

MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNTY BUILDINGS, WICKLOW ON MONDAY 4th MARCH, 2019, COMMENCING 2PM

PRESENT:

COUNCILLOR P. VANCE, CATHAOIRLEACH, COUNCILLORS J. BEHAN, V. BLAKE, S. BOURKE, T. CULLEN, S. CULLEN, P. DORAN, G. DUNNE, P. FITZGERALD, T. FORTUNE, C. FOX, M. KAVANAGH, P. KENNEDY, N. LAWLESS, S. MATTHEWS, G. MCLOUGHLIN, D. MITCHELL, D. NOLAN, O. O'BRIEN, D. O'BRIEN, G. O'NEILL, J. RUTTLE, J. RYAN, J. SNELL, B. THORNHILL, E. TIMMINS, G. WALSH AND I. WINTERS.

APOLOGIES:

COUNCILLORS T. ANNESLEY, M. MCDONALD, M. MURPHY AND J. WHITMORE.

IN ATTENDANCE:

**MR. F. CURRAN, CHIEF EXECUTIVE
MR. S. QUIRKE, DIRECTOR OF SERVICES
MR. J. LANE, DIRECTOR OF SERVICES
MR. T. MURPHY, DIRECTOR OF SERVICES
MR. M. NICHOLSON, DIRECTOR OF SERVICES
MR. M. GEANEY, A/DIRECTOR OF SERVICES
MR. B. GLEESON, HEAD OF FINANCE
MR. L. FITZPATRICK, HEAD OF IS
MS. L. GALLAGHER, SENIOR EXECUTIVE OFFICER/MEETINGS ADMINISTRATOR
MS. C. FLOOD, SENIOR EXECUTIVE OFFICER
MS. S. WALSH, SENIOR PLANNER
MS. B. KILKENNY, SENIOR ENGINEER
MR. F. KEOGH, SENIOR ENGINEER
MR. D. MARNANE, A/SENIOR ENGINEER
MS. M. HARTNETT, SENIOR RESIDENT ENGINEER
MS. J. CARROLL, SENIOR EXECUTIVE OFFICER
MS. A. MINION, ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER
MR. D. KEYES, ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER
MR. T. HUGHES, IT SUPPORT
MS. K. BOYLE, IT SUPPORT
MR. D. O'BRIEN, EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
MR. C. PAGE, ASSISTANT ENGINEER
MS. G. LANG, ASSISTANT STAFF OFFICER**

Request to film in the Council Chamber: L. Gallagher advised that the Access and Disability Officer for Wicklow County Council has commenced the process of creating a series of videos for the Council's website to inform the public on access issues and as part of the process permission to film the Council in session with text streaming was requested, in accordance with standing orders, for a couple of minutes at the beginning of the meeting. This was agreed by the Members.

Votes of Sympathy: Elected Members passed a vote of sympathy to the families of the late Mr. Pat Doyle, former Senator Noel Mulcahy, Mr. John Annesley, Mr. Stephen O'Byrne, Ms. Eileen Doyle, Mr. Michael Murphy, Mr. Liam Gahan, Mrs. Eileen McBain and Mr. William Kelly. A minutes silence was observed for the deceased.

Request for update KWETB: Cllr. T. Fortune requested an update in relation to the situation at the KWETB. The Cathaoirleach advised that if An Gardai Siochana are in the process of carrying out any type of investigation into the KWETB, it would not be discussed in the chamber, as agreed by the elected members previously.

Suspension of Standing Orders: Cllr. B. Thornhill advised that he was withdrawing the request for standing orders submitted to the Cathaoirleach and the Meetings Administrator. This was noted.

ITEM NO. 1

To confirm and sign minutes of ordinary meeting of Wicklow County Council held on Monday 14th January, 2019

It was proposed by Cllr. Gail Dunne, seconded by Cllr. Shay Cullen and agreed to confirm and sign the minutes of ordinary meeting of Wicklow County Council held on Monday 14th January, 2019, as circulated.

ITEM NO. 2

To confirm and sign minutes of ordinary meeting of Wicklow County Council held on Monday 4th February, 2019.

It was proposed by Cllr. John Snell, seconded by Cllr. S. Matthews and agreed to confirm and sign the minutes of ordinary meeting of Wicklow County Council held on Monday 4th February, 2019, as circulated.

ITEM NO. 3

To consider the disposal of the freehold interest in the property 30 Beechwood Park, Kilcoole, Co. Wicklow to Mr. Emmett Killeen, 30 Beechwood Park, Kilcoole, Co. Wicklow.

