

MINUTES OF LIMERICK AND CLARE EDUCATION AND TRAINING BOARD

COVID-19 - LCETB BOARD MEETING WAS CONDUCTED VIA ZOOM AND WAS NOT A FACE TO FACE MEETING

on Tuesday, 15th September, 2020 at 4.30 p.m.

Present:

Cllr. Kieran O'Hanlon, Chairperson

Cllr. Clare Colleran Molloy

Mr. Michael Cregan Ms. Catherine Hehir Cllr. Gabriel Keating Ms. Sheila Hickey Cllr. Sarah Kiely Cllr. Paul Murphy

Cllr. Ann Norton Mr. Mark O'Dea Ms. Marian Petty

Cllr. Elena Secas Cllr. Brigid Teefy

Ms. Elaina Fitzgerald

In attendance:

Mr. George O'Callaghan, Chief Executive

Ms. Shelagh Graham, Director of Organisation Support and Development

Mr. Paul Patton, Director of Further Education and Training

Mr. Donncha O'Treasaigh, Director of Schools

Mr. Denis O'Brien, Head of Corporate Services and ICT

Ms. Joanne O'Brien, Recording Secretary, Corporate Services

1. For Consideration; Apologies/Condolences

Apologies:

Cllr. Michael Donegan

Mr. Michael Guilfoyle

Cllr. Joe Killeen

Mr. Donal ÓhAiniféin

Mr. Sean McMahon

Condolences:

A Vote of Sympathy was passed to the following:

- Cllr. Liam Galvin, Board Member, on death of his father, Mr. James (Jimmy) Galvin.
- Cllr. Paul Murphy, on the death of his aunt,
- Mr. Jack Brislane, retired staff member, on the death of his wife,
- Ms. Caroline Gleeson (Marshal House) on the death of her father, Michael Gleeson.
- Ms. Catherine Fennessy (Marshal House) on the death of her mother-in-law.
- Ms. Ann Bermingham (Marshal House) on the death of her nephew, Cathal Scanlon
- Mr. Patrick Maunsell (LCFE) death of his mother, Mrs. Maura Maunsell
- Mr. Ger Moylan (Hospitality Centre) on the death of his aunt.

2. Declaration of Conflict of Interests

All Board Members confirmed no conflict of interest with any Agenda item.

3. For Adoption;

Minutes of Meeting of Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board, held on 21st July, 2020

On proposal of Cllr. Elena Secas, seconded by Cllr. Clare Colleran Molloy, the minutes of meeting held on 21st July, 2020, were adopted.

4. For Consideration; Matters arising from the Minutes None

5. Governance:

a. Business Continuity Plan incorporating COVID-19 Update

The Chief Executive briefed Member on the measures and supports to date within the organisation.

The CE stated that while we are operating during unprecedented times, statutory deadlines e.g. allocations, reporting to DES, had to be complied with.

The CE extended sympathy to all bereaved during the current global pandemic and paid tribute and acknowledged those involved in ongoing work.

Both the Director of Schools and the Director of Further Education and Training paid tribute to all staff on the return to work and opening of schools and centres of further education.

The Director of Organisation Support and Goverance advised that Head Office was now preparing for a full return to work for staff, with social distancing and safe workplaces being prepared.

The Board paid tribute to all staff and congratulated everyone on the Leaving Certificate Results which were very positive across all schools.

6. Correspondence

Department Correspondence

<u>CL 0044/2020</u> July, 2020	Re: Home Tuition Grant Scheme 2020/2021 – Special Education Component.
<u>CL 0046/2020</u> July, 2020	Re: COVID-19 operational supports for the full return to school.
<u>CL 0047/2020</u> 4 th August, 2020	Re: Revised arrangements applying to starting pay for all staff other than persons employed as teachers and SNAs in Education and Training Boards.
CL 0048/2020 4 th August, 2020	Re: Acting-Up Arrangements and Acting-Up Allowances for All Staff other than Persons Employed as Teachers and Special Needs Assistants in Education and Training Boards.
<u>CL 0050/2020</u> 12 th August, 2020	Re: Coronavirus (COVID-19): Arrangements for staff other than Teachers and SNAs who are employed by ETBs.
<u>CL 0053/2020</u> 12 th August, 2020	Re: Additional Supervision Arrangements for the 2020/21 School Year.
CL 0054/2020 12 th August, 2020	Re: Arrangements for certain employees of recognised Primary and Post Primary schools in the Free Education Scheme and of ETBs, employed using grant funding.
<u>CL 0055/2020</u> August, 2020	Re: Cycle to Work Scheme for ETB Employees.
<u>CL 0057/2020</u> August, 2020	Re: Home Tuition Grant Scheme for children who do not have a school place.
<u>CL 0058/2020</u> August, 2020	Re: Home Tuition Grant Scheme in respect of Maternity Related Absences.

