
MINUTES OF CLIMATE ACTION, ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 29th JANUARY 2020

1. Minutes of the meeting held on 1st May 2019 & 27th November 2019

- Paul Boylan requested that the minutes issue shortly after the meeting to afford the opportunity to consider the content
- Councillor Flynn reminded the Committee that the meeting proceedings can be viewed anytime on DCC's website
- Michael Goan requested that the minutes of 29th January be amended to include his statement on upfront carbon
- What is the status of the dog fouling motion agreed at a previous meeting.

Ciaran McGoldrick responded

- He will endeavour to have minutes issued within 2 weeks of the meeting
- We wrote to the Minister on 2 occasions in relation to the dog fouling motion and as yet a response has not been received.

Order: Agreed subject to the amendment above.

2. Matters arising

Robert Moss requested that outstanding motions should be an Agenda item under matters arising

Order: Agreed

3. Correspondence

None

4. Chairperson's Business

None

5. Proposed amendment to City Council's Waste Management (Storage, Presentation and Segregation of Household AND Commercial Waste) Bye-Laws. – Eithne Gibbons, Senior Executive Officer

Members raised the following questions in relation to the report that issued

- Will provision be made for households currently on a bag collection service to avail of a food waste / organic waste collection service (C.B.)

- Will any initiative be trialled and piloted rather than a permanent change (M.P.)

Eithne Gibbons responded

- There is currently no alternative (to bag collection) available so any new departure will have to be piloted and trialled.
- This amendment is not specific to food waste but we are conscious of the food waste requirements in these areas. But the amendment will allow alternative solutions to be explored

Order: Agreed. Recommend to City Council that the proposed amendment go out to Public Consultation

6. Breath Life Campaign – Briefing Note

Order: Noted

7. Establish Remunicipalisation of Waste Collection Service Subcommittee

Bernie Guinan requested to sit on this subcommittee which was agreed

Order: Bernie Guinan to be a member of the Subcommittee

8. Establish Air Quality Subcommittee

3 members expressed and interested in sitting on this group, Councillor Naoise Ó'Muirí, Councillor Michael Pidgeon. It was agreed to amend the membership to 5 members, 3 Councillors and 2 sectoral members.

Order: Agreed. Membership to be expanded to 5, 3 Councillors and 2 sectoral. Membership initially Cllr. Naoise Ó'Muirí, Cllr. Michael Pidgeon and Trevor Clowry. Further members to be sought

9. Establish Climate Action Subcommittee

3 members expressed and interested in sitting on this group, Councillor Claire Byrne, Robert Moss (PPN) and Michael Goan R.I.A.I. It was agreed to amend the membership to 5 members, 3 Councillors and 2 sectoral members.

Order: Agreed. Membership to be expanded to 5, 3 Councillors and 2 sectoral. Membership initially Cllr. Claire Byrne, Robert Moss and Michael Goan, R.I.A.I. Further members to be sought

Items 7 -9, Members raised the following questions / issues (general)

- Can outside experts be members of the Subcommittee or is the membership open to all.

Céline Reilly responded.

- Expertise can be brought in to assist members but membership is not open non Council / SPC members

Order: Noted

10. Climate Change Action Plan: Report on Outcomes in Energy & Buildings 2019

(i) Céline Reilly, Executive Manager

Céline Reilly updated the Committee on the Actions and advised that we recently appointed a coordinator to oversee the Plans implementation

Order: Noted

(ii) Ali Grehan, City Architect

Members thanked Ali for her presentation and raised the following questions

- Will the window replacement programme in Ballybough House compromise energy efficiency as aluminium is being used. (NOM)
- It was my understanding that Dorset Street flats were to be trialled for external insulation; this is no longer the case, are there examples elsewhere where this will be trialled (CB)
- Are voids given a retrofit (CB)
- Will Andrew's Court be given a full life cycle assessment to ascertain if they should be refurbished / demolished (CB)
- Will there be minimum building energy standards applied to the works, be they retrofit or new build (PB)
- What is the timeframe for rolling out the retrofit / new build programmes (PB)
- I want to commend DCC on the research and work done looking beyond NZEB(MG)
- Is there knowledge sharing with other local authorities on research results etc. (MG)
- Has consideration been given to a post occupancy evaluation strategy.(MG)
- In dense areas how can a heat pump provide latent heat from under the ground (RM)
- What experience does DCC have in relation to installing heat pumps, do they cost a lot, how much do they cost. (RM)
- Will the heat pump replace or compliment the gas boiler (RM)

