

**KILDARE COUNTY COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of meeting of Full Council held at 3:00 p.m.**  
**Monday 25 April 2022 in**  
**Newbridge Town Hall**

**Members Present:** Councillor N Ó Cearúil (Cathaoirleach), Councillors  
VL Behan, A Breen, A Breslin, F Brett, B Caldwell, B Clear,  
M Coleman, A Connolly, Í Cussen, S Doyle, K Duffy, T Durkan,  
A Farrelly, A Feeney, P Hamilton, N Heavey, I Keatley, C Kelly,  
C Kenny, N Killeen, M Leigh, V Liston, P. McEvoy, J Neville,  
P O'Dwyer, T O'Dwyer, C Pender, E Sammon, M Stafford, P  
Ward and B Weld.

**Apologies:** Councillors B Dooley, N Connolly, C Galvin, D Fitzpatrick, F  
McLoughlin Healy, S Moore, R Power and B Wyse.

**Also Present:** Ms A Aspell Deputy Chief Executive, Ms E Wright, Mr J Boland,  
Mr E Ryan (Directors of Service), Ms M Higgins (A/Director of  
Service), Ms B Sweeney (A/Head of Finance), Ms C O'Grady  
(Meetings Administrator), Ms K Keane (Meetings Secretary) and  
other officials.

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The Cathaoirleach welcomed everyone to the April meeting of full council and reminded the members of the protocols on speaking times and sought their co-operation in speaking with brevity to ensure an efficient use of the time available.

**01/0422**

**Bereavements**

The Cathaoirleach extended his sympathy to the family of the late:

Alice Byrne, mother of Marie Callaghan, Environment.

Kevin Sinnott, brother of Brendan Sinnott, Senior Executive Engineer, Machinery Yard.

A minute's silence was observed.

**02/0422**

**Declaration of Interests**

The Cathaoirleach sought any declarations of interests from the members, as required under Section 177 of the Local Government Act 2001, as amended. There were no interests declared.

**03/0422**

**Minutes and Progress Report**

The council considered the minutes of the monthly meeting held on 28 March 2022 together with the progress report.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor McEvoy seconded by Councillor Kelly and agreed by the members present, the minutes of the monthly meeting on 28 March 2022 were adopted. The progress report was noted.

**04/0422**

**Chief Executive's Monthly Management Report**

The members noted the Chief Executives monthly management report.

**05/0422**

**Quarterly Update on Climate Action**

The members considered the quarterly update report to council on Climate Action actions and initiatives across the organisation. Mr Boland gave an broad overview of the report reiterating the importance of the bottom up approach to this area of work. A discussion took place among the members, and the following points were raised:

- Ensure that young people's voices are heard, and their opinions taken on board in developing the Climate Action Plans
- An update was sought on the position with the Maynooth Decarbonisation Zone and whether there was any potential to use the low carbon community fund to fund this initiative

- An update was sought on recruiting an Energy Officer to fill the vacancy that currently existed.
- Further information was sought on the progress of the Sustainable Energy Communities initiative.

Mr Boland responded by stating there had been no development on the Decarbonisation Fund but he hoped that the Climate Action Guidelines would outline the way forward on the future rollout of further Decarbonisation zones. He confirmed there were four SEC's currently operating in the county, with a further two getting ready to launch. He referenced the Dunleer SEC model noting it was a very good model to follow, and the Climate Action Officer would be having regard to it going forward. He confirmed that the Energy Officer position had not yet been filled, as the job specification was being revisited to include a brief related to Decarbonisation Zones.

Ms Wright confirmed that the Department of Environment and Climate have taken over the remit of Decarbonisation Zones from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage. She stated she was part of a working group dealing with the guidance for Decarbonisation Zones, which was expected to be finalised in May 2022. Mr Boland concluded by thanking the members for their continuing support in this area.

The report was noted.

