
MINUTES OF CLIMATE ACTION, ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 1ST DECEMBER 2022.

1. Minutes of the meeting held on 29th September 2021

Order: Agreed

2. Matters Arising

Robert Moss queried the position on the provision of Climate Training to sectoral members of SPC's

Liam Bergin advised that this matter is being considered by the Corporate Policy Group and he will update member on the outcome.

Order: Noted

3. Correspondence

None.

4. Chairpersons Business

None.

5. Meeting Dates 2022

The Chair suggested that meetings could be held at the earlier time of 3.00pm. It was agreed to hold future meetings at **3.30pm**

Order: Noted

6. Air Quality Plan for the Dublin Metropolitan Region – Public Consultation Report (Martin Fitzpatrick / Owen McManus)

Members thanked Martin for the report that was circulated and raised the following questions

- Are there plans to tackle and reduce NO₂ levels outside schools and at the entrance / exit of the port tunnel (**DC**)
- Were any written submissions received (NO'M)
- Do the 14 measures identified carry equal weight in terms of priority (NO'M)

- The report has a number of paragraphs with “*subject to amendment*”, when will this be finalised (NO’M)
- Can I have further information on the Low Emissions Zones. (NO’M)
- The Air Quality in the City can be rancid. (MF)
- Bars and Restaurants seem to emit a lot of smoke. (MF)
- Construction is causing a lot of Air Pollution (MF)
- Would it be possible to Monitor the Air Quality in the Portobello area (MF)
- Could an area be identified for Householders to monitor the air quality (DH)
- Construction related activities is problematic in the Griffith Avenue Area. Would it be possible to incentivise contractors to use less polluting vehicles. (DH)
- Have progress been made in phasing out / banning the burning of bunker fuel by shipping in Dublin Port (RM)
- Was the policy developed as the result of a particular exceedance, where did this occur (JC)
- Dublin Bus recently purchased 100 diesel buses is it planned to phase there out (JC)
- Will there be congestion charging between the canals (JC)
- What is the position on the 50 km/hr limit between the canals. (JC)
- Is there scope to develop an inventory of air pollution causes. (MP)

Martin Fitzpatrick responded.

- There is active air quality monitoring in and around schools.
- Elevated levels of pollution are being detected, the evidence gathered will inform the policy development
- The vast majority of submissions were via the submissions portal
- There were in the region of 20 written submissions
- The Air Quality Monitoring & Noise Control Unit investigates reports of Nuisance Pollution and takes enforcement action as required.
- The Local Area Air Quality Monitoring Network is being expanded with monitoring in Donnybrook & Cabra being added to the network towards the end of 2021.
- Other areas will be examined in 2022.
- An enhanced code of practice for the construction sector was developed which is being included in many planning permission conditions.
- The issue of burning bunker fuel will be dealt with in the context of the Masterplan for Dublin Port.
- An exceedance occurred at St. John’s Road West. There has not been an exceedance prior or since this event.
- The Climate Action Plan provides for the purchase of Zero / Low Emission public transport vehicles.
- The 50 km /hr is a matter for the Traffic and Transportation SPC.
- Enhanced modelling by the EPA will provide an inventory of pollution sources.

Order: Report Noted

7. Rivers oversight (verbal report)– Liam Bergin Executive Manager

By way of context the Chair, Councillor Pidgeon advised the Committee that asked Liam Bergin to put a report together on the bodies responsible for the River Liffey.

Liam Bergin spoke to the report that was circulated and advised that a non-statutory river trust has been established and a further report will issue as the matter progresses.

Order: Noted.

8. Draft River Basin Management Plan – Roy O’Connor, Senior Engineer

Members thanked Roy for his presentation and raised the following questions

- When polluters are identified what sanctions are available to prosecute such offenders (JB)
- What happens when a large discharge from the Waste Water Treatment Plant occurs , is Irish Water prosecuted (JB)
- Would like to see more on the proposal to bring water from the Shannon (MF)
- Much of the infrastructure needs replacement (MF)
- What is our relationship with adjoining Local Authorities, how do we engage with them (JC)
- Is it proposed to open culverted rivers. (JC)
- The EPA produced reports on the sewage spilling into river and coastal waters. (SS)
- We know Covid-19 is in wastewater, wastewater on occasion ends up in river / coastal water. There is a causal loop the needs to be checked (SS)
- Many things are missing from the plan, e.g., pumping water from Lough Derg to Dublin.(SS)
- Will the City Council be making a submission on EU Consultation of Bathing Waters (DC)
- Is there an inventory on causes of pollution (MP)

Roy O’Connor responded.

- Drinking Water is separate to this plan and the supply and quality of are matters for Irish Water.
- Modelling has been carried out in relation to Irish Water discharges
- The EPA has responsibility for prosecution of licences breaches
- When polluters are identified we try to work with the offender to remediate the problem.
- Where suitable culverting will be removed.
- We do engage with adjoining Local Authorities.

- LAWPRO is the coordinating body for Local Authority engagement / collaboration
- Responsibility for Drinking Water and Water Bodies are separate
- Dublin is unique in terms of a capital city having a biosphere.
- The Waste Water Treatment Plant is a matter for Irish Water.
- Every EU state has to ensure every Water body is of good status by 2027
- Inventory of pollution causes is available on the LAWPRO website.

Order: Presentation Noted

9. Climate Action Plan Annual Report – Sabrina Dekker, Climate Change Coordinator.

It was agreed that members would email any queries to Sabrina.dekker@dublincity.ie

Order: Presentation & report Noted

10. Transportation Climate Actions – Patricia Reidy, A/Senior Engineer

Members thanked Patricia for her presentation. Patricia advised the Committee that a full report on Covid Mobility Interventions for 2021 is an item on the December meeting of the City Council.

Order: Presentation Noted

11. A.O.B.

Next meeting 26th January 2022.

Order: Noted

In attendance

Councillor Claire Byrne
 Councillor Janice Boylan
 Paul Boylan, Vivid Edge
 Trevor Clowry PPN
 Councillor Joe Costello
 Councillor Mannix Flynn
 Sally Starbuck, 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
 Councillor Catherine Stocker

Also in attendance
 Councillor Deirdre Heney
 Councillor Donna Cooney

Apologies

Councillor Tom Brabazon

Officials

John Flanagan, Assistant Chief Executive & City Engineer

Liam Bergin, Executive Manager

James Nolan, Senior Executive Officer

Martin Fitzpatrick, Principal Environmental Health Officer

Owen McManus, Senior Engineer

Patricia Reidy, A/Senior Engineer

Roy O'Connor, Senior Engineer

Sabrina Dekker, Climate Action Co-ordinator

Chris Carroll, Administrative Officer

Ciaran McGoldrick, Senior Staff Officer

Mary O'Flaherty, Assistant Staff Officer

Councillor Michael Pidgeon, Chairperson

2nd December 2021