

**Minutes of meeting of the Economic Development and Enterprise Support SPC held on Monday 26<sup>TH</sup> March 2018 at Wicklow County Campus, Rathnew, Co. Wicklow.**

**Present :** Councillor Gerry Walsh Chair  
Councillor John Ryan  
Councillor Gail Dunne  
Councillor Jennifer Whitmore  
Mr. Killian McGreal  
Mr. Pat O Suilleabhain  
Ms. Kate Duggan

**In Attendance:** Mr. Tom Murphy, Director of Services  
Ms. Sheelagh Daly, Head of Enterprise  
Ms. Lorraine Gallagher, Senior Executive Officer  
Ms. Christine Flood, Senior Executive Officer  
Mr. Donal O Keeffe, Broadband Officer, Wicklow County Council.

**Apologies** Councillor Tom Fortune  
Councillor Oliver O Brien  
Councillor Irene Winters  
Mr. Martin Burke  
Mr. Michael Allen

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**ITEM 1**

**Minutes of meeting of the Economic Development and Enterprise Support SPC held on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2017 (copy circulated).**

On the proposal of Cllr. Gail Dunne, seconded by Cllr. Jennifer Whitmore the minutes of SPC meeting held on Monday the 11<sup>th</sup> December, 2017 as circulated were agreed.

**ITEM2**

**Matters arising**

There were no matters arising.

**ITEM 3**

**Presentation: Broadband County Wicklow**

Mr. Donal O Keeffe, Broadband Officer, Wicklow County Council gave a presentation to the meeting covering the following areas:

- Broadband Development and our digital strategy
- What is broadband internet connection

- Broadband development – Broad band officer role
- National Broadband Plan (NBP) and Broadband development
- National Broadband Plan – state intervention
- Broadband development – Local authority role
- Commercial broadband development
- How can we best utilise our broadband infrastructure – our digital strategy
- WCC’s digital strategy – so far
- Endless opportunities in Digital.

Following the presentation there was a discussion around the gaps in broadband delivery in the County and what the optimum line speed should be. The committee also raised the issue of the cost for business to avail of broadband connection from private companies.

#### **Item 4**

##### **Update LECP Process**

Mr. T. Murphy DOS gave an update on the LECP process to date in that there are 10 high level goals, 21 objectives and some 100 actions to be implemented over the lifetime of the plan in respect of which an implementation plan has been prepared up to the 31<sup>st</sup> of December, 2017 overseen by an Advisory committee (jointly chaired by Cllr. G. Walsh and Cllr. G. McLoughlin).

He advised that the advisory committee met the previous week, the 22<sup>nd</sup> of March, and that Ms. C. Flood will report on the actions contained within CWETT many of which are contained within the LECP, and that the update on the Action Plan for Jobs will be given by Ms. S. Daly.

The DOS, gave an update in relation to the Council owned land zoned town centre and measuring approximately 12 acres adjoining the landbank in the ownership of the IDA at Greystones, in that it is zoned employment, located at the south of the town and adjoins lands owned by Wicklow County Council zoned town centre.

He advised that the Chief Executive has met with the IDA to discuss the possibility, of a collaborative approach with the IDA and that he would keep the SPC advised. Another option would be to put the land bank of the Council on the market or alternative commence a competitive dialogue process by way of ETender.

#### **Item 5**

##### **Update County Wicklow Economic Think Tank (CWETT) Implementation Stage**

#### **Item 7**

##### **Update: County Wicklow Tourism Strategy**

Ms. C. Flood advised that she would update the committee on Item 5 and Item 7 together. In respect of Item 5 Ms. Flood circulated report setting out the up to date position in

relation to the implementation of Actions contained within CWETT covering the following areas

1. Brand
2. Web Portal
3. Film
4. Retail – Progression of the Florentine Centre Project
5. Town Teams

In relation to film, Ms. Flood highlighted that Wicklow County Council had recently granted planning permission to Ashford Studios to develop new film studios and support service etc. on a forty hectare site.

In relation to Item 7, Ms. Flood advised that the Tourism Strategy and Work Plan, 2017 – 2022 is nearly complete the draft of which was presented to tourism industry stakeholders at a February workshop. The committee were also updated on Wicklow County Council's links with China, also covered within the report.

Blessington was again congratulated on winning the Bank of Ireland Most Enterprising Town in Leinster in the 3,000 – 7,000 population category and the work of the Blessington & District Forum and Baltinglass MD commended in achieving this award. It was noted that there will be a civic reception to mark this achievement in County Buildings on the 9<sup>th</sup> of April next. The Committee noted the award for Greystones, runner up in the Leinster Region in the over 7,000 population category and for the hard work put in by the Arklow Team in their category.

#### **Item 6**

##### **Update: Proposed Blessington Greenway Project**

Noted that the next steps is to secure funding.

#### **Item 8 Update (a) LEADER/LAG, (b) SICAP, (c) REDZ and (d) CLAR**

#### **Item 9 Update Town and Village Renewal Scheme 2017**

Ms. Deirdre Whitfield circulated the following documentation and updated the committee on the following areas:-

1. Implementation:
2. New development programmes announced by the Department of Rural and Community Development.
3. Goal 1, 2 3 and 4 of the LECP
4. Healthy Ireland – Local Implementation Plan LCDC
5. Monitoring the LECP
6. Integrated Actions
7. Town and Village 2017 scheme
8. Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Fund 2017
9. Department of Rural and Community Development – Indicative Schedule of 2018 announcement.

Ms. Whitfield advised that the 2017 LCDC Annual report has been prepared and will go before the Council at the April meeting for sign off.

**ITEM 10:**

**Update: Regional Action Plan for Jobs 2016 – 2017 (Mid East Region)**

Ms. S. Daly, Head of Enterprise gave an update on the RAPJ, 2016 – 2017 for the Mid East Region led by Enterprise Ireland and where there is a Monitoring and Implementation committee in place chaired by the MD of Intel and the Chief Executive of Wicklow County Council. She advised that there are a number of actions contained within the RAPJ mentioning the South Eastern Creative Corridor and also highlighted the call for funding under the Regional Competitive Fund, and that the implementation committee had not met in recent times but that there is on-line communication in place. A final progress report is being prepared.

In relation to the Regional Competitive Fund, Ms. Daly advised that the 2<sup>nd</sup> call is out presently with a closing date at the end of April. Wicklow County Council proposes submitting an application to develop a screen industry hub at Clermont, Wicklow County Campus with a view to driving growth in the screen industry sector. She advised that the project will focus on the development of the courtyard area of the campus to develop this project as well as co-working space.

**Item 11. Correspondence**

No correspondence

Next meeting

It was agreed to hold the next meeting of the Committee on Monday the 25<sup>th</sup> of June, 2018 at 10.00 a.m. at Wicklow County Campus.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

  
Cllr. Gerry Walsh  
Chair  
Economic Development and Enterprise Support SPC

Date \_\_\_\_\_