It was proposed by Cllr. Tom Fortune, seconded by Cllr. N. Lawless and agreed to dispose of the freehold interest in the property, 30 Beechwood Park, Kilcoole, Co. Wicklow to Mr. Emmett Killeen, 30 Beechwood Park, Kilcoole, Co. Wicklow as set out in statutory notice circulated.

ITEM NO 4

To consider the disposal of the freehold interest in the property comprised in Folio No. WW11164L – being 8 Knockenrahan, Arklow, Co. Wicklow to Ms. Gabrielle Barrett (otherwise Ms. Gaye Patton) the personal representative of Kenneth Patton, deceased, 8 Knockenrahan, Arklow, Co. Wicklow.

It was proposed by Cllr. Pat Fitzgerald, seconded by Cllr. Pat Kennedy and agreed to dispose of the freehold interest in the property comprised in Folio No. WW11164L – being 8 Knockenrahan, Arklow, Co. Wicklow to Ms. Gabrielle Barrett (otherwise Ms. Gaye Patton) the personal representative of Kenneth Patton, deceased, 8 Knockenrahan, Arklow, Co. Wicklow as set out in statutory notice circulated.

ITEM NO. 5

To receive a presentation by Ms. Anne Graham, CEO, National Transport Authority

The Cathaoirleach welcomed Ms. Anne Graham, CEO, National Transport Authority and Mr. Hugh Creegan, Deputy CEO. Ms. Graham gave a presentation to the Elected Members covering the following areas and responded to queries raised:

THE NTA - What we do

- Bus, Rail & Light Rail Services
- Taxi & Bus Licensing
- Investment Projects
- Integration and Technology
- Transport Planning and Policy
- Personal Travel Choices

Statutorily responsible for a wide range of functions including:

- Delivery of public transport services nationally
- Regulation of commercial bus routes nationally
- National taxi regulation
- National public transport information and ticketing
- Transport planning and capital investment in public transport in Greater Dublin Area

Technology and integration

- National intermodal online journey planner and app has been completed
- Real Time Passenger Information signs & app available at www.transportforireland.ie
- Integrated ticketing via our Leap card

Public transport improvements

- Additional services
- Improved reliability & punctuality
- Improved information at stops
- Transport for Ireland brand developed as the unifying brand

Key Projects

- BusConnects €2.4bn
- DART Expansion €2bn
- Metrolink €3bn
- Cycling Infrastructure

BusConnects: What is it?

- A network of “Next Generation” Bus Corridors
- Complete Redesign of Bus Network
- State of the art Ticketing System
- Simpler Fare Structure
- Cashless Payment System
- Park and Ride Facilities
- New Bus Livery
- New Bus Stops and Shelters
- Use of low emission vehicles

Redesigning the Bus Network

- With over 130 routes (excluding Nitelink and Expresso) the current system of bus routes is complex, radially focussed and with limited orbital connections.
- The system is not designed to allow easy interchange between services.
- Under BusConnects we will undertake a major redesign of the bus network.

- The objective of this redesign is to make the system more efficient and to carry more passengers to more places for broadly the same cost as the current system.

BusConnects – Why we need it?

- Address congestion
- Enable population growth
- Allow economic growth
- Support housing development

The Benefits it will bring: For bus users

- Time Savings: Bus journey time savings of up to 40-50%
- Reliability: Reliable and punctual bus services
- Capacity: Increased capacity to carry a 50% uplift on current 140 million passengers per year. Faster journey times means the same bus fleet can operate more services.

Target Road Layout

However, our roads and streets make it challenging to deliver this layout. To achieve dedicated bus lanes & cycle tracks requires difficult decisions, including:

- Loss of portions of gardens and driveways
- Traffic changes
- Reduction of on-street parking
- Removal of trees Mitigation measures will include rebuilt walls/driveways/gardens, payment of compensation, a major tree planting programme and public realm improvements at key local centres

The Benefits it will bring: For Cycling and Urban Centres

Cycling: BusConnects is the single biggest cycling infrastructure plan in the history of the state – 200kms of cycle tracks/lanes will be provided.

- **Greater Dublin Area Cycle Network Plan:** Delivery of the BusConnects corridors will provide the foundation of the overall Greater Dublin Area cycle network plan.
- **Improved urban centres:** BusConnects offers the opportunity to enhance some local centres and provide additional landscaping plus outdoor amenities at suitable local centres as part of the project.

