

Table 1

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Meeting Report from the Economic Programme Management Group (EPMG) Tuesday 13 February 2007

Chair: Sinéad Carr,

Attended: Moya Breen, Isabel Cambie, Tommy Cooke, Michael Dee, Toss Hayes, Walter Heneghan, Eileen Horgan, Bernard Lennon, Céline McHugh and Margaret Lovatt.

Apologies: Claire Cashman, John Condon, John Doyle, Pat McCormack, Donal Mullane Ned O'Connor, Phil Shanahan and Billy Shoer.

Meeting

Agenda Item 1: There were no matters arising from the last meeting report.

Agenda Item 2: County Development Plan

Jim O'Mahoney, Senior Planner made a presentation outlining the proposed public consultation process for the next CDP. He also outlined the timeframe and statutory obligations around the development of the plan. There was discussion around the presentation and the draft public consultation issues paper that Jim circulated.

In general the proposed community and sectoral consultations were welcomed. There was agreement that all agencies need to indicate what their plans for facility development are. Specifically mentioned were the department of Education, Health and the Gardaí. However the centralised nature of many departments and their procedures are very hard to change. Jim indicated that there is a new requirement for developers to produce a Development Impact Assessment before development proceeds and this should assist in planning for more facilities.

Jim expressed the view that the new CDP should see a catch up situation with development. The last plan saw unprecedented and unexpected economic growth, growth in population which required higher housing densities and smaller plot sizes being implemented on the planning side.

Other economic issues identified for consideration in the plan:

- Enough industrial zoned land. The service sector is being seen as the new economic driver, so more office type development and business parks are needed. Uptake of this type of space has been rapid over the past few years. These need to be strategically linked to roads and rail network.
- Broadband is crucial especially in the rural areas.
- Need to look at suitable facilities for micro business. Those currently working from back sheds need a viable next step. Small businesses and entrepreneurs are feeling the difficulties with planning putting them through the wringer.
- Opportunities in wind farming – lost 'anti-wind capital'
- Discontinuity in planning is a significant drawback. Needs consistency.
- Planning system is too complex.
- Zoning for agriculture needs to be considered. There is food security issues, safety of machines and efficiency of food production to be considered. Agriculture should not just be what is left over.
- Tourism - Landscape is the industry. It must be preserved.

Table 1

- River – must be seen as an amenity. Boats could move from Carrick to Clonmel with a little bit of work. Look at the joint amenities of River and Mountains between County Tipperary and Waterford.
- Signposting is very patchy.
- Part Time farmers need to be able to work close to home. The county is losing out on rural job potential and prospects.
- Foreign Direct Investment: Clonmel will be the IDA focus. Ballingarrane would be the key development. Tipperary Institute are far ahead with their plans to move to the site. And the road and other infrastructure will be put in this year.
- Quality of life issues need to be monitored with policies implemented.

Overall it was agreed that the proposed consultation process was good.

Agenda Item 3: Future Competitiveness

Tommy Cooke led a discussion on future competitiveness. He circulated a one-page document indicating the discussion points and challenges to competitiveness and also the opportunities for the county. See Table 1 below. It was agreed that a regional approach is needed in order to make the best of the opportunities that exist. Potential regional actions could be through CIPRIDE, CDBs, SERA, WIT. Actions to be considered for next year.

Agenda Item 4, 5, 6

Summary of progress of Economic Actions Result areas 1-3 in attached Table 2 below.

Agenda Item 7: Any Other Business

Members of the committee were asked to suggest four projects that their agency considers vital and that could be considered under the new National Development Plan. A sheet was circulated and members were requested to return them by the end of February 2007. The key projects and approaches to having them implemented will be discussed at the April CDB meeting.

Next meeting: Tuesday 18 September 2007 @ 2.15 pm in the Museum, Clonmel.

Table 1

Discussion on Future Economic Competitiveness South Tipperary **Tommy Cooke** Chairman BNS Rural Development Ltd

Challenges to competitiveness in South Tipperary (Ireland)

Rising Costs

Labour

Energy

Poor Infrastructure & Planning:

Road

Rail

Telecommunications

Energy Infrastructure

Tourism Infrastructure

Port

Airport

Weak planning policies and difficulties with system

Access to reasonably priced zoned land

Globalisation:

Manufacturing moving to low cost centres

Environment:

Global warming

Carbon taxes

How many of today's centres of employment will be around in 5,10, 15 years?

What can we do to ensure we maintain and grow sustainable employment?

Opportunities

Central Location in South of Ireland

Could improve access and infrastructure – roads under construction – rail links need urgent attention- Port access and airport access is a major issue. Broadband – still being 'rolled out'.

Third level and adult education - opportunities to expand on existing system.

Potential for expansion in renewable energy development and technologies.

Very good land base for production of food, energy, recreational and other uses.

Potential for

Solutions?

Many of the issues are global – national- regional by nature.

County development plan must plan for development

Regional bodies and utilities must deliver on policies

Regional autonomy with budgets

Table 2: PROGRESS REPORT TO CDB ON EPMG ANNUAL WORK PROGRAMME 2007

PMG CATEGORY: Economic

MEMBERS: – Economic Programme Management Group

Chair: Ned O'Connor County Council, Moya Breen Tipperary Institute, Isabel Cambie Tipperary LEADER. Sinéad Carr County Council. Clare Cashman CD Supports Projects Network. Margaret Lovatt FÁS. John Condon Business Pillar. Tommy Cooke BNS LEADER. Michael Dee Enterprise Ireland. John Doyle Clonmel Borough Council. Toss Hayes CEB. Walter Heneghan Business Pillar. Eileen Horgan Community & Enterprise. Seamus Kennedy Forest Service. Bernard Lennon Voluntary Forum. Pat McCormack Agriculture Pillar. Céline McHugh IDA. Donal Mullane TEAGASC. Phil Shanahan Clonmel Community Partnership.

