

DÚN LAOGHAIRE RATHDOWN COUNTY COUNCIL

**Economic Development and Enterprise Strategic Policy Committee Meeting
held in The Studio, LexIcon, Queen's Road, Dun Laoghaire, Co. Dublin
on Thursday, 22nd June 2017 at 5.00 pm**

Chairperson's Report

PRESENT

Councillors:

Curran, Chris
Daly, Kevin
Dockery, Liam
Feeney, Kate
Kennedy, John

Councillors:

McCarthy, Lettie
Murphy, Tom
O'Brien, Peter
O'Brien, Shane
O'Callaghan, Denis
Ward, Barry

Councillor Barry Ward presided as Chairperson.

Apologies: Councillors Emma Blain, Melisa Halpin, Mary Hanafin

SECTORIAL REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT

Dr. Josephine Browne, Rosheen Callender, Aileen Eglington, Miriam Hennessy, Fardus Sultan and Ann Marie Walsh

Apologies: Sean O'Neill

OFFICIALS PRESENT

Dearbhla Lawson (Director of Economic, Community and Cultural Development), Mary Ruane (Senior Executive Officer, Economic, Community and Cultural Development), Georgina Sweetnam (Acting Head of Enterprise, Economic, Community and Cultural Development) David Lawless (Administrative Officer, Economic, Community and Cultural Development) and Eoin Roche, (Staff Officer, Economic, Community and Cultural Development).

Confirmation of Minutes

Minutes of Economic Development and Enterprise Strategic Policy Committee Meeting of 23rd March 2017 were proposed by Cllr. Shane O'Brien and seconded by Cllr. Denis O'Callaghan.

Matters arising (if any)

The Chairman expressed sympathy on behalf of the Committee with Councillor Mary Hanafin and her family on the death of her father, former Senator Des Hanafin, RIP.

The Chairman welcomed Ms Laura Howe, DLR Public Participation Network Manager, as a visitor to the meeting.

Information items submitted by Members for written reply (if any)

None.

Business submitted by the Director of Services

(a) Twinning Report from the SPC Sub-Committee

Dearbhla Lawson updated the SPC on the work of the Twinning Sub-Committee of the SPC, which met and discussed the key issues relating to twinning. A report has been produced to progress consideration of this matter for approval by the SPC. The report built on previous work by the SPC and outlined the following:

1. DLR's current key twinning and international relationships/links.
2. Key issues for consideration and agreement.
3. Key objectives that have informed a policy approach.
4. A draft programme, tasks and actions 2017-2018 linked to the proposed objectives.

Following a wide-ranging discussion and responses to questions, the following matters were considered and there was general agreement for the following approach:

- That a policy in this area be pursued but reflecting that more informal/flexible international links could be pursued by the Community/Business Groups/Schools/Clubs to share best practice/learning/opportunities, in line with the draft objectives set out, where there is mutual interest and commitment. Such links could be developed between areas and groups on an issue or time-basis without requiring formal 'Twinning' of areas as set out in legislation.
- That the approach to developing links could be less formal and more targeted based on achieving specific objectives, but take account of the limited resources available.
- That existing twinning arrangements with Anglesey in Wales and Brest in France, be maintained and reviewed to ascertain the potential for future activity; the Chairperson is to correspond with both Anglesey and Brest Municipal Authorities.
- That the Twinning Objectives and Policy Approach set out in Part 4 of the report be recommended and developed on this basis into a report to the next SPC.
- That the follow-up actions outlined in Part 5 of the report be pursued.

Members were asked to provide further feedback on the report by the end of July and to be specific in outlining areas to be considered, explaining why and what the relevant links are, based on the criteria set out in the document.

(b) Tourism Update

David Lawless gave a progress report to update the SPC on activity in Tourism, including:

- The adoption of the Tourism Strategy & Marketing Plan 2017-2022 and next steps
- Key tourism events held or planned including, the Bi-Centenary of Dún Laoghaire Harbour 1817-2017, Bloomsday Festival 11th – 16th June 2017 and the Summer of Heritage Programme.

During the discussion that followed both David Lawless and Dearbhla Lawson responded to the members' comments and questions. Dearbhla Lawson reported work is underway with Fáilte Ireland in relation to an audit and orientation report.

(c) Local Enterprise Development Plan 2017-2020 Headlines

Georgina Sweetnam presented an overview of the activity of the Local Enterprise Office & Economic Development Unit under this plan, including background context, targets and metrics, training programme, annual events and current and future initiatives.

Following discussion, Georgina Sweetnam responded to the Members' comments and queries and confirmed she would also make a similar presentation to the Sandyford BID.

(d) Local Economic & Community Plan – Progress Report and Key Outputs 2017

David Lawless made a presentation to the Committee on progress and priority outputs under the LECP from Jan-May 2017.

Following discussion by the Members, David Lawless and others of the executive responded to comments and questions.

Business referred from the Council (if any)

None.

Business referred from the Corporate Policy Group (if any)

None.

Any other business

None.

Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Economic Development & Enterprise SPC is scheduled for 10th October 2017 in the Samuel Beckett Civic Campus, if possible.