

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

Held in Council Chambers, County Hall, John Street, Kilkenny

Thursday 7th December 2023 at 11.00am

- Mr. Sean McKeown provided an update on the Abbey Quarter Regeneration, noting that the Mayfair Building, which is the new City Library will be open in Spring 2024.
- Mr. McKeown gave an update on the LEO and Economic Development activities, noting the following:
Design Kilkenny Event, Parade Tower, 17th November 2023 – Hosted by Kilkenny County Council, the Conference examined the global impact and continuing influence of the Kilkenny Design Workshops on business, academia and entrepreneurship.
Careers Kilkenny 2024, due to take place in St Canice's Cathedral on 3rd February 2024. This event aims to showcase the many jobs on offer in Kilkenny.
- Mr McKeown provided the committee with an update on the South East Greenway stating that Lot 5A (Ferrybank to Curraghmore) is the next phase of the Greenway and the works contract was awarded to Glas Civil Engineering. Works have commenced on the 5.5km section. With regards to the Interpretation, Wayfinding and Orientation Plan for the Greenway, a public consultation open day took place on the 22nd November. The Paul Hogarth Company have been appointed by Failte Ireland to develop the plan which will be used to apply for funding for the animation of the Greenway.
- The newly appointed Night Time Economy Advisor to Kilkenny County Council, Mr. Conor Sweeney outlined the background to the Night Time Economy (NTE) pilot scheme of which Kilkenny was one of 9 cities/towns to be selected. Mr. Sweeney also went through the proposed approach to the establishment of an NTE Stakeholder forum and the development of the NTE Action Plan 2024-2025. The draft NTE Action Plan will be presented to the Committee for approval at the next SPC1 meeting.
- With regards to the Kilkenny County Council Tourism Development Strategy and Action Plan 2023-2028, the Chair advised that the Action Plan had been circulated to the committee prior to the meeting and Ms. Martina Comerford had given a detailed presentation to the committee at the September SPC1 meeting. Ms. Comerford gave details with regards to the amendments following the public consultation noting that a total of 7 submissions were received. The Kilkenny County Council Tourism Development Strategy and Action Plan – 2023 to 2028 was proposed by Cllr. Ger Frisby (Chair), seconded by Cllr. McGuinness and adopted by the SPC1 committee.
- With regards to the LECP Implementation Plan 2023-2024, Mr. McKeown advised that the LECP Advisory Committee met on Monday 27th November to discuss and propose an approach to the monitoring and evaluation of the LECP implementation plan 2023-2024. A monitoring

report will be presented at the next SPC1 meeting and following this, the implementation plan for the following two years will be looked at. This was proposed by Cllr. Dollard and seconded by Cllr. McCarthy and agreed.

- Mr Denis Malone provided an update on Forward Planning, noting the following:
Loughmacask Masterplan was adopted in June and will go before the Elected Members in the coming months to be incorporated into the Kilkenny City and County Development Plan 2021-2027.
Urlingford Master Plan was adopted on the 18th September 2023 at the Castlecomer Municipal District Meeting.
Ballyragget/Paulstown/Kilmacow Master Plans are currently in draft stage and will be presented to the respective Municipal Districts at their meetings in the coming months.
Local Area Plan for Ferrybank/Belview - The review for this plan is going out for tender on the 8th December and public consultation will take place in the first half of 2024
- Ms. Aileen McGrath, gave a brief update on Kilkenny County Council's Digital Strategy, noting the appointment of Ms. Rita McGarvey to the role of Broadband Officer. Ms. McGarvey's priorities in the role will be to support the roll out of digital technologies, Broadband Connection Points (BCP's) and will ensure that communities will benefit from improvements in digital service. The 3-year Digital Strategy will outline Kilkenny County Council's strategic goals and objectives for the period 2024-2026. Ms. McGrath outlined the timelines and noted that a digital audit will be carried on Kilkenny County Council and the draft findings of same would be discussed at the next SPC 1 meeting.
- Ms. McGrath gave an update on the Shop Kilkenny Christmas 2023 Campaign.
- The Chair advised of the proposed 2024 meeting dates for adoption.

The next meeting of SPC1 will take place on Thursday 4th April 2024 in Council Chambers in County Hall.

Cllr. Ger Frisby
Chairman

Date: _____