#### **06/0422**

#### **Roads Program 2022**

Ms Wright referred to the Roads Programme 2022 compiled by the Roads Transportation and Public Safety Department which has been circulated to the members in advance of the meeting. She noted there was a 6.5% increase in the funding received on the previous year but that work rates were also up by approx. 15%.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Farrelly, seconded by Councillor Hamilton and agreed by the members present, the Roads Program 2022 was noted.

**07/0422**

**May Meeting of Full Council**

The members considered the request to hold the May meeting of full council in NUI Maynooth.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Feeney seconded by Councillor Hamilton and agreed by the members present, arrangements to be made to hold the May meeting of full council in NUI Maynooth, was approved.

**08/0422**

**Gnó an Cathaoirleach/Cathaoirleachs Business**

The Cathaoirleach confirmed that in the preceding month, he had attended the Student Enterprise Awards, the Annual meeting of Tidy Towns, an Into Kildare 'showcase the county' event attended by tourism officers from all over the country and an Age Friendly event in Croke Park. He had welcomed the Slovenian Ambassador to Áras Chill Dara and had attended the LAMA awards with Councillor Neville at which The Royal Canal Greenway received Best Tourism Initiative 2021 and he congratulated all involved in the project.

The Cathaoirleach stated he was delighted to be able to attend the launch of the Primark Distribution Centre in Newbridge and in a similar vein, he welcomed the significant jobs announcement relating to the old HP site in Leixlip which was another huge boost to the county. The Cathaoirleach also welcomed the announcement that the K-Club would be hosting the Irish Open this year and he congratulated the Decade of Commemoration Committee in the recent Garda Commemoration event in Kildare town. Similarly, he congratulated the library services on the launch of their 'Storytimes' initiative in the Linear Park, Newbridge which he has attended also.

**09/0422**

**Comhfhreagras/Correspondence**

The Meetings Administrator confirmed twelve items of correspondence had been circulated to the members with the Progress Report. These included replies from the Office of the Minister for Local Government and Planning Mr Peter Burke T.D. on the motion referral re youth representation on SPCs, and correspondence from the

Office of Minister for Housing Local Government and Heritage Mr Daragh O'Brien T.D. on a motion referral in relation to installation of AED's as a condition of planning. She confirmed a total of nine motion referrals were received from other local authorities and the National Waste Management Plan for a Circular Economy Progress Update March 2022, had also been circulated.

The correspondence was noted.

#### **10/0422**

##### **Conferences and Training**

The members considered the conference and training report that was circulated in advance of the meeting.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Kelly, seconded by Councillor Pender and agreed by the members, retrospective attendance by Councillor Caldwell and Councillor McLoughlin Healy at the LAMA conference in the Hotel Kilkenny on the 12 & 13 April at a cost of €145 plus T&S per delegate, was approved.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Killeen, seconded by Councillor Sammon and agreed by the members, attendance at the AILG Webinar 3, Module 2 (In-person) and Webinar 3 conference and training events, and the Housing for All Webinar 5 event, were approved.

The Cathaoirleach sought the members co-operation in limiting the number of retrospective training approval requests coming to council for approval.

#### **11/0422**

##### **Referral from Clane-Maynooth Municipal District Committee**

The following recommendation from the March meeting of the Clane-Maynooth Municipal District Committee was considered by the members.

That the council, in conjunction with Waterways Ireland, install public bike repair stations on the Royal Canal Greenway to aid cyclists on their journey (report attached).

The motion was proposed by Councillor Durkan and seconded by Councillor Clear.

The report to the Clane-Maynooth Committee stated that Kildare County Council would engage with Waterways Ireland to determine the types of infrastructure provided on other Greenways, the funding mechanism used to provide, install and maintain the stations. Consideration would also need to be given to the ongoing costs and maintenance of this infrastructure. With the members agreement, this request can be referred to the Transportation SPC for further investigation and analysis.

