

Minutes of the Economic Development & Enterprise Support Strategic Policy Committee, hybrid meeting - in person (Cooley Room, County Hall, Dundalk) and on Teams; 3.30pm, Tuesday 23rd September 2025

SPC Members Present: Cllr Pio Smith (chair)
 Cllr Dolores Minogue (online)
 Cllr Sean Kelly
 Cllr Declan Power
 Cllr Siannan McCann
 Cllr Andrea McKeivitt
 Ms Miriam Simon, Business Rep (online)
 Mr Edward McDaniel, Ind. Rep (online)

Louth County Council Officials:

Mr Thomas McEvoy
 Ms Colette Moss
 Ms Nikki Campbell (online)
 Ms Clare O’Hagan
 Ms Rebecca Meade
 Ms Susan Murphy

Apologies:

Ms Sarah Daly, PPN Rep
 Ms Nikki Campbell
 Ms Mercedes Rodriguez
 Mr Willie Walsh
 Ms Bernadette Woods
 Ms Roisin McAuley

A quorum was reached and the meeting proceeded.

Agenda item	Action
<p>1. Welcome and introductions</p>	
<p>2. Minutes of the meeting 17th June 2025 Proposed by Pio and seconded by Declan</p>	
<p>3. Tourism Strategy Presentation given on the Draft Tourism Strategy by Julie O’Brien from Runda Hospitality & Tourism Solutions. This was followed by a Q&A from the members. Consensus to accept the Tourism Strategy with some minor amendments to be made; Proposed by Sean and seconded by Andrea.</p>	<p>Ammendments to be made to the strategy. Will need to go before the full Council.</p>

<p>4. Rates Waiver Scheme Requires full approval of Council, will be brought to the Budget meeting in November.</p>	
<p>5. LECP The steering committee have met. The Night Time Economy Advisor met with Dundalk BIDS and Ardee Traders to give an overview of the NTE. New Visit Louth branding is complete, there has been an increase in the Festivals supported, IDA have had overseas visits and Eirgrid are to engage on the LECP</p>	<p>Invite the NTE Officer to give an update at the next meeting.</p>
<p>6. Update on Economic Development and Tourism A tender re the Shared Island funding is being drafted. The new Tain Trail is now incorporating 5 Counties with Louth as lead partner. A tender is due to issue shortly re Brigids Way to explore options and different experiences available. Tracks & Trails from RTE completed their filming with full episode due to air in Spring 2026. 48 Shop Front Grant Improvement applications received to date. Planning enforcement are actively working on existing and new shop fronts. Following an overview of the process, a Q&A followed where it was advised it is an ongoing process.</p>	<p>TMcE – Planning SPC may consider a policy re SFG's.</p>
<p>7. Update on Business Supports and Local Authority Incentives Enterprise support day in Drogheda Library went well, similar event in Dundalk Library on the 7th October. National Women in Enterprise Day taking place in Monasterboice on the 16th October. Drogheda Digital Innovation Hub opening this week. Lots of engagement in ongoing training, link with LMETB going well.</p>	
<p>8. AOB None</p>	

That concluded the business of the meeting.

Next meeting: Thursday 6th November at 3.30pm in Drogheda.

Confirmed at Meeting held on: 6.11.25

Signed: 
Chairperson