

# ROSY OPPORTUNITIES IN GARDEN COUNTY!

As part of its ongoing commitment to drive further economic development and increase employment opportunities in the Garden County, Wicklow County Council outlined its latest plans at the 2019 Breakfast Briefing 'Making Wicklow Great for Business'.

**K**ey business stakeholders suggested ways on how Wicklow County Council can, through collaboration and engagement with the business community and state agencies, drive economic activity in the county and increase job opportunities, at this year's event in the Druid's Glen Hotel & Golf Resort.

In a keynote address, Wicklow County Council Chief Executive, Frank Curran, detailed the council's economic update and future strategic plans. He also highlighted the major strategic infrastructure projects underway or planned by the council for 2019. These included:

- Upgrading of the N11/M11
- Arklow Sewerage Scheme
- Bray Public Transport Bridge
- Arklow Historic Quarter and Fitzwilliam Square
- New public library in Wicklow town

He also outlined the progress made on the issues raised at last year's event. "County Wicklow's strategic location, with easy access to Dublin Airport, Dublin, Wicklow and Rosslare Ports, its skilled workforce and transport links places the county in a strong position to attract industry and enterprise opportunities," he added.

## SURVEY RESULTS BLOOM

Referring to the results of the recent commuter survey, he said this showed that 70 per cent of people would consider taking an equivalent job in County Wicklow in order to reduce their commute time, while one-third would do so even if it meant taking a lower salary.

This demonstrates that County Wicklow has a highly skilled and educated workforce which is a valuable resource for a potential business looking to locate in Wicklow, according to Frank Curran. He added that this information will be used by as a marketing tool for to attract business to the county.

Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council, Cllr Pat Vance, said he was

delighted with the level of engagement shown at the event, and expressed his appreciation to all stakeholders from the various sectors for contributing to the briefing. "It's all about building relationships and we can tap into huge potential by working together," he added.

The briefing also heard from Dr Barry McCleary, CEO of Megazyme, who described the company's development, its successes and challenges since relocating the business to the Southern Cross Business Park, Bray in 1996 from Sydney, Australia. He also talked about the range of products developed by Megazyme.

The Breakfast Briefing concluded with some final thoughts and commitments by Wicklow County Council's Chief Executive, following a Q&A session and contributions submitted by participants. The MC for the event was John Ryan, CEO of Great Place to Work, who is also a Fine Gael member of Wicklow County Council.



*Barry V. McCleary, CEO of Megazyme, Frank Curran, Chief Executive of Wicklow County Council, Pat Vance, Wicklow County Council Cathaoirleach, John Ryan, CEO of Great Place to Work, and Pat Casey TD, at the Wicklow County Council Business Breakfast Briefing at the Druid's Glen Hotel & Golf Resort.*