

ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE ACTION STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE

Chairperson's Report

Hybrid meeting held in the Dundrum Office, and remotely, on Thursday 21st September 2023

As the Chairperson, Cllr. Jim O'Leary, was unable to attend, Cllr. Lettie McCarthy presided.

In attendance were: Cllr Emma Blain, Cllr. Michael Clark, Cllr. Mary Fayne, Cllr. Hugh Lewis, Cllr. Liam Dockery, Cllr. Senan Sexton, Cllr. Barry Saul, Cllr. Carrie Smyth.

Sectoral Representatives Present: Dervla King, Diarmuid McAree, Elizabeth Clooney and Reji Chacko Jacob

Officials in attendance from Infrastructure and Climate Change Department: Paul Kennedy, Act. Director of Services, Martina Kehoe, Senior Executive Officer, James Phelan, Senior Engineer, Ultan Downes, Senior Executive Scientist, Barbara FitzPatrick, Assistant Staff Officer

Apologies: Cllr. Jim O'Leary, Cllr. Una Power

- It was proposed by Cllr. Barry Saul and seconded by Cllr. Michael Clark that Cllr. Lettie McCarthy chair the meeting.
- Confirmation of Minutes of SPC held on Thursday 15th June 2023 proposed by Cllr. Carrie Smyth and seconded by Cllr. Michael Clark.
- There were no Matters Arising.
- **Item 3:** The reply to Cllr. Lettie McCarthy's questions regarding the DLR Tree Strategy was **NOTED**.
- **Item 4a:** Martina Kehoe presented the Draft Litter Management Plan. Martina Kehoe and James Phelan answered Councillors' questions particularly about dog fouling and bins. The presentation was **NOTED**.
- **Item 4b:** Ultan Downes presented the draft Climate Action Plan Update. This is now open to public consultation. It is hoped that the Committee will spread the word to create awareness and empower people to inform themselves and take action.

Diarmuid McAree queried the amount of carbon sequestration potential from trees in the County and what nature-based solutions are proposed. Ultan Downes replied that this may be detailed in the Tree and Urban Forestry Strategy 2021-2031. Cllr. Carrie Smyth questioned the possibility of setting up a climate action sub-committee. Paul Kennedy will talk to Cllr. Jim O'Leary about this proposal. The presentation was **NOTED**.

- **Item 5:** No business
- **Item 6:** No business

- **Item 7:** No correspondence
- **Item 8:** Future Work Programme - As the Chair, Cllr Jim O'Leary was absent, Paul Kennedy, Acting Director of Services, informed the attendees that this item would be moved to a future meeting.
- **Item 9:** Martina Kehoe gave an update on the book recycling initiative. Libraries are holding a Family Readers' Day at dlr Lexicon on the 30th September and as part of that event will have "Bring a Book, Take a Book!" opportunity. The aim will be to extend the "Bring a Book, Take a Book!" initiative at future events.

The meeting concluded at 6.13pm.