

DRAFT

**Meeting Report from the Economic Programme Management Group (EPMG)
Tuesday 8 March 2004**

Chair: Ned O'Connor

Attended: Isabel Cambie, Michael Carew, Claire Cashman, Oliver Clancy, John Condon, Brian Conroy, Tommy Cooke, John Doyle, Toss Hayes, Eileen Horgan, Bernard Lennon, Caroline O'Reilly, John Quinn.

Apologies: Michael Dee, Donal Mullane, Seamus Kennedy, Michael Devane, Alan Robinson

Meeting

Agenda Item 1: Helen Shanahan, Manager of the Craft Granary took the EMPG members on a tour of the facility. Helen outlined the combined interagency role of the County Council, FAS, CEB and the Management Committee in the development and running of the facility. The Craft Granary is encouraging companies who are buying corporate gifts to consider purchasing from the large range of locally made arts and crafts items.

Agenda Item 2: There were no issues arising from the last meeting report.

Agenda Item 3: Imaging Group

- **Public Affairs Unit (PAU)**

The Public Affairs Unit circulated a document outlining a 2-year programme with a list of seven objectives. Following discussion the programme was agreed and the Imaging Group was asked to oversee its implementation. It was also agreed that in review of the programme, the group would look at the scope of other agencies to take a lead in action implementation.

Issues raised for consideration by the PAU included: need to quantify the cost of delays of major infrastructure projects, how to get balanced coverage of projects that have objectors, roundabouts (more of them, cleaning, sponsorship), rail services.

- **Information Unit (IU)**

The Information Unit circulated a report at the meeting. It outlined progress to date and listed three proposals that were being considered in order to meet the data/information requirements of economic agencies working in the County. It was agreed that the IU would meet again to investigate the three proposals, cost them and bring the outcome to the Chair for consideration before the next step is taken. In the interim, the IU would undertake 'fire brigading' action when opportunities arise.

- **Hotel Unit**

There are 10 potential hotel proposals in the County at the moment.

Agenda Item 4: Review of Tipperary Working Group action

A report on the progress of the Tipperary Working Group was circulated. It was noted that there was good progress to date with only 23 of 145 of those who have lost jobs still seeking work. FÁS indicated that the early announcement of job losses from PALL helped the situation considerably. The Think Tank sub group is now investigating ways of attracting investment into the West Tipperary area.

Agenda Item 5: Expand Role of Tipperary Working Group

The request from Cllr Sean McCarthy, Chair of the County Council and County Development Board to expand the role of the Tipperary Working Group to include Carrick on Suir was endorsed.

Action: Group incorporated Carrick into its remit. The Carrick Town Manager will join the group.

Agenda Item 6: New Action

Action 1.4.9. which was adopted by the CDB in November 2003 was noted by the group. Following discussion it was agreed that Curam Slieve Ardagh, the lead agency, would look at a substructure incorporating the relevant agencies to drive the action.

Agenda Item 7: Review Priority Action Plan 2003

1. *Action 1.4.5.* Ballingarrane – progressing as planned. Buy in from IDA, TI and Hotel group.
2. *Decentralisation.* Decentralise jobs to Tipperary Town and Carrick. Tipperary awarded 200 jobs.
3. *Targeting investors to specific sectors:* Attraction of Hotel development. Currently 10 projects under active consideration.
4. *Targeting investors to specific locations:*
 - Carrick-on-Suir. Jobs Task Group is moving a Marina project and Tourism Strategy forward.
 - Tipperary Town. Think Tank Group identifying investment projects
 - Cahir. Town Economic Policy is being completed.
 - Cashel. Consultants engaged to plan for the town post Bypass. Economic plan and Vision statement being developed in conjunction with the CDB.

Agenda Item 8: Agree Priority Action Plan 2004

1. *Action 1.4.5.* Ballingarrane
2. *Action 1.3.2.* Target investors to business park development in larger towns.
3. *Decentralisation.* Work to ensure early move (within 3 years) of decentralised jobs to Tipperary Town. Identify ways to address the non commitment of decentralised jobs to Carrick
4. *Targeting investment to specific sector:* Broadband rollout to Cashel, Cahir, Tipperary Town and Carrick-on-Suir.

Agenda Item 9: Prepare for Economic Review for the March Meeting of CDB

The CDB meets five times each year. At the next meeting, March 29, the economic review will be presented, with a review of the 2003 priorities and agreement on the 2004 priorities.

Action: Members to get back to John Quinn if they have any other issues to add.

Agenda Item 10: Regional Planning Guidelines

The Chair informed the meeting that the Draft Regional Planning Guidelines have been published and are now open for public consultation. It is crucial for South Tipperary that the hubs and 5 County Towns are mentioned at second level in the RPG. The public representatives have been active and have brought forward the South Tipperary agenda.

Action: Every member to read and comment on the Draft Regional Planning Guidelines.

Agenda Item 11: Action Reports

Action 1.2.1. Matching Skills with Jobs – Carrick. Oliver Clancy from FÁS outlined the new approach that FÁS would be taking in leading up this action. FÁS is rolling out their Unemployment Action Plan, where there will be one-to-one support and training leading to employment. There will be consultation with SIM and other agencies TI, VEC and employers will be involved. Local employment action groups are to be set up.

Action 1.3.3. Inter-agency support to micro enterprises. Caroline O'Reilly from TI indicated that TBAN has been suspended and there is now no lead agency for the action.

Action: Caroline to arrange inter-agency meeting including Chambers of Commerce and Margaret Lovett, FÁS, to identify a driver for this action.

Action 1.5.2. County Food Strategy. Isabel Cambie from Tipperary LEADER, outlined the progress that has taken place recently around this action which has been inactive for some time. LEADER had been working with the Food and Business section of UCC and they are bringing together a committee of key stakeholders for a two-day brainstorming session for micro food businesses. It is anticipated that three or four key actions will emerge by the end of May and by September there will be a group to lead each of the key actions.

Agenda Item 12: Agree next meeting. Close.

Next meeting will be on Tuesday 28 September 2004 @ 2.00 pm in the Training Room, Museum, Clonmel.