

Economic Development and Enterprise SPC

26th May 2025, Wexford County Council

Attendees: Chair Cllr Frank Staples, Cllr Leonard Kelly, Cllr Michael Sheehan, Cllr Paddy Kavanagh, Cllr Robbie Staples, Cllr Donal Kenny, Cllr Joe Sullivan, John Kelly, Farming Sector, Michael Bennett, Development/Construction Sector, Ernest Levingston, Business/Commercial Sector, Paula Roche, CEO Co Wexford Chamber, Liz Hore, Director of Service, Lynda Lacey, Director of Finance and IT, Breege Cosgrave, Head of Enterprise and Economic Development, Angela Lawless, Senior Economic Development Officer, Billy Byrne, Tourism Development Officer, Sean Meyler, Senior Engineer Special Projects,

Apologies: Stephen Murphy, nominated Trade Union Sector, Roisin Markham, Environmental Sector

1. Introduction of SPC members

Chair Cllr Frank Staples opened the meeting and welcomed everyone to the first SPC meeting for the new council programme following introductions.

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting

Minutes from May 2024 SPC were proposed by Cllr Joe Sullivan and seconded by Cllr Donal Kenny.

The chair agreed to move item 5, Section 15 and item 7, Capital programme up on the agenda for discussion.

3. Section 15 Local Government Act

Lynda Lacey presented information on Section 15 Local Government Rates regarding the Scheme for Waiver of Rates which must be approved by the SPC before 30th June, 2025. Currently a very high take up with 96% of the SME's availing of 10% Rates waiver by Wexford County Council.

Lynda outlined details of other business support schemes such as Vacant Property Incentive Scheme, Small Business Support Scheme and Vacant Property Refurbishment Scheme.

4. Programme of Work 2025 - 2026

Liz Hore DoS highlighted that the work programme for the year would aim to focus on themes and key areas of policy focus.

Breege Cosgrave HOE highlighted the following policy areas:

1. Local Enterprise Development Plan 2025 – 2028.
2. Local Economic Community Plan (LECP) 2024 – 2029 Action Plan monitoring for economic actions is under the remit of the SPC.

3. Economic Capital programme Infrastructural Developments including the focus of the expansion of Rosslare Europort and the strategic positioning of the County for offshore renewable energy.

Paula Roche Chamber raised a query regarding the SETU campus site. Liz Hore stated that the CPO was a judicial matter and was not in a position to comment any further until legal decisions were determined.

5. Economic Updates

The reports of the Economic and LEO sections on projects and progress were circulated to the members.

6. Capital Programme Update

Sean Meyler Special Projects updated the members on a number of capital projects currently underway.

Some clarifications were sought by committee members about the Trinity Wharf project, the inner Relief Road in Gorey, the Advance Factory in New Ross, the Greenway, John Street Grain Store New Ross, and Templeshannon, Enniscorthy.

7. Tourism

Billy Byrne presented on Tourism, including the launch of the draft DEDP (Destination and Experience Development Plan) prepared by Failte Ireland in partnership with Wexford County Council. He also gave an overview of the Year of the Norman 2027 project and the establishment of a County steering group to execute possible projects. A funding application will be submitted before the 30th June 2025.

Liz Hore outlined that a joint funding submission had been made by Wexford, Waterford and Kilkenny in relation to the Waterford estuary.

In addition, it was noted that plans are well underway for the Fleadh 2025 and the Fringe Fleadh was back this year following its success in the other Municipal Districts with everyone looking forward to another great festival year.

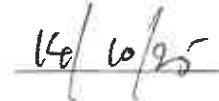
AOB

- Liz Hore congratulated the Local Enterprise Office on its performance for the year following the Enterprise Ireland review and noted again last year Wexford LEO was in the top 5 for job creation and sustained almost 2,000 jobs.
- The Chair noted that all sections are doing well with lots of ongoing projects.
- New Chair to be appointed and agree meeting dates.

