

Chairman's Report of

SPC 1 Meeting of Economic Development, Enterprise Support, Tourism, Planning and Development Policy

Held in Council Chambers, Kilkenny County Council on Wednesday 8th December 2022

1. Presentation by Ms. Catherine Conroy & Mr. Gus Mabelson representing the Made in Kilkenny.

Ms. Conroy provided the background of the Made in Kilkenny group, which was founded in 2009, is a multidisciplinary craft group organised and run by its members on a voluntary basis. The mission of Made in Kilkenny is to promote Kilkenny County as the premier destination in Ireland for authentic handmade Irish craft of exceptional quality. Mr. Mabelson updated the group about the World Craft Council (European Division) noting that it is a non-profit membership organisation set up to promote an international interest in crafts and to encourage contact between the crafts people of different countries. There are 5 WCC European Craft Cities/Regions to which Kilkenny is one. All 5 regions travelled to Bornholm in Denmark from the 19th-22nd September to attend a conference of World Craft regions.

Mr. Mabelson concluded by setting out the ambitions of Made in Kilkenny. After much positive commentary from the SPC members on the work outlined. Cllr. Ger Frisby, Chair advised that both Kilkenny County Council and the Local Enterprise Office will support Made in Kilkenny with their ambitions as set out in whatever ways possible.

2. Mr Denis Malone provided an update on the Abbey Quarter regeneration project and on the North Quays SDZ.

3. Ms Aileen McGrath gave an update on the activities of the Local Enterprise Office (LEO) including information on the upcoming Careers Kilkenny Event which is taking place in the Medieval Mile Museum on Friday 30th December.

4. Ms. Martina Comerford provided an update on the Tourism initiatives which are being delivered throughout the year by Kilkenny County Council which included an update on:

Funding which has been received from Failte Ireland and the Department of Tourism, Arts, Culture, Media, Sports and the Gaeltacht, to deliver live performance outdoor space adjacent to the Watergate Theatre and to deliver a weather-proofed outdoor dining space at the Market Yard.

Urban Animation Projects, Kilkenny County Council has secured funding from Failte Ireland. The projects included the lighting of the Market Slip and Butter Slip, the re-purposing of the Copper Tank at the Brewery Square, develop a mural along the Riverside Park, to install outdoor art screens and to install a "selfie" opportunity at Bateman Quay.

Kilkenny County Council is working in partnership with Failte Ireland to adopt and implement Kilkenny's Destination Experience Development Plan in 2023 and will keep the SPC advised of progress on same.

5. With regards to the Local and Economic and Community Plan (LECP) 2023 – 2028, Ms. McGrath advised that a meeting of the Joint SPC1/LCDC had taken place on November 16th in the Ormonde Hotel. At this meeting, the final socio-economic statement including high level goals and objectives had been agreed with some amendments.
Ms. McGrath went through the various stages of the LECP process noting that they are currently in Stage 3 of the process. It is envisaged to have the LECP agreed by the Elected Members at the Plenary Meeting in April 2023.
6. Mr. Malone provided an update on the St. Canice's Campus.
7. The Chair advised that Mr. Paul Brophy (Representative of the PPN) had given notice of his resignation from the SPC1 and that he had contacted him by email and phone to thank him for his work while on the Committee. It was noted the PPN would be contacted to seek a replacement nomination to the SPC.
8. Ms. McGrath advised that the Shop Kilkenny Campaign launched on the 24th November in Graiguenamanagh with an outside broadcast.
9. The Chair advised of the proposed 2023 meeting dates for adoption.

The next meeting of SPC1 will take place on Thursday 23rd March 2023 via MS Teams

Cllr. Ger Frisby
Chairman

Date: _____