REPORT DATE TO BOARD: 5 February 2006

CDB Strategy Ref No.	Objective/ Key Action	Sub-Actions	Key Performance Indicators	Progress to Date	Resources Allocated	Critical issues	Lead Agency
Result Area 1	Increase the Competitiveness of South Tipperary for investment and for income generation	Broadband	Funding secured and tenders process in place for the Carrick-on-Suir, Tipperary Town/Limerick Junction, Cashel and Cahir broadband infrastructure. Rural Broadband penetration expanded	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tenders issued in early January. Tenders due in on 21 Feb 2007 Work to start in mid April. Completion by end 2007. Backhaul for all except Cashel through EsatBT along railway. Another public tender will be held for the management of the MANS. New action will begin in February to promote MANS broadband to large agencies and companies. New council policy and procedure in place for the location of wireless aerials on council property 	€7.6m	<p>CDB agencies are requested to participate in and support the marketing campaign.</p> <p>Larger agencies requested to take up the MANS broadband. Delay in next call for rural broadband roll out.</p>	<p>SERA, County Council</p> <p>County Council, SERA, Private enterprise</p>

Table 2: PROGRESS REPORT TO CDB ON EPMG ANNUAL WORK PROGRAMME 2007

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Two new wireless companies entering the South Tipperary Market. Ronan O'Connor and Ice broadband. 			
Result Area 1		Business Parks	Marketing initiative to promote Ballingarrane agreed.	Marketing plan commissioned through Colin Buchanan and Partners.		Request agencies to assist the consultants through the provision of data and information if requested.	County Council
		Implement the County Childcare Strategy	Annual prioritisation of projects prepared Annual report on project progress, critical issues and strategic direction made annually to the CDB.	Annual Plan 2007 and strategic plan 2008-2010 under preparation. Childcare spatial mapping and strategy under development.		Replacement staff being recruited currently.	County Childcare Committee
Result Area 1		Support the implement the Slieve Ardagh Business Plan	Annual prioritisation of projects prepared Annual report on project progress, critical issues and strategic direction made annually to the CDB.	Building has been refurbished. Library furnishings are in place. Next meeting is set for 24 January. Annual report to the CDB at the autumn meeting.		Agencies involved asked to keep up participation.	Tommy Cooke Slieve Ardagh Officials Group (CDB)

Table 2: PROGRESS REPORT TO CDB ON EPMG ANNUAL WORK PROGRAMME 2007

Result Area 2	Provide a Skilled Work Force for Current & Future Jobs	Job Linkage Programme	Agreed communication channels put in place to put this programme into action Linkage between Planning (Co. Co.) and FÁS leading to timely meetings between FÁS and developers.	Communication channels being agreed and personnel contact points being identified.			County Council, FÁS DSFA TI
Result Area 2		Set up a database of skill needs and supply	Set up database of current skill needs and supply. Workable updating mechanism	TOR being drawn up. Estimated 6 months work for 2 post graduate students		Possible funding requirements to cover any shortfall.	TI, FÁS
Result Area 2		Assess the demand for a Workshop for advisors and providers of training & education	Identify agency support for workshop: if it is there then Arrange workshop – May or June 2007 Evaluate and consider the potential value of a similar workshop annually.	Scoping document prepared. Relevant agencies considering benefit of workshop. Decision whether to progress this year will be made in February.		Agency commitment to enable frontline staff to participate. Agency commitment to ‘take a table’.	TI, VEC, FÁS, TEAGASC, CDB
Result Area 3	Increase the economic performance of targeted sectors and to grow entrepreneurship	In the development of a cohesion plan(s) for the county ensure that the economic component will have a strong emphasis on developing a strategic plan and accessing resources for rural development in Tourism and Food	A South Tipperary tourism structure in place. A County Tourism Strategy drawn up with: Actions prioritised for resources in the new cohesion plan(s) Actions and resources identified for regional and North/South Tipperary tourism marketing actions. Continued production of top quality marketing material. A County food strategy.	Meeting with cohesion partners on tourism on 24 January 2007 agreed to set up an interim CDB steering committee in order to <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Prepare for a consultation to draw up a county tourism strategy• Set up a county tourism structure.• Meet with members of the dissolved County Tourism Committee		Cohesion not yet agreed. No county tourism structure in place since the changes to national tourism structures.	New Cohesion Company(s) STCC CEB TEAGASC Fáilte Ireland SE

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Result Area 3		Produce a quality influencing document based on an analysis of the equine industry value/ linkage in the county	An action plan based on recommendations arising from the analysis of the influencing document.	TI prepared study outline. Meeting on 26 January agreed 2 phases needed. 1. Identification and location of available data. 2. Followed by agreement of priority sectors requiring primary data gathering.		Inter-Agency commitment to funding needed.	TEAGASC, TI
Result Area 3		Create an environment within the county that nurtures and celebrates entrepreneurial activity	Evaluate the South Tipperary Entrepreneurial Awards 2006 Identify an appropriate 2007 action	Awards held November 7, 2006. Evaluation meeting agreed to hold awards again in 2 years time Meeting of 23 January considered an entrepreneur/primary school class action. Being followed up.	Over €20,000		South Tipperary Enterprise Forum
Result Area 3		Create and develop an entrepreneurial region. Participate in actions identified through the Regional 'Spirit of Enterprise' Forum to promote entrepreneurship and enterprise.	Metrics to measure the set targets will be agreed and established by forum members.	Preparation in train for a Regional Enterprise Week in the Autumn			SERA, WIT