

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS AT MEETING OF THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, ENTERPRISE AND PLANNING STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, CITY HALL, MERCHANTS QUAY, LIMERICK ON MONDAY 13th FEBRUARY 2017 at 2 PM.

PRESENT IN THE CHAIR:

Councillor Noel Gleeson

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Councillors: Daniel Butler, Seamus Browne, Michael Collins, Liam Galvin, Elenora Hogan, Stephen Keary, Joe Leddin, Cian Prendiville, John Sheahan

SECTORAL REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT:

Brian Thompson, John Walsh

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:

Director of Economic Development (Dr. Pat Daly), CEO Innovate Limerick (Mike Cantwell), Chief Executive LEO (Eamon Ryan), Senior Executive Officer (Pat Fitzgerald), Senior Executive Officer (Brian Kennedy), Communications Officer (Laura Ryan), A/Senior Planner (Maria Woods), A/Senior Planner (Stephane Duclot), A/Senior Executive Planner (Karen Burke), Assistant Planner (Noreen O'Connell), Clerical Officer (Lorraine Conway)

Matters Arising

The Chairman observed a minutes silence for Karen Burke, Senior Executive Planner, on the recent passing of her father.

Item 1.

To adopt the minutes of the SPC meetings held on the 5th of December 2016 and the 9th of January 2017.

The draft minutes as circulated were adopted on the proposal of Michael Walsh, seconded by Cllr Joe Leddin.

Item 2

To consider Motion referred from full Council meeting on the 28th of November 2016:

Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. J. Scanlon.

I will move at the next meeting that, in future, (a) planning grants require fully cash backed Bonding where multiple housing developments are approved and (b) a fee be introduced to recover the cost of reprocessing invalid planning applications.

It was agreed that this item would be deferred to the next SPC meeting as Cllr J Scanlon was not in attendance.

Item3.

To consider Motion referred from the Municipal District of Newcastle West on the 7th of December 2016.

Notice of motion submitted by Cllr. J. Sheahan.

'I will move at the next meeting that the Council calls on Gas Networks Ireland to ensure that the proposed Gas Pipeline from Foynes to Kerry Co-op plant in Listowel, take into account the location, the design and capacity of the pipe for future potential demand i.e. the Industrial Landbank at Tarbert/Ballylongford, the Power Station in Tarbert, the existing manufacturing businesses in Glin and the future possibility that the people of Glin Town would have access to domestic gas supply.

Members were anxious that any investment by Gas Networks Ireland in a new gas pipeline from Foynes to Listowel be future proofed to ensure that its capacity is adequate for current and future demand from industry along the route and to make provision for town gas for Glin.

It was unanimously agreed to refer the motion back to the full Council with the recommendation that the Council write to Gas Networks Ireland calling on them to future proof their proposed investment.

Item 4.

To consider Notice of Motion referred from full Council meeting of the 23rd of January 2016.

Notice of motion submitted by Cllr. S. Keary

'I will move at the next meeting that Development Levies on all building projects commenced between 1st of January and 31st of December 2018 be reduced by 90% to provide a much needed incentive to the Construction Industry'.

While members were somewhat sympathetic to the motivation behind the Motion i.e. to kick start construction projects throughout the city and county, there was concern regarding the impact of the motion on the newly adopted Development Contribution Scheme. If the motion were passed by the Council a complete review of the Scheme adopted in January 2017 would need to take place.

It was agreed that the Council would monitor the effect of the existing Scheme on increased levels of construction and if it was found that it was not having the desired impact the members could undertake a review of the scheme at that stage.

Item 5.

To consider Motion referred from Council meeting on the 23rd of January 2017:

Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. J. Sheahan.

'That the €7 per sq metre rate of planning contribution for residential development be extended to towns and villages and do not have statutory zoned lands within a Local Area Plan. That the line defining the boundaries of such towns and villages be drawn for Development Contribution purposes only'.

Members expressed concern with the rates of contribution attaching to smaller towns and villages compared with the reduced rates in the larger towns. It was felt that the Scheme should treat all towns and villages whatever their size in an equitable manner.

Given the consequences of altering the recently adopted Development Contribution Scheme it was agreed that this motion would not be pursued at this stage but could be re-introduced at a future time if required.

Item 6

To consider Motion referred from full Council meeting on the 23rd of January 2017.

Notice of Motion submitted by Cllrs E. O'Brien, S. Keary, C. McMahon, R. O'Donoghue, K. Sheahan and A. Teskey.

'We will move at the next meeting that Limerick City and County Council call on the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport to extend the Wild Atlantic Way along the Shannon Estuary to Limerick City'.

The members were briefed on current tourism initiatives by the Director of Services. The Council is working closely with Failte Ireland in developing an Estuary Loop connecting Limerick with the Wild Atlantic Way

Item 7.

Forward Planning Work Schedule 2017.

Members received a presentation on Forward Planning Work Schedule 2017 from Maria woods.

- Maria Woods outlined a number of variations to the City Development Plan 2010-2016.
- Commence work on a City Centre Health Check
- Extensions of Local Area Plans
- Ireland 2040 – National Planning Framework

Members also received a presentation on Vacant site Levy from Karen Burke which outlined the following key stages:

- Legislative and policy context
- What is a Vacant Site
- Vacant site levy stage 1
- Potential Vacant Sites
- What should the Register look like
- Vacant site levy stage 2

The members thanked Maria and Karen for their presentations and a number of questions and answers followed.

Item 8.

Local Enterprise Office – 2016 End of Year Results

Eamon Ryan, CEO, Local Enterprise Office made a presentation to the members on their 2016 end of year results under the following headings:

- Functions of Local Enterprise Office
- Types of Business Supported
- Financial supports (Grant Aid)
- General criteria for Assessment
- Approvals for 2016 by sector/Geographic location of approvals
- Key outputs 2016
 - 39 grants approved - value €851,094

- 316 clients in LEO Portfolio (1,895 employees)
- Net new jobs for 2016 = 129
- New priorities for 2017
 - Phase II of Limerick Food Strategy Implementation
 - New Export Assistance Grant Max €2,500
 - Brexit related Programmes.

The members welcomed the presentation and complimented the LEO office on the amount of work that has taken place.

Date of next Meeting

Monday 3rd of April 2017 at 2pm

Item 7

A.O.B.

- Members requested an update on Limerick 2030 and O'Connell Street for future agenda.
- Brian Thompson requested that we follow up on a SES submission that was submitted in 2015 by PPN member supporting passive house design and the use of sustainable materials in the building of new houses to which no reply was received to date.

Signed: _____
Chairperson

Signed: _____
Secretary

Date:

Date: