

## EPMG Priority Actions 2011: Report, April 2011

### Economic Programme Management Group Members

Members:

Cllr Michael Murphy STCC, Moya Breen – TI; Isabel Cambie – STDC; Sinéad Carr – C&E; Anna Tuohy-Halligan – CDP/FRC Network; to be nominated – FÁS; to be nominated EI; Ita Horan – CEB; Pat Holland – C&E; Bernard Lennon – CVF; Siobhan McEvoy – IDA; Donal Mullane – TEAGASC; Eimear Whittle, Failte Ireland Anthony FitzGerald, Business Park, Business Pillar representatives: Brian Cleary Clonmel Chamber (and representing Carrick-on-Suir), Sean Moloughney Cashel, TIRD rep..., J.J. Killian,

### Aim: Increase the competitiveness of South Tipperary for Investment and income generation

Key Action	Target/Standard/Process	Partners	KPI	Progress in year 2011 to date
<p><i>Infrastructure:</i> The EPMG will continue to maintain a <b>watching brief</b> on vital <b>infrastructure development</b>, inputting where it can to ensure the county progresses with infrastructure development.</p>	<p><b>Broadband</b> Increased accessibility, availability.</p>	<p>STCC SERA Private Enterprise DCENR ENet</p>	<p>Carrick-on Suir, Tipperary Town/Limerick Junction, Cashel and Cahir broadband infrastructure 'Lit'.  Increasing the usage of the MANS  Rural Broadband penetration expanded through Department's '3' licence.</p>	<p><b>Broadband MANS Phase 1</b> 6 Carriers (UPC, Digiweb, BT, Cable &amp; Wireless, Cablevision, O2) 16 Connections (Some connections direct to Telco PoP's (UPC, Cablevision, O2) providing indirect connectivity and services to multiple end users. Other connections direct to end-users. The much larger number of end users highlights the fact that the MANS are a middle mile solution allowing multiple last mile or access technologies to complement and work in tandem with them. <b>Phase 2</b> Cahir, Cashel, Carrick on Suir and Tipperary Town were handed over to e net in mid Dec 2009 All of these, except Cashel, have BT backhaul and are available for trafficEnet and other significant stakeholders are trying to overcome the backhaul challenge from Cashel. some interest shown from 1 end user. In relation to backhaul, it looks as though backhaul would be wireless (like Enet have put in place in Kiltimagh, Bantry, Nenagh etc.) when demand is present A meeting took place late in 2010 between Enet reps and business interests following a presentation to Tipperary town council. some interest shown from 2 end users. Not much by way of direct nterest from end users present at the Chamber meeting. The schools present on that occassion will, more than likely, get connectivity from the next phases of the 100Mbs for Schools Project. The <b>National Broadband Scheme</b> was set up by Government to bring internet services to those parts of the country not previously covered. By end 2009, 82% of the NBS areas had been covered, servicing some 8900 households. The Scheme has been completed in the county. 6230 premises in the following 27 EDs have been covered (Ardfinnan, Ballycarron, Ballygriffin, Bruis, Burncourt, Clonbeg, Cloneen,</p>

