

Minutes of Economic, Enterprise & Planning Strategic Policy Committee Meeting

Boardroom Cavan Digital Hub, Dublin Road, Cavan

Friday 13th June 2025 @ 9.30am

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. Michael Lynch
Mr. Richard Moeran
Ms. Caroline Brady, Town Regeneration Officer
Mr. Karl Kelly, Business Advisor, LEO

Apologies: Mr. John Donohue, SEO

1. Welcome & Introduction

Chairperson Cllr. Winston Bennett formally welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Minutes from previous Meeting

Minutes from 25th April 2025 were adopted. No matters arising.

Proposed: Mr. R. Moeran

Seconded: Ms. C. Whelan

3. Cavan Economic Strategy

A presentation was delivered by Mr. Colm Reilly OCO Global which covered a review and comparison of where the county is at currently from an economic perspective. Arising from their initial consultation with relevant stakeholders, OCO were of the view that in order to achieve higher economic outputs for Cavan, investment would be needed to enhance infrastructure, leveraging digital transformation and promoting sustainable development.

Richard Moeran acknowledged the importance of agriculture in the county. Cllr. W. Bennett asked whether the companies OCO had spoken too, had any plans to expand further within the next 2 years or was there a possibility that they would move location if suitably serviced sites were not available in Co. Cavan. The Director of Service noted that there were a number of issues causing companies to look to expand elsewhere, however, the main issue was the lack of available suitably serviced sites and their associated costs. Colm Reilly confirmed that the availability of enterprise space had been raised with them as part of their consultation. Caroline Brady advised that all stakeholders were being brought together in July to help set out the overall objectives for the next 4/5 years. The Head of Enterprise acknowledged the issue with Enterprise

space and stated that a focus needs to be on identifying key sectors for future growth which will grow the local economy and lead to additional job creation.

4. Multi-Storey Carpark

Colm O'Callaghan presented on the works completed on the Multi-Storey Carpark. He advised there were reasons why the works needed to be completed – Risk of Fire, Structural Integrity & Parking demand. He acknowledged the assistance of Michael Doyle, A/Chief Fire Officer who provided support in relation to fire safety. In 2021, a decision was made to close levels 6 to 15 for safety reasons and undertake a full revamp of the carpark. Colm acknowledged the excellent work carried out by the main contractor McCabe Group. He also advised that there has been good feedback to date since the carpark reopened a few weeks ago with approx. 50 cars per day using it. B. Jennings acknowledged the past issues associated with the Multi Storey and complimented the project team and main contractor on delivering a much improved facility that will benefit the town. Cllr. Brendan Fay acknowledged the issues associated with the multi-storey previously and requested a video of new carpark so it could be shared on Social Media. The Chairperson welcomed the €2 per day cost of using it. Cllr. J.P. Feeley acknowledged the great use of local Cavan contractors and sub-contractors in this Project.

5. Parking Cavan Town

Colm O'Callaghan gave an overview of the overall parking situation in Cavan town which was completed on the back of the work done to the multi-storey carpark. Overall, the Council controls 1,048 parking spaces around the town and he gave a breakdown of available on street parking included in this figure. Cllr. Feeley enquired if the 2 hour max stay was only for on-street parking and this was confirmed as correct. He also asked if an app could be used to pay for parking and Susan Doherty confirmed that a tender process is being looked at after having spoken to 2 service providers who could accommodate same. Cllr. Fay asked if there were drop off/pick up spots in the town to which he was advised that the parking attendants use their own discretion initiative. He also suggested flow of traffic parking similar to other counties.

6. Scheme for Waiver of Commercial Rates – Small Business Rates Incentive Scheme & Scheme for applying rates on vacant properties

Margaret McNally presented on the Commercial Rates situation for the county. She gave a breakdown of the rates payable per business size and the number of businesses in each category. Recommendation is to allow a 5% discounted rate on bills paid by 31st October 2025 with a credit showing on the customers account towards 2026. The Head of Finance discussed the scheme for applying rates on vacant properties. Currently the property owners are required to pay 10% of the outstanding bill with the remainder written off. This has been approved each year since 2023. The Head of Finance provided details on the number of vacant premises in each of the main towns in the county and showed the difference if the charge on the property holder increased from 10% to 20%. She advised that most properties that are vacant in year 1 will continue to be vacant afterwards and any arrears are paid by current owner rather than the new owner. B. Jennings stated that the reason for the scheme was to get the vacant properties back into use.

7. AOB

None

8. Date of Next Meeting

Friday 5th September 2025 @ 9.30am. Venue TBC

Cllr. Bennet thanked all members and closed the meeting.

Signed: Wing E Bennett Date: 26.9.25
Chairperson