

MINUTES OF ECONOMIC, ENTERPRISE & PLANNING

STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING ON

MS Teams

May 7th 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. John Donohoe, Chief Officer, Community & Enterprise
Mr. Pat Gaynor, Planning
Cllr. Sarah O’Reilly
Cllr. Winston Bennett
Cllr. Aiden Fitzpatrick
Cllr. Peter McVitty
Cllr. Carmel Brady
Tom Brady

Apologies: Stanley Nwaneri

- 1. Welcome and Introductions - Chairperson,** Cllr. John Paul Feeley welcomed everyone to the meeting.
- 2. Minutes** On the proposal of Cllr. Peter McVitty and seconded by Cllr. Carmel Brady, minutes of last SPC meeting held on February 5th, 2021 were approved.
- 3. Matters Arising –** No matters arising.
- 4. Derelict Sites –** P. Gaynor followed up on his last presentation to the Committee on the formation of a Derelict Sites Policy. P. Gaynor emphasised the importance of having a formal definition of a derelict site in the context of formulating a policy. The aim of the policy is to try and reduce number of properties on the register and in so far as is practicable, take all reasonable steps to deter. The allocation of resources to underpin the policy will be critical to maintaining the register and being in a position to implement same. P. Gaynor went through the process in detail in terms of inspection, and procedures to be followed step by step. The development of an online reporting system is being discussed with IT Dept. The Chair thanked P.Gaynor for his work on the proposed new policy. Cllr. W.Bennett and Cllr. P.McVitty thanked P. Gaynor for this work to-date on the new policy and sought clarification on villages that are not on the town tier system, the timely identification of owners of derelict buildings and how it can be moved forward. N.O’Kane stated that all

locations will be investigated but that the town tier system will be used proactively in the first instance. B.Jennings stated that resources was an issue in term as inspection is conducted by Council staff. He emphasised that N.O'Kane and P.Gaynor have made considerable changes and progress in this area over the past year, with limited resources to do so. He stated that we would deliver as best we can, and that the policy will provide a framework within which issues can be dealt with appropriately and in a timely manner. Cllr. J.P.Feeley asked that all villages, such as Dowra/Bawnboy, be included, as per listing in draft county development plan. N.O'Kane will amend accordingly. T.Brady asked for clarification on the levy imposed on a site and if the levy passes on if a change in ownership. P. Gaynor confirmed that the levy stays with the property and not the owner. The Chair asked for approval of new policy subject to list of towns/villages as per draft county development plan being included. Cllr. Carmel Brady proposed and Cllr. J.P. Feeley seconded. The policy will now go before next full Council meeting for approval. The Chair thanked P.Gaynor.

5. N.O'Kane provided the committee with an update on preparation of the County Development Plan and briefed the committee on timelines for public display etc. For the first time in this process, landowners can put forward suggested zonings as part of the public consultation process. The Chair acknowledged the huge amount of work that the Planning section and other sections across the Council are doing to prepare the plan.
6. B.Jennings gave a summary of the new Outdoor Dining Scheme launched by Failte Ireland and going to be implemented by the Local Authorities. There are varying interpretations of the criteria across the country, but the Minister has issued guidance on planning legislation to temporarily facilitate the Section 254 application process to ensure planning is complied with. There has been a significant effort by LA staff to implement the scheme as quickly as possible considering the urgency to approve applicants so they can be in a position to trade outdoors over the summer period. However, it is critically important that all applications and subsequent claims are in order as the LA must claim all funds approved retrospectively from Failte Ireland. The Chair thanked Brendan for the update on the scheme. Cllr. A. Fitzpatrick, Cllr C. Brady and Cllr. PMcVitty all expressed concern about the eligibility of rural pubs and that Failte Ireland need to ensure all pubs are supported. Cllr. S. O'Reilly noted that the process of applying for a Section 254 licence is an onerous process and asked if there were plans to provide a waiver. B.Jennings confirmed that all issues being raised are being forwarded to Failte Ireland for clarification at national level.
7. **A.O.B.** – The next meeting date of the SPC was proposed for Friday September 3rd at 09.15am. Cllr. John Paul Feeley, Chairperson, closed the meeting and thanked everyone for their remote attendance and contributions.

Signed: _____

Date : _____

Chairperson