

**Minutes of Strategic Policy Committee 2 – Infrastructure Policy,
Transportation, Fire and Emergency Services Issues held in County Hall on
Friday 8th September 2017.**

Present: Cllr. Matt Doran (Chairman).

Cllr. Tomás Breathnach; Cllr. Michael Doyle; Cllr.
Cllr. Fidelis Doherty;

Mr. Barry Lynch; Mr. Gary Graham; Mr. Anton Mazer.

In Attendance: Mr. Tim Butler, Director of Services; Mr. Michael
Murphy, Acting Senior Engineer Roads, Mr. John
Collins, Chief Fire Officer, Mr. Martin Butler,
Administrative Officer.

Apologies: Cllr. Sean Tyrrell; Cllr. Michael Mc Carthy; Mr. Michael
Rice.

Preliminary

The Chairman Cllr. Matt. Doran welcomed Mr. Anton Mazer to his first meeting and introduced him to all the members present.

The Chairman also paid tribute to Mr. Martin Butler who has served on the SPC2 for a number of years and is now retiring from Kilkenny County Council

1. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Minutes of previous meeting of SPC 2 held on 2nd June 2017.

Proposed by Cllr. Fidelis Doherty

Seconded by Mr. Barry Lynch
and Agreed.

2. UPDATE ON KILKENNY FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE DELIVERY PLAN 2017.

Mr. John Collins Chief Fire Officer circulated to the meeting an update on the Fire and Rescue Service Delivery Plan for 2017 detailed under four headings and among some of the main activities highlighted under those headings by Mr. Collins are as follows:

1.To engage with the community to inform and educate citizens in how to reduce the risk of fires and other emergencies.

- Implement Primary Schools Programme-57 schools visited (3rd Class) 1,862 pupils.
- Implement Home Fire Safety Visits-91 to date.

2.To influence and regulate the built environment to protect people, property and the environment from harm.

- Administer Fire Safety Certificate Application and Assessment process-ongoing to Q4 2017-74 no. issued to date.
- Review of buildings under the Fire Services Act-ongoing to Q4 2017-78 inspections, 4 no.Fire Safety Notices and 1 no.Closure notice.

3. To plan and prepare for emergencies that may happen, and making a high quality, effective and resilient response to them.

- Review Major Emergency Management Plan-Q4 2017-completed.
- Review Flood Emergency Response Plan-Q4 2017-completed.

4.To work together to deliver the highest quality services within a safe and positive environment for everyone in the organisation.

- Respond to fire and other non fire emergencies 24hrs a day 365 days a year-on average 800 per annum.
- Oversee the construction of a new fire station for Graiguenamanagh Fire Brigade- on going.

A discussion then followed and Mr. Collins replied to questions from members of the committee.

3.UPDATE ON BROADBAND

Mr. Tim Butler presented to the meeting an update on the current position. The Department of Communications & Climate Change and Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs are assisting with the broadband improvements and have engaged with the local authority to plan for Broadband rollout. A broadband officer has now been appointed by the Council and this person will liaise with the appointed contractor for the rollout of rural broadband.

A tender process is underway with three companies shortlisted namely Eir, Siro and Enet. The National Broadband Plan (NBP) was first launched in 2012 and relaunched in 2014. Initially 700,000 homes were earmarked for the State's National Broadband Plan (NBP) to receive fibre broadband but 300,000 homes are now included as part of Eir's commercial rollout and broadband will be provided to these outside of the tender process.

Two regional oversight committees have been established to assist in the process and a number of sub committees have been set up. One of these will advise on the physical rollout while another will assist local authorities with preparing a digital strategy. A digital strategy will focus on attracting communication business in Kilkenny.

4. Local Improvement Scheme 2017 (LIS)

The meeting was informed that the Department of Rural and Community Development propose to reintroduce Local Improvement Schemes [LIS] subject to:

- a) the level of demand
- b) the level of resources available, and
- c) the capacity of the local authorities to complete the scheme by the end of 2017.

Eligible roads are non-public roads and the local contribution will be 10% for eligible roads with up to and including 5 residents and 15% for those with 6 or more residents.

The amount of funding that may be provided has not been determined to date by the Department.

5. Update on Clár and Town & Village Renewal Schemes.

Mr. Michael Murphy explained that Clár applies to townlands with a reducing population and there are 20 such town lands in County Kilkenny. A total of 9 townlands have received funding in 2017 and most of the work is completed.

Funding in 2017 under the Town & Village Renewal Scheme is available for Piltown, Ballyhale, Kells and Urlingford and it is expected that the works in those areas will be completed in September 2017.

Next Meeting.

The next meeting of SPC2 will take place on **Friday 1st December 2017** in Kilkenny Fire Station.

This concluded the business of the meeting.