

**PLANNING & RURAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE**  
**MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 10<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2025 IN THE SEMINOLE ROOM,**  
**COUNTY BUILDINGS, WICKLOW**

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

**In attendance:** H. Dennehy, S. Walsh, M. Devereux, S. Clarke, M. McNamara, C. Ruane

**Apologies:** E. Birmingham

**Item 1: Adoption of the Minutes of Meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> September 2025**

The Minutes were proposed by Cllr. Sylvester Bourke and seconded by Paul Armstrong

**Item 2: Matters Arising from the Minutes**

The following matters arose from the minutes:

Item 3: Development Contribution Scheme:

Clarification was given by the executive that the review of the scheme remains ongoing and there will be an opportunity for submissions to be made. The review encompasses projections for housing, employment etc. which generates the funds and decides on the schemes to be funded from development contributions. It will be brought before the P&RD SPC in due course.

Item 5: Any Other Business:

A structure of the Planning Section's executive will be circulated to the members of the SPC

The executive will provide information to the SPC as to how the Council decides the amount of green space to be left in a housing estate.

**Item 3: Update on Forward Planning**

Wicklow Town/Rathnew Local Planning Framework: The Minister has directed that 3 zonings are removed due to flood risk and biodiversity grounds.

Blessington Local Area Plan: This was adopted in July and has not received any ministerial directions.

Draft Greystones/Delgany/Kilcoole LPF: At the October meeting the elected members made material amendments to the draft plan which then went on public display. The Chief Executive is preparing a report on submissions received and will be circulated to the elected members for consideration.

Draft Arklow LPF: This went on display from 01.10.2025 to 12.00.2025. 67 submissions were received. The Chief Executive is preparing a report on same which will be circulated to the elected members in the New Year who will have 6 weeks to consider same. Any material amendments recommended by the Chief Executive on foot of the submissions go on public display. The members can decide whether to accept such amendments or introduce their own.

In July 2025, the Minister issued new housing targets for every county. The uplift in Wicklow increased from the current annual target of 1,411 houses to a new target of 2,068p.a., a 47% increase. The ministerial guidelines require all local authorities to update the CDP by way of a variation to take into account the new targets. The variation was published on 02.12.2025 updating all targets in the CDP, in particular Chapter 3 (Core Strategy). It sets out an increase by town however; not all towns will be uplifted by 47%. The variation also details how much land is currently zoned and serviced or serviceable. This includes RN1 and RN2 and is sufficient to meet the new targets up to 2031.

This variation also has 3 policies 1) RN1 and RN2 will be considered equally subject to normal planning criteria, 2) a new objective commits the P.A .to proactively work with developers, particularly those with planning permission which has not been activated to ascertain the reason why 3) to work with the infrastructure providers to try to activate zoned land.

A discussion took place in relation to increased density per hectare which is in accordance with national guidance and which WCC are legally required to implement. Whilst this was welcomed concerns were also raised about viability particularly in semi-rural towns.

A question was asked about the capacity of Shanganagh Water Treatment plant and clarification will be provided by the executive.

#### **Item 4: Correspondence**

The members asked the executive to consider further correspondence received from the Minister of State for Public Health, Wellbeing and the National Drugs Strategy in relation to ways of limiting the number of vape shops permitted in certain locations.

#### **Item 5: Future Agenda Items**

The group suggested the following items for inclusion at future meetings.

- Infrastructure
- Biodiversity Action Plan
- One off Rural Housing
- Overview of link between infrastructure/transport & roads/housing targets
- Climate Action

Dates for 2026 Meetings:

12.02.2026  
14.05.2026  
17.09.2025  
10.12.2026