

Minutes of Strategic Policy Committee for Economic Development & Enterprise held on Monday 9th January 2017 at 11.00 a.m. in the Training Room, Áras Contae an Chláir, New Road, Ennis, Co. Clare.

In Attendance:

Cllr. Richard Nagle
Mr. Gerard Dollard

Cllr. P J Ryan
Cllr. Pat McMahon
Cllr. Gabriel Keating
Cllr. Clare Colleran Molloy
Cllr. Johnny Flynn
Mr. William Hanrahan
Ms. Theresa O'Donohoe
Mr. Pat Morris
Ms. Dymphna O'Callaghan
Mr. Niall O'Callaghan

Ms. Fiona Reilly

Mr. Brian McCarthy
Ms. Ailish McMahon

Organisation:

Chair
Deputy Chief Executive & Director of Economic Development
Elected Member
Elected Member
Elected Member
Elected Member
Elected Member
Agriculture/Farming
Environment/Conservation
Ennis Chamber of Commerce
Business/Commercial Sector
Regional Business Development Manager – Mid West
Regional Business Development Executive
Senior Planner
Economic Development

1. Minutes of meeting held on the 14th November 2016 and matters arising.

Minutes of meetings held on the 14th November were proposed by Cllr. G. Keating seconded by Cllr. J. Flynn and agreed.

2. Presentation by Mr. Niall O'Callaghan, Regional Business Development Manager – Mid-West.

Cllr. R. Nagle welcomed Mr. Niall O 'Callaghan, Regional Business Development Manager, Mid West and Ms. Fiona Reilly, Regional Business Development Executive to the meeting.

N. O'Callaghan presented a comprehensive presentation on the IDA. In his presentation he outlined the following:-

- IDA Ireland Regional Strategy
- IDA Ireland 2016 Summary Performance
- Brief Overview – Mid-West Region

- 2016 Results – Mid-West Region
- County Clare overview
- Existing Client Base
- Future Growth Area's
- FDI Challenges and how Clare County Council can assist

Mr. N O'Callaghan stated that today's meeting was a follow from the SPC meeting held in May and that communication has continued between the Council and the IDA. He outlined the IDA's performance for 2016 and their five year strategy plan.

N. O'Callaghan outlined that 70% of all investments come from Existing Client Companies and 16 locations in the Mid-West have an IDA backed Client Company. He stated that the IDA are working closely on projects with Clare based companies, confidentially and can be seen from increased site visits at the end of 2016. He outlined that 1,516 jobs have been created in the Mid-West region.

The members thanked Mr. N. O'Callaghan for his comprehensive members and they raised a number of queries that were responded to by Mr. O'Callaghan.

In reply to questions/queries raised by the members N. O'Callaghan stated that the Shannon Estuary is a key pillar in the potential attractiveness of the Mid-West to new forms of foreign direct investment.

G. Dollard asked N O'Callaghan to comment on BREXIT and President Elect Donald Trump on how the potential opportunity for foreign investment will effect Ireland.

With regard to BREXIT, N. O'Callaghan stated that the IDA are currently in talks with international markets with regard to the certainty of Ireland and outlined that there is an increase in interest and discussions with its Foreign Direct Investment client companies following the UK's decision.

N.O' Callaghan stated that from an IDA perspective, there should be no significant change to Ireland from the US President Elect.

G. Dollard thanked N. O'Callaghan and Ms. Fiona Reilly for the comprehensive presentation. He stated that there is an excellent working relationship between the IDA and Clare County Council and that a lot of work has taken place. He stated that planning permission has recently been granted to Beckman Coulter in which there will be approximately an additional 150 jobs.

G. Dollard outlined that it is important to market the region as one entity internationally for competitive advantage. He stated that the promotion of

investment and development opportunities is the result of the Strategic Integrated Framework Plan (SIFP) for the Shannon Estuary.

P. Morris asked the following questions of N. O'Callaghan with regard to the IDA providing support to Roche with regard to finding a buyer for the plant.

With regard to queries raised in relation to ROCHE, N. O'Callaghan stated that the IDA are working closely with the IDA and have marketed Roche in 2016 with all its international companies. He stated that the demand for the particular drug that Roche produces has declined. He stated that the IDA will continue to market the site.

P. Morris also asked the question can the IDA participate with the Shannon Group to provide second stage of advance units on the serviced sites at the IAP?

P. Morris also asked when the British Government flies to exit the EU, their banks will need to apply for "passports" to do business within the EU. They will need to set up offices there also. What approaches is the IDA making to banks requiring European offices?

N.O' Callaghan outlined that the Shannon group are at an advanced stage for a manufacturing facility in Shannon.

Members also expressed their concern that industry is needed in West Clare and that there is a need to improve Rural Ireland. Concern was also expressed that the Mid-West Action Plan for jobs has no potential to market jobs for West Clare.

With regard to query raised by Cllr. J. Flynn with regard to an update on the Atlantic Economic Corridor, P. Morris stated that the AEC seeks the imbalance between growths in Dublin versus that of the west of Ireland. It is by the organisation set up by the Chambers of Commerce stretching from Limerick to Sligo. Their goals have been included in the programme for Government and the next phase is to lobby for inclusion in the National Framework plan and National Spatial Strategy. Briefings have been held with the CEO's of the County Council with most of the TDs and Senators from the region. The movement is supported by the Western Commission and American Chambers of Commerce.

B. McCarthy stated that the Planning Authority will shortly be rolling out a Local Area Plan for Ennis and will be zoning lands for specifically office use. He asked N. O'Callaghan from a marketing point of view what enquiries have the IDA received with regard to the size, type and location of office accommodation/

floor space in Ennis and Shannon. N O'Callaghan replied and stated that the floor space required is 9,000 square feet.

3. Adoption of County Development Plan.

B. McCarthy informed the meeting that the County Development Plan 2017-2023 was adopted by the Elected Members on the 19th December 2016 and takes effect from 25th January, 2017. He stated that there is a strong focus in the Plan on Economic Development, Renewable Energy and Solar Energy.

Areas covered included:

- Shannon Airport
- UL – Clare Campus
- Shannon Estuary – SIFP
- Towns and Villages
- Renewable Energy

B. McCarthy thanked the SPC members for their support and welcomed their input to market the Plan and the economic objectives in the Plan.

B. McCarthy referred to the Draft Development Contribution Scheme and stated that there a 33% discount in planning contributions applied to the recently granted planning application - Beckman Coulter. He stated that this was a good incentive to attract investment into the county. B. McCarthy stated that Clare is one of the lowest counties in the mid west with regard to the levying of planning contributions.

B. McCarthy stated that agricultural development is currently exempt from development contributions levies. He stated that the draft document proposes to remove this exemption and charge for agricultural buildings. Planning contributions are to apply to Agricultural Buildings above 800 m² in size only.

W. Hanrahan stated that the farming sector expressed concern with regard to applying contributions to Agricultural Buildings above 800 m². G. Dollard advised that the IFA submit a submission in relation to same while the Draft Development Contribution scheme is on public display.

4. Proposed changes to SPC structure.

G. Dollard informed the meeting that following the establishment of the new directorates within the Council, there was a review of the Strategic Policy Committees to have four SPC structures. He stated that Planning would now be under the remit of the Economic Development & Enterprise SPC. G. Dollard outlined that it is not proposed to change the chairmanship or the membership of the elected members on the individual SPC's. The four SPC's are as follows:

- Physical Development
- Economic Development
- Rural Development and
- Social Development

G. Dollard stated that it is also proposed that the membership of the Housing SPC from the Agricultural and Farming sector would move to the Rural and Community SPC and that the Trade Union representative on the Rural and Community SPC would move to the Housing, Social and Cultural SPC.

T. O'Donohoe stated that the PPN has no input into the proposed agenda. G. Dollard stated that if the PPN have a proposal with regard to an agenda item to submit same in advance of the meeting.

T. O'Donohoe expressed her observations on the new SPC structures. She stated that the PPN representative in Planning should be able to move to the Economic SPC if it's taking over planning.

G. Dollard stated the guidelines regarding the representatives on the SPC structure are national and that a review of the SPC structures takes place when the new Council comes into operation in 2019.

5. Date of next meeting – 27th March 2017

It was agreed that the next meeting would take place on the 27th March 2017.

T. O'Donohoe proposed that Marie Donnelly DG Energy from the EU commission and also Prof Terence Mc Donagh from NUIG attend the next meeting of the SPC to discuss the economics of climate change.

6. AOB.

C. C. Molloy stated that the SPC are currently two and a half years in office. She requested for the next meeting that a report be circulated on work/achievements completed to date and requested that a report to be set out on what has to be done.

G. Keating also suggested that name badges be placed in front of all representatives so that whoever is giving a presentation will know the elected members and the non elected members.

With no other business the meeting concluded.

Signed:

Cathaoirleach

**Director, Economic Development
& Enterprise**