

**Minutes of the Meeting of Strategic Policy Committee (SPC1)**  
**Economic Development, Enterprise Support, Tourism, Planning &  
Development Policy**  
**held in the Council Chamber, Kilkenny County Council, John Street, Kilkenny**  
**on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December 2019 at 2.00pm**

**Present:** Cllr. Ger Frisby (Chair), Cllr. John Coonan, Cllr. Pat Fitzpatrick, Cllr. Michael McCarthy, Cllr. Eugene McGuinness, Cllr. Malcolm Noonan, Mr. John Bambrick, Ms. Deirdre Shine, Mr. Brian Hamilton, Ms. Annette Jolly, Mr. Paul Brophy, Ms. Eileen Moyles.

**Apologies:** Cllr. Michael Doyle, Cllr. Patrick O Neill, Ms. Marion Acreman.

**In attendance:** Sean McKeown, Fiona Deegan, Brid Hynes, Brian Tyrrell, Denis Malone, Jason Clerkin, Catherine Myers.

**1. Welcome & Introductions**

The Chairman welcomed the members stating that he looked forward to working with them and each member introduced themselves providing details of their respective nominating organisation.

**2. Overview of SPC Scheme 2019 – 2024**

Mr. Sean McKeown provided an overview of the Adopted SPC Scheme 2019-2024 covering its Role, Terms of Reference, Framework, Remit and Principles, noting in particular the ethical requirement of Section 177 of the Local Government Act 2001, which applies to all members of the SPC (disclosure by member of pecuniary or any other beneficial interest) and also the Regulation of Lobbying Act 2015 and members obligations under the Act.

**3. Update on Economic Actions of Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP)**

Ms Bríd Hynes provided the background to the LECP 2016-2021 and in particular the Economic Element of this plan which contains a total of 70 actions. A report was circulated with updates on 13 High Level Actions within the Plan and provided an update on progress on a number of these actions and stated that a progress report on the remaining actions is circulated annually.

**4. Abbey Quarter Update**

Mr. Jason Clerkin, Chief Executive of the Abbey Quarter Partnership Ltd. provided an update on the Abbey Quarter stating that Phase 1 (comprising the Brewhouse and associated Public Realm) is set to be complete by the end of 2020 and Phase 2 (Public Realm and additional buildings) are currently in design stage, noting that planning for Phase 2 is expected to be concluded by the end of 2020 and its expected that development will commence on grant of planning, and therefore Phase 2 construction will be complete by the end of 2022. Following a number of questions, Mr. Clerkin stated that the Abbey Quarter would not be competing with High Street retail as one of the objectives of the development is to bring jobs and more homes into the City Centre and therefore the High Street will benefit from the increased activity. Mr. Clerkin further commented that on completion the overall development will comprise a mix of office, educational,

residential, Knowledge intensive Business (KIBs) and ancillary retail & other services along with a significant public park, which is being delivered by Kilkenny County Council over the next 2years.

**5. Local Enterprise Office (LEO) update**

Ms. Fiona Deegan circulated a report on the activities of the LEO outlining Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) under job creation, financial assistance and core and management development training amongst other KPIs, which are agreed with Enterprise Ireland under a Service Level Agreement with Kilkenny County Council.

Ms. Deegan provided an outline of the #shopkilkenny initiative which aims to encourage the public to shop local and support local jobs.

Ms Deegan also provided an outline of #careerskilkenny which was taking place on the 28<sup>th</sup> December in the Medieval Mile Museum at which 22 business with a combined 632 jobs on offer would be exhibiting, stating that the aim of this is to target people home for the Christmas break to ascertain if they are interested in re-locating to Kilkenny.

**6. Tourism Update**

Mr. Brian Tyrrell provided an update on Kilkenny Tourism providing information on local, regional and national strategies, Failte Ireland funding and that hotel room capacity continues to be a problem for Kilkenny.

**7. Planning & Development update**

Mr Denis Malone provided an update on the preparation of the new City and County Development Plan and outlined the progress of work to date. Mr Malone further added that a number of ancillary strategies will be included in the Development Plan including a Local Transport Plan which will consider all modes of transport.

**8. Correspondence**

Mr Sean McKeown noted 2 items of correspondence, which were circulated prior to the meeting:

- (i) *Correspondence dated June 2019 from Register of Lobbying;*
- (ii) *Correspondence dated 21/08/19 from Make Ireland Sustainable for all.*

**9. Any other business**

There were no items for discussion

**10. Date of Next Meeting**

The draft schedule of meetings for 2020 was circulated. It was requested that meetings be moved from 2.00pm to later in the evening. It was agreed that the next meeting of the SPC1 would take place on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2020 in the Council Chamber at a time to be confirmed.

The meeting concluded at 4.15pm.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

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

GER FRISBY  
Chairman