

**PLANNING & RURAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE**  
**MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 12<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2024 AT 11.30AM IN THE COUNCIL**  
**CHAMBER, COUNTY BUILDINGS, WICKLOW TOWN, CO. WICKLOW**

**Present:**

**Cllr. Sylvester Bourke (Chair), Cllr. Patsy Glennon, Jim Wood, Paul Armstrong, Tessa Stewart, Tom Short, Conor McCarthy**

**In Attendance:**

**Leonora Earls, Fergal Keogh, Sorcha Walsh, Stephen Clarke, Ciara Ruane**

**Apologies:**

**Cllr. Peter Stapleton**

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Prior to the agenda items, Cllr. Patsy Glennon nominated Cllr. Sylvester Bourke as chair.

**Item 1: Adoption of the Minutes of Meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> November 2024:**

The minutes of the meeting of the P&RD SPC which took place on 11<sup>th</sup> of November 2024 were proposed by Cllr. Patsy Glennon and seconded by Paul Armstrong.

**Item 2: Matters Arising from the Minutes:**

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

**Item 3: Overview of the new Planning & Development Act:**

The meeting received a presentation from Fergal Keogh, Senior Engineer in relation to the new Planning & Development Act. The new Act has been signed by the president and will be implemented in stages going forward. Some parts of the Act require secondary legislation relating to regulations which must be in place before the Act can commence.

Sorcha Walsh, Senior Planner advised that under the Act there are new processes for integrating higher level strategies i.e. the County Development Plan. All CDP's will be fully compliant with the ministerial statements, rather than partially compliant.

In response to a question as to whether the Local Area Plans will continue Sorcha Walsh advised that any LAP currently in effect stays in effect until the new CDP is adopted. The current plan runs from 2022 to 2028. At that point the CDP, in its new format, will be adopted and all existing LAPs will be built into the CDP. All zoning will occur through the CDP and no longer through the LAP's.

A short discussion about the Residential Zoned Land Tax (RZLT) followed.

#### **4. Update on Local Area Plans:**

The draft Local Area Plans for Wicklow Town/Rathnew and Blessington are now closed for submissions. The report on Wicklow Town/Rathnew will be issued to the Members during the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of January 2025. Following a 6 week consideration period it will be brought back to the Council Meeting 6<sup>th</sup> March to either adopt or modify.

The timeline for the Blessington Plan runs approximately 3 weeks behind the Wicklow/Rathnew plan so estimated to come before the March/April meeting.

The Greystones/Delgany/Kilcoole draft plans will be worked on in the New Year followed by Arklow and then Bray.

A general discussion around economic opportunities/challenges, infrastructure, house building and industrial sites followed.

#### **Item 5: Meeting Schedule:**

The SPC is required to hold a minimum of four meetings, annually. These dates will be agreed and advised shortly.

**End of Meeting**