

South Tipperary County Development Board - Economic Measures and Actions February 2006

EPMG – Economic Programme Management Group

Measure	Title	Actions	Co-ordinating Partner in the action	Contact Person Reports
1.1	Management of the Economic Programme	1.1.1. Establish a Programme Management Group to monitor the implementation of the Economic Programme	CDB Chair: Ned O'Connor <i>Done</i>	Eileen Horgan
<p>Update February 2006: The next meeting of the Economic Programme Management Group will be held on Tuesday 21 February 2006. Meeting notes will be posted on the website www.southtippcdb.ie on Friday 24 February 2006. Meeting notes from the last meeting of November 2005 are posted on the website.</p>				
		1.1.2. Carry out annual review of the competitiveness of the South Tipperary economy	EPMG <i>Ongoing</i>	John Quinn
<p>Update February 2006: Data is not available as yet for 2003 in relation to the key indicator (index of disposable income). The CDB target (for 2006) was achieved in 2002. The CDB has set targets to support the delivery of €1 billion investment in the county up to 2008, providing a skilled labour supply for 2000 potential jobs and growing entrepreneurship.</p>				
		1.1.3. Assess each action taken under the Economic Programme to ensure it meets the guidelines on equality (including gender), poverty, rural development and environmental impact	EPMG <i>Ongoing</i>	Pat Holland
<p>Update February 2006: The County Development Board has agreed that the process of consideration of any proposal by the SIM and the CDB itself will constitute proofing.</p>				
	New Action Nov 2002	1.1.4. Develop and implement an imaging strategy for South Tipperary and co-ordinate the marketing campaigns of individual sectors and address gaps in the economic promotion of the county.	EPMG <i>Ongoing</i>	John Condon Caroline O'Reilly John Quinn Eileen Horgan
<p>Update February 2006: The implementation of the three strands (public affairs, statistical information provision and hotel development promotion is ongoing.)</p> <p>The main achievements relate to rapid and effective responses to situations requiring good public communication, relevant economic information and promotion of strategic sites to inward and local investors.</p> <p>There are new hotel development proposals amounting to over €50 million at various stages of pre-planning, planning and build in Limerick Junction, Cashel, Clonmel and Carrick-on-Suir.</p> <p>Information Unit: Until data becomes available through national sources such as the revenue commissioners it is very difficult to get a picture of the local economic situation or identify useful local economic indicators. It is hoped that data will become more accessible at a national level in the coming years and once this happens the focus of the information unit will be on carrying out analysis of the data to develop an informed view on the economic performance of the County and provide feedback to the EPMG.</p> <p>Given that requests for economic data arise in a sporadic manner and with a short time frame for completion, the information unit is available to support such activity in so far as is possible given current data constraints. Finally, the information Unit will review the data required to assist industry location decision making processes and to consider how such information could be generated in a more timely and efficient manner in the future, as the need arises.</p>				

		1.2.1 Fill available job opportunities by improving the skills of the South Tipperary workforce, including those seeking employment or working in the home.	FÁS	Oliver Clancy
<p>Update February 2006:</p> <p>This group met again on the 6 February 2006 to review progress on a number of upskilling and training actions. The VEC has taken on two new staff - an Adult Education Officer and an Information Officer who will be key resource people in the adult education area.</p> <p>FÁS and Social Welfare are in the process of a high support intervention in Carrick on Suir with 100 long term unemployed people. Customised training is being offered. A similar intervention is now being undertaken in Tipperary Town.</p> <p>FÁS is working locally to contact companies who are creating jobs with a view to working in partnership to train local people to enable them to apply for jobs. FÁS is also working with companies locally who are having difficulty in getting employees – through recruitment and training of staff abroad.</p> <p>A proposal to collect data on future employment needs of the county is being drafted by TI in collaboration with FÁS.</p> <p>Language training for migrant workers is being tackled, but slowly. Nationally there is not a policy to pay for this. Training for more volunteers could help. Further resources are needed.</p> <p>FÁS has produced brochures in all accession state languages and are trying to inform migrants before they leave their homes.</p>				
		1.2.2. Direct the under-employed rural population (including farmers) to opportunities in off-farm employment and alternative sources of income. Pilot action will be initiated in West Tipperary	TEAGASC <i>Ongoing</i>	Donal Mullane
<p>Update February 2006:</p> <p>A total of 329 individual action plans have been prepared for farm families under the Options Programme. Consolidation in farming and quotas is continuing, most farmers have now received the first years single payment</p>				
		1.2.3. Attract highly qualified people into the area by establishing a network of Human Resource Managers in the County	Guidant Ireland <i>Not active</i>	Emmet Kelly

