

**Minutes of Meeting of Environment, Climate Action and Agriculture Strategic Policy  
Committee held in The Dock Arts Centre, St. George's Terrace, Carrick.on.Shannon on  
Wednesday, 31<sup>st</sup> August 2022.**

**Members Present:**

Councillor Caillian Ellis (Cathaoirleach)  
Councillor Paddy Farrell  
Councillor Felim Gurn  
Councillor Gerry Dolan  
Jan Melia (PPN - Environmental Pillar)  
John Brennan (Agriculture / Farming - Organic Interest Sector)  
Eddie Mitchell (Agriculture / Farming – IFA)

**Officials Present:**

Vincent Dwyer, Head of Finance, Water, Environment, Climate Action and Emergency Services  
Francis Gaffney, Senior Engineer  
Marie Mulligan, Senior Executive Engineer  
James Madden, Veterinary Officer  
Martina Casey, Administrative Officer  
Patricia Holahan, Staff Officer  
Christina Bohan, Assistant Staff Officer

**Apologies:**

Councillor Justin Warnock  
Councillor Sean McGowan

**1 Adoption of Minutes of Meeting of Environment, Climate Action and Agriculture SPC held on 16th December, 2021**

The Minutes of Meeting of Environment, Climate Action and Agriculture Strategic Policy Committee held on 16<sup>th</sup> December, 2021 were approved on the proposal of Councillor Paddy Farrell and seconded by Councillor Gerry Dolan.

**2 Minutes of Environment, Climate Action and Agriculture SPC held on 27th April, 2022**

Mr. Vincent Dwyer, Head of Finance, Water, Environment, Climate Action and Emergency Services stated that there were no Minutes of the Environment, Climate Action and Agriculture SPC Meeting to be approved due to no quorum present at that meeting. The Chairperson had agreed to proceed with the Presentations on request from Mr. Vincent Dwyer.

**3 Matters arising from the Minutes**

There were no matters arising from the Minutes

#### **4 Presentation on 'Waste Presentation Byelaws'**

The Members received an overview on the Waste Presentation Byelaws from Ms. Marie Mulligan, Senior Executive Engineer. Councillor Felim Gurn raised the issue of the cost of the bin collection service and also stated that some householders encounter problems as the road they reside on is not serviced and bins require to be transported to access the collection route. Mr. Vincent Dwyer, Head of Finance, Water, Environment, Climate Action and Emergency Services addressed Councillor Gurn's concerns and informed the Members that any further issues which may arise can be explored. Mr. Dwyer also stated that inspections regarding the management

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#### **5 Update of Draft River Basin Management Plan 2022 - 2027**

The Members received a presentation from Ms. Marie Mulligan, Senior Executive Engineer on the Draft River Basin Management Plan 2022 -2027. Ms. Mulligan informed the Members that Leitrim County Council had made a submission and that various issues affecting the county had been highlighted. Mr. Vincent Dwyer stated that there is ongoing pressure from the EPA to carry out septic tank inspections and that the county has a problem with a high failure rate. A discussion took place regarding the possible solutions to help reduce the failure rate of septic tank inspections. In the meantime, publication of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Cycle River Basin Management Plan is awaited and is due to be published in late Autumn. Mr. Dwyer stated that the final draft would be brought to a meeting of the SPC before Christmas and would also be on the Agenda for discussion at the Council Meeting.

At this point, Councillor Ellis (Chairperson), Councillor Dolan and Mr. Francis Gaffney apologised they had to leave and excused themselves from the meeting.

Councillor Paddy Farrell proceeded to chair the meeting in the absence of Councillor Ellis.

A discussion took place regarding the necessity for the engagement and education of farmers with regard to agricultural practices. The Members were informed that there will be an increase in the number of agricultural inspections rolled out in the future to help alleviate water quality problems in the county.

#### **6 Update on Irish Water**

Mr. Vincent Dwyer, Head of Finance, Water, Environment, Climate Action and Emergency Services gave an update to the Members on Irish Water. Mr. Dwyer stated that the agreed framework on the Service Level Contract had been finalised and that the transition to Irish Water will commence in January 2023 with the aim of being fully operational by Irish Water by the second quarter of 2023. Mr. Dwyer informed the Members that Leitrim County Council will have no role in the provision of water services from 1<sup>st</sup> January, 2023.

#### **7 Update on Climate Action**

Mr. Vincent Dwyer, Head of Finance, Water, Environment, Climate Action and Emergency Services gave an update to the Members on Climate Action. The Members were informed that a three year funding programme had been approved for Climate Action and that 2 No. staff would be involved in the preparation of the Climate Action Plan which would take approximately 12 months to complete. Resources have not yet been provided but it is planned that 2 No. staff will be provided before Christmas. At present, there is a 3 No. county project ongoing in conjunction with Cavan and Monaghan County Councils which focuses on our energy requirements. Assessments have been carried out on our buildings and an application has been submitted to the SEAI for 50% funding with a view to assisting in the meeting of our 2030 targets.

#### **8 Date and Time for Next Meetings**

There are two no. meetings scheduled to be held before Christmas and issues to discuss on the Agenda for the next meeting will include septic tanks and mining in North Leitrim. The next meeting will be held at 10.30 a.m. on Wednesday, 19<sup>th</sup> October, 2022. Mr. Vincent Dwyer requested that preference be sought from the Members approximately three weeks in advance as to whether they wish the meeting to convene by in person or by Teams.

#### **9 AOB**

This concluded the business of the meeting.

**SIGNED:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Councillor Caillian Ellis**

**SIGNED:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Vincent Dwyer**

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**Chairperson**

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**Environment, Climate Action  
and Agriculture Strategic  
Policy Committee**

**DATE: Wednesday, 9 November  
2022**