In Attendance:

Members of Council	Sectoral Interests	Staff
Cllr John Crosse - Chairman	Noel Byrne - PPN	Pat Slattery, Director of Services
Cllr Seamus Hanafin	Mary Spillane - PPN	Elaine Cullinan, Economic Development Officer
Cllr Imelda Goldsboro	Tom McGrath – Business Pillar	Anthony Fitzgerald, Head of LEO
Cllr Phyll Bugler,		Aisling Kelly, Assistant Staff Officer
Cllr Mary Hanna Hourigan		
Cllr Máirín McGrath		
Cllr Garret Ahearn		

Apologies: Cllr Siobhan Ambrose, Cllr Tony Black, Cllr Seamus Morris, Laura Jones – Business, Commercial & Tourism, and Imelda Walsh – Agriculture and Farming.

Absent: Cllr. Joe Hannigan, Cllr. Peter Ryan, Seamus Hoyne – LIT, Clare Cashman – PPN, Jim Sheehan – Development Construction Pillar

1. **Welcome**

   Cllr Crosse opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. He acknowledged that this was the first meeting of a new committee, and highlighted the importance of the committee and the challenges and difficulties it would encounter. He stated that he was looking forward to the next three years welcoming changes and successes in economic development. He also welcomed any ideas or suggestions that any of the committee may have.

   Pat Slattery advised if any members had any ideas or research that they would like explored and developed that these would be investigated and explored with a view to progressing them.

   Cllr Crosse noted the apologies received for this meeting.

2. **Minutes and Matters Arising**

   The minutes of the meeting held on the 30th April 2019 were noted and recorded as this is a new committee. Adoption of the Minutes was proposed by Cllr. Seamus Hanafin and seconded by Cllr. Imelda Goldsboro.

3. **Interim Review of the Tipperary Strategic Tourism Marketing Experience and Destination Development Plan 2016**

   Marie Phelan, Tourism Development Officer presented and highlighted areas including:
   1. The Economic Contribution of Tourism to the County
   2. Achievements for 2018
   3. The Lough Derg stimulus fund and Blueway
   4. Development of Walking/Hiking
   5. Tipperary Food Experience
   6. Cashel / Nenagh Destination Towns applicants
   7. Carrick on Suir Economic and Tourism Activation Programme
   8. The new target growth rate of 3% p.a.

   Noel Byrne enquired if there was funding available for walking and hiking trails as present and Marie advised that there was in 2017 but not at present.

4. EU Projects

Fiona Crotty A/Administrative Officer gave a power point presentation on Tipperary County Councils Projects Unit highlighting current on-going projects:

- Catalyst – Ireland Wales Cooperation Programme supporting businesses from the food and Drink and life science sectors.
- Super – Interreg Europe Project supporting eco-innovations towards international markets
- Sware – Interreg Europe Project, Sustainable heritage management of waterway regions.
- Rural SMEs – Interreg Europe Project, policies to develop entrepreneurship and innovative SMEs in rural areas.
- Fragile Communities – Erasmus + project, policies to develop community capacity and community coaches in fragile communities
- An explanation of the INTERFACE Project

Cllr. Crosse thanked Fiona for her presentation.

Cllr Crosse acknowledged there is a lot work completed through EU funding to date enquired about budget availability.

Fiona advised that the budget is fully committed to supporting staff and the delivery of the projects already in progress. Fiona advised that the commissioner would announce available funds at year end.

Pat advised that in relation to the Catalyst food sector programme there is currently a project at an early stage with Tipperary food producers and a 3rd level institution with regard to exploring the concept of a Food Centre of Excellence.

5. 2019 Midyear progress Report and update on LECP actions.

Elaine Cullinan gave a handout on the LECP Midyear Economic Action Plan and highlighted key actions up to the end of June 2019:

1. Development with IDA and Tipperary County Council at Ballingarrane site.
2. Lisheen Agrichemwhey project
3. Tipperary Food Experiences 2019 / new website launched
4. LEO / EI LEAN programme
5. Town centre Fora updates
6. Tipperary Tourism updates
7. Update on implementation of SEAP
8. Implementation of the National Broadband Plan
9. Tipperary ETB updates.
10. LEO update, including that the LEO office had committed €375,000 in grant assistance to 17 projects up to the mid year mark.

Elaine advised that this Mid Year Review of the LECP plan must be adopted by the SPC. Cllr Seamus Hanafin proposed and Cllr Imelda Goldsboro seconded.

