
MINUTES OF CLIMATE ACTION, ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 25th NOVEMBER 2020

1. Minutes of the meeting held on 30th September 2020 and 26th October 2020

Order: Agreed

2. Matters Arising

What is the position of the climate element of the Dublin Agreement (JC)
Has provision been made in the Parks Budget for the proposed Stoneybatter Project.
(JC)

Noted.

3. Correspondence

Order: Noted.

4. Chairpersons Business

The Chair advised the Committee that Minister Eamon Ryan will be joining the meeting to deal with any Climate related questions members may have.

Minister Ryan welcomed the opportunity to meet with the Committee and outlined the main points of the Climate bill (below)

- The Climate Bill aims to strengthen and update the 2015 Act
- The 2018 mitigation plan was challenged in Court and that was accepted by the Supreme Court which effectively quashed the mitigation plan.
- Provides for Zero Net Carbon Emissions by 2050
- Requires the Climate Advisory Council to set out how zero net carbon emissions can be achieved
- There will be 3 x 5 year budgets
- Requires Minister to show reductions are being delivered.
- Local Government will be key developers of Local Climate Action Plans
- Examines how Local Government PPN's can be used to build Local cooperation and participation
- It is likely to be early 2020 before the Legislation is passed

Members had the following questions / observations

- The European Climate Pact is scheduled to be launched, has there been engagement on this (RM)
- Is there a European Unit to specifically examine / source funding for Dublin City (JC)
- What is the position on Urban Villages in terms of Local Climate Actions (JC)
- Is there a plan to recruit apprenticeships / interns (JC)
- Children are being thought about recycling and Climate Change initiatives but basic recycling facilities are not available in DCC flat complexes. (MF)
- Can the Minister use his influence to advance the introduction of recycling facilities in flat complexes (MF)
- The National Planning Framework recommends higher density apartment complexes but many complexes have limited recycling infrastructure. It is difficult to ask people to engage in the absence of adequate facilities (RM)
- Is it intended to have a new clean air strategy (MP)
- Can Local Authorities input into the Clean Air Strategy (MP)
- The legislation for Air Quality is quite dated, is it proposed to enact new Legislation (MP)
- Can further enforcement power be directed to Local Authorities. (MP)

Minister Ryan responded

- The EU is committed to Climate Actions and it is expected that agreement will be reached on carbon reduction levels in the near future
- The Climate Pact is awaiting high level carbon reduction consensus
- To deliver at local level we intend to invest in staffing and resources
- Local Projects for Urban Villages can be examined
- A community based approach will be adopted in relation to deep retrofitting
- The Government has sanctioned 1500 apprenticeships
- It is felt that Central Government examining / sourcing EU funding is more appropriate – funding will then feed into Local Authorities
- It is vital that investment is made in social housing
- There is 110m available for those in receipt of fuel allowance
- Providing recycling facilities in flat complexes is challenging but must be achieved.
- Some commercial enterprises are not recycling and measures will be introduced to combat this.
- I am keen to have a public consultation on a revised clean air strategy, it is likely to take place in the New Year.
- Introducing low emission zones is being considered, DCC is ideally placed to lead on this

Order: Noted

Order: Noted.

5. Meeting dates 2021

Order: Noted

6. Minutes of the Climate Action Subcommittee held on 14th September 2020.

What is the position on the Climate Action training for Councillors. (JC)

What progress has been made on retrofitting flat complexes and new acquisitions, homeless shelters(JC & MF)

Order: Noted, An update will be given at a future meeting of the Committee

7. Water Framework Directive – Gerry O’Connell, Senior Engineer / Andy Walsh Executive Manager

Members thanked Gerry for the presentation and raised the following questions / issues

- Are the pilot projects mentioned run by 1 team, how many people are involved (NOM)
- Is money available for the proposed projects. (NOM)
- Will the status of the Clonshaugh Waste water Treatment Plant have a bearing on the water quality in Dublin Bay. (NOM)
- Is real-time information on the water quality in Dublin Bay available. (CB)
- Can anything be done in relation to the proliferation of PPE / waste in the rivers (RM)
- What relationship do we have with Meath Co. Co. about the status of the Tolka (JC)
- Is it possible to open culverted rivers (JC)
- Is there a Body that has primary responsibility for the Liffey (MP)

