

**Minutes of Meeting of the Physical Development Strategic Policy Committee held on
Wednesday 19th February, 2020 at 3:30 pm in the Council Chamber,
Áras Contae an Chláir, New Road, Ennis, Co. Clare.**

Present:

SPC Members

Cllr. J. Crowe, Chair
Cllr. I. Lynch
Cllr. C. Colleran Molloy
Cllr. J. Cooney
Cllr. A. O' Callaghan
Ms. A. Wheeler
Mr. J. Giller
Mr. P. Hayes
Mr. D. M. Wise
Mr. L. Hoyne

Staff of Clare County Council

Ms. C. Kirby, Director of Physical Development
Ms. A. Cronin, SEE, Road Design
Mr. D. O'Connell, A/CFO
Mr. S. Lenihan, SE, Project Management Office
Mr. J. Leahy, SE, Roads
Mr. C. Feeney, SE, Environment and Water
Mr. J. Corry, AO, Roads

Apologies:

Cllr. R. Garvey
Ms. L. O' Neill

Cllr. John Crowe, welcomed everyone to the SPC Meeting. He congratulated Cllr. Colleran Molloy on her appointment as Mayor for Clare Co Council and Cllr. A O' Callaghan on his appointment as Deputy Mayor.

Item 1 – Confirmation of Minutes of the SPC Meeting of 19th December, 2019.

The Minutes were proposed by Cllr. J. Cooney and seconded by Cllr. A. O' Callaghan.

There were no matters arising

Item 2- Limerick Shannon Metropolitan Area Transport Strategy (LSMATS)

J. Leahy gave a Presentation on LSMATS which covered the following:

- Why the Strategy was being prepared. He outlined that the Strategy was being prepared by consultants Jacobs Systra on behalf of the NTA to provide a long term strategic planning framework for the integrated development of transport infrastructure and services for the Limerick/ Shannon Metropolitan Area. He advised that future funding would be dependent on the content of the Strategy.
- How LSMATS was linked to RSES for the Southern Region where he outlined that it was an objective of RSES to develop a Metropolitan Area Transport Strategy for the Limerick-

Shannon area by the NTA, TII, Local Authorities and relevant stakeholders integrating priorities and supporting investment in actions under these strategies.

- LSMATS Boundary. He outlined the boundary of the LSMATS area which included Limerick city, Shannon, Sixmilebridge, UL, Clonlara, Cratloe, Parteen and Bunratty.
- What had happened to date. He outlined that the NTA appointed Jacobs Systra to prepare the Strategy. He indicated that the Steering Group met for the first time in December 2018 and that Clare Co Council provided an input throughout 2019 . He added that the NTA issued an Advance Consultation Report to Clare Co Council in December 2019 and that this was issued by Clare Co Council to both its Elected Members and to the Members of the SPC. He added that Clare Co Council had reverted back to the consultants with comments on the Advance Consultation report.
- Clare Co Council input. He outlined that Clare Co Council had input on key infrastructure such as the LNDR, N19 extension to Shannon Airport, upgrade of the R471 and the M18/N19 interchange capacity. He added that they had also input on having a dedicated bus service serving Shannon Airport with services from Ennis, Limerick, Cork and Galway. He also mentioned the importance of having bus services between Ennis, Shannon and Limerick and their co-ordination with onward train services, education establishments start/end times etc. He added that the Council also input on the importance of the development of the rail network along the western rail corridor and a rail link to Shannon.
- LNDR He outlined the importance of the LNDR and its proposed link to UL and to the proposed University SDZ.
- Climate Change He outlined that by reducing emissions by reducing car trips and traffic management and by increasing public transport that it would be a big help to the Climate Change agenda.
- Stakeholders He outlined that all Stakeholders were invited to submit their views at pre draft stage in Aug 2019.
- Planned NTA Schedule He outlined that after 20th March that the Strategy would go on public display and that there would be launch events organized to publicise same.

The SPC members thanked J Leahy for his detailed Presentation and raised a number of comments:

J. Giller indicated that the PPN hadn't been given an opportunity to input their views at pre draft stage as the consultants had used an incorrect address when contacting the PPN. It was indicated that the consultants had been updated with the correct contact details for the PPN and that a request would issue to the consultants to see if the PPN could provide feedback before the draft was prepared and be given access to documents that other stakeholders had been provided with. He also questioned whether there are specific climate led inputs to LSMATS eg public transport. He suggested that alternative materials should be investigated for new roads and also referred to the importance of hedgerows in soaking up surface water to help prevent flooding. He concluded by emphasizing the importance of medium capacity shuttle such as Micro-transit Systems as part of LSMATS and circulated a document to the SPC

in this regard. C. Kirby suggested that the PPN should proceed with making a submission to the NTA.

