

Economic Development and Enterprise SPC

Minutes 15th December 2025

Attendees:

Chair: Cllr John Fleming, Cllr Leonard Kelly, Cllr Donal Kenny, Cllr Robbie Staples, Cllr Joe Sullivan, John Kelly, Farming Sector, Ernest Levingston Business/Commercial Sector, Paula Roche, CEO County Wexford Chamber, Roisin Markham, Environmental Sector, Liz Hore, Director of Service, Breege Cosgrave, Head of Enterprise and Economic Development, Angela Lawless, Senior Economic Development Officer, Billy Byrne, Tourism Development Officer, Fionn Stafford, Economic Development Officer, Máire Browne, Economic Development Officer.

Apologies: Stephen Murphy: Trade Union Sector, Jaimie Williams, PPN Environmental Sector

1. Introduction

Chair Cllr John Fleming opened the meeting and welcomed everyone.

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting

Minutes from the October 2025 SPC were proposed by Cllr. Joe Sullivan and seconded by Cllr. Donal Kenny

3. Presentation by County Wexford Chamber

Paula Roche, CEO of County Wexford Chamber presented on the strategies and objectives for the County Wexford Chamber for 2026 to 2028. Paula highlighted the Chamber's objectives and vision for the business community in County Wexford. She emphasised that the County Wexford Chamber was empowering businesses and amplifying their voice, building partnerships that enable sustainable growth and innovation. These objectives are being achieved through people, culture, members and partners and a service of excellence. She highlighted the 5 "Whys" method and stated that we should be asking questions to improve businesses using this method. The Chamber Business Awards also includes a Wellbeing Champion award. Liz Hore commented that it would be worth contacting the Healthy Ireland staff in Wexford County Council and investing time and money in Health and Wellbeing for local businesses. Roisin Markham for the Environmental sector commented that the agriculture sector including social farming should be included in these awards for and wellbeing. Paula concluded and thanked everyone for listening and took final questions.

4. Local Economic and Community Plan update

The Local Economic and Community Plan update was presented to the committee.

Objectives and KPI's updates were provided by Angela Lawless for Economic Development, Breege Cosgrave for Local Enterprise Office and Billy Byrne for Tourism. Questions were taken at the end of the presentation.

Cllr. Leonard Kelly questioned the lighting on South Main Street in Wexford town and if it could be improved to help the nighttime economy for businesses, making people feel safer. He also commented on the possibility in the future of a Christmas market in the south end of the town and suggested an idea such as live streaming to Savannah as a future Christmas initiative.

A question on campervan facilities in the county and proposed sites was addressed by Liz Hore who replied that facilities were being looked at and that the campervan sites and facilities in New Ross area hadn't made progress to date. Roisin Markham commented if something similar to Graiguenamanagh's community-owned campervan facilities and community wealth-building could be looked at in County Wexford as an economically viable model.

Liz Hore further commented that Whitford house has plans to extend and the new Courtown hotel will be a welcome addition to north County Wexford. Plans for the Kilmore hotel was granted planning permission during the year and will be a great addition to the south of the county. Roisin Markham asked how supports can be offered to rural pubs and business to provide campervan sites in rural locations and how rural communities could benefit from providing these campervan sites and facilities.

A concise report on the local economic development plan will be available later in the new year.

5.Special Projects Report

Special projects report was read by Sean Meyler and was circulated to the members. He commented on several projects currently underway and answered any questions on this report.

6.Economic Updates

The reports from the Economic Development and LEO sections on updates and projects were circulated to the members.

7. Tourism

The Tourism Report was circulated to the members and highlighted the progress of the 2027 Year of the Normans Project and International Marketing Campaign in collaboration with Visit Wexford and Tourism Ireland.

Chair, Cllr. John Fleming thanked everyone for their presentations and noted that it is valuable to receive these reports and recognize the advantages they bring. He highlighted the detailed report on the LECP as informative and how it is beneficial to develop positive outcomes with these reports and presentations. A date for the next meeting will be set in the new year.

AOB.

Chair Cllr. John Fleming concluded the meeting by thanking everyone and wishing all a very Happy Christmas. This was reiterated by Liz Hore, Director of Services.

Signed:


Chair

Date:

