



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Climate Action, Environment and Emergency Services SPC 23rd January 2024, Hybrid Meeting, 11.00am

Attendees Councillors: - Cllr Joe Bonner , Cllr Tom Behan , Cllr Mike Bray, Cllr Gillian Toole , Cllr Geraldine Keogan

Apologies:

Cllr Eugene Cassidy , Cllr Ronan Moore ,

Attendees Sectoral Representatives: -
John Curran

Officials: Dara McGowan, Larry Whelan, Jarlath Flanagan, Mary Darcy, David Keyes

Item	Discussion / Action
1.	<p>Confirmation of Minutes of the Climate Action, Environment and Emergency Services Strategic Policy Committee meeting held on the 3rd November 2023</p> <p>The minutes of the meeting were adopted on the proposal of Cllr Bray and seconded by Cllr Bonner.</p>
2.	<p>To receive a report on submissions received during the public consultation process on the Councils Draft Climate Action Plan 2024-2029 and if thought fit to recommend the adoption of the draft plan to the full Council.</p> <p>Mary Darcy provided a comprehensive report noting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Climate Action – Ongoing Projects. • Energy Works <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 2023 Projects (Solar PV Project – EV Charger Points – Making Energy Matter – Navan Swimming Pool – HVO Trail ○ 2024 Projects (Building DEC’s – ISO 50001 – Solar PV Project – Solstice Arts Centre – Buvinda House. • Role of Local Government • Pathway and Benefits Overview • Actions Brief Overview • Decarbonising Zones • CE Report on submissions receive to the Draft CAP • Desktop Engagement • Public Consultation process • Submission Summary • Current stage and Next Steps



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	<p>The members acknowledged the work of the Climate Action Team and recommended the adoption of the Draft Climate Action Plan 2024-2029 to the Full Council meeting due to be held on Monday 29th January 2024.</p>
<p>3.</p>	<p>To receive an update on the timelines for the launch of the new National Waste Management Plan for a Circular economy 2024-2029</p> <p>Larry Whelan provided a comprehensive report noting the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparation of the Plan was the subject of a presentation by Hugh Coughlin Regional Waste Management Co-Ordinator at the May 2023 Council meeting • Preparation of the draft plan including the extensive public consultation process was co-ordinated by the Regional Waste Management Plan Offices and overseen by a National Oversight Group • Draft Plan was the subject of public consultation from the 3rd May until the 30th June 2023 • A total of 380 submissions were received during the display period and same were assessed by the Regional Waste Management Plan Offices whose report thereon was considered by a National oversight group • Draft Plan was the subject of a high level peer review by ACR which is an international network of cities and regions sharing the aim of promoting sustainable resource management • Following recommendations from the National Oversight Group the draft plan was approved by the CCMA in November • Recommendations from Directors of Service to Chief Executives to be signed off by the Chief Executives in mid February 2024 • Launch New Plan beginning March 2024 <p>An update on the Deposit return scheme (DRS) was also provided – a short video was shown setting out how the DRS scheme is to work and which it was pointed out is a key component of the draft Waste Management Plan</p> <p>The members noted the contents of the presentation. They noted that challenges facing some of the smaller retailer in the implementation of the deposit return scheme.</p>



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4.	<p>To receive an update on the Revised Domestic Waste Water Treatment System (DWWTS) Grant Schemes</p> <p>David Keyes provided a comprehensive update noting the following:</p> <p>He noted that the increased grant together with the removal of the requirement to have registered the wastewater treatment system from 2013, is resulting in a very significant interest in the scheme and demands for inspections which is not always possible due to resource constraints.</p> <p>He pointed out that the EPA impose inspection targets on each Local Authority as part of a National Inspection Plan and which together with other statutory pollution prevention obligations utilizes all exiting resources.</p> <p>He advised that in respect of the 2022-2026 National Inspection Plan Meath County Council are obliged to carry out the following inspections</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Zone 1 (Green) 38 Inspections pa – high risk areas • Zone 2 (Red) 16 Inspections pa -medium risk areas. • Zone 3 (Grey) 9 Inspections pa -low risk areas, <p>The members noted the contents of the presentation. They acknowledged the increase in the grant (from €5k to €12k).</p> <p>It was agreed that the presentation including the colour coded maps highlighting the above zones will be presented at the March Municipal District meetings.</p>
5	<p>To discuss the Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr Paul McCabe</p> <p>“That Meath County Council welcomes the recent increases for on-the-spot fines for offences under the Control of Dogs Act and that this Council would write to the recently established high-level stakeholder group to outline the need for serious reforms that would empower Dog Wardens to carry out their job more effectively to prevent further devastating and deeply disturbing dog attacks in local communities”</p> <p>This item was deferred to the next meeting of the SPC.</p>
6.	<p>AOB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr Bonner and Cllr Toole raised issues in relation to Uisce Éireann in both Ashbourne and Ratoath. It was agreed that the SPC would issue correspondence to Uisce Éireann.



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cllr Behan raised in relation to a pedestrian access across the stream on Bettystown beach at the new entrance across from the school carpark.• Cllr Bray raised issues in the roll out of the brown bins to all householders• John Curran raise issues over the slurry spreading season.

Recommendation to the Corporate Policy Group (CPG)

The members recommended the adoption of the Draft Climate Action Plan 2024-2029 to the Full Council meeting due to be held on Monday 29th January 2024.