

Meeting of the Economic Development and Enterprise SPC

Date: Monday 23rd January 2017

Time: 2pm

Location: Block A Meeting Room, Wexford County Council.

Committee Members Present: Cllr Michael Sheehan, Chairman; Cllr Kathleen Codd Nolan; Cllr George Lawlor; Cllr John Hegarty; Cllr Johnny Mythen; Cllr Barbara Anne Murphy; Cllr Keith Doyle; Cllr Frank Staples; Cllr Paddy Kavanagh; Cllr Martin Murphy; Mr Karl Fitzpatrick; Mr Dan Kennedy

In Attendance: Mr Tony Larkin, WCC; Mr Tom Banville, WCC; Ms Carolyne Godkin, WCC; Ms Siobhan O'Neill, WCC; Mr John O'Connor, EETC; Ms Annette Dupuy, PPN

Apologies: Mr. Ernest Levingstone; Ms Caroline Beale

1. Minutes & Matters Arising

The minutes of the meeting which took place on the 21st September 2016 were proposed by Cllr Martin Murphy and seconded by Cllr Johnny Mythen. There were no matters arising.

2. Correspondence

A letter was received from the County Wexford PPN informing the group of the resignation of Ms Susan Murphy, PPN Social Inclusion Representative from the SPC. Ms Annette Dupuy informed the group that elections will be taking place shortly to fill the vacancy. A discussion took place on the role of the community representatives on the SPC and how to engage more with them. Cllr Johnny Mythen suggested adding the PPN as an agenda item.

It was proposed examining how information could be best circulated to relevant parties (eg PPN, Press). This was proposed by Cllr Martin Murphy and seconded by Cllr Michael Sheehan.

3. Economic Development & Enterprise Unit Update

Tourism

Siobhan O'Neill, County Tourism Officer gave an informative Tourism update to the group. Wexford is ranked 5th in the Country for Domestic Tourism and 12th in the Country for International Tourism. The Tourism Industry has an estimated value to the county of €205m. Some of the main activities for Tourism for 2016 were as follows:

- Installation of the Bizlocator Kiosks in 20 sites across the County, it is hoped to expand regionally in the future
- Development of the Norman Way Trail - Phase 1 of the project was mostly in South Wexford and was a cycle/walking trail, this will be launched in March 2017. Phase 2 of the project will include more of the County including Ferns Castle and will come under the umbrella of Norman Wexford.
- Ongoing development of the Wexford Walking Trails with funding secured under the Recreation Funding Scheme.

- Hosted the World Shore Angling Championships
- Cruise Tourism – MS Braemer visited Rosslare in 2016. Work is ongoing on promoting Rosslare as a Cruise Ship destination.
- Regional Access Initiative – a successful campaign was run in the UK in 2016 with Irish Ferries. This will be run again in 2017.
- County Tourism Strategy – District Reports have been compiled for New Ross and Gorey. The Junior Minister has asked that the focus be put on a countywide tourism strategy with a deadline for submission by the end of March 2017. As a result of this the reports for Wexford and Enniscorthy have been put on hold until 2018. The Countywide plans will be launched at the LGMA conference which is taking place in Enniscorthy. Visit Wexford is currently working on a strategic plan which will feed into the countywide plan.
- Irelands Ancient East – Work is ongoing on marketing the Irelands Ancient East Brand. Orientation signs are in place in 10 sites around the County. Wexford owns the Norman element of the Castles & Conquests part of Irelands Ancient East. Master classes in Ireland’s Ancient East will be run for the industry in association with LEO and Fáilte Ireland.
- Visit Wexford Pass – 75 businesses have signed up to the discount pass. The pass was included in all Conference Packs distributed in 2016.

An in-depth discussion took place around tourism in the County and the plans going forward. Siobhan O’Neill also informed the group that the website will be reviewed shortly.

