



**Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe**  
**Galway County Council**

**Coiste Polasaí Straitéiseach Gnóthaí Forbairt Eacnamaíochta & Fiontraíochta**  
**Economic Development & Enterprise Strategic Policy Committee (SPC)**  
**Cruinniú /Meeting**

Tuesday 04<sup>th</sup> December 2018  
**Council Offices, Galway County Council, Galway**

**Members in attendance**

Cllr. Joe Byrne	Galway County Council
Cllr. Tom Healy	Galway County Council
Cllr. Mary Hoade	Galway County Council
Cllr. Séan Ó Tuairisg	Galway County Council
Cllr. Karey McHugh	Galway County Council
Cllr. Jimmy McClearn	Galway County Council
Paul Quinn	Trade Union Representative
Paul Mannion	Development/Construction Sector Representative

**Present**

Kieran Coyne	Galway County Council
Breda Fox	Galway County Council
Bernie O Connor	Galway County Council

**Apologies**

Cllr. Peter Feeney	Galway County Council
Kevin Kelly	Galway County Council
Alan Farrell	Galway County Council
Dan Dowling	Community Representative
Michelle Murphy	Business/Commercial Sector Representative

As Cllr. Peter Feeney's apologies were noted Cllr. Jimmy McClearn chaired the meeting on the proposal of Cllr. Mary Hoade and seconded by Cllr. Karey McHugh.

## **1. Minutes of the meeting of the Economic Development & Enterprise SPC held on 24 October 2018**

The minutes of the meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> October 2018 were approved on the proposal of Cllr. Mary Hoade and seconded by Cllr. Karey McHugh.

There were no further matters arising.

## **2. REDZ**

Mr. Kieran Coyne introduced Mr. John Higgins to the members. Mr. Higgins of JH Public Affairs was the consultancy company who successfully tendered for a piece of work around capacity building in 4 of County Galway's REDZ. Mr. Higgins then gave a presentation on the Rural Economic Development Zones (REDZ), (see attached).

Mr. Higgins began by thanking Mr. Kieran Coyne, Ms. Breda Mulrennan and Ms. Lisa Glynn for their help and support throughout the capacity building programme in the REDZ. The 4 REDZ that were focused on were:

- ▶ Carraroe REDZ No. 102
- ▶ Glenamaddy REDZ No. 103
- ▶ Oranmore REDZ No. 97
- ▶ Galway Rural No. 98

He stated there was a 3-stage development process, i.e building the foundation in relation to community animation and capacity building; brainstorming and prioritising. He stated their purpose was to listen to what local community groups believed can be developed in the short & medium-term and help them to prioritise key projects and try to seek at least one CIC Project in each REDZ. These projects were presented in an application-ready format to Galway County Council in the form of a three-year plan with local implementation identified. Mr. Higgins outlined an in-depth description of some emerging projects that are in place in the 4 REDZ zones.

Cllr. Jimmy McClearn thanked Mr. Higgins for his presentation and invited questions from the floor.

Cllr Mary Hoade thanked Mr. Higgins for his presentation, and stated that she found the advice and support provided by Mr. Higgins to community groups in her area to be very beneficial.

Cllr. Joe Byrne stated that he was part of one of the other REDZ groups that Mr. Higgins was not involved in, the Burren Lowlands in South Galway/North Clare and he found the presentation very informative.

Cllr. Jimmy McClearn stated that REDZ was a catalyst for communities to come together and he was very impressed by the presentation.

Cllr Karey McHugh stated that she found the group up approach invoked motivation, and it is great to see the knock-on effect in the area, as it builds community spirit.

Cllr. Tom Healy stated that he found the presentation very informative and suggested the Oughterard foodie group could tie in with Connemara Lamb which is an excellent project.

### **3. Galway Convention Bureau**

Mr. Kieran Coyne introduced Ms. Rose Finn from Galway Convention Bureau. Ms. Finn then gave a presentation to the members on what Galway Convention Bureau is about. (see attached) She stated that it is a destination marketing organisation and a way to promote Galway abroad. They focus on international meeting, incentive, conference and event sales, promoting Galway as a great place to hold an event/conference. Their aim is to bring key decision makers to Ireland to view proposed venues & programmes. Galway Convention Bureau is a platform to encourage people to come to Galway with their business and to promote what Galway has to offer as a destination.

Cllr. Jimmy McClearn thanked Ms. Finn for her presentation. He queried the impact on the County from the work of the bureau and if there were any figures that came to the County? Ms. Finn stated that while she didn't have the exact figure, the County would be reaping the benefits whether directly or indirectly from the City.

