

Economic Development, Enterprise and Planning Strategic Policy Committee

Minutes of meeting held at 8.30 a.m. on Friday, 29 September 2017 in Aras Chill Dara, Naas.

Cathaoirleach: Councillor Suzanne Doyle

Present: Councillors Darragh Fitzpatrick, Billy Hillis, Mark Lynch, Morgan McCabe, Pádraig McEvoy, Mr. Brendan Allen, Mr. Gerry Prendergast.

Apologies: Councillor Billy Hillis

Unable to attend: Councillors Neasa Ó Cearúil, Mark Wall.

Also Present: Sonya Kavanagh, Director of Services; Peter Minnock, Director of Services; Jacqui McNabb, Head of LEO, Mark McLoughlin, Administrative Officer.

1. To consider draft minutes of meeting held on 26 May 2017

The minutes of the meeting held on 26 May 2017 were proposed by Councillor Fitzpatrick, seconded by Councillor McCabe and duly adopted.

2. Presentation from the Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly

Mr. Malachy Bradley gave a presentation to the members on the functions of the Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly which was founded in 2015.

Mr. Bradley outlined the relevance of the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy which would allow for alignment of existing and future plans to benefit the economy, environment and provide for an improved quality of life. The next RSES would cover the period 2012-30 (12 year plan) with projections for 20 years into the future considered and would replace the current Regional Planning Guidelines. He said that they were currently looking at the economic strategy with a view to creating the right sustainable employment in the right locations. One key issue identified was that the funding follows policy. He outlined the hierarchy of the present system i.e. National Planning Framework – Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy – County Development Plan.

A discussion was held on the potential for funding for the County through the RSES; the need for policy change; the review of the LCEP and the future direction of development in Naas.

3. Update on Forward Planning

Peter Minnock, Director of Services advised the committee members of the following:
Celbridge Local Area Plan was adopted on 17 August 2017. The Minister has issued a notice of intention to issue a direction on 13 September 2017.

Naas Local Area Plan: Issues paper has been published and on public display until 24 October 2017. A public consultation day is organised for 3 October 2017.

5. Work Programme 2017

The members were circulated with an update on the Work Programme as follows:

- Consider the production of a Design Aid / Guideline for Single Rural houses.
Development Management team is working on a suite of documents which will assist applicants/agents in the preparation and submission of planning applicants for single rural dwellings, extensions and family flats.
- Consider SPC members input into National Planning Framework
The members were advised that a response is being prepared. In put from the members is welcome.
- To oversee Economic Development Objectives of the LECP / Regional Action plan for jobs and LEDP 2017-20.
Update at next meeting
- Signage Policy
Agreed that the next meeting would be held in conjunction with the Environment Strategic Policy committee to discuss signage policy..

7. Update from Head of Enterprise

Ms. Jacqui McNabb, Head of Enterprise circulated a report to the members of the committee. Issues covered included:

- 35 grants allocated in 2017 for start up/expansion totalling €678,661 to date.
- Student enterprise programme: 1,326 secondary and 240 primary school student participants to date in 2017.
- Details on training / capacity building programmes delivered.
- Details of Business advice and mentoring programmes delivered.
- Shop Front scheme: 95 successful grant applications in 2017 totalling €151,015 to date.

8. Any Other Business

The members of the committee received an update on the Strategic Housing Development legislation which came into effect from 3 July 2017 whereby applications for large scale housing developments (100+ units) are dealt with by An Bord Pleanála. They were advised that five pre-planning application consultations have been lodged with An Bord Pleanála for in excess of 1,300 units.

9. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Friday 1 December 2017.