CL 0059/2020 August, 2020

Re: Provisional Results of Calculated Grades for Leaving Certificate, Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme and Leaving Certificate Applied 2020.

7. For Consideration; Chief Executive's Report Incorporating;

- a. Schools and Youth Work
- b. Further Education and Training
- a. Schools and Youth Work

Community National Schools

Glenroe Community National School

Glenroe Community National School (www.glenroecns.ie) opened on 27 August 2020 with eight students. The opening of the school attracted considerable local, regional and national coverage with the students, parents and headteacher - Julie O' Connor featured on RTE's DriveTime.

Post Primary Schools

Roadmap for Reopening Schools - Circular 0046/2020

The Roadmap for the full return to school was published on 27 July 2020 by the Minister for Education, Norma Foley.

The reopening process is a challenging logistical operation for schools.

The Roadmap sets out:

- 1. The Public Health Advice related to reopening of schools provided by the HPSC;
- 2. The COVID-19 Response Plans for Primary and Special Schools and Post Primary Schools, in line with the Return to Work Safely Protocol, to be implemented in advance of schools re-opening.
- 3. The Measures to be implemented in Schools to
 - (i) minimise the risk of introduction of infection in our schools
 - (ii) managing risk of spread if introduced through:
 - · Regular and good hand hygiene;
 - · Good respiratory hygiene and cough etiquette;
 - Enhanced cleaning regimes; and
 - Maintaining physical distancing in the classroom and within schools;
- 4. The suite of Additional Supports available to schools to implement their Covid19 Response Plan and operate in a sustainable way;

- 5. The arrangements to Get Children Safely to our Schools;
- 6. How the Mental Health and Wellbeing of Students and Staff will be supported throughout the re-opening process,
- 7. Guidance on Learning and School Programmes in 2020/21;
- 8. How schools can support those staff and students who cannot attend school for health reasons related to COVID-19 and in the event of a school closure in the future;
- 9. The Communication Arrangements in place to ensure schools, school communities and all stakeholders have clear, relevant and timely information to support the reopening and continued operation of schools; and
- 10. A summary on what schools will be like when they reopen.

Covid-19 Response Plan

All schools were required to complete and implement the Covid-19 Response Plan to make every effort to prevent the introduction and spread of Covid-19 in the school environment. It is a very important living document which will be adapted over time to reflect the evolving COVID-19 context. An ETB COVID-19 Response Plan template was developed in line with the Department of Education version and Public Health Advice, the guidance provided by the Health and Safety Authority (HSA). The templates include:

- a draft COVID-19 Policy Document to be updated by each school;
- the relevant pre-return to work steps to be completed by both the school management and staff;
- the process for the appointment of a 'Lead Worker Representative' at school level, as agreed by the Department and staff representatives;
- a risk assessment template to identify any risks to be managed at school level (developed in conjunction with the HSA);
- various checklists to allow for planning and reopening of schools, including induction training, dealing with suspected cases and cleaning of schools are also included:
- Guidance on restricted access to the school facility for persons other than staff and students for essential purposes and limited to those who have prior approval from the Principal; and
- Guidance related to the prompt identification and isolation of potentially infectious individuals whereby schools will be required to maintain a log of staff and pupil/student contacts and a detailed sign in/sign out log of those visiting the school facility will require to be maintained.

Enhanced Cleaning Regimes in our Schools

In line with the Public Health Advice, more regular and enhanced cleaning regimes will need to be implemented in each school to manage the risk of introduction and spread of COVID-19.