Park and Ride

- Bus-based Park & Ride will supplement the network of rail-based Park & Ride sites.
- A number of potential locations have been identified along the key radial road routes in Dublin & Wicklow - more locations may be added
- Will be integrated into the Bus Network Review to optimise efficiency

Next steps in delivery of NDP

- BusConnects
- Publication of Dublin bus network in Q2 2019 for public consultation
- Develop detailed designs for 16 bus corridors following extensive consultation with planning application in 2020
- Commence procurement of low emission bus fleet
- Prepare procurement plan for Account based ticketing
- Metrolink

- Consultation on Preferred route followed by planning application in 2020
- DART Expansion
- Commence procurement of a combination of fully electric and bi-mode fleet for expansion of rail services
- Develop electrification programme

Improving funded public transport services

EU Regulation 1370/2007 & DTA Act 2008 governs public transport contracts State companies provide the majority of subsidised public transport

- Iarnród Éireann for rail
- Dublin Bus – bus services in the Dublin region
- Bus Éireann – bus services nationally 10% of subsidised bus services provided by other operators such as GoAhead Ireland & JJ Kavanagh 10% of bus services provided on a fully commercial basis
- No public subsidy provided
- Mainly intercity services

Direct Award Contracts with Bus Éireann, Dublin Bus and Irish Rail since 1st Dec 2009.

- Renewed in Dec 2014 (for bus services)
- Not competitively tendered Periodic & Quarterly Performance reporting
- Funding conditional on meeting performance targets
- Reports available for public examination **Reliability** and **punctuality** targets continually strengthened for all operators. Also
- Enhanced reporting on various customer service issues
- Moving from self reporting to Authority generated reports Authority regulates the public transport fares

Rural Transport Services

- Budget of €16.5m includes €1.5m from Dept. of Social Protection
- 80% Demand Responsive services
- 2 million passenger journeys per year across state

Developed a central booking service with a Driver app and an online booking facility

- Developed a brand & website – Locallink.ie
- Local link office service tendered – no changes in service provider for Wicklow

25 Demand-responsive services in Wicklow

- 5 pilot evening services
- New 183 Glendalough – Roundwood – Wicklow Town Scheduled Bus Service to be launched this month (integrating with train)

Small Public Service Vehicle (Taxis) Regulation

SPSV vehicles: 24% reduction since 2008: 27,429 vehicles in 2008 to 20,733 vehicles end 2018

SPSV drivers: 44% reduction since 2009: 47,529 drivers in 2009 to 26,405 drivers at end 2018

- Most reduction in economic downturn
- Has stabilised in recent years but overall number not growing despite:
- NTA recruitment campaign
- Fares Increases
- Cost of insurance – prohibitive

Response to Challenges in Wicklow County's Geography

- Road Congestion
 - N11/M11 – engage with TII on potential for widening to provide for bus priority
 - Within towns – bus priority where possible
 - BusConnects – Bray Corridor
- Single Rail track – feasibility study on track changes between Greystones and Bray to assess potential for 20 minute DART service to be completed this month
- Additional rail services south of Greystones subject to additional fleet
 - NTA recognises that public transport to and from Wicklow is not optimal
 - We will continue to work with our operators and the county council to raise the quality and frequency of services

Elected Members raised the following queries:-

- Basic problem for transport in County Wicklow is that the rail lines out of Greystones is empty at rush hour, there is only one train at rush hour.
- The N11 is massively over full and there are not sufficient carriages on trains
- Park and ride for Greystones is full and an expansion is required.
- Concern express in relation to the N81 regarding safety and upgrading required
- What is the current position in relation to the rural link scheme and the rural transport scheme.
- Call for better rail service for Kilcoole
- Call for the LUAS to be extended from Saggart to Blessington

ITEM NO 6

To receive the Annual Report 2018 of Wicklow County Council Audit Committee

The Cathaoirleach welcomed Mr. Tom Gregan, Chairman of the Audit committee along with Ms. Mary Savage, committee member. Apologies were received on behalf of Mr. Noel Gregan who had to leave to attend another appointment. Mr. T. Gregan Chairman presented the report to the elected members as set out hereunder:-

To the Cathaoirleach & Each Member of Wicklow County Council

RE: WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL AUDIT COMMITTEE - ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT FOR THE PERIOD UP TO THE 31ST DECEMBER 2018

Dear Councillor,

Thank you for the opportunity to address the Council here today on the work of the Wicklow County Council Audit Committee for the twelve month period up to 31st December 2018.

