

**Minutes of Strategic Policy Committee 2 – Transportation Policy / Mobility
Management and Water Services held on Thursday 1st December, 2022**

Present: Cllr. Matt Doran (Chairman).

Cllr. Tomás Breathnach, Cllr. Pat Dunphy, Cllr. Fidelis Doherty, Cllr. Deirdre Cullen, Cllr. Peter Cleere, Jim Mulhall, Barry Lynch, Gary Graham

In Attendance: Mr. Tim Butler, Director of Services; Mr. Seamus Kavanagh, Senior Engineer; Emir Slattery, Senior Executive Engineer; Ian Gardner, Senior Engineer; Dearbhala Ledwidge, Climate Action Co-ordinator.

Apologies: Ger Mooney, Cllr. Patrick O’Neill

1. Minutes of previous meeting and Matters Arising

The minutes of SPC2 meeting held on 1st September, 2022 were adopted.
Proposed by Cllr. Tomás Breathnach and seconded by Barry Lynch.

2. Climate Action Plan

Dearbhala Ledwidge presented to the meeting in relation to the Climate Action Plan under the following headings:

- Policy Context
- Climate Action Plan
- Work to date
- Future Progress

She gave an overview of the policy context of climate action at an international, national and local level.

The local authority context includes:

- Developing, implementing and reviewing a climate action plan
- Engagement with the public
- Seeking to implement mitigation (e.g. public lighting & vehicle fleet) and adaptation (e.g. flood schemes) policy
- Climate action as a cross service function

Establishing a decarbonisation zone as a pilot for how we are going to implement the wider reductions in emissions.

Barry Lynch thanked Dearbhala for her presentation. He enquired as to what role the SPC could play in relation to the Climate Action Plan e.g.

- Turning down the heat in buildings
- Low fuel consumption buses in use, thus reduced diesel consumption

Suggested action:

- Base line audit of vehicles
- Base line audit of buildings for photo cells

We should look to the example of the Living City initiative in Limerick City to encourage the regeneration of derelict buildings in the city. The Climate item should remain on the agenda.

Cllr. Tomás Breathnach noted that there should be active engagement with the elected members at national level and locally at MD level. He contributed as follows:

- In relation to decarbonisation, Ferrybank as part of the metropolitan area of Waterford is in a decarbonisation zone, as is Breagagh Valley in Kilkenny City. These are due for review under the Climate Action Plan.
- Current actions should be captured in the plan
- Community initiatives / grant applications need to be climate proofed

Dearbhala confirmed that these will be reviewed in the Climate Action Plan and current actions will be captured.

Gary Graham noted that from a business point of view there needs to be a payback to it is important to encourage businesses in relation to Climate Action.

3. Pathfinder - Sustainable Urban Mobility (SUMP)

Ian Gardner presented to the meeting on SUMP – Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan. This is a user lead strategic plan to best facilitate the mobility needs of people and businesses in urban areas for an improved quality of life. It involves engagement with stakeholders and the wider public with its main focus being to reduce car dependency and create a shift towards more sustainable modes.

The principal elements of SUMP are: walking; cycling; public transport; traffic; parking & public realm.

Barry Lynch contributed in relation to:

- Universal access and tactile paving
- Tight area for buses – Ian stated that it is hoped to be able to introduce the use of EV buses in time
- The Pathfinder Programme – which forms a key part of the implementation of the National Sustainable Mobility Policy.

Cllr. Tomás Breathnach contributed in relation to:

- What is smarter travel
- How do we get the modal shift to happen
- Removal of bollards is important

4. Update on Flooding

Emir Slattery presented an update in relation to the Flood Schemes including progress on the Lot 1 schemes in Graignamanagh & Ballyhale. Emir also referenced recent discussions with the OPW in relation to Lot 2 schemes (remaining 4).

Recent flood events were also highlighted in Callan, Freshford, Thomastown & Inistioge. There was extensive damage caused to roads in both Kilmanagh & Tullaroan and works to remedy this damage were highlighted.

5. Capital Schemes

Seamus Kavanagh gave an update on both the Major - N24 Waterford to Cahir and Minor Projects - N24 Tower Road; N77 Ballyragget to Ballynaslee & N24 Carrick Road.

He also updated the meeting in relation to the Kilkenny Ring Road Extension which has been submitted to the department for consideration to proceed to design/planning.

6. Broadband Update

The current position in relation to the rollout of Broadband for County Kilkenny was discussed. It was agreed to invite NBI to a meeting of Kilkenny County Council in Q1 2023

7. AOB

The 2023 schedule of meetings was discussed and the preference of the committee is to have in-person meetings.

The following dates were set for 2023:

Friday 3 rd March, 2023	4.00 p.m.
Friday 2 nd June, 2023	4.00 p.m.
Friday 1 st Sept., 2023	4.00 p.m.
Friday 1 st December	4.00 p.m.

This concluded the meeting.