The following was an extract of the discussion that took place at the meeting of the Clane-Maynooth MD

- Councillor Durkan had already approached and spoken with local bike shops about the idea of installing the public bike repair stations.
- These bike repair stations would be aimed more so at the occasional cyclist as they were more likely to be caught out than experienced cyclists.
- The bike repair stations would be secured by chains and/or wires.
- If the funding was received, they could be installed along the Greenway.
- With the support of the municipal district members, this motion could be sent to Full Council with a view to it being referred to the Transportation SPC.
- Waterways Ireland should be consulted regarding the installations of the bike repair stations

*End of minute extract.*

Councillor Durkan stated the issue needed to be expanded on and considered as a countywide initiative. Councillor Clear noted that bike stations recently installed in Sallins were not working, and the issue of budgets and security for such structures needed to be considered also.

Ms Wright stated that with the members agreement, the motion could be referred to the Transport SPC to consider how to proceed on this, and that TII could be contacted around the issues of costs, management of equipment and enforcement. **Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Durkan, seconded by Councillor Clear and agreed by the members present, that this motion would be referred to the Transportation SPC for further consideration.

**12/0422**

**Self Help Grant Scheme**

The following motion in the names of Councillors Suzanne Doyle, Anne Connolly, Brian Dooley and Veralouise Behan was considered by the members.

That the council ring fence funds realised through the Housing Allocation Deposit scheme to support the roll out of the Self Help Grant scheme.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Doyle and seconded by Councillor A Connolly.

A report from Ms A Aspell, Director of Service, Housing and Corporate Services stated that the Tenant Deposit Scheme was adopted in 2018 and came into effect in January 2019. At the cessation of a council tenancy, and subject to certain conditions, the deposit is refundable; it is important that the income from this fund is available for the refund of deposits or in dealing with the cost of turning around properties which become vacant and where the damage is in excess of normal wear and tear. Adequate funding is required to deal with future liabilities, and it is anticipated that refunds will increase in future years. Details of the Tenant Deposit Scheme are appended.

The members decided during the Budget 2022 process that the funding which had previously been allocated to the Self-Help Scheme would be re-allocated to the Disabled Persons Grants Scheme. This additional funding was used to leverage an increase in funding provided by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, with total funding increasing from €517,504 in 2021 to €1,062, 775 in 2022.

The Self-Help Scheme provided an allocation for staff funding, as a result of the decision to suspend the scheme this resource was re-allocated, currently no staff resources are available to administer the scheme.

I acknowledge that there is merit in the motion, however in advance of any decision on the future funding of the Self-Help Scheme it is recommended that the scheme is reviewed by the Housing Strategic Policy Committee, with any review to include an examination of the resourcing of the scheme, the value of the grant being made

available, the type of works being granted funded and the possibility of using monies from the tenant deposit scheme to support the scheme.

Councillor Doyle appreciated the report and stated she was cognisant of the resources it would take to effect the action being sought, and proposed that once all the DPG grants were processed, work on the self help scheme applications could commence. She clarified that the funding to be used was from the deposits on housing allocations and that consideration should be given to commencing work on the suspended Self Help Grant scheme applications first.

Ms Aspell stated she supported the motion in general terms but asked to be given time to assess the implication on resources and the potential for staff reassignment and how that would be managed.

Councillor Doyle understood the points being made but added that a full review of the matter would take too long, and sought the members support to the motion.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Doyle, seconded by Councillor A Connolly with 24 members voting in favour of the motion, no member voting against the motion and with one abstention, the motion was approved.

### **13/0422**

#### **Unauthorised Developments**

The following motion in the names of Councillors Bernard Caldwell, Michael Coleman, Naoise Ó Cearúil, Daragh Fitzpatrick, Paul Ward and Carmel Kelly was considered by the members.