As you are aware, the scale, complexity and diversity of Local Government business as well as the need for transparency and accountability in local authorities serves to highlight the importance of regularly reviewing the effectiveness of the internal financial and operating controls that are in place.

The Wicklow County Council Audit Committee was initially established in 2007 under the Local Government (Business Improvement Districts) Act 2005 and was re-established after the May 2014 local elections.

The membership of this committee comprises:

- Mr. Tom Gregan, Chairman
- Mr. Noel Geraghty, Vice Chairman
- Ms. Mary Savage
- Cllr. Edward Timmins
- Cllr. Gerry Walsh

The committee is supported and assisted by Mr. Brian Gleeson, Head of Finance, Mr. D. Keyes and Mr. T. Murphy and meets on a formal basis 5/6 times per year.

In addition to the formal meetings, the Audit Committee members also attend other meetings throughout the year in relation to the comprehensive annual work programme.

The role of the Audit Committee is to advise the Council on financial reporting processes, internal controls, risk management and audit matters.

The functions of the Audit Committee include:

- To foster the development of best practice in the performance by the local authority of its internal audit function
- To review the financial and budgetary reporting practices and procedures within the local authority
- To review any audited financial statement, auditor's report or auditor's special report in relation to the local authority and assess any actions taken within that authority by its Chief Executive in response to such a statement or report and report its findings to the authority
- To review systems that are operated by the Local Authority for the management of risks
- To assess and promote efficiency and value for money with respect to the Local Authority's performance of its functions
- To review the findings and recommendations of the National Oversight & Audit Commission (NOAC) and the response of the Chief Executive to these and to take further actions as appropriate

Internal Audit Assignments for 2018: Following a tendering process in early 2018 CrowleysDFK were appointed in March by Wicklow County Council to provide internal audit services to the Council.

All audits are assigned an "Assurance Rating" which is an objective assessment of the control environment operating in the area under review. Assurance ratings and their significance are categorised under four headings as follows

Assurance Level	Description
Full	Key controls have been adequately designed and are operating effectively to deliver the objectives of the system, function or process.

Significant	There are some minor weaknesses in the design and/or operation of controls. However, either their impact would be minimal or they would be unlikely to occur. Findings mainly relate to matters such as system enhancements, procedural changes or minor control deficiencies that do not expose the organisation to significant risk but can result in improved efficiency.
Reasonable	There are some weaknesses in the design and/or operation of controls which could impair the achievement of the objectives of the system, function or process. However, weaknesses noted do not expose the organisation to significant risk or result in a material financial loss.
Limited	There are material weaknesses in the design and operation of controls which could have a significant impact on the achievement of programme objectives and may result in a financial loss.

The following audits were undertaken during the course of 2018:

Review of Payroll Systems and Controls

The objective of this audit was to conduct an independent assessment of the accuracy of Wicklow County Council's payroll processing and to review the effectiveness of the current controls for Payroll in place against best practice.

Our work reported no high risk findings that may result in a material financial loss or operational disruption to Wicklow County Council. The controls tested are operating effectively.

Our assessment indicates that reasonable assurance can be placed on the sufficiency and operation of internal controls to mitigate and/or manage key inherent risks that the payroll process could be exposed to.

Accounts Payable

The objective of this audit was to conduct an independent assessment on the accuracy of Wicklow County Council's accounts payable processing and the effectiveness of the current control environment for Accounts Payables against recognised best practice.

Our review reported a number of findings however it is important to note that the points identified would not give rise to any financial loss or operational disruption to Wicklow County Council. Our assessment indicates that the current control in operation provide a reasonable assurance to Wicklow County Council in mitigating the relevant risks.

Management have accepted the recommendations made on foot of this report.

Review of Stores & Machinery Yard Operations and Value for Money: The objectives of this review was to:

- Review the operational effectiveness of Stores and Machinery Yard.
- Assess the contribution of the Stores and the Machinery Yard to Wicklow County Council's core operations on a cost benefit basis.
- Review the funding model of the Stores and Machinery Yard.
- Review the viability of the Stores and Machinery Yard as a going concern.

Management are currently considering the findings which will be reported in full to the Council in due course.

Pre-Letting Repair Costs: The objectives of this audit are to:

- Review in-house policies; and in particular assess progress in relation to the recommendations outlined in Value for Money Study No.27 –Management and Maintenance of Vacant Dwellings in Local Authorities.
- Examine Wicklow County Council’s comparative turn-around times and cost base
- Test compliance with procurement rules

The fieldwork in respect of this review has now been completed and a draft report is currently being prepared.

