

Minutes of the Meeting of SPC1
- Economic Development, Enterprise Support and Tourism
held in County Hall on 22nd March, 2018 at 11.30am.

Present: Cllr. Pat Millea, Cllr. Patrick McKee, Cllr. John Brennan, Cllr. Michael Doyle, Mr. John Bambrick, Ms Deirdre Shine, Mr. Phil Funchion, Ms. Theresa Delahunty

Apologies: Cllr. Pat Fitzpatrick, Mr. Charles Wani, Cllr. Patrick O'Neill, Cllr. Peter Cleere

In Attendance: Fiona Deegan, Brian Tyrrell, Brid Hynes, Aisling Hayes, Mary Walsh

Election of Chairperson

The Chairman Cllr. Pat Fitzpatrick sent his apologies.

In the absence of the Chair, it was proposed by Cllr. John Brennan, seconded by Mr. John Bambrick and agreed that Cllr. Pat Millea act as Chair for the meeting.

1. Minutes of Meeting held on 15th December 2017

The Minutes of the meeting held on 15th December, 2017 were proposed by Cllr. John Brennan and seconded by Mr. John Bambrick and agreed.

2. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

3. Abbey Creative Quarter

Ms. Deegan stated that Martin Prendiville had sent his apologies for the meeting and would present an update at the next meeting of the Committee..

4. Tourism Development Update

Brian Tyrrell provided an update on recent tourism developments and future plans, as follows:

Woodstock Estate, Inistioge

Mr. Tyrrell stated that Kilkenny County Council had signed a memorandum of agreement with Coillte in relation to possible tourism developments which would incorporate the existing landholdings of both the Council and Coillte and stated that sensitive development of the area would be considered in the context of the commercial forestry and would also integrate with Inistioge village. He further stated that a working group would be set up to consider a business plan for the area.

Visit Kilkenny website

Mr. Tyrrell stated that a new website was being developed to ensure that Kilkenny's tourism web presence is world class and that a contract would be signed in the near future by Kilkenny Tourism which would be mobile friendly and represent Kilkenny as a vibrant tourism destination.

Kilkenny Greenway

Mr. Tyrrell stated that the Council had approved two separate Part VIII planning developments for the proposed Kilkenny Greenway, linking New Ross and Waterford with a 22km section of Greenway along the disused rail line. The detailed design phase will take account of some remaining issues regarding accommodation works on the route and that the project would then be in a position to compete for national Greenway funding. The potential of this project in terms of rural tourism were noted.

Sub County Tourism Hubs

Mr. Tyrrell stated that a number of meetings had taken place with local community groups to promote and support local tourism initiatives in the County and that groups from Mullinavat, Windgap and Thomastown had been provided with information and support with a view to identifying opportunities for development in rural areas of the County.

5. Economic Annual Action Plan

Ms. Bríd Hynes circulated a report of the LECP (Economic) Implementation Plan 2018-2021 and stated that in early 2018 all relevant actions within the LECP were reviewed in conjunction with lead agencies. Ms. Hynes further stated that the Implementation Plan is the outcome of this review and that all actions as per the LECP are included in this implementation plan. In total there are 66 actions listed in the plan as follows:

- 29 actions carried forward from previous plan which continue to be work in progress;
- 18 actions that are new i.e. 12 listed in LECP but not prioritised in last implementation plan and 6 additional actions identified for inclusion by lead agencies;
- 16 actions from previous plan which met the project milestones in last implementation plan but are included as these actions now form part of the lead agencies day to day work programmes;
- 3 actions which are fully complete.

Following a lengthy discussion, it was approved by Cllr. John Brennan, seconded by Cllr. Michael Doyle and agreed to adopt the LECP Economic Implementation Plan 2018 – 2021.

Ms. Hynes stated that the intention is to propose a number of high level strategic actions for the next committee meeting for regular review and progress updates in relation to the wider number of actions will continue to be provided but on an annual basis, which was agreed by the committee.

A lengthy discussion took place around Project Ireland 2040 - National Planning Framework and it was agreed to provide a presentation at the next meeting in June.

6. Local Enterprise Office Update

Ms. Deegan circulated the LEO Key Performance Metrics for 2018 and confirmed the actions that the LEO propose to deliver over the next year. Ms. Deegan stated that the Key Performance Metrics are used by Enterprise Ireland to monitor the impact of the LEOs and are monitored by the SPC. Following discussion, it was proposed by Cllr.

John Brennan, seconded by Mr. John Bambrick and agreed to adopt the metrics for 2018. Ms. Deegan stated that she would provide quarterly updates on the metrics.

7. Any Other Business

None

8. Date of Next Meeting

It was agreed that the next meeting of the SPC would take place on Friday 15th June 2018 at 11am.

The meeting concluded at 01.00pm.

Signed: _____

Date: _____

CLLR. PAT FITZPATRICK
Chairman