**WATERFORD CITY & COUNTY COUNCIL**

**STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE**

**PLANNING**

**Meeting Held on 25th February 2020**

**Present:** Cllr. John Cummins (Chair)

Cllr. James Tobin

Cllr. Liam Brazil

Cllr. Davy Daniels

Cllr. Seanie Power

Cllr. Thomas Phelan

Sean Carey

John Galloway

John Heffernan

Donal Lehane

**Apologies**:

Cllr. Eamon Quinlan

Cllr. Tom Cronin

**Officials in Attendance** Liam McGree, Senior Planner

Hugh O’ Brien, Senior Executive Planner

Hazel O’Shea, Senior Executive Planner

Séamus Doran, Administrative Officer

Deirdre Purcell, Asst. Staff Officer

Cllr. J. Cummins (Chair) opened the meeting

**Item 1 – Minutes of meeting of 3rd December 2019**

Cllr. J. Cummins (Chair) asked that the minutes be amended to reflect that he had raised a question about the issuance of a Declaration of Interest form to SPC members who were not members of the Local Authority. It was agreed to record this amendment. The minutes were then proposed by Cllr. J. Tobin and seconded by Cllr. D. Daniels, adopted and agreed.

**Item 2 - Matters arising** - Liam McGree, Senior Planner, said a Declaration of Interest form for non Local Authority members had been completed and would issue shortly.

There was a request that Minutes of the SPC be put on the Council Web Site following their adoption. Liam McGree agreed to look into this.

**Item 3 – National Marine Planning Framework Consultation Draft & Marine Planning & Development Management Bill**

Hugh O’Brien, Senior Executive Planner, made a presentation about the National Marine Planning Framework (NMPF) and stated that it proposed to replicate the National Planning Framework for the marine area. There is a statutory basis to establish a NMPF by 2021. Waterford will have a role to play as the sea is a significant piece of our economy. Legislation will provide for new LA‘s powers in terms of development management and enforcement powers while the main policy provisions will be derived at National level. The closing date for written submissions is 12 noon on 28th February 2020. A draft framework will be prepared in Q2 2020 with the final NMPF published by the end of 2020 and submitted to the European Commission before a deadline of March 2021.

Cllr. J. Cummins (Chair) thanked Hugh and invited any questions

Cllr. T. Phelan stated that he would be in favour of the Local Authority making a submission. He also stated that a public consultation should be held in Waterford and requested that the SPC write to request one. Cllr. J. Tobin seconded Cllr. T. Phelan’s proposal of writing to request a public consultation in Waterford and this was agreed. Cllr. J. Cummins (Chair) requested Liam McGree, Senior Planner to write a letter requesting a public consultation and he would sign it as Chair of the Planning SPC.

Cllr. J. Tobin asked how the framework would relate to the City & County Development Plan. Hugh O’Brien stated that the final framework would be published during the preparation of the unitary City & County Development Plan allowing the relevant policy issues of to be reflected in the Development Plan.

Hugh O’Brien stated that he would make a presentation to a plenary meeting of the members of the Local Authority in order to capture the views of the broader council.

**Item 4 – Strategic Issues Paper for Unitary Waterford City & County Development Plan 2022-2028**

Hugh O’Brien made a presentation on the Strategic Issues Paper for the Unitary Waterford City & County Development Plan 2022-2028. It outlined the core principals of the proposed development plan. Its consultation process will ask the public consider their vision for Waterford while recognising the importance to manage expectations. The initial consultation notice will be published in March 2020 and it is envisaged to have the Chief Executive’s report completed by 10th July 2020. An online portal has been developed which will allow the public to make observations. A number of information sessions will be held in key centres throughout the county and drop in clinics in a number of rural libraries will allow one to one meetings between relevant planning staff and the public.

A number of issues in relation to the City & County Development Plan were discussed including the servicing of towns and villages, renewable energy, core and settlement strategies and associated general land use zoning.

Cllr. J. Tobin thanked the Chair for allowing the discussion and suggested that it should continue with all members of the Local Authority. Hugh O’Brien said that it is intended to hold a number of workshops with the Plenary Council during Q2 & 3 of 2020 with a view to informing the content and policies of the unitary development plan.

**Item 5 – Any Other Business**

Cllr. Liam Brazil raised the issue of a housing development which had been refused planning permission in Lemybrien recently. Liam McGree replied that the Local Authority is precluded from commenting on individual planning applications during the appeal timeframe.

A discussion took place about the need to align Irish Water’s Capital Investment Plan with the Local Authority’s settlement priorities.

Cllr. J. Cummins (Chair) introduced a new member of staff, Mr. Séamus Doran, Administrative Officer Planning, to the SPC and thanked all members for attending.

**This concluded the business of the meeting**

**Next meeting to held on Tuesday 9th June 2020 in Maritana Room, Menapia Building, The Mall, Waterford**.