Report to National Oversight & Audit Commission – Public Spending Code Quality Assurance Report: Internal Audit in collaboration with the Procurement Section completed the annual Quality Assurance Report as part of Wicklow County Council’s compliance with the Public Spending Code (PSC).

The Public Spending Code requires that a number of projects are selected for review in accordance with the objectives of the Public Spending Code. The report submitted included the required “In-Depth Checks” on the following areas.

Public Lighting – Energy Supply & Maintenance 2017

Audit Objective: To provide an independent opinion on compliance with the Public Spending Code and to provide assurance that the expenditure incurred is appropriately managed and correctly accounted for.

Findings: Internal audit reviewed the scheme in conjunction with the Procurement Section. The scheme is closely monitored by an Executive Engineer who has extensive knowledge of the operation of the scheme. All relevant documentation was made available. Following the review Internal Audit is of the opinion that the scheme complies with the standards set out in the Public Spending Code.

Audit Opinion: The opinion of Internal Audit following the review is that this scheme is closely and well monitored and managed. Accordingly the overall conclusion of the review is that management and oversight of the Public Lighting – Energy Supply & Maintenance scheme is such, so as to provide, significant assurance that there is compliance with the Public Spending Code.

Local Authority Housing Development at Delany Park, Arklow

Audit Objective: To provide an independent opinion on compliance with the Public Spending Code and to provide assurance that the expenditure incurred is appropriately managed and correctly accounted for.

Findings: Internal Audit reviewed the project in conjunction with the Procurement Section. Although the scheme is outsourced to external consultants, it is closely monitored by the Housing Department. All relevant documentation was made available and is accessible for any future evaluation of the scheme.

Audit Opinion: The opinion of Internal Audit following the review is that this scheme is satisfactorily monitored and managed. The processes and procedures employed on the scheme satisfy the requirements set out for the management of public expenditure. Accordingly this review concludes that the manner in which the scheme is being implemented provides significant assurance that there is compliance with the Public Spending Code.

Annual Audit Plan: The Annual Audit Plan sets out the proposed assignments for the coming year. The plan has been finalised following consultation with the Chief Executive, Directors of Service/Heads of Function and the list of assignments reflects the ongoing objectives of achieving efficiencies in our processes, adding value, assessing compliance and contributing towards the organisations strategic objectives. Progress on these assignments will be reported to the Council in due course.

Meeting with the Local Government Auditor: We were pleased to welcome Mr Daragh McMahan, Local Government Auditor to our December meeting.

The Members were circulated with a copy of the Statutory Audit Report 2017 from the Local Government Auditor in advance of the meeting. The Local Government Auditor outlined the main elements of the Statutory Audit Report 2017 to the committee.

Following a general discussion on the matter, the Audit Committee agreed to give the Statutory Audit Report further consideration at a meeting that took place last month. In this regard, I wish to confirm that the Report's contents, Management Responses and follow up actions will inform the Audit Committee's work programme in the year ahead. The matters raised in the Local Government Auditor's report will inform, in part, the review which the Audit Committee undertakes annually with each Director of Services.

Procurement: The Members will be aware that good procurement practices are crucial from a transparency and efficiency perspective. In this regard, the Audit Committee has been a strong advocate for continual improvements to the Council's procurement practices and procedures.

At our December meeting, Ms. Fiona Flynn, Procurement Officer, made a presentation to the Audit Committee on this issue and we note and welcome the significant progress made by the Council in this area. The Audit Committee will of course continue to advocate the importance of good procurement practices. The Committee acknowledges the continued roll-out of Low Value Purchase Cards which are resulting in improved payment times for suppliers and reduced administration costs in invoice processing.

Training Day: Regulation 5 of the Local Government (Audit Committee) Regulations 2014, requires that the training needs of the Audit Committee are reviewed on an annual basis and reported to the local authority. I can advise the members that a training day was arranged in November in collaboration with the Institute of Public Administration. The key themes addressed were

- The responsibilities of Local Government Audit Committees
- Corporate Governance update
- NOAC and Audit Committees
- Audit Committees & Risk Management
- Audit Committees – Contributing to Local Government Governance

In addition Audit Committee members attended a seminar for finance professionals at the Institute on Enhancing Public Performance. This included speakers from the Department of Public Expenditure & Reform and the National Oversight and Audit Commission.

Annual Work Programme: The Committee's annual work programme involves regular meetings throughout the year. The annual work programme may be summarised as follows.

