

20<sup>th</sup> May, 2015.

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

**Invitation to the Mayor of the City and County of Limerick to Inauguration of  
New Multi-Cultural Building at Calais, France**

**A Chomhairleoir, a chara,**

The City of Calais, France, has issued an invitation to the Mayor of the City and County of Limerick to travel to Calais for the inauguration of a new building on the Main Square of Calais. This new building is a multiprocessing hall for events such as concerts, markets, fashion events etc.

The Mayor of Calais travelled on an official visit to Limerick in December 2014 where he launched the exhibition and publication *Amazing Lace: A History of the Limerick Lace Industry*.

The Mayor also had a number of meetings while in Limerick to foster future co-operation around the shared heritage in the area of lace and to explore opportunities for innovative design and cultural projects based on our heritage but looking to the future.

Calais, like Limerick, has a long tradition in lace, with around 2,000 employed in this industry at the present time. Calais and the nearby town of Caudry produce 80 percent of the world's luxury lace. The International Centre for Lace and Fashion in Calais, which opened in 2009, is housed in an historic weaving and lace-making factory.

The official inauguration of the new building takes place on Friday, 19<sup>th</sup> June, 2015, with a number of other events taking place in the city on 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> June. During the proposed visit, it is hoped that there would also be a meeting to consider possible partnerships around the area of lace production which could have a long-term economic benefit for Limerick.

In accordance with Section 142 (5) of the Local Government Act 2001 (as amended), the approval of the Council is hereby sought for the attendance of the Mayor and one official at this event. The estimated cost is €1,355.00

Is mise le meas,



**Christy O'Connor,**  
**SEO – Corporate Services.**