

File Ref: Env/SPC	Date/Time: 3 <sup>rd</sup> February 2020, 2.00 pm	Executive Conference Room, Áras an Chontae, Portlaoise.
Subject:	<b>Transportation, Environment &amp; Emergency Services Strategic Policy Committee</b>	
Present:	Cllr. Paddy Bracken, Cllr. John Joe Fennelly, Cllr. Willie Aird.	Mr. John Talbot, Agriculture Rep, Mr. John Killeen, Construction Rep.,
In Attendance:	Mr. Simon Walton, Director of Services, Mr. Declan Power, ACFO, Fire Services, Mr. Adrian Barrett, SE, Roads.	Ms. Ann Carroll, AO, Environment, Ms. Martina Bracken, AO Water Services, Ms. Georgina Ireland, AO, Roads.
Apologies:	Cllr Ben Brennan,	Ms. Lisa Breatron, Trade Union Rep.

Item	Description	Action Required
1	<b>Opening of Meeting</b> Cllr Bracken welcomed to the first meeting of the SPC for 2020 and in particular to Mr. John Talbot, IFA Rep. Members agreed that all meetings of this SPC should take place at 2pm.	
2	<b>Minutes of Previous Meeting</b> The minutes of previous meeting of 13 <sup>th</sup> May 2019 were noted.	
3	<b>Programme of Works</b> Cllr Bracken reviewed the planned programme of works for the SPC. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Road Safety Plan for Co. Laois.</li> <li>• Casual Trading Bye-Laws</li> <li>• River Drainage</li> <li>• Fire Service Charging</li> <li>• Group Water Schemes – energy efficiency schemes, energy audits</li> <li>• Parking Control Measure</li> <li>• Community Fire Safety</li> <li>• Review of civic amenity site operations (suggested by JK)</li> </ul> <p>As agreed the following items are to be discussed at this meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parking Control Measures – Presentation by Roads staff.</li> <li>• Fire Service Charging – Presentation by Fire Service staff.</li> </ul>	

Item	Description	Action Required
4	<p><b>Parking Control Measures</b></p> <p>Ms. Georgina Ireland made a presentation to the committee on parking control measures. She explained the legal background to parking control and the current arrangements in the three selected pilot towns of Abbeyleix, Mountrath and Mountmellick. Ms. Ireland also advised that the SPC will have to consider any challenges or barriers that may arise due to the proposed changes to existing policy.</p> <p>Mr. Simon Walton explained the Parking Byelaws pertain to paid parking only, but that time limited parking is dealt with under Road Traffic (Traffic and Parking) Regulations 1997.</p> <p>The meeting agreed that consultation with all stakeholders would be important and policy changes for the three areas should impact positively on local businesses and users with reduced mobility.</p>	
5	<p><b>Fire Service Charging</b></p> <p>Mr. Declan Power made a presentation to the meeting on Fire Charges. The meeting noted that expenditure on the Fire Service in 2019 was €2.072 m. Of this €632,409 was paid out in firemans wages for callouts. Actual receipts received for the year was €403,830.</p> <p>It was noted that Laois received significantly more callouts (265) per 100,000 populations than the national average of 110, due to use of turf as fuel in many midlands homes.</p> <p>The average cost of a attendance by the Fire Brigade at a chimney fire was €685, although a charge of €150/€200 was paid by the home owner.</p> <p>The committee proposed a no. of changes to the Fire Charges system – incentive / reduction if home-owner has proof that chimney had been cleaned, e.g. cert, no charge for domestic fire.</p> <p>The committee were unanimous in their appreciation and praise for the quality service provided by the Laois Fire Service.</p>	
6	<p>Date of Next Meeting</p> <p>The next meeting of this SPC will take place on Monday, 6<sup>th</sup> April 2020 at 2pm.</p>	
	This concluded the business of the meeting.	