

.1
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS OF MONTHLY MEETING OF TIPPERARY COUNTY COUNCIL
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, CIVIC OFFICES, NENAGH
AND REMOTELY VIA ZOOM
AT 10.00 AM
ON MONDAY 11th MAY 2026

Present

Cllr. Michael Smith, Acting Cathaoirleach

In Person

Cllrs. Acheson, T; Bonfield, F; Brennan, Ml; Bugler, P; English, P; Hannigan, J; Hourigan, M.H.; Kennedy, R; Kennedy, Wm.; Lee, S; Lowry, M; McGrath, M; Moran, E; Morgan Walsh, L; Morris, S, O'Meara, J.P., O'Meara, Ml.; Quirke O'Meara, P; Smith Ml.

Remote:

Cllrs. Ambrose, S; Anglim, M; Bourke, K; Browne, L; Cahill Skehan, K; Crosse, J; Dennehy, N; Dunne, D; FitzGerald, J; Goldsboro, A; Molloy, R; Moloney, A; Murphy, M; O'Heney, J; Ryan, A.M.; Ryan, J; Ryan, P; Ryan, S.

Apologies

Cllr. John Carroll, Cathaoirleach,
Cllrs. Declan Burgess, Mark Fitzgerald

Also Present

Ms. Sinéad Carr, Chief Executive
Mr. Mark Connolly, Head of Finance
Mr. Brian Beck, Liam Brett, Mr. Jonathan Cooney Directors
Mr. John Shinnors, Chief Fire Officer
Mr. Thomas Duffy Senior Executive Engineer
Mr. Liam Ryan, Architect, Mr. Paul Keane S.E.E.
Mr. Damien Dullaghan, County Librarian
Ms. Caroline Conway Senior Executive Planner, Ms. Anne-Marie Devaney,
Mr. Fergal O'Donnell Executive Planner
Mr. Shane Grogan, S.E.O.
Mr Ger Walsh, Meetings Administrator

Item 1.1

Welcome & Introduction/ Meetings Protocol

In accordance with Standing Order No. 11, which provides that the Chair shall be taken by the Cathaoirleach within 15 minutes of the appointed time, or in their absence by the Leas-Cathaoirleach, or otherwise by a Member chosen by agreement or vote of the Members present:

It was proposed by **Cllr. Roger Kennedy**, seconded by **Cllr. William Kennedy**, and agreed by the Members present, that Cllr. Michael Smith would assume the role of Acting Cathaoirleach for the duration of the meeting. Owing to the absence of Cllr J. Carroll due to a family bereavement leas Cathaoirleach Cllr Mark Fitzgerald unavailable.

Sympathy was extended to Cllr. John Carroll, Cathaoirleach, on the death of his sister-in-law, Mrs. Agnes Carroll.

Mr. Ger Walsh, Meetings Administrator opened the May Meeting by welcoming all present.

Remote attendees were asked to confirm that audio and video were functioning correctly and were reminded of meeting protocols, including muting microphones when not speaking, raising a hand to contribute, using headsets for clear audio, and turning on cameras when addressing the meeting.

The Meetings Administrator conducted a roll call noting that a quorum was in place and the meeting commenced with the opening prayer.

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 the 13th April 2026

The Minutes of Council Meeting held on the 13th April 2026 were proposed by **Cllr. William Kennedy**, seconded by **Cllr. David Dunne** and approved.

Matters Arising

There were no matters arising

Item 4.1
Approval to Attendance

It was proposed by **Cllr. Fiona Bonfield**, seconded by **Cllr. J.P. O'Meara** and resolved: -

"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: -

Seminars/ Conferences/ Similar Events	Dates	Venue	Nominees
Drogheda Summer School	8 th - 10 th May 2026	St. Peters Conference Centre Drogheda	John Carroll Seamus Morris Sean Ryan Phyll Bugler Niall Dennehy John Fitzgerald Marie Murphy
Personal Security Awareness & IS Security Awareness Training	14 th May 2026	Nenagh Civic Offices	John Carroll Eddie Moran Michael O'Meara Andy Moloney William Kennedy Amy Goldsboro Paggy Ryan Siobhán Ambrose Marie Murphy Séan Ryan Pat English
Corporate Governance, 27th May	22 nd May 2026	Anner Hotel Thurles	John Carroll Tom Acheson Pat English Joe hannigan Mary Hanna Hourigan Roger Kennedy William Kennedy Eddie Moran
AILG Module 3	23 rd May 2026	Whites of Wexford	Andy Moloney Seamus Morris Sean Ryan Richie Molloy John Carroll Mary Hanna Hourigan Siobhan Ambrose Micheal Anglim Liam Browne Michael O Meara

Item 4.2

Reports on Conferences attended were noted.

**Reports on
Conferences**

Item 5.1

It was proposed by **Cllr. Séan Ryan**, seconded by **Cllr. Kay Cahill Skehan** and resolved: -

**Section 183
Notice –
Disposal of**

"That in accordance with the provision of Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001, Tipperary County Council hereby approves

Folio TY66664F at Brittas Rd., Townspark, Thurles to Centenary Thurles Co-Operative Society Ltd

of the disposal of Folio TY66664F at Brittas Rd., Townspark, Thurles to Centenary Thurles Co-Operative Society Ltd in accordance with the terms of the Notice under the above section, as circulated on Thursday 30th April 2026"

The disposal of the property was to facilitate the regularisation of a mapping and boundary error.

