

Economic Development, Enterprise Support & Culture SPC

3/2/2015

PPN Reps: Caroline McNeill, Anne Costello

Present:

- Padraig Conneely (Chairperson)
- Brendan McGrath, CEO Galway City Council
- Eileen Ruane, Director of Services, Galway City Council
- Gary Mc Mahon, Senior Executive Officer, Galway City Council
- Liam Hanrahan, Senior Executive Officer, Galway City Council
- Patricia Philbin, Senior Executive Officer, Galway City Council
- James Harrold, Arts Officer, GCC
- Sharon Carroll, Admin Officer, GCC.
- Breda Fox, Galway LEO
- Dr. James Cunningham, The Whitaker Institute, NUI, G
- Cllr. Noel Larkin
- Cllr. Frank Fahy
- Cllr. Niall McNelis
- Cllr. Mairead Farrell
- Cllr. Cathal Ó Chonchuir
- Cllr. Donal Lyons
- Anne Costello, PPN Rep
- Caroline McNeill, PPN Rep
- Frank McDonagh, Business/Commercial Sector

Apology: Mark Lohan, Irish Congress of Trade Unions

1. Introductions: The various people present introduced themselves and why they were attending.
2. Economic Development and Local Government Structure, including introduction to Galway Local Enterprise Office (LEO). Presentation by Breda Fox, Galway LEO.
 - LEOs, former enterprise boards
 - First stop shop for business advice for first time businesses or already established SME's with less than 10 employees.
 - They offer;
 - Advisory sessions
 - Enterprise supports (financial support, to creative, innovating, research businesses but not service businesses)
 - Networking opportunities
 - Training & development, workshops
 - Mentoring
 - Enterprise Promotion, esp within educational sector where they engage with students e.g. Best Young Entrepreneur, Innovation & Creativity Society at NUI, G
 - At the end of the presentation the Chair commended Breda on the work of the LEO.
3. Economic Strategy/Local Economic and Community Plan(LECP) Presentation by Dr. James Cunningham of the Whitaker Institute, NUI, G.

- The presentation was based on the Economic Baseline Study carried out by the Whitaker Institute which will feed into the High Level Economic Forum, The Economic Stakeholder Forum and Economic Development SPC and which in turn will result (after a public consultation process) in the Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP)
- It stated the importance of creative industry in Galway highlighting sectors such as Festivals (122 in total in Galway), the need to market Galway as a creative place, how can we grow this sector more, the need to extend the focus from Medical device industries to include more R&D industries, look to our infrastructure and how this can help Galway grow, how to help sustain SMEs etc. A lot of questions were posed on all these areas with the response being that what is needed is; innovation, more signage, fringe events at the various festivals that build on the success of the festivals but also explain how to run festivals and develop other business sectors through the festivals.

4. Brendan McGrath, CEO, GCC: Putting People First

- need a modern economic strategy
- Up to date snap shot of economy
- City and County joint operation; study commissioned by City and County – Whitaker Report
- will inform LECD;
 - sectorally based
 - Deliver series of action plans across sectors
 - in tandem with dev. Plan, economic and spatial plans need to be joined up
 - joined up thinking of both local authorities
 - keep it dynamic and up to date
 - city economic strategy
 - January, formal City Dev. Plan
 - draft of City Dev. Plan, Spatial Plan inc. Economic Strategy due in 2016
 - from this a number of sectoral action plans will develop inc. A marketing strategy for Galway: Brand Galway
 - Arts, Heritage and Culture plays a pivotal roll in this but doesn't speak to all of Galway, need a wider marketing strategy
- IDA want jobs for Ireland, it will be up to Galway to sell Galway
- We have to take ownership of what we have, LEO now city and county, huge capacity to build on, capture people with ideas and develop an entrepreneurial culture
 - joint study into the future of airport, aviation license granted, potential site for economic development
 - potential development of Salthill
 - Purple Flag, promote Galway as family friendly late into the evening
 - Transport solution is critical to the economic development of Galway, need to solve traffic problems
 - European Capital of Culture bid, need significant financial investment, questioned if we reduce taxes/rates where do finances come from? Bid could be the key to the future of the city.
- two groups will be established with regard to the LECP
 - economic forum to include key figures and this will focus on economy and marketing
 - economic stakeholder forum which will focus on key projects moving from desirable to achievable
- also need to look at water, broadband and gas

5. -Impress on, and work with, Gov. And other State agencies to deliver the necessary infrastructure to support sustainable economic growth
 - Establish Economic Development SPC and LCDC, and ensure that the LEO is successfully est.
 - Ensure that the Council promotes social inclusion through its policies and activities
 - Lead the delivery of initiatives which support the economic development of the city eg. Purple Flag

-Two groups were briefly discussed:

- LECP Advisory Steering Group, Neil McNelis and Mairead Farrell voted onto this
- Art Funding Committee, Caroline McNeill to replace Kate Howard from SPC

AOB: Caroline McNeill, SPC rep. Had sent in request “ with regard to this afternoon’s SPC meeting. I have been in touch with a number of individuals and groups from the PPN and as their representative on the SPC we would like to include the City of Culture bid for 2020 on the agenda under AOB and if possible the current Arts Strategy and Heritage Forum and the need for a clear outline of the proposed schedule of public and community consultation on all of these and the need for representation for the PPN on these bodies”.

Patricia Philbin assured group that she had been in discussion with PPN and in particular Tommy Flaherty regarding representation for the PPN and that a series of public consultation would be forthcoming.

Attached: -Whitaker Institute Report slides
 -Guidelines for Local Economic and Community Plan
 -Process for Development of LECP

Schedule of meetings agreed:

Tuesday May 5th, September 8th and November 17th.