

Minutes of Strategic Policy Committee 4
Environmental Protection, Climate Action & Energy
Held on 11th March at 11.00am
Remotely by MS Teams

In the Chair: Cllr. David Fitzgerald

In Attendance: Cllr. Mary Hilda Cavanagh, Cllr Deirdre Cullen, Cllr. Joe Lyons, Cllr. Maria Dollard, Mr James Murphy,

Also Present: Mr. Sean McKeown, Director of Service; Ms. Anne Marie Shortall, Senior Executive Officer; Ms. Carol McCarthy, LAWPRO; Mr. Tom Brennan, Executive Engineer, Ms. Dearbhala Ledwidge, Heritage Officer, Ms. Claire Prendergast, Assistant Staff Officer, Ms Deirdre Trait, Assistant Staff Officer.

Apologies: Mr. John Hurley

Item 1 Declaration of interests

None reported.

Item 2 Confirmation of Minutes

Proposed by Cllr. Maria Dollard, seconded by Cllr. Mary Hilda Cavanagh and agreed: *“the minutes of SPC4 meeting held on the 3rd December, 2021, are hereby adopted,”*

Item 3 Matters Arising

None

Item 4 Draft River Basin Management Plan (RBMP)

Carol McCarthy outlined the draft submission to the RBMP on behalf of SPC 4. The closing date for submissions is 31st March, 2022.

Cllr. David Fitzgerald thanked Carol McCarthy for the very comprehensive document.

Contributions were received from Cllr Maria Dollard, Cllr Mary Hilda Cavanagh, Cllr Joe Lyons and Cllr. David Fitzgerald.

Sean McKeown stated that the submission would have to be agreed by the members of the SPC and then brought before a full Council meeting for adoption.

It was agreed that a separate submission would be made to include issues such as, Enforcement, resources, training and operational issues. It was also agreed to circulate the document to all, following this meeting.

Item 5 National Biodiversity Plan

Dearbhala Ledwidge gave a detailed presentation on the draft 4th National Biodiversity Action Plan.

This plan will be available for public consultation next week. This will be a five-year plan as the previous plan concluded in 2021. The plan focuses on the conservation and sustainable use of Ireland’s biodiversity.

Cllr. David Fitzgerald thanked Dearbhala Ledwidge for her detailed presentation.

Sean McKeown advised that he is on a working group which is examining a pilot initiative which are putting forward a business case that all Local Authorities going forward will have a full time Biodiversity Officer. He is hopeful that Kilkenny County Council will be included in the pilot.

Contributions were received from Cllr. Joe Lyons, Cllr. Maria Dollard and Cllr. David Fitzgerald. Sean McKeown acknowledged & addressed all valid points raised.

Item 6 Progress Report by Director of Services.

It was noted that the Director of Services progress report was circulated to all members prior to the meeting. Sean McKeown gave a summary of the report.

It was noted that Anti-Dumping Initiative funding will be announced on 24th March 2022.

Contributions were received from Cllr. Mary Hilda Cavanagh, Cllr Joe Lyons, Cllr Maria Dollard and Cllr. David Fitzgerald. Sean McKeown addressed all queries and comments raised.

Item 7 Any other business

None.

Item 8 Date of next meeting

It was proposed and agreed unanimously that the next SPC4 Meeting would continue to take place via MS Teams.

Proposed date is 24th June, 2022.