

**Meeting Report from the Economic Programme Management Group (EPMG)
Tuesday 16 April 2002**

Chair: Ned O'Connor

Attended:

Isobel Cambie, Michael Carew, Tommy Cooke, Terry Cunningham, Michael Dee, Michael Devane, John Doyle, Clare Hartley, Toss Hayes, Seamus Kennedy, Bernard Lennon, Joe Maher, Donal Mullane, Alan Robinson.

In attendance:

Pat Holland, Eileen Horgan, John Quinn

Apologies: Mary Buckley, John Condon

Agenda Item 1: Welcome

The Chair, Ned O'Connor, Deputy Manager South Tipperary County Council, welcomed all partners to the first meeting of the EPMG. Partners introduced themselves. A number of partners were interim representatives whilst their organisations elected/appointed a permanent representative.

Action Item: Partners to forward contact details of their permanent representative to Eileen Horgan as soon as possible in order to facilitate briefing on the EPMG and to progress actions.

Agenda Item 2: Role of the EPMG

John Quinn, Director of Services for Community and Enterprise, detailed the role of the EPMG. He referred the meeting to pages 18 and 19 of the South Tipperary County Strategy, which identifies the Agenda for the Programme Management Groups, the Output expected and Timeframe.

Agenda Item 3: Outline of the Equality Proofing implications for the EPMG and the Economic Programme

Eileen Horgan, Community and Enterprise Development Officer, circulated a sheet that summarised an equality-proofing template that the Equality Authority has prepared for County Development Boards. The South Tipperary County Development Strategy must be assessed to ensure that it meets guidelines on equality, poverty, rural development and environmental impact. At this stage the guidelines are clearest around the equality issues and in order to ensure that the EPMG develops a working ethos that encompasses these agendas, the equality agenda was the first up for discussion. There were fears that work would progress and the other agendas would be ignored. Clare Hartley and Alan Robinson agreed to assist in assisting to incorporate the poverty agenda and the farming pillar will assist in the rural agenda in the absence of clear guidelines currently.

Decision Item: The co-ordinating partner of each action undertakes to equality proof the action.

Decision Item: A group to consider the proofing agendas will be set up, consisting of one or two members from each of the four Programme Management Groups. Two members agreed to participate from this group; Clare Hartley and Alan Robinson.

Action Item: All partners with equality statements to forward a copy of them to Eileen Horgan. If partners have poverty proofing, rural proofing or environmental impact statements, they would forward them also.

Agenda Item 4: Outlines the status of the action to date

In order to introduce the new EPMG to the actions of the programme, each action was outlined, giving progress to date and next step. An updated copy of the actions was circulated. A fuller account of each action will be available on the website www.southtippcdb.ie from May onwards. Each action sheet will be updated as the action progresses.

Agenda Item 5: Partner proposals for new actions that require resources from other stakeholders

This section of the meeting will form the core of future Spring Meetings. As this was the initial meeting, time was allocated to introductory work. All members of the EMPG are being encouraged to identify issues arising for consideration before the Autumn Meeting. The one new item identified was an action on Forestry:

New Actions identified for follow up:

Supporting the South Tipperary Indicative Forest Strategy:

An Indicative Forest Strategy is concerned with planting the right trees in the right places and will help guide the location and character of future afforestation. It will identify suitable areas for afforestation and highlight areas where particular care and close consultation with interested parties will be required. The Strategy will specifically aim to 1) support the local economy, b) conserve and enhance the environment and c) enhance the quality of life of the people of South Co. Tipperary.

Other issues discussed that will be addressed at a regional level were:

1. Rural electricity infrastructure
2. Rural transport infrastructure
3. Strategy South East

Issues that are being addressed through other Programme Management Groups are:

1. Childcare
2. Co-ordination of services from agencies to the community sector and public

Agenda Item 6: Agree next meeting

Next meeting will be held on Tuesday 1 October 2002, 4.00pm in Clonmel. Venue to be confirmed.