from the Maryland Secretary of State to visit Maryland USA in March 2026."***

### **Item 4.3**

Reports on Conferences attended were noted.

### **Reports on Conferences**

### **Item No. 5.1**

### **Ratification of members to Local Community Development Committee**

(a) It was proposed by **Cllr. Siobhan Ambrose** and seconded by **Cllr. Marie Murphy** and resolved: -

In accordance with Section 36 of the Local Government Act 2001, as amended by Section 49A (1), Chapter 2 of Part 6 of the Local Government Reform Act 2014 and Article 4 (1) of the Local Community Development Committee (Section 128E) Regulations 2014, and statutory instruments no. 314 of 2014 the Local Community Development Committee (section 128e) (amendment) (no. 1) regulations 2014

***"That Ms. Mary Purcell, Department of Social Protection be and is hereby appointed as an associate member of the Local Community & Development Committee (LCDC)"***

(b) It was proposed by **Cllr. Siobhan Ambrose** and seconded by **Cllr. Marie Murphy** and resolved: -

In accordance with Section 36 of the Local Government Act 2001, as amended by Section 49A (1), Chapter 2 of Part 6 of the Local Government Reform Act 2014 and Article 4 (1) of the Local Community Development Committee (Section 128E) Regulations 2014, and statutory instruments no. 314 of 2014 the Local Community Development Committee (section 128e) (amendment) (no. 1) regulations 2014

***"That Ms. Sylvia Hassett, Mid-West Region be and is hereby appointed as a member of the Local Community & Development Committee (LCDC), replacing Ms. Derval Howley"***

## **Item 6.1**

### **Consideration of Management Report as per Section 136 (2) of the Local Government Act, 2001, as amended by the Local Government Reform Act, 2014**

The Cathaoirleach referred to the Management Report as circulated with the Agenda noting that the reports related to the Directorates based in Clonmel and any queries/clarifications would be dealt with by the relevant Director of Services.

- Economic, Community and Rural Development
- Environment & Climate Action
- Corporate Services
- Housing Services

### **Economic, Community and Rural Development**

Mr. Damien Ginty, Director of Services, provided an update on key projects and acknowledged the contribution of the elected members. He, together with the Cathaoirleach, extended congratulations to Mr. Noel Coonan and Cllr. Andy Moloney on their appointments as Chair and Vice-Chair, respectively, of the Local Community Safety Partnership. He also welcomed the cross-directorate response to the recent severe weather event and noted the establishment of Community Action Plans.

Mr. Ginty responded to general queries raised in relation to the Management Report as follows:

#### Severe Weather Response

He advised that the Severe Weather Plan is in place and available on the Council's website. Community Support Centres are being established. Members were encouraged to contact the Community & Environment Section regarding Community Action Plans, and engagement will be facilitated.

#### LEO

He noted the job creation supported under Measure 1 funding. Measure 2 will focus on the provision of business mentoring and supports.

#### SICAP

The annual target of 40 community groups was noted. Members were encouraged to make contact if they are aware of any group that may warrant inclusion in the programme.

#### Clár Programme

Clár boundaries are currently under review. It was agreed to engage with the Department to highlight the omission of Clonmel for the programme.

#### Faillte Ireland & Irelands Hidden Heartlands

Consultation with both organisations is ongoing. It was agreed that available minutes of meetings would be circulated to Cllr. Phyll Bugler and that liaison would take place with her regarding future meeting dates.

### **Environment & Climate Action**

Mr. Eamon Lonergan, Director of Services welcomed Ms. Sharon Scully S.E.O. who had replaced Mr. Michael Moroney S.E.O. in the directorate.

Mr. Lonergan and Mr. Denis Holland S.E., responded to general queries raised in relation to the Management Report as follows:

#### Community Climate Action Fund

It was noted that 69 applications have been received under the Community Climate Action Fund. These applications will be assessed prior to submission to the Department, and funding levels are anticipated to be similar to those available in 2025.

