



Minutes for Strategic Policy Committee (SPC) Meeting for Economic Development & Enterprise
Waterford Airport
Tuesday 25th February 2025 @ 10:00am

Present (Members)	• Cllr. Lola O’Sullivan (Chair) • Cllr. Jason Murphy • Cllr. Pat Nugent • Cllr. Mary Roche • Cllr. David Daniels • Cllr. Joeanne Bailey • Cllr. Thomas Phelan •	• Oren Byrne • Regina Mangan • Anne Curran • Ehsan Elahi • David Lane
Present (WCCC Officials)	• Michael Quinn • Lisa Grant	
Others	William Bolster, Waterford Airport Chief Executive	
Apologies	• Cllr. Donnchadh Mulcahy	

Item No.	Decisions Taken	Responsibility/Action/When ?
1. Briefing on Waterford Airport	Mr Bolster, Waterford Airport Chief Executive, briefed members on the current situation to secure government funding for the planned runway extension. The key issue is securing a Government letter confirming support for matched funding. He noted that while the inclusion of the airport in the new PfG was very positive, a decision is needed soon or the development window in the current year will have passed. The build will take approx. 9 months once funding is approved. In the absence of confirmation of the government funding, it is not possible to tender for the works required to undertake the runway extension. The Committee were also briefed on the significant level of daily activity happening in the airport, which currently employs 16 FT staff. This includes Atlantic Flight Training, small cargo, general aviation and the CHC sea rescue. CHC will transition to Bristow Ireland Ltd in the coming months and Waterford Airport is one of only four dedicated bases across Ireland for the SAR (search and rescue) aviation services under the new contract signed with the Dept of Transport and Bristow Ireland Ltd. There is also a new 8 seater charter service based in Waterford operated by Stellaer and other opportunities to grow ancillary services are being identified.	



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	Waterford Airport is also engaging with Ryan Air, who are committed to flying into Waterford, on making the airport attractive in terms of choice of destination, complimenting rather than competing with Cork and price points. A Master Plan has been developed for Waterford Airport which includes the 24 acres adjacent to the airport which is multi zoned. Following the briefing there was an opportunity for Q&A. It was recommended that it was important to maintain the political pressure including the lobbying of Minister Brown to ensure he is informed. Mr Bolster was invited to a future Plenary meeting to brief the full membership. Mr Bolster was thanked for his time and facilitating a visit to Waterford Airport.	
2. Minutes & Matters Arising	There were no matters arising from the minutes dated 11th December 2024. The minutes were proposed by Cllr Pat Nugent and seconded by Cllr Joanne Bailey.	The adopted minutes will be published on Waterford Council's website.
3. WCCC Rates Waiver Scheme	A briefing document was circulated in advance of the meeting. There was a discussion on both elements of the proposed new combined scheme.	
	M Quinn advised that in terms of the waiver for vacant units, the focus would continue to be on the city and town centres across Waterford.	L Grant to circulate report on impact of the Economic Incentive Scheme for vacant properties.
	R Mangan raised a query regarding the viability of the Commercial Rates Energy Discount Scheme and highlighted that in some instances of rented and/or older buildings, the costs of upgrades may be prohibitive. She further recommended that the publication of case studies may help incentivise a further uptake of the scheme.	L Grant to contact the Climate Change Team to recommend the development of case studies. A member of the Climate Change Team is to be invited to present at the next SPC meeting.
	The adoption of the Commercial Rates Waiver Scheme was proposed by Cllr David Daniels and seconded by Cllr Thomas Phelan.	Final clarification will be sought from the Head of Finance to ensure the proposal complies with the new Regulations and whether there is a requirement for public consultation.



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4. WCCC Casual Trading Byelaws amendment	A briefing document outlining the proposed amendments to the Casual Trading Byelaws was circulated in advance of the meeting.	
	Correction to information shared at the meeting: There are two existing licensed mobile saunas operating in Waterford. One at Kilmurrin and the other at Clonea. There is also a license for a tea/coffee unit at Clonea not currently utilised.	
	There was a discussion on whether there was a requirement to provide any information re safe swimming at locations where licenses were proposed. Cllr O'Sullivan advised that she would be raising the issue of water safety and operation of mobile saunas nationally with Waterford Safety and the Minister.	The Executive will consider the need for any additional safety information.
	A query was raised about whether the mobile saunas would be parked overnight at their licensed locations, impacting on residents.	F Brophy to attend Municipal District meetings to agree exact location of licences and overnight parking can be considered at MD level.
	A query was also raised re a tea/coffee unit operating on private property in Clonea. M Quinn advised that this is an issue for Planning.	
	The proposed amendments to the Casual Trading Byelaws were proposed by Oren Byrne and seconded by Cllr Mary Roche.	
5. Draft Multi-Annual Work Programme	The Draft Work Programme 2024-2029 was circulated in advance of the meeting. L Grant advised that if new topics of relevance to the SPC arise this can be added into the work programme. The Work Programme was approved.	L Grant to forward the Work Programme to the CPG for their consideration.
6. Review of WCCC Festival & Events Application & Adjudication Process	A briefing document was circulated in advance of the meeting. There was a brief discussion on the allocation of funding at geographic level and the disparity of funding allocated to festivals. It was noted that the final allocation of funding was a decision for the Plenary Council and that the Executives' role is to undertake an initial assessment and make recommendations. It was agreed that workshops would be held at Municipal District level in advance of Plenary adoption and that access to the full applications would be made via Submit for Councillors.	L Grant to advise Executive involved in festival grants of the requirement to hold MD level workshops and to provide access to applications on Submit.
7. AOB	Cllr O'Sullivan thanked Lisa for her work with the SPC as she will be moving to Corporate Affairs in the coming months.	
	Cllr O'Sullivan asked the Chambers Ireland members to give an input at the next SPC meeting	



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	on the role of Chambers Ireland in supporting the work of the SPC and the delivery of the Multi Annual Work Programme.	
8. Date/time next meeting	Thursday 15 th May 2025 @ 10:00am Hybrid Meeting: Teams link already issued In person: Maritana Room, House of Waterford Crystal Building (First floor meeting room)	

There were no matters arising from the minutes dated 25th February 2025.

The minutes were proposed by Cllr Mary Roche and seconded by Cllr Joeanne Bailey.

Signed by: Cllr Lola O'Sullivan
Cllr Lola O'Sullivan, Chairperson