

**DRAFT Climate Action, Biodiversity, Environment, Energy, Marine and Recreation
Strategic Policy Committee Meeting**

Adoption of Multi Annual Work Plan

Thursday, 7th May 2026 at 9.30 am

PRESENT: Cllr. Erika Doyle (Cathaoirleach)
Cllr. Lourda Scott
Cllr. Peir Leonard
Cllr. Danny Alvey
Cllr. Jason Mulhall
Anthony Ardee (Business/Commercial Representative)

IN ATTENDANCE: Sarah McCullough (A/Director of Services, CERA)
Mary Cahill (Senior Engineer, CERA)
Nicole Keogh (Assistant Staff Officer, CERA)

APOLOGIES: Emma Smith (PPN Representative, West Wicklow, Env Seat)
Austin Baines (Community/Voluntary Representative)
Justin Ivory (PPN Representative, East Wicklow, Env Seat)
Theresa O'Brien (Director of Services, CERA)

Cllr. Doyle opened the meeting and thanked those who were able to join today.

6 members of the SPC in attendance at meeting. Quorum reached.

Sarah McCullough explained that the Multi Annual Work Plan needs to be completed yearly; it is needed to detail what has been discussed at previous SPC meetings and what are plans are going forward. It is a working document, and this is the first time this process has been undertaken in Wicklow County Council.

This meeting is a chance for the SPC members to discuss the document that was circulated.

SMcC delivered a brief overview of the draft plan that was sent out. It was noted that the Tree Management Policy has been on the Agenda of the SPC recently and will be

discussed further, but the resources are still not available to make this plan implementable.

It was also mentioned that the Play Policy needs to be updated as it is considerably out of date and that the Arts and Library Policy will be presented at the next SPC meeting on the 5th of June.

Mary Cahill stated that the following will need to be added to the document: Water Action Plan, Draft Bye Laws for Wicklow & Arklow Harbour and Beach Bye Laws.

Questions and Comments

Cllr. Leonard

Cllr. Leonard mentioned the Economic SPC, of which she is a member, and that the process of agreeing on the Multi Annual Work Plan was different there, in that a staff member of IPB came in to speak with them and discuss how to best formulate the plan. Subgroups were set up to identify what areas of policy the SPC should focus on, and the idea is working well. It was suggested that this may also work in this SPC.

Cllr. Leonard noted the Marine Business Development Strategy, and the Arts Policy should be looked at for inclusion on this document. Cllr Leonard is happy to see that the Arts Policy will be discussed at the next SPC Meeting on the 5th of June.

Cllr Leonard requested that the existing Arts and Library Policy be circulated to the members prior to the next SPC.

Cllr. Scott

Cllr. Scott felt this whole process was quite rushed and is not entirely sure what the expectations are from today's meeting. If this plan looks only to the end of 2026, that is one thing but believes more thought needs to be put into what is included.

Cllr. Scott stressed that the Tree Management Policy should be reviewed annually but that this has not happened. Regarding the Glyphosate Policy, the Engineers should be able to update the SPC on this and it is not a policy which should require extra staff resources.

Cllr. Scott understood that this is a new procedure but would like to see what other SPC's are doing and that councillors need more information and discussion in advance.

SMcC responded that she understands notice was short on this occasion and apologised. Suggested that the Multi Annual Work Plan could be on the agenda of the SPC going forward. SMcC also noted that she would not be aware of the procedure on setting up subgroups.

It was suggested that we could bring this document for adoption at the next SPC of the 5th of June, if members were not happy to agree today. This would then be in time to be put before the CPG meeting on the 8th of June.

Cllr. Doyle

Cllr. Doyle sought clarity for those present, that if this document was passed today, would there be scope for amendment by the SPC afterward. Sarah McC confirmed that there is still scope for amendment as priorities of the SPC will change as time goes on. The document could be agreed today and amendment still made after the fact.

Anthony Ardee

AA commented that this is a very useful document that the SPC need to discuss over the next 4 years. He noted he was happy to adopt today, knowing that it can be changed in the future. It should be used as a working document to organise the SPC by.

Cllr Alvey

Cllr. Alvey noted he was happy to adopt today also.

Cllr. Mulhall

Cllr. Alvey noted he was happy to adopt today also.

The CABEEMRA Multi Annual Work Plan was proposed by Cllr. Lourda Scott and seconded by Anthony Ardee.

This concluded the business of the meeting.