

Economic Development, Enterprise and Planning Strategic Policy Committee
Minutes of meeting held at 2.15 p.m. on Wednesday, 6 December 2017 in Aras
Chill Dara, Naas.

Cathaoirleach: Councillor Suzanne Doyle

Present: Councillors Mark Lynch, Morgan McCabe, Padraig McEvoy, Naoise Ó Cearuil, Mark Wall; Mr. Brendan Allen, Mr. Gerry Prendergast.

Also Present: Sonya Kavanagh, Director of Services; Michael Kenny, Senior Planner; Peter Minnock, Director of Services; Jacqui McNabb, Head of LEO, Mark McLoughlin, Administrative Officer.

1. To consider draft minutes of meeting held on 29 September 2017

The minutes of the meeting held on 29 September 2017 were proposed by Councillor McEvoy, seconded by Councillor McCabe and duly adopted.

2. To receive an update on Forward Planning

National Planning Framework & RSES

Mr. Michael Kenny gave an update to the Committee on the National Planning Framework – *Ireland 2040 – Our Plan* [see Appendix 1]. Mr. Kenny advised that the plan addresses a number of issues including role of cities and towns; the potential of regions; rural development; quality of life, the provision of homes for future need and climate change and infrastructure. Mr. Kenny advised the committee that the Council supports the need to develop and strengthen policies towards town consolidation to counter balance the trend towards rural housing. He advised of the concerns of Kildare County Council in respect of the lack of information on infrastructural development, the limited emphasis on economic development in Kildare to support the population and the limited population growth for our larger towns (>10,000) which will have implications for Naas, Maynooth, Leixlip, Newbridge, Celbridge and Athy and further restrictions on the growth of smaller towns (<10,000).

Mr. Kenny also outlined preparations for the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy for the Eastern and Midland Region. He advised that Kildare County Council would make a submission on the issues paper by 26 January 2018 [*since extended to 16 February 2018*].

He advised that the Forward Planning team would meet with the Chair of the Planning SPC and the three regional authority representatives to discuss the issues.

A discussion followed on issues raised by the National Planning Framework and its impact on Kildare.

Councillor McEvoy said that Kildare had more in common with Portlaoise than Dublin while Councillor McCabe that the development of Naas and Newbridge together should be examined with greater links to Portlaoise.

Ms. Jacqui McNabb advised that policy and funding streams were geared towards Kildare, Wicklow and Meath as one region whereas Laois was outside this region.

Councillor McEvoy suggested that an infrastructure matrix be prepared for the county.

Local Area Plans (LAPs)

Mr. Kenny advised the committee that the programme for next year could change due to a number of issues, in particular the Celbridge and Leixlip Local Area Plans (LAPs) regarding Ministerial Direction.

There are two variations in progress: Athy LAP (for economic development) and Maynooth LAP (for LIHAF inner relief road). Regarding the Naas LAP, consultants have been engaged and a request for pre-draft submissions had been advertised and workshops planned

3. To receive an update from the Head of Enterprise

Ms. Jacqui McNabb circulated an update on the Mid-East Action Plan for Jobs January-June 2017 [see *Appendix 2*] and the Local Enterprise Office Report for December 2017. [see *Appendix 3*]. She advised the committee of the 23 key actions being carried out by the Local Enterprise Office and highlighted the application for funding under REDF fund for the Mid-East Regional Innovative Think Space.

Mr. Brendan Allen highlighted the need for a local tax office in Kildare while Councillor Lynch highlighted the needed for a County Broadband Officer.

4. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Friday 23 February 2018.

The meeting adjourned at 3 p.m. and joined with the members of the Environmental Services and Water Strategic Policy Committee in the Council chamber, Aras Chill Dara, Naas

5. To meet with the Environment and Water Strategic Policy Committee to discuss signage Policy.

Councillor Sean Power chaired this session of the meeting and welcomed the members of the Economic Development, Enterprise and Planning Strategic Policy Committee.

Mr. David Reel, Naas Areas Engineer gave a presentation on signage from a road engineer perspective. He advised the committee that there were national road guidelines and Transport Infrastructure Ireland guidelines which were adhered to in this regard. He advised of the project in Naas to streamline the volume of signs in the area.

Mr. John Tynan, Community Warden outlined his functions under the Litter Pollution Act 1997 with specific reference to Newbridge highlighting actions carried out to deal with illegal signage in or visible from a public place.

Mr. Martin Dowling, Executive Planner outlined the role of the planning department and the limitations of the legislation and enforcement of policies in this regard. He outlined the Signage Policy as adopted by Kildare County Council on 29 April 2013 and the provisions within the Kildare County Development Plan 2017-2023 in respect of signage.

There was a general discussion with the members of the two committees with regard to particular aspects of enforcement. The Director of Environment, Mr. Joe Boland and the Director of Planning, Mr Peter Minnock agreed that they would work towards developing an action plan across the various departments to help address the proliferation of signage and address concerns raised at the meeting. This should help inform the policy function of both strategic policy committees.

The meeting closed.