



## MINUTES OF MEETING

<b>Project Name</b>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Strategic Policy Committee</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Enterprise, Economic Development &amp; Tourism</b></p>																								
<b>Purpose of Meeting</b>																									
<b>Location of Meeting</b>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Council Chamber</b></p>		<b>Date and Time</b>																						
			<p>11.00 am</p> <p>1<sup>st</sup> September 2022</p>																						
<b>In attendance</b>	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="background-color: #FFD700;">Name</th> <th style="background-color: #FFD700;">Representing</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Cllr. Conor Bergin</td> <td>Chairperson SPC</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cllr. Aidan Mullins</td> <td>Member LCC</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Deirdre O’Connell-Hopkins</td> <td>Trade Union Rep</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pat Culleton</td> <td>Dev/Construction Rep</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pat Hennessy</td> <td>Agriculture/Farming Rep</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Gerry Murphy (GM), Head of Finance</td> <td>LCC</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mark Clancy (MC), Business Advisor, LEO</td> <td>LCC</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Denise Rainey (DR), Administrative Officer, BSU</td> <td>LCC</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Elaine Moore (EM), Administrative Officer</td> <td>LCC</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sheila Cahill (SC), Staff Officer BSU</td> <td>LCC</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Name	Representing	Cllr. Conor Bergin	Chairperson SPC	Cllr. Aidan Mullins	Member LCC	Deirdre O’Connell-Hopkins	Trade Union Rep	Pat Culleton	Dev/Construction Rep	Pat Hennessy	Agriculture/Farming Rep	Gerry Murphy (GM), Head of Finance	LCC	Mark Clancy (MC), Business Advisor, LEO	LCC	Denise Rainey (DR), Administrative Officer, BSU	LCC	Elaine Moore (EM), Administrative Officer	LCC	Sheila Cahill (SC), Staff Officer BSU	LCC	
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<b>Apologies</b>	<p>Cllr. Aisling Moran</p> <p>Cllr Seamus McDonald</p> <p>Caroline Hofman</p> <p>P.J. Phelan</p>		<p>Member LCC</p> <p>Member LCC</p> <p>Business/Commercial Rep</p> <p>Community/Voluntary Rep</p>																						

Item No.	Description	Action By	Date for Completion
1.	<p><b>Confirmation of minutes</b> Minutes of meeting of 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2022 were proposed by Cllr Aidan Mullins and seconded by Pat Culleton.</p>		
2.	<p><b>LEO Update</b></p> <p>Mark Clancy (MC) provided an update on the works being carried out by the Local Enterprise Office (Attached).</p> <p>The Report on the Evaluation of the Start Your Own Business Programme to be circulated to all members after the meeting.</p> <p><b>BSU Update</b></p> <p>Denise Rainey (DR) provided an update on the current projects being carried out by the Business Support Unit (BSU). (Attached).</p> <p>Cllr Mullins referenced the involvement of the BSU with Downtown Portlaoise and queried if there is similar involvement with the Portarlinton Business Association. DR advised that there has been engagement with this group regarding the Portarlinton Façade Enhancement Scheme. GM also meets regularly with the Association.</p> <p>Cllr Bergin complimented the recent Invest in Laois signage on the approach roads to Portlaoise. DR advised that these were arranged in collaboration with Laois Chamber.</p> <p>A discussion took place regarding the accommodation shortage in County Laois when events are on and Pat</p>		

	<p>Hennessy advised that he has been contacted by many National Ploughing Championship attendees in relation to this.</p>		
<b>3.</b>	<p><b>Tourism Update – Elaine Moore</b></p> <p>Elaine Moore (EM) provided an update on Tourism. (Attached).</p> <p>Cllr Bergin thanked Elaine for her update and welcomed her to her first SPC meeting since taking up the new role.</p> <p>Cllr Mullins queried what facilities will be provided at the Rock of Dunamase and Glenbarrow car parks. GM advised that the consultants are working on the report for the Rock of Dunamase car park which will require a Part 8. Planning permission has been granted for Glenbarrow carpark and this is expected to proceed in 2023.</p> <p>Cllr Bergin commented that September is an important month for Laois Tourism with the Electric Picnic and National Ploughing Championships taking place.</p>		
<b>4.</b>	<p><b>Laois Chamber – Caroline Hofman</b></p> <p>The update on the current activities of Laois Chamber was read out by Denise Rainey on behalf of Caroline Hofman. (Attached).</p> <p>Confirmation of the locations for the Budget 2023 Breakfast Briefing &amp; the Laois Business Awards 2022 to be circulated to all members after the meeting.</p> <p>GM confirmed that a new person is being recruited for Laois Tourism as part of the amalgamation with Laois Chamber. Cllr Bergin suggested that this person should attend the SPC meetings.</p>		

<p><b>5.</b></p>	<p><b>Sub-Committees of the SPC</b></p> <p>GM advised that the following sub-committees would be set up to enable the SPC to examine policy issues in more detail. The sub-committees would initially be set up to look at the following areas:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Remote Working Strategy for the County</li> <li>2. Tourism Strategy (including Brochure) for the County</li> </ol> <p>It was agreed that a minimum of 3 people would sit on each sub-committee.</p> <p>With regard to remote working, a discussion took place around how to promote more remote working in the hubs around the County.</p> <p>At the meeting there were two nominations for the Remote Working Strategy Sub-Committee: Deirdre O’Connell-Hopkins and Cllr Aidan Mullins</p> <p>Deirdre O’Connell-Hopkins advised the committee that for public sector employees, hubs cannot be used for blended working policy. This is pending a review.</p>		
<p><b>7.</b></p>	<p><b>Date of next meeting:</b></p> <p>Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> December 2022 @ 11am</p>		