Item 5.2

Section 183 Notice – Disposal of circa 2.6m2 at No.16 Beechpark, Cahir, Co. Tipperary to Josephine Sullivan

It was proposed by Cllr. **Mairín McGrath**, seconded by **Cllr. Andy Moloney** and resolved: -

"That in accordance with the provision of Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001, Tipperary County Council hereby approves of the disposal of circa 2.6m2 at No.16 Beechpark, Cahir, Co. Tipperary to Josephine Sullivan in accordance with the terms of the Notice under the above section, as circulated on Thursday 30th April 2026."

The disposal of the property was required to facilitate the regularisation of title.

It was proposed by **Cllr. Roger Kennedy**, seconded by **Cllr. Séan Ryan**, and resolved: -

Item 5.3

Section 183 Notice – Disposal of circa 0.052ha of land at Cummernore, Kilcommon, Co. Tipperary to Roger O'Brien via a Deed of Rectification

"That in accordance with the provision of Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001, Tipperary County Council hereby approves of the disposal of circa 0.052ha of land at Cummernore, Kilcommon, Co. Tipperary to Roger O'Brien in accordance with the terms of the Notice under the above section, as circulated on Wednesday 30th April, 2026."

The disposal of the property was required to facilitate the regularisation of a mapping error.

To note Chief Executives Report and seek the views of the Elected Members on Tipperary County Council's submission on a renewable energy development including 14 wind turbines, 110Kv underground cabling connection and all associated infrastructure and works in the townlands of Carrow, Moheragh, Gortaderry Co. Tipperary and a number of townlands in County Limerick (www.carrowwindfarm.com) in accordance with Section 37E of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended.

Item No. 5.4

Strategic Infrastructure Development Application (SID's)

Ms. Caroline Conway outlined the background to the application, the details of the proposed works and the relevant legislative framework;

noting that while the local authority is required to prepare a report, the views of the elected members may be considered.

In response to queries raised, Mr. Brian Beck clarified that the Planning Section is currently operating under the 2006 Wind Energy Guidelines. Members expressed a range of concerns regarding the proposed development, stating that certain issues had not been adequately addressed and conveying frustration at the limited time available to review the Chief Executive's Report, notwithstanding that Ms. Conway had contacted district members in advance.

Cllr. Liam Browne indicated that he had prepared his own written submission and requested that it be appended to the Chief Executive's Report.

Ms. Sinéad Carr, Chief Executive advised that, in the interest of good governance, it would not be appropriate to attach the submission as it had not been considered by all members.

Cllr. Michael Smith requested that the matter be deferred to allow further consideration and following further consideration and discussion with the executive and members, it was proposed by **Cllr. Dr. Phyll Bugler**, seconded by **Cllr. Mairín McGrath** and agreed by the members, that the item be deferred to a Special Meeting, with all members to be notified accordingly.

There being no further business under this item, the consideration of Item No. 5.4 – Strategic Infrastructure Development Applications (SIDs) was concluded.

The Chief Executive Report as circulated noted that in accordance with Part 8 of the Planning & Development Regulations 2001, as amended, Tipperary County Council made available for public inspection, from 18th February 2026 to 20th March 2026 inclusive but excluding public holidays the plans and particulars of the proposed development of: -

Item No. 5.5
Local
Authority own
development
pursuant to
Article 81 of
Part 8 of the
Planning
development
Regulations
(as amended)
at Micary
Court, William
Street,
Nenagh, Co.
Tipperary

- The demolition of a single-storey shed and front boundary wall;
- The construction of a five-unit social housing development;
- An access roadway including re-alignment, associated footpaths, car & bicycle parking, bin-stores, landscaping, foul & storm drainage including attenuation, public lighting and all associated site services connections, site boundary and site development works.

The dwellings proposed consist of:

- Three no. terraced, two-storey, two-bedroom dwellings,
- One no. single-storey, semi-detached, two-bedroom, three-person, sheltered dwelling,
- One no. single-storey, semi-detached, one-bedroom, two-person, sheltered dwelling

The site has an area of 0.139a.

The Planning Authority is satisfied that the proposal is in accordance with the Tipperary County Development Plan 2022-2028 and the Nenagh and Environs Development Plan 2024-2030 and is acceptable in terms of design and layout and presents no significant impacts on the conservation objectives of any Natura 2000 site.

The development as set out on the plans and particulars is considered acceptable and is consistent with the principle of the proper planning and sustainable development of the area.

Therefore, it is recommended that the proposed development should proceed subject to the following recommended requirements and conditions: -

1. Tipperary County Council shall enter into connection agreements with Uisce Eireann to provide for service connections to the public water supply and wastewater collection network and shall adhere to the standards and conditions set out in that agreement.

It was proposed by **Cllr. Seamus Morris**, seconded by **Cllr. J.P. O'Meara** and agreed: -

"That Tipperary County Council hereby adopted the report in respect of Housing development at Micary Court, William Street, Nenagh consisting of the demolition of a single-storey shed and front boundary wall and construction of a five-unit social housing development, comprising of three no. terraced, two-storey, two-bedroom dwellings on William Street and one no. single-storey, semi-detached, two-bedroom, three-person, sheltered dwelling, and one no. single-storey, semi-detached, one-bedroom, two-person, sheltered dwelling to the rear of the site, access roadway including re-alignment, associated footpaths, car & bicycle parking, bin-stores, landscaping, foul & storm drainage including attenuation, public lighting and all associated site services connections, site boundary and site development works."