LECP

The LECP was formally launched on Wednesday 18th January and a copy of the report was circulated to the group for information. Goals 3, 4 & 5 are of Economic Focus. LECP is to be added to the agenda for the next meeting where a condensed overview of these goals will be given to the group and an update on monitoring system will be provided.

LEO

A copy of the current LEO training brochure was circulated to the group for information. Over 1,000 people availed of the training in 2016. The Local Enterprise Office Development Plan will be completed by the end of the month. The official budget for the LEO for 2017 has not been allocated but an extra 25% funding has been promised for 2017.

The IBYE Regional Final is taking place on 31st January at 5.30pm in Wexford County Council and all the SPC members are invited to attend.

Economic

- Gas Network: The extension proposal into New Ross is due to be submitted to the CER this month. Gas Networks Ireland have indicated it is a positive proposal and expect feedback by the end of Q2.
- SIRO: Fibre to the home/business is currently being rolled out in Wexford with 30% complete. Gorey is likely to follow shortly, with Enniscorthy under review.
- Invest Wexford: The rebranded website www.InvestWexford.ie went live before Christmas. The strategy for the next few months is to create a strong online

presence and positive economic footprint for the county. The formal launch of the website will take place shortly.

4. National Broadband Plan

Ms Carolyne Godkin is acting Broadband Officer for County Wexford, under the governments rollout of the National Broadband Plan and in particular the Rural Broadband Scheme. A brief presentation was given outlining the following:

- Total number of premises in the County is 79,510 with 51% of these expected to be covered by Commercial telecoms operators by the end of 2016.
- The remaining 49% of premises will be covered under the government subsidized intervention scheme.
- The Department are currently undertaking a procurement process to appoint contractor(s) and have shortlisted to 3 preferred bidders.
- Once the contract is awarded the build out of the infrastructure is expected to take between 3 & 5 years – over 100KM of fibre.
- The department have also examined ways of providing better access to rural communities who maybe at the latter stages of deployment, with the rollout of *Strategic Community Access Hubs* and *Points* across the county to address areas of very poor supply. Wexford County Council has ranked the suitability of a range of facilities in the following order of importance: 1. Community Centres; 2. Industrial Estates; 3. Post Offices; 4. Garda Stations; 5. Schools.

5. Rail Review 2016 Report

Carolyne Godkin noted that the final submission by Wexford County Council to the *Public Consultation on the Rail Review 2016 Report* was submitted to the NTA and Iarnrod Eireann by closing date of 18th January 2017. A copy was circulated for information and is also available on Wexford County Council website.

6. Enterprise Centre Presentation

Mr John O'Connor, Manager Enniscorthy Enterprise & Technology Centre gave an informative presentation to the group about the Enterprise Centre and how it works including the successes and fails since its establishment in 2002.

- The centre has 35 rentable offices and hot desk space for start ups.
- The centre supports innovative business start ups, the development of existing businesses and provides training for businesses.
- Tenants of the centre include three types of business; Enterprise Support Businesses; Service Providers and Venture Startups.
- Successful business including SONRU, Chevron Training and Taoglas.

A discussion took place on the Centre and how to develop it in the future. There are plans for developing a business park in Enniscorthy with a view to developing a building to be built on spec which could link to the Enterprise Centre.

7. AOB

- Cllr Barbara Anne Murphy expressed concerns around the Bus Eireann Express Service in New Ross. It was also noted by Cllr Murphy that Wexford Bus have recently starting to run a bus from Wexford to Carlow via Bunclody.
- Cllr Michael Sheehan suggested holding a seminar on Brexit and how to deal with it. A discussion took place around this. Karl Fitzpatrick identified two

opportunities leading from Brexit - identifying and approaching businesses who might be in a position to relocate to Wexford and supporting local businesses who may be effected by Brexit. Enterprise Ireland has a team in place to detail with Brexit and it might be worth linking with them. It was suggested holding the seminar in the 4th Quarter with a title "Challenges of Brexit" and to examine other opportunities to provide information on the issue as they arise.