#### Dog Control

The cost of providing the dog control service was acknowledged, and members agreed that options for a public awareness campaign should be examined. It was reported that 30 dogs out of a total of 250 were euthanised for welfare reasons, with all such decisions made in consultation with veterinary expertise. A list of restricted breeds will be circulated to members and made available on the Council website.

#### Textile Banks

Members were advised that the response to the removal of textile banks has been positive, with no complaints recorded to date. Figures for January will be circulated when available.

#### Household Waste Inspections

A review of the Litter Management Plan will take place in 2026. Household waste inspections will continue on an ongoing basis, and options to support the continuation of these inspections will be examined.

It was noted that approximately 2,000 illegal dumping complaints are received annually.

#### Severe Weather Event

Climate Action funding is currently being examined by the Roads Department. Tipperary County Council is participating in the EU CLIMAAX Project under the EU Missions for Climate Adaptation, involving 69 regions across Europe in preparing Climate Risk Assessments (CRAs). Tipperary is among the first local authorities to prepare a CRA.

#### Templemore Master Plan

The Templemore Master Plan continues to be developed through the Thurles MD with funding being provided by Roads Department.

#### Historical Landfill Remediation

A response is awaited from the EPA regarding the historical landfill remediation project. It was noted that approximately 20 similar sites to Kilsheelan landfill exist across the country.

#### Horse Control

A total of 49 horses have been seized to date, with animals held in shelters pending the resolution of welfare concerns and potential return to owners. The strong working relationship between the Council, the Department of Agriculture and An Garda Síochána was acknowledged. It was agreed to provide a breakdown of loose horse reports by area to Cllr. Declan Burgess, and a breakdown of horses rehomed by area to Cllr. Michael Brennan. Options for a public awareness campaign will also be considered.

### Burial Grounds

It was noted that matters relating to the burial ground's capital programme will be addressed at SPC level.

### LACAP

A report on the Local Authority Climate Action Plan (LACAP) will be brought to members at the April meeting.

### Call for Tender Reporting

It was agreed to liaise directly with Cllr. Mairín McGrath concerning her query about the availability of call-for-tender reports.

### Water Supply Treatment

It was agreed to follow up with Uisce Éireann regarding the treatment components added to the public water supply and to revert to Cllr. Phyll Bugler with the information.

### Flooding Incident Thurles

The District Engineer will liaise with Cllr. Jim Ryan regarding the specific flooding query raised.

### New Inn Burial Grounds

Members were advised that New Inn burial grounds have reached capacity. Land has been identified for an extension; however, access remains an issue.

### Ardfinnan Burial Grounds

Members will be updated on any progress regarding Ardfinnan burial grounds as it arises.

### Bohar Burial Grounds

Members will be notified of the arrangements for the official opening.

### Kilboy Burial Grounds

Legal consultations relating to Kilboy burial grounds are ongoing.

### St Patricks Cemetery

The requirement for an extension to St Patrick's Cemetery will be referred to Clonmel Borough District for their consideration.

### Fennor Graveyard

The feasibility of including Fennor Graveyard in the Capital Programme will be examined.

### Septic Tank Grant Scheme

It was agreed to revert to Cllr. Pamela Quirke O'Meara regarding specific query raised on determining the responsibility for a septic tank installed by the Council.

### Policy re Interments (Burials & Ashes) and (Burial Plot) limitations

Members were advised that it is difficult to provide a definitive position regarding interments, including burials, ashes, and burial plot limitations,

as the matter depends on a range of variables specific to individual locations and circumstances.

#### Lead Grants

It was noted that lead remediation grants are administered directly by the Department and are demand-driven, with no means test applied. Members were informed that uptake of the scheme has been low.

#### Corporate Services

There were no further queries or comments raised on the Corporate Report.