That the council receive a report from Planning/Development Control on the number of reported unauthorised developments over the past three years and that this report include details of the date first reported, how many are still in the system that were reported prior to March 2019, what the current status is on files and what level of resources are required to service this activity. Furthermore that the council recommend actions or requirements to improve mechanisms to deal with this activity more effectively.



The motion was proposed by Councillor Coleman and seconded by Councillor Caldwell.

A report from Mr E Ryan, Director of Service, Planning, Strategic Development and Public Realm stated that the level of detail requested in the motion will take a considerable amount of time and resources to compile. The issue of resourcing is a matter for the Executive. However, it should be noted that resourcing levels within all Planning Departments are currently being reviewed and examined at a national level through the CCMA and LGMA.

Councillor Coleman stated the response was inadequate and asked that the matter be included for discussion again the following month. He referenced a report the Celbridge-Leixlip committee had received recently on this matter which had been much more detailed. However, he did acknowledge that resources were stretched in the Planning department.

Following a discussion, the members raised the following points:

- The issue had come up at a Naas MD committee meeting also, and an example was given of an Order to Demolish that was due to be served in the Naas Municipal District Committee area in September 2021 but had yet still to be served.
- Was the Director of Planning in the process of sourcing additional resources for the Planning Department.
- The Director was asked for any update on resources from his work on the Working Group with the OPR on analysing resourcing around the country etc. and whether there would be any appetite at national level to subdivide the enforcement function so that a fine system could be introduced on lesser breaches, as a separate process to the planning process which was a very lengthy and labour-intensive process.
- Clarification was again sought on the availability of the online UD system and why it had been removed from the council's website

- Was there any form of prioritisation given to UD files and consideration be given to members being briefed in the triage process as they were bearing the brunt of the public disquiet on the council's inaction in this area.
- Who was liable to pay costs if local residents took an injunction on a UD case.

The Director responded by acknowledging the comments made by the members. He asked for the detail of the files referenced in the Naas area and stated he would look into the position re the online UD system online. He noted that a report had been made available by the OPR and that new staffing resources would be a matter for the CCMA. He outlined the various vacancies that currently existed in planning and where they were at within the recruitment process. He noted that the court system was a very cumbersome process and that he has had discussions around innovative ways of dealing with and prioritising UD cases. He noted that once a case gets to the court, the onus is always on the local authority to prove the case and not the other way around. He noted that individuals taking an injunction was a private matter, and that they would be responsible for the costs involved. He concluded by confirming there would be a further update to the motion given in the Progress Report for the May meeting.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Coleman, seconded by Councillor Caldwell and agreed by the members present, the report was noted and an update to be provided in the following months Progress Report.

#### **14/0422**

##### **Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report**

The following motion in the names of Councillors Aoife Breslin, Fintan Brett, Íde Cussen, Noel Connolly, Aidan Farrelly, Ciara Galvin, Noel Heavey, Colm Kenny, Nuala Killeen, Vanessa Liston, Pádraig McEvoy, Peggy O'Dwyer, Rob Power and Evie Sammon was considered by the members.

That the council outlines how key scientific findings of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report (4 April 2022: CO2 420.69 ppm) will inform and be addressed by policies and climate action across the local authority services, including but not limited to energy conservation, public realm, sustainable transport, biodiversity and planning.

The motion was proposed by Councillor McEvoy and seconded by Councillor Breslin.

A report from Mr J Boland, Director of Services, Water Services, Environment and Climate Action stated that it is fully accepted that there are very significant challenges for the local government sector arising from climate action and, indeed, this is reinforced in the report cited in the motion. These matters can be discussed in detail as part of the quarterly standing item on Climate Action which is included in the main agenda. It will be noted that there are many ongoing initiatives at local level which will have to be further deepened and mainstreamed both in terms of services and policies, as suggested in the motion. There was no question but that climate action is now having a very significant impact across all departments. In this context, the support of the elected members to date, particularly through the CPG, SPCs, MDs and full Council really had to be acknowledged. Directors would be in a position to address any detailed questions relevant to specific services or policies relating to their departments.

