



**Economic Development, Enterprise and Planning Strategic Policy Committee**  
**Minutes of meeting held at 9.30 a.m. on Friday, 15 February 2019 in Áras Chill Dara, Naas.**

- Cathaoirleach: Councillor Suzanne Doyle
- Present: Cllr. Morgan McCabe, Cllr. Pádraig McEvoy, Cllr. Naoise Ó Cearúil, Cllr. Billy Hillis, Mr. Gerry Prendergast, Cllr. Mark Wall, Cllr. Daragh Fitzpatrick, Ms. Majella O’Keefe
- Also Present: Peter Minnock, Director of Services; Sonya Kavanagh, Director of Services; Jacqui McNabb, Head of Enterprise; Liam McGree, Senior Planner; Mark McLoughlin, Administrative Officer
- Apologies: Cllr. Mark Lynch , Ms. Evonne Boland, Mr. Brendan Allen
- 

The chair welcomed Ms. Majella O’Keefe as the PPN representative on the committee.

**1. To consider draft minutes of meeting of 14 December 2018**

The minutes of the meeting held on 14 December 2018 were proposed by Councillor B. Hillis, seconded by Councillor M. McCabe, and duly adopted.

**2. To agree a Work Programme for 2019**

The Work Programme for 2017-19 was circulated to the members and agreed. [See Appendix 1]

**Economic Development and Enterprise**

**3. To receive an update from Director of Enterprise and Economic Development.**

Ms. McNabb circulated a progress report outlining the performance metrics of the Local Enterprise Office for 2018 and the targets for 2019. [Appendix 2]

She highlighted a number of specific areas including a net jobs increase of 285 within the LEO client base. In respect of Brexit, support documentation

was available although there was still some apathy from many businesses towards carrying out any preparations.

In respect of the Action Plan for Enterprise, Ms. McNabb noted the County was virtually at full employment. The development of the MERITS building was proceeding and that they were focusing on delivering co-working spaces. The Enterprise Office was working on encouraging businesses to remain in the County and looking at linking certain industries to the County such as the food hub in Athy, which would also accommodate co-working and the equine industry hub with the Irish National Stud in Kildare. Other potential areas of development related to advanced manufacturing in North Kildare and renewable energy related work in the mid-county area.

Councillor McEvoy asked for an update on the LECF review. Ms. Kavanagh advised the committee that the new Regional Enterprise Plan 2020 and the Mid-East Enterprise Plan will have matching objectives while it was anticipated that the new LECF will be in place by 2021.

Councillor Doyle said that local area plans needed to focus more on job creation and locations close to transportation hubs.

Councillor McCabe said that Naas-Newbridge should have a joint local area plan to create the critical mass.

Councillor Wall said that training was critical for employment and asked where the ETB fitted into the picture. Ms. Kavanagh advised the committee that the ETB were going through a period of transition and that the ETB would need to look at skills shortages in certain areas.

**Action:** It was agreed that the ETB should meet the Committee during the lifetime of the next Strategic Policy Committee.

In respect of the Shop-Front scheme, Ms. McNabb acknowledged those who have invested in the scheme. Councillor Doyle said that as a follow-up it would be important for beneficiaries to demonstrate how it improved their business. Councillor Ó Cearúil said that it would be of benefit to before and after photographs of the businesses who benefitted from the scheme.

## Planning

**4. To receive an update from the Director of Planning and Strategic Development.**

Mr. P. Minnock advised the committee that the Local Area Plan for Naas would be launched in mid-March and that the Local Area Plan for Leixlip would follow.

He advised the committee that there was a high level of planning activity in Kildare and that the County was an attractive location for business. He said that there were a considerable number of part 8 applications being delivered for housing developments throughout the County and noted that the Vacant Site levy was a challenge.

Councillor McCabe said that it was important to show the public the level of activity in Kildare.

Mr. Prendergast said that it was important that the NTA objective of electrifying the railway from Dublin to Hazelhatch was followed through.

**5. To receive a presentation on the Draft County Kildare Heritage Plan 2019-2025**

Ms. Bridget Loughlin, Heritage Officer gave a presentation on the Draft County Kildare Heritage Plan 2019-2025. She advised the committee that she would attend all of the municipal district meetings to update the members and would encourage members to make submissions on the plan.

Ms. Loughlin also advised the committee that the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht had launched a consultation process in respect of the *National Heritage Plan - Heritage Ireland 2030* and would encourage members to make submissions by 28 February 2019. She advised the committee that the Council would be making a submission on the plan.

**6. Next Meeting**

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

**The meeting closed.**

## APPENDIX 1

### Planning and Economic Development Strategic Policy Committee

#### Work Programme 2017-2019

No.	Item	Comment
1.	To consider the production of a Design Aid / Guidelines for Single Rural Houses	See item 6 below.
2	To consider SPC members input into National Planning Framework	Completed
3	To consider Economic Development objectives of the LECP / Regional Action plan for Jobs and LEDP 2017-20	The SPC has been given regular updates regarding the Economic objectives in the LECP and the Regional Action Plan for Jobs
4.	To review Part 8 process	Process documents and procedures updated. Tender being prepared for public consultation portal. Part 8 details available on website. Target is Q4 2019.
5	Policy on Business Support Scheme	A range of business supports are available through the Business Support Unit. There has also been considerable discussion about a further grants scheme but no agreement.,
6.	Consideration of policy towards best practice in design by means of an annual awards scheme.	Agreed in principle with RIAI subject to funding.
7.	Policy on naming of New Residential Developments	Policy agreed and included in Kildare County Development Plan 2017-2023.
8.	Strategy for attracting foreign direct investment	KCC continuously working with the IDA and the Chamber to attract FDI. The development of a dedicated strategy will form part of an overall Economic Development Strategy that is being formulated with the assistance of the Economic Forum.
9.	Policy on Retail Incentive / Attracting Retail	Enterprise has rolled out a suite of supports for the retail sector.
10.	National Planning Framework and Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy	Inputs to both NPF and RSES.
11.	Signage policy in conjunction with Transportation and Environment SPC	Combined approach between officials in both Directorates. Appropriate action has been taken in certain cases and other cases are being processed.
12.	Audit of Kildare County Development Plan 2017-23 objectives	Report to be issued in May 2019.

