**Minutes of the Transport Infrastructure & Emergency Services Strategic Policy Committee (SPC) held on Thursday 8th October 2020 at 3.00p.m. in the Council Chamber, Courthouse, Cavan**

**Present:**

Cllr. Sean Smith CCC (Chairman)

Cllr. Peter McVitty, CCC

Cllr. Sarah O’ Reilly, CCC

Mr Padraig Young

Mr Eamon Mulcahy

Cllr Trevor Smith, CCC

Cllr. TP O’ Reilly CCC

Cllr. Brendan Fay CCC

**In attendance:**

Mr. Paddy Connaughton, DOS – CCC

Mr. John McKernan, SE – CCC

Mr Kevin Sexton, SEE - CCC

Ms Eileen Burns ASO – CCC

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1. **Minutes of Previous Meeting of 15th November 2019**

Proposed by Cllr. Sean Smith and seconded by Cllr. Peter McVitty.

1. **Update on Public Lighting**

Paddy Connaughton did a presentation on Public Lighting Energy Efficiency Project. He explained the background in that under the National Energy Efficiency Action Plan Local Authorities have a statutory obligation to improve energy efficiency by 33% by 2020 and this has been approved at National level by the CCMA and that the Roads Management Office are the Project Manager. Paddy Connaughton explained that the national large scale LED retrofit project for the Local Authority Sector is going to be delivered by three regional contracts. He explained Cavan is within the North West Region which is due to go to tender in quarter 4 of 2021 and that Mayo County Council have been appointed the lead authority for this region by the RMO. The estimated cost of upgrading Cavan’s Public Lighting inventory is estimated at 1.8 million and Paddy Connaughton stated this would require a resolution to be passed by the Council Members in 2021 to approved the borrowing necessary to progress the Project.

He stated there was estimated savings of €3.34m over 20 years but more accurate figures would be available when the project costs of the south East Region were known.

He stated that the Section 85 agreement with Mayo County Council gives them all the powers, duties and functions of Cavan County Council in relation to the Public Lighting Energy project including statutory functions and it operates for 5 years. He stated that

there was a resolution before the next Council meeting seeking approval for this agreement.

In response to questions from Councillor B Fay about the role of Mayo County Council and if there would be financial savings Paddy Connaughton stated that Mayo County Council were appointed by the Road Management Office as the lead authority on this Project. Regarding savings Paddy stated there would possibly be an opportunity to achieve economies of scale by going to tender on a framework with three Regional contracts.

In response to a question from Councillor S Smith of any potential downsides, Paddy stated that our existing contract gives us good value for money and being part of a much bigger contract does not always produce the savings expected which happened in Irish Water with chemical contracts.

**3. Update on Roadworks Programme 2020**

John McKernan gave a presentation on the 2020 Roadworks Programme. He stated that there was an allocation of €28.3 million to funding roads in Cavan for 2020 together with additional funding of 1.7m for Cavan Railway Greenway, Climate Adaption Works, and Active Travel Measures. John outlined in detail the progress to date on a number of National Road Improvement Schemes including the N3 Virginia Bye Pass, N3 Dublin Road Roundabout and N55 Corduff to South of Killydoon together with a number of National Road Safety Schemes namely the N3 Virginia Main Street Phase 2, N3 Dublin Road Roundabout to Kilmore Roundabout, N3 Virginia to Carrakeelty More (Maghera), N3 Drumsillagh. John also gave an update on the National Road Pavement Schemes.

In respect of Non National Roads Municipal Districts allocations are based predominantly on road length. John explained the Non National Roads PSCI Ratings System.

John explained that there was 21 Schemes under the Non National Roads Bridge Rehabilitation and that there was 15 schemes under the Non National Roads Safety Schemes.

In respect of Non National Road Strategic, John stated that discussions are ongoing with DTTAS regarding the East – West Dundalk to Cavan. Also in respect of the R194 Dunancory Bridge, John gave an update on the progress expected to December 2020.

Regarding the Community Involvement Schemes, John stated that 5 Schemes are been funded with a DTTAS allocation of €617,000 in 2020 and that 4 schemes were under construction under the Local Improvement Scheme and that the allocation is €269, 240 for 2020.

