LOUTH COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes of Infrastructure, European and Cross Border Affairs Strategic Policy Committee meeting held in The Cooley Room, County Hall, Dundalk on Thursday 19th Nov 2015 at 4.00pm.


Officials: Ms E O Gorman, Director of Services Mr P Donnelly, Director of Services Ms Therese Mc Ardle, Administrative Officer Ms M O Callaghan, Staff Officer

Apologies: Cllr E Corrigan, Cllr O Tully, Mr M McGreehan, Agricultural/Farming Rep. Mr Paraic Mc Kevitt, Environment/ Conservation Rep

------------------------------------

1. Minutes

On the proposal of Cllr D Minogue seconded by F Okobi the minutes of the meeting held on 24th Sept, 2015 were noted and approved.

2. Matters Arising

Noted that the Dog Litter and Dog Control Draft Bye-laws were brought to the October monthly meeting of Louth County Council and are open for public inspection. Cllr D Breathnach stated that public feedback has been generally positive in relation to the introduction of the Bye-laws. Members were advised that 5 submissions have been received as a result of the consultation which are all generally supportive of the proposed Bye Laws. The issue of possible difficulties in enforcing the Bye Laws was noted.

It was agreed to bring the matter back to the next meeting of this SPC before bringing before full council for approval.
3. **Presentation Speed Limit Review** Mr Pat Finn, Senior Engineer

Mr P Finn gave a presentation on proposed changes to speed limits, to update the members on the current situation. Mr Finn informed the members that 37 submissions are under consideration in the latest draft for Lower Speed Limits Housing Estates and the process to put the speed limits in place will take place in the New Year. Cllr Breathnach said that he considers the use of flashing signs informing motorists of their speed as a more effective way of reducing speed. He noted that there are a number of these signs in Drogheda and enquired if a policy could be implemented to erect similar signs throughout County Louth.

Mr Finn replied that the flashing signs are not statutory and a policy may not be appropriate in this case.

Cllr Flood raised the issue of distributor roads particularly in Drogheda and the difficulties with speeding cars on them.

4. **Examination of LED lighting as a pilot scheme – Peter Mc Veigh.**

Peter Mc Veigh Senior Executive Engineer, European and Energy Section gave a presentation to the members on LED Lighting and its energy and cost saving potential for the Council in the area of Public Lighting. The presentation highlighted reasons for changing and was supported by photos of LED lighting in operation in Spain and Portlaoise. The financing of a pilot scheme was set out but further investigation is needed to firm up the proposal.

Cllr Breathnach thanked Mr Mc Veigh for his informative presentation.

Ms O Gorman pointed out to the members that the Council is under contract through the OGP (Office of Government Procurement) and significant savings would need to be demonstrated to leave/break the contract. Other Local Authorities in Dublin and Laois have LED projects and we should learn from their best practice.

Cllr Breathnach suggested we should check with SEAI for funding assistance. He also noted that other ways of powering public lighting exist that should be investigated and mentioned an example of the lighting project in the Horseware Car Park.

Mr Donnelly replied that these methods of lighting have not yet proven to give a consistent output and this presents some difficulties.

Ms O Gorman advised that the first step should be to look at a replacement policy and it was agreed to bring the matter to the next meeting of this SPC in January 2016.

5. **Work Programme**

- Some issues put forward by the members for the Work Programme are Cross Directorate and may be better suited to another SPC. A joint
meeting of SPCs may take place and this will be an opportunity for members to put forward their ideas to other policy committees

- P Malone brought up the importance of Cross Border co operation in relation to Corporation tax and joined up thinking on Tourism for the area.
- Cllr Flood also commented on tourism and the importance of walking trails across the areas.
- Cllr Flood also suggested that more fluid methods of traffic control should be included for the county with traffic lights being replaced by roundabouts.
- Ms O Gorman advised the committee that a new action plan under the Memorandum of Understanding is being drawn up and the Councillors will see the draft before it is signed off. Tourism and lobbying Ministers are elements being considered for inclusion. The next meeting of the joint committee is being held in December and Ms O Gorman will raise the suggestions made by the members.

6. AOB

Ms Okobi enquired if there was any news on Peace 1V funding. Ms Mc Ardle confirmed that there has been no announcement in relation to the new programme as yet.

**Date of Next Meeting**
The next meeting is Thursday 21st January 2016

**Confirmed at Meeting held on: **____________________

**Signed:** __________________

**Chairman**