

## **LOUTH COUNTY COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the Economic Development & Enterprise Support Strategic Policy Committee meeting held in The Cooley Room, County Hall, Dundalk on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> February 2020 at 3.30pm.**

**Present:** Cllr Pio Smith (Chair)  
Cllr Dolores Minogue  
Cllr Declan Power  
Cllr Tomás Sharkey  
Cllr Erin Mc Greehan  
Ms Sarah Daly, Social Inclusion Rep  
Mr Gerard Melia, Farming Rep  
Mr P Malone, Business/Commercial Rep

**Officials:** Mr Frank Pentony, Director of Service  
Ms Colette Moss Senior Executive Officer  
Mr Thomas Mc Evoy, Head of Enterprise  
Ms Therese Mc Ardle, Administrative Officer  
Ms M O Callaghan, Staff Officer

**Apologies:** Cllr Sean Kelly, Mr Alan Mc Ardle, and Mr Lorcan Cooke.

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### **1. Introductions**

Cllr Pio Smith welcomed all the members to the meeting and everyone at the meeting then introduced themselves.

### **2. Presentation on Economic, Enterprise and EU office.**

C Moss began the presentation on the Economic Development section describing the various areas covered by the office including Louth Economic Forum, Business Incentive Schemes, Business Improvement District Schemes (BIDs) Louth Economic and Community Plan (LECP) and Tourism. Cllr D Minogue enquired if Ardee could be suitable for BIDs. F Pentony explained BIDs works best for a larger rate based town however the business community in Ardee can liaise with the Economic Development section to progress any ideas they may have.

C Moss advised the members that she had a number of information booklets available at the meeting including the LECP.

C Moss also informed the members that a copy of all the presentations given at today's meeting will be emailed to them.

Ms Therese Mc Ardle, EU Programmes Manager proceeded with an informative presentation on the EU office covering the PEACE IV and Interreg VA projects which are currently ongoing in Louth. T Mc Ardle concluded by saying she would give updates to SPC meeting periodically.

Thomas Mc Evoy gave a comprehensive presentation on the National Regional and Local Enterprise policy and on the workings of the Local Enterprise Office. A copy of this presentation will be emailed to the members.

A discussion on issues including Brexit, the Green Agenda and the M1 corridor ensued.

Cllr D Power asked if there was assistance available for groups applying for BIM FLAG funding? T MC Evoy advised that any groups requiring assistance should contact the LEO office.

#### Significant Events

P Malone invited members to the Chamber of Commerce Brexit event in the Carrickdale Hotel on 11<sup>th</sup> March and also to a Cross Border Tourism event on 22<sup>nd</sup> April.

C Moss advised members that the Seafood Trail launch is being held on 24<sup>th</sup> March in Carlingford. C Moss also reminded the members that any news on events can be advertised on the Visit Louth website [www.visitlouth.ie](http://www.visitlouth.ie) through the Economic Development office.

### **3. Standing Orders**

Cllr P Smith remarked that the required make up for a quorum at this meeting has changed from previous standing orders and advised members to refer to No 12 of the orders. A copy of the standing orders will be emailed to all members.

### **4. Proposed meetings schedule for 2020.**

The meeting dates were proposed and agreed as follows

3.30pm 21<sup>st</sup> May Drogheda Offices

3.30 pm 20<sup>th</sup> August in Ardee

3.30pm 20<sup>th</sup> November in Dundalk

### **5. Draft work plan.**

The Work programme of the committee will focus on key service delivery areas.

- Local Economic Community Plan for County Louth 2016 -2022(Formal review of economic component of LECP in 2020.
- Economic Development – Tourism and Festivals
- Business Supports and Local authority incentives(rates, shop front and business incentives)
- Business Skills agenda ( education and training)
- Local Enterprise Office activities and supports.
- Town centre rejuvenation( the changing nature of retail and town centre activity)
- Investment promotion
- European funding Opportunities for business
- Contribution to County Development Plan

Specific policy issues for the SPC work programme may include

- State and EU Policy relating to support for enterprise projects
- Local Enterprise Development Plan 2021 -2025
- Brexit preparation and support for business in 2020.

A discussion ensued and included how Dundalk and Drogheda are seen as suburbs of Dublin. Cllr Mc Greehan mentioned how Co Louth was regarded as an age friendly County and she would like to see some work being done to establish a disability friendly County. G Melia reminded the committee that the word region should be used with regard to M1 corridor so as to ensure the whole county benefits.

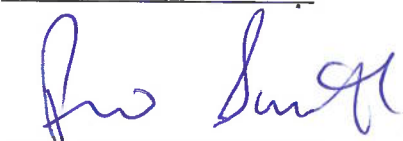
### Any Other Business

It was agreed that all the presentations will be emailed to committee members. F Pentony commented that the committee has plenty to work on and success will come if one or two policies are formulated from the committee. C Moss advised the members that other parties can be invited to give relevant presentations to the committee as the requirement arises.

Confirmed at Meeting held on:

10 SEPT, 2020

Signed:



Chairperson

