**MINUTES OF STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING ON**

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

**Old Library Reference Room**

**18th January 2017**

**Present:** Cllr. John Paul Feeley, Chairperson

Mr Eoin Doyle Director of Service

Ms Marcella Rudden, A/ Head of Enterprise

Ms. Caroline Brady, Administrative Officer

Cllr. Eugene Greenan, Cavan County Council

Cllr Sarah O’Reilly Cavan Co Council

Cllr Carmel Brady Cavan Co Council

Ms. Nikki McGoohan, Cavan Chamber of Commerce

Mr. Chris Kirk, Cavan PPN

**Apologies:** Cllr Peter Mc Vitty

Prior to the commencement of the meeting Mr Eoin Doyle, on behalf of the committee, extended his sympathies to Cllr John Paul Feeley and his family, on the recent death of his father, former Cllr Eddie Feeley who had served as a member of Cavan Co Council. Cllr John Paul Feeley thanked Eoin Doyle and the Committee for their expression of sympathy.

1. **Minutes**

On the proposal of Ms Nikki Mc Goohan, seconded by Mr Chris Kirk minutes of meeting held on 25th October 2016 were approved

1. **Matters Arising** There were no matters arising.
2. **Update in respect of Town Teams, Food Strategy Digital Strategy and Funding Approved in 2016**

Caroline Brady presented the committee with an overview of developments under each of the aforementioned projects that had taken place during 2016. In total €1.2 million had been secured in funding. She noted that this was welcome and would see many worthwhile projects come to fruition in the County over the coming months.

**Town Teams, Food Strategy Digital Strategy and Funding Approved in 2016**

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| **Project:**  **Town Teams** | **No . meetings** | **Plan Stage** | **Funding Secured** | **Next Steps** |
| Cavan | 5 | SWOT Complete  Project dev stage | €3,000 Municipal District Funding  €85,000 Town and Village Renewal  Match Funding €15,000 | * Formalise Committee * Complete Town Plan * Launch Town Plan * Ongoing implementation |
| Cootehill | 4 | SWOT Complete  Project dev stage | €3,000 Municipal District Funding  €85,000 Town and Village Renewal  Match Funding €15,000 | * Formalise Committee * Complete Town Plan * Launch Town Plan * Ongoing implementation |
| Virginia | 4 | SWOT Complete  Project dev stage | €3,000 Municipal District Funding  €85,000 Town and Village Renewal  Match Funding €15,000 | * Formalise Committee * Complete Town Plan * Launch Town Plan * Ongoing implementation |
| **Town and Village Renewal Scheme** |  | **Plan Stage** | **Funding Secured** | **Next Steps** |
| Killeshandra | 2 | Project Development Stage | €31,250 match funding €5,514 | Finalise Plans and Implement |
| Shercock | 2 | Project Development Stage | €31,250 match funding €5,514 | “ |
| Ballinagh | 2 | Project Development Stage | €31,250 match funding €5,514 | “ |
| Ballyhaise | 2 | Project Development Stage | €31,250 match funding €5,514 | “ |

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| **Total Funding for Towns and Villages 2016** | **€456056** |

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| **Projects** | **Plan Stage** | **Next Steps** |
| **Food Strategy** | * Consultations Complete * 2 Drafts received * Final Review mid February | * Adopt March 2017 * Implementation of Plan |
| **Digital Strategy** | * Tender for Consultant issued December 2016 * Consultant Appointed ( PMG Consult) * Digital Strategy Steering Committee established – has met in 2 occasions * Work commenced on preparation of Strategy | * Ongoing work on preparation of Strategy – 16 week timeframe proposed * Adopt Strategy Summer 2017 * Implementation of Strategy |
| **Digital Hub**  *(€100,000 funding under the Rural Economic Development Zone, REDZ Initiative has been secured for development of Digital Hub)* | * Tender for Consultant issued December 2016 * Consultant Appointed ( PMG Consult) * Digital Strategy Steering Committee established – has met in 2 occasions * Work commenced on preparation of feasibility study for development of Digital Hub | * Ongoing work on preparation of feasibility study for Digital Hub * Commence work Summer 2017 * Completion end of 2017 * Hub operational early 2018 |

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| **Rural Economic Development Zones – REDZ Initiative** | **Project** | **Project partners** | **Project proposal** | **Amount Funding Approved** |
|  | Development of Digital Hub in Cavan | Cavan Co Council  Cavan Monaghan ETB | Development of a new Digital Hub based at the CMETB Education Campus, Dublin Road Cavan, the objective of which is to nurture technology based start-up companies, providing supports for existing businesses in the county to create jobs and give a vital boost to the local economy | €100,000 |
|  | Redevelopment of former Courthouse Main Street Bailieborough | Cavan Co Council  Bailieborough Development Association | The application is for funding to redevelop the former Court House situated on the Main Street, Bailieborough as a hub for economic regeneration in the REDZ area. | €100,000 |

