

**To the Mayor and Each Member of Limerick City & County Council**

**10th May 2017**

**Chairpersons Report for the Economic Development, Enterprise and Planning  
Strategic Policy Committee Meeting of 3rd April 2017**

Students and teachers from Glenstal Abbey School attended the meeting.

**1. Presentations on Social Enterprise in Limerick.**

Presentations on Social Enterprise in Limerick were made by Ballyhoura Development (Catherine Smyth), Paul Partnership (Elaine McGrath), and West Limerick Resources (Shay O'Riordan). The following areas were covered:

- National Context
- Definition of Social Enterprise
- Why Social Enterprise Exist
- Policy Context for Supporting Social Enterprise
- National Social Enterprise Support Landscape
- Supports to Social Enterprise Research
- Examples of County Social Enterprise Projects
- City Based Examples supported by Paul Partnership
- Smaller Community
- Larger Community
- RCCN Housing
- Future Context

The members welcomed the presentations and acknowledged the great work of the local development companies in facilitating those engaged in social enterprise.

Members highlighted the need for following:

- A single definition of Social Enterprise as there is a level of confusion as what constitutes social enterprises,
- More dedicated resources from Government for communities.
- A Junior Minister to be appointed to social enterprise as the impact of social enterprises is often overlooked.
- A Social Enterprise Policy at national level.
- Social enterprises should have their own legal status.
- Use more Census data at a micro level regarding social exclusion and do better with more analysis.

Questions were raised in relation to the main challenges facing social enterprise, and regarding boundaries issue in applying for rural funding grants. The local development companies highlighted that they have very clear parameters in relation to funding.

Rural isolation was raised as an issue with the closure of Garda Stations and Post Offices, and members was suggested that LCCC establish a taskforce to address this issue. The

members agreed to take expertise of LCDC, LDCs and Eileen Humphreys to see what is needed.

Item will be considered at the next meeting. Suggest WLR, PP, and Ballyhoura Development in conjunction with LCCC study this and come back with a report. It was suggested that the Council should have its own policy LCCC policy on rural sustainability rather than relying entirely on national policy.

## **2. A.O.B.**

Members requested a meeting with Irish Cement regarding their current planning application. The Chairperson stated that he would take legal advice before embarking on any initiative in this area.

The issue of amending the City & County Development Plans to prohibit incineration, fracking, gasification, etc throughout Limerick was raised by members.

**Councillor Noel Gleeson**

Chairperson

Economic Development, Enterprise and Planning Strategic Policy Committee