**Minutes from Joint Meeting of Climate, Biodiversity Action & Environment SPC**

**&**

**Economic, Enterprise & Planning SPC**

**Monday 29th March, 2021, 4 p.m. – Held remotely on Microsoft Teams.**

**Present: Cllr. Philip Brady, Cllrs. Madeline Argue, Cllr. Winston Bennett, Cllr. T.P. O’Reilly,**

**Fintan McCabe, Env/Cons., Barry Wilson, Community/Vol., Paddy Connaughton DOS, Colm O’Callaghan, Jim Lyng, Cllr. John Paul Feeley, Cllr. Peter McVitty, Cllr Sarah O’Reilly, Cllr. Carmel Brady, Stanly Nwaneri, Brendan Jennings DOS, Marcella Rudden**

Cllr Philip Brady chairs the Meeting.

Paddy Connaughton DOS gives an overview of the Climate Action & Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Bill 2021

Colm O’Callaghan gives a presentation on Decarbonising Zones (attached)

Cllr. Brady thanks Paddy Connaughton & Colm O’Callaghan for their Presentations.

Open discussion and questions from Members on both Presentations takes place.

Cllr. Brady – What is next step for Climate Action Changes

Paddy Connaughton – Decarbonising Zone plan to be sent to Dept. Absence of resources to Local Authority, private sector makes this a pointless exercise, 150 million euro required to bring Cavan up to standard. County Development Plan and other modifications will be needed as we go along.

Fintan McCabe – If the outcome is 51% reduction in carbon, is it for Cavan Co. Co. or do public and businesses have to buy into before been submitted.

Colm O’Callaghan – It is 51% for all of country. Decarbonising Zone is the exemplar and show the way.

Paddy Connaughton – It is 51% across sector, carbon budget targets for each, agriculture, transport and will be in legislation. Cavan are not a major player, its national.

Fintan McCabe – Pilot Scheme – not financed.

Paddy Connaughton – Have to have a plan on draft zone, some consultation on plan but will be very little. Not just decarbonising, climate action will become law – this is the target.

Cllr TP O’Reilly - Regarding agriculture, residential zones, what happens and how long, 12 months, 5-year project?

Colm O’Callaghan – Decarbonising Zone is done till 2030, learning as we go along, Local Authorities will be working with other parts of the country.

Cllr. TP O’Reilly – This is not a road map?

Paddy Connaughton – Baseline study will be on Cavan Zone for rest of the County, agriculture will be done on a national and legislative basis.

Cllr TP O’Reilly – Penalties and not much funding.

Paddy Connaughton – It will be meaningless without serious funding, at least 150 million euro needed.

Marcella Rudden – Regarding national template, funding is key, what is the expectation.

Colm O’Callaghan – Don’t know yet if funding not provided.

Marcella Rudden – Is there an opportunity to get some source of funding, is there an expectation for funding?

Paddy Connaughton - Funding application to align with Climate Action Legislation. Will be working with LEO, HSE and big energy company users. Huge body of work in alignment.

Cllr Feeley – In terms of Action Climate Plan, is there a whole pile of effect or is it a token exercise?

Colm O’Callaghan – Drawing a line on expenditure, expect there to be funding.

Paddy Connaughton - Ireland has already kicked in e.g., Rural Water Programme. In absence of funding, it is a paper exercise and may turn out to be a different type of plan. Will have to be aware that there will be change and it will be a huge challenge.

Cllr. Feeley – Nothing to change in short term in absence of funding?

Paddy Connaughton – 9 years is target time.

Cllr Brady thanks all and meeting ended.