

Minutes of the Meeting of SPC1

- Economic Development, Enterprise Support and Tourism
held in The Tasting Room at The Abbey Quarter
on Wednesday 19th December, 2018 at 11.00am.**

Present: Cllr Pat Fitzpatrick (Chair), Cllr John Brennan, Cllr Michael Doyle, Cllr Peter Cleere, Cllr Pat Millea, Cllr Patrick O’Neill, Deirdre Shine, Theresa Delahunty, Charles Wani, John Bambrick, Phil Funchion.

Apologies: Mark Kennedy,

In Attendance: Martin Prendiville, Sean McKeown, Fiona Deegan, Brian Tyrrell, Bríd Hynes

The Chairman congratulated Fiona Deegan on her permanent appointment as Head of Enterprise with the Local Enterprise Office Kilkenny, stating that Fiona had been in an acting role for the past number of years and had been appointed through open competition for the role recently.

1. Minutes of Meeting held on 14th September 2018

The Minutes of the meeting held on 14th September, 2018 were proposed by John Bambrick and seconded by Deirdre Shine and agreed.

2. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

3. Tourism Development Update

Brian Tyrrell provided an update by PowerPoint on recent initiatives and detailed in particular, the ONE KILKENNY social media campaign.

4. Abbey Quarter Update

Jason Clerkin, CEO of Kilkenny Abbey Quarter Development Limited and Tony Lauhoff provided an update on The Abbey Quarter covering the following:

- Video capturing the Abbey Quarter;
- The Public Realm;
- Progress to Date;
- Development Phasing;
- The Brewhouse;
- The Mayfair;
- Temporary Use;
- URDF funding - €4.764Mn.

5. Update on Strategic Economic Actions

Brid Hynes noted that 2 reports had been circulated in advance of the meeting, firstly the End of Year Report on all actions in the LECP Economic Actions Implementation Plan which outlined progress on these actions for the previous twelve months and secondly, a progress report for 2018 Quarter 4 on the 13 High Level Strategic Actions. Brid Hynes drew specific attention to progress with regards the following strategic actions during the meeting:

Action 1.10 Retail: LEO Kilkenny in conjunction with the Chamber of Commerce and local retailers delivered the #shoplocal campaign in the run up to Christmas promoting Kilkenny as a shopping destination for Christmas.

Action 2.6 / 7.4: Kilkenny County Council secured grant funding of €4.764Mm towards the regeneration of the Abbey Quarter under the Urban Regeneration and Development Fund (URDF). The URDF Fund was announced as part of Project Ireland 2040, to support the compact growth and sustainable development of Ireland's five cities and other large urban centres.

Action 2.7 / 9.3: ERDF Funding: The outcomes of the applications submitted under Enterprise Ireland's Regional Enterprise Development Fund were announced during this quarter.

- The IT Carlow led application for The National Design Innovation Hub DAC t/a Centre 4 Design was successful in its application and was allocated €1,843,320 towards the development of the project. It is envisaged that this facility will be housed within the Abbey Quarter. Partners involved are IT Carlow, Kilkenny County Council, Design & Crafts Council of Ireland and Kilkenny Industrial & Development Company.
- The Waterford Institute of Technology led application for funding towards the development of a Precision Agriculture Centre of Excellence (PACE) was unsuccessful in securing funding and Kilkenny County Council will explore other potential funding avenues with WIT.

Action 4.6: Technological University of the South East of Ireland (TUSEI): Progress regarding same was outlined including

- the allocation of €1m in funding by Minister Mitchell O'Connor to TUSEI in support of the ongoing restructuring of the higher education landscape;
- the appointment of an external chair of the TUSEI project steering group;
- It is understood that the TUSEI consortium has made its formal application for Technological University designation.

Action 4.7: National Design Centre of Ireland: Kilkenny County Council has commissioned a report on why Kilkenny should become the home to the National Design Centre of Ireland. This report is currently being prepared.

Action 6.1: Belview Port Zone: Port of Waterford in conjunction with the 3 local authorities of Kilkenny, Wexford and Waterford are in the process of carrying out an Economic Study of the future potential of the 3 ports of Belview, Rosslare & New Ross in the context of Brexit. The report is expected to be completed in Spring 2019.

6. Local Enterprise Office (LEO) update

Fiona Deegan circulated a document entitled "Some of the Images 2018" which provided a look back over some of the events and numbers for 2018 covering the following:

- Spring & Autumn Training Schedule;
- #tastekilkenny launch of food & drink directory;
- Glanway Ltd. representing Kilkenny at the National Enterprise Awards;
- Brexit seminar in conjunction with The Chamber of Commerce and Kilkenny IFA;
- Kilkenny representatives at the Student Enterprise Programme;
- National Women's Enterprise Day in Mount Juliet in conjunction with LEO Carlow;
- Retail Workshop in conjunction with the Chamber of Commerce and the Planning Department;
- #shoplocal Christmas campaign.

7. Any Other Business

There were no items for discussion

8. Date of Next Meeting

It was agreed that the next meeting of the SPC would take place on Friday 8th March in The Tholsel including a presentation on same from Brian Tyrrell and Tony Lauhoff.

The meeting concluded at 01.00pm.

Signed: _____

Date: _____

PAT FITZPATRICK
Chairman