Item No. 5.6

Draft Roadside Memorial Policy

The Cathaoirleach invited Mr. Liam Brett, Director of Services & and Mr. Thomas Duffy Senior Executive Engineer. to brief the members.

Mr Duffy outlined the Draft Roadside Memorial Policy 2026, which has been revised from the 2017 policy to align with the Government Road Safety Strategy 2021-2030 and updated national guidance issued under Department of Transport Circular RW 16 of 2025 and Transport Infrastructure Ireland standards. The policy clearly sets out the governance framework, noting the Department of Transport's role in national policy, TII's responsibility for road standards, and Tipperary County Council's role in implementation and oversight within its functional area, while requiring members of the public to obtain permissions and comply with the established procedures.

Members noted that the policy acknowledges the sensitive and emotional nature of roadside memorials but places a strong emphasis on road safety

as the overriding consideration. It highlights that memorials can present risks, particularly on higher-speed roads, due to increased pedestrian activity, unsafe stopping and parking, maintenance-related movements, and potential driver distraction. These risks are considered contrary to the "safe systems" approach, which promotes clear and forgiving roadsides free from fixed hazards. While existing memorials are not directly affected, any replacement of damaged memorials must comply with the new policy requirements.

The policy introduces a formal application process for new memorials, requiring submission of a completed application form, location maps, design drawings, landowner consent, next-of-kin approval, and contact details. Applications are to be assessed by relevant engineering staff, with decisions issued in writing. It was noted that agreement on the precise location is subject to approval by the District Engineer, and where a proposed site is deemed unsafe, an alternative location must be identified in consultation with the applicant.

Detailed specifications are set out to ensure that memorials remain modest in scale and do not resemble grave plots. Size limits are imposed, materials are restricted depending on location (with timber required for freestanding verge memorials), and features such as illumination and kerbing are not permitted. The policy also places conditions on installation and maintenance, requiring that works be carried out under appropriate traffic management arrangements, that contractors are properly insured, and that memorials are kept free from items that could create litter or distraction.

The Council further noted provisions relating to ongoing responsibility and future road works. Responsibility for the upkeep and maintenance of memorials rests with the applicant or their successors, and the Council accepts no liability for damage. Where road improvement works necessitate relocation, applicants will be given the opportunity to undertake this themselves or have the Council arrange relocation at reasonable cost. Importantly, the policy prohibits memorials on motorways and dual carriageways and indicates that they should not generally be permitted on high-speed single carriageway roads in the interests of safety.

In response to Members' queries, Mr. Liam Brett, Director of Services, and Mr. Thomas Duffy S.E., confirmed that existing memorials are not directly affected by the proposed policy. However, it was noted that any replacement of damaged memorials will be required to comply with the provisions of the new policy.

It was further clarified that memorials will not be permitted in 60 km/h zones and that temporary structures are not covered under the policy. In addition, consultation with Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) will be required where applicable.

Following further consideration by the members, it was proposed by **Cllr. Jim Ryan**, seconded by **Cllr. Fiona Bonfield** and agreed: -

"That Tipperary County Council hereby adopts the 'Roadside Memorials Policy' as recommended by the Infrastructure Strategic Policy Committee".

Item No. 5.7

**Southern
Regional
Spatial and
Economic
Strategy
(RSES)**

The Cathaoirleach welcomed Mr. Fergal O'Donnell, Senior Executive Planner to deliver a presentation to the members. Mr. O'Donnell began by outlining the consultation process for the forthcoming Southern Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES) 2027-2040, which will replace the current strategy adopted in 2020. Members were advised that the Southern Regional Assembly has issued an Issues Paper for consultation and that Tipperary County Council has prepared a draft submission, which will be finalised following the meeting. The RSES is a long-term strategic planning and economic framework aligned with the National Planning Framework and Government policy, setting out objectives for sustainable development across the region over a 10-20-year period.

The presentation outlined that the new RSES will address key areas including settlement patterns, housing and employment locations, transport and infrastructure provision, climate action, renewable energy, and environmental protection, alongside the planning of education, healthcare, and community facilities. Emphasis was placed on the integration of land-use and transport planning and the delivery of critical infrastructure to support regional growth.

Key issues highlighted for Tipperary included the need to ensure balanced regional development, with rural areas benefiting alongside metropolitan centres, and the importance of securing adequate infrastructure, housing delivery, and sustainable community development.

The Council also emphasised the recognition of key towns such as Clonmel, Nenagh and Thurles, support for renewable energy and climate action, strengthening employment and tourism opportunities in rural areas, and addressing the impacts of nearby metropolitan areas. The importance of strategic employment locations enhanced social infrastructure, and transport-oriented development to support future growth was also noted.

Members were informed of the next steps in the process, including the close of the consultation period in May 2026, followed by preparation of the Assembly's report, publication of a draft RSES in 2027, and subsequent stages leading to the adoption of the final strategy later that year.

In response to Members' queries, Fergal O'Donnell, Executive Planner, advised that the Issues Paper consultation process is currently underway through the Southern Regional Assembly and that all issues raised by Members would be carefully considered in finalising the Council's submission.