#### Housing Services

It was agreed, on the proposal of the Cathaoirleach, to take the following item as part of the Management Report – Housing Services

- Item No. 10.1 Cllr. Pat English Notice of Motion 3093
- Item No. 10.2 Cllr. Mairín McGrath Notice of Motion 3095

The Motion Reference No. 3093 was proposed by **Cllr. Pat English.**

#### Item No. 10.1 Cllr. Pat English NOM 3093

***"That Tipperary County Council recognise Housing as a fundamental human right and that Tipperary County Council sets out a rights-based housing policy that will ensure the right to access adequate housing in the county and that we also write to the Minister for Housing requesting that the Irish Government hold a Referendum to insert the right to access adequate housing in the Constitution and provide the support needed to uphold this right."***

The motion was seconded by **Cllr. David Dunne.**

In moving the motion Cllr. English stated that there were psychological impacts associated with the housing shortages in Ireland. He encouraged the council to actively campaign on this matter.

In responding to the motion Mr. Jonathan Cooney, Director of Services stated that having referred to the subject matter of the motion it was noted that such a matter is constitutional in nature rather than a matter for Local Government. The supporting of the motion as presented would potentially have very serious legal and financial implications for Tipperary County Council.

It was recommended to the members that the motion be amended to request that the Irish Government hold a Referendum to insert the right to access adequate housing in the Constitution and provide the support needed to uphold this right.

Cllr. English and Cllr. Dunne and members agreed with the amendment as proposed. Cllr. Dunne acknowledged the work of the Housing Section in delivering social housing.

It was agreed that the amended Notice of Motion would be referred to the Minister for Housing, Local Government & Heritage, Mr James Browne T.D. for consideration and reply.

***"Tipperary County Council in recognising the importance of housing for persons within its administrative area, has continued to exceed its housing delivery targets under "Re-Building Ireland" and "Housing For All" over the lifetime of both programmes since 2018 with a total of 1,799 homes delivered to date and on track for 2112 units to be delivered by the end of 2026 as a result of strong collaboration with housing associations, community partners and central government ensuring that the accommodation needs of our most vulnerable continue to be prioritised. These dwellings have been delivered primarily through the construction of 1153 units to date and another 303 units scheduled for delivery in 2026. The balance has been delivered through acquisitions and leasing. A further 1200 units approximately have been delivered as voids during this period resulting in over 3300 new tenancies being created.***

***The Council will continue in the coming years with an equally ambitious delivery plan, and to prioritise the most vulnerable persons for allocation in accordance with the allocation scheme.***

***Having referred to the Subject matter of the motion, - That Tipperary County Council recognise Housing as a fundamental human right - it should be noted that such a matter is constitutional in nature rather than a matter for Local Government. The supporting of the motion as presented would potentially have very serious legal and financial implications for Tipperary County Council.***

***It is recommended that the motion be amended to request that the Irish Government hold a Referendum to insert the right to access adequate housing in the Constitution and provide the support needed to uphold this right. "***

**Item No. 10.2**  
**Cllr. Mairín**  
**McGrath NOM**  
**3095**

The Motion Reference No. 3095 was proposed by Cllr. Mairín McGrath.

***"That this Council would write to the Minister for Housing and urge him to revise the income/assessment criteria for Housing Adaptation Grants so that eligibility is determined on net income rather than gross income."***

The motion was seconded by Cllr. David Dunne.

The response to the Motion was noted as follows: -

In accordance with the Department's guidance for Disability grants, the current mean's test is based on annual gross income of the registered property owner (and spouse) for the previous tax year. Full grant support of up to €40,000 maximum, is available to households with gross incomes

up to €37,500, with the grant tapering down to 30% for households with gross incomes between €62,501 and €75,000.

It was agreed that the Notice of Motion would be referred to James Browne TD, Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage for consideration and reply.

## **Mgmt. Report** **contd.**

Mr. Jonathan Cooney, Director of Services, Mr. Shane O'Dwyer, SEO & Mr. Robert Johnston, S.E.E. responded to general queries raised on the Management Report as follows:

### Social Housing Projects Approval Process

It was noted that there are currently no concerns regarding the four-stage approval process. An overview of the single-stage process was also provided.

### Windows and Doors Grant

An email has issued and additional details on the scheme are awaited from the Department.

