



COUNCILLORS REPORT ON CONFERENCE WHICH THEY ATTENDED

REQUIRED TO BE COMPLETED UNDER SECTION 142(5) (f) and (fa) OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001

Organiser of Conference Esperanza Enterprise

Name of Conference Supporting Safer Communities

Location of Conference Connacht Hotel Galway City.

Date of Conference Fri 20th Sat 21st January 2017.

Summary of Conference Content

Communities coming together with ideas to make their neighborhoods safer by cyber and means. Text Alert, Neighbor Watch. Holding meetings on a regular basis, assisted by local Garda, Crime Prevention Officer - Sourcing funding to install state of the art CCTV, vehicle recognition, public lighting in areas of large scale of A.S.B. - Securing Homes, Fire equipment, business premises with new technology, areas by Smart Phones, Alarms and Patches

Signature: Seán Lynch CLK

Print Name: Seán Lynch

THIS FORM TO BE SUBMITTED WITH CLAIM FORM FOR TRAVEL AND SUBSISTENCE



Councillor Michael Hourigan
Méara Dhúiche Cathrach Luimnigh
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24th May, 2017.

To: Each Member of Limerick City and County Council

Visit to Queens County, New York

As Members will be aware, I travelled to Queens County, New York in early March 2017 (2nd to 6th March) to attend the annual Queens County St Patrick's Day Parade at Rockaway, Queens, New York. I was accompanied by Mr. Christy O'Connor, Senior Executive Officer / Meetings Administrator on the official visit.

During the visit, we travelled to the Rockaway area and met with local representatives of the Irish / Limerick community and business interests in the area in relation to the development of links with business and tourism interests and for the promotion of Limerick and the Mid West in the areas of tourism, culture and economic development.

We took part in the Rockaway Beach Annual Parade and at a number of events in Rockaway throughout the day and evening. We also met with representatives of the Mayor's Office, New York City in relation to items of interest from a tourism / business point of view.

Michael Hourigan

**Councillor Michael Hourigan,
Mayor of the Metropolitan District of Limerick.**

24th May, 2017.



Councillor Kieran O'Hanlon
Méara Chathair agus Chontae Luimnigh
Mayor of the City and County of Limerick

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To: Each Member of Limerick City and County Council

Mayoral Visit to New York, USA

As Members will be aware, a delegation from the Council travelled to New York for the Annual St Patrick's Day celebrations where the Grand Marshal this year was Michael Dowling a native of Knockaderry, County Limerick.

The delegation was comprised of the Mayor and Councillors D. Butler, J. O'Dea and B. Teefy, together with the Chief Executive, Mr Conn Murray.

The group were scheduled to travel on Tuesday 14th March but this had to be brought forward one day to Monday 13th March due to the onset of a major storm which would affect New York and surrounding areas over the period 14th to 16th March.

Members of the delegation took part in a number of events during the visit in addition to taking part in the Annual St Patricks Day Parade to promote Limerick and the Mid West Region and to develop business linkages.

These included :-

Wednesday 15th March:

Business Summit on Ireland – US Economic Relations.

Thursday 16th March AM

Business Summit on Ireland – US Economic Relations.

Thursday 16th March PM

Meeting with Tourism Ireland.

Meeting with IDA

Meeting with Enterprise Ireland

Friday 17th March

Breakfast Reception with Mayor of the City of New York for St Patrick's Day at Gracie Mansion.

Mass at St Patricks Cathedral

St Patricks Day Parade

Reception at Consulate General of Ireland

In addition the Mayor travelled to Washington on Thursday evening, 16th March to a function at the White House at the invitation of the President of the United States of America. The Mayors of Dublin, Cork, Galway and Limerick were invited to attend this function.

The delegation departed from New York on Sunday 19th March.



Councillor Kieran O'Hanlon

Mayor of the City and County of Limerick

16th May, 2017.



Councillor Kieran O'Hanlon
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Mayor of the City and County of Limerick

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To: Each Member of Limerick City and County Council

Mayoral Visit to Boston, USA 18th - 20th March 2017

A Chomhairleoir, a chara,

As Members will be aware, the Mayor of Boston, Mr Martin Walsh has invited the Mayor of Limerick to visit Boston in June 2017 to sign a Friendship Agreement between the two cities and thus deepen the strong linkages between the citizens of each city.

