

Minutes of Strategic Policy Committee 2 – Transportation Policy / Mobility Management and Water Services held in City Hall on Friday 6th March, 2020

- Present:** Cllr. Matt Doran (Chairman).
Cllr. Peter Cleere, Cllr. Deirdre Cullen, Cllr. Fidelis Doherty, Cllr Pat Dunphy, Cllr Tomás Breathnach
Mr. Barry Lynch, Mr. Ger Mooney .
- In Attendance:** Mr. Tim Butler, Director of Services; Mr. Seamus Kavanagh, Senior Engineer, Ms Anne Marie Shortall, Administrative Officer Roads & Water Services.
- Apologies:** Mr Gary Graham, Mr. Paul O'Brien

The Chairman Cllr Matt Doran commenced the meeting and welcomed all members.

1. Minutes of previous meeting

The Minutes of previous meeting of SPC 2 held on the 6th December, 2019 were adopted. Proposed by Cllr. Peter Cleere and seconded by Cllr. Deirdre Cullen.

2. Overview of the Roads Programme for 2020

Seamus Kavanagh presented the Roads Programme for 2020 to the meeting. He outlined details of the programme of works for 2020 and the major projects to be undertaken.

Cllr. Pat Dunphy enquired about the CIR allocation for the Piltown Municipal District and Seamus Kavanagh clarified that the allocation was based on the length of road in each area.

Tim Butler explained the CIR scheme and how it works.

Mr. Barry Lynch raised the matter of protected structures in relation to bridge works and Seamus Kavanagh clarified that the conservation officer would be involved where necessary and if there were any conservation works required, the Council would seek additional funding for same.

3. Water Services Overview

Seamus Kavanagh gave a presentation on the role of the local authority regarding Water Services. The local authority acts as an agent for Irish Water under a Service Level Agreement for operational and capital projects. The Rural Water Programme comes under the remit of the local authority.

Cllr. Fidelis Doherty requested an update on the upgrade and capacity of Glenmore Waste Water Treatment Plant.

Cllr. Pat Dunphy requested an update on the Mullinavat Water Scheme.

Seamus Kavanagh explained that projects are being prioritised for 2020 by Irish Water as the capital allocation has been reduced.

Tim Butler clarified that if funding is reinstated, capital projects will be prioritised again where possible and that all schemes are carried out on a priority basis.

Cllr. Deirdre Cullen raised the issue of lime in the water and the problems associated with it in the Rower Inistioge area. Tim Butler explained that the existing Thomastown scheme has been extended to the Rower and Inistioge and that a request can go to Irish Water to issue a press release and guidance.

4. School Safety Programme

Seamus Kavanagh gave a presentation in relation to the School Safety Programme. A review is being carried out of 76 primary and 16 post primary schools. Survey work has been undertaken and a programme of works will be put in place which will include signage and road markings. It is intended that the SPC committee will develop a plan/policy on the school safety programme.

Cllr. Thomas Breathnach asked if the safety programme would be integrated into the village safety scheme and also if contact should be made with the Department of Education for consistent criteria and bespoke solutions.

Seamus Kavanagh clarified that safety will be part of the village scheme if applicable.

5. Road Safety Plan

Tim Butler presented on the Kilkenny Road Safety Plan 2015 – 2020. A new plan will be put in place up to 2026. A workshop may be arranged at a future date with the RSA and the Gardai.

Ger Mooney raised employment of full time employees rather than contractors.

Tim Butler stated that any increase in numbers would be in line with the work force plan as agreed and that any works to be carried out by contractors would be notified in advance to the Union and that consultation would take place where necessary.

6. AOB

Cllr. Matt Doran outlined to the meeting that Paul O'Brien has changed roles and is no longer with the IFA and that a new nominee would be put forward by the IFA.

Barry Lynch raised the following items:-

- Process for submissions of agreed seconded proposals by the committee to the Draft County Development Plan, including dates for submissions, public consultation and whether there should be coordination between Special Policy Committees for similar proposals.
- Climate change and carbon reduction through local transport (and other appropriate) initiatives.

Tim butler outlined that the SPC can propose any recommendations to the Development and that Nicholas Lowe, Senior Executive Planner has responded to both Items and the response will be forward to all members of the SPC. (copy of response attached).

Cllr. Matt Doran advised of the following suggested dates for future meetings to be confirmed:-

Friday 29th May, 2020

Friday 28th August, 2020

Friday 27th of November, 2020

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Response below from Nicholas Lowe, Senior Executive Planner in relation to issues raised at SPC meeting held on the 6th March, 2020.

The dates mentioned will now be postponed due to the current circumstances.

SPC 2 - Issues relating to the Development Plan and Carbon Reduction

Process for submissions of agreed seconded proposals by the committee to the Draft County Development Plan, including dates for submissions, public consultation and whether there should be coordination between Special Policy Committees for similar proposals.

The review process for the County Development Plan will recommence officially on the 30th of March 2020. The next step is the compilation of a draft plan, which will hopefully be available May/June 2020 and will then be workshopped with the members before it is put out to public consultation. Following the publication of the draft, the SPC can make submissions to the draft plan. The SPC can make a submission to the Planning Section at any time to raise particular issues. Coordination between the various SPCs can happen at full Council level or as otherwise agreed.

Climate change and carbon reduction through local transport (and other appropriate) initiatives.

As part of the Development Plan Process, the Planning Section commissioned a Local Transport Plan for Kilkenny City. Consultants have now been appointed and an inception meeting will take place soon. The Plan will aim to consolidate transport plans and initiatives and have its own public participation process which will allow opportunity for submissions. The plan will include a climate action, carbon and e-changing strategy and will focus on encouraging a modal shift away from the private car by promoting walking, cycling and the use of public transport. SPC 2 will be kept informed on progress of the LTP and initiatives and can similarly make submissions at public participation stage or at any other time.