Section 5.5 and 5.6 of the Public Health Advice provides relevant guidance to schools on effective school cleaning including:

- steps to be taken before reopening the school;
- · how to clean;
- the options for both routine and post COVID-19 case cleaning for surfaces, toilets and equipment;
- guidance on cleaning of shared equipment in schools such as musical instruments, art materials, electronic and sports equipment.
- guidance on how to manage cleaning of toys for young children and for the care of equipment and aids for pupils with special educational needs;
- the PPE to be used for cleaning in schools as well as the waste management treatment of materials resulting from routine cleaning and post COVID-19 cases.
- that each setting in a school should be cleaned at least once per day and where there is access to additional cleaning support during school hours it should be focused on frequently touched objects and surfaces; and
- the cleaning steps that should take place in a school room where an individual with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 was present as well as the arrangements needed for communal areas the person may have visited/used. In support of schools implementing this enhanced cleaning regime in line with the Public Health Advice and the COVID-19 Response Plan, schools will be provided with:
- A template checklist within the COVID-Response Plan related to cleaning;
- · A module in the Induction Training Programme which focuses on cleaning; and
- A COVID-19 capitation grant to fund the cost of enhanced cleaning regimes within schools.

Physical Distancing in Schools

Section 5.3 of the Public Health Advice outlines the practical measures that should be considered and, if appropriate, implemented in schools at both primary and post primary level.

The implementation of physical reconfiguration measures in schools, allied to the additional supports set out later in the Roadmap, provide the operational means through which physical distancing within schools can be maintained. Specific additional guidance on the matter on maintaining physical distancing within the classroom at both primary and post primary level was provided by the Department of Education and schools used this guidance along with advice from our ETB to best respond to ensuring that physical distancing could be achieved.

This included reconfiguring class spaces to maximise physical distancing and utilising and reconfiguring all available space in the school in order to maximise physical distancing.

Funding was provided under the enhanced minor works grant to facilitate this classroom reconfiguration works.

Principals and Deputy Principals Meetings

Regular contact with school principals and deputy principals has been on-going since 4 August 2020 to ensure that schools are supported as effectively as possible.

Principals and Deputy Principals have continued to attend regular online meetings regarding the management of the reopening of schools and the Leaving Certificate Calculated Grades process.

A weekly online meeting for Principals and Deputy Principals takes place each Thursday morning between 10.00 am and 11.00 am.

Staffing Appeal

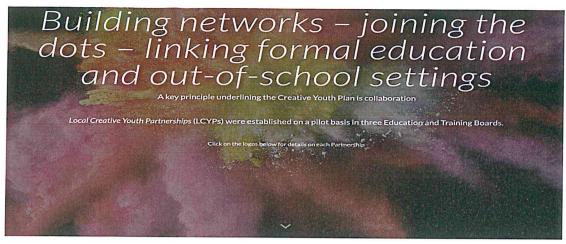
A Staffing Appeal for additional teaching resources for Post Primary Provision for 2020/2021 in accordance with Circular 0046/2020 (Roadmap for Reopening of Schools) was submitted to the Department of Education and was approved.

Draft Admission Policy (DAP) - in accordance with the requirements of the Education Act 2018

Draft Admission Policies (DAPs) are in the final stages of being approved by Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board. On-line meetings are continuing between Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board and the representatives of the other patrons to finalise the Draft Admission Policy (DAP) documentation.

Local Creative Youth Partnership - LCYP

Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board led the design and development of a website to host the logos and links to the three ETB Pilot Partnerships - www.lcyp.ie.









www.lcyp.ie

The partnership includes representatives from local authorities, youth work, early years, arts and education; as well as from several areas within Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board. Working partners include Limerick Youth Service, Clare Youth Service and Foróige, with whom the LCYP has already delivered creative programmes in dance, photography, drama, craft, makeup, film and in a range of visual art genres. The choice of creative activity undertaken by groups is based on data collected through consultation with over 300 young people across 26 youth work settings in both counties.

LCYP 2020		
Month	Public facing events	Non-public programmes
August	Festival Launch early August for Scairt na hÓige Festival delivery including, Rathkeale, My Town My Life in LCGA and People's Museum	Recommencement of St. Mary's Teddy Bear project Initiate programme with Clare Youth Service in Ennis.