Councillor McEvoy acknowledged the report but stated that as policy makers, the local authority had to demonstrate it was having due regard to the climate crisis. He noted that Irish citizens were responsible for three times the level of emissions that other EU residents were. He asked that an urgency be brought to this work given the critical juncture the crisis was at. Councillor Liston asked that more visibility be given to what we as an authority are doing versus what was expected of us, and that the council needed to be more ambitious in its approach.

Mr Boland welcomed the motion and the members comments stating that Climate Action had to be interwoven through all services delivered by the local authority. He also noted that strategic collaboration and business initiatives were going to be key in the area, adding the council had come a long way in this area.

Mr Ryan stated the Climate Change document was quite technical but that the planning department would welcome any submissions made during the CDP review process by experts in any area relevant to the report.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor McEvoy, seconded by Councillor Breslin and agreed by the members present, the report was noted.

**15/0422**

**JAM (Just a Minute)**

The following motion in the name of Councillor Tracey O'Dwyer was considered by the members.

That given Kildare County Council, is a JAM (Just a Minute) friendly organisation can additional signage be placed at all public counters informing customers that council staff are trained to facilitate customers requiring this service.

The motion was proposed by Councillor T O'Dwyer and seconded by Councillor P O'Dwyer.

A report from Mr M Hurley, Health and Safety and Access Officer stated that the Access Officer, will liaise with facilities team to arrange the placement of additional signage informing customers that the council is a JAM Friendly organisation.

Councillor Tracey O'Dwyer welcomed the report and asked that the signage around the Áras be enhanced. She also asked for confirmation that Kildare County Council was listed on the JAM website as a JAM friendly organisation.

Ms Wright undertook to establish whether the council was listed as a JAM Friendly organisation on the JAM website.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor T O'Dwyer, seconded by Councillor P O'Dwyer and agreed by the members present, the report was noted.

**16/0422**

**Waste Management Review**

The following motion in the name of Councillor Kevin Duffy was considered by the members.

That the council provide an update on the Waste Management Review that was to be undertaken, including the standardisation of litter management across our urban centre.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Duffy and seconded by Councillor Clear.

A report from Mr J Boland, Director of Services, Water Services, Environment and Climate Action stated that by way of background, the Council currently spends €2.525m on street sweeping and litter bin emptying as per the 2022 budget book. All in all, it is considered to be a good service with, for example, Naas having been deemed the cleanest town in Ireland in 2022 by IBAL, (Leixlip was 4th). In addition, this county is now only second to Cork County in the Tidy Towns medal league table with 10 medals.

He outlined that this matter had been the subject of a series of reviews/assessments in very recent times, including -

1. A general review culminating in a detailed report of street cleaning operations by the Council's Senior Executive Engineer.
2. A survey of physical litter related infrastructure (copy attached) as requested by the SPC.
3. Lengthy consideration of all litter/street cleaning issues by the SPC as part of consideration of the new Litter Management Plan.
4. Compilation of a draft policy/protocol on litter bins, again at the request of the SPC (copy attached).
5. Further broader consideration of all relevant litter related issues by full Council in 2021 in the context of the Covid emergency.

He further confirmed the following outcomes to date -

- A key recommendation of the A/Senior Engineer was the rationalisation of services in respect of the Naas MD area wherein the service will shortly (likely to be May 2022) be taken over in full by the Roads Dept. This will mean that all litter/street sweeping operations will rest with one department (Transportation). This also accords with the recommendations of the SPC.
- The draft "Street Litter Bin – Installation Policy" (copy attached) is still with the SPC for final endorsement. In particular, the SPC have asked for further consideration regarding the possible achievement of greater consistency of bin provision throughout the county. In the view of the undersigned, such

could only be realistically achieved over time. Indeed, I would also suggest that, in line with climate action / sustainability considerations that the policy could also reflect an objective to reduce the overall number of bins, again over time.

