

EPMG Priority Actions 2009

Economic Programme Management Group Members

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

Key Action	Target/Standard/ Process	Partners	KPI	Progress to year End 2009
<p><i>Infrastructure:</i> The EPMG will continue to maintain a <i>watching brief</i> on vital <i>infrastructure development</i>, inputting where it can to ensure the county progresses with infrastructure development.</p>	<p>Broadband 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>Broadband licences for Cashel, Carrick, Cahir and Tipperary are being signed. E-Net are preparing to take over the MANS. Usage of the Clonmel MANS has risen significantly Rural Broadband project is being delivered by "3". 48% of the County has been completed this year to date and the remainder will be completed by Autumn of 2010 Eircom continues to enable exchanges. Main concern to date vis-à-vis broadband relates to the lack of a backhaul to Cashel</p>
	<p>Business Parks Consolidation of recent development. Strategic planning and development of landbanks.</p>	<p>STCC TI IDA EI CEB Private business</p>	<p>Ballingarrane Marketing campaign continued. Campus Innovation Centre progressed R&D centre grown Private business parks continue development</p>	<p>A consultant has been employed to assist in the marketing campaign and there is a reasonable expectation that the first deal will be signed off shortly. The Incubation Unit for Tipperary Institute on the Lands are being actively followed and links have been made with Enterprise Ireland in relation to the requirements. The R&D Centre in Ballingarrane continues to be active Arising from the CDB Officials Task group meetings around job redundancies/job closures, a position of a Business Development Executive was provided under the auspices of the CDB and joint funded by EI, Clonmel Business Park and STCC. Anthony Fitzgerald, is the appointed individual and has taken up his post in September 2009. He is working with private and community business parks to identify areas of potential collaboration in upskilling, developing new markets new</p>

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	<p><i>Hotels</i></p> <p><i>Rail</i> Upgrade Limerick Junction Rail Station</p> <p><i>Roads</i></p> <p><i>Childcare infrastructure</i></p>	<p>Private enterprise</p> <p>Iarnród Éireann SERA CDB MWRA</p> <p>SERA STCC CDB</p> <p>STCCC</p>	<p>when opportunities arise.</p> <p>Promote the development 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 – 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</p>	<p>markets etc and also in identifying where the services of the various CDB agencies may be able to support businesses who are struggling in this area.</p> <p>Due to the economic climate, there has been little opportunity to progress this initiative. However, very positive and active work has been on-going with the a significant proportion of the hotels under the Tourism Company (an operational arm of the CDB) to assist them in growing their trade (reported later in the document)</p> <p>Due to economic climate, little progress on the actual development of the site which has been given permission. Services on the Waterford Limerick Line likely to see a reduction in service from December 2009 but STCC successfully met with IE to minimise this impact and likely that one service (return) per day will now be affected. Arising from this, agreed with IE that South Tipperary would actively work with IE to promote the service and this has commenced with the key traders/chamber of commerce and community groups in the main towns.</p> <p>Work has commenced on the Strategic Rail Initiative and positive engagement has been made with the relevant counties. In addition, submissions have been made to the Mid West and South east Regional Planning Guidelines to ensure this is included as an action and this has been successfully included in the first drafts to date</p> <p>The Carrick-By-Pass design will be upgraded to a dual carriageway with new termination design and will therefore have to be re-advertised. Tipperary By_Pass is the most critical piece of infrastructure at this point in time for the County and it is important that all agencies and stakeholders continue to lobby hard for its inclusion in the next round of projects to be delivered by the NRA</p> <p>Mapping of resources has continued. There was a drop in available places for 2009 due to the withdrawal of capital funding from 2 large scale capital applications. Training, support and development work continues. There has been an increase of notification of the number of private home based childcare minders. Significant work has been undertaken with the traveller population and a survey of same has been completed. Child protection workshop have also been supported</p>

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			supported HSE & County Council Child protection workshops supported Childcare providers supported in creating easier access to their services for Traveller children.	
Engineering Sector	<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	A lot of pre-work in the setting up of this sector has being undertaken and an initial meeting and workshop with the key stakeholders has taken place. A second such meeting is planned before Christmas Enterprise Ireland are also holding an Idea generating workshop concentrating on the engineering/clean energy sector for potential entrepreneurs
Energy	<i>Energy Action</i>	STCC Private enterprise ESB DCENR	Workshop to identify how the CDB can assist with the elimination of obstacles to the development of alternative energy. Identify approaches that eliminate problems associated with delays in connections to the grid. Wind energy and biogas projects in the pipeline implemented	An application for a potential energy renewal based job initiative has been put together by South Tipperary CEB, TI, TEA, STDC, STCC, NTCC, North Tipperary Development Group, North Tipperary CEB and some key private interests. An announcement on this is expected in Dec 09. In the interim, a sub group of this consortium has met to see if there are areas that can be progressed within this initiative. There are a number of potential applications in the planning system which should address some of the infrastructural concerns. In addition, Greenside Properties have indicated that they will proceed with the gas powered plant in Cahir in early 2010 (electricity generation) Little work done to date in relation to looking at how obstacles to renewable energy can be overcome
Support the implementation of the Slieve Ardagh Business Plan	The EPMG will continue to support the activities of the Slieveardagh group with inter-agency support towards the implementation of their	SRD, VEC HSE, STDC TI, FAS CCC, CEB C.I.T.E. MFRC	Implement the contents of the Business Plan as agreed	Work in the areas has progressed and the following are some of the key areas that have been progressed in 2009 – the development of the lake as a fishing resource is being continued, two literary events have been held and third is planned, usage of the IT facilities in the Library in Killenaule has increased. Research work on the O Tunney school is continuing. The Development officer proposes to lengthen her input by working a shorter number of hours per week.