September	STEAM Programme launch & delivery Coding Techspace; Audio Recording Film Workshop Programme Drama & Dance Programmes Launch Strategic Document	Revisit ELC Programme with Limerick and Clare Childcare Committees Feasibility for Future FilmMakers
October	ELC events in conjunction with Limerick and Clare Childcare Committees	Youth Theatre collaboration project

Training and Supports for post-primary schools

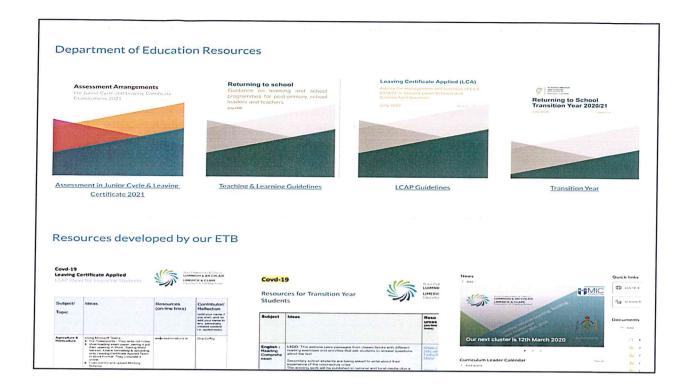
Support seminars and training are planned for post-primary personnel in the following areas;

- Student Support Team Coordinators online meeting
- Online meeting of Special Education Needs Advisory Group
- Online meeting of Risk Register and Safeguarding Advisory Group
- Leading Inclusive Learning, Teaching and Assessment (LILTA) online meeting
- Transition Year Coordinators

The supports and resources made available by the Department of Education have been made available to our schools on a central hub on the Schools Division Support site - www.lcetbdrive.ie.

This also includes resources that the Director of Schools and the Support Team have created and developed.





Section 29 Appeal

• Two Section 29 Appeal Application forms were received in respect of non enrolment. These appeals were resolved at local level.

Local Creative Youth Partnership

Activity Review and Forward Planning August 31st. 2020

Month	Public facing events	Non public programmes
August		
	Delivery of Scairt na hÓige Festival in Kilrush and Limerick City 27, 28, 29, 30 August. (programme attached - Foynes events cancelled based on public health guidelines)	 Support for Foróige Croom Summer Programme including assigning skilled LCETB Tutor, Toby Graystone to facilitate building of a boat with small groups of young people with excellent results (this was prompted by Scairt na hÓige in
	 A Day in the Life of Rathkeale exhibition in Limerick City Gallery, 	spite of group being unable to travel to Kilrush)
	People's Museum and People's Park, in collaboration with Limerick Youth Service. Continuing	Recruitment of Sheila Richardson and Melanie O'Rourke, both respected artists to work with young people in
	through September in	Southill and GOSSH youth

September	 Imagining an Outdoor Youth Cultural Centre, a collaboration with South & Proud festival, Southill, A2 Architects and School of Architecture, UL, consulting with young people around their vision of working out of doors in a cultural context 'Call' to youth organisations for participation in: Pop-up Cinema programme for rural locations, as pioneered in Kilrush for Scairt na hÓige Artist in Residency for Winter 2020; value €5,000 for two successful applicants This programme will suit youth organisations who are established and who may already have some experience 	 Initiation of visual art programmes with Clare Youth Service, with artists Martin Shannon and Giordana Giache coinciding with Scairt na hÓige in Carmody st., Ennis and Smithstown Industrial Estate Shannon. This programme will have a public face later in 2020. Creative Youth Arts Clubs, a collaboration with School Completion programmes in W. Limerick, Weston, Ennis & Kilrush and with youth organisations. Developing new after schools art clubs in each location, in response to lack of provision for under 10 age group. Pilot programme funded by July Stimulus. Consultation with GAA youth groups around creative response to hurling involving youth groups across Limerick and Clare with a view to performances and webcasts from the Michael Cusack Centre in 2021. New programme funded by July Stimulus
0.11	of collaborating with an artist or artists.	
October	 Launch Strategic Document incorporating recent stakeholder recommendations. Mid-term programmes for Creative Youth Arts Clubs 	 Youth Theatre Collaboration: The LCYP is in discussion with Clare Youth Theatre, Limerick Youth Theatre and County Limerick Youth Theatre towards identifying a collective programme to support each entity in its work.
November	 Delivery of Pop-Up Cinema project and residency programmes 	 Complete and review existing programmes in youth locations, recently interrupted by public

		health guidelines, with a view to showcasing work collectively.
December		
	 Public sharing of work from programme of consultation with GAA youth 	Evaluation of 2020 Programme
	 Mid-Winter Wellness Events 	

Webinar for Trainee Teachers

The Schools Division is working closely with Dr. Ann-Marie Young, School Placement Coordinator, College of Education & Health Sciences at the University of Limerick, regarding a Webinar - Teaching Through COVID 19: Schools Perspective for student teachers who are on initial teacher education programmes and who will be going on school placements during the course of the forthcoming academic year.

