

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

**Held Via MS Teams**

**Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2023 at 3.00pm**

**Present:** Cllr. Ger Frisby (Chair), Cllr. John Coonan, Cllr. Maria Dollard, Cllr. Michael McCarthy, Cllr. Eugene McGuinness, Cllr. Michael Doyle, Brian Hamilton, Eileen Moyles, Fiona O'Neill, Jimmy Duggan.

**Apologies:** Cllr. Pat Fitzpatrick, Cllr. Patrick O'Neill, Marion Acreman, Deirdre Shine, Bill O'Keeffe, Martin Prendiville, Martina Comerford, Nicolaas Louw.

**In Attendance:** Denis Malone, Aileen McGrath, Catherine Myers, Caitriona Corr

Item	
1.	<b>Declaration of Interest:</b> None
2.	<b>Confirmation of Minutes:</b> The minutes of the previous meeting held on the 8 <sup>th</sup> December 2022 were proposed by Ms. Eileen Moyles and seconded by Cllr. John Coonan and agreed.  The Chair welcomed Mr. Jimmy Duggan to his first SPC1 Meeting. Mr. Duggan is the PPN nomination to replace Mr. Paul Brophy.
3.	<b>Matters Arising:</b> A letter was issued on behalf of the members of SPC1 through the Chair to Mr. Tim Butler to thank and complement all who were involved in Yulefest 2022.
4.	<b>Presentation by Ms. Catriona Corr, Cycling Officer – Kilkenny County Council.</b> The Chair welcomed Ms. Corr to the meeting. Ms. Corr provided a presentation and update on the Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan (SUMP).  The SUMP is a strategic plan that will be designed to satisfy the mobility needs of people and businesses in the City and its surroundings for a better quality of life. This plan will see the implementation of a vision, objectives and specific measures that relate to the movement of people in the city, such as the design of the streets, integration of public transport and safer walking and cycling infrastructure. The measures will be designed to make the City a vibrant, more user friendly, healthier and sustainable city for people. The plan process will take place over 12 months, due to be completed by Quarter 4 2023.  The Chair thanked Ms. Corr for her presentation and asked her to send the presentation to Ms. Aileen McGrath for circulation to the committee.  Ms. Moyles expressed a concern about the lack of available parking on the High Street for Older Persons, to which Ms. Corr advised that the long-term plan is to remove as many cars as possible from the City Centre which will therefore free up parking spaces for Older Persons and for People with Disabilities.  Ms. Fiona O'Neill extended an invitation to Ms. Corr to present at the next Kilkenny Access Group Meeting. Ms. Corr was happy to accept the invitation to meet and work with the

	<p>Kilkenny Access Group. Ms. O'Neill also extended an invitation to Ms. Moyles to attend the meetings also.</p> <p>Mr. Denis Malone thanked Ms. Corr for her presentation and encouraged all persons present to engage in the SUMP public consultation process.</p>
5	<p><b>Progress Report:</b> The Chair noted that the agenda and progress report were circulated and that the report was taken as read.</p> <p><u>Abbey Quarter Regeneration:</u> Mr. Malone advised that with regards to the Abbey Quarter Development, Phase 1 is completed and phase 2, which includes the new Urban Park and Street is now gone to Tender and should be completed in 2024.</p> <p><u>North Quays SDZ:</u> Mr. Malone provided an update on the North Quays SDZ noting that Kilkenny County Council are in partnership with Waterford City Council to deliver the public realm and infrastructure elements of the North Quays development as part of the URDF funded project. Kilkenny County Council will be working on the following elements: (a) the upgrade of the approach roads to the North Quays (i.e. the Abbey Road and Belmont Road); (b) the delivery of the Belmont Link Road from the Belmont Road to the Abbey Road; (c) the upgrade of the N29 Port Road; and Greenway Connectivity to provide for greater access to the Greenway in the Ferrybank area as a smarter travel option for people living and working in the area and for greater connectivity to schools in the area.</p> <p><u>Local Enterprise Office:</u> Mr. Malone updated on LEO activities as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Kilkenny Start up Showcase</b> event which took place in the Newpark Hotel on the 9<sup>th</sup> February.</li> <li>- <b>Local Enterprise Week</b> which took place from the 6<sup>th</sup> to the 10<sup>th</sup> March with an array of events, workshops and seminars, some of which were hosted by LEO Kilkenny.</li> <li>- <b>Student Enterprise Programme</b> – The Kilkenny County Final took place in Lyrath Hotel on the 8<sup>th</sup> March with over 1000 students from 12 schools taking part. Students from 3 of the schools will go forward to the National Finals which will take place on the 5<sup>th</sup> May in Croke Park.</li> </ul> <p><u>Tourism:</u> Mr. Malone gave an update on Tourism noting that 2023 will see the development and implementation of Kilkenny's Destination Experience Development Plan which will be led by Fáilte Ireland. Once this 5-year plan is finalised, a management and oversight group will be established to deliver the plan.</p> <p><u>South East Greenway:</u> Mr. Malone gave an update on the South East Greenway advising that one section of it should be opened later in the year.</p> <p><u>E-planning:</u> Mr. Malone advised that E-Planning, the process of making a planning application online and submitting documents, is now up and running, noting that 57% of planning applications are now made online. The feedback from the public and agents that the E-planning service is quick and easy to use.</p>

