



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Planning, Economic Development, Enterprise and European Affairs SPC

Thursday 6th July 2023, Buvinda House and Hybrid

Attendees - Councillors: Cllrs. Stephen McKee (presided) Alan Tobin (Online), Joe Fox, Tommy Reilly, Pdraig Fitzsimons (Online), Helen Meyer (Online) Sarah Reilly (Online) Elaine McGinty, Brian Fitzgerald

Apologies: Cllr Aishling Dempsey

Attendees - Sectoral Representatives: Fergal Hennessy (replacing John Curran IFA), Sean Boyle

Officials: Des Foley, Pdraig Maguire, Majella Farrell, Alison Condra, Wendy Bagnall, Irene Lynch, Loreto Guinan, Mary McCarthy, Fiona Fallon

Item	Discussion / Action
1.	<p><u>To adopt the minutes of the meeting of 24th March 2023</u></p> <p>The minutes of the meeting held on 24th March 2023 were adopted on the proposal of Cllr. J. Fox and seconded by Cllr. S McKee.</p>
2.	<p><u>To confirm compliance with the Ethical Framework for Non-Councillor Members of Committees – standing item</u></p> <p>M Farrell raised the issue of compliance with the Ethical Framework for Non-Councillor Members, and asked for any potential areas of conflict to be identified, if applicable.</p> <p>No issues were raised.</p>
	<p>The Chair agreed to deal with item 5 from the Agenda first, to receive a presentation on the Draft Meath LECP 2023 - 2029</p>
3.	<p><u>Agenda Item 5. To receive a presentation on the Draft Meath LECP 2023 - 2029</u></p> <p>Members of the SPC received a presentation from Fiona Fallon, Senior Executive Officer, Community Department on the Draft Meath LECP 2023 – 2029. This outlined the structure of the draft document as well as the process followed to develop the Goals outlined in the plan. Details were given on the 7 Goals and all the associated objectives.</p> <p>The approval of the Economic elements of the Meath LECP was sought from the SPC.</p>



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

	<p>Des Foley acknowledged the significant work that had gone into getting the plan to this stage. It was noted by Cllr Meyer that the new Census figures may require the plan to be updated and F. Fallon confirmed that the initial implementation will be over a period of two years, and the plan will be reviewed again at that stage.</p> <p>The Members were supportive of the document and the approval of the Economic elements was proposed by Cllr J Fox and seconded by Cllr T Reilly.</p>
4.	<p><u>Agenda Item 3 - To receive a presentation on the Meath Economic Development Strategy Roadmap.</u></p> <p>Des Foley, Director of Services gave a presentation on the new Meath Economic Development Roadmap document, which was launched at the end of June. Des also confirmed the intention to establish a Meath Economic Development Forum, to progress the objectives of the Roadmap, as well as help with the direction of a new strategy.</p> <p>Padraig Maguire, Senior Planner, highlighted the Planning role in facilitating economic growth, and the pre-planning services that are available. He noted the importance of engaging at this stage with potential investors, as well as the need to address infrastructure & housing provision to encourage development. He confirmed that MCC had requested a meeting with the Department to discuss the Core Strategy numbers.</p> <p>Members of the committee had the following comments;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Previous Economic Development Strategy was a game changer for Meath and important to note the role that Jackie Maguire, former CE played in driving this.• Importance of identifying the right people to sit on the Forum• Further developments are needed for critical infrastructure in some of our small towns and villages to allow them to grow. Need to address any delays with IW in provision of services.• The regeneration schemes will be great for the towns selected.• Support of indigenous industries is very important when implementing the Roadmap.• Encouraging to see that steps are being taken to address the Core Strategy numbers with the Department. <p>Padraig Maguire confirmed that Meath would engage with Senior Planners in neighbouring local authorities to ensure a consistent message is going to the Department in relation to the Core Strategy. He noted that some towns/villages have restrictions on the level of development that can happen due to water services provision and consideration has to be given as to whether or not projects are viable rather than just feasible.</p>

Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

	<p>Cllr McKee rounded off the discussion by stating support for the Roadmap document, and the importance of driving it on through the future work of the Forum.</p>
<p>5.</p>	<p><u>Agenda Item 4 - To receive a presentation on the Draft Development Contribution Scheme</u></p> <p>Majella Farrell, A/Senior Executive Officer made a presentation with respect to the draft Development Contribution Scheme 2024 -2029 and outlined the main changes from the existing scheme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Introduce a levy for domestic extensions over 100m²• Introduce a waiver for development of accommodation for disabled persons, where a Housing Adaptation Grant or similar has been approved.• Simplify the method of calculating contributions due for agricultural developments – only apply to those in excess of 900m² (will be looked at cumulatively if there are number of development proposals)• Amend the basis for charging development contributions for quarry/extractive industries to be based on tonnage of material extracted each calendar year.• Introduce a charge for land filling/reclamation based on the tonnage of material imported. <p>Members of the committee had the following comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 100m² was a large domestic extension, so they had no issue with this amendment• Clarity was sought on the details of the residential waiver scheme• Community funds established in relation to certain developments need to be managed properly with MCC input into where the funding is allocated• Need to look nationally at how Solar Farms and Wind Farms are being treated, there is a lot of potential for funding for local groups and clubs. <p>Padraig Maguire confirmed that the new way of charging for quarries is more in line with relevant costs incurred by local authorities in road maintenance etc. He also confirmed that Solar Farm charges will depend on the megawatt output, and that communities will benefit greatly from this. He also stressed the importance of supporting these types of renewable energies to Ireland meeting it's overall energy targets and addressing climate change.</p> <p>Members were asked to recommend to the CPG that the Draft scheme go on public display in September, with a view to having the report on submissions presented to Full Council in November. Cllr Joe Fox proposed this recommendation and Cllr Tommy Reilly seconded it.</p>



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

<p>6.</p>	<p><u>Agenda Item 6 – to receive a presentation on the County Meath Strategic Heritage Plan 2023 – 2030 (Draft)</u></p> <p>Loreto Guinan, Meath Heritage Officer gave a presentation on the draft County Meath Strategic Heritage Plan. It gave an overview of the public consultation process and the strategic themes developed from this. It outlined the next steps in the development of the plan including the Environmental Assessment and placing the Draft Plan on public display.</p> <p>Des Foley commended Loreto and Mary McCarthy for all their good work as part of the Heritage team.</p> <p>Members of the committee had the following comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Important to see the plan progressed so that the actions identified can be developed further• The heritage of County Meath is an integral part of what makes it an attractive place to live and visit.• The Heritage team do excellent work and should be resourced appropriately. Important to do more with the assets that we have <p>Loreto Guinan confirmed that there are lots of new opportunities and technology to make sites come alive, which will further help the promotion of the sites in question.</p> <p>Members were asked to recommend to the CPG that the Draft Plan go on public display in September, with a view to having the report on submissions presented to the SPC & Full Council later this year. Cllr Joe Fox proposed this recommendation and Cllr Brian Fitzgerald seconded it.</p>
<p>7.</p>	<p><u>AOB</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Des Foley confirmed for noting, that the work of the Dublin Belfast Economic Corridor initiative is continuing, where Meath is one of 8 local authorities North and South of the border taking part. It is forming a political advisory board and the proposal is that the Chair of the SPC Cllr McKee, and Cllr Tobin would represent the East Meath area and sit on this board.• Cllr Tobin requested that the executive follow up on arranging a presentation on Solar or Wind farms to a future meeting of the committee, Des Foley confirmed that we would look at this.• Dates for the next two meetings for 2023 were agreed: Friday 29th September @ 2.30pm & Friday 15th December @ 2.30pm <p>The meeting concluded at approximately 4.30pm</p>



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

	<p><u>Recommendations from SPC Committee to Corporate Policy Group.</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Agreed to proceed with putting the Draft Development Contribution Scheme on public display in September2. Agreed to proceed with putting the Draft County Meath Strategic Heritage Plan on public display in September3. Agreed to approve the Economic elements of the Draft LECP
--	--