

File Ref: Env/SPC	Date/Time: 6 th March 2023 at 2 pm	Executive Conference Room Áras an Chontae
Subject:	Transportation, Environment & Emergency Services Strategic Policy Committee	
Present:	Cllr John Joe Fennelly, Chair Cllr William Aird Cllr Paddy Bracken Cllr Ben Brennan	Mr. John Killeen, Construction Rep Mr. John Talbot, Agricultural Rep
In attendance:	Mr. Simon Walton, Director of Services Mr. Paul McLoughlin, Senior Engineer Mr. Adrian Barrett, Senior Engineer Ms. Angela Marshall, Staff Officer	
Apologies:	Ms. Deirdre O'Connell, FORSA Ms. Fiona Skehan, Administrative Officer	
ITEM	DESCRIPTION	ACTION REQUIRED
1	<u>Quorum Present</u> Cllr Fennelly opened the meeting by welcoming the committee and advising quorum was in place.	
2.	<u>Confirmation of Minutes of SPC Meeting held on 5th December 2022</u> Proposed by Cllr Aird Seconded by Cllr Bracken	
3	<u>Matters arising</u> Cllr Aird praised the pilot roster system in Portlaoise Fire Station and hopes to see if rolled out to other stations to make the jobs more attractive to potential applicants. He thanks CFO Declan Power for listening to concerns expressed. Mr. Walton advised that the Minister had published a policy document in relation to recruitment and retention in the Fire and Emergency Services and the implementation of the pilot roster reflected the aspirations of the new policy. The pilot will continue and will inform subsequent actions.	
4	<u>Progress Report from Director of Services</u> Cllr Aird thanked Laois County Council and the farming representative in relation to the cutting of hedges county wide. He raised the matter of burning of the waste from such work and asked that a common-sense approach to prevail. Mr. Walton advised that the Minister introduced new regulations that include an exemption for the burning of agricultural, green wastes in 2022. It has been extended into 2023 until 1 st March, paused for the nesting season and will resume on 1 st September until 30 th November 2023. As of now, no exemption beyond 30 th November 2023 has been provided for.	

	<p>Mr. Walton advised that Item 5 on the Agenda provided for updates to policy areas, on which SPC Members had sought progress. Any additional policy matters can also be raised by SPC Members. To inform and enable policy development, it is proposed that the policy areas outlined in Item 5 will remain on the Agenda of further meetings until a policy recommendation has been fully developed.</p>	
5	<p><u>Policy Updates from previous meeting</u></p> <p>(a) Pedestrian Crossings/Permeability for Vulnerable Users Mr. McLoughlin advised of a review of a sample 15 pedestrian crossings across the County, to include signage, specifications, sight lines, standard of construction, lighting at night, etc. Area Engineers will randomly select crossings to be included in the review. Policy recommendations will follow and retrofitting will take place, if required, to accord with new policy. Matter proposed by Cllr Aird, Seconded by Cllr Bracken.</p> <p>(b) Review of Street Cleaning Services. Mr. Barrett presented a report in relation to budgeted Street Cleaning expenditure for 2023. Street Cleaning services will be examined across each of the MDs, to advise additional services in certain areas and how that can be facilitated. A discussion about the waste disposal costs from street cleaning. Mr. Barrett advised that the local landfill at Kyletalesha does not take municipal waste (incl street cleaning waste) and that street cleaning wastes must be transported to Drehid Waste Management Facility in County Kildare. Street Cleaning policy and associated services will be advised at subsequent meetings of the SPC.</p> <p>(c) E-Scooters Mr. McLoughlin advised that e-scooters are not provided for under current legislation so it is not possible to tax and insure. A discussion took place on whether they should be permitted on footpaths, what limitations should be in place to ensure users and pedestrians remain safe. Speed limitations and on-road only provisions were recommended. Mr. McLoughlin advised that national legislation is in the pipeline to regulate e-scooters and Mr. Walton mentioned that the fact that legislation was being developed indicated that e-scooters are seen as an alternative mode of transport in the shift towards Active Travel.</p>	Update for next meeting
6	<p><u>Correspondence</u> No correspondence received</p>	
7	<p><u>Date of next Meeting Monday 12th June 2023 at 2pm</u> This concluded the business of the meeting.</p>	

Signed: John Joe Fennelly
Cllr. John Joe Fennelly
SDC Chairperson

Date: 12/6/23