**Minutes of Meeting of SPC 1 – Economic Development, Enterprise Support & Tourism**

**Held in County Hall on 24th April, 2015 at 2.30pm**

**Present:** Cllr Pat Millea (Chair), Cllr Pat Fitzpatrick, Cllr Tomas Breathnach, Cllr Michael Doyle, Cllr Patrick O’Neill, Mr Phil Funchion, Mr Michael Kennedy and Mr John Bambrick.

**Apologies:** Cllr Patrick McKee, Ms Deirdre Shine.

**In Attendance:** Martin Prendiville, Head of Finance; Sean McKeown, Head of Enterprise; Bryan Tyrell, Senior Executive Officer; Aisling Hayes, Administrative Officer; Stephen O’Connor, Administrative Officer.

The Chairman welcomed the new members nominated to the Committee, namely Mr Phil Funchion (Trade Union Rep); Mr Mark Kennedy (Construction Industry Rep); and Mr John Bambrick (Agriculture/Farming Rep). It was noted that Ms Deirdre Shine (Business Rep) had also been nominated to the Committee, and that the Community and Voluntary Sector nominees will come through the Public Participation Network (PPN), which is expected to be in situ be the end of May.

1. **Minutes of Previous Meeting**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 13th February, 2015 were proposed by Cllr Tomas Breathnach, seconded by Cllr Michael Doyle and agreed.

1. **Matters Arising**

It was noted that Exodea Ltd had been contracted to assist the Project Team for the preparation of the Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) to specifically assist develop the economic themes and objectives in the LECP. It was further noted that Mr. Bill Thorne from Exodea would make a presentation to the Committee later in the meeting on his findings and recommendations to date.

The executive were asked to circulate notice for meetings and any associated documentation at least 2 weeks in advance.

1. **Update on Local Enterprise Office**

The Head of Enterprise circulated copies of the LEO Local Enterprise Development Plan that had been submitted to Enterprise Ireland. He also circulated copies of the LEO Service Delivery Plan for 2015, with details of the main metrics and update on year to date progress in attaining the targets set. There followed a discussion during which a number of issues were raised. In particular, training and re-skilling people to avail of new job opportunities. Mr McKeown explained that while this issue was not the primary responsibility of the LEO, the LEO would be sponsoring a “Career and Opportunities Fair” In Kilkenny on 4th June. He said this event would have the following objectives:

1. Provide local employers (large and small) with chance to showcase the job opportunities they have available right now;
2. Provide local people with an opportunity to see what vacancies are available; and
3. Provide people seeking employment or looking at a change in career with the opportunity to explore training courses and further education that might help them develop their career.
4. **Update on Preparation of Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP)**

It was noted that the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC), at their meeting earlier in the day, had proposed there should be a joint workshop of the LCDC and SPC to agree the key development themes to be included in the socio-economic statement to go to public consultation in June. The proposed date for the joint workshop of 27th May was noted. Following discussion, it was agreed to proceed with the joint workshop as proposed by the LCDC.

1. **Presentation from Bill Thorne, Exodea Ltd.**

The Chairman welcomed Mr Thorne to the meeting and invited him to make his presentation. Mr Thorne provided a summary overview of the economic issues arising from the work undertaken on the LECP to date. He presented 9 broad economic goals that have been identified and he explained that if / when these are agreed, they would provide a broad framework for the development of more specific actions for inclusion in the LECP. The goals as presented were deemed to provide a comprehensive framework.

1. **Update on Economic Development Unit (EDU) Work Programme**

Aisling Hayes and Stephen O’Connor gave an update on the Service Delivery Plan. In particular:

• Foreign Direct Investment – Invest Kilkenny & IDA

• LECP Inputs

• Tourism – Ireland Ancient East, Kilkenny Tourism, European City of Culture, Diaspora Grants.

• Strategic Infrastructure – Brewery Site & Belview Port.

• Target Industries – Creative Industries, Film Commission Office.

1. **Rates Incentive Scheme – Strategic Directions**

It was noted that this item had been deferred from the previous meeting. It was agreed to defer discussion on this matter as it had been initially raised by Cllr Pat McKee, who could not attend the meeting.

1. **AOB**

There being no further business, the Chairman concluded the meeting at 4.30pm.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

CHAIRMAN