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	<p><b>Business Parks</b> Consolidation of recent development. Strategic planning and development of landbanks.</p> <p><b>Hotels</b></p> <p><b>Rail</b> Upgrade Limerick Junction Rail Station</p> <p><b>Roads</b></p>	<p>STCC TI IDA EI CEB Private business</p> <p>Private enterprise</p> <p>Iarnród Éireann SERA CDB MWRA</p> <p>SERA STCC CDB</p>	<p>Ballingarrane Marketing campaign continued.</p> <p>Campus Innovation Centre progressed</p> <p>R&amp;D centre grown</p> <p>Private business parks continue development when opportunities arise.</p> <p>Promote the sustainability of hotels where possible.</p> <p>Park and Ride facility, developed. Passenger facilities and services on the Waterford/Limerick rail line improved. Commencement of a joint strategic rail initiative between the SE Region and the Mid West Region on the Limerick –</p>	<p>Coolagarranroe, Cullen, Curraheen, Derrygrath, Emly, Garrangibbon, Glengar, Golden, Kilcoran, Kileenasteena, Kilpatrick, Lattin, Oughterleague, Poyntstown, Rodus, Shronell, Thomastown, Tubbrid, and Tullaghmelan). A new <b>Rural Broadband Scheme</b> has been discussed for 2011. It is intended for those people who cannot get a service from internet providers and who are outside the area of the existing National Broadband Scheme.</p> <p>A new brochure was launched in July, 2010 along with a website. A new video re the suitability of the county and Ballingarrane was completed in March this year.is currently being prepared, following collection of new images. The MOU between TI/LIT and the Council is being prepared. The new building at Ballingarrane will take 30 months from signature to turn key. The Incubation Unit for Tipperary Institute at Ballingarrane is being actively followed up with recent meetings. The R&amp;D Centre in Ballingarrane had one researcher who has now moved on, other researchers are being discussed.</p> <p>At the end of 2010, Clonmel Business Park and the Council enterprise units in Drangan and Ballingarry were full, and Tipperary Tech park was 60-65% full.</p> <p>Anthony FitzGerald continued to work in the position of Business Development Executive. So far this year he as been working on the launch of the Ballingarrane video, support of the business parks, training opportunities, inter-agency work and creating greater levels of interaction between the business community and the various state agencies.</p> <p>Due to the economic climate, there has been little opportunity to progress this initiative. Hotels are coming under severe pressure and it may be that the main effort should be to support them in terms of encouraging events etc.</p> <p>A joint Iarnroad Eireann/CDB marketing campaign is planned for May with radio ads already having been commissioned. Talks have begun with local interested groups re following up the campaign</p>

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	<i>Childcare infrastructure</i>	STCCC	<p>Waterford - Rosslare route.</p> <p>Inclusion of the Tipperary Town and Carrick on Suir by-passes in the NRA programme pre 2013</p> <p>Strategic Mapping/Zeno Updated Quality Programmes Promoted Childcare Services with CCSS supported Voluntary Notification supported HSE &amp; County Council Child protection workshops supported Childcare providers supported in creating easier access to their services for Traveller children.</p>	<p>N 24: The Tipperary town-bypass/Pallas Green to Cahir : an Environmental Impact Statement and CPO documentation has been prepared and the next step is for the EIS to be examined. The Carrick and Clonmel by passes are at route consultation stage. Construction funding for both routes has not yet been allocated.</p> <p>41 private services 32 community services 3 after-school services 2 private Montessori (IMEB registered) 2 HSE notified childminders</p> <p>These figures will change over the coming months as a number of new services are opening on foot of the September 2011 ECCE scheme</p>
<b>Engineering Sector</b>	<i>Engineering Sector Action</i>	TI FÁS CEB EI STCC Engineering companies	Workshop on European R&D funding held Training & Development Association promoted Action plan developed and implemented	Activity in the Engineering Network came to a temporary halt late in 2009 when Breda Kenny of TI/LIT went on maternity leave. Since then I (PH) have been working with FAS and TI to (a) carry on the remainder of the budget into this year and (b) to plan for activities in 2010. We are awaiting confirmation of the exact amount from FAS. A draft plan involving two meetings and a programme of mentoring has been put together.
<b>Energy</b>	<i>Energy Action</i>	STCC	Creation and	2010

