

## **Proposal to establish sub-group on traditional urban centres**

That the Economic Development & Planning SPC establish a sub-group to consider the need to strategically strengthen our county's existing traditional town and village centres which have suffered in recent years from a leakage of retail to new shopping-centres & retail parks.

The sub-group would examine and consider the following matters:

- Measures to incentivise and support increased retail and mixed-commercial activity within our county's existing traditional town and village centres;
- The potential to further develop and link with existing or new civic and cultural amenities e.g. Rathfarnham Castle in the case of Rathfarnham Village;
- Public realm enhancements within existing traditional town and village centres,
- The potential for the introduction of town-centre management models for traditional urban centres in the county, possibly using the 'business improvement district' model;
- The potential for use of 'Urban Centre Strategies' as developed by other local authorities to provide non-statutory guidance for the future development of existing traditional town and village centres, noting in particular objectives for such strategies as included in the new County Development Plan;
- Broader matters relating to our county's retail strategy incl. matters relating to markets.

The sub-group should be member-led, setting its own work programme and agenda.

The sub-group would look at other similar improvement and regeneration schemes in traditional urban centres in the Greater Dublin Area e.g. Greystones, Chapelizod, etc and would also meet with key stakeholders and representative bodies such as:

- South Dublin Chamber and local business & traders associations;
- RGDATA;
- IOMST (representing market & street traders);
- Bord Bia (on farmers markets);
- RIAI (on urban design and retail planning matters);
- ACTM (Association of Town Centre Management);
- Heritage Council (on village design and improvement matters).

The sub-group would produce a report within six months, to contain recommendations which may include proposed variations to the County Development Plan and/or proposals for further examination through appropriate pilot projects in existing traditional urban centres such as Lucan Village & Rathfarnham Village

**Cllr. Emma Coburn**

**Cllr. William Lavelle**

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