



Economic Development, Enterprise and Planning Strategic Policy Committee

Minutes of meeting held at 3.00 p.m. on Thursday, 10 December via Video Conferencing.

Cathaoirleach: Councillor Ivan Keatley

Present: Cllr. Pádraig McEvoy, Cllr Kevin Duffy, Cllr. Peggy O'Dwyer, Mr. Gerry Prendergast, Ms. Majella O'Keefe, Ms. Evonne Boland; Cllr Michael Coleman

Also Present: Eoghan Ryan, Director of Services; Sonya Kavanagh, Director of Services; Jacqui McNabb, Head of Enterprise; Mairead Hunt, Senior Executive Officer; Caroline O'Donnell, A/Senior Planner; Mark McLoughlin, Administrative Officer.

Apologies: Cllr Rob Power Cllr Seamie Moore

1. Conflict of Interest Declarations

The Cathaoirleach advised the members that it was a requirement at all strategic policy committee meetings for members to declare any potential conflicts of interest for items under discussion at the meeting. The item was noted.

2. Minutes of Meeting held on 12 November 2020

The Director of Planning, Mr. E Ryan advised that, further to the update on the Naas Local Area Plan at the last meeting, he wish to clarify that it was not decided as yet as to whether the Naas Local Area Plan would cross over into the Kildare-Newbridge MD or not.

The minutes of the meeting held on 12 November 2020 were proposed by Councillor Duffy and seconded by Councillor McEvoy and duly adopted.

3. To receive an update from the Director of Service, Economic, Community and Cultural Development

Ms. S. Kavanagh, Director of Service gave the members an update [See Appendix 1]. She highlighted a number of capital projects currently being progressed.

- MERTIS Building
- Equine Innovation Hub
- Food and Drink Hub

She highlighted other areas of activity such as start up grants, online trading vouchers, and shop County Kildare campaign. She said that there was a significant uptake of training and mentoring in 2020.

Ms. Kavanagh thanked the members for their feedback on the Kildare Economic Strategy which was being reviewed by an economist at present. She proposed that the members hold an additional meeting of the committee prior to the next corporate policy group and Council meeting which was agreed.

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

Mr. E. Ryan, Director of Service highlighted a number of issues in respect of Planning. He advised that the draft Athy Local Area Plan would be go on display next week and that the Naas members would receive a briefing before Christmas. He advised that the draft Naas Local Area Plan will go on display in January.

He noted the recent report from the Office of the Planning Regulator highlighting that as many houses were built in Naas in 2019 as were built in Dublin 1-8 postcode areas.

5. Kildare County Development Plan 2017-2023 Review / Issues Paper

Ms. Jane O'Reilly gave a presentation to the members outlining the process for reviewing the County Development Plan [Appendix 2]. She noted the changes since the last plan was adopted i.e. the establishment of the Office of the Planning Regulator, the requirements in respect of climate action and the need for Environmental reports (Strategic Environment Assessment, Appropriate Assessment and Strategic Flood

Risk assessment) She advised that an eight week public consultation period would commence in January 2021 with a Draft Development Plan consultation commencing in December 2021 with the adoption of the Plan scheduled for December 2022.

Councillor Duffy said that it was important that the reuse of heritage buildings be encouraged and that new areas such as wind energy be included. Councillor McEvoy said that biodiversity should not be overlooked and asked if the Council were expecting Housing targets rather than just population targets. He suggested that a photographic competition might be a way of encouraging participation on the process. Mr. G. Prendergast said that it was vital that there be a focus on shifting to the use of rail, in particular the twin tracking of the line to Kildare for commuter traffic. He said that the Transport Study prepared for Naas had been incorrect.

Ms. O'Reilly advised that the Council were awaiting guidelines from the Department including those on wind energy and rural housing. She said that they will run workshops for the members in January and were already looking at youth engagement in the process through a photographic competition and other actions. Discussions were being held with the National Transport Authority about model shifts.

Ms. E. Boland asked about the methodology for consultation and would welcome community workshops.

