



**ECONOMIC ENTERPRISE & RURAL DEVELOPMENT
STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE**

Minutes of Economic Enterprise & Rural Development Strategic Policy Committee Meeting

Location: Council Chamber & Microsoft Teams

Date Wednesday, 22 October 2025

Time: 11.30am

PRESIDING: Councillor Mark Casey

PRESENT: Councillor Garry Murtagh, Niall Gannon, Martin Monaghan,
Seamus Butler

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr. John Brannigan, Director of Service
Mr. Shane Crossan, Arts Officer
Ms. Mairead Ni Chonghaile, Heritage Officer
Ms. Mariana Alexandrino, Vacant Homes Officer
Mr. David Barden Administrative Officer
Ms. Lorraine O'Connor, Regeneration Office
Ms. Louise Connaughton, Clerical Officer

APOLOGIES: Fintan McGill, Margaret McDonald, John Coyle, Loretta Grogan,
John Kiernan

MEETINGS

ADMINISTRATOR: Ms. Lorraine McKee

1. INTRODUCTION

Chairperson Mark Casey welcomed the members to the Economic Enterprise & Rural Development Strategic Policy Committee meeting.

2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

No declaration of interests declared.

3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF ECONOMIC, ENTERPRISE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT SPC MEETING HELD ON 22 JULY 2025

On the proposal of Councillor Garry Murtagh seconded by Councillor Niall Gannon the minutes of the meeting of the Economic, Enterprise and Rural Development Strategic Policy Committee on 22 July 2025 were adopted.

4. ARTS STRATEGY

Shane Crossan made a detailed presentation on the progress of the Arts Strategy that was published at the end of 2023. The presentation included the following:-

- Arts contribution to the development and promotion of County Longford County Council
- Climate Action & Environmental Sustainability
- Connecting Artists and Citizens
- Collaboration & Engagement
- Infrastructure
- Supporting the Living artist
- Investment in Longford

Shane answered questions raised by the Members. John acknowledged the work of Shane Crossan and the Arts Office.

5. HERITAGE STRATEGY

Mairead Ni Chonghaile made a presentation to the members updating them on the County Heritage Plan 2019-2024. The presentation included the following:

- County Heritage Plan 2019 – 2024 – Overview Objectives
- County Heritage Plan 2019 – 2024 – Selected Actions
- County Heritage Plan 2025 – 2030 – Review

Garry acknowledged the work that Mairead and her team are carrying out in the County. John thanked Mairead for the detailed presentation.

6. VACANT HOMES

Vacant Homes Officer Mariana Alexandrino made a presentation to the members outlining details on the Vacant Property Scheme which included the following:

- Introduction to Vacant Property Schemes
- Eligibility and application
- Overview of applications received to date
- Process overview and processing times
- Other schemes progress
- Challenges
- Scheme promotion efforts

Mariana answered questions raised by the Members. John thanked Mariana for her detailed presentation. It was agreed that a further update will be added to

the agenda for the next SPC meeting.

7. BUSINESS INCENTIVE SCHEME

John Brannigan, Director of Services updated the members on the Business Incentive Scheme 2026. €40,000 has been allocated for a new scheme in 2026. . As part of that a policy will be brought to the next SPC and a committee will be established.

On the proposal of Councillor Mark Casey, seconded by Councillor Garry Murtagh it was agreed to bring a policy to the next SPC and establish a committee

8. THE APPOINTMENT OF TWO MEMBERS TO THE LECP/IMPLEMENTATION PLAN ADVISORY STEERING GROUP

On the proposal of Councillor Garry Murtagh seconded by Councillor Martin Monaghan, Councillor Mark Casey was appointed to the LECP/Implementation Plan Advisory Steering Group.

The appointment of a sectoral representative was adjourned to the next meeting of the SPC.

9. REVIEW OF WORK PROGRAMME

Director of Services John Brannigan requested the members to inform him of any policies they wish to have reviewed or implemented for 2026.

10. DATES FOR 2026 MEETINGS

18 February 2026

29 April 2026

22 July 2026

21 October 2026

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The proposed date for the next meeting of the Economic Enterprise & Rural Development Strategic Policy Committee is 18 February 2026 to which the members unanimously agreed.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed: _____

Lorraine McKee
Meetings Administrator

Confirmed and adopted at Economic Enterprise & Rural Development Strategic Policy Committee Meeting held on the 18 February 2026.

Signed: _____
Chairperson