He outlined that climate action is a key component of the emerging strategy, with engagement ongoing across relevant Directorates to ensure a coordinated input. He acknowledged concerns raised in relation to rural areas, including population decline and the perception that rural capacity is not fully recognised, and confirmed that these matters would be

reflected in the submission. He clarified the position regarding planning frameworks, noting that while there is discussion around enhancing the statutory basis of certain plans, there is no intention to misrepresent the status of existing plans.

Mr. O'Donnell also confirmed that national and regional housing guidelines remain applicable, while recognising the particular challenges associated with delivering housing in rural counties. In relation to transport and infrastructure, he highlighted constraints associated with strategic road corridors, including the role of Transport Infrastructure Ireland and An Bord Pleanála, which can limit development in certain locations. He further acknowledged the importance of strengthening references to rail infrastructure and wider strategic transport linkages within the submission.

Finally, he emphasised that the process remains open and iterative, welcoming further input from Members, and noted the importance of coordination with neighbouring counties and regional bodies to ensure a cohesive approach to spatial and economic planning across the wider region

Following consideration by the members, it was proposed by **Cllr. John Crosse**, seconded by **Cllr. Michael Brennan** and agreed to approve the the submission of Tipperary County Council to the Issues Paper Consultation on the Southern Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES)

The Members considered the Draft Annual Financial Statement and Report for 2025 as circulated and noted same.

Item No. 6.1

Draft Annual Financial Statement (AFS) 2025

Mr. Mark Connolly referred to Report circulated setting out the excess expenditure and advising that a Resolution of the Council was required in relation to same in accordance with Section 104 of the Local Government Act 2001.

Following consideration, it was proposed by **Cllr. Mary Hanna Hourigan**, seconded by **Cllr. Joe Hannigan** and resolved: -

“That in accordance with Section 104 of the Local Government Act 2001, excess expenditure in respect of the Financial Year ended 31st December 2025 for Tipperary County Council be and is hereby approved as follows”

Service	Service Description	Amount €
A01	Maintenance/Improvement of LA Housing Units	78,533
	Additional expenditure in this service is offset by additional income received for refurbishment of voids and rents.	
A03	Housing Rent and Tenant Purchase Administration	156,289
	Additional expenditure on support costs in this service.	
A05	Administration of Homeless Service	801,265
	Additional expenditure in this service is largely offset by additional income received of €720,669.	

A07	RAS and Leasing Programme	2,657,257
	Additional expenditure in this service is fully offset by additional income received.	
A09	Housing Grants	9,074,841
	Additional expenditure in this service is almost fully offset by additional income received of €8,823,539	
B01	NP Road Maintenance and Improvement	408,744
	Additional expenditure in this service is almost fully offset by additional Income received of €407,435.	
B03	Regional Road - Maintenance and Improvement	2,498,935
	Additional expenditure in this service is fully offset by additional income received of in Services B03 and B04.	
B04	Local Road - Maintenance and Improvement	1,427,657
	Additional expenditure in this service is fully offset by additional grant income received.	
B05	Public Lighting	141,246
	Additional expenditure in this service is fully offset by additional grant income received.	
B06	Traffic Management Improvement	778,738
	Additional expenditure in this service is fully offset by additional income received of in Services B04 and B06.	
B07	Road Safety Engineering Improvement	269,722
	Additional expenditure in this service is almost fully offset by additional Income received of €267,983.	
B08	Road Safety Promotion & Education	9,886
	Additional expenditure on direct and support costs in this service.	
B09	Car Parking	482,271
	Additional expenditure on direct and support costs in this service.	
Service	Service Description	Amount €
B10	Support to Roads Capital Programme	470,104
	Additional expenditure on direct and support costs in this service.	
B11	Agency & Recoupable Services	642,619
	Additional expenditure in this service is fully offset by additional income received.	
C08	Local Authority Water and Sanitary Services	563,399
	Additional expenditure on direct and support costs in this service fully offset by income received in Service C07 and C08.	
D01	Forward Planning	522,488
	Additional expenditure on direct and support costs in this service partly offset be additional income of €326,572.	
D02	Development Management	87,512
	Additional expenditure in this service is fully offset by additional income received.	
D03	Enforcement	85,664
	Additional expenditure on direct and support costs in this service.	
D04	Industrial and Commercial Facilities	13,701
	Additional expenditure in this service is largely offset by additional Income received of €10,054.	