- A further, more focused review was carried out in conjunction with the Covid emergency wherein these matters were debated at full Council. Following the confirmation of national grant funding, additional weekend street sweeping was put in place at key pinch-points for the last summer period (cost €84,000). Furthermore, some additional bin infrastructure was also provided, through this grant, mainly (though not exclusively) in conjunction with public realm projects.

On a general note, it was never intended that reviews/interventions in this area would be “forensic”. In this context it is always open to the MD Engineer to effect local efficiencies either in relation to street sweeping or litter bins where such makes sense. There will also be instances where there is local agreement regarding new bins being provided where there is good reason, subject to underutilised extant bins being removed (also refer to draft policy).

The members will also need to appreciate that this is a very labour intensive and expensive service wherein, in truth, it has been very difficult to control expenditure in light of the myriad of demands. Accordingly, any requests for additional services would need to be carefully costed and considered in the context of the annual budgetary process. In particular, any suggested ‘reviews’ should not be interpreted as an opportunity for yet more bins and/or additional street sweeping.

Playgrounds are serviced separately by the Parks Department by contract following a tender. I can discuss possibilities for synergies with that department following expiration of this contract though, realistically, I suspect that the MD Engineers are unlikely to have the capacity to take on such an additional task.

Finally, the ongoing voluntary effort of local tidy town groups really had to be acknowledged in this discussion. He stated that other Directors may also wish to comment.

Councillor Duffy welcomed the report noting the difference in the processes that had been outlined relating to playgrounds and cemeteries. He stated a conversation would have to be held again at budget time, adding he would like to see more rationalisation of the bin collection service and the budget. Councillor Hamilton supported the motion stating society in general had become lethargic and had fallen into bad habits on the issue, and the council needed to re-engage with businesses and community groups in relation to rubbish and waste disposal.

- Following a discussion, the members raised the following points:  
The suggestion of phasing out bins was completely disagreed with, as having more bins mean less rubbish.
- Kildare is an expanding county and an equitable method of distributing resources related to bins and bin collection, had to be found
- The 7-day bin collection that operated during Covid and worked really well and should be continued.
- Towns and town public realm spaces were being utilised more since covid, especially at weekends, and could the collection days be examined with a view to having them at peak times such as weekends, as opposed to earlier weekdays when it was quieter.

Mr Boland thanked the members for their comments noting the Naas MD office would be taking over the bin collection service in the Naas area in the near future. He stated that the SPC still had a body of work to do in researching and considering this matter.

Councillor Duffy welcomed the feedback from the members noting the inconsistency of approach across the MDs had to be addressed, and that the council should look at the emerging technology in the sector that could guide it where to allocate its labour resources.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Duffy, seconded by Councillor P O'Dwyer and agreed by the members present, the report was noted and and it was agreed the motion would be referred to the Environment,Water Services and Climate Action SPC

**17/0422**

**Walking and Cycling Strategy for the County**

The following motion in the name of Councillor Bill Clear was considered by the members.

That Kildare County Council develops a Walking and Cycling strategy for the county.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Clear and seconded by Councillor Killeen.

A report from Ms E Wright, Director of Service, Roads, Transportation and Public Safety stated that Objective **TM A5** of the Draft County Development Plan sets out that it is an Action of the Council to *Prepare a walking and cycling strategy to identify and invest in new high-quality, suitable, safe, and sustainable walking and cycling routes, in consultation with stakeholders with links from towns and villages to public transport services, amenities, services, schools, and existing and proposed developments. These walking and cycling routes should be segregated and the cycling routes should accommodate two-way access, whenever possible.* The Sustainable Transport Section is implementing the Greater Dublin Area Strategic Cycle Network in the County, which involves improvements for all vulnerable road users (pedestrians/cyclists) in consultation with the National Transport Authority.