		1.2.4. Promotion campaign to regional emigrants with a particular focus on graduates and on the US and Britain.	Enterprise Ireland Regional Action New Action Nov 2002 Completed Oct 2004	Michael Dee
	New Action Feb 2003	1.2.5 Prepare and implement a Regional Employment Development Strategy	South East Regional Authority Ongoing	Mary Wixted

Update February 2006:

The INTRO project is in progress and experts from the Region have been to Latvia to transfer knowledge and best practice to their Region. Secondments will also take place to Poland in the coming months.

As part of the project the South-East Regional Authority are required to create a database of graduates from the Region who are working in other counties that may be targeted with information on potential opportunities within the Region. SERA are currently in negotiations with Waterford Institute of Technology regarding the establishment of the database.

The European Commission had a call open for applications with regard to Article 6 European Social Funding. This is the same fund that “SEEDS” was originally funded from. SERA submitted two applications for funding under this call. The successful applications will be announced in September 2006.

The next Project Implementation Committee meeting of “SEEDS” will take place in March 2006.

1.3	Matching entrepreneurs with opportunities	1.3.1. Identify and support those entrepreneurs who are most likely to increase their workforce to 20 and above.	Enterprise Ireland County Enterprise Board Completed	Michael Dee
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		1.3.2. Seek appropriate businesses for available enterprise space in Tipperary Town, Drangan, Ballingarry, Carrick-on-Suir, Cahir, Cashel, Clonmel, and new enterprise centres as they come on stream	Tipperary SR County Enterprise Board <i>Ongoing</i>	Toss Hayes
Update February 2006:				
Tipperary town: The Tipperary Technology Park is now fully occupied, including the recently 3,000 sq. ft. at rear . Factory space available at old Namco site and within the Pall complex.				
Carrick On Suir: The Enterprise Centre has been sold to a private company and the proceeds have been used to provide incubation space and training facilities in Carrick On Suir Resource Centre. Funding will also be made available for a Business Park.				
Cahir: Private units available in Cahir Business Park.				
Cashel: No units available in Cashel. There has been a call recently to provide units on IDA land in Cashel.				
Clonmel: Six thousand sq.ft. now available in Carrigeen Business Park. Some units are available from private sector particularly in Gortnafleur and Ardgeha.				
Ballingarry: All units in Ballingarry have now been occupied.				
Drangan: The Local Authority has rented all units.				
		1.3.3. Create an inter-agency approach to support micro enterprises providing employment in manufacturing and service industries in the county	<i>Not active</i>	
1.4	Matching locations with opportunities	1.4.1. Prepare a template to assist towns who successfully receive large-scale investment (such as a major jobs announcement) to optimise the opportunity	EPMG <i>Ongoing</i>	Mark Ryan
Update February 2006: West Tipp Think Tank continues to advance this action in partnership with TIRD/CC, who are the lead agency in promoting the continued economic development of Tipperary Town. TIRD/CC has recently been allocated over €33,000 from the Dept of Community Rural & Gaeltacht Affairs toward the refurbishment of premises and the delivery of programmes of training that will benefit local SME's in Tipperary Town. The newly refurbished centre, in James Street, will act as a resource centre to local business and also be a focal point for further promoting and marketing the town at home and abroad.				

