

Meeting 19: The Mill Enterprise Centre, Newtown Link Road, Drogheda**Friday 21st July 2023**

The announcement by the Minister for Justice, Helen McEntee that the Drogheda Implementation Board term has been extended to September 2023 was discussed and welcomed by members.

A presentation was given by Superintendent Andrew Watters regarding An Garda Síochána Louth and Meath Divisional Boundary Realignment and the pathway to Go Live for same. This restructuring of boundaries will result in a significant, and growing, number of households and businesses being served by Drogheda Division rather than Ashbourne.

The Joint Agency Response to Crime initiative is progressing well with the first meeting of the Operational Group taking place in July. The first meetings of Community Crime Impact Assessment Problem Solving Groups also took place in July.

Louth County Council have agreed to be the lead agency in the development of Moneymore Townland Community Hub. Engagement with the Moneymore Consortium of community organisations and representatives is planned for September to progress.

The Chair and Coordinator of the Board have written to and met with Government Departments regarding several potential interventions identified in response to the new Early Intervention action ratified earlier this year and prioritising Drogheda in any roll out or delivery of same.

The recent signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between LMETB and DCU that will enhance tertiary education opportunities in Drogheda was welcomed by members who congratulated the LMETB team for their work on this initiative.

Work is ongoing and progressing well in the identification of a suitable lead tenant for a Community House in Rathmullen. Louth County Council have identified and set aside a premises to facilitate same.

The Board agreed the geographic scope for the Louth and Meath LEO funded Drogheda Nurture Fund, a new microfinance scheme specifically for small businesses in the Drogheda – Laytown/Bettystown area to be managed by Louth County Enterprise Fund. Further details and promotional campaign to commence in September.

A number of large action focused, networking and/or capacity building events are planned for Q3 and Q4. These include a drawing together of relevant frontline and stakeholder services in response to action 2.8 in September; an event for sports clubs in the Drogheda/East Meath area in October; and a Community Safety and Wellbeing event for the community as a whole in November.