

CORRESPONDENCE

MEETING OF METROPOLITAN DISTRICT OF LIMERICK

MAY 2016

- Letter received on 3rd May, 2016 from the Office of Public Works in reply to resolution adopted by the Metropolitan District of Limerick calling on the Government to immediately act on its promise to provide for flood defences in Limerick City, and to extend flood defences to the Castleconnell/Lisnagry/Montpelier areas.



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Our Ref: 2016/97

Mr. Christy O'Connor
Meetings Administrator
Limerick City & County Council
Corporate Services and Change Management
Merchants Quay
LIMERICK

29th April, 2016

Dear Mr. O'Connor,

I refer further to your letter of 21st December 2015 to Minister of State, Simon Harris TD, in relation to the provision of flood defences in Limerick City and the extension of flood defences to the Castleconnell/Lisnagry/Montpelier areas.

The core strategy for addressing the significant flood risks in the Shannon River Basin District is the Office of Public Works' (OPW) Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management (CFRAM) Programme. Limerick City is one of 66 locations (Areas for Further Assessment - AFAs) in the Shannon River Basin District, included with 300 locations nationwide that are being assessed under the Programme the purpose of which is to implement the EU Floods Directive and national flood policy.

The CFRAM Programme, which is being undertaken by engineering consultants on behalf of the OPW, working in partnership with the Local Authorities, involves the production of predictive Flood Mapping for each location, the development of Preliminary Flood Risk Management Options and the production of Flood Risk Management Plans.

Good progress is being made on the Shannon CFRAM Study. The draft Flood Mapping is now being finalised following the completion of a programme of local public consultation throughout the Shannon region, including Public Consultation Days in Castleconnell and Montpelier on 19 November 2014 and in Limerick City on 15 April 2015, and a national statutory public consultation on 23rd December 2015. Work on the development of preliminary options to address flood risk is underway. Public Consultation Days on the Preliminary Options for Castleconnell and Montpelier were held on 2 December 2015, and Limerick City on 27 January 2016.

Following finalisation of the mapping and the identification of flood risk management options, it is expected that the draft Flood Risk Management Plans will be published for public consultation in 2016. The Plans will include a prioritised list of measures, both structural and non-structural, to address flood risk in an environmentally sustainable and cost effective manner. The Government recently announced increased levels of investment in the area of flood relief as part of the overall Capital Investment Plan 2016-2021 and this investment programme will allow for consideration of measures arising from the CFRAM Plans.

Lisnagry is not being assessed under the Shannon CFRAM Study. It is a matter for Limerick City and County Council, in the first instance, to identify and address localised flooding issues in the county. It is open to the Council to undertake any local flood mitigation works using its own resources or to submit an application for funding if necessary under the OPW's Minor Flood Mitigation Works & Coastal Protection Scheme. Any application received will be assessed under the scheme's eligibility criteria which includes a requirement that any measures are cost beneficial, and having regard to the overall availability of funding.

Approval was given to Limerick City and County Council (LCCC) in August 2015 to proceed with the development of a flood relief scheme in the King's Island area of Limerick City; initial consultation and preliminary design to be followed on by the detailed design of an economically viable and environmentally feasible preferred scheme, public consultation, Environmental Impact Statement and Bord Pleanala submission. This process will take in the region of two years to complete and LCCC will then be required to revert to OPW for further approval to proceed to construction. The OPW has given a commitment, in principle, to funding a viable, cost beneficial and environmentally acceptable scheme for Kings Island and has made indicative provision for its cost in its Multi-Annual Capital Budget Profiles.

In addition to major schemes, the OPW has provided funding of €1,018,615 to Limerick City and County Council under the Minor Works Scheme since its introduction in 2009.

I trust this is of assistance.

Yours sincerely,



Eileen Hughes
Assistant Principal
Engineering Services Administration