I took the opportunity whilst in New York for the St. Patrick's Day celebrations to travel to Boston to meet with the Mayor of Boston and the various interested groups/bodies that will be involved in the June 2017 Limerick delegation visit. The purpose of the June visit is to promote Limerick as a destination for investment and tourism. The full delegation (seventy plus people) will include representatives from civic, business, education, cultural and sporting life in Limerick.

I am outlining below a brief description of the meetings and events that took place as part of the visit;

- | | |
|------------------------------------|--|
| Saturday, 18th March, 2017: | Arrive Boston from New York.
Evening Event with EDAgency (Boston based Investment Locator). |
| Sunday, 19th March, 2017: | Attend Boston Irish VIP Breakfast in Boston Convention Centre.
March in Boston St Patricks Day Parade.
Attend networking event as guest of Maverick Construction Corporation. |
| Monday, 20th March, 2017: | Meet with Industrial Development Authority (Boston Office).
Billy Higgins / Croke Communications Meeting.
Enterprise Ireland Meeting (Boston Office).
JFK Library Meeting.
Limerick/Boston Comhaltas Twinning Meeting. |

Tuesday, 21st March, 2017: Meeting with Irish Consul General, Boston
Meeting with Mayor Marty Walsh and staff of Boston City Council
Depart for Shannon

The various meetings presented the Council with the opportunity to outline its plans for the June Delegation visit and seek support from the various agencies and bodies for the trip. I, as Mayor, received a very courteous and supportive reception from all the groups I met.

Is mise le meas,



**Councillor Kieran O'Hanlon,
Mayor of the City and County of Limerick.**



Councillor Kieran O'Hanlon
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To: The Mayor and Each Member of Limerick City and County Council

The visit to Manchester and Liverpool by Members of the Cross Party Culture and Arts Working Group, April 10th and 11th 2017

A Chomhairleoir, a chara,

As agreed at the March meeting of Limerick City and County Council a representative group of the Culture and Arts Working Group travelled to Manchester and Liverpool. The purpose of the visit was to meet with both Local Authority Culture Departments to gain insight into how culture is planned and delivered within Local Authority Areas and to visit Cultural institutions of relevant scale and size to learn from evidence based information and evaluation on strategic ways of developing and delivering festivals, capital projects and strategic cultural actions.

The visit involved a number of meetings summarised as followed:

Manchester : Monday 11th April 2017

Geoffrey Brown – Euclid International

Euclid International is based in Manchester and helps arts, heritage, culture and creative industries to access EU Funding. Geoffrey briefed the group on how Manchester has used Culture to put Manchester on the map with investment in world class organisations including working with the private sector in the development of a new cultural district in the former Granada Studios which will be a permanent home to the Manchester International Festival.

Liz Pugh – Director, Walk the Plank

Walk the Plank is a national portfolio company of the Arts Council of England. As an outdoors arts organisation, they inspire communities and artists, to help give a sense of pride and a sense of place through public celebration. Liz Pugh is a founder of the company and gave the group an insight into Manchester Day, a Manchester City Council initiative, an annual event that celebrates everything great about the city. Over 2,000 participants from all communities of Manchester work with Walk the Plank to create a day for families, residents and visitors to get together and celebrate all things Mancunian that have made Manchester one of the world's most iconic cities.

Manchester City Council

The delegation met with Cllr. Patrick Karney (Labour) and Cllr. Luthfur Rahman (Labour) and Toby Rathbone, Events Manger Manchester City Council. The delegation were given an insight into how Manchester City Council supports their cultural offering including Manchester Day, Manchester International Festival, Cultural Venues, Christmas in Manchester, their festival strategy and community approach. Cllr. Karney led a discussion on how to celebrate civicness, cultural diversity, and how the council's cultural strategy, has at the centre of it, the empowerment of young people in the process and also emphasised the belief held in the Council about the importance of culture.

The delegation was then received by the Lord Mayor of Manchester, Cllr. Carl Austin Behan in his Chambers and gifts were exchanged.

Manchester Central Library

The delegation also visited the refurbished Manchester Central Library. It is the headquarters of the city's library and information service. The refurbishment of the central library was driven by Manchester City Council's commitment to reshaping the way library, information and archive services are delivered in central Manchester and the introduction of services and facilities that go significantly beyond the traditional range of library services provided in the current building.

