

**Minutes of Strategic Policy Committee 2 – Transportation Policy / Mobility
Management and Infrastructure held on Friday 13th December 2024**

Present: Cllr. Deirdre Cullen (Chairperson).
Cllr. Pat Dunphy, Cllr Joe Sheridan, Cllr Maurice Shortall,
Mr Brendan Hickey, Mr Michael Duggan, Ms Eileen Ryan,
Ms Mary Brennan.

In Attendance: Ms Mary Mullholland - Director of Services, Mr David O'Brien - Roads, Ms Caitriona Corr - Active Travel, Ms Claire Buckley - Roads & Ms Colette Power - Roads.

Apologies: Cllr, Michael Delaney, Mr Seamus Kavanagh - Roads

1. Minutes of Previous Meeting and Matters Arising

Chairperson Cllr. Deirdre Cullen opened the meeting by introducing herself as the new chairperson, acknowledged the previous SPC Committee who had achieved a lot over the previous 5 years and thanked the outgoing chairperson Cllr Matt Doran for all his work and commitment.

Cllr Deirdre Cullen welcomed all new members to the SPC committee and expressed that she looked forward to working with the group.

The minutes of the SPC2 meeting held on Thursday 9th May 2024 were adopted, proposed by Cllr Deirdre Cullen and seconded by David O'Brien, Roads Section KCC.

2. Strategic Policy Committee Scheme 2024 -2029

Mary Mulholland gave a presentation around the structure of the SPC, the role of the committee and what was involved in being a member.

She explained that the role of an SPC member is to assist the Council to formulate, develop and review policy and to reflect on the major functions and capital programmes of the Local Authority. The areas included in this Policy Scheme are Roads, Road Safety & Traffic Management.

Her recommendation, following a discussion with Seamus Kavanagh relating to the roads programme and funding, is to set a programme for the year /5 years. Mary informed those present that this is an introductory meeting. A copy of The Lobbying

Act will be circulated at the next meeting. Mary Mullholland welcomed elected and non-elected members to the committee & asked them to introduce themselves.

Each member introduced themselves and gave a brief overview of where they were from and what they did. Mary Mullholland also noted that there will be training for all new SPC members from the Local Government Management Agency which will be rolled out in February/March (date to be confirmed). When this becomes available a notice will be sent out to schedule in new members for the training.

Eileen Ryan (PPN) discussed that a 'boil water notice' was placed on social media following an incident that occurred with an engineer from the council where a test did not come back clear due to impurities in the water. It caused major stress in the Maddoxtown area. It should be noted that the sample should not have come from a tap but the mains on the house. It was very frustrating how much alarm was caused with vulnerable people in the area.

Mary Mullholland advised this SPC meeting will not deal with individual cases. 'Rural Water' can be put on the agenda in the future to give an overview of how that works in relation to how tests are carried out.

Cllr Deirdre Cullen pointed out that we will always have AOB on the agenda and perhaps issues such as this can be discussed or noted before the meeting to include in the agenda.

3. Speed Limit 2025

David O'Brien gave a presentation in relation to the national & local review. The first phase is to change all local rural speed limits from 80km/h to 60km/h. The plan in January to erect poles & signs of the new speed limit will form the legislation on 7th Feb.

There will be public awareness campaigns on all national TV & Radio. The second phase will see a reduction from 50km/h to 30km/h (depending on the type of road) in urban areas by end of June. Workshops will be carried out to determine what speed limit will apply to the urban roads. Phase 3 will be rolled out after June for all National Roads. David will revert back to the SPC Committee in relation to updates on this during the year.

Cllr. Deirdre Cullen noted the positive effects of the Low-Cost Safety Schemes and requested that the Council seek increased funding in 2025.

4. Overview of Roads of Mobility Management (Active Travel)

Caitriona Corr presented an overview of Active Travel for 2024 including the bus stop enhancement, which has ½ million-euro funding, providing greater access for those in rural areas. Active Travel deals with all types of travel options, catering to all ages and abilities, making a positive impact on our communities.

Caitriona Corr went through the different schemes at present and what was completed in 2024 throughout the city and county.

Brendan Hickey commented on the Granges Road pedestrian crossing, noting the lack of flashing beacons. Brendan feels it is dangerous, as the road is flatter with no speed bumps, leading to cars not stopping. Brendan asked if an education programme should be provided in relation to new pedestrian crossings. Caitriona Corr explained it is a Type C crossing which is only allowed in the 50km/h zones and that education is needed. The narrowing of carriageways is to be completed on the Freshford Road and should make a difference. It was agreed education is needed when you are introducing a new infrastructure as it will have a calming effect.

Cllr Deirdre Cullen spoke about the Bohernatouish roundabout. The Gardai have issued a notice on social media to stop going on the right-hand side of the junction as it is dangerous. Cllr Cullen would like the SPC to look into this issue and highlight it to the relevant departments.

Mary Mullholland agreed to review and evaluate this issue with TII and discuss with Seamus Kavanagh in advance of the next meeting. Mary said that it is important for the group to understand who controls what decisions.

5. AOB

Cllr Deirdre Cullen thanked all for attending.

Mary Mullholland suggested another meeting take place with Seamus Kavanagh to explain who is responsible for what and the various different funding streams before we agree a programme for the SPC meetings for 2025. It was agreed all SPC meetings will take place on Fridays.

This concluded the meeting.