

**Chairman's Report of
Meeting of Economic Development, Enterprise Support & Tourism (SPC1)
held on 16th March 2017 in Meeting Room 1**

1. Stephen O'Connor provided an update on the Economic actions of the LECP stating that 5 applications had been received under the Small Business Vacant Premises Scheme. Stephen further stated that a strategic development process for Castlecomer was ongoing with Callan & Ferrybank due to commence shortly.
2. Martin Prendiville provided an update on the Abbey Creative Quarter.
3. Brian Tyrrell provided a report on the draft Tourism Strategy and Work Plan 2017 – 2022, referring to the community workshops being organised throughout the county and reported on the discussions and issues arising. Members were also advised of the Action Plan which sets out the work programme to be undertaken by the newly formed tourism team under Director of Services Mary Mulholland. Mr. Tyrrell advised that the draft plan would be presented to the March Council meeting.
4. The Chairman welcomed Ray Griffin and Cormac O' Keeffe from the School of Business, Waterford Institute of Technology to make a presentation on the South East Economic Monitor. Ray & Cormac stated that the South East Economic Monitor was an independent report from the School of Business lecturers and highlights the economic priorities for the South East. They further stated that it was a one-stop overview of key economic data and that it gives a concise and accessible snapshot of how the counties Carlow, Kilkenny, South Tipperary, Waterford, and Wexford are performing and highlights the economic priorities for the South East. Published in June 2016, the report highlights the two trends that shape the South East's economy- the impact of the great national economic recession and recovery; which temporarily hid the longstanding economic malaise across the region. The report illustrates a region struggling to transition to a knowledge economy, built on high-quality jobs.
5. It was agreed the next meeting of the SPC1 would take place on Friday 16th June 2017 at 11am.

PAT MILLEA
Chairman

Date