

DAN DOWLING

ECONOMIC SPC 19/05/2020

Key Issues Discussed

Overview of SPC

Chairperson Councillor Kasey McHugh gave an overview of the operation of the SPC under the new Covid guidelines

Operation of SPC

Each SPC will agree its annual programme which has to be linked to the corporate plan of the Council

Role of SPC

The corporate policy co-ordinate the work and monitor the programmes of the SPCs. SPCs advise and assist Council in formulation and development of policy.

Work Programme

Mr Farrell gave a list of items included in the work programme.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, ENTERPRISE SUPPORT, ECONOMIC ELEMENTS OF THE OF LECP REINITIATION OF TOWNS, TOURISM STRATEGY.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

MR FARRELL advised that the Council are required to complete a LECP every six years. The current plan runs until

2022

ENTERPRISE SUPPORT

SUPPORT

Mr Farrell said there are various enterprise supports provided at business and community level and that the local Enterprise office provides many direct

Regeneration and Revitalisation of Towns

Mr Farrell outlined the work of the Regeneration which had been put in place to carry out this task and maximise opportunities under various funding schemes. He highlighted a number of schemes that had been put in place. Mr Kieran Coyne stated there were various community funding from R.R.D.F.

ATLANTIC ECONOMIC CORRIDOR

Mr Farrell advised that Mr Brian Leonard ~~was~~ Atlantic Economic officer would come before the SPC at a later date to outline how hubs can be developed and the importance these hubs will play in people working from home. The purpose of the Atlantic Corridor is to provide a counterbalance to Dublin and the East

TOURISM

The Committee were ~~also~~ advised that the Tourism officer had started with the Council at the end of 2019. She is working on a Tourism strategy. She is also working the Budden Headlands and the Wild Atlantic Way within Falcúe Ireland.

FOOD

Mr Farrell advised that food and agriculture were key sectors in the development of the county. This combined with the designation of Galway as European Region of Gastronomy and the BIA Innovator Campus in Aghery should be transformational for GALWAY CO CO

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF GALWAY CO. ASSETS

Mr Farnell said the council continue to examine how it can maximise its assets under various funding schemes. He said the Galway airport which is jointly by Galway Co Co and Galway city has tremendous potential developments prospects.

Observations

Mr Dowling as PPN Representative made the following observations

Tourism and the development of the airport will be important going forward. He stated from a development point of view we are facing stormy waters and that after coming from COVID we will be facing stormy waters. A lot of businesses particularly in the tourism and hospitality industry won't be viable and will struggle to RE-OPEN. We in the SPC need to take notice of this and do our utmost to help these groups. Mr Dowling also stated that the safety valve of emigration will not be available this time. We are an exporting country and all the countries that we are exporting to will also be in recession.

Other remarks

All other people in attendance expressed sentiments similar to Mr Dowling.

Mr Farnell said that everyone from the Council recognises that we are in a different position and we in the SPC will have to do