

## **Minutes of the Physical Development Strategic Policy Committee Meeting**

**Thursday, 5<sup>th</sup> December 2024 at 2.30pm**

### **Present:**

#### **SPC Members**

Cllr Pat Burke, Chair

Cllr Alan O'Callaghan

Cllr Rachel Hartigan

Cllr Ian Lynch

Cllr Rita McInerney

Thomas Burke

Maurice O'Sullivan

Veerle Claeys

#### **Staff of Clare County Council**

Alan Farrell, Director of Service

Morgan Lahiffe, Senior Engineer

Cyril Feeney, Senior Engineer

Adrian Kelly, Chief Fire Officer

Suzie Clifford, Senior Executive Officer

Chris Dixon O'Mara, Climate Action Officer

Liam O'Connor, Administrative Officer

Valerie Fleming, Assistant Staff Officer

### **1. Minutes of Physical Development SPC meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> May 2024**

The minutes of the Physical Development SPC meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> May 2024 were proposed by Cllr Alan O'Callaghan, seconded by Cllr Rachel Hartigan and agreed.

### **2. Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising.

### **3. Overview of Physical Development Directorate**

Alan Farrell, Director of Physical Development, introduced the Physical Directorate Senior Team members and outlined their relevant work areas.

### **4. Draft SPC Standing Orders**

A copy of the draft SPC Standing Orders was circulated to each SPC member prior to the meeting and Liam O'Connor outlined that the Standing Orders set out the rules for the operation of the SPC. He requested that any submissions on the draft Standing Orders be

sent to him straight away and advised that Clare County Council will provide training to all SPC members.

## **5. Clare County Council Climate Action Plan**

Morgan Lahiffe, Climate Action Co-Ordinator, introduced Clare County Council's Climate Action Plan and advised that Minister Eamon Ryan launched all 31 Climate Action Plans for Ireland in Ennis on 11<sup>th</sup> April 2024.

Chris Dixon O'Mara gave a presentation on the Climate Action Plan which comprises 6 sections with 120 actions under 5 thematic areas. He added that there were over 400 submissions on the draft plan.

Veerle Claeys asked if Clare County Council supervise the Community Action Programme and if the anaerobic digester in West Clare is funded by the Council or by the community.

Morgan responded that the Community Action Programme is overseen by the Community Climate Action Officer for the purposes of good governance and compliance with the Programme, but the aim is to enable communities to carry out projects themselves. The Climate Action team have no plan to establish anaerobic digestors but will be working with communities to try and develop these.

Cllr Rita McInerney asked if there are specific priorities for each year of the 5yr plan, if the procurement system has a weighting towards climate action measures and if there are projects aimed at retrofitting Council buildings.

Chris spoke about the Annual Implementation Plan and said that the document will be shared with the SPC members. He added that there are a variety of means to integrate green elements into procurement such as weighting, applying exclusion criteria etc. The Procurement team will be rolling out training in this area.

Regarding retrofitting Council premises, Morgan stated that this is done on the basis of energy consumption. Small buildings will also be retrofitted as an effective method of showing leadership in this area.

## **6. Presentation on the Fire and Building Control Department**

Adrian Kelly, Chief Fire Officer, gave an overview of the work of the Fire and Building Control Department.

Cllr Alan O'Callaghan referred to the management and maintenance of fire hydrants and Adrian stated that they are continuing to work with Uisce Éireann on this matter.

Cllr Ian Lynch asked if it is possible to have a counter flow system in operation on the M18 when the road is closed due to an accident etc. Adrian responded that a counterflow system was trialed between the Setrights exit and Bunratty and this took 6 hours to get up and running and 4.5hrs to remove.

Cllr Rita McNerney referred to the public consultation on the Review of Urgent and Emergency Care in Midwest Region and asked if the Fire department were intending on making a submission.

Cllr Alan O'Callaghan advised that it was agreed that one submission would be made on behalf of the whole organisation.

## **7. Date of next meeting**

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Physical Development SPC would be held on 25<sup>th</sup> February 2025 at 2.30pm.

Cllr Ian Lynch requested that a Teams link issue for this meeting.

## **8. Any other business**

Veerle Claeys mentioned International Protection Refugees in Ballyvaughan and asked if the Council is looking at their access to transportation as this is preventing them from participating in community events, work etc.

Alan Farrell advised that this issue is a matter for the Social Directorate and said the query would be referred to them.

The meeting then concluded.

**Signed:**

---

**Cllr. Pat Burke**  
**Chairperson**

**Signed:**

---

**Liam O'Connor**  
**Administrative Officer**

**Date:**

---