In response to a question by Councillor B Fay on the Cavan Railway Greenway John McKernan stated and that the available funding is to appoint Consultants so far. Paddy Connaughton stated that the Greenways were used predominantly by locals at the moment and that in order for them to be a tourist attraction they need to be longer and the overall plan is to link the Drumod - Ballinamore Greenway back to Cavan which would be more attractive from a Tourism perspective.

In response to a statement by Councillor P McVitty on the poor treatment of Farmers along proposed Greenways John McKernan stated that Greenways would be progressed in stages and managed in a similar way to the National Road Projects and this process would allow for greater engagement and consultations with Land owners and all stakeholders.

In response to a statement by Councillor S Smith that it is very important to negotiate with Farmers before going ahead with Greenways, Paddy Connaughton stated that the earlier funding streams for Greenways had a very quick turnaround time which didn’t allow time to negotiate with Farmers.

In response to a query by Councillor B Fay on the Quivvy Road John McKernan stated that under the Climate Change Adaption Allocation 2020 this road would be raised to prevent people from being cut off during flooding events.

In response to a question by Councillor P McVitty that only 4 LIS schemes were funded in 2020, John McKernan stated that Cavan County Council only received €269,000 under this scheme in 2020 which completed 4 schemes.

John McKernan stated that there was a review of all LIS applications from 2010 to 2017 and that 19 applicants have been taken of the list for the 2010 – 2013 period and that the numbers are reducing due to ineligibility. John explained that just on the previous day a LIS Auditor visited Cavan and inspected all the schemes completed in 2019 and all the relevant paperwork and in particular he checked that the eligibility

criteria set out in the memorandum for Local Improvements Schemes were adhered to.

In respect of the Community Involvement Scheme John McKernan stated Cavan County Council received an allocation of €600,000 but Applicants have a problem raising the 15% contribution.

In response to questions raised by Councillor P McVitty about issues at Inter Parts & McDonalds on the N3 Dublin Road , John McKernan stated there is two Improvement Schemes at these Roundabouts in progress and the options been looked at include traffic lights, the safety of Pedestrians and how to avoid the built up of traffic.

In reply to a query by Councillor S O’Reilly on the allocation of Roads funding to the Bailieborough Area, John McKernan stated that funding is the same for each Municipal District as it is predominantly allocated on Road length and he stated that the lion’s share of Bridge funding went to the Bailieborough Cootehill MD in 2020 .

Councillor S O’Reilly commended Cavan County Council for the first public consultation on the Virginia Bye pass which was very informative for all who attended. John McKernan stated a lot of people made submissions in respect of Virginia Bye Pass and that the second Public Consultation planned for November will be different in that it will be online and delivered in a virtual interactive display format. He stated that the number of route options would be reduced significantly at the next stage. In respect of the N3 Traffic Surveys John McKernan stated that although the traffic counters are down, they are at about 90% of expected volume with allowance made for Dunancory Bridge.

Paddy Connaughton stated that its important that Cavan County Council continues to push Virginia Bye Pass to keep the momentum going and drive it on.

In response to a question by Councillor TP O’Reilly about traffic at Killinkere National School, John McKernan stated that Schools should look for other funding options and that Cavan County Council would support them in their applications for this funding.

Paddy Connaughton stated that Cavan County Council cannot always be the first port of call for Schools and the other stakeholders such as the Boards of Management, Garda and Department of Education need to get involved as there are 76 other schools in the County and an exception cannot be made for one.

In response to a comment that some roads are done that are not always the worst, Paddy Connaughton stated Cavan County Council prepares a Multi Annual Programme of works and if the SPC members want this changed they need to state so.

In reply to a question from Councillor TP O’Reilly about does all a road need to be completed, John McKernan stated that the Department doesn’t like the Restoration Improvement Grant to be used for part of a road as this is considered a sticky plaster effort.

In response to a query on the Winter Maintenance Programme, John McKernan stated the same routes as last year would be treated.

In reply to queries on Hedges it was stated that the Landowner is responsible. John McKernan stated that the hedge cutting notices are sent out, but enforcement is very challenging if the letter is ignored. The next step is court, but this is not pursued. John McKernan explained that Cavan County Council receives a high volume of Freedom of Information enquires regarding tree/hedge cutting. These request the number of trees cut, who complained about hedges and have we a report to justify cutting hedges. In general, there is a negative approach to Cavan County Council cutting trees and looking to see what Cavan County Council are doing to support the Green Agenda.

Meeting concluded at 3.30pm.