

**MEETING OF DÚN LAOGHAIRE-RATHDOWN COUNTY COUNCIL**

**12 October 2020**

**CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT FROM THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND ENTERPRISE  
STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE**

**Held remotely on Wednesday July 1<sup>st</sup> 2020 at 5.00 pm**  
**Chairperson's Report**

**PRESENT**

**Councillors:**

Cllr Shay Brennan  
Cllr Michael Clark (Chair)  
CllrEva Elizabeth Dowling  
Cllr Mary Fayne  
Cllr Jim Gildea  
Cllr John Kennedy

**Councillors:**

Cllr Séafra Ó Faoláin  
Cllr Denis O'Callaghan  
Cllr Juliet O'Connell  
Cllr Barry Saul  
Cllr Donal Smith

**Apologies:** Cllr Lorraine Hall

**SECTORIAL REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT**

Conor Battigan  
Dr. Josephine Browne  
Aileen Eglinton  
Caroline McCabe  
John O'Toole  
Mark Scott- Lennon  
Fardus Sultan

**Apologies:** Caroline McCabe

**OFFICIALS PRESENT**

Helena Cunningham (Director of Finance & Economic Development), Owen Lavery (Head of Economic Development and Enterprise), Dave Lawless (Administrative Officer, Tourism Development), Ursula O'Connor (Administrative Officer, Economic Development), Róisín Cronin (Senior Staff Officer, Economic Development)

The Chairperson opened the meeting by welcoming everyone to the first SPC to take place under the new term. He invited all present to introduce themselves.

He expressed appreciation on behalf of the Committee to the staff of the Finance and Economic Development Department for their work over the last number of months in providing support to business.

**Confirmation of Minutes**

Minutes of Economic Development and Enterprise Strategic Policy Committee Meeting of March 28<sup>th</sup> 2019 were proposed by Cllr. Denis O'Callaghan and seconded by Fardus Sultan.

**Matters arising (if any)**

None.

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

(i) Noted.

**Business submitted by the Director of Services**

Helena Cunningham gave a brief overview of the role and functions of the SPC followed by:

**(a) Local Enterprise Office Update**

Owen Laverty delivered a presentation outlining the role and function of the Local Enterprise Office. He provided an overview of direct supports provided to business in 2019, and outlined work to promote economic activity in 2019. He also outlined the progress that made in early 2020 before Covid-19 restrictions were introduced.

He gave an overview of the supports that were introduced to provide assistance to business over the last number of months, most notably the Business Continuity Voucher and an expansion of the Trading Online Voucher.

A discussion followed and Mr Laverty responded to the Members' queries.

**(b) Economic Development Update**

Ursula O'Connor provided an update on the activity of the Economic Development Unit. She noted that the Unit had taken the lead on the preparation of an application for URDF funding for a Dún Laoghaire Greening Project, produced in conjunction with the Architects and Parks departments.

Ms O'Connor also provided updates on the supports offered by the Unit, and gave details of various footfall initiatives which the Unit is involved in.

A number of queries were raised following the presentation, which were answered by Ms O'Connor.

**(c) Tourism Development Update**

A presentation was delivered by Dave Lawless who outlined the challenges faced in recent months. He outlined various initiatives that are being undertaken to promote tourism development and updated Members on engagements which have taken place with relevant stakeholders. Mr Lawless outlined priorities for 2020, noting the current emphasis on promoting Irish tourism.

A discussion followed and Mr Lawless responded to the Members' queries.

**Business referred from the Council (if any)**

None.

**Business referred from the Corporate Policy Group (if any)**

None.

### **Future Work Programme**

(i)Current Work Programme

The draft programme was adopted.

(ii)Items for consideration for Future Work Programme

It was agreed to further explore the development of connected transport links and a DLR Food Trail.

It was agreed to research the feasibility of developing incubator units for new businesses, including the availability of funding.

### **Any other business**

There was no further business.

### **Date of Next Meeting**

It was agreed to hold an additional meeting in early September, date to be agreed.

**Owner:** [\_SystemItemOwner]