



MINUTES OF MEETING

Project Name	Strategic Policy Committee		
	Enterprise, Economic Development & Tourism		
Purpose of Meeting			
Location of Meeting	Business Support Unit Training Room	Date and Time	
		9.30am 19 th December, 2019	
Present	Name		Representing
	Gerry Murphy (GM), Head of Finance Evelyn Reddin (ER), Head of Enterprise Denise Rainey (DR), Administrative Officer BSU Linda Meredith (LM) Staff Officer BSU Dom Reddin, Administrative Officer Cllr. Conor Bergin Cllr. Aidan Mullins Cllr. Seamus McDonald Cllr. Aisling Moran Pat Culleton P.J. Phelan Bernie Everard Deirdre O`Connell-Hopkins		LCC LCC LCC LCC LCC Member LCC Member LCC Member LCC Member LCC Dev/Construction Rep Community/Voluntary Rep Business/Commercial Rep Trade Union Rep
Apologies	Pat Hennessy		Agriculture/Farming Rep
Item No.	Description		Action
			Date for

		By	Completion
1.	<p>Welcome</p> <p>The Chairperson Cllr. Conor Bergin welcomed the members to the first meeting of the newly established Enterprise, Economic Development & Tourism S.P.C.</p>		
2.	<p>Introduction</p> <p>Each member of the S.P.C. and the officials in attendance formally introduced themselves and gave details of their representative role and function on the S.P.C.</p>		
3.	<p>Agreed dates for meetings 2020.</p> <p>The S.P.C. agreed that meetings would take place as follows:-</p> <p>Friday 6th March, 2020 Friday 5th June, 2020 Friday 4th September, 2020 Friday 4th December, 2020</p> <p>Meetings to be held @ 9.30am</p>		
4.	<p>Economic Development Update</p> <p>Denise Rainey gave a detailed report on the Business Support Unit (BSU) and specifically the supports that are available to businesses and also the initiatives which the BSU were involved with, during 2019.</p> <p>Evelyn Reddin gave a detailed report on the role of the Local Enterprise Office (LEO) , Laois and the supports provided.</p>		
5.	<p>Tourism Update</p> <p>Dom Reddin gave a detailed report on the current tourism initiatives in the County.</p>		
6.	<p>Laois Chamber</p> <p>Bernie Everard gave an update on the newly established Laois Chamber, their progress to date and their plans going forward. Members noted that there were 76 signed up members.</p>		

<p>7.</p>	<p>Priority Projects</p> <p>The following were identified as priority projects for the S.P.C. in the short term:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Bid to host the Fleadh Cheoil in 2022: Cllr. Conor Bergin advised that the Council is 100% supportive of bringing the Fleadh to County Laois. P.J. Phelan stated that wider community involvement and coordination between all agencies would be required to ensure this bid is successful. ➤ Encourage Inward International Tourism into County Laois: Cllr. Aisling Moran made a number of suggestions including hosting festivals similar to Pink Pound in Europe. There is no pride festival currently in the Midlands. Promotion of Derrycastle Lakes and Trails – Cllr. Aidan Mullins indicated that this project would encourage tourism but requires funding. ➤ Establish a database of all businesses in Laois: suggested by Deirdre O`Connell-Hopkins. This is something the Chamber of Commerce will be working on. <p>Gerry Murphy stated that a review of Laois festivals was currently taking place and they identified the need to expand beyond the Electric Picnic.</p> <p>Pat Culleton suggested that the Construction Industry Federation could be invited to make a presentation to the S.P.C. members during the year.</p> <p>Cllr Conor Bergin requested that all elected members be briefed with an update similar to this morning in relation to supports offered by the Business Support Unit and Local Enterprise Officer.</p> <p>This concluded the business of the meeting</p>		
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