

Minutes of the Meeting Strategic Policy Committee (SPC1) Economic Development, Enterprise Support, Tourism, Planning & Development Policy

Council Chambers, County Hall, John Street, Kilkenny

Thursday 22nd June 2023 at 3.00pm

Present: Cllr. Ger Frisby (Chair), Cllr. John Coonan, Cllr. Maria Dollard (remote), Cllr. Michael McCarthy, Cllr. Michael Doyle, Cllr. Patrick O'Neill, Brian Hamilton.

Apologies: Cllr. Eugene McGuinness, Cllr. Pat Fitzpatrick, Eileen Moyles, Fiona O'Neill, Jimmy Duggan, Marion Acreman, Deirdre Shine, Bill O'Keefe.

In Attendance: Denis Malone, Martin Prendiville, Aileen McGrath, Martina Comerford, Nicolaas Louw, Catherine Myers.

The Chair welcomed members to the meeting.

Item	
1.	Declaration of Interest: None
2.	Confirmation of Minutes: The minutes of the previous meeting held on the 23 rd March 2023 were proposed by Cllr. Michael McCarthy and seconded by Cllr. John Coonan and agreed.
3.	Matters Arising: None
4.	Progress Report: The Chair noted that the agenda and progress report were circulated and that the progress report was taken as read. <u>Abbey Quarter Regeneration:</u> Mr. Denis Malone advised that the works on the Mayfair Library are well progressed and are due to be completed in August 2023. Regarding the review of the Abbey Quarter Masterplan, Mr. Malone added that the public consultations were complete. The Chief Executive would now prepare a report summarising the issues raised and this report will be submitted to the Elected Members for consideration. <u>North Quays SDZ:</u> Mr. Malone advised the works on the site have commenced on the North Quays, noting that they are envisaged to be completed in 2025. <u>Local Enterprise Office:</u> Mr. Malone gave an update on LEO activities as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- The new Energy Efficiency Grant for Small Enterprises- Recruitment Retention Seminar: Investing in the Right People for Your Business – This Seminar which was run in partnership with Kilkenny Chamber of Commerce, was held in Newpark Hotel on the 15th June.- National Enterprise Awards - CHI Environmental based in Grannagh represented County Kilkenny at the National Enterprise Awards which were held in the Mansion House on 1st June.

	<p><u>Tourism:</u> Mr. Malone gave an update on Tourism noting the following:</p> <p>The first draft of Kilkenny’s Destination Experience Development Plan (DEDP) which will be led by Failte Ireland was presented to Kilkenny County Council Executive in April. The plan focuses on improving and increasing the tourism experiences available to visitors in both Kilkenny City and County.</p> <p>Kilkenny County Council in partnership with Kilkenny Volunteer Centre, once again launched the Kilkenny Welcome Team on the 24th May. The Welcome Team are a group of approximately 20 trained volunteers who will meet and greet visitors to Kilkenny, providing a warm Kilkenny welcome along with visitor information over the summer months.</p> <p><u>Project Office and Parks:</u> Mr. Malone gave an update on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - South East Greenway advising that one section of it should be opened during 2023. - Woodstock Gardens are now fully open. Funding secured under the Disability Participation and Awareness Fund along with funding secured under ORIS allowed for the provision of a new wheelchair see-saw and accessible Play Tower in Woodstock playground. This was open to the public in June. A new fully electric and wheelchair accessible buggy was delivered to Woodstock in May. The new addition makes the gardens more accessible for all. The vehicle was purchased from grant funding secured under the 2022 Disability Participation and Awareness Fund. - ORIS Funding - Mr Malone gave a brief overview of the projects under Measure 1,2 and 3. <p><u>Planning:</u> Mr. Malone updated the meeting on Planning applications which are on par with last year; taking in charge sites; E-planning; Active Land Management; Derelict sites, noting a new one in Graiguenamanagh was added to the register; Conservation Grants; Building control and Disability Access</p>
7.	<p>Consideration of Policy Issues:</p> <p>(1) Briefing on Abbey Quarter Masterplan Mr. Malone gave an update on the Review of the Abbey Quarter Masterplan noting that the Council had prepared a draft Masterplan for an extended Abbey Quarter area (to include Vicar Street & Greensbridge Street) along with a review of policy and the Urban Design Code (2018).</p> <p>(2) Briefing on Loughmacask Master Plan Mr. Nicolaas Louw gave an update on the Loughmacask Masterplan, noting that the material amendments to the Loughmacask Masterplan and Environmental screenings reports had been on public display from Friday 21st April 2023 to Friday May 26th 2023. The Chief Executive’s report was presented to the Council at the Plenary meeting on the 19th of June and was accordingly adopted by resolution.</p> <p>(3) Presentation on Kilkenny County Council Tourism Strategy Ms Martina Comerford gave a presentation on the Kilkenny County Council’s Tourism Strategy. A copy of the presentation will be sent to the committee.</p>

	<p>Ms Comerford noted that Kilkenny County Council’s Tourism Development Strategy 2017-2022 has now ended and Ms. Comerford went through the outcomes of same. It was then proposed by Cllr. Michael Doyle and seconded by Cllr. John Coonan that the 2017 to 2022 plan be officially closed.</p> <p>The New KCC Tourism Development Strategy will run from 2023 – 2028 and will be launched later in the year. This plan is being developed in partnership with Failte Ireland’s Destination Experience Development Plan (DEDP).</p> <p>A draft of the plan will then go out for public consultation through KCC’s online consultation portal https://consult.kilkenny.ie/ and revert to the SPC for further consideration. It is envisaged that the plan will be adopted by the Elected Members by year end.</p> <p>Cllr. Maria Dollard suggested that Team Retreat packages could be offered to companies to encourage their remote workers to visit Kilkenny in the off -season. Ms. Comerford to bring this suggestion to Kilkenny Tourism.</p> <p>Cllr. Michael Doyle suggested that the packaging and promotion of the attractions in the Tourism Triangle (Kilkenny–Thomastown-Inistioge) could be beneficial to attract visitors.</p> <p>(4) Briefing on the National Waste Management Plan</p> <p>Mr Malone advised that the three Regional Waste Management Planning Lead Authorities are now proceeding with the preparation of a replacement combined National Waste Management Plan for a Circular Economy.</p> <p>The draft was on public display till 5th July 2023 and could be accessed through www.mywaste.ie</p> <p>Mr. Malone noted that Construction and Demolition Waste contributes to a high amount of waste in Ireland.</p> <p>The Chair and Cllr. Michael McCarthy asked if there would be a possibility that the waste materials from roadworks could be used to fill pot holes, to which Mr. Malone replied that due to the threat of environmental damage all Construction and Demolition waste has to be collected by a Waste Management Company and subsequently re-classified in order for it to be re-used.</p>
8.	<p>Any Other Business: None</p>
9	<p>Date of Next Meeting: The next SPC 1 meeting will be held on the 21st September 2023 from 3.00pm to 4.30pm in Council Chambers in County Hall.</p> <p>The meeting concluded at 4.20pm.</p>

Signed: _____

Date: _____

CLLR. GER FRISBY
Chairman