The date of the next meeting is Tuesday 28th March at 2.30pm

Meeting of the Economic Development and Enterprise SPC

Date: Tuesday 28th March 2017

Time: 2.30pm

Location: Council Chamber, Wexford County Council.

Committee Members Present: Cllr Michael Sheehan, Chairman; Cllr Kathleen Codd Nolan; Cllr George Lawlor; Cllr Barbara Anne Murphy; Cllr Keith Doyle; Cllr Paddy Kavanagh; Cllr Martin Murphy; Mr Karl Fitzpatrick;

In Attendance: Mr Tony Larkin, WCC; Mr Tom Banville, WCC; Ms Carolyn Godkin, WCC;

Presenters: Mr Eamonn Murphy, Chairman and Mr Brendan Ennis CEO Innovation Wexford

Apologies: Cllr John Hegarty, Mr Dan Kennedy, Ernest Levingstone

Vote of Sympathy

The committee expressed a vote of sympathy to Dan Kennedy on the passing of his grandson John Kennedy.

1. Minutes & Matters Arising

The minutes of the meeting which took place on the 23rd January 2017 were proposed by Cllr George Lawlor and seconded by Cllr Martin Murphy. There were no matters arising.

2. Presentation by Brendan Ennis on Innovation Wexford (Wexford Community Development Association Society Ltd.)

Mr. Brendan Ennis gave a detailed presentation on Innovation Wexford. He discussed its origins, providing background information on the overall structure, board members and group initiatives. He explained the social enterprise model and outlined the separate divisions that exist within this model:

- Wexford Enterprise Centre
- Datagroup
- Recycling 200
- Special projects

A video was played outlining the services offered at the Wexford Enterprise Centre and Brendan explained how they were planning to extend the centre by 25,000sq.ft. and also to expand the services they offer.

He described the need to promote Wexford on the global stage and explained how he sees a unique opportunity to develop growth within the SME sector in Wexford by forging stronger links with the Diaspora in northern California and other parts of the US.

Cllr Michael Sheehan thanked Both Brendan and Eamonn for attending the SPC meeting and Brendan's for his presentation and invited questions and/or comments.

Cllr Paddy Kavanagh praised the work being carried out at the Wexford Enterprise Centre and remarked on the accomplishment of bringing directors of these global companies from Silicon Valley to Wexford for the Techovate conference.

A discussion on the Enterprise centre and achievements took place, with Mr. Brendan Ennis, Mr. Eamonn Murphy, Cllr Paddy Kavanagh, Cllr Kathleen Codd Nolan, Mr Karl Fitzpatrick, Cllr George Lawlor, Mr. Tom Banville and Mr Tony Larkin contributing.

Key points noted:

- The need for continued support from WexCoCo and the need for incubation space for businesses to grow and develop in Wexford.
- Opportunity for both to further discuss economic strategy plans to avoid overlap.
- Agriculture and food related business - opportunity for growth
- Continued challenges around access to finance for SME's, with many business loans turned down. Banks need to accept a certain level of risk should we want to see SME sector growth
- Lack of a 3rd level university for the region is a threat. Progressive towns and cities have at their heart a research institution and strong student body
- Building on regional cooperation between SE counties to benefit region over longer term

Cllr Michael Sheehan thanked Eamonn and Brendan for attending the SPC and proposed that the next SPC meeting be held at the Wexford Enterprise Centre, stating that the committee members could use it as an opportunity to see firsthand the work that was being carried out there. All members were in agreement.

3. Brexit

Mr Tom Banville spoke about issue of Brexit and that the Local Enterprise Office had received a budget from Enterprise Ireland to facilitate Brexit related seminars and events that would help to keep businesses and companies better informed. He said that Enterprise Ireland now had a full time Brexit manager in place. He also gave an update on a recent Brexit event that was held on the 9th March in conjunction with Bank of Ireland where 60 businesses attended.

