

Chairman's Report of
Meeting of Economic Development, Enterprise Support and Tourism (SPC1)
Held via MS Teams on Friday 5th March 2021

1. Mr. Sean McKeown advised that the current Rates Waiver Scheme is in place until the end of March and the Government has further agreed to extend same to the end of June with more restrictive criteria.
2. An update on the strategic level actions of the LECP had been circulated in advance of the meeting and taken as read and questions were welcomed on same. Mr. McKeown advised that the review and preparation of the LECP is due to commence in 2021, following guidelines to be issued from the Department. Mr. McKeown advised the committee that the economic elements of the Plan will continue to be under the direction of SPC1 and the social and community elements will continue to be under the direction of the LCDC. Ms. Fiona Deegan provided an update on one action from each of the 9 goals.
3. Ms. Deegan took the committee through the 2020 Outcomes for LEO (which had been circulated prior to the meeting), noting that the SPC provide a monitoring role on the KPIs of the LEO. Ms. Deegan advised that it had been a very busy year for the staff and funding for two additional temporary staff had been provided by Enterprise Ireland to assist with the increased workload. Some of the key points from the 2020 outcome were as follows:
 - €513,459 in direct financial assistance to a total of 28 businesses.
 - €274,889 paid to 56 Business under the LEO Covid-19 Client Stimulus Fund.
 - €694,643 was approved to 302 business through the Trading on line Voucher Scheme.
 - 1,676 clients participated in 119 Training and Management Development programmes.
 - 1,133 clients availed of one to one mentoring.
4. Mr. Denis Malone provided a brief overview on the Draft City and County Development Plan, noting that there is one plan with two volumes – City and County with 12 appendices. Mr. Malone went through the process and indicated that the entire process will continue to mid-summer. He also advised that there is a dedicated consult website <https://ourplan.kilkenny.ie>
5. Following a circular from the Department, Mr. McKeown advised that under the Government's Climate Action Plan 2019 (action 165), Local Authorities are required to identify and develop plans for a Decarbonising Zone (DZ). A recommendation will be made to the Department by the end of April on where the DZ should be. An implementation plan has to be developed by the end of this year to include the projects and initiatives aimed at:
 - Electricity sourcing;
 - Heat Management;
 - Public Transport;
 - Buildings to be more energy efficient;
 - Soft Bio Diversity measures; and
 - Reduce Co2 emissions – encourage cycling and green spaces.The target is to have a 7% decrease in greenhouse gases per annum, 50% decrease by 2030 and to be Carbon Neutral by 2050.

6. Ms. Fiona O Neill spoke about the Changing Places initiative and explained that there was a need for a Changing Places Facility in the City and the lack of same, could have an impact on Tourism as Kilkenny could be perceived to be not accessible.
7. It was agreed that the next meeting of the SPC1 would take place on Friday 25th June 2021.

Date: _____

CLLR. Ger Frisby

Chairman