

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

**17th July 2017**

**Chairpersons Report for the Economic Development, Enterprise and Planning  
Strategic Policy Committee Meeting of 12th June 2017**

**1. Update on Social Enterprise Item from Last Meeting**

A Task Group / sub-committee has been set up under the LCDC to examine the scope for further development of social enterprise in both urban and rural areas and to report back with practical suggestions. The sub-committee comprises DSP Regional Manager, staff of the Local Development Companies working on social enterprise and a staff member, LCCC. An initial meeting has been held. At this meeting, it was agreed not to get too involved in issues such as definitions of social enterprise (of which there are many) but to focus on what can be done that is of benefit to enterprise, job creation and addressing needs in communities. It was also proposed to expand the membership of the sub-committee to include a representative from the Kemmy Business School, UL with expertise in social enterprise. This was agreed at the LCDC meeting on June 7<sup>th</sup> last.

Eileen Humphries outlined that there are a number of existing programmes in rural areas to support social enterprise including actions under LEADER and the SICAP programme. SICAP supports unemployed people to progress into employment in social enterprise. There are also a number of new opportunities which could support the development of social enterprise/social economy such as the reintroduction by DSP of the Community Services Programme(CSP).

Enterprise Ireland, under the Community Enterprise Initiative Scheme will issue a call for proposals later in the year.

The issues of rural isolation, night care for the elderly, and rural sustainability were raised by members.

Regular updates on the work of the sub-committee would be given to the SPC at future meetings.

**2. To consider Notice of Motion deferred from meeting referred from full Council meeting on the 28<sup>th</sup> of November 2016:  
Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr J. Scanlon:**

***I will move at the next meeting that, in future, (a) planning grants require fully cash backed Bonding where multiple housing developments are approved and (b) a fee be introduced to recover the cost of reprocessing invalid planning applications.***

The members generally welcomed and supported the notice of motion. There was concern among members that the Council had to expend its own funds in order to complete estates where the bond was not sufficient to meet the taking in charge costs. The Senior Planner informed the members that we currently have new strict measures in place with regard to new developments and bonds.

It was agreed that this issue does not just concern Limerick it is a national issue. The Council is awaiting new guidance from the Department in that regard. It was agreed that there would be further discussion on the matter upon receipt of same.

A number of concerns were raised regarding a number of derelict sites in the City Centre that are continuing to deteriorate. The members requested that an audit be carried out of all derelict sites in Limerick and a report be prepared that outlines the status of each.

Regarding part (b) of the motion, fees are set up under the Planning & Development Regulations. Any change in the charging policy would require a change in legislation.

**3. To consider Notice of Motion deferred from meeting of the 18th April 2017 from the Metropolitan District of Limerick.  
Notice of motion submitted by Cllr C. Prendiville**

***'I will move at the next meeting of Limerick's Metropolitan District that the Council look to amend our development plan to ban the development of incineration, gasification, fracking and other environmentally damaging and destructive industries in Limerick City & County Council.'***

It was agreed that this item would be deferred to the next SPC meeting as Cllr C Prendiville was not in attendance.

**4. Update on the Great Southern Trail and Proposal to change its name to the Great Southern Greenway Limerick.**

Members received a presentation update on the Great Southern Trail from Brian Kennedy. The presentation covered a number of key areas including

- Tourism context
- Great Southern Greenway progress to date
- Part VIII works to be carried out
- Future Potential – Other examples
- Future development of Greenway – key priorities

The members welcomed the presentation. John Sheahan proposed that the Great Southern Trail be renamed Great Southern Greenway Limerick and this was seconded by Cllr. James Collins.

The members paid tribute to Mike McDonald and Liam O'Mahony who have worked on the Greenway for a number of years.

**5. A.O.B.**

Brian Thompson raised an issue regarding the agenda and minutes of SPC meetings. He requested that these be sent out two weeks in advance of the meeting to give them the opportunity to discuss same with the PPN members. This was agreed.

*Councillor Noel Gleeson*

Chairperson

Economic Development, Enterprise and Planning Strategic Policy Committee

