



Economic Development, Enterprise and Planning Strategic Policy Committee

Minutes of meeting held at 10.30 a.m. on Friday, 14 December 2018 in Áras Chill Dara, Naas.

- Cathaoirleach: Councillor Suzanne Doyle
- Present: Cllr. Morgan McCabe, Cllr. Mark Lynch Cllr. Pádraig McEvoy, Cllr. Naoise Ó Cearúil, Cllr. Billy Hillis, Mr. Gerry Prendergast, Ms. Evonne Boland, Mr. Brendan Allen
- Also Present: Peter Minnock, Director of Services; Sonya Kavanagh, Director of Services; Michael Kenny, Senior Planner; Liam McGree, Senior Planner; Ian Lacey, Assistant Planner; Mark McLoughlin, Administrative Officer
- Apologies: Cllr. Mark Wall, Cllr. Daragh Fitzpatrick
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1. To consider draft minutes of meeting of 23 November 2018

The minutes of the meeting held on 23 November 2018 were proposed by Councillor P. McEvoy, seconded by Councillor B. Hillis, and duly adopted.

Economic Development and Enterprise

2. To receive an update from Director of Enterprise and Economic Development.
Ms. Sonya Kavanagh circulated a progress report (See Appendix 1) and highlighted a number of issues. She advised that work on the MERITS building was expected to commence before Christmas. An application for a Innovation and Food Hub at the Model School, Athy was being prepared and that there was a need for ready to go buildings for foreign direct investment. She advised that they were examining the feasibility of hot-desks in Naas, Newbridge an Athy libraries.
Mr. G Prendergast stated that there was significant commercial space available in Millennium Park but that businesses want to locate in cities.

Councillor O’Cearúil advised that improved transport links to Millennium Park were required.

Ms. E. Boland stated that there was a need to enrich retail space in our towns as they all look similar and that the issue of hot-desks need to be addressed to help reduce commuting.

Councillor McEvoy noted that each municipal district was asked to allocate €80,000 towards regeneration projects. Town health checks were necessary as a first step in this process and that there was a need for the information to come back to this committee.

Ms. Kavanagh advised that Mr. Conor Sweeney was recently appointed as Programme Manager with the Local Enterprise Office.

Action: Mr. Conor Sweeney, to give presentation to next meeting

Planning

3. Forward Planning.

Mr. Kenny gave a brief update on Forward Planning work. He advised that:

- Naas and Leixlip Local Area Plans were progressing.
- Members of Kildare-Newbridge MD would be requested to extend the Newbridge Plan beyond 2019.
- Preparation of other local area plans was stalled until RSES was finalised.

Mr. Ian Lacey gave an update to the committee on the quarterly meetings with the Department of Education and Skills in respect of the following:

- School requirements in Mooretown, Celbridge; Donaghcumper, Celbridge; Blessington and rationalisation of primary school site in Kildare town.
- Review of the Kildare County Development Plan and Local Area Plans in respect of revised population projections.
- Preparation of a GIS layer with existing schools and projected schools mapped.

4. To consider Council recognition and promotion of architectural excellence in County.'

Mr. Liam McGree circulated a report on a meeting held with the Royal Institute of Architects of Ireland (RIAI) in respect of the above proposed scheme (Appendix 2).

Action: It was agreed to progress discussions on establishing an award scheme.

5. To note planning circulars:

- PL11/2018 Planning and Development (Amendment) Act 2018 waiving of fees for the making of observations or submissions on planning applications by elected members.

Noted.

5. Next Meeting

Schedule of four meetings for 2019 noted for 15 February, 10 May, 6 September and 29 November.

The meeting closed.

APPENDIX 1

Economic Development and Enterprise Progress Report

Progress Report - 14th December 2018

The current Local Enterprise Development Plan was approved in January 2018 and funding has been provided by Enterprise Ireland in order to facilitate the delivery of the Enterprise Support Programme in line with the plan for 2018. Kildare County Council has made provisions in its budget to allow for the delivery of the Economic Development Programme.