Councillor Clear stated he was delighted to see this item in the County Development Plan given that Kildare had the most Greenway and Blueway development in the country. Councillor Keatley stated that the Roads department were also looking at cycle rack facilities for rural schools.

Ms Wright stated the council had set out the NTAs 2022 programme under active travel, and the councils biggest challenge would be to deliver that programme. She confirmed that the issue raised by Councillor Keatley was being looked at by TII along with how to ensure that road users are aware they are using a shared space ie. cars, walkers and cyclists. Ms Wright confirmed a monthly update was given on all active travel projects in the monthly Chief Executives report. She also confirmed the active travel team would be making a presentation to the municipal district committees twice yearly.



**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Clear, seconded by Councillor Killeen and agreed by the members present, the report was noted.

The Cathaoirleach noted the next item on the agenda was a motion in the name of Councillor McLoughlin Healy, who was not in attendance. He stated he was not aware that anyone had been authorised in writing to move the motion on her behalf thus on that basis and in accordance with Standing Orders, the motion fell.

### **19/0422**

#### **Progress on EV charging**

The following motion in the name of Councillor Peter Hamilton was considered by the members.

That the council provide an update on the progress made since the Local Authority Guidelines on EV charging and electric vehicles were issued in August 2021 and specifically outline what improvements in capacity can be made at our 'destinations' in advance of the summer 2022 tourism season.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Hamilton and seconded by Councillor Liston.

A report from Ms E Wright, Director of Service, Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department stated that The Roads, Environment, EM CARO would collectively review the recently published strategy by Minister for Transport Eamon Ryan - Ireland's first national EV Charging Infrastructure Strategy. Chapters 5 (Pathway to Delivery), Chapter 6 (Infrastructure Delivery) and Chapter 7 (Implementation) are of note and the Department is inviting views on the strategy. This draft Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Strategy 2022-2025 sets out the Government's ambition regarding the delivery of a public electric vehicle charging network to support up to 194,000 electric cars and vans on our roads by 2025. It describes the four main types of charging that will form the basis of our network:

- Home/apartment charging
- Residential neighbourhood charging

- Destination charging
- Motorway/enroute charging

It also sets out a plan for the delivery of each of these in the coming years, based upon partnerships between the Department of Transport and a range of relevant stakeholders, including industry, private charge point operators, local authorities and citizen drivers. The Department is currently inviting views on the draft strategy to be submitted to [evinfrastructure@transport.gov.ie](mailto:evinfrastructure@transport.gov.ie). A formal public consultation will be run by the Department in May consisting of an online survey and stakeholder workshops. A representative of the Roads Department will participate in a forthcoming Stakeholder Engagement on EV infrastructure delivery and fleet management as part of the consultation on the draft Strategy.

Councillor Hamilton acknowledged the report noting his motion was connected to the joint motion that had been debated earlier in the meeting in relation to the Panel on Climate Change Report. He stressed the importance of local leadership and the need for the council to proactively work on and advance this issue. He noted that both the public and the private sector had a role to play, adding that private charge rates were very expensive compared to a night charging rate, in a home.

Ms Wright stated the private sector had a key role to play in this area noting the council has had engagement with EV providers. She did however confirm that no funding has been assigned by Government in this area to date and even if there was funding, public procurement procedures would have to be followed. She confirmed the council was monitoring all Government advances in this area, but highlighted the lack of funding was a critical issue.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Hamilton, seconded by Councillor Liston and agreed by the members present, the report was noted.

The Cathaoirleach confirmed this concluded the business of the meeting. He stated he was conscious of the cost associated with running the plenary council meetings in Newbridge Town Hall and expressed the desire that these meetings would be able to return to the council chamber soon. He thanked all the staff in Facilities, Security and

Corporate Services and the sound system provider for their invaluable input and support over the course of the pandemic in enabling the council meetings to operate in Newbridge Town Hall.

The meeting concluded.