24th May 2017

To: The Mayor and Each Member of Limerick City and County Council

Economic Development Directorate

City Riverway Engage process for the Riverway Crossing Proposal

A Chomhairleoir, a chara,

This report describes the public engagement process **City Riverway Engage** for the Riverway Crossing Proposal; sets out the key findings of the process and recommends the next steps to be considered and agreed by the full Council.

1.   **Overview & metrics for Living Limerick – City Riverway Engage Process**

Living Limerick is about developing a vision for living in Limerick City, while City Engage is the process for activating citizen engagement. In February 2017, Limerick City and County Council and the School of Architecture (SAUL), UL hosted the first week of a series of community engagement weeks, which focused on the historic core and O'Connell Street. The second week, City Riverway Engage, was hosted from 25th to the 28th of April and included five events organised to collect citizens' thoughts, opinions, hopes and aspirations about Limerick's Riverways, including collecting and discussing citizens' ideas and aspirations for Riverway Crossing proposals. Planning for the week commenced in March with the compilation of a comprehensive list of contact points, stakeholders and

community representative groups, prepared and contacted by phone and email to raise awareness of the upcoming events.

The public awareness campaign for the upcoming events began on the 11th of April with a launch information meeting in the Curragower Pub. The week started with a PechaKucha 20X20 Night, also held in the Curragower Pub. This fun, informal and information packed event allowed 10 speakers drawn from lots of different River user groups and citizens in the City to present their ideas, issues, challenges and aspirations for the City and Riverway connectivity. This was a very well attended event, with over 35 attendees, and included an engaging question and answer session.

On the 26th of April a Community auditing and mapping Workshop was held; a number of different user groups were invited to attend, to help collect valuable local knowledge from their specific perspectives. In all over 37 citizens attended representing a number of user groups. This workshop included representatives of disability access, walkers, cyclists, tidy town reps, tourism, the economy, boaters, rowers, historians and conservationists. A number of surveys were developed and the attendees moved along Merchants Quay, the Potato Market and Arthurs Quay to identify, audit and map via a GPS coordinated App, features/ issues/ points of interest. This is a new way of engaging and collecting information by engaging citizen groups; the information will be available publically online and will also form a baseline for decision making.

A Listen & Learn event was also held on this day, with approximately 20 attendees participating in a Q&A session, following presentations from Colman Byrne of Limerick Open Navigation and Dave Neville, NEVSAIL. This session gave a river user's perspective, in terms of business and tourism on the river, navigation on the river and challenges that exist, and a discussion followed on how this could be improved.

On the 27th of April a second Listen & Learn event was held in the Hunt Museum, with over 35 attendees. This included guest speakers Josephine O'Driscoll, Fáilte Ireland and Éanna Rowe, Waterways Ireland. This evening event was one of the largest audiences, with citizens and river users keen to hear riverway policy and future plans from the perspective of two statutory agencies.

On the final day, an Intergenerational Workshop was held in Merchants Quay, with a number of primary and post primary school children and teenagers in attendance. This workshop was highly interactive in nature, and involved the participants looking at maps,

imagining and drawing areas of interest, their aspirations for the future and how they visualise the City and its rivers will look like in the future, when they are adults and what they would like to see in terms of activities on the river. This was a very well attended session, with 54 co-designers, including 3 school teachers, who welcomed this type of interaction with young people.

Please refer to Appendix for the overall programme of events that were hosted, imagery and outputs from the events.

2. **Feedback and commentary arising from the engagement process**

   - Riverside Access is a hidden secret
   - There needs to be clarity about what is public space at the Riverside and way-finding mechanisms to inform visitors to the City
   - Co-ordination of opening times of various gates at waterside is required
   - There is a great desire to realize the full potential of the Shannon for Limerick City and the wider region
   - We need to attract people to the River
   - There is a desire to enable River cruisers by live aboard moorings in the City
   - There is a desire to be able to swim in the River in the City centre
   - Leadership is required from City Hall to "Think outside the box"
   - "We need a new vocabulary about the River... to talk about it not as a resource, not as an asset... but as a dynamic"
   - "The tidal aspect is the most amazing thing about the River. To try and harness that would be a great error. We need to teach people about the beauty of the tide"
   - "This is a community development, an educational project, not infrastructure. We need to build up knowledge about the River, inclusivity about the River"
   - "We need to build a coalition around the River"

