

## Minutes of the Physical Development Strategic Policy Committee Meeting

Tuesday, 6<sup>th</sup> February 2024 at 2.30pm

### Present:

#### SPC Members

Cllr John Crowe, Chair  
Cllr Clare Colleran Molloy  
Cllr Alan O'Callaghan  
Cllr Liam Grant  
Cllr Ian Lynch  
Cllr Pat O'Gorman  
Ms Theresa O'Donohoe  
Mr Damon M. Wise

#### Staff of Clare County Council

Alan Farrell, Director of Service  
Siobhán McNulty, Senior Executive Officer  
John Leahy, Senior Engineer  
Morgan Lahiffe, Senior Engineer  
Cyril Feeney, Senior Engineer  
Anne Griffin, A/Senior Executive Officer  
Ann O'Sullivan, Senior Executive Engineer  
Gráinne Reddan, Senior Executive Engineer  
Liam O'Connor, Administrative Officer  
Valerie Fleming, Assistant Staff Officer  
Brendan Flynn, Senior Executive Engineer

**Guests:** Gillian McCann, Re-turn – Ireland's Deposit Return Scheme

**Press:** Padraic McMahon

### 1. Minutes of Physical Development SPC meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> November 2023

The minutes of the Physical Development SPC meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> November 2023 were proposed by Cllr Clare Colleran Molloy, seconded by Damon M. Wise and agreed.

### 2. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

### 3. Introduction to new Director of Service and restructured Physical Directorate Senior Team

Cllr John Crowe introduced and welcomed Alan Farrell as Director of Physical Development. Alan introduced the Physical Development Senior Team and thanked Siobhán McNulty for her

assistance and acknowledged the work of Seán Lenihan who has moved to the Economic Directorate.

#### **4. Presentation on Ireland's Deposit Return Scheme**

Gillian McCann, Re-turn, gave a presentation on Ireland's Deposit Return Scheme which went live on Thursday, 1<sup>st</sup> February 2024. The aim of the Scheme is to have 90% collection of plastic bottles by year 2029.

Cllr Clare Colleran Molloy asked if the smaller retailer is at a disadvantage as they may not have the capacity for a reverse vending machine.

Cllr John Crowe asked what measures were in place to help the smaller retailer.

Gillian responded that all retailers must be registered for the scheme but many of the smaller retailers have chosen to be an approved return point operator, providing a manual collection service. All retailers are paid a handling fee for operating the scheme.

#### **5. Update on Greenway Projects**

Gráinne Reddan, Senior Executive Engineer, provided an update on Clare's Greenway Projects. TII are the approving authority for Greenways in Ireland since 2022. There are several challenges regarding the delivery of Greenways in Clare including the fact that most of the land is in private ownership with over 800 private landowners involved in the West Clare Greenway.

Cllr Clare Colleran Molloy asked about the funding of Greenway Projects and Gráinne advised that they are 100% funded by TII.

Damon Matthew Wise stated that consideration must be given to people with disabilities in the design of Greenways and Gráinne confirmed that this is one of the top priorities.

Cllr Ian Lynch asked when the preferred route option for the Kilrush – Kilkee section of the West Clare Greenway would be available and Gráinne expects it will be available in April.

#### **6. Overview of the Climate Action Plan**

Morgan Lahiffe, Climate Action Co-Ordinator, outlined the progress on the adoption of the Climate Action Plan, which is now in *Stage 3 – Completion*. All the actions in the Plan are aligned against the 17 Sustainable Development Goals.

An internal steering committee will be established to help realise the ambitious targets of the plan.

**7. Update on the Draft Noise Action Plan**

Anne O’Sullivan, Senior Executive Engineer, briefed the meeting on Clare County Council’s Noise Action Plan 2024 and in response to a query from Cllr Ian Lynch confirmed that the Shannon Estuary was not identified by the EPA for inclusion in the Plan.

**8. Provisional Date for next meeting**

Tuesday, 7<sup>th</sup> May 2024, was agreed as the provisional date for the next Physical Development SPC meeting.

**9. AOB**

Theresa O’Donohoe spoke about the need to establish bus routes in Ennis before the implementation of the Ennis Town Plan and was advised that the NTA are the authority for bus routes and Carmel Kirby is the Director of Service with responsibility for Ennis Town .

The meeting then concluded.

**Signed:**

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**Cllr. John Crowe  
Chairperson**

**Signed:**

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**Liam O’Connor  
Administrative Officer**

**Date:**

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