

**Planning & Environment SPC
6th September 2017
Cooley Room, County Hall**

Attendance

Cllr Maria Doyle	Louth County Council (Chairperson)
Cllr Tom Cunningham	Louth County Council
Cllr Antóin Watters	Louth County Council
Richard Barry	Community & Voluntary Rep
Michael Smyth	Agricultural Rep
Eddie Phelan	Business/Commercial Rep
Anthony Abbot King	Senior Planner
Pat Finn	Senior Engineer
Patricia Hughes	A/Senior Executive Planner
Paul Mulligan	Executive Technician
Anna McNally	Executive Scientist
Sinead McVerry	Senior Staff Officer

Apologies

Cllr Peter Savage	Louth County Council
Breffni Martin	Environment Conservation Rep

Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting which took place on Wednesday 7th June 2017 were proposed by Cllr Tom Cunningham and seconded by Richard Barry.

Matters Arising

Nil

Update on Draft Dunleer Local Area Plan 2017-2023

Anthony Abbot King ,Senior Planner advised the members the public consultation stage for the Proposed Amendments that constitute Material Alterations to the Draft Dunleer Local Area Plan 2017-2023 occurred between 1st August 2017 and 1st September 2017.

In total 7 submissions were received. It is anticipated the members will consider the Chief Executive's report on Material alterations to the Draft Dunleer LAP 2017-2023 and make by resolution the Dunleer Local Area Plan 2017-2023 at the September 2017 monthly Louth County Council meeting.

It was noted no late submissions were received thus far.

Urban Regeneration & Housing Act 2015

Patricia Hughes , Acting Senior Executive Planner delivered a presentation to the members on the implementation of the Urban Regeneration & Housing Act 2015, specifically the Vacant Site Register and Vacant Site Levy. She outlined the criteria for identification of vacant sites and the various processes the local authority must follow before a site can be entered onto the vacant site register. She informed the meeting the candidate vacant sites must be located in areas designated for development which are capable of providing housing. The two main criteria are that the sites are zoned regeneration or zoned residential development. SPC members were advised the planning authority has commenced the identification of suitable candidate sites in Dundalk & Drogheda (Category 2 Settlements) in the Louth Settlement Hierarchy, with the intention of proceeding to site identification in category 3 and 4 settlements afterwards. It was noted only sites located within category 2,3 and 4 settlements would be considered as they will meet the criteria as they contain serviced sites.

Ms Hughes also advised the SPC meeting that there is no policy currently in place in the Louth County Development Plan 2015-2021 to allow for the implementation of the vacant sites levy and as such a variation of the Louth County Development Plan will be required to incorporate specific policy objectives for the purpose. The Louth County Development Plan does not include a specific zoning objective in relation to regeneration lands. It is proposed that this will be addressed in the future review of the Local Area Plans and review of the Louth County Development Plan 2015-2021.

Environment : Waste Tyre Regulations

Pat Finn, Senior Engineer informed the meeting The Minister for Communication, Climate Action and Environment has introduced a Producer Responsibility Initiative (PRI) for tyres, to ensure the sound environmental management of tyres at end of life. The compliance scheme will be managed by Repak ELT and the new waste tyre regulations come into effect on 1st October 2017. Producers and retailers will be required to charge vEMC (visible Environmental Management Costs) on all tyres purchased. vEMC is a legal cost and must be charged as a line item on all sales documentation. This charge will cover the cost of collection and disposal of waste tyres. Each local authority will be responsible for enforcement of legislation amongst tyre retailers. Retailers are required to register with Repak ELT, use registered producers , charge vEMC on all sales documentation an make quarterly returns to Repak detailing tyres bought and sold.

Mr Finn also noted the Drogheda Waste Tyre Project an annual campaign of proactive action on waste tyres in the lead up to Halloween in Drogheda .The project has been carried out in conjunction with Environmental Compliance Section of Louth County Council & Drogheda Litter Warden and the Community Garda. This is the third year of the campaign and it has proved very successful thus far.

Chairperson Cllr Maria Doyle thanked all assembled for their contributions and invited the SPC members to bring forward any matters, policies and proposals for discussion at the next SPC meeting.

Cllr Watters raised the issue of possible changes to local needs access policy in the Louth County Development Plan 2015-2021.

Anthony Abbot King, Senior Planner responded explaining the matter has come about as a result of the Flemish Decree pertaining to the freedom of movement of people and capital, the European Courts found that local needs access policy was incompatible with freedom of movement of people, as a result the Department have issued a direction to local authorities to leave matters as they are at the moment and await further direction from central government towards the end of 2017.

The matter of releasing information/presentations circulated at the Planning & Environment SPC to external person/organisation meeting was discussed and it was agreed to investigate if there is a policy in place in relation to circulation of such information to external persons/organisations.

The issue of raw discharge into the Irish Sea at Carlingford Lough was raised at a previous meeting and it was noted that this matter now comes under the remit of Irish water. Pat Finn informed the meeting that if they wish to do so the SPC members can request an IW representative to attend an SPC meeting with regard to this issue.

The meeting concluded at 4.45pm and the next meeting is scheduled to take place on Wednesday 6th December 2017 at 3.30pm in the Cooley Room, County Hall.

Signed Maria Doyle

Chairperson

Signed J. Maynard

Meetings Administrator

Signed A. [Signature]

Senior Executive Officer

