

File Ref: Env/SPC	Date/Time: 13 th June 2022 1.30pm	LEO Training Room Áras an Chontae
Subject:	Transportation, Environment & Emergency Services Strategic Policy Committee	
Present:	Cllr Paddy Bracken, Chair Cllr John Joe Fennelly Cllr William Aird	Mr. John Killeen, Construction Rep Mr. John Talbot, Agricultural Rep
In attendance:	Mr. Simon Walton, Director of Services Mr. Declan Power, Chief Fire Officer	Ms. Fiona Skehan, AO Roads
Apologies:	Cllr Ben Brennan Cllr Noel Touhy Ms. Siobhan Maher Ms. Deirdre Hopkins O'Connell	Mr. Adrian Barrett
ITEM	DESCRIPTION	ACTION REQUIRED
1	<u>Quorum Present</u> Cllr Bracken opened the meeting by welcoming the committee and advising quorum was in place.	
2.	<u>Confirmation of Minutes of SPC Meeting held on 7th March 2022</u> On the proposed by Cllr Aird and subject to amendment, that Cllr Aird, was in attendance, at last SPC meeting and seconded by Cllr Fennelly, the minutes of the SPC meeting held on 7 th March 2022.	
3	<u>Matters arising</u> Cllr Aird confirmed that he attended last meeting of the SPC.	Amend minutes
4	<u>Progress Report from Director of Services</u> Mr. Simon Walton advised the committee a presentation on the Hedge cutting campaign would be delivered in consultation with the IFA Mr. Walton advised the councillors that the review of regional roads policy would be on the September Agenda of the SPC. This forms part of new County Development Plan and assessment of planning applications.	FS to place on Agenda for Sept SPC meeting
5	<u>Laois County Council Fire and Emergency Services and Civil Defence – update focussed on funding and operational issues</u> Mr. Declan Power presented the committee with an update on the Fire Service under Capital Funding; Operational Issues and Civil Defence. Cllr Aird expressed concerns around retention of fire staff and that it was the responsibility of the council to not let it reach critical low in terms of numbers. Cllr Aird welcomed the new national working groups findings when they are made available and agreed that a more flexible contract would be more attractive to individuals wishing to work for the Fire Service.	Item for September Full Council meeting

	<p>Mr. Simon Walton advised the committee that it was important that they were made aware of the difficulty in retaining staff in the fire service. He also advised that a similar presentation will be made to full council in September.</p> <p>Cllr Fennelly asked Mr. Walton to pass onto all those working the Fire Service that they are carrying out their duties in a very professional manner and when dealing with family members on the ground.</p>	
6	<p><u>Regional Road Safety Update – Hedge cutting campaign</u></p> <p>Mr. Simon Walton presented to the members an update on the Hedge cutting campaign which will be rolled out from 3rd to 28th October 2022. Discussions will take place with the IFA to advance the campaign across all media platforms and with a view that the council will clean signs during this time.</p>	Liaise with IFA
7	<p><u>Correspondence</u></p> <p>No correspondence received.</p> <p>Cllr Bracken advised that it was the last time he would Chair the meeting and thanked the committee for their work over his two-year tenure. The Committee in return wished Cllr Bracken all the best and acknowledged his contribution to the committee.</p>	
8	<p>Date of next Meeting 5th September 2022</p>	
	<p>This concluded the business of the meeting</p>	