

LOUTH COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes of Economic Development & Enterprise Support SPC Meeting Held in Cooley Room, County Hall on Monday 14th December, 2015 at 3.30pm

- Present:** Cllrs: Mark Dearey (Chairman), Marianne Butler, Conor Keelan, Pío Smith, Thomás Sharkey, Kevin Callan
Mr Eddie Phelan, Development/Construction
Mr Simon McCormack, Business/Commercial
Ms Karen Devine, Environment/Conservation
- Officials:** Frank Pentony, Director of Service
Mary T Daly, Senior Executive Officer
Miriam Roe, Staff Officer
- Apologies:** Mr Anthony McArdle, Community/Voluntary
Mr Paddy Donnelly, Agriculture/Farming
Cllr: Alan Cassidy
- In Attendance:** Ms Aibhlín McCrann, Communiqué International
Ms Cliona Ryan, Communiqué International
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1. Apologies:

Apologies were received from Cllr Alan Cassidy, Mr Paddy Donnelly and Mr Anthony McArdle.

Cllr Dearey welcomed Aibhlín McCrann and Cliona Ryan from Communiqué International.

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting:

On the proposal of Karen Devine and seconded by Cllr Pío Smith the minutes of the meeting of 14th September, 2015 were adopted.

3. Matters Arising:

Cllr Keelan asked if a rep from Fáilte Ireland had been invited to attend this meeting. Mary T Daly advised that Grainne Ward will be invited to attend a future meeting to discuss Louths position in Irelands Ancient East and grant funding.

Cllr P Smith asked if the Councils position has changed in relation to making a submission to the Boundary Commission since the last meeting. Mary T advised that the Council had engaged Communiqué International to prepare submission on behalf of

the elected representatives of the Council. Cllr Dearey stated that this item is on the agenda for discussion later but that this SPC will bring forward their submission to full Council to be included in the overall submission.

4. Local Economic & Community Plan: Draft Goals

The Chairman addressed the members stating the this plan has to fit in with the hierarchy of plans and that the progress will be measured. Communiqué International have set out draft goals and objectives which are consistent with the County Development Plan and other strategies. Mary T Daly gave a presentation to the members which focussed on Section 44 of the Local Government Reform Act 2014 and the Ministerial Direction, the role of the Economic Development & Enterprise Support SPC and the next steps in the process – This presentation to be circulated to all members of the SPC.

Aibhlín McCrann then spoke about the draft goals and objectives, taking the members through the process to the present position. Items covered were the Vision, the Integrated Priorities, Outcomes and then the proposed Economic Goals and Objectives

Cllr Dearey thanked Aibhlin for her presentation and called for any questions from the members.

Questions & Comments:

- Cllr Butler remarked that the Economic Goals don't really make sense and need a 'verb'. When compared with the Community Goals the Economic Goals are lacking in words. Actions are needed to go with the goals.
- Cllr Keelan asked if the Economic Goals were ranked in any order as he felt Indigenous Industry and others should be before FDI.
- Cllr Smith mentioned the Drogheda Westgate Ward and what were the educational barriers in this area. Also Tourism – this was an opportunity to focus in on particular aspects such as cycling.
- Eddie Phelan asked , as the specific actions in this plan are measurable and assignable, what type of current baseline data is used in writing the plan.
- Cllr Callan asked if the FDI goals should be more specific than those listed. Can they be amended to show targeting of access to certain funding.
- S McCormack asked who sets the actions if LCC isn't the lead.
- Cllr Dearey voiced concerns that the Louth Economic Forum has not produced a retail strategy yet and that one of their previous Action Plans was Indigenous Industry and not Indigenous Business. Also that there needs to be compatibility with other documents such as the Co Development Plan. Finally, the idea that if infrastructural projects are not listed they won't be on the agenda, this is very limiting if this is the case. Perhaps some of these goals should be as open as possible to allow for same.
- K Devine asked if one of the goals should include Future Focussed Innovations as a heading/broad sweep. The next six years will be unpredictable regarding areas such as sustainable energy.
- Cllr Callan suggested that Age Friendly Business should be removed from the goals and replaced with future focussed innovation.

Cllr Dearey called for proposals to amend the draft goals which are now before the SPC.

Proposal 1: That Age Friendly Business is replaced with Future Focussed Innovation. Proposed by Cllr K Callan and Seconded by K Devine

Proposal 2: That the expanded goal of Sustainable Development replace Sustainable Energy

Proposed by Cllr M Dearey and Seconded by Cllr K Callan.

Proposal 3: That the word Business be added to the goal headed Indigenous Industry Proposed by Cllr C Keelan and seconded by S McCormack

Cllr P Smith asked if Entrepreneurship, Innovation and Enterprise could be seen to traverse both the Community & Economic Goals.

Frank Pentony voiced his concerns about the removal of the 'Age Friendly' element from the goals. He felt it would be a great shame as Louth has worked so hard to achieve the title of Irelands first Age Friendly County. Cllr Sharkey questioned if Age Friendly should be a goal on its own but instead should be a theme running throughout all the goals as it is an integral part of each/any of the goal listed.

Following this discussion it was further agreed that Aibhlín would include a more explicit annunciation of the Age Friendly philosophy as part of the introduction piece.

The above amendments to the draft goals were passed on the proposal of Cllr Pio Smith and Seconded by Cllr Kevin Callan.

5. Proposed Policy Actions 2016

Mary T Daly circulated a list of Proposed Policy Actions for 2016 to the members, amongst which are, the draft Tourism & Heritage Action Plan and Draft Indigenous Industry Action Plan. Mary clarified for Karen Devine that the Boyne Valley Strategy 2016 – 2020 is nearly finalised and will feed into our Tourism & Heritage Action Plan.

Simon McCormack asked if the SPC can request the LEF to produce the Retail Action Plan as their next document. Cllr Dearey is happy that he communicates to the Chair of the LEF that it is vital that this is the next plan published and that this SPC has input into it.

Cllr Sharkey asked if we could explore the idea of a MOU between the Council and DkIT with regard to research and collection of data. Up to date and comprehensive data is vital to inform the drafting policy and DkIT is a huge resource within the County which perhaps we could utilise. Mary T outlined that an enormous data and statistics is already in place as a result of the work to date on the LECP but the Council could explore an approach to DkIT and revert to the members.

6. Boundary Review.

The Chairman, Cllr Dearey, referred to the Terms of Reference previously circulated and advised that a sub-committee would be formed to address Q.1 and Q. 5, noting that January 22nd, 2016 was the final date for submissions. The following agreed to sit on this sub-committee and Mary T Daly to arrange a meeting of same prior to Christmas. Cllr Dearey also reminded the sub- committee members that a quorum would be needed for this meeting.

Cllr Alan Cassidy, Cllr Pio Smith, Cllr Kevin Callan, Ms Karen Devine and Mr Eddie Phelan.

It was further agreed that the submission drafted by the sub-committee would be brought to a special meeting of this SPC which will be held on Monday 11th January 2016 at 4.00 pm in Conference Room, Boyne Centre, Drogheda.

7. Proposed Meeting Schedule 2016

The schedule of meeting for 2016 was circulated to the members and agreed on the proposal of Cllr M Butler and seconded by Cllr Pio Smith

Date	Time	Location
Monday 1st February	3.30pm	Cooley Room, County Hall Dundalk
Monday 9th May	3.30pm	Boyne Centre, Drogheda
Monday 12th September	3.30pm	Cooley Room, County Hall Dundalk
Monday 12th December	3.30pm	Cooley Room, County Hall Dundalk

This concluded the meeting.

Confirmed at Meeting held on: _____

Signed: _____
Chairman