

MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE ELECTED MEMBERS OF WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL HELD VIA ZOOM ON MONDAY 2nd NOVEMBER, 2020 COMMENCING 2.00PM

PRESENT:

COUNCILLOR P. KENNEDY, CATHAOIRLEACH, COUNCILLORS. T. ANNESLEY, J. BEHAN, V. BLAKE, S. BOURKE, M. CORRIGAN, M. CREAN, A. CRONIN, S. CULLEN, G. DUNNE, E. DOYLE, A. FERRIS, P. FITZGERALD, A. FLYNN KENNEDY, T. FORTUNE, P. GLENNON, M. KAVANAGH, P. LEONARD, G. MCMANUS, D. MITCHELL, J. MULLEN, M. MURPHY, J. NEARY, D. O'BRIEN, P. O'BRIEN, R. O'CONNOR, G. O'NEILL, L. SCOTT, J. SNELL, E. TIMMINS, G. WALSH AND I. WINTERS.

IN ATTENDANCE:

**MR. F. CURRAN, CHIEF EXECUTIVE
MS. L. GALLAGHER, DIRECTOR OF SERVICES/ MEETINGS ADMINISTRATOR
MR. B. GLEESON, HEAD OF FINANCE
MR. J. LANE, DIRECTOR OF SERVICES
MS. B. KILKENNY, DIRECTOR OF SERVICES
MR. M. NICHOLSON, DIRECTOR OF SERVICES
MR. C. LAVERY, DIRECTOR OF SERVICES
MS. D. KENNEDY, LAW AGENT
MS. H. DENNEHY, SENIOR EXECUTIVE OFFICER
MS. C. FLOOD, SENIOR EXECUTIVE OFFICER
MS. J. CARROLL, SENIOR EXECUTIVE OFFICER
MR. J. SEXTON, EXECUTIVE SCIENTIST
MS. G. WHITTY, ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER
MR. J. CALLERY, ASSISTANT ENVIRONMENT AWARENESS OFFICER
MS. G. LANG, ASSISTANT STAFF OFFICER**

ROLL CALL: The meeting commenced with an elected members roll call by the Meetings Administrator.

ITEM NO. 1

To consider the Chief Executive's Monthly Management Report, October, 2020.

Elected Members were circulated with the Chief Executive's Monthly Management Report, for the month of October 2020 on 28th October, 2020. The Chief Executive updated the elected members on Council activities and updated the Elected Members in relation to business continuity during Covid 19. He advised that the rates waiver scheme to assist business had been extended to the end of the year and that the Council is awaiting confirmation on funding in relation to compensation for lack of income in certain areas. He advised that the Community call initiative is running again from 8.00 a.m. to 8.00 p.m. and updated the members in relation to the government's '*Keep Well campaign*' comprising three areas; *Keep Active, Staying connected, switching off* and *Being Creative, eating well and minding your mood*.

The Chief Executive advised that the supported homeless facility in Bray is up and running and that the Solas facility in Wicklow town should be ready for occupation shortly. He updated the elected members in relation to the housing schemes currently underway and the projects and campaigns being undertaken by the Enterprise Unit, mentioning Wicklow Naturally and the Eco Trails, both of which had been highlighted on RTE's recent Nationwide Programme. He advised that work has

commenced on the development of a tourism master plan for Glendalough along with Failte Ireland, OPW, NPWS and Wicklow County Council and that they will be invited along to the next Council meeting to make a presentation to the elected members.