Manchester Central Convention Complex

The delegation then visited Manchester Central Convention Complex commonly known as Manchester Central. It is an exhibition and conference centre converted from the former Manchester Central Railway Station. In 1978, the structure was acquired by the Greater Manchester Council to redevelop as a concert venue. It was the centrepiece of the regeneration plan for the area and wider Castlefield district. It was subsequently reimagined and redesigned as a city centre convention complex with a hall that covers 10,000 square metres and can be partitioned into various sized units for different exhibitions. It has the capacity to hold intimate corporate functions and large scale conferences or exhibitions. It also includes a purpose built 804 seat auditorium, or 1200 capacity dining space, the column-free and central hall can be configured for conferences big or small.

Tuesday 11th April 2017 : Liverpool

FACT

FACT (Foundation for Art and Creative Technology) is the UK's leading media arts centre, based in Liverpool. Offering a unique programme of exhibitions, film and participant-led art projects, their mission statement is to use the power of creative technology to inspire and enrich lives. The delegation met with Mike Stubbs, Director and CEO who explained FACT relationship with LARC, Liverpool Arts Regeneration Consortium an alliance of seven of Liverpool's major cultural organisations. As a consortium they are committed to successful and sustainable cultural programs that inspire, engage and involve young people to promote a culture of creativity, innovation, learning and ideas across all aspects of Liverpool life. The turnover of the venue is £2M, there are three EU projects in progress. The building is owned by a trust and given with peppercorn rent for cultural use to FACT. Their income is made up Arts Council of England grant, a Liverpool City Council Grant and commercial activity. They co-produce work with international artists and provide consultancy and media making facilities in the area of new media, video art and new technologies. They have a staff compliment of 43 people.

Bluecoat

The delegation visited the Bluecoat and was met by Bryan Biggs Artistic Director. It is Liverpool's centre for the contemporary arts that showcases talent across visual art, music, dance, live art and literature. Bluecoat provides a creative hub for people to meet, talk, work, perform, question, create, craft, display and enjoy themselves. Bluecoat is home to over 30 creative industries including artists, graphic designers, small arts organisations, craftspeople and retailers. Many of these are situated in the areas of the building which are not open to the public. It receives a grant of £450,000 from the Arts Council of England and £250,000 from Liverpool City Council.

Liverpool City Council

On arriving at Liverpool City Hall, the delegation met with the Lord Mayor Cllr. Roz Gladden. The delegation was given a tour of Liverpool Town Hall. Liverpool Town Hall is the home of The Lord Mayor of Liverpool, situated within Liverpool's prestigious World Heritage site. Over the years, the venue has played host to many of the city's prestigious events including visits by Royalty from home and abroad, and a famous homecoming for the Beatles on the front balcony. It has two ballrooms, the main Ballroom can hold 270 guests seated theatre style or 210 guests dining under three of the largest crystal chandeliers in the country. The small Ballroom is equally as grand for smaller events up to 130 theatre style.

Culture Liverpool

In 2008 Liverpool was European Capital of Culture and the city took centre stage when a series of inspirational and awe-inspiring events took place throughout the year showcasing the city.

Over the last five years Culture Liverpool, Liverpool City Council's cultural service, has continued to build on its world class reputation, using culture as the driving force for the regeneration of the whole city.

The remit of Culture Liverpool is for events, cultural infrastructure, development and community participation, Liverpool Cruise Terminal, Liverpool Film Office, commercial sponsorship and income generation, visitor economy, including the Tourist Information Centres and Civic Halls.

The delegation met with a number of Culture Liverpool staff. The first meeting was with **Sean Durney** Arts and Participation Officer. Sean gave an insight into the vision document, Culture Liverpool Action Plan. This plan has at its heart the concept of maintaining an ambitious, imaginative and resilient cultural offer for the city with the aim of consolidating growth in the sector. The action plan is focussed on the practical and influential role Culture Liverpool play in maintaining productive partnerships and alignments with and between the cultural organisations, national agencies such as The Arts Council of England, communities and the cultural sector.

Ultimately they wish to achieve robust cultural organisations. Their financial investment programme framework is called CLIP – Culture Liverpool Investment Programme and it supports four areas of investment.

