



## Minutes of the Meeting Environment Strategic Policy Committee, held on 24<sup>th</sup> June 2015

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1. Minutes of the meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2015.

**Order: Agreed**

2. Irish Water Briefing.
  - (i) Lead Piping – Jerry Grant, Irish Water.

Members raised the following concerns

- Lead contamination specifically in the Raheny Area.
- Irish Water allows customers to drink water that the HSE has deemed contaminated.
- Irish Water charging for contaminated water.
- *Cryptosporidium is deemed a public health issue but the lead situation is not.*
- *The Water metering project punctured the water supply network which ultimately disturbed the network and added to the lead problem.*
- Supply of Water Tankers in affected areas.
- When did Irish Water become aware of the gravity of the lead problem?
- What levels of sampling / testing to detect lead will take place?
- Financial implications of replacing lead pipes to householders.

**Mr. Grant assured the members that the that the metering project did not exacerbate the lead problem; this was disputed by Councillor Ciarán O'Moore.**

- (ii) Strategic Water Supply Project for the Eastern Region – Gerry Geoghegan, Irish Water.

Members raised the following issues

- Rights to the water where the abstraction is proposed.
- Reduction in leakage levels.
- Would it be more advantageous to fix leaks instead of taking water from a distant source.
- Possibility of a grant aided retrofitting programme to address water conservation in particular rainwater harvesting.
- Prohibitive cost of water desalination.
- The emerging preferred option that is determined will be final.
- Irish Water to be invited to give a further presentation when the preferred option is decided.

**Order: Presentations Noted.**

3. Chairpersons Business.

**None.**

4. Correspondence.

**Acknowledgement from Minister Kelly in relation to Councillor Smith's motion.**

5. Draft City Development Plan, 2016 -2022 (Presentation)

It was agreed to relist this item on the September Agenda with the following themes as the areas of interest:

- Local Adaptation Plan
- Energy Action Plan
- Climate Change Strategy
- Initiatives to promote waste reduction & encourage re-use / recycle
- Guidelines on waste storage facilities
- Parks use & Management
- Urban Agricultural Support

The Committee will meet for a workshop on or about the 15<sup>th</sup> October 2015 to formulate submissions on the Development plan which will be tabled during the public consultation process.

**Order: Presentation Noted**

6. New Climate Change Strategy & Renewable Energy Initiatives

(i) Climate Change Strategy

The Climate Change Strategy 2008 – 2012 is to be circulated to the Members to be used as starting point to develop a new strategy and Members should identify other areas of interest.

A sub-committee should be established in the Autumn to deal specifically with the Climate Change Strategy.

(ii) Renewable Energy Initiatives

Dr. Gerry Wardell gave a verbal report on renewable energy initiatives in the city and pointed out that there are 107 renewable energy sites in the region and 1% of the City's energy electricity requirements are supplied from renewable sources. This is quite good as all these sites are stand alone and do not feed into the National Grid. It was also pointed out that Electricity producing Solar Panel technology has improved to such an extent that they can be self-financing within 12 years.

Additional Solar Panels are being installed on the Civic Offices in Cabra, Raheny, Ballymun & Coolock libraries.

**Order: Presentation Noted. The housing Department to be contacted to identify a Housing complex that is suitable for Renewable Energy**

7. Waste Policy

(i) Eastern & Midland Waste Plan / Regional Office update

Discussions were held around the following topics

- **Locations of Waste facilities**  
The plan gives a commitment to develop citing guidelines for Waste facilities which will be drawn up over the coming months.
- **Food waste being sent to Landfill**  
It is a Government priority to roll out the Brown Bin Collection service nationally. An extensive awareness and educational campaign will be put in place with a view to increasing organic waste collection participation.  
The intended introduction of pay by weight from next year is a further measure that will support the diversion of organic waste from Landfill.
- **Deposit Refund scheme (specifically glass containers)**  
The three regions were supportive of the concept of a deposit scheme but the Department will not introduce this at this stage. At a regional level it is proposed to introduce a pilot scheme.
- **Contracts**  
The role in developing the Regional Office was to put in place a policy framework that would maximise recycling waste materials to include glass. The structure of contracts is a matter for each Local Authority.