### Income thresholds for Social Housing

Clarification on this matter has been sought from the Department.

### First Home Scheme

The increase in the threshold from €325,000 to €350,000 was welcomed, as it enables more first-time buyers to qualify for the scheme.

### Affordable Housing

The assessment for Tipperary carried out in September 2021 did not identify affordability challenges at that time. Following the call-out for Clonmel, two submissions have been forwarded to the Department and a response is awaited. The call-out for Nenagh resulted in three submissions, which will be submitted to the Department for approval. It is proposed to request that the Department consider a county-wide affordable housing scheme once the schemes have been progressed.

### 1 & 2 Bed Housing Applications

This item is included in the SPC work programme for 2026. Updates will be provided to members. It was noted that the local authority primarily constructs 3-bed homes but are also conscious of the demand for 2 bed housing with 70% of applicants having a demand for 1- or 2-bed units. It was agreed to respond to Cllr. Liam Browne regarding the specific housing assessment query raised.

### Anti-Social Behaviour

It was agreed to revert to Cllr. Liam Browne regarding the specific query raised. It was noted that AHB manage their own housing stock.

### Homeless Services

A range of options is being reviewed. The importance of working with other stakeholders was highlighted. It was noted that the location of a facility in Tipperary Town will not be disclosed until the sale is finalised. The Nenagh facility operates as a cold-weather initiative and is not designated as a 9-to-9 service.

#### Student Accommodation in Clonmel

The issue of student accommodation is a matter for TÚS & TETB to consider further in the context of the development of a new integrated campus on the Kickham Barracks site, noting that their priority at present is seeking approval from Solas to progress to detailed tender design stage for the integrated campus.

#### Abbey St. Cahir

This area is zoned as an amenity. There is potential to work with the Roads Directorate to provide a small number of housing units.

#### Housing Loans

The criteria for eligibility must be met, and multiple factors influence drawdown levels. Queries should be directed to the loans team.

#### Housing Maintenance

The Planned Maintenance Programme commenced in 2026 and will address the remaining 3,000 units. Adequate budgeting will be necessary for its progression. A rent review is scheduled in advance of Budget 2027 and will be considered through the Housing SPC.

#### Serviced Sites

Potential serviced sites in villages throughout the county will be reviewed.

#### Cullen Village

It was agreed to update Cllr. John O'Heney on the AHB scheme

#### Retirement Villages

It was agreed to issue correspondence to the Minister regarding pilot initiatives for Retirement Villages and to raise the matter at SPC level for future housing programme consideration.

#### Social Community Infrastructure

It was agreed to revert to Cllr. Pamela Quirke O'Meara with details of funding options available under the CALF scheme.

#### Kilcooley Way

Noted that design work was ongoing with stage 2 approval expected in Q2 2026 and planning stage to follow.

#### Rockfield

Noted that the project is currently at design stage.

#### Matthew Bourke Housing Scheme

Noted that the project is currently at design stage.

#### Part 5

Engagement with developers is ongoing. In 2025, 30% of housing delivery consisted of 1- and 2-bed units. Projections for 2026 indicate that 56% of delivery will be 1- and 2-bed units.

### Housing Development at Clogheen

It was agreed to revert to Cllr. Marie Murphy with progress update.

### **Item No. 7.1** **Comhairle na** **nÓg**

The Cathaoirleach welcomed Project Co-Ordinator Cllr. Declan Burgess and Comhairle na nÓg members Olivia D'Arcy, Eoin O'Reilly and Billy Beary, who delivered a presentation on the activities and priorities of Tipperary Comhairle na nÓg.

The representatives outlined Comhairle's role as the recognised national structure for youth participation across all 31 local authorities and reported that over 100 young people attended their 2025 Annual Youth Conference, at which "Safe Youth Spaces" was selected as the top priority issue for 2026. They provided an update on the work underway within each Municipal District subgroup, including Transport and Road Safety (Cashel-Tipperary), Climate Action (Nenagh/Newport/Borrisokane), School Stress (Thurles-Templemore) and Vote@16 and Mental Health (Clonmel/Cahir/Carrick on Suir).