FET Division

Full-Time Provision & Part-Time Provision

 PLC/VTOS/Apprenticeship & Traineeship/Youth Education & Training/Community Education & Training/Core Skills

FET Centre, Mulgrave Street Campus

PLC: LCFE learners have progressed onto UL, LIT, WIT etc. This highlights the success of LCFE programmes and progression links. Staff from LCFE attended upskilling, wellbeing and training workshops namely Covid-19 Training and Adaptation, Fetch course training, Staff Well-being, Integration of Assessment, QA Support, etc.

FET Centre, Kilmallock Road Campus

VTOS: The Implementation of Covid-19 safety measures is ongoing in KRC. Intensive planning has taken place regarding preparations for the return of learners including Covid safety training, induction, blended timetables and digital skills audits. All staff are participating in the LCETB online teaching and learning course. VTOS is working closely with AISS around the provision of digital devices to support learners in remote learning.

FET Centre, Clonroad/Scariff Campus

VTOS: A new VTOS Co-ordinator has been appointed for Ennis/Scariff. Staff are working to

implement relevant protocols and guidelines to ensure that learners can return to a safe learning environment on 14th September.

Core Skills work with people who may have unmet literacy, numeracy and digital needs. Face-to-face learning for many is vital in order to understand and learn. Covid-19 has shown the huge divide between those able to use technology and those that can't, those able to read, write and use numbers and those who can't. Core Skills responded by phone, letter and support packs to encourage learners to remain engaged.

ESOL: Remote classes continued across the summer for learners living in DP Centres, e.g. Horticulture, ESOL and preparation for working in Ireland.

Family Learning: A Resource Guide and 6 parent booklets are now available digitally in Co Clare. Eight videos have been created and uploaded to supplement the Family Learning Resource Guide. Since mid-August, information has been collated from various agencies/organisations to support families helping children get back to school. Check Learning Together title on http://www.familylearning.ie

FET Centre, Shannon Campus

Apprenticeship / Traineeship: A schedule to complete suspended apprenticeship courses is finalised and sent to SOLAS. It will in some cases require additional Instructors, working until year end to clear the back log. New apprenticeship classes that are due to start will in most instances be limited to seven to adhere to social distancing.

Evening Provision: Classes resumed in Shannon the week of August 31st. Courses that were suspended due to COVID-19 will be facilitated in order to finish. A new schedule will then start in late September using direct and blended solutions.

FET Centre, Raheen Campus incl. CTCs and LTIs

CEIP 2020: *Youthreach*: Two day evaluations of LCETB Youthreach Provision will commence on 7th September 2020.

Doon Social Farm: A newsletter for learners has been developed. It is planned to turn this into a community newsletter to reach the wider community within the area. This will promote the farm and also the program and what it can offer to all ages, circumstances and situations. *NLN Raheen* took part in the Virtual Education Expo in June showcasing courses and speaking directly to prospective learners.

FAI Limerick: 11 Learners applied through CAO for college places, following online intensive career guidance and planning week.

Headway Limerick: A range of multimedia remote learning materials specifically targeted at the needs of people with acquired brain injury have been developed. These include a range of topics, such as Fatigue Management, CV Development, Stress Management and Improving Attention Skills.

Clare Youth Service: Five Leaving Cert Applied learners have progressed to employment/further education. Learners that took part in the CTC Summer Skills online programme in July received packs to enable them to participate in online sessions, which included Healthy Cooking, Baking, Art and Crafts.

FET Centre, Hospital Campus

Youthreach: A significant upgrade of the centre environment including furniture, ICT Infrastructure, clearing and re-purposing of storage areas began in June. The extension roof is being replaced which will pave the way for additional provision in the Further Education and Training Centre in this Campus.

FET Centre, Shanagolden Campus

Youthreach: Normal recruitment procedures were reviewed due to Covid-19 and associated restrictions on bringing in potential learners and parents to FET centres.

