

LOUTH COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes of Economic Development & Enterprise Support SPC Meeting Held In Cooley Room, County Hall, Dundalk on Monday 12th March, 2018 at 3.30pm

Present: Cllrs: Mark Dearey (Chairman), Conor Keelan,
Marianne Butler, David Saurin, Kevin Callan
Mr Eddie Phelan, Development/Construction
Mr Pat Mulligan, Community/Voluntary
Ms Karen Devine, Environment/Conservation

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

Apologies: Cllrs: Thomas Sharkey, Pio Smith
Mr Ciaran McDonnell, Agriculture/Farming
Mr Simon McCormack, Business/Commercial

1. Minutes of Previous Meeting:

Upon the proposal of Ms Karen Devine and seconded by Cllr Conor Keelan the minutes of the meeting of 11th December, 2017 were adopted.

Condolences were expressed, on behalf of the committee, to Cllr P Smith on the passing of his father John.

2. Matters Arising:

Referring to the Fáilte Ireland presentation at the previous meeting, K Devine asked if the tourism sector is fully aware of the Ireland's Content pool facility. Cllr Keelan expressed concern that the uptake on Fáilte Irelands grants for Storytelling Interpretation is so low. It was confirmed that Certificate in Applied Business Development for Food Tourism is fully subscribed. It was noted that Louth featured prominently and favourably in the newly published National Planning Framework .

3. Louth Economic Forum Action Plan Updates:

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

C Moss advised that a large body of work will be involved in extracting meaningful and useful information from the CSO figures available and that the members will be kept updated on progress. Also, that both a Seafood Trail and a Heritage Trail were being developed for Co Louth and that funding streams are being considered at present. These will be aligned to the Ireland's Ancient East brand.

The lack of workspace supply was raised as an issue. Ideas on how companies could be encouraged to graduate up to free space for new business was discussed which included pricing models.

4. LEO Updates:

Thomas McEvoy gave a presentation to the members on the services available through LEO, including financial supports, mentoring/training and national enterprise programmes. Some of the challenges and priorities for LEO in 2018 mentioned were Brexit, competitiveness, innovation and developing new markets. The presentation concluded showing the outputs for 2017, achievements to date and Louth LEO's performance nationally.

Thomas agreed to circulate the agreement between Louth CoCo/LEO, the Louth LAG and Louth Leader Partnership CLG as the Implementing Partner for the LEADER Programme 2017 to 2020. This agreement details arrangements for enterprise support at local level between the LEO and Local Action Group (LAG) Louth of the LEADER programme delivered by Louth Leader Partnership.

5. Heritage Plan (Proposed Process)

Colette Moss briefly outlined the process involved in making a Heritage Plan. Louth currently has a draft plan which is a couple of years old and hasn't been progressed to public consultation / display stage. In light of the National Planning Strategy it might be prudent to review the current document. It would be expected that changes, if any, would be minor in nature.

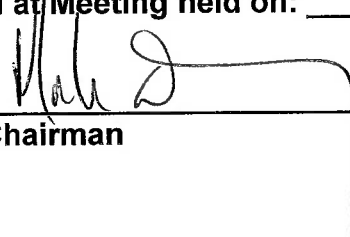
6. Draft Work Plan 2018

A brief discussion was held regarding items for inclusion in a work plan for 2018 and beyond. Cllr Dearey remarked that it might be worthwhile to establish a small working group to consider the economic elements of the LECP. This would assist in the review of actions and policies. It was decided to allow the members a period of time to revert with any items they proposed for inclusion in the plan. These would be collated and considered by the Cathaoirleach.

The next meeting will be held on Monday 11th June, at 3.30pm in the Barlow House, Narrow West Street, Drogheda.

This concluded the meeting:

Confirmed at Meeting held on: 11th June 2018

Signed: 
Chairman

