



Economic Development, Enterprise and Planning Strategic Policy Committee

Minutes of meeting held at 10.30 a.m. on Friday, 23 November 2018 in Áras Chill Dara, Naas.

- Cathaoirleach: Councillor Suzanne Doyle
- Present: Cllr. Morgan McCabe, Cllr. Mark Wall, Cllr. Pádraig McEvoy, Cllr. Naoise Ó Cearúil, Cllr. Billy Hillis, Mr. Gerry Prendergast, Ms. Evonne Boland
- Also Present: Peter Minnock, Director of Services; Sonya Kavanagh, Director of Services; Michael Kenny, Senior Planner; Liam McGree, Senior Planner; Nollaig Curran, Executive Planner; Ger Maher, Senior Staff Officer; Stephen Buckley, Planning Department
- Unable to Attend: Cllr. Mark Lynch; Cllr. Daragh Fitzpatrick; Mr. Brendan Allen
-

As Councillor Doyle was delayed, Councillor McCabe took the chair for the first 10 minutes of the meeting.

1. To consider draft minutes of meeting of 25 May 2018

The minutes of the meeting held on 25 May 2018 were proposed by Councillor N. Ó Cearúil, seconded by Councillor B. Hillis, and duly adopted.

Economic Development and Enterprise

2. To receive an update from Director of Enterprise and Economic Development
Ms. Sonya Kavanagh gave an update regarding the budgetary decision to remove superloos.

Ms. Kavanagh is to report back to the SPC via the Local Enterprise Office regarding suggested “Community Friendly Business” stickers for businesses willing to allow members of the public to use their facilities.

3. To consider referral from Council meeting – September 2018

‘Appropriate budget for a matched grant to support small retail outlets to mark/upgrade disabled parking spaces, using the shop front improvement scheme as a model’ [Councillors Larkin and Murray]

Adjourned to next meeting.

Planning

4. Update on National Planning Framework and Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy.

Mr. Kenny gave a presentation on the key elements of the Draft RSES [see copy of presentation at Appendix 1].

Mr. Prendergast circulated a report prepared by him titled “The Issues from a Kildare Perspective” [see copy of report at Appendix 2]. He highlighted a number of issues including i) restrictive population projections for the county, ii) the change in designation of Naas from a “Primary Growth Centre” to a “Key Growth Town”, and iii) a lack of any commitment to complete the Kildare Rail Route Project. He emphasised that a Naas Train Station is an objective which must be delivered in conjunction with a strategic park & ride facility. He also stated that Naas is an infrastructurally enabled town, with Millennium Park being a good model for producing inward commuters to work.

Cllr. Ó Cearúil agreed that infrastructure should precede housing. He also sought clarity as to whether it would be the Council or the SPC making a submission. Mr. Kenny advised that it would be an agenda item for the Council meeting in December.

Cllr. McCabe stated that ‘Hinterland’ is an inappropriate designation as ‘Growth Hub’ potential already exists in the county. He also stated that housing such as that at Adamstown would be undesirable.

Cllr. Wall sought clarity regarding who adopts this strategy and how to engage with the process. Mr. Kenny advised that it is the Eastern & Midlands Regional Assembly who adopts this strategy, and that any member of the public, Elected Members, representative bodies, etc. can make submissions to EMRA before 23 January 2019.

Cllr. Doyle articulated the importance of investment streams and funding not just housing to focus on the county, and that Strategic Housing Development applications are being made to An Bord Pleanála on sites which would be

better suited to for job creation. She suggested that an off-site inter-departmental meeting might be appropriate to prepare a holistic submission. Cllr McEvoy opined that the early iterations have not translated into the Draft RSES, but that there is greater flexibility at county level as there is a 25% headroom in the population projections. He said that the environmental and climate change issues deserve as much focus as housing, and that counties which are more aligned with national and regional strategy will get funding first. He also stated that unsustainable movement patterns must be addressed and functional analysis must be used to inform decisions. He advised that submissions must focus on policy contained on the Draft RSES with reference to the National Planning Framework, not simply numbers. He outlined that the submissions shall be distilled by the executive of EMRA before being presented in report format to the members of the EMRA. He suggested that chapter briefings might be helpful for members if they were circulated before Christmas to allow time to fully get to grips with the content, and that as many people as possible should attend the EMRA briefing sessions [see dates of EMRA briefing sessions at Appendix 3].

Ms. Boland stated that population growth must match infrastructure provision, and outlined that engagement with those outside of KCC e.g. through the Public Participation Network would be important.