		1.4.2. Encourage the preparation of realistic economic strategies and plans in the main towns and in other local areas	EPMG <i>Ongoing</i>	John Quinn
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Update February 2006:

Four Town Economic Development Work plans		
(Carrick)	Marina Tourism Retail	In operation New structure with economic group Consultant meeting retailers
(Tipperary town)	Decentralisation Enterprise Site assembly Town Centre Limerick Junction	Site purchased. Security authority based in technology park Two areas being progressed Enhancement Plan being implemented Local area plan adopted
(Cahir)	Economic Group Site assembly	Strategy launched Two areas progressed to planning
(Cashel)	Town Centre enhancement	Phase 1 being completed.

		1.4.3. Support the implementation of the Carrick-on-Suir Jobs Strategy	Carrick-on-Suir Town Council <i>Completed</i>	Eileen Horgan
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		1.4.4. Support the implementation of the Tipperary Town Development Strategy	TIRD/Chamber of Commerce <i>Ongoing</i>	Mark Ryan
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Update February 2006:

South Tipperary County Council has funded a comprehensive study by De Jonge Consultants on the future enhancement of Tipperary Town. This report, launched in 2005, documents a series of recommendations on the design and layout of the town, specifically with relevance to the proposed by-pass for Tipperary. TIRD/CC have adopted the De Jonge report as a guideline for development of the town and the De Jonge report has superseded the original Town Development Strategy from the late 1990's as a more up-dated and achievable framework.

TIRD/CC continues to implement specific actions identified in the RAPID Strategic Plan:

- PE8 Anti-Litter Campaign & Re-Entry into Tidy Towns Competition
- CD1.2 Role of TIRD/CC as one of the structures for the economic and physical development of Tipperary town
- CD2.2 Contact former residents of Tipperary town who have moved abroad
- CD3.6 Admin support needs of local voluntary groups
- CD 3.7 Outreach Providers

		1.4.5. Support the process of finalising and implementing the Ballingarrane Master Plan	South Tipperary County Council	John O'Mahoney
Update February 2006:				
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Sale of 50 acres to the IDA has been completed 2. Minister has sanctioned Tipperary Institute to move to Ballingarrane. Proposals sought by Institute re development of new site and purchase of old one. 3. Panning permission granted for hotel. 				
		1.4.6. Co-operate in the provision of a broadband ducting infrastructure in the main towns and between the main towns in the South East	South East Regional Authority	Tom Byrne
Update February 2006:				
<p><i>'SERPANT' Project</i></p> <p>The 'SERPANT' project, carried out under the government's Regional Broadband Programme – Phase I, entailed the construction of Metropolitan Area Networks (MAN) in the six principal cities/towns in the region – Waterford, Kilkenny, Carlow, Clonmel, Wexford and Dungarvan. This involved the laying of almost 100 kms. of duct, sub-duct and optic-fibre and the provision of co-location facilities in these centres.</p> <p>At this stage the main builds in each of the six cities/towns have been completed and the networks have been handed over to E-Net, the appointed Management Services Entity (MSE). A number of Additional Route Lengths were approved, the largest two being extensions to the Carlow and Wexford MANs to serve the new IDA Technology Park and the Johnstown Castle Estate respectively. These have also been completed and are in the process of being handed over to E-Net, a Limerick based consortium. Progress to date in promoting and marketing the South-East MANs and in getting customers connected has been slow. To date there are about 8-10 customers connected to the Waterford MAN and 1 or 2 on each of the MANs in Carlow, Kilkenny, Clonmel and Wexford.</p>				
	New Action Nov 2002	1.4.7. Research project on best practice in economic development of areas distant from good employment centres and how this might be applied to the Slieve Felim CLAR Area.	Tipperary Institute <i>Pilot activity underway</i>	John Quinn
Update February 2006:				
<p>The Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs has not yet decided on the bid for resources. From a South Tipperary perspective, a pilot action is underway in Slieve Ardagh. (See Action 1.4.9) which has now superseded Action 1.4.7.</p>				