D05	Tourism Development and Promotion	61,926
	Additional expenditure in this service is largely offset by additional Income received of €50,812.	
D08	Building Control	2,563
	Additional expenditure on direct and support costs in this service.	
D09	Economic Development and Promotion	662,280
	Additional expenditure in this service is largely offset by additional Income received of €527,207.	
D10	Property Management	325,960
	Additional expenditure on direct and support costs in this service.	
D11	Heritage and Conservation Services	429,582
	Additional expenditure in this service is almost fully offset by additional Income received of 419,402.	
E01	Landfill Operation and Aftercare	46,293
	Additional expenditure on direct and support costs in this service.	
Service	Service Description	Amount €
E02	Recovery & Recycling Facilities Operations	166,024
	Additional expenditure in this service is largely offset by additional Income received of €148,291.	
E05	Litter Management	232,205
	Additional expenditure in this service is partly offset by additional grant income received of €35,989.	
E06	Street Cleaning	84,553
	Additional expenditure in this service is partly offset by additional grant income received of €3,467.	
E10	Safety of Structures and Places	443,248
	Additional expenditure in this service is largely offset by additional Income received of €426,257.	
E11	Operation of Fire Service	260,339
	Additional expenditure in this service is partly offset by additional grant income received of €138,571.	
E13	Water Quality, Air and Noise Pollution	31,743
	Additional expenditure in this service is fully offset by additional income received.	
F01	Leisure Facilities Operation	497,790
	Additional expenditure in this service is for provision of direct and support costs in this service partially offset by additional income of €66,894.	
F03	Outdoor Leisure Areas Operations	418,870
	Additional expenditure on direct and support costs in this service.	
F04	Community Sport and Recreational Development	142,476
	Additional expenditure in this service is fully offset by additional income in this service.	
F05	Operation of Arts Programme	20,905
	Additional expenditure in this service is fully offset by additional income in this service.	
F06	Agency & Recoupable Services	7,174
	Additional expenditure on direct and support costs in this service.	
G01	Land Drainage Costs	15

	Additional expenditure in this service is fully offset by additional income in this service.	
G04	Veterinary Service	164,347
	Additional expenditure in this service is fully offset by additional income in this service.	

Service	Service Description	Amount €
G05	Educational Support Services	3,181
	Additional expenditure in this service is partly offset by additional grant income received of €760.	
G06	Agency & Recoupable Services	1,527
	Additional expenditure in this service is fully offset by additional income in this service.	
H01	Profit/Loss Machinery Account	8,884
	Additional expenditure in this service is fully offset by additional income in this service.	
H02	Profit/Loss Stores Account	785
	Additional expenditure in this service is fully offset by additional income in this service.	
H05	Operation of Morgue and Coroner Expenses	3,051
	Additional expenditure on direct and support costs in this service.	
H07	Operation of Markets and Casual Trading	4,499
	Additional expenditure on direct and support costs in this service.	
H09	Local representation & Civic Leadership	85,131
	Additional expenditure in this service is largely offset by additional Income received of €75,257.	
H011	Agency & Recoupable Services	770,769
	Additional expenditure in this service is partly offset by additional Income received of €481,766.	

Item No. 6.2
Budget 2026
Review

Mr. Mark Connolly, Head of Finance delivered a presentation to Members outlining the financial impact of fuel cost inflation and wider economic pressures on Tipperary County Council in 2026. Members were advised that ongoing geopolitical instability, particularly in the Middle East, has significantly increased energy costs, with diesel and HVO prices approximately 22% higher than the previous year. This has already resulted in substantial additional expenditure, including an estimated €40,000 increase in fuel costs at the Machinery Yard over a short period and a projected annual increase of up to €400,000 if current trends continue.

The presentation further highlighted rising costs in road materials, with significant increases in the price of bitumen and surface dressing materials, contributing to an estimated additional €478,000 in expenditure compared to 2025. Overall, combined fuel and material cost increases could result in additional pressures of between €750,000 and €1 million on the 2026 Roads Programme, with potential implications for delivery. It was noted that any necessary adjustments to the programme

will be managed at Municipal District level, and that supplier requests for price increases are being carefully assessed in line with contractual provisions.

Members were also informed that the broader national financial context remains constrained, with significant competing demands on Government funding and an indication that additional financial support for local authorities is unlikely. The Council, in conjunction with the CCMA, will continue to engage with the Department of Transport and Oireachtas Members to highlight these challenges.

In addition, the presentation outlined the wider impact of general inflation on Council operations, including potential increases in the cost of goods and services, pressure on contractor pricing, and risks to income streams such as commercial rates. Directorates have been tasked with identifying savings of €100,000 each for the remainder of 2026, with a focus on minimising impacts on frontline services where possible. It was noted that operations may need to be scaled back or rescheduled depending on affordability, and that the situation will be kept under ongoing review with updates to be provided to Members

In response to Members' queries on the Budget 2026 review, Mr. Mark Connolly, Head of Finance, outlined the significant financial pressures arising from ongoing inflation, particularly in fuel and materials, and advised that the situation is under continuous review. He noted that while savings are being sought through all Directorates, it is not yet possible to precisely identify all impacted service areas, but further details will be provided to Members. He also highlighted that the current budget did not include contingency provision and that the wider Government funding environment remains constrained, reducing the likelihood of additional support.

Mr. Liam Brett, Director of Services, addressed operational matters, confirming that measures such as contractor cost controls and the use of fixed-price contracts are in place where possible, while acknowledging distinctions in contract types for reinstatement works and the limitations around cost recovery. He further advised that AdBlue represents a relatively small proportion of overall costs but committed to providing detailed figures.

Ms. Sinead Carr, Chief Executive, emphasised the broader financial context, advising that in the absence of additional Government funding, there may be impacts on frontline services, particularly within roads budgets, and that early and proactive measures may be required in the coming months. She noted that national budgetary pressures, particularly in areas such as education and health, are limiting available funding, and assured Members that they will continue to be updated as the situation evolves.

It was agreed that the Executive would revert to Members with details of the cost associated with AdBlue usage in Council vehicles and would also provide an outline of the potential service areas that may be impacted by any budget reductions.

It was further agreed that the Climate Action Team would be engaged with and that Cllr. Bugler would be provided with information on available European funding streams in support of climate action initiatives.