3. Key findings

- Boat users believe that current long span bridge proposals have the potential to prevent / block navigation through Limerick City
- There is great potential for increased activity on and along the Riverside to attract people to Limerick
- Accessibility of the Riverside route at Arthur's Quay, Customs House, Potato Market and Merchant's Quay needs to be improved
- Greater permeability and movement from Arthurs Quay towards King John's Castle should be considered to capitalise on the assets along the waterfront and to create linkages from the City up to the Castle for walkers and cyclists in particular
- Volunteers are active on the Riverside in its ecological care, stewardship and its social aspects
- Art can animate the City and the River
- Limerick has a wealth of maritime history and craft to bring to proposals for the Riverside
- The Community of boat users, rowers, and others have a wealth of knowledge that should be tapped into
- The Community wishes to co-create a project to which they can continue to contribute
- The tidal aspect of the River is its beauty. We need a new vocabulary about the River
- There should be fun things and activities to do by the River, this will make the River a more attractive place to visit
- We need to build a coalition around the River which is community based, and to build up collective knowledge and inclusivity about the River
- The cleanliness of the River is of major concern and an active annual clean up strategy and plan must be developed for in the River and on the banks of the River
- The multiplicity of statutory agencies with responsibility for the River and how to engage all, needs to be considered

4. Conclusions

There are many conflicting issues and a myriad of agencies controlling and having input into the development of infrastructure on the Riverway in the City including Waterways Ireland, the OPW, the ESB, the Harbourmaster, Fáilte Ireland, to name a few. These agencies need to be pulled together and enabled by a multidisciplinary exploration of the key issues, taking into consideration the findings of the public engagement exercise and in collaboration with engaged members of the public. This consideration will need to include the recently published results of the CFRAM Flood Risk Assessment Study.

The next step for the development of the project is the commencement of a formal structured Enabling Design Review process to determine the appropriate infrastructure to capitalise on the potential of the Rivers and Canal.

This group should be guided by the key findings above and the following emerging principles:

- The project should not hinder navigation of the River by boats and rowers, and should not affect access to the Curragower Boat Club
- The project should focus on the enhancement of public space on the Riverside and there should be a clear definition of the public areas to be covered by the project
- Increasing accessibility on the River for all users and opportunities to attract people to that space
- The project offers an opportunity to enhance the Blue tourism offering in Limerick City

The result of this Enabling Design Review will be the development of a Framework for the development of appropriate infrastructure for the Riverside including recommendations for short, medium and long term actions. It is the intention to assist in the formation of a holistic coalition for the Riverway as a part of this process, with members being invited from a large cross section of community and representative groups, as well as elected members. The recommendations from the process will be presented to the full Council and used as the basis for the procurement of a design team or the holding of a design competition for any projects which are defined by that process and agreed by the full Council.

5. Recommendations & Next Steps

I recommend that the option for a long span bridge from Arthur's Quay/ Sarsfield House to Merchant's Quay be re-examined due to its potential to have an adverse effect on the navigation of the River by boats.

I recommend that an Enabling Design Review be now carried out to examine options for the Riverway Project and to make recommendations for appropriate infrastructural provisions to address the following issues:

Improved accessibility over the riverside route at Arthur's Quay, Custom's House, Potato Market and Merchants Quay and to the Sylvester O'Halloran Bridge;

opportunities to attract people to the area including sport and leisure activities, and measures required to increase boating activities and moorings for boats;

the impacts of the recommendations of the CFRAM study for the area;

the integration of art, maritime history and craftsmanship in the proposals; and

the possibility of integrating community based, co-design methodologies.

I recommend that this review include representation from Waterways Ireland, OPW, ESB, Fáilte Ireland, and other agencies as identified, and to include possible nominations from the Council as well as engaging members of the public.

I suggest a timeframe which would see the Enabling Review occurring during the week of June 26th - June 30th with a briefing session preceding on June 13th or 14th. Final report and recommendation would be ready for final week of July, 2017.

Is mise le meas,

Rosie Welsh

Rosie Webb,
Senior Architect
Public Interest Development
Economic Development

6. Appendix

6.1 Overall Programme of events

Living Limerick
- City Riverway Engage -

Living Limerick is about developing a vision for living
in the historic core of Limerick City

Limerick City and County Council and
the School of Architecture, UL are hosting
a series of community engagement weeks called
City Engage throughout 2017

We hope to collect citizens thoughts, opinions and hopes about living in Limerick

Week 2 of City Engage is all about Limerick's Riverways, we want to hear your
opinions, comments and future hopes for our riverways including your ideas
and aspirations for the Riverway/ Footbridge proposals