	New Action Apr 2003	1.4.8 Make proposals and advise the County Development Board, in response to the economic situation in Tipperary Town	Economic Programme Management Group <i>Completed</i>	John Quinn
Update February 2006: This action has been completed and is being followed up by action 1.4.10.				
	New Action Nov 2003	1.4.9 Support the planning and implementation of projects in the Slieve Ardagh area.	Slieve Ardagh Rural Development <i>Ongoing</i>	Tommy Cooke
Update September 2006: An update will be inserted later this week.				

	New Action March 2004	1.4.10 (Extending the remit and the membership of the Officials Group on Tipperary Town to:) Make proposals and advise the County Development Board in response to the economic situation in Carrick on Suir (Lead stakeholder: Economic Programme Management Group)	Economic Programme Management Group <i>Ongoing</i>	John Quinn
Update February 2006: CDB Officials Group (Tipperary Town and Carrick on Suir) Tipperary Town The Tipperary Town Think Tank Group met in November 2005 and has scheduled 5 meetings in 2006. Additional 2006 priorities include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> A focus on enhancing the N 24 routes into town. The May to September Enhancement Group has agreed to lead the Entente Florale initiative. <input type="checkbox"/> Looking for proposals from developers as an urban reflection area and as a driver of commercial activity in the town centre. <input type="checkbox"/> Organising a conference on Quality of Life in Tipperary Town with key inputs. <input type="checkbox"/> Recruiting a festival planner. Carrick on Suir The CDB Officials group met on February 6 to review the announcement by SRAM that it was ceasing operations in Carrick on Suir by June 2006 with the loss of 51 jobs. 60 jobs had been lost in SRAM in 2004. The Nano Nagle Resource Centre which includes a business centre is now fully operational. FÁS has been delivering a high support process programme in Carrick on Suir since October 2005 to address the relatively high numbers on the live register.				

1.5	Sectoral strategies	1.5.1. Implement the County Information and Communications Technology Strategy	EPMG <i>Ongoing</i>	Eileen Horgan
Update February 2006: South Tipperary is now online on the Mobhaile website at www.mobhaile.ie . The aim of Mobhaile is to provide a comprehensive information facility for citizens and communities throughout Ireland using technology. The infrastructure element is being progressed in South Tipperary as reported in action 1.4.6 – co-operation on broadband ducting.				

