



**Minutes of
South Cork Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)
Council Chamber, County Hall & Via Microsoft Teams**

Date: 26th October 2023

Time: 10.00am.

Present:

Name	Organisation	Public / Private
Cllr. Michael Hegarty	Cork County Council	Public
Cllr. Seamus McGrath	Cork County Council	Public
Cllr. Cathal Rasmussen	Cork County Council	Public
Cllr. Marcia D'Alton	Cork County Council	Public
Mr. Donal O'Liathain	Údarás na Gaeltachta	Public
Mr. Tom Howard	Cork County PPN	Private
Mr. Ryan Howard	SECAD Partnership CLG	Private
Ms. Mary O'Leary	Environmental Pillar	Private
Mr. Liam McCarthy	Cork County PPN	Private
Ms. Valerie Murphy	Avondhu Blackwater Partnership CLG	Private
Mr. Jimmy Hosford	IFA	Private

Apologies:

Name	Organisation	Private / Public
Mr. Sean O'Sullivan	Head of Leo South Cork	Public
Mr. John Fitzgibbons	Cork ETB	Public
Ms. Leighann Kennedy	Dept of Social Protection	Public
Mr. Kevin Morey	Interim Divisional Manager South Cork	Public
Ms. Ashley Amato	Cork Chamber	Private
Ms. Arran O'Driscoll	West Cork Development Partnership	Private
Mr. Brian Williams	Youth Work Ireland	Private
Vacant	Civic Society	Private

Staff in Attendance:

Mr. Andrew Lewis	Substitute LCDC Chief Officer	Cork County Council
Mr. Jesse Dorrington	Staff Officer	Cork County Council

<p>Quorum = 11 (50% of 19 rounded up + 1 = 11) In attendance = 11 (6 Private: 5 Public) Apologies = 8 Total membership = 19</p>
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Welcome and Introduction.

It was noted that Andrew Lewis was appointed as Substitute LCDC Chief Officer for the purposes of this meeting. It was noted that a quorum was in place and the meeting commenced.

1. Confirmation of Minutes of the Previous LCDC Meeting of 28th September 2023.

The Minutes were adopted on the proposal of Cllr. Cathal Rasmussen and seconded by Tom Howard.

Matters arising

None.

2. Update on Cork County Council's Draft Climate Action Plan 2024 – 2029 by Tim Twomey

Statutory Context

- Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act, 2021
- Each local authority shall prepare and make a plan relating to a period of five years which shall specify the mitigation measures and the adaptation measures to be adopted by the local authority
- Minister notified LA's 24th Feb 2023
- Adoption of Cork County Council Climate Action Plan: Deadline 23rd Feb 2024

Local Authority Climate Action Plan Guidelines

- Annex A: Developing and Implementing the Local Authority Climate Action Plan
- Annex B: Climate Change Risk Assessment
- Annex C: Baseline Emissions Inventory
- Annex D: Decarbonising Zones

Cork County Council – Climate Action Plan

- The Climate Action Plan 2024-2029 sets out the actions that Cork County Council will take across its own services to meet national emissions targets and to increase the resilience of its human and infrastructural assets against climate change impacts.



- This plan also specifies how the local authority will work with its communities to advocate for change and with national government and state agencies to deliver climate action.

Climate Action Plan sets a pathway for Cork County Council to actively translate national climate policy to local circumstances with the prioritisation and acceleration of evidence-based measures including to:

- Reduce its direct carbon emissions by 51% by 2030
- Assist in the delivery of the climate neutrality objective at local and community levels; and
- Identify and support the development of a Decarbonising Zone (DZ) within the local authority area.

