Report by Chairperson Councillor C. Smyth

The Chairperson, Councillor Carrie Smyth presided. In attendance were Councillors Mary Fayne, Mary Hanafin, Catherine Martin, Karl Gill, Sorcha Nic Cormaic, Patricia Stewart, Lynsey McGovern, Geraldine Graydon and Tom Conlon.

Apologies for non-attendance were received from: Ms. Michelle Relihan, Josepha Madigan & Deirdre Donnelly, and others absent included: Clare Abdel-Basit, Fiona Cummins, Neale Richmond, Grace Tallon, Victoria White.

Officials present: Ms. D Lawson, Director of Services, Economic, Community and Cultural Development Department, Mr. T. Carey, Heritage Officer, Ms. M. Owens, County Librarian, Mr. P. Coffey, Social Inclusion Officer & Age Friendly Coordinator, Ms.D Baber, Senior Community Officer, Ms. C Hackett O’Reilly, Staff Officer.

Minutes of the meeting held on 30th September 2015 were adopted.

Matters arising
A query was raised regarding progress on Draft Guidelines on community facility usage and when these would be reported. Officials explained that progress was being made since the last SPC meeting with a survey and workshop undertaken, and the results were being compiled and a report would be taken to the next SPC.

Business submitted by Director of Services

a. Presentation on the Library Development Plan
Ms. Owens explained the process involved in developing the Library Development Plan, which had included public and staff consultation. Members welcomed the update on the Library Development Plan, and following a wide ranging discussion, the Chairperson thanked Ms Owens for her informative presentation.

b. Age Friendly Strategy, 2016 – 2020
Mr Coffey presented an outline of the Draft Age Friendly Strategy which had been shared with Members. He confirmed that the Strategy development was led by the DLR’s Age Friendly Alliance, to identify what improvements could be made in the County to ensure DLR is a great place to live in which to grow old. Following a discussion, the Chairperson thanked Mr.Coffey for his comprehensive presentation.

c. Update on DLR Local Economic & Community Plan
Ms.Lawson informed the meeting that the Local Economic & Community Plan 2015-2021 had now been adopted at the Council Meeting on 14th December 2015.
The plan itself will be published in early 2016 & made available to the public. Following a short discussion during which the Director responded to Members’ questions, the Chairperson thanked Ms Lawson for her comprehensive report.

d. Presentation on 1916 Centenary Commemorations for 2016.
Mr Tim Carey informed the meeting that DLR had published a booklet of their own 1916 Centenary Commemorations, a copy of which had been circulated to members. He said the programme will continue to grow and develop over the coming months. Following a discussion during which Mr. Carey responded to Members’ queries, the chairperson thanked Mr. Carey for his interesting report.

e. Work Programme
Ms Lawson informed the meeting that the Corporate Policy Group sets the SPC’s work programme and that it as well as the Council can recommend issues to be considered by the Strategic Policy Committees. She confirmed that the remit of this SPC includes; Arts, Community Development, Design, Heritage, Libraries & Positive Ageing. In 2016, the SPC is expected to consider policy matters in relation to Community, the Library and Arts. Following some questions and answers, the chairperson thanked Ms. Lawson for her update.

**Business submitted by Council**
It was noted that there was no business.

**Business referred from Corporate Policy Group**
It was noted that there was no business.

**Any other business**
It was noted that there was no business.

**Conclusion of Meeting:**
The Chair advised that the next meeting will take place on Wednesday 9th March 2016. The meeting concluded at 7.00 pm.