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		Private enterprise ESB DCENR	implementation of action plan  Identify approaches that eliminate problems associated with delays in connections to the grid.  Wind energy and biogas projects in the pipeline implemented	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There was one single significant investment in renewables in 2010 in the county. Rockwell College installed two no. 240kW wood chip boilers, which TEA would expect to output 768,000kWh, depending on operating hours and management of the heat load at the college and associated buildings. This installation should result in local wood production supply chains, given the cost of transporting bulk timber. The company is Tipp Wood Chip of Two Mile Borris.</li> <li>• There were no large wind farm installations in the county nor any bio-gas.</li> <li>• Natural gas did come to Cahir bringing lower priced energy and is due to come to Tipperary town in 2011.</li> <li>• There is no wood briquette or wood pellet manufacturer in the county though there are some close by.</li> <li>• Miscanthus is being grown by a number of farmers in the county, organized by a local company, Tippgen. During the year, the tariff or subvention for biomass to electricity generation plants was announced, giving some degree of price predictability for growers.</li> <li>• There is a good growth in solar heating installations in Co. Tipperary, north and south county as a whole though the numbers installed have dropped in recent years, perhaps an indication of less houses being built. By simple population figures, we can estimate that 55% of these might be in South Tipperary.</li> <li>• Tipperary Energy Agency is starting to develop FOREST, a pan-European project focused on working with business in the biomass heating supply chain to develop a more profitable and successful business sector. Their aim is to keep you up-to-date with information that's helpful in developing business and promoting a successful biomass sector.</li> </ul> <p>Gas is now being brought to Cahir which might see the development of the gas-fired generation plant there.</p>
<b>Support the implementation of the Slieve Ardagh Business Plan</b>	The EPMG will continue to support the activities of the <b>Slieveardagh group</b> with inter-agency support towards the implementation of their action plan.	SRD, VEC HSE, STDC TI, FAS CCC, CEB C.I.T.E. MFRC Tipperary Volunteering services STCC	Implement the contents of the Business Plan as agreed	A plan was drafted and agreed by the community in Slieve Ardagh in 2009 with three particular themes, an ecclesiastical heritage trail, a bio-diversity and angling project and maximizing walks and associated facilities (accommodation, music etc). One of these has now been submitted to the County Development Company and the two others are in preparation.



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				<p>appropriate formats as it is recognised that the issues facing retailers cannot be solved by the Council alone The County Development Board agreed to support this initiative at their meeting on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> April, 2011.</p> <p><i>Objective:</i> To sustain and grow existing retail activity and to grow the retail offering in the Central Business Districts of our towns and District Service Centres. The intention is to have a working paper of agreed actions by October 2011 which all stakeholders will have bought into and will have taken ownership of</p> <p>Applications to the next Labour Market Activation fund process are being prepared by TI/LIT.</p>
<p><b>Aim 3: Increase the Economic performance of Targeted Sectors and Grow Entrepreneurship</b></p>				
<p>In the development of a Rural Development Plan /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 <i>rural development in Tourism and Food</i></p>	<p><i>Tourism</i></p> <p>County Tourism Structure in place</p> <p>2009 Tourism actions implemented re: Marketing Product Development Training</p>	<p>ST Tourism Company STDC STCC Tourism Trade providers Fáilte Ireland Teagasc</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development of 'Butler Trail'</li> <li>• Develop and implement a strategy for Internet/website/ on-line booking/visitor surveys</li> <li>• Promotion at Trade shows in Ireland, the UK Germany, Netherlands</li> </ul>	<p><b>Priorities for 2010</b></p> <p>See report above</p>

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Investigate potential initiatives</li> </ul> Irish Music Tipperary association with the horse Linking Rock of Cashel with Cashel town  Revamp the Tipperary 2011 Holiday Guidebook	<p>The Tipperary Food Producers Network is a developing food network established in August 2008 by food producers to collectively further the food agenda in Tipperary and to drive their individual business performance through shared learning and development. The Network has identified a total of 66 food producers throughout Tipperary, 28 of these producers are members of the Network. The current chairperson of the network is Mr. Pat Whelan. Since its inception the Network has taken on initiatives that have raised the profile of food within the county. The network continues to develop and will be involved with the Long Table concept in 2011 and the Connect programme of school involvement.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> </ul>

