



Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe
Galway County Council

Coiste Polasaí Straitéiseach Gnóthaí Forbairt Eacnamaíochta & Fiontraíochta
Economic Development & Enterprise Strategic Policy Committee (SPC)
Cruinniú /Meeting

Friday 15th February 2019
Council Offices, Galway County Council, Galway

Members in attendance

Cllr. Peter Feeney	Galway County Council
Cllr. Joe Byrne	Galway County Council
Cllr. Tom Healy	Galway County Council
Cllr. Séan Ó Tuairisg	Galway County Council
Dan Dowling	Community Representative

Present

Alan Farrell	Galway County Council
Kieran Coyne	Galway County Council
Breda Mulrennan	Galway County Council

Apologies

Cllr. Peter Feeney	Galway County Council
Paul Quinn	Trade Union Representative
Paul Mannion	Development/Construction Sector Representative
Kevin Kelly	Galway County Council
Dan Dowling	Community Representative
Michelle Murphy	Business/Commercial Sector Representative

1. Minutes of the meeting of the Economic Development & Enterprise SPC held on 04 December 2019

Cllr. Peter Feeney welcomed everyone to the meeting and issued apologies from Cllr. Jimmy McClearn, Cllr. Mary Hoade and Michelle Murphy. Regarding the minutes from the previous meeting Mr. Kieran Coyne stated that the officials will meet with the Galway Convention Bureau and deal with all issues raised regarding the County coverage. The minutes were then approved.

There were no further matters arising.

2. Community Support Schemes 2019 (Economic Development)

Mr. Kieran Coyne gave an overview on all the Community Support Schemes and the changes which have occurred to the Schemes this year. He stated that there are 3 main categories Economic, Cultural and Community. Economic initiative, food, tourism and festivals are the focus of the Economic stream. The matching funding requirement has been reduced to 20% which was recommended by the CPG. Each Municipal District will approve all grant recommendations for their own area.

Cllr. Joe Byrne welcomed the reduction in matching funding, he queried how a group who is County wide can apply for funding. Mr. Kieran Coyne replied that they would be welcome to make an application but they would have to fit into the terms of the scheme.

3. Update on departmental funding schemes (T&V 2018, Oris 2018, Clár 2018)

Mr. Kieran Coyne gave an update on the departmental funded schemes:

T&V 2018	8 projects
ORIS 2018	8 projects
Clár	Completed

He stated that contracts were issued for T&V and Oris and that we are anticipating a timeframe from the Department as to when application dates for 2019 will happen. We have a list of potential applications ready and will add to them if we are notified of potential ones as they happen.

Cllr. Peter Feeney queried with regards to ORIS can we improve on the amount of applications we submit to this scheme? Mr. Alan Farrell stated that Council issues a call for proposals under the Scheme and acknowledged that the Council are challenged by resources in terms of having projects proposals developed. He said that the Council works with the wider stakeholders in

terms of advancing projects and said that there are further opportunities which could be developed further if resources were not an issue.

A number of the Members referred to the need to raise awareness of the various schemes. Mr. Kieran Coyne stated that schemes are highlighted to Elected Members, various committees and communities when they are announced for applications and there is an explanatory leaflet available from our office which his unit will look at disseminating further to groups through the PPN.

Mr, Alan Farrell stated that details of the various schemes are promoted through various means but that the Council could look at how they could raise awareness further. He said that Councillors play an important role indicating that there will be training for the Elected Members post the Local Election 2019.

Cllr. Joe Byrne stated that he was disappointed that the funding for Gort was given back. He requested that an update be given as to why the funding was given back. Mr. Kieran Coyne stated that he endeavour to find out why the project did not go ahead.

4. Rural Regeneration and Development Fund

Mr. Alan Farrell gave an update on the RRDF application process and approvals, details of which were just breaking through the Department of Rural & Community Development and the media.

Cllr. Peter Feeney stated that it is a 10-year process and there will be more opportunities available for those who missed out this year. Cllr. Sean O Tuairisg stated that the Geopark is great news for a voluntary group to achieve, if they achieve UNESCO status it will revitalise the area he stated.

Cllr. Tom Healy stated that the news of the funding was really good but he was disappointed that Clifden lost out. Mr. Alan Farrell stated that the Council will work with the various interested parties and communities in town to support and develop proposal as best we can. He also stated that we will engage further with the Chamber of Commerce in Clifden who he said were working progressively with the Council on a number of initiatives.

Cllr. Peter Feeney stated that instead of looking at it as a disappointment in not receiving funding that the time should be used to reinvent the application and project and be ready to resubmit in the next round. Mr. Alan Farrell stated that the need for collaboration and Community involvement is very important and that the Council were committed to working in this manner.

5. Atlantic Economic Corridor (AEC)

Mr. Brian Leonard, Atlantic Economic Corridor Officer gave an update on the AEC (attached). He stated that he will circulate the AEC e-zine to all the members.

Cllr. Joe Byrne welcomed Mr. Leonard to the Unit. He stated that Gort and Kinvara received Enterprise Ireland funding for an enterprise hub. He queried as to how Mr. Leonard is going to engage with the Gort area. Mr. Leonard stated that he will engage with the town through the Burren Lowlands and will audit the enterprise space in the town.

Cllr. Peter Feeney stated we can't look at Galway in general, we need to link and collaborate with all the other Counties in the region. Mr. Kieran Coyne reiterated Cllr. Feeneys point that we need to look at the Economic Corridor in general and link in with all other Counties to see the benefit for the region as a whole.

6. AOB

Cllr. Sean O Tuairisg wanted to note that the HIG moving was a major loss to the Connemara area. Cllr. Tom Healy stated that input is required from Enterprise Ireland for the greater Connemara region in order to attract economic investment and enterprise.

The next meeting is scheduled to take place on Friday the 26th of April 2019 at 3pm in the Centrepoint Boardroom, Galway County Council Offices, Liosbaun.

The meeting then concluded.