

# **SOUTH DUBLIN COUNTY COUNCIL**



## **MEETING OF SOUTH DUBLIN COUNTY COUNCIL**

### **REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, ENTERPRISE AND TOURISM STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE**

**MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 12<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2025**

<b>Members</b>	<b>Council Officials</b>	
Cllr. P. Kearns	Jason Frehill	Director of Service
Cllr. R. McMahon	Tom Rooney	Head of Enterprise
Cllr. S. O'Hara	Peter Connolly	Senior Enterprise Development Officer
Cllr. L. O'Toole	Laura Leonard	Senior Executive Officer
Cllr V. Casserly (chair)	Des English	Administrative Officer
Cllr. J. Sinnott	Clíodhna Scanlon	Project Manager
Cllr. J. Sheehy	Brian Booth	Staff Officer
	Dylan Rock	Clerical Officer

<b>Representatives</b>
Lisa Rowntree, Public Participation Network
Miriam O'Donohue, TUD Tallaght
Prashant Shukla, Public Participation Network
Simon Van Lonkhuyzen Business Commercial Overseas

<b>Apologies</b>
Betty Tyrell Collard Trade Union
Harry Simpson Business Commercial Indigenous
Cllr. P. Holohan

The meeting was Chaired by Cllr. V.Casserly.

Jason Frehill, **Director of Service** welcomed all of the members of the EETD SPC and provided some background to the work that the committee would be undertaking.

#### **Headed Item 1: Confirmation of Minutes**

EETD SPC held on 19th November 2024. **AGREED**

Proposed Cllr V. Casserly and seconded by Cllr. R. McMahon

#### **Headed Item 2: strategic Policy Committee Work Plan.**

Laura Leonard, SEO presented the SPC Work Plan. She outlined that the plan includes items in all areas under the remit of Economic Development, Enterprise Development and Supports and Tourism Development. In addition, the option of collaborative and joint working across the Dublin LA's SPC's was raised with the committee for their consideration.

Following the presentation, the plan was discussed and Cllr. V. Casserly and Cllr. R. McMahon raised questions as follows:- The inclusion of an accessibility strategy in the Tourism Strategy and the fact that the work plan can be added to over the term of the SPC.

**The Plan as presented was Agreed by the members.**

#### **Headed Item 3: Tallaght Evening Time Economy.**

Jason Frehill, DOS presented on the Tallaght Evening Time Economy and the challenges and opportunities offered in advancing on this.

Cllrs. J Sinnott, S. O'Hara, P. Kearns, R. McMahon, V. Casserly and Miriam O'Donoghue made contributions raising matters such as, commending the report, auditing vacant buildings in the study area, the commercial rates applicable, data re transport & people, looking at best practice examples the importance of café openings, incorporating local St. Maelruans festival, good lighting and the possibility of activating underused existing space for summer accommodation, possibly for international groups of students.

**The report on the item was Noted.**

#### **Headed Item 4: County Economic Strategy.**

Clíodhna Scanlon, Project Manager presented the report on the County Economic Strategy outlining the overall objectives and vision for same along with setting out the process and timelines for delivery.

**Cllr. P. Kearns contributed. The report was Noted.**

#### **Headed Item 5: South Dublin Outdoor Advertising Strategy.**

Jason Frehill, DOS presented the report on the outdoor advertising strategy outlining the opportunities and benefits of same. The next steps to advance this strategy were set out. The intention is to publish tender in March 2025. This will involve identification of suitable locations within the County.

The following members contributed to the discussion, Cllrs V. Casserly, P. Kearns, R. McMahon and Lisa Rowntree. **The report was then Noted.**

#### **Headed Item 6: Hotel Accommodation- Visitor Levy.**

Laura Leonard, SEO brought the attention of the Committee to two items of correspondence.

Letters from Fingal County Council and Dublin City Council to SDCC suggesting that the Dublin Local Authorities set up a steering group to consider a Motion passed by Fingal County Council *'calling for the introduction of enabling legislation to allow County Councils to levy a Transient Visitor Tax on overnight stays in hotels, short-term rentals, such as Airbnb's and other accommodations within the County'*. Further to discussion on this by Dublin City Council at the Finance SPC, their letter *'is seeking the views of the Dublin Local Authorities on the possibility of setting up a working group to progress'*

The Committee agreed that some representatives from the SPC would be nominated, and Dublin City Council and Fingal County Council informed accordingly.

The correspondence was Noted.

#### **Headed Item 7: A.O.B.**

Tom Rooney, Head of Enterprise drew the members attention to the forthcoming Local Enterprise Week in March and encouraged support for the events.

Cllrs R. McMahon, P. Kearns, L O'Toole and V. Casserly commented. The details were Noted.

Cllr O Toole raised issue of the repatriation of Patrick Sarsfield remains from Belgium.

**The meeting ended at 19:05 p.m.**

**The Chairperson Cllr. V. Casserly concluded the meeting.**