Elected Members raised the following questions which were responded to by the Chief Executive and the relevant Director of Services:

- When will the housing development in Dunlavin be ready for tenant occupation
- Responses to questions submitted by elected members to Irish Water are still awaited.
- Issues highlighted in relation to Broadband in County Wicklow and what is the current position in relation to the recruitment of a broad band officer.
- What is the position with regard to the rent arrears figures.
- What is the position with regard to the recruitment of a Harbour Master for Arklow.
- What is the position with regard to the County Development Plan process and time frame
- Are there proposals to introduce charges for recycling centres?
- Additional information sought in relation to housing accommodation for single men in the Chief Executives report
- What are the grants available under the healthy Ireland Initiative.
- Reference made to the Greystones Transport Study and query as to the timeline on the Study
- Is there up to date information on the preferred option assessment for the N11/M11 improvement scheme.
- Bus priority scheme welcomed, however there are issues around the Glen of the Downs which needs to be resolved.
- Are the waste management complaints up over previous years.
- What is the completion date for the rapid build in Carnew
- The decision to keep the carpark at Brittas bay open for the winter welcomed and Council requested to keep the litter situation monitored
- Reference made to the dark evenings and the hour change and that there are a number of lights not working around Wicklow Town.
- Is there any update on information on a proposed Greenway plan for Wicklow Town to Greystones.

ITEM NO. 2

To receive a presentation: SEE renewables.

The Cathaoirleach welcomed representatives of SEE renewables to the meeting. Mr. Barry Kilcline, Director of Development, Mr. James O'Hara and Ms. Deborah Coleman gave a presentation covering the following areas and answered the Elected Members questions:

- Arklow Bank Wind Park Phase 2 Public Consultation
- SSE Renewables
- About the project
- Project Timeline
- Offshore grid infrastructure
- Substation
- Operations and Maintenance Facility
- Fisheries
- Supporting the Community
- Public consultation and EIA

At the conclusion of the presentation the Cathaoirleach thanked representatives from SEE and advised that the Council looked forward to working with them in the future to bring the project forward.

ITEM NO. 3

To update the members on the development of a mapping tool to record projects and actions that deliver on Sustainable Development Goals.

Mr. James Callery, Assistant Environment Awareness Officer, Wicklow County Council, gave a presentation to the Elected Members covering the following areas and responded to queries raised.

- Making the Sustainable Development Goals more visible in Wicklow: Mapping Actions that deliver on the Sustainable Development Goals.
- Climate Action Charter
- Partners in this project
 - Environmental Awareness Office
 - Wicklow Public Participation Network
 - GIS Officer
 - Saolta – a consortium of organisations including AONTAS, Irish Rural Link, Concern Worldwide, Maynooth’s Adult and Community Development Department and Development Perspectives.
- SDG delivering the three Pillar of Sustainable Development
- Climate Action targets and indicators
- Mapping information
- Search specific goals
- Online Form
- Administration
- Public View
- Some examples of how we adhere to the SDGs as an organisation
 - Library Service
 - Student Entrepreneur programme
 - Social Housing energy retrofitting
 - Local sports partnership
 - Wicklow Naturally

ITEM NO. 4

To update the members on Water Quality in County Wicklow – An analysis of EPA Report for County Wicklow – Water Quality in Ireland 2015-2018.

Mr. Jonathan Sexton, Executive Scientist, Wicklow County Council, gave a presentation to the Elected Members covering the following areas and responded to Elected Members questions:

- Water Quality in Co. Wicklow
- Water Quality in Ireland report 2013-2018
- % Waterbodies at Good or High Status by County
- Current Water Quality in Wicklow
- Current Water Quality Status Map – catchments.ie
- Waters Improving in Wicklow since 2015: Ecological Status Trends 2013 - 2018
- Waters Deteriorating In Wicklow since 2015
- Pressures on water quality nationally
- Wicklow pressures by % of Waterbodies affected

- Trends in nitrogen emissions to water, total cattle and nitrogen fertilizer sales from 1990 to 2018
- Wicklow County Council - Protect & Restore
- What Happens Next
- Map: Proposed areas for action 2022 – 2027
- WCC proposals for 3rd cycle WFT
- Example of Local catchment assessment – Vartry_10

ITEM NO. 5

To approve a temporary overdraft accommodation of €20m for the financial year ending 31st December, 2021.