Gerry O’Connell responded

- There are 7 in total working on the pilot projects.
- There are capital funding streams available, others will be required
- It is difficult to assess the affect a Waste Water Treatment Plant will have on the water quality in Dublin Bay. If the standards of treatment are kept it shouldn’t be an issue.
- Social media, signage etc. is used to advise of the water quality in Dublin Bay.
- We are working with LAWPRO to highlight illegal dumping in rivers.
- Waste Management Services endeavour to prosecute offenders.
- PPE waste in rivers is causing a problem
- Waterways Ireland control the Canals
- The Project Manager for the Tolka liaises with Meath Co. Co and Fingal Co. Co.
- We have a policy to open culverted rivers above a certain size.
- The Santy River Project is EU funded

Order: Presentation Noted

8. Dublin Waste to energy update report – James Nolan, Senior Executive Officer

The Chair thanked James for the report that was circulated and members had the following questions / observations

- The €2.5m - €3m income from the facility, is that expected to endure while the plant is operational (NOM)
- Can the values of residues be clarified (RM)
- Clarification on Breaches of Total Organic Carbon (RM)
- Can Joe McCarthy be allowed to present to the City Council (MF)
- When will the application for additional capacity begin (JC)
- When will the latest round of funding from the Community Gain Fund be notified (CB)
- Where does the income from DWtE go (CB)
- How can trucks be compelled to use the correct routes (CB)
- Can we have a full presentation on the Dublin District Heating Systems (MF & NOM)

James Nolan Responded

- It is expected that the income from the gate fees will be constant, the electricity market fluctuates.
- There remains 800,000 of municipal waste to be managed and we must move from disposal to recovery at the very least.
- In relation to total organic compound, these breaches were caused by gas cylinders in the waste deposited at the facility, extra measures have been put in place, e.g. more inspections, to solve this problem
- Capacity Nationally is tight and we are relying on the export market to deal with our waste.
- The Community Gain Fund is wholly funded by DWtE
- There will be an ongoing fund of €600,000 per annum for the CGF, we are examining how best to disburse these monies
- There will be a large capital investment in the District Heating Project.
- Happy to present to a future meeting of the SPC in relation to District Heating.

Order: Noted, presentation on Dublin District Heating Systems to be given to a future meeting

9. Glyphosate / Herbicide report – Cllr Michael Pidgeon & Robert Moss

Order: Agreed

10. A.O.B

None

In attendance

Councillor Claire Byrne
Councillor Janice Boylan
Paul Boylan, Dublin Chamber
Councillor Tom Brabazon
Trevor Clowry PPN
Councillor Joe Costello
Councillor Mannix Flynn
Michael Goan R.I.A.I
Bernie Guinan A.C.E.I
Councillor John Lyons
Robert Moss, PPN
Councillor Naoise Ó'Muirí
Councillor Michael Pidgeon (Chair)
Councillor Catherine Stocker
Councillor Michael Watters

Also in Attendance

Councillor Deirdre Heney
Minister Eamon Ryan

Officials

John Flanagan, A/Assistant Chief Executive & City Engineer
Céline Reilly, Executive Manager
Andy Walsh, Executive Manger (Engineering)
James Nolan, Senior Executive Officer
Simon Brock, Administrative Officer
Gerry O'Connell, Senior Engineer
Ciarán McGoldrick, Senior Staff Officer

Michael Pidgeon, Chairperson

26th November 2020.

In attendance

Members

Councillor Claire Byrne
Paul Boylan, Dublin Chamber
Councillor Tom Brabazon
Trevor Clowry PPN
Councillor Joe Costello
Councillor Mannix Flynn
Michael Goan R.I.A.I
Bernie Guinan A.C.E.I
Councillor John Lyons
Robert Moss, PPN
Councillor Naoise Ó'Muirí
Councillor Michael Pidgeon (Chair)
Councillor Michael Watters

Apologies

Councillor Janice Boylan
Councillor Catherine Stocker

Also in Attendance
Councillor Janet Horner

Officials

Céline Reilly, Executive Manager
James Nolan, Senior Executive Officer
Simon Brock, Administrative Officer
Hugh Coughlan, Coordinator, EMWR
Sabrina Dekker, Climate Action Coordinator
Ciarán McGoldrick, Senior Staff Officer

Michael Pidgeon, Chairperson

27th October 2020