

**Minutes of Meeting of Climate Action, Environment, Recreation & Amenity
Strategic Policy Committee
held on 19th November 2019 in the Council Chamber, Galway City Council.**

Presiding: Cllr. P. O'Reilly - Chairperson

Present: Cllr. D. Lyons
Cllr. D. McDonnell
Cllr. T. O'Flaherty
Cllr. O. Hanley
Cllr. J. Connolly
Cllr. M. O'Connor
Cllr. C. Connolly
Ms. E. Hough
Ms. C. Stanley
Mr. B. Smyth
Mr. C. Ryan

Mr. D. Mahon, A/Director of Services
Ms. C. Kilcoyne, Senior Engineer
Ms. E. Murphy, A/Senior Executive Officer
Mr. S. Walsh, Senior Executive Parks Superintendent
Ms. H. McDonagh, Administrative Officer
Mr. D. Redington, Executive Engineer
Ms. C. Jennings, Assistant Staff Officer
Ms. F. Griffin, Assistant Staff Officer

Cllr. P. O'Reilly opened the meeting with a minute's silence and reflection.

Minutes of Meeting held on 1st May 2019

The Minutes of the previous Meeting were noted. Members raised concerns in relation to the accuracy and content of the Minute. Mr. D. Mahon advised that it was not possible to capture everything that was stated by members at SPC Meetings and that the purpose of the Minute is to provide a broad overview of a meeting, not a verbatim account of each discussion.

Matters Arising

Updates on a number of issues were requested including: Recruitment of staff, Terryland Park Steering Committee, cleaning of gullies at Lenaboy Avenue, Draft Parks, Open Spaces & Beach Bye Laws, Street Performance & Busking Bye Laws, Masterplans for Southpark, Kingston and Blackrock, Cash for Cans.

Mr. D. Mahon, Ms. C. Kilcoyne and Mr. S. Walsh responded as follows: Each position for recruitment is subject to sanction by the Department and funding in place. The positions of the Tree Officer and the Biodiversity Officer will be filled in 2020, Executive Engineers have been appointed for the Sports Capital and Cemeteries Projects. The Terryland Park Steering Committee has not progressed. Busking Bye Laws have been adopted with a commencement of the 1st January 2020. The Draft Parks, Open Spaces & Beach Bye Laws are with the Council's legal team for review and will be included in the work

programme for 2020. Cleaning of gullies at Lenaboy Avenue has been referred to the Transport and Infrastructure Department. Kingston and Southpark Masterplans are to be progressed in 2020, Blackrock Tower is a Part 8 with work in conjunction with the Planning Department. A three year capital programme will be circulated to Council members in December. Information in relation to the “cash for cans” scheme will be circulated to all SPC members.

Draft Corporate Plan 2019-2024

Ms. E. Murphy A/ SEO HR provided a presentation on the Draft Corporate Plan which is being prepared for the elected members to review and adopt. The Plan is the Council’s key strategic framework for the next 5 years. The following comments were made; The plan could aim higher, the plan should refer to “residents” not “citizens” , are written submissions allowed as with the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC), the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy(RSES) is omitted, the lack of time for engagement, what is the status of the Corporate Plan in relation to the City Development Plan and the Local Economic Community Plan (LECP), the requirement for a cemetery on each side of the City, does it have to be called a ‘Corporate’ plan as it is for a Public body, the lack of funding to implement plans, plans in relation to monitoring and feedback, document is too narrow and the Climate Action Strategy needs to reflect that there is an emergency, a Climate Action Plan is required.

D. Mahon and E. Murphy responded to queries raised; The Corporate Plan is a statutory document and is required under the Local Government Act which provides a framework for the Annual Service Plan and must be approved by elected members. The RSES is covered by the Planning SPC, LECP is reflected in the Plan. The Plan is monitored by way of monthly Chief Executive Reports, National Oversight and Audit Committee (NOAC) and Key Performance Indicators. There is a number of sites being looked at in relation to provision of cemeteries, document is not intended to be a project specific document however will give weight when seeking funding.

Climate Change Local Adaptation Strategy and Implementation Plan

Ms. C. Kilcoyne Senior Engineer provided a presentation on the status of the Local Adaptation Strategy. The following comments were made by the members; a query was raised in relation to amendments made to the document and if the document had been sent to the Department, there is no action in relation to coastal erosion, sources of funding, the C1 rating following retrofitting of Local Authority houses, if the funding covers private houses, LED lighting, tree planting, public awareness, budget for CFRAMS very low, the status of a tree audit.

Mr. D. Mahon and Ms. C Kilcoyne responded as follows; The Climate Adaptation Strategy 2019-2024 was adopted at the Council Meeting in September 2019 and the final document was forwarded to the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment on 30th September 2019.