(ii) Waste regulations – Pay by Weight

**Order: Report Noted, Briefing note to be circulated to all members and relist (waste regs) for September Meeting.**

8. Dublin Waste to Energy Project update report.

Members raised the following concerns regarding the elements of the report:

- **Community Gain fund – how it was determined & the Allowance for the Chairperson**  
A comprehensive report will issue on how the value of the Community Gain fund was calculated.  
The Allowance paid to the Chairperson is determined by the Departmental guidelines.
- **Location of the Local Office**  
Discussion held on the proposed site for the location of the Local Office at the Pigeon House Hotel. Members were of the view that the proposed office location was too far away from the communities that would take an interest in the project.
- **Local Employment Charter**  
There is currently in the region of 240 people employed on the site. Vacancies that arise will be referred to the Local Employment office.  
A breakdown of the employment type & areas of employment will be included in the next DWtE report.
- **PM 10 & PM 2.5 Monitoring.**  
A discussion was held between Mr. Martin Fitzpatrick and Mr. Joe McCarthy on this issue.

**Martin Fitzpatrick, Principal Environmental Health Officer, DCC stated**

- The EPA maintained an Air Monitoring station 2 – 2.5 years which was discontinued in 2012.
- EU limit values were not breached.
- The data gives a good benchmark in relation to Air Quality and the proposed monitoring campaign.

**SPC Member Joe McCarthy, An Taisce, stated**

- All measurement campaigns since 2002 including the EPA air monitoring campaign had PM10 breaches.
- The EPA stated there were no exceedances but it was visible on the on line reporting that PMs were being breached.
- PM10 & PM2.5 campaigns must be extensive enough to determine the air quality on the Poolbeg Peninsula.
- That he cannot accept the assurances on Air Quality as provided.

**Martin Fitzpatrick, Principal Environmental Health Officer, DCC, responded:**

- PM10 & PM2.5 monitoring will take place during some elements of the construction.
- The benchmark to compare it to will be the published report of the EPA.

- **Traffic Impacts**

The major foundations and concrete construction are largely complete and it is intended that facility components will be delivered to the dock in order to minimize traffic.

- **Luxembourg financing**

All subsidiaries of DWtE group are domiciled in the state and there is no Luxembourg subsidiary in the group. It was noted that both DCC and the NDFA examined the financing and project company structures in advance of the contracts being signed. The company referred to in the media report is not part of the DWtE group; it is a wholly owned subsidiary of one of the funders of the project.

- **Site Water run offs**

Any site water run offs are collected on site and transported under license awarded by Irish Water to the Waste Water Treatment Plant.

- **Site Visit**

A site visit is to be arranged for the members of the committee.

**Order: Report Noted**

9. Motion in the name of Councillor Michael O'Brien

That the text of the posters protocol is amended to reflect below

*"A Notice of Intent to exhibit your posters/notices on Dublin City Council property (which is in or can be seen from a public place) must be submitted to the City Council not less than 7 working days before it is proposed to exhibit such material unless it can be demonstrated by the applicant that the event being advertised is being organised in response to an occurrence that could not have been foreseen within the normal two weeks' timeframe of supplying notice for intent to poster 14 days before the event and erection of the posters seven days*

*before the event . This must be sent to us by one of the following methods and we will respond to all fully completed Notices of Intent within 2 working days.”*

**Order: Recommend to Council**

10. A.O.B.

The Chief Executive’s Department and Protocol Committee are to be contacted in relation to noise issues from a private event in the Rotunda.

**Attendance**

**Members**

Councillor Naoise Ó Muirí (Chairperson)  
Councillor Catherine Ardagh  
Councillor Mannix Flynn  
Councillor Andrew Keegan  
Councillor Denise Mitchell  
Councillor Ciaran O’Moore  
Councillor Michael O’Brien  
Sinead O’Brien - Environmental Pillar  
Robert Moss - Dublin City Community Forum  
Joe McCarthy - An Taisce

**Apologies**

Councillor Claire Byrne  
Nicholas Cloake - Dublin Docklands Business Forum  
Lord Mayor Christy Burke

**Absent**

Councillor Declan Flanagan  
Councillor Bríd Smith  
Louise McCann - Disability Federation of Ireland  
Councillor Bríd Smith

**Officials**

Michael Phillips, City Engineer and Director of Traffic  
Declan Wallace, Executive Manager  
Helen McNamara, Senior Executive Officer  
Gerry O’Connell, Senior Engineer  
Hugh Coughlan, Administrative Officer  
James Nolan, Executive Engineer  
Ciarán McGoldrick, Staff Officer  
Owen Sweeney, Staff Officer

**Irish Water**

Jerry Grant  
Gerry Geoghegan

**City of Dublin Energy Management Agency**

Dr. Gerry Wardell

Councillor Naoise Ó Muirí  
Chairperson  
9<sup>th</sup> July 2015.