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	action plan.	Tipperary Volunteering services STCC		A review meeting with both the community and agency representatives will take place in the next couple of weeks to review the original aims of the initiative, set new aims and see what the most appropriate structures are for the achievement of these aims.
Support the implementation of the Carrick on Suir Tourism and Economic Development Committee (COSTEDC) plan	Implement Tourism and economic actions identified in annual plans.	COSTEDC CDB OPW Blarney Woollen Mills/Dove Hill STDC FÁS STCC	The second annual Clancy Brothers Music Festival (CBMF) 2009 run Liaise with OPW to further market and develop tourism activities at Ormond Castle. A town brochure geared towards tourism produced. Link with Dove Hill to promote Carrick as a visitor attraction. Friends of Carrick initiative progressed. River walk progressed.	The Clancy festival took place in 2009 and was deemed to have been a success. A full evaluation will take place at the end of the year. Ormond castle opening hours have been extended to six weeks. A Draft Economic Strategy is being prepared and is expected to be signed off by early next year. This idea has to be progressed. Dove Hill is now a retail outlet and it is uncertain as to the value of any links with the tourist facilities in Carrick-on-Suir. This idea is to be discussed by COS DEC In terms of the River Walk, the Study undertaken by the heritage Officer has been completed and the next steps in the process are being outlined. A full report with recommendations is expected in late November. Issue re ownership of small portion of land on tow path still not resolved.
Aim 2: Provide a Skilled Workforce for Current and Future Jobs				
Implement actions arising from 'Skills and Training Analysis in South Tipperary'	Focus of this CDB action area has changed dramatically in the last year due to economic downturn. The focus has moved from services to business and upskilling	FÁS TI VEC STDC STCC EI	Meeting of the relevant key CDB agencies, facilitated by Regional Manager, FÁS to identify a coordinated approach to new scenario of unemployment in South	VEC has recently published two guides, Directory of Education Services and Courses for Adults in South Tipperary 2009-10. Anthony FitzGerald, will as a result of his discussions with key employers draw up a list of employment training needs and skills in the county. The Employment Research Group is progressing with their action plan. They have published their research re training needs of employees, held an Employment Fair in

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	<p>employees to now providing for unemployed people.</p> <p>A coordinated approach is required between Tipperary Institute, FÁS, VEC and other agencies such as TEA (Tipperary Energy Agency) as new solutions and programmes are developed and rolled out to those being made unemployed in the county.</p>	FÁS/Carrick Employers' Group	<p>Tipperary. (This should also link into a regional approach that would be the remit of some agencies). Outputs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Needs analysis • What the agencies can provide • How the agencies can work together • Pooling data <p>Carrick on Suir Employers Network/Training investigated and progressed</p>	May, and worked on a Local Training Initiative.
Aim 3: Increase the Economic performance of Targeted Sectors and Grow Entrepreneurship				
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>Tourism</p> <p>County Tourism Structure in place</p> <p>2009 Tourism actions implemented re: Marketing Product Development</p>	<p>ST Tourism Company STDC STCC Tourism Trade providers Fáilte Ireland Teagasc</p>	<p>New Tourism Company set up</p> <p>New Board members appointed</p> <p>Old tourism committees/steering groups wrapped up</p> <p>Tourism manager & administrative support for Tourism Company negotiated</p> <p>2009 actions agreed.</p>	<p>The New Tourism Company has been set up since may 2009. 12 of the 14 Board are appointed with two vacancies (Vintners appointee and replace one who resigned). The old Tourism Committee has been wound down and all remaining funds have been transferred.</p> <p>STDC is supporting the tourism company from an administrative perspective.</p> <p>STCC have provided funds to implement actions based on the 7 year Strategy which was produced in 2007/08</p> <p>A workshop was held on the 12/10/09 by TDI and an USP was selected. An action Plan for remainder of 2009/2010 was developed.</p> <p>Castles and Heritage have been chosen as the USP and the development of the Butler Trail has been identified as a key deliverable in 2009/2010.</p> <p>The 2010 Guide Book will go to print shortly.</p>