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	<p><b>Food</b></p> <p>Develop a Food Network incorporating the artisan/ organic/ high quality commercial food sectors.</p> <p>Identify programme of work/county food &amp; drink plan</p>	<p>STDC STCC Food Network CEB Tipperary Tourism Co Fáilte Ireland TEAGASC EI IDA</p>	<p>Set up interagency meeting led by TI to include, STDC, TEAGASC, CEB, FÁS and Trade.</p> <p>Progress the 'long-table' concept of promoting South Tipperary Food.</p> <p>Action plan developed.</p> <p>Link made with tourism actions for marketing purposes in place.</p> <p>Potential of R&amp;D Development Association considered.</p>	
<p>Prepare an action plan arising from the study of the <b>equine industry</b></p>	<p><b>Equine</b> Tourism</p> <p>Innovative equine projects</p> <p>Investigate the possibilities that exist to expand the range and accessibility of lands for equine pursuits.</p>	<p>TEAGASC CEB Co Co Private enterprise</p>	<p>Equine tourism 'bundle' developed led by North Tipperary CDB.</p> <p>Support Sport Horse project proposed by a private entrepreneur.</p> <p>STDC be asked to consider developing of off road horse riding with Coillte.</p>	<p>No significant development on the equine front to date. There is still some opportunity to develop a tourism product based around Coolmore/Cashel and Fethard.</p>
<p>Create an environment within the <b>county</b> that nurtures and celebrates entrepreneurial activity <b>Entrepreneurship</b></p>	<p><b>County</b></p> <p>Promote a joint approach to fostering <b>entrepreneurship</b> in the county.</p>	<p>South Tipperary Enterprise Forum</p> <p>Spirit of Enterprise CEB</p>	<p>Agreement on 2010 approach to Forum and Week</p> <p>Implementation of Innovation Strategy</p>	<p><b>The Spirit of Enterprise forum has moved to establish a day event, a SLNIW Networking Event and Seminar / Exhibition / Spirit of Enterprise Michael Dee Award. This event has a treble purpose; It is the second Cross Border Trip for the Welsh Networks, bringing the six networks together. As part of this event, the Welsh participants will have the opportunity to visit three businesses in the South East region, enabling them to see these businesses in</b></p>

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<p>Create and develop an <b>entrepreneurial region.</b></p>	<p><i>Region</i></p> <p>Identify regional strategies to address the five key issues facing the SE in the current Climate</p>	<p>Co Co EI STDC IDA</p> <p>Spirit of Enterprise</p> <p>Spirit of Enterprise</p> <p>EI</p>	<p>Enterprise Week developed and improved.</p> <p>Strategies and coordinated approaches to addressing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Current and pending increasing rate of redundancies</li> <li>• Increasing number of businesses struggling to survive</li> <li>• Lower rate of exports from the region</li> <li>• Less inward FDI</li> <li>• Low rate of high potential start-ups</li> <li>• Increase in start ups of Technology enterprises</li> </ul>	<p><b>operation first-hand. Following this, a shared network meeting will take place, enabling the six networks to come together to exchange ideas, share business problems and establish new business opportunities.</b></p> <p>Secondly, SLNIW, in conjunction with the Spirit of Enterprise Forum, will host a Seminar on "<b>Ireland and Wales Working Together</b>" to disseminate information on Learning Networks in Ireland and Wales, delivered by Professor William O'Gorman (SLNIW Project Director, Ireland), Ms. Nerys Fuller-Love (SLNIW Project Director, Wales) and Mr. Simon Baily, Head of Unit from the Ireland Wales Office. <b>Martin Shanahan, CEO of Forfás</b> will deliver the key note address for this event. Also, as part of this event, an exhibition showcasing a range of enterprise supports available to enterprises in Ireland will take place. The final element is the presentation of the prestigious "<b>Spirit of Enterprise Michael Dee Award</b>".</p> <p>a) South Tipperary County Council's Interagency Innovation/.Enterprise Strategy is being implemented</p> <p>b) Enterprise Web site for the County has been developed by STCC with links to key economic development agencies and significant employers. The website is being maintained and updated.</p> <p>c) County data Unit – All relevant agencies committed in 2009 to supporting the practical implementation of a County Data Unit by way of financial commitment and provision of relevant and available data so as to create a multi-agency data platform for the county. The work of the Unit has now started and a draft of the first theme, Enterprise is available and two more Education and Training are to follow soon.</p>
<p>Undertake a County Innovation and Enterprise Strategy</p>	<p>Innovation and enterprise Strategy adopted</p>			
<p>Hold Enterprise Skills Workshops for 'Technology' sector</p>	<p>Hold workshop and work with other agencies to ensure a good turn-out attendance.</p>			