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## **Breviate of the Meeting of the Protocol Committee held on 24<sup>th</sup> September 2020**

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In accordance with Standing Orders of the City Council, the Breviate of the Meeting of the Protocol Committee held **on 24<sup>th</sup> September 2020** is submitted herewith.

### **1 Minutes of the meeting held on 23rd July 2020 and matters arising.**

Cllr. Feeney informed members that she was meeting with fellow Councillors in the coming days to identify an agreed response to the Moorhead Report. She also confirmed that she had requested a meeting with Minister Peter Burke to discuss the matter. Cllr. Feeney to update the Members at the next meeting.

**Order: Minutes Agreed.**

### **2 Update on Women's Committee**

Cllr. Lonergan updated the Members on the work of the Women's Committee. She confirmed that 90% of women on the Council had agreed to work with the Committee and there was a representative from every political party. The group had met on several occasions and had identified issues they wished to progress. It was agreed that the Committee would bring a report to the Protocol Committee in November at which point Members could determine how often the Committee should report back to Protocol on an ongoing basis.

### **3 Information Technology Issues**

- The Manager confirmed that the Transformation Unit had identified a preferred bidder for the tender to develop a Customer Relationship Management system. It was hoped that contracts would be exchanged in the coming weeks. The development of the Councillors portal within the CRM system was regarded as a priority. The Manager would report back to the Committee as the project progressed and would consult with Protocols IT sub-group. She also agreed to circulate to Members details of other Local Authorities who were using the same system.
- Oliver Douglas was investigating the use of an interface that would allow the webcasting of combined remote and physical meetings. The existing IT systems does have the capacity to facilitate hybrid meetings however there are a number of logistical challenges to overcome before it could be used at a City Council meeting. The tender for the new webcasting contract will be issued in late October and the webcasting of remote and hybrid meetings will be part of the requirements.

#### 4 **Strategic Housing Developments Procedures**

The Members welcomed the letter from the Chief Executive which clarified a number of the issues in relation to the SHD process that had been raised by Members. Cllr. O'Driscoll suggested that the provision of the planners report in advance of the SHD meeting would improve Councillors capacity to critically examine the proposals.

The Members reiterated their opposition to the SHD process which they believe acts as a barrier to good planning and undermines local democracy. They agreed that Protocol was no longer the forum to discuss these matters and that the issues should be progressed on a corporate level through the Planning & Urban Form SPC and the Corporate Policy Group.

**Order: Letter noted. The Manager to refer the request for advance planning reports to the Planning Department.**

#### 5 **Newcomen Bank - City Hall Sub-Committee**

The Manager reported that the Sub-Group had met with the Project Manager and were provided with a tour of Newcomen Bank and City Hall. The sub-group were positive in their response to the proposals for the provision of additional Councillor facilities in the basement of City Hall. However, they requested that consideration be given regarding the future of the current exhibition and the items of civic importance that are housed there. These concerns have been discussed with the City Archivist, Dr. Mary Clarke and the Deputy City Librarian, Brendan Teeling who are following up on the matter.

In the subsequent discussion Members raised concerns about the future use of the Newcomen building which they believed should be open to the public and also have additional facilities for Councillors. There was also concern that the existing Party Rooms in City Hall would have to be vacated or neglected. The Members although cautiously supportive of the proposals for the new facilities believed that a much more in-depth report which addressed issues such as the timeframe, detailed costings, the future of the existing exhibition and civic artefacts and the options for the use of the Newcomen Bank as a cultural and civic building.

The Manager confirmed that the existing facilities in City hall such as the party rooms and the tea/coffee area would be retained and upgraded. Also the electrical and mechanical engineering reports were due back shortly which would help inform the budget for the project.

**Order: It was agreed that a comprehensive report would be brought to the November Protocol meeting which would address the issues and concerns raised by the Members.**

#### 6 **Managers Report**

##### a) **Council Motions & Adjourned Meetings**

The Manager informed Members that an adjourned City Council meeting will be held on 12<sup>th</sup> October to facilitate the discussion of Motions on Notice.

**Order: Noted**

b) **Development Plan Review training sessions**

The Manager informed Members that Deirdre Scully in the Planning Department will be providing training on the review of the Development Plan which will be held in the Round Room on 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2020 at 9am and 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2020 at 2pm. The training will also be made available in a webinar format.

**Order: Noted and an outline of the training to be circulated to all Councillors.**

7 **A.O.B.**

- The Manager informed Members that City Hall will be illuminated in purple on 30<sup>th</sup> September to promote the charity Recovery Academy Ireland, which is a co-operative whose members promote and champion the concept of recovery.

**Order: Noted.**

**Councillor Anne Feeney**

**Chairperson**

**Thursday 24 September 2020**

**Attendance:**

**Members:**

Anne Feeney (Chairperson)  
Racheal Batten  
Mannix Flynn  
Darcy Lonergan  
Naoise Ó'Muirí  
Noeleen Reilly

**Members:**

Donna Cooney  
Deirdre Heney  
Micheal Mac Donncha  
Cat O'Driscoll

**Members:**

Joe Costello  
Dermot Lacey  
Briege MacOscar  
Michael Pidgeon

**Officers**

Ruth Dowling

Michael Gallagher

**Apologies:**

Daithí Doolan