
MINUTES OF CLIMATE ACTION, ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 27th NOVEMBER 2019

1. Minutes of the meeting held 1ST May 2019

Order: Incorrect minutes circulated, minutes to issue at the January 2019 meeting.

2. Matters arising

Order: None

3. Correspondence – Various emails from Cities for a nuclear free Europe

Order: Noted

4. Chairperson's Business

The Chair advised the Committee that he would like to know any particular policy or priority areas members would like to work on over the next 5 years. This will assist informing the development of a works programme for the Committee

Members suggested the following policy priority areas

- Climate adaptation, Implementation of the Climate Action Plan and its monitoring the implementation, Combatting Air Pollution and developing a strategy for the City **(M.P.)**
- Delivering on the Climate Action Plan for Dublin City, Have a subcommittee on Climate Action, have Climate action as a standing Agenda item, Air Pollution and the formation of a subcommittee to include the Transport SPC members. It is important that this SPC works closely with the Arts & Culture SPC on the area of biodiversity **(C.B.)**
- A focus on energy efficiency in the working environment and the Housing Stock **(P.B.)**
- Retrofitting the Housing Stock, the aspirations of DCC to influence the wider actions in commerce; this should be fleshed out so a baseline can be measured to identify exactly what that influence is. The suppliers of goods and services to DCC should supply data on emissions **(M.G.)**
- Genuine public engagement in large projects, transparent information and real time data on issues such as air quality, litter management, water quality and discharges into waterways **(T.C.)**
- How can this Committee support community groups engaged in biodiversity enhancement, climate adaptation projects and the all-Ireland pollinator plan.

Linking via greenways and blue ways the City's ecosystems. Tracking motions passed by this Committee and what happens when considered by the City Council **(R.M.)**

- Implementation of the Climate Action Plan, resource management and enhancing the implementation of the circular economy **(B.G.)**
- Water Quality, Polluted Rivers. Ask Waterways Ireland to relinquish the control of canals in the City area to allow the council to use them. Joe McCarthy's reports on Air Quality should be revisited by the Committee. The Management of waste in flat DCC complexes **(M.F.)**
- Climate Action Plan Implementation and the Annual Audit of DCC's carbon footprint. Develop a strategy to enable individuals to develop individual carbon footprints. Proceed with the municipalisation of waste collection. We require a city wide greening strategy **(J.C)**
- Implementation of the Climate Action Plan, exploring water quality and lead piping – Irish Water should be invited to present. Litter in the City and the municipalisation of the waste collection service. **(J.L.)**
- Climate Change. Ensure that this committee does develop policy **(T.B.)**
- Establish Subcommittee on Air Quality to focus on this specific area. **(N.O'M)**

Order: Noted

5. Strategic Policy Committee Governance

- (i) Overview Presentation – Ciaran Mcgoldrick
- (ii) Revised SPC Scheme (for noting)
- (iii) Standing Orders

Cllr Flynn raised the issue of noise from receptions being held in the rotunda hindering the ability of the Committee to carry out its work. Can this be addressed.

Order: Items (i) – (iii) noted. The Chair will raise Cllr. Flynn's issue at the Protocol Committee

6. SUDS, Suffolk Street – Adrian Conway Executive Manager (Engineering)

Members thanked Mr. Conway for his presentation and raised the following questions

- Has the use of permeable paving solutions been considered. **(P.B.)**
- Are there plans to separate the combined sewers. **(T.B.)**
- How deliverable are the solutions for Grafton Street / Suffolk Street. **(C.B.)**
- Are larger flood alleviation schemes such as the puddle being designed with greening solutions in mind **(T.C.)**
- Is it the aim to move away from flood walls **(T.C.)**
- Are there any examples of where a developer has been required as part of the planning permission to introduce SUDS / rooftop gardens / vertical planting **(R.M.)**

Adrian Conway responded

- Permeable solutions are part of the suite of options being considered. We also want to use green solutions as they are more capable of taking water away and also have the evapotranspiration effect, the plants absorb the water.
- It is not possible in a city like Dublin to separate the combined sewers, it is impractical
- Suffolk Street is in the design process, a part VIII has to be gone through which is being worked on.
- All public realm improvement schemes should include a greening solution
- On flood alleviation schemes we are now taking a river restoration approach, historically our approach to flood alleviation was engineering heavy; build walls
- It is the aim to move away from flood walls but there is the issue of space.
- There is a control in planning which limits the surface water runoff; this can be achieved by either storage tanks or green solutions: DCC is encouraging the use of green solutions and many developers are implementing them.

Order: Presentation Noted

7. Dublin Metropolitan Climate Action Regional Office

Members thanks Mr. Dodd for his presentation and raised the following questions

- Of the actions in the plan, which are low hanging fruit and quite attainable and which will be a challenge to meet. **(R.M.)**
- How are the actions being funded **(J.L)**

David Dodd responded

- There is an opportunity to drive an emission reduction through the renovation of housing stock and other public buildings.
- The funding for larger projects could be a problem.
- Public acceptance of the larger projects could be a problem.

Order: Presentation Noted. Report on Action Funding to issue at a future meeting of the SPC

8. Litter Management Plan 2020 -2022 – Simon Brock, Administrative Officer

Members raised the following questions

- What is the status of the provision of on street waste segregation bins **(C.B.) & (M.P.)**
- Are the contents of illegally dumped waste inspected to try to identify the offender **(M.P.)**

Simon Brock responded

- A further pilot of on street waste segregation bins will take place in the near future

- Dumped waste is inspected to identify the offenders but there is circa 5% success rate

Order: Report Noted. Refer to City Council for approval for the plan to go out to public consultation

9. Dublin City Council achieves excellence standard in EPA Environmental Enforcement Assessment.

The Chair congratulated DCC on this achievement

Order: Noted

10. Posters Protocol – Bernie Lillis, Litter Prevention Officer

It was agreed that the Maximum Number of poster allowed be reduced to 200.

Order: Report Noted. Recommend to City Council to adopt the protocol.

11. Motion referred from the South East Area Committee South East Area in the name of Councillor Mary Freehill

“In the interest of minimising dumping, that DSE LAC consider some method of providing a regular collection point to dispose of small to medium size household equipment.”

During the debate councillors agreed that the motion should be conveyed to the Environment and Transportation SPC and also asked if the proposal could have input from the Waste Sub-committee. Cllr. Flynn asked if it would be possible to send out a tender for firms to collect small items for transport to bring centres.

Order: Motion Defeated

12. A.O.B.

Order: None

In attendance

Members

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

Apologies

Councillor Catherine Stocker
Councillor Michael Watters

Absent

Councillor Councillor Janice Boylan

Officials

Céline Reilly, Executive Manager
Adrian Conway, Acting Assistant Chief Executive and City Engineer
James Nolan, Senior Executive Officer
David Dodd, Regional Co-ordinator, CARO
Simon Brock, Administrative Officer
Ciarán McGoldrick, Senior Staff Officer
Bernie Lillis, Litter Prevention Officer
Ian Boggans, Assistant Staff Officer

Councillor Michael Pidgeon
Chairperson, Climate Action,
Energy and Environment
Strategic Policy Committee

Dated: 29th November 2019.