

## **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 Monday 27<sup>th</sup> November 2017 at 4.00pm.**

**Present:** Cllr E Coffey (Chairperson)  
Cllr Colm Markey  
Cllr Dolores Minogue  
Cllr O Tully  
Cllr E Corrigan  
Mr Matthew Mc Greehan  
Mr P Malone, Business/Commercial Rep

**Officials:** Mr A Sherry, Senior Executive Officer  
Ms T Mc Ardle, Administrative Officer  
Mr P O Hora, Senior Executive Engineer  
Ms M O Callaghan, Staff Officer

**Apologies:** Cllr Kenneth Flood  
Mr Paddy Donnelly, Director of Services  
Ms Emer O Gorman, Director Of Services

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### **1. Minutes**

On the proposal of Cllr D Minogue seconded by Cllr O Tully the minutes of the meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> Sept 2017 were noted and approved.

### **2. Matters Arising**

P Malone welcomed the amendments which were made in the Draft National Planning Framework Plan on foot of submissions by Louth Co Co and the Newry and Dundalk Chambers. P Malone commented it was "a win for Dundalk".

P Malone also welcomed the announcement of 300 jobs today for Dundalk by pharma company Wasdell .

Cllr C Markey joined with P Malone in expressing his delight at the announcement which he said could lead to more than 300 jobs as the nature of their business will attract other companies to the area.

### **3. Sustainable Energy Update**

P O Hora informed the committee that the Better Energy Communities funding application will close in January 2018. A leaflet was distributed to members reminding them to contact P O Hora or the Energy Team to discuss ideas for the application.

Cllr C Markey asked who the scheme was aimed at. P O Hora replied that all sectors are welcome and in past schemes we have had LCC housing, Schools Credit Unions, a Hotel , GAA clubs, Theatre Groups so everyone is welcome and the more diverse the group the better for the scheme.

Cllr E Corrigan reminded P O Hora that she had raised the issue of problems that council residents had with the original scheme. P O Hora replied that he had passed her concerns to the Housing Department and they were dealing with the issues raised.

P Malone added that the Chamber could help in advertising the scheme and P O Hora agreed to send P Malone a summary of the scheme for his members.

Other aspects of the scheme were discussed and Cllr O Tully congratulated the Energy Team on their past successes with the scheme.

P O Hora then proceeded to give a presentation to the committee which highlighted the link between climate change and energy efficiency. P O Hora explained how what we are doing in Louth to reduce energy use is helping in the worldwide aim to reduce reliance on fossil fuels.

A discussion ensued on progress made by the Energy Office including

- recommendation for ISO50001 standard
- National Targets
- Current Building Regulations and nearly Zero Energy Building standards

Cllr E Corrigan added that the Energy Office should look at the LEAD project and P O Hora agreed he would research the project further

### **4. Brexit Update**

Noted all committee members have now received a copy of Brexit and The Border Corridor published in October 2017.

Cllr E Corrigan expressed her dismay at the level of attendance of Louth attendees at the Memorandum of Understanding Committee and advisory group meetings. Cllr Corrigan also said that some of the invitees are not participating fully or engaging

fully in the process. Cllr Corrigan stressed the importance of engagement in the discussions on Brexit in the forums established.

P Malone said he attended one of the MOU meetings last year. The next MOU meeting is on 29<sup>th</sup> November 2017. Noted the Chamber of Commerce are members of the advisory committee meetings.

Cllr Tully added that the minutes of the MOU are circulated to the Councillors.

It was agreed that a summary of what is covered by the MOU committee should be given to this SPC.

Members expressed concerns about Cllr Coffey's recent comments on hard border post Brexit..

### **Smarter Travel Submission**

A number of years ago Dundalk Town Council made a submission to the Department for smarter travel funding which passed through various stages before the Department finally abandoned the scheme. It was brought to the attention of Dundalk MDC by a young student that a map of bus routes and cycle lanes does not exist for Dundalk which could be used by tourists and new student residents of the town. Is this something this committee can explore?

A discussion ensued and included the following

- Is a scheme similar to the Dublin City Bike Scheme coming to Dundalk
- Problems with cyclists and enforcement of the rules of the road
- Need for byelaws where other laws exist
- Smarter travel bus service between college and town centre
- Lack of sufficient train service for commuters to Dublin in the early mornings from Dundalk.

### **Any Other Business**

M Mc Greehan raised concerns regarding speeding and road safety on the R173 at Bellurgan.

It was agreed that A Sherry will find out when the next review of the counties speed limits is scheduled and revert to the members.

The date for next SPC meeting is scheduled for 2018

Confirmed at Meeting held on: 8 March 2018

Signed:   
Chairperson