Cllr. Michael Smith, Acting Cathaoirleach, requested that Members be kept fully informed of any potential reductions arising, and further requested that the proposal from Members to arrange a meeting with the Oireachtas Members was noted and should be progressed.

Item No. 7.1
Consideration
of
Management
Report

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

- Roads, Transportation, Health and Safety
- Planning and Development (including Town Centre First and Just Transition)
- Emergency Services & Emergency Planning
- Library, Cultural Services & Biodiversity.
- Finance & Information Technology

Roads, Transportation, Health & Safety

Mr. Liam Brett, Director of Services, provided an update on key strategic road works across the county.

There were no further queries or comments on the Roads Report.

Planning and Development (including Town Centre First and Just Transition)

On the proposal of the Cathaoirleach, Item No. 11.1 and Item No. 11.2 were taken as part of the Management Report on Planning & Development.

Item No. 11.1
Cllr. Mairín
McGrath
(NOM Ref.
3143)

Motion reference No. 3143 was proposed by **Cllr. Mairín McGrath.**

"That this council would review its policy in relation to how it assesses applications for the renovation and/or extension of derelict properties under the County Development Plan, having regard to policy 5.16 of the development plan which supports the appropriate refurbishment to existing rural stock without any reference to housing need."

The Motion was seconded by **Cllr. Pat English.**

In moving the motion Cllr. McGrath said that increased flexibility is required. She further added that there is no clear definition of dereliction in the Planning Acts.

In supporting the motion, Cllr. Pat English said that there is a housing emergency.

The response to the Motion was noted as follows: -

Policy 5.16 of the Tipperary County Development Plan supports the appropriate refurbishment, renovation and extension of the existing rural housing stock, subject to normal planning considerations including scale, design, access, environmental protection, and the proper planning and sustainable development of the area.

In assessing applications for the renovation and/or extension of derelict or existing dwellings, the Planning Authority applies Policy 5.16 alongside other relevant Development Plan policies, Ministerial Guidelines, and statutory obligations under the Planning and Development Acts 2000 (as amended). Each application is considered on its individual merits, having regard to the condition and character of the structure, the nature and extent of the proposed works, and potential impacts on the rural environment.

Where a dwelling is clearly established as an existing residential unit, this policy is applied without any requirement to demonstrate local housing need.

However, the Planning Authority also notes that in some cases a structure may have been in such an advanced state of dereliction or disuse that its function as a dwelling may reasonably be considered to have ceased. In these circumstances, proposals may amount in planning terms to the re-establishment of residential use, rather than the refurbishment of an existing dwelling. Where this arises, it is necessary to assess the proposal having regard to the wider rural housing policies of the Development Plan, including those relating to housing need.

Each application for the renovation or extension of a derelict or existing structure is therefore assessed on its individual merits, taking account of factors such as:

- the physical condition and structural integrity of the building,*
- evidence of recent residential use or abandonment,*
- the scale and nature of the proposed works, and*
- compliance with relevant Development Plan objectives and national guidance.*

The Planning Authority considers that this approach allows for appropriate flexibility, supports the reuse of rural building stock where feasible, while also ensuring consistency with established rural housing policy and statutory obligations.

In this regard, Tipperary County Council has actively and successfully supported the reuse of vacant and derelict housing stock, particularly in rural areas, through the Vacant Homes Grant Scheme. To date, 711 grants have been approved, the majority of which relate to properties located in rural parts of the county. This demonstrates the Council's ongoing commitment to bringing existing housing stock back into productive use and supporting sustainable rural communities, complementary to the objectives of the Development Plan.

Any review or amendment of the current policy framework would need to be considered as part of the statutory variation process, which includes public consultation and formal consideration by the Elected Members. The

matter raised in the Motion can be further examined in that context in any future variation.

Members spoke in support of the motion and welcomed the debate on the matter.

Ms. Anne Marie Devaney, Senior Planner, noted the concerns raised by the Members and emphasised that all planning applications are assessed on a case-by-case basis. She advised that this matter is regularly considered at Planning Management Team meetings to ensure a consistent approach to decision-making.

Ms. Devaney further stated that the introduction of Guidelines on One-Off Housing would be welcome, as they would provide a clear framework and benchmark for assessment. She added that a variation to existing policy may be considered, if deemed necessary.

The current approach of assessing applications on a case-by-case basis will be maintained, while also providing for consideration of a policy review or amendment as part of a future statutory variation of the Development Plan. Any such process would include engagement with Elected Members and incorporate public consultation.

There being no dissenting voices, the Motion was agreed.

Item No. 11.2

**Cllr. Mairín
McGrath
(NOM Ref.
3144)**

Motion reference No. 3144 was proposed by **Cllr. Mairín McGrath.**

"That Tipperary County Council would host a Grants Workshop Roadshow in towns across the county so to inform and encourage uptake of the new "above the shop" grants, the Croí Cónaithe vacant home grants and other incentives that are available to tackle vacancy and dereliction in the county."

The Motion was seconded by **Cllr. John O'Heney.**

In moving the Motion Cllr. McGrath noted the importance of promoting these events.

The response to the Motion was noted as follows: -

The Town Regeneration and Placemaking Team have been working with other stakeholders to conduct a series of information events relating to vacant properties in our towns. We have scheduled these events to take place in the coming months with multiple visits to our towns to highlight the incentives to property owners and businesses relating to properties. The series of events will begin in May with the first one to take place in Tipperary Town on the evening of the 20th of May from 16:00 - 20:00 followed by Cahir and Cashel the week after. We will then continue to visit the main towns in the county.

