

**Chairman's Report of
Meeting of Economic Development, Enterprise Support & Tourism (SPC1)
held on 16th June 2017 in Meeting Room 1**

1. Fiona Deegan circulated the LEO Local Enterprise Development Plan 2017 – 2020 and confirmed that the plan sets out the actions that the LEO propose to deliver over the next 4 years, in particular in 2017. Ms. Deegan clarified the budget allocation for 2017 as €262,450 for Measure 1 activities and €217,285 for Measure 2 activities. Ms. Deegan outlined the Key Performance Metrics which are used by Enterprise Ireland to monitor the impact of the LEOs, comparing 2016 outputs with 2017 and 2020 targets. It was noted in particular that 255 additional jobs were created in LEO Kilkenny client supported companies in 2016.
Ms. Deegan stated that approval had been received from Enterprise Ireland in the last number of weeks in relation to the plan and following discussion, it was proposed by Cllr. Pat Fitzpatrick, seconded by Cllr. Peter Cleere and agreed to adopt the plan for 2017.
2. Brid Hynes circulated a detailed update of the Economic actions in the LECP and provided a verbal update on one individual action under each of the goals to highlight the sample of work that is being undertaken at present.
3. Martin Prendiville provided an update on the Abbey Creative Quarter.
4. Aisling Hayes provided an update on a number of initiatives that are underway to enhance the visitor experience, address market changes, develop tourism potential and build on Kilkenny's Tourism capability.
5. Brid Hynes provided an update on the Small Business Vacant Premises Incentive Scheme, the scheme adopted by the SPC in late 2015 with the aim of encouraging business to occupy vacant commercial premises that have been vacant for over six months. The first Evaluation Committee meeting took place on May 4th 2017 with 5 applications being considered. One application was successful, due to displacement issues. A review of the scheme was undertaken and the following amendments to scheme are being recommended:
 - A PR campaign for the scheme;
 - A pre-application meeting to take place between the potential applicant and a member of the Business Support Unit to discuss criteria and eligibility;
 - Application Form to be issued only following the pre-application meeting.

It is hoped that these amendments will provide greater awareness and clarity for potential applicants in advance of applications being made. Following a discussion on the scheme the SPC members approved the changes to the scheme.

6. Any Other Business

Martin Prendiville updated the members on the revaluation of all commercial properties rates and stated that the last time valuations were carried out was in the 1980's with ongoing debate on rates since. Mr. Prendiville stated that all commercial properties received a Proposed Revaluation Cert with a 60% decrease, 30% increase, 10% no change. The deadline for appeals to Valuation Office is Monday 19/6/17 and this can be also carried out online. Mr. Prendiville stated that staff were taking calls and answering questions and further stated that less than 50% responded to valuation office when requested originally.

7. It was agreed that the next meeting of the SPC1 would take place on Friday 15th September 2017 at 11am in meeting room 1 County Hall.

PAT MILLEA
Chairman

Date