

***Minutes of Strategic Policy Committee for Economic Development & Enterprise held on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> September 2016 at 11.00 a.m. in the Training Room, Áras Contae an Chláir, New Road, Ennis, Co. Clare.***

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**In Attendance:**

Cllr. Richard Nagle  
Mr. Gerard Dollard  
Cllr. Ian Lynch  
Cllr. Johnny Flynn  
Cllr. Clare Colleran Molloy  
Cllr. Pat McMahon  
Cllr. P J Ryan  
Cllr. Gabriel Keating  
Mr. Tom Floyd  
Mr. William Hanrahan  
Mr. Pat Morris  
Ms. Theresa O'Donohoe  
Mr. Brian McCarthy  
Mr. Padraic McElwee  
Mr. Michael Neylon  
Ms. Kathy Lordan  
Dr. Orlaith Borthwick

**Organisation:**

Chair  
Director of Services  
Elected Member  
Elected Member  
Elected Member  
Elected Member  
Elected Member  
Elected Member  
Trade Union  
Agriculture/Farming  
Ennis Chamber of Commerce  
Environment/Conservation  
Senior Planner  
Head of Enterprise  
Tourism & Community Development  
Tourism & Community Development  
Regional Skills Manager Mid West

**Apologies**

Dympna O'Callaghan                      Business/Commercial Sector

The Chair welcomed Dr. Orlaith Borthwick, Regional Skills Manager Mid West, to the meeting.

**1) Minutes of meetings held on 21<sup>st</sup> March and 9<sup>th</sup> May 2016:**

Minutes of meetings held on the 21<sup>st</sup> March and 9<sup>th</sup> May 2016 were proposed by Mr. Pat Morris, seconded by Cllr. P. McMahon and agreed.

**2) Presentation by Dr. Órlaith Borthwick, Regional Skills Manager, Mid-West – Introduction and Overview of Regional Skills Forum:**

Dr. Borthwick gave a presentation on "Regional Skills Mid West" – a Department of Education and Skills initiative focussing on fostering stronger links between enterprise and education & training providers. She advised that the initiative is aligned with Government policies – National Skills Strategy 2025 and Mid-West Regional Action Plans for Jobs – and was being established to oversee research, advise on prioritisation of identified skills needs and how to secure delivery of identified needs.

Mr. Pat Morris stated that while the air industry is recognised feedback from the motor industry is that apprenticeships are too long.

Dr. Borthwick replied at there is a review of apprenticeships underway at present and they are seeking to increase industry engagement.

G. Dollard queried why tourism as a sector was not mentioned.

Dr. Borthwick indicated that tourism is included in the hotel and accommodation sector and is difficult to capture as it impinges on many sectors such as transport, other services, entrance fees etc.

Cllr. P.J. Ryan informed the meeting that construction industry apprenticeships criteria prevents people from being trained as one has to link to an employer and there are few employers to link to.

Cllr. P. McMahon indicated that the Regional Authority say there is a shortage of chefs and butchers.

Cllr. I. Lynch stated that we need to get back to traditional construction and that civil engineering qualifications are not practical for the industry.

Cllr. J. Flynn said that the top five construction companies in Ireland are formed around SIAC; the tendering process is bureaucratic and that Clare County Council need to lead the way by taking on 10 or 15 construction apprenticeships (2 per trade). He also expressed the view that Clare needs to be seen as a centre for food training and that there is a lack of proper aircraft and aviation training in the region.

T. O'Donohoe advised that Galway have a youth academy where young people are introduced to entrepreneurship and the Sciences, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) subjects.

### **3) Progress report from the Local Enterprise Office:**

Mr. P. McElwee, Head of Enterprise, updated the meeting on progress from the Local Enterprise Office to date in 2016.

Areas covered included:

- Employment Survey
- Grants (Value)
- Grants (No.)

- Funding Supports
- Training
- Future Initiatives

He also informed the meeting about Ireland's Best Young Entrepreneur competition.

Cllr. J. Flynn queried the Trading On-Line Vouchers and if it is restricted to employment of 9 people. P. McElwee replied that it is not restricted to 9 but businesses must be more than 12 months in existence.

Cllr. R. Nagle thanked P. McElwee for the tremendous work being done by the Local Enterprise Office Clare.

**4) Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) – Economic Implementation Team – Terms of Reference:**

G. Dollard referred to the County Clare LECP which was adopted by Clare County Council on 18<sup>th</sup> April 2016 and advised that this Strategic Policy Committee have to nominate two members to the Economic Implementation Team – one from the Business/Commercial sector and an Elected Member and that there would be one more from the LCDC drawn from the Social Inclusion category.

It was agreed that Mr. Pat Morris and Cllr. Richard Nagle would be nominated for membership of the Economic Implementation Team.

**5) Date of next meeting:**

Noted that date of next meeting is 14<sup>th</sup> November 2016.

**6) AOB:**

With no other business the meeting concluded.

**Signed:**

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**Cathaoirleach**

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**Director, Economic Development  
& Enterprise**