

**Minutes of the Economic Development and Enterprise Support SPC  
Meeting held on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> June, 2023  
Boardroom, Clermont Campus, Rathnew, Co. Wicklow @ 10am.**

**Present:** Cllr. Tom Fortune (TF)  
Cllr. Avril Cronin (AC)  
Cllr. Pat Kennedy (PK)  
Cllr. Mary Kavanagh (MK)  
Cllr. Gerry Walsh (GW)  
Mr. Huw O'Toole (HO'T)  
Mr. Killian McGreal (KMcG)  
Mr. Christopher Fox (CF)

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

**From KPMG:** Dr. Cristina Bucur  
Dr. Aoife Doyle

**Apologies:** Mr. Jim Wood (JW)  
Ms. Deirdre Whitfield (DW)

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**ITEM 1**

**Presentation by KPMG on Skills Strategy (copy attached)**

Before the meeting began, Dr. Cristina Bucur and Dr. Aoife Doyle gave a brief presentation, via Zoom, to the SPC members relating to a Skills Consultation being conducted in the coming months that will inform a Skill Strategy for County Wicklow.

The presentation included an overview of KPMG Future Analytics and an outline of their approach to the Skills Surveys and the stakeholders, and concluded with a review of the timeline of the project. A brief question and answer session followed and it was agreed that members would email their questions to CC to pass on to KPMG for a response.

Chair Cllr. Tom Fortune thanked KPMG who then left the meeting.

**ITEM 2**

**Minutes of meeting of the Economic Development & Enterprise Support SPC held on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> February, 2023**

The minutes of the meeting of the Economic Development & Enterprise Support SPC held on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> February, 2023, as circulated were proposed by Cllr. Walsh and seconded by Mr. Huw O'Toole and agreed.

**ITEM 3**

**Matters arising from the minutes**

Cllr. Avril Cronin requested that meeting dates are coordinated so that they coincide with the Municipal District meetings and it was agreed that this would be done.

#### **ITEM 4**

**Receive a presentation on the preparation of the Local Economic and Community Plan (copy attached – already circulated on the 22/6/23)**

LG confirmed that DW had sent her apologies for the meeting and advised that CF would present in her place.

CF confirmed that we are now at Stage 3 of the process – objectives and outcomes, and the next stage will cover the framework and implementation of stage 3. The next round of consultations with the Municipal District will commence in the next week or so. CF reviewed the goals and objectives as detailed in the plan and reviewed the next steps in detail.

KMcG suggested that each action in the plan should have someone who takes responsibility for it. TF agreed and suggested that the LECP is a template for the perfect county and we should look at the attainable parts.

CF confirmed that there are a lot of projects ongoing in Economic Development and that each project has an owner. The previous LECP had hundreds of actions, but we have achieved a majority of them and the actions set out in the new plan are achievable, in conjunction with all stakeholders.

LG said that the LECP is possibly the most important plan that Wicklow County Council produces and it involves many other stakeholders in the county. She confirmed that it will not be implemented in isolation but the plan should capture our vision for the future of Wicklow. The LECP is a statutory plan, enshrined in legislation and must be actioned.

TF asked how we get outside bodies on board with the plan. LG explained that the LECP should align with the strategic plans of our stakeholders allowing us to work in synergy with each other.

HO'T explained that the language used is not as clear as he would like and he would particularly like to see the word sustainability, which is used throughout the document, defined more clearly. CF confirmed that the next step will be to tender for an Appropriate Assessment screening process for environmental impact and that all actions will be subject to environmental sustainability.

LG confirmed that any more feedback can be taken on board. The process has not closed yet.

#### **ITEM 5**

**To receive and consider update on**

- **LECP: LCDC and Community Activities – This matter was dealt with at Item No. 3 above.**
- **LECP: Economic Activities – A Report circulated prior to the meeting**

The reports which had been circulated in advance of the meeting were taken as read. CF asked if there is national funding for the Bray Harbour project. LG confirmed that the project was successful through URDF and that tender documents are with the Department for approval. The project costs will not be finalised until the tender process is complete.

AC expressed concern about a project in Baltinglass that was scaled back due to lack of funding and hoped the same thing would not happen in Bray.

