



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

Minutes of Economic Enterprise & Rural Development Strategic Policy Committee Meeting

Location: Council Chamber & Microsoft Teams

Date Tuesday, 28 April 2026

Time: 2pm

PRESIDING: Councillor Mark Casey

PRESENT: Councillor Niall Gannon, Martin Monaghan, Seamus Butler,
Loretta Grogan

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr. Michael Nevin, Senior Executive Officer
Mr. David Barden Administrative Officer
Ms. Mariana Alexandrino, Vacant Homes Officer
Ms. Lorraine O'Connor, Town Regeneration Officer
Ms. Karena Lennon, Administrative Officer
Mr. Ciaran Murphy, Senior Executive Officer
Ms. Louise Connaughton, Clerical Officer

APOLOGIES: Councillor Garry Murtagh

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

None

**3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF ECONOMIC, ENTERPRISE AND RURAL
DEVELOPMENT SPC MEETING HELD ON 18 FEBRUARY 2026**

On the proposal of Councillor Niall Gannon seconded by Councillor Seamus Butler the minutes of the meeting of the Economic, Enterprise and Rural Development

Strategic Policy Committee on 18 February 2026 were adopted.

4. VACANT HOMES UPDATE

Vacant Homes Officer Mariana Alexandrino made a presentation to the Members updating them on the Vacant Homes Grant.

The presentation included the following:

- Vacant Property Grant – Current Grant Scheme
- Overview: Applications received to date
- New Grant Schemes
 - VPRG Expansion – Conversion of Commercial Building to Residential Use
 - Above the Shop Grant
 - Expert Advice Grant Scheme.

Mariana answered questions raised by the Members.

5. CONSIDER THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE ADVISORY STEERING GROUP IN RELATION TO THE LOCAL ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY PLAN (LECP)

Administrative Officer David Barden made a presentation to the Members on the recommendations to the advisory steering group in relation to the Local Economic and Community Plan.

David discussed different areas of the plan which included the following:

- Overall delivery
- Goal 1 – Healthy Communities
- Goal 2 – Safe Communities
- Goal 3 – Education and Digital
- Goal 4 – Strong Economy
- Goal 5 – Inclusive Communities
- Goal 6 – Climate and Green Economy
- Challenges
- Future Priorities

On the proposal of Councillor Niall Gannon seconded by Councillor Mark Casey it was agreed to forward the plan to the Corporate Policy Group for consideration and recommendation before going to the full council for consideration and approval.

6. JUST TRANSITION UPDATE

Senior Executive Officer Michael Nevin made a presentation to the Members updating them on EU Just Transition.

The presentation included the following:

- EU Just Transition Projects
- An Ambassador Program
- Tourism Website
- MidlandsIreland.ie
- MidlandsFlavours.ie
- Old Post Office

- DreamSpace
- Training

Expressions of Interest were sought from Local Authorities as there was an underspend of €30 million from the EU Just Transition Fund.

Longford County Council are hoping to submit applications for the following 8 projects:

- Building Resilience in Granard
- Lanesborough Amphitheatre
- Longford Library Retrofit
- Aras an Chontae Retrofit
- Longford Old Post Office
- Clondra to Tarmonbarry Greenway
- Connolly Barracks: Reimagined Buildings
- Lanesborough Master Plan

7. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The proposed date for the next meeting of the Economic Enterprise & Rural Development Strategic Policy Committee is 22 July 2026 to which the members unanimously agreed.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Confirmed and adopted at Economic Enterprise & Rural Development Strategic Policy Committee Meeting held on the 22 July 2026.