

**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS OF MEETING OF THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT,  
ENTERPRISE, TOURISM AND PLANNING STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD  
ON MONDAY, 13<sup>th</sup> April 2026 AT 2:15PM IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, DOORADOYLE AND  
ONLINE**

**Present in the Chair:**

Cllr Peter Doyle

**SPC Members Present** Cllr. Sharon Benson, Cllr. Bridie Collins, Cllr. Michael Collins, Cllr. Maria Donoghue, Cllr. Ursula Gavan, Mr Declan Hehir, Mr Michael Joyce, Cllr Stephen Keary, Cllr. Liam Galvin, Cllr. Dan McSweeney, Cllr. John O'Donoghue, Cllr. Kieran O'Hanlon, Cllr Olivia O'Sullivan, Cllr. Joe Pond, Mr. Brian Thompson.

**Officials Present:** Mike Cantwell (Head of Enterprise-LEO), David Ryan (Administrative Officer)), Brendan Troy (Senior Executive Officer), Sean Lenihan (Director of Services). Killian McNamara (Assistant Staff Officer)

**Meeting**

Prior to **Item 1** on agenda being addressed Cllr Peter Doyle mentioned he wanted to congratulate Mr. John Cleary of Eventmaster in being named entrepreneur of the year.

**Item 1**

**Minutes: To adopt the draft minutes of the Meeting of the Economic Development, Enterprise, Tourism and Planning Strategic Policy Committee held on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2026.**

The draft minutes were adopted.

- Proposed by: Cllr. Bridie Collins
- Seconded by: Mr. Michael Joyce

## **Item 2**

### **Draft SME Action Plan – Brendan Troy SEO, LCCC/ Liam Mannix Research + Dig**

Mr Liam Mannix of Research + Dig gave members a detailed presentation on the Limerick City & County Council SME Action Plan. The presentation focused on a summary of the Action Plan focusing on the areas of Design Thinking & Strategy, Socio – Economic Analysis, Governance. The SME Action Plan involved detailed collaboration with Brendan Troy (LCCC), Mike Cantwell (LEO) & Denis Barry (Innovate).

The Chair thanked Mr Mannix for the presentation and invited questions from members:

- Members had a broad discussion around the uptake on the recently adopted rates incentive scheme. Mr Brendan Troy stated that there is interest in the scheme, however, it takes a while for implementation to take effect (e.g. Change of Use/Heads of Lease Agreements).
- The members had a discussion around the statutory nature of the SME action plan. Sean Lenihan added that this is a non-statutory document.
- There was further discussion around the Action Plan in relation to vacancy/dereliction in the city. There was discussion around the importance of the creative arts in Limerick and the lack of supports within the area for them. Liam Mannix responded agreeing that there are suitable places in the city centre, however stated that they would need a bespoke place but highlighted that creative arts are key to innovation. The THRIVE scheme of funding at Fireplace site on Nicholas Street was also discussed.
- Liam Mannix stated that dereliction is also a key issue. He said there is another group dealing with the retail strategy and that is why it was excluded from this report.
- Further discussion with the members centred around the donut effect, stating that 20% of SME's are on the outskirts of Limerick City and that the transport infrastructure is currently poor at present. In addition, other discussions raised about what are the next steps for rail infrastructure particularly connection routes, investing in a wider rail infrastructure? (ie. passenger line from Foynes to the City and beyond would be an important asset for Limerick). Sean Lenihan DOS responded that he would communicate concerns/issues back to the relevant Director of Service in Transport.

- Discussion with members took place around the upcoming Ryder Cup and this should also be a focus as it is a game changer for the city and county and a massive opportunity which we may not see again and should be part of the overall SME plan.
- Discussion took place between the members on RSES workshops. Sean Lenihan stated that there are 4/5 workshops scheduled to take place over coming months.
- Discussion took place between the members regarding the would-be suppliers tendered for Ryder Cup. Ryder Cup are sending out expression of interest forms and each will have their own category to apply. It will be an open call competition.
- Members asked about the monitoring and implementation of the Objectives and KPI's around the SME Action plan. Brendan Troy responded that this process will be overseen by the SME Action Taskforce. It was also discussed that there should be 2/3 members from this committee on the Task Force and that this should be considered.
- A member proposed that they would like a report on a community welfare plan. The chair responded that it can be discussed at the next meeting.
- It was proposed and agreed that the document should now be referred to next full Council meeting for noting.

### **Item 3:**

#### **Riverfest Sustainability Report 2025 - Eugene Crimmins AO, Tourism, Festival & Events**

Eugene Crimmins briefed the members on the Riverfest Sustainability report 2025. His presentation focused on energy usage, sustainability goals, key outcomes and governance.

The Chair thanked Mr Crimmins for his excellent presentation and invited questions from members:

- Mr Declan Hehir asked was this ran by LCCC. Mr Crimmins responded with saying it is one of the councils 4 civic events in the year.

### **Item 4 - AOB**

- Mr. Brian Thompson raised a query around the Taken in Charge protocol and requested a meeting with Barry Henn in the Planning Section to discuss this further.

- Declan Hehir asked could Ryder Cup team provide an update at the next meeting. Sean Lenihan responded by saying that Elaine O'Connor is giving presentation to the Limerick Chamber in the near future and he will enquire if presentation can be circulated to SPC members once it has been presented to the Limerick Chamber.

#### **Item 5**

#### **Date of next SPC meeting.**

The next blended SPC meeting will be held **Monday, 8<sup>th</sup> June at 2.15 pm.**

The Chairperson, Cllr. P. Doyle thanked everyone present for attending the SPC meeting.

The business of the meeting concluded at 4.15pm.



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**Signed: Cllr. P. Doyle, Chairperson**