
MINUTES OF CLIMATE ACTION, ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 26th May 2021

1. Minute of the meeting held on 31st March 2021 and May 5th 2021

Order: Agreed

2. Matters Arising

City Council Pest Control Report issued in advance of meeting.

Order: Noted

3. Correspondence

Order: Noted

4. Chairpersons Business

The Chair invited Maryann Harris to provide an update on the Biodiversity Action Plan and public consultation.

Members had the following questions and observations

- Could recent funding announcements be of benefit? (CB)
- Proposing to map out entire city, its variety and different approaches to each, e.g. waterways, parks, greenways, docklands (JC)
- Possibility to look at Local Environmental Improvement Plans to overcome statutory nature of Area Plans (JC)
- Noted application for large scale offshore windfarm and potential impact (MF)
- Relationship between Climate Action Plan, Climate Change Adaptation Strategy and Biodiversity Action Plan (RM)

Maryann and Sabrina responded

- Pleased with funding and proposal submissions have been made. Noted that in the past additional allocation had also been realised.
- Have linked in with the Planning Department on area plans.
- Habitat map for the city completed and is to be used to inform projects going forward and to inform development. Map has also been given to the Development Plan and Development Control teams so is being used in association with the City Development Plan and Greening Strategy.
- Noted that the Climate Action Plan covers both mitigation and adaptation and is a response to the National Adaptation Framework so it covers both.

Order: Noted

5. Sustainable Energy Communities – Cormac Healy, Energy Management Lead

Members thanked Cormac for his presentation and had the following questions and observations

- How it works and what exactly is the schemes purpose? (CS)
- What detail or information should be presented to community groups? (CS)
- Is Dublin City Council providing the masterplan experts and how will they be made available to groups? (JC)
- Is scheme intended for individuals or community groups? Should estates/resident groups be steered towards this for availability of grants? (MP)
- Possibility of peer learning to be gained from Terenure Energy Community (SS)
- Timescale for the scheme (SS)
- If additional communities were being sought to add to the existing 27 (SS)

Cormac provided the following clarification and responses

Link in with mentor as a first step will provide a detailed breakdown of pathways based on previous experience and what is actually available

Range of grants available

Will be possible to measure where a community is at and what is then achievable to be included in a plan and to then link in with SEAI to draw down on funding

Intention is that Dublin City Council will procure consultant services to assist communities through the steps to develop a masterplan

DCC to take on the financial burden associated with engagement of consultants that could present an impediment and for DCC to then recoup this from the SEAI.

Scenario given of a school or community building coming together with the community to form a Sustainable Energy Community who can then draw on appropriate skills to develop a masterplan and draw down on funding from the SEAI to assist with implementation of the measures identified in the masterplan.

Peer learning is implicit in the approach being taken.

Tender for consultant services being finalised with RFT expected to be published within the next couple of weeks

Existing communities have been identified but formation of additional ones are welcome

Order: Noted

6. General Poster Protocol – Bernie Lillis, Litter Prevention Officer

Order: Deferred to next meeting.

7. Discovery Centre Update - Donncha Ó Dúlaing, Senior Executive Officer

Members thanked Donncha for his presentation, broadly welcomed the project and had the following questions and observations

- Essential infrastructure – source of funding? (MF)
- Concerns about commercialisation element of the proposal. (MF)
- Accessibility and potential use of electrified public transport (MF)

- Should be presented as a “Big” Dublin Project as opposed to Bull island Project (MF)
- Public consultation process to target Dublin rather than local area (MF)
- Concerns about potential increase in parking spaces (SS)(CS)
- Questioned the proposed site and relationship to the existing building and site (SS)
- Noted that construction costs are increasing generally and potentially high running costs (SS)
- Potential for confusion with the Ballymun Rediscovery Centre (SS)
- Query regarding storey height of proposed building (JC)
- Potential for negative effect on the nature reserve and the immediate area (JC)
- Dedicated bus link and integration into plan has merit given the approx. 1m visitors to Bull Island per year (RM)
- Dublin Bus inclusion of Nature Reserve on the published timetable would generate additional visitors (RM)
- Potential ethical implication of philanthropic funding proposal (CS)(MP)
- Community information meeting would be welcome as part of public consultation in order to clarify aspects of the project for local communities (CS)
- Given the nature of the area and the project EV parking would be welcome but has concerns about a knock on effect on local adjoining estates if there is a reduction on parking provision (TB)
- Poor condition of the existing road surface (TB)

