

**Minutes of the Economic Development Strategic Policy Committee Meeting held in
Áras Contae an Chláir on Monday, 4th March 2019 at 11.00am**

Present: Cllr Richard Nagle, Chairperson
Cllr P.J. Ryan
Cllr Pat McMahon
Cllr Johnny Flynn
Cllr Clare Colleran Molloy
Mr Pat Morris
Mr William Hanrahan
Ms Theresa O'Donohoe
Liam Conneally, Director of Service
Padraic McElwee, Head of Enterprise
Helen Quinn, Senior Executive Planner
Valerie Fleming, Assistant Staff Officer

Apologies: Cllr Gabriel Keating
Ms Dympna O'Callaghan

1. Minutes of meeting held on 11th February 2019.

The minutes of the meeting held on 11th February 2019 were proposed by Cllr Clare Colleran Molloy, seconded by Cllr P.J. Ryan and agreed.

2. Matters Arising.

There were no matters arising.

3. SPC Members inputs to Draft Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES)

Brian McCarthy introduced the background to the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES), and circulated a copy of Clare County Council's draft submission to the Southern Regional Assembly (SRA) on the draft RSES. Brian stated that one of the key issues with the draft RSES document is the population allocation for Clare which is completely inadequate to facilitate the expected growth levels in the County to 2031.

Pat Morris stated that regard must also be had to the population target for Galway in addition to Galway's economic influence on Ennis and North Clare in particular.

Cllr Clare Colleran Molloy recommended Clare County Council specifically request a population increase per annum figure of 1.2%. She is concerned that it will be difficult to

attract funding and investment if the population allocation figure is not increased from the 0.8% allocated in the draft document.

Brian McCarthy added that Clare County Council will be requesting that the one-off housing policy be in line with national policy as stated in the NPF.

Pat Morris proposed that this submission be in bullet point format with an executive summary and Theresa O'Donohoe seconded this proposal.

Cllr Johnny Flynn stated that this is the most important document to come before Councillors regarding rural issues as it will form the wish list for future investment. Overall Cllr Flynn views the draft RSES as a positive document but said it is important to get the population allocation figure increased. He also requested the Ennis/Clarecastle Blueway be included under Appendix 1. He stated that there is nothing under the 'Quality of Life' heading that deals with Health but that the National Planning Framework (NPF) outlines the infrastructure needed for settlements including health. He asked for this to be included in RSES as well as in the National document.

Following discussion it was agreed to include the reopening of a 24hr A&E for Ennis in the submission.

Liam Conneally referenced the inclusion of the proposed Strategic Development Zone (SDZ) in the RSES draft and requested the SPC members to support that objective.

6. AOB.

There were no matters arising.

The meeting then concluded.

Signed: _____ **Date:** _____
Cllr Richard Nagle
Chairperson

Signed: _____ **Date:** _____
Liam Conneally,
Director of Economic Development.