Note: *It was confirmed after the meeting to Councillor John Connolly that the plan presented to this SPC meeting (19th November 2019) was exactly the same as the plan incorporating all amendments adopted by all elected members at the Ordinary Council meeting of the 9th September 2019. Please refer to Appendix A of these minutes.*

A Monitoring Group needs to be established as a sub-committee of the Climate Change, Environment and Recreation Strategic Policy Committee. It was proposed that this group comprise of four elected members nominated from this SPC, three Sectoral members nominated from this SPC and officials from the Executive. A terms of reference was agreed for the Monitoring Group. It was also agreed that while that Group would initially monitor actions in relation to the adaptation strategy that its remit

would extend to broader Climate Action to monitor other strategies and polices that may be developed in line with the National Climate Action Policy.

Ms. Kilcoyne noted that there are four principal sources of funding for the actions in the Strategy; DCCAE, Department of Housing, Office of Public Works and Council's revenue budget which was adopted by Council members at the recent Annual Budget Meeting. Mr. Mahon noted that the retrofitting of Local Authority houses has commenced and will bring houses up to a C1 minimum rating for older stock, new housing stock is A rated. It was noted that energy grants are provided for privately owned houses through Sustainable Energy Action Ireland. Trees are currently assessed by a Craft Foreman until the Tree Officer is appointed, solar panels and a heating system are being considered for City Hall, a floral project is being undertaken throughout the city. LED lighting is managed by the Transport & Infrastructure Department.

The following members were selected for the Climate Adaptation Monitoring group.

Cllr. P. O'Reilly Cllr. J. Connolly
Cllr. M. O'Connor Cllr. O. Hanley
Mr. C. Ryan. Ms. C. Stanley
Ms. E. Hough

Members agreed that substitutes could attend in their absence. The substitutes include Cllr. T. O'Flaherty, Mr. B. Smyth and Mr. C. Ryan

Draft All Ireland Pollinator Plan 2015-2020

Mr. S. Walsh SEPS delivered a detailed presentation on the All Ireland Pollinator Plan and its actions. The members welcomed the plan and were pleased to see progress being made.

On the proposal by Cllr. O. Hanley and seconded by Cllr. P. O'Reilly, it was agreed by the Members to recommend to full Council that Galway City Council sign up to the All Ireland Pollinator Plan.

The plan will be on the agenda of the next Council meeting in December 2019.

Recreation & Amenity Needs Study 2019

Cllr. P. O'Reilly requested that this item be deferred to the next meeting

A.O.B.

It was agreed that presentations be kept to a maximum of two for future meetings and the commencement time of the meetings to remain at 2.30 p.m. and to finish no later than 4.30pm.

The SPC work plan for 2020 to be agreed at the next Meeting. It was proposed to hold the next Meeting on 19th December 2019 and the schedule for meetings for 2020 was proposed by Cllr. P. O'Reilly and seconded by Cllr. D. McDonnell.

The schedule of meetings for 2020 were agreed as follows:

Date	Time and Day
25 th February, 2020	Tuesday at 2.30pm
28 th April, 2020	Tuesday at 2.30pm

29 th September, 2020	Tuesday at 2.30pm
1 st December, 2020	Tuesday at 2.30pm

Meeting concluded

Appendix A

Extract Ordinary Council Meeting 9th September 2019

Item 2 (d) Draft Climate Change Adaptation Strategy

Mr. D. Mahon reported on the Draft Climate Change Adaptation Strategy, which was coming before Members for consideration and adoption, following public consultation. Legislation requires Galway City Council to adopt a Climate Change Adaptation Strategy by the end of September 2019.

Mr. P. Batty presented the Draft Climate Change Adaptation Strategy to Members, and advised Members that the Strategy relates to Galway City Council only. Mr. P. Batty recommended the adoption of the Strategy to Members.

A discussion ensued.

Queries and clarifications from Members included:

Tier 1 Port on Atlantic seaboard; positive impacts of climate change for Galway; increase in tourism; flood protection; clearing of storm drains; waste water; Blue Flag beaches; coastal erosion; inclusion of non-Council buildings and tenants; Local Area Plans/ Area Development Plans; overheating buildings; natural solutions; All Ireland Pollinator Plan; OPW; definition of Just Transition; air pollution; modal shift; case studies; resources required to implement the strategy; Climate Action Plan; carbon sequestration; consultation deadlines; financial burden of Carbon emissions; reporting; funding; homelessness; flooding of homes; bathing prohibitions at beaches; funding from national government; Covenant of Mayors; cruiser liner; CFRAMS.

Mr. P. Batty, Ms. C. Kilcoyne and Mr. D. Mahon responded comprehensively to Members' questions, and advised that resources required to implement the Strategy would be set out in implementation plans, following adoption. Budgets would be set by Galway City Council following adoption, and would go through the budget process for approval. Funding would be sought at a national level, should it become available. Galway City Council will work with the Climate Action Regional Office at a regional level to progress the Strategy.

Proposed by: Cllr. D. Lyons **Seconded by:** Cllr. O. Hanley

That the Draft Climate Change Adaptation Strategy with recommended amendment, set out in report dated 5th September 2019 be adopted.

In favour: 18 Against: 0 Abstain: 0 Present: 18

Item 2 (d) Draft Climate Change Adaptation Strategy was adopted.