

Minutes of Climate Change and Energy Strategic Policy Committee

Monday 13th December , 2021

In attendance: SPC Chairperson: Cllr. Liam Reilly, Cllr. Paula Butterly, Cllr. Marianne Butler, Cllr James Byrne, Eugene Conlon, Pat Mulligan, Paul McCormack

Officials: David Hanratty, Senior Engineer, Padraig O’Hora, Senior Executive Engineer, Brendan McSherry, Heritage Officer, Jacqueline Murphy, Assistant Staff Officer

Apologies: Cllr. Tom Cunningham, Catherine Duff, Director of Services, Gerard Melia, Miriam Simon & Liam Woods

1. Minutes Adopted

The minutes of the September Meeting were adopted.

Proposed by Cllr. Marianne Butler

Seconded by Cllr. James Byrne

2. Presentation by GENCOMM

Paul McCormack gave a presentation to members on behalf of GENCOMM. Paul Mc Cormack advised that Padraig O’Hora will circulate slides from the presentation.

3. Presentation of Draft Energy Policy – Padraig O’Hora

Padraig O’Hora presented the draft Energy Policy Revision document to which he proposed some changes in relation to phrasing in the first bullet point. He also referred to the third last bullet point, including electric vehicles. He also advised he incorporated a new part in relation to developing new partnerships and collaborations.

Padraig O’Hora advised members that there was an energy management system audit on tomorrow the 15th December 2021 and for audit purposes information on the current Energy Policy dated November 2020 was submitted. However, going forward a new revision will be considered for 2022.

Amendments to the Draft Energy Policy.

Proposed by Liam Reilly

Seconded by Eugene Conlon

4. Update on the Draft Litter Management Plans – David Hanratty

David Hanratty advised members he attended the Municipal District meetings to inform public representatives that Litter Management Plans will be going to public consultation in line with the process set out in legislation. David Hanratty intends to complete this process in early 2022, with a view of bringing same back to municipal districts as soon as possible. Cllr. Liam Reilly inquired the time frame of the public consultation period.

David Hanratty advised Cllr. Liam Reilly there was no time specified; however given the nature of the Litter Management Plan he would advise four weeks public consultation. Cllr. Liam Reilly concluded it would be Municipal District meetings held in March 2022 that will have updates. David Hanratty advised no other updates.

6. **Workplan Update**– David Hanratty

David Hanratty advised that the workplan was across the lifetime of the SPC and gave update on the actions in the plan:

1. Draft Development Plan – has been adopted by the council in November 2021
2. Biodiversity Plan –approved by council in January 2021
3. Developing a policy in regard to Sustainable Energy Communities for Louth – previously presented to SPC
4. Develop a Policy Involving Young Citizens in Climate Change Policy – will be progressed in 2022.
5. Event – Not feasible in current climate – will progress in 2022
6. Litter Management Plan – as above
7. Bicycles and Scooters Policy – need to develop policy – no progress as yet and technically illegal to use scooters on road.
8. Hedge Cutting Policy – no update
9. Climate Action Plan –expect to commence our own Climate Action Plan in 2022, for the completion by end of 2023
10. Energy Policy – as above.

Cllr. Marianne Butler stated since our meeting held on 13th September 2021, The National Climate Action Plan has been published. Cllr. Marianne Butler suggested as part of the SPC work plan we should look at the actions and see how Louth fits into the plan and what we are doing as a council.

Cllr. Marianne Butler also pointed out Dundalk was mentioned in action 141 to build a pilot technology gateway in North east region. David Hanratty advised Louth County Council have a good relationship with DKIT and will query the above action.

Cllr. Marianne Butler queried if dates for the SPC in 2022 been set by CPG or by the individual SPC's. Cllr. Liam Reilly advised no dates have been confirmed to date, however advised discussions have taken place in regard to hybrid meetings to continue going forward as they are working well. Chief Executive Joan Martin is aware of same and is looking into standing orders; Cllr. Liam Reilly advised he will ask for an update at the next CPG meeting.

AOB:

Eugene Conlon advised he attended a successful meeting with SEAI this morning, 13th December 2021, to discuss some of the challenges raised previously, progress is been made and he advised he will keep members updated going forward.

Eugene Conlon also advised he is concerned about the absence of the farming community in the SPC. Cllr. Paula Butterly agreed with Eugene Conlon that their absence is notable, and they should be attending the meetings. Cllr. Paula Butterly advised that by the next SPC meeting the IFA will hopefully be present.

Next Meeting TBC.

The minutes were confirmed at a meeting of SPC held on: Date: 14/2/2022

SPC Chairperson: 