

## **LOUTH COUNTY COUNCIL**

**Minutes of Infrastructure, European and Cross Border Affairs and Sustainable Energy Strategic Policy Committee meeting held in The Railway Room, County Hall, Dundalk on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> Sept 2017 at 4.00pm.**

- Present:** Cllr E Coffey (Chairperson)  
Cllr Colm Markey  
Cllr Dolores Minogue  
Cllr O Tully  
Mr Matthew Mc Greehan  
Mr P Malone, Business/Commercial Rep
- Officials:** Mr A Sherry, Senior Executive Officer  
Ms T Mc Ardle, Administrative Officer  
Mr W Walsh, Senior Executive Officer,  
Mr P O Hora, Senior Executive Engineer  
Ms M O Callaghan, Staff Officer
- Apologies:** Cllr E Corrigan  
Mr Paddy Donnelly, Director of Services  
Ms Emer O Gorman, Director Of Services

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### **1. Minutes**

On the proposal of Mr P Malone seconded by CLlr O Tully the minutes of the meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> April 2017 were noted and approved.

### **2. Matters Arising**

P O Hora LCC informed the members that the BEC 2017 scheme is well underway and works are in progress following some scope changes agreed with SEAI. P O Hora will send web links to P Malone when details are put up on the LCC website. P Malone said the Dundalk Chamber is willing to help create interest in the scheme from the business community.

Ms T Mc Ardle informed the meeting that the Peace IV final version of the Letter of Offer is being prepared currently. Terms of reference will then be prepared for the projects and on approval from SEUPB, tenders will be advertised.

Ms Mc Ardle also updated the committee on the current position of the €3.4million Carlingford Lough Greenway Project which is being funded by Interreg VA Programme The launch of the start of the project was held on 16<sup>th</sup> June 2017 and was a successful event. Newry and Mourne Down DC are already working on their side of the greenway.

### **3. Road Safety Action Plan**

Noted there is a separate Road Safety Working Together Group and the Draft Road Safety Action Plan is being worked on currently. The Draft plan has been circulated by email to the committee members and a hard copy can be made available if required the draft is being circulated for information purposes.

A discussion on road safety then ensued including safety measures at schools.

D Minogue enquired about the possibility of a speed limit reduction at Hunterstown Ardee on the N2 at the football ground. W Walsh will bring this query to the Senior Engineer and respond to Ms Minogue.

M Mc Greehan queried a request for a speed reduction he had submitted to the Council previously again W Walsh will revert on this matter.

### **4. Draft Policy on Use of Playgrounds**

Mr W Walsh asked the members to consider the circulated draft policy with amendments. The issues discussed included

- Permission for guide dogs in the play grounds
- inclusion of the Lourdes Hospital contact details on signage
- community policing

Other matters which arose included enforcement of the policy, closing times of playgrounds and different age categories using playgrounds.

Mr W Walsh reminded the committee the policy was originally formulated to prohibit smoking in playgrounds.

It was proposed by Cllr O Tully seconded by Cllr K Flood to make amendments to the policy including permission for guide dogs and closure at sunset and proceed to full Council. The policy can then be further reviewed by this SPC in future meetings.

### **5. Brexit Update**

Mr P Malone enquired if a reply had been received to the letter that was sent to An Taoiseach in March. M O Callaghan will check on reply and revert to committee.

Mr Malone raised concerns on the downgrading of Dundalk in the National Spatial Strategy or Ireland 2040 but added now that the Minister has changed there may be an amendment made to the draft.

Cllr C Markey proposed that a separate Council meeting should be held to set out the Councils stance on Brexit. M Mc Greehan seconded the proposal.

P Malone will forward letter on Chambers stance on Brexit, M OCallaghan will circulate to the members of this committee.

P Malone raised concerns about the lack of hi tech and pharmaceutical jobs coming to Dundalk compared to other areas.

Cllr O Tully informed the committee that there was a Brexit conference held in Enniskillen and some LCC members attended. He commented work is being done on the issue but communications need to be improved so the information is being given to the Council.

### **Any Other Business**

Cllr E Coffey noted that a smarter travel submission has been made by the Council and that this committee might look at the submission and see what could be done. It was agreed to put the item on the agenda for the next meeting

The date for next SPC meeting is scheduled for Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> October, 2017

**Confirmed at Meeting held on:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Signed:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Chairperson**