6.	<p><b>Update on LECP 2023 – 2028 process:</b></p> <p>Ms. McGrath outlined the progress to date with regards to the LECP 2023-2028 process, noting the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• July 2022 - Agreed the Socio-Economic Statement Draft of High-Level Goals and Objectives.</li> <li>• Public &amp; Stakeholder Consultation on the draft.</li> <li>• November 2022- Agreed High Level Goals &amp; Objectives.</li> <li>• Commenced work on Stakeholder Engagement re: Draft Implementation plan</li> <li>• February 2023 – Agreed Outcomes and Vision.</li> <li>• March 2023 – Agreed 2-year implementation plan 2023/2024.</li> <li>• LECP Framework (Socio economic Statement, policy context, Vision, Goals, Objectives and Outcomes) submitted to Southern Regional Assembly requested Statement of Consistency.</li> <li>• Environmental and screening against County Development Plan is ongoing in parallel.</li> <li>• Final work ongoing re: document layout, proofing the glossary, appendices etc.</li> <li>• Final Advisory Committee – April 17<sup>th</sup> - to be confirmed.</li> <li>• Final Framework to be presented to LCDC on April 21<sup>st</sup> and special meeting of SPC1 on April 27<sup>th</sup>.</li> <li>• Formal approval by full Council May 15<sup>th</sup> 2023</li> </ul>
7.	<p><b>Consideration of Policy Issues:</b></p> <p>Mr. Malone advised the Committee that a request had been made by the Irish Heart Foundation (IHF) asking Kilkenny County Council to include a no smoking condition on the licensed street furniture (Section 254) applications.</p> <p>Mr. Malone outlined the issues relation to the policy matter and it was agreed it would be inappropriate to use the planning code (e.g. conditions attaching to the Section 254 licenses) as a public health measure.</p> <p>Also, Mr Malone noted concerns with regards to resource implications (i.e. does the Council have the resources to enforce such conditions).</p> <p>The Chair, Cllr. Eugene McGuinness and Cllr. John Coonan agreed with Mr Malone's recommendation.</p>
8.	<p><b>Any Other Business:</b></p> <p>Mr Malone provided an update on the Changing Places Facility for the Abbey Quarter, noting that there is a commitment in the Abbey Quarter Masterplan to provide same. Mr. Malone noted that it would not be located in the Mayfair Library, but instead will be located in Sweeney's Orchard section, but could take up to 2-3 years to be completed.</p> <p>Ms. O Neill also added that there would have to be designated parking for the Changing Places Facility. Mr. Malone and Ms. O Neill to discuss offline.</p> <p>Ms. O Neill and Ms. McGrath to discuss offline, accessibility and facilities for people with disabilities in the City and County from a Tourism Prospective.</p> <p>Cllr. Maria Dollard advised the committee about a Sustainable Energy Community Event which is taking place on Earth Day 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2023.</p>

9	<p><b>Date of Next Meeting:</b></p> <p>The Chair advised that there would be a <b><u>Special Meeting</u></b> of SPC1 on the 27<sup>th</sup> April 2023 at 11.00am to 12.00noon via MS Teams. The purpose of this meeting is to approve the LECP Framework and Implementation plan (2023/2024).</p> <p>The next <b><u>SPC 1 meeting</u></b> will be held on the 22<sup>nd</sup> June from 3.00pm to 4.30pm in Council Chambers in County Hall.</p> <p>The meeting concluded at 4.20pm.</p>
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Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

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

CLLR. GER FRISBY  
Chairman