

LOUTH COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes of Infrastructure, European and Cross Border Affairs and Sustainable Energy Strategic Policy Committee meeting held in The Cooley Room, County Hall, Dundalk on Thursday 13th December 2018 at 4.00pm.

Present: Cllr O Tully (Chairperson)
Cllr Dolores Minogue
Cllr E Corrigan
Mr Sean Connolly
Mr Matthew Mc Greehan
Mr P Malone, Business/Commercial Rep

Officials: Mr Frank Pentony, Director of Service
Ms Therese Mc Ardle, Administrative Officer
Ms M O Callaghan, Staff Officer
Mr Pdraig O Hora, Sen Exec Engineer

Apologies: Cllr E Coffey
Cllr Colm Markey
Cllr Kenneth Flood

1. Minutes

It was agreed at the start of the meeting that Cllr O Tully would act as Chairperson for this meeting.

On the proposal of Cllr D Minogue seconded by M Mc Greehan the minutes of the meeting held on 18th October 2018 were noted and approved.

2. Matters Arising

P Malone enquired if a joint meeting with the Planning and Environment SPC could be arranged to discuss the 2040 Plan and the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy.

Noted Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy for the whole of the Eastern and Midland Region is on display currently and submissions can be made up to 23rd January 2019.

FP responded that Louth Co Co are currently drafting their submission to the strategy and will have a draft complete before the end of December. The draft is available for any interested party/individual to make a submission. FP added the

Chamber of Commerce in Dundalk and Drogheda are welcome to view the LCC submission to help them prepare their own submissions.

FP added that Louth Co Co is in the main happy with the strategy and stressed the importance of the linear economic corridor between Drogheda and Newry.

P Malone stressed the importance of awareness of the strategy and said that the MOU advisory committee should also be encouraged to make a submission on the strategy. It was agreed that FP would liaise with PM.

FP reassured Cllr DM that Ardee would benefit from the strategy too.

FP said that approval of the strategy would most likely be in May 2019 and as there are only 2 LCC representatives on the committee we need to brief them fully on the positives for Louth so we retain our position within the strategy.

P Malone added that 170,000 work in this region and that half of these people commute to Dublin and we need to work together to change the statistic.

3. Speed Limit Policy

A copy of the draft Periodic Speed Limits for Schools 2018 was distributed to members at the meeting. MOC will send the draft policy to all members following the meeting.

FP then proceeded to explain the policy proposed. FP said the speed limit will only operate a half an hour before school starts again at lunch time and at school finishing times. The cost to the school is approximately €7500- €8000 incl VAT for the solar powered sign and there are costs to erect the signs too. The maintenance costs thereafter will be paid by Louth Co Co. Every application will be assessed on its merits.

A discussion on the draft policy ensued the members asked if the costs could be covered by funding. FP said LCC will look for funding streams but there may not enough available to cover all applications.

FP explained that the policy was developed in conjunction with the Road Safety Officer.

FP confirmed if a school already has safety measures they can apply but the measures already in place will be taken into account in the decision.

The acceptance of the draft policy was proposed by Cll D Minogue and seconded by Cllr O Tully. The policy will now proceed to full Council.

4. Energy section

POH circulated an update on the Energy Section to the members.

POH spoke about the success of the Better Energy Communities Grant 2018 and the application for another BEC Grant for 2019. POH said he would appreciate if the members could promote the scheme by informing potential beneficiaries of the scheme. POH reported that the Council recently had an ISO50001 energy audit by NSAI this is 3rd year LCC has retained the standard. POH informed the members that LCC and NMDC are continuing to develop and assess route options to progress the Carlingford Lough Greenway. POH also added that the EBR has

submitted an application for EU funding for Sustainable Transport – Electric Vehicles Rapid Chargers for the region LCC is an associate partner in the application.

POH went on to say that the relationship the Energy office has with the Dundalk Chamber is proving beneficial. The office has participated in some Chamber Events and interest is growing each time. During Libraries Science Week in November the energy office gave workshops to school children and the feedback was very positive from teachers the children themselves and the Library staff. The office intends to host more workshops next year.

Cllr O Tully congratulated the Energy Office on their achievements and efforts to reduce the Councils Carbon Footprint. P Malone praised POH for his role as energy champion for the Council.

Any Other Business

Cllr EC asked for a reply to Cllr Floods question on the water capacity issues that might arise in Drogheda if the planned development of housing takes place. POH replied that Irish Water is working to update the water supply at Stameen and Cavan Hill but he will confirm his response with Water Services and revert to the members.

Cllr D Minogue enquired if there are any plans to develop a Greenway on old disused railway line at Ardee. POH agreed to investigate and revert back to Cllr D M.

Confirmed at Meeting held on:

21 February 2019.

Signed:


Chairperson

