

Transportation, Safety and Emergency Services Strategic Policy Committee

Minutes of Meeting held on Friday, 24 May 2024 at 2.30p.m. through Microsoft Teams meeting.

Attendees: Cathaoirleach Paul Ward, Councillor Anne Connelly, Councillor Angela Feeney, Councillor Joseph Neville, Mr. Darren Devane

Also Present: Ms Celina Barrett, A/Director of Services; Mr Alan Dunney, Director of Services; Mr Dónal Hodgins, Senior Engineer.
Mr Mark McLoughlin, A/Senior Executive Officer; Ms Susan Donohoe, Assistant Staff Officer, Ms. Sonya White, Clerical Officer.

Apologies: Councillor Bob Quinn, Councillor Nuala Killeen, Councillor Paddy Curran, Mr. Cormac Browne, Mr. Brian Purcell.

Introduction

The Cathaoirleach, Councillor Ward welcomed all the members to the May meeting.

Item 1 – Declarations of Interest

This item was noted.

Item 2 – Minutes- 16 November 2023

On the proposal of Councillor Angela Feeney and seconded by Councillor Paul Ward, the minutes of the meeting held on 16 November 2023 were approved.

Item 3 – Update from Ms. Celina Barrett, A/Director of Services

Ms. Celina Barrett, A/Director of Services, Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces gave the members a briefing on the Directorate as follows:

- The winter maintenance period ended in April 2024 – reduced number of salting runs due to the relatively mild winter conditions.
- The schedule of works was presented to all Municipal Districts. and surface dressing is ongoing at present. This is a significant undertaking as it is carried out by Council staff. We are in the process of carrying out 'toolbox talks' with staff in the interest of health and safety.
- Active Travel-Kilcullen Road scheme is now complete, and the official opening will be on 31 May 2024. Ground spaces on either side of the road have been in receipt of a lot of positive comment.
- The new Machinery Yard and Regional Salt Barn is in operation and the official opening will take place on 27 May.
- Pedestrian bridge in Celbridge – Investigation work being carried out at present. Works expected to commence early in 2025, subject to funding.
- Celbridge second bridge – expected to go to An Bord Pleanála in Quarter 3 2024.
- National Road Office (NRO): Preliminary works being carried out at present in respect of M4 bus corridor.
- Review of speed limits on rural local roads will commence during the Summer to be implemented by November 2024
- Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Charging Strategy – Kildare are the lead authority for the region. Consultations expected to be in place by the end of 2024.

Item 4 – Update from Mr. Alan Dunney, Director of Services

Mr. Alan Dunney, Director of Services, Planning, Enterprise, Economic Development & Emergency Services.

- Recruitment of firefighters is ongoing. Panels have been formed and garda vetting and medicals are currently taking place. The number of firefighters has increased from 64 to 72.
- €3.5 million has been allocated for the Maynooth Fire Station. Work is expected to commence in June 2024.

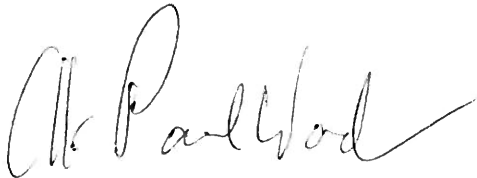
- 117 applications for Fire Safety Certificates in the first period of 2024. This is an increase from 90 for the same period last year.
- Purchase completed for the new Civil Defence headquarters.

Item 5 - Review of the Strategic Policy Committee 2019-2024.

Councillor Ward said that a summary of the work carried out by the Committee was circulated to the members and this would help inform the incoming committee on the issues that will need to be brought forward. Ms. Barrett advised the Committee that it was expected that the strategic policy committees formed after the local elections would take into account the realigned directorates in the organisation.

Councillor Ward thanked the members and staff for their attendance and work since the committee came into operation in 2022. He acknowledged the work of Councillor Neville who had chaired the committee for the first half of its term. Mr. McLoughlin also acknowledge the work of Ms. Marie Kelly for administering the committee over the past few years.

The meeting concluded.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mr. Paul Ward'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.