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	<p>Training</p> <p>Food</p> <p>Develop a Food Network incorporating the artisan/ organic/ high quality commercial food sectors.</p> <p>Identify programme of work/county food & drink plan</p>	<p>STDC STCC Food Network CEB Tipperary Tourism Co Fáilte Ireland TEAGASC EI IDA</p>	<p>Resources identified.</p> <p>Strategy to implement actions in place.</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&D Development Association considered.</p>	<p>Cahir has had substantial investment in the upgrade of its fishing facilities to meet the area of excellence as denoted by Fáilte Ireland (funding from STCC, SERFB and FI). STCC and FI have also funded heritage trails in Cahir and Fethard.</p> <p>Cahir has developed and produced a tourism guide for Cahir (funded by STDC and private finance); The Glen Of Aherlow Fáilte Society has also developed and published a walking guide for the Aherlow Area. Finally, Coillte and the Glen of Aherlow Society have prepared and costed plans for a cycling trail in the Glen and it is hoped that this can be developed in 2010 if funding is available</p> <p>It should also be noted that a STDC have facilitated a private entrepreneur to undertake a feasibility study for the setting up of incubation food units in the area</p>
<p>Prepare an action plan arising from the study of the equine industry</p>	<p>Equine Tourism</p> <p>Innovative equine projects</p> <p>Investigate the possibilities that exist to expand the range and</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>No significant development on the equine front to date. There is some opportunity to develop a tourism product based around Coolmore/Cashel and Fethard.</p>

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	accessibility of lands for equine pursuits.		STDC be asked to consider developing of off road horse riding with Coillte.	
<p>Create an environment within the county that nurtures and celebrates entrepreneurial activity Entrepreneurship</p> <p>Create and develop an entrepreneurial region.</p> <p>Undertake a County</p>	<p>County</p> <p>Promote a joint approach to fostering entrepreneurship in the county.</p> <p>Region</p> <p>Identify regional strategies to address the five key issues facing the SE in the current Climate</p>	<p>South Tipperary Enterprise Forum</p> <p>Spirit of Enterprise CEB Co Co EI STDC IDA</p> <p>Spirit of Enterprise</p> <p>Spirit of Enterprise</p> <p>EI</p>	<p>Entrepreneurial Awards event of 2008 evaluated</p> <p>Investigate possibilities for other county initiatives to promote entrepreneurship. Enterprise Week developed and improved.</p> <p>Strategies and coordinated approaches to addressing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current and pending increasing rate of redundancies • Increasing number of businesses struggling to survive • Lower rate of exports from the region • Less inward FDI • Low rate of high potential start-ups • Increase in start ups of Technology enterprises 	<p>a) Enterprise Ireland, supported by Tipperary Institute and South Tipperary County Council held an Enterprise Start meeting in Tipperary Institute which was well attended with several possible entrepreneurs with good ideas there.</p> <p>b) Enterprise week was held regionally recently with a significant number of events in the county including events in Tipperary and Carrick-on-Suir for the first time as well as a regional conference in Waterford.</p> <p>c) Enterprise Ireland is hosting an IdeaGen meeting in Tipperary Institute November 26th for ‘Irelands’ brightest innovators and entrepreneurs ... to stimulate the next wave of research collaborations and market-led business innovations’.</p> <p>d) ST CDB have agreed to undertake an initiative (under the Spirit of Enterprise Collaborative network) to collate enterprise related statistics (on a county and regional basis) from the various economic development bodies in the Region. This is expected to be completed by the end of this year and results will be circulated accordingly</p> <p>e) South Tipperary County Council’s Interagency Innovation/.Enterprise Strategy is currently at draft stage and will determine our activities for 2010 if signed off – CDB workshop held on this in June 2010</p> <p>f) Enterprise Web site for the County has been developed by STCC with links to key economic development agencies and significant employers/ Expect formal lunch in Feb 2010</p> <p>g) County data Unit – All relevant agencies have not committed 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 GIS based data platform for the county.</p> <p>h) Social Lending Finance project – The County Enterprise Board, South Tipperary County Council and Tipperary Institute are currently discussing the concept of a third force in finance for the county.</p>

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Innovation and Enterprise Strategy	Innovation and enterprise Strategy adopted			
Hold Enterprise Skills Workshops for 'Technology' sector	Hold workshop and work with other agencies to ensure a good turn-out attendance.			

Strategic Mapping and Zeno Updating:

Zeno is an Access type database dedicated to handling childcare information. The database is currently under review as part of a national review of how we collect, store and disseminate childcare information. It is being carried out in conjunction with Pobal and the Office of the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs – OMCYA.