Ali Grehan responded

- Aluminium will not compromise energy efficiency
- Dorset Street went through the assessment and it was deemed suitable for (part) demolition. Constitution Hill made be suitable for external insulation
- A void will not be deep retrofitted
- I will confirm what the plan is for Andrew's Court
- The home performance index accreditation is not a requirement but is seen as encouraging best practice.
- New build must be A rated. Retrofit are done to a cost optimal standard must meet the building regulations standards.
- We have managed to achieve A rating in retrofit.
- It could take 30-40 years to cover all complexes
- I will revert on Robert Moss' questions
- Ballybough house is a trial to see how heat pumps will perform.
- We can knowledge share. Our framework of contractors is available to other Local Authorities.

Order: Presentation Noted. Response to Robert Moss' questions to issue

- (iii) Shane Hawkshaw, Senior Executive Engineer. Mechanical and Energy Efficiency Division

Members thanked Shane for his presentation and raised the following questions

- Is it the case that DCC is taking the lead in retrofitting (MP)
- How is decided to either attain an A rated standard in a smaller number of units or a lesser standard in a greater number of units (MP)
- Do heat pumps provide enough heat to heat a home (RM)
- This is a good news story, tenants making significant savings on heating costs, this should be publicised (CB)

Shane Hawkshaw responded

- We apply for as much funding as possible, the more funding received the greater number of units that can be retrofitted
- We will run 2 systems in parallel, small number of units high rating, lesser rating more units.
- It would be impossible to replace 22,000 has boilers overnight and have commenced a boiler replacement programme.
- In our experience, where a dwelling is properly insulated heat pumps provide sufficient heat

Order: Presentation Noted

- (iv) Brian Connolly, CODEMA

Members thanked Brian for his presentation and raised the following questions

- Are there any downsides / problems with the energy performance contracts, can improvements be made (MP)
- Is the Council's capital investment repaid (MP)
- Why was the City Council's Housing stock excluded from the energy targets (MG)
- The post occupancy evaluation is a toll that can capture the unknown, such as City Council housing stock, are there any plan to look at this (MG)

Brian Connolly responded

- We learned from the first EPC that it is advisable to have a hands on approach to managing the contract which is being done with the second EPC.
- From an energy saving perspective the EPC has brought major savings
- The capital investment is repaid over the lifetime of the EPC
- DCC tenants are responsible for their own energy consumption, DCC cannot include housing stock as part of the energy targets
- Social housing energy efficiency measurements are based on the BER

Order: Presentation Noted

11. A.O.B.

None

In attendance

Councillor Claire Byrne
Paul Boylan
Trevor Clowry
Councillor Mannix Flynn
Michael Goan
Bernie Guinan
Robert Moss
Councillor Naoise Ó'Muirí
Councillor Michael Pidgeon

Apologies

Councillor Janice Boylan
Councillor Tom Brabazon
Councillor John Lyons
Councillor Michael Watters

Absent

Councillor Joe Costello
Councillor Catherine Stocker

Officials

Céline Reilly, Executive Manager
Ali Grehan, City Architect
Eithne Gibbons, Senior Executive Officer
James Nolan, Senior Executive Officer
Shane Hawkshaw, Senior Executive Engineer
Victor Coe, Senior Executive Engineer
Ciarán McGoldrick, Senior Staff Officer
Owen Sweeney, Staff Officer

Michael Pidgeon
Chairperson, 30th January 2020