

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

Held via MS Teams on Friday 25th March 2022

1. Declaration of Interest: Brian Hamilton declared that he would raise the proposed Thomastown Town Plan as prepared by Turley Planning Consultants under Item 7 of the Agenda as the Plan contained a recommendation in respect of his private property which he indicated would be unacceptable to him.
2. The Chair noted that the review of the current Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) was circulated to all committee members in advance and has taken it as read.
3. Mr. Sean McKeown reminded the committee that the current LECP (2016-2021) is set to expire and a new 6-year LECP will be finalized for adoption for March 2023. He outlined that there are two elements to the plan – Economic (SPC1 have an oversight for this element) and Community (LCDC have an oversight on this element). The focus of the Plan will be on social and economic issues that can be addressed at community level and also climate action.

Both Mr. McKeown and Ms. Fiona Deegan gave an update on some of the actions from the current LECP, noting that all of the actions are either complete or still ongoing due to their strategic nature.

4. Ms. Deegan took the committee through the draft LECP Implementation Plan for the preparation of the LECP (2023-2028), noting that the Framework Plan alongside the first 2 year Implementation Plan would be ready for adoption by the Council Members in Qtr 1 2023, with various consultations taking place throughout the process with wider stakeholders, SPC and MD Members. Ms. Deegan also noted that the Council had gone out to tender for consultants to work alongside KCC on the process and that an update would be provided to the committee at the next SPC1 meeting in relation to the outcome of same.
5. The Chair advised that a member of the SPC1 Committee would be required to sit on the Advisory Steering Committee Group for the next LECP. The role of the Advisory Steering Committee Group is to have regard to the need to integrate the economic and community elements of the LECP, to ensure that they are coordinated and to avoid duplications. They will assist in the preparing, drafting, adoption, implementation and monitoring of the LECP. Ms. Marion Acreman was proposed by Cllr. Frisby, seconded by Cllr. John Coonan and unanimously agreed. Ms. Acreman accepted the position on the Advisory Committee.
6. Mr. Denis Malone provided an update on the City and County Development Plan which came into effect last October.

With regards to Rural Development, Mr. Malone went through the following points:

- Guidance is to be prepared on serviced sites in rural areas, with both the Rower and Inistioge being piloted.
- Town Centre First Policy will be a priority
- The brief for the regeneration of Urlingford has gone out and consultants to be appointed.
- Brief to be carried out for the future development of the villages of Mullinavat and Kilmacow.

With regards to the City, Mr. Malone provided an update on the following:

- Masterplan for Loughmacask – This project has been delayed due to Covid-19 and will go out for public consultation in April 2022.
- St Canice’s Campus – This project is at the midway stage.

Mr Malone also added that the current Abbey Quarter Masterplan requires revision to address the need for mixed uses to be achieved, the housing elements and how they will be achieved. In this regard, Mr Malone said that a tender will go out in a few weeks’ time for a review of the Abbey Quarter Masterplan.

7. The Chair advised that the remaining SPC1 meetings would need to be re-scheduled and new dates were agreed. The next meeting will take place on Thursday 9th June at 3.30pm.

Cllr. Ger Frisby
Chairman

Date: _____