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14 July 2017

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

Disbursement of Limerick Rural Development Fund 2015-2020

A Chomhairleoir, a chara,

Background

The Heads of Agreement, 15 May 2015, signed between Limerick Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) and Limerick City and County Council, West Limerick Resources and Ballyhoura Development CLG set out the framework to design, develop and deliver the Local Development Strategy and LEADER Rural Development programme and any additional community led development funding as may arise between 2015 and 2020.

LEADER Contract Awarded

In July 2016, the Department signed the LEADER contract with Limerick LCDC as the Local Action Group, Limerick City and County Council as Financial Partner and Ballyhoura Development CLG and West Limerick Resources as Implementing Partners. The total LEADER fund allocated by government was €9,276,593.96. Of this total, €4,638,296.98 is allocated to projects across east Limerick and €4,638,296.98 to projects across west Limerick. The Implementing Partners are allocated 25% of the total fund to facilitate and support communities to develop projects and manage implementation of the LEADER programme i.e. administration and animation.

Limerick Rural Development Fund 2015-2020

Limerick City and County Council allocated an additional €2,319,148.49 (25%) to a Limerick Rural Development Fund from 2015 to 2020. This fund will be managed by Limerick LCDC and actions on the ground will be delivered by Ballyhoura Development CLG and West Limerick Resources along with LEADER funded activities.

The Limerick Local Development Strategy (2015-2020) will be the guiding document for the delivery of projects under the LCCC Rural Development Fund. An independent evaluation committee of the Council will be used to evaluate potential projects with all project evaluations going to the members of the LCDC for approval. The fund will have a strong emphasis on leveraging further funding from other philanthropic, national and EU funding streams.

The funding will be allocated as follows over the period 2017-2020:

Total Budget	€2,319,148.49
Rural Development Project Support and Management	€579,787.12
Match-funding for projects, primarily being funded through additional regional, national and EU funding streams	€1,159,574.24
Capital support to local projects values in excess of €50,000:	€579,787.12

Recommendation

Limerick City and County Council approve the disbursement of the Limerick Rural Development Fund to meet the objectives of the Limerick Local Development Strategy 2015-2020 in the format as proposed.

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Ciara Farrell
Chief Officer
Limerick LCDC