Cllr Michael Sheehan outlined the need to have a dedicated Brexit seminar in the autumn. A discussion on this topic took place, with Mr. Brendan Ennis, Cllr Paddy Kavanagh, Cllr Martin Murphy and Ms Carolyne Godkin contributing.

4. LECP

Mr Tom Banville circulated a leaflet that contained the high level economic goals from the LECP. He explained that the full LECP was a long document and that the leaflet circulated contained goals 3, 4, and 5 and are the ones of most concern to the Economic SPC. He gave an update on the monitoring of these goals and circulated a document showing what actions were complete and what actions were still ongoing within each high level goal identified. Cllr Michael Sheehan thanked Tom for the update.

5. Programme Updates

Ms Carolyne Godkin County Development Officer gave a brief update outlining the work that was been undertaken regarding the key property solutions projects across

the county. She also gave an update on the natural gas pipeline and broadband connectivity across Wexford.

A general discussion on Broadband took place, with Cllr Michael Sheehan, Cllr Kathleen Codd Nolan; Cllr George Lawlor, Cllr Barbara Anne Murphy; Cllr Keith Doyle and Ms Carolyne Godkin all contributing. Cllr Michael Sheehan added that SIRO were willing to look at New Ross again and there was a possibility that New Ross would be included in phase 1 rather than phase 2.

6. Flag Programme

Ms Carolyne Godkin County Development Officer circulated a one page outline of the newly launched Southeast FLAG programme (1st March 2017) and that funding was available under the programme on an open call basis and that any question regarding the scheme could be directed to John Hickey, BIM.

It was proposed that Mr John Hickey be invited to attend a future SPC meeting. This was proposed by Cllr Martin Murphy and seconded by Cllr George Lawlor.

7. AOB

- Mr Tom Banville advised the committee members that the local government tourism seminar that was due to take place in the Riverside Hotel on the 29th and 30th March should any of the members wish to attend
- Cllr Kathleen Codd-Nolan highlighted the lack of attendance at the meeting and asked was there any way to improve this. Mr Tony Larkin replied that the other SPC's were having similar problems. Cllr Barbara Anne Murphy asked about the vacancies on the committee and when they would be filled. Mr Tony Larkin said that the process was already underway.
- A general discussion regarding Scott Tallon Walker Architects, rejuvenating Wexford Quay front and Trinity Wharf project took place with Mr Karl Fitzpatrick, Ms Carolyne Godkin, Cllr George Lawlor and Mr Tony Larkin contributing.
- Cllr Michael Sheehan expressed the need for accurate figures for unemployment of young people in county Wexford. Mr Tony Larkin said that we will seek a report on current status.

The date of the next meeting is **Tuesday 19th September at 2.30pm.**

Special Meeting of the Economic Development and Enterprise SPC

Date: Thursday 13th July 2017

Time: 2.30pm

Location: Wexford Enterprise Centre, Kerlogue, Wexford

Committee Members Present: Cllr Michael Sheehan, Chairman; Cllr John Hegarty; Mr Karl Fitzpatrick; Ms Breda Meagher; Mr Dan Kennedy; Mr Senan O'Reilly

In Attendance: Mr Tom Banville, WCC

Apologies: Cllr Kathleen Codd Nolan; Cllr George Lawlor; Cllr Johnny Mythen; Cllr Barbara Anne Murphy; Cllr Frank Staples; Cllr Paddy Kavanagh; Cllr Martin Murphy; Mr Sam Rose; Mr Ernest Levingstone; Ms Clare Walsh; Mr Tony Larkin, WCC; Ms Carolyne Godkin, WCC

Vote of Sympathy

Cllr Michael Sheehan expressed his thanks for all the messages of condolences he had received on the passing of his father.

The committee expressed a vote of sympathy to Mr Tom Banville on the passing of his father.

