

MINUTES OF ECONOMIC, ENTERPRISE & PLANNING

STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING ON

MS Teams

December 3rd, 2021 @ 9.15am

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

Apologies: Cllr. Aidan Fitzpatrick

- 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 Stanley Nwaneri, minutes of last SPC meeting held on September 17th ,2021 were approved.
- 3. Matters Arising** – J. Donohoe informed the Committee that the Urban Streetscape Scheme has been extended to December 31st, 2021, with final drawdowns to be complete by March 2022. Cllr. J.P. Feeley asked if there will be another scheme in 2022. J. Donohoe said no confirmation from the Department had been received, but it was his understanding that the intention was to run a similar scheme in 2022. Focus at present is on concluding the 2021 scheme within the deadlines prescribed. Cllr. C. Brady commented that Cootehill town are very pleased with the outcome so far and she also thanked B. O’Rourke and the team in C&E for their work on the scheme.
- 4. Tourism 2021 Update** – J. Donohoe gave an update on the various Tourism activities and funding awarded during 2021 under the key pillars – Trade Development, Destination/Product Development and Marketing & Communication. Cllr. J.P. Feeley stated that the tourism industry has been severely challenged recently and it will be a further challenge to encourage businesses to take of advantage of these new developments. He also thanked County Council staff involved and acknowledged the involvement and contribution of the local community, as their involvement has been critical to the process. Cllr. S. O’Reilly thanked J. Hayes and J. Donohoe for their assistance

and support on the Castle Lake application. Cllr. C. Brady thanked J. Donohoe and all his team for their hard work and emphasised the importance of Outdoor Amenities for local communities. B. Jennings thanked all the staff for the great work they do on the ground. He also noted the benefits of the Tourism Network and Hidden Heartlands Taskforce who are trying to encourage the industry to work together. Cllr. J.P.Feeley asked if anything had been learned from the Geopark Tourism Business Network. B. Jennings stated that it was early days for the network but that there was positive interaction among the members.

- 5. LECP Plans** – J. Donohoe briefed the committee on the new guidelines that have issued with regard to the preparation of the next LECP Plans. The process will commence in 2022 with a deadline of year end 2023 for completion of the new plans. There will be two strands to the plans, economic and community, with an overall framework of high level objectives being underpinned by two year implementation plans. J. Donohoe stated that the LECP is a critical document and sits up with the County Development Plan in terms of strategic importance. There will be a number of phases and associated timelines for development and completion of the plan, and the process will commence in early 2022 with the establishment of an Advisory Steering Group comprising of both members of the LCDC and the Enterprise & Economic SPC. J. Donohoe informed the committee that a webinar giving some further insight and guidance on the new LECP Guidelines will be held on Thursday December 9th, 2021.
- 6. Derelict Sites Policy Update** – N.O’Kane updated the committee on some minor amendments which have been made to the Derelict Sites policy since the committee’s last approval of the policy. The listing of prescribed areas within which the levy applies, required updating and broadening so as to designate certain townlands as an Urban Area under the Derelict Sites Act. Cllr. J.P. Feeley asked if the levy only applies to areas that are prescribed and can enforcement happen in other areas. B. Jennings stated that enforcement can happen but the levy, can only be enforced in a prescribed area. Cllr. J.P.Feeley asked if there can a prosecution in a non prescribed area. N.O’Kane stated that clarification is still required from the department on this point. Cllr. J. P. Feeley noted that there is very little in one’s armoury if there is non compliance in a non prescribed area. N.O’Kane stated that there is a weakness in the legislation, and it has been taken up with the department. Cllr. P. McVitty raised the issue of long term unoccupied and derelict buildings whereby the owner cannot be located. N.O’Kane stated that we can only consider a CPO to take a building over if we have a plan to do something with the building. There is also the requirement for significant resources to go the CPO route. B. Jennings stated that the policy will go before the full council in January.
- 7. County Development Plan Update** – N.O’Kane updated the committee on that current status of the County Development Plan. The CE Report has recommended 232 changes to the plan, and it is available online for viewing. Members have until January 14th to make motions and N.O.’Kane assured members that they would work with them to meet this deadline. Cllr. J.P. Feeley noted that all documents are published and there was very good engagement in the process so far.

8. **A.O.B.** – Tom Brady, Cavan Chamber asked all members to promote the annual Love Cavan Campaign which is an annual Cavan Chamber initiative that encourages shopping local by way of vouchers available through the Chamber, the website and Easons.

The next meeting date was proposed for Friday February 25th @ 09.15am. Cllr. J.P. Feeley closed the meeting and thanked everyone for their remote attendance and contributions during 2021.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Chairperson