

**Planning & Environment SPC**  
**7<sup>th</sup> March 2018**  
**Railway Room, County Hall**

**Attendance**

Cllr Maria Doyle	Louth County Council (Chairperson)
Cllr Anne Campbell	Louth County Council
Cllr Tom Cunningham	Louth County Council
Cllr Antóin Watters	Louth County Council
Cllr John McGahon	Louth County Council
Cllr Peter Savage	Louth County Council
Richard Barry	Community & Voluntary Rep
Michael Smyth	Agricultural Rep
Breffni Martin	Conservation Rep
Brian Brooks	Acting Executive Planner
Sinead McVerry	Senior Staff Officer
John O'Hagan	Senior Engineer

**Apologies**

Anthony Abbot King	Senior Planner
Eddie Phelan	Business Representative

**Minutes**

The minutes of the previous meeting which took place on 18<sup>th</sup> December 2017 were proposed by Cllr Antoin Watters and seconded by Richard Barry.

**Matters Arising**

Nil

**Regional Spatial & Economic Strategy (RSES) Submission**

A copy of the Louth County Council RSES submission was circulated to the SPC members prior to the meeting. Brian Brooks, Executive Planner set the scene advising the members the National Planning Framework had designated Drogheda and Dundalk as national growth centres along the Dublin – Belfast Economic Corridor, and as a result it would be necessary to prepare co-ordinated strategies for the two towns of Dundalk & Drogheda at regional level to ensure their development as investment locations and obtain critical mass.

It is anticipated the towns of Dundalk and Drogheda will act as growth engines for the rest of the County. It is considered they will have the potential to be drivers of significant regional and national growth and compete with other larger European urban zones. The Louth County Council RSES submission suggests the optimum location for future sustainable productivity

growth and settlement in the EMRA region is within the Dublin Belfast Economic Corridor including the existing centres of scale of Dundalk and Drogheda.

The members present broadly welcomed the submission and agreed it contained several constructive and positive ideas.

General discussion ensued with regard to the submission and the members specifically welcomed the comments in relation to Ports in Co Louth noting Dublin Port will reach capacity by 2040 and that Clogherhead and Greenore as the nearest deep water ports are optimum locations for regional growth and development along the Belfast – Dublin Economic Corridor.

However a number of matters were raised which the members suggested could be expanded on further including:

- Proposal not hard Brexit ready/ Economic resilience to Brexit required
- A hard Brexit shadow document required
- No details of up- skilling in plan given the majority of jobs created have been call-centre based in this region
- Cooley area not mentioned
- All Ireland Healthcare
- LCC and Newry-Mourne to further integrate
- Issue of ownership of Lough Foyle and Carlingford Lough
- High frequency of trains needed between Dunlin and Dundalk
- Narrow Water Bridge required

### **Environment : LCC Recycling Policy**

This issue was discussed at the December 2017 meeting and the members decided to undertake a number of agreed actions.

The executive were requested to provide confirmation that removal of plastic recycling facilities at bring banks will not have an effect on the 3 blue flag beaches in Co Louth. The executive duly responded that recycling bins at blue flag beaches will remain in place.

With regard to collection of data whilst it was noted 80% of households have access to a green bin it was agreed to ascertain if a geographical breakdown of the data can be obtained if available. The members agreed this matter was to be investigated further.

The two operational recycling centres in Co Louth advised there was a 30% - 40% increase in volumes of plastic.

With regard to the increase of dumping of plastics it was noted this is a matter for operations and Operations were unable to provide a representative on this occasion to attend the SPC meeting.

Some SPC members observed increased levels of contamination of plastics , increased dumping of rubbish in rural areas and the leaving of plastic packing in supermarket bins.

There was general agreement among the members there was a need for a substantial education programme with regard to recycling including updated checklists, an advertising campaign and a schools educational campaign.

It was noted that whilst urban areas have access to recycling facilities, some rural areas have no access to any recycling facilities . It was agreed the adoption of an evidence based targeted approach to rural areas should be adopted and assessed after an agreed time period. It was suggested getting Tidy Towns on board in each rural area to feedback into this matter.

The members discussed ascertaining costings for the re-introduction of plastic recycling services in rural areas only.

### **Illegal Dumping**

The matter of increased illegal dumping was raised particularly illegal dumping in close proximity to the border. Discussion ensued concerning deployment of possible new technologies such as drones or covert cameras at renowned fly tipping areas. It was noted there are considerable rules and regulations governing use of dromes and there may be issues with regard to data protection. It was noted Civil Defence currently have a drone.

It was further suggested that if an individual is found guilty of illegal dumping the current fine is only €100.00 and not representative of the cost of clearing up and dealing with the illegal dumping. Discussion as to whether the costs of clearing the dumping can be attributed to the person guilty of illegal dumping.

The members agreed to consider existing policy in relation to illegal dumping.

### **AOB**

Discharge of raw sewerage , to be discussed at next meeting.

The Green Fleadh, Chairperson Maria Doyle to investigate what role if any the SPC has in relation to The Green Fleadh.

The meeting concluded at 5.45.pm and the next meeting is scheduled to take place on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> June 2018 at 4.30pm in the Cooley Room, County Hall.

**Signed** \_\_\_\_\_

**Chairperson**

**Signed** \_\_\_\_\_

**Meetings Administrator**

**Signed** \_\_\_\_\_

**Senior Executive Officer**

