

PLANNING & RURAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 14TH MAY 2026 IN THE SEMINOLE ROOM, COUNTY BUILDINGS, WICKLOW

Present: Cllr. Patsy Glennon (Chair), Cllr. Sylvester Bourke, Cllr. Pat Mahon, Cllr. Peter Stapleton, Cllr. Malachai Duddy, Paul Armstrong, Tessa Stewart.

In attendance: E. Bermingham, S. Walsh, M. Devereux, S. Clarke, A. Heery, J. Waugh, C. Ruane

Apologies: Helena Dennehy, Richella Wood, Conor McCarthy, Jim Wood.

Item	Description	Action
1.0	Adoption of the Minutes of Meeting held on 12th February 2026	
1.1	The Minutes were proposed by Cllr. S. Bourke and seconded by Cllr. P. Mahon	Note
2.0	Matters Arising from Minutes	
2.1	There were no matters arising.	Note
3.0	Rural Policy	
3.1	The group received a presentation from Sorchá Walsh (SW) and Edel Bermingham (EB) in relation to Wicklow County Council's Rural Policy. The presentation will be circulated to the SPC members.	Note
3.2	SW & EB advised that new rural housing guidelines are to be published via a National Planning Statement in of the second half of 2026 that will set out relevant planning criteria to be applied in local authority development plans for rural housing. This will inform the next iteration of the Council's Rural Planning Policy as part of the forthcoming County Development Plan. In response to a query, they noted that the new guidelines should support a more consistent approach nationwide.	Note
3.3	EB advised that statistics from last year indicate that, among rural housing applications that were refused or withdrawn, rural housing policy was a factor in only 40% of cases. The remaining 60% were unrelated to applicant qualification and instead concerned issues such as traffic safety, effluent disposal, groundwater protection, public health, landscape, and design, all of which are governed by national policy.	Note
3.4	Data with respect to the outcome of rural housing applications, other than 2025, was requested. This will be provided at a meeting later in the year.	SW EB

Item	Description	Action
4.0	Forward Planning Update	
4.1	Call for Sites	
4.1.1	An update was requested on Call for Sites. SW advised that 201 submissions were received via the Council's online portal, which is publicly accessible. The information has been presented to the Members. Stage 2 assessment is currently underway and involves a detailed evaluation of each site, including its characteristics, its realistic potential to deliver housing at scale, and whether it is serviced or can be serviced. Analysis of infrastructure requirements is ongoing, with District Engineers liaising with relevant infrastructure agencies.	Note
4.1.2	A shortlist of realistically developable sites will be presented to the Members. It is intended to publish a draft variation to the County Development Plan for public consultation by September 2026.	Note
4.2	Local Area Plans	
4.2.1	Work is underway on a new Local Area Plan for Bray, with transport identified as one of the key issues. The Roads and Transportation Department is currently appointing consultants to undertake a transport study, which will inform and align with the Plan.	Note
4.2.2	The proposed material amendments to the Arklow Plan are currently on public display. Following this, a Chief Executive's report will be prepared and presented to the Members.	Note
4.3	Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES)	
4.3.1	SW advised that the the review of the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy has formally commenced and is currently at the pre-draft consultation stage. Submissions are being invited, and the Council Executive intends to make a submission. A draft strategy is expected later this year.	Note
5.0	Development Contribution Scheme	
5.1	A link to the draft Guidelines for Planning Authorities on Development Contributions, which are available on the Department's website, will be issued to all SPC members.	SC
5.2	A working sub-group of the SPC may be established, if required, once SC has completed a review of the Development Contribution Scheme process.	SC

Item	Description	Action
5.0	Development Contribution Scheme	
5.3	SC will report to the SPC with recommendations on the proposed direction of the scheme and a programme of works for consideration at the September SPC meeting.	SC
6.0	Derelict Buildings/Site Assessment	
6.1	Marc Devereux will deliver a presentation on the working plan for addressing dereliction and derelict sites at the December meeting.	MD
7.0	Next Meeting	
7.1	The next meeting is scheduled for 17 th September 2026 @ 11.00am	Note