Cllr Karey McHugh stated that there was a massive market out there and one which Galway County did not want to miss out on.

Cllr. Tom Healy stated that there were huge opportunities for County Galway and we should be benefiting, as we have a motorway which makes us accessible and we have great facilities.

Cllr. Joe Byrne stated that he had heard Ms. Finn on the radio that morning speaking to Galway Bay FM. He stated that he could see how any benefit to the City could hugely benefit the County indirectly.

Cllr. Mary Hoade wanted to compliment Ms. Finn on her business, stating that it had huge potential and she wished her every success.

#### **4. Local Enterprise Office (LEO)**

Cllr. Jimmy McClearn introduced Ms Breda Fox, Head of Local Enterprise Office. Ms. Fox gave a presentation on the LEO office. (see attached). She started by stating that the LEO can offer any new business in Galway City or County soft support, and they also provide financial support for any new or existing business employing less than 10 employees in Galway City or County. There was a huge demand in the uptake of advisory services within the County. LEO are also involved in many other Enterprise Development activities including the BIA Innovator, input to Leader Funding and DCCOI: Craft Development. MS. Fox stated that LEO had a very successful year in winning both the National Enterprise Awards Regional Winner 2018 and the National IBYE Competition National Winner 2018. She stated that they were also involved in National Womens Enterprise Day which is a hugely important day for women in business.

Cllr. Jimmy McClearn thanked Ms. Fox for her presentation and commended the hidden success behind the mentoring service. He stated that a lot of small business were up and running and had gotten off the ground because of that mentoring. He then welcomed questions from the floor.

Cllr. Mary Hoade also commended the work of LEO and agreed with Cllr. Jimmy McClearns comments.

Cllr. Tom Healy stated he was very impressed with the growth over the years since the very first meeting with the Economic Development and Enterprise SPC.

Cllr Karey McHugh stated that she had received mentoring in her own business and she found the information invaluable.

## **5. European Region of Gastronomy (ERG)**

Ms. Deirdre Tully Ruiz was then introduced to the members. Ms. Tully Ruiz gave a presentation on the European Region of Gastronomy (ERG) (see attached) on behalf of Ms Elaine Donohue who was on leave. Ms. Tully Ruiz stated that their focus was on building vibrant and resilient communities in many sectors including agriculture, cultural, tourism, social etc. They work together with many different partners: Galway City Council in relation to Cultural Diversity, Linking Urban and Rural and supporting SME's and innovation; GMIT in relation to education and health; and Teagasc in relation to sustainability feeding the planet. ERG has 191 food charter members, entry is free and they encourage members of the public to sign up; they have 1500 Gastronomic Heritage entries around the County. She also stated that on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of November 2018 they won "Top Economic Development Project in Ireland" at the Excellence in Local Government Awards. In relation to the Gastronomic Heritage Project in conjunction with Ms. Marie Mannion, Heritage Officer they are working with heritage groups across the County and there has been 1500 plus entries online. Ms. Tully Ruiz also brought the BIA Innovator Campus to the attention of the members present and spoke about how they wish to unlock the potential of the County.

Cllr Jimmy McClearn stated that the presentation highlights just how far ERG has come in the year and then opened up any questions to the floor.

Cllr Séan O Tuairisg stated that you can see that County Galway produces a large range of good products.

Cllr Karey McHugh stated that the enthusiasm and interest that the ERG generates has been very good.

Cllr. Sean O Tuairisg then took over the chairing of the meeting from Cllr. Jimmy McClearn.

## **6. Urban/Rural Regeneration and Development Fund**

Mr Kieran Coyne gave an update to members in relation to the Urban and Rural Regeneration and Development Fund. He stated that seven applications were submitted from Galway County Council, and that 80 projects were submitted nationally, and none of our six were chosen.

Galway County Council projects were not announced in the first of a number of rounds of Stage 1 funding. The next announcement is due in January 2019.

Mr. Paul Mannion questioned whether it was a two-tier application. Mr. Kieran Coyne stated that it was and both elements (Category A and Category B) were included in all six of Galway County Council's applications.

Kieran Coyne finished by stating he would hope to have some more news on the matter at the next SPC meeting following the announcement in January.

## **7. AOB**

The next meeting is scheduled to take place on Friday the 15<sup>th</sup> of February 2019 at 10am in the Centrepoint Boardroom, Galway County Council Offices.

The meeting then concluded.