

Minutes of Municipal District of Stranorlar Meeting held on Wednesday 11th November 2015 in the Council Chamber, County House, Lifford, commencing at 10.15am.

Members Present:

Cllr. Frank McBrearty (Cathaoirleach)
Cllr. Gerry Crawford
Cllr. Gary Doherty
Cllr. Patrick McGowan
Cllr. Liam Doherty
Cllr. Martin Harley

Officials Present:

Denis Kelly, Senior Executive Planner
Paddy Doherty, Senior Executive Officer
Lynda McGavigan, Acting Area Manager
Sinead Harkin, Executive Planner
Margaret Fitzgerald, Clerical Officer

Apologies: Joe Peoples, Director of Services

Local Economic & Community Plan

Sinead Harkin briefly outlined the reason for the Meeting was to consider the draft Local Economic & Community Plan (LECP) together with the amendments set out in the report circulated with the agenda and to consider whether the MD is satisfied that the LECP is consistent with (i) the Core Strategy and objectives of the CDP 2012- 2019 (as varied) and; (ii) the Border Regional Planning Guidelines 2010 and; (iii) that the economic and community elements are consistent with each other.

She then outlined the amendments to the draft LECP contained in the report circulated with the agenda the purpose of which is to respond to Members concerns expressed at their workshop on 2nd November 2015.

The Members thanked Mr. Kelly & Ms. Harkin for the work carried out to date on the Plan and requested that there be some further reference included to the cross border Gateway importance of Lifford- Strabane and that Raphoe be referenced along with Ballybofey- Stranorlar as regards its role as an educational hub.

Following some discussion it was agreed that additional wording be inserted so as to address the further concerns of Members as follows (NB: Amendments contained in the report circulated with the agenda together with further additional amendments are identified in **blue font** as regards new text and ~~strike through~~ as regards deletions):

- a) Amend references to the interconnectivity at Lifford- Strabane so as to state: 'A5/N14/ N15.'
- b) To insert additional text regarding the significant role of the A5/N14/ N15 link for further economic, social and cultural development, into the paragraph regarding the 'Border area' numbered as point (iii) on the report circulated with the agenda, so that it reads as follows:

The Border area

Donegal has a significant cross border dimension with 84% of its border adjoining Derry City & Strabane District Council and Fermanagh & Omagh District Council and 16% adjoining County Leitrim. The border area has developed as a unique region within the North West and evidences many unique challenges and opportunities for both economic collaboration and community development and this will be further enhanced through the improved interconnectivity at Lifford- Strabane as a result of the A5/N14/N15 link providing significant potential for further economic, social and cultural development at this gateway location. The unique border region has particular characteristics as regards trade, currency fluctuation, shared history, culture and heritage as well as the shared legacy and impact of the troubles. It is also distinctive in terms of its role in providing the backbone of strategic roads infrastructure to the County. Through the collaborative work of the Local Authorities in the region, significant partnerships, such as the North West Partnership Board, have been established in recognition of the cross border dynamic and in order to promote a coordinated approach with regard to economic, social and cultural development on a cross border basis.

- c) To insert additional text as regards the educational importance of Raphoe into the paragraph regarding 'Delivering Socially Inclusive Services' numbered as point (vi) on the report circulated with the agenda, so that it reads as follows:

Opportunities in terms of third level education have become more favourable in Donegal in recent years. The Letterkenny Institute of Technology currently has two third level campuses in Donegal; one in Letterkenny and one in Killybegs. The schools of Business, Engineering, Science and Tourism provide a wide variety of programmes with awards right up to Masters and Doctorate levels. The Education Training Board of Ireland (ETB) and An tSeirbhís Oideachais Leanúnaigh agus Scileanna (SOLAS) offer a wide array of courses which are certified. ETB services are delivered throughout the County through a network of training centres including in Stranorlar, Lifford, Gweedore, Ballyshannon, Donegal Town and Milford as examples. The County has effective educational networks and hubs such as in Ballybofey- Stranorlar and Raphoe as evidenced by the presence of primary and post primary education provision, Further Education & Training, the presence of the Regional Training Centre and collaborative partnerships between Finn Valley Centre and LYIT for the future delivery of accredited courses for sports coaches. In addition, further specialised training such as 'Effective Offshore', is an offshore

training college in Falcarragh and is a significant training location. ~~It is one of Irelands most significant training locations.~~

- d) Insert reference to the educational importance of Raphoe into new actions 2.10.13 and 4.16.10, contained in Table (a) of the report circulated with the agenda so that the actions read as follows:

2.10.13: To maximise on the Hub of Education provision within Ballybofey-Stranorlar and Raphoe.

4.16.10: To maximise on the potential of Ballybofey- Stranorlar and Raphoe as an Educational Hub to contribute to education, training and Lifelong Learning in the County.

Cllr. Martin Harley then proposed that, subject to the amendments contained in the report circulated with the agenda together with the further additional amendments (a-d), the MD confirm that it is satisfied with the draft plan and its consistency with:

- (i) The Core Strategy & Objectives of the CDP 2012- 2018 (as varied)
- (ii) The Border Regional Planning Guidelines 2010
- (iii) That the community elements and the economic elements are consistent with each other

This proposal was seconded by Cllr. Gerry Crawford and agreed by all the Members present.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Area Manager,
Municipal District of Stranorlar.

Cathaoirleach
Municipal District of Stranorlar.