Signed:



Date:



Chair

Proposed by Cllr. Donal Kenny
Seconded by Ernest Livingstone

Economic Development and Enterprise SPC
Minutes 8th October 2025, Wexford County Council

Attendees:

Chair: Cllr John Fleming, Cllr Leonard Kelly, Cllr Michael Sheehan, Cllr Donal Kenny, Cllr Joe Sullivan, John Kelly Farming Sector, Ernest Levingston Business/Commercial Sector, Paula Roche CEO Co Wexford Chamber, Stephen Murphy Trade Union Sector, Roisin Markham Environmental Sector, Liz Hore, Director of Service, Breege Cosgrave, Head of Enterprise and Economic Development, Billy Byme, Tourism Development Officer, Tina Callaghan, Clerical Officer Economic Development and Tourism, Fionn Stafford Economic Development Officer, Máire Browne Economic Development Officer

Cllr Robbie Staples had technical issues and was unable to join the meeting

Apologies: Michael Bennett, Development/Construction Sector

1. Introduction

Chair Cllr John Fleming opened the meeting and welcomed everyone.

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting

Minutes from the May 2025 SPC were proposed by Cllr Donal Kenny and seconded by Ernest Levingston

3. Fleadh Cheoil hÉireann

Eimear Kennedy presented the Fleadh Cheoil hÉireann report where she outlined details such as lessons learned from Fleadh 2024 and highlighted that over 800,000 people attended the Fleadh in 2025, the largest ever. The staff of Wexford County Council were commended for their work in hosting the event and the Fleadh Volunteers programme, in addition the Director acknowledged the role of the Gardai and the local businesses, in a great collaborative effort. The fleadh has resulted in over €60 million investment in the local economy annually.

Feedback from the public consultation was discussed and Failte Ireland carried out a significant survey. Positive overall findings were that it was well organised with small changes made in 2025 to make it an even better experience. Particularly highlighted was that the opening day in 2025 was busier than the opening day in 2024, large number of the free events and fabulous street atmosphere. Key improvements for future events were accessibility, signage and transport.

Eimear concluded her presentation and took any questions.

Chair Cllr John Fleming congratulated Eimear on her presentation and on sharing positive feedback. The logistics worked very well and everywhere was displayed in a very positive light.

4. Springboard Communications Marketing Contractor for Visit Wexford

Maria Tracey from Springboard Communications was the successful tender for the Visit Wexford Marketing initiative.

Maria gave information on the Springboard team and outlined the marketing strategy for County Wexford. In particular the use of social media and social SEO to focus on better brand awareness, promoting Wexford as a destination for Irelands Ancient East. She went on to explain how collaboration with Visit Wexford, local towns, stakeholders, Wexford County Council, Failte Ireland and Tourism Ireland helps promote Wexford to a broader audience, building better visibility.

Maria also outlined the Social Media plan for 2025-2030 with a key emphasis on the importance of building awareness and engaging with audiences especially the year of the Normans 2027 which will be a great opportunity for 2027 and beyond as part of the international marketing campaign. Marie concluded her presentation and responded to questions.

Chair Cllr. John Fleming thanked Maria for her presentation and commented that it's a very challenging time for tourism.

5. Capital Programme Update

Special Projects report by Sean Meyler was circulated to the members on a number of capital projects currently underway.

6. Economic Updates

The reports of the Economic and LEO sections on projects and progress were presented by Breege Cosgrave and were circulated to the members.

7. Tourism

Billy Byrne delivered the Tourism Report, highlighting that Fáilte Ireland had launched the Destination and Experience Development Plan (DEDP) prepared with Wexford County Council in July and the new implementation team of stakeholders was established.

Chair Cllr. John Fleming noted that it is valuable to receive these reports and recognize the advantages they bring. It is beneficial to build relationships and develop positive outcomes.

AOB.

- Ernest Livingstone raised the LECP. Liz Hore commented that the next meeting will report on the LECP and economic implementation of the plan which falls within the remit of the LECP.

Signed:

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Chair

Date: 4/12/26

Proposed by Chp. 100. Sullivan

Seconded by John Varney