

Minutes of the Transport, Infrastructure & Emergency Services Strategic Policy Committee (SPC) held on Thursday 11th April 2024 at 3.00p.m. at the Hotel Kilmore.

SPC Members Present:

Cllr Sarah O'Reilly, Cllr Brendan Fay, Cllr TP O'Reilly, Cllr Trevor Smith.
Eamon Mulcahy, Padraig Young.

In Attendance:

Paddy Connaughton, DOS – CCC; John McKernan, SE – CCC; Marty Lynch, SO – CCC

Apologies:

Cllr Aiden Fitzpatrick, Cllr Peter McVitty
Margaret McNally, HOF – CCC
Noel O'Reilly, Chief Fire Officer – CCC

Paddy Connaughton chaired. He welcomed all to the meeting and acknowledged apologies.

1. Confirmation of minutes of previous meeting,

- **26th June 2023 – joint meeting of Transport Infrastructure & Emergency Services SPC and the Climate, Biodiversity Action and Environment SPC.**

The minutes were read through and adopted. They were proposed by Cllr TP O'Reilly and seconded by Cllr Sarah O'Reilly.

2. Road Works Programme 2024 to 2026

John McKernan SE CCC, presented the Cavan Road Works Programme 2024 to 2026 to the Committee. He outlined the budgets projected over the period and compared them to the budgets for each year, going back to 2016. In the intervening period, the budgets had increased, but there were also higher materials and other costs, which curtailed how much work could be completed, for any given fixed budget. In the presentation, he advised the members of the following:

Roads Network – Cavan has 3,000km of a road network. 4.3% is National Road (TII) and 95.7% is Non-National Road (DOT).

Roads Funding 2024 – The Council has a budget of €41.7M. National Roads - €16.7M, Regional and Local Roads €18.1M, Council Own Resources - €2.9M, Active Travel - €3.8M.

Funding Trend – going back to 2008, the Council had a peak funding for Roads at €18.6M. Funding declined to €8.45M by 2016. It has since recovered to the previous peak high and stands at €18.1M in 2024.

National Primary Schemes – N3 (stage)

- Virginia Bypass. At Phase 3. Design and Environmental Evaluation
- Butlersbridge and Rural Bus Stop RSIS and Derver P&R – feasibility
- Drumsillagh RSIS – close out
- Lavey P&S, Maghera P&S – feasibility
- Virginia Main Street – close out
- Cavan Crystal Hotel Kilmore Roundabout Safety Scheme – design
- Virginia Maghera Safety scheme – design
- NP Pavement Scheme Site Investigations 2024 – design

The TII did a review on the provision of Bus Stops. There are plans for the provision of Park and Ride/Share facilities at Maghera and Lavey.

National Secondary Schemes (stage)

- N54 Clover Hill RSIS – design
- N55 Cashel Cross – construction
- N55 Ballinagh Relief Road – phase 1
- N55 Corduff to South of Killydoon Section A – close out
- N55 Corduff to South of Killydoon Section B – construction
- N54 Butlersbridge to Border Phase 2 – tender award
- N87 Swanlinbar North Pavement Scheme – design
- N87 Swanlinbar South Pavement Scheme – design
- NS Pavement Scheme Site Investigations – design

National Greenway Projects

Cavan Railway – Cavan Town – Leitrim GW at Belturbet – at options stage.

National Primary Maintenance and National Secondary Maintenance

The Municipal Districts road funding allocations were outlined to the meeting.

N3 Virginia Bypass report

- The current scheme development commenced in 2019. It is approximately 14.5km in length and bypasses the town of Virginia and the settlements of Maghera and Whitegate.
- Three public consultations were completed between 2020 – 2021. The Preferred Transport Solution was published in May 2023. Approval was received from TII in June 2023 to proceed to Phase 3 – Design and Environmental Evaluation.
- **Active Travel** – measures are proposed along the entire length of the scheme to include cyclists and pedestrians. There are funds allocated to cycle paths and improved footpaths.
- Approval was received from the TII, in June 2023, to proceed to Phase 3 – Design and Environmental Evaluation.

N55 Corduff to South of Killydoon

The meeting received an update on progress. 73% of works have been completed to date.

Regional and Local Roads Overview

The meeting received a report detailing works provided for, under a budget of €21.1M, to include road improvements and maintenance, bridge rehabilitation, safety improvements, flood and relief works, drainage and pavement overlay and speed limit signage.

Regional and Local Roads

- R188 Rathkenny East-West. A safety analysis carried out in 2021 identified Rathkenny bends as a high-risk location. Consulting engineers were appointed in 2022 to develop a Strategic Assessment report for the scheme. Tender documents are being finalised for the appointment of consultants.

L308 – Assan Bridge

The scheme involves the construction of a new two-way bridge and the realignment of the existing road and junctions.

Regional and Local Roads Maintenance from Own Resources

The meeting received a report detailing works to be carried out from a budget of €2.9m from the Council's own resources.

Regional and Local Roads MD Allocations

The meeting received a report on the funding allocations, by Municipal District.

Material Cost Increases 2018 to 2024

The meeting was advised of substantial cost increases in the purchase of raw materials over the period 2018 to 2024.

Active Travel Grants

The meeting was informed of funding allocations to progress Active Travel projects across the county.

CIS and LIS

Community Involvement Schemes (CIS) and Local Improvement Schemes (LIS)

The schemes provide for funding for road maintenance of rural lanes. Public roads are funded under the CIS and non-public roads funded under the LIS.

There are a large number of applications on file. Similar funding is provided to these schemes, as in previous years. The schemes provide for maintenance of public roads and privately owned laneways, used by currently active farmers or used for access to areas of historical or amenity interest. Cost increases are affecting delivery outcomes to applicants.

Queries

- Cllr TP O'Reilly enquired if there is a completion date for Phase 3 of the Virginia Bypass. He also requested updates on the CIS schemes.

- Cllr Sarah Reilly enquired about the impact of cost increases on the Roads Programme. She also enquired about deployment of road patchers.
- Cllr Brendan Fay asked about maintenance provisions for road drainage and country roads and about the provision of Greenways.
- Cllr TP Reilly noted that agricultural machinery had become noticeably heavier in recent years and this added to the wear experienced by country lanes.
- Eamonn Mulcahy asked about providing funding for roads maintenance to match inflation.
- Padraig Young asked about the Railway Line and Greenways.

3. AOB

No further items raised.

4. Scheduling of next meeting

A date for the next meeting was deferred, until the new Council, meets after the local elections, to be held on 7th June 2024.

Paddy Connaughton brought the meeting to a close at 5pm.