

Chairman's Report of

SPC 1 Meeting of Economic Development, Enterprise Support, Tourism, Planning and Development Policy

Held in Council Chambers, County Hall, John Street, Kilkenny

Thursday 21st September at 3.00pm

1. With regards to the Abbey Quarter Regeneration, Mr. Sean McKeown advised that Phase 1 is now almost complete and Phase 2 will commence soon. Mr Tony Lauhoff has been appointed to the position of Development Director with Kilkenny Abbey Quarter Development Partnership.
2. Mr. McKeown updated on the North Quays SDZ advising that the development is progressing well, with a lot of preparatory work being undertaken at the moment.
3. Phase One of the South East Greenway (New Ross to Glenmore -6km in length) was officially opened on the 25th July last. Lot 5A (Ferrybank to Curraghmore) has gone out to tender with the construction works contract to be awarded later this year. Mr. McKeown also noted that the planning consultation process under Part 8 has now closed. There will be an update on this project at the next SPC1 meeting.
4. Phase one of the Kilkenny Countryside Park was completed in June 2022. This project was completed with funding from ORIS, the Sports Capital Scheme and Kilkenny County Council.
5. Ms. Aileen McGrath gave an update on the Local Enterprise Office activities as follows:
 - **Funding and Supports for Going Green Event** which took place on the 14th September in Hotel Kilkenny. This event which was run by LEO Kilkenny in conjunction with Kilkenny County Council Climate Action Team and South East Energy Agency had the aim to inform entrepreneurs about the supports that are available to support the sustainable journey and to becoming greener.
 - **'More Than Just a Desk'** Campaign which recently launched. This Campaign was designed to promote and bring awareness of the many remote hubs which are located both in the city and county.
6. Mr Denis Malone provided an update on the following:
 - **Briefing on Masterplan for Urlingford** - Mr Malone advised, that following public consultation and the drafting of the Chief Executive's report, the masterplan was adopted by the Municipal District Members on Monday 18th September.
 - **Briefing on St Canice's Masterplan** - Mr Malone advised that the draft Masterplan for St Canice's has been completed in conjunction with the HSE. It will be presented to the Municipal District Members in October before it goes through the public consultation process.

- **Briefing on Abbey Quarter Masterplan** - Mr. Malone gave an update on the Review of the Abbey Quarter Masterplan. Following public consultation and the drafting of the Chief Executive's report, the Masterplan was approved by the Elected Members at the Plenary Meeting which was held on Monday 18th September.
7. Ms. Martina Comerford gave a presentation on the Draft Kilkenny County Council's Tourism Development Strategy 2023-2028, which sets out the background, policy context, vision and strategic objectives around Tourism for Kilkenny County Council and the proposed action plan for the coming years. Once the draft was agreed upon, the next phase will be to publish the plan on consult.ie and taking consideration of feedback on the consultation process. The final Strategy will be presented for consideration to SPC1 before a meeting of Kilkenny County Council in December.
 8. With regards to the Monitoring of the LECP Implementation Plan, Ms. McGrath noted that there will be an Advisory Committee Meeting and a report on the Implementation plan will be ready for Q1 2024.

The next SPC 1 meeting will be held on the 7th December 2023 from 11.00am to 12.30pm in Council Chambers in County Hall.

Cllr. Ger Frisby
Chairman

Date: _____