



Economic Development, Enterprise and Planning Strategic Policy Committee

Minutes of meeting held at 3.00 p.m. on Thursday, 28 March 2024, in person and via Video Conferencing.

Cathaoirleach:	Councillor Rob Power
Present:	Councillor Michael Coleman, Councillor Pádraig McEvoy, Councillor Peggy O'Dwyer, Councillor Kevin Duffy, Mr. Gerry Prendergast
Apologies:	Councillor Seamie Moore, Ms Majella O'Keefe, Mr A Dunney, Director of Services
Also Present:	Gabriel Conlon, Senior Executive Officer; Jacqui McNabb, Head of Enterprise, Caroline Talbot, Administrative Officer, Jeremy Ward, Senior Executive Planner, Jane O'Reilly, Senior Executive Planner

1. Conflict of Interest Declarations

The Cathaoirleach advised the members that it was a requirement at all strategic policy committee meetings for members to declare any potential conflicts of interest for items under discussion at the meeting.

The item was noted.

2. Minutes of Meeting held on 14 February 2024

The minutes of the meeting held on 14 February 2024 were proposed by **Councillor Duffy**, seconded by **Cllr Coleman** and duly adopted.

3. To receive an update on progress of the Local Economic Community Plan (LECP)

Ms J. McNabb, Head of Enterprise gave an update on the LECP which was approved by the LCDC and submitted to the EMRA. It was presented to Elected

Members in March and will be presented at each Municipal District meeting in April. To progress the action plan for the next 2 years will require buy in for all of the relevant agencies

4. To receive a presentation on

Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDs) Guidelines

Presented by Mr J Ward on SuDs. He outlined what it is, and the policy context in line with the Kildare County Development Plan 2023-2029. The presentation covered the process and staged work carried out to date to prepare the SuDs Guidelines, including the benefits for all. The Guidelines are to be referred to the Full Council for noting and will be published and launched.

A discussion followed where the following queries and comments were raised, addressed and noted:

Is there a need for an individual county policy given that there are national documents.

– Currently in place in Dublin local authorities, as our guidelines include Rural Housing, it is possible that they could be replicated by other local authorities. The document is a guidance document rather than a policy document.

Current design in a particular area was unsatisfactory when inspected

- Compliance is mandatory, the Guidelines give clarity on designs which are required for public information.

It is very positive to see the introduction of guidelines and the inclusion of nature based solutions.

Permeability Guidelines Briefing

Presented by Mr. J Ward. He outlined the policy context in line with the Kildare County Development Plan 2023-2029. The presentation covered need to establish and improve connections in existing developments through retro fitting access, and, especially in new and future developments. This will target destination directness and reduced journey times, with the provision of passive surveillance.

A discussion followed where the following queries and comments were raised, addressed and noted:

Will it potentially create a large estate and associated issues, antisocial behaviour.

Engagement with the Gardai and local communities and businesses

Positive examples and success stories

Use of natural routes and need to be accessible friendly

Segregated entrances for pedestrians and cyclists.

Mr. Ward confirmed that a technical document will accompany the Guidance document when presenting it to Full Council for noting. Ms. J. O'Reilly acknowledged that a lot of work has been done with more to do to finalise the document with collaboration between Planning and the Municipal District offices.

Planning

5. To receive a Progress Report - Enterprise, Economic Development & Emergency Services

Planning

Mr. G Conlon, Senior Executive Officer gave an update on the Planning Department and highlighted a number of areas of activity including:

- County Development Plan 2023-2029, annual monitoring reporting
- Allotment Strategies
- Ongoing work on Masterplans and LAPs.

Ms J O'Reilly confirmed that the Maynooth Joint LAP was being finalised, with a report for Newbridge LAP be published by year end. Monasterevin **Pre** draft LAP to go on public display in April, and Sallins LAP to be published in the Summer.

- Current competitions for Ecologist and Conservation Officers extended.
- 15% growth in planning applications being submitted with 72% online and 28% in hardcopy. 85% of submissions are now being submitted online.
- An agents meeting will be held in May
- Inperson Preplanning Clinics are now being held the last Thursday monthly.

The report was noted.

Economic Development

Ms J McNabb, Head of Enterprise gave an update, highlighting a number of areas including:

- Work continuing on the Implementation Plan
- Booklet to list business supports available to all
- Draft guidelines for next meeting for Craft Creativity Hub
- Recognition Certs presented for Pride of Place
- Age Friendly training rollout
- Energy Grants to include upgraded lighting, energy pumps etc; new guidelines to be circulated
- Just Transition update

6. Work Programme 2024

Cllr Power confirmed that the Work Programme 2024 could not be approved due to possible new SPC Committee following the upcoming elections.

7. Any Other Business

Schedule for next meeting will be forwarded following the June elections.