

**MINUTES OF STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING ON ECONOMIC  
DEVELOPMENT  
OLD LIBRARY REFERENCE ROOM  
6<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2016**

**Present:** Cllr. John Paul Feeley, Chairperson  
Mr Eoin Doyle Director of Service  
Ms Marcella Rudden, A/ Head of Enterprise  
Ms. Caroline Brady, Administrative Officer  
Mr. John Donohoe, Chief Officer  
Cllr. Eugene Greenan, Cavan County Council  
Ms. Nikki McGoohan, Cavan Chamber of Commerce  
Mr. Chris Kirk, Cavan PPN

**Apologies:** Cllr Carmel Brady

**In Attendance:** Mr Danny Lynch Head of IT Cavan Co Council

At the outset of the meeting Cllr John Paul Feeley welcomed Ms Marcella Rudden to the meeting. He advised the committee that she had recently been appointed as A/Head of Enterprise and on behalf of the committee wished her well in her new role.

**1. Minutes**

On the proposal of Ms Nikki Mc Goohan, seconded by Mr Chris Kirk minutes of meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> February 2016 were approved

**2. Matters Arising** There were no matters arising

**3. Regulation of Lobbying Act 2015**

With the approval of the committee, Mr Eoin Doyle brought forward item 6 on the agenda. It was noted and agreed that the committee will comply with the Transparency code of the Public Lobbying Act 2015. This will be done by regular circulation of minutes and the agenda of committee meetings on the Council website. The website will also detail membership and terms of reference of the committee.

This was proposed by Cllr John Paul Feeley and seconded by Mr Chris Kirk.

#### **4. Presentation from Mr Danny Lynch - Head of IT Cavan Co Council**

**( Copy of Presentation Attached)**

Danny Lynch gave a detailed presentation to the members on the roll out of the National Broadband Plan ( NBP). Mr Lynch advised the committee that a detailed tender process was underway at present which would determine who the contract for the roll out of the NBP would be awarded to, this would be a lengthy process and Cavan Co Council are keen to be in the first tranche of the national roll out.

Following on from the presentation a number of questions were raised. Ms Nikki Mc Goohan asked how Local Authorities could be positioned to be 'top of the list' for the rollout of the NBP. Mr Lynch advised that there was no clear methodology as to who is included in the first phase of the roll out however Cavan Co Council would, over the coming months be working to ensure that Cavan is an attractive proposition for early stage roll out of the NBP.

Mr Chris Kirk referred to the improvements in technology and to how fibre optic cables had replaced phone lines. He asked whether or not it would be possible that overhead cables could eventually be placed underground. Mr Lynch advised him that this decision would ultimately lie with the operators and they would have to factor in additional costs associated with underground cables. He referred also to the current SIRO model whereby the broadband cables hangs under the existing electricity lines and once it reaches the home is taken underground.

Mr Lynch concluded his presentation by reiterating the fact that Cavan Co Council would, through a new established working group, be proactive in ensuring that all that can be done to facilitate the smooth roll out of the NBP would be done in Cavan, he said it was important that Councillors, Council Staff and the broader communities would be versed in both the planned roll out of the NBP and the benefits which it would bring.

#### **5. Update from Mr John Donohoe Chief Officer on implementation of the Local Economic and Community Plan**

Mr Donohoe circulated a comprehensive template document detailing how the Local Economic and Community Plan was to be implemented in 2016. The documented included the actions within the plan, who the lead Partner was in delivering the action, progress milestones, performance indicators for 2016 and what the actual output would be for the year. This template had been agreed by the LECP Advisory Group and would be updated on a quarterly basis, these updates would be brought to the attention of the Economic SPC also. Mr Donohoe advised the committee that each of the lead agencies had been notified of their actions, the majority of them had signed up to their implementation in 2016. The committee were advised that the National launch

of the LECP's was scheduled for June and that launches of local plans would take place shortly afterwards.

Mr Donohoe also gave a brief update to the committee on the Leader Programme. He said that a number of Council Officials had recently met with Department Officials in terms of the Councils role as the 'financial partner' in the Leader Programme. Cavan Local Development Strategy had been accepted as submitted and we are currently waiting for Contracts to be signed. Cavan has secured €8.5 million in funding under the current Leader Programme.

#### **6. Update on Economic Forum, Town Teams, Food Strategy and Digital Strategy**

Mr Eoin Doyle advised the committee that a list of potential members for the Economic Forum had been finalised. The Chief Executive had already approached a number of these individuals who were all key players in the County in areas of Manufacturing, IT, Education, FDI, Agriculture, Green Economy, SME's and the Food Sector. Once all members had been confirmed he would revert to the SPC with confirmation of same.

Ms Caroline Brady provided an update on the Town Teams. Following a tender process a Facilitator had been appointed. There was currently a two week cooling off process after which time the facilitator would commence work. It is anticipated that the initial Town Team meetings will take place in Cavan, Cootehill and Virginia in the first week in June.

The consultant for the preparation of the Food Strategy had also been appointed. The tender was awarded to Bullseye Consultants from Cork who have considerable experience in this area. Both Caroline Brady and Marcella Rudden are meeting with the consultants on 12<sup>th</sup> May to commence work on the Strategy.

Regarding the Digital Strategy Ms Brady advised the committee that a very successful networking session was held on 14<sup>th</sup> April with some 50 individuals/SME's who are involved in the IT sector in Cavan. The feedback from this session would be used to inform the Digital Strategy – a number of areas were highlighted including access to high speed broadband, potential for networking within the County, potential for a Digital Hub in Cavan and access to skills and training in the IT sector. The next step in the process would be to set up a small working group to prepare the Terms of Reference for the Digital Strategy. A further update would be provided to the committee at their next meeting

## 7. AOB

Mr Eoin Doyle suggested that for the next Economic SPC meeting the Procurement Officer, Mr Eddie Donnelly would be invited to give a presentation to the committee. Procurement was a complex area in Local Government and a presentation would give a good insight as to how it operated in Cavan Co Council. The members agreed this would be useful.

Mr Chris Kirk referred back to the Local Economic and Community Plan, he expressed concerns that it hadn't reached far enough into the communities. He referred to the successful application in Killehandra for the 'Adopt a Monument' in relation to Rath Church, this was a great example of communities working together. Mr Eoin Doyle acknowledged his concerns however, he said as with any plan the LECP had to be ambitious but realistic also. Budgetary constraints were always to the fore in any planning and Cavan Co Council were conscious that many of the actions in the plan were dependent on support and funding from other agencies e.g. Cavan Co Council were actively engaged with Coillte and Failte Ireland with regard to Killykeen . Cavan Co Council are about to embark on the preparation of a new Tourism Strategy also which would also examine the 'This is Cavan' brand. Mr Doyle also referred to the new Leader Programme and to the opportunities which would be available to communities and through the PPN to leverage funding.

**8. Date and Time for next meeting:** Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> September at 9.30am

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

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Date : \_\_\_\_\_