

**PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT
STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE**

Minutes of Physical Development Strategic Policy Committee Meeting

Meeting location: Council Chamber & Microsoft Teams

Date: Monday, 28 April 2025

Time: 11.30am

PRESIDING: Councillor Turlough McGovern

PRESENT: Councillor Peggy Nolan, Councillor Martin Skelly, Councillor Uruemu Adejinmi, Councillor Pat O'Toole, Joanna Pearman, Brendan Farrell, James Kiernan, Emmet Duffy and Breda Murphy.

IN ATTENDANCE: Ms. Barbara Heslin – Director of Services
Mr. John McKeon, Director of Finance
Ms. Louise Kiernan – Senior Planner
Ms. Claire Reehill – Administrative Officer
Mr. Richard Smith – Senior Executive Officer
Mr. David Tubridy – Senior Engineer
Ms. Claire McNabola – Administrative Officer
Mr. Tomás O Maonaigh, Chief Fire Officer
Ms. Martha Kelly, Administrative Officer
Mr. Adam Mulvihill, Biodiversity Officer
Mr. Garry Brady, Climate Action Officer
Ms. Grainne Harte, Senior Executive Engineer
Mr. Bernard Shea, Senior Executive Engineer

APOLOGIES: None

MEETINGS

ADMINISTRATOR: Mr. Lorraine McKee

- 1. INTRODUCTION AND CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 17 FEBRUARY 2025**

Chairperson Councillor Turlough McGovern welcomed the members to the Physical Development Strategic Policy Committee meeting.

The minutes of the meeting of the Physical Development Strategic Policy Committee on 17 February 2025 were adopted by Councillor Peggy Nolan and seconded by Councillor Martin Skelly.

2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

No declaration of interests declared.

3. DRAFT BIODIVERSITY ACTION PLAN 2024-2029

Adam Mulvihill, Biodiversity Officer made a comprehensive presentation on the draft Biodiversity Action Plan 2024-2029. The key areas covered included the following:

- What is Biodiversity?
- Why Biodiversity is Important?
- Threats to Biodiversity
- Longford County Councils work so far
- Legislation
- Development of the Plan
- Biodiversity Working Group
- Sustainable development Goals
- Actions

The Members unanimously thanked Adam for the presentation and complemented the team on progress to date.

On the proposal of Councillor Peggy Nolan, seconded by Councillor Martin Skelly, the SPC considered the Council's Draft Biodiversity Action Plan 2024-2029 and approved Longford County Council to proceed to second consultation phase as recommended by the Heritage Council.

4. CLIMATE ACTION PLAN 2024-2029 FIRST ANNUAL REVIEW

Bernard Shea, Senior Executive Engineer made a comprehensive presentation on the County Longford Climate Action Plan 2024-2029 – Progress Review 2024, following its approval earlier in 2024. The key areas covered in the presentation included the following:

- Overview of the Longford County Council Climate Action Plan 2024–2029
- Progress highlights for 2024–2025
- Examples of Community Climate Action Projects
- Developments in New Social Housing and Housing Retrofits
- Upgrades to Public Lighting
- Initiatives in Active Travel
- Improvements to Drainage and Bridges
- Expansion of Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging Infrastructure
- Adoption of Electric Vehicles

A comprehensive review of progress under the County Longford Climate Action Plan will be made available on the Council's website.

Bernard and the Management Team addressed questions raised by the Members during the presentation. The Members unanimously thanked Bernard for the presentation and complemented the team on progress to date.

On the proposal of Councillor Martin Skelly seconded by Councillor Peggy Nolan, the SPC considered Longford County Council's first Annual Review of the Climate Action Plan 2024 – 2029 and approved it for presentation to the full Council meeting in June.

5. DRAFT LITTER MANAGEMENT PLAN 2025-2027

Richard Smith, Senior Executive Officer made a presentation on the Draft Litter Management Plan 2025-2027. The key areas in the plan included the following:

- Statutory Obligations
- Public Consultation Process
- Scope of the Plan
- Objective of the Litter Management Plan

Richard and the Team answered questions raised by the members including the issue in relation to stricter enforcement and penalties for littering offences.