1. Tour of Wexford Enterprise Centre

Mr Brendan Ennis, CEO Innovate Wexford gave an overview of Wexford Enterprise Centre which included the reasons why the Enterprise Centre was set up, how the Centre is run, what initiatives are in place at the moment and what the future plans are for the centre. Some of the plans going forward are as follows:

- Expanding the Centre by 20,000 sq ft to make it the biggest in Ireland
- Build links with Savannah with a view to exporting Food
- Fund a programme to encourage businesses to hire people with disabilities
- Fund programmes around Mental Health
- Launching the Cube – a space that can be rented by people with business ideas for a maximum of 1 year. While in the space they can avail of all the supports that the Enterprise Centre has and can build relationships with other clients in the centre.

The group were then brought on a tour of the building.

2. Minutes & Matters Arising

As there was not a quorum for the meeting the minutes were deferred until the next meeting.

3. South East Regional Skills Forum

A copy of the South East Regional Forum Analysis, Feedback & Recommendations on Skills Needs: Construction Industry and a report from the Quarterly meeting of the Forum were circulated to the group for information. A discussion took place around the findings in the report. It was proposed inviting Edmond Connolly, SERSF Manager to the next meeting to discuss the report in more detail.

4. South East Economic Monitor

A copy of the South East Economic Monitor July 2017 was circulated to the group for information. A discussion took place on the contents of the report. It is felt that the report highlights all the problems but doesn't come up with any solutions. It was proposed inviting Dr Cormac O'Keeffe, John Casey and Dr Ray Griffin, authors of the report to the next meeting to give their views. It was also proposed inviting Sean McKeown from the South East Action Plan for Jobs to the next meeting also.

5. Programme Updates

Economic Development

- Motorways on target with completion date late 2018 / early 2019
- M11 Business Campus in Gorey – 1st building complete and clients currently being sought for the space. The Hatch Lab has been launched by Wexford County Council in partnership with Bank of Ireland with clients in situ September 2017
- Technology & Business Park in Enniscorthy is at an advanced stage for master planning. A number of client companies are in discussion around the site development.
- Trinity Wharf Master plan is being drafted and will be reviewed in Autumn 2017
- New Ross Advanced Technology building is being prepared for procurement
- Brendan McDonald has been appointed as the new South East Regional Manager for the IDA
- South East Flag launch of first call of projects took place on 10th July. A total of 29 projects were approved for grant aid totaling €423,847. The following projects were from Wexford:

Applicant	Project Title	Grant Aid
Kilmore Quay Community Development Association	Five Year Feasibility Study	17047.80
Wexford County Council	Hook Peninsula Marine Tourism Access Project	86744
Wexford County Council	Citizen Science Training	6965
Fresh off the Hook Seafood Festival	Fresh off the Hook Seafood Festival	1774.24
Wexford Maritime & Food Festival	Wexford Maritime & Food Festival	2000
Hook Rural Tourism CLG	Hooked on the Sea Festival	2000
Kilmore Quay Community Development Association	Festival	2000
Kilmore Quay Community Development Association	Write by the Sea Festival	2000
Wexford Documentary Film Festival	Festival	2560

- On 13th June in the National Opera House the Wexford Savannah Axis Project launched a new online tourism experience linking Savannah and Wexford. The innovative online experience is a mobile friendly website which will prompt people to learn about County Wexford strong heritage tourism offering as they are enjoying heritage sites in Savannah and vice versa.

Tourism

- Compilation of a County Wexford Tourism Strategy is gone to tender with the successful tenderer to be appointed in early September.
- Visit Wexford launched a new 64 page tourism booklet at an Industry Event held on 19th June in Wexford County Council. .

