



Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe
Galway County Council

Coiste Polasaí Straitéiseach Gnóthaí Forbairt Eacnamaíochta & Fiontraíochta
Economic Development & Enterprise Strategic Policy Committee (SPC)
Cruinniú /Meeting

Thursday 6th December 2017

Council Offices, Galway County Council, Galway

Members in attendance

Cllr. Peter Feeney, Chairperson	Galway County Council
Cllr. Mary Hoade	Galway County Council
Cllr. Seán Ó Tuairisg	Galway County Council
Cllr. Tom Healy	Galway County Council
Cllr. Karey McHugh	Galway County Council
Cllr. Joe Byrne	Galway County Council

Present

Kevin Kelly	Galway County Council
Alan Farrell	Galway County Council
Kieran Coyne	Galway County Council
Brian Barrett	Galway County Council
Breda Mulrennan	Galway County Council
Dan Dowling	Community representative
Paul Mannion	Scott Tallon Walker Architects

Apologies

Paul Quinn	Trade Union Representative
Breda Fox	Galway County Council
Michelle Murphy	Business / Commercial representative

1. Minutes of the meeting of the Economic Development & Enterprise SPC held on 17th October 2017 & matters arising

The minutes of the meeting held on 17th of October 2017 were approved on the proposal of Cllr. Tom Healy and seconded by Cllr. Mary Hoade.

There were no matters arising.

2. Galway West of Ireland European Region of Gastronomy 2018 Update

Alan Farrell updated the committee on the status of the European Region of Gastronomy 2018. He said that Galway County Council that Elaine Donohue, Programme Coordinator had been making excellent progress since her appointment and that she was engaging with all the stakeholders in the development of the programme of events and projects. Mr Farrell advised that Galway County Council were facilitating the Supporting SMEs and Innovation subgroup and that the Council are currently working with the *Producers Group* and the *Service Sector Group* to develop a number of initiatives to support the designation and economic/enterprise development. The initiatives being progressed included the development of a Charter, Marketing & Promotional opportunities and the Galway Gastro Box. He advised that it was important that the private sector had ownership of opportunities presented and that the Council would work with them to see them realised.

3. Enterprise Ireland – Regional Economic Development Fund (REDF)

Alan Farrell gave an update to the committee on the Bia Innovator Project and stated that it was envisaged that a funding announcement would be issued but this was postponed until Monday. He advised that the Council were going to undertake the Part VIII planning process for the Bia Innovator Campus Part and that work was currently underway to prepare the necessary documentation including a number of technical reports identified as necessary as part of a pre-planning meeting.

Brian Barrett then updated the meeting on a joint funding application which has been submitted to Enterprise Ireland by Galway County Council and Roscommon County Council for funding under the Regional Enterprise Development Fund to undertake a proposal to collectively develop and market enterprise space in Athlone, Ballinasloe, and Roscommon. If funding is secured it is planned that the project will be rolled out over the next 3 years in conjunction with Ballinasloe Area Community Development, WESTBIC and the 2 Councils.

Cllr. Feeney enquired as to whether the enterprise centres will be in competition with each other. Brian Barrett replied that they will all have different clients. Cllr. O Tuairisg informed the meeting that there is an enterprise centre in Carna but that the unemployment rate in Carna and Lettermore is the worst in the County, he enquired as to whether there is anything that we can do to address this issue. Alan Farrell replied that Pairc na Mara provided an excellent opportunity

for the area and that it would build on the work being undertaken by the Council, Údarás na Gaeltachta and the other development agencies. He said that he would be working with Údarás through a working group and that he has spoken with them regarding the link with the incubation hub in Athenry. He assured the meeting that Galway County Council will support Pairc na Mara from an economic development perspective and that the Council were also providing ongoing planning advice to assist with the preparation of an application.

Cllr. Feeney asked if there is a possibility that Galway County Council could concentrate an element of our work effort on the most deprived areas and possibly highlight it to the Department. Alan Farrell said that the Council would be fully supportive of initiatives in areas of deprivation and that it was the intention of the Executive to work with, support and facilitate developments that contribute to the economic and enterprise development of the Council. He advised that he will ask Údarás na Gaeltachta to give a presentation to this SPC on Pairc na Mara. Cllr. O Turaisig stated that if the infrastructure was in place we could concentrate on attracting enterprise to the area.

4. Galway Airport

Brian Barrett gave an update on Galway Airport and stated that we have received four Expressions of Interest for the two hangars for use as a film studio. A panel will be put in place and we will proceed from there.

Alan Farrell stated that a joint master plan between the Planning and CEED units regarding the airport has been devised and we will place it on our core workplan for 2018.

5. Town and Village Renewal and REDZ Phase II Update

Kieran Coyne updated the committee on the status of Town and Village Renewal Scheme. He stated that thirteen applications were approved by the Department. A procurement workshop was organised by Galway County Council for the communities who received funding under this scheme.

Cllr. Feeney enquired as to the town and village 2016 drawdown figures and Kieran Coyne replied that the 2016 scheme is 90% drawn down to date. Cllr. Healy stated that the period of drawdown issued by the Department is not sufficient. Alan Farrell advised that the timelines for the a number of Schemes which were being administered by the Council, some in conjunction with the LCDC, had very difficult timelines and the Department had received feedback in relation to the issues. He advised that it is intended that the REDZ phase II funding will be build capacity on the ground in the communities and assist them with the preparation of plans and future projects.

6. Tourism, Capital and infrastructure Scheme

Brian Barrett gave an update on the scheme and informed the meeting that 30 applications were received and that they are currently being filtered to see if there are any other eligible funding streams available. All applications after the filtering will be asked to fill in an Expression of Interest in order to create a shortlist.

He informed the meeting that Galway County has a stand at the Tourism Expo in Dublin, Belfast and Limerick. The stand is divided into two - one promoting European Region of Gastronomy and the other promoting tourism in South Galway, East Galway and Connemara. The areas are currently putting together packages to sell.

7. NWRA

The NWRA papers in relation to the RSES were circulated to all. Brian Barrett informed the meeting that the Planning and the CEED unit will be making a submission on behalf of Galway County Council. He stated that submissions may be made by individuals but advised that if the members of the SPC wanted to that they could forward submissions to him and that he would submit them to the NWRA on behalf of the members.

8. AOB

Alan Farrell asked if the SPC could think about their work programme for 2018 and inform the CEED unit of same.

The next meeting was provisionally scheduled for Tuesday the 20th of February 2018 at 2pm.

Cllr. Byrne enquired as to whether a funding stream list could be made available to the SPC for their information. Brian Barrett informed the committee that it is possible and we will forward same.