

**Minutes of the Climate Action, Biodiversity, Environment, Energy, Marine, Recreation and Amenity Strategic Policy Committee held on 8<sup>th</sup> November 2024 at 10.30am**

**PRESENT:** Cllr. Erika Doyle (Cathaoirleach)  
Cllr. Jason Mulhall  
Cllr. Peir Leonard  
Cllr. Lourda Scott  
Cllr. Danny Alvey  
Cllr. Dermot O'Brien  
Justin Ivory, PPN Representative  
Emma Smith, PPN Representative  
Anthony Ardee, Business/Chamber Representative  
Tom Byrne, Agricultural Representative

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Theresa O'Brien, T/Director of Services  
Mary Cahill, T/Senior Engineer  
Michael McNamara, T/Senior Executive Officer  
Mark Costello, Climate Action Co-ordinator  
Declan Keogh, Regional Energy Manager  
Joanne O'Dowd, Senior Executive Engineer  
Tom Fox, Senior Executive Engineer  
Tom Griffin, Senior Executive Chemist  
Jenny Sherwin, Arts Officer

**1. To note the Minutes of the Meeting of the 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2024**

Minutes noted – proposed by Cllr Scott and seconded by Justin Ivory. Quorum reached.

**2. Presentation on Climate, Environment, Recreation & Amenity Directorate**

Michael McNamara gave a presentation on the areas of responsibility of the Climate, Environment, Recreation and Amenity directorate. The Members of the SPC said, while accepting the breadth of the directorate, their main focus would continue to be climate action and biodiversity. Theresa O'Brien reminded the members that this SPC was responsible for policy in the all the areas of the directorate and energy, not just climate action and biodiversity. She assured the Members of the SPC that in formulating policy in all of these areas climate action and biodiversity must be taken into consideration. The Cathaoirleach gave assurances that, with the expanded brief of the new SPC additional meetings could be scheduled should the workload demand it..

**3. To consider training dates for SPC members**

The Members of the SPC were advised of training courses available to them.

**4. Update Wicklow County Council Corporate Plan 2024 – 2029**

Michael McNamara gave a presentation on the Draft Corporate Plan. He advised that the Draft Plan was to go before the full Council at the December meeting. He further advised that Members of the SPC may make any submissions by email and all submission would be taken into consideration.

## **5. Any Other Business**

Attention was drawn to the Draft SUDS (Sustainable Drainage Systems) Policy that had been circulated to Members of the SPC. Tom Byrne raised the issue of the potential impact of the Nature Restoration legislation. Mary Cahill assured the Members of the SPC that the Draft SUDS Policy is aligned with national policy and is a dynamic document so that it can be amended at any time once European legislation is enacted.

Tom Byrne asked that all documents be circulated to Members of the SPC ahead the next meetings. Michael McNamara gave an undertaking to ensure all contact details were correct.