Local Enterprise Office

- Bizfest took place on 21st June in the National Opera House and was a great success. MC for the day was Ivan Yates and speakers included Julie Sinnamon, CEO Enterprise Ireland; Jim Hughes, CEO Innovate; Patsy Carney, Eirgen Pharma and Mag Kirwan, Goatsbridge Trout Farm. Bizfest was a joint initiative of Local Enterprise Offices in the South East and will be held in Waterford in 2018.
- The Spring/Summer Training Programme is now complete with 498 participants taking part in 38 training events. The Autumn/Winter programme is currently being put together.
- The search for Ireland's Best Young Entrepreneur is now underway with a closing date of the 29th September.

6. AOB

The tourism presentation that was given at the January meeting is to be circulated to the PPN reps for information.

The date of the next meeting is **Tuesday 19th September at 2.30pm.**

Economic Development and Enterprise SPC

Date: Tuesday 19th September 2017

Time: 2.30pm

Location: Council Chambers, Wexford County Council

Committee Members Present: Cllr Michael Sheehan, Chairman; Cllr Kathleen Codd Nolan; Cllr Johnny Mythen; Cllr Barbara Anne Murphy; Cllr Keith Doyle; Cllr Martin Murphy; Mr Karl Fitzpatrick; Mr Ernest Levingstone; Ms Breda Meagher; Mr Dan Kennedy; Mr Senan O'Reilly

In Attendance: Mr Tom Banville, WCC; Ms Carolyne Godkin, WCC; Ms Siobhan O'Neill, WCC

Apologies: Cllr John Hegarty; Cllr Frank Staples; Mr Tony Larkin, WCC

1. Minutes & Matters Arising

The minutes of the meeting which was held on the 28th March 2017 were proposed by Cllr Barbara Anne Murphy and seconded by Cllr Martin Murphy.

The minutes of the special meeting which was held on the 13th July 2017 were proposed by Dan Kennedy and seconded by Breda Meagher.

2. Correspondence

There was no correspondence to note.

3. South East Economic Monitor

Dr Ray Griffin and Dr Cormac O'Keeffe gave an informative presentation to the group on the 2nd edition of the South East Economic Monitor which was launched in July 2017. In conclusion the following points were made:

- The gap between region and state is widening
- The gap between talk and action is widening
- IDA and EI commitment to the region is abysmal
- Actions suggest no plans of increase in region's Higher Education capacity

A discussion took place around the findings of the report and how to address them.

It was proposed inviting the Regional Manager for the IDA to the next meeting.

It was proposed inviting Dr Ray Griffin and Dr Cormac O'Keeffe to the next full Council meeting to give an update.

4. South East Action Plan for Jobs

Sean McKeown, Director of the South East Action Plan for Jobs gave an informative presentation to the group on the targets and progress to date of the plan. There are 194 actions in the plan and the objectives of which are to create at least 25,000 new jobs and ensure the Employment Levels in the region are within 1 percent of the national average. 6 sectors of strategic advantage have been identified for the region and Industry Champions have been identified for each of them as follows:

- Further Develop Agri Food Opportunities – Terry Clune
- Establish Global Business Services & ICT Hubs – Terry Clune
- Develop Engineering Cluster – Seamus Kilgannon
- Develop Innovation and Growth in Pharma – Patsy Carney & Pat McLoughlin

- Develop Centre's of Excellence in Creative Industries and Design – Karen Hennessy
 - Further Develop the Tourism Potential of the Region – Liam Griffin
- Along with this Colin Gordon has been appointed to develop a regional brand identity and Rachel Doyle has been appointed to support enterprise and entrepreneurship for the region. A discussion took place around this.

5. Economic Development & Enterprise Unit Update

Economic Development

- A Catchment Profile for Gorey was circulated to the group for information. Spatial Insights have been commissioned to prepare a catchment profile for each of the other towns also, Wexford, Enniscorthy and New Ross.
- Broadband Update – Eir have begun connecting rural properties. The County has been divided into Blue and Amber areas with the 20,000 homes in the Amber area not covered by broadband. The blue areas should be connected within 12-18 months but the amber homes will need to wait for the state intervention scheme.

