

LOUTH COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes of Economic Development & Enterprise Support SPC Meeting Held In Barlow House, Drogheda on Monday 12th June, 2017 at 3.30pm

Present: Cllrs: Mark Dearey (Chairman), Conor Keelan,
Pio Smith, David Saurin
Mr Eddie Phelan, Development/Construction
Mr Pat Mulligan, Community/Voluntary
Mr Simon McCormack, Business/Commercial
Mr Ciaran McDonnell, Agriculture/Farming
Ms Karen Devine, Environment/Conservation

Officials: Mary T Daly, Senior Executive Officer
Thomas McEvoy, Head of Louth LEO
Miriam Roe, Staff Officer

Apologies: Cllrs: Thomas Sharkey, Marianne Butler, Kevin Callan

1. Minutes of Previous Meeting:

Upon the proposal of Mr Eddie Phelan and seconded by Cllr Conor Keelan the minutes of the meeting of 27th February, 2017 were adopted.

2. Matters Arising:

Cllr Dearey, on behalf of all the members, extended a warm welcome to Cllr David Saurin who will be replacing Cllr Cassidy. Cllr Dearey also paid tribute to Cllr Cassidy for all his work with the SPC and wished him well.

Congratulations were extended to:

- The Fleadh Cheoil Committee on their amazing achievement of securing Drogheda as the host town for the Fleadh Cheoil na hEireann 2018.
- Louth County Council for a very successful Irish Maritime Festival
- The County Louth Agricultural Show organising committee for an excellent event.
- Louth LEO for very successful enterprise week.

3. Louth Economic Forum Action Plan Updates:

The LEF Action Plan updates were circulated for noting.

4. LECP Progress Report – Economic Actions 2016

Mary T presented The Local Economic & Community Plan Progress Report 2016 (Economic Actions) to the members for approval before progressing to full Council. She advised that a lot of work was involved in obtaining feedback and status reports from the lead agencies. It was noted that Enterprise Ireland, InterTrade Ireland and the IDA reporting is on a regional basis. Mary T indicated that she would work to get Enterprise Ireland and InterTrade Ireland to provide county based reports going forward.

Cllr Dearey questioned why Action 064 was shown as cancelled/not commenced. Discussion followed on this Action regarding BIC status, work being done by the local LEO's and the LEF Indigenous Industry Action Group and possibly an increased focus on 'conventional' business as opposed to the IT and Food

Mary T Daly will progress this Action through The Mill and agreed to change the status from Red to Yellow.

Cllr Keelan asked for clarification regarding the following Actions:

- Action 10 & 12: Connect Irelands contract has not been renewed.
- Action 34: Louth LEO ran a number of workshops themselves in 2016
- Action 69: The Age Friendly Action Plan is one of a number of LEF plans which are to be reviewed.
- Action 123: This was included as part of the Regional Action Plans for Jobs and was cancelled.

Noting that there is also provision to review the Plan after 2 years, which is likely in light of Brexit, The LECP Progress Report – Economic Actions 2016 was approved on the proposal of Cllr Dearey and seconded by Cllr Pio Smith.

5. LEO Louth Local Enterprise Development Plan 2017 - 2020

Thomas McEvoy updated the members on the plan, drawing particular attention to the performance metrics at the back of the plan (Appendix 1) which shows output for 2016 and the targets from 2017 to 2020. Thomas also spoke about a number of Louth LEO activities including IBYE, Engaging with 2nd Level Students, Microfinance Ireland ,Brexit initiatives and the roll out of the LEAN for Micro programme.

6. Ireland 2040 National Planning Framework –Submission

A brief discussion was held regarding Louth County Councils submission on the Ireland 2040 National Planning Framework. Cllr Dearey thanked the Chief Executive and Anthony Abbott-King for bringing the Councillors together for a very productive workshop. Mary T advised that this submission was lodged on 31st March, 2017 stating that the narrative in bold at the bottom of page 2 encapsulates the sentiment of the submission. A first draft will be issued by the Department in Quarter 3 of 2017 for

consideration, with the final draft issued at the end of Quarter 4. It was agreed to bring this draft to the SPC members for discussion when it is available.

Any Other Business:

Cllr Keelan informed the members that The Valuation Office will be undertaking a re valuation of commercial and industrial properties in Louth, which should be completed by 2019. Also, the first stages of a Draft Commercial Rates Bill will be brought before The Oireachtas in the coming weeks. This new legislation will deal with the issue of the rate of increase being capped and also significant changes in how rates can be managed by local authorities. This will involve devolution of more power to local authorities and improved approaches to the collection rates to ensure a level playing field for businesses that are in competition and a number of other provisions to modernise the legislation on rates. Cllr Keelan advised that whilst this Bill is in draft stage that there will be opportunity to lodge submissions on its contents.

The next meeting will be held on Monday 11th September, at 3.30pm in The Cooley Room, County Hall, Dundalk

This concluded the meeting:

Confirmed at Meeting held on: _____

Signed: _____
Chairman