- Periodic meetings as required by statutory regulation
- Consideration and approval of the annual internal audit plan
- Dedicated meetings with the members of the management team
- Annual training day
- Consideration of internal audit reports including those prepared in connection with the Public Spending Code
- Consideration of reports issued by the National Oversight and Audit Commission (NOAC)
- Consideration of relevant Departmental Value for Money reports
- A review of the Annual Financial Statement
- Meeting with the Local Government Auditor and consideration of the Statutory Audit Report

The members of Wicklow County Council can be assured of the Committee's energetic and on-going commitment to these important tasks.

The Annual Work Programme is submitted for adoption by the Local Authority in accordance with Section 9 of the Local Government (Audit Committee) Regulations 2014.

Conclusion: On behalf of the members of the Audit Committee I would like to thank you, the Members of Wicklow County Council for your ongoing support and assistance. We would also like to acknowledge the support of the Chief Executive, Mr. Frank Curran, along with the members of his Management Team and the Internal Audit Unit.

In addition, we would like to thank Mr Daragh McMahon, Local Government Auditor, for his advice and assistance.

We would like to assure the members of our ongoing commitment and that the Audit Committee will continue to focus its attentions on significant matters such as value for money, promoting good accounting practices, information management, and ensuring better and more informed decision making.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity, on behalf of the Audit Committee to wish the Chief Executive and the Management Team, every success in their efforts in the year ahead and we look forward to working with you constructively towards the achievement of your objectives.

Chairman
Wicklow County Council Audit Committee

At the conclusion of the presentation the Elected Members made the following contributions and expressed their views:-

- Review of stores/machinery yard operation and value for money: When will the elected members be aware of the findings?
- Pre letting repairs, when will the draft report be available?

In relation to the review of stores Mr. B. Gleeson, Head of Finance advised that the draft report has been produced and has been forwarded to the Roads Department, having responsibility for stores. When responses have been collated the findings of those responses will be considered by the Senior Management Team and subsequently the Audit committee. In relation to pre-letter it is hoped that a report will be available in the next two to three weeks.

ITEM NO 7

To consider the Chief Executive's Monthly Management Report, February 2019.

Elected Members were circulated with Chief Executive's Monthly Management Report, February 2018 on the 27th February, 2019.

Irish Refugee Protection Programme: The Chief Executive advised, by way of background, that the Irish Government has given a commitment to resettle some 4,000 refugee and asylum seekers and that County Wicklow had been given an allocation of 38 families. He advised that the persons granted refugee status will be entitled to the same range of services as Irish citizens and in this regard an Interagency Committee has been established in County Wicklow, chaired by Michael Nicholson, Director of Services, CCSD, to see that the necessary supports are in place prior to receiving the families. This was noted by the elected members.

In relation to the Chief Executive's report the following queries were raised:-

- Query as to the closure of the Irish Water Capital Scheme office in Wicklow County council and the decision to reassign two engineers to other duties, the effect of which, according to Irish Water representatives at the Councillors clinics that morning was a slow down on the work that could be done in relation to capital projects in County Wicklow.
- What is the position with regard to the adoption of the Climate Change Adaption Strategy and when will it come before the elected members.
- Query as to the progression of small schemes throughout the county
- Query as to the possibility of reallocation of staff to get projects over the line

Mr. Michael Geaney, A/Director of Services responded to the queries around the staffing of Irish water office in Wicklow, the Service Level Agreement in place until 2025 and the understanding the Irish Water was to be regionalising their office to County Meath and the implications for staff in Wicklow County Council. The Chief Executive advised that it was his understanding that Irish Water would be providing staff to their own centralised offices and that he would look into the matter to see if any projects for County Wicklow are being held up.

In relation to the adoption of the Climate Change Adaption Strategy the elected members were advised that Wicklow county Council is part of a group of 17 local authorities that come under the

Climate Action Regional Office based in Kildare and that national policy will feed into local policy and that the draft plan will be presented to the Council prior to going on public display.

ITEM NO 8

To consider the Wicklow County Council 3 year Capital Programme 2019-2021:

Elected Members were circulated with the Wicklow County Council 3 year Capital Programme 2019-2021 document on 1st March, 2019.

The Chief Executive referred to the circulation of the 3 year capital programme and advised that the figures contained therein are indicative of the monies that will be spent on capital projects over the next three year period. He advised that this will change depending on match funding from other sources.

The Elected Members raised the following points which were responded to by the Chief Executive.