Local Enterprise Office

- The Business Training Courses programme for Autumn is up and running and a copy of the brochure was circulated to the group for information.
- Coatek will be representing Wexford in the Local Enterprise Village at the Ploughing Championships from 19th to 21st September.
- Ireland's Best Young Entrepreneur – young entrepreneurs between the ages of 18 and 35 are being encouraged to apply with a closing date of the 29th September.

Tourism

- 14 tenders have been received for the Tourism Strategy with the approved tender to begin in September 2017. The strategy is due to be completed in May 2018
- A regional submission to the Department of TTAS Consultation programme for the development of a Greenway Strategy was submitted in July 2017 which proposed the development of the network throughout the region. There are 6 greenways planned for County Wexford, a map of the proposed greenways will be brought to the next meeting
- 25,000 copies of the Visit Wexford Guide have been distributed
- A signage programme for the trails is currently being worked on
- 4 Courses with a tourism angle are being offered through the Local Enterprise Office
- Bunclody Tourist Office opened in 2017 and is a volunteer led facility with on Tús worker in place for 20 hours per week

6. Economic Projects Update

M11 Business Campus – 1st phase is now complete with 20,000 sq ft available for rent. Pod 1 is the Hatch Lab with Enniscorthy Enterprise Centre in charge of operations and the 1st batch of start up businesses are moving in next week. Bank of Ireland has entered into a 5 year partnership with Wexford County Council in relation to the Hatch Lab. Innovate Technologies Ltd occupies 1 pod on the 2nd floor with an option to take another few if required. Full planning permission has been granted for 2nd building which will progress if the demand is there.

Enniscorthy Business Park – this is at the advance stage of master planning. 38 acres have been purchased and discussions are ongoing with developments re the sites.

New Ross Advance Building – gone to procurement this week with expressions of interest being requested from developers. It is hoped to have the buildings complete and available for occupation by Summer 2018.

7. AOB

- Edmond Connolly, South East Regional Skills Forum Manager is to be invited to attend the next meeting
- Business Expo 2017 is taking place on Wednesday 4th October from 10am to 4pm
- Wexford County Council have committed to sponsor the South East Hospitality Awards for 2 years
- An update on New Ross Port will be brought to the next meeting
- Tablets for non elected members of the SPC are to be looked into
- An update on the LECP is to be brought to the next meeting
- The District Managers are to be invited to the next meeting to discuss post bypass strategies for the town.

The date of the next meeting is **Tuesday 28th November at 2.30pm.**

Economic Development and Enterprise SPC

Date: Tuesday 28th November 2017

Time: 2.00pm

Location: Council Chambers, Wexford County Council

Committee Members Present: Cllr Michael Sheehan, Chairman; Cllr George Lawlor; Cllr Johnny Mythen; Cllr Barbara Anne Murphy; Ms Clair Walsh; Mr Dan Kennedy; Mr Senan O'Reilly

In Attendance: Mr Tony Larkin, WCC; Mr Tom Banville, WCC; Ms Carolyne Godkin, WCC; Ms Norma Quinsey, DMM Visit Wexford

Apologies: Cllr Kathleen Codd Nolan; Cllr John Hegarty; Cllr Keith Doyle; Cllr Frank Staples; Cllr Martin Murphy; Mr Karl Fitzpatrick; Mr Ernest Levingstone; Ms Breda Meagher

1. Minutes & Matters Arising

The minutes of the meeting which was held on the 19th September 2017 were proposed by Cllr Barbara Anne Murphy and seconded by Cllr Johnny Mythen.

- Dan Kennedy queried if there was any update on the tablets for the PPN reps on the SPC. This is to be followed up.

2. Correspondence

A letter was circulated to the group from the PPN reps for information.

