



## **Economic Development, Enterprise and Planning Strategic Policy Committee**

### **Minutes of meeting held at 3.00 p.m. on Thursday, 17 June 2021 via Video Conferencing.**

Cathaoirleach:	Councillor Ivan Keatley
Present:	Cllr. Pádraig McEvoy, Cllr Kevin Duffy, Mr. Gerry Prendergast, Ms. Majella O'Keefe, Ms. Evonne Boland; Cllr Michael Coleman; Cllr Rob Power, Cllr Seamie Moore
Apologies	Cllr Peggy O'Dwyer
Also Present:	Eoghan Ryan, Director of Services; Sonya Kavanagh, Director of Services; Mark McLoughlin, Administrative Officer.

---

#### **1. Approval of Standing Orders**

The *Standing Orders for the Regulation of Business and Proceedings at Meetings of the Strategic Policy Committees* (31 May 2021) were proposed by Councillor Moore, seconded by Councillor Duffy and duly adopted.

#### **2. 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.

#### **3. Minutes of Meeting held on 25 March 2021**

The minutes of the meeting held on 25 March 2021 were proposed by Councillor Moore, seconded by Councillor McEvoy and duly adopted.

#### **4. To receive an update from the Director of Service, Economic, Community & Cultural Development**

##### Local Enterprise and Community Plan

Ms. S. Kavanagh Director of Service gave an update in respect of the Local Economic and Community Plan. She advised the members that the plan will be for six years and will match the Kildare County Development Plan timelines and will be circulated in the near future. The strategic policy committee (SPC) will have an overview of the process and more information will be provided at the next meeting.

Ms. Kavanagh said that guidelines in this regard were due to be issued in July and that there was a significant statutory process to go through (municipal districts and strategic policy committee). The postponement of the national census was affecting parts of the process. She anticipated that it would be mid 2022 by the time the plan will be in place.

##### Work Programme

Ms McNabb advised the committee of the forthcoming work programme which will include the following:

Kildare 2025 – launch in July 2021

Diaspora Strategy – September 2021

Food Strategy – September 2021

Remote Working Hub Strategy – October 2021

Mid-east Regional Enterprise Plan – October 2021

##### Capital Programme

In respect of the Capital Programme, she advised the Committee that the MERITS building was scheduled to be completed by September and that a Part 8 application for the Athy Innovation Hub was approved and was at design stage and will be ready for tender later in the year.

### Outdoor Dining

There were 115 applications received to date in respect of this scheme.

### Shop Front Grant

There were 28 applications to date with 26 approved to a value of €57,420.

Councillor Keatley asked about the budget for this scheme and the number of employees in LEO. Ms. McNabb advised him that there was an allocation of circa €200,000 and that there were seven (7) full-time employees.

Mr. G. Prendergast said that there were opportunities for the south of the County and it was important that it linked with the third level college in Carlow to improve technical skills for potential employees.

Councillor McEvoy said that it was important for the public to see the hierarchy between the various plans, how they link together and how the European dimension fits in to the plans and funding.. Ms. McNabb said that there were a number of reports which were of use in this regard and she would investigate.

Councillor Ivan Keatley said that the Committee should examine Outdoor dining later in the year to see what could be learned from the experience.

## **Planning**

### **5. To receive an update from the Director of Service, Planning and Strategic Development**

Mr. Eoghan Ryan, Director of Service update the Committee on a number of issues:

- Review of Kildare County Development Plan: Over 350 submissions were received on the pre-draft Chief Executive's
- Athy Local Area Plan: 62 submissions received. The material alterations went on display on 9 June. The Chief Executive's Report is due to be issued on 2 July and the members will discuss the plan on 3 August.
- Naas Local Area Plan: c.880 submissions received. Public consultation on draft plan from 23 July for 4 weeks.

Other areas of work include:

- Housing Needs Assessment
- Wind Energy Strategy

Councillor Power asked for further details on national guidelines on wind energy. Mr. Ryan advised the committee that the Department of Environment were still working on draft guidelines.

Councillor Duffy asked about extension of time on the making of the County Development Plan, in particular, in respect of the lack of updated census data.

Mr E. Ryan advised that the population targets were established nationally and that he did not believe that the census data would impact on the figures for the County.

Councillor Keatley reminded the members that they should give feedback to the Forward Planning team in respect of the rural housing guidelines discussed at the previous meeting.

#### **6. To receive a briefing on the Development Contribution Scheme**

Mr. M. McLoughlin gave a briefing to the members on the review of the Development Contribution Scheme. He advised the members of the guidelines in respect of the making of a scheme and the intention to have a draft contribution scheme presented to the members in early 2022.

Councilor McEvoy said that it would be worthwhile examining appeals to An Bord Pleanála in respect of contributions to see the outcome of these cases. He said that it would also be important that Public Realm were given an appropriate allocation under the Scheme to allow for projects in this area.

Ms. E. Boland said that contributions collected should be allocated to the areas where they were received. Ms. S. Kavanagh advised the committee that contributions in respect of Parks were ringfenced but that others were not.

The report was noted.

#### **Any Other Business**

The chair noted that the next meeting of the committee would more than likely be held in person.