Mid East Regional Action Plan for Jobs 2018 - 2020

The aim of the National Action Plan for Jobs is to support enterprise growth and job creation in every region of the country. Kildare County Council is actively engaged in the delivery of the Mid East Action Plan for Jobs by;

- Supporting the recruitment of a shared Program Manager for Mid East Action Plan for Jobs. Conor Sweeney has recently started in this position and he is based in KCC
- Membership by Chief Executive & Head of Enterprise on Implementation Committee
- Membership of the Advisory Group by Head of Enterprise
- Facilitation of Sector Briefings and attendance by County Kildare companies and stakeholders
- Development of an Implementation Plan for the delivery of Local Authority & Local Enterprise Office Actions
- Co-ordination of a Regional Feasibility Study for Business Development Spaces for the Regional Enterprise Development Fund.
- Cross Functional Support of Action & Working Groups

Since 2017, Kildare County Council Innovation District has been building an ecosystem framework that joins the forces of Maynooth University, leading-edge companies and Entrepreneurs leveraging cooperation with each other and uniting with public sector drivers for Tech, Equine, Food, Advance Manufacturing and Green innovation, regional development and education at national and regional level.

MERITS

As part of the Regional Action Plan for Jobs, under the Competitive Call for Funding (REDF) in 2017, Kildare County Council was successful in securing 1.9 million to develop the Mid East Regional Think Space (MERITS). The aim of this flagship project is to develop an innovation-rich building and stimulus project to accelerate growth and yield business impact through collaboration, innovation, and clustering; thereby facilitating the development of scalable, sustainable and profitable High Potential Start Ups businesses across the Mideast region. It is envisaged that the project will be completed by Q3 2020. It will house not only 120 tech Entrepreneurs but will act as a soft landing for future IDA Clients; provide hot desk space for commuters and, in partnership with Maynooth University, build Innovation capacity in our existing SME's.

A Food Innovation and Skills Hub

The next REDF call is to be early 2019. It is proposed to prepare an application to support the development of the Model School in Athy into a food Innovation and Skills Hub. Based on extensive engagement and industry foresight and collaboration with the Boyne Valley Food Hub (Meath Co Co.); the Food Hub packages a series of industry responsive deliverables into an exceptional bundle of production, innovative and knowledge facilities offering an intense immersion in the food sector. Specifically it will deliver

- 6 Food Grade units available for start-up and scaling food businesses
- A Timeshare Community Kitchen
- A food specific co-working and knowledge lab to create higher levels of connectivity, collaboration and innovation in the food and drink sector
- Onsite Food Sector Business Development Manager
- A training centre for the delivery of Food /Hospitality Industry Programmes

Distributed Network

The Council is also working with a variety of stakeholders towards the delivery of four additional Hubs which will be developed across the County:

- Advanced manufacturing Hub Leixlip; collaboration with Intel
- Equine Innovation Lab; collaboration with National Stud
- Campus Innovation Lab; collaboration with Maynooth University
- Green Energy Innovation Hub (still under discussion)

Foreign Direct Investment

The team is actively engaged with IDA in respect of marketing County Kildare as a location for Foreign Direct Investment. On an ongoing basis this work includes:

- Regular updates from IDA in respect of projects and potential projects
- Maintenance of an active property database with up to date market information
- Engagement with IDA in respect of MERITS Building to be delivered under the Action Plan for Jobs
- Engagement with Private Landlords and their agents in respect of property solutions

International Trade Relations 2018 /2019

Kildare County Council, through the LEO office, hosted 4 Chinese Delegations in 2018 as well as a number of delegations from other countries. We will now develop a more formal strategy and framework for managing International trade relations in 2019.

Supporting Our Towns

The Business Support Unit is acutely aware of the challenges facing Town Centre enterprises and are keen to engage in meaningful stakeholder engagement in respect of possible projects which will enhance the sustainability and development of enterprises in our Town Centers. The following activities are already ongoing or completed:

- Start Up Advice Clinics & Business Advice Sessions in respect of Retail Premises
- Provision of 42 Web Vouchers valued at 2,500 Euros each in respect of Retail Enterprise
- Approval of funding in respect of Shop Front Scheme Paint Scheme (table below)
- Facilitation of the First Retail Conference in 2018 “Future of Retail” now to be an annual event.
- Facilitation of one to one strategy Mentoring for retailers

The executive is actively working on a cross functional basis with other Departments within Kildare County Council to ensure a collective response to the needs of Town Centre enterprises, but acknowledge that the challenges will require a multi-stakeholder approach.

