

Minutes of the Economic Development and Enterprise Support SPC
Meeting held on Monday 20th May, 2024 in the
The Boardroom, Clermont House, Newrath, Rathnew, Co. Wicklow at 10am

Present: Cllr. Tom Fortune (TF)
Cllr. Mary Kavanagh (MK)
Cllr. Gerry Walsh (GW)
Mr. Jim Wood (JW) – Online
Cllr. Irene Winters (IW) – Online

In Attendance: Ms. Leonora Earls (LE)
Ms. Vibeke Delahunt (VD)
Ms. Deirdre Whitfield (DW)
Mr. John Powderly (JP)
Mr. Fred Verdier (FV)
Ms. Caroline Cullimore (CC)
Ms. Margaret Cullen (MC)
Ms. Patrice O'Toole (POT)

Skills Strategy Presentation: Ms. Christina Bucur (CB) – Online
Mr. Patrick Lohr (PL) - Online

Apologies: Cllr. Avril Cronin (AC)
Cllr. Pat Kennedy (PK)
Mr. Huw O'Toole (HO'T)
Mr. Killian McGreal (KMCG)
Ms. Susan Nichols (SN)

ITEM 1

Minutes of meeting of the Economic Development and Enterprise Support SPC held on Monday 26th February, 2024

The minutes of the EDES SPC which took place on Monday 26th February, 2024 were proposed by Cllr. Gerry Walsh and seconded by Cllr. Mary Kavanagh

ITEM 2

Matters arising from the Minutes

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

ITEM 3

To consider the final draft of the Wicklow Skills Strategy 2023-2030

Ms. Christina Bucur and Mr. Patrick Lohr (PL) from KGMP joined online to give a presentation on the final draft of the Wicklow Skills Strategy 2023-2030 and dealt with any questions asked.

The Wicklow Skills Strategy focussed on the following four key economic sectors:

1. Screen and Content Creation
2. Agri-food and Forestry
3. Tourism and Hospitality
4. Renewable Energy

CB started off by giving a summary of the work to date including the timelines, recommendations and final report and the next steps. She advised that the structure of the final report was formed under the following:

1. Policy and Research Overview,
2. Socio-Economic Profile,
3. Consultation Results,
4. Sectoral Analysis; and
5. Recommendations.

PL advised of the Skills Development Enablers which included the Growing Population, the Expanding Labour Force and the Increasingly High Educated Labour Force. On the other hand he reported on the Skills Attraction Inhibitors which focused on the Limited Housing Supply and Affordability, the Limited Visitor Accommodation, the Regional Disparities in Transport and Connectivity and Business Supports and Competitiveness.

CB presented the recommendations of the Wicklow Skills Strategy under three themes as follows:

1. Strategic and Collaborative Approaches for Innovation and Skills Development;
2. Supporting Existing and Attracting New Creative Businesses in County Wicklow; and
3. Promotion of Career Pathways and Work Experiences Opportunities.

CB finished by saying that the next step would be to present the Strategy to the members on the 1st July. A general discussion followed the presentation and the consensus was that the Strategy was a good foundation.

Cllr. Fortune thanked KPMG for their presentation and advised that he would be happy to recommend it to Council on the 1st July, 2024, this was seconded by Cllr. Kavanagh.

The reports on Economic Development, Town Regeneration, Tourism, LEO and the Content Creation Hub which circulated prior to the meeting were taken as read.

AOB:

VD undertook to circulate the list of measures aimed at reducing costs for small and medium sized businesses, brought forward by Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment, Peter Burke to the Board Members.

The date of the next meeting is to be circulated following the Local Elections which are scheduled to take place on Friday 7th June.

The meeting concluded.

Signed:



Cllr. Tom Fortune
Chair
Economic Development and Enterprise Support SPC

Date:

