

Meeting Report from the Economic Programme Management Group (EPMG), South Tipperary County Development Board, Monday, 8th March, 2010

Chair: Thos Hayes

Attended: Isabel Cambie, Donal Mullane, Anthony FitzGerald, Sinead Carr, Michael Murphy, Clodagh Whelan, Anna Touhy Halligan, Brian Cleary, Mary O Halloran, Pat Holland

Apologies: Margaret Lovatt, Moya Breen, Siobhan McEvoy, Sean Moloughney.

Pat Holland gave a short summary of the roles of the EPMG in overseeing the implementation of the economic agenda of the CDB. Meeting report, November 9th, 2009 approved.

Agenda Item 4

Pat Holland presented the draft 2009 South Tipperary economic and other indicators (attached). There were the following comments/queries etc

- Live Register graph might usefully include the number of under-25s (male/female) signing on
- Education status, is the number of who were reported in the 2006 census as not having third level attainments lower because many of those who have such attainments were in fact absent from home at the time, given that we know we have a loss of such young people ?
- Even given the present economic situation, there were opportunities for new businesses
- Apprentices who had not finished their training were an issue but it was also noted that Kentz had recently taken in 30 such apprentices.

Agenda Item 5

Report re: 2010 County Strategy Economic Actions (attached). Toss Hayes gave an update on the Tipperary Food Producers Network (details added to Actions document)

Anthony FitzGerald, Enterprise Development Officer, presented a report (attached) on the implementation of the South Tipperary Inter-Agency Innovation and Enterprise Strategy. There were the following comments/queries etc

- The CEB will host a meeting for exporters
- EI will contribute to a meeting of the Engineers Network on Monday 15th March
- Anthony FitzGerald and Sinead Carr will meet with Michael O'Connell of Tipperary Institute re links with industry in Tipperary
- Action 2.6 re training, it was agreed that such a meeting of training course providers would be a very useful development. The CEB would be willing to participate.
- Business capital was discussed and it was noted that the Credit Union scheme in Kilkenny was going very well and that it was a possible option in South Tipperary.
- Businesses in difficulty: many enterprises think that they are in difficulties but they may not be as badly off as they fear, appropriate mentoring etc can assist and clarify.
- New media: the use of Facebook, Twitter and other new media needs to be recommended, websites are now normal and commonplace. If your market is using it, then they need to be targeted appropriately.
- Action 2.7 re FAS Workspace graduates scheme action to be reworded.

- Action 3.1 re Information sessions: three workshops are to be held by EI in the region.
- Action 4.1 South Tipperary Website: discussion re marketing the website, aiming it at industry and promote it locally, it would be open to local groups etc.
- Action 4.3 Clodagh Whelan noted that there would not be many new EI programmes except for the Lean Programme.
- Action 4.4 re communication with clients: This action was written in a different climate and Anthony FitzGerald was now acting to create much stronger linkages across the sector. Agencies present noted that they circulated clients as necessary.
- Action 5.5 re Enterprise Parks, EI was concentrating this year on expanding current projects rather than building new ones though there was a current audit of grants and expenditure.

Agenda Item 6

The agenda for the next meeting would be set closer to the time, and dependent on current issues but members noted the need to focus on Broadband and Business Parks.

Agenda Item 7

1. There would be a major sports event, a triathlon, in Cahir in July
2. A scoping document on the proposed relationship between Tipperary Institute and Limerick Institute of Technology had been sent to the Dept. and a positive response was hoped for. If this is so, then detailed discussions re operational matters will follow.
3. the Draft Planning guidelines were now available for review, comments before the 7th of May see <http://www.sera.ie/News/noticeboard/main,3349,en.html>
4. The Global fund for Dell is being rolled out with 11 applications from South Tipperary to date. Further applications and interest welcome to CEB.

Date of next meeting (unless otherwise decided)

Monday 8th November, 2010, at 2.15 in the afternoon in the Conference Room, County Hall.