

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT OF THE COMMUNITY, CULTURE, INTEGRATION AND PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE

A Hybrid Meeting held the Council Chamber, County Hall, Dun Laoghaire held on 19th March 2025

COUNCILLORS PRESENT

Michael Clark (Chair)	Anna Grainger
Jacqueline Burke	Thomas Joseph
Meabh Cody	Sean McLoughlin
Pierce Dargan	Peter O'Brien
JP Durkan	Dave O'Keefe
Mary Fayne	

SECTORAL REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT

Josephine Browne, Mairin de Brun, Séan Ó Raghallaigh, Pierrot Ngadi, Daniel Walsh, Maria Travers

OFFICIALS PRESENT

Therese Langan, Director of Community, Cultural Services & Parks; Mary Ruane, Senior Executive Officer, Community; Catherine Gallagher, County Librarian, Library Services; Elizabeth Clarke, Senior Executive Officer, Corporate Services; Deirdre Black, Heritage Officer, Parks; Anne Murray, Biodiversity Officer, Parks, Kenneth Redmond, Arts Officer; Tadhg Mac Liam, Irish Language Development Officer, Communications Office; Dermot Nolan, A/Senior Executive Officer, Parks, Gwen O'Looney, Sports Inclusion Disability Officer, Parks; Deirdre Cronin, Administrative Officer, Community; Ian Smalley, Administrative Officer, Community; Jayne Parsons, Senior Staff Officer, Community; Siobhan Nic Gaoithin, Senior Staff Officer, Community, Shahruz Mirmirani, Staff Officer, Community; Tina Falkiner, Assistant Staff Officer, Community.

Apologies

Cllr Frank McNamara

1. Welcome & Roll Call

Cllr Michael Clark noted that this was the inaugural meeting of the SPC and welcomed everyone to the meeting. A safety statement was read, and the roll call was carried out. The Chair also noted that standing orders are in place.

2. Confirmation of Minutes

The draft minutes of the Community, Culture and Wellbeing SPC meeting held on Wednesday 20th March 2024 were **AGREED**. The minutes were then adopted, having been proposed by Cllr Michael Clark and seconded by Cllr Sean McLoughlin.

3. Matters Arising from the Minutes

None.

4. Information items submitted by members for written reply

No business.

5. Director's Business

a) Who we are and what we do

Therese Langan, Director of Services, Community, noted the great work done by the SPC over the past five years and the important role of the SPC in focusing on strategic issues.

Mary Ruane, Senior Executive Officer, Community, gave a brief outline of the Community Team and main functions.

Ian Smalley, Administrative Officer, Community, then gave a presentation on the work carried out by the Senior Community Officer and Community Development Team. This was followed by an outline of the main functions of the Community Facilities, the Estate Management programme, Grants Scheme, Comhairle na nÓg, the Community Employment Scheme and the Community and Volunteer Awards.

Siobhán Nic Gaoithin, Integration Support Officer, Community, gave a short presentation on the Local Authority Integration Team (LAIT). It was noted that the LAITs which were established in July 2024 coordinate and support the work of the Community Integration Forum.

Ian Smalley, Administrative Officer, Community, gave a presentation on the Administration Section of the Community Department including its work with the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC), the Public Participation Network and the dlr Volunteer Centre.

Deirdre Cronin, Administrative Officer, Community, gave a brief presentation on the dlr Age Friendly Programme, Social Inclusion Programme and the Local Policing Fora.

Catherine Gallagher, County Librarian, gave a presentation on the Library Service and the services provided for all.

Catherine Gallagher, County Librarian, also provided a presentation on the dlr Creative Ireland programme and outlined some highlights and events.

Kenneth Redmond, Arts Officer, gave a presentation on the Arts Programme and the Arts Development Plan.

Tadhg Mac Liam, Irish Language Development Officer, gave a presentation which covered the Council's responsibility in respect of the Irish Language and the programmes being offered.

A discussion followed during which the members present were asked for their questions and comments.

b) Establishing new Heritage Forum and Biodiversity Forum

Deirdre Black, Heritage Officer gave a presentation on "The County Heritage Forum and the New Heritage Plan". Ms. Black noted that this year sees the development of the 4th DLR County Heritage Plan 2026-2030.