6. Promotion of Lisheen and Bio-economy centre

Anthony Fitzgerald presented on the Bio Economy plant at Lisheen, its current members, its wide Public Private Network and the Bio Economy Campus Project. Anthony discussed how the project takes bio products from dairy production and converts them to sustainable lactic acid, bi based fertilizer and minerals for human nutrition.Using a bio based plastic circular economy approach to create zero waste, the lactic acid can then be used to make food packaging. This results in less food waste and more product from the same starting material and Co2 savings. Anthony informed the group that this project it the first of its kind in the world.

Noel asked about the corporate social responsibility of the area and referred to Proctor Gamble having completed a sustainable plan at their plant.

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Anthony advised that North Tipperary County Council had allowed for monies to complete the rehabilitation of the plant and management of the tailings pond. Anglo American and Vedanta have also given significant monies to the local communities and groups in the Moyne and Templetuohy areas.

Cllr Seamus Hannafin wished Cllr Crosse well in his role and also welcomed Anthony Fitzgerald in his new role as the new Head of Enterprise. Seamus gave some history on the Lisheen mine, He noted that Vedanta have learned to mine at a gold star level and have learned how to correctly close out and rehabilitate an old mine and that Lisheen was an excellent example of this. He also acknowledged the great work done by the former North Tipperary County Council and in particular noted the works done by Joe MacGrath, Anthony Fitzgerald and Matt Shortt stating the future must lie in Bio Degradable Plants, and that Tipperary was leading the way.
Cllr. Crosse thanked Anthony for his presentation.

7. Town developments

Pat Slattery gave an update in relation to town centres and town developments:

- Carrick on Suir are exploring the development of an Enterprise hub within the MD offices. A bigger building is being sought with capacity for 80 desk. Pat advised that this was in the early stages and that he would provide an update in the coming weeks. There are also 10 small industrial units currently been looked at for rehabilitation in Carrick on Suir.
- Pat reported on developments in relation to the Ballingarrane site and that work was about to start on the Entrance, Signage and Security. There is also progress in relation water access/ supply to the site.
- Pat referred to the development of the former Coty site in Nenagh, and the proposed development at Stereame Nenagh. The former Tesco site in Roscrea is also under development.
- Pat also reported on The Tipperary Town Rejuvenation project and the development of the three year action plan, which includes the development of an Innovation hub, envisaged to link in with the Innovation hub in Limerick.
- Thurles town development in Liberty square which includes smart technology and wifi4u also. The redevelopment of the Lidl site and marketing of this site.
- The development of an E-hub in Cahir and Cashel is included as a destination town under the Tourism project.

Cllr Garret Ahearn noted the importance of rural hubs being developed. He queried the Tipperary Taskforce and why it was being referred to as a 'Rejuvenation team' and not a taskforce.

Pat advised that the recently appointed Carmel Fox would probably consult with members on that. She has created a timetable of events and meetings, and has already met with stakeholders, the Minister and heritage officer and is developing a very detailed job spec for the 3 year period.

Cllr. Crosse thanked Pat for his updates.

Cllr. Crosse noted the importance for tourists visiting towns to have a place to meet in the towns and suggested maybe using the museum as this meeting point.
Pat advised that in Carrick they are currently developing the heritage centre as a meeting point due to its huge importance in relation to the history of the town.

Noel Byrne highlighted the importance of the libraries stating they are very underestimated at present. The family research unit in the library has a wealth of knowledge of the town. Noel highlighted 'thinking outside of the box' and the importance of utilizing the research unit in the library, and maximizing its potential.

Tom McGrath highlighted the digital hub in Thurles, the proposed hub for Nenagh and Tipperary Town, and noted the challenges of hubs that are located outside of the town centre's - the importance of focusing on the inner core of the town centre's, this should be the area to populate, and bring more attention to the town centre's. This would need co-ordination planning and a co-ordinated approach

Pat Slattery advised that Town centres will not always have availability for the development of these hubs. Limerick had recently received funding to co-ordinate all funding in the region and to network these hubs into regional areas. This will include the Tipperary area. The Innovation Engine in Limerick is an innovation centre and will be a service provider to create better opportunities to link all hubs in the mid west region. Other E-hubs that emerge will then have access to the resources of the Engine.

8. **A.O.B**
   Cllr. Crosse thanked everyone and set the next date for the meeting as 10am on Thursday the 30th January 2020.

The meeting then concluded.

Signed: _John Crosse_   Date: _30-1-2020_

Chairperson