1. International Programme Investment/Platform – funding above £100k
2. Festival Programme Investment/Platform – a limit up to a max of £60k per annum (£2.5M)
3. Strategic Cultural Programme Investment/Platform – a limit of up to a max of £250k per annum (£3.8M)
4. Foundation Programme Investment/Platform – Up to £3k per annum

Applications are assessed by the Council Officers (executive) in order to retain objectivity and address conflict of interest. Recommendations are then brought to elected members via the Cabinet Committee (where a council has opted for the leader and cabinet system, the leader and a number of executive councillors, those with decision making powers become the council's decision-making process).

There are stringent financial reviews in place for any organisation/festival/event in receipt of CLIP funding.

The second member of Culture Liverpool the delegation met was **Andy McNicholl** – City Events Manager. Andy has responsibility for and undertakes all aspects of the planning and implementation of large scale events both indoors and outdoors across a variety of environments including heritage sites, parkland, maritime and urban areas. Members of the Limerick City of Culture team had been a guest of the City Events Manager in 2014 when Royal De Luxe performed in Liverpool. During that visit the events team shared their knowledge and expertise in relation to staging a large scale event.

The City Events team are responsible for award winning events including the *National Battle of Atlantic 70th Anniversary Commemorative event* and for bringing into Liverpool the hugely successful *Giant Spectacular: Memories of August 1914*. The team have won numerous awards for events and are often asked to advise and speak on events-related issues and changes in legislation, to government bodies, industry conferences and various educational establishments around the world. The team host successful events both small and large scale, including:

- Chinese New Year
- Giant Spectacular - Memories of August 1914 and
- Liverpool International Music Festival
- Out of the Darkness: Blitz Commemoration
- The International Mersey River Festival
- Three Queens
- The Complete Walk
- Transatlantic 175 - World Record Holders
- 5th November Fireworks

As well as city originated events, Culture Liverpool also lends support and guidance to external event organisers in an array of areas including:

- Event Management
- Health & Safety
- Licensing
- Local Services Procurement
- Feasibility Studies
- Calculating Capacities
- Crowd Management and Dynamics
- Emergency Evacuation and Contingency Strategies
- Security and Steward Management
- Traffic and Parking Management
- Location Advice
- Media, PR & Marketing
- Public Transport Co-ordination & Liaison
- Concession & Market Management
- Local Accommodation

The events team consists of 8 full time employees and works with specialist production managers for large scale events. They also facilitate internships for students studying on event management courses at Liverpool Universities.

The visit showed how Manchester and Liverpool see Culture and Events as central to delivery of economic and social objectives

- Its ability to attract investment, students and visitors
- To bring local people together and support participation
- To form a key element in supporting the story of their place locally, nationally and internationally.

Is mise le meas,

Kieran O'Hanlon

Councillor Kieran O'Hanlon

Mayor of the City and County of Limerick

Chair of the Cross Party Culture and Arts Working Group

19th May 2017



Councillor Kieran O'Hanlon
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To: The Mayor and Each Member of Limerick City and County Council

The visit to Glasgow by members of the Cross Party Culture and Arts Working Group,

26th – 27th April 2017

A Chomhairleoir, a chara,

As agreed at the January meeting of Limerick City and County Council a representative group of the Culture and Arts Working Group travelled to Glasgow. The purpose of the visit was to meet with the Local Authority Culture Department and Glasgow Life, to gain insight into how culture is planned and delivered. The itinerary also included visits to cultural institutions of relevant scale and size to learn from evidence based information and evaluation on strategic ways of developing and delivering festivals, capital projects and strategic cultural actions.

The visit involved a number of meetings summarised as followed:

Wednesday 26th April 2017

Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum

The delegation met with **Dr. Neil Ballantyne**, Museum Manager, Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum, one of Scotland's most popular free attractions. Kelvingrove is one of the 9 civic museums under the remit of Glasgow Life. All 9 civic museums are branded under 'Glasgow Museums' and play a leading role in upholding Glasgow's global reputation as Scotland's cultural powerhouse.

The Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum has 22 themed galleries displaying 8000 objects, brought together from across Glasgow Museums' rich and varied collection, which is a recognised Collection of National Significance. In 2006 the Art Gallery and Museum underwent a £30M refurbishment that included a new restaurant and a large basement extension to expand display space. A new display layout and way finding scheme was introduced to make the building more visitor friendly. This included information on display panels being limited to 30 words to describe any item. There is a policy in place of refreshing the story of the museum by using the collection in different ways to enhance the visitor experience. There is also a policy around family focused displays. Kelvingrove hosts temporary exhibitions, from their own collection or on loan from museums and other organisations around the world.