Councillor O'Dwyer asked if aspects of the last plan that were not completed will go into the new plan

Ms. C. O'Donnell said that the Forward Planning Team had met with the office of the Planning Regulator and are looking at other good examples of public consultation as a basis for the process. Mr. E. Ryan said that the process would not start from scratch and that the work from the previous plan would continue into the next one.

6. Open Space Strategy

Ms. J. O'Reilly gave an update on feedback received on the consultation process in respect of the above [appendix 3]. Ms. M. O'Keefe asked about accessibility which was not mentioned in the document.

Ms. O'Reilly advised that they would look at this issue and would now analyse the results of the consultation to inform the preparation of the final strategy.

7. Any Other Business

Mr. G. Prendergast acknowledge the work of the Local Enterprise Office during a very difficult year and this was endorsed by all the members of the committee.

Cllr McEvoy said that the consultation on the Greater Dublin Area Transport Strategy was open until Janaury and that the committee should consider making a submission. It was agreed to look at this at the January meeting of the committee.

8. Next Meeting

The next meeting to be arranged for January 2021.

The meeting closed.

Councillor Ivan Keatley

Chairman

APPENDIX 1

Report from Ms. Sonya Kavanagh, Director of Community & Economic Development

1. Capital Projects

Food and Drink Hub, Athy: An application has been made to the Rural Regeneration Development Fund for this €4 million project. A design team has been appointed and will bring this through planning.

MERITS: Construction project coming to an end. Expected completion date March 2021.

Equine Innovation Hub: 16 week contract due to start in January.

2. Economic Development

Shop County Kildare: 139 businesses live on site. 'Shop County Kildare' campaign radio adverts are running on KFM. In addition, the "Look Local" campaign adverts commissioned by EI are running daily.

Economic Opportunities & Climate Change: The Head of Enterprise is working with CARO and a group of stake holders looking at the potential for local economic and enterprise opportunities arising from climate action policy and funding instruments at European, National, Regional and Local levels.

The main project work, which is being led by the committee and the Eastern & Midlands Climate Action Regional Office, is being undertaken in collaboration with the Local Enterprise Offices, the Department of Enterprise, Trade & Employment, Department of Environment, Climate & Communications, Enterprise Ireland, IBEC, Chambers Ireland, the Regional Assemblies and a number of the Regional Enterprise Plan Programme Managers. The project team is working closely with the School of Business in Maynooth University which is carrying out necessary research.

3. Kildare Local Enterprise Office

Start up and expansion Grant Aid: Still strong demand for start-up and expansion capital and employment grant aid.

Business Continuity Vouchers

No. of Approvals	No. of Vouchers Paid	Value of Payments
560	503	€913,370.50

Trading On Line Vouchers

Applications Submitted	No. of Approvals	Value of Approvals
593	576	€1,321,724.05

Support	No. of Participants
Covid Mentoring*	904
Training*	3,425

Kildare
COUNTY COUNCIL



DRAFT ECONOMIC STRATEGY

KILDARE
2025



<p>1. Indigenous Industry / SMEs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 Strategic Objective • 13 Principal Actions 	<p>2. Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 Strategic Objectives • 13 Principal Actions
<p>3. Knowledge economy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 Strategic Objectives • 7 Principal Actions 	<p>4. Equine Industry</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 Strategic Objectives • 8 Principal Actions
<p>5. Agri food Sector</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 Strategic Objectives • 9 Principal Actions 	<p>6. Tourism, Hospitality & Leisure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8 Strategic Objectives • 7 Principal Actions
<p>7. Retail</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 Strategic Objectives • 8 Principal Actions 	<p>8. Climate Action & Green Economy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 Strategic Objective • 8 Principal Actions
<p style="text-align: center;">Underpinned by 2 ENABLING ACTIONS</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Invest in place - Place-making, Quality of Life, Enabling Infrastructure, Digitally Supported Communities</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Invest in people - Education, Training & Skills</p>	