

## **Report on the Local Economic Community Plan.**

The Local Government Reform Act 2014 provides a stronger and clearer role for local government in economic development and community development, which is a key element in achieving the vision set out in the Action Programme for Effective Local Government: *“that local government will be the main vehicle of governance and public service at local level, leading economic, social and community development”*.

The purpose of the Local Economic Community Plan is to set out, for a six-year period, the objectives and actions needed to promote and support the economic development and the local and community development of the relevant local authority area, both by itself directly and in partnership with other economic and community development stakeholders. The expansion and strengthening of local authority functions in economic development and local/ community development provided for in the 2014 Act is an important means to advance the overarching purpose of local government, as highlighted in the Action Programme for Effective Local Government – Putting People First, “to promote the well-being and quality of life of citizens and communities”.

As the framework for the economic development and local/community development of the local authority area, the LECP will also be the primary mechanism at local level to bring forward relevant action arising from measures under the Action Plan for Jobs and other statements of Government policy including the report of the Commission for the Economic Development of Rural Areas (CEDRA).

As part of the process an extensive consultation and drafting process was carried out (Appendix A) resulting in the development of the high level goals (Appendix B) and the final draft LECP (attached).

The Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) considered the final draft of the Local Economic Community Plan on the 7<sup>th</sup> July 2016. The LCDC was satisfied that the final draft was consistent with the City & County Development Plans, Local Area Plans and the Regional Planning Guidelines and that there was consistency between the Community and Economic elements of the plan.

The LCDC recommended the LECP for adoption by the full Council.

### **Recommendation**

The members of the SPC are asked to consider the final draft LECP on the basis of consistency with the City & County Development Plans, Local Area Plans and the Regional Planning Guidelines and that there is consistency between the Community and Economic elements of the plan.

If the members are satisfied a recommendation should be made to the full Council that the LECP be adopted.

The adoption of the LECP is a reserved function of the Council.

Pat Daly  
Director of Service

## Appendix A

The statutory consultation and drafting process was set out and included

1. The set up of Advisory Steering Group
2. Public Consultation on the socio-economic statement (July-Sept 2015)
3. Development of Objectives and Actions (Oct 2015-March 2016)
4. Advisory Steering Group agreed draft LECP (April 2016)
5. LCDC adopted draft LECP (April 2016)
6. Economic Development, Enterprise and Planning SPC considered draft, suggested revisions and adopted draft LECP (April 2016)
7. LCDC agreed amended draft (May 2016)
8. Draft LECP brought to Municipal Meetings for consideration of Statement of Consistency with City and County Development Plans and relevant Local Area Plans. (June 2016)
9. Draft LECP sent to Regional Assembly for statement of consistency

Next Steps:

10. Final draft LECP to be approved by Limerick City and County Council
11. Adopted LECP to be sent to Minister
12. Publication of Limerick LECP and Implementation.

## Appendix B

<b>Goal 1</b>	To promote equally <b>vibrant and safe communities</b> with high quality of life, access to quality services in urban and rural Limerick, engaged in civic life and local decision-making.
<b>Goal 2</b>	To increase the <b>population and incomes</b> by creating conditions for, and promoting, new sources of <b>jobs and enterprises</b> in the local economy, retaining the young population and attracting in new talent and investment.
<b>Goal 3</b>	To increase <b>the employment rate and reduce unemployment</b> , particularly in the city where the employment rate is low and unemployment highest, and in areas of the county with high unemployment, under-employment and economic inactivity
<b>Goal 4</b>	To reduce the number of people living in <b>deprivation</b> , promote <b>social and economic inclusion</b> and a <b>reduction of social inequalities</b> particularly addressed to local communities and groups in Limerick with a profile of social disadvantage and / or at risk of exclusion.
<b>Goal 5</b>	To create a <b>strong urban core, thriving towns, attractive and socially sustainable villages and countryside</b> , protecting and enhancing the environment for the current and future generations.
<b>Goal 6</b>	To promote <b>urban-rural linkages</b> across city and county, increasing social cohesion and extending economic opportunities to benefit the whole population.

<b>Goal 7</b>	To build <b>networks of cooperation</b> including local partnerships and regional, national and European and other international networks, to develop new economic, social and cultural opportunities and enhance the reputation of Limerick city and county.
<b>Goal 8</b>	To ensure the <b>protection of the receiving environment</b> in implementing the LECP.
<b>Goal 9</b>	Promote the transition of Limerick City and County towards a <b>low carbon future</b> by 2030.