

Water Services and Environment S.P.C.

Minutes of Meeting held on 12th February 2025

In attendance:

Committee Members:

Cathaoirleach Bill Clear, Cllr. Anne Breen, Cllr William Durkan, Cllr Paula Mulroe, Cllr. Carmel Kelly, Cllr Peggy O'Dwyer.

KCC Staff:

Marian Higgins (Director of Services), Ken Kavanagh, Rachel Jackson, Mark Byrne, David O'Connor, Eileen Gray

Apologies:

Richard Curtin (KCC)

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1. The Chair opened the floor to any declarations of pecuniary or beneficial interests under Section 177 of the Act, as amended. No declarations were made.
 2. The minutes of 07 February 2024 meeting, previously circulated, were adopted on the proposal of Cathaoirleach Bill Clear and seconded by Cllr. Anne Breen.
 3. New members had introduced themselves to each other prior to the meeting. KCC staff present all introduced themselves. Marian Higgins (DOS) advised that the PPN representatives are expected to be finalised in February.
 4. The Chair outlined the remit /role of the Strategic Policy Committee.
The Standing Orders for the Regulation of Business and Proceedings at the Meetings of the Strategic Policy Committees, circulated previously, was discussed.
M.H. advised that a review of the 2021 Standing Orders was completed recently and that this will remain unchanged for the present. Protocols re Conflict of Interest, and requirement to declare same, at the start of business were discussed.
 5. K.K. presented a brief outline of the review of the council's Litter Management Plan 2025-2027 with supporting documentation (circulated during the meeting & attached), including a planned time frame for the various stages of the review process.
 6. The 5-year work plan of Environmental & Water Services SPC includes:
(supporting documentation circulated and attached).

- Waste Management
- Water Quality
- Litter Management
- Cemetery management

Enforcement priorities:

- Unauthorised waste
- RMCEI targets (Recommended Minimum Criteria for Environmental Inspections)
 - EPA plan.
- Kildare County Council performed very strongly in all categories.

Pollution Inspections

- Environmental inspections – farms are the main source of water pollution.
(Increases in the number of inspections in 2025)

M.H. – Presented slide show on primary activities provided by Environment Department.

- Highlighted the strong performances by Kildare Tidy Towns groups in the national TT competition and the success achieved by Naas and Maynooth in topping the IBAL survey over each of the last four years.
- Advised that a Tidy Towns Information evening with a view to assisting participants in the 2025 TT competition was to be hosted by Kildare County Council on 27th March in Aras Chill Dara.
- noted that Naas has been selected to compete in the All-Ireland Best Kept town competition and Maynooth is to represent Ireland in Entente Floral European Competition.
- Informed the members that a New Tidy Town Insurance initiative will commence from 1st April 2025 and will be available free of charge to Tidy Town groups, subject to criteria set out by Irish Public Bodies.

7. Next Meeting of Environmental & Water Services Strategic Policy Committee is scheduled to take place on 7th May 2025, in the Council Chambers, Áras Chill Dara, Devoy Park, Naas.