There being no dissenting voices, the Motion was agreed.

**Mgmt. Report
Contd.**

Mr. Brian Beck, Director of Services, provided an overview of key items in the Planning Management Report.

He responded to general queries raised in the Management Report as follows:

Variation to the County Development Plan

A total of 114 submissions has been received to date. A meeting is scheduled for 22 May, and arrangements can be made for one-to-one engagement with any Members who are unable to attend.

Grants Hotel Roscrea

A feasibility report has been submitted. The Department has indicated that it is a matter for interested parties to advance. It was noted that Tipperary County Council does not intend to pursue the purchase of the property.

Modular Housing

Guidelines are currently awaited, and enforcement measures will remain in place pending any change in legislation.

DPI Properties

Engagement with the Department and Uisce Éireann is ongoing, and direction from the Department is awaited.

URDF Call for Funding (Phase 3)

A list of properties approved for funding under this call will be circulated to Members. Clonmel, Nenagh and Thurles are eligible to apply under the URDF, with Nenagh and Thurles also eligible to apply under both URDF and RRDF funding streams. Clonmel has submitted two applications under the URDF to date. The population threshold in relation to RRDF eligibility was noted. It was also noted that Nenagh previously received funding under Category 2 to progress to Category 1 status. The Council is seeking to develop a project pipeline to ensure that all towns can submit applications, recognising that different opportunities arise for different towns at different times.

Quarry Lane

It was agreed that an update would be provided to Cllr. Dr. P. Bugler.

Town Centre First

It was agreed to revert to Cllr. Dr. P. Bugler in relation to the Ballina Town Team.

Vacant Property Grants

Details of upcoming information sessions and roadshows will be circulated to Members.

Emergency Services & Emergency Planning

Mr. Brian Beck, Director of Services, provided an overview of key items in the Management Report, including an update on funding received for new equipment.

Mr. Beck welcomed Mr. John Shinnars to his role as Chief Fire Officer.

He responded to queries raised in the Management Report as follows:

Water Safety

A query from Cllr. Mairín McGrath regarding the inspection and replacement system for life buoys will be forwarded to the Environment Section.

Staffing

Staffing issues at Newport & Cloughjordan Fire Station were noted. Open days will be held to support recruitment and attract new firefighters.

Borrisokane Fire Station

The expected completion date of Q4 2027 was noted. Members will be kept informed of progress.

N7 Traffic Incidents

It was noted that responsibility lies with Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII). However, the Council will engage regularly with TII on this matter.

Training Centres

Clarification was provided regarding the training to be delivered at the Clonmel and Nenagh training centres.

Cllr. Shane Lee complimented Templemore Fire fighter Paddy Clavin for his recent charity fundraising efforts.

Library, Cultural Services & Biodiversity

Mr. Damien Ginty, Director of Services provided an overview of key items in the Management Report. He responded to general queries raised on the Management Report as follows:

Biodiversity Events

It was agreed that the Biodiversity Officer would liaise with Cllr. Dr. P. Bugler in relation to the proposal for Biodiversity Week in Ballina.

Clonmel Library

The Part 8 application is currently being finalised. A significant funding deficit was noted. It is intended to progress the project to Stage 2 planning approval.

Finance & Information Technology

Mr. Mark Connolly, Head of Finance referred to the report as circulated.

He responded to general queries raised on the Management Report as follows:

IT Equipment

It was agreed that a response would be provided to Cllr. Liam Browne regarding his query on the eligibility of claiming IT equipment under the Local Representational Allowance.

M365

The provision of training for Elected Members on M365 will be considered.

AI

It was agreed that the AI policy would be circulated to all members.

MyCoCo App

It was noted that the pilot initiative was still ongoing with 6 Councilors and a review with Councilor Stakeholders would be held over the next few weeks.

Item No. 8.1
Date for
Annual
meeting

On the proposal of **Cllr. Roger Kennedy**, seconded by **Cllr. J.P. O'Meara** it was agreed that the Annual Meeting would be held in Burgess GAA Centre, Kilcolman, Nenagh at 11 a.m. on Tuesday the 30th of June 2026.

Chief Executive Orders and Delegated Officers Orders for the period to the 30th of April 2026 were noted.

Item No. 9.1
Consideration
of Orders for
the period to
the 28th
February
2026

Motion Reference No. 3122 was proposed by **Cllr. Seamus Morris**

Item No. 10.1
Cllr. Seamus
Morris (NOM
3122)

"That Tipperary County Council opposes the exclusion of trade in services in the occupied territories bill and writes to the Tánaiste and Minister for finance, Simon Harris, and the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade, Helen McEntee, calling on them to include a ban on trade in services in the Governments proposed OTB with immediate effect."

The motion was seconded by **Cllr. J.P. O'Meara**.

There being no dissenting voices it was agreed that this motion will be referred to the Tánaiste and Minister for Finance, Simon Harris, and the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade, Helen McEntee for their consideration/response.

Motion Reference No. 3139 was proposed by **Cllr. Roger Kennedy**.

