

## LOUTH COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Economic Development & Enterprise Support Strategic Policy Committee meeting held via Zoom on Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> March 2021 at 3.30pm.

- Present:**
- Cllr Pio Smith (Chair)
  - Cllr Declan Power
  - Cllr Dolores Minogue
  - Cllr Sean Kelly
  - Cllr Tomas Sharkey
  - Cllr Andrea McKeivitt
  - Ms Sarah Daly, Social Inclusion Rep
  - Mr P Malone, Business/Commercial Rep
  - Mr Alan Mc Ardle, Community Rep
  - Mr Lorcan Cooke
- Officials:**
- Mr Frank Pentony, Director of Service
  - Mr Thomas Mc Evoy, Head of Enterprise
  - Ms Colette Moss Senior, Executive Officer
  - Ms Mary Capplis, Acting Administrative Officer
  - Mr Gerard Brennan, Executive Planner
  - Ms M O Callaghan, Staff Officer

**Apologies:**

- 
1. **Approve minutes of meeting 26<sup>th</sup> November 2020 minutes**  
The minutes were approved: Proposed by Cllr D Minogue and seconded by Cllr S Kelly.
  2. **Matters arising** – Further to item 4 Tourism Ms C Moss confirmed PEACE PLUS workshops are taking place and tourism is among the themes being discussed. The consultation period is open until 12<sup>th</sup> May 2021 ideas for projects are invited from all interested stakeholders.
  3. **Regional Enterprise Plan 2021 +.**  
Cllr P Smith welcomed Caroline Brady to the meeting. Caroline Brady is the Programme Manager for the North East Region which covers counties Louth, Cavan and Monaghan. Ms Brady gave an informative presentation to the

meeting on the development of the new plan which will be one of 9 Regional Plans across the country. The plan is currently at stage 2 and stakeholder consultation is beginning in April it is hoped to launch the final plan in September/October 2021.

The members thanked Ms Brady for her presentation and raised some queries including

- Is the plan based on the previous plan
- Does the ETBs mentioned include Meath
- The inclusion of the Ardee area.
- The importance of the M1 corridor

A discussion on the above ensued.

It was agreed that the presentation be circulated to the members following the meeting.

#### **4. Retail Strategy**

Cllr T Sharkey introduced the topic saying that he was aware the current retail strategy is out of date and needs to be revisited. F Pentony advised that the strategy has been revised in the new Draft Development Plan and that Gerard Brennan Executive planner was at the meeting to give a presentation on the new strategy. G Brennan proceeded with his presentation he explained that the Strategy sits within the Draft Louth County Development Plan 2021-2027 (Volume 3) and will replace the 2014 Louth County Retail Strategy once formally adopted.

The strategy is not a standalone document and was prepared under the Retail Guidelines 2012. Policy is focused on a town centre first approach and providing flexibility to allow for complementary uses in areas where sustained vacancy is evident.

A discussion on the presentation followed and questions were taken from the committee. The omission of Blackrock and Carlingford in the strategy was queried G Brennan explained that the main towns of Drogheda, Dundalk and Ardee are the focus due to time constraints. Covid issues and co working hubs were discussed. G Brennan said that the usual street surveys could not be completed due to Covid restrictions. G Brennan said that retail is constantly challenged and at the minute COVID Brexit and Cross Border issues were the main challenges.

It was agreed that a copy of the draft retail strategy be circulated to the members following the meeting.

**5. Any other business**

It was agreed to set up a meeting with Dundalk BIDs Cllr Pio Smith and Colette Moss.

P Malone spoke about the Shared Island Fund and asked that ideas should be put forward for the funding. It was agreed to have the item on the agenda for the next meeting

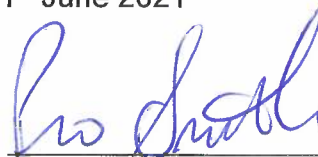
**6. Next meeting.**

The date of next meeting of this SPC is scheduled for **25<sup>th</sup> May 2021**.

That concluded the business of the meeting.

**Confirmed at Meeting held on:** 1<sup>st</sup> June 2021

**Signed:**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**Chairperson**

