

Minutes of the Meeting of SPC1

- Economic Development, Enterprise Support and Tourism held in County Hall on Friday 22nd June, 2018 at 11.00am.

Present: Cllr. Pat Fitzpatrick, Cllr. Michael Doyle, Cllr Peter Cleere, Mr. John Bambrick, Mr. Phil Funchion, Ms. Theresa Delahunty

Apologies: Cllr. Pat Millea, Mr. Charles Wani, Cllr. Patrick O'Neill,

In Attendance: Fiona Deegan, Martin Prendiville, Brian Tyrrell, Brid Hynes, Aisling Hayes, Mary Walsh

The Chairman opened the meeting by conveying his best wishes to the newly elected Mayor, Cllr. Peter Cleere and further thanked the previous Mayor, Cllr. Michael Doyle for his work during his tenure and wish them both well for the future.

1. Minutes of Meeting held on 22nd March, 2018

The Minutes of the meeting held on 22nd March, 2018 were proposed by Mr Phil Funchion and seconded by Cllr Michael Doyle and agreed.

2. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

3. Abbey Quarter Update

Mr. Martin Prendiville provided an update on the Abbey Quarter stating that Mr. Kevin Mc Cormack, CEO had resigned and that Jason Clerkin was due to take up the position from Monday 25th June. He stated that test excavations were now complete confirming that the area around Abbey itself was a hot spot. He stated that they were waiting for a decision from An Bord Pleanála on referrals by 2 or 3 individuals of which some were rejected and others ruled in favour of the County Council and that the latest would be decided in July. He further stated that a lot of work was ongoing with Lisneys in relation to marketing the Abbey Quarter. Following discussion, it was agreed to invite Jason Clerkin to present at the next meeting of the committee.

4. Tourism Development Update

Brian Tyrrell provided an update on Kilkenny Tourism including;

- New Kilkenny Tourism website to be launched soon;
- Marketing and PR activities;
- Festival Grants;

- and the AGM of Kilkenny Tourism which was held recently.

Mr. Tyrrell responded to questions from the committee in relation to a number of matters, including the rising prices of accommodation in Kilkenny and the lack of bed spaces.

5. Strategic Economic Actions for Approval

Ms. Brid Hynes stated that the LECP (Economic) Implementation Plan 2018-2021 was adopted at the March meeting which comprises a total of 66 actions all of which are progressing. Ms. Hynes stated that at the previous meeting it was agreed that a number of high level strategic actions be agreed for regular review rather than feedback on all 66 actions and to this end, Ms. Hynes presented 13 strategic actions for approval. These actions were identified because of their strategic importance for economic development of Kilkenny, as follows:

No.	Action
1.10	Develop a Retail Strategy and include cross-sectoral collaborations in areas such as shop frontage design, use of technology in sales and marketing (including online trading), and the use of local heritage and culture in marketing design. This action will also include promoting ecommerce opportunities and increasing the number of Trading On-line Vouchers drawn down in particular by retailers in the County.
2.6	Agree a phased development strategy for capitalising on the potential of the Brewery Site at the Abbey Quarter, the development of which is provided for by the Kilkenny City Development Plan and the Abbey Quarter Masterplan, with particular emphasis on 3rd and 4th level education provision, incubation and advance office space, innovation and research. This action will include investigation of the development of an 'Innovation Hub' to assist business develop innovative and creative ideas.
2.7	Develop a strategy to promote and further expand Digital Media, Animation and Design activities in County Kilkenny, building on the past experience of the Kilkenny Design Workshops. The strategy should include a 'Design Thinking' initiative to deliver enterprise skills to young people.
3.2	Improve the visitor experience and business capability of outdoor activity providers active in tourism. Initiatives to include analysis of the potential for: linking activity hubs and amenities; protection and management of the county's Green Infrastructure and the development of the County's river assets for fishing, boating and Blueway trails. This will include engaging with the Ireland's Ancient East team to identify opportunities with the highest potential.
3.5	Develop a strategy for Festivals as an economic driver, building on the very successful range of existing festivals programmed throughout the year in Co. Kilkenny.
4.6	Support the establishment of the proposed Technological University of the South East.
4.7	Prepare a case for Kilkenny as the home for the proposed National Design Centre of Ireland.
5.2	Utilising previous learning continue to build on experience in rolling out initiatives such as

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Town & Village Renewal Scheme • Town Centre Renewal Process • Community & Culture Facilities Capital Grant Scheme • Social Enterprise Development Workers <p>Work with local businesses and representative organisations to support the regeneration / development of rural towns and their hinterlands by developing strategic development plans for key towns in each Municipal District. These plans will look at job creation and the provision of potential services into local communities. They will also include an examination of co-op type community shops selling local produce in rural villages.</p> <p>Provide access to a range of social enterprise supports and services and design tailor made support structures to suit both urban and rurally based social enterprise initiatives.</p>
6.1	Maximise the potential of the Belview Port industrial zone in terms of infrastructure and job creation opportunities.
7.4	Develop an investment strategy for Kilkenny city in preparation for funding opportunities under the Urban Regeneration and Development Fund.
7.5	Provide water and waste water infrastructure to meet growth needs.
7.6	Implement the Western Environs Neighbourhood Plan for the development of the area to ensure residential and educational needs are met.
9.3	Further advance the proposal for a European centre of excellence for ICT in Agriculture in Kilkenny.

A report was circulated with an update on progress with regards to these actions and stated that progress updates in relation to the wider number of actions will be provided on an annual basis.

6. Local Enterprise Office (LEO) Update

Ms. Fiona Deegan circulated the LEO Action Monitoring Report, providing updates on the 22 actions contained therein. A comprehensive report on the Activity, Target/Output, Timescale and current status of each action was provided, stating that all actions were on target to year end.

7. Presentation on Project Ireland 2040

Ms. Colette Byrne provided a presentation on the National Planning Framework – Regional Spatial & Economic Strategy, outlining the national strategic outcomes and strategic investment priorities. Ms. Byrne stated that €4Bn Project Ireland funds were announced the previous day which would be allocated to the best proposals, with ideal applications being collaborative efforts, stating that there were 4 funds - €2Bn Urban Regeneration and Development Fund, €1Bn Rural Development Fund, €500Mn Climate Actions Fund and €500Mn Disruptive Technologies Fund – all funds were

through competitive bid process with the aim to get applications in for the first tranche of funding.

8. Any Other Business

There were no items for discussion.

9. Date of Next Meeting

It was agreed that the next meeting of the SPC would take place on Friday 14th September 2018 at 11am.

The meeting concluded at 01.00pm.

Signed: _____

Date: _____

CLLR. PAT FITZPATRICK
Chairman