- Although welcomed, how realistic is the proposal for the provision of a swimming pool in Blessington and the Baltinglass town centre traffic amendment?
- View expressed in relation to Greystones and Kilcoole that there are a substantial number of housing units developed, the population is catching up with Bray and that well over 30% of the development contributions are being collected in the area, however in terms of roads, which is the greatest deficit in infrastructure in that area, only 4% of the development levies are being spent in the Greystones/Kilcoole area. View expressed that this is unacceptable. Particular reference made to the Delgany and Blacklion Road.
- Will funding be available in the Capital programme to fund a transport study for Arklow if funding is not available from elsewhere.?
- Query as to the rate of development contributions in County Wicklow for employment generating development as opposed to the contributions payable in County Wexford which are much lower by comparison. Example given of one business considering moving to Gorey to save at least €100,000 in development contributions on an expansion project.
- Request for elaboration on the plans for Wicklow County Campus.

At the conclusion of the discussion Cllr. D. Mitchell and Cllr. G. McLoughlin asked for it to be recorded that they could not support the capital programme as presented.

ITEM NO 9

To note NOAC Local Authority Performance Indicator Report, 2017

Elected Members were circulated with NOAC Local Authority Indicator Report, 2017 on the 27th February, 2019. Mr. T. Murphy advised that this is the fourth performance indicator report to be published by NOAC. He advised that the Corporate Plan provides the context and framework for the council's Annual Service Delivery Plan, the next item on the agenda for consideration and that the Annual Service Delivery Plan sets out in detail the services to be provide, the standards to be expected and how the services will be monitored and measured. He advised in relation to the performance indicators applicable to local authorities and Wicklow County Councils performance nationally. In conclusion he advised that the Senior Management Team had considered the report as well as the Corporate Policy Committee. This was noted by the members.

ITEM NO 10

To consider the County Wicklow Annual Service Delivery Plan, 2019

The Elected Members were circulated with the County Wicklow Annual Service Delivery Plan, 2019 on 27th February, 2019. It was proposed by Cllr. G. Dunne, seconded by Cllr. P. Fitzgerald and agreed to adopt the County Wicklow Annual Service Delivery Plan, 2019

ITEM NO 11

That Wicklow County Council resolves to send polling information cards to Local Electors, who are not European Electors, pursuant to Article 55 of the Local Elections Regulations, 1995.

It was proposed by Cllr. J. Behan, seconded by Cllr. S. Matthews and agreed that Wicklow County Council resolves to send polling information cards to Local Electors, who are not European Electors, pursuant to Article 55 of the Local Elections Regulations, 1995.

ITEM NO 12

To receive a presentation on the Draft Litter Management Plan 2019-2024

Mr. J. Callery gave a presentation to the Elected Members covering the following areas and responded to the queries raised: -

Wicklow Litter Management Plan 2019 – 2024

The Plan sets out:

Policies and objectives of the local authority in relation to preventing litter including:

- Enforcement and regulation measures.
- Litter prevention and control measures.
- Educational and awareness measures.
- Community Participation.

Why plan?

- Section 10 of the Litter pollution Act, 1997, requires that a Local Authority must prepare and adopt a litter management plan.
- The plan assesses the main causes of litter in County Wicklow and sets objectives to prevent and control litter.

Process for drafting the plan

1) DRAFTING THIS PLAN

- Consultation with relevant Local Authority sections and staff
- Review of best practice in neighbouring local authorities
- Evaluation of current litter problems
- Review any relevant changes in legislation
- Review of drafts by staff likely to have responsibilities under the new Plan

2) CONSULTATION PHASE

- Elected Members
- Public Consultation

3) REVIEW AND PUBLISH THE PLAN

Amend the plan, if necessary, based on an assessment of the submissions received

- Adoption of the Plan by Council Members
- Publish final Litter Management Plan 2019 - 2024

Consultation

- Brought to the Planning and Environment SPC in December.

- Currently being advertised on radio and in local papers.
- Copies available in County Buildings and the five municipal district offices.
- Available on www.wicklow.ie
- Circulated to the PPN

What the plan does.

- Sets out the legislation covering litter.
- Defines litter.
- Sets out responsibilities for the different sectors of society including the local authority, businesses and the general public.
- Evaluates the type and causes of littering in the county.
- Establish priorities for action on litter.
- Sets out objectives to prevent and control litter in the county.

Type and causes of litter - What are the Main Cause of Litter Pollution?

