

Chairman's Report of
SPC 1 Meeting of Economic, Enterprise Support, Tourism, Planning and
Development Policy

Held via MS Teams on Friday 3rd December 2021

1. The Council will undertake a review of its Disability Implementation Plan in 2022 that will set out how the Council is meeting its obligations under the Disability Act, 2005 to provide:
 - 1.Accessible buildings;
 - 2.Accessible information;
 - 3.Accessible services.
2. Kilkenny had been successful in obtaining funding from the Outdoor Recreational Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS) for the following projects:

Measure 2 - €189,000 has been approved for Woodstock Estate for the development of accessible trails, age friendly and disabled parking and wheelchair swing. €196,000 was also allocated for the rehabilitation of the Ardra Looped Walk and Arboretum Walk at Castlecomer Discovery Park.

Measure 3 – €499,500 has been approved for the Kilkenny Countryside Park which is located at the old Dunmore Landfill. Phase One, which is the Biodiversity Park will be covered by this funding and also the enhancement of amenities on the North Kilkenny Cycle-Trail from the “City to the Park”

Project Development Measure: €50,000 has been allocated to the Castlecomer Discovery Park Masterplan.
3. Local Enterprise and Community Plan (LECP) guidelines were recently announced and the Council will shortly commence the process of preparing the Plan which is to be adopted by the Council by Q1 2023. There are two elements to the LECP - Economic (SPC1 have an oversight on this element) and Community (LCDC have an oversight on this element). The overall plan has to be approved by Kilkenny County Council. An Advisory Steering Group will be set up to oversee the process and monitoring of the LECP. The process for preparing the next LECP will also include a review on progress implementing the High Level Goals and actions contained in the current Plan.
4. Mr. Jason Clerkin, CEO of the Abbey Quarter Partnership Ltd, provided an update on the development of the Abbey Quarter at The Meeting. He advised that the the Abbey Quarter Regeneration projects are divided into two main areas, (i) Public Realm infrastructure & Mayfair conversion, and (ii) Commercial Development of plots within the Abbey Quarter. The Abbey Quarter Riverside Garden and Skate Park won the Overall National Excellence in Placemaking Award 2021 in the Urban Land Institute (ULI) Excellence in Placemaking Awards.
5. The new Local Enterprise Development Plan (LEDP) 2021-2024 which sets out the work plan for the Local Enterprise Office (LEO) has been approved by Enterprise Ireland and has been adopted by SPC1. Ms. Fiona Deegan outlined the key strategic priorities contained within the plan which include Entrepreneurship, Competitiveness and Digitalisation, Green/Sustainability Exporting/Internationalisation, Innovation, Clustering and Networks and

stated that LEO Kilkenny will continue to work and support other initiatives in the County such as Tourism & Hospitality, Taste Kilkenny, the Craft sector, Invest Kilkenny and Shop Kilkenny.

6. Mr. Denis Malone advised that on foot of a recommendation from the Office of the Planning Regulator (OPR) the Minister of State at the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage issued a Draft Ministerial Direction to the Council in relation to Sections 11.4.1, 11.5.1 and Figure 11.4 of the recently adopted City and County Development Plan 2021-2027. The Chief Executive will compile a report by 6th December, 2021 summarising the views of the public, the views / recommendations of the Elected Members and of the Regional Assembly and also the recommendations in relation to the best manner in which to give effect to the draft direction.
7. The draft schedule of 2022 meetings was agreed, with the next meeting scheduled for Friday 11th March 2022 at 3.30pm.

Cllr. Ger Frisby
Chairman

Date: _____