

LOUTH COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes of Infrastructure, European and Cross Border Affairs and Sustainable Energy Strategic Policy Committee meeting held in The Cooley Room, County Hall, Dundalk on Thursday 16th June 2016 at 4.00pm.

Present: Cllr O Tully (Chairman)
Cllr D Minogue
Cllr C Markey
Cllr E Coffey
Cllr K Flood
Mr M Fealy, Community/Voluntary Rep
Mr P Malone, Business/Commercial Rep
Mr M Mc Greehan, Agricultural/ Farming Rep

Officials: Ms E O Gorman, Director of Services
Ms M O Callaghan, Staff Officer

Apologies: Cllr Edel Corrigan
Ms J Byrne, Environment/Conservation Rep
Mr P Donnelly, Director of Service
Ms T Mc Ardle, Administrative Officer

1. Minutes

On the proposal of Cllr D Minogue seconded by Mr P Malone the minutes of the meeting held on 28th April 2016 were noted and approved.

2. Matters Arising

A discussion was held on the upkeep of tertiary roads. Cllr O Tully outlined the history of these roads which are receiving no specific funding from government at this time. The 2 schemes which previously operated were the Local Improvement Scheme and the Local Contribution scheme both schemes involved contributions from the residents on the particular road. The residents in the main were satisfied with the quality of the works done. The facility to allocate 20% from the roads budget to tertiary roads was an option for Louth Co Co this year however they decided to keep all monies for the major road networks. Cllr K Flood had received a complaint from residents regarding quality issue on a section of tertiary road which was completed in 2014 and it was agreed he would forward on the details to Ms E O Gorman for investigation.

P Malone expressed his thanks for the invitation of this committee to the recent MOU committee meeting. P Malone requested that a joint SPC meeting be set up with the Economic Development and Enterprise Support SPC, Ms E O Gorman has contacted the chair of this SPC and requested such a meeting but hasn't had a formal reply yet. Ms O Gorman will follow up and report back. Ms O Gorman confirmed that the Dundalk Chamber of Commerce is welcome to attend the MOU committee meetings and the next one will take place in July. It was agreed that Ms O Gorman will circulate the minutes of the MOU committee meetings to the members of this SPC.

P Malone requested that a presentation be made on the All Ireland Economy Report to this SPC. Ms O Gorman said that the presentation would be suitable for the joint SPC meeting. The report has been circulated to all of the members.

3. Memorandum of Understanding – Update by Ms E O Gorman

Ms O Gorman agreed she would give an update to this SPC on the MOU meetings every 6-8 weeks. The main focus of the committee, EU funding will hinge on the results of Brexit Referendum on 23rd June 2016. New applications for funding will be undertaken with new partners if Britain leaves the EU. The next meeting of the MOU is in Newry in July the following meeting in September is in Louth. Any member is welcome to attend.

P Malone expressed great disappointment at the failure of the Geo Park Project for the Cooley area. E O Gorman replied that there were a number of objections from landowners in the area. Cllr Markey commented that the people most affected by the proposal were not consulted at the early stages and a different approach is required if the project is put forward again. M Mc Greehan said that the farmers of the Cooley area had objected as far back as 2008 to the proposal. Ms O Gorman confirmed the IFA and Ulster Farmers Union could be invited to the MOU meeting to discuss the way forward.

Work Programme 2016

It was agreed that at least 2 joint SPC meetings should be held to discuss issues that are common to both Infrastructure, European and Cross Border Affairs and Sustainable Energy SPC and Economic Development and Enterprise Support SPC.

It was agreed that a policy could be developed on Speed limits and signage.

It was agreed that a policy document be developed by this SPC on specific funding for tertiary roads for submission to government.

Any other submissions for the work programme can be submitted to this SPC via email to Emer.ogorman@louthcoco.ie. or marie.ocallaghan@louthcoco.ie

4. **AOB**

Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting is 15th September 2016 at 4.00pm in Cooley Room, County Hall, Dundalk.

Confirmed at Meeting held on: _____

Signed: _____
Chairperson