**Minutes of Meeting of SPC1**

* **Economic Development, Enterprise Support and Tourism**

**held in County Hall on 6th September, 2016 at 10.00am**

**Present:** Cllr. Pat Millea (Chair), Cllr. Michael Doyle, Cllr. Tomas Breathnach, Cllr. Pat Fitzpatrick, Mr. Phil Funchion, Mr. Charles Wani, Ms. Theresa Delahunty, Mr. John Bambrick

**Apologies:** Cllr. Patrick McKee, Cllr. Peter Cleere, Cllr. Patrick O’ Neill, Ms. Deirdre Shine

**In Attendance:** Martin Prendiville, Fiona Deegan, Stephen O’ Connor

1. **Minutes of Meeting held on 25th May, 2016**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 25th May 2016 were proposed by Mr. Phil Funchion, seconded by Ms Theresa Delahunty and agreed.

1. **Matters Arising**

LECP Advisory Group

Ms. Deegan stated that the first meeting of the LECP Advisory group had taken place on 11th July, comprising of members of the LCDC of Fergus Keane, Loretto O’ Driscoll and Colette Byrne and SPC members of Cllr. Pat Fitzpatrick, Cllr. Patrick Mc Kee and Cllr. Tomas Breathnach and that Loreto O’ Driscoll had been appointed Chairperson for a 6 month period and rotation with Cllr. Patrick Mc Kee for the following 6 months. Ms. Deegan stated that draft Terms of Reference were circulated and it was agreed that they should be amended to ensure that the role of the group was that of an advisory and strategic one and not just monitoring of the LECP; it should advise on strategic issues and make recommendations to the LCDC and SPC and be prepared to advise if actions are not appropriate and make recommendations for amendments to the plan as circumstances change. Ms. Deegan stated that Mr. Stephen O’ Connor had presented an update on the 49 economic actions included the Annual Action Plan whilst Lindsey Butler had outlined the main actions in the Community Action Plan. Ms. Deegan stated that the next meeting of the Advisory Group would take place in October.

**3. Local Enterprise Office Update**

Training & Seminars

Ms. Deegan circulated the Autumn Training Schedule and referenced the 23 training programmes which were due to run to year end. Ms. Deegan also referred to 3 seminars which were being run over the course of the next few months:

* Lean for Micro which offers businesses the opportunity to adopt lean business principles in their organisation to increase performance and competitiveness;
* Public Procurement for SMEs which is an introduction to tendering in association with Kilkenny County Council’s Procurement Department and Intertrade Ireland;
* Enterprise Europe Network which helps Irish businesses innovate and grow their business internationally.

Ireland’s Best Young Entrepreneur

Ms. Deegan stated that entries were open for Ireland’s Best Young Entrepreneur 2016 and encouraged members to promote the competition to anyone aged between 18 and 35 with a business idea/commercial venture for a start-up or an existing business and noted the date for receipt of applications was 14th October.

Conferences

Ms. Deegan stated that LEO Kilkenny were hosting 2 major conferences in October:

* National Women’s Enterprise Day taking place on 19th October with South East and Mid West coming together to host a conference aimed at female entrepreneurs, hoping to target 120 delegates;
* Bizfest 2016 ‘Inspiring Success’ taking place on 20th October in conjunction with LEOs in the South East, Enterprise Ireland, Bank of Ireland and the South East Action Plan for Jobs, hoping to target 300 delegates.

Local Enterprise Development Plan

Ms. Deegan circulated the Local Enterprise Development Plan for discussion, stating that approval had been received from Enterprise Ireland in the last week. Ms. Deegan stated that there were 6 strategic objectives and 34 actions within the plan, which have set targets, defined outcomes and a timescale and provided an update on these actions. Following a discussion, it was proposed by Cllr. Pat Fitzpatrick, seconded by Mr. Theresa Delahunty and agreed to adopt the plan for 2016.

Additional €55k funding

Ms. Deegan stated that a call for additional M1 funding was circulated in early June and LEO Kilkenny requested an additional amount of €60k, and were sanctioned €55k from the national allocation of €1.85 million which was announced by Minister Mary Mitchell O’ Connor to 15 LEOs nationally.

**4. Update on Economic Actions of Local Economic & Community Plan**

Stephen O’ Connor provided a comprehensive update on the actions which had been identified for implementation in the LECP Economic Annual Action Plan 2016 – 2017.

**5. Abbey Creative Quarter Update**

Martin Prendiville provided an update on the Abbey Creative Quarter stating that the remainder of the buildings on the site were being demolished with a target for completion for the end of September with Council taking possession of the site in early October.

**6. Tourism Development Update**

Stephen O’ Connor provided an update on Tourism Development in the County and updated the committee on the Ireland’s East Signage, the Medieval Mile Museum and the Yulefest launch.

**7. Any Other Business**

South East Economic Monitor

Stephen O’ Connor circulated the South East Economic Monitor, prepared by Waterford Institute of Technology and following discussion, it was agreed to invite Dr. Ray Griffin & Dr. Cormac O’ Keeffe to the next meeting of the SPC to provide a presentation on same.

Kilkenny Senior Hurlers

The Chairman stated that he wished to acknowledge the work that the Kilkenny management and team had put in to take Kilkenny to the All-Ireland Final and commented on how gracious they were in defeat and what great ambassadors they were for Kilkenny as a whole. Following a discussion, it was agreed to convey this in a letter to Brian Cody.

**8. Date of Next Meeting**

It was agreed that the next meeting of the SPC would take place on Tuesday 6th December at 2p.m.

There being no further business, the Chairman concluded the meeting at 11.30a.m.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Pat Millea

CHAIRMAN