Mr. Minnock stated that a draft of the KCC executive's submission would be available to the members. He agreed with Cllr. Doyle that an inter-departmental workshop or facilitated discussion might be beneficial.

Members praised the level of engagement of Cllr. McEvoy with the process and highlighted his valuable knowledge and insight on the matter.

It was agreed as follows:

- A) Chapter briefings to be drafted and issued to SPC members before 14 December 2018. ACTION: M. Kenny**
- B) Date for meeting to discuss submission, format and content: 14 January 2019, [*Draft of Executive's submission to be available to Members in advance of this meeting*] ACTION: P. Minnock / M. Kenny**
- C) Dates for EMRA Briefing Sessions to be advised to KCC Group Leaders. ACTION: M. McLoughlin**

5. To consider Council recognition and promotion of architectural excellence in County.

Mr. Liam McGree provided an update. The Irish Planning Institute, An Taisce, and the Royal Institute of the Architects of Ireland were contacted [see copy of correspondence at Appendix 4]. The RIAI was the only respondent.

Mr. McGree to schedule a meeting with the RIAI in early January.

ACTION: L. McGree

6. To consider referral from Council meeting - June 2018.

'That the Council accepts the clear benefits of a Planning Aid service, as there is in the North of Ireland, and we urge the Minister for Housing, Planning and local government to support representative planning groups in establishing such a service in this state. [Cllr Redmond]

Adjourned. Planning Department to contact Councillor Redmond to clarify what he is requesting. ACTION: L. McGree

7. To consider referral from Protocol Committee – December 2017.

'That the planning department creates an easy to read one page letter outlining the sometimes unknown fact that the council in no way signs off on the quality or construction of a built dwelling, advises that our checks are minor and that we recommend the buyer to contact an independent professional to check on and confirm all stages of build quality, prior to purchase.' [Cllr Lynch]

Report of Ms. Annette Keaveney, Acting Senior Executive Engineer circulated with agenda.

The SPC considered that there is sufficient guidance in the system to protect purchasers.

8. To consider referral from Council meeting – September 2018.

'That the council consider developing land, suitable for housing, to satisfy housing demand e.g. Nurney' [Councillor Miley]

Report to be prepared and circulated to SPC Members. ACTION: L. McGree

9. To consider referral from Council meeting – October 2018.

'To address general concerns with proposed permeability routes, that a task group examine how best-practice designs, activity/health benefits, congestion/carbon reduction and planning conditions can be considered

during public consultation processes. [Councillors McEvoy, Kennedy and McCabe]

Items 9 and 10 were taken together.

10. To consider referral from Celbridge-Leixlip – September 2018.

‘That the Economic Development, Enterprise and Planning Strategic Policy Committee initiate the drafting of guidelines for permeability in housing estates in Kildare, a need identified and agreed during the Leixlip Area Plan’
[Councillor Cussen]

Items 9 and 10 were taken together.

Councillors Doyle, McEvoy, McCabe and Ó Cearúil, Ms. Boland and Mr. Minnock spoke about the merits, fears, complexities, etc. surrounding the issue of permeability within and between estates.

It was agreed that the Director of Services would establish a multi-disciplinary working group, including representatives from the Transportation Directorate. ACTION: P. Minnock

11. To note planning circulars:

- PL09/2018 Planning and Development (Amendment) Act 2018 (Commencement) Order 2018
- FPS07/2018 Draft Urban Development and Building Height Guidelines

Noted.

12. Annual SPC Progress Report

Agendas, Minutes and Reports from 2018 meetings to be re-circulated the Chair to prepare her Report in advance of the Council Meeting on 17 December 2018. ACTION: M. McLoughlin

13. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on 14 December 2018

The meeting closed.

APPENDIX 1

Presentation by Michael Kenny, Senior Planner on Draft Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy

APPENDIX 2

“The Issues from a Kildare Perspective”

APPENDIX 3

EMRA Briefing Sessions on Draft RSES

	Region	Date	Time	Location
Councillors	Dublin SPA	27 th November	9.30 am	Axis Theatre, Main Street, Ballymun
	Midland SPA	4 th December	10 am	Tullamore Court Hotel
	Eastern SPA	6 th December	10 am	Osprey Hotel, Naas
Stakeholders		27 th November	12.15 – 2.15 pm	Axis Theatre, Main Street, Ballymun,
		4 th December	2-4 pm	Tullamore Court Hotel
		6 th December	2-4 pm	Osprey Hotel, Naas

APPENDIX 4

Copy of correspondence sent to The Irish Planning Institute, An Taisce, and the
Royal Institute of the Architects of Ireland