2018 Shop Front Scheme spend as of Dec 1st

MD	Budget Allocation	LPT Allocation	Total Budget 2018	Remaining - (Total - Received)	Offered	Number Offered
Athy	€ 40,000	€ -	€ 40,000	€ 14,600	€ 25,043	9
CBLX	€ 40,000	€ -	€ 40,000	€ 1	€ 40,000	9
KDNB	€ 40,000	€ -	€ 40,000	€ 21,156	€ 18,844	9
Maynooth	€ 40,000	€ -	€ 40,000	€ 20,472	€ 19,528	9
Naas	€ 40,000	€ -	€ 40,000	€ 4,052	€ 28,189	17
	€ 200,000		€ 200,000	€ 60,281	€ 131,603	53

In addition 2 retail outlets got funding for accessibility.

Proposals are in place for 2019 to extend the scheme to include the support of on street marking for wheel chair users and the extension of the enhancement scheme to the entrance to Enterprise Parks based on Kildare main routes.

Planning Policy

The Head of Enterprise has worked closely with the planning department of Kildare County Council in 2018 feeding into both local and national plans on economic data and needs of the County .

Enterprise Support & Development Programme

Full stats for the Local Enterprise Office in terms of gender balance and grants approved will be available at the end of Qtr. 1 2018. The Local Enterprise Office is on profile to reach all targets as set down under the service level agreement with Enterprise Ireland

Programme Development & Delivery:

The following projects/programmes have been completed:

- Delivery 65 Training & Development programmes supporting 1700 participants
- 7 X Rounds of Grant Approvals for Manufacturing & International Services Companies.
- Management Development Programme 2018 40 companies
- Student Enterprise Programme 1800 students participated
- Mentoring & Development Programme for 340 companies
- Supporting Clients with Micro Finance Applications
- Supporting Clients with signposting and business development
- Development of National Women's Enterprise Day 83 female participants
- Roll out of Local Enterprise Village @ NPA & Local Enterprise Showcase @ Showcase in association with the Network of Local Enterprise Offices
- Roll out of 37 Micro Export Grants for SME's
- Roll out of 42 Web Voucher Scheme for SME's
- Form Craft Cluster - Educational & Trade Development Activities
- Launch of Ireland's Best Young Entrepreneur 2018 -€50,000

Investment Fund ,75 under 35's

- Development of Food Sector activities such as Food Start and Food Academy
- Supporting the development of Community Enterprise Centres
- Supporting New Frontiers & IT Carlow & Maynooth University with project development
- Re-Design of Student Concept Competition 2018
- LEAN for Micro Program
- MAKE IT Kildare Christmas Fair
- Food hall Kildare County Show & Naas Wild Food Fair

APPENDIX 2

Agenda Item 5:

To consider Council recognition and promotion of architectural excellence in County.'

Meeting with Royal Institute of the Architects of Ireland, Merrion Square, Dublin

Date: Tuesday 11 December 2018

Attendance: Councillor Suzanne Doyle, Liam McGree, Senior Planner and Mark McLoughlin, Administrative Officer (KCC); Kathryn Meghen, CEO and Sandra O'Connell, Director of Communication (RIAI)

A general discussion was held on the practicalities of organising an award scheme

- RIAI took a number of years to develop awards
- Significant number of existing award schemes IPI, Auctioneers, commercial schemes many of little or no value.
- Agreed that maximum in any new scheme would be 2-3 awards. Consideration should be given to not making awards every year, i.e. not to award mediocrity.
- Concerns over statutory function of LA v non compliant winners / potential reputational damage in dealing with sponsors.
- RIAI criteria is for development practically completed in the previous calendar year.
- Noted that membership of the RIAI is required in their award schemes. Also noted that all architects practicing in Ireland are required to be members of RIAI.
- RIAI awards are normally nominated by architects. Display boards put up with all entries for shortlisted. Judging panel visit all short-listed projects to adjudicate.

Kildare specific

- Public event required
- Three awards: (a) Adaptation and reuse of existing building
 - (b) New build
 - (c) Public realm
- Consider whether there should be an award for residential development (or one off house).
- Consider encouraging backland development and energy efficiency.
- Consider potential for one major award each five years (lifetime of Council).
- Consider whether Architectural Services should lead and liaise directly with RIAI to progress

- Worth considering publication with winners or shortlisted schemes.

RIAI capacity to assist

- RIAI have three members of staff working on awards for eight months of year. Significant workload in event with no capacity to take on anything else.
- Administrative cost of such a scheme could be minimum of €20,000.
- RIAI could email all members notifying them of Kildare scheme if proceeded with.

DRAFT