On the proposal of Councillor Pat O'Toole seconded by Councillor Martin Skelly, the SPC considered the Council's Draft Litter Management Plan 2025-2027 and approved Longford County Council to proceed to consultation phase.

6. DRAFT CEMETERY BYE LAWS

Richard Smith, Senior Executive Officer made a presentation to the members on the Draft Cemetery Bye Laws. The key areas in the draft bye laws are included in the Table of Contents. The issue was raised that contractors adhere to the bye laws prior to any works being carried out. It was outlined to the members that the Environment Department would be actively enforcing the bye laws if adopted.

The Members unanimously thanked Richard for the presentation and complemented the team on progress to date.

On the proposal of Councillor Martin Skelly seconded by Councillor Peggy Nolan, the SPC considered the Council's Draft Cemetery Byelaws and approved Longford County Council to proceed to consultation phase.

7. PROPOSED EUTHANASIA OF DOGS POLICY

Richard Smith, Senior Executive Officer made a presentation on the proposed euthanasia of dog's policy. The key areas in the policy included the following:

- Purpose & Legislative Provision
- Recommendation and approval process
- Procedure and Administration

The members unanimously thanked Richard and his team for the presentation and complemented them on their work to progress this policy.

On the proposal of Councillor Peggy Nolan seconded by Councillor Pat O'Toole, the SPC considered and approved the Council's Proposed Euthanasia of Dogs Policy and recommended it for consideration and approval by the CPG at their May meeting in advance of consideration and adoption by the full Council in May.

8. PROPOSED PAID PARKING CHARGES LONGFORD TOWN

John McKeon, Director of Finance made a comprehensive presentation on the Proposed Paid Parking Charges for Longford Town. The key areas in the Strategic Business Plan – Paid Parking Pillar included the following:

- 5 Pillar Proposals = 5 Key Decisions
- Paid Parking 2025 – 2029 – Overall Proposal
- Relevant legislation
- Loan & Debt Obligations
- Paid Parking Availability – Longford Town
- Generous Grace Periods
- Regional Comparisons
- Paid Parking 20254 – Amended Charges Proposal

John McKeon answered questions and concerns raised by the members including issues in relation to the increased charges, parking concessions, regional comparisons and ringfencing the income. The members thanks John on his detailed presentation and for all the work involved by himself and his team.

On the proposal of Councillor Peggy Nolan seconded by Councillor Martin Skelly,

the SPC considered and approved the Council's Proposed Paid Parking Charges – Longford Town Policy and recommended it for consideration and approval by the CPG at their May meeting in advance of consideration and adoption by Longford Municipal District in May.

9. DRAFT FIRE SERVICE CHARGES POLICY

Barbara Heslin, Director of Services made a comprehensive presentation on the Draft Fire Service Charges Policy. The details of the presentation included:

- Purpose of the Policy
- Legislative & Other Requirements
- Key Roles and Responsibilities
- Key Principles
- Decision to Issue an Invoice
- Fire Service Charges
- Charges to Other Local Authorities
- Invoice Exceptions
- Road Traffic Accidents
- Non-Emergency Special Services
- Technical Services
- Discount for Prompt Payments
- Instalment agreements for Fire Charges
- Waiver Scheme

Director of Services Barbara Heslin answered questions raised by the members on the draft fire service charges policy. The members requested that information evening are organised to educate people on the implementation of this policy and its contents.

On the proposal of Councillor Pat O'Toole seconded by Councillor Uruemu Adejinmi, the SPC considered and approved the Council's Draft Fire Service Charges Policy and recommended it for consideration and approval by the CPG at their May meeting in advance of consideration and adoption by the full Council in May.

10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The proposed date for the next meeting of the Physical Development Strategic Policy Committee is 21 July 2025 to which the members unanimously agreed.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed: Lorraine McKee
Lorraine McKee
Meetings Administrator

Confirmed and adopted at Physical Development Strategic Policy Committee Meeting held
on the 21 July 2025

Signed: [Signature]
Chairperson