Climate Action Plan - Structure

- Themes: Direct Emissions, Citizen Engagement, Biodiversity, Economy, Transportation, Built Environment, Solid Waste.
- Goals: The goals are set in the context of themes and establish a structured arrangement of objectives and actions within a framework of both mitigation and adaptation actions. The goals are context-specific and support tailored actions to respond to local issues.
- Overarching Objectives: The objectives support the delivery of the goals and frame the actions. The objectives are not intended to be measurable but rather they serve to generally define key areas, from which measurable climate actions are seeking to deliver upon.
- Actions: The actions are defined and measurable and are focused upon delivering the overarching objectives.

Implementation

- Climate Action Plan will be implemented over a 5 year timeframe.
- Annual Implementation Programme will support the application of the plan to:
 - align the plan actions with the annual budgetary process
 - allow the plan to be dynamic aligning with changing national, EU and international policy.
 - give further detail and Key Performance Indicators for each year.



Key Dates

- Draft plan published: 13th October
- Public Consultation online: Ending Monday 27th November
- Final LACAP draft to be completed – December
- CE Report, SEA / AA report and LA CAP with amendments
- Final Draft Plan to Full Council
- Deadline for Adoption: 23rd February 2024

Public Consultation

Cork County Council Draft Climate Action Plan 2024-2029, the Strategic Environmental Assessment Report and Appropriate Assessment Natura Impact Report, will be on display from Friday 13th October to Monday 27th November 2023, at the following locations:

- Online at www.corkcoco.ie
- All branches of Cork County Council Libraries during Library opening hours

Making a Submission

Written submissions through the Council's Public Consultation Portal available at

<https://www.corkcoco.ie/en/resident/environment/climate-action-plan>

Deadline for Submissions is 4:00pm on Monday 27th November 2023

The Chair Cllr. Michael Hegarty asked how many public submissions have been made to date and how many are on the team. Tim Twomey said that they have received three submissions and that there are two on the team with a Climate Action Community Officer due to join soon.

Ryan Howard commented on the recent impact of Storm Babet on flooding in East Cork. He noted that rivers and the sea contribute significantly to climate impacts in Cork and asked if the Plan addresses this. Tim Twomey confirmed that policies and actions regarding flood risk are included in the Plan and that a risk assessment on rivers and coastal areas has been undertaken.

Mary O'Leary said that good planning is needed to ensure that floodplains are preserved. She asked what a Decarbonising Zone is. Tim Twomey explained that Macroom has been selected as a Decarbonising Zone and that the incoming Climate Action Community Officer



will look at developing and supporting decarbonising projects there that will be expanded to the rest of the county if successful. Mary O’Leary said that urgency is essential.

Jimmy Hosford commented that at present housing is being built on floodplains which is an issue. He said that planning rules need to be looked at to avoid this. He asked for link to be shared with LCDC members to facilitate making a public submission. Andrew Lewis agreed to send this. The Chair Cllr. Michael Hegarty agreed that the Plan needs to include direction on avoiding building on floodplains.

Ryan Howard asked that the team work with the Local Development Companies across Cork to benefit from the Companies’ experience and knowledge. Tim Twomey agreed. Ryan Howard agreed that floodplain management is vital.

The Chair Cllr. Michael Hegarty commented that it is disappointing that flood relief works for Midleton are not scheduled to be undertaken in the near future. He noted that many riverbeds have silted up and need to be dredged and referred to an issue regarding forestry planting.

Liam McCarthy said that waste management is also important, highlighting that a mattress was found blocking a culvert in East Cork which led to additional flooding. He agreed that the rivers and dykes need to be cleaned.

The Chair Cllr. Michael Hegarty thanked Tim Twomey for his presentation and said that he was looking forward to working with him.

3. SICAP

N/A

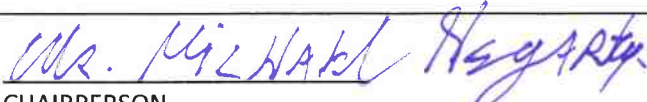
4. Any Other Business

N/A

5. Date of Next Meeting

The date for the next meeting is 23rd November 2023.

Meeting Concluded

Signed:	 CHAIRPERSON
Dated:	<u>23/11/2023</u>