Cllr. J. Cooney said the Limerick Northern Distributor is a critical project for the Region and should be dealt with as a priority in the transport strategy. C. Kirby advised that the route corridor is secured in the County Development Plans. Cllr. Cooney also requested that given the importance of this strategy that a workshop of this SPC be held to discuss the strategy when it is drafted and all councilors should be invited to attend. C. Kirby said she will put this request to the NTA. Cllr. Cooney also requested an update on the Bunratty junction, this was provided by J. Leahy.

Cllr. A. O' Callaghan informed the meeting that he is the Clare representative on the Regional Assembly along with Cllr PJ Kelly. He emphasised the importance of the Western Corridor rail link and the proposed link to Shannon and Bunratty and he suggested that there needed to be improved linkage to Knappogue Castle, Craggaunowen and Holy Island. He emphasized the importance of finding a solution to the flooding at the rail line at Ballycar. He requested a timeframe for the transport strategy and the LNDR.

Cllr. C Collieran Molloy sought clarification as to how long the process would take for what was in the Strategy to materialize.

It was indicated that the Public Consultation phase would take a couple of months and it was difficult to say how long the entire process would take.

Cllr. J. Crowe indicated the importance of the issue involving the rail line at Ballycar being resolved. He also emphasized the important of Bunratty and requested that traffic congestion at Sixmilebridge be addressed.

Cllr. I Lynch emphasised that it was very important that there be improved public transport connections from West Clare and Rural Clare to link to the proposed enhanced public transport connections as part of LSMATS.

Item 3- Climate Change Adaptation Strategy and Biodiversity.

C. Feeney gave an update "Climate Change Global Issue Local Leadership" a document published by the LGMA and CCMA . He advised that in order to quantify the work being done by Councils regarding Climate Change and to share good practice across the public sector, research was conducted between January and July 2019 into the Climate actions in place or planned by Local Authorities at that point in time. He added that key findings from the research inform this publication and demonstrate the specific and extensive measures Councils have undertaken across infrastructure, water resources, energy efficiency, flood risk management, nature-based solutions and public engagement. These actions represent just a snapshot in time of Local Authority achievements with respect to Climate action, showing us how far we've

come, but also what more we need to do. He added that he would circulate a copy of the document to the SPC members.

C. Feeney welcomed L Brodie who gave an update on Map Alerter which was an App that you can sign up to receive relevant alerts. She outlined the benefits which were that it was quick and specific. She emphasised that you could register for this service from the Clare Co Council website. C. Kirby indicated that L. Brodie would be available after the meeting to assist anyone who wanted assistance in registering and signing up for the service.

The members of the SPC thanked L. Brodie for her very useful Presentation.

Cllr. J. Cooney enquired if there were any concerns regarding flooding in Clonlara.

J. Leahy advised that there was a concern at present re Springfield, Clonlara and that the Council had made preparations re flooding and that they were in close communication with the ESB re the release of water from Ardnacrusha.

Cllr. I Lynch mentioned the importance of Local Authorities being allowed to dredge rivers to help prevent flooding.

J. Corry provided an update to the SPC on Biodiversity following an update that he had received from the Conservation Officer. He indicated that:

- Clare Co Council had signed up to the All Ireland Pollinator Plan recently
- Funding had been sought from the Heritage Council for Biodiversity management of public sites owned by Clare Co Council.
- Clare Co Council was planning a Wetland Awareness publication.
- A Biodiversity Resource Manual and training for all Local Authority staff was being rolled out before the end of the year.

Item 4- Any Other Business.

Cllr. C. Collieran Molloy emphasised the importance of Waste Minimisation.

P. Hayes referred to a submission that had been made by the PPN regarding work that needed to be done on pathways in the town of Ennis to make them more accessible. C. Kirby indicated that it was not the remit of the SPC to deal with operational matters however she indicated that a lot of work was being done in Ennis presently and would continue in making streets and footpaths more accessible.

A Wheeler queried the importance of the provision of Data Centres as an objective of the Clare Co Council Corporate Plan and she emphasised that they were massive users of energy and that if they were to be provided that renewable energy be used to provide power to them. Cllr. C. Collieran Molloy indicated that the provision of renewable energy power had been discussed for

proposed Data Centre for Ennis as part of the Economic Development SPC which she was a member of in the last Council.

Cllr. J. Crowe concluded by congratulating Clare Co Council being awarded Council of the Year at the recent LAMA Awards and he complimented the Chief Executive, Directors of Service and all the Staff for their role in helping Clare Co Council in winning this award,

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed: _____

Cllr. John Crowe

Chairperson

Date: _____

Signed: _____

John Corry

Administrative Officer

Date: _____

