



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

Cruinniú /Meeting

Dé Máirt, 23rd Meitheamh 2015, 10.00am

Tuesday, 23rd June 2015, 10.00am

**Centrepoint Office (Galway County Council), Liosbaun Industrial Estate, Tuam
Road, Galway**

Members in attendance

Cllr. Jimmy McClearn, Chairperson	Galway County Council
Cllr. Peter Feeney	Galway County Council
Cllr. Shane Donnellan	Galway County Council
Cllr. Mary Hoade	Galway County Council
Cllr. Tom Healy	Galway County Council
Cllr. Seán Ó Tuairisg	Galway County Council
Cllr. Michael Finnerty	Galway County Council
Cllr. Karey McHugh	Galway County Council
Michelle Murphy	Business / Commercial representative
Dan Dowling	Community representative
Paul Quinn	Trade Union representative
Paul Mannion	Scott Tallon Walker Architects

Present

Kevin Kelly	Interim Chief Executive, Galway County Council
Catherine McConnell	A/Director of Services, Galway County Council
Alan Farrell	Senior Executive Officer, Galway County Council
Caitriona Morgan	Senior Staff Officer, Galway County Council
Prof. Cathal O'Donoghue	Teagasc

Welcome & Introductions

Cllr. Jimmy McClearn welcomed those in attendance to the second meeting of the SPC and all members introduced themselves.

1. Minutes of the meeting of the Economic Development & Enterprise SPC held on 31st March 2015

The minutes of the meeting held on 31st March 2015 were approved on the proposal of Cllr. Mary Hoade, seconded by Dan Dowling. There were no matters arising from the minutes.

2. Report on the submissions received on the Socio Economic Statement during Stage 2 Public Consultation

Alan Farrell went through the report on submissions received on the Socio Economic Statement during Stage 2 Public Consultation, dated 19th June 2015. He advised that following the Public Consultation stage which closed on 29th May 2015 a total of 28 submissions were received and a summary report on these was already circulated. He stated that the only substantive change being recommended to the Socio Economic Statement relates to the inclusion of the Islands to Theme 6 Towns and Villages and he outlined the reason for this change. He advised that the Advisory Steering Group (ASG) had agreed with this recommended change at their last meeting held on 11th June 2015 and that this would be presented to the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) for their adoption at their next meeting which was taking place on 23rd June 2015. He further advised that many of the submissions include proposed objectives and actions that will be developed in the next stage of the process. He also noted that in order to make actions as focussed as possible and to be able to monitor outcomes it is proposed that key outcomes and targets will be developed over the summer and some examples of these were given for information and consideration in terms of the ongoing development of the LECP.

Cllr. Seán Ó Tuairisg made reference to the Aran Islands and the population decline in particular. He queried what could be done to secure the future of the Islands and encourage people to live and stay on the Island during the winter months in particular.

3. Revised Socio Economic Statement following meeting of the Advisory Steering Group held on 11th June 2015

Alan Farrell advised that further to the report on the submissions received on the Socio Economic Statement for County Galway a revised Socio Economic Statement, as recommended by the Advisory Steering Group (ASG) at their meeting held on 11th June 2015 had already been circulated. He noted again that the only substantive change being recommended to the Socio Economic Statement was to Section 4, which details the Vision and the High Level Goals of County Galway Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) to include a reference to the Islands to Theme 6 Towns and Villages and he outlined the reason for this change. The revised Socio Economic Statement as circulated was adopted on the proposal of Cllr. Seán Ó Tuairisg, seconded by Cllr. Tom Healy.

4. Presentation on CEDRA report recommendations for County Galway - Prof. Cathal O'Donoghue

Catherine McConnell welcomed Prof. Cathal O'Donoghue to the meeting and advised that his presentation on the CEDRA report, and in particular the key recommendations which included a number of potential priority actions for County Galway was important and timely in the context of the development of the Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP). Prof. Cathal O'Donoghue went through his power point presentation on the CEDRA report highlighting a

number of key challenges, themes and high level recommendations. He also highlighted a number of potential priority actions for County Galway in the context of the development of the LECP. He referred to the Rural Economic Development Zones or REDZ pilot initiative which was currently open for applications of varying scale and on a regional basis and answered some questions that were raised on this. He also referred to the Small Town Stimulus programme and outlined some of the objectives and characteristic of this programme.

Following an interactive discussion and questions from the members, Prof. Cathal O'Donoghue outlined a number of initiatives that he felt could be advanced within a reasonably short timeframe within the scope of the SPC. He stated that there were real opportunities for the LECP to focus on a fewer number of priority actions in order to get real impact in the County. He said that there was an information seminar on the REDZ pilot initiative in the next week and that the comments and concerns should be raised at this seminar. Kevin Kelly also outlined some key priority areas of work for Galway County Council in 2015, to include the development of the LECP, Rural Development Programme (LEADER) and Action Plan for Jobs. He noted the importance of all agencies working collaboratively as resources were limited. He advised the members that the Economic Baseline study for County Galway would be launched on 21st July 2015 in conjunction with Galway City Council and that the study will support the development of an Economic Strategy for the County and City.

Catherine McConnell thanked Prof. O'Donoghue for his detailed presentation and said that he would be making the same presentation to the LCDC at their next meeting later in the week and that it was very timely and relevant to the development of the LECP for County Galway.

5. Galway Airport Site – Update

Catherine McConnell advised the meeting that she had recently received the report on the feasibility study on the future development of the former Galway Airport site from the Consultants. She said that this will be discussed further at the next meeting of the SPC and noted that this discussion will have to tie in with Galway City Council as this is a joint project.

6. AOB

Catherine McConnell advised that the next meeting of the SPC was scheduled to take place on Tuesday 8th September 2015 at 10.00am in the Downstairs Meeting room of the Centrepoint Office (Galway County Council), located in the Liosbaun Industrial Estate, Tuam Road, Galway.

There was no other business. Cllr. Jimmy McClearn thanked everyone for their attendance and participation and the meeting ended.