Item No. 12.1
Cllr. Roger
Kennedy
(NOM Ref. No.
3139)

"That Tipperary County Council calls on the Minister for Health to:

- 1. Urgently progress and publish the National Cardiovascular Policy and Strategy, as committed to in the Programme for Government, noting the absence of an updated national strategy since 2019;***
- 2. Provide a clear implementation roadmap for the recommendations contained in the National Review of Cardiac Services (April 2025), including defined timelines, milestones, and accountability structures;***
- 3. Clarify the funding model underpinning the implementation plan, including:***

a) whether funding will be allocated centrally by the HSE or devolved through Regional Health Areas;

b) how funding will be ringfenced to ensure delivery of cardiac services;

c) and the mechanisms through which funding can be accessed and drawn down at regional and hospital level;

4. Ensure equitable and timely delivery of cardiovascular services across all regions, including rural counties such as Tipperary, in the context of the HSE's regionalisation;

5. Provide assurance that sufficient multi-annual funding is in place to deliver the full implementation of the cardiac services review."

The Motion was seconded by **Cllr. J.P. O'Meara.**

There being no dissenting voices, it was agreed that this motion will be referred to the Minister for Health, Jennifer Carroll MacNeill for consideration/response.

Motion Reference No. 3140 was proposed by **Cllr. Richie Molloy**

Item No. 12.2

Cllr. Richie Molloy (NOM Ref. No. 3140)

"That Tipperary County Council calls on the Minister for Finance to exempt families in receipt of The Carers Allowance/ Carers Benefit from income tax in the forthcoming budget."

The Motion was seconded by **Cllr. Pat English.**

There being no dissenting voices it was agreed that this motion will be referred to the Minister for Finance, Simon Harris for consideration/response.

Item No. 12.3

Cllrs. Liam Browne, John O'Heney (NOM Ref. No. 3141)

Motion Reference No. 3141 was proposed **Cllr. Liam Browne.**

"That this Council calls on the Government to commit to the abolition of the Universal Social Charge with effect from 1 January 2027.

This abolition should be delivered in a fiscally responsible manner through the introduction of a time bound national Resilience and Transition Package, funded by:

- **recurring efficiency savings across public administration;**
- **public procurement reform and enhanced grant transparency;**
- **a limited, capped, and strictly temporary Transition Account, financed solely from independently certified windfall corporation tax receipts, subject to quarterly Oireachtas reporting and a statutory sunset clause.**

The purpose of these measures shall be to ensure the orderly abolition of the USC while safeguarding frontline and critical

public services and maintaining long-term stability in the public finances."

The Motion was seconded by **Cllr. John O'Heney**.

There being no dissenting voices it was agreed that this motion will be referred to the Minister for Finance, Simon Harris for consideration/response.

Item No. 12.4
Cllrs. Tom
Acheson, Niall
Dennehy,
John
FitzGerald,
Siobhan
Ambrose, Pat
English,
Richie Molloy
(NOM Ref. No.
3142)

Motion Reference No. 3142 was proposed by **Cllr. Pat English**.

"Tipperary County Council calls on the Minister for Finance Simon Harris to ensure that any monies collected by the Revenue Commissioners under the derelict sites levy from January 2027 be returned to the local Authority in which the levy originated."

The Motion was seconded by **Cllr. Tom Acheson**.

There being no dissenting voices it was agreed that this motion will be referred to the Minister for Finance, Simon Harris for consideration/response.

Item No. 13.1
Reply from
Mr. James
Browne, T.D.,
Minister for
Housing,
Local
Government
and Heritage
dated 16th
April 2026

Correspondence from Mr. James Browne TD regarding Notice of Motion Ref. No. 3093 on Referendum on Housing was noted.

Item No. 13.2
Note for Local
Authority
Councillors on
Emergency
Response
Payment
(previously
known as the
Humanitarian
Assistance
Scheme) -
April 2026

Correspondence from the Department of Social Protection regarding the Emergency response payment was noted.

Item No. 14.1
Motions from
other
Councils

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

South Dublin County Council

"That this Council request the minister investigate the 900+ missing children and girls in Bessborough mother & baby institution and request a hold off on any development of the site until an investigation is completed and we commit to write to the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality, An Taoiseach and all other Local Authorities."

Item No. 15.1
Expressions
of votes of
sympathy

Members passed a vote of sympathy to the following: -

- Elaine Cullinan, Economic, Community & Rural Development, on the death of her mother-in-law Teresa Hodgins.
- Ger Walsh, Corporate Services, on the death of his mother-in-law Catherine (Kitty) O'Dwyer.
- Lyubov Shengeliya, Community & Economic Development, on the death of her father Moris Shengeliya.
- Anne Loughnane, Templemore Library, on the death of her Son Rónán Loughnane.
- Georgina Moran, Finance Section, on the death of her mother Sarah Carroll.
- Suzanne Brosnan, Cashel Library, on the death of her mother Margaret Meskell.
- Cllr John Carroll on the death of his sister-in-law Agnes Carroll.
- Peter Ryan, former councillor of Thurles MD, on the death of his father-in-law John O'Gorman.

Item No. 16.1
A.O.B.

Members were reminded of the Councillor Workshop on Personal Security Awareness & IS Security Awareness Training scheduled for the 14th of May at 11 am in the Nenagh Civic Offices.

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

Signed/  Date 8th June 2026
Cathaoirleach.

Signed/  Date 8th June 2026
Meetings Administrator