

**Chairman's Report of  
Meeting of Economic Development, Enterprise Support & Tourism (SPC1)  
held on 22nd June 2018 in Meeting Room 1**

1. Mr. Martin Prendiville provided an update on the Abbey Quarter stating that Mr. Kevin Mc Cormack, CEO had resigned and that Jason Clerkin was due to take up the position from Monday 25<sup>th</sup> June. He stated that test excavations were now complete confirming that the area around Abbey itself was a hot spot. He stated that they were waiting for a decision from An Bord Pleanala on referrals by 2 or 3 individuals of which some were rejected and others ruled in favour of the County Council and that the latest would be decided in July. He further stated that a lot of work was ongoing with Lisneys in relation to marketing the Abbey Quarter. Following discussion, it was agreed to invite Jason Clerkin to present at the next meeting of the committee.
  
2. Brian Tyrrell provided an update on Kilkenny Tourism including;
  - New Kilkenny Tourism website to be launched soon;
  - Marketing and PR activities;
  - Festival Grants;
  - and the AGM of Kilkenny Tourism which was held recently.Mr. Tyrrell responded to questions from the committee in relation to a number of matters, including the rising prices of accommodation in Kilkenny and the lack of bed spaces.
  
4. Ms. Brid Hynes stated that the LECP (Economic) Implementation Plan 2018-2021 was adopted at the March meeting which comprises a total of 66 actions all of which are progressing. Ms. Hynes stated that at the previous meeting it was agreed that a number of high level strategic actions be agreed for regular review rather than feedback on all 66 actions and to this end, Ms. Hynes presented 13 strategic actions for approval. These actions were identified because of their strategic importance for economic development of Kilkenny. A report was circulated with an update on progress with regards to these actions and stated that progress updates in relation to the wider number of actions will be provided on an annual basis.
  
5. Ms. Fiona Deegan circulated the LEO Action Monitoring Report, providing updates on the 22 actions contained therein. A comprehensive report on the Activity, Target/Output, Timescale and current status of each action was provided, stating that all actions were on target to year end.

6. Ms. Colette Byrne provided a presentation on the National Planning Framework – Regional Spatial & Economic Strategy, outlining the national strategic outcomes and strategic investment priorities. Ms. Byrne stated that €4Bn Project Ireland funds were announced the previous day which would be allocated to the best proposals, with ideal applications being collaborative efforts, stating that there were 4 funds - €2Bn Urban Regeneration and Development Fund, €1Bn Rural Development Fund, €500Mn Climate Actions Fund and €500Mn Disruptive Technologies Fund – all funds were through competitive bid process with the aim to get applications in for the first tranche of funding.
7. It was agreed the next meeting of the SPC1 would take place on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> September 2018.

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**PAT FITZPATRICK**  
Chairman

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**Date**