

This is a synopsis of the above meeting.

1. The Kildare Remote Working Hub Strategy 2022-2025. A review of the strategy.

Since 2018, Kildare County Council and its partners have been actively developing a network of hubs to meet the growing demand for co-working and innovation spaces in the county.

Key issues that the Hubs Strategy will address Hubs and Coworking spaces have an expanded and important role to play in this new flexible work model by providing entrepreneurs and workers with office or desk space and shared facilities close to their homes and when they need them. Hubs also provide aspects of the social entrepreneurial network or the 'ecosystem' for clients and their staff and valuable services such as reception, meeting rooms, canteen facilities, storage and parking. Hubs also play an important societal function in promoting a quality of life and healthy work / life balance for individuals and families. The K-Hub Network was established in 2021 as a forum of all hub providers across Kildare and includes both existing and emerging hubs. It is a mix of hub types and different ownership structures from fully publicly owned facilities to support specific sectors, to privately owned coworking / flexible office solutions and community led hubs operating as social enterprises for the benefit of the local community. Through the K-Hub Forum hub clients will be able to access services from across the provider network and there will be scope for shared resources and collaborative funding bids and other development initiatives.

2. A briefing on Kildare Housing Need & Demand Assessment (HNDA)

HNDA is a new requirement for local authorities since April 2021. 2. Kildare County Council is the first local authority to apply the new HNDA procedure as part of the county development plan review process. The HNDA has been prepared in close consultation with – The newly established HNDA Unit within the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage of Kildare County Council's Housing Section. AIRO (All-Island Research Observatory). The HNDA comprises a structured framework, with a standardised methodology and informed by strong evidence-based inputs.

3. Industrial Area Enhancement Scheme 2022 +

This fund would apply to groups of businesses that are in a position through a management company or other mechanism to work together to upgrade a wider, larger part of their industrial area. Preference may be given to groups of companies who come together or collaborate to improve a wider area Type of industrial area: The fund would be restricted to business/industrial parks within the county.

Type of works: It is not intended to be overly prescriptive regarding the eligibility of works to be funded however there will be a guide/criteria Works must be: • public facing and improve the visual appearance and aesthetics of an area • prioritise and improve the general appearance of the wider area. Similar to the shop front scheme. Its aim is to improve the entrance and first impressions of industrial areas. This will also encourage future investors, first impressions of these sites.

4. Other updates include:

The Naas Local Area plan was approved and adopted by the Elected Members of KCC. It came into effect December 1st, 2021.

Next meeting March 2022

Majella O Keefe, PPN Social Inclusion Representative of the Economic Development, Enterprise & Planning Strategic Policy Committee.