

MINUTES OF ECONOMIC, ENTERPRISE & PLANNING

STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING

Boardroom, CITC, Dublin Rd, Cavan H12R6D6

Friday 25th April 2025 @ 10.30am

Present: Cllr. Winston Bennett Chairperson
Mr. Brendan Jennings, Director of Service
Mr. Conor Craven Head of Enterprise, LEO
Cllr. T.P. O'Reilly
Cllr. John Paul Feeley
Cllr. Val Smith
Cllr. Brendan Fay
Ms. Connie Whelan
Mr. Richard Moeran
Mr. Michael Lynch
Mr. Nicholas O' Kane, Senior Planner
Ms Caroline Brady, Town Regeneration Officer

Apologies: Mr. John Donohoe, Senior Executive Officer
Mr. Darragh Elliot

- 1. Welcome and Introductions - Chairperson,** Cllr. Winston Bennett formally welcomed everyone to the meeting. In his opening remarks, the Chairperson stated that every member had a key role and contribution to make in developing and progressing the work of this committee over the next 4 years.

2. Introduction & Role of the Strategic Policy Committee

The Chairperson invited Mr. B. Jennings, Director of Service to give a presentation on the role of the Strategic Policy Committee. Mr. Jennings noted that attendance and participation of its members would be crucial to ensuring that the SPC worked in an effective manner. The Director of Service summarised the main achievements of previous of the Strategic Policy Committee (2019-24) which included:

- Influencing and developing policy in respect of the County Development Plan;
- Substantial engagement and significant role in the framing and development of the current Local Economic Community Plan 2024-2029;
- Key role in policy formulation in respect of the Derelict Sites Register;
- Supporting the work of the Local Enterprise Office in the provision of their suite of supports to the Small Business Sector;
- Driving and influencing the Town Centre First/Regeneration Plans.

3. Planning & Development Act 2024.

The Senior Planner provided members with an update on the 2024 Planning Act and discussed the reasons for the new Act and referred to its key policy changes. Nicholas stated that there was no intention to curtail judicial reviews. Following a general discussion by the members on the Act, Nicholas addressed any queries and advised that it was anticipated that the New Planning Act would be rolled out over the next 18 Months.

4. Local Economic Community Plan

The Head of Enterprise provided a progress report to the members. The main points were as follows:

LEO Cavan had a current portfolio of 179 companies employing 1,450 people with net job creation of 26 in 2024;

LEO Clients Mixer Sauces had opened a new 10,000 sq ft facility at the IDA Business Park at the beginning of March 2025. Work was progressing on a new IDA Ireland Advanced Building Solution comprising 35,000 sqft. and Fire Doors Ireland LTD would be commencing work on a new 20,000 sqft manufacturing facility on Council Lands in the same business park;

Enterprise Ireland had confirmed that 6,600 people were employed in EI companies in Cavan in 2024, with a further 950 Jobs being employed in IDA Ireland supported companies;

Work on establishing a new Cavan Craft Network was underway and the Created in Cavan Food and Drink Network had increased its membership to 66 with a new Food Strategy completed for the period 2024-2027;

One of the initial digital start ups Clubspot which had started in the Cavan Digital Hub had grown its employment to 31 and moved to a new premises in Stradone in December 2024 . Another successful digital start up in Cavan Digital Hub – Trave has opened offices in Vietnam and along with Fire Doors Ireland gave inspirational presentations on their respective enterprise journeys at the 2nd Cavan Dublin Business Network Meeting in early April.

5. New Economic & Enterprise Development Strategy

Caroline Brady presented an outline to the members of the new long term economic and enterprise development strategy that is being developed by Cavan County Council. She noted that OCO Global had been appointed as the Consultants to develop the strategy by the Local Authority. Caroline stated that the strategy will put forward the strategic objectives for the County over the next decade and will include an implementation plan for years 1-5. She advised the members of what the new economic and enterprise development strategy and action plan would seek to achieve. Caroline also provided details in relation to a new Place Branding Strategy for County Strategy.

The Chairperson proposed that OCO Global be invited to give a presentation on the new Economic & Enterprise Development Strategy at the next meeting of this committee in June. This proposal was agreed by the members.

6. AOB

None

7. Date of next meeting:

Friday 13th June @ 9.30am – Boardroom Cavan Digital Hub

8. AOB - No items for mention.

Cllr. J.P. Feeley thanked the members for their contributions and dedication to the SPC, closed the meeting and thanked everyone for their attendance.

Signed: Winston Bennett Date: 13- 6- 25
Chairperson