

MINUTES OF ECONOMIC, ENTERPRISE & PLANNING

STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING ON

MS Teams

September 17th, 2021 @ 9.15am

Present: Cllr. John Paul Feeley, Chairperson
Mr. Brendan Jennings, Director of Service
Ms Marcella Rudden, Head of Enterprise, LEO
Mr. John Donohoe, Chief Officer, Community & Enterprise
Cllr. Sarah O'Reilly
Cllr. Winston Bennett
Cllr. Peter McVitty
Stanley Nwaneri

Apologies: Nicholas O'Kane
Cllr. Carmel Brady
Cllr. Aidan Fitzpatrick
Tom Brady

- 1. Welcome and Introductions - Chairperson,** Cllr. John Paul Feeley welcomed everyone to the meeting.
- 2. Minutes** On the proposal of Cllr. Peter McVitty and seconded by Cllr. Winston Bennett, minutes of last SPC meeting held on May 7th ,2021 were approved.
- 3. Matters Arising** – No matters arising.
- 4. County Development Plan Update** – B. Jennings gave an update on the County Development Plan preparation. Public consultations have been completed and will now be considered and responded to. He also noted that the timelines were very tight with a high volume of work to be undertaken over the coming weeks. Cllr. J.P. Feeley reiterated the fact that it is a plan for development and has yet to be implemented. He also stated that elected members have contributed towards the development of the plan and a significant part of that input has been taken on board by the Executive. Further input can be made by raising our concerns with the Planning Regulator and the Minister, when it comes to approval stage of the plan. B. Jennings confirmed that the Planning Regulator appears open to further communication and discussion. Cllr. S. O'Reilly raised the issue of water capacity problems in the east of the county and whether Irish Water were dealing with the problem or was there a report on it. B. Jennings stated that P. Connaughton and his team were working with Irish Water to find a solution. The EPA have also put new standards in place.

- 5. Urban Streetscape Enhancement Scheme** – J. Donohoe gave an update on the above scheme which will allow for shopfront and façade enhancements, both residential and commercial in designated towns throughout the county. It is hoped that this will be a multi annual scheme with the focus on the town core. Due to the extremely tight deadlines imposed by the Department, works for 2021 must be completed by the end of November. Three towns were selected for 2021 – Ballyjamesduff, Cootehill and Belturbet. Understandably it will be challenging at this time of year to undertake outdoor works as it will be weather dependent. J. Donohoe acknowledged those elected members who met with local business owners in the selected towns to discuss their applications. As with previous schemes, a colourist has been engaged to advise approved applicants. B. Jennings stated it was a very positive scheme and hoped that it would continue in 2022.
- 6. Enterprise Space** – B. Jennings outlined the challenges that the local authority are faced with to undertake land and enterprise space development. The most significant barrier is an appropriate funding stream and whilst having lands zoned is an important first step, unless there is the funds for capital costs, we will not be in position to provide critical enterprise space for business expansion or development. Cllr. Bennett agreed and emphasised the need for space to attract FDI into the county. Cllr. S. O’ Reilly stated that we need to get creative about how we source funding and that it takes a long time to get anything in place. B. Jennings stated that there is a very mutually beneficial relationship with IDA and in particular James Boyle, Regional Manager for the North East. Cllr. P Mc Vitty stated that there have been many meetings with Ministers in the past and that it must come from the top. Cllr. J.P. Feeley stated that, as Councillors, a collective approach can be taken and with the support of the Executive, this issue can be highlighted and advanced at Ministerial level.
- 7. Green for Micro** – M. Rudden made a presentation to the Committee on the Green for Micro scheme which is been delivered by the LEO Network. The scheme provides for 2 days free consultancy to small and micro enterprises looking to reduce their carbon footprint and/or make energy savings within their business.
- 8. A.O.B.** – The next meeting dated was proposed for Friday December 3rd at 9.15am. Cllr. J.P. Feeley closed the meeting and thanked everyone for their remote attendance and contributions/

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Chairperson