



**DRAFT**

## **Meeting Report from the Economic Programme Management Group (EPMG) Tuesday 23 September 2003**

Chair: Ned O'Connor

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

Apologies: John Doyle, Seamus Kennedy, Alan Robinson  
Not Present: Michael Devane

### **Meeting**

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

### **Agenda Item 2: Imaging Group**

- **Information Unit**

**Action:** Following discussion, it was agreed that the project would go ahead as outlined and the Information Unit will report back to the September 2004 meeting with the task completed.

**Action:** Information Unit to meet and consider the preparation of a quick county economic profile in the interim.

- **Public Affairs Unit**

The report from the Public Affairs Unit was circulated at the meeting. It was agreed that the report had excellent recommendations. There was discussion on merits of benchmarking, review panel, building of strategic alliances, developing of good national profile and appropriate image of the County.

**Action:** The Public Affairs Unit to proceed with developing the recommendation in part B of their Strategy.

- **Hotel Unit**

The work of this group is ongoing. Data on 10 potential hotel sites in the county was collated and presented to a number of hotel chains. Two sites proved to be of significant interest, Ballingarrane in Clonmel and a site near the new bypass in Cashel. The County Council has issued a tender notice for expressions of interest in the Ballingarrane site, which is due to close before the end of September.

### **Agenda Item 3: Economic Watch**

The CDB meeting notes on the Economic Watch were taken as read.



#### **Agenda Item 4: New Economic Actions in 2003**

An outline of the three new economic actions to date in 2003 was given: actions 1.2.5 (SEEDS), 1.4.8 (Tipperary Town working group) and 1.5.6. (Third Level Education Forum)

#### **Agenda Item 5: Review of Economic Actions:**

An Action Summary document was circulated before the meeting. They were taken as read. A short input was made by the coordinating partners on actions 1.5.2 (Food), 1.5.5 (Network of IT enterprises), 1.3.2 (Enterprise Space), 1.3.1 (Finestra/Enact) 1.2.1 (Job opportunities/Skills), and 1.2.2 (Opportunities programme).

**Action:** Under action 1.1.2 (Competitiveness) it was agreed that the Local Development Companies (Tommy Cooke, BNS Leader) would make a submission to the Local Authorities on the Development Levy, which is currently out for public consultation. The submission would ask for a halving of the Development Levy for strategic economic projects.

#### **Agenda Item 6: Proposed new Economic Actions**

##### *1. Slieveardagh.*

**Action:** It was unanimously agreed that the Slieveardagh proposal, once formalised, will be brought to the next County Development Board for inclusion in the County Development Board Strategy.

**Action:** FÁS to have more discussion with Slieveardagh

##### *2. Farming Pillar/IFA proposal.*

**Action:** Teagasc to ask the Steering Group of the Opportunities Programme (action 1.2.2 of the County Strategy) to consider the proposal. a) to look at the impact of the Fischler proposals and b) identify how many people are likely to be affected.

Analysis of the implications of reform is already being incorporated into the ongoing programme of meetings and action planning.

#### **Agenda Item 7: Annual Report**

Members were satisfied with the 2003 Annual Report.

**Action:** Members are asked to forward any projects or items that they would like to see highlighted in the 2004 Annual Report which will be compiled over the next month or so.

**Agenda Item 8: Next meeting** is set for Tuesday 2 March 2004 in Cahir. (To be confirmed). The Venue is most likely to be the Cahir Craft Granary. A short visit to an area of economic interest will commence at 2.00pm with the meeting to start at 2.30.