



Comhairle Cathrach  
& Contae Luimnigh

Limerick City  
& County Council

Forbairt Gheilleagrach,  
Ceanncheathrú Chorpáraideach,  
Cé na gCeannaithe,  
Luimneach

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

**9<sup>th</sup> January 2018**

**Chairpersons Report for the Economic Development, Enterprise and Planning  
Strategic Policy Committee Meeting of 4<sup>th</sup> December 2017**

**Item 1**

**To receive presentation from Limerick Childcare Committee.**

Anne Delaney, Manager Limerick Childcare Committee made a presentation to the members on childcare in Limerick.

The key issues covered were:

- Profile of the Childcare Sector – 205 facilities receiving Gov funding
- 7,417 children in child care; €13.7m expended in 2017; 1,000 staff employed
- Role and importance of childcare in Economic Development
- Shortage of childcare places in Limerick City
- Relevant National Developments

Anne sought the co-operation of the Planning department to identify suitable vacant properties to address the shortage of facilities in Limerick.

The members thanked Anne for the presentation. They linked the childcare issue to the general economy and the attractiveness of Limerick as an investment location. They stressed that affordable childcare should be a priority. The role of the Naionra and the role of grandparents was also stressed. It was noted that the Council has exempted not for profit childcare facilities from planning contributions.

The Council agreed to work with the Childcare Committee to identify additional locations/buildings that might be suitable for childcare facilities.

**Item 2**

**To consider report from the Local Enterprise Office regarding the  
implementation of the Limerick Food Strategy 2016-2018.**

Members received a presentation from Patricia O'Sullivan on Limerick City & County Council Food Strategy for Limerick 2016-2018.

The vision of the strategy is to enhance Limerick's reputation for great food and to build on existing support structures designed to help maximise the economic prosperity for its food stakeholders.

Included in the strategy are:

- Function and members of Limerick Food Strategy Steering Group
- Key recommendations for action
- Food News Friday newsletter
- Cappamore Show August 2017
- Limerick Food industry networking seminar
- Limerick winners Blas na hEireann
- 2017 Food specific training
- [www.limerickfood.ie](http://www.limerickfood.ie)
- 2018 plans include a website launch; work with the Supervalu Food Academy, promotion of local food at Limerick festivals, an Inspiration Visit, and participation in various trade shows.

The members welcomed and supported the presentation and outlined that the strategy has been successful to date and has created unity in the sector. The members highlighted the need for the following:

- The importance of the Milk Market as a showcase for local produce
- Develop a Limerick food brand
- Collaborate with international food festivals to promote local produce
- Have a stamp/brand for local produce
- Share information and recipes on limerick.ie
- Links with the Tourism Strategy
- Raising of standards in Fine Dining in the City

There was concern expressed that local produce was not receiving prominence at the high profile food festivals held in Limerick.

It was suggested that Limerick should aim for major international accreditation for its food produce and become known as a City of Gastronomy.

It was agreed to bring a proposal to full Council seeking that local food, drink and produce should feature prominently in any food related festival/event supported by the Council.

### **Item 3**

#### **Presentation on the draft Tourism and Marketing Strategy for Limerick.**

Due to time constraints it was agreed to defer this item to a special meeting of the SPC early in the new year.

### **Item 4**

#### **Presentation on the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy Issues Paper (to be taken under AOB)**

Due to time constrains, this item was not taken. However, because of the submission deadlines it was agreed that the Sectoral Interest members of the SPC be invited to attend the full Council Meeting to hear the presentation.

**Recommendation**

**That Limerick City and County Council support Limerick Food Companies and Producers by ensuring that all local produce be featured prominently in any food festival / event that the Council supports either by way of financial contribution or by the making of facilities available to event organisers.**

*Councillor Vivienne Crowley*

Chairperson

Economic Development, Enterprise and Planning Strategic Policy Committee

