

LOUTH COUNTY COUNCIL

**Minutes of Economic Development & Enterprise Support SPC Meeting
Held In Barlow House, Narrow West St, Drogheda on
Monday 11th June, 2018 at 3.30pm**

Present: Cllrs: Mark Dearey (Chairman), Conor Keelan,
Pio Smith, David Saurin, Kevin Callan
Mr Eddie Phelan, Development/Construction
Ms Karen Devine, Environment/Conservation
Mr Ciaran McDonnell, Agriculture/Farming

Officials: Colette Moss, Senior Executive Officer
Thomas McEvoy, Head of Louth LEO
Miriam Roe, Staff Officer

Apologies: Cllrs:, Marianne Butler, Thomas Sharkey
Mr Simon McCormack, Business/Commercial
Mr Pat Mulligan, Community/Voluntary

1. Minutes of Previous Meeting:

Upon the proposal of Cllr David Saurin and seconded by Ms Karen Devine the minutes of the meeting of 12th March, 2018 were adopted.

2. Matters Arising:

Thomas McEvoy, circulated the agreement which detailed arrangements for commercial enterprise support at local level between the LEO in Co Louth operating under a SLA with Enterprise Ireland and LAG Louth of the LEADER programme delivered by Louth Leader Partnership as implementing partner. Cllr Callan raised concerns that it would not be normal practice that dispute resolution would be referred to one of the parties to an agreement and asked that this aspect be checked from a legal perspective and amended, if necessary.

Collete Moss advised the members that it is expected that the Co Louth Heritage Plan, following some minor amendments, will go on public display sometime before end September.

Cllr Dearey stated that tourist office in Carlingford will close at the end of June when the lease expires. It is hoped to meet with Fáilte Ireland to discuss tourism development in the region.

3. Louth Economic Forum Action Plan Updates:

Updates were circulated to the members for information and the following items were noted:

FDI: Spatial Insight Solutions (SIS) has been engaged to develop detailed Socio-Economic Profile data for the combined catchments of Dundalk and Drogheda. Developed using key socio-economic indicators from both the Central Statistics Office (RoI) and the Northern Ireland Research and Statistics Agency (NI), the profile data will provide a detailed overview of the critical mass (population, labour force, education profile etc) associated with the combined urban centres. This profile and database will also provide comparative details on the relative performance of the combined catchment with other key cities in Ireland; Dublin, Cork, Limerick, Galway, Waterford and State figures. Following discussion on the topic it was agreed that T McEvoy would provide a cohesive message regarding the "Louth Advantage" which could be used when promoting the county.

Tourism: It was agreed that more tourism signage both motorway and local roads. Meath Co Co should be contacted regarding tourism signage on approach roads from Meath which need to be made more visible.

4. LEO Updates:

Thomas McEvoy circulated the LEO Louth updates to the members. Business training workshops took place in May with a combined total of 121 participants and LEO has approved 18 Trading Online Vouchers to end May. Louth has 4 food producers participating on the LEO/Boad Bia/SuperValu Regional Food Academy Start Programme. The most recent progress report for the Regional Action Plan for Jobs (NE/NW region) is available to view on www.regionalapj.ie website. The final progress report (end 2017) is currently being compiled.

5. Proposed Work Plan 2018:

The following items resulted from discussion regarding the 2018 Work Plan for this SPC.

- 1) **LECP:** Create a small working group to review the economic goals and actions of the LECP.
- 2) **Boundary Commission:** Seek an update from Executive on the collaborative process set out by the Boundary Commission involving both Louth and Meath County Council's Economic & Enterprise SPC's.
- 3) **Brexit:** its potential impacts and our policy.
- 4) **Agriculture:** Increased focus on the agricultural/food policy for the county.
- 5) **Tourism:** Review the strategy against visitor focus and experience. Also, link in with Heritage Plan public consultation and approval process.
- 6) **Regional Spatial & Economic Strategy:** Seek input on RSES process and Louth's goals – should be an item on the September Agenda.

6. Any Other Business:

Anthony Abbott King advised the members previously that a submission was being made by Louth on the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy Issues Paper. This item should be listed on the September Agenda for discussion regarding the process and what it means for the county.

Congratulations were extended to Cllr Keelan as he takes up his new position of Cathaoirleach of Dundalk Town Council.

Congratulations were also extended to Cllr Pio Smith on his many achievements during his term as Mayor of Drogheda.

The next meeting will be held on Monday 10th September, at 3.30pm in the Cooley Room, County Hall, Dundalk

This concluded the meeting:

Confirmed at Meeting held on: 10th September, 2018

Signed: 
Chairman

