

MINUTES OF ECONOMIC, ENTERPRISE & PLANNING

STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING ON

MS Teams

February 5th, 2021 @ 9.15am

Present: Cllr. John Paul Feeley, Chairperson
Mr. Brendan Jennings, Director of Service
Ms Marcella Rudden, Head of Enterprise, LEO
Mr. Nicholas O’Kane, Head of Planning
Mr. Pat Gaynor, Planning
Cllr. Sarah O’Reilly
Cllr. Winston Bennett
Cllr. Aiden Fitzpatrick
Cllr. Peter McVitty
Cllr. Carmel Brady
Stanley Nwaneri
Tom Brady

Apologies: Niall McGaughren

- 1. Welcome and Introductions - Chairperson,** Cllr. John Paul Feeley welcomed everyone to the meeting.
- 2. Minutes** On the proposal of Cllr. Sarah O’Reilly and seconded by Cllr. Peter McVitty, minutes of last SPC meeting held on December 11th, 2020 were approved.
- 3. Matters Arising –** No matters arising.
- 4. Derelict Sites –** A presentation was given by P. Gaynor, Planning, Cavan County Council on the proposal to develop a Derelict Sites Policy. B. Jennings briefed the Committee of the need to formulate a policy that will enable better management of derelict sites within the County, taking into account resources required to underpin any approved policy. Raising public awareness and ensuring land/property owners take responsibility for the upkeep of lands/properties in their ownership, is critically important in the context of the local authority’s focus on town and village regeneration. Cllr. P.McVitty raised the issue of protected properties in certain towns and villages and the difficulty in enforcing any policy without this particular issue being factored into any future policy. Cllr. W.Bennett raised the issue of how those property owners are dealt with, in the event that any future levies introduced are not paid. P. Gaynor stated that there are procedures and mechanisms that can be applied in the event of

non payment of levies. Cllr. J.P.Feeley emphasised the importance of having an open channel of communication for citizens to report or raise an issue of dereliction. B. Jennings stated that there will have to be a process of prioritisation, taking into account the location of said property and state of dereliction and risk to public safety. There is legislation there in the form of the Dangerous Structures Act and Dereliction Structures Act. It was agreed that P. Gaynor would do up a Draft Policy document which would be presented at the next SPC meeting for comment and feedback. N.O’Kane stated that he would work with P.Gaynor to formulate a draft policy document and emphasised that the issue of dealing with Derelict Sites is a significant task and body of work, requiring additional resources to enforce any future policy that is put in place. The Chair thanked P. Gaynor for his presentation.

5. N.O’Kane provided the committee with an update on preparation of the County Development Plan. A key focus will be meeting the demand for an urban solution to land zoning and acquisition, providing businesses with appropriate sites for business expansion. Rural housing is also another issue and adhering to national guidelines on same. Cllr. A. Fitzpatrick noted the enterprise park development in Cootehill and the need for occupancy of same as soon as possible. Cllr. S. O’Reilly stated that economic development is needed in the East of the County, in particular there is a deficit of industrial sites in Bailieborough and this needs to be factored in any future county plans for same.

6. **A.O.B.** – The next meeting date of the SPC was agreed for Friday May 7th at 09.15am. Cllr. John Paul Feeley, Chairperson, closed the meeting and thanked everyone for their remote attendance and contributions.

Signed: _____ Date : _____

Chairperson