The members highlighted strong links with decision-makers at both local and national levels, noting the support of Tipperary County Council's Community Development Section, representation by councillors on the Steering Committee, and youth involvement on national bodies such as the NYCI Youth Forum, the SpunOut Panel and the National Youth Assembly. They reported on Tipperary's participation in Seanad na nÓg, where Equality and the Cost of Living emerged as key national youth priorities, and outlined plans for six delegates to represent Tipperary at the forthcoming Dáil na nÓg, where the new national work theme will be selected.

An update was provided on ongoing work regarding school stress and Leaving Certificate reform, including the development of informational videos with the Department of Education.

The delegation also highlighted the success of the annual Colour Run in Cahir, held in partnership with Cllr. Andy Moloney and Macra, which promotes positive youth mental health and attracted 180 participants in the previous year. The Comhairle concluded by outlining a number of requests for consideration by the Council: extending My Open Library access to those aged 16 and over, expanding library opening hours, prioritising Safe Youth Spaces across the county, including youth-led artwork within future mural programmes, installing additional phone-charging benches similar to those in Tipperary Town, and ensuring improved maintenance of public spaces for community use.

The Cathaoirleach, Chief Executive and members thanked the Comhairle na nÓg representatives for their presentation and congratulated them on their achievements in 2025. They acknowledged the range of initiatives undertaken by Comhairle na nÓg members and noted the high standard of their work.

Members extended their best wishes to Cllr. Declan Burgess in his role as Project Co-Ordinator and recognised the contributions of Angela Sheehan and Pauline Strappe. Ms. Sinéad Carr, Chief Executive, agreed that it was

important to involve young people in the Council's work and highlighted the value of their perspectives.

**Item No. 8.1**  
**Request for**  
**AILG Speaking**  
**Time at Plenary**  
**Council Meeting**  
**- 9th March**  
**2026**

On the proposal of the Cathaoirleach it was agreed to take an item listed under 15.1 A.O.B. Summary of Progress – Local democracy Task Force (LDTF) under Item No. 8.1

It was proposed by **Cllr. Séan Ryan**, seconded by **Cllr. John FitzGerald** and agreed that the AILG would deliver a presentation to the Council at the March meeting.

**Item No. 15.1**  
**A.O.B.**  
**Local**  
**Democracy**  
**Taskforce**  
**Update**

Cllr. Mary Hanna Hourigan stated that she welcomed the opportunity to brief the members on the completion of the Taskforce's work. The work had commenced in July 2025 and will be completed on February 12<sup>th</sup>.

She provided an outline to the members of progress to date from the Local Democracy Taskforce, which is undertaking a comprehensive review of local government structures, functions and democratic accountability. The Taskforce has completed its analysis phase across four key pillars, Governance & Accountability, Structures, Functions and Funding and is now finalising recommendations for submission to the Minister.

Key emerging proposals include strengthening the policy role of the elected council, rebalancing governance between councillors and the executive, enhancing the powers and visibility of Municipal Districts, and establishing a structured national-local engagement framework. Further recommendations address the devolution of functions, improved financial autonomy and oversight, and enhanced training and support for councillors.

It was noted that these reforms aim to strengthen local democracy, reinforce the authority and representative role of councillors, and improve service delivery. The AILG will continue engaging with councillors nationally as the Taskforce prepares its final report.

Members acknowledged the work of the task force and Mr. Tommy Moylan of the A.I.L.G.

The Chief Executive also thanked Cllr. Hourigan for her contribution and emphasised the importance of maintaining public trust in their elected representatives. She noted that the role of the executive is to work collaboratively with members in developing policy, and confirmed that all parties will work together on the implementation of the Task Force report.

**Item No. 9.1**  
**Consideration of**  
**Orders for the**  
**period to the**  
**31<sup>st</sup> January**  
**2026**

Chief Executive Orders and Delegated Officers Orders for the period to the 31<sup>st</sup> January 2026 were noted.