Donncha provided clarification and responses as follows

- Looking at different funding options including Dublin City council Capital Works Programme
- Feasibility study on philanthropic funding sources to cover some of the cost is being undertaken but other options are also being considered. Cognisant of ethical concerns and implications and process will be open and fully transparent. Feasibility study is expected to be completed in the next couple of months
- Not a commercial undertaking per se. Noted that the cafe element is intended to be similar in size to that at the Red Stables.
- Current proposal is for annual revenues to pay for running and upkeep
- Discussion with Dublin Bus ongoing but initial response has been positive. This is being considered in the context of wider and sustainable access to Bull Island. Considering all forms of sustainable transport along with disabled and elderly facilities.
- Proposal is for increase on current parking provision but will be a decrease on what was available previously.
- Proposal is to demolish the existing building – new building cannot be located on the same site.
- Proposal is a single storey building with a lookout tower.
- There will not be a direct impact on any sensitive habitats.
- The project is very much about the bay and biosphere so the Dublin element of the proposal is being emphasised.
- This has been an iterative project that has taken feedback on board. Public days, workshops, signage and online social media engagement to commence in the next week.

Order: Noted

8. Outdoor Gatherings and associated issues
9. Outdoor Dining Enhancement Scheme

Items 8 and 9 were taken together.

- Cllr. Flynn provided a background to the items and associated concerns,
- Broadly welcomes outdoor dining but has concerns about potential impact on other businesses, e.g. removal of parking, street closures to facilitate measures
- Requires coordinated plan for management by Dublin city Council and An Garda Síochána
- Clarity required on commercialisation of public spaces and when temporary measures and facilities will end
- Ongoing management and enforcement of street furniture
- Noted that significant areas of the city centre are residential in nature
- Lack of public consultation on the introduction of some measures

Members observed that many of the measures being introduced are being done so as trials and intended to address current fast changing legislation and should be broadly welcomed where they can be facilitated in a safe manner without negative impact and fairness to all concerned. (MP) (JC)

Liam Bergin observed that the full range of concerns would be best addressed at the City Council in order to allow for a full management response to all the related issues.

Order: Noted. Further information to be circulated to members.

10. Meeting Management

- a. Meeting Times
- b. Revised Standing Orders

Meeting duration of two hours to be scheduled from 4.00pm-6.00pm on Wednesday's. Supplementary meetings to be scheduled for same day and times where practicable.

James Nolan provided clarification regarding timing of the Climate Action Sub-Committee meetings. Schedule to be distributed.

Order: Standing Order Revisions noted. Duration and scheduling of meetings agreed.

11. Question tabled at the March meeting of the City Council for consideration

Order: Question Withdrawn

12. AOB

Sabrina Dekker provided an update on the Climate Change Action Plan

- Currently working with the Development Plan team on the Climate Change chapter and other relevant sections of the Development plan.
- Motions submitted by Council being reviewed
- Rainscape consultation
- UCD Innovation Academy
- DCU engagement ongoing
- Investigating other possibilities for 3rd level collaboration
- Climate Section week in September
- EU Green Deal Application update
- Eat the Streets launched

In attendance

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

Officials

John Flanagan, A/Assistant Chief Executive & City Engineer
Liam Bergin, Executive Manager
James Nolan, Senior Executive Officer
Cormac Healy, Energy Management Lead
Donncha O'Dúlaing, Senior Executive Officer
Les Moore, City Parks Superintendent
Maryann Harris, Senior Executive Parks Superintendent
Sabrina Dekker, Climate Change Coordinator
Catherine Dolman, Senior Staff Officer
Chris Carroll, Administrative Officer

Michael Pidgeon, Chairperson

26th May 2021.