CITY ENGAGE EVENTS

TUESDAY 25TH APRIL 2017
PechaKucha 20X20 Night @ CURRAGOWER PUB, CLANCYS STRAND
'Connections to Limerick's Riverways'
7 - 9pm PechaKucha 20X20 Night with lots of interesting local speakers

WEDNESDAY 26TH APRIL
Community Mapping @
SMALL EXHIBITION SPACE, & OUTSIDE AREA OF CITY HALL, MERCHANTS QUAY
10am - 12pm   Community mapping event to collect & map valuable local
knowledge about the Riverways, hosted by Fab Lab Limerick

City Riverway Listen & Learn Event @
SMALL EXHIBITION SPACE, CITY HALL, MERCHANTS QUAY
'Using the Riverways'

12.30 - 1.15pm	Limerick Open Navigation
1.15 - 2.30pm	NevSAIL Watersports

THURSDAY 27TH APRIL
City Riverway Listen & Learn Event @
CAPTAIN'S ROOM, HUNT MUSEUM
'Riverway Policies'

6.00 - 6.45pm	Failte Ireland
6.45 - 7.30pm	Waterways Ireland

FRIDAY 28TH APRIL
City Riverway Intergenerational Design Workshop @
CHEZ LE FAB CAFE & OUTSIDE AREA, ARTHURS QUAY PARK
9.45 - 11.45am   Intergenerational Design Workshop

T: 061-407538 /W: www.limerick.ie/council/living-limerick-city-engage/ E: cityengage@limerick.ie

Luimnigh
Limerick   SAUL School of Architecture

6.2 Material available online @ www.limerick.ie and wordpress.com

Week 2: https://adaptivegovernancelab.wordpress.com/2017-2/second-city-engage-week/

Week 1: https://adaptivegovernancelab.wordpress.com/2017-2/february/

6.3 Photos of City Riverway Engage events

City Riverway Engage Information Meeting @ Curragower Pub on 11/4/17

PechaKucha 20x20 Night @Curragower Pub on 25/4/17
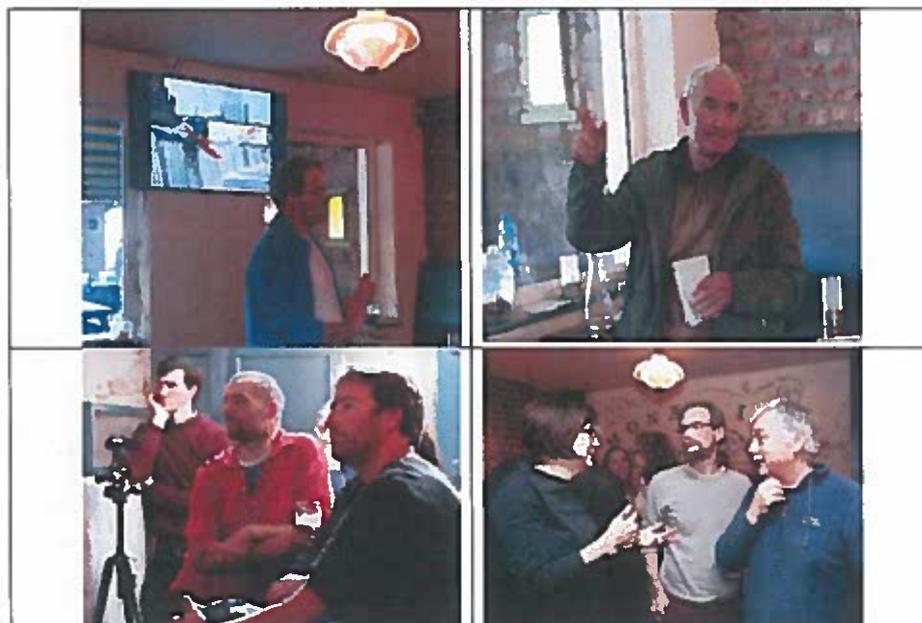
Community Auditing & Mapping Workshop @ Merchants & Arthurs Quays on 26/4/17

