

Minutes of the Economic Development and Enterprise Support SPC
Meeting held on Monday 11th December, 2023
Boardroom, Clermont Campus, Rathnew, Co. Wicklow @ 10am.

Present: Cllr. Tom Fortune (TF)
Cllr. Mary Kavanagh (MK)
Cllr. Gerry Walsh (GW)
Cllr. Pat Kennedy (PK)
Mr. Huw O'Toole (HO'T)
Mr. Jim Wood (JW)

In Attendance: Ms. Lorraine Gallagher (LG)
Ms. Vibeke Delahunt (VD)
Ms. Susan Nichols (SN)
Mr. John Powderly (JP)
Ms. Caroline Cullimore (CC)

From KPMG: Dr. Cristina Bucur
Patrick Lohr

Apologies: Cllr. Avril Cronin (AC)
Ms. Deirdre Whitfield (DW)

ITEM 1

Update by KPMG on the Draft Wicklow Skills Strategy 2023-2030 – via Teams

Cllr. Fortune welcomed Dr. Bucur and Patrick Lohr from KPMG who gave an update on the Draft Wicklow Skills Strategy via Microsoft Teams presentation.

The presentation began with an outline of the project timeline and current status, along with a description of the project structure, and finished with an outline of the recommendations that will be agreed for the strategy.

The three common themes for the recommendations are development innovation centres - measures to encourage collaboration; providing training facilities and promoting enterprise supports; promotion of career pathways and early intervention. The main local enablers and inhibitors to those recommendations that will need to be addressed to enable growth were also outlined.

Finally, KPMG confirmed that they are working with Wicklow County Council to finalise the strategy, including the latest figures available from the 2022 Census and confirmed that the final strategy is expected to be available by the end of January 2024.

The Chair thanked KPMG for their presentation.

ITEM 2

Minutes of meeting of the Economic Development & Enterprise Support SPC held on Monday 11th September, 2023

The minutes of the EDES SPC which took place on Monday 11th September, 2023 were proposed by Cllr. Walsh and seconded by Cllr. Kavanagh.

ITEM 3

Matters arising from the minutes

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

ITEM 4

Receive an update on the preparation of the Local Economic and Community Plan 2023-2029 (Report circulated prior to the meeting)

SN delivered an update on Local Economic and Community Plan 2023-2029 and answered all questions. She advised that funding applications for projects are more likely to be favourable where they are planned and documented, along with extensive consultation. The presentation also included an outline of the next steps.

ITEM 5

To consider report on (Report circulated prior to the meeting)

- **LECP: LCDC and Community Activities**
- **LECP: Economic Activities**

The reports which had been circulated in advance of the meeting were taken as read and included the following updates:

- **RRDF: LG** confirmed there was huge engagement on the Newtownmountkennedy project. Part 8 will be next and is always a challenge.
- **RRDF:** The next funding call (5th call) will close in February and we are working to pull everything together for the next round of funding.
- **Greystones Enterprise Hub:** We have a very good shell but now need to fit it out. We are discussing this with a property consultant and hope to be ready before quarter 2 in 2024.
- **Bray Harbour:** Feasibility Study has been completed and a business case was sent to the Department. The next step is to proceed to tender to appoint a design team. This will probably happen in quarter 2 of 2024 if departmental approval to proceed is received.

ITEM 6

Report of Head of Enterprise, LEO supports – (Report circulated prior to the meeting)

VD highlighted the following items from her report:

- It has been a good year for the LEO and a busy year for clients, although small businesses are facing many challenges, especially labour shortages, and some local companies have won LAMA and national awards.
- There has been excellent take-up of soft supports and mentoring.
- The LEO has started planning programmes for 2024 and are facing into a busy time.

ITEM 7

Update on Content Creation Hub update – (Report circulated prior to the meeting)

JP highlighted the following items from this report:

- The Content Creation Hub was officially launched in front of a very large crowd. The soft opening was a few months previous to this and saw immediate 100% occupancy. This tenancy is coming to an end but there are further tenants lined up and a very strong pipeline of future tenants.
- One of the tenants in the hub is the Crew Academy East, with a manager, Jade Travers, in place and tasked with bringing new talent in, based on shortages, via short one or two day courses.
- Next year it is hoped to set up a film bursary to bring local talent along.
- The foul drainage system needs to be upgraded and then other project can get going, such as the campus development strategy, and opportunities for funding for a marine training facility among other things.

ITEM 8

Correspondence

There was no correspondence for discussion.

AOB:

With local elections next year, all committees will have to be reconstituted. The first two meetings for 2024 will be scheduled earlier than usual to facilitate the local elections, and the second two meetings will be set after the elections.

ITEM 9

Set date and time for next meeting

TF confirmed the meetings scheduled for 2024 will be on Monday 26th February and Monday 20th May, both at 10 am.

VD informed the meeting that the Student Enterprise Awards will be in Clermont on 27th February so the next meeting may need to be held in County Buildings to facilitate.

Signed:



Cllr. Tom Fortune

Chair

Economic Development and Enterprise Support SPC

Date:

26/2/2024

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