The presentation covered the following topics:

- The European and National Context
- The current Heritage Plan's focus
- The planned new Heritage Plan making process for 2025, including stages in the process for SPC and Area Committee input, feedback and approval
- Previous County Heritage Forum steering group membership
- Proposed New County Heritage Forum representation – agency stakeholders, community and dlrc

Ms. Black invited the SPC's input to the process for development of the New County

Heritage Plan and representation on the New County Heritage Forum.

The Chair stated that he would be happy to act as the Chair of the County Heritage Forum for his term as Chair of the SPC (as was the case with the previous Heritage Forum). Other SPC members to sit on the Heritage Forum to be confirmed.

The overall representation structure for the County Heritage Forum and the current Chair of the SPC as the Chair of the Heritage Committee was proposed by Cllr O'Brien and **agreed** by the members present. It also **agreed** for PPN member groups with a heritage interest to be invited to form a subcommittee and nominate a representative(s) to sit on the Heritage Forum and also advise on and guide the process. It was also noted that other members can be invited by the Forum when it is established. The presentation was **NOTED**.

Anne Murray, Biodiversity Officer, gave a presentation on the County Biodiversity Forum and the new dlr Biodiversity Plan. The presentation covered the following topics:

- The existing DLR Biodiversity Action Plan 2021 -2025 contains 65 actions including the 34 ongoing actions.
- Outline of the objectives and actions needed to protect and enhance biodiversity within DLR for the new Biodiversity Plan
- Timelines and Monitoring
- Suggested timelines of plan development as the current plan is in its final year
- Importance of the new EU Restoration Law & Restoration Projects as part of our obligations
- Explanation of the Biodiversity Forum and request for any 2 of the SPC members to join the Biodiversity Forum to email Anne Murray

A discussion followed during which the members present were asked for their questions and comments. The presentation report was **NOTED**.

c) Disability Sport - Sports Partnership in the County

Gwen O'Looney, Sports Inclusion Disability Officer, gave a presentation on Dún Laoghaire Rathdown Sports Partnership which, included:

- The role of Sports Partnership and the Sports Inclusion Disability Officer
- Introducing the Sports Partnership Team
- Benefits of Sports and Activity
- Examples of the work being done
- SportsAbility Day 6th September 2025

A discussion followed during which the members present were asked for their questions and comments. the report was **NOTED**.

d) Toolkit Presentation

Following introduction by Therese Langan, Mary Ruane, Senior Executive Officer, Community, and Catherine Gallagher, County Librarian, gave a presentation on the DLR Community and Cultural Infrastructure Assessment and Audit, this included:

- Dún Laoghaire Rathdown Community and Culture Infrastructure Report
- Objectives of Community and Cultural Assessment and Audit. The context of which is the County Development Plan 2022 to 2028.
- Neighbourhood, People, Homes and Place
- Overall Methodology

- Details of the Data Collection
- Community Facilities considered in the study
- Facilities Audit and Key Findings
- Stakeholders Engagement and Insight
- Facilities Usage Data
- Population Demographics
- Community Needs Assessment
- Community Infrastructure Toolkit

A discussion followed during which the members present were asked for their questions and comments.

It was noted that prioritising projects for delivery of future community infrastructure to provide for community and cultural needs is through the Capital Programme 2025-2028 and subsequent programmes.

The presentation was **NOTED**.

a) Cemetery Bye Laws

Dermot Nolan, A/Senior Executive Officer, Parks, gave a presentation on the proposed review of the Cemetery Bye Laws. This included:

- A brief survey of the legislation
- Reasons for review and amendments
- Cemeteries as evolving spaces
- Overview of Key Changes
- Columbarium Walls
- Heritage & Biodiversity
- Control of Dogs
- Clarity on Opening Hours
- Contravention of Bye Laws

Mr. Nolan outlined that the process includes public consultation. A discussion followed during which the members present were asked for their questions and comments. Mr. Nolan confirmed that approval of the proposed amended Bye Laws is a reserved function of the Council.

The report was **NOTED**.

6. Business Referred from the Council (if any)

No business.

7. Business Referred from the Corporate Policy Group (if any)

No business.

8. Item for SPC Future Work Programme

No business.

9. Any other Business

Therese Langan, Director of Community, Cultural Services & Parks noted that the new Biodiversity Plan and all other plans being developed will be brought before the SPC at future meetings for consideration.

The Chair thanked Therese Langan and wished her all the best for her retirement.

Action: Copies of all presentations to be sent to SPC members.

10. Date of Next Meeting

To be confirmed.