The mapping of existing services is ongoing and has been helped considerably by the introduction of the Free Pre-school Year from January 2010. Ninety per cent of our services have applied to deliver the scheme and part of that process involves them in reporting current capacity.

4. Childcare Facilities/ Places	2008	2009
Total number of private childcare facilities operating in the county/city	40	40
Total number of community c/care facilities operating in the county/ city	33	33
Number of full day places in county/city	482	420
Number of part time places in county/city	780	740
Number of sessional places in county/city	827	823

The drop in available places for 2009 was due mainly to the withdrawal of OMCYA capital funding for two of our large-scale capital applications. Surprisingly, we also had to consider seven developer applications during the year and returned recommendations to the planning dept. of the county council.

Quality programmes promoted:

Siolta is the programme that has been adopted by the OMCYA to ensure quality standards in the delivery of childcare from 2010. Aistear is the early years curriculum which has to be implemented by childcare services partaking in the 'Free Pre-school Year'. While the STCCC role in all this is still unclear, we are facilitating the national voluntary organisations in providing information workshops on these, around the county.

During 2009, the focus on quality has come, mainly from network meetings and training events. There are networks held for parents, providers and childminders. Each meeting includes a relevant information session and ideas sharing.

More formal training is carried out in two blocks (Jan- June and Sept – Dec), and is advertised in two training calendars which are distributed throughout the county. Our main partners in this training programme are the VEC, HSE, CEB and FAS. We also use accredited private contractors where necessary.

Childcare services supported through Community Childcare Subvention Scheme – CCSS:

This is the subvention scheme for community childcare services which started in July 2008. It changed the focus from payments to families, to payments to services who will facilitate children from disadvantaged backgrounds.

We have 33 community childcare services and fifteen of these have opted for the scheme. These services are expected to send in returns in July and January and are assisted by the STCCC in this. Two services who experienced financial difficulties during the year, were assisted in putting a recovery plan in place.

Voluntary notification supported:

Childminders who care for three or less children in their own home, are not obliged to report to the HSE or the STCCC. However, if they agree to voluntarily notify to the County Childcare Committee they are given information, training and ongoing support which positively influences the quality of the childcare they provide. We rely on extensive advertising and ‘word of mouth’ to try and attract childminders under our umbrella. What has also been useful, is the Childminding Development Grant which is also available to childminders who have successfully voluntarily notified to the STCCC.

The following represents the position over the last two years.

	2008	2009
Number of Childminders voluntary notified to STCCC	12	24

HSE & County Council Child Protection workshops supported:

Due to the limited availability of HSE Child Protection training, we couldn’t join up with the County Council in availing of the training. The HSE held one course in May for Childcare managers and are hopeful of holding one more before the end of the year. Currently, the majority of our childcare workers in the county are awaiting training.

Childcare providers supported in creating easier access to their services for Traveller children:

Three community providers are taking part in a pilot whereby Traveller parents of pre-school children will be invited to meet the service in their area and receive relevant information on what happens in the service and information on the types of funding and support that are available for the parent. STCCC are facilitating this by creating traveler friendly leaflets on the ‘Free Pre-school Year’ and ‘Community Childcare Subvention Scheme’. The library is also helping by making suitable children’s reading material available to participating services.

School-age Childcare module implemented:

We advertised this to all our services in the first half of the year and got a high level of interest. It was then organised with the National Children's Nurseries Association – NCNA, to start in October and run over the winter. However, when it came to collecting the fees for the course, only six people paid up and the course had to be cancelled.

Subsidised training fund:

This fund was available this year from FAS, albeit on a smaller scale. There were fourteen successful applicants in the first half year appraisal and there is another appraisal in November. We are currently trying to seek an application from FAS for next year's fund.

The **proposed 2010 work programme** to centre on the following areas but with the facility to discuss other topics including urgent items.

- Broadband: monitor and encourage greater access to better broadband services countywide
- Support and develop business parks and their tenants throughout the county
 - Create opportunities through linkages and sub supply for smaller businesses
 - Develop networks where this would add value from an upskilling perspective, market perspective and information perspective
- Railways: Continue to monitor services and work with IR and the community to better market services and develop commuter services
- Roadways: press for continued progress on Tipperary and Carrick-on-Suir by passes
- Childcare: continue support for childcare programme and for its development
- Engineering and Food networks: continued support for their development and action plans
- Slieve Ardagh group: Work to support the group through a change in emphasis and tactics and so continue the development of the area
- Tourism: continue the actions as outlined in action plan above.
- Continue support and encourage the roll out of entrepreneurial activities including local events in Spirit of Enterprise week and
- Draw up an implementation programme arising from the Interagency innovation and Enterprise Strategy and implement accordingly
- Renewable Energy Initiative: Continue to seek and develop job and other opportunities from this area