3. South East Regional Skills Forum – Edmond Connolly

Edmond Connolly, South East Regional Skills Forum Manager gave an informative presentation to the group. The role of the Forum includes:

- single contact point to help employers connect with the range of services and supports available across the education and training system
- structure for employers to become more involved in promoting employment roles and opportunities for career progression in their sectors
- more robust labour market information and analysis of employer needs to inform programme development

The work plan of the forum going forward includes the following:

- Significant focus upon apprenticeships
 - Craft – 25 apprenticeships
 - New – 75 apprenticeships set as a target
- Career traineeships
- Greater emphasis upon undergraduate placement
- Greater emphasis upon workforce development
- Greater emphasis upon lifelong learning

A discussion took place on the information and projects presented. It was queried whether a breakdown in figures by county could be made available - Edmond Connolly committed to reviewing this.

4. Special Projects Update

A report was circulated on behalf of Brian Galvin, Head of Special Projects, providing an update on the various projects around the county, projects include:

- **Min Ryan Park**
- **Wexford Quays**
- **Trinity Wharf**
- **Crescent Quay/Ballast**
- **Templeshannon Regeneration**
- **Enniscorthy Technology Park**
- **New Ross Business Park**
- **Gorey Market House**
- **Wexford Arts Centre**
- **Carrigfoyle Activity Centre**
- **Enniscorthy Tourism Project**
- **Greenways**

A query was raised in relation to the Enterprise Centre for New Ross Town. An update on this will be brought to the next meeting. The long awaited upgrading of Redmond Park was welcomed.

5. Bypass Strategy – New Ross/Enniscorthy

This item was deferred to the next meeting.

6. Economic Development & Enterprise Unit Update

Economic Development

Wexford County will host a training centre for near zero-energy rated buildings (nZEB); one of only 3 around the world and under the auspices of the United Nations. The facility will be based in the new Enniscorthy Technology Park. A launch event, attended by United Nations and the Minister for Housing, was held in Wexford County Council in early November.

Local Enterprise Office

Tom Banville circulated an update from the Local Enterprise Office for information.

54 entries were received for the IBYE with the following people being successful:

Best Established Business	Winner	Richard Malone, Fashion Designer
	Runner Up	Caroline Martin, Wedding Creations
Best Start Up	Winner	Brian Kenny, MyShowAdvisor
	Runner Up	Robert Tierney, Boom Media
Best Business Idea	Winner	Robert Byrne, ConnectJobs.com
	Runner Up	Sandra Martin, Bosca Spraoi

Tourism

Norma Quinsey, Destination Marketing Manager for Visit Wexford attended the meeting to give an update on Tourism plans, including:

- Redesign of the Visit Wexford website – tenders have been sought and it is hoped to have the new website live by March 2018.
- County Wexford Tourism Strategy – Genesis have been appointed to undertake drafting
- Support Irelands Ancient East branding and helping businesses incorporate the branding into their businesses
- Food Tourism Strategy – work is ongoing

7. LECP Update

Tom Banville circulated an update on the LECP to members:

- High Level Goal 3 – Tourism & Environment there are a total of 35 actions with 17 of these complete.
- High Level Goal 4 – Business and Investment has 45 actions with 28 of these complete and
- High Level Goal 5 – Infrastructure and Resources has 23 actions with 2 complete.

A discussion took place around the Broadband situation in the County. It was noted that there is a European Fund available called WiFi for You which should be availed of. Tony Larkin informed the group that the Planning SPC is currently reviewing the levies and may decide to reduce the levies on masts to encourage more to be erected.

8. AOB

- Commercial rates have been increased by 3% in the County.
- The Chief Executive has put a team together to work on developing a magazine highlighting the various community and economic projects that are happening around the county
- Lack of secondary school places are still a worry in Wexford Town. This needs to be addressed.

The chairperson wished the group a Happy Christmas.

Draft dates for 2018 meetings will be circulated in the New Year.