Listen & Learn event with river users @ Merchants Quay on 26/4/17
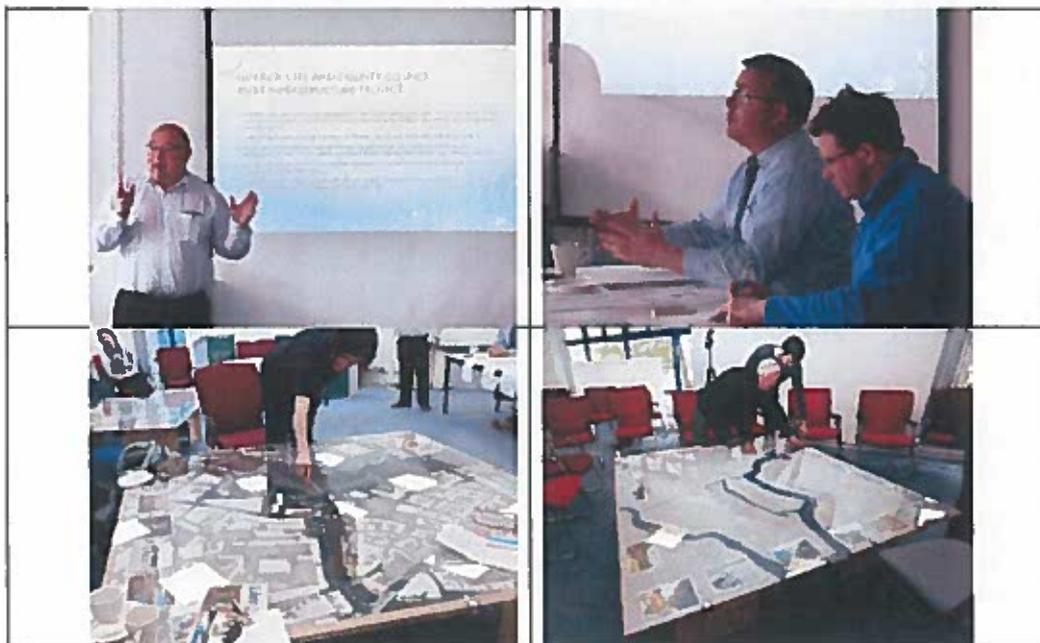
Listen & learn event with statutory agencies @ Hunt Museum on 27/4/17
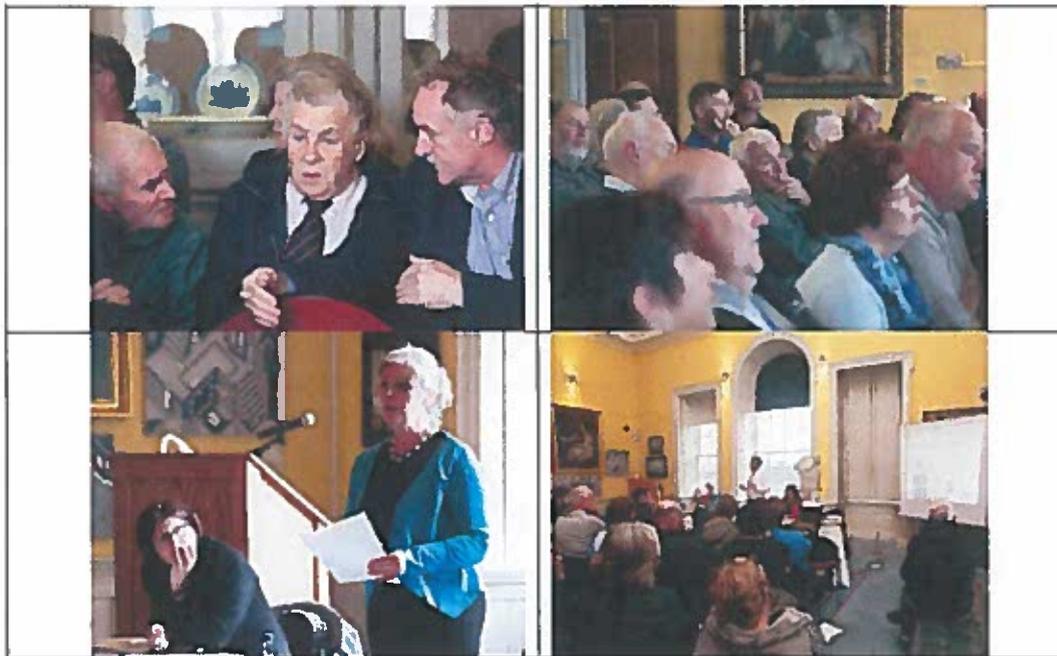
Intergenerational Design Workshop @ Merchants Quay on 28/4/17

6.4 Examples from Workshop events

6.4.1 Examples of community audits from Mapping Workshop

Accessibility Mapping in the Community

Adapted from PARCSEvaluation tool for assessing the accessibility and usability of community parks and playgrounds (in development)

6.4.2 Examples of input from Intergenerational Design Workshop