Hospitality Education & Training Centre

- The Hospitality Education & Training Centre became the first centre in the Republic of Ireland to be awarded with a consecutive European Framework for Quality Management (EFQM) Centre of Excellence Award;
- Hospitality has been working with the Office of Government Procurement for the catering procurement. Limerick was asked to represent the Education Sector, there are two other bodies been represented - the Prison Service and the HSE;
- There is a Virtual Culinary Apprenticeship open event on 15th September and Hospitality is nominated to represent the ETBs;
- Commis Chef Apprenticeship CSG Meeting has nominated the Hospitality LCETB to represent the ETBs and the Commis Chef in the virtual culinary apprenticeship open event, which Minister Simon Harris, Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science will attend.

FET Centre, O'Connell Avenue Campus

Community Education: In May, in response to the Covid-19 lockdown the Ray Darcy Show (RTE Radio 1) launched a competition called A Page from My Life. They received over 2,500 entries. The entries were shortlisted to 150 and two learners from Limerick city were chosen. The pieces were judged by four bestselling Irish authors, Donal Ryan, Emilie Pine, Eoin Colfer, and Emer McLysaght. Derek Lawrence attends the creative writing classes at The Bedford Row Project and Noelene Nash attends St. Saviour's creative writing group. Derek, a poet, was encouraged to give creative prose a try and his entry was his first attempt at this genre. Noelene, a long-time learner with the LCETB is a prolific and talented writer. Noelene now teaches creative writing for children. Both learners were thrilled to be shortlisted and their work will be published by Harper Collins Publishers in an anthology in the coming weeks. The book will be on sale nationally and internationally and all profits will go to charity.

Support Services

Active Inclusion

- Development of device equity guidelines and processes to support learners in accessing ICT resources required to engage with their learning (including purchase of learner laptops). Development and rolling out of a process of device loans to support Learning Practitioners in the delivery of blended and online learning (180 staff to date have been allocated devices);
- Overseeing of tender process for the delivery of mental health supports and psychological counselling to FET Learners and development of new Learner Support Structures including registration process for the range of supports available;
- Managing the process of preparing the ETB's report to QQI on Teaching, Learning and Assessment. Six Monthly Financial and Qualitative Returns to the Department of Justice and Equality on the AMIF Project. Representing the ETB on the Clare Community Response Covid-19 Forum and the Limerick Food Partnership.

Information, Recruitment & Guidance

 Developing new methods, online, telephone, webinars as ways to engage with learners who are seeking guidance;

- Supporting the newly unemployed and registered learners including Webinars for ex retail staff;
- Local Business Process mapping highlighting where IRGSS can support other services as well as learners;
- Developed information webinar for former Debenhams workers;
- Providing service to new PLC learners in the FET Centre, Clonroad Campus;
- Engaging with Recognition of Prior Learning project in partnership with Donegal ETB.

Enterprise Engagement

Skills to Advance

- Recruitment is currently taking place for the Skills to Advance Certificate in Leadership and Management Programme awarded by the Institute of Leadership and Management proposed date 15th September 2020 – 20 Learners;
- Currently working with FET Centre, Raheen Campus, to deliver a course to employees working from home 'Effective Remote Working.';
- Currently working on a 'Managing Remote Workers Programme' to address the needs of employers managing remote teams;
- LCETB developing training in CX in partnership with industry providers and LIT and UL.

8. For Adoption;

a. Finance Report

On proposal of Cllr. Ann Norton, seconded by Cllr. Gabriel Keating, the Finance Report was adopted.

b. Revised 2019 Annual Report and Chairpersons Comprehensive Report On the proposal of Cllr. Ann Norton, seconded by Cllr. Paul Murphy, the revised 2019 Annual Report and Chairpersons Comprehensive report were adopted.

9. For Approval;

- 1. Lease for Additional Classroom Ennistymon Vocational School
- 2. Lease for Additional Teaching Space Gaelcholáiste Luimnigh
- 3. Additional Practical Class Room Space for FET Construction Related Provision, LEDP Premises, Roxboro Industrial Park
- 4. Additional Class Room Space for FET Learners, Ennistymon

Approved on the proposal of Cllr. Ann Norton, seconded by Cllr. Paul Murphy.

On conclusion of meeting the Chairperson thanked all Members for their participation in the meeting and again extended every good wish to the Board and Staff to stay safe.

Next Meeting:

Tuesday, 17th November, 2020.

George O'Callaghan Chief Executive.

Signed:

Chairperson of Meeting held on 17th November, 2020.