

Minutes of the Economic Development and Enterprise Support SPC
Meeting held on Monday 9th March, 2026 at 9.30am
in Members Room 2 and 3, County Buildings, Station Road, Wicklow Town

Present:

- Cllr. Tom Fortune – Chair (TF)
- Cllr. Peir Leonard (PL)
- Cllr. Ned Whelan (NW)
- Mr. Jonathan Donnelly (JD)
- Mr. T.J. Foley (TJF)
- Ms. Margaret Coughlan (MC)
- Mr. Killian McGreal (KMcG)
- Mr. Huw O’Toole (HOT)

In Attendance:

- Ms. Helena Dennehy (HD)
- Ms. Susan Nichols (SN)
- Ms. Vibeke Delahunt (VD)
- Mr. Fred Verdier (FV)
- Mr. John Powderly (JP)
- Ms. Caroline Cullimore (CC)
- Ms. Patrice O’Toole (PO’T)

Apologies:

- Cllr. Louise Fenelon Gaskin (LFG)
- Cllr. Ian Neary (IN)
- Cllr. Avril Cronin (AC)
- Mr. Chris Fox (CF)
- Ms. Michelle Curley (MC)

TF welcomed everybody and started the meeting.

ITEM 1: To agree the submissions by each of the working groups for inclusion in the Multi Annual Work Plan (MAWP)

TF called upon each of the working groups to present their proposed submissions to form the MAWP. He advised that the submissions need to be submitted to the CPG before 23rd March.

Economic Working Group:

JD, TJF and KMcG presented 3 points on behalf of the Economic Working Group

1. A policy to allow Wicklow County Council owned land to be shovel ready for enterprise development. A full audit carried out to include feasibility, design, and market. To also address the shortage in light industrial units and enable incubation/business growth.
2. A policy on adoption and usage of AI to futureproof businesses
3. Integration and information share of Town Teams, Town Centre First and Planning with Economic and Enterprise SPC to facilitate and drive town development strategies.

A broad discussion was held around each point.

Submission 1 was considered a very strong proposal and the policy proposed could begin by looking at all economic zoned lands. Identify the lands and look at how the SPC can promote and market the lands for use. The output was agreed to audit landbanks, feasibility, design and market and the SPC would work to achieve that.

It was decided that if additional lands required zoning, that could be looked at in preparation for the review of the County Development Plan in 2 years’ time.

Submission 2 – to consider a policy on AI around meaningful usage.

Submission 3 – while policy cannot be clearly identified, it was considered that submission 3 could become an action and that the TRO could alternate between the Planning SPC and the EDES SPC.

Food and Craft Working Group:

Following a discussion around the number of submissions put forward it was decided to view the strategies currently in place to see if they are still doing what they intended and to explore the possibility of creating a policy which merges both food and craft into one.

Tourism Working Group:

Review of existing policy in place in preparation for the next County Development Plan, identify changes which needs to be made and identify why it is not working.

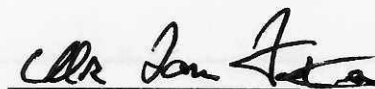
It was agreed that going forward the working groups should actively gather information to inform future plans and the lead from each working group to report back to the SPC at their scheduled meetings.

Action

1. PL to share the submission put forward by the Tourism Working Group on freshwater quality with the Climate Action, Biodiversity, Environment, Energy, Marine, Recreation and Amenity SPC
2. TF as Chair, to suggest to the CPG that when the MAWP of each SPC has been approved, the MAWP's to be shared across the SPC's.

The next meeting of the EDES SPC to take place on 20th April, 2026 at 9.30am

Signed:



Cllr. Tom Fortune / Chair
Economic Development and Enterprise Support SPC

Date:

