



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Planning, Economic Development, Enterprise and European Affairs SPC 1st May 2024, Buvinda House and Hybrid

Attendees - Councillors: Cllrs. Stephen McKee (presided), Brian Fitzgerald, Joe Fox, Tommy Reilly, Aishling Dempsey

Attendees - Sectoral Reps: Sean Boyle, Fergal Hennessy

Officials: Majella Farrell, Pdraig Maguire, Michelle Goodwin, Ben Malone

Apologies: Michael Wall, Des Foley

Item	Discussion / Action
1.	<p>To adopt the minutes of the meeting of 9th February 2024</p> <p>The minutes of the meeting held on 9th February 2024 were adopted on the proposal of Cllr. Joe Fox and seconded by Cllr Brian Fitzgerald.</p>
2.	<p>To receive a presentation on compliance with the Ethical Framework for Non-Councillor Members of Committees</p> <p>Standing agenda item regarding Part 15 of the Local Government Act and in particular Sections 168, 169, 170 177(4) and 177.</p> <p>Majella Farrell highlighted to all present, that a member of a committee may be required to disclose a pecuniary or other beneficial interest at a meeting and the Committee Administrator should then advise a member of the appropriate course of action and record such a disclosure in the meeting minutes.</p>
3.	<p>To receive a presentation on Meath Biodiversity Action Plan 2025 – 2030 – Pre Draft Consultation</p> <p>Ben Malone, Biodiversity Officer gave a presentation on the Meath Biodiversity Action Plan 2025 – 2030 Pre-Draft Consultation and outlined the development stages of the plan over the next 12 months. The SPC Members complimented the presentation and acknowledged the excellent work that is going on behind the scenes in this area. The Members raised the following as things to be considered in the development of the plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Importance of Water quality across the county, particularly as Meath looks to promote itself as a key Food & Agri producer & resources need to be increased for septic tank inspections • Farmers should receive credit for work done on hedgerows • Attention needs to be paid to SAC – activity impacting the area around the dunes



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4.	<p>To receive a brief update on the Development Levies Waiver Scheme</p> <p>Majella Farrell gave a brief presentation on the extension of the Development Levies Temporary Waiver Scheme and Circular PL 02/2024. She outlined that the water connection waivers only apply until 30th September, while the waiver for the Planning contributions for eligible developments will apply until 31st December 2024.</p> <p>Members noted that the scheme has been hugely successful in helping developers move on with units but that the scheme had led to lot of additional administrative work for the Planning team without additional resources.</p> <p>There was an enquiry about if MCC had put additional restrictions in place around the area of proving that the work had commenced. MF explained that MCC had to be able to prove that all waived contributions related to eligible developments, if audited by the funding Department. Due to the number of units commencing in the county, the Council did not have the capacity to inspect them all.</p> <p>Clarity on this has now been provided by the Department of Housing as to the proof required, as part of Circular PL 02/2024.</p>
5.	<p>To receive a presentation on the Meath County Council Economic Development Strategic Action Plan</p> <p>Michelle Goodwin presented some high level results of the recently completed Skills Audit for the county, She then moved onto the Meath County Council Economic Development Strategic Action Plan and outlined the vision for the plan, the overarching actions as well as the main objectives for the Short to Medium term i.e. the next 2 to 5 years. She confirmed that the completed document would be circulated to all the SPC members as soon as the wording was finalised.</p> <p>The Members acknowledged the work of the Meath Economic Development Forum Members in driving on this action plan. They also commended the Economic Development team for the progress made to date with regards to promoting the economic growth of the County. Members outlined their support for the action plan and stressed some of the key actions to focus on, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Acquire suitable development land• Support the development of educational facilities, particularly in Dunboyne• Work closely with the IDA on promoting Meath to international clients and link in with Embassies to further this agenda



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6.	<p><u>Any Other Business</u></p> <p>There were no issues raised under AOB</p> <p>As this was the last meeting before the Local Elections in June, M Farrell took this opportunity, on behalf of Des Foley, Director of Services, to thanks all of the committee for their hard work and enthusiasm over the last 5 years.</p>
7.	<p><u>Next Meeting - To be agreed post the Local Elections</u></p>
	<p><u>Recommendations from SPC Committee to Corporate Policy Group.</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Agreed the Meath County Council Economic Development Strategic Action Plan for the short to medium term, to promote and assist with the economic growth of the County.