

**Minutes of the Economic Development & Enterprise SPC**  
**26<sup>th</sup> May 2020**  
**Via Zoom**

**In attendance:** Cllr Lola O'Sullivan (Chair), Cllr Conor D McGuinness, Cllr Declan Clune, Gerty Murphy, David Walsh, David Lane, Garrett Wyse, Cllr Pat Nugent, Cllr Eddie Mulligan

**Apologies:** Jen Harris

**Staff:** Michael Quinn, Lisa Grant

**Economic Recovery Plan**

Michael Quinn provided an overview of the DRAFT Economic Recovery Plan which was circulated in advance of the meeting. Members were invited to make comments on the draft and Michael acknowledged that a number of email submissions had already been received from the Elected Members which would be taken into consideration when finalising the plan. He also highlighted that capital investment of €8m for Mount Congreve was to be included.

In response to a query regarding finance for the plan, Michael clarified that most grants were from the DBEI. A revised budget will be presented to the Council meeting on June 24<sup>th</sup>.

Michael briefed members on the Restart Grant which will be funded from Central Government. Lisa is to circulate the scheme FAQs. Michael will revert once there is clarification on the resources required for the scheme.

Garrett Wyse recommended using the PPN structure as a method of communicating the plan.

In relation to the Visit Waterford tourism promotion campaign, queries were raised as to how Waterford would differentiate itself from other areas also focusing on attracting domestic visitors. Michael outlined that a key focus will be on Waterford's great outdoors in particular the Greenway and that Visit Waterford has been working with operators across Waterford to put together packages to attract visitors.

Additional proposals to promote Waterford were suggested including promoting Waterford on Irish Rail and on Dublin buses.

In response to a query re Tramore, Lisa advised that draft public realm proposals for the Lower Prom had been presented to the Tramore TCMG which include removal of car parking on the Lower Prom to facilitate additional outdoor seating for businesses including Moe's, Molly's and McCarthys. Waterford Council and Waterford Chamber are engaging with the affected businesses directly on the proposals.

Members were asked to submit any additional comments on the Draft Economic Recovery Plan by close of business on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> May.

**AOB**

**Brand Waterford**

Michael briefed members on progress on developing a new brand to promote Waterford. Lisa is to share the link to the online consultation. Michael advised that RIKON has produced data to

support Waterford growth to 2040. The next step is to use the new branding to develop a marketing prospectus for investors.

#### **CE & TUS Schemes**

Gerty raised an issue re staff on a CE and TUS Scheme in Tallow re meeting Covid H&S requirements. Lisa to refer to Don Tuohy in Community to see if assistance can be provided.

Gerty passed her thanks to the Council staff or their work during Covid and in particular in supporting the work of the Tidy Towns.

#### **Dunmore East**

Cllr Mulligan queried whether a one-way system could be put in place in Dunmore East for the summer months. Michael to raise with Roads.

#### **Development Plan**

Michael advised that the Development Plan was delayed due to Covid and has not commenced. Once an updated timeline is available it will be circulated.