

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

**In Meeting room 1 Kilkenny County Council Thursday 19th June 2025 at
2.00pm - DRAFT**

Present: Cllr. David Fitzgerald (Chair), Cllr. Maria Dollard, Cllr. John Coonan, Mr. Brian Hamilton, Mr. Brian Crowdle, Mr. Sean Cummins.

Apologies: Cllr. Michael Doyle, Cllr. Brian Cleere.

In Attendance: Mr. Tim Butler, Ms. Aileen McGrath, Mr. Denis Malone, Mr. Martin Prendiville, Mr. Michael Leahy & Ms. Marion Fennelly.

Item	
1.	Declaration of Interest: None
2.	Confirmation of Minutes: The minutes of the previous meeting held on the 27 th March 2025 were proposed by Cllr. Maria Dollard and seconded by Brian Crowdle.
3.	Matters Arising: There were no matters arising.
4.	Consideration of Policy Issues: (1) Rates Waiver Scheme Mr. Prendiville circulated a handout on the Rates Waiver scheme and provided an outline of the proposed new scheme for Kilkenny. The objective of the scheme is to support small businesses and the new scheme will provide a framework to limit the financial impact of any future rates increases on lower rate payers. Mr. Sean Cummins enquired about the benefit of a waiver scheme as opposed to a different rates rate for small businesses. Mr Prendiville advised the scheme is design to limit the impact on small business to any general rate increase and once a scheme is in place it is applied automatically to qualifying rates payers. A general discussion was held on the mechanisms used to value businesses for Rates purposes and the appeals process. Adoption of the draft Rates Waiver Scheme was proposed by Cllr. Maria Dollard and seconded by Cllr. John Coonan and thereby adopted. (2) Development Contribution scheme Mr. Tim Butler presented on the Development Contribution scheme, noting the existing scheme in Kilkenny has not been revised since 2016 and the making of a new scheme is the reserved function of the Members. He advised the Committee that the Capital Programme 2025 to 2030 will determine the level of funding required from the revised Scheme. The scheme preparation process allows for public consultation and submissions before the scheme is finalised.

Cllr. David Fitzgerald enquired who incurs the cost of the Development Contribution scheme with Mr. Butler advising the cost of the scheme is incurred by the applicant for planning permission. Mr. Butler agreed he would circulate cost comparison details with the current development contribution calculation rates to that of neighbouring counties.

Mr. Brian Hamilton questioned if Irish Water or Kilkenny County Council have a map of critical water infrastructure projects. Mr Butler noted KCC have list of areas with water needs listed in priority order.

Mr. Sean Cummins queried the percentage split between Urban and Rural collections of the contribution noting there can be a frustration among rural dwellers around provision of infrastructure such as lights etc. He went on to comment on the capacity of the LA to move waste water between treatment plants with or without treatment capacity as a short-term solution to the limitations in the current water infrastructure.

Cllr. Maria Dollard enquired if the scheme applied to building extensions to which Mr. Butler advised it applies to all planning applications.

Mr Butler noted there will be a workshop for members and a consultation process before the matter was brought forward to a full plenary meeting.

(3) Presentation on Kilkenny Craft Strategy

Ms. McGrath gave a presentation on Kilkenny Craft strategy 2025-2027. She outlined that the aim of the strategy is to support the development of craft businesses, craft motivated tourism, Kilkenny's craft culture and heritage and the preservation of craft skills in Kilkenny.

Mr. Brian Hamilton asked if there is craft training and education planned for Kilkenny, to which Ms. McGrath advised ETB have some plans in this area including a goldsmith apprenticeship and also informal skill sharing and short courses to secure future craft skills of all types.

The strategy was broadly welcomed and it was noting many committee members, due to the importance of this sector to Kilkenny, are anxious to receive updates on the progress of the implementation of the strategy into the future.

(4) Update from Planning.

Ferrybank/Belview LAP

Mr. Denis Malone provided an update on the new Local Area plan of Belview/ Ferrybank by circulating maps of the areas to attendees. Mr. Malone spoke about the opportunities and challenges of Ferrybank as part of Waterford metropolitan area.

New County Development plan

Mr. Malone circulated a written summary of the key points of note around the stages in the development plan review process and a general discussion ensued.

Cllr. Maria Dollard noted that the process of developing the new plan would be greatly supported by access to good quality maps.

The Chair advised the New County development plan will start to roll out in September 2025 and further updates on the process would be brought to the Committee.

6.	Any Other Business: Cllr David Fitzgerald advised his term as chairman has ended and a new chair will be appointed in July.
7	Date of Next Meeting: The next SPC 1 meeting will be held on the 25th September 2025 from 2.00pm – 3.30pm in Council Chambers in County Hall. Date for the remaining SPC 1 meetings in 2025: • 4th December 2025 from 2.00pm – 3.30pm in Council-Chambers in County Hall. Cllr. Fitzgerald thanked all committee members for attending, the meeting concluded at 3.30pm.

Signed: 
 CLLR. David Fitzgerald

Date: 25/9/25