		1.5.2. Implement the County Food Strategy	Tipperary LEADER Ongoing	Isabel Cambie
<p>Update February 2006:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ A second Food Fair was held early in December. This again was run in conjunction with Tipp FM and it was aimed at the Christmas market ✓ A one day training seminar took place at the end of January for Participant's or "would be" participants in Farmers Markets ✓ Three schools in Tipperary and three schools in the Blackdown hills area in the UK are taking part in a joint initiative between the two LEADER Groups – Freddie the Marketer – basically the children work with a local artisan food producer and help him/her to draw up a marketing plan to sell his produce to the kiddies market. The aim is to make children more aware of the range of products available locally and also to recognise the health benefits of same <p>Four producers from the county attended the Ploughing championship "Food Village"</p>				
		1.5.3. Consult with the equine community on the design and delivery of a plan to promote Tipperary as an equine county	TEAGASC	Donal Mullane
<p>Update February 2006:</p> <p>A small group of interested parties met and have decided that the approach should be an all county approach to maximise the impact of the equine industry in Tipperary in terms of economic and cultural benefit. It is hoped to prepare a comprehensive report on the equine industry in the county if funding can be secured.</p>				
		1.5.4. Support the development of effective links between county and regional tourism strategies	South East Regional Tourism Authority	Mary O'Halloran
<p>Update February 2006:</p> <p>Print: Tipperary Holiday Guidebook 2006 launched at Holiday World in Dublin by An Taoiseach Bertie Ahearn. First print run 12,000.</p> <p>Driving Tour Routes brochures 10,000 printed and available in mid January.</p> <p>Wallet: Design being finalised and ready approval in March.</p> <p>Promotions: Gent Countryside Fair: The Committee participated in the Gent Countryside Fair in late October for the first time and was a good event for Tipperary.</p> <p>Dublin Holiday World: Took space on the South East stand at the Dublin Holiday World over four days. Locally produced food and fruit juice was available on the night. Bru Boru provided the entertainment for the evening.</p> <p>Brussels Holiday Fair: Taking part in the Brussels Holiday Fair in early February Will also participate at this event in Mid March Consumer Day in the Hague:</p> <p>The Tipperary Guides were also available at SERTA promotions in Utrecht Stuttgart, Belfast, Re4nnes, Madrid and Hamburg.</p> <p>Will be meeting with North Tipperary in mid February to look at events where we could usefully co-operate.</p> <p>Finance: Had a successful fund raising event in November in Cashel</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 'Colour Me Beautiful' and it is intended to have another similar event this year. Further event are planned over the next six months. 				

	New Action Nov 2002	1.5.5. Creation of a regional network of IT enterprise centres to promote an increase in technology based jobs in these centres.	Enterprise Ireland Regional action	Michael Dee
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Update February 2006:

South Tipperary County Development Board

Action Plan

Action and Heading	Next Steps	Personnel Responsible	Timetable for delivery	Progress Report	Resources Available
1.5.5 Creation of a regional network of IT enterprise centres to promote an increase in technology based jobs in these centres	Plan prepared, officers elected, action plan to commence early in 2003.	Michael Dee	Ongoing	<p>This group is now firmly established. Name of group SECCA Website for the promotion of enterprise centre in the South East is now live. The Web address is www.secca.ie The group are currently working on cost reduction measures for community enterprise centres.</p> <p>This network is now operating well. Have concluded a group insurance scheme for enterprise centres, and deal on telephone charges. Association now examining how it can assist in the delivery of training in local communities, and working on national training programme for enterprise centre managers. Eleven of the thirteen centres in the South East have become members.</p> <p>Project is ongoing – possibility of national organisation now being examined.</p> <p>A working group is now in place to draw up guidelines for a national association. The South East Association has negotiated 1) A group Insurance scheme 2) Group Phone Deal 3)</p>	<p>Time of regional Development Executive – 6days (€1200) Meeting facilities (€500)</p> <p>These are annual costs</p> <p>For years 2003 & 2004 we put €6,000 priming funding into the project</p> <p>Enterprise Ireland provides facilities for meetings and some secretarial backup.</p>

				<p>Training programme for centre managers. Problem: Not all centres join or play an active role.</p> <p>National Association due to be established in the Spring of 2006. Sources of funding for the employment of a full-time resource worker for the National association being investigated at present.</p>	
	New Action Feb 2003	1.5.6 Establish a Regional Third Level Education Forum to inform future provision of Third Level Education in the region.	South East Regional Authority	Tom Byrne	

Update February 2006:

Various meetings with the Directors of both Waterford IT and IT Carlow and the Chairman of IT Carlow have been held. Waterford IT has already applied as a single unit for upgrading to University status. IT Carlow is not in favour of Waterford IT applying in isolation and are more in favour of a multi-campus approach with equal status for both colleges.

At the monthly meeting of the SERA held on Monday 23rd January 2006, the following resolution was passed:

“That the South-East Regional Authority reaffirms its commitment to the provision of a University of the South-East and calls for a University of the South-East to be established at Waterford with links to existing third-level facilities in Carlow, Kilkenny, Wexford and Tipperary”.