**Item No. 11.1**

At the request of Cllr Molloy, it was agreed to defer NOM 3092 to the March Meeting for consideration.

**Cllr. Richie  
Molloy (NOM  
Ref. 3092)**

**Item No. 11.2**

**Cllr. Pat English  
(NOM. Ref.  
3094)**

The Motion Reference No. 3094 was proposed by **Cllr. Pat English.**

***"That Tipperary County Council in light of the ruling the International Court of Justice on the illegality of Israeli settlements in occupied Palestine Territories call on the Irish Government to enact the Occupied Territories Bill to cut Irish Trade ties with Israeli goods and services produced in these illegal Israeli settlements."***

The Motion was seconded by **Cllr. David Dunne.**

In moving the motion, Cllr. English stated that there could be no further excuses for failing to act on the matter.

Following consideration by the members it was agreed to forward the motion to Minister for Foreign Affairs, Ms Helen McEntee, for consideration and reply

**Item No. 12.1**

**Reply dated  
23rd January  
2026 from Office  
of the Minister  
for Justice,  
Home Affairs  
and Migration**

Re. NOM 3078 - Local Community Safety Partnership Committee

This item was noted.

**Item No. 12.2**

**Reply dated  
23rd January  
2026 from the  
Office of the  
Minister for  
Transport**

Re. NOM 3037 - Child Leap Cards

This item was noted.

**Item No. 12.3**

**Reply dated the  
27th of January  
2026 from the  
Office of the  
Minister for  
Transport**

Re. NOM 3038 - Funding Scheme for the maintenance and improvement of existing footpaths and the development of new footpaths

This item was noted.

**Item No. 12.4  
Reply dated**

Re. NOM 3076 - E-Scooter Safety

**28th January**  
**2026 from the**  
**Minister of State**  
**for International**  
**& Road**  
**Transport,**  
**Logistics, Rail &**  
**Ports**

This item was noted.

**Item No. 13.1**  
**Motions from**  
**other Councils**

The following Resolutions from other Local Authorities were considered and noted: -

**Sligo County Council**

"That Sligo County Council notes with deep concern the Government's decision to ratify CETA and, in particular, the Investor Court System (ICS).

This Council believes that ICS gives foreign corporations powers that undermine local democracy, threaten environmental and planning decisions, and risk exposing the State to costly investor lawsuits, Sligo County Council therefore calls on the Government to suspend Ireland's participation in the ICS element of CETA pending a full, independent assessment of its impacts on local authorities, public services, and environmental protections.

This motion is to be circulated to all local authorities, all Sligo-Leitrim TDs and Senators, and the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment."

**Offaly County Council**

"This Council calls on Government to instruct party MEPs oppose adoption of the Mercosur Trade agreement when the agreement is presented at European Parliament."

**Item No. 14.1**  
**Expressions of**  
**Votes of**  
**Sympathy /**  
**Congratulation**

Members passed a vote of sympathy to the following: -

- Jean Kearney, former staff member, on the death of her mother Bridget (Mai) Kearney.
- Donal Murphy, Nenagh Municipal District, on the death on his father Daniel J. (Donal) Murphy.
- Michele Maher, Roads Section, on the death of her father Michael (Mick) Dunne
- Jim Bergin, former staff member, on the death on his brother Michael Bergin
- Eimear Raftery, Environment Section on the death of her father, John.
- Cllr. Kay Cahill Skehan on the death of her brother in law, Pat Skehan

Members passed a vote of congratulations to the following: -

- Clonmel Coursing Club on a successful Festival in Clonmel
- Newcastle Dancers & the McGrath School of Irish Dance on secured a fifth consecutive Rince Foirne title at the All-Ireland Scór na nÓg.

There being no other business, the Meeting concluded at 1.45 p.m.

Signed/  Date 9<sup>th</sup> March 2026  
Cathaoirleach.

Signed/  Date 9<sup>th</sup> March 2026  
Meetings Administrator