

PLANNING & RURAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 15TH MAY 2025 IN THE WURZBURG ROOM, COUNTY BUILDINGS, WICKLOW

Present: Cllr. Patsy Glennon (Chair), Cllr. Sylvester Bourke, Cllr. Peter Stapleton, Cllr. Pat Mahon, Paul Armstrong, Tessa Stewart, Conor McCarthy, Jim Wood

In attendance: L. Earls, S. Clarke, M. McNamara, B. Harvey, C. Ruane

Apologies: P. Armstrong

Item 1: Adoption of the Minutes of Meeting held on 13th February 2025

The minutes were proposed by Cllr. Peter Stapleton and seconded by Tessa Stewart.

Item 2: Matters Arising from the Minutes

Leonora Earls advised that the update on the Biodiversity Plan mentioned in the minutes will be given at the next meeting.

Item 3: Town Centre First Policy

The group received a presentation from Stephen Clarke, Town Regeneration Officer, a copy of which will be forwarded to the SPC members.

A discussion followed during which Stephen Clarke advised that the remit for this policy is wider than solely the physical public realm. .

The Town Regeneration Office reaches out to community groups to encourage and support engagement in the locality. Event funding is available for community events

Item 4: Update on Forward Planning

The group received an update on Forward Planning from Bernadette Harvey, Senior Executive Planner.

LOCAL PLANS

A review of the Local Area Plans for Bray Municipal District, Wicklow Town - Rathnew, Greystones – Delgany & Kilcoole, Arklow & Environs and Blessington is currently underway.

Wicklow Town – Rathnew Local Area Plan 2025

The members considered this report at their meeting of 10th February 2025 and proposed amendments to the draft plan. As these amendments were ‘material’ (i.e. significant) they went on public display from the 3rd to 31st March 2025.

The Chief Executive's Report on the submissions was issued to the elected members in April, and the members adopted the final LAP at the meeting on 12th May 2025.

The LAP will take effect on 23rd June 2025, 6 weeks after the date it was made.

Proposed Variation No 2 - WICKLOW COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN (CDP) 2022-2028

The purpose of the Variation is to ensure consistency between the Wicklow CDP 2022-2028 and the draft and final Wicklow Town – Rathnew Local Area Plan, which is being prepared separately but alongside the Proposed Variation.

The members adopted the Variation at the meeting of 12th May 2025 and it took effect on the same day.

Blessington Local Area Plan 2025

The members considered the plan at their meeting of 3rd March 2025 and proposed amendments to the draft plan. As these amendments were 'material' (i.e. significant) they went on public display from 24 March – 23 April 2025.

It is envisaged that the plan will be considered by the members at the Council meeting of 16th June 2025.

Greystones-Delgany and Kilcoole Local Planning Framework 2025

Variation 4 to the Wicklow County Development Plan – this is the new form of LAP

Variation 4 to the County Development Plan which includes the draft Greystones-Delgany and Kilcoole Local Planning Framework 2025 went on display on 9th May 2025.

Public information days in Greystones and Kilcoole will be held during the fortnight starting 26 May 2025. Further public notifications shall be issued in this regard in due course.

Arklow and Environs & Bray Municipal District (including Enniskerry and Kilmacanogue) Local Planning Frameworks

The pre-draft public consultation for both of these LPFs has been completed and the draft LPFs are being prepared.

Item 5: Update on The Residential Zoned Land Tax – 2025 Final Maps

The final RZLT maps for lands liable in 2025 were published on 31 January 2025 with one submission received.

RZLT 2026

The annual draft RZLT maps for 2026 were also published on the 31st of January 2025 identifying land that may be liable for the tax in 2026. 17 submissions were received. Where a landowner has requested that their lands be excluded from the annual draft map on the basis that it does not meet the criteria for being in scope, or challenges the date from which the said lands on the map met this criteria, the local authority must notify the land owner of its decision no later than the 1st July 2025. A landowner has until 1 August 2025 to appeal the local authority decision to An Bord Pleanála.

Any Other Business:

The group will be kept updated of any changes to the planning requirements for the building of seomras in back gardens.

A request for the Council to facilitate workshops consisting of architects and consultants to advise on best practice for the construction of one off housing, will be considered and an update will be given.

Next Meeting: 11th September 2025 @ 11.30am in the Seminole Room, County Buildings.