Gallery of Modern Art (GoMA)

The delegation met with **Will Cooper**, Curator of Modern and Contemporary Art and **Carol Greig**, Manager at GoMA. Situated in the heart of the City Centre, GoMA is Scotland's most visited modern art gallery displaying work that highlights the interests, influences and working methods of artists from Scotland and from around the world. It is housed in an iconic building which it shares with the city centre library. The Library at GoMA, houses a café, free internet access terminals, and an extensive collection of art and design books alongside its general books for loan.

Briggait Creation Centre

The Briggait Creation Centre is in a former fish market and will aim to provide a creative hub for 600 professional artists, physical performers and dancers. This in turn will help retain and develop talented artists of all abilities in Scotland, nurturing their skills from entry level to international professionals. The creation centre is a £5M capital project led by **Wasps – Workshop and Artists' Studio Provision Scotland**. Wasps Trust was formed in late 1993 to create a portfolio of property assets, owned in trust for the Scottish arts community and operated to the benefit of current and future generations of artists and the wider public in Scotland.

Wasps Limited rents out the space created by Wasps Trust, at affordable rents, to a variety of artists, arts charities and creative industries allowing them to experiment with artistic ideas, create artwork and engage with the wider public. Wasps Limited also runs an artistic programme including open studios, residencies and exhibitions in partnership with a variety of artists, arts organisations and cultural agencies from Scotland and beyond.

Wasps Creative Industries helps develop commercial workspace within the group and any profits have been reinvested in Wasps Limited.

Aerial Edge

The delegation met with **Mark Gibson**, Aerial Edge which is housed in the Briggait Creation Centre. Aerial Edge provides high quality tuition in a range of circus disciplines from a recreational to professional level, welcoming all ages and abilities as students. They are Scotland's largest Circus School and are also home to Scotland's first and only permanent Grand Volant flying trapeze rig. Their instructors include those who have performed as part of Cirque de Soleil and qualified with degrees at the National Centre for Circus Arts in London. They run regular shows including performances in the Merchant City festival in Glasgow. They are committed to developing Circus as a discipline both in Scotland and within the international performing arts community.

Thursday 27th April 2017

Glasgow Life

The delegation met with Director of Cultural Services, **Jill Millar**. Glasgow Life is a company limited by guarantee set up in 2007. They were entrusted by the city to manage libraries, museums, galleries, sports, leisure and community facilities. It operates and carries out its activities under the name Glasgow Life and/or the below sub-brands.

- Glasgow Arts
- Glasgow Communities
- Glasgow Events
- Glasgow Libraries
- Glasgow Museums
- Glasgow Music
- Glasgow Sport
- Young Glasgow

The strategic objectives of the company are

- To encourage participation, involvement and engagement in culture and sport for all:
- to enhance the health and wellbeing of people who live, work and visit the City
- to create an environment where enterprise, work and skills development are encouraged
- to provide opportunities for making positive life choices in a safe, attractive and sustainable environment
- to create a culture of learning and creativity that lets people flourish in their personal, family, community and working lives
- to enhance and promote the City's local, national and international image, identity and infrastructure
- to demonstrate the ongoing improvement in the quality, performance and impact of the services and opportunities we provide.

Glasgow Life operates under an SLA with Glasgow City Council to deliver the strategic objectives of the company and 67% of their budget comes through the SLA from the Council. From a governance point of view, a board of Directors is in place (11 in total sit on the board) 50% of which are elected members.

Glasgow life is now ten years old and in that time they feel that the model has proven to be robust. It allows for better management of resources, quicker decision making, more effective financial control, better integration across service areas, the development of strong partnerships based on common visions and strategic objectives.

The visit showed how Glasgow sees Culture and Events as central to delivery of economic and social objectives

- Its ability to attract investment, students and visitors
- To bring local people together and support participation using events as milestones on that journey
- To form a key element in supporting community, place making and working across programmes and delivery.

Is mise le meas,

Kieran O'Hanlon

Cllr. Kieran O'Hanlon

Mayor of the City and County of Limerick

Chair of the Cross Party Culture and Arts Working Group.

19th May 2017