

Minutes of the Meeting of SPC1
- Economic Development, Enterprise Support and Tourism
held in County Hall on Friday 14th September, 2018 at 11.00am.

Present: Cllr Pat Fitzpatrick (Chair), Cllr Pat McKee, Cllr John Brennan, Cllr Michael Doyle, Cllr Peter Cleere, Cllr Pat Millea, Deirdre Shine, Mark Kennedy, Theresa Delahunty, Charles Wani, John Bambrick, Phil Funchion.

Apologies: Cllr Patrick O'Neill

In Attendance: Martin Prendiville, Sean McKeown, Fiona Deegan, Brid Hynes, Aisling Hayes, Mary Walsh

The Chairman offered his congratulations on behalf of the SPC to all involved with Inistioge winning Gold in the Entente Florale Awards and further congratulated those involved in Kilkenny winning Ireland's Foodie Destination Award 2018.

1. Minutes of Meeting held on 22nd June 2018

The Minutes of the meeting held on 22nd June, 2018 were proposed by Cllr Peter Cleere and seconded by Cllr Michael Doyle and agreed.

2. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

3. Abbey Quarter Update

Jason Clerkin, CEO of Kilkenny Abbey Quarter Development Limited provided an update on The Abbey Quarter covering the timeframe for the tender process for the Brewhouse and Mayfair buildings, the engagement with Lisney's Commercial Property team and outlined the roadmap going forward.

Sean Mc Keown stated that an application was currently being worked on for submission under the Urban Regeneration Development Fund toward the public realm infrastructure on the site.

4. Tourism Development Update

Aisling Hayes provided an update on tourism stating that the new website for Kilkenny Tourism was now complete and that training for staff was taking place in order to keep the website up to date.

5. Update on Strategic Economic Actions

Bríd Hynes provided an update on progress with regards to the 13 high level strategic economic actions. A report which summarised the progress with all actions was circulated to all members in advance by email. Specific attention was drawn to the following actions during the meeting:

Action 1.10 Retail: The Local Enterprise Office (LEO) in conjunction with Kilkenny Chamber of Commerce will host a Retail Workshop for retailers across the city and county. The workshop will afford retailers the opportunity to input into the strategic environment for retail over the coming years. In addition a retail support programme will also be run by LEO. Commencing at the end of September the programme is targeted at business owners who are consumer facing and comprises a seminar and one to one site assessment.

Action 2.6 / 7.4: An application is currently being prepared by Kilkenny County Council for funding under the Urban Regeneration and Development Fund, a new funding stream announced under the National Development Plan 2018-2027. This application is being prepared towards the costs of developing the public realm at the Abbey Quarter site, including the river garden along the banks of the River Nore. The deadline for submission of application is Friday 28th September.

Action 2.7 / 9.3: The two applications submitted to Enterprise Ireland at the end of June, for funding under the Regional Enterprise Development Fund, have both been successful in progressing to stage two of the process which is an interview stage. The bid teams for both the 'Centre for Design' and the 'Precision Agriculture Centre of Excellence' (PACE) will have an opportunity to meet with the Enterprise Ireland Evaluation Panel over the coming weeks to pitch the project. It is envisaged that both these facilities will be housed within the Abbey Quarter.

6. Local Enterprise Office update

Fiona Deegan circulated the Local Enterprise Development Plan for 2018 and provided an update on the 22 actions contained therein, outlining the activity, target/output, timescale and current status of each actions, stating that all actions were on target to year end.

Ms. Deegan also circulated the Training Programme Schedule for Autumn 2018, stating noting 2 Start Your Own Business Programmes and 20 business training programmes ranging from Filing a Tax Return to Labour Law & HR for Business. Ms. Deegan also noted that National Women's Enterprise Day was being held on 18th October in conjunction with Carlow Local Enterprise Office.

7. Any Other Business

There were no items for discussion

8. Date of Next Meeting

It was agreed that the next meeting of the SPC would take place on Friday 14th December 2018 at 11am followed by lunch.

The meeting concluded at 01.00pm.

Signed: _____

Date: _____

PAT FITZPATRICK
Chairman