The main causative factors of litter pollution identified in the *litter pollution* surveys in Ireland, in order of significance, were as follows:

- Passing Pedestrians – 41.7%
- Passing Motorists – 21.0%
- Retail Outlets – 10.4%
- Gathering Points – 5.7%
- Places of Leisure/Entertainment – 4.2%
- Fast Food Outlets – 5.3%
- Schools/School Children– 4.3%
- Bus Stops – 2.4%
- Fly-tipping/ Dumping – 1.3%
- Bring Banks – 1.0%
- Banks/ATMs – 1.3%
- Bus/Train Stations – 0.7%
- Overflowing Bins – 0.2%
- Major Entertainment Events – 0.3%
- Construction Sites – 0.2%
- Refuse Collection/Presentation – 0.1%

Priorities in Wicklow

- Pedestrians.
- Motorists.
- Illegal dumping and fly tipping.
- Dog fouling.
- Illegal/unauthorised signage.
- Major or open air events.
- Poorly covered vehicles.
- Public houses.
- Schools.
- Convenience retail and takeaway consumption.
- Bin collection services.
- Over flowing street bins and bottle banks.
- Places of leisure and recreation.

Waste enforcement and regulation

- Maintain a visible enforcement presence with five officers throughout the county.

- Record and investigate all complaints received.
- Pursue illegal waste activities taking action to stop them.
- Collaborate with key partners including the EPA, WERLA, the Gardai and PURE partners.
- Ensure compliance with regulations by all relevant sectors.
- Use technology including CCTV to increase detection of offences.

Prevention and control

- Maintaining adequate bin numbers, adapting locations as needed.
- Ensure bins are inspected and serviced.
- Street cleaning in towns.
- Adequate resources for litter control in municipal districts.
- Monitor and regulate events and ensure that they comply with regulations.
- Tackle dog fouling with signage and bins where appropriate.
- Monitor and control litter in known black spots.

Education and Awareness

- Targeted litter prevention campaigns on issues including dog fouling, gum litter, graffiti and general litter.
- Support for school based campaigns including Green Schools.
- Provide educational resources for schools and community groups.
- Promote and support community campaigns including Tidy Towns, PURE, and National Spring Clean.
- Provide resources for community and countywide campaigns through the anti-litter grant.
- Promote a better approach to waste management and litter control to different sector including businesses and householders.
- Use all relevant media including press, radio, website, and social media to promote prevention and engagement.

Community Engagement

- Encourage engagement by a diverse range of actors including Tidy Towns, residents associations, Coastcare groups, PURE Mile, schools, businesses and youth groups.
- Promote and support National Spring Clean.
- Provide materials and support for clean up events as well as collection of bags afterwards.
- Work with Tidy Towns to deliver an anti-litter message at local level.
- Annual awards to provide recognition at county level to groups.
- Funding and support for PURE.
- Ensure good liaison between council services and community groups on litter issues.

Submissions

- Submissions on plan can be made in writing before **5pm on the 12th of April 2019**.
- Theresa O'Brien, Senior Executive Officer, Planning and Environment, Wicklow County Council, Station Road.
- e-mail to tobrien@wicklowcoco.ie
- All submissions must include the name and address of the person/organisation making the submission.

The elected members primarily raised the issue of dog fouling and what preventative measures can be put in place to combat dog fouling. The suggestion was put forward from the UK experience that Bye laws be introduced to include that if you are walking a dog and you do not have bag for lifting dog foul then you can be fined.

ITEM NO 13

Correspondence

Ms. L. Gallagher, Meetings Administrator advised the Elected Members:

1. Letter received from the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government concerning the electoral Register Reform Project – consultation period – Closing date 15th March, 2019 and circulated to the elected members by email.
2. The Wicklow County Council Joint Policing Committee will hold a public meeting on Tuesday 12th March, 2019 at 8.00pm in the Greystones Tennis Club, Mill Road, Greystones.
3. The launch of the Healthy Eating Strategy takes place following this meeting in the foyer.

Meeting dates April: It was agreed by the elected member that the next meeting of Wicklow county Council will take place on Monday the 1st of April, 2019 as scheduled and that the May 13th Meeting would be held on Monday the 29th of April, no meetings to take placed in May. The Annual meeting of the newly elected Council is scheduled to take place on Friday the 7th of June, 2019.

ITEM NO 14

Notice of Motions.

Deferred to next meeting.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS.

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING

Confirmed at meeting of Wicklow County Council held on

Date

**CLLR. PAT VANCE
CATHOAIRLEACH
WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL**

**MS. LORRAINE GALLAGHER
SENIOR EXECUTIVE OFFICER/
MEETINGS ADMINISTRATOR**