

Water Services and Environment SPC

Minutes of Meeting held on 11th May 2022

In attendance:

Elected Members :

Cllr. Suzanne Doyle (Chair), Cllr.I. Cussen, Cllr. A Breen, Cllr. V. Liston.

Unable to attend:

Cllr B. Dooley, Cllr B.Wyse, (Sectoral Interests) Emer Conway, Tom O'Connor, Padraic Ó'Luanaigh, Evan Arkwright

KCC Staff :

Joe Boland (JB) Director of Services, Colm Flynn (CF), Ken Kavanagh (KK), Aoife O'Malley (AOM)

1. The minutes of the meeting of 9th February 2022 were adopted on the proposal of Cllr. Cussen seconded by Cllr. Liston.

2. There were no matters arising from the minutes

3. The members further considered the draft litter bin installation protocol and recommended a few minor changes to the text which were agreed.

Cllr Doyle expressed the view that there should be a reallocation of the existing municipal district street sweeping budget in a more equitable manner and suggested that this could perhaps be based on the number of elected representatives in the respective MD's.

KK advised the members that the aim of the draft protocol was to develop a consistent approach across all MD's to provision of street litter bins and to help ensure that bins are fit for purpose, in the right locations, and of a consistent standard with criteria in place for assessing litter bin requests, and that budget allocations were beyond the scope of the protocol.

The DoS provided some summary expenditure profiles in this regard and recommended that any proposed changes in budget allocations would be best considered by the members when determining the council's annual budget.

4. Sean Scott, LGMA Local Authority Waste Programme Coordinator, gave a presentation (via Zoom) to the meeting on the recently announced National Waste Management Plan for A Circular Economy.

Mr. Scott spoke about the national context and legislative background to the plan and stated that the new legislation defined the Circular Economy for the first time in Irish domestic law.

The Waste Action Plan provides for

- Recycling targets for waste collectors to be delivered through permit amendments under the National Waste Collection Permit office (NWCPO) permit review process
- Standardised bin colours across the state (eg green for recycling, black for residual, brown for organic waste)
- Environmental levies for waste recovery and single use coffee cups to encouraging recycling and reuse
- Education and awareness campaign to improve waste segregation delivered through the Regional Waste Management Planning Offices

In addition, the Bill re-designates the existing Environment Fund as a circular Economy Fund which will remain ring-fenced to provide support for environmental and circular economy projects.

It also introduces mandatory segregation and an incentivised charging regime for commercial waste (similar to what exists for the household market) with a view to increasing waste separation and supporting increased recycling rates. He also expected that the Bill will introduce specific provisions for a register of households not on a kerbside collection service.

He added that the Bill also provides for the GDPR-compliant use of a range of technologies, such as CCTV for waste enforcement purposes.

Mr. Scott summarised some of the key challenges ahead which included: -

- Prevention: to continue the drive for reuse and prevention across all waste streams
- Recycling: to continue to push up recycling rates
- Plastics: reduce the use of single-use plastics
- Textiles: address the impact of textiles on waste management
- Governance: provide leadership and protect consumer rights

Mr. Scott finished by stating that the National Waste Management Plan for a circular Economy will prioritise the monitoring of all waste data while promoting waste generation mitigation measures including prevention, reuse and circularity, and stressed that the achievement of national policies and targets is fundamentally predicated on the interdependence of key stakeholders including Government, Local Government, the EPA, ABP, and Industry.

The following policy issues were highlighted by the SPC –

- The need to increase use of the brown bin
- Enhanced linkages and partnerships with the private sector
- Enhanced recycling infrastructure, eg a civic amenity site in North Kildare
- Linkage with broader climate action agenda

5. The date of the next meeting was scheduled for Wed 14th September 2022 at 2.30pm.