Elected Members were circulated with a letter from Mr. Brian Gleeson, Head of Finance, requesting the approval of a temporary overdraft accommodation of €20m for the financial year ending 31st December, 2021. The meetings administrator advised that this required a formal resolution of the Council and that a special meeting by quorum was scheduled to take place the next day to formally ratify the resolution. It was proposed by Cllr. S. Bourke, seconded by Cllr. V. Blake and agreed to approve a temporary overdraft accommodation of 20m for the financial year 31st December, 2021.

ITEM NO. 6

Update: Ministerial Order – Online Council Meetings.

Elected members were circulated with the Ministerial Order dated 21st October, 2020 on 28th October, 2020 and guidelines on the preparation of supplementary standing orders to regulate on line meetings. The Meetings Administrator advised that it was a matter for elected members of each local authority to decide if and how meetings of the Council will be held remotely and where the elected members take such a decision then the supplementary standing orders to regulate those online meetings should be considered and adopted to run alongside the existing standing orders. She advised that it was intended to discuss the guidelines at protocol meeting following the Council meeting and to refer same to the Corporate Policy Group with a view to considering the matter at the December Council meeting. She referred to the newly refurbished Council Chamber which was practically complete and that there was a mechanism in the guidelines to allow for 'hybrid' meetings that is a combination of both remote participation at the meeting and members participating in the physical space of the Council Chamber.

Update to the Elected Member on New Customer Care Innovation Hub, refurbishment works to the Foyer and refurbishment of the Council Chamber: Ms. Gemma Whitty, Administrative Officer, Customer Services update the elected members in relation to the works to the Council Chamber, foyer and elected members rooms as well as the new customer care innovation hub as follows:-

- New Wurzburg Room: The former motor tax area has been demolished and cleared, the new wall of Wurzburg room has been erected and electrical works currently ongoing.
- The Customer Service Innovation Hub is now open and operational staffed by a highly trained Customer Service Advisors and incorporates all public counters.
- The service is supported by a Microsoft Dynamics Customer relationship System recording cases for customer queries.
- All elected members representations and requests will be managed centrally logged to the CRM system.
- The Council chamber is well underway, Council Chamber roof is repaired and insulation works complete, new raised floor has been fitted and carpet has been laid. Acoustic wall panels have been fitted as well as electrical and system works commenced.

The Cathaoirelach thanked Ms. Whitty for her presentation and commended the works done to date. In relation to online meetings and the supplementary standing orders in draft form the view was expressed:-

- That there should be a sunset clause that this is an emergency situation and any change should be an emergency measure.
- On line meetings should be supported going forward which will assist elected members who have children or elected members on maternity leave. It might also encourage more females to get involved in politics.
- Remote meetings are beneficial and should ensure that the public and the press are in attendance and it should be a challenge in the space that we have in the chamber.
- Reference made to the seating and that there should be one or two aisle seating in place to assist people with mobility issues or back issues.

ITEM NO. 7

Elected Members Public Liability and Personal Accident Schemes, Renewal 2021.

Elected Members were circulated with the Public Liability and Personal Accident Schemes, Renewal 2021 on 22nd October 2020. Ms. L. Gallagher advised that this item was for noting and that Members should contact Ms. G. Lang, Assistant Staff Officer regarding their preferred options.

ITEM NO. 8

Correspondence

- Elected Members noted that the Wicklow County Council Budget meeting will be held on 23rd November, 2020.
- Elected Members noted that the Budget workshop was scheduled to take place on the afternoon of the 4th of November, 2020 on zoom.
- Elected members noted that a special meeting of the Wicklow County Council Joint Policing Committee meeting will be held on the 11th November, 2020 welcoming Commissioner Drew Harris to the online meeting.

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING

**CLLR. PAT KENNEDY
CATHAOIRLEACH
WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL**

**MS. LORRAINE GALLAGHER
DIRECTOR OF SERVICES/
MEETINGS ADMINISTRATOR**

Confirmed at meeting of Wicklow County Council held on Friday 11th December, 2020