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| **Total Funding for REDZ** | **€200,000** |

**Other Funding:**

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| **Project** | **Project Description** | **Amount Approved** | **Source** |
| Castlesaunderson | Preparation of Conservation and Development Plan for Castle Saunderson and Demense | €4,000 | Heritage Council |
| Angling Facilities | Development of various Angling facilities throughout the County | €61,063 | Inland Fisheries Ireland |
| Clar | Road Safety Measures  Outdoor Play Facilities | €274,000  €224,192 | Dept of Arts Heritage Regional Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs |
| Playground Facilities | Upgrade facilities at Killeshandra and Cootehill | €10,400 | Department of Children and Youth Affairs |
| **Total** |  | **€573,655** |  |

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| **Funding** | **€** |
| Town and Village | €456,056 |
| REDZ | €200,000 |
| Other Funding | €573,655 |
| **Total** | €1,229,711 |

Cllr John Paul Feeley acknowledged the work that had been done to date. He asked what the next tranche of town teams would be and was advised that Bailieborough, Ballyjamesduff and Belturbet would commence in 2017. Mr Chris Kirk asked where the match funding was coming from for the projects and was advised that the Council would provide the match funding however a 5% contribution would also be required from local community groups but this could be provided by benefit in kind.

Regarding the REDZ funding for the Digital Hub, Cllr Eugene Greenan said he welcomed the development. Some concerns had been expressed to him about the proposed location of the hub at CMETB campus on the Dublin Rd.

In response Ms Marcella Rudden advised him that the location had many advantages – strategically it was in a good location on the Dublin Rd., Cavan Co Council in working with the ETB were able to get considerable value for money in locating here as opposed to renting a premises in Cavan Town. The proposed site offered considerable room for expansion into the future if demand so requires and the Digital Hub is for all of Cavan, not specifically for Cavan Town. Work was about to commence on the preparation of feasibility report on the Hub and the findings of this would be relayed to the committee once completed.

Cllr Sarah O’Reilly referred to the REDZ funding for Bailieborough Courthouse, while she welcomed this, she had received some concerns that there wasn’t sufficient consultation with the community as to where the funding would be spent. Mr Eoin Doyle advised her that the REDZ applications had a very quick turnaround and did not allow for a period of consultation. Some work had already been done in respect of the Courthouse which allowed Cavan Co Council in working with Bailieborough Development Association, submit an application in a very short period of time. Caroline Brady advised Cllr O’Reilly that Bailieborough Development Association were currently undertaking a consultation process in respect of the Courthouse development and that the community had an opportunity to feed into that process.

Mr Eoin Doyle acknowledged that a number of funding streams had come on stream at very short notice in the last quarter of 2016. In some cases there were ‘shovel ready’ projects and this highlighted the importance of communities working together in preparation for future funding calls.

In respect of the funding provided by Inland Fisheries Ireland (IFI) for Angling facilities, Mr Eoin Doyle advised the committee that this funding was provided for a number of small scale projects throughout the County. Some concern was expressed by committee members that previous works which had been carried out by IFI were never promoted, had no signage provided and there was no follow up after the works were completed. Mr Eoin Doyle acknowledged this and said that as a result of this many of these projects had gone unnoticed.

1. **Economic Forum**

Mr Eoin Doyle advised the committee that the Economic Forum had held their first meeting on 1st December 2016. The Forum comprised business people with a Cavan connection and it is intended that they would bring their expertise, experience and contacts to help inform the ongoing work of the Council. The Forum is an informal structure and it is proposed the Forum will meet 3-4 times per year.

Cllr John Paul Feeley requested that the membership of the Forum be circulated to the committee along with its terms of reference. He requested that there ongoing interaction between the Forum and the committee. Ms Marcella Rudden said that the first meeting with the Forum had been very useful and that the members, though not sector specific, would bring a broad range of knowledge and experience to the table.

1. **Economic Development SPC 2017**

Mr Eoin Doyle advised the committee that 6 meetings of the Economic SPC would take place during 2017 and asked the committee if there were any specific items they wished to have addressed during the year. Cllr John Paul Feeley requested the following:

1. The Economic Forum be a standing item on the Agenda
2. A report from the LEO would be a standing item on the Agenda
3. Papers be circulated prior to the meetings
4. A schedule of proposed meeting dates be agreed for the SPC meetings

In respect of items 1-3 this was agreed. In terms of item 4 the meetings of the SPC would have to dovetail with those of the LCDC as the Economic SPC had a role to play in reviewing and agreeing the objectives as set out in the LECP – other committees also had to tie in with this process. This would make it difficult to agree and schedule meetings throughout the year.

1. A.O.B – None
2. Date and time for next meeting: Tuesday 21st February at 9.30am

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

Chairperson Secretary

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