**ITEM 6**

**Report of Head of Enterprise, LEO supports – A Report circulated prior to the meeting**

VD highlighted some items from her report as follows:

The Content Creation Hub is now days away from being handed over to Wicklow County Council from the building company. The next step will be to promote it to the industry. There is a Manager in place, a good number of incubation offices and other offices, and a small number of tenants lined up, with progress on tenants moving in the right direction.

The Crew Academy is in its second year of operation. There is now a manager in place there and 17 courses have been offered since last year. It is going very well and equality, inclusion, and diversity are at the heart of all courses being developed.

VD advised of an upcoming event; a roadshow entitled 'Building Better Business' and focuses on actions in the Mid-East Regional Enterprise Plan being held on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> June.

**ITEM 7**

**Wicklow County Campus, Content Creation Hub update – A Report circulated prior to the meeting**

JP advised that the Campus Masterplan which is currently being prepared by MOLA Architecture is at Stage 2, with a number of different options for review. He also confirmed that the Irish Costume Archive has moved into Clermont, and JP can arrange a tour for members if requested.

JP also confirmed that a number of film productions are taking place around the county at the moment and he is negotiating contributions to local community groups as part of this. He also confirmed a visit this week to the Campus from the National Botanic Gardens.

Before concluding the meeting, the Chair, TF, acknowledged that Christine Flood is about to retire and on behalf of the EDES SPC he wanted to thank her for her 38 years of service and for all her work over a long and varied career. He expressed the hope that she enjoys it and that it will be long and happy. LG gave the group a flavour of Christine's career over the years and confirmed that she always brings a lot of expertise to the table and that her absence will leave a void on the team. KMcG added from the business community that all business conducted under Christine's leadership in the last 8 years has been incredible.

**ITEM 8**

**Correspondence**


There was no correspondence for discussion.

**ITEM 9**

**Set date and time for next meeting**

The next meeting was confirmed for 11<sup>th</sup> September 2023.

Signed:



Cllr. Tom Fortune

Chair

Economic Development and Enterprise Support SPC

Date:

11/9/2023

ITEM 6

Report of Head of Enterprise, LEO supports - A report circulated prior to the meeting  
VO highlighted some items from her report as follows:

The Content Creation Hub is now (day away from being handed over to Wicklow County Council  
from the building company. The next step will be to promote it to the industry. There is a  
Manager in place, a good number of incubation offices and other offices, and a small number of  
tenants lined up, with progress on tenants moving in the right direction.

The Crew Academy is in its second year of operation. There is now a manager in place there and  
17 courses have been offered since last year. It is going very well and equity, inclusion, and  
diversity are at the heart of all courses being developed.

VO advised of an upcoming event, a roadshow entitled 'Building Better Business', and focuses on  
actions at the Mid-East Regional Enterprise Plan being held on Friday 17th June.

ITEM 7

Wicklow County Council, Content Creation Hub update - A report circulated prior to the  
meeting

It advised that the Content Creation Hub, which is currently being prepared by MOA Architects  
is at stage 4 with a number of different options for review. He also confirmed that the Hub  
Costume Archive has moved into the Hub, and he can arrange a tour for members if requested.

It also confirmed that a number of film productions are taking place around the county at the  
moment and he is ongoing contributions to local community groups as part of this. He also  
confirmed a visit this week to the Campus from the National Heritage Service.

Before concluding the meeting, the Chair, TP, acknowledged that Christmas Flood is about to arrive  
and on behalf of the EDCS 2PC he wanted to thank her for her 32 years of service and for all her  
work over a long and varied career. He expressed the hope that she enjoys it and that it will be  
long and happy. LEO gave the group a copy of Christmas' career over the years and confirmed  
that she always brings a lot of expertise to the table and that her presence will leave a void on the  
team. KMG added from the business community that all business conducted under Christmas'  
leadership in the last 3 years has been fantastic.

ITEM 8

Correspondence

There was no correspondence for discussion.

ITEM 9

Set date and time for next meeting

The next meeting was scheduled for 17th June 2023.

*Mr. Tom Fortune*

Signed:

Mr. Tom Fortune

Chair

Business Development and Enterprise Support 2PC

11/9/2023

Date: