

***Minutes of Strategic Policy Committee for Economic Development & Enterprise held on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> July 2017 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. Pat McMahon  
Cllr. Johnny Flynn  
Cllr. Clare Colleran Molloy  
Ms. Theresa O'Donohoe  
Mr. Pat Morris  
Ms. Dympna O'Callaghan  
Mr. Padraic McElwee  
Ms. Linda Earlie  
Cllr. Ian Lynch  
Mr. Brian McCarthy  
Ms. Ailish McMahon

**Organisation:**

Chair  
Deputy Chief Executive & Director of Economic Development  
Elected Member  
Elected Member  
Elected Member  
Environment/Conservation  
Ennis Chamber of Commerce  
Business Commercial Sector.  
Head of Enterprise.  
Senior Enterprise Development Officer  
Elected Member  
Senior Planner  
Economic Development

**Apologies**

Cllr. Gabriel Keating                      Elected Member  
Mr. William Hanrahan                      Agriculture/Farming

Cllr. R. Nagle welcomed Ms. Linda Earlie, Senior Enterprise Development Officer, Local Enterprise Office to the meeting.

Cllr. R. Nagle outlined that it was mentioned at the previous SPC meeting that Ray O'Driscoll, Managing Director, Shannon Commercial Properties be invited to give a presentation to the July SPC meeting. Mr. O'Driscoll will attend the November SPC meeting.

**1. Minutes of meeting held on the 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2017 and matters arising.**

Minutes of meeting held on the 22<sup>nd</sup> May, 2017 were proposed by Cllr. P. McMahon seconded by Cllr. Clare Colleran Molloy and agreed.

## **2. Review of LEO Performance 2016 – Presentation by Mr. Padraic McElwee, Head of Enterprise.**

P. McElwee gave a comprehensive presentation on the Local Enterprise Office. He outlined the activities within the LEO office and stated that the biggest aim is to create jobs locally. In 2016, P. McElwee stated that the LEO office in Clare was the 4<sup>th</sup> highest in the country for job creation. He outlined the grants that were approved for 2016 – Priming, Feasibility, and Expansion. With regard to training events, P. McElwee outlined that approximately 570 participants attended the training events and also that there is good demand for digital marketing courses.

P. McElwee referred to the Bia Fest food festival. He stated that the aim of the food festival is promote local producers and provide them with an outlet to sell their artisan food produce. To date three Bia Fest food festivals have been held and there has been positive feedback from both the public and the food producers. The next Bia Fest food festival will be held in September.

P. McElwee also referred to the New Initiatives:-

- Outreach Clinics
- LEAN Programme
- Brexit Seminars
- Incubation Hubs

P. McElwee briefed the committee on a new initiative to assist Clare enterprises enter the US market. Clare are collaborating in this project with Mayo, Roscommon, Sligo, Galway and Leitrim. The first visit took place in May 2017 where Clare was represented by Louise McGuane (Chapel Gate Irish Whiskey Co) and Aidan Quilligan (Clubify).

P. McElwee outlined that a delegation from Rhode Island are visiting County Council on the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> September. This is a significant economic and tourism opportunity for the county.

**In reply to questions raised by the members P. McElwee replied to the following:-**

Funding comes from the Department of Enterprise and Jobs through Enterprise Ireland. In 2015, €330,000 was paid out in grant aid, €440,000 in 2016 and €326,000 as at the 30<sup>th</sup> June 2017. P. McElwee also stated that grant aid is 33% refundable.

With regard to training, the LEO office endeavoured to run new training courses each year designed to meet the needs of local enterprises. These courses are promoted online, local media, social media and via newsletter. He stated that the SPC and the PPN would be added to the mailing list for the newsletter. To support the retail sector in Clare, a service retail course was also rolled out in 2017 which was well received, and well attended, by members of the retail sector.

P. McElwee referred to the Incubation Hubs and stated that discussions were progressing re establishing a Hub in Ennis. P McElwee also referred to the Student Enterprise Awards and encouraged members to visit the finals which take place each year in March. An email would be circulated to all members in advance of the event in March 2018.

P. McElwee outlined that he would visit Lisdoonvarna as to get a better sense of what is happening on the ground. He stated that he would contact T. O'Donohoe with regard to seeking an appropriate time to visit Lisdoonvarna.

With regard to LEADER, P. McElwee outlined that the Local Enterprise Office are working together to support enterprises in County Clare.

**3. Update on National Planning Framework – by Mr. Brian McCarthy, Senior Planner.**

B. McCarthy updated the members with regard to the National Planning Framework. He stated that the Local Authorities of Clare, Tipperary and Limerick along with Shannon Group, the University of Limerick, Limerick Institute of Technology, Shannon Foynes Port Company and the Mid West Action Plan for jobs have made a joint submission to the Government's National Planning Framework.

B. McCarthy outlined that albeit it was anticipated that a Draft would be published by now, to date no draft of the Plan has been received and outlined the importance of the Plan to the members. He outlined that the members would be kept updated in relation to the National Planning Framework.

**4. Update on Inis Cealtra Visitor Management and Sustainable Development Plan – by Brian McCarthy, Senior Planner.**

B. McCarthy stated that in June 2015, Clare County Council purchased Holy Island. Solearth Architectures are the consultants. To date four public consultation workshops have been held and approximately 200 people

attended the public consultation events. In April/May a draft of the plan was on public display in which 18 submissions were received. On the 6<sup>th</sup> July the draft plan was presented to the community of Mountshannon and positive feedback was received. The Inis Cealtra Visitor Management and Sustainable Development Plan was endorsed by the Elected Members at the July Council meeting.

**5. Deferral of the making of a new Shannon Town & Environs Local Area Plan – by Brian McCarthy, Senior Planner.**

B. McCarthy outlined that the making of a new Shannon Towns & Environs Local Area Plan be deferred for 5 years. The 2012 Shannon Towns & Environs Local Area Plan will remain in place until 2022. He outlined that the Shannon Town and Environs Local Area Plan 2012-2018 remains consistent with the objectives and the core strategy of the Clare County Development Plan 2017-2023. B. McCarthy outlined that this was agreed by the members at the June Council meeting.

**6. Update on Draft Doolin Strategic Master Plan and Enhancement Strategy.**

G. Dollard stated that the closing date for submissions in relation to the Doolin Strategic Master Plan and Enhancement Strategy was the 14<sup>th</sup> July, 2017. He stated that the draft strategy was prepared by Bucholz McEvoy Architects on behalf of Clare County Council and the strategy design team, has identified a number of enhancement strategies. Copies of the draft strategy were also available.

Cllr. R. Nagle expressed concern that there was a gap between the consultants and the community with regard to the plan.

**7. Date of next meeting – 11<sup>th</sup> September 2017.**

It was agreed that the next meeting would take place on the **11<sup>th</sup> September at 11.00 a.m in the Training Room, Áras Contae an Chláir, New Road, Ennis, Co. Clare.**

**8. AOB**

T. O'Donohoe referred to the recent bill on the banning of onshore fracking which was recently passed by the Dáil. She stated the PPN were completely supportive of this and this has been incorporated into the County Development Plan. All members outlined that they were totally opposed to Fracking.

With no other business the meeting concluded.

**Signed:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Cathaoirleach**

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**Director, Economic Development  
& Enterprise**